

ΔΙΟΓΕΝΟΥΣ ΛΑΕΡΤΙΟΥ

ΒΙΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΓΝΩΜΩΝ ΤΩΝ ΕΝ ΦΙΛΟΣΟΦΙΑΙ ΕΤΔΟΚΙ-
ΜΗΣΑΝΤΩΝ ΤΩΝ ΕΙΣ ΔΕΚΑ ΤΟ ΠΡΩΤΟΝ

ΠΡΟΟΙΜΙΟΝ

1 Τὸ τῆς φιλοσοφίας ἔργον ἔνοιό φασιν ἀπὸ βαρβάρων ἄρξαι. γεγενῆσθαι γὰρ παρὰ μὲν Πέρσαις Μάγους, παρὰ δὲ Βαβυλωνίοις ἢ Ἀσσυρίοις Χαλδαίοις, καὶ Γυμνοσοφιστὰς παρ' Ἰνδοῖς, παρὰ τε Κελτοῖς καὶ Γαλάταις τοὺς καλουμένους Δρυΐδας καὶ Σεμνοθέους, καθά φησιν Ἀριστοτέλης ἐν τῷ Μαγικῷ καὶ Σωτίων ἐν τῷ εἰκοστῷ τρίτῳ τῆς Διαδοχῆς. Φοίνικά τε γενέσθαι Μῶχον, καὶ Θρᾶκα Ζάμολξιν, καὶ Λίβυν Ἄτλαντα.

Ἀιγύπτιοι μὲν γὰρ Νείλου γενέσθαι παῖδα Ἡφαιστον, ὃν ἄρξαι φιλοσοφίας, ἧς τοὺς προ-
2 εστῶτας ἱερέας εἶναι καὶ προφήτας. ἀπὸ δὲ τούτου εἰς Ἀλέξανδρον τὸν Μακεδόνα ἐτῶν εἶναι μυριάδας τέσσαρας καὶ ὀκτακισχίλια ὀκτακόσια ἐξήκοντα τρία· ἐν οἷς ἡλίου μὲν ἐκλείψεις γενέσθαι τριακοσίας ἐβδομήκοντα τρεῖς, σελήνης δὲ ὀκτακοσίας τριάκοντα δύο.

^a The alteration of the numeral from 23 to 13 is supported by what little we know of Sotion's work : see Introduction, p. xxiv. It was from a similar source that Clement of

DIOGENES LAERTIUS

LIVES AND OPINIONS OF EMINENT PHILOSOPHERS IN TEN BOOKS

BOOK I

PROLOGUE

THERE are some who say that the study of philosophy had its beginning among the barbarians. They urge that the Persians have had their Magi, the Babylonians or Assyrians their Chaldaeans, and the Indians their Gymnosophists; and among the Celts and Gauls there are the people called Druids or Holy Ones, for which they cite as authorities the *Magicus* of Aristotle and Sotion in the twenty-third^a book of his *Succession of Philosophers*. Also they say that Mochus was a Phoenician, Zamolxis a Thracian, and Atlas a Libyan.

If we may believe the Egyptians, Hephaestus was the son of the Nile, and with him philosophy began, priests and prophets being its chief exponents. Hephaestus lived 48,863 years before Alexander of Macedon, and in the interval there occurred 373 solar and 832 lunar eclipses.

Alexandria must have taken what we find in *Strom.* i. 71 concerning Chaldaeans, Druids, Magians, Gymnosophists, and other barbarian philosophers.

DIOGENES LAERTIUS

Ἀπὸ δὲ τῶν Μάγων, ὧν ἄρξαι Ζωροάστρην τὸν Πέρσην, Ἑρμόδωρος μὲν ὁ Πλατωνικὸς ἐν τῷ Περὶ μαθημάτων φησὶν εἰς τὴν Τροίας ἄλωσιν ἔτη γεγονέναι πεντακισχίλια· Ξάνθος δὲ ὁ Λυδὸς εἰς τὴν Ξέρξου διάβασιν ἀπὸ τοῦ Ζωροάστρου ἑξακισχίλιά φησι, καὶ μετ' αὐτὸν γεγονέναι πολλοὺς τινες Μάγους κατὰ διαδοχὴν, Ὅστάνας καὶ Ἀστραμφύχους καὶ Γωβρύας καὶ Παζάτας, μέχρι τῆς τῶν Περσῶν ὑπ' Ἀλεξάνδρου καταλύσεως.

3 Λανθάνουσι δ' αὐτοὺς τὰ τῶν Ἑλλήνων κατορθώματα, ἀφ' ὧν μὴ ὅτι γε φιλοσοφία, ἀλλὰ καὶ γένος ἀνθρώπων ἤρξε, βαρβάροις προσάπτοντες. ἰδοὺ γοῦν παρὰ μὲν Ἀθηναίοις γέγονε Μουσαῖος, παρὰ δὲ Θηβαίοις Λίνος. καὶ τὸν μὲν Εὐμόλπου παῖδά φασι, ποιῆσαι δὲ Θεογονίαν καὶ Σφαῖραν πρῶτον· φάναι τε ἐξ ἑνὸς τὰ πάντα γίνεσθαι καὶ εἰς ταῦτόν ἀναλύεσθαι. τοῦτον τελευτῆσαι Φαληροῖ, καὶ αὐτῷ ἐπιγεγράφθαι τόδε τὸ ἐλεγείον·

Εὐμόλπου φίλον υἱὸν ἔχει τὸ Φαληρικὸν οὐδας,
Μουσαῖον, φθιμένου σώμ', ὑπὸ τῷδε τάφῳ.

ἀπὸ δὲ τοῦ πατρὸς τοῦ Μουσαίου καὶ Εὐμολπίδαι καλοῦνται παρ' Ἀθηναίοις.

4 Τὸν δὲ Λίνον παῖδα εἶναι Ἑρμοῦ καὶ Μούσης Οὐρανίας· ποιῆσαι δὲ κοσμογονίαν, ἡλίου καὶ σελήνης πορείαν, καὶ ζώων καὶ καρπῶν γενέσεις. τούτῳ ἀρχὴ τῶν ποιημάτων ἦδε·

ἦν ποτέ τοι χρόνος οὗτος, ἐν ᾧ ἅμα πάντ' ἐπέφυκει.

ὄθεν λαβὼν Ἀναξαγόρας πάντα ἔφη χρήματα

I. 2-4. PROLOGUE

The date of the Magians, beginning with Zoroaster the Persian, was 5000 years before the fall of Troy, as given by Hermodorus the Platonist in his work on mathematics ; but Xanthus the Lydian reckons 6000 years from Zoroaster to the expedition of Xerxes, and after that event he places a long line of Magians in succession, bearing the names of Ostanas, Astrampsychos, Gobryas, and Pazatas, down to the conquest of Persia by Alexander.

These authors forget that the achievements which they attribute to the barbarians belong to the Greeks, with whom not merely philosophy but the human race itself began. For instance, Musaeus is claimed by Athens, Linus by Thebes. It is said that the former, the son of Eumolpus, was the first to compose a genealogy of the gods and to construct a sphere, and that he maintained that all things proceed from unity and are resolved again into unity. He died at Phalerum, and this is his epitaph^a :

Musaeus, to his sire Eumolpus dear,
In Phalerean soil lies buried here ;

and the Eumolpidae at Athens get their name from the father of Musaeus.

Linus again was (so it is said) the son of Hermes and the Muse Urania. He composed a poem describing the creation of the world, the courses of the sun and moon, and the growth of animals and plants. His poem begins with the line :

Time was when all things grew up at once ;

and this idea was borrowed by Anaxagoras when he

^a *Anth. Pal.* vii. 615.

DIOGENES LAERTIUS

γεγονέναι ὁμοῦ, νοῦν δὲ ἐλθόντα αὐτὰ διακοσμήσαι.
τὸν δὲ Λίνον τελευτῆσαι ἐν Εὐβοίᾳ τοξευθέντα ὑπ'
'Απόλλωνος, καὶ αὐτῷ ἐπιγεγράφθαι·

ἦδε¹ Λίνον Θηβαῖον ἐδέξατο γαῖα θανόντα,
Μούσης Οὐρανίης υἱὸν εὔστεφάνου.

καὶ ὧδε μὲν ἀφ' Ἑλλήνων ἦρξε φιλοσοφία, ἧς καὶ
αὐτὸ τὸ ὄνομα τὴν βάρβαρον ἀπέστραπται προσ-
ηγορίαν.

- 5 Οἱ δὲ τὴν εὔρεσιν διδόντες ἐκείνοις παράγουσι
καὶ Ὀρφέα τὸν Θραῖκα, λέγοντες φιλόσοφον γεγο-
νέναι καὶ εἶναι ἀρχαιότατον. ἐγὼ δέ, εἰ τὸν περὶ
θεῶν ἐξαγορεύσαντα τοιαῦτα χρή φιλόσοφον καλεῖν
οὐκ οἶδα, <οὐδὲ>² τίνα δεῖ προσαγορεύειν τὸν πᾶν
τὸ ἀνθρώπειον πάθος ἀφειδοῦντα τοῖς θεοῖς προσ-
τρῦψαι, καὶ τὰ σπανίως ὑπὸ τινων ἀνθρώπων
αἰσχρουργούμενα τῷ τῆς φωνῆς ὄργάνῳ. τοῦτον
δὲ ὁ μὲν μῦθος ὑπὸ γυναικῶν ἀπολέσθαι φησί· τὸ
δ' ἐν Δίῳ τῆς Μακεδονίας ἐπίγραμμα, κερανω-
θῆναι αὐτόν, λέγον οὕτως·

Θρήϊκα χρυσολύρην τῆδ' Ὀρφέα Μοῦσαι ἔθαψαν,
ὃν κτάνεν ὑψιμέδων Ζεὺς ψολόεντι βέλει.

- 6 Οἱ δὲ φάσκοντες ἀπὸ βαρβάρων ἄρξαι φιλο-
σοφίαν καὶ τὸν τρόπον παρ' ἐκάστοις αὐτῆς ἐκ-
τίθενται· καὶ φασὶ τοὺς μὲν Γυμνοσοφιστὰς καὶ
Δρυΐδας αἰνιγματωδῶς ἀποφθεγγομένους φιλο-
σοφῆσαι, σέβειν θεοὺς καὶ μηδὲν κακὸν δρᾶν καὶ
ἀνδρείαν ἀσκεῖν. τοὺς γοῦν Γυμνοσοφιστὰς καὶ

¹ ἦδε] ὧδε Anth. Pal. vii. 616.
² οὐδὲ addidit Apelt.

I. 4-6. PROLOGUE

declared that all things were originally together until Mind came and set them in order. Linus died in Euboea, slain by the arrow of Apollo, and this is his epitaph ^a:

Here Theban Linus, whom Urania bore,
The fair-crowned Muse, sleeps on a foreign shore.

And thus it was from the Greeks that philosophy took its rise: its very name refuses to be translated into foreign speech.

But those who attribute its invention to barbarians bring forward Orpheus the Thracian, calling him a philosopher of whose antiquity there can be no doubt. Now, considering the sort of things he said about the gods, I hardly know whether he ought to be called a philosopher; for what are we to make of one who does not scruple to charge the gods with all human suffering, and even the foul crimes wrought by the tongue amongst a few of mankind? The story goes that he met his death at the hands of women; but according to the epitaph at Dium in Macedonia he was slain by a thunderbolt; it runs as follows ^b:

Here have the Muses laid their minstrel true,
The Thracian Orpheus whom Jove's thunder slew.

But the advocates of the theory that philosophy took its rise among the barbarians go on to explain the different forms it assumed in different countries. As to the Gymnosophists and Druids we are told that they uttered their philosophy in riddles, bidding men to reverence the gods, to abstain from wrongdoing, and to practise courage. That the Gymno-

^a *Anth. Pal.* vii. 616.

^b *Anth. Plan.* ii. 99.

DIOGENES LAERTIUS

θανάτου καταφρονεῖν φησι Κλείταρχος ἐν τῇ δωδεκάτῃ· τοὺς δὲ Χαλδαίους περὶ ἀστρονομίαν καὶ πρόρρησιν ἀσχολεῖσθαι· τοὺς δὲ Μάγους περὶ τε θεραπείας θεῶν διατρίβειν καὶ θυσίας καὶ εὐχάς, ὡς αὐτοὺς μόνους ἀκουμένους. ἀποφαίνεσθαι τε περὶ τε οὐσίας θεῶν καὶ γενέσεως, οὓς καὶ πῦρ εἶναι καὶ γῆν καὶ ὕδωρ· τῶν δὲ ξοάνων καταγνώσκειν, καὶ μάλιστα τῶν λεγόντων ἄρρενας εἶναι θεοὺς καὶ θηλείας. περὶ τε δικαιοσύνης λόγους ποιεῖσθαι, καὶ ἀνόσιον ἡγεῖσθαι πυρὶ θάπτειν· καὶ ὄσιον νομίζειν μητρὶ ἢ θυγατρὶ μίγνυσθαι, ὡς ἐν τῷ εἰκοστῷ τρίτῳ φησὶν ὁ Σωτῖων· ἀσκεῖν τε μαντικὴν καὶ πρόρρησιν, καὶ θεοὺς αὐτοῖς ἐμφανίζεσθαι λέγοντας. ἀλλὰ καὶ εἰδώλων πλήρη εἶναι τὸν ἀέρα, κατ' ἀπόρροϊαν ὑπ' ἀναθυμιάσεως εἰσκρινομένων ταῖς ὄψεσι τῶν ὄξυδερκῶν· προκοσμήματά τε καὶ χρυσοφορίας ἀπαγορεύειν. τούτων δὲ ἐσθῆς μὲν λευκῆ, στιβάς δὲ εὐνή, καὶ λάχανον τροφή, τυρός τε καὶ ἄρτος εὐτελής, καὶ κάλαμος ἢ βακτηρία, ᾧ κεντοῦντες, φασί, τοῦ τυροῦ ἀνηροῦντο καὶ ἀπήσθιον.

8 Τὴν δὲ γοητικὴν μαγείαν οὐδ' ἔγνωσαν, φησὶν Ἀριστοτέλης ἐν τῷ Μαγικῷ καὶ Δείνων ἐν τῇ πέμπτῃ τῶν Ἱστοριῶν· ὃς καὶ μεθερμηνευόμενον φησι τὸν Ζωροάστρην ἀστροβύτην εἶναι· φησὶ δὲ

^a Compare Pliny, *N.H.* xx. 11. 242: Zoroaster lived in the wilderness on cheese (cf. *Yasht*, xxii. 18 "Spring butter is the ambrosia of the blessed"). For fuller comments on §§ 7-9 see J. H. Moulton's *Early Zoroastrianism*, pp. 410-418.

^b This popular etymology, though wide-spread, is erroneous, the true form of the prophet's name being Zarathustra, almost certainly derived from *zarath* = "old"

END OF SAMPLE TEXT



The Complete Text can be found on our CD:
Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature
which can be purchased on our Website :
www.Brainfly.net

or

by sending **\$64.95** in check or money order to :
Brainfly Inc.
5100 Garfield Ave. #46
Sacramento CA 95841-3839

TEACHER'S DISCOUNT:

If you are a **TEACHER** you can take advantage of our teacher's discount. Click on **Teachers Discount** on our website (www.Brainfly.net) or **Send us \$55.95** and we will send you a full copy of *Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature* **AND** our *5000 Classics CD (a collection of over 5000 classic works of literature in electronic format (.txt))* plus our *Wholesale price list*.

If you have any suggestions such as books you would like to see added to the collection or if you would like our wholesale prices list please send us an email to:

webcomments@brainfly.net