





TANTALUS



Here is the same cut as designed by
Ruzicka for Phil Hofer's bookplate
with the added initials "P. H."

Given to me by Phil, owner of
the drawing, cut, and press, together
with this booklet, on May 23

1950

*There Tantalus along the Stygian bounds
Pours out deep groans; (with groans all hell resounds)
Ev'n in the circling floods refreshment craves,
And pines with thirst amidst a sea of waves:
When to the water he his lip applies,
Back from his lip the treach'rous water flies.
Above, beneath, around his hapless head,
Trees of all kinds delicious fruitage spread;
There figs sky-dy'd, a purple hue disclose,
Green looks the olive, the pomegranate glows,
There dangling pears exalted scents unfold,
And yellow apples ripen into gold;
The fruit he strives to seize; but blasts arise,
Toss it on high, and whirl it to the skies.*

HOMER ODYSSEY BOOK XI

(lines 582-592 inclusive)

Καὶ μὴν Τάνταλον ἐσεῖδον χαλέπ' ἄλγε' ἔχοντα,
ἔσταότ' ἐν λίμνῃ· ἢ δὲ προσέπλαζε γενεῖω·
στεῦτο δὲ διψῶων, πῖεῖν δ' οὐκ εἶχεν ἐλέσθαι·
ὄσσάκι γὰρ κύψει' ὁ γέρων πῖεῖν μενεαίνων,
τοσσάχ' ὕδωρ ἀπολέσκειτ' ἀναβροχέν, ἀμφὶ δὲ ποσσὶ
γαῖα μέλαινα φάνεσκε, καταζήνασκε δὲ δαίμων.
δένδρεα δ' ὑψιπέτηλα κατὰ κρηθὴν χέε καρπὸν,
ὄγχνη καὶ ῥοιαὶ καὶ μηλείαι ἀγλαόκαρποι
συκέαι τε γλυκεραὶ καὶ ἐλαῖαι τηλεθόωσαι·
τῶν ὀπότ' ἰθύσει' ὁ γέρων ἐπὶ χερσὶ μάσασθαι,
τάς δ' ἄνεμος ῥίπτασκε ποτὶ νέφεα σκιόεντα.



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