Psalm 151

This psalm is ascribed to David as his own composition (though it is outside the number), after he had fought in single combat with Goliath.

- I was small among my brothers, and the youngest in my father's house; I tended my father's sheep.
- 2 My hands made a harp; my fingers fashioned a lyre.
- 3 And who will tell my Lord?

 The Lord himself; it is he who hears.
- 4 It was he who sent his messenger and took me from my father's sheep, and anointed me with his anointing-oil.
- 5 My brothers were handsome and tall, but the Lord was not pleased with them.
- I went out to meet the Philistine, and he cursed me by his idols.
- But I drew his own sword;
 I beheaded him,
 and took away disgrace from the people of Israel.

NRSV translation of Septuagint

This psalm is found in most copies of the Septuagint but not in the Hebrew Masoretic text. For many years scholars believed that it might have been an original Greek composition, but the Dead Sea Scrolls have shown that it existed in Hebrew and was a part of the psalter used by the Qumran community. It appears in the Dead Sea Scroll 11QPs(a), a C1 AD scroll discovered in 1956. This scroll contains two short Hebrew psalms which served as the basis for Psalm 151. One of these Hebrew psalms, known as "Psalm 151a", is reflected in verses 1–5 of the Greek Psalm 151, while verses 6 onward are derived from the other Hebrew psalm, known as "Psalm 151b" (which is only partially preserved).