

Examples of prohibition

μη σπεῖρε τέκνων ἄλοκα δαιμόνων βία·

εἰ γὰρ τεκνώσεις παῖδ', ἀποκτενεῖ σ' ὁ φύς,

Do not sow the furrow of children against the will of the gods.

If you bear a child, the child will kill you.

Euripides *Phoenician Women* 18-19

μηδεις δ' ὑμῶν, ὧ ἄνδρες Ἀθηναῖοι, δυσχερῶς ὑπολάβη· καὶ γὰρ νῦν ἀστὰς γυναῖκας
πολλὰς εὐρήσετε τιτθευούσας, ἃς ὑμῖν καὶ κατ' ὄνομα, ἐὰν βούλησθε, ἐροῦμεν.

*Let none of you take this in the wrong way. After all, even now you can find many citizens
acting as wet-nurses, who we can name for you, if you like.*

Demosthenes *Speeches* 57.35

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μηδαμῶς, ὧ ἄνδρες δικασταί, τοὺς πένητας ἀτιμάζετε (ἱκανὸν γὰρ αὐτοῖς τὸ πένεσθαι
κακόν), μηδέ γε τοὺς ἐργάζεσθαι καὶ ζῆν ἐκ τοῦ δικαίου προαιρουμένους

*Gentlemen of the jury, you should in no way dishonour the poor (being poor is bad enough for
them), and you should also not dishonour those who have chosen to work and live on the path
of righteousness.*

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Demosthenes Speeches 57.36

Ἑλένη: ὧ χρόνιος ἐλθὼν σῆς δάμαρτος ἐς χέρας.

Μενέλαος: ποίας δάμαρτος; μὴ θίγῃς ἐμῶν πέπλων.

Ἑλένη: ἦν σοι δίδωσι Τυνδάρεως, ἐμὸς πατήρ.

Helen: You've come back to the arms of your wife after such a long time!

Menelaus: Which wife is that? Don't touch my cloak!

Helen: The one my father Tyndareus gave to you.

Euripides Helen 566-8

μήτε τοίνυν ταῦτα φοβοῦ

Well, do not fear this!

Plato Crito 45a

μήτε ταῦτα φοβούμενος ἀποκάμῃς σαυτὸν σῶσαι, μήτε, ὃ ἔλεγες ἐν τῷ δικαστηρίῳ, δυσχερές σοι γενέσθω ὅτι οὐκ ἂν ἔχοις ἐξελθὼν ὅτι χρῶο σαυτῷ.

Do not give up saving yourself through fear of this. And do not be troubled by what you said in the court, that if you went away you would not know what to do with yourself.

Plato Crito 45c

μηδεμιᾶ πολυπραγμοσύνη προσεληλυθέναι με νόμιζε πρὸς σέ

Do not think it is from any meddlesomeness that I have approached you

Lysias Speeches 1.15

ψεύση δὲ μηδέν, ἀλλὰ πάντα τᾶληθῇ λέγε.

Tell no lies, but speak the whole truth.

Lysias Speeches 1.18

μὴ θαύμαζε τὰ λεγόμενα ἀλλ' ἀποκρίνου

Don't be surprised at what we say, Socrates, but answer

Plato Crito 50d

μὴ σε πείσῃ Κρίτων ποιεῖν ἃ λέγει μᾶλλον ἢ ἡμεῖς.

Do not let Crito persuade you to do what he says, but take our advice.

Plato Crito 54d

Τροφός: τί δ' ἔστιν, ὦ γεραιέ; μὴ φθόνει φράσαι.

What is it old man? Do not begrudge me the news

Euripides Medea 63

οὐχ ὧδ' ἔχει μοι, μὴ τρέσῃς ἡμᾶς, Κρέον,

ὥστ' ἐς τυράννους ἄνδρας ἐξαμαρτάνειν.

I am not the kind of person, fear not Creon, to wrong my rulers

Euripides Medea 307-308

ἀλλ' ἔξιθ' ὡς τάχιστα, μὴ λόγους λέγε·

Go straightaway, don't say anything

Euripides Medea 321

Μήδεια: ἀλλ' ἄντομαί σε τῆσδε πρὸς γενειάδος

γονάτων τε τῶν σῶν ἱκεσία τε γίγνομαι,

οἴκτιρον οἴκτιρόν με τὴν δυσδαίμονα

καὶ μὴ μ' ἔρημον ἐκπεσοῦσαν εἰσίδης,

Medea: I beg you by this chin of yours, and by your knees, I am your suppliant: pity me, pity me, poor wretch that I am. Do not see me thrown out, alone.

Euripides Medea 709-11

Μήδεια: μηδεῖς με φαύλην κάσθενῃ νομιζέτω

μηδ' ἡσυχαίαν, ἀλλὰ θατέρου τρόπου,

βαρεῖαν ἐχθροῖς καὶ φίλοιςιν εὐμενῇ·

Medea: Let no-one think me worthless, weak and meek, but rather the other type: a burden to enemies and a boon to friends.

Euripides Medea 807-9

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Euripides Medea 807-9

Μήδεια: λέξης δὲ μηδὲν τῶν ἐμοὶ δεδογμένων,
εἴπερ φρονεῖς εὖ δεσπόταις γυνή τ' ἔφυς.

Medea: Say nothing of my decisions, if you respect your mistress and are a woman by nature.

Euripides Medea 822-3