

## A POSSIBLE NEW FRAGMENT OF EURIPIDES

In the edition of the Iliadic scholia by Hartmut Erbse, the text of a scholion at *Il.* 24.49 is printed in the following way (vol. 5, p. 527):

“τλητὸν γὰρ Μοῖραι θυμὸν θέσαν ἀνθρώποισιν”· καὶ Εὐριπίδης· ‘ἦς οὐκ ἂν ἄραιτ’ ἄχθος ἀνθρώπου φύσις’. τοῦτο δέ, ὅτι δεῖ τὰ συμβαίοντα γενναίως φέρειν.

“For the fates have given a stout heart to human beings” (*Il.* 24.49). And Euripides [says], ‘the burden of which a human being’s nature might not bear’ (*Or.* 3). And this, that/because it is necessary to bear contingencies nobly.

In the apparatus to the text, Erbse points to the collection of parallels in A.C. Pearson, *The Fragments of Sophocles*, vol. II (Cambridge 1917), 1, for the popular sentiment contained in the words δεῖ τὰ συμβαίοντα γενναίως φέρειν. He does not offer any further comment.

It seems to me, however, that something more does need to be said about the final line of this scholion. Scholars seem not have noticed that it is probably a corrupt iambic trimeter:

δεῖ (πάν)τα συμβαίοντα γενναίως φέρειν

“It is necessary to bear all contingencies nobly”.

Apart from the unmetrical τά, which requires emendation to πάντα (or ταῦτα, if one prefers), everything else perfectly fits into iambic trimeters. There is a hepthemimeral caesura and Porson’s Law is observed. With just a minor change, therefore, an entire iambic trimeter line is recovered.

The structure of the scholion seems to allow for this interpretation. The scholiast cites Euripides, followed by τοῦτο δέ, ὅτι, and then the words δεῖ τὰ συμβαίοντα γενναίως φέρειν, the structure of which could be interpreted to mean “Euripides [says] ... and [he also says] this, that ...”. The other possible interpretation of the text of the scholion is “Euripides says ... and this is because ...”, and the explanation that follows could have been given in the form of a verse.

There is a similar gnomic saying attributed to Euripides, at *TrGF* V/1 98 Kannicht ἀλλ’ εὖ φέρειν χρῆ συμφορὰς τὸν εὐγενῆ (“but the noble man must bear misfortunes well”), from the play *Alcmene* according to Stobaeus (4.44.48 [5.970.4 Hense]). On grounds of style and substance, then, there seems to be no reason to doubt that Euripides could also have written δεῖ (πάν)τα συμβαίοντα γενναίως φέρειν or δεῖ (ταῦ)τα συμβαίοντα γενναίως φέρειν. Of course, it is not possible to exclude completely other possibilities, such as that the verse is from some other author or from a popular gnomologium of a later age. Whatever the case may be, the new fragment of verse deserves attention.

## ABSTRACT:

The text of *Schol. Il.* 24.49 Erbse seems to contain a previously overlooked verse fragment, which could possibly come from Euripides.

## KEYWORDS:

Homeric scholia, verse fragment, iambic trimeter, textual criticism, Euripides' fragments.