

Pindar Olympian 11

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This ode was composed for Hagesidamos of Western Locroi, who won in boys boxing. The meter is dacylo-epitrite. Using the notation of **Maas**:

	Anti/strophe	Epode
1.	e - D -	D - e -
2.	e - D	D -
3.	e - d	∞e - D
4.	E - D -	E ∨ e
5.	E	E - e
6.	E ∨ D	E
7.		D - e - D - e -
8.		E E -

The text follows Snell's edition, except for line 17, where I go with Race.

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- στρ. ἔστιν ἀνθρώποις ἀνέμων ὅτε ἡλείστα
 χρήσις, ἔστιν δ' οὐρανίων ὑδάτων,
 ὀμβρίων παίδων νεφέλας.
 εἰ δὲ σὺν πόνῳ τις εὖ πράσσοι, μελιγάρυες ὕμνοι
 5 ὑστέρων ἀρχὰ λόγων
 τέλλεται καὶ πιστὸν ὄρκιον μεγάλας ἀρεταῖς.
- ἀντ. ἀφθόνητος δ' αἴνος Ολυμπιονίκαις
 οὔτος ἄγκειται. τὰ μὲν ἀμετέρα
 γλῶσσα ποιμαίνειν ἐθέλει·
 10 ἐκ θεοῦ δ' ἀνήρ σοφαῖς ἀνθεῖ πραπίδεςσιν ὁμοίως,
 ἴσθι νῦν Ἀρχεστράτου
 παῖ, τεᾶς, Ἀγησίδαμε, πυγμαχίας ἔνεκεν

¹ἔστιν... ὅτε *there are times when...* ἀνθρωπος ὁ person; dat. of interest. ἀνεμος ὁ wind; objective genitive, “the greatest need is for winds.” **πλείστα** = **πλείστη**, nom.fem.sg. of **πλείστος** ἡ **ον** superlative of **πολύς**, *most, greatest*.

²χρήσις ἡ use, advantage; business; here need. οὐράνιος, α, ον *of/from heaven*; again objective genitive, **πλείστα** **χρήσις** carried over from the previous clause. ὕδωρ ὕδατος τό water.

³ὄμβριος α ον *rainy, of rain*. παῖς παιδός ὁ, ἡ child. νεφέλη ἡ cloud; darkness; νεφέλας = νεφέλης. ὀμβρίων παίδων νεφέλας *is rain*.

⁴σύν *with, here, of means*. πόνος ὁ *toil, effort; pain*. πράσσω *do, accomplish; win, gain; fare*; opt. in mixed condition, akin to the present general but with a less certain protasis (Smyth §2359-2360). μελιγάρυες *with sweet voices, melodies*. ὕμνος ὁ *song*.

⁵ὑστέρος α ον *later, coming after, following*. ἀρχή ἡ *beginning; rule; source, foundation*. λόγος ὁ *word, reason*; in Pindar pl. also *praise*.

⁶τέλλομαι *come into being; be*. πιστός ἡ ὄν *trustworthy, credible; loyal*. ὄρκιον τό *pledge on an oath*. μέγας μεγάλη μέγα *large, great*. ἀρετή *excellence, virtue*; in pl. *acts of excellence*.

⁷ἀφθόνητος ον *unenvied; beyond the reach of envy*. αἴνος ὁ *praise*. Ολυμπιονίκης ου ὁ *winner in the Olympic games*.

⁸οὔτος *with αἴνος*. ἄγκειται = ἀνάκειται *be laid up, be set up, be dedicated to* + dat. τὰ neut.acc. *these (deeds, praises)*. ἀμετέρα = ἡμετέρα *our*, as often, referring to Pindar.

⁹γλῶσσα ἡ *tongue; language*. ποιμαίνω *shepherd, herd, tend, cherish*.

¹⁰σοφός ἡ ὄν *wise*, in Pindar strongly suggests poets and sophisticated patrons. ἀνθέω *bloom, flourish*. πραπίς ἴδος ἡ *diaphragm*; in pl. like φρήν, *understanding, heart, soul*; Aeolic (Epic) dat.pl. ὁμοίως *alike; in the same manner to* + dat. This obscure line has two popular interpretations, either “with help from god a man with wise mind flourishes just as well” or “with help from god a man flourishes just as do the poets.”

¹¹ἴσθι 2.sg. imperative of οἶδα, *know*. Ἀρχεστράτος ου *Archestratos, father of Hagesidamos*.

¹²παῖς παιδός ὁ, ἡ vocative παῖ, *child*. τεός ἄ ὄν Doric for σός ἡ ὄν *your*. πυγμαχία ἡ *boxing*. ἔνεκεν *because of* with genitive, which it usually follows, as here.

- ἐπ. κόσμον ἐπὶ στεφάνῳ χρυσέας ἐλαίας
 ἀδυμελῆ κελαδήσω,
 15 Ζεφυρίων Λοκρῶν γενεὰν ἀλέγων.
 ἔνθα συγκωμάξατ'· ἐγγυάσομαι
 μή μιν, ὦ Μοῖσαι, φυγόξενον στρατὸν
 μηδ' ἀπείρατον καλῶν,
 ἀκρόσοφόν τε καὶ αἰχματὰν ἀφίξεσθαι. τὸ γὰρ ἔμφυες οὔτ' αἴθων ἀλώπηξ
 20 οὔτ' ἐρίβρομοι λέοντες διαλλάξαιτο ἦθος.

¹⁷μή μιν Jongh μή μὲν Hartung ὕμιν mss.

¹³κόσμος ὁ *adornment*. ἐπὶ upon, here with the idea that a sweetly melodic adornment is sung over and above the victory crown. στέφανος ὁ *crown of victory*. χρύσεος ἡ οὐ *golden*, by which Pindar usually means “divine.” ἐλαία ἡ *olive-tree; olive*, the material of an Olympic victor’s crown.

¹⁴ἠδυμελής ἐς *sweetly singing; with sweet melody; agreeing with κόσμον*. κελαδέω *cry, sing, celebrate loudly*.

¹⁵Ζεφυρίων a poetic shortening for the usual Ἐπιζεφυρίων *Epizeuphurian*, “western”, the name of the Locrians in Southern Italy. Λοκρός ἁ ὄν *Locrian*. γενεά ἡ *race, stock*. ἀλέγω *be concerned with; regard, respect*.

¹⁶ἐνθα *there; here*. συγκωμάζω *attend a (victory) revel*. ἐγγυάω *guarantee; promise*.

¹⁷μή the verb is l.19 ἀφίξεσθαι. μιν 3.sg.acc. prn., anticipating στρατὸν. Μοῖσαι *Muses, Aeolic*. φυγόξενος οὐ *shunning strangers; inhospitable*. στρατός ὁ *army, host; here people*.

¹⁸ἀπείρατος οὐ *untried, inexperienced*. καλῶν *beautiful things*.

¹⁹Supply “but rather” or something similar before this clause. ἀκρόσοφος οὐ *high in wisdom*. αἰχματῆς οὐ ὁ *spear-man; warrior*. ἀφ-ικνέομαι *come to, reach; fut.inf., in indirect discourse (l.16 ἐγγυασομαι)*; the subject of the inf. is not agreed upon — “the Muses and I” by Gildersleeve, “you (Muses)” by Race. τό with l.20 ἦθος. ἐμφυής ἐς *inborn*. αἴθων ωνος ὁ, ἡ *from αἴθω blaze*; for animals often defined *tawny, ruddy*, but *swift* also possible. ἀλώπηξ *ekos ἡ fox*.

²⁰ἐρίβρομος οὐ *roaring/shouting loudly*. λέων οὐτος ὁ *lion*. δι-αλλάσσω *exchange; mid. change, alter*; potential optative without ἄν, common in Homer though unusual in Pindar. ἦθος τό *custom, habit; character*.