1. Theoc. 22

1 Ὑμνέομεν Λήδας τε καὶ αἰγιόχου Διός νιῶ,
Κάστορα καὶ φοβερὸν Πολυδεύκεα πῦς ἔρεθίζειν
χεῖρας ἑρπετῶν οὐκ ὁρώσανμεν μέσας βοῶσιν ἰμὰσιν.

5 κούρης Θεστιάδος, Λακεδαιμονίους δύ’ ἀδελφούς,
ἀνθρώπων σωτήρας ἑκάς ἔρεθίζειν ἐπὶ ξυροῦ ἡ δή ἐόντων,
ὕπαον τ’ αἰματούς ταρασσομένοις καθά’ ὁμίλων,
ηθὸν θ’ αἱ δύοντα καὶ οὐρανὸν εἰσανιόντα ἀστρα βιαζόμεναι χαλεποῖς ἑνέκυραν ἀήταις.

10 οἱ δ’ σφεων κατὰ πρόμναν ἀείρατας μέγα κύμα
ἡ καὶ ἐκ πρόμναν ὅππῃ θυμὸ πρόμνα ἐόντων
ἐξ ὀμίλων ἐρρώναν, ἀνέρρῳν δ’ ἀγαθοῦ κτεния ἤρρῳ
ἀμφότερούς’ κρέμασνε δ’ ἄνοι αἰματόεντα πάντα
εἰκὴ ἀποκλασθέντα: πολλὸς δ’ ἔρεθι οὐρανοῦ ὁμφρος

15 νυκτὸς ἑρπούσης: παταγεὶ δ’ εὕρεσι λαέλασσα
κοπτομένη πνοιαῖς καὶ καὶ ἁρρήκτοις χαλάζαις.
ἀλλ’ ἐμπέως ὑμεῖς καὶ ἐκ βυθοῦ ἕλκετε νῆας
ἀμφότεροις ὑμνέομεν Πολυδεύκεα πρῶτον ἀείσω.

20 ἰμένεομεν Πολυδεύκεας ἀρξομ’ ἀείδειν;

dexis 1

We hymn the two sons of Leda and of aegis-bearing Zeus, Castor and Polydeuces, grim to challenge in boxing when he has strapped his palms with the oxhide thongs. Twice we hymn, and a third time, the two brothers born in Lacedaemon to Thestius’ daughter, who succour men already on the very brink of disaster, and steeds that panic in the bloody fray, and ships which, defying the constellations that set and rise into the heavens, encounter grievous tempests-blasts that raise a huge wave from astern, or from ahead, or where they will, and cast it into the hold, and breach the bulwarks on either side. And with the sail hangs all the tackle, torn and in disarray, and as the night comes on with heavy storms of rain, the wide sea roars beneath the blows of the blasts and of the iron hail. Yet even so from the very depths do ye recover ships with their crews, that thought to die. And forthwith the
winds are stilled and oily calm lies on the deep. The clouds disperse this way and that; the Bears are seen again, and between the Asses the dim Crib, betokening that all is fair for voyaging.

O succourers both of mortals, beloved pair, horsemen and harpers, athletes and singers, shall I with Castor or with Polydeuces first begin my song? Both will I hymn, but sing of Polydeuces first.

(transl. A. S. F. Gow)

2. h.Hom. 33

Tell about the Sons of Zeus, O round-eyed Muses – The Tindarids, fair-ankled Leda’s splendid children, Castor the horse-tamer and faultless Polydeuces, whom below the peaks of the great mountain Taygetus, after uniting in love with the dark-cloud so of Kronos, she bore to be saviors of mankind on earth and of swift-faring ships, when winter tempest race over the implacable sea. And the men from their ships invoke the Sons of Great Zeus in prayer, with white lambs, going onto the stern deck, and the strong wind and sea swell overwhelm the ship: suddenly they appear, speeding through the air on swift wings, and at once they make the fierce squalls cease, and lay the waves amid the flats of a clear sea for the sailors,– fair portents to their travail; The sailors rejoice at the sight, and their misery and stress are ended. I salute you, Tyndarids, riders on swift steeds. And I will take heed both for you and for other singing.

(Transl. M. L. West, modified)

Farewell, ye sons of Leda, and send ever noble renown upon our hymns. All bards are dear to the sons of Tyndareus, to Helen, and to the other heroes that aided Menelaus to sack Ilium. Glory for you, Princeps, the bard of Chios fashioned when he hymned the town of Priam and the ships of the Achaeans, the battles round Ilium, and Achilles, that tower of strength in fight; and to you I too bear the soothing strains of the clear-voiced Muses such as they give me and my own store provides; and for gods songs are the fairest meed.

(transl. A. S. F. Gow)


I know them [the Achaeans] well, could tell you all their names—two only I cannot see, two high commanders,

Kastor the horse breaker, Polydeukes the skilled boxer,
brothers of mine, all born of the same mother.

Either they didn’t come with them from lovely Lakedaimon, or, if they did make the trip in their seagoing vessels,
they’re bit willing now to join these men in combat through fear of all the shame and reproaches leveled at me. So she spoke; but them the nurturing earth already held under in Lakedaimon, their native land.

(Transl. P. Green)

5. Theoc. 7, 43 ff.

‘τάν τοῖ’, ἔφα, ‘κορύναν δωρύττομαι, οὖνεκεν ἐσσί πὰν ἐπ’ ἀλαθεία πεπλασμένον ἐκ Διὸς ἐρνός. ὡς μοι καὶ τέκτων μέγ’ ἀπέχθεται ὡς τε ἐρευνή ἴσον ὁρευτῇς κορυφῇ τελέσαι δόμων Ὄρομέδους, καὶ Μοισᾶν ὀρνιχες ὅσοι ποτὶ Χίον ἁρπάδων ἄντια κοκκύζοντες ἑτώσια μοχθίζοντι.’

“I will give thee my stick, for thou art a sapling whom Zeus has fashioned all for truth. For much I hate the builder who seeks to raise his house as high as the peak of mount Oromedon, and much those cocks of the Muses who lose their toil with crowning against the bard of Chios.”

(Transl. A. S. F. Gow)

6. Theoc. 16, 14 ff.

οὐκ οἶδ᾽· οὐ γὰρ ἔτ’ ἀνδρες ἐπ’ ἐργασιν ὡς πάρος ἐσθοιδες αἰνεῖσθαι στεμόντις, νενίκηντι δ’ ὑπὸ κερδεών. […]

τίς δὲ κεν ἄλλου ἀκούσαι; ἄλλος πάντεσσιν Ἄμηρος.

τίς δ’ ἂν ἀριστής Λυκίων ποτέ, τίς κομῶντας Πριαμίδας ἢ θῆλυν ἀπό χροιαῖς Κύκνων ἐγνω, εἰ μὴ φυλόπιδας προτέρων ύμησαν ἀοιδαί οὐδ’ Ὄδυσεὺς ἐκατόν τε καὶ εἴκοσι μήνας ἀλαθεῖς πάντας ἐπ’ ἀνθρώπους, Αἴδαν τ’ εἰς ἐσχατὸν ἐλθὼν ξοός, καὶ σπῆλαγγα φυγὰς ὀλοοῖο Κύκλωπος, εἰ μὴ σφεας ὄνασαν Ἰάνον ἁρπὰς ἀοιδαί. […]

No more, as erstwhile, are men eager to win praise for glorious deeds, but are enslaved by gain. […]

“And who would listen to another? Homer is enough for all” […]
Who would have known ever the chieftains of the Lycians, or Priam’s long-haired sons, or Cycnus, maidenlike of skin, if poets had not sung the battle cries of men of old? Never had Odysseus won lasting fame, who wandered six score months through all the word, and came alive to the farthest Hades, and escaped from the cave of the baleful Cyclops [...] had not the minstrelsy of an Ionian bard profited them.

(Transl. A. S. F. Gow)

7. Theoc. Ep. 27, 1 (=AP 9, 434, 1)

Ἄλλος ὁ Χῖος, ἐγὼ δὲ Θεόκριτος δς τάδ᾽ ἔγραψα
The Chian is another, but it is I, Theocritus, the author of these work

(Transl. A. S. F. Gow, modified)

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