

Khaos, Broken Plows, and Discontinuity in Hesiod

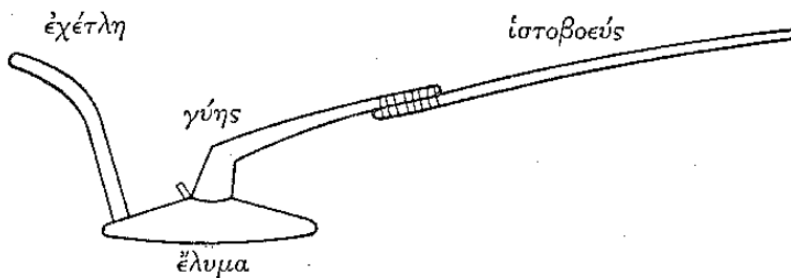
(a) ἄρμενος in *Works and Days*

ἀμφὶ δὲ ποσσὶ πέδιλα βοῶς Ἴφι κταμένοιο / ἄρμενα δῆσασθαι, πῖλοις ἔντοσθε πυκάσσης (541-2)
πλειῶν δὲ κατὰ χθονὸς ἄρμενος εἶη (617)
χρήματα δ' εἰν οἴκῳ πάντ' ἄρμενα ποιήσασθαι (407)
ἐν δέ τε φόρτον / ἄρμενον ἐντύνασθαι (631-2)
οὐδὲ μὲν ἢ πρώτη ἔκτη κούρη γε γενέσθαι / ἄρμενος (785-6)

(b) Plow construction, *Op.* 427-434

πόλλ' ἐπικαμπύλα κάλα· φέρειν δὲ γύην, ὄτ' ἂν εὖρης,
εἰς οἶκον, κατ' ὄρος διζήμενος ἢ κατ' ἄρουραν,
πρίνινον· ὅς γάρ βουσὶν ἀροῦν ὀχυρώτατός ἐστιν,
εὖτ' ἂν Ἀθηναίης δμῶος ἐν ἐλύματι πῆξας
γόμεφοισιν πελάσσης προσαρήρεται ἰστοβοῆι.
δοιὰ δὲ θέσθαι ἄροτρα, πονησάμενος κατὰ οἶκον,
αὐτόγυον καὶ πηκτόν, ἐπεὶ πολὺ λῶιον οὕτω·
εἷχ' ἕτερον [γ'] ἄξαις, ἕτερόν κ' ἐπὶ βουσί βάλαιο.

There is much bent firewood; bring a *gués*, whenever you find it to your home, seeking it in the mountains or in the fields, one made of holm-oak; for it is the strongest for plowing with oxen, whenever a craftsman has planted it in the stock with pegs, drawing it close, and fits it to the pole.
Keep two plows, working in your home, *autogouon* and *pékton*, since it is better this way.
If you break one, you may put the other on the oxen.



from West 1978: 266.
γύης “tree”
ἔλυμα “stock”
ἰστοβοεὺς “pole”

(c) Cut/approach

ἔνθα διατμήξας τὰς μὲν Κρήτην ἐπέλασσαν (*Od.* 3.291)
τῷ οἱ ἀποτμήξας κεφαλὴν οὐδάσδε πελάσσαι (*Od.* 10.440)
χαλκῷ ταμνομένη τέρενα χθονὶ φύλλα πελάσση (*Il.* 13.180)

(d) Chaos on the horizon, *Th.* 807-814

ἔνθα δὲ γῆς δνοφερῆς καὶ ταρτάρου ἠερόεντος
πόντου τ' ἀτρυγέτοιο καὶ οὐρανοῦ ἀστερόεντος
ἐξεῖης πάντων πηγαὶ καὶ πείρατ' ἔασιν,
ἀργαλέ' εὐρώεντα, τὰ τε στυγέουσι θεοὶ περ.
ἔνθα δὲ μαρμάρεαί τε πύλαι καὶ χάλκεος οὐδός,
ἀστεμφές ῥίζησι διηνεκέεσσιν ἀρηρώς,
αὐτοφυῆς· πρόσθεν δὲ θεῶν ἔκτοσθεν ἀπάντων
Τιτῆνες ναίουσι, πέρην χάεος ζοφεροῖο.

There are the springs and limits of everything in a row of murky earth and misty Tartarus, and of the barren sea and of starry heaven, woeful and moldy, things which the gods detest.
There are the gleaming gates and the bronze threshold fitted unshakably to continuous roots, self-grown: outside of these, apart from all the gods, dwell the Titans, beyond dusky chaos.

(e) *Th.* 700-3

καῦμα δὲ θεσπέσιον κάτεχεν χάος· εἴσατο δ' ἄντα And an unspeakable heat held down *khaos*; and it seemed
ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἰδεῖν ἢ δ' οὔασιν ὄσσαν ἀκοῦσαι for eyes to see and for ears to hear
αὐτῶς, ὡς ὅτε γαῖα καὶ οὐρανὸς εὐρὺς ὑπερθε just as when earth and broad heaven above
πίλνατο· approached each other.

Works Cited

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