

Anacreon, first of Bacchic votaries:
So that he whom deep draughts of racy wine
Delighted, and the mirth of revelries,

May all night long in lyric strains profuse
Pour forth the breathings of his melic muse,
To lovers and rouse-loving revellers dear;

fell so gloriously at Thermopylæ. He also celebrated the great naval victories of Artemisium and Salamis, and commemorated the fate of those who fell at Eurymedon.

When he had attained his eightieth year he won the prize offered for the dithyrambic chorus in 477. This achievement was a fitting coronis to the long series of his poetical triumphs. Subsequently he went to Syracuse on the invitation of Hieron, who, although of a somewhat despotic disposition, was a liberal patron of poets and philosophers. He lived on terms of intimacy with this monarch, by whom he was much esteemed and highly honoured. At the Syracusan court the poet spent the remainder of his days. His death occurred 467 B.C., when he was ninety years old.

Simonides invented the mnemonic art, and added the long vowels and double letters to the Greek alphabet. He was as eminent for piety and virtue as for genius, and hence he was believed to have been under the special protection of the gods. It is said that he was the first to make poetry a profession and to take money for his works. Besides elegies and epigrams he wrote hymns, odes, and threnes. The cardinal qualities of his poetry were sweetness, elegance, depth of feeling, and facility of expression. In verve and sublimity, however, he was much inferior to Sappho and Pindar.