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## WERE WOMEN LIKE BOATS? SOME REMARKS ON A METAPHOR IN ARCHAIC LYRIC POETRY

### I. THE CASE OF THGN. 457-460

#### I 1. Thgn. 457-460

οὔτοι σύμφoron ἐστι γυνή νέα ἀνδρὶ γέροντι·  
οὐ γὰρ πηδαλίω πείθεται ὡς ἄκατος,  
οὐδ' ἄγκυραι ἔχουσιν· ἀπορρήξασα δὲ δεσμὰ  
460 πολλάκις ἐκ νυκτῶν ἄλλον ἔχει λιμένα.

A young wife is of no use for an old husband; like a vessel that does not obey the rudder, nor do anchors hold her. Having severed her moorings, she often makes another haven after the nightfall.

[Translation by Andrej Petrovic]

I 1.1 Cf. Ar., *Pax*, 142: ἐπίτηδες εἶχον πηδάλιον, ᾧ χρήσομαι

I brought for that very purpose an oar [indicating his phallus] which I will use

[Translation by Alan Sommerstein]

#### I 2. Theophilus, fr. 6 K.-A.

Οὐ συμφέρον νέα στί πρεσβύτηι γυνή·  
ὡσπερ γὰρ ἄκατος οὐδὲ μικρὸν πείθεται  
ἐνὶ πηδαλίω, τὸ πείσμ' ἀπορρήξασα <δὲ>  
ἐκ νυκτὸς ἕτερον λιμέν' ἔχουσ' ἐξευρέθη.

A young wife is not suitable for an old man;

for she is like a boat; she does not obey  
the rudder at all; she was caught breaking the boat-rope  
finding another harbour at night.

### I 3. Text from Teos, ll. 16-20<sup>1</sup>

[.] Ὑ ἄνδρα, / πολλάκις ἐν νύκτων ἄλλον ἔχει λιμένα, / πολ[λ]άκι δ' ἐξελθους' ἀλύει μαν[ίη]σι  
κακ{ι}ῆσιν, / καὶ δύο καὶ τ[ρία] νύκτας, ἔπειτα δὲ καὶ κοίτη[υ] ἐπ' / ἀλλοτρίοιο θορ{ι}ο[ῦσ']

[...] man, she often makes another haven after the nightfall, coming out she is often beside herself  
with vicious madness, for two and three nights, and then jumping into a foreign bed.

## II. THE SHIP-PROSTITUTE ANALOGY

### II 1. Alc. fr. 117b V.

19 ] Δί[ο]ς καὶ μ[α]κά[ρων] θέων  
] .. ωκερρ[.] μ[ι]  
] . α . [ . ' ] σ[ . ] . ισε . . [  
] .. [ . . ] ἐν ἄς τω[ . . . . . ] . ε,  
] ντε[ . ] . χα . . [  
] . [ . . ] ἡ νᾶ ποήμενοι  
23 ] . υ . ασδ' , οὐ γὰρ ἔγω . ἔχω  
ἐπὸν ησας κατα[ρ]αμένα·  
] . . ς καὶ πόλλα χαρισ[  
] δοῖς· τοῖς δ' ὑπίσω[ . ] . [  
] ται· πόρνοι δ' ὄ κέ τις δίδ[ω]ι  
27 ἴσα κά[ς] πολίας κῦμ' ἀλ[ο]ς ἐσβ[ά]λην.  
—  
] πε[ . . ] ε . ις τοῦτ' οὐκ οἶδεν, ἔμοι π[ί]θην,  
ὄ]ς π[ό]ρνοισιν ὁμίλλει, τάδε γίνε[τ]α[ι]  
31 δεύε[ι] μα[ . ] αὔτω τῶ χρήματος [ἄψερο]ν  
αἴσχος κα[ὶ] κα[κ]ό[τα]τ' ὠλομέν[αν]  
[—]  
πόλλαν . [ . . . ] '[ . ] των, ψεύδη δε[ . . . . ] σαι  
] αἰ[ . ] λέ . . [ . . . . ] κάκων ἐσχατ[ . . . . ] . []  
34 ] νδεμ[ . ] . η ψύχαν ἀκατ[ . . . . ] .  
] αἰεὶ δάκ[ρυσι]ν· ἄ δ' οὐ[ . ] εσο . [ . . . ] .  
] . [ . . ] . αἰ[ . ] η[ . . . ] . δ' ἄλλος[ . . . ] . . [  
ὄ]ττις δεπ[ . . . ] εραι, γ . . [  
—

<sup>1</sup> This is a provisional transcription provided by Andrej Petrovic, during the seminar *A new verse inscription from Teos*, held on 19/10/2021 within the program of *Research seminar on Greek fragmentary texts* (University of Oxford).

38           . ] . ρει κυμ[ . . . . . ] ψῦχρ[ο]ν [ ⊗  
                  . ] . ωρέοντ[ . . . . . ] μμε . . . [ ⊗  
                  . ] π̄ερ Σίσυφο[ . . . . . ] ατον[ . . . ] ἀ . [

40<sup>a</sup>           ] φεν ἀλλ[ . ] κλίνο[

40<sup>b</sup>           ] π̄πα[ . . . ] . οἷς ω . [

40<sup>c</sup>           ] φίω, . [ ] . . ε̄ . [

                 ] [

                 ] [

... Zeus and the blessed gods ... while (?) ... (consorting with) ... making themselves a ship ... for I do not have ... you toiled calling down curses (?) gave many favours (?) ... ; and to those coming after ...; what one gives to a prostitute might as well be thrown into the waves of the grey sea. (If anyone) does not know this, (it is in my power) to persuade him: if a man keeps company with prostitutes, these things happen to him: he must inevitably after the business itself (suffer) disgrace and much accursed misery ... deceives ... the extreme of misery ... soul ... (weeps?) with tears; but she (?) ... to weep (?) ... another (man?) ... whoever ... the cold wave (of Hades carries?) ... Sisyphus ... bend ...

[Translation by David A. Campbell]

litt. supereminens ΚΕΡ 15 ]Ä, tum Γ[, Μ[, Π[, simm. 16 ]Δ : ut  
vid. hastae a sin. desc. pars inf., Δί[ο[ ] L. l.c., quamquam fort. Λ magis veri sim.  
quam Δ 17 ]ΝΙΩ ( ]ΝΙΩ Hunt) possis, sed litt. I solito procerior, nisi  
aliquid sscr. est (LP) 18 fort. ]ΑΡ[ (]ΓΑΡ[ Hunt); ]ΑΙC vel ]ΑΙC,  
ἀρ[ί]c[τ]αιc? 19 pro ]ΕΝ fort. ]ΕΓ' ἌC ut vid., nisi 'AC; de ἄc v. ad S. 9, 6  
potius Τῶ[ quam Τῶ[ ]Ε' 20 fort. e schol. συνοικιάδο]ντε[c] supplend.  
(συνεκκιάδ- Dl.<sup>2</sup>, cf. Hamm § 140b adn. 82) ΕΧΑ. .[ possis (L.), ἔχα[ιρ- Dl.<sup>2</sup>  
21 Νᾶ ΗΜ 22 ]Ε, ]Ο, ]C, simm., post Y, P vel T, simm.; Δ' ( ' m.<sup>2</sup>)  
ἘΓ -[γ'] (Edm. '28, 6) vel [c'] ἘΧΩ 23 ]ΠÓ, suppl. Hunt ΜΕΝᾶ'  
(sed ' fort. schol. 'pars), suppl. L. 'A. μ. 24 ]ΤΙC, al., possis χαρ[ί]c[ματα  
Edm. l.c., vel -ε[κατο, -ε[καθαι? 24ss. cf. H. Fränkel, Ovid p. 202<sup>25</sup> 25  
ΟΙC.T Δ'ΥΠÍ; vel ὕπ' ἴω, LP in indice 26 ΤΑΙ' ΝᾶΙΔ'Ó suppl.  
L.; S. de Charaxo loqui cens. H. Fränkel '28, 275, cf. A. 115 TEST 27  
'Ι]CÁKĀ (ἴων κα[ί]c suppleverat H. Fränkel l.c., κα[ί]c Gall.<sup>1</sup>) ÍACKYM'Á; [o]  
Hunt ' ]ΛΗΝ', suppl. L. 28 ' ]Π ( ' ) Hunt); ἐ]πε[ί] δέ τ]ιc Dl.<sup>2</sup> praec.  
Edm. l.c., sed vetat accent. (ΕΠΕÍ S. 20, 14) Τ'ΟΥ Ν.ÉΜ (. fort. m.<sup>2</sup>),  
credideris ÉΝΟΙ scr. (L.); οἷδ', ἐν ἔμοι Snell conl. Hdt. 6, 109 ἐν col vñv . . . ἐcτ[ί]  
. . . καταδουλώcαι 'Αθήναc L. 29 δ]c Dl.<sup>2</sup> π[ό]ρν]αιcιν Edm. l.c., fort.  
etiam δ]cπ[ερ τ]αίcιν possis 30 ΔÉ, suppl. L. fort. Μᾶ[; μά[λ'] Treu, μ'  
ἀ[π'] olim L., 'μ' ἀ[μ'] Dl.<sup>2</sup> ἌΥ ΤῶΧΡΗ L. e schol. 31 Α]ΙC,  
suppl. Hunt ΚÓ; Τ'ῶ, suppl. L., qui tamen [ΙΚΑ] fort. brevius esse cens.  
ΜΕΝ, suppl. L. ἔχην Fränkel l.c. 32 ΛᾶΝ ΤῶΝ'; [πρὸc ἄ]cτων  
Edm. l.c., vel [πρὸc αὐ]των 'pro ΨΕΥΔΗ (= ψευδη?) nescio an etiam  
ΤΕΥΧΗ possis' L. 33 . .[ : fort. tres litt. velut ΓΟΝ[ -[α Edm. l.c.,  
vel -[ov Dl.<sup>2</sup> fort. ]Ν[ sive ]ΑΙ[ 34 ΨΥΧᾶΝ.Α (. fort. m.<sup>2</sup>) ad  
ἀκατ[ cf. schol., ἀκατ[άcτατ-? Dl.<sup>2</sup> in fine, h. h., fort. non litt. pars 35  
ΔᾶΚ; Ν', δάκ[ρυc]ιν LP; huc inc. auct. 25A traxit (init. κλ]αίcι H. Fränkel l.c.,)  
Gall.<sup>2</sup>, quod ad vers. sequ. pertin. cens. L., Ox. Pap. ([κ]λατ]η[v], ubi tamen nihil nisi  
-αί]η[ scandi potest (de κλατ]ην grammaticorum v. etiam Hamm § 68) ἌΔ' in  
fin. fort. ]ΩΙ 36 'inter I et H, litt. angustiiori spat., sed fort. 'I['] satisfaciat'  
L., Ox. Pap.; v. ad v. praeced.; post H spatium vac. Δ'Á 37 Hunt  
vel ΔΕΓ[ PAI. pro Γ. .[ etiam Π. .[ fort. ΠΕ[ 38 φέ]ρει Dl.<sup>2</sup>, 'φ]έ]ρει  
possis, quamquam abnorme Ε' LP κῦμ' ['Ατ]δ[α] LP Hunt 39 fort.  
]Κ vel ]Χ; ΕΟΝ ΜΕΝ. .[, ΜΕΓ. .[, simm. 40 [ ' ]Á 40<sup>b</sup> ]. :  
fort. ]Χ vel ]Λ 40<sup>c</sup> fort. ]ΥΔ Ο[, C[, Φ[

EVA MARIA VOIGT, *Sappho et Alcaeus*, Amsterdam, Athenaeum - Polak & Van Gennep, 1971, p. 226.

## II 1.1 πόρνα in lyric poetry:

- a) Archil., fr. 302 W.<sup>2</sup>;
- b) Hippon., fr. 104, 34 W.<sup>2</sup> = 107, 34 Degani;
- c) Alc., fr. 299 V.;
- d) PMG 905.

## II 1.2 Ship-prostitute analogy in Hellenistic epigrams

a) A.P. 5, 204

### ΜΕΛΕΑΓΡΟΥ

Οὐκέτι, Τιμάριον, τὸ πρὶν γλαφυροῖο κέλητος  
πῆγμα φέρει πλωτὸν Κύπριδος εἰρεσίην·  
ἀλλ' ἐπὶ μὲν νώτοισι μετάφρενον, ὡς κέρας ἰστῶ,  
κυρτοῦται, πολὺς δ' ἐκλέλυται πρότονος·  
5 ἰστία δ' αἰωρητὰ χαλᾶ σπαδονίσματα μαστῶν·  
ἐκ δὲ σάλου στρεπτάς γαστρὸς ἔχει ρυτίδας·  
νέρθε δὲ πάνθ' ὑπέραντλα νεῶς, κοίλη δὲ θάλασσα  
πλημμύρει, γόνασιν δ' ἔντρομός ἐστι σάλος.  
10 δύστανός τοι ζωὸς ἔτ' ὦν Ἀχουσίδα λίμνην  
πλεύσει· ἄνωθ' ἐπιβάς γραὸς ἐπ' εἰκοσόρω.

MELEAGER – Timarium, once the hull of a slick corsair, can no longer support Cypris' rowing and keep afloat. The ribs on her back are bowed, like a yard on a mast; her gray forestays are slack, and her drooping breasts are like flapping sails. Undulations have given her belly knotted wrinkles; below, she is full of bilge water, the sea is flooding her hold, and her knees tremble. What wretch, while yet alive, would sail down to the lake of Acheron on such an old twenty-benched coffin galley?

[Translation by Michael A. Tueller]

b) A.P. 5, 44

### ΡΟΥΦΙΝΟΥ

Λέμβιον, ἢ δ' ἑτέρα Κερκούριον, αἱ δὴ ἑταῖραι  
αἰὲν ἐφορμοῦσιν τῷ Σαμίων λιμένι.  
ἀλλά, νέοι, πανδημὶ τὰ ληστρικὰ τῆς Ἀφροδίτης  
φεύγεθ'· ὁ συμμίξας καὶ καταδύς πίεται.

RUFINUS - Lembion and Cercurion, two courtesans, always lie moored in the harbour of Samos. Young men, flee en masse from Aphrodite's pirate ships! He who engages them is both sunk and swallowed up.

[Translation by Michael A. Tueller]

c) A.P. 5, 161

### ΗΔΥΛΟΥ, οἱ δὲ ΑΣΚΛΗΠΙΑΔΟΥ

Εὐφρῶ καὶ Θαῖς καὶ Βοίδιον, αἱ Διομήδους  
γραῖται, ναυκλήρων ὀλκάδες εἰκόσοροι,  
Ἄγιν καὶ Κλεοφῶντα καὶ Ἀνταγόρην, ἓν' ἐκάστη,

5 γυμνούς, ναυηγῶν ἥσσανας, ἐξέβαλον.  
ἀλλὰ σὺν αὐταῖς νηυσὶ τὰ ληστρικὰ τῆς Ἀφροδίτης  
φεύγετε· Σειρήνων αἶδε γὰρ ἐχθρότεροι.

HEDYLUS or ASCLEPIADES – Euphro, Thais and Boidion, Diomedes's Graeae, barges with twenty benches for ship masters, cast out Agis, Cleophon and Antagores, one each, naked and worse off than shipwrecked mariners. Flee Aphrodite's piracy, ships and all: these women are worse foes than the Sirens.

[Translation by Michael A. Tueller]

d) A.P. 9, 415

ΑΝΤΙΦΙΛΟΥ ΒΥΖΑΝΤΙΟΥ

Ἦμην καὶ προπάροίθε συνέμπορος ἀνέρι κέρδους,  
ἠνίκα δημοτέρην Κύπριν ἐναυστολόγει·  
κεῖθεν καὶ συνέπηξεν ἐμὴν τρόπιν, ὄφρα με λεύσση  
Κύπρις τὴν ἀπὸ γῆς εἶν ἀλί ρεμβομένην.  
5 Ἔστιν ἐταίρειος μὲν ἐμοὶ στόλος, εἰσὶ δὲ λεπτὰ  
κάρπασα καὶ λεπτὸν φῦκος ὑπὲρ σανίδων.  
Ναυτίλοι, ἀλλ' ἄγε πάντες ἐμῆς ἐπιβαίνετε πρύμνης  
θαρραλέως· πολλοὺς οἶδα φέρειν ἐρέτας.

ANTIPHILUS OF BYZANTIUM - I was formerly, too, my master's partner in his lucrative trade, when the crew he collected consisted of public votaries of Cypris. From those profits he built my keel that Cypris might see me, a product of the land, tossing on the sea. My rig befits a lady of pleasure; I wear dainty white linen, and on my timbers lies a delicate dye. Come sailors, confidently mount on my stern. I can take any number of oarsmen.

[Translation by William Roger Paton]

e) A.P. 9, 416

ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΕΩΣ

Ἦ ναῦς ἀπ' ἔργων Κύπριδος γομφουμένη  
πρὸς τὸν γενάρχην πόντον ἤλυθον θεοῦ·  
ἀνὴρ γὰρ ὤρης μ' ἔμπορος τεκτῆνατο,  
καλέσας Ἐταίρην· εἰμὶ γὰρ πᾶσιν φίλη.  
5 Ἔμβαινε θαρρῶν, μισθὸν οὐκ αἰτῶ βαρύν.  
Ἐλθόντα δέχομαι· πάντα βαστάζω ξένον·  
ὥς ποτ' ἐπὶ γαίης, κῆν βυθῶ μ' ἐρέσσετε.

PHILIPPUS OF THESSALONICA – I am a ship built from the business of Cypris, and betake me to the sea that gave birth to that goddess; for the man who made me was a merchant of beauty, and

christened me Courtesan, for I am friendly to all. Board me confidently; I don't demand a heavy fare; I receive all comers. I carry both natives and foreigners; you can row me either on land or in the sea.

[Translation by William Roger Paton]

## II 2. Archil., fr. 34 W.<sup>2</sup>

ἀμισθὶ γάρ σε πάμπαν οὐ διάξομεν.

for without payment we will certainly not ferry you.

[Translation by Laura Swift]

### II 2.1 Cf. Ar., Ec. 1086-1087

ΝΕΑ. χαλεπαί γ' ἂν ἦστε γενόμεναι πορθμῆς.

ΓΡ. Γ' τιή;

ΝΕΑ. ἔλκοντε τοὺς πλωτῆρας ἂν ἀπεκναίετε.

YOUNG MAN: You'd be a fine nuisance, you two, if you ran ferry-boats.

THIRD OLD WOMAN: Oh, why?

YOUNG MAN: You'd drag the passengers about so much, you'd bruise them to death!

[Translation by Alan Sommerstein]

## II 3. Anacr., fr. 48 Gentili = PMG 427

μηδ' ὥστε κῦμα πόντιον  
λάλαζε τῇ πολυκρότῃ  
σὺν Γαστροδώρῃ καταχύδην  
πίνουσα τὴν ἐπίστιον.

and do not babble like the wave of the sea, together with the noisy Gastrodore, profusely drinking the hearth-cup.

[Translation by Hans Bernsdorff]

### II 3.1 How should we interpret πολύκροτος?

a) “noisy”

Cf. *e.g. h. Pan.* 37 (of Pan) and Posidon. fr. 62 Edelstein–Kidd (FGrH 87 F 10.13 Jacoby);

b) “wily”

Cf. Hes. fr. 198.3 M.–W. (of Odysseus’ μήδεα); Hom., *Od.* 1,1 (as a v. l. of πολύτροπον, later adopted by Call. fr. 67, 3 Pfeiffer); S., fr. 913 R. πάνσοφον κρότημα Λαέρτου γόνος; ps.E., Rh. 499; Theoc. 15, 49 ἐξ ἀπάτας κεκροτημένοι ἄνδρες;

c) “much pounded”;

d) “many-oared”

Cf. Tim., *PMG* 791, 12-13 .]οσ[.]ξειμ [πο]λυκρότους / . . ]σιμους πεύκας, πάλιν ἐφέροντο·



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