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Hesiod and the Homeric Hymns

Hesiod

ΘΕΟΓΟΝΙΑ
ΕΡΓΑ ΚΑΙ ΗΜΕΡΑΙ
ΑΣΠΙΣ
ΥΜΝΟΙ

Hesiod and the Homeric Hymns

Theogony, Works and Days, and the Shield, with the Hymns

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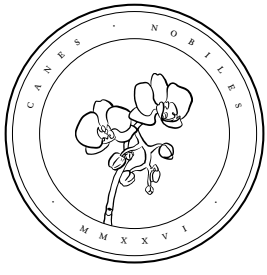
with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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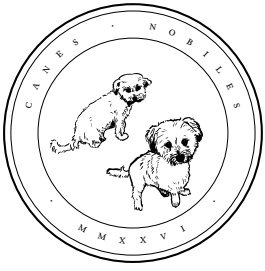

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HESIOD

ΘΕΟΓΟΝΙΑ

Theogony

I · THE MUSES OF HELICON

The poet begins with the Muses of Helicon, who dance around the altar of Zeus, bathe in Permessus, and go by night singing of the gods. They once taught Hesiod song as he shepherded his lambs under Helicon, mocked shepherds as mere bellies, gave him a laurel staff, and breathed a divine voice into him to sing of what will be and what was before. On Olympus they delight Zeus with songs of the gods, of Zeus himself, and of men and Giants.

Μουσάων Ἑλικωνιάδων ἀρχώμεθ' ἀείδειν,
from-the-Muses of-Helicon let-us-begin to-sing
αἵθ' Ἑλικῶνος ἔχουσιν ὄρος μέγα τε ζάθεόν τε
who of-Helicon hold the-mountain great both holy and
καί τε περὶ κρήνην ἰοειδέα πόσσ' ἁπαλοῖσιν
and — around the-spring violet-dark with-feet soft
ὀρχεῦνται καὶ βωμὸν ἐρισθενέος Κρονίωνος.
dance and the-altar of-the-very-mighty son-of-Cronus
καί τε λοεσσάμεναι τέρενα χρόα Περμησσοῖο
and — having-bathed tender skin of-the-Permessus
ἢ Ἵππου κρήνης ἢ Ὀλμειοῦ ζαθέοιο
or of-the-Horse spring or of-the-Olmeius holy
ἀκροτάτῳ Ἑλικῶνι χοροὺς ἐνεποιήσαντο
on-topmost Helicon dances they-make
καλούς, ἱμερόεντας· ἐπερρώσαντο δὲ ποσσίν.
fair lovely they-move-nimbly and with-feet
ἔνθεν ἀπορνύμεναι, κεκαλυμμέναι ἠέρι πολλῇ,
thence setting-out veiled in-mist much
ἐννύχιαι στεῖχον περικαλλέα ὄσσαν ἱεῖσαι,
by-night they-walk very-fair voice sending-forth

ὑμνεῦσαι Δία τ᾽ αἰγίοχον καὶ πότνιαν Ἥρην
hymning Zeus both aegis-bearing and queenly Hera
Ἀργείην, χρυσέοισι πεδίλοις ἐμβεβαυῖαν,
Argive in-golden sandals stepping
κούρην τ᾽ αἰγιόχοιο Διὸς γλαυκῶπιν Ἀθήνην
daughter and of-aegis-bearing Zeus flashing-eyed Athena
Φοῖβόν τ᾽ Ἀπόλλωνα καὶ Ἄρτεμιν ἰοχέαιραν
Phoebus and Apollo and Artemis arrow-pouring
ἠδὲ Ποσειδάωνα γεήοχον, ἐννοσίγαιον,
and Poseidon earth-holder earth-shaker
καὶ Θέμιν αἰδοίην ἑλικοβλέφαρόν τ᾽ Ἀφροδίτην
and Themis revered sweetly-glancing and Aphrodite
Ἥβην τε χρυσοστέφανον καλήν τε Διώνην
Hebe both golden-crowned fair and Dione
Λητώ τ᾽ Ἰαπετόν τε ἰδὲ Κρόνον ἀγκυλομήτην
Leto both Iapetus and and Cronus crooked-counseled
Ἠῶ τ᾽ Ἠέλιόν τε μέγαν λαμπράν τε Σελήνην
Dawn both Sun and great bright and Moon
Γαῖάν τ᾽ Ὠκεανόν τε μέγαν καὶ Νύκτα μέλαιναν
Earth both Ocean and great and Night black
ἄλλων τ᾽ ἀθανάτων ἱερὸν γένος αἰὲν ἐόντων.
of-other and immortals holy race always being
αἵ νύ ποθ᾽ Ἡσίοδον καλὴν ἐδίδαξαν ἀοιδήν,
who now once Hesiod fair taught song
ἄρνας ποιμαίνονθ᾽ Ἑλικῶνος ὕπο ζαθέοιο.
lambs shepherding Helicon under holy
τόνδε δέ με πρώτιστα θεαὶ πρὸς μῦθον ἔειπον,
this and me first the-goddesses to word spoke
Μοῦσαι Ὀλυμπιάδες, κοῦραι Διὸς αἰγιόχοιο·
the-Muses Olympian daughters of-Zeus aegis-bearing

Ποιμένες ἄγραυλοι, κάκ᾽ ἐλέγχεα, γαστέρες οἷον,
shepherds of-the-field base disgraces bellies mere
ἴδμεν ψεύδεα πολλὰ λέγειν ἐτύμοισιν ὁμοῖα,
we-know falsehoods many to-tell to-truths like
ἴδμεν δ᾽, εὖτ᾽ ἐθέλωμεν, ἀληθέα γηρύσασθαι.
we-know and when we-wish true-things to-utter
Ὣς ἔφασαν κοῦραι μεγάλου Διὸς ἀρτιέπειαι·
so spoke the-daughters of-great Zeus ready-of-speech
καί μοι σκῆπτρον ἔδον δάφνης ἐριθηλέος ὄζον
and to-me a-staff they-gave of-laurel luxuriant a-shoot
δρέψασαι, θηητόν· ἐνέπνευσαν δέ μοι αὐδὴν
having-plucked marvelous breathed-into and me a-voice
θέσπιν, ἵνα κλείοιμι τά τ᾽ ἐσσόμενα πρό τ᾽ ἐόντα.
divine that I-might-celebrate the both to-be before and being
καί μ᾽ ἐκέλονθ᾽ ὑμνεῖν μακάρων γένος αἰὲν ἐόντων,
and me they-bade to-hymn of-the-blessed the-race always being
σφᾶς δ᾽ αὐτὰς πρῶτόν τε καὶ ὕστατον αἰὲν ἀείδειν.
them and themselves first both and last always to-sing
ἀλλὰ τίη μοι ταῦτα περὶ δρῦν ἢ περὶ πέτρην;
but why to-me these-things about oak or about rock
Τύνη, Μουσάων ἀρχώμεθα, ταὶ Διὶ πατρὶ
you of-the-Muses let-us-begin who for-Zeus father
ὑμνεῦσαι τέρπουσι μέγαν νόον ἐντὸς Ὀλύμπου,
hymning delight great mind within Olympus
εἰρεῦσαι τά τ᾽ ἐόντα τά τ᾽ ἐσσόμενα πρό τ᾽ ἐόντα,
telling the both being the both to-be before and being

φωνῇ ὁμηρεῦσαι· τῶν δ' ἀκάματος ῥέει αὐδὴ
with-voice agreeing of-them and untiring flows the-voice
ἐκ στομάτων ἡδεῖα· γελᾷ δέ τε δώματα πατρὸς
from mouths sweet laughs and — the-house of-the-father
Ζηνὸς ἐριγδούποιο θεᾶν ὀπὶ λειριοέσσῃ
of-Zeus loud-thundering of-the-goddesses at-the-voice lily-like
σκιδναμένῃ· ἠχεῖ δὲ κάρη νιφόεντος Ὀλύμπου
spreading echoes and the-head of-snowy Olympus
δώματά τ' ἀθανάτων. αἳ δ' ἄμβροτον ὄσσαν ἱεῖσαι
the-house and of-the-immortals they and immortal voice sending-forth
θεῶν γένος αἰδοῖον πρῶτον κλείουσιν ἀοιδῇ
of-the-gods the-race revered first celebrate in-song
ἐξ ἀρχῆς, οὓς Γαῖα καὶ Οὐρανὸς εὐρὺς ἔτικτεν,
from the-beginning whom Earth and Heaven wide begot
οἵ τ' ἐκ τῶν ἐγένοντο θεοί, δωτῆρες ἐάων.
who and from them were-born gods givers of-good-things
δεύτερον αὖτε Ζῆνα, θεῶν πατέρ' ἠδὲ καὶ ἀνδρῶν,
second again Zeus of-gods father and also of-men
ἀρχόμεναί θ' ὑμνεῦσι καὶ ἐκλήγουσαι ἀοιδῆς,
beginning and they-hymn and ending of-song
ὅσσον φέρτατός ἐστι θεῶν κράτεί τε μέγιστος.
how-much mightiest he-is of-gods in-strength and greatest
αὖτις δ' ἀνθρώπων τε γένος κρατερῶν τε Γιγάντων
again and of-men both the-race of-mighty and Giants
ὑμνεῦσαι τέρπουσι Διὸς νόον ἐντὸς Ὀλύμπου
hymning delight of-Zeus the-mind within Olympus
Μοῦσαι Ὀλυμπιάδες, κοῦραι Διὸς αἰγιόχοιο.
the-Muses Olympian daughters of-Zeus aegis-bearing

Mnemosyne lies with Zeus for nine nights and bears the nine Muses in Pieria. They go up to Olympus singing, where Zeus reigns, having overthrown Cronus. Calliope, chief of them, attends revered kings. On the king they honor the Muses pour sweet dew, so his words flow gently and he ends quarrels. Singers come from the Muses and Apollo, kings from Zeus, and a singer's song makes a grieving man forget his cares. The poet hails the Muses and asks how gods, earth, sea, and stars first came to be.

Τὰς ἐν Πιερίῃ Κρονίδῃ τέκε πατρὶ μιγεῖσα
them in Pieria to-the-son-of-Cronus bore to-the-father having-lain-with
Μνημοσύνη, γουνοῖσιν Ἐλευθῆρος μεδέουσα,
Mnemosyne over-the-hills of-Eleuther ruling
λησμοσύνην τε κακῶν ἄμπαυμά τε μερμηράων. 55
a-forgetting both of-evils a-rest and from-cares
ἐννέα γάρ οἱ νύκτας ἐμίσγετο μητίετα Ζεὺς
nine for with-her nights lay counselor Zeus
νόσφιν ἀπ' ἀθανάτων ἱερὸν λέχος εἰσαναβαίνων·
apart from the-immortals holy bed mounting
ἀλλ' ὅτε δή ῥ' ἐνιαυτὸς ἔην, περὶ δ' ἔτραπον ὧραι
but when indeed then a-year it-was around and turned the-seasons
μηνῶν φθινόντων, περὶ δ' ἤματα πόλλ' ἐτελέσθη,
of-months waning around and days many were-completed
ἣ δ' ἔτεκ' ἐννέα κούρας ὁμόφρονας, ἦσιν ἀοιδὴ 60
she and bore nine daughters like-minded to-whom song
μέμβλεται ἐν στήθεσσιν, ἀκηδέα θυμὸν ἐχούσαις,
is-a-care in breasts carefree heart having
τυτθὸν ἀπ' ἀκροτάτης κορυφῆς νιφόεντος Ὀλύμπου.
a-little from topmost peak of-snowy Olympus

ἔνθα σφιν λιπαροί τε χοροὶ καὶ δώματα καλά.
there to-them shining both dancing-floors and houses fair
πὰρ δ' αὐτῆς Χάριτές τε καὶ Ἵμερος οἰκί' ἔχουσιν
beside and them the-Graces both and Desire dwellings have
ἐν θαλίῃς· ἐρατὴν δὲ διὰ στόμα ὄσσαν ἱεῖσαι
in feasts lovely and through mouth voice sending-forth
μέλπονται πάντων τε νόμους καὶ ἤθεα κεδνὰ
they-sing of-all both the-laws and ways good
ἀθανάτων κλείουσιν, ἐπήρατον ὄσσαν ἱεῖσαι.
of-the-immortals they-celebrate lovely voice sending-forth
αἳ τότ' ἴσαν πρὸς Ὄλυμπον ἀγαλλόμεναι ὀπὶ καλῇ,
they then went to Olympus delighting in-voice fair
ἀμβροσίῃ μολπῇ· περὶ δ' ἴαχε γαῖα μέλαινα
with-ambrosial song around and rang earth black
ὑμνεύσαις, ἐρατὸς δὲ ποδῶν ὕπο δοῦπος ὀρώρει
as-they-hymned lovely and feet beneath a-beat arose
νισσομένων πατέρ' εἰς ὅν· ὃ δ' οὐρανῷ ἐμβασιλεύει,
as-they-went father to their he and in-heaven reigns
αὐτὸς ἔχων βροντὴν ἠδ' αἰθαλόεντα κεραυνόν,
himself holding thunder and blazing thunderbolt
κάρτει νικήσας πατέρα Κρόνον· εὖ δὲ ἕκαστα
by-might having-conquered father Cronus well and each-thing
ἀθανάτοις διέταξεν ὁμῶς καὶ ἐπέφραδε τιμάς.
to-the-immortals he-ordered alike and declared honors
Ταῦτ' ἄρα Μοῦσαι ἄειδον, Ὀλύμπια δώματ' ἔχουσαι,
these-things then the-Muses sang Olympian houses having
ἐννέα θυγατέρες μεγάλου Διὸς ἐκγεγαυῖαι,
nine daughters of-great Zeus begotten

Κλειώ τ' Εὐτέρπη τε Θάλειά τε Μελπομένη τε
Clio both Euterpe and Thalia and Melpomene and
Τερψιχόρη τ' Ἐρατώ τε Πολύμνιά τ' Οὐρανίη τε
Terpsichore and Erato and Polyhymnia and Urania and
Καλλιόπη θ'· ἣ δὲ προφερεστάτη ἐστὶν ἁπασέων.
Calliope and she and most-excellent is of-all
ἣ γὰρ καὶ βασιλεῦσιν ἅμ' αἰδοίοισιν ὀπηδεῖ.
she for even kings with revered attends
ὅν τινα τιμήσωσι Διὸς κοῦραι μεγάλοιο
whom any honor of-Zeus the-daughters great
γεινόμενόν τε ἴδωσι διοτρεφέων βασιλήων,
being-born and they-look-on of-Zeus-nurtured kings
τῷ μὲν ἐπὶ γλώσσῃ γλυκερὴν χείουσιν ἐέρσην,
for-him indeed upon tongue sweet they-pour dew
τοῦ δ' ἔπε' ἐκ στόματος ῥεῖ μείλιχα· οἱ δέ τε λαοὶ
of-him and words from mouth flow gentle they and — the-people
πάντες ἐς αὐτὸν ὁρῶσι διακρίνοντα θέμιστας
all to him look deciding judgments
ἰθείῃσι δίκῃσιν· ὃ δ' ἀσφαλέως ἀγορεύων
with-straight justice he and unerringly speaking
αἶψά κε καὶ μέγα νεῖκος ἐπισταμένως κατέπαυσεν·
quickly — even great quarrel skillfully ends
τοὔνεκα γὰρ βασιλῆες ἐχέφρονες, οὔνεκα λαοῖς
therefore for kings (are)-wise because for-the-people
βλαπτομένοις ἀγορῇφι μετάτροπα ἔργα τελεῦσι
harmed in-the-assembly restoring deeds they-accomplish
ῥηιδίως, μαλακοῖσι παραιφάμενοι ἐπέεσσιν.
easily with-gentle persuading words

ἐρχόμενον δ' ἀν' ἀγῶνα θεὸν ὥς ἱλάσκονται
going and through the-gathering a-god as they-propitiate-him
αἰδοῖ μειλιχίῃ, μετὰ δὲ πρέπει ἀγρομένοισιν·
with-reverence gentle among and he-is-conspicuous the-assembled
τοίη Μουσάων ἱερὴ δόσις ἀνθρώποισιν.
such of-the-Muses holy gift to-men
ἐκ γάρ τοι Μουσέων καὶ ἑκηβόλου Ἀπόλλωνος
from for you-know the-Muses and far-shooting Apollo
ἄνδρες ἀοιδοὶ ἔασιν ἐπὶ χθόνα καὶ κιθαρισταί,
men singers are upon earth and lyre-players
ἐκ δὲ Διὸς βασιλῆες· ὃ δ' ὄλβιος, ὅν τινα Μοῦσαι
from and Zeus kings he and blessed whom any the-Muses
φίλωνται· γλυκερή οἱ ἀπὸ στόματος ῥέει αὐδή.
love sweet his from mouth flows the-voice
εἰ γάρ τις καὶ πένθος ἔχων νεοκηδέι θυμῷ
if for someone even grief having in-newly-grieved heart
ἄζηται κραδίην ἀκαχήμενος, αὐτὰρ ἀοιδὸς
is-parched in-heart sorrowing but a-singer
Μουσάων θεράπων κλέεα προτέρων ἀνθρώπων
of-the-Muses attendant the-glories of-former men
ὑμνήσῃ μάκαράς τε θεούς, οἳ Ὄλυμπον ἔχουσιν,
hymns blessed and gods who Olympus hold
αἶψ' ὅ γε δυσφροσυνέων ἐπιλήθεται οὐδέ τι κηδέων
at-once he indeed of-his-dejection forgets nor at-all of-cares
μέμνηται· ταχέως δὲ παρέτραπε δῶρα θεάων.
remembers quickly and have-turned-aside the-gifts of-the-goddesses

Χαίρετε, τέκνα Διός, δότε δ' ἱμερόεσσαν ἀοιδήν.
hail children of-Zeus give and lovely song
κλείετε δ' ἀθανάτων ἱερὸν γένος αἰὲν ἐόντων,
celebrate and of-the-immortals holy race always being

οἳ Γῆς τ' ἐξεγένοντο καὶ Οὐρανοῦ ἀστερόεντος,
who from-Earth both were-born and Heaven starry
Νυκτός τε δνοφερῆς, οὓς θ' ἁλμυρὸς ἔτρεφε Πόντος.
Night and dark whom and salty nourished Pontus
εἶπατε δ', ὡς τὰ πρῶτα θεοὶ καὶ γαῖα γένοντο
tell and how the first gods and earth came-to-be
καὶ ποταμοὶ καὶ πόντος ἀπείριτος, οἴδματι θυίων,
and rivers and sea boundless with-swell raging
ἄστρα τε λαμπετόωντα καὶ οὐρανὸς εὐρὺς ὕπερθεν
stars both shining and heaven wide above
ὥς τ' ἄφενος δάσσαντο καὶ ὡς τιμὰς διέλοντο
how and the-wealth they-divided and how honors shared
ἠδὲ καὶ ὡς τὰ πρῶτα πολύπτυχον ἔσχον Ὄλυμπον.
and also how the first many-folded they-held Olympus
ταῦτά μοι ἔσπετε Μοῦσαι, Ὀλύμπια δώματ' ἔχουσαι
these-things to-me tell Muses Olympian houses having
ἐξ ἀρχῆς, καὶ εἶπατ', ὅ τι πρῶτον γένετ' αὐτῶν.
from the-beginning and tell which any first came-to-be of-them

First Chaos comes to be, then Earth, Tartarus, and Eros; from Chaos come Erebus and Night. Earth bears starry Heaven, the mountains, and the sea, and then, lying with Heaven, the Titans, the Cyclopes, and the hundred-handed. Heaven hides his children in the earth; Earth, groaning, makes a great sickle of adamant.

Ἦ τοι μὲν πρώτιστα Χάος γένετ', αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα
truly you-know indeed first-of-all Chaos came-to-be but then
Γαῖ' εὐρύστερνος, πάντων ἕδος ἀσφαλὲς αἰεὶ
Earth broad-breasted of-all seat safe always
Τάρταρά τ' ἠερόεντα μυχῷ χθονὸς εὐρυοδείης,
Tartarus and misty in-the-recess of-earth wide-wayed
ἠδ' Ἔρος, ὃς κάλλιστος ἐν ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσι,
and Eros who fairest among immortal gods
λυσιμελής, πάντων δὲ θεῶν πάντων τ' ἀνθρώπων
limb-loosening of-all and gods of-all and men
δάμναται ἐν στήθεσσι νόον καὶ ἐπίφρονα βουλήν.
subdues in breasts mind and prudent counsel
ἐκ Χάεος δ' Ἔρεβός τε μέλαινά τε Νὺξ ἐγένοντο·
from Chaos and Erebus both black and Night came-to-be
Νυκτὸς δ' αὖτ' Αἰθήρ τε καὶ Ἡμέρη ἐξεγένοντο,
of-Night and in-turn Aether both and Day were-born
οὓς τέκε κυσαμένη Ἐρέβει φιλότητι μιγεῖσα.
whom she-bore having-conceived to-Erebus in-love having-lain
Γαῖα δέ τοι πρῶτον μὲν ἐγείνατο ἶσον ἑαυτῇ
Earth and you-know first indeed bore equal to-herself
Οὐρανὸν ἀστερόεν θ', ἵνα μιν περὶ πάντα καλύπτοι,
Heaven starry that her around all he-might-cover
ὄφρ' εἴη μακάρεσσι θεοῖς ἕδος ἀσφαλὲς αἰεί.
that it-might-be for-the-blessed gods a-seat safe always

γείνατο δ' Οὔρεα μακρά, θεῶν χαρίεντας ἐναύλους,
she-bore and Mountains long of-goddesses graceful haunts
Νυμφέων, αἳ ναίουσιν ἀν' οὔρεα βησσήεντα.
of-Nymphs who dwell through mountains glen-filled
ἣ δὲ καὶ ἀτρύγετον πέλαγος τέκεν, οἴδματι θυῖον,
she and also barren sea bore with-swell raging
Πόντον, ἄτερ φιλότητος ἐφιμέρου· αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα
Pontus without love desirable but then
Οὐρανῷ εὐνηθεῖσα τέκ' Ὠκεανὸν βαθυδίνην,
with-Heaven having-lain she-bore Ocean deep-eddying
Κοῖόν τε Κρῖόν θ' Ὑπερίονά τ' Ἰαπετόν τε
Coeus both Crius and Hyperion and Iapetus and
Θείαν τε Ῥείαν τε Θέμιν τε Μνημοσύνην τε
Theia both Rhea and Themis and Mnemosyne and
Φοίβην τε χρυσοστέφανον Τηθύν τ' ἐρατεινήν.
Phoebe and golden-crowned Tethys and lovely
τοὺς δὲ μέθ' ὁπλότατος γένετο Κρόνος ἀγκυλομήτης,
them and after youngest was-born Cronus crooked-counseled
δεινότατος παίδων· θαλερὸν δ' ἤχθηρε τοκῆα.
most-terrible of-children lusty and he-hated sire
Γείνατο δ' αὖ Κύκλωπας ὑπέρβιον ἦτορ ἔχοντας,
she-bore and again the-Cyclopes overbearing heart having
Βρόντην τε Στερόπην τε καὶ Ἄργην ὀβριμόθυμον,
Brontes both Steropes and and Arges strong-hearted
οἳ Ζηνὶ βροντήν τε δόσαν τεῦξάν τε κεραυνόν.
who to-Zeus thunder both gave made and thunderbolt
οἳ δή τοι τὰ μὲν ἄλλα θεοῖς ἐναλίγκιοι ἦσαν,
who indeed you-know the indeed other-things to-the-gods like were
μοῦνος δ' ὀφθαλμὸς μέσσῳ ἐνέκειτο μετώπῳ.
single and an-eye in-the-middle lay forehead

Κύκλωπες δ' ὄνομ' ἦσαν ἐπώνυμον, οὕνεκ' ἄρα σφέων
Cyclopes and by-name they-were named because then their
κυκλοτερὴς ὀφθαλμὸς ἕεις ἐνέκειτο μετώπῳ·
circular eye one lay in-the-forehead
ἰσχὺς δ' ἠδὲ βίη καὶ μηχαναὶ ἦσαν ἐπ' ἔργοις.
strength and and might and contrivances were in works
Ἄλλοι δ' αὖ Γαίης τε καὶ Οὐρανοῦ ἐξεγένοντο
others and again from-Earth both and Heaven were-born
τρεῖς παῖδες μεγάλοι τε καὶ ὄβριμοι, οὐκ ὀνομαστοί,
three sons great both and mighty not to-be-named
Κόττος τε Βριάρεώς τε Γύης θ', ὑπερήφανα τέκνα.
Cottus both Briareus and Gyes and overbearing children
τῶν ἑκατὸν μὲν χεῖρες ἀπ' ὤμων ἀίσσοντο,
of-them a-hundred indeed arms from shoulders sprang
ἄπλαστοι, κεφαλαὶ δὲ ἑκάστῳ πεντήκοντα
unapproachable heads and to-each fifty
ἐξ ὤμων ἐπέφυκον ἐπὶ στιβαροῖσι μέλεσσιν·
from shoulders grew upon stout limbs
ἰσχὺς δ' ἄπλητος κρατερὴ μεγάλῳ ἐπὶ εἴδει.
strength and boundless mighty great in form
ὅσσοι γὰρ Γαίης τε καὶ Οὐρανοῦ ἐξεγένοντο,
as-many-as for from-Earth both and Heaven were-born
δεινότατοι παίδων, σφετέρῳ δ' ἤχθοντο τοκῆι
most-terrible of-children by-their-own and they-were-hated sire
ἐξ ἀρχῆς· καὶ τῶν μὲν ὅπως τις πρῶτα γένοιτο,
from the-beginning and of-them indeed as each first was-born
πάντας ἀποκρύπτασκε, καὶ ἐς φάος οὐκ ἀνίεσκε,
all he-would-hide and into light not would-let-up

Γαίης ἐν κευθμῶνι, κακῷ δ' ἐπετέρπετο ἔργῳ
of-Earth in the-hollow in-evil and delighted deed
Οὐρανός. ἡ δ' ἐντὸς στοναχίζετο Γαῖα πελώρη
Heaven she and within groaned Earth huge
στεινομένη· δολίην δὲ κακήν τ' ἐφράσσατο τέχνην.
straitened crafty and evil and she-devised art
αἶψα δὲ ποιήσασα γένος πολιοῦ ἀδάμαντος
quickly and having-made the-kind of-gray adamant
τεῦξε μέγα δρέπανον καὶ ἐπέφραδε παισὶ φίλοισιν·
she-made great sickle and declared to-children dear
εἶπε δὲ θαρσύνουσα, φίλον τετιημένη ἦτορ·
said and encouraging dear troubled heart

IV · CRONUS MAIMS HEAVEN; THE BIRTH OF APHRODITE

Earth asks her sons to punish their father, and only Cronus dares. He ambushes Heaven as he comes to Earth by night and cuts off his genitals with the sickle. From the drops of blood Earth bears the Erinyes, the Giants, and the ash-tree nymphs; the genitals, carried on the sea, gather foam, and from it Aphrodite grows, coming ashore at Cythera and Cyprus, attended by Eros and Desire. Heaven calls his sons Titans and foretells their punishment.

Παῖδες ἐμοὶ καὶ πατρὸς ἀτασθάλου, αἴ κ' ἐθέλητε
children mine and of-a-father reckless if — you-wish
πείθεσθαι, πατρός κε κακὴν τισαίμεθα λώβην
to-obey of-father — evil we-would-avenge outrage
ὑμετέρου· πρότερος γὰρ ἀεικέα μήσατο ἔργα.
your first for unseemly he-devised deeds

Ὣς φάτο· τοὺς δ' ἄρα πάντας ἕλεν δέος, οὐδέ τις αὐτῶν
so she-spoke them and then all seized fear nor any of-them
φθέγξατο. θαρσήσας δὲ μέγας Κρόνος ἀγκυλομήτης
uttered having-taken-courage and great Cronus crooked-counseled
ἂψ αὖτις μύθοισι προσηύδα μητέρα κεδνήν·
back again with-words addressed mother cherished
Μῆτερ, ἐγώ κεν τοῦτό γ' ὑποσχόμενος τελέσαιμι
mother I — this indeed having-promised would-accomplish
ἔργον, ἐπεὶ πατρός γε δυσωνύμου οὐκ ἀλεγίζω
deed since of-father indeed ill-named not I-care
ἡμετέρου· πρότερος γὰρ ἀεικέα μήσατο ἔργα.
our first for unseemly he-devised deeds
Ὣς φάτο· γήθησεν δὲ μέγα φρεσὶ Γαῖα πελώρη·
so he-spoke rejoiced and greatly in-mind Earth huge
εἶσε δέ μιν κρύψασα λόχῳ· ἐνέθηκε δὲ χερσὶν
set and him having-hidden in-ambush placed and in-hands
ἅρπην καρχαρόδοντα· δόλον δ' ὑπεθήκατο πάντα.
a-sickle jagged-toothed the-trick and she-explained all
Ἦλθε δὲ νύκτ' ἐπάγων μέγας Οὐρανός, ἀμφὶ δὲ Γαίῃ
came and night bringing-on great Heaven around and Earth
ἱμείρων φιλότητος ἐπέσχετο καί ῥ' ἐτανύσθη
longing for-love he-lay-upon and then was-stretched-out
πάντη· ὃ δ' ἐκ λοχέοιο πάις ὠρέξατο χειρὶ
everywhere he and from the-ambush the-son reached-out with-hand
σκαιῇ, δεξιτερῇ δὲ πελώριον ἔλλαβεν ἅρπην
left with-right and huge took sickle
μακρὴν καρχαρόδοντα, φίλου δ' ἀπὸ μήδεα πατρὸς
long jagged-toothed of-dear and off the-members of-father

ἐσσυμένως ἤμησε, πάλιν δ' ἔρριψε φέρεσθαι
eagerly he-reaped back and threw to-be-carried
ἐξοπίσω· τὰ μὲν οὔ τι ἐτώσια ἔκφυγε χειρός·
behind they indeed not at-all in-vain escaped from-the-hand
ὅσσαι γὰρ ῥαθάμιγγες ἀπέσσυθεν αἱματόεσσαι,
as-many-as for drops rushed-forth bloody
πάσας δέξατο Γαῖα· περιπλομένων δ' ἐνιαυτῶν
all received Earth revolving and years
γείνατ' Ἐρινῦς τε κρατερὰς μεγάλους τε Γίγαντας,
she-bore the-Erinyes both mighty great and Giants
τεύχεσι λαμπομένους, δολίχ' ἔγχεα χερσὶν ἔχοντας,
with-armor gleaming long spears in-hands holding
Νύμφας θ' ἅς Μελίας καλέουσ' ἐπ' ἀπείρονα γαῖαν.
Nymphs and whom Meliae they-call over boundless earth
μήδεα δ' ὡς τὸ πρῶτον ἀποτμήξας ἀδάμαντι
the-members and as the first having-cut-off with-adamant
κάββαλ' ἀπ' ἠπείροιο πολυκλύστῳ ἐνὶ πόντῳ,
he-cast from the-land much-surging in sea
ὣς φέρετ' ἂμ πέλαγος πουλὺν χρόνον, ἀμφὶ δὲ λευκὸς
so they-were-carried over sea long time around and white
ἀφρὸς ἀπ' ἀθανάτου χροὸς ὤρνυτο· τῷ δ' ἔνι κούρη
foam from immortal flesh rose it and in a-maiden
ἐθρέφθη· πρῶτον δὲ Κυθήροισιν ζαθέοισιν
was-reared first and to-Cythera holy
ἔπλητ', ἔνθεν ἔπειτα περίρρυτον ἵκετο Κύπρον.
she-drew-near thence then sea-girt she-came-to Cyprus

ἐκ δ' ἔβη αἰδοίη καλὴ θεός, ἀμφὶ δὲ ποίη
out and stepped revered fair goddess around and grass
ποσσὶν ὕπο ῥαδινοῖσιν ἀέξετο· τὴν δ' Ἀφροδίτην
feet under slender grew her and Aphrodite
κικλήσκουσι θεοί τε καὶ ἀνέρες, οὕνεκ' ἐν ἀφρῷ
call gods both and men because in foam
θρέφθη· ἀτὰρ Κυθέρειαν, ὅτι προσέκυρσε Κυθήροις·
she-was-reared but Cytherea because she-reached Cythera
Κυπρογενέα δ', ὅτι γέντο πολυκλύστῳ ἐνὶ Κύπρῳ·
Cyprus-born and because she-was-born much-surging in Cyprus
ἠδὲ φιλομμηδέα, ὅτι μηδέων ἐξεφαάνθη.
and member-loving because from-members she-appeared
τῇ δ' Ἔρος ὡμάρτησε καὶ Ἵμερος ἕσπετο καλὸς
her and Eros accompanied and Desire followed fair
γεινομένῃ τὰ πρῶτα θεῶν τ' ἐς φῦλον ἰούσῃ.
being-born the first of-the-gods and into tribe going
ταύτην δ' ἐξ ἀρχῆς τιμὴν ἔχει ἠδὲ λέλογχε
this and from the-beginning honor she-has and has-as-her-lot
μοῖραν ἐν ἀνθρώποισι καὶ ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσι,
portion among men and immortal gods
παρθενίους τ' ὀάρους μειδήματά τ' ἐξαπάτας τε
maidenly both whisperings smiles and deceits and
τέρψιν τε γλυκερὴν φιλότητά τε μειλιχίην τε.
delight both sweet love and gentleness and

Τοὺς δὲ πατὴρ Τιτῆνας ἐπίκλησιν καλέεσκε
them and the-father Titans by-surname called
παῖδας νεικείων μέγας Οὐρανός, οὓς τέκεν αὐτός·
sons reproaching great Heaven whom begot himself

φάσκε δὲ τιταίνοντας ἀτασθαλίῃ μέγα ῥέξαι
he-said and straining in-recklessness great to-have-done
ἔργον, τοῖο δ' ἔπειτα τίσιν μετόπισθεν ἔσεσθαι.
deed of-it and afterward vengeance hereafter to-be

V · THE CHILDREN OF NIGHT AND OF THE SEA

Night bears Doom, Death, Sleep, Dreams, Blame, Woe, the Hesperides, the Moirai, Nemesis, Deceit, Love, Old Age, and Strife, and Strife bears Toil, Hunger, Battles, Ruin, and Oath. Sea fathers Nereus, Thaumas, Phorcys, Ceto, and Eurybia, and Nereus has fifty daughters by Doris. Thaumas fathers Iris and the Harpies, and Ceto bears Phorcys the Graiae and the Gorgons. When Perseus beheads Medusa, out leap Chrysaor and Pegasus, who bears Zeus' thunder; Chrysaor fathers Geryon, whom Heracles kills.

Νὺξ δ' ἔτεκεν στυγερόν τε Μόρον καὶ Κῆρα μέλαιναν
Night and bore hateful both Doom and Ker black
καὶ Θάνατον, τέκε δ' Ὕπνον, ἔτικτε δὲ φῦλον Ὀνείρων·
and Death she-bore and Sleep she-bore and the-tribe of-Dreams
δεύτερον αὖ Μῶμον καὶ Ὀιζὺν ἀλγινόεσσαν
second again Blame and Woe painful
οὔ τινι κοιμηθεῖσα θεὰ τέκε Νὺξ ἐρεβεννή,
not with-any having-lain the-goddess bore Night dark
Ἑσπερίδας θ', ἧς μῆλα πέρην κλυτοῦ Ὠκεανοῖο
the-Hesperides and whose apples beyond famed Ocean
χρύσεα καλὰ μέλουσι φέροντά τε δένδρεα καρπόν.
golden fair are-a-care bearing and trees fruit
καὶ Μοίρας καὶ Κῆρας ἐγείνατο νηλεοποίνους,
and the-Moirai and the-Keres she-bore ruthless-avenging

Κλωθώ τε Λάχεσίν τε καὶ Ἄτροπον, αἵτε βροτοῖσι
Clotho both Lachesis and and Atropos who to-mortals
γεινομένοισι διδοῦσιν ἔχειν ἀγαθόν τε κακόν τε,
being-born give to-have good both evil and
αἵτ' ἀνδρῶν τε θεῶν τε παραιβασίας ἐφέπουσιν·
who of-men both of-gods and transgressions pursue
οὐδέ ποτε λήγουσι θεαὶ δεινοῖο χόλοιο,
nor ever cease the-goddesses from-dread wrath
πρίν γ' ἀπὸ τῷ δώωσι κακὴν ὄπιν, ὅς τις ἁμάρτῃ.
before indeed back to-him they-give evil vengeance who any sins
τίκτε δὲ καὶ Νέμεσιν, πῆμα θνητοῖσι βροτοῖσι,
bore and also Nemesis a-bane to-mortal men
Νὺξ ὀλοή· μετὰ τὴν δ' Ἀπάτην τέκε καὶ Φιλότητα
Night baneful after her and Deceit she-bore and Love
Γῆράς τ' οὐλόμενον, καὶ Ἔριν τέκε καρτερόθυμον.
old-Age both baneful and Strife she-bore strong-hearted
Αὐτὰρ Ἔρις στυγερὴ τέκε μὲν Πόνον ἀλγινόεντα
but Strife hateful bore indeed Toil painful
Λήθην τε Λιμόν τε καὶ Ἄλγεα δακρυόεντα
Forgetfulness both Famine and and Pains tearful
Ὑσμίνας τε Μάχας τε Φόνους τ' Ἀνδροκτασίας τε
combats both Battles and Murders and Manslaughters and
Νείκεά τε ψευδέας τε Λόγους Ἀμφιλλογίας τε
quarrels both lying and Words Disputes and
Δυσνομίην τ' Ἄτην τε, συνήθεας ἀλλήλῃσιν,
Lawlessness and Ruin and intimate with-each-other
Ὅρκον θ', ὃς δὴ πλεῖστον ἐπιχθονίους ἀνθρώπους
oath and who indeed most earthly men
πημαίνει, ὅτε κέν τις ἑκὼν ἐπίορκον ὀμόσσῃ.
harms when — any willingly falsely swears

Νηρέα δ' ἀψευδέα καὶ ἀληθέα γείνατο Πόντος,
Nereus and the-unlying and truthful begot Pontus
πρεσβύτατον παίδων· αὐτὰρ καλέουσι γέροντα,
eldest of-his-children but they-call the-old-man
οὔνεκα νημερτής τε καὶ ἤπιος, οὐδὲ θεμιστέων
because unerring both and gentle nor the-ordinances
λήθεται, ἀλλὰ δίκαια καὶ ἤπια δήνεα οἶδεν·
forgets but just and gentle counsels knows
αὖτις δ' αὖ Θαύμαντα μέγαν καὶ ἀγήνορα Φόρκυν
again and in-turn Thaumas great and proud Phorcys
Γαίῃ μισγόμενος καὶ Κητὼ καλλιπάρῃον
with-Earth mingling and Ceto fair-cheeked
Εὐρυβίην τ' ἀδάμαντος ἐνὶ φρεσὶ θυμὸν ἔχουσαν.
Eurybia and of-adamant in mind heart having
Νηρῆος δ' ἐγένοντο μεγήρατα τέκνα θεάων
of-Nereus and were-born very-lovely children of-goddesses
πόντῳ ἐν ἀτρυγέτῳ καὶ Δωρίδος ἠυκόμοιο,
sea in barren and of-Doris lovely-haired
κούρης Ὠκεανοῖο, τελήεντος ποταμοῖο,
daughter of-Ocean the-perfect river
Πλωτώ τ' Εὐκράντη τε Σαώ τ' Ἀμφιτρίτη τε
Ploto both Eucrante and Sao and Amphitrite and
Εὐδώρη τε Θέτις τε Γαλήνη τε Γλαύκη τε
Eudora both Thetis and Galene and Glauce and
Κυμοθόη Σπειώ τε Θόη θ' Ἁλίη τ' ἐρόεσσα
Cymothoe Speio and Thoe and Halie and lovely
Πασιθέη τ' Ἐρατώ τε καὶ Εὐνίκη ῥοδόπηχυς
Pasithea and Erato and and Eunice rosy-armed

καὶ Μελίτη χαρίεσσα καὶ Εὐλιμένη καὶ Ἀγαυὴ
and Melite graceful and Eulimene and Agave
Δωτώ τε Πρωτώ τε Φέρουσά τε Δυναμένη τε
Doto both Proto and Pherusa and Dynamene and
Νησαίη τε καὶ Ἀκταίη καὶ Πρωτομέδεια
Nesaea and and Actaea and Protomedea
Δωρὶς καὶ Πανόπεια καὶ εὐειδὴς Γαλάτεια
Doris and Panopea and fair-formed Galatea
Ἱπποθόη τ' ἐρόεσσα καὶ Ἱππονόη ῥοδόπηχυς
Hippothoe and lovely and Hipponoe rosy-armed
Κυμοδόκη θ', ἣ κύματ' ἐν ἠεροειδέι πόντῳ
Cymodoce and who the-waves on misty sea
πνοιάς τε ζαέων ἀνέμων σὺν Κυματολήγῃ
blasts and of-raging winds with Cymatolege
ῥεῖα πρηΰνει καὶ ἐυσφύρῳ Ἀμφιτρίτῃ,
easily calms and with-fair-ankled Amphitrite
Κυμώ τ' Ἠιόνη τε ἐυστέφανός θ' Ἁλιμήδη
Cymo and Eione and fair-crowned and Halimede
Γλαυκονόμη τε φιλομμειδὴς καὶ Ποντοπόρεια
Glauconome and smile-loving and Pontoporea
Ληαγόρη τε καὶ Εὐαγόρη καὶ Λαομέδεια
Leagore and and Euagore and Laomedea
Πουλυνόη τε καὶ Αὐτονόη καὶ Λυσιάνασσα
Polynoe and and Autonoe and Lysianassa
Εὐάρνη τε φυήν τ' ἐρατὴ καὶ εἶδος ἄμωμος
Euarne and in-build and lovely and in-form blameless
καὶ Ψαμάθη χαρίεσσα δέμας δίη τε Μενίππη
and Psamathe graceful in-body bright and Menippe

Νησώ τ' Εὐπόμπη τε Θεμιστώ τε Προνόη τε
neso and Eupompe and Themisto and Pronoe and
Νημερτής θ', ἥ πατρὸς ἔχει νόον ἀθανάτοιο.
nemertes and who of-father has the-mind immortal
αὗται μὲν Νηρῆος ἀμύμονος ἐξεγένοντο
these indeed of-Nereus blameless were-born
κοῦραι πεντήκοντα, ἀμύμονα ἔργα ἰδυῖαι.
daughters fifty blameless works knowing
Θαύμας δ' Ὠκεανοῖο βαθυρρείταο θύγατρα
Thaumas and of-Ocean deep-flowing the-daughter
ἠγάγετ' Ἠλέκτρην· ἥ δ' ὠκεῖαν τέκεν Ἶριν
married Electra she and swift bore Iris
ἠυκόμους θ' Ἅρπυίας Ἀελλώ τ' Ὠκυπέτην τε,
lovely-haired and the-Harpies Aello and Ocypetes and
αἵ ῥ' ἀνέμων πνοιῇσι καὶ οἰωνοῖς ἅμ' ἔπονται
who then of-winds the-blasts and birds with follow
ὠκείῃς πτερύγεσσι· μεταχρόνιαι γὰρ ἴαλλον.
with-swift wings aloft for they-dart
Φόρκυϊ δ' αὖ Κητὼ Γραίας τέκε καλλιπαρῄους
to-Phorcys and in-turn Ceto the-Graeae bore fair-cheeked
ἐκ γενετῆς πολιάς, τὰς δὴ Γραίας καλέουσιν
from birth gray whom indeed Graeae call
ἀθάνατοί τε θεοὶ χαμαὶ ἐρχόμενοί τ' ἄνθρωποι,
immortal both gods on-earth walking and men
Πεμφρηδώ τ' εὐπεπλον Ἐννώ τε κροκόπεπλον,
Pemphredo and well-robed Enyo and saffron-robed
Γοργούς θ', αἳ ναίουσι πέρην κλυτοῦ Ὠκεανοῖο
the-Gorgons and who dwell beyond famed Ocean
ἐσχατιῇ πρὸς Νυκτός, ἵν' Ἑσπερίδες λιγύφωνοι,
at-the-edge toward Night where the-Hesperides clear-voiced

Σθεννώ τ' Εὐρυάλη τε Μέδουσά τε λυγρὰ παθοῦσα.
Sthenno and Euryale and Medusa and woeful-things having-suffered
ἣ μὲν ἔην θνητή, αἳ δ' ἀθάνατοι καὶ ἀγήρῳ,
she indeed was mortal they and immortal and ageless
αἱ δύο· τῇ δὲ μιῇ παρελέξατο Κυανοχαίτης
the two with-her and one lay the-Dark-haired-one
ἐν μαλακῷ λειμῶνι καὶ ἄνθεσιν εἰαρινοῖσιν.
in soft meadow and flowers of-spring
τῆς δ' ὅτε δὴ Περσεὺς κεφαλὴν ἀπεδειροτόμησεν,
of-her and when indeed Perseus head cut-off
ἔκθορε Χρυσάωρ τε μέγας καὶ Πήγασος ἵππος.
leapt-out Chrysaor both great and Pegasus horse
τῷ μὲν ἐπώνυμον ἦεν, ὅτ' Ὠκεανοῦ περὶ πηγὰς
to-him indeed named he-was because of-Ocean by the-springs
γένθ', ὃ δ' ἄορ χρύσειον ἔχων μετὰ χερσὶ φίλῃσιν.
he-was-born he and a-sword golden holding in hands dear
χὠ μὲν ἀποπτάμενος προλιπὼν χθόνα, μητέρα μήλων,
and-he indeed flying-away having-left the-earth mother of-flocks
ἵκετ' ἐς ἀθανάτους· Ζηνὸς δ' ἐν δώμασι ναίει
came to the-immortals of-Zeus and in house dwells
βροντήν τε στεροπήν τε φέρων Διὶ μητιόεντι.
thunder both lightning and bearing for-Zeus counselor
Χρυσάωρ δ' ἔτεκεν τρικέφαλον Γηρυονῆα
Chrysaor and begot three-headed Geryon
μιχθεὶς Καλλιρόῃ κούρῃ κλυτοῦ Ὠκεανοῖο.
having-lain with-Callirrhoe daughter of-famed Ocean

τὸν μὲν ἄρ᾽ ἐξενάριξε βίη Ἡρακληείη
him indeed then slew the-might of-Heracles
βουσὶ παρ᾽ εἰλιπόδεσσι περιῤῥύτῳ εἰν Ἐρυθείῃ
oxen by shambling sea-girt in Erythea
ἤματι τῷ ὅτε περ βοῦς ἤλασεν εὐρυμετώπους
on-day that when indeed the-cattle he-drove broad-browed
Τίρυνθ᾽ εἰς ἱερὴν διαβὰς πόρον Ὠκεανοῖο
Tiryns to holy having-crossed the-ford of-Ocean
Ὄρθον τε κτείνας καὶ βουκόλον Εὐρυτίωνα
Orthus both having-killed and herdsman Eurytion
σταθμῷ ἐν ἠερόεντι πέρην κλυτοῦ Ὠκεανοῖο.
steading in misty beyond famed Ocean

VI · ECHIDNA AND HER BROOD

Next is born Echidna, half nymph and half serpent, who lives in a cave under the earth. Lying with Typhaon she bears Orthus, Geryon's hound, Cerberus, the dog of Hades, and the Lernaean Hydra, which Heracles kills with Iolaus' help. She bears the Chimaera, which Pegasus and Bellerophon slay, and by Orthus the Sphinx and the Nemean lion, which Heracles also overcomes. Ceto's youngest child is the serpent that guards the golden apples.

Ἣ δ᾽ ἔτεκ᾽ ἄλλο πέλωρον ἀμήχανον, οὐδὲν ἐοικὸς
she and bore another monster irresistible not-at-all like
θνητοῖς ἀνθρώποις οὐδ᾽ ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσιν,
to-mortal men nor to-immortal gods
σπῆι ἔνι γλαφυρῷ θείην κρατερόφρον᾽ Ἔχιδναν,
cave in hollow divine fierce-hearted Echidna
ἥμισυ μὲν νύμφην ἑλικώπιδα καλλιπάρῃον,
half indeed a-nymph bright-eyed fair-cheeked

ἥμισυ δ' αὖτε πέλωρον ὄφιν δεινόν τε μέγαν τε
half and again a-monster snake terrible both huge and
ἀιόλον ὠμηστὴν ζαθέης ὑπὸ κεύθεσι γαίης.
speckled raw-eating of-holy under the-depths of-earth
ἔνθα δέ οἱ σπέος ἐστὶ κάτω κοίλῃ ὑπὸ πέτρῃ
there and her cave is below hollow under rock
τηλοῦ ἀπ' ἀθανάτων τε θεῶν θνητῶν τ' ἀνθρώπων·
far from immortal both gods mortal and men
ἔνθ' ἄρα οἱ δάσσαντο θεοὶ κλυτὰ δώματα ναίειν.
there then to-her assigned the-gods glorious house to-dwell-in
ἣ δ' ἔρυτ' εἰν Ἀρίμοισιν ὑπὸ χθονὶ λυγρὴ Ἔχιδνα,
she and keeps-watch in Arima under earth baneful Echidna
ἀθάνατος νύμφη καὶ ἀγήραος ἤματα πάντα.
an-immortal nymph and ageless days all
Τῇ δὲ Τυφάονά φασι μιγήμεναι ἐν φιλότητι
with-her and Typhaon they-say to-have-lain in love
δεινόν θ' ὑβριστήν τ' ἄνομόν θ' ἑλικώπιδι κούρῃ·
terrible both outrageous and lawless and with-the-bright-eyed maiden
ἣ δ' ὑποκυσαμένη τέκετο κρατερόφρονα τέκνα.
she and having-conceived bore fierce-hearted children
Ὄρθον μὲν πρῶτον κύνα γείνατο Γηρυονῆι·
Orthus indeed first the-dog she-bore for-Geryon
δεύτερον αὖτις ἔτικτεν ἀμήχανον, οὔ τι φατειὸν
second again she-bore irresistible not at-all speakable
Κέρβερον ὠμηστήν, Ἀΐδεω κύνα χαλκεόφωνον,
Cerberus raw-eating of-Hades dog bronze-voiced
πεντηκοντακέφαλον, ἀναιδέα τε κρατερόν τε·
fifty-headed shameless both mighty and

τὸ τρίτον Ὕδρην αὖτις ἐγείνατο λυγρὰ ἰδυῖαν
the third-time the-Hydra again she-bore baneful-things knowing
Λερναίην, ἣν θρέψε θεὰ λευκώλενος Ἥρη
of-Lerna whom reared the-goddess white-armed Hera
ἄπλητον κοτέουσα βίῃ Ἡρακληείῃ.
insatiably angered with-the-might of-Heracles
καὶ τὴν μὲν Διὸς υἱὸς ἐνήρατο νηλέι χαλκῷ
and her indeed of-Zeus son slew with-pitiless bronze
Ἀμφιτρυωνιάδης σὺν ἀρηιφίλῳ Ἰολάῳ
the-son-of-Amphitryon with dear-to-Ares Iolaus
Ἡρακλέης βουλῇσιν Ἀθηναίης ἀγελείης.
Heracles by-the-counsels of-Athena driver-of-spoil
ἣ δὲ Χίμαιραν ἔτικτε πνέουσαν ἀμαιμάκετον πῦρ,
she and Chimaera bore breathing irresistible fire
δεινήν τε μεγάλην τε ποδώκεά τε κρατερήν τε·
terrible both great and swift-footed and mighty and
τῆς δ' ἦν τρεῖς κεφαλαί· μία μὲν χαροποῖο λέοντος,
of-her and were three heads one indeed of-fierce-eyed lion
ἣ δὲ χιμαίρης, ἣ δ' ὄφιος, κρατεροῖο δράκοντος,
one and of-a-goat one and of-a-snake of-mighty dragon
τὴν μὲν Πήγασος εἶλε καὶ ἐσθλὸς Βελλεροφόντης.
her indeed Pegasus took and noble Bellerophon
ἣ δ' ἄρα Φῖκ' ὀλοὴν τέκε Καδμείοισιν ὄλεθρον
she and then the-Sphinx deadly bore to-the-Cadmeans a-destruction
Ὄρθῳ ὑποδμηθεῖσα Νεμειαῖόν τε λέοντα,
by-Orthus subdued Nemean and lion
τόν ῥ' Ἥρη θρέψασα Διὸς κυδρὴ παράκοιτις
which then Hera having-reared of-Zeus glorious wife
γουνοῖσιν κατένασσε Νεμείης, πῆμ' ἀνθρώποις.
in-the-hills settled of-Nemea a-bane to-men

ἔνθ᾽ ἄρ᾽ ὃ οἰκείων ἐλεφαίρετο φῦλ᾽ ἀνθρώπων,
there then he of-the-native preyed-on the-tribes of-men
κοιρανέων Τρητοῖο Νεμείης ἠδ᾽ Ἀπέσαντος·
lording-over of-Tretus of-Nemea and of-Apesas
ἀλλά ἑ ἶς ἐδάμασσε βίης Ἡρακληείης.
but him the-strength subdued of-the-might of-Heracles
Κητὼ δ᾽ ὁπλότατον Φόρκυι φιλότητι μιγεῖσα
Ceto and youngest to-Phorcys in-love having-lain
γείνατο δεινὸν ὄφιν, ὃς ἐρεμνῆς κεύθεσι γαίης
bore a-terrible snake which of-dark in-the-depths of-earth
πείρασιν ἐν μεγάλοις παγχρύσεα μῆλα φυλάσσει.
the-bounds in great all-golden apples guards
τοῦτο μὲν ἐκ Κητοῦς καὶ Φόρκυνος γένος ἐστίν.
this indeed from Ceto and Phorcys the-offspring is

Tethys bears to Ocean the rivers and the Oceanid nymphs, Styx foremost. Theia bears to Hyperion Helios, Selene, and Eos; Eurybia bears to Crius Astraeus, Pallas, and Perses. Styx bears to Pallas Zelus, Nike, Cratos, and Bia, who sit beside Zeus, since she came first when he called the gods against the Titans.

Τηθὺς δ᾽ Ὠκεανῷ Ποταμοὺς τέκε δινήεντας,
Tethys and to-Ocean the-Rivers bore eddying
Νεῖλόν τ᾽ Ἀλφειόν τε καὶ Ἠριδανὸν βαθυδίνην
Nile both Alpheus and and Eridanus deep-eddying
Στρυμόνα Μαίανδρόν τε καὶ Ἴστρον καλλιρέεθρον
Strymon Maeander and and Ister fair-flowing
Φᾶσίν τε Ῥῆσόν τ᾽ Ἀχελώιόν τ᾽ ἀργυροδίνην
phasis both Rhesus and Achelous and silver-eddying
Νέσσον τε Ῥοδίον θ᾽ Ἁλιάκμονά θ᾽ Ἑπτάπορόν τε
Nessus both Rhodius and Haliacmon and Heptaporus and
Γρήνικόν τε καὶ Αἴσηπον θεῖόν τε Σιμοῦντα
Granicus both and Aesepus divine and Simois
Πηνειόν τε καὶ Ἕρμον ἐυρρείτην τε Κάικον
Peneus both and Hermus fair-flowing and Caicus
Σαγγάριόν τε μέγαν Λάδωνά τε Παρθένιόν τε
Sangarius both great Ladon and Parthenius and
Εὔηνόν τε καὶ Ἄρδησκον θεῖόν τε Σκάμανδρον.
Evenus both and Ardescus divine and Scamander

Τίκτε δὲ θυγατέρων ἱερὸν γένος, αἳ κατὰ γαῖαν
she-bore and of-daughters a-holy race who over the-earth
ἄνδρας κουρίζουσι σὺν Ἀπόλλωνι ἄνακτι
men bring-up-to-manhood with Apollo lord
καὶ Ποταμοῖς, ταύτην δὲ Διὸς πάρα μοῖραν ἔχουσι,
and the-Rivers this and Zeus from portion they-have

Πειθώ τ' Ἀδμήτη τε Ἰάνθη τ' Ἠλέκτρη τε
Peitho both Admete and Ianthe and Electra and
Δωρίς τε Πρυμνώ τε καὶ Οὐρανίη θεοειδὴς
Doris both Prymno and and Urania godlike
Ἱππώ τε Κλυμένη τε Ῥόδειά τε Καλλιρόη τε
Hippo both Clymene and Rhodea and Callirrhoe and
Ζευξώ τε Κλυτίη τε Ἰδυῖά τε Πασιθόη τε
Zeuxo both Clytie and Idyia and Pasithoe and
Πληξαύρη τε Γαλαξαύρη τ' ἐρατή τε Διώνη
Plexaura both Galaxaura and lovely and Dione
Μηλόβοσίς τε Θόη τε καὶ εὐειδὴς Πολυδώρη
Melobosis both Thoe and and fair-formed Polydora
Κερκηίς τε φυὴν ἐρατὴ Πλουτώ τε βοῶπις
Cerceis and in-build lovely Pluto and ox-eyed
Περσηίς τ' Ἰάνειρά τ' Ἀκάστη τε Ξάνθη τε
Perseis and Ianeira and Acaste and Xanthe and
Πετραίη τ' ἐρόεσσα Μενεσθώ τ' Εὐρώπη τε
petraea and lovely Menestho and Europa and
Μῆτίς τ' Εὐρυνόμη τε Τελεστώ τε Κροκόπεπλος
Metis and Eurynome and Telesto and Crocopeplus
Χρυσηίς τ' Ἀσίη τε καὶ ἱμερόεσσα Καλυψώ
Chryseis and Asia and and lovely Calypso
Εὐδώρη τε Τύχη τε καὶ Ἀμφιρὼ Ὠκυρόη τε
Eudora both Tyche and and Amphiro Ocyrrhoe and
καὶ Στύξ, ἣ δή σφεων προφερεστάτη ἐστὶν ἁπασέων.
and Styx who indeed of-them most-excellent is of-all
αὗται δ' Ὠκεανοῦ καὶ Τηθύος ἐξεγένοντο
these and of-Ocean and Tethys were-born
πρεσβύταται κοῦραι· πολλαί γε μέν εἰσι καὶ ἄλλαι.
eldest daughters many indeed indeed are also others

τρὶς γὰρ χίλιαί εἰσι τανύσφυροι Ὠκεανῖναι,
thrice for thousand are slender-ankled daughters-of-Ocean
αἵ ῥα πολυσπερέες γαῖαν καὶ βένθεα λίμνης
who then widely-scattered the-earth and the-depths of-the-water
πάντη ὁμῶς ἐφέπουσι, θεάων ἀγλαὰ τέκνα.
everywhere alike haunt of-goddesses glorious children
τόσσοι δ' αὖθ' ἕτεροι ποταμοὶ καναχηδὰ ῥέοντες,
so-many and in-turn other rivers splashing flowing
υἱέες Ὠκεανοῦ, τοὺς γείνατο πότνια Τηθύς·
sons of-Ocean whom bore queenly Tethys
τῶν ὄνομ' ἀργαλέον πάντων βροτὸν ἀνέρ' ἐνισπεῖν,
of-them the-name hard of-all a-mortal man to-tell
οἳ δὲ ἕκαστοι ἴσασιν, ὅσοι περιναιετάωσιν.
they but each know as-many-as dwell-around
Θεία δ' Ἠέλιόν τε μέγαν λαμπράν τε Σελήνην
Theia and Sun both great bright and Moon
Ἠῶ θ', ἣ πάντεσσιν ἐπιχθονίοισι φαείνει
Dawn and who for-all earthly shines
ἀθανάτοις τε θεοῖσι, τοὶ οὐρανὸν εὐρὺν ἔχουσι,
immortal and gods who heaven wide hold
γείναθ' ὑποδμηθεῖσ' Ὑπερίονος ἐν φιλότητι.
bore subdued of-Hyperion in love
Κρίῳ δ' Εὐρυβίη τέκεν ἐν φιλότητι μιγεῖσα
to-Crius and Eurybia bore in love having-lain
Ἀστραῖόν τε μέγαν Πάλλαντά τε δῖα θεάων
Astraeus both great Pallas and bright of-goddesses
Πέρσην θ', ὃς καὶ πᾶσι μετέπρεπεν ἰδμοσύνῃσιν.
Perses and who also among-all was-conspicuous in-wisdom

Ἀστραίῳ δ' Ἠὼς ἀνέμους τέκε καρτεροθύμους,
to-Astraeus and Dawn the-winds bore strong-hearted
ἀργέστην Ζέφυρον Βορέην τ' αἰψηροκέλευθον
clearing Zephyrus Boreas and swift-going
καὶ Νότον, ἐν φιλότητι θεὰ θεῷ εὐνηθεῖσα.
and Notus in love the-goddess with-the-god having-lain
τοὺς δὲ μέτ' ἀστέρα τίκτεν Ἑωσφόρον Ἠριγένεια
them and after the-star bore Morning-Star the-Early-born
ἄστρα τε λαμπετόωντα, τά τ' οὐρανὸς ἐστεφάνωται.
stars and shining with-which — heaven is-crowned
Στὺξ δ' ἔτεκ' Ὠκεανοῦ θυγάτηρ Πάλλαντι μιγεῖσα
Styx and bore of-Ocean daughter with-Pallas having-lain
Ζῆλον καὶ Νίκην καλλίσφυρον ἐν μεγάροισιν·
Zelus and Nike fair-ankled in the-halls
καὶ Κράτος ἠδὲ Βίην ἀριδείκετα γείνατο τέκνα,
and Cratos and Bia splendid bore children
τῶν οὐκ ἔστ' ἀπάνευθε Διὸς δόμος, οὐδέ τις ἕδρη,
of-them not is apart-from Zeus a-house nor any seat
οὐδ' ὁδός, ὅππη μὴ κείνοις θεὸς ἡγεμονεύῃ,
nor way where not them the-god leads
ἀλλ' αἰεὶ πὰρ Ζηνὶ βαρυκτύπῳ ἑδριόωνται.
but always beside Zeus loud-thundering they-sit
ὣς γὰρ ἐβούλευσεν Στὺξ ἄφθιτος Ὠκεανίνη
so for counseled Styx imperishable daughter-of-Ocean
ἤματι τῷ, ὅτε πάντας Ὀλύμπιος ἀστεροπητὴς
on-day that when all the-Olympian lightener
ἀθανάτους ἐκάλεσσε θεοὺς ἐς μακρὸν Ὄλυμπον,
immortal summoned gods to high Olympus
εἶπε δ', ὃς ἂν μετὰ εἷο θεῶν Τιτῆσι μάχοιτο,
said and whoever — with him of-the-gods against-the-Titans would-fight

μή τιν' ἀπορραίσειν γεράων, τιμὴν δὲ ἕκαστον
not any to-rob of-privileges honor and each
ἐξέμεν, ἣν τὸ πάρος γε μετ' ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσιν
to-have which the before indeed among immortal gods
τὸν δ' ἔφαθ', ὅστις ἄτιμος ὑπὸ Κρόνου ἠδ' ἀγέραστος, 395
him and he-said whoever unhonored by Cronus and unprivileged
τιμῆς καὶ γεράων ἐπιβησέμεν, ἣ θέμις ἐστίν.
honor and privileges to-attain as right is
ἦλθε δ' ἄρα πρώτη Στὺξ ἄφθιτος Οὔλυμπόνδε
came and then first Styx imperishable to-Olympus
σὺν σφοῖσιν παίδεσσι φίλου διὰ μήδεα πατρός.
with her-own children of-dear through the-counsels father
τὴν δὲ Ζεὺς τίμησε, περισσὰ δὲ δῶρα δέδωκεν.
her and Zeus honored exceeding and gifts has-given
αὐτὴν μὲν γὰρ ἔθηκε θεῶν μέγαν ἔμμεναι ὅρκον, 400
herself indeed for he-made of-the-gods great to-be oath
παῖδας δ' ἤματα πάντα ἑοῦ μεταναιέτας εἶναι.
children and days all his dwellers-with to-be
ὣς δ' αὖτως πάντεσσι διαμπερές, ὥς περ ὑπέστη,
so and likewise to-all through-and-through as indeed he-promised
ἐξετέλεσσ'· αὐτὸς δὲ μέγα κρατεῖ ἠδὲ ἀνάσσει.
he-accomplished himself and greatly rules and reigns

Phoebe bears to Coeus Leto and Asteria, and Asteria bears to Perses Hecate, whom Zeus honors above all. She keeps the share she had under the Titans in earth, sea, and heaven, and a man who sacrifices and calls on her finds favor. She stands beside kings in judgment, men in the assembly, warriors, athletes, horsemen, and fishermen, and increases or diminishes herds. Though an only child, she is honored among all the immortals, and Zeus makes her nurse of the young.

Φοίβη δ' αὖ Κοίου πολυήρατον ἦλθεν ἐς εὐνήν·
Phoebe and in-turn of-Coeus very-lovely came to bed
κυσαμένη δὴ ἔπειτα θεὰ θεοῦ ἐν φιλότητι
having-conceived indeed then the-goddess of-the-god in love
Λητὼ κυανόπεπλον ἐγείνατο, μείλιχον αἰεί,
Leto dark-robed bore gentle always
ἤπιον ἀνθρώποισι καὶ ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσιν,
kind to-men and to-immortal gods
μείλιχον ἐξ ἀρχῆς, ἀγανώτατον ἐντὸς Ὀλύμπου.
gentle from the-beginning mildest within Olympus
γείνατο δ' Ἀστερίην εὐώνυμον, ἥν ποτε Πέρσης
she-bore and Asteria of-good-name whom once Perses
ἠγάγετ' ἐς μέγα δῶμα φίλην κεκλῆσθαι ἄκοιτιν.
led into great house dear to-be-called wife
ἡ δ' ὑποκυσαμένη Ἑκάτην τέκε, τὴν περὶ πάντων
she and having-conceived Hecate bore whom above all
Ζεὺς Κρονίδης τίμησε· πόρεν δέ οἱ ἀγλαὰ δῶρα,
Zeus son-of-Cronus honored gave and her glorious gifts
μοῖραν ἔχειν γαίης τε καὶ ἀτρυγέτοιο θαλάσσης.
a-portion to-have of-earth both and barren sea

ἣ δὲ καὶ ἀστερόεντος ἀπ᾽ οὐρανοῦ ἔμμορε τιμῆς
she and also starry from heaven has-a-share of-honor
ἀθανάτοις τε θεοῖσι τετιμένη ἐστὶ μάλιστα.
immortal and by-gods honored is most
καὶ γὰρ νῦν, ὅτε πού τις ἐπιχθονίων ἀνθρώπων
and for now when somewhere any of-earthly men
ἔρδων ἱερὰ καλὰ κατὰ νόμον ἱλάσκηται,
offering sacrifices fair according-to custom propitiates
κικλῄσκει Ἑκάτην. πολλή τέ οἱ ἕσπετο τιμὴ
he-calls-on Hecate much and to-him follows honor
ῥεῖα μάλ᾽, ᾧ πρόφρων γε θεὰ ὑποδέξεται εὐχάς,
easily very whose readily indeed the-goddess receives prayers
καί τέ οἱ ὄλβον ὀπάζει, ἐπεὶ δύναμίς γε πάρεστιν.
and — to-him wealth grants since power indeed is-present
ὅσσοι γὰρ Γαίης τε καὶ Οὐρανοῦ ἐξεγένοντο
as-many-as for from-Earth both and Heaven were-born
καὶ τιμὴν ἔλαχον, τούτων ἔχει αἶσαν ἁπάντων.
and honor got of-these she-has a-share of-all
οὐδέ τί μιν Κρονίδης ἐβιήσατο οὐδέ τ᾽ ἀπηύρα,
nor at-all her the-son-of-Cronus did-violence nor — took-away
ὅσσ᾽ ἔλαχεν Τιτῆσι μετὰ προτέροισι θεοῖσιν,
as-much-as she-got the-Titans among former gods
ἀλλ᾽ ἔχει, ὡς τὸ πρῶτον ἀπ᾽ ἀρχῆς ἔπλετο δασμός,
but holds as the first from the-beginning was the-division
καὶ γέρας ἐν γαίῃ τε καὶ οὐρανῷ ἠδὲ θαλάσσῃ·
and privilege in earth both and heaven and sea
οὐδ᾽, ὅτι μουνογενής, ἧσσον θεὰ ἔμμορε τιμῆς,
nor because only-child less the-goddess has-a-share of-honor
ἀλλ᾽ ἔτι καὶ πολὺ μᾶλλον, ἐπεὶ Ζεὺς τίεται αὐτήν.
but still even much more since Zeus honors her

ᾧ δ' ἐθέλει, μεγάλως παραγίγνεται ἠδ' ὀνίνησιν·
to-whom and she-wills greatly she-is-present and helps
ἔν τε δίκῃ βασιλεῦσι παρ' αἰδοίοισι καθίζει,
in both judgment kings beside revered sits
ἔν τ' ἀγορῇ λαοῖσι μεταπρέπει, ὅν κ' ἐθέλῃσιν·
in and assembly among-the-people is-conspicuous whom — she-wills
ἠδ' ὁπότ' ἐς πόλεμον φθεισήνορα θωρήσσωνται
and when to war man-destroying they-arm
ἀνέρες, ἔνθα θεὰ παραγίγνεται, οἷς κ' ἐθέλῃσι
men there the-goddess is-present to-whom — she-wills
νίκην προφρονέως ὀπάσαι καὶ κῦδος ὀρέξαι.
victory readily to-grant and glory to-give
ἐσθλὴ δ' αὖθ' ὁπότ' ἄνδρες ἀεθλεύωσιν ἀγῶνι,
good and in-turn when men contend in-a-contest
ἔνθα θεὰ καὶ τοῖς παραγίγνεται ἠδ' ὀνίνησιν·
there the-goddess also to-them is-present and helps
νικήσας δὲ βίῃ καὶ κάρτεϊ καλὸν ἄεθλον
having-conquered and by-might and strength fair prize
ῥεῖα φέρει χαίρων τε, τοκεῦσι δὲ κῦδος ὀπάζει.
easily he-carries rejoicing and on-his-parents and glory confers
ἐσθλὴ δ' ἱππήεσσι παρεστάμεν, οἷς κ' ἐθέλῃσιν.
good and for-horsemen to-stand-by whom — she-wills
καὶ τοῖς, οἳ γλαυκὴν δυσπέμφελον ἐργάζονται,
and to-those who the-gray stormy work
εὔχονται δ' Ἑκάτῃ καὶ ἐρικτύπῳ Ἐννοσιγαίῳ,
they-pray and to-Hecate and to-loud-resounding Earth-shaker
ῥηιδίως ἄγρην κυδρὴ θεὸς ὤπασε πολλήν,
easily catch glorious the-goddess grants much
ῥεῖα δ' ἀφείλετο φαινομένην, ἐθέλουσά γε θυμῷ.
easily and takes-away appearing willing indeed in-heart

ἐσθλὴ δ' ἐν σταθμοῖσι σὺν Ἑρμῇ ληίδ' ἀέξειν·
good and in steadings with Hermes the-flock to-increase
βουκολίας δ' ἀγέλας τε καὶ αἰπόλια πλατέ' αἰγῶν
herds-of-cattle and droves both and flocks broad of-goats
ποίμνας τ' εἰροπόκων ὀίων, θυμῷ γ' ἐθέλουσα,
flocks and of-fleecy sheep in-heart indeed willing
ἐξ ὀλίγων βριάει κἀκ πολλῶν μείονα θῆκεν.
from few she-makes-strong and-from many fewer makes
οὕτω τοι καὶ μουνογενὴς ἐκ μητρὸς ἐοῦσα
so you-know though only-child from mother being
πᾶσι μετ' ἀθανάτοισι τετίμηται γεράεσσιν.
all among immortals is-honored with-privileges
θῆκε δέ μιν Κρονίδης κουροτρόφον, οἳ μετ' ἐκείνην
made and her the-son-of-Cronus nurse-of-the-young who after her
ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἴδοντο φάος πολυδερκέος Ἠοῦς.
with-eyes saw the-light of-all-seeing Dawn
οὕτως ἐξ ἀρχῆς κουροτρόφος, αἳ δέ τε τιμαί.
so from the-beginning a-nurse-of-the-young these and — honors

IX · CRONUS SWALLOWS HIS CHILDREN

Rhea bears to Cronus Hestia, Demeter, Hera, Hades, Poseidon, and Zeus, and Cronus swallows each as it is born. Rhea bears Zeus in Crete, where Earth hides him, and gives Cronus a stone wrapped in swaddling clothes. Cronus vomits up the stone and his children; Zeus frees the Cyclopes and receives from them thunder and lightning.

Ῥείη δὲ δμηθεῖσα Κρόνῳ τέκε φαίδιμα τέκνα,
Rhea and subdued by-Cronus bore glorious children
Ἱστίην Δήμητρα καὶ Ἥρην χρυσοπέδιλον
Hestia Demeter and Hera golden-sandaled
ἴφθιμόν τ᾽ Ἀΐδην, ὃς ὑπὸ χθονὶ δώματα ναίει
mighty and Hades who under earth house dwells-in
νηλεὲς ἦτορ ἔχων, καὶ ἐρίκτυπον Ἐννοσίγαιον
pitiless heart having and loud-resounding Earth-shaker
Ζῆνά τε μητιόεντα, θεῶν πατέρ᾽ ἠδὲ καὶ ἀνδρῶν,
Zeus and counselor of-gods father and also of-men
τοῦ καὶ ὑπὸ βροντῆς πελεμίζεται εὐρεῖα χθών.
whose even under thunder is-shaken wide earth
καὶ τοὺς μὲν κατέπινε μέγας Κρόνος, ὥς τις ἕκαστος
and them indeed swallowed great Cronus as any each
νηδύος ἐξ ἱερῆς μητρὸς πρὸς γούναθ᾽ ἵκοιτο,
womb from holy of-the-mother to knees came
τὰ φρονέων, ἵνα μή τις ἀγαυῶν Οὐρανιώνων
this intending that not any of-the-proud Heavenly-ones
ἄλλος ἐν ἀθανάτοισιν ἔχοι βασιληίδα τιμήν.
other among the-immortals should-hold kingly honor
πεύθετο γὰρ Γαίης τε καὶ Οὐρανοῦ ἀστερόεντος,
he-learned for from-Earth both and Heaven starry

οὕνεκά οἱ πέπρωτο ἑῷ ὑπὸ παιδὶ δαμῆναι
that to-him it-was-fated his-own by son to-be-subdued
καὶ κρατερῷ περ ἐόντι, Διὸς μεγάλου διὰ βουλάς·
even mighty though being of-Zeus great through the-counsels
τῷ ὅ γ' ἄρ' οὐκ ἀλαὸς σκοπιὴν ἔχεν, ἀλλὰ δοκεύων
therefore he indeed then not blind watch kept but watching
παῖδας ἑοὺς κατέπινε· Ῥέην δ' ἔχε πένθος ἄλαστον.
children his-own he-swallowed Rhea and held grief unforgettable
ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ Δί' ἔμελλε θεῶν πατέρ' ἠδὲ καὶ ἀνδρῶν
but when indeed Zeus she-was-about of-gods father and also of-men
τέξεσθαι, τότ' ἔπειτα φίλους λιτάνευε τοκῆας
to-bear then then dear she-besought parents
τοὺς αὐτῆς, Γαῖάν τε καὶ Οὐρανὸν ἀστερόεντα,
those her-own Earth both and Heaven starry
μῆτιν συμφράσσασθαι, ὅπως λελάθοιτο τεκοῦσα
a-plan to-devise-with-her how she-might-escape-notice bearing
παῖδα φίλον, τίσαιτο δ' ἐρινῦς πατρὸς ἑοῖο
child dear might-avenge and the-avengers of-father his
παίδων θ', οὓς κατέπινε μέγας Κρόνος ἀγκυλομήτης.
of-the-children and whom swallowed great Cronus crooked-counseled
οἳ δὲ θυγατρὶ φίλῃ μάλα μὲν κλύον ἠδ' ἐπίθοντο,
they and daughter dear greatly indeed heard and obeyed
καί οἱ πεφραδέτην, ὅσα περ πέπρωτο γενέσθαι
and to-her they-two-declared as-much-as indeed was-fated to-happen
ἀμφὶ Κρόνῳ βασιλῆι καὶ υἱέι καρτεροθύμῳ.
about Cronus king and son strong-hearted
πέμψαν δ' ἐς Λύκτον, Κρήτης ἐς πίονα δῆμον,
they-sent and to Lyctus of-Crete to rich land
ὁππότ' ἄρ' ὁπλότατον παίδων τέξεσθαι ἔμελλε,
when then youngest of-her-children to-bear she-was-about

Ζῆνα μέγαν· τὸν μέν οἱ ἐδέξατο Γαῖα πελώρη
Zeus great him indeed for-her received Earth huge
Κρήτῃ ἐν εὐρείῃ τραφέμεν ἀτιταλλέμεναί τε.
Crete in wide to-rear to-nurse and
ἔνθα μιν ἷκτο φέρουσα θοὴν διὰ νύκτα μέλαιναν
there him she-came carrying swift through night black
πρώτην ἐς Λύκτον· κρύψεν δέ ἑ χερσὶ λαβοῦσα
first to Lyctus she-hid and him with-hands having-taken
ἄντρῳ ἐν ἠλιβάτῳ, ζαθέης ὑπὸ κεύθεσι γαίης,
cave in sheer of-holy under the-depths of-earth
Αἰγαίῳ ἐν ὄρει πεπυκασμένῳ ὑλήεντι.
Aegean in mountain thickly-covered wooded
τῷ δὲ σπαργανίσασα μέγαν λίθον ἐγγυάλιξεν
to-him and having-swaddled great stone she-handed
Οὐρανίδῃ μέγ' ἄνακτι, θεῶν προτέρῳ βασιλῆι.
to-the-son-of-Heaven great lord of-gods former king
τὸν τόθ' ἑλὼν χείρεσσιν ἑὴν ἐσκάθετο νηδὺν
it then having-taken with-hands his put-down belly
σχέτλιος· οὐδ' ἐνόησε μετὰ φρεσίν, ὥς οἱ ὀπίσσω
wretch nor knew in mind that for-him hereafter
ἀντὶ λίθου ἑὸς υἱὸς ἀνίκητος καὶ ἀκηδὴς
in-place-of the-stone his son unconquered and untroubled
λείπεθ', ὅ μιν τάχ' ἔμελλε βίῃ καὶ χερσὶ δαμάσσας
was-left who him soon was-about by-might and hands having-subdued
τιμῆς ἐξελάειν, ὃ δ' ἐν ἀθανάτοισι ἀνάξειν.
from-honor to-drive he and among the-immortals to-rule

Καρπαλίμως δ' ἄρ' ἔπειτα μένος καὶ φαίδιμα γυῖα
swiftly and then then the-strength and glorious limbs
ηὔξετο τοῖο ἄνακτος· ἐπιπλομένων δ' ἐνιαυτῶν
grew of-that lord revolving and years
Γαίης ἐννεσίῃσι πολυφραδέεσσι δολωθεὶς
of-Earth by-the-promptings very-cunning beguiled
ὃν γόνον ἄψ ἀνέηκε μέγας Κρόνος ἀγκυλομήτης
his offspring back brought-up great Cronus crooked-counseled
πρῶτον δ' ἐξέμεσεν λίθον, ὃν πύματον κατέπινεν·
first and he-vomited-up the-stone which last he-swallowed
τὸν μὲν Ζεὺς στήριξε κατὰ χθονὸς εὐρυοδείης
it indeed Zeus fixed down earth wide-wayed
Πυθοῖ ἐν ἠγαθέῃ γυάλοις ὕπο Παρνησοῖο
Pytho in holy glens under Parnassus
σῆμ' ἔμεν ἐξοπίσω, θαῦμα θνητοῖσι βροτοῖσιν.
a-sign to-be hereafter a-marvel for-mortal men
λῦσε δὲ πατροκασιγνήτους ὀλοῶν ὑπὸ δεσμῶν
he-loosed and his-father's-brothers baneful from bonds
Οὐρανίδας, οὓς δῆσε πατὴρ ἀεσιφροσύνῃσιν·
sons-of-Heaven whom bound the-father in-his-folly
οἳ οἱ ἀπεμνήσαντο χάριν ἐυεργεσιάων,
who to-him remembered the-gratitude for-his-kindnesses
δῶκαν δὲ βροντὴν ἠδ' αἰθαλόεντα κεραυνὸν
gave and thunder and blazing thunderbolt
καὶ στεροπήν· τὸ πρὶν δὲ πελώρη Γαῖα κεκεύθει·
and lightning the before and huge Earth had-hidden
τοῖς πίσυνος θνητοῖσι καὶ ἀθανάτοισιν ἀνάσσει.
in-these trusting over-mortals and immortals he-rules

Iapetus and Clymene have Atlas, Menoetius, Prometheus, and Epimetheus, who first takes in the woman Zeus fashions. Zeus blasts Menoetius for his insolence, sets Atlas to hold up the sky, and binds Prometheus, whose liver an eagle eats until Heracles kills it with Zeus' consent. At Mecone Prometheus divides an ox, hiding the meat in the stomach and the bones in fat. Zeus sees the trick but takes the fat, angered at the bones, and ever since men burn white bones for the gods.

Κούρην δ' Ἰαπετὸς καλλίσφυρον Ὠκεανίνην
a-maiden and Iapetus fair-ankled daughter-of-Ocean
ἠγάγετο Κλυμένην καὶ ὁμὸν λέχος εἰσανέβαινεν.
married Clymene and common bed mounted
ἡ δέ οἱ Ἄτλαντα κρατερόφρονα γείνατο παῖδα·
she and to-him Atlas fierce-hearted bore a-son
τίκτε δ' ὑπερκύδαντα Μενοίτιον ἠδὲ Προμηθέα
she-bore and very-glorious Menoetius and Prometheus
ποικίλον αἰολόμητιν, ἁμαρτίνοόν τ' Ἐπιμηθέα
subtle shifty-counseled erring-minded and Epimetheus
ὃς κακὸν ἐξ ἀρχῆς γένετ' ἀνδράσιν ἀλφηστῆσιν·
who an-evil from the-beginning became to-men grain-eating
πρῶτος γάρ ῥα Διὸς πλαστὴν ὑπέδεκτο γυναῖκα
first for then of-Zeus the-formed received woman
παρθένον. ὑβριστὴν δὲ Μενοίτιον εὐρύοπα Ζεὺς
maiden outrageous and Menoetius far-seeing Zeus
εἰς Ἔρεβος κατέπεμψε βαλὼν ψολόεντι κεραυνῷ
to Erebus sent-down having-struck with-smoky thunderbolt
εἵνεκ' ἀτασθαλίης τε καὶ ἠνορέης ὑπερόπλου.
because-of recklessness both and manhood overweening

Ἄτλας δ' οὐρανὸν εὐρὺν ἔχει κρατερῆς ὑπ' ἀνάγκης
Atlas and heaven wide holds mighty under necessity
πείρασιν ἐν γαίης, πρόπαρ Ἑσπερίδων λιγυφώνων,
bounds at of-earth before the-Hesperides clear-voiced
ἑστηὼς κεφαλῇ τε καὶ ἀκαμάτῃσι χέρεσσιν·
standing with-head both and tireless hands
ταύτην γάρ οἱ μοῖραν ἐδάσσατο μητίετα Ζεύς.
this for to-him portion assigned counselor Zeus
δῆσε δ' ἀλυκτοπέδῃσι Προμηθέα ποικιλόβουλον
bound and with-inescapable-fetters Prometheus subtle-counseled
δεσμοῖς ἀργαλέοισι μέσον διὰ κίον' ἐλάσσας·
with-bonds grievous middle through a-pillar having-driven
καί οἱ ἐπ' αἰετὸν ὦρσε τανύπτερον· αὐτὰρ ὅ γ' ἦπαρ
and to-him on an-eagle he-set long-winged but it indeed the-liver
ἤσθιεν ἀθάνατον, τὸ δ' ἀέξετο ἶσον ἁπάντῃ
ate immortal it and grew equal everywhere
νυκτός ὅσον πρόπαν ἦμαρ ἔδοι τανυσίπτερος ὄρνις.
by-night as-much-as the-whole day it-ate the-long-winged bird
τὸν μὲν ἄρ' Ἀλκμήνης καλλισφύρου ἄλκιμος υἱὸς
it indeed then of-Alcmene fair-ankled valiant son
Ἡρακλέης ἔκτεινε, κακὴν δ' ἀπὸ νοῦσον ἄλαλκεν
Heracles killed evil and away plague warded
Ἰαπετιονίδῃ καὶ ἐλύσατο δυσφροσυνάων
from-the-son-of-Iapetus and released from-his-miseries
οὐκ ἀέκητι Ζηνὸς Ὀλυμπίου ὑψιμέδοντος,
not against-the-will of-Zeus Olympian ruling-on-high
ὄφρ' Ἡρακλῆος Θηβαγενέος κλέος εἴη
so-that of-Heracles Theban-born the-glory might-be
πλεῖον ἔτ' ἢ τὸ πάροιθεν ἐπὶ χθόνα πουλυβότειραν.
more still than the before over earth much-nourishing

ταῦτ᾽ ἄρα ἀζόμενος τίμα ἀριδείκετον υἱόν·
these-things then revering he-honored most-renowned son
καί περ χωόμενος παύθη χόλου, ὃν πρὶν ἔχεσκεν,
and though angered ceased from-wrath which before he-had
οὕνεκ᾽ ἐρίζετο βουλὰς ὑπερμενέι Κρονίωνι.
because he-contended in-counsels with-the-over-mighty son-of-Cronus
καὶ γὰρ ὅτ᾽ ἐκρίνοντο θεοὶ θνητοί τ᾽ ἄνθρωποι
and for when were-being-separated gods mortal and men
Μηκώνῃ, τότ᾽ ἔπειτα μέγαν βοῦν πρόφρονι θυμῷ
at-Mecone then then great ox with-ready heart
δασσάμενος προέθηκε, Διὸς νόον ἐξαπαφίσκων.
having-divided he-set-before of-Zeus the-mind deceiving
τοῖς μὲν γὰρ σάρκας τε καὶ ἔγκατα πίονα δημῷ
for-them indeed for flesh both and innards rich with-fat
ἐν ῥινῷ κατέθηκε καλύψας γαστρὶ βοείῃ,
in hide he-laid-down having-covered with-the-belly of-the-ox
τῷ δ᾽ αὖτ᾽ ὀστέα λευκὰ βοὸς δολίῃ ἐπὶ τέχνῃ
for-him and in-turn bones white of-the-ox crafty with art
εὐθετίσας κατέθηκε καλύψας ἀργέτι δημῷ.
arranging he-laid-down having-covered with-shining fat
δὴ τότε μιν προσέειπε πατὴρ ἀνδρῶν τε θεῶν τε·
indeed then him addressed the-father of-men both of-gods and
Ἰαπετιονίδη, πάντων ἀριδείκετ᾽ ἀνάκτων,
son-of-Iapetus of-all most-renowned of-lords
ὦ πέπον, ὡς ἑτεροζήλως διεδάσσαο μοίρας.
O friend how unfairly you-have-divided the-portions

Ὣς φάτο κερτομέων Ζεὺς ἄφθιτα μήδεα εἰδώς.
so he-spoke mocking Zeus imperishable counsels knowing

τὸν δ' αὖτε προσέειπε Προμηθεὺς ἀγκυλομήτης
him and in-turn addressed Prometheus crooked-counseled

ἦκ' ἐπιμειδήσας, δολίης δ' οὐ λήθετο τέχνης·
gently smiling crafty and not forgot art

Ζεῦ κύδιστε μέγιστε θεῶν αἰειγενετάων,
Zeus most-glorious greatest of-gods eternal

τῶν δ' ἕλε', ὁπποτέρην σε ἐνὶ φρεσὶ θυμὸς ἀνώγει.
of-these and take whichever you in mind heart bids

Φῆ ῥα δολοφρονέων· Ζεὺς δ' ἄφθιτα μήδεα εἰδὼς
he-spoke then craftily-minded Zeus and imperishable counsels knowing

γνῶ ῥ' οὐδ' ἠγνοίησε δόλον· κακὰ δ' ὄσσετο θυμῷ
knew then nor failed-to-see the-trick evil and he-foresaw in-heart

θνητοῖς ἀνθρώποισι, τὰ καὶ τελέεσθαι ἔμελλεν.
for-mortal men which also to-be-accomplished were-about

χερσὶ δ' ὅ γ' ἀμφοτέρῃσιν ἀνείλετο λευκὸν ἄλειφαρ.
with-hands and he indeed both took-up white fat

χώσατο δὲ φρένας ἀμφί, χόλος δέ μιν ἵκετο θυμόν,
he-was-angered and in-mind around wrath and him came heart

ὡς ἴδεν ὀστέα λευκὰ βοὸς δολίῃ ἐπὶ τέχνῃ.
when he-saw bones white of-the-ox crafty with art

ἐκ τοῦ δ' ἀθανάτοισιν ἐπὶ χθονὶ φῦλ' ἀνθρώπων
from that and for-the-immortals on earth the-tribes of-men

καίουσ' ὀστέα λευκὰ θυηέντων ἐπὶ βωμῶν.
burn bones white fragrant on altars

τὸν δὲ μέγ' ὀχθήσας προσέφη νεφεληγερέτα Ζεύς·
him and greatly vexed addressed cloud-gatherer Zeus

Ἰαπετιονίδη, πάντων πέρι μήδεα εἰδώς,
son-of-Iapetus all above counsels knowing
ὦ πέπον, οὐκ ἄρα πω δολίης ἐπιλήθεο τέχνης.
O friend not then yet crafty you-forget art

XI · THE THEFT OF FIRE AND THE FIRST WOMAN

Angered, Zeus withholds fire from men, but Prometheus steals it in a hollow fennel stalk. For this Zeus has Hephaestus mold a maiden from earth, and Athena dresses her; a golden crown Hephaestus made adorns her head. From her comes the race of women, who live with men like the drones that eat the bees' labor. A man who shuns marriage has no one to tend his old age, and a man with a bad wife has endless sorrow. No one can cheat Zeus: even Prometheus lies in bonds.

Ὣς φάτο χωόμενος Ζεὺς ἄφθιτα μήδεα εἰδώς·
so he-spoke angered Zeus imperishable counsels knowing
ἐκ τούτου δὴ ἔπειτα δόλου μεμνημένος αἰεὶ
from this indeed then the-trick remembering always
οὐκ ἐδίδου Μελίῃσι πυρὸς μένος ἀκαμάτοιο
not he-gave to-the-Meliae of-fire the-might untiring
θνητοῖς ἀνθρώποις, οἳ ἐπὶ χθονὶ ναιετάουσιν.
to-mortal men who on earth dwell
ἀλλά μιν ἐξαπάτησεν ἐὺς πάις Ἰαπετοῖο
but him deceived the-good son of-Iapetus
κλέψας ἀκαμάτοιο πυρὸς τηλέσκοπον αὐγὴν
having-stolen of-untiring fire the-far-seen gleam
ἐν κοΐλῳ νάρθηκι· δάκεν δέ ἑ νειόθι θυμόν,
in hollow fennel-stalk stung and him deep-down in-heart
Ζῆν' ὑψιβρεμέτην, ἐχόλωσε δέ μιν φίλον ἦτορ,
Zeus thundering-on-high angered and him dear heart

ὡς ἴδ' ἐν ἀνθρώποισι πυρὸς τηλέσκοπον αὐγήν.
when he-saw among men of-fire the-far-seen gleam
αὐτίκα δ' ἀντὶ πυρὸς τεῦξεν κακὸν ἀνθρώποισιν·
at-once and in-return-for fire he-made evil for-men
γαίης γὰρ σύμπλασσε περικλυτὸς Ἀμφιγυήεις
from-earth for molded the-very-famous Lame-one
παρθένῳ αἰδοίῃ ἴκελον Κρονίδεω διὰ βουλάς.
to-a-maiden modest like of-the-son-of-Cronus through the-counsels
ζῶσε δὲ καὶ κόσμησε θεὰ γλαυκῶπις Ἀθήνη
girded and also adorned the-goddess flashing-eyed Athena
ἀργυφέῃ ἐσθῆτι· κατὰ κρῆθεν δὲ καλύπτρην
with-silvery garment down from-the-head and a-veil
δαιδαλέην χείρεσσι κατέσχεθε, θαῦμα ἰδέσθαι·
richly-wrought with-hands she-hung a-marvel to-see
ἀμφὶ δέ οἱ στεφάνην χρυσέην κεφαλῆφιν ἔθηκε,
around and her crown golden on-head she-set
τὴν αὐτὸς ποίησε περικλυτὸς Ἀμφιγυήεις
which himself made the-very-famous Lame-one
ἀσκήσας παλάμῃσι, χαριζόμενος Διὶ πατρί.
working-it with-palms pleasing Zeus father
τῇ δ' ἐνὶ δαίδαλα πολλὰ τετεύχατο, θαῦμα ἰδέσθαι,
it and in figures many were-wrought a-marvel to-see
κνώδαλ', ὅσ' ἤπειρος πολλὰ τρέφει ἠδὲ θάλασσα,
beasts as-many-as the-land many nourishes and the-sea
τῶν ὅ γε πόλλ' ἐνέθηκε, — χάρις δ' ἀπελάμπετο πολλή, —
of-them he indeed many set-in grace and shone-out much
θαυμάσια, ζῴοισιν ἐοικότα φωνήεσσιν.
wonderful to-living-things like voiced

Αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ δὴ τεῦξε καλὸν κακὸν ἀντ᾽ ἀγαθοῖο.
but when indeed he-had-made fair evil in-return-for good
ἐξάγαγ᾽, ἔνθα περ ἄλλοι ἔσαν θεοὶ ἠδ᾽ ἄνθρωποι,
he-led-out where indeed the-others were gods and men
κόσμῳ ἀγαλλομένην γλαυκώπιδος ὀβριμοπάτρης.
in-the-finery delighting of-the-flashing-eyed daughter-of-a-mighty-father
θαῦμα δ᾽ ἔχ᾽ ἀθανάτους τε θεοὺς θνητούς τ᾽ ἀνθρώπους,
wonder and held immortal both gods mortal and men
ὡς εἶδον δόλον αἰπύν, ἀμήχανον ἀνθρώποισιν.
when they-saw the-trick sheer irresistible for-men
Ἐκ τῆς γὰρ γένος ἐστὶ γυναικῶν θηλυτεράων,
from her for the-race is of-women female
πῆμα μέγ᾽ αἳ θνητοῖσι μετ᾽ ἀνδράσι ναιετάουσιν
a-bane great who mortal among men dwell
οὐλομένης πενίης οὐ σύμφοροι, ἀλλὰ κόροιο.
of-baneful poverty not helpmates but of-surfeit
ὡς δ᾽ ὁπότ᾽ ἐν σμήνεσσι κατηρεφέεσσι μέλισσαι
as and when in hives roofed-over bees
κηφῆνας βόσκωσι, κακῶν ξυνήονας ἔργων —
drones feed of-evil partners deeds
αἳ μέν τε πρόπαν ἦμαρ ἐς ἠέλιον καταδύντα
they indeed — the-whole day until the-sun setting
ἠμάτιαι σπεύδουσι τιθεῖσί τε κηρία λευκά,
all-day hasten set and combs white

οἳ δ' ἔντοσθε μένοντες ἐπηρεφέας κατὰ σίμβλους
they and within remaining roofed in hives
ἀλλότριον κάματον σφετέρην ἐς γαστέρ' ἀμῶνται —
of-others the-toil their-own into belly reap
ὣς δ' αὔτως ἄνδρεσσι κακὸν θνητοῖσι γυναῖκας
so and likewise for-men an-evil mortal women
Ζεὺς ὑψιβρεμέτης θῆκεν, ξυνήονας ἔργων
Zeus thundering-on-high made partners of-deeds
ἀργαλέων· ἕτερον δὲ πόρεν κακὸν ἀντ' ἀγαθοῖο·
grievous another and he-gave evil in-return-for good
ὅς κε γάμον φεύγων καὶ μέρμερα ἔργα γυναικῶν
who — marriage fleeing and the-troublesome deeds of-women
μὴ γῆμαι ἐθέλῃ, ὀλοὸν δ' ἐπὶ γῆρας ἵκοιτο
not to-marry wishes baneful and to old-age comes
χήτεϊ γηροκόμοιο· ὅ γ' οὐ βιότου ἐπιδευὴς
for-want of-one-to-tend-his-age he indeed not of-livelihood lacking
ζώει, ἀποφθιμένου δὲ διὰ κτῆσιν δατέονται
lives when-he-has-died and among the-property divide
χηρωσταί· ᾧ δ' αὖτε γάμου μετὰ μοῖρα γένηται,
distant-kin to-whom but in-turn of-marriage among the-lot comes
κεδνὴν δ' ἔσχεν ἄκοιτιν ἀρηρυῖαν πραπίδεσσι,
a-cherished and he-has wife fitted in-mind
τῷ δέ τ' ἀπ' αἰῶνος κακὸν ἐσθλῷ ἀντιφερίζει
for-him and — from life evil with-good contends
ἐμμενές· ὃς δέ κε τέτμῃ ἀταρτηροῖο γενέθλης,
continually who but — meets of-the-mischievous breed
ζώει ἐνὶ στήθεσσιν ἔχων ἀλίαστον ἀνίην
lives in breast having unceasing grief
θυμῷ καὶ κραδίῃ, καὶ ἀνήκεστον κακόν ἐστιν.
in-spirit and in-heart and incurable the-evil is

Ὣς οὐκ ἔστι Διὸς κλέψαι νόον οὐδὲ παρελθεῖν.
so not it-is-possible of-Zeus to-cheat the-mind nor to-pass-by
οὐδὲ γὰρ Ἰαπετιονίδης ἀκάκητα Προμηθεὺς
not-even for the-son-of-Iapetus guileless Prometheus
τοῖό γ' ὑπεξήλυξε βαρὺν χόλον, ἀλλ' ὑπ' ἀνάγκης
his indeed escaped heavy wrath but by necessity
καὶ πολύιδριν ἐόντα μέγας κατὰ δεσμὸς ἐρύκει.
even very-wise being great down bond holds

XII · THE HUNDRED-HANDERS JOIN ZEUS

Heaven had bound Briareus, Cottus, and Gyes under the earth. For ten years the Titans on Othrys and the gods on Olympus fight without end, until, on Earth's advice, Zeus and the gods bring the Hundred-Handers up. Zeus feeds them nectar and ambrosia and asks for their help, and Cottus pledges it in gratitude. The Hundred-Handers take their stand with huge rocks, the sea roars, the earth crashes, and Olympus shakes from its base.

Βριάρεῳ δ' ὡς πρῶτα πατὴρ ὠδύσσατο θυμῷ
with-Briareus and when first the-father was-angered in-heart
Κόττῳ τ' ἠδὲ Γύῃ, δῆσεν κρατερῷ ἐνὶ δεσμῷ
Cottus and and Gyes he-bound mighty in bond
ἠνορέην ὑπέροπλον ἀγώμενος ἠδὲ καὶ εἶδος
manhood overweening envying and also form
καὶ μέγεθος· κατένασσε δ' ὑπὸ χθονὸς εὐρυοδείης.
and stature he-settled and under the-earth wide-wayed
ἔνθ' οἵ γ' ἄλγε' ἔχοντες ὑπὸ χθονὶ ναιετάοντες
there they indeed pains having under earth dwelling
εἵατ' ἐπ' ἐσχατιῇ, μεγάλης ἐν πείρασι γαίης,
sat at the-edge of-the-great in bounds of-earth

δηθὰ μάλ᾽ ἀχνύμενοι, κραδίῃ μέγα πένθος ἔχοντες.
long very grieving in-heart great grief having
ἀλλά σφεας Κρονίδης τε καὶ ἀθάνατοι θεοὶ ἄλλοι,
but them the-son-of-Cronus both and immortal gods other
οὓς τέκεν ἠύκομος Ῥείη Κρόνου ἐν φιλότητι,
whom bore lovely-haired Rhea of-Cronus in love
Γαίης φραδμοσύνῃσιν ἀνήγαγον ἐς φάος αὖτις·
of-Earth by-the-counsels brought-up to light again
αὐτὴ γάρ σφιν ἅπαντα διηνεκέως κατέλεξε
she-herself for to-them all-things at-length recounted
σὺν κείνοις νίκην τε καὶ ἀγλαὸν εὖχος ἀρέσθαι.
with them victory both and glorious boast to-win
δηρὸν γὰρ μάρναντο πόνον θυμαλγέ᾽ ἔχοντες
long for they-fought toil heart-grieving having
Τιτῆνές τε θεοὶ καὶ ὅσοι Κρόνου ἐξεγένοντο,
the-Titan both gods and as-many-as from-Cronus were-born
ἀντίον ἀλλήλοισι διὰ κρατερὰς ὑσμίνας,
facing each-other through mighty combats
οἳ μὲν ἀφ᾽ ὑψηλῆς Ὄθρυος Τιτῆνες ἀγαυοί,
they indeed from lofty Othrys the-Titans proud
οἳ δ᾽ ἄρ᾽ ἀπ᾽ Οὐλύμποιο θεοί, δωτῆρες ἐάων,
they and then from Olympus gods givers of-good-things
οὓς τέκεν ἠύκομος Ῥείη Κρόνῳ εὐνηθεῖσα.
whom bore lovely-haired Rhea with-Cronus having-lain
οἵ ῥα τότ᾽ ἀλλήλοισι χόλον θυμαλγέ᾽ ἔχοντες
they then then with-each-other wrath heart-grieving having
συνεχέως ἐμάχοντο δέκα πλείους ἐνιαυτούς·
continually fought ten full years

οὐδέ τις ἦν ἔριδος χαλεπῆς λύσις οὐδὲ τελευτὴ
nor any was of-strife harsh loosing nor end
οὐδετέροις, ἶσον δὲ τέλος τέτατο πτολέμοιο.
for-neither equal and the-end was-stretched of-the-war
ἀλλ᾽ ὅτε δὴ κείνοισι παρέσχεθεν ἅρμενα πάντα,
but when indeed to-them he-provided fitting all-things
νέκταρ τ᾽ ἀμβροσίην τε, τά περ θεοὶ αὐτοὶ ἔδουσι,
nectar both ambrosia and which indeed the-gods themselves eat
πάντων ἐν στήθεσσιν ἀέξετο θυμὸς ἀγήνωρ.
of-all in breasts grew heart proud
ὡς νέκταρ τ᾽ ἐπάσαντο καὶ ἀμβροσίην ἐρατεινήν,
when nectar and they-tasted and ambrosia lovely
δὴ τότε τοῖς μετέειπε πατὴρ ἀνδρῶν τε θεῶν τε·
indeed then among-them spoke the-father of-men both of-gods and
Κέκλυτε μευ, Γαίης τε καὶ Οὐρανοῦ ἀγλαὰ τέκνα,
hear me of-Earth both and Heaven glorious children
ὄφρ᾽ εἴπω, τά με θυμὸς ἐνὶ στήθεσσι κελεύει.
so-that I-may-say what me heart in breast bids
ἤδη γὰρ μάλα δηρὸν ἐναντίοι ἀλλήλοισι
already for very long opposed to-each-other
νίκης καὶ κράτεος πέρι μαρνάμεθ᾽ ἤματα πάντα
victory and power about we-fight days all
Τιτῆνές τε θεοὶ καὶ ὅσοι Κρόνου ἐκγενόμεσθα.
the-Titan both gods and as-many-as from-Cronus we-were-born

ὑμεῖς δὲ μεγάλην τε βίην καὶ χεῖρας ἀάπτους
you and great both might and hands invincible
φαίνετε Τιτήνεσσιν ἐναντίοι ἐν δαΐ λυγρῇ
show to-the-Titans opposed in battle woeful
μνησάμενοι φιλότητος ἐνηέος, ὅσσα παθόντες
remembering friendship kind how-many-things having-suffered
ἐς φάος ἂψ ἀφίκεσθε δυσηλεγέος ὑπὸ δεσμοῦ
to light back you-came grievous from-under bond
ἡμετέρας διὰ βουλὰς ὑπὸ ζόφου ἠερόεντος.
our through counsels from-under gloom murky
Ὣς φάτο· τὸν δ' ἐξαῦτις ἀμείβετο Κόττος ἀμύμων·
so he-spoke him and in-reply answered Cottus blameless
Δαιμόνι', οὐκ ἀδάητα πιφαύσκεαι· ἀλλὰ καὶ αὐτοὶ
strange-one not unknown-things you-declare but also ourselves
ἴδμεν, ὅ τοι περὶ μὲν πραπίδες, περὶ δ' ἐστὶ νόημα,
know that to-you beyond indeed wits beyond and is understanding
ἀλκτὴρ δ' ἀθανάτοισιν ἀρῆς γένεο κρυεροῖο.
a-defender and for-the-immortals of-ruin you-became chill
σῇσι δ' ἐπιφροσύνῃσιν ὑπὸ ζόφου ἠερόεντος
by-your and devising from-under gloom murky
ἄψορρον δ' ἐξαῦτις ἀμειλίκτων ὑπὸ δεσμῶν
back and again relentless from-under bonds
ἠλύθομεν, Κρόνου υἱὲ ἄναξ, ἀνάελπτα παθόντες.
we-came of-Cronus son lord unhoped-for-things having-suffered
τῷ καὶ νῦν ἀτενεῖ τε νόῳ καὶ ἐπίφρονι βουλῇ
therefore even now with-intent both mind and prudent counsel
ῥυσόμεθα κράτος ὑμὸν ἐν αἰνῇ δηϊοτῆτι
we-will-defend power your in dread battle
μαρνάμενοι Τιτῆσιν ἀνὰ κρατερὰς ὑσμίνας.
fighting the-Titans through mighty combats

Ὣς φάτ᾽· ἐπῄνεσσαν δὲ θεοί, δωτῆρες ἐάων,
so he-spoke praised and the-gods givers of-good-things
μῦθον ἀκούσαντες· πολέμου δ᾽ ἐλιλαίετο θυμὸς
the-word having-heard for-war and longed the-heart
μᾶλλον ἔτ᾽ ἢ τὸ πάροιθε· μάχην δ᾽ ἀμέγαρτον ἔγειραν
more still than the before battle and unenviable they-roused
πάντες, θήλειαί τε καὶ ἄρσενες, ἦματι κείνῳ,
all female both and male on-day that
Τιτῆνές τε θεοὶ καὶ ὅσοι Κρόνου ἐξεγένοντο,
the-Titan both gods and as-many-as from-Cronus were-born
οὕς τε Ζεὺς Ἐρέβευσφιν ὑπὸ χθονὸς ἧκε φόωσδε
whom and Zeus out-of-Erebus under earth sent to-the-light
δεινοί τε κρατεροί τε, βίην ὑπέροπλον ἔχοντες.
terrible both mighty and might overweening having
τῶν ἑκατὸν μὲν χεῖρες ἀπ᾽ ὤμων ἀίσσοντο
of-them a-hundred indeed arms from shoulders sprang
πᾶσιν ὁμῶς, κεφαλαὶ δὲ ἑκάστῳ πεντήκοντα
for-all alike heads and to-each fifty
ἐξ ὤμων ἐπέφυκον ἐπὶ στιβαροῖσι μέλεσσιν.
from shoulders grew upon stout limbs
οἳ τότε Τιτήνεσσι κατέσταθεν ἐν δαΐ λυγρῇ
they then against-the-Titans were-set in battle woeful
πέτρας ἠλιβάτους στιβαρῇς ἐν χερσὶν ἔχοντες.
rocks steep stout in hands holding
Τιτῆνες δ᾽ ἑτέρωθεν ἐκαρτύναντο φάλαγγας
the-Titans and on-the-other-side strengthened their-ranks
προφρονέως, χειρῶν τε βίης θ᾽ ἅμα ἔργον ἔφαινον
eagerly of-hands both of-might and at-once work showed
ἀμφότεροι· δεινὸν δὲ περίαχε πόντος ἀπείρων,
both terribly and resounded the-sea boundless

γῆ δὲ μέγ' ἐσμαράγησεν, ἐπέστενε δ' οὐρανὸς εὐρὺς
the-earth and greatly crashed groaned and heaven wide
σειόμενος, πεδόθεν δὲ τινάσσετο μακρὸς Ὄλυμπος
shaken from-its-base and was-shaken high Olympus
ῥιπῇ ὕπ' ἀθανάτων, ἔνοσις δ' ἵκανε βαρεῖα
at-the-rush under of-the-immortals a-quaking and reached heavy
Τάρταρον ἠερόεντα, ποδῶν τ' αἰπεῖα ἰωὴ
Tartarus misty of-feet and the-steep sound
ἀσπέτου ἰωχμοῖο βολάων τε κρατεράων·
of-unspeakable rout of-casts and mighty
ὣς ἄρ' ἐπ' ἀλλήλοις ἵεσαν βέλεα στονόεντα.
so then against each-other they-hurled shafts grievous
φωνὴ δ' ἀμφοτέρων ἵκετ' οὐρανὸν ἀστερόεντα
the-voice and of-both reached heaven starry
κεκλομένων· οἳ δὲ ξύνισαν μεγάλῳ ἀλαλητῷ.
as-they-shouted they and came-together with-great war-cry

Zeus hurls his lightning without pause, setting the earth and the sea ablaze. Cottus, Briareus, and Gyes overwhelm the Titans, who are bound under the earth. Tartarus lies as far below the earth as heaven is above it: a bronze anvil would fall nine days to reach it. The Hundred-Handers guard its gates.

Οὐδ᾽ ἄρ᾽ ἔτι Ζεὺς ἴσχεν ἑὸν μένος, ἀλλά νυ τοῦ γε
nor then any-longer Zeus held-back his strength but now his indeed
εἶθαρ μὲν μένεος πλῆντο φρένες, ἐκ δέ τε πᾶσαν
at-once indeed with-strength were-filled the-wits out and — all
φαῖνε βίην· ἅμυδις δ᾽ ἄρ᾽ ἀπ᾽ οὐρανοῦ ἠδ᾽ ἀπ᾽ Ὀλύμπου
he-showed might together and then from heaven and from Olympus
690 ἀστράπτων ἔστειχε συνωχαδόν· οἱ δὲ κεραυνοὶ
lightening he-went continually they and the-thunderbolts
ἴκταρ ἅμα βροντῇ τε καὶ ἀστεροπῇ ποτέοντο
thick together-with thunder both and lightning flew
χειρὸς ἄπο στιβαρῆς, ἱερὴν φλόγα εἰλυφόωντες
hand from stout holy flame rolling
ταρφέες· ἀμφὶ δὲ γαῖα φερέσβιος ἐσμαράγιζε
thick-and-fast around and earth life-giving crashed
καιομένη, λάκε δ᾽ ἀμφὶ πυρὶ μεγάλ᾽ ἄσπετος ὕλη.
burning crackled and around with-fire greatly boundless wood

ἔζεε δὲ χθὼν πᾶσα καὶ Ὠκεανοῖο ῥέεθρα
boiled and earth all and of-Ocean the-streams
πόντος τ' ἀτρύγετος· τοὺς δ' ἄμφεπε θερμὸς ἀυτμὴ
sea and barren them and enveloped hot breath
Τιτῆνας χθονίους, φλὸξ δ' αἰθέρα δῖαν ἵκανεν
the-Titans earth-born flame and the-air bright reached
ἄσπετος, ὄσσε δ' ἄμερδε καὶ ἰφθίμων περ ἐόντων
boundless the-eyes and blinded even of-mighty though being
αὐγὴ μαρμαίρουσα κεραυνοῦ τε στεροπῆς τε.
the-glare flashing of-thunderbolt both of-lightning and
καῦμα δὲ θεσπέσιον κάτεχεν Χάος· εἴσατο δ' ἄντα
heat and wondrous seized Chaos it-seemed and face-to-face
ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἰδεῖν ἠδ' οὔασι ὄσσαν ἀκοῦσαι
with-eyes to-see and with-ears the-sound to-hear
αὔτως, ὡς εἰ Γαῖα καὶ Οὐρανὸς εὐρὺς ὕπερθε
just as if Earth and Heaven wide above
πίλνατο· τοῖος γάρ κε μέγας ὑπὸ δοῦπος ὀρώρει
were-coming-together such for — great under a-crash arose
τῆς μὲν ἐρειπομένης, τοῦ δ' ὑψόθεν ἐξεριπόντος·
she indeed being-dashed-down he and from-on-high dashing-down
τόσσος δοῦπος ἔγεντο θεῶν ἔριδι ξυνιόντων.
so-great a-crash arose of-the-gods in-strife meeting
σὺν δ' ἄνεμοι ἔνοσίν τε κονίην τ' ἐσφαράγιζον
together and the-winds quaking both dust and stirred
βροντήν τε στεροπήν τε καὶ αἰθαλόεντα κεραυνόν,
thunder both lightning — and blazing thunderbolt

κῆλα Διὸς μεγάλοιο, φέρον δ' ἰαχήν τ' ἐνοπήν τε
the-shafts of-Zeus great bore and shout both cry and
ἐς μέσον ἀμφοτέρων· ὄτοβος δ' ἄπλητος ὀρώρει
into middle of-both a-din and terrible arose
σμερδαλέης ἔριδος, κάρτος δ' ἀνεφαίνετο ἔργων.
of-dreadful strife the-might and was-shown of-deeds
ἐκλίνθη δὲ μάχη· πρὶν δ' ἀλλήλοις ἐπέχοντες
was-turned and the-battle before and at-each-other pressing
ἐμμενέως ἐμάχοντο διὰ κρατερὰς ὑσμίνας.
steadfastly they-fought through mighty combats
Οἳ δ' ἄρ' ἐνὶ πρώτοισι μάχην δριμεῖαν ἔγειραν
they and then among the-foremost battle bitter roused
Κόττος τε Βριάρεώς τε Γύης τ' ἄατος πολέμοιο,
Cottus both Briareus and Gyes and insatiate of-war
οἵ ῥα τριηκοσίας πέτρας στιβαρῶν ἀπὸ χειρῶν
who then three-hundred rocks stout from hands
πέμπον ἐπασσυτέρας, κατὰ δ' ἐσκίασαν βελέεσσι
sent one-upon-another down and shadowed with-missiles
Τιτῆνας, καὶ τοὺς μὲν ὑπὸ χθονὸς εὐρυοδείης
the-Titans and them indeed under earth wide-wayed
πέμψαν καὶ δεσμοῖσιν ἐν ἀργαλέοισιν ἔδησαν
sent and bonds in grievous bound
χερσὶν νικήσαντες ὑπερθύμους περ ἐόντας,
with-hands having-conquered overweening though being
τόσσον ἔνερθ' ὑπὸ γῆς, ὅσον οὐρανός ἐστ' ἀπὸ γαίης·
so-far beneath under earth as heaven is from earth
τόσσον γάρ τ' ἀπὸ γῆς ἐς Τάρταρον ἠερόεντα.
so-far for — from earth to Tartarus misty

ἐννέα γὰρ νύκτας τε καὶ ἤματα χάλκεος ἄκμων
nine for nights both and days a-bronze anvil
οὐρανόθεν κατιὼν δεκάτῃ κ' ἐς γαῖαν ἵκοιτο·
from-heaven coming-down on-the-tenth — to earth would-come
ἐννέα δ' αὖ νύκτας τε καὶ ἤματα χάλκεος ἄκμων
nine and in-turn nights both and days a-bronze anvil
ἐκ γαίης κατιὼν δεκάτῃ κ' ἐς Τάρταρον ἵκοι.
from earth coming-down on-the-tenth — to Tartarus would-come
τὸν πέρι χάλκεον ἕρκος ἐλήλαται· ἀμφὶ δέ μιν νὺξ
it around a-bronze fence is-drawn around and it night
τριστοιχεὶ κέχυται περὶ δειρήν· αὐτὰρ ὕπερθεν
in-three-rows is-poured about neck but above
γῆς ῥίζαι πεφύασι καὶ ἀτρυγέτοιο θαλάσσης.
of-earth the-roots grow and of-barren sea
ἔνθα θεοὶ Τιτῆνες ὑπὸ ζόφῳ ἠερόεντι
there the-gods Titans under gloom murky
κεκρύφαται βουλῇσι Διὸς νεφεληγερέταο
are-hidden by-the-counsels of-Zeus cloud-gatherer
χώρῳ ἐν εὐρώεντι, πελώρης ἔσχατα γαίης.
place in dank of-huge the-ends of-earth
τοῖς οὐκ ἐξιτόν ἐστι. θύρας δ' ἐπέθηκε Ποσειδέων
for-them not way-out is gates and set Poseidon
χαλκείας, τεῖχος δὲ περοίχεται ἀμφοτέρωθεν.
bronze a-wall and runs-around on-both-sides
ἔνθα Γύης Κόττος τε καὶ Ὀβριάρεως μεγάθυμος
there Gyes Cottus and and Obriareus great-hearted
ναίουσιν, φύλακες πιστοὶ Διὸς αἰγιόχοιο.
dwell guards faithful of-Zeus aegis-bearing

In the vast chasm, a horror even to the gods, lie the sources and ends of earth, Tartarus, sea, and sky. There Atlas holds up heaven by the bronze threshold of Night and Day, and Sleep and Death have their homes. Hades' house stands in front, its dog letting all in and none out. There lives Styx, the gods' great oath: a god forsworn by her water lies breathless a year and is barred from the gods nine more. The Titans dwell beyond Chaos, Cottus and Gyes by Ocean, and Briareus weds Poseidon's daughter Cymopolea.

Ἔνθα δὲ γῆς δνοφερῆς καὶ Ταρτάρου ἠερόεντος
there and of-earth dark and of-Tartarus misty
πόντου τ' ἀτρυγέτοιο καὶ οὐρανοῦ ἀστερόεντος
of-sea and barren and of-heaven starry
ἐξείης πάντων πηγαὶ καὶ πείρατ' ἔασιν
in-order of-all the-sources and the-ends are
ἀργαλέ' εὐρώεντα, τά τε στυγέουσι θεοί περ,
grievous dank which — hate the-gods though
χάσμα μέγ', οὐδέ κε πάντα τελεσφόρον εἰς ἐνιαυτὸν
a-chasm great nor — all accomplished in year
οὖδας ἵκοιτ', εἰ πρῶτα πυλέων ἔντοσθε γένοιτο,
the-floor would-one-reach if first the-gates within be-came
ἀλλά κεν ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα φέροι πρὸ θύελλα θυέλλῃ
but — this-way and that would-carry forward blast upon-blast
ἀργαλέη· δεινὸν δὲ καὶ ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσι
grievous terrible and even to-immortal gods
τοῦτο τέρας. Νυκτὸς δ' ἐρεβεννῆς οἰκία δεινὰ
this portent of-Night and dark the-house dread
ἕστηκεν νεφέλῃς κεκαλυμμένα κυανέῃσιν.
stands with-clouds veiled dark

τῶν πρόσθ' Ἰαπετοῖο πάις ἔχει οὐρανὸν εὐρὺν
which in-front-of of-Iapetus the-son holds heaven wide
ἑστηὼς κεφαλῇ τε καὶ ἀκαμάτῃσι χέρεσσιν
standing with-head both and tireless hands
ἀστεμφέως, ὅθι Νύξ τε καὶ Ἡμέρη ἆσσον ἰοῦσαι
unshaken where Night both and Day near coming
ἀλλήλας προσέειπον, ἀμειβόμεναι μέγαν οὐδὸν
each-other greet passing great threshold
χάλκεον· ἢ μὲν ἔσω καταβήσεται, ἢ δὲ θύραζε
bronze she indeed inside will-go-down she and out-of-doors
ἔρχεται, οὐδέ ποτ' ἀμφοτέρας δόμος ἐντὸς ἐέργει,
goes nor ever both the-house within holds
ἀλλ' αἰεὶ ἑτέρη γε δόμων ἔκτοσθεν ἐοῦσα
but always the-one indeed the-house outside being
γαῖαν ἐπιστρέφεται, ἢ δ' αὖ δόμου ἐντὸς ἐοῦσα
the-earth goes-over she and in-turn the-house within being
μίμνει τὴν αὐτῆς ὥρην ὁδοῦ, ἔστ' ἂν ἵκηται,
waits the her-own hour of-journey until — it-comes
ἢ μὲν ἐπιχθονίοισι φάος πολυδερκὲς ἔχουσα,
she indeed for-the-earthly light all-seeing having
ἢ δ' Ὕπνον μετὰ χερσί, κασίγνητον Θανάτοιο.
she and Sleep in hands brother of-Death
Νὺξ ὀλοή, νεφέλῃ κεκαλυμμένη ἠεροειδεῖ.
Night baneful in-cloud veiled misty

Ἔνθα δὲ Νυκτὸς παῖδες ἐρεμνῆς οἰκί᾽ ἔχουσιν,
there and of-Night the-children dark houses have
Ὕπνος καὶ Θάνατος, δεινοὶ θεοί· οὐδέ ποτ᾽ αὐτοὺς
sleep and Death dread gods nor ever them
Ἠέλιος φαέθων ἐπιδέρκεται ἀκτίνεσσιν
the-Sun shining looks-upon with-rays
οὐρανὸν εἰς ἀνιὼν οὐδ᾽ οὐρανόθεν καταβαίνων.
heaven into going-up nor from-heaven coming-down
τῶν δ᾽ ἕτερος γαῖάν τε καὶ εὐρέα νῶτα θαλάσσης
of-them and the-one the-earth both and broad the-backs of-the-sea
ἥσυχος ἀνστρέφεται καὶ μείλιχος ἀνθρώποισι,
quiet roams and gentle to-men
τοῦ δὲ σιδηρέη μὲν κραδίη, χάλκεον δέ οἱ ἦτορ
of-the-other but of-iron indeed the-heart bronze and his spirit
νηλεὲς ἐν στήθεσσιν· ἔχει δ᾽ ὃν πρῶτα λάβῃσιν
pitiless in breast he-holds and whom first he-seizes
ἀνθρώπων· ἐχθρὸς δὲ καὶ ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσιν.
of-men hateful and even to-immortal gods
Ἔνθα θεοῦ χθονίου πρόσθεν δόμοι ἠχήεντες
there of-the-god of-the-underworld in-front the-houses echoing
ἰφθίμου τ᾽ Ἀΐδεω καὶ ἐπαινῆς Περσεφονείης
of-mighty both Hades and of-dread Persephone
ἑστᾶσιν, δεινὸς δὲ κύων προπάροιθε φυλάσσει
stand terrible and a-dog in-front keeps-guard
νηλειής, τέχνην δὲ κακὴν ἔχει· ἐς μὲν ἰόντας
pitiless a-trick and evil he-has to indeed those-going
σαίνει ὁμῶς οὐρῇ τε καὶ οὔασιν ἀμφοτέροισιν,
he-fawns alike with-tail both and with-ears both

ἐξελθεῖν δ᾽ οὐκ αὖτις ἐᾷ πάλιν, ἀλλὰ δοκεύων
to-go-out but not again he-allows back but watching
ἐσθίει, ὅν κε λάβῃσι πυλέων ἔκτοσθεν ἰόντα.
he-eats whom — he-catches of-the-gates outside going
Ἔνθα δὲ ναιετάει στυγερὴ θεὸς ἀθανάτοισι,
there and dwells hateful a-goddess to-the-immortals
δεινὴ Στύξ, θυγάτηρ ἀψορρόου Ὠκεανοῖο
dread Styx daughter of-back-flowing Ocean
πρεσβυτάτη· νόσφιν δὲ θεῶν κλυτὰ δώματα ναίει
eldest apart-from and the-gods glorious house she-dwells-in
μακρῇσιν πέτρῃσι κατηρεφέ᾽· ἀμφὶ δὲ πάντη
with-long rocks roofed around and everywhere
κίοσιν ἀργυρέοισι πρὸς οὐρανὸν ἐστήρικται.
with-pillars silver to heaven is-fixed
παῦρα δὲ Θαύμαντος θυγάτηρ πόδας ὠκέα Ἶρις
rarely and of-Thaumas the-daughter in-feet swift Iris
ἀγγελίην πωλεῖται ἐπ᾽ εὐρέα νῶτα θαλάσσης.
with-a-message goes over the-broad backs of-the-sea
ὁππότ᾽ ἔρις καὶ νεῖκος ἐν ἀθανάτοισιν ὄρηται
when strife and quarrel among the-immortals arises
καί ῥ᾽ ὅστις ψεύδηται Ὀλύμπια δώματ᾽ ἐχόντων,
and then whoever lies Olympian houses of-those-who-have

Ζεὺς δέ τε Ἶριν ἔπεμψε θεῶν μέγαν ὅρκον ἐνεῖκαι
Zeus and — Iris sends of-the-gods the-great oath to-bring
τηλόθεν ἐν χρυσέῃ προχόῳ πολυώνυμον ὕδωρ
from-afar in golden jug the-much-named water
ψυχρόν, ὅτ᾽ ἐκ πέτρης καταλείβεται ἠλιβάτοιο
cold which from rock trickles sheer
ὑψηλῆς· πολλὸν δὲ ὑπὸ χθονὸς εὐρυοδείης
high much and beneath earth wide-wayed
ἐξ ἱεροῦ ποταμοῖο ῥέει διὰ νύκτα μέλαιναν
from holy river flows through night black
Ὠκεανοῖο κέρας· δεκάτη δ᾽ ἐπὶ μοῖρα δέδασται·
of-Ocean a-branch a-tenth and for-it portion is-allotted
ἐννέα μὲν περὶ γῆν τε καὶ εὐρέα νῶτα θαλάσσης
nine indeed around earth both and broad the-backs of-the-sea
δίνῃς ἀργυρέῃς εἰλιγμένος εἰς ἅλα πίπτει,
with-eddies silver winding into the-sea falls
ἥ δὲ μί᾽ ἐκ πέτρης προρέει μέγα πῆμα θεοῖσιν.
the-one and one from rock flows-forth a-great bane to-the-gods
ὅς κεν τὴν ἐπίορκον ἀπολλείψας ἐπομόσσῃ
who — it falsely pouring swears
ἀθανάτων, οἳ ἔχουσι κάρη νιφόεντος Ὀλύμπου,
of-the-immortals who hold the-head of-snowy Olympus
κεῖται νήυτμος τετελεσμένον εἰς ἐνιαυτόν·
lies breathless accomplished for a-year
οὐδέ ποτ᾽ ἀμβροσίης καὶ νέκταρος ἔρχεται ἆσσον
nor ever of-ambrosia and nectar comes near
βρώσιος, ἀλλά τε κεῖται ἀνάπνευστος καὶ ἄναυδος
food but — lies without-breath and without-voice
στρωτοῖς ἐν λεχέεσσι, κακὸν δέ ἑ κῶμα καλύπτει.
spread on couches evil and him coma covers

αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ νοῦσον τελέσῃ μέγαν εἰς ἐνιαυτόν,
but when the-sickness he-ends great for year
ἄλλος γ' ἐξ ἄλλου δέχεται χαλεπώτερος ἄεθλος.
another indeed from another receives harder trial
εἰνάετες δὲ θεῶν ἀπαμείρεται αἰὲν ἐόντων,
for-nine-years and from-the-gods he-is-cut-off always being
οὐδέ ποτ' ἐς βουλὴν ἐπιμίσγεται οὐδ' ἐπὶ δαῖτας
nor ever into council mingles nor to feasts
ἐννέα πάντα ἔτεα· δεκάτῳ δ' ἐπιμίσγεται αὖτις
nine full years in-the-tenth and he-mingles again
εἴρας ἐς ἀθανάτων, οἳ Ὀλύμπια δώματ' ἔχουσιν.
the-assemblies in of-the-immortals who Olympian houses have
τοῖον ἄρ' ὅρκον ἔθεντο θεοὶ Στυγὸς ἄφθιτον ὕδωρ
such then an-oath made the-gods of-Styx imperishable water
ὠγύγιον, τὸ δ' ἵησι καταστυφέλου διὰ χώρου.
primeval it and sends-forth rugged through place
Ἔνθα δὲ γῆς δνοφερῆς καὶ Ταρτάρου ἠερόεντος
there and of-earth dark and of-Tartarus misty
πόντου τ' ἀτρυγέτοιο καὶ οὐρανοῦ ἀστερόεντος
of-sea and barren and of-heaven starry
ἑξείης πάντων πηγαὶ καὶ πείρατ' ἔασιν
in-order of-all the-sources and the-ends are
ἀργαλέ' εὐρώεντα, τά τε στυγέουσι θεοί περ.
grievous dank which — hate the-gods though
ἔνθα δὲ μαρμάρεαί τε πύλαι καὶ χάλκεος οὐδὸς
there and marble both gates and bronze threshold
ἀστεμφής, ῥίζῃσι διηνεκέεσσιν ἀρηρώς,
unshaken with-roots continuous fitted

αὐτοφυής· πρόσθεν δὲ θεῶν ἔκτοσθεν ἁπάντων
self-grown in-front and of-the-gods outside of-all
Τιτῆνες ναίουσι, πέρην Χάεος ζοφεροῖο.
the-Titans dwell beyond Chaos gloomy
αὐτὰρ ἐρισμαράγοιο Διὸς κλειτοὶ ἐπίκουροι
but of-loud-thundering Zeus famous allies
δώματα ναιετάουσιν ἐπ' Ὠκεανοῖο θεμέθλοις,
houses dwell-in on of-Ocean the-foundations
Κόττος τ' ἠδὲ Γύης· Βριάρεών γε μὲν ἠὺν ἐόντα
Cottus and and Gyes Briareus indeed indeed good being
γαμβρὸν ἑὸν ποίησε βαρύκτυπος Ἐννοσίγαιος,
son-in-law his made loud-thundering Earth-shaker
δῶκε δὲ Κυμοπόλειαν ὀπυίειν, θυγατέρα ἥν.
gave and Cymopolea to-marry daughter his

XV · TYPHOEUS

After Zeus drives the Titans from heaven, Earth, lying with Tartarus, bears Typhoeus. A hundred snake heads with flickering tongues and blazing eyes grow from his shoulders and speak with every kind of voice. He would have ruled gods and men had Zeus not seen him. Zeus thunders, and earth, sea, and Tartarus quake. He leaps from Olympus and burns all the heads, and the earth melts like tin in a furnace. He casts Typhoeus into Tartarus, and from him come the ruinous winds that wreck ships and spoil fields.

Αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ Τιτῆνας ἀπ' οὐρανοῦ ἐξέλασεν Ζεύς,
but when the-Titans from heaven drove Zeus
ὁπλότατον τέκε παῖδα Τυφωέα Γαῖα πελώρη
youngest bore child Typhoeus Earth huge
Ταρτάρου ἐν φιλότητι διὰ χρυσέην Ἀφροδίτην·
of-Tartarus in love through golden Aphrodite

οὗ χεῖρες μὲν ἔασιν ἐπ᾽ ἰσχύι, ἔργματ᾽ ἔχουσαι,
whose hands indeed are for strength deeds having
καὶ πόδες ἀκάματοι κρατεροῦ θεοῦ· ἐκ δέ οἱ ὤμων
and feet untiring of-the-mighty god from and his shoulders
ἦν ἑκατὸν κεφαλαὶ ὄφιος, δεινοῖο δράκοντος,
were a-hundred heads of-a-snake terrible dragon
γλώσσῃσιν δνοφερῇσι λελιχμότες, ἐκ δέ οἱ ὄσσων
with-tongues dark flickering from and his eyes
θεσπεσίῃς κεφαλῇσιν ὑπ᾽ ὀφρύσι πῦρ ἀμάρυσσεν·
in-wondrous heads under brows fire flashed
πασέων δ᾽ ἐκ κεφαλέων πῦρ καίετο δερκομένοιο·
of-all and from heads fire burned as-he-glared
φωναὶ δ᾽ ἐν πάσῃσιν ἔσαν δεινῇς κεφαλῇσι
voices and in all were dread heads
παντοίην ὄπ᾽ ἰεῖσαι ἀθέσφατον· ἄλλοτε μὲν γὰρ
of-every-kind voice sending-forth unspeakable at-times indeed for
φθέγγονθ᾽ ὥστε θεοῖσι συνιέμεν, ἄλλοτε δ᾽ αὖτε
they-spoke so-that the-gods to-understand at-other-times and again
ταύρου ἐριβρύχεω, μένος ἀσχέτου, ὄσσαν ἀγαύρου,
of-a-bull loud-bellowing the-might unchecked voice proud
ἄλλοτε δ᾽ αὖτε λέοντος ἀναιδέα θυμὸν ἔχοντος,
at-other-times and again of-a-lion shameless heart having
ἄλλοτε δ᾽ αὖ σκυλάκεσσιν ἐοικότα, θαύματ᾽ ἀκοῦσαι,
at-other-times and in-turn to-whelps like marvels to-hear
ἄλλοτε δ᾽ αὖ ῥοίζεσχ᾽, ὑπὸ δ᾽ ἤχεεν οὔρεα μακρά.
at-other-times and in-turn he-hissed under and echoed mountains high
καί νύ κεν ἔπλετο ἔργον ἀμήχανον ἤματι κείνῳ
and now — would-have-been a-deed irresistible on-day that
καί κεν ὅ γε θνητοῖσι καὶ ἀθανάτοισιν ἄναξεν,
and — he indeed over-mortals and immortals would-have-ruled

εἰ μὴ ἄρ᾽ ὀξὺ νόησε πατὴρ ἀνδρῶν τε θεῶν τε.
if not then sharply noticed the-father of-men both of-gods and
σκληρὸν δ᾽ ἐβρόντησε καὶ ὄβριμον, ἀμφὶ δὲ γαῖα
hard and he-thundered and mightily around and the-earth
σμερδαλέον κονάβησε καὶ οὐρανὸς εὐρὺς ὕπερθε
terribly resounded and heaven wide above
πόντος τ᾽ Ὠκεανοῦ τε ῥοαὶ καὶ Τάρταρα γαίης.
sea and of-Ocean and the-streams and Tartarus of-earth
ποσσὶ δ᾽ ὕπ᾽ ἀθανάτοισι μέγας πελεμίζετ᾽ Ὄλυμπος
feet and under immortal great was-shaken Olympus
ὀρνυμένοιο ἄνακτος· ἐπεστενάχιζε δὲ γαῖα.
as-he-rose the-lord groaned and the-earth
καῦμα δ᾽ ὑπ᾽ ἀμφοτέρων κάτεχεν ἰοειδέα πόντον
heat and from both seized violet-dark sea
βροντῆς τε στεροπῆς τε, πυρός τ᾽ ἀπὸ τοῖο πελώρου,
of-thunder both of-lightning and of-fire and from that monster
πρηστήρων ἀνέμων τε κεραυνοῦ τε φλεγέθοντος.
of-the-scorching winds and of-thunderbolt and blazing
ἔζεε δὲ χθὼν πᾶσα καὶ οὐρανὸς ἠδὲ θάλασσα·
boiled and earth all and heaven and sea
θυΐε δ᾽ ἄρ᾽ ἀμφ᾽ ἀκτὰς περί τ᾽ ἀμφί τε κύματα μακρὰ
raged and then about the-shores around both about and waves long
ῥιπῇ ὕπ᾽ ἀθανάτων, ἔνοσις δ᾽ ἄσβεστος ὀρώρει·
at-the-rush under of-the-immortals quaking and unquenchable arose
τρέε δ᾽ Ἀΐδης, ἐνέροισι καταφθιμένοισιν ἀνάσσων,
trembled and Hades over-the-dead the-perished ruling
Τιτῆνές θ᾽ ὑποταρτάριοι, Κρόνον ἀμφὶς ἐόντες,
the-Titans and under-Tartarus Cronus around being
ἀσβέστου κελάδοιο καὶ αἰνῆς δηιοτῆτος.
at-unquenchable din and dread strife

Ζεὺς δ' ἐπεὶ οὖν κόρθυνεν ἑὸν μένος, εἵλετο δ' ὅπλα,
Zeus and when then had-gathered his strength he-took and arms
βροντήν τε στεροπήν τε καὶ αἰθαλόεντα κεραυνόν,
thunder both lightning and and blazing thunderbolt
πλῆξεν ἀπ' Οὐλύμποιο ἐπάλμενος· ἀμφὶ δὲ πάσας
he-struck from Olympus leaping-up around and all
ἔπρεσε θεσπεσίας κεφαλὰς δεινοῖο πελώρου.
he-burned wondrous heads of-the-terrible monster
αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ δή μιν δάμασεν πληγῇσιν ἱμάσσας,
but when indeed him he-had-subdued with-blows lashing
ἤριπε γυιωθείς, στενάχιζε δὲ γαῖα πελώρη.
he-fell lamed groaned and earth huge
φλὸξ δὲ κεραυνωθέντος ἀπέσσυτο τοῖο ἄνακτος
flame and from-the-thunder-stricken shot-forth that lord
οὔρεος ἐν βήσσῃσιν ἀιδνῇς παιπαλοέσσης,
of-the-mountain in the-glens dark rugged
πληγέντος. πολλὴ δὲ πελώρη καίετο γαῖα
when-he-was-struck much and huge was-burning earth
ἀτμῇ θεσπεσίῃ καὶ ἐτήκετο κασσίτερος ὡς
with-vapor wondrous and melted tin like
τέχνῃ ὕπ' αἰζηῶν ἐν ἐυτρήτοις χοάνοισι
by-art under of-youths in well-pierced crucibles
θαλφθείς, ἠὲ σίδηρος, ὅ περ κρατερώτατός ἐστιν.
heated or iron which indeed strongest is
οὔρεος ἐν βήσσῃσι δαμαζόμενος πυρὶ κηλέῳ
of-the-mountain in the-glens subdued by-fire blazing
τήκεται ἐν χθονὶ δίῃ ὑφ' Ἡφαίστου παλάμῃσιν.
melts in earth divine under of-Hephaestus the-palms

ὣς ἄρα τήκετο γαῖα σέλαι πυρὸς αἰθομένοιο.
so then melted earth in-the-glow of-fire blazing
ῥῖψε δέ μιν θυμῷ ἀκαχὼν ἐς Τάρταρον εὐρύν.
he-cast and him in-heart grieved into Tartarus wide
Ἐκ δὲ Τυφωέος ἔστ' ἀνέμων μένος ὑγρὸν ἀέντων,
from and Typhoeus is of-winds the-might wet blowing
νόσφι Νότου Βορέω τε καὶ ἀργέστεω Ζεφύροιο·
apart-from Notus Boreas and and clearing Zephyrus
οἵ γε μὲν ἐκ θεόφιν γενεή, θνητοῖς μέγ' ὄνειαρ·
they indeed indeed from the-gods a-race for-mortals great a-boon
οἱ δ' ἄλλοι μαψαῦραι ἐπιπνείουσι θάλασσαν·
they but other gusty blow-over the-sea
αἳ δή τοι πίπτουσαι ἐς ἠεροειδέα πόντον,
who indeed you-know falling into misty sea
πῆμα μέγα θνητοῖσι, κακῇ θυίουσιν ἀέλλῃ·
a-bane great for-mortals with-evil rage storm
ἄλλοτε δ' ἄλλαι ἄεισι διασκιδνᾶσί τε νῆας
at-other-times and others blow scatter and ships
ναύτας τε φθείρουσι· κακοῦ δ' οὐ γίγνεται ἀλκὴ
sailors and destroy of-evil and not is a-defense
ἀνδράσιν, οἳ κείνῃσι συνάντωνται κατὰ πόντον·
for-men who them meet on sea
αἳ δ' αὖ καὶ κατὰ γαῖαν ἀπείριτον ἀνθεμόεσσαν
they and in-turn also over earth boundless flowery
ἔργ' ἐρατὰ φθείρουσι χαμαιγενέων ἀνθρώπων
works lovely destroy of-earth-born men
πιμπλεῖσαι κόνιός τε καὶ ἀργαλέου κολοσυρτοῦ.
filling with-dust both and grievous din

The gods make Zeus king, and he apportions their honors. He marries Metis and swallows her, warned that she would bear a son to rule, and Athena is born from his head. Themis bears him the Hours and the Moirai, Eurynome the Graces, Demeter Persephone, Mnemosyne the Muses, Leto Apollo and Artemis, and Hera, his last wife, Hebe, Ares, and Eilithyia. Hera bears Hephaestus alone. Maia, Semele, and Alcmene bear him Hermes, Dionysus, and Heracles. Poseidon, Ares, and Helios father children, and Hephaestus, Dionysus, and Heracles take wives.

Αὐτὰρ ἐπεί ῥα πόνον μάκαρες θεοὶ ἐξετέλεσσαν,
but when then the-toil the-blessed gods had-finished
Τιτήνεσσι δὲ τιμάων κρίναντο βίηφι,
with-the-Titans and over-honors decided by-force
δή ῥα τότ᾽ ὦτρυνον βασιλευέμεν ἠδὲ ἀνάσσειν
indeed then then they-urged to-be-king and to-rule
Γαίης φραδμοσύνῃσιν Ὀλύμπιον εὐρύοπα Ζῆν
of-Earth by-the-counsels Olympian far-seeing Zeus
ἀθανάτων· ὃ δὲ τοῖσιν ἐὰς διεδάσσατο τιμάς. 885
of-the-immortals he and among-them his divided honors

Ζεὺς δὲ θεῶν βασιλεὺς πρώτην ἄλοχον θέτο Μῆτιν
Zeus and of-gods king first as-wife made Metis
πλεῖστα θεῶν τε ἰδυῖαν ἰδὲ θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων.
most of-gods both knowing and of-mortal men

ἀλλ᾽ ὅτε δὴ ἄρ᾽ ἔμελλε θεὰν γλαυκῶπιν Ἀθήνην
but when indeed then she-was-about the-goddess flashing-eyed Athena
τέξεσθαι, τότ᾽ ἔπειτα δόλῳ φρένας ἐξαπατήσας
to-bear then then by-trick wits having-deceived
αἰμυλίοισι λόγοισιν ἑὴν ἐσκάθετο νηδὺν
with-wheedling words his put-down-into belly
Γαίης φραδμοσύνῃσι καὶ Οὐρανοῦ ἀστερόεντος.
of-Earth by-the-counsels and of-Heaven starry
τὼς γάρ οἱ φρασάτην, ἵνα μὴ βασιληίδα τιμὴν
so for to-him they-two-advised that not kingly honor
ἄλλος ἔχοι Διὸς ἀντὶ θεῶν αἰειγενετάων.
another should-hold of-Zeus instead of-gods eternal
ἐκ γὰρ τῆς εἵμαρτο περίφρονα τέκνα γενέσθαι·
from for her it-was-fated very-wise children to-be-born
πρώτην μὲν κούρην γλαυκώπιδα Τριτογένειαν
first indeed a-girl flashing-eyed Trito-born
ἶσον ἔχουσαν πατρὶ μένος καὶ ἐπίφρονα βουλήν.
equal having to-father strength and prudent counsel
αὐτὰρ ἔπειτ᾽ ἄρα παῖδα θεῶν βασιλῆα καὶ ἀνδρῶν
but then then a-son of-gods king and of-men
ἤμελλεν τέξεσθαι, ὑπέρβιον ἦτορ ἔχοντα·
she-was-about to-bear overbearing heart having
ἀλλ᾽ ἄρα μιν Ζεὺς πρόσθεν ἑὴν ἐσκάθετο νηδύν,
but then her Zeus before his put-down-into belly
ὡς δή οἱ φράσσαιτο θεὰ ἀγαθόν τε κακόν τε.
that indeed for-him might-devise the-goddess good both evil and
Δεύτερον ἠγάγετο λιπαρὴν Θέμιν, ἣ τέκεν Ὥρας,
second he-married bright Themis who bore the-Hours
Εὐνομίην τε Δίκην τε καὶ Εἰρήνην τεθαλυῖαν,
Eunomia both Dike and and Eirene blooming

αἳ ἔργ᾽ ὠρεύουσι καταθνητοῖσι βροτοῖσι,
who works watch for-mortal men
Μοίρας θ᾽, ἧς πλείστην τιμὴν πόρε μητίετα Ζεύς,
the-Moirai and to-whom most honor gave counselor Zeus
Κλωθώ τε Λάχεσίν τε καὶ Ἄτροπον, αἵτε διδοῦσι
Clotho both Lachesis and and Atropos who give
θνητοῖς ἀνθρώποισιν ἔχειν ἀγαθόν τε κακόν τε.
to-mortal men to-have good both evil and

Τρεῖς δέ οἱ Εὐρυνόμη Χάριτας τέκε καλλιπαρῄους,
three and to-him Eurynome the-Graces bore fair-cheeked
Ὠκεανοῦ κούρη, πολυήρατον εἶδος ἔχουσα,
of-Ocean daughter very-lovely form having
Ἀγλαΐην τε καὶ Εὐφροσύνην Θαλίην τ᾽ ἐρατεινήν·
Aglaea both and Euphrosyne Thalia and lovely
τῶν καὶ ἀπὸ βλεφάρων ἔρος εἵβετο δερκομενάων
of-whom also from eyelids love dripped as-they-glanced
λυσιμελής· καλὸν δέ θ᾽ ὑπ᾽ ὀφρύσι δερκιόωνται.
limb-loosening fair and — under brows they-glance

Αὐτὰρ ὁ Δήμητρος πολυφόρβης ἐς λέχος ἦλθεν,
but he of-Demeter much-nourishing to bed came
ἣ τέκε Περσεφόνην λευκώλενον, ἣν Ἀιδωνεὺς
who bore Persephone white-armed whom Aidoneus
ἥρπασε ἧς παρὰ μητρός· ἔδωκε δὲ μητίετα Ζεύς.
snatched her from mother gave and counselor Zeus

Μνημοσύνης δ᾽ ἐξαῦτις ἐράσσατο καλλικόμοιο,
Mnemosyne and next he-loved fair-tressed
ἐξ ἧς οἱ Μοῦσαι χρυσάμπυκες ἐξεγένοντο
from whom for-him the-Muses golden-filleted were-born
ἐννέα, τῇσιν ἄδον θαλίαι καὶ τέρψις ἀοιδῆς.
nine whom delighted feasts and the-delight of-song

Λητὼ δ' Ἀπόλλωνα καὶ Ἄρτεμιν ἰοχέαιραν,
Leto and Apollo and Artemis arrow-pouring
ἱμερόεντα γόνον περὶ πάντων Οὐρανιώνων,
lovely offspring above all Heavenly-ones
γείνατ' ἄρ' αἰγιόχοιο Διὸς φιλότητι μιγεῖσα.
bore then of-aegis-bearing Zeus in-love having-lain
Λοισθοτάτην δ' Ἥρην θαλερὴν ποιήσατ' ἄκοιτιν·
last and Hera blooming he-made wife
ἣ δ' Ἥβην καὶ Ἄρηα καὶ Εἰλείθυιαν ἔτικτε
she and Hebe and Ares and Eileithyia bore
μιχθεῖσ' ἐν φιλότητι θεῶν βασιλῆι καὶ ἀνδρῶν.
having-lain in love of-gods with-the-king and of-men
Αὐτὸς δ' ἐκ κεφαλῆς γλαυκώπιδα Τριτογένειαν
himself and from head flashing-eyed Trito-born
δεινὴν ἐγρεκύδοιμον ἀγέστρατον Ἀτρυτώνην
terrible rouser-of-din leader-of-hosts Atrytone
πότνιαν, ᾗ κέλαδοί τε ἄδον πόλεμοί τε μάχαι τε,
queenly whom dins both delighted wars and battles and
Ἥρη δ' Ἥφαιστον κλυτὸν οὐ φιλότητι μιγεῖσα
Hera and Hephaestus famous not in-love having-lain
γείνατο, καὶ ζαμένησε καὶ ἤρισε ᾧ παρακοίτῃ,
bore and was-furious and quarreled with-her husband
ἐκ πάντων τέχνῃσι κεκασμένον Οὐρανιώνων.
above all in-arts excelling of-the-Heavenly-ones
Ἥρη δὲ ζαμένησε καὶ ἤρισε ᾧ παρακοίτῃ.
Hera and was-furious and quarreled with-her husband
ἐκ ταύτης δ' ἔριδος ἣ μὲν τέκε φαίδιμον υἱὸν
from this and strife she indeed bore glorious son
Ἥφαιστον, φιλότητος ἄτερ Διὸς αἰγιόχοιο,
Hephaestus love without of-Zeus aegis-bearing

ἐκ πάντων παλάμῃσι κεκασμένον Οὐρανιώνων·
above all in-crafts excelling of-the-Heavenly-ones
αὐτὰρ ὅ γ' Ὠκεανοῦ καὶ Τηθύος ἠυκόμοιο
but he indeed of-Ocean and Tethys lovely-haired
κούρῃ νόσφ' Ἥρης παρελέξατο καλλιπαρήῳ,
with-the-daughter apart-from Hera lay fair-cheeked
ἐξαπαφὼν Μῆτιν καίπερ πολυδήνε' ἐοῦσαν.
deceiving Metis though very-wise being
συμμάρψας δ' ὅ γε χερσὶν ἑὴν ἐγκάτθετο νηδὺν
having-seized and he indeed with-hands his put-down-into belly
δείσας, μὴ τέξῃ κρατερώτερον ἄλλο κεραυνοῦ.
fearing lest she-bear mightier other than-the-thunderbolt
τοὔνεκά μιν Κρονίδης ὑψίζυγος αἰθέρι ναίων
therefore her the-son-of-Cronus high-throned in-the-upper-air dwelling
κάππιεν ἐξαπίνης· ἣ δ' αὐτίκα Παλλάδ' Ἀθήνην
swallowed suddenly she and at-once Pallas Athena
κύσατο· τὴν μὲν ἔτικτε πατὴρ ἀνδρῶν τε θεῶν τε
conceived her indeed bore the-father of-men both of-gods and
πὰρ κορυφὴν Τρίτωνος ἐπ' ὄχθῃσιν ποταμοῖο.
by-way-of the-head of-Trito on the-banks of-the-river
Μῆτις δ' αὖτε Ζηνὸς ὑπὸ σπλάγχνοις λελαθυῖα
Metis and in-turn of-Zeus beneath the-innards hidden
ἧστο, Ἀθηναίης μήτηρ, τέκταινα δικαίων
sat of-Athena mother contriver of-just-things
πλεῖστα θεῶν τε ἰδυῖα καταθνητῶν τ' ἀνθρώπων,
most of-gods both knowing of-mortal and men

ἔνθα θεὰ παρέδεκτο ὅθεν παλάμαις περὶ πάντων
there the-goddess received whence in-crafts above all
ἀθανάτων ἐκέκασθ' οἳ Ὀλύμπια δώματ' ἔχουσιν,
of-the-immortals she-excelled who Olympian houses have
σὺν τῇ ἐγείνατό μιν πολεμήια τεύχε' ἔχουσαν.
with her he-begot her warlike arms having
Ἐκ δ' Ἀμφιτρίτης καὶ ἐρικτύπου Ἐννοσιγαίου
from and Amphitrite and the-loud-resounding Earth-shaker
Τρίτων εὐρυβίης γένετο μέγας, ὅστε θαλάσσης
Triton wide-ruling was-born great who of-the-sea
πυθμέν' ἔχων παρὰ μητρὶ φίλῃ καὶ πατρὶ ἄνακτι
the-depths holding beside mother dear and father lord
ναίει χρύσεα δῶ, δεινὸς θεός. αὐτὰρ Ἄρηι
dwells golden houses a-terrible god but to-Ares
ῥινοτόρῳ Κυθέρεια Φόβον καὶ Δεῖμον ἔτικτε
shield-piercing Cytherea Panic and Fear bore
δεινούς, οἵτ' ἀνδρῶν πυκινὰς κλονέουσι φάλαγγας
terrible who of-men close ranks rout
ἐν πολέμῳ κρυόεντι σὺν Ἄρηι πτολιπόρθῳ,
in war chill with Ares sacker-of-cities
Ἁρμονίην θ', ἣν Κάδμος ὑπέρθυμος θέτ' ἄκοιτιν.
Harmonia and whom Cadmus high-spirited made wife
Ζηνὶ δ' ἄρ' Ἀτλαντὶς Μαίη τέκε κύδιμον Ἑρμῆν,
to-Zeus and then the-daughter-of-Atlas Maia bore glorious Hermes
κήρυκ' ἀθανάτων, ἱερὸν λέχος εἰσαναβᾶσα.
herald of-the-immortals holy bed having-mounted

Καδμείη δ' ἄρα οἱ Σεμέλη τέκε φαίδιμον υἱὸν
Cadmean and then to-him Semele bore glorious son
μιχθεῖσ' ἐν φιλότητι, Διώνυσον πολυγηθέα,
having-lain in love Dionysus much-cheering
ἀθάνατον θνητή· νῦν δ' ἀμφότεροι θεοί εἰσιν.
an-immortal a-mortal-woman now and both gods are
Ἀλκμήνη δ' ἄρ' ἔτικτε βίην Ἡρακληείην
Alcmene and then bore the-might of-Heracles
μιχθεῖσ' ἐν φιλότητι Διὸς νεφεληγερέταο.
having-lain in love with-Zeus cloud-gatherer
Ἀγλαΐην δ' Ἥφαιστος, ἀγακλυτὸς ἀμφιγυήεις,
Aglaea and Hephaestus very-famous the-Lame-one
ὁπλοτάτην Χαρίτων θαλερὴν ποιήσατ' ἄκοιτιν.
youngest of-the-Graces blooming made wife
Χρυσοκόμης δὲ Διώνυσος ξανθὴν Ἀριάδνην,
golden-haired and Dionysus fair-haired Ariadne
κούρην Μίνωος, θαλερὴν ποιήσατ' ἄκοιτιν.
daughter of-Minos blooming made wife
τὴν δέ οἱ ἀθάνατον καὶ ἀγήρω θῆκε Κρονίων.
her and for-him immortal and ageless made the-son-of-Cronus
Ἥβην δ' Ἀλκμήνης καλλισφύρου ἄλκιμος υἱός,
Hebe and of-Alcmene fair-ankled valiant son
ἴς Ἡρακλῆος, τελέσας στονόεντας ἀέθλους,
the-strength of-Heracles having-finished grievous labors
παῖδα Διὸς μεγάλοιο καὶ Ἥρης χρυσοπεδίλου,
daughter of-Zeus great and of-Hera golden-sandaled
αἰδοίην θέτ' ἄκοιτιν ἐν Οὐλύμπῳ νιφόεντι,
revered made wife on Olympus snowy

ὄλβιος, ὃς μέγα ἔργον ἐν ἀθανάτοισιν ἀνύσσας
blessed who a-great deed among the-immortals having-accomplished
955 ναίει ἀπήμαντος καὶ ἀγήραος ἤματα πάντα.
dwells unharmed and ageless days all
Ἠελίῳ δ' ἀκάμαντι τέκεν κλυτὸς Ὠκεανίνη
to-the-Sun and untiring bore famous daughter-of-Ocean
Περσηὶς Κίρκην τε καὶ Αἰήτην βασιλῆα.
Perseis Circe both and Aeetes king
Αἰήτης δ' υἱὸς φαεσιμβρότου Ἠελίοιο
Aeetes and son of-light-bringing Sun
κούρην Ὠκεανοῖο τελήεντος ποταμοῖο
daughter of-Ocean the-perfect river
960 γῆμε θεῶν βουλῇσιν Ἰδυῖαν καλλιπάρῃον.
married of-the-gods by-the-counsels Idyia fair-cheeked
ἣ δέ οἱ Μήδειαν ἐύσφυρον ἐν φιλότητι
she and to-him Medea fair-ankled in love
γείναθ' ὑποδμηθεῖσα διὰ χρυσέην Ἀφροδίτην.
bore subdued through golden Aphrodite

The poet turns to the goddesses who bore children to mortal men. Demeter bears Plutus to Iasion, and Harmonia bears Ino, Semele, Agave, Autonoe, and Polydorus to Cadmus. Eos bears Memnon to Tithonus, Thetis bears Achilles to Peleus, and Aphrodite bears Aeneas to Anchises. Circe and Calypso bear sons to Odysseus.

Ὑμεῖς μὲν νῦν χαίρετ', Ὀλύμπια δώματ' ἔχοντες,
you indeed now farewell Olympian houses having
νῆσοί τ' ἤπειροί τε καὶ ἁλμυρὸς ἔνδοθι πόντος.
islands both mainlands and and salty within sea
νῦν δὲ θεάων φῦλον ἀείσατε, ἡδυέπειαι 965
now and of-goddesses the-tribe sing sweet-voiced
Μοῦσαι Ὀλυμπιάδες, κοῦραι Διὸς αἰγιόχοιο,
Muses Olympian daughters of-Zeus aegis-bearing
ὅσσαι δὴ θνητοῖσι παρ' ἀνδράσιν εὐνηθεῖσαι
as-many-as indeed mortal beside men having-lain
ἀθάναται γείναντο θεοῖς ἐπιείκελα τέκνα.
immortal bore to-gods like children
Δημήτηρ μὲν Πλοῦτον ἐγείνατο, δῖα θεάων,
Demeter indeed Plutus bore bright of-goddesses
Ἰασίων' ἥρωι μιγεῖσ' ἐρατῇ φιλότητι 970
with-Iasion hero having-lain in-lovely love
νειῷ ἔνι τριπόλῳ, Κρήτης ἐν πίονι δήμῳ,
fallow-field in thrice-plowed of-Crete in rich land
ἐσθλόν, ὃς εἶσ' ἐπὶ γῆν τε καὶ εὐρέα νῶτα θαλάσσης
good who goes over earth both and broad the-backs of-the-sea
πάντη· τῷ δὲ τυχόντι καὶ οὗ κ' ἐς χεῖρας ἵκηται,
everywhere to-him and who-meets-him and whose — into hands he-comes
τὸν δ' ἀφνειὸν ἔθηκε, πολὺν δέ οἱ ὤπασεν ὄλβον.
him and rich he-makes much and to-him grants wealth

Κάδμῳ δ' Ἁρμονίη, θυγάτηρ χρυσέης Ἀφροδίτης,
to-Cadmus and Harmonia daughter of-golden Aphrodite
Ἰνὼ καὶ Σεμέλην καὶ Ἀγαυὴν καλλιπάρῃον
Ino and Semele and Agave fair-cheeked
Αὐτονόην θ', ἣν γῆμεν Ἀρισταῖος βαθυχαίτης,
Autonoe and whom married Aristaeus long-haired
γείνατο καὶ Πολύδωρον ἐυστεφάνῳ ἐνὶ Θήβῃ.
bore and Polydorus fair-crowned in Thebes
Κούρη δ' Ὠκεανοῦ, Χρυσάορι καρτεροθύμῳ
the-daughter and of-Ocean with-Chrysaor strong-hearted
μιχθεῖσ' ἐν φιλότητι πολυχρύσου Ἀφροδίτης,
having-lain in love of-rich-in-gold Aphrodite
Καλλιρόη τέκε παῖδα βροτῶν κάρτιστον ἁπάντων,
Callirrhoe bore a-son of-mortals strongest of-all
Γηρυονέα, τὸν κτεῖνε βίῃ Ἡρακληείῃ
Geryon whom killed the-might of-Heracles
βοῶν ἕνεκ' εἰλιπόδων ἀμφιρρύτῳ εἰν Ἐρυθείῃ.
oxen for-the-sake-of shambling sea-girt in Erythea
Τιθωνῷ δ' Ἠὼς τέκε Μέμνονα χαλκοκορυστήν,
to-Tithonus and Dawn bore Memnon bronze-helmeted
Αἰθιόπων βασιλῆα, καὶ Ἠμαθίωνα ἄνακτα.
of-the-Ethiopians king and Emathion lord
αὐτὰρ ὑπαὶ Κεφάλῳ φιτύσατο φαίδιμον υἱόν,
but by Cephalus she-bore glorious son
ἴφθιμον Φαέθοντα, θεοῖς ἐπιείκελον ἄνδρα.
mighty Phaethon to-the-gods like man

τόν ῥα νέον τέρεν ἄνθος ἔχοντ᾽ ἐρικυδέος ἥβης
him then young the-tender flower having of-glorious youth
παῖδ᾽ ἀταλὰ φρονέοντα φιλομμειδὴς Ἀφροδίτη
a-boy childish-things thinking smile-loving Aphrodite
ὦρτ᾽ ἀναρεψαμένη, καί μιν ζαθέοις ἐνὶ νηοῖς
rose snatching-up and him holy in temples
νηοπόλον νύχιον ποιήσατο, δαίμονα δῖον.
temple-keeper by-night made a-divinity bright
Κούρην δ᾽ Αἰήταο διοτρεφέος βασιλῆος
the-daughter and of-Aeetes Zeus-nurtured king
Αἰσονίδης βουλῇσι θεῶν αἰειγενετάων
the-son-of-Aeson by-the-counsels of-the-gods eternal
ἦγε παρ᾽ Αἰήτεω, τελέσας στονόεντας ἀέθλους,
led from Aeetes having-accomplished grievous labors
τοὺς πολλοὺς ἐπέτελλε μέγας βασιλεὺς ὑπερήνωρ,
which many laid-on great king overbearing
ὑβριστὴς Πελίης καὶ ἀτάσθαλος, ὀβριμοεργός.
outrageous Pelias and reckless violent-in-deed
τοὺς τελέσας Ἰαωλκὸν ἀφίκετο, πολλὰ μογήσας,
them having-accomplished to-Iolcus came much having-toiled
ὠκείης ἐπὶ νηὸς ἄγων ἑλικώπιδα κούρην
swift on ship bringing bright-eyed girl
Αἰσονίδης, καί μιν θαλερὴν ποιήσατ᾽ ἄκοιτιν.
the-son-of-Aeson and her blooming made wife
καί ῥ᾽ ἥ γε δμηθεῖσ᾽ ὑπ᾽ Ἰήσονι, ποιμένι λαῶν,
and then she indeed subdued by Jason shepherd of-the-people
Μήδειον τέκε παῖδα, τὸν οὔρεσιν ἔτρεφε Χείρων
Medeus bore a-son whom in-the-mountains reared Chiron
Φιλυρίδης· μεγάλου δὲ Διὸς νόος ἐξετελεῖτο.
son-of-Philyra of-great and Zeus the-mind was-accomplished

Αὐτὰρ Νηρῆος κοῦραι· ἁλίοιο γέροντος,
but of-Nereus the-daughters of-the-sea old-man
ἦ τοι μὲν Φῶκον Ψαμάθη τέκε δῖα θεάων
truly you-know indeed Phocus Psamathe bore bright of-goddesses
Αἰακοῦ ἐν φιλότητι διὰ χρυσέην Ἀφροδίτην,
of-Aeacus in love through golden Aphrodite
Πηλέι δὲ δμηθεῖσα θεὰ Θέτις ἀργυρόπεζα
by-Peleus and subdued the-goddess Thetis silver-footed
γείνατ' Ἀχιλλῆα ῥηξήνορα θυμολέοντα.
bore Achilles breaker-of-men lion-hearted
Αἰνείαν δ' ἄρ' ἔτικτεν ἐυστέφανος Κυθέρεια
Aeneas and then bore fair-crowned Cytherea
Ἀγχίσῃ ἥρωι μιγεῖσ' ἐρατῇ φιλότητι
with-Anchises hero having-lain in-lovely love
Ἴδης ἐν κορυφῇσι πολυπτύχου ὑληέσσης.
of-Ida on the-peaks many-folded wooded
Κίρκη δ', Ἠελίου θυγάτηρ Ὑπεριονίδαο,
Circe and of-the-Sun daughter of-Hyperion's-son
γείνατ' Ὀδυσσῆος ταλασίφρονος ἐν φιλότητι
bore of-Odysseus steadfast in love
Ἄγριον ἠδὲ Λατῖνον ἀμύμονά τε κρατερόν τε·
agrius and Latinus blameless both mighty and
οἳ δή τοι μάλα τῆλε μυχῷ νήσων ἱεράων
who indeed you-know very far in-the-recess of-islands holy
πᾶσιν Τυρσηνοῖσιν ἀγακλειτοῖσιν ἄνασσον.
over-all Tyrrhenians very-glorious ruled
Ναυσίθοον δ' Ὀδυσῆι Καλυψὼ δῖα θεάων
Nausithous and to-Odysseus Calypso bright of-goddesses
γείνατο Ναυσίνοόν τε μιγεῖσ' ἐρατῇ φιλότητι.
bore Nausinous and having-lain in-lovely love

Αὗται μὲν θνητοῖσι παρ᾽ ἀνδράσιν εὐνηθεῖσαι
these indeed mortal beside men having-lain
ἀθάναται γείναντο θεοῖς ἐπιείκελα τέκνα.
immortal bore to-gods like children
Νῦν δὲ γυναικῶν φῦλον ἀείσατε, ἡδυέπειαι
now and of-women the-tribe sing sweet-voiced
Μοῦσαι Ὀλυμπιάδες, κοῦραι Διὸς αἰγιόχοιο.
Muses Olympian daughters of-Zeus aegis-bearing

HESIOD

ΕΡΓΑ ΚΑΙ ΗΜΕΡΑΙ

Works and Days

The poet asks the Muses to sing of Zeus, who makes men famous or obscure, and means to tell Perses true things. There are two Strifes on earth. One breeds cruel war; the other, set by Zeus in the roots of the earth, rouses even the idle to work, so that potter vies with potter. Perses should not let the bad Strife keep him from work to gape at quarrels. The brothers divided their inheritance, but Perses seized more by courting bribe-eating kings, fools who do not know how much more the half is than the whole.

Μοῦσαι Πιερίηθεν ἀοιδῇσιν κλείουσαι
Muses from-Pieria with-songs celebrating
δεῦτε, Δί᾽ ἐννέπετε, σφέτερον πατέρ᾽ ὑμνείουσαι·
come Zeus tell your father hymning
ὅντε διὰ βροτοὶ ἄνδρες ὁμῶς ἄφατοί τε φατοί τε,
whom through mortal men alike unfamed both famed and
ῥητοί τ᾽ ἄρρητοί τε Διὸς μεγάλοιο ἕκητι.
spoken-of and unspoken-of and of-Zeus great by-the-will
ῥέα μὲν γὰρ βριάει, ῥέα δὲ βριάοντα χαλέπτει,
easily indeed for he-makes-strong easily and the-strong he-afflicts
ῥεῖα δ᾽ ἀρίζηλον μινύθει καὶ ἄδηλον ἀέξει,
easily and the-conspicuous he-lessens and the-obscure increases
ῥεῖα δέ τ᾽ ἰθύνει σκολιὸν καὶ ἀγήνορα κάρφει
easily and — he-straightens the-crooked and the-proud withers
Ζεὺς ὑψιβρεμέτης, ὃς ὑπέρτατα δώματα ναίει.
Zeus thundering-on-high who highest house dwells-in
κλῦθι ἰδὼν ἀίων τε, δίκῃ δ᾽ ἴθυνε θέμιστας
hear seeing hearing and with-justice and straighten judgments
τύνη· ἐγὼ δέ κε, Πέρση, ἐτήτυμα μυθησαίμην.
you I and — Perses true-things would-tell

Οὐκ ἄρα μοῦνον ἔην Ἐρίδων γένος, ἀλλ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν
not then single was of-Strifes the-kind but on earth
εἰσὶ δύω· τὴν μέν κεν ἐπαινέσσειε νοήσας,
there-are two the-one indeed — would-praise having-understood
ἡ δ' ἐπιμωμητή· διὰ δ' ἄνδιχα θυμὸν ἔχουσιν.
the-other and blameworthy apart and in-two heart they-have
ἡ μὲν γὰρ πόλεμόν τε κακὸν καὶ δῆριν ὀφέλλει,
the-one indeed for war both evil and contention fosters
σχετλίη· οὔτις τήν γε φιλεῖ βροτός, ἀλλ' ὑπ' ἀνάγκης
cruel no-one her indeed loves mortal but under necessity
ἀθανάτων βουλῇσιν Ἔριν τιμῶσι βαρεῖαν.
of-the-immortals by-the-counsels Strife they-honor heavy
τὴν δ' ἑτέρην προτέρην μὲν ἐγείνατο Νὺξ ἐρεβεννή,
the and other elder indeed bore Night dark
θῆκε δέ μιν Κρονίδης ὑψίζυγος, αἰθέρι ναίων,
set and her the-son-of-Cronus high-throned in-the-upper-air dwelling
γαίης ἐν ῥίζῃσι, καὶ ἀνδράσι πολλὸν ἀμείνω·
of-earth in the-roots and for-men much better
ἥτε καὶ ἀπάλαμόν περ ὁμῶς ἐπὶ ἔργον ἔγειρεν.
who even the-shiftless though alike to work rouses
εἰς ἕτερον γάρ τίς τε ἰδὼν ἔργοιο χατίζει
to another for one — seeing of-work feels-want
πλούσιον, ὃς σπεύδει μὲν ἀρώμεναι ἠδὲ φυτεύειν
rich who hastens indeed to-plow and to-plant
οἰκόν τ' εὖ θέσθαι· ζηλοῖ δέ τε γείτονα γείτων
house and well to-set envies and — neighbor neighbor
εἰς ἄφενος σπεύδοντ'· ἀγαθὴ δ' Ἔρις ἥδε βροτοῖσιν.
to wealth hastening good and Strife this for-mortals

καὶ κεραμεὺς κεραμεῖ κοτέει καὶ τέκτονι τέκτων,
and potter potter resents and carpenter carpenter
καὶ πτωχὸς πτωχῷ φθονέει καὶ ἀοιδὸς ἀοιδῷ.
and beggar beggar envies and singer singer
Ὦ Πέρση, σὺ δὲ ταῦτα τεῷ ἐνικάτθεο θυμῷ,
O Perses you and these-things your lay-up heart
μηδέ σ' Ἔριος κακόχαρτος ἀπ' ἔργου θυμὸν ἐρύκοι
nor you Strife delighting-in-evil from work heart keep
νείκε' ὀπιπεύοντ' ἀγορῆς ἐπακουὸν ἐόντα.
quarrels watching of-the-assembly a-listener being
ὥρη γάρ τ' ὀλίγη πέλεται νεικέων τ' ἀγορέων τε,
care for — little is of-quarrels both of-assemblies and
ᾧτινι μὴ βίος ἔνδον ἐπηετανὸς κατάκειται
for-whom not livelihood within for-a-year lies-stored
ὡραῖος, τὸν γαῖα φέρει, Δημήτερος ἀκτήν.
seasonable which the-earth bears of-Demeter grain
τοῦ κε κορεσσάμενος νείκεα καὶ δῆριν ὀφέλλοις
of-which — having-taken-your-fill quarrels and contention you-might-foster
κτήμασ' ἐπ' ἀλλοτρίοις· σοὶ δ' οὐκέτι δεύτερον ἔσται
possessions over others' for-you but no-longer a-second-time it-will-be
ὧδ' ἔρδειν· ἀλλ' αὖθι διακρινώμεθα νεῖκος
so to-do but here let-us-decide the-quarrel
ἰθείῃσι δίκῃς, αἵ τ' ἐκ Διός εἰσιν ἄρισται.
with-straight judgments which — from Zeus are best
ἤδη μὲν γὰρ κλῆρον ἐδασσάμεθ', ἀλλὰ τὰ πολλὰ
already indeed for the-inheritance we-divided but the many
ἁρπάζων ἐφόρεις μέγα κυδαίνων βασιλῆας
seizing you-carried greatly glorifying kings
δωροφάγους, οἳ τήνδε δίκην ἐθέλουσι δίκασσαι.
gift-devouring who this judgment are-willing to-judge

νήπιοι, οὐδὲ ἴσασιν ὅσῳ πλέον ἥμισυ παντὸς
fools nor know how-much more the-half than-the-whole
οὐδ' ὅσον ἐν μαλάχῃ τε καὶ ἀσφοδέλῳ μέγ' ὄνειαρ.
nor how-much in mallow both and asphodel great benefit

II · PROMETHEUS AND PANDORA

Zeus keeps men's livelihood hidden, angry that Prometheus deceived him, and he hides fire too. Prometheus steals it back in a hollow fennel stalk. Zeus promises men an evil in return and orders Hephaestus to mold a maiden from earth and water, Athena to teach her weaving, Aphrodite to pour grace on her, and Hermes to give her a shameless mind. Hermes names her Pandora, since all the gods gave her gifts. Epimetheus accepts her, forgetting Prometheus' warning. She lifts the jar's lid and scatters evils among men, and only Hope stays inside.

Κρύψαντες γὰρ ἔχουσι θεοὶ βίον ἀνθρώποισιν·
having-hidden for keep the-gods livelihood from-men
ῥηιδίως γάρ κεν καὶ ἐπ' ἤματι ἐργάσσαιο,
easily for — even in a-day you-would-work
ὥστε σε κεἰς ἐνιαυτὸν ἔχειν καὶ ἀεργὸν ἐόντα·
so-that you even-for a-year to-have even idle being
αἶψά κε πηδάλιον μὲν ὑπὲρ καπνοῦ καταθεῖο,
quickly — the-rudder indeed over the-smoke you-would-put-away
ἔργα βοῶν δ' ἀπόλοιτο καὶ ἡμιόνων ταλαεργῶν.
the-works of-oxen and would-perish and of-mules hard-working
ἀλλὰ Ζεὺς ἔκρυψε χολωσάμενος φρεσὶν ᾗσιν,
but Zeus hid angered in-mind his
ὅττι μιν ἐξαπάτησε Προμηθεὺς ἀγκυλομήτης·
because him deceived Prometheus crooked-counseled
τοὔνεκ' ἄρ' ἀνθρώποισιν ἐμήσατο κήδεα λυγρά.
therefore then for-men he-devised sorrows baneful

κρύψε δὲ πῦρ· τὸ μὲν αὖτις ἐὺς πάις Ἰαπετοῖο
hid and fire it indeed again the-good son of-Iapetus
ἔκλεψ' ἀνθρώποισι Διὸς πάρα μητιόεντος
stole for-men Zeus from counselor
ἐν κοΐλῳ νάρθηκι λαθὼν Δία τερπικέραυνον.
in hollow fennel-stalk escaping-the-notice-of Zeus thunder-delighting
τὸν δὲ χολωσάμενος προσέφη νεφεληγερέτα Ζεύς·
him and angered addressed cloud-gatherer Zeus
Ἰαπετιονίδη, πάντων πέρι μήδεα εἰδώς,
son-of-Iapetus all above counsels knowing
χαίρεις πῦρ κλέψας καὶ ἐμὰς φρένας ἠπεροπεύσας,
you-rejoice fire having-stolen and my wits having-deceived
σοί τ' αὐτῷ μέγα πῆμα καὶ ἀνδράσιν ἐσσομένοισιν.
for-you both yourself a-great bane and for-men to-come
τοῖς δ' ἐγὼ ἀντὶ πυρὸς δώσω κακόν, ᾧ κεν ἅπαντες
to-them and I in-return-for fire will-give an-evil in-which — all
τέρπωνται κατὰ θυμὸν ἑὸν κακὸν ἀμφαγαπῶντες.
may-delight in heart their evil embracing
Ὣς ἔφατ'· ἐκ δ' ἐγέλασσε πατὴρ ἀνδρῶν τε θεῶν τε.
so he-spoke out and laughed the-father of-men both of-gods and
Ἥφαιστον δ' ἐκέλευσε περικλυτὸν ὅττι τάχιστα
Hephaestus and he-bade very-famous as quickly-as-possible
γαῖαν ὕδει φύρειν, ἐν δ' ἀνθρώπου θέμεν αὐδὴν
earth with-water to-mix in and of-a-human to-put voice
καὶ σθένος, ἀθανάτῃς δὲ θεῇς εἰς ὦπα ἐίσκειν
and strength to-immortal and goddesses in face to-liken
παρθενικῆς καλὸν εἶδος ἐπήρατον· αὐτὰρ Ἀθήνην
of-a-maiden fair form lovely but Athena
ἔργα διδασκῆσαι, πολυδαίδαλον ἱστὸν ὑφαίνειν·
works to-teach richly-wrought web to-weave

καὶ χάριν ἀμφιχέαι κεφαλῇ χρυσέην Ἀφροδίτην
and grace to-pour-around head golden Aphrodite
καὶ πόθον ἀργαλέον καὶ γυιοβόρους μελεδώνας·
and desire grievous and limb-devouring cares
ἐν δὲ θέμεν κύνεόν τε νόον καὶ ἐπίκλοπον ἦθος
in and to-put shameless both mind and thievish nature
Ἑρμείην ἤνωγε, διάκτορον Ἀργεϊφόντην.
Hermes he-bade guide Argus-slayer
Ὣς ἔφαθ'· οἳ δ' ἐπίθοντο Διὶ Κρονίωνι ἄνακτι.
so he-spoke they and obeyed Zeus son-of-Cronus lord
αὐτίκα δ' ἐκ γαίης πλάσσεν κλυτὸς Ἀμφιγυήεις
at-once and from earth molded the-famous Lame-one
παρθένῳ αἰδοίῃ ἴκελον Κρονίδεω διὰ βουλάς·
to-a-maiden modest like of-the-son-of-Cronus through the-counsels
ζῶσε δὲ καὶ κόσμησε θεὰ γλαυκῶπις Ἀθήνη·
girded and also adorned the-goddess flashing-eyed Athena
ἀμφὶ δέ οἱ Χάριτές τε θεαὶ καὶ πότνια Πειθὼ
around and her the-Graces both goddesses and queenly Persuasion
ὅρμους χρυσείους ἔθεσαν χροΐ· ἀμφὶ δὲ τήν γε
necklaces golden placed on-skin around and her indeed
Ὧραι καλλίκομοι στέφον ἄνθεσιν εἰαρινοῖσιν·
the-Hours fair-tressed crowned with-flowers of-spring

ἐν δ' ἄρα οἱ στήθεσσι διάκτορος Ἀργεϊφόντης
in and then her breast the-guide Argus-slayer
ψεύδεά θ' αἱμυλίους τε λόγους καὶ ἐπίκλοπον ἦθος
lies and wheedling and words and thievish nature
θῆκε θεῶν κῆρυξ, ὀνόμηνε δὲ τήνδε γυναῖκα
put of-the-gods herald named and this woman
Πανδώρην, ὅτι πάντες Ὀλύμπια δώματ' ἔχοντες
Pandora because all Olympian houses having
δῶρον ἐδώρησαν, πῆμ' ἀνδράσιν ἀλφηστῇσιν.
a-gift gave a-bane to-men toiling
Αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ δόλον αἰπὺν ἀμήχανον ἐξετέλεσσεν,
but when the-trick sheer irresistible he-had-finished
εἰς Ἐπιμηθέα πέμπε πατὴρ κλυτὸν Ἀργεϊφόντην
to Epimetheus sent the-father famous Argus-slayer
δῶρον ἄγοντα, θεῶν ταχὺν ἄγγελον· οὐδ' Ἐπιμηθεὺς
the-gift bringing of-the-gods swift messenger nor Epimetheus
ἐφράσαθ', ὥς οἱ ἔειπε Προμηθεὺς μή ποτε δῶρον
considered how to-him said Prometheus not ever a-gift
δέξασθαι πὰρ Ζηνὸς Ὀλυμπίου, ἀλλ' ἀποπέμπειν
to-receive from Zeus Olympian but to-send-back
ἐξοπίσω, μή πού τι κακὸν θνητοῖσι γένηται.
behind lest somehow any evil to-mortals come
αὐτὰρ ὃ δεξάμενος, ὅτε δὴ κακὸν εἶχ', ἐνόησεν.
but he having-received when indeed evil he-had perceived
Πρὶν μὲν γὰρ ζώεσκον ἐπὶ χθονὶ φῦλ' ἀνθρώπων
before indeed for used-to-live on earth the-tribes of-men
νόσφιν ἄτερ τε κακῶν καὶ ἄτερ χαλεποῖο πόνοιο
apart-from free both from-evils and free from-hard toil
νούσων τ' ἀργαλέων, αἵ τ' ἀνδράσι Κῆρας ἔδωκαν.
diseases and grievous which — to-men the-Keres gave

ἀλλὰ γυνὴ χείρεσσι πίθου μέγα πῶμ᾽ ἀφελοῦσα
but the-woman with-hands of-the-jar great lid having-removed
ἐσκέδασ᾽· ἀνθρώποισι δ᾽ ἐμήσατο κήδεα λυγρά.
scattered(-them) for-men and she-devised sorrows baneful
μούνη δ᾽ αὐτόθι Ἐλπὶς ἐν ἀρρήκτοισι δόμοισιν
alone and there Hope in unbreakable house
ἔνδον ἔμιμνε πίθου ὑπὸ χείλεσιν, οὐδὲ θύραζε
within remained of-the-jar under the-lips nor out-of-doors
ἐξέπτη· πρόσθεν γὰρ ἐπέλλαβε πῶμα πίθοιο
flew-out before for she-put-on the-lid of-the-jar
ἄλλα δὲ μυρία λυγρὰ κατ᾽ ἀνθρώπους ἀλάληται·
others and countless miseries among men wander
πλείη μὲν γὰρ γαῖα κακῶν, πλείη δὲ θάλασσα·
full indeed for the-earth of-evils full and the-sea
νοῦσοι δ᾽ ἀνθρώποισιν ἐφ᾽ ἡμέρῃ, αἳ δ᾽ ἐπὶ νυκτὶ
diseases and among-men by day others and by night
αὐτόματοι φοιτῶσι κακὰ θνητοῖσι φέρουσαι
of-themselves roam evils to-mortals bringing
σιγῇ, ἐπεὶ φωνὴν ἐξείλετο μητίετα Ζεύς.
in-silence since voice took-away counselor Zeus
οὕτως οὔτι πη ἔστι Διὸς νόον ἐξαλέασθαι.
so not-at-all anyhow it-is-possible of-Zeus the-mind to-escape

III · THE FIVE RACES OF MEN

The gods first make a golden race, who live under Cronus without toil or old age, die as if asleep, and become guardian spirits. The silver race stays childish for a hundred years and will not honor the gods, so Zeus hides it away. The bronze race loves war and perishes by its own hands. The heroes fall at Thebes and Troy, and some dwell in the Isles of the Blessed. The poet wishes he were not of the fifth race, of iron, whom Zeus will destroy. Its children will dishonor their parents, and Shame and Nemesis will leave men.

Εἰ δ' ἐθέλεις, ἕτερόν τοι ἐγὼ λόγον ἐκκορυφώσω
if and you-wish another to-you I tale will-sum-up
εὖ καὶ ἐπισταμένως· σὺ δ' ἐνὶ φρεσὶ βάλλεο σῇσιν.
well and skillfully you and in mind lay(-it) your
ὡς ὁμόθεν γεγάασι θεοὶ θνητοί τ' ἄνθρωποι.
how from-the-same-source were-born gods mortal and men
Χρύσεον μὲν πρώτιστα γένος μερόπων ἀνθρώπων
golden indeed first-of-all a-race of-mortal men
ἀθάνατοι ποίησαν Ὀλύμπια δώματ' ἔχοντες. 110
the-immortals made Olympian houses having
οἳ μὲν ἐπὶ Κρόνου ἦσαν, ὅτ' οὐρανῷ ἐμβασίλευεν·
they indeed in-the-time-of Cronus were when in-heaven he-was-king
ὥστε θεοὶ δ' ἔζωον ἀκηδέα θυμὸν ἔχοντες
like gods and they-lived carefree heart having
νόσφιν ἄτερ τε πόνων καὶ ὀιζύος· οὐδέ τι δειλὸν
apart-from free both from-toils and from-woe nor at-all wretched
γῆρας ἐπῆν, αἰεὶ δὲ πόδας καὶ χεῖρας ὁμοῖοι
old-age was-upon-them always and in-feet and hands alike
τέρποντ' ἐν θαλίῃσι κακῶν ἔκτοσθεν ἁπάντων· 115
they-delighted in feasts of-evils beyond all

θνῆσκον δ' ὥσθ' ὕπνῳ δεδμημένοι· ἐσθλὰ δὲ πάντα
they-died and as by-sleep overcome good-things and all
τοῖσιν ἔην· καρπὸν δ' ἔφερε ζείδωρος ἄρουρα
to-them were fruit and bore the-grain-giving field
αὐτομάτη πολλόν τε καὶ ἄφθονον· οἳ δ' ἐθελημοὶ
of-itself much both and abundant they and willingly
ἥσυχοι ἔργ' ἐνέμοντο σὺν ἐσθλοῖσιν πολέεσσιν.
in-peace works tended with good-things many
ἀφνειοὶ μήλοισι, φίλοι μακάρεσσι θεοῖσιν.
rich in-flocks dear to-the-blessed gods

Αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ δὴ τοῦτο γένος κατὰ γαῖ' ἐκάλυψε, —
but when indeed this race down earth covered
τοὶ μὲν δαίμονες ἁγνοὶ ἐπιχθόνιοι καλέονται
they indeed spirits pure earthly are-called
ἐσθλοί, ἀλεξίκακοι, φύλακες θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων,
good averters-of-evil guardians of-mortal men
πλουτοδόται· καὶ τοῦτο γέρας βασιλήιον ἔσχον—,
givers-of-wealth and this privilege kingly they-had
δεύτερον αὖτε γένος πολὺ χειρότερον μετόπισθεν
second then a-race much worse afterward
ἀργύρεον ποίησαν Ὀλύμπια δώματ' ἔχοντες,
of-silver made Olympian houses having
χρυσέῳ οὔτε φυὴν ἐναλίγκιον οὔτε νόημα.
to-the-golden neither in-build like nor in-mind
ἀλλ' ἑκατὸν μὲν παῖς ἔτεα παρὰ μητέρι κεδνῇ
but a-hundred indeed a-child years beside mother cherished
ἐτρέφετ' ἀτάλλων, μέγα νήπιος, ᾧ ἐνὶ οἴκῳ.
was-reared playing greatly childish his in house
ἀλλ' ὅτ' ἄρ' ἡβήσαι τε καὶ ἥβης μέτρον ἵκοιτο,
but when then he-grew-up both and of-youth the-measure reached

παυρίδιον ζώεσκον ἐπὶ χρόνον, ἄλγε᾽ ἔχοντες
for-a-little they-lived for time pains having
ἀφραδίῃς· ὕβριν γὰρ ἀτάσθαλον οὐκ ἐδύναντο
through-their-follies outrage for reckless not they-could
ἀλλήλων ἀπέχειν, οὐδ᾽ ἀθανάτους θεραπεύειν
from-each-other to-keep nor the-immortals to-serve
ἤθελον οὐδ᾽ ἔρδειν μακάρων ἱεροῖς ἐπὶ βωμοῖς,
they-would nor to-sacrifice of-the-blessed holy on altars
ἣ θέμις ἀνθρώποις κατὰ ἤθεα. τοὺς μὲν ἔπειτα
as right for-men according-to customs them indeed then
Ζεὺς Κρονίδης ἔκρυψε χολούμενος, οὕνεκα τιμὰς
Zeus son-of-Cronus hid angered because honors
οὐκ ἔδιδον μακάρεσσι θεοῖς, οἳ Ὄλυμπον ἔχουσιν.
not they-gave to-the-blessed gods who Olympus hold
Αὖτὰρ ἐπεὶ καὶ τοῦτο γένος κατὰ γαῖ᾽ ἐκάλυψε, —
but when also this race down earth covered
τοὶ μὲν ὑποχθόνιοι μάκαρες θνητοῖς καλέονται,
they indeed underworld blessed by-mortals are-called
δεύτεροι, ἀλλ᾽ ἔμπης τιμὴ καὶ τοῖσιν ὀπηδεῖ—,
second but nevertheless honor also them attends
Ζεὺς δὲ πατὴρ τρίτον ἄλλο γένος μερόπων ἀνθρώπων
Zeus and father a-third other race of-mortal men
χάλκειον ποίησ᾽, οὐκ ἀργυρέῳ οὐδὲν ὁμοῖον,
of-bronze made not to-the-silver at-all like
ἐκ μελιᾶν, δεινόν τε καὶ ὄβριμον· οἷσιν Ἄρηος
from ash-trees terrible both and mighty to-whom of-Ares
ἔργ᾽ ἔμελεν στονόεντα καὶ ὕβριες· οὐδέ τι σῖτον
the-works were-a-care grievous and outrages nor at-all bread
ἤσθιον, ἀλλ᾽ ἀδάμαντος ἔχον κρατερόφρονα θυμόν,
they-ate but of-adamant they-had strong-hearted heart

ἄπλαστοι· μεγάλη δὲ βίη καὶ χεῖρες ἄαπτοι
unapproachable great and might and hands invincible
ἐξ ὤμων ἐπέφυκον ἐπὶ στιβαροῖσι μέλεσσιν.
from shoulders grew upon stout limbs
ὧν δ' ἦν χάλκεα μὲν τεύχεα, χάλκεοι δέ τε οἶκοι
of-whom and were bronze indeed the-arms bronze and — the-houses
χαλκῷ δ' εἰργάζοντο· μέλας δ' οὐκ ἔσκε σίδηρος.
with-bronze and they-worked black and not was iron
καὶ τοὶ μὲν χείρεσσιν ὕπο σφετέρῃσι δαμέντες
and they indeed hands under their-own subdued
βῆσαν ἐς εὐρώεντα δόμον κρυεροῦ Ἀΐδαο
went to dank house of-chill Hades
νώνυμνοι· θάνατος δὲ καὶ ἐκπάγλους περ ἐόντας
nameless death and even terrible though being
εἷλε μέλας, λαμπρὸν δ' ἔλιπον φάος ἠελίοιο.
took black bright and they-left the-light of-the-sun

Αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ καὶ τοῦτο γένος κατὰ γαῖ' ἐκάλυψεν,
but when also this race down earth covered
αὖτις ἔτ' ἄλλο τέταρτον ἐπὶ χθονὶ πουλυβοτείρῃ
again still another fourth on earth much-nourishing
Ζεὺς Κρονίδης ποίησε, δικαιότερον καὶ ἄρειον,
Zeus son-of-Cronus made more-just and better
ἀνδρῶν ἡρώων θεῖον γένος, οἳ καλέονται
of-men heroes a-godlike race who are-called
ἡμίθεοι, προτέρη γενεὴ κατ' ἀπείρονα γαῖαν.
demigods former race over boundless earth
καὶ τοὺς μὲν πόλεμός τε κακὸς καὶ φύλοπις αἰνή,
and them indeed war both evil and battle dread
τοὺς μὲν ὑφ' ἑπταπύλῳ Θήβῃ, Καδμηίδι γαίῃ,
some indeed under seven-gated Thebes Cadmean land

ὤλεσε μαρναμένους μήλων ἕνεκ᾽ Οἰδιπόδαο,
destroyed fighting flocks for-the-sake-of of-Oedipus
τοὺς δὲ καὶ ἐν νήεσσιν ὑπὲρ μέγα λαῖτμα θαλάσσης
others and also in ships over great gulf of-the-sea
ἐς Τροίην ἀγαγὼν Ἑλένης ἕνεκ᾽ ἠυκόμοιο.
to Troy having-led Helen for-the-sake-of lovely-haired
ἔνθ᾽ ἤτοι τοὺς μὲν θανάτου τέλος ἀμφεκάλυψε,
there truly them indeed of-death the-end covered
τοῖς δὲ δίχ᾽ ἀνθρώπων βίοτον καὶ ἤθε᾽ ὀπάσσας
to-others and apart from-men livelihood and dwellings having-given
Ζεὺς Κρονίδης κατένασσε πατὴρ ἐς πείρατα γαίης.
Zeus son-of-Cronus settled father at the-ends of-earth
καὶ τοὶ μὲν ναίουσιν ἀκηδέα θυμὸν ἔχοντες
and they indeed dwell carefree heart having
ἐν μακάρων νήσοισι παρ᾽ Ὠκεανὸν βαθυδίνην,
in of-the-blessed the-islands beside Ocean deep-eddying
ὄλβιοι ἥρωες, τοῖσιν μελιηδέα καρπὸν
happy heroes for-whom honey-sweet fruit
τρὶς ἔτεος θάλλοντα φέρει ζείδωρος ἄρουρα.
thrice a-year flourishing bears the-grain-giving field
τηλοῦ ἀπ᾽ ἀθανάτων· τοῖσιν Κρόνος ἐμβασιλεύει.
far from the-immortals over-them Cronus reigns
Μηκέτ᾽ ἔπειτ᾽ ὤφελλον ἐγὼ πέμπτοισι μετεῖναι
no-longer then would-that I among-the-fifth to-be
ἀνδράσιν, ἀλλ᾽ ἢ πρόσθε θανεῖν ἢ ἔπειτα γενέσθαι.
men but either before to-die or afterward to-be-born

νῦν γὰρ δὴ γένος ἐστὶ σιδήρεον· οὐδέ ποτ᾽ ἦμαρ
now for indeed the-race is of-iron nor ever by-day
παύονται καμάτου καὶ ὀιζύος, οὐδέ τι νύκτωρ
cease from-labor and woe nor at-all by-night
φθειρόμενοι. χαλεπὰς δὲ θεοὶ δώσουσι μερίμνας·
perishing harsh and the-gods will-give cares
ἀλλ᾽ ἔμπης καὶ τοῖσι μεμείξεται ἐσθλὰ κακοῖσιν.
but nevertheless even for-these will-be-mingled good-things with-evils
Ζεὺς δ᾽ ὀλέσει καὶ τοῦτο γένος μερόπων ἀνθρώπων,
Zeus and will-destroy also this race of-mortal men
εὖτ᾽ ἂν γεινόμενοι πολιοκρόταφοι τελέθωσιν.
when — at-birth gray-templed they-are
οὐδὲ πατὴρ παίδεσσιν ὁμοίιος οὐδέ τι παῖδες,
nor father with-children like nor at-all the-children
οὐδὲ ξεῖνος ξεινοδόκῳ καὶ ἑταῖρος ἑταίρῳ,
nor guest with-host and comrade with-comrade
οὐδὲ κασίγνητος φίλος ἔσσεται, ὡς τὸ πάρος περ.
nor brother dear will-be as the before indeed
αἶψα δὲ γηράσκοντας ἀτιμήσουσι τοκῆας·
quickly and growing-old they-will-dishonor parents
μέμψονται δ᾽ ἄρα τοὺς χαλεποῖς βάζοντες ἔπεσσι
they-will-blame and then them with-harsh speaking words
σχέτλιοι οὐδὲ θεῶν ὄπιν εἰδότες· οὐδέ κεν οἵ γε
wretches nor of-the-gods vengeance knowing nor — they indeed
γηράντεσσι τοκεῦσιν ἀπὸ θρεπτήρια δοῖεν
to-aged parents back nurture would-give
χειροδίκαι· ἕτερος δ᾽ ἑτέρου πόλιν ἐξαλαπάξει.
fist-law-men one and of-another city will-sack

οὐδέ τις εὐόρκου χάρις ἔσσεται οὔτε δικαίου
nor any for-the-oath-keeper favor will-be nor for-the-just
οὔτ' ἀγαθοῦ, μᾶλλον δὲ κακῶν ῥέκτῆρα καὶ ὕβριν
nor for-the-good rather and of-evils the-doer and outrage
ἀνέρες αἰνήσουσι· δίκη δ' ἐν χερσί, καὶ αἰδὼς
men will-praise justice and in hands and shame
οὐκ ἔσται· βλάψει δ' ὁ κακὸς τὸν ἀρείονα φῶτα
not will-be will-harm and the bad the better man
μύθοισιν σκολιοῖς ἐνέπων, ἐπὶ δ' ὅρκον ὀμεῖται.
with-words crooked speaking upon and an-oath he-will-swear
ζῆλος δ' ἀνθρώποισιν ὀιζυροῖσιν ἅπασι
envy and for-men wretched all
δυσκέλαδος κακόχαρτος ὁμαρτήσει, στυγερώπης.
foul-mouthed delighting-in-evil will-accompany hateful-faced
καὶ τότε δὴ πρὸς Ὄλυμπον ἀπὸ χθονὸς εὐρυοδείης
and then indeed to Olympus from earth wide-wayed
λευκοῖσιν φάρεσσι καλυψαμένα χρόα καλὸν
with-white robes having-veiled skin fair
ἀθανάτων μετὰ φῦλον ἴτον προλιπόντ' ἀνθρώπους
of-the-immortals to tribe will-go having-forsaken men
Αἰδὼς καὶ Νέμεσις· τὰ δὲ λείψεται ἄλγεα λυγρὰ
shame and Nemesis these and will-be-left pains baneful
θνητοῖς ἀνθρώποισι· κακοῦ δ' οὐκ ἔσσεται ἀλκή.
for-mortal men of-evil and not will-be defense

The poet tells the kings a fable: a hawk carries off a nightingale and tells her it is foolish to fight the stronger. Perses should heed justice, not outrage. The city of straight judges flourishes in peace, with rich harvests and children like their parents, while Zeus sends famine and plague on the unjust. Zeus has thirty thousand watchers on earth, and Justice tells him of men's wrongs, so the bribe-eating kings should judge straight. Zeus gave beasts to eat each other but gave men justice, and the perjurer's line fades.

Νῦν δ' αἶνον βασιλεῦσιν ἐρέω φρονέουσι καὶ αὐτοῖς·
now and a-fable to-kings I-will-tell understanding even themselves
ὣδ' ἴρηξ προσέειπεν ἀηδόνα ποικιλόδειρον
thus the-hawk addressed the-nightingale speckle-necked
ὕψι μάλ' ἐν νεφέεσσι φέρων ὀνύχεσσι μεμαρπώς·
high very in clouds carrying in-talons having-seized
ἡ δ' ἐλεόν, γναμπτοῖσι πεπαρμένη ἀμφ' ὀνύχεσσι,
she and piteously with-crooked pierced around talons
μύρετο· τὴν ὅγ' ἐπικρατέως πρὸς μῦθον ἔειπεν·
wailed her he masterfully to word spoke
Δαιμονίη, τί λέληκας; ἔχει νύ σε πολλὸν ἀρείων·
strange-one why do-you-cry holds now you much stronger
τῇ δ' εἶς, ᾗ σ' ἂν ἐγώ περ ἄγω καὶ ἀοιδὸν ἐοῦσαν·
there and you-go where you — I indeed lead even a-singer being
δεῖπνον δ', αἴ κ' ἐθέλω, ποιήσομαι ἠὲ μεθήσω.
supper and if — I-wish I-will-make or let-go
ἄφρων δ', ὅς κ' ἐθέλῃ πρὸς κρείσσονας ἀντιφερίζειν·
senseless and who — wishes against the-stronger to-contend
νίκης τε στέρεται πρός τ' αἴσχεσιν ἄλγεα πάσχει.
of-victory both is-deprived beside and shame pains suffers

Ὣς ἔφατ᾽ ὠκυπέτης ἴρηξ, τανυσίπτερος ὄρνις.
so spoke the-swift-flying hawk long-winged bird
Ὦ Πέρση, σὺ δ᾽ ἄκουε δίκης, μηδ᾽ ὕβριν ὄφελλε·
O Perses you and listen to-justice nor outrage foster
ὕβρις γάρ τε κακὴ δειλῷ βροτῷ· οὐδὲ μὲν ἐσθλὸς
outrage for — evil for-a-poor mortal nor indeed the-noble
ῥηιδίως φερέμεν δύναται, βαρύθει δέ θ᾽ ὑπ᾽ αὐτῆς
easily to-bear can is-weighed-down and — under it
ἐγκύρσας ἄτῃσιν· ὁδὸς δ᾽ ἑτέρηφι παρελθεῖν
having-met with-ruins the-road and on-the-other-side to-pass
κρείσσων ἐς τὰ δίκαια· Δίκη δ᾽ ὑπὲρ Ὕβριος ἴσχει
better toward the just-things Justice and over Outrage prevails
ἐς τέλος ἐξελθοῦσα· παθὼν δέ τε νήπιος ἔγνω.
to the-end having-come having-suffered and — the-fool learns
αὐτίκα γὰρ τρέχει Ὅρκος ἅμα σκολιῇσι δίκῃσιν.
at-once for runs Oath together-with crooked judgments
τῆς δὲ Δίκης ῥόθος ἑλκομένης, ᾗ κ᾽ ἄνδρες ἄγωσι
of-the and Justice an-uproar being-dragged where — men lead-her
δωροφάγοι, σκολιῆς δὲ δίκῃς κρίνωσι θέμιστας.
gift-devouring with-crooked and judgments judge ordinances
ἡ δ᾽ ἕπεται κλαίουσα πόλιν καὶ ἤθεα λαῶν,
she and follows weeping the-city and the-haunts of-the-people
ἠέρα ἑσσαμένη, κακὸν ἀνθρώποισι φέρουσα,
in-mist clad evil to-men bringing
οἵ τε μιν ἐξελάσωσι καὶ οὐκ ἰθεῖαν ἔνειμαν.
who both her drive-out and not straight dealt
Οἳ δὲ δίκας ξείνοισι καὶ ἐνδήμοισι διδοῦσιν
who but judgments to-strangers and to-citizens give
ἰθείας καὶ μή τι παρεκβαίνουσι δικαίου,
straight and not at-all transgress of-the-just

τοῖσι τέθηλε πόλις, λαοὶ δ' ἀνθεῦσιν ἐν αὐτῇ·
for-them flourishes the-city the-people and blossom in it
εἰρήνη δ' ἀνὰ γῆν κουροτρόφος, οὐδέ ποτ' αὐτοῖς
peace and through the-land nurse-of-the-young nor ever for-them
ἀργαλέον πόλεμον τεκμαίρεται εὐρύοπα Ζεύς·
grievous war ordains far-seeing Zeus
οὐδέ ποτ' ἰθυδίκῃσι μετ' ἀνδράσι λιμὸς ὀπηδεῖ
nor ever with-straight-judging among men famine attends
οὐδ' ἄτη, θαλίῃς δὲ μεμηλότα ἔργα νέμονται.
nor ruin in-feasts and cared-for fields they-tend
τοῖσι φέρει μὲν γαῖα πολὺν βίον, οὔρεσι δὲ δρῦς
for-them bears indeed the-earth much livelihood on-the-mountains and the-oak
ἄκρη μέν τε φέρει βαλάνους, μέσση δὲ μελίσσας·
at-top indeed — bears acorns in-the-middle and bees
εἰροπόκοι δ' ὄιες μαλλοῖς καταβεβρίθασιν·
fleecy and sheep with-wool are-weighed-down
τίκτουσιν δὲ γυναῖκες ἐοικότα τέκνα γονεῦσιν·
bear and the-women like children to-parents
θάλλουσιν δ' ἀγαθοῖσι διαμπερές· οὐδ' ἐπὶ νηῶν
they-flourish and with-good-things continually nor on ships
νίσσονται, καρπὸν δὲ φέρει ζείδωρος ἄρουρα.
do-they-go fruit and bears the-grain-giving field
Οἷς δ' ὕβρις τε μέμηλε κακὴ καὶ σχέτλια ἔργα,
to-whom but outrage both is-a-care evil and cruel deeds
τοῖς δὲ δίκην Κρονίδης τεκμαίρεται εὐρύοπα Ζεύς.
for-them and justice the-son-of-Cronus ordains far-seeing Zeus
πολλάκι καὶ ξύμπασα πόλις κακοῦ ἀνδρὸς ἀπηύρα,
often even all-together a-city of-a-bad man reaps
ὅς κεν ἀλιτραίνῃ καὶ ἀτάσθαλα μηχανάαται.
who — sins and reckless-things devises

τοῖσιν δ' οὐρανόθεν μέγ' ἐπήγαγε πῆμα Κρονίων
on-them and from-heaven great brought bane the-son-of-Cronus
λιμὸν ὁμοῦ καὶ λοιμόν· ἀποφθινύθουσι δὲ λαοί.
famine together and plague perish and the-people
οὐδὲ γυναῖκες τίκτουσιν, μινύθουσι δὲ οἶκοι
nor women bear wane and the-houses
Ζηνὸς φραδμοσύνῃσιν Ὀλυμπίου· ἄλλοτε δ' αὖτε
of-Zeus by-the-counsels Olympian at-other-times and again
ἢ τῶν γε στρατὸν εὐρὺν ἀπώλεσεν ἢ ὅ γε τεῖχος
either their indeed army wide he-destroys or he indeed wall
ἢ νέας ἐν πόντῳ Κρονίδης ἀποαίνυται αὐτῶν.
or ships on the-sea the-son-of-Cronus takes-away from-them
Ὦ βασιλῆς, ὑμεῖς δὲ καταφράζεσθε καὶ αὐτοὶ
O kings you and consider also yourselves
τήνδε δίκην· ἐγγὺς γὰρ ἐν ἀνθρώποισιν ἐόντες
this justice near for among men being
ἀθάνατοι φράζονται, ὅσοι σκολιῇσι δίκῃσιν
the-immortals mark as-many-as with-crooked judgments
ἀλλήλους τρίβουσι θεῶν ὄπιν οὐκ ἀλέγοντες.
each-other grind of-the-gods vengeance not heeding
τρὶς γὰρ μύριοί εἰσιν ἐπὶ χθονὶ πουλυβοτείρῃ
thrice for ten-thousand are on earth much-nourishing
ἀθάνατοι Ζηνὸς φύλακες θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων·
immortal of-Zeus watchers of-mortal men
οἵ ῥα φυλάσσουσίν τε δίκας καὶ σχέτλια ἔργα
who then watch both judgments and cruel deeds
ἠέρα ἑσσάμενοι, πάντη φοιτῶντες ἐπ' αἶαν.
in-mist clad everywhere roaming over the-earth
ἡ δέ τε παρθένος ἐστὶ Δίκη, Διὸς ἐκγεγαυῖα,
the and — maiden is Justice of-Zeus born

κυδρή τ᾽ αἰδοίη τε θεῶν, οἳ Ὄλυμπον ἔχουσιν.
glorious both revered and by-the-gods who Olympus hold
καί ῥ᾽ ὁπότ᾽ ἄν τίς μιν βλάπτῃ σκολιῶς ὀνοτάζων,
and then whenever — someone her harms crookedly reviling
αὐτίκα πὰρ Διὶ πατρὶ καθεζομένη Κρονίωνι
at-once beside Zeus father sitting son-of-Cronus
γηρύετ᾽ ἀνθρώπων ἄδικον νόον, ὄφρ᾽ ἀποτίσῃ
she-tells of-men the-unjust mind so-that may-pay
δῆμος ἀτασθαλίας βασιλέων, οἳ λυγρὰ νοεῦντες
the-people for-the-recklessness of-the-kings who baneful-things intending
ἄλλῃ παρκλίνωσι δίκας σκολιῶς ἐνέποντες.
elsewhere turn-aside judgments crookedly speaking
ταῦτα φυλασσόμενοι, βασιλῆς, ἰθύνετε δίκας
these-things guarding-against kings straighten judgments
δωροφάγοι, σκολιέων δὲ δικέων ἐπὶ πάγχυ λάθεσθε.
gift-devouring of-crooked and judgments upon altogether forget
Οἳ γ᾽ αὐτῷ κακὰ τεύχει ἀνὴρ ἄλλῳ κακὰ τεύχων,
for-himself indeed himself evils works a-man for-another evils working
ἡ δὲ κακὴ βουλὴ τῷ βουλεύσαντι κάκιστη.
the and evil counsel for-the one-who-counseled worst
Πάντα ἰδὼν Διὸς ὀφθαλμὸς καὶ πάντα νοήσας
all seeing of-Zeus the-eye and all perceiving
καί νυ τάδ᾽, αἴ κ᾽ ἐθέλῃσ᾽, ἐπιδέρκεται, οὐδέ ἑ λήθει,
even now these-things if — he-wishes looks-on nor him escapes
οἵην δὴ καὶ τήνδε δίκην πόλις ἐντὸς ἐέργει.
what-kind indeed also this justice the-city within holds

νῦν δὴ ἐγὼ μήτ' αὐτὸς ἐν ἀνθρώποισι δίκαιος
now indeed I neither myself among men just
εἴην μήτ' ἐμὸς υἱός· ἐπεὶ κακὸν ἄνδρα δίκαιον
would-be nor my son since evil a-man just
ἔμμεναι, εἰ μείζω γε δίκην ἀδικώτερος ἕξει·
to-be if greater indeed justice the-more-unjust will-have
ἀλλὰ τά γ' οὔ πω ἔολπα τελεῖν Δία μητιόεντα.
but these-things indeed not yet I-expect to-accomplish Zeus counselor
Ὦ Πέρση, σὺ δὲ ταῦτα μετὰ φρεσὶ βάλλεο σῇσι,
O Perses you and these-things in mind lay(-them) your
καὶ νυ δίκης ἐπάκουε, βίης δ' ἐπιλήθεο πάμπαν.
and now to-justice listen violence and forget altogether
τόνδε γὰρ ἀνθρώποισι νόμον διέταξε Κρονίων
this for for-men law ordained the-son-of-Cronus
ἰχθύσι μὲν καὶ θηρσὶ καὶ οἰωνοῖς πετεηνοῖς
for-fishes indeed and beasts and birds winged
ἐσθέμεν ἀλλήλους, ἐπεὶ οὐ δίκη ἐστὶ μετ' αὐτοῖς·
to-eat each-other since not justice is among them
ἀνθρώποισι δ' ἔδωκε δίκην, ἣ πολλὸν ἀρίστη
to-men but he-gave justice which far best
γίγνεται· εἰ γάρ τίς κ' ἐθέλῃ τὰ δίκαι' ἀγορεῦσαι
is if for any — wishes the just-things to-speak
γιγνώσκων, τῷ μέν τ' ὄλβον διδοῖ εὐρύοπα Ζεύς·
knowing to-him indeed — wealth gives far-seeing Zeus
ὃς δέ κε μαρτυρίῃσι ἑκὼν ἐπίορκον ὀμόσσας
who but — in-witness willingly falsely having-sworn
ψεύσεται, ἐν δὲ δίκην βλάψας νήκεστον ἀασθῇ,
lies in and justice having-harmed incurably is-blinded

τοῦ δέ τ' ἀμαυροτέρη γενεὴ μετόπισθε λέλειπται·
of-him and — dimmer generation afterward is-left
ἀνδρὸς δ' εὐόρκου γενεὴ μετόπισθεν ἀμείνων.
of-a-man but oath-keeping the-generation afterward better

V · WORK, AND THE WAYS OF GETTING WEALTH

Badness is easy to reach, but the gods set sweat before excellence. Perses should work, for hunger follows the idle, and idleness, not work, is the reproach. Wealth seized by force or a lying tongue does not last, and Zeus punishes the man who wrongs a suppliant or a guest, beds his brother's wife, or wrongs orphans or his old father. The poet advises sacrifice by one's means, feasting a neighbor, giving to the giver, and saving. He adds rules for the jar, for trust, for the wheedling woman, and for an only son.

Σοὶ δ' ἐγὼ ἐσθλὰ νοέων ἐρέω, μέγα νήπιε Πέρση.
to-you and I good-things intending will-speak great fool Perses
τὴν μέν τοι κακότητα καὶ ἰλαδὸν ἔστιν ἑλέσθαι
the indeed you-know badness even in-a-crowd it-is-possible to-take
ῥηιδίως· λείη μὲν ὁδός, μάλα δ' ἐγγύθι ναίει·
easily smooth indeed the-road very and near she-dwells
τῆς δ' ἀρετῆς ἱδρῶτα θεοὶ προπάροιθεν ἔθηκαν
of-the but excellence sweat the-gods before set
ἀθάνατοι· μακρὸς δὲ καὶ ὄρθιος οἶμος ἐς αὐτὴν
immortal long but and steep the-path to it
καὶ τρηχὺς τὸ πρῶτον· ἐπὴν δ' εἰς ἄκρον ἵκηται,
and rough the first when but to the-top one-comes
ῥηιδίη δὴ ἔπειτα πέλει, χαλεπή περ ἐοῦσα.
easy indeed then it-is hard though being

Οὗτος μὲν πανάριστος, ὃς αὐτὸς πάντα νοήσῃ
that-man indeed best-of-all who himself all-things considers
φρασσάμενος, τά κ' ἔπειτα καὶ ἐς τέλος ἦσιν ἀμείνω·
having-pondered what — then and to the-end are better
ἐσθλὸς δ' αὖ κἀκεῖνος, ὃς εὖ εἰπόντι πίθηται·
good and in-turn that-one-too who well speaking obeys
ὃς δέ κε μήτ' αὐτὸς νοέῃ μήτ' ἄλλου ἀκούων
who but — neither himself considers nor another hearing
ἐν θυμῷ βάλληται, ὃ δ' αὖτ' ἀχρήιος ἀνήρ.
in heart lays(-it) he and in-turn a-useless man
ἀλλὰ σύ γ' ἡμετέρης μεμνημένος αἰὲν ἐφετμῆς
but you indeed our remembering always charge
ἐργάζευ, Πέρση, δῖον γένος, ὄφρα σε λιμὸς
work Perses noble race so-that you hunger
ἐχθαίρῃ, φιλέῃ δέ σ' ἐυστέφανος Δημήτηρ
may-hate may-love and you fair-crowned Demeter
αἰδοίη, βιότου δὲ τεὴν πιμπλῇσι καλιήν·
revered of-livelihood and your may-fill granary
λιμὸς γάρ τοι πάμπαν ἀεργῷ σύμφορος ἀνδρί.
famine for you-know altogether for-the-idle companion man
τῷ δὲ θεοὶ νεμεσῶσι καὶ ἀνέρες, ὅς κεν ἀεργὸς
with-him and the-gods are-indignant and men who — idle
ζώῃ, κηφήνεσσι κοθούροις εἴκελος ὀργήν,
lives to-drones stingless like in-temper
οἵ τε μελισσάων κάματον τρύχουσιν ἀεργοὶ
who — of-the-bees the-toil waste idle
ἔσθοντες· σοὶ δ' ἔργα φίλ' ἔστω μέτρια κοσμεῖν,
eating for-you and works dear let-be in-measure to-order
ὥς κέ τοι ὡραίου βιότου πλήθωσι καλιαί.
that — for-you of-seasonable livelihood may-be-full the-granaries

ἐξ ἔργων δ' ἄνδρες πολύμηλοί τ' ἀφνειοί τε·
from works and men rich-in-flocks both wealthy and
καὶ ἐργαζόμενοι πολὺ φίλτεροι ἀθανάτοισιν.
and working much dearer to-the-immortals
ἔργον δ' οὐδὲν ὄνειδος, ἀεργίη δέ τ' ὄνειδος.
work and no reproach idleness and — reproach
εἰ δέ κε ἐργάζῃ, τάχα σε ζηλώσει ἀεργὸς
if but — you-work soon you will-envy the-idle
πλουτεῦντα· πλούτῳ δ' ἀρετὴ καὶ κῦδος ὀπηδεῖ.
growing-rich wealth and excellence and glory attends
δαίμονι δ' οἷος ἔησθα, τὸ ἐργάζεσθαι ἄμεινον,
to-fortune and such you-were the to-work better
315 εἴ κεν ἀπ' ἀλλοτρίων κτεάνων ἀεσίφρονα θυμὸν
if — from others' possessions foolish heart
εἰς ἔργον τρέψας μελετᾷς βίου, ὥς σε κελεύω.
to work having-turned you-attend-to livelihood as you I-bid
αἰδὼς δ' οὐκ ἀγαθὴ κεχρημένον ἄνδρα κομίζει,
shame and not good the-needy man attends
αἰδώς, ἥ τ' ἄνδρας μέγα σίνεται ἠδ' ὀνίνησιν.
shame which — men greatly harms and benefits
αἰδὼς τοι πρὸς ἀνολβίῃ, θάρσος δὲ πρὸς ὄλβῳ.
shame you-know toward poverty confidence and toward wealth
320 Χρήματα δ' οὐχ ἁρπακτά, θεόσδοτα πολλὸν ἀμείνω.
possessions and not to-be-seized god-given much better
εἰ γάρ τις καὶ χερσὶ βίῃ μέγαν ὄλβον ἕληται,
if for someone even with-hands by-force great wealth takes

ἢ ὅ γ' ἀπὸ γλώσσης λῃίσσεται, οἷά τε πολλὰ
or he indeed from the-tongue plunders such-as — often
γίγνεται, εὖτ' ἂν δὴ κέρδος νόον ἐξαπατήσῃ
happens when — indeed gain the-mind deceives
ἀνθρώπων, αἰδὼ δέ τ' ἀναιδείη κατοπάζῃ·
of-men shame and — shamelessness pursues
ῥεῖα δέ μιν μαυροῦσι θεοί, μινύθουσι δὲ οἶκον
easily and him blacken the-gods they-lessen and the-house
ἀνέρι τῷ, παῦρον δέ τ' ἐπὶ χρόνον ὄλβος ὀπηδεῖ.
for-man that for-a-little and — for time wealth attends
ἶσον δ' ὅς θ' ἱκέτην ὅς τε ξεῖνον κακὸν ἔρξῃ,
alike and who both a-suppliant who and a-guest evil does
ὅς τε κασιγνήτοιο ἑοῦ ἀνὰ δέμνια βαίνῃ
who and of-brother his up-to bed goes
κρυπταδίης εὐνῆς ἀλόχου, παρακαίρια ῥέζων,
secret for-intercourse of-the-wife untimely acting
ὅς τέ τευ ἀφραδίῃς ἀλιταίνεται ὀρφανὰ τέκνα,
who and of-someone in-his-folly sins-against orphan children
ὅς τε γονῆα γέροντα κακῷ ἐπὶ γήραος οὐδῷ
who and parent old evil on of-old-age threshold
νεικείῃ χαλεποῖσι καθαπτόμενος ἐπέεσσιν·
quarrels-with harsh assailing with-words
τῷ δ' ἦ τοι Ζεὺς αὐτὸς ἀγαίεται, ἐς δὲ τελευτὴν
with-him and truly you-know Zeus himself is-angry to and the-end
ἔργων ἀντ' ἀδίκων χαλεπὴν ἐπέθηκεν ἀμοιβήν.
deeds in-return-for unjust harsh lays-on requital
ἀλλὰ σὺ τῶν μὲν πάμπαν ἔεργ' ἀεσίφρονα θυμόν.
but you from-these indeed altogether keep foolish heart

κὰδ δύναμιν δ᾽ ἔρδειν ἱέρ᾽ ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσιν
according-to ability and to-sacrifice holy-things to-immortal gods
ἁγνῶς καὶ καθαρῶς, ἐπὶ δ᾽ ἀγλαὰ μηρία καίειν·
purely and cleanly upon and glorious thigh-pieces to-burn
ἄλλοτε δὲ σπονδῇσι θύεσσί τε ἱλάσκεσθαι,
at-other-times and with-libations with-offerings and to-propitiate
ἠμὲν ὅτ᾽ εὐνάζῃ καὶ ὅτ᾽ ἂν φάος ἱερὸν ἔλθῃ,
both when you-go-to-bed and when — light holy comes
ὥς κέ τοι ἵλαον κραδίην καὶ θυμὸν ἔχωσιν,
that — to-you gracious heart and spirit they-may-have
ὄφρ᾽ ἄλλων ὠνῇ κλῆρον, μὴ τὸν τεὸν ἄλλος.
that of-others you-may-buy lot not the your another
Τὸν φιλέοντ᾽ ἐπὶ δαῖτα καλεῖν, τὸν δ᾽ ἐχθρὸν ἐâσαι·
the friend to a-feast to-call the and enemy to-let-be
τὸν δὲ μάλιστα καλεῖν, ὅς τις σέθεν ἐγγύθι ναίει·
him and most to-call who any you near dwells
εἰ γάρ τοι καὶ χρῆμ᾽ ἐγχώριον ἄλλο γένηται,
if for you-know also a-matter in-the-village other happen
γείτονες ἄζωστοι ἔκιον, ζώσαντο δὲ πηοί.
neighbors ungirt come girded and kinsmen
πῆμα κακὸς γείτων, ὅσσον τ᾽ ἀγαθὸς μέγ᾽ ὄνειαρ.
a-bane a-bad neighbor as-much-as — a-good a-great blessing
ἔμμορέ τοι τιμῆς, ὅς τ᾽ ἔμμορε γείτονος ἐσθλοῦ.
has-a-share you-know of-honor who and has-a-share of-a-neighbor good
οὐδ᾽ ἂν βοῦς ἀπόλοιτ᾽, εἰ μὴ γείτων κακὸς εἴη.
nor — an-ox would-perish if not a-neighbor bad were
εὖ μὲν μετρεῖσθαι παρὰ γείτονος, εὖ δ᾽ ἀποδοῦναι,
well indeed to-get-measure from neighbor well and to-pay-back

αὐτῷ τῷ μέτρῳ, καὶ λώιον, αἴ κε δύνηαι,
with-the-same the measure and better if — you-can
ὡς ἂν χρηίζων καὶ ἐς ὕστερον ἄρκιον εὕρῃς.
that — needing even for later enough you-may-find
Μὴ κακὰ κερδαίνειν· κακὰ κέρδεα ἶσ' ἀάτῃσιν.
not evil-things to-gain evil gains equal to-ruin
τὸν φιλέοντα φιλεῖν, καὶ τῷ προσιόντι προσεῖναι.
the one-who-loves to-love and him who-approaches to-approach
καὶ δόμεν, ὅς κεν δῷ, καὶ μὴ δόμεν, ὅς κεν μὴ δῷ.
and to-give who — gives and not to-give who — not gives
δώτῃ μέν τις ἔδωκεν, ἀδώτῃ δ' οὔτις ἔδωκεν.
to-a-giver indeed one gave to-a-non-giver but no-one gave
δὼς ἀγαθή, ἅρπαξ δὲ κακή, θανάτοιο δότειρα.
give good grab and bad of-death bestower
ὃς μὲν γάρ κεν ἀνὴρ ἐθέλων, ὅ γε, κεἰ μέγα δοίη,
who indeed for — a-man willing he indeed even-if great gives
χαίρει τῷ δώρῳ καὶ τέρπεται ὃν κατὰ θυμόν·
rejoices in-the gift and delights his in heart
ὃς δέ κεν αὐτὸς ἕληται ἀναιδείηφι πιθήσας,
who but — himself takes in-shamelessness trusting
καί τε σμικρὸν ἐόν, τό γ' ἐπάχνωσεν φίλον ἦτορ.
even — small being it indeed has-frozen dear heart
ὃς δ' ἐπ' ἐόντι φέρει, ὃ δ' ἀλέξεται αἴθοπα λιμόν·
who and to what-is brings he and wards-off fiery famine
εἰ γάρ κεν καὶ σμικρὸν ἐπὶ σμικρῷ καταθεῖο
if for — even small upon small you-lay-up
καὶ θαμὰ τοῦτ' ἔρδοις, τάχα κεν μέγα καὶ τὸ γένοιτο.
and often this you-do soon — great even that would-be
οὐδὲ τό γ' ἐν οἴκῳ κατακείμενον ἀνέρα κήδει.
nor it indeed in house lying-stored a-man troubles

οἶκοι βέλτερον εἶναι, ἐπεὶ βλαβερὸν τὸ θύρηφιν.
at-home better to-be since harmful the at-the-door
ἐσθλὸν μὲν παρεόντος ἑλέσθαι, πῆμα δὲ θυμῷ
good indeed from-what-is-present to-take a-bane and to-the-heart
χρηίζειν ἀπεόντος, ἃ σε φράζεσθαι ἄνωγα.
to-need what-is-absent which you to-consider I-bid
ἀρχομένου δὲ πίθου καὶ λήγοντος κορέσασθαι,
beginning and of-the-jar and ending to-take-your-fill
μεσσόθι φείδεσθαι· δειλὴ δ' ἐνὶ πυθμένι φειδώ.
in-the-middle to-spare poor and at the-bottom thrift
Μισθὸς δ' ἀνδρὶ φίλῳ εἰρημένος ἄρκιος ἔστω.
the-wage and to-a-man dear agreed sufficient let-be
καί τε κασιγνήτῳ γελάσας ἐπὶ μάρτυρα θέσθαι.
and — with-brother laughing upon a-witness to-put
πίστεις γάρ τοι ὁμῶς καὶ ἀπιστίαι ὤλεσαν ἄνδρας.
trust for you-know alike and distrust have-destroyed men
Μὴ δὲ γυνή σε νόον πυγοστόλος ἐξαπατάτω
not and a-woman you mind rump-decking deceive
αἰμύλα κωτίλλουσα, τεὴν διφῶσα καλιήν.
wheedling-things prattling your searching granary
ὃς δὲ γυναικὶ πέποιθε, πέποιθ' ὅ γε φηλήτῃσιν.
who and in-a-woman trusts trusts he indeed in-cheats
Μουνογενὴς δὲ πάις εἴη πατρώιον οἶκον
an-only-begotten and son may-there-be father's house
φερβέμεν ὣς γὰρ πλοῦτος ἀέξεται ἐν μεγάροισιν.
to-feed so for wealth increases in the-halls
γηραιὸς δὲ θάνοις ἕτερον παῖδ' ἐγκαταλείπων.
old and may-you-die another son leaving-behind

ῥεῖα δέ κεν πλεόνεσσι πόροι Ζεὺς ἄσπετον ὄλβον.
easily and — to-more might-grant Zeus boundless wealth
πλείων μὲν πλεόνων μελέτη, μείζων δ' ἐπιθήκη.
more indeed of-more the-care greater and the-increase
Σοὶ δ' εἰ πλούτου θυμὸς ἐέλδεται ἐν φρεσὶν ἧῃσιν,
for-you and if for-wealth heart longs in mind your
ὣδ' ἔρδειν, καὶ ἔργον ἐπ' ἔργῳ ἐργάζεσθαι.
so to-do and work upon work to-work

VI · PLOWING SEASON AND THE FARMER'S GEAR

When the Pleiades rise, begin the harvest; when they set, plow, working stripped. Perses should work and not beg from neighbors. First get a house, a woman, and a plowing ox, and keep everything ready. Cut wood in autumn when the timber is free of worms: a mortar of three feet, a pestle, an axle, and a wagon. Make two plows, one of a single piece and one jointed, and get two nine-year-old oxen and a forty-year-old plowman who minds his work.

Πληιάδων Ἀτλαγενέων ἐπιτελλομενάων
when-the-Pleiades Atlas-born rise
ἄρχεσθ' ἀμήτου, ἀρότοιο δὲ δυσομενάων.
begin of-harvest of-plowing and when-they-set
αἳ δή τοι νύκτας τε καὶ ἤματα τεσσαράκοντα
they indeed you-know nights both and days forty
κεκρύφαται, αὖτις δὲ περιπλομένου ἐνιαυτοῦ
are-hidden again and revolving the-year
φαίνονται τὰ πρῶτα χαρασσομένοιο σιδήρου.
appear the first when-is-sharpened the-iron

οὗτός τοι πεδίων πέλεται νόμος, οἵ τε θαλάσσης
this you-know of-plains is the-law who and the-sea
ἐγγύθι ναιετάουσ', οἵ τ' ἄγκεα βησσήεντα,
near dwell who and the-glens wooded
πόντου κυμαίνοντος ἀπόπροθι, πίονα χῶρον
the-sea surging far-from rich land
ναίουσιν· γυμνὸν σπείρειν, γυμνὸν δὲ βοωτεῖν,
dwell naked to-sow naked and to-drive-oxen
γυμνὸν δ' ἀμάειν, εἴ χ' ὥρια πάντ' ἐθέλῃσθα
naked and to-reap if — in-season all you-wish
ἔργα κομίζεσθαι Δημήτερος· ὥς τοι ἕκαστα
the-works to-bring-in of-Demeter that for-you each
ὥρι' ἀέξηται, μή πως τὰ μέταξε χατίζων
in-season may-grow lest somehow the-things afterward needing
πτώσσῃς ἀλλοτρίους οἴκους καὶ μηδὲν ἀνύσσῃς.
you-cringe-at others' houses and nothing accomplish
ὡς καὶ νῦν ἐπ' ἔμ' ἦλθες· ἐγὼ δέ τοι οὐκ ἐπιδώσω
as even now to me you-came I and to-you not will-give-more
οὐδ' ἐπιμετρήσω· ἐργάζευ, νήπιε Πέρση,
nor will-measure-out work fool Perses
ἔργα, τά τ' ἀνθρώποισι θεοὶ διετεκμήραντο,
the-works which — for-men the-gods ordained
μή ποτε σὺν παίδεσσι γυναικί τε θυμὸν ἀχεύων
lest ever with children wife and in-heart grieving
ζητεύῃς βίοτον κατὰ γείτονας, οἳ δ' ἀμελῶσιν.
you-seek livelihood among the-neighbors they and heed-not
δὶς μὲν γὰρ καὶ τρὶς τάχα τεύξεαι· ἢν δ' ἔτι λυπῇς,
twice indeed for and thrice soon you-will-get if but still you-trouble(-them)
χρῆμα μὲν οὐ πρήξεις, σὺ δ' ἐτώσια πόλλ' ἀγορεύσεις·
the-matter indeed not you-will-achieve you and vain-things many will-say

ἀχρεῖος δ' ἔσται ἐπέων νομός. ἀλλά σ' ἄνωγα
useless and will-be of-words the-range but you I-bid
φράζεσθαι χρειῶν τε λύσιν λιμοῦ τ' ἀλεωρήν.
to-consider of-debts both a-release of-famine and an-avoidance
Οἶκον μὲν πρώτιστα γυναῖκά τε βοῦν τ' ἀροτῆρα, 405
a-house indeed first-of-all a-woman and an-ox and plowing
κτητήν, οὐ γαμετήν, ἥτις καὶ βουσὶν ἕποιτο,
bought not married who even the-oxen might-follow
χρήματα δ' ἐν οἴκῳ πάντ' ἄρμενα ποιήσασθαι,
the-gear and in house all fit to-make
μὴ σὺ μὲν αἰτῇς ἄλλον, ὃ δ' ἀρνῆται, σὺ δὲ τητᾷ,
lest you indeed ask another he and refuses you and go-without
ἡ δ' ὥρη παραμείβηται, μινύθῃ δὲ τὸ ἔργον.
the and season passes-by wanes and the work
μηδ' ἀναβάλλεσθαι ἔς τ' αὔριον ἔς τε ἔνηφιν· 410
nor to-put-off to and tomorrow to and the-day-after
οὐ γὰρ ἐτωσιοεργὸς ἀνὴρ πίμπλησι καλιὴν
not for a-shirker-of-work man fills granary
οὐδ' ἀναβαλλόμενος· μελέτη δὲ τὸ ἔργον ὀφέλλει·
nor one-putting-off care and the work prospers
αἰεὶ δ' ἀμβολιεργὸς ἀνὴρ ἄτῃσι παλαίει.
always and a-putter-off-of-work man with-ruin wrestles

Ἦμος δὴ λήγει μένος ὀξέος ἠελίοιο
when indeed ceases the-strength of-the-sharp sun
καύματος ἰδαλίμου, μετοπωρινὸν ὀμβρήσαντος
of-heat sweaty autumnal having-rained
Ζηνὸς ἐρισθενέος, μετὰ δὲ τρέπεται βρότεος χρὼς
of-Zeus mighty after and turns of-mortals the-skin
πολλὸν ἐλαφρότερος· δὴ γὰρ τότε Σείριος ἀστὴρ
much lighter indeed for then Sirius star
βαιὸν ὑπὲρ κεφαλῆς κηριτρεφέων ἀνθρώπων
little over head of-doom-nurtured men
ἔρχεται ἠμάτιος, πλεῖον δέ τε νυκτὸς ἐπαυρεῖ·
goes by-day more and — of-the-night has-a-share
τῆμος ἀδηκτοτάτη πέλεται τμηθεῖσα σιδήρῳ
then least-worm-eaten is cut with-iron
ὕλη, φύλλα δ' ἔραζε χέει, πτόρθοιό τε λήγει·
wood leaves and to-the-ground pours of-sprouting and ceases
τῆμος ἄρ' ὑλοτομεῖν μεμνημένος ὥρια ἔργα.
then then to-cut-wood remembering seasonable work
ὄλμον μὲν τριπόδην τάμνειν, ὕπερον δὲ τρίπηχυν,
mortar indeed three-foot to-cut pestle and three-cubit
ἄξονα δ' ἑπταπόδην· μάλα γάρ νύ τοι ἄρμενον οὕτω·
axle and seven-foot very for now to-you fitting so
εἰ δέ κεν ὀκταπόδην, ἀπὸ καὶ σφῦράν κε τάμοιο.
if but — eight-foot from and a-mallet — you-may-cut
τρισπίθαμον δ' ἄψιν τάμνειν δεκαδώρῳ ἀμάξῃ.
three-span and a-felloe to-cut for-a-ten-palm wagon
πόλλ' ἐπικαμπύλα κᾶλα· φέρειν δὲ γύην, ὅτ' ἂν εὕρῃς,
many curved timbers to-carry and a-plow-tree when — you-find
ἐς οἶκον, κατ' ὄρος διζήμενος ἢ κατ' ἄρουραν,
to the-house over mountain searching or over field

πρίνινον· ὃς γὰρ βουσὶν ἀροῦν ὀχυρώτατός ἐστιν,
of-holm-oak this for for-oxen to-plow strongest is
εὖτ' ἂν Ἀθηναίης δμῳὸς ἐν ἐλύματι πήξας
when — of-Athena the-servant in the-share-beam having-fixed
γόμφοισιν πελάσας προσαρήρεται ἱστοβοῆι.
with-pegs having-fastened attaches to-the-pole
δοιὰ δὲ θέσθαι ἄροτρα, πονησάμενος κατὰ οἶκον,
two and to-put plows having-toiled at home
αὐτόγυον καὶ πηκτόν, ἐπεὶ πολὺ λώιον οὕτω·
of-one-piece and jointed since much better so
εἴ χ' ἕτερον ἄξαις, ἕτερόν κ' ἐπὶ βουσὶ βάλοιο.
if — the-one you-break the-other — upon oxen you-may-put
δάφνης δ' ἢ πτελέης ἀκιώτατοι ἱστοβοῆες,
of-laurel and or elm least-worm-eaten poles
δρυὸς ἔλυμα, γύης πρίνου· βόε δ' ἐννaετήρω
of-oak the-share-beam the-plow-tree of-holm-oak two-oxen and nine-years-old
ἄρσενε κεκτῆσθαι, τῶν γὰρ σθένος οὐκ ἀλαπαδνόν,
males to-get of-them for the-strength not feeble
ἥβης μέτρον ἔχοντε· τὼ ἐργάζεσθαι ἀρίστω.
of-youth the-measure having they to-work best
οὐκ ἂν τώ γ' ἐρίσαντε ἐν αὔλακι κὰμ μὲν ἄροτρον
not — they indeed quarreling in the-furrow down indeed the-plow
ἄξειαν, τὸ δὲ ἔργον ἐτώσιον αὖθι λίποιεν.
would-break the and work vain there leave
τοῖς δ' ἅμα τεσσαρακονταετὴς αἰζηὸς ἕποιτο
with-them and together a-forty-year-old vigorous-man should-follow
ἄρτον δειπνήσας τετράτρυφον, ὀκτάβλωμον,
loaf having-supped four-parted eight-sliced
ὃς ἔργου μελετῶν ἰθεῖάν κ' αὔλακ' ἐλαύνοι,
who to-work attending straight — furrow would-drive

μηκέτι παπταίνων μεθ' ὁμήλικας, ἀλλ' ἐπὶ ἔργῳ
no-longer peering after his-fellows but on work
θυμὸν ἔχων· τοῦ δ' οὔτι νεώτερος ἄλλος ἀμείνων
heart having than-him and not-at-all younger other better
σπέρματα δάσσασθαι καὶ ἐπισπορίην ἀλέασθαι.
seeds to-scatter and over-sowing to-avoid
κουρότερος γὰρ ἀνὴρ μεθ' ὁμήλικας ἐπτοίηται.
younger for a-man after his-fellows is-flustered

VII · PLOWING AND THE LATE SOWING

The crane's cry from the clouds is the sign for plowing and winter rain, and it grieves the man without oxen. Plow early, wet or dry, and sow fallow land. Pray to Zeus of the earth and to Demeter as you begin, with a slave behind covering the seed. If you plow at the solstice, you will reap sitting down, a meager crop; if you plow late, your remedy is rain on the third day after the cuckoo first calls. In winter, pass by the smithy and the warm lounge, for the idle man waiting on empty hope broods on evil.

Φράζεσθαι δ', εὖτ' ἂν γεράνου φωνὴν ἐπακούσῃς
to-take-note and when — of-the-crane the-voice you-hear
ὑψόθεν ἐκ νεφέων ἐνιαύσια κεκληγυίης·
from-on-high from the-clouds yearly crying
ἥτ' ἀρότοιό τε σῆμα φέρει καὶ χείματος ὥρην
who of-plowing both the-sign brings and of-winter the-season
δεικνύει ὀμβρηροῦ· κραδίην δ' ἔδακ' ἀνδρὸς ἀβούτεω·
shows rainy the-heart and stings of-the-man ox-less
δὴ τότε χορτάζειν ἕλικας βόας ἔνδον ἐόντας·
indeed then to-fodder crooked-horned oxen within being
ῥηίδιον γὰρ ἔπος εἰπεῖν· βόε δὸς καὶ ἄμαξαν·
easy for a-word to-say two-oxen give and a-wagon

ῥηίδιον δ᾽ ἀπανήνασθαι· πάρα ἔργα βόεσσιν.
easy and to-refuse are-at-hand tasks for-the-oxen
φησὶ δ᾽ ἀνὴρ φρένας ἀφνειὸς πήξασθαι ἄμαξαν,
says and a-man in-mind rich to-build a-wagon
νήπιος, οὐδὲ τὸ οἶδ᾽· ἑκατὸν δέ τε δούρατ᾽ ἀμάξης,
fool nor this knows a-hundred and — timbers of-a-wagon
τῶν πρόσθεν μελέτην ἐχέμεν οἰκήια θέσθαι.
of-which before care to-have at-home to-store
Εὖτ᾽ ἂν δὲ πρώτιστ᾽ ἄροτος θνητοῖσι φανείῃ,
when — and first plowing to-mortals appears
δὴ τότ᾽ ἐφορμηθῆναι ὁμῶς δμῶές τε καὶ αὐτὸς
indeed then to-set-to alike slaves both and yourself
αὔην καὶ διερὴν ἀρόων ἀρότοιο καθ᾽ ὥρην,
dry and wet plowing of-plowing in season
πρωὶ μάλα σπεύδων, ἵνα τοι πλήθωσιν ἄρουραι.
early very hastening so-that for-you may-be-full the-fields
ἦρι πολεῖν· θέρεος δὲ νεωμένη οὔ σ᾽ ἀπατήσει.
in-spring to-plow in-summer and turned-again not you will-deceive
νειὸν δὲ σπείρειν ἔτι κουφίζουσαν ἄρουραν·
fallow and to-sow still light field
νειὸς ἀλεξιάρη παίδων εὐκηλήτειρα.
fallow averter-of-curses of-children soother
Εὔχεσθαι δὲ Διὶ χθονίῳ Δημήτερί θ᾽ ἁγνῇ,
to-pray and to-Zeus of-the-earth to-Demeter and holy
ἐκτελέα βρίθειν Δημήτερος ἱερὸν ἀκτήν,
full-grown to-be-heavy of-Demeter holy grain

ἀρχόμενος τὰ πρῶτ' ἀρότου, ὅτ' ἂν ἄκρον ἐχέτλης
beginning the first of-plowing when — the-tip of-the-plow-handle
χειρὶ λαβὼν ὄρπηκα βοῶν ἐπὶ νῶτον ἵκηαι
with-hand taking the-goad of-the-oxen on the-back you-come
ἔνδρυον ἑλκόντων μεσάβων. ὁ δὲ τυτθὸς ὄπισθε
the-pin drawing by-the-yoke-straps he and a-little behind
δμῳὸς ἔχων μακέλην πόνον ὀρνίθεσσι τιθείη
slave having a-mattock trouble for-the-birds should-make
σπέρμα κατακρύπτων· εὐθημοσύνη γὰρ ἀρίστη
the-seed covering good-management for best
θνητοῖς ἀνθρώποις, κακοθημοσύνη δὲ κακίστη.
for-mortal men bad-management and worst
ὧδέ κεν ἀδροσύνῃ στάχυες νεύοιεν ἔραζε,
thus — with-fullness the-ears would-bow to-the-ground
εἰ τέλος αὐτὸς ὄπισθεν Ὀλύμπιος ἐσθλὸν ὀπάζοι,
if the-end himself afterward the-Olympian good grant
ἐκ δ' ἀγγέων ἐλάσειας ἀράχνια· καί σε ἔολπα
out and of-vessels you-would-drive cobwebs and you I-expect
γηθήσειν βιότου αἰρεύμενον ἔνδον ἐόντος.
will-rejoice of-livelihood taking within being
εὐοχθέων δ' ἵξεαι πολιὸν ἔαρ, οὐδὲ πρὸς ἄλλους
well-off and you-will-come-to gray spring nor to others
αὐγάσεαι· σέο δ' ἄλλος ἀνὴρ κεχρημένος ἔσται.
will-you-look of-you and another man needing will-be
Εἰ δέ κεν ἠελίοιο τροπῇς ἀρόῳς χθόνα δῖαν,
if but — of-the-sun at-the-turnings you-plow the-earth divine
ἥμενος ἀμήσεις ὀλίγον περὶ χειρὸς ἐέργων,
sitting you-will-reap little around hand gathering
ἀντία δεσμεύων κεκονιμένος, οὐ μάλα χαίρων,
crosswise binding dusty not very rejoicing

οἴσεις δ' ἐν φορμῷ· παῦροι δέ σε θηήσονται.
you-will-carry and in a-basket few and you will-admire
ἄλλοτε δ' ἀλλοῖος Ζηνὸς νόος αἰγιόχοιο,
at-other-times and different of-Zeus the-mind aegis-bearing
ἀργαλέος δ' ἄνδρεσσι καταθνητοῖσι νοῆσαι.
hard and for-men mortal to-know
εἰ δέ κεν ὄψ' ἀρόσῃς, τόδε κέν τοι φάρμακον εἴη·
if but — late you-plow this — for-you remedy might-be
ἦμος κόκκυξ κοκκύζει δρυὸς ἐν πετάλοισι
when the-cuckoo calls of-the-oak in the-leaves
τὸ πρῶτον, τέρπει δὲ βροτοὺς ἐπ' ἀπείρονα γαῖαν,
the first delights and mortals over boundless earth
τῆμος Ζεὺς ὖοι τρίτῳ ἤματι μηδ' ἀπολήγοι,
then Zeus may-rain on-the-third day nor cease
μήτ' ἄρ' ὑπερβάλλων βοὸς ὁπλὴν μήτ' ἀπολείπων·
neither then overflowing of-an-ox the-hoof nor falling-short
οὕτω κ' ὀψαρότης πρῳηρότῃ ἰσοφαρίζοι.
thus — the-late-plower with-the-early-plower might-vie
ἐν θυμῷ δ' εὖ πάντα φυλάσσεο· μηδέ σε λήθοι
in heart and well all keep nor you escape
μήτ' ἔαρ γιγνόμενον πολιὸν μήθ' ὥριος ὄμβρος.
neither spring coming gray nor seasonable rain
Πὰρ δ' ἴθι χάλκειον θῶκον καὶ ἐπαλέα λέσχην
past and go the-bronze-smith's seat and warm lounge
ὥρῃ χειμερίῃ, ὁπότε κρύος ἀνέρα ἔργων
in-season wintry when cold a-man from-works
ἰσχάνει, ἔνθα κ' ἄοκνος ἀνὴρ μέγα οἶκον ὀφέλλοι,
holds-back there — an-unhesitating man greatly house might-prosper

μή σε κακοῦ χειμῶνος ἀμηχανίη καταμάρψῃ
lest you of-evil winter the-helplessness overtake
σὺν πενίῃ, λεπτῇ δὲ παχὺν πόδα χειρὶ πιέζῃς.
with poverty thin and swollen foot with-hand you-press
πολλὰ δ' ἀεργὸς ἀνήρ, κενεὴν ἐπὶ ἐλπίδα μίμνων,
many and the-idle man empty upon hope waiting
χρηίζων βιότοιο, κακὰ προσελέξατο θυμῷ.
needing livelihood evils gathered for-his-heart
ἐλπὶς δ' οὐκ ἀγαθὴ κεχρημένον ἄνδρα κομίζει,
hope and not good the-needy man attends
ἥμενον ἐν λέσχῃ, τῷ μὴ βίος ἄρκιος εἴη.
sitting in a-lounge for-whom not livelihood sufficient may-be
Δείκνυε δὲ δμώεσσι θέρευς ἔτι μέσσου ἐόντος·
show and to-the-slaves of-summer still middle being
οὐκ αἰεὶ θέρος ἐσσεῖται, ποιεῖσθε καλιάς.
not always summer will-be make granaries

VIII · WINTER

Beware the month of Lenaeon, when Boreas blows through Thrace and the sea and the beasts shiver; the wind bends the old man but does not reach the soft maiden kept indoors. Wear a soft cloak and a long tunic, boots lined with felt, and a felt cap. Feed the oxen half and the men more, for the nights are long.

Μῆνα δὲ Ληναιῶνα, κάκ' ἤματα, βουδόρα πάντα,
the-month and Lenaeon evil days ox-flaying all
τοῦτον ἀλεύασθαι, καὶ πηγάδας, αἵτ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν
this to-avoid and the-frosts which over the-earth
πνεύσαντος Βορέαο δυσηλεγέες τελέθουσιν,
when-blows Boreas cruel are

ὅστε διὰ Θρῄκης ἱπποτρόφου εὐρέι πόντῳ
who through Thrace horse-rearing on-the-wide sea
ἐμπνεύσας ὤρινε· μέμυκε δὲ γαῖα καὶ ὕλη·
blowing-upon stirs bellows and earth and wood
πολλὰς δὲ δρῦς ὑψικόμους ἐλάτας τε παχείας
many and oaks high-leafed firs and thick
οὔρεος ἐν βήσσῃς πιλνᾷ χθονὶ πουλυβοτείρῃ
of-the-mountain in the-glens he-brings-down to-the-earth much-nourishing
ἐμπίπτων, καὶ πᾶσα βοᾷ τότε νήριτος ὕλη.
falling-upon and all roars then the-vast wood
θῆρες δὲ φρίσσουσ', οὐρὰς δ' ὑπὸ μέζε' ἔθεντο,
the-beasts and shudder tails and under members they-put
τῶν καὶ λάχνῃ δέρμα κατάσκιον· ἀλλά νυ καὶ τῶν
whose even with-fur the-hide is-covered but now even them
ψυχρὸς ἐὼν διάησι δασυστέρνων περ ἐόντων.
cold being he-blows-through shaggy-breasted though being
καί τε διὰ ῥινοῦ βοὸς ἔρχεται, οὐδέ μιν ἴσχει·
and — through the-hide of-the-ox he-goes nor him holds
καί τε δι' αἶγα ἄησι τανύτριχα· πώεα δ' οὔ τι,
and — through a-goat blows long-haired the-sheep but not at-all
οὕνεκ' ἐπηεταναὶ τρίχες αὐτῶν, οὐ διάησιν
because abundant the-fleeces of-them not blows-through
ἶς ἀνέμου Βορέου· τροχαλὸν δὲ γέροντα τίθησιν.
the-strength of-the-wind Boreas bent and the-old-man makes
καὶ διὰ παρθενικῆς ἁπαλόχροος οὐ διάησιν,
and through the-maiden soft-skinned not he-blows
ἥτε δόμων ἔντοσθε φίλῃ παρὰ μητέρι μίμνει
who of-the-house within dear beside mother stays
οὔ πω ἔργα ἰδυῖα πολυχρύσου Ἀφροδίτης·
not yet the-works knowing of-rich-in-gold Aphrodite

εὖ τε λοεσσαμένη τέρενα χρόα καὶ λίπ᾽ ἐλαίῳ
well and having-bathed tender skin and richly with-oil
χρισαμένη μυχίη καταλέξεται ἔνδοθι οἴκου
having-anointed in-the-inner-room will-lie-down within the-house
ἤματι χειμερίῳ, ὅτ᾽ ἀνόστεος ὃν πόδα τένδει
on-day wintry when the-boneless-one his foot gnaws
ἔν τ᾽ ἀπύρῳ οἴκῳ καὶ ἤθεσι λευγαλέοισιν.
in both fireless house and haunts miserable
οὐδέ οἱ ἠέλιος δείκνυ νομὸν ὁρμηθῆναι·
nor to-him the-sun shows pasture to-make-for
ἀλλ᾽ ἐπὶ κυανέων ἀνδρῶν δῆμόν τε πόλιν τε
but over dark men's land both city and
στρωφᾶται, βράδιον δὲ Πανελλήνεσσι φαείνει.
turns slower and to-the-Panhellenes shines
καὶ τότε δὴ κεραοὶ καὶ νήκεροι ὑληκοῖται
and then indeed horned and hornless wood-dwellers
λυγρὸν μυλιόωντες ἀνὰ δρία βησσήεντα
miserably gnashing-their-teeth through thickets wooded
φεύγουσιν· καὶ πᾶσιν ἐνὶ φρεσὶ τοῦτο μέμηλεν,
flee and to-all in minds this is-a-care
ὡς σκέπα μαιόμενοι πυκινοὺς κευθμῶνας ἔχωσι
how shelters seeking close coverts they-may-have
καὶ γλάφυ πετρῆεν· τότε δὴ τρίποδι βροτῷ ἶσοι,
and hollow rocky then indeed with-a-three-footed mortal like
οὗ τ᾽ ἐπὶ νῶτα ἔαγε, κάρη δ᾽ εἰς οὖδας ὁρᾶται,
whose — at back is-broken the-head and to ground looks
τῷ ἴκελοι φοιτῶσιν, ἀλευόμενοι νίφα λευκήν.
to-him like they-roam avoiding snow white

Καὶ τότε ἕσσασθαι ἔρυμα χροός, ὥς σε κελεύω,
and then to-put-on a-protection of-the-skin as you I-bid
χλαῖνάν τε μαλακὴν καὶ τερμιόεντα χιτῶνα·
a-cloak both soft and full-length tunic
στήμονι δ' ἐν παύρῳ πολλὴν κρόκα μηρύσασθαι·
warp and in scanty much woof to-weave
τὴν περιέσσασθαι, ἵνα τοι τρίχες ἀτρεμέωσι,
it to-put-around that for-you the-hairs may-keep-still
μηδ' ὀρθαὶ φρίσσωσιν ἀειρόμεναι κατὰ σῶμα. 540
nor upright bristle rising over body
ἀμφὶ δὲ ποσσὶ πέδιλα βοὸς ἶφι κταμένοιο
around and feet sandals of-an-ox by-force slain
ἄρμενα δήσασθαι, πίλοις ἔντοσθε πυκάσσας.
fitting to-bind with-felt within having-lined
πρωτογόνων δ' ἐρίφων, ὁπότ' ἂν κρύος ὥριον ἔλθῃ,
of-firstling and kids when — cold seasonable comes
δέρματα συρράπτειν νεύρῳ βοός, ὄφρ' ἐπὶ νώτῳ
the-skins to-stitch-together with-sinew of-an-ox so-that on back
ὑετοῦ ἀμφιβάλῃ ἀλέην· κεφαλῆφι δ' ὕπερθεν 545
of-rain you-may-throw-around a-shelter on-head and above
πῖλον ἔχειν ἀσκητόν, ἵν' οὔατα μὴ καταδεύῃ·
a-cap to-have well-made that ears not it-wet
ψυχρὴ γάρ τ' ἠὼς πέλεται Βορέαο πεσόντος
cold for — dawn is Boreas having-fallen
ἠώιος δ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἀπ' οὐρανοῦ ἀστερόεντος
at-dawn and on earth from heaven starry
ἀὴρ πυροφόρος τέταται μακάρων ἐπὶ ἔργοις·
a-mist wheat-bearing is-spread of-the-blessed over the-works
ὅστε ἀρυσάμενος ποταμῶν ἄπο αἰεναόντων, 550
which having-drawn rivers from ever-flowing

ὑψοῦ ὑπὲρ γαίης ἀρθεὶς ἀνέμοιο θυέλλῃ
high above earth raised of-wind by-storm
ἄλλοτε μέν θ' ὗει ποτὶ ἕσπερον, ἄλλοτ' ἄησι
at-times indeed — it-rains toward evening at-times it-blows
πυκνὰ Θρηικίου Βορέου νέφεα κλονέοντος.
thick Thracian Boreas clouds driving
τὸν φθάμενος ἔργον τελέσας οἶκόνδε νέεσθαι,
it forestalling the-work having-finished homeward to-go
μή ποτέ σ' οὐρανόθεν σκοτόεν νέφος ἀμφικαλύψῃ,
lest ever you from-heaven dark cloud envelop
χρῶτα δὲ μυδαλέον θήῃ κατά θ' εἵματα δεύσῃ.
skin and wet make down and clothes drench
ἀλλ' ὑπαλεύασθαι· μεὶς γὰρ χαλεπώτατος οὗτος,
but to-avoid month for hardest this
χειμέριος, χαλεπὸς προβάτοις, χαλεπὸς δ' ἀνθρώποις.
wintry hard for-sheep hard and for-men
τῆμος τῶμισυ βουσίν, ἐπ' ἀνέρι δὲ πλέον εἴη
then the-half for-oxen for the-man but more let-be
ἁρμαλιῆς· μακραὶ γὰρ ἐπίρροθοι εὐφρόναι εἰσίν.
of-allowance long for helpful the-nights are
ταῦτα φυλασσόμενος τετελεσμένον εἰς ἐνιαυτὸν
these-things observing accomplished for a-year
ἰσοῦσθαι νύκτας τε καὶ ἤματα, εἰσόκεν αὖτις
to-balance nights both and days until again
γῆ πάντων μήτηρ καρπὸν σύμμικτον ἐνείκῃ.
earth of-all mother fruit mixed bears

Sixty days after the solstice Arcturus rises at dusk; prune the vines before the swallow comes. When the snail climbs the plants, sharpen the sickles for the harvest. When the cicada sings, sit in the shade with wine. When Orion appears, thresh and store the grain; when the Pleiades and Orion set, it is time to plow.

Εὖτ᾽ ἂν δ᾽ ἑξήκοντα μετὰ τροπὰς ἠελίοιο
when — and sixty after the-turnings of-the-sun
χειμέρι᾽ ἐκτελέσῃ Ζεὺς ὄματα, δή ῥα τότ᾽ ἀστὴρ
wintry has-finished Zeus days indeed then then the-star
Ἀρκτοῦρος προλιπὼν ἱερὸν ῥόον Ὠκεανοῖο
Arcturus leaving holy stream of-Ocean
πρῶτον παμφαίνων ἐπιτέλλεται ἀκροκνέφαιος.
first all-shining rises at-dusk
τὸν δὲ μέτ᾽ ὀρθογόη Πανδιονὶς ὦρτο χελιδὼν
him and after high-wailing Pandion's-daughter rose the-swallow
ἐς φάος ἀνθρώποις, ἔαρος νέον ἱσταμένοιο.
into light for-men of-spring newly beginning
τὴν φθάμενος οἴνας περταμνέμεν· ὣς γὰρ ἄμεινον.
her forestalling the-vines to-prune so for better
Ἀλλ᾽ ὁπότ᾽ ἂν φερέοικος ἀπὸ χθονὸς ἂμ φυτὰ βαίνῃ
but when — the-house-carrier from the-ground up plants climbs
Πληιάδας φεύγων, τότε δὴ σκάφος οὐκέτι οἰνέων·
the-Pleiades fleeing then indeed digging no-longer of-vines
ἀλλ᾽ ἅρπας τε χαρασσέμεναι καὶ δμῶας ἐγείρειν·
but sickles both to-sharpen and slaves to-rouse
φεύγειν δὲ σκιεροὺς θώκους καὶ ἐπ᾽ ἠόα κοῖτον
to-flee and shady seats and at dawn bed
ὥρῃ ἐν ἀμήτου, ὅτε τ᾽ ἠέλιος χρόα κάρφει.
season in of-harvest when — the-sun the-skin withers

τημοῦτος σπεύδειν καὶ οἴκαδε καρπὸν ἀγινεῖν
then to-hasten and homeward fruit to-gather
ὄρθρου ἀνιστάμενος, ἵνα τοι βίος ἄρκιος εἴη.
at-dawn rising so-that for-you livelihood sufficient may-be
ἠὼς γὰρ ἔργοιο τρίτην ἀπομείρεται αἶσαν,
dawn for of-the-work a-third takes-away share
ἠώς τοι προφέρει μὲν ὁδοῦ, προφέρει δὲ καὶ ἔργου,
dawn you-know advances indeed the-road advances and also the-work
ἠώς, ἥτε φανεῖσα πολέας ἐπέβησε κελεύθου
dawn which appearing many sets-on the-road
ἀνθρώπους πολλοῖσί τ' ἐπὶ ζυγὰ βουσὶ τίθησιν.
men many and on yokes oxen sets
Ἧμος δὲ σκόλυμός τ' ἀνθεῖ καὶ ἠχέτα τέττιξ
when and the-thistle both blooms and the-chirping cicada
δενδρέῳ ἐφεζόμενος λιγυρὴν καταχεύετ' ἀοιδὴν
on-a-tree sitting clear pours-down song
πυκνὸν ὑπὸ πτερύγων, θέρεος καματώδεος ὥρῃ,
thick from-under its-wings of-summer wearying in-the-season
τῆμος πιόταταί τ' αἶγες καὶ οἶνος ἄριστος,
then fattest both goats and wine best
μαχλόταται δὲ γυναῖκες, ἀφαυρότατοι δέ τοι ἄνδρες
most-wanton and women feeblest and you-know men
εἰσίν, ἐπεὶ κεφαλὴν καὶ γούνατα Σείριος ἄζει,
are since head and knees Sirius parches
αὐαλέος δέ τε χρὼς ὑπὸ καύματος· ἀλλὰ τότ' ἤδη
dry and — the-skin from heat but then now
εἴη πετραίη τε σκιὴ καὶ βίβλινος οἶνος,
let-there-be rocky both shade and Bibline wine
μάζα τ' ἀμολγαίη γάλα τ' αἰγῶν σβεννυμενάων,
a-cake and of-milk milk and of-goats drying-up

καὶ βοὸς ὑλοφάγοιο κρέας μή πω τετοκυίης
and of-a-cow forest-fed flesh not yet having-calved
πρωτογόνων τ' ἐρίφων· ἐπὶ δ' αἴθοπα πινέμεν οἶνον,
of-firstling and kids thereon and sparkling to-drink wine
ἐν σκιῇ ἑζόμενον, κεκορημένον ἦτορ ἐδωδῆς,
in shade sitting having-had-one's-fill heart of-food
ἀντίον ἀκραέος Ζεφύρου τρέψαντα πρόσωπα,
facing fresh Zephyrus turning face
κρήνης τ' αἰενάου καὶ ἀπορρύτου, ἥτ' ἀθόλωτος,
of-a-spring and ever-flowing and running which unmuddied
τρὶς ὕδατος προχέειν, τὸ δὲ τέτρατον ἱέμεν οἴνου.
three-times of-water to-pour the and fourth to-add of-wine
Δμωσὶ δ' ἐποτρύνειν Δημήτερος ἱερὸν ἀκτὴν
the-slaves and to-urge of-Demeter holy grain
δινέμεν, εὖτ' ἂν πρῶτα φανῇ σθένος Ὠαρίωνος,
to-winnow when — first appears the-strength of-Orion
χώρῳ ἐν εὐαέι καὶ εὐτροχάλῳ ἐν ἀλωῇ.
place in airy and well-rounded on threshing-floor
μέτρῳ δ' εὖ κομίσασθαι ἐν ἄγγεσιν· αὐτὰρ ἐπὴν δὴ
by-measure and well to-store in vessels but when indeed
πάντα βίον κατάθηαι ἐπάρμενον ἔνδοθι οἴκου,
all livelihood you-have-laid-up stored within the-house
θῆτά τ' ἄοικον ποιεῖσθαι καὶ ἄτεκνον ἔριθον
a-laborer and homeless to-make and childless a-woman-worker
δίζησθαι κέλομαι· χαλεπὴ δ' ὑπόπορτις ἔριθος·
to-seek I-bid harsh and with-a-calf a-woman-worker
καὶ κύνα καρχαρόδοντα κομεῖν, μὴ φείδεο σίτου,
and a-dog jagged-toothed to-keep not spare food
μή ποτέ σ' ἡμερόκοιτος ἀνὴρ ἀπὸ χρήματ' ἕληται.
lest ever you a-day-sleeping man from goods take

χόρτον δ' ἐσκομίσαι καὶ συρφετόν, ὄφρα τοι εἶη
fodder and to-bring-in and litter that for-you may-be
βουσὶ καὶ ἡμιόνοισιν ἐπηετανόν. αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα
for-oxen and mules for-a-year but then
δμῶας ἀναψῦξαι φίλα γούνατα καὶ βόε λῦσαι.
the-slaves to-rest dear knees and the-two-oxen to-loose
Εὖτ' ἂν δ' Ὠαρίων καὶ Σείριος ἐς μέσον ἔλθῃ
when — and Orion and Sirius into middle come
οὐρανόν, Ἀρκτοῦρον δ' ἐσίδῃ ῥοδοδάκτυλος Ἠώς,
heaven Arcturus and sees rosy-fingered Dawn
ὦ Πέρση, τότε πάντας ἀποδρέπειν οἴκαδε βότρυς·
O Perses then all to-pluck homeward the-grapes
δεῖξαι δ' ἠελίῳ δέκα τ' ἤματα καὶ δέκα νύκτας,
to-show and to-the-sun ten both days and ten nights
πέντε δὲ συσκιάσαι, ἕκτῳ δ' εἰς ἄγγε' ἀφύσσαι
five and to-cover on-the-sixth and into vessels to-draw-off
δῶρα Διωνύσου πολυγηθέος. αὐτὰρ ἐπὴν δὴ
the-gifts of-Dionysus much-cheering but when indeed
Πληιάδες θ' Ὑάδες τε τό τε σθένος Ὠαρίωνος
the-Pleiades and the-Hyades both the and strength of-Orion
δύνωσιν, τότ' ἔπειτ' ἀρότου μεμνημένος εἶναι
set then then of-plowing mindful to-be
ὡραίου· πλειὼν δὲ κατὰ χθονὸς ἄρμενος εἶσιν.
seasonable the-year and under earth fitting will-go

If Perses longs for seafaring, he should haul the ship ashore when the Pleiades set and wait for the right season. The poet's father sailed from Aeolian Cyme to Ascra, fleeing poverty. The poet himself has crossed the sea only from Aulis to Euboea, where he won a tripod for a song at the games of Amphidamas. Fifty days after the summer solstice the sea is safe; spring sailing is risky. Do not put all your goods in a ship, and observe due measure in all things.

Εἰ δέ σε ναυτιλίης δυσπεμφέλου ἵμερος αἱρεῖ,
if and you for-seafaring stormy desire seizes
εὖτ' ἂν Πληιάδες σθένος ὄβριμον Ὠαρίωνος
when — the-Pleiades the-strength mighty of-Orion
φεύγουσαι πίπτωσιν ἐς ἠεροειδέα πόντον,
fleeing fall into misty sea
δὴ τότε παντοίων ἀνέμων θυίουσιν ἀῆται·
indeed then of-every-kind winds rage the-blasts
καὶ τότε μηκέτι νῆας ἔχειν ἐνὶ οἴνοπι πόντῳ,
and then no-longer ships to-keep on wine-dark sea
γῆν ἐργάζεσθαι μεμνημένος, ὥς σε κελεύω.
the-land to-work remembering as you I-bid
νῆα δ' ἐπ' ἠπείρου ἐρύσαι πυκάσαι τε λίθοισι
the-ship and on land to-draw-up to-pack-around and with-stones
πάντοθεν, ὄφρ' ἴσχωσ' ἀνέμων μένος ὑγρὸν ἀέντων,
on-all-sides that they-may-keep-off of-the-winds the-strength wet blowing
χείμαρον ἐξερύσας, ἵνα μὴ πύθῃ Διὸς ὄμβρος.
the-bilge-plug drawing-out that not may-rot of-Zeus the-rain
ὅπλα δ' ἐπάρμενα πάντα τεῷ ἐγκάτθεο οἴκῳ
the-gear and fitted all in-your lay-up house
εὐκόσμως στολίσας νηὸς πτερὰ ποντοπόροιο·
neatly stowing of-the-ship the-wings seafaring

πηδάλιον δ' ἐυεργὲς ὑπὲρ καπνοῦ κρεμάσασθαι.
the-rudder and well-made over the-smoke to-hang
αὐτὸς δ' ὡραῖον μίμνειν πλόον, εἰσόκεν ἔλθῃ·
yourself and the-seasonable to-wait voyage until it-comes
καὶ τότε νῆα θοὴν ἅλαδ' ἑλκέμεν, ἐν δέ τε φόρτον
and then the-ship swift seaward to-drag in and — cargo
ἄρμενον ἐντύνασθαι, ἵν' οἴκαδε κέρδος ἄρηαι,
fitting to-make-ready that homeward gain you-may-win
ὥς περ ἐμός τε πατὴρ καὶ σός, μέγα νήπιε Πέρση,
as indeed my both father and yours greatly fool Perses
πλωίζεσκ' ἐν νηυσί, βίου κεχρημένος ἐσθλοῦ·
used-to-sail in ships of-livelihood lacking good
ὅς ποτε καὶ τῇδ' ἦλθε, πολὺν διὰ πόντον ἀνύσσας,
who once also here came much over sea having-traveled
Κύμην Αἰολίδα προλιπών, ἐν νηὶ μελαίνῃ·
Cyme Aeolian having-left in ship black
οὐκ ἄφενος φεύγων οὐδὲ πλοῦτόν τε καὶ ὄλβον,
not wealth fleeing nor riches both and prosperity
ἀλλὰ κακὴν πενίην, τὴν Ζεὺς ἄνδρεσσι δίδωσιν·
but evil poverty which Zeus to-men gives
νάσσατο δ' ἄγχ' Ἑλικῶνος ὀιζυρῇ ἐνὶ κώμῃ,
he-settled and near Helicon miserable in village
Ἄσκρῃ, χεῖμα κακῇ, θέρει ἀργαλέῃ, οὐδέ ποτ' ἐσθλῇ.
in-Ascra in-winter bad in-summer grievous nor ever good
Τύνη δ', ὦ Πέρση, ἔργων μεμνημένος εἶναι
you and O Perses of-works mindful to-be
ὡραίων πάντων, περὶ ναυτιλίης δὲ μάλιστα.
seasonable of-all about seafaring and most
νῆ' ὀλίγην αἰνεῖν, μεγάλῃ δ' ἐνὶ φορτία θέσθαι.
a-ship small to-praise great and in cargo to-put

μείζων μὲν φόρτος, μείζον δ' ἐπὶ κέρδεϊ κέρδος
greater indeed the-cargo greater and upon gain gain
ἔσσεται, εἴ κ' ἄνεμοί γε κακὰς ἀπέχωσιν ἀήτας.
will-be if — the-winds indeed evil keep-off blasts
Εὖτ' ἂν ἐπ' ἐμπορίην τρέψας ἀεσίφρονα θυμὸν
when — to trading having-turned foolish heart
βούληαι χρέα τε προφυγεῖν καὶ λιμὸν ἀτερπέα,
you-wish debts both to-escape and famine joyless
δείξω δή τοι μέτρα πολυφλοίσβοιο θαλάσσης,
I-will-show indeed to-you the-measures of-loud-roaring sea
οὔτε τι ναυτιλίης σεσοφισμένος οὔτε τι νηῶν.
neither at-all in-seafaring skilled nor at-all in-ships
οὐ γάρ πώ ποτε νηί γ' ἐπέπλων εὐρέα πόντον,
not for yet ever in-a-ship indeed I-sailed-over the-broad sea
εἰ μὴ ἐς Εὔβοιαν ἐξ Αὐλίδος, ἧι ποτ' Ἀχαιοὶ
if not to Euboea from Aulis where once the-Achaeans
μείναντες χειμῶνα πολὺν σὺν λαὸν ἄγειραν
having-waited-out winter great together host gathered
Ἑλλάδος ἐξ ἱερῆς Τροίην ἐς καλλιγύναικα.
Hellas from holy Troy to of-fair-women
ἔνθα δ' ἐγὼν ἐπ' ἄεθλα δαΐφρονος Ἀμφιδάμαντος
there and I to the-games of-wise Amphidamas
Χαλκίδα τ' εἰς ἐπέρησα· τὰ δὲ προπεφραδμένα πολλὰ
Chalcis and to crossed the and proclaimed many
ἄεθλ' ἔθεσαν παῖδες μεγαλήτορος· ἔνθα μέ φημι
prizes set the-sons of-the-great-hearted there me I-say
ὕμνῳ νικήσαντα φέρειν τρίποδ' ὠτώεντα.
with-a-hymn having-conquered to-carry-off a-tripod eared
τὸν μὲν ἐγὼ Μούσῃς Ἑλικωνιάδεσσ' ἀνέθηκα,
it indeed I to-the-Muses of-Helicon dedicated

ἔνθα με τὸ πρῶτον λιγυρῆς ἐπέβησαν ἀοιδῆς.
where me the first of-clear they-set-on song
τόσσον τοι νηῶν γε πεπείρημαι πολυγόμφων·
so-much you-know of-ships indeed I-have-tried many-pegged
ἀλλὰ καὶ ὣς ἐρέω Ζηνὸς νόον αἰγιόχοιο·
but even so I-will-tell of-Zeus the-mind aegis-bearing
Μοῦσαι γάρ μ' ἐδίδαξαν ἀθέσφατον ὕμνον ἀείδειν.
the-Muses for me taught unspeakable hymn to-sing
Ἤματα πεντήκοντα μετὰ τροπὰς ἠελίοιο,
days fifty after the-turnings of-the-sun
ἐς τέλος ἐλθόντος θέρεος καματώδεος ὥρης,
to end having-come of-summer wearying the-season
ὡραῖος πέλεται θνητοῖς πλόος· οὔτε κε νῆα
seasonable is for-mortals sailing neither — ship
καυάξαις οὔτ' ἄνδρας ἀποφθείσειε θάλασσα,
would-you-wreck nor men would-destroy the-sea
εἰ δὴ μὴ πρόφρων γε Ποσειδάων ἐνοσίχθων
if indeed not readily indeed Poseidon earth-shaker
ἢ Ζεὺς ἀθανάτων βασιλεὺς ἐθέλῃσιν ὀλέσσαι·
or Zeus of-the-immortals king wishes to-destroy
ἐν τοῖς γὰρ τέλος ἐστὶν ὁμῶς ἀγαθῶν τε κακῶν τε.
in them for the-end is alike of-good both evil and
τῆμος δ' εὐκρινέες τ' αὖραι καὶ πόντος ἀπήμων·
then and well-defined both the-breezes and the-sea harmless
εὔκηλος τότε νῆα θοὴν ἀνέμοισι πιθήσας
untroubled then ship swift to-the-winds trusting
ἑλκέμεν ἐς πόντον φόρτον τ' ἐς πάντα τίθεσθαι,
to-drag into the-sea cargo and in all to-put
σπεύδειν δ' ὅττι τάχιστα πάλιν οἶκόνδε νέεσθαι·
to-hasten and as quickly-as-possible back homeward to-go

μηδὲ μένειν οἰνόν τε νέον καὶ ὀπωρινὸν ὄμβρον
nor to-wait-for wine both new and autumn rain
καὶ χειμῶν' ἐπιόντα Νότοιό τε δεινὰς ἀήτας,
and winter coming-on of-Notus and terrible blasts
ὅστ' ὤρινε θάλασσαν ὁμαρτήσας Διὸς ὄμβρῳ
which stirs the-sea accompanying of-Zeus the-rain
πολλῷ ὀπωρινῷ, χαλεπὸν δέ τε πόντον ἔθηκεν.
heavy autumnal harsh and — the-sea makes
Ἄλλος δ' εἰαρινὸς πέλεται πλόος ἀνθρώποισιν·
another and in-spring is voyage for-men
ἦμος δὴ τὸ πρῶτον, ὅσον τ' ἐπιβᾶσα κορώνη
when indeed the first as-much-as — having-stepped a-crow
ἴχνος ἐποίησεν, τόσσον πέταλ' ἀνδρὶ φανείῃ
footprint made so-much leaves to-a-man appear
ἐν κράδῃ ἀκροτάτῃ, τότε δ' ἄμβατός ἐστι θάλασσα·
on the-fig-branch topmost then and passable is the-sea
εἰαρινὸς δ' οὗτος πέλεται πλόος. οὔ μιν ἔγωγε
of-spring and this is voyage not it I
αἴνημ'· οὐ γὰρ ἐμῷ θυμῷ κεχαρισμένος ἐστίν·
praise not for to-my heart pleasing it-is
ἁρπακτός· χαλεπῶς κε φύγοις κακόν· ἀλλά νυ καὶ τὰ
snatched hardly — would-you-escape evil but now even these-things
ἄνθρωποι ῥέζουσιν ἀιδρείῃσι νόοιο·
men do in-ignorance of-mind
χρήματα γὰρ ψυχὴ πέλεται δειλοῖσι βροτοῖσιν.
wealth for life is for-wretched mortals
δεινὸν δ' ἐστὶ θανεῖν μετὰ κύμασιν. ἀλλά σ' ἄνωγα
terrible and is to-die among waves but you I-bid
φράζεσθαι τάδε πάντα μετὰ φρεσίν, ὡς ἀγορεύω.
to-consider these-things all in mind as I-say

μηδ' ἐν νηυσὶν ἅπαντα βίον κοΐλῃσι τίθεσθαι·
nor in ships all livelihood hollow to-put
ἀλλὰ πλέω λείπειν, τὰ δὲ μείονα φορτίζεσθαι.
but more to-leave the and less to-load
δεινὸν γὰρ πόντου μετὰ κύμασι πήματι κύρσαι.
terrible for of-the-sea among waves with-disaster to-meet
δεινὸν δ', εἴ κ' ἐπ' ἄμαξαν ὑπέρβιον ἄχθος ἀείρας
terrible and if — onto a-wagon overweight burden having-lifted
ἄξονα καυάξαις καὶ φορτία μαυρωθείη.
the-axle you-break and the-cargo be-ruined
μέτρα φυλάσσεσθαι· καιρὸς δ' ἐπὶ πᾶσιν ἄριστος.
measures to-observe due-measure and in all best

XI · MARRIAGE, FRIENDS, AND TABOOS

Marry at about thirty a maiden in her fifth year of youth, from nearby, for nothing is better than a good wife and nothing worse than a bad one. Respect the gods, do not make a friend equal to a brother, and pay back wrong double. The poet gives rules of conduct and ritual: wash hands before pouring wine to Zeus, do not urinate facing the sun, do not cross a river without prayer and washed hands. Avoid the talk of men, for Rumor never wholly dies.

Ὡραῖος δὲ γυναῖκα τεὸν ποτὶ οἶκον ἄγεσθαι,
in-season and a-wife your to house to-bring
μήτε τριηκόντων ἐτέων μάλα πόλλ' ἀπολείπων
neither of-thirty years very much falling-short
μήτ' ἐπιθεὶς μάλα πολλά· γάμος δέ τοι ὥριος οὗτος·
nor adding very much marriage and you-know seasonable this
ἡ δὲ γυνὴ τέτορ' ἡβώοι, πέμπτῳ δὲ γαμοῖτο.
the and woman four-years should-be-ripe in-the-fifth and should-marry

παρθενικὴν δὲ γαμεῖν, ὥς κ᾽ ἤθεα κεδνὰ διδάξῃς.
a-maiden and to-marry so-that — ways good you-may-teach
τὴν δὲ μάλιστα γαμεῖν, ἥ τις σέθεν ἐγγύθι ναίει, 700
her and most to-marry who any you near dwells
πάντα μάλ᾽ ἀμφιδρόμους, μὴ γείτοσι χάρματα γήμῃς.
all very looking-round lest for-the-neighbors a-joke you-marry
οὐ μὲν γάρ τι γυναικὸς ἀνὴρ λήϊζετ᾽ ἄμεινον
not indeed for at-all than-a-wife a-man wins better
τῆς ἀγαθῆς, τῆς δ᾽ αὖτε κακῆς οὐ ῥίγιον ἄλλο,
than-the good than-the and in-turn bad not more-chilling other
δειπνολόχης· ἥτ᾽ ἄνδρα καὶ ἴφθιμόν περ ἐόντα
a-dinner-hunter who a-man even strong though being
εὔει ἄτερ δαλοῖο καὶ ὠμῷ γήραϊ δῶκεν. 705
singes without torch and to-raw old-age gives
Εὖ δ᾽ ὄπιν ἀθανάτων μακάρων πεφυλαγμένος εἶναι.
well and the-vengeance of-the-immortal blessed-ones wary to-be
μηδὲ κασιγνήτῳ ἶσον ποιεῖσθαι ἑταῖρον·
nor to-a-brother equal to-make a-comrade
εἰ δέ κε ποιήσῃς, μή μιν πρότερος κακὸν ἔρξῃς.
if but — you-make not him first evil do
μηδὲ ψεύδεσθαι γλώσσης χάριν· εἰ δὲ σέ γ᾽ ἄρχῃ
nor to-lie of-the-tongue for-the-sake if but you indeed he-begin
ἤ τι ἔπος εἰπὼν ἀποθύμιον ἠὲ καὶ ἔρξας, 710
either some word having-said offensive or even having-done
δὶς τόσα τίνυσθαι μεμνημένος· εἰ δὲ σέ γ᾽ αὖτις
twice so-much to-repay remembering if but you indeed again
ἡγῆτ᾽ ἐς φιλότητα, δίκην δ᾽ ἐθέλῃσι παρασχεῖν,
he-lead to friendship amends and wishes to-offer

δέξασθαι· δειλός τοι ἀνὴρ φίλον ἄλλοτε ἄλλον
receive(-him) wretched you-know the-man a-friend at-one-time another
ποιεῖται, σὲ δὲ μή τι νόον κατελεγχέτω εἶδος.
makes you but not at-all your-mind let-shame your-looks
Μηδὲ πολύξεινον μηδ' ἄξεινον καλέεσθαι,
nor many-guested nor guestless to-be-called
μηδὲ κακῶν ἕταρον μηδ' ἐσθλῶν νεικεστῆρα.
nor of-the-bad a-comrade nor of-the-good a-reviler
Μηδέ ποτ' οὐλομένην πενίην θυμοφθόρον ἀνδρὶ
nor ever baneful poverty heart-wasting to-a-man
τέτλαθ' ὀνειδίζειν, μακάρων δόσιν αἰὲν ἐόντων.
dare to-reproach of-the-blessed the-gift always being
γλώσσης τοι θησαυρὸς ἐν ἀνθρώποισιν ἄριστος
of-the-tongue you-know a-treasure among men best
φειδωλῆς, πλείστη δὲ χάρις κατὰ μέτρον ἰούσης.
of-sparing most and grace in measure going
εἰ δὲ κακὸν εἴποις, τάχα κ' αὐτὸς μεῖζον ἀκούσαις.
if but evil you-should-say soon — yourself greater would-hear
Μηδὲ πολυξείνου δαιτὸς δυσπέμφελος εἶναι
nor of-a-much-hosted feast churlish to-be
ἐκ κοινοῦ· πλείστη δὲ χάρις, δαπάνη τ' ὀλιγίστη.
from common most and grace expense and least
Μηδέ ποτ' ἐξ ἠοῦς Διὶ λειβέμεν αἴθοπα οἶνον
nor ever from dawn to-Zeus to-pour sparkling wine
χερσὶν ἀνίπτοισιν μηδ' ἄλλοις ἀθανάτοισιν·
with-hands unwashed nor to-other immortals
οὐ γὰρ τοί γε κλύουσιν, ἀποπτύουσι δέ τ' ἀράς.
not for they indeed hear spit-back but — the-prayers

Μηδ᾽ ἄντ᾽ ἠελίου τετραμμένος ὀρθὸς ὀμιχεῖν·
nor facing the-sun turned upright to-make-water
αὐτὰρ ἐπεί κε δύῃ, μεμνημένος, ἔς τ᾽ ἀνιόντα·
but when — it-sets remembering to and the-rising
μήτ᾽ ἐν ὁδῷ μήτ᾽ ἐκτὸς ὁδοῦ προβάδην οὐρήσῃς
neither on the-road nor off the-road walking make-water
μηδ᾽ ἀπογυμνωθείς· μακάρων τοι νύκτες ἔασιν·
nor stripped of-the-blessed you-know the-nights are
ἑζόμενος δ᾽ ὅ γε θεῖος ἀνήρ, πεπνυμένα εἰδώς,
sitting and he indeed the-godly man wise-things knowing
ἢ ὅ γε πρὸς τοῖχον πελάσας ἐυερκέος αὐλῆς.
or he indeed to the-wall going of-the-well-fenced court
Μηδ᾽ αἰδοῖα γονῇ πεπαλαγμένος ἔνδοθι οἴκου
nor the-genitals with-seed stained within the-house
ἱστίῃ ἐμπελαδὸν παραφαινέμεν, ἀλλ᾽ ἀλέασθαι.
by-the-hearth near to-expose but avoid(-it)
μηδ᾽ ἀπὸ δυσφήμοιο τάφου ἀπονοστήσαντα
nor from ill-omened a-funeral having-returned
σπερμαίνειν γενεήν, ἀλλ᾽ ἀθανάτων ἀπὸ δαιτός.
to-beget a-family but of-the-immortals from a-feast
Μηδέ ποτ᾽ αἰενάων ποταμῶν καλλίρροον ὕδωρ
nor ever of-ever-flowing rivers fair-flowing water
ποσσὶ περᾶν, πρίν γ᾽ εὔξῃ ἰδὼν ἐς καλὰ ῥέεθρα,
with-feet to-cross before indeed you-pray looking into the-fair streams
χεῖρας νιψάμενος πολυηράτῳ ὕδατι λευκῷ.
hands having-washed in-lovely water white
ὃς ποταμὸν διαβῇ κακότητ᾽ ἰδὲ χεῖρας ἄνιπτος,
who a-river crosses in-wickedness and hands unwashed
τῷ δὲ θεοὶ νεμεσῶσι καὶ ἄλγεα δῶκαν ὀπίσσω.
with-him and the-gods are-indignant and pains give hereafter

Μηδ' ἀπὸ πεντόζοιο θεῶν ἐν δαιτὶ θαλείῃ
nor from the-five-branched of-the-gods at feast flourishing
αὖον ἀπὸ χλωροῦ τάμνειν αἴθωνι σιδήρῳ.
the-dry from the-green to-cut with-shining iron
Μηδέ ποτ' οἰνοχόην τιθέμεν κρητῆρος ὕπερθε
nor ever the-ladle to-set of-the-mixing-bowl above
πινόντων· ὀλοὴ γὰρ ἐπ' αὐτῷ μοῖρα τέτυκται.
while-they-drink baneful for on it fate is-made
Μηδὲ δόμον ποιῶν ἀνεπίξεστον καταλείπειν,
nor a-house making unplaned to-leave
μή τοι ἐφεζομένη κρώξῃ λακέρυζα κορώνη.
lest on-you sitting croak the-cawing crow
Μηδ' ἀπὸ χυτροπόδων ἀνεπιρρέκτων ἀνελόντα
nor from pots unconsecrated having-taken
ἔσθειν μηδὲ λόεσθαι· ἐπεὶ καὶ τοῖς ἔνι ποινή.
to-eat nor to-wash since also in-these there-is a-penalty
Μηδ' ἐπ' ἀκινήτοισι καθιζέμεν, οὐ γὰρ ἄμεινον,
nor on immovable-things to-seat not for better
παῖδα δυωδεκαταῖον, ὅτ' ἀνέρ' ἀνήνορα ποιεῖ,
a-boy twelve-days-old which a-man unmanly makes
μηδὲ δυωδεκάμηνον· ἴσον καὶ τοῦτο τέτυκται.
nor twelve-months-old equal also this is-made
μηδὲ γυναικείῳ λουτρῷ χρόα φαιδρύνεσθαι
nor in-a-woman's bath the-skin to-brighten
ἀνέρα· λευγαλέη γὰρ ἐπὶ χρόνον ἔστ' ἐπὶ καὶ τῷ
a-man grievous for for time is upon also it
ποινή. μηδ' ἱεροῖσιν ἐπ' αἰθομένοισι κυρήσας
a-penalty nor the-sacrifices on burning having-come-upon
μωμεύειν ἀίδηλα· θεός νύ τι καὶ τὰ νεμεσσᾷ.
to-mock mysteries the-god now at-all even these-things resents

μηδέ ποτ᾽ ἐν προχοῇς ποταμῶν ἅλαδε προρεόντων
nor ever at the-mouths of-rivers seaward flowing
μηδ᾽ ἐπὶ κρηνάων οὐρεῖν, μάλα δ᾽ ἐξαλέασθαι·
nor on springs to-make-water greatly but to-avoid(-it)
μηδ᾽ ἐναποψύχειν· τὸ γὰρ οὔ τοι λώιόν ἐστιν.
nor to-ease-oneself-in it for not you-know better is
Ὧδ᾽ ἔρδειν· δεινὴν δὲ βροτῶν ὑπαλεύεο φήμην. 760
so to-do terrible and of-mortals avoid the-talk
φήμη γάρ τε κακὴ πέλεται, κούφη μὲν ἀεῖραι
talk for — evil is light indeed to-raise
ῥεῖα μάλ᾽, ἀργαλέη δὲ φέρειν, χαλεπὴ δ᾽ ἀποθέσθαι.
easily very grievous and to-bear hard and to-put-down
φήμη δ᾽ οὔτις πάμπαν ἀπόλλυται, ἥν τινα πολλοὶ
talk and none altogether perishes which any many
λαοὶ φημίξωσι· θεός νύ τίς ἐστι καὶ αὐτή.
peoples voice a-god now some is also she

XII · THE DAYS

The poet lists the days of the month from Zeus. The thirtieth is best for inspecting work; the first, fourth, and seventh are holy. He says which days are good for shearing, reaping, building ships, and begetting sons or daughters, and which are dangerous. Happy is the man who knows all these.

Ἤματα δ᾽ ἐκ Διόθεν πεφυλαγμένος εὖ κατὰ μοῖραν 765
the-days and from Zeus observing well according-to due
πεφραδέμεν δμώεσσι· τριηκάδα μηνὸς ἀρίστην
to-point-out to-the-slaves the-thirtieth of-the-month best
ἔργα τ᾽ ἐποπτεύειν ἠδ᾽ ἁρμαλιὴν δατέασθαι.
works both to-oversee and allowance to-share-out

Αἵδε γὰρ ἡμέραι εἰσὶ Διὸς πάρα μητιόεντος,
these for days are Zeus from counselor
εὖτ' ἂν ἀληθείην λαοὶ κρίνοντες ἄγωσιν.
when — truth the-people judging hold
Πρῶτον ἔνη τετράς τε καὶ ἑβδόμη ἱερὸν ἦμαρ·
first the-new-moon the-fourth both and the-seventh a-holy day
τῇ γὰρ Ἀπόλλωνα χρυσάορα γείνατο Λητώ·
on-it for Apollo golden-sworded bore Leto
ὀγδοάτη δ' ἐνάτη τε, δύω γε μὲν ἤματα μηνὸς
the-eighth and the-ninth and two indeed indeed days of-the-month
ἔξοχ' ἀεξομένοιο βροτήσια ἔργα πένεσθαι·
especially of-the-waxing mortal works to-busy-oneself-with
ἑνδεκάτη δὲ δυωδεκάτη τ', ἄμφω γε μὲν ἐσθλαί,
the-eleventh and the-twelfth and both indeed indeed good
ἠμὲν ὄις πείκειν ἠδ' εὔφρονα καρπὸν ἀμᾶσθαι·
both sheep to-shear and kindly fruit to-reap
ἡ δὲ δυωδεκάτη τῆς ἑνδεκάτης μέγ' ἀμείνων·
the and twelfth than-the eleventh much better
τῇ γάρ τοι νῇ νήματ' ἀερσιπότητος ἀράχνης
on-it for you-know spins threads the-high-floating spider
ἤματος ἐκ πλείου, ὅτε ἴδρις σωρὸν ἀμᾶται·
day from full when the-knowing-one heap gathers
τῇ δ' ἱστὸν στήσαιτο γυνὴ προβάλοιτό τε ἔργον.
on-it and loom should-set-up a-woman should-begin and work
Μηνὸς δ' ἱσταμένου τρισκαιδεκάτην ἀλέασθαι
of-the-month and beginning the-thirteenth to-avoid
σπέρματος ἄρξασθαι· φυτὰ δ' ἐνθρέψασθαι ἀρίστη.
seed to-begin plants and to-set-out best

Ἕκτη δ' ἡ μέσση μάλ' ἀσύμφορός ἐστι φυτοῖσιν,
the-sixth and the middle very unfavorable is for-plants
ἀνδρογόνος δ' ἀγαθή· κούρῃ δ' οὐ σύμφορός ἐστιν,
for-begetting-males and good for-a-girl but not favorable is
οὔτε γενέσθαι πρῶτ' οὔτ' ἂρ γάμου ἀντιβολῆσαι.
neither to-be-born first nor then marriage to-meet
οὐδὲ μὲν ἡ πρώτη ἕκτη κούρῃ γε γενέσθαι
nor indeed the first sixth for-a-girl indeed to-be-born
ἄρμενος, ἀλλ' ἐρίφους τάμνειν καὶ πώεα μήλων
fitting but kids to-geld and flocks of-sheep
σηκόν τ' ἀμφιβαλεῖν ποιμνήιον ἤπιον ἦμαρ·
fold and to-put-around for-shepherds a-kindly day
ἐσθλὴ δ' ἀνδρογόνος· φιλέοι δ' ὅ γε κέρτομα βάζειν
good and for-begetting-males would-love and he indeed jeers to-speak
ψεύδεά θ' αἱμυλίους τε λόγους κρυφίους τ' ὀαρισμούς.
lies and wheedling and words secret and whisperings
μηνὸς δ' ὀγδοάτῃ κάπρον καὶ βοῦν ἐρίμυκον
of-the-month and on-the-eighth the-boar and bull loud-bellowing
ταμνέμεν, οὐρῆας δὲ δυωδεκάτῃ ταλαεργούς.
to-geld mules and on-the-twelfth hard-working
Εἰκάδι δ' ἐν μεγάλῃ, πλέῳ ἤματι, ἴστορα φῶτα
the-twentieth and on great full day a-wise man
γείνασθαι· μάλα γάρ τε νόον πεπυκασμένος ἐστίν.
to-be-born very for — in-mind well-furnished he-is

ἐσθλὴ δ' ἀνδρογόνος δεκάτη, κούρῃ δέ τε τετρὰς
good and for-begetting-males the-tenth for-a-girl and — the-fourth
μέσση· τῇ δέ τε μῆλα καὶ εἰλίποδας ἕλικας βοῦς
middle on-it and — sheep and shambling crooked-horned oxen
καὶ κύνα καρχαρόδοντα καὶ οὐρῆας ταλαεργοὺς
and dog jagged-toothed and mules hard-working
πρηΰνειν ἐπὶ χεῖρα τιθείς. πεφύλαξο δὲ θυμῷ
to-tame upon hand putting beware and in-heart
τετράδ' ἀλεύασθαι φθίνοντός θ' ἱσταμένου τε
the-fourth to-avoid of-the-waning and of-the-beginning and
ἄλγεα θυμοβορῆ· μάλα γὰρ τετελεσμένον ἦμαρ.
griefs heart-devouring very for accomplished day
Ἐν δὲ τετάρτῃ μηνὸς ἄγεσθαι οἶκον ἄκοιτιν
on and the-fourth of-the-month to-bring home a-wife
οἰωνοὺς κρίνας, οἳ ἐπ' ἔργματι τούτῳ ἄριστοι.
the-omens judging which on deed this best
Πέμπτας δ' ἐξαλέασθαι, ἐπεὶ χαλεπαί τε καὶ αἰναί·
the-fifths and to-avoid since hard both and dread
ἐν πέμπτῃ γάρ φασιν Ἐρινύας ἀμφιπολεύειν
on the-fifth for they-say the-Erinyes attend
Ὅρκον γεινόμενον, τὸν Ἔρις τέκε πῆμ' ἐπιόρκοις.
oath being-born whom Strife bore a-bane for-perjurers

Μέσσῃ δ' ἑβδομάτῃ Δημήτερος ἱερὸν ἀκτὴν
on-the-middle and seventh of-Demeter holy grain
εὖ μάλ' ὀπιπεύοντα ἐυτροχάλῳ ἐν ἀλωῇ
well very watching well-rounded on threshing-floor
βαλλέμεν, ὑλοτόμον τε ταμεῖν θαλαμήια δοῦρα
to-throw wood-cutter and to-cut chamber timbers
νήιά τε ξύλα πολλά, τά τ' ἄρμενα νηυσὶ πέλονται.
ship and timbers many which — fitting for-ships are
τετράδι δ' ἄρχεσθαι νῆας πήγνυσθαι ἀραιάς.
on-the-fourth and to-begin ships to-build light
Εἰνὰς δ' ἡ μέσση ἐπὶ δείελα λώιον ἦμαρ,
the-ninth and the middle toward evening better day
πρωτίστη δ' εἰνὰς παναπήμων ἀνθρώποισιν·
the-first and ninth all-harmless for-men
ἐσθλὴ μὲν γάρ θ' ἥ γε φυτευέμεν ἠδὲ γενέσθαι
good indeed for — it indeed to-plant and to-be-born
ἀνέρι τ' ἠδὲ γυναικί· καὶ οὔποτε πάγκακον ἦμαρ.
for-man both and woman and never an-all-bad day
Παῦροι δ' αὖτε ἴσασι τρισεινάδα μηνὸς ἀρίστην
few and in-turn know the-twenty-ninth of-the-month best
ἄρξασθαί τε πίθου καὶ ἐπὶ ζυγὸν αὐχένι θεῖναι
to-begin both the-jar and on yoke on-neck to-put
βουσὶ καὶ ἡμιόνοισι καὶ ἵπποις ὠκυπόδεσσι,
for-oxen and mules and horses swift-footed
νῆα πολυκλήιδα θοὴν εἰς οἶνοπα πόντον
ship many-benched swift to wine-dark sea
εἰρύμεναι· παῦροι δέ τ' ἀληθέα κικλήσκουσιν.
to-draw few and — truly call(-it)

Τετράδι δ' οἶγε πίθον· περὶ πάντων ἱερὸν ἦμαρ
on-the-fourth and open the-jar above all a-holy day
μέσση· παῦροι δ' αὖτε μετ' εἰκάδα μηνὸς ἀρίστην
middle few and in-turn after the-twentieth of-the-month best
ἠοῦς γιγνομένης· ἐπὶ δείελα δ' ἐστὶ χερείων.
dawn coming toward evening and it-is worse
Αἵδε μὲν ἡμέραι εἰσιν ἐπιχθονίοις μέγ' ὄνειαρ,
these indeed days are for-the-earthly a-great benefit
αἱ δ' ἄλλαι μετάδουποι, ἀκήριοι, οὔ τι φέρουσαι.
the and others shifting doomless not at-all bringing
ἄλλος δ' ἀλλοίην αἰνεῖ, παῦροι δὲ ἴσασιν.
one and another praises few and know
ἄλλοτε μητρυιὴ πέλει ἡμέρη, ἄλλοτε μήτηρ.
at-times a-stepmother is a-day at-other-times a-mother
τάων εὐδαίμων τε καὶ ὄλβιος, ὃς τάδε πάντα
of-them happy both and blessed who these-things all
εἰδὼς ἐργάζηται ἀναίτιος ἀθανάτοισιν,
knowing works blameless before-the-immortals
ὄρνιθας κρίνων καὶ ὑπερβασίας ἀλεείνων.
birds judging and transgressions avoiding

HESIOD

ΑΣΠΙΣ

The Shield of Heracles

Alcmene, daughter of Electryon, follows Amphitryon to Thebes after he kills her father in a quarrel over cattle. He may not lie with her until he avenges her brothers by burning the villages of the Taphians and Teleboans, a duty the gods witness. Zeus plots to beget a defender against ruin for gods and men and lies with her by night. Amphitryon returns the same night, his task done. She bears twins: Heracles to Zeus, and Iphicles, a lesser man, to Amphitryon.

Ἥ οἵη προλιποῦσα δόμους καὶ πατρίδα γαῖαν
or such-as having-left house and fatherland land
ἤλυθεν ἐς Θήβας μετ᾽ ἀρήιον Ἀμφιτρύωνα
came to Thebes after warlike Amphitryon
Ἀλκμήνη, θυγάτηρ λαοσσόου Ἠλεκτρύωνος·
Alcmene daughter of-host-rousing Electryon
ἥ ῥα γυναικῶν φῦλον ἐκαίνυτο θηλυτεράων
who then of-women the-tribe surpassed female
εἶδεΐ τε μεγέθει τε· νόον γε μὲν οὔ τις ἔριζε
in-form both in-stature and in-mind indeed indeed not any vied
τάων, ἃς θνηταὶ θνητοῖς τέκον εὐνηθεῖσαι.
of-those whom mortal-women to-mortals bore having-lain
τῆς καὶ ἀπὸ κρῆθεν βλεφάρων τ᾽ ἄπο κυανεάων
of-her even from head eyelids and from dark
τοῖον ἄηθ᾽ οἷόν τε πολυχρύσου Ἀφροδίτης.
such breathed as — of-golden Aphrodite
ἣ δὲ καὶ ὣς κατὰ θυμὸν ἑὸν τίεσκεν ἀκοίτην,
she and even so in heart her honored husband
ὡς οὔ πώ τις ἔτισε γυναικῶν θηλυτεράων·
as not yet any honored of-women female
ἦ μέν οἱ πατέρ᾽ ἐσθλὸν ἀπέκτανε ἶφι δαμάσσας,
truly indeed her father noble he-killed by-force having-subdued

χωσάμενος περὶ βουσί· λιπὼν δ' ὅ γε πατρίδα γαῖαν
angered about oxen having-left and he indeed fatherland land
ἐς Θήβας ἱκέτευσε φερεσσακέας Καδμείους.
to Thebes came-as-suppliant to-the-shield-bearing Cadmeans
ἔνθ' ὅ γε δώματ' ἔναιε σὺν αἰδοίῃ παρακοίτι
there he indeed house dwelt-in with revered wife
νόσφιν ἄτερ φιλότητος ἐφιμέρου, οὐδέ οἱ ἦεν
apart-from without love desirable nor to-him was-it
πρὶν λεχέων ἐπιβῆναι ἐυσφύρου Ἠλεκτρυώνης,
before the-bed to-mount of-fair-ankled Electryon's-daughter
πρίν γε φόνον τίσαιτο κασιγνήτων μεγαθύμων
before indeed the-murder he-avenged of-the-brothers great-hearted
ἧς ἀλόχου, μαλερῷ δὲ καταφλέξαι πυρὶ κώμας
of-his wife with-raging and to-burn with-fire villages
ἀνδρῶν ἡρώων Ταφίων ἰδὲ Τηλεβοάων.
of-men heroes of-the-Taphians and Teleboans
τὼς γάρ οἱ διέκειτο, θεοὶ δ' ἐπὶ μάρτυροι ἦσαν·
so for to-him it-was-laid-down the-gods and thereto witnesses were
τῶν ὅ γ' ὀπίζετο μῆνιν, ἐπείγετο δ' ὅττι τάχιστα
whose he indeed dreaded wrath hastened and as quickly-as-possible
ἐκτελέσαι μέγα ἔργον, ὅ οἱ Διόθεν θέμις ἦεν.
to-accomplish great deed which to-him from-Zeus ordained was
τῷ δ' ἅμα ἱέμενοι πολέμοιό τε φυλόπιδός τε
him and with eager for-war both battle and
Βοιωτοὶ πλήξιπποι, ὑπὲρ σακέων πνείοντες,
Boeotians horse-driving over shields breathing
Λοκροί τ' ἀγχέμαχοι καὶ Φωκῆες μεγάθυμοι
Locrians and close-fighting and Phocians great-hearted
ἕσποντ'· ἦρχε δὲ τοῖσιν ἐὺς πάις Ἀλκαίοιο
followed led and them the-good son of-Alcaeus

κυδιόων λαοῖσι. πατὴρ δ᾽ ἀνδρῶν τε θεῶν τε
exulting in-the-hosts the-father but of-men both of-gods and
ἄλλην μῆτιν ὕφαινε μετὰ φρεσίν, ὥς ῥα θεοῖσιν
another counsel was-weaving in mind how then for-gods
ἀνδράσι τ᾽ ἀλφηστῆσιν ἀρῆς ἀλκτῆρα φυτεύσαι.
for-men and grain-eating of-ruin a-defender he-might-beget
ὦρτο δ᾽ ἀπ᾽ Οὐλύμποιο δόλον φρεσὶ βυσσοδομεύων,
he-rose and from Olympus a-trick in-mind plotting
ἱμείρων φιλότητος ἐυζώνοιο γυναικός,
longing for-love of-the-well-girdled woman
ἐννύχιος· τάχα δ᾽ ἶξε Τυφαόνιον· τόθεν αὖτις
by-night quickly and he-came-to Typhaonium thence again
Φίκιον ἀκρότατον προσεβήσατο μητίετα Ζεύς.
the-Phicium topmost approached counselor Zeus
ἔνθα καθεζόμενος φρεσὶ μήδετο θέσκελα ἔργα·
there sitting in-mind devised marvelous deeds
αὐτῇ μὲν γὰρ νυκτὶ ταυσφύρου Ἠλεκτρυώνης
in-that indeed for night of-the-slender-ankled Electryon's-daughter
εὐνῇ καὶ φιλότητι μίγη, τέλεσεν δ᾽ ἄρ᾽ ἐέλδωρ·
in-bed and love lay-with fulfilled and then his-desire
αὐτῇ δ᾽ Ἀμφιτρύων λαοσσόος, ἀγλαὸς ἥρως,
in-the-same and Amphitryon host-rousing glorious hero
ἐκτελέσας μέγα ἔργον ἀφίκετο ὅνδε δόμονδε.
having-accomplished great deed came to-his home
οὐδ᾽ ὅ γ᾽ ἐπὶ δμῶας καὶ ποιμένας ἀγροιώτας
nor he indeed to the-slaves and the-shepherds rustic
ὦρτ᾽ ἰέναι, πρίν γ᾽ ἧς ἀλόχου ἐπιβήμεναι εὐνῆς·
set-out to-go before indeed of-his wife to-mount the-bed
τοῖος γὰρ κραδίην πόθος αἴνυτο ποιμένα λαῶν.
such for the-heart longing seized shepherd of-the-people

ὡς δ' ὅτ' ἀνὴρ ἀσπαστὸν ὑπεκπροφύγῃ κακότητα
as and when a-man gladly escapes-from misery
νούσου ὕπ' ἀργαλέης ἠὲ καὶ κρατεροῦ ὑπὸ δεσμοῦ,
sickness under grievous or even mighty under bond
ὣς ῥα τότ' Ἀμφιτρύων χαλεπὸν πόνον ἐκτολυπεύσας
so then then Amphitryon hard toil having-wound-up
ἀσπασίως τε φίλως τε ἑὸν δόμον εἰσαφίκανεν.
gladly both lovingly and his house reached
παννύχιος δ' ἄρ' ἔλεκτο σὺν αἰδοίῃ παρακοίτι
all-night and then he-lay with revered wife
τερπόμενος δώροισι πολυχρύσου Ἀφροδίτης.
delighting in-the-gifts of-golden Aphrodite
ἥ δὲ θεῷ δμηθεῖσα καὶ ἀνέρι πολλὸν ἀρίστῳ
she and by-a-god subdued and by-a-man much best
Θήβῃ ἐν ἑπταπύλῳ διδυμάονε γείνατο παῖδε,
Thebes in seven-gated twin bore sons
οὐ καθ' ὁμὰ φρονέοντε· κασιγνήτω γε μὲν ἦστην·
not according-to same-things minded brothers indeed indeed they-were
τὸν μὲν χειρότερον, τὸν δ' αὖ μέγ' ἀμείνονα φῶτα,
the-one indeed worse the-other and in-turn much better man
δεινόν τε κρατερόν τε, βίην Ἡρακληείην·
terrible both mighty and the-might of-Heracles
τὸν μὲν ὑποδμηθεῖσα κελαινεφέι Κρονίωνι,
the-one indeed subdued by-the-dark-clouded son-of-Cronus
τὸν δ' ἄρα Ἰφικλῆα δορυσσόῳ Ἀμφιτρύωνι,
the-other and then Iphicles by-the-spear-wielding Amphitryon
κεκριμένην γενεήν· τὸν μὲν βροτῷ ἀνδρὶ μιγεῖσα,
distinct offspring the-one indeed to-a-mortal man having-lain
τὸν δὲ Διὶ Κρονίωνι, θεῶν σημάντορι πάντων.
the-other and to-Zeus son-of-Cronus of-gods ruler of-all

Heracles kills Cycnus, son of Ares. He finds Cycnus and Ares in a gleaming chariot in Apollo's grove, for Apollo has roused him against Cycnus. Heracles tells Iolaus how Amphitryon killed Electryon and fled to Thebes, and bids him drive straight on without fearing Ares. Iolaus answers that Zeus and Poseidon honor Heracles and urges him to arm. Heracles puts on greaves, a golden breastplate from Athena, a sword, a quiver of arrows, a spear, and a helmet.

Ὃς καὶ Κύκνον ἔπεφνεν, Ἀρητιάδην μεγάθυμον.
who also Cycnus slew son-of-Ares great-hearted
εὗρε γὰρ ἐν τεμένει ἑκατηβόλου Ἀπόλλωνος
he-found for in the-precinct of-far-shooting Apollo
αὐτὸν καὶ πατέρα ὅν Ἄρην, ἄατον πολέμοιο,
him and father his Ares insatiate of-war
τεύχεσι λαμπομένους σέλας ὡς πυρὸς αἰθομένοιο,
with-armor gleaming a-gleam like of-fire blazing
ἑσταότ' ἐν δίφρῳ· χθόνα δ' ἔκτυπον ὠκέες ἵπποι
standing in the-chariot the-ground and struck swift horses
νύσσοντες χηλῇσι, κόνις δέ σφ' ἀμφιδεδήει
striking with-hooves the-dust and them blazed-around
κοπτομένη πλεκτοῖσιν ὑφ' ἅρμασι καὶ ποσὶν ἵππων.
pounded woven under chariots and feet of-horses
ἅρματα δ' εὐποίητα καὶ ἄντυγες ἀμφαράβιζον
the-chariots and well-made and the-rails rattled
ἵππων ἱεμένων· κεχάρητο δὲ Κύκνος ἀμύμων,
the-horses rushing rejoiced and Cycnus blameless
ἐλπόμενος Διὸς υἱὸν ἀρήιον ἡνίοχόν τε
hoping of-Zeus the-son warlike charioteer and
χαλκῷ δηιώσειν καὶ ἀπὸ κλυτὰ τεύχεα δύσειν.
with-bronze to-slay and off glorious armor to-strip

ἀλλά οἱ εὐχωλέων οὐκ ἔκλυε Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων·
but his prayers not heard Phoebus Apollo
αὐτὸς γάρ οἱ ἐπῶρσε βίην Ἡρακληείην.
himself for against-him roused the-might of-Heracles
πᾶν δ' ἄλσος καὶ βωμὸς Ἀπόλλωνος Παγασαίου
all and grove and altar of-Apollo Pagasaean
λάμπεν ὑπὸ δεινοῖο θεοῦ τευχέων τε καὶ αὐτοῦ·
shone under of-the-terrible god of-the-armor both and himself
πῦρ δ' ὡς ὀφθαλμῶν ἀπελάμπετο. τίς κεν ἐκείνου
fire and as from-the-eyes flashed who — him
ἔτλη θνητὸς ἐὼν κατεναντίον ὁρμηθῆναι
dared mortal being face-to-face to-rush
πλήν γ' Ἡρακλῆος καὶ κυδαλίμου Ἰολάου;
except indeed Heracles and glorious Iolaus
κείνων γὰρ μεγάλη τε βίη καὶ χεῖρες ἄαπτοι
of-them for great both might and hands invincible
ἐξ ὤμων ἐπέφυκον ἐπὶ στιβαροῖσι μέλεσσιν.
from shoulders grew upon stout limbs
ὅς ῥα τόθ' ἡνίοχον προσέφη κρατερὸν Ἰόλαον·
who then then the-charioteer addressed mighty Iolaus
Ἥρως ὦ Ἰόλαε, βροτῶν πολὺ φίλτατε πάντων,
hero O Iolaus of-mortals much dearest of-all
ἦ τε μέγ' ἀθανάτους μάκαρας, τοὶ Ὄλυμπον ἔχουσιν,
truly — greatly the-immortal blessed-ones who Olympus hold
ἤλιτεν Ἀμφιτρύων, ὅτ' ἐυστέφανον ποτὶ Θήβην
sinned-against Amphitryon when fair-crowned to Thebes
ἦλθε λιπὼν Τίρυνθα, ἐυκτίμενον πτολίεθρον,
he-came having-left Tiryns well-built citadel
κτείνας Ἠλεκτρύωνα βοῶν ἕνεκ' εὐρυμετώπων·
having-killed Electryon oxen for-the-sake-of broad-browed

ἵκετο δ' ἐς Κρείοντα καὶ Ἠνιόχην τανύπεπλον,
he-came and to Creon and Eniocha long-robed
οἵ ῥά μιν ἠσπάζοντο καὶ ἄρμενα πάντα παρεῖχον,
who then him welcomed and fitting all-things provided
ἦ δίκη ἔσθ' ἱκέτῃσι, τίον δέ ἑ κηρόθι μᾶλλον.
as right is for-suppliants honored and him in-heart more
ζῶε δ' ἀγαλλόμενος σὺν ἐυσφύρῳ Ἠλεκτρυώνῃ,
lived and delighting with fair-ankled Electryon's-daughter
ᾗ ἀλόχῳ· τάχα δ' ἄμμες ἐπιπλομένων ἐνιαυτῶν
his wife soon and we revolving years
γεινόμεθ' οὔτε φυὴν ἐναλίγκιοι οὔτε νόημα,
were-born neither in-build like nor in-mind
σός τε πατὴρ καὶ ἐγώ· τοῦ μὲν φρένας ἐξέλετο Ζεύς,
your both father and I of-him indeed the-wits took-away Zeus
ὃς προλιπὼν σφέτερον τε δόμον σφετέρους τε τοκῆας
who having-left his-own both house his-own and parents
ᾤχετο, τιμήσων ἀλιτήμενον Εὐρυσθῆα,
went to-honor sinful Eurystheus
σχέτλιος· ἦ που πολλὰ μετεστεναχίζετ' ὀπίσσω
wretch truly surely much groaned hereafter
ἣν ἄτην ὀχέων· ἦ δ' οὐ παλινάγρετός ἐστιν.
his ruin bearing it and not to-be-taken-back is
αὐτὰρ ἐμοὶ δαίμων χαλεποὺς ἐπετέλλετ' ἀέθλους.
but to-me a-divinity hard laid-on labors
Ὦ φίλος, ἀλλὰ σὺ θᾶσσον ἔχ' ἡνία φοινικόεντα
O friend but you quickly hold the-reins crimson
ἵππων ὠκυπόδων· μέγα δὲ φρεσὶ θάρσος ἀέξων
of-the-horses swift-footed great and in-mind courage increasing
ἰθὺς ἔχειν θοὸν ἅρμα καὶ ὠκυπόδων σθένος ἵππων,
straight to-hold swift chariot and of-swift-footed the-strength horses

μηδὲν ὑποδδείσας κτύπον Ἄρεος ἀνδροφόνοιο,
not-at-all fearing the-din of-Ares man-slaying
ὃς νῦν κεκληγὼς περιμαίνεται ἱερὸν ἄλσος
who now shrieking rages-around holy grove
Φοίβου Ἀπόλλωνος, ἑκατηβελέταο ἄνακτος·
of-Phoebus Apollo far-shooting lord
ἦ μὴν καὶ κρατερός περ ἐὼν ἄαται πολέμοιο.
truly indeed even mighty though being he-will-have-his-fill of-war
Τὸν δ' αὖτε προσέειπεν ἀμώμητος Ἰόλαος·
him and in-turn addressed blameless Iolaus
ἠθεῖ', ἦ μάλα δή τι πατὴρ ἀνδρῶν τε θεῶν τε
brother truly greatly indeed at-all the-father of-men both of-gods and
τιμᾷ σὴν κεφαλὴν καὶ ταύρεος Ἐννοσίγαιος,
honors your head and bull-shaped Earth-shaker
ὃς Θήβης κρήδεμνον ἔχει ῥύεταί τε πόλημα·
who of-Thebes the-veil holds guards and the-city
οἷον δὴ καὶ τόνδε βροτὸν κρατερόν τε μέγαν τε
such indeed also this mortal mighty both great and
σὰς ἐς χεῖρας ἄγουσιν, ἵνα κλέος ἐσθλὸν ἄρηαι.
your into hands they-bring that glory noble you-may-win
ἀλλ' ἄγε δύσεο τεύχε' ἀρήια, ὄφρα τάχιστα
but come put-on armor warlike that most-quickly
δίφρους ἐμπελάσαντες Ἄρηός θ' ἡμέτερόν τε
chariots bringing-near of-Ares and ours and
μαρνώμεσθ', ἐπεὶ οὔ τοι ἀτάρβητον Διὸς υἱὸν
let-us-fight since not you-know the-fearless of-Zeus son
οὐδ' Ἰφικλεΐδην δειδίξεται, ἀλλά μιν οἴω
nor the-son-of-Iphicles will-be-frighten but him I-think
φεύξεσθαι δύο παῖδας ἀμύμονος Ἀλκείδαο,
will-flee the-two sons of-blameless descendant-of-Alcaeus

οἳ δή σφι σχεδόν εἰσι, λιλαιόμενοι πολέμοιο
who indeed to-them near are eager for-war
φυλόπιδα στῆσαι, τά σφιν πολὺ φίλτερα θοίνης.
battle to-join which to-them much dearer than-a-feast
ὣς φάτο· μείδησεν δὲ βίη Ἡρακληείη
so he-spoke smiled and the-might of-Heracles
θυμῷ γηθήσας· μάλα γάρ νύ οἱ ἄρμενα εἶπεν·
in-heart rejoicing very for now to-him fitting he-spoke
καί μιν ἀμειβόμενος ἔπεα πτερόεντα προσηύδα·
and him answering words winged addressed
Ἥρως ὦ Ἰόλαε, διοτρεφές, οὐκέτι τηλοῦ
hero O Iolaus Zeus-nurtured no-longer far
ὑσμίνη τρηχεῖα· σὺ δ' ὡς πάρος ἦσθα δαΐφρων,
the-combat rough you and as before you-were wise
ὣς καὶ νῦν μέγαν ἵππον Ἀρίονα κυανοχαίτην
so also now the-great horse Arion dark-maned
πάντη ἀναστρωφᾶν καὶ ἀρηγέμεν, ὥς κε δύνηαι.
everywhere to-wheel and to-help as — you-can
Ὣς εἰπὼν κνημῖδας ὀρειχάλκοιο φαεινοῦ,
so having-spoken greaves of-mountain-copper bright
Ἡφαίστου κλυτὰ δῶρα, περὶ κνήμῃσιν ἔθηκεν·
of-Hephaestus glorious gifts about shins he-set
δεύτερον αὖ θώρηκα περὶ στήθεσσιν ἔδυνε
second in-turn the-corselet about chest he-put-on
καλὸν χρύσειον πολυδαίδαλον, ὅν οἱ ἔδωκε
fair golden richly-wrought which to-him gave
Παλλὰς Ἀθηναίη, κούρη Διός, ὁππότ' ἔμελλε
Pallas Athena daughter of-Zeus when he-was-about
τὸ πρῶτον στονόεντας ἐφορμήσεσθαι ἀέθλους.
the first grievous to-set-out-on labors

θήκατο δ' ἀμφ' ὤμοισιν ἀρῆς ἀλκτῆρα σίδηρον
he-set and about shoulders of-ruin a-defender the-iron
δεινὸς ἀνήρ· κοΐλην δὲ περὶ στήθεσσι φαρέτρην
terrible man hollow and about chest the-quiver
καββάλετ' ἐξόπιθεν· πολλοὶ δ' ἔντοσθεν ὀιστοὶ
he-cast behind many and within arrows
ῥιγηλοί, θανάτοιο λαθιφθόγγοιο δοτῆρες.
chilling of-death voice-forgetting givers
πρόσθεν μὲν θάνατόν τ' εἶχον καὶ δάκρυσι μῦρον,
in-front indeed death both they-had and with-tears trickled
μέσσοι δὲ ξεστοί, περιμήκεες, αὐτὰρ ὄπισθε
middle and polished very-long but behind
μόρφνοιο φλεγύαο καλυπτόμενοι πτερύγεσσιν.
of-a-dark eagle covered with-wings
εἵλετο δ' ὄβριμον ἔγχος, ἀκαχμένον αἴθοπι χαλκῷ,
he-took and mighty spear tipped with-gleaming bronze
κρατὶ δ' ἔπ' ἰφθίμῳ κυνέην εὐτυκτον ἔθηκε,
head and on mighty helmet well-made he-set
δαιδαλέην ἀδάμαντος, ἐπὶ κροτάφοις ἀραρυῖαν,
richly-wrought of-adamant on temples fitted
ἥτ' εἴρυτο κάρη Ἡρακλῆος θείοιο.
which guarded the-head of-Heracles godlike

The shield is of gypsum, ivory, electrum, gold, and blue enamel. In its center is Fear, glaring back with fiery eyes, with Strife, Pursuit, Flight, Tumult, Panic, Slaughter, and Doom, and twelve snake heads. There are boars and lions, the battle of the Lapiths and Centaurs, Ares in his chariot with Fear and Panic beside him, and Athena armed for battle. The gods dance as Apollo plays the lyre and the Muses lead the song. There is a harbor with dolphins hunting fish and a fisherman on the shore.

Χερσί γε μὴν σάκος εἶλε παναίολον, οὐδέ τις αὐτὸ
with-hands indeed indeed the-shield he-took all-glittering nor any it
οὔτ' ἔρρηξε βαλὼν οὔτ' ἔθλασε, θαῦμα ἰδέσθαι.
neither broke having-struck nor crushed a-marvel to-see
πᾶν μὲν γὰρ κύκλῳ τιτάνῳ λευκῷ τ' ἐλέφαντι
all indeed for round with-gypsum white and ivory
ἠλέκτρῳ θ' ὑπολαμπὲς ἔην χρυσῷ τε φαεινῷ
with-electrum and gleaming-beneath it-was with-gold and bright
λαμπόμενον, κυάνου δὲ διὰ πτύχες ἠλήλαντο.
shining of-blue and through plates were-drawn
ἐν μέσσῳ δ' ἀδάμαντος ἔην Φόβος οὔ τι φατειός,
in middle and of-adamant was Fear not at-all speakable
ἔμπαλιν ὄσσοισιν πυρὶ λαμπομένοισι δεδορκώς·
backward with-eyes with-fire gleaming glaring
τοῦ καὶ ὀδόντων μὲν πλῆτο στόμα λευκὰ θεόντων,
of-whom also with-teeth indeed was-full the-mouth white running
δεινῶν ἀπλήτων, ἐπὶ δὲ βλοσυροῖο μετώπου
terrible unapproachable upon and grim forehead
δεινὴ Ἔρις πεπότητο κορύσσουσα κλόνον ἀνδρῶν,
terrible Strife hovered arraying the-tumult of-men
σχετλίη, ἥ ῥα νόον τε καὶ ἐκ φρένας εἵλετο φωτῶν.
cruel who then mind both and out wits took of-the-men

οἵτινες ἀντιβίην πόλεμον Διὸς υἷι φέροιεν.
who face-to-face war of-Zeus against-the-son would-bring
τῶν καὶ ψυχαὶ μὲν χθόνα δύμεναι Ἄιδος εἴσω
of-whom also the-souls indeed the-earth to-enter Hades within
κάκκιον, ὀστέα δέ σφι περὶ ῥινοῖο σαπείσης
went-down the-bones and of-them about the-skin having-rotted
Σειρίου ἀζαλέοιο μελαίνῃ πύθεται αἴῃ.
of-Sirius parching in-black rot earth
Ἐν δὲ Προϊῶξίς τε Παλίωξίς τε τέτυκτο,
in and Pursuit both Flight and was-wrought
ἐν δ' Ὅμαδός τε Φόβος τ' Ἀνδροκτασίη τε δεδήει,
in and Tumult both Panic and Slaughter and blazed
ἐν δ' Ἔρις, ἐν δὲ Κυδοιμὸς ἐθύνεον, ἐν δ' ὀλοὴ Κὴρ
in and Strife in and Uproar rushed in and baneful Doom
ἄλλον ζωὸν ἔχουσα νεούτατον, ἄλλον ἄουτον,
one alive holding newly-wounded another unwounded
ἄλλον τεθνηῶτα κατὰ μόθον ἕλκε ποδοῖιν.
another dead through the-fray she-dragged by-the-feet
εἷμα δ' ἔχ' ἄμφ' ὤμοισι δαφοινεὸν αἵματι φωτῶν,
a-garment and she-had about shoulders red with-the-blood of-men
δεινὸν δερκομένη καναχῇσί τε βεβρυχυῖα.
terribly glaring with-roars and bellowing
Ἐν δ' ὀφίων κεφαλαὶ δεινῶν ἔσαν, οὔ τι φατειῶν,
in and of-snakes heads terrible were not at-all speakable
δώδεκα, ταὶ φοβέεσκον ἐπὶ χθονὶ φῦλ' ἀνθρώπων,
twelve which used-to-frighten on earth the-tribes of-men
οἵ τινες ἀντιβίην πόλεμον Διὸς υἷι φέροιεν·
who any face-to-face war of-Zeus against-the-son would-bring

τῶν καὶ ὀδόντων μὲν καναχὴ πέλεν, εὖτε μάχοιτο
of-whom also of-the-teeth indeed a-clatter arose when he-fought
Ἀμφιτρυωνιάδης, τὰ δ' ἐδαίετο θαυματὰ ἔργα.
the-son-of-Amphitryon these and blazed marvelous works
στίγματα δ' ὡς ἐπέφαντο ἰδεῖν δεινοῖσι δράκουσιν·
spots and like appeared to-see on-the-terrible serpents
κυάνεοι κατὰ νῶτα, μελάνθησαν δὲ γένεια.
dark down backs were-black and the-jaws
Ἐν δὲ συῶν ἀγέλαι χλούνων· ἔσαν ἠδὲ λεόντων
in and of-boars herds of-wild were and of-lions
ἐς σφέας δερκομένων, κοτεόντων θ' ἱεμένων τε.
at each-other glaring raging and eager and
τῶν καὶ ὁμιληδὸν στίχες ἤισαν· οὐδέ νυ τώ γε
of-whom also in-throngs the-ranks went nor now they indeed
οὐδέτεροι τρεέτην· φρῖσσόν γε μὲν αὐχένας ἄμφω.
neither-side trembled bristled indeed indeed necks both
ἤδη γάρ σφιν ἔκειτο μέγας λῖς, ἀμφὶ δὲ κάπροι
already for among-them lay a-great lion around and boars
δοιοί, ἀπουράμενοι ψυχάς, κατὰ δέ σφι κελαινὸν
two robbed-of lives down and of-them dark
αἷμ' ἀπελείβετ' ἔραζ'· οἳ δ' αὐχένας ἐξεριπόντες
blood dripped to-the-ground they and necks fallen
κείατο τεθνηῶτες ὑπὸ βλοσυροῖσι λέουσιν.
lay dead under grim lions
τοὶ δ' ἔτι μᾶλλον ἐγειρέσθην κοτέοντε μάχεσθαι,
they and still more were-roused angered to-fight
ἀμφότεροι, χλοῦναί τε σύες χαροποί τε λέοντες.
both wild both boars fierce-eyed and lions

Ἐν δ' ἦν ὑσμίνη Λαπιθάων αἰχμητάων
in and was a-combat of-the-Lapiths spearmen
Καινέα τ' ἀμφὶ ἄνακτα Δρύαντά τε Πειρίθοόν τε
Caeneus and around lord Dryas both Pirithous and
Ὁπλέα τ' Ἐξάδιόν τε Φάληρόν τε Πρόλοχόν τε
Hopleus and Exadius both Phalerus and Prolochus and
Μόψον τ' Ἀμπυκίδην, Τιταρήσιον, ὄζον Ἄρηος,
Mopsus and son-of-Ampyx Titaresian scion of-Ares
Θησέα τ' Αἰγείδην, ἐπιείκελον ἀθανάτοισιν·
Theseus and son-of-Aegeus like to-the-immortals
ἀργύρεοι, χρύσεια περὶ χροΐ τεύχε' ἔχοντες.
silver golden about skin arms having
Κένταυροι δ' ἑτέρωθεν ἐναντίοι ἠγερέθοντο
the-Centaurs and on-the-other-side opposed gathered
ἀμφὶ μέγαν Πετραῖον ἰδ' Ἄσβολον οἰωνιστὴν
around great Petraeus and Asbolus diviner
Ἄρκτον τ' Οὔρειόν τε μελαγχαίτην τε Μίμαντα
Arctus and Ureus both black-haired and Mimas
καὶ δύο Πευκείδας, Περιμήδεά τε Δρύαλόν τε,
and two sons-of-Peuceus Perimedes both Dryalus and
ἀργύρεοι, χρυσέας ἐλάτας ἐν χερσὶν ἔχοντες.
silver golden pines in hands holding
καί τε συναΐγδην ὡς εἰ ζωοί περ ἐόντες
and — rushing-together as if alive though being
ἔγχεσιν ἠδ' ἐλάτῃς αὐτοσχεδὸν ὠριγνῶντο.
with-spears and pines at-close-quarters they-lunged

Ἐν δ' Ἄρεος βλοσυροῖο ποδώκεες ἕστασαν ἵπποι
in and of-Ares grim swift-footed stood horses
χρύσεοι, ἐν δὲ καὶ αὐτὸς ἐναρσφόρος οὐλιος Ἄρης
golden in and also himself spoil-winning baneful Ares
αἰχμὴν ἐν χείρεσσιν ἔχων, πρυλέεσσι κελεύων,
a-spear in hands having the-foot-soldiers urging
αἵματι φοινικόεις, ὡς εἰ ζωοὺς ἐναρίζων
with-blood red as if living spoiling
δίφρου ἐπεμβεβαώς· παρὰ δὲ Δεῖμός τε Φόβος τε
the-chariot standing-on beside and Fear both Panic and
ἕστασαν ἱέμενοι πόλεμον καταδύμεναι ἀνδρῶν.
stood eager the-war to-enter of-men
Ἐν δὲ Διὸς θυγάτηρ ἀγελείη Τριτογένεια,
in and of-Zeus daughter driver-of-spoil Trito-born
τῇ ἰκέλη ὡς εἴ τε μάχην ἐθέλουσα κορύσσειν,
to-her like as if — battle wishing to-array
ἔγχος ἔχουσ' ἐν χερσὶν ἰδὲ χρυσέην τρυφάλειαν
a-spear having in hands and golden helmet
αἰγίδα τ' ἀμφ' ὤμοις· ἐπὶ δ' ᾤχετο φύλοπιν αἰνήν.
the-aegis and about shoulders thereupon and she-went-to the-battle dread
Ἐν δ' ἦν ἀθανάτων ἱερὸς χορός· ἐν δ' ἄρα μέσσῳ
in and was of-the-immortals holy dance in and then middle
ἱμερόεν κιθάριζε Διὸς καὶ Λητοῦς υἱὸς
lovely played-the-lyre of-Zeus and of-Leto son
χρυσείῃ φόρμιγγι·
on-golden lyre
θεαὶ δ' ἐξῆρχον ἀοιδῆς
the-goddesses and led song
Μοῦσαι Πιερίδες, λιγὺ μελπομένῃς ἐικυῖαι.
the-Muses of-Pieria clearly singing like

Ἐν δὲ λιμὴν ἐύορμος ἀμαιμακέτοιο θαλάσσης
in and a-harbor good-for-anchoring of-the-irresistible sea
κυκλοτερὴς ἐτέτυκτο πανέφθου κασσιτέροιο
circular was-wrought of-refined tin
κλυζομένῳ ἴκελος·
to-surging like
δοιὼ δ' ἀναφυσιόωντες
two and spouting
ἀργύρεοι δελφῖνες ἐθοινῶντ' ἔλλοπας ἰχθῦς.
silver dolphins were-devouring the-mute fishes
τῶν δ' ὕπο χάλκειοι τρέον ἰχθύες· αὐτὰρ ἐπ' ἀκταῖς
them and under bronze trembled fishes but on the-shores
ἧστο ἀνὴρ ἁλιεὺς δεδοκημένος· εἶχε δὲ χερσὶν
sat a-man fisher watching he-had and in-hands
215 ἰχθύσιν ἀμφίβληστρον ἀπορρίψοντι ἐοικώς.
for-fishes a-net about-to-cast like

IV · THE SHIELD: PERSEUS AND THE TWO CITIES

Perseus flies with the Gorgon's head in a bag, pursued by the Gorgons. Men fight for their city while the women wail on the towers; the dark Keres drag off the fallen, Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropos stand over them, and Darkness stands beside. In a city at peace there are weddings with songs and dancing, revels, plowing, reaping, the vintage, boxing, wrestling, hunting, and a chariot race for a tripod. Ocean runs around the rim, with swans and fish.

Ἐν δ' ἦν ἠυκόμου Δανάης τέκος, ἱππότα Περσεύς,
in and was of-lovely-haired Danae the-child horseman Perseus
οὔτ' ἄρ' ἐπιψαύων σάκεος ποσὶν οὔθ' ἑκὰς αὐτοῦ,
neither then touching the-shield with-feet nor far-from it

θαῦμα μέγα φράσσασθ', ἐπεὶ οὐδαμῇ ἐστήρικτο.
a-marvel great to-perceive since nowhere was-he-supported
τὼς γάρ μιν παλάμαις τεῦξεν κλυτὸς Ἀμφιγυήεις
so for him with-palms made the-famous Lame-one
χρύσεον· ἀμφὶ δὲ ποσσὶν ἔχεν πτερόεντα πέδιλα.
golden around and feet he-had winged sandals
ὤμοισιν δέ μιν ἀμφὶ μελάνδετον ἆορ ἔκειτο
shoulders and him around a-black-bound sword lay
χαλκέου ἐκ τελαμῶνος· ὃ δ' ὥς τε νόημ' ἐποτᾶτο·
bronze from baldric he and like — thought flew
πᾶν δὲ μετάφρενον εἶχε κάρη δεινοῖο πελώρου,
all and the-back held the-head of-the-terrible monster
Γοργοῦς· ἀμφὶ δέ μιν κίβισις θέε, θαῦμα ἰδέσθαι,
the-Gorgon around and him the-wallet ran a-marvel to-see
ἀργυρέη· θύσανοι δὲ κατηωρεῦντο φαεινοὶ
silver tassels and hung-down bright
χρύσειοι· δεινὴ δὲ περὶ κροτάφοισιν ἄνακτος
golden terrible and about temples of-the-lord
κεῖτ' Ἄιδος κυνέη νυκτὸς ζόφον αἰνὸν ἔχουσα.
lay of-Hades the-cap of-night the-gloom dread having
αὐτὸς δὲ σπεύδοντι καὶ ἐρρίγοντι ἐοικὼς
himself and to-one-hastening and shuddering like
Περσεὺς Δαναΐδης ἐτιταίνετο. ταὶ δὲ μετ' αὐτὸν
Perseus son-of-Danae was-straining they and after him
Γοργόνες ἄπλητοί τε καὶ οὐ φαταὶ ἐρρώοντο
the-Gorgons unapproachable both and not speakable rushed
ἱέμεναι μαπέειν. ἐπὶ δὲ χλωροῦ ἀδάμαντος
eager to-seize upon and pale adamant
βαινουσέων ἰάχεσκε σάκος μεγάλῳ ὀρυμαγδῷ
as-they-trod rang the-shield with-great din

ὀξέα καὶ λιγέως· ἐπὶ δὲ ζώνῃσι δράκοντε
sharply and shrilly upon and the-girdles two-serpents
δοιὼ ἀπῃωρεῦντ᾽ ἐπικυρτώοντε κάρηνα.
two hung arching heads
λίχμαζον δ᾽ ἄρα τώ γε· μένει δ᾽ ἐχάρασσον ὀδόντας
were-flickering and then they indeed with-fury and gnashed teeth
ἄγρια δερκομένω. ἐπὶ δὲ δεινοῖσι καρήνοις
fiercely glaring upon and the-terrible heads
Γοργείοις ἐδονεῖτο μέγας Φόβος. οἳ δ᾽ ὑπὲρ αὐτέων
of-the-Gorgons was-stirred great Fear they and above them
ἄνδρες ἐμαρνάσθην πολεμήια τεύχε᾽ ἔχοντες,
men fought warlike arms having
τοὶ μὲν ὑπὲρ σφετέρης πόλιος σφετέρων τε τοκήων
they indeed for their-own city their-own and parents
λοιγὸν ἀμύνοντες, τοὶ δὲ πραθέειν μεμαῶτες.
ruin warding-off they and to-sack eager
πολλοὶ μὲν κέατο, πλέονες δ᾽ ἔτι δῆριν ἔχοντες
many indeed lay more and still contest having
μάρναν᾽θ᾽· αἱ δὲ γυναῖκες ἐυδμήτων ἐπὶ πύργων
fought they and the-women well-built on towers
χαλκέων ὀξὺ βόων, κατὰ δ᾽ ἐδρύπτοντο παρειάς,
bronze shrilly shouted down and tore cheeks
ζωῇσιν ἴκελαι, ἔργα κλυτοῦ Ἡφαίστοιο.
to-living like the-works of-famous Hephaestus
ἄνδρες δ᾽, οἳ πρεσβῆες ἔσαν γῆράς τε μέμαρπεν,
the-men and who elders were old-age and had-seized

ἀθρόοι ἔκτοσθεν πυλέων ἔσαν, ἂν δὲ θεοῖσι
crowded outside the-gates were up and to-the-gods
χεῖρας ἔχον μακάρεσσι, περὶ σφετέροισι τέκεσσι
hands had blessed for their-own children
δειδιότες· τοὶ δ' αὖτε μάχην ἔχον. αἳ δὲ μετ' αὐτοὺς
fearing they and in-turn battle had they and after them
Κῆρες κυάνεαι, λευκοὺς ἀραβεῦσαι ὀδόντας,
the-Keres dark white gnashing teeth
δεινωπαὶ βλοσυραί τε δαφοιναί τ' ἄπληταί τε
grim-eyed fierce both bloody and unapproachable and
δῆριν ἔχον περὶ πιπτόντων· πᾶσαι δ' ἄρ' ἵεντο
strife had over the-falling all and then were-eager
αἷμα μέλαν πιέειν· ὃν δὲ πρῶτον μεμάποιεν
blood black to-drink whom and first they-caught
κείμενον ἢ πίπτοντα νεούτατον, ἀμφὶ μὲν αὐτῷ
lying or falling newly-wounded around indeed him
βάλλ' ὄνυχας μεγάλους, ψυχὴ δ' Ἄιδόσδε κατῆεν
she-cast claws great the-soul and to-Hades went-down
Τάρταρον ἐς κρυόεν θ'. αἳ δὲ φρένας εὖτ' ἀρέσαντο
Tartarus to chill they and wits when they-had-satisfied
αἵματος ἀνδρομέου, τὸν μὲν ῥίπτασκον ὀπίσσω,
with-blood human him indeed they-would-cast behind
ἂψ δ' ὅμαδον καὶ μῶλον ἐθύνεον αὖτις ἰοῦσαι.
back and the-tumult and the-fray rushed again going
Κλωθὼ καὶ Λάχεσίς σφιν ἐφέστασαν· ἣ μὲν ὑφήσσων
Clotho and Lachesis over-them stood the-one indeed lower
Ἄτροπος οὔ τι πέλεν μεγάλη θεός, ἀλλ' ἄρα ἥ γε
Atropos not at-all was great goddess but then she indeed
τῶν γε μὲν ἀλλάων προφερής τ' ἦν πρεσβυτάτη τε.
of-the indeed indeed other pre-eminent both was eldest and

πᾶσαι δ' ἀμφ' ἑνὶ φωτὶ μάχην δριμεῖαν ἔθεντο.
all and over one man battle bitter made
δεινὰ δ' ἐς ἀλλήλας δράκον ὄμμασι θυμήνασαι,
terribly and at each-other they-glared with-eyes angered
ἐν δ' ὄνυχας χεῖράς τε θρασείας ἰσώσαντο.
in and claws hands and bold they-matched
πὰρ δ' Ἀχλὺς εἱστήκει ἐπισμυγερή τε καὶ αἰνή,
beside and Darkness stood mournful both and dread
χλωρὴ ἀυσταλέῃ λιμῷ καταπεπτηυῖα,
pale withered with-famine crouching
γουνοπαχής, μακροὶ δ' ὄνυχες χείρεσσιν ὑπῆσαν.
swollen-kneed long and nails hands were-under
τῆς ἐκ μὲν ῥινῶν μύξαι ῥέον, ἐκ δὲ παρειῶν
of-whom from indeed the-nostrils rheum flowed from and the-cheeks
αἷμ' ἀπελείβετ' ἔραζ'· ἣ δ' ἄπλητον σεσαρυῖα
blood dripped to-the-ground she and unapproachably grinning
εἱστήκει, πολλὴ δὲ κόνις κατενήνοθεν ὤμους,
stood much and dust covered shoulders
δάκρυσι μυδαλέη. παρὰ δ' εὔπυργος πόλις ἀνδρῶν·
with-tears wet beside and well-towered a-city of-men
χρύσειαι δέ μιν εἶχον ὑπερθυρίοις ἀραρυῖαι
golden and it held to-lintels fitted
ἑπτὰ πύλαι· τοὶ δ' ἄνδρες ἐν ἀγλαΐῃς τε χοροῖς τε
seven gates they and men in festivities both dances and
τέρψιν ἔχον· τοὶ μὲν γὰρ ἐυσσώτρου ἐπ' ἀπήνης
delight had they indeed for well-wheeled on wagon
ἤγοντ' ἀνδρὶ γυναῖκα, πολὺς δ' ὑμέναιος ὀρώρει·
were-leading for-a-man a-woman much and the-bridal-song arose

τῆλε δ' ἀπ' αἰθομένων δαΐδων σέλας εἰλύφαζε
far and from burning torches the-gleam rolled
χερσὶν ἔνι δμῳῶν· ταὶ δ' ἀγλαΐῃ τεθαλυῖαι
hands in of-the-maids they and with-festivity blooming
πρόσθ' ἔκιον· τῇσιν δὲ χοροὶ παίζοντες ἕποντο.
in-front went with-them and dancing-choirs sporting followed
τοὶ μὲν ὑπὸ λιγυρῶν συρίγγων ἵεσαν αὐδὴν
they indeed to clear pipes sent-forth voice
ἐξ ἁπαλῶν στομάτων, περὶ δέ σφισιν ἄγνυτο ἠχώ.
from tender mouths around and them was-broken the-echo
αἳ δ' ὑπὸ φορμίγγων ἄναγον χορὸν ἱμερόεντα.
they and to lyres led dance lovely
ἔνθεν δ' αὖθ' ἑτέρωθε νέοι κώμαζον ὑπ' αὐλοῦ,
thence and in-turn on-the-other-side young-men reveled to the-flute
τοί γε μὲν αὖ παίζοντες ὑπ' ὀρχηθμῷ καὶ ἀοιδῇ
they indeed indeed in-turn sporting to dance and song
τοί γε μὲν αὖ γελόωντες ὑπ' αὐλητῆρι ἕκαστος
they indeed indeed in-turn laughing to the-flute-player each
πρόσθ' ἔκιον· πᾶσαν δὲ πόλιν θαλίαι τε χοροί τε
in-front went all and the-city feasts both dances and
ἀγλαΐαι τ' εἶχον. τοὶ δ' αὖ προπάροιθε πόληος
festivities and held they and in-turn in-front-of the-city
νῶθ' ἵππων ἐπιβάντες ἐθύνεον. οἱ δ' ἀροτῆρες
backs of-horses having-mounted rushed they and the-plowmen
ἤρεικον χθόνα δῖαν, ἐπιστολάδην δὲ χιτῶνας
broke earth divine girded-up and tunics
ἐστάλατ'. αὐτὰρ ἔην βαθὺ λήιον· οἵ γε μὲν ἤμων
had-tucked but was deep the-crop they indeed indeed reaped
αἰχμῇς ὀξείῃσι κορωνιόωντα πέτηλα,
with-points sharp bending stalks

βριθόμενα σταχύων, ὡς εἰ Δημήτερος ἀκτήν·
weighed-down with-ears as if of-Demeter grain
οἳ δ' ἄρ' ἐν ἐλλεδανοῖσι δέον καὶ ἔπιτνον ἀλωήν,
they and then in bands bound and spread threshing-floor
οἳ δ' ἐτρύγων οἴνας δρεπάνας ἐν χερσὶν ἔχοντες,
they and gathered the-grapes sickles in hands having
οἳ δ' αὖτ' ἐς ταλάρους ἐφόρευν ὑπὸ τρυγητήρων
they and in-turn into baskets carried from the-vintagers
λευκοὺς καὶ μέλανας βότρυας μεγάλων ἀπὸ ὄρχων,
white and black grapes great from rows
βριθομένων φύλλοισι καὶ ἀργυρέῃς ἑλίκεσσιν.
weighed-down with-leaves and with-silver tendrils
οἳ δ' αὖτ' ἐς ταλάρους ἐφόρευν. παρὰ δέ σφισιν ὄρχος
they and in-turn into baskets carried beside and them a-row
χρύσεος ἦν, κλυτὰ ἔργα περίφρονος Ἡφαίστοιο,
golden was famous works of-very-wise Hephaestus
σειόμενος φύλλοισι καὶ ἀργυρέῃσι κάμαξι,
shaken with-leaves and with-silver vine-poles
βριθόμενος σταφυλῇσι· μελάνθησάν γε μὲν αἵδε.
weighed-down with-grapes were-black indeed indeed these
οἵ γε μὲν ἐτράπεον, τοὶ δ' ἤρυον· οἳ δ' ἐμάχοντο
they indeed indeed trod they and drew-off they and fought
πύξ τε καὶ ἑλκηδόν· τοὶ δ' ὠκύποδας λαγὸς ἧρευν
with-fist both and by-wrestling they and swift-footed hares chased
ἄνδρες θηρευταί, καὶ καρχαρόδοντε κύνε πρό,
men hunters and jagged-toothed two-dogs in-front
ἱέμενοι μαπέειν, οἳ δ' ἱέμενοι ὑπαλύξαι.
eager to-seize they and eager to-escape

Πὰρ δ' αὐτοῖς ἱππῆες ἔχον πόνον, ἀμφὶ δ' ἀέθλῳ
beside and them horsemen had toil around and a-prize
δῆριν ἔχον καὶ μόχθον. ἐυπλεκέων δ' ἐπὶ δίφρων
contest had and labor well-woven and on chariots
ἡνίοχοι βεβαῶτες ἐφίεσαν ὠκέας ἵππους
charioteers standing let-go swift horses
ῥυτὰ χαλαίνοντες, τὰ δ' ἐπικροτέοντα πέτοντο
reins slackening they and rattling flew
ἅρματα κολλήεντ', ἐπὶ δὲ πλῆμναι μέγ' ἀύτευν.
chariots jointed upon and the-naves loudly shrieked
οἳ μὲν ἄρ' ἀίδιον εἶχον πόνον οὐδέ ποτέ σφιν
they indeed then endless had toil nor ever for-them
νίκη ἐπηνύσθη, ἀλλ' ἄκριτον εἶχον ἄεθλον.
victory was-won but undecided had contest
τοῖσιν δὲ προέκειτο μέγας τρίπος ἐντὸς ἀγῶνος,
for-them and was-set-out great tripod within the-gathering
χρύσειος, κλυτὰ ἔργα περίφρονος Ἡφαίστοιο.
golden famous works of-very-wise Hephaestus
Ἀμφὶ δ' ἴτυν ῥέεν Ὠκεανὸς πλήθοντι ἐοικώς,
around and the-rim flowed Ocean to-one-flooding like
πᾶν δὲ συνεῖχε σάκος πολυδαίδαλον, οἳ δὲ κατ' αὐτὸν
all and held-together the-shield richly-wrought they and over it
κύκνοι ἀερσιπόται μεγάλ' ἤπυον, οἵ ῥά τε πολλοὶ
swans high-flying loudly called who then — many
νῆχον ἐπ' ἄκρον ὕδωρ· παρὰ δ' ἰχθύες ἐκλονέοντο.
swam on top water beside and fishes were-tossed

The shield, Hephaestus' work, is a marvel even to Zeus. Heracles mounts the chariot, and Iolaus drives. Athena comes to them and promises Heracles victory, telling him to kill Cycnus and to wound Ares only where his body is bare. Heracles bids Cycnus yield the road, recalling how he once wounded Ares at Pylos, but Cycnus will not. They rush together like rocks rolling down a mountain, and Zeus sends down drops of blood as a sign of war for his son.

Θαῦμα ἰδεῖν καὶ Ζηνὶ βαρυκτύπῳ, οὗ διὰ βουλὰς
a-marvel to-see even for-Zeus loud-thundering whose through counsels
Ἥφαιστος ποίησε σάκος μέγα τε στιβαρόν τε,
Hephaestus made the-shield great both stout and
ἀρσάμενος παλάμῃσι. τὸ μὲν Διὸς ἄλκιμος υἱὸς
fitting-together with-palms it indeed of-Zeus the-valiant son
πάλλεν ἐπικρατέως· ἐπὶ δ' ἵππειου θόρε δίφρου,
brandished masterfully on and the-horse leapt chariot
εἴκελος ἀστεροπῇ πατρὸς Διὸς αἰγιόχοιο,
like to-lightning of-father Zeus aegis-bearing
κοῦφα βιβάς· τῷ δ' ἡνίοχος κρατερὸς Ἰόλαος
lightly stepping for-him and the-charioteer mighty Iolaus
δίφρου ἐπεμβεβαὼς ἰθύνετο καμπύλον ἅρμα.
the-chariot standing-on guided curved car
ἀγχίμολον δέ σφ' ἦλθε θεὰ γλαυκῶπις Ἀθήνη,
near and to-them came the-goddess flashing-eyed Athena
καί σφεας θαρσύνουσα ἔπεα πτερόεντα προσηύδα·
and them encouraging words winged addressed

Χαίρετε, Λυγκῆος γενεὴ τηλεκλειτοῖο·
hail of-Lynceus offspring far-famed
νῦν δὴ Ζεὺς κράτος ὔμμι διδοῖ μακάρεσσιν ἀνάσσων
now indeed Zeus power to-you gives the-blessed ruling
Κύκνον τ' ἐξεναρεῖν καὶ ἀπὸ κλυτὰ τεύχεα δῦσαι.
Cycnus both to-slay and from famous arms to-strip
ἄλλο δὲ τοί τι ἔπος ἐρέω, μέγα φέρτατε λαῶν·
other and to-you some word I-will-tell great mightiest of-the-people
εὖτ' ἂν δὴ Κύκνον γλυκερῆς αἰῶνος ἀμέρσῃς,
when — indeed Cycnus of-sweet life you-rob
τὸν μὲν ἔπειτ' αὐτοῦ λιπέειν καὶ τεύχεα τοῖο,
him indeed then there to-leave and the-arms of-him
αὐτὸς δὲ βροτολοιγὸν Ἄρην ἐπιόντα δοκεύσας,
yourself and man-destroying Ares coming-on watching
ἔνθα κε γυμνωθέντα σάκευς ὕπο δαιδαλέοιο
where — bared the-shield under richly-wrought
ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἴδῃς, ἔνθ' οὐτάμεν ὀξέι χαλκῷ·
with-eyes you-see there to-wound with-sharp bronze
ἂψ δ' ἀναχάσσασθαι· ἐπεὶ οὔ νύ τοι αἴσιμόν ἐστιν
back and to-draw-back since not now for-you fated it-is
οὔθ' ἵππους ἐλέειν οὔτε κλυτὰ τεύχεα τοῖο.
neither the-horses to-take nor famous arms of-him
Ὣς εἰποῦσ' ἐς δίφρον ἐβήσατο δῖα θεάων,
so having-spoken into the-chariot went bright of-goddesses
νίκην ἀθανάτῃς χερσὶν καὶ κῦδος ἔχουσα,
victory in-immortal hands and glory having

ἐσσυμένως. τότε δή ῥα διόγνητος Ἰόλαος
eagerly then indeed then Zeus-born Iolaus
σμερδαλέον ἵπποισιν ἐκέκλετο· τοὶ δ' ὑπ' ὀμοκλῆς
terribly to-the-horses called they and at the-shout
ῥίμφ' ἔφερον θοὸν ἅρμα κονίοντες πεδίοιο.
lightly bore swift chariot raising-dust over-the-plain
ἐν γάρ σφιν μένος ἧκε θεὰ γλαυκῶπις Ἀθήνη
in for them strength sent the-goddess flashing-eyed Athena
αἰγίδ' ἀνασσείσασα· περιστονάχησε δὲ γαῖα.
the-aegis having-brandished groaned-around and the-earth
τοὶ δ' ἄμυδις προγένοντ' ἴκελοι πυρὶ ἠὲ θυέλλῃ,
they and together came-forward like to-fire or storm
Κύκνος θ' ἱππόδαμος καὶ Ἄρης ἀκόρητος ἀυτῆς.
Cycnus and horse-taming and Ares insatiate of-the-war-cry
τῶν ἵπποι μὲν ἔπειθ' ὑπεναντίοι ἀλλήλοισιν
of-them the-horses indeed then facing each-other
ὀξεῖα χρέμισαν, περὶ δέ σφισιν ἄγνυτο ἠχώ.
shrilly neighed around and them was-broken the-echo
τὸν πρότερος προσέειπε βίη Ἡρακληείη·
him first addressed the-might of-Heracles
Κύκνε πέπον, τί νυ νῶιν ἐπίσχετον ὠκέας ἵππους
Cycnus good-sir why now against-us do-you-hold swift horses
ἀνδράσιν, οἵ τε πόνου καὶ ὀιζύος ἴδριές εἰμεν;
men who both of-toil and woe skilled we-are

ἀλλὰ παρὲξ ἔχε δίφρον ἐύξοον ἠδὲ κελεύθου
but aside hold chariot well-polished and from-the-road
εἶκε παρὲξ ἰέναι. Τρηχῖνα δέ τοι παρελαύνω
yield aside to-go to-Trachis and you-know I-drive-past
ἐς Κήυκα ἄνακτα· ὃ γὰρ δυνάμι τε καὶ αἰδοῖ
to Ceyx lord he for in-power both and in-honor
Τρηχῖνος προβέβηκε, σὺ δ' εὖ μάλα οἶσθα καὶ αὐτός·
of-Trachis is-foremost you and well very know also yourself
τοῦ γὰρ ὀπυίεις παῖδα Θεμιστονόην κυανῶπιν.
of-him for you-wed the-daughter Themistonoe dark-eyed
ὦ πέπον, οὐ μὲν γὰρ τοι Ἄρης θανάτοιο τελευτὴν
O good-sir not indeed for for-you Ares of-death the-end
ἀρκέσει, εἰ δὴ νῶι συνοισόμεθα πτολεμίζειν.
will-ward-off if indeed we-two shall-meet to-fight
ἤδη μέν τέ ἑ φημι καὶ ἄλλοτε πειρηθῆναι
already indeed — him I-say also at-another-time to-have-made-trial
ἔγχεος ἡμετέρου, ὅθ' ὑπὲρ Πύλου ἠμαθόεντος
of-spear our when above Pylos sandy
ἀντίος ἔστη ἐμεῖο, μάχης ἄμοτον μενεαίνων.
facing stood me of-battle insatiably eager
τρὶς μὲν ἐμῷ ὑπὸ δουρὶ τυπεὶς ἠρείσατο γαίῃ
thrice indeed my under spear struck he-was-propped on-earth
οὐταμένου σάκεος, τὸ δὲ τέτρατον ἤλασα μηρὸν
being-wounded the-shield the and fourth-time I-drove the-thigh
παντὶ μένει σπεύδων, διὰ δὲ μέγα σαρκὸς ἄραξα.
with-all strength hastening through and greatly the-flesh I-tore
πρηνὴς δ' ἐν κονίῃσι χαμαὶ πέσεν ἔγχεος ὁρμῇ.
headlong and in dust on-the-ground he-fell of-the-spear by-the-thrust

ἔνθα κε δὴ λωβητὸς ἐν ἀθανάτοισιν ἐτύχθη
there — indeed disgraced among the-immortals he-would-have-been
χερσὶν ὕφ' ἡμετέρῃσι λιπὼν ἔναρα βροτόεντα.
hands under our having-left spoils bloody
Ὣς ἔφατ'· οὐδ' ἄρα Κύκνος ἐυμμελίης ἐμενοίνα
so he-spoke nor then Cycnus with-good-ash-spear was-minded
τῷ ἐπιπειθόμενος ἐχέμεν ἐρυσάρματας ἵππους.
to-him obeying to-hold the-chariot-drawing horses
370 δὴ τότ' ἀπ' εὐπλεκέων δίφρων θόρον αἶψ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν
indeed then from well-woven chariots they-leapt quickly to earth
παῖς τε Διὸς μεγάλου καὶ Ἐνυαλίοιο ἄνακτος.
the-son both of-Zeus great and of-Enyalius lord
ἡνίοχοι δ' ἔμπλην ἔλασαν καλλίτριχας ἵππους·
the-charioteers and near drove fair-maned horses
τῶν δ' ὕπο σευομένων κανάχιζε πόσ' εὐρεῖα χθών.
them and under rushing rang with-feet wide earth
ὡς δ' ὅτ' ἀφ' ὑψηλῆς κορυφῆς ὄρεος μεγάλοιο
as and when from lofty peak of-mountain great
375 πέτραι ἀποθρῴσκωσιν, ἐπ' ἀλλήλῃς δὲ πέσωσι,
rocks leap-off on each-other and fall
πολλαὶ δὲ δρῦς ὑψίκομοι, πολλαὶ δὲ τε πεῦκαι
many and oaks high-leafed many and — pines
αἴγειροί τε τανύρριζοι ῥήγνυνται ὑπ' αὐτέων
poplars both long-rooted are-broken by them
ῥίμφα κυλινδομένων, εἵως πεδίονδ' ἀφίκωνται,
swiftly rolling until to-the-plain they-come
ὣς οἳ ἐπ' ἀλλήλοισι πέσον μέγα κεκλήγοντες.
so they on each-other fell loudly shouting

πᾶσα δὲ Μυρμιδόνων τε πόλις κλειτή τ' Ἰαωλκὸς
all and of-the-Myrmidons both city famous and Iolcus
Ἄρνη τ' ἠδ' Ἑλίκη Ἄνθειά τε ποιήεσσα
Arne and and Helice Anthea and grassy
φωνῇ ὕπ' ἀμφοτέρων μεγάλ' ἴαχον· οἳ δ' ἀλαλητῷ
with-the-voice by both loudly rang they and with-war-cry
θεσπεσίῳ σύνισαν· μέγα δ' ἔκτυπε μητίετα Ζεύς.
wondrous came-together greatly and thundered counselor Zeus
κὰδ δ' ἄρ' ἀπ' οὐρανόθεν ψιάδας βάλεν αἱματοέσσας,
down and then from heaven drops cast bloody
σῆμα τιθεὶς πολέμοιο ἑῷ μεγαθαρσέι παιδί.
a-sign setting of-war for-his very-bold son

VI · THE DEATH OF CYCNUS

Heracles and Cycnus fight like lions over a slain deer. He drives his spear through Cycnus' neck, and Cycnus falls like an oak. Ares charges to avenge his son; Athena turns his spear aside, and Heracles wounds him in the thigh. Ceyx buries Cycnus, but at Apollo's bidding the Anaurus washes away his tomb.

Οἷος δ' ἐν βήσσῃς ὄρεος χαλεπὸς προϊδέσθαι
such-as and in the-glens of-a-mountain hard to-face
κάπρος χαυλιόδων φρονέει θυμῷ μαχέσασθαι
a-boar tusked is-minded in-heart to-fight
ἀνδράσι θηρευτῇς, θήγει δέ τε λευκὸν ὀδόντα
with-men hunters whets and — white tusk
δοχμωθείς, ἀφρὸς δὲ περὶ στόμα μαστιχόωντι
turning-sideways foam and about mouth as-he-gnashes
λείβεται, ὄσσε δέ οἱ πυρὶ λαμπετόωντι ἔικτον,
drips the-eyes and his to-fire gleaming are-like

ὀρθὰς δ' ἐν λοφιῇ φρίσσει τρίχας ἀμφί τε δειρήν·
upright and on the-mane he-bristles hairs about and the-neck
τῷ ἴκελος Διὸς υἱὸς ἀφ' ἵππείου θόρε δίφρου.
to-him like of-Zeus the-son from the-horse leapt chariot
ἦμος δὲ χλοερῷ κυανόπτερος ἠχέτα τέττιξ
when and on-the-green dark-winged chirping cicada
ὄζῳ ἐφεζόμενος θέρος ἀνθρώποισιν ἀείδειν
on-a-bough sitting summer to-men to-sing
ἄρχεται, ᾧ τε πόσις καὶ βρῶσις θῆλυς ἐέρση,
begins whose — drink and food the-delicate dew
καί τε πανημέριός τε καὶ ἠώιος χέει αὐδὴν
and — all-day both and at-dawn pours voice
ἴδει ἐν αἰνοτάτῳ, ὅτε τε χρόα Σείριος ἄζει,
the-heat in most-dreadful when — the-skin Sirius parches
τῆμος δὴ κέγχροισι πέρι γλῶχες τελέθουσι
then indeed the-millet around beards grow
τούς τε θέρει σπείρουσιν, ὅτ' ὄμφακες αἰόλλονται,
which — in-summer they-sow when the-unripe-grapes are-tinged
οἷα Διώνυσος δῶκ' ἀνδράσι χάρμα καὶ ἄχθος·
which Dionysus gave to-men a-joy and a-burden
τὴν ὥρην μάρναντο, πολὺς δ' ὀρυμαγδὸς ὀρώρει.
at-that season they-fought great and din arose
ὡς δὲ λέοντε δύω ἀμφὶ κταμένης ἐλάφοιο
as and lions two around slain deer
ἀλλήλοις κοτέοντες ἐπὶ σφέας ὁρμήσωσι,
at-each-other raging upon each-other rush
δεινὴ δέ σφ' ἰαχὴ ἄραβός θ' ἅμα γίγνετ' ὀδόντων·
terrible and from-them a-cry gnashing and at-once arose of-teeth
οἳ δ' ὥς τ' αἰγυπιοὶ γαμψώνυχες, ἀγκυλοχεῖλαι,
they and as — vultures crook-taloned hook-beaked

πέτρῃ ἔφ᾽ ὑψηλῇ μεγάλα κλάζοντε μάχονται
rock on high loudly screaming fight
αἰγὸς ὀρεσσινόμου ἢ ἀγροτέρης ἐλάφοιο
over-a-goat mountain-ranging or wild deer
πίονος, ἥν τ᾽ ἐδάμασσε βαλὼν αἰζήιος ἀνὴρ
fat which — has-subdued having-struck a-young man
ἰῷ ἀπὸ νευρῆς, αὐτὸς δ᾽ ἀπαλήσεται ἄλλῃ
with-an-arrow from the-string himself and will-wander elsewhere
χώρου ἄιδρις ἐών· οἳ δ᾽ ὀτραλέως ἐνόησαν,
of-the-place ignorant being they and quickly noticed
ἐσσυμένως δέ οἱ ἀμφὶ μάχην δριμεῖαν ἔθεντο·
eagerly and it around battle bitter made
ὣς οἳ κεκλήγοντες ἐπ᾽ ἀλλήλοισιν ὄρουσαν.
so they shouting at each-other rushed
Ἔνθ᾽ ἦ τοι Κύκνος μὲν ὑπερμενέος Διὸς υἱὸν
then truly you-know Cycnus indeed of-over-mighty Zeus the-son
κτεινέμεναι μεμαὼς σάκει ἔμβαλε χάλκεον ἔγχος,
to-kill eager into-the-shield struck bronze spear
οὐδ᾽ ἔρρηξεν χαλκόν· ἔρυτο δὲ δῶρα θεοῖο.
nor broke-through the-bronze guarded and the-gifts of-the-god
Ἀμφιτρυωνιάδης δέ, βίη Ἡρακληείη,
the-son-of-Amphitryon and the-might of-Heracles
μεσσηγὺς κόρυθός τε καὶ ἀσπίδος ἔγχεϊ μακρῷ
between the-helmet both and shield with-spear long
αὐχένα γυμνωθέντα θοῶς ὑπένερθε γενείου
the-neck bared swiftly beneath the-chin
ἤλασ᾽ ἐπικρατέως· ἀπὸ δ᾽ ἄμφω κέρσε τένοντε
drove masterfully off and both cut tendons
ἀνδροφόνος μελίη· μέγα γὰρ σθένος ἔμπεσε φωτός.
man-slaying ash-spear great for strength fell-upon of-the-man

ἤριπε δ', ὡς ὅτε τις δρῦς ἤριπεν ἢ ὅτε πεύκη
he-fell and as when some oak falls or when a-pine
ἠλίβατος, πληγεῖσα Διὸς ψολόεντι κεραυνῷ·
steep struck of-Zeus by-smoky thunderbolt
ὣς ἔριπ'· ἀμφὶ δέ οἱ βράχε τεύχεα ποικίλα χαλκῷ.
so he-fell around and him clanged armor varied with-bronze
Τὸν μὲν ἔπειτ' εἴασε Διὸς ταλακάρδιος υἱός,
him indeed then left of-Zeus the-steadfast son
αὐτὸς δὲ βροτολοιγὸν Ἄρην προσιόντα δοκεύσας,
himself and man-destroying Ares coming-on watching
δεινὸν ὁρῶν ὄσσοισι, λέων ὣς σώματι κύρσας,
terribly looking with-eyes a-lion like on-a-body having-come
ὅς τε μάλ' ἐνδυκέως ῥινὸν κρατεροῖς ὀνύχεσσι
who — very thoroughly the-hide with-strong claws
σχίσσας ὅττι τάχιστα μελίφρονα θυμὸν ἀπηύρα·
having-torn as quickly-as-possible honey-sweet life takes
ἐμ μένεος δ' ἄρα τοῦ γε κελαινὸν πίμπλαται ἦτορ·
with strength and then his indeed dark is-filled heart
γλαυκιόων δ' ὄσσοις δεινὸν πλευράς τε καὶ ὤμους
glaring and with-eyes terribly flanks both and shoulders
οὐρῇ μαστιόων ποσσὶν γλάφει, οὐδέ τις αὐτὸν
with-tail lashing with-feet he-tears nor any him
ἔτλη ἐς ἄντα ἰδὼν σχεδὸν ἐλθέμεν οὐδὲ μάχεσθαι·
dared into face looking near to-come nor to-fight
τοῖος ἄρ' Ἀμφιτρυωνιάδης, ἀκόρητος ἀυτῆς,
such then the-son-of-Amphitryon insatiate of-the-war-cry
ἀντίος ἔστη Ἄρηος, ἐνὶ φρεσὶ θάρσος ἀέξων,
facing stood Ares in mind courage increasing
ἐσσυμένως· ὃ δέ οἱ σχεδὸν ἦλυθεν ἀχνύμενος κῆρ·
eagerly he and him near came grieving in-heart

ἀμφότεροι δ᾽ ἰάχοντες ἐπ᾽ ἀλλήλοισιν ὄρουσαν.
both and shouting at each-other rushed
ὡς δ᾽ ὅτ᾽ ἀπὸ μεγάλου πέτρη πρηῶνος ὀρούσῃ,
as and when from great a-rock crag rushes
μακρὰ δ᾽ ἐπιθρῴσκουσα κυλίνδεται, ἣ δέ τε ἠχῇ
long and leaping rolls it and — with-roar
ἔρχεται ἐμμεμαυῖα, πάγος δέ οἱ ἀντεβόλησεν
goes eagerly a-crag and it met
ὑψηλός· τῷ δὴ συνενείκεται, ἔνθα μιν ἴσχει·
high with-it indeed it-collides there it holds
τόσσῃ ὃ μὲν ἰαχῇ βρισάρματος οὔλιος Ἄρης
so-great he indeed with-shout chariot-burdening baneful Ares
κεκληγὼς ἐπόρουσεν· ὃ δ᾽ ἐμμαπέως ὑπέδεκτο.
shouting rushed-on he and readily received(-him)
Αὐτὰρ Ἀθηναίη, κούρη Διὸς αἰγιόχοιο,
but Athena daughter of-Zeus aegis-bearing
ἀντίη ἦλθεν Ἄρηος ἐρεμνὴν αἰγίδ᾽ ἔχουσα·
facing came Ares dark aegis having
δεινὰ δ᾽ ὑπόδρα ἰδοῦσα ἔπεα πτερόεντα προσηύδα·
terribly and from-under looking words winged addressed
Ἄρες, ἔπισχε μένος κρατερὸν καὶ χεῖρας ἀάπτους·
Ares check strength mighty and hands invincible
οὐ γάρ τοι θέμις ἐστὶν ἀπὸ κλυτὰ τεύχεα δῦσαι
not for you-know right is from glorious armor to-strip
Ἡρακλέα κτείναντα, Διὸς θρασυκάρδιον υἱόν·
Heracles having-killed of-Zeus bold-hearted son
ἀλλ᾽ ἄγε παῦε μάχην, μηδ᾽ ἀντίος ἵστασ᾽ ἐμεῖο.
but come stop the-battle nor facing stand me

Ὣς ἔφατ'· ἀλλ' οὐ πεῖθ' Ἄρεος μεγαλήτορα θυμόν,
so she-spoke but not persuaded of-Ares the-great-hearted spirit
ἀλλὰ μέγα ἰάχων φλογὶ εἴκελά τ' ἔγχεα πάλλων
but loudly shouting to-flame like and spears brandishing
καρπαλίμως ἐπόρουσε βίῃ Ἡρακληείῃ
swiftly rushed at-the-might of-Heracles
κακτάμεναι μεμαώς· καί ῥ' ἔμβαλε χάλκεον ἔγχος,
to-kill eager and then struck bronze spear
σπερχνὸν παιδὸς ἑοῦ κοτέων πέρι τεθνηῶτος,
hastily for-son his angered exceedingly having-died
ἐν σάκεϊ μεγάλῳ. ἀπὸ δὲ γλαυκῶπις Ἀθήνη
in shield great away and the-flashing-eyed Athena
ἔγχεος ὁρμὴν ἔτραπ' ὀρεξαμένη ἀπὸ δίφρου.
of-the-spear the-thrust turned reaching from the-chariot
δριμὺ δ' Ἄρηϊ ἄχος εἷλε· ἐρυσσάμενος δ' ἄορ ὀξὺ
bitter and Ares grief seized having-drawn and sword sharp
ἔσσυτ' ἐφ' Ἡρακλέα κρατερόφρονα· τὸν δ' ἐπιόντα
rushed at Heracles strong-hearted him and as-he-came
Ἀμφιτρυωνιάδης, δεινῆς ἀκόρητος ἀυτῆς,
the-son-of-Amphitryon of-dread insatiate of-the-war-cry
μηρὸν γυμνωθέντα σάκευς ὕπο δαιδαλέοιο
thigh bared shield under richly-wrought
οὔτασ' ἐπικρατέως· διὰ δὲ μέγα σαρκὸς ἄραξε
wounded masterfully through and greatly the-flesh tore
δούρατι νωμήσας, ἐπὶ δὲ χθονὶ κάββαλε μέσσῃ.
with-spear wielding upon and earth cast middle

τῷ δὲ Φόβος καὶ Δεῖμος ἐύτροχον ἅρμα καὶ ἵππους
for-him and Fear and Panic well-wheeled chariot and horses
ἤλασαν αἶψ' ἐγγύς, καὶ ἀπὸ χθονὸς εὐρυοδείης
drove quickly near and from earth wide-wayed
ἐς δίφρον θῆκαν πολυδαίδαλον· αἶψα δ' ἔπειτα
into chariot set richly-wrought quickly and then
ἵππους μαστιέτην· ἵκοντο δὲ μακρὸν Ὄλυμπον.
the-horses they-lashed reached and high Olympus
Υἱὸς δ' Ἀλκμήνης καὶ κυδάλιμος Ἰόλαος
the-son and of-Alcmene and glorious Iolaus
Κύκνον σκυλεύσαντες ἀπ' ὤμων τεύχεα καλὰ
Cycnus having-stripped from shoulders armor fair
νίσσοντ'· αἶψα δ' ἔπειτα πόλιν Τρηχῖνος ἵκοντο
went quickly and then the-city of-Trachis reached
ἵπποις ὠκυπόδεσσιν. ἀτὰρ γλαυκῶπις Ἀθήνη
with-horses swift-footed but flashing-eyed Athena
ἐξίκετ' Οὔλυμπόν τε μέγαν καὶ δώματα πατρός.
reached Olympus both great and the-house of-the-father
Κύκνον δ' αὖ Κῆυξ θάπτεν καὶ λαὸς ἀπείρων,
Cycnus and in-turn Ceyx buried and the-host countless
οἵ ῥ' ἐγγὺς ναῖον πόλιας κλειτοῦ βασιλῆος
who then near dwelt the-cities of-the-famous king
Ἄνθην Μυρμιδόνων τε πόλιν κλειτήν τ' Ἰαωλκὸν
Anthe of-the-Myrmidons both city famous and Iolcus
Ἄρνην τ' ἠδ' Ἑλίκην· πολλὸς δ' ἠγείρετο λαός,
Arne and and Helice great and was-gathered the-host
τιμῶντες Κήυκα, φίλον μακάρεσσι θεοῖσιν.
honoring Ceyx dear to-the-blessed gods

τοῦ δὲ τάφον καὶ σῆμ᾽ ἀιδὲς ποίησεν Ἄναυρος
of-him but the-grave and the-tomb unseen made the-Anaurus
ὄμβρῳ χειμερίῳ πλήθων· τὼς γάρ μιν Ἀπόλλων
with-rain wintry flooding so for him Apollo
Λητοΐδης ἤνωξ᾽, ὅτι ῥα κλειτὰς ἑκατόμβας
son-of-Leto bade because then famous hecatombs
ὅστις ἄγοι Πυθοῖδε βίῃ σύλασκε δοκεύων.
whoever brought to-Pytho by-force he-would-rob watching

ΥΜΝΟΙ

The Homeric Hymns

Εἰς Διώνυσον

1 · TO DIONYSUS

Only fragments survive. Men disagree about where Semele bore Dionysus to Zeus, at Dracanum, Icarus, Naxos, the Alpheus, or Thebes; the poet says Zeus begot him far from men, hiding him from Hera, at Nysa, a mountain near the streams of Egypt. Zeus nods his promise of statues and triennial feasts for him, and the poet bids farewell to Dionysus and his mother Semele, called Thyone.

∗∗∗ Οἳ μὲν γὰρ Δρακάνῳ σ', οἳ δ' Ἰκάρῳ ἠνεμοέσσῃ
(lacuna) Some indeed for at-Dracanum you others and on-Icarus windy
φάσ', οἳ δ' ἐν Νάξῳ, δῖον γένος, εἰραφιῶτα,
say others and in Naxos noble offspring insewn-one
οἳ δέ σ' ἐπ' Ἀλφειῷ ποταμῷ βαθυδινήεντι
others and you by the-Alpheus river deep-eddying
κυσαμένην Σεμέλην τεκέειν Διὶ τερπικεραύνῳ·
having-conceived Semele to-have-borne to-Zeus thunder-delighting
ἄλλοι δ' ἐν Θήβῃσιν, ἄναξ, σε λέγουσι γενέσθαι, 5
others and in Thebes lord you say to-have-been-born
ψευδόμενοι· σὲ δ' ἔτικτε πατὴρ ἀνδρῶν τε θεῶν τε
lying you and begot the-father of-men both of-gods and
πολλὸν ἀπ' ἀνθρώπων, κρύπτων λευκώλενον Ἥρην.
far from men hiding(-you) white-armed from-Hera
ἔστι δέ τις Νύση, ὕπατον ὄρος, ἀνθέον ὕλῃ,
is and a-certain Nysa highest mountain flowering with-wood
τηλοῦ Φοινίκης, σχεδὸν Αἰγύπτοιο ῥοάων,
far-off from-Phoenicia near of-Egypt the-streams
∗∗∗ καί οἱ ἀναστήσουσιν ἀγάλματα πόλλ' ἐνὶ νηοῖς. 10
(lacuna) and for-him they-will-set-up statues many in temples

ὣς δὲ τὰ μὲν τρία, σοὶ πάντως τριετηρίσιν αἰεὶ
as and these indeed three-parts to-you by-all-means in-triennial-feasts ever
ἄνθρωποι ῥέξουσι τεληέσσας ἑκατόμβας.
men will-offer perfect hecatombs
Ἦ καὶ κυανέῃσιν ἐπ᾽ ὀφρύσι νεῦσε Κρονίων·
he-spoke and dark on brows nodded the-son-of-Cronus
ἀμβρόσιαι δ᾽ ἄρα χαῖται ἐπερρώσαντο ἄνακτος
ambrosial and then locks streamed of-the-lord
κρατὸς ἀπ᾽ ἀθανάτοιο· μέγαν δ᾽ ἐλέλιξεν Ὄλυμπον.
head from immortal great and he-shook Olympus
ὣς εἰπὼν ἐπένευσε καρήατι μητίετα Ζεύς.
so having-spoken nodded with-head counselor Zeus
Ἴληθ᾽, εἰραφιῶτα, γυναιμανές· οἱ δέ σ᾽ ἀοιδοὶ
be-gracious insewn-one woman-maddener we and you singers
ᾄδομεν ἀρχόμενοι λήγοντές τ᾽· οὐδέ πῃ ἔστι
sing beginning ending and nor anyhow is-it-possible
σεῖ᾽ ἐπιληθομένῳ ἱερῆς μεμνῆσθαι ἀοιδῆς.
you forgetting holy to-remember song
καὶ σὺ μὲν οὕτω χαῖρε, Διώνυσ᾽ εἰραφιῶτα,
and you indeed so farewell Dionysus insewn-one
σὺν μητρὶ Σεμέλῃ, ἥν περ καλέουσι Θυώνην.
with mother Semele whom indeed they-call Thyone

Εἰς Δημήτραν

2.1 · PERSEPHONE IS CARRIED OFF

The poet sings of Demeter and her daughter, whom Hades seizes with Zeus' consent as she gathers flowers with the daughters of Ocean. Earth grows a wondrous narcissus as a snare. As the girl reaches for it, the earth opens, and Hades carries her off in his golden chariot while she cries to her father. Only Hecate and Helios hear her. Demeter tears her headbands and searches nine days with torches, neither eating nor bathing. On the tenth Hecate meets her, and they go to Helios. He tells them that Zeus gave the girl to Hades as his wife, and he urges Demeter to end her grief.

Δήμητρ' ἠύκομον, σεμνὴν θεόν, ἄρχομ' ἀείδειν,
Demeter lovely-haired holy goddess I-begin to-sing
αὐτὴν ἠδὲ θύγατρα τανύσφυρον, ἣν Ἀιδωνεὺς
her and daughter slender-ankled whom Aidoneus
ἥρπαξεν, δῶκεν δὲ βαρύκτυπος εὐρύοπα Ζεύς,
snatched gave and loud-thundering far-seeing Zeus
Νόσφιν Δήμητρος χρυσαόρου, ἀγλαοκάρπου,
apart from-Demeter golden-sworded of-glorious-fruit
παίζουσαν κούρῃσι σὺν Ὠκεανοῦ βαθυκόλποις
playing the-daughters with of-Ocean deep-bosomed
ἄνθεά τ' αἰνυμένην, ῥόδα καὶ κρόκον ἠδ' ἴα καλὰ
flowers and gathering roses and crocus and violets fair
λειμῶν' ἂμ μαλακὸν καὶ ἀγαλλίδας ἠδ' ὑάκινθον
meadow over soft and irises and hyacinth
νάρκισσόν θ', ὃν φῦσε δόλον καλυκώπιδι κούρῃ
narcissus and which made-grow as-a-snare for-the-flower-faced girl
Γαῖα Διὸς βουλῇσι χαριζομένη Πολυδέκτῃ,
Earth by-Zeus' counsels pleasing the-Host-of-Many

θαυμαστὸν γανόωντα· σέβας τό γε πᾶσιν ἰδέσθαι
marvelous gleaming a-wonder it indeed for-all to-see
ἀθανάτοις τε θεοῖς ἠδὲ θνητοῖς ἀνθρώποις·
immortal both gods and mortal men
τοῦ καὶ ἀπὸ ῥίζης ἑκατὸν κάρα ἐξεπεφύκει·
of-it even from root a-hundred heads had-grown
κώζ' ἥδιστ' ὀδμή, πᾶς τ' οὐρανὸς εὐρὺς ὕπερθεν
and-it-smelled most-sweet fragrance all and heaven wide above
γαῖά τε πᾶσ' ἐγελάσσε καὶ ἁλμυρὸν οἶδμα θαλάσσης.
earth and all laughed and salty swell of-the-sea
ἣ δ' ἄρα θαμβήσασ' ὠρέξατο χερσὶν ἅμ' ἄμφω
she and then amazed reached-out with-hands together both
καλὸν ἄθυρμα λαβεῖν· χάνε δὲ χθὼν εὐρύαγυια
fair plaything to-take gaped and earth wide-wayed
Νύσιον ἂμ πεδίον, τῇ ὄρουσεν ἄναξ Πολυδέγμων
Nysian over plain there sprang-up the-lord Host-of-Many
ἵπποις ἀθανάτοισι, Κρόνου πολυώνυμος υἱός.
with-horses immortal of-Cronus much-named son
Ἁρπάξας δ' ἀέκουσαν ἐπὶ χρυσέοισιν ὄχοισιν
having-snatched and unwilling on golden chariot
ἦγ' ὀλοφυρομένην· ἰάχησε δ' ἄρ' ὄρθια φωνῇ,
he-led lamenting she-cried and then shrilly with-voice
κεκλομένη πατέρα Κρονίδην ὕπατον καὶ ἄριστον.
calling-on father son-of-Cronus highest and best

οὐδέ τις ἀθανάτων οὐδὲ θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων
nor any of-the-immortals nor of-mortal men
ἤκουσεν φωνῆς, οὐδ' ἀγλαόκαρποι ἐλαῖαι†
heard the-voice nor the-glorious-fruited olive-trees
εἰ μὴ Περσαίου θυγάτηρ ἁταλὰ φρονέουσα
if not of-Persaeus daughter tender-things thinking
ἄιεν ἐξ ἄντρου, Ἑκάτη λιπαροκρήδεμνος,
heard from cave Hecate bright-headbanded
Ἠέλιός τε ἄναξ, Ὑπερίονος ἀγλαὸς υἱός,
helios both lord of-Hyperion glorious son
κούρης κεκλομένης πατέρα Κρονίδην· ὃ δὲ νόσφιν
the-girl calling-on father son-of-Cronus he and apart
ἧστο θεῶν ἀπάνευθε πολυλλίστῳ ἐνὶ νηῷ,
sat from-the-gods far much-prayed-to in temple
δέγμενος ἱερὰ καλὰ παρὰ θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων.
receiving offerings fair from mortal men
τὴν δ' ἀεκαζομένην ἦγεν Διὸς ἐννεσίῃσι
her and unwilling he-led of-Zeus by-the-promptings
πατροκασίγνητος, Πολυσημάντωρ Πολυδέγμων,
father's-brother Ruler-of-Many Host-of-Many
ἵπποις ἀθανάτοισι, Κρόνου πολυώνυμος υἱός.
with-horses immortal of-Cronus much-named son
Ὄφρα μὲν οὖν γαῖάν τε καὶ οὐρανὸν ἀστερόεντα
while indeed then earth both and heaven starry
λεῦσσε θεὰ καὶ πόντον ἀγάρροον ἰχθυόεντα
saw the-goddess and sea strong-flowing fish-filled
αὐγάς τ' ἠελίου, ἔτι δ' ἤλπετο μητέρα κεδνὴν
rays and of-the-sun still and she-hoped mother cherished
ὄψεσθαι καὶ φῦλα θεῶν αἰειγενετάων,
to-see and the-tribes of-gods eternal

τόφρα οἱ ἐλπὶς ἔθελγε μέγαν νόον ἀχνυμένης περ·
so-long her hope charmed great mind grieving though
*** ἤχησαν δ' ὀρέων κορυφαὶ καὶ βένθεα πόντου
(lacuna) rang and of-the-mountains the-peaks and the-depths of-the-sea
φωνῇ ὑπ' ἀθανάτῃ· τῆς δ' ἔκλυε πότνια μήτηρ.
voice under immortal her and heard queenly mother
Ὀξὺ δέ μιν κραδίην ἄχος ἔλλαβεν, ἀμφὶ δὲ χαίταις
sharp and her heart grief seized around and locks
ἀμβροσίαις κρήδεμνα δαΐζετο χερσὶ φίλῃσι,
ambrosial headbands she-tore with-hands dear
κυάνεον δὲ κάλυμμα κατ' ἀμφοτέρων βάλετ' ὤμων,
dark and a-veil down both she-cast shoulders
σεύατο δ' ὥστ' οἰωνός, ἐπὶ τραφερήν τε καὶ ὑγρὴν
sped and like a-bird over dry-land both and wet
μαιομένη· τῇ δ' οὔτις ἐτήτυμα μυθήσασθαι
seeking to-her but no-one truly to-tell
ἤθελεν οὔτε θεῶν οὔτε θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων,
was-willing neither of-gods nor of-mortal men
οὔτ' οἰωνῶν τις τῇ ἐτήτυμος ἄγγελος ἦλθεν.
nor of-birds any to-her true messenger came
ἐννῆμαρ μὲν ἔπειτα κατὰ χθόνα πότνια Δηὼ
nine-days indeed then over earth queenly Deo
στρωφᾶτ' αἰθομένας δαΐδας μετὰ χερσὶν ἔχουσα,
roamed burning torches in hands having
οὐδέ ποτ' ἀμβροσίης καὶ νέκταρος ἡδυπότοιο
nor ever of-ambrosia and nectar sweet-to-drink
πάσσατ' ἀκηχεμένη, οὐδὲ χρόα βάλλετο λουτροῖς.
tasted grieving nor skin dashed with-baths
ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ δεκάτη οἱ ἐπήλυθε φαινολὶς ἠώς,
but when indeed the-tenth to-her came light-bringing dawn

ἤντετό οἱ Ἑκάτη, σέλας ἐν χείρεσσιν ἔχουσα
met her Hecate a-light in hands having
καί ῥά οἱ ἀγγελέουσα ἔπος φάτο φώνησέν τε·
and then to-her bringing-news word spoke spoke and
Πότνια Δημήτηρ, ὡρηφόρε, ἀγλαόδωρε,
queenly Demeter bringer-of-seasons giver-of-glorious-gifts
τίς θεῶν οὐρανίων ἠὲ θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων
who of-gods heavenly or of-mortal men
ἥρπασε Περσεφόνην καὶ σὸν φίλον ἤκαχε θυμόν;
snatched Persephone and your dear grieved heart
φωνῆς γὰρ ἤκουσ', ἀτὰρ οὐκ ἴδον ὀφθαλμοῖσιν,
voice for I-heard but not I-saw with-eyes
ὅστις ἔην· σοὶ δ' ὦκα λέγω νημερτέα πάντα.
who it-was to-you and quickly I-tell unerring all-things
Ὣς ἄρ' ἔφη Ἑκάτη· τὴν δ' οὐκ ἠμείβετο μύθῳ
so then spoke Hecate her and not answered with-word
Ῥείης ἠυκόμου θυγάτηρ, ἀλλ' ὦκα σὺν αὐτῇ
of-Rhea lovely-haired daughter but quickly with her
ἤιξ' αἰθομένας δαΐδας μετὰ χερσὶν ἔχουσα.
darted burning torches in hands having
Ἠέλιον δ' ἵκοντο, θεῶν σκοπὸν ἠδὲ καὶ ἀνδρῶν,
Helios and they-came-to of-gods watcher and also of-men
στὰν δ' ἵππων προπάροιθε καὶ εἴρετο δῖα θεάων·
stood and of-the-horses in-front and asked bright of-goddesses
Ἠέλι', αἴδεσσαί με θεὰν σύ περ, εἴ ποτε δή σευ
Helios respect me goddess you indeed if ever indeed your
ἢ ἔπει ἢ ἔργῳ κραδίην καὶ θυμὸν ἵηνα·
either by-word or by-deed heart and spirit I-cheered
κούρην τὴν ἔτεκον, γλυκερὸν θάλος, εἶδεϊ κυδρήν,
the-girl whom I-bore sweet sprout in-form glorious

τῆς ἀδινὴν ὄπ᾽ ἄκουσα δι᾽ αἰθέρος ἀτρυγέτοιο
whose thick voice I-heard through air barren
ὥστε βιαζομένης, ἀτὰρ οὐκ ἴδον ὀφθαλμοῖσιν.
as of-one-forced but not I-saw with-eyes
ἀλλά, σὺ γὰρ δὴ πᾶσαν ἐπὶ χθόνα καὶ κατὰ πόντον
but you for indeed all upon earth and over sea
αἰθέρος ἐκ δίης καταδέρκεαι ἀκτίνεσσι,
air from bright look-down with-rays
νημερτέως μοι ἔνισπε φίλον τέκος, εἴ που ὄπωπας,
truly to-me tell dear child if somewhere you-have-seen
ὅστις νόσφιν ἐμεῖο λαβὼν ἀέκουσαν ἀνάγκῃ
who apart from-me having-taken unwilling by-force
οἴχεται ἠὲ θεῶν ἢ καὶ θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων.
has-gone whether of-gods or even of-mortal men
Ὣς φάτο· τὴν δ᾽ Ὑπερονίδης ἠμείβετο μύθῳ·
so she-spoke her and the-son-of-Hyperion answered with-word
Ῥείης ἠυκόμου θύγατερ, Δήμητερ ἄνασσα,
of-Rhea lovely-haired daughter Demeter queen
εἰδήσεις· δὴ γὰρ μέγα σ᾽ ἄζομαι ἠδ᾽ ἐλεαίρω
you-shall-know indeed for greatly you I-revere and pity
ἀχνυμένην περὶ παιδὶ τανυσφύρῳ· οὐδέ τις ἄλλος
grieving for child slender-ankled nor any other
αἴτιος ἀθανάτων, εἰ μὴ νεφεληγερέτα Ζεύς,
(is)-guilty of-the-immortals if not cloud-gatherer Zeus
ὅς μιν ἔδωκ᾽ Ἀΐδῃ θαλερὴν κεκλῆσθαι ἄκοιτιν
who her gave to-Hades blooming to-be-called wife
αὐτοκασιγνήτῳ· ὃ δ᾽ ὑπὸ ζόφον ἠερόεντα
to-his-own-brother he and under gloom murky
ἁρπάξας ἵπποισιν ἄγεν μεγάλα ἰάχουσαν.
having-snatched with-horses led loudly crying

ἀλλά, θεά, κατάπαυε μέγαν γόον· οὐδέ τί σε χρὴ
but goddess cease great lament nor at-all you need
μάψ αὔτως ἄπλητον ἔχειν χόλον· οὔ τοι ἀεικὴς
in-vain idly insatiable to-hold wrath not you-know unseemly
γαμβρὸς ἐν ἀθανάτοις Πολυσημάντωρ Ἀιδωνεύς,
a-son-in-law among the-immortals Ruler-of-Many Aidoneus
αὐτοκασίγνητος καὶ ὁμόσπορος· ἀμφὶ δὲ τιμὴν
your-own-brother and of-the-same-stock as-to and honor
ἔλλαχεν ὡς τὰ πρῶτα διάτριχα δασμὸς ἐτύχθη,
he-got as the first in-three-ways the-division was-made
τοῖς μεταναιετάειν, τῶν ἔλλαχε κοίρανος εἶναι.
with-whom to-dwell of-them he-got-the-lot lord to-be
Ὣς εἰπὼν ἵπποισιν ἐκέκλετο· τοὶ δ' ὑπ' ὀμοκλῆς
so having-spoken to-the-horses he-called they and from-under the-shout
ῥίμφα φέρον θοὸν ἅρμα τανύπτεροι ὥστ' οἰωνοί.
swiftly bore swift chariot long-winged like birds

Grieving and angry with Zeus, Demeter wanders among men in the likeness of an old woman. At Eleusis she sits by the Maiden Well, and the daughters of Celeus ask who she is. She claims to be Doso, carried off from Crete by pirates, and asks for work as a nurse. Metaneira agrees, and the girls lead the goddess to the house.

Τὴν δ' ἄχος αἰνότερον καὶ κύντερον ἵκετο θυμόν·
her and grief more-dread and more-terrible came heart
χωσαμένη δὴ ἔπειτα κελαινεφέι Κρονίωνι
angered indeed then with-the-dark-clouded son-of-Cronus
νοσφισθεῖσα θεῶν ἀγορὴν καὶ μακρὸν Ὄλυμπον
having-forsaken of-the-gods the-assembly and high Olympus
ᾤχετ' ἐπ' ἀνθρώπων πόλιας καὶ πίονα ἔργα
she-went to of-men the-cities and rich fields
εἶδος ἀμαλδύνουσα πολὺν χρόνον· οὐδέ τις ἀνδρῶν
form disfiguring long time nor any of-men
εἰσορόων γίγνωσκε βαθυζώνων τε γυναικῶν,
looking-at knew(-her) of-deep-girdled and women
πρίν γ' ὅτε δὴ Κελεοῖο δαΐφρονος ἵκετο δῶμα,
before indeed when indeed of-Celeus wise she-came-to the-house
ὃς τότ' Ἐλευσῖνος θυοέσσης κοίρανος ἦεν.
who then of-Eleusis fragrant lord was
ἕζετο δ' ἐγγὺς ὁδοῖο φίλον τετιημένη ἦτορ,
she-sat and near the-road dear troubled heart
Παρθενίῳ φρέατι, ὅθεν ὑδρεύοντο πολῖται,
at-the-Maiden well whence drew-water the-citizens
ἐν σκιῇ, αὐτὰρ ὕπερθε πεφύκει θάμνος ἐλαίης,
in shade but above grew a-bush of-olive

γρηὶ παλαιγενέι ἐναλίγκιος, ἥτε τόκοιο
to-an-old-woman ancient like who from-childbearing
εἴργηται δώρων τε φιλοστεφάνου Ἀφροδίτης,
is-shut-out gifts and of-garland-loving Aphrodite
οἷαί τε τροφοί εἰσι θεμιστοπόλων βασιλήων
such-as — nurses are of-law-giving kings
παίδων καὶ ταμίαι κατὰ δώματα ἠχήεντα.
of-children and housekeepers in houses echoing
τὴν δὲ ἴδον Κελεοῖο Ἐλευσινίδαο θύγατρες
her and saw of-Celeus son-of-Eleusis the-daughters
ἐρχόμεναι μεθ' ὕδωρ εὐήρυτον, ὄφρα φέροιεν
coming for water easily-drawn that they-might-carry
κάλπισι χαλκείῃσι φίλα πρὸς δώματα πατρός,
in-pitchers bronze dear to house of-father
τέσσαρες, ὥστε θεαί, κουρήιον ἄνθος ἔχουσαι,
four like goddesses of-girlhood flower having
Καλλιδίκη καὶ Κλεισιδίκη Δημώ τ' ἐρόεσσα
Callidice and Cleisidice Demo and lovely
Καλλιθόη θ', ἣ τῶν προγενεστάτη ἦεν ἁπασῶν·
Callithoe and who of-them eldest was of-all
οὐδ' ἔγνον· χαλεποὶ δὲ θεοὶ θνητοῖσιν ὁρᾶσθαι.
nor knew(-her) hard and the-gods for-mortals to-be-seen
ἀγχοῦ δ' ἱστάμεναι ἔπεα πτερόεντα προσηύδων·
near and standing words winged addressed
Τίς πόθεν ἐσσί, γρῆυ, παλαιγενέων ἀνθρώπων;
who from-where are-you old-woman of-the-ancient men
τίπτε δὲ νόσφι πόληος ἀπέστιχες, οὐδὲ δόμοισι
why and far-from the-city have-you-come-away nor the-houses
πίλνασαι; ἔνθα γυναῖκες ἀνὰ μέγαρα σκιόεντα
approach where women through halls shady

τηλίκαι, ὡς σύ περ ὧδε καὶ ὁπλότεραι γεγάασιν,
of-such-age as you indeed so and younger are
αἵ κέ σε φίλωνται ἠμὲν ἔπει ἠδὲ καὶ ἔργῳ.
who — you would-welcome both by-word and also by-deed
Ὣς ἔφαν· ἣ δ' ἐπέεσσιν ἀμείβετο πότνα θεάων·
so they-spoke she and with-words answered queenly of-goddesses
τέκνα φίλ', αἵ τινές ἐστε γυναικῶν θηλυτεράων,
children dear who any you-are of-women female
χαίρετ'· ἐγὼ δ' ὑμῖν μυθήσομαι· οὔ τοι ἀεικὲς
hail I and to-you will-tell not you-know unseemly
ὑμῖν εἰρομένῃσιν ἀληθέα μυθήσασθαι.
to-you asking true-things to-tell
Δωσὼ ἐμοί γ' ὄνομ' ἐστί· τὸ γὰρ θέτο πότνια μήτηρ.
doso to-me indeed name is it for gave queenly mother
νῦν αὖτε Κρήτηθεν ἐπ' εὐρέα νῶτα θαλάσσης
now again from-Crete over the-broad backs of-the-sea
ἤλυθον οὐκ ἐθέλουσα, βίῃ δ' ἀέκουσαν ἀνάγκῃ
I-came not willing by-force and unwilling by-necessity
ἄνδρες ληιστῆρες ἀπήγαγον. οἳ μὲν ἔπειτα
men pirates carried-off they indeed then
νηὶ θοῇ Θόρικόνδε κατέσχεθον, ἔνθα γυναῖκες
in-ship swift to-Thoricus put-in where the-women
ἠπείρου ἐπέβησαν ἀολλέες ἠδὲ καὶ αὐτοί,
land stepped-on in-a-throng and also themselves
δεῖπνόν τ' ἐπηρτύνοντο παρὰ πρυμνήσια νηός·
supper and prepared beside the-stern-cables of-the-ship
ἀλλ' ἐμοὶ οὐ δόρποιο μελίφρονος ἤρατο θυμός·
but me not of-supper honey-sweet longed heart

λάθρη δ' ὁρμηθεῖσα δι' ἠπείροιο μελαίνης
secretly and setting-out through land black
φεῦγον ὑπερφιάλους σημάντορας, ὄφρα κε μή με
I-fled the-overbearing masters so-that — not me
ἀπριάτην περάσαντες ἐμῆς ἀπονaίατο τιμῆς.
unbought having-sold my they-might-enjoy price
οὕτω δεῦρ' ἰκόμην ἀλαλημένη, οὐδέ τι οἶδα,
so hither I-came wandering nor at-all do-I-know
ἥ τις δὴ γαῖ' ἐστι καὶ οἵ τινες ἐγγεγάασιν.
which any indeed land it-is and who any are-born-in(-it)
ἀλλ' ὑμῖν μὲν πάντες Ὀλύμπια δώματ' ἔχοντες
but to-you indeed all Olympian houses having
δοῖεν κουριδίους ἄνδρας, καὶ τέκνα τεκέσθαι,
may-give wedded husbands and children to-bear
ὡς ἐθέλουσι τοκῆες· ἐμὲ δ' αὖτ' οἰκτείρατε, κοῦραι.
as wish the-parents me and in-turn pity maidens
τοῦτο δέ μοι σαφέως ὑποθήκατε, ὄφρα πύθωμαι,
this and to-me clearly advise so-that I-may-learn
προφρονέως, φίλα τέκνα, τέων πρὸς δώμαθ' ἵκωμαι
readily dear children whose to house I-may-come
ἀνέρος ἠδὲ γυναικός, ἵνα σφίσιν ἐργάζωμαι
of-man and woman that for-them I-may-work
πρόφρων, οἷα γυναικὸς ἀφήλικος ἔργα τέτυκται·
readily such-as of-a-woman elderly works are

καὶ κεν παῖδα νεογνὸν ἐν ἀγκοίνῃσιν ἔχουσα
and — a-child new-born in arms holding
καλὰ τιθηνοίμην καὶ δώματα τηρήσαιμι
well I-would-nurse and the-house would-keep
καί κε λέχος στορέσαιμι μυχῷ θαλάμων εὐπήκτων
and — bed I-would-spread in-the-recess of-chambers well-built
δεσπόσυνον καί κ' ἔργα διδασκήσαιμι γυναῖκας.
master's and — works would-teach women
Φῆ ῥα θεά· τὴν δ' αὐτίκ' ἀμείβετο παρθένος ἀδμής,
said then the-goddess her and at-once answered maiden unwed
Καλλιδίκη, Κελεοῖο θυγατρῶν εἶδος ἀρίστη·
Callidice of-Celeus of-the-daughters in-form best
Μαῖα, θεῶν μὲν δῶρα καὶ ἀχνύμενοί περ ἀνάγκῃ
Mother of-gods indeed the-gifts even grieving though by-necessity
τέτλαμεν ἄνθρωποι· δὴ γὰρ πολὺ φέρτεροί εἰσι.
we-endure men indeed for much stronger they-are
ταῦτα δέ τοι σαφέως ὑποθήσομαι ἠδ' ὀνομήνω
these-things and to-you clearly will-advise and will-name
ἀνέρας οἷσιν ἔπεστι μέγα κράτος ἐνθάδε τιμῆς
men in-whom is great power here of-honor
δήμου τε προὔχουσιν ἰδὲ κρήδεμνα πόληος
of-the-people and are-foremost and the-battlements of-the-city
εἰρύαται βουλῇσι καὶ ἰθείῃσι δίκῃσιν·
guard by-counsels and straight judgments
ἠμὲν Τριπτολέμου πυκιμήδεος ἠδὲ Διόκλου
both of-Triptolemus shrewd and of-Dioclus
ἠδὲ Πολυξείνου καὶ ἀμύμονος Εὐμόλποιο
and of-Polyxeinus and blameless of-Eumolpus
καὶ Δολίχου καὶ πατρὸς ἀγήνορος ἡμετέροιο,
and of-Dolichus and of-father proud our

τῶν πάντων ἄλοχοι κατὰ δώματα πορσαίνουσι·
of-them all wives through houses manage
τάων οὐκ ἄν τίς σε κατὰ πρώτιστον ὀπωπὴν
of-whom not — any you at first sight
εἶδος ἀτιμήσασα δόμων ἀπονοσφίσσειεν,
form slighting from-the-house would-turn-away
ἀλλά σε δέξονται· δὴ γὰρ θεοείκελός ἐσσι.
but you they-will-receive indeed for godlike you-are
εἰ δ' ἐθέλεις, ἐπίμεινον, ἵνα πρὸς δώματα πατρὸς
if and you-wish wait that to house of-father
ἔλθωμεν καὶ μητρὶ βαθυζώνῳ Μετανείρῃ
we-may-go and to-mother deep-girdled Metaneira
εἴπωμεν τάδε πάντα διαμπερές, αἴ κέ σ' ἀνώγῃ
may-tell these-things all through-and-through if — you she-may-bid
ἡμέτερόνδ' ἰέναι μηδ' ἄλλων δώματ' ἐρευνᾶν.
to-our-house to-go nor of-others houses to-seek
τηλύγετος δέ οἱ υἱὸς ἐνὶ μεγάρῳ εὐπήκτῳ
late-born and her son in hall well-built
ὀψίγονος τρέφεται, πολυεύχετος ἀσπάσιός τε.
born-late is-reared much-prayed-for welcome and
εἰ τόν γ' ἐκθρέψαιο καὶ ἥβης μέτρον ἵκοιτο,
if him indeed you-should-rear and of-youth the-measure he-should-reach
ῥεῖά κέ τίς σε ἰδοῦσα γυναικῶν θηλυτεράων
easily — any you seeing of-women female
ζηλώσαι· τόσα κέν τοι ἀπὸ θρεπτήρια δοίη.
would-envy so-much — to-you for nurture she-would-give
Ὣς ἔφαθ'· ἡ δ' ἐπένευσε καρήατι· ταὶ δὲ φαεινὰ
so she-spoke she and nodded with-head they and shining
πλησάμεναι ὕδατος φέρον ἄγγεα κυδιάουσαι.
having-filled with-water carried vessels exulting

ῥίμφα δὲ πατρὸς ἵκοντο μέγαν δόμον, ὦκα δὲ μητρὶ
quickly and of-father they-came-to great house quickly and to-mother
ἔννεπον, ὡς εἶδόν τε καὶ ἔκλυον. ἣ δὲ μάλ' ὦκα
told as they-saw both and heard she and very quickly
ἐλθούσας ἐκέλευε καλεῖν ἐπ' ἀπείρονι μισθῷ.
going bade to-call(-her) at boundless wage
αἳ δ' ὥστ' ἢ ἔλαφοι ἢ πόρτιες εἴαρος ὥρῃ
they and as either deer or heifers of-spring in-the-season
ἄλλοντ' ἂν λειμῶνα κορεσσάμεναι φρένα φορβῇ,
bound over meadow having-filled heart with-fodder
ὣς αἳ ἐπισχόμεναι ἑανῶν πτύχας ἱμεροέντων
so they holding-up of-robes the-folds lovely
ἤιξαν κοίλην κατ' ἀμαξιτόν· ἀμφὶ δὲ χαῖται
darted hollow along wagon-road around and the-locks
ὤμοις ἀίσσοντο κροκηίῳ ἄνθει ὁμοῖαι.
shoulders streamed to-crocus flower like
τέτμον δ' ἐγγὺς ὁδοῦ κυδρὴν θεόν, ἔνθα πάρος περ
they-found and near the-road glorious goddess where before indeed
κάλλιπον· αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα φίλου πρὸς δώματα πατρὸς
they-had-left(-her) but then of-dear to house of-father
ἡγεῦνθ'· ἣ δ' ἄρ' ὄπισθε φίλον τετιημένη ἦτορ
led she and then behind dear troubled heart
στεῖχε κατὰ κρῆθεν κεκαλυμμένη· ἀμφὶ δὲ πέπλος
walked down from-head veiled around and robe
κυάνεος ῥαδινοῖσι θεᾶς ἐλελίζετο ποσσίν.
dark slender of-the-goddess swirled feet

Demeter enters the house of Celeus; her head touches the roof, and light fills the doorway. She refuses Metaneira's chair and sits silent and fasting on the stool Iambe sets, until Iambe's jests make her smile. She refuses wine and asks for barley and water mixed with mint. Metaneira gives her the infant Demophoon to rear, and she promises to guard him from witchcraft. She anoints him with ambrosia by day and hides him in the fire by night. She would have made him immortal, but Metaneira spies on her by night and cries out in fear for her son.

Αἶψα δὲ δώμαθ' ἵκοντο διοτρεφέος Κελεοῖο,
quickly and the-house they-reached of-Zeus-nurtured Celeus
βὰν δὲ δι' αἰθούσης, ἔνθα σφίσι πότνια μήτηρ
went and through the-portico where their queenly mother
ἧστο παρὰ σταθμὸν τέγεος πύκα ποιητοῖο
sat beside the-post of-the-roof closely built
παῖδ' ὑπὸ κόλπῳ ἔχουσα, νέον θάλος· αἱ δὲ πὰρ αὐτὴν
a-child at bosom holding a-young sprout they and beside her
ἔδραμον· ἡ δ' ἄρ' ἐπ' οὐδὸν ἔβη ποσὶ καὶ ῥα μελάθρου
ran she and then on the-threshold stepped with-feet and then the-roof-beam
κῦρε κάρῃ, πλῆσεν δὲ θύρας σέλαος θείοιο.
touched with-head filled and the-doorway with-a-light divine
τὴν δ' αἰδώς τε σέβας τε ἰδὲ χλωρὸν δέος εἷλεν·
her and awe both reverence and and pale fear seized
εἶξε δέ οἱ κλισμοῖο καὶ ἑδριάασθαι ἄνωγεν.
yielded and to-her the-chair and to-sit bade
ἀλλ' οὐ Δημήτηρ ὡρηφόρος, ἀγλαόδωρος,
but not Demeter bringer-of-seasons giver-of-glorious-gifts
ἤθελεν ἑδριάασθαι ἐπὶ κλισμοῖο φαεινοῦ,
was-willing to-sit on chair bright

ἀλλ᾽ ἀκέουσ᾽ ἀνέμιμνε κατ᾽ ὄμματα καλὰ βαλοῦσα,
but silent stayed down eyes fair casting
πρίν γ᾽ ὅτε δή οἱ ἔθηκεν Ἰάμβη κέδν᾽ εἰδυῖα
before indeed when indeed for-her set Iambe good-things knowing
πηκτὸν ἕδος, καθύπερθε δ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ἀργύφεον βάλε κῶας.
a-jointed seat above and on silvery threw a-fleece
ἔνθα καθεζομένη προκατέσχετο χερσὶ καλύπτρην·
there sitting held-before-her with-hands the-veil
δηρὸν δ᾽ ἄφθογγος τετιημένη ἧστ᾽ ἐπὶ δίφρου,
long and speechless troubled she-sat on the-seat
οὐδέ τιν᾽ οὔτ᾽ ἔπεϊ προσπτύσσετο οὔτε τι ἔργῳ,
nor any either by-word greeted nor at-all by-deed
ἀλλ᾽ ἀγέλαστος, ἄπαστος ἐδητύος ἠδὲ ποτῆτος
but unlaughing untasting of-food and drink
ἧστο πόθῳ μινύθουσα βαθυζώνοιο θυγατρός,
sat with-longing pining for-the-deep-girdled daughter
πρίν γ᾽ ὅτε δὴ χλεύῃς μιν Ἰάμβη κέδν᾽ εἰδυῖα
before indeed when indeed with-jests her Iambe good-things knowing
πολλὰ παρασκώπτουσ᾽ ἐτρέψατο πότνιαν ἁγνήν,
much joking turned queenly holy
μειδῆσαι γελάσαι τε καὶ ἵλαον σχεῖν θυμόν·
to-smile to-laugh both and gracious to-have heart
ἣ δή οἱ καὶ ἔπειτα μεθύστερον εὔαδεν ὀργαῖς.
who indeed to-her also then afterward pleased in-her-moods

τῇ δὲ δέπας Μετάνειρα δίδου μελιηδέος οἴνου
to-her and a-cup Metaneira gave of-honey-sweet wine
πλήσασ᾽· ἣ δ᾽ ἀνένευσ᾽· οὐ γὰρ θεμιτόν οἱ ἔφασκε
having-filled she and refused not for right for-her she-said
πίνειν οἶνον ἐρυθρόν· ἄνωγε δ᾽ ἄρ᾽ ἄλφι καὶ ὕδωρ
to-drink wine red bade and then barley-meal and water
δοῦναι μίξασαν πιέμεν γλήχωνι τερείνῃ.
to-give mixing to-drink with-mint tender
ἣ δὲ κυκεῶ τεύξασα θεᾷ πόρεν, ὡς ἐκέλευε·
she and the-posset having-made for-the-goddess gave as she-bade
δεξαμένη δ᾽ ὁσίης ἕνεκεν πολυπότνια Δηώ
having-received and the-rite for-the-sake-of most-queenly Deo
*** τῇσι δὲ μύθων ἦρχεν εὐζωνος Μετάνειρα·
(lacuna) among-them and of-words began well-girdled Metaneira
Χαῖρε, γύναι, ἐπεὶ οὔ σε κακῶν ἄπ᾽ ἔολπα τοκήων
hail woman since not you base from I-think parents
ἔμμεναι, ἀλλ᾽ ἀγαθῶν· ἐπί τοι πρέπει ὄμμασιν αἰδὼς
to-be but from-good upon you-know shines in-the-eyes modesty
καὶ χάρις, ὡς εἴ πέρ τε θεμιστοπόλων βασιλήων.
and grace as if indeed — of-law-giving kings
ἀλλὰ θεῶν μὲν δῶρα καὶ ἀχνύμενοί περ ἀνάγκῃ
but of-the-gods indeed the-gifts even grieving though by-necessity
τέτλαμεν ἄνθρωποι· ἐπὶ γὰρ ζυγὸς αὐχένι κεῖται.
we-endure men upon for a-yoke on-neck lies
νῦν δ᾽, ἐπεὶ ἵκεο δεῦρο, παρέσσεται ὅσσα τ᾽ ἐμοί περ.
now and since you-have-come here there-will-be-at-hand as-much-as — to-me indeed
παῖδα δέ μοι τρέφε τόνδε, τὸν ὀψίγονον καὶ ἄελπτον
the-child and for-me rear this whom late-born and unhoped-for
ὤπασαν ἀθάνατοι, πολυάρητος δέ μοί ἐστιν.
granted the-immortals much-prayed-for and to-me he-is

εἰ τόν γε θρέψαιο καὶ ἥβης μέτρον ἵκοιτο,
if him indeed you-should-rear and of-youth the-measure he-should-reach
ῥεῖά κέ τίς σε ἰδοῦσα γυναικῶν θηλυτεράων
easily — any you seeing of-women female
ζηλώσαι· τόσα κέν τοι ἀπὸ θρεπτήρια δοίην.
would-envy so-much — to-you for nurture I-would-give
Τὴν δ' αὖτε προσέειπεν ἐυστέφανος Δημήτηρ·
her and in-turn addressed fair-crowned Demeter
καὶ σύ, γύναι, μάλα χαῖρε, θεοὶ δέ τοι ἐσθλὰ πόροιεν·
and you woman very hail the-gods and to-you good-things may-give
παῖδα δέ τοι πρόφρων ὑποδέξομαι, ὥς με κελεύεις,
the-child and for-you readily I-will-take as me you-bid
θρέψω κοὔ μιν, ἔολπα, κακοφραδίῃσι τιθήνης
I-will-rear and-not him I-think by-the-folly of-his-nurse
οὔτ' ἄρ' ἐπηλυσίη δηλήσεται οὔθ' ὑποτάμνον·
neither then witchcraft shall-harm nor the-undercutter
οἶδα γὰρ ἀντίτομον μέγα φέρτερον ὑλοτόμοιο,
I-know for a-counter-charm far stronger than-the-woodcutter
οἶδα δ' ἐπηλυσίης πολυπήμονος ἐσθλὸν ἐρυσμόν.
I-know and of-witchcraft much-harming good protection
Ὣς ἄρα φωνήσασα θυώδεϊ δέξατο κόλπῳ
so then having-spoken in-fragrant received bosom
χείρεσσ' ἀθανάτῃσι· γεγήθει δὲ φρένα μήτηρ.
with-hands immortal rejoiced and in-mind the-mother
ὣς ἣ μὲν Κελεοῖο δαΐφρονος ἀγλαὸν υἱὸν
so she indeed of-Celeus wise glorious son
Δημοφόωνθ', ὃν ἔτικτεν ἐύζωνος Μετάνειρα,
Demophoon whom bore well-girdled Metaneira
ἔτρεφεν ἐν μεγάροις· ὃ δ' ἀέξετο δαίμονι ἶσος,
reared in the-halls he and grew to-a-divinity like

οὔτ᾽ οὖν σῖτον ἔδων, οὐ θησάμενος γάλα μητρὸς
neither then food eating nor sucking the-milk of-the-mother
ἠματίη μὲν γὰρ καλλιστέφανος Δημήτηρ
by-day indeed for fair-crowned Demeter
χρίεσκ᾽ ἀμβροσίῃ ὡσεὶ θεοῦ ἐκγεγαῶτα
used-to-anoint with-ambrosia as-if of-a-god born
ἡδὺ καταπνείουσα καὶ ἐν κόλποισιν ἔχουσα·
sweetly breathing-upon and in bosom holding
νύκτας δὲ κρύπτεσκε πυρὸς μένει ἠύτε δαλὸν
by-nights and she-would-hide of-fire in-the-might like a-brand
λάθρα φίλων γονέων· τοῖς δὲ μέγα θαῦμ᾽ ἐτέτυκτο, 240
secretly from-dear parents to-them and great wonder was-made
ὡς προθαλὴς τελέθεσκε· θεοῖσι γὰρ ἄντα ἐῴκει.
how flourishing he-grew to-the-gods for face-to-face he-was-like
καί κέν μιν ποίησεν ἀγήρων τ᾽ ἀθάνατόν τε,
and — him she-would-have-made ageless both immortal and
εἰ μὴ ἄρ᾽ ἀφραδίῃσιν ἐύζωνος Μετάνειρα
if not then in-her-folly well-girdled Metaneira
νύκτ᾽ ἐπιτηρήσασα θυώδεος ἐκ θαλάμοιο
night watching fragrant from chamber
σκέψατο· κώκυσεν δὲ καὶ ἄμφω πλήξατο μηρὼ 245
spied shrieked and and both struck thighs
δείσασ᾽ ᾧ περὶ παιδὶ καὶ ἀάσθη μέγα θυμῷ
fearing her-own for child and was-blinded greatly in-heart
καί ῥ᾽ ὀλοφυρομένη ἔπεα πτερόεντα προσηύδα·
and then lamenting words winged addressed
Τέκνον Δημοφόων, ξείνη σε πυρὶ ἔνι πολλῷ
child Demophoon the-stranger you fire in much
κρύπτει, ἐμοὶ δὲ γόον καὶ κήδεα λυγρὰ τίθησιν.
hides for-me and lament and sorrows baneful makes

The goddess, angered by the cry, sets the child on the ground and rebukes mortal folly: she would have made him deathless, but now he cannot escape death, though he will have lasting honor. She reveals herself and orders a temple and altar built above the Callichorus spring. The sisters spend the night appeasing her, and Celeus has the temple built. Demeter sits in it apart from the gods, mourning her daughter, and makes a terrible year in which no seed grows. Zeus sends Iris and then all the gods with gifts, but she refuses to return until she sees her daughter.

Ὣς φάτ᾽ ὀδυρομένη· τῆς δ᾽ ἄιε δῖα θεάων.
so she-spoke wailing her and heard bright of-goddesses

τῇ δὲ χολωσαμένη καλλιστέφανος Δημήτηρ
at-her and angered fair-crowned Demeter

παῖδα φίλον, τὸν ἄελπτον ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἔτικτε,
child dear whom unhoped-for in the-halls she-bore

χείρεσσ᾽ ἀθανάτῃσιν ἀπὸ ἕθεν ἧκε πέδονδε,
with-hands immortal from herself sent to-the-ground

ἐξανελοῦσα πυρός, θυμῷ κοτέσασα μάλ᾽ αἰνῶς,
having-taken-out from-the-fire in-heart angered very dreadfully

καί ῥ᾽ ἄμυδις προσέειπεν ἐύζωνον Μετάνειραν·
and then at-once addressed well-girdled Metaneira

Νήιδες ἄνθρωποι καὶ ἀφράδμονες οὔτ᾽ ἀγαθοῖο
ignorant men and witless neither of-good

αἶσαν ἐπερχομένου προγνώμεναι οὔτε κακοῖο·
the-lot coming to-foresee nor of-evil

καὶ σὺ γὰρ ἀφραδίῃσι τεῇς νήκεστον ἀάσθης.
and you for by-follies your-own incurably have-been-blinded

ἴστω γὰρ θεῶν ὅρκος, ἀμείλικτον Στυγὸς ὕδωρ,
let-know for of-the-gods the-oath relentless of-Styx water

ἀθάνατόν κέν τοι καὶ ἀγήραον ἤματα πάντα
immortal — to-you and ageless days all
παῖδα φίλον ποίησα καὶ ἄφθιτον ὥπασα τιμήν·
child dear I-would-have-made and imperishable would-have-granted honor
νῦν δ' οὐκ ἔσθ' ὡς κεν θάνατον καὶ κῆρας ἀλύξαι·
now but not it-is how — death and fates to-escape
τιμὴ δ' ἄφθιτος αἰὲν ἐπέσσεται, οὕνεκα γούνων
honor but imperishable always will-be-upon-him because knees
ἡμετέρων ἐπέβη καὶ ἐν ἀγκοίνῃσιν ἴαυσεν.
our be-climbed-upon and in arms slept
ὥρῃσιν δ' ἄρα τῷ γε περιπλομένων ἐνιαυτῶν
in-the-seasons and then for-him indeed as-they-come-round years
παῖδες Ἐλευσινίων πόλεμον καὶ φύλοπιν αἰνὴν
the-sons of-the-Eleusinians war and battle dread
αἰὲν ἐν ἀλλήλοισιν συνάξουσ' ἤματα πάντα.
always among each-other will-join days all
εἰμὶ δὲ Δημήτηρ τιμάοχος, ἥτε μέγιστον
I-am and Demeter honor-holding who greatest
ἀθανάτοις θνητοῖς τ' ὄνεαρ καὶ χάρμα τέτυκται.
for-immortals mortals and boon and joy is-made
ἀλλ' ἄγε μοι νηόν τε μέγαν καὶ βωμὸν ὑπ' αὐτῷ
but come for-me a-temple both great and an-altar below it
τευχόντων πᾶς δῆμος ὑπαὶ πόλιν αἰπύ τε τεῖχος
let-build all the-people below the-city steep and wall
Καλλιχόρου καθύπερθεν ἐπὶ προὔχοντι κολωνῷ.
Callichorus above on jutting hill
ὄργια δ' αὐτὴ ἐγὼν ὑποθήσομαι, ὡς ἂν ἔπειτα
the-rites and myself I will-teach so-that — thereafter
εὐαγέως ἔρδοντες ἐμὸν νόον ἱλάσκοισθε.
piously performing my mind you-may-propitiate

Ὣς εἰποῦσα θεὰ μέγεθος καὶ εἶδος ἄμειψε
so having-spoken the-goddess size and form changed
γῆρας ἀπωσαμένη· περί τ᾽ ἀμφί τε κάλλος ἄητο·
old-age having-thrust-away about and around and beauty breathed
ὀδμὴ δ᾽ ἱμερόεσσα θυηέντων ἀπὸ πέπλων
a-scent and lovely fragrant from robes
σκίδνατο, τῆλε δὲ φέγγος ἀπὸ χροὸς ἀθανάτοιο
spread far and a-light from skin immortal
λάμπε θεᾶς, ξανθαὶ δὲ κόμαι κατενήνοθεν ὤμους,
shone of-the-goddess golden and hair flowed-down shoulders
αὐγῆς δ᾽ ἐπλήσθη πυκινὸς δόμος ἀστεροπῆς ὥς·
with-brightness and was-filled close-built house of-lightning like
βῆ δὲ διὲκ μεγάρων· τῆς δ᾽ αὐτίκα γούνατ᾽ ἔλυντο,
went and through halls of-her and at-once knees were-loosed
δηρὸν δ᾽ ἄφθογγος γένετο χρόνον, οὐδέ τι παιδὸς
long and speechless she-became time nor at-all child
μνήσατο τηλυγέτοιο ἀπὸ δαπέδου ἀνελέσθαι.
remembered late-born from floor to-take-up
τοῦ δὲ κασίγνηται φωνὴν ἐσάκουσαν ἐλεινήν,
of-him and sisters voice heard pitiful
κὰδ δ᾽ ἄρ᾽ ἀπ᾽ εὐστρώτων λεχέων θόρον· ἣ μὲν ἔπειτα
down and then from well-spread beds leaped she indeed thereupon
παῖδ᾽ ἀνὰ χερσὶν ἑλοῦσα ἑῷ ἐγκάτθετο κόλπῳ·
child in hands having-taken her-own laid-in bosom
ἣ δ᾽ ἄρα πῦρ ἀνέκαι· ἣ δ᾽ ἔσσυτο πόσσ᾽ ἀπαλοῖσι
she and then fire kindled she and rushed with-feet soft
μητέρ᾽ ἀναστήσουσα θυώδεος ἐκ θαλάμοιο.
mother to-raise-up fragrant from chamber

ἀγρόμεναι δέ μιν ἀμφὶς ἐλούεον ἀσπαίροντα
gathering and him around washed struggling
ἀμφαγαπαζόμεναι· τοῦ δ' οὐ μειλίσσετο θυμός·
embracing of-him but not was-soothed heart
χειρότεραι γὰρ δή μιν ἔχον τροφοὶ ἠδὲ τιθῆναι.
worse for indeed him held nurses and wet-nurses
Αἳ μὲν παννύχιαι κυδρὴν θεὸν ἱλάσκοντο
they indeed all-night glorious goddess propitiated
δείματι παλλόμεναι, ἅμα δ' ἠοῖ φαινομένηφιν
with-fear trembling together and with-dawn appearing
εὐρυβίῃ Κελεῷ νημερτέα μυθήσαντο,
to-wide-ruling Celeus truthful-things told
ὡς ἐπέτελλε θεά, καλλιστέφανος Δημήτηρ.
as bade the-goddess fair-crowned Demeter
αὐτὰρ ὅ γ' εἰς ἀγορὴν καλέσας πολυπείρονα λαὸν
but he indeed into assembly calling boundless people
ἤνωγ' ἠυκόμῳ Δημήτερι πίονα νηὸν
bade for-lovely-haired Demeter a-rich temple
ποιῆσαι καὶ βωμὸν ἐπὶ προὔχοντι κολωνῷ.
to-make and an-altar on jutting hill
οἳ δὲ μάλ' αἶψ' ἐπίθοντο καὶ ἔκλυον αὐδήσαντος,
they and very quickly obeyed and heard (him)-speaking
τεῦχον δ', ὡς ἐπέτελλ'. ὃ δ' ἀέξετο δαίμονι ἶσος.
built and as he-bade he and grew to-a-divinity like

Αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ τέλεσαν καὶ ἐρώησαν καμάτοιο,
but when they-finished and ceased from-toil
βάν ῥ' ἴμεν οἴκαδ' ἕκαστος· ἀτὰρ ξανθὴ Δημήτηρ
went then to-go homeward each but fair-haired Demeter
ἔνθα καθεζομένη μακάρων ἀπὸ νόσφιν ἁπάντων
there sitting the-blessed from apart all
μίμνε πόθῳ μινύθουσα βαθυζώνοιο θυγατρός.
stayed with-longing pining for-the-deep-girdled daughter
305 αἰνότατον δ' ἐνιαυτὸν ἐπὶ χθόνα πουλυβότειραν
most-dread and a-year on earth much-nourishing
ποίησ' ἀνθρώποις καὶ κύντατον· οὐδέ τι γαῖα
made for-men and most-cruel nor at-all the-earth
σπέρμ' ἀνίει, κρύπτεν γὰρ ἐυστέφανος Δημήτηρ·
seed sent-up hid for fair-crowned Demeter
πολλὰ δὲ καμπύλ' ἄροτρα μάτην βόες εἵλκον ἀρούραις·
many and curved plows in-vain oxen dragged in-fields
πολλὸν δὲ κρῖ λευκὸν ἐτώσιον ἔμπεσε γαίῃ·
much and barley white fruitless fell on-earth
310 καί νύ κε πάμπαν ὄλεσσε γένος μερόπων ἀνθρώπων
and now — wholly she-would-have-destroyed the-race of-mortal men
λιμοῦ ὑπ' ἀργαλέης, γεράων τ' ἐρικυδέα τιμὴν
famine by grievous of-gifts and the-glorious honor
καὶ θυσιῶν ἤμερσεν Ὀλύμπια δώματ' ἔχοντας,
and of-sacrifices would-have-robbed Olympian houses having
εἰ μὴ Ζεὺς ἐνόησεν ἑῷ τ' ἐφράσσατο θυμῷ.
if not Zeus noticed in-his and considered heart
Ἶριν δὲ πρῶτον χρυσόπτερον ὦρσε καλέσσαι
Iris and first golden-winged he-roused to-call
315 Δήμητρ' ἠύκομον, πολυήρατον εἶδος ἔχουσαν.
Demeter lovely-haired very-lovely form having

ὣς ἔφαθ'· ἡ δὲ Ζηνὶ κελαινεφέι Κρονίωνι
so he-spoke she and Zeus dark-clouded son-of-Cronus
πείθετο καὶ τὸ μεσηγὺ διέδραμεν ὦκα πόδεσσιν.
obeyed and the between ran-through quickly with-feet
ἵκετο δὲ πτολίεθρον Ἐλευσῖνος θυοέσσης,
came and to-the-citadel of-Eleusis fragrant
εὗρεν δ' ἐν νηῷ Δημήτερα κυανόπεπλον
found and in temple Demeter dark-robed
καί μιν φωνήσασ' ἔπεα πτερόεντα προσηύδα·
and her having-spoken words winged addressed
Δήμητερ, καλέει σε πατὴρ Ζεὺς ἄφθιτα εἰδὼς
Demeter calls you father Zeus imperishable-things knowing
ἐλθέμεναι μετὰ φῦλα θεῶν αἰειγενετάων.
to-come among the-tribes of-the-gods everlasting
ἀλλ' ἴθι, μηδ' ἀτέλεστον ἐμὸν ἔπος ἐκ Διὸς ἔστω.
but go nor unfulfilled my word from Zeus let-be
Ὣς φάτο λισσομένη· τῇ δ' οὐκ ἐπεπείθετο θυμός.
so she-spoke entreating of-her but not was-persuaded heart
αὖτις ἔπειτα πατὴρ μάκαρας θεοὺς αἰὲν ἐόντας
again thereupon the-father the-blessed gods always being
πάντας ἐπιπροΐαλλεν· ἀμοιβηδὶς δὲ κιόντες
all sent-forth in-turn and going
κίκλησκον καὶ πολλὰ δίδον περικαλλέα δῶρα
called and many gave very-fair gifts
τιμάς θ', †ἅς κ' ἐθέλοιτο† μετ' ἀθανάτοισιν ἑλέσθαι.
honors and which — she-might-wish among immortals to-choose
ἀλλ' οὔτις πεῖσαι δύνατο φρένας οὐδὲ νόημα
but no-one to-persuade could mind nor thought
θυμῷ χωομένης· στερεῶς δ' ἠναίνετο μύθους.
in-heart of-her-angered firmly and refused words

οὐ μὲν γάρ ποτ' ἔφασκε θυώδεος Οὐλύμποιο
not indeed for ever she-said fragrant Olympus
πρίν γ' ἐπιβήσεσθαι, οὐ πρὶν γῆς καρπὸν ἀνήσειν,
before indeed to-set-foot-on not before of-earth the-fruit to-send-up
πρὶν ἴδοι ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἑὴν εὐώπιδα κούρην.
before she-should-see with-eyes her-own fair-faced daughter

2.5 · THE RETURN OF PERSEPHONE

Zeus sends Hermes to Erebus to bring Persephone back. Hades smiles and bids her go to her mother, promising her honor as his queen, but secretly gives her a pomegranate seed to eat. Hermes drives her in Hades' chariot to Eleusis, and mother and daughter rush to embrace. Demeter asks whether she has eaten anything below: if not, she will live with her parents; if she has, she must spend a third of each year below. Persephone tells how Hades forced the seed on her and how he seized her as she picked flowers with her companions, whom she names.

Αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ τό γ' ἄκουσε βαρύκτυπος εὐρύοπα Ζεύς,
but when this indeed heard loud-thundering far-seeing Zeus
335 εἰς Ἔρεβος πέμψε χρυσόρραπιν Ἀργειφόντην,
to Erebus he-sent the-golden-wanded Argus-slayer
ὄφρ' Ἀΐδην μαλακοῖσι παραιφάμενος ἐπέεσσιν
so-that Hades with-soft persuading words
ἁγνὴν Περσεφόνειαν ὑπὸ ζόφου ἠερόεντος
holy Persephone from gloom misty
ἐς φάος ἐξαγάγοι μετὰ δαίμονας, ὄφρα ἑ μήτηρ
to light he-might-lead-out among the-gods so-that her mother
ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἰδοῦσα μεταλήξειε χόλοιο.
with-eyes seeing might-cease from-wrath

Ἑρμῆς δ' οὐκ ἀπίθησεν, ἄφαρ δ' ὑπὸ κεύθεα γαίης
Hermes and not disobeyed at-once and under the-depths of-earth
ἐσσυμένως κατόρουσε λιπὼν ἕδος Οὐλύμποιο.
eagerly darted-down leaving the-seat of-Olympus
τέτμε δὲ τόν γε ἄνακτα δόμων ἔντοσθεν ἐόντα,
found and him indeed the-lord the-house within being
ἥμενον ἐν λεχέεσσι σὺν αἰδοίῃ παρακοίτι,
sitting on beds with modest consort
πόλλ' ἀεκαζομένῃ μητρὸς πόθῳ· ἣ δ' ἀποτηλοῦ
much unwilling for-mother with-longing she but far-away
ἔργοις θεῶν μακάρων δεινὴν μητίσετο βουλήν.
at-the-deeds of-the-gods blessed dread was-devising plan
ἀγχοῦ δ' ἱστάμενος προσέφη κρατὺς Ἀργειφόντης·
near and standing addressed strong Argus-slayer
Ἄιδη κυανοχαῖτα, καταφθιμένοισιν ἀνάσσων,
Hades dark-haired over-the-perished ruling
Ζεύς με πατὴρ ἤνωγεν ἀγαυὴν Περσεφόνειαν
Zeus me father bade lordly Persephone
ἐξαγαγεῖν Ἐρέβευσφι μετὰ σφέας, ὄφρα ἑ μήτηρ
to-lead-out from-Erebus among them so-that her mother
ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἰδοῦσα χόλου καὶ μήνιος αἰνῆς
with-eyes seeing from-wrath and anger dread
ἀθανάτοις λήξειεν· ἐπεὶ μέγα μήδεται ἔργον,
toward-immortals might-cease since great she-devises deed
φθῖσαι φῦλ' ἀμενηνὰ χαμαιγενέων ἀνθρώπων,
to-destroy the-tribes feeble of-earth-born men

σπέρμ᾽ ὑπὸ γῆς κρύπτουσα, καταφθινύθουσα δὲ τιμὰς
seed under earth hiding destroying and the-honors
ἀθανάτων· ἣ δ᾽ αἰνὸν ἔχει χόλον, οὐδὲ θεοῖσι
of-immortals she and dread has wrath nor with-gods
μίσγεται, ἀλλ᾽ ἀπάνευθε θυώδεος ἔνδοθι νηοῦ
mingles but apart fragrant within temple
ἧσται Ἐλευσῖνος κραναὸν πτολίεθρον ἔχουσα.
sits of-Eleusis rocky citadel holding
Ὣς φάτο· μείδησεν δὲ ἄναξ ἐνέρων Ἀιδωνεὺς
so he-spoke smiled and the-lord of-those-below Aidoneus
ὀφρύσιν, οὐδ᾽ ἀπίθησε Διὸς βασιλῆος ἐφετμῇς·
with-brows nor disobeyed of-Zeus king commands
ἐσσυμένως δ᾽ ἐκέλευσε δαΐφρονι Περσεφονείῃ·
eagerly and bade wise Persephone
Ἔρχεο, Περσεφόνη, παρὰ μητέρα κυανόπεπλον
go Persephone to mother dark-robed
ἤπιον ἐν στήθεσσι μένος καὶ θυμὸν ἔχουσα,
gentle in breast spirit and heart having
μηδέ τι δυσθύμαινε λίην περιώσιον ἄλλων·
nor at-all be-downcast too exceedingly beyond-others
οὔ τοι ἐν ἀθανάτοισιν ἀεικὴς ἔσσομ᾽ ἀκοίτης,
not to-you among immortals unseemly I-shall-be husband
αὐτοκασίγνητος πατρὸς Διός· ἔνθα δ᾽ ἐοῦσα
own-brother of-father Zeus there and being
δεσπόσσεις πάντων ὁπόσα ζώει τε καὶ ἕρπει,
you-shall-rule all as-many-as lives both and creeps
τιμὰς δὲ σχήσησθα μετ᾽ ἀθανάτοισι μεγίστας.
honors and you-shall-have among immortals greatest
τῶν δ᾽ ἀδικησάντων τίσις ἔσσεται ἤματα πάντα,
of-those and having-wronged punishment shall-be days all

οἵ κεν μὴ θυσίῃσι τεὸν μένος ἱλάσκωνται
who — not with-sacrifices your might propitiate
εὐαγέως ἔρδοντες, ἐναίσιμα δῶρα τελοῦντες.
piously performing due gifts paying
Ὣς φάτο· γήθησεν δὲ περίφρων Περσεφόνεια,
so he-spoke rejoiced and wise Persephone
καρπαλίμως δ' ἀνόρουσ' ὑπὸ χάρματος· αὐτὰρ ὅ γ' αὐτὸς
swiftly and leaped-up from joy but he indeed himself
ῥοιῆς κόκκον ἔδωκε φαγεῖν μελιηδέα λάθρῃ,
of-pomegranate a-seed gave to-eat honey-sweet secretly
ἀμφὶ ἓ νωμήσας, ἵνα μὴ μένοι ἤματα πάντα
around her having-dealt so-that not she-should-stay days all
αὖθι παρ' αἰδοίῃ Δημήτερι κυανοπέπλῳ.
there beside modest Demeter dark-robed
ἵππους δὲ προπάροιθεν ὑπὸ χρυσέοισιν ὄχεσφιν
the-horses and in-front under golden chariot
ἔντυεν ἀθανάτους Πολυσημάντωρ Ἀιδωνεύς.
yoked immortal Ruler-of-Many Aidoneus
ἣ δ' ὀχέων ἐπέβη, πάρα δὲ κρατὺς Ἀργειφόντης
she and chariot mounted beside and strong Argus-slayer
ἡνία καὶ μάστιγα λαβὼν μετὰ χερσὶ φίλῃσι
reins and whip taking in hands dear
σεῦε διὲκ μεγάρων· τὼ δ' οὐκ ἀέκοντε πετέσθην.
drove through halls the-two and not unwilling flew
ῥίμφα δὲ μακρὰ κέλευθα διήνυσαν· οὐδὲ θάλασσα
swiftly and long paths they-traversed nor sea
οὔθ' ὕδωρ ποταμῶν οὔτ' ἄγκεα ποιήεντα
nor water of-rivers nor glens grassy
ἵππων ἀθανάτων οὔτ' ἄκριες ἔσχεθον ὁρμήν,
of-the-horses immortal nor peaks checked the-rush

ἀλλ᾽ ὑπὲρ αὐτάων βαθὺν ἠέρα τέμνον ἰόντες.
but above them deep air cut going
στῆσε δ᾽ ἄγων, ὅθι μίμνεν ἐυστέφανος Δημήτηρ,
set(-them) and leading where stayed fair-crowned Demeter
νηοῖο προπάροιθε θυώδεος· ἣ δὲ ἰδοῦσα
temple before fragrant she and seeing
ἤιξ᾽, ἠύτε μαινὰς ὄρος κάτα δάσκιον ὕλῃ.
darted like a-maenad mountain down shaded with-forest
Περσεφόνη δ᾽ ἑτέρωθεν ἐπεὶ ἴδεν ὄμματα καλὰ
Persephone and on-the-other-side when she-saw eyes fair
μητρὸς ἑῆς κατ᾽ ἄρ᾽ ἧ γ᾽ ὄχεα προλιποῦσα καὶ ἵππους
of-mother her-own down then she indeed chariot leaving and horses
ἆλτο θέειν, δειρῇ δέ οἱ ἔμπεσε ἀμφιχυθεῖσα·
leaped to-run on-neck and her fell embracing
τῇ δὲ φίλην ἔτι παῖδα ἑῇς μετὰ χερσὶν ἐχούσῃ
of-her and dear still child her-own in hands holding
αἶψα δόλον θυμός τιν᾽ ὀίσατο, τρέσσε δ᾽ ἄρ᾽ αἰνῶς
quickly a-trick heart some suspected trembled and then dreadfully
παυομένη φιλότητος, ἄφαρ δ᾽ ἐρεείνετο μύθῳ·
ceasing from-love at-once and asked by-word
τέκνον, μή ῥά τι μοι σύ γε πάσσαο νέρθεν ἐοῦσα
child not then at-all to-me you indeed tasted below being
βρώμης; ἐξαύδα, μὴ κεῦθ᾽, ἵνα εἴδομεν ἄμφω·
of-food speak-out not hide so-that we-may-know both
ὣς μὲν γάρ κεν ἐοῦσα παρὰ στυγεροῦ Ἀΐδαο
so indeed for — being from hateful Hades
καὶ παρ᾽ ἐμοὶ καὶ πατρὶ κελαινεφέϊ Κρονίωνι
and beside me and father dark-clouded son-of-Cronus
ναιετάοις πάντεσσι τετιμένη ἀθανάτοισιν.
you-would-dwell by-all honored immortals

εἰ δ' ἐπάσω, πάλιν αὖτις ἰοῦσ' ὑπὸ κεύθεσι γαίης
if but you-tasted again back going under depths of-earth
οἰκήσεις ὡρέων τρίτατον μέρος εἰς ἐνιαυτόν,
you-shall-dwell of-the-seasons third part in year
τὰς δὲ δύω παρ' ἐμοί τε καὶ ἄλλοις ἀθανάτοισιν.
the and two beside me both and other immortals
ὁππότε δ' ἄνθεσι γαῖ' εὐώδεσιν εἰαρινοῖσι
when and with-flowers earth fragrant of-spring
παντοδαποῖς θάλλῃ, τόθ' ὑπὸ ζόφου ἠερόεντος
of-all-kinds blooms then from gloom misty
αὖτις ἄνει μέγα θαῦμα θεοῖς θνητοῖς τ' ἀνθρώποις.
back you-will-rise great wonder for-gods mortal and men
εἶπε δὲ πῶς σ' ἥρπαξεν ὑπὸ ζόφον ἠερόεντα
tell and how you he-seized to gloom misty
καὶ τίνι σ' ἐξαπάτησε δόλῳ κρατερὸς Πολυδέγμων;
and by-what you deceived trick strong Host-of-Many
Τὴν δ' αὖ Περσεφόνη περικαλλὴς ἀντίον ηὔδα·
her and in-turn Persephone very-fair facing addressed
τοιγὰρ ἐγώ τοι, μῆτερ, ἐρέω νημερτέα πάντα·
therefore I to-you mother will-tell truthful-things all
εὖτέ μοι Ἑρμῆς ἦλθ' ἐριούνιος ἄγγελος ὠκὺς
when to-me Hermes came luck-bringing messenger swift
πὰρ πατέρος Κρονίδαο καὶ ἄλλων Οὐρανιώνων,
from father son-of-Cronus and other Heavenly-ones
ἐλθεῖν ἐξ Ἐρέβευς, ἵνα ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἰδοῦσα
to-come from Erebus so-that with-eyes seeing
λήξαις ἀθανάτοισι χόλου καὶ μήνιος αἰνῆς,
you-might-cease toward-immortals from-wrath and anger dread

αὐτίκ᾽ ἐγὼν ἀνόρουσ᾽ ὑπὸ χάρματος· αὐτὰρ ὃ λάθρῃ
at-once I leaped-up from joy but he secretly
ἔμβαλέ μοι ῥοιῆς κόκκον, μελιηδέ᾽ ἐδωδήν,
put-in for-me of-pomegranate a-seed honey-sweet food
ἄκουσαν δὲ βίῃ με προσηνάγκασσε πάσασθαι.
unwilling and by-force me compelled to-taste
ὡς δέ μ᾽ ἀναρπάξας Κρονίδεω πυκινὴν διὰ μῆτιν
how and me snatching-up of-the-son-of-Cronus shrewd through plan
ᾤχετο πατρὸς ἐμοῖο, φέρων ὑπὸ κεύθεα γαίης,
he-went of-father my carrying under depths of-earth
ἐξερέω, καὶ πάντα διίξομαι, ὡς ἐρεείνεις.
I-will-tell and all I-will-go-through as you-ask
ἡμεῖς μὲν μάλα πᾶσαι ἀν᾽ ἱμερτὸν λειμῶνα,
we indeed very all in lovely meadow
Λευκίππη Φαινώ τε καὶ Ἠλέκτρη καὶ Ἰάνθη
Leucippe Phaeno and and Electra and Ianthe
καὶ Μελίτη Ἰάχη τε Ῥόδειά τε Καλλιρόη τε
and Melite Iache and Rhodea and Callirhoe and
Μηλόβοσίς τε Τύχη τε καὶ Ὠκυρόη καλυκῶπις
Melobosis and Tyche and and Ocyrhoe flower-faced
Χρυσηίς τ᾽ Ἰάνειρά τ᾽ Ἀκάστη τ᾽ Ἀδμήτη τε
Chryseis and Ianeira and Acaste and Admete and
καὶ Ῥοδόπη Πλουτώ τε καὶ ἱμερόεσσα Καλυψὼ
and Rhodope Pluto and and lovely Calypso
καὶ Στὺξ Οὐρανίη τε Γαλαξαύρη τ᾽ ἐρατεινὴ
and Styx Urania and Galaxaura and lovely
Παλλάς τ᾽ ἐγρεμάχη καὶ Ἄρτεμις ἰοχέαιρα,
Pallas and battle-rousing and Artemis arrow-pouring
παίζομεν ἠδ᾽ ἄνθεα δρέπομεν χείρεσσ᾽ ἐρόεντα,
were-playing and flowers were-gathering with-hands lovely

μίγδα κρόκον τ᾽ ἀγανὸν καὶ ἀγαλλίδας ἠδ᾽ ὑάκινθον
mingled crocus and gentle and irises and hyacinth
καὶ ῥοδέας κάλυκας καὶ λείρια, θαῦμα ἰδέσθαι,
and rose buds and lilies a-wonder to-see
νάρκισσόν θ᾽, ὃν ἔφυσ᾽ ὥς περ κρόκον εὐρεῖα χθών.
narcissus and which bore like indeed crocus broad earth
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ δρεπόμην περὶ χάρματι· γαῖα δ᾽ ἔνερθε
but I was-plucking for joy earth and beneath
χώρησεν· τῇ δ᾽ ἔκθορ᾽ ἄναξ κρατερὸς Πολυδέγμων· 430
gave-way there and leaped-out the-lord strong Host-of-Many
βῆ δὲ φέρων ὑπὸ γαῖαν ἐν ἅρμασι χρυσείοισι
went and carrying under earth in chariot golden
πόλλ᾽ ἀεκαζομένην· ἐβόησα δ᾽ ἄρ᾽ ὄρθια φωνῇ.
much unwilling I-shouted and then shrill with-voice
ταῦτά τοι ἀχνυμένη περ ἀληθέα πάντ᾽ ἀγορεύω.
these-things to-you grieving though true all I-tell

Mother and daughter comfort each other. Zeus sends Rhea to bring Demeter back, promising that her daughter will spend a third of the year below. Demeter at once makes the fields bear and teaches the kings of Eleusis her secret rites; the initiate is blessed. The goddesses go to Olympus, and the poet asks them for a livelihood.

Ὣς τότε μὲν πρόπαν ἦμαρ ὁμόφρονα θυμὸν ἔχουσαι
so then indeed whole day like-minded heart having
πολλὰ μάλ' ἀλλήλων κραδίην καὶ θυμὸν ἴαινον
much very of-each-other heart and spirit warmed
ἀμφαγαπαζόμεναι· ἀχέων δ' ἀπεπαύετο θυμός.
embracing from-griefs and ceased heart
γηθοσύνας δ' ἐδέχοντο παρ' ἀλλήλων ἔδιδόν τε.
joys and they-received from each-other gave and
Τῇσιν δ' ἐγγύθεν ἦλθ' Ἑκάτη λιπαροκρήδεμνος·
to-them and near came Hecate bright-headbanded
πολλὰ δ' ἄρ' ἀμφαγάπησε κόρην Δημήτερος ἁγνήν·
much and then embraced the-daughter of-Demeter holy
ἐκ τοῦ οἱ πρόπολος καὶ ὀπάων ἔπλετ' ἄνασσα.
from that to-her attendant and companion became the-queen
Ταῖς δὲ μέτ' ἄγγελον ἦκε βαρύκτυπος εὐρύοπα Ζεὺς
them and to messenger sent loud-thundering far-seeing Zeus
Ῥείην ἠύκομον, Δημήτερα κυανόπεπλον
Rhea lovely-haired Demeter dark-robed
ἀξέμεναι μετὰ φῦλα θεῶν, ὑπέδεκτο δὲ τιμὰς
to-bring among the-tribes of-the-gods promised and honors
δωσέμεν, ἅς κεν ἕλοιτο μετ' ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσι·
to-give which — she-might-choose among immortal gods

νεῦσε δέ οἱ κούρην ἔτεος περιτελλομένοιο
nodded and to-her the-daughter of-the-year as-it-comes-round
τὴν τριτάτην μὲν μοῖραν ὑπὸ ζόφον ἠερόεντα,
the third indeed part under gloom misty
τὰς δὲ δύω παρὰ μητρὶ καὶ ἄλλοις ἀθανάτοισιν.
the and two beside mother and other immortals
ὣς ἔφατ'· οὐδ' ἀπίθησε θεὰ Διὸς ἀγγελιάων.
so he-spoke nor disobeyed the-goddess of-Zeus messages
ἐσσυμένως δ' ἴξε κατ' Οὐλύμποιο καρήνων,
eagerly and darted down of-Olympus from-the-peaks
ἐς δ' ἄρα Ῥάριον ἶξε, φερέσβιον οὖθαρ ἀρούρης
to and then Rharion came life-giving udder of-plowland
τὸ πρίν, ἀτὰρ τότε γ' οὔτι φερέσβιον, ἀλλὰ ἔκηλον
the before but then indeed not-at-all life-giving but idle
ἑστήκει πανάφυλλον· ἔκευθε δ' ἄρα κρῖ λευκὸν
it-stood all-leafless hid and then barley white
μήδεσι Δήμητρος καλλισφύρου· αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα
by-the-plans of-Demeter fair-ankled but thereafter
μέλλεν ἄφαρ ταναοῖσι κομήσειν ἀσταχύεσσιν
was-to at-once with-long to-wave-with ears-of-grain
ἦρος ἀεξομένοιο, πέδῳ δ' ἄρα πίονες ὄγμοι
in-spring growing on-the-ground and then rich swaths
βρισέμεν ἀσταχύων, τὰ δ' ἐν ἐλλεδανοῖσι δεδέσθαι.
to-be-laden with-ears the and in sheaves to-be-bound
ἔνθ' ἐπέβη πρώτιστον ἀπ' αἰθέρος ἀτρυγέτοιο·
there she-stepped first from air barren
ἀσπασίως δ' ἴδον ἀλλήλας, κεχάρηντο δὲ θυμῷ.
gladly and they-saw each-other rejoiced and in-heart
τὴν δ' ὧδε προσέειπε Ῥέη λιπαροκρήδεμνος·
her and thus addressed Rhea bright-headbanded

Δεῦρο τέκος, καλέει σε βαρύκτυπος εὐρύοπα Ζεὺς
hither child calls you loud-thundering far-seeing Zeus
ἐλθέμεναι μετὰ φῦλα θεῶν, ὑπέδεκτο δὲ τιμὰς
to-come among the-tribes of-the-gods promised and honors
δωσέμεν, ἅς κ᾽ ἐθέλῃσθα μετ᾽ ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσι.
to-give which — you-wish among immortal gods
νεῦσε δέ σοι κούρην ἔτεος περιτελλομένοιο
nodded and to-you the-daughter of-the-year as-it-comes-round
τὴν τριτάτην μὲν μοῖραν ὑπὸ ζόφον ἠερόεντα,
the third indeed part under gloom misty
τὰς δὲ δύω παρὰ σοί τε καὶ ἄλλοις ἀθανάτοισιν.
the and two beside you both and other immortals
ὣς ἄρ᾽ ἔφη τελέεσθαι· ἑῷ δ᾽ ἐπένευσε κάρητι.
so then he-said would-be-fulfilled with-his and nodded head
ἀλλ᾽ ἴθι, τέκνον ἐμόν, καὶ πείθεο, μηδέ τι λίην
but go child my and obey nor at-all too
ἀζηχὲς μενέαινε κελαινεφέι Κρονίωνι.
unceasingly rage at-dark-clouded son-of-Cronus
αἶψα δὲ καρπὸν ἄεξε φερέσβιον ἀνθρώποισιν.
quickly and fruit increase life-giving for-men
Ὣς ἔφατ᾽. οὐδ᾽ ἀπίθησεν ἐυστέφανος Δημήτηρ·
so she-spoke nor disobeyed fair-crowned Demeter
αἶψα δὲ καρπὸν ἀνῆκεν ἀρουράων ἐριβώλων·
quickly and fruit sent-up of-plowlands deep-soiled

πᾶσα δὲ φύλλοισίν τε καὶ ἄνθεσιν εὐρεῖα χθὼν
all and with-leaves both and with-flowers broad earth
ἔβρισ᾽· ἣ δὲ κιοῦσα θεμιστοπόλοις βασιλεῦσι
was-laden she and going to-law-giving kings
δεῖξεν Τριπτολέμῳ τε Διοκλεῖ τε πληξίππῳ
showed to-Triptolemus both to-Diocles and driver-of-horses
Εὐμόλπου τε βίῃ Κελεῷ θ᾽ ἡγήτορι λαῶν
of-Eumolpus and to-the-might to-Celeus and leader of-peoples
δρησμοσύνην θ᾽ ἱερῶν καὶ ἐπέφραδεν ὄργια πᾶσι,
the-performance and of-the-rites and explained rites to-all
Τριπτολέμῳ τε Πολυξείνῳ, ἐπὶ τοῖς δὲ Διοκλεῖ
to-Triptolemus and to-Polyxeinus besides them and to-Diocles
σεμνά, τά τ᾽ οὔπως ἔστι παρεξίμεν οὔτε πυθέσθαι
awful which and in-no-way it-is to-transgress nor to-learn
οὔτ᾽ ἀχέειν· μέγα γάρ τι θεῶν σέβας ἰσχάνει αὐδήν.
nor to-utter great for some of-the-gods awe checks voice
ὄλβιος, ὃς τάδ᾽ ὄπωπεν ἐπιχθονίων ἀνθρώπων·
blessed who these-things has-seen of-earthly men
ὃς δ᾽ ἀτελὴς ἱερῶν ὅς τ᾽ ἄμμορος, οὔποθ᾽ ὁμοίων
who but uninitiate of-the-rites who and without-share never of-like
αἶσαν ἔχει φθίμενός περ ὑπὸ ζόφῳ ἠερόεντι.
lot has having-perished though under gloom misty
Αὐτὰρ ἐπειδὴ πάνθ᾽ ὑπεθήκατο δῖα θεάων,
but when all had-taught bright of-goddesses
βάν ῥ᾽ ἴμεν Οὔλυμπόνδε θεῶν μεθ᾽ ὁμήγυριν ἄλλων.
went then to-go to-Olympus of-the-gods to gathering other

ἔνθα δὲ ναιετάουσι παραὶ Διὶ τερπικεραύνῳ
there and they-dwell beside Zeus thunder-delighting
σεμναί τ᾽ αἰδοῖαι τε· μέγ᾽ ὄλβιος, ὅν τιν᾽ ἐκεῖναι
awful both reverend and greatly blessed whom any they
προφρονέως φίλωνται ἐπιχθονίων ἀνθρώπων·
readily love of-earthly men
αἶψα δέ οἱ πέμπουσιν ἐφέστιον ἐς μέγα δῶμα
quickly and to-him they-send to-the-hearth to great house
Πλοῦτον, ὃς ἀνθρώποις ἄφενος θνητοῖσι δίδωσιν.
Plutus who to-men wealth mortal gives
Ἀλλ᾽ ἄγ᾽ Ἐλευσῖνος θυοέσσης δῆμον ἔχουσα
but come of-Eleusis fragrant the-people holding
καὶ Πάρον ἀμφιρύτην Ἀντρῶνά τε πετρήεντα,
and Paros sea-girt Antron and rocky
πότνια, ἀγλαόδωρ᾽, ὡρηφόρε, Δηοῖ ἄνασσα,
queenly giver-of-glorious-gifts bringer-of-seasons Deo queen
αὐτὴ καὶ κούρη περικαλλὴς Περσεφόνεια·
yourself and daughter very-fair Persephone
πρόφρονες ἀντ᾽ ᾠδῆς βίοτον θυμήρε᾽ ὄπαζε.
gracious for song livelihood heart-pleasing grant
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ καὶ σεῖο καὶ ἄλλης μνήσομ᾽ ἀοιδῆς.
but I both of-you and of-another will-remember song

Εἰς Ἀπόλλωνα

3.1 · LETO SEEKS A PLACE FOR THE BIRTH

The gods tremble when Apollo enters Zeus' house. Leto unstrings his bow and leads him to his seat, and his father gives him nectar. The poet hails Leto, mother of Apollo and Artemis, and asks how to praise the god, beginning with his birth on Delos. Leto in labor goes from land to land, from Crete to Athos and the islands, but none dares receive him. She promises Delos wealth from his hecatombs. Delos fears the god will scorn her barren rock and sink her, so she agrees only if Leto swears that he will build his first temple there. Leto swears by Earth, Heaven, and Styx.

Μνήσομαι οὐδὲ λάθωμαι Ἀπόλλωνος ἑκάτοιο,
I-will-remember nor shall-I-forget Apollo far-shooting
ὅντε θεοὶ κατὰ δῶμα Διὸς τρομέουσιν ἰόντα·
whom the-gods through house of-Zeus tremble-at coming
καί ῥά τ' ἀναΐσσουσιν ἐπὶ σχεδὸν ἐρχομένοιο
and then — spring-up at-him near as-he-approaches
πάντες ἀφ' ἑδράων, ὅτε φαίδιμα τόξα τιταίνει.
all from seats when glorious bow he-stretches
Λητὼ δ' οἴη μίμνε παραὶ Διὶ τερπικεραύνῳ,
Leto but alone stays beside Zeus thunder-delighting
ἦ ῥα βιόν τ' ἐχάλασσε καὶ ἐκλήισσε φαρέτρην,
she then bowstring and unstrings and closes quiver
καί οἱ ἀπ' ἰφθίμων ὤμων χείρεσσιν ἑλοῦσα
and for-him from mighty shoulders with-hands taking
τόξα κατεκρέμασε πρὸς κίονα πατρὸς ἑοῖο
bow hangs-up against pillar of-father his
πασσάλου ἐκ χρυσέου· τὸν δ' ἐς θρόνον εἷσεν ἄγουσα.
peg from golden him and to throne seats leading

τῷ δ' ἄρα νέκταρ ἔδωκε πατὴρ δέπαϊ χρυσείῳ
to-him and then nectar gives father in-cup golden
δεικνύμενος φίλον υἱόν· ἔπειτα δὲ δαίμονες ἄλλοι
pledging dear son thereupon and divinities other
ἔνθα καθίζουσιν· χαίρει δέ τε πότνια Λητώ,
there sit rejoices and — queenly Leto
οὕνεκα τοξοφόρον καὶ καρτερὸν υἱὸν ἔτικτε.
because bow-bearing and mighty son she-bore
χαῖρε, μάκαιρ' ὦ Λητοῖ, ἐπεὶ τέκες ἀγλαὰ τέκνα,
hail blessed O Leto since you-bore glorious children
Ἀπόλλωνά τ' ἄνακτα καὶ Ἄρτεμιν ἰοχέαιραν,
Apollo both lord and Artemis arrow-pouring
τὴν μὲν ἐν Ὀρτυγίῃ, τὸν δὲ κραναῇ ἐνὶ Δήλῳ,
her indeed in Ortygia him and rocky in Delos
κεκλιμένη πρὸς μακρὸν ὄρος καὶ Κύνθιον ὄχθον,
leaning against long mountain and Cynthian hill
ἀγχοτάτω φοίνικος, ἐπ' Ἰνωποῖο ῥεέθροις.
nearest to-the-palm by of-Inopus streams

Πῶς τ' ἄρ σ' ὑμνήσω πάντως εὔυμνον ἐόντα;
how — then you shall-I-hymn wholly well-hymned being
πάντη γάρ τοι, Φοῖβε, νόμοι βεβλήατ' ἀοιδῆς,
everywhere for to-you Phoebus ranges have-been-laid of-song
ἠμὲν ἀν' ἤπειρον πορτιτρόφον ἠδ' ἀνὰ νήσους·
both over mainland heifer-rearing and over islands
πᾶσαι δὲ σκοπιαί τοι ἄδον καὶ πρώονες ἄκροι
all and peaks to-you are-pleasing and headlands high
ὑψηλῶν ὀρέων ποταμοί θ' ἅλαδε προρέοντες
of-lofty mountains rivers and seaward flowing-forth
ἀκταί τ' εἰς ἅλα κεκλιμέναι λιμένες τε θαλάσσης.
shores and to sea sloping harbors and of-the-sea

ἦ ὥς σε πρῶτον Λητὼ τέκε, χάρμα βροτοῖσι,
or how you first Leto bore a-joy to-mortals
κλινθεῖσα πρὸς Κύνθου ὄρος κραναῇ ἐνὶ νήσῳ,
leaning against of-Cynthus mountain rocky in island
Δήλῳ ἐν ἀμφιρύτῃ; ἑκάτερθε δὲ κῦμα κελαινὸν
Delos in sea-girt on-either-side and wave dark
ἐξήει χέρσονδε λιγυπνοίοις ἀνέμοισιν,
went-out landward with-shrill-blowing winds
ἔνθεν ἀπορνύμενος πᾶσι θνητοῖσιν ἀνάσσεις.
thence setting-out over-all mortals you-rule
Ὅσσους Κρήτη τ᾽ ἐντὸς ἔχει καὶ δῆμος Ἀθηνῶν
as-many-as Crete and within holds and the-people of-Athens
νῆσός τ᾽ Αἰγίνη ναυσικλειτή τ᾽ Εὔβοια,
island and Aegina ship-famed and Euboea
Αἰγαί, Πειρεσίαι τε καὶ ἀγχιάλη Πεπάρηθος
Aegae Peiresiae and and near-the-sea Peparethus
Θρηίκιός τ᾽ Ἄθόως καὶ Πηλίου ἄκρα κάρηνα
Thracian and Athos and of-Pelion high peaks
Θρηικίη τε Σάμος Ἴδης τ᾽ ὄρεα σκιόεντα,
Thracian and Samos of-Ida and mountains shadowy
Σκῦρος καὶ Φώκαια καὶ Αὐτοκάνης ὄρος αἰπύ,
Scyros and Phocaea and of-Autocane mountain steep
Ἴμβρος τ᾽ εὐκτιμένη καὶ Λῆμνος ἀμιχθαλόεσσα
Imbros and well-built and Lemnos smoky
Λέσβος τ᾽ ἠγαθέη, Μάκαρος ἕδος Αἰολίωνος,
Lesbos and holy of-Macar seat of-the-son-of-Aeolus
καὶ Χίος, ἣ νήσων λιπαρωτάτη εἰν ἁλὶ κεῖται,
and Chios which of-islands richest in sea lies

παιπαλόεις τε Μίμας καὶ Κωρύκου ἄκρα κάρηνα
rugged and Mimas and of-Corycus high peaks
καὶ Κλάρος αἰγλήεσσα καὶ Αἰσαγέης ὄρος αἰπὺ
and Claros gleaming and of-Aesagea mountain steep
καὶ Σάμος ὑδρηλὴ Μυκάλης τ᾽ αἰπεινὰ κάρηνα
and Samos well-watered of-Mycale and steep peaks
Μίλητός τε Κόως τε, πόλις Μερόπων ἀνθρώπων,
Miletus and Cos and city of-Meropian men
καὶ Κνίδος αἰπεινὴ καὶ Κάρπαθος ἠνεμόεσσα
and Cnidos steep and Carpathus windy
Νάξος τ᾽ ἠδὲ Πάρος Ῥήναιά τε πετρήεσσα,
Naxos and and Paros Rhenaea and rocky
τόσσον ἔπ᾽ ὠδίνουσα Ἑκηβόλον ἵκετο Λητώ,
so-far over in-travail with-the-Far-shooter came Leto
εἴ τίς οἱ γαιέων υἱεῖ θέλοι οἰκία θέσθαι.
if any to-her of-the-lands for-son would home make
αἳ δὲ μάλ᾽ ἐτρόμεον καὶ ἐδείδισαν, οὐδέ τις ἔτλη
they but very trembled and feared nor any dared
Φοῖβον δέξασθαι, καὶ πιοτέρη περ ἐοῦσα·
Phoebus to-receive even richer though being
πρίν γ᾽ ὅτε δή ῥ᾽ ἐπὶ Δήλου ἐβήσατο πότνια Λητὼ
before indeed when indeed then on Delos stepped queenly Leto
καί μιν ἀνειρομένη ἔπεα πτερόεντα προσηύδα·
and her asking words winged addressed
Δῆλ᾽, εἰ γάρ κ᾽ ἐθέλοις ἕδος ἔμμεναι υἷος ἐμοῖο,
Delos if for — you-would-wish the-seat to-be of-son my
Φοίβου Ἀπόλλωνος, θέσθαι τ᾽ ἔνι πίονα νηόν, —
of-Phoebus Apollo to-set and in rich temple
ἄλλος δ᾽ οὔτις σεῖό ποθ᾽ ἅψεται, οὐδέ σε λήσει·
other and no-one you ever will-touch nor you it-will-escape

οὐδ᾽ εὔβων σέ γ᾽ ἔσεσθαι ὀίομαι οὔτ᾽ εὔμηλον,
nor rich-in-oxen you indeed to-be I-think nor rich-in-sheep
οὐδὲ τρύγην οἴσεις οὔτ᾽ ἂρ φυτὰ μυρία φύσεις.
nor vintage will-you-bear nor then plants countless will-you-grow
εἰ δέ κ᾽ Ἀπόλλωνος ἑκαέργου νηὸν ἔχῃσθα,
if but — of-Apollo far-worker temple you-have
ἄνθρωποί τοι πάντες ἀγινήσουσ᾽ ἑκατόμβας
men to-you all will-bring hecatombs
ἐνθάδ᾽ ἀγειρόμενοι, κνίσση δέ τοι ἄσπετος αἰεὶ
here gathering savor and to-you unspeakable always
δημοῦ ἀναΐξει βοσκήσεις θ᾽ οἵ κέ σ᾽ ἔχωσι
of-fat will-rise you-will-feed and who — you hold
χειρὸς ἀπ᾽ ἀλλοτρίης, ἐπεὶ οὔ τοι πῖαρ ὑπ᾽ οὐδας.
hand from of-a-stranger since not to-you richness under soil

Ὣς φάτο· χαῖρε δὲ Δῆλος, ἀμειβομένη δὲ προσηύδα·
so she-spoke rejoiced and Delos answering and addressed
Λητοῖ, κυδίστη θύγατερ μεγάλου Κοίοιο,
Leto most-glorious daughter of-great Coeus
ἀσπασίη κεν ἐγώ γε γονὴν ἑκάτοιο ἄνακτος
gladly — I indeed the-birth of-the-far-shooting lord
δεξαίμην· αἰνῶς γὰρ ἐτήτυμόν εἰμι δυσηχὴς
would-receive dreadfully for truly I-am ill-reputed
ἀνδράσιν· ὧδε δέ κεν περιτιμήεσσα γενοίμην.
among-men thus and — much-honored I-would-become
ἀλλὰ τόδε τρομέω, Λητοῖ, ἔπος, οὐδέ σε κεύσω·
but this I-tremble-at Leto word nor you will-I-hide

λίην γάρ τινά φασιν ἀτάσθαλον Ἀπόλλωνα
very for some they-say reckless Apollo
ἔσσεσθαι, μέγα δὲ πρυτανευσέμεν ἀθανάτοισι
to-be greatly and to-lord-it over-immortals
καὶ θνητοῖσι βροτοῖσιν ἐπὶ ζείδωρον ἄρουραν.
and mortal men over grain-giving plowland
τῷ ῥ' αἰνῶς δείδοικα κατὰ φρένα καὶ κατὰ θυμόν,
therefore then dreadfully I-fear in mind and in heart
μή, ὁπότ' ἂν τὸ πρῶτον ἴδῃ φάος ἠελίοιο,
lest when — the first he-sees light of-the-sun
νῆσον ἀτιμήσας, ἐπεὶ ἦ κραναήπεδός εἰμι,
the-island dishonoring since truly rocky-soiled I-am
ποσσὶ καταστρέψας ὄσῃ ἁλὸς ἐν πελάγεσσιν,
with-feet overturning he-may-thrust of-sea in depths
ἔνθ' ἐμὲ μὲν μέγα κῦμα κατὰ κρατὸς ἅλις αἰεὶ
there me indeed great wave down head abundantly always
κλύσσει· ὃ δ' ἄλλην γαῖαν ἀφίξεται, ἥ κεν ἅδῃ οἱ,
will-wash he and another land will-reach which — pleases him
τεύξασθαι νηόν τε καὶ ἄλσεα δενδρήεντα·
to-make temple both and groves wooded
πουλύποδες δ' ἐν ἐμοὶ θαλάμας φῶκαί τε μέλαιναι
octopuses and in me dens seals and black
οἰκία ποιήσονται ἀκηδέα, χήτεϊ λαῶν.
homes will-make undisturbed for-lack of-peoples
ἀλλ' εἴ μοι τλαίης γε, θεά, μέγαν ὅρκον ὀμόσσαι,
but if to-me you-would-bear indeed goddess great oath to-swear

ἐνθάδε μιν πρῶτον τεύξειν περικαλλέα νηὸν
here him first to-build very-fair temple
ἔμμεναι ἀνθρώπων χρηστήριον, αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα
to-be of-men an-oracle but thereafter
[τεύξασθαι νηούς τε καὶ ἄλσεα δενδρήεντα]
to-make temples both and groves wooded
πάντας ἐπ᾽ ἀνθρώπους, ἐπεὶ ἦ πολυώνυμος ἔσται.
all among men since truly much-named he-will-be
Ὣς ἄρ ἔφη· Λητὼ δὲ θεῶν μέγαν ὅρκον ὄμοσσε·
so then she-spoke Leto and of-the-gods great oath swore
ἴστω νῦν τάδε Γαῖα καὶ Οὐρανὸς εὐρὺς ὕπερθεν
let-know now this Earth and Heaven broad above
καὶ τὸ κατειβόμενον Στυγὸς ὕδωρ, ὅστε μέγιστος
and the down-flowing of-Styx water which greatest
ὅρκος δεινότατός τε πέλει μακάρεσσι θεοῖσιν·
oath most-dread and is for-blessed gods
ἦ μὴν Φοίβου τῇδε θυώδης ἔσσεται αἰεὶ
truly verily of-Phoebus here fragrant will-be always
βωμὸς καὶ τέμενος, τίσει δέ σέ γ᾽ ἔξοχα πάντων.
altar and precinct he-will-honor and you indeed above all

Leto labors nine days, attended by the goddesses, but Hera keeps Eileithyia on Olympus. The goddesses send Iris to fetch her with the promise of a great necklace. When Eileithyia reaches Delos, Leto clasps a palm tree and gives birth. Themis feeds the child nectar and ambrosia, and at once he breaks his bands and claims the lyre and the bow. Delos blooms with gold. The Ionians gather there for his festival, and the Delian maidens sing and imitate all men's voices. The poet asks them to name the blind man of Chios as sweetest singer.

Αὐτὰρ ἐπεί ῥ' ὅμοσέν τε τελεύτησέν τε τὸν ὅρκον,
but when then she-swore both finished and the oath
Δῆλος μὲν μάλα χαῖρε γονῇ ἑκάτοιο ἄνακτος·
Delos indeed greatly rejoiced in-the-birth of-the-far-shooting lord
Λητὼ δ' ἐννῆμάρ τε καὶ ἐννέα νύκτας ἀέλπτοις
Leto but for-nine-days both and nine nights with-hopeless
ὠδίνεσσι πέπαρτο. θεαὶ δ' ἔσαν ἔνδοθι πᾶσαι,
pangs was-pierced the-goddesses and were within all
ὅσσαι ἄρισται ἔασι, Διώνη τε Ῥείη τε
as-many-as best are Dione both Rhea and
Ἰχναίη τε Θέμις καὶ ἀγάστονος Ἀμφιτρίτη
Ichnaean and Themis and loud-moaning Amphitrite
ἄλλαι τ' ἀθάναται νόσφιν λευκωλένου Ἥρης·
others and immortal apart-from white-armed Hera
ἧστο γὰρ ἐν μεγάροισι Διὸς νεφεληγερέταο·
she-sat for in halls of-Zeus cloud-gatherer
μούνη δ' οὐκ ἐπέπυστο μογοστόκος Εἰλείθυια·
alone but not had-heard birth-helping Eileithyia
ἧστο γὰρ ἄκρῳ Ὀλύμπῳ ὑπὸ χρυσέοισι νέφεσσιν,
she-sat for on-top-of Olympus under golden clouds

Ἥρης φραδμοσύνης λευκωλένου, ἥ μιν ἔρυκε
of-Hera by-the-schemes white-armed who her held-back
ζηλοσύνῃ, ὅτ᾽ ἄρ᾽ υἱὸν ἀμύμονά τε κρατερόν τε
by-jealousy because then a-son blameless both mighty and
Λητὼ τέξεσθαι καλλιπλόκαμος τότ᾽ ἔμελλεν.
Leto to-bear fair-tressed then was-about
Αἳ δ᾽ Ἶριν προΰπεμψαν ἐυκτιμένης ἀπὸ νήσου,
they and Iris sent-forth well-built from island
ἀξέμεν Εἰλείθυιαν, ὑποσχόμεναι μέγαν ὅρμον,
to-bring Eileithyia promising great necklace
χρυσείοισι λίνοισιν ἐερμένον, ἐννεάπηχυν·
with-golden threads strung nine-cubits-long
νόσφιν δ᾽ ἤνωγον καλέειν λευκωλένου Ἥρης,
apart and bade to-call white-armed Hera
μή μιν ἔπειτ᾽ ἐπέεσσιν ἀποστρέψειεν ἰοῦσαν.
lest her thereafter with-words she-turn-back going
αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ τό γ᾽ ἄκουσε ποδήνεμος ὠκέα Ἶρις,
but when this indeed heard wind-footed swift Iris
βῆ ῥα θέειν, ταχέως δὲ διήνυσε πᾶν τὸ μεσηγύ.
went then to-run quickly and traversed all the between
αὐτὰρ ἐπεί ῥ᾽ ἵκανε θεῶν ἕδος, αἰπὺν Ὄλυμπον,
but when then she-reached of-the-gods the-seat steep Olympus
αὐτίκ᾽ ἄρ᾽ Εἰλείθυιαν ἀπὲκ μεγάροιο θύραζε
at-once then Eileithyia out-of hall to-the-door
ἐκπροκαλεσσαμένη ἔπεα πτερόεντα προσηύδα,
calling-forth words winged addressed
πάντα μάλ᾽, ὡς ἐπέτελλον Ὀλύμπια δώματ᾽ ἔχουσαι.
all very as bade Olympian houses having

τῇ δ' ἄρα θυμὸν ἔπειθεν ἐνὶ στήθεσσι φίλοισι·
of-her and then the-heart she-persuaded in breast dear
βὰν δὲ ποσὶ τρήρωσι πελειάσιν ἴθμαθ' ὁμοῖαι.
went and with-feet timid to-doves in-steps like
Εὖτ' ἐπὶ Δήλου ἔβαινε μογοστόκος Εἰλείθυια,
when to Delos stepped birth-helping Eileithyia
δὴ τότε τὴν τόκος εἷλε, μενοίνησεν δὲ τεκέσθαι.
indeed then her labor seized she-yearned and to-bear
ἀμφὶ δὲ φοίνικι βάλε πήχεε, γοῦνα δ' ἔρεισε
around and the-palm threw arms knees and pressed
λειμῶνι μαλακῷ· μείδησε δὲ γαῖ' ὑπένερθεν·
on-meadow soft smiled and the-earth beneath
ἐκ δ' ἔθορε πρὸ φόωσδε· θεαὶ δ' ὀλόλυξαν ἅπασαι.
out and he-leaped forth to-light the-goddesses and cried-aloud all
Ἔνθα σέ, ἦιε Φοῖβε, θεαὶ λόον ὕδατι καλῷ
there you hail Phoebus the-goddesses washed with-water fair
ἁγνῶς καὶ καθαρῶς, σπάρξαν δ' ἐν φάρεϊ λευκῷ,
purely and cleanly swaddled and in cloak white
λεπτῷ, νηγατέῳ· περὶ δὲ χρύσεον στρόφον ἧκαν.
fine new-made around and golden band put
Οὐδ' ἄρ' Ἀπόλλωνα χρυσάορα θήσατο μήτηρ,
nor then Apollo golden-sworded suckled mother
ἀλλὰ Θέμις νέκταρ τε καὶ ἀμβροσίην ἐρατεινὴν
but Themis nectar both and ambrosia lovely
ἀθανάτῃσιν χερσὶν ἐπήρξατο· χαῖρε δὲ Λητώ,
with-immortal hands poured-first rejoiced and Leto
οὕνεκα τοξοφόρον καὶ καρτερὸν υἱὸν ἔτικτεν.
because bow-bearing and mighty son she-bore
αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ δή, Φοῖβε, κατέβρως ἄμβροτον εἶδαρ,
but when indeed Phoebus you-ate immortal food

οὔ σέ γ' ἔπειτ' ἴσχον χρύσεοι στρόφοι ἀσπαίροντα,
not you indeed thereupon held golden bands struggling
οὐδ' ἔτι δέσματ' ἔρυκε, λύοντο δὲ πείρατα πάντα.
nor still bonds held-back were-loosed and ends all
αὐτίκα δ' ἀθανάτῃσι μετηύδα Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων·
at-once and to-the-immortals spoke Phoebus Apollo
Εἴη μοι κίθαρίς τε φίλη καὶ καμπύλα τόξα,
let-be to-me lyre both dear and curved bow
χρήσω δ' ἀνθρώποισι Διὸς νημερτέα βουλήν.
I-will-declare and to-men of-Zeus unerring will
Ὣς εἰπὼν ἐβίβασκεν ἐπὶ χθονὸς εὐρυοδείης
so speaking he-strode over earth wide-wayed
Φοῖβος ἀκερσεκόμης, ἑκατηβόλος· αἳ δ' ἄρα πᾶσαι
Phoebus of-unshorn-hair far-shooting they and then all
θάμβεον ἀθάναται· χρυσῷ δ' ἄρα Δῆλος ἅπασα
marveled immortal with-gold and then Delos all
ἤνθησ', ὡς ὅτε τε ῥίον οὔρεος ἄνθεσιν ὕλης.
she-bloomed as when — a-peak of-mountain with-flowers of-woodland
Αὐτὸς δ', ἀργυρότοξε, ἄναξ ἑκατηβόλ' Ἄπολλον,
you-yourself and silver-bowed lord far-shooting Apollo
ἄλλοτε μέν τ' ἐπὶ Κύνθου ἐβήσαο παιπαλόεντος,
at-times indeed — upon Cynthus you-stepped rugged
ἄλλοτε δ' ἂν νήσους τε καὶ ἀνέρας ἠλάσκαζες.
at-times and over islands both and men you-wandered
πολλοί τοι νηοί τε καὶ ἄλσεα δενδρήεντα·
many to-you temples both and groves wooded
πᾶσαι δὲ σκοπιαί τε φίλαι καὶ πρώονες ἄκροι
all and peaks both dear and headlands high
ὑψηλῶν ὀρέων ποταμοί θ' ἅλαδε προρέοντες·
of-lofty mountains rivers and seaward flowing-forth

ἀλλὰ σὺ Δήλῳ, Φοῖβε, μάλιστ᾽ ἐπιτέρπεαι ἦτορ,
but you in-Delos Phoebus most delight heart
ἔνθα τοι ἑλκεχίτωνες Ἰάονες ἠγερέθονται
there for-you long-robed Ionians gather
αὐτοῖς σὺν παίδεσσι καὶ αἰδοίης ἀλόχοισιν.
their-own with children and modest wives
οἱ δέ σε πυγμαχίῃ τε καὶ ὀρχηθμῷ καὶ ἀοιδῇ
they and you with-boxing both and dancing and song
μνησάμενοι τέρπουσιν, ὅτ᾽ ἄν στήσωνται ἀγῶνα.
remembering delight when — they-set-up contest
φαίη κ᾽ ἀθανάτους καὶ ἀγήρως ἔμμεναι αἰεί,
he-would-say — immortal and ageless to-be always
ὃς τόθ᾽ ὑπαντιάσει᾽, ὅτ᾽ Ἰάονες ἀθρόοι εἶεν·
who then should-meet-them when Ionians gathered were
πάντων γάρ κεν ἴδοιτο χάριν, τέρψαιτο δὲ θυμὸν
of-all for — he-would-see the-grace would-delight and heart
ἄνδρας τ᾽ εἰσορόων καλλιζώνους τε γυναῖκας
men both beholding well-girdled and women
νῆάς τ᾽ ὠκείας ἠδ᾽ αὐτῶν κτήματα πολλά.
ships and swift and their possessions many
πρὸς δὲ τόδε μέγα θαῦμα, ὅου κλέος οὔποτ᾽ ὀλεῖται,
besides and this great wonder whose fame never will-perish
κοῦραι Δηλιάδες, ἑκατηβελέταο θεράπναι·
maidens Delian of-the-far-shooter servants
αἵ τ᾽ ἐπεὶ ἂρ πρῶτον μὲν Ἀπόλλων᾽ ὑμνήσωσιν,
who and when — first indeed Apollo hymn
αὖτις δ᾽ αὖ Λητώ τε καὶ Ἄρτεμιν ἰοχέαιραν,
again and in-turn Leto both and Artemis arrow-pouring

μνησάμεναι ἀνδρῶν τε παλαιῶν ἠδὲ γυναικῶν
remembering of-men both ancient and women
ὕμνον ἀείδουσιν, θέλγουσι δὲ φῦλ' ἀνθρώπων.
a-hymn sing charm and the-tribes of-men
πάντων δ' ἀνθρώπων φωνὰς καὶ βαμβαλιαστὺν
of-all and men the-voices and chattering
μιμεῖσθ' ἴσασιν· φαίη δέ κεν αὐτὸς ἕκαστος
to-imitate they-know would-say and — himself each
φθέγγεσθ'· οὕτω σφιν καλὴ συνάρηρεν ἀοιδή.
to-speak so for-them fair is-fitted song
Ἀλλ' ἄγεθ' ἱλήκοι μὲν Ἀπόλλων Ἀρτέμιδι ξύν,
but come may-be-gracious indeed Apollo Artemis with
χαίρετε δ' ὑμεῖς πᾶσαι· ἐμεῖο δὲ καὶ μετόπισθεν
farewell and you all of-me and also hereafter
μνήσασθ', ὁππότε κέν τις ἐπιχθονίων ἀνθρώπων
remember whenever — any of-earthly men
ἐνθάδ' ἀνείρηται ξεῖνος ταλαπείριος ἐλθών·
here asks a-stranger much-suffering coming
ὦ κοῦραι, τίς δ' ὕμμιν ἀνὴρ ἥδιστος ἀοιδῶν
O maidens who and to-you man sweetest of-singers
ἐνθάδε πωλεῖται, καὶ τέῳ τέρπεσθε μάλιστα;
here comes and in-whom you-delight most
ὑμεῖς δ' εὖ μάλα πᾶσαι ὑποκρίνασθαι ἀφήμως·
you and well very all answer with-one-voice
τυφλὸς ἀνήρ, οἰκεῖ δὲ Χίῳ ἔνι παιπαλοέσσῃ
a-blind man he-dwells and Chios in rugged
τοῦ πᾶσαι μετόπισθεν ἀριστεύσουσιν ἀοιδαί.
of-him all hereafter will-be-best songs

ἡμεῖς δ' ὑμέτερον κλέος οἴσομεν, ὅσσον ἐπ' αἶαν
we and your fame will-carry as-far-as over earth
ἀνθρώπων στρεφόμεσθα πόλεις εὖ ναιεταώσας·
of-men we-roam cities well inhabited
οἳ δ' ἐπὶ δὴ πείσονται, ἐπεὶ καὶ ἐτήτυμόν ἐστιν.
they and thereto indeed will-believe since also true it-is
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼν οὐ λήξω ἑκηβόλον Ἀπόλλωνα
but I not will-cease far-shooting Apollo
ὑμνέων ἀργυρότοξον, ὃν ἠύκομος τέκε Λητώ.
hymning silver-bowed whom lovely-haired bore Leto

3.3 · APOLLO SEEKS A SITE FOR HIS ORACLE

Apollo goes to Pytho playing the lyre, and from there to Olympus, where the Muses sing and the gods dance. Seeking a site for his oracle, he comes down through Pieria and Euboea to Onchestus. At the spring of Telphusa he lays his foundations, but she, wanting the fame for herself, urges him to build at Crisa.

Ὦ ἄνα, καὶ Λυκίην καὶ Μηονίην ἐρατεινὴν
O lord both Lycia and Maeonia lovely
καὶ Μίλητον ἔχεις, ἔναλον πόλιν ἱμερόεσσαν,
and Miletus you-hold by-the-sea city charming
αὐτὸς δ' αὖ Δήλοιο περικλύστοιο μέγ' ἀνάσσεις.
yourself and in-turn of-Delos sea-washed greatly you-rule
Εἶσι δὲ φορμίζων Λητοῦς ἐρικυδέος υἱὸς
goes and playing-the-lyre of-Leto glorious son
φόρμιγγι γλαφυρῇ πρὸς Πυθὼ πετρήεσσαν,
on-lyre hollow to Pytho rocky

ἄμβροτα εἵματ᾽ ἔχων τεθυωμένα· τοῖο δὲ φόρμιγξ
immortal garments having perfumed of-him and the-lyre
χρυσέου ὑπὸ πλήκτρου καναχὴν ἔχει ἱμερόεσσαν.
golden under plectrum a-clang has charming
ἔνθεν δὲ πρὸς Ὄλυμπον ἀπὸ χθονός, ὥστε νόημα,
thence and to Olympus from earth like thought
εἶσι Διὸς πρὸς δῶμα θεῶν μεθ᾽ ὁμήγυριν ἄλλων.
he-goes of-Zeus to house of-the-gods to gathering other
αὐτίκα δ᾽ ἀθανάτοισι μέλει κίθαρις καὶ ἀοιδή·
at-once and to-the-immortals are-a-care lyre and song
Μοῦσαι μέν θ᾽ ἅμα πᾶσαι ἀμειβόμεναι ὀπὶ καλῇ
the-Muses indeed and together all answering with-voice fair
ὑμνεῦσίν ῥα θεῶν δῶρ᾽ ἄμβροτα ἠδ᾽ ἀνθρώπων
hymn then of-the-gods the-gifts immortal and of-men
τλημοσύνας, ὅσ᾽ ἔχοντες ὑπ᾽ ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσι
the-sufferings as-many-as having under immortal gods
ζώουσ᾽ ἀφραδέες καὶ ἀμήχανοι, οὐδὲ δύνανται
they-live witless and helpless nor can
εὑρέμεναι θανάτοιό τ᾽ ἄκος καὶ γήραος ἄλκαρ·
to-find of-death and a-cure and of-old-age a-defense
αὐτὰρ ἐυπλόκαμοι Χάριτες καὶ ἐύφρονες Ὧραι
but fair-tressed Graces and cheerful Hours
Ἁρμονίη θ᾽ Ἥβη τε Διὸς θυγάτηρ τ᾽ Ἀφροδίτη
Harmonia and Hebe and of-Zeus daughter and Aphrodite
ὀρχεῦντ᾽ ἀλλήλων ἐπὶ καρπῷ χεῖρας ἔχουσαι·
dance of-each-other on wrist hands holding
τῇσι μὲν οὔτ᾽ αἰσχρὴ μεταμέλπεται οὔτ᾽ ἐλάχεια,
among-them indeed neither ugly sings nor slight
ἀλλὰ μάλα μεγάλη τε ἰδεῖν καὶ εἶδος ἀγητή,
but very great both to-see and in-form admirable

Ἄρτεμις ἰοχέαιρα ὁμότροφος Ἀπόλλωνι.
Artemis arrow-pouring nursed-together with-Apollo

ἐν δ' αὖ τῇσιν Ἄρης καὶ ἐύσκοπος Ἀργειφόντης
among and in-turn them Ares and keen-sighted Argus-slayer

παίζουσ'· αὐτὰρ ὁ Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων ἐγκιθαρίζει
play but the Phoebus Apollo plays-the-lyre

καλὰ καὶ ὕψι βιβάς· ἄϊγλη δέ μιν ἀμφιφαείνει
finely and high stepping radiance and him shines-around

μαρμαρυγαί τε ποδῶν καὶ ἐυκλώστοιο χιτῶνος.
gleamings both of-feet and of-well-spun tunic

οἳ δ' ἐπιτέρπονται θυμὸν μέγαν εἰσορόωντες
they and delight heart great beholding

Λητώ τε χρυσοπλόκαμος καὶ μητίετα Ζεὺς
Leto both golden-haired and counselor Zeus

υἷα φίλον παίζοντα μετ' ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσι.
son dear playing among immortal gods

Πῶς τ' ἄρ σ' ὑμνήσω πάντως εὔυμνον ἐόντα;
how — then you shall-I-hymn wholly well-hymned being

ἠέ σ' ἐνὶ μνηστῆρσιν ἀείδω καὶ φιλότητι,
or you among wooers shall-I-sing and in-love

ὅππως μνωόμενος ἔκιες Ἀζαντίδα κούρην
how wooing you-went-after Azantian maiden

Ἴσχυ' ἄμ' ἀντιθέῳ Ἐλατιονίδῃ εὐίππῳ;
Ischys together-with godlike son-of-Elatus well-horsed

ἢ ἅμα Φόρβαντι Τριοπέῳ γένος, ἢ ἅμ' Ἐρευθεῖ;
or together-with Phorbas of-Triops by-race or together-with Ereutheus

ἢ ἅμα Λευκίππῳ καὶ Λευκίπποιο δάμαρτι
or together-with Leucippus and of-Leucippus the-wife

*** πεζός, ὃ δ' ἵπποισιν· οὐ μὴν Τρίοπός γ' ἐνέλειπεν.
(lacuna) on-foot he and with-horses not truly of-Triops indeed fell-short

ἢ ὡς τὸ πρῶτον χρηστήριον ἀνθρώποισι
or how the first an-oracle for-men
ζητεύων κατὰ γαῖαν ἔβης, ἑκατηβόλ' Ἄπολλον;
seeking over earth you-went far-shooting Apollo
Πιερίην μὲν πρῶτον ἀπ' Οὐλύμποιο κατῆλθες·
Pieria indeed first from Olympus you-came-down
Λέκτον τ' ἠμαθοέντα παρέστιχες ἠδ' Ἐνιῆνας
Lectus and sandy you-passed and the-Enienes
καὶ διὰ Περραιβούς· τάχα δ' εἰς Ἰαωλκὸν ἵκανες,
and through the-Perrhaebi quickly and to Iolcus you-came
Κηναίου τ' ἐπέβης ναυσικλειτῆς Εὐβοίης.
Cenaeum and you-set-foot-on of-ship-famed Euboea
στῆς δ' ἐπὶ Ληλάντῳ πεδίῳ· τό τοι οὐχ ἅδε θυμῷ
you-stood and on Lelantine plain it to-you not pleased in-heart
τεύξασθαι νηόν τε καὶ ἄλσεα δενδρήεντα.
to-make temple both and groves wooded
ἔνθεν δ' Εὔριπον διαβάς, ἑκατηβόλ' Ἄπολλον,
thence and Euripus crossing far-shooting Apollo
βῆς ἄν' ὄρος ζάθεον, χλωρόν· τάχα δ' ἵξες ἀπ' αὐτοῦ
you-went up mountain holy green quickly and you-came from it
ἐς Μυκαλησσὸν ἰὼν καὶ Τευμησσὸν λεχεποίην.
to Mycalessus going and Teumessus grassy
Θήβης δ' εἰσαφίκανες ἕδος καταειμένον ὕλῃ·
of-Thebe and you-arrived-at the-seat clothed with-forest
οὐ γάρ πώ τις ἔναιε βροτῶν ἱερῇ ἐνὶ Θήβῃ,
not for yet anyone dwelt of-mortals holy in Thebe
οὐδ' ἄρα πω τότε γ' ἦσαν ἀταρπιτοὶ οὐδὲ κέλευθοι
nor then yet then indeed were footpaths nor roads
Θήβης ἂμ πεδίον πυρηφόρον, ἀλλ' ἔχεν ὕλη.
of-Thebe over plain wheat-bearing but held forest

Ἔνθεν δὲ προτέρω ἔκιες, ἑκατηβόλ' Ἄπολλον,
thence and further you-went far-shooting Apollo
Ὀγχηστὸν δ' ἶξες, Ποσιδήιον ἀγλαὸν ἄλσος·
Onchestus and you-reached Poseidon's glorious grove
ἔνθα νεοδμὴς πῶλος ἀναπνέει ἀχθόμενός περ
there new-broken colt breathes-again vexed though
ἕλκων ἅρματα καλά· χαμαὶ δ' ἐλατὴρ ἀγαθός περ
drawing chariot fair to-the-ground and the-driver good though
ἐκ δίφροιο θορὼν ὁδὸν ἔρχεται· οἳ δὲ τέως μὲν
from car leaping road goes they and meanwhile indeed
κεἰν' ὄχεα κροτέουσι ἀνακτορίην ἀφιέντες.
empty car rattle lordship letting-go
εἰ δέ κεν ἅρματ' ἀγῇσιν ἐν ἄλσεϊ δενδρήεντι,
if but — the-chariot they-break in grove wooded
ἵππους μὲν κομέουσι, τὰ δὲ κλίναντες ἐῶσιν·
the-horses indeed they-tend them and tilting leave
ὣς γὰρ τὰ πρώτισθ' ὁσίη γένεθ'· οἳ δὲ ἄνακτι
so for the first-of-all rite became they and to-the-lord
εὔχονται, δίφρον δὲ θεοῦ τότε μοῖρα φυλάσσει.
pray the-car and of-the-god then fate keeps
Ἔνθεν δὲ προτέρω ἔκιες, ἑκατηβόλ' Ἄπολλον·
thence and further you-went far-shooting Apollo
Κηφισσὸν δ' ἄρ' ἔπειτα κιχήσαο καλλιρέεθρον,
Cephisus and then thereafter you-reached fair-flowing
ὅς τε Λιλαίηθεν προχέει καλλίρροον ὕδωρ.
which — from-Lilaea pours-forth fair-flowing water
τὸν διαβάς, Ἑκάεργε, καὶ Ὠκαλέην πολύπυργον
it crossing Far-worker and Ocalea many-towered
ἔνθεν ἄρ' εἰς Ἁλίαρτον ἀφίκεο ποιήεντα.
thence then to Haliartus you-came grassy

Βῆς δ' ἐπὶ Τελφούσης· τόθι τοι ἄδε χῶρος ἀπήμων
you-went and to Telphusa there to-you pleased place untroubled
τεύξασθαι νηόν τε καὶ ἄλσεα δενδρήεντα·
to-make temple both and groves wooded
στῆς δὲ μάλ' ἄγχ' αὐτῆς καὶ μιν πρὸς μῦθον ἔειπες·
you-stood and very near her and her to word you-spoke
Τελφοῦσ', ἐνθάδε δὴ φρονέω περικαλλέα νηὸν
Telphusa here indeed I-intend very-fair temple
ἀνθρώπων τεῦξαι χρηστήριον, οἵτε μοι αἰεὶ
of-men to-make an-oracle who for-me always
ἐνθάδ' ἀγινήσουσι τελήεσσας ἑκατόμβας,
here will-bring perfect hecatombs
ἠμὲν ὅσοι Πελοπόννησον πίειραν ἔχουσιν
both as-many-as Peloponnese rich hold
ἠδ' ὅσοι Εὐρώπην τε καὶ ἀμφιρύτας κατὰ νήσους,
and as-many-as Europe both and sea-girt throughout islands
χρησόμενοι· τοῖσιν δέ κ' ἐγὼ νημερτέα βουλὴν
consulting to-them and — I unerring counsel
πᾶσι θεμιστεύοιμι χρέων ἐνὶ πίονι νηῷ.
to-all would-give-oracles prophesying in rich temple
Ὣς εἰπὼν διέθηκε θεμείλια Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων
so speaking laid-out foundations Phoebus Apollo
εὐρέα καὶ μάλα μακρὰ διηνεκές· ἣ δὲ ἰδοῦσα
broad and very long continuous she and seeing
Τελφοῦσα κραδίην ἐχολώσατο εἶπέ τε μῦθον·
Telphusa in-heart grew-angry spoke and word

Φοῖβε ἄναξ ἑκάεργε, ἔπος τί τοι ἐν φρεσὶ θήσω.
Phoebus lord far-worker word some to-you in mind I-will-put
ἐνθάδ' ἐπεὶ φρονέεις τεῦξαι περικαλλέα νηὸν
here since you-intend to-make very-fair temple
ἔμμεναι ἀνθρώποις χρηστήριον, οἵτε τοι αἰεὶ
to-be for-men an-oracle who to-you always
ἐνθάδ' ἀγινήσουσι τελεέσσας ἑκατόμβας·
here will-bring perfect hecatombs
ἀλλ' ἔκ τοι ἐρέω, σὺ δ' ἐνὶ φρεσὶ βάλλεο σῇσι,
but out to-you I-will-speak you and in mind lay(-it) your
πημανέει σ' αἰεὶ κτύπος ἵππων ὠκειάων
will-trouble you always the-tramp of-horses swift
ἀρδόμενοί τ' οὐρῆες ἐμῶν ἱερῶν ἀπὸ πηγέων·
being-watered and mules my sacred from springs
ἔνθα τις ἀνθρώπων βουλήσεται εἰσοράασθαι
there any of-men will-wish to-look-at
ἅρματά τ' εὐποίητα καὶ ὠκυπόδων κτύπον ἵππων
chariots and well-made and of-swift-footed the-tramp of-horses
ἢ νηόν τε μέγαν καὶ κτήματα πόλλ' ἐνεόντα.
than temple both great and possessions many being-in
ἀλλ' εἰ δή τι πίθοιο, σὺ δὲ κρείσσων καὶ ἀρείων
but if indeed at-all you-would-heed you and stronger and better
ἐσσί, ἄναξ, ἐμέθεν, σεῦ δὲ σθένος ἐστὶ μέγιστον,
are lord than-me of-you and the-strength is greatest
ἐν Κρίσῃ ποίησαι ὑπὸ πτυχὶ Παρνησοῖο.
in Crisa build under fold of-Parnassus
ἔνθ' οὔθ' ἅρματα καλὰ δονήσεται οὔτε τοι ἵππων
there neither chariots fair will-be-shaken nor to-you of-horses
ὠκυπόδων κτύπος ἔσται ἐύδμητον περὶ βωμόν,
swift-footed tramp will-be well-built around altar

ἀλλά τοι ὣς προσάγοιεν Ἰηπαιήονι δῶρα
but to-you so may-bring to-Iepaeon gifts
ἀνθρώπων κλυτὰ φῦλα· σὺ δὲ φρένας ἀμφιγεγηθὼς
of-men the-glorious tribes you and in-mind rejoicing
δέξαι' ἱερὰ καλὰ περικτιόνων ἀνθρώπων.
may-you-receive offerings fair of-dwellers-around men
ὣς εἰποῦσ' Ἑκάτου πέπιθε φρένας, ὄφρα οἱ αὐτῇ
so speaking of-the-Far-shooter she-persuaded the-mind so-that to-her herself
Τελφούσῃ κλέος εἴη ἐπὶ χθονί, μηδ' Ἑκάτοιο.
to-Telphusa fame might-be on earth and-not of-the-Far-shooter

3.4 · THE TEMPLE AND THE SHE-DRAGON

Apollo comes to Crisa under Parnassus and lays the foundations of his temple; Trophonius and Agamedes set the stone threshold. Nearby he shoots the she-dragon that reared Typhaon. Hera bore Typhaon without Zeus, angry that he bore Athena alone, after praying to Earth, Heaven, and the Titans. The dragon rots under the sun, so the place is called Pytho and the god Pythian. Apollo then buries Telphusa's spring under a crag for her deceit and builds an altar where men pray to him as Telphusian.

Ἔνθεν δὲ προτέρω ἔκιες, ἑκατηβόλ' Ἄπολλον·
thence and further you-went far-shooting Apollo
ἵξες δ' ἐς Φλεγύων ἀνδρῶν πόλιν ὑβριστάων,
you-came and to of-the-Phlegyae men the-city insolent
οἳ Διὸς οὐκ ἀλέγοντες ἐπὶ χθονὶ ναιετάασκον
who of-Zeus not caring on earth dwelt
ἐν καλῇ βήσσῃ Κηφισίδος ἐγγύθι λίμνης.
in fair glen of-the-Cephisian near lake

ἔνθεν καρπαλίμως προσέβης πρὸς δειράδα θύων
thence swiftly you-went-on to the-ridge rushing
ἵκεο δ' ἐς Κρίσην ὑπὸ Παρνησὸν νιφόεντα,
you-came and to Crisa under Parnassus snowy
κνημὸν πρὸς Ζέφυρον τετραμμένον, αὐτὰρ ὕπερθεν
a-shoulder toward Zephyr turned but above
πέτρη ἐπικρέμαται, κοίλη δ' ὑποδέδρομε βῆσσα,
a-rock hangs-over hollow and runs-under a-glen
τρηχεῖ· ἔνθα ἄναξ τεκμήρατο Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων
rough there the-lord marked-out Phoebus Apollo
νηὸν ποιήσασθαι ἐπήρατον εἶπέ τε μῦθον·
temple to-make lovely spoke and word
Ἐνθάδε δὴ φρονέω τεῦξαι περικαλλέα νηὸν
here indeed I-intend to-make very-fair temple
ἔμμεναι ἀνθρώποις χρηστήριον, οἵτε μοι αἰεὶ
to-be for-men an-oracle who for-me always
ἐνθάδ' ἀγινήσουσι τελεέσσας ἑκατόμβας,
here will-bring perfect hecatombs
ἠμὲν ὅσοι Πελοπόννησον πίειραν ἔχουσιν,
both as-many-as Peloponnese rich hold
ἠδ' ὅσοι Εὐρώπην τε καὶ ἀμφιρύτας κατὰ νήσους,
and as-many-as Europe both and sea-girt throughout islands
χρησόμενοι· τοῖσιν δ' ἄρ' ἐγὼ νημερτέα βουλὴν
consulting to-them and then I unerring counsel
πᾶσι θεμιστεύοιμι χρέων ἐνὶ πίονι νηῷ.
to-all would-give-oracles prophesying in rich temple

Ὣς εἰπὼν διέθηκε θεμείλια Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων
so speaking laid-out foundations Phoebus Apollo
εὐρέα καὶ μάλα μακρὰ διηνεκές· αὐτὰρ ἐπ᾽ αὐτοῖς
broad and very long continuous but upon them
λάινον οὐδὸν ἔθηκε Τροφώνιος ἠδ᾽ Ἀγαμήδης,
stone threshold laid Trophonius and Agamedes
υἱέες Ἐργίνου, φίλοι ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσιν·
sons of-Erginus dear to-immortal gods
ἀμφὶ δὲ νηὸν ἔνασσαν ἀθέσφατα φῦλ᾽ ἀνθρώπων
around and the-temple built countless tribes of-men
ξεστοῖσιν λάεσσιν, ἀοίδιμον ἔμμεναι αἰεί.
with-dressed stones a-theme-of-song to-be always
Ἀγχοῦ δὲ κρήνη καλλίρροος, ἔνθα δράκαιναν
near and a-spring fair-flowing there the-she-dragon
κτεῖνεν ἄναξ, Διὸς υἱός, ἀπὸ κρατεροῖο βιοῖο,
killed the-lord of-Zeus son from mighty bow
ζατρεφέα, μεγάλην, τέρας ἄγριον, ἣ κακὰ πολλὰ
well-fed great a-monster savage who evils many
ἀνθρώπους ἔρδεσκεν ἐπὶ χθονί, πολλὰ μὲν αὐτούς,
to-men used-to-do on earth many indeed themselves
πολλὰ δὲ μῆλα ταναύποδ᾽, ἐπεὶ πέλε πῆμα δαφοινόν.
many and sheep long-shanked since she-was a-bane bloody
καὶ ποτε δεξαμένη χρυσοθρόνου ἔτρεφεν Ἥρης
and once having-received from-golden-throned she-reared Hera
δεινόν τ᾽ ἀργαλέον τε Τυφάονα, πῆμα βροτοῖσιν·
dread both grievous and Typhaon a-bane to-mortals
ὅν ποτ᾽ ἄρ᾽ Ἥρη ἔτικτε χολωσαμένη Διὶ πατρί,
whom once then Hera bore angered with-Zeus father

ἡνίκ᾽ ἄρα Κρονίδης ἐρικυδέα γείνατ᾽ Ἀθήνην
when then the-son-of-Cronus glorious bore Athena
ἐν κορυφῇ· ἣ δ᾽ αἶψα χολώσατο πότνια Ἥρη
in head she and quickly grew-angry queenly Hera
ἠδὲ καὶ ἀγρομένοισι μετ᾽ ἀθανάτοισιν ἔειπε·
and also to-gathered among immortals spoke
Κέκλυτέ μευ, πάντες τε θεοὶ πᾶσαί τε θέαιναι,
hear me all both gods all and goddesses
ὡς ἔμ᾽ ἀτιμάζειν ἄρχει νεφεληγερέτα Ζεὺς
how me to-dishonor begins cloud-gatherer Zeus
πρῶτος, ἐπεί μ᾽ ἄλοχον ποιήσατο κέδν᾽ εἰδυῖαν·
first since me wife he-made true-things knowing
καὶ νῦν νόσφιν ἐμεῖο τέκε γλαυκῶπιν Ἀθήνην,
and now apart-from me bore flashing-eyed Athena
ἣ πᾶσιν μακάρεσσι μεταπρέπει ἀθανάτοισιν·
who among-all blessed is-preeminent immortals
αὐτὰρ ὅ γ᾽ ἠπεδανὸς γέγονεν μετὰ πᾶσι θεοῖσι
but he indeed weakling has-been among all gods
παῖς ἐμὸς Ἥφαιστος, ῥικνὸς πόδας, ὃν τέκον αὐτή·
son my Hephaestus shriveled in-feet whom I-bore myself
[αἶσχος ἐμοὶ καὶ ὄνειδος ἐν οὐρανῷ ὅντε καὶ αὐτή]
a-shame to-me and reproach in heaven whom also myself
ῥῖψ᾽ ἀνὰ χερσὶν ἑλοῦσα καὶ ἔμβαλον εὐρέι πόντῳ·
I-threw in hands taking and cast-into broad sea
ἀλλά ἑ Νηρῆος θυγάτηρ Θέτις ἀργυρόπεζα
but him of-Nereus daughter Thetis silver-footed
δέξατο καὶ μετὰ ἦσι κασιγνήτῃσι κόμισσεν.
received and among her-own sisters cared-for
ὡς ὄφελ᾽ ἄλλο θεοῖσι χαρίζεσθαι μακάρεσσι.
would-that she-had another-thing to-the-gods done-as-favor blessed

σχέτλιε, ποικιλομῆτα, τί νῦν μητίσεαι ἄλλο;
wretch wily what now will-you-devise else
πῶς ἔτλης οἷος τεκέειν γλαυκῶπιν Ἀθήνην;
how did-you-dare alone to-bear flashing-eyed Athena
οὐκ ἂν ἐγὼ τεκόμην; καὶ σὴ κεκλημένη ἔμπης
not — I would-have-borne and yours called nevertheless
ἦα ῥ᾽ ἐν ἀθανάτοισιν, οἳ οὐρανὸν εὐρὺν ἔχουσι.
I-was then among immortals who heaven broad hold
φράζεο νῦν μή τοί τι κακὸν μητίσομ᾽ ὀπίσσω.
take-care now lest to-you some evil I-devise hereafter
καὶ νῦν μέντοι ἐγὼ τεχνήσομαι, ὥς κε γένηται
and now however I will-contrive how — may-be-born
παῖς ἐμός, ὅς κε θεοῖσι μεταπρέποι ἀθανάτοισιν,
child mine who — among-gods be-preeminent immortals
οὔτε σὸν αἰσχύνασ᾽ ἱερὸν λέχος οὔτ᾽ ἐμὸν αὐτῆς.
neither your shaming holy bed nor my own
οὐδέ τοι εἰς εὐνὴν πωλήσομαι, ἀλλ᾽ ἀπὸ σεῖο
nor to-you to bed will-I-come but from you
τηλόθ᾽ ἐοῦσα θεοῖσι μετέσσομαι ἀθανάτοισιν.
far-off being among-gods I-will-be immortals
Ὣς εἰποῦσ᾽ ἀπὸ νόσφι θεῶν κίε χωομένη κῆρ.
so speaking from apart the-gods she-went angered in-heart
αὐτίκ᾽ ἔπειτ᾽ ἠρᾶτο βοῶπις πότνια Ἥρη,
at-once thereupon prayed ox-eyed queenly Hera
χειρὶ καταπρηνεῖ δ᾽ ἔλασε χθόνα καὶ φάτο μῦθον·
with-hand downturned and she-struck earth and spoke word

Κέκλυτε νῦν μευ, Γαῖα καὶ Οὐρανὸς εὐρὺς ὕπερθεν
hear now me Earth and Heaven broad above
Τιτῆνές τε θεοί, τοὶ ὑπὸ χθονὶ ναιετάοντες
Titans and gods who under earth dwelling
Τάρταρον ἀμφὶ μέγαν, τῶν ἔξ ἄνδρες τε θεοί τε·
Tartarus around great whom from men both gods and
αὐτοὶ νῦν μευ πάντες ἀκούσατε καὶ δότε παῖδα
you-yourselves now me all hear and give a-child
νόσφι Διός, μηδέν τι βίην ἐπιδευέα κείνου·
apart-from Zeus nothing at-all in-might lacking than-him
ἀλλ' ὅ γε φέρτερος ἔστω, ὅσον Κρόνου εὐρύοπα Ζεύς.
but he indeed stronger let-be as-much-as than-Cronus far-seeing Zeus
ὣς ἄρα φωνήσασ' ἵμασε χθόνα χειρὶ παχείῃ·
so then speaking she-lashed earth with-hand stout
κινήθη δ' ἄρα Γαῖα φερέσβιος· ἣ δὲ ἰδοῦσα
was-moved and then Earth life-giving she and seeing
τέρπετο ὃν κατὰ θυμόν· ὀίετο γὰρ τελέεσθαι.
was-delighted her in heart she-thought for to-be-fulfilled
ἐκ τούτου δὴ ἔπειτα τελεσφόρον εἰς ἐνιαυτὸν
from this indeed thereafter fulfilling to year
οὔτε πότ' εἰς εὐνὴν Διὸς ἦλυθε μητιόεντος,
neither ever to bed of-Zeus she-came wise
οὔτε πότ' ἐς θῶκον πολυδαίδαλον, ὡς τὸ πάρος περ
nor ever to seat richly-wrought as the before indeed
αὐτῷ ἐφεζομένη πυκινὰς φραζέσκετο βουλάς·
upon-him sitting shrewd she-devised counsels
ἀλλ' ἥ γ' ἐν νηοῖσι πολυλλίστοισι μένουσα
but she indeed in temples much-prayed-in staying
τέρπετο οἷς ἱεροῖσι βοῶπις πότνια Ἥρη.
was-delighted in-her-own offerings ox-eyed queenly Hera

ἀλλ᾽ ὅτε δὴ μῆνές τε καὶ ἡμέραι ἐξετελεῦντο
but when indeed months both and days were-completed
ἂψ περιτελλομένου ἔτεος καὶ ἐπήλυθον ὧραι,
back as-came-round the-year and came-on the-seasons
ἣ δ᾽ ἔτεκ᾽ οὔτε θεοῖς ἐναλίγκιον οὔτε βροτοῖσι,
she and bore neither to-gods like nor to-mortals
δεινόν τ᾽ ἀργαλέον τε Τυφάονα, πῆμα βροτοῖσιν.
dread both grievous and Typhaon a-bane to-mortals
αὐτίκα τόνδε λαβοῦσα βοῶπις πότνια Ἥρη
at-once him taking ox-eyed queenly Hera
δῶκεν ἔπειτα φέρουσα κακῷ κακόν· ἣ δ᾽ ὑπέδεκτο.
gave thereupon bringing to-evil an-evil she and received
ὃς κακὰ πόλλ᾽ ἔρδεσκεν ἀγακλυτὰ φῦλ᾽ ἀνθρώπων·
who evils many used-to-do to-glorious tribes of-men
ὃς τῇ γ᾽ ἀντιάσειε, φέρεσκέ μιν αἴσιμον ἦμαρ,
who her indeed met carried-off him the-fated day
πρίν γέ οἱ ἰὸν ἐφῆκε ἄναξ ἑκάεργος Ἀπόλλων
before indeed at-her an-arrow sent the-lord far-worker Apollo
καρτερόν· ἣ δ᾽ ὀδύνῃσιν ἐρεχθομένη χαλεπῇσι
mighty she and with-pains racked grievous
κεῖτο μέγ᾽ ἀσθμαίνουσα κυλινδομένη κατὰ χῶρον.
lay greatly gasping rolling over the-place
θεσπεσίη δ᾽ ἐνοπὴ γένετ᾽ ἄσπετος· ἣ δὲ καθ᾽ ὕλην
wondrous and din arose unutterable she and through forest
πυκνὰ μάλ᾽ ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα ἑλίσσετο, λείπε δὲ θυμὸν
thickly very this-way and that-way twisted left and life
φοινὸν ἀποπνείουσ᾽· ὃ δ᾽ ἐπηύξατο Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων·
bloody breathing-out he and boasted Phoebus Apollo

Ἐνταυθοῖ νῦν πύθευ ἐπὶ χθονὶ βωτιανείρῃ·
here now rot on earth man-feeding
οὐδὲ σύ γε ζώουσα κακὸν δήλημα βροτοῖσιν
nor you indeed living an-evil bane to-mortals
ἔσσεαι, οἳ γαίης πολυφόρβου καρπὸν ἔδοντες
shall-be who of-earth much-nourishing fruit eating
ἐνθάδ' ἀγινήσουσι τελήεσσας ἑκατόμβας·
here will-bring perfect hecatombs
οὐδέ τί τοι θάνατόν γε δυσηλεγέ' οὔτε Τυφωεὺς
nor at-all for-you death indeed hard-to-escape nor Typhoeus
ἀρκέσει οὔτε Χίμαιρα δυσώνυμος, ἀλλά σέ γ' αὐτοῦ
will-ward-off nor Chimaera ill-named but you indeed here
πύσει Γαῖα μέλαινα καὶ ἠλέκτωρ Ὑπερίων.
will-rot Earth black and shining Hyperion
Ὣς φάτ' ἐπευχόμενος· τὴν δὲ σκότος ὄσσε κάλυψε.
so he-spoke boasting her and darkness eyes covered
τὴν δ' αὐτοῦ κατέπυσ' ἱερὸν μένος Ἠελίοιο,
her and there rotted holy the-might of-the-Sun
ἐξ οὗ νῦν Πυθὼ κικλήσκεται· οἳ δὲ ἄνακτα
from which now Pytho is-called they and the-lord
Πύθιον ἀγκαλέουσιν ἐπώνυμον, οὕνεκα κεῖθι
Pythian call by-name because there
αὐτοῦ πῦσε πέλωρ μένος ὀξέος Ἠελίοιο.
on-the-spot rotted the-monster the-might of-keen Sun
Καὶ τότ' ἄρ' ἔγνω ᾗσιν ἐνὶ φρεσὶ Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων,
and then then he-knew his-own in mind Phoebus Apollo
οὕνεκά μιν κρήνη καλλίρροος ἐξαπάφησε·
that him the-spring fair-flowing had-deceived

βῆ δ' ἐπὶ Τελφούσῃ κεχολωμένος, αἶψα δ' ἵκανε·
went and to Telphusa angered quickly and came
στῆ δὲ μάλ' ἄγχ' αὐτῆς καί μιν πρὸς μῦθον ἔειπε·
stood and very near her and her to word spoke
Τελφοῦσ', οὐκ ἄρ' ἔμελλες ἐμὸν νόον ἐξαπαφοῦσα
Telphusa not then were-you-to my mind deceiving
χῶρον ἔχουσ' ἐρατὸν προρέειν καλλίρροον ὕδωρ.
a-place having lovely to-pour-forth fair-flowing water
ἐνθάδε δὴ καὶ ἐμὸν κλέος ἔσσεται, οὐδὲ σὸν οἴης.
here indeed also my fame shall-be not yours alone
Ἦ καὶ ἐπὶ ῥίον ὦσε ἄναξ ἑκάεργος Ἀπόλλων
spoke and upon(-her) a-crag pushed the-lord far-worker Apollo
πετραίῃς προχυτῇσιν, ἀπέκρυψεν δὲ ῥέεθρα
rocky with-showers hid and the-streams
καὶ βωμὸν ποιήσατ' ἐν ἄλσεϊ δενδρήεντι,
and an-altar made in grove wooded
ἄγχι μάλα κρήνης καλλιρρόου· ἔνθαδ' ἄνακτι
near very the-spring fair-flowing here to-the-lord
πάντες ἐπίκλησιν Τελφουσίῳ εὐχετόωνται,
all by-surname Telphusian pray
οὕνεκα Τελφούσης ἱερῆς ᾔσχυνε ῥέεθρα.
because of-Telphusa holy he-shamed the-streams

Apollo considers whom to bring as priests and sees a Cretan ship from Cnossos sailing for Pylos. In the form of a dolphin he leaps aboard, and the terrified sailors cannot steer; the ship runs past the Peloponnese, driven by the god's wind, round into the gulf of Crisa. He leaps from the ship like a star, lights a flame in his shrine, then returns to the ship in the form of a young man and asks the sailors who they are and why they do not come ashore.

Καὶ τότε δὴ κατὰ θυμὸν ἐφράζετο Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων,
and then indeed in heart considered Phoebus Apollo
οὕστινας ἀνθρώπους ὀργείονας εἰσαγάγοιτο,
what men as-ministers he-should-bring-in
οἳ θεραπεύσονται Πυθοῖ ἔνι πετρηέσσῃ·
who will-serve Pytho in rocky
ταῦτ' ἄρα ὁρμαίνων ἐνόησ' ἐπὶ οἴνοπι πόντῳ
these-things then pondering he-noticed on wine-dark sea
νῆα θοήν· ἐν δ' ἄνδρες ἔσαν πολέες τε καὶ ἐσθλοί,
a-ship swift in and men were many both and noble
Κρῆτες ἀπὸ Κνωσοῦ Μινωίου, οἵ ῥα ἄνακτι
Cretans from Cnossos of-Minos who then for-the-lord
ἱερά τε ῥέζουσι καὶ ἀγγέλλουσι θέμιστας
offerings both perform and announce decrees
Φοίβου Ἀπόλλωνος χρυσαόρου, ὅττι κεν εἴπῃ
of-Phoebus Apollo golden-sworded whatever — he-says
χρείων ἐκ δάφνης γυάλων ὕπο Παρνησοῖο.
prophesying from the-laurel the-hollows below of-Parnassus

οἳ μὲν ἐπὶ πρῆξιν καὶ χρήματα νηὶ μελαίνῃ
they indeed for trade and goods in-ship black
ἐς Πύλον ἠμαθόεντα Πυλοιγενέας τ᾽ ἀνθρώπους
to Pylos sandy Pylos-born and men
ἔπλεον· αὐτὰρ ὃ τοῖσι συνήντετο Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων·
were-sailing but he them met Phoebus Apollo
ἐν πόντῳ δ᾽ ἐπόρουσε δέμας δελφῖνι ἐοικὼς
in sea and he-sprang in-form to-a-dolphin like
νηὶ θοῇ καὶ κεῖτο πέλωρ μέγα τε δεινόν τε·
on-ship swift and lay a-monster great both dread and
τῶν δ᾽ οὔτις κατὰ θυμὸν ἐπεφράσαθ᾽ ὥστε νοῆσαι
of-them but no-one in heart took-thought so-as to-notice
[ἐκβάλλειν δ᾽ ἔθελον δελφῖν᾽· ὁ δὲ νῆα μέλαιναν]
to-throw-out and they-wished the-dolphin he but ship black
πάντοσ᾽ ἀνασσείσασκε, τίνασσε δὲ νήια δοῦρα.
every-way kept-tossing shook and the-ship's timbers
οἳ δ᾽ ἀκέων ἐνὶ νηὶ καθήατο δειμαίνοντες·
they and silent in ship sat fearing
οὐδ᾽ οἵ γ᾽ ὅπλ᾽ ἔλυον κοίλην ἀνὰ νῆα μέλαιναν,
nor they indeed tackle loosed hollow throughout ship black
οὐδ᾽ ἔλυον λαῖφος νηὸς κυανοπρώροιο,
nor loosed the-sail of-ship dark-prowed
ἀλλ᾽ ὡς τὰ πρώτιστα κατεστήσαντο βοεῦσιν,
but as the first-of-all they-had-set with-oxhide-ropes
ὣς ἔπλεον· κραιπνὸς δὲ Νότος κατόπισθεν ἔπειγε
so they-sailed rushing and South-wind from-behind drove
νῆα θοήν· πρῶτον δὲ παρημείβοντο Μάλειαν,
ship swift first and they-passed Malea

πὰρ δὲ Λακωνίδα γαῖαν ἁλιστέφανον πτολίεθρον
past and Laconian land sea-crowned citadel
ἶξον καὶ χῶρον τερψιμβρότου Ἠελίοιο,
they-came and place of-mortal-gladdening Sun
Ταίναρον, ἔνθα τε μῆλα βαθύτριχα βόσκεται αἰεὶ
Taenarum where — sheep thick-fleeced graze always
Ἠελίοιο ἄνακτος, ἔχει δ' ἐπιτερπέα χῶρον.
of-Sun lord he-has and delightful place
οἳ μὲν ἄρ' ἔνθ' ἔθελον νῆα σχεῖν ἠδ' ἀποβάντες
they indeed then there wished ship to-put-in and disembarking
φράσσασθαι μέγα θαῦμα καὶ ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἰδέσθαι,
to-consider great wonder and with-eyes to-see
εἰ μενέει νηὸς γλαφυρῆς δαπέδοισι πέλωρον
whether will-stay of-ship hollow on-the-decks the-monster
ἢ εἰς οἶδμ' ἅλιον πολυΐχθυον αὖτις ὀρούσει.
or into swell salt full-of-fish again will-spring
ἀλλ' οὐ πηδαλίοισιν ἐπείθετο νηῦς εὐεργής,
but not the-steering-oars obeyed ship well-built
ἀλλὰ παρὲκ Πελοπόννησον πίειραν ἔχουσα
but along-past Peloponnese rich keeping
ἤϊ' ὁδόν· πνοιῇ δὲ ἄναξ ἑκάεργος Ἀπόλλων
went way with-breeze and the-lord far-worker Apollo
ῥηιδίως ἴθυν'· ἡ δὲ πρήσσουσα κέλευθον
easily steered she and accomplishing course
Ἀρήνην ἵκανε καὶ Ἀργυφέην ἐρατεινὴν
Arene reached and Argyphea lovely
καὶ Θρύον, Ἀλφειοῖο πόρον, καὶ εὐκτιτον Αἶπυ
and Thryon of-Alpheus ford and well-built Aepy
καὶ Πύλον ἠμαθόεντα Πυλοιγενέας τ' ἀνθρώπους.
and Pylos sandy Pylos-born and men

βῆ δὲ παρὰ Κρουνοὺς καὶ Χαλκίδα καὶ παρὰ Δύμην
went and past Cruni and Chalcis and past Dyme
ἠδὲ παρ' Ἤλιδα δῖαν, ὅθι κρατέουσιν Ἐπειοί.
and past Elis bright where rule the-Epeians
εὖτε Φερὰς ἐπέβαλλεν, ἀγαλλομένη Διὸς οὔρῳ,
when for-Pherae she-was-heading exulting of-Zeus in-the-wind
καί σφιν ὑπὲκ νεφέων Ἰθάκης τ' ὄρος αἰπὺ πέφαντο
and to-them from-under clouds of-Ithaca and mountain steep appeared
Δουλίχιόν τε Σάμη τε καὶ ὑλήεσσα Ζάκυνθος.
Dulichium and Same and and wooded Zacynthus
ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ Πελοπόννησον παρενίσατο πᾶσαν
but when indeed Peloponnese passed-by all
καὶ δὴ ἐπὶ Κρίσης κατεφαίνετο κόλπος ἀπείρων,
and indeed off Crisa came-in-sight gulf boundless
ὅστε διὲκ Πελοπόννησον πίειραν ἐέργει·
which through Peloponnese rich shuts-off
ἦλθ' ἄνεμος Ζέφυρος μέγας, αἴθριος, ἐκ Διὸς αἴσης,
came wind Zephyr great clear from of-Zeus dispensation
λάβρος ἐπαιγίζων ἐξ αἰθέρος, ὄφρα τάχιστα
violent rushing from air so-that most-quickly
νηῦς ἀνύσειε θέουσα θαλάσσης ἁλμυρὸν ὕδωρ.
the-ship might-finish running of-the-sea salt water
ἄψορροι δὴ ἔπειτα πρὸς ἠῶ τ' ἠέλιόν τε
back indeed thereafter toward dawn both sun and
ἔπλεον· ἡγεμόνευε δ' ἄναξ Διὸς υἱὸς Ἀπόλλων·
they-sailed led and the-lord of-Zeus son Apollo
ἶξον δ' ἐς Κρίσην εὐδείελον, ἀμπελόεσσαν,
they-came and to Crisa far-seen vine-rich
ἐς λιμέν'· ἣ δ' ἀμάθοισιν ἐχρίμψατο ποντοπόρος νηῦς.
to harbor she and on-sands grounded seafaring ship

Ἔνθ' ἐκ νηὸς ὄρουσε ἄναξ ἑκάεργος Ἀπόλλων,
there from ship leaped the-lord far-worker Apollo
ἀστέρι εἰδόμενος μέσῳ ἤματι· τοῦ δ' ἀπὸ πολλαὶ
to-a-star like at-mid day him and from many
σπινθαρίδες πωτῶντο, σέλας δ' εἰς οὐρανὸν ἷκεν·
sparks flew radiance and to heaven reached
ἐς δ' ἄδυτον κατέδυσε διὰ τριπόδων ἐριτίμων.
into and the-shrine he-entered through tripods precious
ἔνθ' ἄρ' ὅ γε φλόγα δαῖε πιφαυσκόμενος τὰ ἃ κῆλα·
there then he indeed flame kindled showing-forth the his shafts
πᾶσαν δὲ Κρίσην κάτεχεν σέλας· αἳ δ' ὀλόλυξαν
all and Crisa held the-radiance they and cried-aloud
Κρισαίων ἄλοχοι καλλίζωνοί τε θύγατρες
of-the-Crisaeans wives fair-girdled and daughters
Φοίβου ὑπὸ ῥιπῆς· μέγα γὰρ δέος ἔμβαλ' ἑκάστῳ.
of-Phoebus at rush great for fear he-cast-in in-each
ἔνθεν δ' αὖτ' ἐπὶ νῆα νόημ' ὣς ἅλτο πέτεσθαι,
thence and again to ship thought like leaped to-fly
ἀνέρι εἰδόμενος αἰζηῷ τε κρατερῷ τε,
to-a-man like young both mighty and
πρωθήβῃ, χαίτῃς εἰλυμένος εὐρέας ὤμους·
in-first-youth with-hair covered broad shoulders
καί σφεας φωνήσας ἔπεα πτερόεντα προσηύδα·
and them addressing words winged addressed

Ὦ ξεῖνοι, τίνες ἐστέ; πόθεν πλεῖθ' ὑγρὰ κέλευθα;
O strangers who are-you whence sail-you watery paths
ἦ τι κατὰ πρῆξιν ἢ μαψιδίως ἀλάλησθε
or at-all for trade or at-random do-you-wander
οἷά τε ληιστῆρες ὑπεὶρ ἅλα, τοί τ' ἀλόωνται
like — pirates over sea who — wander
ψυχὰς παρθέμενοι, κακὸν ἀλλοδαποῖσι φέροντες;
lives staking evil to-foreigners bringing
τίφθ' οὕτως ἧσθον τετιηότες, οὐδ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν
why so sit-you dejected nor on land
ἐκβῆτ', οὐδὲ καθ' ὅπλα μελαίνης νηὸς ἔθεσθε;
step-out nor down tackle of-black ship do-you-put
αὕτη μέν γε δίκη πέλει ἀνδρῶν ἀλφηστάων,
this indeed indeed the-way is of-men grain-eating
ὁππότ' ἂν ἐκ πόντοιο ποτὶ χθονὶ νηὶ μελαίνῃ
when — from sea to land with-ship black
ἔλθωσιν καμάτῳ ἀδηκότες, αὐτίκα δέ σφεας
they-come with-toil worn-out at-once and them
σίτοιο γλυκεροῖο περὶ φρένας ἵμερος αἱρεῖ.
for-food sweet around heart longing seizes

The Cretan leader says that a god brought them here against their will on their way to Pylos. Apollo reveals himself and tells them they will keep his rich temple, honored by all men. They beach the ship, build an altar on the shore, and pray to him as Delphinius, since he came to them as a dolphin. Then they follow him to Pytho singing the paean. When they ask how they will live in a barren land, he promises them the sacrifices men bring, but warns that insolence will give them other masters. The poet bids him farewell.

Ὣς φάτο καί σφιν θάρσος ἐνὶ στήθεσσιν ἔθηκε.
so he-spoke and to-them courage in breasts put
τὸν καὶ ἀμειβόμενος Κρητῶν ἀγὸς ἀντίον ηὔδα·
him and answering of-the-Cretans the-leader facing addressed
ξεῖν', ἐπεὶ οὐ μὲν γάρ τι καταθνητοῖσι ἔοικας,
stranger since not indeed for at-all to-mortals you-are-like
οὐ δέμας οὐδὲ φυήν, ἀλλ' ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσιν,
not in-form nor in-stature but to-immortal gods
οὖλέ τε καὶ μέγα χαῖρε, θεοὶ δέ τοι ὄλβια δοῖεν.
hail both and greatly rejoice the-gods and to-you blessings may-give
καί μοι τοῦτ' ἀγόρευσον ἐτήτυμον, ὄφρ' εὖ εἰδῶ·
and to-me this tell truly so-that well I-may-know
τίς δῆμος; τίς γαῖα; τίνες βροτοὶ ἐγγεγάασιν;
what people what land what mortals are-born-here
ἄλλῃ γὰρ φρονέοντες ἐπεπλέομεν μέγα λαῖτμα
elsewhere for intending we-were-sailing great gulf
ἐς Πύλον ἐκ Κρήτης, ἔνθεν γένος εὐχόμεθ' εἶναι·
to Pylos from Crete whence by-race we-claim to-be
νῦν δ' ὧδε ξὺν νηὶ κατήλθομεν οὔ τι ἑκόντες,
now but here with ship we-have-come-down not at-all willing

νόστου ἱέμενοι, ἄλλην ὁδόν, ἄλλα κέλευθα·
for-return longing another way other paths
ἀλλά τις ἀθανάτων δεῦρ' ἤγαγεν οὐκ ἐθέλοντας.
but some of-the-immortals hither led not willing
Τοὺς δ' ἀπαμειβόμενος προσέφη ἑκάεργος Ἀπόλλων·
them and answering addressed far-worker Apollo
ξεῖνοι, τοὶ Κνωσὸν πολυδένδρεον ἀμφενέμεσθε
strangers who Cnossos many-treed dwelt-around
τὸ πρίν, ἀτὰρ νῦν οὐκ ἔθ' ὑπότροποι αὖτις ἔσεσθε
the before but now not still returning back shall-you-be
ἔς τε πόλιν ἐρατὴν καὶ δώματα καλὰ ἕκαστος
to both city lovely and houses fair each
ἔς τε φίλας ἀλόχους· ἀλλ' ἐνθάδε πίονα νηὸν
to and dear wives but here rich temple
ἕξετ' ἐμὸν πολλοῖσι τετιμένον ἀνθρώποισιν.
you-shall-have my by-many honored men
εἰμὶ δ' ἐγὼ Διὸς υἱός, Ἀπόλλων δ' εὔχομαι εἶναι·
I-am and I of-Zeus son Apollo and I-declare to-be
ὑμέας δ' ἤγαγον ἐνθάδ' ὑπὲρ μέγα λαῖτμα θαλάσσης,
you and I-led here over great gulf of-the-sea
οὔ τι κακὰ φρονέων, ἀλλ' ἐνθάδε πίονα νηὸν
not at-all evil-things intending but here rich temple
ἕξετ' ἐμὸν πᾶσιν μάλα τίμιον ἀνθρώποισι,
you-shall-have my to-all very honored men
βουλάς τ' ἀθανάτων εἰδήσετε, τῶν ἰότητι
the-counsels and of-the-immortals you-shall-know by-whose will
αἰεὶ τιμήσεσθε διαμπερὲς ἤματα πάντα.
always you-shall-be-honored continually days all
ἀλλ' ἄγεθ', ὡς ἂν ἐγὼ εἴπω, πείθεσθε τάχιστα·
but come as — I say obey most-quickly

ἱστία μὲν πρῶτον κάθετον λύσαντε βοείας,
sails indeed first lower loosing the-oxhide-ropes
νῆα δ' ἔπειτα θοὴν μὲν ἐπ' ἠπείρου ἐρύσασθε,
ship and thereafter swift indeed on mainland draw-up
ἐκ δὲ κτήματ' ἔλεσθε καὶ ἔντεα νηὸς ἐίσης
out and the-goods take and gear of-ship balanced
καὶ βωμὸν ποιήσατ' ἐπὶ ῥηγμῖνι θαλάσσης·
and an-altar make on surf of-the-sea
πῦρ δ' ἐπικαίοντες ἐπί τ' ἄλφιτα λευκὰ θύοντες
fire and kindling-upon on and barley white offering
εὔχεσθαι δὴ ἔπειτα παριστάμενοι περὶ βωμόν.
pray indeed thereafter standing around altar
ὡς μὲν ἐγὼ τὸ πρῶτον ἐν ἠεροειδέι πόντῳ
as indeed I the first in misty sea
εἰδόμενος δελφῖνι θοῆς ἐπὶ νηὸς ὄρουσα,
like to-a-dolphin swift onto ship leaped
ὣς ἐμοὶ εὔχεσθαι Δελφινίῳ· αὐτὰρ ὁ βωμὸς
so to-me pray Delphinian but the altar
αὐτὸς Δελφίνιος καὶ ἐπόψιος ἔσσεται αἰεί.
itself Delphinian and overlooking shall-be always
δειπνῆσαί τ' ἄρ' ἔπειτα θοῇ παρὰ νηὶ μελαίνῃ
to-dine and then thereafter swift beside ship black
καὶ σπεῖσαι μακάρεσσι θεοῖς, οἳ Ὄλυμπον ἔχουσιν.
and to-pour-libations to-blessed gods who Olympus hold
αὐτὰρ ἐπὴν σίτοιο μελίφρονος ἐξ ἔρον ἧσθε,
but when of-food honey-sweet out desire you-have-put
ἔρχεσθαί θ' ἅμ' ἐμοὶ καὶ ἰηπαιήον' ἀείδειν,
to-come and with me and the-paean to-sing
εἰς ὅ κε χῶρον ἵκησθον, ἵν' ἕξετε πίονα νηόν.
until the-time — place you-reach where you-shall-have rich temple

Ὣς ἔφαθ᾽· οἱ δ᾽ ἄρα τοῦ μάλα μὲν κλύον ἠδ᾽ ἐπίθοντο.
so he-spoke they and then him very indeed heard and obeyed
ἱστία μὲν πρῶτον κάθεσαν, λῦσαν δὲ βοείας,
sails indeed first they-lowered loosed and the-oxhide-ropes
ἱστὸν δ᾽ ἱστοδόκῃ πέλασαν προτόνοισιν ὑφέντες·
mast and to-the-crutch brought with-forestays lowering
ἐκ δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ βαῖνον ἐπὶ ῥηγμῖνι θαλάσσης.
out and also themselves stepped on surf of-the-sea
ἐκ δ᾽ ἁλὸς ἤπειρόνδε θοὴν ἀνὰ νῆ᾽ ἐρύσαντο
out and from-sea landward swift up ship drew
ὑψοῦ ἐπὶ ψαμάθοις, ὑπὸ δ᾽ ἔρματα μακρὰ τάνυσσαν·
high on sands under and props long stretched
καὶ βωμὸν ποίησαν ἐπὶ ῥηγμῖνι θαλάσσης·
and an-altar made on surf of-the-sea
πῦρ δ᾽ ἐπικαίοντες ἐπί τ᾽ ἄλφιτα λευκὰ θύοντες
fire and kindling-upon on and barley white offering
εὔχονθ᾽, ὡς ἐκέλευε, παριστάμενοι περὶ βωμόν.
prayed as he-bade standing around altar
δόρπον ἔπειθ᾽ εἵλοντο θοῇ παρὰ νηὶ μελαίνῃ
supper thereafter took swift beside ship black
καὶ σπείσαν μακάρεσσι θεοῖς, οἳ Ὄλυμπον ἔχουσιν.
and poured-libations to-blessed gods who Olympus hold
αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ πόσιος καὶ ἐδητύος ἐξ ἔρον ἔντο,
but when of-drink and food out desire they-had-put
βάν ῥ᾽ ἴμεν· ἦρχε δ᾽ ἄρα σφιν ἄναξ Διὸς υἱὸς Ἀπόλλων,
went then to-go led and then them the-lord of-Zeus son Apollo
φόρμιγγ᾽ ἐν χείρεσσιν ἔχων, ἐρατὸν κιθαρίζων,
lyre in hands having lovely playing

καλὰ καὶ ὕψι βιβάς· οἳ δὲ ῥήσσοντες ἕποντο
fairly and high stepping they and stamping followed
Κρῆτες πρὸς Πυθὼ καὶ ἰηπαιήον' ἄειδον,
Cretans to Pytho and the-paean sang
οἷοί τε Κρητῶν παιήονες, οἵσί τε Μοῦσα
such-as — of-Cretans paeans in-whom — the-Muse
ἐν στήθεσσιν ἔθηκε θεὰ μελίγηρυν ἀοιδήν.
in breasts has-put goddess honey-voiced song
ἄκμητοι δὲ λόφον προσέβαν ποσίν, αἶψα δ' ἵκοντο
unwearied and the-ridge approached on-foot quickly and they-came
Παρνησὸν καὶ χῶρον ἐπήρατον, ἔνθ' ἄρ' ἔμελλον
Parnassus and place lovely where then they-were-to
οἰκήσειν πολλοῖσι τετιμένοι ἀνθρώποισι·
dwell by-many honored men
δεῖξε δ' ἄγων ἄδυτον ζάθεον καὶ πίονα νηόν.
showed and leading the-shrine holy and rich temple
Τῶν δ' ὠρίνετο θυμὸς ἐνὶ στήθεσσι φίλοισι·
of-them and was-stirred heart in breast dear
τὸν καὶ ἀνειρόμενος Κρητῶν ἀγὸς ἀντίον ηὔδα·
him and asking of-the-Cretans the-leader facing addressed
Ὦ ἄνα, εἰ δὴ τῆλε φίλων καὶ πατρίδος αἴης
O lord if indeed far from-friends and native land
ἤγαγες· οὕτω που τῷ σῷ φίλον ἔπλετο θυμῷ·
you-have-led so surely to-the your dear it-was heart
πῶς καὶ νῦν βιόμεσθα; τό σε φράζεσθαι ἄνωγμεν.
how and now shall-we-live that you to-consider we-bid
οὔτε τρυγηφόρος ἥδε γ' ἐπήρατος οὔτ' εὐλείμων,
neither vine-bearing this indeed lovely nor rich-in-meadows
ὥστ' ἀπό τ' εὖ ζώειν καὶ ἅμ' ἀνθρώποισιν ὀπάζειν.
so-as from(-it) both well to-live and with men to-provide

Τοὺς δ᾽ ἐπιμειδήσας προσέφη Διὸς υἱὸς Ἀπόλλων·
them and smiling-upon addressed of-Zeus son Apollo
Νήπιοι ἄνθρωποι, δυστλήμονες, οἳ μελεδῶνας
foolish men wretched who cares
βούλεσθ᾽ ἀργαλέους τε πόνους καὶ στείνεα θυμῷ·
wish grievous both toils and straits in-heart
ῥηίδιον ἔπος ὔμμ᾽ ἐρέω καὶ ἐπὶ φρεσὶ θήσω,
easy word to-you I-will-say and in mind will-put
δεξιτερῇ μάλ᾽ ἕκαστος ἔχων ἐν χειρὶ μάχαιραν, 535
in-right very each having in hand a-knife
σφάζειν αἰεὶ μῆλα· τὰ δ᾽ ἄφθονα πάντα παρέσται,
slaughter always sheep they and abundant all will-be-at-hand
ὅσσα τ᾽ ἐμοί κ᾽ ἀγάγωσι περικλυτὰ φῦλ᾽ ἀνθρώπων·
as-many-as and to-me — bring the-glorious tribes of-men
νηὸν δὲ προφύλαχθε, δέδεχθε δὲ φῦλ᾽ ἀνθρώπων
the-temple and guard receive and the-tribes of-men
ἐνθάδ᾽ ἀγειρομένων καὶ ἐμὴν ἰθύν τε μάλιστα.
here gathering and my will both most
[δείκνυσθε θνητοῖσι· σὺ δὲ φρεσὶ δέξο θέμιστα.
show to-mortals you and in-mind receive the-law
εἰ δέ τις ἀφραδίῃς οὐ πείσεται, ἀλλ᾽ ἀλογήσει]
if but any by-follies not will-obey but will-disregard
ἠέ τι τηΰσιον ἔπος ἔσσεται ἠέ τι ἔργον 540
or any idle word shall-be or any deed
ὕβρις θ᾽, ἣ θέμις ἐστὶ καταθνητῶν ἀνθρώπων,
outrage and as custom is of-mortal men
ἄλλοι ἔπειθ᾽ ὑμῖν σημάντορες ἄνδρες ἔσονται,
other thereafter over-you commanders men shall-be

τῶν ὑπ᾽ ἀναγκαίῃ δεδμήσεσθ᾽ ἤματα πάντα.
by-whom under necessity you-shall-be-subdued days all
εἴρηταί τοι πάντα· σὺ δὲ φρεσὶ σῇσι φύλαξαι.
has-been-said to-you all you and in-mind your guard(-it)
Καὶ σὺ μὲν οὕτω χαῖρε, Διὸς καὶ Λητοῦς υἱέ·
and you indeed so farewell of-Zeus and of-Leto son
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ καὶ σεῖο καὶ ἄλλης μνήσομ᾽ ἀοιδῆς.
but I both of-you and of-another will-remember song

TO HERMES

Εἰς Ἑρμῆν

4.1 · THE BIRTH OF HERMES AND THE LYRE

Maia bears Zeus the wily Hermes, who is born at dawn, plays the lyre at midday, and steals Apollo's cattle in the evening. Leaving his cradle, he finds a tortoise at the cave's door and greets it as a lucky find. He scoops out its flesh, fits the shell with reeds, an oxhide, arms, a crossbar, and seven strings, and sings to it of Zeus and Maia. Then, craving meat, he goes to Pieria by night, cuts off fifty of the gods' cattle, and drives them backward, wearing sandals of twigs to hide his tracks.

Ἑρμῆν ὕμνει, Μοῦσα, Διὸς καὶ Μαιάδος υἱόν,
Hermes hymn Muse of-Zeus and of-Maia son
Κυλλήνης μεδέοντα καὶ Ἀρκαδίης πολυμήλου,
of-Cyllene ruling and of-Arcadia rich-in-flocks
ἄγγελον ἀθανάτων ἐριούνιον, ὃν τέκε Μαῖα,
messenger of-the-immortals luck-bringing whom bore Maia
νύμφη ἐυπλόκαμος, Διὸς ἐν φιλότητι μιγεῖσα,
nymph fair-tressed of-Zeus in love mingled
αἰδοίη· μακάρων δὲ θεῶν ἠλεύατ᾽ ὅμιλον,
modest of-the-blessed and gods she-shunned the-throng

ἄντρον ἔσω ναίουσα παλίσκιον, ἔνθα Κρονίων
cave within dwelling deep-shaded where the-son-of-Cronus
νύμφῃ ἐυπλοκάμῳ μισγέσκετο νυκτὸς ἀμολγῷ,
with-the-nymph fair-tressed used-to-lie of-night in-the-depth
ὄφρα κατὰ γλυκὺς ὕπνος ἔχοι λευκώλενον Ἥρην,
while down sweet sleep held white-armed Hera
λήθων ἀθανάτους τε θεοὺς θνητούς τ' ἀνθρώπους.
escaping immortal both gods mortal and men
ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ μεγάλοιο Διὸς νόος ἐξετελεῖτο,
but when indeed of-great Zeus the-mind was-fulfilled
τῇ δ' ἤδη δέκατος μὶς οὐρανῷ ἐστήρικτο,
for-her and now tenth month in-heaven was-fixed
εἴς τε φόως ἄγαγεν ἀρίσημά τε ἔργα τέτυκτο·
into both light she-brought notable and deeds were-done
καὶ τότ' ἐγείνατο παῖδα πολύτροπον, αἱμυλομήτην,
and then she-bore a-son of-many-turns wily
ληιστῆρ', ἐλατῆρα βοῶν, ἠγήτορ' ὀνείρων,
a-robber a-driver of-cattle a-bringer of-dreams
νυκτὸς ὀπωπητῆρα, πυληδόκον, ὃς τάχ' ἔμελλεν
of-night a-watcher a-gate-lurker who soon was-to
ἀμφανέειν κλυτὰ ἔργα μετ' ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσιν.
show-forth glorious deeds among immortal gods
ἠῷος γεγονὼς μέσῳ ἤματι ἐγκιθάριζεν,
at-dawn born at-mid day he-played-the-lyre
ἑσπέριος βοῦς κλέψεν ἑκηβόλου Ἀπόλλωνος
in-the-evening cattle he-stole of-far-shooting Apollo
τετράδι τῇ προτέρῃ, τῇ μιν τέκε πότνια Μαῖα.
on-fourth the former on-which him bore queenly Maia
ὃς καί, ἐπειδὴ μητρὸς ἀπ' ἀθανάτων θόρε γυίων,
who also when of-mother from immortal leaped limbs

οὐκέτι δηρὸν ἔκειτο μένων ἱερῷ ἐνὶ λίκνῳ,
no-longer long lay waiting holy in cradle
ἀλλ᾽ ὅ γ᾽ ἀναΐξας ζήτει βόας Ἀπόλλωνος
but he indeed springing-up sought the-cattle of-Apollo
οὐδὸν ὑπερβαίνων ὑψηρεφέος ἄντροιο.
threshold stepping-over of-high-roofed cave
ἔνθα χέλυν εὑρὼν ἐκτήσατο μυρίον ὄλβον·
there a-tortoise finding he-won boundless wealth
Ἑρμῆς τοι πρώτιστα χέλυν τεκτήνατ᾽ ἀοιδόν·
Hermes you-know first a-tortoise made a-singer
ἥ ῥά οἱ ἀντεβόλησεν ἐπ᾽ αὐλείῃσι θύρῃσι
which then him met at courtyard doors
βοσκομένη προπάροιθε δόμων ἐριθηλέα ποίην,
grazing before the-house rich grass
σαῦλα ποσὶν βαίνουσα· Διὸς δ᾽ ἐριούνιος υἱὸς
waddling with-feet going of-Zeus and luck-bringing son
ἀθρήσας ἐγέλασσε καὶ αὐτίκα μῦθον ἔειπε·
seeing laughed and at-once word spoke
Σύμβολον ἤδη μοι μέγ᾽ ὀνήσιμον· οὐκ ὀνοτάζω.
a-sign already to-me great useful not I-scorn-it
χαῖρε, φυὴν ἐρόεσσα, χοροιτύπε, δαιτὸς ἑταίρη,
hail in-form lovely dance-beating of-feast companion
ἀσπασίη προφανεῖσα· πόθεν τόδε καλὸν ἄθυρμα
welcome appearing whence this fair toy
αἰόλον ὄστρακον ἔσσο χέλυς ὄρεσι ζώουσα;
a-glittering shell you-wear a-tortoise in-mountains living
ἀλλ᾽ οἴσω σ᾽ ἐς δῶμα λαβών· ὄφελός τι μοι ἔσσῃ,
but I-will-carry you to house taking a-help some to-me you-will-be

οὐδ᾽ ἀποτιμήσω· σὺ δέ με πρώτιστον ὀνήσεις
nor will-I-slight-you you and me first will-profit
οἴκοι βέλτερον εἶναι, ἐπεὶ βλαβερὸν τὸ θύρηφιν·
at-home better to-be since harmful the at-the-door
ἦ γὰρ ἐπηλυσίης πολυπήμονος ἔσσεαι ἔχμα
truly for of-witchcraft much-harming you-will-be a-guard
ζώουσ᾽· ἢν δὲ θάνῃς, τότε κεν μάλα καλὸν ἀείδοις.
living if but you-die then — very fairly you-would-sing
Ὣς ἄρ᾽ ἔφη· καὶ χερσὶν ἅμ᾽ ἀμφοτέρῃσιν ἀείρας
so then he-spoke and in-hands together both lifting
ἂψ εἴσω κίε δῶμα φέρων ἐρατεινὸν ἄθυρμα.
back inside went house carrying lovely toy
ἔνθ᾽ ἀναπηρώσας γλυφάνῳ πολιοῖο σιδήρου
there maiming with-a-scoop of-gray iron
αἰῶν᾽ ἐξετόρησεν ὀρεσκῴοιο χελώνης.
the-life he-bored-out of-mountain-dwelling tortoise
ὡς δ᾽ ὁπότ᾽ ὠκὺ νόημα διὰ στέρνοιο περήσῃ
as and when a-swift thought through breast passes
ἀνέρος, ὅν τε θαμειαὶ ἐπιστρωφῶσι μέριμναι,
of-a-man whom — thick haunt cares
ἢ ὅτε δινηθῶσιν ἀπ᾽ ὀφθαλμῶν ἀμαρυγαί,
or when are-whirled from eyes glances
ὣς ἅμ᾽ ἔπος τε καὶ ἔργον ἐμήδετο κύδιμος Ἑρμῆς.
so together word both and deed planned glorious Hermes
πῆξε δ᾽ ἄρ᾽ ἐν μέτροισι ταμὼν δόνακας καλάμοιο
fixed and then in measures cutting stalks of-reed
πειρήνας διὰ νῶτα διὰ ῥινοῖο χελώνης.
fastening through the-back through the-shell of-the-tortoise

ἀμφὶ δὲ δέρμα τάνυσσε βοὸς πραπίδεσσιν ἑῇσι
around and hide stretched of-ox by-wits his-own
καὶ πήχεις ἐνέθηκ', ἐπὶ δὲ ζυγὸν ἤραρεν ἀμφοῖν,
and arms put-in on and a-crossbar fitted to-both
ἑπτὰ δὲ θηλυτέρων ὀίων ἐτανύσσατο χορδάς.
seven and of-female sheep stretched strings
αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ δὴ τεῦξε, φέρων, ἐρατεινὸν ἄθυρμα,
but when indeed he-made-it carrying lovely toy
πλήκτρῳ ἐπειρήτιζε κατὰ μέρος· ἣ δ' ὑπὸ χειρὸς
with-plectrum he-tested in turn it and under hand
σμερδαλέον κονάβησε· θεὸς δ' ὑπὸ καλὸν ἄειδεν
dreadfully rang the-god and to-it fairly sang
ἐξ αὐτοσχεδίης πειρώμενος, ἠύτε κοῦροι
from improvisation trying as youths
ἠβηταὶ θαλίῃσι παραιβόλα κερτομέουσιν,
young at-feasts sidelong taunt
ἀμφὶ Δία Κρονίδην καὶ Μαιάδα καλλιπέδιλον,
about Zeus son-of-Cronus and Maia fair-sandaled
ὡς πάρος ὡρίζεσκον ἑταιρείῃ φιλότητι,
how before they-used-to-converse in-companionable love
ἦν τ' αὐτοῦ γενεὴν ὀνομακλυτὸν ἐξονομάζων·
his and own birth famous naming
ἀμφιπόλους τε γέραιρε καὶ ἀγλαὰ δώματα νύμφης
handmaids both he-honored and glorious house of-the-nymph
καὶ τρίποδας κατὰ οἶκον ἐπηετανούς τε λέβητας.
and tripods throughout house abundant and cauldrons

Καὶ τὰ μὲν οὖν ἤειδε, τὰ δὲ φρεσὶν ἄλλα μενοίνα.
and these indeed then he-sang those but in-mind other-things he-yearned
καὶ τὴν μὲν κατέθηκε φέρων ἱερῷ ἐνὶ λίκνῳ,
and it indeed laid-down carrying holy in cradle

φόρμιγγα γλαφυρήν· ὃ δ' ἄρα κρειῶν ἐρατίζων
lyre hollow he and then for-meat longing
ἆλτο κατὰ σκοπιὴν εὐώδεος ἐκ μεγάροιο
leaped to lookout fragrant from hall
ὁρμαίνων δόλον αἰπὺν ἐνὶ φρεσίν, οἷά τε φῶτες
pondering trick sheer in mind such-as — men
φηληταὶ διέπουσι μελαίνης νυκτὸς ἐν ὥρῃ.
thieves pursue of-black night in hour
Ἠέλιος μὲν ἔδυνε κατὰ χθονὸς Ὠκεανόνδε
sun indeed sank under earth to-Ocean
αὐτοῖσίν θ' ἵπποισι καὶ ἅρμασιν· αὐτὰρ ἄρ' Ἑρμῆς
with-their-very and horses and chariot but then Hermes
Πιερίης ἀφίκανε θέων ὄρεα σκιόεντα,
of-Pieria reached running mountains shadowy
ἔνθα θεῶν μακάρων βόες ἄμβροτοι αὐλιν ἔχεσκον
where of-the-gods blessed cattle immortal stalls had
βοσκόμεναι λειμῶνας ἀκηρασίους, ἐρατεινούς.
grazing meadows unmown lovely
τῶν τότε Μαιάδος υἱός, εὐσκοπος Ἀργειφόντης,
of-them then of-Maia son keen-sighted Argus-slayer
πεντήκοντ' ἀγέλης ἀπετάμνετο βοῦς ἐριμύκους.
fifty from-the-herd cut-off cattle loud-lowing
πλανοδίας δ' ἤλαυνε διὰ ψαμαθώδεα χῶρον
wandering and drove through sandy place
ἴχνι' ἀποστρέψας· δολίης δ' οὐ λήθετο τέχνης
tracks turning-back crafty and not forgot art
ἀντία ποιήσας ὁπλάς, τὰς πρόσθεν ὄπισθεν,
reversed making the-hooves the front behind
τὰς δ' ὄπιθεν πρόσθεν· κατὰ δ' ἔμπαλιν αὐτὸς ἔβαινε.
the and behind front down and backward himself walked

σάνδαλα δ' αὐτίκα ῥιψὶν ἐπὶ ψαμάθοις ἁλίῃσιν,
sandals and at-once with-wicker-work on sands of-the-sea
ἄφραστ' ἠδ' ἀνόητα διέπλεκε, θαυματὰ ἔργα,
unspeakable and unimaginable he-wove marvelous works
συμμίσγων μυρίκας καὶ μυρσινοειδέας ὄζους.
mingling tamarisk and myrtle-like twigs
τῶν τότε συνδήσας νεοθηλέος ἄγκαλον ὕλης
of-them then binding-together of-new-sprung an-armful of-wood
ἀβλαβέως ὑπὸ ποσσὶν ἐδήσατο σάνδαλα κοῦφα
safely under feet he-bound sandals light
αὐτοῖσιν πετάλοισι τὰ κύδιμος Ἀργειφόντης
with-their-very leaves which glorious Argus-slayer
ἔσπασε Πιερίηθεν ὁδοιπορίην ἀλεγύνων,
plucked from-Pieria the-journey troubling-over
οἷά τ' ἐπειγόμενος δολιχὴν ὁδόν, αὐτοτροπήσας.†
like — hastening long road self-turning

4.2 · THE SACRIFICE AT THE ALPHEUS

An old man in his vineyard at Onchestus sees him, and Hermes bids him see nothing. At the Alpheus Hermes pens the cattle, invents fire-sticks, and kills two cows, but does not eat. He slips back into the cave through the keyhole like a mist. Maia scolds him, and he answers that he will share Apollo's honor or be prince of thieves.

Τὸν δὲ γέρων ἐνόησε δέμων ἀνθοῦσαν ἀλωὴν
him and an-old-man noticed building flowering vineyard
ἱέμενον πεδίονδε δι' Ὀγχηστὸν λεχεποίην
hastening plainward through Onchestus grassy
τὸν πρότερος προσέφη Μαίης ἐρικυδέος υἱός·
him first addressed of-Maia glorious son

Ὦ γέρον, ὅστε φυτὰ σκάπτεις ἐπικαμπύλος ὤμους,
O old-man who plants dig bowed in-shoulders
ἦ πολυοινήσεις, εὖτ' ἂν τάδε πάντα φέρῃσι,
truly you-will-have-much-wine when — these all bear
[εἴ κε πίθῃ, μάλα περ μεμνημένος ἐν φρεσὶ σῇσι]
if — you-obey very indeed remembering in mind your
καί τε ἰδὼν μὴ ἰδὼν εἶναι καὶ κωφὸς ἀκούσας,
and — seeing not seeing be and deaf hearing
καὶ σιγᾶν ὅτε μή τι καταβλάπτῃ τὸ σὸν αὐτοῦ.
and be-silent when not at-all it-harm the your own
Τόσσον φὰς συνέσευε βοῶν ἴφθιμα κάρηνα.
so-much saying he-drove-together of-the-cattle the-mighty heads
πολλὰ δ' ὄρη σκιόεντα καὶ αὐλῶνας κελαδεινοὺς
many and mountains shadowy and gullies echoing
καὶ πεδί' ἀνθεμόεντα διήλασε κύδιμος Ἑρμῆς.
and plains flowery drove-through glorious Hermes
ὀρφναίη δ' ἐπίκουρος ἐπαύετο δαιμονίη νύξ,
dark and helper was-ending divine night
ἡ πλείων, τάχα δ' ὄρθρος ἐγίγνετο δημιοεργός·
the greater-part quickly and dawn was-coming work-rousing
ἣ δὲ νέον σκοπιὴν προσεβήσατο δῖα Σελήνη,
she and newly lookout climbed bright Selene
Πάλλαντος θυγάτηρ Μεγαμηδείδαο ἄνακτος.
of-Pallas daughter of-the-son-of-Megamedes lord
τῆμος ἐπ' Ἀλφειὸν ποταμὸν Διὸς ἄλκιμος υἱὸς
then to Alpheus river of-Zeus valiant son
Φοίβου Ἀπόλλωνος βοῦς ἤλασεν εὐρυμετώπους.
of-Phoebus Apollo cattle drove broad-browed

ἀκμῆτες δ' ἵκανον ἐπ' αὔλιον ὑψιμέλαθρον
unwearied and they-came to stall high-roofed
καὶ ληνοὺς προπάροιθεν ἀριπρεπέος λειμῶνος.
and troughs before splendid meadow
ἔνθ' ἐπεὶ εὖ βοτάνης ἐπεφόρβει βοῦς ἐρυμύκους
there when well with-fodder he-had-fed the-cattle loud-lowing
καὶ τὰς μὲν συνέλασσεν ἐς αὔλιον ἀθρόας οὔσας,
and them indeed drove-together into stall in-a-throng being
λωτὸν ἐρεπτομένας ἠδ' ἑρσήεντα κύπειρον·
lotus munching and dewy galingale
σὺν δ' ἐφόρει ξύλα πολλά, πυρὸς δ' ἐπεμαίετο τέχνην.
together and he-carried wood much of-fire and sought the-art
δάφνης ἀγλαὸν ὄζον ἑλὼν ἀπέλεψε σιδήρῳ
of-laurel a-glorious shoot taking peeled with-iron
*** ἄρμενον ἐν παλάμῃ· ἄμπνυτο δὲ θερμὸς ἀυτμή·
(lacuna) fitted in palm breathed-up and hot blast
Ἑρμῆς τοι πρώτιστα πυρήια πῦρ τ' ἀνέδωκε.
Hermes you-know first fire-sticks fire and gave
πολλὰ δὲ κάγκανα κᾶλα κατουδαίῳ ἐνὶ βόθρῳ
many and dry sticks sunken in pit
οὖλα λαβὼν ἐπέθηκεν ἐπηετανά· λάμπετο δὲ φλὸξ
thick taking he-piled-on abundant shone and the-flame
τηλόσε φῦσαν ἰεῖσα πυρὸς μέγα δαιομένοιο.
far blast sending of-fire greatly burning
Ὄφρα δὲ πῦρ ἀνέκαιε βίῃ κλυτοῦ Ἡφαίστοιο,
while and the-fire kindled the-might of-famous Hephaestus
τόφρα δ' ὑποβρύχους ἕλικας βοῦς εἵλκε θύραζε
meanwhile and bellowing crooked-horned cows he-dragged out-of-doors
δοιὰς ἄγχι πυρός· δύναμις δέ οἱ ἕσπετο πολλή.
two near the-fire strength and him followed much

ἀμφοτέρας δ' ἐπὶ νῶτα χαμαὶ βάλε φυσιοώσας·
both and on backs to-the-ground threw panting
ἀγκλίνων δ' ἐκύλινδε δι' αἰῶνας τετορήσας.
bending-over and he-rolled through spines having-pierced
ἔργῳ δ' ἔργον ὄπαζε ταμὼν κρέα πίονα δημῷ·
to-work and work added cutting meats rich with-fat
ὤπτα δ' ἀμφ' ὀβελοῖσι πεπαρμένα δουρατέοισι
roasted and on spits pierced wooden
σάρκας ὁμοῦ καὶ νῶτα γεράσμια καὶ μέλαν αἷμα
flesh together and chines of-honor and black blood
ἐργμένον ἐν χολάδεσσι· τὰ δ' αὐτοῦ κεῖτ' ἐπὶ χώρης·
shut in guts they and there lay on the-place
ῥινοὺς δ' ἐξετάνυσσε καταστυφέλῳ ἐνὶ πέτρῃ,
the-hides and he-stretched-out rugged on rock
ὡς ἔτι νῦν τὰ μέτασσα πολυχρόνιοι πεφύασι,
as still now the afterward long-lasting are
δηρὸν δὴ μετὰ ταῦτα καὶ ἄκριτον· αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα
long indeed after these and endless but thereafter
Ἑρμῆς χαρμόφρων εἰρύσατο πίονα ἔργα
Hermes glad-hearted dragged rich works
λείῳ ἐπὶ πλαταμῶνι καὶ ἔσχισε δώδεκα μοίρας
smooth onto slab and split-into twelve portions
κληροπαλεῖς· τέλεον δὲ γέρας προσέθηκεν ἑκάστῃ.
allotted perfect and honor added to-each
ἔνθ' ὁσίης κρεάων ἠράσσατο κύδιμος Ἑρμῆς·
then of-the-hallowed meats longed glorious Hermes
ὀδμὴ γάρ μιν ἔτειρε καὶ ἀθάνατόν περ ἐόντα
the-smell for him wore-down even immortal though being
ἡδεῖ· ἀλλ' οὐδ' ὣς οἱ ἐπείθετο θυμὸς ἀγήνωρ,
sweet but not-even so him obeyed heart proud

καί τε μάλ' ἱμείροντι, περῆν† ἱερῆς κατὰ δειρῆς.
and — very longing to-pass holy down throat
ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν κατέθηκεν ἐς αὔλιον ὑψιμέλαθρον,
but them indeed he-put-away into stall high-roofed
δημὸν καὶ κρέα πολλά, μετήορα δ' αἶψ' ἀνάειρε,
fat and meats many aloft and quickly raised
σῆμα νέης φωρῆς· ἐπὶ δὲ ξύλα κάγκαν' ἀγείρας
a-token of-new theft on and sticks dry gathering
οὐλόποδ', οὐλοκάρηνα πυρὸς κατεδάμνατ' ἀυτμῇ.
whole-hoofs whole-heads of-fire subdued with-the-blast
Αὐτὰρ ἐπεί τοι πάντα κατὰ χρέος ἤνυσε δαίμων,
but when you-know all according-to need finished the-god
σάνδαλα μὲν προέηκεν ἐς Ἀλφειὸν βαθυδίνην·
sandals indeed threw-forth into Alpheus deep-eddying
ἀνθρακιὴν δ' ἐμάρανε, κόνιν δ' ἀμάθυνε μέλαιναν
embers and quenched dust and leveled black
παννύχιος· καλὸν δὲ φόως κατέλαμπε Σελήνης.
all-night fair and light shone-down of-Selene
Κυλλήνης δ' αἶψ' αὖτις ἀφίκετο δῖα κάρηνα
of-Cyllene and quickly again reached bright the-heads
ὄρθριος, οὐδέ τί οἱ δολιχῆς ὁδοῦ ἀντεβόλησεν
at-dawn nor at-all him of-long journey met
οὔτε θεῶν μακάρων οὔτε θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων,
neither of-gods blessed nor of-mortal men
οὐδὲ κύνες λελάκοντο· Διὸς δ' ἐριούνιος Ἑρμῆς
nor dogs barked of-Zeus and luck-bringing Hermes
δοχμωθεὶς μεγάροιο διὰ κλήιθρον ἔδυνεν
turning-sideways of-the-hall through keyhole slipped
αὔρῃ ὀπωρινῇ ἐναλίγκιος, ἠύτ' ὀμίχλη.
to-breeze autumn like as mist

ἰθύσας δ᾽ ἄντρου ἐξίκετο πίονα νηὸν
going-straight and of-the-cave reached rich chamber
ᾗκα ποσὶ προβιβῶν· οὐ γὰρ κτύπεν, ὥσπερ ἐπ᾽ οὔδει.
softly with-feet stepping not for he-thudded as on floor
ἐσσυμένως δ᾽ ἄρα λίκνον ἐπῴχετο κύδιμος Ἑρμῆς·
eagerly and then cradle went-to glorious Hermes
σπάργανον ἀμφ᾽ ὤμοις εἰλυμένος, ἠύτε τέκνον
swaddling-band around shoulders wrapped like a-child
νήπιον, ἐν παλάμῃσι περ᾽ ἰγνύσι λαῖφος ἀθύρων
infant in palms around knees cloth playing
κεῖτο, χέλυν ἐρατὴν ἐπ᾽ ἀριστερὰ χειρὸς ἐέργων.
lay tortoise lovely at left of-hand keeping
Μητέρα δ᾽ οὐκ ἄρ᾽ ἔληθε θεὰν θεὸς εἰπέ τε μῦθον·
mother but not then he-escaped goddess god spoke and word
τίπτε σύ, ποικιλομῆτα, πόθεν τόδε νυκτὸς ἐν ὥρῃ
why you of-subtle-counsel whence this of-night in hour
ἔρχῃ, ἀναιδείην ἐπιειμένε; νῦν σε μάλ᾽ οἴω
come-you with-shamelessness clothed now you very I-think
ἢ τάχ᾽ ἀμήχανα δεσμὰ περὶ πλευρῇσιν ἔχοντα
either soon helpless bonds around ribs having
Λητοίδου ὑπὸ χερσὶ διὲκ προθύροιο περήσειν
of-the-son-of-Leto under hands through porch will-pass
ἢ σὲ φέροντα μεταξὺ κατ᾽ ἄγκεα φηλητεύσειν.
or you carrying meanwhile throughout glens will-rob
ἔρρε πάλιν· μεγάλην σε πατὴρ ἐφύτευσε μέριμναν
go back a-great you father begot care
θνητοῖς ἀνθρώποισι καὶ ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσι.
for-mortal men and immortal gods

Τὴν δ' Ἑρμῆς μύθοισιν ἀμείβετο κερδαλέοισι·
her and Hermes with-words answered crafty
μῆτερ ἐμή, τί με ταῦτα δεδίσκεαι, ἠύτε τέκνον
mother my why me these-things try-to-frighten like a-child
νήπιον, ὃς μάλα παῦρα μετὰ φρεσὶν αἴσυλα οἶδε,
infant who very few in mind tricks knows
ταρβαλέον, καὶ μητρὸς ὑπαιδείδοικεν ἐνιπάς;
fearful and of-mother cowers-at the-rebukes
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ τέχνης ἐπιβήσομαι, ἥ τις ἀρίστη,
but I of-art will-take-up which any best
βουκολέων ἐμὲ καὶ σὲ διαμπερές· οὐδὲ θεοῖσι
tending me and you continually nor for-the-gods
νῶι μετ' ἀθανάτοισιν ἀδώρητοι καὶ ἄλιστοι
we-two among immortals giftless and unprayed-to
αὐτοῦ τῇδε μένοντες ἀνεξόμεθ', ὡς σὺ κελεύεις.
on-the-spot here staying will-endure as you bid
βέλτερον ἤματα πάντα μετ' ἀθανάτοις ὀαρίζειν,
better days all among immortals to-converse
πλούσιον, ἀφνειόν, πολυλήιον, ἢ κατὰ δῶμα
rich wealthy with-much-grain than in house
ἄντρῳ ἐν ἠερόεντι θαασσέμεν· ἀμφὶ δὲ τιμῆς,
cave in misty to-sit about and honor
καὶγὼ τῆς ὁσίης ἐπιβήσομαι, ἥς περ Ἀπόλλων.
I-too the rite will-enter-on which indeed Apollo
εἰ δέ κε μὴ δώῃσι πατὴρ ἐμός, ἣ τοι ἔγωγε
if but — not be-grant father my truly you-know I-indeed
πειρήσω, δύναμαι, φηλητέων ὄρχαμος εἶναι.
will-try I-can of-thieves the-chief to-be
εἰ δέ μ' ἐρευνήσει Λητοῦς ἐρικυδέος υἱός,
if and me will-search-out of-Leto glorious son

ἄλλο τί οἱ καὶ μεῖζον ὀίομαι ἀντιβολήσειν.
another some to-him also greater I-think to-meet
εἶμι γὰρ ἐς Πυθῶνα μέγαν δόμον ἀντιτορήσων·
I-will-go for to Pytho great house to-break-into
ἔνθεν ἅλις τρίποδας περικαλλέας ἠδὲ λέβητας
thence abundant tripods very-fair and cauldrons
πορθήσω καὶ χρυσόν, ἅλις τ᾽ αἴθωνα σίδηρον
I-will-plunder and gold abundant and gleaming iron
καὶ πολλὴν ἐσθῆτα· σὺ δ᾽ ὄψεαι, αἴ κ᾽ ἐθέλῃσθα.
and much apparel you and will-see if — you-wish

4.3 · APOLLO TRACKS THE THIEF

At dawn Apollo comes to Onchestus and asks the old man about his cattle; the old man says he saw a child driving them backward. Apollo recognizes the thief by an omen, finds the strange tracks, and comes to Maia's cave. Hermes curls up in his swaddling clothes, but Apollo searches the cave and threatens to throw him into Tartarus. Hermes denies all: he was born yesterday, cares only for sleep and milk, and will swear by his father's head that he did not take the cattle.

Ὣς οἳ μέν ῥ᾽ ἐπέεσσι πρὸς ἀλλήλους ἀγόρευον,
so they indeed then with-words to each-other spoke
υἱός τ᾽ αἰγιόχοιο Διὸς καὶ πότνια Μαῖα.
the-son both of-aegis-bearing Zeus and queenly Maia

Ἠὼς δ' ἠριγένεια φόως θνητοῖσι φέρουσα
Dawn and early-born light to-mortals bringing
ὤρνυτ' ἀπ' Ὠκεανοῖο βαθυρρόου· αὐτὰρ Ἀπόλλων
rose from Ocean deep-flowing but Apollo
Ὀγχηστόνδ' ἀφίκανε κιών, πολυήρατον ἄλσος
to-Onchestus came going very-lovely grove
ἁγνὸν ἐρισφαράγου Γαιηόχου· ἔνθα γέροντα
holy of-the-loud-roaring Earth-holder there an-old-man
κνώδαλον εὗρε νέμοντα παρ' ἕξοδον ἕρκεος αὐλῆς.
beast found grazing beside the-way-out of-the-fence of-the-yard
τὸν πρότερος προσέφη Λητοῦς ἐρικυδέος υἱός·
him first addressed of-Leto glorious son
Ὦ γέρον, Ὀγχηστοῖο βατοδρόπε ποιήεντος,
O old-man of-Onchestus bramble-plucker grassy
βοῦς ἀπὸ Πιερίης διζήμενος ἐνθάδ' ἱκάνω,
cattle from Pieria seeking here I-come
πάσας θηλείας, πάσας κεράεσσιν ἑλικτάς,
all female all with-horns curved
ἐξ ἀγέλης· ὁ δὲ ταῦρος ἐβόσκετο μοῦνος ἀπ' ἄλλων
from the-herd the and bull grazed alone from the-others
κυάνεος· χαροποὶ δὲ κύνες κατόπισθεν ἕποντο
dark bright-eyed and dogs behind followed
τέσσαρες, ἠύτε φῶτες, ὁμόφρονες· οἳ μὲν ἔλειφθεν,
four like men like-minded they indeed were-left
οἵ τε κύνες ὅ τε ταῦρος· ὃ δὴ περὶ θαῦμα τέτυκται·
the both dogs the and bull which indeed beyond wonder is-made
ταὶ δ' ἔβαν ἠελίοιο νέον καταδυομένοιο
they and went of-the-sun newly setting
ἐκ μαλακοῦ λειμῶνος ἀπὸ γλυκεροῖο νομοῖο.
from soft meadow from sweet pasture

ταῦτά μοι εἰπέ, γεραιὲ παλαιγενές, εἴ που ὄπωπας
these-things to-me tell old-man ancient if anywhere you-have-seen
ἀνέρα ταῖσδ' ἐπὶ βουσὶ διαπρήσσοντα κέλευθον.
a-man these after cattle making way

Τὸν δ' ὁ γέρων μύθοισιν ἀμειβόμενος προσέειπεν·
him and the old-man with-words answering addressed
ὦ φίλος, ἀργαλέον μέν, ὅσ' ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἴδοιτο,
O friend hard indeed as-much-as with-eyes one-may-see
πάντα λέγειν· πολλοὶ γὰρ ὁδὸν πρήσσουσιν ὁδῖται,
all to-tell many for road make travelers
τῶν οἳ μὲν κακὰ πολλὰ μεμαότες, οἳ δὲ μάλ' ἐσθλὰ
of-them some indeed evil-things many intending others and very good-things
φοιτῶσιν· χαλεπὸν δὲ δαήμεναί ἐστιν ἕκαστον·
go-to-and-fro hard and to-know is each
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ πρόπαν ἦμαρ ἐς ἠέλιον καταδύντα
but I whole day to sun setting
ἔσκαπτον περὶ γουνὸν ἀλωῆς οἰνοπέδοιο·
was-digging about the-hill of-vineyard wine-ground
παῖδα δ' ἔδοξα, φέριστε, σαφὲς δ' οὐκ οἶδα, νοῆσαι,
a-child but I-thought best-one clearly but not I-know to-perceive
ὅς τις ὁ παῖς, ἅμα βουσὶν ἐυκραίρῃσιν ὀπήδει
who any the child with cattle fine-horned followed
νήπιος, εἶχε δὲ ῥάβδον· ἐπιστροφάδην δ' ἐβάδιζεν.
an-infant he-had and a-staff turning-about and he-walked
ἐξοπίσω δ' ἀνέεργε, κάρη δ' ἔχεν ἀντίον αὐτῷ.
backward and he-kept-back heads and had facing him

Φῆ ῥ᾽ ὁ γέρων· ὃ δὲ θᾶσσον ὁδὸν κίε μῦθον ἀκούσας·
spoke then the old-man he and quicker road went word hearing
οἰωνὸν δ᾽ ἐνόει τανυσίπτερον, αὐτίκα δ᾽ ἔγνω
a-bird and he-noticed long-winged at-once and knew
φηλητὴν γεγαῶτα Διὸς παῖδα Κρονίωνος.
thief being of-Zeus the-child son-of-Cronus
ἐσσυμένως δ᾽ ἤιξεν ἄναξ Διὸς υἱὸς Ἀπόλλων
eagerly and darted the-lord of-Zeus son Apollo
ἐς Πύλον ἠγαθέην διζήμενος εἰλίποδας βοῦς,
to Pylos sacred seeking shambling cattle
πορφυρέῃ νεφέλῃ κεκαλυμμένος εὐρέας ὤμους·
in-purple cloud covered broad shoulders
ἴχνιά τ᾽ εἰσενόησεν Ἑκηβόλος εἶπέ τε μῦθον·
tracks and noticed the-Far-shooter spoke and word
Ὦ πόποι, ἦ μέγα θαῦμα τόδ᾽ ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ὁρῶμαι·
O gods truly great wonder this with-eyes I-see
ἴχνια μὲν τάδε γ᾽ ἐστὶ βοῶν ὀρθοκραιράων,
tracks indeed these indeed are of-cattle straight-horned
ἀλλὰ πάλιν τέτραπται ἐς ἀσφοδελὸν λειμῶνα·
but back they-are-turned to asphodel meadow
βήματα δ᾽ οὔτ᾽ ἀνδρὸς τάδε γίγνεται οὔτε γυναικὸς
steps but neither of-man these are nor of-woman
οὔτε λύκων πολιῶν οὔτ᾽ ἄρκτων οὔτε λεόντων·
nor of-wolves gray nor of-bears nor of-lions
οὔτε τι Κενταύρου λασιαύχενος ἔλπομαι εἶναι,
nor at-all of-a-Centaur shaggy-necked I-think to-be
ὅς τις τοῖα πέλωρα βιβᾷ ποσὶ καρπαλίμοισιν·
who any such monstrous-strides strides with-feet swift
αἰνὰ μὲν ἔνθεν ὁδοῖο, τὰ δ᾽ αἰνότερ᾽ ἔνθεν ὁδοῖο.
dread indeed on-this-side of-the-road those and more-dread on-that-side of-the-road

Ὣς εἰπὼν ἤιξεν ἄναξ Διὸς υἱὸς Ἀπόλλων·
so speaking darted the-lord of-Zeus son Apollo
Κυλλήνης δ' ἀφίκανεν ὄρος καταείμενον ὕλῃ,
of-Cyllene and reached the-mountain clothed with-forest
πέτρης ἐς κευθμῶνα βαθύσκιον, ἔνθα τε νύμφη
of-rock into the-depth deep-shaded where — the-nymph
ἀμβροσίῃ ἐλόχευσε Διὸς παῖδα Κρονίωνος.
ambrosial bore of-Zeus child son-of-Cronus
ὀδμὴ δ' ἱμερόεσσα δι' οὔρεος ἠγαθέοιο
a-scent and lovely through mountain sacred
κίδνατο, πολλὰ δὲ μῆλα ταναύποδα βόσκετο ποίην.
spread many and sheep long-shanked grazed grass
ἔνθα τότε σπεύδων κατεβήσατο λάινον οὐδὸν
there then hastening he-went-down stone threshold
ἄντρον ἐς ἠερόεν ἑκατηβόλος αὐτὸς Ἀπόλλων.
cave into misty far-shooting himself Apollo
Τὸν δ' ὡς οὖν ἐνόησε Διὸς καὶ Μαιάδος υἱὸς
him and when then noticed of-Zeus and of-Maia son
χωόμενον περὶ βουσὶν ἑκηβόλον Ἀπόλλωνα,
angered about the-cattle far-shooting Apollo
σπάργαν' ἔσω κατέδυνε θυήεντ'· ἠύτε πολλὴν
swaddling-clothes within slipped-into fragrant as much
πρέμνων ἀνθρακιὴν ὕλης σποδὸς ἀμφικαλύπτει,
of-tree-stumps embers of-wood ash covers-over
ὣς Ἑρμῆς Ἑκάεργον ἰδὼν ἀνέειλεν ἑαυτόν.
so Hermes the-Far-worker seeing rolled-up himself
ἐν δ' ὀλίγῳ συνέλασσε κάρη χεῖράς τε πόδας τε,
in and small drew-together head hands both feet and
φή ῥα νεόλλουτος, προκαλεύμενος ἥδυμον ὕπνον,
like then newly-bathed calling-forth sweet sleep

ἐγρήσσων ἐτεόν γε· χέλυν δ' ὑπὸ μασχάλῃ εἶχε.
waking in-truth indeed tortoise and under armpit he-had
γνῶ δ' οὐδ' ἠγνοίησε Διὸς καὶ Λητοῦς υἱὸς
knew and not was-ignorant of-Zeus and of-Leto son
νύμφην τ' οὐρείην περικαλλέα καὶ φίλον υἱόν,
nymph both mountain very-fair and dear son
παῖδ' ὀλίγον, δολίῃς εἰλυμένον ἐντροπίῃσι.
a-child little in-crafty wrapped wiles
παπτήνας δ' ἀνὰ πάντα μυχὸν μεγάλοιο δόμοιο
peering and throughout every nook of-great house
τρεῖς ἀδύτους ἀνέῳγε λαβὼν κληῖδα φαεινὴν
three chambers opened taking key shining
νέκταρος ἐμπλείους ἠδ' ἀμβροσίης ἐρατεινῆς·
of-nectar full and of-ambrosia lovely
πολλὸς δὲ χρυσός τε καὶ ἄργυρος ἔνδον ἔκειτο,
much and gold both and silver within lay
πολλὰ δὲ φοινικόεντα καὶ ἄργυφα εἵματα νύμφης,
many and purple and silvery garments of-the-nymph
οἷα θεῶν μακάρων ἱεροὶ δόμοι ἐντὸς ἔχουσιν·
such-as of-gods blessed holy houses within hold
ἔνθ' ἐπεὶ ἐξερέεινε μυχοὺς μεγάλοιο δόμοιο
then when he-had-searched the-nooks of-great house
Λητοΐδης, μύθοισι προσηύδα κύδιμον Ἑρμῆν·
the-son-of-Leto with-words addressed glorious Hermes
Ὦ παῖ, ὃς ἐν λίκνῳ κατάκειαι, μήνυέ μοι βοῦς
O child who in cradle lie show to-me the-cattle
θᾶσσον· ἐπεὶ τάχα νῶι διοισόμεθ' οὐ κατὰ κόσμον.
quicker since soon we-two will-quarrel not in order
ῥίψω γάρ σε λαβὼν ἐς Τάρταρον ἠερόεντα,
I-will-throw for you taking into Tartarus misty

ἐς ζόφον αἰνόμορον καὶ ἀμήχανον· οὐδέ σε μήτηρ
into gloom dread-fated and helpless nor you mother
ἐς φάος οὐδὲ πατὴρ ἀναλύσεται, ἀλλ' ὑπὸ γαίῃ
to light nor father will-bring-up but under earth
ἐρρήσεις ὀλίγοισι μετ' ἀνδράσιν ἡγεμονεύων.
you-will-wander little among men leading
Τὸν δ' Ἑρμῆς μύθοισιν ἀμείβετο κερδαλέοισι·
him and Hermes with-words answered crafty
Λητοΐδη, τίνα τοῦτον ἀπηνέα μῦθον ἔειπας;
son-of-Leto what this harsh word have-you-spoken
καὶ βοῦς ἀγραύλους διζήμενος ἐνθάδ' ἱκάνεις;
and cattle field-dwelling seeking here you-come
οὐκ ἴδον, οὐ πυθόμην, οὐκ ἄλλου μῦθον ἄκουσα·
not I-saw not I-learned not of-another word I-heard
οὐκ ἂν μηνύσαιμ', οὐκ ἂν μήνυτρον ἀροίμην·
not — I-could-tell not — reward I-could-win
οὐδὲ βοῶν ἐλατῆρι, κραταιῷ φωτί, ἔοικα.
nor of-cattle to-a-driver strong man am-I-like
οὐκ ἐμὸν ἔργον τοῦτο, πάρος δέ μοι ἄλλα μέμηλεν·
not my work this before but to-me other-things are-a-care
ὕπνος ἐμοί γε μέμηλε καὶ ἡμετέρης γάλα μητρὸς
sleep to-me indeed is-a-care and of-our milk mother
σπάργανά τ' ἀμφ' ὤμοισιν ἔχειν καὶ θερμὰ λοετρά.
swaddling-clothes and around shoulders to-have and warm baths
μή τις τοῦτο πύθοιτο, πόθεν τόδε νεῖκος ἐτύχθη·
lest any this should-learn whence this quarrel arose
καί κεν δὴ μέγα θαῦμα μετ' ἀθανάτοισι γένοιτο,
and — indeed great wonder among immortals would-be

παῖδα νέον γεγαῶτα διὲκ προθύροιο περῆσαι
a-child newly born through porch to-pass
βουσὶν ἐπ᾽ ἀγραύλοισι· τὸ δ᾽ ἀπρεπέως ἀγορεύεις.
cattle after field-dwelling that but unfittingly you-say
χθὲς γενόμην, ἁπαλοὶ δὲ πόδες, τρηχεῖα δ᾽ ὕπο χθών.
yesterday I-was-born soft and feet rough and under earth
εἰ δ᾽ ἐθέλεις, πατρὸς κεφαλὴν μέγαν ὅρκον ὀμοῦμαι·
if but you-wish of-father by-head great oath I-will-swear
μὴ μὲν ἐγὼ μήτ᾽ αὐτὸς ὑπίσχομαι αἴτιος εἶναι,
not indeed I neither myself promise guilty to-be
μήτε τιν᾽ ἄλλον ὄπωπα βοῶν κλοπὸν ὑμετεράων,
nor any other have-seen of-cattle thief your
αἵ τινες αἱ βόες εἰσί· τὸ δὲ κλέος οἷον ἀκούω.
which any the cattle are the but report only I-hear

4.4 · THE QUARREL BEFORE ZEUS

Apollo laughs at the infant's lies, foretells that he will be called prince of thieves forever, and carries him off, but Hermes sends out an omen and a sneeze, and Apollo drops him. Hermes demands a trial before Zeus, and after long argument both go to Olympus. Zeus asks Apollo where he got this child, and Apollo tells of the theft, the backward tracks that no feet made, the man who saw the child driving the cattle to Pylos, and the infant's denials.

Ὣς ἄρ᾽ ἔφη καὶ πυκνὸν ἀπὸ βλεφάρων ἀμαρύσσων
so then he-spoke and rapidly from eyelids flashing
ὀφρῦς ῥιπτάζεσκεν ὁρώμενος ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα,
brows he-kept-raising looking this-way and that-way
μάκρ᾽ ἀποσυρίζων, ἅλιον τὸν μῦθον ἀκούων.
long whistling idle the word hearing

Τὸν δ᾽ ἀπαλὸν γελάσας προσέφη ἑκάεργος Ἀπόλλων·
him and softly laughing addressed far-worker Apollo
ὦ πέπον, ἠπεροπευτά, δολοφραδές, ἦ σε μάλ᾽ οἴω
O friend deceiver crafty-minded truly you very I-think
πολλάκις ἀντιτοροῦντα δόμους εὖ ναιετάοντας
often breaking-into houses well inhabited
ἔννυχον οὐχ ἕνα μοῦνον ἐπ᾽ οὐδεϊ φῶτα καθίσσαι,
by-night not one only on floor man to-seat
σκευάζοντα κατ᾽ οἶκον ἄτερ ψόφου, οἷ᾽ ἀγορεύεις·
plundering through house without noise such-as you-say
πολλοὺς δ᾽ ἀγραύλους ἀκαχήσεις μηλοβοτῆρας
many and field-dwelling you-will-grieve shepherds
οὔρεος ἐν βήσσῃς, ὁπότ᾽ ἄν κρειῶν ἐρατίζων
of-the-mountain in glens when — for-meat longing
ἀντᾷς βουκολίοισι καὶ εἰροπόκοις ὀίεσσιν.
you-come-upon herds and wool-fleeced sheep
ἀλλ᾽ ἄγε, μὴ πύματόν τε καὶ ὕστατον ὕπνον ἰαύσῃς,
but come lest last both and final sleep you-sleep
ἐκ λίκνου κατάβαινε, μελαίνης νυκτὸς ἑταῖρε.
from cradle come-down of-black night companion
τοῦτο γὰρ οὖν καὶ ἔπειτα μετ᾽ ἀθανάτοις γέρας ἕξεις.
this for indeed also hereafter among immortals as-honor you-shall-have
ἀρχὸς φηλητέων κεκλήσεαι ἤματα πάντα.
chief of-thieves you-shall-be-called days all
Ὣς ἄρ᾽ ἔφη καὶ παῖδα λαβὼν φέρε Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων.
so then he-spoke and the-child taking carried Phoebus Apollo
σὺν δ᾽ ἄρα φρασσάμενος τότε δὴ κρατὺς Ἀργειφόντης
with and then taking-thought then indeed strong Argus-slayer
οἰωνὸν προέηκεν ἀειρόμενος μετὰ χερσί,
an-omen sent-forth lifted in hands

τλήμονα γαστρὸς ἔριθον, ἀτάσθαλον ἀγγελιώτην.
wretched of-the-belly worker reckless messenger
ἐσσυμένως δὲ μετ' αὐτὸν ἐπέπταρε· τοῖο δ' Ἀπόλλων
eagerly and after it sneezed of-him and Apollo
ἔκλυεν, ἐκ χειρῶν δὲ χαμαὶ βάλε κύδιμον Ἑρμῆν.
heard from hands and to-the-ground threw glorious Hermes
ἕζετο δὲ προπάροιθε καὶ ἐσσύμενός περ ὁδοῖο
sat and before-him and hastening though on-the-road
Ἑρμῆν κερτομέων καί μιν πρὸς μῦθον ἔειπε·
Hermes mocking and him to word spoke
Θάρσει, σπαργανιῶτα, Διὸς καὶ Μαιάδος υἱέ·
take-heart swaddled-one of-Zeus and of-Maia son
εὑρήσω καὶ ἔπειτα βοῶν ἴφθιμα κάρηνα
I-shall-find also thereafter of-cattle the-mighty heads
τούτοις οἰωνοῖσι· σὺ δ' αὖθ' ὁδὸν ἡγεμονεύσεις.
by-these omens you and in-turn the-way will-lead
Ὣς φάθ'· ὃ δ' αὖτ' ἀνόρουσε θοῶς Κυλλήνιος Ἑρμῆς,
so he-spoke he and in-turn sprang-up swiftly Cyllenian Hermes
σπουδῇ ἰών· ἄμφω δὲ παρ' οὔατα χερσὶν ἐώθει
in-haste going both and to ears with-hands pushed
σπάργανον ἀμφ' ὤμοισιν ἐελμένος, εἶπε δὲ μῦθον·
swaddling-band around shoulders wrapped spoke and word
Πῇ με φέρεις, Ἑκάεργε, θεῶν ζαμενέστατε πάντων;
where me carry-you Far-worker of-gods most-violent all
ἦ με βοῶν ἕνεχ' ὧδε χολούμενος ὀρσολοπεύεις;
truly me of-cattle because-of thus angered you-harass
ὦ πόποι, εἴθ' ἀπόλοιτο βοῶν γένος· οὐ γὰρ ἐγώ γε
O gods would-that should-perish of-cattle the-race not for I indeed
ὑμετέρας ἔκλεψα βόας οὐδ' ἄλλον ὄπωπα,
your stole cattle nor other have-seen

αἵτινες αἱ βόες εἰσί· τὸ δὲ κλέος οἷον ἀκούω.
whichever the cattle are the but report only I-hear
δὸς δὲ δίκην καὶ δέξο παρὰ Ζηνὶ Κρονίωνι.
give and justice and receive(-it) beside Zeus son-of-Cronus
Αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ τὰ ἕκαστα διαρρήδην ἐρίδαινον
but when the each-thing expressly they-disputed
Ἑρμῆς τ' οἰοπόλος καὶ Λητοῦς ἀγλαὸς υἱός,
Hermes both lone-roaming and of-Leto glorious son
ἀμφὶς θυμὸν ἔχοντες. ὃ μὲν νημερτέα φωνὴν
divided heart having he indeed unerring word
*** οὐκ ἀδίκως ἐπὶ βουσὶν ἐλάζυτο κύδιμον Ἑρμῆν,
(lacuna) not unjustly for cattle seized glorious Hermes
αὐτὰρ ὃ τέχνῃσίν τε καὶ αἱμυλίοισι λόγοισιν
but he with-arts both and wily words
ἤθελεν ἐξαπατᾶν Κυλλήνιος Ἀργυρότοξον.
wished to-deceive the-Cyllenian the-Silver-bowed
αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ πολύμητις ἐὼν πολυμήχανον εὗρεν,
but when of-many-wiles being the-many-resourceful he-found
ἐσσυμένως δὴ ἔπειτα διὰ ψαμάθοιο βάδιζε
eagerly indeed thereafter through sand he-walked
πρόσθεν, ἀτὰρ κατόπισθε Διὸς καὶ Λητοῦς υἱός.
in-front but behind of-Zeus and of-Leto son
αἶψα δὲ τέρθρον ἵκοντο θυώδεος Οὐλύμποιο
quickly and the-summit they-reached of-fragrant Olympus
ἐς πατέρα Κρονίωνα Διὸς περικαλλέα τέκνα·
to father son-of-Cronus of-Zeus very-fair children
κεῖθι γὰρ ἀμφοτέροισι δίκης κατέκειτο τάλαντα.
there for for-both of-justice were-set the-scales

οὐμιλίη δ' ἔχ' Ὄλυμπον ἀγάννιφον, ἀθάνατοι δὲ
the-throng and held Olympus snowy immortals and
ἄφθιτοι ἠγερέθοντο μετὰ χρυσόθρονον Ἠῶ.
imperishable gathered after golden-throned Dawn
Ἔστησαν δ' Ἑρμῆς τε καὶ ἀργυρότοξος Ἀπόλλων
stood and Hermes both and silver-bowed Apollo
πρόσθε Διὸς γούνων· ὃ δ' ἀνείρετο φαίδιμον υἱὸν
before of-Zeus knees he and asked glorious son
Ζεὺς ὑψιβρεμέτης καί μιν πρὸς μῦθον ἔειπε·
Zeus thundering-on-high and him to word spoke
Φοῖβε, πόθεν ταύτην μενοεικέα ληίδ' ἐλαύνεις,
Phoebus whence this heart-pleasing spoil drive-you
παῖδα νέον γεγαῶτα, φυὴν κήρυκος ἔχοντα;
a-child newly born the-form of-a-herald having
σπουδαῖον τόδε χρῆμα θεῶν μεθ' ὁμήγυριν ἦλθε.
weighty this thing of-the-gods to gathering has-come
Τὸν δ' αὖτε προσέειπεν ἄναξ ἑκάεργος Ἀπόλλων·
him and in-turn addressed the-lord far-worker Apollo
ὦ πάτερ, ἦ τάχα μῦθον ἀκούσεαι οὐκ ἀλαπαδνόν,
O father truly soon a-tale you-shall-hear not weak
κερτομέων ὡς οἷος ἐγὼ φιλολήιός εἰμι.
taunting that alone I fond-of-booty am
παῖδά τιν' εὗρον τόνδε διαπρύσιον κεραϊστὴν
a-child some I-found this out-and-out robber
Κυλλήνης ἐν ὄρεσσι, πολὺν διὰ χῶρον ἀνύσσας,
of-Cyllene in mountains much over ground having-traveled
κέρτομον, οἷον ἐγώ γε θεῶν οὐκ ἄλλον ὄπωπα
mocking such-as I indeed of-gods not another have-seen
οὐδ' ἀνδρῶν, ὁπόσοι λησίμβροτοί εἰσ' ἐπὶ γαίῃ.
nor of-men as-many-as robbers are on earth

κλέψας δ' ἐκ λειμῶνος ἐμὰς βοῦς ὤχετ' ἐλαύνων
having-stolen and from meadow my cattle he-went driving
ἑσπέριος παρὰ θῖνα πολυφλοίσβοιο θαλάσσης,
in-the-evening along the-shore of-the-loud-resounding sea
εὐθὺ Πύλονδ' ἐλάων· τὰ δ' ἄρ' ἴχνια δοιὰ πέλωρα,
straight to-Pylos driving the and then tracks double monstrous
οἷά τ' ἀγάσσασθαι, καὶ ἀγαυοῦ δαίμονος ἔργα.
such-as — to-marvel-at even of-noble divinity works
τῇσιν μὲν γὰρ βουσὶν ἐς ἀσφοδελὸν λειμῶνα
for-the indeed for cattle toward asphodel meadow
ἀντία βήματ' ἔχουσα κόνις ἀνέφαινε μέλαινα·
reversed steps having the-dust showed black
αὐτὸς δ' ἐκτὸς ὁδοῦ, τις ἀμήχανος, οὔτ' ἄρα ποσσὶν
he-himself but outside the-road a-kind-of baffling neither then with-feet
οὔτ' ἄρα χερσὶν ἔβαινε διὰ ψαμαθώδεα χῶρον·
nor then with-hands went through sandy ground
ἀλλ' ἄλλην τινὰ μῆτιν ἔχων διέτριβε κέλευθα
but other some craft having he-wore-out the-paths
τοῖα πέλωρ' ὡς εἴ τις ἀραιῇσι δρυσὶ βαίνοι.
so monstrous as if one on-slender oaks should-walk
ὄφρα μὲν οὖν ἐδίωκε διὰ ψαμαθώδεα χῶρον,
while indeed then he-drove through sandy ground
ῥεῖα μάλ' ἴχνια πάντα διέπρεπεν ἐν κονίῃσιν·
easily very tracks all stood-out in dust
αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ ψαμάθοιο μέγαν στίβον ἐξεπέρησεν,
but when of-sand the-great track he-passed-through

ἄφραστος γένετ᾽ ὦκα βοῶν στίβος ἠδὲ καὶ αὐτοῦ
untraceable became quickly of-cattle the-track and also his-own
χῶρον ἀνὰ κρατερόν· τὸν δ᾽ ἐφράσατο βροτὸς ἀνὴρ
ground over hard him and noticed a-mortal man
ἐς Πύλον εὐθὺς ἐλῶντα βοῶν γένος εὐρυμετώπων.
to Pylos straight driving of-cattle a-herd broad-browed
αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ δὴ τὰς μὲν ἐν ἡσυχίῃ κατέερξε
but when indeed them indeed in quiet he-shut-up
καὶ διαπυρπαλάμησεν ὁδοῦ τὸ μὲν ἔνθα, τὸ δ᾽ ἔνθα,
and confused-with-fire of-the-road the indeed here the and there
ἐν λίκνῳ κατέκειτο μελαίνῃ νυκτὶ ἐοικώς,
in cradle he-lay to-black night like
ἄντρῳ ἐν ἠερόεντι κατὰ ζόφον· οὐδέ κεν αὐτὸν
cave in misty in gloom nor — him
αἰετὸς ὀξὺ λάων ἐσκέψατο· πολλὰ δὲ χερσὶν
an-eagle keen looking would-have-spied much and with-hands
αὐγὰς ὠμόργαζε δολοφροσύνην ἀλεγύνων.
eyes he-rubbed craftiness devising
αὐτὸς δ᾽ αὐτίκα μῦθον ἀπηλεγέως ἀγόρευεν·
himself and at-once word bluntly spoke
οὐκ ἴδον, οὐ πυθόμην, οὐκ ἄλλου μῦθον ἄκουσα
not I-saw not I-learned not of-another word I-heard
οὐδέ κε μηνύσαιμ᾽, οὐδ᾽ ἄν μήνυτρον ἀροίμην.
nor — could-I-tell nor — reward could-I-win

Hermes swears to Zeus that he did not drive the cattle home, and Zeus laughs and bids them search together. Hermes leads Apollo to the Alpheus and brings out the cattle; Apollo, amazed at the two hides, tries to bind him with withies, but they grow into the ground. Hermes then takes up the lyre and sings of the gods' origins, honoring Mnemosyne first. Apollo, seized with longing, says the song is worth fifty cows and asks where the art came from, promising him glory among the gods.

Ἦ τοι ἄρ' ὣς εἰπὼν κατ' ἄρ' ἕζετο Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων·
truly you-know then so speaking down then sat Phoebus Apollo

Ἑρμῆς δ' αὖθ' ἑτέρωθεν ἀμειβόμενος ἔπος ηὔδα,
Hermes and in-turn on-the-other-side answering word spoke

δείξατο δ' ἐς Κρονίωνα, θεῶν σημάντορα πάντων·
pointed and to the-son-of-Cronus of-the-gods commander all

Ζεῦ πάτερ, ἦ τοι ἐγώ σοι ἀληθείην καταλέξω·
Zeus father truly you-know I to-you the-truth will-tell

νημερτής τε γάρ εἰμι καὶ οὐκ οἶδα ψεύδεσθαι.
truthful both for I-am and not I-know-how to-lie

ἦλθεν ἐς ἡμετέρου διζήμενος εἰλίποδας βοῦς
he-came to our-(house) seeking shambling cattle

σήμερον ἠελίοιο νέον ἐπιτελλομένοιο·
today of-the-sun newly rising

οὐδὲ θεῶν μακάρων ἄγε μάρτυρας οὐδὲ κατόπτας,
nor of-the-gods blessed brought witnesses nor watchers

μηνύειν δ' ἐκέλευεν ἀναγκαίης ὑπὸ πολλῆς,
to-tell and he-bade necessity under much

πολλὰ δέ μ' ἠπείλησε βαλεῖν ἐς Τάρταρον εὐρύν,
much and me he-threatened to-throw into Tartarus wide

οὕνεχ' ὃ μὲν τέρεν ἄνθος ἔχει φιλοκυδέος ἥβης,
because he indeed tender flower has of-glory-loving youth

αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ χθιζὸς γενόμην, τὰ δέ τ' οἶδε καὶ αὐτός,
but I yesterday was-born this and — knows also himself
οὔτι βοῶν ἐλατῆρι, κραταιῷ φωτί, ἐοικώς.
not-at-all of-cattle to-a-driver strong man like
πείθεο· καὶ γὰρ ἐμεῖο πατὴρ φίλος εὔχεαι εἶναι,
believe also for of-me father dear you-claim to-be
ὡς οὐκ οἴκαδ' ἔλασσα βόας, ὣς ὄλβιος εἴην,
that not homeward I-drove cattle so prosperous may-I-be
οὐδ' ὑπὲρ οὐδὸν ἔβην· τὸ δέ τ' ἀτρεκέως ἀγορεύω.
nor over threshold I-stepped this and — truly I-say
Ἥλιον δὲ μάλ' αἰδέομαι καὶ δαίμονας ἄλλους,
Sun and greatly I-revere and divinities other
καὶ σε φιλῶ καὶ τοῦτον ὀπίζομαι· οἶσθα καὶ αὐτός,
and you I-love and him I-dread you-know also yourself
ὡς οὐκ αἴτιός εἰμι· μέγαν δ' ἐπιδώσομαι ὅρκον·
that not guilty I-am great and I-will-add oath
οὐ μὰ τάδ' ἀθανάτων εὐκόσμητα προθύραια.
no by these of-the-immortals well-adorned porches
καί που ἐγὼ τούτῳ τίσω ποτὲ νηλέα φώρην,
and surely I him will-pay-back sometime pitiless search
καὶ κρατερῷ περ ἐόντι· σὺ δ' ὁπλοτέροισιν ἄρηγε.
and strong though being you and the-younger help
Ὣς φάτ' ἐπιλλίζων Κυλλήνιος Ἀργειφόντης·
so he-spoke winking the-Cyllenian Argus-slayer
καὶ τὸ σπάργανον εἶχεν ἐπ' ὠλένῃ οὐδ' ἀπέβαλλε.
and the swaddling-band he-had on arm nor threw-off
Ζεὺς δὲ μέγ' ἐξεγέλασσεν ἰδὼν κακομηδέα παῖδα
Zeus and greatly laughed-out seeing mischief-planning child
εὖ καὶ ἐπισταμένως ἀρνεύμενον ἀμφὶ βόεσσιν.
well and skillfully denying about the-cattle

ἀμφοτέρους δ᾽ ἐκέλευσεν ὁμόφρονα θυμὸν ἔχοντας
both and he-bade like-minded heart having
ζητεύειν, Ἑρμῆν δὲ διάκτορον ἡγεμονεύειν
to-search Hermes and the-guide to-lead
καὶ δεῖξαι τὸν χῶρον ἐπ᾽ ἀβλαβίῃσι νόοιο,
and to-show the place in harmlessness of-mind
ὅππη δὴ αὖτ᾽ ἀπέκρυψε βοῶν ἴφθιμα κάρηνα.
where indeed in-turn he-had-hidden of-cattle the-strong heads
νεῦσεν δὲ Κρονίδης, ἐπεπείθετο δ᾽ ἀγλαὸς Ἑρμῆς·
nodded and the-son-of-Cronus obeyed and glorious Hermes
ῥηιδίως γὰρ ἔπειθε Διὸς νόος αἰγιόχοιο.
easily for persuaded of-Zeus the-mind aegis-bearing
Τὼ δ᾽ ἅμφω σπεύδοντε Διὸς περικαλλέα τέκνα
they and both hastening of-Zeus very-fair children
ἐς Πύλον ἠμαθόεντα ἐπ᾽ Ἀλφειοῦ πόρον ἶξον·
to Pylos sandy to of-Alpheus ford came
ἀγροὺς δ᾽ ἐξίκοντο καὶ αὔλιον ὑψιμέλαθρον,
fields and they-reached and stall high-roofed
ἦχοῦ δὴ τὰ χρήματ᾽ ἀτάλλετο νυκτὸς ἐν ὥρῃ.
where indeed the beasts were-nurtured of-night in hour
ἔνθ᾽ Ἑρμῆς μὲν ἔπειτα κιὼν παρὰ λάινον ἄντρον
there Hermes indeed thereupon going beside stone cave
ἐς φῶς ἐξήλαυνε βοῶν ἴφθιμα κάρηνα·
into light drove-out of-cattle the-strong heads
Λητοΐδης δ᾽ ἀπάτερθεν ἰδὼν ἐνόησε βοείας
the-son-of-Leto and apart seeing noticed hides
πέτρῃ ἐπ᾽ ἠλιβάτῳ, τάχα δ᾽ εἴρετο κύδιμον Ἑρμῆν·
rock on sheer quickly and asked glorious Hermes

Πῶς ἐδύνω, δολομῆτα, δύω βόε δειροτομῆσαι,
how could-you crafty-minded two cows to-slaughter
ὧδε νεογνὸς ἐὼν καὶ νήπιος; αὐτὸς ἐγώ γε
so new-born being and infant myself I indeed
θαυμαίνω κατόπισθε τὸ σὸν κράτος· οὐδέ τί σε χρὴ
marvel hereafter the your might nor at-all you need
μακρὸν ἀέξεσθαι, Κυλλήνιε, Μαιάδος υἱέ.
long to-grow Cyllenian of-Maia son
Ὣς ἄρ ἔφη καὶ χερσὶ περίστρεφε καρτερὰ δεσμὰ
so then he-spoke and with-hands twisted strong bonds
[ἐνδῆσαι μεμαὼς Ἑρμῆν κρατεραῖσι λύγοισι.
to-bind-in eager Hermes with-strong withies
τὸν δ' οὐκ ἴσχανε δεσμά, λύγοι δ' ἀπὸ τηλόσε πῖπτον]
him but not held bonds the-withies and from far fell
ἄγνου· ταὶ δ' ὑπὸ ποσσὶ κατὰ χθονὸς αἶψα φύοντο
of-willow they and under feet down earth quickly grew
αὐτόθεν, ἐμβολάδην ἐστραμμέναι ἀλλήλῃσι,
on-the-spot grafted twisted with-each-other
ῥεῖά τε καὶ πάσῃσιν ἐπ' ἀγραύλοισι βόεσσιν,
easily both and all over field-dwelling cattle
Ἑρμέω βουλῇσι κλεψίφρονος· αὐτὰρ Ἀπόλλων
of-Hermes by-the-will thievish but Apollo
θαύμασεν ἀθρήσας. τότε δὴ κρατὺς Ἀργειφόντης
marveled gazing then indeed strong Argus-slayer
χῶρον ὑποβλήδην ἐσκέψατο, πῦρ ἀμαρύσσων,
the-place from-beneath looked-at fire flashing
*** ἐγκρύψαι μεμαώς· Λητοῦς δ' ἐρικυδέος υἱὸν
(lacuna) to-hide-in eager of-Leto and glorious son
ῥεῖα μάλ' ἐπρήυνεν ἑκηβόλον, ὡς ἔθελ' αὐτός,
easily very he-soothed far-shooting as wished himself

καὶ κρατερόν περ ἐόντα· λαβὼν δ' ἐπ' ἀριστερὰ χειρὸς
and strong though being taking and at left of-hand
πλήκτρῳ ἐπειρήτιζε κατὰ μέρος· ἣ δ' ὑπὸ χειρὸς
with-plectrum he-tested by turn it and under hand
σμερδαλέον κονάβησε· γέλασσε δὲ Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων
terribly rang laughed and Phoebus Apollo
γηθήσας, ἐρατὴ δὲ διὰ φρένας ἤλυθ' ἰωὴ
rejoicing lovely and through mind came the-sound
θεσπεσίης ἐνοπῆς καὶ μιν γλυκὺς ἵμερος ᾕρει
of-divine voice and him sweet longing seized
θυμῷ ἀκουάζοντα· λύρῃ δ' ἐρατὸν κιθαρίζων
in-heart listening with-lyre and lovely playing
στῆ ῥ' ὅ γε θαρσήσας ἐπ' ἀριστερὰ Μαιάδος υἱὸς
stood then he indeed taking-courage at left of-Maia son
Φοίβου Ἀπόλλωνος· τάχα δὲ λιγέως κιθαρίζων
of-Phoebus Apollo quickly and clearly playing
γηρύετ' ἀμβολάδην — ἐρατὴ δέ οἱ ἕσπετο φωνή —
sang-out as-a-prelude lovely and him followed voice
κραίνων ἀθανάτους τε θεοὺς καὶ γαῖαν ἐρεμνήν,
celebrating immortal both gods and earth dark
ὡς τὰ πρῶτα γένοντο καὶ ὡς λάχε μοῖραν ἕκαστος.
how the first they-came-to-be and how got lot each
Μνημοσύνην μὲν πρῶτα θεῶν ἐγέραιρεν ἀοιδῇ,
Mnemosyne indeed first of-the-gods he-honored in-song
μητέρα Μουσάων· ἣ γὰρ λάχε Μαιάδος υἱόν·
mother of-the-Muses she for got of-Maia son
τοὺς δὲ κατὰ πρέσβιν τε καὶ ὡς γεγάασιν ἕκαστος
them and according-to age both and as were-born each
ἀθανάτους ἐγέραιρε θεοὺς Διὸς ἀγλαὸς υἱός,
immortal he-honored gods of-Zeus glorious son

πάντ᾽ ἐνέπων κατὰ κόσμον, ἐπωλένιον κιθαρίζων.
all telling in order on-the-arm playing
τὸν δ᾽ ἔρος ἐν στήθεσσιν ἀμήχανος αἴνυτο θυμόν,
him and love in breasts helpless seized heart
καὶ μιν φωνήσας ἔπεα πτερόεντα προσηύδα·
and him addressing words winged addressed
Βουφόνε, μηχανιῶτα, πονεύμενε, δαιτὸς ἑταῖρε,
ox-slayer schemer toiling of-feast companion
πεντήκοντα βοῶν ἀντάξια ταῦτα μέμηλας.
fifty of-cattle worth this you-have-devised
ἡσυχίως καὶ ἔπειτα διακρινέεσθαι ὀίω·
quietly also thereafter to-settle-it I-think
νῦν δ᾽ ἄγε μοι τόδε εἰπέ, πολύτροπε Μαιάδος υἱέ,
now but come to-me this tell wily of-Maia son
ἦ σοί γ᾽ ἐκ γενετῆς τάδ᾽ ἅμ᾽ ἕσπετο θαυματὰ ἔργα
truly to-you indeed from birth these together followed marvelous works
ἠέ τις ἀθανάτων ἠὲ θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων
or any of-immortals or of-mortal men
δῶρον ἀγαυὸν ἔδωκε καὶ ἔφρασε θέσπιν ἀοιδήν;
a-gift noble gave and showed divine song
θαυμασίην γὰρ τήνδε νεήφατον ὄσσαν ἀκούω,
wondrous for this newly-uttered voice I-hear
ἣν οὐ πώ ποτέ φημι δαήμεναι οὔτε τιν᾽ ἀνδρῶν
which not yet ever I-say to-have-known neither any of-men
οὔτε τιν᾽ ἀθανάτων, οἳ Ὀλύμπια δώματ᾽ ἔχουσι,
nor any of-immortals who Olympian houses have
νόσφι σέθεν, φηλῆτα, Διὸς καὶ Μαιάδος υἱέ.
apart-from you thief of-Zeus and of-Maia son
τίς τέχνη, τίς μοῦσα ἀμηχανέων μελεδώνων,
what art what music of-helpless cares

τίς τρίβος; ἀτρεκέως γὰρ ἅμα τρία πάντα πάρεστιν,
what way truly for together three all are-at-hand
εὐφροσύνην καὶ ἔρωτα καὶ ἥδυμον ὕπνον ἑλέσθαι.
joy and love and sweet sleep to-take
καὶ γὰρ ἐγὼ Μούσῃσιν Ὀλυμπιάδεσσιν ὀπηδός,
and for I to-the-Muses Olympian a-follower
τῇσι χοροί τε μέλουσι καὶ ἀγλαὸς οἶμος ἀοιδῆς
for-whom dances both are-a-care and glorious path of-song
καὶ μολπὴ τεθαλυῖα καὶ ἱμερόεις βρόμος αὐλῶν·
and song blooming and lovely roar of-pipes
ἀλλ᾽ οὔ πω τί μοι ὧδε μετὰ φρεσὶν ἄλλο μέλησεν,
but not yet at-all to-me so in mind else was-a-care
οἷα νέων θαλίῃς ἐνδέξια ἔργα πέλονται.
such-as of-young-men at-feasts skillful deeds are
θαυμάζω, Διὸς υἱέ, τάδ᾽, ὡς ἐρατὸν κιθαρίζεις.
I-marvel of-Zeus son this how lovely you-play
νῦν δ᾽ ἐπεὶ οὖν ὀλίγος περ ἐὼν κλυτὰ μήδεα οἶδας,
now and since indeed little though being glorious counsels you-know
ἶζε, πέπον, καὶ μῦθον ἐπαίνει πρεσβυτέροισι·
sit dear-fellow and word approve to-the-elders
νῦν γάρ τοι κλέος ἔσται ἐν ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσι
now for to-you fame shall-be among immortal gods
σοί τ᾽ αὐτῷ καὶ μητρί· τὸ δ᾽ ἀτρεκέως ἀγορεύσω·
to-you both yourself and to-mother this and truly I-will-say
ναὶ μὰ τόδε κρανέινον ἀκόντιον, ἦ μὲν ἐγώ σε
yes by this cornel-wood javelin truly indeed I you
κυδρὸν ἐν ἀθανάτοισι καὶ ὄλβιον ἡγεμόν᾽ εἴσω
renowned among immortals and prosperous a-leader will-make
δώσω τ᾽ ἀγλαὰ δῶρα καὶ ἐς τέλος οὐκ ἀπατήσω.
I-will-give and glorious gifts and to the-end not will-deceive

Hermes gives Apollo the lyre, and Apollo gives him his shining whip and charge of the herds. They return to Olympus as friends, and Hermes invents the pipes. Apollo fears Hermes may steal his lyre and bow, and Hermes vows never to steal from him. Apollo gives him a golden staff but keeps the prophecy of Zeus' counsels for himself. He grants Hermes three winged sisters under Parnassus who prophesy when fed on honey. Zeus makes Hermes lord of flocks and beasts and messenger to Hades, and Hermes beguiles mortals by night.

Τὸν δ' Ἑρμῆς μύθοισιν ἀμείβετο κερδαλέοισιν·
him and Hermes with-words answered crafty
εἰρωτᾷς μ', Ἑκάεργε, περιφραδές· αὐτὰρ ἐγώ σοι
you-question me Far-worker shrewd but I to-you
τέχνης ἡμετέρης ἐπιβήμεναι οὔ τι μεγαίρω.
art our to-enter-on not at-all grudge
σήμερον εἰδήσεις· ἐθέλω δέ τοι ἤπιος εἶναι
today you-shall-know I-wish and to-you kindly to-be
βουλῇ καὶ μύθοισι. σὺ δὲ φρεσὶ πάντ' εὖ οἶδας·
in-counsel and in-words you and in-mind all well know
πρῶτος γάρ, Διὸς υἱέ, μετ' ἀθανάτοισι θαάσσεις,
first for of-Zeus son among immortals you-sit
ἠύς τε κρατερός τε· φιλεῖ δέ σε μητίετα Ζεὺς
noble both mighty and loves and you counselor Zeus
ἐκ πάσης ὁσίης, ἔπορεν δέ τοι ἀγλαὰ δῶρα.
out-of all right gave and to-you glorious gifts

καὶ τιμάς σέ γέ φασι δαήμεναι ἐκ Διὸς ὀμφῆς
and honors you indeed they-say to-have-learned from of-Zeus voice
μαντείας θ' Ἑκάεργε, Διὸς παρά, θέσφατα πάντα
prophecies and Far-worker of-Zeus from oracles all
τῶν νῦν αὐτὸς ἐγώ σε μαλ' ἀφνειὸν δεδάηκα·
of-which now myself I you very rich have-learned
σοὶ δ' αὐτάγρετόν ἐστι δαήμεναι, ὅττι μενοινᾷς.
for-you and to-choose-yourself it-is to-learn whatever you-desire
ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ οὖν τοι θυμὸς ἐπιθύει κιθαρίζειν,
but since then to-you heart is-eager to-play-the-lyre
μέλπεο καὶ κιθάριζε καὶ ἀγλαίας ἀλέγυνε
sing and play-the-lyre and festivities attend-to
δέγμενος ἐξ ἐμέθεν· σὺ δέ μοι, φίλε, κῦδος ὄπαζε.
receiving from me you and to-me friend glory grant
εὐμόλπει μετὰ χερσὶν ἔχων λιγύφωνον ἑταίρην,
sing-well among hands having the-clear-voiced companion
καλὰ καὶ εὖ κατὰ κόσμον ἐπιστάμενος ἀγορεύειν.
fairly and well in order knowing-how to-speak
εὔκηλος μὲν ἔπειτα φέρειν ἐς δαῖτα θάλειαν
untroubled indeed thereafter carry(-it) to feast rich
καὶ χορὸν ἱμερόεντα καὶ ἐς φιλοκυδέα κῶμον
and dance lovely and to glory-loving revel
εὐφροσύνην νυκτός τε καὶ ἤματος. ὅς τις ἂν αὐτὴν
a-joy of-night both and of-day who any — her
τέχνῃ καὶ σοφίῃ δεδαημένος ἐξερεείνῃ,
with-art and wisdom taught inquires-of
φθεγγομένη παντοῖα νόῳ χαρίεντα διδάσκει
sounding all-sorts to-the-mind graceful-things she-teaches
ῥεῖα συνηθείῃσιν ἀθυρομένη μαλακῇσιν,
easily with-familiarities playing gentle

ἐργασίην φεύγουσα δυήπαθον· ὃς δέ κεν αὐτὴν
toil fleeing wretched who but — her
νῆις ἐὼν τὸ πρῶτον ἐπιζαφελῶς ἐρεείνῃ,
ignorant being the first violently inquires-of
μὰψ αὔτως κεν ἔπειτα μετήορά τε θρυλλίζοι.
in-vain idly — thereafter falsely — would-jangle
σοὶ δ' αὐτάγρετόν ἐστι δαήμεναι, ὅττι μενοινᾷς.
for-you and to-choose-yourself it-is to-learn whatever you-desire
καὶ τοι ἐγὼ δώσω ταύτην, Διὸς ἀγλαὲ κοῦρε·
and to-you I will-give this of-Zeus glorious son
ἡμεῖς δ' αὖτ' ὄρεός τε καὶ ἱπποβότου πεδίοιο
we and in-turn of-the-mountain both and horse-feeding plain
βουσὶ νομούς, Ἑκάεργε, νομεύσομεν ἀγραύλοισιν.
for-cattle pastures Far-worker will-graze field-dwelling
ἔνθεν ἄλις τέξουσι βόες ταύροις, μιγεῖσαι
thence abundantly will-bear the-cows with-bulls mingling
μίγδην θηλείας τε καὶ ἄρσενας· οὐδέ τί σε χρὴ
mingled females both and males nor at-all you need
κερδαλέον περ ἐόντα περιζαμενῶς κεχολῶσθαι.
crafty though being violently to-be-angered
Ὣς εἰπὼν ὤρεξ'· ὃ δ' ἐδέξατο Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων,
so speaking he-held-out(-it) he and received Phoebus Apollo
Ἑρμῇ δ' ἐγγυάλιξεν ἑκὼν μάστιγα φαεινήν,
to-Hermes and put-in-hand willingly whip shining
βουκολίας τ' ἐπέτελλεν· ἔδεκτο δὲ Μαιάδος υἱὸς
the-herding and enjoined received and of-Maia son
γηθήσας· κίθαριν δὲ λαβὼν ἐπ' ἀριστερὰ χειρὸς
rejoicing the-lyre and taking at left of-hand
Λητοῦς ἀγλαὸς υἱός, ἄναξ ἑκάεργος Ἀπόλλων,
of-Leto glorious son the-lord far-worker Apollo

πλήκτρῳ ἐπειρήτιζε κατὰ μέρος· ἣ δ' ὑπένερθε
with-plectrum tested by turn it and beneath
σμερδαλέον κονάβησε· θεὸς δ' ὑπὸ καλὸν ἄεισεν.
terribly rang the-god and to-it fairly sang
Ἔνθα βόας μὲν ἔπειτα ποτὶ ζάθεον λειμῶνα
there cattle indeed thereafter toward holy meadow
ἐτραπέτην· αὐτοὶ δέ, Διὸς περικαλλέα τέκνα,
turned themselves and of-Zeus very-fair children
ἄψορροι πρὸς Ὄλυμπον ἀγάννιφον ἐρρώσαντο
back to Olympus snowy hastened
τερπόμενοι φόρμιγγι· χάρη δ' ἄρα μητιέτα Ζεύς,
delighting in-the-lyre rejoiced and then counselor Zeus
ἄμφω δ' ἐς φιλότητα συνήγαγε· καὶ τὰ μὲν Ἑρμῆς
both and into friendship brought-together and it indeed Hermes
Λητοΐδην ἐφίλησε διαμπερὲς ὡς ἔτι καὶ νῦν,
the-son-of-Leto loved continually as still even now
σήματ' ἐπεὶ κίθαριν μὲν Ἑκηβόλῳ ἐγγυάλιξεν
tokens since the-lyre indeed to-the-Far-shooter he-put-in-hand
ἱμερτήν, δεδαώς, ὃ δ' ἐπωλένιον κιθάριζεν·
lovely having-learned he and on-the-arm played
αὐτὸς δ' αὖθ' ἑτέρης σοφίης ἐκμάσσατο τέχνην·
himself and in-turn of-another wisdom found-out the-art
συρίγγων ἐνοπὴν ποιήσατο τηλόθ' ἀκουστήν.
of-pipes the-sound he-made from-afar heard
Καὶ τότε Λητοΐδης Ἑρμῆν πρὸς μῦθον ἔειπε·
and then the-son-of-Leto Hermes to word spoke
δείδια, Μαιάδος υἱέ, διάκτορε, ποικιλομῆτα,
I-fear of-Maia son guide wily
μή μοι ἅμα κλέψῃς κίθαριν καὶ καμπύλα τόξα·
lest from-me together you-steal lyre and curved bow

τιμὴν γὰρ πὰρ Ζηνὸς ἔχεις ἐπαμοίβια ἔργα
honor for from Zeus you-have of-exchange works
θήσειν ἀνθρώποισι κατὰ χθόνα πουλυβότειραν.
to-establish for-men over earth much-nourishing
ἀλλ᾽ εἴ μοι τλαίης γε θεῶν μέγαν ὅρκον ὀμόσσαι,
but if to-me you-would-bear indeed of-the-gods great oath to-swear
ἢ κεφαλῇ νεύσας ἢ ἐπὶ Στυγὸς ὄβριμον ὕδωρ,
either with-head nodding or by of-Styx mighty water
πάντ᾽ ἂν ἐμῷ θυμῷ κεχαρισμένα καὶ φίλα ἔρδοις.
all — to-my heart pleasing and dear you-would-do

Καὶ τότε Μαιάδος υἱὸς ὑποσχόμενος κατένευσε,
and then of-Maia son promising nodded
μή ποτ᾽ ἀποκλέψειν, ὅσ᾽ Ἑκηβόλος ἐκτεάτισται,
not ever to-steal as-much-as the-Far-shooter has-acquired
μηδέ ποτ᾽ ἐμπελάσειν πυκινῷ δόμῳ· αὐτὰρ Ἀπόλλων
nor ever to-approach close house but Apollo
Λητοΐδης κατένευσεν ἐπ᾽ ἀρθμῷ καὶ φιλότητι,
the-son-of-Leto nodded for union and friendship
μή τινα φίλτερον ἄλλον ἐν ἀθανάτοισιν ἔσεσθαι,
not any dearer other among immortals to-be
μήτε θεὸν μήτ᾽ ἄνδρα Διὸς γόνον· ἐκ δὲ τέλειον
neither god nor man of-Zeus offspring out and perfect
[αἰετὸν ἧκε πατήρ· ὁ δ᾽ ἐπώμοσεν· ἦ σε μάλ᾽ οἷον]
an-eagle sent the-father he and swore truly you very alone
σύμβολον ἀθανάτων ποιήσομαι ἠδ᾽ ἅμα πάντων,
a-token of-the-immortals I-will-make and together of-all
πιστὸν ἐμῷ θυμῷ καὶ τίμιον· αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα
trusted to-my heart and honored but thereafter
ὄλβου καὶ πλούτου δώσω περικαλλέα ῥάβδον,
of-prosperity and of-wealth I-will-give very-fair staff

χρυσείην, τριπέτηλον, ἀκήριον ἥ σε φυλάξει
golden three-leaved unharmed which you will-guard
πάντας ἐπικραίνουσ᾽ ἄθλους ἐπέων τε καὶ ἔργων
all accomplishing tasks of-words both and deeds
τῶν ἀγαθῶν, ὅσα φημὶ δαήμεναι ἐκ Διὸς ὀμφῆς.
of-the good-things as-many-as I-say to-have-learned from of-Zeus voice
μαντείην δέ, φέριστε, διοτρεφές, ἣν ἐρεείνεις,
the-prophecy but best-one Zeus-nurtured which you-ask
οὔτε σὲ θέσφατόν ἐστι δαήμεναι οὔτε τιν᾽ ἄλλον
neither you ordained it-is to-learn nor any other
ἀθανάτων· τὸ γὰρ οἶδε Διὸς νόος· αὐτὰρ ἐγώ γε
of-immortals that for knows of-Zeus the-mind but I indeed
πιστωθεὶς κατένευσα καὶ ὤμοσα καρτερὸν ὅρκον,
pledged nodded and swore mighty oath
μή τινα νόσφιν ἐμεῖο θεῶν αἰειγενετάων
not any apart-from me of-the-gods everlasting
ἄλλον γ᾽ εἴσεσθαι Ζηνὸς πυκινόφρονα βουλήν.
other indeed to-know of-Zeus wise-minded counsel
καὶ σύ, κασίγνητε χρυσόρραπι, μή με κέλευε
and you brother golden-wanded not me bid
θέσφατα πιφαύσκειν, ὅσα μήδεται εὐρύοπα Ζεύς.
oracles to-declare as-many-as devises far-seeing Zeus
ἀνθρώπων δ᾽ ἄλλον δηλήσομαι, ἄλλον ὀνήσω,
of-men and one I-will-harm another I-will-profit
πολλὰ περιτροπέων ἀμεγάρτων φῦλ᾽ ἀνθρώπων.
much herding-about unenviable the-tribes of-men
καὶ μὲν ἐμῆς ὀμφῆς ἀπονήσεται, ὅς τις ἂν ἔλθῃ
and indeed my voice shall-profit who any — comes
φωνῇ καὶ πτερύγεσσι τεληέντων οἰωνῶν·
by-voice and by-wings of-sure birds

οὗτος ἐμῆς ὀμφῆς ἀπονήσεται, οὐδ' ἀπατήσω.
he my voice shall-profit nor will-I-deceive
ὃς δέ κε μαψιλόγοισι πιθήσας οἰωνοῖσι
who but — idly-chattering trusting birds
μαντείην ἐθέλῃσι παρὲκ νόον ἐξερεείνειν
prophecy wishes against mind to-inquire
ἡμετέρην, νοέειν δὲ θεῶν πλέον αἰὲν ἐόντων,
our to-know and of-the-gods more always being
φήμ', ἀλίην ὁδὸν εἶσιν. ἐγὼ δέ κε δῶρα δεχοίμην.
I-say idle way he-will-go I and — gifts would-take
Ἄλλο δέ τοι ἐρέω, Μαίης ἐρικυδέος υἱὲ
another-thing and to-you I-will-say of-Maia glorious son
καὶ Διὸς αἰγιόχοιο, θεῶν ἐριούνιε δαῖμον·
and of-Zeus aegis-bearing of-the-gods luck-bringing divinity
σεμναὶ γὰρ τινες εἰσί, κασίγνηται γεγαυῖαι,
holy for some there-are sisters born
παρθένοι, ὠκείῃσιν ἀγαλλόμεναι πτερύγεσσι,
maidens with-swift exulting wings
τρεῖς· κατὰ δὲ κρατὸς πεπαλαγμέναι ἄλφιτα λευκά,
three over and head besprinkled with-barley white
οἰκία ναιετάουσιν ὑπὸ πτυχὶ Παρνησοῖο,
homes dwell under fold of-Parnassus
μαντείης ἀπάνευθε διδάσκαλοι, ἣν ἐπὶ βουσὶ
of-prophecy apart teachers which with cattle
παῖς ἔτ' ἐὼν μελέτησα· πατὴρ δ' ἐμὸς οὐκ ἀλέγιζεν,
a-boy still being I-practiced father but my not cared
ἐντεῦθεν δὴ ἔπειτα ποτώμεναι ἄλλοτε ἄλλη
thence indeed thereafter flying now-here now-there
κηρία βόσκονται καί τε κραίνουσιν ἕκαστα.
honeycombs feed-on and — accomplish each-thing

αἳ δ' ὅτε μὲν θυΐωσιν ἐδηδυῖαι μέλι χλωρόν,
they and when indeed are-inspired having-eaten honey pale
προφρονέως ἐθέλουσιν ἀληθείην ἀγορεύειν·
readily wish the-truth to-speak
ἢν δ' ἀπονοσφισθῶσι θεῶν ἡδεῖαν ἐδωδήν,
if but they-are-deprived of-the-gods sweet food
ψεύδονται δὴ ἔπειτα δι' ἀλλήλων δονέουσαι.
they-lie indeed thereafter among each-other swarming
τάς τοι ἔπειτα δίδωμι· σὺ δ' ἀτρεκέως ἐρεείνων
them to-you thereafter I-give you and truly inquiring
σὴν αὐτοῦ φρένα τέρπε, καὶ εἰ βροτὸν ἄνδρα δαείῃς,
your own mind delight and if a-mortal man you-teach
πολλάκι σῆς ὀμφῆς ἐπακούσεται, αἴ κε τύχῃσι.
often your voice he-will-hear if — he-has-luck
ταῦτ' ἔχε, Μαιάδος υἱέ, καὶ ἀγραύλους ἕλικας βοῦς
these have of-Maia son and field-dwelling crooked-horned cattle
ἵππους τ' ἀμφιπόλευε καὶ ἡμιόνους ταλαεργούς.
horses and tend and mules hard-working
[Ὣς ἔφατ'· οὐρανόθεν δὲ πατὴρ Ζεὺς αὐτὸς ἔπεσσι
so he-spoke from-heaven and father Zeus himself to-the-words
θῆκε τέλος· πᾶσιν δ' ἄρ' ὅ γ' οἰωνοῖσι κέλευσεν]
put fulfillment to-all and then he indeed birds bade
καὶ χαροποῖσι λέουσι καὶ ἀργιόδουσι σύεσσι
and to-bright-eyed lions and to-white-tusked boars
καὶ κυσὶ καὶ μήλοισιν, ὅσα τρέφει εὐρεῖα χθών,
and to-dogs and to-sheep as-many-as feeds broad earth
πᾶσι δ' ἐπὶ προβάτοισιν ἀνάσσειν κύδιμον Ἑρμῆν,
all and over flocks to-rule glorious Hermes

οἷον δ' εἰς Ἀΐδην τετελεσμένον ἄγγελον εἶναι,
alone and to Hades appointed messenger to-be
ὅς τ' ἄδοτός περ ἐὼν δώσει γέρας οὐκ ἐλάχιστον.
who and giftless though being will-give honor not least
Οὕτω Μαιάδος υἱὸν ἄναξ ἐφίλησεν Ἀπόλλων
so of-Maia son the-lord loved Apollo
παντοίῃ φιλότητι· χάριν δ' ἐπέθηκε Κρονίων.
with-all-kinds-of love grace and added the-son-of-Cronus
πᾶσι δ' ὅ γε θνητοῖσι καὶ ἀθανάτοισιν ὁμιλεῖ.
all and he indeed mortals and immortals consorts-with
παῦρα μὲν οὖν ὀνίνησι, τὸ δ' ἄκριτον ἠπεροπεύει
little indeed then he-profits the but endlessly deceives
νύκτα δι' ὀρφναίην φῦλα θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων.
night through dark the-tribes of-mortal men
Καὶ σὺ μὲν οὕτω χαῖρε, Διὸς καὶ Μαιάδος, υἱέ·
and you indeed so farewell of-Zeus and of-Maia son
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ καὶ σεῖο καὶ ἄλλης μνήσομ' ἀοιδῆς.
but I both of-you and of-another will-remember song

Εἰς Ἀφροδίτην

5.1 · APHRODITE AND ANCHISES

The poet sings of Aphrodite, who stirs desire in gods, men, birds, and beasts. She cannot subdue three goddesses: Athena, who loves war and crafts; Artemis, who loves the hunt; and Hestia, who swore to remain a virgin. She has led even Zeus to lie with mortal women, so Zeus casts desire for Anchises into her heart. At Paphos the Graces bathe her, and she goes to Ida, where wild beasts fawn on her and pair off. She finds Anchises alone and stands before him like an unwed maiden.

Μοῦσά μοι ἔννεπε ἔργα πολυχρύσου Ἀφροδίτης,
Muse to-me tell the-works of-rich-in-gold Aphrodite
Κύπριδος, ἥτε θεοῖσιν ἐπὶ γλυκὺν ἵμερον ὦρσε
of-the-Cyprian who in-gods up sweet longing stirred
καί τ' ἐδαμάσσατο φῦλα καταθνητῶν ἀνθρώπων
and — subdued the-tribes of-mortal men
οἰωνούς τε διιπετέας καὶ θηρία πάντα,
birds both flying-in-the-air and beasts all
ἠμὲν ὅσ' ἤπειρος πολλὰ τρέφει ἠδ' ὅσα πόντος· 5
both as-many-as the-mainland many nurtures and as-many-as the-sea
πᾶσιν δ' ἔργα μέμηλεν ἐυστεφάνου Κυθερείης.
to-all and the-works are-a-care of-fair-crowned Cytherea
Τρισσὰς δ' οὐ δύναται πεπιθεῖν φρένας οὐδ' ἀπατῆσαι·
three but not she-can to-persuade minds nor to-deceive
κούρην τ' αἰγιόχοιο Διός, γλαυκῶπιν Ἀθήνην·
the-daughter — of-aegis-bearing Zeus flashing-eyed Athena
οὐ γὰρ οἱ εὖαδεν ἔργα πολυχρύσου Ἀφροδίτης,
not for her have-pleased the-works of-rich-in-gold Aphrodite

ἀλλ᾽ ἄρα οἱ πόλεμοί τε ἄδον καὶ ἔργον Ἄρηος
but then her wars both pleased and the-work of-Ares
ὑσμῖναί τε μάχαι τε καὶ ἀγλαὰ ἔργ᾽ ἀλεγύνειν.
battles both fights and and glorious works to-attend-to
πρώτη τέκτονας ἄνδρας ἐπιχθονίους ἐδίδαξε
first carpenter men earthly she-taught
ποιῆσαι σατίνας τε καὶ ἅρματα ποικίλα χαλκῷ.
to-make carriages both and chariots wrought with-bronze
ἥ δέ τε παρθενικὰς ἁπαλόχροας ἐν μεγάροισιν
she and — maidens soft-skinned in halls
ἀγλαὰ ἔργ᾽ ἐδίδαξεν ἐπὶ φρεσὶ θεῖσα ἑκάστῃ.
glorious works taught in mind putting in-each
οὐδέ ποτ᾽ Ἀρτέμιδα χρυσηλάκατον, κελαδεινὴν
nor ever Artemis of-the-golden-distaff loud-shouting
δάμναται ἐν φιλότητι φιλομμειδὴς Ἀφροδίτη.
subdues in love smile-loving Aphrodite
καὶ γὰρ τῇ ἅδε τόξα καὶ οὔρεσι θῆρας ἐναίρειν,
also for her pleased bows and in-mountains beasts to-slay
φόρμιγγές τε χοροί τε διαπρύσιοί τ᾽ ὀλολυγαὶ
lyres both dances and piercing and shouts
ἄλσεά τε σκιόεντα δικαίων τε πτόλις ἀνδρῶν.
groves both shadowy of-just and city men
οὐδὲ μὲν αἰδοίῃ κούρῃ ἅδε ἔργ᾽ Ἀφροδίτης,
nor indeed to-the-reverend maiden pleased the-works of-Aphrodite
Ἱστίῃ, ἣν πρώτην τέκετο Κρόνος ἀγκυλομήτης,
Hestia whom first bore Cronus crooked-counseled
αὖτις δ᾽ ὁπλοτάτην, βουλῇ Διὸς αἰγιόχοιο,
again and youngest by-the-will of-Zeus aegis-bearing
πότνιαν, ἣν ἐμνῶντο Ποσειδάων καὶ Ἀπόλλων·
queenly whom wooed Poseidon and Apollo

ἣ δὲ μαλ᾽ οὐκ ἔθελεν, ἀλλὰ στερεῶς ἀπέειπεν·
she but very not was-willing but firmly refused
ὤμοσε δὲ μέγαν ὅρκον, ὃ δὴ τετελεσμένος ἐστίν,
swore and great oath which indeed fulfilled is
ἁψαμένη κεφαλῆς πατρὸς Διὸς αἰγιόχοιο,
touching the-head of-father Zeus aegis-bearing
παρθένος ἔσσεσθαι πάντ᾽ ἤματα, δῖα θεάων.
virgin to-be all days bright of-goddesses
τῇ δὲ πατὴρ Ζεὺς δῶκε καλὸν γέρας ἀντὶ γάμοιο
to-her and father Zeus gave fair honor instead-of marriage
καί τε μέσῳ οἴκῳ κατ᾽ ἄρ᾽ ἕζετο πῖαρ ἑλοῦσα.
and — in-the-middle-of house down then she-sat the-fat taking
πᾶσιν δ᾽ ἐν νηοῖσι θεῶν τιμάοχός ἐστι
all and in temples of-the-gods honored she-is
καὶ παρὰ πᾶσι βροτοῖσι θεῶν πρέσβειρα τέτυκται.
and among all mortals of-the-gods chief is-made
Τάων οὐ δύναται πεπιθεῖν φρένας οὐδ᾽ ἀπατῆσαι·
of-these not she-can to-persuade minds nor to-deceive
τῶν δ᾽ ἄλλων οὔ πέρ τι πεφυγμένον ἔστ᾽ Ἀφροδίτην
of-the but others not indeed anything fled is Aphrodite
οὔτε θεῶν μακάρων οὔτε θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων.
neither of-gods blessed nor of-mortal men
καί τε παρὲκ Ζηνὸς νόον ἤγαγε τερπικεραύνου,
and — aside-from of-Zeus the-mind she-led thunder-delighting
ὅστε μέγιστός τ᾽ ἐστὶ μεγίστης τ᾽ ἔμμορε τιμῆς.
who greatest both is of-greatest and has-share honor
καί τε τοῦ, εὖτ᾽ ἐθέλοι, πυκινὰς φρένας ἐξαπαφοῦσα
and — of-him when she-wishes shrewd mind deceiving
ῥηιδίως συνέμιξε καταθνητῇσι γυναιξίν,
easily she-mingled with-mortal women

Ἥρης ἐκλελαθοῦσα, κασιγνήτης ἀλόχου τε,
Hera making(-him)-forget sister wife and
ἣ μέγα εἶδος ἀρίστη ἐν ἀθανάτῃσι θεῇσι.
who greatly in-form best among immortal goddesses
κυδίστην δ' ἄρα μιν τέκετο Κρόνος ἀγκυλομήτης
most-glorious and then her bore Cronus crooked-counseled
μήτηρ τε Ῥείη· Ζεὺς δ' ἄφθιτα μήδεα εἰδὼς
mother and Rhea Zeus and imperishable counsels knowing
αἰδοίην ἄλοχον ποιήσατο κέδν' εἰδυῖαν.
reverend wife made careful-things knowing
Τῇ δὲ καὶ αὐτῇ Ζεὺς γλυκὺν ἵμερον ἔμβαλε θυμῷ
in-her and also herself Zeus sweet longing cast in-heart
ἀνδρὶ καταθνητῷ μιχθήμεναι, ὄφρα τάχιστα
with-a-man mortal to-mingle so-that most-quickly
μηδ' αὐτὴ βροτέης εὐνῆς ἀποεργμένη εἴη,
nor she-herself from-mortal bed shut-out might-be
καί ποτ' ἐπευξαμένη εἴπῃ μετὰ πᾶσι θεοῖσιν
and some-day boasting she-might-say among all gods
ἡδὺ γελοιήσασα, φιλομμειδὴς Ἀφροδίτη,
sweetly laughing smile-loving Aphrodite
ὥς ῥα θεοὺς συνέμιξε καταθνητῇσι γυναιξί,
how then gods she-mingled with-mortal women
καί τε καταθνητοὺς υἱεῖς τέκον ἀθανάτοισιν,
and — mortal sons they-bore to-immortals
ὥς τε θεὰς ἀνέμιξε καταθνητοῖς ἀνθρώποις.
how and goddesses she-mingled with-mortal men

Ἀγχίσεω δ᾽ ἄρα οἱ γλυκὺν ἵμερον ἔμβαλε θυμῷ,
for-Anchises and then in-her sweet longing he-cast in-heart
ὃς τότ᾽ ἐν ἀκροπόλοις ὄρεσιν πολυπιδάκου Ἴδης
who then on high-peaked mountains of-many-fountained Ida
βουκολέεσκεν βοῦς δέμας ἀθανάτοισιν ἐοικώς.
tended cattle in-form to-the-immortals like
τὸν δὴ ἔπειτα ἰδοῦσα φιλομμειδὴς Ἀφροδίτη
him indeed thereafter seeing smile-loving Aphrodite
ἠράσατ᾽, ἔκπαγλος δὲ κατὰ φρένας ἵμερος εἷλεν.
loved terrible and in mind longing seized
ἐς Κύπρον δ᾽ ἐλθοῦσα θυώδεα νηὸν ἔδυνεν,
to Cyprus and going fragrant temple entered
ἐς Πάφον· ἔνθα δέ οἱ τέμενος βωμός τε θυώδης.
to Paphos there and her precinct altar and fragrant
ἐνθ᾽ ἥ γ᾽ εἰσελθοῦσα θύρας ἐπέθηκε φαεινάς·
there she indeed entering doors closed shining
ἔνθα δέ μιν Χάριτες λοῦσαν καὶ χρῖσαν ἐλαίῳ
there and her the-Graces bathed and anointed with-oil
ἀμβρότῳ, οἷα θεοὺς ἐπενήνοθεν αἰὲν ἐόντας,
immortal such-as the-gods bloom-upon always being
ἀμβροσίῳ ἑδανῷ, τό ῥά οἱ τεθυωμένον ἦεν.
ambrosial sweet which then for-her perfumed was
ἑσσαμένη δ᾽ εὖ πάντα περὶ χροῒ εἵματα καλὰ
clothing and well all around skin garments fair
χρυσῷ κοσμηθεῖσα φιλομμειδὴς Ἀφροδίτη
with-gold adorned smile-loving Aphrodite
σεύατ᾽ ἐπὶ Τροίης προλιποῦσ᾽ εὐώδεα Κύπρον,
hastened toward Troy leaving fragrant Cyprus
ὕψι μετὰ νέφεσιν ῥίμφα πρήσσουσα κέλευθον.
high among clouds swiftly making way

Ἴδην δ' ἵκανεν πολυπίδακα, μητέρα θηρῶν,
Ida and she-reached many-fountained mother of-beasts
βῆ δ' ἰθὺς σταθμοῖο δι' οὔρεος· οἳ δὲ μετ' αὐτὴν
went and straight for-the-steading through mountain they and after her
σαίνοντες πολιοί τε λύκοι χαροποί τε λέοντες,
fawning gray both wolves bright-eyed and lions
ἄρκτοι παρδάλιές τε θοαὶ προκάδων ἀκόρητοι
bears leopards and swift of-deer insatiable
ἤισαν· ἣ δ' ὁρόωσα μετὰ φρεσὶ τέρπετο θυμὸν
went she and seeing in mind delighted heart
καὶ τοῖς ἐν στήθεσσι βάλ' ἵμερον· οἳ δ' ἅμα πάντες
and in-them in breasts cast longing they and together all
σύνδυο κοιμήσαντο κατὰ σκιόεντας ἐναύλους·
two-by-two lay-down in shadowy lairs
αὐτὴ δ' ἐς κλισίας εὐποιήτους ἀφίκανε·
she-herself and to huts well-made came
τὸν δ' εὗρε σταθμοῖσι λελειμμένον οἷον ἀπ' ἄλλων
him and found in-the-steadings left alone from the-others
Ἀγχίσην ἥρωα, θεῶν ἄπο κάλλος ἔχοντα.
Anchises hero the-gods from beauty having
οἳ δ' ἅμα βουσὶν ἕποντο νομοὺς κατὰ ποιήεντας
they and with cattle followed pastures over grassy
πάντες· ὃ δὲ σταθμοῖσι λελειμμένος οἷος ἀπ' ἄλλων
all he but in-the-steadings left alone from the-others
πωλεῖτ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα διαπρύσιον κιθαρίζων.
went-about this-way and that-way piercingly playing-the-lyre
στῆ δ' αὐτοῦ προπάροιθε Διὸς θυγάτηρ Ἀφροδίτη
stood and him before of-Zeus daughter Aphrodite
παρθένῳ ἀδμήτῃ μέγεθος καὶ εἶδος ὁμοίη,
to-a-maiden unwed in-stature and form like

μή μιν ταρβήσειεν ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσι νοήσας.
lest her he-should-fear with eyes perceiving
Ἀγχίσης δ' ὁρόων ἐφράζετο θαύμαινέν τε
Anchises and seeing considered marveled and
εἶδός τε μέγεθός τε καὶ εἵματα σιγαλόεντα. 85
form both stature and and garments shining
πέπλον μὲν γὰρ ἕεστο φαεινότερον πυρὸς αὐγῆς,
robe indeed for she-wore brighter of-fire than-the-gleam
καλόν, χρύσειον, παμποίκιλον· ὡς δὲ σελήνη
fair golden all-wrought as and the-moon
στήθεσιν ἀμφ' ἁπαλοῖσιν ἐλάμπετο, θαῦμα ἰδέσθαι· 90
breasts over soft shone a-wonder to-see
εἶχε δ' ἐπιγναμπτὰς ἕλικας κάλυκάς τε φαεινάς·
she-had and twisted spirals flower-ornaments and shining
ὅρμοι δ' ἀμφ' ἁπαλῇ δειρῇ περικαλλέες ἦσαν.
necklaces and around soft neck very-fair were

5.2 · THE SEDUCTION

Anchises greets her as a goddess. She denies it: she is the daughter of Otreus, king of Phrygia, carried off by Hermes to be Anchises' wife. Anchises declares that nothing will keep him from her. She goes to his bed, where he lies with her, not knowing she is a goddess.

Ἀγχίσην δ' ἔρος εἷλεν, ἔπος δέ μιν ἀντίον ηὔδα·
Anchises and love seized a-word and her facing addressed
χαῖρε, ἄνασσ', ἥ τις μακάρων τάδε δώμαθ' ἱκάνεις,
hail queen who any of-the-blessed this house you-come-to

Ἄρτεμις ἢ Λητὼ ἠὲ χρυσέη Ἀφροδίτη
Artemis or Leto or golden Aphrodite
ἢ Θέμις ἠυγενὴς ἠὲ γλαυκῶπις Ἀθήνη,
or Themis noble-born or flashing-eyed Athena
ἤ πού τις Χαρίτων δεῦρ' ἤλυθες, αἵτε θεοῖσι
or perhaps one of-the-Graces hither you-came who with-the-gods
πᾶσιν ἑταιρίζουσι καὶ ἀθάνατοι καλέονται,
all keep-company and immortal are-called
ἤ τις Νυμφάων, αἵτ' ἄλσεα καλὰ νέμονται
or one of-the-Nymphs who groves fair inhabit
ἢ Νυμφῶν, αἳ καλὸν ὄρος τόδε ναιετάουσι
or of-the-Nymphs who fair mountain this dwell-on
καὶ πηγὰς ποταμῶν, καὶ πίσεα ποιήεντα.
and springs of-rivers and meadows grassy
σοὶ δ' ἐγὼ ἐν σκοπιῇ, περιφαινομένῳ ἐνὶ χώρῳ,
for-you and I on a-lookout conspicuous in place
βωμὸν ποιήσω, ῥέξω δέ τοι ἱερὰ καλὰ
an-altar will-make will-offer and to-you offerings fair
ὥρῃσιν πάσῃσι. σὺ δ' εὔφρονα θυμὸν ἔχουσα
in-seasons all you and kindly heart having
δός με μετὰ Τρώεσσιν ἀριπρεπέ' ἔμμεναι ἄνδρα,
grant me among Trojans preeminent to-be a-man
ποίει δ' ἐξοπίσω θαλερὸν γόνον, αὐτὰρ ἔμ' αὐτὸν
make and hereafter flourishing offspring but me myself
δηρὸν ἐὺ ζώειν καὶ ὁρᾶν φάος ἠελίοιο,
long well to-live and to-see light of-the-sun
ὄλβιον ἐν λαοῖς, καὶ γήραος οὐδὸν ἱκέσθαι.
prosperous among peoples and of-old-age the-threshold to-reach

Τὸν δ' ἠμείβετ' ἔπειτα Διὸς θυγάτηρ Ἀφροδίτη·
him and answered thereupon of-Zeus daughter Aphrodite
Ἀγχίση, κύδιστε χαμαιγενέων ἀνθρώπων,
Anchises most-glorious of-earth-born men
οὔ τίς τοι θεός εἰμι· τί μ' ἀθανάτῃσιν ἐίσκεις;
not any you-know goddess I-am why me to-immortals liken-you
ἀλλὰ καταθνητή τε, γυνὴ δέ με γείνατο μήτηρ.
but mortal and woman and me bore mother
Ὀτρεὺς δ' ἐστὶ πατὴρ ὀνομακλυτός, εἴ που ἀκούεις,
Otreus and is father famous if perhaps you-hear
ὃς πάσης Φρυγίης εὐτειχήτοιο ἀνάσσει.
who all Phrygia well-walled rules
γλῶσσαν δ' ὑμετέρην τε καὶ ἡμετέρην σάφα οἶδα.
tongue and your both and our clearly I-know
Τρῳὰς γὰρ μεγάρῳ με τροφὸς τρέφεν· ἣ δὲ διαπρὸ
a-Trojan for in-hall me nurse reared she and continually
σμικρὴν παῖδ' ἀτίταλλε, φίλης παρὰ μητρὸς ἑλοῦσα.
little child fostered dear from mother taking
ὣς δή τοι γλῶσσάν γε καὶ ὑμετέρην εὖ οἶδα.
so indeed you-know tongue indeed also your well I-know
νῦν δέ μ' ἀνήρπαξε χρυσόρραπις Ἀργειφόντης
now but me snatched-up golden-wanded Argus-slayer
ἐκ χοροῦ Ἀρτέμιδος χρυσηλακάτου, κελαδεινῆς.
from the-dance of-Artemis of-the-golden-distaff loud-shouting
πολλαὶ δὲ νύμφαι καὶ παρθένοι ἀλφεσίβοιαι
many and nymphs and maidens bringing-in-oxen
παίζομεν, ἀμφὶ δ' ὅμιλος ἀπείριτος ἐστεφάνωτο.
were-playing around and a-crowd boundless was-ringed
ἔνθεν μ' ἥρπαξε χρυσόρραπις Ἀργειφόντης·
thence me snatched golden-wanded Argus-slayer

πολλὰ δ' ἔπ' ἤγαγεν ἔργα καταθνητῶν ἀνθρώπων,
many and over he-led tilled-lands of-mortal men
πολλὴν δ' ἄκληρόν τε καὶ ἄκτιτον, ἣν διὰ θῆρες
much and unallotted both and unsettled which through beasts
ὠμοφάγοι φοιτῶσι κατὰ σκιόεντας ἐναύλους·
flesh-eating roam over shadowy lairs
οὐδὲ ποσὶ ψαύσειν ἐδόκουν φυσιζόου αἴης·
nor with-feet to-touch I-thought life-giving earth
Ἀγχίσεω δέ με φάσκε παραὶ λέχεσιν καλέεσθαι
of-Anchises and me he-said beside the-bed to-be-called
κουριδίην ἄλοχον, σοὶ δ' ἀγλαὰ τέκνα τεκεῖσθαι.
wedded wife to-you and glorious children to-bear
αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ δὴ δεῖξε καὶ ἔφρασεν, ἦ τοι ὅ γ' αὖτις
but when indeed he-showed and pointed truly you-know he indeed again
ἀθανάτων μετὰ φῦλ' ἀπέβη κρατὺς Ἀργειφόντης·
of-the-immortals to tribes went-away strong Argus-slayer
αὐτὰρ ἐγώ σ' ἱκόμην, κρατερὴ δέ μοι ἔπλετ' ἀνάγκη.
but I you have-reached strong and for-me is necessity
ἀλλά σε πρὸς Ζηνὸς γουνάζομαι ἠδὲ τοκήων
but you by Zeus I-beseech and parents
ἐσθλῶν· οὐ μὲν γάρ κε κακοὶ τοιόνδε τέκοιεν·
noble not indeed for — base-ones such would-bear
ἀδμήτην μ' ἀγαγὼν καὶ ἀπειρήτην φιλότητος
unwed me leading and untried of-love
πατρί τε σῷ δεῖξον καὶ μητέρι κέδν' εἰδυίῃ
to-father both your show and mother careful-things knowing
σοῖς τε κασιγνήτοις, οἵ τοι ὁμόθεν γεγάασιν.
your and brothers who to-you from-one-stock are-born
οὔ σφιν ἀεικελίη νυὸς ἔσσομαι, ἀλλ' εἰκυῖα.
not to-them unseemly daughter-in-law I-shall-be but seemly

πέμψαι δ᾽ ἄγγελον ὦκα μετὰ Φρύγας αἰολοπώλους
send and a-messenger quickly among the-Phrygians of-swift-horses
εἰπεῖν πατρί τ᾽ ἐμῷ καὶ μητέρι κηδομένῃ περ·
to-tell to-father and my and mother grieving though
οἳ δέ κε τοι χρυσόν τε ἅλις ἐσθῆτά θ᾽ ὑφαντὴν
they and — to-you gold both abundant clothing and woven
πέμψουσιν· σὺ δὲ πολλὰ καὶ ἀγλαὰ δέχθαι ἄποινα.
will-send you and many and glorious receive ransoms
ταῦτα δὲ ποιήσας δαίνυ γάμον ἱμερόεντα,
these-things and having-done give-a-feast marriage lovely
τίμιον ἀνθρώποισι καὶ ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσιν.
honored for-men and immortal gods
Ὣς εἰποῦσα θεὰ γλυκὺν ἵμερον ἔμβαλε θυμῷ.
so speaking the-goddess sweet longing cast in-heart
Ἀγχίσην δ᾽ ἔρος εἷλεν ἔπος τ᾽ ἔφατ᾽ ἔκ τ᾽ ὀνόμαζεν·
Anchises and love seized word and he-spoke out and called
Εἰ μὲν θνητή τ᾽ ἐσσι, γυνὴ δέ σε γείνατο μήτηρ,
if indeed mortal and you-are woman and you bore mother
Ὀτρεὺς δ᾽ ἐστὶ πατὴρ ὀνομακλυτός, ὡς ἀγορεύεις,
Otreus and is father famous as you-say
ἀθανάτου δὲ ἔκητι διακτόρου ἐνθάδ᾽ ἱκάνεις
of-immortal and by-the-will guide here you-come
Ἑρμέω, ἐμὴ δ᾽ ἄλοχος κεκλήσεαι ἤματα πάντα·
of-Hermes my and wife you-shall-be-called days all

οὔ τις ἔπειτα θεῶν οὔτε θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων
not any thereupon of-the-gods nor of-mortal men
ἐνθάδε με σχήσει, πρὶν σῇ φιλότητι μιγῆναι
here me shall-hold-back before your love to-mingle-in
αὐτίκα νῦν· οὐδ' εἴ κεν ἑκηβόλος αὐτὸς Ἀπόλλων
at-once now not-even if — far-shooting himself Apollo
τόξου ἀπ' ἀργυρέου προΐῃ βέλεα στονόεντα.
bow from silver should-shoot shafts grievous
βουλοίμην κεν ἔπειτα, γύναι ἐικυῖα θεῇσι,
I-would-wish — thereafter woman like goddesses
σῆς εὐνῆς ἐπιβὰς δῦναι δόμον Ἄιδος εἴσω.
your bed having-mounted to-go-down house of-Hades into
Ὣς εἰπὼν λάβε χεῖρα· φιλομμειδὴς δ' Ἀφροδίτη
so speaking he-took hand smile-loving and Aphrodite
ἕρπε μεταστρεφθεῖσα κατ' ὄμματα καλὰ βαλοῦσα
crept turned-about down eyes fair casting
ἐς λέχος εὔστρωτον, ὅθι περ πάρος ἔσκεν ἄνακτι
to bed well-spread where indeed before was for-the-lord
χλαίνῃσιν μαλακῇς ἐστρωμένον· αὐτὰρ ὕπερθεν
with-cloaks soft spread but above
ἄρκτων δέρματ' ἔκειτο βαρυφθόγγων τε λεόντων,
of-bears hides lay of-deep-roaring and lions
τοὺς αὐτὸς κατέπεφνεν ἐν οὔρεσιν ὑψηλοῖσιν.
which himself had-slain in mountains high
οἳ δ' ἐπεὶ οὖν λεχέων εὐποιήτων ἐπέβησαν,
they and when then onto-the-bed well-made mounted
κόσμον μέν οἱ πρῶτον ἀπὸ χροὸς εἷλε φαεινόν,
ornament indeed from-her first from skin took shining
πόρπας τε γναμπτάς θ' ἕλικας κάλυκάς τε καὶ ὅρμους.
brooches both twisted and spirals flower-ornaments both and necklaces

λῦσε δέ οἱ ζώνην ἰδὲ εἵματα σιγαλόεντα
loosed and her girdle and garments shining
ἔκδυε καὶ κατέθηκεν ἐπὶ θρόνου ἀργυροήλου
stripped-off and laid on chair silver-studded
Ἀγχίσης· ὃ δ' ἔπειτα θεῶν ἰότητι καὶ αἴσῃ
Anchises he and thereupon of-the-gods by-will and fate
ἀθανάτῃ παρέλεκτο θεᾷ βροτός, οὐ σάφα εἰδώς.
with-an-immortal lay goddess a-mortal not clearly knowing

5.3 · APHRODITE REVEALS HERSELF

When the herdsmen return, Aphrodite puts Anchises to sleep, dresses, and wakes him, revealing herself. He begs her not to leave him strengthless. She tells him not to fear: he will have a son, Aeneas, who will rule among the Trojans. His race is near the gods, as Zeus showed when he carried off Ganymede and gave his father horses, and as Eos showed when she asked immortality for Tithonus but forgot to ask youth, so that old age crippled him and she shut him in a chamber.

Ἦμος δ' ἀψ εἰς αὖλιν ἀποκλίνουσι νομῆες
when and back to steading turn the-herdsmen
βοῦς τε καὶ ἴφια μῆλα νομῶν ἐξ ἀνθεμοέντων·
cattle both and fat sheep pastures from flowery
τῆμος ἄρ' Ἀγχίσῃ μὲν ἐπὶ γλυκὺν ὕπνον ἔχευε
then then on-Anchises indeed upon sweet sleep she-poured
νήδυμον, αὐτὴ δὲ χροῒ ἕννυτο εἵματα καλά.
gentle herself and on-skin clothed garments fair

ἑσσαμένη δ᾽ εὖ πάντα περὶ χροΐ δῖα θεάων
clothing and well all around skin bright of-goddesses
ἔστη πὰρ κλισίῃ, κευποιήτοιο μελάθρου
stood by the-couch and-of-the-well-made roof
κῦρε κάρη· κάλλος δὲ παρειάων ἀπέλαμπεν
touched with-head beauty and from-cheeks shone
ἄμβροτον, οἷόν τ᾽ ἐστὶν ἐυστεφάνου Κυθερείης,
immortal such-as — is of-fair-crowned Cytherea
ἐξ ὕπνου τ᾽ ἀνέγειρεν ἔπος τ᾽ ἔφατ᾽ ἔκ τ᾽ ὀνόμαζεν·
from sleep and roused word and spoke out and called
Ὄρσεο, Δαρδανίδη· τί νυ νήγρετον ὕπνον ἰαύεις;
rise son-of-Dardanus why now unwaking sleep do-you-sleep
καὶ φράσαι, εἴ τοι ὁμοίη ἐγὼν ἰνδάλλομαι εἶναι,
and consider if to-you like I appear to-be
οἵην δή με τὸ πρῶτον ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσι νόησας;
such-as indeed me the first with eyes you-perceived
Ὣς φάθ᾽· ὃ δ᾽ ἐξ ὕπνοιο μάλ᾽ ἐμμαπέως ὑπάκουσεν.
so she-spoke he and from sleep very quickly heard
ὡς δὲ ἴδεν δειρήν τε καὶ ὄμματα κάλ᾽ Ἀφροδίτης,
when and he-saw neck both and eyes fair of-Aphrodite
τάρβησέν τε καὶ ὄσσε παρακλιδὸν ἔτραπεν ἄλλῃ·
was-afraid both and eyes aside turned elsewhere
ἂψ δ᾽ αὖτις χλαίνῃ τε καλύψατο καλὰ πρόσωπα
back and again with-cloak and covered fair face
καί μιν λισσόμενος ἔπεα πτερόεντα προσηύδα·
and her beseeching words winged addressed
Αὐτίκα σ᾽ ὡς τὰ πρῶτα, θεά, ἴδον ὀφθαλμοῖσιν,
at-once you when the first goddess I-saw with-eyes
ἔγνων ὡς θεὸς ἦσθα· σὺ δ᾽ οὐ νημερτὲς ἔειπες.
I-knew that a-goddess you-were you but not truly spoke

ἀλλά σε πρὸς Ζηνὸς γουνάζομαι αἰγιόχοιο,
but you by Zeus I-beseech aegis-bearing
μή με ζῶντ' ἀμενηνὸν ἐν ἀνθρώποισιν ἐάσῃς
not me living strengthless among men let
ναίειν, ἀλλ' ἐλέαιρ'· ἐπεὶ οὐ βιοθάλμιος ἀνὴρ
dwell but pity since not life-strong a-man
γίγνεται, ὅς τε θεαῖς εὐνάζεται ἀθανάτῃσι.
becomes who — with-goddesses lies immortal

Τὸν δ' ἠμείβετ' ἔπειτα Διὸς θυγάτηρ Ἀφροδίτη·
him and answered thereupon of-Zeus daughter Aphrodite
Ἀγχίση, κύδιστε καταθνητῶν ἀνθρώπων,
Anchises most-glorious of-mortal men
θάρσει, μηδέ τι σῇσι μετὰ φρεσὶ δείδιθι λίην·
take-heart nor at-all your in mind fear too-much
οὐ γάρ τοί τι δέος παθέειν κακὸν ἐξ ἐμέθεν γε,
not for to-you at-all fear to-suffer evil from me indeed
οὐδ' ἄλλων μακάρων· ἐπεὶ ἦ φίλος ἐσσὶ θεοῖσι.
nor from-other blessed-ones since truly dear you-are to-the-gods
σοὶ δ' ἔσται φίλος υἱός, ὃς ἐν Τρώεσσιν ἀνάξει
to-you and shall-be a-dear son who among Trojans shall-rule
καὶ παῖδες παίδεσσι διαμπερὲς ἐκγεγάοντες·
and children to-children continually born
τῷ δὲ καὶ Αἰνείας ὄνομ' ἔσσεται, οὕνεκα μ' αἰνὸν
for-him and also Aeneas name shall-be because me dread
ἔσχεν ἄχος, ἕνεκα βροτοῦ ἀνέρος ἔμπεσον εὐνῇ·
held grief because of-a-mortal man I-fell-into bed
ἀγχίθεοι δὲ μάλιστα καταθνητῶν ἀνθρώπων
near-to-the-gods and most of-mortal men
αἰεὶ ἀφ' ὑμετέρης γενεῆς εἶδός τε φυήν τε.
always from your race in-form both in-stature and

Ἦ τοι μὲν ξανθὸν Γανυμήδεα μητιέτα Ζεὺς
truly you-know indeed fair-haired Ganymede counselor Zeus
ἥρπασε ὃν διὰ κάλλος, ἵν' ἀθανάτοισι μετείη
snatched his because-of beauty so-that among-immortals he-might-be
καί τε Διὸς κατὰ δῶμα θεοῖς ἐπιοινοχοεύοι,
and — of-Zeus throughout house to-the-gods pour-wine
θαῦμα ἰδεῖν, πάντεσσι τετιμένος ἀθανάτοισι,
a-wonder to-see by-all honored immortals
χρυσέου ἐκ κρητῆρος ἀφύσσων νέκταρ ἐρυθρόν.
golden from mixing-bowl drawing nectar red
Τρῶα δὲ πένθος ἄλαστον ἔχε φρένας, οὐδέ τι ᾔδει,
Tros and grief unforgettable held in-mind nor at-all he-knew
ὅππη οἱ φίλον υἱὸν ἀνήρπασε θέσπις ἄελλα·
where his dear son snatched-away divine whirlwind
τὸν δὴ ἔπειτα γόασκε διαμπερὲς ἤματα πάντα
him indeed thereafter he-mourned continually days all
καί μιν Ζεὺς ἐλέησε, δίδου δέ οἱ υἷος ἄποινα,
and him Zeus pitied gave and to-him for-the-son a-ransom
ἵππους ἀρσίποδας, τοί τ' ἀθανάτους φορέουσι.
horses high-stepping which — immortals carry
τούς οἱ δῶρον ἔδωκεν ἔχειν· εἶπεν δὲ ἕκαστα
which to-him as-a-gift he-gave to-have told and each-thing
Ζηνὸς ἐφημοσύνῃσι διάκτορος Ἀργειφόντης,
of-Zeus at-the-commands the-guide Argus-slayer
ὡς ἔοι ἀθάνατος καὶ ἀγήρως ἶσα θεοῖσιν.
how he-would-be immortal and ageless equal to-the-gods
αὐτὰρ ἐπειδὴ Ζηνὸς ὅ γ' ἔκλυεν ἀγγελιάων,
but when of-Zeus he indeed heard the-messages

οὐκέτ᾽ ἔπειτα γόασκε, γεγήθει δὲ φρένας ἔνδον,
no-longer thereafter he-mourned rejoiced and in-mind within
γηθόσυνος δ᾽ ἵπποισιν ἀελλοπόδεσσιν ὀχεῖτο.
glad and with-horses storm-footed he-rode
Ὣς δ᾽ αὖ Τιθωνὸν χρυσόθρονος ἥρπασεν Ἠώς,
so and in-turn Tithonus golden-throned snatched Dawn
ὑμετέρης γενεῆς, ἐπιείκελον ἀθανάτοισι.
of-your race like to-the-immortals
βῆ δ᾽ ἴμεν αἰτήσουσα κελαινεφέα Κρονίωνα, 220
she-went and to-go to-ask dark-clouded the-son-of-Cronus
ἀθάνατόν τ᾽ εἶναι καὶ ζώειν ἤματα πάντα·
immortal both to-be and to-live days all
τῇ δὲ Ζεὺς ἐπένευσε καὶ ἐκρήηνεν ἐέλδωρ.
to-her and Zeus nodded and fulfilled the-wish
νηπίη, οὐδ᾽ ἐνόησε μετὰ φρεσὶ πότνια Ἠὼς
foolish not considered in mind queenly Dawn
ἥβην αἰτῆσαι ξῦσαί τ᾽ ἄπο γῆρας ὀλοιόν.
youth to-ask to-scrape and off old-age baneful
τὸν δ᾽ ἦ τοι εἵως μὲν ἔχεν πολυήρατος ἥβη, 225
him and truly you-know while indeed held very-lovely youth
Ἠοῖ τερπόμενος χρυσοθρόνῳ, ἠριγενείῃ
in-Dawn delighting golden-throned early-born
ναίε παρ᾽ Ὠκεανοῖο ῥοῇς ἐπὶ πείρασι γαίης·
he-dwelt by of-Ocean the-streams at the-ends of-earth
αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ πρῶται πολιαὶ κατέχυντο ἔθειραι
but when first gray poured-down hairs
καλῆς ἐκ κεφαλῆς εὐηγενέος τε γενείου,
fair from head noble and chin
τοῦ δ᾽ ἦ τοι εὐνῆς μὲν ἀπείχετο πότνια Ἠώς, 230
from-him and truly you-know bed indeed held-aloof queenly Dawn

αὐτὸν δ' αὖτ' ἀτίταλλεν ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἔχουσα,
him and in-turn she-tended in halls keeping
σίτῳ τ' ἀμβροσίῃ τε καὶ εἵματα καλὰ διδοῦσα.
with-food both ambrosia and also garments fair giving
ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ πάμπαν στυγερὸν κατὰ γῆρας ἔπειγεν,
but when indeed utterly hateful down old-age pressed
οὐδέ τι κινῆσαι μελέων δύνατ' οὐδ' ἀναεῖραι,
nor at-all to-move of-limbs he-could nor to-lift
ἥδε δέ οἱ κατὰ θυμὸν ἀρίστη φαίνετο βουλή·
this and to-her in heart best seemed counsel
ἐν θαλάμῳ κατέθηκε, θύρας δ' ἐπέθηκε φαεινάς.
in chamber she-laid(-him) doors and closed shining
τοῦ δ' ἦ τοι φωνὴ ῥέει ἄσπετος, οὐδέ τι κῖκυς
of-him and truly you-know voice flows unceasing nor at-all strength
ἔσθ', οἵη πάρος ἔσκεν ἐνὶ γναμπτοῖσι μέλεσσιν.
is such-as before was in supple limbs

5.4 · THE CHILD TO COME

Her shame among the gods for her union with a mortal will be great. The child will be reared by mountain nymphs and brought to him at five. If Anchises boasts of lying with Aphrodite, Zeus will strike him with a thunderbolt. She rises to heaven, and the poet bids her farewell.

Οὐκ ἂν ἐγώ γε σὲ τοῖον ἐν ἀθανάτοισιν ἑλοίμην
not — I indeed you such among immortals would-choose
ἀθάνατόν τ' εἶναι καὶ ζώειν ἤματα πάντα.
immortal both to-be and to-live days all

ἀλλ᾽ εἰ μὲν τοιοῦτος ἐὼν εἶδός τε δέμας τε
but if indeed such being in-form both in-body and
ζώοις ἡμέτερός τε πόσις κεκλημένος εἴης,
you-could-live our and husband called you-might-be
οὐκ ἂν ἔπειτά μ᾽ ἄχος πυκινὰς φρένας ἀμφικαλύπτοι.
not — thereafter me grief shrewd mind would-cover
νῦν δέ σε μὲν τάχα γῆρας ὁμοίιον ἀμφικαλύψει
now but you indeed soon old-age leveling will-cover
νηλειές, τό τ᾽ ἔπειτα παρίσταται ἀνθρώποισιν, 245
pitiless which — thereafter stands-beside men
οὐλόμενον, καματηρόν, ὅτε στυγέουσι θεοί περ.
baneful wearying which hate the-gods though
Αὐτὰρ ἐμοὶ μέγ᾽ ὄνειδος ἐν ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσιν
but for-me great reproach among immortal gods
ἔσσεται ἤματα πάντα διαμπερὲς εἵνεκα σεῖο,
shall-be days all continually because-of you
οἳ πρὶν ἐμοὺς ὀάρους καὶ μήτιας, αἷς ποτε πάντας
who before my converse and schemes by-which once all
ἀθανάτους συνέμιξα καταθνητῇσι γυναιξί, 250
immortals I-mingled with-mortal women
τάρβεσκον· πάντας γὰρ ἐμὸν δάμνασκε νόημα.
used-to-fear all for my subdued thought
νῦν δὲ δὴ οὐκέτι μοι στόμα χείσεται ἐξονομῆναι
now but indeed no-longer for-me mouth will-hold to-name
τοῦτο μετ᾽ ἀθανάτοισιν, ἐπεὶ μάλα πολλὸν ἀάσθην,
this among immortals since very greatly I-was-blinded
σχέτλιον, οὐκ ὀνοταστόν, ἀπεπλάγχθην δὲ νόοιο,
wretchedly not to-be-scorned I-strayed-from and mind
παῖδα δ᾽ ὑπὸ ζώνῃ ἐθέμην βροτῷ εὐνηθεῖσα. 255
a-child and under girdle I-put to-a-mortal having-lain

τὸν μέν, ἐπὴν δὴ πρῶτον ἴδῃ φάος ἠελίοιο,
him indeed when indeed first he-sees light of-the-sun
Νύμφαι μιν θρέψουσιν ὀρεσκῷοι βαθύκολποι,
Nymphs him will-rear mountain-dwelling deep-bosomed
αἳ τόδε ναιετάουσιν ὄρος μέγα τε ζάθεόν τε·
who this dwell-on mountain great both holy and
αἵ ῥ' οὔτε θνητοῖς οὔτ' ἀθανάτοισιν ἕπονται.
who then neither mortals nor immortals follow
δηρὸν μὲν ζώουσι καὶ ἄμβροτον εἶδαρ ἔδουσι
long indeed they-live and immortal food eat
καί τε μετ' ἀθανάτοισι καλὸν χορὸν ἐρρώσαντο.
and — among immortals fair dance tread
τῇσι δὲ Σειληνοὶ καὶ ἐύσκοπος Ἀργειφόντης
with-them and Sileni and keen-sighted Argus-slayer
μίσγοντ' ἐν φιλότητι μυχῷ σπείων ἐροέντων.
mingle in love in-the-recess of-caves lovely
τῇσι δ' ἅμ' ἢ ἐλάται ἠὲ δρύες ὑψικάρηνοι
with-them and together either firs or oaks high-headed
γεινομένῃσιν ἔφυσαν ἐπὶ χθονὶ βωτιανείρῃ,
as-they-are-born sprang-up on earth man-feeding
καλαί, τηλεθάουσαι, ἐν οὔρεσιν ὑψηλοῖσιν.
fair flourishing in mountains high
ἑστᾶσ' ἠλίβατοι, τεμένη δέ ἑ κικλήσκουσιν
they-stand towering precincts and them they-call
ἀθανάτων· τὰς δ' οὔ τι βροτοὶ κείρουσι σιδήρῳ·
of-immortals them and not at-all mortals cut with-iron
ἀλλ' ὅτε κεν δὴ μοῖρα παρεστήκῃ θανάτοιο,
but when — indeed fate stands-near of-death
ἀζάνεται μὲν πρῶτον ἐπὶ χθονὶ δένδρεα καλά,
wither indeed first on the-ground trees fair

φλοιὸς δ᾽ ἀμφιπεριφθινύθει, πίπτουσι δ᾽ ἄπ᾽ ὄζοι,
the-bark and wastes-around fall and off twigs
τῶν δέ θ᾽ ὁμοῦ ψυχὴ λείπει φάος ἠελίοιο.
of-them and — together the-soul leaves light of-the-sun
αἳ μὲν ἐμὸν θρέψουσι παρὰ σφίσιν υἱὸν ἔχουσαι.
they indeed my will-rear with themselves son keeping
τὸν μὲν ἐπὴν δὴ πρῶτον ἕλῃ πολυήρατος ἥβη,
him indeed when indeed first takes very-lovely youth
ἄξουσίν σοι δεῦρο θεαὶ δείξουσί τε παῖδα. 275
will-bring to-you hither the-goddesses will-show and the-child
σοὶ δ᾽ ἐγώ, ὄφρα κε ταῦτα μετὰ φρεσὶ πάντα διέλθω,
to-you but I so-that — these-things in mind all I-may-go-through
ἐς πέμπτον ἔτος αὖτις ἐλεύσομαι υἱὸν ἄγουσα.
to the-fifth year again will-come son bringing
τὸν μὲν ἐπὴν δὴ πρῶτον ἴδῃς θάλος ὀφθαλμοῖσι,
him indeed when indeed first you-see the-scion with-eyes
γηθήσεις ὁρόων· μάλα γὰρ θεοείκελος ἔσται·
you-will-rejoice seeing very for godlike he-will-be
ἄξεις δ᾽ αὐτίκα νιν ποτὶ Ἴλιον ἠνεμόεσσαν. 280
you-will-bring and at-once him to Ilium windy
ἢν δέ τις εἴρηταί σε καταθνητῶν ἀνθρώπων,
if but anyone asks you of-mortal men
ἥ τις σοι φίλον υἱὸν ὑπὸ ζώνῃ θέτο μήτηρ,
who any to-you dear son under girdle put mother
τῷ δὲ σὺ μυθεῖσθαι μεμνημένος, ὥς σε κελεύω·
to-him and you to-say remembering as you I-bid
φάσθαι τοι Νύμφης καλυκώπιδος ἔκγονον εἶναι,
to-say you-know of-a-Nymph flower-faced offspring to-be
αἳ τόδε ναιετάουσιν ὄρος καταειμένον ὕλῃ. 285
who this dwell-on mountain clothed with-forest

εἰ δέ κεν ἐξείπῃς καὶ ἐπεύξεαι ἄφρονι θυμῷ
if but — you-tell and boast with-foolish heart
ἐν φιλότητι μιγῆναι ἐυστεφάνῳ Κυθερείῃ,
in love to-have-mingled with-fair-crowned Cytherea
Ζεύς σε χολωσάμενος βαλέει ψολόεντι κεραυνῷ.
Zeus you angered will-strike with-smoking thunderbolt
εἴρηταί τοι πάντα· σὺ δὲ φρεσὶ σῇσι νοήσας,
has-been-said to-you all you and in-mind your perceiving
290 ἴσχεο μηδ' ὀνόμαινε, θεῶν δ' ἐποπίζεο μῆνιν.
restrain(-yourself) nor name(-me) of-the-gods and regard the-wrath
Ὣς εἰποῦσ' ἤιξε πρὸς οὐρανὸν ἠνεμόεντα.
so speaking she-darted to heaven windy
Χαῖρε, θεά, Κύπροιο ἐυκτιμένης μεδέουσα·
hail goddess of-Cyprus well-built ruling
σεῦ δ' ἐγὼ ἀρξάμενος μεταβήσομαι ἄλλον ἐς ὕμνον.
from-you and I beginning will-pass another to hymn

Εἰς Ἀφροδίτην

6 · TO APHRODITE

The poet sings of Aphrodite, whom the West Wind carried over the sea to Cyprus in soft foam. The Hours receive her, dress her in immortal clothing, crown her, and adorn her with golden jewelry, then bring her to the gods, each of whom wishes to marry her. The poet asks for victory in the contest.

Αἰδοίην, χρυσοστέφανον, καλὴν Ἀφροδίτην
reverend gold-crowned fair Aphrodite
ᾄσομαι, ἣ πάσης Κύπρου κρήδεμνα λέλογχεν
I-will-sing who of-all Cyprus the-battlements has-as-her-lot
εἰναλίης, ὅθι μιν Ζεφύρου μένος ὑγρὸν ἀέντος
sea-girt where her of-Zephyr the-might moist blowing
ἤνεικεν κατὰ κῦμα πολυφλοίσβοιο θαλάσσης
carried over the-wave of-loud-roaring sea
ἀφρῷ ἔνι μαλακῷ· τὴν δὲ χρυσάμπυκες Ὧραι
foam in soft her and the-gold-filleted Hours
δέξαντ' ἀσπασίως, περὶ δ' ἄμβροτα εἵματα ἕσσαν·
received gladly around and immortal garments clothed
κρατὶ δ' ἐπ' ἀθανάτῳ στεφάνην εὔτυκτον ἔθηκαν
head and on immortal a-crown well-wrought put
καλήν, χρυσείην· ἐν δὲ τρητοῖσι λοβοῖσιν
fair golden in and pierced ears
ἄνθεμ' ὀρειχάλκου χρυσοῖό τε τιμήεντος·
flowers of-orichalc of-gold and precious

δειρῇ δ' ἀμφ' ἁπαλῇ καὶ στήθεσιν ἀργυφέοισιν
neck and around soft and breasts silvery
ὅρμοισι χρυσέοισιν ἐκόσμεον, οἷσί περ αὐταὶ
with-necklaces golden adorned with-which indeed themselves
Ὧραι κοσμείσθην χρυσάμπυκες, ὁππότ' ἴοιεν
the-Hours were-adorned gold-filleted whenever they-went
ἐς χορὸν ἱμερόεντα θεῶν καὶ δώματα πατρός.
to dance lovely of-the-gods and house of-father
αὐτὰρ ἐπειδὴ πάντα περὶ χροῒ κόσμον ἔθηκαν,
but when all around skin adornment they-had-put
ἦγον ἐς ἀθανάτους· οἳ δ' ἠσπάζοντο ἰδόντες
they-led(-her) to the-immortals they and welcomed(-her) seeing
χερσί τ' ἐδεξιόωντο καὶ ἠρήσαντο ἕκαστος
with-hands and greeted(-her) and prayed each
εἶναι κουριδίην ἄλοχον καὶ οἴκαδ' ἄγεσθαι,
to-be wedded wife and homeward to-lead(-her)
εἶδος θαυμάζοντες ἰοστεφάνου Κυθερείης.
form marveling-at of-violet-crowned Cytherea

Χαῖρ' ἑλικοβλέφαρε, γλυκυμείλιχε· δὸς δ' ἐν ἀγῶνι
hail sweetly-glancing honey-sweet grant and in contest
νίκην τῷδε φέρεσθαι, ἐμὴν δ' ἔντυνον ἀοιδήν.
victory to-this-man to-win my and prepare song
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ καὶ σεῖο καὶ ἄλλης μνήσομ' ἀοιδῆς.
but I both of-you and of-another will-remember song

Εἰς Διώνυσον

7 · TO DIONYSUS

Dionysus appears on a headland as a young man, and Tyrrhenian pirates seize him, thinking him a king's son, but the bonds fall from him. The helmsman alone recognizes a god and urges his release, but the captain refuses. Wine flows through the ship, a vine and ivy spread along the mast, and the god becomes a lion, makes a bear appear, and seizes the captain. The sailors leap into the sea and become dolphins, but the god spares the helmsman and reveals himself as Dionysus.

Ἀμφὶ Διώνυσον, Σεμέλης ἐρικυδέος υἱόν,
about Dionysus of-Semele glorious son
μνήσομαι, ὡς ἐφάνη παρὰ θῖν' ἁλὸς ἀτρυγέτοιο
I-will-remember how he-appeared by shore of-sea barren
ἀκτῇ ἔπι προβλῆτι νεηνίῃ ἀνδρὶ ἐοικώς,
headland upon jutting to-a-youthful man like
πρωθήβῃ· καλαὶ δὲ περισσείοντο ἔθειραι,
in-first-youth fair and waved hair
κυάνεαι, φᾶρος δὲ περὶ στιβαροῖς ἔχεν ὤμοις
dark a-cloak and around strong he-had shoulders
πορφύρεον· τάχα δ' ἄνδρες ἐυσσέλμου ἀπὸ νηὸς
purple quickly and men well-benched from ship
λησταὶ προγένοντο θοῶς ἐπὶ οἰνοπα πόντον,
pirates came-forth swiftly over wine-dark sea
Τυρσηνοί· τοὺς δ' ἦγε κακὸς μόρος· οἳ δὲ ἰδόντες
Tyrrhenians them and led evil fate they and seeing
νεῦσαν ἐς ἀλλήλους, τάχα δ' ἔκθορον. αἶψα δ' ἑλόντες
nodded to each-other quickly and leaped-out quickly and seizing
εἶσαν ἐπὶ σφετέρης νηὸς κεχαρημένοι ἦτορ.
set(-him) on their-own ship rejoicing in-heart

υἱὸν γάρ μιν ἔφαντο διοτρεφέων βασιλήων
son for him they-said of-Zeus-nurtured kings
εἶναι καὶ δεσμοῖς ἔθελον δεῖν ἀργαλέοισι.
to-be and with-bonds wished to-bind grievous
τὸν δ᾽ οὐκ ἴσχανε δεσμά, λύγοι δ᾽ ἀπὸ τηλόσε πῖπτον
him but not held the-bonds the-withies and off far fell
χειρῶν ἠδὲ ποδῶν· ὃ δὲ μειδιάων ἐκάθητο
from-hands and feet he and smiling sat
ὄμμασι κυανέοισι· κυβερνήτης δὲ νοήσας
with-eyes dark the-helmsman and perceiving
αὐτίκα οἷς ἑτάροισιν ἐκέκλετο φώνησέν τε·
at-once to-his comrades called spoke and
Δαιμόνιοι, τίνα τόνδε θεὸν δεσμεύεθ᾽ ἑλόντες,
madmen what this god do-you-bind having-seized
καρτερόν; οὐδὲ φέρειν δύναταί μιν νηῦς εὐεργής.
strong nor to-carry can him ship well-built
ἢ γὰρ Ζεὺς ὅδε γ᾽ ἐστὶν ἢ ἀργυρότοξος Ἀπόλλων
either for Zeus this indeed is or silver-bowed Apollo
ἠὲ Ποσειδάων· ἐπεὶ οὐ θνητοῖσι βροτοῖσιν
or Poseidon since not to-mortal men
εἴκελος, ἀλλὰ θεοῖς, οἳ Ὀλύμπια δώματ᾽ ἔχουσιν.
like but to-the-gods who Olympian houses have
ἀλλ᾽ ἄγετ᾽, αὐτὸν ἀφῶμεν ἐπ᾽ ἠπείροιο μελαίνης
but come him let-us-set-free on mainland black
αὐτίκα· μηδ᾽ ἐπὶ χεῖρας ἰάλλετε, μή τι χολωθεὶς
at-once nor on hands lay lest at-all angered
ὄρσῃ ἔπ᾽ ἀργαλέους τ᾽ ἀνέμους καὶ λαίλαπα πολλήν.
he-rouse upon grievous and winds and hurricane much

Ὣς φάτο· τὸν δ' ἀρχὸς στυγερῷ ἠνίπαπε μύθῳ·
so he-spoke him and the-captain with-hateful rebuked word
δαιμόνι', οὖρον ὅρα, ἅμα δ' ἱστίον ἕλκεο νηὸς
madman the-wind look-at together and the-sail haul of-the-ship
σύμπανθ' ὅπλα λαβών· ὅδε δ' αὖτ' ἀνδρεσσι μελήσει.
all tackle taking this-one and in-turn to-men will-be-a-care
ἔλπομαι, ἢ Αἴγυπτον ἀφίξεται ἢ ὅ γε Κύπρον
I-expect either Egypt he-will-reach or he indeed Cyprus
ἢ ἐς Ὑπερβορέους ἢ ἑκαστέρω· ἐς δὲ τελευτὴν
or to Hyperboreans or farther to and the-end
ἔκ ποτ' ἐρεῖ αὐτοῦ τε φίλους καὶ κτήματα πάντα
out sometime he-will-say his both friends and possessions all
οὕς τε κασιγνήτους, ἐπεὶ ἡμῖν ἔμβαλε δαίμων.
his-own and brothers since to-us has-cast a-divinity
Ὣς εἰπὼν ἱστόν τε καὶ ἱστίον ἕλκετο νηός.
so speaking mast both and sail hauled of-the-ship
ἔμπνευσεν δ' ἄνεμος μέσον ἱστίον· ἀμφὶ δ' ἄρ' ὅπλα
blew-into and the-wind the-middle-of sail around and then tackle
καττάνυσαν· τάχα δέ σφιν ἐφαίνετο θαυματὰ ἔργα.
they-stretched-taut quickly and to-them appeared marvelous works
οἶνος μὲν πρώτιστα θοὴν ἀνὰ νῆα μέλαιναν
wine indeed first-of-all swift through ship black
ἡδύποτος κελάρυζ' εὐώδης, ὤρνυτο δ' ὀδμὴ
sweet-to-drink gurgled fragrant arose and a-smell
ἀμβροσίη· ναύτας δὲ τάφος λάβε πάντας ἰδόντας.
ambrosial the-sailors and amazement seized all seeing

αὐτίκα δ' ἀκρότατον παρὰ ἱστίον ἐξετανύσθη
at-once and the-topmost along sail stretched-out
ἄμπελος ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα, κατεκρημνῶντο δὲ πολλοὶ
a-vine this-way and that-way hung-down and many
βότρυες· ἀμφ' ἱστὸν δὲ μέλας εἰλίσσετο κισσός,
clusters around mast and black twined ivy
ἄνθεσι τηλεθάων, χαρίεις δ' ἐπὶ καρπὸς ὀρώρει·
with-flowers blooming lovely and upon fruit had-risen
πάντες δὲ σκαλμοὶ στεφάνους ἔχον· οἳ δὲ ἰδόντες,
all and the-thole-pins garlands had they and seeing
νῆ' ἤδη τότ' ἔπειτα κυβερνήτην ἐκέλευον
the-ship now then thereupon the-helmsman bade
γῇ πελάαν· ὃ δ' ἄρα σφι λέων γένετ' ἔνδοθι νηὸς
to-land to-bring-near he and then for-them a-lion became within ship
δεινὸς ἐπ' ἀκροτάτης, μέγα δ' ἔβραχεν, ἐν δ' ἄρα μέσσῃ
dread on topmost greatly and roared in and then the-middle
ἄρκτον ἐποίησεν λασιαύχενα, σήματα φαίνων·
a-bear he-made shaggy-necked signs showing
ἂν δ' ἔστη μεμαυῖα· λέων δ' ἐπὶ σέλματος ἄκρου
up and stood raging the-lion and on deck top
δεινὸν ὑπόδρα ἰδών· οἳ δ' ἐς πρύμνην ἐφόβηθεν,
dreadfully grimly glaring they and to stern fled
ἀμφὶ κυβερνήτην δὲ σαόφρονα θυμὸν ἔχοντα
about the-helmsman and sound-minded heart having
ἔσταν ἄρ' ἐκπληγέντες· ὃ δ' ἐξαπίνης ἐπορούσας
stood then stricken he and suddenly springing-upon
ἀρχὸν ἕλ', οἳ δὲ θύραζε κακὸν μόρον ἐξαλύοντες
the-captain seized they and out evil fate escaping-from
πάντες ὁμῶς πήδησαν, ἐπεὶ ἴδον, εἰς ἅλα δῖαν,
all alike leaped when they-saw into sea bright

δελφῖνες δ' ἐγένοντο· κυβερνήτην δ' ἐλεήσας
dolphins and they-became the-helmsman but pitying
ἔσχεθε καί μιν ἔθηκε πανόλβιον εἶπέ τε μῦθον·
he-held-back and him made all-blessed spoke and word
Θάρσει, †δῖε κάτωρ†, τῷ ἐμῷ κεχαρισμένε θυμῷ· 55
take-heart (corrupt) (corrupt) to-the my dear heart
εἰμὶ δ' ἐγὼ Διόνυσος ἐρίβρομος, ὃν τέκε μήτηρ
am and I Dionysus loud-roaring whom bore mother
Καδμηὶς Σεμέλη Διὸς ἐν φιλότητι μιγεῖσα.
daughter-of-Cadmus Semele of-Zeus in love mingled
Χαῖρε, τέκος Σεμέλης εὐώπιδος· οὐδέ πη ἔστι
hail child of-Semele fair-faced nor anyhow it-is-possible
σεῖό γε ληθόμενον γλυκερὴν κοσμῆσαι ἀοιδήν.
you indeed forgetting sweet to-adorn song

Εἰς Ἄρεα

8 · TO ARES

A hymn of epithets addresses Ares as a mighty helper of mortals, wheeling his fiery orb among the seven planets. The poet asks him for strength to drive away bitter cowardice and keen anger, and for courage to abide in peace.

Ἄρες ὑπερμενέτα, βρισάρματε, χρυσεοπήληξ,
Ares exceeding-mighty chariot-weighing golden-helmeted
ὀβριμόθυμε, φέρασπι, πολισσόε, χαλκοκορυστά,
mighty-hearted shield-bearing city-saving bronze-armored
καρτερόχειρ, ἀμόγητε, δορισθενές, ἔρκος Ὀλύμπου,
strong-handed unwearying spear-strong bulwark of-Olympus
Νίκης εὐπολέμοιο πάτερ, συναρωγὲ Θέμιστος,
of-Victory fair-warring father ally of-Themis

ἀντιβίοισι τύραννε, δικαιοτάτων ἀγὲ φωτῶν,
to-opponents tyrant of-the-most-just leader men
ἠνορέης σκηπτοῦχε, πυραυγέα κύκλον ἑλίσσων
of-manhood scepter-bearer fire-bright circle whirling
αἰθέρος ἑπταπόροις ἐνὶ τείρεσιν, ἔνθα σε πῶλοι
of-the-aether seven-pathed among signs where you colts
ζαφλεγέες τριτάτης ὑπὲρ ἄντυγος αἰὲν ἔχουσι·
fiery of-the-third above rim always bear
κλῦθι, βροτῶν ἐπίκουρε, δοτὴρ εὐθαρσέος ἥβης,
hear of-mortals helper giver of-brave youth
πρηὺ καταστίλβων σέλας ὑψόθεν ἐς βιότητα
gently shining-down radiance from-above on life
ἡμετέρην καὶ κάρτος ἀρήιον, ὥς κε δυναίμην
our and strength martial so-that — I-may-be-able
σεύασθαι κακότητα πικρὴν ἀπ᾽ ἐμοῖο καρήνου,
to-drive-off cowardice bitter from my head
καὶ ψυχῆς ἀπατηλὸν ὑπογνάμψαι φρεσὶν ὁρμήν,
and of-the-soul deceitful to-bend-back with-wits rush
θυμοῦ αὖ μένος ὀξὺ κατισχέμεν, ὅς μ᾽ ἐρέθῃσι
of-the-heart in-turn the-might keen to-restrain which me provokes
φυλόπιδος κρυερῆς ἐπιβαινέμεν· ἀλλὰ σὺ θάρσος
of-battle chilling to-enter but you courage
δός, μάκαρ, εἰρήνης τε μένειν ἐν ἀπήμοσι θεσμοῖς
give blessed-one of-peace and to-abide in harmless laws
δυσμενέων προφυγόντα μόθον Κῆράς τε βιαίους.
of-foes escaping battle the-Keres and violent

Εἰς Ἄρτεμιν

9 · TO ARTEMIS

The poet sings of Artemis, who waters her horses at the Meles and drives her chariot through Smyrna to Claros, where Apollo waits for her.

Ἄρτεμιν ὕμνει, Μοῦσα, κασιγνήτην Ἑκάτοιο.
Artemis hymn Muse sister of-the-Far-shooter
παρθένον ἰοχέαιραν, ὁμότροφον Ἀπόλλωνος,
virgin arrow-pouring nursed-together of-Apollo
ἥθ' ἵππους ἄρσασα βαθυσχοίνοιο Μέλητος
who horses watering of-deep-rushed Meles
ῥίμφα διὰ Σμύρνης παγχρύσεον ἅρμα διώκει
swiftly through Smyrna all-golden chariot drives
ἐς Κλάρον ἀμπελόεσσαν, ὅθ' ἀργυρότοξος Ἀπόλλων 5
to Claros vine-rich where silver-bowed Apollo
ἧσται μιμνάζων ἑκατηβόλον ἰοχέαιραν.
sits waiting-for the-far-shooting arrow-pouring

Καὶ σὺ μὲν οὕτω χαῖρε θεαί θ' ἅμα πᾶσαι ἀοιδῇ·
and you indeed so farewell goddesses and together all with-song
αὐτὰρ ἐγώ σε πρῶτα καὶ ἐκ σέθεν ἄρχομ' ἀείδειν,
but I you first and from you begin to-sing
σεῦ δ' ἐγὼ ἀρξάμενος μεταβήσομαι ἄλλον ἐς ὕμνον.
from-you and I beginning will-pass another to hymn

Εἰς Ἀφροδίτην

10 · TO APHRODITE

The poet sings of Cytherea, who gives sweet gifts to mortals and always smiles, and asks her for a lovely song.

Κυπρογενῆ Κυθέρειαν ἀείσομαι, ἥτε βροτοῖσι
Cyprus-born Cytherea I-will-sing who to-mortals
μείλιχα δῶρα δίδωσιν, ἐφ' ἱμερτῷ δὲ προσώπῳ
gentle gifts gives upon lovely and face
αἰεὶ μειδιάει καὶ ἐφ' ἱμερτὸν θέει ἄνθος.
always she-smiles and upon lovely runs bloom

Χαῖρε, θεά, Σαλαμῖνος ἐυκτιμένης μεδέουσα
hail goddess of-Salamis well-built ruling
εἰναλίης τε Κύπρου· δὸς δ' ἱμερόεσσαν ἀοιδήν.
of-sea-girt and Cyprus grant and lovely song
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ καὶ σεῖο καὶ ἄλλης μνήσομ' ἀοιδῆς.
but I both of-you and of-another will-remember song

Εἰς Ἀθήναν

11 · TO ATHENA

The poet sings of Pallas Athena, guardian of cities, who with Ares cares for the works of war, and asks her for good fortune.

Παλλάδ' Ἀθηναίην ἐρυσίπτολιν ἄρχομ' ἀείδειν,
Pallas Athena city-guarding I-begin to-sing
δεινήν, ἣ σὺν Ἄρηι μέλει πολεμήια ἔργα
dread to-whom with Ares are-a-care warlike works
περθόμεναί τε πόληες ἀϋτή τε πτόλεμοί τε,
sacked both cities war-cry and wars and
καί τ' ἐρρύσατο λαὸν ἰόντα τε νισσόμενόν τε.
and — she-saved the-people going both returning and
Χαῖρε, θεά, δὸς δ' ἄμμι τύχην εὐδαιμονίην τε. 5
hail goddess grant and to-us fortune happiness and

Εἰς Ἥραν

12 · TO HERA

The poet sings of golden-throned Hera, queen of the immortals, sister and wife of Zeus, whom all the gods revere.

Ἥρην ἀείδω χρυσόθρονον, ἣν τέκε Ῥείη,
Hera I-sing golden-throned whom bore Rhea
ἀθανάτων βασίλειαν, ὑπείροχον εἶδος ἔχουσαν,
of-the-immortals queen surpassing form having
Ζηνὸς ἐριγδούποιο κασιγνήτην ἄλοχόν τε,
of-Zeus loud-thundering sister wife and

κυδρήν, ἣν πάντες μάκαρες κατὰ μακρὸν Ὄλυμπον
glorious whom all the-blessed throughout long Olympus
ἁζόμενοι τίουσιν ὁμῶς Διὶ τερπικεραύνῳ.
revering honor equally with-Zeus thunder-delighting

Εἰς Δημήτραν

13 · TO DEMETER

The poet sings of Demeter and Persephone and asks the goddess to save the city.

Δημήτηρ' ἠύκομον, σεμνὴν θεάν, ἄρχομ' ἀείδειν,
Demeter lovely-haired holy goddess I-begin to-sing
αὐτὴν καὶ κούρην, περικαλλέα Περσεφόνειαν.
herself and daughter very-fair Persephone
Χαῖρε, θεά, καὶ τήνδε σάου πόλιν· ἄρχε δ' ἀοιδῆς.
hail goddess and this save city begin and the-song

Εἰς Μητέρα θεῶν

14 · TO THE MOTHER OF THE GODS

The poet asks the Muse to sing of the Mother of all gods and men, who delights in rattles, drums, pipes, and the cries of wolves and lions.

Μητέρα μοι πάντων τε θεῶν πάντων τ' ἀνθρώπων
the-Mother to-me of-all both gods all and men
ὕμνει, Μοῦσα λίγεια, Διὸς θυγάτηρ μεγάλοιο,
hymn Muse clear-voiced of-Zeus daughter great

ᾗ κροτάλων τυπάνων τ᾽ ἰαχὴ σύν τε βρόμος αὐλῶν
to-whom of-rattles of-drums and the-din with and roar of-pipes
εὔαδεν ἠδὲ λύκων κλαγγὴ χαροπῶν τε λεόντων
has-pleased and of-wolves the-cry of-bright-eyed and lions
οὔρεά τ᾽ ἠχήεντα καὶ ὑλήεντες ἔναυλοι.
mountains and echoing and wooded lairs
Καὶ σὺ μὲν οὕτω χαῖρε θεαί θ᾽ ἅμα πᾶσαι ἀοιδῇ.
and you indeed so farewell goddesses and together all with-song

Εἰς Ἡρακλέα λεοντόθυμον

15 · TO HERACLES THE LION-HEARTED

The poet sings of Heracles, son of Zeus and Alcmene, who wandered and suffered at Eurystheus' command and now lives on Olympus with Hebe, and asks him for excellence and prosperity.

Ἡρακλέα, Διὸς υἱόν, ἀείσομαι, ὃν μέγ᾽ ἄριστον
Heracles of-Zeus son I-will-sing whom greatly best
γείνατ᾽ ἐπιχθονίων Θήβῃς ἔνι καλλιχόροισιν
bore of-men Thebes in fair-dancing
Ἀλκμήνη μιχθεῖσα κελαινεφέι Κρονίωνι·
Alcmene mingled with-dark-clouded son-of-Cronus
ὃς πρὶν μὲν κατὰ γαῖαν ἀθέσφατον ἠδὲ θάλασσαν
who before indeed over earth boundless and sea
πλαζόμενος πομπῇσιν ὕπ᾽ Εὐρυσθῆος ἄνακτος
wandering on-missions under Eurystheus lord
πολλὰ μὲν αὐτὸς ἔρεξεν ἀτάσθαλα, πολλὰ δ᾽ ἀνέτλη·
many indeed himself did reckless-deeds many and endured

νῦν δ' ἤδη κατὰ καλὸν ἕδος νιφόεντος Ὀλύμπου
now but already in fair seat of-snowy Olympus
ναίει τερπόμενος καὶ ἔχει καλλίσφυρον Ἥβην.
he-dwells delighting and has fair-ankled Hebe
Χαῖρε, ἄναξ, Διὸς υἱέ· δίδου δ' ἀρετήν τε καὶ ὄλβον.
hail lord of-Zeus son give and excellence both and prosperity

Εἰς Ἀσκληπιόν

16 · TO ASCLEPIUS

The poet sings of Asclepius, healer of diseases, son of Apollo and Coronis.

Ἰητῆρα νόσων Ἀσκληπιὸν ἄρχομ' ἀείδειν,
healer of-diseases Asclepius I-begin to-sing
υἱὸν Ἀπόλλωνος, τὸν ἐγείνατο δῖα Κορωνὶς
son of-Apollo whom bore bright Coronis
Δωτίῳ ἐν πεδίῳ, κούρη Φλεγύου βασιλῆος,
Dotian in plain daughter of-Phlegyas king
χάρμα μέγ' ἀνθρώποισι, κακῶν θελκτῆρ' ὀδυνάων.
a-joy great to-men of-evil soother pains
Καὶ σὺ μὲν οὕτω χαῖρε, ἄναξ· λίτομαι δέ σ' ἀοιδῇ.
and you indeed so farewell lord I-pray and you with-song

Εἰς Διοσκούρους

17 · TO THE DIOSCURI

The poet sings of Castor and Polydeuces, sons of Zeus, whom Leda bore under Taygetus.

Κάστορα καὶ Πολυδεύκε' ἀείσεο, Μοῦσα λίγεια,
Castor and Polydeuces sing Muse clear-voiced
Τυνδαρίδας, οἳ Ζηνὸς Ὀλυμπίου ἐξεγένοντο·
sons-of-Tyndareus who of-Zeus Olympian were-born
τοὺς ὑπὸ Ταϋγέτου κορυφῇς τέκε πότνια Λήδη
whom under of-Taygetus the-peaks bore queenly Leda
λάθρη ὑποδμηθεῖσα κελαινεφέι Κρονίωνι.
secretly subdued by-dark-clouded son-of-Cronus
Χαίρετε, Τυνδαρίδαι, ταχέων ἐπιβήτορες ἵππων. 5
hail sons-of-Tyndareus of-swift riders horses

Εἰς Ἑρμῆν

18 · TO HERMES

The poet sings of Hermes, son of Zeus and Maia, the shy nymph who lay with Zeus in a shadowy cave while Hera slept.

Ἑρμῆν ἀείδω Κυλλήνιον, Ἀργειφόντην,
Hermes I-sing Cyllenian Argus-slayer
Κυλλήνης μεδέοντα καὶ Ἀρκαδίης πολυμήλου,
of-Cyllene ruling and of-Arcadia rich-in-flocks
ἄγγελον ἀθανάτων ἐριούνιον, ὃν τέκε Μαῖα,
messenger of-the-immortals luck-bringing whom bore Maia

Ἄτλαντος θυγάτηρ, Διὸς ἐν φιλότητι μιγεῖσα,
of-Atlas daughter of-Zeus in love mingled
αἰδοίη· μακάρων δὲ θεῶν ἀλέεινεν ὅμιλον,
modest of-the-blessed and gods she-shunned the-throng
ἄντρῳ ναιετάουσα παλισκίῳ· ἔνθα Κρονίων
in-cave dwelling deep-shaded where the-son-of-Cronus
νύμφῃ ἐυπλοκάμῳ μισγέσκετο νυκτὸς ἀμολγῷ,
with-the-nymph fair-tressed used-to-lie of-night in-the-depth
εὖτε κατὰ γλυκὺς ὕπνος ἔχοι λευκώλενον Ἥρην·
when down sweet sleep held white-armed Hera
λάνθανε δ' ἀθανάτους τε θεοὺς θνητούς τ' ἀνθρώπους.
escaped and immortal both gods mortal and men
Καὶ σὺ μὲν οὕτω χαῖρε, Διὸς καὶ Μαιάδος υἱέ·
and you indeed so farewell of-Zeus and of-Maia son
σεῦ δ' ἐγὼ ἀρξάμενος μεταβήσομαι ἄλλον ἐς ὕμνον.
from-you and I beginning will-pass another to hymn

Εἰς Πᾶνα

19 · TO PAN

The poet sings of Pan, goat-footed son of Hermes, who roams the mountains with the nymphs and plays his pipes at evening. When he was born his nurse fled from his face, but Hermes carried him to Olympus, and all the gods were delighted; they called him Pan because he delighted them all.

Ἀμφί μοι Ἑρμείαο φίλον γόνον ἔννεπε, Μοῦσα,
about to-me of-Hermes the-dear offspring tell Muse
αἰγιπόδην, δικέρωτα, φιλόκροτον, ὅστ' ἀνὰ πίση
goat-footed two-horned noise-loving who through meadows
δενδρήεντ' ἄμυδις φοιτᾷ χορογηθέσι νύμφαις,
wooded together roams with-dance-glad nymphs
αἵ τε κατ' αἰγίλιπος πέτρης στείβουσι κάρηνα
who — over goat-deserted rock tread the-heads
Πᾶν' ἀνακεκλόμεναι, νόμιον θεόν, ἀγλαέθειρον,
pan calling-on pastoral god bright-haired
αὐχμήενθ', ὃς πάντα λόφον νιφόεντα λέλογχε
shaggy who every crest snowy has-as-his-lot
καὶ κορυφὰς ὀρέων καὶ πετρήεντα κάρηνα.
and peaks of-mountains and rocky heads
φοιτᾷ δ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα διὰ ῥωπήια πυκνά,
roams and this-way and that-way through thickets dense
ἄλλοτε μὲν ῥείθροισιν ἐφελκόμενος μαλακοῖσιν,
at-times indeed by-streams drawn soft
ἄλλοτε δ' αὖ πέτρῃσιν ἐν ἠλιβάτοισι διοιχνεῖ,
at-times and in-turn rocks in sheer goes-through
ἀκροτάτην κορυφὴν μηλοσκόπον εἰσαναβαίνων.
the-topmost peak overlooking-the-flocks climbing

πολλάκι δ' ἀργινόεντα διέδραμεν οὔρεα μακρά,
often and white he-runs-through mountains long
πολλάκι δ' ἐν κνημοῖσι διήλασε θῆρας ἐναίρων,
often and on shoulders he-drives-through beasts slaying
ὀξέα δερκόμενος· τότε δ' ἔσπερος ἔκλαγεν οἷον
keenly looking then and at-evening he-sounds alone
ἄγρης ἐξανιών, δονάκων ὕπο μοῦσαν ἀθύρων
from-the-hunt returning reeds on music playing
νήδυμον· οὐκ ἂν τόν γε παραδράμοι ἐν μελέεσσιν
sweet not — him indeed could-outdo in melodies
ὄρνις, ἥτ' ἔαρος πολυανθέος ἐν πετάλοισι
the-bird which of-spring flowery among leaves
θρῆνον ἐπιπροχέουσ' ἀχέει μελίγηρυν ἀοιδήν.
lament pouring-forth trills honey-voiced song
σὺν δέ σφιν τότε Νύμφαι ὀρεστιάδες λιγύμολποι
with and them then Nymphs mountain clear-singing
φοιτῶσαι πύκα ποσσὶν ἐπὶ κρήνῃ μελανύδρῳ
roaming nimbly with-feet at spring dark-watered
μέλπονται· κορυφὴν δὲ περιστένει οὔρεος Ἠχώ·
sing the-peak and moans-around of-the-mountain Echo
δαίμων δ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα χορῶν, τοτὲ δ' ἐς μέσον ἕρπων,
the-god and this-way and that-way of-the-dances at-times and to middle gliding
πυκνὰ ποσὶν διέπει, λαῖφος δ' ἐπὶ νῶτα δαφοινὸν
nimbly with-feet plies a-pelt and on back tawny
λυγκὸς ἔχει, λιγυρῇσιν ἀγαλλόμενος φρένα μολπαῖς
of-a-lynx he-has in-clear delighting mind songs
ἐν μαλακῷ λειμῶνι, τόθι κρόκος ἠδ' ὑάκινθος
in soft meadow where crocus and hyacinth
εὐώδης θαλέθων καταμίσγεται ἄκριτα ποίῃ.
fragrant blooming mingle confusedly with-the-grass

Ὑμνεῦσιν δὲ θεοὺς μάκαρας καὶ μακρὸν Ὄλυμπον·
they-hymn and gods blessed and long Olympus
οἷόν θ' Ἑρμείην ἐριούνιον ἔξοχον ἄλλων
such-as and Hermes luck-bringing above others
ἔννεπον, ὡς ὅ γ' ἅπασι θεοῖς θοὸς ἄγγελός ἐστι,
they-tell how he indeed to-all gods swift messenger is
καί ῥ' ὅ γ' ἐς Ἀρκαδίην πολυπίδακα, μητέρα μήλων,
and then he indeed to Arcadia many-fountained mother of-flocks
ἐξίκετ', ἔνθα τέ οἱ τέμενος Κυλληνίου ἐστίν.
came where — his precinct of-the-Cyllenian is
ἔνθ' ὅ γε καὶ θεὸς ὢν ψαφαρότριχα μῆλ' ἐνόμευεν
there he indeed even god being rough-fleeced sheep tended
ἀνδρὶ πάρα θνητῷ θάλε γὰρ πόθος ὑγρὸς ἐπελθὼν
man beside mortal bloomed for longing melting coming-on
νύμφῃ ἐυπλοκάμῳ Δρύοπος φιλότητι μιγῆναι·
with-the-nymph fair-tressed of-Dryops in-love to-mingle
ἐκ δ' ἐτέλεσσε γάμον θαλερόν. τέκε δ' ἐν μεγάροισιν
out and he-accomplished marriage flourishing she-bore and in halls
Ἑρμείῃ φίλον υἱόν, ἄφαρ τερατωπὸν ἰδέσθαι,
to-Hermes dear son at-once monstrous to-see
αἰγιπόδην, δικέρωτα, φιλόκροτον, ἡδυγέλωτα·
goat-footed two-horned noise-loving sweet-laughing
φεῦγε δ' ἀναΐξασα, λίπεν δ' ἄρα παῖδα τιθήνη
fled and springing-up left and then the-child the-nurse
δεῖσε γάρ, ὡς ἴδεν ὄψιν ἀμείλιχον, ἠυγένειον.
feared for when she-saw face harsh well-bearded
τὸν δ' αἶψ' Ἑρμείας ἐριούνιος εἰς χέρα θῆκε
him and quickly Hermes luck-bringing into hand put
δεξάμενος, χαῖρεν δὲ νόῳ περιώσια δαίμων.
receiving rejoiced and in-mind exceedingly the-god

ῥίμφα δ᾽ ἐς ἀθανάτων ἕδρας κίε παῖδα καλύψας
swiftly and to of-the-immortals the-seats went the-child wrapping
δέρμασιν ἐν πυκινοῖσιν ὀρεσκῴοιο λαγωοῦ
skins in thick of-mountain-dwelling hare
πὰρ δὲ Ζηνὶ κάθιζε καὶ ἄλλοις ἀθανάτοισι,
beside and Zeus sat and other immortals
δεῖξε δὲ κοῦρον ἑόν· πάντες δ᾽ ἄρα θυμὸν ἔτερφθεν
showed and boy his all and then in-heart were-delighted
ἀθάνατοι, περίαλλα δ᾽ ὁ Βάκχειος Διόνυσος·
immortals exceedingly and the Bacchic Dionysus
Πᾶνα δέ μιν καλέεσκον, ὅτι φρένα πᾶσιν ἔτερψε.
Pan and him they-called because the-mind of-all he-delighted
Καὶ σὺ μὲν οὕτω χαῖρε, ἄναξ, ἵλαμαι δέ σ᾽ ἀοιδῇ
and you indeed so farewell lord I-propitiate and you with-song
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ καὶ σεῖο καὶ ἄλλης μνήσομ᾽ ἀοιδῆς.
but I both of-you and of-another will-remember song

Εἰς Ἥφαιστον

20 · TO HEPHAESTUS

The poet sings of Hephaestus, who with Athena taught men glorious crafts.

Ἥφαιστον κλυτόμητιν ἀείσεο, Μοῦσα λίγεια,
Hephaestus famed-for-skill sing Muse clear-voiced
ὃς μετ᾽ Ἀθηναίης γλαυκώπιδος ἀγλαὰ ἔργα
who with Athena flashing-eyed glorious works
ἀνθρώπους ἐδίδαξεν ἐπὶ χθονός, οἳ τὸ πάρος περ
men taught on earth who the before indeed
ἄντροις ναιετάασκον ἐν οὔρεσιν, ἠύτε θῆρες.
in-caves dwelt in mountains like beasts

νῦν δὲ δι᾽ Ἥφαιστον κλυτοτέχνην ἔργα δαέντες
now but through Hephaestus famed-for-craft works having-learned
ῥηιδίως αἰῶνα τελεσφόρον εἰς ἐνιαυτὸν
easily life fulfilling to year
εὔκηλοι διάγουσιν ἐνὶ σφετέροισι δόμοισιν.
untroubled spend in their-own houses
Ἀλλ᾽ ἵληθ᾽, Ἥφαιστε· δίδου δ᾽ ἀρετήν τε καὶ ὄλβον.
but be-gracious Hephaestus give and excellence both and prosperity

Εἰς Ἀπόλλωνα

21 · TO APOLLO

The swan sings of Phoebus with its wings as it leaps on the bank of the Peneus, and the sweet-voiced singer with his lyre sings of him always, first and last.

Φοῖβε, σὲ μὲν καὶ κύκνος ὑπὸ πτερύγων λίγ᾽ ἀείδει,
Phoebus you indeed even the-swan from wings clearly sings
ὄχθῃ ἐπιθρώσκων ποταμὸν πάρα δινήεντα,
on-bank leaping river beside eddying
Πηνειόν· σὲ δ᾽ ἀοιδὸς ἔχων φόρμιγγα λίγειαν
Peneus you and the-singer having lyre clear
ἡδυεπὴς πρῶτόν τε καὶ ὕστατον αἰὲν ἀείδει.
sweet-voiced first both and last always sings
Καὶ σὺ μὲν οὕτω χαῖρε, ἄναξ, ἵλαμαι δέ σ᾽ ἀοιδῇ.
and you indeed so farewell lord I-propitiate and you with-song

Εἰς Ποσειδῶνα

22 · TO POSEIDON

The poet sings of Poseidon, shaker of the earth and sea, tamer of horses and savior of ships, and asks him to help those who sail.

Ἀμφὶ Ποσειδάωνα, μέγαν θεόν, ἄρχομ' ἀείδειν,
about Poseidon great god I-begin to-sing
γαίης κινητῆρα καὶ ἀτρυγέτοιο θαλάσσης,
of-earth mover and of-barren sea
πόντιον, ὅσθ' Ἑλικῶνα καὶ εὐρείας ἔχει Αἰγάς.
sea-god who Helicon and broad holds Aegae
διχθά τοι, Ἐννοσίγαιε, θεοὶ τιμὴν ἐδάσαντο,
twofold to-you Earth-shaker the-gods honor allotted
ἵππων τε δμητῆρ' ἔμεναι σωτῆρά τε νηῶν.
of-horses both tamer to-be savior and of-ships

Χαῖρε, Ποσείδαον γαιήοχε, κυανοχαῖτα,
hail Poseidon earth-holder dark-haired
καί, μάκαρ, εὐμενὲς ἦτορ ἔχων πλώουσιν ἄρηγε.
and blessed-one kindly heart having the-voyagers help

Εἰς ὕπατον Κρονίδην

23 · TO THE MOST HIGH SON OF CRONUS

The poet sings of Zeus, best and greatest of the gods, who converses with Themis.

Ζῆνα θεῶν τὸν ἄριστον ἀείσομαι ἠδὲ μέγιστον,
Zeus of-the-gods the best I-will-sing and greatest
εὐρύοπα, κρείοντα, τελεσφόρον, ὅστε Θέμιστι
far-seeing ruling fulfilling who with-Themis
ἐγκλιδὸν ἑζομένῃ πυκινοὺς ὀάρους ὀαρίζει.
leaning sitting shrewd converse converses
Ἵληθ', εὐρύοπα Κρονίδη, κύδιστε μέγιστε.
be-gracious far-seeing son-of-Cronus most-glorious greatest

Εἰς Ἑστίαν

24 · TO HESTIA

The poet calls Hestia, who tends Apollo's house at Pytho, to this house.

Ἑστίη, ἥτε ἄνακτος Ἀπόλλωνος ἑκάτοιο
Hestia who of-the-lord Apollo far-shooting
Πυθοῖ ἐν ἠγαθέῃ ἱερὸν δόμον ἀμφιπολεύεις,
Pytho in holy sacred house tend
αἰεὶ σῶν πλοκάμων ἀπολείβεται ὑγρὸν ἔλαιον·
always from-your locks drips liquid oil
ἔρχεο τόνδ' ἀνὰ οἶκον, ἔν' ἔρχεο θυμὸν ἔχουσα
come this through house one come heart having
σὺν Διὶ μητιόεντι· χάριν δ' ἅμ' ὄπασσον ἀοιδῇ. 5
with Zeus wise grace and together grant to-song

Εἰς Μούσας καὶ Ἀπόλλωνα

25 · TO THE MUSES AND APOLLO

From the Muses and Apollo come singers, and from Zeus kings; happy is the man whom the Muses love.

Μουσάων ἄρχωμαι Ἀπόλλωνός τε Διός τε·
from-the-Muses let-me-begin Apollo and Zeus and
ἐκ γὰρ Μουσάων καὶ ἑκηβόλου Ἀπόλλωνος
from for the-Muses and far-shooting Apollo
ἄνδρες ἀοιδοὶ ἔασιν ἐπὶ χθονὶ καὶ κιθαρισταί,
men singers are on earth and lyre-players
ἐκ δὲ Διὸς βασιλῆες· ὃ δ' ὄλβιος, ὅν τινα Μοῦσαι
from and Zeus kings he but blessed whom any the-Muses
φίλωνται· γλυκερή οἱ ἀπὸ στόματος ῥέει αὐδή.
love sweet his from mouth flows voice
Χαίρετε, τέκνα Διός, καὶ ἐμὴν τιμήσατ' ἀοιδήν·
hail children of-Zeus and my honor song
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼν ὑμέων τε καὶ ἄλλης μνήσομ' ἀοιδῆς.
but I of-you both and of-another will-remember song

Εἰς Διόνυσον

26 · TO DIONYSUS

The poet sings of Dionysus, whom the nymphs reared in the glens of Nysa and who roams the woods with them, and asks him to let us come gladly to the seasons again, year after year.

Κισσοκόμην Διόνυσον ἐρίβρομον ἄρχομ' ἀείδειν,
ivy-crowned Dionysus loud-roaring I-begin to-sing
Ζηνὸς καὶ Σεμέλης ἐρικυδέος ἀγλαὸν υἱόν,
of-Zeus and of-Semele renowned glorious son
ὃν τρέφον ἠύκομοι Νύμφαι παρὰ πατρὸς ἄνακτος
whom reared lovely-haired Nymphs from father lord
δεξάμεναι κόλποισι καὶ ἐνδυκέως ἀτίταλλον
receiving in-bosoms and tenderly nursed
Νύσης ἐν γυάλοις· ὃ δ' ἀέξετο πατρὸς ἑκητι
of-Nysa in glens he and grew of-father by-the-will
ἄντρῳ ἐν εὐώδει μεταρίθμιος ἀθανάτοισιν.
cave in fragrant counted-among the-immortals
αὐτὰρ ἐπειδὴ τόνδε θεαὶ πολύυμνον ἔθρεψαν,
but when him the-goddesses much-hymned had-reared
δὴ τότε φοιτίζεσκε καθ' ὑλήεντας ἐναύλους,
indeed then he-used-to-roam through wooded lairs
κισσῷ καὶ δάφνῃ πεπυκασμένος· αἳ δ' ἅμ' ἕποντο
with-ivy and laurel wreathed they and with followed
Νύμφαι, ὃ δ' ἐξηγεῖτο· βρόμος δ' ἔχεν ἄσπετον ὕλην.
the-Nymphs he and led the-din and held boundless forest

Καὶ σὺ μὲν οὕτω χαῖρε, πολυστάφυλ' ὦ Διόνυσε·
and you indeed so farewell rich-in-grapes O Dionysus
δὸς δ' ἡμᾶς χαίροντας ἐς ὥρας αὖτις ἱκέσθαι,
grant and us rejoicing to seasons again to-come
ἐκ δ' αὖθ' ὡράων εἰς τοὺς πολλοὺς ἐνιαυτούς.
from and again the-seasons into the many years

Εἰς Ἄρτεμιν

27 · TO ARTEMIS

The poet sings of Artemis, who hunts in the mountains, making the peaks tremble, and then goes to Apollo's house at Delphi to lead the dance of the Muses and Graces, who sing of Leto and her children.

Ἄρτεμιν ἀείδω χρυσηλάκατον, κελαδεινήν,
Artemis I-sing of-the-golden-distaff loud-shouting
παρθένον αἰδοίην, ἐλαφηβόλον, ἰοχέαιραν,
virgin reverend deer-shooting arrow-pouring
αὐτοκασιγνήτην χρυσαόρου Ἀπόλλωνος,
own-sister of-golden-sworded Apollo
ἣ κατ' ὄρη σκιόεντα καὶ ἄκριας ἠνεμοέσσας
who over mountains shadowy and peaks windy
ἄγρῃ τερπομένη παγχρύσεα τόξα τιταίνει
in-the-hunt delighting all-golden bow stretches
πέμπουσα στονόεντα βέλη· τρομέει δὲ κάρηνα
sending grievous shafts tremble and the-heads
ὑψηλῶν ὀρέων, ἰάχει δ' ἔπι δάσκιος ὕλη
of-lofty mountains cries and thereat shaded forest
δεινὸν ὑπὸ κλαγγῆς θηρῶν, φρίσσει δέ τε γαῖα
dreadfully under the-clamor of-beasts shudders and — earth

πόντος τ᾽ ἰχθυόεις· ἣ δ᾽ ἄλκιμον ἦτορ ἔχουσα
sea and full-of-fish she and valiant heart having
πάντη ἐπιστρέφεται θηρῶν ὀλέκουσα γενέθλην.
everywhere turns of-beasts destroying the-race
αὐτὰρ ἐπὴν τερφθῇ θηροσκόπος ἰοχέαιρα,
but when she-is-delighted the-beast-watching arrow-pouring
εὐφρήνῃ δὲ νόον, χαλάσασ᾽ εὐκαμπέα τόξα
gladdens and mind unstringing well-curved bow
ἔρχεται ἐς μέγα δῶμα κασιγνήτοιο φίλοιο,
she-goes to great house of-brother dear
Φοίβου Ἀπόλλωνος, Δελφῶν ἐς πίονα δῆμον,
of-Phoebus Apollo of-Delphi to rich land
Μουσῶν καὶ Χαρίτων καλὸν χορὸν ἀρτυνέουσα.
of-the-Muses and Graces fair dance arranging
ἔνθα κατακρεμάσασα παλίντονα τόξα καὶ ἰοὺς
there hanging-up back-bent bow and arrows
ἡγεῖται χαρίεντα περὶ χροΐ κόσμον ἔχουσα,
she-leads graceful around skin adornment having
ἐξάρχουσα χορούς· αἱ δ᾽ ἀμβροσίην ὄπ᾽ ἰεῖσαι
leading-off dances they and ambrosial voice sending
ὑμνεῦσιν Λητὼ καλλίσφυρον, ὡς τέκε παῖδας
hymn Leto fair-ankled how she-bore children
ἀθανάτων βουλῇ τε καὶ ἔργμασιν ἔξοχ᾽ ἀρίστους.
of-immortals in-counsel both and in-deeds by-far best
Χαίρετε, τέκνα Διὸς καὶ Λητοῦς ἠυκόμοιο·
hail children of-Zeus and of-Leto lovely-haired
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼν ὑμέων τε καὶ ἄλλης μνήσομ᾽ ἀοιδῆς.
but I of-you both and of-another will-remember song

Εἰς Ἀθήναν

28 · TO ATHENA

The poet sings of Athena, born in armor from Zeus' head, at whose birth Olympus shook, the earth cried out, the sea surged, and Helios stopped his horses until she took off her armor.

Παλλάδ' Ἀθηναίην, κυδρὴν θεόν, ἄρχομ' ἀείδειν
Pallas Athena glorious goddess I-begin to-sing
γλαυκῶπιν, πολύμητιν, ἀμείλιχον ἦτορ ἔχουσαν,
flashing-eyed many-counseled relentless heart having
παρθένον αἰδοίην, ἐρυσίπτολιν, ἀλκήεσσαν,
virgin reverend city-guarding valiant
Τριτογενῆ, τὴν αὐτὸς ἐγείνατο μητίετα Ζεὺς
trito-born whom himself begot counselor Zeus
σεμνῆς ἐκ κεφαλῆς, πολεμήια τεύχε' ἔχουσαν,
holy from head warlike arms having
χρύσεα, παμφανόωντα· σέβας δ' ἔχε πάντας ὁρῶντας
golden all-gleaming awe and held all seeing
ἀθανάτους· ἣ δὲ πρόσθεν Διὸς αἰγιόχοιο
immortals she and before of-Zeus aegis-bearing
ἐσσυμένως ὤρουσεν ἀπ' ἀθανάτοιο καρήνου,
eagerly sprang from immortal head
σείσασ' ὀξὺν ἄκοντα· μέγας δ' ἐλελίζετ' Ὄλυμπος
shaking keen javelin great and shook Olympus
δεινὸν ὑπὸ βρίμης γλαυκώπιδος· ἀμφὶ δὲ γαῖα
dreadfully under the-might of-the-flashing-eyed around and earth
σμερδαλέον ἰάχησεν· ἐκινήθη δ' ἄρα πόντος,
terribly cried was-moved and then the-sea

κύμασι πορφυρέοισι κυκώμενος· ἔκχυτο δ' ἅλμη
with-waves purple stirred poured-out and the-brine
ἐξαπίνης· στῆσεν δ' Ὑπερίονος ἀγλαὸς υἱὸς
suddenly stopped and of-Hyperion glorious son
ἵππους ὠκύποδας δηρὸν χρόνον, εἰσότε κούρη
horses swift-footed long time until the-maiden
εἵλετ' ἀπ' ἀθανάτων ὤμων θεοείκελα τεύχη
took from immortal shoulders godlike arms
Παλλὰς Ἀθηναίη· γήθησε δὲ μητίετα Ζεύς.
Pallas Athena rejoiced and counselor Zeus
Καὶ σὺ μὲν οὕτω χαῖρε, Διὸς τέκος αἰγιόχοιο·
and you indeed so farewell of-Zeus child aegis-bearing
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ καὶ σεῖο καὶ ἄλλης μνήσομ' ἀοιδῆς.
but I both of-you and of-another will-remember song

Εἰς Ἑστίαν

29 · TO HESTIA

Hestia has an everlasting seat in the houses of gods and men and the first and last libation at every feast. The poet calls on her and on Hermes to help him.

Ἑστίη, ἣ πάντων ἐν δώμασιν ὑψηλοῖσιν
Hestia who of-all in houses lofty
ἀθανάτων τε θεῶν χαμαὶ ἐρχομένων τ' ἀνθρώπων
immortal both gods on-the-ground going and men
ἕδρην ἀίδιον ἔλαχες, πρεσβηίδα τιμήν,
a-seat everlasting you-got-as-lot elder honor

καλὸν ἔχουσα γέρας καὶ τίμιον· οὐ γὰρ ἄτερ σοῦ
fair having privilege and honored not for without you
εἰλαπίναι θνητοῖσιν, ἵν' οὐ πρώτῃ πυμάτῃ τε
feasts for-mortals where not first last and
Ἑστίῃ ἀρχόμενος σπένδει μελιηδέα οἶνον·
to-Hestia beginning one-pours honey-sweet wine
καὶ σύ μοι, Ἀργειφόντα, Διὸς καὶ Μαιάδος υἱέ,
and you to-me Argus-slayer of-Zeus and of-Maia son
ἄγγελε τῶν μακάρων, χρυσόρραπι, δῶτορ ἐάων,
messenger of-the blessed golden-wanded giver of-good-things
ἵλαος ὢν ἐπάρηγε σὺν αἰδοίῃ τε φίλῃ τε.
gracious being help with reverend both dear and
ναίετε δώματα καλά, φίλα φρεσὶν ἀλλήλοισιν
dwell houses fair dear in-mind to-each-other
εἰδότες· ἀμφότεροι γὰρ ἐπιχθονίων ἀνθρώπων
knowing both for of-earthly men
εἰδότες ἔργματα καλὰ νόῳ θ' ἕσπεσθε καὶ ἥβῃ.
knowing works fair to-mind both follow and to-youth

Χαῖρε, Κρόνου θύγατερ, σύ τε καὶ χρυσόρραπις Ἑρμῆς·
hail of-Cronus daughter you both and golden-wanded Hermes
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼν ὑμέων τε καὶ ἄλλης μνήσομ' ἀοιδῆς.
but I of-you both and of-another will-remember song

Εἰς Γῆν μητέρα πάντων

30 · TO EARTH, MOTHER OF ALL

The poet sings of Earth, mother of all, who feeds all creatures and gives prosperity to the man she honors: his fields bear, his house fills, and his children rejoice. The poet asks her for a livelihood in return for his song.

Γαῖαν παμμήτειραν ἀείσομαι, ἠυθέμεθλον,
Earth mother-of-all I-will-sing firm-founded
πρεσβίστην, ἣ φέρβει ἐπὶ χθονὶ πάνθ' ὁπόσ' ἐστίν,
eldest who feeds on earth all as-many-as are
ἠμὲν ὅσα χθόνα δῖαν ἐπέρχεται ἠδ' ὅσα πόντον
both as-many-as earth bright go-on and as-many-as sea
ἠδ' ὅσα πωτῶνται, τάδε φέρβεται ἐκ σέθεν ὄλβου.
and as-many-as fly these are-fed from your wealth
ἐκ σέο δ' εὔπαιδές τε καὶ εὔκαρποι τελέθουσι, 5
from you and blessed-in-children both and blessed-in-fruit are
πότνια, σεῦ δ' ἔχεται δοῦναι βίον ἠδ' ἀφελέσθαι
queenly on-you and it-depends to-give life and to-take-away
θνητοῖς ἀνθρώποισιν· ὃ δ' ὄλβιος, ὅν κε σὺ θυμῷ
to-mortal men he but blessed whom — you in-heart
πρόφρων τιμήσῃς· τῷ τ' ἄφθονα πάντα πάρεστι.
gracious honor for-him and abundant all are-at-hand
βρίθει μέν σφιν ἄρουρα φερέσβιος ἠδὲ κατ' ἀγροὺς
is-laden indeed for-them the-plowland life-giving and over fields
κτήνεσιν εὐθηνεῖ, οἶκος δ' ἐμπίπλαται ἐσθλῶν· 10
with-cattle thrives the-house and is-filled with-good-things

αὐτοὶ δ' εὐνομίῃσι πόλιν κάτα καλλιγύναικα
themselves and with-good-laws city in of-fair-women
κοιρανέουσ', ὄλβος δὲ πολὺς καὶ πλοῦτος ὀπηδεῖ·
rule prosperity and much and wealth follows
παῖδες δ' εὐφροσύνῃ νεοθηλέι κυδιόωσι
children and with-joy fresh-blooming exult
παρθενικαί τε χοροῖς πολυανθέσιν εὔφρονι θυμῷ
maidens and in-dances flowery with-cheerful heart
παίζουσαι σκαίρουσι κατ' ἄνθεα μαλθακὰ ποίης,
playing skip over flowers soft of-the-grass
οὕς κε σὺ τιμήσῃς, σεμνὴ θεά, ἄφθονε δαῖμον.
whom — you honor holy goddess bountiful divinity
Χαῖρε, θεῶν μήτηρ, ἄλοχ' Οὐρανοῦ ἀστερόεντος,
hail of-the-gods mother wife of-Heaven starry
πρόφρων δ' ἀντ' ᾠδῆς βίοτον θυμήρε' ὄπαζε·
gracious and for song livelihood heart-pleasing grant
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ καὶ σεῖο καὶ ἄλλης μνήσομ' ἀοιδῆς.
but I both of-you and of-another will-remember song

Εἰς Ἥλιον

31 · TO HELIOS

The poet asks Calliope to sing of Helios, son of Hyperion, who shines from his chariot on gods and men.

Ἥλιον ὑμνεῖν αὖτε Διὸς τέκος ἄρχεο Μοῦσα,
the-Sun to-hymn again of-Zeus child begin Muse
Καλλιόπη, φαέθοντα, τὸν Εὐρυφάεσσα βοῶπις
Calliope shining whom Euryphaessa ox-eyed
γείνατο Γαίης παιδὶ καὶ Οὐρανοῦ ἀστερόεντος·
bore of-Earth to-the-child and of-Heaven starry
γῆμε γὰρ Εὐρυφάεσσαν ἀγακλειτὴν Ὑπερίων,
married for Euryphaessa glorious Hyperion
αὐτοκασιγνήτην, ᾗ οἱ τέκε κάλλιμα τέκνα,
own-sister who to-him bore fair children
Ἠῶ τε ῥοδόπηχυν ἐυπλόκαμόν τε Σελήνην
Dawn both rosy-armed fair-tressed and Selene
Ἠέλιόν τ' ἀκάμαντ', ἐπιείκελον ἀθανάτοισιν,
the-Sun and tireless like to-the-immortals
ὃς φαίνει θνητοῖσι καὶ ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσιν
who shines for-mortals and immortal gods
ἵπποις ἐμβεβαώς· σμερδνὸν δ' ὅ γε δέρκεται ὄσσοις
on-horses mounted terribly and he indeed glares with-eyes
χρυσέης ἐκ κόρυθος· λαμπραὶ δ' ἀκτῖνες ἀπ' αὐτοῦ
golden from helmet bright and rays from him
αἰγλῆεν στίλβουσι παρὰ κροτάφων δέ τ' ἔθειραι
gleaming flash from temples and — locks
λαμπραὶ ἀπὸ κρατὸς χαρίεν κατέχουσι πρόσωπον
bright from head graceful enclose face

τηλαυγές· καλὸν δὲ περὶ χροΐ λάμπεται ἕσθος
far-shining fair and around skin shines raiment
λεπτουργές, πνοιῇ ἀνέμων· ὕπο δ' ἄρσενες ἵπποι.
finely-wrought at-the-breath of-winds under and male horses
ἔνθ' ἄρ' ὅ γε στήσας χρυσόζυγον ἅρμα καὶ ἵππους,
there then he indeed halting golden-yoked chariot and horses
[αὐτόθι παύεται ἄκρου ἐπ' οὐρανοῦ, εἰσόκεν αὖτις]
there rests topmost on heaven until again
θεσπέσιος πέμπῃσι δι' οὐρανοῦ Ὠκεανόνδε.
marvelous he-drives through heaven to-Ocean
Χαῖρε, ἄναξ, πρόφρων δὲ βίον θυμήρε' ὄπαζε.
hail lord gracious and livelihood heart-pleasing grant
ἐκ σέο δ' ἀρξάμενος κλήσω μερόπων γένος ἀνδρῶν
from you and beginning I-will-celebrate of-mortal the-race men
ἡμιθέων, ὧν ἔργα θεαὶ θνητοῖσιν ἔδειξαν.
demigods whose deeds the-goddesses to-mortals have-shown

Εἰς Σελήνην

32 · TO SELENE

The poet asks the Muses to sing of Selene, whose radiance lights the earth when she drives her chariot at the full moon, and who bore Zeus a daughter, Pandia.

Μήνην ἀείδειν ταυσίπτερον ἔσπετε, Μοῦσαι,
the-Moon to-sing long-winged tell Muses
ἡδυεπεῖς κοῦραι Κρονίδεω Διός, ἴστορες ὠδῆς·
sweet-voiced daughters of-the-son-of-Cronus Zeus skilled of-song

ἧς ἄπο αἴγλη γαῖαν ἑλίσσεται οὐρανόδεικτος
whose from radiance earth encircles shown-from-heaven
κρατὸς ἀπ᾽ ἀθανάτοιο, πολὺς δ᾽ ὑπὸ κόσμος ὄρωρεν
head from immortal great and under splendor has-arisen
αἴγλης λαμπούσης· στίλβει δέ τ᾽ ἀλάμπετος ἀὴρ
of-radiance shining gleams and — unlit air
χρυσέου ἀπὸ στεφάνου, ἀκτῖνες δ᾽ ἐνδιάονται,
golden from crown rays and are-spread-about
εὖτ᾽ ἂν ἀπ᾽ Ὠκεανοῖο λοεσσαμένη χρόα καλόν,
when — from Ocean having-washed skin fair
εἵματα ἑσσαμένη τηλαυγέα δῖα Σελήνη,
garments having-put-on far-shining bright Selene
ζευξαμένη πώλους ἐριαύχενας, αἰγλήεντας,
yoking colts high-necked gleaming
ἐσσυμένως προτέρωσ᾽ ἐλάσῃ καλλίτριχας ἵππους,
eagerly forward drives fair-maned horses
ἑσπερίη, διχόμηνος· ὃ δὲ πλήθει μέγας ὄγμος
at-evening mid-month that and is-full great orbit
λαμπρόταταί τ᾽ αὐγαὶ τότ᾽ ἀεξομένης τελέθουσιν
brightest and rays then as-she-grows are
οὐρανόθεν· τέκμωρ δὲ βροτοῖς καὶ σῆμα τέτυκται.
from-heaven a-token and to-mortals and a-sign is-made
Τῇ ῥά ποτε Κρονίδης ἐμίγη φιλότητι καὶ εὐνῇ·
with-her then once the-son-of-Cronus mingled in-love and bed
ἣ δ᾽ ὑποκυσαμένη Πανδείην γείνατο κούρην,
she and conceiving Pandia bore a-daughter
ἐκπρεπὲς εἶδος ἔχουσαν ἐν ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσι.
exceptional form having among immortal gods

Χαῖρε, ἄνασσα, θεὰ λευκώλενε, δῖα Σελήνη,
hail queen goddess white-armed bright Selene
πρόφρον, ἐυπλόκαμος· σέο δ' ἀρχόμενος κλέα φωτῶν
gracious fair-tressed from-you and beginning the-glories of-men
ᾄσομαι ἡμιθέων, ὧν κλείουσ' ἔργματ' ἀοιδοί,
I-will-sing demigods whose celebrate deeds singers
Μουσάων θεράποντες, ἀπὸ στομάτων ἐροέντων.
of-the-Muses attendants from mouths lovely

Εἰς Διοσκούρους

33 · TO THE DIOSCURI

The poet sings of Castor and Polydeuces, saviors of ships, who appear in a storm and calm the winds.

Ἀμφὶ Διὸς κούρους, ἑλικώπιδες ἔσπετε Μοῦσαι,
about of-Zeus the-sons bright-eyed tell Muses
Τυνδαρίδας, Λήδης καλλισφύρου ἀγλαὰ τέκνα,
sons-of-Tyndareus of-Leda fair-ankled glorious children
Κάστορά θ' ἱππόδαμον καὶ ἀμώμητον Πολυδεύκεα,
Castor and horse-taming and blameless Polydeuces
τοὺς ὑπὸ Ταϋγέτου κορυφῇ ὄρεος μεγάλοιο
whom under of-Taygetus the-peak of-the-mountain great
μιχθεῖσ' ἐν φιλότητι κελαινεφέι Κρονίωνι
mingled in love with-dark-clouded son-of-Cronus
σωτῆρας τέκε παῖδας ἐπιχθονίων ἀνθρώπων
saviors bore children of-earthly men

ὠκυπόρων τε νεῶν, ὅτε τε σπέρχωσιν ἄελλαι
of-swift-sailing and ships when — rage storms
χειμέριαι κατὰ πόντον ἀμείλιχον· οἳ δ' ἀπὸ νηῶν
wintry over sea relentless they and from ships
εὐχόμενοι καλέουσι Διὸς κούρους μεγάλοιο
praying call of-Zeus the-sons great
ἄρνεσσιν λευκοῖσιν, ἐπ' ἀκρωτήρια βάντες
with-lambs white to the-top going
πρύμνης· τὴν δ' ἄνεμός τε μέγας καὶ κῦμα θαλάσσης
of-the-stern it and wind both great and wave of-the-sea
θῆκαν ὑποβρυχίην· οἳ δ' ἐξαπίνης ἐφάνησαν
put under-water they and suddenly appeared
ξουθῇσι πτερύγεσσι δι' αἰθέρος ἀίξαντες,
with-tawny wings through air darting
αὐτίκα δ' ἀργαλέων ἀνέμων κατέπαυσαν ἀέλλας,
at-once and of-grievous winds stopped the-blasts
κύματα δ' ἐστόρεσαν λευκῆς ἁλὸς ἐν πελάγεσσι,
waves and calmed of-white sea in depths
σήματα καλά, πόνου ἀπονόσφισιν· οἳ δὲ ἰδόντες
signs fair of-toil deliverance they and seeing
γήθησαν, παύσαντο δ' ὀιζυροῖο πόνοιο.
rejoiced ceased and from-wretched toil

Χαίρετε, Τυνδαρίδαι, ταχέων ἐπιβήτορες ἵππων·
hail sons-of-Tyndareus of-swift riders horses
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼν ὑμέων τε καὶ ἄλλης μνήσομ' ἀοιδῆς.
but I of-you both and of-another will-remember song