CHAPTER THIRTY-SEVEN

EURIPIDES, BACCHAE 402–331

The second pair of stanzas in the First Stasimon of Bacchae (370 ff. Ὄσια πότνα θεῶν ...) contains some notorious cruces and other features meriting further discussion. I begin with the strophe: ‡

402–16

ικοίμοις ποτὶ Κύπρον,
νάσων τὰς Αφροδίτας,
τίνος ἥξισσεν νέμον-
ταυ θυάτοις Ἐρότες 405
‡Πάφον θ' ἀντ ἕκατόστοιμοι
βαρβάρον ποταμοῦ ῥοῖαι
καρπίζουσιν ἄνομβροι;
οὐ δ' ἀ καλλικτευμένα
Πιερία μούσειος ἔδρα,
σεμνὰ κλειτῶ Ὀλύμπου,
ἐκεῖς ἄγε με, Βρόμιε Βρόμιε,
προβακχητε δαίμον;
ἐκεὶ Χάριτες, ἐκεὶ δὲ Πόθος,
ἐκεὶ δὲ βάκχαις θέμεις ὀργίαζειν· 415

The stanza is bipartite (likewise the antistrophe), with tripartite subsections. In detail, we have distich—distich—tristich, followed chiastically by tristich—distich—distich, as follows:

1–7. "ph (∥) ph || "gl∥ ph || ? | gl | ph ||²

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1 Mnemosyne 57 (2004) 64–79 (see p. 504 n. 1 above). The problems in these stanzas were touched on in a previous article (CQ 16 (1966), 220–42), much of which has not stood the test of time. I am doubly indebted to Professor Diggle, first as editor of the current Oxford Text, and secondly for his constructive comments on an earlier draft of this article. I am likewise doubly indebted to Professor Rijksbaron, as author of Grammatical Observations on Euripides’ Bacchae (Amsterdam 1991) and as the contributor in correspondence of several valuable suggestions. I inevitably disagree with either Diggle or Rijksbaron where they differ, and occasionally I find myself in (partial) disagreement with both.

2 The opening pheroracitean may also be a self-contained short period, but there is no clear breach of synapheia. "gl, "ph and "wil are convenient notations for forms of
8–14. wil | wil | ph || ia : ia | ἐ / ph || ia : ia | ia ch ba ||

A straightforward pattern, whether the fifth verse (406/421) is ἐ gl (again) or ω ω ω ω — with LP’s ἵ κ ἄ δ’ ἔκ … in the antistrophe.\(^4\)

Two or more pherecratesans followed by a priapean dicolon (glyconic plus pherecratean, often with word-overlap) constitute a standard song-pattern: cf. Herc. 359–63/375–9, 389–93/403–7, 419–24/436–41, A. Ag. 381–4/399–402, etc. There is a clear syntactical pause in the antistrophe at the metrical period-end after this opening quatrain; a feature at issue in the strophe, where the syntactical relationship between ἵ κα … νέμονται and ἴ Πάφον θ’ ἄν† … is controversial, along with the controversial sense and uncertain metre.

402–3. 402 is transmitted as a glyconic (ἵ κοίμμαν ποτί τῶν Κύρρων); but Elmsley’s reduction of τῶν Κύρρων to Κύρρων is certainly right, restoring responsion with 416 ὁ διάμων ὁ Δίος παῖς.\(^5\)

In 403 Dodds commended Petersen’s τῶν for τῶς; cf. Hermann’s τῶν for τῶς at A. Supp. 554–5 τῶν Ἀφροδίτας πολύπυρον αἴαν. But τῶς is probably the truth here, cf. I. A. 181 δῶρων τῶς Ἀφροδίτας.\(^6\) There could well, however, have been a variant τῶν (superscribed?), accounting for the intrusive τῶς in the previous line.

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\(\text{gl, ph and wil beginning with ω — ...; cf. my note on S. Ant. 100–9/117–26 (p. 348 above). Such forms, viewable as ‘anacolitic’, always follow a full word-division, and are commonly initial in a sequence; Buijs (1985), 74 ff.}\)

\(\text{3 For the shift to wilamowitzian cola, cf. Ant. 106–8/123–5 (p. 348 above). The ending may equally well be lineated as 3ia + ar (as Diggle; cf. n. 32 below). That the stanza ends thus with a five-metron sequence (ar = ch ba), with βάκχ-χαιτις, rather than with 3ia + hag (− − − ω − − − − − − −), with βάκχ-χαιτις, will be confirmed by the discussion of 430–3 below. 3ia + − − ω − − − −, with βάκχαιτις (accepted by Roux and others), is more certainly impossible, with the split resolution following long ances at βάκχ-χαιτις θέμις.}\)

\(\text{4 Neither can be rejected, a priori. For the latter (my ‘T’), a colon frequent in Euripides with variously enoplian and aeolic affiliations, cf. especially Hec. 905/914 and 910/919 (T | e – D – | ... || T | gl | ... ||), Ion 458/478, Hel. 1113/1128, 1332, 1342/1358, and further in n. 7 below.}\)

\(\text{5 There is nothing to be said (pace Dodds) for the scansion ... ὁ Δίος παίς suggested by Matthiae and again by Maas. As well as pointing out the lack of parallel in tragedy for this scansion of παίς, Dodds might have cited the similar phrase Ἔρως ὁ Δίος παίς (certainly ... ω ω ω ω ...) at Hipp. 532.}\)

\(\text{6 Professor Rijksbaron persuades me that the phrase-pattern νάκον τῶν Ἀφροδίτας is actually abnormal for a noun with gen. dei (comparing Hipp. 31, Andr. 1095, Hel. 1466, Pho. 35 with no articles, and Tro. 253, Cyc. 579, Herc. 1268, Hel. 284, 1527, S. Phil. 802 with two articles). He also observes that Aphrodite and Dionysus have the definite article more often than other gods.}\)