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ODYSSEE 4. 355–389. A PAPYRUS FROM THE MICHIGAN COLLECTION

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Odyssee 4. 355-389
A Papyrus from the Michigan Collection¹

P.Mich.inv. 3390

6.9 x 14.7 cm.

1st half of II A.D.

This papyrus preserves the left margin of lines 355-389 of book 4 of the *Odyssey*. The original format was probably that of a scroll, as appears likely from the absence of writing on the back.² Two interesting features of this piece are the hand in which it is written, and the apparent variant of the text in line 23 (377); the text displays no other variants from the vulgate. The hand is an informal, almost documentary hand which admits cursive forms, such as the ligature of alpha and iota in εὔρέμεναι in line 20 (374). The closest parallel known to me is P.Lond.inv. 115 of the first half of the second century A.D., to which period we should probably assign the present text.³

In line 23, where κ[ατερύκομαι is expected, the papyrus reads ε[. No variant is attested anywhere for this line. Most likely, this is a scribal mistake, such as, e.g., the simplex form of the verb for the compound, probably inspired by ἐρύκεαι in line 19 (373).

The text displays no accents, breathings, or punctuation. Opposite line 28 (382) there is an oblique stroke, perhaps indicating a new section. My transcript follows the usual practice of editors of Homeric papyri and introduces only word division and capitalization of proper names.

- (355) Αιγυ[πτου προπαροιθε Φαρον δε ε κικλησκουσι]
 τοσ[ον ανευθ οσσον τε πανημεριη γλαφυρη νηυς]
 ηνυς[εν η λιγυς ουρος επιπνειησιν οπισθεν]
 4 εν δε [λιμην ευορμος οθεν τ απο νηαε ειααε]
 εε π[ο]ντ[ον βελλουσιν αφυσκαμενοι μελαν υδωρ]
 (360) ενθα μ ε[εικοσιν ηματ εχον θεοι ουδε ποτ ουροι]
 πνειοντες [φαινονθ αλιαεεε οι ρα τε νηων]
 8 πομπηε [γιγονται επ ευρεα νωτα θαλασσηε]
 και νυ κεν η[ια παντα κατεφθιτο και μενε ανδρων]
 ι μη τις μ[ε θεων ολοφυρατο και μ ελεησε]
 (365) Πρωτεοε ιφθιμο[υ θυγατηρ αλιοιο γεροντοε]

¹ This paper is a modified form of a chapter from my doctoral dissertation submitted in 1988 to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign entitled *Select Papyri*. I wish to thank my committee members David Sansone, David F. Bright, and G.M. Browne for their helpful suggestions. I also want to thank the University of Michigan for permission to publish this papyrus.

² Although cf. the so-called "Harris Homer" (plate 14 in Turner [see n. on line 28] p. 40).

³ Cf. the facsimile in C.H. Roberts, *Greek Literary Hands* (Oxford 1955) plate 13b.

- 12 Εἰδοθεη τη γαρ ρ[α μαλιτα γε θυμον ορινα]
 η μ οἰω ἔρροντ[ι συνηντετο νοσφιν εταιρων]
 [αι]ει γαρ περ[ι νησον αλωμενοι ιχθυασκον]
 (370) 16 γγαμπ[τοις αγκιτροειν ετειρε δε γαστερα λιμος]
 η[δ] εμευ αγχι σταα επος φατο φωνησεν τε]
 ν[ηπιος] [ει]ς [ω ξεινε λην τοσον ηδε χαλιφρων]
 ηε εκων μεθεις και τ[ερπεαι αλγεια πασων]
 [ω]ς δη δηθ ενι νησῳ ἐρυκκα[ι ουδε τι τεκμωρ]
 20 ευρεμεναι δυνασαι μ[ι]νυ[θει δε τοι ητορ εταιρων]
 (375) ως εφωτ αυταρ εγω μιν αμ[ειβομενος προσειπον]
 εκ μεν τοι ερω η τις [συ περ εκσι θεαων]
 ως εγω ου τι εκων ε[]
 24 αθανατους αλιτεσθαι [οι ουρανον ευρυν εχουσιν]
 αλλα συ περ μοι ειπε θ[εοι δε τε παντα ιασιν]
 (380) ος τις μ αθανατων π[εδασ και εδησε κελευθου]
 νοστον θ ως ε[πι π]οντον [ελευσομαι ιχθυοεντα]
 28 / ως εφαμην η[δ] αυτ]ικ α[μειβετο δια θεαων]
 τοιγαρ εγω τοι ξ[εινε μ]αλ α[τρεκεως αγορευω]
 πωλιται τις δε[υρο γερ]ων αλ[ιος νημερτης]
 (385) αθανατος Πρω[τεος Αι]γυπτιος [ος τε θαλασσης]
 32 πα[ς] η[ς] βεν]θ[ε]α οιδε Πο]σειδαων[ος υποδμως]
 [τον δε τ εμον φασιν πα]τερ εμμε[ναι ηδε τεκεσθαι]
 [τον γ ει πως συ δυναιο λοχ]ησαμε[νος λελαβεςθαι]
 [ος κεν τοι ειπην οδον και με]τρ[α κελευθου]

10 (364) εἶ 30 (384) πωλείται

Commentary:

23 (377) If ε[is the beginning of the simplex (see introd.), we should transcribe the line as
 ως εγω ου τι εκων <κατ>ε[ρυκομαι κτλ.

28 (382) There is an oblique stroke in the left margin, which may indicate a new section in-
 volving a change of speaker. Cf. E.G. Turner, *Greek Manuscripts of the Ancient World*, 2nd
 edition ed. by P.J. Parsons, Institute of Classical Studies, Bulletin Supplement 46 (London
 1987) pl. 12, p. 38.