

Aurelius Pageus to the Priors of Hathor Monastery

<i>Reference:</i>	Mel. 23, FNS 57
<i>Incipit:</i>	θείων βασιλικῶν γραμμάτων ἀναπεμφθέντων
<i>Date:</i>	19 March 334
<i>Greek Text:</i>	P. Lond. 6 1913
<i>English Translation:</i>	FCC: JTS

This papyrus is a contract between Aurelius Pageus, also known as Apa Paieous the priest, and the leaders at the Hathor monastery. The leaders of the monastery and Pageus agreed that Aurelius Gerontius would take over his duties upon his departure to Caesarea for a council. This council was intended by Constantine and the Meletians to be the trial that charged Athanasius with killing Arsenius and breaking a sacred chalice. However, Athanasius hunted down and found Arsenius in hiding at Tyre. This would cause Constantine to cancel the Council of Caesarea and call the Council of Tyre to settle this issue.

This document gives little information concerning the schism other than a small window into the Melitian mindset in trying to remove Athanasius from his bishopric. In addition, this document gives the date of the council at Caesarea which Athanasius declines to mention. It also reveals that Aurelius Pageus was a priest that was somehow connected to this monastery at Hathor.

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1. ὑπατ(ε)ίας Φλαυί[ο]υ Ὀπ[τάτου πατ]ρι[κ]ίου καὶ Ἀνικίου Παυλίνου τῶν λαμπρ[ο]τάτων Φαμενώθ κγ.	1. During the consulate of the most illustrious, Flavius Optatus Patricius and Anicius Paulinus, Paremhat 23 [March 19].
[Αὐρήλ]ιος Παγεῦς Ὁρου ἀπὸ κώμης Ἰππώνων τοῦ Ἡρακλεοπολίτου νομοῦ πρεσβύτερος τοῖς προεστῶσ[ι] μονῆς μον(α)χῶν	Aurelius Pageus, son of Horus, from the village of Hipponon of the Heracleopolis nome, an elder to the leaders of the monastery of monks
[καλ]ουμένης Ἄθορ οὔσης ἐν τῷ ἀπηλιωτικῷ ὄρ(ε)ι τοῦ ἄνω Κυνοπολείτου. θείων βασιλικῶν γραμμάτων ἀναπεμ-	called Hathor which is in the eastern region of upper Cynopolitos. Because sacred royal letters
φ[θέν]των ὑπὸ τοῦ εὐσεβεστάτου βασιλέως Κωνσταντίνου κελευ[ό]ντων τινὰς τῆς Αἰγύπτου ἐπισκό-	were sent by the holy king Constantine ordering some bishops of Egypt
5. πους τε καὶ πρεσβυτέρους καὶ ἑτέρους πολλοὺς καὶ ἐμὲ σὺν αὐτοῖς ε[.] . . . τοαυ . . . [. . .] . [.] . ρ ν	5. and elders and many others and me with them...
[ἀ]παντῆσαι εἰς Καισάρειαν τῆς Παλαιστίνης Συρίας πρὸς διάκρισιν περ[ι] κ[α]θαρισμοῦ <τοῦ> ἁγίου Χρ(ι)στιανικοῦ	to meet in Caesarea of Syria Palestine for a decision concerning the purification of the holy Christian

[π]λήθους ἐπ(ε)ι[γ]ομένου μου τοιαύτην ἔκβασιν ποιήσασθαι εἰς τὴν προ(<γε>)γρ[α]μμένη[ν] Καισάρειαν πρὸς ἀποπλή-	body, and because I am urged to make such a trip to the appointed Caesarea for
[ρ]ωσιν τῶν κεκελευσμένων ἀνάγκη μοι γεγένηται διάδοχον ἀντ' ἐ[μο]ῦ κ[ατα]σ[τ]ῆσαι ἄχρι τῆς ἐμῆς παρου-	a fulfillment of what was ordered, it is necessary for me to appoint a deputy in my place until my
[σί]ας, <δι' ὁ> σύννηξα τοὺς μον(α)χοὺς τῆς ἡμετέρας μονῆς ἐπὶ παρόντ[ω]ν Παταβαεῖτ[ο]ς πρεσβυτέρου Ἰππώνων	return. Because of this I have gathered together the monks of our monastery before Patabeit the elder of Hipponon,
10. [κα]ὶ Παπνουτίου διάκονος ἀπὸ Παμινπέσλα καὶ Πρωούτος ἀρχ(αί)ου μον(α)χοῦ καὶ ἐ[τέρων πολλ]ῶν, καὶ κατ . . . ν . . θνη . .	10. Papnutius the deacon from Paminpesla, Proutus, the former monk, and many others, and...
[σα]ν καὶ ἠὺδόκησαν ἐξ ὁμοιοῦς ἐκουσίως καὶ αὐθαιρέτω[ς] καὶ ἀμε[ταν]οῆτῳ γνώμη Αὐρήλιον Γερόντιον ὁμο-	and they approved unanimously, voluntarily, independently, and with an unchanging mind Aurelius Gerontius,
[γ]νήσιόν μου ἀδελφόν ὡς δυνάμενον τὴν χώραν μου [ἀ]ποπληρ[ῶ]σαι ἄχρι τῆς ἐμῆς παρουσίας (ε)ἰς χρόνον	my own brother, as able to fill my place for a time until my return,
[καὶ] π[ἀ]ντα τὰ τῆ(ς) μονῆ[ς] πράγματα προνοῆσαι καὶ διοικεῖν καὶ οἰκονομεῖν [πε]ρὶ μὲν [. . .] κασι	to attend to, administer, and manage the matters of the monastery concerning...
[. . .] γυμ . [. . .] . . . [. . .] καὶ . . . αὐτ[. . .] οἰκονόμους τῆς μονῆ[ς] ἐκ[λέ]ξαι [κα]θ' ὁμοιότητά μου, μηδεμίαν δὲ καινοτο-	to choose managers of the monastery like me, and no
15. [μ]ί[α]ς γιγνο[μέν]ης ἀν[ευ] <τῶν> προεσ[τά]των τῆς μονῆς π[ερ]ὶ τ[ῶν] . . . οὐτ[ῶν] καὶ βουλομένων ἐξελθεῖν μον(α)χῶν	15. innovation shall be made without the leaders of the monastery concerning the...and the monks willing to leave
[- 30-35 -]σθαι [. . .] λ[. . .] κλ[.] ος. κύριον τὸ τῆς καταστάσεως [γ]ραμμ[ά-]	... The letter of appointment is authoritative
τ[ιο]ν [πα]νταχ[ῆ] ἐπιφερόμενον κ[α]ὶ ἐπερωτηθεὶς ὡμολόγησα.	everywhere it is brought, and after I was consulted, I approved it.
[Αὐρήλιος Παγεῦς ὁ πρ]οκ[(εἰμενος)] ἐσ[η]μειω[σά]μην. οἱ πρ[οκ]οκ[(εἰμενοι)] . . . [. . .] καὶ . . . μ . δι καὶ Κολλοῦθος καὶ Διοσκορ[ί]δης[ς]	I, Aurelius Pageus, the aforementioned, have signed. Those mentioned before...and...and Colluthus and Dioscorides
[- ca.? -]σ . ω . . ς Κολλοῦθος ἔγρ(αψα) (ὑπὲρ) τῶν ἄλλ(ων) γρ(άμματα) μὴ	...I, Colluthus, have written for all because writings they do not
20. [εἰδόντων. - ca.? -] καὶ Πρωοῦς [. . .] εχμ . σου παρημε	know...and Proous...
[- ca.? -] . Παπν[ού]θιος - ca.14 -] ἠὺδ[ό]κ[η]σα).	I, Papnuthius...approved.

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Last updated 02/25/25 JTS