NIKOLAOS GONIS – CLAUDIO MELIADÒ

BKT IX 23: EARLY OR HELLENISTIC HEXAMETERS

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BKT IX 23 offers a semi-diplomatic transcription, dividing the words but without offering restorations. The following readings of the BKT IX transcription have been revised:

4 ρέζω 5 mrg ουκ 7 Αθηνή 8 ουδέ οι ήγειν 9 α' λο'

1 Perhaps Φοίνικος ὀδύσεως, as in Hes. fr. 141.7 M.–W. (at verse end). If this is correct, lines 1–4 may contain a reference to Adonis, son of Phoenix according to Hes. fr. 139 M.–W., or to another offspring of Agenor, e.g. Cadmus, who, after he built Cadmea, sacrificed a cow to Athena (cf. l. 6).

2 ἄμειλίκτοιο ἄνακτος. The restorations are Maehler’s. For the metrical position, cf. also [Opp.] Cyn. 3.10 ἄμειλίκτοιο Κρόνου (sim. 3.223). Clausulae of the type -οι οὐκ άνακτος are common in early hexameter poetry, but also in Quintus and the Sibyline Oracles. One could think of reference to Eurystheus (cf.

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1 For images and metadata, see http://berlpap.smb.museum/04333/. N. Gonis examined the original at Berlin in August 1997, August 1999, and July 2019, and wishes to record his thanks to the late William Brashear, to Günter Poethke, and to Marius Gerhardt for the hospitality. We are grateful to Ben Henry for comments and criticism, most importantly on the reading of lines 8 and 9.
āθλον at 5), but if a tomb is mentioned in the next line ἀμείλικτος ἄναξ may be a metaphor for death (Hades?).

3  κείγει δ᾽ ὑπέδεκτο με [τύμ]βῳ. Cf. QS 12.486 πολλὰ κινυρομένη κενεῷ ὑπέδεκτο τύμβῳ; Epiγr. sepulchr. 539.5 ὃ γονέες, τί μόνην κενεῷ προσψύχετε τύμβῳ με τύμβῳ at verse-end in AP 7.178.1, 310.1.

The sense speaks against reading εὖ δ᾽ ὑπέδεκτο με [τύμ]βῳ (though cf. AP 7.536.1 ἐὼ ἐπιτέτροφε τύμβῳ, QS 2.438 οὐκέκα ὃν Διόνυσον ἐοἶς ὑπέδεκτο μελάθροιϲ).

4  ἵερά ἰέζ. Ed. pr. read ἰέζω, but omega is difficult. The letter after zeta might be ι; it is unclear whether any other letter followed, but -ει would be even more difficult. The pattern for this clausula is Homeric; cf. Od. 1.61 ἵερα ἰέζων, 3.5 ἵερα ἰέζων.

5  διαιρήξειν ἀθλον. Cf. AR 3.788 εξανύϲειν ἀθλον (in the same position); also AP 4.3.127 ναὶ τάχα καὶ πέμπτοιο χάριϲ θέλξειν ἀέθλου.

5–6 mrg. οὐκ εἶπε ποίον. This may refer either to ἀθλον at 5 or to Ἀργοϲ at 6. If the latter, cf. Eustathius’ commentary to II. 24.437 (vol. 4, p. 928.18–21 v.d.V.): ἀθλον δὲ ποίον λέγει Ἀργοϲ. δόξει δὲ ἀν μάλιϲα ως Μυρμιδόν τὸ Θετταλικόν λέγειν. According to Steph. Byz. α 400, there were at least eleven πόλειϲ named Ἀργοϲ, but only the first, the διαϲημοτάτη πόλιϲ Πελοποννήϲου, was called ἵπποβότον διὰ τὸ Ποϲειδῶνι νομὴν ἰπποτρόφον (cf. ἰπποτρόφον Ἀργοϲ at 6). For the wording, cf. also Σ Hes. Op. 276a ἐπαγγειλάμενοϲ οὐκ εἶπε ποίον νόμον.


7  ἰέρευϲεν Ἀθήνηι. Cf. Σ E. Ph. 1062 ὅγκαϲ νηὸϲ δὴ ἐτίϲ λαῷσε, ὃν ποτε Κάδμοϲ εἶϲάτο, βοῦν θ᾽ ἰέρευϲεν, ὄτ᾽ ἐκτιϲεν ἄστῳ τὸ Θήβαϲ.


9  κύν/δερον ἄλλο. Cf. Od. 7.216 (at verse end), 20.18.