

Cercidas III Livrea

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Abstract

“Pimelosarkophagôn”, as given by the Papyrus, must be maintained. The contrast between the two kinds of person is a psychological, not an ethical one.

It is customary to read Cercidas III as a contrast between the opposite interests of “pimelosarkophágoi” and the cynic simplicity. But this interpretation rests upon altering the text, which is really “pimelosarkophagôn” and not “pimelosarkophágôn”, so that one must see, maintaining the “pimelosarkophagôn” in the papyrus, a contrast between the psychological strength of the person who has an “amáranton... kaì aníkaton kéar pimelosarkophagôn pásas meledōnas” (his unfading and invincible heart eating all kind of sorrows) and so enjoys all the sweet creatures of the Muses, and the person dominated by the worries.

So becomes understandable the reiteration of the terms “all kind of” first with “worries” and then with “creatures of the Muses”.