

Examples of the optative in indirect speech

ἐπεὶ δὲ τὰ τῶν θεῶν καλῶς εἶχεν, ἤρχετο πάλιν ᾧδε. “ἐτύγχανον λέγων ὅτι πολλὰ καὶ καλὰ ἐλπίδες ἡμῖν εἶεν σωτηρίας.

When the religious rites had been completed, he began again as follows. I was just saying that we have many good hopes of being saved.

Xenophon Anabasis 3.2.10

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καὶ ὃς τὸ μὲν πρῶτον ᾧκνει τε καὶ οὐ πάνυ ἤθελεν ἀποκρίνασθαι· ἔπειτα μέντοι εἶπεν ὅτι οἱ δοκοῖ σωφροσύνη εἶναι τὸ κοσμίως πάντα πράττειν καὶ ἡσυχῇ, ἔν τε ταῖς ὁδοῖς βαδίζειν καὶ διαλέγεσθαι, καὶ τὰ ἄλλα πάντα ὡσαύτως ποιεῖν. καὶ μοι δοκεῖ, ἔφη, συλλήβδην ἡσυχιότης τις εἶναι ὃ ἐρωτᾷς

And he at first was hesitant and didn't want to answer. But then he said that he thought that moderation was doing everything quietly and in an orderly fashion.

Plato Charmides 159b

ἔπειτα δὲ καὶ τοὺς συκοφάντας ἐθεράπευον, εἰδὼς ὅτι παθεῖν μᾶλλον κακῶς ἵκανὸς εἶην ἢ ποιῆσαι ἐκείνους.

Then I flattered the blackmailers too, knowing that I was more likely to suffer injustice at their hands than to inflict it on them.

Xenophon Symposium 4.30

ἔνθα δὴ προσέρχεται Ξενοφῶντι τῶν πελταστῶν ἀνὴρ Ἀθήνησι φάσκων
δεδουλευκέναι, λέγων ὅτι γινώσκοι τὴν φωνὴν τῶν ἀνθρώπων.

*Then one of the peltasts came up to Xenophon claiming to be a slave and saying that he knew
the language of the enemy.*

Xenophon Anabasis 4.8