

# VS41 - Thoughts on and translations of VS41

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Alberto Enrique Álvarez:

Γελαῖν ἅμα δεῖν καὶ φιλοσοφεῖν καὶ οἰκονομεῖν καὶ τοῖς λοιποῖς οἰκειώμασι χρῆσθαι καὶ μηδαμῆ λέγειν τὰς ἐκ τῆς ὀργῆς φιλοσοφίας φωνὰς ἀφιέντας.

I'd like to briefly look at the first part of that VS:

Γελαῖν ἅμα δεῖν καὶ φιλοσοφεῖν καὶ οἰκονομεῖν καὶ τοῖς λοιποῖς οἰκειώμασι χρῆσθαι...

Using δεῖν, Álvarez's transcription which uses what the manuscript has: δεῖν with a final nu ν.

Using I find it interesting that there are then parallel infinitives:

δεῖν

φιλοσοφεῖν

οἰκονομεῖν

and λέγειν

Γελαῖν is also the infinitive form of γελάω "to laugh"

δεῖν carries the idea of "it behoves one to, it is necessary to, one must" but not necessarily any moral obligation which is carried but χρή which shows up in here with χρῆσθαι

So...

"At the same time, it behoves one to laugh and 'to love and practice wisdom,' and to tend to one's home life and to make proper use of one's other goods; and to never, ever speak philosophical noises vented out of anger."

Demosthenes actually uses a construction similar to [VS41](#):

[Demosthenes, Philippic 2, section 34](#)

ὁρῶ γὰρ ὡς τὰ πόλλ' ἐνίοις οὐκ εἰς τοὺς αἰτίους, ἀλλ' εἰς τοὺς ὑπὸ χεῖρα μάλιστα τὴν ὀργὴν ἀφιέντας.

for I observe that people vent their wrath as a rule, not on those who are to blame, but chiefly on those who are within their reach.