

A letter of Arius and Euzoios to Emperor Constantine (*Dok.34*)

Reference	<i>Dok. 34; Urk. 30; CPG 2027</i>
Incipit	Καθὼς προσέταξεν ἡ θεοφιλῆς
Date	End of 327
Ancient source	Socrates, <i>H.E.</i> 1.26.2-7
Modern edition	Hanson, <i>GCS N.F. 1</i> (1995): 74-75.

This letter appears to be the response to the invitation of Constantine in *Dok. 33*, This letter would then have been written for use at the council in Nicomedia..

The Greek text of this letter was preserved by Socrates, *H.E.* 1.26.2-7. The text below is that of Hansen. (*GCS N.F. 1*; Berlin, New York: De Gruyter, 1995), 74-75. The English translation was made for FCC by Aaron West, adapted from Zenos (*NPNF 2:28*).

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2. Τῷ εὐσεβεστάτῳ καὶ θεοφιλεστάτῳ δεσπότῃ ἡμῶν βασιλεῖ Κωνσταντίνῳ Ἄρειος καὶ Εὐζώιος.	2. Arius and Euzoios, to our most reverent and pious lord, Emperor Constantine.
Καθὼς προσέταξεν ἡ θεοφιλῆς σου εὐσέβεια, δέσποτα βασιλεῦ, ἐκτιθέμεθα τὴν ἑαυτῶν πίστιν καὶ ἐγγράφως ὁμολογοῦμεν ἐπὶ Θεοῦ οὕτως πιστεύειν καὶ αὐτοὶ καὶ <πάντες> οἱ σὺν ἡμῖν, ὡς ὑποτέτακται.	In accord with the command of your devout piety, sovereign lord, we declare our faith, and in writing profess before God that we and our adherents believe as follows:
3. Πιστεύομεν εἰς ἓνα Θεὸν πατέρα παντοκράτορα, καὶ εἰς κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ, τὸν ἐξ αὐτοῦ πρὸ πάντων τῶν αἰώνων γεγεννημένον Θεὸν Λόγον, δι' οὗ τὰ πάντα ἐγένετο τὰ τε ἐν οὐρανοῖς καὶ τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, καὶ κατελθόντα καὶ σάρκα ἀναλαβόντα καὶ παθόντα καὶ ἀναστάντα καὶ ἀνελθόντα εἰς τοὺς οὐρανοὺς καὶ πάλιν ἐρχόμενον κρῖναι ζῶντας καὶ νεκρούς, καὶ εἰς τὸ ἅγιον πνεῦμα καὶ εἰς σαρκὸς ἀνάστασιν καὶ εἰς ζωὴν τοῦ μέλλοντος αἰῶνος καὶ εἰς μίαν καθολικὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ Θεοῦ τὴν ἀπὸ περάτων ἕως περάτων.	3. We believe in one God the Father Almighty, and in the Lord Jesus Christ his Son, who was begotten of him before all ages, God the Word through whom all things were made, both things in heaven and on earth; who descended, and became human, and suffered, and rose again, ascended into heaven, and will again come to judge the living and the dead. We believe also in the Holy Spirit, and in the resurrection of the flesh, and in the life of the coming age, and in the kingdom of the heavens, and in one catholic church of God, extending from one end of the earth to the other.

<p>4. Ταύτην δὲ τὴν πίστιν παρειλήφαμεν ἐκ τῶν ἁγίων εὐαγγελίων, λέγοντος τοῦ κυρίου τοῖς ἑαυτοῦ μαθηταῖς “πορευθέντες μαθητεύσατε πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, βαπτίζοντες αὐτοὺς εἰς τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος.”</p>	<p>4. This faith we have received from the holy gospels, in which the Lord says to his disciples: “Go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” [Matt. 28:19].</p>
<p>5. Εἰ <δὲ> μὴ ταῦτα οὕτως πιστεύομεν καὶ ἀποδεχόμεθα ἀληθῶς πατέρα καὶ υἱὸν καὶ ἅγιον πνεῦμα, ὡς πᾶσα ἡ καθολικὴ ἐκκλησία καὶ αἱ ἅγιοι γραφαὶ διδάσκουσιν, αἷς κατὰ πάντα πιστεύομεν, κριτῆς ἡμῶν ἐστὶν ὁ Θεὸς καὶ νῦν καὶ ἐν τῇ μελλούσῃ ἡμέρᾳ.</p>	<p>5. If we do not so believe and do not truly receive the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as the whole catholic church and the holy Scriptures teach (in which we believe in every respect), may God judge us both now, and in the coming judgment.</p>
<p>6. Διὸ παρακαλοῦμέν σου τὴν εὐσέβειαν, θεοφιλέστατε βασιλεῦ, ἐκκλησιαστικοὺς ἡμᾶς ὄντας καὶ τὴν πίστιν καὶ τὸ φρόνημα τῆς ἐκκλησίας καὶ τῶν ἁγίων γραφῶν ἔχοντας, ἐνοῦσθαι ἡμᾶς διὰ τῆς εἰρηνοποιοῦ σοῦ καὶ θεοσεβοῦς εὐσεβείας τῇ μητρὶ ἡμῶν τῇ ἐκκλησίᾳ, δηλαδὴ περιηρημένων τῶν ζητημάτων καὶ τῶν ἐκ τῶν ζητημάτων περισσολογιῶν,</p>	<p>6. Wherefore we (who have been consecrated to the ministry, and hold the faith and opinions of the church and of the holy Scriptures) encourage your piety, most devout emperor, that we may be reunited to our mother, the church, by your peace-loving and devoted piety, avoiding all superfluous questions and disputes.</p>
<p>7. ἵνα καὶ ἡμεῖς καὶ ἡ ἐκκλησία μετ’ ἀλλήλων εἰρηνεύοντες τὰς συνήθεις εὐχὰς ὑπὲρ τῆς εἰρηνικῆς σου καὶ εὐσεβοῦς βασιλείας καὶ παντὸς τοῦ γένους σου κοινῇ πάντες ποιῶμεθα.</p>	<p>7. Then both we and the whole church will be at peace and will offer in common our accustomed prayers for your tranquil reign, and also for your whole family.</p>