Modern scholarship tends to focus on the social, political, and economic information that can be gleaned from Pindar’s treatment of the subject of his victory odes – the athlete who brings immortality to his family and polis. In this book, Asya C. Sigelman offers a new approach to the odes, exploring the fact that Pindar’s language and imagery suggest that the athlete’s victory is only a weaker version of the poet’s immortalizing feat. Examining several central Pindaric images, Sigelman shows that they are fundamentally reflexive, structured as expressions of poetic creativity engaged in a perpetual synthesis of intrapoetic time – of the unity of the past, present, and future of the world of Pindar’s song. As the book’s case studies of several of the odes demonstrate, this synthesis is key to Pindar’s notion of immortalization and constitutes the central poetic subject of Pindar’s song, which underlies and informs its praise of the victorious athlete.

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PINAR’S POETICS
OF IMMORTALITY

ASYA C. SIGELMAN
For L. S. Chernyak
Χρυσέας ὑποστάσαντες ἕτειχεὶ προθύρῳ θαλάμου κίονας ὡς ὅτε θαητὸν μέγαρον πάξομεν.

Setting up golden columns to support an inner chamber’s well-walled entranceway, we shall build as though a wondrous palace.

_Olympian_ 6.1–3
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