

Pindaric Ode for the London Olympics 2012

Commissioned by Boris Johnson, composed by Armand D'Angour

This new Olympic flame behold,
that once burned bright in Greece of old;
with happy hearts receive once more
these Games revived on London's shore.

ἴδεσθε καινὸν πῦρ τὸδ' Ὀλυμπικόν,
ὃ γ' ἐξέλαμψε πρόσθε καθ' Ἑλλάδα.
ἀλλ' ἡδέως δέχεσθε τᾶθλα
Λονδινίου ποταμοῦ παρ' ὄχθας.

Praise rival teams, in sport allied,
as athletes stream from far and wide;
the poet too must take the road
conveying praise to victory owed.

ὑμεῖτε δ' αἴγλην ἀντιπάλων σοφῶν,
στρατὸς γὰρ ἦλθεν ἐκ περάτων χθονός·
καὶ χρῆ μεγίσταις ᾧδ' αἰιδόν
ἀμφ' ἀρεταῖσι καθ' ἄρμ' ἐλαύνειν.

Millions of watchers will embrace
the passion of each close-run race,
the efforts of the rowing teams
and gymnasts balancing on beams.

πλήθος θεατῶν μυρίον ὄψεται
ὀρμὴν τρεχόντων καὶ λιπαρὰν χάριν,
σπουδὴν τ' ἐρεσσόντων ἑταίρων
ἀκροβατῶν τε δοκοῦς πατούντων.

They will observe with rapt delight
the archer draw his bowstring tight,
the skillful rider guide her horse,
and lightning bolt around the course.

θεάσεται δὲ χάσματι τοξότην
τείνοντα νευράν, καὶ ποδὶ σωφρόνως
τὸν ἵππότην στρέφοντα πῶλον
ἀστεροπῆς τε σέλας θεούσης.

The pipes will play, the drum resound,
as medallists are daily crowned;
the crowd's hurrah will reach the skies
when victors hoist the golden prize.

πρέψουσι δ' αὐλοὶ καὶ τύπανον βρόμῳ
τιμῆς φλεγούσης πολλὰ καθ' ἡμέραν·
ὄχλος δ' ἀὔσει καλλίνικε
χρύσε' ἄεθλ' ἐσιδὼν φέροντας.

Now welcome to this sea-girt land,
with London's Mayor and co. at hand.
Good luck to all who strive to win:
applaud, and let the Games begin!

δεῦτ' αὖτε γῆν ἐς τήνδε περικρουτον·
ἄρχων γὰρ ἄγχι καὶ πρύτανις βαρῦς.
νίκη δ' ἀρίστοις αἰὲν ἔστω·
νῦν κρότος, αἶψα δὲ τᾶθλ' ἀγέσθω.