

## Mesomedes 1: Hymn to the Muses

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In the standard numbering of Mesomedes' works, the first two poems are joined. I will follow the usual numbering here. Both are invocations to a Muse.

1, 3.  $\underline{\text{v}}-\text{v}-\text{v}-\text{v}-$

2, 4.  $\underline{\text{v}}-\text{v}-\text{v}-\text{v}-$

- ἄειδε Μοῦσά μοι φίλη,  
μολπῆς δ' ἐμῆς κατάρχου,  
αὔρη δὲ σῶν ἀπ' ἄλσέων  
4 ἐμὰς φρένας δονεῖτω.

The second invocation is to Calliope and Apollo. Note that the epithets and adjectives describing them are all in the vocative.

5, 7.  $-\text{v}-\text{v}-\text{v}-\text{v}-$  = *D*

6, 8.  $-D-$

9.  $-\text{v}-\underline{\text{v}}-\text{v}-$

- 5 Καλλιόπεια σοφά,  
Μουσῶν προκαθαγέτι τερπνῶν,  
καὶ σοφὸν μυστοδότα,  
8 Λατοῦς γόνε, Δῆλιε Παιάν,  
εὐμενεῖς πάρεστέ μοι.

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<sup>2</sup>μολπή ἢ *song, dance, music; play, amusement*. κατ-άρχομαι *begin* + gen.; often used in the sense of starting a sacrifice or religious ceremony; present middle imperative, 2nd sing.

<sup>3</sup>αὔρα ἢ *breath, breeze*. ἄλσος -εος τό *grove, sacred grove, forest*.

<sup>4</sup>δονέω *shake, stir*; here a 3rd person imperative.

<sup>5</sup>σοφά = σοφή.

<sup>6</sup>προκαθηγέτις -ιδος ἢ *leader*. τερπνός ἢ ὄν *delightful, agreeable, glad*.

<sup>7</sup>μυστοδότης ὁ *giver of mysteries; initiator of mysteries*.

<sup>8</sup>Λητώ *Leto*, mother of Apollo; gen. Λητοῦς γόνος ὁ, ἢ *offspring, child*. Δῆλιος -α -ον *Delian* from Delos, an island, where Apollo and Artemis were born. Παιάν, -ἄνος ὁ *Paeon*, a name of Apollo, also a choral song addressed to him.

<sup>9</sup>εὐμενής -ες nom.pl. *kind*. πάρεμι *to be by, near, present* + dat.; present imperative, 2nd pl.