

The Text of Pindar, *Olympian* 13.107–108

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Abstract: This note proposes a new solution to the textual crux at Pind. *Ol.* 13.107–108.

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ὅσα τ' Ἀρκάειν ἀνάσσων
μαρτυρήσει Λυκαίου βωμοῦ ἀναξ²

and all those [sc. victories] whose witness will be the Lykaian god's royal altar that rules over the Arcadians³

In the transmitted text line 107 is unmetrical (Ἀρκάειν ἀνάσσων contains a superfluous short syllable). ἀνάσ(σ)ων is the consistent reading of the MSS, whereas some later MSS have ἀρκάει or ἀρκάει for Ἀρκάειν and βωμοῖσι for βωμοῦ in line 108.⁴ The evidence of these variant readings is ambiguous. They might have arisen from difficulties experienced by Byzantine scribes and scholars understanding the vulgate,⁵ but they might also reflect earlier variant readings in the tradition. Be that as it may, such evidence as exists points the finger of suspicion not at ἀνάσσων, but rather at Ἀρκάειν and βωμοῦ. Gerber has catalogued earlier attempts at restoring sense and metre,⁶ but neither they nor more recent attempts carry much conviction. Having regard to where the MS evidence suggests that corruption has occurred, I propose writing ὅσα [sc. ἀεθλια] τ' Ἀρκάει (iam Wilamowitz) ἀνάσσων | μαρτυρήσει Λυκαίου βωμοῦ ἀναξ, i.e. “and all those [sc. victories/prizes] to which the Arcadian Lord

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⁴ See Mommsen 1864, 125. There is also confusion about Ἀρκάειν in Σ 152 (= Drachmann 1903–1927, vol. 1, 385.21) regarding the lemma, which appears variously in the MSS as ὅσα τ' Ἀρκάει, ὅσα τ' ἐν Ἀρκάει and ὅσα τ' ἐν Ἀρκαδίᾳ. The different lemmata in the scholia may indicate that variant readings existed at some stage, which would cast doubt on the paradosis. At any rate, the MSS' unanimity regarding the reading ἀνάσ(σ)ων gives good reason for resisting the three changes involved in Bergk's Ἀρκάει βάσσαει. (Schürch 1971, 93 suggests that a participle here “klänge hohl”, but he does not explain why and there is no good reason for the suggestion.) Ἀρκάειν is recognised as corrupt by e.g. Wilamowitz-Moellendorf 1922, 370–371 n. 3 (reading Ἀρκάει and construing it with βωμοῦ) and Peri 2021, 20 (obelizing Ἀρκάειν ἀνάσσων, where most editors who have obelized have only obelized ἀνάσσων). Reluctance to condemn Ἀρκάειν may stem from μαρτυρέω regularly taking acc. + dat., but the verb can take a simple acc. rei (cf. LSJ s.v. I.3).

⁵ But if so, it stands to reason that there would have been more in the way of scholiastic comment on this verse, not to mention alternative interpretations.

⁶ Gerber 1976, 57–58. Subsequent conjectures include Lomiento's (considered in n. 2 above) and Peri's ὅσα τ' Ἀρκάει ἀνακτος | μαρτυρήσει Λυκαίου βωμοῦ ἰδών (2021, 120 n. 55). Peri's suggestion is too far from the paradosis to be plausible.

presiding over his Lykaian altar will bear witness”.⁷ With this reading Zeus bears witness to the Oligaiḥidai’s victories generally. ἀναξ combined with ἀνάκτων (“the ruler who rules”) would not have been unnatural to the Greek ear.⁸ This and the word order (with the participle separated from the noun with which it coheres by the verb)⁹ emphasize Zeus’ overlordship of the shrine at the summit of Mt Lykaon. The suggested reading assumes shortening of the last syllable of βωμοῦ by epic correption. The phenomenon is rare in *d*, but is nevertheless admitted occasionally and there is no good reason why it should not be here.¹⁰ The corruption to Ἀρκάτιν will have arisen because a scribe expected ἀνάκτων to govern a noun in the dative case, as it regularly does in Homer. However, elsewhere in Pindar the verb consistently takes the genitive.¹¹ After this initial corruption βωμοῦ was probably attracted into the case of ἀναξ. Deletion of -iv at the end of Ἀρκάτιν is a slight change, as is that from βωμόc to -οῦ.

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⁷ For a god as king in his own temple, see *Pyth.* 3.27–28 ναοῦ βασιλεὺς | Λοξίας; for gods and kings presiding over altars see e.g. Aesch. *Supp.* 372 κρατύνεις βωμόν; Eur. *Supp.* 1 Δῆμητερ ἐκτιοῦχ’, *El.* 674 Ἦρα τε βωμῶν ἢ Μυκηναίων κρατεῖς.

⁸ The same combination occurs at Opp. *C.* 2.52 οἶος ἔην κάκεινος [sc. ταῦρος] ἀναξ σφετέροισιν ἀνάκτων; cf. also Eur. *Hec.* 282 οὐ τοῖς κρατούντας χρῆ κρατεῖν ἄ μη χρεῶν. Instances of βασιλεὺς used in conjunction with βασιλεύω are numerous.

⁹ For participles separated by main verbs from nouns they govern in the gen. case cf. e.g. *Pyth.* 3.80 μανθάνων οἶθα προτέρων and *Nem.* 7.12–13 ταῖ μεγάλοι γὰρ ἀλκαί | σκότον πολὺν ὕμνων ἔχοντι δεόμεναι.

¹⁰ See Maas 1962, 80 (§129): epic correption is found “in Pindar and Bacchylides in the sequence – √ –”. Maas’ observation is not limited to dactylo-epitritic movement, as confirmed by the occurrence of correption outside dactylo-epitritic in the sequence – √ √ – within *rdod* (*Pyth.* 2.39), *tel* (*Pyth.* 2.74), *hepta* (*Pyth.* 8.93), *wil* (*Nem.* 4.46), *gl* (*Nem.* 4.79, *Isthm.* 8.65a) and *hipp* (*Nem.* 7.16). For shortening of -οῦ before a vowel in Pindar, see Clapp 1904, 16, adding Barrett’s supplement at *Nem.* 6.18 ἀπ’ Ἀλφειοῦ <ἄγαγεν>. Instances in *d* occur at *Pyth.* 1.100 -cη καὶ ἔλη, *Nem.* 4.90 παῖ [i.e. -αῖ], ὁ κόc (with Mommsen’s correction) and *Isthm.* 1.57 -cίνα καὶ Εῦ-; cf. also Bacchyl. 5.31 νῦν καὶ <ἐ>μοί.

¹¹ Slater 1969, 49 s.v. ἀνάκτων cites *Ol.* 6.34, 13.24, *Pyth.* 1.39 and *fr.* 148.

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