

Imperial edict against Arius and his followers (*Dok.* 28)

Reference	<i>Dok.</i> 28; <i>Urk.</i> 33; CPG 2041
Incipit	Τοὺς πονηροὺς καὶ ἀσεβεῖς
Date	late 325
Ancient sources	Greek: Athanasius, <i>De decr. Nicenae</i> 39.1-2; Socrates, <i>H. E.</i> 1.9.30; Anonymous Church History 2.36.1 Latin: Verona, Cod. 60; Some Latin canon law collections Syriac: Brit. Mus., Add. 14,528; Vatican, Borg. Syr. 82
Modern edition	Opitz, <i>AW</i> 3:37-38

In Athanasius's *De decretis* this edict is preceded by the heading given below, stating that what follows was a copy (*antigrafon*) of what the imperial magistrates (*agentes in rebus*) Syncretius and Gaudentius delivered. Since a similar heading with the same two names appears at the end of *Dok.* 29 (which follows immediately in *De decretis Nicaenae* 39.43b), Opitz concluded that these two edicts were composed and delivered at the same time. Again, disagreeing with Opitz's dating to 333, Heil argues (*AW* 3.3:38) that this is part of the official imperial condemnation that came in the immediate aftermath of the council (and after Arius did not respond to *Dok.* 27).

The Greek text below is taken from *AW* 3.1:66-68 where Opitz provided also both Latin versions and the Syriac (the latter taken from (F. Schulthess, "Die syrischen Kanones der Synoden von Nicaea bis Chalcedon," *Abh. der Königl. Ges. der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen, Phil.-Hist. Klasse N.F.* 10, no. 2 [Berlin: Weidmannsche Buchhandlung, 1908], 1-2). Opitz gives all three because he concludes they were all independent of Athanasius's Greek text. The English translation below is that of Aaron West from the Greek text. See also the translation of Socrates text by Zenos (NPNF² 2:4). This document is not included in NPNF² 4 which ends its translation of *De decr. Nic.* at section 32.

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Ἀντίγραφον ὧν ἐκόμισαν Συγκλήτιος καὶ Γαυδέντιος μαγιστριανοί.	Copy of those things which the imperial couriers Synkletios and Gaudentios carried.
Νικητῆς Κωνσταντῖνος Μέγιστος Σεβαστὸς ἐπισκόποις καὶ λαοῖς.	The great and victorious Constantine Augustus to the bishops and laity:
1. Τοὺς πονηροὺς καὶ ἀσεβεῖς μιμησάμενος Ἄρειος δίκαιός ἐστι τὴν αὐτὴν ἐκείνοις ὑπέχειν ἀτιμίαν. ὥσπερ τοίνυν Πορφύριος ὁ τῆς θεοσεβείας ἐχθρὸς συντάγματα ἅττα παράνομα κατὰ τῆς θρησκείας συστησάμενος ἄξιον εὔρατο μισθὸν καὶ τοιοῦτον ὥστε ἐπονείδιστον μὲν αὐτὸν πρὸς τὸν ἐξῆς γενέσθαι χρόνον καὶ πλείστης ἀναπλησθῆναι κακοδοξίας, ἀφανισθῆναι δὲ τὰ ἀσεβῆ αὐτοῦ συγγράμματα, οὕτω καὶ νῦν ἔδοξεν Ἄρειόν τε καὶ τοὺς Ἀρείω	1. Since Arius is an imitator of the wicked and the ungodly, it is only right that he should suffer the same dishonor as they. Porphyry, who was hostile to anyone who feared God, composed a book which transgressed against our religion, and has found a suitable reward: namely that he has been disgraced from that time onward, his reputation is completely terrible, and his ungodly writings have been destroyed. In the same way it seems appropriate that Arius and

<p>ὁμογνώμονας Πορφυριανούς μὲν καλεῖσθαι, ἵν' ὧν τούτους μεμίμηται, τούτων ἔχωσι καὶ τὴν προσηγορίαν.</p>	<p>those of like mind with Arius should from now on be called Porphyrians, so that their name is taken from those whose ways they have imitated.</p>
<p>2. πρὸς δὲ τούτῳ καὶ εἴ τι σύγγραμμα ὑπὸ Ἀρείου συντεταγμένον εὕρισκοιτο, τοῦτο πυρὶ παραδίδοσθαι, ἵνα μὴ μόνον τὰ φαῦλα αὐτοῦ τῆς διδασκαλίας ἀφανισθεῖη, ἀλλὰ μηδὲ ὑπόμνημα αὐτοῦ ὅλως ὑπολείττοιτο. ἐκεῖνο μέντοι προαγορεύω, ὡς εἴ τις σύγγραμμα ὑπὸ Ἀρείου συνταγὴν φωραθεῖη κρύψας καὶ μὴ εὐθέως προσενεγκὼν καὶ πυρὶ καταναλώσας, τούτῳ θάνατος ἔσται ζημία. παραχρῆμα γὰρ ἀλούς ἐπὶ τούτῳ κεφαλῆς ὑποστήσεται τιμωρίαν.</p>	<p>2. In addition, if any writing composed by Arius should be found, it should be handed over to the flames, so that not only will the wickedness of his teaching be obliterated, but nothing will be left even to remind anyone of him. And I hereby make a public order, that if someone should be discovered to have hidden a writing composed by Arius, and not to have immediately brought it forward and destroyed it by fire, his penalty shall be death. As soon as he is discovered in this offense, he shall be submitted for capital punishment.</p>
<p>καὶ ἄλλῃ χειρὶ ὁ θεὸς ὑμᾶς διαφυλάξει, ἀδελφοὶ ἀγαπητοί.</p>	<p>And in another hand: God will watch over you, beloved brothers.</p>

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