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DARKNESS ON THE MOUNTAINS: A FRAGMENT OF CALLIMACHUS' HECALE?

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Hesychius η 392 Latte ἡλυγίων ὀρέων· ἐν σκότῳ κατεχομένων.¹ This anonymous citation very much breathes the atmosphere of learned Hellenistic poetry ('poetae Alexandrini', Latte). The epithet ἡλύγιος is found nowhere else, and does not even appear in the lexicon of LSJ (or its revised Supplement), which recognizes only ἡλυγαῖος from Suid.² Compare Hes. η 390 ἡλύγη· σκιά, a noun occurring in Aristophanes, *Acharnians* 684; the verb ἐπηλυγάζω = 'overshadow' is in common use.

One naturally thinks first of Callimachus who, among all the Hellenistic poets, is much the most often cited by grammarians and lexicographers. Although these words might fit any description of the coming of night, perhaps it is worth pointing to a context in the *Hecale* where a mention of mountains would be particularly appropriate. On the day when Theseus set out from Athens for Marathon, the noonday sky had been more brilliant than glass (fr. 18,1–2 H. ὄφρα μὲν οὖν ἔνδιος ἔην ἔτι, θέρμετο δὲ χθών, / τόφρα δ' ἔην ὑάλιο φαάντερος οὐρανὸς ἦνοψ), with not even the suspicion of a cloud (3–4 οὐδέ ποθι κνηκίς ὑπεφαίνετο, πέπτατο δ' αἰθήρ / ἀννέφελος). But at supper time (5–6) clouds began to gather over the Attic mountains;³ in the space of four lines (8–11) we find mention of Parnes, Aegaeos and Hymettus. Two of these (Parnes and Hymettus) were, in the terminology of [Theophrastus],⁴ *De Signis Tempestatum* 51 ὄρη σημαντικά, of especial significance for predicting the weather; the presence or absence of clouds round about them is often noted by [Theophrastus]. If (as I suspect) fr. 19 καὶ ἠέρος ἀχλύσαντος⁵ belongs in the second half of fr. 18,11, the air has grown murky, and in line 12 lightning flashes (ἀστεροπαὶ σελάγιζον). There follows a simile occupying lines 13–14 and probably at least as far as 16, where the papyrus begins to fail; this too includes a mountain (Thracian Merisus, 15). Hesychius' fragment ἡλυγίων ὀρέων might find a place soon after the end of fr. 18 H., referring back to the Attic mountains of lines 8–11, which by now are covered in darkness.

There is another entry in Hesychius, ω 172 Schmidt ὠλυγίων, of which the first explanation is σκοτεινῶν.⁶ Use of the genitive plural case makes me wonder whether there was an ancient variant ὠλυγίων ὀρέων for ἡλυγίων in our fragment. For attested variants in the *Hecale*, cf. the choice between πολύκριμνον and πολύκρημνον in fr. 96,3 H.⁷

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¹ I have detached this item from the accompanying article, *Some Neglected Verse Citations in Hesychius*, in order to give it more prominence, and to mark it as a sequel to *Three Possible Fragments of Callimachus' Hecale in Hesychius* (*ZPE* 117, 1997, 47–49).

² The omission is not wholly explained by the fact that the manuscript of Hesychius has ἡλυγών, which J. G. Schneider corrected to ἡλυγ(ί)ων. Stephanus' *Thesaurus* does recognize ἡλύγιος.

³ This seems to be a general description of Attic weather conditions (cf. my note on fr. 18,8 ff.), since Parnes and Aegaeos (lines 8 and 9) are not especially relevant to Theseus' journey.

⁴ This work, as it stands, can hardly be by Theophrastus, but may incorporate material from a genuine work of Theophrastus which was used by Aratus for the weather signs in his *Phaenomena*, and perhaps by Callimachus here and elsewhere in the *Hecale* (cf. fr. 25 H.). See Douglas Kidd, *Aratus, Phaenomena* (Cambridge, 1997), pp. 21–23.

⁵ glossed σκοτισθέντος by Suid.

⁶ followed by κακῶν, μακρῶν, ὀξέων, μεγάλων, which may be influenced by explanations of διωλύγιος (cf. Pfeiffer on Call. fr. 713 and Et. Mag. p. 280,55 διωλύγιον· μακρόν, μέγα, δεινόν, χαλεπόν).

⁷ One might also regard χαιτέεντος for κατάεντος in fr. 47,6 H. as an established variant (χαιτήεις is by no means a commonplace word).