

Menander: Fragment 614

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Menander (c. 342–291 B.C.), athenian dramatist, was the greatest representative of the New Comedy. Out of more than one hundred plays he wrote, only one survives in its entirety. This fragment comes from an unknown play.<sup>2</sup>

ὁ μὲν Ἐπίχαρμος τοὺς θεοὺς εἶναι λέγει  
ἀνέμους, ὕδωρ, γῆν, ἥλιον, πῦρ, ἀστέρας.  
ἐγὼ δ' ὑπέλαβον χρησίμους εἶναι θεοὺς  
τὰργύριον ἡμῖν καὶ τὸ χρυσίον [μόνους].  
5 ἰδρυσάμενος τούτους γὰρ εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν,  
εἶδ' αἰ τί βούλει· πάντα σοι γενήσεται,  
ἀγρός, οἰκίαι, θεράποντες, ἀργυρώματα,  
φίλοι, δικασταί, μάρτυρες. μόνον δίδου·  
αὐτοὺς γὰρ ἔξεις τοὺς θεοὺς ὑπηρέτας.

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<sup>2</sup>*Menandri quae supersunt*, vol. 2, 2nd ed., Ed. A. Körte *et al.* Leipzig: Teubner, 1959.

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<sup>1</sup>*Ἐπίχαρμος* ὁ Epicharmus, comedy writer and philosopher. According to tradition, he was born in Kos and lived between 540 and 450 B.C. θεός οὐ ὁ, ἡ god. λέγω pres. 3pl. say.

<sup>2</sup>ἄνεμος οὐ ὁ wind. ὕδωρ δατος τό water. γῆ γῆς ἡ earth. ἥλιος οὐ ὁ sun. πῦρ πυρός τό fire. ἀστήρ ἔρος ὁ star.

<sup>3</sup>ὑπολαμβάνω aor. act. 1sg. believe, suspect; understand. χρήσιμος οὐ οἱ οἱ ἡ οὐν useful, advantageous.

<sup>4</sup>τὰργύριον = τὸ ἀργύριον silver. ἡμεῖς dat. we. χρυσίον οὐ τό gold. μόνος ἡ οὐν only; alone

<sup>5</sup>ἰδρύνω mid. aor. part. nom. m. sg. to make to sit down; establish (persons in a place); dedicate (a temple) εἰς into + acc. οἰκία ας ἡ house, home.

<sup>6</sup>εὔχομαι mid. aor. imper. 2sg. pray, ask τίς τί int. pron. what? βούλομαι mid. pres. ind. 2sg. want, wish. πᾶς πᾶσα πᾶν nom. n. pl. every. σύ encl. dat. you. γίγνομαι mid. fut. 3sg. be born, come into being.

<sup>7</sup>ἀγρός οὐ ὁ field. οἰκία ας ἡ house, home. θεράπων οντος ὁ servant. ἀργυρώματα τό silver plate.

<sup>8</sup>φίλος οὐ ὁ friend. δικαστής οὐ ὁ juror. μάρτυς τυπος ὁ witness. μόνον adv. only. δίδωμι pres. imper. 2sg. give.

<sup>9</sup>αὐτός ἡ ὁ self, lat. ipse. ἔχω fut. 2<sup>nd</sup>s. have. ὑπηρέτης οὐ ὁ servant, assistant.