BYZANTINE GREEK SERIES · VOLUME 19

Ptochoprodromos and the Beast Poems

ΠΤΩΧΟΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ
ΠΟΥΛΟΛΟΓΟΣ
ΔΙΗΓΗΣΙΣ ΠΑΙΔΙΟΦΡΑΣΤΟΣ ΤΩΝ ΤΕΤΡΑΠΟΔΩΝ ΖΩΩΝ

Ptochoprodromos and the Beast Poems

Byzantine Vernacular Satire,
with Glykas, Spaneas, and Ptocholeon

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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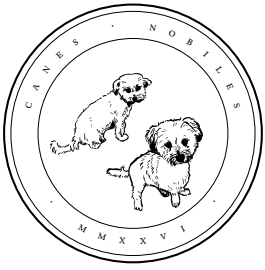

Volume 19 of the Canes Nobiles Byzantine Greek interlinear texts

The Byzantine Greek text follows the Prodromic poems in Dirk Christiaan Hesseling and Hubert Pernot, Poèmes prodromiques en grec vulgaire (Amsterdam, 1910); Glykas in Émile Legrand, Bibliothèque grecque vulgaire I (Paris, 1880); Spaneas, the Book of Birds, and the Quadrupeds in Wilhelm Wagner, Carmina graeca medii aevi (Leipzig, 1874); and Ptocholeon in Legrand's Histoire de Ptocholéon (Paris, 1872)

Translated and composed with AI, edited by Christopher Hench
Artwork by Esther Steves

The texts are the editors', with their capitals and punctuation, except as follows. In Ptocholeon the verses begin in lowercase where no sentence begins, and the guillemet Legrand repeats before every verse of a speech prints once, at its opening; in Glykas, where his commas print as stops in the edition, they read as commas. Words Wagner brackets as interpolated are not printed, and the editors' supplements print without their brackets; three asterisks mark a lacuna, and an asterisk before a word in the poems Wagner edits marks a word he doubts. The second Prodromic poem prints manuscript G, the text the editors number, not manuscript H, which they set beside it. The margins give each edition's verse numbers.

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PTOCHOPRODROMOS

ΠΤΩΧΟΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ

Four Poems of Complaint

Τοῦ Προδρόμου κυροῦ Θεοδώρου
πρὸς τὸν βασιλέα τὸν Μαυροϊωάννην

I · THE QUARRELSOME WIFE

The poet asks what return he can make the crowned emperor for his benefactions and offers playful verses, though his pain is real: a clever, quarrelsome wife, who he fears may learn what he writes. In her own voice she complains: twelve years without a new garment, a ring, or a bracelet; her house falling to ruin; and all the work hers while he sits idle. She was noble and rich, she says, and he a poor Ptochoprodromos who should have married a tavern-keeper's daughter.

Τί σοὶ προσοίσω, δέσποτα, δέσποτα στεφηφόρε,
What to-you shall-I-offer lord lord crown-bearing
ἀνταμοιβὴν ὁποίανδε ἢ χάριν προσενέγκω
recompense of-what-sort or favor shall-I-bring
ἐξισωμένην πρὸς τὰς σὰς λαμπρὰς εὐεργεσίας,
equal to the your splendid benefactions
τὰς γινομένας εἰς ἐμὲ τοῦ κράτους σου παντοίας;
the done to me of-the majesty your manifold
Πρό τινος ἤδη πρὸ καιροῦ καὶ πρὸ βραχέος χρόνου, 5
Before some already before time and before short while
οὐκ εἶχον οὖν, ὁ δύστηνος, τὸ τί προσαγαγεῖν σοι
not I-had then the wretched the what to-bring to-you
κατάλληλον τῷ κράτει σου καὶ τῇ χρηστότητί σου,
fitting to-the majesty your and to-the goodness your
καὶ τῇ περιφανείᾳ σου καὶ χαριτότητί σου,
and to-the splendor your and graciousness your
εἰ μὴ τινὰς πολιτικοὺς ἀμέτρους πάλιν στίχους,
if not some political unmetrical again verses

συνεσταλμένους, παίζοντας, ἀλλ᾽ οὐκ ἀναισχυντῶντας,
restrained playing but not shameless
παίζουσι γὰρ καὶ γέροντες, ἀλλὰ σωφρονεστέρως.
play for also old-men but more-soberly
Μὴ οὖν ἀποχωρίσῃς τους, μηδ᾽ ἀποπέμψῃς, μᾶλλον
Not then set-aside them nor send-away rather
ὡς κοδιμέντα δέξου τους ποσῶς ἂν οὐ μυρίζουν,
as condiments receive them at-all if not they-smell
καὶ φιλευσπλάγχνως ἄκουσον ἅπερ ὁ τάλας γράφω.
and compassionately hear what the wretch I-write
Κἂν φαίνωμαι γάρ, δέσποτα, γελῶν ὁμοῦ καὶ παίζων,
Even-if I-seem for lord laughing together and playing
ἀλλ᾽ ἔχω πόνον ἄπειρον καὶ θλίψιν βαρυτάτην,
yet I-have pain boundless and affliction heaviest
καὶ χαλεπὸν ἀρρώστημα, καὶ πάθος, ἀλλὰ πάθος!
and grievous sickness and affliction but affliction
Πάθος ἀκούσας τοιγαροῦν μὴ κήλην ὑπολάβῃς,
Affliction having-heard therefore not hernia suppose
μηδ᾽ ἄλλο τι χειρότερον ἐκ τῶν μυστικωτέρων,
nor other any worse of the more-secret
μὴ κερατᾶν τὸ φανερόν, μὴ ταντανοτραγάτην,
not cuckold the obvious not goatish-horns
μὴ νόσημα καρδιακόν, μὴ περιφλεγμονίαν,
not disease of-the-heart not inflammation
μὴ σκορδαψόν, μηδ᾽ ὕδερον, μὴ παραπνευμονίαν,
not colic nor dropsy not pleurisy
ἀλλὰ μαχίμου γυναικὸς πολλὴν εὐτραπελίαν,
but of-quarrelsome wife much wit

προβλήματα προβάλλουσα καὶ πιθανολογίας
problems putting-forward and specious-arguments
καὶ τὸ δοκεῖν εὐλόγως μοι προφέρεται πλουτάρχως.
and the to-seem reasonably to-me she-speaks Plutarch-like
Καὶ θέλω δεῖξαι προφανῶς τὴν ταύτης μοχθηρίαν,
And I-wish to-show plainly the her wickedness
ἀλλὰ φοβοῦμαι, δέσποτα, τοὺς ἰταμωδεστέρους,
but I-fear lord the more-reckless(-ones)
μήπως ἐμὲ ἀκούσωσι, καὶ ὑπάγουν εἰς τὸ ὀσπίτιν
lest me they-hear and go to the house
καὶ νὰ μὲ πιττακώσωσιν ἐκ τῶν ἀπροσδοκήτων·
and that me they-denounce from the unexpected
καὶ κρεῖσσον εἶχον, δέσποτα, τὸ νὰ μὲ θάψουν ζῶντα,
and better I-would-hold lord the that me they-bury living
καὶ νὰ μὲ βάλουν εἰς τὴν γῆν, καὶ νὰ μὲ περιχώσουν,
and that me they-put into the earth and that me they-cover-over
παρὰ νὰ μάθῃ τίποτε τῶν ἄρτι γραφομένων.
than that she-learn anything of-the now being-written
Φοβοῦμαι γὰρ τὸ στόμαν της, φοβοῦμαι τὴν ὀργήν της,
I-fear for the mouth her I-fear the anger her
τὰς ἀπειλάς της δέδοικα καὶ τὴν ἀποστροφήν της.
the threats her I-dread and the aversion her
Εἰ δὲ πολλάκις δόξει την καὶ φθάσει ὁ καρκατζᾶς της,
If and perhaps it-seems-good to-her and comes the head her
καὶ ὁρίσει τὰ ψυχάρια της καὶ τὴν πρωτοβαβᾶν της,
and she-orders the servants her and the chief-nurse her
καὶ πιάσουν καὶ ταυρίσουν με καὶ σύρουν με εἰς τὴν μέσην,
and they-seize and drag me and pull me into the middle
καὶ δώσουν μὲ τὰ τρίκωλα καὶ τὰ χαρακτικά μου,
and strike with the stools and the scrapers my

τίς ἔλθῃ καὶ ἐκδικήσῃ με καὶ ἐκβάλῃ με ἀπ᾽ ἐκείνης;
who will-come and avenge me and rescue me from her
Ὅμως κἂν οὕτως γένηται, κἂν οὕτως κἂν ἀλλοίως,
Yet even-if thus it-happen whether thus or otherwise
καιρὸς λοιπὸν τὰ κατ᾽ ἐμὲ πάντα σοι σαφηνίσαι·
time then the(-things) about me all to-you to-make-clear
οὐ φέρω γάρ, ὦ δέσποτα, τὴν ταύτης μοχθηρίαν,
not I-bear for O lord the her wickedness
τοὺς καθ᾽ ἡμέραν χλευασμοὺς καὶ τὰς ὀνειδισίας·
the by day mockings and the reproaches
„τό, κύρι, οὐκ ἔχεις προσοχήν· τό, κύρι, πῶς τὸ λέγεις;
the sir not you-have attention the sir how it you-say
τό, κύρι, τί προσέθηκας; τό, κύρι, τί ἐπεκτήσω;
the sir what did-you-add the sir what did-you-acquire
ποῖον ἱμάτιον μὲ ἔρραψας; ποιὸν δίμιτον μὲ ἐποῖκες;
what garment for-me did-you-sew what twill for-me did-you-make
καὶ ποιὸν γυρὶν μὲ ἐφόρεσας; οὐκ οἶδα Πασχαλίαν·
and what hem on-me did-you-put not I-know Easter
ἔχεις με χρόνους δώδεκα ψυχροὺς καὶ ἀσβολωμένους,
you-have me years twelve cold and sooty
οὐκ ἔβαλα ἀπὸ κόπου σου τατίκιν εἰς ποδάριν,
not I-put from toil your shoe on foot
οὐκ ἔβαλα εἰς τὴν ῥάχιν μου μεταξωτὸν ἱμάτιν,
not I-put on the back my silken garment
οὐκ εἶδα εἰς τὸ δακτύλιν μου κρικέλιν δακτυλίδιν,
not I-saw on the finger my little-ring ring
οὐδὲ βραχιόλιν με ἔφερες ποτὲ νὰ τὸ φορέσω.
nor bracelet to-me you-brought ever that it I-wear
Οἱ ξένοι κατακόπτουσι τὰ γονικά μου ῥοῦχα,
The strangers cut-up the parental my clothes

καὶ ἐγὼ καθέζομαι γυμνὴ καὶ παραπονεμένη.
and I sit naked and aggrieved

Ποτὲ οὐκ ἐλούθην εἰς λουτρὸν νὰ μὴ στραφῶ θλιμμένη,
Ever not I-bathed in bath that not I-came-back grieved

ἡμέραν οὐκ ἐχόρτασα, νὰ μὴ πεινάσω δύο,
day not I-was-full that not I-hungered two

στενάζω πάντοτε, θρηνῶ καὶ κόπτομαι καὶ κλαίω.
I-groan always lament and beat-myself and weep

Τὴν θάλασσαν τὴν μὲ ἔφερες, γνωρίζεις, ἔπαρέ την·
The sea-gown which to-me you-brought you-know take it

τὸ διβλαντάριν τὸ κουτνίν, καὶ τὸ ὑψηλὸν διβίκιν,
the cloak the cotton and the high bonnet

καὶ τὸ μεγαλογράμματον ἱμάτιν τὸ κνηκᾶτον,
and the large-patterned garment the saffron

ἢ χάρισον, ἢ πώλησον, ἢ δὸς ὁποῦ κελεύεις·
either give-away or sell or give where you-bid

τὰ λουτρικὰ τὰ μὲ ἔποικες καὶ τὸ κραββατοστρῶσιν
the bath-things which for-me you-made and the bed-cover

εἰς κλῆρον νὰ τὰ δέξωνται οἱ παῖδες σου πατρῷον·
as inheritance that them receive the children your paternal

τὰ γονικά σου πράγματα καὶ ἡ οἰκοσκευή σου
the parental your things and the household-goods your

ἀρκοῦν τὰς θυγατέρας σου νὰ τὰς ἐξωπροικίσῃς·
suffice the daughters your that them you-dower

καὶ σὺ ἂς εἶσαι σιγηρὸς καὶ ἀπομεριμνημένος.
and you let be quiet and carefree

Ἐπεντρανίζεις, ἄνθρωπε, κἂν ὅλως θεωρεῖς με;
Do-you-look man even at-all do-you-see me

ἐγὼ ἤμην ὑπολῃπτικὴ καὶ σὺ ἤσουν ματζουκᾶτος·
I was respectable and you were club-bearer

ἐγὼ ἤμην εὐγενικὴ καὶ σὺ πτωχὸς πολίτης,
I was noble and you poor citizen
σὺ εἶσαι Πτωχοπρόδρομος καὶ ἐγὼ ἤμην Ματζουκίνη,
you are Ptochoprodromos and I was Matzoukina
σὺ ἐκοιμῶ εἰς τὸ ψιαθὶν καὶ ἐγὼ εἰς τὸ κλινάριν·
you slept on the mat and I on the bed
ἐγὼ εἶχον προῖκα περισσήν, καὶ σὺ εἶχες ποδο ***
I had dowry abundant and you had (-podo-) (lacuna)
ἐγὼ εἶχον ἀσημοχρύσαφον, καὶ σὺ εἶχες σκαφοδούγας,
I had silver-and-gold and you had trough-staves
καὶ σκάφην τοῦ ζυμώματος καὶ μέγαν πυροστάτην.
and trough of-the kneading and great trivet
Καθέζεσαι εἰς τὸ ὀσπίτιν μου, καὶ ἐνοίκιον οὐ φροντίζεις,
You-sit in the house my and rent not you-care-for
τὰ μάρμαρα ἠφανίσθησαν, ὁ πάτος συνεπτώθη,
the marbles have-vanished the floor has-caved-in
τὰ κεραμίδια ἐλύθησαν, τὸ στέγος ἐσαπρώθη,
the tiles have-come-loose the roof has-rotted
οἱ τοῖχοι καταπίπτουσιν, ἐξεχερσώθη ὁ κῆπος,
the walls fall-down has-gone-wild the garden
κοσμήτης οὐκ ἀπέμεινεν, οὐ γύψος, οὐδὲ σπέτλον,
cornice not remained not plaster nor lath
οὐδὲ ῥηγλὶν μαρμάρινον, οὐ συγκοπὴ μετρία,
nor molding marble not repair modest
αἱ θύραι συνεστράφησαν ἐξ ὁλοκλήρου πᾶσαι,
the doors have-warped from wholly all
τὰ κάγκελλα ἐξηλώθησαν ἀπ᾽ ἄκρας ἕως ἄκραν,
the railings came-unnailed from end to end
καὶ τὰ στηθαῖα ἔπεσον τὰ πρὸς τὸ περιβόλιν,
and the parapets fell the toward the garden

Θύραν οὐκ ἤλλαξάς ποτε, σανίδιν οὐκ εὐψύχει,
Door not you-changed ever plank not stands-firm
ποτὲ οὐκ ἐξεκεράμωσας, οὐδὲ ἀνερράψω τοῖχον,
ever not you-retiled nor patched wall
οὐ τέκτονα ἐκάλεσας ἵνα τὸν περιρράψῃ,
not carpenter you-called that it he-mend
οὔτε καρφὶν ἠγόρασας νὰ ἐμπήξῃς εἰς σανίδιν.
nor nail you-bought that you-drive into plank
Βλέπουν σε τὰ ψυχάρια μου καὶ ἔχουν σε ὡς αὐθέντην,
See you the servants my and hold you as master
φοβοῦνται, παραστήκονται, δουλεύουν καὶ τιμῶσιν.
they-fear wait-on serve and honor
Ἐγὼ κρατῶ τὸ ὀσπίτιν σου καὶ τὴν ὑποταγήν σου,
I keep the house your and the household your
δουλεύω τὰ παιδία σου παρὰ βαβᾶν καλλίστην,
I-serve the children your beyond nurse best
οἰκονομῶ τὰ κατὰ σέ, τρέχω, μοχθῶ, διώκω,
I-manage the(-things) about you I-run toil hurry
καὶ κάμνω λινοβάμβακον ἱμάτιν καὶ φορῶ το,
and I-make linen-cotton garment and wear it
ἔχεις με κουρατόρισσαν, ἔχεις με ἀναπλαρέαν,
you-have me stewardess you-have me carder
καὶ κάμνω καὶ τὰ μαλλωτά, κάμνω καὶ τὰ ναρθήκια·
and I-make also the woolens I-make also the reed-cases
ἔχεις με ψιλονήτριαν, καὶ κάμνω τὸ λινάριν,
you-have me fine-spinner and I-make the linen
κάμνω ὑποκαμισόβρακα, στιβάζω τὸ βαμβάκιν·
I-make shirts-and-drawers I-beat the cotton
ἔχεις με προσμονάριον ὁμοῦ καὶ ἐκκλησιάρχην,
you-have me sacristan together and church-warden

καὶ κανονάρχην σὺν αὐτοῖς, καὶ χωρικὸν νοτάρην,
and precentor with them and village notary
καὶ σὺ καθέζεσαι ὡς πωλὶν χασμένον εἰς τὸ βρῶμα,
and you sit as chick lost in the filth
καὶ καθ' ἡμέραν προσδοκᾷς τί νὰ σὲ παραβάλλω.
and by day you-expect what that to-you I-serve
Τὸ τί σὲ θέλω ἐξαπορῶ, τὸ τί σὲ χρήζω οὐκ οἶδα·
The what you I-want I-am-at-a-loss the what you I-need not I-know
ἂν οὐκ ἐθάρρεις κολυμβᾶν, κολυμβητὴς μὴ ἐγένου,
if not you-dared to-swim swimmer not you-should-have-been
ἀλλ' ἂς ἐκάθου σιγηρὸς καὶ ἀπομεριμνημένος,
but if-only you-had-sat quiet and carefree
καὶ ἂς ἔκνηθες τὴν λέπραν σου, καὶ ἂς ἤφινες ἐμέναν.
and if-only you-had-scraped the scab your and if-only you-had-left me
Εἰ δὲ κομπώσειν ἤθελες καὶ λάβειν καὶ πλανήσειν,
If but to-cheat you-wished and to-take and to-deceive
ἂς ἔλαβες ὁμοίαν σου, καπήλου θυγατέραν,
if-only you-had-taken like your of-tavern-keeper daughter
κουτσοπαρδάλαν τίποτε γυμνήν, ἠπορημένην,
lame-speckled some naked destitute
ἢ χορταρίναν τρίφυλλον ἀπὸ τὰ μανινέα.
or herb-seller trefoil from the fields
Καὶ τί με παρωδήγησας τὴν ἀπωρφανισμένην
And why me did-you-mislead the orphaned
μὲ τὰ συχνογυρίσματα καὶ μὲ τὰς κομπωσίας,
with the frequent-visits and with the deceits
καὶ μὲ τοὺς ὀψικάτορας καὶ τὸ πολὺν ὀψίκιν;"
and with the retinue-men and the great retinue

To write down everything, the poet says, would take another catalog of heroes. Once, when he came home empty-handed, she locked the bread and wine away and shut herself in. He battered the door with a broom, fell sprawling, and was laughed at. While the neighbors tended a fallen child, he stole the key and ate. Next day, smelling a stew, he came disguised as a foreign beggar, was driven off by his own children, and was fed. Unless the emperor's gifts arrive, he fears he will be killed.

Ἐν ἐπιτόμῳ τοιγαροῦν, δέσποτα, δέσποτά μου,
In brief therefore lord lord my
ἐκ τῶν πολλῶν ὁ δοῦλος σου τινὰ παρεστησάμην.
of the many(-things) the servant your some(-things) I-have-set-out
Εἰ γὰρ ἠθέλησά ποτε τὰ πάντα σοὶ συγγράψαι,
If for I-had-wished ever the all to-you to-write
ἡρώων ἂν κατάλογον ἄλλον συνεγραψάμην·
of-heroes — catalog another I-would-have-composed
ἀλλ' ἔτι τὰ λεγόμενα ἀρκοῦσι φιλαλήθως
but still the(-things) said suffice truthfully
καὶ πρόδηλα τυγχάνουσι καὶ πεφανερωμένα·
and plain are and made-manifest
καὶ κἂν ἀλήθειαν ἔχωσι καὶ πιθανολογίας,
and even-if truth they-have and plausibilities
ψευδῆ τὰ πάντα, δέσποτα, καὶ λῆρον ὀνομάζω,
false the all lord and nonsense I-call(-them)
καὶ μῦθον τὰ λεγόμενα καλῶ καὶ φληναφίας·
and fable the(-things) said I-call and drivel
ἔχουσι γὰρ τινὰ ῥητὰ πικρίας πεπλησμένα.
they-have for some sayings with-bitterness filled
Ἡ δὲ τὰς ἀποκρίσεις μου μὴ καταδεχομένη,
She and the answers my not accepting

στήκει, τριχομαδίζεται, δέρει τὰ μάγουλά της·
stands tears-her-hair beats the cheeks her
συνάγει τὰ παιδία της, ἀπαίρει καὶ τὴν ῥόκαν,
gathers the children her takes-up also the distaff
ἐμβαίνει εἰς τὸ κουβούκλιν της, κλείει σφικτὴν τὴν θύραν,
goes-in into the bedchamber her shuts tight the door
μουλλώνεται καὶ κρύπτεται, ἐμὲ δ' ἀφίνει ἔξω,
sulks and hides me but leaves outside
ὡς τὸ ἐποῖκεν πρὸ πολλοῦ, δέσποτα στεφηφόρε,
as it she-did before much(-time) lord crown-bearing
ὅταν ἐστράφην σάβουρος ἀπ' ὧδε παρ' ἐλπίδα·
when I-returned empty-handed from here beyond hope
ἡνίκα γὰρ εἰσέβηκα τὴν θύραν καβαλλάρης,
when for I-came-through the door mounted
ὡς εἶδεν ὅτι ἐπέζευσα, καὶ ἀνέβηκα καὶ ἐκάτσα
as she-saw that I-had-dismounted and gone-up and sat-down
δίχα θορύβου καὶ βοῆς, χωρὶς ὀχλαγωγίας,
without din and shouting without crowd
μή τινας ἐπαγόμενος μαχίμους στρατιώτας,
not any bringing-along warlike soldiers
μὴ προπομπούς, μηδ' ὀπαδοὺς ῥαβδούχους, σκηπτροφόρους,
not escorts nor attendants mace-bearers scepter-bearers
μὴ χρυσοφόρων ὁπλιτῶν μαχίμων συνεργίαν,
not of-gold-wearing hoplites warlike aid
μηδὲ πεζῶν ἐπιδρομὴν σφενδονητῶν ἀγούρων,
nor of-foot(-soldiers) charge of-slinging youths
μικρολαλεῖν ἀπήρξατο καὶ συχνομουρμουρίζειν.
to-mutter she-began and to-grumble-constantly
Ἐγὼ δ' ὡς ἤμην νηστικὸς ἀπὸ τὸ φιλοπότιν,
I and as I-was fasting from the love-of-drink

μὴ κρύψω τὴν αἰτίαν μου καὶ ἔχω πολλάκις κρίμα,
not let-me-hide the fault my and I-have often sin
ὡσὰν ἐμελαγχόλησα καὶ ἠγριολάλησά την,
as I-was-melancholy and spoke-roughly-to her
καὶ πάλιν τὰ συνήθη μοι συμφώνως ἐπεφώνει·
and again the(-things) usual to-me in-tune she-cried
„τὸ τί θαρρεῖς; τὸ τίς εἶσαι; τὸ βλέπε τίνα δέρεις,
the what are-you-thinking the who are-you the see whom you-beat
ποίαν ὑβρίζεις πρόσεχε καὶ ποίαν ἀτιμάζεις·
what-woman you-insult take-care and what-woman you-dishonor
οὐκ εἶμαι σθλαβοποῦλα σου, οὐδὲ μισθάρνισσά σου.
not I-am little-slave your nor hireling your
Πῶς ἤπλωσας ἐπάνω μου; τὸ πῶς οὐκ ἐνετράπης;
How did-you-stretch upon me the how not were-you-ashamed
τὰ βρώσιμα ἐπεκήρωσας καὶ τὰ ποτὰ ὡσαύτως,
the eatables you-sealed-up and the drinks likewise
τὰ πάντα ἐξεστράγγισας καὶ ἐποῖκες με ἐρημίτριαν.
the all you-drained and made me hermit
Ἂν ἴδωσι τὰ ὀμμάτια μου ποτὲ τοὺς ἀδελφούς μου,
If see the eyes my ever the brothers my
καὶ οὐ πιάσουν καὶ ἀφιδώσουν σε καὶ δείξουν καὶ τελέσουν,
and not they-seize and flay you and show and finish(-you)
καὶ δήσω σου εἰς τὸν τράχηλον τὰ τέσσαρα παιδία,
and I-tie to-you on the neck the four children
καὶ βάλω εἰς τὴν καρδίαν μου τὰ γόνιμά μου κέρδη,
and I-put in the heart my the fruitful my gains
καὶ ἐκβάλω σε ἐκ τὸ ὀσπίτιν μου μετὰ πομπῆς μεγάλης,
and I-throw you out-of the house my with disgrace great

νὰ ποίσω καὶ τὸ πρόσωπον καὶ τὴν ὑπόληψίν σου,
that I-make both the face and the reputation your
νὰ ποίσω τὴν κουδοῦπαν σου αὐτὴν τὴν μαδισμένην!“
that I-make the topknot your this the plucked
Τούτους τοὺς λόγους τοιγαροῦν ἀτίμως μοι λαλοῦσα,
These the words therefore dishonorably to-me saying
εἶχον βουλήν, ὦ δέσποτα, νὰ τὴν περιρραπίσω,
I-had counsel O lord that her I-thrash
πλὴν οὖν σκοπήσας ἑαυτόν, εἶπον εἰς νοῦν τοιάδε·
but then having-considered myself I-said in mind such(-things)
„Διὰ τὴν ψυχήν σου, Πρόδρομε, καθίζου σιγηρός σου,
For the soul your Prodromos sit quiet yourself
ὅσα κἂν λέγῃ βάσταζε καὶ φέρε τα γενναίως·
whatever even she-says bear and carry them nobly
ἂν πλήξῃς γὰρ καὶ δώσῃς την πολλάκις νὰ πονέσῃ,
if you-strike for and give her perhaps that she-feel-pain
ὡς εἶσαι γέρων καὶ κοντὸς καὶ ὡσὰν ἀδυνατίζεις,
as you-are old and short and as you-are-weak
ἴσως νὰ ἁπλώσῃ ἐπάνω σου καὶ νὰ σὲ σύρῃ ἐμπρός της,
perhaps that she-stretch upon you and that you she-drag before her
καί, ἂν τύχῃ καὶ ἀποδείρῃ σε, νὰ σὲ ἐξεσφοντυλίσῃ.
and if it-happen and she-thrash you that you she-break-the-back
Ὅμως εἰ βούλει μερικῶς νὰ τὴν περιτραλίσῃς,
Yet if you-wish partly that her you-frighten
πιάσε ῥαβδίν, βάλε φωνήν, ῥίψον τὸ καμελαύχιν,
grab staff raise voice throw-down the cap
κύλισον πέτραν κατ᾽ αὐτῆς, πλὴν βλέπε μὴ τὴν δώσῃς,
roll stone against her but see not her hit
καὶ πήδησον, κατάδραμε τάχα νὰ τὴν κρατήσῃς·
and leap run-down as-if that her you-seize

ὡς ἐπιτρέχεις, σκόνταψον, κατάβα, δὸς ἀθρόως·
as you-charge stumble go-down strike all-at-once
καταπεσὼν ἀνάστηθι, πάλιν κατάτρεχέ την,
having-fallen-down get-up again run-at her
τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς ἀγρίωσον, δεῖξον λοξὸν τὸ βλέμμα,
the eyes make-wild show sidelong the glance
τὸ καμελαύκιν στράβωσον, βρύξον καθάπερ λέων.“
the cap set-askew roar like lion
Ὡς δ’ οὐδὲ ῥάβδον ἐφευρεῖν ὁ τάλας ἠδυνήθην,
As and not-even staff to-find the wretch I-could
ἀπαίρω τὸ σκουπόρραβδον γοργὸν ἀπὸ τὴν χρείαν,
I-take-up the broomstick quickly from the privy
παρακαλῶν, εὐχόμενος, καὶ δυσωπῶν καὶ λέγων·
entreating praying and imploring and saying
„Πανάχραντέ μου, κράτει την, ἐμπόδιζε, Χριστέ μου,
All-pure-one my hold her hinder(-her) Christ my
μὴ παίξῃ κοντογύρισμα καὶ ἐπάρῃ τὸ ῥαβδίν μου,
not let-her-play turn-about and take the staff my
καὶ δώσῃ καὶ ποιήσῃ με στραβὸν παρὰ διαβόλου.“
and strike and make me blind by devil
Ὡς δὴ αὐτή, θεόστεπτε, πρὸ τῶν λοιπῶν ἁπάντων,
As then she God-crowned-one before the rest all
καὶ τὸ ψωμὶν ἐκλείδωσε καὶ τὸ κρασὶν ἐντάμα,
both the bread locked-up and the wine together
φεύγει, λανθάνει, κρύπτεται, καὶ κλείσασα τὴν θύραν,
flees escapes hides and having-shut the door
ἐκάθισεν ἀμέριμνος καὶ ἐμὲ ἀφῆκεν ἔξω.
sat-down carefree and me left outside
Κρατῶν δὲ τὸ σκουπόρραβδον, τὴν θύραν ἀπηρξάμην·
Holding and the broomstick the door I-began(-on)

ὡς δ' ἠγανάκτησα λοιπὸν κρούων σφοδρῶς τὴν θύραν
as and I-grew-angry then beating violently the door
εὑρὼν ὀπὴν ἐσέβασα τ' ἄκρον τοῦ σκουπορράβδου·
having-found hole I-pushed-in the end of-the broomstick
ἐκείνη δὲ πηδήσασα καὶ τούτου δραξαμένη
she and having-leaped and this having-grasped
ἐταύριζεν ἀπέσωθεν, ἐγὼ δὲ πάλιν ἔξω·
was-pulling from-inside I and again outside
ὡς δ' ἔγνω ὅτι δύναμαι καὶ στερεὰ τὴν σύρω,
as and she-knew that I-am-strong and firmly it I-pull
χαυνίζει τὸ σκουπόρραβδον, τὴν θύραν παρανοίγει,
she-lets-go the broomstick the door opens-a-little
καὶ παρ' ἐλπίδα κατὰ γῆς καταπεσὼν ἡπλώθην.
and beyond hope to the-ground having-fallen I-was-sprawled
Ὡς δ' εἶδεν ὅτι ἔπεσον, ἤρξατο τοῦ γελᾶν με,
As and she-saw that I-fell she-began the to-laugh-at me
ἐκβαίνει καὶ σηκώνει με γοργὸν ἀπὸ τοῦ πάτου,
comes-out and lifts me quickly from the floor
καὶ τάχα κολακεύουσα τοιαῦτα προσεφώνει·
and as-if flattering such(-things) she-said
„Ἐντρέπου, κύρι, νὰ σωθῇς· ἐντρέπου κἂν ὀλίγον,
Be-ashamed sir that you-may-be-saved be-ashamed at-least a-little
οὐκ εἶσαι χωρικούτσικον, οὐδὲ μικρὸν νινίτσιν·
not you-are little-peasant nor small baby
κατάλειψον τὴν δύναμιν, τὴν περισσὴν ἀνδρείαν,
leave-off the strength the excessive courage
καὶ φρόνει, καλοκαίριν ἔν', τίμα τοὺς κρείττονάς σου,
and think summer it-is honor the betters your
καὶ μὴ παλληκαρεύεσαι, μηδὲ λαξοφαρδεύῃς."
and not play-the-hero nor kick-about

Ἐν ἐπιτόμῳ τοιγαροῦν ταῦτα μοι προσειποῦσα,
In brief therefore these(-things) to-me having-said
πάλιν εἰσῆλθεν ἔνδοθεν, ἐκλείδωσεν, ἐκάτσεν.
again went-in inside locked sat-down
Ἐγὼ δ' ἀπάρας παρευθὺς τρέχω πρὸς τὸ κουβούκλιν
I and having-gone-off at-once run to the bedchamber
καὶ πίπτω εἰς τὴν κλίνην μου, τὸ γεῦμα περιμένων.
and fall on the bed my the meal waiting-for
Παραπεινᾶν ἀρξάμενος ἀνῆλθον ἐκ τῆς κλίνης,
To-be-very-hungry having-begun I-got-up from the bed
καὶ πρὸς τὸ ἀρμάριν ἐπελθὼν εὑρίσκω κλειδωμένον.
and to the cupboard having-gone I-find locked
Στραφεὶς οὖν πάλιν ἔπεσον ἐπάνω ἐπὶ τὴν κλίνην,
Having-turned then again I-fell upon on the bed
συχνὰ περιστρεφόμενος καὶ βλέπων πρὸς τὴν θύραν.
often turning-about and looking toward the door
Τοῦ γοῦν ἡλίου πρὸς δυσμὰς μέλλοντος ἤδη κλίναι,
The then sun to setting about already to-sink
βοή τις ἄφνω γίνεται καὶ ταραχὴ μεγάλη,
cry some suddenly arises and commotion great
ἓν καὶ γὰρ ἐκ τῶν παίδων μου ἔπεσεν ἐκ τοῦ ὕψους,
one and for of the children my fell from the height
καὶ κροῦσαν κάτω ἔκειτο ὥσπερ νεκρὸν αὐτίκα·
and having-struck down lay like dead at-once
συνήχθησαν αἱ γείτονες ὡς πρὸς παρηγορίαν,
gathered the neighbors as for consolation
αἱ μανδραγοῦραι μάλιστα καὶ πρωτοκουρκουσοῦραι,
the old-crones especially and chief-gossips
καὶ τότε ἂς εἶδες θόρυβον καὶ ταραχὴν μεγάλην.
and then if-only you-had-seen din and commotion great

Ἀσχολουμένων τοιγαροῦν τῶν γυναικῶν καὶ πάντων
Being-busy therefore the women and all
τῶν συνελθόντων ἐπ᾽ αὐτῷ, ὡς φθάσας εἶπον ἄνω,
the having-come-together over it as before I-said above
τοῦ βρέφους τῷ συμπτώματι καὶ τοῦ παιδὸς τῷ πάθει,
of-the child with-the accident and of-the boy with-the suffering
κρυπτῶς ἀπῆρα τὸ κλειδίν, καὶ ἤνοιξα τὸ ἀρμάριν·
secretly I-took the key and opened the cupboard
φαγὼν εὐθύς τε καὶ πιὼν καὶ κορεσθεὶς ἐξαίφνης,
having-eaten at-once both and having-drunk and filled suddenly
ἐξῆλθον ἔξωθεν κἀγὼ θρηνῶν σὺν τοῖς ἑτέροις.
I-went-out outside I-too lamenting with the others
Τοῦ πάθους καταπαύσαντος, τοῦ βρέφους δ᾽ ἀναστάντος,
The suffering having-ceased the child and having-got-up
ἀπεχαιρέτησαν εὐθὺς οἱ συνδεδραμηκότες·
took-leave at-once the having-run-together
παραλαβοῦσα δ᾽ ἡ γυνὴ τοὺς ταύτης παῖδας πάντας,
having-taken and the wife the her children all
εἰσῆλθεν ἔνδον σὺν αὐτοῖς καὶ πάλιν ὑπεκρύβη·
went-in inside with them and again hid
ἐγὼ δὲ μόνος κοιμηθεὶς δίχα παραμυθίας,
I but alone having-gone-to-sleep without consolation
χωρὶς δείπνου καὶ σκοτεινὰ καὶ παραπονεμένα,
without dinner and in-dark and aggrieved
ἠγέρθην ταχυνώτερον, ἦλθον ἐπὶ τὴν κλίνην,
I-rose quite-early I-came to the bed
καὶ δὴ πιάσας τῇ χειρὶ τὴν θύραν τῆς εἰσόδου,
and then having-grasped with-the hand the door of-the entrance
καὶ τὸ κυρά μου, προσειπών, καὶ τὸ καλή σου ἡμέρα,
and the lady my having-said and the good your day

καὶ τὸ ψυχή, οὐκ ἀνοίγεις μοι, καρδία, οὐ θεωρεῖς με,
and the soul not do-you-open to-me heart not do-you-see me
καὶ στεναγμὸν ἀπὸ ψυχῆς ἐκπέμψας ἄχρι τρίτου.
and groan from soul having-sent-forth up-to third
Ὡς δ' οὐ φωνῆς ἀκήκοα οὐδέ τινος λαλίας,
As and not voice I-heard nor any speech
οὐδὲ ψιλοῦ προσνεύματος, οὐ σμικροτάτου λόγου,
nor bare nod not smallest word
πάλιν ὠπισθαπόδησα καὶ ἐστράφην ἐξοπίσω,
again I-stepped-back and turned behind
καὶ σύνδακρυς γενόμενος ἐγύρισα καὶ ἐκάτσα,
and in-tears having-become I-turned-around and sat-down
καὶ πρὸς τὸ γεῦμα, δέσποτα, πεσὼν ἀπεκοιμήθην.
and toward the meal lord having-fallen I-fell-asleep
Καὶ μονοκύθρου μ' ἔδωκε καθ' ὕπνους μυρωδία,
And of-a-stew me struck in sleep scent
καὶ παρευθὺς τὸν ὕπνον μου ῥίψας ἐκ τῶν βλεφάρων,
and at-once the sleep my having-thrown from the eyelids
ἀναπηδῶ, σηκώνομαι μετὰ σπουδῆς μεγάλης,
I-leap-up I-rise with haste great
παρὰ σκυλλὶν λαγωνικὸν κάλλια ῥινηλατήσας,
than hound hunting better having-tracked-by-scent
κυττάζω τὸ μονόκυθρον ἀπέσω εἰς τὸ κουβούκλιν.
I-peer-at the stew inside in the bedchamber
Οἱ παῖδες ἐσυνήχθησαν, ἐκάθισαν νὰ φάγουν,
The children gathered sat-down that they-eat
καὶ τὸ τραπέζιν ἔστησαν μὲ τὴν ἐξόπλισίν του·
and the table they-set with the furnishing its
ὡς δ' εἶδε ταῦτ' ὁ δοῦλος σου χαρᾶς πολλῆς ἐπλήσθην,
as and saw these(-things) the servant your with-joy much was-filled

ἐλπίζων νὰ μὲ κράξουσι νὰ κάτσωμεν νὰ φᾶμεν·
hoping that me they-call that we-sit that we-eat
ὡς δὲ παρέδραμε καιρὸς καὶ τίποτε οὐκ ἐφάνη,
as but passed time and nothing not appeared
εὐθὺς ἀνακαθέζομαι μετὰ σπουδῆς μεγάλης,
at-once I-sit-up with haste great
καὶ εὑρίσκω τὸ σκλαβώνικον καὶ βάλλω το ἐπάνω,
and find the Slavonic(-cloak) and put it on
καὶ τῆς Τομπρίτσας τὸ μανδὶν ἐπάνω τὸ ἐντυλίχθην,
and — of-Tombritsa the cloak on it I-wrapped-myself
καὶ βάλλω καὶ σκαράνικον ἐπανωκαμελαύχιν,
and put also skaranikon(-hat) over-the-cap
μακρὺν καλάμιν ἥρπασα, κινῶ πρὸς τὸ κουβούκλιν,
long cane I-snatched I-move to the bedchamber
καὶ σφαλισμένον τὸ εὕρηκα καὶ ἀπέξωθεν ἱστάμην·
and shut it I-found and outside I-stood
ἠρξάμην κράζειν συνεχῶς τὸ „δέμνε κυριδᾶτον“
I-began to-cry continually the demne kyridaton
τὸ „σάμνε“ καὶ τὸ „ντόμυρε“ καὶ τὸ „στειροπορτέω“.
the samne and the ntomyre and the steiroporteo
Ἔδραμον οὖν οἱ παῖδες μου μηδὲν μεμαθηκότες,
Ran then the children my nothing having-learned
ἀπῆραν ξύλα παρευθὺς καὶ ῥάβδους τε καὶ λίθους,
they-took-up sticks at-once and staves both and stones
τὴν σκάλαν με ἐκατέβασαν μετὰ πολλοῦ τοῦ τάχους·
the stairs me they-threw-down with much the speed
ἡ μάννα των γνωρίσασα ἐφώνησε τοὺς παῖδας·
the mother their having-recognized(-me) called the children
„Ἀφῆτε τον, πτωχός ἐνι, καράνος, πελεγρῖνος.“
Let-go-of him poor is beggar pilgrim

Καὶ ὡς τὸ ἤκουσα ὁ δοῦλος σου χαρᾶς πολλῆς ἐπλήσθην,
And as it I-heard the servant your with-joy much was-filled
ὅτι ἡ κοιλιά μου ηὐκαίρησεν ἀπὸ τὴν ἀφαγίαν.
that the belly my was-empty from the fasting
Ἡμερωθέντων τοιγαροῦν τῶν παίδων παραυτίκα,
Having-been-calmed therefore the children at-once
ἀνέβηκα τὴν σκάλαν μου τῇ τούτων ὁδηγίᾳ,
I-went-up the stairs my by-the their guidance
καὶ εὐθὺς πηδήσας καὶ εἰσελθών, καὶ προτραπεὶς καθίσαι,
and at-once having-leaped and having-entered and urged to-sit
τὸ πότε νὰ μὲ κράξωσι νὰ φάγω προσεδόκουν,
the when that me they-call that I-eat I-was-expecting
καὶ μόλις εἶδον πίνακα ζωμὸν ἔχοντα πλεῖστον,
and barely I-saw platter broth having very-much
καὶ ὀλίγον ἀπὸ τὸ παστὸν καὶ θρύμματα μεγάλα,
and a-little of the salted(-meat) and morsels great
καὶ δράξας εἰς τὰς χεῖρας μου, ηὔφρανε ἡ καρδιά μου,
and having-grasped in the hands my rejoiced the heart my
ζωμὸν ἰδὼν τὸν περισσὸν καὶ τὰ χοντρὰ κομμάτια.
broth having-seen the abundant and the thick pieces

Τοιαῦτα πέπονθα δεινά, κρατάρχα στεφηφόρε,
Such(-things) I-have-suffered terrible ruler crown-bearing
παρὰ μαχίμου γυναικὸς καὶ τρισαλιτηρίας,
from quarrelsome wife and thrice-accursed
ὡς εἶδε με κενώτατα ἐλθόντα πρὸς τὸν οἶκον.
as she-saw me most-empty having-come to the house
Ἂν οὖν μὴ φθάσῃ με τὸ σὸν φιλεύσπλαγχνον, αὐτάναξ,
If then not reach me the your compassion autocrat
καὶ δώροις καὶ χαρίσμασι τὴν ἄπληστον ἐμπλήσῃς,
and with-gifts and favors the insatiable you-fill

τρέμω, πτοοῦμαι, δέδοικα μὴ φονευθῶ πρὸ ὥρας,
I-tremble I-quail I-dread lest I-be-killed before time
καὶ χάσῃς σου τὸν Πρόδρομον, τὸν κάλλιστον εὐχέτην.
and you-lose your — Prodromos the best intercessor

Τοῦ αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν Σεβαστοκράτορα

II · THE HOUSEHOLD ACCOUNTS

To his all-august lord the poet explains why he writes laments rather than jests: he is beset by want. His twelve bushels of wheat do not last him four months. He lists what a household needs, from firewood, shoes, and soap to spices, the kollyva for the dead, and salves for a wounded child, and asks to be judged by his accounts, not by slanderers. The needy pawn their clothes; let the gift come before he must sell his land, and Christ will repay it.

Αὐθέντα μου πανσέβαστε, δόξα καὶ καύχημά μου,
Lord my all-august glory and boast my
ὁ πένης, ὁ παντάπορος, ὁ περιστατημένος,
the poor(-man) the all-destitute the beset
ὁ πάντοθεν κυκλούμενος μυρίαις δυστυχίαις
the on-all-sides surrounded by-countless misfortunes
καὶ περιστατιζόμενος κακοῖς ἀναριθμήτοις,
and beset by-ills innumerable
θέλω εἰπεῖν τὰ ἐμαυτοῦ πρὸς τὸν ἐμὸν δεσπότην·
I-wish to-tell the(-things) of-myself to the my master
καὶ ἂν ἔνι αὐθέντης οἷος σὺ καὶ ὁ λέγων οἷος ἐγώ τε,
and if is lord such-as you and the speaker such-as I and
νὰ κάθηται, νὰ ψηλαφᾷ, νὰ λέγῃ καὶ νὰ γράφῃ
that he-sit that he-feel-about that he-speak and that he-write
πολιτικὰ μετριάσματα καὶ πολιτογραφίας,
political measures and political-verses

καὶ λαρυγγίσματα πολλὰ καὶ λέξεις ἐπικρότους,
and throat-trillings many and words resounding
καὶ νὰ κατάγῃ ἑαυτὸν εἰς τὴν πεζολεξίαν.
and that he-bring-down himself to the prose-speech
Ἐκεῖνα γράφω καὶ λαλῶ ὅσα κινοῦν πρὸς οἶκτον,
Those(-things) I-write and say which move to pity
ὅσα κινοῦν πρὸς ἔλεον καὶ πρὸς φιλανθρωπίαν·
which move to mercy and to humanity
ὁ γράφων γὰρ σπαταλικὰ καὶ λέγων σερφετίας
the writing(-one) for lavishly and saying jests
φαίνεται ὅτι ἔνι ἁπλόψυχος καὶ ποιεῖ το ἀπὸ σπατάλης.
seems that he-is simple-souled and does it from extravagance
Ἐγὼ δὲ παρεξέκλινα μικρὸν ἐκ τῆς εὐθείας,
I but have-turned-aside a-little from the straight
καὶ ἀεὶ μετ' ὀδυρμῶν πολλῶν καὶ κωκυτῶν καὶ θρήνων
and always with laments many and wailings and dirges
ῥημάτων γράφω χαρμονήν, γραμμάτων τερποσύνην,
of-words I-write delight of-letters pleasantness
καὶ οὐ ποιῶ τ' ἀπὸ χαρᾶς, οὐδ' ἐξ ἁπλοψυχίας·
and not I-do it from joy nor from simple-souledness
ἀλλὰ μὰ τὴν ἐνοῦσαν μοι πολλὴν στενοχωρίαν,
but by the being-in me much distress
μὰ τὴν ἐξανεπήλπιστον πολλὴν πεζοπορίαν
by the hopeless much walking
βαβαὶ τὴν πρὸς παλάτιον μέχρι τῆς ἐκκλησίας,
alas the to palace as-far-as the church
ὡς ἔχει οὕτως νὰ τὸ εἰπῶ, οὕτως νὰ τὸ προσθήσω,
as it-is so that it I-say so that it I-add
πρόσεχε, μόνον πρόσεχε, πρόσεχε μὴ μὲ θάψῃς.
take-heed only take-heed take-heed not me bury

Ἀλήθεια, δίδεις με πολλά, πλὴν, ἂν τὰ συμψηφίσω,
Truly you-give me much but if them I-reckon
τετράμηνον οὐ σώζουν με, ψυχοκρατοῦν οὐδόλως,
four-months not they-keep me they-hold-body-and-soul not-at-all
μεδίμνους σίτου δώδεκα, ψυχροὺς καὶ ἀσβολωμένους,
bushels of-wheat twelve cold and sooty
καὶ οὐκ οἶδα πῶς χορτάζουσιν οἱ δεκατρεῖς τὸν μῆνα,
and not I-know how are-fed the thirteen the month
πάντως ἂν τὸ μυρίζονται, μόλις νὰ τοὺς ἀρκέσῃ.
surely if it they-smell barely that them it-suffice
Χωρὶς τῶν διδομένων μοι τούτων τῶν τυπωμάτων,
Without the(-things) given to-me these the allowances
οὐ θέλω ξύλον καύσιμον, οὐ θέλω καὶ καρβούνιν,
not I-want wood for-burning not I-want also coal
οὐ θέλ' ὀψώνιν μερικὸν ἅπαξ τῆς ἑβδομάδος,
not I-want provisions some once of-the week
οὐ θέλουσιν ὑπόδησιν τοὺς ἔχω μετ' ἐμέναν;
not they-want shoes those-whom I-have with me
Οὐ θέλω ἐγὼ ὑποδήματα, χειμωνικὰ τουβία,
Not want I shoes winter boots
καὶ κοντοσφίκτουρον παχύν, νὰ τὸ φορῶ εἰς τὴν ψύχραν;
and short-tight-cloak thick that it I-wear in the cold
Οὐ θέλουν εἰς τὸ σπίτιν μου λινάριν καὶ βαμβάκιν,
Not they-want in the house my linen and cotton
βαψίματα, ῥαψίματα, πετσώματα, πετσία,
dyeings sewings leathers skins
ἀλεστικόν, φουρνιατικόν, βαλανικόν, σαπώνιν,
milling-fee baking-fee bath-fee soap
τριψιδογαροπίπερον, κύμινον, καρναβάδιν,
crushed-fish-sauce-and-pepper cumin caraway

μέλιν, ὀξείδιν, σύσγουδον, ἅλας, ἀμανιτάριν,
honey vinegar sauce salt mushroom
σέλινον, πρασομάρουλον, καὶ κάρδαμον καὶ ἰντίβιν,
celery leek-lettuce and cress and endive
σπανάκιν, χρυσολάχανον, γογγύλιν, μαντζιτζάνιν,
spinach orach turnip eggplant
φρύγιον κράμβην καὶ γουλὶν καὶ ἀπὸ τὸ κουνουπίδιν;
phrygian cabbage and cabbage-stalk and from the cauliflower
Οὐ θέλουν εἰς τὰ κόλυμβα τῶν προτελευτησάντων
Not they-want for the kollyva of-the deceased
ἀμύγδαλα, ῥοΐδια, καρυδοκουκκουνάρια,
almonds pomegranates walnuts-and-pine-nuts
καὶ κανναβούριν καὶ φακὴν καὶ στραγαλοσταφίδας;
and hempseed and lentil and chickpeas-and-raisins
Οὐ θέλουν ἀλειπτούτσικα μοσχᾶτα καὶ κροκᾶτα,
Not they-want little-ointments musk-scented and saffron-scented
οὐ θέλει ἡ γυναῖκα μου γυρὶν τὴν Πασχαλίαν,
not wants the wife my hem — Easter
οὐ θέλει ἡ μάννα μου μανδίν, οὐ θέλει καὶ καλίγια;
not wants the mother my cloak not wants also boots
Ἀφήμι τὰ τρανώτερα κ' ἐμβαίνω εἰς τὴν λέπτην,
I-leave-aside the greater(-things) and go into the small
εἰς τὰ τσουκαλολάγηνα καὶ εἰς τὴν χουρδουβελίαν·
into the pots-and-flasks and into the paltry-sundries
τὸ δὸς ἐδῶ, τὸ δὸς ἐκεῖ, τὸ δὸς εἰς τὸ κουκούμιν,
the give here the give there the give for the kettle
δὸς εἰς καθαροκόσκινον, δὸς εἰς τὸν πωλοτρόφον,
give for fine-sieve give to the chicken-breeder
εἰς κηροστούπιν καὶ δᾳδίν, ἐλάδιν καὶ λινέλιν·
for wax-wick and torch oil and linseed-oil

τὸ λάλησε τὸν σικυαστήν, καὶ ἂς ἔλθῃ ὁ φλεβοτόμος·
the call the cupper and let come the bloodletter
κύρι, τὸ πηγαδόσχοινον ἐκόπην καὶ ἂς τὸ ἀλλάξουν,
sir the well-rope broke and let it they-change
νερὸν ὁ κάδος οὐ κρατεῖ καὶ ἂς ἀγοράσουν ἄλλον·
water the bucket not holds and let they-buy another
ἐπαρεκλάσθη ἡ θύρα μας, κλειδᾶς καὶ ἂς τὴν εὐθειάσῃ,
broke-off the door our locksmith and let it he-straighten
ἐτραυματιάσεν τὸ παιδίν, γοργὸν ἂς ἀγοράσουν
was-wounded the child quickly let they-buy
χαμωμηλέλαιον κάλλιστον, ὄξος, ἀγριοσταφίδαν,
chamomile-oil best vinegar wild-raisin
κηκίδιν, λυσσομάμμουδον καὶ ἄλλα τινὰ τοιάδε,
oak-gall rabies-wort and others some such
καὶ ἂς ποιήσουν τραυματάλειμμα, πρὶν λυκοκαυκαλιάσῃ.
and let they-make wound-salve before it-festers
Ἤκουσας, πάντως ἤκουσας τὴν ἔξοδον τὴν ἔχω·
You-heard surely you-heard the expense which I-have
ἐδάρε, μίξον ὁμαδὸν ἅπαντα τὰ λαμβάνω,
come-now mix together all the(-things) I-receive
τὴν ῥόγαν, τὸ μηναῖον μου καὶ τὰς φιλοτιμιάς μου,
the stipend the monthly my and the bounties my
τὰ ἐσώτυπα, τὰ ἐξώτυπα, τὰ ἀπέδω καὶ τὰ ἀπέκει,
the inner-allowances the outer-allowances the from-here and the from-there
καὶ τότε λογαριάσε με καλῶς καὶ εἰς τὰ μὲ δίδεις,
and then reckon me well and in the(-things) to-me you-give
καὶ ἂν μ' εὕρῃς χρώμενον κακῶς εἰς ταῦτα τὰ μὲ δίδεις,
and if me you-find using badly in these(-things) which to-me you-give

τότε καὶ κατονείδιζε, τότε κατάκρινόν μοι
then also reproach then condemn me
ὥσπερ ἐλευθερόψυχον καὶ σπαταλοκρομμύδην.
as freehanded and lavish-onion-eater
Εἰ δ' οὕτως, κατακρίνεις με δίχα τινὸς αἰτίας,
If but thus you-condemn me without some cause
ἀπὸ ὀχλήσεώς τινων ἀνθρώπων χαιρεκάκων,
by importuning of-some men malicious
ἔνι καὶ κρῖμα καὶ κακόν, εἰκάζω καὶ ἁμαρτάνεις.
it-is both sin and evil I-think and you-err
Ταῦτα δὲ πάντα χρήζουσι κατ' ἔτος εἰς τὸ ὁσπίτιν
These(-things) and all need by year in the house
καὶ πλούσιοι καὶ πένητες, καὶ δοῦλοι καὶ δεσπόται,
both rich and poor and slaves and masters
καὶ μοναχοὶ καὶ κοσμικοί, καὶ γέροντες καὶ νέοι,
and monks and laymen and old and young
κατὰ τὸ μέτρον ἕκαστος καὶ τὴν ἰδίαν τέχνην.
according-to the measure each and the own craft
Οἱ οὖν λαβόντες ἐξ ἀρχῆς, ὡς πατρικόν τους κλῆρον,
The then having-received from beginning as paternal their inheritance
τῶν πάντων τὴν εὐπάθειαν καὶ τὴν εὐημερίαν,
of-the all the comfort and the prosperity
ἔχουσι πόρους πάντοθεν ἀφθόνως καὶ πλουσίως,
have resources from-everywhere abundantly and richly
(δωροφορεῖ καὶ γὰρ ἡ γῆ, ἡ θάλασσα δὲ πλείω)
brings-gifts and for the earth the sea and more
τὴν ἀφθονίαν τῶν καλῶν καὶ χορηγίαν πάντων·
the abundance of-the goods and supply of-all
οἱ κατ' ἐμὲ δὲ πένητες, οἱ λιμαγχονημένοι,
the like me but poor the starving

κλῆρον ὡς ἄλλον πατρικὸν ἔχοντες τὴν πενίαν,
inheritance as other paternal having the poverty
ἐξόδους ἔχοντες πολλάς, εἰσόδους δὲ ὀλίγας,
expenses having many incomes but few
ὅταν ἐξαπορήσωσι καὶ δώσουσι καὶ λάβουν,
when they-are-at-a-loss and give and take
στρέφονται πρὸς τὰ ῥοῦχα τους, φεῖσαι, Χριστέ μου, τότε!
they-turn to the clothes their spare Christ my then
καὶ δίδουν τα καὶ τρώγουν τα, Χριστέ, τῆς ἀνοχῆς σου!
and give them and eat them Christ of-the forbearance your
καὶ ἀφ' ὅτου τὰ χωνεύουσιν, ὡς χρυσοχοὶ τεχνῖται,
and from when them they-melt-down as goldsmiths craftsmen
καὶ ἀμμοπλύνουν τα καλά, ὥσπερ οἱ ἀμμοπλύται,
and sand-wash them well as the sand-washers
ἂν περπατοῦν νυστάζουσιν, ἂν κάθηνται κοιμῶνται·
if they-walk they-doze if they-sit they-sleep
ἱστάμενοι σκελίζονται, τραλίζονται καθ' ὥραν,
standing they-stagger they-reel by hour
ἐκεῖ καὶ ἀστέρας βλέπουσι, τροχοὺς πρασινομόρφους,
there also stars they-see wheels green-formed
καὶ ὁμοιάζουν τὸ χειρότερον ὅτι εἶναι μεθυσμένοι,
and they-seem the worse that they-are drunk
καὶ μαγειωμένοι καὶ σαλοὶ καὶ παραβροντισμένοι.
and bewitched and fools and thunderstruck
Τῷ πάθει τοίνυν συσχεθεὶς κἀγὼ τῷ τῆς ἐνδείας,
By-the suffering therefore seized I-too the of-the want
ἅπασαν τὴν οὐσίαν μου κατέφαγον ὁ τάλας,
all the substance my ate-up the wretch
καὶ ἂν τύχῃ ὡς ὑπαγαίνομεν, ἂν οὐ κρατήσῃ εὐδία,
and if it-happen as we-go if not holds fair-weather

ἂν οὐκ ἀνοίξῃς θύραν μου πόθεν τῆς εὐσπλαγχνίας,
if not you-open door my somehow of-the compassion
καὶ γένομαι ἐξωχείμαστος, φοβοῦμαι μὴ παρέμπω,
and I-become winter-bound I-fear lest I-enter
καὶ φάγω καὶ τὰ ἀκίνητα, κ᾽ ἔδε θανάτου χεῖρον.
and eat also the immovables and see than-death worse

Μὴ σὲ πλανᾷ, πανσέβαστε, τὸ Πτωχοπροδρομᾶτον,
Not you let-deceive all-august the Ptochoprodromic
καὶ προσδοκᾷς νὰ τρέφωμαι βοτάνας ὀρειτρόφους·
and you-expect that I-feed-on herbs mountain-bred
ἀκρίδας οὐ σιτεύομαι, οὐδ᾽ ἀγαπῶ βοτάνας,
locusts not I-eat nor love herbs
ἀλλὰ μονόκυθρον παχὺν καὶ παστομαγειρίαν,
but stew thick and salt-meat-cookery
νὰ ἔχῃ θρύμματα πολλά, νὰ εἶναι φουσκωμένα,
that it-have morsels many that they-be swollen
καὶ λιπαρὸν προβατικὸν ἀπὸ τὸ μεσονέφριν.
and fat mutton from the loin

Ἀνήλικον μὴ μὲ κρατῇς, μὴ προσδοκᾷς δὲ πάλιν
Underage not me hold not expect and again
ὅτι, ἂν μὲ δώσῃς τίποτε, νὰ τὸ κακοδικήσω·
that if me you-give anything that it I-squander
ὅμως ἐκ τῆς ἐξόδου μου καὶ σὺ νὰ καταλάβῃς
yet from the expense my also you that you-grasp
τὸ πῶς οἰκοκυρεύω μου τὴν ἅπασαν οἰκίαν.
the how I-manage my the whole house

Λοιπὸν ἡ σὴ προμήθεια συντόμως μοὶ φθασάτω,
Then the your provision quickly to-me let-it-come
πρὶν φάγω καὶ τὰ ἀκίνητα καὶ πέσω καὶ ἀποθάνω,
before I-eat also the immovables and fall and die

καὶ λάβῃς καὶ τὰ κρίματα καὶ πλημμελήματά μου,
and you-take-on both the sins and offenses my
καὶ τῶν ἐπαίνων στερηθῇς ὧν εἶχες καθ' ἑκάστην·
and of-the praises be-deprived which you-had by each(-day)
ἀλλ' ἵλεώς σοι γένοιτο Χριστός μοι, σέβαστέ μου,
but gracious to-you may-be Christ my august(-one) my
καὶ δοίη σοι τὴν ἀμοιβὴν τῶν εἰς ἐμὲ χαρίτων
and may-he-give you the reward of-the to me favors
πλουσίαν καὶ αἰώνιον, ὡς οἶδεν, ὡς γινώσκει.
rich and eternal as he-knows as he-understands

Στίχοι τοῦ γραμματικοῦ κυροῦ Θεοδώρου τοῦ Πτωχοπροδρόμου

III · THE TWO ABBOTS

A monk of the Philotheos monastery asks the emperor's ear for its two lawless abbots, a father and son. Any absence from church brings orders: prostrations, no bread or wine, deep boots, no lingering at the gate. He hears how his betters outrank him, the chief priest, the precentor, and the scholar who rides while he walks. Worse, every errand falls on him at once, from the bath-water to the mill. If he misses an office he loses his wine; if he asks for leather or a horse, the gate is barred.

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(lacuna)
καὶ πρόσδεξαι καὶ λῦσον μου τὰς πολυπλόκους θλίψεις,
and accept and loose my the manifold afflictions
οὐδὲ γὰρ δέονται πολλῶν ἐξόδων καὶ φροντίδων,
not for they-need many expenses and cares
ἐὰν ῥαθύμως πρὸς αὐτὰς καὶ ἀνειμένως βλέψῃς.
if easily toward them and kindly you-look

Δέον λοιπὸν ἀναμαθεῖν τοὺς πόνους τοῦ νοσοῦντος,
Needful then to-learn the pains of-the sick(-man)
εἶθ' οὕτως καὶ τὴν ἴασιν ἐντέχνως ἀποδοῦναι.
then thus also the cure skillfully to-render
Καὶ θαύμασον τοῦ μύρμηκος τὴν τηλικαύτην τόλμαν,
And marvel-at of-the ant the so-great daring
πῶς ὅλως ἔξω γέγονε τῆς τούτου μυωξίας
how wholly outside has-become of-the his feebleness
καὶ τρέχειν ἴσως ὥρμησε τοῖς ἰσχυροῖς θηρίοις,
and to-run equally rushed with-the mighty beasts
ἀκολουθῶν τοῖς ἴχνεσιν ἀφόβως τῶν λεόντων,
following in-the tracks fearlessly of-the lions
τὴν τῶν ὀνύχων δύναμιν ποσῶς μὴ κεκτημένος.
the of-the claws strength at-all not possessing
Ἐμὲ γὰρ σκόπει μύρμηκα, δέσποτα στεφηφόρε,
Me for consider ant lord crown-bearing
κατὰ τῶν λόγων τὴν ἰσχὺν καὶ τὴν ἀκτημοσύνην,
in-respect-of the words the strength and the poverty
λέοντας δὲ τοὺς ῥήτορας μετὰ τῶν φιλοσόφων,
lions and the orators with the philosophers
οἵτινές εἰσι δόκιμοι στιχίζειν τε καὶ γράφειν
who are approved to-make-verses both and to-write
καὶ συγγραφὰς βασιλικάς, νικητικὰς ἐκπλάττειν·
and writings imperial triumphal to-fashion
ὅμως ἐκεῖνοι γράφουσι σοφῶς καὶ κατὰ λόγον,
yet those write wisely and according-to reason
ὥσπερ σοφοὶ καὶ ῥήτορες, ἐγὼ δ' οὐχ οὕτως γράφω,
as wise(-men) and orators I but not thus write
(καὶ γὰρ ἀγράμματός εἰμι καὶ νέος ῥακενδύτης,
and for unlettered I-am and young rag-wearer

καὶ μοναχὸς τῶν εὐτελῶν, τῶν ἀποκαθισμένων)
and monk of-the paltry of-the set-aside
ἀλλ' οὖν λιτῶς, μοναχικῶς, ἁπλῶς, εὐκολωτάτως.
but then plainly monkishly simply most-easily
Οὐδὲν γὰρ μύθους παλαιῶν ἱστοριῶν σοι γράφω,
Not for fables of-old histories to-you I-write
τὸν νοῦν ἐχόντων ἀκριβῆ, δυσνόητον τὴν λύσιν,
the meaning having precise hard-to-understand the solution
εὔκολα μᾶλλον καὶ σαφῆ, καὶ γνώριμα τοῖς πᾶσι
easy rather and clear and known to-the all
τοῖς τὸν μονήρη τρέχουσιν ἐν κοινοβίῳ δρόμον
to-the the monastic running in community course
καὶ φέρουσιν ἅ, δέσποτα, πρῶτος ἐγὼ σοὶ γράφω·
and bearing which lord first I to-you write
τῇ γὰρ μονῇ προσγίνονται πάντα τοῦ Φιλοθέου
in-the for monastery happen all — of-Philotheos
ἅτιν' ἐλέγξων ἔρχεται κατὰ μικρὸν ὁ λόγος.
which to-refute comes by little the word
Καὶ πρόσθες ἄρτι τὸ λοιπὸν ἐμοὶ τὰς ἀκοάς σου,
And add now the then to-me the ears your
καὶ πάντα σαφηνίσω σοι κατὰ τὴν πρᾶξιν, ἄναξ.
and all I-shall-make-clear to-you according-to the deed lord
Ὁπόταν εἰς ἐνθύμησιν ἔλθω τῶν ἡγουμένων
Whenever to remembrance I-come of-the abbots
(δύο γὰρ ἄρχουσιν ἐκεῖ, δέσποτα, παρανόμως,
two for rule there lord lawlessly
καὶ παρὰ τὴν διάταξιν πατρὸς τοῦ πανοσίου,
and against the ordinance of-father the all-holy
πατήρ, υἱός, τὸ κάκιστον ζεῦγος, ὦ θεία δίκη!)
father son the worst pair O divine justice

καὶ καθαρῶς τὰ παρ᾽ αὐτῶν γινόμενα σκοπήσω,
and clearly the(-things) by them done I-consider
ἄλλος ἐξ ἄλλου γίνομαι καὶ τήκομαι τὰς φρένας.
other from other I-become and melt-away the wits
Ὅταν ἐξέλθω γὰρ μικρὸν ἀπὸ τῆς ἐκκλησίας,
When I-go-out for a-little from the church
ἂν ῥαθυμήσω πώποτε καὶ λείψω ἀπὸ τὸν ὄρθρον,
if I-am-lazy ever and miss from the matins
οὐ φέρειν ὅλως δύναμαι τὰς προσταγὰς ἐκείνων·
not to-bear at-all I-can the commands of-those
„τὸ ποῦ ἦτον εἰς τὸ θυμιατόν; ἂς βάλλῃ μετανοίας·
the where was-he at the censing let he-make prostrations
τὸ ποῦ ἦτον εἰς τὸ κάθισμα; ψωμὶν μηδὲν τὸν δώσουν·
the where was-he at the kathisma bread not him let-them-give
ποῦ ἦτον εἰς τὸν ἑξάψαλμον; κρασὶν μηδὲν τὸν δώσουν·
where was-he at the hexapsalm wine not him let-them-give
ποῦ ἦτον εἰς τὸν ἑσπερινόν; ἂς τὸν ἐκβάλουν ἔξω·
where was-he at the vespers let him they-throw out
τὸ στῆκε, ψάλλε ἀπὸ ψυχῆς καὶ φώναξε μεγάλως·
the stand chant from soul and shout loudly
τί μουρμουρίζεις; πρόσεχε, μηδὲν ξηροχασμᾶσαι,
why do-you-mutter take-care not yawn-dryly
μὴ τρίβεσαι, μὴ κνήθεσαι, μὴ περισσοψωρίζῃς,
not rub-yourself not scratch not over-scratch
ἐξάφες τὰ συχνὰ λουτρά, καλόγερος τυγχάνεις,
give-up the frequent baths monk you-are
βαθεὰ καλίγια ἀγόρασε καὶ φόρει τα εἰς τὴν μέσην,
deep boots buy and wear them in the middle
καὶ μὴ φορῇς τὰ χαμηλὰ μετὰ μακρέας τὰς μύτας·
and not wear the low with long the toes

μὴ ζώνου χαμηλούτσικα καὶ μὴ συχνοκτενίζου,
not belt-yourself low and not comb-often
ἀπέσω τὰ μανίκια σου, ἀπέσω ἡ τραχηλεά σου,
inside the sleeves your inside the collar your
ἐξάφες τὸ νὰ κάθεσαι ποσῶς εἰς τὸν πυλῶνα,
give-up the that you-sit at-all at the gate
ἐξάφες τὰ προγεύματα καὶ τὰ διπλὰ σφουγγᾶτα,
give-up the breakfasts and the double omelets
καὶ τὸ νὰ τρώγῃς σύντομα, νὰ πίνῃς εἰς τὸ μέγα,
and the that you-eat quickly that you-drink in the big(-cup)
καὶ σύναγε τὸ πλάτωμα καὶ θές το εἰς τὴν γωνίαν.
and gather the platter and put it in the corner
Μὴ βλέπῃς τὸ τρανώτερον τὸ μερτικὸν ἐκείνου
Not look-at the bigger the portion of-that(-one)
μὴ συντυχαίνῃς πρόσεχε κἂν ὅλως τὸν ὀδεῖνα·
not talk take-care even at-all to-the so-and-so
ἐκεῖνος ἔν' πρωτοπαπᾶς, σὺ δὲ παρεκκλησιάρχης,
that(-one) is chief-priest you but chapel-keeper
ἐκεῖνος ἔν' δομέστικος, τεχνίτης χειρονόμος,
that(-one) is precentor skilled conductor
σὺ δὲ τυγχάνεις πάρηχος καὶ ψάλλειν οὐκ ἰσχύεις,
you but are out-of-tune and to-chant not you-can
ἐκεῖνος ἔν' λογαριαστὴς καὶ σὺ εἶσαι θερμοδότης,
that(-one) is accountant and you are hot-water-giver
ἐκεῖνος δοχειάριος, σὺ δὲ κρομμυδοφύλαξ·
that(-one) storekeeper you but onion-keeper
ἐκεῖνος ἔν' γραμματικός, τεχνίτης ἀναγνώστης,
that(-one) is scholar skilled reader
σὺ δὲ οὐδὲ τὴν ἀλφάβητον ἐξεύρεις συλλαβίσαι·
you but not-even the alphabet know to-spell

ἐκεῖνος ἔχει εἰς τὴν μονὴν κἂν δεκαπέντε χρόνους,
that(-one) has in the monastery even fifteen years
καὶ σὺ ἀκμὴν οὐκ ἐπλήρωσες ἑξάμηνον ὅτι ἦλθες·
and you yet not have-completed six-months since you-came
σὺ περιτρέχεις τὰς ὁδοὺς πεζὸς μετὰ τσαγγίων,
you run-around the streets on-foot with boots
αὐτὸς δὲ καβαλλάριος διηνεκῶς ὁδεύει
he but on-horseback continually travels
καὶ βουτλωμένας τοῖς ποσὶν φέρει τὰς πτερνιστῆρας·
and plunged on-the feet bears the spurs
ἐκεῖνος διηκόνησεν εἰς τὴν μονὴν πολλάκις,
that(-one) served in the monastery often
καὶ ἐσὺ ἔβοσκες τὰ πρόβατα καὶ ἐδίωκες τὰς κορώνας·
and you were-grazing the sheep and chasing the crows
ἐκεῖνος πάντα ἐσέβαινε σειστὸς εἰς τὸ παλάτιν,
that(-one) always went-in in-state into the palace
καὶ ἐσὺ ἐκαθέζου καὶ ἔβλεπες πῶς τρέχουν αἱ καροῦχαι.
and you were-sitting and watching how run the carriages
Αὐτὸς ψηφίζει πέρπυρα καὶ γράφει καὶ στρογγύλα,
He counts gold-coins and writes also round(-figures)
σὺ δὲ ψηφίζεις φάβατα καὶ γράφεις κονιδᾶτα·
you but count beans and write nit-covered(-scrawls)
αὐτὸς φορεῖ αἰγειομέταξα καὶ σὺ τὴν σακκολέβαν·
he wears goat-hair-silks and you the sack-cloak
αὐτὸς ἔχει κἂν τέσσαρα λαμπρὰ κρεββατοστρώσια,
he has even four splendid bed-covers
καὶ σὺ κοιμᾶσαι εἰς τὸ ψαθὶν καὶ γέμεις καὶ τὰς φθεῖρας·
and you sleep on the mat and are-full-of also the lice
αὐτὸς τὸν μῆνα τέταρτον εἰς τὸ λουτρὸν ὑπάγει,
he the month fourth(-time) to the bath goes

σὺ δὲ ἀπὸ πάσχα εἰς ἕτερον πάσχα λουτρὸν οὐ βλέπεις·
you but from Easter to another Easter bath not see
αὐτὸς ψωνίζει πάντοτε λαβράκια, φιλομήλας,
he buys always basses thrushes
σὺ δὲ ποτὲ οὐκ ἠγόρασας κἂν ταρτεροῦ χαβιάριν·
you but ever not bought even of-quarter-coin caviar
αὐτὸς κἂν δέκα κέκτηται λίτρας χρυσὸν λογάριν,
he even ten possesses pounds gold money
σὺ δὲ οὐδὲ φόλιν κέκτησαι νὰ δώσῃς τὴν ψυχήν σου,
you but not-even penny possess that you-give the soul your
ἢ νὰ ἀγοράσῃς κἂν κηρὸν διὰ τὴν ἀποκαρήν σου.
or that you-buy even wax for the tonsure your
Αὐτὸς τὸν βλέπεις ἔδωκεν εἰς τὴν μονὴν εἰκόνα
He whom you-see gave to the monastery icon
καὶ σαραντάσημον βλαττὶν καὶ δυὸ κυθροκαντήλας,
and forty-thread silk and two pot-lamps
σὺ δὲ ἦλθες ἀνυπόδητος καὶ δίχα ἐπικαμίσου,
you but came unshod and without overshirt
καὶ τὸ βρακίν σου ἐφαίνετο ἀπὸ τῆς φουδουλίας·
and the drawers your showed from the buttocks
καὶ περιπάτει ἐμπύρετος, καὶ δούλευε τοὺς πάντας·
and walk feverish and serve the all
οὐκ εἶσαι σεβαστοῦ παιδίν, οὐδὲ κουροπαλάτου,
not you-are of-sebastos child nor of-kouropalates
σαρδαμαρίου παιδίν εἶσαι, χαβιαροκαταλύτου,
of-sardine-seller child you-are of-caviar-squanderer
σκουμπροπαλαμιδόπαστος, ἐγγραυλοπαστοφάγος·
mackerel-and-bonito-salted anchovy-salt-eater
καὶ μὴ θεωρῇς τοὺς βαθρακούς, τὰς ὕσκας, τὰ ψησσία,
and not look-at the bream the (a-fish) the flatfish

καὶ τρέχουσι τὰ σάλια σου καὶ συχνοκαταπίῃς,
and run the saliva your and you-swallow-often
μαθὸν οὐ μὴ τὰ γεύσεσαι, ξηρὰ νὰ τὰ διαβάσῃς,
learn not — them you-will-taste dry that them you-pass
καὶ τὸ τυρὶν τὸ κρητικὸν νὰ ἐκδείρῃ τὸν λαιμόν σου
and the cheese the Cretan that flay the throat your
καὶ τὸ παλαμιδόκομμαν καὶ ἡ θύννα ἡ βρωμιαρέα.
and the bonito-slice and the tuna the stinking
Κατάβαινε εἰς τὴν τράπεζαν, βοήθει τὸν κελλάρην
Go-down to the refectory help the cellarer
καὶ κόπτε ξύλον καὶ νερόν, κουβάλε εἰς τὸ μιλιάριν,
and cut wood and water carry to the boiler
καὶ δίδε καὶ θερμούτσικον, οὐκ εἶσαι τῶν ἐνδόξων.
and give also hot-water not you-are of-the illustrious
Κομμάτιν, βλέπω, ἀπέδειρας τρανὸν καὶ γωνιδᾶτον
Piece I-see you-took big and cornered
καὶ μαγειρίαν τριπίνακον καὶ τρία κομμάτια θύνναν,
and stew three-dish and three pieces tuna
καὶ πλύσιμον οὐ δέχεται κἂν ὅλως τὸ πινάκιν,
and washing not takes even at-all the platter
καὶ ἄφες τρώγειν τὰ πολλά, ν᾽ ἀλέθῃς πασπαλᾶτα·
and leave-off to-eat the much that you-grind meal
ἄπελθε, εὐθείασε θερμὸν καὶ νίψον τοὺς πατέρας,
go-off make-ready hot-water and wash the fathers
σπούδασον, φθάσον, πέτασον γοργὸν ἐπὶ τὸν μύλον·
hurry reach fly quickly to the mill
ἐρώτησε εἰς τὸ διάβα σου ἐπὶ τοὺς Βενετίκους
ask on the way your of the Venetians
τὸ πῶς πωλεῖται τὸ τυρίν, τί ἔχει τὸ κεντηνάριν·
the how is-sold the cheese what costs the hundredweight

ὕπαγε, λοῦσε σύντομον τὸν μέγαν οἰκονόμον,
go wash quickly the great steward
λοῦσε καὶ τὸν ἡγούμενον, παράστα καὶ τοὺς δύο.
wash also the abbot attend also the two
Ἐν μέρει κράζει ὁ ἡγούμενος, ἐν μέρει ὁ οἰκονόμος,
In turn calls the abbot in turn the steward
ὁ μὲν προστάττει· „τρίψε με καὶ τάρασσε τὸ σκάμμα“,
the(-one) indeed orders rub me and stir the basin
ὁ δ' ἄλλος πάλιν· „γέμισε, περίχυσέ με, ἂς ἔβγω“,
the and other again fill pour-over me let I-get-out
καὶ σὺν ἐκείνοις ἔρχεται τρίτος ὁ ἐκκλησιάρχης.
and with those comes third the sacristan
Πῶς ὑπομείνω, δέσποτα, πῶς ἄνεσιν εὑρήσω,
How shall-I-endure lord how relief shall-I-find
καὶ πῶς νὰ ζήσω, λέξον μοι, σὺ γὰρ γινώσκεις πάντα.
and how that I-live tell me you for know all
Στιγμὴν ἂν λείψω ὁ ταπεινὸς ἀπὸ τὴν ἐκκλησίαν,
Moment if I-am-absent the humble from the church
τὸ κρασοβόλιν μου κρατοῦν τὸ νεροκοπημένον,
the wine-ration my they-withhold the water-cut
ἐγὼ δὲ τρέχω εἰς τὸ νερὸν καὶ πίνω καὶ χορταίνω,
I but run to the water and drink and am-filled
καὶ παραυτίκα πιάνει με τὸ ῥῖγος καὶ ἀποθνήσκω.
and at-once seizes me the shivering and I-die
Ἅπαξ τὸν χρόνον ἂν λουθῶ πολλάκις δι' ἀρρωστίαν,
Once the year if I-bathe perhaps for sickness
καυκὶν κρασὶν οὐ δίδουν με τὸ λέγουν εὐλογίαν.
cup wine not they-give me which they-call blessing
Ἐὰν ἔλθῃ φίλος μου ποτὲ τὸν χρόνον νὰ τὸν ἴδω,
If comes friend my ever the year that him I-see

τὴν πόρταν ῥωμανίζουσι καὶ ἀφίνουσίν τον ἔξω.
the door they-bolt and leave him outside
Ἂν δώσουν στάμενον ποτὲ δι' ἀνάγκην νὰ ψωνίσω,
If they-give stater ever for need that I-buy
λέγουν με· „σήμερον ἰχθὺς οὐ τρώγεται εἰς τὴν μέσην".
they-tell me today fish not is-eaten in the middle
Εἰ δέ τις δώσῃ ψυχικὸν ἀπὸ τῶν φιλοχρίστων,
If and anyone gives soul-gift of the Christ-lovers
κανεὶς οὐ βλέπει ταρτερὸν ἀπὸ τοὺς καλογέρους.
anyone not sees quarter-coin from the monks
Ἂν εἴπω· „δότε μοι πετσὶν διὰ τὰ ὑποδήματά μου",
If I-say give me leather for the shoes my
λαλοῦσι με· „μὴ ἐξέρχεσαι ποσῶς εἰς τὸν πυλῶνα".
they-tell me not go-out at-all to the gate
Ζητῶ σαπούνιν νὰ λουθῶ, καὶ λέγουν με· „τὸ ζέμαν".
I-ask-for soap that I-bathe and they-tell me the hot-water
Ἅπαξ τὸν χρόνον ἄλογον πολλάκις ἂν ζητήσω,
Once the year horse perhaps if I-ask
νὰ ὑπάγω νὰ ἴδω φίλον μου, μικρὸν νὰ τσατσαρίσω
that I-go that I-see friend my a-little that I-chat
καὶ νὰ φανῶ εἰς τοὺς γείτονας ὅτι εἶμαι καβαλλάρης,
and that I-appear to the neighbors that I-am horseman
τὴν πόρταν ῥωμανίζουσι καὶ οὐδὲ πεζὸν μὲ ἀφίνουν,
the door they-bolt and not-even on-foot me let
καὶ κἂν μὴ θέλω, δέσποτα, σουφρίζω καὶ ὑπομένω.
and even-if not I-want lord I-whistle and endure

III · THE ABBOTS' TABLE

At the abbots' table course follows course: boiled fish, a sweet-and-sour stew, a great red fish, a three-span mullet, sea bream, roast and fried fish; the poet longs for another Akritas to crush the hateful company. Then comes a seething stew he aches to fall upon. The monks get flabby tuna and watered wine, and one who murmurs is beaten while flatterers praise the abbot. The founder's rule is ignored, and the poet sets the abbots' feasting against his hunger.

Τὰ δ' ἄλλα πῶς διηγήσωμαι κατὰ λεπτὸν καὶ μέρος,
The and rest how shall-I-relate in detail and part
τὰ τῆς τραπέζης λέγω δή, τοῦ γεύματος τὴν ὥραν,
the(-things) of-the table I-say indeed of-the meal the hour
ὅταν τὰ τρία δώσουσι καὶ πάντες συναχθῶσι
when the three(-strokes) they-give and all gather
καὶ ψάλουν τὸ ὑψώσω σε καὶ ἄρξωνται τοῦ τρώγειν;
and chant the I-will-exalt you and begin of-the to-eat
καὶ τίς εἰπῇ σοι καθαρῶς τὰ πλήθη τῶν ἰχθύων
and who would-tell you clearly the multitudes of-the fish
τῶν ἡγουμένων ἔμπροσθεν προκείμενα συνήθως,
of-the abbots before set customarily
τὰ μὲν εἰς τὸν ἐγκλειστιανόν, εἰς τὸν πατέρα λέγω,
the(-ones) indeed to the recluse to the father I-say
τὰ δ' ἄλλα πάλιν ἀλλαχοῦ, πρὸς τὸν υἱὸν ἐκείνου;
the and others again elsewhere to the son of-that(-one)
Πρῶτον διαβαίνει τὸ ἐκζεστόν, ψησσόπουλον μπουρδᾶτον,
First goes-by the boiled flatfish thick
καὶ δεύτερον περίχυμα, μαζὸς βεβαρυμένος,
and second broth breast weighty
καὶ τρίτον ὀξυνόγλυκος κροκατομαγείρια,
and third sweet-and-sour saffron-stew

ἔχουσα στάχος, σύσγουδα, καρυόφυλλα, τριψίδια,
having spikenard sauce cloves spices
ἀμανιτάρια, ὄξος τε καὶ μέλιν ἐκ τὸ ἀκάπνιν,
mushrooms vinegar both and honey from the unsmoked(-comb)
καὶ ἀπέσω κεῖται κόκκινη, μεγάλη φιλομῆλα,
and inside lies red great thrush-fish
καὶ κέφαλος τριπίθαμος αὐγᾶτος ἐκ τὸ Ῥήγιν
and mullet three-span roe-filled from — Rhegion
καὶ συναγρίδα πεπανή, ἐκ τὰς καλάς, τὰς πρώτας —
and sea-bream ripe of the fine the first
αἴ, νὰ ἔφαγα ἐκ τὰ θρύμματα, νὰ ἔπια ἐκ τὸ ζουμίν των,
ah that I-had-eaten of the morsels that I-had-drunk of the broth their
καὶ χιώτικον νὰ ἐτσάκωσα κἂν τέσσαρα μουχρούτια,
and Chian that I-had-snatched even four cups
καὶ νὰ ἐρευξάμην εὔνοστα καὶ νὰ ἐπαρηγορήθην! —
and that I-had-belched sweetly and that I-had-been-consoled
καὶ τέταρτον τὸ ὀπτούτσικον, καὶ πέμπτον τὸ τηγάνου,
and fourth the roasted and fifth the of-the-pan
κομμάτια μεσοκόμματα, τριγλία μουστακᾶτα,
pieces middle-cuts red-mullets whiskered
καὶ διπλοτήγανον παχὺν μεγάλων ἀθερίνων,
and double-panful thick of-great smelts
καὶ κιθαργὸς ὀπτούτσικος, ἀκέραιος, μὲ τὸ γάρος,
and flounder roasted whole with the fish-sauce
τὸ καρναβάδιν ἄνωθεν ἕως κάτω πεπασμένος,
the caraway from-above to below sprinkled
καὶ πάλιν ἀπολάκτισμα μεγάλου λαβρακίου.
and again tail-end of-great bass
Ὤ τις Ἀκρίτης ἕτερος ἐκεῖ νὰ εὑρέθη τότε,
O some Akritas another there that had-been-found then

καὶ τὰς ποδέας του νὰ ἔμπηξε, νὰ ἐπῆρε τὸ ῥαβδίν του,
and the skirts his that he-had-tucked-up that he-had-taken the club his
καὶ νὰ τοὺς ἐσυνέτριψεν τοὺς παλαμναίους μίσσους!
and that them he-had-crushed the murderous hateful(-ones)
Πολλάκις μὲ παρώτρυνε ὁ λογισμὸς νὰ ποιήσω,
Often me urged the thought that I-do
νὰ ἔμπω εἰς τὴν μέσην καὶ νὰ ἐβγῶ, νὰ δώσω καὶ νὰ ἐπάρω,
that I-go into the midst and that I-exit that I-give and that I-take
μήνα τσακώσω πίνακα κανένα εἰς τὰς χεῖρας,
in-case I-snatch platter some into the hands
καὶ πιάσω καὶ συντρίψω τον, καὶ σφίξω τοὺς ὀδόντας,
and seize and crush it and clench the teeth
καὶ σύντσεφλον τσακίσω τον, καθάπερ ἄρνα λέων,
and with-bones-and-all smash it as lamb lion
ἀλλ' ὁ χορός, ὦ δέσποτα, τῶν σωματοφυλάκων
but the band O lord of-the bodyguards
οὐδ' ἀτενίσαι καθαρῶς ἐκείνους μὲ ἀφῆκεν.
not-even to-gaze clearly at-those me allowed
Μετὰ γοῦν τὴν παράθεσιν ὧν εἴρηκα βρωμάτων
After then the serving of-which I-have-told dishes
εἰσῆλθεν, ὦ τοῦ θαύματος, καὶ τὸ μονοκυθρίτσιν,
came-in O the marvel also the little-stew
ὑπεραχλίζον ὀλιγὸν καὶ πέμπον εὐωδίαν.
seething-over a-little and sending-forth fragrance
Εἰ βούλει, πάλιν μάνθανε καὶ τὰ τοῦ μονοκύθρου·
If you-wish again learn also the(-things) of-the stew
κραμβὶν καρδίας τέσσαρας, χοντρὰς καὶ χιονάτας,
cabbage hearts four thick and snow-white
καὶ ξιφοτράχηλον παστόν, κυπριναρίου τὴν μέσην,
and swordfish-neck salted of-carp the middle

γλαύκους καλοὺς κἂν εἴκοσι, ἀπάκια βερζιτίκου,
(fishes) good even twenty bacon-strips of-Bersitikon
ὠὰ κἂν δεκατέσσαρα καὶ κρητικὸν τυρίτσιν,
eggs even fourteen and Cretan little-cheese
ἀπότυρα κἂν τέσσαρα καὶ βλάχικον ὀλίγον,
cheese-curds even four and Vlach little
καὶ λίτραν τὸ χριστέλαιον, πεπέριν φοῦκταν μίαν,
and pound the Christ-oil pepper handful one
σκόρδα κεφάλια δώδεκα καὶ τσίρους δεκαπέντε,
garlic heads twelve and dried-mackerel fifteen
καὶ ἀπαλαρέα μουχρούτινον γλυκὺν κρασὶν ἐπάνω,
and soft Mouchroutian sweet wine on-top
καὶ ἀνακομπώματα τρανά, καὶ βλέπε τότε βούκκας!
and mouthfuls great and see then cheeks
Αἴ, τσοῦκκα ὁποῦ τὰ ἐβάστασεν! πῶς οὐκ ἐσχίσθη μέσα;
Ah pot which them held how not was-split inside
ἐκείνη βαπτιστῆρα ἦτον, ἐκείνη τσοῦκκα οὐκ ἦτον.
that baptismal-font was that pot not was
Ἐκίνησαν τὰ σάλια μου· Χριστέ, νὰ τὴν ἐπιάσα,
Moved the saliva my Christ that her I-had-seized
Χριστέ, νὰ τὴν ἐπέπεσα καθὰ ἦτον φουσκωμένη,
Christ that her I-had-fallen-upon as she-was swollen
νὰ ἐκάθισα εἰς τὸ πλάγιν της, νὰ ἠρξάμην ῥουκανίζειν,
that I-had-sat at the side her that I-had-begun to-gnaw
νὰ ἐχρίσθη τὸ μουστάκιν μου, νὰ ἐχόρτασα λιγδίτσαν,
that had-been-smeared the mustache my that I-had-had-my-fill fat
καὶ τότε νὰ εἶδες, δέσποτα, πηδήματα νεωτέρου,
and then that you-had-seen lord leaps of-young(-man)
καὶ καλογέρου ταπεινοῦ γυρίσματα καὶ κρότους.
and of-monk humble turnings and clatterings

Καὶ ταῦτα μὲν τυγχάνουσι τὰ περὶ τῶν βρωμάτων,
And these(-things) indeed are the on the food
τῶν δὲ πομάτων ἄδηλα καὶ ξένης ὀπτασίας,
of-the but drinks unknown(-are-they) and of-strange sight
γεύσεως γὰρ οὐδέποτε μετέλαβον ἐκείνων,
taste for never I-partook of-those
τῆς εὐωδίας μόνης τε καὶ θέας μαρτυρούσης·
of-the fragrance alone both and of-sight bearing-witness
ῥοδοβολεῖ γάρ, δέσποτα, τούτοις εὐθὺς ὁ πίνων
smells-of-roses for lord with-these at-once the drinker
καὶ ἐρεύγεται συχνότερον ἀπὸ τῆς εὐποσίας.
and belches more-often from the good-drinking
Ἐγὼ δὲ νῦν καθέζομαι καὶ ἐρεύγομαι τὸν ψόφον,
I but now sit and belch the noise
καὶ καταπίνω πάντοτε χολόκουκκα πικρίας,
and swallow always gall-beans of-bitterness
συχνὰ περιστρεφόμενος καὶ βλέπων τὸν κελλάρην,
often turning-about and watching the cellarer
καὶ πυκνογυριζόμενος μὴ νὰ εὕρω κἂν σαυρίδιν,
and often-turning lest that I-find even horse-mackerel
ἢ παλαμίδιν ἢ σκουμπρίν, ἢ θύνναν βρωμιαρέαν·
or bonito or mackerel or tuna stinking
καὶ μόλις νὰ μᾶς φέρωσι θυννόκομμαν δαμάκιν,
and barely that to-us they-bring tuna-slice a-bit
ἄπαστον, ἄξυστον, σαχνόν, ἄπλυτον, καπνισμένον,
unsalted unscraped flabby unwashed smoked
καὶ γὰρ λεπτοκοποῦσι το ὡς οἱ χαβιαροποῦλοι,
and for they-cut-thin it as the caviar-sellers
καὶ λέγουν μας· „σπαστρεύετε, πατέρες, μὴ βλαβῆτε“.
and say to-us clean(-it) fathers not be-harmed

καὶ πρὶν τὸ πιάσω χάνεται καὶ φεύγει ἐκ τὸ σκουτέλλιν,
and before it I-take it-disappears and flees from the bowl
ἂν δὲ παγώσῃ, ἐκόλλησε καὶ ἀπέκει οὐκ ἀνασπᾶται,
if and it-freezes it-stuck and from-there not is-pulled-off
καὶ ἀπὸ μανίας μου ῥίπτω το μετὰ τοῦ σκουτελλίου·
and from rage my I-throw it with the bowl
καὶ μὲ τὸν ἄρτον τὸν ξηρόν, τὸ δόλιον ἁγιοζούμιν,
and with the bread the dry the wretched holy-broth
διαβάζω τὴν ἡμέραν μου στενὴν καὶ τεθλιμμένην,
I-pass the day my narrow and afflicted
καὶ πίνω καὶ τὸ γάρισμα τὸ ὑδροκοπημένον,
and drink also the ration the water-cut
καὶ πρήσκεται ἡ κοιλία μου, τὰ δ' ἄλλα μὴ τὰ λέγω!
and swells the belly my the and rest not them let-me-tell
Ἂν δὲ πολλάκις πλανηθῇ κανεὶς τῶν καλογέρων
If and perhaps goes-astray any of-the monks
καὶ μουρμουρίσῃ τίποτε καὶ ἀναστενάξῃ ὀλίγον,
and mutters anything and sighs a-little
καὶ λόγος ἐξεπέσῃ τον ἐκ τῆς ὀλιγωρίας,
and word escapes him from the negligence
οὐδὲ συμφθάνει ὁ ταπεινὸς εἰπεῖν τὸ κύριε ἐλέησον,
not-even manages the humble to-say the Lord have-mercy
ἢ κἂν τὸ κρασοβόλιν του ὄξος νὰ τὸ πληρώσῃ,
or even the wine-ration his vinegar that it they-fill
αὐτίκα γὰρ ἀνάρπαστον σηκώνουν τον ἐκεῖθεν,
at-once for snatched they-lift him from-there
καὶ ὡς οὗ νὰ τὸν ἐκβάλωσι συρόμενον ἀπέκει,
and until which that him they-throw-out dragged from-there
βιτσέας συνάσσει ὁ ταπεινὸς πολλὰς καὶ ἀναριθμήτους,
blows gathers the humble many and countless

οἱ δ' ἄλλοι καταπίνουσιν ἀντὶ ψωμίου φαρμάκιν,
the and others swallow instead-of bread poison
πίνουσιν ὄξος καὶ χολὴν ἀντὶ ὕδατος καὶ οἴνου·
they-drink vinegar and gall instead-of water and wine
κάθηνται γὰρ οἱ κόλακες πλησίον τοῦ ποιμένος,
sit for the flatterers near the shepherd
τὰ παρ' αὐτοῦ γινόμενα μεγάλως ἐπαινοῦντες,
the(-things) by him done greatly praising
καὶ πρὸς ἡμᾶς φθεγγόμενοι μετὰ θυμοῦ τοιάδε·
and to us speaking with anger such(-things)
„τοῦ μοναχοῦ, τοῦ στασιαστοῦ, τοῦ λάλου, τοῦ φλυάρου
of-the monk the rebel the chatterer the babbler
φοβείτω τὸ παράδειγμα τοὺς ὁμοτρόπους πάντας,
let-frighten the example the like-minded all
ἵνα μὴ περιπέσητε κακοῖς τισὶ ὁμοίοις,
that not you-fall-into evils some like
ἄρχοντα γὰρ οὐ δίδωσι ὁ νόμος καθυβρίζειν".
ruler for not allows the law to-insult
Ὦ τῆς καλῆς σου, δέσποτα, σοφῆς μακροθυμίας
O the good your lord wise forbearance
ἥνπερ ἐνδείκνυσαι σαφῶς εἰς τοὺς Φιλοθείτας!
which you-show clearly to the Philotheites
Εἰ δὲ μικρὸν ἠθέλησας τὰ τούτων ἐρευνῆσαι,
If but a-little you-had-wished the(-things) of-these to-search-out
ἐπέγνως κἂν ἐξ ἀκοῆς ψιλῆς καὶ μόνης πάντα,
you-would-have-known even by hearing bare and alone all
καὶ τοῦ πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ υἱοῦ, οἴμοι, τὰς ἀδικίας,
both of-the father and of-the son alas the injustices
καὶ ταύτας ἐξεμίσησας καὶ τὰς παρανομίας.
and these you-would-have-hated and the lawless-deeds

Καὶ πῶς οὐ πάσω κεφαλὴν κόνει καὶ τίλω τρίχας,
And how not shall-I-sprinkle head with-dust and pluck hairs
τὸ τυπικὸν τοῦ κτήτορος ὁρῶν ἠμεληµένον
the rule of-the founder seeing neglected
καὶ πᾶσαν τὴν συνήθειαν τὴν θείαν ἐξωσµένην,
and all the custom the divine thrust-out
βασιλικὰ προστάγµατα συνοδικάς τε κρίσεις
imperial decrees synodal and judgments
εἰς µάτην προσγινόµενα καὶ καταφρονηµένα,
in vain coming-to-pass and despised
καὶ µὴ διόρθωσίν τινα δυνάµενα ποιῆσαι;
and not correction any able to-make
Τάχατε προφητεύοµαι, καὶ λέγω τα µεγάλως,
As-it-were I-prophesy and say them greatly
ὡσεὶ θελήσεις, δέσποτα, τὰ τούτων ἐρευνῆσαι,
as-if you-will-wish lord the(-things) of-these to-probe
καὶ δώσεις τὴν ἐκδίκησιν τοῖς ἀεὶ ἠδικηµένοις,
and you-will-give the vengeance to-the ever wronged
ὡς ἀληθῶς φανήσεται θράσος βαρβάρων παύων,
as truly you-will-appear boldness of-barbarians stopping
τὴν τοῦ Χριστοῦ µιµούµενος ὡς ἔθος συµµαχίαν.
the — of-Christ imitating as custom alliance
Λοιπὸν εὐθυδροµήσωµεν ἐπὶ τὰς διοικήσεις,
Then let-us-run-straight to the administrations
ἵνα καὶ τούτων ἀκριβῶς τὰ πάντα καταµάθῃς.
that also of-these exactly the all you-may-learn
Οὐκ ἔνι τοῦτο, δέσποτα, δαιµονικόν, εἰκάζω,
Not is this lord demonic I-suppose
οὐκ ἔνι τοῦτο τῶν ἐµῶν ἁµαρτηµάτων ἔργον,
not is this of-the my sins work

ἐκεῖνοι νὰ λαμιώνουσιν καὶ ἐγὼ νὰ μὴ χορταίνω;
those that they-gorge and I that not I-am-filled
ἐκεῖνοι νὰ σταβλίζωνται εἰς τὸ φαγεῖν καθ' ὥραν,
those that they-be-stabled at the to-eat by hour
καὶ ἐγὼ νὰ ὁμοιάζω πάντοτε τοὺς λιμοκοπημένους,
and I that I-resemble always the starvelings
ἐκεῖνοι νὰ χορταίνουσι τὰ πρῶτα τῶν ἰχθύων
those that they-are-filled-with the first of-the fish
καὶ ἐμὲ νὰ μὴ μὲ δίδουσι κἂν θύνναν νὰ χορτάσω;
and me that not me they-give even tuna that I-am-filled
ἐκεῖνοι νὰ κοτσώνουσι τὸ χιωτικὸν εἰς κόρον,
those that they-guzzle the Chian to satiety
καὶ ὁ ἐμὸς ὁ στόμαχος νὰ πάσχῃ ἀπὸ τὸ ὄξος;
and the my the stomach that suffers from the vinegar
(καὶ κἂν ἂς με ἐγεμίζασι τὸ ἐμποτόπουλόν μου,
and even if-only me they-had-filled the little-drinking-cup my
εἰμὴ ζητῶ καὶ λέγουν με· „περπάτει εἰς τὸ πηγάδιν")
if-not I-ask and they-tell me walk to the well
ἐκεῖνοι νὰ χορταίνουσι τὸν ὕπνον καθ' ἡμέραν,
those that they-are-filled-with the sleep by day
ἐγὼ δὲ ἂν λείψω ἀντίφωνον αὐτίκα νὰ ἀποθνήσκω;
I but if I-miss antiphon at-once that I-die
Ἐκεῖνοι καβαλλάριοι διαβαίνουσι τὴν πόλιν,
Those on-horseback go-through the city
καὶ μετὰ ὀψικάτορας καὶ μετὰ ὑποταγάτους,
both with retinue-men and with servants
καὶ λόγῳ μου νὰ λέγουσι· „ῥωμάνισε τὴν πόρταν",
and by-word my that they-say bolt the door
νὰ μὴ μὲ ἀφίνουν κἂν πεζὸν ἐξέρχεσθαι τῆς πύλης·
that not me they-let even on-foot to-go-out of-the gate

εἰ δὲ ἀφήσουν με ποτὲ νὰ ἐξέλθω ἀπὸ τὴν πόρταν,
if but they-let me ever that I-go-out from the door
καὶ οὐ φθάσω εἰς τὸν ἀπόστολον,
and not I-arrive at the epistle
καὶ οὐκ εἶμαι εἰς τὸ εὐαγγέλιον,
and not I-am at the gospel
ἀφίνουσί με νηστικὸν τὴν ἅπασαν ἡμέραν.
they-leave me fasting the whole day

III · THE HOLY BROTH

On fast days the abbots dine on shellfish, roes, sweet wine, and fruit while the monks get soaked beans and the holy broth, onion water with three drops of oil, which the poet's table-mate calls rust broth. Only a lie gets a monk out of the gate. A monk who speaks up is mocked as a lousy nobody, and one who threatens to appeal is soured, stinted, and driven off. The poet leaves the monastery and asks the emperor for bread, naming George as his mediator.

Τετράδα καὶ παρασκευὴν ξηροφαγοῦσιν ὅλως·
Wednesday and Friday they-eat-dry wholly
ἰχθὺν γὰρ οὐκ ἐσθίουσιν, ἄναξ, ποσῶς ἐν τούτοις,
fish for not they-eat lord at-all on these
εἰμὴ ψωμίτσιν, ἀστακοὺς καὶ ἀληθινὰ παγούρια,
except little-bread lobsters and true crabs
καὶ καραβίδας ἐκζεστάς, τηγάνου καριδίτσας
and crayfish boiled of-the-pan shrimps
καὶ λαχανίτσιν καὶ φακὴν μετὰ ὀστρειδομυδίτσια,
and little-greens and lentil with oysters-and-mussels
καὶ μετὰ ∗∗∗ δέσποτα, καὶ κτένια καὶ σωλῆνας,
and with (lacuna) lord and scallops and razor-clams

καὶ φαβατίτσιν ἀλεστὸν καὶ ὀρύζιν μὲ τὸ μέλιν,
and little-beans ground and rice with the honey
φασόλια ἐξοφθάλμιστα, ἐλαίτσας καὶ χαβιάριν,
beans peeled little-olives and caviar
καὶ πωρινὰ αὐγοτάραχα διὰ τὴν ἀνορεξίαν,
and early roes for the lack-of-appetite
μηλίτσια τε καὶ φοίνικας, ἰσχάδας, καρυδίτσια,
little-apples both and dates dried-figs little-walnuts
καὶ σταφιδίτσας χιώτικας, καὶ ἀπὸ τὸ διὰ κίτρου.
and little-raisins Chian and of the with citron(-preserve)
∗∗∗, νὰ χωνεύσουσιν ἐκ τῆς ξηροφαγίας,
(lacuna) that they-may-digest from the dry-eating
κρασὶν γλυκὺν γανίτικον, καὶ κρητικὸν καὶ σάμιον,
wine sweet Ganos and Cretan and Samian
ἵνα χυμοὺς ἐκβάλωσιν ἐκ τῆς γλυκοποσίας,
that humors they-may-expel from the sweet-drinking
ἡμᾶς δὲ προτιθέασι κυάμους βεβρεγμένους,
us but they-set-before beans soaked
ἢ καὶ τὴν δίψαν παύουσιν ἐν τῷ κυμινοθέρμῳ,
or even the thirst they-stop with the cumin-water
τὸ τυπικὸν φυλάττοντες καὶ νόμους τῶν πατέρων ∗∗∗
the rule keeping and laws of-the fathers (lacuna)
Ἡμεῖς δὲ νῦν ἐσθίομεν καθόλου τὸ ἁγιοζούμιν,
We but now eat always the holy-broth
καὶ σκόπει τοῦ ὀνόματος αὐτοῦ τὴν ποικιλίαν·
and consider of-the name its the variety
κακκάβιν ἔνι δίωτον, ὡσεὶ μετρῶν τεσσάρων,
cauldron is two-handled about of-measures four
καὶ ἕως ἄνω οἱ μάγειροι γεμίζουσί το ὕδωρ,
and up-to the-top the cooks fill it water

καὶ πῦρ ἐξάπτουσι πολὺ κατὰ τοῦ κακκαβίου,
and fire they-light much under the cauldron
καὶ βάλλουσι κρομμύδια κἂν εἴκοσι κολέντας,
and they-put onions even twenty bunches
καὶ τότε βλέπε, δέσποτα, καλὴν φιλοτιμίαν·
and then see lord fine generosity
εἰς κλῆσιν γὰρ βαπτίζονται τριάδος τῆς ἁγίας,
in invocation for they-are-baptized of-trinity the holy
στάζει γὰρ τρεῖς τὸ ἔλαιον ὁ μάγειρος ἀπέσω,
drips for three the oil the cook inside
καὶ βάλλει καὶ θρυμβόξυλα τινὰ πρὸς μυρωδίαν
and puts also savory-sticks some for fragrance
καὶ τὸν ζωμὸν ἐκχέει τον ἐπάνω τῶν ψωμίων,
and the broth he-pours it upon the breads
καὶ δίδουν μας καὶ τρώγομεν καὶ λέγεται ἁγιοζούμιν.
and they-give us and we-eat and it-is-called holy-broth
Νεύω τὸν συψωμίτην μου, σύρω τον ἐκ τὸ ἱμάτιν,
I-nod-to the table-mate my I-pull him by the cloak
λέγω τον· „τί ἔν' τὸ τρώγομεν;“ καὶ λέγει με· „ἰοζούμιν“,
I-say to-him what is what we-eat and he-says to-me rust-broth
καὶ πίστευσον, οὐ ψεύδεται, μᾶλλον εὐστόχως λέγει,
and believe(-me) not he-lies rather aptly he-says
τῶν γὰρ κρομμύων δάκνει με συντόμως ἡ δριμύτης
of-the for onions bites me quickly the sharpness
καὶ ὁ ἰὸς τοῦ λέβητος ἐπάνω πρασινίζει.
and the rust of-the cauldron above shows-green
Καὶ πίστευσον, ἐμάνην το, καὶ οὐ θέλω νὰ τὸ βλέπω,
And believe(-me) I-have-gone-mad-at it and not I-want that it I-see
πεινῶν δὲ πάλιν τρώγω το· εἰπέ με, τί νὰ φάγω;
hungry but again I-eat it tell me what that I-eat

πάντα πεινῶν ἀγανακτῶ, κινοῦμαι εἰς τὸ ἁγιοζούμιν,
always hungry I-fret I-move to the holy-broth
διὰ νὰ εὕρω θρύμματα νὰ φάγω, νὰ χορτάσω.
for that I-find morsels that I-eat that I-be-filled
Ἐκεῖνοι τρώγουν βαθρακούς, ἡμεῖς δὲ τὸ ἁγιοζούμιν,
Those eat bream we but the holy-broth
ἐκεῖνοι πάντα πίνουσι τὸ χιώτικον εἰς κόρον,
those always drink the Chian to satiety
ἡμεῖς δὲ τὸ βαρνιώτικον τὸ νεροκοπημένον·
we but the Varna-wine the water-cut
ἐκεῖνοι πάντα τὸ γλυκὺν μετὰ τῶν κουτρουβίων,
those always the sweet with the flagons
ἡμεῖς δὲ τὸ νερούτσικον μετὰ τῶν πινακίων·
we but the little-water with the platters
ἐκεῖνοι σεμιδάλινον, ἡμεῖς δὲ πιτερᾶτον·
those fine-flour(-bread) we but bran(-bread)
ἐκεῖνοι τὸ ἀφρατόζεστον μετὰ τοῦ σησαμίου,
those the fluffy-baked with the sesame
ἡμεῖς δὲ τὸ χονδρόχυλον τὸ στακτοκυλισμένον·
we but the coarse-ground the ash-rolled
ἐκεῖνοι τὰ λαλάγγια συχνάκις μὲ τὸ μέλι,
those the pancakes often with the honey
ἡμεῖς δὲ τὸ ἀλλαλάϊ τους συχνὰ μὲ τὸ φαρμάκιν·
we but the hullabaloo their often with the poison
ἐκεῖνοι τὰ γλυκίσματα μὲ τὰς ἀπαλαρέας,
those the sweetmeats with the soft(-cakes)
ἡμεῖς δὲ τὰ χολόκουκκα μὲ τὰς πολλὰς πικρίας·
we but the gall-beans with the many bitternesses
ἐκεῖνοι τὰ νομίσματα συνάγουσιν ἀπλήστως,
those the coins gather insatiably

ἡμᾶς δὲ κατηχήζουσι περὶ φιλαργυρίας,
us but they-catechize about avarice
καὶ τοῦ μὴ κτᾶσθαι πώποτε χαλκὸν ἐπὶ τὴν ζώνην.
and of-the not to-acquire ever copper on the belt
Τίς δὲ καὶ τὴν ἀσφάλειαν τῆς πόρτας ὑπομείνῃ;
Who and also the security of-the gate would-endure
οὐ γὰρ ἰσχύει τὸ λοιπὸν ἀλήθεια τοσοῦτον
not for prevails the then truth so-much
ὥσπερ τὸ ψεῦδος δύναται πρὸς ἐκβολὴν τῆς πόρτας·
as the lie can toward getting-out of-the gate
μυρίας γὰρ εἰ λέγει τις καθ' ὥραν ἀληθείας,
countless for if speaks anyone by hour truths
οὐκ ἂν μαλάξῃ πώποτε τὸν νοῦν τοῦ κυριεγκλείστου,
not — would-soften ever the mind of-the lord-recluse
εἰ μήπως εἴπῃ ψεῦδος τι καλῶς πεποιημένον,
if not-perhaps he-tell lie some well made
βομβοκτυπίζον στερεῶς τὰ ὦτα τοῦ ποιμένος·
booming firmly the ears of-the shepherd
„Πάτερ, πετσὶν οὐδέν ἔχω, νὰ ἀνάβω νὰ ἀγοράσω,
Father leather none I-have that I-go-up that I-buy
καὶ μελανίτσιν ὀλίγον, καὶ τώρα εἶα ποῦ φθάνω.
and little-ink a-little and now come where I-arrive
Ἐκόπην τὸ ζωνάριν μου, νὰ ἀνάβω νὰ ἀγοράσω,
Broke the belt my that I-go-up that I-buy
καὶ χρήζω καὶ καλίγια, καὶ τώρα εἶα ποῦ φθάνω.
and I-need also boots and now come where I-arrive
Πάτερ, ῥογεύει ὁ βασιλεὺς ὅλα τὰ μοναστήρια,
Father pays the emperor all the monasteries
ἂς δράμω, ἂς ἴδω ποῦ διδοῦν, καὶ τώρα εἶα ποῦ φθάνω.
let I-run let I-see where they-give and now come where I-arrive

Πάτερ, παννίτσιν ἔδωκα προχθὲς εἰς τὸν βαφέα,
Father little-cloth I-gave day-before-yesterday to the dyer
νὰ ὑπάγω νὰ ζητήσω το, καὶ τώρα εἶα ποῦ φθάνω.
that I-go that I-ask-for it and now come where I-arrive
Πάτερ, διὰ δέκα στάμενα κρατοῦν με ὁλοκοτίνιν,
Father for ten staters they-hold me whole-coin
νὰ ὑπάγω νὰ ζητήσω το, καὶ τώρα εἶα ποῦ φθάνω.
that I-go that I-ask-for it and now come where I-arrive
Πάτερ, ὡς λέγουν, ἐκ παντὸς ψυχομαχεῖ ὁ ἀδελφός μου,
Father as they-say by all-means is-dying the brother my
ἂς ἔβγω, ἂς δράμω νὰ ἰδῶ, καὶ τώρα εἶα ποῦ φθάνω.
let I-go-out let I-run that I-see and now come where I-arrive
Ταῦτα λαλοῦντες ἔχομεν μικρὰν παρηγορίαν,
These(-things) saying we-have little consolation
καὶ ἐκ τῆς μονῆς ἐκβαίνοντες βλέπομεν καὶ τὸν κόσμον,
and from the monastery going-out we-see also the world
καὶ παρηγόρημα μικρὸν εὑρίσκομεν δαμάκιν.
and consolation small we-find a-bit
Τὰ δ' ἄλλα τὰ λεγόμενα καὶ τὰς ὀνειδισίας,
The and other the(-things) said and the reproaches
τὰς ὕβρεις καὶ ἐπιβουλὰς πῶς ὅλως ὑπομείνω;
the insults and plots how wholly shall-I-endure
„Τὸ τίς εἶσαι καὶ τί θέλεις, καὶ τί ἔν' τὸ συντυχαίνεις;
The who are-you and what do-you-want and what is what you-chatter
τὸ πῶς λαλεῖς, πῶς στήκεσαι, πῶς ἀναβλεμματίζεις;
the how you-speak how you-stand how you-look-up
Οὐκ εἶσαι εὐγενικόπουλον, οὐδὲ ἀπὸ τῶν ἐνδόξων,
Not you-are little-noble nor of the illustrious
οὐδὲ ἔφερες τὰ κτήματα εἰς τὴν μονὴν νὰ ὁρίζῃς·
nor you-brought the estates to the monastery that you-command

καλογερίτσιν ταπεινὸν ὑπάρχεις ἐκ τὸ Μίλιν,
little-monk humble you-are from — Milion
φθειριάρικον, κοντριάρικον, γυμνόν, ἀπωλεσμένον,
lousy hunchbacked naked lost
γαδούριν παλαιόπληγον, ὀρνιθοκορυτζιάριν,
donkey old-wounded hen-coop-boy
καὶ τρώγεις ψυχικὸν ψωμὶν καὶ δίδουν σε καὶ ῥάσον.
and you-eat soul-gift bread and they-give you also habit
Καὶ φράξε νῦν τὸν κοπετὸν καὶ παῦσε τὰς σαλίας,
And stop now the wailing and cease the drool
καὶ τὸ νὰ λέγῃς ἀναιδῶς καὶ μετὰ παρρησίας·
and the that you-speak shamelessly and with boldness
ἐξάφες τὰ στιλβώματα καὶ τὰς ἁδρολαλίας,
give-up the polishings and the grand-talk
ὑπάγαινε μὲ τὸ καλὸν καὶ μὲ τὸν λογισμόν σου,
go with the good and with the thought your
μὴ πρὶν σὲ κοπανήσουσι καὶ δώσουν σε τὸ ὀγόν σου
lest before you they-pound and give you the (obscure) your
καὶ τῆς μονῆς ὁλόγυμνον ἐκβάλουσί σε αὐτίκα·
and from-the monastery all-naked throw you at-once
εἰ δὲ καὶ θέλεις νὰ εἶσαι ἐδῶ, νὰ τρώγῃς τὸ ψωμίν μας,
if but also you-wish that you-be here that you-eat the bread our
σφίξον καλὰ τὰ ὀδόντια σου καὶ κράτει τὴν φωνήν σου,
clench well the teeth your and hold the voice your
καὶ κάμμνε τὰ ὀμμάτια σου καὶ μὴ πολυπραγμόνει".
and shut the eyes your and not meddle
Καὶ πάντες μὲν οὐ δύνανται ταῦτα γενναίως φέρειν,
And all indeed not can these(-things) nobly to-bear
ἀλλ' ἴσως καὶ λυπούμενοι πολλάκις ἂν λαλήσουν,
but perhaps even grieving often — they-would-speak

καὶ τραχυτέροις τάχατε νὰ χρήσωνται τοῖς λόγοις,
and harsher as-it-were that they-use the words
καὶ ἂν ἔνι τις καὶ δόκιμος καὶ ἔχῃ ψυχὴν θρασεῖαν,
and if there-is someone also approved and has soul bold
καὶ θήσῃ τὰ τοῦ πλάσματος καὶ ἀποδειλιάσῃ πλήρης,
and lays-aside the(-things) of-the creature and is-made-cowardly full
καὶ σφίξῃ τὰ μερία του καὶ τὴν καρδιὰν πονέσῃ,
and clenches the thighs his and the heart feels-pain
καὶ ἀποκοτήσῃ ὡς ἄγουρος καὶ ἐπιλαλήσῃ εἰς μέσην,
and dares as youth and speaks-out in middle
καὶ σείσῃ τὸ κοντάριν του καὶ εἴπῃ ***,
and shakes the lance his and says (lacuna)
καὶ καταβῇ τὸ λέγουσι τινὲς εἰς τὸ πεδίον,
and goes-down as they-say some into the field
καὶ λέξῃ· „πράγματα κακὰ γίνονται, πάτερ, ὧδε,
and says things evil happen father here
καὶ ποίησον διόρθωσιν, οὐκ ἔνι πατρικά σου,
and make correction not is paternal(-estate) your
οὐδὲ διὰ σὲ τὸ ἐκτίσασι τοῦτο τὸ μοναστήριν,
nor for you it they-built this the monastery
τοῦ νὰ τὸ τρώγῃς μοναχὸς μετὰ τῶν συγγενῶν σου,
of-the that it you-eat alone with the kinsmen your
νὰ μᾶς διώκῃς τῆς μονῆς ὡς ξένους ***
that us you-drive from-the monastery as strangers (lacuna)
εἰ δ' οὖν, νὰ τὸ ἐγκαλέσωμεν τὸν ἅγιον βασιλέα,
if but then that it we-accuse to-the holy emperor
καὶ πάντες ἵνα δράμωμεν ἐπὶ τὸν πατριάρχην“,
and all that we-run to the patriarch
κρεῖσσον ἦτον νὰ ἀπέθανεν ὁ μοναχὸς ἐκεῖνος,
better was that had-died the monk that

ἢ πάλιν, τὸ λεγόμενον, ποσῶς νὰ μὴ ἐγεννήθη.
or again the saying at-all that not he-had-been-born
Βλέπε ἀπὸ τότε μηχανὰς καὶ δόλους καὶ κακίας·
See from then devices and tricks and malices
τὸν οἰνοχόον πρότερον συντόμως παραγγέλλει·
the wine-pourer first quickly he-commands
„ὄξυνον δότε ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν κρασὶν τὸν Ἱλαριῶνα,
sour give from the now wine — to-Hilarion
ἂς ἔνι καὶ ὀλιγούτσικον, νὰ μὴν ἀναισχυντίζῃ,
let it-be also very-little that not he-be-shameless
καὶ ἂν μουρμουρίσῃ τίποτε καὶ ὁρμήσῃ νὰ τὸ στρέψῃ,
and if he-mutters anything and rushes that it he-return
καὶ τότε θέλω νὰ ἰδῶ τὸ πῶς τὸν θέλεις σύρειν
and then I-want that I-see the how him you-will drag
καὶ σπρώσεις καὶ λακτίσεις τον ἔξωθεν τοῦ πυλῶνος“.
and you-will-push and kick him outside of-the gate
Καὶ τὸν κελλάρην ὅμοια τῷ πρώτῳ κατηχίζει·
And the cellarer likewise to-the first he-instructs
„πάντα τὸν δεῖνα μερτικὸν μικρότερον τὸν δίδε,
always to-the so-and-so portion smaller to-him give
ἂς ἔνι καὶ συνόστεον, ἂς ἔχῃ καὶ αἱματίδας,
let it-be also with-bones let it-have also clots
καὶ ἂν οὐ τὸ ἐπάρῃ,
and if not it he-takes
ἐξάφες τον καὶ διάβαινε εἰς τοὺς ἄλλους“.
leave him and pass to the others
Τὸ τρίτον δὲ τὸν θυρωρὸν ὡσαύτως κατηχίζει·
The third and the doorkeeper likewise he-instructs
„ἂν ἔλθῃ ὁ δεῖνα πώποτε νὰ κάτσῃ εἰς τὸν πυλῶνα,
if comes the so-and-so ever that he-sit at the gate

ῥαβδέας καλάς, ἂν μὲ ἀγαπᾷς, καὶ διῶξε τον ἀπέκει·
blows good if me you-love and chase him from-there
ἂν δὲ πολλάκις λάθῃ σε καὶ μόνον παρακύψῃ,
if and perhaps he-escapes you and only peeps-in
τὴν πόρταν σου ῥωμάνισε καὶ ἂς κάτσῃ εἰς τὸ πεζούλι".
the door your bolt and let him-sit on the bench
Ἂν ἀρρωστήσῃ ὁ ἡγούμενος ἢ πόνος τὸν κρατήσῃ,
If falls-ill the abbot or pain him seizes
ὁρίζει· „φέρετε ἰατρούς, τὸν δεῖνα καὶ τὸν δεῖνα"·
he-orders bring physicians the so-and-so and the so-and-so
ἔρχονται, βλέπουσιν εὐθύς, κρατοῦσι τὸν σφυγμόν του,
they-come they-look at-once they-hold the pulse his
λέγουσι· „ποίησε τὰ καὶ τά, καὶ ἂς γίνεται καὶ τάδε".
they-say do this and that and let be-done also these
Καὶ ὅταν καβαλλικεύσωσι καὶ θέλουσιν ὑπάγειν,
And when they-mount and wish to-go
ἐγέρνεται ὁ ἡγούμενος καὶ τάδε παραγγέλλει·
gets-up the abbot and these(-things) orders
„δότε τὸν δεῖνα τὸν ἰατρὸν κἂν δέκα μανοηλᾶτα,
give to-the so-and-so the physician even ten Manuel-coins
τὸν δ' ἄλλον δότε τον κρασὶν κἂν δεκαπέντε μέτρα".
the and other give him wine even fifteen measures
Εἰ δ' ἀρρωστήσῃ μοναχὸς ἢ πόνος τὸν κρατήσῃ,
If but falls-ill monk or pain him seizes
γίνεται ὁ ἡγούμενος ἰατρὸς καὶ τάδε παραγγέλλει·
becomes the abbot physician and these(-things) orders
„ἡμέρας τρεῖς ἀφέτε τον καὶ νηστικὸς ἂς κεῖται,
days three leave him and fasting let him-lie
ἂν δὲ ζητήσῃ βρώσιμον, ψωμίτσιν καὶ κρομμύδιν,
if and he-asks-for food little-bread and onion

ἂν δὲ ζητήσῃ διὰ νὰ πίῃ, νερούτσικον ὀλίγον".
if and he-asks for that he-drink little-water a-little
Ἴδε ἰατρὸς πανάριστος, ἴδε λαμπρὸς τεχνίτης·
Behold physician all-best behold splendid craftsman
διέβη τὸν Ὀκτάριον, διέβη τὸν Κανίκλην,
he-surpassed — Oktarios he-surpassed — Kanikles
διέβη τὸν Ἀέτιον, αὐτὸν τὸν Ἱπποκράτην!
he-surpassed — Aetios himself — Hippocrates
Τὰ συγχαρίκια, δέσποτα, νὰ σὲ τὸν ἑρμηνεύσω,
The rewards-for-good-news lord that to-you him I-explain
νὰ μὴ φοβῆσαι εἰς ποταμὸν ξηρὸν νὰ κινδυνεύσῃς,
that not you-fear in river dry that you-be-in-danger
ἢ σκύλος πώποτε νεκρὸς νὰ ἐγέρθῃ νὰ σὲ δάκῃ.
or dog ever dead that rise that you it-bite
Ὦ τῆς πορφύρας βλάστημα, παντάναξ τροπαιοῦχε,
O of-the purple offshoot all-lord trophy-bearer
καὶ τοῖχος ἀπροσμάχητον τῆσδε τῆς Βυζαντίδος,
and wall unassailable of-this the Byzantine(-city)
ταῦτα λοιπόν, ὡς εἴρηκα τῷ κράτει σου, μὴ φέρων,
these(-things) then as I-have-said to-the majesty your not bearing
ἑκὼν ἐξέρχομαι μονῆς ἐκ τῆς τοῦ Φιλοθέου,
willingly I-go-out of-monastery from the — of-Philotheos
δι' ἅσπερ εἶπον ἄνωθεν παμπλείστους τὰς αἰτίας,
through which I-said above very-many the causes
καὶ πρὸς τὴν σὴν κατέφυγα μεγάλην βασιλείαν·
and to the your I-have-fled great majesty
ἀφ' ὅτου γὰρ ἐκράτησας ταύτην θεοῦ βουλήσει,
from when for you-held this of-God by-will

οὐκ ἔστησας τὰς χεῖρας σου ποσῶς εἰς τὸ μὴ δοῦναι
not you-stayed the hands your at-all from the — to-give
καὶ μοναχοῖς καὶ κοσμικοῖς, καὶ γέρουσι καὶ νέοις,
both to-monks and laymen and old and young
καὶ πάντες ἐπαγάλλονται σκιρτῶντες, εὐφημοῦντες,
and all exult leaping acclaiming
τῶν σῶν ἐπαπολαύοντες μεγάλων δωρημάτων.
the your enjoying great gifts
Ἄρτι δὲ πρόσσχες καὶ εἰς ἐμέ, στενούμενον, πεινῶντα·
Now but attend also to me straitened hungry
οὐ γὰρ ὑπέρογκα ζητῶ, δέσποτα στεφηφόρε,
not for excessive(-things) I-ask lord crown-bearing
νὰ λάβω τὴν ἀπόφασιν εὐθὺς τῆς ἀθυμίας·
that I-receive the release at-once of-the despondency
ψωμὶν ζητῶ τῷ κράτει σου ὀλίγον, κομματίτσιν,
bread I-ask of-the majesty your a-little little-morsel
εἰς ἣν ἡ βασιλεία σου μονὴν μὲ παραπέμψει.
to which the majesty your monastery me will-send
Ἐπεὶ δὲ νῦν προβάλλομαι μεσίτην τε καὶ πρέσβυν
Since and now I-put-forward mediator both and envoy
ὡς πρὸς τὴν βασιλείαν σου Γεώργιον τὸν μέγαν,
as to the majesty your George the great
τὸν ἐν πολέμοις ὄντα σοι καλὸν συνοδοιπόρον,
the in wars being to-you good fellow-traveler
ἐν τούτῳ τοίνυν ἐξαιτῶ, γοργὸν κατάνευσόν μοι.
in this therefore I-beg quickly nod to-me
Ὡς γὰρ Χριστὸς ἐρρύσατο τὸν Πέτρον ἐκ πελάγους,
As for Christ rescued — Peter from sea
καὶ Ἰωνᾶν διέσωσε τοῦ θαλαττίου κήτους,
and Jonah saved from-the sea monster

οὕτως νῦν, δέσποτα, κἀμὲ τὸν ταπεινὸν καὶ ξένον
so now lord also-me the humble and stranger
τῶν δυσχερῶν ἀπάλλαξον σοφῶν μηχανημάτων,
from-the difficult free wise devices
ὧνπερ κατεῖπον ἄνωθεν λεπτομερῶς ὠδίνων,
of-which I-spoke above minutely of-pangs
καὶ δίδου μοι τὴν ἅπασαν αὐτῶν ἐλευθερίαν.
and give me the whole their freedom
Πείθομαι γάρ, ὦ δέσποτα, τῷ κράτει σου θαρρήσας,
I-trust for O lord to-the majesty your having-taken-courage
καὶ δοῦλος ὢν ἀνάξιος τολμήσας ἐδεήθην.
and slave being unworthy having-dared I-have-entreated

Τοῦ αὐτοῦ πρὸς τὸν βασιλέα

IV · LEARN YOUR LETTERS

His old father pointed him to a scholar who once went barefoot and lousy and now rides a fat mule with gold coins in his bosom. Having learned his letters, the poet curses them: an embroiderer's cupboard would be full, but his holds paper bags. He envies a shoemaker who breakfasts on tripe and wine while he measures feet of verse. His try at shoemaking ends in a pierced hand, a baker's wife denies him a crumb, and his neighbors mock his letters.

Ἀπὸ μικρόθεν μ' ἔλεγεν ὁ γέρων ὁ πατήρ μου·
From childhood to-me used-to-say the old the father my
„Παιδίν μου, μάθε γράμματα, καὶ ὡσὰν ἐσέναν ἔχει.
Child my learn letters and like you has
Βλέπεις τὸν δεῖνα, τέκνον μου, πεζὸς περιεπάτει,
You-see the so-and-so child my on-foot he-used-to-walk
καὶ τώρα διπλοεντέληνος καὶ παχυμουλαρᾶτος.
and now double-breast-strapped and fat-muled

Αὐτός, ὅταν ἐμάνθανε, ὑπόδησιν οὐκ εἶχεν,
He when he-was-learning shoes not had
καὶ τώρα, βλέπεις τον, φορεῖ τὰ μακρυμύτικά του.
and now you-see him he-wears the long-toed his
Αὐτός, ὅταν ἐμάνθανε, ποτέ του οὐκ ἐκτενίσθη,
He when he-was-learning ever his not was-combed
καὶ τώρα καλοκτένιστος καὶ καμαροτριχάρης.
and now well-combed and curled-haired
Αὐτός, ὅταν ἐμάνθανε, λουτρόθυραν οὐκ εἶδε,
He when he-was-learning bath-door not saw
καὶ τώρα λουτρακίζεται τρίτον τὴν ἑβδομάδα.
and now bathes thrice the week
Αὐτός, ὁ κόλπος του ἔγεμε φθεῖρας ἀμυγδαλάτας,
He the bosom his was-full-of lice almond-sized
καὶ τώρα τὰ ὑπέρπυρα γέμει τὰ μανοηλᾶτα.
and now the gold-coins is-full-of the Manuel-coins
Καὶ πείσθητι γεροντικοῖς καὶ πατρικοῖς μου λόγοις,
And trust old and paternal my words
καὶ μάθε τὰ γραμματικά, καὶ ὡσὰν ἐσέναν ἔχει.
and learn the letters and like you has
Καὶ ἔμαθον τὰ γραμματικὰ μετὰ πολλοῦ τοῦ κόπου.
And I-learned the letters with much the toil
Ἀφ' οὗ δὲ τάχα γέγονα γραμματικὸς τεχνίτης,
From when and as-it-were I-became scholar skilled
ἐπιθυμῶ καὶ τὸ ψωμὶν καὶ τοῦ ψωμιοῦ τὴν μάνναν·
I-long-for both the bread and of-the bread the mother
ὑβρίζω τὰ γραμματικά, λέγω μετὰ δακρύων·
I-curse the letters I-say with tears
„Ἀνάθεμαν τὰ γράμματα, Χριστέ, καὶ ὁποῦ τὰ θέλει!
Anathema the letters Christ and who them wants

ἀνάθεμαν καὶ τὸν καιρὸν καὶ ἐκείνην τὴν ἡμέραν
anathema also the time and that the day

καθ' ἣν μὲ παρεδώκασιν εἰς τὸ διδασκαλεῖον,
on which me they-handed-over to the school

πρὸς τὸ νὰ μάθω γράμματα, τάχα νὰ ζῶ ἀπ' ἐκεῖνα!"
for the that I-learn letters as-if that I-live from those

Ἐδάρε τότε ἂν μ' ἔποικαν τεχνίτην χρυσορράπτην,
Come-now then if me they-had-made craftsman gold-embroiderer

ἀπ' αὐτοὺς ὁποῦ κάμνουσι τὰ κλαπωτὰ καὶ ζῶσι,
of those who make the embroideries and live

καὶ ἔμαθα τέχνην κλαπωτὴν τὴν περιφρονημένην,
and I-had-learned craft embroidery the despised

οὐ μὴ ἤνοιγα τὸ ἀρμάριν μου καὶ ηὕρισκα ὅτι γέμει
not — I-would-open the cupboard my and find that it-is-full

ψωμίν, κρασὶν πληθυντικὸν καὶ θυννομαγειρίαν,
bread wine plentiful and tuna-stew

καὶ παλαμιδοκόμματα καὶ τσίρους καὶ σκουμπρία·
and bonito-slices and dried-mackerel and mackerels

παρ' οὗ ὅτι τώρα ἀνοίγω το, βλέπω τοὺς πάτους ὅλους,
instead-of which that now I-open it I-see the bottoms all

καὶ βλέπω χαρτοσάκκουλα γεμᾶτα τὰ χαρτία.
and see paper-bags full the papers

Ἀνοίγω τὴν ἀρκλίτσαν μου, νὰ εὕρω ψωμὶν κομμάτιν,
I-open the little-chest my that I-find bread piece

καὶ εὑρίσκω χαρτοσάκκουλον ἄλλο μικροτερίτσιν.
and find paper-bag another smaller

Ἁπλώνω εἰς τὸ περσίκιν μου, γυρεύω τὸ πουγγίν μου,
I-reach into the cloak my I-search-for the purse my

διὰ στάμενον τὸ ψηλαφῶ, καὶ αὐτὸ γέμει χαρτία.
for stater it I-feel and it is-full-of papers

Ἀφ' οὗ δὲ τὰς γωνίας μου τὰς ὅλας ψηλαφήσω,
From when and the corners my the all I-feel
ἵσταμαι τότε κατηφὴς καὶ ἀπομεριμνημένος,
I-stand then downcast and careworn
λιποθυμῶ καὶ ὀλιγορῶ ἐκ τῆς πολλῆς μου πείνας·
I-faint and lose-heart from the much my hunger
καὶ ἀπὸ τὴν πεῖναν τὴν πολλὴν καὶ τὴν στενοχωρίαν
and from the hunger the much and the distress
γραμμάτων καὶ γραμματικῶν τὰ κλαπωτὰ προκρίνω.
letters and of-learning the embroideries I-prefer
Τὴν κεφαλήν σου, δέσποτα, εἰς τοῦτο τί μὲ λέγεις;
(By)-the head your lord to this what to-me do-you-say
ἂν ἔχω γείτονά τινα καὶ ἔχει παιδὶν ἀγώριν,
if I-have neighbor some and he-has child boy
νὰ τὸν εἴπω ὅτι· μάθε το γραμματικὰ νὰ ζήσῃ;
that him I-tell that teach him letters that he-live
ἂν οὐ τὸν εἴπω· μάθε το τσαγγάρην τὸ παιδίν σου,
if not him I-tell teach him shoemaker the child your
παρακρουνιαροκέφαλον πάντες νὰ μὲ ὀνομάσουν.
crack-pot-head all that me call
Καὶ ἄκουσον τὴν βιωτὴν τσαγγάρου, καὶ νὰ μάθῃς
And hear the living of-shoemaker and that you-learn
τὴν βρῶσιν καὶ ἀνάπαυσιν τὴν ἔχει καθ' ἑκάστην.
the eating and rest which he-has by each(-day)
Γείτοναν ἔχω πετσωτήν, ψευδοτσαγγάρην τάχα,
Neighbor I-have leather-worker false-shoemaker as-it-were
πλὴν ἔνι καλοψωνιστής, ἔνι καὶ χαροκόπος.
but he-is good-shopper he-is also merry-maker
Ὅταν γὰρ ἴδῃ τὴν αὐγὴν περιχαρασσομένην,
When for he-sees the dawn breaking

εὐθύς· „ἂς βράσῃ τὸ θερμόν, λέγει πρὸς τὸ παιδίν του,
at-once let boil the hot-water he-says to the child his
καὶ νά, παιδίν μου, στάμενοι εἰς τὰ χορδοκοιλίτσια,
and here child my staters for the tripe-sausages
ἀγόρασε καὶ βλάχικον σταμεναρέαν τυρίτσιν,
buy also Vlach stater's-worth little-cheese
καὶ δός με νὰ προγεύσωμαι, καὶ τότε νὰ πετσώνω.“
and give me that I-breakfast and then that I-sew-leather
Ἀφ' οὗ δὲ κλώσῃ τὸ τυρὶν καὶ τὰ χορδοκοιλίτσια,
From when and he-polishes-off the cheese and the tripe-sausages
κἂν τέσσερα τὸν δίδωσι γεμᾶτα εἰς τὸ μουχρούτιν,
even four him they-give full in the cup
καὶ πίνει τα καὶ ἐρεύγεται. Κερνοῦν τον ἄλλον ἕνα,
and drinks them and belches Pour him another one
καὶ παρευθὺς ὑπόδημαν ἐπαίρνει καὶ πετσώνει.
and at-once shoe he-takes and sews-leather
Ὅταν δὲ πάλιν, δέσποτα, γεύματος ὥρα φθάσῃ,
When and again lord of-meal hour comes
ῥίπτει τὸ καλαπόδιν του, ῥίπτει καὶ τὸ σανίδιν,
he-throws the last his throws also the board
καὶ τὸ σουγλὶν καὶ τὸ σφετλὶν καὶ τὰ σφηκώματά του,
and the awl and the bodkin and the pegs his
καὶ λέγει τὴν γυναῖκαν του· „κυρά, καθὲς τραπέζιν·
and says to-the wife his lady set table
καὶ πρῶτον μίσσον τὸ ἐκζεστόν, δεύτερον τὸ κρασᾶτον,
and first dish the boiled second the wine-stew
καὶ τρίτον τὸ μονόκυθρον, πλὴν βλέπε νὰ μὴ βράζῃ!“
and third the stew but see that not it-boil
Ἀφ' οὗ δὲ παραθέσουσι καὶ νίψεται καὶ κάτσῃ,
From when and they-serve and he-washes and sits

ἀνάθεμά με, βασιλεῦ, ὅταν στραφῶ καὶ ἰδῶ τον
anathema me emperor when I-turn and see him
τὸ πῶς ἀνακομπώνεται κατὰ τῆς μαγειρίας,
the how he-crams against the cookery
ἂν οὐ κινοῦν τὰ σάλια μου καὶ τρέχουν ὡς ποτάμιν.
if not move the saliva my and run like river
Αὐτὸς γὰρ ἐμπουκκώνεται, κλώθει τὴν μαγειρίαν,
He for stuffs-his-mouth polishes-off the cookery
καὶ ἐγὼ ὑπάγω καὶ ἔρχομαι πόδας μετρῶν τῶν στίχων.
and I go and come feet measuring of-the verses
Αὐτὸς χορταίνει τὸ γλυκὺν εἰς τὸ τρανὸν μουχρούτιν,
He is-filled-with the sweet(-wine) in the great cup
καὶ ἐγὼ ζητῶ τὸν ἴαμβον, γυρεύω τὸν σπονδεῖον,
and I seek the iamb I-search-for the spondee
γυρεύω τὸν πυρρίχιον καὶ τὰ λοιπὰ τὰ μέτρα·
I-search-for the pyrrhic and the rest the meters
ἀλλὰ τὰ μέτρα ποῦ ὠφελοῦν τὴν ἄμετρόν μου πεῖναν;
but the meters where do-they-profit the measureless my hunger
Ἴδε τεχνίτης στιχιστὴς ἐκεῖνος ὁ τσαγγάρης·
Behold craftsman verse-maker that the shoemaker
εἶπε τὸ κύριε ἐλέησον, καὶ ἤρξατο ῥουκανίζειν.
he-said the Lord have-mercy and began to-gnaw
Ἐγὼ δέ, φεῦ τῆς συμφορᾶς! πόσους νὰ πλέξω στίχους,
I but alas the misfortune how-many that I-weave verses
πόσους νὰ γράψω κάλλιστα, πόσους νὰ λαρυγγίσω,
how-many that I-write finest how-many that I-trill
νὰ τύχω μου τοῦ λάρυγγος τῆς ἄκρας θεραπείας.
that I-obtain my of-the throat the utmost cure

Ὥρμησα τάχατε κἀγὼ τὸ νὰ γενῶ τσαγγάρης,
I-set-out as-it-were I-too the that I-become shoemaker
μὴ νὰ χορτάσω τὸ ψωμὶν τὸ λέγουν ἀφρατίτσιν,
not that I-be-filled-with the bread which they-call fluffy
ἀλλὰ τὸ μεσοκάθαρον τὸ λέγουσι τῆς μέσης,
but the half-white which they-call of-the middle
τὸ ἐπιθυμοῦν γραμματικοὶ καὶ καλοστιχοπλόκοι.
which long-for scholars and fine-verse-weavers
Καὶ τεῶς γυρεύων ηὕρηκα καὶ ταρτερὸν ὁκάπου,
And meanwhile searching I-found also quarter-coin somewhere
καὶ ἐδῶκα το καὶ ἠγόρασα σουγλὶν ἀπὸ τσαγγάρην,
and gave it and bought awl from shoemaker
καὶ ὡς ἦσαν τὰ καλίγια μου πλήρης ἐξεσχισμένα,
and as were the boots my wholly torn
ἐπιάσα τάχατε μικρὸν νὰ τὰ περισουφρώσω·
I-took-up as-it-were a-little that them I-stitch-round
καὶ κρουῶ σουγλεὰν τὸ χέριν μου καὶ ἐδιέβην ἀπεκεῖθε,
and I-strike with-awl-thrust the hand my and went-through from-there
καὶ ὡς πρῆσμαν ἐκ τοῦ κρούσματος γέγονε τῇ χειρί μου,
and as swelling from the blow came on-the hand my
ὁλόκληρον ἐδιάβασα μῆναν εἰς τὸν ξενῶνα.
whole I-passed month in the hospice
Ἂν ἔμαθον τὴν ῥαπτικὴν ἐντέχως ἐπιστήμην,
If I-had-learned the tailoring skillfully art
μετὰ βελόνιν ταρτεροῦ καὶ ῥάμματα σταμένου,
with needle of-quarter-coin and threads of-stater
καὶ ψαλιδόπουλον μικρόν, νὰ ἤμην οἰκοδεσπότης·
and little-scissors small that I-were householder
ἂν γὰρ οὐκ ἐγυρίζετο ῥάψιμον εἰς τὸν κόσμον,
if for not went-about sewing in the world

ὁκάποιας τεῶς γειτόνισσας ῥοῦχον νὰ παρελύθην,
some meanwhile of-neighbor-woman garment that had-come-unsewn
καὶ παρευθὺς νὰ μ' ἔκραξεν· „δεῦρο, τεχνῖτα, δεῦρο,
and at-once that me she-had-called come craftsman come
νά, κέντησον τὸ ῥοῦχον μου καὶ ἔπαρ' τὸ ῥαπτικόν σου."
here embroider the garment my and take the tailor's-fee your
Ἂν ἤμην παραζυμωτὴς ἢ δουλευτὴς μαγκίπου,
If I-were dough-kneader or servant of-baker
προφούρνια κἂν νὰ ἐχόρταινα, καὶ ὡσὰν ἐμέναν εἶχεν.
oven-scraps at-least that I-had-been-filled-with and like me had
Ὡς γὰρ ἐδιέβαινα προχθὲς ὁκάπου εἰς μαγκιπεῖον,
As for I-was-passing day-before-yesterday somewhere at bakery
ηὕρηκα τὴν μαγκίπισσαν ἔσωθεν ἱσταμένην
I-found the baker's-wife inside standing
καὶ ταῖς χερσὶ κατέχουσαν ἄσπρον σεμιδαλᾶτον,
and with-the hands holding white fine-floured
ἀπόξυσμα τριπτούτσικον καὶ ἐρρουκάνιζέν το·
scraping crumbly and she-was-gnawing it
ἔνδον εἰσῆλθον παρευθὺς καὶ πρὸς ἐκείνην λέγω·
inside I-went at-once and to her I-say
„κυρά, κυρὰ μαγκίπισσα, τὸ πῶς ἀκούεις οὐκ οἶδα,
lady lady baker's-wife the how you-are-called not I-know
εἶα δὸς καὶ ἐμὲ τριπτούτσικον δαμὶν νὰ ῥουκανίσω."
come-on give also me crumbly a-bit that I-gnaw
Ἀπόκρισιν δ' οὐκ ἔδωκεν ἡ τρισαθλία ὅλως,
Answer but not gave the thrice-wretched at-all
καὶ ὡς εἶδα τὸ ἀσυνείδητον καὶ τὸ ἀνυπόληπτόν της,
and as I-saw the unconscionable and the disreputable her
στενάζων καὶ λυπούμενος ἄλλην διέβην ῥύμην.
groaning and grieving another I-went-through street

Ἂν ἤμην ὀξυγαλατᾶς, τὸ ὀξύγαλαν νὰ ἐπώλουν,
If I-were sour-milk-seller the sour-milk that I-sold
τὴν τσοῦκκαν τοῦ ὀξυγάλακτος εἰς ὦμον μου νὰ ἐβάστουν,
the pot of-the sour-milk on shoulder my that I-carried
ἀπὸ ψυχῆς νὰ ἐστρίγγιζα, περιπατῶν νὰ ἐλάλουν·
from soul that I-shrieked walking that I-cried
„ἐπάρετε δρουβανιστὸν ὀξύγαλαν, γυναῖκες!“
take churned sour-milk women
καὶ ἐκεῖναι ὡς τὸ χρήζουσι συντόμως νὰ ἐξεπώλουν.
and they as it they-need quickly that I-sold-out
Καταβλαττᾶς ἂν ἔμαθον καὶ σηκωτὴς ἂν ἤμην,
Purple-dyer if I-had-learned and porter if I-were
ὡς σηκωτὴς νὰ ἐδούλευα τὴν ἅπασαν ἡμέραν,
as porter that I-worked the whole day
καὶ τὸ βραδὺ νὰ μ’ ἔδιδαν μεγάλην κομματοῦραν,
and the evening that me they-gave great hunk
τὸ ἄσπρον ἐμποτόπουλον γεμᾶτον κρασοβόλιν
the white drinking-cup full wine-ration
καὶ μονοκύθρου μερτικὸν ἐκ τὰ λαπαριμαῖα·
and of-stew portion from the flank-cuts
καὶ κἂν μετὰ τὸ σχόλασμαν νὰ ἐπιάνα τὴν λαπάραν,
and even after the quitting that I-grabbed the flank
καὶ νὰ τὴν ἔκρουα κοπετόν, ὡς καὶ τὸ δίκαιον εἶχε.
and that her I-struck mourning as also the right it-had
Κεντήκλας κἂν ἂν ἔμαθα καὶ τοὺς πιπεροτρίπτας,
Needles even if I-had-learned and the pepper-grinders
ὁδοιπορῶν νὰ ἐστρίγγιζα περιπατῶν τὰς ῥύμας·
journeying that I-shrieked walking the streets
„κυράδες, χειρομάχισσες, καλοοικοδέσποινές μου,
ladies quarrelsome good-housewives my

προκύψατε, βηλαρικὰς ἐπάρετε κεντήκλας,
lean-out veil take needles
125 καὶ τοὺς πιπεροτρίπτας μου, νὰ τρίβετε πιπέριν!“
and the pepper-grinders my that you-grind pepper
Καὶ ὡς εἶν’ καλοοικοδέσποινες ὁκάποσες γυναῖκες,
And as are good-housewives some women
καὶ τὰς κεντήκλας νὰ ἔπαιρναν καὶ τοὺς πιπεροτρίπτας.
both the needles that they-took and the pepper-grinders
Ἀλλ’ ὡς θεωρῶ τὰ πράγματα, τὴν εὐτυχιὰν τὴν ἔχω,
But as I-see the things the luck which I-have
καὶ τὰς κεντήκλας νὰ ἔμαθα, καὶ τὸ ψωμὶν νὰ ἐζήτουν.
both the needles that I-had-learned and the bread that I-begged
130 Γείτοναν ἔχω κοσκινᾶν, φάρσωμα μᾶς χωρίζει,
Neighbor I-have sieve-maker partition us separates
καὶ βλέπω τὴν ἱστίαν του πῶς συχνοφλακαρίζει,
and I-see the hearth his how often-blazes
καὶ πῶς πολλάκις τῶν κρεῶν τὴν τσίκναν ἀπολύει·
and how often of-the meats the smell it-lets-out
πῶς δ’ αὖ εἰς τὴν ἀνθρακιὰν τὴν φοβερὰν ἐκείνην
how and again in the coal-fire the fearsome that
κείμενα βλέπω, βασιλεῦ, τὰ πλήθη τῶν ἰχθύων·
lying I-see emperor the multitudes of-the fish
135 καὶ ἐγὼ τσικνώνω διὰ ψωμίν, ζητῶ καὶ οὐδὲν μὲ δίδουν,
and I smell-burnt for bread I-ask and nothing me they-give
ἀλλ’ ὀνειδίζουν ἅπαντες καὶ καθυβρίζουσί με,
but reproach all and insult me
λέγοντες· „φάγε γράμματα καὶ χόρτασε, παπᾶ μου,
saying eat letters and be-filled priest my
καὶ τρῶγε, μυριεμπύρετος, ἐκ τὰ γραμματικά σου·
and eat thousand-fevered from the letters your

ἂν δὲ πολλάκις ἀτυχῇς ἐκ τὰ γραμματικά σου,
if and perhaps you-are-unlucky from the letters your
ἔκβαλε τὰ παπαδικὰ καὶ γένου προσχεράρης.“
throw-off the priestly(-things) and become hireling

IV · THE FLANK AND THE CLOAK

He suffers hell's three punishments already: poverty is his sleepless worm, his shivering is Tartarus, and hunger's dizziness is the darkness. Refused bacon in his father's cell, he eats it when a crash empties the room and blames the cat. Homer and Oppian feed no one; a butcher's wife strikes him with a dung-filled gut; his lousy cloak is his only garment. He begs the Komnenian emperor for release from his creditors, naming four martyrs as mediators.

Σοὶ δὲ συμβούλῳ χρώμενος, δέσποτα, τί μοὶ λέγεις;
You and as-counselor using lord what to-me do-you-say
ἐλπίζω τὸ σὸν ἔλεος νὰ μὲ χειραγωγήσῃ,
I-hope the your mercy that me will-lead-by-the-hand
καὶ νὰ εὔχωμαι τὰ σκῆπτρα σου μέσης ἀπὸ καρδίας,
and that I-pray-for the scepters your middle from heart
σκῆπτρα κρατήσῃς, κράτιστε, γῆς πάσης καὶ θαλάσσης.
scepters may-you-hold mightiest of-earth all and sea
Ἀπὸ γὰρ τῆς πτωχείας μου καὶ βλασφημῶ πολλάκις,
From for the poverty my even I-blaspheme often
καὶ λέγουσί με· „πρόσεχε, πολλὰ μὴ συντυχαίνῃς,
and they-say to-me take-care much not talk
μήπως καὶ μετὰ θάνατον καταδικάσουσί σε
lest also after death they-condemn you
εἰς σκώληκα ἀκοίμητον, εἰς τάρταρον, εἰς σκότος.“
to worm sleepless to Tartarus to darkness

Ἐγὼ δέ, κοσμοκράτορ μου, τὰς τρεῖς κολάσεις ταύτας
I but world-ruler my the three punishments these
ἐνταῦθα τὰς κολάζομαι, καὶ πρὸ τῆς τελευτῆς μου·
here them I-am-punished-with even before the end my
σκώληκα γὰρ ἀκοίμητον ἡγοῦμαι τὴν πενίαν,
worm for sleepless I-consider the poverty
ἥτις μὲ τρώγει πάντοτε καὶ καταδαπανᾷ με·
which me eats always and consumes me
τάρταρον τὸν τουρτουρισμὸν τὸν τουρτουρίζω τώρα,
Tartarus the shivering which I-shiver now
ὡς ἐκ χειμῶνος παγετοῦ, καὶ τί φορεῖν οὐκ ἔχω,
as from winter's frost and what to-wear not I-have
ἂν γὰρ οὐκ ἔχω τί φορεῖν μεγάλως τουρτουρίζω·
if for not I-have what to-wear greatly I-shiver
σκότος δὲ πάλιν, δέσποτα, τὸν σκοτασμόν μου κρίνω,
darkness and again lord the dizziness my I-judge
τὸν ἔχω πάντα, βασιλεῦ, ὅταν ψωμὶν οὐκ ἔχω,
which I-have always emperor when bread not I-have
ἂν γὰρ οὐκ ἔχω τί φαγεῖν, σκοτίζομαι καὶ πίπτω·
if for not I-have what to-eat I-grow-dizzy and fall
ἔδε καὶ σκότος ἀφεγγὲς καὶ τάρταρος καὶ σκώληξ.
behold both darkness lightless and Tartarus and worm
Ἀλλὰ παντάναξ κραταιός, Χριστός μου βροτοσώστης
But all-ruler mighty Christ my mortal-saver
τούτων τανῦν μὲ ῥύσηται τῇ σῇ πλουτοδοσίᾳ,
from-these now me may-be-rescue by-the your wealth-giving
ἐκεῖθεν κατὰ χάριν δὲ λυτρώσηταί με πάλιν.
from-there by grace and may-be-redeem me again

Ἀλλά, κρατάρχα βασιλεῦ τεσσάρων γῆς κλιμάτων,
But ruler emperor of-four of-earth regions
χάρισόν μοι τῷ δούλῳ σου μικρὸν τὰς ἀκοάς σου,
grant me to-the servant your a-little the ears your
ὡς ἵνα καὶ τὸ πρὸ μικροῦ συμβάν μοι σαφηνίσω.
as that also the before little happened to-me I-make-clear
Εἰς τοῦ πατρός μου τὸ κελλὶν ἀκρόπαστον ἀπάκιν
In of-the father my the cell tip-salted bacon
σύμπλευρον ἐμαγείρευον, σύλλαρδον, ἐκ τὰ ἐξεύρεις,
with-ribs they-were-cooking with-lard of the(-cuts) you-know
καὶ θέντες καὶ τὴν τράπεζαν ἐκάθισαν νὰ φάγουν.
and having-set also the table they-sat that they-eat
Τούτους ἰδὼν ὁ δοῦλος σου γύρωθεν καθημένους,
Them having-seen the servant your around sitting
ὡς εἶχον ἔθος, σὺν αὐτοῖς ἔδραμον συγκαθίσαι,
as I-had custom with them I-ran to-sit-together
ἐκεῖνοι δ' ἐξεπήδησαν, λέγοντες ὁμοφώνως·
they and leaped-up saying with-one-voice
„μαθὸν μηδ' ἄρτι βιάζεσαι ἐλθεῖν ἵνα καθίσῃς,
learn not-even now force-yourself to-come that you-sit
παπᾶς γραμματικός εἶσαι, τρέφε τὸν ἑαυτόν σου,
priest scholar you-are feed the self your
μὴ βλέπῃς τὸ ἀπάκιν μας, οὐκ ἔν' τοῦ λάρυγγός σου,
not look-at the bacon our not is of-the throat your
ἂν δὲ πεινᾷς, γραμματικέ, ἀγόρασον καὶ φάγε."
if and you-are-hungry scholar buy and eat
Τούτων δὲ πρός με, βασιλεῦ, ἁπάντων λεγομένων,
These and to me emperor all being-said
ὁκάτι πως ἐγένετο κτύπος εἰς τὸ κατώγαιον,
something somehow happened noise in the cellar

καὶ πάντες ἐσηκώθησαν, ἐφύγασιν αὐτίκα,
and all got-up fled at-once
νομίσαντες ὅτι χαλᾷ τοῦτο νὰ τοὺς πλακώσῃ,
having-thought that collapses this that them it-crush
ἔνι γὰρ πλεῖστα καὶ πολλὰ πάνυ σεσαθρωμένον.
it-is for very-much and greatly very rotten
Ἐγὼ δ' ὡς ηὗρα κείμενον σύμπλευρον τὸ ἀπάκιν,
I but as I-found lying with-ribs the bacon
ἠρξάμην συλλογίζεσθαι καθ' ἑαυτὸν καὶ λέγειν·
I-began to-reason by myself and to-say
„οὐκ εἶμαι αὐτὸς ὃν ἔλεγον οὐκ ἔν' τοῦ λάρυγγός σου,
not I-am he whom they-were-saying not is of-the throat your
ἀλλ' ἴδε τὴν ἀσύγκριτον τοῦ θεανθρώπου κρίσιν,
but see the incomparable of-the God-man judgment
πῶς εὐσυγκρίτως ἔφερε τὸ ἀπάκιν εἰς ἐμέναν!"
how fittingly he-brought the bacon to me
Ταῦτα δὲ λέγων, βασιλεῦ, τὴν μάχαιραν κρατήσας,
These(-things) and saying emperor the knife having-grasped
ἠρξάμην ἐμβουκκώνεσθαι μέχρι τοῦ κορεσθῆναι.
I-began to-stuff-my-mouth until the to-be-sated
Μετὰ δὲ ταῦτα, βασιλεῦ, κάτω κἀγὼ κατῆλθον,
After and these(-things) emperor down I-too went
τάχα γυρεύειν σὺν αὐτοῖς πόθεν ὁ κτύπος ἦτον,
as-if to-search with them whence the noise was
πρότερον τὸ κατούδιν μας στήσας εἰς τὸ τραπέζιν,
first the little-cat our having-set on the table
διὰ τὸ νὰ εἰποῦν ὅτι ἔποιησεν ἐκεῖνο τὴν ζημίαν.
for the that they-say that did that(-one) the damage

Ἅπαντες δὲ μετὰ μικρὸν τῇ κέλλῃ προσελθόντες
All and after a-little to-the cell having-come
τὸ δὲ κατούδιν βλέψαντες ἄνωθεν τῆς τραπέζης,
the and little-cat having-seen above the table
ἔρριψαν λίθον κατ᾽ αὐτοῦ, λέγοντες· „σκοτωθήτω,
threw stone at it saying let-it-be-killed
ὅτι ἔφαγε τὸ θαυμαστὸν ἀκρόπαστον ἀπάκιν.“
because it-ate the marvelous tip-salted bacon
Ὕστερον δὲ τὴν μηχανὴν εὐστόχως ἐπιγνόντες,
Afterward and the trick aptly having-recognized
ὀλίγον μειδιάσαντες ἐξεῖπον ὁμοφώνως·
a-little having-smiled said with-one-voice
„ἴδε ὁ παπᾶς ὁποῦ ἔφαγεν τὸ ἀκρόπαστον ἀπάκιν,
see the priest who ate the tip-salted bacon
καὶ ἡμεῖς ἐγκατεπλέκαμεν τὸ ταπεινὸν κατούδιν.“
and we entangled the humble little-cat
Καὶ ηὗραν τὰ σκουτέλλια τους πλήρης καθαιρισμένα,
And they-found the bowls their wholly cleaned
πλύσιμον οὐκ ἠθέλασιν καθόλου τὰ πινάκια.
washing not they-needed at-all the platters
Ἡμεῖς ψωμὶν οὐκ εἴχαμεν, καὶ τί ἄλλον γυρεύεις;
We bread not we-had and what other do-you-seek
ὅπου γὰρ λείπει τὸ ψωμὶν προσφὰν οὐκ ἐνθυμοῦνται·
where for lacks the bread relish not they-remember
τοῦ προσφαγίου ἡ μέριμνα κ᾽ ἡ λεῖψις τοῦ ψωμίου
of-the relish the care and the lack of-the bread
τὰς ἐνθυμήσεις τὰς πολλὰς πολλὰ τὰς περικόπτουν.
the thoughts the many greatly them cut-short

Πεῖνα μου, πάλιν πεῖνα μου, καὶ δεύτερον σὲ γράφω,
Hunger my again hunger my and second(-time) to-you I-write
καὶ τώρα μόνον ἄφες με, ὅτι ψωμὶν οὐκ ἔχω,
and now only leave me for bread not I-have
παῦ᾽ ὡς νὰ πάρω δανεικόν· ποσῶς οὐκ ἠμερώθη.
stop until that I-take loan at-all not she-was-appeased
Εἴ τις ἂν ἔχει σήμερον ψωμὶν καὶ λοκοτίνιν,
If anyone — has today bread and coin
ἐκεῖνος καὶ φιλόσοφος, ῥήτωρ καὶ καλλιγράφος.
he both philosopher orator and fine-writer
Τί δὲ λοιπόν, ἂν ἔμαθα τοῦ κόσμου τὰ βιβλία,
What and then if I-have-learned of-the world the books
καὶ τὸ ψωμὶν ἐπιθυμῶ, πότε νὰ τὸ χορτάσω.
and the bread I-long-for when that it I-shall-have-my-fill
Καλὸς ἔν᾽ ὁ Λιβάνιος, ἂν ἔχει καὶ χρυσάφιν.
Good is — Libanios if he-has also gold
Τὸν Ὅμηρον μὲ δίδασιν καὶ ψόφουν ἐκ τὴν πεῖναν,
— Homer me they-give and I-was-croaking from the hunger
εἶπαν με· „μάθε Ὀππιανόν, πεῖναν οὐδὲν φοβεῖσαι.“
they-told me learn Oppian hunger not you-fear
Ὡς ἔμαθα τὸν Ὀππιανόν, τάχα κ᾽ ἐγὼ καυχίσθην·
As I-learned — Oppian as-it-were and I boasted
„φεῦγε, πτωχειὰ στοὺς χωρικούς, ὕπαγε εἰς ἀσόφους·
flee poverty to-the peasants go to unlearned
ἐγὼ πλουσίαν ἔμαθα τὴν τέχνην τῶν γραμμάτων,
I rich learned the art of-the letters
Ὀππιανὸν ἐκτήθησα, πεῖναν οὐδὲν φοβοῦμαι.“
Oppian I-have-acquired hunger not I-fear
Καὶ ἐκείνη ὑπομουγκρίζουσα μικρὸν μὲ ἐπεστράφην.
And she grumbling a-little to-me turned-back

Ὡς ἐκατέστησεν λοιπὸν τὸ μάγουλόν μου ἡ πεῖνα,
As made then the cheek my the hunger
οὐδὲ λαπάραν ὤμοιαζεν τὴν καταζαρωμένην.
not-even flank it-resembled the shriveled
Ἂν μ' ἔλειπεν Ὀππιανὸς κ' ἔπιανα φουρνητάρης,
If me lacked Oppian and I-took-up oven-boy
πολὺν καλὸν μ' ἐξέβαινεν καὶ διαφορωτερίτσιν.
much good to-me would-have-come and a-little-more-profitable
Ἂν ἤμουν παραζυμωτὴς ἢ ζυμωτὴς μαγκίπου,
If I-were dough-kneader or kneader of-baker
προφούρνια νὰ χόρταινα, νἆχα καλὴν ἡμέραν.
oven-scraps that I-were-filled-with that-I-had good day
Τὴν στράταν ἤρχουμουν ποτὲ μὲ πεῖναν καὶ μὲ δίψαν,
The road I-was-coming once with hunger and with thirst
καὶ τσίκναν γέμισαν πολλὴν τ' ἀρθούνια μου στὴν στράταν,
and smell filled much the nostrils my on-the road
κ' εἰς τ' ἄντερά μου σέβηκεν καὶ τάραξεν τὴν πεῖναν·
and into the guts my entered and stirred the hunger
τὴν τσίκναν ἠκολούθησα κ' εἰς μακελλειὸν μὲ πάγει,
the smell I-followed and to butcher's-shop me it-leads
ἐκ' ηὗρα κρεὰς καὶ ψήνασιν σουγλιταρεὰν μεγάλην.
there I-found meats and they-were-roasting skewer-load great
Τοῦ μακελλάρη τὴν γυνὴν ἠρξάμην κολακεύειν·
Of-the butcher the wife I-began to-flatter
„κυρά, κυρὰ μαστόρισσα, κυρὰ χορδοκοιλίστρα,
lady lady mistress lady sausage-maker
καὶ μουτλογατανόσκουφε γυνὴ τοῦ μακελλάρη,
and greasy-capped wife of-the butcher
δός με ὀλίγον ἔντερον, δός με δαμὶν μαστάριν,
give me a-little gut give me a-bit udder

λαπάραν ἐκ τὴν λαπάραν σου, ἐξ αὐτὴν τὴν βαστάζεις,
flank from the flank your from it which you-hold
λαπάραν τραγανόδεχτον τὴν ἄντικρυς νευρώδη,
flank crunchy-to-the-bite the downright sinewy
τὴν ἐκδαρμένην πάντοτε καὶ μὴ παχαινευμένην,
the flayed always and not fattened
τὴν οὖσαν σταφιδόχνοτον, τὴν ἀκροσαχνισμένην.“
the being raisin-skinned the edge-flabby
Εἶδα καλὴν προαίρεσιν, εἶδα καλὴν γυναῖκα,
I-saw good disposition I-saw good woman
οὐκ ἐπιστάμην ἄτυχος τὴν συσκευὴν καὶ πρᾶξιν,
not I-knew unlucky the device and deed
τρόπον τὸν κακομήχανον τῆς γυναικὸς ὁ τάλας.
manner the evil-scheming of-the woman the wretch
Ἐκ τῆς χειρὸς λαβούσης με καὶ θρόνον ἐκτεθείσης,
By the hand having-taken me and seat having-set-out
καὶ τὸ τραπέζιν μ᾽ ἔθηκεν τοιαῦτα λέγων πρός με·
and the table for-me she-set such(-things) saying to me
„κάθισ᾽, ἀφέντη, κάθισε, γραμματικὲ νοτάρη,
sit lord sit scholar notary
γραμματικὲ φιλόσοφε, διπλοκαλαμαρᾶτε.“
scholar philosopher double-inkhorned
Καὶ τὸ τραπέζιν μ᾽ ἔθηκεν, καὶ σύρνει με μαντίλιν,
And the table for-me she-set and draws for-me napkin
καὶ σκουτελλίτσιν μ᾽ ἔθηκεν γεμᾶτον τὴν λαπάραν.
and little-bowl for-me she-set full the flank
Καὶ πρώτην βοῦκκαν ἔβαλα, καὶ δεύτερην καὶ τρίτην·
And first mouthful I-put and second and third
τέταρτον, ὡς τὸ σύνηθες, ἔσκυψα νὰ τὴν κόψω·
fourth as the custom I-stooped that it I-cut

εὐθὺς (καὶ ποῦ τὴν ἔκρυβεν τὴν σύσκατον ἐκείνην,
at-once and where it she-had-hidden the dung-filled that
τὴν κοπροπαραγέμιστον καὶ τὴν δυσωδεστάτην;)
the dung-stuffed and the most-stinking
καὶ κρούῃ με καταπρόσωπα μὲ τὴν κοιλιὰν καὶ λέγει·
and strikes me in-the-face with the belly and says
„φάγε, καλὲ γραμματικέ, γραμματικὲ νοτάρη,
eat good scholar scholar notary
γραμματικὲ φιλόσοφε, ἐντεροχορδοπλύτα.
scholar philosopher gut-and-tripe-washer
Κάλλιον ἦτον νἄτρωγες αὐτοῦνον τὸ μελάνιν,
Better was that-you-had-eaten that the ink
παρὰ τὴν τυμπανόκρουστην τὴν σκατωτὴν λαπάραν.“
than the drum-beaten the dungy flank
Κάππα μου, πάλιν κάππα μου, παλαιοχαρβαλωμένη,
Cloak my again cloak my old-and-tattered
κάππα μου, ὅνταν σ’ ἔθεκεν ἡ Βλάχα νὰ σὲ φάνῃ,
cloak my when you set the Vlach-woman that you she-weave
πολλὰ δάκρυα σὲ γέμισεν καὶ στεναγμοὺς μεγάλους.
many tears you filled and groans great
Ἐσέν’ ἔχω καὶ πάπλωμαν, κάππα, καὶ ἀπανωφόριν,
You I-have both blanket cloak and overcoat
ἐσέναν καὶ ποκάμισον, ἐσέν καὶ ἐπιβαλτάριν.
you both shirt you and wrap
Καὶ τὴν λαμπρὴν τὴν κυριακὴν στὴν ἐκκλησιὰν ἂν πάγω,
And the bright the Sunday to-the church if I-go
ὅλους χωρεῖ ἡ ἐκκλησιὰ καὶ μὲν οὐδὲν ἐχώρει,
all holds the church and me not held
καὶ ἀπὸ τὸ σεῖσμαν τὸ πολὺν καὶ τὸ πολὺ τὸ διῶμαν,
and from the shoving the much and the much the pushing

ἐπαίρνω, πάγω, βασιλεῦ, στὸ σπίτιν ὑπαγαίνω,
I-take-off I-go emperor to-the house I-go
τὸ σπίτιν, τὸ παλαιόσπιτον, τὸ καινουριοχαλασμένον.
the house the old-house the newly-ruined
Νυστάζω, πέφτω τάχατε, τυλίγομαι τὴν κάππαν,
I-get-sleepy I-fall as-it-were I-wrap-myself-in the cloak
κοιμοῦμαι ὡς τὸ μεσάνυκτον, καὶ ἄκου τί παθάνω·
I-sleep until the midnight and hear what I-suffer
ἐμπλέκουνται μ' οἱ ψεῖρες μου ἄνωθεν ἕως κάτω,
entangle me the lice my from-above to below
καὶ βάνω τὸ χερίτσιν μου, συντρίβω καὶ τσακίζω,
and I-put the little-hand my I-crush and break
ἐβγάνω τ' ὁλοκόκκινον, νἆπες βαφέαν ὁμοιάζω.
I-take-out it all-red that-you-would-say dyer I-resemble
Κάππα μου, ὁποῦ δύναται, κάππα μου, ἂς σὲ ἀγοράσῃ,
Cloak my who can cloak my let you he-buy
κάππα μου, ἠγανάκτησα, κάππα, τὰς χάριτάς σου.
cloak my I-have-grown-weary-of cloak the graces your
Ἀλλ' ὦ κομνηνοβλάστητον ἀπὸ πορφύρας ῥόδον,
But O Komnenos-sprung from purple rose
βασιλευόντων βασιλεῦ, καὶ τῶν ἀνάκτων ἄναξ,
of-reigning(-ones) emperor and of-the lords lord
καὶ κράτος τὸ τρισκράτιστον μητρόθεν καὶ πατρόθεν,
and majesty the thrice-mightiest from-mother and from-father
εἰσάκουσόν μου τῆς φωνῆς καὶ τῆς δεήσεώς μου,
hear my the voice and the petition my
θύραν ἐλέους ἄνοιξον καὶ χεῖρα πάρασχέ με,
door of-mercy open and hand offer me
ἀνάγουσαν ἐκ βόθρου με, λάκκου τοῦ τῆς πενίας.
raising from pit me ditch the of-the poverty

Σὺ γὰρ ἐλέους οἰκτιρμῶν μετὰ θεὸν ἡ θύρα,
You for of-mercy of-compassions after God the door
σὺ μόνος ὑπερασπιστὴς τῶν ἐν ἀνάγκαις βίου,
you alone defender of-the in necessities of-life
σὺ καὶ τὸ καταφύγιον πάντων τῶν χριστωνύμων,
you also the refuge of-all the Christ-named
σὺ βασιλέων βασιλεὺς καὶ πάντων σὺ δεσπότης,
you of-kings king and of-all you master
ῥῦσαι με τῆς στερήσεως, ῥῦσαι με τῆς πενίας, 285
rescue me from-the deprivation rescue me from-the poverty
τῶν δανειστῶν μου, βασιλεῦ, λῦσον τὰς ἀπαιτήσεις,
of-the creditors my emperor loose the demands
οὐδὲ γὰρ φέρειν δύναμαι τὰς τούτων κατακρίσεις.
not for to-bear I-can the their condemnations
Τοὺς τέσσαρας προβάλλομαι, θεόστεπτε μεσίτας,
The four I-put-forward God-crowned-one mediators
τοὺς μαρτυρήσαντας στερρῶς ὑπὲρ Χριστοῦ τοῦ λόγου,
the having-borne-witness steadfastly for Christ the word
Γεώργιον, Δημήτριον, Τύρωνα, Στρατηλάτην, 290
George Demetrios Tiron Stratelates
οἳ καὶ συνταξειδεύσωσιν ἐν πᾶσι ταξειδίοις
who also may-campaign-with(-you) in all campaigns
καὶ συνοδοιπορήσουσιν τῇ σῇ θεοστεφίᾳ.
and will-travel-together-with the your God-crowned(-majesty)

MICHAEL GLYKAS

ΣΤΙΧΟΙ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΙΚΟΥ ΜΙΧΑΗΛ ΤΟΥ ΓΛΥΚΑ

Verses from Prison

I · THE RAVEN'S OMEN

The poet, who traveled widely and read much, scorned the peasants' belief that a raven's cry foretells death and parting. Experience has taught him otherwise: a raven croaked on his roof, and soon an angel, as it were, carried him off to Hades alive, as a slanderous neighbor sent him to prison. He calls the prison, the Numera, worse than Hades, where the dead at least see one another and forget, while the prisoner dies daily and remembers all.

Ἤμουν παιδίν, ἐγήρασα, πολὺν διῆλθον κόσμον,
I-was child I-grew-old much I-went-through world
σοφῶν ἀρχαίων ἤκουσα, πολλὰς ἀνέγνων βίβλους,
of-wise ancient(-men) I-heard many I-read books
πάντων ἐν πείρᾳ γέγονα, πᾶσαν ὁδὸν ἐξεῦρον,
of-all in experience I-have-become every road I-found-out
πλάσματα πάλιν μυθικὰ καὶ λόγους γραϊδίων
fictions again fabulous and tales of-old-women
ἠκριβωσάμην, ὅ φασιν, ἐξ ἁπαλῶν ὀνύχων,
I-learned-exactly as they-say from tender nails
τὴν γνῶσιν σχεῖν πειρώμενος πάντων καὶ τῶν τυχόντων,
the knowledge to-have trying of-all and of-the chance(-things)
ὡς μὴ καταβαπτίζεσθαι βυθῷ τῆς ἀγνωσίας.
so-as not to-be-drowned in-the-depth of-the ignorance
Ὡς δέ τις μεγαλέμπορος θέλων πολλὰ κερδῆσαι,
As and some great-merchant wishing much to-gain
δεινοῦ παντὸς ὑπερορᾷ, κατατολμᾷ θαλάσσης,
of-danger every disregards dares sea
καὶ τὰ φρικτὰ καταφρονεῖ χάσματα τῶν κυμάτων,
and the dreadful scorns chasms of-the waves
καὶ πορρωτάτω στέλλεται πάντως ῥιψοκινδύνως·
and farthest sets-out altogether recklessly

οὕτως εἰς πλάτος ἐμαυτὸν ἀφῆκα τὸ τοῦ λόγου,
so into breadth myself I-let-go the of-the learning
κἀκεῖθεν ὅλον φορυτὸν χρυσίου καὶ μαργάρων,
and-thence whole load of-gold and pearls
καὶ θησαυρὸν πολύολβον ἐπλούτησα τὴν γνῶσιν,
and treasure most-wealthy I-was-enriched-with the knowledge
πολὺν ἐμπορευσάμενος ταύτην τὴν ἐμπορίαν.
much having-trafficked this the trade
Οὕτω τὰ πάντα διελθών, οὕτως ἀποπειράσας,
Thus the all having-gone-through thus having-made-trial
τοῦτο πρὸ πάντων ἄπιστον εἶχον καὶ φλυαρίαν,
this before all unbelievable I-held and nonsense
τοῦτο ψευδὲς ἐνόμιζον, ὅλως οὐκ ἐδεχόμην
this false I-thought at-all not I-accepted
τὸ λέγουσιν οἱ χωρικοὶ καὶ ὁ λόγος ὁ δημώδης,
which say the peasants and the saying the popular
«ὅταν ὁ κόραξ πούποτε καθίσῃ καὶ φωνάξῃ,
when the raven anywhere sits and cries
ἐκεῖ σημαίνει θάνατον καὶ χωρισμὸν ἀθρόον.»
there it-signifies death and parting sudden
Πόθεν καὶ γὰρ τοῖς κόραξιν ἀπεκληρώθη χάρις
Whence and for to-the ravens was-allotted grace
μηνύουσι τὰ μέλλοντα καὶ προγινώσκειν τόσον,
they-reveal the coming(-things) and to-foreknow so-much
ὥστε προλέγειν θάνατον καὶ χωρισμοὺς ἀνθρώπων;
so-as to-foretell death and partings of-men
Ἐδόκει γοῦν μοι γέλοιον καὶ ματαιολογία,
It-seemed then to-me laughable and idle-talk
ἀλλὰ κατέλαβε καιρός, ἀλλὰ παρέστη χρόνος,
but came time but arrived season

ἐν οἷς ἰδὼν πεπίστευκα καὶ καρτερῶ πιστεύειν·
in which having-seen I-have-believed and persist to-believe

χρυσοῦς ἐκεῖνος ὁ εἰπών, ὄντως σοφίας πλήρης·
golden that(-man) who said truly of-wisdom full

«ὅσον γηράσκεις μάνθανε καὶ σεαυτὸν ταπείνου!»
as-much-as you-grow-old learn and yourself humble

Ἰδοὺ καὶ μαθητεύομαι καὶ κλίνω τὸν αὐχένα,
Behold both I-am-taught and I-bend the neck

καὶ παρ᾽ αὐτῆς διδάσκομαι σαφέστατα τῆς πείρας
and by itself am-taught most-clearly the experience

τὸ μαντικὸν τοῦ κόρακος καὶ τὰς λοιπὰς δυνάμεις,
the prophetic of-the raven and the other powers

ἃς ἐπιφέρειν εἴωθε μετὰ πολλοῦ τοῦ τάχους,
which to-bring-on it-is-wont with much the speed

καθίσας ὁπουδήποτε καὶ παρ᾽ ἐλπίδα κράξας·
having-sat wherever and beyond hope having-croaked

γονεῖς ἀτέκνους καθιστᾷ, τέκνα χωρὶς γονέων,
parents childless it-makes children without parents

ἐκ τῆς ἀγκάλης τῆς μητρὸς τὸ βρέφος ἁφαρπάζει,
from the arms of-the mother the babe it-snatches-away

τὸ βρέφος ἀπεστέρησε μητέρος θηλαζούσης,
the babe it-deprived of-mother nursing

πολλάκις δὲ καὶ σὺν αὐτῷ τῷ βρέφει τὴν μητέρα
often and also with itself the babe the mother

ἐλέους ἄνευ ἀνασπᾷ καὶ κατασπᾷ πρὸς ᾅδην·
of-mercy without it-drags-up and drags-down to Hades

φίλους, γνωρίμους, συγγενεῖς, πάντας, μικρούς, μεγάλους,
friends acquaintances kinsmen all small great

χωρίζει καὶ διίστησιν ἀθρόον ἀπ᾽ ἀλλήλων
it-parts and separates suddenly from one-another
ὁ κόραξ ὁ κακόφημος, ὁ κήρυξ τοῦ θανάτου·
the raven the ill-omened the herald of-the death
ἐγγύς που τὸ παράδειγμα καὶ ὁ μάρτυς ἀφ᾽ ἑστίας·
near somewhere the example and the witness from hearth
ἐπὶ προδήλοις πράγμασιν οὐ χρεία τῶν μαρτύρων,
in plain matters not need of-the witnesses
ἀφ᾽ ὧν ἡμεῖς ἐπάθομεν, ἐμάθομεν ἀρκούντως.
from what we suffered we-learned sufficiently
Πρότριτα γὰρ τοῦ κόρακος ἐπάνω μου τῆς στέγης
Three-days-ago for the raven above my of-the roof
ἐπὶ κακῷ καθίσαντος καὶ κράζειν ἀρξαμένου,
for evil having-sat and to-croak having-begun
καὶ λέγειν ὅλως ἄναρθρα καὶ παρακεκομμένα·
and to-say wholly inarticulate(-things) and distorted
φοβεῖσθαι μὲν οὐκ ἤθελον, ὡς φθάσας εἶπον ἄνω,
to-fear indeed not I-wished as having-already I-said above
πλὴν ἀλλ᾽ ὁ λόγος ὁ κοινὸς καὶ ἡ φήμη τῶν ἀνθρώπων,
but but the saying the common and the report of-the men
ὁκάτι ὡς ἠκροεξύσπαζε καὶ συνετάρασσέ με·
somewhat as was-twitching-at and troubling me
τρόμος λοιπὸν κατέλαβε καὶ φόβος τὴν ψυχήν μου,
trembling then seized and fear the soul my
καὶ τὴν καρδίαν μου παλμός, καὶ κλόνος μου τὰ μέλη,
and the heart my throbbing and shaking my the limbs
ἐφανταζόμην, ἔπασχον, ἔτρεμον, ἐφοβούμην,
I-imagined I-suffered I-trembled I-was-afraid
ἐδειλαινόμην ἄμετρα, πολλὰ συνεστελλόμην,
I-was-cowed beyond-measure much I-shrank

τέρας ἰδεῖν δυσάντητον δοκῶν ἀπροσδοκήτως,
monster to-see hard-to-meet thinking unexpectedly
τὸ «δέσποτα φιλάνθρωπε, τοῦ κόσμου σου προστάτα,
the lord loving-mankind of-the world your protector
τοῦτον τὸν φόβον εἰς καλὸν ποίησον ἀποβῆναι,
this the fear to good make to-turn-out
καὶ τέλος δοῦναι μοι χρηστόν», λέγων οὐχ ἐπαυόμην·
and end to-give me good saying not I-ceased
καὶ ἰδὲ τὸ ποῦ κατήντησαν ἐκεῖνα τὰ σημεῖα,
and see the where came-to those the signs
καὶ τέλος οἷον ἔφερεν ἐμοὶ τῷ ταλαιπώρῳ
and end what-sort it-brought to-me the wretched
ὁ βοασμὸς τοῦ κόρακος τοῦ βαρυφωνοτάτου.
the croaking of-the raven the deepest-voiced
Ἄγγελος γὰρ καταπεμφθεὶς ὕψωθεν τοῦ κυρίου,
Angel for sent-down from-on-high from-the Lord
ἀφήρπαξέ με τῶν ἐμῶν, ἐστέρησε τοῦ βίου,
snatched-away me from-the my deprived of-the life
καὶ ζῶντα μὲ κατήντησεν εἰς ᾅδην παρ' ἐλπίδα,
and living me brought to Hades beyond hope
πάσης προφάσεως ἐκτός, ὅλως ἀνερωτήτως,
of-all pretext without at-all unquestioned
καὶ κολασταῖς παρέδωκε καὶ σκότει καὶ ταρτάρῳ,
and to-punishers handed(-me) and to-darkness and to-Tartarus
θέμενος πάντα παρ' οὐδέν, πάντων καταφρονήσας,
having-reckoned all for nothing all having-scorned
τοῦ λόγου, τῆς νεότητος αὐτῆς τῆς ἡλικίας.
of-the account of-the youth itself the age
Ἀλλ' ὦ βασκάνου δαίμονος, ὦ πονηροῦ τελχῖνος,
But O envious demon O wicked sorcerer

ὦ μνησικάκου γείτονος, ὦ γλώσσης ψευδηγόρου,
O grudge-bearing neighbor O tongue lying
ἥτις ἐλάλησε κακῶς σήμερον ἀδικίαν,
which spoke evilly today injustice
ἥτις ἀπεπωμάτισε τὸν τῆς ἐλπίδος πίθον,
which uncorked the of-the hope jar
ἥτις ἡμῖν ἐκέρασε τοῦ πόνου τὴν τρυγίαν,
which for-us mixed of-the toil the dregs
καὶ κυκεῶνα θλίψεων καὶ συμφορῶν κρατῆρα,
and potion of-afflictions and of-misfortunes bowl
ἥτις εἰς γῆν κατέαξε τὰ διαβήματά μου,
which to earth broke the steps my
λόγους ψευδεῖς συνέρραψε καὶ δόλῳ μεμιγμένους.
words false stitched-together and with-guile mixed
Ἄρτι κἀγὼ συντίθεμαι τοῖς γνωματευομένοις,
Now I-too agree with-the opinion-givers
συμφέρει χρόνος ὁ κακὸς καὶ κρείττων ἔνι πάντως
it-profits time the bad and better is altogether
τοῦ γείτονος τοῦ πονηροῦ καὶ τοῦ συκοφαντοῦντος·
than-the neighbor the wicked and the slandering
τοῦ χρόνου γὰρ κατὰ μικρὸν συμπεριφερομένου,
of-the time for by little turning-about
συμφέρονται καὶ τὰ δεινὰ καὶ ῥέουσι τῷ χρόνῳ,
are-carried-along also the terrors and flow with-the time
ὁ γείτων δὲ παράμονος τοῖς γειτονοῦσι σκόλοψ,
the neighbor but permanent to-the neighbors thorn
συκοφαντῶν, δολορραφῶν, μοχλεύων, ἐνεδρεύων,
slandering guile-stitching prying lying-in-wait
πόστας ἱστῶν ἀσυμφανῶς καὶ βρόχους ἐξορύσσων.
traps setting unseen and snares digging

Ἀλλ᾽ ἐρωτᾷς τὸν θάνατον, βούλει μαθεῖν τὸν ᾅδην;
But you-ask-about the death you-wish to-learn — Hades
ᾅδην καλῶ τὰ Νούμερα, τὰ χείρω καὶ τοῦ ᾅδου,
Hades I-call the Numera the worse even — than-Hades
ὅσον καὶ γὰρ εἰς κάκωσιν νικῶσι καὶ τὸν ᾅδην.
as-much and for in ill-treatment they-defeat even — Hades
Ἐκεῖ γάρ, ὡς ἀκούομεν, ἀλλήλους θεωροῦσι,
There for as we-hear one-another they-see
καὶ τοῦτο παρηγόρημα μέγα τοῖς θλιβομένοις·
and this consolation great to-the afflicted
ἐν τούτῳ δὲ τῷ ζοφερῷ καὶ βαθυτάτῳ λάκκῳ,
in this but the gloomy and deepest pit
οὐ φῶς παρὰ τοῖς ὄμμασιν, οὐδέ τις ὁμιλία,
not light for the eyes nor any conversation
τὸ συνεχὲς γὰρ τοῦ καπνοῦ, τοῦ σκότους ἡ παχύτης,
the continuity for of-the smoke of-the darkness the thickness
ἀλλήλους οὐ παραχωρεῖ βλέπειν οὐδὲ γνωρίζειν·
one-another not allows to-see nor to-recognize
ἐκεῖ πεντηκονθήμερος καιρὸς ἐλευθερίας
there fifty-day time of-freedom
κατ᾽ ἔτος ἅπαν δίδοται τοῖς ἀποδικασμένοις·
by year every is-given to-the condemned
ἐνταῦθα δὲ διηνεκὴς ἡ κάθειρξις τυγχάνει,
here but continual the confinement is
ὁ γόος ὧδε μόνιμος, ἀένναος ὁ θρῆνος,
the wailing here abiding ever-flowing the lament
ὁ τῶν δακρύων ὀχετὸς οὐ λήγει καταρρέων·
the of-the tears channel not ceases flowing-down
θλίβει μικρὸν ὁ θάνατος, ἅπαξ ἡμᾶς πικραίνει,
afflicts a-little the death once us embitters

ἡ φυλακὴ δὲ πάντοτε κέκτηται τὴν πικρίαν·
the prison but always possesses the bitterness
ὁ τέλει γὰρ χρησάμενος τοῦ βίου κατὰ φύσιν,
the(-one) end for having-met-with of-the life according-to nature
καὶ λειτουργήσας τῶν χρεῶν, ἢ μεταστὰς τῶν ὧδε,
and having-paid of-the debts or having-left from-the here
ἐκεῖνος ἅπαξ ἔθανεν, ἐτάφη καὶ παρῆλθε,
he once died was-buried and passed-away
ἐν λήθῃ πάντων γέγονε τῶν ὄντων ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ,
in forgetfulness of-all has-become of-the being(-things) in the world
φίλων, γνωρίμων, συγγενῶν, γονέων καὶ συζύγου·
friends acquaintances kinsmen parents and spouse
οὐκέτι τούτων ἕνεκεν δάκνεται τὴν καρδίαν,
no-longer of-these for-the-sake-of is-bitten in-the heart
πάντων ἐπιλαθόμενος ὧν εἶχεν ἐν τῷ βίῳ·
all having-forgotten which he-had in the life
ὁ δὲ βληθεὶς ἐν φυλακῇ πλήρει καπνοῦ καὶ σκότους,
the(-one) but thrown into prison full of-smoke and of-darkness
ἔχει τοὺς πόνους μετ᾽ αὐτοῦ πάντοτε συνοικοῦντας·
has the pains with him always dwelling-together
ὁσάκις ἀναπνεύσειε λυπεῖται τοσαυτάκις,
as-often-as he-breathes he-grieves so-often
ἀναστενάζει, θλίβεται, κόπτεται, δαπανᾶται,
he-sighs is-afflicted beats-himself is-consumed
ἐπὶ θανάτῳ θάνατον δέχεται καθ᾽ ἑκάστην,
upon death death receives by each(-day)
ὅτι καὶ ζῇ καὶ μέμνηται καὶ τῶν αὐτοῦ στερεῖται.
because both he-lives and remembers and of-the his(-own) is-deprived

Ἀκοῦτε τα καὶ οὐ θλίβεσθε, λαλῶ σας καὶ οὐ λυπεῖσθε·
Hear them and not be-afflicted I-speak to-you and not grieve
λόγος, ἀλήθεια, φέρεται δημοτικὸς ἀρχαῖος·
saying truth is-current popular ancient
«ὁποῦ ἔχει ἀμέριμνον ψυχήν, ὁποῦ ἔνι χορτασμένος,
who has carefree soul who is sated
ποτὲ οὐ πιστεύει νηστικόν, ποτὲ οὐ ψυχοπονᾶται.»
ever not believes fasting(-man) ever not feels-pity
Ἐσὺ ἂν ἱστήκῃς εἰς βουνὶν καὶ ἀπὸ μακρὰ ἐντρανίζῃς,
You if you-stand on mountain and from afar look
καὶ βλέπῃς ἄλλον κείμενον ἀπέσω εἰς τὸ καμίνιν,
and see another lying inside in the furnace
οὐκ εἶδες, οὐκ ἐνόησες, οὐκ ἔγνως τὴν πικρίαν·
not you-saw not you-perceived not you-knew the bitterness
ἐκεῖνος τηγανίζεται, καὶ σὺ κἀμψίχα οὐ γνῴθεις.
he is-fried and you even-a-crumb not feel
Ἂν ἴδῃς εἰς τὸ πέλαγος καράβιν κινδυνεῦον,
If you-see in the sea ship in-danger
ἐσὺ γελᾷς ἀπὸ μακρά, κ᾽ ἐκεῖ μεγάλη τζίκνα·
you laugh from afar and there great reek
ἐσὺ λέγεις ἀϊλλοίμονον, κ᾽ ἐκεῖ θεωροῦν ἀγγέλους·
you say alas and there they-see angels
ὁ βλέπων φῶς ἐλεύθερον, ὁ τρέχων εἰς τὸν κόσμον,
the(-one) seeing light free the(-one) running in the world
οὐκ ἔχει φόβον πενθερᾶς, ἀμέριμνος κοιμᾶται,
not has fear of-mother-in-law carefree sleeps
ἂν οὐ πιασθῇ καὶ δαμασθῇ, ψυχὴν ἂν οὐ πονέσῃ,
if not he-is-caught and tamed soul if not feels-pain
ὡς ὄρνεον πελάζεται, δοκοῦν τον ὅλα ὁμάλιν,
as bird he-approaches thinking it all level

τῆς φυλακῆς ἡ κάκωσις, ἡ τζίκνα, τὸ καρβούνιν,
of-the prison the ill-treatment the reek the charcoal
ἐγὼ τὸ ἐξεύρω μοναχός, ἐμέναν καίει μόνον,
I it know alone me burns alone
μόνος ἐγὼ δαμάζομαι κ᾽ ἐγὼ τὴν πεῖραν ἔχω.
alone I am-tamed and I the experience have
Εἴ τις ἂν λέγῃ· «ψεύδεται, φλυαρεῖ, μὴ τὸν πιστεύῃς!»
If anyone — says he-lies he-babbles not him believe
κἀνεὶς ποτὲ οὐχ ἐπόνεσεν, οὐχ οἶδε τί ἔνι ὁ πόνος,
anyone ever not felt-pain not knows what is the pain
ὁποῦ πονέσῃ κεφαλὴν καὶ ὁποῦ πονέσῃ πτέρναν
who aches-in head and who aches-in heel
ἐπίσης ἀναγκάζονται κ᾽ ἐπίσης ὀδυνῶνται·
equally are-constrained and equally suffer
ἐκείνους ὁποῦ ἐπόνεσαν ἐρώτα, καὶ νὰ μάθῃς.
those who have-felt-pain ask and that you-learn

II · THE PRISON

The prison is death and a furnace and worse than either. The prisoner starts at a leaf and prays for sleep, but his short sleep brings dreams of chains and shouting Varangians, and fear wakes him. He addresses his soul, filling with pains like a bushel heaped bean by bean, and tells fathers to strangle a son rather than teach him letters. A caged bird cannot fly. He advises cursing an enemy with prison, asks why heaven is deaf, and ends with comic tales of small causes and great consequences.

Ἡ φυλακὴ καὶ θάνατος, καὶ χείρων τοῦ θανάτου,
The prison both death and worse than-the death
ἡ φυλακὴ καὶ κάμινος, καὶ χείρων τῆς καμίνου·
the prison both furnace and worse than-the furnace

αὐτὴν ἂν εἴπῃς κόλασιν, παχυμερῶς κολάζει,
it if you-call punishment grossly it-punishes
παχυμερῶς στενοχωρεῖ, καὶ θλίβει καὶ δαμάζει,
grossly it-straitens and afflicts and tames
ἡ θλῖψις δὲ τῆς φυλακῆς, ἡ μέριμνα, ἡ ἀνάγκη,
the affliction and of-the prison the care the constraint
πολυμερής, πολύτροπος, πολυειδής, ποικίλη·
manifold many-mannered many-formed various
καθ' ὥραν φθάνει ὁ θάνατος, καθ' ὥραν ἀποθνήσκεις,
by hour comes the death by hour you-die
χωρὶς θαλάσσης πνίγεσαι, χωρὶς πυρὸς ἐξάπτεις,
without sea you-are-drowned without fire you-burn
μέλη καὶ μέλη τέμνεσαι καὶ δίχα μαχαιρίου,
limbs and limbs you-are-cut even without knife
οὐχ ἔναι πόνος πούποτε νὰ μὴ σὲ κατακρούσῃ·
not is pain anywhere that not you it-strike
φύλλον θροεῖ σε ἂν σαλευθῇ, πουλὶν ἂν ἴδῃς τρέμεις,
leaf startles you if it-be-shaken bird if you-see you-tremble
ἂν γένῃ κτύπος πούποτε, μόδιν ἀγγέλους βλέπεις,
if comes noise anywhere by-the-bushel angels you-see
φοβεῖσαι μὴ ἔλθῃ μήνυμα τὸ οὐχ ἤθελες ν' ἀκούσῃς,
you-fear lest come message which not you-wished that you-hear
ἀδημονεῖς, ἐννοιάζεσαι, συντρίβεσαι, τρομάσσεις,
you-are-distressed you-brood you-are-crushed you-tremble
βλέπεις ἡμέραν, θλίβεσαι, φοβεῖσαι ὡς οὐ πρέπει.
you-see day you-are-afflicted you-fear as not is-fitting
Πάλιν τὴν νύκτα δειλιᾷς, τὸ τί νὰ φέρῃ οὐχ οἶδες,
Again the night you-are-afraid the what that it-bring not you-know
στενοχωρεῖσαι, ἀγανακτεῖς, ἐδῶ κ' ἐκεῖ προσκρούεις,
you-are-straitened you-are-vexed here and there you-stumble

ὡς ἐννοιασμένον περπατεῖς καὶ ὡσὰν ἐνταλωμένον,
as brooding you-walk and as-if haunted
τόπον ἐκ τόπου μεριμνᾷς καὶ τόπος οὐ χωρεῖ σε·
place from place you-worry and place not holds you
λειποθυμεῖς, σκοτίζεσαι, κοντοανασαίνεις, πίπτεις,
you-faint you-grow-dizzy you-gasp-short you-fall
κεῖται τὸ σῶμα σου νεκρόν, ἄψυχον τὴν τελείαν,
lies the body your dead lifeless the utterly
ὀψὲ καὶ μόλις γρηγορεῖς, μόλις ἐπαναφέρεις·
late and barely you-wake barely you-come-round
τὴν γῆν δαγκάνεις, εὔχεσαι, παρακαλεῖς καὶ λέγεις·
the earth you-bite you-pray entreat and say
«Χριστέ μου, δὸς ἀνάπαυσιν, Χριστέ μου, φέρε ὑπνίτζιν,
Christ my give rest Christ my bring little-sleep
Χριστέ, παραμυθῆσόν με, Χριστέ, ἀποκοίμισέ με,
Christ comfort me Christ put-to-sleep me
νὰ παύσουν αἱ ὀδύναι μου, νὰ χαλαρώσῃ ὁ πόνος!»
that cease the pains my that slacken the pain
Καὶ *** ὡς οὐχ ἤθελες, ἡ εὐχή ***
And (lacuna) as not you-wished the prayer (lacuna)
ἠρέμησες, ἠκόμπησες, ἔπεσες, κατεκλίθης,
you-grew-calm you-propped(-yourself) you-fell you-lay-down
ἀπῆρες ὕπνον ὀλίγον, ἐκάμμυσες ὡρίτζαν,
you-took sleep a-little you-shut(-your-eyes) little-hour
καὶ κἂν ἂς τὸν ἐκέρδισες, καὶ κἂν ἂς τὸν ἐχάρης,
and even if-only it you-had-gained and even if-only it you-had-enjoyed
ἂς εἶδες κἂν ἐνύπνιον γλυκὺν κατὰ τὸν ὕπνον!
if-only you-had-seen even dream sweet during the sleep
ἀμμὴ δεσμὰ καὶ βάσανα καὶ φυλακὰς καὶ πύργους,
but bonds and tortures and prisons and towers

Βαράγγους ἀλαλάζοντας, καὶ ὁ φόβος ἐξυπνᾷ σε·
Varangians shouting and the fear wakes you
μορόϋπνον ἐγείρεσθαι περιπατεῖς χαωμένον,
half-asleep you-rise you-walk dazed
φοβερισμένος, ἔντρομος, καὶ ὡσὰν ἐξυσπασμένος·
frightened trembling and as-if convulsed
ἔτη τ *** θεωρεῖς ἐκείνους τοὺς ἀγρίους,
years (-t-) (lacuna) you-see those the savage(-ones)
ὁρμῶντας οὕτω κατὰ σοῦ, δάκνοντας, ὑλακτοῦντας,
rushing thus against you biting barking
αἶ πόνος ὁ ἡμερινός, αἶ τζίκνα τῆς ἑσπέρας,
ah pain the daily ah reek of-the evening
αἶ μεσονύκτου θάνατος, αἶ τῆς αὐγῆς καρβούνι!
ah of-midnight death ah of-the dawn charcoal
πόσα πανθάνω ἀγνοῶ, πῶς εἰς ᾅδην οὐ φθάνω;
how-many(-things) I-suffer I-know-not how to Hades not I-come
πῶς ἀκομὴ ψυχοκρατῶ καὶ πῶς οὐ παραδίδω;
how still I-hold-my-soul and how not I-give(-it)-up
καὶ τοῦτο εἰς καταδίκην μου πάντως περισσοτέραν.
and this to condemnation my altogether greater
Αἶ αἶ, ψυχὴ πολύπονε, πολυσυμφορωτάτη,
Ah ah soul much-suffering most-unfortunate
πῶς ἀπαντᾷς παράδοξον, πῶς οὐχ ἐρράγης ξένον.
how you-endure strange how not you-burst strange
Οἱ πόνοι ὁποῦ σὲ εἰσέβησαν ποῦ τοὺς χωρεῖς εἰπέ μοι·
The pains which you entered where them do-you-hold tell me
κουκκὶν κουκκὶν ἂν σωρευθῇ τὸν μόδιν νὰ γεμίσῃ,
bean bean if it-be-heaped the bushel that it-fill
καὶ σύ, ψυχή μου, βέβαιον ἀκόμη οὐχ ἐγεμίσθης·
and you soul my surely still not were-filled

185 τὸ ποῦ καὶ πῶς οἱ πόνοι σου χωνεύονται θαυμάζω.
the where and how the pains your are-digested I-marvel
Οἱ πόνοι ἐξηναισχύντησαν εἰς τούτας τὰς ἡμέρας,
The pains have-grown-shameless in these the days
ἂν εὕρουν εἰς κατώφορον ψυχὴν ἀναγκασμένην,
if they-find in downhill soul constrained
ἐκεῖ περισυνάγονται καὶ πολεμοῦν τὴν πνῖξιν.
there they-gather-round and strive-for the stifling
Ψυχή, περισωρεύθησαι, καί, ὡς ἠπορεῖς, ἀπάντα·
Soul you-are-heaped-about and as you-are-at-a-loss hold-out
190 οἱ πόνοι ἀψὰ σὲ εἰσέβησαν, κ' ἐκατεσκούρωσάν σε,
the pains fiercely you entered and darkened you
καὶ οὐχ ἔχουν ἄλλο ἐνθύμησιν, ὡς βλέπω, νὰ σὲ ἀφήσουν·
and not have other thought as I-see that you they-leave
τοῦ πόνου τὸ ἀνώφορον ἤρξου, ψυχή, ἀναβαίνειν,
of-the pain the uphill you-began soul to-climb
καί, ὡς ἔνι κακοανάβατον, μὴ ἀποσταθῇς φοβοῦμαι·
and as it-is hard-to-climb lest you-tire I-fear
ψυχή μου, βλέπω, ἠτόνησες, καὶ ὁ πόνος ἐπιβαίνει,
soul my I-see you-are-exhausted and the pain mounts
195 καὶ ὁκάτι δειλιάζω σε, φοβοῦμαι οὐ μὴ ἀπαντήσῃς·
and somewhat I-fear-for you I-fear lest — you-hold-out
ψυχή μου κακοτύχερε, μίαν ἐχάρης ὥραν,
soul my ill-fated one you-rejoiced hour
καὶ λύπη διεδέξατο ἄπαυστος τὴν χαράν σου·
and grief succeeded unceasing the joy your
ψυχή μου κακορρίζικε, μίαν ἐφάνης ὥραν,
soul my ill-starred one you-appeared hour
καὶ ὡσεὶ σκιὰ διέβηκες, ἐχάθης, ἐκρυβήθης·
and as-if shadow you-passed you-were-lost you-were-hidden

ψυχή μου, ὡς ἄστρον ἔλαμψες, ἀνέτειλες ὡς φέγγος,
soul my as star you-shone you-rose as light
καὶ νέφος ἀπροσδόκητον ἦλθεν, ἐκάλυψέ σε.
and cloud unexpected came covered you
Ψυχή μου, ὁποῦ σὲ βλέπουσιν κἂν ψίχα ὅτι ἀναπνέεις, ***
Soul my who you see even crumb that you-breathe (lacuna)
παρὰ καιρὸν ἐγήρασεν, ἐψύγην, ἐμαράνθην.
before time it-grew-old I-grew-cold I-withered
Ἐδάρτε, μάθε γράμματα καὶ θάρρει νὰ προκόψῃς·
Come-now learn letters and trust that you-advance
θάρρει νὰ εὕρῃς τὴν τύχην σου καὶ νὰ χαρῇς εἰς κόσμον,
trust that you-find the fortune your and that you-rejoice in world
πρὶν τὴν εὑρῇς, ἐχάσες την· πρὶν τὴν ἰδῇς, ὑπάγει·
before it you-find you-lost it before it you-see it-goes
ἀφῆκε σε μνημόσυνον πάντοτε νὰ σὲ θλίβῃ.
it-left you memorial always that you it-afflict
Πολλὰ τὸν ἔχω εὐκαιρητὴν ἐκεῖνον τὸν γονέαν,
Much him I-hold idle that the parent
ὁποῦ διδάξῃ γράμματα ποτέ του τὸ παιδίν του·
who would-teach letters ever his the child his
ἔχεις, ἥλιέ μου! παιδίν, ἀγούριν, παλληκάριν,
you-have sun my child boy lad
βάλε σχοινὶν καὶ πνίξε το, καὶ μὴ τὸ γραμματίσῃς·
put rope and strangle it and not it educate
ἅπαξ τὸν πόνον ἔπαρε καὶ ἀπομερίμνησέ το,
once the pain take and be-done-with it
μὴ τὸ θεωρῇς καὶ θλίβεσαι πάσας σου τὰς ἡμέρας.
not it see and be-afflicted all your the days
Τὰ γράμματα τιμὴν ἔχουν, ἀλήθεια, μεγάλην,
The letters honor have truly great

ἀλλ᾽ ὡς ἐκατεστάθησαν ἐπὶ τῶν ἡμερῶν μας,
but as they-have-come-to-stand in the days our
ὁ θεὸς ἐλευθερώσῃ σε, καὶ ἂς ἦσαι ψωμοζήτης.
— God free you and let you-be bread-beggar
Ποτὲ μὴ ἐλπίζῃς προκοπήν, ποτὲ οὐκ ἐπανακάμψεις·
Ever not hope advancement ever not you-will-recover
ἀφ᾽ οὗ χλωριάνῃς καὶ ψυγῇς, πότε νὰ φέρῃς ὄψιν;
from when you-turn-pale and grow-cold when that you-bring look
ἀφ᾽ οὗ κλιθῇς καὶ μαρανθῇς, πότε νὰ ἐξαναθάλῃς;
from when you-are-bent and wither when that you-bloom-again
ἀφ᾽ οὗ γηράσῃς καὶ σαπῇς, πότε νὰ γένῃς νέος;
from when you-grow-old and rot when that you-become young
ἀφ᾽ οὗ ἀποθάνῃς καὶ σαπῇς, πότε νὰ ἐξαναζήσῃς;
from when you-die and rot when that you-live-again
Ὁ γέρων νεὸς οὐ γίνεται, κἀνεὶς μὴ σὲ κομπόνῃ·
The old(-man) young not becomes anyone not you deceive
τὸ δένδρον τὸ νεόφυτον, τὸ θάλλον καὶ καρπεῦον,
the tree the newly-planted the flourishing and fruiting
ἀφ᾽ οὗ ψυγῇ παρὰ καιρόν, ἀφ᾽ οὗ φυλλορροήσῃ,
from when it-grows-cold before time from when it-sheds-its-leaves
ὅσα καὶ ἂν τὸ ποτίζουσιν, ἄλλο ποτὲ οὐ βλαστήσει.
as-much even — it they-water any-more ever not will-sprout
Πουλὶν ἂν βάλῃς εἰς κλουβίν, καὶ ποιήσῃ τρεῖς ἡμέρας,
Bird if you-put in cage and it-spend three days
ἐκεῖ νεφροκουράζεται καὶ οὐ δύναται πετάσσειν·
there it-is-crippled and not can fly
ὥραν ἂν ποιήσῃς εἰς λουτρόν, ὀλιγωρεῖς αὐτίκα,
hour if you-spend in bath you-lose-heart at-once
γοργὸν ἂν σὲ οὐκ ἐκβάλουσιν, ἐκεῖ νὰ ἐξεψυχήσῃς.
quickly if you not they-take-out there that you-expire

Καὶ ποῦ λουτρὸν βαρύτερον καὶ ποῦ λειποψυχία;
And where bath heavier and where swooning
οἶδεν ἐκεῖνος ὁ παθών, οἶδεν ὁ θρύβας μόνος.
knows that the sufferer knows the bath-man alone
Ἡμέρας τρεῖς ὁ Ἰωνᾶς κατείχετο τῷ κήτει,
Days three — Jonah was-held in-the whale
καὶ φέρειν μὴ δυνάμενος ἐφώναζε βαρέως·
and to-bear not being-able cried-out heavily
«ἀπέρριψάς με, δέσποτα, πάλιν ἀνάγαγέ με,
you-cast-away me lord again bring-up me
ἐκύκλωσάν με ποταμοί, παύθητι τῆς ὀργῆς σου·
surrounded me rivers cease from-the anger your
ἐπάκουσόν μου, πρόφθασον, χαόνεις τὸν Ἰωνᾶν σου!»
hear me hasten you-lose — Jonah your
Οὕτω δεινὸν ἡ φυλακὴ καὶ τὸ μὴ βλέπειν κόσμον,
So terrible the prison and the not to-see world
ὡς ἐξοχλεῖν καὶ τὸν θεὸν ἀπὸ στενοχωρίας·
as to-trouble even — God from distress
κακὸς ἐχθρὸς ἡ φυλακὴ ποτὲ πιστὰ οὐ φυλάττει,
evil enemy the prison ever faithfully not guards
μεσίτην οὐ προσδέχεται, φίλον τινὰ οὐχ ἔχει,
mediator not it-accepts friend any not it-has
μακάρι μὴ κουρσίζεται μετὰ δισσὰ ματίτζια·
if-only not it-is-plundered with double little-eyes
ὡς ἐκεῖ παίζει μετ' ἐσέν, ὡς ἐκεῖ μετριάζει,
as there it-plays with you as there it-moderates
ὡς οὗ νὰ ἐμβῇς εἰς κάρτζουκον, καὶ ὡς οὗ νὰ ἐμπλάκῃς·
until which that you-go into stocks and until which that you-be-entangled
καὶ τότε λέγει αὐτοῦ θέλεις, οὐδὲ οἶδα οὐδὲ νὰ ἐγνωρίζω,
and then it-says here you-want neither I-know nor that I-recognize

ἔσω σὲ ἔχω, κόσυφε, δωρεὰς καὶ σπαρταρίζεις.
inside you I-have blackbird in-vain and you-thrash-about
Ἂν θέλῃς καταράσεσθαι τινὰν ἐκ τοὺς ἐχθρούς σου,
If you-wish to-curse anyone of the enemies your
κατάρας ἄφες τὰς πολλὰς καὶ τοῦτο λέγε μόνον·
curses leave the many and this say only
«εἰς φυλακὴν ἀποκλεισθῇς, εἰς σίδηρα βαρέα,
into prison may-you-be-shut into irons heavy
εἰς χέρια ἐγκρούσῃς στοματᾶ, μωροῦ καπικλαρίου!»
into hands may-you-fall loud-mouthed of-foolish jailer
Καὶ τί κρουνοὺς τοῖς δάκρυσι μιγνύομεν δακρύων,
And why streams with-the tears we-mix of-tears
καὶ στεναγμοὺς ταῖς οἰμωγαῖς, καὶ πένθος ἐπὶ πένθει;
and groans with-the wailings and grief upon grief
ὅσα καὶ ἂν λέγῃς ὁ πονῶν, καὶ κρούῃς καὶ λαμβάνῃς,
as-much even — you-say the sufferer and beat and receive
πάντα δοκοῦσιν ὄνειρος εἰς ἄθλιβον καρδίαν.
all seem dream to unafflicted heart
Οὐδὲν ἀκούεις, οὐρανέ· καὶ τί κωφὸς ἐγένου;
Not you-hear heaven and why deaf did-you-become
οὐχ ἔμαθες τὰ ἡμέτερα, καὶ πῶς ἀπεκοιμήθης;
not you-learned the our(-things) and how you-fell-asleep
πῶς οὐ πλαντᾷς παράδοξον, πῶς οὐ χαλᾷς καὶ πίπτεις;
how not you-burst strange how not you-collapse and fall
πῶς ὑπομένεις ἀπορῶ ταύτην τὴν ἀδικίαν.
how you-endure I-am-at-a-loss this the injustice
Ὁκάποτε εἰς τὸν δεῖπνον μας, ἐκείνας τὰς ἡμέρας,
Once at the supper our those the days
παρὰ διαβόλου ἐπήδησεν ἐκ τὸ λυχνάριν τζῖον,
from devil leapt from the lamp spark

καὶ τώρα βλέπω ἐμπυρισμόν, ἐκάησαν τὰ πάντα·
and now I-see conflagration were-burned the all

ποτὲ καιροῦ ἐχασμήσετον ὁκάτις κατὰ τύχην,
once of-time yawned someone by chance

καὶ τώρα ἐποῖκε τὸν σταυρόν, καὶ τώρ᾽ ἀπεσφραγίσθη·
and now he-made the cross and now he-was-unsealed

ἀπεσκεπάσθη πρόπερσι, κ᾽ ἐφέτο ἐρρεμματίσθη·
he-was-uncovered year-before-last and this-year he-caught-a-cold

πῖνε γρουτίτζαν, λέγουν τον, μυρίζου λαδανίτζιν,
drink little-gruel they-tell him smell little-ladanum

καὶ διαβῇ ὁ ῥεμματισμὸς καὶ πάλιν νὰ ἐπανέλθῃς.
and passes the cold and again that you-come-back

Ὁκάτις πάλιν ἔτρωγε καθ᾽ ὕπνου του πεπόνιν,
Someone again ate in sleep his melon

ἐξύπνισε, καὶ λέγουν τον· «σφογγίσου ἐκ τὸ πεπόνιν,
he-woke and they-tell him wipe-yourself from the melon

κρύον οἰνάριν ῥόφησε μὴ κρυώσῃς καὶ πυρέξῃς.»
cold little-wine sip lest you-catch-cold and be-feverish

Justice is upside down: a priest is deposed for his wife's sin, the saddle beaten for the donkey's kick. Raging, he thinks of dashing himself on a rock, then bids his soul be patient, since calm follows storm. Serve the trial, he counsels, and fear no slanderer: the lie is tested like gold, and the proud fall like Goliath. The man he fed has turned on him, but the Lord will repay, and at the judgment rank and gifts count for nothing.

Ἴδε κριταὶ καὶ δίκαια, καὶ νόμοι καὶ κανόνες·
Behold judges and justice and laws and canons
ἡ παπαδιὰ παρέπεσεν, ἐξύβρισε τὴν κοίτην,
the priest's-wife fell disgraced the bed
καὶ καθαιροῦσι τὸν παπᾶν, αἶ συμφορὰ μεγάλη!
and they-depose the priest ah misfortune great
Ἐκείνη παρηνόμησε, καὶ τοῦτον τιμωροῦσιν·
She transgressed and him they-punish
οὐχ ἔνι τοῦτο πλανταμός, οὐχ ἔν' μελαγχολία;
not is this anguish not is melancholy
Ἐλάκτισεν ὁ γάϊδαρος, καὶ δέρουσι τὸ σάγμα,
Kicked the donkey and they-beat the pack-saddle
νὰ γίνῃ καλοπαίδευτον, ἄλλο νὰ μὴ λακτίσῃ.
that it-become well-trained other(-time) that not it-kick
Ἡ θάλασσα ζαλίζεται, βρυχᾶται, κυματίζει,
The sea is-stirred roars swells
καὶ τὸν περάτην τὸν πτωχὸν ὡς πταίστην ἀνατάσσουν.
and the ferryman the poor as offender they-hang
Ἄρτι καὶ νόμος ἀπρακτεῖ τελείως ὁ κελεύων
Now even law is-idle wholly the commanding
ἃ παρ' ἑτέρων γίνονται μὴ καταβλάπτειν ἄλλους·
what by others are-done not to-harm others

καὶ τί ὠφελοῦν τὰ περισσὰ τὰ τοῦτα καὶ τὰ ἐκεῖνα,
and what profit the excess(-words) the these and the those
ἐδῶ τὸ δός, ἐκεῖ τὸ δός, παρέκει οὐχ ἔλαθέ μας;
here the give there the give beyond not escaped us
Ὁποῦ τὸν φοῦρνον ἔκτισε, πάλε ἂς τὸν χαλάσῃ,
Who the oven built again let it he-pull-down
ἂς μείνῃ ὁ τόπος ἔρημος, ἂς γένῃ ὡς ἦτον πρῶτον·
let remain the place deserted let it-become as it-was first
ἀλλ' ὃ παρέκει οὐ δύναμαι κρατῶ καὶ οὐχ ὑπομένω·
but which beyond not I-can I-hold-back and not endure
βλέπεις, ἀπῆρε με ἡ χολή, τὸ τί λαλῶ οὐχ ἐξεύρω,
you-see took me the bile the what I-say not I-know
ἔβρασεν ἡ καρδία μου, παρέκει οὐδὲν βαστάζω
boiled the heart my beyond not I-bear
νὰ δώσω εἰς πέτραν καὶ λυθῶ, νὰ ποίσω θέαμα μέγα,
that I-strike against rock and be-broken that I-make spectacle great
ἀπὸ στενοχωρίας μου νὰ πνίξω τὸν ἑαυτόν μου,
from distress my that I-strangle the self my
παντὶ νὰ γένῃ ἐξάκουστον, ὁ κόσμος νὰ θαυμάσῃ·
to-all that it-become heard-of the world that marvel
ναί, νὰ τὸ ποιήσω οὐ μέλει με, πολλὰ παρεπονήθην·
yes that it I-do not concerns me much I-have-complained
ἐγὼ ψηφίζω θάνατον, χρεωστῶ καὶ νὰ τὸν δώσω.
I vote death I-owe also that it I-give
Ἦλθον εἰς κόσμον σήμερον, σήμερον ὑπαγαίνω·
I-came into world today today I-depart
ἔδε καὶ τί χολομανῶ καὶ τί βαρεὰ στριγγίζω,
behold and why I-rage-with-bile and why heavily I-shriek
καὶ λέγω τὰ οὐκ ἐνδέχονται καὶ τὰ μὲ οὐδὲν ἁρμόζουν;
and say what not are-allowed and what me not befit

Εἰς ἀστρικὸν καταπλοκῆς, εἰς ὥραν ἀδικίας,
In star of-entanglement in hour of-injustice
ἡ μάννα μου μ᾽ ἐγέννησε, δωρεὰν καὶ πεισματίζω,
the mother my me bore for-nothing and I-am-provoked
μάτην, ψυχή μου, ἀδημονεῖς, μάτην περιστατεῖσαι·
in-vain soul my you-are-distressed in-vain you-are-beset
ἐκεῖνο τὸ σὲ ἀπόκειται καὶ τὸ σὲ περιμένει,
that which to-you is-laid-up and which you awaits
εἰς τὸ ἐκ παντὸς θέλει ἐλθεῖν, μὴ κρούῃς καὶ λαμβάνῃς.
to what by all-means will come not beat(-yourself) and receive
Ψυχή μου, παρακλήθητι μὴ σὲ νικήσῃ ὁ πόνος,
Soul my be-comforted not you let-conquer the pain
μὴ πάθῃς τί μικρόψυχον καὶ νὰ χαροῦν οἱ ἐχθροί σου·
not suffer anything mean-souled and that rejoice the enemies your
οὐκ ἔλεγες, καρδία μου, οὐκ ἐκαυχοῦ, ψυχή μου,
not you-used-to-say heart my not you-used-to-boast soul my
οἷος ἂν ἔνι ὁ πειρασμός, θαρρῶ τὸν ἀπαντήσειν;
whatever — is the trial I-dare it to-meet
ὁκάτι τώρα βλέπω σε πολλὰ εἶσαι βαρεμένη,
somewhat now I-see you much you-are weighed-down
πολλὰ σὲ κατεπόνεσε τῆς φυλακῆς ὁ πόνος·
much you wore-down of-the prison the pain
ψυχή μου, ὡς ἀσυνήθιστος, μεγάλα δυσχεραίνεις,
soul my as unaccustomed great(-things) you-bear-ill
αὐτοῦ ὅπου τὰ κατήφερες καὶ σὺ νὰ συνηθίσῃς·
here where them you-brought-down also you that you-grow-used
ψυχή μου, μακροθύμησον, τὸν κόσμον ἔμαθές τον,
soul my be-patient the world you-learned it
τὰς συστροφὰς οὐκ ἀγνοεῖς καὶ τὰς μεταβολάς του,
the twists not you-are-ignorant-of and the changes its

οὐκ ἔχει βέβαιον οὐδέν, οὐκ ἔχει οὐδὲν ἑδραῖον·
not it-has firm anything not it-has anything steady
ὡς δύνασαι, καρτέρησον, ἔδε καὶ τί νὰ ποίσῃς,
as you-can persevere behold and what that you-do
θέλεις οὐ θέλεις ἔκδεξαι, παίζει κ' ἐσὲν ἡ τύχη,
you-will not you-will await plays also(-with) you the fortune
χάριν αὐτοῦ μὴ θλίβεσαι, μηδὲ συχνοστενάζῃς,
for-the-sake-of it not be-afflicted nor often-sigh
ἡ ζάλη τούτη νὰ διαβῇ, πάλιν νὰ ἔλθῃ γαλήνη·
the storm this that pass again that come calm
ὁ λόγος οὗτος οὐκ ἐμός, προφητικὸν τὸ ῥῆμα,
the saying this not mine prophetic the word
ἑσπέρας αὐλισθήσεται κλαυθμός, οὐαί, καὶ θρῆνος,
at-evening will-lodge weeping woe and lament
καὶ θυμηδίας ἥλιος λάμψει κατὰ τὴν ἕω.
and of-gladness sun will-shine toward the dawn
Μὴ τὰ παρόντα καθορᾷς, ἀλλὰ τὸ μέλλον σκέπτου·
Not the present(-things) look-at but the future consider
ἡ πεῖρα διδασκέτω σε τὰς φύσεις τῶν πραγμάτων,
the experience let-teach you the natures of-the things
ὅπου χειμὼν καὶ νιφετός, ἐκεῖ καὶ θέρος πάντως,
where winter and snowstorm there also summer surely
ὅπου ῥαγδαῖος ὑετός, ἐκεῖ κομῶντες στάχεις,
where violent rain there waving ears
ἐκεῖ πληροῖ τὴν δεξιὰν δραγμάτων ὁ θερίζων·
there fills the right-hand with-sheaves the reaper
ὅπου δακρύων ὀχετοὶ καὶ συμφορῶν νιφάδες,
where of-tears channels and of-misfortunes snowfalls
ἐκεῖ βαθεῖαν ἴδῃ τις λάμψασαν εὐφροσύνην,
there deep may-see one shining gladness

ὁ σπείρων γὰρ ἐν δάκρυσι μεθ' ἡδονῆς θερίζει·
the sowing for in tears with pleasure reaps
ὅπου δεσμὰ καὶ κάκωσις καὶ νέφος ἀθυμίας,
where bonds and ill-treatment and cloud of-despondency
ἐκεῖ χαρὰ καὶ ἄνεσις καὶ θυμηδίας ἔαρ.
there joy and ease and of-gladness spring
Κυβέρνησε τὰ πράγματα, μὴ ἀποκαραδοκήσῃς·
Steer the affairs not wait-anxiously
ἀφ' ὅτου φθάσῃ ὁ πειρασμός, τὸ πόθεν μὴ γυρεύῃς,
from when comes the trial the whence not seek
μὴ ψηλαφᾷς τὸν αἴτιον, μὴ λέγῃς; «πόθεν ἦλθεν!»
not grope-for the cause not say whence it-came
ἀνακομπώσου, δέξου τον, καί, ὡς δύνῃ, δούλευσέ τον·
brace-yourself receive it and as you-can serve it
μὴ θροηθῇς, μὴ σαλευθῇς, μὴ νικηθῇς, μὴ ἐνδώσῃς,
not be-startled not be-shaken not be-conquered not yield
μὴ κάμψῃς γόνυ μηδαμῶς, μὴ χλευασθῇς κατά τι,
not bend knee at-all not be-mocked in anything
μὴ τὸ τυχὸν περιτραπῇς, μὴ δ' ἐκλυπῇς τὰς ὥρας
not by chance be-overturned not and lose-heart-at the hours
ταῖς ἔξω καταστάσεσι καὶ ταῖς ἐπιφανείαις,
by-the outward conditions and by-the appearances
ὁ λύκος γὰρ ἐν τῇ δορᾷ κρύπτεται τοῦ προβάτου·
the wolf for in the skin hides of-the sheep
μὴ κλίνῃς ὅλως κεφαλήν, μὴ φοβηθῇς κατά τι,
not bow at-all head not be-afraid in anything
παρεμβαλεῖ γὰρ ἄγγελος κύκλῳ σου τοῦ κυρίου,
will-encamp for angel around you of-the Lord
ῥυόμενος ἐκ πειρασμῶν καὶ σῶον σὲ φυλάττων.
rescuing from trials and safe you guarding

Μὴ δώσῃς ὅλως ἀφορμὴν τοῖς ἀφορμὴν ζητοῦσιν,
Not give at-all occasion to-the occasion seeking
ἀποβαλοῦ τοὺς λογισμούς, ἀνδρίζου καὶ κρατύνου,
cast-off the thoughts be-a-man and be-strong
ἀπόκειταί σοι στέφανος, μηδόλως ἐκκακίσῃς·
is-laid-up for-you crown not-at-all lose-heart
ὁ ζῆλος *** καὶ σὲ καταφαγέτω·
the zeal (lacuna) also you let-devour
ἐκεῖνος πάσχων ἔφερε καὶ σὺ ποσῶς γογγύζεις·
he suffering bore and you at-all grumble
ἀφ' οὗ τὰ θέλεις οὐ θεωρεῖς, τὰ βλέπεις καταδέχου,
from when the(-things) you-wish not you-see the(-things) you-see accept
καὶ πραγματεύου τὸν καιρόν, φέρου τῷ φέροντί σε.
and trade-with the time bear-with the(-one) bearing you
Μὴ συκοφάντην πτοηθῇς, ἂν ἔχῃ δρακοντιάσειν,
Not slanderer fear if he-has to-become-a-dragon
ἂν ἔχῃ τὸ κοντάριν του φθάσειν εἰς τὸ Δυρράχιν,
if he-has the lance his to-reach to — Dyrrachion
τὸ ψεῦδος γὰρ κατὰ μικρὸν ἐλέγχεται τῷ χρόνῳ,
the lie for by little is-tested by-the time
καθὰ χρυσὸς ἐλέγχεται τῇ λίθῳ τῇ λυδίᾳ·
as gold is-tested by-the stone the Lydian
πρὸς ὥραν ἔχει δύναμιν, πρὸς ὥραν φλαμμουλίζει,
for hour it-has power for hour it-flaunts-pennons
ἡ προκοπὴ προσωρινή, πρὸς ὥραν ἡ χαρά του,
the advancement temporary for hour the joy his
καὶ τότε ὡς χόρτος φθείρεται, ὡς ἄνθος τότε πίπτει,
and then as grass it-withers as flower then it-falls
ὡς ὄναρ διαλύεται καὶ τοῦ καπνοῦ ὑπαγαίνει,
as dream it-is-dissolved and of-the smoke it-goes

γυρεύεις, οὐκ εὑρίσκεις τον, παρῆλθεν, ἠφανίσθην,
you-seek not you-find him he-passed he-vanished
καὶ τάχιστα μετέπεσεν ὡς ὑπ᾽ ἀνέμου κόνις,
and very-quickly fell as by wind dust
διέβηκεν ὡς ἀστραπή, τὸν τόπον κρυὸν ἀφῆκεν·
passed as lightning the place cold it-left
ἂν ἔχῃ εἰς ὄρος ἀναβῆν, ὡς κέδρος ἀνυψῶσαι,
if he-has onto mountain to-climb as cedar to-rise-high
χαλάσειν ἔχει ὀψέποτε, κατακλιθῆν, καὶ πέσειν.
to-come-down he-has some-late-day to-lie-down and to-fall
Παμμέγας ἦν ὁ Γολιάθ, ἐρρέμβετο μεγάλα,
Very-great was — Goliath he-boasted great(-things)
καὶ χεὶρ αὐτὸν ἀπέκτεινε μικροῦ παιδισκαρίου.
and hand him killed of-small little-boy
Τὸ φροῦ καὶ φρᾶ μὴ σὲ πλανᾷ, ποτὲ μὴ σὲ κομπόνῃ,
The froo and fraa not you let-mislead ever not you let-deceive
τοῦτο τὸ ἀνάβα τὸ γοργὸν ἔχει καὶ ὀξὺν κατάβαν,
this the up-going the swift has also sharp down-going
ἂν ἔχῃ εἰς τὰ ἐπιθάνατα νὰ τὸ εὕρῃ μὴ σὲ μέλῃ.
if he-has at the death that it find not you let-concern
Καθεὶς κοιμᾶται ὡς ἔστρωσεν, ὡς ἔσπειρε θερίζει,
Each sleeps as he-made-his-bed as he-sowed reaps
καθεὶς ὡς ἐμαγείρευσεν εὑρίσκει τὸ ἔμπροσθέν του·
each as he-cooked finds the before him
τώρα προκόπτει, χαίρεται, καὶ σὺ τὸ χεῖλος κρούεις·
now he-advances rejoices and you the lip beat
τὰ βόλια γυρισθῆν ἔχουν, ἄφες μὴ τὸν ζηλεύῃς,
the balls to-turn have leave not him envy
ἡ ἄρχος παίζει μετ᾽ ἐσέν, νὰ παίξῃ καὶ μετ᾽ αὖτον·
the reign plays with you that it-play also with him

κατὰ ῥογὶν τὸν ἐλαδᾶν ὁ θεὸς οὐκ ἀποδίδει·
by oil-ration the oil-seller — God not repays

ἄρα καὶ κότου τὸν καιρὸν ὅλον ὑστέρου μίαν·
then and of-cat the time all of-the-bindmost one

ταῦτα τὰ βλέπεις νὰ διαβοῦν, ἔχει ὁ καιρὸς ἡμέρας
these(-things) which you-see that pass has the time days

μιᾷ καταστραφήσεται καιροῦ ῥοπῇ καὶ ὥρᾳ·
in-one will-be-overthrown of-time turn and hour

κἂν ὑπὲρ κέδρους ὑψωθῇ καὶ κορυφὰς ὀρέων,
even-if above cedars he-be-raised and summits of-mountains

ἡ τύχη ἐκείνου σήμερον, αὔριον ἡ ἐδική σου,
the fortune of-that(-one) today tomorrow the own your

ὁ βίος οὗτος ἄστατος ἀλλάσσεται καθ' ὥραν·
the life this unstable changes by hour

ἂν εὐτυχῇς, μὴ χαίρεσαι· καὶ ἂν δυστυχῇς, μὴ κλαίῃς,
if you-prosper not rejoice and if you-are-unlucky not weep

ἐν ὅσῳ χαίρεις καὶ πλουτεῖς, ἦλθεν ἡ δυστυχία,
in the-while you-rejoice and grow-rich came the misfortune

ἐν ὅσῳ κεῖσαι δυστυχῶν, ηὐτύχησες ἀθρόον,
in the-while you-lie unlucky you-prospered suddenly

ἄφες τὰ πάντα φέρεσθαι καθὼς ἐκεῖνα θέλουν.
leave the all to-be-borne as those wish

Μὴ τὸ τυχὸν ἀντίτεινε καὶ βλάψῃς τὸν ἑαυτόν σου·
Not by chance resist and harm the self your

ἀλλ' ὅνπερ εὐεργέτησας πολλὰς εὐεργεσίας,
but whom you-benefited many benefits

μυρίοις ἄρτοις ἔθρεψας κατ' ἐντολὴν κυρίου,
with-countless loaves you-fed by command of-the-Lord

ἐκεῖνος ἐμεγάλυνεν ἀρτίως πτερνισμόν σου,
he lifted just-now heel-kick your

ἐκεῖνος ἐψιθύρισε κρυφιωδῶς ὡς ὄφις,
he whispered secretly as snake
καὶ τὸν ἰὸν ἐξέχεε κατὰ τοῦ εὐεργέτου,
and the venom poured-out against the benefactor
καὶ σὲ κακῶς διέθηκεν, ἐξ ὕψους ἔρριψέ σε,
and you badly treated from height threw you
καὶ συγγενῶν ἐστέρησεν, ἐξένωσε φιλτάτων,
and of-kinsmen deprived estranged from-dearest(-ones)
ἐν σκοτεινοῖς ἐκάθισε γυμνόν, ἠπορημένον.
in darkness set naked at-a-loss
Ἔχεις τὸν ἐκδικοῦντα σε, σιώπα, μὴ βλασφήμει·
You-have the(-one) avenging you be-silent not blaspheme
«ἐγὼ καὶ γάρ, ὁ κύριος φησίν, ἀνταποδώσω,
I and for the Lord says will-repay
εἰ σὺ τοῖς ἀδικοῦσι σε μηδόλως ἀντιδίδως·
if you to-the wronging you not-at-all give-back
ἐγώ, φησίν, ἀντιμετρῶ τὴν ὀφειλὴν ἀξίως,
I says measure-back the debt worthily
καὶ βλέπω τὸ μακρόθυμον καὶ τὸ εὐχάριστόν σου.»
and I-see the forbearing and the grateful your
Ἄφες ἂς χαίρῃ ὡς χαίρεται, καὶ σὺ λυποῦ ὡς λυπᾶσαι,
Leave let him-rejoice as he-rejoices and you grieve as you-grieve
ἀπόλαβέ σου τὰ κακά, κ᾽ ἐκεῖνος τὰ καλά του·
receive your the evil(-things) and he the good(-things) his
κόσμος, ὡς οἶδας, ἕτερος ἡτοίμασται καὶ κρίσις,
world as you-know another is-prepared and judgment
καὶ βῆμα φρικωδέστατον καὶ δικαστὴς καὶ βίβλοι·
and tribunal most-dreadful and judge and books
πάντες ἐκεῖ γεγράμμεθα δακτύλῳ τοῦ κυρίου,
all there have-been-written by-finger of-the Lord

ἐκεῖ δημοσιεύονται πάντων τὰ κεκρυμμένα,
there are-made-public of-all the hidden(-things)
ἐκεῖ παραστησόμεθα καὶ πλούσιος καὶ πένης,
there we-shall-stand both rich and poor
καὶ λόγους ἀποδώσομεν τῶν πεπλημμεληµένων·
and account we-shall-render of-the misdeeds
οἱ πάντες ἀνταπόδωσιν εὑρήσομεν ἀξίαν
the all requital we-shall-find worthy
τῶν λογισμῶν, τῶν ἐννοιῶν ἐκείνων καὶ τῶν τρόπων.
of-the reasonings of-the thoughts of-those and of-the manners
Ἐκεῖ ῥαβδούχων ὅμιλος, ἐκεῖ πληθὺς κολάκων,
There of-rod-bearers throng there crowd of-flatterers
καὶ τράπεζα πολυτελής, καὶ παρασίτων ὄχλος,
and table costly and of-parasites mob
καὶ θρύψις ἄλλη περιττή, καὶ κούφη φαντασία,
and luxury other superfluous and light fancy
ἀσυντελής, ἀνωφελής, ἄπρακτος καθορᾶται·
unaccomplishing unprofitable useless is-seen
ἐκεῖ κοινὸν κριτήριον καὶ τάξις πάντων μία·
there common tribunal and rank of-all one
οὐκ ἀτιμάζεται πτωχός, οὐ παρορᾶται πένης,
not is-dishonored beggar not is-overlooked poor(-man)
οὐ προτιμᾶται πλούσιος, οὐκ ἔχει παρρησίαν,
not is-preferred rich(-man) not he-has boldness
οὐ τάξιν ὑπερέχουσαν καὶ πρωτοκαθεδρίαν·
not rank surpassing and first-seat
οὐ κρύπτεται τὸ δίκαιον, οὐ δώροις, οὐ προσώποις,
not is-hidden the just not by-gifts not by-persons
οὐ στόμα λάλον δύναται, καὶ γλῶσσα συκοφάντης,
not mouth glib can and tongue slanderer

οὐ ψεῦδος παρεισάγεται, δόλος οὐκ ἔχει χώραν.
not lie is-brought-in guile not has place
Κριτοῦ δικαίου κρίνοντος, πᾶσα δικαία κρίσις·
Judge just judging every just judgment
ἐκεῖ πατὴρ οὐκ ὠφελεῖ, μήτηρ οὐ χρησιμεύει,
there father not profits mother not is-useful
μόνη τῶν ἔργων ἡ ἰσχὺς σώζει τὸν κεκτημένον,
alone of-the works the strength saves the possessor
οὐ δάκρυσιν ὁ δικαστὴς κάμπτεται πολυρρύτοις,
not by-tears the judge is-bent many-flowing
οὐ λόγοις παρακλητικοῖς, οὐ στεναγμοῖς καὶ γόοις.
not by-words entreating not by-groans and wailings
Ἄκρῳ δακτύλῳ δεηθεὶς τὴν γλῶσσαν δροσισθῆναι
With-tip of-finger having-begged the tongue to-be-cooled
μέσον φλογὸς ἐνέτυχεν ὁ πλούσιος ἐκεῖνος,
in-the-midst-of flame met the rich(-man) that
τοιαύτη γὰρ ἀνταμοιβὴ κεῖται τοῖς ἀλαζόσι,
such for requital lies for-the boasters
τοῖς ἐπηρμένοις τὰ πολλά, καὶ τοῖς καταφρονοῦσι
for-the puffed-up the much(-things) and for-the despising
πτωχῶν, ἀπόρων, ὀρφανῶν, πενήτων, αἰχμαλώτων,
poor helpless orphans needy captives
δούλων, ἀχρείων, ταπεινῶν, ξένων, γυμνῶν, ἀστέγων·
slaves useless humble strangers naked homeless
ἀλλ᾽ ἂν ἁγίως ἔπαθες καὶ θλίβῃ κατὰ τοῦτο ***
but if holily you-suffered and are-afflicted in this (lacuna)
***
(lacuna)

Καὶ μᾶλλον εὐχαρίστησε θεῷ τῷ φιλανθρώπῳ,
And rather give-thanks to-God the loving-mankind
τῷ πάντα πρὸς ὠφέλειαν ἡμῶν οἰκονομοῦντι.
the all toward profit our managing

IV · AN APPEAL TO THE EMPEROR

God crowned Abel and punished Cain, so the prisoner should give thanks. Yet he describes the prison's guards, worse than Cerberus, and the prisoners, condemned as murderers, traitors, forgers, and robbers. A voice bids him confess his faults to the emperor and call on the Lord. He answers that he has done none and prays for the emperors; the angel has taken the wrong man. The voice tells him to report everything to the merciful emperor.

Ἀνὴρ ὁ Ἄβελ δίκαιος, ἀλλὰ παρὰ τοῦ Κάϊν
Man — Abel just but by — Cain
οὕτω ματαίως φθονηθεὶς θανάτῳ παρεδόθη·
so vainly envied to-death was-handed-over
καὶ σκόπει χάριν ἄρρητον, ὅρα τὸ κέρδος ὅσον
and consider grace unspeakable see the gain how-great
ἐπὶ μισθῷ τῶν θυσιῶν αὐτοῦ τῶν ἐτησίων,
for reward of-the sacrifices his the yearly
καὶ στέφος ἐκομίσατο λαμπρὸν τῆς μαρτυρίας·
and crown he-carried-off splendid of-the martyrdom
ὁ δὲ φθονήσας ἀδελφός, ὁ δὲ φονεύσας Κάϊν,
the but having-envied brother the but having-murdered Cain
δίκας ἑπτάκις ἔδωκε τῆς ἀδελφοκτονίας.
penalties sevenfold paid of-the fratricide
Μὴ μοὶ λοιπὸν δυσχέραινε, μὴ στέναζε, μὴ θλίβου,
Not to-me then be-vexed not groan not be-afflicted

μὴ θορυβοῦ καθ' ἑαυτόν, ἀλλ' εὐχαρίστει μᾶλλον·
not be-troubled within yourself but give-thanks rather
ὅσον ἀπταίστως ἔπαθες, ὅσον ἀδίκως πάσχεις,
as-much-as blamelessly you-suffered as-much-as unjustly you-suffer
τοσοῦτον πολλαπλάσιος ἀπόκειται μισθός σοι
so-much manifold is-laid-up reward for-you
παρὰ θεῷ τῷ ποιητῇ πάντων καὶ κηδεμόνι·
with God the maker of-all and guardian
ἐκεῖνος, κἂν εἰς φυλακὴν κἂν εἰς δεσμοὺς ἐμπέσῃς,
he even-if into prison even-if into bonds you-fall
νὰ σὲ ἀνασπάσῃ δύναται καὶ νὰ σ' ἐλευθερώσῃ.
that you draw-up can and that you set-free
Οὐδὲν θεωρεῖτε τοῦτο ἔν' πάλιν ἀρχὴ δακρύων;
Not you-see this is again beginning of-tears
τῆς φυλακῆς τῆς μιαρᾶς ὄνομα μόνον εἶπον,
of-the prison the foul name only I-said
καὶ παρευθὺς τὸ στόμα μου γεμίζεται πικρίας.
and at-once the mouth my is-filled with-bitterness
Ὢ τῶν δεινῶν καὶ ζοφερῶν τῶν ταύτης θεαμάτων!
O the dreadful and gloomy the of-it sights
πάντα πικρά, πάντα στυγνά, πάντα μεστὰ τῶν θρήνων!
all bitter all hateful all full of-the laments
Εἶδον ψυχὰς ἐλεεινὰς δεινῶς ἐταζομένας,
I-saw souls pitiable terribly examined
εἶδον βαρεῖς ἐξεταστὰς ὑλάσσοντας ὡς κύνας,
I-saw harsh examiners barking like dogs
τοῦ φυλακίτου τὴν ψυχὴν καταπιεῖν ὁρμῶντας,
of-the prisoner the soul to-swallow rushing
εἰ προσεγγίσαι πώποτε τολμήσει τῷ πυλῶνι,
if to-approach ever he-dare the gate

χάριν μικρᾶς ἀνακωχῆς καὶ κουφισμοῦ τῶν πόνων.
for-the-sake-of little respite and relief of-the pains
Πᾶσαν ποινὴν καὶ κάκωσιν καὶ μάστιγα νικῶσι
Every penalty and ill-treatment and scourge surpass
οἱ φύλακες τῆς φυλακῆς, οἱ πυλωροὶ τοῦ ᾅδου,
the guards of-the prison the gatekeepers — of-Hades
ὄμμα δεικνύντες βλοσυρὸν καὶ χαλαρὰς ὀφρύας,
eye showing grim and loose eyebrows
καὶ τῶν μυκτήρων πέμποντες φλόγα πυρὸς ἀσβέστου,
and from-the nostrils sending flame of-fire unquenchable
καὶ τοὺς ὀδόντας θήγοντες δίκην θηρῶν ἀγρίων,
and the teeth whetting like beasts savage
καὶ τὰς ψυχὰς σπαράσσοντες τὰς ἤδη νεκρωθείσας.
and the souls tearing the already deadened
Οὐ δύναμαι κατὰ λεπτὸν περιλαβεῖν τῷ λόγῳ
Not I-can in detail to-encompass in-the word
τὸν κωκυτόν, τὰ δάκρυα, τὴν θλῖψιν, τὴν ὀδύνην,
the wailing the tears the affliction the pain
ἣν προξενοῦσι ταῖς ψυχαῖς τῶν ἀποκεκλεισμένων
which they-cause to-the souls of-the shut-up
οἱ μανικὸν ὑλάσσοντες καὶ πλέον τοῦ Κερβέρου.
those madly barking even more — than-Cerberus
Πῶς ἀπαγγείλω θάνατον τοῖς μήποτε θανοῦσι;
How shall-I-report death to-the never having-died
πῶς ἀπαγγείλω χωρισμὸν τοῖς χαίρουσιν ἐν κόσμῳ;
how shall-I-report parting to-the rejoicing in world
ἠγνόησεν ὁ μὴ θανὼν τὴν γεῦσιν τοῦ θανάτου,
was-ignorant-of the(-one) not having-died the taste of-the death
ὁ δὲ θανών, ὁ δὲ ταφεὶς καὶ καταβὰς εἰς ᾅδην,
the(-one) but having-died the(-one) and buried and gone-down to Hades

ἐκεῖνος φεῦ! ἐγεύσατο καὶ χωρισμοῦ πικρίας,
he alas tasted also of-parting bitterness
ἐκεῖνος οὕτως ἔγνωκε καὶ πόνον τοῦ θανάτου.
he thus has-known also pain of-the death
Ταύτας ἐγὼ τὰς φυλακὰς κ' ἐκείνην τὴν ἡμέραν
These I the prisons and that the day
ὡς ἐναντὰς λογίζομαι καὶ συγγενεῖς τὰς κρίνω·
as opposites I-reckon and kin them I-judge
εἶδον βασάνων ὄργανα παντοῖα καὶ ποικίλα,
I-saw of-tortures instruments all-kinds and various
καὶ παρευθὺς ἀνίχνευτον ἐζήτουν, ἐμερίμνουν,
and at-once untraceable I-sought I-worried
κατεπειγόμην ἐφευρεῖν τὸν λόγον, τὴν αἰτίαν,
I-was-pressed to-find-out the reason the cause
δι' ἣν ψυχαὶ κολάζονται χρόνοις οὐ μετρουμένοις·
through which souls are-punished for-times not measured
καί, γνοὺς τὸ πῶς καὶ διατὶ καὶ κατὰ ποῖον λόγον,
and having-known the how and wherefore and by what reason
ἐδάκρυσα περιπαθῶς, ἀναβοῶν καὶ λέγων·
I-wept passionately crying-aloud and saying
«δίκαιος ὄντως ὁ κριτής, ζυγὸς δικαιοσύνης,
just truly the judge balance of-justice
εὐθύτατος, ἰσόρροπος, ἀποδιδοὺς ἑκάστῳ
most-straight evenly-poised rendering to-each
ἀξίως τὴν ἀνταμοιβὴν τῶν τρόπων καὶ τῶν ἔργων·
worthily the requital of-the manners and of-the works
τοῖς μὲν γὰρ ἐχαρίσατο τὸ τῆς Ἐδὲμ χωρίον,
to-the(-ones) indeed for he-granted the — of-Eden place
οἷα καλῶς βιώσασι καὶ πολιτευσαμένοις,
as well having-lived and having-conducted(-themselves)

τοῖς δὲ λοιποῖς ἀπένειμε τὸν πέδον τοῦ κλαυθμῶνος,
to-the but rest he-allotted the plain of-the weeping
ὡς γευσαμένοις τοῦ φυτοῦ παρ᾽ ἐντολὴν κυρίου.»
as having-tasted of-the plant against command of-the-Lord
Ὄντως ἰδοὺ πεπλήρωται ῥητὸν τὸ τοῦ προφήτου·
Truly behold is-fulfilled saying the of-the prophet
«ἁμαρτωλοί, πορεύθητε πάντες ἀνυποστρόφως
sinners go all without-return
ὅπου ταρτάρου κάκωσις, ὅπου ζοφώδης ᾅδης,
where of-Tartarus ill-treatment where gloomy Hades
ἐφ᾽ ᾧ καὶ κατεκρίθητε πάσχειν εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας,
for which also you-were-condemned to-suffer to the ages
εὑρόντες ἀνταπόδωσιν ἀξίαν τῶν πρακτέων.»
having-found requital worthy of-the deeds
Ὁ μὲν γὰρ ἐκκολάζεται προφάσει τῇ τοῦ φόνου,
The(-one) indeed for is-punished on-pretext the of-the murder
φονεῦσαι γὰρ ἐλέγετο τὸν ἴδιον δεσπότην·
to-have-murdered for he-was-said the own master
ὁ δ᾽ αὖθις τὸν ὁμόφυλον ἐστέρησε τοῦ βίου,
the(-other) and in-turn the fellow-countryman deprived of-the life
καὶ τούτου χάριν ἔπασχεν ὡς κατακεκριμμένος·
and of-this for-the-sake-of he-suffered as condemned
ἄλλοι παρεπικραίνοντο δεινοῖς κολαστηρίοις,
others were-embittered by-terrible punishments
ὡς ἄνδρες δολιότητος, ὡς ἄνδρες τῶν αἱμάτων,
as men of-guile as men of-the bloods
ὡς ὁπλισθέντες καθ᾽ ἡμῶν καὶ τῆς ἡμῶν πατρίδος·
as armed against us and the our fatherland
ἄλλοι κατησφαλίζοντο δεσμοῖς ἀλλὰ δυσλύτοις,
others were-secured with-bonds but hard-to-loose

ὡς ἐν ἀγκίστρῳ δέλεαρ προθέμενοι φιλίαν,
as on hook bait having-set-forth friendship
καὶ βόθρους συσκευάζοντες κατὰ τῶν χριστωνύμων,
and pits preparing against the Christ-named
ἢ λάθρα παγιδεύοντες τὰς πόλεις ὁλοκλήρους·
or secretly ensnaring the cities whole
ἄλλοι τὰς χεῖρας ἔφερον σιδήρῳ δεδεμένας,
others the hands bore with-iron bound
ὡς χεῖρα μιμησάμενοι τὴν βασιλικωτάτην,
as hand having-imitated the most-imperial
καὶ τολμηρῶς ὑπογραφαῖς χρησάμενοι κοκκίναις·
and boldly signatures having-used red
ἄλλος εἰς χοῦν κατήγετο τοῦ ᾅδου καὶ πυθμένα,
another to dust was-brought-down — of-Hades and bottom
ὡς ἀλαζὼν καὶ σοβαρός, ὡς ἄλλος Ἑωσφόρος,
as boaster and haughty as another Lucifer
ὡς ῥῆμα πέμπων βλάσφημον καὶ κατ᾽ αὐτοῦ τοῦ πλάστου·
as word sending blasphemous even against the-very the maker
«θήσω καὶ γὰρ τὸν θρόνον μου, φησίν, ἐπὶ νεφέλαις,
I-will-set and for the throne my says upon clouds
καὶ ὅμοιος ἐν ἅπασιν ἔσομαι τῷ ὑψίστῳ,»
and like in all I-shall-be to-the most-high
οἱ δ᾽ αὖ ἐμωλωπίζοντο τὰ νῶτα τοῖς βουνεύροις,
the(-others) and again were-bruised the backs with-the ox-hide-whips
χεῖρα βαλόντες ἅρπαγα κατὰ τῶν ἀλλοτρίων.
hand having-laid rapacious upon the another's(-goods)
Οὐκ ἦν ἰδεῖν ἀλόγιστον ἔν τινι τιμωρίαν,
Not was to-see unreasonable in any(-one) punishment
οὐδὲ δακρύων ὀχετὸν κινούμενον εἰς μάτην.
nor of-tears channel moved in vain

Τοιαῦτα τοίνυν κατιδὼν καὶ τούτων ἄλλα πλείω,
Such(-things) therefore having-seen and than-these other more
ὅλως δειλίας γέγονα καὶ τρόμῳ συνεσχέθην,
wholly of-cowardice I-became and with-trembling was-seized
καὶ στάς, ὁ τάλας, ἄφωνος καὶ πεπηγὼς ὡς λίθος,
and having-stood the wretch speechless and fixed as stone
καὶ γεγονὼς περίδακρυς ἔδοξα παρακοῦσαι
and having-become tearful I-seemed to-overbear
ὥσπερ τινὸς ἐγγίσαντος καὶ πρὸς ἐμὲ λαλοῦντος·
as-if someone having-approached and to me speaking
«ἐδᾶ, Μιχάλη ταπεινέ, φέρε τὸν λογισμόν σου,
now Michael humble bring the thought your
ὅσα καὶ ἂν εἶδες ἄφες τα, τοῦτα παιγνίδια οὐκ ἔνι,
as-much even — you-saw leave them these games not are
φόβητρα δὲ καὶ βάσανα, καὶ στοναχαὶ καὶ πένθη,
terrors but and torments and groans and griefs
ἀσυμπαθεῖς ἐξεταστὰι καὶ φοβεραὶ κολάσεις.
pitiless examiners and fearful punishments
Τῷ βασιλεῖ σου πρόσδραμε, λέγε τὰ πταίσματά σου·
To-the emperor your run say the faults your
ὁ βασιλεὺς φιλάνθρωπος, καὶ νὰ σὲ συμπαθήσῃ.»
the emperor loving-mankind and that you he-pity
«Ἐκύκλωσάν με σήμερον ὠδῖνες τοῦ θανάτου.»
Encompassed me today pangs of-the death
«Ἐπικαλοῦ τὸν κύριον, κἀκεῖνος ῥύσεταί σε·
Call-upon the Lord and-he will-rescue you
οὐ θέλει τὸν ἁμαρτωλὸν θανάτῳ συσχεθῆναι
not he-wills the sinner by-death to-be-seized
πρὸς τὴν αὐτοῦ μετάνοιαν καὶ τὴν ἀποστροφήν του.
to the his repentance and the turning his

Παγίδες περιέσχον σε καὶ κλεῖθρα τοῦ θανάτου·
Snares surrounded you and bars of-the death
ἐκεῖνος ἄρει τὸν κλοιὸν καὶ τὰ δεσμὰ συντρίψει,
he will-lift the collar and the bonds will-crush
καὶ πάλιν σοὶ χαρίσεται τὴν πρὶν ἐλευθερίαν.
and again to-you will-grant the former freedom
Οὐκ ἦλθεν εἰς μετάνοιαν καλέσαι τοὺς δικαίους;
Not he-came to repentance to-call the righteous
τοὺς δ' ἐξ ἀπάτης ὄφεως πολλάκις ἐπταικότας
the(-ones) but from deceit of-snake often having-stumbled
κατόπιν ἠκολούθησεν σταυρὸν ἐπ' ὤμων φέρων.
behind he-followed cross on shoulders bearing
Ἐν οἴκῳ τοῦ κυρίου σου κρεῖσσον παραρριπτεῖσθαι
In house of-the Lord your better to-be-cast-aside
ἢ συνοικεῖν ἁμαρτωλοῖς καὶ πονηρευομένοις.
than to-dwell-with sinners and evildoers
Μὴ φοβηθῇς τὸ σύνολον, ἂν ἔπταισας, εἰπέ το,
Not fear the whole if you-stumbled tell it
πρὶν σὲ καταδεσμήσουσι καὶ χάσῃς τὰ γερά σου.»
before you they-bind-fast and you-lose the privileges your
«Καλὸν τὸ λέγεις, ἄνθρωπε· τίς εἶσαι οὐδὲν γνωρίζω·
Good the(-thing) you-say man who you-are not I-know
ὡς νουνεχὴς ἐλάλησας καὶ λέγεις τὸ καλόν μου,
as sensible you-spoke and say the good my
ἀλλ' εἰς κενὸν τὰ τοῦ σκοποῦ καὶ τὰ τῆς συμβουλῆς σου·
but in vain the of-the aim and the of-the advice your
ὕπαγε, παρεγνώρισες· οὐκ εἶμ' ἐγὼ τὸν λέγεις,
go you-mistook not am I whom you-say
παντὸς γὰρ ἁμαρτήματος ἐκτὸς τὸ συνειδός μου.
of-every for sin outside the conscience my

Ἐγὼ γονεῖς οὐκ ἔθλιψα, φόνον οὐκ εἰργασάμην,
I parents not afflicted murder not committed
οὐδέποτε συνώδευσα φονεῦσιν αἱμοβόροις·
never I-traveled-with murderers bloodthirsty
οὐκ ἐπλασάμην πρόσταγμα ποτὲ τῶν ἡμερῶν μου,
not I-forged decree ever of-the days my
ἀκρόστιχον οὐκ ἔφαγα, χρέος οὐδὲν φοβοῦμαι,
tax-assessment not I-ate debt not I-fear
οὐ χαίρω ξέναις θλίψεσι, οὐκ εἶμαι συκοφάντης·
not I-rejoice-in others' afflictions not I-am slanderer
(ὁ συκοφάντης μὴ χαρῇ, μηδὲ τελεσφορήσῃ,
the slanderer not let-rejoice nor succeed
ὅτι τὰς σάρκας προφανῶς τῶν ἀδελφῶν ἐσθίει!)
because the flesh openly of-the brothers he-eats
εἰς ὕβρεις οὐκ ἐχώρησα, κατὰ τινὸς οὐκ εἶπον,
into insults not I-went against anyone not I-spoke
τοῦ ψεύδους τὴν ἀλήθειαν πάντοτε προτιμῶμαι·
than-the lie the truth always I-prefer
τιμὴν εἰς πάντας κέκτημαι, φιλῶ τὴν ἡσυχίαν,
honor toward all I-possess I-love the quiet
πᾶσαν μισῶ περίνοιαν, πᾶσαν μισῶ διπλόην,
all I-hate cunning all I-hate duplicity
οὐ φέρω τι περίεργον, οὐδὲ μετέσχον δόλου·
not I-bear any meddling nor shared in-guile
βδελύσσομαι τὰ σκάνδαλα, τὸ μῖσος, τὴν μαγείαν,
I-loathe the scandals the hatred the sorcery
καὶ φεύγω τὸ μνησίκακον, ὡς φεύγει τις τὸν ὄφιν·
and I-flee the grudge-bearing as flees one the snake
τοῖς πᾶσι πάντα γίνομαι, γῆ καὶ σποδὸς ὁρῶμαι,
to-the all all I-become earth and ash I-am-seen

καὶ θέλω οὐ θέλω γίνομαι καὶ τοῦ μωροῦ σαμάριν·
and I-want not I-want I-become even of-the fool pack-saddle
τοῖς βασιλεῦσιν εὔχομαι χρόνους ζωῆς ἀμέτρους,
for-the emperors I-pray years of-life measureless
χαρὰν τὴν ἀνεκλάλητον, λύπης ἐκτὸς τὸν βίον,
joy the unspeakable of-grief outside the life
υἱοὺς ἰδεῖν καὶ τῶν υἱῶν, ἐχθροὺς καθυποτάξαι,
sons to-see and of-the sons enemies to-subject
καὶ κληρονόμους ἔσεσθαι τῆς ἄνω βασιλείας.
and heirs to-be of-the above kingdom
Οὐδὲν εὑρήσεις αἴτιον τῆς κατασχέσεώς μου,
Not you-will-find cause of-the detention my
οὐ πρόφασιν τὸ σύνολον εὔλογον τοῦ θανάτου·
not pretext the whole reasonable of-the death
ἀλλ' ἔλαθε τὸν ἄγγελον, εἰς ἄλλον ἀπεστάλη,
but escaped-the-notice-of the angel to another he-was-sent
παρήκουσεν, ὡς ἔοικε, φωνῆς τῆς τοῦ κυρίου,
he-misheard as it-seems voice the of-the Lord
ἄλλον ἀντ' ἄλλου σήμερον κατήγαγεν εἰς ᾅδην·
another instead-of another today he-brought-down to Hades
ἄνευ τινὸς προφάσεως καὶ δίχα καταδίκης,
without any pretext and without condemnation
παρὰ καιρὸν ὑποπεσεῖν θανάτῳ κατεκρίθην,
before time to-fall-under death I-was-condemned
παραδοθῆναι κολασταῖς καὶ πάσχειν ἄλλην ἄλλος.
to-be-handed-over to-punishers and to-suffer another('s-penalty) another(-man)
Καὶ νὰ τὸ καταδέξωμαι νὰ κάτζω νὰ σιγήσω,
And that it I-accept that I-sit that I-be-silent

νὰ μὲ κερδήσῃ ὁ θάνατος, καὶ νὰ μὲ φάγῃ ὁ τάφος
that me win the death and that me eat the grave
καὶ νὰ χαωθῶ παράτωρα, καὶ δίκαιον ποῦ εἰς τὸν κόσμον;»
and that I-perish untimely and justice where in the world
«Ὦ Μιχαὴλ ταλαίπωρε, παιδὶν τῆς δυστυχίας,
O Michael wretched child of-the misfortune
ἔχεις καιρὸν ἀναπνοῆς, ἔχεις καιρὸν ἀδείας,
you-have time of-breath you-have time of-leave
ἀνάφερε κατὰ λεπτὸν πάντα τῷ βασιλεῖ σου,
report in detail all to-the emperor your
ὑπόμνησον περὶ παντός, ἀνάγγειλον ἀφόβως
remind about everything announce fearlessly
ὅπως ἀδίκως σήμερον εἰς ᾅδην κατηνέχθης,
how unjustly today to Hades you-were-brought-down
καὶ παρεδόθης κολασταῖς, ἄλλων ἡμαρτηκότων·
and were-handed-over to-punishers others having-sinned
ὁ βασιλεὺς φιλάνθρωπος, δίκαιος, ἐλεήμων,
the emperor loving-mankind just merciful
καὶ τύχης ἀναζωώσεως καὶ τύχης σωτηρίας!»
and you-may-obtain revival and you-may-obtain salvation

ΑΛΕΞΙΟΥ ΚΟΜΝΗΝΟΥ
ΠΟΙΗΜΑ ΠΑΡΑΙΝΕΤΙΚΟΝ

Spaneas

Verses of exhortation from Alexios Komnenos to the son of the Caesar Bryennios. A father who hoped for comfort from his son finds only grief, for they are apart and the son is silent. He weeps and is consumed. Unable to write all he suffers, he sends chosen verses to be read at leisure and kept in mind, that their counsel may help the son when he least expects it.

Στίχοι, γραφὴ καὶ διδαχὴ, καὶ παραινέσεως λόγοι
Verses writing and teaching and of-exhortation words
ἐξ Ἀλεξίου Κομνηνοῦ τοῦ μακαριωτάτου,
from Alexios Komnenos the most-blessed
πρὸς τὸν τοῦ πρίγκιπος υἱὸν Καίσαρος Βρυεννίου,
to the of-the prince son of-the-Caesar of-Bryennios
εἰς φρόνησιν καὶ παίδευσιν, εἰς λόγων εὐκοσμίαν.
for prudence and education for of-words good-order
Τέκνον μου ποθεινότατον, παιδίν μου ἠγαπημένον,
Child my most-longed-for child my beloved
ὀστοῦν ἐκ τῶν ὀστέων μου καὶ σὰρξ ἐκ τῆς σαρκός μου,
bone from the bones my and flesh from the flesh my
ἤλπιζ' εἰς τὰς πικρίας μου ταύτας τὰς ἀφορήτους
I-hoped in the bitternesses my these the unbearable
καὶ τοὺς πολλούς μου στεναγμοὺς καὶ τοὺς ἀμέτρους πόνους,
and the many my groans and the measureless pains
ἵνα σ' εὑρῶ ἀνασασμὸν καὶ παρηγόρημά μου,
that you I-might-find relief and consolation my
καὶ κουφισμὸν τῶν πόνων μου τῶν ἀπαραμυθήτων,
and lightening of-the pains my the inconsolable
καὶ παρηγόρημα ψυχῆς, καρδίας μου λαμπάδα.
and consolation of-soul of-heart my lamp

ὁ λογισμός μου πάντοτε φέρνει σε εἰς τὸν νοῦν μου,
the thought my always brings you into the mind my
καὶ πάντοτ' ἡ καρδία μου εἰς φῶς ποτὲ οὐκ ἦλθεν.
and always the heart my into light ever not came
παιδίν μου, ἂν ἠπόρησε τῆς πολιᾶς τὸ γῆρας,
child my if was-in-want of-the gray-hair the old-age
ἐγὼ φαντάζομαι, δοκῶ, ὅτι ἔμπροστέν μου στέκεις,
I imagine I-think that before me you-stand
καὶ κράζω, κράζω, κι οὐ λαλεῖς, ταράσσεις τὴν ψυχήν μου.
and I-cry I-cry and not you-speak you-trouble the soul my
ἀπὸ στενοχωρίας μου, ἀπὸ πολλῆς μου θλίψης
from distress my from much my affliction
ἁπλόνω κι οὐχ εὑρίσκω σε, 'μιλῶ σε, οὐ 'μιλεῖς με.
I-reach-out and not I-find you I-speak-to you not you-speak-to me
καὶ παρευθὺς οἱ πόνοι σου κεντοῦσιν τὴν ψυχήν μου
and at-once the pains your pierce the soul my
καὶ κατακόπτουσιν αὐτήν, ἀναίσθητος ὑπάρχω.
and cut-to-pieces it senseless I-am
καὶ τῆς φωνῆς σου τῆς λαμπρᾶς ἀκούων, τὸ παιδίν μου,
and the voice your the bright hearing the child my
τὰ δάκρυά μου ῥέονται, τρέχουν ὡς τὸ ποτάμιν.
the tears my flow run like the river
ἂν στοχαστῇς, νἱούτσικε, πλέον οὐ μὴ γάρ μ' εἶπες,
if you-consider little-son more not — for me you-called
εἰ μὴ ψυχρὸν κι ἀναίσθητον κρύσταλλον παγωμένον.
if not cold and senseless crystal frozen
ἀνέλυσέ μ' ἡ φλόγωσις τῶν πολυστεναγμάτων
dissolved me the burning of-the many-groanings
καὶ 'γάλιν 'γάλιν χύνομαι, λύομαι, ὑπαγαίνω.
and slowly slowly I-am-poured-out I-am-dissolved I-go-away

αὐτὰ ἐθάῤῥουν εἰς ἐσὲν, παιδίν μου, νὰ κερδήσω;
these(-things) I-trusted in you child my that I-should-gain
ἤλπιζα εὕρειν θησαυρὸν κ᾽ ηὗρα καρβούνιν μέγα
I-hoped to-find treasure and I-found coal great
κ᾽ ἔσω ἡ καρδιά μου φλέγεται ***
and within the heart my is-burning (lacuna)
οὐκ ἠμπορῶ καταλεπτῶς γράφειν σε τὰ παθαίνω.
not I-can in-detail to-write to-you the(-things) I-suffer
μὴ δώσῃς τὴν καρδίαν μου στενάγματα καὶ πόνους
not give the heart my groans and pains
καὶ φέρῃς καὶ τὸ γῆράς μου εἰς ὀλιγοθυμίαν.
and bring also the old-age my to faint-heartedness
ἀρκοῦσι νῦν τὰ ἔπαθες καὶ περισσεύουσίν σε,
suffice now the(-things) you-suffered and are-too-much for-you
πῶς πάσχεις ὡς παντόρφανος κι ἀποξενιτεμένος.
how you-suffer as all-orphaned and exiled
ἐξεύρεις πόσην προσοχὴν καὶ πόσον πόνον ἔχεις
you-know how-much attention and how-much pain you-have
εἰσὲ ἐμὲν τὸν δόλιον, τὸν πολυπονεμένον,
toward me the wretched the much-suffering
ἂν λόγους παραινετικοὺς ἤκουσες ἀπ᾽ ἐμένα·
if words hortatory you-heard from me
καλὴν βουλὴν σὲ ἔδωκα, καὶ κράτει την, ἂν θέλῃς·
good counsel to-you I-gave and hold it if you-wish
καὶ ἂν ἐσὺ, παιδίον μου, τὰ βάλλῃς εἰς τὸν νοῦν σου,
and if you child my them you-put into the mind your
οὐ μὴ ἐκβάλλῃ ἀπὸ σὲν οὐ θλίψις οὐδὲ χρόνος.
not — will-cast-out from you either affliction or time
ἐγὼ γὰρ, εἰ κι ἀπόδημος καὶ χωρισμένος εἶμαι,
I for if even abroad and separated I-am

ποτέ μου ἡ καρδίτσα μου χωρίζετ᾽ ἀπὸ σένα.
never my the little-heart my is-parted from you
γράφω σε στίχους ἐκλεκτοὺς, στίχους ἐκ τοὺς ἠγάπας,
I-write to-you verses choice verses from the(-ones) you-loved
καὶ ὅταν εὕρῃς ἄδειαν, κάθου κι ἀνάγνωθέ τους,
and when you-find leisure sit and read them
καὶ θὲς τὸν νοῦν σου εἰς αὐτοὺς καὶ βάλλε τὸν σκοπόν σου,
and set the mind your on them and put the aim your
καὶ οἷον εὕρῃς ἀγαθὸν, θές τον εἰς τὴν ψυχήν σου,
and whatever you-find good set it in the soul your
κ᾽ ἔχε τον εἰς ἐνθύμησιν, καὶ κράτει τον ᾽ς τὸν νοῦν σου,
and have it in remembrance and hold it in the mind your
καὶ εἰς καιρὸν ὁκάποτε, ὅταν οὐκ ἀπαντέχῃς,
and at time sometime when not you-expect
νὰ τοὺς εὑρῇς πρὸ ὀφθαλμοῦ εἰς ὄφελόν σου μέγα.
that them you-may-find before eye for profit your great
εἰ δὲ καὶ ἔχει τίποτες ἀχρήσιμον τὸ πρᾶγμα,
if but also has anything useless the matter
ἐκεῖνο μὴ τὸ χρειαστῇς, μηδόλως τὸ θελήσῃς.
that not it use not-at-all it want
λοιπὸν, υἱέ μου, ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν ἀπάρχομαι τοῦ λέγειν,
then son my from the now I-begin of-the to-speak
καὶ θὲς ᾽ς τὸν νοῦν σου, ἄκουσε καλὰ καὶ πρόσεχέ τα.
and set in the mind your listen well and attend-to them

Fear God, who sees what is hidden, and hope in him, not in man. Honor the emperor and report any word against him. Test a friend by his last friendship. Serve your lords as parents, study war like your ancestors, and hunt. Think before you speak, pray from the heart, value virtue above wealth and glory, avoid flatterers, and love the truth.

Πρὸ πάντων ἔχε τοῦ θεοῦ τὸν φόβον εἰς τὸν νοῦν σου,
Before all have — of-God the fear in the mind your
καὶ πρόσεχ᾽, ὅτι τὰ κρυπτὰ γινώσκει τῶν ἀνθρώπων,
and attend that the hidden(-things) he-knows of-the men
ἐλέγχει δὲ τοὺς λογισμοὺς, δικάζει καὶ τὰς πράξεις,
he-searches and the thoughts he-judges also the deeds
καὶ φανερόνει τὰ κρυπτὰ καὶ τοὺς κακοὺς κολάζει,
and reveals the hidden(-things) and the wicked punishes
τοὺς δὲ καλοὺς εὐεργετεῖ καὶ φίλους ὀνομάζει·
the and good he-benefits and friends names
εἰς τοῦτον μόνον ἔλπιζε κ᾽ εἰς ἄλλον μὴ ἐλπίζῃς.
in this(-one) alone hope and in another not hope
λέγει γάρ τις τῶν προφητῶν ἐκείνων τῶν ἁγίων·
says for one of-the prophets those the holy
εἴ τις εἰς θεὸν ἤλπισεν, ποτὲ οὐ καταισχύνθη.
if anyone in God hoped ever not was-put-to-shame
ἄλλος δὲ πάλιν θαυμαστὸς προφήτης λέγει τοῦτο·
another and again wonderful prophet says this
εἴ τις εἰς ἄνθρωπον θαῤῥεῖ κ᾽ εἰς ἄνθρωπον ἐλπίζει,
if anyone in man trusts and in man hopes
ἐπικατάρατός ἐστιν μᾶλλον κ᾽ ἀπελπισμένος.
accursed is rather and despairing

Τὸν βασιλέα, ὦ υἱὲ, τίμα τον καὶ φοβοῦ τον·
The emperor O son honor him and fear him
πρόβλησις ἔνι τοῦ θεοῦ ὁ βασιλεὺς, παιδίν μου·
shield is — of-God the emperor child my
ἂν ἔχῃς πίστιν εἰς αὐτὸν, ὡς ἀπαιτεῖ ὁ νόμος,
if you-have faith in him as demands the law
οὐ μὴ σὲ λείψῃ τὸ καλὸν καὶ ἡ ἀγάπη τούτου,
not — you will-lack the good and the love of-him
διότι ἡ καρδία του δύναται παρὰ πάντων,
because the heart his is-able beyond all
καὶ παρὰ πάντας δύναται, παιδίν μου, εἰς τὸ θέλει,
and beyond all is-able child my in what he-wishes
καὶ εἴ τι θέλει, δύναται ποιεῖν το ὅταν θέλῃ·
and if anything he-wishes he-is-able to-do it when he-wishes
ὡς ἔχει γὰρ τὴν δύναμιν, ἐργάζεται συντόμως.
as he-has for the power he-works swiftly
Ἕνα θεὸν ἐγνώριζε τῶν πάντων βασιλέα,
One God know of-the all king
ἕνα θεὸν φοβήθητι τῶν πάντων εὐεργέτην,
one God fear of-the all benefactor
θεὸν τὸν παντοδύναμον, θεὸν καρδιογνώστην·
God the almighty God heart-knower
καὶ ἂν ἀκούσῃς κατ᾽ αὐτοῦ ῥήματα βλασφημίας,
and if you-hear against him words of-blasphemy
νὰ μὴ τὰ παραδέξεσαι μηδ᾽ ὑποφέρῃς ὅλως,
that not them you-accept nor endure at-all
ὅτι εἰς κόλασιν σχεδὸν ἐκπίπτεις τῆς γεέννης.
for into punishment nearly you-fall of-the Gehenna
ἂν μάθῃς λόγον βλάσφημον κατὰ τοῦ βασιλέως,
if you-learn word blasphemous against the emperor

τάχιστα δράμε, δεῖξέ τον ∗∗∗
swiftly run show it (lacuna)

νὰ πάθῃ ὡς ἐπίβουλος, νὰ παιδευθῶσιν ἄλλοι.
that he-may-suffer as plotter that may-be-taught others

θεὸς γὰρ ὀνομάζεται κι ὁ βασιλεὺς, παιδίν μου,
God for is-named also the emperor child my

καὶ εἴ τις φέρει κατ᾽ αὐτοῦ, κίνδυνος ἔνι κόσμου.
and if anyone brings(-aught) against him danger is of-the-world

Ὡσὰν ἰδῇς τὸν φίλον σου, παιδίν μου, πρὸς ἐσένα,
As you-see the friend your child my toward you

οὕτως ἂς ᾖσαι πρὸς αὐτὸν, κι οὐ μὴ σὲ λείψῃ φίλος.
so let you-be toward him and not — you will-lack friend

ὁπόταν θέλῃς κτήσασθαι μετά τινος φιλίαν,
whenever you-wish to-acquire with someone friendship

πολυπραγμόνει, μάνθανε, ψηλάφα, κατερώτα
inquire learn feel-out question

τὴν γνώμην καὶ τὴν φρόνησιν καὶ τὴν προαίρεσίν του,
the mind and the prudence and the purpose his

μᾶλλον ἂν εἶχεν πρὸ ἐσοῦ φίλον καὶ πῶς τὸν εἶχεν,
especially if he-had before you friend and how him he-held

καὶ ποταπὴν ὑπόληψιν ἔδειξε πρὸς ἐκεῖνον.
and what-kind-of regard he-showed toward that(-one)

κι ἂν μάθῃς, ὅτι καθαρὰν ἐφύλαξεν ἀγάπην,
and if you-learn that pure he-kept love

τότε ἀναγκαλίσου τον καὶ δέξου τον ὡς φίλον.
then embrace him and receive him as friend

εἰ δ᾽ εἰς τὸν πρῶτον ἔσφαλεν κι οὐκ ἔστερξεν ὡς φίλον,
if but toward the first he-erred and not he-cherished(-him) as friend

φεῦγε, ὅσον τὸ δύνασαι, ἀποχωρίσου ἀπ᾽ αὐτοῦ.
flee as-much-as — you-can withdraw from him

πρόσχες, παιδίν μου, ἀκριβῶς, πῶς γὰρ ἐτάχθης φίλος·
attend child my exactly how for you-were-appointed friend
ἔχε τιμὴν κι ἀσχόλησιν καὶ καθαρὰν ἀγάπην,
have honor and care and pure love
καὶ χῶμαν γίνου, ἂν ἠμπορῇς, νὰ σὲ πατοῦσιν ὅλοι.
and earth become if you-can that you may-tread all
ἐξακολούθει θέλημαν, καλὴν βουλὴν ἀνθρώπων.
follow will good counsel of-men
τοῦτό ἐστιν τὸ εὔλογον, ὅλους τιμὴν νὰ δίδῃς·
this is the reasonable all honor that you-give
αὐτὰς καὶ μόνον ἀγαθὰς ἔχε χρηστὰς ἐλπίδας.
these and only good have worthy hopes
πρόσεχ' αὐτοῦ ποῦ ἠκούμπησες κι ἐτάχθης νὰ δουλεύῃς,
attend there where you-leaned and were-appointed that you-serve
στοχάσου τὴν δουλείαν τους, νόησε τὴν βουλήν τους·
consider the service their understand the will their
οὐκ ἔχουν την τυραννικὴν οὐδ' ἀπὸ δυναστείας,
not they-have it tyrannical nor from usurpation
ἀλλ' ἐκ θεοῦ τὴν ἔχουσι καὶ θέλουν την κερδίσει.
but from God it they-have and will it gain
ἐσὲν δὲ τί σὲ ἔχουσιν καὶ τί σὲ χρεωστοῦσιν;
you but what you they-have and what you they-owe
ὡς γνήσιον οὐκ ἔχουσιν, παιδὶν, νὰ σ' ἀγαπῶσιν.
as kin not they-have child that you they-should-love
ἂν ἔχουν πρὸς ἐσὲν, υἱὲ, ἀσχόλασιν κι ἀγάπην,
if they-have toward you son care and love
ἁρμόζει σε τὸ νὰ γενῇς δοῦλος δεδουλωμένος.
befits you the that you-become slave enslaved

τίμα τους καὶ πόθει αὐτοὺς ὡς ἀληθεῖς γονεῖς σου,
honor them and long-for them as true parents your
ἀγάπα τους ὡς φίλους σου, κάμνε τὸ θελημάν τους.
love them as friends your do the will their
Ἀγάπα τὰ στρατιωτικά, σπούδαζε, μάνθανέ τα·
Love the military(-things) study learn them
στρατιῶται ἦσαν ὅλοι σου καὶ πάπποι καὶ προπάπποι,
soldiers were all your both grandfathers and great-grandfathers
ὅλον τὸ γενολόγιν σου καλοὶ στρατιῶται ἦσαν.
all the lineage your good soldiers were
κι ἂν τ' ἀγαπᾷς, ἐγνώριζε, σύντομα νὰ τὰ μάθῃς·
and if them you-love know quickly that them you-will-learn
τεχνίτην ἔχεις μάστοραν, μόνον νὰ τὸν προσέχῃς.
craftsman you-have master only that him you-heed
πόλλ' ἔχει μέγαν ὄνομα ὁ Καῖσαρ ὃν δουλεύεις
very has great name the Caesar whom you-serve
εἰς ὅλα τὰ στρατεύματα, εἰς τὰ κεφαλατίκια.
in all the armies in the commands
ἂν σὲ συντύχῃ, πρόσεχε, ἄκουε νὰ μανθάνῃς,
if you he-speaks-with attend listen that you-may-learn
πλὴν μετὰ ταπεινότητος καὶ προσοχῆς μεγάλης.
yet with humility and attention great
θές τα εἰς τὴν καρδίαν σου, ἔχε τα εἰς τὸν νοῦν σου,
set them in the heart your have them in the mind your
ἂν τύχῃ κάποτε καιρὸς νὰ ταὔρῃς ἔμπροσθέν σου.
if happens sometime occasion that them-you-find before you
εἰς τὸ κυνήγι σπούδαζε καὶ τρέχε καὶ γρηγόρει,
in the hunt study and run and be-watchful
ὅτι μεγάλως ἐξυπνᾷ τὸν ἄνδρα τὸ κυνήγιν.
for greatly awakens the man the hunt

ἄκουε πάντα συνετῶς, καὶ χώριζε τὸ κρεῖττον.
listen always prudently and separate the better
μὴ προλαμβάνῃ ἡ γλῶσσά σου ποτὲ τὸν λογισμόν σου.
not let-outrun the tongue your ever the thought your
πολλοὺς γὰρ ἐκ συναρπαγῆς παρέδωκεν ἡ γλῶσσα,
many for from rashness has-betrayed the tongue
καὶ διὰ τοῦτο πρόσεχε πρῶτον καλὰ καὶ σκόπει,
and because-of this attend first well and consider
καὶ τότε λάλει ταπεινὰ καὶ μεμελετημένα.
and then speak humbly and considered(-words)
ἡ προσευχὴ πρὸς τὸν θεὸν μεγάλως οἰκειοῦται·
the prayer to — God greatly is-made-familiar
ὁπόταν γὰρ ἡ προσευχὴ γίνετ᾽ ἀπὸ καρδίας,
whenever for the prayer comes-to-be from heart
ὥσπερ ὁποῦ συνομιλεῖ τὸν κύριν του πολλάκις,
as-one who converses-with the lord his often
θαῤῥεῖ, παῤῥησιάζεται, ὡς ἔθος πρὸς ἐκεῖνον,
he-is-bold he-speaks-freely as custom toward that(-one)
οὕτως ὁ προσευχόμενος καὶ ψάλλων κατὰ μόνας
so the praying(-one) and chanting by himself
λαμβάνει χάριν ἐκ θεοῦ, εὑρίσκει παῤῥησίαν.
receives grace from God finds boldness
λοιπὸν εἰς τὴν καρδίαν σου θές το, παιδί μου, τοῦτο,
then in the heart your set it child my this
καὶ ὅταν εὕρῃς ἄδειαν, καὶ ψάλλε καὶ προσεύχου.
and when you-find leisure both chant and pray
πάντα γὰρ τὰ φαινόμενα καὶ τὰ λαμπρὰ τοῦ κόσμου
all for the visible(-things) and the bright(-things) of-the world
οὐκ ἔχουσιν ὑπόληψιν οὐδὲ φιλοτιμίαν·
not have esteem nor honor

τίποτ᾽ οὐκ ἔφερεν κανεὶς ἐκ τὸν παρόντα κόσμον·
anything not brought anyone from the present world
γυμνοὶ γὰρ ἐγεννήθημεν, γυμνοὶ πάλιν θανοῦμε,
naked for we-were-born naked again we-shall-die
καὶ τοῦ γυμνοῦ πτωχότεροι· παιδίν μου, τί κερδαίνεις
and than-the naked poorer child my what do-you-gain
πλοῦτος ζωῆς καὶ χρήματα, ματαιοτάτην δόξαν;
wealth of-life and money most-vain glory
ἦθος σεμνὸν καὶ ταπεινὸν καὶ μετριοφροσύνη,
character modest and humble and moderation
οὔτε ὁ πλοῦτος ἀληθῶς, οὐ δόξα ἐπαινεῖται,
neither the wealth truly nor glory is-praised
αὗτ᾽ ἔχουν καὶ τὸν ἔπαινον, αὗτ᾽ ἔχουν καὶ τὸν ψόγον.
these have also the praise these have also the blame
γίνωσκε, τιμιώτερον τῆς ἀρετῆς οὐκ ἔνι·
know more-precious than-the virtue not is
τὸ κάλλος γὰρ ἠχρείωσεν ἡ νόσος καὶ τὸ γῆρας,
the beauty for has-made-useless the sickness and the old-age
ἡ δ᾽ ἀρετὴ, ὅσον γηρᾷ, γίνεται λαμπροτέρα
the but virtue as-much-as it-ages becomes brighter
καὶ κέρδος ἔχει δαψιλὸν τὴν ἄνω βασιλείαν.
and gain has abundant the above kingdom
μὴ προτιμήσῃς συγγενῶν ἀγάπην περὶ φιλίαν,
not prefer of-kinsmen love above friendship
μηδὲ συγκρίνῃς πρόσωπον γνησίων ἐκ μακρόθεν·
nor compare face of-kin from afar
σύγκρισιν ἔχε καθαρὰν, ἀγάπην παρὰ ὅλα·
judgment have pure love above all
οὐκ ἔστιν γὰρ ἀντάλλαγμα τῆς καθαρᾶς ἀγάπης.
not is for exchange for-the pure love

ἄτακτον τέλειον σαλὸν βαροῦ κι ἀπόφευγέ το.
disorderly utter folly loathe and shun it
λόγον ἀπόφευγε θρασὺν, μανίαν ἐξεγείρει·
word shun bold madness it-rouses
τὸ ἐντρέπεσαι νὰ πολεμῇς, ἐντρέπου νὰ τὸ λέγῃς·
what you-are-ashamed that you-do be-ashamed that it you-say
σιγὸς ἂς ἦσαι καὶ πραΰς, καὶ φρόνιμον νὰ σ' ἔχουν.
quiet let you-be and gentle and prudent that you they-may-hold
εἴ τι κακὸν ἂν πολεμῇς, γνώριζε, οὐ λανθάνεις,
if any evil — you-do know not you-escape-notice
ἂν γὰρ τοὺς πάντας ἔλαθες, τὸν θεὸν οὐδὲ λανθάνεις,
if for the all you-escaped — God not-even you-escape
ἔχεις καὶ τὴν συνείδησιν, ὁποῦ σὲ θέλ' ἐλέγξει.
you-have also the conscience which you will convict
πρόσεχε ἀπὸ πονηρῶν ἀνθρώπων κακοτρόπων·
beware of wicked men ill-mannered
πολλάκις τὴν ἀλήθειαν πολλοὶ οὐκ ἐγνοοῦσιν
often the truth many not know
καὶ λογοχαρικίζουσιν εἰς πρόσωπα μεγάλα.
and flatter to faces great
πολλοὺς ἀνθρώπους ἔβλαψεν θρασυνομένη γλῶσσα·
many men has-harmed emboldened tongue
πολλοὶ γὰρ ἔπαθον κακὸν ἀδίκως ἐκ τῆς γλώττης.
many for suffered evil unjustly from the tongue
εἴ τι γινώσκεις κατὰ νοῦν, μελέτα νὰ τὸ ξέρῃς·
if anything you-know in mind practice that it you-know
τὸ δ' ἀγνοεῖς, ἐπιμελοῦ καὶ τρέχε νὰ τὸ μάθῃς.
what but you-do-not-know take-care and run that it you-learn
καλὸν ἔνι, τὸ ἔμαθες, αὖτ' οὐκ ἀλησμονήσῃς.
good is what you-learned this not forget

καὶ πάσχε καὶ ἀγώνιζε νὰ μάθῃς τὸ οὐκ ἠξεύρεις.
and toil and strive that you-learn what not you-know
ὅλον τὸν χρόνον, ὦ υἱέ, τὸν τῆς ζωῆς σου ταύτης
all the time O son the of-the life your this
εἰς λογικὰ μαθήματα γύμναζε τὸν ἑαυτόν σου·
in rational studies train the self your
προκόπτεις γὰρ εἰς τὸ καλὸν ἀεὶ τῶν μαθημάτων,
you-advance for in the good always of-the studies
καὶ μετὰ πάντων θαῤῥικῶς δύνασαι συντυχαίνειν, 175
and with all boldly you-can converse
καὶ τὸ γυρεύουσιν πολλοὶ κι ἐπεθυμοῦν νὰ μάθουν,
and what seek many and long-for that they-learn
φαίνεσαι ὅτι ἠξεύρεις το κι ἐντρέπονταί σε ὅλοι.
you-appear that you-know it and are-abashed-before you all
τοὺς πάντας προσχαιρέτιζε μετὰ περιχαρείας,
the all greet with gladness
καὶ μετὰ πάντων ἐφελκοῦ τῶν ὅλων τὴν ἀγάπην.
and with all draw-to-yourself of-the all the love
ἂς ᾖσαι εἰς πάντας πρόσχαρος, εὐστόμυλος εἰς ὅλους. 180
let you-be to all cheerful well-spoken to all
συγκάθιζε μετὰ καλοὺς, ἑνόνου μετ᾽ ἐκείνων,
sit-with with good(-men) be-one with them
τοὺς δὲ κακοὺς ἀπόφευγε, μηδόλως ὁμιλῇς τους.
the but wicked shun not-at-all associate-with them
ἀγάπα τὴν ἀλήθειαν, παιδίν μου, παρὰ πάντα,
love the truth child my above all
καὶ τοῦτο πληροφόρησον πάντα τὸν ἑαυτόν σου,
and (of-)this assure always the self your
ὅτι ἂν εἴπῃς ἀληθῶς, βεβαίως νὰ τὸ ἔχῃς. 185
that if you-say truly surely that it you-hold

βλάπτοντ᾽ οἱ μὴ ἀκούσαντες τὸν λόγον τοῦ κυρίου·
are-harmed those not having-heard the word of-the Lord
λέγει γὰρ ὁ ἀπόστολος Ἰάκωβος κυρίου·
says for the apostle James of-the-Lord
μὴ οὐρανὸν ὀμνύετε, μήτε τὴν γῆν κυρίου.
not by-heaven swear nor the earth of-the-Lord

III · ON FRIENDSHIP

Do not make friends quickly or drop them; test them, help a friend before he asks, and remember absent friends. Give to the good, not to the ungrateful, who bark like fed dogs. Reproach an angry man only when he is calm. Flee drinking bouts, keep your secrets, ask counsel in another's name, and fight like a man in danger. Honor kinsmen and shun slander.

μὴ κάμῃς φίλους σύντομα καὶ πάλιν τοὺς ἀφήσῃς·
not make friends quickly and again them abandon
ὥσπερ γὰρ ἔνι συχαντὸν τὸ νὰ μὴ ἔχῃς φίλους,
as for is loathsome the that not you-have friends
οὕτως ἔνι ὑπόψογον συχνὰ νὰ κάμῃς φίλους,
so is blameworthy often that you-make friends
νὰ τοὺς ἀφίνῃς σύντομα καὶ νὰ γυρεύῃς ἄλλους.
that them you-leave quickly and that you-seek others
ἕνεκεν τούτου πρόσεχε πρῶτον καλὰ καὶ σκόπει,
because-of this attend first well and consider
καὶ τότε γύρεψε καλῶς νὰ κάμνῃς τὴν φιλίαν.
and then seek well that you-make the friendship
ἀφ᾽ ὅτου φθάσῃς κι εὕρῃς τον ἐκεῖνον σοῦ τὸν φίλον,
from when you-come and find him that your the friend
τότε προχείρου μετ᾽ αὐτὸν μετὰ πολλῆς ἀγάπης.
then proceed with him with much love

ἂς ᾖσαι τότε ἐλεύθερος, ἂς ᾖσαι ἀφιερωμένος,
let you-be then free let you-be devoted
καὶ φρόντιζε τοῦ φίλου σου μετὰ πολλῆς ἀγάπης
and care-for the friend your with much love
παρὰ τὴν θεραπείαν σου καὶ τὴν ἀνάπαυσίν σου.
beyond the service your and the rest your
καλὴ καὶ πρώτη δοκιμὴ τοῦ φίλου ἔνε τοῦτο,
good and first test of-the friend is this
ὁκάποτε κι ὁ φίλος σου 'ς ἀνάγκην βοηθεῖ σε,
sometime and the friend your in need helps you
ἂν ἔχῃς καὶ περίστασιν καὶ συγκακοπαθεῖ σε.
if you-have also trouble and suffers-with you
ἂν ἴδῃς καὶ τὸν φίλον σου καὶ χρήζει τίποτέ σου,
if you-see also the friend your and needs anything of-yours
μὴ καρτερέσῃς νὰ τὸ εἰπῇ μηδὲ νὰ τὸ ζητήσῃ,
not wait that it he-say nor that it he-ask
ἀλλ' ἀπ' ἐντεῦθεν πρόλαβε καὶ δός του μοναχός σου,
but from hence anticipate and give to-him alone your
νὰ τοῦ τὸ δώσῃς, νὰ χαρῇ, οὐχὶ δι' ἀτιμίαν.
that to-him it you-give that he-may-rejoice not for dishonor
ἐκείνους ἔχε μετὰ σὲ, ἀγάπα κι ἀποδέχου,
those have with you love and welcome
ὁποῦ πολλὰ συνθλίβονται μετὰ τῶν δυστυχούντων,
who much are-afflicted-together with the unfortunate
ἀλλὰ καὶ μᾶλλον χαίρονται μετὰ τῶν εὐτυχούντων.
but also rather rejoice with the fortunate
κἂν ἔνι γὰρ ἐκ τῶν αὐτῶν εἶδεν κανεὶς πολλάκις
even-if is for of the same saw someone often
θλιβόμενον καὶ πάσχοντα, κακῶς καὶ συνεθλίβην,
afflicted and suffering badly and was-afflicted-with(-him)

μετὰ καμπόσον δὲ καιρὸν εἶδε τὸν εὐτυχοῦντα,
after some and time he-saw the(-one) prospering
ἐζήλωσεν, ἐφθόνησε κι ἀπώσατο φιλίαν.
he-envied he-begrudged and rejected friendship
ὅταν εἰς φίλον κάθεσαι, μιμνήσκου τοὺς ἀποδήμους,
when with friend you-sit remember the absent
μᾶλλον ἂν ἦναι φίλοι σου καὶ περιπόθητοί σου,
especially if they-are friends your and much-longed-for your
ἵνα πληροφορῇς αὐτούς, ὅταν οὐδὲν τοὺς βλέπῃς.
that you-assure them when not them you-see
ἀεὶ καὶ πάντ' ἐνθύμου τους, μὴ λείπουν ἐκ τὸν νοῦν σου.
ever and always remember them not let-them-leave from the mind your
ὁπ' ἔχει χρήματα πολλὰ καὶ φρόνησιν οὐκ ἔχει,
who has money much and prudence not has
οὐδ' ἠμπορεῖ νὰ οἰκονομῇ τὸ πρᾶγμα εἰς τιμήν του,
nor can that he-manage the property to honor his
μὴ ἐπαινῇς τὸν πλοῦτόν του, μὴ ἐπιχαίρεσαί τον,
not praise the wealth his not rejoice-in him
ὁμοιάζει γὰρ ἀστράτευτον ἄνθρωπον τοῦ πολέμου,
he-resembles for unsoldierly man of-the war
ὁποῦ καθίζεται εἰς φαρὶν παράξενον πρωτεῖον.
who is-seated on horse strange prize-winning
ὡσὰν ἀπάνθρωπος κακὸς, ὡσὰν ἐγκαρεμένος
like inhuman wicked like hardened
θλίψιν τινὸς καὶ συμφορὰν βλέπε μὴ ὀνειδίσῃς.
affliction of-someone and misfortune see not you-reproach
ἂν ἠμπορῇς εὐεργετεῖν, ἂν ἠμπορῇς χαρίζειν,
if you-can to-do-good if you-can to-give
καλοῖς δίδε καὶ χάριζε, νὰ σὲ εὐχαριστοῦσιν.
to-good(-men) give and bestow that you they-may-thank

ἀποῦ κακοὺς εὐεργετεῖ καὶ ἀχαρίστους δίδει,
who wicked(-men) benefits and ungrateful(-men) gives
μόνον τὸ δῶρον ἔχασεν κι εὐχαριστιὰν οὐκ ἔχει.
only the gift lost and thanks not has
ὥσπερ τινὲς οἱ τρέφοντες ξένων τινῶν σκυλία,
as some the(-ones) feeding of-strangers some dogs
ἀφότι φάγαν τὸ ψωμὶν, καὶ κατ' αὐτοῦ γαυγίζουν,
after they-ate the bread also against him bark
οὕτως καὶ ὁ ἀχάριστος τόσον ὑβρίζει πλέον.
so also the ungrateful so-much insults more
τοὺς λογοχαρικίζοντας, ὅταν κακόν τι πράξῃς,
the flatterers when evil any you-do
ἂν ἦν' καὶ φίλοι, φεῦγέ τους, ζημιὰν σὲ προξενοῦσιν.
if they-are even friends flee them harm to-you they-cause
ἂν γὰρ σὲ ὀνειδίσωσιν, καὶ μᾶλλον ὅταν σφάλλῃς,
if for you they-reproach and especially when you-err
πῶς γὰρ ἀφήσεις τὸ κακὸν, πῶς νὰ τὸ ὑποφέρῃς;
how for will-you-leave the evil how that it you-endure
πάντοτε γίνου ταπεινὸς, εὐόμιλος καὶ πρᾶος·
always become humble affable and gentle
ἄνθρωπον γὰρ κενόδοξον τίς νὰ τὸν ἀγαπήσῃ;
man for vainglorious who that him would-love
ἂν ἴδῃς δὲ θυμούμενον ἄνθρωπον, μὴ λαλήσῃς,
if you-see and angered man not speak
εἴ τι σὲ εἰπῇ, καρτέρησε καὶ μακροθύμησέ τον,
if anything to-you he-says wait and bear-with him
κι ἀφότου παύσῃ τὸν θυμὸν, καταπραΰνῃ ἡ μέθη,
and after he-stops the anger subsides the drunkenness
τότε τὸν κατονείδισε κ' εἰπέ τον ὅσα θέλεις.
then him reproach and tell him whatever you-wish

τὸν δὲ παροξυνόμενον ἂν τὸν κατονειδίσῃς,
the but provoked if him you-reproach
ὁμοιάζει ὅτι ὠνείδισες ἄνθρωπον μεθυσμένον,
it-is-like that you-reproached man drunk
καὶ μᾶλλον δὲ χειρότερον ἔποισες παρ᾽ ἐκεῖνον.
and rather too worse you-did than that(-one)
ὥσπερ τὰ ξύλα τοῦ δρυμοῦ τὴν φλόγαν ἐπαυξάνουν,
as the timbers of-the forest the flame increase
οὕτως καὶ τὸν θυμούμενον ὁ λόγος ἀγριαίνει.
so also the angered the word makes-wild
μὴ γίνεσαι φιλόνεικος καὶ ὑβρισθῇς εἰς ὅλους.
not become quarrelsome and be-insulted by all
μὴ γίνεσαι πολύκαλος εἰς τὸν καθένα λόγον,
not become over-agreeable to the every word
μηδὲ θελήσῃς εὐδοκᾶν εἰς τὸν καθένα λόγον·
nor wish to-approve of the every word
ἄνθρωπος εἶσαι καὶ ἐσὺ καὶ καθ᾽ ἑκάστην σφάλλεις·
man are also you and by each(-day) you-err
μὴ χρήσῃς γέλος ἄτακτον καὶ ποίσῃς ψόγον μέγαν.
not use laughter disorderly and make blame great
ὅταν ἀκούσῃς φρόνιμον λόγον νὰ σ᾽ ὠφελέσῃ,
when you-hear prudent word that you may-profit
ὅλον ’ς τὸν νοῦν σου θέσε τον καὶ χώριζε τὸ κρεῖττον.
whole in the mind your set it and separate the better
οὕτως γὰρ γίνεται ὁ λαλῶν πρόθυμος εἰς τὸ λέγειν,
thus for becomes the speaking(-one) eager for the to-speak
ἂν ἴδῃ καὶ προσέχῃς τον τὸν λόγον εἰς τὸν νοῦν σου.
if he-sees also you-heed it the word in the mind your
εἰς τὸ διπλάσιον ὄφελος μόνος ἐσὺ κερδαίνεις,
in the double profit alone you gain

ἐκ τοῦ λαλοῦντος ἔπαινον καὶ ἐκ τοῦ λόγου γνῶσιν.
from the speaking(-one) praise and from the word knowledge
καὶ τὸ ὀλίγον χάρισμα μεγάλον εὐχαρίστει·
and the little gift great be-thankful-for
ἂν τὸ μικρὸν εὐχαριστῇς, ἐπέρχεταί σοι μέγα.
if the small you-are-thankful-for comes to-you great
φεῦγε τὰ συγκαθίσματα εἰς τὰς πολυποσίας·
flee the sittings-together at the drinking-bouts
εἰ δὲ συμβῇ καὶ κρατηθῇς μετά τινος εἰς δεῖπνον,
if but it-happens and you-are-kept with someone at dinner
μὴ σὲ προλάβῃ τὸ κρασὶ, μὴ σὲ νικήσῃ ἡ μέθη,
not you let-overtake the wine not you let-conquer the drunkenness
μᾶλλον ἐσὺ προλάμβανε, ἐγείρου κι ἀναχώρει.
rather you anticipate rise and withdraw
αἰσχρὸν γὰρ κι ἐπονείδιστον κι ἐπώδυνον ἡ μέθη.
shameful for and disgraceful and painful the drunkenness
καὶ ὅταν πάσχῃ ὁ στόμαχος ἀπὸ πολυποσίαν,
and when suffers the stomach from much-drinking
καταθολόνεται ἡ ψυχὴ, βλάπτεται καὶ τὸ σῶμα.
is-clouded the soul is-harmed also the body
ἐκεῖνος ὅμοιός ἐστιν ἅρμα χωρὶς τὸν ἵππον,
that(-one) like is chariot without the horse
ὡς σκάφος χειμαζόμενον μὴ ἔχον κυβερνήτην.
as vessel storm-tossed not having helmsman
ἀρχὴ σοφίας ἔπαινος, ἀρχὴ δὲ μάχης ψόγος.
beginning of-wisdom praise beginning and of-battle blame
ἀργὰ καὶ μετὰ προσοχῆς πολέμει τὴν βουλήν σου
slowly and with attention work-at the plan your
τὸ ἔργον μετὰ τὴν βουλὴν ποτὲ μὴ ἀθετήσῃς.
the deed after the plan ever not set-aside

εἰ δ' ἔχεις τίποτες κρυπτὸν καὶ συμβουλὴν γυρεύεις,
if and you-have anything secret and counsel you-seek
ξενοπροσώπως ἀφηγοῦ καὶ μὴ φανῇ ἐδικόν σου,
in-another's-person relate and not let-it-appear own your
καὶ νὰ κερδίσῃς τὴν βουλὴν καὶ νὰ σὲ λείπῃ αἰσχύνη.
and that you-gain the counsel and that you may-lack shame
ὁπόταν εἰς ὑπόθεσιν βούλεσαι ἐδικήν σου,
whenever on business you-deliberate own your
κι ἐνθυμηθῇς ὅτι ἔπαθες ἀπὸ κακοβουλίας,
and you-remember what you-suffered from ill-counsel
μὴ θυμωθῇς, μὴ ὀξυνθῇς, μηδὲ κακοτροπίσῃς,
not grow-angry not grow-sharp nor turn-ill-tempered
μᾶλλον δὲ στερεώθητι καὶ σκόπευσον τὸ κρεῖττον.
rather but be-firm and aim-at the better
καλοὺς ἀνθρώπους φρόντισε νὰ ποίσῃς συνεργούς σου,
good men take-care that you-make fellow-workers your
εἰ δὲ καὶ ποίσεις πονηροὺς καὶ πράξουν πονηρίαν,
if but also you-make wicked(-men) and they-do wickedness
αἴτιος εἶσαι τοῦ κακοῦ κ' ἐσὺ ἔχεις πλεὸν τὸ κρίμα·
cause you-are of-the evil and you have more the sin
ὅσα κακὰ κι ἂν πολεμοῦν, ἀπήλογος εἶσθαι θέλεις.
whatever evils even — they-do answerable to-be you-will
ἔπαινον θέλε τῶν καλῶν ἀντὶ πολλῶν χρημάτων.
praise want of-the good(-men) instead-of much money
πρᾶγμα κακὸν μὴ θεωρῇς μηδὲ ἀκούειν θέλε·
thing evil not look-at nor to-hear want
τὸ γὰρ κακὸν ἂν βοηθῇς, ἐσὺ κακὸς νὰ δείξῃς.
the for evil if you-help you wicked that you-show(-yourself)

τὴν ἀρετὴν καὶ φρόνησιν ἀγάπα καὶ τὴν γνῶσιν
the virtue and prudence love and the knowledge
πλούτου παντὸς ἐπέκεινα καὶ θησαυρῶν μεγάλων.
of-wealth all beyond and of-treasures great
ἐκεῖνα παραμένουσιν, ὁ πλοῦτος δ᾽ οὐ προσμένει·
those remain the wealth but not stays
ὁ νοῦς γὰρ μέγας θησαυρὸς ἐπέκεινα τῶν ἄλλων,
the mind for great treasure beyond the others
εἰς τόπον ὀλιγούτσικον ἔνι ᾽ποχωρεμένος.
in place very-small is contained
ὅταν σ᾽ ἐπέλθῃ χαροπὸν, μὴ τὸ κενοδοξήσῃς,
when you comes joyful(-thing) not it boast-of
καὶ ὅταν σ᾽ ἔλθῃ λυπηρὸν, μὴ σὲ νικήσῃ ἡ θλίψις·
and when you comes grievous(-thing) not you let-conquer the affliction
τὸν δὲ σκοπὸν τῆς λύπης σου μηδὲν τὸν φανερώσῃς,
the and cause of-the grief your not it reveal
ἵνα μὴ χαίρωνται οἱ ἐχθροὶ κ᾽ οἱ φίλοι σου λυποῦνται.
that not may-rejoice the enemies and the friends your grieve
ὁποῦ τὴν θλίψιν μοναχὴν οὐ δύναται φυλάξαι,
who the affliction alone not can keep
πῶς νὰ φυλάξῃ θησαυρὸν ἢ τίποτ᾽ ἄλλον πρᾶγμα;
how that he-keep treasure or any other thing
ἀπόφευγε τὰς ταραχὰς, φεῦγε καὶ τοὺς κινδύνους·
shun the disturbances flee also the dangers
εἰ δὲ συμβῇ σε κι ἐμπλακῇς εἰς κίνδυνον πολλάκις,
if but it-befalls you and you-are-entangled in danger often
ὡς ἄνδρας ἀγωνίστησε νὰ ζήσῃς, ν᾽ ἀποθάνῃς —
as man fight that you-live that you-die
πάντες γὰρ ἀποθνήσκομεν κἂν οὕτως, κἂν ἀλλέως —
all for we-die whether thus or otherwise

καλὸν καὶ ὑπερένδοξον τὸν ἔπαινον κερδάνῃς.
good and most-glorious the praise you-may-win
ὡς θέλεις νἄχουν, τέκνον μου, πάντες σ᾽ οἱ κρείττονές σου,
as you-wish that-they-hold child my all you the betters your
οὕτως καὶ τοὺς ἐλάττονας τίμα καὶ πρόσεχέ τους.
so also the lesser honor and heed them
φεῦγε τοὺς κολακεύοντας ἀπὸ κακοπραγίας,
flee the flattering(-ones) from malice
ἀγάπα δὲ τοὺς λέγοντας ὀρθὰ ἀκολακεύτως.
love but the speaking(-ones) rightly unflatteringly
ἀγάπα καὶ τοὺς συγγενεῖς καὶ τίμα κι ἀσχολοῦ τους,
love also the kinsmen and honor and attend-to them
ὅτι ὁ νόμος λέγει το, ἡ φύσις ἀπαιτεῖ το.
for the law says it the nature demands it
ἂν γὰρ οὐκ ἔχῃς εἰς αὐτοὺς ἀγάπην, ὡς ἁρμόζει,
if for not you-have toward them love as befits
ξένος οὐ μὴ σ᾽ ἐμπιστευθῇ, καὶ εἶσαι ὑβρισμένος.
stranger not — you will-trust and you-are insulted
θέλε τοὺς ὄντας μετὰ σὲ, ἀγάπα κι ἀποδέχου,
want the(-ones) being with you love and welcome
κάλλιον νὰ σ᾽ ἐντρέπωνται παροῦ νὰ σὲ φοβοῦνται·
better that you they-respect than that you they-fear
γεννᾷ γὰρ σέβας ἡ ἐντροπὴ, ὁ φόβος ἔχει μῖσος.
begets for reverence the respect the fear has hatred
λόγους κακοὺς μηδὲν λαλῇς μηδὲ ἀκούειν θέλῃς,
words evil not speak nor to-hear want
ὅπου γὰρ θέλει πάντοτε ἀκούειν αἰσχροὺς λόγους,
who for wishes always to-hear shameful words
λέγειν αἰσχρὰ οὐκ ἐντρέπεται, καὶ πράττειν οὐ φοβεῖται.
to-say shameful(-things) not is-ashamed and to-do not fears

ἀπόφευγ', ὅσον δύνασαι, κενὰς αἰσχρολογίας,
shun as-much-as you-can empty foul-talk
πολλάκις γὰρ καὶ συγγενεῖς ἤγειραν κατ' ἀλλήλων,
often for even kinsmen they-raised against one-another
καὶ ἔχθραν ἔβαλαν πολλὴν μέσον γονεῖς καὶ τέκνα,
and enmity they-put much between parents and children
καὶ πόλεις ἐκατέσκαψαν κ' ἠφάνισαν τελείως,
and cities they-razed and destroyed utterly
καὶ εἰς κακὸν ἐνήργησαν χείλη διαβολέων.
and to evil worked lips of-slanderers

IV · ON OFFICE AND ANGER

In office, forgive those who erred and punish those who harmed. A poor man who steals from need is excused; a rich man who wrongs the poor faces judgment. Remember kindness and forget injury. Give promptly and whole, never reproaching the gift, or you are like the farmer whose pigs root up his field. Anger makes a man a beast. Keep secrets, share a friend's grief, and seek the counsel of old men, never the young.

ὅταν σὲ στήσουν εἰς ἀρχὴν καὶ λάβῃς ἐξουσίαν,
when you they-set in office and you-receive authority
τοὺς πρὸ ἐσένα σφάλλοντας, τέκνον μου, συγγνωμόνει,
the(-ones) before you erring child my forgive
τοὺς δὲ καὶ καταβλάπτοντας καὶ κρῖνε καὶ τιμώρει,
the(-ones) but also doing-harm both judge and punish
διὰ νὰ σ' ἐντρέπωνται πολλοί, κι ἄλλοι νὰ σὲ φοβοῦνται.
so that you they-may-respect many and others that you they-may-fear
ὅσον τὸ δύνασαι, υἱὲ, φεῦγε τὰς ἀδικίας,
as-much-as it you-can son flee the injustices

κἂν εὐτυχῇς, κἂν ἀτυχῇς, κἂν ἔχῃς, κἂν οὐκ ἔχῃς.
whether you-prosper or you-fail whether you-have or not you-have
ὁ πένης γὰρ ἂν ἀδικῇ, ἐξαφορμεῖται οὕτως,
the poor(-man) for if he-does-wrong is-excused thus
ὅτι πολλὰ τὸν λείπονται καὶ ἐξ ἀνάγκης κλέπτει.
that much him is-lacking and from necessity he-steals
ὁ πλούσιος ἂν ἀδικῇ καὶ τοὺς πτωχοὺς ζημιόῃ,
the rich(-man) if he-does-wrong and the poor harms
κόλασιν ἔχει φοβερὰν καὶ σύγκρισιν μεγάλην·
punishment has fearful and judgment great
ἡ πρᾶξις γὰρ ἡ ἄβουλος οὐκ ὠφελεῖ, ἀλλὰ κόπτει,
the deed for the ill-advised not profits but cuts
ὀλίγοι δίχα τῆς βουλῆς ἐπέτυχον τὴν πρᾶξιν.
few without the counsel achieved the deed
πρῶτος καλὸς καὶ δυνατὸς ἐκεῖνος ὁ δυνάστης,
first good and mighty that the lord
ὁποῦ τὸ δίκαιον σύντομα νοήσει κι ἐξελέγξει,
who the just quickly will-perceive and examine
μᾶλλον ὡς δίκαιος δικαστὴς τὸ δίκαιον προτιμᾶται,
rather as just judge the just prefers
τὴν δ' ἀδικίαν ἐκμισεῖ ὡς ἄδικον καὶ φαύλην.
the and injustice hates as unjust and base
οὕτως, παιδίν μου, σπούδαζε νὰ ἐγνωρισθῇς εἰς ὅλους.
thus child my strive that you-be-known to all
ἐπαίνει πάντα τὸ καλὸν, δι' οὗ νὰ σ' ἐπαινέσουν·
praise always the good through which that you they-may-praise
τὸ γὰρ καλὸν καλὸν ἔνι κ' οἱ πάντες ἀγαποῦν το,
the for good good is and the all love it
αὐτοὶ δ' ὁποῦ τὸ πράττουσιν, μόνοι τὸ ἔχουν κέρδος.
they and who it do alone it have gain

πολλάκις οἱ ἀπρόσεκτοι λέγουν ἀπερισκέπτως·
often the heedless speak unthinkingly
λέγειν αἰσχρὰ οὐκ ἐντρέπονται καὶ πράττειν οὐ φοβοῦνται.
to-say foulness not they-blush and to-do not they-fear
ἀλλ' ὁ δυνάστης ὁ θεὸς ἔδωκεν εἰς τὸν κόσμον
but the lord — God gave to the world
ἄλλους δυνάστας ν' ἀδικοῦν, ἄλλους νὰ *περεάζουν.
other lords that they-wrong others that they-oppress
σὺ δὲ, ἂν ἔχῃς φυσικὸν προτέρημα ὀλίγον,
you but if you-have natural advantage little
μὲ τὴν καλογνωμίαν σου σπούδαζε νὰ τ' αὐξήσῃς,
with the good-will your strive that it you-increase
νὰ ἐπαινῆσαι εἰς πολλοὺς καὶ νὰ τιμᾶσαι πλέον.
that you-be-praised by many and that you-be-honored more
ἄν τις ποιήσῃ σε καλὸν ἤ τι ἀγαθοσύνη,
if anyone does to-you good or any kindness
ἔχε το πάντοτε εἰς νοῦν, μὴ τὸ ἀλησμονήσῃς.
have it always in mind not it forget
εἰ δὲ κακόν σοι τίποτες τὶς ἕτερος ποιήσει,
if but evil to-you anything someone other does
ἀπαλησμόνει το γουργὸν καὶ ῥῖπτε το ἐκ τὸν νοῦν σου.
forget it quickly and cast it out-of the mind your
τὸ μὲν γὰρ ἐκ χρηστότητος καὶ γνώμης ἐλευθέρας,
the(-one) indeed for from kindness and mind free
ἀπὸ καρδίας καθαρᾶς, ἐκ μεγαλοψυχίας,
from heart pure from magnanimity
φιλάνθρωπος κι ἐπαινετὸς ἐχθροῖς οὐκ ἀνταποδίδει,
humane and praiseworthy to-enemies not repays
καὶ μᾶλλον τοὺς ὁμογενεῖς ἢ καὶ τοὺς ὁμοφύλους.
and rather the kinsmen or also the fellow-tribesmen

τοὺς συχνοευεργετιστὰς ὀνόμαζέ τους φίλους.
the frequent-benefactors call them friends
ὅταν σ᾽ ἐπέλθῃ τίποτες πρᾶγμα ἐξ ἀδικίας,
when you comes-upon any thing from injustice
μὴ τὸ χαρίσῃς φίλον σου ἢ γείτον᾽ ἐδικόν σου·
not it give to-friend your or neighbor own your
ὅτι ἂν ἔνι φίλος σου, οὐ μὴ σὲ ἐπαινέσει,
for if is friend your not — you will-praise
ἀλλὰ μᾶλλον ὡς μισητὸν καὶ βδελυκτὸν νὰ σ᾽ ἔχουν.
but rather as hateful and loathsome that you they-hold
εἰ δὲ κακὸν εὐεργετεῖς, ἔχεις διπλῆν ζημίαν,
if but wicked(-man) you-benefit you-have double loss
ὅτι κακῶς ἐκέρδισας ἐξ ἀδικίας πρᾶγμαν,
that wickedly you-gained from injustice property
καὶ δίδεις το τὸν φίλον σου, συμμεριστὴν τὸν κάνεις,
and you-give it to-the friend your sharer him you-make
οἱ δὲ καλοὶ βαρύνονταί σ᾽ ὡς ἄχρηστον τὴν γνώμην,
the and good are-weary-of you as useless in-the mind
καὶ ἀποστρέφονται λοιπὸν, φίλον οὐκ ἔχουσίν σε.
and turn-away then friend not they-hold you
ἂν πρός τινας ὑποσχεθῇς τίποτε νὰ χαρίσῃς,
if to some you-promise anything that you-give
σύντομα τοῖς τὸ χάρισε, νὰ ἔνε ἡ χάρις χάρι·
quickly to-them it give that is the favor favor
ἐκεῖνον τὸ ὑποσχεθῇς ἀκέραιον τὸ πέμψε,
that what you-promise whole it send
εἰ δὲ δώσεις τὸ ἥμισυ, ἡ χάρις ὅλη ἐχάνθη.
if but you-give the half the favor whole is-lost
ὁ γὰρ λαβὼν οὐ χαίρεται τοσοῦτον εἰς τὸ ἐπῆρεν,
the for having-received not rejoices so-much in what he-took

ὅσον εἰς τὸ τὸν ἔλειψεν λυπεῖται καὶ γογγύζει.
as-much-as at what him was-lacking he-grieves and grumbles
ἂν δώσῃς τίποτε τινὰν, μηδὲν τὸ ὀνειδίσῃς,
if you-give anything to-anyone not it reproach
μὴ χάσῃς καὶ τὸ δῶρόν σου καὶ τὴν εὐχαριστίαν,
not lose both the gift your and the thanks
καὶ ὁμοιάσεις γεωργὸν ἄπορον κατὰ πάντα,
and you-will-resemble farmer resourceless in all
ἀφότου σπείρῃ τὴν σπορὰν καὶ κλείσῃ τὸ χωράφιν,
after he-sows the seed and closes the field
ἐμπάζει τὰ χοιρίδια του καὶ σκάπτουν τὸ χωράφιν,
lets-in the piglets his and they-dig the field
ἀποστερεῖται τὸν καρπὸν καὶ χάνει καὶ τὸν σπόρον.
is-deprived-of the fruit and loses also the seed
τί δὲ ἐκέρδισεν λοιπὸν ὁ ἄτυχος ἐκεῖνος;
what but did-he-gain then the unlucky that(-one)
οὕτως ἐσὺ, υἱούτσικε, βλέπε τὸ τί σὲ λέγω.
thus you little-son see the what to-you I-say
ὅπου θυμόνεται πολλὰ κι ὀργίζεται μεγάλα,
who grows-angry much and is-enraged greatly
μόνος του γίνετ᾽ ἔξοικος καὶ μὲ τὸ θέλημάν του.
alone his becomes homeless and with the will his
τὸ πῦρ τὰ ξύλα δαπανᾷ, θυμὸς δὲ τὴν καρδίαν,
the fire the wood consumes anger and the heart
παρασαλεύει λογισμοὺς, καταθολόνει φρένας,
shakes thoughts clouds wits
θηρίον ἄγριον ποιεῖ τὸν ἄνθρωπον ἐξαίφνης.
beast wild makes the man suddenly
εἰς πάντας ἔχε καθαρὰν ὑπόληψιν, παιδίν μου.
toward all have pure regard child my

ὅπου σὲ εἰπῇ μυστήριον κι ἐμπιστευθῇ σε λόγον,
who to-you tells secret and entrusts to-you word
μὴ τὸ φαυλίσῃς πρόσεχε καὶ μὴ τὸ φανερώσῃς,
not it belittle take-care and not it reveal
καὶ κρίνουν σ' ἀνυπόληπτον καὶ βαρεθοῦν σ' οἱ πάντες,
and they-judge you disreputable and grow-weary-of you the all
ἄλλος οὐ μὴ σ' ἐμπιστευθῇ, καὶ εἶσαι ὑβρισμένος.
another not — you will-trust and you-are insulted
ἀνδρὸς φρονίμου καὶ καλοῦ τῶν ἀσκοπήτων μέλει,
of-man prudent and good of-the unforeseen(-things) is-a-care
τὸν ἑαυτόν του νὰ κρατῇ παρέτοιμον εἰς τοῦτα,
the self his that he-keep ready for these
ὅταν τὸν ἔλθῃ τίποτες, νὰ τὸ βαστάζῃ ὡς ἄνδρας,
when him comes anything that it he-bear as man
νὰ τὸ μεταχειρίζεται καὶ νὰ δουλαγωγῆται.
that it he-handle and that he-be-disciplined
τὸν ἄῤῥωστον, τὸν λαίμαργον τίς νὰ τὸν θεραπεύσῃ,
the sick the gluttonous who that him would-heal
καὶ τὸν μωρὸν ἂν δυστυχῇ τίς νὰ παρηγορήσῃ;
and the fool if he-is-unfortunate who that would-console
ὁ φρόνιμος ἂν δυστυχῇ, μόνος παρηγορεῖται,
the prudent if he-is-unfortunate alone is-consoled
ὁ δὲ μωρὸς ἂν δυστυχῇ, παρηγοριὰν οὐκ ἔχει.
the but fool if he-is-unfortunate consolation not has
εἰς τὰς χαρὰς τῶν φίλων σου κ' εἰς τὰ καλέσματά των
at the joys of-the friends your and at the invitations their
νὰ γίνεσ' ὁλοπρόθυμος καὶ τρέχῃς κ' ὑπαγαίνῃς·
that you-be all-eager and run and go
εἰς θλίψεις δὲ καὶ συμφορὰς τρέχε καὶ πρὶν σὲ κράξουν,
to afflictions but and misfortunes run even before you they-call

καὶ μέριζε τὸ πάθος τους, ἔχε κοινὸν τὸν πόνον·
and share the suffering their have common the pain
τοῦτο γὰρ ἔνι ἄξιον ἀγάπης εἰς τοὺς φίλους.
this for is worthy of-love among the friends
μὴ ἀναισχυντήσῃς γέροντα μηδὲ καταφρονήσῃς,
not affront old-man nor despise(-him)
νὰ σ' εὔχουνται ὁλόψυχα καὶ νὰ μακροχρονίσῃς.
that you they-bless wholeheartedly and that you-live-long
ἂν ἔλθῃς εἰς ὑπόθεσιν καὶ σύμβουλον γυρεύῃς,
if you-come to business and counselor you-seek
γερόντων ζήτησε βουλὰς ἀνθρώπων πειρασμένων,
of-old-men seek counsels of-men experienced
τῶν δέ γε νέων τὰς βουλὰς ποτὲ μὴ τὰς γυρέψῃς.
of-the and at-least young the counsels ever not them seek

V · REHOBOAM'S COUNSEL

Take the example of Rehoboam, son of Solomon. His people asked him to lighten their burden; the old men advised mildness, the young men harshness, and he followed them, threatening to double it, so that the twelve scepters broke away and left him only his household. Heed the experienced, remember death, serve your commander, and die with honor. Clothe the naked, feed the hungry, give willingly, and prize love above every achievement.

ἄκουσον δὲ παράδειγμα παλαιᾶς ἱστορίας.
hear and example of-old history
τοῦ Σολομῶντος ὁ υἱὸς ὁ Ῥοβοὰμ ἐκεῖνος
— of-Solomon the son — Rehoboam that
δώδεκα σκῆπτρ' ἐκράτησεν τὰ εἶχεν ὁ πατήρ του,
twelve scepters held which had the father his

καὶ πάντες ἐσυνήχθησαν λέγοντες πρὸς ἐκεῖνον·
and all gathered saying to him
„ἐλάφρυνον τὰ βάρη μας, περιανάπαυσόν μας,
lighten the burdens our give-rest-to us
πολλὰ γὰρ μᾶς ἐβάρυνεν ὁ μέγας ὁ πατήρ σου,
much for us burdened the great the father your
ἀνάπαυσόν μας ὀλίγον καὶ νὰ μᾶς ἔχῃς πάντα,
rest us a-little and that us you-have always
δοῦλοί σου πάντες νὰ ἤμεθεν καὶ πάντας νὰ μᾶς ἔχῃς.“
slaves your all that we-be and all that us you-have
ἀκούσας οὖν ὁ βασιλεὺς τοὺς λόγους των ἐκείνων,
having-heard then the king the words their those
„ἀφῆτέ με νὰ βουλευθῶ μετὰ τῶν ἐδικῶν μου,
let me that I-take-counsel with the own my
ὑπάγετ’, ἀναμείνατε μόνον καὶ τρεῖς ἡμέρας,
go wait only even three days
καὶ τότε δεῦτε πρὸς ἐμὲ καὶ ὅτι νὰ σᾶς εἴπω.“
and then come to me and what that to-you I-say
ὑπῆγαν, ἐκαρτέρεσαν οἱ πάντες, ὡς τοὺς εἶπεν,
they-went waited the all as them he-told
ὁ βασιλεὺς ὑπέμεινεν μετὰ τοὺς οἰκιακούς του.
the king remained with the household his
„εἰπέτε με τί λέγετε, δότε βουλὴν εἰς τοῦτο.“
tell me what you-say give counsel on this
εὐθὺς οἱ φρονιμώτεροι γέροντες εἶπον τοῦτο
at-once the more-prudent old-men said this
„εὔλογον ἔνι τὸ ζητοῦν καὶ μὴ τοὺς παρακούσῃς,
reasonable is what they-ask and not them disregard
ἀνάπαυσέ τους ὀλίγον καὶ πάντα νὰ τοὺς ἔχῃς.“
rest them a-little and always that them you-have

πλὴν οὐκ ἠρκέστη ὁ βασιλεὺς εἰς τὴν βουλὴν ἐκείνην,
yet not was-content the king with the counsel that
ἀλλὰ τοὺς νέους ἔκραξεν μᾶλλον τοὺς θρασυτέρους,
but the young he-called rather the bolder
ὁποῦ ἦσαν συνανάτροφοι μετὰ τὸν βασιλέα,
who were brought-up-together with the king
ἐκάθισεν, ἠρώτησέν τους ὅλους περὶ τούτου
he-sat-down asked them all about this
„εἴπατε νέοι καὶ ὑμεῖς, δότε βουλὴν εἰς τοῦτο.“
speak young(-men) also you give counsel on this
ἐκεῖνοι ὡς θρασύτατοι, κακοί τε καὶ αὐθάδεις,
they as most-bold wicked both and arrogant
κακὴν βουλὴν τὸν ἔδωκαν, ὡς ἔδειξεν τὸ τέλος.
bad counsel him they-gave as showed the end
ὅμως ἐπροτιμήσατο τὴν συμβουλὴν ἐκείνην,
yet he-preferred the advice that
τῶν δὲ γερόντων τὴν βουλὴν ἐκείνων τῶν φρονίμων
of-the but old-men the counsel those the prudent
ἀφῆκέν την ὡς ἄχρηστον, οὐδὲν τὴν ἀσχολήθην.
he-left it as useless not-at-all it heeded
μετὰ δὲ τὴν παραδρομὴν τῶν ἡμερῶν τῶν τρίων
after and the passing of-the days the three
ἦλθεν τὸ πλῆθος πρὸς αὐτὸν πάλιν καὶ παρεκάλει
came the multitude to him again and besought(-him)
„ἐλέησον, παρηγόρησον τὴν ἀγανάκτησίν μας.“
have-mercy console the distress our
ὁ βασιλεὺς δὲ πρὸς αὐτοὺς μετὰ θυμοῦ τοὺς λέγει
the king but to them with anger them says
„οὐκ ἐλαφρύνω τίποτες, μηδὲν παρακαλεῖτε·
not I-lighten anything not beseech

ἐβάρυνέ σας, λέγετε, μεγάλος ὁ πατήρ μου,
burdened you you-say great the father my
ἐγὼ τὸ σᾶς ἐβάρυνε νὰ τὸ διπλοτριπλάσω.
I what you burdened that it I-double-and-triple
ἐπαίδευσέν σας, λέγετε, διὰ δαρμοῦ καὶ κούρσου,
chastised you you-say by beating and plunder
νὰ σᾶς παιδεύσω ἐγὼ διπλᾶ καὶ νὰ σᾶς καταφθείρω.“
that you I-chastise I doubly and that you I-ruin
εὐθὺς τὸ πλῆθος ὥρμησεν εἰς ταραχὴν καὶ ζάλην
at-once the multitude rushed into tumult and turmoil
καὶ μετὰ θράσους καὶ θυμοῦ λέγουν τὸν βασιλέα
and with boldness and anger they-say to-the king
„ὕπαγε εἰς τὸν οἰκόν σου, ποίμανε τὸν λαόν σου·
go to the house your shepherd the people your
οὐκ ἔχεις μέρος μεθ’ ἡμῶν οὐδὲ κληρονομίαν.“
not you-have part with us nor inheritance
καὶ παρευθὺς ἐχώρισαν τὰ δώδεκα τὰ σκῆπτρα,
and at-once separated the twelve the scepters
ὁ βασιλεὺς δ’ ὑπέμεινεν μόνον μὲ τοὺς οἰκείους.
the king and remained only with the household
εἶδες, παιδίν μου, τ’ ἔβλαψεν ἡ συμβουλὴ τῶν νέων.
you-saw child my what harmed the advice of-the young
ὁπόταν ἴδῃς γέροντας ἀνθρώπους πειρασμένους,
whenever you-see old men experienced
ὅτι λαλοῦν ὑπόθεσιν, μηδὲν τοῖς περικόπτῃς,
that they-speak on-business not them interrupt
ἀλλ’ ἄκουε μετὰ προσοχῆς, πολλάκις ν’ ὠφελιέσαι.
but listen with attention often that you-may-profit
ἔχε ’ς τὸν νοῦν σου πάντοτε μελέτην τοῦ θανάτου,
have in the mind your always meditation of-the death

ὁ φόβος νὰ σὲ ἐκφοβῇ, ἐκ τὸ κακὸν νὰ λείπῃς.
the fear that you may-frighten from the evil that you-keep-away
ἂν γένῃς ὑπὸ κεφαλὴν καὶ πέσῃς εἰς ἀλλάγιν,
if you-become under commander and fall into troop
τὴν κεφαλήν σου πρόσεχε πάντα νὰ θεραπεύσῃς,
the commander your take-care always that you-serve
τοὺς δὲ συστρατιώτας σου τίμα καὶ ἀσχολοῦ τους.
the and fellow-soldiers your honor and attend-to them
ὅταν δὲ γίνεται βουλὴ, μὴ λείπῃς ἀπεκεῖσε,
when and is-held council not be-absent from-there
καὶ μᾶλλον δὲ κι ἂν σὲ ἀφοῦν κι ἂν σὲ παραχωρήσουν,
and especially too and if you they-let and if you they-permit
προθύμως ἄκουε καλὰ τὰ λέγουν οἱ φρονίμοι,
eagerly listen well what say the prudent
ὅπου ἠνδραγάθησαν πολλὰ κ' εἶδαν πολλοὺς πολέμους,
who did-brave-deeds much and saw many wars
κι ἐκέρδισαν μετὰ χαρᾶς πράγματα εἰς τιμήν τους,
and gained with joy things to honor their
μέριζε πάντοτε καὶ σὺ καὶ κάμνε, ὡς ἐβλέπεις.
take-part always also you and do as you-see
τοῦτο πληροφορήθητι καὶ βάλε εἰς τὸν νοῦν σου,
of-this be-assured and put in the mind your
πᾶν πρᾶγμα ἀπολαυτικὸν ἔχει καὶ χορτασίαν,
every thing enjoyable has also satiety
τῷ γὰρ νικᾶν κι ἀνδραγαθεῖν καὶ τοὺς ἐχθροὺς τροπόνειν
by-the for to-conquer and to-be-brave and the enemies to-rout
γίνεται χαροπώτερος καὶ πρόθυμος εἰς τοῦτο,
he-becomes more-joyful and eager for this
καὶ πάντοτ' ἔνι δόκιμος, πάντοτε φήμην ἔχει.
and always is approved always fame has

τοῦτο γὰρ ἐπεγίνωσκε τὸν ἄνδρα τὸν καθένα,
this for recognize the man the each
ὅταν τύχῃ εἰς πόλεμον νὰ πολεμήσῃ ὡς ἄνδρας,
when it-happens in war that he-fight as man
ὅπου νὰ ζήσῃ μὲ τιμὴν, ν' αὐξάνῃ τ' ὄνομά του,
where that he-live with honor that he-increase the name his
εἰ δ' ἀποθάνῃ, ἀπόθανεν πάλιν μὲ τὴν τιμήν του.
if and he-die he-died in-turn with the honor his
κάλλιον λάβε θάνατον μετὰ τιμῆς, παιδίν μου,
better take death with honor child my
παρὰ τὴν ἄχρηστον ζωὴν καὶ τὴν ἀτιμωμένην.
than the useless life and the dishonored
ὅταν ποιήσῃς τίποτες προτέρημαν ὀλίγον,
when you-do any distinction little
μὴ καυχηθῇς, υἱούτσικε, μὴ τὸ κενοδοξήσῃς,
not boast little-son not it vaunt
ἀλλ' ὑποκλίνου πλεότερον καὶ ταπεινώσου πάντα·
but bow more and humble-yourself always
ἄφες τὸ λέγειν, ἄφες το, κι ἂς τὸ λαλοῦσιν ἄλλοι.
leave the to-speak leave it and let it speak others
'ς τὸ ἕναν σου προτέρημα πρόσθες καὶ ἄλλον ἕναν·
to the one your distinction add also another one
ἀνδρείαν καὶ ταπείνωσιν τὴν καλῃτέραν κόσμου.
courage and humility the best of-the-world
ἔχε τὰ πάντα συνετῶς καὶ περιπαιδευμένα.
have the all prudently and well-schooled
ἔνδυσε πένητα γυμνὸν, χόρτασε πεινασμένον,
clothe poor naked feed hungry
θλιμμένους παρηγόρησον, ἀῤῥώστους ἐπισκέπτου.
afflicted console sick visit

εἴ τι γὰρ δώσῃς πένητος, εἴ τι καλὸν ποιήσῃς,
if anything for you-give to-poor(-man) if any good you-do
ἐδάνεισές τα τὸν θεὸν καὶ θέλει σοι τὰ δώσει
you-lent them — to-God and will to-you them give
ἑκατονταπλασίονα ἔνδον τοῦ παραδείσου.
hundredfold within the paradise
εἰ δ' εἴπῃς ὅτι „ἐπτώχηνα, δὲν ἔχω τί νὰ δώσω,"
if but you-say that I-have-grown-poor not I-have what that I-may-give
κἂν στέναξον, συμπάσχισον καὶ παρηγόρησέ τους·
at-least sigh sympathize and console them
θεὸς τὸ κατὰ δύναμιν αὐτὸ ζητεῖ καὶ θέλει.
God the according-to power this asks and wants
κάλλια νὰ δώσῃς ὀλίγον καὶ μετὰ προθυμίας,
better that you-give little and with eagerness
παρὰ νὰ δώσῃς τὸ πολὺ καὶ νὰ τοὺς τ' ὀνειδίσῃς.
than that you-give the much and that them it you-reproach
λέγει γὰρ τοῦτο ἡ γραφή „ὅπου πτωχοὺς ξενίζει,
says for this the scripture who poor entertains
αὐτὸς ἐξένισε λοιπὸν ὡς τοῦ θεοῦ ἀγγέλους.
he entertained then as — of-God angels
ἀπ' ὅλον τὸ κατόρθωμα ἡ ἀγάπη ἔνι κρεῖττον.
than all the achievement the love is better
ἂν ἔχῃς ὅλα τὰ καλὰ καὶ λείπῃ σ' ἡ ἀγάπη,
if you-have all the goods and lacks you the love
οὐδὲν ἐποῖσες τίποτε, καὶ χάνεις εἴ τι ἐδῶκες."
not you-did anything and you-lose if anything you-gave
γνώμης ἔνι ἀληθινῆς τὸ τῆς ἀγάπης ταύτης,
of-mind is true the(-thing) of-the love this
τὸ ἔλεος εἰς τοὺς πτωχοὺς καὶ εἰς τοὺς πενομένους,
the mercy to the poor and to the needy

μετὰ τῆς ἡμερότητος καὶ γνώμης ἐλευθέρας.
with the gentleness and mind free
εἰ δὲ κἂν σὺ πτωχὸς εἶσαι, οὐκ ἔχεις τί νὰ δώσῃς,
if but even you poor are not you-have what that you-may-give
κἂν λόγον δός τον ἀγαθὸν, νὰ τὸν ἐθεραπεύσῃς·
at-least word give him good that him you-comfort
αὐτὸ σὲ δίδει τὸν μισθὸν αἰώνιον, παιδίν μου.
this to-you gives the reward eternal child my
τὰς ξένας συμφορὰς, υἱὲ, λυποῦ ὡς ἐδικάς σου,
the others' misfortunes son grieve-for as own your
χαρὰν ἵν' εὕρῃς πώποτε ὅθεν οὐκ ἀπαντέχεις.
joy that you-may-find ever whence not you-expect
ἐλεημοσύνη καθαρὰ, σὺν τῇ νηστείᾳ λέγω,
almsgiving pure with the fasting I-say
πολλοὺς ἀνθρώπους ἔσωσεν ἐξ ᾅδου τῶν κευθμώνων.
many men has-saved from of-Hades the depths
κι ἄλλον πολὺν κατόρθωμα ἐποίσεν ἡ νηστεία.
and other much achievement has-done the fasting

Each counsel now opens with "my son." Do not trust wealth, which passes like the wind, or fields that winter and drought destroy; hope in God. Marry a modest woman, not beauty or a dowry. Help poor kinsmen, love the truth, cover a friend's shame, avoid the wicked, pay hirelings more than their wage, and accept loss calmly. Never confess a crime to your wife or bribe a judge against the poor. The father commends his verses and blesses his son.

υἱέ μου, ἂν θέλῃς νὰ χαρῇς ἀμέριμνα τὸν κόσμον,
son my if you-wish that you-enjoy carefree the world
βλέπε μὴ ῥίξῃς πόθον σου εἰς χρήματα τοῦ κόσμου.
see not you-cast desire your on money of-the world
ὁ κόσμος ἓν προσωρινὸς, ἡμέραις ὑπαγαίνουν,
the world is temporary days go-by
ὁ πλοῦτος, τὸ λογάριον ὡς ἄνεμος διαβαίνει.
the wealth the money as wind passes
ἂν ἔνε ἡ ἐλπίδα σου εἰς ἀμπέλια, εἰς χωράφια,
if is the hope your in vineyards in fields
ἀπὸ χειμῶνος δυνατοῦ ἢ ἀπὸ ἀνυδρίας
from winter strong or from drought
χάνονται καὶ ξηραίνονται, χάνεις εἴ τι ἐποῖσες.
they-perish and wither you-lose if anything you-made
ὅπου εἰς πλοῦτον ἤλπισεν καὶ εἰς τὰ ἄρματά του,
who in wealth hoped and in the arms his
ἔρχεται ξένος ἄλλοθεν κι ὅπουθεν οὐκ ἐλπίζει,
comes stranger from-elsewhere and whence not he-hopes
ἐπαίρνει τα, ἐξαλείφει τα, κ' ἔρημος ἀπομένει·
takes them wipes-out them and desolate he-remains
μόνον ὁ κόπος κ' ἡ πικριὰ μὲ τοῦτον ἀπομένει.
only the toil and the bitterness with him remains

ἀμμ᾽ εἰς τὸν θεὸν τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἔχε, παιδίν μου, ἐλπίδα
but in — God of-the heaven have child my hope
ἐξ ὅλης τῆς καρδίας σου, ἐξ ὅλης σου ἰσχύος,
from all the heart your from all your strength
νὰ σὲ λυτρώσῃ ἀπὸ παντὸς κινδύνου καὶ θανάτου.
that you he-may-redeem from every danger and death
υἱέ μου, ἂν θέλῃς, κράτησον καὶ τούτην τὴν βουλήν μου·
son my if you-wish hold also this the counsel my
βλέπε μὲ τὸν αὐθέντην σου δικάσιμον μὴ κάμῃς,
see with the master your lawsuit not you-make
μὴ θυμωθῇς καὶ θλίψῃς τον, μὴ τὸν κακοκαρδίσῃς,
not grow-angry and grieve him not him embitter
καὶ χάσῃς τὴν ἀγάπην του διὰ τὴν συντυχίαν.
and lose the love his because-of the talk
ἀμμὴ ὅσον γνώθεις, ὦ υἱὲ, ὅτι ἀναιβάζει ὁ νοῦς του,
but as-far-as you-know O son that raises the mind his
συνέργει τον εἰς τὸ καλὸν, ποίησε τὴν τιμήν του.
help him in the good do the honor his
υἱέ μου, μὴ περιπλακῇς γυνὴν δι᾽ εὐμορφάδα,
son my not embrace woman for beauty
ἢ διὰ χρήματα πολλὰ, ἢ διὰ εὐγενείαν.
or for money much or for nobility
ἰδὲς πρῶτον, ἐρεύνησον καὶ κατασκόπευσέ την,
see first search and spy-out her
κι ἂν ἔνε καλυπόληπτη καὶ θέλῃ τὴν τιμήν σου,
and if she-is of-good-repute and wishes the honor your
ἐκείνην ἔπαρε, υἱὲ, ἔχε την ’ς τὴν τιμήν σου.
her take son have her in the honor your
εἰ δ᾽ ἔχει τέχνην, ἄπεχε, ἂν ἔχῃ καὶ λογάριν·
if but she-has craft keep-away if she-has even money

διαβαίνει τὸ λογάριον, καὶ σὺ τὸ πάθος ἔχεις,
passes the money and you the suffering have
πάντοτε δὲ καὶ ὅσον ζῇς, ἐσὺ τὸ πάθος ἔχεις.
always and also as-long-as you-live you the suffering have
κάλλιον λάβε σιγαλὴν, νὰ θέλῃ τὴν τιμήν σου,
better take quiet(-woman) that she-wish the honor your
κι ἂς ἔχῃ χρῆμα ’λιγοστὸν καὶ πράγματα ὀλίγα.
and let she-have money scanty and goods few
καὶ ἂν σοῦ δώσῃ ὁ θεὸς ἀπ’ τὰ καλὰ τοῦ κόσμου,
and if to-you gives — God of the goods of-the world
βλέπε, πτωχόν σου συγγενὴν μὴ τὸν περιφρονήσῃς,
see poor your kinsman not him despise
ἀλλὰ μᾶλλον βοήθει τον ἀπὸ τὴν δύναμίν σου,
but rather help him from the power your
νὰ σ’ ἔχῃ χάριν ὁ θεὸς, νὰ πληθυνθῇ ἡ τιμή σου.
that you may-hold(-in) favor — God that may-be-increased the honor your
υἱέ μου, ἀγάπα τοὺς πτωχοὺς καὶ πόθει τὴν τιμήν σου,
son my love the poor and desire the honor your
ἀγάπα τὴν ἀλήθειαν, θεὸς γὰρ τοῦτο θέλει.
love the truth God for this wants
λόγον ἂν ξεύρῃς ἀληθῆ, μὴ τὸν ποιήσῃς ψέμαν.
word if you-know true not it make lie
ἂν ποιήσῃ ὁ φίλος σου τίποτ’ εἰς ἐντροπήν του,
if does the friend your anything to shame his
καὶ πέσῃ, ὅσον ἂν ’μπορῇς, κρύψε τὴν ἐντροπήν του,
and falls as-much-as — you-can hide the shame his
συνέργησέ τον εἰς καλὸν, σκόπει ὡς ἐδικόν σου,
help him to good watch(-him) as own your
ἀγάπα τον, ὁρμήνευσον ὡς νὰ ἦτον συγγενής σου.
love him advise(-him) as that he-were kinsman your

βλέπε, υἱέ μου, πονηροῖς ποτὲ μὴ συγκαθίσῃς,
see son my with-the-wicked ever not sit-together
καὶ συντροφεύσῃς καὶ χαρῇς μετὰ αὐτοὺς μηδόλως,
and keep-company and rejoice with them not-at-all
ὅτι κακοὶ καὶ πονηροὶ πάντοτε ζῆλον ἔχουν,
for bad and wicked always envy have
καὶ πάντα μαίνονται πολλὰ ὅπου καλὸν ἀκούσουν.
and always they-rage much where good they-hear
υἱέ μου, μὲ τὸν φίλον σου καὶ μὲ τὸν γείτονά σου
son my with the friend your and with the neighbor your
μὴ δικαστῇς καὶ θλίψῃς τον, μὴ τὸν κακοκαρδίσῃς.
not go-to-law and grieve him not him embitter
ἂν τύχῃ καὶ ἂν ἔπεσεν αὐτὸς ἢ ἐδικός του,
if it-happens and if fell he or own his
τὸ σώζεις ποῖσε εἰς αὐτὸν ἢ τίποτ᾽ ἄλλον πλέον,
what you-can do for him or anything other more
καὶ κήδευσέ τον, ὦ υἱὲ, καὶ νὰ τὸν ἔχῃς φίλον,
and care-for him O son and that him you-have friend
οὕτως νὰ ζῇς εἰρηνικὰ, νὰ χαίρεσαι τὰ πάντα.
so that you-live peacefully that you-enjoy the all
ἂν ἔχῃς μισταργόν τινα ἢ καὶ ὑποταγάτον,
if you-have hireling any or also servant
καὶ συνταγῇς τον τίποτες, μηδὲν τοῦ τὸ κρατήσῃς,
and you-promise him anything not from-him it withhold
οὐχὶ μόνον τὴν ῥόγαν του, ἀλλὰ φιλοτιμίαν,
not only the wage his but bounty
μὴ λάβῃς κρίμα, ὦ υἱὲ, διὰ ταὐτὸν δουλοῦται
not take sin O son for the-same he-serves
καὶ βάνει καὶ τὴν σάρκαν του εἰς κίνδυνον διὰ σένα.
and puts even the flesh his in danger for you

υἱέ μου, ἂν χάσῃς τίποτε παρὰ καιρόν σου πρᾶγμα,
son my if you-lose any out-of season your thing
νὰ μὴ θλιβῇς καὶ λυπηθῇς μηδὲ κακοκαρδίσῃς.
that not you-be-afflicted and grieve nor lose-heart
ὁ κόσμος οὕτως ἔχει το ***
the world thus has it (lacuna)
ἄλλος ὑψόνετ' ὑψηλὰ καὶ ἄλλος χαμηλόνει.
one is-raised high and another is-lowered
ἀγάπα τὴν πρᾳότητα καὶ πόθει τὴν ἀλήθειαν,
love the gentleness and desire the truth
βλέπε νὰ μὴ δικάζεσαι μὲ φίλον ἢ πλησίον.
see that not you-go-to-law with friend or neighbor
ἀπὸ γὰρ λόγου ἀγαθοῦ πληθύνετ' ἡ φιλία,
from for word good grows the friendship
καὶ πάλιν μεταστρέφεται διὰ λόγου εἰς ἔχθραν.
and again is-turned through word to enmity
υἱέ μου, ἂν ἔχῃς χρήματα καὶ πλούσιος ἂν ἦσαι,
son my if you-have money and rich if you-are
βλέπε πτωχὸν καὶ πένητα μὴ τὸν περιφρονήσῃς,
see poor and needy not him despise
ὅτι ὁ χρόνος ὡς τροχὸς γουργὸς ὑπογυρίζει,
for the time like wheel quickly turns-round
φέρνει τὸν πλούσιον εἰς πενιὰν καὶ τὸν πτωχὸν εἰς πλοῦτον.
brings the rich to poverty and the poor to wealth
υἱέ μου, βλέπε μὴ ἀρνηθῇς, βλέπε μὴ ἀλησμονήσῃς
son my see not you-deny see not you-forget
τὴν χάριταν καὶ τὸ καλὸν τὸ ἐδέχθης ἀπὸ φίλους·
the favor and the good which you-received from friends
ἂς ἔνε, ὅσον ἠμπορεῖς, ἡ χάριτά σου πλέον.
let be as-much-as you-can the favor your more

βλέπε, ἂν τύχῃς πούποτε κ' ἰδῇς καλήτερόν σου,
see if you-happen anywhere and see better(-man) than-you
προτίμησέ τον πρόθυμα, καλοχαιρέτησέ τον,
honor him readily greet him
καὶ ἀναβαίνει ὁ ἔπαινος, πληθύνετ' ἡ τιμή σου.
and rises the praise grows the honor your
υἱέ μου, ἂς ἦσαι ἐντροπαλὸς, βλέπε μὴ συντυχαίνῃς·
son my let you-be modest see not you-chatter
ὅταν θελήσῃς νὰ εἰπῇς, βλέπε τί συντυχαίνεις,
when you-wish that you-speak see what you-say
τὸν λόγον σου ἀληθινὸν, καλὴν τὴν συντυχιάν σου,
the word your true good the talk your
καὶ ἀπὸ λόγους τοὺς καλοὺς νἄχῃς τιμὴν, υἱέ μου.
and from words the good that-you-have honor son my
ἂν σὲ καὶ ἔδωκεν ὁ θεὸς τέχνην, υἱὲ, νὰ ξεύρῃς,
if to-you also gave — God craft son that you-know
υἱὲ, μὴ τὴν καταφρονῇς, νὰ μὴ τὴν ἀθετήσῃς.
son not it despise that not it you-neglect
συνέργα πάντα τὸ καλὸν, δεῖχνε τὴν φρόνεσίν σου.
help always the good show the prudence your
υἱὲ, δικάσιμον πολλῶν χρονῶν μὴ ἀναφέρῃς,
son lawsuit of-many years not bring-up
καὶ φέρῃς εἰς ἐνθύμησιν πολλῶν χρονῶν κακίαν.
and bring to remembrance of-many years malice
υἱέ μου, ἂν ἦσαι δυνατὸς κ' ἔχῃς πολλὴν ἀνδρείαν,
son my if you-are strong and have much courage
βλέπε, μικρὸν κι ἀδύνατον μὴ τὸν καταφρονήσῃς.
see small and weak not him despise
πολλάκις διὰ τέχνης γὰρ μηχανικῆς, υἱέ μου,
often by craft for cunning son my

τὴν δύναμίν σου χάνεις την ὅλην, ὅσην ἂν ἔχῃς.
the power your you-lose it all as-much-as — you-have
βλέπε, υἱέ μου, μὴ συνταγῇς μηδὲ χαρίσῃς πρᾶγμα,
see son my not promise nor give thing
τὸ οὐκ ἔχεις ’ς τὸ χέριν σου, τὸ δὲν ἐξουσιάζεις,
which not you-have in the hand your which not you-control
τὸν φίλον θεραπεύεις τον μὲ λόγον ***
the friend you-serve him with word (lacuna)
καὶ φαίνεσ’ ἀνυπόληπτος, λογίζουνταί σε ψεύτην.
and you-appear disreputable they-reckon you liar
υἱέ μου, ἂν σ’ ἔθλιψεν ὁ θεὸς κ’ ἔχασες ἐδικόν σου,
son my if you afflicted — God and you-lost own your
μὴ βλασφημήσῃς εἰς θεὸν καὶ ἔχῃς πλεὸν τὸ κρίμα,
not blaspheme against God and have more the sin
ὅτι ἐκεῖνος ἔχει το πάλιν νὰ τ’ ἀντιμέψῃ.
for he has it again that it he-repay
υἱέ μου, βλέπε μὴ ποθῇς ν’ ἐπάρῃς διὰ λόγων
son my see not desire that you-take by words
τὴν ἀφορμὴν καὶ ν’ ἀδικῇς εἰς τοῦτο ***
the occasion and that you-wrong in this (lacuna)
βλέπε καὶ θάνατόν τινος μὴ τὸν παρακαλέσῃς,
see also death of-someone not it pray-for
νὰ ὑποτάξῃς τὸ πρᾶγμά του νὰ λάβῃς τ’ ἐδικόν του,
that you-take-hold-of the property his that you-take the own his
διότι ὁ θάνατος κοινὸς τῶν πάντων ἔνε, υἱέ μου,
because the death common of-the all is son my
καὶ λάχῃ κ’ ἔρθῃ κ’ εἰς ἐσὲν τὸ παρακαλεῖς ἄλλον.
and it-chances and comes also to you what you-pray-for another
υἱέ μου, κρῖνε πάντοτε ἐξ ὧν ξεύρεις ἀλήθειαν,
son my judge always from what you-know truth

δι᾽ ἔχθραν, διὰ σκάνδαλον τὸ δίκαιον μὴ παρακρίνῃς.
for enmity for scandal the just not misjudge
υἱέ μου, βλέπε, μὴ ποθῇς τοῦ κόσμου τούτου πλοῦτον·
son my see not desire of-the world this wealth
τὸ γὰρ λογάριν φέρνει σε εἰς πολλὴν ἀντιμαχίαν
the for money brings you into much strife
καὶ ζῆλον ὑπεράπειρον, μᾶλλον εἰς ἀδικίαν·
and envy boundless rather into injustice
ἀμμὴ εἰς ὅσον σ᾽ ἔδωκεν ὁ θεὸς νὰ ὑποτάξῃς,
but in as-much-as to-you gave — God that you-hold
βλέπε νὰ ζῇς εἰρηνικὰ καὶ νὰ χαρῇς τὸν κόσμον.
see that you-live peacefully and that you-enjoy the world
υἱέ μου, ἂν ἦσαι πλούσιος κ᾽ ἔχῃς πτωχὸν πλησίον,
son my if you-are rich and have poor neighbor
μηδὲν τὸν ὑπερηφανῇς, μὴ τὸν καταφρονήσῃς,
not him treat-proudly not him despise
διατί ἔνε πάνυ ἀδύνατος νὰ δικαστῇ μ᾽ ἐσένα.
because he-is very powerless that he-go-to-law with you
υἱέ μου, εἴ τι ἔπταισες, ἂν ἔποικες καὶ φόνον,
son my if anything you-erred if you-did even murder
σκόπησον τὴν γυναῖκάν σου μηδὲν τὸ ‘μολογήσῃς,
watch the wife your not it confess
μὴ τύχῃ καὶ μαλώσῃς την καὶ εἰς ἐσὲν χολιάσῃ,
not it-happen and you-quarrel-with her and at you she-be-angered
καὶ βάλῃ σε εἰς κίνδυνον εὔκολα τοῦ θανάτου.
and put you into danger easily of-the death
πρόσεχε, βλέπε ἀκριβῶς ὅλον μὴ κατακρίνῃς
take-care see exactly wholly not condemn
εἰς πρᾶγμα τὸ ἐποίησες, καὶ πάλιν πολεμεῖς το.
in thing which you-did and again you-do it

μηδ᾽ ἀριθμήσῃς τί λαλοῦν τινὲς διὰτ ἐσένα,
nor count what say some about you
ἢ πῶς διάγουσίν τινες ἢ πῶς διάγει ὁ κόσμος.
or how live some or how lives the world
ἰδὲς κι ἂν ἔφαγες, υἱὲ, ξένου τινός τι πρᾶγμα,
see and if you-ate son of-stranger some any thing
μᾶλλον κι ἂν τὸ ἐξώδιασες ***
especially and if it you-spent (lacuna)
πρόσεχε εἰς τὸν λόγον σου μηδὲν ἀντιλογήσῃς,
take-care in the word your not gainsay
διατί οὐκ ἔχεις μάρτυραν, σημεῖον δι᾽ ἐκεῖνο,
because not you-have witness sign for that
μὴ σφάλῃς εἰς τὴν πίστιν σου κ᾽ ἔβγῃς ἐκ τὴν ἀλήθειαν.
not err in the faith your and depart from the truth
ὅρκον μὴ ποίσῃς πρὸς αὐτὸν, βλέπε μὴ ᾽φιορκήσῃς,
oath not make to him see not perjure
ὅτι ἀρνᾶσαι τὴν ψυχὴν κ᾽ εἶσαι κατακριμένος.
for you-deny the soul and you-are condemned
καὶ μὲ πτωχὸν καὶ ταπεινὸν ὑπόθεσιν ἂν ἔχῃς,
and with poor and humble lawsuit if you-have
μὴ δώσῃς δῶρον αὐθεντοῦ, κριτὴν μὴ ποίσῃς φίλον,
not give gift to-lord judge not make friend
νὰ ἀδικήσῃς τὸν πτωχὸν, νὰ πάρῃς τ᾽ ἐδικόν του,
that you-wrong the poor that you-take the own his
ὅτι ὁ πτωχὸς οὐ δύναται οὐδὲ λογάριν ἔχει
for the poor not can nor money has
νὰ τ᾽ ἀποδώσῃ τὸν κριτὴν νὰ κρίνῃ τὴν ἀλήθειαν,
that it he-give-back to-the judge that he-judge the truth
μόνον τὸν θεὸν ἐπικαλεῖ νὰ κρίνῃ τὴν ἀλήθειαν.
only — God he-calls-upon that he-judge the truth

εὔλογος ἔνε ὁ κριτὴς διὰ τὴν ἀλήθειάν του,
reasonable is the judge for the truth his
καὶ διὰ τοῦτο πρόσεχε ***
and because-of this take-care (lacuna)
καὶ χωρὶς δῶρον τίποτε, χωρὶς φιλοτιμίαν.
and without gift any without bounty
υἱέ μου, τὄχεις πρόσεχε πῶς νὰ τὸ ἐξοδιάσῃς,
son my what-you-have take-care how that it you-spend
καὶ κτῆσαί το εἰς ἔπαινον πλέον διὰ τὴν ψυχήν σου,
and acquire it for praise more for the soul your
μὴ τ' ἐξοδιάσῃς ἀπρεπῶς εἰς πορνοκαπηλεῖα
not it spend unfittingly on brothel-taverns
καὶ λάβῃς ψόγον ἐκ πολλῶν καὶ φέρῃς ἀτιμίαν,
and receive blame from many and bring dishonor
καὶ θλίψῃς φίλους, συγγενεῖς, πάντας καλοὺς ἀνθρώπους,
and grieve friends kinsmen all good men
ἀλλ' εἰς καλὸν τὸ ἐξόδιαζε φίλων καὶ συγγενῶν σου,
but on good it spend of-friends and kinsmen your
κρεῖττον εἰς ἐκκλησίας τε καὶ εἰς τοὺς φιλοχρίστους.
better on churches both and on the Christ-lovers
οὕτως νὰ ζῇς εἰρηνικῶς, νὰ σ' ἀγαποῦν οἱ πάντες,
so that you-live peacefully that you they-love the all
νὰ σ' ἔχῃ χάριν ὁ θεὸς, πάντα νὰ σὲ πληθαίνῃ.
that you may-hold(-in) favor — God always that you he-increase
υἱέ μου, πάντα πρόσεχε, βουλὴν ἂν σὲ ζητήσουν,
son my always take-care counsel if you they-ask
ἐξ ὧν ἠξεύρεις βούλευε ἀληθινὰ νὰ λέγῃς,
from what you-know counsel truly that you-speak
τὸ κρεῖττον κατασκόπευσον, μὴ νὰ εἰς καλὸν τὸ φέρει.
the better examine not that to good it brings

λέγε τὸ δίκαιον καλὸν, πάντα συνέργησέ το,
say the just good always help it
τὸ δὲ εἰς βλάβην καὶ κακὸν πάντα περίκοπτέ το·
the but for harm and evil always cut-off it
καὶ γὰρ ὁ δίκαιος θεὸς ζητεῖ δικαίαν κρίσιν,
and for the just God seeks just judgment
ὁπῶ ’νε δίκαιος κριτὴς καὶ κρίνει τὴν ἀλήθειαν.
who is just judge and judges the truth
καὶ ὁ θεὸς τὸν δίκαιον κριτὴν καλῶς τὸν κρίνει,
and — God the just judge well him judges
καὶ τὸν ψεύτην καὶ ἄδικον κακῶς τὸν κατακρίνει.
and the liar and unjust badly him condemns
υἱέ μου, τοὺς δουλεύοντας καὶ τοὺς οἰκιακούς σου
son my the serving(-ones) and the household your
ἀγάπα τους καὶ τίμα τους, δίδε καὶ χάριζέ τους·
love them and honor them give and bestow-on them
εἰ δὲ χαρίζουν τίποτες, μηδὲν τοὺς τὸ κρατήσῃς
if but they-give anything not from-them it withhold
νὰ σὲ κρατοῦσιν εὐθυνὸν ὅσοι καὶ ἂν τ’ ἀκούσουν,
that you they-hold upright as-many-as even — it hear
ἂν χρῄζῃς καὶ βοήθειαν πάντα νὰ σὲ βοηθοῦσιν,
if you-need also help always that you they-help

ὅσον κι ἂν δύνωνται, υἱὲ, μὲ τὴν καλογνωμιάν σου·
as-much-as even — they-can son with the good-will your
πάντα σὲ θέλει βοηθᾶ εἰς ὄφελόν σου μέγα.
always you will help to profit your great
νὰ τοὺς εὑρῇς ὡς θησαυρὸν τοὺς στίχους μου, παιδίν μου,
that them you-find as treasure the verses my child my
ὁ κύριος φυλάττοι σε, νὰ ἔχῃς τὴν εὐχήν μου.
the Lord may-keep you that you-have the blessing my

ΠΟΥΛΟΛΟΓΟΣ

The Book of Birds

I · THE EAGLE'S WEDDING

The eagle, king of the birds, holds a feast for his son's wedding, and the birds bring their quarrels to the table. The stork mocks the swan, who calls him a coppersmith who ate his deposit. The pelican insults the bustard; she calls him oven-mouthed. The heron mocks the crane as a monk; the crane calls him a beggar who dies in the snow. The gull mocks the goose; she calls him a galley-slave who gambled away his clothes.

Ἀετὸς ὁ μέγας βασιλεὺς ἁπάντων τῶν ὀρνέων
Eagle the great king of-all of-the birds
κλητούριν εἶχεν καὶ χαρὰν καὶ γάμον τοῦ υἱοῦ του,
feast had and celebration and wedding of-the son his
τὸ πλῆθος ὅλον τῶν ὀρνεῶν εἶχέν το καλεσμένον.
the multitude whole of-the birds he-had it invited
ἐφάγασιν καὶ ἔπιασιν εἰς τὴν χαρὰν ἐκείνην,
they-ate and they-drank at the celebration that
ἤφεραν καὶ δικάσιμον ἀπάνω εἰς τὸ τραπέζιν.
they-brought also lawsuit up to the table
ὅλων ἐμπρὸς ὁ πελαργὸς περιγελᾷ τὸν κύκνον.
of-all before the stork mocks the swan
„εἰπέ με, κύκνε ἀσούσουμε καὶ μακροσφονδυλάτε,
tell me swan plain and long-necked
μελανοπόδα, ἀγριόφωνε καὶ λιμνοαναθρεμμένε,
black-footed harsh-voiced and marsh-bred
καὶ παντελῶς κακότυχε, τ' ἤθελες εἰς τὸν γάμον;
and utterly ill-starred what did-you-want at the wedding
νὰ κηλαδῇς δὲν ἠμπορεῖς, νὰ παίζῃς οὐκ ἠξεύρεις,
that you-sing not you-can that you-play not you-know
καὶ μόνον ἦλθες, ἄτυχε, φοβέριστρον ὁμοιάζεις."
and only you-came wretch scarecrow you-resemble

καὶ ταῦτα ὁ κύκνος στρέφεται 'ς τὸν πελαργὸν καὶ λέγει
and these(-things) the swan turns to the stork and says
„ἐμὲν τὰ λέγεις, ἐλεεινὲ, χαλκέα, κωπηλάτα,
me them you-say pitiful smith rower
ὁποῦ ἔφας τὴν ἐνθήκην σου, τὸ στάμενον τὸ ξένον;
who ate the deposit your the stater the other's
καὶ τώρα ηὑρίσκεις, ἄτυχε, ὁκάπου παλαιοκάρφια,
and now you-find wretch somewhere old-nails
κι ἀπ' ὁρμησιὰν εἰς ὁρμησιὰν ὑπάγεις καὶ καθίζεις,
and from mooring to mooring you-go and settle
τάχα νὰ στήσῃς, ἄτυχε, τὸ στάμενον τὸ ξένον;
as-if that you-set-up wretch the stater the other's
ἐγὼ, κι ἂν ἤσουν ἔμορφον ὡς τὰ πουλιὰ τοῦ κόσμου,
I and if you-were handsome as the birds of-the world
τὴν μέμψιν, τὴν μὲ ἔκαμες, οὐ μὴ τὴν ἐβαρέθην.
the blame which to-me you-made not — it I-would-have-minded
ἀμμὴ εἶσαι καὶ πανάσχημον ὡς τὰ πουλιὰ τοῦ κόσμου,
but you-are also all-ugly as the birds of-the world
κι ὀρέγεσαι νὰ μέφεσαι κ' ἐγὼ νὰ σ' ἐγκωμιάζω.
and you-desire that you-blame and I that you I-praise
τζαφαροσκέλη πελαργὲ, καμηλοπερπατάρη,
crooked-legged stork camel-walker
γριζόθωρε, γριζόφορε, πουλὶν δρεπανομύτιν,
gray-faced gray-clad bird sickle-beaked
ὅλως τολμᾷς, περιγελᾷς τὸν λευκοφόρον κύκνον,
wholly you-dare you-mock the white-clad swan
τὸν στέργουσιν οἱ βασιλεῖς καὶ τ' ἀρχοντόπουλά τους;
whom love the kings and the noble-children their
ἐσὺ τζαγγάρης ἄχρηστος ὁμοιάζεις βρωμιάρης,
you shoemaker useless you-resemble stinker

χαλκωματᾶ, πάλιν εἰπεῖν, τὸν μυριομουτζωμένον·
coppersmith again to-say the thousand-smudged
καὶ σὺ τολμᾷς, κατηγορεῖς χρυσόγερον τὸν κύκνον;“
and you dare accuse gold-old the swan
Ἐκεῖνα οὐκ ἐσίγησαν τὴν ὄχλησιν τὴν εἶχαν,
Those not fell-silent the uproar which they-had
καὶ ὁ πουκάνος ἤρξατο ὑβρίζειν τὴν ὠτίδα.
and the pelican began to-insult the bustard
„ἦλθες, κύρ᾽ οἰκοδέσποινα, καὶ σὺ ἐδῶ ’ς τὸν γάμον,
you-came lady housewife also you here to the wedding
κ᾽ ἔκατσες ὡς κουβουκλαρεὰ μετὰ παντὸς ὀρνέου,
and sat as bridal-attendant with every bird
μωρὴ κοπελοῤῥίκτουσα λειβαδοαναθρεμμένη,
silly child-casting meadow-bred
τζαμπουνομύτρια, τζαμπεροῦ καὶ φουστανοφοροῦσα,
bagpipe-snouted jacketed and skirt-wearing
σπασμένη καὶ πανάτσαλη, μὲ τὸν πηλὸν χρισμένη;
broken and all-slovenly with the mud smeared
ἂν οὐκ ἠγέρθης τὸ γουργὸν νὰ ἐπάρῃς τὰς ποδεάς σου,
if not you-get-up the quickly that you-take the skirts your
αὐτὰς τὰς κακομάζωχτας, κ᾽ ἐπάρῃς νὰ ὑπαγαίνῃς,
these the ill-gathered and take-off that you-go
τώρα νὰ ἰδῇς καὶ πλεότερον τὸ τί σὲ θέλω κάμει.
now that you-see even more the what you I-will do
ἦλθες, βρωμοῦσα τζαμπεροῦ, εἰς ἀτιμιὰν τοῦ γάμου.“
you-came stinking jacketed to dishonor of-the wedding
στρέφεται, βλέπει ἡ ὠτὶς πάλιν τὸν καπουκάνον
turns looks the bustard again at-the pelican
καὶ λέγει τον „φουρνόστομε, τίναν τὰ συντυχαίνεις;
and says to-him oven-mouth whom them you-chatter

βρωμόστομε, βρωμόχνωτε, τί ἓν τὸ λαλεῖς καὶ λέγεις;
stink-mouth stink-breathed what is which you-chatter and say
ἐσὺ ὁποῦ τρῷς ἐκ τὸ πουρνὸν ὁλώματους ἰχθύας,
you who eat from the morning whole fish
ὡς τὸ δισάκκιν τὰ χαλᾷς κι ὡς τὸ ταρπὶν τὰ ῥίπτεις.
as the saddlebag them you-let-down and as the net them you-throw
ὁμοιάζουσιν ἡ σάρκες σου τρέμουλα τῆς θαλάσσης,
resemble the flesh your quiverings of-the sea
ὁμοιάζεις καὶ τὸν σφόνδυλον τοῦ φούρνου, φουρνοκόπην.
you-resemble also the vertebra of-the oven oven-cutter
πάντως κακομουζάκωτε, τὰ κρέη σου οὐ τρώγουν,
surely ill-snouted the meats your not they-eat
ἐξῶν μόνον οἱ μέρμιγκοι κ' ἡ σκύλα τοῦ τζαγγάρη·
except only the ants and the bitch of-the shoemaker
καὶ σὺ τολμᾷς, κατηγορᾷς τὴν ὠτίδαν τὴν γραῖαν,
and you dare accuse the bustard the old
ὁποῦ μὲ τρώγουν βασιλεῖς καὶ τ' ἀρχοντόπουλά τους;
which me eat kings and the noble-children their
πάλιν τ' αὐγά μου θέλουσιν ἡ εὐγενίδες ὅλαις.
again the eggs my want the noblewomen all
σώπασε, κακοτύχερε, γεράκιν ξερασμένον,
be-silent ill-fortuned hawk vomited-up
ἀνάζηβε τοῦ παρναβᾶ, μὲ τ' ἄχρηστον δερμάτιν,
(obscure) of-the (obscure) with the useless little-hide
κι ἀποθηκάριν τοῦ Μωσὲ γιομάτον κιλινέας,
and storehouse — of-Moses full of-hernias
κι ἁπλῶς ἀσκὶν βρωμιάρικον, τίποτε μὴ λαλήσῃς."
and simply wineskin stinking anything not speak

Ἐκεῖνα οὐκ ἐσίγησαν τὴν ὄχλησιν τὴν εἶχαν,
Those not fell-silent the uproar which they-had
καὶ ὁ τζικνέας ἤρξατο τὸν γέρανον ὑβρίζειν
and the heron began the crane to-insult
„χαρὰ ’ς τον τὸν καλόγερον ποῦ ἦλθεν εἰς τὸν γάμον
joy to him the monk who came to the wedding
μὲ τὸν μακρὸν τὸν σφόνδυλον καὶ τὸ πολὺν καμάριν,
with the long the neck and the much pride
κουναυλοπόδης, ἄβραστος, μὲ τὰς μαύρας τὰς κάλτσας.
reed-footed unboiled with the black the stockings
εἰπέ με, καλογέρανε, τ’ ἤθελες εἰς τὸν γάμον
tell me monk-crane what did-you-want at the wedding
μὲ τὸν μακρὺν τὸν σφόνδυλον, μὲ τὸ πολὺν καμάρι;
with the long the neck with the much pride
ὡς καπιτρούλιον σκοπᾷς, θέλεις ἰδοὺ νὰ ἔχῃς,
as hood you-see you-want behold that you-have
καὶ εἶσαι καμηλόῤῥαχος, καμηλοπερπατάρης.
and you-are camel-backed camel-walker
ὅταν σὲ φθάσῃ ὁ αὐθέντης σου, ἀνάσκελα μοῦ πέφτεις,
when you catches the master your on-your-back for-me you-fall
καὶ τάχα μὲ τοὺς πόδας σου θέλεις νὰ βοηθᾶσαι.
and as-if with the feet your you-want that you-help(-yourself)
λοιπὸν ἀνάστα, ταπεινὲ, καὶ φύγε ἐκ τὸν γάμον,
then get-up humble and flee from the wedding
μελανομακροθώρετε, Σαρακηνὲ κουτρούλη.“
black-long-gazing Saracen baldhead
εὐθὺς γυρίζει ὁ γέρανος καὶ λέγει τὸν τζικνέα
at-once turns the crane and says to-the heron
„ἐμὲν τὰ λέγεις, ἐλεεινὲ χαλκέα, κωπηλάτα,
me them you-say pitiful smith rower

πούφαγες τὴν ἐνθήκην σου, τὸ στάμενον τὸ ξένον,
who-ate the deposit your the stater the other's
κι ἀπ' ὁρμησιὰν εἰς ὁρμησιὰν ὑπάγεις καὶ καθίζεις,
and from mooring to mooring you-go and settle
πάλιν εἰς τ' ἀκρουτήρια καὶ εἰς τὸ παραγιάλιν,
again on the headlands and on the seashore
τάχα νὰ στήσῃς, ἄτυχε, τὸ στάμενον τὸ ξένον;
as-if that you-set-up wretch the stater the other's
ψέμα οὐ λέγω, ἄρχοντες, καὶ σεῖς νὰ τὸ θωρῆτε,
lie not I-tell lords and you that it see
πῶς ἀνατρέχει τὸν γιαλὸν καὶ τὰ καρφιὰ γυρεύει,
how he-runs-along the shore and the nails seeks
κι ὅταν πετάσῃ, βλέπετε, 's τὸν κῶλον τὸ βαστάζει,
and when he-flies you-see on the backside it he-carries
τὸ εἶχεν εἰς τ' ἐργαστήριν του ἐκεῖνον τὸ ξυλάβιν.
which he-had in the workshop his that the wooden-plate
κι ἐμένα πῶς ἐτόλμησας καὶ συκοφάντησές με,
and me how did-you-dare and slandered me
τὸν τρώγουσιν οἱ βασιλεῖς μετὰ πολλοῦ τοῦ πόθου,
whom eat the kings with much the longing
καὶ τρώγουσιν τὰ ἄκρη μου οἱ ἄρχοντες κρασάτα.
and eat the extremities my the lords wine-stewed
μὰ τὴν ἀλήθειαν τὴν πολλὴν θέλω νὰ σὲ ὑβρίσω,
by the truth the much I-want that you I-insult
καὶ πάλιν, κακορρίζικε, θέλω νὰ σ' ὀνειδίσω.
and again ill-starred I-want that you I-reproach
ἐκ τὴν ἀγούζαν ῥαγουζοῦ ὁμοιάζεις καὶ δισάκκιν.
from the (obscure) Ragusan you-resemble and saddlebag
κι ἀπ' τὴν πικριὰν τὴν εἶχές την καὶ πεῖναν, ταπεινέ μου,
and from the bitterness which you-had it and hunger humble my

πάντ' εἰς 'κρωτήριν περπατεῖς, τὰ ξενόρια βλέπεις,
always on headland you-walk the foreign(-ships) you-watch
κι ἂν τύχῃ ὁκάπου, ἄτυχε, νὰ πιάσῃς βελονίδα,
and if it-chance somewhere wretch that you-catch needlefish
ἐκείνην ἔχεις, ἄτυχε, καὶ πρόγεμαν καὶ δεῖπνον.
that you-have wretch both breakfast and supper
εἰ δὲ χιονίσει δυνατὰ καὶ τἃ νερὰ παγώσουν,
if and it-snows strongly and the waters freeze
ἀπέκαμες, κακότυχε, καὶ γίνεις κατευχίτης,
you-are-worn-out ill-starred and become beggar
κι ἀπ' ἐκκλησιὰν εἰς ἐκκλησιὰν ὑπάγεις καὶ καθίζεις.
and from church to church you-go and settle
κ' ἡ νύκτ' ἐκείνη οὐκ ἔχει σε, ψοφᾷς, πτωχὲ, καὶ πίπτεις,
and the night that not holds you you-perish poor and fall
εὑρίσκουν σε τὰ κοπελιὰ, δένουν σε μὲ τὸ ῥάμμα,
find you the children tie you with the thread
καὶ τὸ χωριὸν γυρίζουν σε, κι ἀλλοὶ εἰς τὴν θανήν σου.
and the village they-turn you and woe to the death your
καὶ σὺ τολμᾷς, ὑβρίζεις με, παλαιοξερασμένε;"
and you dare insult me old-vomited

Καὶ ταῦτα οὐκ ἐσίγησαν τὴν ταραχὴν τὴν εἶχαν,
And they not fell-silent the turmoil which they-had
κι ὁ γλάρος ἐπεχείρησεν ὑβρίζειν τὸ χηνάρι.
and the gull undertook to-insult the goose
„χαρὰ 's τὴν χῆνα τὴν καλὴν, τὴν χῆνα τὴν μουσούρα,
joy to the goose the good the goose the snouted
ὁποῦ φορεῖ τὴν τζαπεροῦ τὴν ἀνασκουμπωμένην,
who wears the jacket the tucked-up

κι ὀπίσω εἰς τὸν κῶλόν της πουγγὶ καὶ νὰ βαστάζῃ
and behind on the backside her purse also that she-carry
νὰ γέμῃ νέματα ψιλὰ τἄκλεψεν τὴν κερά της,
that it-be-full-of threads fine which-she-stole-from the mistress her
ποῦ ἦλθεν κ' ἐπεγύρισεν κ' ἔκατσεν εἰς τὸ μέσον
who came and turned-round and sat in the middle
εἰς τὴν χαρὰν κ' εἰς τὸν παστὸν κ' εἰς τὸν ἐξαίσιον γάμον.
at the feast and at the bridal-bed and at the splendid wedding
ἐγείρου, φύγε τὸ γουργὸν, φύγε ἀπαὶ τὸν γάμον,
get-up flee the quickly flee from the wedding
ἐγείρου, κακομούσουρε καὶ παρεξιππασμένη,
get-up ill-snouted and over-ridden
χορδομουντσοῦνα, τζαμπεροῦ, φύγε ἀπὸ τὴν μέσην."
gut-snouted jacketed flee from the middle
γυρίζει ἡ χῆνα μὲ θυμὸν καὶ λέγει πρὸς τὸν γλάρον
turns the goose with anger and says to the gull
„τζεφρὲ, τζεφρῖτα, μυσταργὲ δελφίνου θαλασσίου,
(obscure) (obscure) hireling of-dolphin sea
καὶ θαλασσοκοπάνιστε, πάλιν βραχοδαρμένε,
and sea-pounded again rock-beaten
ὡς ψωμοζήτης τὸν 'γιαλὸν διαβαίνεις καὶ γυρίζεις
as bread-beggar the shore you-pass and turn
πτῶμα νὰ παρηγορηθῇς τὴν πεῖνά σου τὴν τόσην.
carcass that you-be-consoled the hunger your the so-great
εἰ δὲ πολλάκις οὐκ εὑρῇς πτῶμα νὰ φᾷς εἰς κόρον,
if and perhaps not you-find carcass that you-eat to satiety
ἐγέρνεσαι, σηκόνεσαι κ' εἰς τὸ βουνὶν ὑπάγεις
you-get-up you-rise and to the mountain go
καὶ σκούληκας προγεύεσαι, σκανθάρους γεματίζεις,
and worms you-breakfast-on beetles you-fill-up-on

πολλάκις ὡς σ' ἐγνώρισα καὶ χρόνους τοὺς σ' ἐξεύρω.
often as you I-knew and years the(-ones) you I-know
οἱ πάντες ὡς σὲ οἴδασιν, λέγουν γαλιότης εἶσαι,
the all as you they-know they-say galley-slave you-are
ἔπαιξας καὶ τὰ ῥοῦχά σου καὶ 'χάσες τα 's τ' ἀζάριν,
you-gambled also the clothes your and lost them at the dice
καὶ μόνον τὸ 'ποκάμισο αὗτ' ἔχεις καὶ φορένεις.
and only the shirt this you-have and wear
καὶ τώρα, κακοτύχερε, ἐμέναν καθυβρίζεις;
and now ill-fortuned me you-insult
ἐμέναν ἐγνωρίζουνε κ' ἐσὲν κατέχουσί σε·
me they-know and you they-know you
κι ἂν οὐ σιγήσῃς τὸ λοιπὸν, θέλω σὲ καθυβρίσει.
and if not you-are-silent the then I-will you insult
τζαχαρατᾶ μὲ τὴν φωνὴν, μεσημβρινὲ μὲ τ' ἄσπρα,
screecher with the voice midday(-one) with the white(-coins)
ἀτζίγγανε μαυρότεχνε, ἐμὲν τὰ συντυχαίνεις;
gypsy black-crafted me them you-chatter
ὅλως τολμᾷς καὶ πρὸς ἐμὲν λόγους ἐπαναγείρεις,
wholly you-dare also against me words raise
τὴν λιγερὴν, τὴν χυμευτὴν καὶ πάντερπνον τὴν χῆνα;"
the slender the graceful and all-delightful the goose

The hoopoe mocks the peacock as a leprous-footed Frank in a hood; he calls her a smoke-blackened drunkard. The quail calls the partridge a whore; she calls him a sooty patcher, boasts of her scarlet stockings, mourns the chicks a falconer took, and threatens to summon him before the eagle. The guinea fowl insults the hen, who recalls that he was caught with a knight's wife and beaten bald, under Fra Liberi's curse, while her chicks become bishops and kings eat her.

Ἐκεῖνα οὐκ ἐσίγησαν τὴν ὄχλησιν τὴν εἶχαν,
Those not fell-silent the uproar which they-had
κ' ἡ ἔφια ἀπήρξατο ὑβρίζειν τὸ παώνιν.
and the hoopoe began to-insult the peacock
„παώνιν λεπροπόδαρον, Φράγκε μὲ τὸ καππούτζιν,
peacock leprous-footed Frank with the hood
καὶ χήρα πάλιν θλιβερὰ μετὰ μυρολογίου,
and widow again mournful with dirge
ἐγείρου, φύγε ἀπ' ἐδῶ ἀπὸ τὸν γάμον τοῦτον.
get-up flee from here from the wedding this
ποσῶς οὐκ ἔχεις ἡδονὴν τὸν γάμον νὰ τιμήσῃς."
at-all not you-have pleasure the wedding that you-honor
γυρίζει πάλιν ὁ παὼν καὶ πρὸς τὴν ἔφιαν λέγει
turns again the peacock and to the hoopoe says
„μωρὴ βρωμοσθενήτισσα καὶ μυριοκαπνισμένη,
silly stink-feeble and thousand-smoked
νομίζεις ὡς ἐκάπνισες κ' ἔκαυσες τὰ σκουμπρία,
you-think that you-smoked and burned the mackerels
ἐκ τὴν πολλήν σου μεθυσιὰν ὅλως καταβρωμοῦσιν.
from the much your drunkenness wholly they-stink
οὐδὲν τὸ ἠξεύρομεν κ' ἡμεῖς τὸ τίς καὶ πόθεν εἶσαι;
not it know also we the who and whence you-are

καὶ τώρα τρέχεις τὸν ’γιαλὸν ὁποῦ δελφῖνοι τρέχουν,
and now you-run the shore where dolphins run
νὰ πιάσῃς τὰ σκουμπρία σου, τάχα νὰ τὰ καπνίσῃς,
that you-catch the mackerels your as-if that them you-smoke
νὰ δώσῃς τὸν πραματευθὴν, νὰ πάρῃ νὰ παγαίνῃ;
that you-give the merchant that he-take that he-go
κι οὐ μὴ τὸ λέγω ψέματα, οἱ πάντες τὸ θωροῦσιν,
and not — it I-say lies the all it see
τοὺς τόσους χρόνους πάντοτε τὴν θάλασσαν νὰ τρέχῃς,
the so-many years always the sea that you-run
νὰ γέρνεσαι, νὰ πλένεσαι, καὶ πάντα καὶ νὰ λῶσαι.
that you-lie-down that you-wash and always also that you-bathe
καὶ τὸ φουστάνιν τὸ φορεῖς, εἰς τὸν καπνὸν ἐκεῖνον
and the skirt which you-wear in the smoke that
ἀκόμη οὐκ ἐκαθέρισε· τὸ τί νὰ ’πῇς οὐκ ἔχεις.
still not has-cleaned the what that you-say not you-have
ἀκόμη τὸ ὑπέρπυρον, τὸ ἐκράτειες ἀρρέβῶνα,
still the gold-coin which you-held pledge
κρατεῖς το εἰς τὴν κόξαν σου, ποσῶς οὐκ ἀπολεῖς το,
you-hold it in the hip your at-all not you-lose it
καὶ βλέπει ὁ πραγματευθὴς, ἔχει παρηγορία,
and sees the merchant he-has consolation
ὅτι, ἂν οὐκ ἤθελες ἐλθεῖ τὸ ὑπέρπυρον νὰ στάσῃς,
that if not you-would to-come the gold-coin that you-weigh
τὸ ἔκοψες καὶ ἔπιες καὶ ἐχαροκοπήθης.
it you-cut and drank and made-merry
καὶ τώρα, παλαιοξέρασμα, κυρὰ καπνοσπατάλη,
and now old-vomit lady smoke-squanderer
ἐμένα καταμέφεσαι τὸ τί ἤθελα ’ς τὸν γάμον,
me you-blame the what I-wanted at the wedding

ὅτι εἶμαι λεπροπόδαρον, εἶμαι μυρολογίστρια,
that I-am leprous-footed I-am dirge-singer
ὁμοιάζω καὶ βενέτικον Φράγκον μὲ τὸ καππούτζιν.
I-resemble also Venetian Frank with the hood
ἐμέναν ἔχουν βασιλεῖς ἀπέσω εἰς τὰ παλάτια,
me have kings inside in the palaces
πάλιν τ᾽ αὐγά μου τρώγουν τα γυναῖκες εὐγενίδες,
again the eggs my eat them women noble
κ᾽ ὑπομυρίζουνται λαμπρῶς τὸ στόμαν τους ὡς μόσχος,
and are-perfumed splendidly the mouth their like musk
καὶ τὰ πτερά μου πολεμοῦν πάλιν χρυσᾶ ῥιπίδια.
and the feathers my make again golden fans
καὶ σὺ τολμᾷς, περιγελᾷς ὅλως ἐμοῦ καθόλου;“
and you dare mock wholly me at-all
Καὶ ταῦτα οὐκ ἐσίγησαν τὴν ὄχλησιν τὴν εἶχαν,
And they not fell-silent the uproar which they-had
καὶ τὸ πουτίκιν ἤρξατο ὑβρίζειν τὸ περδίκιν.
and the quail began to-insult the partridge
„εἰπέ με, κυρὰ πέρδικα, τ᾽ ἤθελες εἰς τὸν γάμον,
tell me lady partridge what did-you-want at the wedding
κ᾽ ἔκατσες ὡς κουβουκλαρεὰ ἀπάνωθεν τῶν ὅλων;
and sat as bridal-attendant above the all
ἠξεύρομέν σε, ταπεινὴ, παντὸς ὑπάρχεις πόρνη,
we-know you wretched altogether you-are whore
κι ἀπ᾽ τοὺς πόδας σου φαίνεσαι ὅτι εἶσ᾽ αἱματωμένη,
and from the feet your you-appear that you-are bloodied
καὶ τὸ μαντί σου εἶν᾽ κοντὸ καὶ φαίνεσαι ἐξοπίσω.
and the cloak your is short and you-show behind
κι ὅπου καθήσῃς νὰ λαλῇς πάντοτε νὰ στριγγίζῃς,
and wherever you-sit that you-speak always that you-shriek

οἱ καῦχοί σου νὰ ἔρχουνται καὶ νὰ παραδιαβάζουν.
the lovers your that they-come and that they-pass-by
ἐγείρου, φύγε τὸ λοιπὸν, μὴ κάθεσαι ’ς τὸν γάμον·
get-up flee the then not sit at the wedding
ἡμεῖς γυναῖκαν ἄχρηστον οὐ θέλομεν ἐνθάδε.“
we woman useless not want here
εὐθὺς γυρίζει ἡ πέρδικα καὶ λέγει τὸ πουτίκιν
at-once turns the partridge and says to-the quail
„μωρὸν νὰ ’πῇς κακότυχον, ποσῶς οὐδὲν σὲ ξεύρω.
fool that you-say ill-starred at-all not you I-know
ἠξεύρεις, ὅταν ἔστεκες εἰς τὰ μηχάνι’ ἀπάνω,
you-know when you-stood on the chimney-hoods on
καὶ μαύρισεν ἡ ῥάχη σου ἐκ τοῦ καπνοῦ τὴν βίαν,
and blackened the back your from of-the smoke the force
κ’ ἔφαγεν τὴν ἐμπροστινὴν τὴν ζούπαν τὴν ἐφόρεις,
and ate the front the jacket which you-wore
καὶ πρὸς τὸ μέγαν σάββατον οὐκ εἶχες ἄλλον ῥοῦχον,
and toward the great Saturday not you-had other garment
κ’ ἐμπάλωσες τὸ ῥοῦχόν σου μετὰ λινὸν πανίτσιν,
and patched the garment your with linen little-cloth
φορεῖς το καὶ κατάσαρκα κ’ οὐκ εἶχες τί ν’ ἀλλάξῃς.
you-wear it also next-to-the-skin and not you-had what that you-change
κι οὐ μὴ τὸ λέγω ψέματα, οἱ πάντες τὸ ἐβλέπουν,
and not — it I-say lies the all it saw
πῶς ἔνι μαύρη ἡ ῥάχη σου κ’ εἰς τὴν κοιλιάν σου κεῖται
how is black the back your and on the belly your lies
τὸ ἄσπρον τὸ ἐμπάλωμαν ἀπὸ λινὸν πανίτσιν.
the white the patch of linen little-cloth
ἐμένα πῶς ἐτόλμησες καὶ συκοφάντησές με,
me how did-you-dare and slandered me

ὅτι εἶμαι πόρνη ἄχρηστος καὶ χειροτέρα πάντων;
that I-am whore useless and worse of-all
ἐγὼ τὰς κάλτσας τὰς φορῶ ἔνε ἀπὸ σκαρλάτο,
I the stockings which I-wear are of scarlet
ἔχω καὶ χείλη κόκκινα, μαῦρα μάτια ὡραῖα,
I-have also lips red black eyes beautiful
καὶ πρέπουν με ἡ κάλτσαις μου, μᾶλλον καὶ τὸ μανδί μου,
and become me the stockings my rather and the cloak my
κι αὐτὸ φορῶ κατάσαρκα ἔνθα γοῦν καὶ ἂν ἦμαι.
and it I-wear next-to-the-skin wherever then even — I-be
πρέπουν με καὶ τὰ ῥοῦχά μου ὡς εὐγενὴν γυναῖκα,
become me also the clothes my as noble woman
τὸ νὰ φωνάζω πάντοτε εἰς ὅλα τ' ἀκρωτήρια·
the that I-cry always on all the headlands
εἰς τὴν γλυκέαν τὴν αὐγὴν τὴν γλυκοδροσισμένην
in the sweet the dawn the sweet-bedewed
ἀνθοβολοῦν τὰ ἄνθη της καὶ κηλαδῶ, ὡς οἶδας,
blossom the flowers its and I-sing as you-know
οὐδὲν λαλῶ τοὺς καύκους μου, οὐδὲ κακοὺς ἀνθρώπους.
not I-call the lovers my nor evil men
πουλίτσια ἐποίησα μονόκοιλα εἰκοσάδα,
little-chicks I-made one-bellied a-score
καὶ περπατάρης ἀσεβὴς ὀλίγον κατ' ὀλίγον
and falconer impious little by little
ἐπῆρέν μου τὰ δώδεκα, ἔκαψεν τὴν καρδιάν μου,
took from-me the twelve burned the heart my
ἐκάην ἡ καρδίτσα μου, ἐπόνεσα ὡς μάννα.
burned the little-heart my I-ached as mother
φοβοῦμαι γοῦν ἡ ἄθλια καὶ τρέμω καὶ δειλίω,
I-fear then the wretched and tremble and quail

ὅποθεν στέκω, κάθομαι πολλάκις μετ' ἐκεῖνα,
wherever I-stand I-sit often with them
πάντα διδάσκω, παραινῶ τὰ ἄλλα μου πουλία
always I-teach exhort the other my chicks
νὰ κάθουνται εἰς πλάγι μου, μὴ ταΰρῃ περπατάρης,
that they-sit at side my lest them-find falconer
κι ἀλλοίμονον, ἐπάρῃ τα καὶ κάψῃ τὴν καρδιά μου.
and alas be-take them and burn the heart my
ἐμένα πάλ' οἱ βασιλεῖς εἰς γεῦμάν τους μὲ τρώουν,
me again the kings at meal their me eat
κ' οἱ ἄρχοντες οἱ εὐγενεῖς εἰς πρόγεμαν καὶ δεῖπνον,
and the lords the noble at breakfast and supper
καὶ πλούσιοι ἠθέλασιν, πτωχοὶ καὶ νὰ μὲ εἶχαν.
and rich(-men) would-wish poor(-men) also that me they-had
καὶ μὲ ζωὴν καὶ θάνατον οἱ πάντες ἀγαποῦν με.
and with life and death the all love me
ἐσὺ δὲ πῶς ἐτόλμησας καὶ συκοφάντησές με;
you but how did-you-dare and slandered me
νὰ σ' ἐγκαλέσω εἰς τὸν ἀετὸν τὸν μέγαν βασιλέα
that you I-summon to the eagle the great king
(πολλὰ μὲ χρῄζει καὶ αὐτὸς, ἂν ἠμπορῇ νὰ μ' ἔχῃ),
much me needs also he if he-can that me he-have
πουτίκιν κακορῥίζικον ἀπὸ τὴν κακοτύχην,
quail ill-starred from the misfortune
καὶ νὰ ὁρίσῃ νὰ γενῇς ἀόρατος 'κ τὸν κόσμον
and that he-order that you-become invisible from the world
ἐτοῦτον τὸν γλυκύτατον, νὰ πᾷς εἰς ἄλλον βράχος,
this the sweetest that you-go to other rock
καὶ νὰ ποιῇς τὰς γέννας σου δυσκόλως καὶ βαρέως."
and that you-make the births your hard and heavily

καὶ πρὶν νὰ παύσουν ὄχλητα καὶ γενεαλογίαν,
and before that cease uproar and genealogy
καθὼς τὸ καταλόγιν του γροικᾷς ὅτι ὀχλοῦνται,
as the talk its you-hear that they-are-in-uproar
ὁ καρκαντσᾶς ἀπήρξατο νὰ ὑβρίζῃ τὸ ὀρνίθιν
the guinea-fowl began that he-insult the hen
„ὀρνίθιν κουρουνόμυαλον καὶ μυξοσκατοφάγον,
hen crow-brained and snot-and-dung-eating
πολιτικὴ ἀδιάντροπε μετὰ πολὺν φουκάριν,
city(-woman) shameless with much bellows
ὁποῦ πορνεύεις πάντοτε μᾶλλον μὲ τοὺς υἱούς σου,
who whore always rather with the sons your
μωρὴ κοπελοῤῥίκτουσα, πόρνη, θυγάτηρ πόρνης,
silly child-casting whore daughter of-whore
κύριν κ' υἱὸν νὰ πολεμῇς νὰ σπαθοκαταλυοῦνται,
father and son that you-strive that they-destroy-each-other-by-sword
τὰ αἵματα νὰ τρέχουσιν, τ' ὀμμάτια τους νὰ βγαίνουν,
the bloods that run the eyes their that come-out
ἁπλῶς εἰπεῖν, πανάχρηστε, τ' ἤθελες εἰς τὸν γάμον;
simply to-say all-useless what did-you-want at the wedding
νὰ κάθεσ' ὡς κουβουκλαρεὰ καὶ σὺ μετὰ τῶν ἄλλων,
that you-sit as bridal-attendant also you with the others
νᾷσαι εἰς ἀτιμίαν τους, εἰς ἀτιμιὰν τοῦ γάμου;
that-you-be to dishonor their to dishonor of-the wedding
ἐγείρου, φύγε, μίσεψε, πρὶν σὲ καταμεφθοῦσιν.
get-up flee depart before you they-blame
ἐγὼ δι' ἐσὲν ἐντρέπομαι εἰς τὴν χαρὰν ἐτούτην."
I for you am-ashamed at the celebration this
εὐθὺς λοιπὸν ἡ ὄρνιθα ἐντράπη καὶ σηκώθη,
at-once then the hen was-ashamed and got-up

ἐστάθην καταπρόσωπα, τὸν καρκατσάνον λέγει
stood face-to-face to-the guinea-fowl says
„καὶ πῶς ἐτόλμησες ἐσὺ, εἰπέ μοι, κακαρῖνε,
and how dared you tell me cackler
κι ἀτίμωσάς με τὰ πολλὰ κ᾽ ὑπόμεινά σε τόσα;
and dishonored me the much and I-endured you so-much
μωρὲ, καὶ σὲν ἠξεύρουν σε κ᾽ ἐμὲν κατέχουσίν με,
fool both you they-know you and me they-know me
ἄτυχ᾽, ἀπιδοσφόνδυλε καὶ γριζοφορεμένε,
wretch pear-necked and gray-clad
ὁποῦ ποτὲ τὴν ῥάχην σου ‘ποκάμισον οὐ βάνεις,
who ever the back your shirt not put-on
ἀλλ᾽ οὐ ’βαλες, οὐκ οἶδές το, ἀλλ᾽ οὐδὲ βάλει θέλεις,
but not you-put not you-know it but nor to-put you-will
ἀλλ᾽ οὐδὲ βρώματα πολλὰ ποτέ σου νὰ χορτάσῃς,
but nor foods many ever your that you-be-filled-with
ἐξῶν τὴν ἄμμον καὶ τὰ βρυὰ καὶ σκούληκας καὶ βοῦρκα.
except the sand and the mosses and worms and mud
μωρὲ, πάντες σὲ ξεύρουσιν, ἀπὸ τὴν Ῥώμην ἤσουν,
fool all you know from — Rome you-were
καὶ ’ς τὸ σπιτάλιν ἔποικες φρέρης κἂν ἕξη χρόνους,
and in the hospital you-made brother at-least six years
καὶ ‘βρῆκάν σε μὲ Φράγκισσαν καβαλλαριοῦ γυναῖκαν,
and found you with Frankish-woman of-knight wife
καὶ δείρασίν σε τὰ πολλὰ, κ᾽ ἐκ τοῦ δαρμοῦ τὴν βίαν
and beat you the much and from of-the beating the force
ἐγέμισαν τὰ μάτια σου αἷμαν τῆς κεφαλῆς σου —
filled the eyes your blood of-the head your
οἱ πάντες τὸ γινώσκουσιν, ψέμαν οὐδὲν τὸ λέγω —
the all it know lie not it I-say

ἔκτοτε γὰρ καὶ μέχρι νῦν οὐκ ἔποικες μαλλία.
since-then for and until now not you-made hair
ἐπῆραν τὸ καππούτσιν σου, μωρὲ, ὀκ τὴν κεφαλήν σου,
they-took the hood your fool from the head your
ἐδέσαν τὰ ποδάρια σου καὶ ἐστραγγούλισάν τα·
they-bound the feet your and twisted them
ἄλλην ποτέ σου οὐκ ἠμπορεῖς στράταν νὰ περπατήσῃς,
other ever your not you-can road that you-walk
κ᾽ ἐγίνου, κακορρίζικε, ἀλλεῶς μονοκουμπάρος,
and became ill-starred otherwise one-buttoned
καὶ τὴν κοιλίαν σου ψωμὶν οὐκ ἠμπορεῖς χορτάσει,
and the belly your (with)-bread not you-can fill
ἐξῶν τὴν ἄμμον καὶ τὰ βρυὰ πάντα σου ἀνατρέχεις·
except the sand and the mosses always your you-run-over
ἐκ τὴν κατάραν, ἄτυχε, ἐκείνου φρᾶ Λιβέρη,
from the curse wretch of-that Fra Liberi
ὁποῦ σὲ κούρσεψεν ποτὲ σὲ κεῖνον τὸ σπιτάλιν,
who you plundered once in that the hospital
ἐκέρδισες καὶ τοὺς δαρμοὺς καὶ τὴν κακοτυχίαν.
you-gained both the beatings and the misfortune
καὶ τώρα ὑβρίζεις, μέφεσαι ἐμέναν, ἀτυχίτη;
and now you-insult you-blame me hapless
ἄκουσε, κακοτύχερε, φράρη βραχοδαρμένε,
hear ill-fortuned friar rock-beaten
ἐγὼ πουλία τὰ γεννῶ ἢ πάλε τ᾽ ἀναθρέφω,
I chicks which I-bear or again which I-rear
ἐξέβησαν ἐπίσκοποι, ἔξαρχοι καὶ παπάδες,
went-forth bishops exarchs and priests
καὶ παρβαριώταις κόπελοι, κοῦρκοι ἀπεσταλμένοι,
and Varangians boys Turks envoys

καὶ περπατοῦν εὐγενικὰ, παλατοαναθρεμμένα.
and walk nobly palace-bred
καὶ μέναν πάλιν, καρκατσᾶ, ἰδὲς τὸ τίς μὲ τρώγει,
and me again guinea-fowl see the who me eats
καὶ βασιλεῖς καὶ δέσποιναις καὶ πάντες τῆς συγκλήτου,
both kings and ladies and all of-the senate
καὶ ἡδονή μου ἐξαίρετος ἀπ' ὅλων τῶν ὀρνέων. 260
and pleasure my exceptional of all the birds
καὶ σὺ τολμᾷς, ἀκτένιστε, καὶ μέναν κατακρίνεις;"
and you dare uncombed also me condemn

III · PHEASANT, MAGPIE, AND HAWK

The shore-bird mocks the pheasant's coat of colored silk; the pheasant calls him a shoemaker's son fleeing his creditors and threatens him with the eagle, his father's cousin, who has his tail plucked. The halcyon insults the magpie as a slave of the Franks; she calls the halcyon a hosier's child and says she is a Roman child the Franks stole. The kite calls the hawk a murderer; the hawk says kings carry hawks, and threatens to break his shoulder.

Καὶ ταῦτα οὐκ ἐσίγησαν τὴν ὄχλησιν τὴν εἶχαν,
And they not fell-silent the uproar which they-had
καθὼς τὸ καταλόγιν τους ἐκράτειεν ἀκόμη,
as the talk their held still
παραγιαλίτης ἤρξατο ἀφασιανὸν ὑβρίζειν,
shore-bird began pheasant to-insult

καὶ λόγους ἐπεχείρησε τοιούτους νὰ τοῦ λέγῃ
and words undertook such that to-him he-say
„ὁποῦ σὲ βλέπει, ἀφασιανέ, ὅτι φορεῖς τὸ ῥοῦχον
who you sees pheasant that you-wear the garment
αὐτὸ τὸ λέγουν αὐτουπὶν, νἄχῃ τὰς χρὰς κομμάτια,
that which they-call brocade that-it-have the colors pieces
παρέξω νἄχῃ κόκκινον καὶ πράσινον κομμάτι,
besides that-it-have red and green piece
καὶ γερανὸν καὶ κίτρινον ὀξὺν καὶ τὸ γαλάζιον,
and crane(-colored) and yellow bright and the blue
νὰ ’ποῦν εἶσ’ ἀρχοντόπουλον ἀπὸ τοὺς σεβαστάδες,
that they-say you-are noble-child of the sebastoi
ἢ εἶσ’ ἐκ τὴν Μισοθυνιὰν κάποιας λουλῆς κοπέλιν,
or you-are from — Mesothynia of-some crazy(-woman) girl
κι ἀπόθανεν ἡ μάννα σου κι ἀφῆκέν σε λογάριν,
and died the mother your and left you money
καὶ ’γόρασες τ’ αὐτούπιν σου αὐτὸν τὸ καμαρόνεις,
and bought the brocade your this it you-preen
καὶ λέγεις, σεβαστοῦ παιδὶν ὑπάρχεις ’κ τὴν Νικαίαν.
and say of-sebastos child you-are from — Nicaea
ἐγείρου γοῦν μὲ τὸ καλὸν καὶ φύγ’ ἀπὸ τὴν μέσην,
get-up then with the good and flee from the middle
μὴ ῥίψουν τὸ καπάσιν σου καὶ βρέξουν τ’ αὐτουπίν σου,
lest they-throw the cloak your and wet the brocade your
ὅτι κοπέλιν ἄχρηστον καπήλισσας ὁκάποιας
for girl useless of-tavern-woman some
ποσῶς οὐδὲν τὸ θέλομεν νὰ κάθεται κοντά μας.“
at-all not it we-want that it-sit near us

ἀφασιανὸς ἐγύρισεν καὶ λέγει πρὸς ἐκεῖνον
pheasant turned and says to him
„ἐμὲν τὰ λέγεις, ἐλεεινὲ, ταῦτα, παραγιαλίτη;
me them you-say pitiful these(-things) shore-bird
οὐκ εἶσαι σὺ τζαγγάρη υἱὸς τοῦ Πετσοκαταλύτη,
not are you shoemaker's son of-the Leather-wrecker
ὁποῦ καθέζουν κ' ἐῤῥάπτες μὲ χοιρινὴν τὴν τρίχαν,
who you-sat and you-sewed with pig's the bristle
κ' ὑπῆγες καὶ δανείστηκες ὁκάποθεν λογάριν,
and went and borrowed from-somewhere money
κ' ἠγόρασες τὴν θάλασσαν κ' ἐγίνης χρειωμένος;
and bought the sea and became indebted
οἱ χρεωφειλέταις σύρνου σε τὰ πέρπυρα νὰ δώσῃς,
the creditors drag you the gold-coins that you-give
καὶ σὺ κομπόνεις, λέγεις τους, ὅτι κρυμμένα τἄχεις.
and you deceive say to-them that hidden them-you-have
κι ὅπου καθήσῃς εἰς ἀκτὴν, πάλιν εἰς ἀκρωτήρι,
and wherever you-sit on shore again on headland
σηκόνεις τὸ κεφάλιν σου καὶ πάλιν δείχνεις κάτω,
you-raise the head your and again point down
καὶ λέγεις ὅτι ἠστόχησα, οὐκ ἔνε ὁ τόπος οὗτος.
and say that I-forgot not is the place this
κ' ἐγὼ οὐ λέγω ψέματα, οἱ πάντες τὸ θεωροῦσιν,
and I not tell lies the all it see
ὅτι εἶσαι τζαγγάρη υἱὸς τοῦ Πετσοκαταλύτου,
that you-are shoemaker's son of-the Leather-wrecker
καὶ γὰρ κρατεῖς το τὸ σουβλὶν 's τὸ στόμαν σου καὶ τρέχεις
and for you-hold it the awl in the mouth your and run
καὶ τὸ κεφάλι σου νὰ σῇς ὅπουθεν καὶ ἂν ᾖσαι,
and the head your that you-shake wherever even — you-be

τοὺς χρεωφειλέτας νὰ γελᾷς, οὐκ ἔνε ὁ τόπος οὗτος,
the creditors that you-fool not is the place this
295 καὶ πάντα τρέχεις καὶ γελᾷς, περπατεῖς καὶ διαβαίνεις.
and always you-run and fool walk and pass
καὶ μέναν ἐκατέκρινες, εἶμαι Μεσοθυνιάτης,
and me you-condemned I-am Mesothynian
ὁκάποιας κακορρίζικης καπήλισσας κοπέλι,
of-some ill-starred tavern-woman girl
κι ἀπόθανεν ἡ μάννα μου καὶ πῆρα τὸ λογάριν,
and died the mother my and I-took the money
καὶ πῆρα τὸ αὐτούπιν μου καὶ σεβαστὸν ὁμοιάζω;
and I-took the brocade my and sebastos I-resemble
300 πάντες καὶ σένα ξεύρουν σε καὶ μέναν ἐγνωρίζουν.
all both you know you and me know
κι ἅπαντα τὰ 'ποδήματα, τὰ 'φόρεις κάθ' ἡμέραν,
and all the shoes which you-wore every day
καὶ τὸ φουστάνιν τὄβαλες καὶ ἤσουν τοπικάρης,
and the skirt which-you-put-on and were local(-man)
ἄλλον ποτὲ τὴν ράχην σου οὐκ οἶδά το ν' ἀλλάξῃς.
other ever the back your not I-know it that you-change
καὶ σὺ γελᾷς τὸ αὐτουπὶν καὶ σκιάδιν, τὸ μὲ δῶκεν
and you laugh-at the brocade and hat which me gave
305 ὁ βασιλεὺς ὁ αὐθέντης μου καὶ πάντων τῶν ὀρνέων;
the king the master my and of-all the birds
πάντως γὰρ ἓν καὶ 'ξάδελφος δεύτερος τοῦ πατρός μου,
surely for he-is also cousin second of-the father my
κι ἂν ἐξειπῶ τῳ, ταπεινὲ, καὶ κόψουν τὴν οὐράν σου,
and if I-tell him humble and they-cut the tail your
νὰ ποίσω τὴν ὑπόληψιν καὶ τὴν ἀπαιδευσιάν σου."
that I-make the reputation and the boorishness your

κ᾽ ἐντράπηκεν ὁ ταπεινὸς ὁ παραγιαλίτης,
and was-ashamed the humble the shore-bird
νὰ κρυβηθῇ ἐγύρευσεν, μήπως τὸν ἀτιμώσουν.
that he-hide sought lest him they-dishonor
καὶ ὥρισεν ὁ ἀετὸς ὁ βασιλεὺς ὁ μέγας
and ordered the eagle the king the great
καὶ τὴν οὐράν του ἀνάσπασαν, τὴν μύτην του τσακίζουν,
and the tail his they-plucked the beak his they-break
ὁρίζει κι ἀπολύουν τον νἄνῃ συμπαθημένος,
he-orders and they-release him that-he-be pardoned
καὶ νὰ τὸν βλέπουν ἅπαντες καὶ νὰ τὸν κατακραίνουν.
and that him see all and that him condemn
Ἐκεῖνα οὐκ ἐσίγησαν τὴν ὄχλησιν τὴν εἶχαν,
Those not fell-silent the uproar which they-had
κ᾽ ἡ πασιδόνα ἤρξατο, περιγελᾷ τὴν κίσσαν.
and the halcyon began mocks the magpie
„εἰπὲ, τραυλὴ, τραυλόγλωσση καὶ τραυλοκελαδοῦσα,
tell stammerer stammer-tongued and stammer-singing
μελανομύτρια τζαμπεροῦ, ἀσχημοποδαροῦσσα,
black-snouted jacketed ugly-footed
δούλη καὶ σκλάβα τῶν Φραγκῶν, τ᾽ ἤθελες εἰς τὸν γάμον;
slave and bondwoman of-the Franks what did-you-want at the wedding
ἡ κίσσα εὐθὺς ἀπήρξατο, τὴν πασιδόνα λέγει
the magpie at-once began to-the halcyon says
„ἀτζούπωτε, ἀδιάντροπε, ἐμέναν καταλέγεις;
unjacketed shameless me you-abuse
ἐσὺ ἤσουν καρτσανᾶ παιδὶ πολλὰ μυριοχρειωμένου,
you were hosier's child much thousand-indebted
καὶ ἔφας τὴν ἐνθήκην σου, τὰ δώδεκα δουκάτα,
and ate the deposit your the twelve ducats

καὶ τὸ σουβλίν σου ἐπούλησες ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸ κοπίδιν,
and the awl your you-sold but also the cutter
κ' ἀγόρασέν σε, τζαπεροῦ, ὡς πρῶτόν του κορίτσιν.
and bought you jacketed as first his girl
αὐτήνην τὴν ἐμπαλωτοῦν τάχα τὴν καμαρόνεις,
it the patched as-if it you-preen
ὁπὄχει κόκκινον ὀμπρὸς καὶ μαῦρον ἐξοπίσω,
which-has red in-front and black behind
καὶ τὴν ποδεάν σου βένετον, 's τὴν ῥάχην σου γαλάζην;
and the skirt your blue on the back your blue
ἐκ τὴν πτωχιὰν τὴν εἴχετε φορεῖς καὶ μαύρην σκέπην
from the poverty which you-had you-wear also black cover
καὶ ψυχικὸν 'ποδήματα μαῦρα τινὸς Χατζάρας.
and soul-gift shoes black of-some Khazar-woman
κι ὡς ἔτυχεν, οὐκ εἴχετε ψωμὶν διὰ νὰ φᾶτε,
and as happened not you-had bread for that you-eat
ἐμάθετε καὶ τρώγετε ὅλους μας τοὺς ἰχθύας.
you-learned also you-eat all our the fish
πάντως οὐ λέγω ψέματα, οἱ πάντες θεωροῦν το,
surely not I-tell lies the all see it
τὸ πῶς καθίζεις, ἄτυχε, κάτω εἰς περιγιάλιν,
the how you-sit wretch down on seashore
ὑπάγεις καὶ καθέζεσαι εἰς πέτραν στεφανέαν,
you-go and sit on rock crowned
καὶ βλέπεις τὸ ψαρόπουλον αὐτὴν τὴν ἀθερίναν,
and see the little-fish this the smelt
κι ἂν ἔχῃ δρόμον, οὐ λαλεῖς, ἀφίνεις την καὶ πάγει,
and if it-has course not you-speak you-let it and it-goes
εἰ δὲ πολλάκις ἂν σταθῇ μικρὸν νὰ ἀνασάνῃ,
if but perhaps if it-stops a-little that it-breathe

εὐθὺς βουτᾷς καὶ παίρνεις την καὶ τρώγεις την ὁλώμην,
at-once you-dive and take it and eat it whole
ὥς ἔμαθες ’ς τὸ σπήτιν σας, πτωχὴ, ’ς τὸ πατρικόν σας.
as you-learned in the house your poor(-girl) in the paternal your
εἰ δὲ πολλάκις καὶ συμβῇ κανεὶς νὰ σὲ πιάσῃ,
if but perhaps also it-happen anyone that you catch
κανεὶς πτωχὸς πραγματευτὴς, ἄνθρωπος τῆς κατζάνης,
any poor merchant man of-the (obscure)
σφάζει σε μὲ τὸ ὑπέρπυρον, βάνει σ’ εἰς τὸ πουγγίν του,
kills you with the gold-coin puts you in the purse his
ὥς θυγατέρα τάχατε τοῦ καρτζανᾶ ὠφελέσειν.
as daughter as-if of-the hosier to-profit
καὶ σὺ τολμᾷς ὑβρίζειν με τὴν ταπεινὴν τὴν κίσσαν;
and you dare to-insult me the humble the magpie
ἐγὼ Ῥωμειοῦ παιδὶν εἶμαι καὶ κλέψασίν μ’ οἱ Φράγκοι,
I Roman’s child am and stole me the Franks
(νὰ ’πῶ ὥς ἤμουν εὔμορφον, καὶ τί νὰ τὸ καυχοῦμαι;)
that I-say how I-was beautiful and why that it I-boast
καὶ τὰ ῥωμέϊκα ἔμαθα, μωρὴ, καὶ συντυχαίνω.
and the Roman(-tongue) I-learned fool and converse
μᾶλλον τοὺς κλέπτας μέμφομαι καὶ λέγω κλέπτης, κλέπτης,
rather the thieves I-blame and say thief thief
μισέρη, κλέπτης, πιάσε τον, ὅτι παίρνει τὰ καλίγια.
master thief catch him for he-takes the boots
οἱ πάντες τὸ γνωρίζουσιν, οἱ πάντες τὸ κατέχουν.
the all it know the all it understand
καὶ σὺ, πουλὶν κακότυχον καὶ ψοφοζαρωμένον,
and you bird ill-starred and death-shriveled
ὅλως ἐμὲν περιγελᾷς; εἰπὲ καὶ πῶς τὸ ποῖκες.
wholly me you-mock tell and how it you-did

ὅμως οὐ μὴ σὲ βαρεθῶ, ὀψαροπούλη τέκνον,
yet not — you I-mind little-fish-girl child
ὅτι ἀκόμη οὐκ ἔμαθες τὸ τίς καὶ πόθεν εἶμαι.“
for still not you-learned the who and whence I-am
Ἀκόμη οὐκ ἐπλήρωσαν τὴν ταραχὴν τὴν εἶχαν,
Still not they-finished the turmoil which they-had
κι ὁ λοῦπος ἐπεχείρησεν ὑβρίζειν τὸ γεράκιν.
and the kite undertook to-insult the hawk
„ἦλθες, φονέα καὶ λῃστὴ, αἱματοπότα λύκε,
you-came murderer and robber blood-drinking wolf
καὶ συγγενοσαρκόφαγε ἱέραξ, εἰς τὸν γάμον,
and kin-flesh-eating hawk to the wedding
νὰ ποίσῃς καὶ τὴν πέρδικαν, περιστερὰν νὰ φύγῃ,
that you-make also the partridge dove that it-flee
ἀφασιανὸν καὶ φάσσαν τε, τὴν κίσσαν καὶ τρυγόνιν,
pheasant and wood-pigeon and the magpie and turtle-dove
καὶ τὰ μικρὰ στρουθόπουλα τὰ ὅλα νὰ μισεύσουν.
and the small sparrows the all that depart
φύγε, διῶκτα τύραννε, αἱματοπότα σκύλε,
flee persecutor tyrant blood-drinking dog
μήπως τ’ ἀκούσῃ ὁ βασιλεὺς κ’ ἐβγάλῃ σου τὰς κόρας,
lest it hear the king and take-out your the pupils
κι ἀντὶ χαρᾶς τὴν ἀτιμιὰν ἐπάρῃς καὶ μισεύσῃς.“
and instead-of joy the dishonor you-take and depart
καὶ ὁ ἱέραξ στρέφεται καὶ λέγει πρὸς τὸν λοῦπον
and the hawk turns and says to the kite
„εἰπέ με, κακομούσουρε, τί εἶν τὰ λέγεις, λούπη;
tell me ill-snouted what is which you-say kite
μόνον πτερὸν ἔχεις καλὸν καὶ διχαλὴν οὐρίτσαν,
only wing you-have good and forked little-tail

ἀμμ᾽ εἶσαι σκλαβοθώρετος, σκυλὶν μαγαρισμένον.
but you-are slave-faced dog defiled

ὀφίδια τρῷς καὶ ποντικοὺς, μᾶλλον καὶ κωλοσαύρας,
snakes you-eat and mice rather and lizards

ἀλλὰ καὶ κεῖνα πούπετε ἂν ταὔρῃς ψοφισμένα,
but even those anywhere if them-you-find dead

καὶ γὰρ οὐ δύνασαι ποτὲ ἀκρίδαν νὰ πιάσῃς.
and for not you-can ever locust that you-catch

ἄθλιε, κοσμοκατάρατε, ἐμὲν τὰ συντυχαίνεις,
wretched world-cursed me them you-chatter

καὶ διδαχὰς πνευματικὰς ἤρξασο νὰ μὲ λέγῃς;
and teachings spiritual began that me you-tell

πάντες καὶ σὲν ἠξεύρουν σε καὶ τὴν ὑπόληψίν σου.
all both you know you and the reputation your

ἂν εὕρῃς γρηὰν τινὰν πτωχὴν πουλίτσια νὰ ἔχῃ,
if you-find old-woman some poor chicks that she-have

κ᾽ ἰδῇς ὅτι ἐβγάλῃ τα καὶ θέσῃ τα ᾽ς τὸν ἥλιον,
and see that she-brought-out them and set them in the sun

κ᾽ ἡ κλωσαρέα τύχῃ καὶ οὐδὲν τὰ ᾽πιμελῆται,
and the brooding-hen happen and not them takes-care-of

᾽ς ἐκεῖνα, κακορρίζικε, δείχνεις καὶ τὴν ἀνδρειά σου,
on those ill-starred you-show also the courage your

καὶ χύνεις καὶ ἁρπάζεις τα καὶ κακοθανατεῖς τα.
and swoop and snatch them and kill-badly them

κ᾽ ἐκείνη καταρᾶται σε ᾽ς τὴν ἐκκλησιὰν ἀπέσω
and she curses you in the church inside

‘θεὲ, τὸν λούπην ψόφα τον ὁπὤφα τὰ πουλιά μου.’
God the kite kill it which-ate the chicks my

καὶ σὺ οὐδὲ κἂν ἐξέφεξεν ὁ ἥλιος τὴν ἡμέραν,
and you not even dawned the sun the day

καὶ πάλ᾽ ἀπομοιράζεις τα ἐκεῖνα τὰ ἀφῆκες.
and again you-share-out them those which you-left
καὶ πάλ᾽ ἡ γραῖα ἡ πτωχὴ κλαίει καὶ καταρᾶται,
and again the old-woman the poor weeps and curses
τὸν ἅγιον Γεώργην τάσσεται πουλίτσιν νὰ τὸν πάγῃ,
to-the holy George vows little-chick that him she-bring
ἂν τὰ φυλάξῃ τὰ πουλιὰ μόνον ἀπὸ ἐσένα.
if them he-guard the chicks only from you
κ᾽ οὐκ ἐφοβήθης, ἄτυχε, ποσῶς τὴν ἀδικίαν,
and not you-feared wretch at-all the injustice
οὐδὲ τὸν ἅγιον ποσῶς, κἂν νὰ μηδὲν σὲ σφάξῃ.
nor the saint at-all even that not you he-slay
καὶ μένα τὸν ἱέρακα θέλεις νὰ μὲ διδάσκῃς,
and me the hawk you-want that me you-teach
τζανόπουλε, κακότυχε, μυριοκαταγνωσμένε,
(obscure) ill-starred thousand-condemned
ποῦ μὲ κρατοῦσιν βασιλεῖς, ῥηγάδες καὶ δεσπόταις,
whom me hold kings princes and despots
αὐθένταις γοῦν καὶ θαυμαστοὶ ᾽ς τὰ χέριά τους ἄνω,
lords then and wondrous(-men) on the hands their up
καὶ βλέπουν με καὶ χαίρουνται ἐμὲν καὶ τὴν ἀνδρειάν μου;
and see me and rejoice me and the courage my
μὴ τρώγω ὡσὰν ἐσὲν, μωρὲ, πτῶμα καὶ κωλοσαύρας.
not I-eat like you fool carcass and lizards
εὔχου τὸν γάμον τούτονε ὁποῦ ἔτυχεν καὶ στέκω,
pray-for the wedding this where it-happened and I-stand
κ᾽ ἐντρέπομαι τὴν ὄχλησιν, μὴ μὲ κατηγορήσουν,
and I-am-ashamed the uproar lest me they-accuse
ἀμμὴ, κὺρ λούπη, νἄμαθες τὸ μετὰ τίνα τἄχεις,
but sir kite that-you-had-learned the with whom you-have-it

τζανόπουλε, κακότυχε, μυριοκαταραμένε,
(obscure) ill-starred thousand-cursed
ἂν οὐκ ἐψήλωσα πολλὰ κι ἀνήβην εἰς τὰ νέφη
if not I-had-risen-high much and gone-up to the clouds
καὶ χάλασα καὶ δῶκά σε καὶ φάνη σ' ὅτι ἀστράπτει,
and swooped and struck you and it-seemed to-you that it-lightens
καὶ χάλασα τὸν νῶμόν σου, κατεχαρβάλωσά τον,
and swooped the shoulder your shattered it
νὰ ποῖκα τὴν ὑπόληψιν καὶ τὴν θωριάν σου, λούπη."
that I-had-made the reputation and the look your kite

IV · TURTLE-DOVE AND OWL

The crow mocks the turtle-dove's endless mourning; the dove calls her a charcoal-burning woman from the Black Mountain who robs farmers, and says that when a hunter takes her mate she shuns green trees and sits on bare rock. The owl, red-eyed, insults the quail. The quail answers with the owl's story: a priest's mistress from Zagora, whose nose the priest's wife bit off, who was paraded and jailed until the priest freed her, and now hides by day while small birds peck her eyes.

Ἀκόμη οὐκ ἐπλήρωσαν ταῦτα τὴν ὄχλησίν τους,
Still not finished they the uproar their
καὶ ἡ κορώνη ἤρξατο ὑβρίζειν τὸ τρυγόνιν.
and the crow began to-insult the turtle-dove
„ἦλθες, τρυπανορρούθουνη, τρυγόνα ξερασμένη,
you-came pierced-nostriled turtle-dove vomited-up
μυρολογίστρια θλιβερὴ καὶ μυριοπικραμένη,
dirge-singer mournful and thousand-embittered
τὸ γοῦϊ πάντοτε λαλεῖς, τὸ γοῦϊ μουρμουρίζεις,
the goo always you-say the goo you-murmur

’ς τὰ μοναξὰ νὰ κάθεσαι καὶ πάντα νὰ στριγγίζῃς,
in the lonely(-places) that you-sit and always that you-shriek
ὁποῦ ’φας καὶ τὸ ‘ταίριν σου καὶ τὰ πουλιά σου ὅλα,
who you-ate also the mate your and the chicks your all
ἐκ τὴν κακήν σου τὴν καρδιὰν νὰ θλίψῃς καὶ τὸν γάμον;
from the evil your the heart that you-sadden also the wedding
ἐγείρου, φύγε, μίσεψε, ὕπαγ’ εἰς τὸ καθόλου,
get-up flee depart go to the entirely
μὴ ποίσῃς θλίψεις τὴν χαρὰν, τὸν γάμον τοῦτον θρῆνος.
not make afflictions the joy the wedding this lament
καὶ τὸ τρυγόνιν θλιβερὰ λέγει πρὸς τὴν κορώνην
and the turtle-dove mournfully says to the crow
„εἰπέ μοι, κακομούσουρε, κουρώνη, τ’ εἶν τὰ λέγεις;
tell me ill-snouted crow what is which you-say
πικρόφωνε, κακόθωρε, μυριοατυχισμένη,
bitter-voiced ill-faced thousand-unfortunate
Αἰγύπτισσα μὲ τὸ μανδὶν, γυλοῦ μὲ τὸ καρκάλιν.
Egyptian-woman with the cloak gypsy with the long-robe
πάντως οὐ λέγω ψέματα, ἤξευρ’ οὖν πόθεν εἶσαι,
surely not I-tell lies I-knew then whence you-are
γυναῖκα καρβουνάρισσα ἀπὸ τὸ Μαῦρον Ὄρος.
woman charcoal-burner from the Black Mountain
ἡμέραν νύκτα τὴν ῥιχεὰν ἀνάσπας κ’ ἔκαυτές την,
day night the kiln you-stirred and burned it
κι αὐτὸ τὸ παλαιοφούστανο, τὸ φόρεις καπνισμένον,
and this the old-skirt which you-wear smoked
κ’ ἐχαρβαλώθη ἀπάνω σου κ’ ἐσάπην ἐκ τὴν λέραν.
and was-tattered on you and rotted from the grime
ἐκ τὴν ῥιχεὰν ἐξέβηκεν καπνὸς ἐκ τὴν κοιλιάν σου.
from the kiln came-out smoke from the belly your

ὅταν ἀπάρξεσαι τὸ κρὰ, πάλιν τὸ κρὰ κραυγάζεις.
when you-begin the kra again the kra you-cry
εἶχετε τάχα καὶ ’νικὸν, ἐκουβάλειε τὰ καρβούνια
you-had as-if also ass it-carried the charcoals
εἰς τ’ ἐργαστήριν τοῦ χαλκεᾶ, καὶ σὺ ἐπαρηκολούθεις.
to the workshop of-the smith and you followed
οὐ μὴ τὸ λέγω ψέματα, οἱ πάντες τὸ θωροῦσιν·
not — it I-say lies the all it see
ὅτι ὅπου εὕρῃς τὸν ’νικὸν, ἐκεῖνον τὸ πουλάριν,
that where you-find the ass that the foal
καθίζεις εἰς τὴν ῥάχην του καὶ τρῷς τὰ τραύματά του.
you-sit on the back its and eat the wounds its
τὴν δ’ ἄλλην σου ἀνατροφὴν, κουρούνα ξερασμένη,
the and other your upbringing crow vomited-up
καὶ κλέπτρια μεσημερινοῦ, ἀδιάντροπη, βρωμοῦσα,
and thief of-midday shameless stinking
εἰ δὲν ἀφῆκαν καὶ λαρδὶν εἰς προβολὴν ἀπάνου,
if not they-left also lard on projection up
νὰ μὴν χυθῇς καὶ κατεβῇς καὶ δάκῃς το καὶ φύγῃς·
that not you-swoop and come-down and bite it and flee
εἰ δὲ νὰ ’ποῦμεν, ἀδικεῖς μόνον τὸν τζαμαρδάρην,
if and that we-say you-wrong only the (obscure)
ἀδικεῖς καὶ τὸν γεωργὸν ὅταν τὸ φάβα σπέρνῃ·
you-wrong also the farmer when the bean he-sows
ἐκεῖνος σπέρνει ὁ ταπεινὸς κ’ ὑπᾷ νὰ γεματίσῃ,
he sows the humble and goes that he-dine
καὶ σὺ σωρεύεις φάβατα, κρύβεις εἰς ἄλλον τόπον,
and you heap beans hide in other place
καὶ παίρνεις καὶ τὸν σπόρον του, ἀλλότε τὸ ψωμίν του.
and take also the seed his another-time the bread his

πῶς νὰ τὸ ’πῶ καταλεπτῶς τὰ πολεμεῖς, κουρούνα,
how that it I-tell in-detail the(-things) you-do crow
ἀτζύπωτε, ἀδιάντροπε, ’ς τὸ ἕτοιμα καλεσμένη;
unjacketed shameless to the ready(-feast) invited
ἂν ἤσουνε ξενούτσικη, τοῦτο γὰρ καὶ συνέχει.
if you-were little-stranger this for also holds
καὶ πῶς νὰ ’πῶ τὰς πράξεις σου, κλέπτρια μεσημεροῦσα;
and how that I-tell the deeds your thief midday(-one)
ἐμὲν ὑβρίζεις τὸ πτωχὸν θλιμμένον τὸ τρυγόνιν;
me you-insult the poor afflicted the turtle-dove
θλιμμένον εἶμαι πάντοτε, παντὸς ὁμολογῶ το.
afflicted I-am always by-all-means I-confess it
ὁπόταν ἔλθῃ κυνηγὸς καὶ πιάσῃ μου τὸ ‘ταίρι,
whenever comes hunter and catches my the mate
εἰς δένδρον κάλλιστον χλωρὸν οὐ θέλω νὰ καθίσω,
on tree finest green not I-want that I-sit
οὐδ’ εἰς λιβάδαν καθαρὰν οὐδ’ εἰς δροσώδεις τόπους,
nor on meadow clean nor in dewy places
ἀμμὴ καθίζω πετρωτὰ, εἰς πέτραν στεφανέαν,
but I-sit stony(-places) on rock crowned
εἰς βουρκολέαν κάθομαι νερὸν θολὸν νὰ γέμῃ.
in mud-puddle I-sit water muddy that it-be-full
πίνω ἂν θέλω τὸ λοιπὸν καὶ πέτομαι καὶ κλαίω,
I-drink if I-want the then and fly and weep
καὶ πάντοτε μυρολογῶ τὸ πάγγλυκό μου ‘ταίρι.
and always I-lament the all-sweet my mate
καὶ σὺ, βρωμοχνωτόμορφε, κουρούνα ξερασμένη,
and you stink-smelling-faced crow vomited-up

περιγελᾷς καὶ μέφεσαι, ἐμέναν καταλέγεις,
mock and blame me abuse
τὸ ταπεινὸν καὶ θλιβερὸν ἀνόχλητον τρυγόνιν;“
the humble and mournful untroubling turtle-dove
Ἐκεῖνα οὐκ ἐσίγησαν τὴν ὄχλησιν τὴν εἶχαν,
Those not fell-silent the uproar which they-had
καὶ κουκουβὰς ἐστράφηκεν, ἐστάθην εἰς τὸ μέσον,
and owl turned stood in the middle
ἀνοιγοκλεῖ τὰ μάτια του — Χριστὲ, καὶ πόθεν ἦλθεν; —
opens-and-shuts the eyes his Christ and whence he-came
καλὲ, καὶ ἐπεχείρησεν ὀρτύκιν νὰ ὑβρίζῃ.
well and undertook quail that he-insult
τὰ μάτια του ἐκοκκίνισαν, „τάχα καλὰ σὲ βλέπω“,
the eyes his reddened as-if well you I-see
τὴν κεφαλήν του ἔσεισε, ἄρχισε νὰ τοῦ λέγῃ.
the head his he-shook began that to-him he-say
„ὅταν στραφῶ καὶ ἴδω σε, ὀρτύκιν, εἰς τὸν γάμον,
when I-turn and see you quail at the wedding
νὰ ἦσαι μικροκέφαλον, ἄσκημον καὶ κωλάτον,
that you-be small-headed ugly and big-bottomed
καὶ παρδαλοχρωμάτιστον καὶ μελανοποδάτον,
and speckle-colored and black-footed
ὡς τὸ χαλάζι νὰ πετᾷς κι ὡς κούκουλον νὰ πέφτῃς,
as the hail that you-fly and as cocoon that you-fall
καὶ τὰ κοπέλι᾽ ἀμπελικῶν νὰ σὲ καταπατοῦσιν,
and the boys of-vineyard-keepers that you trample
καὶ νᾷσαι πάντα δυνατὸν μυριοκαπνισμένον,
and that-you-be always very thousand-smoked
καὶ τὰ πολλὰ ταξίδια σου εἰς χαζαριὰ νὰ τἄχῃς,
and the many journeys your to (obscure) that them-you-have

ὑπάγω τοῦ ν' ἀνασφαγῶ, ὑπάγω ν' ἀποθάνω."
I-go to that I-be-slaughtered I-go that I-die
καὶ τὸ ὀρτύκιν ἤρξατο, λέγει τὴν κουκουβάϊαν
and the quail began says to-the owl
„ἐμὲν τὰ λέγεις, κουκουβὰ, ἐμὲν τὰ λέγεις ταῦτα;
me them you-say owl me them you-say these(-things)
οἶδά σε καὶ ἠξεύρω σε πάλιν μὲ τὰ πολλά σου."
I-know you and I-know you again with the many(-things) your
„καὶ τί τὸ ξεύρεις, ὄρτυκε;" ὁ κουκουβὰς τοῦ λέγει.
and what it do-you-know quail the owl to-him says
„ἠξεύρω σε, κακότυχη, 'κ τὴν Ζαγορὰν ὑπάρχεις,
I-know you ill-starred from — Zagora you-are
*προτέρας σκλάβας κἄποιας ἐκ τὸ χωριὸν τῆς Ῥώμης,
former slave of-some from the village — of-Rome
καὶ τζουρουχεύουν τὸν παπᾶν, ἄτυχε, φεῦ τὸ κρίμα,
and (obscure) the priest wretch alas the shame
ἐποῖκεν σχῆμαν ὁ παπᾶς, ὑπάγει πρὸς τὸν ὄρθρον,
made pretense the priest goes to the matins
ἀπὸ τὸ χέριν σὲ κρατεῖ, 's τὸν νάρθηκα σ' ἐμπάζει,
by the hand you he-holds into the narthex you he-brings
καὶ παπαδιὰν ἀληθινὴν ἐχειροτόνησέν σε.
and priest's-wife true he-ordained you
ὡς τὄμαθεν ἡ παπαδιὰ ἐκείνη ἡ κυρά σου,
when it-she-learned the priest's-wife that the mistress your
παραγκαθίζει, πιάνει σε, δαγκάνει σ' εἰς τὴν μύτην,
she-crouches seizes you bites you on the nose
καὶ κόπτει την καὶ ῥίπτει την, ἔμεινες κουτσομύτρα.
and cuts it and throws it you-remained snub-nosed
καὶ πάλιν 's τὸν ἐπίσκοπον ἐπαίρνει σε καὶ πάγει,
and again to the bishop she-takes you and goes

εἰς τὰ χωριὰ τῆς Ζαγορᾶς εἰς ὅλα σὲ πομπεύει,
in the villages — of-Zagora in all you she-parades
καὶ μετὰ ταῦτα βάνει σε εἰς φυλακὴν ἀπέσω.
and after these(-things) puts you in prison inside
ἐποῖκεν σχῆμαν ὁ παπᾶς ταχὺ νὰ πᾷ νὰ ψάλλῃ,
made pretense the priest early that he-go that he-chant
καὶ ’ξήλωσε τὴν φυλακὴν κι ἀφῆκέ σε καὶ ’ξέβης.
and broke-open the prison and let you and you-came-out
ἡ παπαδιὰ γυρεύει σε καὶ σὺ πάντα κρυβᾶσαι,
the priest’s-wife seeks you and you always hide
καὶ τὴν ἡμέραν κρύβεσαι, τὴν νύκτα πάντα τρέχεις.
and the day you-hide the night always you-run
εἰ δὲ πολλάκις σὲ εὑροῦν πούπετα τὴν ἡμέραν,
if and perhaps you they-find anywhere the day
ὀψάροι, σπῖνοι, κότσυφοι καὶ γραῖα καλογραῖα,
starlings finches blackbirds and old-woman nun
ὡς πόρνην εἰς τὰ μάτια σου χαίρουν νὰ σὲ τυφλόνουν.
as whore in the eyes your rejoice that you blind
κι ἂν τύχουν ἐκ τὴν Ζαγορὰν Βουργάροι εἴτε Βλάχοι
and if happen from — Zagora Bulgars or Vlachs
τὸ νὰ σ’ ἰδοῦν ἢ ἀκούσουν σε πολλάκις τὴν φωνήν σου,
the that you see or hear you often the voice your
ἐκ τὴν πικριάν τους σφάζονται, ὑπάγουν ν’ ἀποθάνουν.
from the bitterness their slaughter-themselves go that die
καὶ σὺ τολμᾷς κατηγορεῖν ἐμένα, κουκουβάϊα;
and you dare to-accuse me owl
ἐγὼ μικρὸν εἶμ’ ἀληθῶς, ἀσούσουμον πουλάκιν,
I small am truly plain little-bird
καὶ σιγανὸν καὶ ταπεινὸν, πολλὰ πολλὰ οὐκ οἶδα,
and quiet and humble much much not I-know

’ς τὰ ἀμπελίτσια βόσκομαι, ποτὲ ζημιὰν οὐ κάμνω,
in the little-vineyards I-feed ever harm not I-do
νὰ ποίσω τῶν ἀμπελικῶν εἰς κλῆμα ἢ εἰς σταφύλιν,
that I-do of-the vineyard-keepers to vine or to grape
κι ἀποθέτην με πολεμοῦν καὶ τρῶν με, ὅταν θέλουν.
and salted me they-hunt and eat me when they-want
καὶ σὺ, γαδάρου χαρμονὴ, περιγελᾷς ὀρτύκιν;“
and you donkey’s delight mock quail

V · THE EAGLE ENDS THE QUARREL

The raven mocks the dove; she reminds him of the ship on which they served one master, when he was sent to find land and stayed to eat a dead donkey, while she brought back the olive branch. The owl insults the thrush; she calls him a Tatar slave who lost his master’s sheep by sleeping. The eagle rebukes them all: he invited them to a feast, not a lawsuit, and threatens to loose the hawk and the falcon. The birds fall silent and finish the wedding in peace.

Καὶ ταῦτα ὡς ἐλέγασιν εἰς τὸ δικάσιμόν τους,
And these(-things) as they-were-saying at the lawsuit their
ὁ κόραξ ἐπεχείρησεν, τὸ περιστέριν λέγει
the raven undertook to-the dove says
„ἐδῶ ποῦ ἦλθες καὶ ἐσὺ ’ς τὸν γάμον τῶν ὀρνέων,
here where you-came also you to the wedding of-the birds
κἀγὼ παραστεκάμενος ὑπάρχω τῆς τραπέζης;
I-too standing-by am of-the table
ἀλλ’ ὅταν κλωθογυριστῶ καὶ ’δῶ σε, περιστέριν,
but when I-turn-around and see you dove
νὰ κάθεσαι εἰς ὀρδινιὰν μετὰ παντὸς ὀρνέου,
that you-sit in rank with every bird

νᾷπες, καθόλου σφάζομαι μὲ φράγγικον μαχαίριν.
that-you-would-say wholly I-am-slaughtered with Frankish knife
εἰπέ με γοῦν, περιστερά, τὸν ὅλον χρόνον τί ἔχεις,
tell me then dove the whole year what you-have
καὶ πάντα ἀγωνίζεσαι καὶ πάντα μουρμουρίζεις,
and always you-struggle and always you-murmur
καὶ πάντα εἰς τὰς ἐκκλησιὰς σεβαίνεις καὶ πορνεύεις;
and always into the churches you-enter and you-whore
ὅπου σταθῇς νὰ σηκωθῇς, ψύλλους πάντα συνάγεις.
where you-stand that you-get-up fleas always you-gather
λέγω σε γοῦν, περιστερά, τὸν ὅλον χρόνον τί ἔχεις;
I-tell you then dove the whole year what you-have
λέγω σε γοῦν κατὰ λεπτὸν νὰ σηκωθῇς νὰ φύγῃς,
I-tell you then in detail that you-get-up that you-flee
μὴ ’πῶ καὶ τ’ ἄλλα τὰ πολλὰ καὶ τὰ πουλιὰ σὲ πτύσουν.“
lest I-say also the other the many(-things) and the birds you spit-on
ταῦτα ὁ κόραξ ἔφησεν κατὰ τῆς περιστέρας·
these(-things) the raven said against the dove
ἡ περιστέρα ἐγύρισε καὶ τὸν κόρακαν λέγει
the dove turned and to-the raven says
„κόραξ, καὶ τίνα ’ν τὰ λαλεῖς καὶ πρὸς τίναν τὰ λέγεις;
raven and what are which you-speak and to whom them you-say
νὰ ’πῇς καὶ σὺ, κὺρ κόρακα, ὅτι εἶσαι τιμημένος,
that you-say also you sir raven that you-are honored
ἐκ τοὺς καλοϋπόληπτους καὶ τοὺς ἐμπιστευμένους;
of the well-reputed and the trusted
ἠξεύρεις, ὅταν ἤμεθεν εἰς ἕναν σπήτι οἱ δύο,
you-know when we-were in one house the two
ἕναν ἀφέντην εἴχαμεν, ἤμεθεν μετ’ ἐκεῖνον,
one master we-had we-were with him

καὶ τὸ ψωμί του ἐτρώγαμεν, ἔπρεπεν πιστοσύνη,
and the bread his we-ate it-was-fitting loyalty
ἀλήθεια καὶ ὑπακοὴν νὰ κάμωμε τ' ὁρίσει·
truth and obedience that we-do what he-orders
's τὴν θάλασσαν ἐπλέαμεν μετὰ πολλοῦ κλυδόνος,
on the sea we-sailed with much surge
καὶ ναύκληρον οὐκ εἴχαμεν νὰ κυβερνᾷ τὸ πλοῖον,
and captain not we-had that steer the ship
οὐδὲ πενέζην εἴχαμεν νὰ βλέπῃ τὸ τιμώνιν,
nor mate we-had that watch the helm
οὐδὲ καὶ ὁ ποδότας μας μαγνήτην νὰ βασταίνῃ,
nor even the helmsman our compass that hold
οὔτε τρανὸς οὔτε μικρὸς ναύτης κανεὶς οὐκ ἦτον,
neither great nor small sailor any not was
νὰ ξεύρῃ ἄστρα νὰ κρατῇ αὐτὴν τὴν τρεμουντάνα,
that know stars that hold this the north-star
οὐδὲ τὸν πούσουλα νὰ 'δῇ, τὴν θέσιν τοῦ ἀνέμου,
nor the compass that see the position of-the wind
νὰ ξεύρωμεν τὸ ποῦ 'μεθεν, ποίαν στράταν ὑπᾶμεν,
that we-know the where we-were what road we-go
παγαίνομεν ἢ στέκομεν ὀμπρός τε ἢ ὀπίσω,
we-go or stand forward and or back
ὀμπρός τε ἔχομεν ξηρὰν καὶ ποῦ ἡ γῆς καὶ τόπος.
forward and we-have dry-land and where the land and place
αὐθέντης ἠγανάκτησεν ἐκεῖνος ὁ ἐδικός μας,
master grew-vexed that the own our
ὅτι εἶχεν πρᾶγμαν ἄπειρον ἀπέσω εἰς τὸ καράβι,
for he-had goods boundless inside in the ship
εἶχεν καὶ τὴν γυναῖκάν του, υἱοὺς ἅμα καὶ νύμφας,
he-had also the wife his sons together and daughters-in-law

ἄλλα ψυχάρια μετ᾽ ἐμᾶς χιλιάδας οὐκ ὀλίγας.
other little-souls with us thousands not few
καὶ μὲ τὸν γνόφον τὸν πολὺν, τὴν ταραχὴν ἐκείνην,
and with the darkness the much the turmoil that
ὡσὰν ἐπέρασεν λοιπὸν ὁ μονασμὸς ἐκεῖνος
when passed then the solitude that
καὶ ἡ σκληρία ἡ πολλὴ, ἐπέρασαν ἡμέραις,
and the storm the much passed days
ἐσὲν ἀφέντης ἔπεψεν νὰ πᾷς νὰ ξεβιγλίσῃς,
you master sent that you-go that you-scout
ποῦ ᾽μεθεν καὶ βρισκόμεθεν, καὶ ποῦ ᾽νε γῆς καὶ τόπος.
where we-were and find-ourselves and where is land and place
καὶ σὺ ἀπελθὼν εἰς τὴν ξηρὰν ἔτρως γαδάρου ῥάχην,
and you having-gone to the dry-land ate of-donkey back
καὶ σκόρφας ἀπογαλάκτισμα, στηθόπλευρον προβάτου,
and of-sow weanling breast-side of-sheep
ἔμεινες καὶ ἐξώ ᾽μεινες, ὑπόληψιν οὐκ εἶχες,
you-stayed and outside stayed regard not you-had
οὐδὲ μαντάτο ἤφερες, ὡς κάμνουσιν οἱ δοῦλοι.
nor news you-brought as do the servants
ὡς ἐβαρέθην τὰ πολλὰ, ἀνάμενέ σε λίαν,
as he-wearied the much awaited you greatly
ὡς εἶδεν ὅτι ἀπόμεινες, πολλὰ σοῦ ἐκατηράσθη,
as he-saw that you-stayed-behind much you he-cursed
ἐκατηράσθη σου πολλὰ ὁ αὐθέντης μας ἐκεῖνος,
cursed you much the master our that
ἔταξεν, εἶπεν νὰ σ᾽ εὑρῇ, πούπετα νὰ σὲ πιάσῃ,
he-vowed said that you he-find ever that you he-catch
νὰ σκίσῃ τὰ ῥουθούνια σου καὶ νὰ σὲ ξεγυμνώσῃ,
that he-slit the nostrils your and that you he-strip

μαγλάβια νὰ σὲ διώσουσιν, σίδερα νὰ σὲ βάλουν,
beatings that you they-give irons that you they-put-on
κ' εἰς φυλακὴν, κακότυχε, νὰ ζήσῃς, ν' ἀποθάνῃς.
and in prison ill-starred that you-live that you-die
ὡς τ' ἄκουσες, ὡς τὄμαθες, μᾶλλον ὡς εἶχες φόβον,
when it you-heard when it-you-learned rather as you-had fear
ἐπῆγες καὶ δανείστηκες, ἔβαλες μαῦρα ῥάσα,
you-went and borrowed put-on black cassocks
ἀλλὰ τὴν γνώμην ἔχεις την, κόραξ κατηραμένε,
but the mind you-have it raven cursed
σκύλους νὰ τρῷς καὶ ποντικοὺς, γαδάρους ψοφισμένους,
dogs that you-eat and mice donkeys dead
οὐδὲ τὰ ῥάσα ἐντρέπεσαι, κατηραμένε κόραξ.
nor the cassocks you-respect cursed raven
καὶ μέναν πάλιν ἔστειλεν ὁ αὐθέντης μας ἐκεῖνος,
and me again sent the master our that
καὶ μετὰ φόβου καὶ στοργῆς καὶ μετὰ δουλοσύνης
and with fear and affection and with servitude
ἐλαίας κάρφος ἤφερα, μαντάτο νὰ τοῦ δώσω.
of-olive twig I-brought news that to-him I-give
μαντάτον γὰρ τὸν ἤφερα οἷον τὸ ἐπεθύμα,
news for to-him I-brought such-as it he-desired
ὅτι τὴν γῆν ἐφθάσαμεν, τὸν τόπον τὸν ἠγάπα.
that the land we-reached the place which he-loved
καὶ τότε μὲ εὐχήθηκεν, εὐλόγησέ με ὅλως.
and then me he-prayed-for blessed me wholly
ὡσαύτως τὰ πουλία μου δουλοσύνη ἐδείξαν.
likewise the chicks my servitude showed
καὶ τώρα, κακοτύχερε, ἐμέναν καταλέγεις,
and now ill-fortuned me you-abuse

ἐμένα καταμέφεσαι καὶ πόρνην ὀνομάζεις;
me you-blame and whore name
ἐσὺ μαθὼν γινώσκεις τον τὸν παλαιὸν τὸν νόμον,
you having-learned know it the old the law
πολλάκις ἂν ἐγέννησεν μία ἐκ τῶν Ὀβραίων,
often if bore one of the Hebrews
εἰς τὸν ναὸν ἀνέβαινεν τάχα νὰ σαραντίσῃ,
to the temple she-went-up as-if that she-be-purified
πουλιὰ ἐκ τὰ πουλία μου ἔδιδεν τὸν πρεσβύτην.
chicks of the chicks my she-gave to-the elder
καὶ σὺ, πουλὶν ἀκάθαρτον, μέφεσαι τὰ ’δικά μου,
and you bird unclean blame the own my
χαλκεῖ μὲ τὰ καθημερνὰ, χαλκωματᾶ βρωμάρη,
smith with the everyday(-clothes) coppersmith stinker
καταργουμένε κόρακα, διάβολε ’ς τὸ χρῶμα,
possessed raven devil in the color
στέκεις καὶ καταλέγεις με καὶ πόρνην ὀνομάζεις;
you-stand and abuse me and whore name
λοιπὸν ἄλλον μηδὲν εἰπῇς ὕβριν τινὰ ἀδίκως,
then other not say insult any unjustly
νὰ ’πῶ καὶ τ’ ἄλλα τ’ ἄχρηστα καὶ τὰ πουλιὰ σὲ πτύσουν.“
that I-say also the other the useless(-things) and the birds you spit-on

Καὶ ταῦτα οὐκ ἐσίγησαν, ἡ ὄχλητα ἐκράτειεν,
And they not fell-silent the uproar held
καθὼς τὸ καταλόγιν τους εἶπεν πολλὰ ὁ κόραξ,
as the talk their said many(-things) the raven
ἀμμὴ ὁ μποῦφος πήδησεν βαρύκωλος ’ς τὸ μέσον
but the owl leapt heavy-bottomed into the middle
καὶ τὴν πτωχὴν τὴν κίχλαν τὴν ἤρξατο καθυβρίζειν,
and the poor the thrush her began to-insult

ὡς μπάους ἀνεφάνηκεν μὲ τὸ μεγάλον μάτιν,
as bogeyman appeared with the great eye
καὶ λόγους ἐπεχείρησεν τοιούτους νὰ τῆς λέγῃ
and words undertook such that to-her he-say
„κίχλα, καὶ τίς σ᾽ ἐκάλεσεν καὶ ἦλθες εἰς τὸν γάμον,
thrush and who you invited and you-came to the wedding
μετ᾽ αὗτον τὸν κουκουδωτὸν ἐμπαλωτόν σου ῥοῦχον;
with this the spotted patched your garment
οὐ κάθεσαι ὡς κάθουνται τοῦ κόσμου τὰ πουλία,
not you-sit as sit of-the world the birds
ἀμμὴ γυρίζεις, περπατεῖς, ὅλα καταλαλεῖς τα,
but you-turn-about walk all bad-mouth them
καὶ θλίβεις καὶ πικραίνεις τα, εἰς πειρασμοὺς τὰ βάνεις.
and afflict and embitter them into temptations them put
λέγεις τα, θέλω ἐξώκουκα καὶ τοῦ κισσοῦ τὰ ἄνθη,
you-tell them I-want juniper-berries and of-the ivy the flowers
θέλω καὶ τόπον ἔνδροσον, μυριοχαριτωμένον,
I-want also place dewy thousand-graced
ὡς εἶμαι ἐκ τῶν εὐγενῶν μᾶλλον καὶ τῶν ἐνδόξων,
as I-am of the nobles rather and of-the illustrious
καὶ βλέπε καὶ τὸ στέμμα μου ἀπὸ τῶν κόρων ἔνι,
and see also the crown my from the berries is
μᾶλλον ἀπὸ τὰς σπέτσας τὰς εἶχα μέσα μου ***
rather from the spices which I-had inside me (lacuna)
εἶχα κ᾽ εἰς τὸ φαγίν μου *ἤτους μεμαθημένη —
I-had also in the food my I-was accustomed
κ᾽ οὐ κάθεσαι κορτέσικα, κορβάτα νὰ γυρεύῃς.
and not you-sit courtly bedsteads that you-seek
πολύ ᾽ν᾽ σου καὶ τὸ κάθισμα ᾽ς τοῦ γάμου τὸ τραπέζι.
much is to-you also the seat at of-the wedding the table

ἐξ ὅτου γὰρ εὑρέθηκεν, ἔβαλαν ἔμπροσθέν σου,
from when for it-was-found they-set before you
αὐτὸ καὶ μόνον ἔβλεπες· ἄφες τὴν ὄρεξίν σου,
it and alone you-saw leave the appetite your
μὴ τύχῃ καὶ νοήσουν σε κι ὡσὰν ἀκρογυρίζουν.
lest it-happen and they-notice you and as they-glance-sideways
τὸ πάθημα τοῦ φάρυγγος πάθος ἔνι μεγάλον.
the suffering of-the throat suffering is great
λοιπὸν ἐγείρου, ὕπαγε, σύρε ἀπὸ τὸν γάμον,
then get-up go take-yourself from the wedding
μηδὲν εἰπῶ καὶ τ' ἄλλα σου, καὶ θέλεις γαργαρίσει."
lest I-say also the other(-things) your and you-will squawk
γυρίζει ἡ κίχλα, λέγει τον „μποῦφε, τ' εἶναι τὰ λέγεις,
turns the thrush says to-him owl what are which you-say
*** καὶ τί τὰ συντυχαίνεις;
(lacuna) and why them you-chatter
διδάσκειν θέλεις καὶ πολλοὺς, ἢ ὅλα μὲν τὰ λέγεις;
to-teach you-want also many or all indeed them you-say
ἐγὼ γὰρ, Ταρταρόκοπε, Βουργαροαναθρεμμένε,
I for Tatar-born Bulgar-reared
ἀνακαρᾶ Ταρτάρικε, *σκουληκόασβε μὲ τὴν κάπαν,
kettledrum Tatar worm-ashen with the cloak
οἶδά σε καὶ γινώσκω σε τὸ τίς καὶ πόθεν εἶσαι.
I-know you and know you the who and whence you-are
'κ τὴν Ταρταρίαν ἤσουνε ὁκάτινος ψυχάριν,
from — Tartary you-were of-someone slave
καὶ πρόβατα σ' ἐδώκασιν εἰς τὸ βουνὶν νὰ βόσκῃς,
and sheep to-you they-gave on the mountain that you-graze
κι ἀπὸ τὸν ὕπνον τὸν πολὺν, τὸν εἶχες κάθ' ἡμέραν,
and from the sleep the much which you-had every day

οἱ πιστικοὶ σὲ τἄκλεψαν οἱ ἄλλοι ἀπὸ μακρόθεν,
the shepherds you them-stole the others from afar
ὀλίγον τὸ κατ' ὄλιγον ἐπῆράν σε τὰ ὅλα,
little the by little they-took you the all
κ' ἔφυγες, κακορρίζικε, 's τὴν Ῥωμανιὰν ἐσέβης.
and fled ill-starred into — Romania entered
οἱ Τάταροι γυρεύουν σε τάχα νὰ σὲ πιάσουν.
the Tatars seek you as-if that you they-catch
ὅμως ἐσὲν ἐπίασαν καὶ τὸ πετσίν σου ἐπῆραν,
yet you they-caught and the skin your they-took
αὐθέντης τὸ καππούτσιν σου ἔβγαλεν καὶ φορεῖς το,
master the hood your took-off and you-wear it
νὰ φοβερίζῃ τοὺς βοσκοὺς, τάχα νὰ μὴν κοιμῶνται.
that it-frighten the shepherds as-if that not they-sleep
πάντως οὐ λέγω ψέματα, οἱ πάντες τὸ θωροῦσιν,
surely not I-tell lies the all it see
οἱ Τάταροι ἀγοράζουν σας, βάνουν εἰς τὴν κορφήν τους,
the Tatars buy you put on the top their
τὸ νὰ φοβοῦνται οἱ βοσκοὶ, τάχα νὰ μὴν κοιμῶνται.
the that fear the shepherds as-if that not they-sleep
καὶ σὺ τὸ εἶχες, ἔχεις το, τὸν ὕπνον οὐκ ἀφῆκες,
and you it had have it the sleep not you-left
καὶ τὴν ἡμέραν πάντοτε κοιμᾶσαι εἰς ῥηχάδας,
and the day always you-sleep on rocks
καὶ τὴν αὐγὴν ἐγέρνεσαι καὶ τὰ μανδριὰ γυρεύεις,
and the dawn you-rise and the sheepfolds seek
μήνα γνωρίσῃς, ἄτυχε, τάχα τὰ πρόβατά σου,
in-case you-recognize wretch as-if the sheep your
κ' ὑπᾷς τα τὸν ἀφέντη σου, μήνα σὲ συμπαθήσῃ.
and you-take them the master your in-case you he-pardon

καὶ σὺ τολμᾷς, ἀγριόμπουφε, ὑβρίζεις με τὴν κίχλαν;
and you dare wild-owl insult me the thrush
ἐγὼ ἀκόμη ἤμουν παιδὶν ἀπέσω ἐκ τὴν Γλαρέντσα,
I still was child inside in — Glarentsa
καὶ φόρουν τὰ κατάκοπα καὶ βάσταζα σφυρίστρια,
and I-wore the cut-up(-clothes) and held whistles
καὶ βλέπεις, ἐσυνείθισα καὶ πάντοτε σφυρίζω.
and you-see I-grew-used and always whistle
κι ἄφες με, μποῦφ', ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν μηδὲν μὲ ἀναγκάσῃς
and leave me owl from the now not me compel
καὶ 'πῶ καὶ τὴν ὑπόληψιν, τὴν εἶχεν ὁ πατήρ σου."
and I-tell also the reputation which had the father your
Πάντων τούτων τῶν ὄρνεων ἀλλήλων μαχομένων,
Of-all these the birds one-another fighting
ὁ βασιλεὺς ἐλάλησεν σταυραετὸς ὁ μέγας
the king spoke cross-eagle the great
„ὄρνεα καὶ πουλία μου μικρά τε καὶ μεγάλα,
birds and chicks my small both and great
οὐδὲν σᾶς ἤφερα ἐδῶ διὰ νὰ λογογενᾶσθε,
not you I-brought here for that you-revile-lineages
διὰ τιμὴν σᾶς ὥρισα, ἤλθετε 's τὴν χαράν μου,
for honor you I-summoned you-came to the joy my
νὰ φάγετε, νὰ πίετε καὶ νὰ χαρῆτε ἅμα,
that you-eat that you-drink and that you-rejoice together
οὐχὶ δὲ νὰ δικάζεσθε καὶ νὰ γενολογᾶσθεν.
not but that you-litigate and that you-revile-lineages
ἀφῆτε γοῦν τὴν ὄχλησιν, κάθεστε σιωπῶντα,
leave then the uproar sit silent
μὴ ὁρίσω τὸν ἱέρακα, εἶτα καὶ τὸν πετρίτην,
lest I-order the hawk then also the peregrine

τὸν ζάγανον τὸν φοβερὸν, εἶτα τὸν γέρον φάλκον,
the red-kite the fearsome then the old falcon
σεβοῦσιν εἰς τὴν μέσην σας, ἄρξωνται νὰ σᾶς τρῶσιν,
they-enter into the middle your begin that you eat
καὶ γένῃ ὁ γάμος μακελλειὸν κ᾽ ἡ χαρμονὴ σφαγεῖον.“
and become the wedding slaughterhouse and the joy shambles
Ἤκουσαν ταῦτα ὅλα τους, ἐσίγησαν αὐτίκα,
They-heard these(-things) all of-them fell-silent at-once
ἀφήκασιν τὴν ταραχὴν, ἀφήκασιν τὰς ὕβρεις,
they-left the turmoil they-left the insults
εἰρηνικὰ ἀνόχλητα ἐπλήρωσαν τὸν γάμον,
peaceably untroubled they-finished the wedding
περιπατοῦσιν ἄλαλα μὲ ἴδιαν τους σοφίαν.
walk speechless with own their wisdom
ὑψιπετῆ γὰρ χαίρουνται, ἀμέριμνα διάγουν.
high-flying for they-rejoice carefree they-live

ΔΙΗΓΗΣΙΣ ΠΑΙΔΙΟΦΡΑΣΤΟΣ ΤΩΝ ΤΕΤΡΑΠΟΔΩΝ ΖΩΩΝ

The Tale of the Quadrupeds

I · THE TRUCE

A tale for schoolboys. In September of the year 6873, the lion, king of the quadrupeds, sits in council with the elephant, the leopard, the lion-leopard, and the other flesh-eaters, and sends the cat, the mouse, and the monkey as envoys to the clean beasts. The hare calls these to assembly, and they send the horse, the donkey, and the camel back. Both sides swear a peace, and all the animals gather on a great plain to praise and blame one another in turn.

Διήγησις παιδιόφραστος περὶ τῶν τετραπόδων,
Tale childishly-told about the four-footed
ἵνα ἀναγινώσκωνται καὶ χρῶνται ταῦτα παῖδες,
that may-be-read and use these(-things) children
οἱ φοιτηταὶ καὶ νεαροὶ, διὰ τὴν εὐνοστίαν·
the students and young for the pleasantness
γέγραπται γὰρ εἰς ἕνωσιν μαθήσεως καὶ πόθου.
it-is-written for toward union of-learning and of-desire
ἔχουσιν δ' ὅμως ἔννοιαν καὶ βάρος τὰ τοιαῦτα· 5
have and yet meaning and weight the such(-things)
νόησε μόνον ἀκριβῶς τὴν ἔννοιαν τὴν ἔχουν·
understand only exactly the meaning which they-have
ὅταν τὰ ἔθνη μεθ' ἡμῶν ποιοῦσιν ψευδοαγάπην,
when the nations with us make false-love
ὑπερθαῤῥοῦντες εἰς ἰσχὺν ἄρδην ἡμᾶς ὀλέσαι,
over-confident in strength utterly us to-destroy
σώζει ἡμᾶς τὸ δίκαιον καὶ ἀψευδὲς τοῦ ὅρκου.
saves us the justice and truthfulness of-the oath
θεὸς γὰρ νέμει τὴν εὐχὴν ὡς κριτὴς τῶν ἁπάντων. 10
God for allots the prayer as judge of-the all

Τῷ ἑξάκις τε χιλιοστῷ ὀκτακοσιοστῷ τε
In-the six-times and thousandth eight-hundredth and
καὶ πρὸς τὰ ἑβδομήκοντα καὶ ἄλλα τρία ἔτη,
and besides the seventy and other three years
μηνὸς τοῦ σεπτεμβρίου τε τῆς πεντεκαιδεκάτης,
of-month of-the September and of-the fifteenth
ὁμοῦ πάντα συνήχθησαν τὰ τετράποδα ζῶα,
together all gathered the four-footed animals
τὰ καθαρὰ καὶ εὔχρηστα ὁμοῦ εἰς ἕναν τόπον,
the clean and useful together in one place
αἱμόβορα καὶ βδελυκτὰ εἰς ἄλλην πεδιάδα.
blood-eating and abominable in another plain
ἐκάθησεν ὁ βασιλεὺς πάντων τῶν τετραπόδων
sat the king of-all the four-footed
λέων ὁ ἀγριόφθαλμος καὶ γακλαδοραδάτος·
lion the wild-eyed and tufted-tailed
εἶχεν καὶ συγκαθήμενον ἐλέφαντα τὸν μέγαν,
he-had also sitting-with(-him) elephant the great
τὸν μηδ' ἁρμοὺς, μὴ γόνατα, μηδ' ἀστραγάλους ἔχων.
the(-one) neither joints nor knees nor ankles having
πλησίον δ' εἶχεν μετ' αὐτὸν δύο πρωτοσυμβούλους,
near and he-had beside him two chief-counselors
πάρδον καὶ λεοντόπαρδον τοὺς ἀποφουμιστάδες.
leopard and lion-leopard the renowned(-ones)
ἦσαν δὲ καὶ τὰ ἕτερα αἱμόβορα θηρία,
were and also the other blood-eating beasts
λύκος ὁ νυκτοβαδιστὴς καὶ ὁ αἱματοπότης,
wolf the night-walker and the blood-drinker
κύων ὁ ὑποτακτικὸς καὶ ποθεινὸς ἀνθρώποις,
dog the obedient and dear to-men

ὁ πάντα τρώγων βρώματα καὶ πάντα κατεσθίων,
the(-one) all eating foods and all devouring
ἀλλὰ καὶ ἡ ἀλώπεκα ἡ φουνδοουραδάτη
but also the fox the bushy-tailed
καὶ ἡ ὀρνιθοπνίκτρια, ἡ παμπονηροτάτη.
and the hen-strangler the most-wicked
συναθροισθέντων δὲ ὁμοῦ καὶ προκαθεζομένων
having-assembled and together and presiding
τοῦ λέοντος καὶ τῶν λοιπῶν, βουλὴν ὁμοῦ ἐπῆραν,
the lion and the rest counsel together took
καὶ πρέσβεις ἀποστέλλουσιν εἰς τὰ ἕτερα ζῶα
and envoys they-send to the other animals
τὰ καθαρὰ καὶ εὔχρηστα καὶ τετράποδα πάντα.
the clean and useful and four-footed all
πρῶτον τὸν κάτη στέλλουσιν, διότι νυκτοβλέπει,
first the cat they-send because it-sees-by-night
καὶ μετ' αὐτοῦ τὸν ποντικὸν, μεγαλομουστακάτον,
and with him the mouse big-whiskered
μακρύμυτον, μακρύουρον, εἰς συντροφιὰν τοῦ κάτη.
long-snouted long-tailed in company of-the cat
εἶχασιν δὲ καὶ μετ' αὐτοὺς, ὁποῦ νὰ τοὺς δουλεύῃ,
they-had and also with them who that them she-serve
τὴν μαϊμοῦ, τὸ μίμηστρον, τὸ παίγνιον τοῦ κόσμου.
the monkey the mimic the plaything of-the world
ἀπῆλθαν, ἀπεσώθησαν κατὰ τὸ ὡρισμένον
they-went-off they-arrived according-to the appointed
εἰς τἆλλα τὰ τετράποδα τὰ καθαρὰ τὰ ζῶα.
to the-other the four-footed the clean the animals
ταῦτα ὡς εἶδον τὸ φρικτὸν καὶ τοὺς ἐξαίφνης πρέσβεις,
they when they-saw the terrible(-thing) and the sudden envoys

ἐδόθη λόγος κι ὁρισμὸς καὶ ἐδιαλαλήθη
was-given word and order and was-proclaimed
νὰ συναχθοῦν, νὰ ‘μαδευθοῦν πάντα εἰς ἕναν τόπον,
that they-gather that they-assemble all in one place
εἰς πεδιάδαν ὁμαλὴν, μικρά τε καὶ μεγάλα.
in plain level small both and great
ἔβαλαν οὖν διαλαλητὴν λαγὸν τὸν μεγαλόπτην,
they-put then herald hare the big-eyed
ὡς γοργοπόδαρον, ταχὺν, ἵνα συνάξῃ πάντας,
as swift-footed quick that he-gather all
καὶ ν’ ἴδωσιν τοὺς ἄρχοντας τοὺς ἀποκρισιάρους,
and that they-see the lords the envoys
νὰ τοὺς φιλοφρονήσουσιν, νὰ τοὺς ἀποδεχθοῦσιν,
that them they-welcome that them they-receive
καὶ τὰ χαρτία νὰ ἰδοῦν καὶ λόγους νὰ ἀκούσουν.
and the letters that they-see and words that they-hear
ἤλθασιν καὶ συνάχθησαν δι’ ὅλης τῆς ἡμέρας.
they-came and gathered through all the day
καθισάντων οὖν τοῦ βοὸς ἅμα μὲ τὸ βουβάλιν,
having-sat then the ox together with the buffalo
καὶ ἄλογον τὸ θαυμαστὸν, ὄνος ὁ πολυῤῥάβδης,
and horse the wonderful ass the much-beaten
ὁ ’φιδοροῦφος ἔλαφος, ὁμοῦ σὺν τὸ ἀγρίμι,
the snake-swallowing deer together with the wild-goat
ἡ αἶγα καὶ τὸ πρόβατον, ὁ πολυφάγος χοῖρος,
the goat and the sheep the gluttonous pig
ἀπέστειλαν καὶ ἔκραξαν τοὺς ἀποκρισιάρους,
they-sent and called the envoys

τὸν κάτην καὶ τὸν ποντικὸν, καὶ κάθησαν ἐντάμα
the cat and the mouse and they-sat together

καὶ τὰ χαρτία εἴδασιν καὶ λόγους ἐσυνῆραν·
and the letters they-saw and words exchanged

„τί θέλετε; τί χρῄζετε; τί ἔναι τὸ λαλεῖτε;“
what do-you-want what do-you-need what is which you-say

ἀπηλογεῖται ὁ ποντικὸς ὁ γερομουστακάτος·
answers the mouse the old-whiskered

„ὁρίζει λέων βασιλεὺς πάντων τῶν τετραπόδων
commands lion king of-all the four-footed

μὲ συμβουλὴν τῶν μετ᾽ αὐτοῦ φρονίμων καὶ κριτάδων,
with counsel of-the with him prudent(-ones) and judges

ἵνα συνέλθωσιν ὁμοῦ τὰ τετράποδα ζῶα,
that may-come-together together the four-footed animals

τὰ καθαρὰ καὶ εὔχρηστα ὁμοῦ εἰς ἕναν τόπον,
the clean and useful together in one place

καὶ πάντα τὰ μὴ καθαρὰ, ἀλλὰ καὶ σαρκοφάγα,
and all the not clean but also flesh-eating

εἰς κάμπον ὡραιότατον, εἰς ὁμαλιὰν μεγάλην,
in field most-beautiful in level-ground great

καὶ λόγους νὰ συναίρωμέν τινας ἐκ τῶν ἀστείων,
and words that we-exchange some from the witty(-ones)

νὰ ἴδωμεν τοῦ καθενὸς τὸν ἔπαινον καὶ ψόγον.
that we-see of-the each the praise and blame

τοῦτο ἐστὶν τὸ μήνυμαν λέοντος βασιλέως,
this is the message of-lion of-king

καὶ τοῦτο λέγει ἡ γραφὴ ἡ πρὸς ὑμᾶς σταλεῖσα.“
and this says the letter the to you sent

τότε ἀπηλογήθησαν τὰ καθαρὰ τὰ ζῶα·
then answered the clean the animals

„ἀνάρμοστοι, ἀσυντελεῖς ὑπάρχουσιν οἱ λόγοι.
unfitting useless are the words
ἡμεῖς ἐκείνων βρώματα ἐσμὲν εἰς εὐωχίαν —
we their foods are for feasting
καὶ πῶς γὰρ ἔνι δυνατὸν ὁμοῦ νὰ συναχθοῦμεν;
and how for is-it possible together that we-gather
ἂς στείλωμεν οὖν καὶ ἡμεῖς τοὺς ἡμετέρους πρέσβεις,
let us-send then also we the our envoys
νὰ ἔλθουν νὰ συντύχουσιν καὶ πάτους νὰ ποιήσουν,
that they-come that they-talk and pacts that they-make
νὰ στερεώσουν δυνατὴν ἀγάπην καὶ φιλίαν·
that they-establish strong love and friendship
καὶ τότε νὰ συνέλθωμεν τὰ τετράποδα πάντα
and then that we-come-together the four-footed all
εἰς κάμπον μέγαν ὁμαλὸν, εἰς μίαν πεδιάδαν,
in field great level in one plain
καθὼς φησὶν ὁ βασιλεὺς λέων καὶ ἡ βουλή του.“
as says the king lion and the council his
τότε ἐστράφησαν ὁμοῦ ὁ ποντικὸς κ᾽ ὁ κάτης.
then turned-back together the mouse and the cat
αὐτοὶ δὲ ἀποστέλλουσιν ἄλλους ἑτέρους πρέσβεις,
they and send other different envoys
τὸ ἄλογον τὸ φοβερὸν, τὸν θρόνον τῶν ἀνθρώπων,
the horse the fearsome the throne of-the men
καὶ ὄνον μεγαλόψωλον καὶ μεγαλορχιδάτον·
and ass big-pricked and big-balled
εἶχασιν δὲ καὶ μετ᾽ αὐτοὺς ὁποῦ νὰ τοὺς δουλεύῃ
they-had and also with them who that them she-serve
καμήλαν τὴν κυμπόῤῥαχην καὶ μακροσφονδυλάτην,
camel the hump-backed and long-vertebraed

διὰ νὰ τοὺς παίζῃ νὰ γελοῦν, νὰ τοὺς παραμυθίζῃ,
so that them she-amuse that they-laugh that them she-entertain
καὶ νὰ ὀρχᾶται, νὰ πηδᾷ ὡς κακογυρισμένη.
and that she-dance that she-leap as ill-turned
ἀπῆγαν καὶ ἀπέσωσαν οἱ ἀποκρισιάροι
went and arrived the envoys
εἰς βασιλέα λέοντα καὶ τοὺς πρωτοσυμβούλους,
to king lion and the chief-counselors
ἀπέδωκαν καὶ τὰς γραφὰς καὶ λόγους ἐσυντύχαν.
they-delivered also the letters and words they-spoke
ἐποίησαν στοιχήματα καὶ δυνατὴν ἀγάπην,
they-made pledges and strong love
καὶ συνεφιλιώθησαν ὁμοῦ τὰ δύο μέρη,
and were-reconciled together the two sides
μεθ' ὅρκου βεβαιώσαντες καθολικὴν ἀγάπην.
with oath having-confirmed universal love
καὶ εἶπαν καὶ συνέταξαν καὶ διαλάλησάν το
and they-said and agreed and proclaimed it
νὰ 'μαδευθοῦν, νὰ συναχθοῦν ὁμοῦ εἰς ἕναν τόπον
that they-assemble that they-gather together in one place
τὰ ζῶα τὰ τετράποδα, μικρά τε καὶ μεγάλα,
the animals the four-footed small both and great
τὰ καθαρὰ καὶ εὔχρηστα ὁμοῦ μὲ τ' αἱμοβόρα,
the clean and useful together with the blood-eating
καὶ ἔχθραν νὰ μὴ ἔχουσιν ἢ μάχην ἢ κακίαν,
and enmity that not they-have or battle or malice
ἀλλὰ ἀγάπην στερεὰν καὶ δυνατὴν φιλίαν,
but love firm and strong friendship

ἀλλήλως νὰ συντύχωσιν λόγους ἐκ τῶν ἀστείων
mutually that they-speak words from the witty(-ones)
καὶ ὀλιγούτσικα τινὰ τῶν μετεωρισμάτων,
and very-few some of-the boasts
ἑνὸς ἑκάστου ἔπαινον καὶ καθενὸς τὸν ψόγον,
of-one each praise and of-each the blame
καὶ ὅσα ἔχουσιν καλὰ, ἀλλὰ καὶ τὰ κακά τους.
and whatever they-have good but also the bad their
τότε νὰ εἶδες τὰ βουνὰ, νὰ εἶδες καὶ τοὺς κάμπους,
then that you-saw the mountains that you-saw also the fields
νὰ εἶδες καὶ τὰ δάσητα, νὰ εἶδες τὰς λαγκάδας,
that you-saw also the woods that you-saw the valleys
τὴν ὄχλησιν, τὴν ταραχὴν, τὴν σύναξιν τῶν ζώων,
the crowding the commotion the gathering of-the animals
καὶ ἐσυνάχθησαν ὁμοῦ ὅλα εἰς ἕναν μῆναν
and gathered together all in one month
εἰς κάμπον μέγαν ὁμαλὸν, εἰς μίαν πεδιάδαν.
in field great level in one plain
ἐκάθισεν ὁ βασιλεὺς λέων ἐπὶ τοῦ θρόνου,
sat the king lion upon the throne
πλησίον οἱ συγκάθεδροι καὶ πᾶσα ἡ βουλή του,
near the assessors and all the council his
ὁμοῦ καὶ οἱ προάγοντες καὶ οἱ ἀκολουθοῦντες
together both the going-before and the following
καὶ ὅλον τὸ συνέδριον καὶ πᾶσα γερουσία.
and all the council and all senate

The lion orders that one speak at a time on pain of death. The mouse challenges all comers; the cat reviles it as a pot-licker that befouls every store. The mouse replies that the cat, though fed and petted, steals and is beaten for it. The dog attacks the cat and the fox, the strangler of hens. The fox mocks the dog's beatings and mange; the dog answers that he lives with lords and wears a collar of bells, while she slinks thirsty in the dark.

Λέων εὐθὺς ὁ βασιλεὺς ἐλάλησεν μεγάλως
Lion at-once the king spoke greatly
καὶ λόγους ἐναπέτεινεν εἰς ἐπήκοον πάντων
and words he-addressed in hearing of-all
πολλὰ καλοὺς καὶ θαυμαστοὺς καὶ λόγους ἀγχινοίας,
very good and wonderful and words of-shrewdness
καὶ μετὰ τοῦτο ὥρισεν ἵνα μετριασθῶσιν,
and after this ordered that they-be-moderate
νὰ συντυχαίνῃ μόνος εἷς, ν' ἀπηλογῆται ἄλλος,
that speak alone one that answer another
καὶ πάλιν ἄλλος εἷς πρὸς εἷς, διὰ τὴν εὐταξίαν,
and again another one to one for the good-order
ἵνα μὴ γένῃ σύγχυσις καὶ ταραχὴ τυχοῦσα.
that not arise confusion and tumult chance
ἀλλὰ καὶ ἐδιαλάλησεν ἀπάνω εἰς ἐτοῦτο,
but also he-proclaimed upon on this
νὰ χάνῃ τὸ κεφάλιν του καὶ ὅλον του τὸ γένος,
that he-lose the head his and all his the kin
εἴ τις ποιήσει ταραχὴν μέσον τοῦ συνεδρίου.
if anyone makes tumult in-the-midst of-the council
πρῶτον εὐθὺς ὁ πονδικὸς ἐστάθην εἰς τὸ μέσον,
first at-once the mouse stood in the middle

καὶ οὕτως ἀπεφθέγξατο μέσον τοῦ συνεδρίου
and thus spoke-out in-the-midst of-the council
„εἴ τις καλὸς κι ἀπόκοτος, ἂς ἔλθῃ εἰς τὸ μέσον.“
if anyone good and bold let come into the middle
ἀψὸς, γοργὸς ἐπήδησεν ὁ ταπεινὸς ὁ κάτης
hot quick leaped the humble the cat
καὶ ἐλοιδόρησεν αὐτὸν, λέγει τοιούτους λόγους
and reviled him says such words
„μακρύμυτε, μακρύουρε, μεγαλομουστακάτε,
long-snout long-tail big-whiskers
τί μοῦ σεῖς τὸ μουστάκιν σου ἀπάνω τε καὶ κάτω,
why at-me do-you-shake the whisker your up both and down
ἔνθεν κἀκεῖθεν θεωρεῖς νὰ εὕρῃς τρύπα νἄμπῃς;
hither and-thither you-look that you-find hole that-you-go-in
τζουκαλογλύφε, τυροφᾶ καὶ ψωμοκαταλύτη,
pot-licker cheese-eater and bread-spoiler
μαγαρισμένε πονδικὲ ὁποῦ μιαίνεις πάντα,
defiled mouse who pollute all
τὰ σῦκα, τὰς σταπίδας τε, τ’ ὀξύγαλον, τὸ γάλα,
the figs the raisins and the sour-milk the milk
κρέας, ὀψάριν καὶ τ’ αὐγὰ, καὶ ὅσα τὰ τοιαῦτα,
meat fish and the eggs and whatever the such(-things)
τὰ μὲν ἐσθίεις, μυσερὲ, τὰ δὲ οὐρεῖς καὶ χέζεις,
some indeed you-eat filthy(-one) others and you-piss-on and shit-on
τὰ δ’ ἄλλα μὲ τὰ πόδια σου σκορπᾷς καὶ καταχύνεις.
the and others with the feet your you-scatter and spill
ἂν εὕρῃς δ’ ἄβουλλον ῥογὶν νὰ γέμῃ τὸ ἐλᾴδι,
if you-find and unsealed jar that is-full-of the oil
χαλᾷς κάτω τὴν σὴν οὐρὰν καὶ σύρνεις τὸ ἐλᾴδιν,
you-let-down down the your tail and draw-up the oil

καὶ τὴν οὐράν σου λείχοντα χορταίνεις τὴν κοιλιάν σου.
and the tail your licking you-fill the belly your

ἐδᾶ κρατεῖ μ᾽ ὁ βασιλεὺς, ἐδᾶ κρατεῖ μ᾽ ὁ ὅρκος,
now holds me the king now holds me the oath

ἀλλὰ καὶ τὰ στοιχήματα ὅλης τῆς συντροφίας.
but also the pledges of-all the company

ἀμμὴ νὰ πήδησα δαμὶν, μικρὸν πηδηματίτσιν,
but that I-had-leaped a-little small little-leap

νὰ ἴδῃς, σκατοπονδικὲ, γυρίσματα τοῦ κάτου,
that you-see shit-mouse turns of-the cat

πῶς νὰ σὲ ἤρπαξα γοργὸν καὶ πῶς σὲ ᾽θελα φάγῃ,
how that you I-would-have-snatched quickly and how you I-would eat

πῶς νὰ σὲ ἐμασίσασιν τὰ ταπεινά μου ᾽δόντια,
how that you would-have-chewed the humble my teeth

καὶ νὰ σὲ δρουγανίσασιν καὶ νὰ σὲ ῥουκανίσαν,
and that you they-would-grind and that you they-would-gnaw

νά ᾽σφιξα τὸ κεφάλιν σου, ὁ κῶλός σου νὰ ᾽βγῆκεν,
that I-would-have-squeezed the head your the backside your that came-out

κ᾽ ᾗ κόραις τῶν ὀμμάτων σου, ὅλα τὰ ἔντερά σου.“
and the pupils of-the eyes your all the guts your

τότε πάλιν ὁ ποντικὸς εὐθὺς ἀπηλογήθη,
then again the mouse at-once answered

καὶ λόγους ἐπεχείρησε τοιούτους νὰ τῆς λέγῃ
and words he-undertook such that to-her he-say

„μεγάλως ὑπεραίρεσαι, μεγάλως καὶ καυχᾶσαι.
greatly you-exalt-yourself greatly and you-boast

λέγεις ἐμὲν καὶ λοιδορεῖς ὅτι μιαίνω πάντα,
you-tell me and revile that I-pollute all

τὰ βρώματα καὶ πόματα καὶ εἴδη τῶν ἀνθρώπων.
the foods and drinks and goods of-the men

κι ἂν τρώγω, κάτη κάκιστε καὶ στακτοκυλισμένε,
and if I-eat cat most-wicked and ash-rolled
δίκαιον ἔχω, μυσερὲ, καὶ εὔλογον νὰ τρώγω·
right I-have filthy(-one) and reason that I-eat
ζῶον γὰρ ἄγριόν εἰμαι κι ἀνήμερον παντάπαν,
animal for wild I-am and untamed altogether
καὶ εἶμαι κι ἀκολάκευτον ἀπὸ παντὸς ἀνθρώπου.
and I-am also uncoaxed by every man
σὺ δὲ, αἰσχρὲ παμμίαρε, ἀλευροκαταχέστη,
you but shameful all-foul flour-beshitter
ἐκεῖ ποῦ σὲ ποτίζουσιν, ἐκεῖ ποῦ σὲ ταγίζουν,
there where you they-give-drink there where you they-feed
καὶ ἀγαποῦν καὶ ἔχουν σε καὶ ὁμαλίζουσίν σε,
and they-love and keep you and pet you
διὰ τί τὰ κλέπτεις, ἄτυχε, κρυφὰ καὶ καταλῦς τα,
for what them do-you-steal wretch secretly and spoil them
καὶ ἄλλα τρώγεις, ἄτσαλε, καὶ ἄλλα μαγαρίζεις;
and some you-eat slovenly(-one) and others you-defile
καὶ τὰ ’δικά σου πράγματα λέγεις τα πρὸς ἐμένα;
and the own your doings you-say them to me
ἀλλοὶ, καὶ ἂν σὲ εὕρουσιν, ἀλλοὶ καὶ ἂν σὲ πιάσουν,
alas and if you they-find alas and if you they-catch
ὅταν σκάπτῃς τὰ ἄλευρα καὶ χέζῃς καὶ μιαίνῃς
when you-dig the flour and you-shit and you-pollute
κ’ εἰς τὸ κεχρὶν κ’ εἰς τὰ κουκιὰ κ’ εἰς ἅπαντα τὰ εἴδη,
and in the millet and in the beans and in all the goods
καὶ χέζεις δὲ καὶ τὴν γωνιὰν καὶ χώνεις τα μὲ στάκτην,
and you-shit too also the corner and bury them with ash
καὶ ὅταν σὲ ταῦτ’ εὕρωσιν ποιοῦντα οἱ ἀνθρῶποι,
and when you these(-things) they-find doing the men

νὰ ἰδῇς ῥαβδιαῖς καὶ ματζουκαῖς ἀπάνω ’ς τὰ πλευρά σου,
that you-see blows and cudgelings upon on the ribs your
καὶ νὰ σὲ κροῦν καὶ νὰ τσιλᾷς, νὰ κλάνῃς καρυδάτα·
and that you they-beat and that you-squirt that you-fart walnut-sized
πολλάκις εἰς τὴν κεφαλὴν νὰ τύχῃ νὰ σὲ δώσουν,
often on the head that it-happen that you they-hit
καὶ νὰ ψοφήσῃς, ἄθλιε, καὶ νὰ σὲ ῥίψουν ἔξω
and that you-croak wretch and that you they-throw out
εἰς τὴν κοπραίαν, κάκιστε, καὶ νὰ σὲ φᾶν οἱ χοῖροι.
onto the dungheap most-wicked and that you eat the pigs
εἰ δὲ καὶ ζῇς καὶ περπατεῖς καὶ εἶσαι εἰς τὸν κόσμον,
if and also you-live and walk and are in the world
ἔνε καὶ σκύλος κυνηγὸς καὶ νὰ σὲ κυνηγήσῃ,
is also dog hunter and that you be-hunt
τινάξῃ καὶ τὴν γούναν σου, νὰ κόψῃ τὴν ὀφρύν σου,
shake also the fur your that he-cut the brow your
καὶ τὴν ἀλαζονείαν σου κι ὅλην τὴν ἔπαρσίν σου.“
and the arrogance your and all the conceit your
πληρώσας δὲ ὁ ποντικὸς ὅλους τοὺς λόγους τούτους
having-finished and the mouse all the words these
ἀπῆλθεν καὶ ἐστάθηκεν εἰς τὸ στασίδιόν του.
went-off and stood in the stall his
ὁ κύων δὲ, ὡς ἤκουσεν τοῦ ποντικοῦ λαλοῦντος
the dog and as he-heard the mouse speaking
τὸ ὄνομα, τὸν ἔπαινον καὶ τὴν τοιαύτην φήμην,
the name the praise and the such fame
ἀψὸς, γοργὸς ἐπήδησεν, ἐστάθην εἰς τὸ μέσον,
hot quick leaped stood in the middle

καὶ πρὸς τὸν κάτην ἔτεινεν καλοὺς τοιούτους λόγους
and to the cat directed fine such words
„ἐδᾶ κρατεῖ μ' ἡ ἐντροπὴ καὶ ἡ ὑποταγή μου —
now holds me the shame and the obedience my
ἀμμὴ ν' ἀλίσκω σε δαμὶν, νά 'χαψα τὴν οὐράν σου,
but that I-catch you a-little that I-snapped the tail your
καὶ νὰ σὲ ἀκροτίναξα μέσον τοῦ συνεδρίου,
and that you I-shook in-the-midst of-the council
ἐσέναν καὶ τὴν ἀλουποῦν τὴν μακροουραδάτην,
you and the fox the long-tailed
τὴν πνίγουσαν τὰς ὄρνιθας καὶ τὰ μικρὰ πουλία,
the(-one) strangling the hens and the small birds
ποῦ πνίγει τὰ ἐρίφια καὶ τὰ μικρὰ ἀρνία,
who strangles the kids and the small lambs
καὶ τὰ μὲν τρώγει ἡ κάκιστη, τὰ δ' ἄλλα πίνει αἷμα,
and the(-ones) indeed eats the most-wicked the and others she-drinks blood
καὶ πολεμεῖ μέγαν κακὸν καὶ πλεῖόν τε ζημίαν
and she-works great evil and more and harm
καὶ ἀδικίαν ἄπειρον εἰς τοὺς πτωχοὺς ἀνθρώπους."
and wrong boundless to the poor men
ὁ κάτης ἐφοβήθηκεν, φεύγει ἀπὸ τὸ μέσον,
the cat was-afraid flees from the middle
ἐξῆλθεν καὶ ἐστάθηκεν μετὰ τοῦ συνεδρίου.
went-out and stood with the council

ἀκούσασα ἡ ἀλωποῦ τὰς ὕβριτας τοῦ σκύλου
having-heard the fox the insults of-the dog
ἐν ταπεινῷ τῷ σχήματι εἰσῆλθεν εἰς τὸ μέσον
in humble the bearing entered into the middle
καὶ πονηρὰ καὶ τροπικὰ ἐφθέγξατο τοιαῦτα
and slyly and figuratively spoke such(-things)
„τί ἔνε, σκύλε, τὸ λαλεῖς, τί ἓν τὸ τζαμπουνίζεις;
what is dog what you-say what is what you-pipe
σκύλον σὲ λέγουν ὄνομα, ἀληθῶς σκύλος εἶσαι,
dog you they-call name truly dog you-are
καὶ γὰρ κατὰ τὸ ὄνομα ἔχεις τὴν πολιτείαν.“
and for according-to the name you-have the way-of-life
καὶ ταῦτα μὲν ὡς ἤκουσεν τῆς ἀλωποῦς λεγούσης,
and these(-things) indeed as he-heard the fox saying
προσμειδιάσας ὕστερον τούτους τοὺς λόγους εἶπεν
having-smiled afterward these the words said
„ἐξέβης, ἡ κύρ᾽ ἀλωποῦ νὰ μᾶς φιλοσοφήσῃς;
did-you-come-out the lady fox that to-us you-philosophize
ποῦ ἔμαθες τὰ γράμματα, ποῦ ἔμαθες τὴν τέχνην,
where did-you-learn the letters where did-you-learn the art
γραμματικὴν, ῥητορικὴν, οὕτως νὰ συντυχαίνῃς;
grammar rhetoric thus that you-speak
κ᾽ ἐπάνω εἰς τὴν δύναμιν καὶ φόβον βασιλέως
and upon on the power and fear of-king
καὶ τῶν λοιπῶν τὴν ἐντροπὴν πολλὰ μοῦ συντυχαίνεις.
and of-the rest the shame much to-me you-talk
λέγω ν᾽ ἀφήσω τὰ πολλὰ, νὰ παραβλέψω πάντας,
I-say that I-leave the many(-things) that I-overlook all
νὰ σύρω τὸ δερμάτιν σου, νὰ σύρω τὴν οὐράν σου,
that I-pull the hide your that I-pull the tail your

καὶ νὰ τὸ δώσω τὸν γναφεὰ, τὸν δερματογουνάρην,
and that it I-give to-the fuller the fur-dresser
νὰ σὲ δαμάσῃ ἡ ἄσβεστος καὶ νὰ σὲ κάψῃ ἡ στύψις,
that you may-tame the lime and that you may-burn the alum
καὶ νὰ ξεχάσῃς τὴν πολλὴν ‘ψηλὴν φιλοσοφίαν.“
and that you-forget the much lofty philosophy
στραφεῖσα ἡ ἀλώπεκα τὸν σκύλον ταῦτα λέγει
having-turned the fox to-the dog these(-things) says
„πολλὰ πολλὰ ‘περαίρεσαι, σκύλε μαγαρισμένε.
much much you-exalt-yourself dog defiled
πολλὰ καυχᾶσαι, φλύαρε, σαλιαρομυξάρη·
much you-boast babbler slobber-snot
καυχᾶσαι ὅτι κυνηγᾷς λαγοὺς καὶ ἄλλα ζῶα,
you-boast that you-hunt hares and other animals
πέρδικας καὶ χηνάρια καὶ ἄλλα τῶν ὀρνέων,
partridges and geese and others of-the birds
καὶ ἀγαποῦν σε τὰ πολλὰ καὶ ὁμαλίζουσίν σε.
and they-love you the much and they-pet you
ἀλλ’ ὅταν σ’ εὕρουν εἰς μικρὸν πταίσιμον εἰς τὸ σπήτιν,
but when you they-find in small fault in the house
καὶ κλέψῃς τίποτε νὰ φᾷς ἢ τίποτε νὰ ’γγίσῃς,
and you-steal anything that you-eat or anything that you-touch
ῥαβδαίας, ἀποπατητὰς μεγάλας σε φορτόνουν.
blows tramplings great you they-load
εἰ δὲ πολλάκις, μιαρὲ, συμβῇ καὶ ψωριάσῃς,
if and perhaps foul(-one) it-happens and you-get-mange
εἰς σπήτιν ἄλλο δὲν χωρεῖς οὐδ’ εἰς αὐλὴν ἐμπαίνεις,
into house other not you-fit nor into court you-enter
οὐδὲ καλὸν λόγον ἀκοῦς οὐδὲ ἐπωνυμίαν,
nor good word you-hear nor name

εἰ μὴ τό ὅλοι δότε τον, ὅλοι λιθάζετέ τον,
if not the all hit him all stone him
διότι μαγαρίζει μας ὁ σκύλος ὁ ψωριάρης —
because defiles us the dog the mangy
καὶ κροῦν σε ἄλλοι ἀπεδῶ καὶ ἄλλοι ἀπεκεῖθεν
and beat you some from-here and others from-there
καὶ τυμπανίζουν σε κακὰ, ἕως οὗ νὰ ψοφήσῃς,
and they-drum you badly until which that you-croak
καὶ δένουν σε μὲ τὸ σκοινὶν ὥς καταδικασμένον,
and they-bind you with the rope as condemned
καὶ σύρνουν σ' ἐκ τὸν τράχηλον καὶ πᾶν σ' εἰς τὴν κοπραίαν,
and they-drag you by the neck and take you to the dungheap
οἱ μὲν λιθοβολοῦσί σε, οἱ δὲ ῥαβδοκοποῦν σε,
the(-ones) indeed stone you the(-others) and club you
σκοτόνουν σε κι ἀφίνουν σε, καὶ τὰ ὀρνέα τρῶν σε.
they-kill you and leave you and the birds eat you
ταῦτα δέ εἰσιν τ' ἀγαθὰ καὶ τὰ καλὰ τὰ ἔχεις,
these(-things) and are the goods and the fine(-things) which you-have
καὶ ὑπεραίρεσαι πολλὰ καὶ καυχᾶσαι μεγάλα."
and you-exalt-yourself much and boast greatly
ὁ κύων ἐντραπεὶς μικρὸν τῆς ἀλωποῦς τοὺς λόγους
the dog having-been-shamed a-little of-the fox the words
παραμερεᾶς ἐστάθηκεν πικροχολιασμένος,
aside stood bitterly-angered
καὶ λόγους ἀπεφθέγξατο καὶ ῥήματα τοιαῦτα
and words spoke and sayings such
„ἀλωποῦ τρυπολόγισσα, βουνοαναθρεμμένη,
fox hole-dweller mountain-bred

οὔποτ᾽ ἡμέραν θεωρεῖς οὔτ᾽ ἥλιον ἐβλέπεις
never day you-see nor sun you-see
εἰς βάθη σκοτεινότατα, εἰς χάσματα μεγάλα,
in depths darkest in chasms great
ἐπεθυμεῖς καὶ τὸ νερὸν δι᾽ ὅλης τῆς ἡμέρας,
you-long-for even the water through all the day
τότε τὴν νύκταν νὰ ἐβγῇς καμένη ἀπὸ τὴν δίψαν,
then the night that you-come-out burnt from the thirst
245 νὰ εὕρῃς πούπετα νερὸν καὶ νὰ τὸ ἀποφρύξῃς,
that you-find anywhere water and that it you-slurp
καὶ νὰ πρισθῇς, νὰ ἀγκωθῇς, νὰ συχνοπυκνοκλάνῃς.
and that you-swell that you-bloat that you-fart-thick-and-fast
καὶ εἴ τι φᾷς καὶ εἴ τι πῇς καὶ ὅσα κι ἂν κοιμᾶσαι,
and if aught you-eat and if aught you-drink and as-much even — you-sleep
οὐδὲν σὲ λείπει πώποτε ὁ φόβος καὶ ὁ τρόμος.
not you leaves ever the fear and the trembling
ἐγὼ δὲ ἀνατρέφομαι μέσα εἰς τοὺς ἀνθρώπους,
I but am-raised inside among the men
250 εἰς οἴκους τοὺς βασιλικοὺς καὶ εἰς αὐλὰς ῥηγάδων,
in houses the royal and in courts of-kings
κ᾽ εἰς ἄρχοντες νὰ κυνηγῶ, εἰς πάντας καβαλλάρους.
and with lords that I-hunt with all knights
ταγίζουν με χλωρὰ, πνικτὰ καὶ ὀψημένα κρέη,
they-feed me fresh stewed and roasted meats
κρατοῦν καὶ ὁμαλίζουν με καὶ βαγιλίζουσί με·
they-hold and pet me and carry me
καὶ βάνουν με τραχηλικὸν χαντρατοκουδουνάτον,
and they-put-on me collar beaded-and-belled
255 καὶ κυνηγοῦσιν ᾽λάφια λαγούδια χοιρίδια·
and they-hunt deer hares boars

ἀκόμη καὶ τὰ δυνατὰ τὰ ζῶα τὰ μεγάλα,
still also the strong the animals the great
ἅπερ οὐ δύναμαι κρατεῖν ἀλλ᾽ οὐδὲ καταβάλλειν,
which not I-can to-hold but nor to-throw-down
μὲ τὰς φωνάς μου ἐξυπνῶ, καὶ τρέχουσιν καὶ φεύγουν,
with the voices my I-rouse and they-run and flee
καὶ πάλιν τὰ περδίκια καὶ ἕτερα πουλία.“
and again the partridges and other birds
ὡς ἤκουσεν ἡ ἀλωποῦ τοιαῦτα φθεγγομένου
as heard the fox such(-things) speaking
πάλιν τοῦ σκύλου λέγοντος καὶ ὑπερφυσιῶντος,
again the dog saying and puffing-himself-up
ἔφησεν πάλιν καὶ αὐτὴ καὶ πρὸς τὸν σκύλον λέγει
said again also she and to the dog says
„ἀρκεῖ σε, σκύλε φλύαρε μιαρὲ ψεματάρη,
enough for-you dog babbler foul liar
αἰσχύνθητι, ἐντράπητι, ἄφες νὰ εἰπῇ καὶ ἄλλος.“
be-ashamed be-abashed let that speak also another

The hare praises the fox, then accuses her of strangling him in friendship, and boasts that kings eat him and ladies wear his fur; the fox steps back, shamed. The deer calls the hare a coward and praises its own meat, hide, and horn, which drives out snakes. The pig scorns them both: his flesh seasons every dish, his bristles make brushes and Frankish sprinklers, his tusk polishes paper. Deer and hare withdraw in disgrace. The sheep calls him a dung-eater, and the pig slinks away.

τότε λοιπὸν ἐξέβηκεν ὁ σκύλος ἐκ τὴν μέσην,
then then went-out the dog from the middle
καὶ ἡ ἀλώπεκ᾽ ἔστηκεν μέσον τοῦ συνεδρίου.
and the fox stood in-the-midst of-the council
ὁ λαγωὸς ὥς ἤκουσεν ἐκεῖ τὸ ὄνομάν του,
the hare as he-heard there the name his
ἐπήδησεν κ᾽ ἐστάθηκεν τῆς ἀλουποῦς πλησίον
leaped and stood of-the fox near
καὶ ἐπεβόα πρὸς αὐτὴν χαροποιοὺς τοὺς λόγους
and called-out to her gladdening the words
„χαρὰ ᾽ς την τὴν κυρ᾽ ἀλωποῦ, χαρὰ ᾽ς την τὴν κορδόναν,
joy to her the lady fox joy to her the fine(-one)
ὑγείαν ᾽ς τὴν μαστόρισσαν καὶ τὴν συντρόφισσάν μου
health to the mistress and the companion my
καὶ τὴν λογιωτάτην μου καὶ φιλοσοφωτάτην,
and the most-learned my and most-philosophical
ὁποῦ ἐκαταδίκασεν σκύλον τὸν μαγαρίτην
who condemned dog the renegade
καὶ ἐκατέβαλεν αὐτὸν, κόψας τὴν ἔπαρσίν του.
and threw-down him having-cut the conceit his
ἀλλ᾽ ἔχεις καὶ ἐσὺ δαμὶν μικρὸν ὁκάτι ψέγος·
but have also you a-little small some fault

καὶ νὰ σὲ τὸ εἰπῶ ἐδῶ μέσον τοῦ συνεδρίου.
and that to-you it I-tell here in-the-midst of-the council
πολλάκις με φιλεύεσαι καὶ παίζεις μετὰ ’μένα,
often me you-befriend and play with me
ἐγὼ θαῤῥῶ ὡς ἄκακον μὴ ἔχων πονηρίαν,
I trust as guileless not having wickedness
μέσα εἰς τὴν ἀγάπη μας κατεμπιστεύομέν σου
inside in the love our we-trust you
καὶ δίδω σου ἁπλότηταν καὶ ἀνεξικακίαν·
and I-give you simplicity and forbearance
σὺ δὲ δράσσεις καὶ σφίγγεις με μέσον ἐκ τοῦ τραχήλου
you but seize and squeeze me in-the-middle by the neck
καὶ πνίγεις με καὶ τρώγεις με μὲ τὴν ἐπιβουλίαν,
and strangle me and eat me with the treachery
καὶ οὔτε ἡ ἀγάπη σου ἔνε στερεωμένη,
and neither the love your is firm
ἀλλ’ οὔτε ἡ φιλία σου ἔνε ἐμπιστεμένη,
but nor the friendship your is trustworthy
ἀλλ’ εἶσαι ψεματάρισσα, κλέπτρια καὶ τζιγκάνα,
but you-are liar thief and gypsy
μαγγαναρέα φλύαρη κοιλιοχορδοφᾶσσα.
trickster babbler tripe-gobbler
καὶ ὅταν ἐξαπορισθῇς, ἐσθίεις τὰς ἀκρίδας
and when you-are-at-a-loss you-eat the locusts
καὶ κλέπτεις τὰ σταφύλια καὶ τρώγεις τὰς σταπίδας.
and steal the grapes and eat the raisins
ἐὰν δὲ στήσουν μάγγανον πολλάκις νὰ σὲ πιάσουν,
if and they-set trap often that you they-catch
ὥστε νὰ ζῇς, νὰ ἀναπνῇς, θέλουν σε κοπανίζει,
so-that that you-live that you-breathe they-will you pound

νὰ χέζῃς τὰ σταφύλια καὶ νὰ τσιλᾷς τὰς ῥώγας,
that you-shit the grapes and that you-squirt the berries
νὰ ᾽μπαινοεβγαίνῃ ὁ κῶλός σου, νὰ χέζῃς τὰς σταπίδας,
that go-in-and-out the backside your that you-shit the raisins
νὰ ᾽γδάρουν τὸ δερμάτιν σου καὶ νὰ τὸ πάσσουν στάκτην,
that they-flay the hide your and that it they-strew ash
νὰ ῥίξουσιν τὰ κρέη σου ἐπάνω εἰς τὰς πέτρας,
that they-throw the flesh your upon on the rocks
νὰ συναχθοῦν τὰ ὄρνεα καὶ νὰ σὲ καταφάγουν.
that gather the birds and that you they-devour
ἀμμὴ ἐγὼ, κακότυχη, καὶ ἂν μὲ κυνηγήσουν,
but I wretch even if me they-hunt
ἐσθίουν με οἱ βασιλεῖς καὶ τρώγουν μ᾽ οἱ ῥηγάδες,
eat me the emperors and eat me the kings
οἱ ἄρχοντες οἱ εὐγενεῖς καὶ πᾶσα ἀνθρωπότης,
the lords the noble and all mankind
καὶ θέτουν με εἰς τὰ χρυσὰ καὶ ἀργυρὰ σκουτέλια,
and they-set me in the golden and silver bowls
καὶ βάνουν με εἰς ἔμορφας κούπας μὲ πιπεράδας.
and they-put me in fine cups with pepper-sauces
ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸ δερμάτιν μου ἔνε τετιμημένον·
but also the hide my is honored
φορεῖ το ᾽ς τὸ κεφάλιν του πᾶς μέγας τῶν ἀνθρώπων,
wears it on the head his every great of-the men
καὶ ἅπας δὲ ὁ ἰατρὸς καὶ μέγας μαρκατάντος,
and every too the physician and great merchant
ἀλλὰ καὶ ᾖ ἀρχόντισσαις ᾖ μεγαλομανδούσσαις,
but also the ladies the great-mantled
ποῦ ἔχουν τὰς μακρὰς οὐρὰς καὶ σύρνουν τας ὀπίσω,
who have the long trains and drag them behind

ἔχουν το μέσον ἔνδυμαν διὰ τὴν πρεποσύνην·
have it inside garment for the seemliness
ὁμοίως καὶ οἱ ἄρχοντες ἐνδύματα εἰς ῥοῦχα
likewise also the lords linings in clothes
τὰ ἔχουσιν κατὰ καιρὸν διὰ πολλὴν ψυχρότην·
them they-have at season for much coldness
ἀκμὴν καὶ τὸ ποδάρι μου, τὸ εὐτελές μου μέλος,
still also the foot my the paltry my limb
κἀκεῖνον χρείαν ἐκτελεῖ κι αὐτό 'ν' τετιμημένον·
and-that need fulfills and it is honored
ἔχει το γὰρ ὁ χρυσοχὸς, συνάγει τὸ χρυσάφιν
has it for the goldsmith he-gathers the gold
καὶ τὸ ἀσήμιν τὸ ψιλὸν τὸ ἀπὸ ῥινισμάτων."
and the silver the fine the(-one) from filings
ταῦτα εἰπόντος τοῦ λαγοῦ, ἐντράπη ἡ ἀλώπηξ,
these(-things) having-said the hare was-ashamed the fox
ἐξέβην καὶ ἐστάθηκεν μέσον τοῦ συνεδρίου·
went-out and stood in-the-midst of-the council
ἀκούσασα ἡ ἔλαφος λαγοῦ τὴν καυχησίαν,
having-heard the deer of-hare the boasting
πηδηματίτσιν ἔποικεν ἔμορφον παρὰ πάντας,
little-leap made fine beyond all
καὶ εἰς τὸ μέσον ἔμπηκεν, ἐστάθην παῤῥησίᾳ,
and into the middle entered stood boldly
ἄφοβος ἀναντίῤῥητος, μὴ ἔχουσα δειλίαν,
fearless unanswerable not having cowardice
ἀλλὰ καὶ χοῖρος ὁ κυμπὸς ἅμα σὺν τῇ ἐλάφῳ.
but also pig the humped together with the deer

ἡ ἔλαφος ἀπήρξατο, τοιούτους λόγους εἶπεν
the deer began such words said
„φλυαροκόπε λαγωέ, τί ἓν τὸ τζαμπουνίζεις;
babbler hare what is which you-pipe
καυχᾶσαι εἰς τὰ κρέη σου καὶ εἰς τὰ δέρματά σου;
do-you-boast of the flesh your and of the hides your
νὰ σὲ εἰπῶ λοιπὸν ἐγὼ ὅσα καὶ ἂν θυμοῦμαι,
that to-you I-tell then I as-much-as even — I-remember
τὰ δ' ἄλλα ἀπομένοντα νὰ σὲ τὰ εἰπῇ ὁ χοῖρος.
the and other remaining that to-you them tell the pig
δυόδοντε, κακόδοντε, σαλέ, σπιθαμογένη,
two-toothed bad-toothed fool span-bearded
καὶ μεγαλαύτη, γαμησᾶ, καὶ κλαδοτρυπολόγε,
and big-ears fucker and bush-hole-dweller
ταὐτιά σου καὶ ὁ κῶλός σου πάντα τσιμούρια γέμουν.
the-ears your and the backside your always ticks are-full-of
καίει σε καὶ ὁ ἥλιος δι' ὅλης τῆς ἡμέρας·
burns you even the sun through all the day
τὴν νύκταν μόνον περπατεῖς, δαιμόνων τάξιν ἔχεις·
the night only you-walk of-demons rank you-have
καὶ ἂν ἀκούσῃς τίποτες μικρὸν κτύπον ὀμπρός σου,
and if you-hear any small noise before you
κλαδὶν ἢ χόρτον νὰ σειστῇ ἢ μυῖγα νὰ πετάσῃ,
twig or grass that be-shaken or fly that fly
φεύγεις ὥσπερ διάβολος ἐκ τοῦ θυμιαμάτου.
you-flee as devil from the incense
οὕτως γὰρ ἑρμηνεύεται ἡ σὴ ἐπωνυμία,
thus for is-interpreted the your name
πτὼξ γραφικῶς ὁ λαγωὸς, ὡς πτήσσω τὸ φοβοῦμαι.
cowerer in-writing the hare as I-cower the I-fear

σὺ ἐπαινεῖς τὰ κρέη σου καὶ σὲ ὑπερυψόνεις·
you praise the flesh your and yourself exalt
ἡ μαρτυρία γὰρ ἡ σὴ οὐδ' ὅλως ἀληθεύει·
the testimony for the your not at-all is-true
καὶ γὰρ τὰ κρέατα τὰ σὰ κακόψητα ὑπάρχουν
and for the meats the your hard-to-roast are
καὶ μᾶλλον κακοστόμαχα, ἀργὰ εἰς τὸ χωνεῦσαι.
and rather bad-for-the-stomach slow at the to-digest
τὸ δὲ ἐμὸν τοῦ ἐλαφιοῦ ἀσύγκριτον ὑπάρχει·
the but mine of-the deer incomparable is
ἐπάνω εἰς τὰ κρέατα τῶν τετραπόδων ζώων,
above among the meats of-the four-footed animals
ὅπερ ἐσθίουν ἄνθρωποι, ἔνε τὸ ἐδικόν μου.
which eat men is the own my
ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸ δερμάτιν μου ἔχουν εἰς πᾶσαν χρείαν,
but also the hide my they-have for every need
εἰς κόρδας καὶ ζωνάρια, καὶ ἄλλα τούτων ὅσα,
for strings and belts and other of-these as-many
ἀσκοπουγκίτσια μικρὰ ἅτιν' ἴσχαν βαστάζουν,
pouches small which tinder hold
ἣν οἱ ἄνθρωποι βαστάζουσιν νὰ ἅπτουν τὴν ἱστίαν.
which the men carry that they-light the hearth
εἰ δὲ τυχὸν ὀφίδια νὰ ἔνε εἰς τὸ σπήτιν,
if and perchance snakes that be in the house
καὶ ἅψουσιν μετὰ πυρὸς τὸ κέρας μου ἀπέσω,
and they-light with fire the horn my inside
ἐκ τῆς ὀσμῆς τοῦ κέρατος φεύγουσιν παραυτίκα
from the smell of-the horn they-flee at-once
καὶ πλέον οὐδὲν δύνονται ἐκεῖ νὰ ἐμφωλεύσουν."
and more not they-can there that they-nest

ὁ χοῖρος δὲ ὡς ἔστεκεν κ᾽ ἡ ἔλαφος ἐλάλει,
the pig and as he-stood and the deer was-speaking
ἀγανακτήσας ἔφησεν καὶ τῇ ἐλάφῳ λέγει
having-grown-angry spoke and to-the deer says
„ἀνέντροπε, κοψόουρε, ἔβγα ἀπὸ τὴν μέσην·
shameless bob-tail get-out from the middle
καμμιὰν οὐκ ἔχεις ἐντροπὴν ἀλλ᾽ οὐδὲ σωφροσύνην,
any not you-have shame but nor modesty
τὴν κολοβήν σου τὴν οὐρὰν ἀείποτε σηκόνεις,
the docked your the tail always you-raise
καὶ φαίνεται ὁ κῶλός σου καὶ πάντες σὲ γελοῦσιν.
and shows the backside your and all at-you laugh
ἀρκεῖ σε λέγειν τὰ πολλά, ἄφες κ᾽ ἐμὲν νὰ εἴπω
enough for-you to-say the much let also me that I-speak
μικρὰ καὶ ὀλιγούτσικα καὶ κοντολογημένα·
little and very-few and short-spoken
καὶ πρὸς τὴν γνῶσιν τὴν ἐμὴν φθέγξομαι λόγους τούσδε.
and according-to the knowledge the my I-shall-utter words these
καυχᾶσθε κ᾽ ὑπεραίρεσθε ἔξω ἀπὸ τὸ δέον
you-boast and exalt-yourselves out from the fitting
ἡ ἔλαφος καὶ ὁ λαγὸς διὰ τὰ κρέατά σας,
the deer and the hare about the meats your
καὶ ψεύδεσθε, κομπόνεσθε τοὺς ἀκούοντας πάντας.
and you-lie you-cheat the hearing all
οἱ πάντες γὰρ ἠξεύρουσιν, μικροί τε καὶ μεγάλοι,
the all for know small both and great
τὸ κρέας τὸ ἡμέτερον τί νοστιμάδαν ἔχει.
the meat the our what savor has
ὡς οὐδ᾽ ὁ ἥλιος ποτὲ ἰσάζει μὲ τὰ ἄστρα,
as not-even the sun ever equals with the stars

ὥς οὐδὲ τὸ καλὸν ψωμὶν τὸ σεμιδαλευράτον
as nor the good bread the fine-floured
ἰσάζει μὲ τὸ *κιβαρὸν ἢ μετὰ τὸ κριθίνον,
equals with the coarse or with the barley
οὕτως τὸ κρέας τὸ ἐμὸν μετὰ τοῦ ἐδικοῦ σας.
so the meat the mine with the own your
ὥσπερ τὸ ἅλας γὰρ ἀρτεῖ τὰ φαητὰ τοῦ κόσμου,
as the salt for seasons the dishes of-the world
οὕτως ἀρτίζει τὸ ἐμὸν εἰς πᾶσαν μαγειρίαν,
so seasons the mine in every cookery
καὶ μὲ τὰ λάχανα καλὸν καὶ μὲ τὸ κολοκύνθι,
both with the greens good and with the gourd
καὶ ἑκζεστὸν καὶ μοναχὸν, δίχα κανένα εἶδος,
and boiled and alone without any kind
ἀκόμη καὶ ὀπτούτσικον ἔμορφον μυρωδάτον,
still also roasted fine fragrant
θέλει χλωρὸν, θέλει παστὸν, ὅπου νὰ μαγειρέψουν.
whether fresh whether salted where that they-cook
παστόνουν καὶ φυλάσσουν με δι᾽ ὅλου γὰρ τοῦ χρόνου,
they-salt and keep me through whole for the year
καὶ βάνουν με εἰς τὸ σταμνὶν καὶ μέσα εἰς τὸ πιθάριν
and they-put me in the pitcher and inside in the jar
καὶ πολεμοῦσι μὲ *πτικὴν, μὲ ἄλλα τὰ τοιαῦτα,
and they-make with fat with other the such(-things)
καταμαγούλαν, σύγλωσσην, μετὰ χοιρομερίων,
cheek with-tongue with hams
λουκάνικα ἀπάκια, πλευρὰς παχυλαρδάτας,
sausages bacon ribs thick-larded
καὶ πασπαλάδες λιπαρὰς καὶ παραγεμισμένας.
and lard-strips rich and stuffed

καὶ ὅταν ‘ψήνουσιν ποτὲ τὸ ἐδικό σας κρέας,
and when they-roast ever the own your meat
προσβάλλουσιν ἐκ τὸ ἐμὸν ὅπως νὰ τὸ ἀρτίσῃ·
they-add from the mine so-that that it it-season
χωρὶς ἐμοῦ οὐδεμίαν ἔχουσι μυρωδίαν.
without me no they-have savor
ἀκόμη καὶ ᾖ τρίχες μου χρείαν ἀποπληροῦσιν
still also the hairs my need fulfill
μεγάλην, ἀξιόλογον εἰς Φράγγων ἐκκλησίαν·
great notable in of-Franks church
καὶ γὰρ εἰς τὸ ἁγίασμαν τὰ φραγγοπαπαδούρια
and for at the holy-water the little-Frankish-priests
μετὰ τῆς τρίχας τῆς ἐμῆς τοὺς πάντας ἁγιάζουν,
with the hair the mine the all they-sanctify
καὶ τὴν βορβοροκύλισιν ποσῶς οὐδὲν θυμοῦνται.
and the mud-wallowing at-all not they-remember
κ’ οὔτε τζαγκάρης ἢ σελλᾶς ἢ ῥαπτοδερματάρης
and neither shoemaker or saddler or leather-stitcher
νὰ ῥάψῃ δύναται ποσῶς ἄχρι κεντέαν μίαν,
that stitch can at-all as-far-as stitch one
χωρὶς νὰ βάλλῃ ἀπ’ ἐμοῦ τρίχαν ἐκ τὴν οὐρίαν.
without that he-put from me hair from the tail
οὔτε ζωγράφος δύναται ποσῶς νὰ ἱστορήσῃ,
nor painter can at-all that paint
ἐὰν μὴ βάλλῃ ἀπ’ ἐμοῦ τρίχαν εἰς τὸ κονδύλιν·
if not he-put from me hair in the brush
καὶ κάμνει ἄλλα ὑψηλὰ καὶ δεύτερα καὶ τρίτα·
and he-makes others lofty and second and third
ὅσα γὰρ βούλεται, ποιεῖ ὅλα διὰ τὴν τέχνην,
whatever for he-wishes he-does all through the art

καὶ ἱστορίζει θαυμαστοὺς ναοὺς ἐξαιρημένους
and paints wonderful churches choice
καὶ τὰς εἰκόνας τὰς σεπτὰς τὰς σεβοπροσκυνοῦσιν
and the icons the holy which venerate
τὰ γένη τῶν Χριστιανῶν εἰς ἅπαντα τὸν κόσμον,
the races of-the Christians in all the world
καὶ ἱστορογραφίζουσιν ἢ χρωματοπλουμίζουν
and they-paint or color-adorn
σπήτια καὶ παλάτια μεγάλων βασιλέων,
houses and palaces of-great kings
καὶ ἄλλους οἴκους φοβεροὺς μεγάλων μεγιστάνων.
and other houses fearsome of-great magnates
ἀκόμη καὶ τὸ ᾽δόντι μου ποιεῖ καὶ τοῦτο χρεία·
still also the tooth my does also this service
ἔχουν το οἱ γραμματικοὶ καὶ πάντες οἱ σκουφάδες,
have it the scribes and all the cap-makers
στιλβόνουν καὶ τὰς σκούφιας των, στιλβόνουν τὰ χαρτία.
they-polish both the caps their they-polish the papers
πολλάκις ἔχω το κ᾽ ἐγὼ εἰς χρείαν ἐδικήν μου·
often have it also I for need own my
ἔχω τ᾽ ὡς ἅρμα δυνατὸν εἰς τὸν καιρὸν τῆς μάχης,
I-have it as weapon strong in the time of-the battle
ὅταν ἐχθρὸς μὲ πολεμῇ ἄδικα νὰ μὲ φάγῃ,
when enemy me fights unjustly that me he-eat
μετὰ τοῦ ὀδόντος κρούω τον καὶ σχίζω τον αὐτίκα
with the tooth I-strike him and split him at-once
καὶ χύνω τὴν κοιλίαν του καὶ ὅλα τὰ ἐντός του.
and spill the belly his and all the inside his
σὺ δὲ, ἐλάφιν καὶ λαγὲ, τί ψῆφος ἓν δικός σας;
you and deer and hare what account is own your

μίαν φωνὴν ἢ λαλιὰν ν' ἀκούσετε πολλάκις;
one voice or speech that you-hear often
ὁ ἥλιος οὐ βλέπει σας ἀλλ' οὐδὲ ἡ σελήνη,
the sun not sees you but nor the moon
καθὼς καὶ ἡ πλησίον σας ἡ βρωμομυξαρέα,
as also the near you the stinking-snotty(-one)
ἡ σκατοβορβορόκοιλη αὐτήνη ἡ προβατίνη·
the shit-and-mud-bellied that the ewe
καὶ γὰρ εἷς κοπροζάγαρος χιλίας νὰ διώκῃ."
and for one dung-hound thousand that may-chase
αἰσχύνθη γοῦν ἡ ἔλαφος καὶ ὁ λαγὸς ἐντράπη
was-ashamed then the deer and the hare was-abashed
τὸ ψέγος καὶ τὰς ὕβριτας καὶ λοιδορίας χοίρου
the blame and the insults and abuses of-pig
καὶ ὑποχώρησαν μικρὸν ὅλως καταισχυμένοι.
and withdrew a-little wholly disgraced
τὸ πρόβατον, ὡς ἤκουσεν τοῦ μοχθηροῦ τὰς ὕβρεις,
the sheep as it-heard of-the wretch the insults
ἐξέβη τότε καὶ αὐτὸ καὶ ἔστη εἰς τὸ μέσον
went-out then also it and stood in the middle
καὶ ἥμερα καὶ ταπεινὰ ἐφθέγξατο τοιαῦτα
and gently and humbly spoke such(-things)
„πολλὰ ἐμεγαλαύχησας, φλυαροκόπε χοῖρε.
much you-bragged babbler pig
φησὶν ὁ ἐπιχώριος λόγος καὶ παροιμία,
says the local saying and proverb
Ἑβραῖον ὄζει καὶ βρωμεῖ καὶ ὅλη του ἡ θήκη.
Jew stinks and reeks and all his the case
οὕτως καὶ σὺ, κακόδοντε κοπροαναθρεμμένε,
thus also you bad-toothed dung-bred

κἂν ὅσα φᾷς, κἂν ὅσα πῇς, καὶ ὅσα σπαταλήσῃς,
even-if whatever you-eat even-if whatever you-drink and whatever you-squander
ἐὰν μὴ φάγῃς κόπρια, οὐδὲν σοῦ νοστιμοῦνται.“
if not you-eat dung not to-you they-taste-good
τότε εὐθὺς καὶ ὁ χοῖρος γελῶν καὶ χολιάζων
then at-once also the pig laughing and raging
„ἦλθεν κι ἄλλη φιλόσοφος μείζων τῆς ἀλωπούτσας,
came also another philosopher greater than-the little-fox
καὶ ἔχανεν τὸ στόμαν της καὶ ἔχεσαν οἱ πάντες. 430
and lost the mouth her and shat the all
ποῦ ἔμαθες τὰ γράμματα, προβατομυξαρέα;
where did-you-learn the letters sheep-snot
ὁ λύκος σοῦ τὰ ἔμαθεν, ὁ φίλος σου ὁ γέρων;
the wolf to-you them taught the friend your the old(-one)
ὁ κύων ὁ παγκάκιστος ὁ ἀδελφόποιτός σου;
the dog the all-wicked the sworn-brother your
ἡ αἶγα μὲ τὰ γένεια, ἢ ὁ τράγος μὲ τὴν κοῦτσαν;“
the goat with the beard or the he-goat with the limp
τότε εὐθὺς τὸ πρόβατον ταῦτα ἀπηλογήθη 435
then at-once the sheep these(-things) answered
„ὦ μιαρὲ σκατόχοιρε, βορβοροκυλισμένε,
O foul shit-pig mud-rolled
ποῦ τρώγεις πάντα τὰ κακὰ καὶ ἄχρηστα τοῦ κόσμου,
who eat all the bad(-things) and useless of-the world
σκουλούκια καὶ κόπρια, κρέατα ψοφισμένα,
worms and dung meats dead
ὄφιά τε καὶ ἑρπετὰ καὶ σαπημένα κρέη·
snakes both and reptiles and rotten flesh
ἀκόμη τὸ ὀλέθριον καὶ τὸ κακὸν τὸ κάμνεις, 440
still the ruinous and the evil which you-do

κανένα ζῶον ἢ πτηνὸν ἢ ὄφις ἢ θηρίον
any animal or bird or snake or beast
οὐκ εἰσηκούσθηκέν ποτε τὸ κρέας του νὰ φάγῃ·
not was-heard ever the flesh its that it-eat
καὶ σὺ ἂν εὕρῃς μοχθηρὸν κανένα ψοφισμένον,
and you if you-find wretched any dead(-one)
πολλάκις δὲ ἀνὲ βρωμῇ καὶ ἂν ἓν σαπημένον,
often and if it-stinks and if it-is rotten
ἐκεῖ στέκεις καὶ τρώγεις το ὥς καθαρὸν ἀλεύριν·
there you-stand and eat it as clean flour
καὶ πάντοτε ἡ μύτη σου ὀσμᾶται τὴν κοπραίαν,
and always the nose your smells the dungheap
καὶ ἀνασκάπτει τὰ πηλὰ διόλου καὶ τὰ βοῦρκα.
and digs-up the muds wholly and the mires
καὶ σὺ ποιεῖς τὴν ψῆφόν σου καὶ τὴν ὑπόληψίν σου
and you make the account your and the esteem your
μὲ ζῶα καθαρώτατα, ἀμίαντα παράπαν.“
with animals most-clean undefiled altogether
ὁ χοῖρος δὲ ὥς ἤκουσεν τὰς ὕβρεις τοῦ προβάτου,
the pig and as he-heard the insults of-the sheep
καταισχυνθεὶς καὶ ἐντραπεὶς ἀπέφυγεν μακρόθεν·
disgraced and abashed fled far-off
τὸ πρόβατον ἀπόμεινεν στήκοντα εἰς τὸ μέσον.
the sheep remained standing in the middle

The goats tell the sheep not to revile them. She mocks the goat's tail and beard and praises the ram's horn, her wool for curtains, saddle-cloths, and the clothes of kings and churchmen, and her hide; the goats answer that their hide, hair, and guts do more. The ox and the buffalo complain to the lion, who rules that all may speak. The ox calls himself the sun and the buffalo the moon; the buffalo claims more work, milk, and horn, and the ox answers with his horn, sinews, tail, and hide.

ἡ αἶγα δὲ ὥς ἤκουσεν, ὁμοίως καὶ ὁ τράγος,
the goat and as heard likewise also the he-goat
τοῦ χοίρου πρὸς τὸ πρόβατον τοιαῦτα φθεγγομένου,
the pig to the sheep such(-things) speaking
ἐξῆλθον καὶ ἐστάθησαν μέσον τοῦ συνεδρίου,
went-out and stood in-the-midst of-the council
οἱ δύο ὁμοθυμαδὸν νὰ ᾽ποῦν καὶ νὰ λαλήσουν.
the two with-one-mind that they-speak and that they-talk
ὅμως ἡ αἶγα προπετῶς ἀπέτεινε τοὺς λόγους
yet the goat rashly directed the words
„ἔπρεπέ σε τὸ πρόβατον νὰ μὴ μᾶς λοιδορήσῃς,
it-befitted you the sheep that not us you-revile
ἐμὲν καὶ τὸν λωλότραγον, τὸν συνανάθροφόν μας,
me and the crazy-he-goat the fellow-nursling our
μᾶλλον δὲ καὶ ὥς σὺ ἡμᾶς νὰ ἔχῃς συντροφίαν.
rather but also as you us that you-have company
κ᾽ ἐμεῖς νὰ εἴπωμεν δαμὶν χοίρου τοῦ κοπροφάγου
and we that we-say a-little of-pig the dung-eater
καὶ τοῦ πλατυνοῤῥούθουνου καὶ τοῦ κονιδιάρη.“
and the broad-snouted and the nit-ridden

τὸ πρόβατον δὲ παρευθὺς ἔρισεν πρὸς τὴν αἶγαν
the sheep and at-once quarreled with the goat
„ἐκεῖ ὁποῦ ἐκατέβαλα καὶ κατεσόφισά τον
there where I-threw-down and outwitted him
τὸν χοῖρον τὸν κακότυχον καὶ τὸν μαγαρισμένον,
the pig the wretched and the defiled
ἐσένα τί σὲ ἤθελα νὰ ᾖσαι εἰς ἐντροπήν μου,
you why you I-would-want that you-be to shame my
διὰ νὰ σηκόνῃς τὴν οὐρὰν, νὰ δείχνῃς τὸ μουνίν σου,
so that you-raise the tail that you-show the cunt your
στραβοκεραία καὶ βυζοῦ καὶ πετροφαγωμένη,
crooked-horn and big-teats and stone-gnawed
ἁπλῶς νὰ στέκῃς ὥς λωλὴ καὶ νὰ ἀναχαράσῃς,
simply that you-stand as crazy and that you-chew-the-cud
καὶ νὰ κουνῇς τὸ γένιν σου ἀπάνω τε καὶ κάτω;
and that you-shake the beard your up both and down
ἐγὼ τὰ πλέω τὰ καλὰ χαρίσματα, τὰ ἔχω,
I the more the good gifts which I-have
ἀκμὴν οὐδ' ὅλως εἶπά τα οὐδὲ καυχήστηκά τα,
yet not at-all I-said them nor boasted-of them
ὅμως νὰ εἴπω καὶ ἐγὼ τὰ φυσικὰ τὰ ἔχω.
yet that I-say also I the natural(-gifts) which I-have
περὶ τοῦ ἐμοῦ κρέατος οὐ λέγω οὐδὲ φάσκω·
about the my flesh not I-say nor assert
οἴδασιν γὰρ οἱ τρώγοντες καὶ οἱ ἐσθίοντές με
know for the eating and the devouring me
παχύτητα καὶ ἡδονὴν καὶ καλοστομαχίαν,
fatness and pleasure and digestibility
εὔνοστα καὶ εὐστόμαχα ἅπαντά μου τὰ μέλη.
tasty and digestible all my the limbs

ἀμμὴ νὰ εἴπω τὰ πολλά, ὅσα καὶ ἂν θυμοῦμαι.
but that I-tell the many(-things) as-many-as even — I-remember

πρῶτον τὸ κέρας τοῦ κριοῦ τοῦ ἡμετέρου γένους
first the horn of-the ram of-the our race

καὶ κατὰ σάρκα ἀδελφοῦ, χρῶνται αὐτὸ τεχνίταις
and according-to flesh brother use it craftsmen

σπαθαρομαχαιράδες τε καὶ σουβλομανικάδες,
sword-and-knife-makers both and awl-handle-makers

ἔχουν το εἰς μανίκια καὶ εἰς ἑτέρας χρείας.
they-have it for handles and for other needs

καὶ περὶ τοῦ μαλλίου μου πολλὰ ἔχω νὰ λέγω,
and about the wool my much I-have that I-say

βυρτζίζουσι, κτενίζουσιν καὶ νήθουσι τὸ νῆμα,
they-card they-comb and spin the thread

καὶ ἔκτοτε τὸ βάφουσιν πᾶσα λογὴν καὶ χρόαν,
and thereafter it they-dye every kind and color

κόκκινα, μαῦρα, κίτρινα, ὀξέα, γερανάτα,
red black yellow blue crane-gray

καὶ ἄλλα τούτων πλείονα, χρειώδη πρὸς τὴν τέχνην,
and others than-these more useful for the craft

ποιοῦν κουρτίνας ἔμορφας, ὡραιοπλουμισμένας,
they-make curtains fine beautifully-embroidered

καὶ σχηματίζουν καὶ ποιοῦν εἴδη καὶ θεωρίας,
and they-shape and make figures and scenes

ἀνθρώπους, ζῶα καὶ πτηνὰ, καὶ πάντα τὰ τοῦ κόσμου,
men animals and birds and all the(-things) of-the world

καὶ ἔχουν τα οἱ εὐγενεῖς, ἀλλὰ καὶ οἱ ῥηγάδες,
and have them the nobles but also the kings

οἱ κόντες καὶ καβαλλάριοι καὶ ἄλλοι μετ᾽ ἐκείνων.
the counts and knights and others with them

ποιοῦσιν σάκτια ψιλὰ καὶ μεγαλοπλουμάτα
they-make saddle-cloths fine and richly-embroidered
ἃ ὁ σουλτάνος κάθηται κι ὅλοι οἱ ἀμηράδες·
on-which the sultan sits and all the emirs
ἁπλῶς καὶ πᾶσα γενεά, Ῥωμαῖοί τε καὶ Φράγκοι,
simply also every race Romans both and Franks
χρῶνταί τα εἰς κλινάρια καὶ εἰς τὰ στρώματά τους.
use them on beds and on the bedding their
ἀκόμη τὸ μειζότερον τὸ κάμνει τὸ μαλλίν μου
still the greater which does the wool my
εἶναι τὰ ῥοῦχα τὰ φοροῦν ὅλη ἡ ἀνθρωπότης
is the clothes which wears all the mankind
εἰς ἅπαντα τὰ πέρατα, μικροί τε καὶ μεγάλοι,
in all the ends small both and great
οἱ βασιλεῖς, οἱ ἄρχοντες καὶ πάντες μεγιστᾶνοι
the kings the lords and all magnates
φοροῦσιν τὰ ψαλόνια ὁμοῦ καὶ τὰ σκαρλάτα,
wear the woolens together and the scarlets
οἱ δ' ἄλλοι πάλιν μετ' αὐτοὺς πᾶσαν βαφὴν καὶ χρόαν.
the and others again after them every dye and color
ἀκόμη τὸ χοντρὸν μαλλὶν κάμνουσιν καὶ τὰ γρίζα,
still the coarse wool they-make also the grays
κάμνουσιν ῥάσα ὑψηλά, τζοχοϋφανδωμένα,
they-make habits fine felt-woven
καὶ γουνομεσοφόρια πατριαρχῶν μεγάλων,
and fur-tunics of-patriarchs great
μανδύα, παραμάνδυα μητροπολιτῶν κ' ἐπισκόπων,
mantles scapulars of-metropolitans and bishops
καὶ ἐσωφόρια διπλᾶ μεγάλων ἡγουμένων,
and undergarments double of-great abbots

καὶ ἄσπρα ὑποκάμισα τῶν νέων καλογραίων.
and white shifts of-the young nuns
τὰ δ' ἄλλα πάντα τὰ χοντρὰ, τὰ ἀπομεινα ρέα,
the and other all the coarse the leftover
κάμνουν βαρέα στρώματα καὶ παραπιλωμένα,
they-make heavy bedding and felted
κέντουκλα καὶ δρομάχια, φέλεθρα εἰς τὰς σέλλας,
blankets and rugs saddle-felts for the saddles
καππάσια, σαρπούζια, σαρκούλια καὶ τἆλλα.
cloaks hoods jerkins and the-rest
ἀκμὴν καὶ τὸ δερμάτιν μου κάμνει μεγάλην χρείαν,
still also the hide my does great service
καὶ ὁ τζαγγάρης χρᾶται το εἰς πᾶσάν του δουλείαν,
and the shoemaker uses it in all his work
παπούτσια, ὑποδήματα, φελάρια καὶ κλώστρας·
slippers shoes soles and laces
ἀλλὰ καὶ οἱ γραμματικοὶ ἐνδύνουν τὰ βιβλία
but also the scribes clothe the books
ἢ μαῦρον ἤτε κόκκινον ἤτε βαφὴν ἑτέραν.
either black or red or dye other
πολλάκις δὲ καὶ ὁ σελλᾶς χρᾶταί το καὶ ἐκεῖνος
often and also the saddler uses it also he
εἰς σέλλας, εἰς ῥαψίματα ἐντελημπροστελίνων,
for saddles for stitchings of-breast-straps
εἰς χαλινοκαπίστελλα καὶ ὅσα τὰ τοιαῦτα."
for bridle-halters and whatever the such(-things)
ὡς ταῦτα πάντα ἤκουσαν λαλοῦντος τοῦ προβάτου,
as these(-things) all they-heard speaking the sheep
ὑπερεθαύμασαν πολλὰ ἡ αἶγα καὶ ὁ τράγος,
marveled-exceedingly much the goat and the he-goat

καὶ ἀπεκρίθησαν ὁμοῦ οἱ δύο ἕναν στόμαν
and answered together the two one mouth
„ἐσὺ, προβάτιν ταπεινὸν ποῦ βλέπεις πάντα κάτω,
you little-sheep humble who look always down
μωρόλαλον, κακόστομον, ποῦ εὗρες τόσους λόγους,
foolish-talking foul-mouthed where did-you-find so-many words
ἐπαίνους καὶ καυχήματα καὶ τὴν μακρολογίαν,
praises and boasts and the long-windedness
νὰ ἐπαινῇς τὰ κρέη σου καὶ τὰ δερμάτιά σου,
that you-praise the flesh your and the hides your
ἀλλὰ καὶ τὰ μαλλία σου εἰς ποικιλοβαφίαν;
but also the wool your for many-colored-dyeing
νὰ τὸ ἠξεύρῃς, ἄτυχη καὶ λωλοπροβατίνα,
that it you-know wretch and crazy-ewe
ἔνε τὸ δέρμα τὸ ἐμὸν μεῖζον τοῦ ἐδικοῦ σου,
is the hide the mine greater than-the own your
μεγάλον καὶ παχύτερον εἰς πάσας τὰς δουλείας.
great and thicker for all the works
ἀλλά γε καὶ αἱ τρίχες μου πληροῦσιν ἄλλην χρείαν·
but at-least also the hairs my fulfill other need
πλέκουν σκοινία δυνατὰ, δεσμεύουσιν τὰ ζῶα,
they-plait ropes strong they-bind the animals
ἅπαντα τὰ τετράποδα, μικρά τε καὶ μεγάλα.
all the four-footed small both and great
ἀκμὴν τὰ ἔντερα ἡμῶν πληροῦσιν καὶ τὰς κόρδας,
still the guts our fill also the strings
ὁποῦ στιβάζουν τὸ μαλλὶν, μᾶλλον καὶ τὸ βαμβάκι.
which beat the wool rather also the cotton
περὶ δὲ τοὐμοῦ γάλακτος οὐκ ἔχω τί νὰ λέγω·
about and the-my milk not I-have what that I-say

καθὼς ἐσὺ εἶμαι κ᾽ ἐγὼ, ἢ μᾶλλον δὲ καὶ πλέον,
as you am also I or rather and even more
καὶ ἄλλας χάριτας πολλὰς ἂς οὐκ ἐξόν μοι λέγειν,
and other graces many which not possible for-me to-say
καὶ οὐ καυχοῦμαι τὰ πολλὰ ὡς ἡ λωλοπροβάτα.
and not I-boast the much as the crazy-sheep
πόσα ἐβαττολόγησας ληρήματα καὶ λόγους,
how-many you-babbled trifles and words
καὶ ὑπὲρ φύσιν ἔποικες καὶ ὑπερεκαυχήθης,
and beyond nature you-did and over-boasted
οὐχὶ νὰ ἔλεγεν ὁ βοῦς καὶ τὸ παχὺν βουβάλιν,
not that would-say the ox and the fat buffalo
ἢ ἄλλον ζῶον φοβερὸν λέγω ἐκ τῶν μεγάλων.“
or other animal fearsome I-say of the great
καὶ τότε ἀνεχώρησεν ἡ ταπεινὴ προβάτα·
and then withdrew the humble sheep
ὁ βοῦς δὲ καὶ ὁ βούβαλος ὡς ἤκουσαν τοὺς λόγους
the ox and also the buffalo as they-heard the words
καὶ τὰ δικαιολογήματα αἰγὸς καὶ τοῦ προβάτου,
and the pleadings of-goat and of-the sheep
ἐξῆλθον καὶ ἐστάθησαν οἱ δύο εἰς τὸ μέσον
went-out and stood the two in the middle
καὶ ἤρξαντο προφθέγγεσθαι πρὸς τὴν κοινότην ὅλην
and began to-speak-out to the assembly whole
„ἀκούεις, λέων βασιλεῦ, ἀκοῦτε, μεγιστᾶνοι,
do-you-hear lion king hear magnates
τὰ ζῶα τὰ μικρούτσικα, τὰ οὐδετιποτένια,
the animals the very-small the good-for-nothing
πῶς ἐπολυλογήσασιν, πῶς ἐμακρολογῆσαν,
how they-talked-much how they-talked-long

καὶ ὑπερεκαυχήσαντο ἐπάνω τοῦ μετρίου;“
and over-boasted beyond the measure
εἶτα λέων ὁ βασιλεὺς καὶ πᾶσα ἡ βουλή του
then lion the king and all the council his
τούτους τοὺς λόγους εἴπασιν πρὸς βοῦν καὶ τὸ βουβάλιν
these the words said to ox and the buffalo
„ἡ σύναξις, ἡ ‘μάδευσις ἡ ὧδε γεγονυῖα
the assembly the gathering the here having-taken-place
οὕτως ἐστὶ καὶ ὁ μικρὸς καθάπερ καὶ ὁ μέγας,
so is also the small as also the great
οὕτως δὲ καὶ ὁ ἄτιμος ὥσπερ κι ὁ τιμημένος,
so and also the dishonored as also the honored
οὕτως δὲ καὶ ὁ ἄνανδρος ὥσπερ κι ὁ ἀνδρειωμένος,
so and also the cowardly as also the brave
πάντες δὲ νὰ συντύχουσιν καὶ πάντες νὰ λαλήσουν,
all and that they-speak and all that they-talk
εἷς πρὸς τὸν ἄλλον νὰ εἰπῇ καὶ ἔπαινον καὶ ψόγον,
one to the other that he-say both praise and blame
καθὼς ἐσυνετάξαμεν μεθ’ ὅρκου καὶ ἀγάπης
as we-agreed with oath and love
τὰ μέρη τὰ ἀμφότερα ἡμέρων καὶ ἀγρίων.
the sides the both of-tame and of-wild
καὶ γὰρ ἀπὸ τὸ εὐτελὲς τὸν ποντικὸν καὶ κάτην
and for from the paltry the mouse and cat
ἤρξαντο ἡ διάλεξες καὶ ἦλθον ἕως ὧδε,
began the debates and came as-far-as here
καὶ ἔνε χρεία νὰ ἐλθοῦν μέχρι τῶν μεγιστάνων,
and is need that they-come up-to the magnates
ἕως τῶν μεγιστάνων μου κ’ ἐμοῦ τοῦ βασιλέως.
as-far-as the magnates my and me the king

λοιπὸν λέγετε τίποτε, ἂν ἔχετέ τι λέγειν.“
then say anything if you-have anything to-say
τότε ὁ βοῦς καὶ βούβαλος ἤρξαντο ταῦτα λέγειν,
then the ox and buffalo began these(-things) to-say
τὸ ἔλαβεν δ᾽ ὡς προπετῶς ὁ βοῦς τοιαῦτα λέγει
it took and as rashly the ox such(-things) says
„φεύγετε, παραπτώματα, ἀποσκορακισθῆτε,
flee misfits be-gone-to-the-crows
ἐβγᾶτ᾽ ἀπὸ τὴν μέση μας, ἐμαγαρίσετέ μας,
get-out from the midst our you-defiled us
νὰ λάμψῃ πρῶτ᾽ ὁ ἥλιος, εἶτα καὶ ἡ σελήνη,
that shine first the sun then also the moon
καὶ ἄστρα τὰ μικρούτσικα νὰ σκοτισθοῦν παντάπαν.
and stars the very-small that be-darkened altogether
ἐγὼ γὰρ εἶμαι ἥλιος, τὸ φέγγος ἡ βουβάλα,
I for am sun the moonlight the buffalo
ἐσεῖς δὲ κακορρίζικα ὡς μικρούτσικα ἄστρα,
you but ill-starred as very-small stars
κακότυχα καὶ καταφρονεμένα ***“
wretched and despised (lacuna)
τότε ἐκατεντράπησαν ἡ αἶγα καὶ ὁ τράγος
then were-shamed the goat and the he-goat
καὶ τἆλλα ζῶα τὰ μικρὰ καὶ ἡ λωλοπροβάτα,
and the-other animals the small and the crazy-sheep
ἀπῆλθαν καὶ ἐστάθησαν εἰς τοὺς ἰδίους τόπους,
went-off and stood in the own places
οἱ δύο δὲ ἀπέμειναν ὁ βοῦς καὶ τὸ βουβάλιν.
the two and remained the ox and the buffalo

καὶ πρὸς τὸν βοῦν ἐλάλησεν ὁ βούβαλος τοιαῦτα
and to the ox spoke the buffalo such(-things)
„πῶς ἔχανες τὸ στόμα σου αὐτὸ τὸ βρωμισμένον,
how did-you-gape the mouth your this the stinking
πῶς ἤνοιξες τὰ χείλη σου τὰ παχυλοπετσάτα,
how did-you-open the lips your the thick-skinned
585 καὶ ἔφησεν ἡ γλῶσσά σου ἡ πολυψαλιδάτη
and spoke the tongue your the much-forked
ληρήματα καὶ λόγια καὶ ψευματολογίαις;
trifles and words and lie-tellings
ἐσὺ μὲν εἶσαι ἥλιος, ἐγὼ δὲ ἡ σελήνη;
you indeed are sun I but the moon
οὐκ ἐνετράπης, ἄτυχε, νὰ τὸ ἐξεχειλίσῃς;
not were-you-ashamed wretch that it you-utter
οὐκ οἶδα τί ἔνε κάλλιον τὸ ἔχεις ἀπὸ μέναν·
not I-know what is better which you-have than me
590 οὕτως δὲ κάμνω καὶ ἐγὼ εἰς ἅπασαν δουλείαν,
so and do also I in all work
ὡσὰν ἐσὲν, κακότυχον, μωρόλαλον βῳδάκιν.
as you wretched foolish-talking little-ox
εἰ δὲ καὶ θέλεις νὰ εἰπῶ νὰ καυχισθῶ δουμάκι
if but also you-wish that I-say that I-boast a-bit
καὶ νὰ λαλήσω ῥήματα καὶ λόγους ἀληθείας,
and that I-speak sayings and words of-truth
κάλλιον εἶμαι παρὰ σὲν εἰς ἅπασαν δουλείαν
better I-am than you in all work
595 καὶ δυνατὸν καὶ μέγιστον, ὅπου κι ἂν μὲ γυρεύσουν,
both strong and greatest where even — me they-seek
εἰς ἅμαξαν, εἰς ἅλωναν καὶ εἰς τὴν ἀροτρίαν·
at wagon at threshing-floor and at the plowing

ἀκόμη καὶ τὸ γάλας μου μεῖζον τοῦ ἐδικοῦ σου,
still also the milk my greater than-the own your
ἀκμὴν καὶ παρὰ τῆς αἰγὸς καὶ παρὰ τοῦ προβάτου.
still also than the goat and than the sheep
κάμνει τυρὶν ἐξαίρετον πολλὰ λιπαρωμένον,
makes cheese excellent very rich
τὸ χρῶνται οἱ ἡγούμενοι εἰς τὰ *μονόκυθρά των.
which use the abbots in the stews their
ἔχουν το εἰς τὰ λάχανα, τὰ λέγουσιν ὀφρύγια,
they-have it in the greens which they-call ophrygia
καὶ εἰς τὰς γούλας τὰς χοντρὰς, τὰς λέγουνε κουρούκλαις,
and in the cabbage-stalks the thick which they-call kouroukles
καὶ εἰς τὰς σεύκλας τρώγουν το, κ' οἱ ἄρχοντες 's τὸ γεῦμα
and with the beets they-eat it and the lords at the meal
ὀλίγον καὶ δαμίτσικον ὡς διὰ νὰ χωνεύσουν.
little and a-tiny-bit as for that they-digest
ἀκόμη καὶ τὸ κέρας μου μεγάλην χρείαν κάμνει·
still also the horn my great service does
ποιοῦν κερατοβούκινα, βαστάζουν στρατιώταις,
they-make horn-trumpets carry soldiers
βαστοῦν εἰς τὰ κυνήγια, ἀλλὰ καὶ εἰς φουσάτον,
they-carry at the hunts but also in army
καὶ κροῦν τα καὶ φωνάζουσιν νὰ κράζῃ εἷς τὸν ἄλλον.
and sound them and shout that call one the other
ἔχω κι ἄλλα χαρίσματα, ἂν θέλω νὰ σᾶς εἴπω,
I-have also other gifts if I-wish that to-you I-tell
ἀλλὰ ἀφίνω τα λοιπὸν, οὐκ ἔξεστί μοι λέγειν."
but I-leave them then not it-is-lawful for-me to-say

τότε ὁ βοῦς ἐφθέγξατο καὶ λέγει πρὸς βουβάλιν
then the ox spoke and says to buffalo
„βορβοροκωλοκύλιστε, φλυαροσκατολόγε,
mud-arse-roller babbling-shit-talker
ὅσα εἶπες διὰ λόγου σου καὶ ὑπερεκαυχίσθης,
whatever you-said about self your and over-boasted
ταῦτα γὰρ ἔχω καὶ ἐγὼ καὶ ἄλλα πλείω τούτων.
these(-things) for have also I and other more than-these
πρῶτον ἐμὲν τὸ κέρας μου χρῶνται καλαμαράδες,
first me the horn my use inkhorn-makers
ποιοῦν τὰ καλαμάρια, ποιοῦν κονδυλογράφοι,
make the inkhorns make pen-writers
ἀλλὰ καὶ οἱ τορνάριδες εἰς ἅπασαν τὴν χρείαν,
but also the turners for all the need
εἰς θρόνους, εἰς σελλίσματα, εἰς σκάκους, εἰς ταβλία,
for thrones for seats for chessmen for backgammon-boards
κ' εἰς ἠλακάτας τορνευτὰς σφονδυλοτορνημένας,
and for distaffs turned whorl-turned
εἰς ἄκρας σκουτελίων τε, εἰς ἄκρας λατσουνίων,
for rims of-bowls and for rims of-pans
λέγω δ' ἑτέρας πλείονας δουλείας τορνεμένας.
I-say and other more works turned
καὶ δεῦρο πάλιν νὰ εἰπῶ καὶ περὶ τῶν νευρῶν μου·
and come again that I-tell also about the sinews my
ἔχουν τα οἱ μαΐστορες τσαγγράδες, δοξαράδες,
have them the masters crossbow-makers bow-makers
νευρόνουν τὰ δοξάρια, νευρόνουν καὶ τὰς τσάγγρας.
they-string the bows they-string also the crossbows
ἀκόμη καὶ ὁ σαγιττᾶς νευρόνει ταῖς σαγίτταις,
still also the arrow-maker binds the arrows

καὶ ὁ σελλᾶς καὶ σαμαρᾶς χρῶνται καὶ οὗτοι ταῦτα,
and the saddler and pack-saddler use also these these(-things)
καὶ ὅπου δ' ἂν καὶ χρειαστοῦν, εὑρίσκουν τα εἰς δέμαν.
and wherever and — also they-need they-find them for binding
ἀκόμη καὶ τὸ εὐτελὲς, τὸ ἄκρον τῆς οὐρᾶς μου,
still also the paltry the tip of-the tail my
χρῶνται αὐτὸ οἱ ἁλιεῖς εἰς ἄγραν τῶν ἰχθύων,
use it the fishermen for catching of-the fish
τὰς λέγουσιν ἀθερινὰς, τὰς μικροτάτας πάνυ.
which they-call silversides the smallest very
ἀκόμη ἔχω νὰ εἰπῶ καὶ νὰ λαλήσω ῥῆμα·
still I-have that I-say and that I-speak saying
πολλάκις δὲ καὶ ἂν 'βρεθοῦν καὶ γύναια ἐκεῖσε
often and also if be-found also women there
καὶ νὰ ἀκούσουν τὸ παρὸν ἀπόφθεγμαν καὶ ῥῆμα,
and that they-hear the present saying and word
ἂν τύχῃ νὰ γελάσουσιν καὶ νὰ εὐνοστευθοῦσιν.
if it-happen that they-laugh and that they-be-delighted
ἔχω καὶ νεῦρον δυνατὸν, μακρὸν καὶ πυρωδάτον,
I-have also sinew strong long and fiery
ὁποῦ τὸ ἔχουν οἱ κριταὶ καὶ μαγκλαβοκοποῦσιν
which it have the judges and flog
τοὺς κλέπτας καὶ τοὺς ὑβριστὰς καὶ πάντες κακεργάτας.
the thieves and the insolent and all evildoers
καὶ περὶ τοῦ πετσίου μου οὐκ ἔχω τί νὰ εἴπω,
and about the skin my not I-have what that I-say
ὥσπερ ὑπάρχει γὰρ τὸ σὸν, οὕτως καὶ τὸ 'δικόν μου,
as is for the yours so also the own my
καὶ εἰς ὠμὸν καὶ εἰς γναπτὸν, εἰς ἄλλας πάσας χρείας·
both in raw and in fulled for other all needs

κάμνει λουρία ἔμορφα, γναμμένα μὲ τὴν στύψιν,
makes straps fine tanned with the alum
χαλιναροκοπίστελα, ὀπισωμπροστελίνας,
bridle-halters cruppers-and-breastbands
καὶ ἄλλα τούτοις ὅμοια ἃ χρῶνται οἱ σελλάδες.“
and other to-these like which use the saddlers

V · DONKEY, HORSE, CAMEL, AND WOLF

The donkey boasts of his member and challenges the horse. The horse lists the donkey's loads and beatings, and tells how the donkeys' envoy swallowed the king's decree against top-loads while braying for joy. He boasts of his gilded saddles and mocks the camel, who asked God for horns and lost her ears; she answers that old horses go blind at the mill, and he drives her off. The wolf says he eats horses too and drives the horse off.

ὡς ἤκουσεν ὁ γάδαρος βοὸς τὰς καυχησίας,
as heard the donkey of-ox the boastings
πῶς ἓν τὸ νεῦρόν του μακρὸν καὶ ἐξεπυρωμένον,
how is the sinew his long and fiery
δαμὶν ἐτζιλιπούρδησεν, ἐγκάρισεν ὀλίγον,
a-little he-farted he-brayed little
πορδοκοπῶν ἐπέδραμεν, ἐστάθην εἰς τὸ μέσον,
farting ran-up stood in the middle
ἐμπρὸς τ’ ὠτιά του ἔστησεν καὶ πρὸς τὸν βοῦν ἐλάλει
forward the ears his he-set and to the ox spoke
„ψέματα λέγεις, φλύαρε, καὶ περισσὰ καυχᾶσαι·
lies you-tell babbler and excessively you-boast
ἐγὼ ἔχω νεῦρον τὸ παχὺν, μεγαλοματσουκάτον,
I have sinew the thick big-clubbed

μακρὸν, παχὺν καὶ στιβαρὸν, ῥουθουνοκεφαλάτον,
long thick and sturdy snout-headed
μὴ μόνον μεγαλώτερον παρὰ τὸ ἐδικόν σου,
not only bigger than the own your
ἀλλ' ὑπερβαῖνον ἅπαντα τῶν τετραπόδων ζώων.
but surpassing all of-the four-footed animals
καὶ ὅταν οἰστροκινηθῶ καὶ πυρωθῇ ὀλίγον,
and when I-am-stirred-by-lust and it-is-heated a-little
ὁμοιάζει τὸ κεφάλιν του φράγκικον σαρσαρόλιν.
resembles the head its Frankish mace
ὅμως ἐβγᾶτε, φύγετε, ὁ βοῦς καὶ τὸ βουβάλιν·
yet get-out flee the ox and the buffalo
ἐγὼ δὲ καὶ τὸ ἄλογον νὰ δικολογηθοῦμεν."
I but and the horse that we-plead
ἀπῆγαν καὶ ἐστάθησαν μετὰ τοῦ συνεδρίου.
they-went and stood with the council
τὸ φοβερὸν τὸ ἄλογον ὡς ἤκουσεν τοὺς λόγους,
the fearsome the horse as heard the words
πηδηματίτσιν ἔκαμεν, ἐφόβησεν τοὺς πάντας.
little-leap made frightened the all
ἀνέβην, ἐκατέβηκεν, ἐστάθην, ἐλυγίσθην,
rose came-down stood bent
τράχηλον ἐκαμάρωσεν, ἐτίναξε τὴν χαίτην.
neck arched shook the mane
μεγάλως ἐχλιμίντρισεν, ἐστάθην εἰς τὸ μέσον
loudly neighed stood in the middle
καὶ πρὸς τὸν ὄνον ἔφησεν ῥήματα τὰ τοιαῦτα
and to the ass spoke words the such
„εἰπέ με, μαυροπεισματᾶ, εἰπὲ, ψωρογομάριν,
tell me black-stubborn tell mangy-pack-ass

πῶς σὲ φορτόνουν, ἄτυχε, πῶς σὲ ῥαβδοκοποῦσιν.
how you they-load wretch how you they-cudgel

φορτόνουν σε τ' ἀλεύρια, κριθάριν καὶ σιτάριν,
they-load you the flours barley and wheat

τὰ ὄσπρια, τὰ φάβατα, καὶ ὅσα τούτων εἴδη,
the pulses the beans and whatever of-these kinds

φορτόνουν σε καὶ τὸ κρασὶν, ὀξίδιν καὶ τὸ λάδιν,
they-load you also the wine vinegar and the oil

καὶ κουβαλεῖς καὶ τὸ νερὸν, τ' ἄχερα καὶ τὰ ξύλα,
and you-carry also the water the chaff and the wood

τὰ χόρτα καὶ τὰ φρύγανα, κρόμμυα κ' εἴ τι ἄλλον,
the grass and the brushwood onions and if anything other

τὰς πέτρας, τὰ χαλίκια, τὰ *κίσαλα, τὸ χῶμα,
the stones the pebbles the gravel the earth

καὶ ὅσα χρῶνται οἱ ἄνθρωποι εἰς ἅπασαν δουλείαν.
and whatever use the men for every work

ῥαβδοκοποῦν, σκοτόνουν σε καὶ ματσουκοκοποῦν σε,
they-cudgel kill you and club you

σουβλοκοποῦν τὸν κῶλόν σου μὲ σίδερα καὶ ξύλα.
they-prod the backside your with irons and sticks

πολλάκις καὶ ἂν σὲ εὑροῦν καὶ νὰ ποιήσῃς πρέδαν
often and if you they-find and that you-make raid

ὁκάπου εἰς ἀμπέλια καὶ εἰς σπαρμένας χώρας,
somewhere in vineyards and in sown lands

κόπτουσιν τὰ αὐτία σου, χαράσσουν τὴν οὐράν σου,
they-cut the ears your they-gash the tail your

καὶ βάνουν καὶ λαβόνουν σε μὲ τὴν χλωρὴν τὴν βέργαν,
and they-set-to and wound you with the green the switch

καὶ οὔτε πίνεις οὔτε τρῷς οὔτε σεῖς τὴν οὐράν σου,
and neither you-drink nor eat nor shake the tail your

καὶ εἶσαι κάθαρμα, πομπὴ καὶ γέλοιον τῶν ζώων.
and you-are scum disgrace and laughingstock of-the animals
κι ἂν τύχῃ νᾷναι καὶ κακὸν σαμάριν τὸ σὲ στρώνουν,
and if it-happen that-it-be also bad pack-saddle which you they-lay-on
ἐγδέρνει καὶ τὴν ῥάχιν σου, πληγόνει τὰς πλευράς σου,
it-flays also the back your wounds the sides your
καὶ τρώγουν σε συζώντανον κόρακες καὶ κουρούναις.
and eat you alive ravens and crows
κι ἂν ἐν καὶ εὕρῃς καὶ νερὸν καὶ νᾷσαι φορτωμένος, 685
and if it-is and you-find even water and that-you-are loaded
γυρίζεις καὶ τὸν κῶλόν σου καὶ βρέχεσαι καὶ στέκεις,
you-turn also the backside your and get-wet and stand
καὶ κάμνεις νοικοκύριν σου καὶ σκᾷ 'πὸ τὸ κακόν του,
and you-make master your and he-bursts from the vexation his
καὶ δίδει σου καὶ ῥαβδακαῖς καὶ σέν' ἀποδαγκάνει.
and gives you also blows and you bites
ἀκόμη, πομπογάδαρε, νὰ σὲ εἰπῶ καὶ ἄλλον,
still disgrace-donkey that to-you I-tell also another
τὸ ἤκουσ' ἀπ' τοὺς γέροντας καὶ τοὺς προπάτοράς μου. 690
which I-heard from the elders and the forefathers my
ἐσεῖς ἐβάλετε βουλὴν τοιαύτην οἱ γαδάροι,
you put counsel such the donkeys
καὶ ἕναν ἐξελέξατε τὸν ἔχετε φρονέα,
and one you-chose whom you-hold wise
νὰ ἀποστείλετε αὐτὸν ἕως τὸν βασιλέα,
that you-send him as-far-as the king
νὰ δεηθῇ καὶ νὰ εἰπῇ καὶ νὰ παρακαλέσῃ,
that he-pray and that he-say and that he-beseech

διὰ τ᾽ ἀπανωγόμια ποῦ βάνουν εἰς τὴν μέσην
about the top-loads which they-put on the middle
καὶ βαρεοφορτόνουν σας ἕως νὰ ἀναπνῆτε,
and overload you until that you-breathe
μὲ ὁρισμὸν προστάγματος νὰ ᾽ρίσῃ νὰ τὸ κόψουν.
with order of-decree that he-ordain that it they-stop
ὁ βασιλεὺς δὲ ἤκουσεν τὴν δέησιν τοῦ ὄνου·
the king and heard the petition of-the ass
κατὰ τὴν ὥραν ὥρισεν καὶ πρόσταγμαν ἐποῖκεν,
at the hour he-ordered and decree made
καὶ ἔγραφεν καὶ ὥριζεν πάντας γαδουρολάτας
and wrote and commanded all donkey-drivers
τοὺς ἔχοντας τὰ ὀνικὰ εἰς ἅπαντα τὸν κόσμον,
the having the asses in all the world
μηδὲν τολμήσειεν κανεὶς ἢ μικρὸς ἢ μεγάλος
not should-dare anyone either small or great
νὰ βάλλῃ εἰς τὸν γάδαρον ἄλλον ἀπανωγόμιν.
that he-put on the donkey other top-load
ἐστράφη δὲ ὁ γάδαρος μετὰ χαρᾶς μεγάλης,
returned and the donkey with joy great
βαστάζων εἰς τὸ στόμα του καὶ εἰς τὰ ᾽δόντιά του
carrying in the mouth his and in the teeth his
τὸ πρόσταγμαν καὶ ὁρισμὸν τοῦ βασιλεῶς ἐκείνου.
the decree and order of-the king that
ὡς ἦλθεν δὲ, ὡς ἔσωσεν ὁ ὄνος ἐκ μακρόθεν,
as came and as arrived the ass from afar
κοπιασμένος τὰ πολλὰ, κοντὰ εἰς ἕνα μίλιν,
wearied the much near to one mile
καὶ εἶδεν ὁμοθυμαδὸν ὁμοῦ τοὺς ὄνους ὅλους,
and saw together together the asses all

ἐγκάριξεν ἐκ τὴν χαρὰν τὴν ἄπληστον τὴν εἶχεν,
he-brayed from the joy the insatiable which he-had
φωνάζοντα καὶ τρέχοντα, τζιλιπορδοκοπῶντα·
shouting and running fart-banging
‘καλὴν καρδίαν ἔχετε, τὸ γένος τῶν γαδάρων,
good heart have the race of-the donkeys
ἔφερα γὰρ τὸν ὁρισμὸν ἀπὸ τὸν βασιλέαν,
I-brought for the order from the king
νὰ μᾶς φορτόνουν ἐλαφρὰ εἰς τὴν ἀνάπαυσίν μας,
that us they-load lightly for the rest our
νὰ κόψουσιν παντάπασιν καὶ τὸ ἀπανωγόμιν’ —
that they-stop altogether also the top-load
ἐπάνω δ’ εἰς τὸ ’γκάρισμα καὶ εἰς τοὺς λόγους τούτους·
upon and at the braying and at the words these
καὶ εἰς τὸ τζιλιπόρδημαν κ’ εἰς τὴν χαρὰν ἐκείνην
and at the fart-banging and at the joy that
καὶ εἰς τὸ ἀναῤῥούφισμαν τῆς ἐγκαρισματέας,
and at the in-breath of-the braying
ὁ ὄνος ἐκατέπιεν γραφὴν τοῦ βασιλέως,
the ass swallowed letter of-the king
καὶ ἦλθεν εὔκαιρος κενὸς εἰς τοὺς ἑτέρους ὄνους·
and came idle empty to the other asses
καὶ ἠρωτήσασιν αὐτόν ‘τί γὰρ καλὰ μαντάτα’;
and they-asked him what for good tidings
καὶ εἶπε ‘νὰ ἠξεύρετε, τὸ γένος τῶν γαδάρων,
and he-said that you-know the race of-the donkeys
ὅτι ἐβάστουν πρόσταγμαν ἀπὸ τὸν βασιλέαν,
that I-was-carrying decree from the king
καὶ ἔγραφεν καὶ ὥριζεν εἰς ἅπαντα τὸν κόσμον,
and he-wrote and commanded to all the world

ἵνα κοπῇ παντάπασιν καὶ τὸ ἀπανωγόμι·
that be-stopped altogether also the top-load
ἐγὼ δὲ ἀπὸ τὴν χαρὰν τὴν εἶχα τὴν μεγάλην,
I but from the joy which I-had the great
ὡς εἶδα καὶ τὴν σύναξιν ὁμοῦ τὴν ὑμετέραν,
as I-saw also the gathering together the your
ἐγκάρισα, ἐφώναξα, τζιλιπορδοκοπῶντα,
I-brayed I-shouted fart-banging
κατέδραμα δαμίτσικον νὰ δώσω συχαρίκιν,
I-ran-down a-tiny-bit that I-give good-news
καὶ εἰς τὸ ἀναῤῥούφισμαν τῆς ἐγκαρισματέας
and at the in-breath of-the braying
τὸ πρόσταγμαν ἐσέβηκεν εἰς τὰ ἐντός μου μέσα.
the decree went in-to the inside my within
λοιπὸν βαστάξετε δαμὶν ὡς οὗ νὰ κατουρήσω,
then wait a-little until which that I-piss
καὶ θέλει ἔβγην τὸ χαρτὶν καὶ θέλω σᾶς τὸ δώσει᾽.
and will come-out the paper and I-will to-you it give
καὶ ἀπ᾽ ἐκείνου τοῦ καιροῦ κἀκείνης τῆς ἡμέρας
and from that the time and-that the day
ἕως ἐδᾶ καὶ πάντοτε γυρεύετε, γαδάροι,
until now and always you-search donkeys
καὶ ὅταν κατουρήσετε, κύπτεσθε καὶ ὀσμᾶσθε —
and when you-piss you-stoop and sniff
καὶ τίποτε οὐχ εὕρετε, ἀλλ᾽ οὐδὲ νὰ εὑρῆτε,
and anything not you-found but nor that you-will-find
καὶ τὸ ἀπανωγόμιον πάντοτ᾽ οὐδὲν σᾶς λείπει,
and the top-load always not you leaves
νὰ σᾶς βαρυφορτόνουσι, νὰ σᾶς ῥαβδοκοποῦσιν.“
that you they-overload that you they-cudgel

τότε δὲ καὶ ὁ γάδαρος μικρὸν ἀπηλογεῖται·
then and also the donkey a-little answers
„πολλὰ μὲ ἐλοιδόρησας, πολλὰ μὲ ἐκατεῖπας,
much me you-reviled much me you-denounced
ἄλογον ἀλαζονικὸν, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἐπῃρμένον.
horse arrogant but also conceited
οὕτως δὲ ἔχουν καὶ ἐμὲν ὥσπερ γὰρ καὶ ἐσέναν,
so and they-keep also me as for also you
ταγίζουν με, ποτίζουν με, βάνουν με εἰς τὸν σταῦλον.“
they-feed me they-water me they-put me in the stable
τὸ ἄλογον ὡς ἤκουσεν μεγάλως ἐθυμώθη
the horse as heard greatly was-angered
καὶ πρὸς τὸν ὄνον ἔφησεν ὑβριστικοὺς τοὺς λόγους
and to the ass spoke insulting the words
„γοργὸν, ὁ σκατογάδαρος, φύγε ἀπ’ ὄμπροστά μου,
quickly the shit-donkey flee from before me
μὴ ἁπλώσω τὸ ποδάρι μου καὶ δώσω σου κλωτσέα
lest I-stretch the leg my and give you kick
καὶ σχίσω τὸ κεφάλιν σου, τσακίσω τὰς πλευράς σου,
and split the head your break the ribs your
ὥστε νὰ ζῇς, νὰ ἀναπνῇς, νὰ σὲ λακτοκοπίζω,
so-that that you-live that you-breathe that you I-kick
διότι βάνεις καὶ ἐσὺ τὴν ψῆφόν σου, γαδούριν,
because put also you the account your donkey
μὲ ἄλογον τὸ θαυμαστὸν, τὸ φοβερὸν καὶ μέγαν.
with horse the wonderful the fearsome and great
ἐμὲ σταυλίζουν πάντοτε ἀεὶ τὸν χρόνον ὅλον,
me they-stable always ever the year whole
ταγίζουν με, ποτίζουν με καὶ κανακίζουσί με,
they-feed me they-water me and pamper me

καὶ ἀγαποῦσί με πολλὰ παρὰ τὰ ζῶα ὅλα.
and they-love me much beyond the animals all
κοινῷ τῷ λόγῳ ἅπαντες καβαλλικεύγουσί με,
in-common the word all ride me
οἱ βασιλεῖς, οἱ ἄρχοντες, ῥηγάδες καὶ σουλτάνοι,
the emperors the lords kings and sultans
καὶ ἅπας ἄνθρωπος καλὸς καὶ ἅπας στρατιώτης
and every man good and every soldier
μὲ σέλλας χρυσοκόλλητας καὶ ἀργυροδεμένας,
with saddles gold-inlaid and silver-bound
χαλιναροκαπίστελα μὲ τὸ χρυσοπετάλιν,
bridle-halters with the gold-leaf
βαμμένα μὲ τὸ κρημιζῖ, ὅλα μὲ τὸ μετάξιν,
dyed with the crimson all with the silk
μὲ βροντοκούδουνα πολλὰ καὶ ἄλλας εὐμορφίας·
with thunder-bells many and other adornments
καὶ εἶμαι εἰς τὸν πόλεμον ὅλον κουβερτιασμένον
and I-am in the war all caparisoned
καὶ εἰς τὰ πανηγύρια καὶ εἰς τὰ κυνηγέσια.
and at the fairs and at the hunts
κτενίζουσιν, παστρεύουσιν καὶ ὁμαλίζουσί με,
they-comb clean and pet me
καὶ ὥσπερ τὰς γυναῖκάς τους οὕτως μὲ ἀγαποῦσιν.
and as the wives their so me they-love
ἄγομαι μὲ τὴν κάμηλον τὴν μακροσφονδυλάτην,
I-am-led with the camel the long-vertebraed
ὁποῦ φορτόνουν καὶ αὐτὴν, ὥσπερ ἐσὲν τὸν ὄνον,
whom they-load also her as you the ass
γομάρια ἀβάστακτα, φορτώματα μεγάλα·
loads unbearable burdens great

ὁποῦ ἐπαρακάλεσεν καὶ αὔτη τὸν θεόν μας
who besought also she — God our
διὰ νὰ τὴν ποίσῃ κέρατα ὡς ζῶον εὐμεγέθη,
so that her he-make horns as animal large
κἀκεῖνος ὥρισεν εὐθὺς νὰ ἔνε κουτσουαυτία,
and-he ordered at-once that she-be crop-eared
κ᾽ ἔκοψεν τὰ αὐτία της, ἐποῖκέν την καὶ κύμπον,
and cut the ears her made her also bump
κ᾽ ἔνε πομπὴ καὶ γέλοιον καὶ κάθαρμα τῶν ζώων.“
and she-is disgrace and laughingstock and scum of-the animals
ὡς ἤκουσεν ἡ κάμηλος ἐκεῖ τὸ ὄνομάν της,
as heard the camel there the name her
κι ὡς κατ᾽ αὐτῆς ἀπέτεινεν ὕβρεις καὶ λοιδορίας,
and as against her he-directed insults and abuses
εἰσῆλθεν καὶ ἐστάθηκεν καὶ αὔτη εἰς τὸ μέσον·
entered and stood also she in the middle
ὁ ὄνος δὲ καταισχυνθεὶς ἐστάθηκεν μακρόθεν.
the ass and disgraced stood far-off
τότε φησὶν ἡ κάμηλος τοιαῦτα πρὸς τὸν ἵππον
then says the camel such(-things) to the horse
„τί ὠφελεῖ ἡ ἔπαρσις καὶ ἡ ἀλαζονεία
what profits the conceit and the arrogance
καὶ τὰ πολλὰ καυχήματα τὰ ἔχεις, ἀλογάκιν;
and the many boasts which you-have little-horse
ἄκουσε καὶ νὰ σὲ εἰπῶ πολλὰ κακὰ τὰ ἔχεις.
listen and that to-you I-tell many ills which you-have
ὅταν γηράσῃς καὶ ἐσὺ, βάνουν σε εἰς τὸν μύλον,
when you-grow-old also you they-put you to the mill
τυφλόνουν σε, κακότυχον, δέρνουν σε μὲ τὴν βίτσαν,
they-blind you wretch they-beat you with the switch

γυρίζεις καὶ σκοτίζεσαι ἡμέραν τε καὶ νύκταν,
you-turn and grow-dizzy day both and night
ἐγδέρνουντ' αἱ κουτάλαις σου, ὅλος ὁ σφόνδυλός σου,
are-flayed the shoulder-blades your all the spine your
κι ἀπὸ τὸν κόπον τὸν πολὺν καὶ ἀπὸ τὴν σκοτίαν
and from the toil the much and from the dizziness
οὔτε νὰ φάγῃς ἠμπορεῖς οὔτε νερὸν νὰ πίῃς·
neither that you-eat you-can nor water that you-drink
καὶ ὅταν ἐξαπορισθῇς καὶ ἀποδυνατήσῃς,
and when you-are-at-a-loss and grow-weak
ἐκβάλλουν καὶ ὑπάγουν σε ἔξω εἰς τὸ λιβάδιν·
they-turn-out and take you out to the meadow
ἐκεῖ ψοφᾷς, κακότυχον, καὶ τρώγουν σ' οἱ κοράκοι,
there you-croak wretch and eat you the ravens
ἐγδέρνουν τὸ δερμάτιν σου καὶ πολεμοῦν τὰς τσάπας,
they-flay the hide your and make the sandals
καὶ τὴν οὐράν σου κόπτουσιν καὶ κάμνουσιν τριχέας."
and the tail your they-cut and make hair-ropes
τότε πάλιν τὸ ἄλογον εὐθὺς ἀπηλογεῖται
then again the horse at-once answers
„μωρὴ καμήλα, μυσερὴ καὶ καταβρωμισμένη,
foolish camel filthy and all-stinking
κυμπόῤῥαχη, πλατύποδε καὶ κοντοουραδάτη,
hump-back flat-foot and short-tail
νὰ γύρευες, κακότυχη, τὸ πῶς σὲ θέτουν κάτω,
that you-should-look wretch the how you they-put down
καὶ βάνουν καὶ φορτόνουν σε γομάρια μεγάλα,
and put and load you loads great
ἐπάνω δὲ καθέζεται αὐτὸς ὁ καμηλάρις,
upon and sits that the camel-driver

καὶ εἶσαι ἀργοκίνητη, ἀργὴ ὥσπερ χελώνα.
and you-are slow-moving slow as tortoise
φύγε ἀπὸ τὴν μέση μας, παράσημον τῶν ζώων,
flee from the midst our misfit of-the animals
καθὼς καὶ ὁ γαΐδαρος ὁ λυκοφαγωμένος·
as also the donkey the wolf-eaten
ὅπου γὰρ ἂν εὑρῇ αὐτὸν τὸν γάδαρον ὁ λύκος,
where for — finds this the donkey the wolf
ἀσμένως ἀποδέχεται καὶ χαίρεται μεγάλως·
gladly welcomes(-him) and rejoices greatly
„ἰδού, εὑρήκαμεν' φησὶν 'τὸ ὀψημένον κρέας.'
behold we-have-found he-says the roasted meat
ἐντράπη μὲν ἡ κάμηλος, φεύγει ἀπὸ τὴν μέσην,
was-abashed indeed the camel flees from the middle
τὸ δ' ἄλογον ἀπόμεινεν μόνον καὶ μοναχόν του·
the and horse remained alone and by-itself his
ὁ λύκος δὲ, ὡς ἤκουσεν ἐκεῖ τὸ ὄνομάν του,
the wolf and as he-heard there the name his
ἐξέβην καὶ ἐστάθηκεν καὶ αὐτὸς εἰς τὴν μέσην
went-out and stood also he in the middle
καὶ λέγει πρὸς τὸ ἄλογον ῥήματα τὰ τοιαῦτα
and says to the horse words the such
„πολλὰ ἐβαττολόγησας λόγους πολυλογίας
much you-babbled words of-much-talk
καὶ ὕβρισας τὴν κάμηλον ὁμοίως καὶ τὸν ὄνον,
and you-insulted the camel likewise also the ass
ὠνείδισας δὲ καὶ ἐμὲν πῶς ἐσθίω τοὺς ὄνους.
you-reproached and also me how I-eat the asses
λοιπὸν ἀρκεῖ σε τὰ πολλὰ, φεῦγε ἀπὸ τὴν μέσην.
then enough for-you the much flee from the middle

ἐγὼ εἶμαι αἱμόβορον, ἐσθίω γὰρ τὰ ζῶα,
I am blood-eating I-eat for the animals
οὐ μόνον γὰρ τὸν γάδαρον, καθὼς ἐσὺ ληρίζεις,
not only for the donkey as you prattle
ἀλλὰ καὶ σένα, ἄλογον, καὶ ὅλον σου τὸ γένος,
but also you horse and all your the race
καὶ τὰ μικρὰ πουλάρια τὰ κάμνουν ἡ φοράδες·
and the small foals which bear the mares
ἐσθίω γὰρ τὰ πρόβατα ὁμοίως καὶ τὰς αἶγας,
I-eat for the sheep likewise also the goats
καὶ τὰ μικρὰ ἐρίφια καὶ τὰ μικρὰ ἀρνία,
and the small kids and the small lambs
καὶ τ' ἁπαλὰ δαμάλια ὁμοίως καὶ τοὺς χοίρους,
and the tender heifers likewise also the pigs
καὶ ἄλλα ζῶα πάμπολλα, μικρά τε καὶ μεγάλα.
and other animals very-many small both and great
ὅμως νὰ δικολογηθῶ μὲ ὅμοιόν μου ζῶον·
yet that I-plead with like my animal
ἐσὺ δὲ φύγε ἀπ' ἐδῶ, ἄλογον ψωριασμένον,
you but flee from here horse mangy
μὴ μᾶς κολλήσῃ ὁ βρῶμός σου κ' ἡ ψώρα τῶν πληγῶν σου.
lest us infect the stench your and the mange of-the sores your
καιρὸς γὰρ ἦλθεν ἀπ' ἐδῶ νὰ φύγῃς ἐκ τοῦ μέσου."
time for has-come from here that you-flee from the middle
ἐξέβηκεν τὸ ἄλογον, παραμερεὰ ἐστάθη,
went-out the horse aside stood
ὁ λύκος δὲ ἀπέμεινεν μέσον τοῦ συνεδρίου.
the wolf and remained in-the-midst of-the council

The bear reproaches the wolf for his mange and is called a hive-robber, but boasts that physicians use her fat. The leopard calls the lion-leopard a bastard; the lion threatens the lion-leopard for naming the king. The elephant boasts the castles built on his back and the ivory of thrones, combs, and mirrors. The monkey mocks his kneeless legs and how hunters fell the tree he sleeps against, and flees his threat. The lion then dissolves the peace and orders the flesh-eaters to eat the clean.

ἡ ἄρκος δὲ, ὡς ἤκουσεν καὶ ἔβλεψεν τὸν λύκον
the bear and as heard and saw the wolf
μεμονωμένον μοναχὸν, ἐστάθην εἰς τὸ μέσον,
isolated alone stood in the middle
καὶ λόγους ἐναπέτεινεν τοιούτους πρὸς τὸν λύκον
and words she-addressed such to the wolf
„πνιγάρη λύκε, θρασιοφᾶ, ἀλλὰ καὶ νυκτοκλέπτη,
strangler wolf bold-eater but also night-thief
καὶ τρυπολόγε μυσερὲ καὶ νυκτοπερπατάρη,
and hole-dweller filthy and night-walker
εἰπὲ, καὶ σὺ καυχίστησαι ὥσπερ τὰ ἄλλα ζῶα;
tell also you do-you-boast as the other animals
ἂν ἔχῃς μέλος τίποτες νὰ ὠφελῇ εἰς χρείαν,
if you-have limb any that profits for need
εἰ μὴ τὸ ὅλον σου κορμὶν ἔν᾽ ἄχρηστον παντάπαν.
if not the whole your body is useless altogether
ὀνειδίζεις τὸ ἄλογον τὸ πῶς ποτὲ ψωριάζει,
you-reproach the horse the how sometimes it-gets-mange
καὶ μᾶλλον ἐσὺ, κάκιστε, ψωριάζεις πᾶσα χρόνον,
and rather you most-wicked you-get-mange every year
καὶ κάθε καλοκαίριον ἥλιον οὐδὲν βλέπεις,
and every summer sun not you-see

ἀλλ' εἰς τὰ δάση καὶ λογγοὺς εἶσαι κατακρυμμένος,
but in the woods and thickets you-are hidden
καὶ τρώγουν σε οἱ κώνωπες, καὶ σφῆκες σὲ δαγκάνουν."
and eat you the gnats and wasps you bite
τότε ὁ λύκος ἔφησεν τοιαῦτα πρὸς τὴν ἄρκον
then the wolf spoke such(-things) to the bear
„μελισσοφάγε, μυσερὴ καὶ κοντοποδαρέα,
bee-eater filthy and short-legged
καὶ ἀλλοιθώρα καὶ στραβὴ καὶ χαμηλοβλεποῦσσα,
and squint-eyed and blind and down-looking
κορμοφηκάρα, παίγνιον τῶν μωροατζιγγάνων,
hive-robber plaything of-the foolish-gypsies
ἀχλαδοβαλανότροφε, μυρτοκουμαροφάγα,
pear-and-acorn-fed myrtle-and-arbutus-eater
οὐδὲ ἐσὺ ἔχεις καλὸν ἀπάνω σου τὶ μέλος,
nor you have good upon you any limb
καθὼς σὺ λέγεις καὶ ἐμὲν, καθὼς μὲ ὀνειδίζεις."
as you say also me as me you-reproach
πάλιν ἀπηλογήθηκεν ἡ ἄρκος πρὸς τὸν λύκον
again answered the bear to the wolf
„ἐγὼ ἔχω ὠφέλιμον εἰς ἰατροὺς μεγάλους·
I have useful(-thing) for physicians great
ἀξούγγιν τὸ ἡμέτερον διὰ παντὸς τὸ χρῶνται
fat the our through all it they-use
εἰς ῥεύματα, εἰς ἀλοιφὰς, μὲ εἴδη μεμιγμένα,
for rheums for ointments with drugs mixed
ποιοῦν σκευὴν πανεύχρηστον εἰς τὰς πληγὰς καὶ πάθη.
they-make preparation all-useful for the wounds and ailments
ὅμως ἂς φύγωμεν μικρὸν ἔξω ἀπὸ τὸ μέσον,
yet let us-withdraw a-little out from the middle

νὰ ἔλθουν τὰ αἱμόβορα καὶ τὰ ἀνδρειωμένα,
that come the blood-eating and the brave
καὶ δυνατὰ καὶ ἄγρια θηρία τὰ μεγάλα,
and strong and wild beasts the great
πάρδος καὶ λεοντόπαρδος, νὰ δικολογηθοῦσι.“
leopard and lion-leopard that they-plead
λοιπὸν ἀπέφυγον μικρὸν ὁ λύκος καὶ ἡ ἄρκος.
then withdrew a-little the wolf and the bear
πάρδος καὶ λεοντόπαρδος ἦλθασιν εἰς τὸ μέσον
leopard and lion-leopard came into the middle
καὶ εἷς τὸν ἄλλον ἔλεγεν „ἐγῶμαι ὁ καλλίων.“
and one to-the other said I-am the better
τὰ ’δόντια ἐφάγγριζαν καὶ ἐνεγγριμασοῦσαν.
the teeth they-bared and snarled
ὅμως ὁ πάρδος προπετῶς ἐφθέγξατο τοιαῦτα
yet the leopard rashly spoke such(-things)
καὶ πρὸς τὸν λεοντόπαρδον τοιούτους λόγους λέγει
and to the lion-leopard such words says
„ἐσὺ οὐκ εἶσαι φυσικὸν, ἀλλὰ ἐξ ἡμισείας
you not are natural but by half
ἔχεις ἀπὸ τὸν λέοντα, ἔχεις καὶ ἀπὸ ’μένα.
you-have from the lion you-have also from me
καὶ εἶσαι ζῶον πονηρὸν κοπελοαναθρεμμένον,
and you-are animal wicked bastard-bred
καθὼς δηλοῖ τὸ ὄνομαν τὸ τοῦ λεοντοπάρδου.
as shows the name the of-the lion-leopard
ἐγὼ δὲ πρὸς τὸ ὄνομα ἔχω καὶ τὴν ἀνδρείαν·
I but according-to the name have also the courage
πάρδος γὰρ εἶμαι δυνατὸς, ὅλως ἀνδρειωμένος,
leopard for I-am strong wholly brave

καὶ ὅλα τὰ τετράποδα ὅλα καταπονῶ τα.
and all the four-footed all I-overpower them
εἰς δύο μου πηδήματα ἢ καὶ πολλάκις τρία
in two my leaps or even often three
τὸ ζῶον, ὅποιον ἐστίν, φθάνω το καὶ κρατῶ το,
the animal whatever it-is I-overtake it and hold it
σφίγγω το μὲ τοὺς ὄνυχας, κι οὐ δύναται νὰ φύγῃ,
I-squeeze it with the claws and not it-can that it-flee
τρώγω το καὶ εὐφραίνομαι ἕως τὴν ὄρεξίν μου,
I-eat it and delight-myself to the appetite my
τὸ δ' ἄλλον τὸ περίλοιπον ἀφίνω το καὶ φεύγω,
the and other the remainder I-leave it and go
καὶ οἷον ἄλλον εὑρεθῇ θηρίον, τρώγει τοῦτο.
and whatever other is-found beast eats this
ἀκμὴν καὶ τὸ δερμάτι μου ἔχουν το οἱ σουλτάνοι·
still also the hide my have it the sultans
οἱ ἄρχοντες οἱ εὐγενεῖς, μεγάλοι ἀμηράδες,
the lords the noble great emirs
ἔχουν αὐτὸ καθίσματα ἀλλὰ κι ἀγκουμπιστήρια,
they-have it seats but also arm-rests
καὶ εἰς τὰ προσκεφάλαια καὶ εἰς στρωμνὰς τῆς κλίνης·
and on the pillows and on coverlets of-the bed
ἐκεῖ γὰρ ὅπου εὑρεθῇ, ψύλλος οὐκ ἔστιν ὅλως."
there for where it-is-found flea not is at-all
τότε ὁ λεοντόπαρδος ἐφθέγξατο τοιαῦτα
then the lion-leopard spoke such(-things)
„μηδὲν καυχᾶσαι, πάρδαλε, καὶ κοντοουραδάτε,
not boast leopard and short-tail
εἰς δύναμιν κ' εἰς πήδημαν καὶ εἰς τοὺς ὄνυχάς σου,
of strength and of leap and of the claws your

ὅσα γὰρ κέκτησαι καὶ σὺ χαρίσματα καὶ πράξεις,
whatever for possess also you gifts and deeds
οὕτως τὰ ἔχω καὶ ἐγὼ ὥσπερ ἐσὲν τὸν πάρδον,
so them have also I as you the leopard
ἀκμὴν καὶ ὁ κατόπαρδος καὶ βασιλεὺς ὁ λέων.“
still also the cat-leopard and king the lion
ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ βασιλεὺς μεγάλως ἐθυμώθη
having-heard and the king greatly was-angered
καὶ πρὸς τὸν λεοντόπαρδον ἐφθέγξατο τοιαῦτα
and to the lion-leopard spoke such(-things)
„κρατεῖ με τὸ βασίλειον καὶ ἡ μεγαλειότης,
holds me the kingship and the majesty
ἡ ὄχλησις, ἡ ταραχὴ ἡ μέλλουσα γενέσθαι,
the turmoil the commotion the about to-happen
ἀμμὴ νὰ ἤπλωσα δαμὶν τὸ παλαμόχειρόν μου,
but that I-stretched a-little the palm-hand my
καὶ νὰ σὲ ἔγγισα δαμὶν εἰς τὴν κατασαγοῦναν,
and that you I-touched a-little on the coat
καὶ νὰ σὲ ἐξεστόμωσα ἕως τὸν μέλιγγά σου·
and that you I-tore-open as-far-as the temple your
τότε νὰ σ’ ἔμαθα καλὰ τὸ πῶς νὰ συντυχαίνῃς,
then that you I-taught well the how that you-speak
τὸν βασιλέα δὲ ποτὲ νὰ μὴν τὸν ἀναφέρῃς.
the king and ever that not him you-mention
ἀλλ’ ὅμως γοῦν πρὸς τὸ παρὸν ἐβγᾶτ’ ἀπὸ τὸ μέσον,
but yet then for the present get-out from the middle
νὰ ἔλθῃ καὶ ὁ ἔλεφας ὁ καὶ συγκάθεδρός μου,
that come also the elephant the also assessor my
νὰ εἴπῃ καὶ αὐτὸς λοιπὸν χαρίσματα τὰ ἔχει.
that tell also he then gifts which he-has

καὶ ὅταν ἐκπληρώσουσιν καὶ ἀποποῦν οἱ πάντες,
and when finish and have-spoken the all
τότε νὰ εἴπω καὶ ἐγὼ καὶ τότε νὰ ὁρίσω,
then that I-speak also I and then that I-decree
ὡσεί τι ἔχων θέλημαν ὡς βασιλεὺς καὶ λέων.“
as some having will as king and lion
τότε ἐλθὼν ὁ ἔλεφας ἐστάθη εἰς τὸ μέσον
then having-come the elephant stood in the middle
καὶ ταῦτα προσεφθέγξατο πρὸς τὴν κοινότην ὅλην
and these(-things) addressed to the assembly whole
„ὥσπερ τις πύργος ἀσφαλὴς καὶ κατωχυρωμένος,
as some tower secure and fortified
φρούριον ἀπολέμητον καὶ δυνατὸν εἰς ἄκρον,
fortress unassailable and strong to extreme
οὕτως ὑπάρχω καὶ ἐγὼ, σφόδρα στερεωμένος·
so am also I exceedingly firm
ἐπάνω μου γὰρ κτίζουσιν κάστρη μὲ τὰ σανίδια,
upon me for they-build castles with the planks
καὶ ξυλοπύργους δυνατοὺς πολλὰ ὠχυρωμένους,
and wooden-towers strong very fortified
καὶ στήκουσιν οἱ ἄνθρωποι μέσα ἁρματωμένοι
and stand the men inside armed
καὶ πολεμοῦσιν ἰσχυρῶς πάντας τοὺς ἐναντίους,
and fight mightily all the enemies
καὶ πάντας καταβάλλουν τους, πάντας καταπονοῦν τους.
and all they-overthrow them all they-overpower them
ἀκόμη τὰ ὀστέα μου ποιοῦν μεγάλας χρείας,
still the bones my do great services
βασιλικὰ κλινάρια, πατριαρχῶν σελλία,
royal beds of-patriarchs chairs

καὶ δοκανίκια γλυπτὰ, τορνοεμφωλευμένα,
and staffs carved lathe-inlaid
καθίσματα βασιλικὰ, θρονία δεσποτάτα·
seats royal thrones of-despots
κρατοῦν τα οἱ ἐπίσκοποι καὶ οἱ μητροπολῖται
hold them the bishops and the metropolitans
καὶ οἱ μεγαλοηγούμενοι μὲ τὰς μακρὰς γενειάδας,
and the great-abbots with the long beards
ἀκόμη καὶ οἱ ἄρχοντες καὶ οἱ πραγματευτάδες
still also the lords and the merchants
ἔχουσίν τα παιγνίδια καὶ αὐτοὶ τορνεμένα,
have them games also they turned
ταβλία καὶ ζατρίκια καὶ ὅσα τὰ τοιαῦτα.
backgammon-boards and chess and whatever the such(-things)
ποιοῦν μαχαιρομάνικα μεγάλων μαχαιρίων,
they-make knife-handles of-great knives
ὁμοίως καὶ εἰς τὰ μικρὰ ὡραιωμένα σφόδρα·
likewise also for the small adorned exceedingly
κτένια ἔμορφα πολλὰ, τὰ δένουν μὲ χρυσάφιν,
combs fine many which they-bind with gold
ἀκόμη μὲ ἀσήμιον σμαραγδοπλουμισμένα,
still with silver emerald-adorned
καὶ ἔχουν τα ᾗ ἀρχόντισσαις καὶ γραίαις καὶ μεσόγραις·
and have them the ladies and old-women and middle-aged-women
ἀλλ' ἔχουσιν καὶ κάτοπτρα ἃ λέγονται καθρέπται,
but they-have also mirrors which are-called looking-glasses
καὶ βλέπουσιν τὸν ἴσκιον ταις αἱ νέαις κοπελούδαις."
and see the reflection their the young girls
ὡς ἤκουσεν ἡ μαϊμοῦ ἐλέφαντος τοὺς λόγους —
as heard the monkey of-elephant the words

ὅλοι γὰρ ἐσυντύχασιν καὶ ὅλοι γὰρ ἀπεῖπον,
all for had-spoken and all for had-finished
οὐδένας δὲ ἀπόμεινεν, μόνον αὐτὴ καὶ μόνη·
no-one and remained only she and alone
ἐκρύπτετο δ' ὡς πονηρὰ μέσον τῶν τετραπόδων —
she-hid and as sly amid the four-footed
ἐπήδησεν δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ κ' ἐστάθην εἰς τὸ μέσον,
leaped and also she and stood in the middle
καὶ ταῦτα ἀπεφθέγξατο καὶ τὸν ἐλέφαν λέγει
and these(-things) spoke and to-the elephant says
„ἦλθες καὶ σὺ, μακρύμυτε, μετὰ τῆς προμυτίδος,
have-you-come also you long-snout with the trunk
νὰ καυχισθῇς, νὰ ἐπαρθῇς, παράσημον τῶν ζώων;
that you-boast that you-be-puffed-up misfit of-the animals
ἔξω ἀπὸ τῆς φύσεως τῆς ἡμετέρας εἶσαι,
outside from the nature the our you-are
καβούρου τάξιν κέκτησαι μεγαλοχαχανάτου,
of-crab manner you-have big-mouthed
ἔχεις ἀλλοῦ τὸ στόμα σου κι ἀλλοῦ τὴν προμυτίδαν,
you-have elsewhere the mouth your and elsewhere the trunk
ἀλλοῦ συνάγεις βρώματα καὶ ἀλλαχοῦ τὰ τρώγεις.
elsewhere you-gather foods and elsewhere them you-eat
λοξόποδε, παράσημε καὶ κάθαρμα τῶν ζώων,
crooked-foot misfit and scum of-the animals
δίχα γονάτων γέγονας καὶ δίχα ἁρμονίας,
without knees you-were-made and without joint
καὶ στέκεις μονοστέλεχος νύκταν τε καὶ ἡμέραν,
and you-stand single-trunked night both and day
καὶ οὐ πίπτεις ν' ἀναπαυθῇς καθὼς τὰ ἄλλα ζῶα,
and not you-lie-down that you-rest as the other animals

οὔτε ἀνάπαυσιν μικρὰν ἔχεις ὡσὰν οἱ πάντες·
nor rest small you-have as the all
ἀλλ' ὅταν θέλῃς νὰ ὑπνῇς, ἱστέκεσαι ὁλόρθος
but when you-wish that you-sleep you-stand bolt-upright
καὶ ἀκουμπίζεις εἰς δενδρὸν ἢ εἰς μεγάλην πέτραν,
and lean on tree or on great rock
καὶ μετὰ φόβου στέκεσαι καὶ τρέμεις καὶ κοιμᾶσαι·
and with fear you-stand and tremble and sleep
καὶ ἂν νυστάξῃς πάμπολλα καὶ κοιμηθῇς βαρέα,
and if you-doze very-much and sleep heavily
ἀλλοὶ 's ἐσὲν κακότυχον, πῶς θέλεις ἐξεστρέψει,
alas to you wretch how you-will be-overturned
νὰ γείρῃς ἐξανάσκελα, νὰ πέσῃς ἄνω κάτω,
that you-lean on-your-back that you-fall upside down
οἱ πόδες σου νὰ στέκουνται ἀπάνω ὥσπερ ξύλα,
the feet your that stand up like logs
ποσῶς δὲ νὰ μὴ δύνασαι διὰ νὰ 'γερθῇς ὁλόρθος.
at-all and that not you-can for that you-rise upright
καὶ ἔρχουνται οἱ ἄνθρωποι ὁποῦ σὲ κυνηγοῦσιν,
and come the men who you hunt
εὑρίσκουν καὶ σκοτόνουν σε καὶ καταλύουσίν σε,
they-find and kill you and destroy you
ὡς ἄνανδρον, ὡς ἀσθενὴν, μὴ ἔχοντα τί δρᾶσαι.
as unmanly as weak not having what to-do
καὶ σὺ ληρεῖς μὲ τὰς πολλὰς τὰς ψεματολογίας,
and you prattle with the many the lie-tellings
πῶς εἶσαι ζῶον μέγιστον, πάνυ ἀνδρειωμένον.
how you-are animal greatest very brave

πολλάκις δὲ οἱ ἄνθρωποι ποιοῦν καὶ ἄλλας πράξεις
often and the men do also other deeds
καὶ τέχνας ἄλλας, ἄτυχε, πῶς νὰ σὲ καταλύσουν,
and tricks other wretch how that you they-destroy
καὶ οὔτε ὕπνον θεωρεῖς νύκταν τε καὶ ἡμέραν·
and nor sleep you-see night both and day
ἀξινογλύφουν τὰ δενδρὰ ἢ πριονοκοποῦν τα,
they-hack-with-axes the trees or they-saw-through them
καὶ ἀποκόπτουν τα λοιπὸν εἰς ἄκρον νὰ κοποῦσιν,
and cut them then to extreme that they-be-cut
καὶ πᾷς ἐκεῖ νὰ κοιμηθῇς, ἐκεῖ καὶ νὰ 'κουμπήσῃς·
and you-go there that you-sleep there and that you-lean
τὸ δένδρον πίπτει, κρούει σε καὶ εἰς τὴν γῆν σὲ βάνει,
the tree falls strikes you and on the ground you puts
σκοτόνουν σε, ὡς εἴπομεν, καὶ παίρνουν τὰ ὀστᾶ σου.
they-kill you as we-said and take the bones your
αὐτὰ γὰρ εἶναι τὰ καλὰ καὶ τ' ἀγαθὰ τὰ ἔχεις." —
these for are the fine(-things) and the goods which you-have
τότε ὁ μέγας ἔλεφας εἰς ἄκρον ἐθυμώθη,
then the great elephant to extreme was-angered
μετὰ σφοδρᾶς τῆς ἀπειλῆς τὴν μαϊμοῦν ἐλάλει
with violent the threat to-the monkey spoke
„φεῦγε, φαγκρὶν, παράπτωμα ἀκάθαρτον παράπαν,
flee glutton offense unclean altogether
μυσεροκακομούτζουνον, ψειροκονιδοφάγον,
filthy-ugly-snouted louse-and-nit-eater
ἐσθίεις τὰ ζωύφια, τὰς μίγλας καὶ τοὺς ψύλλους,
you-eat the little-creatures the bugs and the fleas
καὶ ἄλλα τὰ μικρότατα τῶν ἀκαθάρτων πάντων.
and others the smallest of-the unclean all

φεῦγε λοιπὸν ἀπ᾽ ἔμπροσθεν, μὴ μαγαρίσῃς πάντας.“
flee then from before lest you-defile all

δρομαία δὲ ἡ μαϊμοῦ φεύγει ἀπὸ τὴν μέσην,
running and the monkey flees from the middle

ἀπὸ τὸν φόβον τὸν πολὺν τὸν εἶχε τοῦ ἐλέφα,
from the fear the much which she-had of-the elephant

καὶ μέσα ἀπεκρύβηκεν πάντων τῶν τετραπόδων.
and amid hid-herself of-all the four-footed

ὁ βασιλεὺς δ᾽ ἀπέμεινεν λέων μεμονωμένος
the king and remained lion alone

καὶ πρὸς τὸ πλῆθος ἔφησεν λόγους καὶ ὁμιλίας
and to the multitude spoke words and addresses

„ἀρκοῦσιν τὰ λεγόμενα τὰ εἴπασιν οἱ πάντες,
suffice the things-said which said the all

αἱ ὕβρεις, οἱ ὀνειδισμοὶ, οἱ ἔπαινοι καὶ ψόγοι,
the insults the reproaches the praises and blames

αἱ καυχησίαι αἱ πολλαὶ καὶ αἱ ἀντιλογίαι.
the boastings the many and the contradictions

ὁρίζω δὲ ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν, λέγω καὶ ἀποφαίνω,
I-decree and from the now I-say and declare

ἡ καθαρὰ καὶ ἄδηλος ἀγάπη καὶ φιλία,
the pure and unseen love and friendship

ὁποῦ ἐσυνεστήσαμεν μεθ᾽ ὅρκου καὶ ἀγάπης,
which we-established with oath and love

ὁρίζω δὲ ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν νὰ ἓν καταλυμένη,
I-decree and from the now that it-be dissolved

νὰ ἔνε μάχη δυνατὴ, καθάπερ καὶ τὸ πρῶτον,
that be battle strong as also the first

καὶ πάντα τὰ τετράποδα, τὰ αἱμοβόρα ζῶα,
and all the four-footed the blood-eating animals

νὰ τρώγουσιν τὰ καθαρὰ, καθάπερ καὶ τὸ πρῶτον,
that they-eat the clean as also the first
ὅποιον καὶ καταπονεῖ καὶ ἔνε εἰθισμένον.“
whichever also overpowers and is accustomed
τότε νὰ εἶδες ὀδυρμοὺς καὶ δάκρυα μεγάλα
then that you-saw laments and tears great
καὶ ὄχλησιν καὶ ταραχὴν, τὴν ἔποικαν τὰ ζῶα,
and turmoil and commotion which made the animals
νὰ εἶδες καὶ πηδήματα καὶ δρόμια ἐκεῖσε.
that you-saw also leaps and runnings there
ὅπου ἐκαταπόνεσεν, ἐδίωκεν τὸν ἄλλον,
who overpowered chased the other
ἔφθαναν καὶ ἐδάγκαναν καὶ ἐτινάσσασίν τα,
they-overtook and bit and shook them
οἱ μὲν ἀπὸ τὸν σφόνδυλον, οἱ δ’ ἄλλοι ἀπὸ τὴν ῥάχη,
the(-ones) indeed by the spine the and others by the back
ἄλλοι δ’ ἀπὸ τὰ ‘μίκωλα καὶ ἀπὸ τὴν κοιλίαν,
others and by the haunches and by the belly
ἕτεροι δὲ ὡς ἔφτασαν καὶ ὅποθεν ὀρθῶσαν.
others and as they-reached and wherever they-caught
καὶ ἤκουσες καὶ τοὺς κλαυθμοὺς καὶ τὴν μεγάλην θλίψιν,
and you-heard both the wailings and the great affliction
καὶ τοῦ πολέμου ταραχὴν καὶ τὴν πολλὴν τὴν βίαν,
and of-the war commotion and the much the violence
τὴν εἶχαν τὰ τετράποδα νὰ τρώγῃ ἕναν τἄλλο.
which had the four-footed that eat one the-other

ὅμως νὰ διηγήσωμαι τὸν πόλεμον ἐκεῖνον
yet that I-relate the war that
καὶ κατὰ μέρος λέξομαι λεπτομερῶς εἰς ἄκρον
and by part I-shall-tell minutely to extreme
τὴν βίαν καὶ τὴν ταραχὴν τὴν τότε γενομένην.
the violence and the commotion the then happening

VII · THE BATTLE

The lion seizes a buffalo cow; the ox calls him an oath-breaker and disembowels him. The buffalo tramples the leopard, who calls the flesh-eaters to his aid. The clean beasts muster with the donkey on trumpet, the camel carrying kettledrums, and the mouse beating them. The pig kills the lion-leopard and the bear; the dog denounces the fox for playing both sides. Night ends the battle, and the hymnographer's word is fulfilled that a king is not saved by great power; the battle lasts to this day.

πρῶτον εὐθὺς ὁ βασιλεὺς ἐπήδησεν ὁ λέων
first at-once the king leaped the lion
καὶ τὴν βουβάλαν ἔδωκεν, ἐπῆρέ την καὶ κάτσε.
and the buffalo-cow struck took her and sat
ἰδὼν ὁ βοῦς ἐλάλησεν ἐπάνω εἰς τὸν λέον,
having-seen the ox bellowed upon at the lion
καὶ σφόδρα ἐμουγκήθηκεν, ἐβόησεν μεγάλως
and violently lowed shouted greatly
„βλέπετε τὸν πανάπιστον, τὸν ὁρκοκαταλύτην,
see the all-faithless the oath-breaker
ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸν ἐπίορκον καὶ ἀρχηγὸν τῆς μάχης.
but also the perjurer and leader of-the battle
οὗτος οὐκ ἔνε βασιλεὺς οὐδὲ αὐθέντης ἔνε,
this(-one) not is king nor lord is

ἐπεὶ τὴν μάχην συνιστᾷ καὶ καταλῦ ἀγάπην.
since the battle he-stirs-up and dissolves love
καὶ γὰρ ἂν ἦτον βασιλεὺς, καθὼς καὶ τζαμπουνίζει,
and for if he-were king as also he-pipes
νὰ ὥρισεν καὶ νἄστεκεν πάντοτε ἡ ἀγάπη.
that he-had-decreed and that-had-stood always the love
ἐπεὶ οὖν ἔνε κακοποιὸς καὶ ὁρκοπαραβάτης,
since then he-is evildoer and oath-transgressor
οἱ πάντες ἂς τὸν δώσωμεν μικροί τε καὶ μεγάλοι,
the all let him us-strike small both and great
καὶ ἂς τὸν ἀποκτείνωμεν ὡς ὁρκοπαραβάτην.“
and let him us-kill as oath-transgressor
καὶ ἀποφάσισεν ὁ βοῦς πρῶτον καὶ ἐκατέβη,
and resolved the ox first and came-down
καὶ σείει τὸ κεφάλιν του, κρούει τον κερατέα,
and shakes the head his strikes him horn-thrust
καὶ ὅλον του τὸ κέρατον εὐθὺς ἐκάτσεν μέσα
and all his the horn at-once sank inside
εἰς τὴν κοιλίαν λέοντος καὶ ἐξεντέρισέν τον.
into the belly of-lion and disemboweled him
ἰδὼν δὲ πάρδος τὸ παρὸν θέαμα τὸ τοῦ λέου,
having-seen and leopard the present sight the of-the lion
μεγάλως ἐλυπήθηκεν καὶ πρὸς τὸν βοῦν ἀντεῖπεν
greatly grieved and to the ox retorted
„πόθεν νὰ ζῇ ὁ βασιλεὺς, πόθεν οἱ ἄρχοντές του,
whence that live the king whence the lords his
ἐὰν οὐ φάγῃ ἀπὸ σὲν καὶ ἀπὸ τοὺς ἑτέρους;“
if not he-eat from you and from the others
καὶ ἤπλωσεν τὸν πόδαν του ἐπάνω εἰς τὸ βῴδιν·
and stretched the foot his upon on the ox

καὶ τὸ ἰδὼν ὁ βούβαλος ἐσέβην εἰς τὴν μέσην,
and it having-seen the buffalo entered into the middle
κλῶτσον τὸν κλῶτσον ἔκρουεν τὸν πάρδον μὲ τοὺς πόδας,
kick on kick struck the leopard with the feet
ἀλλὰ καὶ μὲ τὰ κέρατα ἐσώσπαστον τὸν κάμνει·
but also with the horns broken-inside him makes
καὶ μὲ τὴν βίαν τὴν πολλὴν καὶ τὴν ἀνάγκη ἐκείνην
and with the force the much and the need that
μικρὴν φωνὴν ἐλάλησεν ὁ πάρδος ἀπὸ χάμαι
small voice uttered the leopard from the-ground
„ποῦ ’στε, συντρόφοι ἀδελφοὶ, ὠμόβορα θηρία,
where are-you comrades brothers raw-eating beasts
καὶ στέκετε καὶ βλέπετε καὶ δὲν μᾶς βοηθεῖτε;“
and you-stand and look and not us you-help
εὐθὺς ὁ λεοντόπαρδος, εὐθὺς καὶ ἡ ἀρκοῦδα,
at-once the lion-leopard at-once also the bear
ὁ λύκος, ἡ ἀλώπεκα, ὁ σκύλος καὶ ὁ κάτης,
the wolf the fox the dog and the cat
ὅλοι ἐκεῖ εἰσέδραμον εἰς βοηθειὰν τοῦ πάρδου·
all there ran-in to help of-the leopard
τὰ ἕτερα ὠμόβορα καὶ τετράποδα ζῶα
the other raw-eating and four-footed animals
εἰς μίαν ὥραν καὶ φωνὴν ἐσυνάχθησαν ἅμα
in one hour and call gathered together
εἰς μάχην καὶ εἰς πόλεμον τῶν καθαρῶν τῶν ζώων.
to battle and to war of-the clean the animals
ὡς ταῦτα πάντα εἴδασιν τὰ καθαρὰ τὰ ζῶα,
as these(-things) all saw the clean the animals
ὡρίσασι τὸν γάδαρον νὰ δώσῃ τὸ σαλπίγγι,
they-ordered the donkey that he-sound the trumpet

ἡ κάμηλος δὲ νὰ βαστᾷ λέγω ἀνακαράδας,
the camel and that carry I-say kettledrums
καὶ νὰ τοὺς παίζῃ ὁ ποντικὸς νὰ συναχθοῦσιν ὅλοι,
and that them play the mouse that gather all
ὁ χοῖρος καὶ ἡ ἔλαφος, ἡ αἶγα, τὸ ἀγρίμιν,
the pig and the deer the goat the wild-goat
τὸ πρόβατον καὶ ὁ λαγὸς καὶ τὰ ὅμοια τούτων,
the sheep and the hare and the like of-these
τὸ ἄλογον δὲ ὡς γοργὸν ν' ἀναιβοκαταιβαίνῃ,
the horse and as quick that go-up-and-down
νὰ ἀνδρειόνῃ δυνατὰ ὅλην του τὴν μερέαν.
that he-embolden mightily all his the side
ἐδράμασι δὲ καὶ αὐτὰ ἀπάνω εἰς ἐκείνους
ran and also they upon on those
καὶ συγκροτοῦσιν πόλεμον καὶ θαυμαστὸν καὶ μέγαν.
and join battle both wonderful and great
ἐσέβη λεοντόπαρδος τὴν ἔλαφον νὰ δώσῃ,
went-in lion-leopard the deer that he-strike
καὶ παλαμαίᾳ κρούει την, διχοτομεῖ την μέσον.
and with-paw strikes her cuts her in-the-middle
καὶ χύνει χοῖρος ἀπεκεῖ γοργῶς καὶ καταιβαίνει,
and rushes pig from-there quickly and descends
καὶ κροῦ τὸν λεοντόπαρδον καὶ ἐξεκοίλιασέ τον.
and strikes the lion-leopard and disemboweled him
εὐθὺς δὲ ἐχαμόδραμεν ἡ ἄρκος πρὸς τὸν χοῖρον,
at-once and ran-low the bear at the pig
αὐτὸς γυρίζει δὲ γοργὸν καὶ κρούει καὶ τὴν ἄρκον,
he turns and quickly and strikes also the bear
ἐσκότωσεν δὲ καὶ αὐτὴν μετὰ λεοντοπάρδου.
he-killed and also her with lion-leopard

ὁ σκύλος δὲ, ὡς ἔστεκεν βλέπων τὰ γεγονότα,
the dog and as he-stood seeing the events
ἐβάβυσεν ἀπὸ μακρὰ, ἐξέσπασε τὸν χοῖρον,
barked from far fell-upon the pig
ἀναιβοεκατέβαινε „βλέπετε καὶ σκοπεῖτε
went-up-and-down see and look-at
τὴν κακομήχανον αὐτὴν τὴν μεγαλομαστόραν,
the evil-scheming this the great-mistress
τὴν ἀλωποῦ τὴν ἄπιστον τὸ πῶς καταμυτόνει
the fox the faithless the how she-sneaks
καὶ δείχνει ἀγάπην δολερὰ καὶ εἰς τὰ δύο μέρη.
and shows love deceitfully also to the two sides
τί στέκετε; τί βλέπετε; μηδὲν γὰρ φοβηθῆτε,
why do-you-stand why do-you-look not for fear
μὴ δειλιάσετε ποσῶς, ἀλλὰ ἀνδρειωθῆτε.“
not be-cowardly at-all but be-brave
εὐθὺς ὁ χοῖρος ἔδραμεν, ἐπήδησεν ἡ αἶγα,
at-once the pig ran leaped the goat
τὸ πρόβατον, ὁ λαγωὸς, ὁ κριὸς καὶ ὁ τράγος,
the sheep the hare the ram and the he-goat
ἐσάλπιγξεν ὁ γάδαρος, ἡ κάμηλος ὀρχᾶται,
trumpeted the donkey the camel dances
κρούει τὰ ταβλαμπάσια ὁ πονδικὸς ἐπάνω,
beats the kettledrums the mouse above
ὁ ἵππος δὲ χηλιμιντρᾷ, ἀναιβοκαταιβαίνει,
the horse and neighs goes-up-and-down
ποιοῦσιν ταραχὴν πολλὴν καὶ ὄχλησιν μεγάλην.
they-make commotion much and turmoil great
κόπτει ὁ λύκος τὸ βουνὶν, ἡ ἀλωποῦ τὸ δάσος,
cuts the wolf the mountain the fox the wood

ὁ κάτης δὲ ἀνέβηκεν εἰς τὸ δενδρὸν ἀπάνω,
the cat and went-up into the tree up
ἡ μαϊμοῦ ἀπέμεινεν ἀπέσω εἰς τὴν τρύπαν.
the monkey remained inside in the hole
ἡλίου βασιλεύοντος ὁ πόλεμος ἐπαύθη,
of-sun setting the war ceased
καὶ ἡ σκοτία τῆς νυκτὸς διέσωσεν καὶ τούτους.
and the darkness of-the night saved also them
τότ' ἐπληρώθη τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ τοῦ ὑμνογράφου
then was-fulfilled the said by the hymnographer
„ὁ βασιλεὺς οὐ σώζεται ἐν τῇ πολλῇ δυνάμει,
the king not is-saved in the great power
καὶ γίγας οὐ σωθήσεται ἐν πλήθει τῆς ἰσχύος."
and giant not will-be-saved in multitude of-the strength
ἔκτοτε γοῦν καὶ μέχρι νῦν ἡ γενομένη μάχη
from-then then and until now the having-happened battle
εἰς πάντα τὰ τετράποδα μικρά τε καὶ μεγάλα
among all the four-footed small both and great
ἔμεινεν καὶ διέμεινεν εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.
has-stayed and stayed-on for all the ages

ΠΕΡΙ ΤΟΥ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΦΡΟΝΙΜΟΥ ΜΟΥΤΖΟΚΟΥΡΕΜΕΝΟΥ

Ptocholeon

I · THE OLD MAN SOLD

A fragment shows the old man led bound to the king, pricing a small stone at a hollow walnut, and jailed. Then the tale: Ptocholeon, a rich and prudent man of the City, loses his herds to raiders. He tells his children that lords' love is a fire whose spark burns beards, and has his sons sell him to the king for five thousand, as one who knows men, gold and stones, and horses. The king jails him on a biscuit a day.

Στέκει μὲ τὸ καβάδιν του ὡς ἕνας ἀγελάρχης,
He-stands with the coat his like a herd-leader
μὲ τὴν γενειάδαν τὴν μακρεὰ, τὴν ἀσπροχιονάτην,
with the beard the long the snow-white
καὶ μὲ τὴν κότταν τὴν μακρειὰν ὁμοιάζει ὡσὰν σουγλία,
and with the tunic the long he-looks like awl
καὶ τὸ ταχὺν τὸν γέροντα παίρνουν τον ἀπ᾽ τὸ χέρι·
and the morning the old-man they-take him by the hand
δεμένον μὲ τὸν κάνναβον στὸν βασιλεὰ τὸν πᾶσι.
bound with the hemp to-the king him they-take

Δείχνουσί του μικρὴν πέτραν,
They-show him small stone
εἶπάν του· «Εἶπέ μας, γέρον,
they-said to-him Tell us old-man
τί νὰ ἀξίζῃ ἡ πέτρα.»
what that is-worth the stone
Ἀπολογᾶται ὁ γέρων
Answers the old-man
ὀμπρὸς εἰς τὸν βασιλέα·
before to the king
«Ἄκουσε, ἀφέντη βασιλεῦ,
Hear lord king

διὰ τοῦτο τὸ πετράκι,
about this the little-stone
ἓν πρᾶγμαν μικρὸν ἀξιάζει
a thing small it-is-worth
ἕνα κοῦφον καρύδιν
a hollow walnut
καὶ ἕνα μικρὸν φυχάκιν.»
and a small trifle
Παίρνουσι τὸν γεροντίτζη,
They-take the little-old-man
εἰς τὴν φυλακὴν τὸν βάλλουν,
into the prison him they-put
βάλλουν τον εἰς τὴν φυλακὴν,
they-put him into the prison
καὶ ἕναν ψωμὶν τὸν δίδουν.
and one bread to-him they-give

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(lacuna)

Ἦτον ἄνθρωπος ἐν Πόλει,
There-was man in City
ἦτον πλούσιος καὶ μέγας,
he-was rich and great
ἔνδοξος καὶ τιμημένος·
glorious and honored
εἶχε βίον λαμπροτάτον,
he-had livelihood most-splendid
καὶ υἱοὺς καὶ θυγατέρας,
both sons and daughters
ἦτον φρόνιμος πολλάκις,
he-was prudent greatly

λόγιός τε ὑπὲρ πάντας,
learned and beyond all
καὶ εὐγενικὸς παρ᾽ ὅλους,
and noble beyond all
οὔτε κλέπτης, οὔτε πόρνος,
neither thief nor fornicator
οὐ ζαριστὴς ὡς ἐκεῖνοι·
not dice-player as those
στοματᾶς πολλὰ παρ᾽ ὅλους
big-mouth much beyond all
φαυλιστοὺς καὶ πολυλόγους.
slanderers and chatterers
Γενειάδαν εἶχεν ἄσπρην,
Beard he-had white
καὶ μακρὺς καὶ λιγνὸς ἦτον
and tall and thin he-was
εἶχεν ἄπειρόν τε βίον.
he-had boundless and livelihood
Τίς δυνήσεται νὰ λέγῃ
Who will-be-able that he-tell
ἅπερ εἶχεν ὁ κὺρ γέρων
what had the sir old-man
ὁ πτωχὸς ὁ Πτωχολέων;
the poor — Ptocholeon
Χιλίους εἶχεν καμήλους,
Thousand he-had camels
ὀνομάδες τε χιλίους·
asses and thousand

εἶχέν τε ὡς ἑπτακόσια
he-had and about seven-hundred
πρόβατα, καὶ τὰ αἰγίδια
sheep and the goats
πλῆθος ἦτον ὡς τὰ ἄστρα.
multitude was as the stars
Οὐ γὰρ ἠμπόρει τὸ στόμα,
Not for could the mouth
οὔτε γλῶσσα, οὐ καρδία,
nor tongue not heart
νὰ εἰπῇ τὸ τ' εἶχεν οὗτος
that tell the what had this(-man)
ὁ καλὸς ὁ γεροντίτζης.
the good the little-old-man
Ἀλλ' ἐπείπερ ὁ βασκαίνων
But since the envious(-one)
πολεμεῖ γένος βροτείων,
wars-on race of-mortals
ἤγειρεν καὶ κατ' αὐτοῦ τε
raised also against him and
πόλεμον δὲ τῆς πτωχείας.
war and of-the poverty
Ἐν καιρῷ τῶν ἡμερῶν του
In time of-the days his
ἦλθαν Ἄραβοι κουρσάροι,
came Arabs raiders
οἱ σκύλοι καὶ ἐκουρσεύσαν
the dogs and raided
τὸν τόπον ὅπου ἦτο,
the place where he-was

τὰς καμήλους, καὶ τοὺς ὄνους,
the camels and the asses
καὶ τὰ πρόβατα, καὶ γίδια,
and the sheep and goats
τοὺς βοσκοὺς καὶ τοὺς ποιμένας·
the herdsmen and the shepherds
ἄλλα παίρνουν καὶ ἄλλα τρῶσι,
some they-take and others they-eat
ἄλλους δὲ ἐκθανατώνουν.
others and they-put-to-death
Τότε γέρων καὶ οἱ υἱοί του
Then old-man and the sons his
ἤρξαντο πολλὰ πτωχεύειν,
began much to-be-poor
ἀλλὰ τί πράξειν οὐκ εἶχαν
but what to-do not they-had
ἢ αὐτὸς ἢ τὰ παιδιά του·
either he or the children his
καὶ μίαν οὖν τῶν ἡμερῶν
and one then of-the days
ἐσυνάχθησαν ὀμπρός του
gathered before him
οἱ υἱοὶ καὶ θυγατέρες,
the sons and daughters
οἱ γαβροὶ μὲ τὰ παιδιά τους·
the sons-in-law with the children their
λέγουν τὸν καλὸν πατέρα·
they-say to-the good father
«Φώτισε, καὶ ἑρμήνευσέ μας,
Enlighten and instruct us

δός μας ὁρδινιὰ νὰ ζοῦμεν.»
give us order that we-may-live
Ὡς εἶδεν τοῦτο ὁ κυρὸς,
When saw this the sir
ὁ πτωχὸς ὁ γεροντίτζης,
the poor the little-old-man
ἔκλαυσεν καὶ ἐβριμήθη,
wept and groaned
κ' ἐταράχθη ἡ ψυχή του,
and was-troubled the soul his
καὶ τότε τοὺς ἑρμηνεύει·
and then them instructs
«Ἀκούετε, τὰ παιδιά μου,
Hear the children my
ἐγὼ καὶ φρόνιμος ἤμουν
I both prudent was
καὶ κριτὴς ἐκαθεζόμην,
and judge I-sat
ἀλλ' οὐ κατεδέχθην ὅλως
but not I-accepted at-all
βασιλέως τὴν ἀγάπην,
of-king the love
νἆμαι μέσα εἰς τὸ παλάτι,
that-I-be inside in the palace
νὰ περνῶ ὡς ἐδικός του·
that I-pass as own(-man) his
ὥσπερ ὅταν, τὰ παιδιά μου,
as when the children my
γίνεται μεγάλη ψῦξις,
comes great cold

καὶ καθίζουνε τριγύρου
and they-sit around
οἱ μικροὶ μετὰ μεγάλων,
the small with great
καὶ θερμαίνουνται ἀντάμα,
and warm-themselves together
νὰ πηδήσῃ τζαμπυρίδα
that leap spark
ἐκείνων τὰ γένεια καίει
of-those the beards burns
ὁποῦ ἦτο εἰς τὴν θέρμην·
who was in the heat
οὕτως ἔναι, τὰ παιδιά μου,
so is the children my
τῶν αὐθεντῶν ἡ ἀγάπη·
of-the lords the love
τοὺς κοντότερους δροσίζει,
the shorter it-cools
ἀλλὰ, ὅταν θυμωθῶσι,
but when they-are-angered
ἐκείνων τὰ γένεια κόπτει,
of-those the beards it-cuts
καὶ πομπεύει, καὶ κουρεύει,
and parades and shears
καὶ μουτζώνει, κ᾽ ἐξορίζει.
and smears and exiles
Ἠκούσατε; τὰ παιδιά μου,
Did-you-hear the children my

πῶς τιμῶσιν οἱ αὐθένταις
how honor the lords
τοὺς δουλευτάδες ὁποῦ ἔχουν·
the servants whom they-have
ἀμμὴ νὰ σᾶς εἰπῶ, τέκνα,
but that to-you I-say children
δήσετε τὰ χέριά μου,
bind the hands my
καὶ πισταγκωνίσετέ με,
and tie-back me
καὶ στὸν βασιλεὰ μὲ ὑπᾶτε,
and to-the king me take
καὶ πουλήσετέ με τάχα
and sell me supposedly
διὰ πέντε χιλιάδες,
for five thousands
καὶ μὴ φοβηθῆτε ὅλως,
and not fear at-all
ἀμμὲ κάμετε τὸ λέγω.»
but do what I-say
Τότε ἤρξαντο τὰ τέκνα
Then began the children
νὰ θρηνοῦσι καὶ νὰ κλαίουν·
that they-lament and that they-weep
ὅμως πιάνουσιν τὸν γέρον,
yet they-seize the old-man
καὶ πισταγκωνίσασίν τον,
and they-tied-back him
στὸν βασιλέα τὸν παίρνουν,
to-the king him they-take

καὶ ὁ βασιλεὺς τὸ ἀκούει,
and the king it hears
πέμπει καὶ τὸν λογοθέτην
sends also the logothete
ἄρχοντα τοῦ παλατιοῦ του,
lord of-the palace his
καὶ θωρεῖ τὴν πραγματείαν·
and looks-at the merchandise
ἐρωτᾷ τὸ τί ἠξεύρει·
he-asks the what he-knows
λέγουσί τον τὰ παιδιά του·
say to-him the children his
«Τρεῖς τέχναις καλαῖς ἠξεύρει·
Three crafts good he-knows
πρῶτον, φυσικὸν ἀνθρώπου·
first nature of-man
δεύτερον, τοῦ χρυσαφίου
second of-the gold
καὶ τοὺς λίθους τοὺς τιμίους·
and the stones the precious
τρίτον, περὶ τῶν ἀλόγων.»
third about the horses
Ἐρωτᾷ καὶ πῶς τὸν κάμνουν,
He-asks also how him they-price
ἐρωτᾷ καὶ πῶς ἀξιάζει,
he-asks also how he-is-worth
νὰ τὸ ᾽πῇ τὸν βασιλέα.
that it he-tell to-the king

Λέγουν τον· «Πέντε χιλιάδες
They-tell him Five thousands
ὑπέρπυῤῥα ἀξιάζει.»
gold-coins he-is-worth
Καὶ σιμώνει ὁ λογοθέτης,
And approaches the logothete
πλησιάζει πρὸς τὸν γέρον,
draws-near to the old-man
λέγει δὲ καὶ πρὸς ἐκεῖνον·
says and also to him
«Τοῦτο δ' ὁποῦ σὲ λαλοῦσιν
This and which about-you they-say
ἀληθές ἐστι;» τὸν λέγει.
true is-it to-him he-says
Ἀπεκρίθηκεν ὁ γέρων,
Answered the old-man
λέγει πρὸς τὸν λογοθέτην·
says to the logothete
«Δὶς καὶ δὶς εἴκοσι πέντε
Twice and twice twenty five
χρῄζω ἐγὼ μόνος ὁ γέρων,
am-worth I alone the old-man
μόνον δὸς καὶ ἔπαρέ με·
only give and take me
ὅτι τὰ παιδιά μου ***
for the children my (lacuna)

Οὐδ' ἠξεύρουν τὸ τί λέγουν
Nor know the what they-say
οὐδὲ κατέχουσιν πόσαις
nor understand how-many
χιλιάδες ἐγὼ χρήζω.»
thousands I am-worth
Πάγει δὲ ὁ λογοθέτης,
Goes and the logothete
λέγει πρὸς τὸν βασιλέα
speaks to the king
καὶ τὴν πρᾶξιν, καὶ τὴν γνώμην,
both the deal and the opinion
καὶ τὴν ἀγορὰν τοῦ γέρου.
and the purchase of-the old-man
Ἀγοράζει δὲ τὸν γέρον,
He-buys and the old-man
εἰς τὴν φυλακὴν τὸν παίρνουν,
into the prison him they-take
ὥρισεν καὶ τὸν κελλάριν
he-ordered also the cellarer
διὰ νὰ δίδῃ τὸν γέρον
for that he-give to-the old-man
ἓν πισκούττιν τὴν ἡμέραν,
one biscuit the day
καὶ μίαν βολὰν νὰ πίνῃ·
and one time that he-drink
τότε βάλλει κατὰ νοῦ του
then puts in mind his
ὅτι ἔναι κακοχωριάτης,
that he-is base-peasant

καὶ κακῆς τζερβέλας τέκνον,
and of-bad wench child
καὶ κακὴν γενεὰν εὐτύνει.
and bad lineage he-bears

II · THE STONE AND THE BRIDE

A Syrian merchant sells the king a beautiful stone for sixty thousand. The king has the old man brought, sits him in the ashes, and asks its worth while Bulgars and Tatars mock. He answers three hollow walnuts, since a worm inside will bore through it in summer. The stone is split, the worm is found, and his ration is doubled. Years later a girl, Igmora, comes to the queen's palace, and the king has the old man judge her; alone with her, he has her undress and turn.

Ἐν ἐκείναις ταῖς ἡμέραις,
In those the days
ἦλθεν ἕνας πραμματευτὴς
came a merchant
Συριάνος τὸ γένος.
Syrian the race
Εἶχεν ὥμορφον λιθάριν
He-had beautiful stone
ὥμορφόν τε καὶ ὡραῖον.
beautiful both and fair
Τίς δυνήσεται νὰ λέγῃ
Who will-be-able that he-tell
ἅπερ εἶχεν τὸ λιθάριν;
what had the stone

Ἤλθασιν οἱ λιθακόποι
Came the stonecutters
καὶ ὅλοι χρυσοχοὶ ἀντάμα,
and all goldsmiths together
ἄρχοντες καὶ καταλλάκται,
lords and money-changers
λέγουν πρὸς τὸν βασιλέα·
they-say to the king
«Ἔμμορφόν τε τὸ λιθάρι
Beautiful and the stone
καὶ καλόν τε καὶ ὡραῖον,
and good both and fair
νὰ τὸ βάλῃς ἐς τὸ στέμμαν
that it you-put into the crown
τῆς ἁγίας βασιλειᾶς σου.»
of-the holy majesty your
Δίδει ἑξῆντα χιλιάδες
He-gives sixty thousands
ἀργυρίου καὶ χρυσίου,
of-silver and of-gold
καὶ ᾽γοράζει τὸ λιθάρι,
and buys the stone
καὶ περὶ πολὺν τὸ ἔχει,
and beyond much it holds
καὶ τὴν νύκταν ἐνθυμήθη
and the night he-remembered
τὸν γέρον νὰ τοῦ τὸ δείξῃ.
the old-man that to-him it he-show

Πέμπει τὸ πωρνὸν καὶ φέρνουν
He-sends the morning and they-bring
τὸν πτωχὸν εἰς τὸ παλάτιν.
the poor(-man) to the palace
Ἄκουσον τῆς χωριατείας
Hear of-the boorishness
τοῦ βασιλέως ***
of-the king (lacuna)
Εἰς τὸ ἄθο τὸν καθίζουν
In the ashes him they-seat
πλησίον τῆς παραστίας.
near the hearth
Τότε βγάλλουν τὸ λιθάριν,
Then they-bring-out the stone
καὶ τὸν γέροντα τὸ δείχνουν·
and to-the old-man it they-show
ἤρξαντο καταγελᾶν τον
began to-mock him
οἱ Βουλγάροι καὶ οἱ Τατάροι·
the Bulgars and the Tatars
«Ἴδε, ὦ γέρον, τὸ τί ἀξιάζει
See O old-man the what is-worth
ἐτοῦτο τὸ καλὸν πρᾶγμαν.»
this the fine thing
Τότε λέγει τους ὁ γέρων·
Then says to-them the old-man
«Τριὰ κοῦφα καρύδια ἀξίζει.»
Three hollow walnuts it-is-worth

Ὁ βασιλεὺς ἤκουσέν το,
The king heard it
καὶ τοῦ θάνατος ἐγίνη.
and to-him death it-became
Τότε λέγει τον ὁ γέρων·
Then says to-him the old-man
«Τί χολιάζεις, τίντα πλήσσεις;
Why are-you-angry why are-you-stricken
Τόσα, δέσποτά μου, ἀξίζει,
So-much lord my it-is-worth
καὶ εἶπόν σου τὴν ἀλήθειαν.
and I-told you the truth
Γροίκα, ἀφέντη βασιλεῦ,
Understand lord king
τὸ λιθάρι τὸ φουμίζουν,
the stone which they-praise
ἔχει σκώληκαν ἀπέσω·
has worm inside
ὅταν οὖν ἔλθῃ τὸ θέρος
when then comes the summer
καὶ νὰ βράσουσι ἡμέραις,
and that boil days
θέλει ἀρχίσει τὸ σκουλούκιν
will begin the little-worm
νὰ κατατρυπᾷ τὸν λίθον.
that it-bore-through the stone

Καὶ λέγω ἂν οὐδὲν πιστεύῃς
And I-say if not you-believe
ὅρισε τὸν καβάτοράν σου
command the jeweler your
ὅρισε τὸν χρυσοχόν σου,
command the goldsmith your
καὶ ἂς σχίσουν τὸ λιθάριν,
and let they-split the stone
καὶ νὰ ’δῇς ἂν ἦμαι ψεύστης.»
and that you-see if I-am liar

Τότε ὥρισεν, καὶ ἦλθεν
Then he-commanded and came
ὁ καβάτορας ὁ μέγας,
the jeweler the great
πιάνει, σχίζει τὸ λιθάριν·
takes splits the stone
ηὗρεν σκώληκαν ἀπέσω
he-found worm inside
ὁποῦ ἔτρωγεν τὸν λίθον.
which was-eating the stone
Ὁ δὲ βασιλεὺς ἐξέστη,
The and king was-amazed
ὑπερεθαυμάσθην ὅλως
marveled-exceedingly wholly
τὸ πῶς ἔποισεν ὁ γέρων
the how worked-out the old-man
ὅτι εἶχεν σκώληκ’ ἀπέσω.
that it-had worm inside

Παίρνουσι τὸν γέρον πάλιν
They-take the old-man again
εἰς τὴν φυλακὴν τὴν μαύρην,
into the prison the black
καὶ ὁρίζει τὸν κελλάριν
and orders the cellarer
νὰ τὸν δίδῃ τὸν κὺρ γέρον
that to-him he-give the sir old-man
δυὸ πισκούττια τὴν ἡμέραν,
two biscuits the day
καὶ δύο φορὰς νὰ πίνῃ.
and two times that he-drink
Κ' ἐπεράσαν ἄλλοι χρόνοι,
And passed other years
κ' ἦλθεν Ἴγμωρα στὸ παλάτι
and came Igmora to-the palace
τῆς δεσποίνας βασιλίσσας.
of-the lady queen
Οὐκ ἐκομπώθη ὁ βασιλεὺς,
Not was-deceived the king
ἀλλ' ἐνθυμήθη τοῦ γέρου·
but remembered the old-man
πέμπει, φέρνει τον τὸν γέρον,
sends brings him the old-man
καὶ δείχνει τον τὸ κοράσιον,
and shows him the maiden
διὰ νὰ τοῦ εἰπῇ τὸ τί φύσις
for that to-him he-tell the what nature
ἔναι· τότε λέγει ὁ γέρων·
she-is then says the old-man

«Ἄφες την εἰς τὸ παλάτι,
Leave her in the palace
ἄφες την μετὰ ἐμένα.»
leave her with me
Λέγει τον· «Ἂς ἔναι, πάτερ,
Says to-him Let it-be father
ἔπαρέ την μοναχός σου,
take her alone your
στόχασέ την τὸ τί ξεύρει,
consider her the what she-knows
καὶ τὸ τί μέλλει νὰ γένῃ,
and the what is-about that she-become
καὶ τὸ ποῦ μέλλει ’φηνιάσει,
and the where is-about to-run-wild
καὶ τὸ πῶς θέλει περάσει.»
and the how will pass
Τότε παίρνει την ὁ γέρων
Then takes her the old-man
καὶ ὑπᾷ εἰς τὸ παλάτιν,
and goes into the palace
οἱ δύο τους καταμόνας
the two of-them alone
ὁ κὺρ γέρων καὶ ἡ κόρη·
the sir old-man and the girl
ὥρισέν την ὅτι ἐκδύσῃ,
he-ordered her that she-undress
καὶ ἐκδύθηκεν ἡ κόρη·
and undressed the girl
οὐκ ἐντράπηκεν κἂν ὅλως,
not was-ashamed even at-all

ὡς παρθένος τάχα ὁποῦ ἦτον. 250
as virgin supposedly who she-was

Λέγει της ὁ γεροντίτζης·
Says to-her the little-old-man

«Τριγύρου ἀνάγει κατάγει,
Around go-up go-down

γύρισε καὶ πρὸς ἐμένα,
turn also toward me

ἄγει καὶ πρὸς τὴν γονοῦλλαν.»
go also toward the little-corner

Τότε λέγει την ὁ γέρων· 255
Then says to-her the old-man

«Στὰ, κόρη μου, καὶ τηθ ***
Stand girl my and (-teth-) (lacuna)

III · THE KING'S BIRTH

The old man warns the king that the girl is the devil's seed and would bring him horns, and her parentage proves it. The king asks for his own nature; promised safety, the old man says he is a baker's son. The king's mother confesses that his father was impotent and that she bore him to the baker Moustapha, to keep the throne. The king kneels, begs silence, frees the old man, and gives him a pearl, and the poor man grows rich again.

Τότ' ἀφίνει την ὁ γέρων,
Then leaves her the old-man

εἰς τὸν βασιλέα πάγει.
to the king he-goes

Λέγει τον ὁ βασιλέας·
Says to-him the king

«Ἔλα, γέρον, καὶ κὺρ γέρον,
Come old-man and sir old-man
ξηγήσου μου διὰ τὴν κόρην.»
explain to-me about the girl
Λέγει δὲ καὶ ὁ κὺρ γέρων·
Says and also the sir old-man
«Τούτην δ' ὁποῦ μὲ ἐρωτᾷς,
This(-girl) and whom me you-ask
ὁποῦ μ' ἔφερες νὰ βλέπω,
whom to-me you-brought that I-see
ἂν ἔναι ὁ ὁρισμός σου
if is the command your
εἰς γυναῖκα νὰ τὴν πάρῃς,
as wife that her you-take
κέρατα θέλουν φορέσει
horns will wear
στὴν αὐλὴν τῆς βασιλειᾶς σου,
in-the court of-the majesty your
τούτη ἔναι τοῦ διαβόλου
this(-girl) is of-the devil
γέννημα καὶ σπέρμα ***
offspring and seed (lacuna)
*** καὶ τὸν οἶστρον
(lacuna) and the frenzy
εἰς τὸν κόσμον τοῦτον ὅλον.
in the world this whole
Ἔναι κακὸν μουτζουλούμου
She-is evil of-a-grimy(-one)
σπέρμα, καὶ κακῆς τζερβέλας.»
seed and of-bad wench

Τότε δὲ ὁ βασιλέας
Then and the king
ὡς τὸ ἤκουσεν, ἐλυπήθη,
when it he-heard was-grieved
πῶς ἐχάσεν τὸ κοράσιον
how lost the maiden
τὴν ὡρηότητα τὴν εἶχεν.
the beauty which she-had
Ἐρωτᾷ πολλὰ, μανθάνει
He-asks much learns
πῶς γὰρ ἦσαν οἱ γονεῖς της
how for were the parents her
καὶ τὴν πρᾶξιν ἅπερ εἶχαν.
and the trade which they-had
Αὖθις τὸν θεὸν δοξάζει
Again — God he-glorifies
πῶς ἐξάγει ἀπὸ τὸ πάθος,
how he-delivers from the misfortune
καὶ ἀπ᾽ τοῦ δαίμονος τὰ χέρια.
and from of-the demon the hands
Τότε εὑρέθη ὁ γέρων
Then was-found the old-man
ἀληθινὸς ὡς τὸ πρώην.
true as the before
Τότε δὲ ὁ βασιλέας,
Then and the king
μὲ πολλὴν περιχαρείαν,
with much gladness
καταμόνας πᾷ στὸν γέρον,
alone goes to-the old-man

τὸν καλόν του τὸν πατέρα·
the good his the father
«Νᾶμαι ’πιχαρὴς, τὸν λέγει,
That-I-be glad to-him he-says
εἰπὲ καὶ ἐμοῦ τὴν φύσιν,
tell also my the nature
νὰ νοήσω δὲ καὶ τοῦτο
that I-understand and also this
ἀπόθεν ἔναι ἡ γενεά μου.»
whence is the lineage my
Λέγει δέ τον ὁ κὺρ γέρων·
Says and to-him the sir old-man
«Τὸ κεφάλιν μου φοβοῦμαι
The head my I-fear-for
τὸ ’λεεινόν μου τὸ κορμάκιν,
the wretched my the little-body
νὰ μὴ χάσῃς τὴν ζωήν μου,
that not you-destroy the life my
καὶ στερήσῃς μου τὸ φῶς μου,
and deprive me the light my
καὶ τὸ φῶς τῶν ὀμματιῶν μου!
and the light of-the eyes my
Ἀμμὴ σὲ ἤθελα εἰπεῖ
But to-you I-would tell
τί γὰρ εἶναι οἱ λογισμοί σου,
what for are the thoughts your
καὶ τὸ φυσικὸν τὸ ἔχεις.»
and the nature which you-have
Τότ’ ὁ βασιλεὺς ὀμνεῖ τον,
Then the king swears-to him

δίδει τὸν καὶ στάμενα ξ΄
gives him also staters sixty
ὑπέρπερα ὡς ἑκατόν τε
gold-coins about hundred and
καὶ τριάκοντα καὶ δέκα.
and thirty and ten
Τότε λέγει τον ὁ γέρων,
Then says to-him the old-man
ὁ πτωχὸς ὁ γεροντίτζης·
the poor the little-old-man
«Τί μὲ ἀναγκάζεις, ἄναξ,
Why me do-you-compel lord
τί μὲ χρήματα παρέχεις
why to-me money do-you-offer
διὰ νὰ σου εἰπῶ τὴν φύσι,
for that to-you I-tell the nature
καὶ τὸ φυσικόν σου ὅλον;
and the nature your whole
Μάγκιπος υἱὸς ὑπάρχεις,
Baker's son you-are
καὶ κακῆς τζερβέλας τέκνον,
and of-bad wench child
καὶ κακός τε χωριάτης,
and bad and peasant
καὶ ἀπόληψιν οὐκ ἔχεις·
and esteem not you-have
μόν' ἡ φύσις σου μυρίζει
only the nature your smells
ἀπὸ βασιλείας ἄλλης·
of kingship other

ἡ ἀρχὴ καὶ ἐξουσία
the rule and authority
κάμνει σε καὶ βασιλέα.»
makes you also king
Τότε δὲ ὁ βασιλέας
Then and the king
ἐταράχθη κ' ἐβριμήθη·
was-troubled and groaned
τὴν μητέρα του γυρεύει,
the mother his he-seeks
καὶ ἐρωτᾷ την ***
and asks her (lacuna)
«Ἐτοῦτο, μῆτερ, τὸ λέγει
This mother which says
ὁ πτωχὸς ὁ Πτωχολέων
the poor — Ptocholeon
ἀληθὲς ἔναι ἢ ὄχι
true is-it or not
τὸ μὲ λέγει αὐτὸς ὁ γέρων;
what to-me says this the old-man
Ἔδειξεν καὶ τὴν γενεάν μου,
He-showed also the lineage my
καὶ τὸ φυσικὸν τὸ ἔχω·
and the nature which I-have
εἶπεν δὲ καὶ πρὸς ἐμέναν
he-said and also to me
μάγκιπος υἱὸς ὑπάρχω,
baker's son I-am
καὶ κακός τε χωριάτης.»
and bad and peasant

Τότε δ' ἅμα ἤκουσέν τα
Then and as-soon-as heard them
ἡ μητέρα του, τὸν λέγει·
the mother his to-him says
«Νὰ τὸ ξεύρῃς, ὦ υἱέ μου,
That it you-know O son my
ὁ πατήρ σου ὁ κὺρ Πέρος
the father your — sir Peros
εἶχεν νόσον δυσουρίας·
had disease of-dysuria
ἦτον καὶ σπασμένος, τέκνον·
he-was also ruptured child
εἶχε πάντοτε τὴν λύπην
he-had always the grief
οὐκ ἠδύνατο δὲ ὅλως
not he-could and at-all
ὅτι νὰ ποιήσῃ τέκνον·
that that he-make child
εἶχε πάντοτε τὴν λύπην
he-had always the grief
ὡς διὰ τὴν βασιλείαν.
as for the kingship
Ἔβαλα δὲ κατὰ νοῦ μου
I-put and in mind my
ὅτι ἀπ' τοὺς ἄρχοντας νὰ ποίσω
that from the lords that I-make

***

(lacuna)

Ἔρωτα εἰς τὴν ἀγάπην
Love for the love
μόνον νὰ ποιήσω τέκνον·
only that I-make child
ἐφοβήθηκα δὲ πάλιν
I-feared but again
μήπως κεῖνος κάμῃ δόλον,
lest that(-one) make plot
καὶ παραβουλίαν ποιήσῃ,
and treachery make
καὶ πάρῃ τὴν βασιλείαν·
and take the kingship
ἦτον μάγκιπας στὸ σπίτι,
there-was baker in-the house
τὸν ἐλέγασιν Μουστάφα,
him they-called Moustapha
ἔπεσα δὲ μετὰ κεῖνον,
I-lay and with him
καὶ ἐποῖκά σε, υἱέ μου.»
and I-made you son my
Τότε δὲ ὁ βασιλέας
Then and the king
ἦλθεν πρὸς τὸν γεροντίτζη,
came to the little-old-man
προσκυνεῖ τον, καὶ προσπίπτει,
does-obeisance-to him and falls-down
καὶ φιλᾷ τον εἰς τοὺς πόδας·
and kisses him on the feet
καὶ παρακαλεῖ, καὶ λέγει·
and entreats and says

«Διὰ τὸν θεόν σου, πατέρα,
For — God your father
μὴν εἰπῇς τὸ ῥῆμα τοῦτο,
not tell the word this
ποῦ βαστᾷς ∗∗∗
which you-hold (lacuna)
Κ' ἔχω σ' ἐλευθερωμένον,
And I-have you freed
καὶ νὰ σοῦ εὐεργετήσω
and that to-you I-grant
στάμενα ὅσα θέλεις, μόνον
staters as-many-as you-wish only
φύλαξόν την τὴν ζωήν μου,
guard it the life my
νὰ φυλάξω τὴν ζωήν σου·
that I-guard the life your
κ' εὐεργετῶ σε μαργαρίτην
and I-grant you pearl
ὁποῦ χρῄζει χιλιάδες
which is-worth thousands
ἑξῆντά τε καὶ πενῆντα
sixty both and fifty
χιλιάδες χρυσαφίου.»
thousands of-gold
Παίρνει ὁ γέρων καὶ πάγει·
Takes the old-man and goes
τότε θρέφει τὰ παιδιά του,
then feeds the children his
καὶ τὸ γένος του τὸ εἶχεν,
and the family his which he-had

καὶ ὅλον τὸ γενεαλόγιν·
and all the lineage
καὶ ἀρχοντεύει δὲ ὁ γέρων
and lives-as-lord too the old-man
ὥσπερ ἦτον καὶ τὸ πρῶτον.
as he-was also the first
Οὕτως δὲ τιμᾷ ὁ θεὸς
Thus and honors — God
τοὺς φρονίμους τοὺς ἀνθρώπους·
the prudent the men
μὲ τὴν γνῶσιν ὁποῦ ἔχει
with the knowledge which he-has
πάλιν ὁ πτωχὸς πλουτίζει.
again the poor(-man) grows-rich