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Religio illicita? Roman legal interactions with early Christianity in context

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Οὐ γάρ τί μοι Ζεὺς ἦν ὁ κηρύξας τάδε,
οὐδ' ἡ ξύνοικος τῶν κάτω θεῶν Δίκη
τοιούσδ' ἐν ἀνθρώποισιν ὥρισεν νόμους,
οὐδὲ σθένειν τοσοῦτον ῥόμην τὰ σὰ
κηρύγμαθ' ὥστ' ἄγραπτα κάσφαλῆ θεῶν
νόμιμα δύνασθαι θνητά γ' ὄνθ' ὑπερδραμεῖν.

For it was not Zeus that had published me that edict;
not such are the laws set among men
by the Justice who dwells with the gods below;
nor deemed I that thy decrees were of such force,
that a mortal could override
the unwritten and unfailing statutes of heaven.

SOPHOCLES, *Antigone* 450-455
Translation by Richard Jebb (1962₃)



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