

Mimnermus 1

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τίς δὲ βίος, τί δὲ τερπνὸν ἄτερ χρυσεῖς Ἀφροδίτης;
τεθναίην, ὅτε μοι μηκέτι ταῦτα μέλοι,
κρυπταδίη φιλότης καὶ μείλιχα δῶρα καὶ εὐνή·
οἷ' ἤβης ἄνθεα γίγνεται ἀρπαλέα
5 ἀνδράσιν ἠδὲ γυναιξίν· ἐπεὶ δ' ὀδυνηρὸν ἐπέλθῃ
γῆρας, ὅ τ' αἰσχρὸν ὁμῶς καὶ κακὸν ἄνδρα τιθεῖ,

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¹βίος ὁ *life; manner of living*. τερπνός ἢ ὄν *delightful, pleasurable*; here, as a noun, *pleasure, delight*. ἄτερ *without + gen.* χρύσεος ἢ ὄν (ῶ) (with contraction of last two syllables) *golden*; a common epithet of Aphrodite. Ἀφροδίτη (ἰ) Aphrodite.

²θνήσκω, θανέομαι, ἔθανον, τέθνηκα *perf. optative τεθναίην die, in perfect, be dead. μηκέτι not longer, no more*; compare with οὐκέτι; the μή form here because of the optative μέλοι. μέλω *to concern, interest, trouble*; with dative; cf. ὀλίγον μοι μέλει “this matters little to me.” τεθναίην is opt. of wish, μέλοι assimilated the mood (Smyth §2186b).

³κρυπτάδιος (ἡ) ὄν *secret, clandestine*. φιλότης ἡτος ἢ *friendship, love, affection*; sometimes with sexual overtone. μείλιχος ὄν *gentle, kind*; τὰ μείλιχα *joys*. δῶρον τό *gift*. εὐνή ἢ *bed; marriage bed*.

⁴οἶος ἡ ὄν *nom.pl.n. such (a), of such kind (as)*. ἤβη ἢ *manhood, youth; strength, vigor*. ἄνθος εὖς τό *blossom*. ἀρπαλέος ἡ ὄν *greedy; attractive, alluring*.

⁵ἠδέ *and*. ὀδυνηρός ἢ ὄν *painful, distressing*. ἐπ-έρχομαι *aor.act.subj. 3sg. approach, come to, arrive, reach*. In prose future temporal clauses will have ἄν, but poetry may omit it (Smyth §2402).

⁶γῆρας *αὖς τό old age*. αἰσχρός (ἡ) ὄν *shameful, base, ugly*. X ὁμῶς καὶ Y “both X and Y.” τιθεῖ = *τίθησι*, here in the sense of *make, cause*.

αἰεὶ μιν φρένας ἀμφὶ κακαὶ τείρουσι μέριμναι,
οὐδ' ἀγὰς προσορῶν τέρπεται ἡελίου,
ἀλλ' ἐχθρὸς μὲν παισίν, ἀτίμαστος δὲ γυναιξίν·
10 οὕτως ἀργαλέον γῆρας ἔθηκε θεός.

⁷ αἰεὶ *always, ever, constantly*. μιν *third person singular accusative, "him, her, it," enclitic; here refers back to ἄνδρα in the previous line.* φρήν φρενός ἡ *midriff* which is seen as the seat of courage, emotions, good sense, heart and mind. ἀμφὶ *about, around, concerning; here it is following the word it goes with.* κακός ἡ ὄν *bad, ugly, difficult, cowardly, ignoble; modifies μέριμνα.* τείρω *to rub hard; wear out; distress.* μέριμνα ἡ *care, thought; in pl. anxieties.*

⁸ αὐγή ἡ *sunlight; in pl. rays of the sun, beams of sun.* προσ-οράω *pres.act.part. nom.sg.m. behold, look at.* τέρπω *satisfy, delight; in middle enjoy, enjoy fully + gen.* ἡέλιος ὁ *sun.*

⁹ ἐχρὸς ἡ ὄν *hated, hateful, distasteful.* παῖς παιδός ὁ/ἡ *child, son, here "boys."* ἀτίμαστος *on dishonored.*

¹⁰ οὕτως *thus, in this way.* ἀργαλέος α ὄν *painful, troubling, grievous.* τίθημι *aor.act.3sg. again here make.*