

## PRELIMINARY DOCTORAL THESIS

DOCTORAL CANDIDATE: Chatzigiannakou Domna

PROPOSED TITLE: The personality of Socrates in the work of Libanius

PROPOSED LANGUAGE: Greek

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### BASIC TEXT FOR ANALYSIS

As basic text for analysis, Declamation II of Libanius is proposed, entitled " In prison they prevent Socrates from speaking and somebody disagrees (with that)" (Declamatio II, De Socratis silentio). In this text, after the trial and conviction of Socrates, we have his imprisonment, up until his sentence is executed. During this period, he was forbidden to talk and express his opinion. The speaker, probably a student of his, undertakes to raise objections to this decision and to argue for freedom of speech.

### PARALLEL TEXTS FOR ANALYSIS

The aim of the Doctoral thesis is to study the rhetorical techniques of Declamation II of Libanius and to investigate whether previous texts related to this topic have influenced this study in terms of content and form. For this reason, the Apology of Socrates Plato and Xenophon as well as the Platonic Dialogue "Phaedon" will be studied. Simultaneously, it is deemed necessary to study Declamation I of Libanius, which deals with the apology of Socrates (Apologia Socratis).

## MAIN PILLARS OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS

### 1. INFORMATION ABOUT LIBANIUS

The life of Libanius, his personality, his travels as well as his occupation with rhetoric will be presented. The aim of this section is to enlighten aspects of his character, to make the reader better acquainted with the person behind the work and to understand how his experiences influenced his writings.

## 2. THE DECLAMATIONS OF LIBANIUS

Libanius in the rhetoric school he founded and managed used many media and many types of texts to train his students, aspiring orators. One of the most characteristic types of texts was declamations (studies). These were model texts, composed by the orator-teacher, based on a case study, with the aim of proposing to his students specific techniques of argumentation and expression. Declamations usually had a typical structure, which the orator adopts in most cases.

### 3. 3. LIBANII, DE SOCRATIS SILENTIO

This section the original text and the interpretation of the content in the modern Greek language will be presented. The next step will be the structural analysis of the speech, the presentation of the parts (*προοίμιο – διήγησις – πίστις – επίλογος*) and the analysis of the *προοίμιο* and the *επίλογος*, which due to their position in the study is to a great extent appealing to the listener.

## 4. INVOCATION OF LOGIC – ANALYSIS OF ARGUMENTS

The main objective of the speaker is to convince against Socrates' silencing. To fulfill this objective, he initially uses logic, with arguments and evidence. In this section the arguments, the logical conceptions of the mind ( *ένθυμήματα* ) on which it will be based, are presented. There are also many points in which examples are used, both mythological and historical, whose analysis is deemed necessary.

## 5. ETHOS – THE PRESENTATION OF SOCRATES' PERSONALITY

In declamatio " De Socratis silentio " a student of Socrates is speaking, given that he is forbidden to speak. In essence, however, the personality presented is that of Socrates. It is therefore essential to collect the elements that outline his personality, because in this way we will fully understand the speaker's argument. At this point, the parallel texts will be used to identify similarities and differences in the presentation of the great philosopher by each of his students and admirers.

## 6. ETHOS OF COUNTERPARTY – PRESENTATION OF INDICTMENTS

The severity of the indictments against Socrates are great and proven by the sentence imposed on him. The enforcement of additional prohibition of speech marks the disposition of the accusers against Socrates and his students. It is therefore advisable to study the ethos of the accusers, their aims as shown in the particular declamation, and compare these elements with the parallel texts.

## 7. INVOCATION OF EMOTION – MEANS OF EXPRESSION

The expression of speech in a rhetorical text is particularly important and affects the attitude of the listener towards the speaker and his / her positions. At this point, Libanius pays great attention, choosing his words wisely. The main techniques that will be studied here are the function of contrasts and repetitions that contribute to the efficiency of speech and the attainment of persuasion. At the same time, expressions have a prominent place in this text, which we will analyze in order to demonstrate that their lushness and liveliness contribute to persuasion and the creation of intense emotions.

## 8. ATHENS IN THE TIME OF SOCRATES AND LIBANIUS

A careful reading of declamation can help us discover a whole era, a whole world that is hidden behind it. This era - which sometimes represents the Athens of Socrates, and other times that of the 4th c. AD, the time of the writer - we will try to revive this specific chapter, with references to the practices of the Athenians, their perceptions, their habits in court, and the diversification of the states, with more extensive reference to the tyrants and the tactics they followed.

## 9. PROCEEDINGS

The theoretical teaching of Libanius is undoubtedly based on earlier texts which he has studied and used in his teaching. It is therefore natural, for these texts to also appear in his own creations, such as this declamation. The research in this section is aimed at detecting these influences, among which the lion's share is undoubtedly Homeric epics.

## 10. TEACHING INTERVENTIONS

The aim of this section is to present some suggestions for using the declamation "De Socratis silentio" in secondary education. With the belief that the texts taught in secondary schools should be interspersed and desire to make the lesson more interactive and interesting for the students, we try to present some teaching interventions, in which students will reflect on the ultimate right to freedom speech and cultivate skills that they will be able to make use of in their daily lives.

