

As found in the papyri, and in most subsequent editions, this line is unmetrical and incomplete:

ἄρ' οὗτός ἐστι δοῦλος †και λυω [

The line is read thus in W. G. Arnott's Loeb (1996: 298) and F. H. Sandbach's OCT (²1990: 185, at his line 163); Gomme / Sandbach, *Commentary* (1973) *ad loc.* record that no plausible suggestion for the line had yet been made. Sandbach was suspicious also of δοῦλος, which, as will be seen, was good foresight.

The metre requires the second syllable of δοῦλος to be light. The easiest adjustment is the assumption of haplography after it: δοῦλος <ός>. (L. A. Post's suggestion in *AJPh* 77/2 [1956] 217 seems to be based on a similar assumption, though the text he proposes is incorrect on other grounds). What can then be made of και λυω? I suggest that behind this corruption lies κελεύεται (via a spelling καιλευετε or similar). After the loss of ὅς by haplology, we can assume some attempt was made to repair the line. My restoration in all thus reads:

ἄρ' οὗτός ἐστι δοῦλος <ός> κελεύεται;

'Is that a slave who's receiving orders?'

W. Furley has made a different suggestion, beginning from the variant reading Μυσός he deciphered in P. Oxy. 33 2656. His restitution of the text was published by A. Blanchard in his recent Budé edition (2016: 266):

ἄρ' οὗτός ἐστι Μυσός; ὧν λύρ [αν λαβών

'Is he a Musian? One of them took the lyre (and sang, etc.)'

Plainly this makes excellent sense. However, ὧν is supplied by emendation of καί, which is harder to understand than haplography. My restoration, indeed, will still work under the assumption that Μυσός is the correct reading.

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