

A VINDICATION OF CHLOE:  
REINTERPRETING ‘SEXUAL SYMMETRY’ IN LONGUS’ *DAPHNIS AND CHLOE*  
Hannah VanSyckel  
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hvansyck@nd.edu  
[Abstract available at this link.](#)

## Section I: Chloe

### Text One.

ὁμως πρὶν προσενεγκεῖν ἀπέπιεν, εἴθ’ οὕτως ἔδωκεν. (3.8.2)

But before passing him his wine, she drank some of it herself and then gave it to him.<sup>1</sup>

### Text Two.

ἤδη ποτὲ καὶ γυμνοὶ συγκατεκλίνησαν καὶ ἐν δέρμα αἰγὸς ἐπεσύραντο. Καὶ ἐγένετο ἂν γυνὴ Χλόη ῥαδίως, εἰ μὴ Δάφνιν ἐτάραξε τὸ αἶμα. Ἀμέλει καὶ δεδοικῶς μὴ νικηθῆ τὸν λογισμὸν ποτε, πολλὰ γυμνοῦσθαι τὴν Χλόην οὐκ ἐπέτρεπεν, ὥστε ἐθαύμαζε μὲν ἡ Χλόη, τὴν δὲ αἰτίαν ἠδεῖτο πυθέσθαι. (3.24.2-24.3)

“And now, one day, they lay down together naked, covering themselves with a single goatskin; and Chloe would easily have become a woman if the thought of the blood had not disturbed Daphnis. He was understandably frightened that one day he might not be able to control himself, and so he did not allow Chloe to undress often. Chloe was amazed at this, but she was ashamed to ask the reason.”

### Text Three.

Ἡ μὲν δὴ μαθοῦσα λυπηρῶς πάνυ διήγε καὶ τὸν Δάφνιν ἐλάνθανεν ἐπὶ πολὺ, λυπεῖν οὐ θέλουσα: ὡς δὲ ἐλιπάρει καὶ ἐνέκειτο πυνθανόμενος καὶ ἐλυπεῖτο μᾶλλον μὴ μανθάνων ἢ ἔμελλε μαθῶν, πάντα αὐτῷ διηγείται, τοὺς μνηστευομένους ὡς πολλοὶ καὶ πλούσιοι, τοὺς λόγους οὓς ἡ Νάπη σπεύδουσα τὸν γάμον ἔλεγε, καὶ ὡς οὐκ ἀπείπατο Δρύας, ἀλλ’ ὡς εἰς τὸν τρυγητὸν ἀναβέβληται. Ἐκφρων ἐπὶ τούτοις ὁ Δάφνις γίνεται καὶ ἐδάκρυσεν καθήμενος, ἀποθανεῖσθαι μηκέτι συννεμούσης Χλόης λέγων: καὶ οὐκ αὐτὸς μόνος, ἀλλὰ καὶ τὰ πρόβατα μετὰ τοιοῦτον ποιμένα. (3.25.4-3.26.1)

When Chloe learned about this, she spent a very miserable time. For quite a while, she avoided Daphnis, not wanting to hurt him. But when he insisted and pressed for an answer and was more upset through not knowing than he was likely to be if he knew, she told him everything: how she had many rich suitors, how Nape was arguing that she should be married quickly, how Dryas did not refuse but had put the question off till the grape harvest. Daphnis went out of his mind at this and sat there, weeping. He said he would die if Chloe stopped grazing with him—and not only he but also the sheep would die, deprived of a shepherdess like her.

### Text Four.

ὦ παρθένε, τοῦτο τὸ μῆλον ἔφυσαν Ὠραι καλάι καὶ φυτὸν καλὸν ἔθρεψε πεπαίνοντος ἡλίου, καὶ ἐτήρησε Τύχη. Καὶ οὐκ ἔμελλον αὐτὸ καταλιπεῖν ὀφθαλμοὺς ἔχων, ἵνα πέση χαμαὶ καὶ ἡ ποιμνιον αὐτὸ πατήσῃ νεμόμενον ἢ ἐρπετὸν φαρμάξῃ συρόμενον ἢ χρόνος δαπανήσῃ κείμενον. Βλεπόμενον ἐπαινούμενον. Τοῦτο Ἀφροδίτη κάλλους ἔλαβεν ἄθλον: τοῦτο ἐγὼ σοὶ δίδωμι νικητήριον. Ὁμοίως ἔχομεν τοὺς σοὺς μάρτυρας: ἐκεῖνος ἦν ποιμὴν, αἰπόλος ἐγώ.’ Ταῦτα εἰπὼν ἐντίθησι τοῖς κόλποις: ἡ δὲ ἐγγὺς γενόμενον κατεφίλησεν, ὥστε ὁ Δάφνις οὐ μετέγνω τολμήσας ἀνελθεῖν εἰς τοσοῦτον ὕψος: ἔλαβε γὰρ κρεῖττον καὶ χρυσοῦ μῆλου φίλημα. (3.34.1-3)

“My dear girl, fine seasons gave birth to this apple, and a fine tree nursed it while the sun ripened it, and chance looked after it. As long as I had eyes, I wasn’t going to leave it to fall on the ground so that some herd of animals could trample it underfoot as they grazed, or some snake could poison it as it crawled along, or time could destroy it as it lay there, being looked at and praised. Aphrodite took this as a prize for her beauty; and I am giving it to you as a prize for your victory. You have the same kind of witness of your beauty as she did: he was a shepherd, while I am a goatherd.’ Saying this, he put the apple in her lap, and as he came close, she kissed

<sup>1</sup> All translations are by Christopher Gill, ed. Reardon, B.P. *Collected Ancient Greek Novels*. 2008.

him, so that Daphnis did not regret having dared to climb so high; for he got a kiss that was better than an apple—even a golden one.”

## Section II: Inset Stories

Text Five.

ὁ μὲν ἐσύριττεν ἀμιλλώμενος πρὸς τὰς πίτυς, ἡ δὲ ἦδε ταῖς ἀηδόσιν ἐρίζουσα: (3.24.2)

On his pipes [Syrinx] he competed with the whistling of the pines [Pityts], while she sang [Echo] in contest with the nightingales.

Text Six.

τῆς ἐπιούσης τοῦ Πανὸς ἐμνημόνευσαν, καὶ τῶν τράγων τὸν ἀγελάρχην στεφανώσαντες πίτυος προσήγαγον τῆς πίτυι, καὶ ἀποσπείσαντες οἴνου καὶ εὐφημοῦντες τὸν θεὸν ἔθυσαν, ἐκρέμασαν, ἀπέδειραν: [3] καὶ τὰ μὲν κρέα ὀπτήσαντες καὶ ἐψήσαντες πλησίον ἔθηκαν ἐν τῷ λειμῶνι, ἐν τοῖς φύλλοις: τὸ δὲ δέρμα κέρασιν αὐτοῖς ἐνέπηξαν τῆς πίτυι πρὸς τῷ ἀγάλματι, . Ἀπήρξαντο καὶ τῶν κρεῶν, ἀπέσπεισαν καὶ κρατῆρος μείζονος: ἦσεν ἡ Χλόη, ὁ Δάφνις ἐσύρισεν. (2.31.2-3)

“[...] on the next day they gave their attention to Pan. They put a pine garland on the he-goat that was the leader of the herd, led him to the pine, poured a libation of wine, and shouted in celebration of the god, before sacrificing, hanging up, and skinning the goat. After roasting and boiling the meat, they placed in nearby on the leaves in the meadow. But they tied the skin, together with its horns to the pine beside the image, a pastoral offering to a pastoral god. They made the first offerings of the meat to Pan and poured out libations from a larger mixing bowl. Chloe sang, and Daphnis played the pipes.

## Neglect and Anger Set I

Text Seven.

Πάν τοὺς δόνακας ὀργῇ τεμών, τὴν κόρην οὐχ εὐρών... (2.34.3)

Pan angrily cut down the reeds, but he couldn't find the girl....

Text Eight.

Ὁ Δάφνις Πᾶνα ἐμιμείτο, τὴν Σύριγγα Χλόη: ὁ μὲν ἰκέτευε πείθων, ἡ δὲ ἀμελοῦσα ἐμειδία: (2.37.1)

“Daphnis took the part of Pan, and Chloe the part of Syrinx. He begged and tried to talk her round; she smiled, ignoring him.”

Text Nine.

Τοῦτο τὸ μῆλον ὡς εἶδεν ὁ Δάφνις, ὄρμα τρυγᾶν ἀνελθὼν καὶ Χλόης κωλυούσης ἠμέλησεν: ἡ μὲν ἀμεληθεῖσα, ὀργισθεῖσα πρὸς τὰς ἀγέλας ἀπήλθε: Δάφνις δὲ ἀναδραμῶν ἐφίκετο τρυγῆσαι καὶ ἐκόμισε δῶρον Χλόη καὶ λόγον τοιόνδ' εἶπεν ὀργισμένη ... (3.34.1)

“When Daphnis saw this apple, he was eager to climb up and pick it and ignored Chloe when she wanted to stop him. She was annoyed at being ignored and went away to the flocks. Daphnis climbed quickly and achieved his goal of picking it and taking it to Chloe as a present; although she was angry, he spoke to her in this way.”

## Neglect and Anger Set II

Text Ten.

Ὁ Πάν ὀργίζεται τῆς κόρη, τῆς μουσικῆς φθονῶν, τοῦ κάλλους μὴ τυχόν... (3.23.3)

“Pan was angry with the girl, because of his jealousy of her musical artistry and because of his failure to enjoy her beauty...”

Text Eleven.

Καὶ ἡ χαίρουσα τοῖς τε ἄλλοις ὄρεξε καὶ Δάφνιδι μετὰ τοὺς ἄλλους: ἐσκήπτετο γὰρ ὀργίζεσθαι, διότι ἐλθὼν ἔμελλεν ἀποτρέχειν οὐκ ἰδὼν: (3.8.2)

“She was pleased and served the others first and Daphnis last: for she was pretending to be annoyed because he had come there and then planned to run away without seeing her.”

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