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A SCRIBAL ERROR AT PGM II 37

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The procedure for divination in *PGM* II (IV<sup>P</sup>) includes the preparation of ink with ὕδωρ καινοῦ φρέα/τος ὀρυγέντ[ο]ς πρὸ μηνῶν ε΄ ἢ ἐντὸς ἐτῶν ε΄ ἢ ὃ ἐὰν καταλάβῃς ἀπὸ πρώτης ἡμέρας / τῆς ὀρύξεως (36–38) “water of a new well dug five months ago or within five years or whatever (water) you get from the first day of digging”. A well dug “within five years” is hardly new, and in the phrase between “five months ago” and “from the first day” we expect a reference to some intermediate time-period. The papyrus’ ἐντὸς ἐτῶν ε΄ is then wrong. Although, to judge from the apparatus, ἡμέρα is never, here or in its other four instances in *PGM* II (44, 119, 141, 149), abbreviated, it is abbreviated (*e.g.* as  $\begin{matrix} \mu & \eta \\ \eta & \mu \end{matrix}$ , or more complicated monograms) so frequently in other magical papyri that Preisendanz, in the list of abbreviations in his “Palaeographische Bemerkungen” (*PGM* vol. 2, p. 269) writes “durchweg” without feeling the need to give instances. Surely ἐτῶν in line 37 began life as a scribe’s ignorant resolution of such an abbreviation in a model. The sequence in the archetype was then from the older to the newer: a well five months or five *days* (ἐντὸς ἡμερῶν ε΄) or not even one day old.

Athens

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