

1.1

Πόλις ἐστὶ τῆς Λέσβου Μυτιλήνη, μεγάλη καὶ καλή: διείληπται γὰρ εὐρίποις ὑπείσσευσης τῆς θαλάττης, καὶ κεκόσμηται γεφύραις ξεστοῦ καὶ λευκοῦ λίθου. Νομίσειας ἂν οὐ πόλιν ὀρᾶν ἀλλὰ νῆσον. [2] 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, ψάμμῳ μαλθακῇ.

Mytilene, on Lesbos, is a great and beautiful city: for it is divided (lit: it has been divided) by canals flowing to the sea, and it is adorned with bridges of a light, polished stone. You would believe you saw not a city, but an island.

As much as 200 stades away there was a field of a wealthy man, a most beautiful piece of land: mountains where wild beasts thrive (literally: “mountains feeding wild beasts”), plains of wheat, hills of vines, pastures where flocks graze, and the sea washing an expanse of soft sand with waves.

1.2

Ἐν τῷδε τῷ ἀγρῷ νέμων αἰπόλος, Λάμων τοῦνομα, παιδίον εὗρεν ὑπὸ μιᾷς τῶν αἰγῶν τρεφόμενον. Δρυμὸς ἦν καὶ λόχμη βάτων καὶ κιττὸς ἐπιπλανώμενος καὶ πόα μαλθακή, καθ' ἧς ἔκειτο τὸ παιδίον. Ἐνταῦθα ἡ αἰξ θεούσα συνεχὲς ἀφανῆς ἐγένετο πολλάκις καὶ τὸν ἔριφον ἀπολιποῦσα τῷ βρέφει παρέμενε. [2] Φυλάττει τὰς διαδρομὰς ὁ Λάμων οἰκτεῖρας ἀμελοῦμενον τὸν ἔριφον, καὶ μεσημβρίας ἀκμαζούσης κατ' ἵχνος ἐλθὼν ὀρᾷ τὴν μὲν αἶγα πεφυλαγμένως περιβεβηκυῖαν τὸ βρέφος, μὴ ταῖς χηλαῖς βλάπτοι πατοῦσα, τὸ δὲ ὥσπερ ἐκ μητρώας θηλῆς τὴν ἐπιρροὴν ἔλκον τοῦ γάλακτος. [3] Θαυμάσας, ὥσπερ εἰκὸς ἦν, πρόσεισιν ἐγγὺς καὶ εὐρίσκει παιδίον ἄρρεν, μέγα καὶ καλὸν καὶ τῆς κατὰ τὴν ἐκθεσιν τύχης ἐν σπαργάνοις κρεῖττοσι: χλαμύδιόν τε γὰρ ἦν ἀλουργὲς καὶ πόρπη χρυσῇ καὶ ξιφίδιον ἐλεφαντόκωπον.

In this field, a goatherd named Lamon, found a child being raised by a goat while pasturing his flock. There was a copse and a thicket of blackberry and wandering ivy, and soft grass on which lay the child. The goat kept running there, out of sight, often leaving her kid to stay beside the newborn baby. Watching the running here and there, Lamon pitied the neglected kid, and at the height of noon, having followed her path, he saw the goat, having cautiously gone around the baby in order not to hurt it with her hooves, while the baby was nursing just as from the breast of its mother. Marveling, as was reasonable, he approached and found the boy large and healthy, in swaddling too rich (lit: too great for, but the meaning must be the contrast between the unwanted baby and the desirable goods) for his fate of abandonment; for there was a purple cloak, a gold brooch, and an ivory-hilted dagger.

1.3

Τὸ μὲν οὖν πρῶτον ἐβουλεύσατο μόνα τὰ γνωρίσματα βαστάσας ἀμελῆσαι τοῦ βρέφους: ἔπειτα αἰδεσθεῖς εἰ μὴδὲ αἰγὸς φιланθρωπίαν μιμήσεται, νύκτα φυλάξας κομίζει πάντα πρὸς τὴν γυναῖκα Μυρτάλην, καὶ τὰ γνωρίσματα καὶ τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν αἶγα αὐτήν. [2] Τῆς δὲ ἐκπλαγεῖσης εἰ παιδία τίκτουσιν αἶγες, ὁ δὲ πάντα αὐτῇ διηγεῖται, πῶς εὗρεν ἐκκείμενον, πῶς

εἶδε τρεφόμενον, πῶς ἠδέσθη καταλιπεῖν ἀποθανούμενον. Δόξαν δὴ κάκεινῃ, τὰ μὲν
συνεκτεθέντα κρύπτουσι, τὸ δὲ παιδίον αὐτῶν νομίζουσι, τῇ δὲ αἰγὶ τὴν τροφὴν ἐπιτρέπουσιν.
Ὡς δ' ἂν καὶ τοῦνομα τοῦ παιδίου ποιμενικὸν δοκοίη, Δάφνιν αὐτὸν ἔγνωσαν καλεῖν.

So while at first he resolved to only carry off the tokens and leave the baby, then, ashamed to not exhibit as much humanity as the goat, he waited until night and took the whole to his wife Myrtale, the tokens and the child and the very same goat. As she was shocked if goats could bear children, he explained the whole thing to her, how he found the baby exposed, how he saw the nurturing (of the child), and how he was ashamed to leave him to die. Since it seemed right to her, they hid the thing exposed with the child, and considered the child as their own, entrusting his feeding to the goat. And in order that the child's name appear to be that of a shepherd, they decided to call him Daphnis.