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PINDAR  
NEMEAN ODES  
ISTHMIAN ODES  
FRAGMENTS



*Edited and Translated by*  
WILLIAM H. RACE

PINDAR

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WILLIAM H. RA

藏书章



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**NEMEONIKAI**  
**NEMEAN ODES**

## NEMEAN 1

Pindar composed two odes for Chromios (*Nem.* 1 and 9), Hieron's powerful and wealthy general. In his previous service as a military commander for Hippokrates, tyrant of Gela (498–491), Chromios had distinguished himself in the battle at the Heloros River in 492 (cf. *Nem.* 9.40) against the Syracusans. He then joined Hippokrates' successor, Gelon, who became tyrant of Syracuse, and upon Gelon's death in 478, he served Hieron, who had succeeded his older brother. Chromios was probably sent to protect Western Lokroi from Anaxilas of Rhegion in 477 and according to the scholia was appointed governor of Aitna after its foundation in 476. The inscriptions of two MSS designate the victor as Chromios "of Aitna" (cf. "Zeus of Aitna" at 6). If they are correct, the ode was composed after 476.

This is one of two epinikia—the other is *Nem.* 10—whose central narrative extends to the end of the poem. The account of Herakles' prodigious infancy is probably meant to reflect Chromios' own divinely inspired beginnings (8–9), while the concluding depiction of the apotheosis Herakles earned by his arduous service to the gods perhaps hints at the posthumous fame Chromios may win by his own career.

## NEMEAN 1

The opening address names Ortygia, the eponymous nymph of the island enclosing Syracuse's harbor, as the source of this poem celebrating Chromios' Nemean chariot victory (1-7). After reflections on the divine basis of Chromios' talents and the glorification of success in poetry, Pindar praises Sicily for its fertility, fine cities, and success in war and athletics (8-18).

He then praises Chromios for his generous hospitality, which wins him friends to defend against detractors, and for his combination of strength and wisdom (19-30). The poet personally endorses the use of wealth to help friends and gain praise because all men hope for relief from hardship and fame for achievements (31-33). The poet declares his eagerness to sing of Herakles when he is treating great achievements, and begins by recounting how, when Herakles and his twin brother Iphikles were born, Hera sent two snakes to kill them in their crib (33-43), but Herakles grasped one in each hand and strangled them (43-47). Alkmene jumped up from her bed in panic to protect her son, while Amphitryon came with a band of warriors (48-53). His fearful expectations, however, turned to relief and awe when he saw the wondrous power of his son (54-59).

Teiresias, summoned to interpret the events, prophesied Herakles' future career (60-61), telling that after slaying numerous beasts on land and sea, and vanquishing savage men, he would help the gods defeat the Giants at Phlegra, and that in reward for his labors he would find peace with the gods on Olympos, with Hebe as his wife (62-72).

# 1. ΧΡΟΜΙΩΙ ΑΙΤΝΑΙΩΙ

## ΙΠΠΟΙΣ

- Α' Ἄμπνευμα σεμνὸν Ἀλφειοῦ,  
κλεινᾶν Συρακοσσᾶν θάλος Ὀρτυγία,  
δέμνιον Ἀρτέμιδος,  
Δάλου κασιγνήτα, σέθεν ἀδυεπής  
5 ὕμνος ὀρμᾶται θέμεν  
αἶνον ἀελλοπόδων  
μέγαν ἵππων Ζηνὸς Αἰτναίου χάριν·  
ἄρμα δ' ὀτρύνει Χρομίου Νεμέα  
τ' ἔργμασιν νικαφόροις ἐγκώμιον ζεῦξαι μέλος.

- ἀρχαὶ δὲ βέβληνται θεῶν  
κείνου σὺν ἀνδρὸς δαιμονίαις ἀρεταῖς·  
10 ἔστι δ' ἐν εὐτυχίᾳ  
πανδοξίας ἄκρον· μεγάλων δ' ἀέθλων  
Μοῖσα μεμνᾶσθαι φιλεῖ.  
σπείρέ νυν ἀγλαΐαν  
τινὰ νάσῳ, τὰν Ὀλύμπου δεσπότης

inscr. αἰτναίῳ ἵπποις UV<sup>2</sup>: om. BV<sup>1</sup>D: συρακουσίῳ ἵπποις  
Schroeder

13 σπείρέ νυν Beck e schol.: ἔγειρε νῦν codd.



# 1. FOR CHROMIOS OF AITNA

WINNER, CHARIOT RACE, post 476 B.C.

Hallowed spout<sup>1</sup> of Alpheos, Str. 1  
Ortygia, offspring of famous Syracuse,  
couch of Artemis,  
and sister of Delos,<sup>2</sup> from you a sweetly worded  
hymn issues forth to render 5  
mighty praise for storm-footed  
horses in honor of Zeus of Aitna;  
and the chariot of Chromios and Nemea urge me to yoke  
a song of celebration for victorious deeds.

The beginnings have been laid by the gods Ant. 1  
with that man's divine abilities,  
but in success is 10  
the summit of absolute glory, and the Muse  
loves to recall great contests.  
Sow, then, some splendor  
on the island, which Zeus, the master of Olympos,

<sup>1</sup> Or *resting place*. The river Alpheos fell in love with the nymph Arethusa and pursued her under the sea until she came to the island of Ortygia, where her fountain was located and from which his waters were believed to re-issue.

<sup>2</sup> A cult center for Artemis (cf. *Pyth.* 2.7), Ortygia is called sister of Delos (the birthplace of Artemis), one of whose names is also Ortygia (cf. Verg. *Aen.* 3.124).

Ζεὺς ἔδωκεν Φερσεφόνα, κατένευ-  
σέν τέ οἱ χαίταις ἀριστεύοισαν εὐκάρπου χθονός

- 15 Σικελίαν πίειραν ὀρθώ-  
σειν κορυφαῖς πολίων ἀφνεαῖς·  
ᾧπασε δὲ Κρονίων πολέμου  
μναστῆρά οἱ χαλκεντέος  
λαὸν ἵππαιχμον, θαμὰ δὴ καὶ Ὀλυμ-  
πιάδων φύλλοις ἐλαιᾶν χρυσέοις  
μιχθέντα. πολλῶν ἐπέβαν  
καιρὸν οὐ ψεύδει βαλὼν.

- B' ἔσταν δ' ἐπ' αὐλείαις θύραις  
20 ἀνδρὸς φιλοξείνου καλὰ μελπόμενος,  
ἔνθα μοι ἀρμόδιον  
δεῖπνον κεκόσμηται, θαμὰ δ' ἄλλοδαπῶν  
οὐκ ἀπείρατοι δόμοι  
ἐντί· λέλογχε δὲ μεμ-  
φομένοις ἐσλοὺς ὕδωρ καπνῷ φέρειν  
25 ἀντίον. τέχναι δ' ἐτέρων ἕτεραι·  
χρὴ δ' ἐν εὐθείαις ὁδοῖς στείχοντα μάρνασθαι  
φυᾶ.

πράσσει γὰρ ἔργῳ μὲν σθένος,  
βουλαῖσι δὲ φρήν, ἐσσόμενον προῖδεῖν  
συγγενὲς οἷς ἔπεται.

Ἀγησιδάμου παῖ, σέο δ' ἀμφὶ τρόπῳ

24 ἐσλοὺς Aristarchus: ἐσλὸς codd.

## NEMEAN 1

gave to Persephone, and with a nod of his locks  
assured her that he would exalt

fertile Sicily to be the best of the fruitful earth  
 with her lofty and prosperous cities;  
 and Kronos' son granted to her<sup>1</sup> a people  
 of cavalrymen enamored of bronze-armored war  
 and often indeed crowned  
 with golden olive leaves  
 from Olympic festivals.<sup>2</sup> I have embarked on an occasion  
 for many topics without casting any falsehood.

And I have taken my stand at the courtyard gates  
of a generous host as I sing of noble deeds,  
where a fitting feast  
has been arranged for me, for this home  
is not unfamiliar with frequent visitors  
from abroad. It is his lot to bring  
good men against his detractors as water  
against smoke. Various men have various skills,  
but one must travel in straight paths and strive by  
means of natural talent.

For strength achieves its result through action, Ant. 2  
and wisdom through the counsels of those attended by  
inborn ability to foresee what will happen.  
But, son of Hagesidamos, by virtue of your character

<sup>1</sup> Persephone, or perhaps Sicily.

<sup>2</sup> Since Chromios has no Olympic victories, this refers generally to Sicilian success at Olympia and perhaps as well to Gelon's and Hieron's victories there.

- 30 τῶν τε καὶ τῶν χρήσιες.  
οὐκ ἔραμαι πολὺν ἐν  
    μεγάρῳ πλοῦτον κατακρύψαις ἔχειν,  
    ἀλλ' ἐόντων εὖ τε παθεῖν καὶ ἀκού-  
    σαι φίλοις ἐξαρκέων. κοιναὶ γὰρ ἔρχοντ' ἐλπίδες
- πολυπόνων ἀνδρῶν. ἐγὼ δ' Ἥ-  
    ρακλέος ἀντέχομαι προφρόνως  
    ἐν κορυφαῖς ἀρετᾶν μεγάλαις,  
    ἀρχαῖον ὀτρύνων λόγον,
- 35 ὥς, ἐπεὶ σπλάγχνων ὑπο ματέρος αὐ-  
    τίκα θαητὰν ἐς αἴγλαν παῖς Διός  
    ᾠδῖνα φεύγων διδύμῳ  
    σὺν κασιγνήτῳ μόλεν,
- Γ' ὥς οὐ λαθὼν χρυσόθρονον  
    Ἥραν κροκωτὸν σπάργανον ἐγκατέβα·  
    ἀλλὰ θεῶν βασίλεια
- 40 σπερχθεῖσα θυμῷ πέμπε δράκοντας ἄφαρ.  
    τοὶ μὲν οἰχθειςᾶν πυλᾶν  
    ἐς θαλάμου μυχὸν εὐ-  
    ρὺν ἔβαν, τέκνοισιν ὠκείας γνάθους  
    ἀμφελίξασθαι μεμαῶτες· ὁ δ' ὀρ-  
    θὸν μὲν ἀντεινεν κάρα, πειρᾶτο δὲ πρῶτον μάχας,

37 ὥς Hermann: ὥς τ' codd.

39 βασίλεια Heyne: βασιλέα Boeckh: βασίλεια codd.

there are uses for both of them. 30

I do not desire to keep great wealth  
 hidden away in a palace,  
 but to succeed with what I have and be praised for  
 helping friends, because to all alike come the hopes

of much-toiling men.<sup>1</sup> For my part, I gladly 35  
 embrace Herakles

when my theme is achievements' great heights,  
 and rouse up the old tale,  
 how, as soon as Zeus' son came down from his mother's 35  
 womb into the wondrous brightness of day,  
 fleeing her birth pains  
 with his twin brother,<sup>2</sup>

he did not escape the notice of Hera on her golden throne 36  
 when he lay down in his yellow swaddling clothes,  
 but the queen of the gods  
 with anger in her heart immediately sent snakes. 40

When the doors had been opened  
 they went into the deep recess of the bedroom,  
 eager to wrap their darting jaws  
 around the babies. But the boy lifted  
 his head straight up and engaged in his first battle,

<sup>1</sup> ἐλπίδες may be negative and imply "expectations" of trouble or death (cf. *Nem.* 7.30–31) or positive and imply "hopes" for fame after death. As E. L. Bundy (*Studia Pindarica* 87) points out, the forthcoming narrative culminating in Herakles' apotheosis emphasizes the latter.

<sup>2</sup> Iphikles, Herakles' half-brother and son of the mortal Amphitryon.

διосσαῖσι δοιοὺς αὐχένων  
 45 μάρψαις ἀφύκτοις χερσὶν ἐαῖς ὄφιας·  
 ἀγχομένοις δὲ χρόνος  
 ψυχὰς ἀπέπνευσεν μελέων ἀφάτων.  
 ἐκ δ' ἄρ' ἄτλατον δέος  
 πλᾶξε γυναῖκας, ὅσαι  
 τύχον Ἀλκμήνας ἀρήγοισαι λέχει·  
 50 καὶ γὰρ αὐτὰ ποσσὶν ἄπεπλος ὀρού-  
 σαισ' ἀπὸ στρωμνᾶς ὅμως ἄμυνεν ὕβριν  
 κνωδάλων.

ταχὺ δὲ Καδμείων ἀγοὶ χαλ-  
 κέοις σὺν ὅπλοις ἔδραμον ἀθρόοι,  
 ἐν χερὶ δ' Ἀμφιτρύων κολεοῦ  
 γυμνὸν τινάσσων <φάσγανον>  
 ἵκετ', ὀξείαις ἀνίαισι τυπείς.  
 τὸ γὰρ οἰκεῖον πιέζει πάνθ' ὁμῶς·  
 εὐθὺς δ' ἀπήμων κραδία  
 κᾶδος ἀμφ' ἀλλότριον.

Δ' ἔστα δὲ θάμβει δυσφόρῳ  
 56 τερπνῷ τε μιχθείς. εἶδε γὰρ ἐκνόμιον  
 λῆμμά τε καὶ δύναμιν  
 υἱοῦ· παλίγγλωσσον δέ οἱ ἀθάνατοι  
 ἀγγέλων ῥῆσιν θέσαν.  
 60 γείτονα δ' ἐκκάλεσεν  
 Διὸς ὑψίστου προφάταν ἔξοχον,

52 <φάσγανον> suppl. Moschopoulos

# NEMEAN 1

grasping the two snakes by their necks Ant. 3  
in his two inescapable hands, 45  
and as they were being strangled, the passage of time  
exhaled the life from their monstrous bodies.

Unbearable fear  
struck all the women who at the time  
    were attending Alkmene's bed,  
and even in her condition she sprang from her couch 50  
    to her feet without any robe and began warding off the  
    beasts' attack.

And swiftly the Kadmeian chieftains came running Ep. 3  
    in a group with their bronze arms,  
and Amphitryon arrived brandishing his unsheathed  
    sword in his hand,  
stricken with piercing anguish  
    (for one's own sorrow oppresses every man alike,  
whereas the heart is soon free from pain  
    at someone else's trouble).

He stood there, stunned with wonder both painful Str. 4  
and joyous, for he saw the extraordinary 56  
determination and power  
of his son, since the immortal gods had  
reversed the messengers' report to him.<sup>1</sup>  
He summoned his neighbor, 60  
    the foremost prophet of highest Zeus,

<sup>1</sup> I.e. Herakles had killed the snakes, not the reverse (schol.).

---

60 ἐκκάλεσεν Triclinius: ἐκκάλεσαν B<sup>pc</sup>DV<sup>1</sup>: ἐκάλεσαν  
B<sup>ac</sup>UV

ὀρθόμαντιν Τειρεσίαν· ὁ δέ οἱ  
φράζε καὶ παντὶ στρατῷ, ποίαις ὁμιλήσει τύχαις,

ὅσσοις μὲν ἐν χέρσῳ κτανῶν,  
ὅσσοις δὲ πόντῳ θήρας αἰδροδίκας·  
καὶ τινα σὺν πλαγίῳ

65 ἀνδρῶν κόρῳ στείχοντα τὸν ἐχθρότατον  
φᾶσέ νιν δώσειν μόρον.

καὶ γὰρ ὅταν θεοὶ ἐν

πεδίῳ Φλέγρας Γιγάντεσσιν μάχαν  
ἀντιάζωσιν, βελέων ὑπὸ ῥι-

παῖσι κείνου φαιδίμαν γαίᾳ πεφύρσεσθαι κόμαν

ἔνεπεν· αὐτὸν μὰν ἐν εἰρή-

νᾷ τὸν ἅπαντα χρόνον <ἐν> σχερῷ

70 ἥσυχίαν καμάτων μεγάλων

ποινὰν λαχόντ' ἐξαίρετον

ὀλβίοις ἐν δώμασι, δεξάμενον

θαλερὰν Ἥβαν ἄκοιτιν καὶ γάμον

δαίσαντα παρ Δὶ Κρονίδα,

σεμνὸν αἰνήσειν νόμον.

64-65 τινα . . . στείχοντα codd.: τινι . . . στείχοντι Hermann

66 φᾶσέ νιν δώσειν codd.: φᾶ ἐ δαώσειν Snell praeuntibus  
Wilamowitz et Theiler | μόρῳ Beck

69 <ἐν> suppl. Hermann

72 νόμον Pauw e schol.: δόμον B<sup>1</sup>DU: γάμον B<sup>s</sup>V



## NEMEAN 1

the straight-speaking seer Teiresias, who declared to him  
and to all the people what fortunes he<sup>1</sup> would  
encounter:

all the lawless beasts he would slay on land, Ant. 4

and all those in the sea;

and to many a man<sup>2</sup> who traveled

in crooked excess he said that 65

he<sup>3</sup> would give the most hateful doom.

And furthermore, when the gods would meet the Giants

in battle on the plain of Phlegra,

he said that beneath a volley of his arrows

their bright hair would be fouled

with earth, but that he himself Ep. 4

in continual peace for all time

would be allotted tranquillity as the choicest 70

recompense for his great labors

in a blissful home, and, after receiving

flourishing Hebe as his wife

and celebrating his wedding feast with Kronos' son Zeus,

would praise his<sup>4</sup> hallowed rule.

<sup>1</sup> Herakles.

<sup>2</sup> Or *a certain man*: a scholion suggests Busiris and Antaios  
(cf. *Isth.* 4.52–55).

<sup>3</sup> Herakles.

<sup>4</sup> Zeus'.