

Nonnus' *Paraphrase* between Poetry, Rhetoric and Theology

Rewriting the Fourth Gospel in the Fifth Century

By

Maria Ypsilanti
Laura Franco

With the collaboration of

Filip Doroszewski
Claudia Greco



BRILL

LEIDEN | BOSTON

Contents

Preface	IX
Acknowledgments	X
Notes on Contributors	XI
I Introduction (Laura Franco)	1
A An Evanescent Figure	1
B Dates and Chronology	6
C The <i>Dionysiaca</i>	10
D The <i>Paraphrase</i>	14
E Nonnus' Influence: A Brief Overview	23
F Nonnus' Paraphrastic Technique: Rhetorical Tradition and Poetic Creativity	24
G Aims of the Present Study	32
II The Rhetorical Background to the Paraphrase in the Light of Ancient Rhetorical Treatises (Claudia Greco, except for B.1.a.iii [Claudia Greco, Maria Ypsilanti])	36
A Poetry and Rhetoric	36
B Ancient Rhetorical Treatises and Paraphrastic Technique	36
B.1 <i>Main Authors</i>	37
B.1.a Aelius Theon	37
B.1.a.i <i>Reading</i> (ἀνάγνωσις)	38
B.1.a.ii <i>Listening</i> (ἀκρόασις)	38
B.1.a.iii <i>Paraphrase</i> (παράφρασις)	39
B.1.b Quintilian	40
B.2 <i>Main Issues</i>	41
C Paraphrase as a School Exercise. The Chreia.	43
C.1 <i>Aphthonius</i> , Progymnasmata	44
C.2 <i>Ps.-Hermogenes</i> , Progymnasmata	44
C.3 <i>Ps.-Hermogenes</i> , Περὶ μεθόδου δεινότητος (On the Method of Forceful Speaking)	45
III Non-amplificatory Paraphrase (Introductory Essay: Laura Franco)	50
A Literal Paraphrasis (Laura Franco, Maria Ypsilanti)	50
B Abbreviations and Conflations (Laura Franco, Maria Ypsilanti)	58
C Sequence and Transpositions (Laura Franco)	66

- IV **Amplificatio** (Introductory Essay: Laura Franco) 72
- A Periphrasis (Maria Ypsilanti) 74
- B Synonymic Amplificatio and Verbal / Adjectival Accumulation (Introductory Essay: Laura Franco) 82
- B.1 *Simple Additions of Adjectives / Participles* (Maria Ypsilanti) 82
- B.2 *Anaphora* (Maria Ypsilanti) 84
- C Explanations (Introductory Essay: Maria Ypsilanti, Laura Franco) 90
- C.1 *Various Terms* (Laura Franco, Maria Ypsilanti) 92
- C.2 *Place-Names of Theological Significance* (Maria Ypsilanti) 100
- D Imagery with Theological Significance (Introductory Essay: Maria Ypsilanti) 105
- D.1 *The Raised Serpent, the (Healing) Saviour, Eternity* (Maria Ypsilanti, Laura Franco) 106
- D.2 *The Imperishable Abode* (Laura Franco) 114
- D.3 *Imperishable (Continued): The Bread of Life, the True and Wise Bread* (Laura Franco) 118
- D.4 *Presentation of Christ in Danger and in Suffering as King* (Laura Franco, Maria Ypsilanti) 123
- E "Theatrical" Elements: Impressive Visualisation, Description of Scenery, Effects of Sound (Introductory Essay: Maria Ypsilanti) 129
- E.1 *Description of John the Baptist and His Baptism* (Laura Franco, Maria Ypsilanti) 129
- E.2 *Announcement to the Sick Boy's Father of the Child's Cure* (Laura Franco) 133
- E.3 *The Resurrection of Lazarus* (Laura Franco) 135
- E.4 *Scenery and Setting* (Maria Ypsilanti) 144
- E.4.a Christ's Entry to Jerusalem 144
- E.4.b The Garden in Which Jesus Was Arrested 149
- E.5 *Mary of Magdala Meets the Resurrected Christ* (Laura Franco) 155
- F Handling of Speech (Direct / Indirect / Dialogue) (Introductory Essay: Maria Ypsilanti) 159
- F.1 *Turning Direct to Indirect and Indirect to Direct Speech* (Laura Franco) 160
- F.2 *Amplificatio in Direct Speech* (Laura Franco) 164
- F.3 *Amplificatio in Dialogue* (Maria Ypsilanti, Laura Franco) 167

- F.4 *Introductory and Other “Comments” in Dialogic Speech Exchanges* (Maria Ypsilanti) 170
- F.5 *Gestures Accompanying the Direct Speech* (Maria Ypsilanti) 178
- G Character Sketching: Between Theatricality, Exegesis and Ethopoea (Introductory Essay: Maria Ypsilanti) 183
- G.1 *Peter* (Maria Ypsilanti) 187
- G.2 *Mary of Magdala* (Maria Ypsilanti) 193
- G.3 *Judas* (Claudia Greco) 197
- G.4 *Pontius Pilate* (Laura Franco) 204
- H Interpretatio (Introductory Essay: Laura Franco) 218
- H.1 *Specific Features of Mary, Jesus and Details of the Passion* 220
- H.1.a The Virginity of Mary and John the Apostle. Mary Θεοτόκος (Maria Ypsilanti) 220
- H.1.b Jesus as Stranger to the World (Laura Franco, Filip Doroszewski) 232
- H.1.c Jesus’ Life as Ransom, Perfect Love and the Participle πασιμέλουσα (Maria Ypsilanti) 238
- H.1.d Details of the Crucifixion. Jesus and Peter (Maria Ypsilanti) 243
- H.2 *Trinitarian Theology* 249
- H.2.a Relation between the Persons of the Trinity 249
- H.2.a.i Par. 14.108–114 and (the Lacking) ὁ πατήρ μείζων μου ἐστίν. John 4.22b (Filip Doroszewski) 250
- H.2.a.ii Par. 10.103–107, μείζων πάντων and the Unity of the Persons of the Trinity (Filip Doroszewski) 256
- H.2.a.iii Ἀγκίθρονος (Laura Franco) 258
- H.2.a.iv Par. 10.136–138: ἀγκιφανής, ἀμέριστος, ὁμόζυγος (Filip Doroszewski, Laura Franco) 260
- H.2.a.v *The Father’s and the Son’s τιμή* (Filip Doroszewski) 262
- H.2.a.vi Par. 14.31–48: σύννομος, σύζυγος, σύμφυτος (Filip Doroszewski) 266
- H.2.a.vii Par. 14.63: *The Son and the Holy Spirit* (Filip Doroszewski) 269
- H.2.b The Persons of the Trinity as Self-Begotten (Filip Doroszewski, Laura Franco, Maria Ypsilanti) 272
- Conclusions (Filip Doroszewski) 277

- H.3 *Other Notions* 277
 - H.3.a Eternity of Christian Joy (Laura Franco, Maria Ypsilanti) 277
 - H.3.b The Freedom of Choice 279
 - H.3.b.i *Christ's Freedom* (Laura Franco) 279
 - H.3.b.ii *Believers' Freedom* (Filip Doroszewski, Laura Franco) 281

The concluding paragraphs of sections IV.C, D, E, F, G, H are written by Maria Ypsilanti.

- v **Conclusions** (Maria Ypsilanti) 286

- Bibliography** 291
- Appendix: Figures** 308
- Index of Places** 312
- Index of Historical and Mythical Persons** 313
- Index of Ancient Authors** 315