

<https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/Grouch.php>

(Translated by George Theodoridis 2013)

The Grouch or *The Difficult Man* (V. 112-129)

(...) **Chaereas** May Hades take the bastard!

Pyrrhias I shut my eyes to protect them from the dirt and cursed him. Cursed that stupid bastard! I said to him “Poseidon shit on you” but just then he grabs some stick or other and starts bringing it down over my head, all the while screeching at me at the top of his voice, “What sort of business would you and I could possibly have to discuss, ey? Didn’t you see the public road back there? Why are you here, on my land?”

Chaereas From the way you describe him, Pyrrhias I’d say, that’s one madly insane farmer, that one!

Pyrrhias In the end I had to try and run away but that madman ran right after me. Chased me for, oh, a good couple of miles, he did! First he chased me all around the hill and then through the woods all the while throwing big lumps of dirt and stones at me and when he ran out of those stones he started on his pears! He started throwing his pears at me!

Sostratos He must be a real wild nutter-man, that old man, ey Pyrrhias?

Pyrrhias He certainly is, so please, come on, let’s get out of here! **122**

Sostratos But that would be a cowardly act, Pyrrhias, wouldn’t it? And we, my good friend, we are not cowards, are we?

Pyrrhias Mates, you two just don’t understand! You don’t know what you’re in for, hanging around here. I’m telling you, this madman will tear us to shreds if he catches us!

Chaereas Sostratos, perhaps this madman is a bit too angry today for us to go on with the meeting. Maybe we should just put the meeting off for now. Wait till he’s calmed down a bit. That’d be the best time, I think. And remember, Sostratos, the best outcome of any business comes about when it’s done at the right time. Timing, Sostratos, timing is everything, every time!

Pyrrhias Yes, Sostratos, that’s a very sensible approach! Listen to him! Always approach things at the right time! Now let’s go home!

Chaereas Farmers! They’re almost all alike. They are poor and they are bitter and they can be downright nasty! (...)