

Solon 23

οὐκ ἔφν Σόλων βαθύφρων οὐδὲ βουλήεις ἀνήρ·
ἔσθλα γὰρ θεοῦ διδόντος αὐτὸς οὐκ ἐδέξατο.
περιβαλὼν δ' ἄγρην ἀγασθεις οὐκ ἐπέσπασεν μέγα
δίκτυον, θυμοῦ θ' ἄμαρτῆ καὶ φρενῶν ἀποσφαλείς·
ἤθελεν γὰρ κεν κρατήσας, πλοῦτον ἄφθονον λαβῶν
καὶ τυραννέουσας Ἀθηνέων μῶνον ἡμέρην μίαν,
ἄσκός ὕστερον δεδάρθαι κάπιτετριφθαι γένος.

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VOCABULARY

ἄγμαι (*aor. pass. pt. ἀγασθεις*): to amaze, wonder
at, admire
ἄγρη (*Ion.*) < ἄγρα, ἡ: prey, quarry
ἄμαρτῆ: together, at the same time
ἀποσφάλω (*aor. pass. ἀπεσφάλην*): slip up, stumble;
(*pass.*) de deprived of (+ *gen.*)
ἄσκός, -οῦ, ὁ: wineskin
ἄφθονος, -ον: limitless (*lit.* without grudging)
βαθύφρων, -ονος: deep-minded; deep-counselling
βουλήεις, -εσσα, -εν: wise; of good counsel
γένος, -οῦς, τό: family line
δέρω (*pf. pass. inf. δεδάρθαι*): to skin, flay
δέχομαι (*aor. ἐδέξαμην*): accept, receive
δίκτυον, τό: net (for fishing or hunting)

ἐπισπάω: to draw or drag after / pull towards oneself
ἐπιτριβῶ (*pf. pass. inf. ἐπιτετριφθαι*): destroy, crush,
wipe out
ἔσθλος, -ή, -όν: good, noble
ἡμέρη (*Ion.*) < ἡμέρα, ἡ: day
θυμός, -οῦ, ὁ: heart; will, spirit, courage
κρατέω: take power; conquer
μῶνος < μόνος, -η, -ον: single, only
θυμός, -οῦ, ὁ: soul, heart
πλοῦτος, -ου, ὁ: wealth, riches
περιβάλλω: surround; enfold
τυραννέω: be tyrant of (+ *gen.*)
φρήν, φρενός, ἡ: mind, reason
φῶν (*aor. 3rd s. ἔφν*): be (by nature)

COMMENTARY

TEXT: West (1972) *Iambi et elegi graeci*, vol. II.139.
METRE: trochaic tetrameter catalectic

2. θεοῦ διδόντος: genitive absolute.
ἔσθλα: substantive use of the adjective (*i.e.*, 'good things').
4. θυμοῦ ... φρενῶν ἀποσφαλείς: objective genitives (*i.e.*, 'having been deprived of both his will and his wits').
θ' = τε (*i.e.*, elision with sympathetic aspiration), which coordinates with καὶ in the same verse.
5. κεν = ἄν with ἤθελεν: past counterfactual (*i.e.*, 'He would have been willing...').
κρατήσας and the participles that follow (*i.e.*, λαβῶν and τυραννέουσας) are to be understood as

conditional: *i.e.*, 'if he had taken power... and if he had got... and if he had been tyrant...'
6. Ἀθηνέων (*Ion.*) = Ἀθηνῶν; for metrical analysis, note the synizesis of -έων in this word.
μῶνον: adverbial use of the adjective (*i.e.*, 'just' or 'only').
ἡμέρην μίαν: the accusative case expresses the duration or extent of time (*i.e.*, 'for one day').
7. ἄσκός is to be understood predicatively with δεδάρθαι (*i.e.*, 'to be flayed into / as a wineskin').
κάπιτετριφθαι (*crasis*) < καὶ ἐπιτετριφθαι.
κάπιτετριφθαι γένος: accusative and infinitive construction after ἤθελεν (*i.e.*, 'he would have been willing... for his family line to be wiped out').

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