

Delectus Indelectatus

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The poems in this collection portray the Greeks in less noble and uplifting moods. I suspect few people will have previously encountered the side of Sappho that produced fragment 55. Many of the poems rebuke enemies named and unnamed, humanity in general, and even a god comes in for abuse from Hipponax (36 W). The remaining verses are fatalistic or gloomy in some way that caught my attention, although a very few are simply crude.

Many of the poems come from the Anthology, including several poems of Palladas, whose moralizing grouchiness I have long been fond of. A number of the poets are prone to coarse language, and, for that matter, coarse thought. I have made no attempt to hide that in the vocabulary notes, where I have used plain English rather than Latinate euphemism.

As I encounter grouchy new verses I will update this collection.

Palladas Anth.11.341

αἰνίζειν μὲν ἄριστον, ὃ δὲ ψόγος ἔχθεος ἀρχή·
ἀλλὰ κακῶς εἰπεῖν Ἀττικόν ἐστι μέλι.

Meter: elegiac couplet. **1. αἰνίζω** to praise. **ἄριστος ἢ οὐ** best; here impersonal, “it is best...” **ψόγος ὁ** blame. **ἔχθος τό** gen.sg. hate, enmity. **ἀρχή ἢ** beginning. **2. κακῶς εἰπεῖν** to speak ill (of someone). **Ἀττικός ἢ ὄν** Attic. **μέλι τό** honey. Attic honey was famed not only for its quality (and price), but also for its medicinal benefits. One suspects some sort of play related to the adjective Ἀττικόν here, but it’s not clear exactly what.

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Palladas Anth.10.85, “As flies to wanton boys”

πάντες τῷ θανάτῳ τηρούμεθα, καὶ τρεφόμεσθα
ὡς ἀγέλη χοίρων σφαζομένων ἀλόγως.

Meter: elegiac couplet. **1. πάντες** i.e., “all of us.” **θάνατος ὁ** death. **τηρέω** take care of, guard; observe. **τρέφω** bring up, rear. Note passive in both verbs. **2. ὡς** like. **ἀγέλη ἡ** herd. **χοῖρος ὁ** pig. **σφάζω** slaughter; sacrifice. **ἀλόγως** without reason, absurdly, unintelligibly.

Alcaeus fr. 332, on the death of Myrsilus

νῦν χρῆ μεθύσθην καὶ τινα πέρ βίαν
πώνην, ἐπεὶ δὴ κάτθανε Μύρσιλος.

Meter: ——υ—υ—υ— (from Alcaic strophe). **1. χρῆ** + acc.inf., subject is τινα “now someone must;” χρῆ Aeolic accenting. **μεθύσκω** make drunk, pass. *get drunk*; μεθύσθην Aeol. aor.pass inf. **βία ἡ** strength, force. **πέρ** = περί, and also replaces ὑπέρ, which Aeolic lacks. **πέρ βίαν** “with all your strength...” **2. πώνω** (= πίνω) Aeol.pres.inf. *drink*. **κατα-θνήσκω** die (away). **Μύρσιλος** a political rival of A.

Xenophanes fr. 7

πάντα θεοῖς ἀνέθηκαν Ὀμηρός θ' Ἡσίοδος τε
ὅσσα παρ' ἀνθρώποισιν ὀνειδέα καὶ ψόγος ἐστίν,
καὶ πλεῖστ' ἐφθέγγαντο θεῶν ἀθεμίστια ἔργα,
κλέπτειν, μοιχεύειν τε καὶ ἀλλήλους ἀπατεύειν.

Meter: hexameter. **1. πάντα** everything. **ἀνα-τίθημι** aor.act.3pl. *attribute to* + dat. **2. ὄσ(σ)ος ἡ ον** as much (many) as, as great as. **παρά** + dat., *beside, near; among*. **ὀνειδος τό** reproach, blame, disgrace. **ψόγος ὁ** blame. **3. πλεῖστος ἡ ον** superlative of πολύς but best taken as intensive (Smyth §1085), “very many.” **φθέγγομαι** utter a sound; speak clearly. **ἀθεμίστιος ον** lawless. **4.** The infinitives list the ἀθεμίστια. **κλέπτω** steal. **μοιχεύω** commit adultery. **ἀπατεύω** cheat, trick.

Palladas Anth.10.95

πᾶς τις ἀπαίδευτος φρονιμώτατός ἐστι σιωπῶν,
τὸν λόγον ἐγκρύπτων, ὡς πάθος αἰσχρότατον.

Meter: elegiac couplet. **1. πᾶς τις** *everyone*. **ἀπαίδευτος ον** *uneducated*. **φρόνιμος (η) ον** *sensible, prudent*, here superlative. **σιωπάω** *be silent, keep silent*; take participle temporally, “when being silent.” **2. τόν** i.e., “his.” **ἐγ-κρύπτω** *hide, conceal (in)*. **πάθος τό** *affliction, disease*. **αἰσχρός ἄ ὄν** *shameful, wretched*, again superlative.

Meleager Anth.5.208

οὔ μοι παιδομανῆς κραδία· τί δὲ τερπνόν, Ἔρωτες,
ἀνδροβατεῖν, εἰ μὴ δούς τι λαβεῖν ἐθέλει;
ἄ χεῖρ γὰρ τὰν χεῖρα. καλά με μένει παράκοιτις·
ἔρροι πᾶς ἄρσην ἀρσενικαῖς λαβίσιν.

Meter: elegiac couplet. The language is Epic-Ionic with a light Doric dusting. **1. μοι** dat. of possession, “I don’t have...” **παιδομανῆς ἐς** *boy-crazy*. **κραδία ἡ** *heart*. **τερπνός ἡ ὄν** *delightful, pleasant*; here a noun, “what pleasure?” **Ἔρωτες ὁ** *Eros*, often thought of as a group of armed children, not just the one we’re used to. **2. ἀνδροβατέω** *mount men, sodomize*; it’s not clear how coarse this word is — Justin Martyr uses it, so probably not very. **εἰ μὴ** *unless*. **δίδωμι** aor.act.part. nom.sg.m. *give*. **λαμβάνω** aor.act.inf. *receive*. **3. ἄ = ἡ**. **χεῖρ χειρός ἡ** *hand*. **τὰν = τήν**. cf. Epicharmus frag., ἄ δὲ χεῖρ τὰν χεῖρα νίζει· δός τι καὶ τε λάμβανε, “the hand washes the (other) hand: give something and receive something.” **κᾶλά** = καλή. **μένω** *remain; wait (for)*. **παράκοιτις ἰος ἡ** *(female) bedpartner; wife*. **4. ἔρρω** pres.act.opt. 3sg. *disappear, come to harm, perish*; optative of wish. Colloquially, “get lost” or the like. **ἄρσην εν** *male, masculine*. **πᾶς ἄρσην** “every male.” **ἀρσενικός ἡ ὄν** *male, masculine*. **λαβίς ἰδος ἡ** dat.pl. *handle; holder, tongs*. There is an ambiguity, presumably deliberate, in the use of the dative here. It could indicate either accompaniment (Smyth §1524, §1527a) or instrument.

Glycon Anth.10.124

πάντα γέλωσ, καὶ πάντα κόνις, καὶ πάντα τὸ μηδέν·
πάντα γὰρ ἐξ ἀλόγων ἐστὶ τὰ γινόμενα.

Meter: elegiac couplet. **1. πάντα** *everything*; supply ἐστίν. **γέλωσ ωτος ὁ** *laughter; cause for laughter*. **κόνις εως ἡ** *dust; ashes*. **τὸ μηδέν** *nothing*, nominalized. **2. ἄλογος ον** *without reason, irrational; unsuited*. **γινόμενα** = γιγνόμενα; πάντα τὰ γινόμενα *everything that happens*.

Sappho fr. 55

κατάνοισα δὲ κείσῃ οὐδέ ποτα μναμοσύνα σέθεν
 ἔσσειτ' οὐδὲ πόθα ὕστερον· οὐ γὰρ πεδέχῃς βρόδων
 τῶν ἐκ Πιερίας, ἀλλ' ἀφάνης κὰν Ἄϊδα δόμῳ
 φοιτάσῃς πεδ' ἀμαύρων νεκύων ἐκπεποταμένα.

Meter: $\underline{\text{uu}} - \underline{\text{uuu}} - \underline{\text{uu}} - \underline{\text{uuuu}}$. Aeolic dialect. **1.** κατα-θνήσκω aor.act.part. nom. sg.f. die. κείμαι fut.mid.2sg. lie; lie dead. ποτα = ποτε. μνημοσύνη ἢ remembrance, memory. σέθεν = σοῦ. **2.** ἔσσεται there will be. ποθή ἢ longing for, desire for. ὕστερον adv. later. πεδ-έχῃς = μετ-έχῃς < μετ-έχω partake of + gen. Here and 1.4 φοιτάσῃς an alternate spelling if the 2sg. -εις some editors accept. βρόδων = ῥόδων < ῥόδον τό rose. **3.** τῶν article acting as rel. = ὧν; but see Smyth §1159. Πιερία Pieria, a home of the Muses. ἀφάνης ἐς unseen, unnoticed. κὰν = καὶ ἐν. Ἄϊδα gen. **4.** φοιτάω go to and fro. πεδ' = μετά. ἀμαυρός (ἄ) ὄν dark. νέκυς υἱός ὁ corpse. ἐκ-ποτάομαι perf.mid.part. nom.sg.f. fly away.

Hippoxax 36 (West)

ἔμοι δὲ Πλοῦτος — ἔστι γὰρ λίην τυφλός —
 ἐς τῶκί' ἐλθῶν οὐδάμ' εἶπεν “Ἰππῶναξ,
 δίδωμί τοι μνᾶς ἀργύρου τριήκοντα
 καὶ πολλ' ἔτ' ἄλλα.” δειλαῖος γὰρ τὰς φρένας.

Meter: choliambic trimeter, $\underline{\text{u-u-u}}-\underline{\text{u}}:-\underline{\text{u}}:-\underline{\text{u-u-u}}$. **1.** Πλοῦτος ὁ Wealth. λίην very. τυφλός ἢ ὄν blind. **2.** ἐς = εἰς. τῶκί' = τὰ οἰκία. οὐδαμά not at all; never. **3.** τοι = σοι. μνᾶ μνᾶς ἢ mina, a (substantial) unit of money by weight; 1 mina = 100 drachmae. ἀργύρος ὁ silver, silver money. τριήκοντα indec. thirty. **4.** καὶ πόλλ' ἔτ' ἄλλα “and many other things besides.” δειλαῖος αὐτὸν wretched, sorry, paltry; note scansion: δειλαῖος. τὰς i.e. his, Wealth's. φρήν φρενός ἢ midriff but usually heart, soul, mind; acc. of respect.

Semonides 2 (West)

τοῦ μὲν θανόντος οὐκ ἂν ἐνθυμοίμεθα,
 εἴ τι φρονοῖμεν, πλεῖον ἡμέρης μιῆς.

Meter: iambic trimeter. **1.** θνήσκω die; here aor.part. acting like a noun, ὁ θανών, the deceased. ἐν-θυμέομαι opt. pres.mid.3sg. think much of, be concerned at + gen. **2.** τι adverbial, “somewhat, at all.” φρονέω opt. pres.act.1pl. be wise, have understanding. πλεῖον ἡμέρης μιῆς continues the sense of the first line. πλείων πλεῖον comp. of πολύς, more, greater; with gen. for comparand. εἷς μία ἐν gen.sg.f. one.

Callimachus Epigram 28

ἐχθαίρω τὸ ποίημα τὸ κυκλικόν, οὐδὲ κελεύθῳ
χαίρω τίς πολλοὺς ὧδε καὶ ὧδε φέρει,
μισῶ καὶ περίφοιτον ἐρώμενον, οὐδ' ἀπὸ κρήνης
πίνω· σικχαίνω πάντα τὰ δημόσια.
Λυσανίη, σὺ δὲ ναίχι καλὸς καλός — ἀλλὰ πρὶν εἰπεῖν
τοῦτο σαφῶς, ἤχῳ φησί τις· “ἄλλος ἔχει.”

Meter: elegiac couplet. **1. ἐχθαίρω** *hate*. **ποίημα τό** *poem*; internal correption, scan ποιῆμα. **κυκλικός ἢ ὄν** *circular, cyclic*; in common use cyclic poems are Epics, but here C. probably means popular or common poetry. **κέλευθος ἢ** *path, way, voyage*. **2. χαίρω** *rejoice at, take pleasure in; greet + dat.* **τίς** = ἤπερ, i.e., κέλευθος. **ὧδε καὶ ὧδε** “here and there.” **3. μισέω** *hate*. **περίφοιτος ὄν** *revolving; wandering around*. **ἐρώμενος ὄ** (*young male*) *lover*. **κρήνη ἢ** *spring; well, fountain*. **4. πίνω** (*ἰ*) *drink*. **σικχαίνω** *loathe*. **δημόσιος α ὄν** *belonging to the state; used by the public, common*. **5. Λυσανίας οὐ ὄ** Epic voc. *Lysanias*. **ναίχι** *yes, truly*. Note scansion, κάλος. **πρὶν** + inf. *before*. **6. τοῦτο** object, i.e., the phrase “ναίχι καλὸς καλός.” **σαφῶς** *clearly, distinctly*. **ἤχῳ οὔς ἢ** *echo*. We're meant to take “ἄλλος ἔχει” as echoing “ναίχι καλὸς καλός.”

Semonides 3 (West)

πολλὸς γὰρ ἡμῖν ἐστὶ τεθνάναι χρόνος,
ζῶμεν δ' ἀριθμῶ παῦρα †κακῶς ἔτεα.

Meter: iambic trimeter. **1. θνήσκω ἔθανον τέθνηκα** Epic perf.act.inf. *die; be killed*; perf. *be dead*; complement to πολλὸς χρόνος, “much time to be dead.” **2. ζῶ** (< ζῶω) *live*. **ἀριθμός ὄ** *number; sum; quantity*; take with παῦρα, “few in number.” **παῦρος ὄν** *little, small; few*. As transmitted there is a missing heavy position in the line before κακῶς. This has resulted in much editorial speculation, which, following West, I have omitted here. **ἔτος τό** Epic uncontracted acc.pl. *year*.

Automedon of Cyzicus Anth.11.46

ἄνθρωποι δείλης, ὅτε πίνομεν· ἦν δὲ γένηται
ὄρθρος, ἐπ' ἀλλήλους θῆρες ἐγειρόμεθα.

Meter: elegiac couplet. **1. δείλη ἢ** *afternoon (early or late)*; gen. of time within which. **πίνω** (*ἰ*) *drink*. **ἦν** = ἔάν. **2. ὄρθρος ὄ** *daybreak, dawn*. **ἐπί** in hostile sense, “against,” as often with military verbs. **θήρ θηρός ὄ** *wild animal*. **ἐγείρομαι** *be or become awake; rouse, stir oneself*; there is a play on the different senses of the word between waking up (ὄρθρος) and getting oneself roused against another (ἐπ' ἀλλήλους).

Anonymous Anth.11.8

μη μύρα, μη στεφάνους λιθίνας στήλαισι χαρίζου,
μηδὲ τὸ πῦρ φλέξης· ἔς κενὸν ἢ δαπάνη.
ζώντί μοι, εἴ τι θέλεις, χάρισαι· τέφρην δὲ μεθύσκων
πηλὸν ποιήσεις, κούχ ὁ θανῶν πίεται.

Meter: elegiac couplet. **1. μύρον τό** (ὑ) *sweet oil, perfume*. **στεφάνος ὁ** *wreath, garland, crown*. **λίθινος (ἡ) ον** *made of stone; like stone*. **στήλη ἢ** *dat.pl. monument, gravestone*. **χαρίζομαι** *pres.mid.imp. 2sg. show favor or kindness; dedicate; + dat. to someone or, as in this case, to something*. **2. τὸ πῦρ** *the funeral fire*. **φλέγω** *aor.act.subj. 2sg. burn, kindle*. **κενός ἢ ὄν** *empty, void, fruitless; ἔς κενόν* “to no purpose.” **δαπάνη ἢ** *cost, expense*. **3. ζῶ** (< ζῶω) *pres.act.part. dat.sg.m. live, agreeing with μοι*. **χάρισαι** *aor.mid.imp. 2sg.; cf. line 1*. **τέφρα ἢ** *Epic acc.sg. ashes, esp. of a funeral pyre*. **μεθύσκω** *make drunk; give to drink; moisten*. **4. πηλός ὁ** *clay; mud*. **κούχ** = καὶ οὐχ. **ὁ θανῶν** “the dead.” **πίομαι** (ἰ or ἱ) *drink*.