

Suppl. VII [1936]). West himself comments upon Tartarus in 119 as a "deep" or lower region but does not consider the high or upper one which is needed to complete the structural image. Olympus in 118 is this region. 118 and 119, in structural terms suggested by the poem

itself, form a polar entity. Hence the authenticity of both is assured.

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TWO NOTES ON APULEIUS' *METAMORPHOSES*

I. Thelyphron's Oratorical Gesture

"Ad instar oratorum conformat articulum duobusque infimis conclusis digitis ceteros eminens [porrigens] et infesto pollice clementer subrigens infit Thelyphron" (Apul. *Met.* 2. 21. 2 [Robertson], 2. 21. 3 [Helm]).

Annotators and translators seem either to have missed the point here or to have been inadequately explicit. As Mr. D. M. Reynolds of the University of Washington has suggested, Thelyphron was not making the conventional oratorical gesture, but the insulting one in which the tip of the thumb protrudes between the next two fingers. This suits the context; it explains *infesto*; it accounts for the ablative (*subrigens* governs *ceteros*). *Clementer* in Apuleius normally means "gently" or "slightly," but no doubt Apuleius was aware of its special applicability here. Thelyphron, not presuming too much on the privileges of a *scurra*, merely sketches the offensive gesture.

II. Put Yourself in His Place

"... adulterum alveo ligneo, quo frumenta confusa purgari consuerant temere propter iacenti suppositum abscondit... praetergre-diens observatos extremos adulteri digitos qui per angustias cavi tegminis prominebant, obliqua atque infesta ungula compressos usque ad summam minutiem contero" (Apul. *Met.* 9. 23 and 27).

All the translations I know of say, or imply (depending on the language), that the young man got his fingers trampled. If you were under a sifting-bin, hiding from a husband, would your *fingers* stick out? But your toes might, without your knowing it. Surely it was the toes, not the fingers, that got squashed.

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