

ΑΝΘΡΩΠΙΟΣ ΠΑΜΦΑΓΟΣ: Meat in the Golden Age?

1. Hesiod *Works and Days* 116-119:

ἔσθλα δὲ πάντα
τοῖσιν ἔην· καρπὸν δ' ἔφερε ζειδωρος ἄρουρα
αὐτομάτη πολλὸν τε καὶ ἄφθονον· οἳ δ' ἔθελημοὶ
ἦσυχοι ἔργ' ἐνέμοντο σὺν ἐσθλοῖσιν πολέεσσιν.

And they had
all good things. The life-giving land bore fruit
of its own accord, plenty and ungrudgingly.
And as they wished, they managed their affairs
peacefully, with many good things.

2. Diodorus Siculus *Library of History* 5.66.6:

ἄλλα τε πολλὰ
τοῖσιν ἔην· καρπὸν δ' ἔφερε ζειδωρος ἄρουρα
αὐτομάτη πολλὸν τε καὶ ἄφθονον· οἳ δ' ἐπὶ γαίῃ
εὐφρονες ἔργ' ἐνέμοντο σὺν ἐσθλοῖσιν πολέεσσιν,
ἀφνειοὶ μῆλοισι, φίλοι μακάρεσσι θεοῖσι.

And they had
many other things. The life-giving land bore fruit
of its own accord, plenty and ungrudgingly.
And happily on earth, they managed their affairs
peacefully, with many good things,
rich in flocks, dear to the blessed gods.

3. Empedocles fr. 122 Inwood (=128 D-K):

ταύρων δ' ἀκρήτοισι φόνους οὐ δεύετο βωμός,
ἀλλὰ μύσος τοῦτ' ἔσκεν ἐν ἀνθρώποισι μέγιστον,
θυμὸν ἀπορραΐσαντας ἐέδμεναι ἠέα γυῖα.

[Her] altar was not wetted with the unmixed blood of bulls,
but this was the greatest abomination among men,
to tear out their life-breath and eat their goodly limbs.
(Inwood)

4. Porphyry *On Abstinence* 2.22

τῆς γὰρ [οἶμαι] φιλίας [καὶ τῆς] περὶ τὸ συγγενὲς αἰσθήσεως πάντα κατεχούσης, οὐδεὶς οὐθὲν ἐφόνευεν, οἰκεῖα εἶναι νομίζων τὰ λοιπὰ τῶν ζώων. ἐπεὶ δὲ Ἄρης καὶ Κυδοιμὸς καὶ πᾶσα μάχη καὶ πολέμων ἀρχὴ κατέσχευεν, τότε πρῶτον οὐθεὶς οὐθενὸς ὄλωσ ἐφείδετο τῶν οἰκεῖων.

I think that when friendship and perception of kinship ruled everything, no one killed any creature, because people thought the other animals were related to them. But when Ares and Battle-noise and all kinds of conflict and source of war were in control, then for the first time no one spared any related creature at all.

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