

CP 10. Priapus' Humorous *Doctrina**

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SUMMARY

This paper re-examines CP 10 where the phallic god Priapus vigorously apologises for his roughly carved form to some anonymous girl, who comes in his garden and laughs at him. The investigation is based on the most common humour theories of the antiquity (i.e. superiority and incongruity theory), which are used in order to trace further humorous elements other than the sexual humour which runs through the CP and especially CP 10. These elements show that the country god Priapus is not only the funny *hortorum custos* but also an erudite character whose *doctrina* can cause further laugh and humour, reflecting thereby the *doctrina* that characterises the entire collection.

KEY WORDS

Priapus, Humour, Superiority Theory, Incongruity Theory, Sexual Humour, *Doctrina*.

The *Corpus Priapeorum* is a collection of eighty literary pieces (i.e. epigrams¹) which are attributed to some anonymous single author² of the first century A.D.³. This author employs various subjects concerning Priapus such as the god's sexual threats to the interlopers in his garden (CP 11, 13, 15, 22, 23, 28, 35 and 44)⁴, his comparison to the Olympians (CP 9, 20, 36, 39, 53 and 75), his complaints concerning the weather or other problems (CP 26, 33, 47,

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¹ HOOPER (1999) 16-19.

² Cf. BUCHHEIT (1962) who rightly argued that the epigrams of the CP were created and artfully arranged by a single author. See also KLOSS (2003) and HOLZBERG (2005).

³ For the date of the CP see PARKER (1988) 36-37, RICHLIN (1992) 141-143, GOLDBERG (1992) 35-36, TRÄNKLE (1999), CANO-VELÁZQUEZ (2000) 30-31, HOLZBERG (2002) 51-53, KLOSS (2003) 480-485, CITRONI (2008), CALLEBAT (2012) XXXII and MICHALOPOULOS (2014) 27-29.

⁴ The list is not exhaustive, given that there are also epigrams which deal with characters, either male or female, who intentionally come to the garden in order to be raped by the god (CP 25, 40, 45, 48, 51, 64, 66 and 73).