

## Selections from the Diophanes Archive, aka the Enteuxeis Papyri

Guéraud, Octave, ed. *Enteuxeis, requêtes et plaintes adressées au roi d'Égypte au IIIe siècle avant J.C.* Le Caire, Impr. de l'Institut français d'archéologie orientale, 1931-1932.

Translated by C. E. Muntz, 2010

### 2. Purchase of Fleeces

Harmiusis (Egyptian) v. Seos (Jew)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Harmiusis the wool merchant, a resident of Crocodilopolis. I am wronged by Seos the Jew, a resident of Alabanthis. He sold to me, at the price of 4 drachmas, 5 obols, 2 chalkoi, 118 mixed-breed fleeces, which I have bought for Amyntas, for [...], and took from me a deposit of 76 drachmas, the remainder to be paid when I trimmed the wool. But Seos, having come to...[...both trimmed the fleeces and took them for himself, and despite my complaints, does not return them to me. Therefore, I beseech you, King, if it pleases you, to order Diophanes the strategos to have Seos appear in his presence, and if proof is made that he has the [...] wool and the down-payment, that he be forced to give the wool to me. That being done I will no longer be injured, and Amyntas, for whom I bought other goods, will [pay?] the taxes due to Alexandria; and, after taking refuge in you, King, common benefactor of all, we will obtain justice.

### 6. Rebuilding of an Iseum

Epoeris (Egyptian)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Epoeris, daughter of Panes the Temple Warden, resident of the village of Athens in the district of Themistes. I have in the aforesaid village a sanctuary of Isis which has fallen into disrepair and because of this I am not able to remain there because I am afraid it will collapse. Therefore I beseech you, King, if it seems good to you, to order Diophanes the strategos to write to the local civil servants, and if what I write is true, to authorize me to demolish the sanctuary and rebuild it and to give it to the state, to offer sacrifices for you and your sister and your children. Thus I will have obtained your benevolence. Farewell.

To Straton. Take the local epistates and the komogrammates to examine this, and if what she writes is true, allow her to demolish it, but make certain that the Iseum is not inferior to the previous one but [...] in keeping with regulations.

### **11. Usurpation of housing by a cleruch**

Pasis (Egyptian) v. Geroros (Greek)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Pasis, farmer of Polydeukeia. I am wronged by Geroros, a holder of 70 aroura. I have a house in the village, from which I have been expelled by that man by force, and my flocks are [wandering] in the open, although he already has a dwelling in the district given to him as a billet. Therefore I beseech you, King, if it seems good to you, to order Diophanes the strategos to write to Sosibios the epistates to order that man to be sent to him, and, if what I have said is true, to not permit that man to expel me from my home, so that I am able to devote myself to farming and through you, King, common savior of all, I might obtain justice.

To Sosibios. Reconcile them if possible, if not, send them for judgement before the mixed tribunal.

### **20. Allowance of funeral due to a member of a Thiasos**

Crateia (Greek) v. Philip and Dionysius (Greeks)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Crateia, from the Isle of Alexandros. I am wronged by Philip and Dionysius. For my brother Apollodotus was a member of a Thiasos [...], these men, one being a priest, the other being the head of the Thiasos, when Apollodotus died, neither buried him nor gave him a proper funeral according to the rule of the Thiasos, nor did they give the funerary money due to him. Therefore I beseech you, King, if it seems good to you, to order Diophanes the strategos to compel them to give the burial money to me. This being done, I will have obtained justice from you, King.

[To...] Examine the rules of the Thiasos, compel them to do the right thing, but if they refuse, order them to us.

### **21. Funeral indemnities for a female thiasos**

Therous and Teos (Egyptians) v. Temsois et al. (Egyptians)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Therous and Teos. We are wronged by Temsois and Senemenopis and Teteim[] and Herieus and the rest of the female members of the Thiasos living in Kerkekethoeris in the Polemon district. My sister Soerios, and Teos, the woman named above, were enrolled in this Thiasos by those named above and held the priestess-hood of the Thiasos for four years, when she abruptly died [...]. She had no other relatives except us, but in spite of our complaints those named above do not pay the funeral allowance. Therefore we beseech you, King, to order Diophanes the strategos to write to Ptolemaios the epistates. If now they will give us the funerary allowance <the affair will be resolved>, and if not, then order them to Diophanes so that they be compelled to give it to us, in order that through you, King, I can obtain justice. Farewell.

To Ptolemaios. Try hard to reconcile them. If not, order them to us so that they can be judged by the appropriate tribunal.

## **22. Designation of a guardian for a widow**

Nicaea (Persian, presumably of Greek descent)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Nicaea daughter of Nicias, a Persian. My husband Pausanias died in the 23rd regnal year, leaving behind a will, dated in the month of Panemos of the same year, leaving [...] his son as my guardian. But he also died suddenly, in the 4th regnal year, in the month of Daisios (Athur in the Egyptian calendar) and I do not have any relative who will serve as my trustee. In order that the inheritance left to me by my husband not be lost on account of this, since I do not have trustee with whom I can make the necessary arrangements about these matters, I beseech you, King, to order Diophanes the strategos to have Demetrius the Thracian of Ptolemaios, son of Eteoneus, a 20-aroura holder of the [...] hipparchy made my trustee, whom Pausanias gave his sister in marriage, and to write to the strategos to take action about these matters, so that it be done in due order. Since I am old and infirm, and unable to be at Crocodopolis to deposit the present request, I have asked the above-named Demetrius to make this petition, that Diophanes write to Dioscurides the epistates to take my description, and that of my requested trustee, and report back to Diophanes. For, these things having been done, I will have benefitted from your philanthropy, King. Farewell.

To Dioscurides. Ascertain matters from the elders of the community, go to Nicaea and if [...] make clear to us [?]

## **25. Complaint about an ungrateful son**

Pappos (Egyptian) v. Strouthos (Egyptian)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Pappos. I am wronged by Strouthos my son. For, having sent him to school and educated him, when I grew old and became unable to take care of myself [...] I appeared before Dioscurides your [deputy?] in the village of Arsinoe, who ordered my son to provide me with an artaba of grain and 4 drachmas each month, conditions that Strouthos himself [accepted]. However [...] he never gave me anything as agreed. Contrary [...] whenever we meet he abuses me with the meanest insults. And he breaks into my house and takes pieces of my furniture, treating me contemptuously because I am old and have poor eye-sight. Therefore I beseech you, King, to order Diophanes the strategos to write to the epistates of the village of Arsinoe-near-the-dike in the Themistes division to order him to appear before Diophanes, and if the claims of my petition are true, to stop his violent assaults and provide guarantees for the payment of my pension, so that from now on he pays me regularly. This having been done, I will have achieved justice through you King. Farewell.

To Ptolemaios. Try especially hard yourself to reconcile the father and Strouthos. But if he contests anything, send him to us, so that it not be resolved differently.

(On verso) Strouthos appeared and agreed to give two copper drachmas a month to Pappos to live on. Pappos was present and agreed to these terms.

## **26. Complaint about an ungrateful daughter**

Ctesicles (Greek) v. Nike (Greek)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Ctesicles. I am wronged by Dionysius and Nike my daughter. I reared and educated and brought my daughter to adulthood, but having become infirm and developed bad eye-sight, I am unable to survive on my own. Desiring to obtain justice from my daughter in Alexandria, I begged her and in the 18th regnal year she swore a royal oath at the temple of Arsinoe Aktias that she would give me 20 drachmas each month, and that she would work to provide subsistence for me. If she did not carry out her promises, or transgressed on her agreement [...] she would be liable to me according to this oath. But now, seduced by Dionysius, a lewd fellow, she does not fulfill the terms of her agreement with me, scorning my old age and infirmity. Therefore I beseech you, King, do not overlook me as I am wronged by my daughter and this rogue Dionysius her corruptor, but order Diophanes the strategos to summon them to trial [...] and to treat the seducer as seems best to him, but to compel Nike my daughter to fulfill the bargain [...] this being done I will no longer be wronged, but taking refuge in you, King, I will achieve justice.

## **28. Flight and concealment of objects and money**

Sosigenes (Greek) v. Hippoitos (Greek)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Sosigenes of Thegonis. I am wronged by Hippoitos, of Berenikis Thesmophorou. In the 4th regnal year, on the 18th of Tybi, a certain Demetrius, a Syrian, who is a resident of Theognis, carried off my property, valued at 154 drachmas, 3 obols. Having arrived at Berenikis, he was found by the aforementioned Hippoitos, then a police official. Having apprehended him, Hippoitos made him turn over from the things he had stolen [...] a copper goblet and 12 copper drachmas. Later Demetrius, questioned by Heracleidas the [sergeant?] admitted that he had given the goblet and 12 drachmas to Hippoitas. Heracleides ordered Hippoitas to return the goblet and the 12 drachmas to me. He returned the goblet, but not the 12 drachmas [...]. Therefore, I beseech you, King, to order Diophanes the strategos, since Hippoitas is no longer [a police official], to write to Miokon the epistates to order him before Diophanes and, if what I have written is true, to compel him to return the 12 drachmas to me. This having been done, through you, King, I will have received justice.

To Mikon. Examine the matter and see to it that justice is done.

## **32. Diversion of objects and restitution of pledges**

Theon and Teutios (Greek) v. Theodotus and Agathon (Greek)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Theon and Teutios, sons of Philippos, of Macedonian descent, from Pharbaithos. We are wronged by Theodotos and Agathon, who are relations of the mother of the late Philippos. We are the trustees of Philippe, daughter of Philippos, seeking her share of the inheritance left by Philippos. We find that the afore-named men have stolen some things, which we will itemize to Philotas the epistates. We are also in debt for 25 drachmas for the funeral of Philip, and we pawned his armor, his tunic, his coat, and the bag containing it, to the aforementioned Agathon. We desire to redeem these items, by repaying the capital with interest, but he does not give them back but delays in the matter. Therefore we beseech you, king, if it

seems fitting to you, to order Diophanes the strategos to write to Philotas the epistates, if the things we have written in this petition are true, to compel Theudotos and Agathon to return the items taken to us (which we will iemize), and that Agathon, having received the capital and the interest, return the pawned items to us, so that taking refuge in you, King, the helper and benefactor of all, we will obtain justice, and the orphan girl will not be wronged. Farewell.

To Philotas. Try hard to reconcile them. If not, order them to us after the 10th of Choiach so that they can be judged before the appropriate tribunal.

### **38. Restitution for clothing**

Herakleides (Greek) v. Athenognes (Greek)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Herakleides, a manager of a bank in the district of Polemon. I am wronged by Athenogenes, one of the donkey-drivers in Kaminoi. I had rented 73 asses for the transportation of public money from him, and gave him a towel in which...a chiton and a cloak [were wrapped]...as security...[3 unintelligible lines]...Therefore I beseech you, King, if it seems good to you, to order Diophanes the strategos to write to Hephastion the epistates in Kaminoi to summon Athenogenes to be examined about these matters and, if I show that I had given to this man a coat and a tunic wrapped in a towel, that he order this man to return [...] For this being done, through you, king, common savior and benefactor of all, I will obtain justice. Farewell.

To Hephastion: Try very hard to reconcile them. If this is not possible, send them so that they can be judged before an appropriate tribunal.

### **44. Loan of Money**

Dioscurides and Nicanor (Greek) v. Nephorsouchos (Egyptian)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Dioscurides, Nicanor. We are wronged by Nephorsouchos. For she borrowed from us, in the 26th regnal year, 10 drachmas in bronze from Dioscurides, 14 drachmas in bronze from Nicanor, 24 drachmas total, and she does not repay us, having gone to Kerkesoucha, in the district of Herakleides, treating us with contempt. Therefore we beseech you, King, if it seems good to you, to order Diophanes the strategos to write to Deinias the epistates of Kerkesoucha to summon her, and if she acknowledges the debt, to make her repay us, and if she disputes it, to send her to Diophanes the strategos, so that we might share in your philanthropy. Farewell.

To Deinias. Try to reconcile them. If this is not possible, send them so that they can be judged before the mixed tribunal.

#### **46. Loan of barley**

Theonides (Egyptian) v. Seuthos (Egyptian)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Theonides of Ammonias. I am wronged by Seuthos, a cavalryman with 100 arouras of land, who dwells in the same district. He owes me 15 artabas of barley that I lent to him in person and that he promised to return in the harvest of the 26th regnal year, and this time has passed. He has been asked many times by me, but does not repay me, Therefore I beseech you, King, if it seems good to you, to order Diophanes the strategos to write to Agathocles the epistates to summon Seuthos to him and, if these things are true, to compel him to repay me and if he disputes them and swears that he is not indebted to me, that he be formally tried [?], so that I am not wronged, but by taking refuge in you, King, the benefactor of all, I might obtain justice. Farewell.

To Agathocles. After examining the matter consider how he can obtain justice.

#### **47. Wages of a Barber. Oath.**

Parates (Arab) v. Malichos (probably Syrian)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Parates the Arab, a barber, from the Arab community in Ptolemais. I am wronged by Malichos son of [...]sazaaios. I lavished care on him and all his relations with no cause for reproach...for several years, according to the agreement between myself and Malichos. But now he [owes me my salary] for the past year, regnal year 26, but a dispute has arisen between us on this matter. He took me to the temple of Athena and forced me to swear that I had not received [my salary]. I beseech you, King, not to overlook that I have been wronged, living on my skill, but to order Diophanes the strategos to write to Ptolemaios the epistates, to verify that if I have sworn an oath to him [...] and if he will now pay me what I am due [...]; but if he disputes this matter to order him before Diophanes so that we can be judged. This being done, King, I will have enjoyed your philanthropy to all. Farewell.

To Ptolemaios. Try hard to reconcile them. If this is not possible, send them to me so that they can be judged before an appropriate tribunal.

#### **49. Recognition of a fictitious debt**

Sopolis (Egyptian) v. Demo (probably Egyptian, possibly Greek)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Sopolis. I am wronged by a certain Demo, who lives in the city of Crocodilopolis in the Arsinoite nome, where she also works [as a prostitute]. With the help of some men [...] she persuaded my son Sopolis, who is not yet of age, to sign a promissory note for 1000 drachmas to her. Therefore I beseech you, King, if it seems good to you, to order Diophanes the strategos to call in Demo and the man who wrote the contract as her legal representative and the bondsman, and examine them severely, and, if it is established that no loan of money was involved and the contract was intentionally falsified, that Demo should be compelled to give us the note, and that Diophanes the strategos should pass judgement on her. This being done, King, I will no longer be wronged, I who served you and your blameless father. Farewell.

## 50. Fictitious bill

Pasis (Egyptian) v. Horus (Egyptian)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Pasis the Ibis-keeper, son of Hareus. I am wronged by Horus the son of Horus of Philoteris, of the district of Heracleides. He says that I signed a promissory note in Egyptian for a sum of 420 drachmas to his daughter Tsenamounis, but I have done no such thing. Therefore I beseech you, King, to order Diophanes the strategos to write to Nepheros the commandant of the village to send Horos to Diophanes to be judged with me and, if I am shown to have not signed this note, that he should give it to me, and that Horos should be punished appropriately for this matter. But if he refuses, he should make a formal accusation to Diophanes, so that, through you, King, I might achieve justice. Farewell.

To Sosibios. Try to reconcile them. If this is not possible, send them so that they can be judged before an appropriate tribunal.

## 52. Keeping of a contract

Neander (Greek) v. Paos (Egyptian)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Neander the Oitaean, (a 100-aroura holder) of the hipparchy. I am wronged by Paos of Topsa. For his father Pet[...] was the guarantor of an Egyptian contract, in which Pechusios agreed to pay 75 artabas of grain to me as rent, due in the third year, and if he did not pay me the grain, I would receive the payment from Pet[...]. But Pet[...] the father of Paos having passed away before I received the grain, [this text is very uncertain] I demanded it from his son Paos, who refuses to give it to me. Therefore I beseech you, King, to order Diophanes the strategos to write to Kallikles the epistates to order Paon before Diophanes, so that, if I have written the truth, he can compel that man to fulfill the contract, so that through you, king, I might receive justice. Farewell.

To Kallikles. Try to reconcile them. If this is not possible, send them so that they can be judged before an appropriate tribunal.

## 54. Validity of an unsealed contract

Petous (Egyptian) v. Lacharos and Alexandros (Greeks)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Petous son of [...], priest of Socnoconeus, inhabitant of Bacchias. I am wronged by Lacharos and Alexandros his son, members of the soldiers from Asia. They made a contract with me to farm their land allotments in the month of Choiach in the presence of witnesses, but due to the lateness of the hour we deposited it unsealed with Zopuros the notary; after this they verbally promised in the presence of Dionysius to give me 11 artabas of wheat to seed, on the condition that I give them half the harvest in addition to the normal taxes. I took the 11 artabas and sowed it, but they misled me, and were unwilling to sign the contract. I complained to Stratios the epistates, but they treated the contract as without force, and expelled me from the land. Therefore I beseech you, King, to order Diophanes the strategos to write to Stratios the epistates to order them before Diophanes for judgement, and, if these things are true, to not permit them to expel me from the land, and not to harvest until the suit is resolved. This being done, I will, king, have benefitted from your goodness. Farewell.

To Stratios. Try to reconcile them. If this is not possible, send them so that they can be judged before an appropriate tribunal.

### **60. Inundation of a field**

Idomeneus (Greek) v. Petobastis and Horus (Egyptians)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Idomeneus, one of the farmers on the estate of Chrysermos, in the village of Kaminoi.. I am wronged by Petobastis, son of Taos, and Horus, son of Keleesis, from the same village. I had leased 2 arouras [...] from the estate of Chrysermos and sowed the land with chickling. But Petobastis and Horus the above named flooded my field, so that my chickling is lost and I am not even able to recover the expenditures for the land. Therefore, I beseech you, king, if it seems good to you, to order Diophanes the strategos to write to Hephaestion the epistates to order Petobastis and Horus to Crocodopolis, so that I might make my case against them in the presence of Diophanes; and, if I show that they have flooded my land, that they be compelled to take my land and to pay the rent, and that I be given land out of their farm of equal size for the land they flooded. This being done, having refuge in you, King, I will be able to pay my rent to Chrysermos, and I will have benefitted from your philanthropy. Farewell.

To Hephaestion. Try to reconcile them. If this is not possible, send them so that they can be judged before an appropriate tribunal.

### **65. Share of a vineyard**

Marres (Egyptian) v. Herakon, Hippon, and Peitholaos (Greeks)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Marres, son of Petosiris. I am wronged by Herakon, Hippon, and Peitholaos. I have a lawsuit before Diophanes the strategos against Herakon and Hippon regarding the division of a vineyard which I bought in the royal domain; and this lawsuit is being dragged out by them. After asking for a delay of twenty days, they did not meet with me, and then time Diophanes sailed to Alexandria, so there has been no resolution up until now. However, Panethos my vine-grower was in the vineyard with other workers, when Peitholaos arrived, in regnal year 2 on the 4th of Tybi, and drove off him and those working with him, as I was later informed. Then Hippon and Herakon released their livestock into the vineyard and voluntarily destroyed some of the vines, since they wanted to harm me. Afterwards, I brought the komarch, the guards, and some others to show the damage to them, whom my adversaries drove out of the vineyard as they had me [...] because I refused to turn it over to them. Therefore I beseech you, King, to order Diophanes the strategos to write to Pythiades the epistates to the above named before him, so that Herakon and Hippon are compelled to share the vineyard with me in accordance with the petition which I filed about them in regnal year 24 on 22 Gorpiaios / 22 Choiach, and at the same time to compel them to share the land which we had planted jointly, and for which I paid a price in gold [...]; and that they pay me 500 drachmas for the damages; and with regards to Peitholaos, let Diophanes decide what seems best to him. These things being done, through you, King, I will receive justice.

To Pythiades. Try to reconcile them. If this is not possible, send them so that they can be judged before the common tribunal.



## 66. Division of Land

Maron (Greek) v. Theodosius (Greek)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Maron son of Euktos, an Argive by descent. I am wronged by Theodosius son of Xanthus, a Lycian by descent. My son Euktos, with this same man, took a 99 year lease in common on a plot of open land in the village of Autodike from Artemon, but died before they divided the site. Theodosius began to build a house for himself, choosing the best and most accessible part of the land. Then the division took place, and although the contract expressly says "Equal and similar shares," he did not make an equal division, but misled me and gave me ground that was unusable, being a narrow strip, while he took a square section. Therefore I beseech you, King, if it seems good to you, to order Diophanes the strategos to write to Pythiades the epistates to come and divide the land equally and fairly for, and to compel him to move the half-completed gate which has built on my share back to his, and, since he has encroached on 70 square cubits of land, to give me in exchange land for an entrance and exit to the common path, since I have the inner section of the plot. This having been done, through you, King, I will have obtained justice. Farewell.

To Pythiades. Try to reconcile them. If this is not possible, send them so that they can be judged before the appropriate tribunal.

## 75. Violence against a land manger

Crateras (Greek) v. Armesios et al. (Egyptians)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Crateras the Macedonian, holder of 30 arouras. I am wronged by Armesios and others, shepherds from Alabanthis. I am the manager of some land grants [in the region?]. However, in regnal year 25 on 13 Paophi I came across the sheep [of the aforementioned] shepherds grazing in the pasturage of a grant of Asteropaios [...]. I accused them and called for witnesses, but they treated it as a laughing matter, and came at me with clubs and beat me and stole the cloak I was wearing. I went [back to the village...and showed] the marks of the blows to Herodotus the epistates and explained how I had [lost my clothes because of them...?...] Chales, one of the shepherds, arrived with my cloak, which I took back. [...]. I had made a petition to Diophanes the strategos, which he examined and instructed [Herodotus the epistates to resolve the matter.] But Herodotus has treated it of little importance and dragged the matter out until now. Therefore, I beseech you, King, to order Diophanes to not overlook me, unlawfully beaten by the shepherds, [but to write to Herodotus the epistates and tell him] not to treat the matter as unimportant, but to order those men to appear before Diophanes [and, if they are shown] to have used my pasturage and attacked me and torn off my clothes, then [that they are obliged to pay for the damage to the pastures]; as for the violence Diophanes should decide the penalty. [This being done, through you, King, common] savior of all, I will obtain justice and aid.

[To Herodotus...] so that there are not multiple petitions about the same problem [?]

## **79. Violence and insults**

Heracleides (Greek) v. Psenobatis (Egyptian)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Heracleides from the Isle of Alexandros, now a resident of Crocodopolis in the Arsinoite nome. I am wronged by Psenobatis, who lives in Psya in the same nome. On 21 Phamenoth of year 5 in the tax calendar, I went to Psya in the aforementioned nome, for personal business. As I arrived [...] a certain Egyptian named Psenobatis, it seems, leaned out of a window and emptied a chamber pot of urine on my clothes, so that they were drenched. I protested and demanded recompense, but she insulted me. I insulted her back [...] and Psenobatis with her right hand grabbed the edge of my cloak which I was wearing and ripped it and tore it off, so that I was naked, and she spit in my face in front of the men I had brought as witnesses. I accuse her for her aggression and attack on my person. When she was rebuked by those present [for her treatment of me] she went back into the house from which she had poured the urine on me. Therefore I beseech you, King if it seems good to you, [do not overlook me] vilely attacked by an Egyptian, being a Greek and outside my own town, but order Diophanes the strategos, since [...] to write to Sogenes the epistates to order Psenobatis to him so that she can be judged for these [things and, if these things are true] according to my petition, that she should be punished as the strategos [sees fit. This being] done, through you, King, [I will achieve] justice. [Farewell.]

## **80. Assault in an Iseion**

Amenneus (Egyptian) v. Tnepherous et al (Egyptians)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Amenneus, manager of an Iseum, and Stotoetis my wife, inhabitants of Arsinoe on the dam, in the village of Themistes. We are wronged by Tnepherous, daughter of Petosirios, who lives in the same village as we do. On 22 Mesore in the 6th fiscal year, she took Thasis, Thason, Bari, ...s, Thanesis, Tathripis, Aximama, and Hermippus, and Poseidonius, the sons of Aximama, and entered the Iseum which we have in the same village, and beat us severely, haphazardly striking every part of our bodies. My aforementioned wife Stotoetis escaped and entered a room in the Iseum and chased by the aforementioned Aximama and shut herself [in a room?], while Tnepheros threw two of my children into a trunk. I [fled] to the altar and shouted for help. Some men arrived and rebuked our attackers, who then left us in peace. They perpetrated these things in an Iseion [...] where I performs sacrifices and libations... [the remainder is missing]

## **82. Burning at a public bath**

Philista (Greek) v. Petechon (Egyptian)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Philista daughter of Lysias, an inhabitant of Trikoma. I am wronged by Petechon. For while taking a bath in the aforementioned town, in regnal year 1, 7 Tybi, this man, an attendant in the women's bath, although I had come in to be rinsed off, brought in jugs of boiling water and dumped them on me and burned both my abdomen and my left thigh as far as the knee, to the point that I was in great danger. Finding this man I turned him over to Nechthosiris the chief guard of the village, Simon the epistates not being present. Therefore, I beseech you, King, as a suppliant, if it seems good to you, do not overlook me having been unlawfully treated, living by my own skills, but order to Diophanes the strategos to write to Simon

the epistates and Nechthosiris the chief guard to send this Petechon to him, so that he may examine these matters. Thus, fleeing to you king, the common benefactor of us all, I might obtain justice. Farewell.

To Simon: Order the accused to me.

### **83. Violence and escape**

Thamounis (Egyptian) v. Thothortais (Egyptian)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Thamounis, of Heracleopolis. I am wronged by Thothortais, who lives in Oxychyncha in the Arsinoite nome. In regnal year one in the month of Athur, when I was visiting Oxyrhyncha and went to the bath, the above-mentioned woman entered and siezed me as I was bathing in the women's room, and hurled me out of the bath. I did not leave, but she, abusing me because I was a foreigner, beat me all over and stole my necklace of stone links. After this, I complained to Petosiris the village chief about these things, and Thothortais being summoned told him whatever she wanted. Favoring her, the village chief put me in the guardhouse and held me for four days until he took my cloak, worth 30 drachmas, which the defendand is now wearing, and then released me. Therefore I beseech you, King, to order Diophanes the strategos to write to Moschion the epistates and order Thothortais to him and, if these things are true, to compel her to return my cloak or pay the 30 drachmas, and in regards to the violence against me that Diopahnes should decide what to do, so that through you, King, I might receive justice. Farewell.

To Moschion. Try to reconcile them. If not, send them so that they can be judged in the native court.

### **86. Intimidation of witnesses**

Tetosiris (Egyptian) v. Apollodorus (Greek)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Tetosiris. I am in a lawsuit [...] against Apollodorus about a house in Berenike Thesmophorou. Needing witnesses for the case, I took from the case-magistrate [...] a letter instructing Heracleodorus the epistates to take oaths from the witnesses I would bring to him. But Apollodorus, gathering a mob [...] sacred all my witnesses, saying that he would assault them and me, and drive us out of the village. Then he also roundly insulted Biou[ ]as, a 100 aroura-holder, who had intended to be a witness for me, and said that he would beat him too, with the result that he did not give evidence for me. In addition to this, the Egyptians intending to give evidence for me were scared and left, with the result that they are not giving evidence for me. [Therefore] I beseech [you King], so that justice not be thwarted for this reason and [...] to order Diopahnes the strategos to [...] so that, this being done, taking refuge in you, king, [common benefactor of all I might obtain justice] from your philanthropy. Farewell

### **89. Delay in payment**

Alexandros (Greek) v. Apollonois (Greek)

Greetings to King Ptolemy from Alexandros son of Peith[...], from Pharbaithos, of the Heracleides division. I am wronged by Apollonios [...]. I had leased, in the 22nd year, an orchard of [...] and entrusted to Apollonios 20 drachmas for rent on the garden to deposit with the bank. But he only deposited 10 drachmas, and is delaying the other 10 and still has not deposited them in the bank. And I am being pressed for payment by Theugenes, the holder of the property, according to the contract which I have made with him, for the sum plus the [overtime] interest and a penalty of half, because Theugenes had to paid the other ten drachmas to the bank himself. Therefore I beseech you, King, if it seems good to you, to order Diophanes the strategos to write to [...] the epistates to order Apollonios to be judged in his presence and, if these things are true, that he pay the 10 drachmas with the interest and penalty for which I am liable, so that, taking refuge in you, King, I obtain justice. Farewell.

To [...] Examine the matter so the he gets justice.