

Language of Sex(ual Violence) in the *Theogony* and the *Catalogue of Women*

1. μίγνυμι; usu. fem. participle μιγεῖσα, μιχθεῖσα. To mix or mingle.
2. ἐς λέχος ἔλθειν or εἰσαναβαίνειν (ιερός, ὁμός). To go up into the (sacred, joint) bed.
3. δαμάζω, δαμνάω or δάμνημι (sometimes ὑποδμηθεῖσα from ὑποδαμνάω). To overpower.

4. *Theog.* 53 – 7

τὰς ἐν Πιερίῃ Κρονίδη τέκε πατρὶ μιγεῖσα
Μνημοσύνη, γουνοῖσιν Ἐλευθῆρος μεδέουσα,
λημοσύνην τε κακῶν ἄμπαυμά τε μερμηράων. 55
ἐννέα γάρ οἱ νυκτὸς ἐμίσγετο μητίετα Ζεὺς
νόσφιν ἀπ' ἀθανάτων ιερὸν λέχος εἰσαναβαίνων:

Mnemosyne bore them [the Muses] on Pieria, having had sex with the father, the son of Kronos, herself the guardian of the heights of Eleuther; the children as embodiments of forgetting and a pause of evils and troubles. Zeus the crafty one mingled with her far from the immortal gods, going up to her holy bed for nine nights.¹

5. *Theog.* 508

ἠγάγετο Κλυμένην καὶ ὁμὸν λέχος εἰσανέβαινε

[Iapetus] married Klymene and went up to their joint bed.

6. *Theog.* 120 – 2

ἦδ' Ἔρος, ὃς κάλλιστος ἐν ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσι,
λυσιμελῆς, πάντων τε θεῶν πάντων τ' ἀνθρώπων
δάμναται ἐν στήθεσσι νόον καὶ ἐπίφρονα βουλήν

Indeed Eros, the most beautiful among the immortal gods, limb-melter, overpowers the mind in the breast and fore-thinking will of all gods and all men.

7. Rhea, *Theog.* 453 – 4

Ῥεῖη δὲ δημηθεῖσα Κρόνω τέκε φαιδίμα τέκνα
Ἴστίην Δήμητρα καὶ Ἥρην χρυσοπέδιλον

And Rhea, overpowered by Kronos, bore radiant children; Hestia, Demeter and Hera of the golden sandals.

8. Medea, *Theog.* 1000 – 1

καὶ ῥ' ἦ γε δημηθεῖσ' ὑπ' Ἰήσωνι ποιμένι λαῶν
Μήδειον τέκε παῖδα....

And she [Medea] herself, overpowered by Jason, shepherd of men, bore a child, Medeion.

9. Thetis, *Theog.* 1006 – 7

Πηλεΐδὲ δημηθεῖσα θεὰ Θέτις ἀργυρόπεζα
γεῖνατ' Ἀχιλλῆα ῥηξήγορα θυμολέοντα

The silver-footed goddess Thetis, overpowered by Peleus, bore Achilles, lion-hearted, he who breaks the ranks of men.

¹ Translations my own.

10. Clytaemnestra, MW 23a.27 – 30 = M 19.27 – 30
λοῖσθον δ' ἐν μεγά[ροισι Κλυτ]αιμήστρη κυα[νῶπις
γείναθ' ὑποδμηθ[εῖσ' Ἀγαμέμ]ον[ι δῖ]ον Ὀρέ[στην,
ὅς ῥα καὶ ἠβήσας ἀπε[τείσατο π]ατροφο[ν]ῆα,
κτεῖνε δὲ μητέρα [ἦν ὑπερήν]ορα νηλεί [χαλκῶι.

30 [ὄλεσῆν]ορα, man-destroying

11. Timandra, MW 23a.31 – 5 = M19.31 – 5
Τιμάνδρην δ' Ἔχεμος θαλερὴν ποιήσατ' ἄκιοιτιν,
ὅς πάσης Τεγ[έης ἠδ' Ἀρκαδίας] πολυμήλου
ἀφνειὸς ἦνας[σε, φίλος μακάρεσσι θεο[τ]ισιν·
ἦ οἱ Λαόδοκον μεγαλήτορα ποιμέν]α λαῶν
γ]είνα[θ]' ὑποδμη[θεισα διὰ] χρυσοῖν Ἀφ[ροδίτην 35

Last in the megaron dark-eyed Clytaemnestra, overpowered by Agamemnon, bore noble Orestes, who reaching his manhood took revenge upon his father's killer and slayed his mother, arrogant with merciless bronze.

Echemus made Timandra his fertile wife, he who ruled over Tegea and Arcadia rich in flocks, beloved by the blessed gods. And she, overpowered because of golden Aphrodite, bore to him Laodocos, the great-hearted shepherd of men.

12. Deianeira, MW 25.17 – 25 = M 22.17 – 25
...κ[αὶ ἐπί]φ[ρ]ονα Δηϊάνειραν,
ἦ τέχ' ὑποδμηθεῖ[σα βίη]ι Ἡ[ρ]ακλη[ε]ίηι
Ἵλλον καὶ Γλήνον καὶ [Κτή]σιππον καὶ Ὀνειτήν·
τοὺς τέκε καὶ δειν' ἔρξ[', ἐπεὶ ἀάσατ]ο μέγα θυμῶι, 20
ὀπότε φάρμακον .[ἐπιχρί]σασα χιτῶνα
δῶκε Λίχη κήρυ[κι] φ[έρειν· ὃ δὲ δῶ]κεν ἄνακτι
Ἀμφιτρωνιά[δ]ηι Ἡ[ρακλῆ]ϊ πτολιπό[ρ]θωι.
δ[εξ]αμένωι δέ ο[ἱ αἶ]ψα τέλος θανάτο[ι]ο παρέστη·
καὶ] θάνε καὶ ῥ' Αἴδ[αο πολύστονον ἴ]κε]το δῶμα. 25

And thoughtful Deianeira, who, overpowered by Heraklean strength bore Hyllus and Glenos and Ktesippus and Oneites. These she bore and she worked a terrible affair, since she was deceived greatly in her mind, when, smearing a potion over a chiton she gave it to Lichas the herald to carry. And he gave it to his lord the son of Amphytrion, Herakles the sacker of cities. And upon receiving it at once a mortal death was upon him. And he died and went to the mournful house of Hades.

13. Mestra, MW 43a.55 – 7 = M 69.79 – 81
καὶ τὴν μὲν ῥ' ἐδάμασσε Ποσειδάων ἐνοσίχθ[ων
τῆλ' ἀπὸ πατρὸς ἐοῖο φέρων ἐπὶ οἴνοπα πόν[τον
ἐν Κόωι ἀ[μ]φιρύτη καίπερ πολύδριον ἐοῦσα[ν·

and Poseidon, Earth-shaker, overpowered her [Mestra], carrying her from her father across the wine-dark sea to Cos where the sea flows around, although she was clever.

14. Chimaera with Orthos (*Theog.* 326 – 7), Theia and Hyperion (*Theog.* 371 – 4), Idyia and Aietes (*Theog.* 961 – 2), and Aethusa and Apollo (MW 185.8 = M 123.1). Fragmentary: Philonis with Apollo (MW 64.16 = M 65.16), Electra (one of the Pleiades) with unknown male (MW 177.5 – 6 = M 121.5 – 6).

15. *Il.* 23.653 – 5

αὐτὰρ ὁ πυγμαχίης ἀλεγεινῆς θῆκεν ἄεθλα:
ἡμίονον ταλαεργὸν ἄγων κατέδησ' ἐν ἀγῶνι
ἐξέετε ἄδμήτην, ἣ τ' ἀλγίστη δαμάσασθαι

Then he set out the prizes for grievous boxing. Bringing forth a hardy mule he tied it to the ring, six years old, unbroken, the sort that is most difficult to break in.

16. *Il.* 18.429 – 34

Ἥφαιστ', ἧ ἄρα δὴ τις, ὅσαι θεαί εἰς' ἐν Ὀλύμπῳ,
τοσσάδ' ἐνὶ φρεσὶν ἧσιν ἀνέσχετο κήδεα λυγρὰ 430
ὅσσοι ἐμοὶ ἐκ πασέων Κρονίδης Ζεὺς ἄλγε' ἔδωκεν;
ἐκ μὲν μ' ἀλλάων ἀλιάων ἀνδρὶ δάμασσεν
Αἰακίδῃ Πηληϊῆ, καὶ ἔτλην ἀνέρος εὐνήν
πολλὰ μάλ' οὐκ ἐθέλουσα...

Hephaestus, is there anyone, any other goddess on Olympus who endures in her heart such grievous pain as me—out of all of them Zeus son of Kronos gave me distress. Of all of the women of the sea, he subjected me to a mortal man, to Peleus son of Aeacus, and I endured the bed of this man much against my will.

17. *Od.* 3.264 – 72

πόλλ' Ἀγαμεμνονέην ἄλοχον θέλγεσκ' ἐπέεσσιν... 264
ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ μιν μοῖρα θεῶν ἐπέδησε δαμῆναι,... 269
τὴν δ' ἐθέλων ἐθέλουσαν ἀνήγαγεν ὄνδε δόμονδε. 272

[Aegisthus] many times sought to enchant the wife of Agamemnon with words...
But when the fate of the gods bound her to be overcome,... [then indeed did Aegisthus] willingly lead her, willing, to his own house.

18. *I.C.* IV.72 col.ii.11 – 13

ἐνδοθιδίαν δόλαν αἰ κάρτει δαμ|άσαιτο, δύο στατέρανς
κατασ|τασεῖ

If one overpowers a house-slave by force, he shall pay two staters.

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