The Proximal Deictic Pronoun ὅδε

πέλας γάρ πάν ὅ τι σπουδάζεται.
‘For close by is everything that is being zealously pursued’.

Euripides, Supplices 761

5.1 Introduction

The present chapter concentrates on a second device that may be employed by the interlocutors of narrative stichomythia for the presentation of their story: the proximal deictic pronoun ὅδε. Before proceeding to a discussion of the use of this specific pronoun, it will be useful by way of introduction to dwell briefly on the ancient Greek demonstrative pronoun system in general. This system is tripartite and has traditionally been held to correspond to deictic contrasts in place related to the three grammatical persons and personal pronouns: the demonstrative pronoun ὅδε, ἥδε, τόδε marks first person-deixis and refers to things close to the speaker; οὗτος, αὕτη, τοῦτο marks second person-deixis and refers to things close to the hearer; and ἐκεῖνος, ἐκείνη, ἐκεῖνο marks third person-deixis and refers to things distant from both speaker and hearer. A further distinction is made between anaphoric οὗτος, referring back to preceding text, versus cataphoric ὅδε, referring forward to text that is yet to come.

Modern evaluations of the ancient Greek demonstrative pronoun system shift the emphasis to distance. Biraud believes that ὅδε, ἥδε, τόδε entails prox-
imity, ὅτος, αὐτή, τοῦτο is neutral, and ἔκεινος, ἔκεινη, ἔκεινο denotes distance.\(^7\) Ledesma considers both ὅδε, ἥδε, τόδε and ὅτος, αὐτή, τοῦτο to imply proximity, while ἔκεινος, ἔκεινη, ἔκεινο entails distance.\(^8\) Martín-López agrees with Ledesma, but distinguishes between deictic ὅδε, ἥδε, τόδε and anaphoric ὅτος, αὐτή, τοῦτο.\(^9\) Manolessou subscribes to the view of Martín-López and supports it with textual evidence.\(^10\) However, Parenti points out that ὅτος, αὐτή, τοῦτο is not exclusively used in anaphoric contexts,\(^11\) and I would add that nor is ὅδε, ἥδε, τόδε exclusively used in purely deictic contexts.\(^12\)

Kühner-Gerth already noted that ὅδε may occur in unexpected places. This proximal deictic pronoun, which they associate with the proximity of the first person, can be used in contexts where the more distant second or even third person features:

So kann ferner ὅδε von Gegenständen gebraucht werden, die sich räumlich auf die zweite oder dritte Person beziehen und daher dem Bereiche des Redenden ferner stehen, die aber der Redende in lebhafter Auffassungsweise in seine unmittelbare Sphäre herüberzieht und als seine eigene Person berührend anschaut ... Auch können beide Pronomen: ὅδε und ὅτος auf einen und denselben Gegenstand hindeuten, ὅδε denselben emphatisch vergegenwärtigend, ὅτος auf denselben bloß hinweisend.\(^13\)

\(^7\) Biraud (1981).
\(^8\) Ledesma (1987).
\(^9\) Martín-López (1994).
\(^10\) Manolessou (2000) 132–136. Examples include the teichoskopia in Il. 3.163ff. as discussed by Martín-López (1994); the use of ὅδε in the second book of Thucydides as analyzed by Díaz-Tejera (1972); the deictic use of ὅδε in tragedy (cf. Taplin (1989) 150–151 + references, Moorhouse (1982) 154, and Kg 1, 641); the absence of deictic ὅτος and presence of deictic ὅδε with expressions of time in Homer as discussed by Magnien (1922) 167; the deictic function of ὅδε in inscriptions as discussed by Lejeune (1943); the use of ὅτος to refer to someone famous, and its pejorative nuance (cf. Cooper 1998: 522); the origin of ὅτος from ὁ + αὐτός; Homeric formulas.
\(^12\) Manolessou (2000) 136 covers herself against objections like these by arguing for a more 'extended' notion of deixis versus anaphora, based on the notion of 'presence or givenness in context': 'Deixis entails "non-givenness" in the context, which therefore requires (gestural) ostension and precise local specification, and also includes cataphora. Anaphora, on the other hand, entails "givenness", and presupposes presence either in the linguistic (more often) or in the extralinguistic context.'
\(^13\) Kg 1, 644. my italics.