

Solon 9 & 11 (West)

William S. Annis
Aoidoi.org*

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Solon 9

- ἐκ νεφέλης πέλεται χιόνος μένος ἡδὲ χαλάζης,
βροντὴ δ' ἐκ λαμπρῆς γίγνεται ἀστεροπῆς
ἀνδρῶν δ' ἐκ μεγάλων πόλις ὅλυται, ἐξ δὲ μονάρχου
δῆμος ἀἰδρείη δουλοσύνην ἔπεσεν.
5 λίην δ' ἔξαραντ' οὐ ράδιόν ἔστι κατασχεῖν
ὕστερον, ἀλλ' ἥδη χρὴ <τάδε> πάντα νοεῖν.

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⁶τάδε Passow περὶ Dindorf καλά West.

¹νεφέλη ἡ cloud. πέλω become, be. χιών ὄνος ἡ snow. μένος τό force, might. ἡδὲ and. χάλαζα ἡς ἡ hail.

²βροντὴ ἡ thunder. λαμπρός ἀ ὄν bright, radiant. ἀστεροπῆς ἡ lightning.

³πόλις εως ἡ city. ὅλλυμι pres.mid.3sg. destroy, kill; here ἐκ is being used for the agent of a passive verb, a poetic usage, but it also echoes ἐκ from the previous lines. μόναρχος ὁ monarch, sole ruler; take with 1.4 – ἐξ δουλοσύνην μονάρχου.

⁴δῆμος ὁ district, land; free citizens, popular government. ἀϊδρείη ἡ ignorance; dat. of manner. δουλοσύνη ἡ (condition of) slavery. πίπτω πεσοῦμαι ἔπεσον fall, fall down; gnomic aorist, Smyth §1931.

⁵λίην (ι) very, very much. ἔξ-αείρω -αρῶ -ῆρα aor.act.part. acc.sg.m. lift up; exalt; exaggerate; supply δῆμον, τινα or the like to agree with the ptcpl. and to provide the implicit subject of κατασχεῖν. “After having exalted (a great man) very much, it is not easy to restrain him later.” It is also possible to take ἔξαραντα intransitively, in which case it refers to some μέγας ἀνήρ. ράδιος α ον easy. κατ-έχω aor.inf. hold back, restrain; possess, seize.

⁶ὕστερον adv. from ὕστερος later. ἥδη now, already. Supply ἡμᾶς for the subject of νοεῖν with χρή. νοέω perceive; consider; understand.

Solon 11

εὶ δὲ πεπόνθατε λυγρὰ δι' ὑμετέρην κακότητα,
μή τι θεοῖς τούτων μοῖραν ἐπαμφέρετε·
αὐτοὶ γάρ τούτους ηύξήσατε ρύσια δόντες,
καὶ διὰ ταῦτα κακὴν ἔσχετε δουλοσύνην·
5 ὑμέων δ' εἰς μὲν ἔκαστος ἀλώπεκος ἵχνεσι βαίνει,
σύμπασιν δ' ὑμῶν χαῦνος ἔνεστι νόος·
ἐς γάρ γλῶσσαν ὄρατε καὶ εἰς ἔπος αἰόλον ἀνδρός,
εἰς ἔργον δ' οὐδὲν γιγνόμενον βλέπετε.

¹πάσχω πείσομαι ἔπαθον πέπονθα suffer, experience. λυγρός ἀ όν baneful, mournful, miserable; take as a neut.pl. noun. κακότης ητος ἡ badness, cowardice; distress, misery.

²τι adv. τούτων i.e., κακότητα. μοῖρα ας ἡ portion, lot; destiny, fate. ἐπ-ανα-φέρω pres.imper.2pl. throw back; ascribe, refer.

³αὐτοὶ agreeing with prn. implicit in verb, you yourselves. τούτους i.e., men of the sort mentioned in the previous poem. αὐξάνω αὐξήσω ηὔξησα increase, grow, strengthen. ρύσιον τό (v) pledge, surety; property seized for a pledge. δίδωμι aor.act.part. nom.pl.m. give.

⁴ἔχω ἔξω ἔσχον to have, to hold. δουλοσύνην see Solon 9 l.4.

⁵ὑμέων = ὑμῶν. εἰς μία ἐν one. ἔκαστος η ον each. ἀλώπηξ εκος ἡ fox, which had a reputation for being sly and clever. ἵχνος τό footprint; track; dat. of means. βαίνω βήσομαι ἔβην go; walk, step.

⁶σύμπασ σύμπασσα σύμπαν dat.pl.m. all together, as a whole. χαῦνος η ον porous, loose; empty, frivolous. ἐν-ειμι to be (present) in + dat. νόος ό mind, sense, judgement.

⁷γλῶσσα ἡ tongue; language. ὄράω εἰς look at. ἔπος τό word, utterance, speech. αἰόλος η ον nimble; changeful, shifty.

⁸ἔργον τό work, deed. οὐδέν take as adv. with βλέπετε. γίγνομαι of acts or events come to pass, take place. βλέπω εἰς again look at.