

Homeric Hymn Six: to Aphrodite

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αἰδοίην χρυσοστέφανον καλὴν Ἀφροδίτην
ἄσομαι, ἢ πάσης Κύπρου κρήδεμνα λέλογγεν
εἰναλίης, ὅθι μιν Ζεφύρου μένος ὑγρὸν ἀέντος
ἤνεικεν κατὰ κῦμα πολυφλοίσβοιο θαλάσσης
5 ἀφρῶ ἐνὶ μάλακῶ· τὴν δὲ χρυσάμπυκες Ἔρραι
δέξαντ' ἀσπασίως, περὶ δ' ἄμβροτα εἶματα ἔσσαν,
κρατὶ δ' ἐπ' ἀθανάτῳ στεφάνην εὐτυκτον ἔθηκαν
καλὴν, χρυσείην· ἐν δὲ τρητοῖσι λοβοῖσιν
ἄνθεμ' ὀρειχάλκου χρυσοῖό τε τιμήεντος·

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¹αἰδοῖος ἡ ὄν worthy of respect or honor. χρυσοστέφανος ὄν having a golden crown. Caesura in the fourth foot.

²αἰδῶ sing; the future ἄσομαι — note aspiration — is found in Epic and sometimes Attic. Κύπρος ἢ Cyprus. κρήδεμνον τό veil; pl. of cities, fortification walls or the battlements upon them. λαγγάνω, λήξομαι, ἔλαχον, Epic pf. λέλογχα have allotted to one + acc. or gen.

³εἰναλίης from ἐνάλιος (α) ὄν (ἄ) in, of the sea. ὅθι where. μιν enclitic 3rd person acc. pronoun, i.e. Aphrodite. Ζέφυρος ὁ Zephyrus, the west wind. μένος εὖς τό force, might. ὑγρός ἢ ὄν wet, bearing moisture. ἄημι athem. pres.act.part. gen.m.sg. blow; with Ζεφύρου.

⁴ἤνεικεν = Epic aor. of φέρω carry, bring. κατὰ here + acc., of motion over. κῦμα κύματος τό wave; surge. πολυφλοίσβος ὄν sounding loudly. θάλασσα ἡ sea.

⁵ἀφρός ὁ foam. An etymological figure on Aphrodite's name. ἐνι = ἐν, with recessive accent since it follows the noun it goes with (Smyth §175a.). μάλακός ἢ ὄν soft, yielding, gentle. τὴν here acting as a relative pronoun. χρυσάμπυξ ὕκος having fillets of gold. ὥρη ἡ period of time, season, here personified forces of nature and the seasons, the Hours. In the most ancient texts there are two, but later three. Ἔρραι is plural, but line 12 will present us with a dual verb.

⁶δέχομαι, δέξομαι, ἐδεξάμην unaugmented 3pl.aor. accept, receive. ἀσπασίως gladly, welcome. περὶ adverbial around, about. ἄμβροτος (ἡ) ὄν immortal, divine. εἶμα τό (F-) garment pl. clothing. ἐννῦμι (F-) aor. ἔσσα, clothe.

⁷κάρᾱ κρᾱτός τό, here dat.sg., head. ἀθάνατος (ἡ) ὄν immortal. στεφάνη ἡ crown, wreath. εὐτυκτος ὄν well-made. τίθημι aor.act.3pl. put, place.

⁸χρύσειος ἡ ὄν (ῦ) golden. τρητός ἢ ὄν perforated, pierced. λοβός ὁ lobe (of the ear); pod (of a plant).

⁹ἄνθεμον τό flower. ὀρειχάλκος ὁ orichalcum, copper ore or metal made from it; genitive of material for this and χρυσοῖο. χρυσοῖός ὁ gold. τιμήεις εἶσα ἐν honored; prized, expensive.

- 10 δειρῆ δ' ἄμφ' ἀπαλῆ καὶ στήθεσιν ἀργυφέοισιν
 ὄρμοισι χρυσεύοισιν ἐκόσμεον, οἷσί περ αὐταῖ
 ὦραι κοσμίεσθην χρυσάμπυκες, ὀππὸτ' ἴοιεν
 ἐς χορὸν ἱμερόεντα θεῶν καὶ δώματα πατρός.
 αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ δὴ πάντα περὶ χροῖ κόσμον ἔθηκον,
 15 ἦγον ἐς ἀθανάτους· οἱ δ' ἠσπάζοντο ἰδόντες
 χερσὶ τ' ἐδεξιόωντο καὶ ἠρήσαντο ἕκαστος
 εἶναι κουριδίην ἄλοχον καὶ οἴκαδ' ἄγεσθαι,
 εἶδος θαυμάζοντες ἰοστεφάνου Κυθρεΐης.
 χαῖρ' ἐλικοβλέφαρε, γλυκυμείλιχε· δὸς δ' ἐν ἀγῶνι
 20 νίκην τῷδε φέρεσθαι, ἐμὴν δ' ἔντυνον ἀοιδίην.
 αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ καὶ σεῖο καὶ ἄλλης μνήσομ' ἀοιδῆς.

¹⁰ δειρή ἡ neck. ἀμφί + dat. around, about. ἀπαλός ἡ ὄν soft, tender, delicate. στήθος εὖς τό breast; feeling, understanding often in pl. ἀργύφειος ἡ ὄν (ῦ) silver-white.

¹¹ ὄρμος ὁ neck-chain. χρύσειος ἡ ὄν (ῦ) golden. κοσμέω set in order, prepare; adorn, dress. οἷσι dat.pl. of rel. prn., ὅς, instrument of 1.12 κοσμίεσθην. περ intensive particle, very (much), surely, even.

¹² κοσμίεσθην unaugmented impf.mid. 3du. of κοσμέω. ὀππότε = ὀπότε when(ever). εἶμι pres.opt. act.3pl. go; a temporal clause (ὀππότε) usually has the optative after a clause with the imperfect representing a repeated or habitual action (Smyth §2414).

¹³ χορός ὁ dancing; dancing place. ἱμερόεις εἶσα ἐν (ῖ) lovely; attractive.

¹⁴ περί + dat. around, about. χρώς, χροός, χροῖ, χροά, ὁ body, person. κόσμος, ὁ order; arrangement, decoration. ἔθηκον cf. line 7.

¹⁵ ἄγω ἄξω ἤγαγον ipf. lead, conduct, bring. ἀθάνατος (ἡ) ὄν immortal; often a noun. οἱ δ' i.e., the Immortals. ἠσπάζομαι welcome gladly, greet. εἶδον (F-) aor.part. to see.

¹⁶ χεῖρ χειρός ἡ dat.pl. hand; arm; alternate poetic stem χερ-. δεξιόμοι 3pl.ipf. greet or welcome with the right hand; raise right hand; see Smyth §643 and §652 for the -οω- vowel distraction. ἐράω love, + inf. desire. ἕκαστος ἡ ὄν each; agreement with ἠρήσαντο in sense rather than grammatical number.

¹⁷ εἶναι pres.inf. to be; inf. after a verb of desire (Smyth §1991) with Aphrodite implied subject. κουριδίος ἡ ὄν of husband or wife, wedded, lawful; nuptial. ἄλοχος ὄν ἡ wife. ἄγω in mid. take for oneself; marry. οἴκαδε adv. home(ward), to home.

¹⁸ εἶδος τό appearance, form. θαυμάζω wonder, be amazed (at). ἰοστέφανος ὄν (ῖ) violet-crowned. Κυθρεΐη Cythereia, a name of Aphrodite.

¹⁹ χαίρω 2sg.pres.imper. rejoice, take pleasure (in). ἐλικοβλέφαρος ὄν quickly glancing (?). γλυκυμείλιχος ὄν sweetly winning. δίδωμι 2sg.aor.imper. give; grant, allow. ἀγών ὄνος ὁ assembly; contest.

²⁰ νίκη ἡ (ῖ) victory. ὄδε ἡδε τόδε m.sg.dat. to this (person) i.e. "to me." φέρω carry, bring, bear; mid. to carry off for oneself, win. ἔντυνον 2sg.aor.imper. prepare, make ready; strike up (a song). ἀοιδή ἡ a song.

²¹ αὐτὰρ but, however, moreover. σεῖο an Epic gen. of σύ. μμνήσκω fut.mid.ind. 1st.sg. to remember, mention (aloud); ie. sing of + gen.