

E. COURTNEY

CALLIMACHUS *IAMBUS* II FR. 192

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In anger at the presumption of the animals Zeus transfers their voices to men, Eudemus getting that of the dog, Philton of the ass, someone whose name is lost that of the parrot:

12 οἱ δὲ τραγωδοὶ τῶν θάλασσαν οἴ[κεύντων
ἔχουσι φωνήν.

Fish are notoriously mute, ἄναυδοι παῖδες τᾶς ἀμιάντου, and so Callimachus himself says (*Suppl. Hell.* 295 = 496 + 533 Pfeiffer):

λαοὶ Δευκαλίωνος ὅσοι γενόμεθα γενέθλης,
πουλὸν θαλασσαίων μυνδότεροι νεπόδων.

However for the purposes of this poem Callimachus represents them as once having had a voice (2 τοῦν θαλάσση --- ἐφθέγγεθ'). What sort of voice was transferred to the τραγωδοί (meaning of course tragic actors, not tragic poets)? An inaudible one, says Callimachus, with a typically iambic jab at the actors of his own day. This point was to some extent appreciated by Herter, *Gnomon* 26, 1954, 79, but he missed a striking parallel, Festus p. 132 M s.v. *mutas* (sc. *litteras*) ... *quidam quod parvae exiguaeque sint vocis, ut quando mutum oratorem aut tragoedum dicimus*.¹

Stanford University

E. Courtney

ZPE 77 (1989) 260

CORRIGENDA

S.276, vorletzte Zeile: Statt "p.132" lies "p.142".

¹ For a different opinion see P. Bing, *ZPE* 41, 1981, 33-36. (L.K.)