ARISTOPHANES, *BIRDS* 786–8

ABSTRACT

A conjecture in Birds *786–8.*

Keywords: Aristophanes; *Birds*; emendation; εἶτα; corruption; participle

αὐτίχ᾽ ὑμῶν τῶν θεατῶν εἴ τις ἦν ὑπόπτερος,
εἶτα πεινῶν τοῖς χοροῖσι τῶν τραγῳδῶν ἤχθετο,
ἐκπτόμενος ἂν οὗτος ἠρίστησεν ἐλθὼν οἴκαδε ...

'For instance, if one of you spectators was winged, then, being hungry, was bored with the tragic choruses, he could have flown off, gone home and had lunch.' The sequence 'was winged ... then was bored' is surprising. Being winged is not an event anterior to being bored but a condition which enables the action which follows. I should expect here the common idiom in which εἶτα (continuative or adversative, sometimes ἔπειτα or κᾆτα or κἄπειτα) is preceded not by a finite verb but by a participle (circumstantial or temporal): εἴ τις ὢν ὑπόπτερος | εἶτα, 'if, being winged, he had then ...'. Cf. *Vesp.* 1071–2 εἴ τις ὑμῶν, ὦ θεαταί, τὴν ἐμὴν ἰδὼν φύσιν | εἶτα θαυμάζει. Precisely the same corruption is found at *Vesp.* 49 ἄνθρωπος ὢν (RV: ἦν j Greg. Cor.) εἶτ᾽ ἐγένετ᾽ ἐξαίφνης κόραξ. Other Aristophanic examples with ὤν are *Ach.* 498–9 εἰ πτωχὸς ὢν ἔπειτ᾽ ἐν Ἀθηναίοις λέγειν | μέλλω, *Eq.* 391–2 ἀλλ᾽ ὅμως οὗτος τοιοῦτος ὢν ἅπαντα τὸν βίον | κᾆτ᾽ ἀνὴρ ἔδοξεν εἶναι, *Ran.* 203–5 κᾆτα πῶς δυνήσομαι | ἄπειρος, ἀθαλάττωτος, ἀσαλαμίνιος | ὢν εἶτ᾽ ἐλαύνειν;, 367 ἢ τοὺς μισθοὺς τῶν ποιητῶν ῥήτωρ ὢν εἶτ᾽ ἀποτρώγει. For further illustration see LSJ s.v. εἶτα I.2, ἔπειτα I.3, Olson on *Ach.* 23–4, Biles and Olson on *Vesp.* 49 and *Eq.* 280–1, and C. Collard, *Colloquial Expressions in Greek Tragedy* (Stuttgart, 2018), 105–6.

Queens' College, Cambridge JAMES DIGGLE
jd10000@cam.ac.uk
doi:10.1017/S0009838825000059

CONSIDER THE NIGHTINGALE: CALLIMACHUS, *EPIGR.* 2 PF. = 34 G–P[1]

ABSTRACT

Several epigrams of Callimachus showcase a larger content in a smaller format: one of these is Callim. Epigr. *2 Pf. = 34 G–P.*

Keywords: nightingale; epigram; Homer; Callimachus

[1] Callim. *Iambus* 7 describes a statue of Hermes as a *parergon*, 'secondary work, minor work', of Epeius, the creator of the Trojan Horse. Susan Stephens and I treat this epigram in our edition and commentary of Callimachus' epigrams: see S.A. Stephens and B. Acosta-Hughes, *Callimachus: The Epigrams* (Berlin, 2025), 105–11. This small study is a *parergon* of that larger work.

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