

# TELEMACHUS.

## BOOK XIV.

### ARGUMENT.

Mentor prevails upon Idomeneus to banish Protesilaus and Timocrates to the Island of Samos, and recall Philocles to his confidence and councils. Hegesippus, who is charged with this order, executes it with joy. He arrives with his prisoners at Samos, where he finds his friend Philocles in great indigence and obscurity, but content: he at first refuses to return, but the gods having signified it to be their pleasure, he embarks with Hegesippus, and arrives at Salentum, where Idomeneus, who now sustains a new character, receives him with great friendship.

AFTER this conversation, Mentor persuaded Idomeneus immediately to dismiss Protesilaus and Timocrates, and recall Philocles. The king would immediately have complied, if there had not been a severity of virtue in Philocles, of which he feared the effects. « I confess, » said he, « that though I love and esteem him, I cannot perfectly reconcile myself to his return. I have, even from my infancy, been accustomed to praise, assiduity, and compliances, which, in Philocles, I shall not find. Whenever I took any measures that he disapproved, the dejection of his countenance was sufficient to condemn me; and when we were together in private, his behaviour was respectful and decent, indeed, but it was ungracious and austere. »

« Do you not see, » replied Mentor, « that to princes who have been spoiled by flattery, every thing that is sincere and honest, appears to be ungracious and austere? Such princes are even weak enough to suspect a want of zeal for their service, and respect for their authority, where they do not find a servility that is ready to flatter them in the abuse of their power; they are offended at all freedom of speech, all generosity of sentiment, as pride, censoriousness, and sedition; »

# TELÉMACO.

## LIBRO XIV.

### SUMARIO.

OBliga Mentor á Idoméneo á que destierre á Protesilao y á Timocrates á la isla de Samo, sacando de ella á Filocles para que goze de los mismos honores y confianza que antes. Hegesipo, á cuyo cargo esta executar la orden del rey, lo hace con alegría. Llega con aquellos dos hombres á Samo, donde vuelve á ver á su amigo Filocles contento con la vida solitaria y pobre que allí pasaba. Este no consiente sino con mucha dificultad en volver á su patria: pero despues de haber conocido que lo quieren así los Dioses, se embarca con Hegesipo, y llega á Salento, donde Idoméneo, que ya no es el mismo hombre, le recibe con amistad.

DESPUES de estas razones, Mentor persuadió á Idoméneo, que convenia, lo mas presto que se pudiese echar á Protesilao y Timócrates, para restituir despues á Filocles. Pero temia el Rey la severidad de aquel hombre, y esta era la única causa que le detenia. Confieso, decia, que por mas que lo estime, aunque lo ame, no puedo dexar de temer su vuelta. Desde mi edad mas tierna estoy acostumbrado á que me alaben, y á ser ciega y cuidadosamente servido y complacido: cosas que no puedo esperar que encontraré en Filocles. Luego que hacia yo alguna cosa que no aprobaba, él ayre melancólico de su semblante me daba hartó á entender que condenaba lo que yo hacia. Quando estaba á solas conmigo, eran respetosas sus maximas y moderadas; pero sobrado áusteras.

No veis, dixo Mentor, que á Príncipes viciados de la adulacion, parece áspero y austero todo lo que es libre é ingenuo? Llegan aun á imaginarse que no se tiene zelo para servirlos, ni tampoco aficion á su mando, si no tiene uno el alma servil, y dispuesta á adularlos, aun quando se valen de su autoridad del modo mas injusto. Qualquier palabra libre y generosa les parece altanera, crítica y sediciosa. Hácese delicados de suerte, que todo lo que no es adulacion les

and contract a false delicacy, which every thing, short of flattery, disappoints and disgusts. But let us suppose, that Philocles is really ungracious and austere; will not his austerity be preferable to the pernicious flattery of those that are now about you? Where will you find a man without fault? And is not that of speaking truth, in a manner something too rough and free, a fault from which you have less to fear than any other? Is it not, indeed, a fault which your own indiscretion has made necessary to your interest, as that only which can surmount the aversion to truth that flattery has given you? You stand in need of a man who loves only truth and you; who loves you better than you know how to love yourself; who will speak truth notwithstanding your opposition, and force a way for it through all your entrenchments. Such a man, and so necessary is Philocles. Remember, that the greatest good fortune a prince can hope is, that one man of such magnanimous generosity should be born in his reign: in comparison of such a man, all the treasures of the state are of no value; and a prince can suffer no punishment so dreadful, as that of losing him, by becoming unworthy of his virtue, and not knowing how to profit by his services.

You ought certainly to avail yourself of worthy men, though it is not necessary that you should be blind to their faults; in these never implicitly acquiesce, but endeavour to correct them. Give merit, however, always a favourable hearing; and let the public see, that you at once distinguish and honour it: but, above all things, strive to be no longer what you have been. Princes, whose virtues, like yours, have suffered by the vices of others, generally content themselves with a speculative disapprobation of corrupt men; and at the same time employ them with the utmost confidence, and load them with riches and honour; on the other hand, they value themselves upon discerning and approving men of virtue, but they reward them only with empty praise, and want magnanimity to assign them employments, to admit them to their friendship, or distinguish them by their favour. »

ofende, y les mueve á enojo. Ahora vamos adelante. Supongo que en efecto Filocles sea áspero y severo: ¿ Su severidad, por ventura, no vale harto mas que no la perniciosa adulacion de vuestros Consejeros? ¿ Dónde hallaréis un hombre sin defectos? ¿ Y el defecto de deciros con sobrada osadía la verdad, no es acaso el que ménos debeis temer que todos los demas? ¿ Pero qué digo? ¿ No es este un defecto necesario para corregir los vuestros, y vencer aquella pesadumbre de la verdad, á que os ha conducido la lisonja? Vos habeis menester un hombre que ame la verdad sólida, y que os ame mas de lo que vos mismo sabeis amaros: que á mal de vuestro grado os la diga: que venza por fuerza todas vuestras repugnancias; y ese hombre necesario es Filocles. Acordaos que un Príncipe es felicísimo quando en su Reynado nace súbdito suyo un hombre solo de esa generosidad, que es el mas precioso tesoro del estado; y que el mayor castigo que puede temer de los dioses, es perder un tal hombre, si se hace de él indigno, por no haberlo sabido aprovechar.

En quanto á los defectos de los hombres de bien, conviene saber conocerlos, y no dexar de hacerlos servir. Corregid, y no desecheis jamas ciegamente su zelo indiscreto; sino escuchadle con atencion, honrad su virtud, mostrad al público que sabeis conocerla; y especialmente guardaos de ser como aquellos Príncipes, que contentándose con despreciar á los hombres malvados, no dexan de emplearlos con confianza y colmarlos de beneficios; y que presumiendo tambien de conocer á los hombres virtuosos, no les dan mas que vanas alabauzas, no osando de encargar á su fe los oficios, ni admitirlos á su familiaridad, ni beneficiarlos con abundancia.

Idomeneus then confessed, that he was ashamed of having so long delayed to deliver innocence from oppression, and to punish those that had abused his confidence; and all scruples about recalling Philocles being removed, Mentor had no difficulty in persuading the king to dismiss his favourite: for when once an opposition to a favourite has so far succeeded, that he is suspected, and becomes troublesome, the prince, feeling himself perplexed and uneasy, thinks only how to get rid of him: all friendship vanishes, and all services are forgotten. The fall of a favourite gives no pain to his master, if, as soon as he is undone, he is removed out of sight.

Idomeneus immediately gave private orders to Hagesippus, one of the principal officers of his household, to seize Protesilaus and Timocrates, and conduct them in safety to the isle of Samos; to leave them there; and to bring Philocles back to Salentum. Hagesippus, at the receipt of this order, burst into tears of surprise and joy: « You will now, » said he to the king, « make every heart in your dominions glad; for these men were the cause of all the misfortunes that have befallen you and your people. Good men have now groaned, twenty years, under an oppression so severe, that they scarce dared even to groan: to complain was impossible; for those who attempted to approach you, otherwise than by the favourites, were sure to be immediately crushed by their power. »

Hagesippus then acquainted the king with innumerable instances of their treachery and inhumanity, of which he had never heard, because nobody dared to accuse them; and told him also, that he had discovered a conspiracy against the life of Mentor. The king was struck with horror at the relation.

Hagesippus, that he might seize Protesilaus without delay, went immediately to his house. It was not so large as the palace; but it was better designed, both for convenience and pleasure: the architecture was in a better taste, and it was decorated with a profusion of expence, which the most cruel oppression had

Oído este discurso, dixo Idomenéo que era ignominia haber tardado tanto en librar la inocencia oprimida, y en castigar aquellos que le habian engañado. Ni aun le costó trabajo alguno á Mentor el lograr que el Rey perdiese á su favorito: pues, luego que se ha llegado á hacer que estos se vuelvan sospechosos é importunos á sus amos: los principes fastidiados y apurados no piensan ya sino en libertarse de ellos: se desvanece su amistad, olvidanse los méritos: y la caída de sus favoritos no les cuesta nada, con tal que dexen de verlos.

Ordenó luego el Rey secretamente á Egesipo, que era uno de los Oficiales primeros de su familia, que prendiera á Protesilao y Timócrates, que los condujera seguros á la isla de Samo, que los dexase en ella, y que traxera á Filocles de aquel lugar adonde estaba desterrado. Espantado Egesipo de semejantes órdenes, no pudo contenerse de llorar de alegría. Ahora si, dixo al Rey, que satisfacéis llenamente los deseos de vuestros súbditos. Estos dos hombres han ocasionado todas vuestras desgracias y de vuestros vasallos. Ya hace veinte años que hacen gemir á todos los hombres de bien, y que apenas se encuentra quien se atreva á gemir: hasta tanto es cruel su tiranía. Ellos oprimen á todos aquellos que tratan de acercaseos como no sea por su medio.

Egesipo descubre despues á Idomenéo un gran número de perfidias, y de crueldades que habian cometido, de las quales el Rey nunca habia oido hablar, por no hallarse ninguno que tuviera aliento para acusarlas. Refirióle tambien lo que habia sabido de una conjuration secreta contra la vida de Mentor. Horrorizóse Idomenéo oyendo estas terribles maldades.

Apresuróse Egesipo en ir á prender en su casa á Protesilao. Era ella ménos grande, pero mas cómoda y mas alegre que la de Idomenéo: era la arquitectura de mejor gusto, y el dueño la habia adornado con excesivo gusto, que todo era sangre de pobres. Estaba entonces él echado con descuido sobre un lecho de púr-

supplied. He was then in a marble saloon that opened to his baths, reclining negligently upon a couch, that was covered with purple embroidered with gold; he appeared to be weary, and even exhausted with his labours: there was a gloom of discontent upon his brow, and his eye expressed a kind of agitation and ferocity not to be described. The principal persons of the kingdom sat round him upon carpets, watching his looks even to the slightest glance of his eye, and reflecting every expression of his countenance from their own: if he opened his mouth, all was ecstasy and admiration; and, before he had uttered a word, they vied with each other, which should be loudest in the praise of what he had to say. One of them regaled him with an account of the services he had rendered to the king heightened with the most ridiculous exaggeration: another declared, that his mother had conceived him by Jupiter in the likeness of her husband, and that he was son to the father of the gods. In some verses, that were recited by a poet, he was said to have been instructed by the muses, and to have rivalled Apollo in all the works of imagination and wit; and another poet still more servile and shameless, celebrated him as the inventor of the polite arts, and the father of a people, among whom he had scattered plenty and happiness, from the horn of Amalthea, with a liberal hand.

Protesilaus heard all this adulation with a cold, negligent, and disdainful air, as if he thought his merit was without bounds, and that he honoured those too much from whom he condescended to receive praise. Among other flatterers, there was one who took the liberty to whisper some jest upon the new regulations that were taking place under the direction of Mentor: the countenance of Protesilaus relaxed into a smile; and immoderate laughter immediately shook the whole company, though the greatest part knew nothing of what had been said. The countenance of Protesilaus became again haughty and severe, and every one immediately shrunk back into timidity and silence: all watched for the happy moment, in which he would turn his eye upon them, and permit them

pura, recamada de oro, en una grande sala de mármol, cerca de sus baños. Parecia cansado y consumido de las fatigas; y sus ojos y sobrecejo mostraban no sé qué de inquieto y melancólico y aun de feroz. Los demas grandes del estado estaban sobre algunas alfombras distribuidos en órden al rededor de él, componiendo sus rostros á semejanza del de Protesilao, de quien observaban hasta la mas mínima vuelta de ojos. Apenas abria la boca, exclamaban todos, para admirar lo que queria decir. Uno de los principales del congreso referia con ciertas amplificaciones ridículas lo que Protesilao habia hecho en servicio del Rey; y otro atestiguaba que era hijo de Júpiter, y que el dios con engaño de su madre le habia dado ser. En aquel mismo punto le habia recitado un poeta algunos versos, en que decia, que habiéndole doctrinado las musas, habia en todo género igualado la ciencia y eloquencia de Apolo. Otro poeta, aun mas vil y desvergonzado, le llamaba en sus versos inventor de las buenas artes, y padre de los pueblos que él hacia felices, y los describia con la cornucopia en la mano.

Protesilao escuchaba todos estos elogios con un ayre de rostro rígido, abstracto, desdeñoso, como de hombre que sabe merecer mucho mayores, y que hace sumo gusto, permitiendo ser elogiado. Hubo allí un lisonjero, que se tomó licencia para hablarle al oido, y decirle alguna agudeza contra las buenas reglas del gobierno, que Mentor procuraba establecer. Sonrióse Protesilao, y toda la asamblea echó á reir, bien que la mayor parte no podia aun saber lo que habia dicho. Pero volviendo luego Protesilao su semblante rígido y orgulloso, volvió cada uno al temor y al silencio. Muchos nobles deseaban aquel momento en que Protesilao se queria volver á ellos, y escuchar sus razones. Parecian estos turbados y confusos, porque le habian de pedir gracias. Hablaban en lugar de estos, sus

to speak; and each, having some favour to ask, discovered the greatest agitation and perplexity; their supplicatory posture supplied the want of words; and they seemed to be impressed with the same humility and reverence, as a mother, who petitions the gods at their altar, for the life of an only son; every countenance expressed a tender complacency and admiration: but every heart concealed the most malignant envy, and implacable hatred.

At this moment, Hegesippus entered the saloon; and seizing the sword of Protesilaus, acquainted him, that he had the king's orders to carry him to Samos. At these dreadful words, all the arrogance of the favourite fell from him in a moment, like the fragment of a rock that is broken from the summit: he threw himself at the feet of Hegesippus: he wept, hesitated, faltered, trembled, and embraced the knees of a man, upon whom, an hour before, he would have disdained to turn his eye. At the same time, his flatterers, who saw that his ruin was complete and irreparable, insulted him with a meanness and cruelty worthy of their adulation.

Hegesippus would not allow him time even to take leave of his family, or to secure his private papers, which were all seized, and put into the king's hands. Timocrates was also arrested at the same time to his inexpressible surprise; for being upon ill terms with Protesilaus, he had not the least apprehension of being involved in his ruin; and they were both carried on board a vessel, which had been prepared to receive them. They arrived in safety at Samos, where Hegesippus left his prisoners; and, to complete their misfortunes, he left them together. Here, with a rancour natural to their circumstances and disposition, they reproached each other with the crimes that had brought on their ruin: here they were condemned to live, without the least hope of returning to Salentum, at a distance from their wives and children, no to mention friends, for a friend they never had: with the country they were wholly unacquainted; and

sumisiones, y parecian no ménos humildes que las madres al pie de los altares, quando exóran los dioses por la salud de un hijo único. Todos se mostraban contentos, aficionados á Protesilao, y en extremo admirados de él, bien que todos le profesaban un odio inextinguible.

Entra en este lance Egesipo, tómale la espada, y le notifica, que debe llevarle luego á Samo. A estas voces cayó toda la arrogancia de Protesilao, como un peñasco grande que se desprende de la eminencia de una inaccesible montaña. Hélo aquí, que se arroja temblando á los pies de Egesipo, llora, se suspende, no acierta á hablar, tiembla, abrázase á los pies del que una hora ántes no se dignaba honrar con mirarle. Todos aquellos, que le adulaban con tantas alabanzas, viéndolo ya perdido, sin esperanza de recobrase, trocaron sus lisonjas en desapasionadísimas injurias.

Egesipo no le quiso dar tiempo ni para despedirse de su familia, ni para tomar ciertas escrituras secretas: todo se le tomó y fué llevado al Rey. Fué preso al mismo tiempo Timócrates, y él se maravilló por extremo, porque le parecería que no habia de ser comprehendido en la ruina de Protesilao no siendo ya su amigo. Partiéron pues entrambos en un baxel, prevenido para este fin, y llegaron con él á Samo. Dexa luego Egesipo á los dos miserables, y par hacer mayor su desgracia, los dexa á los dos juntos. Allí se improperan con rabia uno á otro las maldades que han hecho, y que son la ocasion de su fatal caída. Hállanse sin alguna esperanza de volver á Salento, condenados á vivir en ausencia léjos de sus mugeres y de sus hijos: no digo separados de sus amigos, porque no los tenian. Habian sido puestos en una tierra desconocida, donde no podian tener otro modo para pasar la vida sino el trabajo propio; y los que tantos años ha-

had no means of subsistence, but by their labour : a situation , of which the disadvantages were greatly aggravated by their luxury and splendour , which long habit had made almost as necessary to them , as food and rest. In this condition , like two wild beasts of the forest , they were always ready to tear each other to pieces.

In the mean time , Hegesippus enquired , in what part of the island Philocles was to be found : and he was told that he lived at a considerable distance from the city , upon a mountain , in which there was a cave that served him for a habitation. Every one spoke of him with the utmost admiration and esteem : « He has never given offence , » said they , « in a single instance , since he has been in the island ; every heart is touched at the patience of his labour , and the cheerfulness of his indigence ; he possesses nothing , yet is always content. Though he is remote both from the business and the pleasures of the world , without property and without influence ; yet he can still find means to oblige merit , and has a thousand contrivances to gratify his neighbours. »

Hegesippus immediately repaired to the cave , which he found empty and open ; for the poverty of Philocles , and the simplicity of his manners , made it unnecessary for him to shut his door when he went out. A mat of coarse rushes served him for a bed : he rarely kindled a fire , because his food was generally such as needed no dressing ; in summer he lived upon fruits fresh gathered , and upon dates and dried figs in winter , quenching his thirst at a clear spring , that fell in a natural cascade from the rock. His cave contained nothing but his tools ; and some books that he read at certain hours , which he appropriated to that purpose , no to decorate his mind or gratify his curiosity , but that , while he rested from his labour , he might gain instruction , and avoid being idle by learning to be good ; and he employed himself in sculpture , not to procure reputation or wealth , but merely to keep his body in exercise , and procure the necessaries of life without contracting obligations.

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bían vivido en regalo y fausto , como si fueran fieras estaban siempre para despedazarse uno á otro.

Preguntó cuidadoso Egesipo , en qué parte de la isla habitaba Filocles. Dixéronle , que hacia su morada harto léxos de la ciudad , sobre un monte , donde una gruta le servia de habitacion. Todos le hablaron de este forastero con maravilla. Desde que está en esta isla , le decian , á ninguno ha hecho injuria , y todos se admiran de su paciencia , sus trabajos , y del sosiego de su corazon. No teniendo algo suyo , él se muestra siempre contento ; y sin embargo que aquí está léjos de los negocios , sin riquezas y autoridad , no dexa de hacer bien á quien lo merece y tiene mil maneras para beneficiar á sus vecinos.

Marchó Egesipo ácia aquella gruta. Hallóla sola y abierta , porque la pobreza y llaneza de las costumbres de Filocles hacian que saliendo no fuera necesario cerrar la puerta. Servíale de lecho una grosera estera de juncos : raras veces hacia fuego , porque no comia cosa cocida : y se alimentaba en el estío de algunas frutas recién cogidas , y en el Invierno de dátiles y higos secos. Quitabale la sed una bien clara fuente , que cayendo de un risco , hacia con mil juegos burla de su caída. No tenia en su gruta sino los instrumentos necesarios de la escultura , y algunos libros que leia á ciertas horas , no por adornar el ingenio , ni contentar la curiosidad , sino para instruirse , descansando en su trabajo , y aprender á ser bueno. A la escultura no se aplicaba mas que por exercitar el cuerpo , y ganar con que sustentar la vida , sin tener necesidad de cosa.

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When Hegesippus entered the cave, he admired the pieces of art that were begun. He observed a Jupiter, in whose countenance there was a serene majesty, by which he was immediately known to be the father of gods and men; he perceived also a Mars, well distinguished by a proud and menacing ferocity; but he was most struck with a Minerva, that was represented as encouraging the arts; the expression of her countenance was at once noble and gracious, her stature was tall, her shape easy, and her attitude so natural, that the spectator was almost persuaded she would move.

Hegesippus, having viewed these statues with great pleasure, retired; and as he was coming out of the cave, saw Philocles at a distance, sitting upon the grass, under the shade of a large tree, and reading. He immediately advanced towards him, and Philocles, who perceived him, scarce knew what to think: «Is not that Hegesippus,» said he to himself, «with whom I was so long familiar at Crete? But what can have brought him to an island so remote as Samos? Is he not dead, and is not this his shade which has returned from the banks of the Styx to revisit the earth?»

While he was thus doubting of what he saw, Hegesippus came so near, that his doubts were at an end. «Is it you then,» said he, «embracing him, my dear, my early friend? What accident, or what tempest, has thrown you upon this coast? Have you voluntarily deserted the island of Crete? or have you been driven from your country, by misfortune like mine?»

«It is not misfortune,» said Hegesippus, «but the favour of the gods, that has brought me hither.» He then gave his friend a particular account of the long tyranny of Protesilaus, of his intrigues with Timocrates, of the calamities which they had brought upon Idomeneus; of his expulsion from the throne, his flight to Hesperia, the founding of Salentum, the arrival of Mentor and Telemachus, the wisdom which Mentor had diffused into the mind of the king, and

Entrando Egesipo en la gruta, admiró las estatuas que no estaban aun concluidas. Vió un Júpiter, cuyo rostro estaba tan lleno de magestad, que fácilmente se conocia ser el padre de los dioses y de los hombres. A otra parte se veía Marte con una fiereza rigida y amenazadora. Pero lo que mas admiraba era una Minerva, que parecia viva y animada del arte. Era noble y apreciable su rostro: grande y ayroso el cuerpo: estaba tan viva la accion, que se podia creer que iba á caminar.

Habiéndose Egesipo recreado mirando las estatuas, salióse de la gruta, y á lo léjos vió que estaba Filocles debaxo de un grande árbol sentado sobre la yerba, y leyendo un libro. Fué ácia él, y Filocles que le vió, no sabia qué cosa creia. ¿No es este, decia entre sí mismo, Egesipo, con quien tan largo tiempo viví en Creta? Pero cómo puedo creer que venga á una isla tan apartada? Será acaso su alma, que despues de haber muerto volverá á este mundo otra vez?

En tanto que Filocles se estaba así dudando, se le llegó Egesipo tan cerca, que no pudo menos de conocerlo ni dexar de abrazarlo. ¿Luego vos sois, le dixo, mi amado y antiguo amigo? ¿Qué accidente, qué tempestad os ha echado a esta playa? ¿Con qué ocasion os habeis partido de Creta? ¿Ha sido, por ventura, alguna desgracia como la mia, la que os ha sacado del seno de nuestra patria?

No es desgracia, le respondió Egesipo, sino favor de los dioses el que me ha traído á esta isla. Contóle luego la larga tiranía de Protesilao, sus tramas con Timócrates, las desgracias en que ellos habian precipitado á Idomenéo, la caída de este Príncipe, su fuga á las costas de Hesperia, la fundacion de Salento, el arribo de Mentor y Telémaco, las sabias máximas de que Mentor habia imbuido el ánimo del Rey; y la ruina de los dos pérfidos traidores. Añadió que los

the disgrace of the traitors by whom he had been abused. He added, that he had brought them in exile to Samos, whither they had banished Philocles; and concluded, that he had orders to bring him back to Salentum, where the king, who was convinced of his integrity, intended to intrust him with the administration of his government, and distinguish him by rewards adequate to his merit.

« You see that cave, » said Philocles, « which is more fit for the haunt of wild beasts, than the habitation of a man; and yet in that cave I have enjoyed more tranquillity and repose, than in the gorgeous palaces of Crete. I am no more deceived by man; for with man I have no more connexion: I neither see, nor hear, nor need him: my own hard hands which are now inured to labour, supply me with such simple food as nature has made necessary; and this slight stuff that you see, sufficing to cover me, I am without wants; and I enjoy a serene, perfect, and delightful freedom, of which the wisdom that is contained in my looks teaches me the proper use. Why then should I again mix with mankind, and again suffer by their jealousy, fraud, and caprice? Envy not, my dear Hegesippus, the good fortune I possess. Protesilaus has betrayed the king, and would have murdered me; he is fallen into his own snare, but he has done me no hurt: he has eventually done me good, in the highest degree; he has delivered me from the tumult and slavery of public business; and to him I am indebted for this sweet solitude, and the pleasures I enjoy.

Return, then, my friend, to your prince; assist him under the necessary infelicities of grandeur, and do for him whatever you wish should be done by me: and since his eyes, which were so long shut against truth, have been at last opened, by the wisdom of a person whom you call Mentor, let him also keep that person about him. As for me, having once suffered shipwreck, it is by no means fit that I should forsake the port, in which the tempest has so fortunately thrown me, and tempt again the caprice of the

habia conducido á Samo, para que padecieran el destierro que él habia sufrido tanto tiempo por causa de ellos, y concluyó diciendo que tenia orden de llevarle á Salento, donde el Rey, que sabia su inocencia queria encomendarle los negocios del Reyno, y colmarlo de bienes y beneficios.

¿ Veis, le respondió Filocles, veis aquella gruta, mas propia para ser habitacion de fieras, que retiro de hombres? Allí por tantos años he gustado de mas dulzuras y mas reposo, que no en los dorados Palacios de Creta. Los hombres ya no me engañan, porque ya no veo á los hombres: no oigo ya su discursos lisonjeros, y venenosos, ni tengo ya necesidad de ellos. Mis manos encallecidas con el trabajo, me dan aquel simple alimento que me es preciso para vivir: ni he menester como veis, sino tener un poco de paño para cubrirme, no siéndome precisa otra qualquiera cosa, y disfrutando una paz tranquilísima, y una libertad dulce, de la qual la noticia de mis libros me enseña á que use bien. ¿ Qué cosa, pues, iré á buscar de nuevo entre los hombres zelosos, inconstantes y engañadores? No, no, mi caro Egesipo, no me envidieis la felicidad que aquí gozo. Protesilaos, se ha hecho traicion á sí propio, mientras queria hacer traicion al Rey, y quitarme la vida. Pero él no me ha hecho algun mal; antes al contrario, me ha hecho el mayor de todos los bienes, porque me ha librado del tumulto y de la servidumbre de los negocios; yo le soy deudor de mi amable soledad, y de todos los gustos que percibo en ella.

Volved, Egesipo, volved al Rey, ayúdadlo á sollevár las miserias de su grandeza, y haced vos mismo con él lo que querriais que hiciera yo. Ya que ha abierto sus ojos cerrados tanto tiempo á la verdad ese sabio Mentor, téngasele consigo. Por lo que toca á mí, no me conviene ya dexar el puerto despues de mi naufragio, que me ha arrojado á él dichosamente, ni he de poner otra vez en poder de los vientos, que me lleven acá y allá á su discrecion. ¿ O cuánto merecen los reyes que se apiaden de su desgracia! ¿ Quanto los