DAVID JORDAN

CLOUD-DRIVERS AND DAMAGE FROM HAIL


© Dr. Rudolf Habelt GmbH, Bonn
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 (RendLine VIII.18 [1963] 57–74), who assigns the inscription to V or VI; here I reproduce his text and, for the reader’s convenience, also the excellent drawing of the previous article.

(†) Πρὸς χα[- - - - - - - ]

λαζοκου

(†) ἐν κὲ τιθὶς ἵ σ τρις

(†) ὄνους τοῦ ἀνπέλ-

5 νος θεὸς Μιχαὴλ Γαβρ-

ηῆλ Ὠρφηῆλ ᾿Ια-

ων (stella) TO[. ]ΤΕΠΙΚΑH

Λ τοῦτος [. ]ΤΕΡΕΟVM[ . ]

τοῦ οὐρανοῦ [. ] KEIMICOP

10 ΚΟΖΟΤΟC Νεφ[ . ] ἠλ: "Ατας κα-

τά τοῦ θεοῦ Μιχαλαζόκου

Πισίτες τὸν ἀνπελόνα το-

ῦ κυριακοῦ ζ[ζ]οσιμοῦ ῥυσα(σ)ασ-

τε αὐτοῦ ἡμέρας κὲ νυκ-

15 ōς αὐτοῦ ἀποῦ θυμόι ὄλ-

ης αὐτοῦ (†) νῖκα Χιριστίε, Ἴ

Χιριστίε τε

[β]λοθῆ τοῦ ἀνπέ-

λοποῦ τοῦ[ . ] κυρια-

(†)

κοῦ (†).

On p. 60 Manganaro proposes a supplement χα[λαζοκου for the first two lines and assumes that the Μιχαλαζόκου here and in 11 is the hitherto unattested name of a demon who, as the element -λαζοκου- 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:
The /i/ → /o/ that I assume in ὄρκῶζο (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 τοξασθάς (for δοξασθείς) of P. Louvre inv. E 7332 bis (VIIp), ed. Brashear, Magica Varia, no. 2. The /o/ × /u/ of τός (10) and -κού- (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 χαλαζοκοπεῖν in Theophrastus, CP 5.8.3 and HP 4.14.1. Before τὸν ἄνπελον (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, μὴ χαλαζοκοπήσητε ἔις? In any case, lines 1–2 as printed by Manganaro are in fact only one line, the reading ἠΠρὸς χαλαζοκοπεῖν (for -κοπήσητε) ‘for damage from hail’ now being inevitable; the noun is attested in the first of the two passages in Theophrastus.

Athens

David Jordan