

ROBERT R. STIEGLITZ

THE ETEOCRETAN INSCRIPTION FROM PSYCHRO

The importance of the short yet complete digraphic text from Psychro is manifold. It consists of four lines, the first three of which are written in Greek alphabetic letters, while the fourth is incised on the stone in the old Minoan syllabic script. It is remarkable that the ancient syllabic script was still remembered and used in this part of Crete as late as about 300 B. C.

The Psychro inscription reads as follows:

ΕΠΙΘΙ
ΖΗΘΑΝΘΗ
ΕΝΕΘΗ ΠΑΡΣΙΦΑΙ
i-pi-ti

C. H. Gordon made the initial breakthrough towards understanding this text. His reading and interpretation of the text was as follows:

ΕΠΙΘΙ
Ζ ΗΘΑΝΘΗ
Ε ΝΕΘΗ ΠΑΡΣ ΙΦΑΙ
i-pi-ti

The engraved monument
which I have set
over my resting place in Land of Beauty (= Elysian Fields).¹
The engraved monument.

The last line, *i-pi-ti*, was interpreted by Gordon as a repetition in the ancient syllabary of the first line. But Gordon was not satisfied with his reading of the third line, and was hopeful that his suggestions "may help others get closer to the truth"².

While working on this text I was surprised that this votive or funerary inscription contains no personal names, for we know from numerous other texts of this type that they usually contain one or more

¹ C. H. Gordon, *Evidence for the Minoan Language*, Ventnor, N. J., 1966, 13—15

² *ibid.* 14