

LESSON 35

Expressions of Fearing

35.1. Introduction

Fears are most commonly expressed by a verb of fearing with a direct Object. The Object may be a noun or a pronoun referring to a person or a thing. But the Object may also be an Infinitive phrase, with or without the neuter singular definite article. A verb of fearing may also have as its direct Object a noun clause, which is most commonly introduced by μή.

The following verbs are those which are most often used in expressions of fearing. φοβεῖσθαι is Passive in form, but Active in function, since it has a direct Object. (Coincidentally, 'to be afraid' in English was originally a Pass. form of the Act. verb 'to affray'.) δεδοικέναι (or δεδιέναι) is a Perfect form with Imperfect meaning: 'to have become afraid' and hence 'to be afraid' or 'to fear'. δειμαίνειν has the same meaning. ταρβεῖν, also synonymous, is mainly restricted to verse. In addition to expressions of fear with verbs, there are various idioms which use nouns such as ὁ φόβος, τὸ δέος, τὸ δεῖμα and τὸ τάρβος.

35.2. Verbs of Fearing with Noun or Pronoun as Object

πολὺ δὲ κάκεῖνοι μᾶλλον ἡμᾶς φοβήσονται, ὅταν ἀκούσωσιν ὅτι οὐ φοβούμενοι πτήσομεν αὐτοὺς οἴκοι καθήμενοι ... (X.Cyr. 3.3.18.)

*And those <men> also **will** much more **be afraid of us**, when they hear that we **are not cowering in fear before them**...*

Acc. pronouns (persons) as Object.

... ἀλλὰ **δείσας** τὸ τε **μῆκος** τοῦ πλοῦ καὶ **τὴν ἐρημίην** ἀπῆλθε ὀπίσω ... (Hdt. 4.43.1.)

... *but fearing the length of the voyage and the isolation he went back again ...*

Acc. nouns (abstract things) as Object.

35.3. Verbs of Fearing with Infinitive Phrase as Object

... καὶ οὐκ αἰσχύνονται τοιαύτη παρρησία χρώμενοι περὶ τοῦ τεθνεῶτος, ἦν **ἔδεισαν ἂν ποιήσασθαι** περὶ ζῶντος, ... (Isoc. 16.22.)

... *and they are not ashamed to employ such outspokenness about him now that he is dead, as [lit. 'which'] they would have feared to use concerning <him when he was> living ...*

Plain Infin. as Object.

αὐτὸ μὲν γὰρ τὸ **ἀποθνήσκειν** οὐδεὶς **φοβεῖται**, ὅστις μὴ παντάπασιν ἀλόγιστός τε καὶ ἄνανδρός ἐστι, τὸ δ' **ἀδικεῖν φοβεῖται**. (Pl. Grg. 522 E.)

For no one, who is not altogether irrational and unmanly, fears actual dying, but he fears acting unjustly.

Articular Infin. as Object.

[The sentence is slightly illogical. The intended meaning is as follows.

'For any one, who is not altogether irrational and unmanly, does not fear actual dying, but he fears acting unjustly'.

ὅστις γὰρ μὴ παντάπασιν ἀλόγιστός τε καὶ ἄνανδρός ἐστι, αὐτὸ τὸ ἀποθνήσκειν οὐ φοβεῖται, τὸ δ' ἀδικεῖν φοβεῖται.]

35.4. Verbs of Fearing with a μή Clause as Object

35.4.1. Fears that Something May Happen

In Primary sequence, fears that something may happen are generally expressed by μή with the Subjunctive Mood. In Past sequence, the Optative Mood may replace the Subjunctive; but a Vivid construction, retaining the Subjunctive, is also common.

δέδοικα δέ, **μή** λίαν ὁμολογούμενα λέγων ἐνοχλεῖν ὑμῖν **δόξω**.
(Is. 8.34.)

But I fear, that I may seem to you to be annoying you by saying what is generally agreed.

Primary sequence with μή and Subj.

... ἠπόρουν καὶ **έδεδοίκεσαν**, **μή** σφῶν χειμῶν τὴν φυλακὴν **έπιλάβοι** ... (Th. 4.27.1.)

... *they were puzzled and were afraid, that winter might overtake their blockade ...*

Past sequence with μή and Optative.

... καὶ **έδέδισαν**, **μή** ποτε αὐθις ξυμφορά τις αὐτοῖς **περιτύχη**,
οἷα καὶ ἐν τῇ νήσῳ ... (Th. 4.55.3.)

... *and they were afraid, that one day some disaster might again befall them, such as <had happened> also on the island ...*

Vivid construction with μή and Subj.

... καὶ ἅμα **δεδιῶς τὸν Φίλιππον**, **μή** καταμαρτυροῖη αὐτοῦ ἐν τῷ ἀγῶνι, προσελθὼν τῷ πατρὶ τῷ ἐμῷ **έδεήθη** ἀπαλλάξαι τὸν Φίλιππον ... (D. 49.17.)

... *and at the same time fearing, that Philip might testify against him at the trial, he approached my father and begged <him> to pay off Philip ...*

Past sequence with μή and Opt. τὸν Φίλιππον is Acc. Object of δεδιῶς instead of Nom. Subject of καταμαρτυροῖη. 'He' does not fear 'Philip', but fears 'that' Philip may testify.

... ἐκεῖνο φοβοῦμαι, μὴ τῶν εἰργασμένων αὐτῷ κακῶν ὑποληφθῆ οὗτος ἐλάττων· (D. 18.142.)

... *I am afraid of that, that this <man> may be supposed incapable of the evils perpetrated by him.*

Primary sequence with μὴ and Subj. ἐκεῖνο is neut. Acc. pronoun as Object of φοβοῦμαι and in apposition with the whole μὴ clause.

35.4.2. Fears that Something May Not Happen

When a fear is expressed that something may *not* happen, οὐ and its compounds are used within the μὴ clause. In Primary sequence, the Subjunctive Mood is used. But it is doubtful whether the Optative Mood is ever used in Past sequence. A Vivid construction is used instead, whether the leading verb is Past or Historic Present.

ὁ καὶ δέδοικα, μὴ με δικτύων ἔσω λαβόντες οὐκ ἐκφρῶσ' ἀναίμακτον χροά. (E.Ph. 263–264.)

And in regard to this I am also afraid, that having caught me inside the nets they may not let me out with my flesh unstained by blood.

Primary sequence with Subj. and negative οὐκ. ἐκφρῶσ(ι) from ἐκφρεῖν. ἀναίμακτον Accusative agreeing with με; χροά Accusative of Respect referring to ἀναίμακτον: lit. 'not (ἀν-) bloodstained as to my flesh'.

δεδιότες δέ, μὴ οὐδ' οὕτω δύνωνται ὀλίγοι πρὸς πολλοὺς ἀντέχειν, προσεπεξήυρον τόδε· (Th. 2.76.3.)

But fearing, that not even so might they be able to hold out, <being> few against many, they contrived this <plan> in addition.

Vivid construction with Subj. and negative οὐδ(έ).

ἀλλὰ ἄρρωδέομεν, μὴ ὑμῖν οὐκ ἡδέες γένωνται οἱ λόγοι. (Hdt. 9.46.3.)

But we were afraid, that our words might not turn out to be pleasing to you.

Vivid construction with Subj. and negative οὐκ after Historic Pres. leading verb.

35.5. Fears that Something is (etc.) Actually Happening

In order to emphasise a fear that something is actually happening, the Indicative Mood is used in some μή clauses in Primary sequence. Within the μή clauses there are examples of Present, Future, Past Aorist and Present Perfect Indicative verbs. In Past sequence, an Optative in the μή clause represents an Indicative of the Primary form of the expression of fear. The negative within the μή clause is again οὐ, as in §35.4.2.

εἰ δ' οἱ μὲν κακοὶ μηδὲν ποιήσουσιν, οἱ δ' ἀγαθοὶ καὶ δυνατοὶ ἀθυμῶς ἔξουσι, **δέδοικα**, ἔφη, **μὴ** ἄλλου τινὸς μᾶλλον ἢ τοῦ ἀγαθοῦ **μεθέξω** πλείον μέρος ἢ ἐγὼ βούλομαι. (X.Cyr. 2.3.6.)

'But if the bad do nothing, and the good and powerful become fainthearted, I fear', he said, 'that I shall have a rather larger share than I wish of something other than good.'

Primary sequence with μή and Fut. Indic.

ἦν **δέδοικα** μὲν, ὧ ἄνδρες Ἀθηναῖοι, **δέδοικα**, **μὴ** **λελήθαμεν** ὥσπερ οἱ δανειζόμενοι ἐπὶ πολλῷ ἄγοντες. (D. 19.99.)

And I fear, O men of Athens, I do fear, that we have missed seeing that we are enjoying it just as those who are borrowing at a high interest rate.

Primary sequence with μή and Pres. Perf. Indic. ἦν is coordinating relative pronoun: 'And ... it', referring to 'peace' (εἰρήνη) in the previous sentence.

Δημοκῆδης δὲ **δείσας**, **μὴ** εὐ **ἐκπειρῶτο** Δαρείου, οὐτι ἐπιδραμῶν πάντα τὰ διδόμενα **ἔδέκετο** ... (Hdt. 3.135.3.)

But Democedes fearing, that Darius was testing him, was in no hurry to accept all that was being offered ... [lit. 'not at all rushing was accepting']

Past sequence with μή and Imperfect Optative, representing Present Indicative of Primary sequence: δαίδω μή μου ἐκπειρᾶται Δαρείου, 'I am afraid that Darius is testing me'. (A Subj. in Primary sequence would mean: 'I am afraid that Darius may test me'. This would not make sense in the context, despite the ambiguity of the Indic. and Subj. form ἐκπειρᾶται.) εὐ is Ionic Genitive third person singular masculine pronoun (enclitic).

... κατέβαλε τὸ Ἡρακλεωτῶν τεῖχος, δῆλον ὅτι οὐ **φοβούμενος**, **μή** τινες ἀναπεπταμένης ταύτης τῆς παρόδου **πορεύσονται** ἐπὶ τὴν ἐκείνου δύναμιν ... (X.HG 6.4.27.)

... *he overthrew the fortress of the Heracleots, clearly not **fearing, that**, since this passage had been laid open, certain people **would proceed** against that <man's> power ...*

Past sequence with μή and Intensive ('Fut.') Opt., representing Fut. Indic. of Primary sequence: οὐ φοβεῖται μή τινες πορεύσονται, 'he does not fear that certain people will proceed ...'.

35.6. Fears Expressed with Other Conjunctions

35.6.1. ὅπως μή

In this construction, ὅπως should be translated as 'that'. μή may be regarded as redundant and should not be translated.

δέδοιχ', ὅπως μοι **μή** λίαν **φανῆς** σοφῆ. (E.Hipp. 518.)
I am afraid, that you may appear too clever for my good.

Primary sequence with ὅπως μή and second Aor. Subj.

ἐκ δὲ τούτων περιγίγνεται ὑμῖν μὲν ἡ σχολή καὶ τὸ μηδὲν ἤδη ποιεῖν, ἃ **δέδοιχ'** ὅπως **μή** ποθ' **ἡγήσεσθ'** ἐπὶ πολλῶ γεγενῆσθαι ... (D. 8.53.)

But from this there results for you leisure and doing nothing now, which I am afraid that one day you will think has been achieved at a high price ...

Primary sequence with ὅπως μή and Fut. Indic.

καὶ γὰρ ... **έδεδοίκει** ... περὶ τοῦ γραμματείου, **ὅπως μή** ὑπὸ τοῦ Μενεξένου **συλληφθήσεται**. (Isoc. 17.22.)

*For indeed ... **he was afraid** ... concerning the document, **that it would be seized** by Menexenus.*

Past sequence with ὅπως μή and Intensive ('Fut.') Opt., representing Fut. Indic. of Primary sequence: δέδοικα, ὅπως μή ... συλληφθήσεται, 'I am afraid, that it will be seized ...'.

35.6.2. ὅτι

When a ὅτι clause occurs in relation to an expression of fear, the ὅτι clause is usually an adverbial clause of Cause and not part of a fearing construction as such. Moreover, in a construction of the form διὰ τοῦτο φοβεῖσθαι, ὅτι ... ‘to fear on account of this, (namely) that ...’, the ὅτι clause is indeed a noun clause, but is in apposition with the pronoun τοῦτο. Cause is here expressed by the preposition διὰ in the adverbial phrase διὰ τοῦτο; so Isoc. 6.60 and X.HG 3.5.10, cited by Goodwin (1889, §377). However, in the following example, the ὅτι clause is a genuine noun clause of fearing. And ὅτι should be translated as ‘that’, not ‘because’.

ἐπεὶ καὶ τῷ πλήθει τῶν νεῶν οὐκ ὠφελήσονται, εἴ τις καὶ **τόδε** ὑμῶν, **ὅτι** οὐκ ἴσαις **ναυμαχήσει, πεφόβηται.** (Th. 7.67.3.)

*For indeed they will not be helped by the number of their ships, if any one of you **has become afraid of this, that he will fight at sea with an unequal number.***

In Primary sequence, the ὅτι clause with Fut. Indic. is in apposition with the neut. pronoun τόδε as Object of πεφόβηται.

35.6.3. ὥς

ὥς may be used in the same way as ὅτι, and should also be translated ‘that’.

μηδὲν μέντοι **τοῦτο φοβεῖσθε, ὥς** ἢ τὸ δημόσιον οὕτω κατασκευαζόμενον **παραλυπήσει** τοὺς ιδιώτας ἢ οἱ ιδιώται τὸ δημόσιον. (X.Vect. 4.32.)

*However, **do not at all fear this, that** either the public company being set up in this way **will bother** private citizens or private citizens <bother> the company.*

In Primary sequence the ὥς clause with Fut. Indic. is in apposition with the neut. pronoun τοῦτο as Object of φοβεῖσθε. (παραλυπήσει is an emendation for the impossible readings of the manuscripts, παραλυπηση or παραλυπησειν.)

... κατέστησεν ἐπὶ γηλόφων τινῶν ἐναντίους αὐτοῖς καὶ ἰππέας καὶ ὀπλίτας, **φόβον** βουλόμενος καὶ τούτοις **παρέχειν**, **ὥς**, εἰ βοηθήσαιεν, ὀπίσθεν οὗτοι **ἐπικείσονται** αὐτοῖς. (X.HG 7.5.24.)

... *he set up on some hills both horsemen and infantrymen opposite them, wishing to create fear in these also, that, if they came to help, these would press upon them from behind.*

In Past sequence, the ὥς clause with Intensive ('Fut.') Opt. represents a Fut. Indic. of Primary sequence: βούλομαι φόβον παρέχειν, ὥς ἐπικείσονται, 'I wish to create fear, that they will press upon ...'. (For the introductory noun phrase, cf. §35.7 below.)

35.6.4. εἰ

In both Primary and Past sequence, a fear is sometimes expressed by an εἰ clause with Present or Future Indicative. The construction is similar to that of reported questions with εἰ (= 'whether'). However, in the following example the negative within the εἰ clause is μή, used as in Conditions, not as in reported questions. (Cf. Lessons 18.1, 19.1 and 19.5.)

... εἰς ἕκαστος ὑμῶν ... οἴκαδ' ἄπεισιν οὐδὲν φροντίζων οὐδὲ μεταστρεφόμενος οὐδὲ **φοβούμενος**, οὔτ' **εἰ** φίλος οὔτ' **εἰ** μὴ φίλος αὐτῷ **συντεύξεται** τις, οὐδέ γε **εἰ** μέγας ἢ μικρός, οὐδ' **εἰ** ἰσχυρὸς ἢ ἀσθενής, οὐδὲ τῶν τοιούτων οὐδέν. (D. 21.221.)

... *each one of you ... will go off home not worrying about anything nor looking behind nor fearing, neither whether any friend nor whether any one not a friend is going to encounter him, nor yet whether <he is> big or little, nor whether strong or weak, nor any of such <issues>.*

Primary sequence with εἰ μή and Fut. Indic. (A Pres. or Fut. verb 'to be' may be understood with the subsequent two occurrences of εἰ.)

35.7. Introductory Noun Phrases

Various noun phrases may be used instead of a verb to introduce a clause of fearing. A selection of examples follows.

ὡς ἔστι μάλιστα τοῦτο δέος, μὴ πανούργος ὢν καὶ δεινὸς ἄνθρωπος πράγμασι χρῆσθαι ... τρέψηται καὶ παρασπάσηται τι τῶν ὅλων πραγμάτων. (D. 1.3.)

*For **there exists** especially **this fear**, **that** being unscrupulous and a person clever at exploiting circumstances ... **he may turn to his own advantage** and **wrest aside** something of the whole set of circumstances.*

δέος (Nom.) with verb ἔστι and μὴ with Subj. in Primary sequence.

ἀτειχίστου γὰρ οὔσης τῆς Ἰωνίας μέγα τὸ δέος ἐγένετο, μὴ παραπλέοντες οἱ Πελοποννήσιοι ... πορθῶσιν ἅμα προσπίπτοντες τὰς πόλεις. (Th. 3.33.2.)

*For, since Ionia was unfortified, great <was> **the fear** <which> **arose**, **that** the Peloponnesians ... as they were sailing past **might** fall upon their cities and **ravage** <them>.*

τὸ δέος (Nom.) with verb ἐγένετο and μὴ with Subj. in Vivid construction.

... φόβον δὲ οὐκ ἂν ἔχοις, ἀλλ' ἄλλοις παρέχοις, μὴ τι πάθης ... (X.Hier. 11.11.)

*... and **you would not have fear**, but **you would create** for others <fear>, **that you might suffer** something ...*

Verbs ἔχοις and παρέχοις with φόβον (Acc.) and μὴ with Subj. in Primary sequence.

... σοὶ δ' οὐ δέος ἔστ' ἀπολέσθαι· (Hom.II. 12.246.)

*... yet **there is no fear that you should perish**. [lit. 'there is not fear for you to perish']*

δέος (Nom.) with verb ἔστ(ι) and Infin.

... ἀλλ' αἰεὶ διὰ φόβου εἰσί, μή ποτε Ἀθηναῖοι αὐτοῖς ἐπὶ τὴν πόλιν ἔλθωσιν ... (Th. 6.34.2.)

... but **they are** constantly **in fear**, **that** at some time the Athenians **may come against** them <and attack> their city ...

Prepositional phrase διὰ φόβου with verb εἰσί and μή with Subj. in Primary sequence.

35.8. Note

English translations of fearing clauses in the Greek passages in the Lesson observe the following conventions of Tense and Mood, especially where English auxiliary verbs are required:

- ‘may’ is used in Primary sequence for the Greek Subj.
- ‘might’ is used in Past sequence for Imperf. or Aorist Opt. or for Vivid Subj.
- ‘would’ is used in Past sequence for Intentive (‘Fut.’) Opt.
- Indic. is used for Greek Indic. and for Opt. in Past sequence when it represents a Pres. or Past Indic. of Primary sequence.

It is recommended that these conventions be observed in the Exercise.

References

Goodwin (1889), *Syntax of the moods and tenses of the Greek verb*, §§131, 365–373, 376–377.

Smyth (1956), *Greek grammar*, §§2221–2238.

EXERCISE 35A

Translate the following passages.

1. καὶ δέδοικα μέντοι, μή ποτε πολλὰ πειρῶντες καὶ κατορθώσωσιν.

μέντοι	<i>moreover</i>
κατορθοῦν	<i>to succeed</i>

2. ... δεδιώς, μὴ ἀντιχειροτονῶν κακόνους δόξειεν εἶναι τῇ πόλει, ἡσυχίαν ἦγεν.

ἀντιχειροτονεῖν	<i>to vote in opposition</i>
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3. ... ἔδεισαν, μὴ μονοθῶσι καὶ ἐς Λακεδαιμονίους πᾶσα ἡ ξυμμαχία χωρήσῃ·

μονοῦν	<i>to isolate</i>
χωρεῖν	<i>to go over</i>

4. ... ἐγὼ δ' αὐτὸ τοῦτο φοβοῦμαι, μὴ διὰ τὴν ἀπειρίαν οὐ δυνηθῶ δηλῶσαι περὶ τῶν πραγμάτων ὑμῶν·

δηλοῦν	<i>to explain</i>
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5. φοβοῦμαι ... μὴ, ὥσπερ ἀνθρώποις ἀλαζόσι, λόγοις τισὶ τοιούτοις ἐντετυχήκαμεν περὶ τοῦ φίλου.

ὥσπερ	<i>(just) as if</i>
ἀλαζών, -όνος, ὁ, ἡ	<i>deceptive</i>
λόγος, -ου, ὁ	<i>argument</i>
ἐντυγχάνειν	<i>to meet up with (+ Dat., both ἀνθρώποις and λόγοις)</i>
τοῦ φίλου	<i>neut. Adj. for abstract noun</i>

6. μηκέτ' ἐκφοβοῦ,
μητρῶον ὡς σε λῆμ' ἀτιμάσει ποτέ.

λῆμα, -ατος, τό	<i>spirit</i>
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4. ... δείσαντες δέ, μὴ οὐ σφίσι πιστοὶ ὦσι, πέμπουσι ἐς Λακεδαίμονα ἐλόμενοι πρεσβευτὴν Τεισαμενόν.

πέμπουσι	Hist. Pres.
πρεσβευτής, -οῦ, ὁ	<i>ambassador</i>

5. ξύμφημι δὴ σοι καὶ δέδοικα, μὴ ἴκ θεοῦ πληγὴ τις ἦκει.

πληγὴ, -ῆς, ἡ	<i>blow</i> (lit. and metaphorical)
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6. τὸ δὲ θατέρου σχῆμα διὰ τὴν ἐν τοῖς λόγοις κυλίδησιν ἔχει πολλὴν ὑποψίαν καὶ φόβον, ὡς ἀγνοεῖ ταῦτα ...

θατέρου	τοῦ ἑτέρου
σχῆμα, -ατος, τό	<i>character</i>
κυλίδησις, -εως, ἡ	<i>involvement</i>
ὑποψία, -ας, ἡ	<i>suspicion</i>

7. φόβος γάρ, εἴ μοι ζῶσιν, οὓς ἐγὼ θέλω.

8. So then, are *we* to fear this [man], whom fortune and the divine demonstrate [to be] an unprofitable friend and an appropriate foe?

<i>So then, ...;</i>	εἶτα ...;
<i>divine</i>	δαιμόνιος, -α, -ον
<i>to demonstrate</i>	ἐμφανίζειν
<i>unprofitable</i>	λυσιτελής, -ές
<i>appropriate</i>	συμφέρων, -ουσα, -ον (Partc. as ordinary adj.)

9. ... and I would be afraid to follow the guide whom he gave, in case he led us [to a place] from where it will not be possible to go out.

<i>guide</i>	ἡγεμών, -όνος, ὁ
<i>gave, led</i>	Both terms refer to a future possibility.
<i>in case</i>	μὴ + Subj.

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