

Bion 11

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Ἔσπερε, τᾶς ἐρατᾶς χρύσειον φάος Ἄφρογενείας,
Ἔσπερε, κυανέας ἱερόν, φίλε, νυκτὸς ἄγαλμα,
τόσσον ἀφαιρότερος μήνας ὅσον ἕξοχος ἄστρον,
χαῖρε, φίλος, καί μοι ποτὶ ποιμένα κῶμον ἄγοντι
5 ἀντὶ σελαναΐας τὸ δίδου φάος, ὦνεκα τήνα,
σάμερον ἀρχομένα, τάχιον δύνειν. οὐκ ἐπὶ φωρὰν
ἔρχομαι οὐδ' ἵνα νυκτὸς ὁδοιπορέοντας ἐνοχλέω,
ἀλλ' ἐράω· καλὸν δέ γ' ἐρασσαμένῳ συναρέσθαι.

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¹This poem is written in the **Bucolic Doric** dialect. Ἔσπερος Hesperus, the evening star. τᾶς = τῆς. ἐρατός ἢ ὄν gen.sg.f. lovely, pleasing. χρύσειος αὐτὸν (ῶ) golden. φάος τό light. Ἄφρογένεια ἡ gen.sg. foam-born, an epithet of Aphrodite.

²κυανέας αὐτὸν dark-blue; dark, black; with νυκτὸς. ἱερός ἁ ὄν holy, sacred; with ἄγαλμα. ἄγαλμα τό glory, honor; statue in honor of a god.

³τόσσον... ὅσον... supple εἶ with each. ἀφαιρός ἁ ὄν feeble; dim. μήνας = μήνης = μήνη ἡ moon. ἕξοχος ὄν prominent; standing out among + gen. ἄστρον τό star.

⁴ποτὶ = πρὸς. ποιμὴν ἑνὸς ὁ shepherd, herdsman. κῶμος ὁ revel, merry-making; band of revelers; an ode sung at such an occasion. ἄγοντι pres.act.part. dat.sg.m. of ἄγω, agreeing with μοί.

⁵σεληναΐη ἡ Epic = σελήνη moon, here Doricized. τὴν = σύ. δίδωμι pres.act.imp. 2sg. give. ὦνεκα = οὖνεκα because. τήνᾱ = ἐκείνη, i.e., the moon.

⁶σάμερον = σήμερον today. ἀρχομένᾱ = ἀρχομένη. τάχιον adverbial comparative of ταχύς εἶα ὡς fast. δύνειν = δύειν, of celestial objects, to set. φωρὰ ἡ theft.

⁷ὁδοιπορέω walk, travel. ἐνοχλέω trouble, annoy, be a nuisance.

⁸ἐράω love ἐρασσαμένῳ Epic aorist participle, probably best taken in an inchoative sense, "to one who has fallen in love." συν-αίρω aor.mid.inf. take up, gather; mid. take part in; cooperate with, help + dat.