

<4> Concerning Digenis's wedding	G 4.3
and his abduction of the general's <girl>	G 4.2
<i>Most glorious Digenis, &lt;the emir's son,&gt;</i>	<i>E 739</i>
<i>day after day would always think</i>	<i>Z 5.1641</i>
<i>of how he might see the general</i>	<i>Z 5.1639</i>
<i>who was &lt;strong&gt; among all &lt;the brave,&gt;</i>	<i>G 4.299</i>
5 <i>and the general's beautiful &lt;daughter.&gt;</i>	<i>Z 5.1640</i>
<i>He began incessantly to beg of his father and mother:</i>	<i>G 4.287</i>
<i>"I wish to ride to see the proud and brave &lt;general&gt;</i>	<i>G 4.289</i>
<i>and the &lt;general's&gt; girl."</i>	<i>G 4.290</i>
<i>And his father began to restrain him:</i>	<i>G 4.291</i>
10 <i>"My dear child, &lt;most glorious Digenis,&gt;</i>	<i>G 4.291</i>
<i>restrain yourself from this thought;</i>	
<i>you have not yet been in victorious battles.</i>	<i>G 4.86</i>
<i>For the &lt;general&gt; is strong and brave in battles,</i>	<i>G 4.299</i>
<i>and just so is the &lt;general's&gt; girl;</i>	<i>G 6.677</i>
15 <i>and he has many troops.</i>	<i>G 4.326</i>
<i>Many have thought about the general himself</i>	<i>G 4.486</i>
<i>and about the general's &lt;girl&gt;</i>	<i>G 4.294</i>
<i>and how they might see her;</i>	<i>G 4.489</i>
<i>but it has not come to pass for them."</i>	<i>G 4.492</i>
20 <i>But most glorious Digenis</i>	<i>E 739</i>
<i>quickly brought together a few of his youngsters</i>	<i>G 2.2</i>
<i>and wrested a prayer from his father and mother:</i>	<i>E 1065</i>
<i>"Bless me, father and mother mine!</i>	<i>G 4.301</i>
<i>And have no concern whatsoever about that.</i>	<i>G 4.986</i>
25 <i>There can be no wound on my body from the hand of man,</i>	<i>E 1327</i>
<i>for I hope in God's power</i>	<i>Z 7.3733</i>
<i>and in your fatherly &lt;blessing&gt; and in my mother's prayer."</i>	<i>G 4.172</i>
<i>And he took with himself his very costly clothes</i>	<i>G 3.257</i>

	<i>and a silver lute with gold strings,</i>	E 832
30	<i>mounted his fast charger,</i>	G 4.663
	<i>and went off to the general's &lt;girl.&gt;</i>	E 835
	<i>He reached the boundary of the general's land;</i>	E 836
	<i>and, approaching the fifth mile-stone from the fortress-town,</i>	G 4.800
	<i>he stationed his youngsters. And he ordered them</i>	G 3.101
35	<i>to set a watch all round among themselves and to keep it firmly,</i>	G 3.23
	<i>while he himself went off to the general's town;</i>	E 835
	<i>and he reached the fortress-town, the gates of the general's town.</i>	E 845
	<i>He met a youth of the general's court,</i>	E 638
	<i>and asked him</i>	G 4.287
40	<i>about the general</i>	Z 5.1639
	<i>and about the general's girl herself.</i>	Z 5.1640
	<i>And the youth answered him:</i>	E 641
	<i>"Our lord the general is not home,</i>	Z 5.1643
	<i>but he and his four sons are hunting in another district.</i>	Z 5.1644
45	<i>And you ask about the general's &lt;girl:&gt;</i>	G 4.294
	<i>my lord, there is no other such great beauty in this world.</i>	G 4.295
	<i>Many have come to her,</i>	G 4.486
	<i>&lt;kinsmen of&gt; emperors and kings,</i>	G 4.487
	<i>but no one has seen her with his own eyes,</i>	G 4.498
50	<i>for the general is brave and strong,</i>	G 4.299
	<i>and his sons and the rest of his soldiers, one goes against a hundred;</i>	G 4.638
	<i>and the general's &lt;girl&gt; herself has a man's daring</i>	G 6.677
	<i>and is like unto no one else, excepting you."</i>	G 6.670
	<i>When he heard this, Digenis was glad,</i>	G 4.789
55	<i>for it had been shown for him and written:</i>	
	<i>if he is joined to the general's &lt;girl,&gt;</i>	
	<i>he will have thirty-six years of this life.</i>	
	<i>And Digenis went off through the general's town</i>	E 835
	<i>and arrived at the general's courtyard,</i>	E 845
60	<i>and began to look upon the courtyard.</i>	G 4.411

	<i>When the general's &lt;girl&gt; saw this,</i>	E 852
	she leaned to the window, but did not show herself.	E 854
	And as Digenis was looking upon the courtyard, he turned back.	G 4.255
	And then the girl,	G 4.272
65	when she saw <i>Digenis's beauty,</i>	Z 5.1663
	was astonished.	G 4.280
	Now, the time had turned to night	G 4.405
	and Digenis went off to his tents	G 6.170
	taking with him that youth [of the court],	G 3.262
70	as he had a great love for him;	G 4.775
	<and> he ordered him stripped of his poor clothes and dressed in costly ones,	G 6.172
	and he held a great celebration on that night with his youngsters.	G 4.368
	The next morning he rose early	G 6.730
	and ordered his companions	G 3.101
75	to keep watch among themselves	G 3.23
	and said to them: "Divide [and go] down many roads	
	and guard one another.	
	If the general comes to you—<for> I will not be ready—	G 6.694
	and begins to plunder you from many sides,	G 6.695
80	then fight him, but not harshly, until I race up."	G 4.672
	Having uttered these words, he dressed in the very costly garments	G 3.257
	and ordered the <silver> lute with gold strings taken.	E 832
	He also ordered the newly accepted youth taken along	G 3.262
	and rode off [with him] in a band of four to the general's courtyard	E 835
85	and took the lute <i>and</i> began to play and sing;	G 4.425
	for he has been given God's help, which will always come.	G 4.429
	It is meet for him always to succeed,	G 1.196
	and for the general's beautiful girl to be carried off	G 1.197
	by <most glorious> Digenis, the emir's son.	G 4.62
90	And the girl, when she heard that voice and the beautiful playing,	E 852
	was dismayed and trembling;	E 853
	she leaned to the little window	E 854

	and caught sight of Digenis in the band of four riding past the courtyard,	Z 5.1663
	and love settled into her.	Z 5.1664
95	And she began to call her nursemaid and said to her:	G 4.319
	“How the youth rode past the courtyard and captured my mind!	G 4.321
	Now I beg you zealously with all my heart:	
	Go to the courtyard and speak to him in advance.”	G 4.320
	And when the youth returned, the nursemaid came out and said to him:	G 4.314
100	“What daring you have! And what is your affair with this house?	G 4.327
	But not even a bird dares fly past this courtyard:	
	many have laid down their heads for my lady.”	G 4.292
	And Digenis answered: “Who sent you to speak to me?”	
	She said to him: “I was sent by my lady, the general’s beautiful <girl,>	
105	who pities your youth, lest they harm you.”	G 4.329
	He spoke to her: “Tell your lady that Digenis has said this:	
	‘Quickly lean your face to the little window and show your most graceful image,	G 4.332
	and then you will know the affair on which I come.’	E 895
	If you do not do this,	G 4.284
110	you will lose your own life, as will all your kinfolk.”	G 4.285
	And when she heard this,	G 4.259
	the general’s girl came quickly to the little window	E 854
	and began to speak to Digenis:	E 855
	“Light of the morning star, O <light-bearing> sun!	E 220
115	I pity you, my lord, if for the sake of my love	G 4.450
	you would destroy yourself;	G 4.451
	because for my sake many others laid down their heads,	G 4.292
	neither seeing,	G 4.498
	nor speaking with me.	G 4.493
120	And who are you, who have shown such great daring?	G 4.327
	My father is very brave, and my brothers are strong,	E 860
	and [as for] the men of my father, one of them rides against a hundred.	G 4.638
	And you have few troops with you.	E 869
	Get out of this town:	G 4.447

- 125 *for if my father catches you in town* G 4.454  
*or my strong brothers,* G 4.453  
*then on this [very] day you will no longer be alive.”* G 4.455  
 Digenis spoke to the girl: E 874  
 “If I did not fear God, I would give you over to death. E 875
- 130 Give me an answer quickly: what do you have in mind? G 4.316  
 Would you be known as Digenis Akritis’s wife, G 4.317  
 or do you expect to be his captive slave?” G 4.478  
 And when she heard this, the girl tearfully answered him: E 896  
 “If you have great love for me, then carry me off now, E 888
- 135 as my father is not home, G 4.512  
 nor are my strong brothers. G 4.513  
 Or, why must you carry me off? I will ride with you on my own; G 4.514  
 only dress me in men’s clothing, G 5.121  
 for I have a man’s daring. G 6.677
- 140 If *my father and brothers* bear down on me on the road, G 4.628  
 then I will defend myself on my own. E 876  
 Before me, even a multitude will not succeed in doing anything.” G 4.339  
 Hearing this Digenis was glad and said to the girl: E 901  
 “That which you say is not close to my heart, E 899
- 145 for there is shame for me in it from your father and from your brothers. E 890  
 They will say: ‘riding here like a [match-]stealer, G 4.725  
 Digenis abducted the girl from us.’ G 4.726  
 But I say this to you: do what I order. E 910  
 When your father arrives, and your brothers, tell them of your [coming] abduction.” E 879
- 150 And he said to her: “Come out before the gates.” E 911  
*So she came forth* and bowed before Digenis. E 912  
*When he saw the beauty of her face, Digenis was astonished by it.* G 4.349  
 He took *her* by one hand, E 913  
 seated her on the withers of his horse, E 914
- 155 and began to kiss her lovingly. E 915  
 And he set her down from his horse. E 937

	The girl would not part from him,	G 2.283
	but Digenis said: “Return and do just as I told you: before your father’s arrival, expect me [to come] to you as well;	G 4.367
160	prepare yourself and stand outside your house, before the entranceway.”	
	And having said this, he kissed her and went away from her.	G 4.649
	He sent into town the youth whom he had taken before [that] fortress-town, and ordered him to be [ready] with news as soon as the general arrived.	
	Having said these words, he himself went off to his tent	G 6.170
165	and held a great celebration with his companions.	G 4.368
	And when the general suddenly rode in from the hunt, the youth raced up to Digenis with the news, and said to Digenis: “The general has arrived.”	Z 5.1645
	<i>Early the next morning</i> Digenis ordered	E 796
170	his fast charger saddled,	E 798
	while he himself dressed in his very costly garments	G 3.257
	and rode off on a pacing half-mustang,	E 798
	while he <ordered> his fast charger led before him.	E 799
	After riding into town, he mounted his charger	G 4.663
175	<and> sent <i>his</i> youngsters out before the fortress-town	E 567
	while he himself took his spear and rode to the general’s courtyard.	G 4.406
	Then that girl began to tell her father what Digenis had ordered.	
	The general said: “Many brave men have contemplated that plan, and it did not come to pass.”	E 862 E 863
180	As the general uttered these words, up raced glorious Digenis.	
	And when the girl heard the thundering of the charger	E 919
	and the sound of the little golden bells,	G 4.235
	she leapt out before the entranceway, where Digenis had ordered her.	E 912
	Then Digenis struck the gates with his spear,	E 941
185	and the gates fell apart; and when he rode into the courtyard	E 942
	he began to shout grandiloquently, calling out the general	E 917
	and his strong sons, that they see the abduction of their sister.	G 4.468
	And the general’s watch-men	G 4.596

	cried out and told him	G 4.597
190	of the daring that Digenis showed, standing in the courtyard without fear and calling out the general.	G 4.592 G 4.593
	And when the general heard Digenis he did not believe it,	G 4.598 G 4.599
	speaking thus: “Here not even a bird dares fly into my courtyard, 195 nor is it for a man to enter.”	G 4.600 G 4.601
	And he did <i>not</i> set forth from his house.	G 4.611
	And Digenis stood <i>in the courtyard</i> for three hours, awaiting him; but no sort of answer came to him, and the other bystanders did not dare to speak a word.	G 4.593
200	Then Digenis ordered the girl to bend a knee to him, and like an eagle, he carried off the general’s beautiful girl, and seated her on the withers of his fast charger.	G 3.148 G 4.587 E 914
	He said to the general: “Come out and take back your beautiful daughter from Digenis, 205 so that you cannot say, ‘Coming like a [match-]stealer, he snatched <her.>’”>	G 4.593 E 918 G 4.725
	Having uttered these words, he rode off from the courtyard, singing a sweet song and praising God. And when he finished that song, he rode out before the fortress-town to his youngsters and seated the girl on the pacer horse,	E 835 E 834 E 567 E 961
210	and they went off to his tents. Then he went to high ground <i>and</i> looked about [to see] if there was pursuit of him; <i>but there was no one pursuing him.</i>	G 6.170 G 4.623
	He said to the girl: “I will have taken on great shame should there be no pursuit of me, 215 <i>so I will</i> return and give an affront to them.”	E 950
	<So Digenis> left the general’s <girl> in the tent; <i>and</i> , disposing his youngsters, he ordered them to close around the girl, while he himself rode off to town, to the general’s courtyard.	G 6.535 G 3.101 E 970 E 835
220	He <i>ascended to</i> the courtyard	E 845

	and struck the general's entryway with his spear,	E 941
	and the entryway fell apart; and all in the courtyard were in dismay.	E 942
	<i>And Digenis</i> began to shout grandiloquently, calling out the general	E 917
	and said: "O proud general, what daring have you	G 4.467
225	and your strong sons, if I have carried off your daughter	G 4.468
	yet there was no pursuit of me, <neither> by you, nor by your sons?	G 4.469
	And moreover I have returned, and given you a great affront	
	so that you cannot say afterward, 'Coming like a [match-]stealer,	G 4.725
	he carried off my daughter.'	G 4.726
230	If you yourself have manly daring, or your men-at-arms,	G 4.467
	then take back your daughter from me!"	E 918
	He uttered these words and rode off from the courtyard,	E 835
	then turned back and shouted grandiloquently:	E 917
	"I am riding from town and await [the lot of] you in the battlefield	E 893
235	so that you cannot say, 'Coming and deceiving us, he ran from us.'"	G 4.725
	<i>Having uttered this, Digenis rode off from the fortress-town.</i>	E 845
	<i>And</i> the general heard <i>this</i> and shook greatly	E 919
	and began to shout <abuse at> his sons:	E 920
	"Where are my men-at-arms, those who receive <salaries of> a thousand,	E 921
240	and the others who receive two thousand, and five and ten thousand?	G 4.858
	Now quickly bring them together, and the rest of my strong troops!"	G 4.597
	Then Digenis came up to the girl, <i>to his tent,</i>	E 1139
	and dismounted from his horse	G 4.649
	and said to the girl: "Sit down and search me well—my head [for lice],	E 1476
245	until your father and your brothers arrive with their troops.	E 1478
	If I fall asleep, do not dare to startle me awake, but awaken me gently."	E 1479
	And the girl sat down, and began to search his head,	E 1473
	and Digenis fell asleep, the girl keeping watch on her own.	E 1475
	Now, the general gathered a multitude of his troops, and his men-at-arms,	G 4.619
250	and his thousandmen, and went off to take back his daughter from Digenis.	E 922
	And he rode out <i>after</i> <him> from the fortress-town with his many troops.	G 4.609
	Then the girl caught sight <i>of her father</i>	G 4.622

	and was dismayed,	E 853
	and began to wake Digenis gently, saying thus, with tears:	E 952
255	“Get up! The sun has set and the moon has shone forth.	G 4.372
	<i>My father</i> the general already races against you with his many troops,	G 4.628
	and you have not yet gathered your troops! Why give him firm hope?”	G 4.626
	And when Digenis rose, he said <i>to her</i> : “I do not need men’s help,	E 1747
	but I hope in God’s power.”	Z 7.3733
260	He leapt and mounted his fast charger,	Z 5.1807
	and girt himself with his sword-[belt]	G 1.147
	and, taking his stick, began to ask the girl:	E 974
	“Do you wish life for your father and brothers,	G 4.661
	or shall I sooner give <i>them</i> over to death?”	G 4.662
265	And the girl began zealously to make obeisance:	G 4.635
	“My lord, created by God with [such] strength,	E 1170
	do not give my father over to death,	G 4.636
	so that you do not take on sin and your company’s scorn,	Z 7.3730
	so that they do not say to you that you have killed your father-in-law.”	G 4.658
270	And he began to ask her: “Tell me of your father and brothers: what do they look like?”	G 4.659
	And the girl began to speak to him:	G 4.653
	“My father wears	G 4.657
	a golden cuirass	E 1491
	and a golden helmet	E 1492
275	sown with precious stones	E 1491
	and pearls,	E 1494
	and his horse is covered with a green silk;	G 4.237
	while my brothers are	G 4.656
	in silver cuirasses	E 1491
280	—only their helmets are golden—	E 1492
	and their horses are covered with red silks.”	G 4.237
	When he had heard this, Digenis kissed her	G 4.649
	and rode off against them, <i>and</i> met them from afar,	
	and struck in their midst	E 968

- 285 like a mighty falcon *from the hands of a hunter* E 1512  
*and began to cut down the general's troops*  
 just as a good mower lays down grass:  
 he leapt once and killed seven thousand, returned suddenly and killed twenty thousand; G 4.638  
 he struck a third time and bore down on the general G 4.639
- 290 and struck him a gentle blow with his stick on the top of his helmet, Z 7.3038  
 and cast *him down* from his horse. E 1448  
 And the general began to make obeisance to Digenis: E 977  
 "May you rejoice with the girl you have carried off, E 998  
 my beautiful daughter. Grant me my life!" E 994
- 295 And Digenis released him on the spot, while he bound up his sons. E 504  
 Pressing them on, he led them forth; but he did not bind the general.  
 Yet he bound up the others, and drove them before him as a shepherd does sheep, E 504  
 to where the girl stood. And the girl caught sight of *her* father  
*and began to cry* and said: E 952
- 300 "I spoke [of this] to you before, father, but you did not believe me."  
 And Digenis ordered his youngsters G 3.101  
 to drive the general's troops bound, G 4.779  
 but to [leave him to] take the general and his sons with himself. G 4.780  
 And the general E 977
- 305 was saddened E 978  
 and began to make obeisance zealously, along with his sons, E 976  
 speaking thus to him: "As you have not given us over to death  
 but have granted us life,  
 therefore, do not cart us about with you; give us our freedom."
- 310 When the girl heard the supplication of her father and brothers, E 1041  
 she herself began to make obeisance to Digenis, E 1042  
 saying: "I have been given by God into your hands, E 1170  
 and besides me, you have power over my kin as well. E 897  
 For you have already defeated many troops, G 4.779
- 315 so give my father and brothers their freedom; G 4.780  
 and do not grieve my mother, who reared your wife." E 1045

	And the girl uttered this, and Digenis listened to her	<i>E 981</i>
	and said to the general: “I will spare [you in] your old age	<i>E 985</i>
	<and> will give you and your sons your freedom,	<i>E 983</i>
320	only I will lay my mark on you [to bear] for the rest of time.”	<i>Z 5.2286</i>
	And the general said:	<i>E 987</i>
	“Is this the sort of freedom you give us,	
	that you lay a mark <i>on us</i> ?	
	<i>It is better for us to die at your hands.</i> ”	
325	And on their behalf the girl dissuaded Digenis from [laying on his] mark.	
	Now, the general wore the very costly gold cross of his great-grandfather	<i>E 996</i>
	and his sons had very costly rings	<i>G 4.720</i>
	with precious stones and pearls;	<i>G 4.715</i>
	and taking these from them in place of [laying] a mark [on them],	
330	Digenis began <i>to call</i> them to his house for the wedding.	<i>E 980</i>
	Then the general said:	<i>E 1011</i>
	“It is not fitting that we should ride to your wedding as captives.	<i>E 1020</i>
	But I zealously make obeisance to you, as do my children:	<i>E 1013</i>
	do not bring us into shame, and my children and my daughter:	<i>E 1021</i>
335	she is her mother’s only girl,	<i>G 1.108</i>
	and you would lead her <to your house> as a captive.	<i>E 1018</i>
	<i>But</i> return to my house	<i>G 4.698</i>
	and I will hold a great celebration for you	<i>G 4.699</i>
	and a most glorious wedding;	<i>G 4.704</i>
340	<i>and</i> you will receive gifts,	<i>G 4.703</i>
	<i>and</i> will return with great honor.”	<i>E 998</i>
	When Digenis had heard out the general’s request,	<i>E 999</i>
	he returned to the general’s house with his betrothed	<i>G 4.935</i>
	and they had a wedding for three months	<i>G 4.931</i>
345	and held a great celebration.	<i>G 4.932</i>
	Digenis received many gifts	<i>G 4.705</i>
	and all the property that had been the bride’s;	<i>G 4.710</i>
	he received too her nursemaids	<i>G 4.711</i>