

Πόλις ἐστὶ τῆς Λέσβου Μυτιλήνη, μεγάλη καὶ καλή: διείληπται γὰρ εὐρίπποις ὑπείσρεουσιν τῆς θαλάττης, καὶ κεκόσμηται γεφύραις ξεστοῦ καὶ λευκοῦ λίθου.

There is a city of Lesbos, Mytilene, great and beautiful, for it has been divided by straits of the gently flowing sea, and it has been equipped with bridges of polished white stone.

Νομίσειςαι ἂν οὐ πόλιν ὄραν ἀλλὰ νῆσον.

You might believe that you are seeing not a city, but an island.

Ταύτης τῆς πόλεως ὅσον ἀπὸ σταδίων διακοσίων ἀγρὸς ἦν ἀνδρὸς εὐδαίμονος, κτῆμα κάλλιστον: ὄρη θηροτρόφα, πεδία πυροφόρα: γήλοφοι κλημάτων, νομαὶ ποιμνίων: καὶ ἡ θάλαττα προσέκλυζεν ἡόνι ἐκτεταμένη, ψάμμω μαλθακῇ.

Of this city, as much as 200 stades away, was the farm of a lucky man, a most beautiful property, hills nurturing wild beasts, wheat-bearing plains, hills of vines, pastures of sheep, and the sea washing along an extended shoreline with soft sand.

Ἐν τῷδε τῷ ἀγρῷ νέμων αἰπόλος, Λάμων τούνομα, παιδίον εὔρεν ὑπὸ μιᾶς τῶν αἰγῶν τρεφόμενον.

On this farm, a goatherd, by the name of Lamon, found a child being nursed by a female one of the goats.

Δρυμὸς ἦν καὶ λόχμη βάτων καὶ κιττὸς ἐπιπλανώμενος καὶ πόα μαλθακή, καθ' ἧς ἔκειτο τὸ παιδίον.

There was an oak coppice and a thicket of bramble bushes and ivy wandering over and soft grass, on which the child was placed.

Ἐνταῦθα ἡ αἶξ θέουσα συνεχῆς ἀφανῆς ἐγίνετο πολλάκις καὶ τὸν ἔριφον ἀπολιποῦσα τῷ βρέφει παρέμενε.

There, the nanny goat running continuously, often disappeared, and, leaving behind the young goat, stayed with the newborn.

Φυλάττει τὰς διαδρομὰς ὁ Λάμων οἰκτείρας ἀμελούμενον τὸν ἔριφον, καὶ μεσημβρίας ἀκμαζούσης κατ' ἵχνος ἐλθὼν ὁρᾷ τὴν μὲν αἶγα πεφυλαγμένως περιβεβηκυῖαν τὸ βρέφος, μὴ ταῖς χηλαῖς βλάπτοι πατοῦσα, τὸ δὲ ὥσπερ ἐκ μητρώας θηλῆς τὴν ἐπιρροὴν ἔλκον τοῦ γάλακτος.

Lamon watches the runnings about, pitying the neglected young goat, and at the height of midday, coming with a footstep, ^{1.2} he sees that the nanny goat has cautiously walked around the

newborn, so that she might not ^{2.2}suckle him, stepping with her hooves, ^{2.1}but that the flow of milk was just as from a maternal teat.

Θαυμάσας, ὥσπερ εἰκὸς ἦν, πρόσσεισιν ἐγγὺς καὶ εὕρισκει παιδίον ἄρρεν, μέγα καὶ καλὸν καὶ τῆς κατὰ τὴν ἔκθεσιν τύχης ἐν σπαργάνοις κρείττοσι: χλαμύδιόν τε γὰρ ἦν ἀλουργές καὶ πόρπη χρυσῇ καὶ ξιφίδιον ἐλεφαντόκωπον.

Wondering at this, just as would be likely, he comes near and finds the male child, great and beautiful and in better swaddling than for the fate of exposure, for there was a little purple cloak and a gold brooch and an ivory-hilted dagger.

Τὸ μὲν οὖν πρῶτον ἐβουλεύσατο μόνα τὰ γνωρίσματα βαστάσας ἀμελῆσαι τοῦ βρέφους: ἔπειτα αἰδεσθεὶς εἰ μὴδὲ αἰγὸς φιλανθρωπίαν μιμήσεται, νύκτα φυλάξας κομίζει πάντα πρὸς τὴν γυναῖκα Μυρτάλην, καὶ τὰ γνωρίσματα καὶ τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν αἶγα αὐτήν.

At first he (Lamon) wanted to take only the identifying tokens of the child and leave him alone, then, being ashamed if he did not even mimic the humanity of a goat, after guarding through the night, he provides everything to his wife Myrtale, both the tokens and the child and the nanny goat herself.

Τῆς δὲ ἐκπλαγείσης εἰ παιδία τίκτουσιν αἶγες, ὁ δὲ πάντα αὐτῇ διηγεῖται, πῶς εὔρεν ἐκκείμενον, πῶς εἶδε τρεφόμενον, πῶς ἠδέσθη καταλιπεῖν ἀποθανούμενον.

Because she was amazed, if goats give birth to children, he set out in detail all things for her, how he found the child set out, how he saw him being nursed, how he was ashamed to leave him behind to die.

Δόξαν δὲ κάκειν, τὰ μὲν συνεκτεθέντα κρύπτουσι, τὸ δὲ παιδίον αὐτῶν νομίζουσι, τῇ δὲ αἰγὶ τὴν τροφήν ἐπιτρέπουσιν.

In the opinion of ^{2.3}that one (Myrtale), on the one hand, they hide the things put out together with the child, on the other hand they consider the child to be theirs, but they entrust the feeding to the nanny goat.

Ὡς ὃ ἂν καὶ τοῦνομα τοῦ παιδίου ποιμενικὸν δοκοίη, Δάφνιν αὐτὸν ἔγνωσαν καλεῖν.

As a pastoral name would seem right for the child, they determined to call him Daphnis.

Index of comments

- 1.1 'watched' - this is the historic present
- 1.2 'saw'
- 2.1 'drinking the flow ...'
- 2.2 'harm'
- 2.3 'also that one' - kakeinh is for kai ekeinh