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ARISTOPHANES, *AVES* 1271—1273

ΚΗΡΥΞ ὦ Πισθέταιρ', ὦ μακάρι', ὦ σοφώτατε,  
 ὦ κλεινότατ', ὦ σοφώτατ', ὦ γλαφυρώτατε,  
 ὦ τρισμακάρι', ὦ - - κατακέλευσον. ΠΙ. τί σὺ λέγεις;

I find the repetition of ὦ σοφώτατε intolerable. So did P. P. Dobree when suggesting the following reading of line 1271: ὦ Πισθέταιρ', <ὦ Πισθέταιρ',> ὦ μακάριε, [ὦ σοφώτατε]. This solution applies one addition and one deletion, but the obtained anaphora is not effective. In his turn, Th. Kock read ἕξοχώτατ' for σοφώτατ' in 1272. But this is an epic-tragic word out of tune here<sup>1</sup>.

I think the first σοφώτατε has to go. First, it is more likely to be a „line-end makeshift“, inspired by such formulas as ὦ σοφώτατε/ at *Equites* 117; *Pax* 428. And second, the second ὦ σοφώτατ' goes well with γλαφυρώτατε, „O thou wisest and subtlest“. For, as 1272 ὦ κλεινότατ' is explained by 1277, ὦ κλεινοτάτην αἰθέριον οἰκίσσας πόλιν, so is 1272 ὦ σοφώτατ', ὦ γλαφυρώτατε explained by 1274 σοφίας οὐνεκα / and 1320 Σοφία.

Accordingly, I would read line 1271 so: ὦ Πισθέταιρ', ὦ μακάρι', ὦ τρισόλβιε. The restored τρισόλβιε matches 1273 τρισμακάρι', and belongs to the *standard macaristic phraseology*. Compare *Eccles.* 1129, ὦ δέσποτ', ὦ μακάριε καὶ τρισόλβιε. *Eq.* 157, ὦ μακάρι', ὦ πλούσιε /. *Philemon* Fr. 93. I Kock ὦ τρισμακάρια πάντα καὶ τρισόλβια/. How much is this „line-filler“ — τρισόλβιος, „thrice blessed“ — at home *on stage*, one learns from Lucians' *parody* (*Nigrinus* 1): Ὀδοῦ πάρεργον ἦκω σοι εὐδαίμων τε καὶ μακάριος γεγενημένος, καὶ τοῦτο δὴ τὸ ἀπὸ τῆς σκηνῆς ὄνομα, τρισόλβιος<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Other solutions are even less likely. Compare *Aristophanis Aves*, ed. J. van Leeuwen (Lugduni Batavorum, 1902; reprint 1968). But the edition of *Aves* by Ph. I. Kakridis (Athens, 1974) is not available to me.

<sup>2</sup> Compare Gustav Lejeune Dirichlet, *De veterum macarismis* (Religionsgeschichtliche Versuche und Vorarbeiten XIV. 4; Giessen, 1914). 33; 63. — For the climactic repetition, 1271 μακάριε ... 1273 τρισμακάριε, compare *Vespae* 1292f.