LOOKING FOR THE RING

δακτύλιον (ring) πίπτει ἀπὸ τοῦ δακτύλου τοῦ Σοφοῦ ὅτε ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ ἔστιν. ὦ δὲ Σοφὸς ἔρχεται εἰς τοὺς ἄγροὺς καὶ ἵππει αὐτῷ. φίλος τις ὄρων τοῦτο ἐρωτᾷ αὐτὸν ἐρωτήμα: "ὦ φίλε, τί ποιεῖς?" ὦ δὲ Σοφὸς οὖδέν λέγει. ἄλλα ἤπτει. ὦ δὲ φίλος ἐρωτᾷ αὐτὸν τὸ αὐτό ἐρωτήμα: "ὦ φίλε, τί ποιεῖς?" ὦ δὲ Νασρέδδινος ἀποκρίνεται αὐτῷ "ἦτο τὸ δακτύλιον μου (ring). ἔπεσε (it fell) γὰρ ἀπὸ τοῦ δακτύλου μου ὅτε ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ ἦν." 8

ὦ δὲ φίλος ἐρωτᾷ αὐτὸν. "ἄλλ' ὦ Νασρέδδινε, εἰ ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ σου τὸ δακτύλιον (ring) ἦν ὅτε ἔπεσεν (it fell), τί ἐν τοῖς ἄγροις ζητεῖς αὐτά;" ἀποκρίνεται ο Σοφὸς "διότι ἐν μὲν τῇ οἰκίᾳ μου ἔστι σκοτιά, ἐν δὲ τοῖς ἄγροις ἔστι τὸ φῶς τὸ μέγα τοῦ ἡλίου." 9

πίπτω - fall (aorist ἔπεσον = I fell)
ἀπό - from, away from + gen.
ἡ οἰκία - home, house (cf. ὁ κόσμος = home --> economy, ecology)
ὁ ἄγρος - field --> acre --> agriculture (via Latin)
ζητεῖν - look for, seek, search
αὐτό - it

Verbs with Two Accusatives

Some verbs can take two accusatives, such as ἐρωτάω = ask, with accusative of thing asked and person; or αἰτέω = request, with accusative of thing requested and person

ἐρωτάω σε τοῦτο. I ask you this.
αἰτέω σε τοῦτο. I request this of you.

ὦ αὐτός, ἥ αὐτή, τὸ αὐτό - the same

ἡν - I was. (Also = he, she, it was. See line 10.)

Elision: ἄλλ' ὦ Νασρέδδινε

When one word ends with a short vowel and the next begins with a vowel, the end vowel may be dropped. This is called elision. An apostrophe shows where the vowel had been (as in the English don't).

ἡν - he, she, it was (Also I was. See line 8 above.)

μέν / δέ

Notice the μέν / δέ here. Always think of a pair of scales when you see μέν / δέ. These words bring to you two thoughts that are seen as somehow balancing each other. The δέ is simply the old connecting word we have already seen. And μέν is an early signal (postpositive) that a δέ is coming.

Translate: μέν on the one hand
δέ on the other

ἐστιν(ν) - exists, there exists (always accented on first syllable)
ἡ σκοτιά - darkness
tὸ φῶς - light --> phosphorus
ὁ ἥλιος - sun --> heliocentric