

**On the Shores of Acheron (N.4.85):  
The Power of Pindaric Song**

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**The ode:** for Timasarchus (*laudandus*), son of Timocritus (deceased) and nephew of Callicles (deceased)

**Début performance:** Aegina, late 470s (likely), Aeolic meter (monostrophic, in twelve stanzas)

**Thesis:** *Nemean Four* self-consciously descends into Hades, with a carefully crafted song for Callicles that serves the ode's rhetorical program: commemoration (of the dead) leads to canonization (of the poet).

Stanza	Passage	Text (Snell 1987)	Translation (Original)
I. lines 1-8	A.	Ἄριστος εὐφροσύνα πόνων κεκριμένων 1 ιατρός· αἱ δὲ σοφαί Μοισᾶν θύγατρεις ἀοιδαὶ θέλξαν νιν ἀπτόμεναι. οὐδὲ θερμὸν ὕδωρ τόσον γε μαλθακὰ τεύχει 5 γυῖα, τόσσον εὐλογία φόρμιγγι συνάορος. ῥῆμα δ' ἐργμάτων χρονιώτερον βιοτεύει, ὅ τι κε σὺν Χαρίτων τύχα γλῶσσα φρενὸς ἐξέλοι βαθείας.	Festivity is the best doctor for toils that have ended. Songs, the wise daughters of the Muses, charm him with their touch. And warm water does not make the limbs as tender as praise accompanied by the lyre. Longer than deeds lives that word which the tongue, along with the Graces' good fortune, may draw forth from the deep mind.
II. lines 9-16	B.	τό μοι θέμεν Κρονίδα τε Διὶ καὶ Νεμέα 9 Τιμασάρχου τε πάλα ἕμνου προκόμιον εἶη· δέξαίτο δ' Αἰακιδᾶν ἠύπυργον ἔδος, δίκᾳ ξεναρκεῖ κοινόν φέγγος. εἰ δ' ἔτι ζαμενεῖ Τιμόκριτος ἀλίω σὸς πατήρ ἐθάλλετο, ποικίλον κιθαρίζων 15 θαμά κε, τῷδε μέλει κλίθεις, υἴον [Bḡk. for ms ἕμνον] κελάδησε καλλίνικον	Let this be the hymn's prelude, the one to be set down by me for Zeus the son of Cronus, and for Nemea, and for the wrestling of Timasarchus. May the well-towered citadel of the Aeacidae, common light for stranger-aiding justice, receive it. But if Timocritus, your father, were still being warmed by the mighty sun, then he, playing his intricate lyre while leaning on this melody, would have often celebrated his triumphant son...
X. lines, 73-80	C.	Θεανδρίδαισι δ' ἀεξιγυίων ἀέθλων 73 κάρυξ ἐτοῖμος ἔβαν Οὐλυμπία τε καὶ Ἴσθμοῖ Νεμέα τε συνθέμενος, ἔνθα πείραν ἔχοντες οἴκαδε κλυτοκάρπων οὐ νέοντ' ἄνευ στεφάνων, πάτραν ἴν' ἀκούομεν, Τιμάσαρχε, τεὰν ἐπινικίοισιν ἀοιδαῖς πρόπολον ἔμμεναι. εἰ δέ τοι μάτρῳ μ' ἔτι Καλλικλεῖ κελεύεις 80	For the Theandridai, I have come under contract as a ready herald of limb-strengthening contests at Olympia, at Isthmia and also at Nemea. When they make an attempt there, not without garlands of glorious fruit do they return home, where we hear, Timasarchus, that your family is devoted to victory songs. But, surely, if you bid me to raise for your maternal uncle, Callicles,
XI. lines, 81-88	D.	στάλαν θέμεν Παρίου λίθου λευκοτέραν· ὁ χρυσὸς ἐψόμενος αὐγάς ἔδειξεν ἀπάσας, ἕμνος δὲ τῶν ἀγαθῶν ἐργμάτων βασιλεῦσιν ἰσοδαίμονα τεύχει 85 φῶτα· κείνος ἄμφ' Ἀχέρωντι ναιετάων ἐμάν γλῶσσαν εὐρέτω κελαδῆτιν, Ὀρσοτριάινα ἴν' ἐν ἀγῶνι βαρυκτύπου θάλησε Κορινθίοις σελίνοις·	a pillar whiter than Parian marble— refined gold shows forth all splendors, but a hymn of good deeds makes a mortal equal in fortune to kings—let that man, who dwells on the shores of Acheron, find my voice, loudly singing of where he, in the contest of the heavy-sounding Wielder of the Trident, teemed with Corinthian garlands.
	E.	ἀκούοντι ποι χθονία φρενί (P.5.101)	In some way, they (= ἔτεροι λαχόντες Αἴδαν / βασιλέες ἱεροί, ll.96-7) hear with their chthonic mind...

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