

Archilochus: 13 (West)

William S. Annis
Aidoi.org*

February 2008 (v.2)

This poem comes to us via Stobaeus (4.56.30). It is reported to be a poem on the death of his sister's husband, who died in a shipwreck, though that leaves the address to Pericles a bit peculiar. The meter is elegiac couplets.

κῆδεα μὲν στονόεντα, Περίκλεες, οὔτε τις ἀστῶν
μεμφόμενος θαλῆης τέρψεται οὐδὲ πόλις·
τοίους γὰρ κατὰ κῦμα πολυφλοίσβοιο θαλάσσης
ἔκλυσεν, οἰδαλέους δ' ἄμφ' ὀδύνης ἔχομεν
5 πνεύμονας. ἀλλὰ θεοὶ γὰρ ἀνηκέστοισι κακοῖσιν,
ὦ φίλ', ἐπὶ κρατερὴν τλημοσύνην ἔθεσαν
φάρμακον. ἄλλοτε <τ'> ἄλλος ἔχει τόδε· νῦν μὲν ἐς ἡμέας

*This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5/>.

¹κῆδος εὖς τό anxiety, grief; mourning, object of care. στονόεις εἶσα ἐν causing or full of groaning. Περικλῆς vocative (Smyth §265) Pericles. οὔτε paired with l.2 οὐδέ. ἄστῳ εὖς τό town.
²μέμφομαι blame, find fault with; complain (about). θαλία ἡ ionic dat.pl. of location abundance; festivity. τέρπομαι fut.mid.3sg. enjoy + dat. πόλις εὖς ἡ city; esp. the citizens vs. the material sense of ἄστῳ (LSJ ἄστῳ III).

³τοῖος ἡ οὖν of such a kind/quality, just such; here “such men,” or “such people,” i.e., those who died. κατα-κλύζω deluge; overwhelm; in tmesis, verb in l.4. κῦμα κύματος τό nom.sg. wave; surge. πολυφλοίσβος οὖν sounding loudly. θάλασσά ἡ sea.

⁴οἰδαλέος ἡ οὖν acc.pl.m. swollen, agreeing with l.5 πνεύμονας. ἀμφί + dat. concerning, about. ὀδύνη ἡ pain of body or mind; grief.

⁵πλεύμων or πνεύμων οὖνος ὄ acc.pl. the lungs. ἀνήκεστος οὖν incurable, fatal. κακόν here a noun, dat.pl.n. trouble, ill.

⁶ἐπι-τίθημι aor.act.3pl. in tmesis, lay upon, set upon, add (to); the l.5 dative phrase — ἀνηκέστοισι κακοῖσιν — is where the remedy is applied. κρατερός ἡ ὄν strong, mighty. τλημοσύνη ἡ endurance; distress.

⁷φάρμακον τό drug; medicine, remedy, cure; predicative, with κρατερὴν τλημοσύνην, “as a remedy.” ἄλλοτε at another time. τόδε i.e. l.5 κακόν. μὲν with δέ in l.9. ἐς see l.8 τρέπω.

10 ἐτράπεθ', αἱματόεν δ' ἔλκος ἀναστένομεν,
ἔξαυτις δ' ἑτέρους ἐπαμείψεται. ἀλλὰ τάχιστα
τλήτε, γυναικεῖον πένθος ἀπώσαμενοι.

⁸ **τρέπω** 2.aor.mid. ἐτραπόμην *turn*; with ἐς, “turn to.” **αἱματόεις εσσα εν** *bloody; flushed; murderous.* **ἔλκος εος τό** *wound; loss.* **ἀνα-στένω** *groan (about).*

⁹ **ἔξαυτις** *back (again), once more.* **ἕτερος η ον** *one/another of two; another.* **ἐπ-αμείβομαι** *come in turn to.* **τάχιστα** (ταχύς) *most quickly; at once.*

¹⁰ **τλήσομαι ἔτλην** (no present) imper.act.2pl. *endure, suffer, be patient; dare.* **γυναικεῖος η ον** *of a woman; womanish.* **πένθος εος τό** *sorrow, grief, distress.* **ἀπ-ωθέω -ώσω -ἔωσα** aor.mid.part. nom.pl.m. *drive away, push aside, keep off; agreeing with implicit subject of τλήτε.*