

### Translating Whiteness: Color Aesthetics and the Early Modern Reception of *Daphnis and Chloe*

1. ἦν δὲ ἡ μὲν κόμη μέλαινα καὶ πολλή, τὸ δὲ σῶμα ἐπίκαιτον ἡλίῳ· εἴκασεν ἄν τις αὐτὸ χρώζεσθαι τῆ σκιᾷ τῆς κόμης. ἐδόκει δὲ τῆ Χλόῃ θεωμένη καλὸς ὁ Δάφνις, ὅτι πρῶτον<sup>2</sup> αὐτῆ καλὸς ἐδόκει τὸ λουτρὸν ἐνόμιζε τοῦ κάλλους αἴτιον (1.13.2).

His hair was dark and thick, his body tanned by the sun—one might have supposed it colored by the shadow of his hair. As Chloe watched, Daphnis seemed beautiful, and since he seemed beautiful to her for the first time, she thought the washing was the cause of the beauty. [trans. Henderson]

2a. οὗτος δὲ ἐστὶ μικρὸς <ὡς παῖς> καὶ ἀγένειος ὡς γυνή καὶ μέλας ὡς λύκος... (1.16.2).

“But this fellow is small <like a boy>, beardless like a woman, and black like a wolf.”

2b. ἀγένειός εἰμι, καὶ γὰρ ὁ Διόνυσος· μέλας, καὶ γὰρ ὁ ὑάκινθος· . ἀλλὰ κρείττων καὶ ὁ Διόνυσος Σατύρων <καὶ> ὁ ὑάκινθος κρίνων. οὗτος δὲ καὶ πυρρὸς ὡς ἀλώπηξ καὶ προγένειος ὡς τράγος καὶ λευκὸς ὡς ἐξ ἄστεος γυνή ... (1.6.4-5).

I’m beardless, but so is Dionysus; dark, and so is the hyacinth. And yet Dionysus is better, than Satyrs and the hyacinth better than lilies. But this fellow is ruddy like a fox, goateed like a goat, and white like a townswoman. [trans. Henderson]

3. nonne fuit satius tristis Amaryllidos iras  
atque superba pati fastidia? nonne Menalcan,  
quamvis ille niger, quamvis tu candidus esses?  
o formose puer, nimium ne crede colori;  
alba ligustra cadunt, vaccinia nigra leguntur (Vergil, *Eclogues* II.14-18).

Was it not better to bear the harsh anger  
and proud disdain of Amaryllis? Or Menalcas,  
Although he is black, although you are fair?  
O beautiful boy, do not trust too much in color  
white privets fall, black bilberries are plucked.

4. “Σύραν καλέοντί τυ πάντες, | ἰσχρὰν ἀλιόκαυστον, ἐγὼ δὲ μόνος μελίχλωρον (Theocritus  
*Idylls* X.26-7)

“Everyone calls you a Syrian woman | dried up by the sun; I alone [call you] honey-complexioned.”

5. Wast not far better t’haue borne with surly Menalcan,  
And sore displeas’d, disdainfull, proud Amaryllis,  
Although thou white were, although but swarty Menalcan?  
O thou faire white boy, trust not too much to thy whitnes:  
Faire white flowers fall downe, black fruits are only reserued (Fraunce 1588).

6. Ah, was it not much better, to beare Amaryllis checkes,  
To suffer proude disdainful tauntes and Menalc's angry beκες,  
Though black was he, though colour white, thy face a fauor decks,  
O lovely Lad, trust not to much thy beautie nor thy hewe,  
White Dasyes lye when gathered be the Violets, purple blewe (Fleming 1575).

7. ... had it not better beene  
T'auoid the heauie anger and the proud disdaine and spite  
Of Amaryll (that wench) and had it not far better beene  
T'abide Menalca, black though he and (louely) white were she  
O faire welfauoured youth, trust not too much thy gallant hew  
White priuet (flowers) fall (to the ground) blacke violets gathered up (Fleming 1585).

8a. Après que Dorcon fut enterré , Chloé mena Daphnis en la caverne des Nymphes, où elle le nettoya, & quant... pour la première fois en preference de Daphnis, lava aussi son beau corps d'elle-mesme, blanc & poly comme albastre (Amyot B<sup>3</sup>.r).

After Dorcon was buried, Chloe lead Daphnis into the cave of the Nymphs, where she cleaned washed him, and when for the first time before Daphnis she washed her own beautiful body, white and polished like alabaster.

8b. When *Dorcon* was thus enterred, *Chloe* tooke here *Daphnis*, and led him to the caue of the *Nymphs*, where shee cleansed and washed his bodie, neat, and pure of it selfe, as the whitest alablaster... (Daye C<sup>4</sup>.r).

9. Roste, nay far more orient was the hew, that hir hastie pase and yet panting breathing to relieue him had settled vpon her cheekes, the delay mingled, where-vpon was the very die of the white and purest marble. Hir lockes dispersed on hir shoulders, in colour like the burnisht yellow of the finest gold, made hir to appeare as one of the nymphs, whom Iupiter erst fauored... (Daye B<sup>3</sup>.v).

10. THou stately *Nymph*, that in the shadie groues  
The fayrest art, of all whome *Dian* loues:  
With quiuer deckt in glittering rayes of golde  
Thy maydens bowe full seemely dost thou holde (Daye K<sup>3</sup>.r).

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