Mimnermus 2

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ἡμεῖς δ', οἷά τε φύλλα φύει πολυάνθεμος ὥρη
ἔ͜αρος, ὅτ' αἶψ' αὐγῇς αὔξεται ἠελίου,
τοῖς ἴκελοι πήχυιον ἐπὶ χρόνον ἄνθεσιν ἥβης
τερπόμεθα, πρὸς θε͜ῶν εἰδότες οὔτε κακόν
οὔτ' ἀγαθόν· Κῆρες δὲ παρεστήκασι μέλαιναι,
ἡ μὲν ἔχουσα τέλος γήραος ἀργαλέου,
ἡ δ' ἑτέρη θανάτοιο· μίνυνθα δὲ γίγνεται ἥβης
καρπός, ὅσον τ' ἐπὶ γῆν κίδναται ἠέλιος.

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[1]**οἷος η ον** correlative with l.3 τοῖς; *such (as), just as, of what sort.* **τέ** the "Epic τε," giving a typical, habitual or general statement, especially in relative clauses; also in lines 8, 13. **φύλλον τό** *leaf.* **φύω** *produce, bring forth, make grow;* **πολυάνθεμος ον** *having many flowers.* **ὥρη ἡ** *time, period; season, hour; right time; fruit, produce.*

[2]**ἔαρ ἔαρος τό** *spring.* **αἶψα** *at once, quickly, soon.* **αὐγή ἡ** dat.pl. *ray, beam of light; light.* **αὔξω** *increase, grow, strengthen* (transitive); passive, *grow up, increase;* subject φύλλα, n.pl. noun with sg. verb, Smyth §958. **ἠέλιος ὁ** *sun.*

[3]**τοῖς** = τούτοις (common Epic usage). **ἴκελος η ον** = **εἴκελος** *resembling, like* + dat. **πήχυιος α ον** *a cubit long.* **ἐπί** + acc., of time, *for, during.* **χρόνος ὁ** *time; duration, period;* acc. of extent of time. **ἄνθος τό** *flower;* dat. depends on l.4 τερπόμεθα. **ἥβη ἡ** *(prime of) youth.*

[4]**τέρπομαι** *rejoice, delight it* + dat. **πρός** + gen. *from.* **οἶδα εἴσομαι ᾔδεα** perf.act.part. nom.pl.m. *know.*

[5]**Κήρ Κηρός ἡ** *fate; (goddess of) death.* **παρ-ίστημι** perf.act.3pl. (-ᾱσι) *place beside, set near;* intr. *stand beside, be at hand.* **μέλᾱς μέλαινα μέλαν** *black; dark.*

[6]**τέλος τό** *result, outcome, completion, end.* **γῆρας τό** gen.sg. *old age.* **ἀργαλέος η ον** *painful, troublesome.*

[7]**ἕτερος η ον** *one/another of two; another.* **θάνατος ὁ** *death;* gen. still depending on l.6 τέλος. **μίνυνθα** adv. *for a short time.* γίγνεται here in the sense "turns out to be." **ἥβη ἡ** *(prime of) youth.*

[8]**καρπός ὁ** *fruit, produce; profit, reward.* ὅσον here temporal, reflecting l.7 μίνυνθα, "as briefly as." **ἐπι-κίδνημι** pres.pass.3sg. *spread over.* **ἠέλιος ὁ** = ἥλιος *sun.* ὅσον ... ἠέλιος: Campbell takes this phrase to mean "as brief as a sunrise."

αὐτὰρ ἐπὴν δὴ τοῦτο τέλος παραμείψεται ὥρης,
    αὐτίκα δὴ τεθνάναι βέλτιον ἢ βίοτος·
πολλὰ γὰρ ἐν θυμῷ κακὰ γίγνεται· ἄλλοτε οἶκος
    τρυχοῦται, πενίης δ’ ἔργ’ ὀδυνηρὰ πέλει·
ἄλλος δ’ αὖ παίδων ἐπιδεύεται, ὧν τε μάλιστα
    ἱμείρων κατὰ γῆς ἔρχεται εἰς Ἀΐδην·
ἄλλος νοῦσον ἔχει θυμοφθόρον· οὐδέ τίς ἐστιν
    ἀνθρώπων ᾧ Ζεὺς μὴ κακὰ πολλὰ διδοῖ.

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[9]**αὐτάρ** *but, yet; moreover.* **ἐπήν** = ἐπεὶ ἄν. τοῦτο τέλος ... ὥρης *i.e.,* ll. 7–8, the span of youth. Here M. is using τέλος with yet another sense, "age, degree of maturity." **παρ-αμείβω** *change;* mid. *pass by, run through, outrun;* Epic short-vowel aorist subjunctive

[10]**αὐτίκα** *immediately, at once.* **θνήσκω ἔθανον τέθνηκα** Epic perf.act.inf. *die; be killed;* perf. *be dead;* complementing βέλτιον. **βελτίων βέλτιον** (comp. of ἀγαθός) *better.* **ἤ** *than.* **βίοτος ὁ** *life; duration of one's life; means of living.*

[11]**θῡμός ὁ** *spirit, soul, heart, courage.* **ἄλλοτε** *at another time.* **οἶκος ὁ** *house, home; household, estate.*

[12]**τρῡχόω** *wear out, waste, consume.* **πενίη ἡ** *poverty.* **ὀδυνηρός ά όν** *painful; distressing.* **πέλω** *become, be.*

[13]**αὖ** *again;* often with δέ, *on the other hand, in turn.* **ἐπι-δεύομαι** *be in want of, lack* + gen. **ὧν** relative, depending on l.14 ἱμείρω.

[14]**ἱμείρω** (ῑ) *long for, wish* + gen. **κατά** + gen. *down (under).* **Ἀΐδης -ᾱο/-εω ὁ** *Hades,* god or place.

[15]**νοῦσος ου ἡ** (= νόσος) *sickness, disease; anguish, distress.* **θῡμοφθόρος ον** *life-destroying, fatal; heart-breaking.*

[16]**μή** with indef. antecedent (τις) relative takes μή (Smyth §2506). **δίδωμι** *give;* here an Epic/Ionic 3sg. pres. indic. form, as though from διδόω.