

Greek-to-  
English

[Alcaeus](#)

[Palladas](#)

[Archilochus](#)

[Pindar](#)

[Alcman](#)

**Úei mèn o Zeûs - Alcaeus**

Úei mèn o Zeûs,  
ec d'oráno mégas  
Cheímon,  
pepágaisin d'ydáton rhóai...

Cábballe tòn cheímon',  
epi mèn títheis

Pyr, en dè kernais  
oínon apheidéos

Mélichron, autàr amphì cóorsai  
Mólthacon amphì gnóphallon.

**Pâsa gynè chólos estín - Palladas**

Pâsa gynè cholos estín  
Échei d'amathàs dýo horas,  
Tèn mían en thalamo,  
Tèn mían en thanáto.

**En dori men - Archilochus**

En dori mén moi mâza  
memgméne en dori d'oínos  
Ismaricó's, píno d'endori  
kecliménos.

**Pindar - I**

Sophòs ho pollà eidòs phyâ  
Mathóntes dè lábroy  
Panglóssia kórakes hos akranta garyéton  
Diòs pròs ornicha theiôn.

**Pindar - II**

Chaíre, philos' egò tóde toi  
Pempò memeigménon méli leukô  
Syn gálakti, kirnaména d'éers amphépei.  
Póm' aoidimon Aiolêsin en  
pnoâsin aulôn.

**Pindar - III**

Ho mégas dè kíndynos analkin  
ou phôta lambáneí.  
Thaneín d'oísin anángka,  
táké tis anónymon  
Gêras en skóto kathémenos  
hépsoi mátan,  
Hapánton kalôn ammoros.

**Alcman**

Heúdousin d'oréon  
koryphai te kai pháranges,  
proónés te kai charádmai  
Hýla th'herpetá th'hóssa  
tréphei mélaina gaía,  
Thêrés t'oreskôoi  
kai gènos melissân  
Kai knódal' en benthessi  
porphyréas halós,  
Heúdousin d'oionôn  
phyla tanyptérygon.

**Upon Us Zeus Rains - Alcaeus**

Upon us Zeus rains,  
and out the wintry heaven  
A mighty storm descends,  
and rivulets are frozen...  
Combat the winter, lay  
the log upon the ingle,  
And (don't be niggardly!)  
the honeysweet wine commingle,  
Placing about your brow  
A soft and fleecy pillow.

**Every woman's bothersome - Palladas**

Every woman's bothersome,  
Yet is twice a nine day's wonder:  
Once when she's laid by her groom,  
Once when she's laid six feet under!

**Beside my spear - Archilochus**

Beside my spear are barley-  
bread and splendid wine,  
Beside my spear, enjoying my  
drink, I recline.

**Pindar - I: The Crows and The Eagle**

Wise is he who knows by nature mainly;  
The pair of them, mere learners,  
loudly babble,  
And like crows do chitter-chatter vainly  
Against the Bird of Zeus - the holy eagle.

**Pindar - II: Hello, my friend**

Hello, my friend! To you I send  
This milk-and-honey blend,  
And mingling dew  
about it spread,  
A drink of song  
on breath of reed.

**Pindar - III: The risk is great**

The risk is great  
and never calls a coward.  
But from amongst us who must die,  
Why should a man in darkness sit  
And to no end  
a nameless old age nurse,  
Letting go all lovely things?

**Alcman: Night**

Sleeping are  
The mountain tops, the gullies steep,  
the headlands and the gorges deep,  
The forests and all quadrupeds  
that the fertile black earth feeds,  
The wild beasts that the mountain breeds  
and the race of honey-bees,  
And the creatures in the depth  
of the dark-blue sea beneath,  
Death-like are  
The avian tribes that long wings bear.

## Brief Bios of the Pentathlon Poets

**Alcaeus** of Mytilene (c. 620 – 6th century BC), Greek lyric poet from *Lesbos*. He was an older contemporary and an alleged lover of Sappho, with whom he may have exchanged poems. He was born into the aristocratic governing class of Mytilene, the main city of Lesbos, where he was involved in political disputes and feuds.

**Archilochus** (c. 680 – c. 645 BC) was a Greek lyric poet from the island of *Paros*. He is celebrated for his versatile and innovative use of poetic meters and as the earliest known Greek author to compose almost entirely on the theme of his own emotions and experiences. However modern critics often characterize him simply as a lyric poet. Although his work now only survives in fragments, he was revered by the ancient Greeks as one of their most brilliant authors, yet he was also censured by them as the archetypal poet of blame—his invectives were even said to have driven his former fiancée and father to suicide.

**Pindar** (c. 522 – c. 443 BC) was an Ancient Greek lyric poet from *Thebes*. Of the canonical nine lyric poets of ancient Greece, his work is the best preserved. Quintilian wrote, "Of the nine lyric poets, Pindar is by far the greatest, in virtue of his inspired magnificence, the beauty of his thoughts and figures, the rich exuberance of his language and matter, and his rolling flood of eloquence, characteristics which, as Horace rightly held, make him inimitable." His poems however can also seem difficult and even peculiar. Some scholars in the modern age also found his poetry perplexing. His poetry, while admired by critics, still challenges the casual reader and his work is largely unread among the general public.

One tradition, going back to Aristotle, holds that **Alcman** (7<sup>th</sup> century BC) came to *Sparta* as a slave to the family of Agesidas, by whom he was eventually emancipated because of his great skill. According to Pausanias, he is buried in Sparta next to the tomb of Helen of Troy.

**Palladas** (4th century AD) was a Greek poet, who lived in *Alexandria*, Egypt. All that is known about this poet has been deduced from his 151 epigrams preserved in the Greek Anthology. (Another twenty-three appear in that collection under his name, but his authorship is suspect.) His poems describe the persona of a pagan schoolteacher resigned to life in a Christian city, and bitter about his wife to the point of misogyny.

