

Solon, fragments 5, 6, 7

δήμῳ μὲν γὰρ ἔδωκα τόσον γέρας ὅσσον ἀπαρκεῖ,

τιμῆς οὐτ' ἀφελῶν οὐτ' ἐπορεξάμενος·

οἳ δ' εἶχον δύναμιν καὶ χρήμασιν ἦσαν ἀγῆτοί,

καὶ τοῖς ἐφρασάμην μηδὲν ἀεικέες ἔχειν·

ἔστην δ' ἀμφιβαλὼν κρατερὸν σάκος ἀμφοτέροισι,

5

νικᾶν δ' οὐκ εἶασ' οὐδετέρους ἀδίκως.

VOCABULARY

ἀγῆτός, -ή, -όν: outstanding, pre-eminent, notable

ἀδίκως: unjustly

ἀεικής, -ές: shameful, unbecoming

ἀμφιβάλλω: throw *x* (*acc.*) around / over *y* (*dat.*)

ἀμφοτέρος, -α, -ον: each / both of two

ἀπαρκέω: suffice, be sufficient

ἀφαιρέω (*aor. pt.* ἀφελών): take away

γέρας, -αος / -ως, τό: gift

ἔάω (*aor.* εἶασα): allow *x* (*acc.*) to (+ *inf.*)

ἐπορέγω: hold out; offer

ἔστην: *aor.*² (*intrans.*) of ἵστημι (*i.e.* 'I stood')

κρατερός, -ά, -όν: strong, mighty

σάκος, -εος, τό: shield

φράζομαι: give thought to, consider; devise, contrive

χρήμα, -ατος, τό: thing; *pl.* 'goods and chattels',
property

COMMENTARY

TEXT: West (1972) *Iambi et Elegi Graeci*, vol.
II.124-5.

METRE: elegiacs

1. τόσον γέρας ὅσσον: *lit.* 'such a great gift, how
great...' (*i.e.*, 'a gift as great as...').

2. τιμῆς: partitive genitive to be understood with both
the participles ἀφελῶν and ἐπορεξάμενος (*i.e.*,
'neither taking away from... nor offering any...').

3. οἳ δ' εἶχον: relative clause (*i.e.*, 'Those *who*...').

χρήμασιν ἦσαν ἀγῆτοί: dative of means (*i.e.*, '...were
pre-eminent *by means of* / *because of* their
property').

4. καὶ τοῖς: in poetry, the definite article is frequently
used as a third-person pronoun (*i.e.*, 'to *them*...').

ἔχειν: the infinitive in poetry may express purpose
(*i.e.*, 'I saw to it that they should have...').

6. οὐκ εἶασ' οὐδετέρους: note that the double
negative is reinforcing, as is normal in ancient
Greek.

εἶασ' (*elision*) < εἶασα.

δῆμος δ' ὧδ' ἂν ἄριστα σὺν ἡγεμόνεσσιν ἔποιτο,
μήτε λίαν ἀνεθείς μήτε βιαζόμενος·
τίκτει γὰρ κόρος ὕβριν, ὅταν πολὺς ὄλβος ἔπηται
ἀνθρώποισιν ὅσοις μὴ νόος ἄρτιος ᾗ.

10

ἔργμασιν ἐν μεγάλοις πᾶσιν ἀδεῖν χαλεπόν.

VOCABULARY

ἀνδάνω (*aor. inf. ἀδεῖν*): please, be pleasing to (+
dat.)
ἀνήμι (*aor. pass. pt. ἀνεθείς*): give free rein
ἄρτιος -α, -ον: suitable, well-fitting
βιάζω: force, constrain
ἔπομαι: follow; attend on, go along with (+ *dat.*)
ἔργμα, -ατος, τό: thing; affair; matter
ἡγεμών, -όνοσ, ὁ: leader, commander

κόρος, -ου, ὁ: excess
λίαν: too much, overly
νόος (*Ion.*) = νοῦς, ὁ: mind
ὄλβος, -ου, ὁ: wealth
τίκτω: give birth to
ὑβρις, -εως, ἡ: arrogance; violence
χαλεπός, -ή, -όν: hard, difficult
ὧδε: in this way; thus

COMMENTARY

7. ἄριστα: adverbial (*i.e.*, 'In this way, the people would *best* follow...'). The explanation of *how* the people would best follow is in v. 8.

8. μήτε... μήτε: 'neither... nor...'

10. ὅσοις... ᾗ: indefinite relative clause; the antecedent is ἀνθρώποισιν and the dative is of

possession: *lit.*, '...how many to whom there is...' (*i.e.*, '...of the kind who have...').

11. The verb 'to be' must be supplied: *i.e.*, χαλεπόν ἐστὶν ἀδεῖν πᾶσιν <ἀνθρώποις> ἐν μεγάλοις ἔργμασιν.

LT