

THE PROSODY OF βορέης IN *ILIAD* IX 5.  
INTERPRETATION OF THE HOMERIC HEXAMETER

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ABSTRACT: In *Iliad* IX 5 we can find a very troublesome verse in metrical reading. An anapaest is undesirable and has been replaced with spondaic forms in both ancient and modern times. For linguists it is a kind of metrical lengthening but not recorded. This metric license is very ambiguous, therefore this notion needs defining in particular cases. The phenomenon of βορέης might have sprung from two sources: the origin of the verse and the practice of the performer. If we accept the hypothesis that the hexameter is derived from the lyric metres, we can expect that the irregular prosody in the *Anlaut* of these verses reveals connection with prosodic freedom of aeolic base. However, the author of this article abandons this explanation. Citing M. Parry's and A. Lord's writings, he demonstrates a close affinity between the Greek and Yugoslavian oral traditions. This affinity is evident also in the departures from the metric scheme at the beginning of verse, and the position of caesura. From the perspective of the performer in oral poetry, deviations from the metric rules do not occur. After analysing the modality of formulae which contain the word "Boreas", we can deduce that the author (or authors) of the *Iliad* adapted new forms to different versification requirements, but without considering the metric rules because he (or they) often allows for hiatus. In order to place the anapaestic word βορέης at the beginning of the verse, one should precede it with a one-syllable conjunction. The deletion of this conjunction makes the verse στίχος ἀκέφαλος. The presence of prosodic errors in the graphic record of the Greek epic indicates the tradition of the recording of hexameters which developed over a long period of time. Homer's verses were written according to oral form, but they may contain mistakes according to later understanding of the hexameter's rhythm. In the rhapsodic performance, the syllables were lengthened when they were falling outside the accepted regularity. Significantly, the recording of text was adapted to this rhapsodic performance.

In *Iliad* IX 5 there is a verse occasioning metric problems:

Βορέης καὶ Ζέφυρος, τῷ τε Θρήκηθεν ἄητον  
The winds Boreas and Zephyros, the two which blow from Thrace.

Βορέης (G Mor. Barocc. βορέας) is a manuscript reading. The same form appears also in Strabo I 1, 20 (who quotes this line). According to the metric scheme of the hexameter the first word must be read as a spondee. The first syllable should be long and the second should undergo synizesis. That is why many editors correct this word and give it as an Aeolic form βορρηῆς or βορρηᾶς.