

OVE HANSEN
Copenhagen
Blaagaardsgade 26, 3—22

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MELANIPPIDES FR. 762 PMG. WRITTEN BY EURIPIDES?

κλύθι μοι ὦ πάτερ, θαῦμα βροτῶν,
τᾶς ἀειζώου ψυχᾶς μεδέων.

D. L. Page has in his apparatus criticus ad loc. doubted Melanippides' authorship of this fragment which is quoted by Clemens of Alexandria¹ and Eusebius². I agree with Page and will in the following demonstrate that an ascription of the text to Euripides is more recommendable.

The metre is relevant for my purpose and runs as follows:

- ◡ ◡ - ◡ - - ◡ ◡ -
- ◡ - - - ◡ ◡ - - - (μεδέων ψυχᾶς, Bergk, whom
I follow

As will be seen the metre has a striking resemblance to the opening lines of fr. 1018a PMG entitled by C. M. Bowra, A Prayer to the Fates³, but probably written by Euripides in his Peleus:

κλύτε, Μοῖραι, Διὸς αἴ τε παρὰ θρόνον
ἀγχοτάτω θεῶν ἐζόμεναι
- ◡ - - ◡ ◡ - ◡ ◡ - ◡ ◡
- ◡ ◡ - ◡ - - ◡ ◡ -

Moreover the words θαῦμα βροτῶν are only attested in connection with each other in a choral song in Euripides' Iphigenia in Aulis v 202:

παρὰ δὲ Μηριόνην, Ἄρεος
ὄζον, θαῦμα βροτοῦσιν

And finally LSJ quotes only examples from the tragedians concerning occurrences of the word ἀειζωος in fifth century poetry. So e. g.: Aesch. Supp. 988 χῶρα δ' ἄχθος ἀειζων πέλοι.

FOOTNOTES

1. Strom. 5, 14, 112, p. 402 Staehlin
2. Praep. Evang. 13, 680, PG. 21. 1124 B ὁ μελοποιὸς δὲ Μελαννιπίδης ἄιδων φησί: κλύθι-μεδέων ψυχᾶς.
3. *Greek Lyric Poetry*³, (Oxford 1961), 404 ff.

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