## Matthew Fox Paronomasia and Riddling Speech in the *Homeric hymn to Hermes*

1) Hom. h. Hermes 87-92
τὸν δὲ γέρων ἐνόησε δέμων ἀνθοῦσαν ἀλωὴν
ἱέμενον πεδίονδὲ δι' 'Ογχηστὸν λεχεποίην·
τὸν πρότερος προσέφη Μαίης ἐρικυδέος υἱός·
"γέρον ὅς τε φυτὰ σκάπτεις ἐπικαμπύλος ὤμους, (90)
ἤ πολυοινήσεις εὖτ' ἂν τάδε πάντα φέρησι (91)
καί τε ἰδὼν μὴ ἰδὼν εἶναι καὶ κωφὸς ἀκούσας,
καὶ σιγᾶν, ὅτε μή τι καταβλάπτη τὸ σὸν αὐτοῦ."

But an old man observed him, working his blooming vineyard, him rushing to the plain, through Onchestus' grassy bedding; he addressed him first, Maia's notorious son: "Old man, you digging plants, crooked at the shoulders, you'll be *poluoinos* whenever all these things bear, and having seen be not seeing and deaf having heard and keep quiet, when it does no harm to your own here."

2) Odyssey 24.226-7, 232-33, 243-47 τον δ' οἶον πατέρ' εὖρεν ἐϋκτιμένη ἐν ἀλωῆ, λιστρεύοντα φυτόν:... τον δ' ὡς οὖν ἐνόησε πολύτλας δῖος Ὀδυσσεὺς χήραϊ τειρόμενον, μέγα δὲ φρεσὶ πένθος ἔχοντα.... τον δὲ παριστάμενος προσεφώνεε φαίδιμος υἰός: "ὡ χέρον, οὐκ ἀδαημονίη σ' ἔχει ἀμφιπολεύειν ὄρχατον, ἀλλ' εὖ τοι κομιδὴ ἔχει, οὐδέ τι πάμπαν, οὐ φυτόν, οὐ συκέη, οὐκ ἄμπελος, οὐ μὲν ἐλαίη, οὐκ ὄγχνη, οὐ πρασιή τοι ἄνευ κομιδῆς κατὰ κῆπον.

But he found his father alone in his well-tended orchard/vineyard digging around a plant....

So when much-suffering godly Odysseus observed him worn down by old age, having great pain in his heart... and standing by, his glorious son addressed him: "Old man, it is not unskillful how you attend the row; rather it's well cared for, and none of it, no plant, no fig, no vine, nor olive, no pear tree or leek lacks care throughout the garden...

 3) Pindar Ol. 9.48-50
 ἔγειρ' ἐπέων σφιν οἶμον λιγύν,
 <u>αἴνει</u> δὲ παλαιὸν μὲν <u>οἶνον, ἄνθεα</u> δ' <u>ὕμνων</u> / νεωτέρων.

Wake for them a ringing pathway of *epea*, / praise old wine, but flowers of new hymns.

4a) Theognis 869-76
"Εν μοι ἔπειτα πέσοι μέγας οὐρανὸς εὐρὺς ὕπερθεν χάλκεος, ἀνθρώπων δεῖμα χαμαιγενέων, εἰ μὴ ἐγὼ τοῖσιν μὲν ἐπαρκέσω οἵ με φιλεῦσιν, τοῖς δ' ἐχθροῖσ' ἀνίη καὶ μέγα πῆμ' ἔσομαι.
Οἶνε, τὰ μέν σ' αἰνῶ, τὰ δὲ μέμφομαι· οὐδέ σε πάμπαν οὔτε ποτ' ἐχθαίρειν οὔτε φιλεῖν δύναμαι.
ἐσθλὸν καὶ κακόν ἐσσι. τίς ἄν σέ τε μωμήσαιτο, τίς δ' ἂν ἐπαινήση μέτρον ἔχων σοφίης;

Then may the great wide heaven above of bronze fall on me, a dread fear for earth-born humans, if I do not bring aid to those who are my friends and to enemies bring grief and be a great pain.

Wine, I praise and blame you; nor in all ways can I ever hate you or love you.

You are good and bad. Who might blame you?

And who might praise you, having a measure of wisdom?

4b) Theognis 877-82

"Ηβα μοι, φίλε θυμέ· τάχ' αὖ τινες ἄλλοι ἔσονται ἄνδρες, ἐγὼ δὲ θανὼν γαῖα μέλαιν' ἔσομαι.

πῖν' οἶνον, τὸν ἐμοὶ κορυφῆς ἄπο Τηϋγέτοιο ἄμπελοι ἤνεγκαν, τὰς ἐφύτευσ' ὁ γέρων (880) οὔρεος ἐν βήσσηισι θεοῖσι φίλος Θεότιμος, ἐκ Πλατανιστοῦντος ψυχρὸν ὕδωρ ἐπάγων.

Be young, dear heart; quickly others will become men, and when I die I will be black earth.

Drink wine, which for me from Taygetos' peak the vines bore, which the old man grew on the mountain's foothills, Theotimos dear to gods, from Platanistos bringing in cold water.

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5) Rhetores Graeci, peri poetikôn tropôn (v.3, p.209, ll. 12-23) Αἴνιγμα δέ ἐστι φράσις ἐπιτετηδευμένη εἰς ἀσάφειαν, ὥστε ἐπικρύπτειν τὸ νοούμενον...[other ex.] μαχαίρα πῦρ μὴ σκαλεύειν, ἤγουν θυμούμενον μὴ προσερεθίζειν. διαφέρει δὲ αἴνιγμα ἀλληγορίας, ὅτι ἐκείνη μὲν γίνεται προτροπῆς ἢ ἀποτροπῆς ἕνεκα ἢ καὶ διὰ σεμνότητα, τὸ αἴνιγμα δὲ χάριν ἀσαφείας ἐπιτετηδευμένης μόνης.

Ainigma is an expression invented for obscurity, so as to hide what is intended... "Don't stir the fire with a butcher knife", that is "Don't further provoke what is angered." Ainigma differs from allegoria, because the latter is for exhortation or warning or even for sacred matters, but ainigma is just being obscure for its own sake.

6) Rhetores Graeci, peri tôn schêmatôn tou logou (v.3, p.185, ll 10-17) Παρονομασία γίνεται, ὅταν τι τῶν ληφθέντων εἰς διάνοιαν ὀνομάτων ἢ ῥημάτων βραχὺ μεταποιήσαντες ἑτέραν κινήσωμεν ἔννοιαν, οἶον οὐδὲ τὴν ὑλακήν, ἀλλὰ τὴν φυλακήν, ὃ καὶ παρήχησις ὀνομάζεται, οἶον τὸ παρὰ Δημοσθένει, οὐκ αἰσχύνη Αἰσχίνη; καὶ παρὰ Πλάτωνι, Πῶλε λῷστε, καὶ Παυσανίου παυσαμένου, καὶ πλεῖστα τοιαῦτα.

Paronomasia is whenever, by slightly altering some part of what is understood as the intention of words and phrases, we shift it toward another thought, for example, "not the howling but the prowling, [guarding]"; this is also called sound resemblance/alliteration, as this one in Demosthenes "Aren't you ashamed, Aischines?" and in Plato, "Polos my good pal," and "Pausanias having ceased," and many others like this.

7) Odyssey 9.345-49, 353-4 (cf. also l. 379) καὶ τότ' ἐγὼ Κύκλωπα προσηύδων ἄγχι παραστάς, κισσύβιον μετὰ χερσὶν ἔχων μέλανος οἴνοιο: "Κύκλωψ, τῆ, πίε οἶνου, ἐπεὶ φάγες ἀνδρόμεα κρέα, ὄφρ' εἰδῆς οἶόν τι ποτὸν τόδε νηῦς ἐκεκεύθει ἡμετέρη....
"ὡς ἐφάμην, ὁ δ' ἔδεκτο καὶ ἔκπιεν: ἤσατο δ' αἰνῶς ἡδὺ ποτὸν πίνων καὶ μ' ἤτεε δεύτερον αὖτις:

And then I addressed Cyclops, standing nearby, holding in my hands a rustic cup of <u>black wine</u>: "Cyclops, take, drink wine, since you've eaten flesh of men, so you'll know what kind of drink our ship conceals..." So I spoke, and he took it and drank; and he was <u>dreadfully</u> pleased drinking the sweet draught, and he asked me for another.

8a) Od. 14.460-70 τοῖς δ' Ὀδυσεὺς μετέειπε, συβώτεω πειρητίζων, εἴ πώς οἱ ἐκδὺς χλαῖναν πόροι, ἤ τιν' ἐταίρων ἄλλον ἐποτρύνειεν, ἐπεί ἐο κήδετο λίην: "κέκλυθι νῦν, Εὔμαιε καὶ ἄλλοι πάντες ἑταῖροι, εὐξάμενός τι ἔπος ἐρέω: οἶνος γὰρ ἀνώγει ἡλεός, ὅς τ' ἐφέηκε πολύφρονά περ μάλ' ἀεῖσαι καί θ' ἀπαλὸν γελάσαι, καί τ' ὀρχήσασθαι ἀνῆκε, καί τι ἔπος προέηκεν ὅ περ τ' ἄρρητον ἄμεινον. ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ οὖν τὸ πρῶτον ἀνέκραγον, οὐκ ἐπικεύσω. εἴθ' ὡς ἡβώοιμι βίη τέ μοι ἔμπεδος εἴη, ὡς ὅθ' ὑπὸ Τροίην λόχον ἤγομεν ἀρτύναντες....

Odysseus spoke to them, testing the swineherd, whether he might take off and give him his cloak, or urge another of his companions to, since he cared for him so: "Listen now, Eumaios and all you other comrades, boasting I will speak a word—for wine commands crazing, it urges even a sensible man to sing, and simply to laugh, and he gets up dancing, and sends forth some word even one better left unsaid. But now that I've started squawking, I won't keep it hidden. Oh how I wish I were young and strength was steadfast in me, as when at Troy we led out an ambush, scheming...

8b) Od. 14.507-9 τὸν δ' ἀπαμειβόμενος προσέφης, Εὔμαιε συβῶτα: "ὧ γέρον, αἶνος μέν τοι ἀμύμων, ὃν κατέλεξας, οὐδέ τί πω παρὰ μοῖραν ἔπος νηκερδὲς ἔειπες:

So answering him you spoke, Eumaios the swineherd: "<u>old man</u>, that's a blameless <u>ainos</u> you've told; not at all unfairly, you've spoken a <u>word not without profit</u>.

9) Alcman 93P (43B)
 καὶ ποικίλον ἷκα τὸν ἀφθαλμῶν and the mottled ix, destroyer of vine buds tἀμπέλωντ ὀλετῆρα. (lit. "eyes")

10) Geoponica 4.1.7. On growing grapevines up onto trees. ...καὶ ὅσους δυνατὸν ἀφθαλμοὺς περιλειφθῆναι, οὓς πάντας τῷ ὄνυχι ἀφαιρῶν τύφλου, ἵνα ὁ ἐν τῷ ἄκρῳ βλαστὸς εἶς ἢ δεύτερος περιλειφθεὶς εὐθαλέστερος αὐξήση,

...and as many "eyes" (buds) as can be spared, all these with a fingernail separate off from the "blind," so that the first or second sprout remaining on the end will grow more abundant.