

Xenophanes, Poem 18

πὰρ πυρὶ χρῆ τοιαῦτα λέγειν χειμῶνος ἐν ὥρῃ
ἐν κλίνῃ μαλακῇ κατακείμενον, ἔμπλεον ὄντα,
πίνοντα γλυκὺν οἶνον, ὑποτρώγοντ' ἐρεβίνθους·
“τίς πόθεν εἷς ἀνδρῶν; πόσα τοι ἔτε' ἐστί, φέριστε;
πηλίκος ἦσθ', ὅθ' ὁ Μῆδος ἀφίκετο...;”

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VOCABULARY

γλυκός, -εῖα, -ύ: sweet
ἔμπλεος, -α, -ον: full; having eaten one's fill
ἐρεβίνθος, ὁ: chickpea
ἔτος -εος, τό: year
κατάκειμαι: (*dep.*) lie down; recline
κλίνη, ἡ: couch
μαλακός, -ή, -όν: soft
Μῆδος, ὁ: Mede / Persian
οἶνος, ὁ: wine
πηλίκος, -η, -ον: (*interrog.* of τηλίκος, -η, -ον):
how much? / how great?

πίνω: drink
πόθεν: from where, whence
πόσα < πόσος, -η, -ον (*interrog.*): how great /
much / many?
πῦρ, πυρός, τό: fire
τοιοῦτος, τοιαῦτη, τοιοῦτο: of such a kind
ὑποτρώγω: nibble
φέριστος, -η, -ον: (*lit.*) best, bravest (see
commentary)
χειμῶν, -ῶνος, ὁ: winter
ὥρῃ, ἡ < ὥρα: hour; time; season

COMMENTARY

TEXT: Diels-Kranz (1906), *Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker*, vol. I.50

METRE: dactylic hexameters

1. πὰρ (*poet.*) = παρά (*i.e.*, ‘by’ or ‘beside’).
χρῆ (‘it is proper / right’): the syntactical
construction following is an accusative and
infinitive, with the subject implicit in the four

masculine singular participles in the accusative
in vv. 2-3.

4. τίς πόθεν εἷς ἀνδρῶν; *lit.* ‘Who are you, from
where of men?’ (*i.e.*, ‘Who are you and what
part of the world do you come from?’).

φέριστε: *voc.* (*i.e.*, ‘sir’).

5. πηλίκος ἦσθ': ‘How *old* were you?’

ὅθ' = ὅτε (elision with sympathetic aspiration):
‘when’.

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