

ΤΑ ΤΗΣ ΠΥΘΙΗΣ ΜΑΝΘΙΑ
Herodotus 7.220

<i>ἀντιβίην</i>	face-to-face	<i>μένεσ/</i> , <i>τό</i>	strength
<i>ἄστυ/</i> , <i>τό</i>	town	<i>οικήτορ/</i> , <i>ὁ</i>	inhabitant
<i>γενέθλα/</i> , <i>ἡ</i>	family, offspring	<i>οὔρο/</i> , <i>ὁ</i>	realm, region
<i>δατ/</i>	divide, distinguish	<i>οὐχί</i>	emphatic <i>οὐ/οὐκ</i>
<i>ἐρικυδέσ/</i>	very famous	<i>πενθε/</i>	mourn
<i>εὐρύχορο/</i>	spacious	<i>περθ/</i>	destroy
<i>Ζήν/</i> , <i>ὁ</i>	Zeus	<i>πρίν</i>	before, until
<i>Ἡρακλέεσ/</i> , <i>ὁ</i>	Heracles	<i>ταύρο/</i> , <i>ὁ</i>	bull
<i>μαντήϊο/</i> , <i>τό</i>	oracular response	<i>φθι/</i>	destroy

*ὕμιν δ', ὦ Σπάρτης οικήτορες εὐρυχόροιο,
ἢ μέγα ἄστυ ἐρικυδὲς ὑπ' ἀνδράσι Περσεΐδησι
πέρθεται, ἢ τὸ μὲν οὐχί, ἀφ' Ἡρακλέους δὲ γενέθλης
πενθήσει βασιλῆ φθίμενον Λακεδαίμονος οὔρος·
5 οὐ γὰρ τὸν ταύρων σχήσει μένος οὐδὲ λεόντων
ἀντιβίην Ζηνὸς γὰρ ἔχει μένος, οὐδέ ἔφημι
σχήσεσθαι, πρίν τῶνδ' ἕτερον διὰ πάντα δάσσηται.*

Notes

Poetry in dactylic hexameter rarely uses the definite article. Thus, what look like articles are instead Ionic pronouns. You must supply “the” where context deems it necessary.

1. *εὐρυχόροιο* = *εὐρυχόρου*. The genitive singular ending /o was originally /σJo. As expected, σ dropped, leaving /ιο, a common Homeric form, as seen here. Eventually ι dropped too, resulting in the classical form /ου after contraction (< -o/o).

3. *ἢ τὸ μὲν οὐχί*: “or if not.” *ἀφ' < ἀπό*, where o drops regularly before a word that begins with a vowel. *ἀφ'* is *ἀπ'* (*ἀπό*), where π has been aspirated by the rough breathing that begins *Ἡρακλέους*, the contracted form of *Ἡρακλέεσ/ος*.

4. *βασιλῆ* is the contracted form of *βασιλέα* (*βασιλέφ/ῆ*)

6. *φημι* is the first person singular of *φα/*.

7. *τῶνδ' ἕτερον*: “each of which” = “one of which (options, fates).” The meaning of this last clause is that Leonidas will not be restrained until either he dies or Sparta falls, in other words when one of these two options “is divided” (*δάσσηται*) from the other.