Two Notes on the Agamemnon

W. M. Calder

The Classical Review / Volume 36 / Issue 7-8 / November 1922, pp 163 - 163
DOI: 10.1017/S0009840X00017030, Published online: 27 October 2009

Link to this article: http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0009840X00017030

How to cite this article:
doi:10.1017/S0009840X00017030

Request Permissions: Click here
TWO NOTES ON THE AGAMEMNON.

1. II. 494-5:

When a Greek runs, he sweats, and is quite frank about it. Walter Headlam has shown that the dust [on the herald's body] is a stock indication of speed, and quotes Lucian I. 623: 'ος ἄνδρας δε τον ἥραν ἀόρω φθείραν καὶ τῷ πόδε κεκομέναν καὶ πνεύματα; σμέους γούν ἀσμάτως ἀνύ το στόμα. τὶ ταῦτα, ὑ ῥρήνῃ, ἡ σουδή; the same passage gives a hint of the indication of speed, and quotes Lucian I. 623: 'ος ἄνδρας δε τον ἥραν ἀόρω φθείραν καὶ τῷ πόδε κεκομέναν καὶ πνεύματα; σμέους γούν ἀσμάτως ἀνύ το στόμα. τὶ ταῦτα, ὑ ῥρήνῃ, ἡ σουδή; the same passage gives a hint of the meaning of μιξόω

2. I. 1655. A suggestion communicated to me by the late F. W. Haskins of Trinity College, Cambridge, deserves record. After all the bloodletting in the play, the MS. omissus, understanding even on the lips of Clytaemnestra. Haskins proposed ΜΗΑΕΝΑΑΛΑΤΩΜΕΟΑ, understanding that ἀματεῖα was an attempt at correction after the two lambdas had coalesced into Μ. W. M. CALDER.

ARISTOPHANES, ECCLES. 61-2.

1. Post alterum καὶ articulus τῶν neglegentiust est omissus,—van Leeuwen. But the omission of the article in such cases is a common negligence. What is peculiar here is the position of τώ. If the passages adduced by Blaydes are examined, it will be seen that they are of two kinds: (1) e.g. Lucian, D.D. 20. 12 τῶν Φρυγιάν τε καὶ Λυδίαν, Ἅγν. 31 τὸ ἐν ταῖς πραγματίδιαι τε καὶ κωμῳδίαις λεγόμενον, Plat. Lyss. 2006 ἐν τοῖς παισί καὶ νεακίοις; and (2) Plat. Aphi. 196 ζητήτω τὰ τὸ ὑπὸ χής καὶ οὐράνια, Aeschin. c. Cles. 91 γηγορίαν δυναμεῦ... τῷ Φηλίκτου καὶ Θηβαίων. In the first class the two things are combined to form one concept ('the country comprising Phrygia and Lydia,' 'the theatre,' etc.), in the second they are kept distinct. It is the position of τέ which makes the difference. Aeschines could not have said η Ἐ. τε καὶ Θ.; and so Plat. Lyss. 2006 ἀναμεμελημένοιν ἐν ταῖς εἰσίν οἱ το νεακίοι καὶ οἱ παιδέ, though doubtless the repetition of the article here helps the distinction. Similarly Sophocles could say, El. 991, καὶ τῷ λέγεις καὶ εὐλογεῖς σίμχαμοι, but not τῷ λ. τα καὶ ελ. In Thuc. VII. 56. 4 τού στείρατον δύλου του ἐν τῷ πόλεμῳ πρὸς τὴν Ἀθηναίων τε πόλιν καὶ Δακεδαμοῦνων (ἐξελεύθοντο), the position of πόλεων justifies the singular, while the position of τῶ shows that Athens and Sparta are to be regarded as forming one concept—the protagonists of the Peloponnesian war.

In this passage of the Ecclesiasteikos, if the two women are seen separately, one expects τὴν τῆν Φ. καὶ Χ. or καὶ τῆν Φ. καὶ Χ.; if together—say approaching arm in arm—to Φ. τη καὶ Χ. Hence Meineke's conjecture γε (adopted by van Leeuwen). But it would perhaps be a neater conjecture to read προσώπους in l. 52, and to suppose only one woman is seen. A joke has been made at the expense of the last two women who have entered the scene, and another will not be out of place. We may imagine a well-known rumour of a ménage à trois or a single act of adultery condoned.

A. W. GOMME.

EURIPIDES' HELENA.

122. αὐτὸς γάρ λογος εἰσόομεν καὶ νοῦς ὁρᾷ. ? δενος εἰσόομεν, ἦ τινι σ' ὀρκ. ὁρᾷ would assist the corruption of ὄνο το νοῦ, with consequent substitution of καὶ for ἀ.

284. το τοῦ λοίτος δὲ λεγόμενον Διοσκόρο . . . ? διονυσία: the name would naturally arise in the copyist's mind. Cf. 1643, 1664.

296-7. ἄλλα ἦν πούς πικρά | ζοῦσσαν καὶ το σαμύ έτείνειν πικρόν. ? καὶ το εὖ εὔνα πικρόν: 'Living with a man one hates makes security itself hateful,' ΟΝ misread as ΟΙΝ would lead to τονε for εὔνα.

302. συμερόν δ' ο καρδίς ἀπαλλάξει βλω. ? καρή δ' ο καρδίς ἀπαλλάξει βλω. : 'Ripe of a truth is the opportunity to be rid of life: such is the depth of woes whereinto we are fallen.' For ἀρα cf. Phoen. 1675, Andromache 1114, Soph. Ait. 738.

305-6. τάλαθη φρόνοι ἔχου ό εκοίτι τοδε, τί βλέπεις πρόσω; ? ή 'χονοι . . . ' She can tell thee the truth,' etc.

364-5. παλο δ' εάκερνο, ἡκε τ' ἡκει, δέκαρο δέκαρον δὲ θαλα πάθεα. ? κρέας κρέας, διά βλάβεα, τάδε: διά βλάβεα (from 364) being the intermediate stage of corruption.

389. ἐν θεοὶ λιτηνεί βλω. ἐν θεοὶ looks like a corruption due somehow to έν θεοί in 388. ? άθεοι λ. β.: cf. πόρον γενόμαι, 390.

607. λυσάς σεμόν Âτρον οδ φ' ἐκαύσειες. But the cave was not sacred, for all we are told, εν θεοι, an error of assimilated terminations.

618. ἕτε δ' τί μ' οδ γνώσετ' δι (ο γνώσεται δι) εύγ' έγώ, MSS. ? ἕτε δ' τί; τοί γνώσεται δ' (or perhaps μ') κ.τ.λ. πού' = 'how': Ἰρα. Άυλ. 406, Orest. 802. Deferred δε has caused trouble in 880, 1125, and 1150 in this play.

936. καὶ μὲθαρκὸς δ' εν τῷ πορεί κατασφάγι . . . ? κατασφάγι: ΗΑΒΗ misread as ΦΑΘΗ.


1051. ελ δ' κερδαί λέγειν. Σταύροι εύμ μ' βαριάν λέγω θανάτ. ? κερδαι λέγειν: 'If the report shall reap any profit.' For substantival infinitive without article, cf. A lect. 782, Aesch. Ag. 594, Goodwin M.T. 745: corruption through misunderstood construction and assimilation to εύμ in next line.