

Scolia 901

εἶθ' ἄπυρον καλὸν γενοίμην μέγα χρυσίον
καί με καλὴ γυνὴ φοροίη καθαρὸν θεμένη νόον.

VOCABULARY

ἄπυρος, -ον: not touched by fire; new
εἶθε (+ *opt.*): introduces a wish
καθαρός, -ά, -όν: pure; unsullied; sound
νόος (Ion. < νοῦς), ὄ: mind, heart

φορέω (*frequentative form of φέρω*): carry / bear constantly
χρυσίον, τό (*cogn.* χρυσός, οὔ, ὄ: gold): anything made of gold; (*in this context*) a gold vessel

COMMENTARY

TEXT: *PMG* 901

METRE: choriambic. Each verse begins with a choriambic dimeter (–υυ–|×–×–) followed by the choriambic sequence (–υυ–|υ–) with dactylic expansion in v. 2.

v. 1: –υυ–|υυ–|–υυ–|υ–
v. 2: –υυ–|υυ–|–υυ–υυ–|υ–

1. εἶθε: with the optative expresses a wish (*i.e.*, ‘would that...’ or ‘if only...’); it should be construed with both γενοίμην (v. 1) and φοροίη (v. 2).
2. καθαρὸν θεμένη νόον: θεμένη (*aor. mid. part. fem. nom. s.* < τίθημι = put, place, set) may be translated here as ‘keeping...’; the adjective καθαρὸν should be taken predicatively with νόον (*i.e.*, ‘keeping her mind pure’).

L.H.