

Lesson 8. Reading: a fable from Aesop (adapted)

Mark the syntax, identifying the clauses as well as their internal structure. Then translate. New vocabulary is given in the footnotes.

ὄνον¹ ἄνθρωπος ἤγε εἰς τὴν ἀγοράν.

ἔφερε δὲ ὁ ὄνος ξόανον² ἐπὶ³ νότου.⁴

πολλοὶ⁵ οὖν ἐν τῇ ὁδῷ τὸν θεὸν ἠσπάζοντο.⁶

ὁ δὲ ὄνος ἐνόμιζε ὡς αὐτὸς σέβεται⁷ καὶ ἐβούλετο καταβάλλειν⁸ τὸ ξόανον.

ἔλεγε ὅτι ξόανα θεοὶ οὐ φέρουσιν.

ἀλλὰ ὁ δεσπότης ἔπαισε⁹ τὸν ὄνον καὶ ἔλεγε·

“ὦ κακὲ κεφαλῇ,¹⁰ εἰ καὶ¹¹ θεὸν φέρεις, ὄνος εἶ καὶ οὐ θεός.

Vocabulary

¹ ὄνος, ου, ὅ = donkey

² ξόανον, ου, τό = wooden statue

³ ἐπί + gen = on, upon

⁴ νότος, νότου, ὅ = the back

⁵ πολλοὶ = masc nom pl of πολὺς, πολλή, πολὺ = great, much, many

⁶ ἀσπάζομαι = to greet

⁷ σέβω = to worship, honor

⁸ καταβάλλω, καταβαλῶ = to put down

⁹ παίω, παίω = to strike. ἔπαισε is the 3rd person sg of a new tense, to be studied in Lesson 9. Translate: “he struck.”

¹⁰ κεφαλῇ, ἤς, ἡ = head; κακὴ κεφαλῇ = dumbhead!

¹¹ εἰ καὶ = even if