

PD10 - Interpretations of PD 10 Discussion

Post by “Don” of January 29, 2021 at 11:40 PM

[Quote from Bryan](#)

ΜΕΜΨΑΙΜΕΘΑ “(then we would not) blame” μέμφομαι-μέμφεσθαι: hold (acc.) against (dat.); here, “we would (not) have held (ᾔ τι) against (αὐτοῖς).”

I just came across a helpful fact:

μεμψαίμεθα is in the first person middle plural optative. The [optative mood](#) "expresses something that would happen in a hypothetical situation in the future." It is conditional: *If* (εἰ) X were the case, then we would not blame (μεμψαίμεθα). [The Ingenious Language](#), a recent book by Andrea Marcolongo on Ancient Greek, has one chapter dedicated almost exclusively to the optative mood and its shades of meaning. My understanding (and I'm still processing it and rereading) is that the optative is used in many cases to express desire, usually desire that cannot be fulfilled: "I wish for this but know it is not going to happen." It is a mood reflecting the unreality of a situation.

These are the kinds of fine detail that consistently keep pulling me back into deeper study of the ancient Greek texts! I barely have my toes wet in the sand and SO want to go scuba diving!!

(Full disclosure: I've found [Wiktionary](#) (especially the smart phone app) to be a wonderful tool in parsing some of the Greek syntax. The app along with a Greek keyboard has been indispensable. I just (1) didn't want to give the impression I had more knowledge than I do, and (2) provide tips to anyone else who wants to dig into the texts. Sapere aude 😊)