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Reading Cavafy

When, thanks to his persistence, I accepted Vassilis Lambropoulos' invitation to write by the end of February a text on Cavafy, I wanted to write about:

- choosing poems and reading them to and with Alexandra Charitatu over the phone, while my parents were away, and why this first encounter with Cavafy's poetry was very much connected with the tapes Vassilis was sending me from abroad, making me discover rock groups whose music still accompanies me;

- a scenery, outside the Greek island of Lefkada, that incarnates the poem « *Απολείπειν ο Θεός Αντώνιον* »;

-my resistance to read Cavafy's poems in earnest and why this is explained in a text by Andreas Kitsos-Mylonas published in the Greek review *Σημειώσεις* in 1983 ;

- why I am now ready to read the poems and why I owe the end of my resistance to legal texts, to my sister's travels and to a text by Manolis Savidis (Manuel Savidis, «Cavafy Through the Looking-Glass » posted on the website of the C.P. Cavafy Chair at the University of Michigan, 10/2/2005) .

But since 2004, February has become the month of absences. This February, the list of absences became longer. Two friends who accompanied me a lot with their words have now joined this list. They were close to Cavafy's poetry. In my daily work as a human rights lawyer, I often struggle to find the right words. For this reason, I will only write their names; their names will stand for any text I could write about Cavafy in February 2013 :

Stefanos Tassopoulos. Niki Marangou.

Irini Kitsou-Mylona, 28/02/2013, Strasbourg, France