

Feminizing Orpheus: Metapoetics, Grief, and *Nightingale* in *Georgics* 4

<p>1. Cat. 65.12-4</p> <p>Semper <u>maesta</u> tua <u>carmina</u> morte canam,  <u>Qualia sub</u> densis <u>ramorum</u> concinit <u>umbris</u>  <u>Daulias</u></p>	<p>Always, I will sing sad songs for your death  Just as the Daulian bird sings under the dense  shadows of branches.<sup>1</sup></p>
<p>2. Callimachus <i>Epig.</i> 2.5-6</p> <p>αἰ δὲ τεαὶ ζώουσιν ἀηδόνες, ἧσιςιν ὁ πάντων  ἀρπακτῆς Αἴδης οὐκ ἐπὶ χεῖρα βαλεῖ.</p>	<p>but thy nightingales live still, whereon Hades,  snatcher of all things, shall not lay his hand.  [Translated by A.W. Mair]</p>
<p>3. Verg. <i>G.</i> 4.507-9, 511-15, 517-18</p> <p>Septem illum totos perhibent ex ordine menses  rupe sub aeria deserti ad Strymonis undam  flesse sibi et <i>gelidis</i> haec evolvisse sub <i>antris</i>  ...  <u>qualis populea</u> maerens <b>philomela</b> <u>sub umbra</u>  amissos queritur fetus, quos <b>durus arator</b>  observans <b>nido implumes detraxit</b>; at illa  flet noctem <u>ramoque</u> sedens miserabile <u>carmen</u>  integrat et <u>maestis</u> late loca questibus implet.  ...  Solus <i>Hyperboreas</i> <i>glacies</i> <i>Tanaimque</i>  <i>nivalem</i>  <i>arvaque Rhipaeis numquam viduata pruinis...</i></p>	<p>They say for seven whole months in a row he,  Under an airy crag at the waters of solitary  Strymon, wept for himself and he told his tale in  ice-cold caves...</p> <p>Just as the mourning nightingale in poplar shadow  grieves her lost chicks, unfledged chicks, which a  hard plowman noticing drew out from her nest; but  she, perched upon a branch, weeps through the  night and renews her pitiable song; far and wide,  she fills the place with her sad complaints.</p> <p>Alone, through far-northern glaciers, and snowy  Tanais and the permafrost of Rhipaeian steppes....  [he wandered].</p>

Key for figures 1-3.

<u>Underlined</u>	Words shared by Catullus and Virgil
<b>Bold</b>	Important Virgilian additions
<b>Highlighted</b>	Masculinity and masculine violence
<i>Italic</i>	Frozen words

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise noted translations are my own.

<p>4. Livy 25.37.10 quod <b>in muliebres et inutiles se proiecissent fletus</b> potius quam ad tutandos semet ipsos et rem publicam secum acuerent animos...</p>	<p><b>for having given themselves up to womanish and useless weeping</b>, instead of whetting their courage to defend themselves and with them the state [Translated by Frank Gardner Moore]</p>
<p>5. Cic. <i>Fin.</i> 2.94 fortitudinis quaedam praecepta sunt ac paene <b>leges quae effeminari virum vetant in dolore</b></p>	<p>Courage has its precepts and its rules, <b>rules of constraining force, that forbid a man to show womanish weakness in pain.</b> [Translated by H. Rackham]</p>
<p>6. Phanocles, <i>Frag.</i> 1 Powell 1-8 Ἦ ὡς Οἰάγροιο πάϊς Θρηϊκίος Ὀρφεὺς ἐκ θυμοῦ Κάλαιν στέρξε Βορηϊάδην, πολλάκι δὲ σκιεροῖσιν ἐν ἄλσεσιν ἔζετ' αἰείδων ὄν πόθον, οὐδ' ἦν οἱ θυμὸς ἐν ἡσυχίῃ, ἀλλ' αἰεὶ μιν ἄγρυπνοι ὑπὸ ψυχῆι μελεδῶναι ἔτρυχον, θαλερὸν δερκομένου Κάλαιν. Τὸν μὲν Βιστονίδες κακομήχανοι ἀμφιχυθεῖσαι ἔκτανον...</p>	<p>Or how Thracian Orpheus, the son of Oeagrus, loved Calais, the son of Boreas, with all his heart and often he would sit in the shady groves singing his heart's desire; nor was his spirit at peace, but always his soul was consumed with sleepless cares as he gazed on fresh Calais. But the Bistonian women of evil devices killed Orpheus [Translated by S. Burges Watson]</p>
<p>7. Ovid <i>Met.</i> 10.73-77 ...in altam se recipit Rhodopen pulsumque aquilonibus Haemum.</p>	<p>at last he wandered back, until he came to lofty Rhodope and Haemus, beaten by the strong north wind. [Translated by Brooks More]</p>
<p>8. Ovid <i>Tristia</i> 3.10.13-6 nix iacet, et iactam ne sol pluviaeque resolvant, indurat Boreas perpetuamque facit. ergo ubi delucit nondum prior, altera venit, et solet in multis bima manere locis</p>	<p>Snow falls, and, once fallen, no rain or sunlight melts it, since the north wind, freezing, makes it permanent. So another fall comes before the first has melted, and in many parts it lingers there two years. [Translated by A.S. Kline]</p>
<p>9. Homer <i>Iliad</i> 24.524 ...ἀλγεα δ' ἔμπης ἐν θυμῷ κατακεῖσθαι ἐάσομεν ἀχνύμενοί περ: <b>οὐ γὰρ τις πρῆξις πέλεται κρυεροῖο γόοιο:</b></p>	<p>and our sorrows will we suffer to lie quiet in our hearts, despite our pain; <b>for no profit cometh of chill lament.</b> [Translated by A. T. Murray]</p>

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