

## Carmina Popularia 856

ἄγετ' ὦ Σπάρτας εὐάνδρου  
κοῦροι πατέρων πολιτηᾶν,  
λαιᾶι μὲν ἴτυν προβάλεσθε,  
δόρυ δ' εὐτόλμως πάλλοντες,  
μὴ φειδόμενοι τᾶς ζωᾶς,  
οὐ γὰρ πάτριον τᾶι Σπάρται.

5

### VOCABULARY

δόρυ, δόρατος, τό: spear  
εὐάνδρος, -ον: abounding in brave men  
εὐτόλμως: bravely, courageously  
ἴτυς [ἴ], -υος, ἦ: the rim of a shield; (*by  
synecdoche*) the shield itself  
κοῦρος, ὄ: boy, lad, youth  
λαιός, -ά, -όν: left  
πάλλω: wave, shake; brandish

πάτριος, -α, -ον: ancestral, hereditary; customary,  
traditional  
πολίτης, ὄ: (Ion. < πολίτης) citizen, freeman  
προβάλεσθε < προβάλλομαι: to throw before /  
forward; (*here*) 'hold out'  
Σπάρτα, ἦ (Dor.) = Σπάρτη: Sparta (the principal  
city of Laconia)  
φειδόμενοι < φείδομαι: save, spare (+ *gen.*)  
ζωά (Dor.) = ζωή: life

### COMMENTARY

METRE: catalectic anapaestic dimeters (also  
called paroemiacs): ∪ ∪ – ∪ ∪ – | ∪ ∪ – –. The  
anapaests (∪ ∪ –) are frequently replaced by  
spondees (– –).

1. ἄγετ': 2<sup>nd</sup> *pl. imperat.* of ἄγω, *i.e.* 'come  
along' or 'forward!'  
Σπάρτας εὐάνδρου: *gen.* of origin (*i.e.*, 'who  
come from Sparta, land of brave men')

2. ὦ... κοῦροι: vocative  
πατέρων πολιτηᾶν: *i.e.*, 'born of citizen fathers'  
πολιτηᾶν: *gen. pl.* (Dor.)  
3. λαιᾶι (*sc. χειρῖ*): 'with the left hand'  
προβάλεσθε: 2<sup>nd</sup> *pl. aor. imperat.*  
4. δόρυ δ': 'in the right hand' is implicit in the  
μέν... δέ construction.  
6. οὐ γὰρ πάτριον...: *sc. ἐστι*  
τᾶ (Dor.) = τῆ