
Παραδοσις Πιλατου Π THE HANDING OVER OF PILATE

INTRODUCTION

The *Handing Over of Pilate* (aka the *Paradosis of Pilate*) is an account of Pilate being brought to Rome for judgment before Emperor Tiberius for his execution of Jesus. It is, perhaps, the earliest witness to name Pilate's wife as Procla.

The text survives in several medieval Greek manuscripts, which often contain other texts from the Pilate Cycle. The Greek text here presented is that of [Constantine von Tischendorf](#), in his 1853 publication, *Evangelia Apocrypha*; the English text is closely based on [Alexander Walker's 1886 translation](#).

AUTHORSHIP AND DATES

The earliest surviving MSS are from the 12th Century, but the work is thought to date from the 4th/5th Century. Some scholars suggest that the *Paradosis Pilati* may have been a sequel to the *Anaphora Pilati*, describing Tiberius' response; however, as neither work describes an author, other scholars reject this possibility but note that the author would have been familiar with the *Anaphora Pilati*. The 'beatification' of Pilate at the end of the text suggests that the work was written in the Eastern part of the Christian world.

Παραδοσις Πιλάτου 1

Φθασάντων δὲ τῶν γραμμάτων ἐν τῇ Ῥωμαίων πόλει καὶ ἀναγνωσθέντων τῷ Καίσαρι, οὐκ ὀλίγων ἐστώτων ἐκεῖ, ἅπαντες ἔκθαμβοι ἐγένοντο ὅτι διὰ τὴν τοῦ Πιλάτου παρανομίαν τὸ σκότος καὶ ὁ σεισμὸς ἐγένετο ἐφ' ὅλην τὴν οἰκουμένην. καὶ θυμοῦ πλησθεὶς ὁ Καίσαρ ἐκπέμψας στρατιώτας ἐκέλευσεν δέσμιον ἀγαγεῖν τὸν Πιλάτον.

HANDING OVER OF PILATE 1

And, the letters having come to the city of the Romans and having been read to Caesar, with not a few standing by, all were astounded, because through the wickedness of Pilate the darkness and the earthquake had come over the whole world. And Caesar, filled with rage, sent soldiers, and ordered them to bring Pilate in chains^a.

HANDING OVER OF PILATE 1

^a In place of 'in chains', Walker has 'a prisoner'.

Παραδοσις Πιλατου 2

Καὶ ἀχθέντος αὐτοῦ ἐν τῇ Ῥωμαίων πόλει, ἀκούσας ὁ Καῖσαρ ὅτι παρέστη ὁ Πιλάτος, ἐκαθέσθη ἐν τῷ ναῷ τῶν θεῶν ἐπὶ πάσης τῆς συγκλήτου καὶ σὺν παντὶ τῷ στρατεύματι καὶ παντὶ τῷ πλήθει τῆς δυνάμεως αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐκέλευσεν ἐν προόδῳ στήναι τὸν Πιλάτον. καὶ φησιν ὁ Καῖσαρ πρὸς αὐτόν· Τί τοιαῦτα ἐτόλμησας, δυσσεβέστατε, ἑωρακώς τηλικαῦτα σημεῖα εἰς τὸν ἄνδρα ἐκεῖνον; κακὴν πράξιν τολμήσας ὅλον τὸν κόσμον ὤλεσας.

HANDING OVER OF PILATE 2

And, when he was brought to the city of the Romans, Caesar, hearing that Pilate had arrived, sat in the temple of the gods, in the presence of all the senate, and with all the army, and all the multitude of his power; and he ordered Pilate to stand forward. And Caesar said^a to him, “Why have you, O most impious, dared to do such things, having seen so great miracles in that man? By daring to do an evil deed, you have endangered^b the whole world.”

HANDING OVER OF PILATE 2

^a The verb translated ‘said’ is present tense in the Greek text.

^b Walker has ‘destroyed’ in place of ‘endangered’.

Παραδοσις Πιλατου 3

Ὁ δὲ Πιλάτος ἔφη Αὐτοκράτωρ βασιλεῦ, ἐγὼ ἀναίτιος τούτων τυγχάνω, οἱ δὲ προπετεῖς καὶ αἵτιοι τὸ πλῆθος τῶν Ἰουδαίων ἐστίν. καὶ ὁ Καίσαρ ἔφη Καὶ τίνες οὗτοι; λέγει ὁ Πιλάτος Ἡρώδης, Ἀρχέλαος, Φίλιππος, Ἄννας καὶ Καϊάφας, καὶ ἅπαν τὸ πλῆθος τῶν Ἰουδαίων. λέγει ὁ Καίσαρ Τίνος ἐνεκεν τῇ βουλῇ ἐκείνων σὺ ἐξηκολούθησας; καὶ ὁ Πιλάτος λέγει Στασιαστὸν καὶ ἀνυπότακτόν ἐστιν τὸ ἔθνος αὐτῶν, μὴ ὑποτασσόμενον τῷ σὺ κράτει. καὶ ὁ Καῖσαρ εἶπεν Ἄμα παρέδωκάν σοι αὐτόν, ὅφειλες ἐν ἀσφαλείᾳ ποιῆσαι αὐτόν καὶ ἐκπέμψαι πρὸς μέ, καὶ μὴ πεισθῆναι αὐτοῖς σταυρῶσαι τὸν τοιοῦτον ἄνδρα δίκαιον ὄντα καὶ τοιαῦτα σημεῖα ἀγαθὰ ποιήσαντα, ὥς σὺ εἶπας διὰ τῆς σῆς ἀναφορᾶς· ἐκ γὰρ τῶν τοιούτων σημείων φανερόν ἦν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὁ Χριστὸς ὁ βασιλεὺς τῶν Ἰουδαίων.

HANDING OVER OF PILATE 3

And Pilate said, "O almighty emperor^a, I am innocent of these things; but the multitude of the Jews are violent and guilty. And Caesar^b said, "And who are they?" Pilate said, "Herod, Archelaus, Philip, Annas, and Caiaphas, and all the multitude of the Jews." Caesar said, "For what reason did you carry out their counsel?" And Pilate said, "Their nation is rebellious and unyielding, not submitting themselves to your power." And Caesar said, "When they delivered him to you, you ought to have made him secure, and to have sent him to me, and not to have obeyed them in crucifying such a man, righteous as he was, and one that did such good miracles, as you have said in your report. For, from such miracles, Jesus was manifestly the Christ, the King of the Jews."

HANDING OVER OF PILATE 3

^a Walker has 'king' in place of 'emperor'.

^b Throughout his text, Walker adds a definite article before 'Caesar'.

Παραδοσις Πιλατου 4

Καὶ ταῦτα εἰπόντος τοῦ Καίσαρος καὶ ὀνομάσαντος αὐτοῦ τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἅπαν τὸ πλῆθος τῶν θεῶν συνέπεσαν καὶ ἐγένοντο ὡσεὶ κονιορτός, ἔνθα ἐκαθέζετο ὁ Καῖσαρ μετὰ τῆς συγκλήτου. ὁ δὲ δῆμος ὁ παρεστηκώς τῷ Καίσαρι πάντες ἔντρομοι γεγόνασιν διὰ τὴν τοῦ ῥήματος ῥῆσιν καὶ πτώσιν τῶν θεῶν αὐτῶν, καὶ πάντες φόβῳ συσχεθέντες ἀπῆλθον ἕκαστος εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ, θαυμάζοντες τὸ γεγονός. ἐκέλευσεν δὲ ὁ Καῖσαρ μετὰ ἀσφαλείας φυλάττεσθαι τὸν Πιλάτον, ὅπως γινῶ τὸ ἀληθὲς περὶ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ.

HANDING OVER OF PILATE 4

And, as Caesar was thus speaking, when he named the name of Christ, all the multitude of the gods fell down in a body, and became as dust, where Caesar^a was sitting with the senate. And the people standing beside Caesar all began to tremble, on account of the speaking of the word, and the fall of their gods; and, being seized with terror, they all went away, each to his own house, wondering at what had happened. And the Caesar ordered Pilate to be kept under secure guard^b, in order that he might know the truth about Jesus.

HANDING OVER OF PILATE 4

^a Throughout his text, Walker adds a definite article before 'Caesar'.

^b In place of 'under secure guard', Walker has 'in security'.

Παραδοσις Πιλατου 5

Τῇ δὲ ἐπαύριον καθίσας ὁ Καῖσαρ ἐν τῷ καπετωλίῳ μετὰ πάσης τῆς συγκλήτου ἐπειρᾶτο πάλιν ἐρωτᾶν τὸν Πιλάτον. καὶ φησιν ὁ Καῖσαρ Λέγε τὸ ἀληθές, δυσσεβέστατε, ὅτι διὰ τῆς σῆς ἀσεβοῦς πράξεως ἧς ἐπεχείρησας κατὰ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ καὶ ἐνταῦθα ἐδείχθη τῶν κακῶν σου ἔργων ἡ πρᾶξις, τὸ τοὺς θεοὺς πτώσει ὑποβληθῆναι. λέγε οὖν Τίς ἐστὶν ἐκεῖνος ὁ σταυρωθείς, ὅτι τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ καὶ τοὺς θεοὺς πάντας ἀπώλεσεν; Πιλάτος ἔφη Καὶ μὴν τὰ ὑπομνήματα αὐτοῦ ἀληθῆ εἰσίν· καὶ γὰρ ἐγὼ αὐτὸς ἐπείσθην ἐκ τῶν ἔργων αὐτοῦ ὅτι μείζων ὑπῆρχεν πάντων ὧν σεβόμεθα θεῶν. καὶ ὁ Καῖσαρ ἔφη Τίνος οὖν ἔνεκεν τοιαύτην τόλμην καὶ πρᾶξιν ἐπήνεγκας κατ' αὐτοῦ, μὴ ἀγνοῶν τοῦτον, ἢ πάντως κακόν τι βουλόμενος περὶ τῆς ἐμῆς βασιλείας; ὁ δὲ Πιλάτος ἔφη Διὰ τὴν παρανομίαν καὶ στάσιν τῶν ἀνόμων καὶ ἀθέων Ἰουδαίων τοῦτο ἐποίησα.

HANDING OVER OF PILATE 5

And, on the following day, Caesar, sitting in the Capitol with all the senate, tried again to question Pilate. And Caesar said^a, “Tell the truth, O most impious; because, through your impious action, which you have perpetrated against Jesus, even here the doing of your wicked deeds has been shown by the gods having been cast down. Say, then, who is he that has been crucified; because even his name has destroyed all the gods?” Pilate said, “And indeed, the records of him are true; for, assuredly, I myself was persuaded from his works that he was greater than all the gods whom we worship.” And Caesar said, “For what reason, then, did you bring against him such audacity and such doings, if you were not ignorant of him, and altogether devising mischief against my kingdom?” Pilate said, “On account of the wickedness and rebellion of the lawless and ungodly Jews, I did this.”

HANDING OVER OF PILATE 5

^a The verb translated ‘said’ is present tense in the Greek text.

Παραδοσις Πιλατου 6

Θυμοῦ δὲ πλησθεὶς ὁ Καῖσαρ συμβούλιον ἐποίησεν μετὰ πάσης τῆς συγκλήτου καὶ τῆς δυνάμεως αὐτοῦ, καὶ κελεύει δόγμα γραφῆναι κατὰ τῶν Ἰουδαίων οὕτως Λικιανῶ τῷ τὰ πρῶτα τῆς ἀνατολικῆς ἐπέχοντι χώρας χαίρειν. Τὴν ἐν τοῖς παροῦσι καιροῖς γενομένην τόλμαν παρὰ τῶν τὴν Ἱερουσαλήμ οἰκούντων καὶ τὰς πέριξ πόλεις Ἰουδαίων παράνομόν τε πράξιν ἔγνω, ὡς θεόν τινα λεγόμενον Ἰησοῦν Πιλάτον κατηνάγκασαν σταυρῶσαι, διὰ τοῦ τοιούτου αὐτῶν πλημμελήματος δι' οὗ ὁ κόσμος σκοτισθεὶς εἰς ἀπώλειαν εἵλκετο. θέλησον οὖν σπουδαίως ἅμα πλήθους στρατιωτῶν παραγενέσθαι τοῖς ἐκεῖσε καὶ αἰχμαλωσίαν ἐκθέσθαι διὰ τούτου τοῦ δόγματος. πειθαρχῶν κινήσαι κατ' αὐτῶν καὶ ἐν διασποραῖς αὐτοὺς θέμενος ἐν πᾶσιν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν καταδούλωσον αὐτούς, καὶ τῆς Ἰουδαίας ἀπάσης ἐκδιώξας ὀλιγοστὸν τὸ ἔθνος αὐτῶν δεῖξον, ἐφ' ἅπασιν μὴ ὀφθῆναι ἔτι τοῦτο, πονηρίας μεστοὶ τυγχάνοντες.

HANDING OVER OF PILATE 6

And Caesar^a, being filled with rage, held a council with all his senate and his power, and ordered a decree to be written against the Jews as follows: To Licianus, governor of the chief places of the East, greetings. The reckless deed that has been done at the present time by the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the cities of the Jews round about, and their wicked action, has come to my knowledge, that they have forced Pilate to crucify a certain god named Jesus; and, on account of this great fault of theirs, the world has been darkened and dragged to destruction. Go to them speedily, with a multitude of soldiers, and make them prisoners, in accordance with this decree. Be obedient, and take action against them, and scatter them, and make them slaves among all the nations; and, having driven them out of the whole of Judaea, make them the smallest of nations, so that it may not any longer be seen at all, because they are full of wickedness.

HANDING OVER OF PILATE 6

^a Throughout his text, Walker adds a definite article before 'Caesar'.

Παραδοσις Πιλατου 7

Καὶ τοῦ δόγματος τούτου φθάσαντος ἐν τῇ ἀνατολικῇ χώρᾳ, Λικιανὸς πειθαρχήσας τῷ φόβῳ τοῦ δόγματος ἐν ἀναλώσει πᾶν τὸ ἔθνος τῶν Ἰουδαίων ἐποίησεν, τοὺς δὲ καταλειφθέντας ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ εἰς τὴν διασπορὰν τῶν ἐθνῶν δουλεύειν παρέσχεν, ὥστε γνωσθῆναι τῷ Καίσαρι ταῦτα τὰ γεγενημένα παρὰ Λικιανοῦ κατὰ τῶν Ἰουδαίων ἐν τῇ ἀνατολικῇ χώρᾳ καὶ ἀρέσαι αὐτῷ.

HANDING OVER OF PILATE 7

And, this decree having come into the region of the East, Licianus, obeying from fear of the decree, seized the entire nation^a of the Jews; and those that were left in Judaea he scattered among the nations and sold for slaves, so that it would be known to Caesar that these things had been done by Licianus against the Jews in the region of the East; and it would please him.

HANDING OVER OF PILATE 7

^a For 'the entire nation', Walker has 'all the nation'.

Παραδοσις Πιλατου 8

Καὶ πάλιν ἔθετο ὁ Καῖσαρ ἐρώτησιν ποιῆσαι τοῦ Πιλάτου, καὶ κελεύει ἐνὶ ἄρχοντι ὀνόματι Ἀλβίῳ τὴν κεφαλὴν Πιλάτου ἀποτεμεῖν, φήσας Καθὼς οὗτος χεῖρας ἐπήγαγεν ἐπὶ τὸν ἄνδρα τὸν δίκαιον τὸν λεγόμενον Χριστόν, καὶ αὐτὸς ὁμοίως πεσεῖται τῆς σωτηρίας ἀποτευζόμενος.

HANDING OVER OF PILATE 8

And again, Caesar set himself to question Pilate; and he ordered a captain named Albius to cut off Pilate's head, saying, "Just as he laid hands on the just man named Christ, in like manner also shall he fall, and he shall not find salvation^a."

HANDING OVER OF PILATE 8

^a Walker has 'safety' in place of 'salvation'.

Παραδοσις Πιλατου 9

Ὁ δὲ Πιλᾶτος ἀπελθὼν ἐπὶ τὸν τόπον ἠΰξατο σιωπῇ λέγων Κύριε, μὴ συναπολέσης με μετὰ τῶν πονηρῶν Ἑβραίων, ὅτι ἐγὼ χεῖρας κατὰ σοῦ οὐκ εἶχον ἐπενεγκεῖν εἰ μὴ διὰ τὸ ἔθνος τῶν παρανόμων Ἰουδαίων, ὅτι στάσιν κατ' ἐμοῦ ἐπήγαγον· ἀλλὰ σὺ γινώσκεις ὅτι ἀγνοῶν ἔπραξα. μὴ οὖν ἀπολέσης με τῇ ἁμαρτίᾳ μου ταύτῃ, ἀλλὰ ἀμνησικακήσον ἐπ' ἐμοί, κύριε, καὶ τῇ δούλῃ σου Πρόκλα τῇ ἱσταμένῃ μετ' ἐμοῦ ἐν τῇ ὥρᾳ ταύτῃ τοῦ θανάτου μου, ἣν ἀνέδειξας προφητεύειν ὅτι εἶχες σταυρῶ προσηλωθῆναι. μὴ ἐν τῇ ἐμῇ ἁμαρτίᾳ καὶ ταύτην καταδικάσης, ἀλλὰ συγχώρησον ἡμῖν καὶ ἐν μερίδι τῶν δικαίων σου συγκαταρίθμησον ἡμᾶς.

HANDING OVER OF PILATE 9

And Pilate, going away to the place, prayed in silence, saying, "Lord, do not destroy me along with the wicked Hebrews, because I would not have laid hands on you^a, except for the nation of the lawless Jews, because they were exciting rebellion against me. But you know that I did it in ignorance. Do not, then, destroy me for my sin; but do not remember evil against me, O Lord, and against your servant Procla, who is standing with me in this the hour of my death, whom you appointed to prophesy that you should be nailed to the cross. Do not condemn her also in my sin; but pardon us and number us among your righteous."

HANDING OVER OF PILATE 9

^a Throughout his work, Walker capitalizes pronouns that refer to God.

Παραδοσις Πιλάτου 10

Καὶ ἰδοὺ τελέσαντος τὴν εὐχὴν τοῦ Πιλάτου ἦλθεν φωνὴ ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ λέγουσα Μακαριοῦσίν σε πᾶσαι αἱ γενεαὶ καὶ αἱ πατριαὶ τῶν ἐθνῶν, ὅτι ἐπὶ σοῦ ἐπληρώθησαν ταῦτα πάντα τὰ ὑπὸ τῶν προφητῶν εἰρημένα περὶ ἐμοῦ· καὶ σὺ δὲ αὐτὸς μάρτυς μου ἐν τῇ δευτέρᾳ μου παρουσίᾳ ὀφθῆναι ἔχεις, ὅταν μέλλω κρίναι τὰς δώδεκα φύλας τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ καὶ τοὺς μὴ ὁμολογήσαντας τῷ ὀνόματί μου. Καὶ ἐξετίναξεν τὴν κεφαλὴν Πιλάτου ὁ πρέφεκτος, καὶ ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος κυρίου ἐδέξατο αὐτήν. ἰδοῦσα δὲ ἡ γυνὴ αὐτοῦ Πρόκλα τὸν ἄγγελον ἐρχόμενον καὶ δεχόμενον τὴν κεφαλὴν αὐτοῦ, χαρᾶς πλησθεῖσα καὶ αὐτὴ παραυτὰ ἀπέδωκεν τὸ πνεῦμα, καὶ ἐτάφη μετὰ τοῦ ἀνδρὸς αὐτῆς.

HANDING OVER OF PILATE 10

And, behold, when Pilate had finished his prayer, there came a voice out of the sky^a, saying, "All the generations and families of the nations shall count you blessed because, under you, have been fulfilled all those things said about me by the prophets; and you yourself shall be seen as my witness at my second appearing, when I shall judge the twelve tribes of Israel, and those that have not owned my name." And the prefect beheaded^b Pilate; and behold, an angel of the Lord received it. And his wife Procla, seeing the angel coming and receiving his head, being filled with joy herself also, immediately gave up the ghost, and was buried along with her husband.

HANDING OVER OF PILATE 10

^a The word translated 'sky' (οὐρανοῦ) can also mean 'heaven' (as Walker takes it).

^b Walker has 'struck of the head of' in place of 'beheaded'.