The Syntax of Pi. I. 3/4.9-13

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ἔστι δὲ καὶ διδύμων άθλων Μελίσσῳ
10 μοῖρα πρὸς εὐφροσύναν τρέψαι γλυκεῖαν
ήτορ, ἐν βάσσαισιν Ἰσθμοῦ
δεξαμένῳ στεφάνους, τὰ δὲ κοίλᾳ λέοντος
ἐν βαθυστέρνου νάπᾳ κάρυξε Θήβαν
—
ἱπποδρομίᾳ κρατέων. (Pi. I. 3/4.9-13)

Melissos has the good fortune of twin prizes to turn his heart to sweet festivity, for he won crowns in the Isthmian glens, and then in the hollow valley of the deep-chested lion he had Thebe proclaimed by winning in the chariot race. (trans. Race, LCL 485)

The translation above represents the traditional interpretation of the syntax of Pi. I. 3/4.9-13, which is already found in the scholia and reflected in virtually all modern translations and paraphrases.¹ According to this interpretation,

¹ Σ Pi. I. 3.15 ἔστι δὲ καὶ διπλῶν άθλων καὶ νικῶν τῷ Μελίσσῳ μερίς, ὥστε πρὸς εὐφροσύνην γλυκυτάτην τρέψαι αὐτοῦ τὴν ψυχήν. Cf. also Heyne 1774, 93: ‘Est vero et gminorum certamin Melisso sors, quae ad hilaritatem convertat dulcem cor’; Boeckh 1821, 92: ‘Est vero et gminorum ex certaminibus praemiorum Melisso sors, quae ad hilaritatem convertat dulcem cor’ (cf. 501: ‘Ac duas adeo habet victorias Melissus ... ut magis etiam conveniat hilaritas cantusque’); Dissen 1830, 548: ‘Est vero etiam duplex victoria Melisso ... duarum coronarum fortuna ... quae ad hilaritatem dulcem convertat animum’; Bury 1892, 60: ‘But Melissus has the portion of two prizes (no less!) to turn his soul to sweet Euphrosyne’; Fraccaroli 1894, 681: ‘E fur di premio pur doppio i fatti dell’agon munifici a Melisso, onde puote egli letizia dolce disciorre il cor’; Sandys 1915, 457: ‘Even in two contests hath good fortune been shared by Melissus, to turn his heart to sweet good-cheer’; Domseiff 1921, 60: ‘Hat doch zweier Kampfpriese Teil Melissos, so daß er zu süßem Frohsinn wenden kann sein Herz’; Puech 1923, 42: ‘Ce n’est pas
διδύμων ἀέθλων depends on μοῖρα,² which is paralleled by frequent combinations of μοῖρα with genitives in Pindar,³ and ἔστι constitutes a full verb. τρέψαι, in turn, can be accommodated in this interpretation only as a consecutive-final infinitive.⁴ The nature of the logical subject of τρέψαι is not usually discussed.⁵ Yet, parallels elsewhere would suggest that μοῖρα is a more likely candidate for it (est Melisso duarum quoque victoriarum fortuna, quae eius animum ad dulcem hilaritatem conuertat) than Melissus himself (… qui suum animum... conuertat).⁶

Contrary to this traditional interpretation, Pascal Hummel implies, by mentioning I. 3/4.9-10 in the context of ‘infinitif sujet ou prédicat’, that there might by an alternative interpretation, whereby τρέψαι is not a consecutive-final infinitive but the subject of the sentence and μοῖρα its predicate.⁷ For this interpretation, ἔστι is not a full verb but a copula. Since Hummel himself offers no reasons for his view, it needs to be determined whether this interpretation is viable. In fact, the phrase μοῖρ’ ἐστί combined with an infinitive is well attested in Homeric epic.⁸ Pindar himself provides a close parallel at P. 1.99 (τὸ δὲ παθεῖν εὖ πρῶτον ἀέθλων· εὖ δ’ ἀκούειν δευτέρα μοῖρ’).⁹ This parallel also illustrates that a definite article would not be required before the infinitive.¹⁰ The initial position of ἔστι does not present a problem, since the copula is often found in