

- 915 στρεφνά, γλυκιὰ ἐφιλήσασιν ὥς καὶ τὸ δίκαιον εἶχαν G4.588  
καὶ ἐπίασαν τὴν στράταν τους, χαϊράμενοι ὑπαγαίνουιν.  
Καὶ ἐστράφην ὁ νεώτερος, φωνὴν μεγάλην σύρλινε· 166r  
«Εὐχου με, κύρη στρατηγέ, μετὰ τῆς θυγατρὸς σου.» G4.594

- Καὶ ἐκεῖνος ὥς τὸ ἤκουσεν καὶ τὸν ἦχόν τοῦ μαύρου,  
920 φωνὴν μεγάλην ἔσυρεν· «Ἐχάσα τὸ παιδί μου.  
Ἄγουροι ἀπὸ τοῦ Λύκαντος, ἀγουροὶ ἀπὸ τὴν βίγλαν,  
βοηθεῖτε εἰς τὸν παγκόπελον, ἐπῆρεν τὸ παιδί μου.»  
Καὶ ὅσα ἄστρα ἐν' ὅς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ φύλλα ἔναι εἰς τὰ δένδρα,  
καὶ ὅσα πουλίτσια πίνουσιν εἰς τὴν Ἰκέαν τὴν λίμνην,  
925 οὕτως ἐκαταπέτουντα οἱ σέλες εἰς τοὺς μαύρους.  
Καὶ ὅσοι τὸν ἐγνωρίζασιν ἔστρωναν καὶ ἀποστρώναν,  
καὶ ὅσοι οὐδὲν τὸν ἐγνώριζαν πηδοῦν, καβαλικεύουν. 166v  
Σουδάλης ὁ Σαρακηνὸς ἀπὸ τὴν πέραν βίγλαν  
ὀκτὼ τέντας ἐπήδησεν καὶ δεκαοκτὼ κουρτίνες,  
930 φαρία τεσσαράκοντα νὰ κάτση εἰς τὸ ἐδικόν του·  
ἐβάστα καὶ εἰς τὴν χέραν του ραβδὶν κασιδολίτισιν·  
ὅλον τὸ βλέμμα καὶ τὸν νοῦν ἔριπεν εἰς Ἀκρίτην  
κ' ἐπτέρνισεν τὸν μαῦρον του, ἀπάνου του ὑπαγαίνειν.  
Καὶ εὐθὺς τὸ ἰδεῖν ὁ Διγενής, τὴν κόρην συντυχαίνει:  
935 «Βλέπεις, καλή, Σαρακηνὸν πῶς μᾶς καταδιώκει;  
Ἄρτι, κυρά μου, πρόσεξε τὸ τί τὸν θέλω ποίσει.»  
Καὶ ἐπέζεσε τὴν λυγερήν, κάτω τὴν ἀποθέτει  
καὶ αὐτὸς ἐκαβαλίσεν, εἰς αὐτὸν κατεβαίνει  
καὶ ἐπῆρεν τὸ κοντάριν του καὶ προσυπήντησέν του  
940 καὶ ὁμπρὸς του τὸν ἐλάλησεν: «Σαρακηνέ, μὲ δέχου.»  
Καὶ κονταρέαν τὸν ἔδωκεν ὁμπρὸς ὅς τὸ μπροστοκούρβιν  
καὶ εὐθὺς τὸν ἐθανάτωσεν, αὐτὸν καὶ τὸ φαρίν του.

915 γλυκιὰ Hesseling: γλυκία E

919 καὶ Alexiou: ἐκ E τὸν ἦχόν Hesseling: τῶν ηἰχῶν E

922 βοηθεῖτε Alexiou: βοηθήσατε E

923 ἐν' ὅς Alexiou: ἐνε εἰς E

926 ἐγνωρίζασιν Kalonaros: ἐγνωρίζουσιν E

930 τὸ Alexiou: τὸν E

933 κ' ἐπτέρνισεν Hesseling: καὶ πτέρνησεν E

934 τὸ Politis, 1973, 344: τὸν E

935 Σαρακηνὸν Trapp, cf. Z1994: τὸν σαρακηνὸν E

937 ἀποθέτει Xanthoudidis, 1912, 559: ἀποθέτην E

940 ὁμπρὸς του corr.: ὁμπρὸς E πρῶτον Alexiou, cf. Z1999

941 ὅς Trapp: εἰς E

- 915 they embraced tightly, sweetly as was right,  
and they set off on their journey, making their way joyfully.  
And the young man turned, he let out a great shout:  
"Give me your blessing, lord general, together with your daughter."

- And when the general heard this and the sound of the horse,  
920 he let out a great shout: "I have lost my child!  
Youngsters from Lykandos, youngsters from the guard,  
come to my help against this misbegotten wretch, he has run off with  
my child!"

- As many stars as are in heaven and leaves on trees  
and as many birds as drink from lake Ikea,  
925 so many were the saddles flung on the black horses.  
And all those who knew him saddled up and then took their saddles off,  
but all those who did not know of him sprang into the saddle.

- Soudalis the Saracen from the outer guard  
jumped over eight tents and eighteen screens  
930 and forty horses to land on his own.  
In his hand he wielded an iron-tipped stick.  
All his gaze and his attention he directed to Akritis the Frontiersman  
and he spurred on his horse, he bore down on him.  
As soon as Digenis saw this, he said to the girl:  
935 "Do you see, beloved, how the Saracen pursues us?  
Now, my lady, pay attention to what I shall do to him."  
He took the slender girl from the horse, he set her down  
and mounted himself; he went for him  
and seized his spear and confronted him  
940 and said to his face: "Saracen, take this from me."  
And he gave him a spear-thrust right in front of the saddle,  
and killed him at once, him and his steed.

924 A passage which combines geographical names of apparent antiquity (Lykandos E922, Ikea E924) and a three-fold pattern reminiscent of folk song (cf. especially the *Song of Armouris* 77-9, 144-6).

927 There are similar reactions from the guerrillas in the Maximou episode (E1442-3, etc); the terror inspired by Digenis must be a traditional characteristic of the hero.

928 Another fossilised name; see Name Index.

- Καὶ εὐθὺς ἐκατεπήδησεν καὶ ἐπῆρεν τὸ κοράσιον. 167r  
 Γοργὸν ἐκαβαλίκευσαν ἄλλοι τριακόσιοι ἀγοῦροι,  
 945 οἱ μὲν σουσανιασμένοι ἦσαν, ἄλλοι λουρικιασμένοι,  
 εἶχεν καὶ καβαλάριους ἀπέσω ἀπὲ τὸ Ἡράκλιν·  
 φωνιάζουν καὶ ἀνταρεύγονται καὶ ταραχὰς σηκώνουν  
 καὶ ἐκεῖ τὸν ἐκατέφθασαν εἰς τόπον λιβαδήσον.  
 Καὶ ἐστράφη ὁ νεώτερος, τὴν κόρην οὕτως λέγει:  
 950 «Βλέπεις, κοράσιον μου καλόν, τὸ τί λαὸς μᾶς διώκει;»  
 ὥς τὸ ἤκουσεν, ἐφάνη τῆς διὰ φόβον τῆς τὸ λέγει  
 καὶ κλαίουσα τὸν ἔλεγεν ἐκ στεναγμοῦ καρδίας:  
 «Ἄφισ με, ἀφέντη μου καλέ, ἄφισ με ὥς ἀποθάνω·  
 μόνη μου ἔποικα τὸ κακόν, μόνη μου ὥς ἀπολάβω·  
 955 καὶ ἐσὺ ἔχεις μαῦρον καλὸν καὶ σῶσε τὸν ἑαυτὸν σου.»  
 Καὶ τότε ὁ νεώτερος τοιαῦτα τὴν ἐλάλει:  
 «Καλὰ λέγεις, κοράσιον μου, γλυκέα μου συνοδεία;  
 Ἐγὼ εἶπα το νὰ τοὺς ἰδῇς τὸ τί λαὸς μᾶς διώκει,  
 μὴ μὲ ὀνειδίζης αὐρίον ὅτι κλεψίαν σ' ἐπῆρα,  
 960 καὶ νὰ ἰδῇς κύρκαν τὸν φιλεῖς καὶ πλέον νὰ μὲ ἀγαπήσῃς.»  
 Καὶ ἐπῆρεν τὴν καὶ ἐκάτσε τὴν ἀπάνω εἰς τὸ λιθάριν·  
 τὸ ρέτενον ἐγύρισεν καὶ εἰς αὐτοὺς κατεβαίνει  
 καὶ ἕνα ἐξ αὐτοὺς ἐχώρισεν καὶ ἐδῶκεν του σπαθέαν 167v  
 καὶ μέσα τὸν ἐχώρισεν αὐτὸν καὶ τὸ φαρὶν του  
 965 καὶ ὥς εἶδαν οἱ ἀπομένοντες ἐστράφησαν ὀπίσω.  
 Καὶ ὁ νεώτερος ὁμοίαζεν ἄσπρον καλὸν γεράκιν,  
 ὅταν ζυγὼνὴ πέρδικα καὶ ἔμπη ἀπέσω εἰς δάσος·  
 οὕτως τοὺς ἐπεσκόρπισεν ὁ νεώτερος ἐκείνους.  
 Πέντε ἐξ αὐτῶν ἐχώρισαν καὶ ἦσαν οἱ ἀδελφοί τῆς  
 970 καὶ ἐπιτάλησαν τὰ φαρία καὶ ὑπᾶν εἰς τὸ κοράσιον

945 ἄλλοι Alexiou, cf. E432: ἡμὲν (= οἱ μὲν) E

946 καβαλάριους Alexiou: καβαλάρους E

947 φωνιάζουν καὶ ἀνταρεύγονται Alexiou: καὶ ἐφωνίαζαν καὶ ἀνταρεύγοντα E

948 λιβαδήσον Xanthoudidis, 1912, 559: λιβαδίζων E λιβαδίων Hesseling λιβαδίου Karayanni, 1976, 108

951 ὥς Alexiou: ἐκὴν ὥς E τῆς Alexiou: τῆς ὅτι E

955 ἔχεις μαῦρον καλὸν Trapp: μαῦρον καλὸν ἔχεις [ἔχεις Alexiou] E, Alexiou

959 μὴ Trapp: να μί E

960 καὶ Alexiou: καὶ τότε E πλέον Alexiou: πλέο E ἀγαπήσῃς Hesseling: ἡγαπήσῃς E

963 ἕνα Alexiou: ἕναν E

967 ὅταν Trapp: ὅσαν ὅταν E

970 φαρία Politis, 1973, 344: φαρία των E

- And he at once jumped down and seized the girl.  
 Another three hundred youngsters mounted quickly,  
 945 some were in mail, others had breastplates,  
 and there were also cavalry from Herakleion.  
 They shouted and whooped and raised an uproar,  
 and they caught up with him there in a grassy spot.  
 The young man turned, he spoke thus to the girl:  
 950 "Do you see, my lovely girl, what a crowd is pursuing us?"  
 When she heard this, it seemed to her that he told her this out of fear  
 and, weeping, she said to him with a heart-felt sigh:  
 "Leave me, my fair lord, leave me to die;  
 I alone did wrong, and let me alone bear the consequences.  
 955 You have a fine black horse, save yourself."  
 But then the young man said this to her:  
 "Are you right, my girl, my sweet companion?  
 I told you to see what a crowd is pursuing us  
 so that you won't reproach me tomorrow for having stolen you away,  
 960 and so that you can see the sweetheart whom you love and love me  
 even more."  
 And he took her and set her down on a rock.  
 He pulled the reins round and went for them  
 and separated out one of them and struck him a blow with his sword,  
 and split him and his horse down the middle;  
 965 when the survivors saw this, they turned back.  
 And the young man was like a handsome white hawk  
 when it chases a partridge and goes into a wood;  
 just so did the young man scatter them.  
 Five of them separated off, and they were her brothers;  
 970 they urged their steeds on and came up to the girl.

969 Once again the family consists of five brothers and a sister. This probably represents the society's ideal gender mix – and perhaps also a structural element in the development of the story.

- καὶ ὁ νέος ὅς τὸν νοῦν τοὺς ἔβαλεν, μὴ ἄρπάξουσιν τὴν κόρην·  
 πλησίον τοὺς ἐπήδησεν καὶ ἐπισταπόδησέν τοὺς  
 καὶ ἐκεῖνοι πάλι ἐστράφησαν καὶ ὑπᾶν εἰς τὸ κοράσιον.  
 973a <Καὶ τότε πάλι ὁ Διγενής> τὸ ἰδεῖν τοὺς νεωτέρους,  
 γοργὸν ἐπῆρεν τὸ ραβδὶν καὶ προσυπῆντησέν τοὺς·  
 975 ἔναν χωρίζει ἐξ αὐτῶν καὶ ἐδῶκεν του ραβδέαν·  
 τὸ ἰδεῖν οἱ ἀπομένοντες, ἐκεῖ τὸν προσκυνοῦσιν.  
 Καὶ ὁ κύρης τοὺς ὁ στρατηγὸς ἀπέσωσεν ἐκεῖσε  
 κλαίων καὶ ὀδυρόμενος·  
 τὸ νὰ τὸν ἴδῃ ὁ Διγενής, ἔδεσε τὰ χερίά του G4.674  
 980 καὶ χαμηλὰ ἐπροσκύνα τον, κύρην καὶ πενθερόν του, G4.674  
 καὶ μετὰ τὸ προσκύνημαν ἄκο τὰ τί τοῦ λέγει:  
 «Εὐχου μου, κύρη στρατηγέ, μετὰ τῆς θυγατρὸς σου G4.594  
 καὶ βλέπε μηδὲν λυπηθῆς, ἰ καλὸν γαμπρὸν ἐπῆρες· 168r  
 τὸν κόσμον καὶ ἂν ἐγύρευες, κάλλιον οὐκ εἶχες εὖρειν.  
 985 Καὶ ἂν θέλῃς, κύρη στρατηγέ, δουλείαν νὰ σὲ ποιήσω·  
 καὶ τότε, <ἀφέντη μου>, νὰ ἴδῃς τὸ τί γαμπρὸν ἐπῆρες.» G4.681  
 Καὶ τότε καὶ ὁ στρατηγὸς τοιοῦτον λόγον λέγει:  
 «Εὐχαριστῶ σε, Θεὲ καλέ, τὴν ἄφραστον προνοίαν  
 καὶ τὴν φιλανθρωπίαν σου τὴν εἰς ἐμὲν δειχθεῖσαν,  
 990 ὅτι ἐπῆρα γαμπρὸν καλόν, τὸν ὁ κόσμος οὐκ ἔχει. G4.690  
 Στράφου, καλὲ νεώτερε, εἰς τὰ πενθερικά σου,  
 νὰ ἐπάρῃς καὶ τὴν προῖκαν σου, τριακόσια κιντηνάρια, G4.705-6  
 ὅτι καὶ χωρισμένα εἶν' ἀπὸ τοὺς ἀδελφούς της·  
 πάλιν δὲ διὰ τὰ κάλλη της, τὰ βλέπομεν εἰς αὐτήν,  
 995 δίδω σου τὸ λογάρι μου, τρεῖς λίτρες κιντηνάρια G4.709  
 καὶ ἐγκόλφια ὀλόχρυσα, τὰ ἔχει ἐκ τῆς μητρὸς της, G4.713  
 καὶ νὰ σὲ ἴδῃ ἡ στρατήγισσα καὶ νὰ χαρῇ ἡ ψυχὴ της G4.730  
 καὶ νὰ σᾶς εὐλογῇσῶμεν καὶ τότε νὰ στραφοῦμε.»  
 Καὶ πάλιν ὁ νεώτερος οὕτως τὸν ἀπεκρίθη:

- 971 νέος Alexiou: νεότερος E ὅς τὸν νοῦν τοὺς corr.: εἰς τὸν νοῦν του τοὺς E  
 973a Καὶ τότε πάλι ὁ Διγενής added by Alexiou  
 977 ἀπέσωσεν ἐκεῖσε Trapp: ἐκεῖ ἀπέσωσεν E  
 979 ἴδῃ Trapp: ἴδῃ E ὁ Alexiou: καὶ ὁ E  
 983 βλέπε Trapp: βλέπε ἀφέντι E  
 985 δουλείαν νὰ σὲ ποιήσω Alexiou: τοῦ νὰ σε ποιήσω δουλείαν E  
 986 ἀφέντη μου added by Alexiou, from E983  
 989 δειχθεῖσαν Kalonaros: διχθήσα E  
 998 στραφοῦμε E: στραφῇτε Ricks

And the young man watched them carefully so that they should not  
 abduct the girl.

He rushed up to them and forced them back  
 but they turned once again and came up to the girl.

973a Then as Digenis saw the young men once again,  
 he quickly took his stick and confronted them.

975 He separated out one of them and struck him a blow with his stick.  
 On seeing this, the survivors made obeisance to him on the spot.

And their lord father the general reached there,  
 weeping and wailing.

On seeing him, Digenis clasped his hands together

980 and made deep obeisance to him as his lord and his father-in-law,  
 and after the obeisance, listen to what he said to him:

"Give me your blessing, lord general, together with your daughter;  
 and see that you are not distressed – you have acquired a fine  
 son-in-law.

If you were to search the world, you would find no finer.

985 And if you wish, lord general, I shall do you service;  
 and then, my lord, you will see what sort of son-in-law you have  
 acquired."

And then the general said this:

"I thank you, good God, for your inexpressible providence  
 and the benevolence which you have shown me,

990 because I have acquired a fine son-in-law such as the world does not  
 possess.

Come back, fine young man, to your father-in-law's estates  
 to receive your dowry, three hundred *centenaria*  
 which are separated off from her brothers' due;  
 further, because of the beauty which we see in her,

995 I give you my treasure, three pounds of *centenaria*  
 and amulets of solid gold which she has from her mother;  
 and may the general's lady see you and her soul rejoice,  
 and may we bless you both in marriage and then return."

But the young man made this reply in his turn:

976 Note the parallels between this fight and that at E964-5; cf. Fenik, 1991, 57-66 on  
 combat structures in oral-derived poetry.

992 The terms *centenaria* and pounds (*litrai*) seem embedded in descriptions of Digenis'  
 dowry. E's usage does not have the consistency of G4.706-9: *centenaria* should be used of  
 numbers of coins, *litrai* of weights (Kriaras, 1969-, under κεντηνάριον; Magdalino,  
 1993b, 4, note 4). Digenis' refusal of the dowry at E1007, cf. G4.746, has to do with the  
 power games inherent in a marriage alliance (Angold, 1989, 111-12).

- 1000 «Ἄν ἔν' καὶ θέλεις, πενθερέ, νὰ ποίσωμεν τοὺς γάμους,  
ἐλᾶτε ἐσεῖς ὅς τὸν οἶκον μου μετὰ τῆς πενθερᾶς μου  
καὶ νὰ μᾶς εὐλογήσουσιν καὶ πάλιν νὰ στραφοῦμεν  
καὶ νὰ ἔλθωμεν ὅς τὸν οἶκον σου,  
νὰ μᾶς ἰδῇ ἡ στρατήγισσα καὶ νὰ χαρῇ ἡ ψυχὴ τῆς. 168v  
1005 Εἰ δὲ καὶ οὐ θέλεις νὰ ἐλθῇς, ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ <ὑπαγαίνω>  
παίρνω τὴν θυγατέρα σου καὶ ὑπάω ὅς τὰ γονικά μου.  
τὴν δὲ προίκα ἃς τὴν ἔχουσιν οἱ γυναικαδελφοί μου. G4.746  
καὶ μόνην κόρην ἔλαβα καὶ τίποτε οὐ χρήζω.»  
Καὶ τότε ὁ νεώτερος πηδᾷ, καβαλικεύει,  
1010 καὶ ἀφότου ἐκαβαλίκευσεν, ὑπάγει εἰς τὸ κοράσιον.  
Καὶ τότε <πάλιν> ὁ στρατηγὸς  
κλαίει γὰρ καὶ ὀδύρεται, οὐκ ἔμπορεῖ ὑπομένει,  
κάθεται καὶ μοιρολογᾷ τὴν ἀρπαγὴν τῆς κόρης·  
τὰ ρέτενα γυρίζουσιν, ὅς τὰ σπίτια τῶν ὑπᾶσιν.  
015/16 Καὶ τότε ἡ στρατήγισσα οὐκ ἔμπορεῖ ὑπομένει·  
κλαίουσα καὶ ὀδυρόμενη τὸν στρατηγὸν ἐλάλει:  
«Πῶς ἐσυνέβην εἰς ἐμὰς καὶ ἐπῆρεν τὸ παιδί μας;  
Πάντως ἃς τὸ ἤξεύραμεν καὶ ἃς ἦτον μὲ βουλὴν μας,  
1020 καὶ νὰ τὴν ἀπεβγάλαμεν ὡς πρέπει καὶ ὡς ἀξίζει  
καὶ ἐδάρτε μὴ μᾶς ἐφλεγεν ἡ ἀρπαγὴ τῆς κόρης  
καὶ πόνον νὰ τὸ ἔχωμεν τὰ ἔτη τῆς ζωῆς μας,  
023/24 νὰ μᾶς φλογίζῃ ὁ πόνος τῆς τὸ πῶς μόνη ὑπαγαίνει.»  
1025 Ἀκρίτης δὲ χαιρόμενος μετὰ τῆς ποθητῆς του  
ἐκεῖ τὴν ἐπερίλαβε ὅς τὰς κατακρύας βρύσας

- 1001 ὅς Trapp: εἰς E  
1003 ὅς Trapp: εἰς E  
1004 νὰ<sup>1</sup> Trapp: καὶ νὰ E  
1005 ὑπαγαίνω added by Karayanni, 1976, 109  
1006 ὑπάω ὅς Karayanni, 1976, 109: ὑπάγω εἰς E  
1007 προίκα Alexiou: πρίκα μου τὴν πολλὴν E ἔχουσιν Karayanni, 1976, 125:  
ἔχουν E  
1008 καὶ<sup>1</sup> Alexiou, cf. E1300: καὶ ἐγὼ E  
1011 πάλιν added by Karayanni, 1976, 109  
1012 ὑπομένει corr.: πομένη E  
1014 ὅς Trapp: εἰς E  
1015/16 στρατήγισσα Trapp: στρατίγησα κλέϊ καὶ ὀδύρετε (=1016, 1st half) E  
ὑπομένει corr.: πομένη E  
1019 Πάντως Trapp: παντὸς E μὲ Alexiou: με τὴν E  
1020 ἀπεβγάλαμεν Alexiou: ἤχαμεν ἀπευγάλην E  
1022 μᾶς Kalonaros: μου E  
1023/24 τῆς Alexiou: τῆς, τὰ ἔτη τῆς ζωῆς μας E ὑπαγαίνει Kalonaros: ὑπαγένης E  
1026 ὅς Karayanni, 1976, 109: εἰς E

- 1000 "If it is your wish, father-in-law, that we hold the marriage,  
come to my house with my mother-in-law  
and let them bless us in marriage and after that let us return  
and come to your house  
so that the general's lady may see us and her soul rejoice.  
1005 But if you don't want to come, see, I am setting off;  
I am taking your daughter and going to my parents' estates.  
As for the dowry, let my wife's brothers have it;  
I have taken only the girl and want nothing else."  
Then the young man sprang into the saddle  
1010 and when he had mounted, he went up to the girl.  
And then once more the general  
wept and wailed, he could not bear it,  
he sat down and uttered a lament for his daughter's abduction.  
They pulled the reins around, they went to their homes.  
1015/16 But then the general's lady could not bear it;  
weeping and wailing, she said to the general:  
"How has this happened to us, that he has seized our child?  
If only we had known about this and it had happened with our  
consent,  
1020 we could have sent her off in the right and proper way,  
and our daughter's abduction would not now enflame us;  
but we shall have anguish for all the years of our lives,  
1023/24 and anguish for her will torment us because she goes off unescorted."  
1025 Akritis the Frontiersman, rejoicing with his beloved,  
embraced her there by the ice-cold springs

1001–4 The mother-in-law and the general's lady are in fact the same person. Perhaps the point is that she wishes to see the new familial relationship sanctioned within her own establishment.



καὶ ἔπῃρεν τὸ κοράσιον καὶ ὑπᾶ εἰς τὰ γονικά του. 169r

Πρὶν φθάσῃ εἰς τὸν οἶκον του, ἐνόησεν ὁ πατὴρ του  
καὶ βίγλας ἔστησεν πολλὰς καὶ ἀναμένασιν τον·

1030 καὶ ὡς εἶδασιν ὅτι ἔρχεται ὁ θαυμαστός Ἀκρίτης,  
γοργὸν ἐκαβαλίκευσαν <ὁ> θεῖος καὶ ὁ πατὴρ του  
καὶ ὅλη του ἡ γενεὰ καὶ τριακόσιοι ἀγοῦροι.  
Οἱ μὲν πσουκάνας ἔπαιζαν, οἱ ἄλλοι τραγουδοῦσιν  
καὶ πᾶν εἰς τὸ κοράσιον.

1035 Καὶ ἡ κόρη, ὡς εἶδε τὸν λαὸν καὶ ὡς εἶδεν τόσον πλῆθος,  
πολλὰ τοὺς ἐφοβήθη

καὶ ἀνατρομάζουσα ἔλεγεν τὸν πολυπόθητόν της:

«Ἄν εἶναι ξένοι, αὐθέντη μου, πάντως νὰ μᾶς χωρίσουν.» G4.804

Καὶ τότε ὁ νεώτερος τὴν κόρην οὕτως λέγει:

1040 «Αὐτὸς ὁ πενθερός σου ἐστὶν καὶ δι' ἐμᾶς ἐξῆλθε.» G4.806

Καὶ τότε καὶ ἡ λυγερὴ μεγάλως τὸ ἐχάρη

καὶ ἀγάλια ἀγάλια ἔλεγεν τὸν πολυπόθητόν της:

«Τί οὐκ ἤκουσες τὸν κύρην μου διὰ νὰ στραφῇς ὀπίσω; G4.809

Καὶ νὰ εἶχα τὰς βαγίας μου καὶ τὴν ἐξόπλισίν μου G4.810

1045 καὶ ὅλον μου τὸ συγγενικὸν μετὰ τῆς πενθερᾶς σου

καὶ νὰ ἔγνωκεν καὶ ὁ κύρης σου καὶ τὴν ἐμὴν τὴν δόξαν.» G4.811

Καὶ τότε ὁ νεώτερος τέτοια τὴν κόρην λέγει:

«Ὁ κύρης μου τὸν κύρην σου καλὰ τὸν ἐγνωρίζει

καὶ εἰς τοῦτο οὐ μὴ τὸν μέσεται, ὡς διὰ τὴν μοναξίαν.» G4.813

1050 "Εἰς συρτὰ ἔπαρέσυρναν 'ς τὴν ἀρπαγὴν τῆς κόρης 169v

καὶ ἦσαν γυναῖκες, πάντερπνα, τὰ σελοχάλινά των.

Καὶ ἐπέξευσεν ὁ κύρης των καὶ ἐφίλει καὶ τοὺς δύο G4.818

καὶ στέφανα ὀλόχρυσά τὰς κεφαλὰς των θέτει

καὶ τὸν Θεὸν παρακαλεῖ καὶ εὐχὰς τὸν ἀποπέμπει:

1027 καὶ<sup>1</sup> Trapp: καὶ ἀπέκι E

1028 ἐνόησεν Alexiou: ἐνόησέν τους E

1031 ὁ added by Alexiou

1032 ὅλη Hesseling: ὅλος E

1036 Alexiou (note) suggests καὶ πρὸς αὐτοὺς ὑπήγαγαν before πολλὰ

1038 πάντως Trapp: παντὸς E

1040 ἐξῆλθε corr.: ἐρχετο E ἐρχεται Prombonas, 1985, 10 κοπιᾶζει Alexiou, cf. G4.806

1043 Τί Alexiou: διατί E

1044 εἶχα Alexiou: ἦχα καὶ E

1048 κύρην σου Alexiou: κύριου σου E

1049 τὸν Alexiou: τὸ E

1050 'ς Trapp: εἰς E

1051 πάντερπνα Hesseling: πάντερπνα E

1054 τὸν<sup>2</sup> Alexiou: τῶν E ἀποπέμπει E: ἀναπέμπει Alexiou

and took the girl and went to his parents' estates.

Before he reached his house his father had thought of him  
and set many guards, and they watched for him.

1030 When they saw that Akritis the marvellous Frontiersman was coming,  
his uncle and his father mounted quickly,  
as did all his family and three hundred youngsters.  
Some were playing drums, others were singing,  
and they went towards the girl.

1035 And when the girl saw the crowd and when she saw such a throng,  
she was very frightened of them  
and trembling all over she said to her beloved:

"If they are strangers, my lord, they will certainly separate us."

And then the young man addressed the girl thus:

1040 "This is your father-in-law and he is coming out to meet us."  
Then the slender girl rejoiced greatly

and she said gently to her beloved:

"Why didn't you listen to my lord father and go back?

I would have had my serving girls and my retinue

1045 and all my kinsmen together with your mother-in-law,  
and your lord father would have been aware of my rank."

And then the young man said this to the girl:

"My lord father is well aware of your lord father  
and will not hold him at fault because you are unescorted."

1050 They brought up six led horses at the girl's abduction,  
and their bridles and saddles were made for women and very pretty.  
Their lord father dismounted and kissed the two of them;  
he placed crowns of solid gold on their heads  
and called upon God and sent prayers up to him:

1050 While the use of ἀρπαγή, 'abduction', here for the girl's arrival for her marriage may owe something to the poet's use of formulaic phrases (Ricks, note), it is more probably a reflection of the bride-snatching elements of marriage rituals: Angold, 1989 and Mackridge, 1993a.

- 1055 «Κύριος <ὁ> πάντων δυνατὸς ἐσᾶς νὰ εὐλογήσῃ,  
ὁ κτίσας γῆν καὶ οὐρανὸν καὶ θάλασσαν πεδήσας  
καὶ στήσας στῦλον τοῦ πυρὸς ἀνάμεσα πελάγου,  
ἀξιώσῃ σας νὰ χαίρεσθε τὰ ἔτη τῆς ζωῆς σας.»  
Ἦ τὴν σέλαν τὴν ἐκάθισεν τὴν μαργαριταρένιαν  
1060 καὶ ὁ λαὸς ἐκαβαλίκευσεν μετὰ πολυχρονίῳ.  
Τὰ βότανα ἐλαλούδιζαν καὶ τὰ βουνία ἐψηλῶναν  
καὶ τὰ ἄστρον παρασκύπτουσιν εἰς τὴν χαρὰν ἐκείνην.  
Καὶ μετὰ πάσης ταραχῆς, μετὰ ὀψικίου μεγάλου,  
εἰς τὸν οἶκον τοῦ ἀπέσωσεν, μεσὰ εἰς τὰ γονικά του,  
1065 καὶ τῶν δύο τῶν εὐχήθηκεν ἡ μήτηρ καὶ ὁ πατήρ του.  
Καὶ ὁ ἔρως ἐξεπλήρωσε πάσας τῶν τὰς ἐλπίδας·  
καὶ πάντα τὰ θελήματα καὶ τὰ ἐξαρέσκια του,  
τοῦ ἔρωτος τοῦ ἡδονικοῦ, χαρμονικῶς τελοῦσιν.  
Ὁ δὲ τοῦ Ἀκρίτη ὁ πενθερός, ὁ θαυμαστὸς ἐκεῖνος, |  
1070 ἀφότου ἀπεχαιρέτισεν Ἀκρίτην τὸν γαμπρόν του, 170r
- Ἀπῆλθεν εἰς τὸν οἶκον τοῦ καὶ ἐθρήνησε μεγάλως·  
χαρίσματα οἰκονόμησεν ὅτι νὰ τοῦ ἀποστείλῃ:  
δώδεκα πάρδους διαλεκτοὺς ἀπὸ Συρίαν ἀπέσω,  
μουλάρια δώδεκα βλατίν, σελοχαλινωμένα,  
1075 καὶ χυμευτάρια ὀλόχρυσα, ὡς καὶ βαγίτσες δέκα  
καὶ ἄτσουπάδας δώδεκα ὡς διὰ ὑποταγῆν του  
(καὶ ἀνήβαιναν ἡ προίκα τοῦ καὶ τριακοσίες χιλιάδες)  
καὶ εἰκόνες ὀλοχυμευτὲς τοὺς τρεῖς ἀρχιστρατήγους  
– καὶ εἶχαν λιθάρια ἀτίμητα, λυχνίτας καὶ ὑακίνθους –  
1080 καὶ τοῦ Σχοδρόν τὸ σπαθίν, | τὸ θαυμαστὸν ἐκεῖνον· 170v  
ἐδῶκαν τοῦ καὶ λέοντα, θηρίον ἡμερωμένον,  
καὶ ἡ κόρη τὸν ἐχαίρετον καὶ ὁ νεώτερος Ἀκρίτης.

1055 ὁ added by Alexiou, cf. E1114 νὰ Trapp: νὰ σας E

1059 Ἦ Trapp: εἰς E

1063 μετὰ<sup>2</sup> Alexiou: καὶ μετὰ E Trapp places 1063 after 1060, cf. Z2196–7

1064 εἰς [s] Alexiou: καὶ εἰς E

1065 ἡ μήτηρ καὶ ὁ πατήρ Trapp: ὁ πατήρ καὶ ἡ μήτηρ E

1066 ἔρως Chatzis, 1930, 29: ἔρωτας E τῶν Kalonaros: του E

1067 πάντα Kalonaros: πάντων E τῶν Alexiou: τῶν E

1070 ἀπεχαιρέτισεν Kalonaros: ἐπεχερέτισεν E

1072 χαρίσματα Trapp: καὶ χαρίσματα E ἀποστείλῃ Alexiou: ἀπεστείλῃ E

1074 μουλάρια δώδεκα βλατίν Alexiou: καὶ δώδεκα μουλάρια βλατίν E καὶ δώδεκα  
μουλάρια Trapp

1079 λυχνίτας Xanthoudidis, 1912, 560: λυχνίας E

1080 Σχοδρόν E: Χοσρόη Kalonaros, cf. G4.912

- 1055 "May the Lord who has power over all things bless you;  
he who has created earth and heaven and put limits on the sea  
and set a pillar of fire in the midst of the deep,  
may he grant you happiness all the years of your lives."  
He placed her on the saddle set with pearls  
1060 and the crowd rode off amid acclamations.  
The plants bloomed and the mountains grew tall  
and the stars bent down to see that celebration.  
With a mighty commotion and a great procession  
he reached his house on his parents' estates,  
1065 and his father and mother gave their blessing to the two of them.  
Eros fulfilled all their expectations,  
and all the wishes and delights of  
Eros the voluptuary they accomplished joyfully.  
Akritis the Frontiersman's father-in-law, that marvellous man,  
1070 when he said farewell to Akritis, his son-in-law,

he returned to his house and lamented greatly;

he prepared gifts that he could send him:

twelve choice leopards from Syria,

twelve mule-loads of silks, saddled and bridled,

1075 and enamelled jewels set in gold, and also ten maid-servants

and twelve African body-guards at his command

(the value of the dowry was up to three hundred thousand)

and icons, all enamelled, of the three archgenerals

– these were set with stones beyond price, rubies and aquamarines –

1080 and Chosroes' sword, that marvellous weapon;

and they gave him also a lion, a wild beast that had been tamed,

and the girl and Akritis the young Frontiersman found him quite  
delightful.

1072 The evidence of the material common to G and E suggests that \*Digenis included the father-in-law's offer of a dowry (E992), Digenis' rejection of it (E1007), the father-in-law's despatch of lavish gifts nonetheless and the three-month wedding. E's treatment is more elliptical than that of G.

1074 Proposed emendations omit the silks (Trapp) or leave the problem of pack animals which are also saddled and bridled (Alexiou).

1077 Presumably coins; cf. the three pounds of *centenaria* of E995.

- καὶ οὐκ ἦϋρεν τόπον ἀρεστὸν νὰ | κατοικήσῃ Ἀκρίτης 184r  
 1620 καὶ εἰς τὸν Ἀφράτην ποταμὸν τοῦ ἄρσεε κατοικήσαι G7.7  
 καὶ ὡς ἤθελεν καὶ ἐπόθει <το> ἐποῖκεν καὶ τὰ κάστρη·  
 καὶ ἀνέδραμεν τοῦ ποταμοῦ πᾶσαν τοποθεσίαν.  
 Καὶ εἰς τόπον ὑπολίβαδον ἦτον πολὺς δενδριώνας  
 καὶ γύρωθεν ἐστέκασιν ὠραῖα κατάσκια δένδρη  
 1625 καὶ ὕδατα πανώραια ἐκ τὰ ὄρη κατεβαίνουν  
 καὶ ἐφαίνετο ἡ τοποθεσία πανώραια ὡς παραδείσιν.  
 Καὶ ἐδίωξε τὸν ποταμὸν ἐξ αὐτὸν τὸ λιβάδι  
 καὶ ἐποίησεν τόπον πάντερπνον καὶ ὠραῖον παραδείσιν  
 καὶ ἐποίησεν περίχωρον, καὶ ὠραῖον ἦν χωρίον.  
 1630 Τείχια τοῦ ἔκτισε λαμπρὰ μετὰ τοὺς προμαχιώνας, G7.15  
 καὶ ἀπέξω ὀρθομαρμάρωσις φαίνεται ἀπὸ μακρόθεν, G7.16  
 πάντερπνος, ξυνοχάραγος, ἐξέχωρος ἐκ πάντων.  
 Καὶ κατὰ ρίζα τοῦ δενδροῦ πηγὰδιν ἀναβλύζει.  
 Καὶ ἀπέκλεισεν τὰ τέσσερα τοῦ ποταμοῦ κλωνάρια  
 1635 καὶ ἀρδεύει τὸ παράβουνον καὶ ὅλον τὸ ἀνατρέχει.  
 Φισκίνας ἔστησε πολλὰς ἀπὸ χυτοῦ ἐκτισμένας,  
 διὰ τὸ ποτίζειν ἐξ αὐτὰς τόπους ἀποκλεισθέντας·  
 ἐποίησεν βιβάρια πανθαύμαστα ἰχθύων.  
 . . . εἰς τοῦ ἀμιρᾶ τοὺς οἴκους.  
 1640 Καὶ ἐφέρασιν τὸν βάρσαμον ἐκ τῆς Αἰγύπτου χώρας· |  
 1642 τὰ φύλλα του εἶναι πράσινα καὶ κόκκινον τὸ ἄνθος 184v  
 καὶ ἡ ρίζα του εἶναι πιθαμὴ καὶ ὅλη ξυλαλόη  
 καὶ ὁ καρπὸς του ἔναι μόνοςχος  
 1645 καὶ οἱ κλώνοι του εἶναι κόκκινοι καὶ φιλωτὰ κλωσμένοι  
 καὶ ἐξέρχεται ἐκ τὴν ρίζαν του ὕδωρ καὶ ἔναι χιονάτο,  
 1647 μυρίζει δὲ ὡς ροδόσταμον καὶ ἀπολιγώνει ἀνθρώπους·

- but Akritis the Frontiersman had found no agreeable place to live,  
 1620 yet he liked to live by the river Euphrates;  
 and so he built his fortress as he wanted and desired,  
 and he roamed around every site by the river.  
 In a spot with verdant meadows there was a large grove  
 and all round stood beautiful shady trees;  
 1625 very beautiful streams flowed down from the mountains,  
 and the site seemed very beautiful, like a pleasure garden.  
 He diverted the river away from this meadow  
 and created a delightful spot and a lovely pleasure garden;  
 he made a country estate which was a lovely place.  
 1630 He built there resplendent walls with battlements  
 and the marble cladding on the outside could be seen from a distance,  
 quite delightful, incomparable, distinct from any other.  
 And at the foot of the tree a spring bubbled up.  
 He dammed the four branches of the river  
 1635 and irrigated the mountain-side so that the water ran all over it.  
 He set up many pools, made of forged metal,  
 so that enclosed areas could be watered by them;  
 he also made the most marvellous ponds for fish.  
 . . . to the emir's houses.  
 1640 They brought the balsam tree from the land of Egypt:  
 1642 its leaves are green and its flower red;  
 its root is some nine inches thick and smelling all of aloes,  
 and its fruit is perfumed;  
 1645 its branches are red and amorously intertwined  
 while water comes out of its root, icy cold  
 1647 and perfumed like rosewater; it makes men faint.

1620 τοῦ ἄρσεε corr.: ἐκεῖ ἄρσεε E κατοικήσαι Alexiou, cf. Z3774: τοῦ νεοτέρου κατοικία E

1621 το added by Alexiou

1624 γύρωθεν Alexiou: ἐγύρωθεν E

1626 ἐφαίνετο Hesseling: φένε E

1628 παραδείσιν Hesseling: παραδείσιν E

1629 ἦν corr.: γὰρ E

1630 προμαχιώνας Hesseling: τρομαχιώνας E

1631 ἀπέξω Hesseling: ἀπέσω E

1634 ἀπέκλεισεν Alexiou: ὑπέκλεισεν E

1635 ἀρδεύει Xanthoudidis, 1912, 569: ἀρδεύνει E

1636 ἐκτισμένας Alexiou, 1979, 108: οἰκονισμένας E οἰκονομημένας Alexiou οἰκονομισμένας Hesseling

1637 ἐξ αὐτὰς Vogiatzidis, 1923/4, 78: εἰς αὐτοὺς E τόπους Xanthoudidis, 1912, 569: τόπος E ἀποκλεισθέντας Kalonaros: ἀπεκλεισθέντας E

1645 κόκκινοι Hesseling: κόκκινος E κλωσμένοι Hesseling: κλωσμένα E

1624–59 The literary background in Achilles Tatius and Makremvolitis to this description of an ideal garden is discussed in the Introduction, p. xlv–xlvi.

1633 A forward reference to the tree described in E1642–7, perhaps to be omitted here as a doublet of 1646.

1636–47 A confused passage; at 1639 either a phrase has fallen out or the scribe is harking back to previous references to building activities; 1641 breaks into the description of the balsam tree and could be repositioned either before 1640 (as does Alexiou) or after 1647 (as here).

1636 A difficult half-line, where no emendation yet proposed gives both satisfactory sense and metre.

- 1641 καὶ ἐφύτευσαν φοινίκια ὅς αὐτὸν τὸ παραδείσιν.  
 1648 Καὶ αὐλὴν ἐποίηκεν θαυμαστήν, πανώραιαν φισκίαν,  
 καὶ τὰ ἔμπροσθεν ἑαυτοῦ μυστοῦ μεμυρισμένα δένδρη.  
 1650 Ἐποίησεν καὶ ἀνώγειον, αὐλὴν δὲ ὑπερῶον  
 καὶ τὴν ἐπερικύκλωσεν ὅλην τριγύρου γύρου  
 καὶ ἐπέστησεν ὀλόχρυσά καὶ ὀλόαργυρά ζωδία,  
 λέοντας, πάρδους καὶ ἀετούς, πέρδικας καὶ νεράδας  
 καὶ χύνουν ἐκ τοῦ στόματος καὶ ἐκ τῶν πτερυγίων.  
 1655 νερὸν καθάριον, κρύσταλλον, ὕδωρ μεμυρισμένον.  
 ταῦτα δὲ ἔμπαίνουσιν εἰς πανωραίας φισκίας.  
 Καὶ ἐκρέμασεν χρυσόκλημαν εἰς τοῦ δένδρου τοὺς κλώνους G6.28  
 καὶ ἔχουν ὠραίους ψιττακοὺς καὶ κιλαδοὺν καὶ λέγουν: G7.39  
 «Χαίρου, Ἀκρίτη, χαίρου <ἐσὺ> μετὰ τῆς ποθητῆς σου.»  
 1660 Ἐποίησεν γέφυραν τερπνὴν ἀπάνω εἰς τὸν Εὐφράτην.  
 βαστᾶ τὴν μονοκέρατον ἀπὸ πέρα ἕως πέρα.  
 Καὶ ἔκτισεν τετρακάμαρον ὅς τὴν γέφυραν ἀπάνω,  
 ὑπόβολον, πανθαύμαστον, μετὰ λευκῶν μαρμάρων.  
 βαστοῦν τὸ κίονια πάντερπνα, πράσινα, πανωραῖα. 185r  
 1665 Καὶ κάτωθεν ὑπέστησεν κιβούριον τοῦ θανάτου,  
 εὐθύς ἵνα ἀποτεθῇ τὸ σῶμα τοῦ νεωτέρου.  
 Ἀκούσατε, θαυμάσατε τὸν τάφον τοῦ νεωτέρου,  
 ὅτι ἦτον θαυμαστὸς πολλὰ, παρὰ τοὺς ἄλλους πλέον,  
 παρὰ τοῦ βασιλεύσαντος ἐκ τῆς Περσίας χώρας.  
 . . .  
 1670 ἐποίησεν πολυμήχανον καὶ πανωραῖον τάφον  
 καὶ ἐτέθην ἡ βασίλισσα τοῦ πρὸς Παρασογάρδου.

1641 ὅς Trapp: εἰς E

1648 θαυμαστήν Hesselring: θαυμασθὴν E

1649 τοῦ μυστοῦ E: τοῦ ξυστοῦ Xanthoudidis, 1912, 570 μυριστικὰ Hesselring  
 ἐκόσμησε Kalonaros

1651 τὴν Alexiou: ὅλην τὴν E ὅλην Alexiou: αὐτὴν E

1652 ἐπέστησεν Alexiou: ἀπέστησεν E ζωδία Alexiou: ζώδια E

1657 χρυσόκλημαν E: χρυσόκλωβα Alexiou

1659 ἐσὺ added by Spadaro, 1989, 182

1660 γέφυραν Kalonaros: γεφύριαν E

1661 τὴν Grégoire, 1942, 94: τὸ E

1662 ὅς Trapp: εἰς E

1664 βαστοῦν τὸ Kriaras, 1953, 384: βαστοῦντα E

1665 κάτωθεν Xyngoropoulos, 1967, 24: ἀπάνωθεν E

1669 ἐκ τῆς Περσίας χώρας E: εἰς τὴν Περσίαν χώραν Alexiou After 1669 Alexiou  
 proposes a short lacuna containing a relative pronoun

1671 ἐτέθην Grégoire, 1931a, 508: ἐτέχθην E

- 1641 They planted palm trees in this garden.  
 He built a marvellous courtyard and a very beautiful pool  
 and in front . . . perfumed trees.  
 1650 He built also an upper storey, a courtyard on a higher level  
 and encircled the whole of it on all sides  
 and set up figures of animals, made of solid gold and silver,  
 lions, leopards and eagles, partridges and neraïdes;  
 these poured out from their mouths and their wings  
 1655 pure water, crystal clear, water that was perfumed;  
 then they entered very lovely pools.  
 And he hung a golden vine from the tree's branches,  
 which had beautiful parrots which sang and said:  
 "Greetings, Akritis, Frontiersman, greetings to you with your beloved."  
 1660 He constructed a delightful bridge over the Euphrates;  
 he carried a single arch from one side to the other.  
 And he built a four-vaulted chamber on the bridge,  
 domed, very marvellous, made of white marble.  
 It was supported by most delightful columns, green and very beautiful.  
 1665 and under the dome he placed a monumental sarcophagus  
 so that the young man's body could be placed there without delay.  
 Listen, marvel at the young man's tomb,  
 because it was very marvellous, more than all others,  
 more than that of the emperor from the land of Persia;  
 . . .  
 1670 for he had constructed a very intricate and very beautiful tomb  
 in which was interred the empress near Pasargadai.

1649 A phrase referring to some part of the building has fallen out of the text.

1653 'Neraïdes' are descendants of the ancient water nymphs who are well on their way  
 to becoming seductive modern fairies.

1656 Presumably the unexpressed subject of 'entered' referred to water.

1660 In this part of the manuscript, though sections of the text are signalled by capital  
 letters, there are no spaces for illustrations.

1661 Digenis' tomb is referred to in G in the context of his funeral (G8.230-44), which  
 is not mentioned in E. At this stage G (7.107, 192) refers to the burial in Digenis' palace  
 of his parents. \*Digenis would thus have mentioned tombs of some sort in the account of  
 the palace. On sites suggested for the tomb, see the Introduction, p. xxxiv.  
 1666 Logically the construction of the tomb to prevent delay in burial after death does  
 not imply that Digenis is ill. Structurally this is an anticipation of the coming death-bed  
 scene.

1669 Alexiou proposes a short lacuna at this point containing a relative pronoun.



- Οὗτος γὰρ ὁ παγκάλλιστος καὶ πανωραῖος τάφος,  
 μὴ τὸν δοκῆτε, οἱ ἄρχοντες, ὅτι ψευδὴς ὑπάρχει,  
 ἀλλ' ἐκ παντὸς πιστεύετε ὅτι ἀληθὴς ὑπάρχει,  
 1675 ὅτι βεβαίως εἴρηται εἰς πάντα ἀληθεύων.  
 Οὐ μόνον εἰς τὸν θάνατον,  
 ἀπάνω εἰς τὸν τάφον τοῦ ἐν ἀληθείᾳ τὸ λέγω.  
 Εἰς τὸ κουβούκλιον δὲ σιμά, ἐμπροσθεν τῆς φισκίνας,  
 εἰς τὸ ἀπεσκίασμα τοῦ δένδρου ὠραῖον κρεβάτιν στέκει·  
 1680 οἱ ρίζες ἦσαν σμάραγδοι καὶ τὰ κανόνια κρύα  
 καὶ τὰ ποδάρια ὀλόχρυσα, διὰ λίθων πολυτίμων·  
 ἡ μέση δὲ τοῦ κράβατου θεμένη ὄξυν μετέξιν  
 καὶ κεῖται σαρακήνικον μεταξωτὸν τὸ πεύχιν  
 καὶ ἀπάνω κεῖται πιλωτόν, ὄξυν πρασινοβούλιν,  
 1685 καὶ ὑφάπλωμα σωληνωτὸν μὲ τὰς χρυσᾶς νεράδας·  
 καὶ κεῖται ἀπάνω ὁ Διγενὴς πλάγιον ἀκουμπισμένος. 185v  
 Καὶ ἐμπροσθεν τῶν γονάτων τοῦ κάθεται ἡ ποθητὴ τοῦ  
 καὶ τριγύρου τοῦ στέκουσιν τριακόσια παλληκάρια  
 καὶ οἱ τριακόσιοι εἶναι ἔμορφοι καὶ κόκκινα φοροῦσιν.  
 1690 βαστοῦν σπαθία ὀλοψήφωτα καὶ στέκουν ἐμπροσθέν του,  
 τοὺς εἶχεν πάντας φύλακας εἰς τὰς στενὰς κλεισούρας  
 καὶ ἐφύλαττον τὴν Ῥωμανίαν ἀπὸ βάρβαρα ἔθνη·  
 καὶ ὥσαν πουλίτσια πάντερπνα, ὅταν ἀποπετάσουν,  
 καὶ φέρνουν κτύπον πάντερπνον τὸν θαυμαστὸν Ἀκρίτην.  
 1695 Ἐπειδὴ πάντα τὰ τερπνὰ τοῦ πλάνου κόσμου τούτου  
 θάνατος τὰ ὑποκρατεῖ καὶ Ἄδης τὰ κερδαίνει, G8.1  
 κατέφθασεν καὶ σήμερον τοῦ Διγενῆ Ἀκρίτη. G8.2  
 Κατανοῶντες κλαύσατε τὸν Διγενὴν Ἀκρίτην G8.5  
 καὶ βλέποντες θρηνήσατε ἀπὸ βαθέων καρδίας  
 1700 τὴν συμφορὰν τὴν γίνεται, θέαμαν καὶ ὀδύνην.

- As for this very magnificent and very beautiful tomb,  
 do not think, lords, that it is a lie  
 but believe fully that it really exists,  
 1675 that certainly it has been described with complete truth.  
 Not only by death  
 but also by his tomb, what I am telling you is the truth.  
 Close by the chamber, in front of the pool,  
 in the shade of the tree stood a beautiful couch.  
 1680 Its feet were of emeralds, its stretchers of crystal,  
 its legs all of gold with precious stones.  
 The centre of the couch was covered with mauve silk  
 and a silken Saracen rug lay there;  
 on that there was a mauve woollen cloth with green spots,  
 1685 and a quilted coverlet with golden *neraides*;  
 on this lay Digenis, reclining on his side.  
 His beloved sat by his knees  
 and round him stood three hundred brave young men;  
 the three hundred were handsome and robed in red.  
 1690 They carried swords inlaid with stones and they stood in front of him;  
 he used them all as guards in the narrow passes  
 and they protected Roman territory against barbarian peoples.  
 Like delightful birds when they fly back to roost,  
 they too made a most delightful sound before Akritis, the marvellous  
 Frontiersman.  
 1695 Since all the delightful things of this deceitful world  
 death subdues and Hades takes into his possession,  
 on this day death has caught up also with the Frontiersman of  
 Double Descent.  
 Understand this and weep for Digenis Akritis;  
 behold him, and lament from the depths of your heart  
 1700 the misfortune that is taking place, the spectacle and the pain.

1676–7 These lines are probably an oath attesting the veracity of claims about the tomb. Kalonaros and Trapp removed E1676 and attached 1677 to the following sentence, thus setting Digenis' couch on his tomb. The implausibility of the latter scenario makes the weak syntax of the former more acceptable.

1694 The comparison between the armed warriors (chattering and perhaps clattering their weapons) and the roosting flock of birds is intended to underline the essentially peaceable nature of Digenis' way of life.

1695–793 Alexiou's sixth song, 'The Death of the Frontiersman'; cf. G8.1–198; much of this would have been present in \**Digenis*.

1700 The appeal to the wider world is an element in the ritual lament; Alexiou, M., 1974, 171–7.

1672 πανωραῖος Krumbacher, 1904, 333: παναῖος E

1673 μὴ Kyriakidis, 1946, 422: ὡς E ὑπάρχει Krumbacher, 1904, 333: ὑπάρχεις E

1674 ἀληθὴς Trapp: ἀληθὲς E

1675 βεβαίως Krumbacher, 1904, 333: βαίβιος E πάντα ἀληθεύων Alexiou: πάντας ἀληθεύειν E

1680 σμάραγδοι Alexiou: σμαραγδὴ E

1682 κράβατου Kyriakidis, 1948, 484: κραβάτου E θεμένη Alexiou: δεμένη E

1685 σωληνωτὸν Xanthoudidis, 1912, 571: σεληνωτὸν E

1689 εἶναι Alexiou: ἦσαν E

1694 καὶ φέρνουν E: ἐκφέρουν Alexiou