NOTES ON THE PARODOS AND OTHER
CANTICA OF EURIPIDES’ CYCLOPS

BY

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The satyrs and attendants herding the Cyclops’ sheep enter with a strophe (41-8) composed entirely of wil or _wil_ cola (including some dicola), all (–) × × × × × × ×, mostly with at least the first anapest long. The period-structure is symmetrically 3 2 3.

ΧΟΠΟϹ

ποὶ γενναίων μὲν πατέρων
γενναίων δ’ ἐκ τοκάδων,
παὶ δὴ μοι νύιη σκοπέλους;
οὐ ταῦτ’ ὑπήνεμοι αὐ-
λά καὶ ποιηρά βοτάνα;
δινάειν δ’ ὑδόρ ροταμών
ἐν πιτραίας κεῖται πέλας ἄν-
τρων, οὐ̃̃̃̃̃̃̃̃οι βλακχαὶ τεκέων.

41 ποὶ Dindorf: πῆ δὴ μοι L (cf. 43) 42 δ’ Dindorf: τ’ L 44 αὐλά
Musgrave: ὀφρα L 46 δ’ Wecklein: θ’ L 48 οὐ̃̃̃̃̃̃̃̃οι Casaubon: οὐ̃̃̃̃̃̃̃̃Τ̃̃̃̃̃̃̃̃ (.’ L)

1) Cf. R. A. S. Seaford (ed.), _The Cyclops of Euripides_ (Oxford 1984), and previously _The Date of Cyclops_, JHS 102 (1982), 161-72; also A. Meriani in _La colome-tria antica dei testi poetici greci_ (ed. B. Gentili and F. Perusino, Pisa-Roma 1999), 157-68. I have benefited from discussion and correspondence with Prof. D. Kovacs, and he in turn has acknowledged such contact in his Loeb (1994) and _Euripidea_ (Brill 1994). I am grateful also for sundry suggestions and caveats from Dr (now Professor) A. Rijksbaron.


3) The dicola 44-5/58-9 and 47-8/61-2 are respectively _wil_ × _wil_ with symmetrical overlap, and _wil_ × _wil_ with overlap only in str. Word-overlap is certain at 47-8 (in response with 61-2); but 44-5/58-9 may alternatively be divided (as in L) at word-end after the eighth syllable, i.e. after _hag_ followed by _wil_ again, provided that the second colon is indented to show its continuity. Arguably the first two verses also constitute a dicolon ( _wil_ + _wil_); but the antistrophe begins rather with _wil_ × _wil_ × _wil_ || . . .
The ‘nobly-born’ animal thus initially addressed is doubtless to be recognised as the ram famous from Book 9 of the Odyssey (accustomed to take the lead, Od. 9. 451). At 43 he appears to be heading towards high ground (the auditorium?) rather than the grassy area indicated by gesture (τῶιδ’) in front of the κηνή, the open doorway in which serves as the entrance to the Cyclops’ cave.

In 44 Seaford defends αὖρα against Musgrave’s ‘tempting’ αὐλά, arguing that ‘gentle breeze’ and ‘grassy pasture’ associate well as features of the locus amoenus adjacent to the cave. But can ὑπήνεμος, properly ‘sheltered from the wind’, mean ‘gentle’ as applied to a ‘breeze’?5) αὖλα is surely right (an easy change),5) here in the natural sense ‘sheepfold’ (as Il. 4. 433, etc.; LSJ αὐλῆ I. 1), whereas εἰς αὐλάν at 60 below implies ‘into the cave’ (LSJ αὐλή III, cf. S. Phil. 153, etc.), to be entered ‘after leaving the grassy νομοί’. The exact sense of αὐλή is commonly determined by the context in which it is used. For reference to the αὐλή on the lips of entering choruses cf. El. 168 ποτὶ καὶ ἀγρότειρων αὐλάν, I.T. 121 πρὸς καὶ αὐλάν, Hec. 172 πρὸς τάνδ’ αὐλάν and my conjecture <αὐλάθεν> at Hel. 186 (CQ 40 (1990), 93-4; cf. also Pho. 1536, Or. 1257, Ba. 630).

In 46-8 a descriptive statement, with another routine correction of τε to δὲ (cf. Diggle, Studies 59 and Euripidea 91), is more natural than a continuation of the question. The water-troughs are presumably visible near the cave (cf. 29-30). The stanza ends with the first of two mentions of βλαχαί ‘bleatings’ of unseen lambs within the cave (cf. 59). The noisy approach of the herdsmen (cf. 37-40) will have aroused these ‘day-resting’ lambs (56) so as to react with the sounds thus drawn to our attention (whether actually heard or to be imagined).

4) Seaford accepts that no support is to be looked for in the passages adduced by Kassel in Maia 25 (1973), 100. In S. Τρ. 956 the αὖρα is properly ἀνεμόεσσα ‘windy’ (for sailing). Hel. 1455 is irrelevant if the correct reading is ὅταν αὐράν πέλαγος ἀνήνεμον ἢ (so Diggle), and Alc. 319 L-P βλῆρον ἀνέμων ἀχέμαντις πνοαὶ merely serves to confirm that for the sense postulated we need ἀνήνεμος αὖρα, not ὑπ.-

5) On the common confusion of λ and ρ see J. Diggle, Euripidea (Oxford 1994), 469. The error here will doubtless have been encouraged by the adjacent ‘wind’ word.