

οἱ μὲν ἰππήων στρότον οἱ δὲ πέσδων
οἱ δὲ νάων φαῖσ' ἐπὶ γᾶν μέλαιναν
ἔμμεναι κάλλιστον, ἔγω δὲ κῆν' ὄτ-
τω τις ἔραται.

πάγχυ δ' εὖμαρες σύνετον πόησαι
πάντι τοῦτ', ἃ γὰρ πόλυ περσκέθοισα
κάλλος ἀνθρώπων Ἑλένα τὸν ἄνδρα
τὸν πανάριστον

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VOCABULARY

γᾶν < γῆν (nom. γῆ, ἦ): earth
ἔμμεναι = εἶναι: to be
ἔραμαι: love, desire, long for (+ *gen.*)
εὐμάρης -ες < εὐμαρής, -ές: easy
ἰππήων < ἰππεῖς (*pl.*): cavalry
κάλλος, τό: beauty
κῆν' = ἐκεῖνο (*demonstrative pronoun*): that
μέλας, μέλαινα, μέλαν: black, dark
ὄττω = ὄτου: *relative pronoun* ('what', 'that which')

πάγχυ = πάνυ: entirely, quite, very
πανάριστος, -ον: excellent, very noble
περσκέθοισα < περιέχω: surpass
πέσδοι < πεζοί (*pl.*): infantry, foot soldiers
πόησαι < ποιήσαι: aor. inf. act. < ποιέω: make
στρότος < στράτος: army, host
σύνετος, -ον: understandable, intelligible
φαῖσ' < φασί: they say

COMMENTARY

TEXT: Page (1955)

METRE: Sapphic stanzas: each stanza of four lines has
3 vv. of hendecasyllables (- ∪ - x - ∪ ∪ - ∪ - -)
followed by an adonean (- ∪ ∪ - -).

1-2. οἱ = οἱ (*def. art. masc. nom. pl.*).
1-3. φαῖσ' ('say') in v. 2 is the main verb; it
introduces an accusative and infinitive construction
στρότον... ἔμμεναι κάλλιστον; its subjects are οἱ
μὲν... οἱ δέ... οἱ δέ (i.e., 'some..., others..., and yet
others...').
1-2. στρότον: understand with each of the genitives
ἰππήων, πέσδων, and νάων.
2. νάων (*Aeol.*) = νεῶν (*gen. pl.* < ναῦς):
'of ships'
ἐπὶ (+ *acc.*): on / upon

3. ἔγω δέ: *supply* φημί and ἔμμεναι (i.e., 'but I say it
is...')
4. τις (*indef. pron.*): 'a person' / '(some)one'
5-6. πάγχυ δ' εὖμαρες... πόησαι... τοῦτ': *supply* ἐστί
(i.e. 'It is very easy to make this...')
6. πάντι: i.e. 'to everyone'
6-7. The article ἃ (= ἦ) belongs with Ἑλένα in the
following line. The words between them are in the
attributive position and the phrase may be
translated, 'Helen, who far surpassed mortals in
beauty...'
6. πόλυ: adverbial ('much', 'by far')
περσκέθοισα (*pres. pt. fem. nom. s.*) = περσκέθουσα
(in apposition to Ἑλένα)
7. κάλλος: *acc. of respect*.
ἀνθρώπων: (*gen. of comp.*) with περσκέθοισα in v. 6
7-8. τὸν ἄνδρα / τὸν πανάριστον is the object of the
participle καλλίποιος' (v. 9).

L.H.

καλλίποις ἔβα ἴς Τροίαν πλέοισα
κωὺδὲ παῖδος οὐδὲ φίλων τοκῆων
πάμπαν ἐμνάσθη...

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[Here too little of the text survives to reproduce.]

...νῦν Ἀνακτορίας ὄνέμναι-
σ' οὐ παρεοίσας·

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τᾶς κε βολλοίμαν ἔρατόν τε βᾶμα
κάμάρυγμα λάμπρον ἴδην προσώπω
ἦ τὰ Λύδων ἄρματα καὶ πανόπλοις
πεσδομάχεντας.

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VOCABULARY

ἀμάρυγμα < ἀμάρυγμα: sparkle
Ἀνακτορία: Anaktoria (a young woman who is the
addressee of this poem)
ἄρμα < ἄρμα, τό: chariot
βᾶμα, τό < βῆμα: step; walk, gait
βολλοίμαν < βούλομαι: wish, want (+ *inf.*)
ἴδην (*Aeol.*) < ἰδεῖν (*aor. 2 inf.* ὄραω): to see
ἔβα < ἔβη (*aor. 2. indic.* βαίνω): go
ἔρατος < ἐρατός, -ή, -όν: lovely
καλλίποις < καταλείπω: leave behind
κε = ἄν
λαμπρός, -ά, -όν: bright

Λύδοι, οἱ: the Lydians, the people of Lydia
μνάομαι (*aor.* ἐμνάσθη): remember, think of (+ *gen.*)
ὄνέμναισ' < ἀναμνήσκω (*aor.* ἀνέμνησα): remind,
call to mind
πάμπαν: completely; (*with negation*) at all
πάνοπλος, -ον: in full armour
παρεοίσας (*pres. pt. f. gen. s.*) < παρών, -οῦσα, -όν:
being present
πεσδομάχεντας < πεζομαχέω: fight on foot
πλέοισα (*pres. pt. f. nom. s.*) < πλέω: sail
πρόσωπον: face
τόκευς (*m. / f.*): parent

COMMENTARY

9. ἴς (*elision*) = ἐς (+ *acc.*: 'to').
10. κωὺδὲ (*crasis*) = καὶ οὐδέ. Construe with the
following οὐδέ (*i.e.*, 'and neither... nor...').
παῖδος: Helen's child is Hermione, her daughter by
Menelaus.
15-16. ὄνέμναισ' < ἀνέμνησε: *i.e.*, 'it has reminded
me of...' (+ *gen.*).
οὐ παρεοίσας (*fem. gen. s.*): in apposition to
Ἀνακτορίας in the previous line (*i.e.* 'Anaktoria
who is not here').
17. τᾶς (*fem. gen. s.* = τῆς): pronominal use of the
definite article (*i.e.*, 'Whose...' / 'Of whom...').

κε βολλοίμαν... ἴδην: 'I would (rather)... see...'
(anticipating the comparison in v. 19).
18. κάμάρυγμα (*crasis*) = καὶ ἀμάρυγμα.
προσώπω (*Aeol. gen.*): 'of her face'
19. ἦ: introduces a comparison (*i.e.* 'I would rather
see x... than y...')
πανόπλοις: *acc. pl.* in apposition to πεσδομάχεντας in
v. 19.
20. πεσδομάχεντας: substantive use of the participle
(*i.e.*, 'fighters on foot' = 'foot soldiers' / 'infantry').