

Theognis 133–142

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- οὐδείς, Κύρν', ἄτης καὶ κέρδεος αἴτιος αὐτός,
ἀλλὰ θεοὶ τούτων δώτορες ἀμφοτέρων·
135 οὐδέ τις ἀνθρώπων ἐργάζεται ἐν φρεσὶν εἰδώς
ἐς τέλος εἴτ' ἀγαθὸν γίγνεται εἴτε κακόν.
πολλάκι γὰρ δοκῶν θήσειν κακὸν ἐσθλὸν ἔθηκεν,
καὶ τε δοκῶν θήσειν ἐσθλὸν ἔθηκε κακόν.
οὐδέ τω ἀνθρώπων παραγίγνεται ὅσ' ἐθέλησιν·
140 ἴσχει γὰρ χαλεπῆς πείρατ' ἀμηχανίης.
ἄνθρωποι δὲ μάταια νομίζομεν, εἰδότες οὐδέν·
θεοὶ δὲ κατὰ σφέτερον πάντα τελοῦσι νόον.

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¹³³Κύρνος voc. Cyrnus, the youth to whom so many of T's poems are addressed. ἄτη ἢ delusion, recklessness; bane, pest. κέρδος τό gain, profit, advantage. αἴτιος α ον responsible (for) + gen.

¹³⁴δώτωρ ορος ὁ giver. ἀμφοτέρος α ον either; in pl. both.

¹³⁵ἐργάζομαι ἐργάσομαι εἰργασάμην work. φρήν φρενός ἢ dat.pl. diaphragm but usually metaphorical for heart, soul, mind. οἶδα εἴσομαι ἤδεα aor.act.part. nom.sg.m. know.

¹³⁶τέλος τό result, outcome, completion, end; ἐς τέλος in the end. εἴτε in English, this would come before ἐς τέλος. γίγνεται here turn out.

¹³⁷δοκέω think, suppose; seem. Take δοκῶν θήσειν κακόν as a concessive participle clause.

¹³⁸As in 137, take δοκῶν θήσειν ἐσθλόν as a concessive participle clause.

¹³⁹τῷ note accenting, = τινί. παρα-γίγνομαι be near, come near, come to + dat. ὅσ(σ)ος η ον as great (as), as much/many (as). ἐθέλησιν Epic 3sg. subjunctive.

¹⁴⁰ἴσχω hold, keep back; have; the subject is πείρατα, the object is unexpressed but refers back to 1.139 τῷ ἀνθρώπων. πείραρ πείρατος τό end, limit; instrument, tool. ἀμηχανία ἢ lack of means; helplessness, hardship.

¹⁴¹μάταιος α ον empty, vain, foolish; here adverbial.

¹⁴²κατά + acc., here according to. σφέτερος α ον their (own); the noun is νόον. τελέω accomplish, fulfill. νόος ὁ mind, sense, judgement.