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CLOUD-DRIVERS AND DAMAGE FROM HAIL

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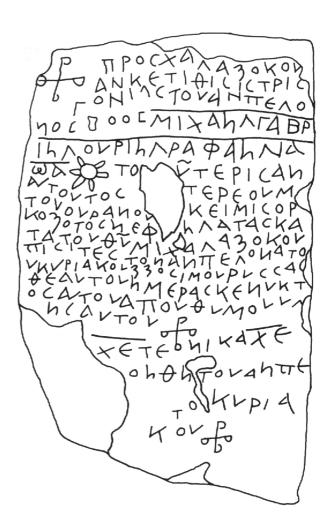
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CLOUD-DRIVERS AND DAMAGE FROM HAIL

G. Bevilacqua and S. Giannobile, in preparing their discussion of the inscriptions in the article that precedes (pp. 135–146), did me the kindness of allowing me to read their manuscript. I was able to propose what I believe may be somewhat better readings for a text that they discuss (their 1 B), a Christian prayer, from Noto in southeast Sicily, for the protection of a vineyard from hail. At their suggestion, I present them here.

Other than Bevilacqua's and Giannobile's treatment, the only edition has been the *editio princeps* of G. Manganaro (*RendLinc* VIII.18 [1963] 57–74), who assigns the inscription to V^p or VI^p; here I reproduce his text and, for the reader's convenience, also the excellent drawing of the previous article.

Πρὸς χα[-----] λαζοκου (†) ἂν κὲ τιθὶς ἰς τρῖς (†) ὄνους τοῦ ἀνπελôνος θεὸς Μιχαὴλ Γαβριὴλ Οὐριὴλ Ῥαφαὴλ Ἰαωα (stella) TO[..]VTEPICAH Λ τοῦτος [..]ΤΕΡΕΟΥΜ[.] τοῦ οὐρανοῦ [..] ΚΕΙΜΙΟΟΡ 10 ΚΟΖΟΤΟ Νεφ[.] ηλ. "Ατας κατὰ τοῦ θ(εο)ῦ Μιχαλαζόκου Πισιτες τὸν ἀνπελονα τοῦ κυριακοῦ Ζ{ζ}οσίμου ἡυσ⟨σ⟩αστε αὐτοῦ ἡμέρας κὲ νυκτ-15 ος αὐτοῦ ἀποὺ θυμοῦ ὕλης αὐτοῦ (†) νίκα Χ(ριστ)έ, Χ(ριστ)έ τε [β]οήθη τοῦ ἀνπέλο[υ] το[ῦ] κυρια- (\dagger) κοῦ (†).



On p. 60 Manganaro proposes a supplement $\chi \dot{\alpha} [\lambda \alpha \sigma \mu \alpha \ M_1 \chi \alpha]/\lambda \alpha \zeta$ okov for the first two lines and assumes that the $M_1 \chi \alpha \lambda \alpha \zeta$ okov here and in 11 is the hitherto unattested name of a demon who, as the element - $\chi \alpha \lambda \alpha \zeta$ - suggests, sends hail.

In the inscription we obviously have the work of a carver who paid little attention to the spelling and perhaps even less to the meaning of the text. As a result much remains obscure, but Manganaro's lines 9–12, I would offer, may be more successfully articulated and restored as:

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9 ὁρ10 κόζο τὸς νεφ[ελ]ηλάτας κα11 τὰ τοῦ Θ(εο)ῦ· μὶ χαλαζοκου12 πίσιτε {σ} τὸν ἀνπελôνα

9/10 ὁρκίζω τούς 11/12 μὴ χαλαζοκοπήσητε 12 ἀμπελῶνα

'I adjure the cloud-drivers in the name of God: do not damage the vineyard with hail.'

The /i/ \rightarrow /o/ that I assume in ὁρκόζο (9/10), if indeed the misspelling is to be explained as phonetic, is somewhat unusual; Gignac, *Grammar* I, lists a few parallels (293–94), but in unaccented syllables; such a shift in an accented syllable, however, is seen in the $\tau\omega\xi\alpha\sigma\theta\dot{\omega}\varsigma$ (for $\delta\circ\xi\alpha\sigma\theta\epsilon\dot{\iota}\varsigma$) of P. Louvre inv. E 7332 bis (VIIP), ed. Brashear, *Magica Varia*, no. 2. The /o/ × /u/ of $\tau\dot{\varsigma}\varsigma$ (10) and -κου- (11) is relatively common (Gignac 208–13). The noun νεφεληλάτης is new but of the type ὀνηλάτης, στρατηλάτης and should be added to the lexica. We find the verb $\chi\alpha\lambda\alpha\zeta$ οκοπείν in Theophrastus, *CP* 5.8.3 and *HP* 4.14.1. Before τὸν ἀνπελôνα (12) I have bracketed the *sigma* as if an intrusion of the type instanced at Gignac 125–26, but should we rule out a slightly different construction, $\mu\dot{\eta}$ $\chi\alpha\lambda\alpha\zeta$ οκοπήσητε ⟨εί⟩ς? In any case, lines 1–2 as printed by Manganaro are in fact only one line, the reading †Πρὸς $\chi\alpha\lambda\alpha\zeta$ οκου[πί]/αν (for -κοπίαν) 'for damage from hail' now being inevitable; the noun is attested in the first of the two passages in Theophrastus.

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