

Letter of Alexander of Alexandria to some supporters of Arius (*Dok. 2.1*)

Reference	<i>Dok. 2.1; Urk. 4a; CPG 2001</i>
Incipit	Εἰ καὶ φθάσοντες
Date	318-320
Ancient source	Athanasius, <i>De decr. Nic.</i> 34.1-4
Modern edition	<i>AW 2.1:31; AW 3.1:6</i>

This brief letter was written to the clergy of Alexandria and nearby Mareotis. It appears that Arius and his close supporter Pistos have already been excommunicated, but other priests and deacons have continued to support them and will now be the objects of further discipline.

The text was preserved only by Athanasius in his *De decretis Nicaenis*, and appears there and among the *Urkunden* in *Athanasius Werke*, both times edited by H.-G. Opitz, with only inconsequential variations in punctuation. The paragraph numbering below follows that of *De decretis*. The translation is by Glen Thompson (see also D. Robertson in NPNF² 4:69).

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1. Ἀλέξανδρος πρεσβυτέρους καὶ διακόνους Ἀλεξανδρείας καὶ Μαρεώτου, παρῶν παροῦσιν, ἀγαπητοῖς ἀδελφοῖς ἐν κυρίῳ χαίρειν.	Alexander, to his assembled and beloved brethren, the priests and deacons of Alexandria, and the Mareotis. Greetings in the Lord.
2. Εἰ καὶ φθάσαντες ὑπεγράψατε οἷς ἐπέστειλα τοῖς περὶ Ἄρειον προτρέπων αὐτοὺς ἀρνήσασθαι μὲν τὴν ἀσέβειαν πεισθῆναι δὲ τῇ ὑγιαινούσῃ καὶ καθολικῇ πίστει, καὶ ἐδείξατε ἑαυτῶν ὀρθὴν τὴν προαίρεσιν καὶ τὴν ἐν τοῖς δόγμασι συμφωνίαν τῆς καθολικῆς ἐκκλησίας, ὅμως ἐπειδὴ καὶ πρὸς τοὺς ἀπανταχοῦ συλλειτουργοὺς ἐπέστειλα περὶ τῶν περὶ Ἄρειον, ἀναγκαῖον ἡγησάμην ὑμᾶς μὲν τοὺς τῆς πόλεως κληρικοὺς συναγαγεῖν, ὑμᾶς δὲ τοὺς ἀπὸ τοῦ Μαρεώτου μεταπέμψασθαι:	1. If you indeed have already subscribed to the letter I addressed previously to Arius's supporters, in which I encouraged them to renounce his impiety, and to submit themselves to the sound catholic faith, then you have shown your right commitment to and agreement with the doctrines of the catholic church. Yet, since I have written also to our fellow-ministers in every place concerning those supporting Arius, I decided that I needed to assemble you, the clergy of the city, and to send for you the clergy of the Mareotis.
3. μάλιστα ὅτι καὶ ἀφ' ὑμῶν Χάρης καὶ Πιστὸς πρεσβύτεροι, καὶ Σαραπίων καὶ Παράμμων καὶ Ζώσιμος καὶ Εἰρηναῖος διάκονοι ἐπηκολούθησαν τοῖς περὶ Ἄρειον καὶ ἠγάπησαν σὺν αὐτοῖς καθαιρεθῆναι· ἵνα καὶ τὰ νῦν γραφόμενα γνῶτε τή τε ἐν τούτοις συμφωνίαν ἑαυτῶν ἐπιδείξησθε καὶ	2. This was especially needed since some in your own ranks – the priests Chares and Pistos and the deacons Serapion, Parammon, Zosimos, and Irenaeos – have joined themselves with Arius's group, and devoted themselves to undergo destruction with them. You need to understand

<p>τῆ καθαιρέσει τῶν περὶ Ἄρειον καὶ τῶν περὶ Πιστὸν σύμψηφοι γένησθε.</p>	<p>what I now am writing, testify your agreement to it, and vote together for the deposition of those who are aligning themselves with Arius and Pistos.</p>
<p>4. πρέπει γὰρ τὰ παρ' ἐμοῦ γραφόμενα γινώσκειν ὑμᾶς καὶ ἕκαστον ὡς παρ' αὐτοῦ γραφόμενα ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ κατέχειν.</p>	<p>3. For it is desirable that you understand what I write, and that each of you have a heart-felt adherence to it, as though each had written it himself.</p>

Last edited 4/30/2024 by AGC