

OVE HANSEN  
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### MELANIPPIDES FR. 762 PMG. WRITTEN BY EURIPIDES?

κλῦθι μοι ὃ πάτερ, θαῦμα βροτῶν,  
τὰς ἀείζων ψυχᾶς μεδέων.

D. L. Page has in his *apparatus criticus ad loc.* doubted Melanippides' authorship of this fragment which is quoted by Clemens of Alexandria<sup>1</sup> and Eusebius<sup>2</sup>. I agree with Page and will in the following demonstrate that an ascription of the text to Euripides is more commendable.

The metre is relevant for my purpose and runs as follows:

— ◻ ◻ — ◻ — ◻ ◻ —  
— ◻ — — ◻ ◻ — — (μεδέων ψυχᾶς, Bergk, whom  
I follow

As will be seen the metre has a striking resemblance to the opening lines of fr. 1018a PMG entitled by C. M. Bowra, *A Prayer to the Fates*<sup>3</sup>, but probably written by Euripides in his *Peleus*:

κλῦτε, Μοῖραι, Διὸς αἴ τε παρὰ θρόνον  
ἀγχοτάτω θεῶν ἐζόμεναι  
— ◻ — — ◻ ◻ — ◻ ◻ — ◻ ◻ —  
— ◻ ◻ — ◻ — — ◻ ◻ —

Moreover the words θαῦμα βροτῶν are only attested in connection with each other in a choral song in Euripides' *Iphigenia in Aulis* v 202:

παρὰ δὲ Μηριόνην, "Αρεος  
ὅζον, θαῦμα βροτοῖσιν

And finally LSJ quotes only examples from the tragedians concerning occurrences of the word ἀείζως in fifth century poetry. So e. g.: Aesch. Supp. 988 χώρᾳ δ' ἀείζος ἀείζων πέλοι.

### FOOTNOTES

1. Strom. 5, 14, 112, p. 402 Staehlin
2. Praep. Evang. 13, 680, PG. 21. 1124 B δὲ μελοποιὸς δὲ Μελανιππίδης  
ἀιδῶν φησί: κλῦθι-μεδέων ψυχᾶς.
3. *Greek Lyric Poetry*<sup>3</sup>, (Oxford 1961), 404 ff.