

Marcus Encolpus' Tomb Inscription

Post by "Bryan" of July 7, 2023 at 6:47 PM

Good stuff guys. The Greek looks something like

"μή μου παρέλθης τὸ ἐπίγραμμα, ὁδοιπόρε,
ἀλλὰ σταθεὶς ἄκουε καὶ μαθὼν ἄπι.
οὐκ ἔστι ἐν Ἅδου πλοῖν, οὐ πορθμεὺς Χάρων,
οὐκ Αἰακὸς κλειδοῦχος, οὐχὶ Κέρβελος κύων.
ἡμεῖς δὲ πάντες οἱ κάτω τεθνηκότες
ὄστέα τέφρα γεγονάμεν, ἄλλο δὲ οὐδὲ ἔν.
εἴρηκά σοι ὀρθῶς. ὕπαγε, ὁδοιπόρε,
μὴ καὶ τεθνακῶς ἀδέλεσχος σοι φανῶ.
[μὴ μύρα, μὴ στεφάνους στήλλη χάριση λίθος ἐστίν.]
μηδὲ τὸ πῦρ φλέξεις. ἰς κενὸν ἢ δαπάνη.
ζῶντί μοι, εἴ τι ἔχεις, μετάδος. τέφραν δὲ μεθύσκων
πηλὸν ποιήσεις καὶ οὐκ ὁ θανῶν πίεται.
τοῦτο ἔσομαι γὰρ ἐγώ, σὺ δὲ τούτοις γῆν ἐπιχώσας.
εἰπέ. ὅτι οὐκ ὦν ἦν. τοῦτο πάλιν γέγονα."

Which is something like "Do not pass by my epitaph, traveler, but stand and listen. But, having learned, depart. There is no boat in Hades, no ferryman Charon, no key-bearer Aeacus, no Cerberus. We have all become ashes, bones of the dead below, and there is no other way. I have spoken rightly to you. Now go on! Traveler- do not let me, who has died, appear to you as a ghost. Please refrain from presenting fragrances or sending floral arrangements. This is just stone. Do not kindle the fire. It is a waste of effort. Give what you have to the living. For the dead, mixing ashes with clay will suffice, and the dead do not drink. Having returned to the earth, this is what I will be to you. Tell them: 'He who did not exist, came into being - (then) he went back!'"