

Solon, Poem 10

ἐκ νεφέλης πέλεται χιόνος μένος ἠδὲ χαλάζης,
βροντὴ δ' ἐκ λαμπρῆς γίγνεται ἀστεροπῆς·
ἀνδρῶν δ' ἐκ μεγάλων πόλις ὄλλυται, ἐς δὲ μονάρχου
δῆμος αἰδρίη δουλοσύνην ἔπεσεν·
λίην δ' ἐξάραντ' οὐ ράδιόν ἐστι κατασχεῖν
ὕστερον, ἀλλ' ἤδη χρῆ τάδε πάντα νοεῖν.

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VOCABULARY

αἰδρία < αἰδρεία, ἦ: ignorance; blindness
ἀστεροπή, ἦ: lightning (bolt)
βροντή, ἦ: thunder
δουλοσύνη, ἦ: slavery
ἐξάιρω (*aor. pt.* ἐξάρας): lift / raise up; elevate
κατέχω: keep down / back; restrain; keep; *mid.* retain;
stop
λαμπρός, -ή, -όν: bright
λίην = λίαν: very much; exceedingly; too much

μένος, τό: mass; force; power
μόναρχος -ου, ὁ: monarch
νεφέλη, ἦ: cloud
νοέω: perceive; consider, think on
ὄλλυμι: destroy, ruin, kill; *mid.* perish, die, be ruined
πέλομαι: be; come
χάλαζα, -ης, ἦ: hail
χιών, -όνος, ἦ: snow

COMMENTARY

TEXT: follows West (1972) *Iambi et elegi graeci*, vol. II.125-6, but retains Passow's τάδε in v. 6.

METRE: elegiacs

3. In poetry ἐκ / ἐξ + *gen.* may express agency (*i.e.*, 'the city is ruined *by*...').
ἐς = εἰς.
μονάρχου: construe with δουλοσύνην in v. 4.
4. αἰδρία: dative of means with causal sense (*i.e.*, 'the demos *through* ignorance falls into...').

ἔπεσεν: the 'gnomic' aorist expresses a general truth (what will always happen) and is best translated with the present tense (*i.e.*, '<always> falls').
5. οὐ ράδιόν ἐστι: introduces an accusative and infinitive construction (*i.e.*, 'It is not easy...'). The implied subject (expressed in ἐξάραντ') is the demos.
ἐξάραντ': should be understood transitively with the pronoun 'someone' as its object (*i.e.*, λίην δ' ἐξάραντά <τινα> = 'having raised someone up too much...').

LH