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Callimachus' *Hymn 1 to Ptolemy*

Handout 1

Callimachus, *Hymn 1.1-9*

Ζηνὸς ἔοι τί κεν ἄλλο παρὰ σπονδῆσιν ἀεῖδεν
λώιον ἢ θεὸν αὐτόν, ἀεῖ μέγαν, αἰέν ἄνακτα,
Πηλαγόνων ἐλατῆρα, δικασπόλον Οὐρανίδησι;
πῶς καί μιν, Δικταῖον ἀεῖσομεν ἠὲ Λυκαῖον;
ἐν δοιῇ μάλα θυμός, ἐπεὶ γένος ἀμφήριστον.
Ζεῦ, σὲ μὲν Ἰδαίοισιν ἐν οὔρεσσι φασι γενέσθαι,
Ζεῦ, σὲ δ' ἐν Ἀρκαδίῃ· πότεροι, πάτερ, ἐψεύσαντο;
'**Κρήτες ἀεὶ ψεύσται**· καὶ γὰρ τάφον, ὧ ἄνα, σεῖο
Κρήτες ἐτεκτῆναντο· σὺ δ' οὐ θάνες, ἐσσι γὰρ αἰεῖ.¹

Handout 2

Antagoras of Rhodes, *Hymn to Eros* (fr. 1 Powell)

ἐν δοιῇ μοι θυμός, ὅ τοι γένος **ἀμφίβοητον**
“My heart is in doubt, why your birth is **disputed**”²

Callimachus, *Hymn 1.5*

ἐν δοιῇ μάλα θυμός, ἐπεὶ γένος **ἀμφήριστον**...
“My heart is much in doubt, since (his) birth is **an object of discord**...”

Handout 3

Epimenides of Crete (DK B1) = Callimachus, *Hymn 1 v. 8*

Κρήτες ἀεὶ ψεύσται, κακὰ θηρία, γαστέρες ἀργαί.
“Cretans are always liars, wicked beasts, lazy bellies!”

Hesiod, *Theogony* (vv. 26-30)

ποιμένες ἀγραυλοὶ, κάκ' ἐλέγχεα, γαστέρες οἶον,
ἴδμεν ψεύδεα πολλὰ λέγειν ἐτύμοισιν ὁμοῖα,
ἴδμεν δ', εὔτ' ἐθέλωμεν, ἀληθέα γηρῦσασθαι.

¹ I use Pfeiffer's manuscript for the Callimachus text.

² Translations are my own.

ὥς ἔφασαν κοῦραι μεγάλου Διὸς ἀρτιέπειαι·
καί μοι σκῆπτρον ἔδον δάφνης ἐριθηλέος ὄζον...

Shepherds dwelling in the field, wicked disgraces, only bellies,
we know how to speak many false things like true things,
and we know how, whenever we wish, to utter the truth.
Thus the glib daughters of great Zeus spoke;
and they gave to me a scepter, a branch of flourishing laurel..

Handout 4

Callimachus Hymn 1.79-83

ἔκ δὲ Διὸς βασιλῆες, ἐπεὶ Διὸς οὐδὲν ἀνάκτων
θειότερον· τῷ καὶ σφε τεῖν ἐκρίναο λάξιιν.
δῶκας δὲ πτολίεθρα φυλασσέμεν, ἴζεο δ' αὐτὸς
ἄκρησ' ἐν πολίεσσιν, ἐπόψιος οἱ τε δίκησι
λαὸν ὑπὸ σκολιῆσ' οἱ τ' ἔμπαλιν ἰθύνουσιν·

“**Kings (are) from Zeus**”, since (there is) nothing more divine
than the lords of Zeus; thus you chose them as your allotment.
And you gave them cities to protect, and you yourself sat down
on the cities' citadels, overlooking both those who guide (their)
people under crooked judgements and those who (are) opposite.

Handout 5: “Farewell” addresses

Callimachus Hymn 1.94-6

χαῖρε πάτερ, χαῖρ' αὖθι· δίδου δ' ἀρετὴν τ' ἄφενός τε.
οὔτ' ἀρετῆς ἄτερ ὄλβος ἐπίσταται ἄνδρας ἀέξειν
οὔτ' ἀρετὴ ἀφένιοι· δίδου δ' ἀρετὴν τε καὶ ὄλβον.

Farewell, father, farewell again; and give (us) virtue and riches.
Neither does prosperity know how to foster men without virtue
nor does virtue without riches; **give (to us) virtue and prosperity**.

Homeric Hymn 15 to Heracles (v. 9)

χαῖρε, ἄναξ, Διὸς υἱέ: δίδου δ' ἀρετὴν τε καὶ ὄλβον.
“Farewell, lord, son of Zeus; And **give (to us) virtue and prosperity.**”

Handout 6

Callimachus Hymn 1.85-8

... ἔοικε δὲ τεκμήρασθαι

ἡμετέρῳ μεδέοντι· περιπρὸ γὰρ εὐρὺ βέβηκεν.
ἔσπεριος κείνός γε τελεῖ τὰ κεν ἤρι νοήση·
ἔσπεριος τὰ μέγιστα, τὰ μείονα δ', εὔτε νοήση.

... It seems evident **for our king**; for he is especially far-reaching.
At evening he accomplishes whatever he thinks of in the morning;
at evening (he accomplishes) the greatest things, and the lesser things, whenever he thinks of them.

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