

Homeric Hymn 20: to Hephestus

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Ἥφαιστον κλυτόμητιν ἀείδω Μοῦσα λίγεια,
ὄς μετ' Ἀθηναίης γλαυκώπιδος ἀγλαὰ ἔργα
ἀνθρώπους ἐδίδαξεν ἐπὶ χθονός, οἱ τὸ πάρος περ
ἄντροις ναιετάασκον ἐν οὔρεσιν ἠΰτε θῆρες.
5 νῦν δὲ δι' Ἥφαιστον κλυτοτέχνην ἔργα δαέντες
ῥηϊδίως αἰῶνα τελεσφόρον εἰς ἐνιαυτόν
εὐκηλοὶ διάγουσιν ἐνὶ σφετέροισι δόμοισιν.
ἀλλ' ἴληθ', Ἥφαιστε· δίδου δ' ἀρετὴν τε καὶ ὄλβον.

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¹ Ἥφαιστος ὁ Hephestus. κλυτόμητις ἰος ὁ famous for skill. ἀείδω pres.mid.imper. 2sg. sing. λίγυς λίγεια λιγύ clear-toned, sweet-sounding.

² μετὰ with + gen. Ἀθηναίη Athena. γλαυκώπις -ιδος grey-eyed, or maybe owl-eyed, a frequent epithet of Athena. ἀγλαός ἢ ὄν shining, splendid, beautiful. ἔργον τό (F-) work.

³ διδάσκω aor. teach, with 2 accusatives, “teach someone something.” χθών χθονός ἡ earth. τὸ πάρος περ formerly.

⁴ ἄντρον τό cave; dat. of location. ναιετάω iterative aor. ναιετάασκε dwell (in), inhabit. ὄρος εὐς τό dat.pl. mountain; hill, with metrical lengthening in the first syllable. ἠΰτε like, as. θήρ θηρός ὁ wild animal.

⁵ κλυτοτέχνης ὁ famed for (his) art, a standard Homeric epithet for H. ἐδάην (aor., no present) aor.pass.part. nom.pl.m. learn.

⁶ ῥηϊδίως ἡ on easy, here adv. αἰών ὤνος ὁ lifetime; life; direct object of 1.7 διάγουσιν. τελεσφόρος ὄν something that brings completion, regular epithet ἐνιαυτόν. ἐνιαυτός ὁ year, the cycle of the year; any long period; εἰς ἐνιαυτόν “for the year,” meaning the year in general, not just a particular one.

⁷ εὐκηλος ὄν quiet, at ease. δι-άγω carry over, of time spend, pass. ἐνὶ = ἐν. σφέτερος ἡ on their. δόμος ὁ house.

⁸ ἴλημι (ῖ) be gracious, ἴληθι 2sg.imper. δίδωμι pres.2sg.imper. give. ἀρετή ἡ excellence. ὄλβος ὁ happiness; wealth.