

XENOPHON'S *HYBRIS*: LEADERSHIP, VIOLENCE AND THE NORMATIVE USE OF SHAME IN *ANABASIS* 5.8*

ABSTRACT

Through a detailed analysis of Xenophon's defence against a charge for hybris among the Ten Thousand, this paper discusses violence, reputation and hierarchy in Greek military and social contexts. Contrary to other recent treatments of the episode, the study highlights the centrality of honour/shame dynamics and of desert in establishing and upholding social order, showing that these notions are found consistently in numerous examples as early as Homer. Addressing the apparent lack of strict discipline in Greek armies, the paper concludes that shame and peer pressure had a strong normative power in acknowledging and reconciling personal claims and common interests within a group.

Keywords: Xenophon; *Anabasis*; *hybris*; shame; military; leadership; discipline

Several recent studies have analysed Xenophon's views of leadership, including his interest in achieving willing obedience and acknowledging mutual claims as essential components of the relationship between commanders and soldiers.¹ I shall discuss an episode from the *Anabasis* dealing with individual vs collective claims, the use of violence, the normative role of shame and the legitimacy of power. While the episode is not set in the institutional context of a *polis*, its protagonists behave in accordance with notions such as the rule of law and the awareness of other normative values followed by all Greeks.

I am referring to the trial of the *stratēgoi* within the army at the end of *Anabasis* Book 5, and especially to Xenophon's own defence against a charge for *hybris* at 5.8. Over the last decade, this famous episode has been included in wider discussions

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¹ A few examples: V.J. Gray, *Xenophon's Mirror of Princes: Reading the Reflections* (Oxford and New York, 2011) and N.B. Sandridge, *Loving Humanity, Learning, and Being Honored. The Foundations of Leadership in Xenophon's Education of Cyrus* (Washington, DC, 2012) on Xenophon's 'theory' of leadership; B.D. Keim, 'Honour and the art of Xenophontic leadership', in R.F. Buxton (ed.), *Aspects of Leadership in Xenophon* (Newcastle upon Tyne, 2016), 121–62 and R.F. Buxton, 'Novel leaders for novel armies: Xenophon's focus on willing obedience in context', in id. (ed.), *Aspects of Leadership in Xenophon* (Newcastle upon Tyne, 2016), 163–97; M. Lane, 'Xenophon (and Thucydides) on Sparta (and Athens): debating willing obedience not only to laws, but also to magistrates', in C. Riedweg (ed.), *Philosophie für die Polis, Akten des 5. Kongresses der Gesellschaft für antike Philosophie 2016* (Berlin and Boston, 2019), 121–32; R. Illarraga, 'What the rulers want: Xenophon on Cyrus' psychology', *CQ* 71 (2021), 170–82.

by M.A. Flower² and E. Buzzetti,³ more extensive treatments have been provided by C. Bearzot, E.M. Harris⁴ and especially D.D. Phillips.⁵ While Phillips's study contains useful insights, on the whole I cannot agree with its arguments, which mainly seek to employ the episode to correct and expand the Aristotelian definition of *hybris*. Although obviously well aware of it, Phillips does not take into proper consideration that Aristotle provides a selective treatment of *hybris*, as a form of injustice in the *Nicomachean Ethics* and mainly (though not exclusively) in a forensic context in the *Rhetoric*,⁶ in line with its conceptualization as an offence in Athenian law. Phillips's reliance on the Panhellenic tone of the *Anabasis* adheres to a questionable commonplace,⁷ and his argument that in some cases *hybris* can be 'morally positive' is based on only two passages.⁸ With regard to the first passage, the *Against Neaera* does not actually provide a positive connotation of *hybris* simply because—as Phillips claims—Apollodorus states that the law allows it to be committed on women found in relation with a *moichos* ([Dem.] 59.86): on the contrary, Athenian law was clearly designed to condemn *hybris* even when committed on socially inferior or marginalized subjects, because the *ratio legis* was to punish the unacceptable disposition which stands behind an act of *hybris* regardless of the status of its victims.⁹ The second passage concerns a catalogue of suggested names for dogs, among which is Hybris, from Xenophon's *Cynegeticus* (7.5); but using it to rehabilitate the notion of *hybris* rests on the puzzling assumption that human agency can be judged based on standards employed for naming dogs.¹⁰

I propose a different analysis of Xenophon's trial. Addressing *hybris* as an analytically pejorative notion, I set the episode against other fourth-century sources and provide parallels within Xenophon's corpus. Through this episode I consider the normative role of shame in the military and the boundaries regulating the use of violence among fellow soldiers.

² Xenophon's *Anabasis or The Expedition of Cyrus* (Oxford and New York, 2012), 146–7.

³ *Xenophon the Socratic Prince. The Argument of the Anabasis of Cyrus* (New York, 2014), 217–20.

⁴ C. Bearzot, 'The notion of violence (*bia*, *hybris*) in Xenophon's work', in A. Kapellos (ed.), *Xenophon on Violence* (Berlin and Boston, 2019), 11–23 and E.M. Harris, 'Violence and the state in Xenophon: a study of three passages', in A. Kapellos (ed.), *Xenophon on Violence* (Berlin and Boston, 2019), 103–23.

⁵ 'Xenophon and the muleteer. Hubris, retaliation, and the purposes of shame', in W. Riess and G.G. Fagan (edd.), *The Topography of Violence in the Greco-Roman World* (Ann Arbor, 2016), 19–59.

⁶ See N.R.E. Fisher, *Hybris. A Study in the Values of Honour and Shame in Ancient Greece* (Warminster, 1992), 7–35; D.L. Cairns, 'Hybris, dishonour, and thinking big', *JHS* 116 (1996), 1–32 and id., 'Aristotle on *hybris* and injustice', in C. Veillard, O. Renaut and D. El Murr (edd.), *Les philosophes face au vice, de Socrate à Augustin* (Leiden and Boston, 2020), 147–74, e.g. at 164–5.

⁷ Phillips (n. 5), 26; for arguments against this widespread view, see Flower (n. 2), 172–88 and 196–201.

⁸ Phillips (n. 5), 52 and n. 98.

⁹ See M. Canevaro, 'The public charge for *hubris* against slaves: the honour of the victim and the honour of the *hubristes*', *JHS* 138 (2018), 100–26; on the law on *moicheia*, see id., 'Thieves, parent abusers, draft dodgers... and homicides? The authenticity of Dem. 24.105', *Historia* 62 (2013), 25–47, at 53–5; Cairns (n. 6 [1996]) on the dispositional aspect of *hybris*.

¹⁰ Phillips (n. 5), 52 n. 98 refers to L. Rawlings, 'A dog called *Hybris*', in H. van Wees (ed.), *War and Violence in Ancient Greece* (Swansea, 2000), 145–59, which, however, rather addresses the choice of naming a dog *Hybris* as an anti-social practice (see also Fisher [n. 6], 121 n. 246), and therefore offers nothing in support of the argument. As a comparison, consider 'Tyranos the dog' on the Hellenistic inscription *GVCyr* 006 (cf. *SEG* 47.2176).

1. XENOPHON ON TRIAL

Near Cotyora the Ten Thousand held a series of trials aimed at settling outstanding matters that had occurred since Cyrus' death. Among these, Xenophon's case seems especially serious:¹¹ he was charged with committing *hybris* by some men who declared that they had been beaten by him (*An.* 5.8.1 κατηγορήσαν τινες φάσκοντες παίσσθαι ὑπ' αὐτοῦ καὶ ὡς ὑβρίζοντος τὴν κατηγορίαν ἐποιοῦντο). The terminology and the accusation reflect what we know of the Athenian *graphê hybreôs*, and although we cannot assume that the army employed the same procedure we can certainly conclude that Xenophon was formally charged: in other words, even in the context of a mercenary camp, litigation was conducted according to the institutionalized procedures of a *polis* proper.¹²

Xenophon's defence is made in a series of pressing questions and counterstatements refuting the charges brought by the first man who spoke against him (*An.* 5.8.2 τὸν πρῶτον λέξοντα). This man appears to be the leader, or at least the most prominent, of the accusers: that Xenophon never names him—although it later becomes clear that he has recognized him: §2—may be a way to downplay the importance and the dignity of an opponent by simply denying his first name, a strategy consistently employed elsewhere in the *Anabasis*.¹³ Xenophon leads the prosecutor to clarify the circumstances until it becomes clear that his charge is unsubstantiated and that the accuser himself is responsible for shameful acts (2–12). Xenophon proves that the beating was legitimate and emerges as a good leader, offering more general remarks on duty and solidarity (13–20). Finally, he proceeds to shame the audience for allowing unrestricted, abusive behaviour by some soldiers (21–6). The episode, which ends with Xenophon's triumph and a general reconciliation within the army, is not without irony, and one might suspect that a rather inexperienced accuser was easily defeated (if not outright bullied) by Xenophon's superior rhetorical skills. Regardless, as we shall see, it is the values underpinning the speech which make it an important display of wide-ranging social norms.

First, Xenophon asks the accuser to state the circumstances of the beating (*An.* 5.8.2–3): the reference to deep cold and heavy snowfall points to the crossing of Armenia in Book 4, chaps. 4–5, when Xenophon led by example from the very first stages (4.12; below, §3). Chased by Tiribazus' army, the Greeks lost men and animals (5.4, 5.11–15) and the

¹¹ The trial is part of a wider *redde rationem*: before, Xenophon had successfully defended himself from slander (*An.* 5.7.1) with a speech which led all the soldiers to rise up (5.7.34) against those whose misconduct had put the army at risk. For the context, see Harris (n. 4), 110–11; Flower (n. 2), 145–6; and cf. Flower (n. 2), 199–201 on the lack of discipline and unity in the army emerging in Books 5–7; cf. J. Dillery, *Xenophon and the History of his Times* (London and New York, 1995), 81–5.

¹² Which, in turn, embedded aspects of 'popular' justice: M. Canevaro, 'The popular culture of the Athenian institutions: "authorized" popular culture and "unauthorized" elite culture in Classical Athens', in L. Grig (ed.), *Popular Culture in the Ancient World* (Cambridge, 2013), 39–65. The *graphê hybreôs* required proof that the defendant had struck first: Arist. *Rh.* 1402a1–3 (cf. 1390b17–19 on further links between *hybris* and assault); but the same was required for a *dikê aikeias*: Dem. 47.40, 54.28 and Isoc. 20.1, who confirms the close connection with *hybris* (20.5–7). See Cairns (n. 6 [1996]), 5 and below.

¹³ See 7.6.10 and 5.7.5 (referring to Neon, mentioned at 7.1); consider, however, the opposite cases of Apollonides at 3.1.26 and Soteridas at 3.4.47 (on some of these passages, see §§2, 4 and 5 below). For other examples of Xenophon not naming some low-status characters, cf. T. Rood, 'Xenophon', in K. De Temmerman and E. van Emde Boas (edd.), *Characterization in Ancient Greek Literature* (Leiden and Boston, 2018), 172–90, at 173.

extreme conditions (4.8–11, 5.1–4) fostered individualistic attitudes in many of the soldiers (5.5–6). Xenophon took the initiative by distributing food from the baggage train (5.8–9) and resorted to any means and device (5.16 *πάση τέχνη καὶ μηχανῇ*) to spur the men in the rear. In these passages Xenophon never mentions physical violence openly, but we learn that he got angry (5.16 *τελευτῶν ἐχαλέπαινε*) and ordered the younger soldiers to force the sick to proceed (5.21).¹⁴ In any case, it is clear from his account that the army was facing a critical situation and that his efforts to help had been unceasing.

After alluding to the context of the incident, Xenophon presses his accuser to state why he had been beaten. Xenophon sarcastically comments that if the alleged accusation were true he would truly have committed *hybris*—indeed, he would be even more hybriatic than a donkey (*An.* 5.8.3 *εἰ ἐν τοιοῦτῳ καιρῷ ὕβριζον, ὁμολογῶ καὶ τῶν ὄνων ὕβριστότερος εἶναι*), a comparison which alludes to a mixture of violent overexcitement, physical and verbal aggressiveness (cf. *Hdt.* 4.129.1), general self-indulgence (*Pl. Phd.* 81e) and proverbial stubbornness attributed to donkeys.¹⁵ The choice of the donkey metaphor may well be a pun on the accuser's role of mule-driver (below, §2): although clearly distinct in the sources, donkeys and mules shared a number of typical traits in addition to the role of pack animals.¹⁶ Here Xenophon is ridiculing the charges brought against him, a strategy which he employs also in other episodes (for example *An.* 5.7.6–10). Through the following series of questions, Xenophon brings his accuser to confirm that the beating was not motivated by a dispute over something, a love-affair, or drunkenness (8.4)—according to Athenian law, but probably also to general understanding, at least the last two were no legal excuse for *hybris*.¹⁷

2. SHAMING THE ACCUSER

Next, Xenophon asks the accuser to declare his role in the army: the man was serving neither as a hoplite nor as a peltast but as a mule-driver, assigned to this task by his tent mates (*An.* 5.8.5 *ἡμίονον ἐλαύνειν ταχθεὶς ὑπὸ τῶν συσκήνων*). That the man immediately specifies his free status (*ἐλεύθερος ὢν*) suggests that (also) slaves were assigned to this task in the army (cf. driving a mule cart as a slave job in *Pl. Lysis*

¹⁴ Violence may be implied in the reply of the disheartened soldiers to Xenophon's anger: they bid him to slay them (*An.* 4.5.16), for they were too exhausted to advance further; a parallel for the dramatic effects of abandoning the sick is provided by the Athenian retreat in Sicily, especially in *Thuc.* 7.75.3–4. On the general 'heroic' features of the narration in *Anabasis* Books 3–4, see Dillery (n. 11), 69–77.

¹⁵ Cf. D.M. MacDowell, 'Hybris in Athens', *G&R* 23 (1976), 14–31, at 15–16. On ancient proverbs and stereotypes on donkeys, see K. Freeman, 'Vincent, or the donkey', *G&R* 14 (1945), 41–2, at 33–41 (for a possible political metaphor, add P.J. Bicknell, 'Agasias the donkey', *ZPE* 62 [1986], 183–4); M. Griffith, 'Horsepower and donkeywork: equids and the ancient Greek imagination', *CPh* 101 (2006), 185–246, 307–58 (Part Two), at 223–9, 326–7; K.F. Kitchell, Jr, *Animals in the Ancient World from A to Z* (London, 2014), s.v. 'donkey'; for sexual excitement and *hybris*, see e.g. *Pind. Pyth.* 10.35 and [*Arist.*] *Phgn.* 808b34–8; on the frequent metaphors of *hybris* in animals and plants, see Cairns (n. 6 [1996]), 23–4 and Fisher (n. 6), especially 119–21.

¹⁶ See studies in the previous footnote, especially Griffith, 233–41 and 336–52 (underlining significant peculiarities), and Kitchell, s.v. 'mule'.

¹⁷ On erotic drive and drunkenness as (stereotypes of) *hybris* in Athens, cf. E.M. Harris, *Democracy and the Rule of Law in Classical Athens: Essays on Law, Society, and Politics* (Cambridge, 2006), especially 301–3; consider also Dem. 21.74.

208b). The man might have been a soldier temporarily assigned to the mules,¹⁸ but the detail is of little use: Xenophon is here focussing on the man's role at the time of the incident. Handling the pack animals was essential for the survival of the army, and in Armenia Xenophon himself had distributed supplies from the baggage train to help the soldiers (*An.* 4.5.8–9; §1 above). However, through his question Xenophon now suggests the humble status of the mule-driver within a descending hierarchy of roles,¹⁹ with the clear aim of discrediting his opponent. A close parallel is provided by Xenophon's dismissal of Apollonides, the only *lochagos* who had spoken against him in the choice of the new commanders (3.1.26): after demonstrating his incompetence, Xenophon had proposed that the army should cast him out, demote him and assign him to carry the baggage (3.1.30 σκεύη ἀνοθέντας ὡς τοιούτῳ χρῆσθαι).²⁰

Once the accuser identifies himself as a mule-driver, Xenophon seems to recognize him as one who, at the time of the incident, was carrying a sick man (*An.* 5.8.6): the opponent confirms this and seeks sympathy from the audience, claiming that Xenophon had compelled him to the task after scattering the baggage of his tent mates (σὺ γὰρ ἠνάγκασες. τὰ δὲ τῶν ἐμῶν συσκήνων σκεύη διέρριψας), that is, harming and insulting not just him but the whole unit. For a soldier, appealing to his unit to ground claims appears to have been common practice: the plaintiff of Demosthenes' *Against Conon* underlined that he had reported unruly comrades to the *stratēgos* not by himself but together with all his mess-mates (54.4 κοινῇ πάντες οἱ σύσσιτοι προσελθόντες, οὐκ ἐγὼ τῶν ἄλλων ἔξω). Consider also Xenophon's comments on Cyrus the Great's arrangement of his soldiers by tents, as a way of fostering their mutual consideration (*Cyr.* 2.1.25 τὸ αἰσχύνεσθαι). Xenophon quickly dismisses his opponent's insinuation (*An.* 5.8.7) and proceeds to use the new information to his own advantage. As the sick man was unable to walk (cf. 4.5.3–5, §1 above), he had been entrusted to the mule-driver who, shortly after, attempted to bury his passenger alive (5.8.8–11). It was at this point that Xenophon hit the mule-driver, whose actions now emerge as cruel and detrimental for the whole army: realizing that the beating was anything but gratuitous, the enraged soldiers in the audience cry out that Xenophon had just not beaten him enough (5.8.12 τοῦτον μὲν ἀνέκραγον ὡς ὀλίγας παῖσειεν).

A few comparisons will best illustrate the main points of this scene in Xenophon's defence, here turning into a counterattack as he switches roles and becomes the accuser. On a general level, the mule-driver's attempt to abandon the sick man can be compared to Aristotle's example of shameful conduct (*aischynē*) as profiting from the weak (*Rh.* 1383b22–4; see also 1385b24–32 on *hybris* and pity); to Lycurgus' accusation of Leocrates, a traitor and a coward who sought safety for himself alone rather than for the whole community (*Leoc.* 43, 67, 110, 131; cf. *Lys.* 31.7); and even to Darius' cynical plan to abandon to the Scythians his mules along with the men unable to fight (*Hdt.* 4.134.3–136). Xenophon's success in arousing the soldiers' indignation mirrors the accuser's practice of stirring the judges' hostility against a defendant, a

¹⁸ J.W.I. Lee, *A Greek Army on the March. Soldiers and Survival in Xenophon's Anabasis* (Cambridge and New York, 2007), 102–3 and Phillips (n. 5), 22 n. 7; both provide (ungrounded) hypotheses on the accuser's original role.

¹⁹ Similarly to other passages: cf. e.g. *stratēgos*, *lochagos*, soldier in *An.* 3.1.1 and 7.2.35–6.

²⁰ The purported reason being that Apollonides brought shame (*κατασχύνει*) to his fatherland and to Greece, which immediately prompts the denunciation that, despite his Boeotian accent (*An.* 3.1.26), he was actually a barbarian (3.1.31). On shame in the army, see §4 below.

familiar technique in forensic oratory.²¹ Finally, the scene of the audience applauding the sensible leader who beats the wretched subordinate recalls Odysseus' maltreatment of Thersites in the *Iliad* (2.270–7).²² Other scholars have found different parallels for Thersites in the *Anabasis*,²³ and R.F. Buxton sees a 'striking contrast' between Xenophon's leadership and the divide between leaders and soldiers in the *Iliad*,²⁴ whereas I would rather focus on the similarities: Xenophon's methodical humiliation of his opponent, first by pointing out his humble role, then by exposing his shameful act, aims at harming his reputation to the point that his accusation carries no weight, just as Thersites' words are worthless, regardless of their contents, owing to his poor fame and lineage.²⁵ Another, partially similar episode from the *Anabasis* perhaps best illustrates Xenophon's strategy: at the end of Book 6, Dexippus points to Xenophon as the person responsible for a serious incident involving the army and the Spartan authorities.²⁶ Just as with the mule-driver, Xenophon focusses on ruining his opponent's reputation while magnifying his own virtues, portraying Dexippus as a liar (6.6.5–11), traitor and coward (6.6.17 and 6.6.22–4; cf. 5.1.15). The Spartan harmost accepts Dexippus' ill repute, but also states that, regardless of that, he ought not to have suffered *bia* instead of a regular trial (6.6.25). Eventually, the situation ends favourably for Xenophon (6.6.34) when, on his initiative, the soldiers beg the harmost to put both Dexippus and the rest of them to the test to see how they compare and to treat each one as he deserves (6.6.33 τὴν ἄξιον ἐκάστοις νεύουσι), implying that Dexippus' claims would become even weaker once his wickedness is fully revealed—much as Thersites' and the mule-driver's accusations were dropped once their baseness had been exposed.

At this point in his trial in Book 5 Xenophon has clearly won the confrontation, and the other men who had planned to bring a charge against him waive their chance (*An.* 5.8.12). Xenophon admits having beaten some others for their *ataxia* (5.8.13), meaning that these men were pursuing their own safety and interests at the expense of the whole army, with a selfishness similar to the mule-driver's. Just before his election to command, Xenophon had discussed the common safety provided by *eutaxia* vis-à-vis the disaster brought by *ataxia* (3.1.38).²⁷ Xenophon declares that he had also struck

²¹ Cf. E. Sanders, "'He is a liar, a bounder, and a cad": the arousal of hostile emotions in Attic forensic oratory', in A. Chaniotis (ed.), *Unveiling Emotions. Sources and Methods for the Study of Emotions in the Greek World* (Stuttgart, 2012), 359–87, especially at 364–70; D.L. Cairns, 'Revenge, punishment, and justice in Athenian homicide law', *Journal of Value Inquiry* 49 (2015), 645–65, e.g. at 661 and n. 60 (with additional bibliography).

²² A parallel briefly noted by Gray (n. 1), 123.

²³ A. Dalby, 'Greeks abroad: social organisation and food among the Ten Thousand', *JHS* 112 (1992), 16–30, at 21: Apollonides at 3.1.26 (above); Flower (n. 2), 160–1: the Arcadian at 7.6.9–10 (§§1 and 5). For another possible Iliadic parallel in the *Anabasis* and for literature on the topic, see C. Orth, 'Xenophons Dolonie. Zu *Anab.* 3.1', *Lexis* 23 (2005), 197–204. For Thersites as a possible model in other historiographers, see F. Cairns, 'Cleon and Pericles: a suggestion', *JHS* 102 (1982), 203–4 and A.M. Bowie (ed.), *Herodotus Histories Book VIII* (Cambridge, 2006), 181, 215.

²⁴ Buxton (n. 1), 188.

²⁵ On Thersites, cf. D. Hammer, *The Iliad as Politics. The Performance of Political Thought* (Norman, OK, 2002), 60–1.

²⁶ For an overview, see Flower (n. 2), 149–50; Dexippus had been nearly stoned to death by the soldiers (*An.* 6.6.7): cf. §5 below.

²⁷ On *eutaxia* and *ataxia*, see W.K. Pritchett, *The Greek State at War* (Berkeley / Los Angeles / London, 1974), 2.236–43; J.-C. Couvenhes, 'De disciplina Graecorum: les relations de violence entre les chefs militaires grecs et leurs soldats', in J.-M. Bertrand (ed.), *La violence dans le monde grec et romain. Actes du colloque international (Paris, 2–4 mai 2002)* (Paris, 2005), 432–54, at 434–5; cf. Dillery (n. 11), 27–38.

and treated violently those who were about to give up the march (5.8.14 καὶ ἔπαισα καὶ ἐβιάσαμην πορεύεσθαι; cf. 5.8.17 and §1 above on 4.5.21). From personal experience Xenophon had learned to resist the cold by keeping in motion and ‘behaving in a manly way’ (5.8.15 κινεῖσθαι καὶ ἀνδρίζεσθαι), a subtle appeal to the soldiers’ pride and courage as a source of motivation.²⁸ Every act of violence he committed was for the good of the men (5.8.16–18); therefore, it was legitimate, as confirmed by his final, bold challenge: all those who were saved in Armenia are now able to indict Xenophon if they think that they have suffered anything unjust from him (5.8.17)—an implicit submission to the principle of accountability and to the rule of law.

3. CARING FOR THE COMRADES

Xenophon now compares his own role in the army (and the kind of *dikē* he should respond to) to that of three different figures: parents, teachers (*An.* 5.8.18 καὶ γονεῖς υἱοῖς καὶ διδάσκαλοι πασι) and physicians (ἰατροί). Xenophon does not establish a hierarchy among these models, contrary to a similar passage in the *Apology* (20): the topic of the authority of parents might have been tricky, as it had been notoriously involved in the charges against Socrates.²⁹ Literary parallels for the good done by a physician through pain are abundant,³⁰ and similarly the comparison of a leader to a father is rather common.³¹ Fathers and teachers were prone to use violence to impart discipline (cf. *Lac.* 2.10, 6.1–2), to the point that both were stereotypically depicted as heavy-handed.³² After a fourth comparison (*An.* 5.8.20: the officers of a ship caught in a storm), Xenophon underlines the legitimacy of his harsh manners: just as the paradigmatic figures he had mentioned are regarded as entitled to inflict pain when necessary, so—he claims—the audience now agrees that he acted justly (5.8.21 δικαίως).

Yet an apparently problematic parallel is found in the *Anabasis* itself in the figure of Clearchus, the violent Spartan commander and stern disciplinarian. In a clearly pejorative sense, Xenophon states that the men felt for Clearchus the same feelings that *paides* have for a *didaskalos* (2.6.12). On the one hand, like Xenophon, Clearchus used to beat the lazy and lead by first-person commitment even to humble tasks, causing *aischynē* in soldiers unable to match his efforts (3.11).³³ On the other, there is one fundamental difference: unlike Xenophon’s, Clearchus’ attitude was constantly harsh (6.12 ἔει χαλεπὸς ἦν καὶ ὀμός) and, while it proved effective when facing threats, once danger was over the men would hardly tolerate it (6.11–12). Soldiers thus tended to defect and no one followed Clearchus out of friendship and

²⁸ In its only other occurrence in Xenophon, ἀνδρίζομαι means to act courageously in battle (*An.* 4.3.34); ἀνδρίζω in *Oec.* 5.4 refers to the earth toughening workers through its hardships.

²⁹ Cf. V. Azoulay, *Xenophon and the Graces of Power. A Greek Guide to Political Manipulation* (Swansea, 2018), 214–16.

³⁰ E.g. *Xen. Mem.* 1.2.54; consider Agamemnon (a rather poor leader) in *Aesch. Ag.* 848–50; for a physician’s work as the opposite of a tyrant’s, cf. *Pl. Resp.* 8, 567b–c.

³¹ Cf. *V. An.* 7.6.38, again for himself; *Ages.* 1.38 and 7.3; *Cyr.* 8.1.1 and 2.9. Azoulay (n. 29), ch. 7.

³² M. Golden, ‘*Pais*, “child” and “slave”’, *AntClass* 54 (1985), 91–104, at 102; more generally, T.R. Stevenson, ‘The ideal benefactor and the father analogy in Greek and Roman thought’, *CQ* 42 (1992), 421–36; Phillips (n. 5), 47. On Xenophon’s use of the father analogy, see Azoulay (n. 29), ch. 7, especially 207–28.

³³ Cf. Xenophon in Armenia (§1 above) and Jason of Pherae in *Hell.* 6.1.5–7. On Clearchus’ use of ‘negative discipline’, see M. Bettalli, *Mercenari. Il mestiere delle armi nel mondo greco antico. Età arcaica e classica* (Rome, 2013), 297–302, especially at 297–9.

goodwill (6.13 φιλία μὲν καὶ εὐνοία). Clearchus lacked the vision of great leaders: contrast Cyrus the Great's plan of earning the same *eunoia* and *philia* from his subjects (*Cyr.* 8.2.22).³⁴ This view is not unique to Xenophon: compare, for example, Thucydides' claim that mercenaries followed Demosthenes out of *philia* for him and *eunoia* for the Athenians (7.57.10).³⁵

In fact, rather than considering these values and trying to adjust his leadership accordingly, Clearchus relied regularly on intimidation and used to say that soldiers ought to fear their commander more than the enemies (*An.* 2.6.10 δέοι τὸν στρατιώτην φοβεῖσθαι μᾶλλον τὸν ἄρχοντα ἢ τοὺς πολεμίους). Fear (or awe deriving from fear) for the officers is found as early as Homer (for example *Il.* 4.428–31 on the Achaeans δειδιώτεες σημάντορας), and notably in the sayings attributed to Chilon of Sparta, who subtly recommended inspiring *aischynê* rather than *phobos* (Demetr. Phal. fr. 114 W.² / 87 SOD, Chilon 12). Xenophon certainly draws on the Greek conceptualization of fear as a normative tool for the respect of law,³⁶ but at the same time he problematizes the topic of ruling through fear: in the *Cyropaedia*, Cyrus the Great was able both to induce *phobos* of him and to inspire his subjects to earn his *charis* (1.1.5);³⁷ in the *Hiero*, the tyrant aims to earn *philia* from his subjects rather than their fear (7.9 φιλοῦντές τε καὶ μὴ φοβοῦμενοι). Thus Xenophon's uncompromising Clearchus emerges as a despot: compare Agamemnon in Thucydides, leading οὐ χάριτι τὸ πλεόν ἢ φόβῳ (1.9.3), or stereotyped Persian kings such as Xerxes in Herodotus³⁸ (for example 7.103–4 on the subjects' fear of the king vs the Spartans' fear of the law) and Artaxerxes II in Xenophon (*An.* 3.1.18 aiming to spread πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις φόβον). Consistently, in Diodorus' version Clearchus is more explicitly defined a tyrant.³⁹

Xenophon's comparison of the soldiers' feelings towards Clearchus with the feelings of *paides* for a *didaskalos* therefore points to fear and resentment of his harshness, characteristic of a man whom Plato might have regarded as prone to educate through degrading (*Leg.* 7, 793e ἀτίμως), enraging and hybriatic punishment which ought to be avoided for free persons (τὸ μὴ μεθ' ὕβρεως κολάζοντας ὀργὴν ἐμποιῆσαι).⁴⁰ Fundamentally different from Clearchus, Xenophon had resorted to violence in an emergency (cf. *An.* 5.8.8 and 5.8.20), but normally displays no *hybris*, especially—he

³⁴ Note that (after risking lynching: §4 below) at *An.* 1.3.6 Clearchus states his—apparently delusional—consideration for the soldiers as his *philoî*. For an evaluation of Cyrus, see Illarraga (n. 1).

³⁵ Thus I cannot agree with Buxton (n. 1), 186–7, who regards as innovative Xenophon's attitude to befriend his men, in contrast with Cyrus the Younger's practice of reserving *philia* to his *xenoi* commanders (*An.* 1.1.9–11); for Xenophon's view of *philia*, see Azoulay (n. 29), ch. 6, especially 173–4.

³⁶ Cf. e.g. Thuc. 2.37.3, Pl. *Leg.* 1, 647a–d; see D.L. Cairns, *Aidōs. The Psychology and Ethics of Honour and Shame in Ancient Greek Literature* (Oxford, 1993), 213 (discussing Aesch. *Eum.*); on fear of the laws, see A. Esu, 'Adeia in fifth-century Athens', *JHS* 141 (2021), 153–78; some elements also in Lane (n. 1).

³⁷ See notes in Gray (n. 1), 277–9 and especially Azoulay (n. 29), 15–16.

³⁸ See D.L. Cairns, 'Honour and kingship in Herodotus: status, role, and the limits of self-assertion', *Frontiers of Philosophy in China* 14 (2019), 75–93.

³⁹ Diod. Sic. 14.12.3–8 on Clearchus' stay in Byzantium in 403 B.C., when he appropriately (for a tyrant) executed opponents, seized their properties, and drove others into exile.

⁴⁰ The passage deals with children, for whose education Plato regards *bia* as ineffective (e.g. *Resp.* 7, 536e); see Golden (n. 32), 100. Generally speaking, Xenophon also regards *bia* as deplorable (Bearzot [n. 4], 14–18): cf. Socrates in *Mem.* 1.2.10–11 (Buzzetti [n. 3], 219 and n. 107) and 1.2.44 (on *bia* and *anomia*), but note 2.4.6 (a rather vague passage on mixing persuasion with violence). On *orgê* in response to *hybris*, cf. my Conclusion, pages 164–5 below.

underlines—in the present, relatively peaceful circumstances when he could easily yield to it (5.8.19; cf. §1 on 5.8.4). The educational, exemplary value of this declaration emerges if we compare it to a passage from the *Cyropaedia* according to which subjects are motivated to imitate a leader whom they see practising *sôphrosynê* when he could rather indulge in *hybris* (8.1.30 ὁ μάλιστα ἔξεστιν ὑβρίζειν, τοῦτον σωφρονούντα);⁴¹ the disposition evoked by Xenophon is also reminiscent of Aristotle's statement that war compels men towards justice and *sôphrosynê*, while peace rather leads them to *hybris* (*Pol.* 1334a25–8).⁴²

Xenophon's own comparison to teachers and parents in the *Anabasis* and the values it entails are built on the awareness of his place in society, his worth and the perceived benefits of a stern but ultimately selfless way of imparting discipline when strictly necessary. Both the accuser and the defender have now appealed to a larger 'honour group' (respectively the tent-mates and the whole army) as a superior referent and a guarantor of their intentions.⁴³ In the conclusion of his speech, Xenophon fosters shame even in his own honour group, once more in the interest of the whole community.

4. SHAMING THE GROUP

The final part of Xenophon's speech reproaches the whole army.⁴⁴ This choice is already significant as the Ten Thousand were—at least originally—divided into contingents, each loyal to its own commander: normally not even Clearchus would order soldiers outside his group, and when he tried to he faced serious threats.⁴⁵ Xenophon reminds the army that none objected when he was beating the lazy, nor did anyone help him either (*An.* 5.8.21): the soldiers' inaction had allowed the basest among them to indulge in *hybris* (5.8.22), in relation to which Xenophon provides one more example of cowardice and greedy selfishness (5.8.23): in this case the man is named explicitly, apparently because he was a boxer of some repute.⁴⁶ Now, urging the soldiers towards *sôphrosynê* (5.8.24 ἦν σωφρονήτε, twice: cf. §3 on *sôphrosynê* preventing *hybris*), Xenophon shames them for their lack of social control and for their ingratitude towards him (5.8.25–6). As the soldiers accept their responsibilities, the episode ends in a general reconciliation, with an expression reminiscent of the words sealing Xenophon's earlier defence against slander (cf. §1 on 7.34).

Xenophon's reference to the soldiers' (lack of) collaboration in keeping their peers in check points to an earlier measure (unanimously approved: *An.* 3.2.33) he had introduced shortly after Clearchus' death, when extreme danger made the new officers

⁴¹ Cf. *Cyr.* 8.6.16 (Bearzot [n. 4], especially 14–15 and 19–21); *Lac.* 8.2 on the citizens following the *kratistoi* in their obedience to the institutions; for parallels in the *Memorabilia*, see Buzzetti (n. 3), 220 n. 111 (and cf. *Pl. Chrm.* 160e); on *sôphrosynê*, see §4 below.

⁴² On which, see Cairns (n. 6 [2020]), 167.

⁴³ For the notion of honour group, see G. Taylor, *Pride, Shame and Guilt. Emotions of Self-Assessment* (Oxford, 1987); alternatively, 'honour world' (K.A. Appiah, *The Honor Code. How Moral Revolutions Happen* [New York and London, 2010], 19–22) or 'honour arena' (Ø. Rabbås, 'Virtue, respect, and morality in Aristotle', *Journal of Value Inquiry* 49 [2015], 619–43, at 636–8).

⁴⁴ Buzzetti (n. 3), 220 argues that Xenophon is implicitly moving the charge for *hybris* on the audience, but this remains hard to prove.

⁴⁵ See §5 below on *An.* 1.3.1, 5.11–12; cf. Dillery (n. 11), 66.

⁴⁶ There may be some (intended?) irony in the fact that this Boiscus, ὁ πύκτης ὁ Θεταλόος (*An.* 5.8.23), had *not* been punched by Xenophon.

much more vigilant (5.8.30 ἐπιμελεστέρους) and the soldiers much more orderly and obedient (εὐτακτοτέρους καὶ πειθόμενους; §2 on *eutaxia*). It was established that the insubordinates had to be punished jointly by the leaders and the soldiers witnessing the infraction (5.8.31). This form of collective discipline against the *kakoi* (5.8.32) would turn the whole army into 'ten thousand Clearchoi' (5.8.31)—here, in an emergency, a desirable model—but Xenophon's formulation indicates clearly that such procedure was as unusual as necessary.⁴⁷ The measure was applied successfully in circumstances which partially recall the mule-driver incident: during the retreat along the Tigris, some Soteridas had lamented the pains suffered by the infantry and the weight of his shield vs the relative comfort enjoyed by Xenophon, who was riding a horse (3.4.46–7; the scene might remind us—with roles reversed—of the opening scene of Aristophanes' *Frogs*); Xenophon immediately swapped places with Soteridas, apparently treating him rudely (*An.* 3.4.48) but not hitting him: it was, however, the nearby soldiers who started to beat and insult (3.4.49 παίουσι καὶ βάλλουσι καὶ λοιδοροῦσι) Soteridas until they forced him back to his place.

5. VIOLENCE AND DISCIPLINE IN GREEK ARMIES

To situate the aforementioned episodes in the proper cultural and normative context, it is worth addressing the evidence on forms of violence within Greek armies and, to a limited extent, in Greek society. It might be useful, in part, to distinguish between institutionalized violence issuing from an authority, and spontaneous, arbitrary violence generated by private initiative,⁴⁸ although, as we shall see, this purely modern divide is unsuited to explain some of the nuances of the Greek model.

In Athens, violence in public was strictly regulated and sanctioned, although this does not mean that it was uncommon in daily life.⁴⁹ Unrestrained institutional punishment of free men was typically associated with abusive and/or oligarchic regimes, such as the Four Hundred (*Thuc.* 8.74.3) and the Thirty (*Xen. Hell.* 2.3.12–15; *Dem.* 22.52), the latter known for employing whip-bearers ([*Arist.*] *Ath. Pol.* 35.1) possibly inherited from the Spartan custom (cf. *Xen. Hell.* 3.3.11).⁵⁰ Some scholars have argued that violence against free men was a typically Spartan feature, unacceptable to other

⁴⁷ Cf. Lee (n. 18), 94; L. Tritle, 'Xenophon's portrait of Clearchus: a study in post-traumatic stress disorder', in C. Tuplin (ed.), *Xenophon and his World. Papers from a Conference Held in Liverpool in July 1999* (Stuttgart, 2004), 325–39, at 327 does not consider the context.

⁴⁸ For a similar approach, cf. Couvenhes (n. 27); G. Herman, 'How violent was Athenian society?', in D.M. Lewis, R. Osborne and S. Hornblower (edd.), *Ritual, Finance, Politics. Athenian Democratic Accounts Presented to David Lewis* (Oxford, 1994), 99–117 is based on a rigid distinction between 'state-controlled' vs 'criminal' and 'civilized' vs 'primitive', but primitivist approaches fail to fully explain Greek social norms: M. Schofield, 'Euboulia in the *Iliad*', *CQ* 36 (1986), 6–31; D. Cairns, 'Honour and shame: modern controversies and ancient values', *Crit.Q.* 53 (2011), 23–41; E.M. Harris, *The Rule of Law in Action in Democratic Athens* (Oxford, 2013), ch. 1.

⁴⁹ Cf. Ctesicles' *hybris*: *Dem.* 21.180; Canevaro (n. 9 [2018]), 113; for violent gangs of upper-class youths, see [*Dem.*] 54.14. Normally, corporal punishment was reserved to slaves (e.g. *Dem.* 24.166–7), and public officials overstepping these boundaries were liable to prosecution: see e.g. *Dem.* 22.54–5; Harris (n. 48), 40–4 and Harris (n. 4), 114–15. On Athenian institutions and violence among private citizens, see also Fisher (n. 6), 38–53.

⁵⁰ Note the use of whip on the slave-like soldiers of the Persian army (*Hdt.* 7.22.1, 56.1); but consider that e.g. also *agoranomoi* might have carried whips (*Ar. Ach.* 723–6); for the implications of the gesture, see P.J. Finglass (ed.), *Sophocles Oedipus the King* (Cambridge, 2018), 417–18, n. on lines 806–9.

communities:⁵¹ however, this assumption seems yet another by-product of the Spartan mirage, for while some of the stereotypes associated with the Spartans underline their violent attitude,⁵² other studies have drawn attention to the abundant attestation, in chronological and spatial terms, of public magistrates carrying implements of corporal punishment, and generally to widespread examples of institutionally controlled violence in Greece.⁵³ In Athenian theatres, *rhabdouchoi* were ready to enforce order (Ar. *Pax* 734, with schol. 734e Holwerda), just as elsewhere they would hit undisciplined athletes (for example at Olympia: Thuc. 5.50.4; cf. the general remark of Hdt. 8.59 and the comparison of ephors with tyrants and *epistatai* of the games in Xen. *Lac.* 8.4); *rhabdophoroi* with similar tasks are variously attested well into the Roman period (for example *IG* V.1 1390, lines 41–5; VII 3078); the second-century gymnasiarchical law from Beroia instructs the gymnasiarch to issue corporal punishment to those who do not obey (*Epigraphes Katô Makedonias* 1, *Beroia* 1, B, lines 8–10),⁵⁴ a prerogative found in various educational contexts.⁵⁵ The Spartan officers' custom of beating soldiers with the signature *baktêria*, just as Clearchus does in the *Anabasis* (2.3.11),⁵⁶ only appears consistent with these non-Spartan cases rather than exceptional.

This is not to deny that—as many believe—discipline in Greek armies was relatively lax, rarely enforced through top-down coercion and rather based on forms of persuasion:⁵⁷ while violence was possible, its legitimacy was still circumscribed. Athenian *stratêgoi* held jurisdiction over cowardice (Lys. 14.5) and could authorize executions (threatened in Xen. *Hell.* 1.1.15; carried out in 1.2.13⁵⁸ and in Lys. 13.65; see also Aen. Tact. 10.19 on mercenary armies), but it seems that their most violent prerogatives had been lost by the late fourth century ([Arist.] *Ath. Pol.* 61.2).⁵⁹ Significantly, Aristotle in *Politics*

⁵¹ S. Hornblower, 'Sticks, stones, and Spartans. The sociology of Spartan violence', in H. van Wees (ed.), *War and Violence in Ancient Greece* (Swansea, 2000), 57–82; id., "'This was decided" (ἔδοξε τούτο): the army as polis in Xenophon's *Anabasis* – and elsewhere', in R. Lane Fox (ed.), *The Long March. Xenophon and the Ten Thousand* (New Haven, CT, 2004), 243–63, at 254–5, arguing that with the mule-driver Xenophon behaved like a Spartan (both essays republished in S. Hornblower, *Thucydidean Themes* [Oxford and New York, 2011], respectively 250–74 and 226–49); see also Herman (n. 48), arguing for minimum levels of 'criminal violence' in Athens.

⁵² Especially when dealing with other Greeks: cf. the paradigmatic case of Pausanias the regent's *hybris* (Hdt. 8.3.2) and *bia* (Thuc. 1.95.1): M. Zaccarini, *The Lame Hegemony. Cimon of Athens and the Failure of Panhellenism, ca. 478–450 BC* (Bologna, 2017), 51–2.

⁵³ Cf. N.B. Crowther and M. Frass, 'Flogging as a punishment in the ancient games', *Nikephoros* 11 (1998), 51–82 and, *contra* Hornblower (n. 51 [2000]), Harris (n. 48), 24–44 and Harris (n. 4), 111–14.

⁵⁴ Cf. the vaguer ephedarchical law from Amphipolis (D. Rousset, 'Considération sur la loi éphebarchique d'Amphipolis', *REA* 119 [2017], 49–84), especially lines 36–51.

⁵⁵ On Athenian ephebes beaten with *rhabdoi*, cf. [Pl.] *Ax.* 366e–367a; Crowther and Frass (n. 53), especially 52–5.

⁵⁶ See §3; cf. Thuc. 8.84.1–3; on various forms of violence in Sparta, cf. Xen. *Lac.* 2.2, 8–10, 6.2, 9.5; see F.J. Fernández Nieto, 'La competencia penal de los estrategos', in G. Thür und G. Nenci (edd.), *Symposion 1988. Vorträge zur griechischen und hellenistischen Rechtsgeschichte* (Cologne, 1990), 111–22, at 119–20, and Hornblower (n. 51 [2000]).

⁵⁷ Cf. Pritchett (n. 27), 243–5; Harris (n. 48), ch. 1, especially 37–8; Bettalli (n. 33); H. van Wees, 'Citizens and soldiers in Archaic Athens', in A. Duplouy and R. Brock (edd.), *Defining Citizenship in Archaic Greece* (Oxford, 2018), 103–43, especially 109–10.

⁵⁸ Alcibiades' namesake cousin was stoned to death by order of Thrasyllus who, however, was carrying out a court sentence: Harris (n. 4), 108. For a commander's power to put a man to death, see Couvenhes (n. 27), 446–9.

⁵⁹ See Pritchett (n. 27), 238 and Couvenhes (n. 27), 444–5; notes and some other cases (but from distant sources) in P.J. Rhodes, *A Commentary on the Aristotelian Athenian Politeia* (Oxford, 1981), 683–4; add Xen. *Hell.* 6.2.34 for Iphicrates' unspecified threats to his officers; on [Lys.] 9.6, see S.C. Todd, *A Commentary on Lysias, Speeches 1–11* (Oxford, 2008), 583, 589–93 and commentary ad loc.

Book 3 regards Agamemnon's threat to put soldiers to death (*Il.* 2.391) as a power of kings of the past (1285a6–14)—in contrast with the Spartan kings of his own time.

A different corrective rationale seems to emerge in place of, or in addition to, that of violence. In the fourth century, if we believe Polyaeus, Iphicrates punished the soldiers of generals executed for treachery by expelling them from the army, naked or at least stripped of their weapons (3.9.56 γυμνοῦς ἐξήλασε). Certainly in 394 B.C. a soldier hitting a taxiarch was not punished on the spot, but later(?) the *stratēgoi* resorted to public shaming (and possibly exile) by the herald to expose his poor reputation (Lys. 3.45 δόξας ἀκοσμήτατος εἶναι καὶ πονηρότατος). Similarly, in the *Against Conon* a *stratēgos* simply issues a stern reproach to a group of soldiers who had behaved outrageously in camp (Dem. 54.5 λοιδορηθέντος), failing to stop them or even to elicit the sense of shame that their victim expected (τοσοῦτου ἐδέησαν πάυσασθαι ἢ αἰσχυνθῆναι). Such emphasis on publicly displaying shameful acts is significant and consistent with the rationale of military laws we are aware of, which dealt mainly with ignominious infractions, that is, various forms of cowardice and desertion (for Athens, see especially Andoc. 1.74 on *atimia*; for Sparta, Thuc. 5.72.1).⁶⁰ Hence Aristotle, as an example of acts leading to *aischyné*, caused by *kakia* and specifically by cowardice (*deilia*), includes throwing away the shield and fleeing (*Rh.* 1383b18–19; see also 1368b18 on injustice and cowardice), and discusses 'political' courage, produced by *aidós*, as second-best after 'genuine' courage (*Eth. Nic.* 1116a29–b2: note the contrast with courage produced by coercion and beating). If these infractions were judged by soldiers, as it seems from Lysias (14.5), another facet of normative shame and peer pressure emerges: yet, despite the frequent accusations of cowardice in courts and the assembly, according to Xenophon actual prosecution was limited and a man proclaimed *kakos* in war would continue his life unchanged, *de facto* unpunished, everywhere in Greece except in Sparta (*Lac.* 9.4; cf. Lyc. 1.129–30). As for the Spartans, they did employ the same shame-based rationale as they valued willingness, *aischyné* and obedience in war (Brasidas in Thuc. 5.9.9; cf. 1.84.3, and 5.104 for the Melians' delusional expectations), and Xenophon himself reports that their punishment for *ataxia* was based on shame (*Hell.* 3.19: considered a stain, κηλῖς).

The passage from Lysias' *Against Simon* above (3.45) brings us from institutionalized top-down violence to bottom-up outrage on the part of the soldiers against their officers, an occurrence which seems both relatively frequent and rarely, if ever, seriously punished. The murder of civilians(?) by a hipparch of the Thirty provoked a strong—albeit rather vague—reaction by his own horsemen (*Hell.* 2.4.46 πολλῶν χαλεπῶς φερόντων). In the *Anabasis* alone, besides Xenophon's trial we find that a mercenary officer employing unjustified *bia* could face the death penalty (6.6.7 and 6.6.15: see §2; cf. 5.7.2–5 and 5.7.19–23): Clearchus himself was nearly lynched twice after attempting to impose illegitimate decisions, that is, issuing orders that breached the terms of employment (1.3.1–2) and punishing one of Menon's soldiers (5.11–12); an unnamed Arcadian later tried to have Xenophon stoned to death (7.6.10); finally, no fewer than six hundred soldiers literally forced their way onto Xenophon's expedition (8.11 συνεξέρχονται δὲ αὐτῷ καὶ ἄλλοι βιασάμενοι) simply because they felt they were being left out of a

⁶⁰ Pritchett (n. 27), 233–5 and Couvenhes (n. 27), 441–3; Fernández Nieto (n. 56); van Wees (n. 57), 106–15; add Xen. *Lac.* 9; on *astrateia* and draft-dodging, see Canevaro (n. 9 [2013]), especially 37–9, and id., 'Courage in war and the courage of the war dead – ancient and modern reflections', in M. Giangiulio, E. Franchi and G. Proietti (edd.), *Commemorating War and War Dead, Ancient and Modern* (Stuttgart, 2019), 187–205 on courage and shame.

profitable raid. The last episode could be easily explained in terms of mercenary mentality, but again it is worth noting that the same attitude, based on reciprocity, desert and mutual claims, can be found already in Homer.⁶¹ In all these cases legitimacy emerges as a central issue, to the point that its (real or perceived) absence in an officer's decisions could justify violent reactions from the soldiers. Both institutionally enforced, top-down violence and spontaneous, bottom-up retaliatory violence could be seen as appropriate, forming mutually entwined dynamics underpinned by moral and social norms.

All things considered, the issue is not whether Greek officials had the prerogative of using violence—the evidence clearly shows that they did. However, it also proves that they were invariably held accountable whenever they recurred to it according to the rule of law.⁶² Gratuitous violence, or even the perceived infraction of a contractual relationship on the part of an officer, could result in soldiers legitimately refusing to obey and even retaliating. Xenophon won the debate in *An.* 5.8 by justifying his use of violence and by proving that he had respected his obligations as an officer. As part of his process he shamed the soldiers who, on the other hand, had failed to exercise control on deviant behaviour: as we draw conclusions, we shall go back to the original setting of Xenophon's incident with the mule-driver to further frame these dynamics.

CONCLUSION

At the end of the march through the Armenian mountains, the Greeks employed a village chief as a guide, but at some point the Spartan officer Cheirisophus got angry (*An.* 4.6.2 ἐχολεπόνθη) and beat him (4.6.3 ἔπαισεν). The chief fled and his maltreatment caused friction between Xenophon and Cheirisophus.⁶³ Xenophon does not tell us much more but, importantly, he explains that Cheirisophus lost his temper when the chief failed to lead them to a village, the reason being simply that there was none to be found in the area (4.6.2), a statement which later seems confirmed by the fact that the Greeks had to travel a long way before they eventually found settlements (cf. 4.6.4–5 and 4.6.27). Thus Xenophon reproached his colleague not because of the violence *per se* (note that the chief had been compelled to serve, since the Greeks held his son hostage: 4.6.1), but rather because it had been prompted only by Cheirisophus' frustration in contrast with the chief's good faith, and was therefore both wanton and unnecessary.⁶⁴ In Aristotelian terms, we may say that Cheirisophus

⁶¹ Cf. e.g. Agamemnon's infraction motivating Achilles' anger (V. Andò, 'Vino e sistema di valori nei poemi omerici', *Thalassa* 1 [2004], 87–99, at 90); insubordination among Odysseus' men owing to unfair distribution of (material and non-material) goods: *Od.* 10.37–45; cf. *Od.* 9.42 and see W. Donlan, 'Political reciprocity in Dark Age Greece: Odysseus and his *hetairoi*', in C. Gill, N. Postlethwaite and R. Seaford (ed.), *Reciprocity in Ancient Greece* (Oxford and New York, 1998), 51–71, at 58–67; on reciprocity and mutual claims in Homer, see Hammer (n. 25), 158–60; D.L. Cairns, 'Homeric values and the virtues of kingship', in F.H. Mutschler (ed.), *The Homeric Epics and the Chinese Book of Songs* (Newcastle upon Tyne, 2018), 381–409, especially at 381–7 and 394–5.

⁶² On the rule of law in military contexts, see E.M. Harris, 'Military organisation and one-man rule in the Greek *polis*', *Ktèma* 40 (2015), 83–91; id. (n. 4), especially 111–16, 121–2.

⁶³ Their only quarrel ever, according to this passage: but see *An.* 4.1.19. Flower (n. 2), 194–5 notes similarities between Cheirisophus and Clearchus.

⁶⁴ As well as dangerous and irrational: cf. Xenophon's advice on avoiding punishing even slaves out of *orgê* (*Hell.* 5.3.7); see P.A. Tuci, "'Apronoëtos orgê': the role of anger in Xenophon's vision of history", in A. Kapellos (ed.), *Xenophon on Violence* (Berlin and Boston, 2019), 25–44.

had struck in order to dishonour the victim or to please himself (*Rh.* 1374a13–15).⁶⁵ Although the mule-driver never openly states it, his starting assumption must have been that Xenophon had beaten him first and foremost with this same hybristic intention to humiliate: compare the remark of Demosthenes (21.72) that for a free man the awareness of having been hit ἐφ' ὕβρει is much worse than the pain itself.⁶⁶ It is now even more evident why, in his trial, Xenophon takes great care to prove that his actions had been an entirely different matter.

Disciplinary action in Greek armies was a delicate, complex matter even if violence was a relatively familiar occurrence in society. As a general rule, coercion could be both legally and socially contentious: instead, the sense of shame generated by pointing out one's failings and misdeeds vis-à-vis the common good, in front of an audience, was seen as a strong normative force, although not always effective in practice.

The one kind of situation in which violence could be presented as a commander's acceptable on-the-spot decision was that of emergency. Acting in the interest of the army, an officer could force a soldier who was harming the army owing to cowardice, selfishness or other forms of *kakia*. In the trial that would normally follow, consistently with the overarching rationale a sensible commander would shame the soldier and point out his inadequacies. Ideally, the soldier would feel this shame not as the result of suffering hybristic abuse but rather as the result of realizing (or at least seeing the audience realize) his own failure to respect the shared values which allowed an army to survive: this was common knowledge as early as Agamemnon's exhortation to the men to seek safety through mutual *aidós* (*Il.* 5.530–2 ἀλλήλους τ' αἰδεῖσθε).⁶⁷ The commander, on his part, would have to demonstrate that violence was motivated by his concern for the army, competence⁶⁸ and a situation of emergency. Consistently, Xenophon explained to the ambassadors from Sinope that the army had acted not out of *hybris* but out of necessity (*An.* 5.5.16 οὐχ ὕβρει ἀλλὰ ἀνάγκη)⁶⁹ in ravaging lands which had failed to provide a market. It is no coincidence that the incident which led to Xenophon's trial occurred when the army's goal was survival, in Armenia (Book 4), but was only questioned later, in the relatively safe area of Trapezous (Book 5).

In the proper context, violence on the part of an officer would conform to the aforementioned principles, displaying his virtues and eventually meeting the approval of the soldiers. Persuasion remained the preferable means of issuing 'orders' to Greek soldiers, but coercion, when legitimized by an emergency, was ultimately based on exactly the same notion: mutual respect, contractual obligations, common interests and the condemnation of shameful, wanton selfishness. Both the legal and the moral norms regulating military conduct were concerned with censuring failure to abide to the values of the community, and thus shame was regarded as a fundamental normative

⁶⁵ Cf. *Rh.* 1378b23–8 and *Eth. Nic.* 1129a31–b11, with Cairns (n. 6 [1996]), 5 and *passim*.

⁶⁶ Cf. Phillips (n. 5), 27; on this and other relevant passages, see E.M. Harris, 'How to "act" in an Athenian court: emotions and forensic performance', in S. Papaioannou, A. Serafim and B. da Vela (edd.), *The Theatre of Justice. Aspects of Performance in Greco-Roman Oratory and Rhetoric* (Leiden and Boston, 2017), 223–42, at 227–8; note Demosthenes' mention of the proper reaction (*orgē*) to *atimia* (cf. *Arist. Rh.* 1378b32–6) and see §3 above on Plato.

⁶⁷ On this passage and the similar social appeal of Callin. fr. 1 W., see Cairns (n. 36), 160–1.

⁶⁸ Traits which Xenophon repeatedly attributes to himself, at least in his public speeches: Flower (n. 2), ch. 6 *passim*.

⁶⁹ That is, a statement aimed to dissociate the act from malicious intentions; on this ordinary expression, see Cairns (n. 6 [2020]), 164 with n. 30.

principle: as a final example, consistently extending the matter to the civic sphere—whose distinction from the military now appears limited—consider Demosthenes' public appeal to shame as the greatest source of normativity (Dem. 4.10 ἐγὼ μὲν γὰρ οἶμαι τοῖς ἐλευθέροις μεγίστην ἀνάγκην τὴν ὑπὲρ τῶν πραγμάτων αἰσχύνην εἶναι). Authority would come not simply from an officer's institutional power but from that of the whole community, and this means that peer pressure and group dynamics operated alongside with, and at times possibly above or in place of, formal hierarchy. The episode of Xenophon's trial in the *Anabasis* encapsulates all the main elements of this rationale and exemplifies the Greek conceptualization of reputation, discipline and shame in a military context.

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