

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.

ἀλλ' ὡσπερ ἦν σύνηθες εἰσιόντι μοι  
 αἴφνης ὁράται χιονόχρωτος κόρη,  
 καὶ τοῦ προσώπου τῆς φεραυγοῦς λαμπάδος 160  
 φωτὸς πυριμάρμαρον ἐκφέρει σέλας  
 καὶ καταλάμπει καὶ διώκει τὸν ζόφον·

Marcovich diagnoses too many genitives in v. 160 and alters to τῆι φεραυγεῖ 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 ἐκφλέγει with no other change. For the corruption cf. Aesch. *Sept.* 513, and for the appropriateness of the verb Aesch. fr. 243. Ἰ νέας γυναικὸς . . . φλέγει ὀφθαλμός. "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

τί ταῦτα τλήμων εἰς μάτην καταλέγω,  
 τῆς Αἰσχύλου χρῆζοντα δραματουργίας . . . ;  
 (vv. 213–14)

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