

Poems from the Greek Anthology

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This is a collection of poems from the enormous Greek Anthology. It will be updated from time to time when I find a new poem that interests me.

7.553, an epitaph

Ζωσίμη, ἢ πρὶν ἐοῦσα μόνῳ τῷ σώματι δούλη,
καὶ τῷ σώματι νῦν εὗρεν ἔλευθερίην.

Meter: elegiac couplet. **1. Ζωσίμη** a woman's name. **πρὶν** here, *formerly*. **ἐοῦσα** Epic f.sg. pres.part. of εἶμί. **εὕρισκω εὕρησά εὔρον** *find*. **2. ἔλευθερία** ἡ Epic acc.sg. *freedom; manumission*.

9.577, by Ptolemaeus

οἶδ' ὅτι θνατὸς ἐγὼ καὶ ἐφάμερος· ἀλλ' ὅταν ἄστρων
μαστεύω πυκινὰς ἀμφιδρόμους ἕλικας,
οὐκέτ' ἐπιψάύω γαίης ποσίν, ἀλλὰ παρ' αὐτῷ
Ζανὶ θεοτρεφέος πίμπλαμαι ἀμβροσίης.

Meter: elegiac couplet. This poem has mix of Doric coloring (θνατός for θνητός, ἐφάμερος for ἐφήμερος, Ζανὶ for Ζηνί) with Epic Ionic forms (γαίης, ἀμβροσίης). **1. θνητός ἢ ὄν** *mortal*, as noun, *mortal person*. **ἐφήμερος ὄν** *living only a day, short-lived*. **ἄστρον τό star**. **2. μαστεύω** *seek, search for*. **πυκινός ἢ ὄν** *compact, firm, solid*. **ἀμφιδρομος ὄν** *running both ways; subject to ebb and flow*. **ἕλιξ ἱκος ἢ** *whirl, spiral; orbit*. **3. ἐπιψάύω** *touch + gen.* **πούς ποδός ὄ** *dat. of means, foot*. **4. Ζηνί** Epic dat.sg. of Ζεύς. **θεοτρεφής ἐς** *feeding the gods*. **πίμπλημι** *fill + gen.; mid. be full of*. **ἀμβροσία ἢ** *immortality; elixir of life*.

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7.669

Attributed to Plato.

ἀστέρας εἰσαθρεῖς, Ἄστηρ ἐμός· εἴθε γενοίμην
οὐρανός, ὡς πολλοῖς ὄμμασιν εἰς σέ βλέπω.

Meter: elegiac couplet. Here we have a play on the name Aster. **1. ἀστήρ ἔρος** ὁ star; falling star, meteor. **εἰσ-αθρέω** look at. **2. ὄμμα τό** eye. **βλέπω εἰς** look at.

12.48, by Meleager

κεῖμαι· λάξ ἐπίβαινε κατ' ἀυχένος, ἄγριε δαῖμον.
οἶδά σε, ναὶ μὰ θεούς, καὶ βαρὺν ὄντα φέρειν·
οἶδα καὶ ἔμπυρα τόξα. βαλὼν δ' ἐπ' ἐμήν φρένα πυρσούς,
οὐ φλέξεις· ἤδη πᾶσα γάρ ἐστι τέφρη.

Meter: elegiac couplet. **1. κεῖμαι** lie, remain; here, lie wounded. **λάξ** adv., with the foot. **ἐπι-βαίνω** step upon, walk (up)on; with λάξ, trample. **κατά** here, down onto, down upon. **αυχὴν ἑνός** ὁ neck, throat. **ἄγριος (α) ον** wild, fierce, savage. **2. οἶδα** takes participle in dependent clauses. **βαρὺν ὄντα** dep. on οἶδα, with φέρειν as an adj. complement, "I know you and that you are hard to bear." **3. ἔμπυρος ον** in or by the fire; burning, scorching. **τόξον τό** bow; in pl. bow and arrows. **φρήν φρενός ἡ** diaphragm but usually metaphorical for heart, soul, mind. **πυρσός** ὁ torch; signal-fire. **4. φλέγω** burn, inflame. **ἤδη** now, already. **πᾶσα** i.e., l.3 φρήν. **τέφρα ἡ** ashes, esp. of a funeral pyre.