

Mimnermus 12: The Toils of the Sun

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ἥελιος μὲν γὰρ ἔλαχεν πόνον ἥματα πάντα,
οὐδέ κοτ' ἄμπαυσις γίγνεται οὐδεμία
ἵπποισιν τε καὶ αὐτῷ, ἐπεὶ ῥοδοδάκτυλος Ἥως
Ἶκεανὸν προλιποῦσ' οὐρανὸν εἰσαναβῆ·
5 τὸν μὲν γὰρ διὰ κῦμα φέρει πολυήρατος εὐνή
κοῖλλη, Ἡφαίστου χερσὶν ἐληλαμένη
χρυσοῦ τιμήεντος, ὑπόπτερος, ἄκρον ἐφ' ὕδωρ

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¹γὰρ ἔλαχεν πόνον West, mss. γὰρ πόνον ἔλλαχεν Hermann.

¹ἥελιος ὁ sun. λαγχάνω λήχομαι ἔλαχον obtain by lot, win for oneself; of divine duties be assigned + acc. or gen. πόνος ὁ labor, toil, work; trouble, hardship, suffering. ἥμαρ ἡματος τό (Epic) day.

²κοτ' = ποτε. ἄμπαυσις = ἀνάπαυσις εως ἢ rest, relaxation. οὐδεὶς οὐδεμία οὐδέν not one, no, none.

³ἵππος ὁ, ἡ Epic dat.pl. horse, mare. ἵπποισιν τε καὶ αὐτῷ — datives of interest. ῥοδοδάκτυλος ὄν rosy-fingered, a common Homeric epithet of the dawn. ἥως ἡοῦς ἡ dawn.

⁴Ἶκεανός ὁ Ocean, son of Uranus and Gaia, a great sea or river which encircles the earth. προ-λείπω aor.act.part. nom.sg.f. leave; forsake, abandon. οὐρανός ὁ heaven, sky. εἰσ-αναβαίνω aor.act. subj.3sg. go up into; subj. with ἐπεὶ a general temporal clause, omitting ἄν, as often in Epic.

⁵τόν = αὐτόν, i.e., the sun. κῦμα κύματος τό wave; surge. πολυήρατος ὄν much loved, very lovely. εὐνή ἡ bed.

⁶κοῖλος = κοῖλος ἡ ὄν hollow, curved, concave, sunken. Ἡφαίστος ὁ Hephaestus, the divine smith and craftsman. χεῖρ χειρός ἡ dat.pl. hand; arm; dat. of instrument. ἐλαύνω ἐλῶ ἤλασα pf.mid. ἐλήλαμαι pf.mid.part. nom.sg.f. drive, march; strike; of metal, beat out, forge; agreeing with 1.5 εὐνή.

⁷χρῦσός ὁ gold; gen. of material. τιμήεις εσσα ἐν gen.sg.m. honored; prized, expensive. ὑπόπτερος ὄν winged. ἄκρος α ὄν extreme, at the furthest point; highest; at the surface of; with ὕδωρ. ἐπί + acc. upon.

εὔδονθ' ἀρπαλέως χώρου ἀφ' Ἑσπερίδων
γαῖαν ἐς Αἰθιοπῶν, ἵνα δὴ θοὸν ἄρμα καὶ ἵπποι
10 ἐστᾶσ', ὄφρ' Ἡὼς ἠριγένεια μόλη·
ἔνθ' ἐπέβη ἐτέρων ὀχέων Ὑπερίονος υἱός.

¹¹ἐπέβη ἐτέρων mss. ἐπεβήσεθ' ἑῶν em. Schneidewin.

⁸εὔδω pres.act.part. acc.sg.m. (εὔδοντα) *sleep*; agreeing with 1.5 τόν — φέρει is still the main verb. ἀρπαλέως α ον adv. *greedy; eager, glad*. χώρος ὁ *ground; place; land, country*. i.e. ἀπὸ χώρου Ἑσπερίδων. Ἑσπερίδες αἱ *the Hesperides*, daughters of Night who live on an island at the western edge of the world.

⁹γαῖα ἡ *earth*. i.e. ἐς γαῖαν Αἰθιοπῶν. Αἰθίοψ οπος ὁ *Ethiopian*, sometimes thought to live separated in two groups, each at the far edge of the earth where the sun rose and set. ἵνα here rel. *where*. θοός ἡ ὄν *swift*. ἄρμα τό *chariot*.

¹⁰ἴστημι perf.act.3pl. *stand*; 2aor. and perf. intransitive. ὄφρα Epic *so that; until, while*. ἠριγένεια ἡ *early-born*, another epithet of Dawn. βλώσκω μολοῦμαι ἔμολον subj. aor.act.3sg. Epic, Doric *go, come*.

¹¹ἐνθα *there*; as rel. *where; when*. ἐπι-βαίνω aor.act.3sg. *step upon, walk (up)on*; of a ship or other vehicle, *get on, board* + gen. or dat. ἕτερος α ον *one/another of two; another*. ὄχρα τά *chariots*; pl. form may also be used of a single chariot, as here. Ὑπερίων ονος ὁ (ἴ) *Hyperion*, a Titan, once the sun himself, usually the father of Helios later.