

Delphic Paean by Athenaios Athenaiou

Composed for the Athenian Pythaidēs festival in 138/7 or 128/7 BCE. Athenaios 'son of Athenaios' is listed as a director of the great chorus in the 128/7 BCE festival. His paean to Apollo survives on two marble slabs carved in 128/7 or 106/5 BCE, originally positioned along the Sacred Way of Delphi on the exterior south face of the Treasury of the Athenians.

Notes in green reconstructed by Stefan Hagel (2017)

Words in green supplemented by scholars 1893–2001, principally Martin West (2001)

Notes in black (with an emendation in red, bar 83) from the edition by Egert Pöhlmann and Martin West (2001)

A liturgical dance summoning Apollo

Breathing staggered throughout: no audible gaps, rhythmically tight for dancing

Chorus

7 Come daughters of Zeus

12 the thunderer, Apollo

18 golden-haired, A rising up the twin peaks of Parnassus

25 with Delphic nymphs Castalia's flowing streams is

31 reaching, visiting his mountain oracle, Delphi. 2

38 B Behold, the great city-state Attica is at prayer,

45 unconquerable; on sacred altars Hephaestus burns thighs of young bulls;

1. Pro - mo-leth' He-li - kō-na ba-thy-den-dron hai la-che-te Di-os
the thunderer, Apollo
e-ri-bro-mou thy-ga-tres eu - ō - le-noi; mo-le-te syn-hom-hai mon hi-na Phoi-bon ō -
golden-haired, A rising up the twin peaks of Parnassus
dai - si mel - psē-te chry - se-o-ko-mān, hos a-na di-ko-rym-ba Par - nās-si-dos tāz - de pe-te
with Delphic nymphs Castalia's flowing streams is
rās he-dran ham - a-ga-kly-taiz_ Del - phi-sin_ Ka - sta-li-dos eu - hy-drou nā-mat' e - pi-
reaching, visiting his mountain oracle, Delphi. 2
nī - se-tai, Del-phon a - na prō - na mān - tēi - on e-phe-pōn pa-gon.
B Behold, the great city-state Attica is at prayer,
2. Ēn, kly-ta me-ga-lo-po-lis Ath-this, eu - chai-si pher-ho-ploi-o nai - ou-sa Trī - tō - ni-do-
unconquerable; on sacred altars Hephaestus burns thighs of young bulls;
da-pe-don ath - rau-ston; ha-gi - oiz de bō - moi-sin Hā-phai-stos ai - thī ne-ōn mē-ra tau-

52 *Arabian smoke to Olympus uprises;* **C** *the clear-voiced*
 rōn, ho - mou de nin A-raps at - mos es O - lym-pon a - na - kid - na - tai, li - gy de lō -

58 *pipe, sounding with shimmering tunes, its song weaves; and the golden sweet-voiced*
 toz_ bre-mōn ai - o - loiz_ me - le - sin ōi - dān_ kre - kī, chry - se - ā d' hā - dy - throus

64 *kithara with hymns raises song.* **D** *A swarm of Attic artists*
 ki - tha - ris hym - noi - sin a - na - mel - pe - tai. 3. Ho de tech - nī - tōn_ pro - pās hez - mos Ath -

72 *glorifies the son of great Zeus, who gave you this snow-capped*
 thi - da la - chōn a - gla - i - zī kly - tom pai - da me - ga - lou Di - os, soi gar e - por' a - kro - ni - phē

79 *crag where undying, unlying oracles are revealed to all;*
 ton - de pa - gon, am - brot' ap - seu - de' hou pā - si thnā - tois_ pro - phai - nīs_ lo - gi - a;

85 **E** *you grasped the tripod which the great serpent was guarding, when*
 tri - po - da mān - teti - on hōs hī - les hon me - gas e - phrou - rī_ dra - kōn, ho - te te - koz

91 *you slew that glittering, coiled creature and the beast many hisses emitting*
 Gās_ a - pes - tē - sas ai - o - lon he - lik - tām phy - ān, esth' ho thēr py - kna sy - ring - math' hī -

98 *strident expired at last;* **F** *thus the barbarous army of Gauls who*
 is a - thō - peut' a - pe pneus' ho - mōs; hōz de Ga - la - tān_ a - rēz bar - ba - ros, tānd' hos e - pi

106 *invaded this land impiously ✓ of snow perished in liquid streams.* **9**
 gai - an e - pe - rās'_ a - sep - tōs chi - o - nos ō - leth hyg - rais cho - ais.