

*Olympian 12 and the Politics of Athletic Victory (CAMWS | Section H | 5 April 2019)*

1. *Olympian 12* (trans. adapted from Race)

Λίσσομαι, παῖ Ζηνὸς Ἐλευθερίου,  
ἡμέραν εὐρυσθενέ' ἀμφιπόλει, σώτειρα Τύχα.  
τὴν γὰρ ἐν πόντῳ κυβερνῶνται θοαί  
νᾶες, ἐν χέρσῳ τε λαιψηροὶ πόλεμοι  
5 κάγοραὶ βουλαφόροι. αἶ γε μὲν ἀνδρῶν  
πόλλ' ἄνω, τὰ δ' αὖ κάτω  
6a ψεύδη μεταμῶνια τάμνοισαι κυλίνδοντ' ἐλπίδες·

σύμβολον δ' οὐ πῶ τις ἐπιχθονίων  
πιστὸν ἀμφὶ πράξιος ἔσσομένας εὔρεν θεόθεν.  
τῶν δὲ μελλόντων τετύφλωνται φραδαί·  
10 πολλὰ δ' ἀνθρώποις παρὰ γνώμαν ἔπεσεν.  
ἔμπαλιν μὲν τέρψιος, οἱ δ' ἀνιαραῖς  
ἀντικύρσαντες ζάλαις  
12a ἐσλὸν βαθὺ πῆματος ἐν μικρῷ πεδάμειψαν χρόνῳ.

υἱὲ Φιλάνορος, ἦτοι καὶ τεά κεν  
ἐνδομάχας ἄτ' ἀλέκτωρ συγγόνῳ παρ' ἐστία  
15 ἀκλεῆς τιμὰ (ν κατεφυλλορόησε) ποδῶν,  
εἰ μὴ στάσις ἀντιάνειρα Κνωσίας σ' ἄμερσε πάτρας.  
νῦν δ' Ὀλυμπία στεφανωσάμενος  
καὶ δις ἐκ Πυθῶνος Ἴσθμοῖ τ', Ἐργότελες,  
θερμὰ Νυμφᾶν λουτρὰ βαστάζεις ὀμι-  
λέων παρ' οἰκείαις ἀρούραις.

I beseech you, son of Eleutherian Zeus,  
Savior Fortune,  
tend to mighty Himera.  
For you govern swift ships in the sea,  
and on land both quick wars and assemblies  
that give counsel.  
But the hopes of men often move up and  
then again downwards, as they cut through  
useless falsehoods.

And not yet has any mortal man found a  
clear sign of things-to-come, delivered from  
god:  
understanding of future events is dim. Thus,  
for men, many things turn out contrary to  
their thinking; at once to the reverse of their  
delight, but then again, some who  
encounter dire storms exchange a pain for a  
good in no time.

Son of Philanor, indeed your honour would  
have shed without fame from your feet,  
like a rooster who fights indoors beside his  
familial hearth,  
if man-contending *stasis* had not deprived  
you of your homeland of Knossos.  
And now crowned at Olympia and twice  
from Pytho and the Isthmos, Ergoteles, you  
touch the warm baths of the Nymphs, since  
you live there by your rightful lands.

2. *Eumenides* 861-863

μήτ', ἐξελοῦσ' ὡς καρδίαν ἀλεκτόρων,  
ἐν τοῖς ἀστοῖσιν ἰδρύσης Ἄρη  
ἐμφύλιόν τε καὶ πρὸς ἀλλήλους θρασύν

Nor, as if taking the heart of roosters,  
establish amidst your fellow citizens a  
homegrown war and insolence against  
each other.

3. Scholia to Aes. *Eum.* 861-863

μάχιμον γὰρ τὸ ὄρνεον, τῶν τε ἄλλων ζώων τὸ  
συγγενὲς αἰδουμένων, μόνος οὐ φείδεται.

For this bird is quarrelsome, and  
alone of all the other animals,  
which respect their kin, it has no  
consideration for them

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