

## Part of an edict against Arius and his followers

Reference Numbers	Urk. 33 Doc. 28 CPG 2041
Incipit	Τοὺς νονηροὺς καὶ ἄσεβεῖς
Date	333
Ancient source used	Athanasius, <i>Defense of the Nicene Definition</i> 39
Modern edition used	H-G. Opitz, <i>Athanasius Werke</i> , vol. 2.1 (Berlin: De Gruyter, 1940).
Other ancient Greek sources	Socrates, <i>Church History</i> 1.9.30 and Gelasius, <i>Church History</i> 2.36.1
Ancient Syriac sources	2 manuscripts: Brit. Mus. Add. 14,528 and Vatican Borg. Syr. 82
Modern edition of Syriac	Fredrich Schulthess, "Die syrischen Kanones der Synoden von Nicaea bis Chalcedon." <i>Abhandlungen der Königlichen Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen, Philologisch-Historische Klasse</i> N.F. 10, no. 2 (Berlin: Weidmannsche Buchhandlung, 1908) pp. 1-2

**(1.)** The great and victorious Constantine Augustus to the bishops and laity:

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 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. **(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.

And in another hand:

God will watch over you, beloved brothers.

Translation by AJW

Other translation in Socrates (NPNF<sup>2</sup> vol. 2, p. 14)

[Back to Early Arian Documents](#) – [Next Arian Document](#)

[Back to Arius](#)

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