

Parts of a letter of Constantine to Alexander of Alexandria (Dok.37)

Reference	Dok. 37, Urk. 32, CPG 202 1
Incipit	Καὶ νῦν ἄρα
Date	early 328
Ancient source	Anonymous Church History, 3.15.1-5
Modern editions	Hanson, GCS N.F. 92 (2002):136-137

The council held at Nicomedia at the very end of 327 or beginning of 328 (see *Dok.* 36), seems to have re-admitted not only Eusebius of Nicomedia and Theognis of Nicaea, but also Arius, as well as his fellow-priest Euzoius. Alexander of Alexandria, however, had not attended the council. As a result, Constantine wrote him a letter (*Dok.* 37) urging him to accept the council's decision on Arius (cf. Barnes, *Athanasius and Constantius*, 18). Socrates is our source for the letter and these events.

The Greek text of this account was preserved in the Anonymous Church History (CPG 6034), 3.15.1-5. The text below accords with that of Hansen (GCS N.F. 9<sup>2</sup>; Berlin: De Gruyter, 2002), 136-137. The English translation was produced for FCC by Robert Read and Philip Balge. See also the translation of A. Zenos (NPNF2 2:19-20).

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Anonym. Ch. History 3.15.1-5	
14.1 Ὅμοίως δὲ καὶ Ἀλεξάνδρῳ τῷ ἐπισκόπῳ ὑπὲρ Ἀρείου τὰ ἴσα ἔγραφεν·	14.1 In a similar way he [Constantine] wrote to Bishop Alexander on behalf of Arius:
Νικητῆς Κωνσταντίνος Μέγιστος Σεβαστὸς πατρὶ Ἀλεξάνδρῳ ἐπισκόπῳ.	“Victor Constantinus Maximus Augustus, to our father, Bishop Alexander.
15.1 Καὶ νῦν ἄρα ὁ παμμίαρος φθόνος ἀνοσίοις ὑπερθέσεως σοφίσμασιν ἀνθυλακτῆσει; τί οὖν πρὸς τὸ παρόν; ἕτερα παρὰ τὰ ὑπὸ τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος δι’ ὑμῶν κεκριμένα δογματίζομεν, ἀδελφεῖ τιμιώτατε;	15.1 Will malice, always abominable, even now bark back with profane sophisms to cause delay? ‘What, then, is the issue at hand? Do we teach other doctrine, contrary to the verdict decided by the Holy Spirit through you, most honored brother?’
15.2. Ἄρειον, Ἄρειον ἐκεῖνον λέγω πρὸς ἐμὲ τὸν Σεβαστὸν ἐλθεῖν ἐκ παρακλήσεως πλείστον ὄσων, ἐκεῖνα φρονεῖν περὶ τῆς καθολικῆς πίστεως ἡμῶν ἐπαγγελόμενον, ἅπερ ἐν τῇ κατὰ Νίκαιαν συνόδῳ δι’ ὑμῶν ὠρίσθη καὶ ἐκρατύνθη παρόντος καὶ συνορίζοντος κάμοῦ τοῦ ὑμετέρου συνθεράποντος.	15.2. Arius, the famous Arius, I say, has come to me, Augustus, at the request of very many people. He promises that he has the same thoughts concerning our catholic faith as were determined and confirmed through you at the council in Nicaea, where I too was present and joined in the determination as your fellow servant.
15.3. παραχρῆμα οὖν οὗτος ἅμα σὺν Εὐζώϊῳ, γρόντες δηλονότι τὴν τοῦ βασιλικοῦ προστάγματος	15.3. So he immediately came to us along with Euzoius, for they had learned the

<p>βούλησιν, ἀφίκοντο πρὸς ἡμᾶς, διειλέχθην οὖν αὐτοῖς παρόντων πλειόνων περὶ τοῦ λόγου τῆς ζωῆς. Ἐγὼ εἰμι ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἐκεῖνος, ὃς τὸν νοῦν τὸν ἑμαυτοῦ μετὰ πίστεως εἰλικρινοῦς ἀνέθηκα τῷ θεῷ· ἐγὼ εἰμι ὁ ὑμέτερος συνθεράπων, ὃς πᾶσαν τὴν περὶ τῆς ἡμετέρας εἰρήνης καὶ ὁμονοίας ἐπανήμαι φροντίδα.</p>	<p>purpose of the imperial order. I debated with them in the presence of many others about the word of life. I myself am the one who has dedicated my mind to God with sincere faith; I myself am your fellow servant, who has taken up all concern for our peace and unity.”</p>
<p>Καὶ μεθ’ ἕτερα·</p>	<p>(And further on:)</p>
<p>15.4. ἐπέστειλα τοιγαροῦν οὐ μόνον ἀναμιμνήσκων, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀξιῶν ὑποδέξασθαι τοὺς ἀνθρώπους ἰκετεύοντας, εἴπερ οὖν τῆς ἐν Νικαίᾳ ἐκτεθείσης ὀρθῆς καὶ εἰς αἰὲ ζωῆς ἀποστολικῆς πίστεως ἀντιποιοῦμένους αὐτοὺς εὔρητε (τοῦτο γὰρ καὶ ἐφ’ ἡμῶν φρονεῖν διεβεβαιώσαντο), προνοήσατε πάντων, παρακαλῶ. εἰ γὰρ τούτων ποιήσητε πρόνοιαν, τά μιση τη ὁμονοία νικήσατε ἄν.</p>	<p>15.4. Therefore I am writing not only to remind you, but also with the expectation that you receive those who come in supplication. If you find that they are seeking the true and ever-living apostolic faith formulated in Nicaea (for they have also assured us that this is their opinion), take care of them all, I urge you. For if you should make provision for them, you could conquer hatred with unity.</p>
<p>15.5. ἐπικουρήσατε οὖν, παρακαλῶ, τῇ ὁμονοίᾳ, συνεισενέγκατε τὰ τῆς φιλίας καλὰ πρὸς τοὺς τὰ τῆς πίστεως μὴ διακρινόμενους, ποιήσατέ με ἀκούσαι ταῦτα, ἅπερ βούλομαι καὶ ἐπιθυμῶ, τὴν τῶν πάντων ὑμῶν εἰρήνην καὶ ὁμόνοιαν.</p>	<p>15.5. Therefore support unity, I urge you; transmit the values of friendship to those not parted from the faith; let me hear what I wish and desire—peace and unity between you all.</p>
<p>Ὁ θεός σε διαφυλάξαι, πάτερ τιμιώτατε.</p>	<p>May God preserve you, most honorable father.</p>