

“Out to Play Before We Give Her Away: A Maiden Chorus in the *Homeric Hymn to Demeter*”

Δήμητρ' ἠύκομον, σεμνήν θεόν, ἄρχομ' ἀείδειν,
αὐτήν ἠδὲ θύγατρα τανίσφυρον ἦν Αἰδωνεύς
ἦρπαξεν, δῶκεν δὲ βαρύκτυπος εὐρύοπα Ζεὺς,
νόσφιν Δήμητρος χρυσαόρου ἀγλαοκάρπου,
παίζουσαν κούρησι σὺν Ὠκεανοῦ βαθυκόλοις 5
ἄνθεά τ' αἰνυμένην ῥόδα καὶ κρόκον ἠδ' ἴα καλὰ
λειμῶν' ἄμ μαλακὸν καὶ ἀγαλλίδας ἠδ' ὑάκινθον
νάρκισσόν θ', ὃν φῦσε δόλον καλυκώπιδι **κούρη**
Γαῖα Διὸς βουλῆσι χαριζομένη πολυδέκτη,
θαυμαστὸν γανόωντα, σέβας τό γε πᾶσιν ιδέσθαι 10
ἀθανάτοις τε θεοῖς ἠδὲ θνητοῖς ἀνθρώποις:
τοῦ καὶ ἀπὸ ῥίζης ἑκατὸν κᾶρα ἐξεπεφύκει,
κῶδιστ' ὀδμη πᾶς δ' οὐρανὸς εὐρύς ὑπερθε
γαῖά τε πᾶσ' ἐγέλασσε καὶ ἄλμυρὸν οἶδμα θαλάσσης.
ἠ δ' ἄρα θαμβήσασ' ὠρέξατο χερσὶν ἄμ' ἄμφω 15
καλὸν ἄθυρμα λαβεῖν: χάνε δὲ χθῶν εὐρυάγνια
Νύσιον ἄμ πεδίον, τῇ ὄρουσεν ἄναξ πολυδέγμων
ἵπποις ἀθανάτοισι Κρόνου πολυώνυμος υἱός.¹ (HhD 1-18)

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¹ The text is that of Richardson 1974.