Mesomedes 3: Hymn to Nemesis

William S. Annis
Aoidoi.org*

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The meter is apokrota, =~ =~ =~ =~ =~ =~, mixed with paroemiacs, =~ =~ =~ =~ =~ =~ (4, 6, 9, 10, 13). The language has a superficial Doric coloring, mostly ἃ for η.

Νέμεσι πτερόεσσα βίου ῥοπά,
κυανῶπι θεά, θυγατερ Δίκας
ἀ κούφα ἡρφάματα θνατῶν
ἐπέχεις ἀδάμαντι χαλινῷ.

5 ἔχθουσα δ’ ὕβριν ὀλοόν ὑπὸ
μέλανο φθόνον ἐκτὸς ἔλαυνεις.

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1 νέμεσις ἔως ἡ voc. retribution; righteous anger, here a goddess. πτερόεσσα ἐν winged.
2 βίος ὁ (mode of) life. ῥοπή ἡ turn of the scale, weight; decision, outcome, influence; decisive moment.
3 κυανῶπις ἡ dark-eyed. θυγάτερ ὁ daughter. δίκη ἡ gen.sg. custom; right, justice; judgement.
4 ἅ = ἥ. κοῦφος ὁ light, nimble; vain. φρύαγμα τὸ snorting, whinnying of a horse; metaph. insolence.
5 ἔχθω ὁ hate. ὕβρις ἔως ἡ wantonness, insolence, violence; lust; outrage. The meter is a bit loose here — the final syllable of ὕβριν needs to scan long.
6 μέλανος ἡ mortal, human. ἔλαυνεις ὁ drive, march; so ἐκτὸς ἔλαυνε ἀπό “drive out.”
7 ὑπὸ ὁ acc. under. τροχός ὁ wheel, here a wheel of torture. ἀστιβῆς ἐς un trodden; not to be stepped on, holy; leaving no track.
8 χαροπός ἡ ὁ nom.sg.f. grim?, fierce?; blue-grey, grey; the meaning of this word is uncertain. μέρος ὁ articulate, a poetic word used only of humans. στρέφω cause to rotate, turn; mid. turn (oneself). τύχη ἡ luck, success; chance, fortune.
λήθουσα δὲ πάρ πόδα βαίνες,

10 γαυρούμενον αὐχένα κλίνεις.

υπὸ πήχυν ἀεὶ βίοτον μετρεῖς,

νεύεις δὲ ἕνα κόλπον ὄφρυν ἀεὶ

ζυγὸν μετὰ χεῖρα κρατοῦσα.

ιάθι μάκαιρα δικαστόλει

15 Νέμεις περόσσα βίου ροπά.

Νέμειςιν θεὸν ἡδομέν ἄφθιτον,

Νίκην τανυσίπτερον ὄμβριμα

καὶ πάρεδρον Δίκας,

ἂ τὰν μεγαλανορίαν βροτῶν

νεμεσῶσα φέρεις κατὰ Ταρτάρου.

12 ἀεὶ Heitsch κατὰ Bellermann.

9 Λανθάνω λήσω ἔλαθον pres.act.part. nom.sg.f. escape, avoid or elude attention or notice; here using an alternate pres. stem, λήθω.

πάρ = παρά.

πούς ποδός ὁ foot; here an idiom, παρὰ πόδα, “in a moment, close behind.”

10 γαυρόω make proud; mid. be proud, exult.

αὐχήν ένος ὁ neck, throat.

κλίνω (i) κλίνω

ἔκλινα cause to lean, slant; turn aside.

11 πῆχυς εος ὁ forearm; cubit.

βίοτος ὁ life; duration of one’s life; means of living.

μετρέω measure; count, measure out.

12 νεύω incline; nod, nod assent.

κόλπος ὁ lap, bosom; fold of a garment.

ὀφρῦς ύος ἡ eyebrow, brow; with νεύω often to nod as a sign. Something is not quite right with the text of this line. It appears to mean “nod with furrowed brow” or perhaps “frown down to the lap,” whatever that means exactly.

13 ζυγόν τὸ yoke.

χειρ χειρός ἡ hand; arm; idiom μετὰ χεῖρα “in the hand.”

κρατέω be strong; rule over; seize, hold fast.

14 ἰηθι be gracious (only this verb form exists, 2sg.imper.).

μάκαιρα ἡ blessed, happy, epith. of the gods.

δικαστόλος ὁ, ἡ voc. judge, one who gives law.

16 θεός ὁ, ἡ god, goddess.

αἴειδα, ἄδω to sing, to hymn.

ἄφθιτος ὁ imperishable, undecaying.

17 νίκη ἡ (i) victory.

τανυσίπτερος ὁ long-winged, with long wings.

ὀμβρίμος = ὄμβριμος (a) on strong, mighty.

18 νημερτής ἡ unerring, infallible.

πάρεδρος ὁ sitting beside; as noun assessor, co-judge.

δίκη ἡ right, justice.

19 ἅ = ἥ, τάν = τήν. μεγαληνορία ἡ self-confidence; haughtiness.

20 νεμεσάω feel just anger at + acc. of the cause. The implied object of φέρεις ἐστοικοῦ, κατά + gen. down from; down upon, down into. Τάρταρος ὁ Tartarus, the underworld.