Constantine Manasses, *Itinerary* v. 160

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M. Marcovich has recently given us a fascinating paper (*ICS* 12 [1987] 277–91) on Manasses’s *Itinerary*. May I suggest a postscript? The poet sees a beautiful girl in a dim chapel.

\[\text{άλλ' ὦσπερ ἦν σύνηθες εἰσιόντι μοι αἴφνης ὅρᾶται χιονόχρωτος κόρη, καὶ τοῦ προσώπου τῆς φερανγοῦς λαμπάδος 160 φωτὸς πυριμάρμαρον ἐκφέρει σέλας καὶ καταλάμπει καὶ διώκει τὸν ξόφον.}\]

Marcovich diagnoses too many genitives in v. 160 and alters to τῇ φερανγαῖ λαμπάδι; and he reads εἰσφέρει in 161: “and with her face as a light-bringing lamp she introduces a gleaming brightness into the chapel.” The change of case is bold, and following εἰσιόντι μοι I would rather have expected a description of something unusual already there that greeted his eye rather than a description of someone bringing in something new into a gloomy ambiance. Although we are not talking of the girl bringing something in by entering the chapel, the choice of word is unfortunate in the context. I would also expect σέλας to be the subject of the verbs in 162. For these reasons I suggest ἐκφέρει with no other change. For the corruption cf. Aesch. *Sept.* 513, and for the appropriateness of the verb Aesch. fr. 243.1 νέας γυναικὸς . . . φλέγει ὀρθαλμός. “But on going in, as was my custom, a girl with skin white as snow suddenly greeted my eyes, and from the radiant lamp of her face a fiery gleam of light blazed out and lit up the place, chasing the darkness away.” It is to be hoped Manasses himself would approve of this suggestion: it was after all he who penned the couplet

\[\text{τὴν ταῦτα τλήμων εῖς μάτην καταλέγω, τῆς Αἰσχύλου χρηίζοντα δραματουργίας . . . ;} \]

(vv. 213–14)

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