

Fragments of a letter of the priest George to Alexander of Alexandria (*Dok.* 6)

Reference	<i>Dok.</i> 6; <i>Urk.</i> 12; CPG 3555
Incipit	Μὴ μέμφου τοῖς περὶ Ἄρειον
Date	c. 319-20
Ancient source	Athanasius, <i>De synodis</i> 17.5
Modern edition	AW 2:245 AW 3:9

The Alexandrian presbyter George is not in the lists of early Alexandrian supporters of Arius, but Athanasius states he was among those excommunicated (*De synod.* 17.7). Many of those supporters left Alexandria after their excommunication and traveled to drum up sympathy for Arian views (Socr. *H.E.* 1.6.2; Soz. *H.E.* 1.15.8). Athanasius seems to imply that George was spending time in Antioch when he wrote the letter below to his bishop back in Alexandria. By c. 360, when he wrote *De synodis*, Athanasius says George was still alive and living in Laodicea (probably either Laodicea ad Mare (modern Lattakia in Syria) or Laodicea ad Libanum in Coele-Syria (ancient Kadesh, not the New Testament Laodicea on the Lycus in Asia). This is the first of two excerpts from different letters of George that Athanasius preserves.

The text below is that of Opitz in AW 2:245. Our translation is an adaptation by Aaron West and Glen Thompson from that of D. Robertson in NPNF² 4:459.

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Γεώργιος δὲ ὁ νῦν ἐν Λαοδικείᾳ, πρεσβύτερος ὢν τότε τῆς Ἀλεξανδρείας καὶ ἐν Ἀντιοχείᾳ διατρίβων, πρὸς μὲν Ἀλέξανδρον τὸν ἐπίσκοτον ἔγραφεν ὅτι·	[And George who at present is in Laodicea, but at that time was a priest of Alexandria who was residing in Antioch, wrote to Bishop Alexander as follows:]
μὴ μέμφου τοῖς περὶ Ἄρειον, εἰ λέγουσιν “ἦν ποτε, ὅτε οὐκ ἦν ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ θεοῦ.” καὶ γὰρ ὁ Ἡσαίας υἱὸς γέγονεν Ἀμώς, καὶ ὁμοίως ὁ μὲν Ἀμώς ἦν πρὸ τοῦ γενέσθαι τὸν Ἡσαίαν, ὁ δὲ Ἡσαίας οὐκ ἦν πρότερον, ἀλλὰ μετὰ ταῦτα γέγονε.	Don't find fault with Arius and his followers for saying, "There was once when the Son of God did not exist." For Isaiah became the son of Amos, and, since Amos existed before Isaiah came to be, Isaiah did not exist prior, but came into being afterwards.

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