

Scolia 894

φίλταθ' Ἀρμόδι', οὐ τί πω τέθνηκας,
νήσοις δ' ἐν μακάρων σέ φασιν εἶναι,
ἵνα περ ποδώκης Ἀχιλεὺς
Τυδείδην τέ φασιν Διομήδεα

VOCABULARY

Ἀχιλεὺς, ὁ: Achilles

Διομήδης, ὁ: Diomedes

ἵνα (+ *indic.*): conjunction introducing relative clause of place (i.e. 'where...')

μάκαρ, -ἄρος, ὁ: one who is blessed / happy (*cf.* commentary on v. 2)

νῆσος, -ου, ἡ: island

ποδώκης, -ες: swift footed

πω (*particle*): yet (*usu. with neg.*)

τέθνηκα (*pf.*) < θνήσκω: die; (*pf.*) be dead

Τυδείδης: (*adj., patronymic*) son of Tydeus

COMMENTARY

TEXT: *PMG* 894 accepting Lowth's conjecture τέ φασιν Διομήδεα in v. 4.

METRE: νν. 1-2 are Phalaecian hendecasyllables, *i.e.* an Aeolic base of two ancipitia, a choriambic nucleus, and a final sequence:

x x | - ∪ ∪ - | ∪ - ∪ - -. The text and consequently metre of νν. 3-4 are uncertain.

1. φίλταθ' = φίλτατε (*voc.*)

Ἀρμόδι': elision of Ἀρμόδιε (*voc.*)

οὐ τί πω τέθνηκας: 'you are not yet dead at all.'

2. νήσοις δ' ἐν μακάρων: '...on the Islands of the Blessed' (in Greek eschatology a place in the

afterlife reserved only for the most impressive heroes).

σε... εἶναι: accusative and infinitive construction; the subject of the verb φασιν is implicit (*i.e.*, 'they say that' / 'people say that'); the subject of εἶναι is σε ('you').

3. περ (*particle*): emphasizes the word it follows (*i.e.*, 'where *indeed*')

ποδώκης Ἀχιλεὺς: *sc.* ἐστί

4. φασιν: *sc.* εἶναι as in line 2.

τε: usually coordinates with a second τε to mean 'both... and'; however, in poetry it may be used as a stand-alone conjunction like καί (*i.e.* 'and').

FP