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Medea and Hippolytus

Euripides

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ
ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ
ΤΡΩΙΑΔΕΣ
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ

Medea and Hippolytus

With the Trojan Women and Heracles

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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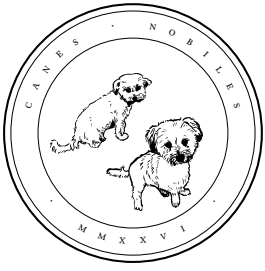

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EURIPIDES

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ

Medea

I · THE NURSE'S FEARS

Medea's nurse wishes the Argo had never sailed: for love of Jason her mistress betrayed her father, brought about Pelias' death, and settled in Corinth. Now Jason has married the king's daughter, and Medea lies starving and weeping, hating her children. The tutor brings the boys home with worse news: Creon means to banish them with their mother. The nurse fears what Medea's wrath will do and keeps the children from her.

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ Εἴθ' ὤφελ' Ἀργοῦς μὴ διαπτάσθαι σκάφος
Would-that ought of-Argo not to-have-flown-through hull
Κόλχων ἐς αἶαν κυανέας Συμπληγάδας,
of-Colchians to land dark Clashing-Rocks
μηδ' ἐν νάπαισι Πηλίου πεσεῖν ποτε
nor in glens of-Pelion to-have-fallen ever
τμηθεῖσα πεύκη, μηδ' ἐρετμῶσαι χέρας
cut pine nor to-have-oared hands
ἀνδρῶν ἀριστέων οἳ τὸ πάγχρυσον δέρος
of-men best who the all-golden fleece
Πελίᾳ μετῆλθον. οὐ γὰρ ἂν δέσποιν' ἐμὴ
for-Pelias went-after not for — mistress my
Μήδεια πύργους γῆς ἔπλευσ' Ἰωλκίας
Medea towers of-land would-have-sailed-to Iolcian
ἔρωτι θυμὸν ἐκπλαγεῖσ' Ἰάσονος,
by-love in-heart stricken of-Jason
οὐδ' ἂν κτανεῖν πείσασα Πελιάδας κόρας
nor — to-kill having-persuaded of-Pelias daughters
πατέρα κατῴκει τήνδε γῆν Κορινθίαν
father would-dwell-in this land Corinthian
ξὺν ἀνδρὶ καὶ τέκνοισιν, ἀνδάνουσα μὲν
with husband and children pleasing indeed

φυγῇ πολιτῶν ὧν ἀφίκετο χθόνα,
by-exile of-citizens whose she-came-to land
αὐτή τε πάντα ξυμφέρουσ' Ἰάσονι·
herself and all agreeing with-Jason
ἥπερ μεγίστη γίγνεται σωτηρία,
which greatest is safety
ὅταν γυνὴ πρὸς ἄνδρα μὴ διχοστατῇ.
whenever wife with husband not is-at-odds
νῦν δ' ἐχθρὰ πάντα, καὶ νοσεῖ τὰ φίλτατα.
now and hostile all-things and sicken the dearest(-things)
προδοὺς γὰρ αὐτοῦ τέκνα δεσπότιν τ' ἐμὴν
having-betrayed for his-own children mistress and my
γάμοις Ἰάσων βασιλικοῖς εὐνάζεται,
in-marriage Jason royal goes-to-bed
γήμας Κρέοντος παῖδ', ὃς αἰσύμνᾳ χθονός·
having-wed of-Creon child who rules of-the-land
Μήδεια δ' ἡ δύστηνος ἠτιμασμένη
Medea and the wretched dishonored
βοᾷ μὲν ὅρκους, ἀνακαλεῖ δὲ δεξιᾶς
cries-out indeed oaths invokes and right-hands
πίστιν μεγίστην, καὶ θεοὺς μαρτύρεται
pledge greatest and gods calls-to-witness
οἵας ἀμοιβῆς ἐξ Ἰάσονος κυρεῖ.
what-kind-of return from Jason she-meets-with
κεῖται δ' ἄσιτος, σῶμ' ὑφεῖσ' ἀλγηδόσι,
lies and unfed body having-given-up to-pains
τὸν πάντα συντήκουσα δακρύοις χρόνον,
the all wasting-away in-tears time
ἐπεὶ πρὸς ἀνδρὸς ᾔσθετ' ἠδικημένη,
since by husband she-perceived-herself wronged

οὔτ᾽ ὄμμ᾽ ἐπαίρουσ᾽ οὔτ᾽ ἀπαλλάσσουσα γῆς
neither eye lifting nor freeing from-the-ground
πρόσωπον· ὡς δὲ πέτρος ἢ θαλάσσιος
face as and rock or sea
κλύδων ἀκούει νουθετουμένη φίλων·
wave she-hears being-admonished by-friends
ἢν μή ποτε στρέψασα πάλλευκον δέρην
if not at-times turning all-white neck
αὐτὴ πρὸς αὑτὴν πατέρ᾽ ἀποιμώξῃ φίλον
herself to herself father she-bewails dear
καὶ γαῖαν οἴκους θ᾽, οὓς προδοῦσ᾽ ἀφίκετο
and land house and which having-betrayed she-came
μετ᾽ ἀνδρὸς ὅς σφε νῦν ἀτιμάσας ἔχει.
with man who her now having-dishonored holds
ἔγνωκε δ᾽ ἡ τάλαινα συμφορᾶς ὕπο
she-has-learned and the wretched misfortune by
οἷον πατρῴας μὴ ἀπολείπεσθαι χθονός.
what-it-is ancestral not to-be-left-of land
στυγεῖ δὲ παῖδας οὐδ᾽ ὁρῶσ᾽ εὐφραίνεται.
she-hates and children nor seeing rejoices
δέδοικα δ᾽ αὐτὴν μή τι βουλεύσῃ νέον·
I-fear and her lest something she-plan new
βαρεῖα γὰρ φρήν, οὐδ᾽ ἀνέξεται κακῶς
heavy for mind nor she-will-endure badly
πάσχουσ᾽· ἐγᾦδα τήνδε, δειμαίνω τέ νιν,
suffering I-know this-woman I-dread and her
δεινὴ γάρ· οὔτοι ῥᾳδίως γε συμβαλὼν
terrible for surely-not easily at-least having-joined
ἔχθραν τις αὐτῇ καλλίνικον οἴσεται.
enmity anyone with-her victory-song will-carry-off

ἀλλ᾽ οἵδε παῖδες ἐκ τρόχων πεπαυμένοι
but these children from hoops having-stopped
στείχουσι, μητρὸς οὐδὲν ἐννοούμενοι
come of-mother nothing thinking-of
κακῶν· νέα γὰρ φροντὶς οὐκ ἀλγεῖν φιλεῖ.
troubles young for mind not to-grieve is-wont
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ παλαιὸν οἴκων κτῆμα δεσποίνης ἐμῆς,
old of-house possession of-mistress my
τί πρὸς πύλαισι τήνδ᾽ ἄγουσ᾽ ἐρημίαν
why at gates this keeping solitude
ἕστηκας, αὐτὴ θρεομένη σαυτῇ κακά;
do-you-stand yourself lamenting to-yourself troubles
πῶς σοῦ μόνη Μήδεια λείπεσθαι θέλει;
how of-you alone Medea to-be-left wishes
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ τέκνων ὀπαδὲ πρέσβυ τῶν Ἰάσονος,
of-children attendant old-man the of-Jason
χρηστοῖσι δούλοις ξυμφορὰ τὰ δεσποτῶν
to-good slaves misfortune the of-masters
κακῶς πίτνοντα καὶ φρενῶν ἀνθάπτεται.
badly falling and of-hearts takes-hold
ἐγὼ γὰρ εἰς τοῦτ᾽ ἐκβέβηκ᾽ ἀλγηδόνος,
I for to this have-come of-grief
ὥσθ᾽ ἵμερός μ᾽ ὑπῆλθε γῇ τε κοὐρανῷ
that longing me stole-over to-earth both and-to-heaven
λέξαι μολούσῃ δεῦρο Μηδείας τύχας.
to-tell having-come here of-Medea fortunes
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ οὔπω γὰρ ἡ τάλαινα παύεται γόων;
not-yet for the wretched ceases from-laments
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ζηλῶ σ᾽· ἐν ἀρχῇ πῆμα κοὐδέπω μεσοῖ.
I-envy you in beginning pain and-not-yet is-at-midway

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ ὦ μῶρος, εἰ χρὴ δεσπότας εἰπεῖν τόδε·
O fool if one-should masters to-call this
ὡς οὐδὲν οἶδε τῶν νεωτέρων κακῶν.
since nothing she-knows of-the newer troubles
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ τί δ' ἔστιν, ὦ γεραιέ; μὴ φθόνει φράσαι.
what and is-it O old-man not begrudge to-tell
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ οὐδέν· μετέγνων καὶ τὰ πρόσθ' εἰρημένα.
nothing I-repented even the before said
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ μή, πρὸς γενείου, κρύπτε σύνδουλον σέθεν·
not by beard hide fellow-slave your
σιγὴν γάρ, εἰ χρή, τῶνδε θήσομαι πέρι.
silence for if need of-these I-will-keep about
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ ἤκουσά του λέγοντος οὐ δοκῶν κλύειν,
I-heard someone saying not seeming to-listen
πεσσοὺς προσελθών, ἔνθα δὴ παλαίτατοι
drafts having-approached where indeed the-oldest
θάσσουσι, σεμνὸν ἀμφὶ Πειρήνης ὕδωρ,
sit holy around of-Peirene water
ὡς τούσδε παῖδας γῆς ἐλᾶν Κορινθίας
that these children from-land to-drive Corinthian
σὺν μητρὶ μέλλοι τῆσδε κοίρανος χθονὸς
with mother is-about of-this ruler land
Κρέων. ὁ μέντοι μῦθος εἰ σαφὴς ὅδε
Creon the however story if clear this
οὐκ οἶδα· βουλοίμην δ' ἂν οὐκ εἶναι τόδε.
not I-know I-would-wish and — not to-be this
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ καὶ ταῦτ' Ἰάσων παῖδας ἐξανέξεται
and these-things Jason children will-endure
πάσχοντας, εἰ καὶ μητρὶ διαφορὰν ἔχει;
suffering if even with-mother quarrel he-has

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ παλαιὰ καινῶν λείπεται κηδευμάτων,
old by-new is-left-behind marriage-ties
κοὐκ ἔστ' ἐκεῖνος τοῖσδε δώμασιν φίλος.
and-not is that-man to-this house friend
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ἀπωλόμεσθ' ἄρ', εἰ κακὸν προσοίσομεν
we-are-ruined then if evil we-shall-add
νέον παλαιῷ, πρὶν τόδ' ἐξηντληκέναι.
new to-old before this to-have-bailed-out
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ ἀτὰρ σύ γ', οὐ γὰρ καιρὸς εἰδέναι τόδε
but you at-least not for the-time to-know this
δέσποιναν, ἡσύχαζε καὶ σίγα λόγον.
mistress be-quiet and keep-silent the-word
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ὦ τέκν', ἀκούεθ' οἷος εἰς ὑμᾶς πατήρ;
O children do-you-hear what-kind towards you father
ὄλοιτο μὲν μή· δεσπότης γάρ ἐστ' ἐμός·
may-he-perish indeed not master for he-is my
ἀτὰρ κακός γ' ὢν εἰς φίλους ἁλίσκεται.
but bad at-least being towards friends he-is-caught
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ τίς δ' οὐχὶ θνητῶν; ἄρτι γιγνώσκεις τόδε,
who and not of-mortals just-now you-learn this
ὡς πᾶς τις αὐτὸν τοῦ πέλας μᾶλλον φιλεῖ,
that every one himself than-the neighbor more loves
οἱ μὲν δικαίως, οἱ δὲ καὶ κέρδους χάριν,
some indeed justly some and even of-gain for-the-sake
εἰ τούσδε γ' εὐνῆς εἵνεκ' οὐ στέργει πατήρ.
if these at-least of-bed for-the-sake not loves father
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ἴτ', εὖ γὰρ ἔσται, δωμάτων ἔσω, τέκνα.
go well for it-will-be of-the-house inside children
σὺ δ' ὡς μάλιστα τούσδ' ἐρημώσας ἔχε,
you and as most these having-isolated keep

καὶ μὴ πέλαζε μητρὶ δυσθυμουμένῃ.
and not approach mother being-sullen
ἤδη γὰρ εἶδον ὄμμα νιν ταυρουμένην
already for I-saw eye her glaring-like-a-bull
τοῖσδ' ὥς τι δρασείουσαν· οὐδὲ παύσεται
at-these as something meaning-to-do nor she-will-cease
χόλου, σάφ' οἶδα, πρὶν κατασκῆψαί τινα.
from-wrath clearly I-know before to-swoop-down on-someone
ἐχθρούς γε μέντοι, μὴ φίλους, δράσειέ τι.
enemies at-least however not friends may-she-do something

II · THE WOMEN OF CORINTH

Medea cries out from the house, wishing for death and cursing her children and their father. The nurse hurries the boys inside and reflects that a moderate life is safest. The women of Corinth ask what has happened. Medea calls on Themis and Artemis to witness Jason's broken oaths, and the chorus asks the nurse to bring her out. The nurse goes, observing that poets made songs for feasts but none to cure grief.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ἰώ,
oh
δύστανος ἐγὼ μελέα τε πόνων,
wretched I miserable and in-sufferings
ἰώ μοί μοι, πῶς ἂν ὀλοίμαν;
oh me me how — might-I-perish
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ τόδ' ἐκεῖνο, φίλοι παῖδες· μήτηρ
this that dear children mother
κινεῖ κραδίαν, κινεῖ δὲ χόλον.
stirs heart stirs and anger
σπεύδετε θᾶσσον δώματος εἴσω,
hurry quicker of-the-house inside

καὶ μὴ πελάσητ' ὄμματος ἐγγύς,
and not approach of-eye near
μηδὲ προσέλθητ', ἀλλὰ φυλάσσεσθ'
nor come-near but guard-against
ἄγριον ἦθος στυγεράν τε φύσιν
savage temper hateful and nature
φρενὸς αὐθάδους.
of-mind self-willed
ἴτε νῦν χωρεῖθ' ὡς τάχος εἴσω.
go now go as quickly-as-possible inside
δῆλον δ' ἀρχῆς ἐξαιρόμενον
clear and from-the-beginning rising
νέφος οἰμωγῆς ὡς τάχ' ἀνάψει
cloud of-lament that soon she-will-kindle
μείζονι θυμῷ· τί ποτ' ἐργάσεται
with-greater passion what ever will-she-do
μεγαλόσπλαγχνος δυσκατάπαυστος
great-hearted hard-to-check
ψυχὴ δηχθεῖσα κακοῖσιν;
soul stung by-wrongs
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ αἰαῖ,
alas
ἔπαθον τλάμων ἔπαθον μεγάλων
I-have-suffered wretched I-have-suffered great
ἄξι' ὀδυρμῶν· ὦ κατάρατοι
worthy of-laments O accursed
παῖδες ὄλοισθε στυγερᾶς ματρὸς
children may-you-perish of-hateful mother
σὺν πατρί, καὶ πᾶς δόμος ἔρροι.
with father and all house go-to-ruin

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ἰώ μοί μοι, ἰὼ τλήμων.
oh me me oh wretched

τί δέ σοι παῖδες πατρὸς ἀμπλακίας
why and for-you the-children of-father offense

μετέχουσι; τί τούσδ' ἔχθεις; οἴμοι,
share why these do-you-hate ah-me

τέκνα, μή τι πάθηθ' ὡς ὑπεραλγῶ.
children lest something you-suffer how I-grieve-for

δεινὰ τυράννων λήματα καί πως
terrible of-tyrants tempers and somehow

ὀλίγ' ἀρχόμενοι, πολλὰ κρατοῦντες,
little being-ruled much ruling

χαλεπῶς ὀργὰς μεταβάλλουσιν.
with-difficulty angers change

τὸ γὰρ εἰθίσθαι ζῆν ἐπ' ἴσοισιν
the for to-be-used to-live on equal-terms

κρεῖσσον· ἐμοὶ γοῦν, εἰ μὴ μεγάλως,
better for-me at-least if not greatly

ὀχυρῶς γ' εἴη καταγηράσκειν.
securely at-least may-it-be to-grow-old

τῶν γὰρ μετρίων πρῶτα μὲν εἰπεῖν
of-the for moderate first indeed to-say

τοὔνομα νικᾷ, χρῆσθαί τε μακρῷ
the-name wins to-use and greatly

λῷστα βροτοῖσιν· τὰ δ' ὑπερβάλλοντ'
best for-mortals the(-things) and exceeding

οὐδένα καιρὸν δύναται θνητοῖς·
no due-measure avails for-mortals

μείζους δ' ἄτας, ὅταν ὀργισθῇ
greater and ruins whenever is-angered

δαίμων, οἴκοις ἀπέδωκεν.
a-god on-houses pays-back

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔκλυον φωνάν, ἔκλυον δὲ βοὰν
I-heard voice I-heard and cry

τᾶς δυστάνου
of-the wretched

Κολχίδος, οὐδέ πω ἤπιος· ἀλλά, γεραιά,
Colchian not yet gentle but old-woman

λέξον· ἐπ᾽ ἀμφιπύλου γὰρ ἔσω μελάθρου γόον ἔκλυον·
tell from double-gated for within hall lament I-heard

οὐδὲ συνήδομαι, ὦ γύναι, ἄλγεσι δώματος,
nor I-rejoice O woman in-the-griefs of-the-house

ἐπεί μοι φίλον κέκρανται.
since to-me dear it-has-become

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ οὐκ εἰσὶ δόμοι· φροῦδα τάδ᾽ ἤδη.
not are house gone these-things already

τὸν μὲν γὰρ ἔχει λέκτρα τυράννων,
him indeed for holds bed of-tyrants

ἡ δ᾽ ἐν θαλάμοις τήκει βιοτὰν
she and in chambers wastes life

δέσποινα, φίλων οὐδενὸς οὐδὲν
mistress of-friends of-no-one at-all

παραθαλπομένη φρένα μύθοις.
warmed in-mind by-words

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ αἰαῖ,
alas

διά μου κεφαλᾶς φλὸξ οὐρανία
through my head flame heavenly

βαίη· τί δέ μοι ζῆν ἔτι κέρδος;
may-it-go what and to-me to-live still gain

φεῦ φεῦ· θανάτῳ καταλυσαίμαν
alas alas by-death may-I-find-rest
βιοτὰν στυγερὰν προλιποῦσα.
life hateful having-left
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄιες, ὦ Ζεῦ καὶ γᾶ καὶ φῶς,
did-you-hear O Zeus and earth and light
ἀχὰν οἵαν ἁ δύστανος
cry what-kind the wretched
μέλπει νύμφα;
sings bride
τίς σοί ποτε τᾶς ἀπλάτου
what for-you ever of-the unapproachable
κοίτας ἔρος, ὦ ματαία,
bed love O foolish
σπεύσει θανάτου τελευτάν;
will-hasten of-death end
μηδὲν τόδε λίσσου.
not-at-all this pray-for
εἰ δὲ σὸς πόσις
if and your husband
καινὰ λέχη σεβίζει,
new bed honors
κείνῳ τόδε μὴ χαράσσου·
with-him over-this not be-provoked
Ζεύς σοι τάδε συνδικήσει. μὴ λίαν
Zeus for-you in-this will-be-advocate not too-much
τάκου δυρομένα σὸν εὐνάταν.
waste-away lamenting your bed-fellow

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ὦ μεγάλα Θέμι καὶ πότνι᾽ Ἄρτεμι,
O great Themis and lady Artemis
λεύσσεθ᾽ ἃ πάσχω, μεγάλοις ὅρκοις
do-you-see what I-suffer with-great oaths
ἐνδησαμένα τὸν κατάρατον
having-bound the accursed
πόσιν; ὅν ποτ᾽ ἐγὼ νύμφαν τ᾽ ἐσίδοιμ᾽
husband whom some-day I bride and may-I-see
αὐτοῖς μελάθροις διακναιομένους,
with-the-very halls being-ground-to-pieces
οἵ γ᾽ ἐμὲ πρόσθεν τολμῶσ᾽ ἀδικεῖν.
who at-least me before dare to-wrong
ὦ πάτερ, ὦ πόλις, ὧν ἀπενάσθην
O father O city from-which I-was-sent-away
αἰσχρῶς τὸν ἐμὸν κτείνασα κάσιν.
shamefully — my having-killed brother
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ κλύεθ᾽ οἷα λέγει κἀπιβοᾶται
do-you-hear what she-says and-calls-upon
Θέμιν εὐκταίαν Ζῆνά θ᾽, ὃς ὅρκων
Themis of-prayers Zeus and who of-oaths
θνητοῖς ταμίας νενόμισται;
for-mortals steward is-held
οὐκ ἔστιν ὅπως ἔν τινι μικρῷ
not it-is how in some small(-thing)
δέσποινα χόλον καταπαύσει.
mistress anger will-stop
ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς ἂν ἐς ὄψιν τὰν ἁμετέραν
how — to sight — our
ἔλθοι μύθων τ᾽ αὐδαθέντων
might-she-come of-words and spoken

δέξαιτ᾽ ὀμφάν,
might-she-receive voice

εἴ πως βαρύθυμον ὀργὰν
if somehow heavy-hearted wrath

καὶ λῆμα φρενῶν μεθείη.
and spirit of-mind she-might-let-go

μήτοι τό γ᾽ ἐμὸν πρόθυμον
never-let — at-least my zeal

φίλοισιν ἀπέστω.
from-friends be-absent

ἀλλὰ βᾶσά νιν
but going her

δεῦρο πόρευσον οἴκων
here bring from-the-house

ἔξω, φίλα καὶ τάδ᾽ αὔδα·
outside dear and these-things say

σπεῦσον πρίν τι κακῶσαι τοὺς εἴσω·
hurry before something to-harm those inside

πένθος γὰρ μεγάλως τόδ᾽ ὁρμᾶται.
grief for greatly this is-rushing

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ δράσω τάδ᾽· ἀτὰρ φόβος εἰ πείσω
I-will-do this but fear whether I-will-persuade

δέσποιναν ἐμήν·
mistress my

μόχθου δὲ χάριν τήνδ᾽ ἐπιδώσω.
of-toil and favor this I-will-add

καίτοι τοκάδος δέργμα λεαίνης
and-yet of-a-mother-with-cubs glare of-lioness

ἀποταυροῦται δμωσίν, ὅταν τις
she-glares-like-a-bull at-servants whenever someone

μῦθον προφέρων πέλας ὁρμηθῇ.
word bringing near rushes
σκαιοὺς δὲ λέγων κοὐδέν τι σοφοὺς
foolish and calling and-not at-all wise
τοὺς πρόσθε βροτοὺς οὐκ ἂν ἁμάρτοις,
the before mortals not — you-would-err
οἵτινες ὕμνους ἐπὶ μὲν θαλίαις
who songs at indeed festivals
ἐπί τ' εἰλαπίναις καὶ παρὰ δείπνοις
at and banquets and at dinners
ηὕροντο βίου τερπνὰς ἀκοάς·
found of-life delightful hearings
στυγίους δὲ βροτῶν οὐδεὶς λύπας
hateful but of-mortals no-one griefs
ηὕρετο μούσῃ καὶ πολυχόρδοις
found with-music and with-many-stringed
ᾠδαῖς παύειν, ἐξ ὧν θάνατοι
songs to-stop from which deaths
δειναί τε τύχαι σφάλλουσι δόμους.
terrible and fortunes overthrow houses
καίτοι τάδε μὲν κέρδος ἀκεῖσθαι
and-yet these-things indeed a-gain to-heal
μολπαῖσι βροτούς· ἵνα δ' εὔδειπνοι
with-songs mortals where and well-feasted
δαῖτες, τί μάτην τείνουσι βοήν;
banquets why in-vain do-they-raise cry
τὸ παρὸν γὰρ ἔχει τέρψιν ἀφ' αὐτοῦ
the present for holds delight from itself
δαιτὸς πλήρωμα βροτοῖσιν.
of-the-feast fullness for-mortals

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰαχὰν ἄιον πολύστονον γόων,
cry I-heard much-groaning of-laments
λιγυρὰ δ' ἄχεα μογερὰ βοᾷ
shrill and griefs miserable she-cries
τὸν ἐν λέχει προδόταν κακόνυμφον·
the in bed betrayer bad-husband
θεοκλυτεῖ δ' ἄδικα παθοῦσα
she-calls-on-the-gods and unjust-things having-suffered
τὰν Ζανὸς ὁρκίαν Θέμιν,
— of-Zeus of-oaths Themis
ἅ νιν ἔβασεν
who her brought
Ἑλλάδ' ἐς ἀντίπορον
Hellas to over-against
δι' ἅλα νύχιον ἐφ' ἁλμυρὰν
through sea nightly over salt
πόντου κλῆδ' ἀπέραντον.
of-the-sea bar unbounded

Medea comes out and speaks of women's lot: they buy a husband with a dowry, must divine his ways, and may not refuse him, though childbirth is worse than battle. She asks the chorus to keep silent if she finds a way to punish Jason. Creon orders her into exile at once, fearing her cleverness. She begs one day's grace for her children and gets it, then resolves to kill Creon, his daughter, and Jason.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ Κορίνθιαι γυναῖκες, ἐξῆλθον δόμων,
Corinthian women I-have-come-out of-the-house
μή μοι τι μέμψησθ'· οἶδα γὰρ πολλοὺς βροτῶν
do-not me in-something blame I-know for many of-mortals
σεμνοὺς γεγῶτας, τοὺς μὲν ὀμμάτων ἄπο,
proud having-become some indeed eyes away-from
τοὺς δ' ἐν θυραίοις· οἱ δ' ἀφ' ἡσύχου ποδὸς
others and in public-places others and from quiet foot
δύσκλειαν ἐκτήσαντο καὶ ῥᾳθυμίαν.
ill-repute got and indifference
δίκη γὰρ οὐκ ἔνεστιν ὀφθαλμοῖς βροτῶν,
justice for not is-in eyes of-mortals
ὅστις πρὶν ἀνδρὸς σπλάγχνον ἐκμαθεῖν σαφῶς
whoever before of-a-man heart to-learn clearly
στυγεῖ δεδορκώς, οὐδὲν ἠδικημένος.
hates having-looked in-nothing wronged
χρὴ δὲ ξένον μὲν κάρτα προσχωρεῖν πόλει·
must and stranger indeed greatly to-conform to-the-city
οὐδ' ἀστὸν ᾔνεσ' ὅστις αὐθάδης γεγὼς
nor citizen I-praise who self-willed being
πικρὸς πολίταις ἐστὶν ἀμαθίας ὕπο.
bitter to-citizens is ignorance through

ἐμοὶ δ' ἄελπτον πρᾶγμα προσπεσὸν τόδε
to-me and unexpected thing having-fallen this
ψυχὴν διέφθαρκ'· οἴχομαι δὲ καὶ βίου
soul has-destroyed I-am-gone and also of-life
χάριν μεθεῖσα κατθανεῖν χρῄζω, φίλαι.
the-joy having-let-go to-die I-desire friends
ἐν ᾧ γὰρ ἦν μοι πάντα γιγνώσκειν καλῶς,
in which for was for-me all to-know well
κάκιστος ἀνδρῶν ἐκβέβηχ' οὑμὸς πόσις.
worst of-men has-turned-out my husband
πάντων δ' ὅσ' ἔστ' ἔμψυχα καὶ γνώμην ἔχει
of-all and as-many-as are living and judgment have
γυναῖκές ἐσμεν ἀθλιώτατον φυτόν·
women we-are most-wretched plant
ἃς πρῶτα μὲν δεῖ χρημάτων ὑπερβολῇ
who first indeed must of-money by-excess
πόσιν πρίασθαι δεσπότην τε σώματος
husband to-buy master and of-body
λαβεῖν· κακοῦ γὰρ τοῦτό γ' ἄλγιον κακόν·
to-take than-bad for this at-least more-painful bad
κἀν τῷδ' ἀγὼν μέγιστος, ἢ κακὸν λαβεῖν
and-in this contest greatest either bad to-take
ἢ χρηστόν. οὐ γὰρ εὐκλεεῖς ἀπαλλαγαὶ
or good not for reputable departures
γυναιξίν, οὐδ' οἷόν τ' ἀνήνασθαι πόσιν.
for-women nor possible — to-refuse husband
εἰς καινὰ δ' ἦθη καὶ νόμους ἀφιγμένην
to new and ways and laws having-come
δεῖ μάντιν εἶναι, μὴ μαθοῦσαν οἴκοθεν,
must prophet to-be not having-learned from-home

ὅτῳ μάλιστα χρήσεται συνευνέτῃ.
whom most she-will-deal-with as-bedfellow
κἂν μὲν τάδ' ἡμῖν ἐκπονουμέναισιν εὖ
and-if indeed these-things for-us working-out well
πόσις ξυνοικῇ μὴ βίᾳ φέρων ζυγόν,
husband lives-with not by-force bearing yoke
ζηλωτὸς αἰών· εἰ δὲ μή, θανεῖν χρεών.
enviable life if and not to-die is-right
ἀνὴρ δ', ὅταν τοῖς ἔνδον ἄχθηται ξυνών,
man and whenever with-those inside is-vexed living
ἔξω μολὼν ἔπαυσε καρδίαν ἄσης,
outside going stops heart from-weariness
ἢ πρὸς φίλον τιν' ἢ πρὸς ἥλικα τραπείς·
either to friend some or to age-mate turning
ἡμῖν δ' ἀνάγκη πρὸς μίαν ψυχὴν βλέπειν.
for-us and necessity to one soul to-look
λέγουσι δ' ἡμᾶς ὡς ἀκίνδυνον βίον
they-say and of-us that riskless life
ζῶμεν κατ' οἴκους, οἱ δὲ μάρνανται δορί·
we-live in house they and fight with-spear
κακῶς φρονοῦντες· ὡς τρὶς ἂν παρ' ἀσπίδα
badly thinking since thrice — beside shield
στῆναι θέλοιμ' ἂν μᾶλλον ἢ τεκεῖν ἅπαξ.
to-stand I-would-wish — rather than to-give-birth once
ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ αὐτὸς πρὸς σὲ κἄμ' ἥκει λόγος·
but not for same to you and-me comes argument
σοὶ μὲν πόλις γὰρ ἔστι καὶ πατρὸς δόμοι
to-you indeed city for is and of-father house
βίου τ' ὄνησις καὶ φίλων συνουσία,
of-life and enjoyment and of-friends company

ἐγὼ δ᾽ ἔρημος ἄπολις οὖσ᾽ ὑβρίζομαι
I and alone cityless being am-outraged
πρὸς ἀνδρός, ἐκ γῆς βαρβάρου λελησμένη,
by husband from land barbarian carried-off-as-plunder
οὐ μητέρ᾽, οὐκ ἀδελφόν, οὐχὶ συγγενῆ
not mother not brother not kinsman
μεθορμίσασθαι τῆσδ᾽ ἔχουσα συμφορᾶς.
to-find-new-anchorage from-this having of-misfortune
τοσοῦτον οὖν σου τυγχάνειν βουλήσομαι,
so-much then from-you to-obtain I-shall-wish
ἤν μοι πόρος τις μηχανή τ᾽ ἐξευρεθῇ
if for-me way some device and be-found
πόσιν δίκην τῶνδ᾽ ἀντιτίσασθαι κακῶν
husband justice for-these to-exact troubles
σιγᾶν. γυνὴ γὰρ τἄλλα μὲν φόβου πλέα,
to-keep-silent woman for in-other-things indeed of-fear full
κακὴ δ᾽ ἐς ἀλκὴν καὶ σίδηρον εἰσορᾶν.
cowardly and for strength and steel to-look-at
ὅταν δ᾽ ἐς εὐνὴν ἠδικημένη κυρῇ,
whenever and in bed wronged she-is
οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλη φρὴν μιαιφονωτέρα.
not is other mind more-murderous
ΧΟΡΟΣ δράσω τάδ᾽· ἐνδίκως γὰρ ἐκτίσει πόσιν,
I-will-do this justly for you-will-punish husband
Μήδεια. πενθεῖν δ᾽ οὔ σε θαυμάζω τύχας.
Medea to-mourn and not you I-wonder-at fortunes
ὁρῶ δὲ καὶ Κρέοντα τῆσδ᾽ ἄνακτα γῆς
I-see and also Creon of-this lord land
στείχοντα, καινῶν ἄγγελον βουλευμάτων.
coming of-new messenger plans

ΚΡΕΩΝ σὲ τὴν σκυθρωπὸν καὶ πόσει θυμουμένην,
you the scowling and with-husband angry
Μήδειαν, εἶπον τῆσδε γῆς ἔξω περᾶν
Medea I-order from-this land outside to-go
φυγάδα, λαβοῦσαν διττὰ σὺν σαυτῇ τέκνα,
as-exile taking two with yourself children
καὶ μή τι μέλλειν· ὡς ἐγὼ βραβεὺς λόγου
and not at-all to-delay since I arbiter of-word
τοῦδ' εἰμί, κοὐκ ἄπειμι πρὸς δόμους πάλιν,
of-this am and-not I-go-away to home back
πρὶν ἄν σε γαίας τερμόνων ἔξω βάλω.
before — you of-the-land borders outside I-cast
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ αἰαῖ· πανώλης ἡ τάλαιν' ἀπόλλυμαι.
alas utterly-ruined the wretched I-perish
ἐχθροὶ γὰρ ἐξιᾶσι πάντα δὴ κάλων,
enemies for let-out all indeed rope
κοὐκ ἔστιν ἄτης εὐπρόσοιστος ἔκβασις.
and-not is from-ruin easy-of-access escape
ἐρήσομαι δὲ καὶ κακῶς πάσχουσ' ὅμως,
I-will-ask and even badly suffering nevertheless
τίνος μ' ἕκατι γῆς ἀποστέλλεις, Κρέον;
of-what me for-the-sake from-the-land do-you-send Creon
ΚΡΕΩΝ δέδοικά σ', οὐδὲν δεῖ παραμπέχειν λόγους,
I-fear you no need to-cloak words
μή μοί τι δράσῃς παῖδ' ἀνήκεστον κακόν.
lest to-me some you-do child incurable harm
συμβάλλεται δὲ πολλὰ τοῦδε δείματος·
contribute and many-things to-this fear
σοφὴ πέφυκας καὶ κακῶν πολλῶν ἴδρις,
clever you-are-by-nature and of-evils many skilled

λυπεῖ δὲ λέκτρων ἀνδρὸς ἐστερημένη.
you-are-pained and of-bed of-husband deprived
κλύω δ' ἀπειλεῖν σ', ὡς ἀπαγγέλλουσί μοι,
I-hear and to-threaten you as they-report to-me
τὸν δόντα καὶ γήμαντα καὶ γαμουμένην
the having-given and having-married and being-married
δράσειν τι. ταῦτ' οὖν πρὶν παθεῖν φυλάξομαι.
to-do something these-things then before to-suffer I-will-guard-against
κρεῖσσον δέ μοι νῦν πρὸς σ' ἀπεχθέσθαι, γύναι, 290
better and for-me now towards you to-be-hated woman
ἢ μαλθακισθέντ' ὕστερον μεταστένειν.
than having-been-softened later to-lament
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ φεῦ φεῦ·
alas alas
οὐ νῦν με πρῶτον, ἀλλὰ πολλάκις, Κρέον,
not now me first but often Creon
ἔβλαψε δόξα μεγάλα τ' εἴργασται κακά.
harmed reputation great and has-done evils
χρὴ δ' οὔποθ' ὅστις ἀρτίφρων πέφυκ' ἀνὴρ
must and never whoever sound-minded is man
παῖδας περισσῶς ἐκδιδάσκεσθαι σοφούς· 295
children excessively to-have-taught clever
χωρὶς γὰρ ἄλλης ἧς ἔχουσιν ἀργίας
apart for other which they-have idleness
φθόνον πρὸς ἀστῶν ἀλφάνουσι δυσμενῆ.
envy from citizens they-earn hostile
σκαιοῖσι μὲν γὰρ καινὰ προσφέρων σοφὰ
to-fools indeed for new bringing wise(-things)
δόξεις ἀχρεῖος κοὐ σοφὸς πεφυκέναι·
you-will-seem useless and-not wise to-be

τῶν δ' αὖ δοκούντων εἰδέναι τι ποικίλον
than-those and in-turn seeming to-know something subtle
κρείσσων νομισθεὶς λυπρὸς ἐν πόλει φανεῖ.
superior being-thought offensive in city you-will-appear
ἐγὼ δὲ καὐτὴ τῆσδε κοινωνῶ τύχης.
I and also-myself of-this share fortune
σοφὴ γὰρ οὖσα, τοῖς μέν εἰμ' ἐπίφθονος,
clever for being to-some indeed I-am envied
τοῖς δ' ἡσυχαία, τοῖς δὲ θατέρου τρόπου,
to-others and quiet to-others and of-the-other way
τοῖς δ' αὖ προσάντης· εἰμὶ δ' οὐκ ἄγαν σοφή.
to-others and in-turn hostile I-am and not too clever
σὺ δ' αὖ φοβεῖ με· μή τι πλημμελὲς πάθῃς;
you and in-turn fear me lest something discordant you-suffer
οὐχ ὧδ' ἔχει μοι — μὴ τρέσῃς ἡμᾶς, Κρέον —
not so is with-me do-not tremble-at us Creon
ὥστ' εἰς τυράννους ἄνδρας ἐξαμαρτάνειν.
that against royal men to-do-wrong
τί γὰρ σύ μ' ἠδίκηκας; ἐξέδου κόρην
what for you me have-wronged you-gave-away daughter
ὅτῳ σε θυμὸς ἦγεν. ἀλλ' ἐμὸν πόσιν
to-whom you heart led but my husband
μισῶ· σὺ δ', οἶμαι, σωφρονῶν ἔδρας τάδε.
I-hate you and I-think being-self-controlled did these-things
καὶ νῦν τὸ μὲν σὸν οὐ φθονῶ καλῶς ἔχειν.
and now — indeed your not I-begrudge well to-be
νυμφεύετ', εὖ πράσσοιτε· τήνδε δὲ χθόνα
marry well may-you-fare this and land
ἐᾶτέ μ' οἰκεῖν· καὶ γὰρ ἠδικημένοι
let me to-dwell even for having-been-wronged

σιγησόμεσθα, κρεισσόνων νικώμενοι.
we-will-keep-silent by-stronger(-men) being-defeated

ΚΡΕΩΝ λέγεις ἀκοῦσαι μαλθάκ', ἀλλ' εἴσω φρενῶν
you-say to-hear soft(-things) but within mind

ὀρρωδία μοι μή τι βουλεύσῃς κακόν,
dread is-to-me lest some you-plan evil

τόσῳ δέ γ' ἧσσον ἢ πάρος πέποιθά σοι·
by-so-much and at-least less than before I-trust you

γυνὴ γὰρ ὀξύθυμος, ὡς δ' αὔτως ἀνήρ,
woman for quick-tempered as and likewise man

ῥᾴων φυλάσσειν ἢ σιωπηλὸς σοφός.
easier to-guard than silent clever(-one)

ἀλλ' ἔξιθ' ὡς τάχιστα, μὴ λόγους λέγε·
but go-out as quickly-as-possible not words speak

ὡς ταῦτ' ἄραρε, κοὐκ ἔχεις τέχνην ὅπως
since these-things are-fixed and-not you-have art how

μενεῖς παρ' ἡμῖν οὖσα δυσμενὴς ἐμοί.
you-will-stay with us being hostile to-me

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ μή, πρός σε γονάτων τῆς τε νεογάμου κόρης.
no by you knees the and newly-married daughter

ΚΡΕΩΝ λόγους ἀναλοῖς· οὐ γὰρ ἂν πείσαις ποτέ.
words you-waste not for — you-would-persuade ever

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ἀλλ' ἐξελᾷς με κοὐδὲν αἰδέσει λιτάς;
but will-you-drive-out me and-in-nothing will-you-respect prayers

ΚΡΕΩΝ φιλῶ γὰρ οὐ σὲ μᾶλλον ἢ δόμους ἐμούς.
I-love for not you more than house my

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ὦ πατρίς, ὥς σου κάρτα νῦν μνείαν ἔχω.
O fatherland how of-you greatly now memory I-have

ΚΡΕΩΝ πλὴν γὰρ τέκνων ἔμοιγε φίλτατον πόλις.
except for children to-me-at-least dearest city

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ φεῦ φεῦ, βροτοῖς ἔρωτες ὡς κακὸν μέγα.
alas alas for-mortals loves how evil great

ΚΡΕΩΝ ὅπως ἄν, οἶμαι, καὶ παραστῶσιν τύχαι.
however — I-think and attend fortunes

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ Ζεῦ, μὴ λάθοι σε τῶνδ' ὃς αἴτιος κακῶν.
Zeus not may-be-escape you of-these who cause troubles

ΚΡΕΩΝ ἔρπ', ὦ ματαία, καί μ' ἀπάλλαξον πόνων.
go O foolish and me rid of-toils

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ πονοῦμεν ἡμεῖς κοὐ πόνων κεχρήμεθα.
toil we and-not of-toils have-need

ΚΡΕΩΝ τάχ' ἐξ ὀπαδῶν χειρὸς ὠσθήσει βίᾳ.
soon by attendants' hand you-will-be-thrust by-force

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ μὴ δῆτα τοῦτό γ', ἀλλά σ' αἰτοῦμαι, Κρέον —
not indeed this at-least but you I-beg Creon

ΚΡΕΩΝ ὄχλον παρέξεις, ὡς ἔοικας, ὦ γύναι.
trouble you-will-make as you-seem O woman

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ φευξούμεθ'· οὐ τοῦθ' ἱκέτευσα σοῦ τυχεῖν.
we-will-go-into-exile not this I-begged from-you to-obtain

ΚΡΕΩΝ τί δ' αὖ βιάζει κοὐκ ἀπαλλάσσει χθονός;
why and again do-you-force and-not depart from-the-land

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ μίαν με μεῖναι τήνδ' ἔασον ἡμέραν
one me to-remain this allow day

καὶ ξυμπερᾶναι φροντίδ' ᾗ φευξούμεθα,
and to-think-through thought in-which-way we-will-go-into-exile

παισίν τ' ἀφορμὴν τοῖς ἐμοῖς, ἐπεὶ πατὴρ
for-children and provision — my since father

οὐδὲν προτιμᾷ μηχανήσασθαι τέκνοις.
nothing cares to-contrive for-children

οἴκτειρε δ' αὐτούς· καὶ σύ τοι παίδων πατὴρ
pity and them even you surely of-children father

πέφυκας· εἰκὸς δ' ἐστὶν εὔνοιάν σ' ἔχειν.
are fitting and it-is goodwill you to-have

τοὐμοῦ γὰρ οὔ μοι φροντίς, εἰ φευξούμεθα,
of-my-own for not to-me thought if we-will-go-into-exile

κείνους δὲ κλαίω συμφορᾷ κεχρημένους.
them but I-weep misfortune having-met

ΚΡΕΩΝ ἥκιστα τοὐμὸν λῆμ' ἔφυ τυραννικόν,
least my spirit is tyrannical

αἰδούμενος δὲ πολλὰ δὴ διέφθορα·
having-respect and many-things indeed I-have-ruined

καὶ νῦν ὁρῶ μὲν ἐξαμαρτάνων, γύναι,
and now I-see indeed erring woman

ὅμως δὲ τεύξει τοῦδε· προὐννέπω δέ σοι,
nevertheless and you-will-obtain this I-proclaim and to-you

εἴ σ' ἡ 'πιοῦσα λαμπὰς ὄψεται θεοῦ
if you the coming torch shall-see of-the-god

καὶ παῖδας ἐντὸς τῆσδε τερμόνων χθονός,
and children within of-this borders land

θανεῖ. λέλεκται μῦθος ἀψευδὴς ὅδε.
you-shall-die has-been-spoken word unfalse this

νῦν δ', εἰ μένειν δεῖ, μίμν' ἐφ' ἡμέραν μίαν·
now and if to-remain you-must remain for day one

οὐ γάρ τι δράσεις δεινὸν ὧν φόβος μ' ἔχει.
not for anything you-will-do terrible of-which fear me holds

ΧΟΡΟΣ δύστανε γύναι,
wretched woman

φεῦ φεῦ, μελέα τῶν σῶν ἀχέων.
alas alas wretched — of-your sorrows

ποῖ ποτε τρέψει; τίνα προξενίαν
whither ever will-you-turn what hospitality

ἢ δόμον ἢ χθόνα σωτῆρα κακῶν
or house or land savior from-troubles
ἐξευρήσεις;
will-you-find
ὡς εἰς ἄπορόν σε κλύδωνα θεός,
how into trackless you wave the-god
Μήδεια, κακῶν ἐπόρευσε.
Medea of-troubles has-brought

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ κακῶς πέπρακται πανταχῇ· τίς ἀντερεῖ;
badly it-has-been-done everywhere who will-deny
ἀλλ' οὔτι ταύτῃ ταῦτα, μὴ δοκεῖτέ πω.
but not-at-all in-this-way these-things not think yet
ἔτ' εἴσ' ἀγῶνες τοῖς νεωστὶ νυμφίοις,
still are contests for-the newly wedded
καὶ τοῖσι κηδεύσασιν οὐ σμικροὶ πόνοι.
and for-those having-made-the-match not small toils
δοκεῖς γὰρ ἄν με τόνδε θωπεῦσαί ποτε,
do-you-think for — me this-man to-have-fawned-on ever
εἰ μή τι κερδαίνουσαν ἢ τεχνωμένην;
if not something gaining or contriving
οὐδ' ἂν προσεῖπον οὐδ' ἂν ἡψάμην χεροῖν.
nor — I-would-have-addressed nor — I-would-have-touched with-hands
ὁ δ' εἰς τοσοῦτον μωρίας ἀφίκετο,
he and to such-a-point of-folly came
ὥστ' ἐξὸν αὐτῷ τἄμ' ἑλεῖν βουλεύματα
that it-being-possible for-him my to-catch plans
γῆς ἐκβαλόντι, τήνδ' ἀφῆκεν ἡμέραν
from-the-land having-expelled this has-granted day
μεῖναί μ', ἐν ᾗ τρεῖς τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν νεκροὺς
to-remain me in which three — of-my enemies corpses

θήσω, πατέρα τε καὶ κόρην πόσιν τ᾽ ἐμόν.
I-will-make father both and daughter husband and my
πολλὰς δ᾽ ἔχουσα θανασίμους αὐτοῖς ὁδούς,
many and having deadly for-them ways
οὐκ οἶδ᾽ ὁποίᾳ πρῶτον ἐγχειρῶ, φίλαι,
not I-know in-which first I-should-set-hand friends
πότερον ὑφάψω δῶμα νυμφικὸν πυρί,
whether I-should-set-fire-to house bridal with-fire
ἢ θηκτὸν ὥσω φάσγανον δι᾽ ἥπατος,
or sharpened I-should-thrust sword through liver
σιγῇ δόμους εἰσβᾶσ᾽ ἵν᾽ ἔστρωται λέχος.
in-silence house having-entered where is-spread bed
ἀλλ᾽ ἕν τί μοι πρόσαντες· εἰ ληφθήσομαι
but one some to-me obstacle if I-shall-be-caught
δόμους ὑπερβαίνουσα καὶ τεχνωμένη,
house overstepping and contriving
θανοῦσα θήσω τοῖς ἐμοῖς ἐχθροῖς γέλων.
dying I-will-make — for-my enemies laughter
κράτιστα τὴν εὐθεῖαν, ᾗ πεφύκαμεν
best the straight(-way) in-which we-are-by-nature
σοφαὶ μάλιστα, φαρμάκοις αὐτοὺς ἑλεῖν.
clever most by-drugs them to-take
εἶεν·
well
καὶ δὴ τεθνᾶσι· τίς με δέξεται πόλις;
and indeed they-are-dead what me will-receive city
τίς γῆν ἄσυλον καὶ δόμους ἐχεγγύους
who land inviolable and house secure
ξένος παρασχὼν ῥύσεται τοὐμὸν δέμας;
guest-friend having-offered will-rescue my body

οὐκ ἔστι. μείνασ᾽ οὖν ἔτι σμικρὸν χρόνον,
not is-there having-waited then still little time
ἢν μέν τις ἡμῖν πύργος ἀσφαλὴς φανῇ,
if indeed some for-us tower safe appear
δόλῳ μέτειμι τόνδε καὶ σιγῇ φόνον·
by-guile I-will-go-after this and in-silence murder
ἢν δ᾽ ἐξελαύνῃ ξυμφορά μ᾽ ἀμήχανος,
if and drive-out misfortune me helpless
αὐτὴ ξίφος λαβοῦσα, κεἰ μέλλω θανεῖν,
myself sword having-taken even-if I-am-about to-die
κτενῶ σφε, τόλμης δ᾽ εἶμι πρὸς τὸ καρτερόν.
I-will-kill them of-daring and I-will-go to the strong(-point)
οὐ γὰρ μὰ τὴν δέσποιναν ἣν ἐγὼ σέβω
not for by the mistress whom I revere
μάλιστα πάντων καὶ ξυνεργὸν εἵλόμην,
most of-all and as-helper chose
Ἑκάτην μυχοῖς ναίουσαν ἑστίας ἐμῆς,
Hecate in-recesses dwelling of-hearth my
χαίρων τις αὐτῶν τοὐμὸν ἀλγυνεῖ κέαρ.
rejoicing anyone of-them my will-pain heart
πικροὺς δ᾽ ἐγώ σφιν καὶ λυγροὺς θήσω γάμους,
bitter and I for-them and grievous will-make marriage
πικρὸν δὲ κῆδος καὶ φυγὰς ἐμὰς χθονός.
bitter and the-alliance and exiles my from-the-land
ἀλλ᾽ εἶα· φείδου μηδὲν ὧν ἐπίστασαι,
but come spare nothing of-what you-know
Μήδεια, βουλεύουσα καὶ τεχνωμένη·
Medea planning and contriving
ἕρπ᾽ εἰς τὸ δεινόν· νῦν ἀγὼν εὐψυχίας.
go to the terrible now contest of-courage

ὁρᾷς ἃ πάσχεις; οὐ γέλωτα δεῖ σ' ὀφλεῖν
do-you-see what you-suffer not laughter must you to-incur
τοῖς Σισυφείοις τοῖς τ' Ἰάσονος γάμοις,
to-the Sisyphean the and of-Jason marriage
γεγῶσαν ἐσθλοῦ πατρὸς Ἡλίου τ' ἄπο.
born noble father Helios and from
ἐπίστασαι δέ· πρὸς δὲ καὶ πεφύκαμεν
you-know and besides and also we-are-by-nature
γυναῖκες, εἰς μὲν ἔσθλ' ἀμηχανώταται,
women for indeed noble(-deeds) most-helpless
κακῶν δὲ πάντων τέκτονες σοφώταται.
of-evils and all craftsmen cleverest

IV · THE RIVERS RUN BACKWARD

The chorus sings that the world is turned upside down: men break their oaths, and now honor comes to women, whom the old poets slandered; had Apollo given women the lyre, they would have answered men in song. Medea sailed from her father's house between the Clashing Rocks, and now, her marriage gone and no home to return to, she is driven from the land while a stronger queen rules her house.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄνω ποταμῶν ἱερῶν χωροῦσι παγαί,
upwards of-rivers holy go springs
καὶ δίκα καὶ πάντα πάλιν στρέφεται.
and justice and all-things back is-turned
ἀνδράσι μὲν δόλιαι βουλαί, θεῶν δ'
for-men indeed treacherous counsels of-gods and
οὐκέτι πίστις ἄραρε.
no-longer pledge stands-fast
τὰν δ' ἐμὰν εὔκλειαν ἔχειν βιοτὰν
— and my good-repute to-have life

στρέψουσι φᾶμαι·
will-turn rumors
ἔρχεται τιμὰ γυναικείῳ γένει·
comes honor to-female race
οὐκέτι δυσκέλαδος φάμα γυναῖκας ἕξει.
no-longer ill-sounding rumor women will-hold
μοῦσαι δὲ παλαιγενέων λήξουσ' ἀοιδῶν
the-muses and of-ancient bards will-cease
τὰν ἐμὰν ὑμνεῦσαι ἀπιστοσύναν.
— my hymning faithlessness
οὐ γὰρ ἐν ἁμετέρᾳ γνώμᾳ λύρας
not for on our mind of-the-lyre
ὤπασε θέσπιν ἀοιδὰν
granted divine song
Φοῖβος, ἁγήτωρ μελέων· ἐπεὶ ἀντ-
Phoebus leader of-songs since would-have-sounded
άχησ' ἂν ὕμνον
— — hymn
ἀρσένων γέννᾳ· μακρὸς δ' αἰὼν ἔχει
of-the-male race long and age has
πολλὰ μὲν ἁμετέραν ἀνδρῶν τε μοῖραν εἰπεῖν.
much indeed our of-men and portion to-tell
σὺ δ' ἐκ μὲν οἴκων πατρίων ἔπλευσας
you and from indeed house ancestral sailed
μαινομένᾳ κραδίᾳ, διδύμας ὁρίσασα πόντου
with-raging heart double having-passed-between of-the-sea
πέτρας· ἐπὶ δὲ ξένᾳ
rocks on and foreign
ναίεις χθονί, τᾶς ἀνάνδρου
you-dwell land of-the husbandless

κοίτας ὀλέσασα λέκτρον,
bed having-lost bed
τάλαινα, φυγὰς δὲ χώρας
wretched exile and from-the-land
ἄτιμος ἐλαύνει.
dishonored you-are-driven
βέβακε δ' ὅρκων χάρις, οὐδ' ἔτ' αἰδὼς
is-gone and of-oaths grace nor still shame
Ἑλλάδι τᾷ μεγάλᾳ μένει, αἰθερία δ' ἀνέπτα.
in-Hellas the great remains into-the-air and has-flown
σοὶ δ' οὔτε πατρὸς δόμοι,
for-you and neither of-father house
δύστανε, μεθορμίσασθαι
wretched to-find-harbor
μόχθων πάρα, σῶν τε λέκτρων
from-toils there-is your and bed
ἄλλα βασίλεια κρείσσων
another queen stronger
δόμοισιν ἐπέστα.
over-the-house has-set-herself

Jason comes to offer money for her exile, blaming her wild words for it. Medea recounts how she saved him from the fire-breathing bulls and the serpent guarding the fleece, betrayed her father, and had Pelias killed, and asks where she can go now. Jason credits Cypris with his rescue, says Medea gained Greek law and fame, and calls his royal marriage a plan to raise his sons in comfort. She refuses his gifts and sends him away.

ΙΑΣΩΝ οὐ νῦν κατεῖδον πρῶτον, ἀλλὰ πολλάκις,
not now I-have-observed first but often
τραχεῖαν ὀργὴν ὡς ἀμήχανον κακόν.
harsh temper how helpless evil
σοὶ γὰρ παρὸν γᾶν τήνδε καὶ δόμους ἔχειν
to-you for it-being-possible land this and house to-have
κούφως φερούσῃ κρεισσόνων βουλεύματα,
lightly bearing of-the-stronger plans
λόγων ματαίων εἵνεκ' ἐκπεσεῖ χθονός.
words idle for-the-sake you-will-be-cast-out of-the-land
κἀμοὶ μὲν οὐδὲν πρᾶγμα· μὴ παύσῃ ποτὲ
and-to-me indeed no matter not cease ever
λέγουσ' Ἰάσων ὡς κάκιστός ἐστ' ἀνήρ·
saying Jason that worst is man
ἃ δ' εἰς τυράννους ἐστί σοι λελεγμένα,
what and against tyrants is by-you said
πᾶν κέρδος ἡγοῦ ζημιουμένη φυγῇ.
all gain consider being-punished by-exile
κἀγὼ μὲν ἀεὶ βασιλέων θυμουμένων
and-I indeed always of-kings being-angry
ὀργὰς ἀφῄρουν καί σ' ἐβουλόμην μένειν·
the-angers took-away and you wished to-remain

σὺ δ' οὐκ ἀνίεις μωρίας, λέγουσ' ἀεὶ
you but not let-go of-folly saying always
κακῶς τυράννους· τοιγὰρ ἐκπεσεῖ χθονός.
badly of-tyrants therefore you-will-be-cast-out of-the-land
ὅμως δὲ κἀκ τῶνδ' οὐκ ἀπειρηκὼς φίλοις
nevertheless but even-after these not having-given-up to-friends
ἥκω, τὸ σὸν δὲ προσκοπούμενος, γύναι,
I-come — your and providing-for woman
ὡς μήτ' ἀχρήμων σὺν τέκνοισιν ἐκπέσῃς
so-that neither moneyless with children you-be-cast-out
μήτ' ἐνδεής του· πόλλ' ἐφέλκεται φυγὴ
nor lacking anything many-things drags-along exile
κακὰ ξὺν αὑτῇ. καὶ γὰρ εἰ σύ με στυγεῖς,
evils with itself and for if you me hate
οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην σοὶ κακῶς φρονεῖν ποτε.
not — I-could to-you badly to-think ever
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ὦ παγκάκιστε, τοῦτο γάρ σ' εἰπεῖν ἔχω
O utterly-base this for you to-say I-have
γλώσσῃ μέγιστον εἰς ἀνανδρίαν κακόν,
with-tongue greatest for unmanliness reproach
ἦλθες πρὸς ἡμᾶς, ἦλθες ἔχθιστος γεγώς
you-came to us you-came most-hateful being
οὔτοι θράσος τόδ' ἐστὶν οὐδ' εὐτολμία,
surely-not boldness this is nor courage
φίλους κακῶς δράσαντ' ἐναντίον βλέπειν,
friends badly having-done face to-look
ἀλλ' ἡ μεγίστη τῶν ἐν ἀνθρώποις νόσων
but the greatest of-the among men of-diseases
πασῶν, ἀναίδει'· εὖ δ' ἐποίησας μολών,
of-all shamelessness well and you-did coming

ἐγώ τε γὰρ λέξασα κουφισθήσομαι
I and for having-spoken shall-be-lightened
ψυχὴν κακῶς σε, καὶ σὺ λυπήσει κλύων.
in-soul badly you and you will-be-pained hearing
ἐκ τῶν δὲ πρώτων πρῶτον ἄρξομαι λέγειν.
from the and first first I-shall-begin to-speak
ἔσωσά σ', ὡς ἴσασιν Ἑλλήνων ὅσοι
I-saved you as know of-Greeks as-many-as
ταὐτὸν συνεισέβησαν Ἀργῷον σκάφος,
the-same embarked-with Argive ship
πεμφθέντα ταύρων πυρπνόων ἐπιστάτην
sent of-bulls fire-breathing as-master
ζεύγλαισι καὶ σπεροῦντα θανάσιμον γύην·
with-yokes and to-sow deadly field
δράκοντά θ', ὃς πάγχρυσον ἀμπέχων δέρας
serpent and who all-golden encircling fleece
σπείραις ἔσῳζε πολυπλόκοις ἄυπνος ὤν,
with-coils guarded many-folded sleepless being
κτείνασ' ἀνέσχον σοὶ φάος σωτήριον.
having-killed I-raised for-you light saving
αὐτὴ δὲ πατέρα καὶ δόμους προδοῦσ' ἐμοὺς
myself and father and house having-betrayed my
τὴν Πηλιῶτιν εἰς Ἰωλκὸν ἱκόμην
— Pelian to Iolcus I-came
σὺν σοί, πρόθυμος μᾶλλον ἢ σοφωτέρα·
with you eager rather than wiser
Πελίαν τ' ἀπέκτειν', ὥσπερ ἄλγιστον θανεῖν,
Pelias and I-killed as most-painful to-die
παίδων ὑπ' αὐτοῦ, πάντα δ' ἐξεῖλον δόμον.
children by his all and I-destroyed house

καὶ ταῦθ' ὑφ' ἡμῶν, ὦ κάκιστ' ἀνδρῶν, παθὼν
and these-things by us O worst of-men having-suffered
προύδωκας ἡμᾶς, καινὰ δ' ἐκτήσω λέχη,
you-betrayed us new and you-got bed
παίδων γεγώτων· εἰ γὰρ ἦσθ' ἄπαις ἔτι,
children having-been-born if for you-were childless still
συγγνωστὸν ἦν σοι τοῦδ' ἐρασθῆναι λέχους.
pardonable it-was for-you this to-have-loved bed
ὅρκων δὲ φρούδη πίστις, οὐδ' ἔχω μαθεῖν
of-oaths and gone faith nor I-can learn
εἰ θεοὺς νομίζεις τοὺς τότ' οὐκ ἄρχειν ἔτι,
whether gods you-think the then not to-rule still
ἢ καινὰ κεῖσθαι θέσμι' ἀνθρώποις τὰ νῦν,
or new to-be-laid-down ordinances for-men the now
ἐπεὶ σύνοισθά γ' εἰς ἔμ' οὐκ εὔορκος ὤν.
since you-are-conscious at-least towards me not true-to-oath being
φεῦ δεξιὰ χεὶρ ἧς σὺ πόλλ' ἐλαμβάνου,
alas right hand which you many-times took
καὶ τῶνδε γονάτων, ὡς μάτην κεχρώσμεθα
and these knees how in-vain we-have-been-touched
κακοῦ πρὸς ἀνδρός, ἐλπίδων δ' ἡμάρτομεν.
bad by man of-hopes and we-have-missed
ἄγ', ὡς φίλῳ γὰρ ὄντι σοι κοινώσομαι,
come as to-friend for being you I-will-consult
δοκοῦσα μὲν τί πρός γε σοῦ πράξειν καλῶς;
expecting indeed what from at-least you to-fare well
ὅμως δ'· ἐρωτηθεὶς γὰρ αἰσχίων φανεῖ.
nevertheless but being-questioned for more-shameful you-will-appear
νῦν ποῖ τράπωμαι; πότερα πρὸς πατρὸς δόμους,
now whither shall-I-turn whether to of-father house

οὓς σοὶ προδοῦσα καὶ πάτραν ἀφικόμην;
which for-you having-betrayed and fatherland I-came
ἢ πρὸς ταλαίνας Πελιάδας; καλῶς γ' ἂν οὖν
or to wretched Pelias'-daughters well at-least — then
δέξαιντό μ' οἴκοις ὧν πατέρα κατέκτανον.
they-would-receive me in-house whose father I-killed
ἔχει γὰρ οὕτω· τοῖς μὲν οἴκοθεν φίλοις
it-is for thus to-the indeed from-home friends
ἐχθρὰ καθέστηχ', οὓς δέ μ' οὐκ ἐχρῆν κακῶς
hateful I-have-become whom and me not ought badly
δρᾶν, σοὶ χάριν φέρουσα πολεμίους ἔχω.
to-do for-you favor bringing as-enemies I-have
τοιγάρ με πολλαῖς μακαρίαν Ἑλληνίδων
therefore me among-many blessed of-Greek-women
ἔθηκας ἀντὶ τῶνδε· θαυμαστὸν δέ σε
you-made in-return-for this wondrous and you
ἔχω πόσιν καὶ πιστὸν ἡ τάλαιν' ἐγώ,
I-have husband and faithful the wretched I
εἰ φεύξομαί γε γαῖαν ἐκβεβλημένη,
if I-shall-go-into-exile at-least the-land cast-out
φίλων ἔρημος, σὺν τέκνοις μόνη μόνοις·
of-friends bereft with children alone alone
καλόν γ' ὄνειδος τῷ νεωστὶ νυμφίῳ,
fine at-least reproach for-the newly bridegroom
πτωχοὺς ἀλᾶσθαι παῖδας ἥ τ' ἔσωσά σε.
beggars to-wander children she-who and saved you
ὦ Ζεῦ, τί δὴ χρυσοῦ μὲν ὃς κίβδηλος ἦ
O Zeus why indeed of-gold indeed which counterfeit be
τεκμήρι' ἀνθρώποισιν ὤπασας σαφῆ,
signs to-men you-granted clear

ἀνδρῶν δ' ὅτῳ χρὴ τὸν κακὸν διειδέναι,
of-men and by-which one-should the bad to-discern
οὐδεὶς χαρακτὴρ ἐμπέφυκε σώματι;
no mark is-born-on body
ΧΟΡΟΣ δεινή τις ὀργὴ καὶ δυσίατος πέλει,
terrible some anger and hard-to-heal is
ὅταν φίλοι φίλοισι συμβάλωσ' ἔριν.
whenever friends with-friends join strife
ΙΑΣΩΝ δεῖ μ', ὡς ἔοικε, μὴ κακὸν φῦναι λέγειν,
must me as it-seems not bad to-be to-speak
ἀλλ' ὥστε ναὸς κεδνὸν οἰακοστρόφον
but like ship's trusty helmsman
ἄκροισι λαίφους κρασπέδοις ὑπεκδραμεῖν
with-outermost of-sail edges to-run-out-from-under
τὴν σὴν στόμαργον, ὦ γύναι, γλωσσαλγίαν.
— your loud-mouthed O woman tongue-storm
ἐγὼ δ', ἐπεὶ σὴν καὶ λίαν πυργοῖς χάριν,
I but since your even too-much you-tower-up favor
Κύπριν νομίζω τῆς ἐμῆς ναυκληρίας
Cypris I-consider — of-my voyage
σώτειραν εἶναι θεῶν τε κἀνθρώπων μόνην.
savior to-be of-gods and and-of-men alone
σοὶ δ' ἔστι μὲν νοῦς λεπτός — ἀλλ' ἐπίφθονος
to-you and is indeed mind subtle but invidious
λόγος διελθεῖν, ὡς Ἔρως σ' ἠνάγκασε
the-tale to-go-through how Love you compelled
τόξοις ἀφύκτοις τοὐμὸν ἐκσῶσαι δέμας.
with-arrows inescapable my to-save body
ἀλλ' οὐκ ἀκριβῶς αὐτὸ θήσομαι λίαν·
but not precisely it I-will-set too-much

ὅπῃ γὰρ οὖν ὤνησας, οὐ κακῶς ἔχει.
in-whatever-way for then you-helped not badly it-is
μείζω γε μέντοι τῆς ἐμῆς σωτηρίας
greater at-least however — than-my safety
εἴληφας ἢ δέδωκας, ὡς ἐγὼ φράσω.
you-have-received than you-have-given as I will-show
πρῶτον μὲν Ἑλλάδ' ἀντὶ βαρβάρου χθονὸς
first indeed Hellas instead-of barbarian land
γαῖαν κατοικεῖς καὶ δίκην ἐπίστασαι
land you-inhabit and justice you-know
νόμοις τε χρῆσθαι μὴ πρὸς ἰσχύος χάριν·
laws and to-use not for of-force the-sake
πάντες δέ σ' ἤσθοντ' οὖσαν Ἕλληνες σοφήν,
all and you perceived being Greeks clever
καὶ δόξαν ἔσχες· εἰ δὲ γῆς ἐπ' ἐσχάτοις
and fame you-had if and of-the-land at farthest
ὅροισιν ᾤκεις, οὐκ ἂν ἦν λόγος σέθεν.
bounds you-dwelt not — would-be word of-you
εἴη δ' ἔμοιγε μήτε χρυσὸς ἐν δόμοις
may-it-be and for-me neither gold in house
μήτ' Ὀρφέως κάλλιον ὑμνῆσαι μέλος,
nor than-Orpheus fairer to-sing song
εἰ μὴ 'πίσημος ἡ τύχη γένοιτό μοι.
if not famous the fortune should-become for-me
τοσαῦτα μέν σοι τῶν ἐμῶν πόνων πέρι
so-much indeed to-you — my toils about
ἔλεξ'· ἅμιλλαν γὰρ σὺ προύθηκας λόγων.
I-said contest for you set-forth of-words
ἃ δ' εἰς γάμους μοι βασιλικοὺς ὠνείδισας,
what and regarding marriage to-me royal you-reproached

ἐν τῷδε δείξω πρῶτα μὲν σοφὸς γεγώς,
in this I-will-show first indeed wise being
ἔπειτα σώφρων, εἶτα σοὶ μέγας φίλος
then self-controlled next to-you great friend
καὶ παισὶ τοῖς ἐμοῖσιν· ἀλλ' ἔχ' ἡσυχος.
and to-children — my but keep quiet
ἐπεὶ μετέστην δεῦρ' Ἰωλκίας χθονὸς
when I-moved here from-Iolcian land
πολλὰς ἐφέλκων συμφορὰς ἀμηχάνους,
many dragging misfortunes helpless
τί τοῦδ' ἂν εὕρημ' ἡῦρον εὐτυχέστερον
what than-this — find would-I-have-found more-fortunate
ἢ παῖδα γῆμαι βασιλέως φυγὰς γεγώς;
than child to-marry of-the-king exile being
οὐχ, ἥ σὺ κνίζει, σὸν μὲν ἐχθαίρων λέχος,
not as you are-galled your indeed hating bed
καινῆς δὲ νύμφης ἱμέρῳ πεπληγμένος,
of-new and bride by-desire smitten
οὐδ' εἰς ἅμιλλαν πολύτεκνον σπουδὴν ἔχων·
nor for rivalry in-many-children zeal having
ἅλις γὰρ οἱ γεγῶτες οὐδὲ μέμφομαι·
enough for the having-been-born nor I-find-fault
ἀλλ' ὡς, τὸ μὲν μέγιστον, οἰκοῖμεν καλῶς
but that the indeed greatest we-might-dwell well
καὶ μὴ σπανιζοίμεσθα, γιγνώσκων ὅτι
and not be-in-want knowing that
πένητα φεύγει πᾶς τις ἐκποδὼν φίλος,
the-poor-man shuns every one out-of-the-way friend
παῖδας δὲ θρέψαιμ' ἀξίως δόμων ἐμῶν
children and I-might-rear worthily of-house my

σπείρας τ' ἀδελφοὺς τοῖσιν ἐκ σέθεν τέκνοις,
having-begotten and brothers to-the from you children
εἰς ταὐτὸ θείην, καὶ ξυναρτήσας γένος,
into the-same I-might-set and having-joined race
εὐδαιμονοίην. σοί τε γὰρ παίδων τί δεῖ,
I-might-prosper to-you and for of-children what need
ἐμοί τε λύει τοῖσι μέλλουσιν τέκνοις
to-me and it-profits for-the to-be children
τὰ ζῶντ' ὀνῆσαι. μῶν βεβούλευμαι κακῶς;
the living to-benefit surely-not have-I-planned badly
οὐδ' ἂν σὺ φαίης, εἴ σε μὴ κνίζοι λέχος.
not — you would-say if you not galled bed
ἀλλ' εἰς τοσοῦτον ἥκεθ' ὥστ' ὀρθουμένης
but to such-a-point you-come that being-set-right
εὐνῆς γυναῖκες πάντ' ἔχειν νομίζετε,
bed women all to-have you-think
ἢν δ' αὖ γένηται ξυμφορά τις εἰς λέχος,
if and in-turn befall misfortune some to bed
τὰ λῷστα καὶ κάλλιστα πολεμιώτατα
the best and fairest most-hostile
τίθεσθε. χρῆν ἄρ' ἄλλοθέν ποθεν βροτοὺς
you-make one-should then from-elsewhere some-way mortals
παῖδας τεκνοῦσθαι, θῆλυ δ' οὐκ εἶναι γένος·
children to-beget female and not to-be race
χοὕτως ἂν οὐκ ἦν οὐδὲν ἀνθρώποις κακόν.
and-so — not would-be no evil for-men
ΧΟΡΟΣ Ἰᾶσον, εὖ μὲν τούσδ' ἐκόσμησας λόγους·
Jason well indeed these you-have-arranged words
ὅμως δ' ἔμοιγε, κεἰ παρὰ γνώμην ἐρῶ,
nevertheless but to-me-at-least even-if against judgment I-shall-speak

δοκεῖς προδοὺς σὴν ἄλοχον οὐ δίκαια δρᾶν.
you-seem having-betrayed your wife not just-things to-do

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ἦ πολλὰ πολλοῖς εἰμι διάφορος βροτῶν.
truly in-much from-many I-am differing of-mortals

ἐμοὶ γὰρ ὅστις ἄδικος ὢν σοφὸς λέγειν
to-me for whoever unjust being clever to-speak

πέφυκε, πλείστην ζημίαν ὀφλισκάνει·
is greatest penalty incurs

γλώσσῃ γὰρ αὐχῶν τἄδικ᾽ εὖ περιστελεῖν,
with-tongue for boasting the-unjust well to-cloak

τολμᾷ πανουργεῖν· ἔστι δ᾽ οὐκ ἄγαν σοφός.
he-dares to-play-the-villain is and not very wise

ὡς καὶ σὺ μή νυν εἰς ἔμ᾽ εὐσχήμων γένῃ
as also you not now towards me fair-seeming be

λέγειν τε δεινός· ἓν γὰρ ἐκτενεῖ σ᾽ ἔπος.
to-speak and clever one for will-lay-out you word

χρῆν σ᾽, εἴπερ ἦσθα μὴ κακός, πείσαντά με
it-was-needed you if-indeed you-were not bad having-persuaded me

γαμεῖν γάμον τόνδ᾽, ἀλλὰ μὴ σιγῇ φίλων.
to-marry marriage this but not in-silence from-friends

ΙΑΣΩΝ καλῶς γ᾽ ἄν, οἶμαι, τῷδ᾽ ὑπηρέτεις λόγῳ,
well at-least — I-think to-this you-would-have-served word

εἴ σοι γάμον κατεῖπον, ἥτις οὐδὲ νῦν
if to-you marriage I-had-declared who not-even now

τολμᾷς μεθεῖναι καρδίας μέγαν χόλον·
dare to-let-go of-heart great anger

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ οὐ τοῦτό σ᾽ εἶχεν, ἀλλὰ βάρβαρον λέχος
not this you held but barbarian bed

πρὸς γῆρας οὐκ εὔδοξον ἐξέβαινέ σοι.
towards old-age not reputable was-turning-out for-you

ΙΑΣΩΝ εὖ νυν τόδ' ἴσθι, μὴ γυναικὸς εἵνεκα
well now this know not of-a-woman for-the-sake
γῆμαί με λέκτρα βασιλέων ἃ νῦν ἔχω,
to-have-married me bed of-kings which now I-hold
595 ἀλλ', ὥσπερ εἶπον καὶ πάρος, σῶσαι θέλων
but as I-said also before to-save wishing
σέ, καὶ τέκνοισι τοῖς ἐμοῖς ὁμοσπόρους
you and to-children — my of-the-same-seed
φῦσαι τυράννους παῖδας, ἔρυμα δώμασι.
to-beget royal children bulwark for-the-house
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ μή μοι γένοιτο λυπρὸς εὐδαίμων βίος
not to-me may-it-be painful prosperous life
μηδ' ὄλβος ὅστις τὴν ἐμὴν κνίζοι φρένα.
nor wealth which — my should-gall mind
600 ΙΑΣΩΝ οἶσθ' ὡς μετεύξει καὶ σοφωτέρα φανεῖ;
do-you-know how you-will-pray-otherwise and wiser you-will-appear
τὰ χρηστὰ μή σοι λυπρὰ φαινέσθω ποτε,
the good not to-you painful let-appear ever
μηδ' εὐτυχοῦσα δυστυχὴς εἶναι δόκει.
nor being-fortunate unfortunate to-be seem
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ὕβριζ', ἐπειδὴ σοὶ μὲν ἔστ' ἀποστροφή,
insult since to-you indeed is refuge
ἐγὼ δ' ἔρημος τήνδε φευξοῦμαι χθόνα.
I and alone this will-flee land
605 ΙΑΣΩΝ αὐτὴ τάδ' εἵλου· μηδέν' ἄλλον αἰτιῶ.
yourself this you-chose no-one other blame
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ τί δρῶσα; μῶν γαμοῦσα καὶ προδοῦσά σε;
what doing surely-not marrying and having-betrayed you
ΙΑΣΩΝ ἀρὰς τυράννοις ἀνοσίους ἀρωμένη.
curses on-tyrants unholy cursing

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ καὶ σοῖς ἀραία γ' οὖσα τυγχάνω δόμοις.
and to-your a-curse at-least being I-happen-to-be house

ΙΑΣΩΝ ὡς οὐ κρινοῦμαι τῶνδέ σοι τὰ πλείονα.
since not I-will-dispute of-these with-you the more

ἀλλ' εἴ τι βούλει παισὶν ἢ σαυτῆς φυγῇ
but if anything you-wish for-children or your-own for-exile

προσωφέλημα χρημάτων ἐμῶν λαβεῖν,
as-aid of-money my to-take

λέγ'· ὡς ἕτοιμος ἀφθόνῳ δοῦναι χερὶ
speak since ready with-ungrudging to-give hand

ξένοις τε πέμπειν σύμβολ', οἳ δράσουσί σ' εὖ.
to-guest-friends and to-send tokens who will-do you well

καὶ ταῦτα μὴ θέλουσα μωρανεῖς, γύναι·
and these-things not wishing you-will-be-foolish woman

λήξασα δ' ὀργῆς κερδανεῖς ἀμείνονα.
ceasing and from-anger you-will-gain better

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ οὔτ' ἂν ξένοισι τοῖσι σοῖς χρησαίμεθ' ἄν,
neither — guest-friends — your we-would-use —

οὔτ' ἄν τι δεξαίμεσθα, μήθ' ἡμῖν δίδου·
nor — anything we-would-accept nor to-us give

κακοῦ γὰρ ἀνδρὸς δῶρ' ὄνησιν οὐκ ἔχει.
of-bad for man gifts benefit not have

ΙΑΣΩΝ ἀλλ' οὖν ἐγὼ μὲν δαίμονας μαρτύρομαι,
but then I indeed the-gods call-to-witness

ὡς πάνθ' ὑπουργεῖν σοί τε καὶ τέκνοις θέλω·
that all-things to-serve you both and children I-wish

σοὶ δ' οὐκ ἀρέσκει τἀγάθ', ἀλλ' αὐθαδίᾳ
to-you and not is-pleasing the-good but by-stubbornness

φίλους ἀπωθεῖ· τοιγὰρ ἀλγυνεῖ πλέον·
friends you-thrust-away therefore you-will-grieve more

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ χώρει· πόθῳ γὰρ τῆς νεοδμήτου κόρης
go by-longing for for-the newly-tamed girl
αἱρεῖ χρονίζων δωμάτων ἐξώπιος·
you-are-seized lingering from-the-house outside
νύμφευ'· ἴσως γάρ, σὺν θεῷ δ' εἰρήσεται,
play-the-bridegroom perhaps for with god and it-will-be-said
γαμεῖς τοιοῦτον ὥστε σ' ἀρνεῖσθαι γάμον.
you-marry such that you to-renounce marriage

VI · LOVE BEYOND MEASURE

The chorus prays that Cypris may come in moderation, never sending desire beyond measure or loosing her golden arrows at them, and that self-control, the gods' best gift, may guard them from quarrels over other beds. They pray never to be without a city, the worst of sorrows, and pity Medea, whom no city and no friend has pitied, cursing the man who cannot honor his friends.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔρωτες ὑπὲρ μὲν ἄγαν
loves beyond indeed measure
ἐλθόντες οὐκ εὐδοξίαν
having-come not good-repute
οὐδ' ἀρετὰν παρέδωκαν
nor virtue gave
ἀνδράσιν· εἰ δ' ἅλις ἔλθοι
to-men if but enough should-come
Κύπρις, οὐκ ἄλλα θεὸς εὔχαρις οὕτως.
Cypris not other goddess gracious so
μήποτ', ὦ δέσποιν', ἐπ' ἐμοὶ
never O mistress at me
χρυσέων τόξων ἐφείης
from-golden bow may-you-launch

ἱμέρῳ χρίσασ᾽ ἄφυκτον οἰστόν.
with-desire having-anointed inescapable arrow
στέγοι δέ με σωφροσύνα,
may-shelter and me self-control
δώρημα κάλλιστον θεῶν·
gift fairest of-gods
μηδέ ποτ᾽ ἀμφιλόγους ὀρ-
nor ever contentious angers
γὰς ἀκόρεστά τε νείκη
— insatiate and quarrels
θυμὸν ἐκπλήξασ᾽ ἑτέροις ἐπὶ λέκτροις
heart having-stricken other upon beds
προσβάλοι δεινὰ Κύπρις, ἀ-
may-she-cast terrible Cypris warless
πτολέμους δ᾽ εὐνὰς σεβίζουσ᾽
— and couplings honoring
ὀξύφρων κρίνοι λέχη γυναικῶν.
sharp-minded may-she-judge beds of-women
ὦ πατρίς, ὦ δώματα, μὴ
O fatherland O house not
δῆτ᾽ ἄπολις γενοίμαν
indeed cityless may-I-become
τὸν ἀμηχανίας ἔχουσα
the of-helplessness having
δυσπέρατον αἰῶν᾽,
hard-to-pass life
οἰκτροτάτων ἀχέων.
most-pitiable of-sorrows
θανάτῳ θανάτῳ πάρος δαμείην
by-death by-death first may-I-be-subdued

ἁμέραν τάνδ' ἐξανύσασα· μό-
day this having-accomplished of-toils
χθων δ' οὐκ ἄλλος ὕπερθεν ἢ
— and not other above than
γᾶς πατρίας στέρεσθαι.
of-land ancestral to-be-deprived
εἴδομεν, οὐκ ἐξ ἑτέρων
we-have-seen not from others
μῦθον ἔχω φράσασθαι·
story I-have to-tell
σὲ γὰρ οὐ πόλις, οὐ φίλων τις
you for not city not of-friends anyone
ᾤκτισεν παθοῦσαν
pitied having-suffered
δεινότατον παθέων.
most-terrible of-sufferings
ἀχάριστος ὄλοιθ' ὅτῳ πάρεστι
thankless may-he-perish to-whom it-is-possible
μὴ φίλους τιμᾶν καθαρὰν ἀνοί-
not friends to-honor pure having-opened
ξαντα κλῆδα φρενῶν· ἐμοὶ
— key of-mind to-me
μὲν φίλος οὔποτ' ἔσται.
indeed friend never will-be

Aegeus, son of Pandion, passes on his way from Delphi with a riddling oracle about his childlessness. Medea tells him of Jason's desertion and her exile and begs him to receive her, promising drugs that will give him children. He swears by Earth and Helios to shelter her. Alone, she reveals her plan: poisoned gifts for the bride, then the death of her own children. The chorus begs her to spare them, and she sends for Jason.

ΑΙΓΕΤΣ Μήδεια, χαῖρε· τοῦδε γὰρ προοίμιον
Medea hail of-this for prelude
κάλλιον οὐδεὶς οἶδε προσφωνεῖν φίλους.
fairer no-one knows to-address friends
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ὦ χαῖρε καὶ σύ, παῖ σοφοῦ Πανδίονος,
O hail also you child of-wise Pandion
Αἰγεῦ. πόθεν γῆς τῆσδ' ἐπιστρωφᾷ πέδον;
Aegeus whence of-land this do-you-visit ground
ΑΙΓΕΤΣ Φοίβου παλαιὸν ἐκλιπὼν χρηστήριον.
of-Phoebus ancient having-left oracle
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ τί δ' ὀμφαλὸν γῆς θεσπιῳδὸν ἐστάλης;
why and to-the-navel of-the-earth prophetic were-you-sent
ΑΙΓΕΤΣ παίδων ἐρευνῶν σπέρμ' ὅπως γένοιτό μοι.
of-children seeking seed how might-be for-me
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ πρὸς θεῶν, ἄπαις γὰρ δεῦρ' ἀεὶ τείνεις βίον;
by the-gods childless for here still do-you-stretch life
ΑΙΓΕΤΣ ἄπαιδές ἐσμεν δαίμονός τινος τύχῃ.
childless we-are of-god some by-fortune
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ δάμαρτος οὔσης, ἢ λέχους ἄπειρος ὤν;
wife being or of-bed inexperienced being
ΑΙΓΕΤΣ οὐκ ἐσμὲν εὐνῆς ἄζυγες γαμηλίου.
not we-are of-bed unyoked marriage

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ τί δῆτα Φοῖβος εἶπέ σοι παίδων πέρι;
what then Phoebus said to-you of-children about

675 ΑΙΓΕΥΣ σοφώτερ᾽ ἢ κατ᾽ ἄνδρα συμβαλεῖν ἔπη.
wiser than for man to-interpret words

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ θέμις μὲν ἡμᾶς χρησμὸν εἰδέναι θεοῦ;
lawful indeed us oracle to-know of-the-god

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ μάλιστ᾽, ἐπεί τοι καὶ σοφῆς δεῖται φρενός.
most since surely also wise needs mind

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ τί δῆτ᾽ ἔχρησε; λέξον, εἰ θέμις κλύειν.
what then did-he-prophesy say if lawful to-hear

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ ἀσκοῦ με τὸν προύχοντα μὴ λῦσαι πόδα,
of-the-wineskin me the projecting not to-loose foot

680 ΜΗΔΕΙΑ πρὶν ἂν τί δράσῃς ἢ τίν᾽ ἐξίκῃ χθόνα;
before — what you-do or what you-reach land

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ πρὶν ἂν πατρῴαν αὖθις ἑστίαν μόλω.
before — ancestral again hearth I-come

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ σὺ δ᾽ ὡς τί χρῄζων τήνδε ναυστολεῖς χθόνα;
you and as what needing to-this do-you-sail land

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ Πιτθεύς τις ἔστι, γῆς ἄναξ Τροιζηνίας.
Pittheus a-certain is of-land king Troezenian

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ παῖς, ὡς λέγουσι, Πέλοπος, εὐσεβέστατος.
son as they-say of-Pelops most-pious

685 ΑΙΓΕΥΣ τούτῳ θεοῦ μάντευμα κοινῶσαι θέλω.
to-him of-the-god oracle to-share I-wish

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ σοφὸς γὰρ ἀνὴρ καὶ τρίβων τὰ τοιάδε.
wise for the-man and practiced in-the such-things

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ κἀμοί γε πάντων φίλτατος δορυξένων.
and-to-me at-least of-all dearest of-spear-friends

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ἀλλ᾽ εὐτυχοίης καὶ τύχοις ὅσων ἐρᾷς.
but may-you-prosper and may-you-obtain what you-desire

ΑΙΓΕΤΣ τί γὰρ σὸν ὄμμα χρώς τε συντέτηχ᾽ ὅδε;
why for your eye skin and has-wasted this

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ Αἰγεῦ, κάκιστος ἔστι μοι πάντων πόσις. 690
Aegeus worst is to-me of-all husband

ΑΙΓΕΤΣ τί φής; σαφῶς μοι σὰς φράσον δυσθυμίας.
what do-you-say clearly to-me your tell distresses

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ἀδικεῖ μ᾽ Ἰάσων οὐδὲν ἐξ ἐμοῦ παθών.
wrongs me Jason nothing from me having-suffered

ΑΙΓΕΤΣ τί χρῆμα δράσας; φράζε μοι σαφέστερον.
what thing having-done tell me more-clearly

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ γυναῖκ᾽ ἐφ᾽ ἡμῖν δεσπότιν δόμων ἔχει.
wife over us mistress of-the-house he-has

ΑΙΓΕΤΣ ἦ που τετόλμηκ᾽ ἔργον αἴσχιστον τόδε; 695
— surely he-has-dared deed most-shameful this

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ σάφ᾽ ἴσθ᾽· ἄτιμοι δ᾽ ἐσμὲν οἱ πρὸ τοῦ φίλοι.
clearly know dishonored and we-are the before this dear

ΑΙΓΕΤΣ πότερον ἐρασθείς, ἢ σὸν ἐχθαίρων λέχος;
whether having-fallen-in-love or your hating bed

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ μέγαν γ᾽ ἔρωτα· πιστὸς οὐκ ἔφυ φίλοις.
great at-least love faithful not he-is to-friends

ΑΙΓΕΤΣ ἴτω νυν, εἴπερ ὡς λέγεις ἐστὶν κακός.
let-him-go then if-indeed as you-say he-is bad

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ἀνδρῶν τυράννων κῆδος ἠράσθη λαβεῖν. 700
of-men royal alliance he-desired to-take

ΑΙΓΕΤΣ δίδωσι δ᾽ αὐτῷ τίς; πέραινέ μοι λόγον.
gives and to-him who finish for-me story

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ Κρέων, ὃς ἄρχει τῆσδε γῆς Κορινθίας.
Creon who rules of-this land Corinthian

ΑΙΓΕΤΣ συγγνωστὰ μὲν τἄρ᾽ ἦν σε λυπεῖσθαι, γύναι.
pardonable indeed then it-was you to-grieve woman

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ὄλωλα· καὶ πρός γ' ἐξελαύνομαι χθονός.
I-am-ruined and besides at-least I-am-driven from-the-land

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ πρὸς τοῦ; τόδ' ἄλλο καινὸν αὖ λέγεις κακόν.
by whom this other new again you-tell evil

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ Κρέων μ' ἐλαύνει φυγάδα γῆς Κορινθίας.
Creon me drives exile from-land Corinthian

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ ἐᾷ δ' Ἰάσων; οὐδὲ ταῦτ' ἐπῄνεσα.
allows and Jason nor these-things I-approved

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ λόγῳ μὲν οὐχί, καρτερεῖν δὲ βούλεται.
in-word indeed not to-bear-it but he-wishes

ἀλλ' ἄντομαί σε τῆσδε πρὸς γενειάδος
but I-entreat you this by beard

γονάτων τε τῶν σῶν ἱκεσία τε γίγνομαι,
knees and — your suppliant and I-become

οἴκτειρον οἴκτειρόν με τὴν δυσδαίμονα,
pity pity me the ill-fated

καὶ μή μ' ἔρημον ἐκπεσοῦσαν εἰσίδῃς,
and not me desolate falling-out see

δέξαι δὲ χώρᾳ καὶ δόμοις ἐφέστιον.
receive and in-land and in-house at-your-hearth

οὕτως ἔρως σοὶ πρὸς θεῶν τελεσφόρος
so love for-you by the-gods fulfilled

γένοιτο παίδων, καὐτὸς ὄλβιος θάνοις.
may-be of-children and-yourself happy may-you-die

εὕρημα δ' οὐκ οἶσθ' οἷον ηὕρηκας τόδε·
the-find and not you-know what-a you-have-found this

παύσω δέ σ' ὄντ' ἄπαιδα καὶ παίδων γονὰς
I-will-stop and you being childless and of-children births

σπεῖραί σε θήσω· τοιάδ' οἶδα φάρμακα.
to-sow you I-will-make such I-know drugs

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ πολλῶν ἕκατι τήνδε σοι δοῦναι χάριν,
of-many for-the-sake this to-you to-grant favor
γύναι, πρόθυμός εἰμι, πρῶτα μὲν θεῶν,
woman eager I-am first indeed of-the-gods
ἔπειτα παίδων ὧν ἐπαγγέλλει γονάς·
then of-children whose you-promise births
εἰς τοῦτο γὰρ δὴ φροῦδός εἰμι πᾶς ἐγώ.
to this for indeed gone am wholly I
τόσον γε μέντοι σοι προσημαίνω, γύναι·
so-much at-least however to-you I-signify woman
ἐκ τῆσδε μὲν γῆς οὔ σ' ἄγειν βουλήσομαι·
from this indeed land not you to-take I-shall-wish
αὐτὴ δ' ἐάνπερ εἰς ἐμοὺς ἔλθῃς δόμους,
yourself but if-indeed to my you-come house
μενεῖς ἄσυλος κοὔ σε μὴ μεθῶ τινι.
you-will-remain inviolable and-never you — I-will-give-up to-anyone
ἐκ τῆσδε δ' αὐτὴ γῆς ἀπαλλάσσου πόδα·
from this and yourself land remove foot
ἀναίτιος γὰρ καὶ ξένοις εἶναι θέλω.
blameless for also to-guest-friends to-be I-wish
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ἔσται τάδ'· ἀλλὰ πίστις εἰ γένοιτό μοι
it-shall-be so but a-pledge if should-be for-me
τούτων, ἔχοιμ' ἂν πάντα πρὸς σέθεν καλῶς.
of-these I-would-have — all from you well
ΑΙΓΕΥΣ μῶν οὐ πέποιθας; ἢ τί σοι τὸ δυσχερές;
surely-not not do-you-trust or what to-you the difficulty
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ πέποιθα· Πελίου δ' ἐχθρός ἐστί μοι δόμος
I-trust of-Pelias but hostile is to-me house
Κρέων τε· τούτοις δ', ὁρκίοισι μὲν ζυγείς,
Creon and to-these and by-oaths indeed yoked

ἄγουσιν οὐ μεθεῖ' ἂν ἐκ γαίας ἐμέ·
taking not would-let-go — from the-land me
λόγοις δὲ συμβάς, καὶ θεῶν ἀνώμοτος,
with-words and having-agreed and by-gods unsworn
φίλος γένοι' ἂν κἀπικηρυκεύμασι
friend you-would-become — and-to-heraldings
τάχ' ἂν πίθοιο· τἀμὰ μὲν γὰρ ἀσθενῆ,
perhaps — you-would-obey my indeed for weak
τοῖς δ' ὄλβος ἔστι καὶ δόμος τυραννικός.
to-them and wealth is and house royal
ΑΙΓΕΥΣ πολλὴν ἔλεξας ἐν λόγοις προμηθίαν·
much you-have-spoken in words forethought
ἀλλ' εἰ δοκεῖ σοι, δρᾶν τάδ' οὐκ ἀφίσταμαι.
but if it-seems to-you to-do these-things not I-stand-aloof
ἐμοί τε γὰρ τάδ' ἐστὶν ἀσφαλέστατα,
to-me and for this is safest
σκῆψίν τιν' ἐχθροῖς σοῖς ἔχοντα δεικνύναι,
excuse some to-enemies your having to-show
τὸ σόν τ' ἄραρε μᾶλλον· ἐξηγοῦ θεούς.
— yours and stands-firm more name the-gods
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ὄμνυ πέδον Γῆς πατέρα θ' Ἥλιον πατρὸς
swear by-plain of-Earth father and Helios of-father
τοὐμοῦ, θεῶν τε συντιθεὶς ἅπαν γένος.
my of-gods and adding all race
ΑΙΓΕΥΣ τί χρῆμα δράσειν ἢ τί μὴ δράσειν; λέγε.
what thing to-do or what not to-do say
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ μήτ' αὐτὸς ἐκ γῆς σῆς ἔμ' ἐκβαλεῖν ποτε,
neither yourself from land your me to-cast-out ever
μήτ' ἄλλος ἤν τις τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν ἄγειν
nor another if anyone — of-my enemies to-take

χρῄζῃ, μεθήσειν ζῶν ἑκουσίῳ τρόπῳ.
should-wish to-let-go living by-willing way

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ ὄμνυμι Γαῖαν Ἥλίου θ' ἁγνὸν σέβας
I-swear by-Earth of-Helios and holy majesty

θεούς τε πάντας ἐμμενεῖν ἃ σου κλύω.
gods and all to-abide-by what from-you I-hear

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ἀρκεῖ· τί δ' ὅρκῳ τῷδε μὴ 'μμένων πάθοις;
it-suffices what and to-oath this not abiding may-you-suffer

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ ἃ τοῖσι δυσσεβοῦσι γίγνεται βροτῶν. 755
what to-the impious happens of-mortals

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ χαίρων πορεύου· πάντα γὰρ καλῶς ἔχει.
rejoicing go all for well is

κἀγὼ πόλιν σὴν ὡς τάχιστ' ἀφίξομαι,
and-I city your as quickly-as-possible will-reach

πράξασ' ἃ μέλλω καὶ τυχοῦσ' ἃ βούλομαι.
having-done what I-intend and having-obtained what I-wish

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλά σ' ὁ Μαίας πομπαῖος ἄναξ
but you the of-Maia escorting lord

πελάσειε δόμοις, ὧν τ' ἐπίνοιαν 760
may-he-bring to-the-house of-what and the-design

σπεύδεις κατέχων πράξειας, ἐπεὶ
you-basten holding may-you-accomplish since

γενναῖος ἀνήρ,
noble man

Αἰγεῦ, παρ' ἐμοὶ δεδόκησαι.
Aegeus by me you-are-held

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ὦ Ζεῦ Δίκη τε Ζηνὸς Ἡλίου τε φῶς,
O Zeus Justice and of-Zeus of-Helios and light

νῦν καλλίνικοι τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν, φίλαι, 765
now gloriously-victorious — over-my enemies friends

γενησόμεσθα κεἰς ὁδὸν βεβήκαμεν·
we-shall-be and-on road we-have-set-out
νῦν ἐλπὶς ἐχθροὺς τοὺς ἐμοὺς τίσειν δίκην.
now hope enemies — my to-pay justice
οὗτος γὰρ ἀνὴρ ᾗ μάλιστ' ἐκάμνομεν
this for the-man where most we-were-distressed
λιμὴν πέφανται τῶν ἐμῶν βουλευμάτων·
harbor has-appeared — of-my plans
ἐκ τοῦδ' ἀναψόμεσθα πρυμνήτην κάλων,
from this we-shall-fasten stern rope
μολόντες ἄστυ καὶ πόλισμα Παλλάδος.
having-come to-town and citadel of-Pallas
ἤδη δὲ πάντα τἀμά σοι βουλεύματα
now and all my to-you plans
λέξω· δέχου δὲ μὴ πρὸς ἡδονὴν λόγους.
I-will-tell receive and not for pleasure words
πέμψασ' ἐμῶν τιν' οἰκετῶν Ἰάσονα
having-sent of-my one servants Jason
εἰς ὄψιν ἐλθεῖν τὴν ἐμὴν αἰτήσομαι·
to sight to-come — my I-will-ask
μολόντι δ' αὐτῷ μαλθακοὺς λέξω λόγους,
having-come and to-him soft I-will-speak words
ὡς καὶ δοκεῖ μοι ταῦτα, καὶ καλῶς ἔχει·
that also it-seems to-me these-things and well is
γάμους τυράννων οὓς προδοὺς ἡμᾶς ἔχει
marriage of-tyrants which having-betrayed us he-has
καὶ ξύμφορ' εἶναι καὶ καλῶς ἐγνωσμένα.
and advantageous to-be and well judged
παῖδας δὲ μεῖναι τοὺς ἐμοὺς αἰτήσομαι,
children and to-remain — my I-will-ask

οὐχ ὡς λίπω σφε πολεμίας ἐπὶ χθονὸς
not that I-may-leave them hostile on land
ἐχθροῖσι παῖδας τοὺς ἐμοὺς καθυβρίσαι,
to-enemies children — my to-outrage
ἀλλ' ὡς δόλοισι παῖδα βασιλέως κτάνω.
but that by-wiles child of-the-king I-may-kill
πέμψω γὰρ αὐτοὺς δῶρ' ἔχοντας ἐν χεροῖν,
I-will-send for them gifts having in hands
νύμφῃ φέροντας, τήνδε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα,
to-the-bride carrying this not to-flee land
λεπτόν τε πέπλον καὶ πλόκον χρυσήλατον·
fine and robe and wreath gold-wrought
κἄνπερ λαβοῦσα κόσμον ἀμφιθῇ χροΐ,
and-if having-taken the-finery she-puts-on about-her-skin
κακῶς ὀλεῖται πᾶς θ' ὃς ἂν θίγῃ κόρης·
miserably she-will-perish all and who — touches the-girl
τοιοῖσδε χρίσω φαρμάκοις δωρήματα.
with-such I-will-anoint drugs the-gifts
ἐνταῦθα μὲν δὴ τόνδ' ἀπαλλάσσω λόγον·
here indeed indeed this I-leave word
ὤμωξα δ' οἷον ἔργον ἔστ' ἐργαστέον
I-groaned and what-a deed it-is to-be-done
τοὐντεῦθεν ἡμῖν· τέκνα γὰρ κατακτενῶ
thereafter by-us children for I-will-kill
τἄμ'· οὔτις ἔστιν ὅστις ἐξαιρήσεται·
my no-one is who will-rescue
δόμον τε πάντα συγχέας' Ἰάσονος
house and all having-overthrown of-Jason
ἔξειμι γαίας, φιλτάτων παίδων φόνον
I-will-leave the-land of-dearest children murder

φεύγουσα καὶ τλᾶσ᾽ ἔργον ἀνοσιώτατον.
fleeing and having-dared deed most-unholy
οὐ γὰρ γελᾶσθαι τλητὸν ἐξ ἐχθρῶν, φίλαι.
not for to-be-laughed-at endurable by enemies friends
ἴτω· τί μοι ζῆν κέρδος; οὔτε μοι πατρὶς
let-it-go what to-me to-live gain neither to-me fatherland
οὔτ᾽ οἶκος ἔστιν οὔτ᾽ ἀποστροφὴ κακῶν.
nor house is nor refuge from-evils
ἡμάρτανον τόθ᾽ ἡνίκ᾽ ἐξελίμπανον
I-erred then when I-was-leaving
δόμους πατρῴους, ἀνδρὸς Ἕλληνος λόγοις
house ancestral of-a-man Greek by-words
πεισθεῖσ᾽, ὃς ἡμῖν σὺν θεῷ τίσει δίκην.
persuaded who to-us with god will-pay justice
οὔτ᾽ ἐξ ἐμοῦ γὰρ παῖδας ὄψεταί ποτε
neither from me for children he-will-see ever
ζῶντας τὸ λοιπὸν οὔτε τῆς νεοζύγου
living the future nor of-the newly-yoked
νύμφης τεκνώσει παῖδ᾽, ἐπεὶ κακὴν κακῶς
bride he-will-beget child since bad badly
θανεῖν σφ᾽ ἀνάγκη τοῖς ἐμοῖσι φαρμάκοις.
to-die her necessity — by-my drugs
μηδείς με φαύλην κἀσθενῆ νομιζέτω
let-no-one me weak and-feeble think
μηδ᾽ ἡσυχαίαν, ἀλλὰ θατέρου τρόπου,
nor quiet but of-the-other way
βαρεῖαν ἐχθροῖς καὶ φίλοισιν εὐμενῆ·
heavy to-enemies and to-friends kindly
τῶν γὰρ τοιούτων εὐκλεέστατος βίος.
of-the for such most-glorious life

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐπείπερ ἡμῖν τόνδ' ἐκοίνωσας λόγον,
since to-us this you-have-shared word
σέ τ' ὠφελεῖν θέλουσα, καὶ νόμοις βροτῶν
you and to-help wishing and with-laws of-mortals
ξυλλαμβάνουσα, δρᾶν σ' ἀπεννέπω τάδε.
siding to-do you I-forbid these-things
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλως· σοὶ δὲ συγγνώμη λέγειν
not it-is otherwise to-you but pardon to-speak
τάδ' ἐστί, μὴ πάσχουσαν ὡς ἐγὼ κακῶς. 815
these-things is not suffering as I badly
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλὰ κτανεῖν σὼ παῖδε τολμήσεις, γύναι;
but to-kill your-two children will-you-dare woman
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ οὕτω γὰρ ἂν μάλιστα δηχθείη πόσις.
thus for — most would-be-stung husband
ΧΟΡΟΣ σὺ δ' ἂν γένοιό γ' ἀθλιωτάτη γυνή.
you but — would-become at-least most-wretched woman
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ἴτω· περισσοὶ πάντες οὖν μέσῳ λόγοι.
let-it-go superfluous all the-in middle words
ἀλλ' εἶα χώρει καὶ κόμιζ' Ἰάσονα· 820
but come go and fetch Jason
εἰς πάντα γὰρ δὴ σοὶ τὰ πιστὰ χρώμεθα.
in all for indeed you for-the trusty(-things) we-use
λέξῃς δὲ μηδὲν τῶν ἐμοὶ δεδογμένων,
tell and nothing of-the by-me resolved
εἴπερ φρονεῖς εὖ δεσπόταις γυνή τ' ἔφυς.
if-indeed you-think well to-masters woman and you-are

The chorus praises Athens: the descendants of Erechtheus, blessed of old, walk in the clearest air where golden Harmonia bore the nine Muses, and Cypris, drawing water from the Cephisus, breathes gentle winds over the land and sends the Loves to sit beside Wisdom. How will that holy city receive a woman who kills her children? They beg Medea by her knees not to do it, asking how she will look on her children dry-eyed.

ΧΟΡΟΣ Ἐρεχθεΐδαι τὸ παλαιὸν ὄλβιοι
Erechtheus'-sons from-the old(-time) blessed
καὶ θεῶν παῖδες μακάρων, ἱερᾶς
and of-gods children blessed holy
χώρας ἀπορθήτου τ' ἀποφερβόμενοι
land unsacked and feeding-on
κλεινοτάταν σοφίαν, ἀεὶ διὰ λαμπροτάτου
most-glorious wisdom always through brightest
βαίνοντες ἁβρῶς αἰθέρος, ἔνθα ποθ' ἁγνὰς
stepping delicately air where once holy
ἐννέα Πιερίδας Μούσας λέγουσι
nine Pierian Muses they-say
ξανθὰν Ἁρμονίαν φυτεῦσαι·
golden Harmonia to-have-borne
τοῦ καλλινάου τ' ἀπὸ Κηφισοῦ ῥοὰς
the fair-flowing and from Cephisus streams
τὰν Κύπριν κλήζουσιν ἀφυσσαμέναν
— Cypris they-celebrate having-drawn
χώραν καταπνεῦσαι μετρίας ἀνέμων αὔρας·
over-the-land to-have-breathed moderate of-winds breezes
ἀεὶ δ' ἐπιβαλλομέναν
always and putting-on

χαίταισιν εὐώδη ῥοδέων πλόκον ἀνθέων
on-her-hair fragrant rosy wreath of-flowers
τᾷ σοφίᾳ παρέδρους πέμπειν ἔρωτας,
to-the wisdom as-companions to-send loves
παντοίας ἀρετᾶς ξυνεργούς.
of-every-kind virtue fellow-workers
πῶς οὖν ἱερῶν ποταμῶν
how then of-holy rivers
ἢ πόλις ἢ φίλων
or city or of-friends
πόμπιμός σε χώρα
escorting you land
τὰν παιδολέτειραν ἕξει,
the child-killer will-hold
τὰν οὐχ ὁσίαν μετ᾽ ἄλλων;
the not holy among others
σκέψαι τεκέων πλαγάν,
consider of-children the-blow
σκέψαι φόνον οἷον αἴρει.
consider murder what you-take-on
μή, πρὸς γονάτων σε πάντως
not by knees you by-all-means
πάντη σ᾽ ἱκετεύομεν,
in-every-way you we-beseech
τέκνα φονεύσῃς.
children you-murder
πόθεν θράσος †ἢ φρενὸς ἢ
whence boldness (corrupt)-or of-mind or
χειρὶ τέκνοις σέθεν
with-hand for-children your

καρδίᾳ τε λήψει,†
in-heart and will-you-take(corrupt)
δεινὰν προσάγουσα τόλμαν;
terrible bringing daring
πῶς δ' ὄμματα προσβαλοῦσα
how and eyes casting
τέκνοις ἄδακρυν μοῖραν
on-children tearless fate
σχήσεις φόνου; οὐ δυνάσει,
will-you-hold of-murder not you-will-be-able
παίδων ἱκετᾶν πιτνόντων,
children suppliants falling
τέγξαι χέρα φοινίαν
to-dye hand bloody
τλάμονι θυμῷ.
with-enduring heart

IX · THE GIFTS

Medea summons Jason and pretends to repent: she was foolish to rage against a marriage that serves them all. She calls out the children to embrace their father, weeping as she thinks of what she plans. Jason praises her change of heart. She asks that the boys be spared exile, and to win the princess over sends them with a fine robe and a golden wreath, an heirloom from the Sun, her father's father.

ΙΑΣΩΝ ἥκω κελευσθείς· καὶ γὰρ οὖσα δυσμενὴς
I-come having-been-summoned even for being hostile
οὔ τἂν ἁμάρτοις τοῦδέ γ', ἀλλ' ἀκούσομαι
not surely you-would-fail of-this at-least but I-will-hear
τί χρῆμα βούλει καινὸν ἐξ ἐμοῦ, γύναι.
what thing you-wish new from me woman

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ Ἰᾶσον, αἰτοῦμαί σε τῶν εἰρημένων
Jason I-ask you for-the-things said
συγγνώμον᾽ εἶναι· τὰς δ᾽ ἐμὰς ὀργὰς φέρειν
forgiving to-be — and my angers to-bear
εἰκός σ᾽, ἐπεὶ νῷν πόλλ᾽ ὑπείργασται φίλα.
fitting you since for-us-two many-things have-been-done loving
ἐγὼ δ᾽ ἐμαυτῇ διὰ λόγων ἀφικόμην,
I and with-myself into words came
κἀλοιδόρησα· σχετλία, τί μαίνομαι
and-reproached wretch why am-I-mad
καὶ δυσμεναίνω τοῖσι βουλεύουσιν εὖ,
and am-hostile to-those planning well
ἐχθρὰ δὲ γαίας κοιράνοις καθίσταμαι
hostile and of-the-land to-rulers do-I-make-myself
πόσει θ᾽, ὃς ἡμῖν δρᾷ τὰ συμφορώτατα,
to-husband and who for-us does the most-advantageous(-things)
γήμας τύραννον καὶ κασιγνήτους τέκνοις
marrying royalty and brothers for-children
ἐμοῖς φυτεύων; οὐκ ἀπαλλαχθήσομαι
my begetting not shall-I-be-rid
θυμοῦ; τί πάσχω, θεῶν ποριζόντων καλῶς;
of-anger what do-I-suffer the-gods providing well
οὐκ εἰσὶ μέν μοι παῖδες, οἶδα δὲ χθόνα
not are indeed to-me children I-know and land
φεύγοντας ἡμᾶς καὶ σπανίζοντας φίλων;
fleeing us and lacking friends
ταῦτ᾽ ἐννοήσασ᾽ ᾐσθόμην ἀβουλίαν
these-things having-considered I-perceived folly
πολλὴν ἔχουσα καὶ μάτην θυμουμένη.
much having and in-vain being-angry

νῦν οὖν ἐπαινῶ· σωφρονεῖν τέ μοι δοκεῖς
now then I-approve to-be-self-controlled and to-me you-seem
κῆδος τόδ' ἡμῖν προσλαβών, ἐγὼ δ' ἄφρων,
alliance this for-us having-taken I and foolish
ἦ χρῆν μετεῖναι τῶνδε τῶν βουλευμάτων,
who ought to-share in-these the plans
καὶ ξυμπεραίνειν καὶ παρεστάναι λέχει
and to-help-accomplish and to-stand-by the-bed
νύμφην τε κηδεύουσαν ἥδεσθαι σέθεν.
bride and tending to-take-pleasure in-you
ἀλλ' ἐσμὲν οἷόν ἐσμεν, οὐκ ἐρῶ κακόν,
but we-are what we-are not I-will-say bad
γυναῖκες· οὔκουν χρῆν σ' ὁμοιοῦσθαι κακοῖς,
women not-then ought you to-be-made-like the-bad
οὐδ' ἀντιτείνειν νήπι' ἀντὶ νηπίων.
nor to-oppose foolishness for foolishness
παριέμεσθα, καί φαμεν κακῶς φρονεῖν
we-give-way and we-say badly to-have-thought
τότ', ἀλλ' ἄμεινον νῦν βεβούλευμαι τόδε.
then but better now I-have-planned this
ὦ τέκνα τέκνα, δεῦτε, λείπετε στέγας,
O children children come leave the-house
ἐξέλθετ', ἀσπάσασθε καὶ προσείπατε
come-out greet and address
πατέρα μεθ' ἡμῶν, καὶ διαλλάχθηθ' ἅμα
father with us and be-reconciled together
τῆς πρόσθεν ἔχθρας εἰς φίλους μητρὸς μέτα·
from-the former enmity to friends mother with
σπονδαὶ γὰρ ἡμῖν καὶ μεθέστηκεν χόλος.
truce for for-us and has-departed anger

λάβεσθε χειρὸς δεξιᾶς· οἴμοι κακῶν.
take-hold of-hand right ah-me troubles

ὡς ἐννοοῦμαι δή τι τῶν κεκρυμμένων. 900
how I-think-of indeed something of-the hidden(-things)

ἆρ', ὦ τέκν', οὕτω καὶ πολὺν ζῶντες χρόνον
— O children thus also much living time

φίλην ὀρέξετ' ὠλένην; τάλαιν' ἐγώ,
dear will-you-stretch-out arm wretched I

ὡς ἀρτίδακρύς εἰμι καὶ φόβου πλέα.
how quick-to-tears I-am and of-fear full

χρόνῳ δὲ νεῖκος πατρὸς ἐξαιρουμένη
in-time and quarrel of-father taking-away

ὄψιν τέρειναν τήνδ' ἔπλησα δακρύων. 905
eye tender this I-have-filled with-tears

ΧΟΡΟΣ κἀμοὶ κατ' ὄσσων χλωρὸν ὡρμήθη δάκρυ·
and-to-me down eyes pale has-started tear

καὶ μὴ προβαίη μεῖζον ἢ τὸ νῦν κακόν.
and not may-it-advance greater than the now evil

ΙΑΣΩΝ αἰνῶ, γύναι, τάδ', οὐδ' ἐκεῖνα μέμφομαι·
I-approve woman these-things nor those-things I-blame

εἰκὸς γὰρ ὀργὰς θῆλυ ποιεῖσθαι γένος,
fitting for angers female to-make race

†γάμους παρεμπολῶντος ἀλλοίους, πόσει.† 910
(corrupt)-marriage smuggling-in other for-husband(corrupt)

ἀλλ' εἰς τὸ λῷον σὸν μεθέστηκεν κέαρ,
but to the better your has-changed heart

ἔγνως δὲ τὴν νικῶσαν ἀλλὰ τῷ χρόνῳ
you-have-recognized and the winning but in-the time

βουλήν· γυναικὸς ἔργα ταῦτα σώφρονος.
counsel of-a-woman deeds these self-controlled

ὑμῖν δέ, παῖδες, οὐκ ἀφροντίστως πατὴρ
for-you and children not without-thought father
πολλὴν ἔθηκε σὺν θεοῖς προμηθίαν.
much has-made with gods forethought
οἶμαι γὰρ ὑμᾶς τῆσδε γῆς Κορινθίας
I-think for you of-this land Corinthian
τὰ πρῶτ' ἔσεσθαι σὺν κασιγνήτοις ἔτι.
the first to-be with brothers still
ἀλλ' αὐξάνεσθε· τἄλλα δ' ἐξεργάζεται
but grow-up the-rest and works-out
πατήρ τε καὶ θεῶν ὅστις ἐστὶν εὐμενής·
father both and of-gods whoever is kindly
ἴδοιμι δ' ὑμᾶς εὐτραφεῖς ἥβης τέλος
may-I-see and you well-nurtured of-youth to-the-end
μολόντας, ἐχθρῶν τῶν ἐμῶν ὑπερτέρους.
having-come of-enemies — my superior
αὔτη, τί χλωροῖς δακρύοις τέγγεις κόρας,
you why with-pale tears wet eyes
στρέψασα λευκὴν ἔμπαλιν παρηίδα,
having-turned white back cheek
κοὐκ ἀσμένη τόνδ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ δέχει λόγον;
and-not gladly this from me do-you-receive word
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ οὐδέν· τέκνων τῶνδ' ἐννοουμένη πέρι.
nothing of-children these thinking about
ΙΑΣΩΝ θάρσει νυν· εὖ γὰρ τῶνδ' ἐγὼ θήσω πέρι.
take-heart now well for of-these I will-arrange about
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ δράσω τάδ'· οὔτοι σοῖς ἀπιστήσω λόγοις·
I-will-do this surely-not your I-will-distrust words
γυνὴ δὲ θῆλυ κἀπὶ δακρύοις ἔφυ.
woman and female and-at tears is-by-nature

ΙΑΣΩΝ τί δή, τάλαινα, τοῖσδ' ἐπιστένεις τέκνοις;
why indeed wretched over-these do-you-groan children
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ἔτικτον αὐτούς· ζῆν δ' ὅτ' ἐξηύχου τέκνα,
I-bore them to-live and when you-prayed children
εἰσῆλθέ μ' οἶκτος εἰ γενήσεται τάδε.
came-over me pity whether it-will-be so
ἀλλ' ὥνπερ εἵνεκ' εἰς ἐμοὺς ἥκεις λόγους,
but which(-very) for-the-sake to my you-come words
τὰ μὲν λέλεκται, τῶν δ' ἐγὼ μνησθήσομαι.
some indeed have-been-said of-others and I will-make-mention
ἐπεὶ τυράννοις γῆς μ' ἀποστεῖλαι δοκεῖ, —
since to-the-rulers of-the-land me to-send-away it-seems-good
κἀμοὶ τάδ' ἐστὶ λῷστα, γιγνώσκω καλῶς,
and-to-me this is best I-know well
μήτ' ἐμποδὼν σοὶ μήτε κοιράνοις χθονὸς
neither in-the-way for-you nor for-the-rulers of-the-land
ναίειν, δοκῶ γὰρ δυσμενὴς εἶναι δόμοις, —
to-dwell I-seem for hostile to-be to-the-house
ἡμεῖς μὲν ἐκ γῆς τῆσδ' ἀπαίρομεν φυγῇ,
we indeed from land this depart in-exile
παῖδες δ' ὅπως ἂν ἐκτραφῶσι σῇ χερί,
children but that — they-may-be-reared by-your hand
αἰτοῦ Κρέοντα τήνδε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα.
ask Creon this not to-flee land
ΙΑΣΩΝ οὐκ οἶδ' ἂν εἰ πείσαιμι, πειρᾶσθαι δὲ χρή.
not I-know — if I-would-persuade to-try but one-must
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ σὺ δ' ἀλλὰ σὴν κέλευσον αἰτεῖσθαι πατρὸς
you but at-least your bid to-ask father
γυναῖκα παῖδας τήνδε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα.
wife children this not to-flee land

ΙΑΣΩΝ μάλιστα, καὶ πείσειν γε δοξάζω σφ' ἐγώ.
certainly and to-persuade at-least I-think her I

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ εἴπερ γυναικῶν ἐστι τῶν ἄλλων μία.
if-indeed of-women she-is of-the other one

συλλήψομαι δὲ τοῦδέ σοι κἀγὼ πόνου·
I-will-help and in-this you and-I toil

πέμψω γὰρ αὐτῇ δῶρ' ἃ καλλιστεύεται
I-will-send for to-her gifts which are-fairest

τῶν νῦν ἐν ἀνθρώποισιν, οἶδ' ἐγώ, πολύ,
of-those now among men I-know I by-far

λεπτόν τε πέπλον καὶ πλόκον χρυσήλατον
fine and robe and wreath gold-wrought

παῖδας φέροντας. ἀλλ' ὅσον τάχος χρεὼν
children carrying but as-much-as quickly one-must

κόσμον κομίζειν δεῦρο προσπόλων τινά.
the-finery to-bring here of-servants some-one

εὐδαιμονήσει δ' οὐχ ἓν ἀλλὰ μυρία,
she-will-be-happy and not in-one but in-thousands

ἀνδρός τ' ἀρίστου σοῦ τυχοῦσ' ὁμευνέτου
of-a-man and best you having-won bedfellow

κεκτημένη τε κόσμον ὃν ποθ' Ἥλιος
possessing and finery which once Helios

πατρὸς πατὴρ δίδωσιν ἐκγόνοισιν οἷς.
of-father father gives to-descendants his

λάζυσθε φερνὰς τάσδε, παῖδες, εἰς χέρας
take dowry this children into hands

καὶ τῇ τυράννῳ μακαρίᾳ νύμφῃ δότε
and to-the royal blessed bride give

φέροντες· οὔτοι δῶρα μεμπτὰ δέξεται.
carrying surely-not gifts blameworthy she-will-receive

ΙΑΣΩΝ τί δ', ὦ ματαία, τῶνδε σὰς κενοῖς χέρας;
why and O foolish of-these your do-you-empty hands
δοκεῖς σπανίζειν δῶμα βασιλικὸν πέπλων,
do-you-think to-lack house royal of-robes
δοκεῖς δὲ χρυσοῦ; σῷζε, μὴ δίδου τάδε.
do-you-think and of-gold keep not give these-things
εἴπερ γὰρ ἡμᾶς ἀξιοῖ λόγου τινὸς
if-indeed for us she-values of-account some
γυνή, προθήσει χρημάτων, σάφ' οἶδ' ἐγώ.
the-woman she-will-prefer to-wealth clearly I-know I
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ μή μοι σύ· πείθειν δῶρα καὶ θεοὺς λόγος·
not to-me you to-persuade gifts even gods word
χρυσὸς δὲ κρείσσων μυρίων λόγων βροτοῖς·
gold and stronger than-thousands words for-mortals
κείνης ὁ δαίμων, κεῖνα νῦν αὔξει θεός·
hers the fortune those-things now increases the-god
νέα τυραννεῖ· τῶν δ' ἐμῶν παίδων φυγὰς
young she-reigns — and of-my children exile
ψυχῆς ἂν ἀλλαξαίμεθ', οὐ χρυσοῦ μόνον.
for-the-soul — we-would-exchange not for-gold only
ἀλλ', ὦ τέκν', εἰσελθόντε πλουσίους δόμους
but O children having-gone-into rich house
πατρὸς νέαν γυναῖκα, δεσπότιν δ' ἐμήν,
of-father new wife mistress and my
ἱκετεύετ', ἐξαιτεῖσθε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα,
beseech beg not to-flee land
κόσμον διδόντες — τοῦδε γὰρ μάλιστα δεῖ —
finery giving of-this for most is-needed
εἰς χεῖρ' ἐκείνην δῶρα δέξασθαι τάδε.
into hand her gifts to-receive these

ἴθ' ὡς τάχιστα· μητρὶ δ' ὧν ἐρᾷ τυχεῖν
go as quickly-as-possible to-mother and what she-loves to-obtain
εὐάγγελοι γένοισθε πράξαντες καλῶς.
bearers-of-good-news may-you-be having-fared well

X · NO MORE HOPE

The chorus sees no hope for the children's lives. The bride will take the golden headband and put on Hades' finery, and the robe's charm will lead her to the dead. They pity Jason, who unknowingly brings death on his sons and his wife, and Medea, who will murder her children because her husband has left her for another bed.

ΧΟΡΟΣ νῦν ἐλπίδες οὐκέτι μοι παίδων ζόας,
now hopes no-longer for-me of-children of-life
οὐκέτι· στείχουσι γὰρ ἐς φόνον ἤδη.
no-longer they-go for to murder already
δέξεται νύμφα χρυσέων ἀναδεσμῶν
will-receive the-bride of-golden headbands
δέξεται δύστανος ἄταν·
will-receive wretched ruin
ξανθᾷ δ' ἀμφὶ κόμᾳ θήσει τὸν Ἅιδα
golden and around hair she-will-set the of-Hades
κόσμον αὐτὰ χεροῖν.
adornment herself with-hands
πείσει χάρις ἀμβρόσιός τ' αὐγὰ πέπλον
will-persuade the-charm immortal and gleam robe
χρυσότευκτόν τε στέφανον περιθέσθαι·
gold-wrought and crown to-put-on
νερτέροις δ' ἤδη πάρα νυμφοκομήσει.
those-below and now beside she-will-be-dressed-as-a-bride

τοῖον εἰς ἔρκον πεσεῖται
such into net she-will-fall
καὶ μοῖραν θανάτου δύστανος· ἄταν δ'
and fate of-death wretched ruin and
οὐχ ὑπερφεύξεται.
not she-will-escape
σὺ δ', ὦ τάλαν, ὦ κακόνυμφε
you and O wretched O ill-wedded
κηδεμὼν τυράννων,
marriage-kin of-royalty
παισὶν οὐ κατειδὼς
for-children not knowing
ὄλεθρον βιοτᾷ προσάγεις, ἀλόχῳ
destruction to-their-life you-bring to-wife
τε σᾷ στυγερὸν θάνατον.
and your hateful death
δύστανε μοίρας, ὅσον παροίχει.
wretched of-fate how-far you-have-strayed
μεταστένομαι δὲ σὸν ἄλγος,
I-lament-in-turn and your pain
ὦ τάλαινα παίδων
O wretched of-children
μᾶτερ, ἃ φονεύσεις
mother who will-murder
τέκνα νυμφιδίων ἕνεκεν λεχέων,
children of-bridal for-the-sake bed
ἅ σοι προλιπὼν ἀνόμως
which you having-left lawlessly
ἄλλῃ ξυνοικεῖ πόσις συνεύνῳ.
with-another lives husband bed-fellow

The tutor reports the children's exile remitted, and Medea weeps. With her sons before her she wavers, giving up her plan and returning to it; her anger, she says, is stronger than her reason. The chorus sings that the childless are spared many griefs. A messenger tells how the robe and wreath burned the princess's flesh from her bones and how Creon, embracing her body, died with her. Medea goes in to kill the children.

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ δέσποιν', ἀφεῖνται παῖδες οἵδε σοὶ φυγῆς,
mistress are-released children these for-you from-exile
καὶ δῶρα νύμφη βασιλὶς ἀσμένη χεροῖν
and gifts the-bride princess gladly with-hands
ἐδέξατ'· εἰρήνη δὲ τἀκεῖθεν τέκνοις.
received peace and from-there for-the-children
ἔα.
ah
τί συγχυθεῖσ' ἔστηκας ἡνίκ' εὐτυχεῖς;
why confounded do-you-stand when you-are-fortunate
τί σὴν ἔστρεψας ἔμπαλιν παρηίδα,
why your have-you-turned back cheek
κοὐκ ἀσμένη τόνδ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ δέχει λόγον;
and-not gladly this from me do-you-receive word
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ αἰαῖ.
alas
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ τάδ' οὐ ξυνῳδὰ τοῖσιν ἐξηγγελμένοις.
these-things not in-tune with-the announced(-news)
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ αἰαῖ μάλ' αὖθις. ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ μῶν τιν' ἀγγέλλων τύχην
alas indeed once-more surely-not some announcing fortune
οὐκ οἶδα, δόξης δ' ἐσφάλην εὐαγγέλου;
not I-know of-opinion but I-was-cheated good-news

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ἤγγειλας οἵ᾽ ἤγγειλας· οὐ σὲ μέμφομαι.
you-announced what you-announced not you I-blame

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ τί δὴ κατηφεῖς ὄμμα καὶ δακρυρροεῖς;
why indeed do-you-cast-down eye and shed-tears

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ πολλή μ᾽ ἀνάγκη, πρέσβυ· ταῦτα γὰρ θεοὶ
great me necessity old-man these-things for the-gods
κἀγὼ κακῶς φρονοῦσ᾽ ἐμηχανησάμην.
and-I badly minded contrived

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ θάρσει· κάτει τοι καὶ σὺ πρὸς τέκνων ἔτι. 1015
take-heart you-will-return surely also you by children still

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ἄλλους κατάξω πρόσθεν ἢ τάλαιν᾽ ἐγώ.
others I-shall-bring-down first the wretched I

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ οὔτοι μόνη σὺ σῶν ἀπεζύγης τέκνων.
surely-not alone you from-your have-been-parted children
κούφως φέρειν χρὴ θνητὸν ὄντα συμφοράς.
lightly to-bear one-must mortal being misfortunes

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ δράσω τάδ᾽. ἀλλὰ βαῖνε δωμάτων ἔσω
I-will-do this but go of-the-house inside
καὶ παισὶ πόρσυν᾽ οἷα χρὴ καθ᾽ ἡμέραν. 1020
and for-the-children provide what is-needed by day
ὦ τέκνα τέκνα, σφῷν μὲν ἔστι δὴ πόλις
O children children for-you-two indeed is indeed city
καὶ δῶμ᾽, ἐν ᾧ λιπόντες ἀθλίαν ἐμὲ
and house in which having-left wretched me
οἰκήσετ᾽ ἀεὶ μητρὸς ἐστερημένοι·
you-will-dwell always of-mother deprived
ἐγὼ δ᾽ ἐς ἄλλην γαῖαν εἶμι δὴ φυγάς,
I and to another land go indeed exile
πρὶν σφῷν ὄνασθαι κἀπιδεῖν εὐδαίμονας, 1025
before of-you-two to-have-joy and-to-see happy

πρὶν λέκτρα καὶ γυναῖκα καὶ γαμηλίους
before bed and wife and marriage
εὐνὰς ἀγῆλαι λαμπάδας τ᾽ ἀνασχεθεῖν.
beds to-adorn torches and to-hold-up
ὦ δυστάλαινα τῆς ἐμῆς αὐθαδίας
O most-wretched — for-my self-will
ἄλλως ἄρ᾽ ὑμᾶς, ὦ τέκν᾽, ἐξεθρεψάμην,
in-vain then you O children I-reared
ἄλλως δ᾽ ἐμόχθουν καὶ κατεξάνθην πόνοις,
in-vain and I-toiled and was-worn-out with-toils
στερρὰς ἐνεγκοῦσ᾽ ἐν τόκοις ἀλγηδόνας.
hard having-borne in childbirth pains
ἦ μήν ποθ᾽ ἡ δύστηνος εἶχον ἐλπίδας
truly then once the wretched I-had hopes
πολλὰς ἐν ὑμῖν, γηροβοσκήσειν τ᾽ ἐμὲ
many in you to-tend-in-old-age and me
καὶ κατθανοῦσαν χερσὶν εὖ περιστελεῖν,
and dead with-hands well to-lay-out
ζηλωτὸν ἀνθρώποισι· νῦν δ᾽ ὄλωλε δὴ
enviable for-men now and has-perished indeed
γλυκεῖα φροντίς. σφῷν γὰρ ἐστερημένη
sweet thought of-you-two for deprived
λυπρὸν διάξω βίοτον ἀλγεινόν τ᾽ ἐμοί.
painful I-shall-lead life grievous and to-me
ὑμεῖς δὲ μητέρ᾽ οὐκέτ᾽ ὄμμασιν φίλοις
you and mother no-longer with-eyes dear
ὄψεσθ᾽, ἐς ἄλλο σχῆμ᾽ ἀποστάντες βίου.
will-see to other form having-departed of-life
φεῦ φεῦ· τί προσδέρκεσθέ μ᾽ ὄμμασιν, τέκνα;
alas alas why do-you-look-at me with-eyes children

τί προσγελᾶτε τὸν πανύστατον γέλων;
why do-you-smile the last smile
αἰαῖ· τί δράσω; καρδία γὰρ οἴχεται,
alas what shall-I-do heart for is-gone
γυναῖκες, ὄμμα φαιδρὸν ὡς εἶδον τέκνων.
women eye bright when I-saw of-children
οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην· χαιρέτω βουλεύματα
not — I-could farewell plans
τὰ πρόσθεν· ἄξω παῖδας ἐκ γαίας ἐμούς.
the former I-will-take children from land my
τί δεῖ με πατέρα τῶνδε τοῖς τούτων κακοῖς
why must I father of-these by-the their evils
λυποῦσαν αὐτὴν δὶς τόσα κτᾶσθαι κακά;
paining myself twice so-many to-gain evils
οὐ δῆτ' ἔγωγε. χαιρέτω βουλεύματα.
not indeed I farewell plans
καίτοι τί πάσχω; βούλομαι γέλωτ' ὀφλεῖν
and-yet what do-I-suffer do-I-wish laughter to-incur
ἐχθροὺς μεθεῖσα τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἀζημίους;
enemies having-let-go — my unpunished
τολμητέον τάδ'. ἀλλὰ τῆς ἐμῆς κάκης,
one-must-dare this but — of-my cowardice
τὸ καὶ προέσθαι μαλθακοὺς λόγους φρενί.
the even to-admit soft words to-mind
χωρεῖτε παῖδες εἰς δόμους· ὅτῳ δὲ μὴ
go children into the-house whom and not
θέμις παρεῖναι τοῖς ἐμοῖσι θύμασιν,
lawful to-be-present — at-my sacrifices
αὐτῷ μελήσει· χεῖρα δ' οὐ διαφθερῶ.
to-him it-will-be-a-care hand and not I-will-weaken

ἆ ἆ.
ah ah

μὴ δῆτα, θυμέ, μὴ σύ γ' ἐργάσῃ τάδε·
not indeed heart not you at-least do these-things

ἔασον αὐτούς, ὦ τάλαν, φεῖσαι τέκνων·
let them O wretched spare children

ἐκεῖ μεθ' ἡμῶν ζῶντες εὐφρανοῦσί σε.
there with us living they-will-cheer you

μὰ τοὺς παρ' Ἅιδῃ νερτέρους ἀλάστορας,
by the beside Hades below avengers

οὔτοι ποτ' ἔσται τοῦθ' ὅπως ἐχθροῖς ἐγὼ
surely-not ever will-be this that to-enemies I

παῖδας παρήσω τοὺς ἐμοὺς καθυβρίσαι.
children I-will-let — my to-outrage

πάντως πέπρωται ταῦτα, κοὐκ ἐκφεύξεται.
in-every-way it-is-fated this and-not she-will-escape

καὶ δὴ 'πὶ κρατὶ στέφανος, ἐν πέπλοισι δὲ
and indeed on head crown in robes and

νύμφη τύραννος ὄλλυται, σάφ' οἶδ' ἐγώ.
bride royal perishes clearly I-know I

ἀλλ', εἶμι γὰρ δὴ τλημονεστάτην ὁδόν,
but I-go for indeed most-wretched road

καὶ τούσδε πέμψω τλημονεστέραν ἔτι,
and these I-will-send more-wretched still

παῖδας προσειπεῖν βούλομαι. δότ', ὦ τέκνα,
children to-address I-wish give O children

δότ' ἀσπάσασθαι μητρὶ δεξιὰν χέρα.
give to-embrace to-mother right hand

ὦ φιλτάτη χείρ, φίλτατον δέ μοι στόμα
O dearest hand dearest and to-me mouth

καὶ σχῆμα καὶ πρόσωπον εὐγενὲς τέκνων,
and form and face noble of-children
εὐδαιμονοίτην, ἀλλ' ἐκεῖ· τὰ δ' ἐνθάδε
may-they-be-happy but there the(-things) and here
πατὴρ ἀφείλετ'. ὦ γλυκεῖα προσβολή,
father has-taken-away O sweet embrace
ὦ μαλθακὸς χρὼς πνεῦμά θ' ἥδιστον τέκνων.
O soft skin breath and sweetest of-children
χωρεῖτε χωρεῖτ'. οὐκέτ' εἰμὶ προσβλέπειν
go go no-longer I-am to-look-on
οἵα τ' ἐς ὑμᾶς, ἀλλὰ νικῶμαι κακοῖς.
able — towards you but I-am-conquered by-evils
καὶ μανθάνω μὲν οἷα δρᾶν μέλλω κακά·
and I-understand indeed what to-do I-am-about evils
θυμὸς δὲ κρείσσων τῶν ἐμῶν βουλευμάτων,
heart but stronger — than-my plans
ὅσπερ μεγίστων αἴτιος κακῶν βροτοῖς.
which-very of-greatest cause evils for-mortals
ΧΟΡΟΣ πολλάκις ἤδη
often already
διὰ λεπτοτέρων μύθων ἔμολον
through subtler words I-have-gone
καὶ πρὸς ἀμίλλας ἦλθον μείζους
and to contests came greater
ἢ χρὴ γενεὰν θῆλυν ἐρευνᾶν·
than one-should race female to-search-out
ἀλλὰ γὰρ ἔστιν μοῦσα καὶ ἡμῖν,
but for there-is a-muse also for-us
ἣ προσομιλεῖ σοφίας ἕνεκεν·
who consorts of-wisdom for-the-sake

πάσαισι μὲν οὔ· παῦρον δὲ γένος —
with-all indeed not small and race
μίαν ἐν πολλαῖς εὕροις ἂν ἴσως —
one among many you-would-find — perhaps
οὐκ ἀπόμουσον τὸ γυναικῶν.
not unmusical the of-women
καί φημι βροτῶν οἵτινές εἰσιν
and I-say of-mortals whoever are
πάμπαν ἄπειροι μηδ' ἐφύτευσαν
utterly inexperienced nor begot
παῖδας, προφέρειν εἰς εὐτυχίαν
children to-surpass in good-fortune
τῶν γειναμένων.
the having-begotten
οἱ μὲν ἄτεκνοι δι' ἀπειροσύνην
the indeed childless through inexperience
εἴθ' ἡδὺ βροτοῖς εἴτ' ἀνιαρὸν
whether pleasant for-mortals or grievous
παῖδες τελέθουσ' οὐχὶ τυχόντες
children prove not having-got
πολλῶν μόχθων ἀπέχονται·
many toils they-are-spared
οἷσι δὲ τέκνων ἔστιν ἐν οἴκοις
whom and of-children is in house
γλυκερὸν βλάστημ', ἐσορῶ μελέτῃ
sweet offspring I-see with-care
κατατρυχομένους τὸν ἅπαντα χρόνον·
being-worn-out the all time
πρῶτον μὲν ὅπως θρέψουσι καλῶς
first indeed how they-will-rear well

βίοτόν θ' ὁπόθεν λείψουσι τέκνοις·
livelihood and from-where they-will-leave for-children
ἔτι δ' ἐκ τούτων εἴτ' ἐπὶ φλαύροις
still and after this whether for worthless
εἴτ' ἐπὶ χρηστοῖς
or for good
μοχθοῦσι, τόδ' ἐστὶν ἄδηλον.
they-toil this is unclear
ἓν δὲ τὸ πάντων λοίσθιον ἤδη
one and the of-all last now
πᾶσιν κατερῶ θνητοῖσι κακόν·
for-all I-will-tell for-mortals evil
καὶ δὴ γὰρ ἄλις βιοτόν θ' ηὗρον,
and indeed for enough livelihood and they-found
σῶμά τ' ἐς ἥβην ἤλυθε τέκνων
body and to youth came of-children
χρηστοί τ' ἐγένοντ'· εἰ δὲ κυρήσει
good and they-became if but should-chance
δαίμων οὗτος, φροῦδος ἐς Ἅιδην
fortune this gone to Hades
θάνατος προφέρων σώματα τέκνων.
death carrying-off bodies of-children
πῶς οὖν λύει πρὸς τοῖς ἄλλοις
how then does-it-profit besides the other(-things)
τήνδ' ἔτι λύπην ἀνιαροτάτην
this still grief most-grievous
παίδων ἕνεκεν
of-children for-the-sake
θνητοῖσι θεοὺς ἐπιβάλλειν;
for-mortals the-gods to-lay-on

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ φίλαι, πάλαι δὴ προσμένουσα τὴν τύχην
friends long-since indeed awaiting the fortune
καραδοκῶ τἀκεῖθεν οἳ προβήσεται.
I-watch the-from-there how it-will-turn-out
καὶ δὴ δέδορκα τόνδε τῶν Ἰάσονος
and indeed I-see this-man of-the of-Jason
στείχοντ᾽ ὀπαδῶν· πνεῦμα δ᾽ ἠρεθισμένον
coming attendants breath and agitated
δείκνυσιν ὥς τι καινὸν ἀγγελεῖ κακόν.
shows that some new he-will-announce evil
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ὦ δεινὸν ἔργον παρανόμως εἰργασμένη
O terrible deed lawlessly having-done
Μήδεια, φεῦγε φεῦγε, μήτε ναΐαν
Medea flee flee neither ship
λιποῦσ᾽ ἀπήνην μήτ᾽ ὄχον πεδοστιβῆ.
leaving car nor chariot ground-treading
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ τί δ᾽ ἄξιόν μοι τῆσδε τυγχάνει φυγῆς;
what and worthy to-me of-this happens exile
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ὄλωλεν ἡ τύραννος ἀρτίως κόρη
has-perished the royal just-now girl
Κρέων θ᾽ ὁ φύσας φαρμάκων τῶν σῶν ὕπο.
Creon and the having-begotten drugs — your by
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ κάλλιστον εἶπας μῦθον, ἐν δ᾽ εὐεργέταις
fairest you-have-said word among and benefactors
τὸ λοιπὸν ἤδη καὶ φίλοις ἐμοῖς ἔσει.
the rest now and friends my you-will-be
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τί φής; φρονεῖς μὲν ὀρθὰ κοὐ μαίνει, γύναι,
what do-you-say you-think indeed straight and-not are-mad woman
ἥτις τυράννων ἑστίαν ἠκισμένην
who of-royalty hearth outraged

χαίρεις κλύουσα κοὐ φοβεῖ τὰ τοιάδε;
you-rejoice hearing and-not you-fear the such(-things)

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ἔχω τι κἀγὼ τοῖς γε σοῖς ἐναντίον
I-have something and-I to-the at-least your contrary

λόγοισιν εἰπεῖν· ἀλλὰ μὴ σπέρχου, φίλος,
words to-say but not be-hasty friend

λέξον δ' ὅπως ὤλοντο· δὶς τόσον γὰρ ἂν
tell and how they-perished twice so-much for —

τέρψειας ἡμᾶς, εἰ τεθνᾶσι παγκάκως. 1135
you-would-delight us if they-are-dead most-wretchedly

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἐπεὶ τέκνων σῶν ἦλθε δίπτυχος γονὴ
when of-children your came twofold offspring

σὺν πατρὶ καὶ παρῆλθε νυμφικοὺς δόμους,
with father and passed-into bridal house

ἥσθημεν οἵπερ σοῖς ἐκάμνομεν κακοῖς
we-were-glad who-indeed at-your were-distressed troubles

δμῶες· δι' οἴκων δ' εὐθὺς ἦν πολὺς λόγος
servants through house and at-once was much talk

σὲ καὶ πόσιν σὸν νεῖκος ἐσπεῖσθαι τὸ πρίν. 1140
you and husband your quarrel to-have-made-truce the before

κυνεῖ δ' ὁ μέν τις χεῖρ', ὁ δὲ ξανθὸν κάρα
kisses and one indeed someone hand another and golden head

παίδων· ἐγὼ δὲ καὐτὸς ἡδονῆς ὕπο
of-the-children I and also-myself pleasure by

στέγας γυναικῶν σὺν τέκνοις ἅμ' ἐσπόμην.
to-chambers of-women with children together followed

δέσποινα δ' ἣν νῦν ἀντὶ σοῦ θαυμάζομεν,
mistress and whom now instead-of you we-admire

πρὶν μὲν τέκνων σῶν εἰσιδεῖν ξυνωρίδα, 1145
before indeed children your to-see pair

πρόθυμον εἶχ' ὀφθαλμὸν εἰς Ἰάσονα·
eager had eye on Jason
ἔπειτα μέντοι προὐκαλύψατ' ὄμματα
then however she-veiled eyes
λευκήν τ' ἀπέστρεψ' ἔμπαλιν παρηίδα,
white and turned back cheek
παίδων μυσαχθεῖσ' εἰσόδους· πόσις δὲ σὸς
of-the-children loathing the-entrances husband and your
ὀργὰς ἀφῄρει καὶ χόλον νεάνιδος
angers took-away and wrath of-the-young-woman
λέγων τάδ'· οὐ μὴ δυσμενὴς ἔσει φίλοις,
saying this not — hostile be to-friends
παύσει δὲ θυμοῦ καὶ πάλιν στρέψεις κάρα,
cease and from-wrath and back turn head
φίλους νομίζουσ' οὕσπερ ἂν πόσις σέθεν,
friends considering whom-indeed — husband your
δέξει δὲ δῶρα καὶ παραιτήσει πατρὸς
receive and gifts and beg-off from-father
φυγὰς ἀφεῖναι παισὶ τοῖσδ', ἐμὴν χάριν;
exiles to-remit for-children these as-my favor
ἡ δ' ὡς ἐσεῖδε κόσμον, οὐκ ἠνέσχετο,
she and when she-saw finery not refrained
ἀλλ' ἤνεσ' ἀνδρὶ πάντα· καὶ πρὶν ἐκ δόμων
but agreed to-husband all and before from the-house
μακρὰν ἀπεῖναι πατέρα καὶ παῖδας σέθεν,
far to-be-away father and children your
λαβοῦσα πέπλους ποικίλους ἠμπίσχετο,
taking robes embroidered put-them-on
χρυσοῦν τε θεῖσα στέφανον ἀμφὶ βοστρύχοις
golden and placing crown around curls

λαμπρῷ κατόπτρῳ σχηματίζεται κόμην,
in-bright mirror arranges hair
ἄψυχον εἰκὼ προσγελῶσα σώματος.
lifeless image smiling-at of-her-body
κἄπειτ' ἀναστᾶσ' ἐκ θρόνων διέρχεται
and-then having-risen from seat she-passes-through
στέγας, ἁβρὸν βαίνουσα παλλεύκῳ ποδί,
chambers delicately stepping with-all-white foot
δώροις ὑπερχαίρουσα, πολλὰ πολλάκις
in-the-gifts exulting much often
τένοντ' ἐς ὀρθὸν ὄμμασι σκοπουμένη.
tendon to straight with-eyes looking-at
τοὐνθένδε μέντοι δεινὸν ἦν θέαμ' ἰδεῖν·
thereafter however terrible was sight to-see
χροιὰν γὰρ ἀλλάξασα λεχρία πάλιν
color for having-changed sideways back
χωρεῖ τρέμουσα κῶλα, καὶ μόλις φθάνει
she-goes trembling in-limbs and barely she-is-in-time
θρόνοισιν ἐμπεσοῦσα μὴ χαμαὶ πεσεῖν.
on-the-seat falling not on-the-ground to-fall
καί τις γεραιὰ προσπόλων, δόξασά που
and some old-woman of-servants thinking perhaps
ἢ Πανὸς ὀργὰς ἢ τινὸς θεῶν μολεῖν,
either of-Pan wraths or of-some of-gods to-have-come
ἀνωλόλυξε, πρίν γ' ὁρᾷ διὰ στόμα
raised-a-cry before at-least she-sees through mouth
χωροῦντα λευκὸν ἀφρόν, ὀμμάτων τ' ἀπὸ
coming white foam of-eyes and from
κόρας στρέφουσαν, αἱμά τ' οὐκ ἐνὸν χροΐ·
pupils rolling blood and not being in-skin

εἶτ᾽ ἀντίμολπον ἦκεν ὀλολυγῆς μέγαν
then counter-song sent-forth to-the-cry great
κωκυτόν. εὐθὺς δ᾽ ἡ μὲν εἰς πατρὸς δόμους
wailing at-once and one indeed to of-father house
ὥρμησεν, ἡ δὲ πρὸς τὸν ἀρτίως πόσιν,
rushed another and to the just-now husband
φράσουσα νύμφης συμφοράς· ἅπασα δὲ
to-tell of-the-bride misfortune all and
στέγη πυκνοῖσιν ἐκτύπει δρομήμασιν.
the-house with-thick rang runnings
ἤδη δ᾽ ἂν ἕλκων κῶλον ἑκπλέθρου δρόμου
already and — drawing-in limb of-six-plethra course
ταχὺς βαδιστὴς τερμόνων ἀνθήπτετο·
quick walker of-the-goal would-have-touched
ἡ δ᾽ ἐξ ἀναύδου καὶ μύσαντος ὄμματος
she and from voiceless and closed eye
δεινὸν στενάξασ᾽ ἡ τάλαιν᾽ ἠγείρετο·
terribly groaning the wretched woke
διπλοῦν γὰρ αὐτῇ πῆμ᾽ ἐπεστρατεύετο.
twofold for at-her pain was-advancing
χρυσοῦς μὲν ἀμφὶ κρατὶ κείμενος πλόκος
golden indeed around head lying wreath
θαυμαστὸν ἵει ναᾶμα παμφάγου πυρός·
wondrous sent-forth stream of-all-devouring fire
πέπλοι δὲ λεπτοί, σῶν τέκνων δωρήματα,
robes and fine of-your children gifts
λεπτὴν ἔδαπτον σάρκα τῆς δυσδαίμονος.
fine were-devouring flesh of-the ill-fated
φεύγει δ᾽ ἀναστᾶσ᾽ ἐκ θρόνων πυρουμένη,
she-flees and having-risen from seat burning

σείουσα χαίτην κρᾶτά τ᾽ ἄλλοτ᾽ ἄλλοσε,
shaking hair head and now-here now-there
ῥῖψαι θέλουσα στέφανον· ἀλλ᾽ ἀραρότως
to-throw wishing crown but firmly
σύνδεσμα χρυσὸς εἶχε, πῦρ δ᾽, ἐπεὶ κόμην
bonds the-gold held fire and when hair
ἔσεισε, μᾶλλον δὶς τόσως τ᾽ ἐλάμπετο.
she-shook more twice so-much and blazed
πίτνει δ᾽ ἐς οὖδας συμφορᾷ νικωμένη,
she-falls and to ground by-misfortune overcome
πλὴν τῷ τεκόντι κάρτα δυσμαθὴς ἰδεῖν·
except to-the having-begotten very hard-to-recognize to-see
οὔτ᾽ ὀμμάτων γὰρ δῆλος ἦν κατάστασις
neither of-eyes for clear was position
οὔτ᾽ εὐφυὲς πρόσωπον, αἷμα δ᾽ ἐξ ἄκρου
nor shapely face blood and from top
ἔσταζε κρατὸς συμπεφυρμένον πυρί.
dripped of-head mixed-together with-fire
σάρκες δ᾽ ἀπ᾽ ὀστέων ὥστε πεύκινον δάκρυ
flesh and from bones like pine tear
γναθμοῖς ἀδήλοις φαρμάκων ἀπέρρεον,
by-jaws unseen of-the-drugs flowed-away
δεινὸν θέαμα· πᾶσι δ᾽ ἦν φόβος θιγεῖν
terrible sight for-all and was fear to-touch
νεκροῦ· τύχην γὰρ εἴχομεν διδάσκαλον.
the-corpse fortune for we-had as-teacher
πατὴρ δ᾽ ὁ τλήμων συμφορᾶς ἀγνωσίᾳ
father and the wretched of-misfortune in-ignorance
ἄφνω παρελθὼν δῶμα προσπίτνει νεκρῷ·
suddenly having-come-to the-house falls-upon the-corpse

ὤμωξε δ' εὐθύς, καὶ περιπτύξας δέμας
he-wailed and at-once and having-embraced body
κυνεῖ προσαυδῶν τοιάδ'· ὦ δύστηνε παῖ,
he-kisses addressing such O ill-starred child
τίς σ' ὧδ' ἀτίμως δαιμόνων ἀπώλεσε;
who you so dishonorably of-gods destroyed
τίς τὸν γέροντα τύμβον ὀρφανὸν σέθεν
who the old tomb bereft of-you
τίθησιν; οἴμοι, συνθάνοιμί σοι, τέκνον.
makes ah-me may-I-die-with you child
ἐπεὶ δὲ θρήνων καὶ γόων ἐπαύσατο,
when and of-dirges and of-laments he-ceased
χρῄζων γεραιὸν ἐξαναστῆσαι δέμας
wishing old to-raise body
προσείχεθ' ὥστε κισσὸς ἔρνεσιν δάφνης
he-clung like ivy to-shoots of-laurel
λεπτοῖσι πέπλοις, δεινὰ δ' ἦν παλαίσματα·
to-fine robes terrible and were wrestlings
ὁ μὲν γὰρ ἤθελ' ἐξαναστῆσαι γόνυ,
he indeed for wished to-raise knee
ἡ δ' ἀντελάζυτ'· εἰ δὲ πρὸς βίαν ἄγοι,
she and held-back if and by force he-pulled
σάρκας γεραιὰς ἐσπάρασσ' ἀπ' ὀστέων.
flesh old he-tore from bones
χρόνῳ δ' ἀπέσβη καὶ μεθῆχ' ὁ δύσμορος
in-time and he-was-quenched and let-go the ill-fated
ψυχήν· κακοῦ γὰρ οὐκέτ' ἦν ὑπέρτερος.
soul of-the-evil for no-longer was superior
κεῖνται δὲ νεκροὶ παῖς τε καὶ γέρων πατὴρ
lie and corpses child both and old father

πέλας, ποθεινὴ δακρύοισι συμφορά.
near longed-for for-tears misfortune
καί μοι τὸ μὲν σὸν ἐκποδὼν ἔστω λόγου·
and to-me — indeed your out-of-the-way let-it-be of-the-story
γνώσει γὰρ αὐτὴ ζημίας ἀποστροφήν.
you-will-know for yourself of-penalty escape
τὰ θνητὰ δ' οὐ νῦν πρῶτον ἡγοῦμαι σκιάν,
the mortal(-things) and not now first I-consider a-shadow
οὐδ' ἂν τρέσας εἴποιμι τοὺς σοφοὺς βροτῶν
nor — fearing I-would-say the wise of-mortals
δοκοῦντας εἶναι καὶ μεριμνητὰς λόγων,
seeming to-be and contrivers of-words
τούτους μεγίστην ζημίαν ὀφλισκάνειν.
these greatest penalty to-incur
θνητῶν γὰρ οὐδείς ἐστιν εὐδαίμων ἀνήρ·
of-mortals for no-one is happy man
ὄλβου δ' ἐπιρρυέντος εὐτυχέστερος
of-wealth and having-flowed-in more-fortunate
ἄλλου γένοιτ' ἂν ἄλλος, εὐδαίμων δ' ἂν οὔ.
than-another may-be — another happy but — not
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔοιχ' ὁ δαίμων πολλὰ τῇδ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ
seems the god many-things this on day
κακὰ ξυνάπτειν ἐνδίκως Ἰάσονι.
evils to-fasten justly on-Jason
ὦ τλῆμον, ὡς σου συμφορὰς οἰκτείρομεν,
O wretched how of-you misfortunes we-pity
κόρη Κρέοντος, ἥτις εἰς Ἅιδου δόμους
daughter of-Creon who to of-Hades house
οἴχει γάμων ἕκατι τῶν Ἰάσονος.
you-are-gone of-marriage for-the-sake the of-Jason

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ φίλαι, δέδοκται τοὔργον ὡς τάχιστά μοι
friends has-been-decided the-deed as quickly-as-possible by-me
παῖδας κτανούσῃ τῆσδ' ἀφορμᾶσθαι χθονός,
children having-killed from-this to-set-out land
καὶ μὴ σχολὴν ἄγουσαν ἐκδοῦναι τέκνα
and not leisure keeping to-give-up children
ἄλλῃ φονεῦσαι δυσμενεστέρᾳ χερί.
to-another to-murder more-hostile hand
πάντως σφ' ἀνάγκη κατθανεῖν· ἐπεὶ δὲ χρή,
in-every-way them necessity to-die since and one-must
ἡμεῖς κτενοῦμεν, οἵπερ ἐξεφύσαμεν.
we will-kill who-indeed begot
ἀλλ' εἶ' ὁπλίζου, καρδία. τί μέλλομεν
but come arm-yourself heart why do-we-delay
τὰ δεινὰ κἀναγκαῖα μὴ πράσσειν κακά;
the terrible and-necessary not to-do evils
ἄγ', ὦ τάλαινα χεὶρ ἐμή, λαβὲ ξίφος,
come O wretched hand my take sword
λάβ', ἕρπε πρὸς βαλβῖδα λυπηρὰν βίου,
take go to starting-line painful of-life
καὶ μὴ κακισθῇς μηδ' ἀναμνησθῇς τέκνων,
and not be-cowardly nor remember children
ὡς φίλταθ', ὡς ἔτικτες· ἀλλὰ τήνδε γε
how dearest how you-bore-them but for-this at-least
λαθοῦ βραχεῖαν ἡμέραν παίδων σέθεν,
forget short day children your
κἄπειτα θρήνει. καὶ γὰρ εἰ κτενεῖς σφ', ὅμως
and-then lament even for if you-kill them nevertheless
φίλοι γ' ἔφυσαν — δυστυχὴς δ' ἐγὼ γυνή.
dear at-least they-were ill-fated and I woman

XII · THE CHILDREN'S CRIES

The chorus calls on Earth and the Sun to stop the murder, since Medea springs from the Sun's golden race. Inside, the boys cry out for help, and the chorus asks whether to go in. It calls her rock or iron and recalls the one mother before her who laid hands on her children: Ino, maddened by the gods and driven out by the wife of Zeus, who leapt into the sea and perished with her two sons.

χορος ἰὼ Γᾶ τε καὶ παμφαὴς
oh Earth both and all-shining
ἀκτὶς Ἀελίου, κατίδετ' ἴδετε τὰν
ray of-Helios look-down see the
ὀλομέναν γυναῖκα, πρὶν φοινίαν
ruined woman before bloody
τέκνοις προσβαλεῖν χέρ' αὐτοκτόνον·
on-children to-lay hand self-murdering
σᾶς γὰρ ἀπὸ χρυσέας γονᾶς
your for from golden race
ἔβλαστεν, θεοῦ δ' αἵματι πίτνειν
she-sprang of-god and by-blood to-fall
φόβος ὑπ' ἀνέρων.
fear by men
ἀλλά νιν, φάος διογενές, κάτειρ-
but her O-light Zeus-born restrain
γε, κατάπαυσον, ἔξελ' οἴκων τάλαι-
— *stop take from-the-house wretched*
ναν φονίαν τ' Ἐρινὺν ὑπ' ἀλαστόρων.
— *murderous and Fury by avengers*
μάταν μόχθος ἔρρει τέκνων,
in-vain toil perishes of-children

ἆρα μάταν γένος φίλιον ἔτεκες, ὦ
then in-vain race dear you-bore O
κυανεᾶν λιποῦσα Συμπληγάδων
dark having-left of-Clashing
πετρᾶν ἀξενωτάταν εἰσβολάν.
rocks most-inhospitable entrance
δειλαία, τί σοι φρενῶν βαρὺς
wretched why on-you of-mind heavy
χόλος προσπίτνει καὶ δυσμενὴς
anger falls and hostile
φόνος ἀμείβεται;
murder follows-murder
χαλεπὰ γὰρ βροτοῖς ὁμογενῆ μιά-
grievous for to-mortals kindred pollutions
σματ' † ἐπὶ γαῖαν αὐτοφόνταις συνῳ-
— (corrupt) upon earth on-kin-murderers in-accord
δὰ θεόθεν πίτνοντ' ἐπὶ δόμοις ἄχη. †
— from-the-gods falling on houses woes (corrupt)

ΠΑΙΣ Α′ οἴμοι, τί δράσω; ποῖ φύγω μητρὸς χέρας;
ah-me what shall-I-do whither shall-I-flee of-mother hands

ΠΑΙΣ Β′ οὐκ οἶδ', ἀδελφὲ φίλτατ'· ὀλλύμεσθα γάρ.
not I-know brother dearest we-are-perishing for

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀκούεις βοὰν ἀκούεις τέκνων;
do-you-hear cry do-you-hear of-children
ἰὼ τλᾶμον, ὦ κακοτυχὲς γύναι.
oh wretched O ill-fated woman
παρέλθω δόμους; ἀρῆξαι φόνον
shall-I-enter the-house to-ward-off murder
δοκεῖ μοι τέκνοις.
it-seems to-me from-the-children

ΠΑΙΣ Α′ ναί, πρὸς θεῶν, ἀρήξατ'· ἐν δέοντι γάρ.
yes by the-gods ward-off in need for

ΠΑΙΣ Β′ ὡς ἐγγὺς ἤδη γ' ἐσμὲν ἀρκύων ξίφους.
how near now at-least we-are of-the-nets of-the-sword

ΧΟΡΟΣ τάλαιν', ὡς ἄρ' ἦσθα πέτρος ἢ σίδα-
wretched how then you-were rock or iron

ρος, ἅτις τέκνων ὃν ἔτεκες
— who of-children whom you-bore

ἄροτον αὐτόχειρι μοίρᾳ κτενεῖς.
harvest with-own-hand by-fate you-will-kill

μίαν δὴ κλύω μίαν τῶν πάρος
one indeed I-hear one of-those before

γυναῖκ' ἐν φίλοις χέρα βαλεῖν τέκνοις,
woman among her-own hand to-have-laid on-children

Ἰνὼ μανεῖσαν ἐκ θεῶν, ὅθ' ἡ Διὸς
Ino maddened by the-gods when the of-Zeus

δάμαρ νιν ἐξέπεμψε δωμάτων ἄλη.
wife her sent-out from-the-house to-wandering

πίτνει δ' ἁ τάλαιν' ἐς ἅλμαν φόνῳ
she-falls and the wretched into the-sea by-murder

τέκνων δυσσεβεῖ,
of-children unholy

ἀκτῆς ὑπερτείνασα ποντίας πόδα,
of-the-shore stretching-over of-the-sea foot

δυοῖν τε παίδοιν συνθανοῦσ' ἀπόλλυται.
two and children dying-with she-perishes

τί δῆτ' οὖν γένοιτ' ἂν ἔτι δεινόν; ὦ
what indeed then may-happen — still terrible O

γυναικῶν λέχος πολύπονον
of-women bed full-of-toil
ὅσα βροτοῖς ἔρεξας ἤδη κακά.
how-many to-mortals you-have-done already evils

XIII · THE DRAGON CHARIOT

Jason rushes in to save his sons from Creon's kin and learns that their mother has killed them. As he tries to break down the doors, Medea appears above in the Sun's chariot with the bodies. He curses her as a lioness worse than Scylla; she answers that he brought this on himself. She will bury the children at Hera's shrine and go to Aegeus in Athens, and refuses him even a last touch.

ΙΑΣΩΝ γυναῖκες αἳ τῆσδ' ἐγγὺς ἕστατε στέγης,
women who this near stand house
ἆρ' ἐν δόμοισιν ἡ τὰ δεί' εἰργασμένη
— in the-house the(-woman) the terrible(-deeds) having-done
Μήδεια τοισίδ', ἢ μεθέστηκεν φυγῇ;
Medea in-this or has-departed in-flight
δεῖ γάρ νιν ἤτοι γῆς σφε κρυφθῆναι κάτω,
must for her either of-the-earth her to-be-hidden beneath
ἢ πτηνὸν ἆραι σῶμ' ἐς αἰθέρος βάθος,
or winged to-lift body to of-the-air depth
εἰ μὴ τυράννων δώμασιν δώσει δίκην.
if not to-the-tyrants' house she-will-give justice
πέποιθ' ἀποκτείνασα κοιράνους χθονὸς
does-she-trust having-killed the-rulers of-the-land
ἀθῷος αὐτὴ τῶνδε φεύξεσθαι δόμων;
unpunished herself from-this to-escape house
ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ αὐτῆς φροντίδ' ὡς τέκνων ἔχω·
but not for of-her concern as of-the-children I-have

κείνην μὲν οὓς ἔδρασεν ἔρξουσιν κακῶς,
her indeed whom she-wronged will-do badly
ἐμῶν δὲ παίδων ἦλθον ἐκσώσων βίον,
of-my and children I-came to-save life
μή μοί τι δράσωσ' οἱ προσήκοντες γένει,
lest to-me something they-do the related by-race
μητρῷον ἐκπράσσοντες ἀνόσιον φόνον.
mother's exacting unholy murder

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ τλῆμον, οὐκ οἶσθ' οἷ κακῶν ἐλήλυθας,
O wretched not you-know to-what of-evils you-have-come
Ἰᾶσον· οὐ γὰρ τούσδ' ἂν ἐφθέγξω λόγους.
Jason not for these — you-would-have-uttered words

ΙΑΣΩΝ τί δ' ἔστιν; ἦ που κἄμ' ἀποκτεῖναι θέλει;
what and is-it — perhaps me-too to-kill she-wishes

ΧΟΡΟΣ παῖδες τεθνᾶσι χειρὶ μητρῴᾳ σέθεν.
the-children are-dead by-hand mother's of-you

ΙΑΣΩΝ οἴμοι τί λέξεις; ὥς μ' ἀπώλεσας, γύναι.
ah-me what will-you-say how me you-have-destroyed woman

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὡς οὐκέτ' ὄντων σῶν τέκνων φρόντιζε δή.
as no-longer being your children consider indeed

ΙΑΣΩΝ ποῦ γάρ νιν ἔκτειν', ἐντὸς ἢ ἔξωθεν δόμων;
where for them did-she-kill inside or outside of-the-house

ΧΟΡΟΣ πύλας ἀνοίξας σῶν τέκνων ὄψει φόνον.
the-gates having-opened of-your children you-will-see the-murder

ΙΑΣΩΝ χαλᾶτε κλῆδας ὡς τάχιστα, πρόσπολοι,
loose bolts as quickly-as-possible servants
ἐκλύεθ' ἁρμούς, ὡς ἴδω διπλοῦν κακόν,
undo fastenings that I-may-see double evil
τοὺς μὲν θανόντας, τὴν δὲ τίσωμαι φόνῳ.
them indeed dead her and may-I-punish with-murder

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ τί τάσδε κινεῖς κἀναμοχλεύεις πύλας,
why these do-you-shake and-unbar gates
νεκροὺς ἐρευνῶν κἀμὲ τὴν εἰργασμένην;
corpses seeking and-me the having-done(-it)
παῦσαι πόνου τοῦδ'· εἰ δ' ἐμοῦ χρείαν ἔχεις,
cease from-labor this if and of-me need you-have
λέγ' εἴ τι βούλει, χειρὶ δ' οὐ ψαύσεις ποτέ.
speak if anything you-wish with-hand but not you-will-touch ever
τοιόνδ' ὄχημα πατρὸς Ἥλιος πατὴρ
such chariot of-father Helios father
δίδωσιν ἡμῖν, ἔρυμα πολεμίας χερός.
gives to-us defense of-hostile hand
ΙΑΣΩΝ ὦ μῖσος, ὦ μέγιστον ἐχθίστη γύναι
O hateful-thing O greatly most-hated woman
θεοῖς τε κἀμοὶ παντί τ' ἀνθρώποις γένει,
to-gods both and-to-me all and of-men race
ἥτις τέκνοισι σοῖσιν ἐμβαλεῖν ξίφος
who on-children your to-thrust sword
ἔτλης τεκοῦσα κἄμ' ἄπαιδ' ἀπώλεσας·
dared having-borne-them and-me childless destroyed
καὶ ταῦτα δράσασ' ἥλιόν τε προσβλέπεις
and these-things having-done the-sun and you-look-upon
καὶ γαῖαν, ἔργον τλᾶσα δυσσεβέστατον.
and earth deed having-dared most-impious
ὄλοι'· ἐγὼ δὲ νῦν φρονῶ, τότ' οὐ φρονῶν,
may-you-perish I and now think then not thinking
ὅτ' ἐκ δόμων σε βαρβάρου τ' ἀπὸ χθονὸς
when from home you barbarian and from land
Ἕλλην' ἐς οἶκον ἠγόμην, κακὸν μέγα,
Greek to house I-brought evil great

πατρός τε καὶ γῆς προδότιν ἥ σ' ἐθρέψατο.
of-father both and of-land betrayer who you nurtured
τὸν σὸν δ' ἀλάστορ' εἰς ἔμ' ἔσκηψαν θεοί·
— your and avenging-spirit on me hurled the-gods
κτανοῦσα γὰρ δὴ σὸν κάσιν παρέστιον,
having-killed for indeed your brother at-the-hearth
τὸ καλλίπρῳρον εἰσέβης Ἀργοῦς σκάφος.
the fair-prowed you-entered of-Argo hull
ἤρξω μὲν ἐκ τοιῶνδε· νυμφευθεῖσα δὲ
you-began indeed from such being-married and
παρ' ἀνδρὶ τῷδε καὶ τεκοῦσά μοι τέκνα,
beside man this and having-borne for-me children
εὐνῆς ἕκατι καὶ λέχους σφ' ἀπώλεσας.
of-bed for-the-sake and of-marriage them you-destroyed
οὐκ ἔστιν ἥτις τοῦτ' ἂν Ἑλληνὶς γυνὴ
not is-there who this — Greek woman
ἔτλη ποθ', ὧν γε πρόσθεν ἠξίουν ἐγὼ
would-have-dared ever whom at-least before thought-fit I
γῆμαι σέ, κῆδος ἐχθρὸν ὀλέθριόν τ' ἐμοί,
to-marry you alliance hostile deadly and for-me
λέαιναν, οὐ γυναῖκα, τῆς Τυρσηνίδος
lioness not woman than-the Tyrrhenian
Σκύλλης ἔχουσαν ἀγριωτέραν φύσιν.
Scylla having more-savage nature
ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ ἄν σε μυρίοις ὀνείδεσι
but not for — you with-ten-thousand reproaches
δάκοιμι· τοιόνδ' ἐμπέφυκέ σοι θράσος·
I-could-sting such is-inborn in-you boldness
ἔρρ', αἰσχροποιὲ καὶ τέκνων μιαιφόνε.
be-gone shameful-doer and of-children murderess

ἐμοὶ δὲ τὸν ἐμὸν δαίμον᾽ αἰάζειν πάρα,
for-me and — my fortune to-bewail it-is
ὃς οὔτε λέκτρων νεογάμων ὀνήσομαι,
who neither of-bed newly-wed shall-enjoy
οὐ παῖδας οὓς ἔφυσα κἀξεθρεψάμην
nor children whom I-begot and-reared
ἔξω προσειπεῖν ζῶντας, ἀλλ᾽ ἀπώλεσα.
I-shall-have to-address living but I-have-lost
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ μακρὰν ἂν ἐξέτεινα τοῖσδ᾽ ἐναντίον
at-length — I-would-have-stretched-out these against
λόγοισιν, εἰ μὴ Ζεὺς πατὴρ ἠπίστατο
words if not Zeus father knew
οἷ᾽ ἐξ ἐμοῦ πέπονθας οἷά τ᾽ εἰργάσω·
what from me you-have-suffered what and you-did
σὺ δ᾽ οὐκ ἔμελλες τἄμ᾽ ἀτιμάσας λέχη
you but not were-to my having-dishonored bed
τερπνὸν διάξειν βίοτον ἐγγελῶν ἐμοί,
pleasant to-pass life laughing-at me
οὐδ᾽ ἡ τύραννος οὐδ᾽ ὁ σοὶ προσθεὶς γάμους
nor the princess nor the to-you having-offered marriage
Κρέων ἀνατὶ τῆσδέ μ᾽ ἐκβαλεῖν χθονός.
Creon unpunished from-this me to-cast-out land
πρὸς ταῦτα καὶ λέαιναν, εἰ βούλει, κάλει
in-face-of this both lioness if you-wish call
καὶ Σκύλλαν ἣ Τυρσηνὸν ᾤκησεν πέδον· †
and Scylla who Tyrrhenian dwelt-in ground (corrupt)
τῆς σῆς γὰρ ὡς χρὴ καρδίας ἀνθηψάμην.
— your for as is-right heart I-have-touched
ΙΑΣΩΝ καὐτή γε λυπεῖ καὶ κακῶν κοινωνὸς εἶ.
and-yourself at-least you-grieve and of-evils partner you-are

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ σάφ᾽ ἴσθι· λύει δ᾽ ἄλγος, ἢν σὺ μὴ ᾽γγελᾷς.
clearly know it-profits and the-pain if you not laugh

ΙΑΣΩΝ ὦ τέκνα, μητρὸς ὡς κακῆς ἐκύρσατε.
O children of-mother how evil you-have-met

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ὦ παῖδες, ὡς ὤλεσθε πατρῴᾳ νόσῳ.
O children how you-perished by-father's disease

ΙΑΣΩΝ οὔτοι νυν ἡμὴ δεξιά σφ᾽ ἀπώλεσεν. 1365
surely-not then my right-hand them destroyed

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ἀλλ᾽ ὕβρις οἵ τε σοὶ νεοδμῆτες γάμοι.
but outrage the and your newly-tamed marriage

ΙΑΣΩΝ λέχους σφέ γ᾽ ἠξίωσας εἵνεκα κτανεῖν;
of-bed them at-least you-thought-fit for-the-sake to-kill

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ σμικρὸν γυναικὶ πῆμα τοῦτ᾽ εἶναι δοκεῖς;
small for-a-woman pain this to-be do-you-think

ΙΑΣΩΝ ἥτις γε σώφρων· σοὶ δὲ πάντ᾽ ἐστὶν κακά.
who at-least self-controlled for-you but all-things are evil

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ οἵδ᾽ οὐκέτ᾽ εἰσί· τοῦτο γάρ σε δήξεται. 1370
these no-longer are this for you will-sting

ΙΑΣΩΝ οἵδ᾽ εἰσίν, οἴμοι, σῷ κάρᾳ μιάστορες.
these are ah-me to-your head avengers

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ ἴσασιν ὅστις ἦρξε πημονῆς θεοί.
know who began the-mischief the-gods

ΙΑΣΩΝ ἴσασι δῆτα σήν γ᾽ ἀπόπτυστον φρένα.
they-know indeed your at-least abominable mind

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ στυγεῖ· πικρὰν δὲ βάξιν ἐχθαίρω σέθεν.
you-are-loathed bitter and talk I-loathe your

ΙΑΣΩΝ καὶ μὴν ἐγὼ σήν· ῥᾴδιοι δ᾽ ἀπαλλαγαί. 1375
and indeed I yours easy and the-partings

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ πῶς οὖν; τί δράσω; κάρτα γὰρ κἀγὼ θέλω.
how then what shall-I-do greatly for and-I wish

ΙΑΣΩΝ θάψαι νεκρούς μοι τούσδε καὶ κλαῦσαι πάρες.
to-bury the-dead for-me these and to-weep allow
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεί σφᾶς τῇδ' ἐγὼ θάψω χερί,
not indeed since them with-this I will-bury hand
φέρουσ' ἐς Ἥρας τέμενος Ἀκραίας θεοῦ,
carrying to of-Hera precinct of-Acraea goddess
ὡς μή τις αὐτοὺς πολεμίων καθυβρίσῃ,
that not anyone them of-enemies may-outrage
τύμβους ἀνασπῶν· γῇ δὲ τῇδε Σισύφου
tombs tearing-up to-the-land and this of-Sisyphus
σεμνὴν ἑορτὴν καὶ τέλη προσάψομεν
holy festival and rites we-will-appoint
τὸ λοιπὸν ἀντὶ τοῦδε δυσσεβοῦς φόνου.
for-the future in-return-for this impious murder
αὐτὴ δὲ γαῖαν εἶμι τὴν Ἐρεχθέως,
myself and to-the-land go the of-Erechtheus
Αἰγεῖ συνοικήσουσα τῷ Πανδίονος.
with-Aegeus to-dwell-with the of-Pandion
σὺ δ', ὥσπερ εἰκός, κατθανεῖ κακὸς κακῶς,
you but as is-fitting will-die bad badly
Ἀργοῦς κάρα σὸν λειψάνῳ πεπληγμένος,
of-Argo head your by-a-remnant struck
πικρὰς τελευτὰς τῶν νέων γάμων ἰδών.
bitter end of-the new marriage having-seen
ΙΑΣΩΝ ἀλλά σ' Ἐρινὺς ὀλέσειε τέκνων
but you Fury may-destroy of-children
φονία τε Δίκη.
murderous and Justice

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ τίς δὲ κλύει σου θεὸς ἢ δαίμων,
what and hears you god or spirit
τοῦ ψευδόρκου καὶ ξειναπάτου;
the false-swearing and guest-deceiving
ΙΑΣΩΝ φεῦ φεῦ, μυσαρὰ καὶ παιδολέτορ.
alas alas loathsome and child-slayer
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ στεῖχε πρὸς οἴκους καὶ θάπτ' ἄλοχον.
go to the-house and bury wife
ΙΑΣΩΝ στείχω, δισσῶν γ' ἄμορος τέκνων. 1395
I-go of-two at-least bereft children
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ οὔπω θρηνεῖς· μένε καὶ γῆρας.
not-yet you-lament wait also old-age
ΙΑΣΩΝ ὦ τέκνα φίλτατα. ΜΗΔΕΙΑ μητρί γε, σοὶ δ' οὔ.
O children dearest to-mother at-least to-you but not
ΙΑΣΩΝ κἄπειτ' ἔκανες; ΜΗΔΕΙΑ σέ γε πημαίνουσ'.
and-then you-killed you at-least paining
ΙΑΣΩΝ ὤμοι, φιλίου χρῄζω στόματος
ah-me dear I-desire mouth
παίδων ὁ τάλας προσπτύξασθαι. 1400
of-children the wretched to-embrace
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ νῦν σφε προσαυδᾷς, νῦν ἀσπάζει,
now them you-address now you-greet
τότ' ἀπωσάμενος. ΙΑΣΩΝ δός μοι πρὸς θεῶν
then having-thrust-away give me by the-gods
μαλακοῦ χρωτὸς ψαῦσαι τέκνων.
soft skin to-touch of-children
ΜΗΔΕΙΑ οὐκ ἔστι· μάτην ἔπος ἔρριπται.
not it-is-possible in-vain word is-flung

ΙΑΣΩΝ Ζεῦ, τάδ' ἀκούεις ὡς ἀπελαυνόμεθ',
Zeus these-things do-you-hear how we-are-driven-away
οἷά τε πάσχομεν ἐκ τῆς μυσαρᾶς
what and we-suffer from the loathsome
καὶ παιδοφόνου τῆσδε λεαίνης;
and child-murdering this lioness
ἀλλ' ὁπόσον γοῦν πάρα καὶ δύναμαι
but as-much-as at-least is-possible and I-am-able
τάδε καὶ θρηνῶ κἀπιθεάζω,
these-things both I-lament and-invoke-the-gods
μαρτυρόμενος δαίμονας ὥς μοι
calling-to-witness the-gods how me
τέκνα κτείνασ' ἀποκωλύεις
children having-killed you-prevent
ψαῦσαί τε χεροῖν θάψαι τε νεκρούς,
to-touch and with-hands to-bury and the-dead
οὓς μήποτ' ἐγὼ φύσας ὄφελον
whom never I having-begotten ought
πρὸς σοῦ φθιμένους ἐπιδέσθαι.
by you slain to-see
ΧΟΡΟΣ πολλῶν ταμίας Ζεὺς ἐν Ὀλύμπῳ,
of-many-things steward Zeus in Olympus
πολλὰ δ' ἀέλπτως κραίνουσι θεοί·
many-things and unexpectedly accomplish the-gods
καὶ τὰ δοκηθέντ' οὐκ ἐτελέσθη,
and the expected not was-fulfilled

τῶν δ' ἀδοκήτων πόρον ηὗρε θεός.
of-the and unexpected way found the-god
τοιόνδ' ἀπέβη τόδε πρᾶγμα.
such turned-out this affair

EURIPIDES

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ

Hippolytus

I · APHRODITE'S VENGEANCE

Aphrodite announces that she will punish Hippolytus, Theseus' son by the Amazon, who scorns love and honors only Artemis. She has made his stepmother Phaedra fall sick with love for him, and today Theseus will learn of it and curse his son. Hippolytus enters with his huntsmen singing to Artemis and offers her a garland. An old servant warns him to honor Cypris too; he refuses, and the servant prays for him.

ΑΦΡΟΔΙΤΗ Πολλὴ μὲν ἐν βροτοῖσι κοὐκ ἀνώνυμος
Great indeed among mortals and-not nameless
θεὰ κέκλημαι Κύπρις, οὐρανοῦ τ' ἔσω·
goddess I-am-called Cypris of-heaven and within
ὅσοι τε πόντου τερμόνων τ' Ἀτλαντικῶν
as-many-as and of-the-sea of-the-bounds and Atlantic
ναίουσιν εἴσω φῶς ὁρῶντες ἡλίου,
dwell within light seeing of-the-sun
τοὺς μὲν σέβοντας τἀμὰ πρεσβεύω κράτη,
those indeed revering my I-honor powers
σφάλλω δ' ὅσοι φρονοῦσιν εἰς ἡμᾶς μέγα.
I-overthrow and as-many-as think towards us proudly
ἔνεστι γὰρ δὴ κἀν θεῶν γένει τόδε,
there-is for indeed also-in of-gods race this
τιμώμενοι χαίρουσιν ἀνθρώπων ὕπο.
being-honored they-rejoice men by
δείξω δὲ μύθων τῶνδ' ἀλήθειαν τάχα·
I-will-show and of-words these the-truth soon
ὁ γάρ με Θησέως παῖς, Ἀμαζόνος τόκος
the for me of-Theseus son of-the-Amazon offspring
Ἱππόλυτος, ἁγνοῦ Πιτθέως παιδεύματα,
Hippolytus of-pure Pittheus pupil

μόνος πολιτῶν τῆσδε γῆς Τροιζηνίας
alone of-citizens of-this land Troezenian
λέγει κακίστην δαιμόνων πεφυκέναι,
says worst of-gods to-be
ἀναίνεται δὲ λέκτρα κοὐ ψαύει γάμων·
refuses and bed and-not touches marriage
Φοίβου δ' ἀδελφὴν Ἄρτεμιν Διὸς κόρην
of-Phoebus and sister Artemis of-Zeus daughter
τιμᾷ, μεγίστην δαιμόνων ἡγούμενος·
honors greatest of-gods considering-her
χλωρὰν δ' ἀν' ὕλην παρθένῳ ξυνὼν ἀεὶ
green and through wood with-the-maiden being-with always
κυσὶν ταχείαις θῆρας ἐξαιρεῖ χθονός,
with-dogs swift beasts destroys from-the-land
μείζω βροτείας προσπεσὼν ὁμιλίας.
greater than-mortal having-fallen-upon companionship
τούτοισι μέν νυν οὐ φθονῶ· τί γάρ με δεῖ;
these-things indeed now not I-begrudge why for me need
ἃ δ' εἰς ἔμ' ἡμάρτηκε, τιμωρήσομαι
what and towards me he-has-sinned I-will-punish
Ἱππόλυτον ἐν τῇδ' ἡμέρᾳ· τὰ πολλὰ δὲ
Hippolytus on this day the much and
πάλαι προκόψασ', οὐ πόνου πολλοῦ με δεῖ.
long-ago having-advanced not of-toil much me need
ἐλθόντα γάρ νιν Πιτθέως ποτ' ἐκ δόμων
having-come for him of-Pittheus once from house
σεμνῶν ἐς ὄψιν καὶ τέλη μυστηρίων
holy to sight and rites of-mysteries
Πανδίονος γῆν, πατρὸς εὐγενὴς δάμαρ
of-Pandion to-land of-father noble wife

ἰδοῦσα Φαίδρα καρδίαν κατείχετο
having-seen Phaedra in-heart was-possessed
ἔρωτι δεινῷ τοῖς ἐμοῖς βουλεύμασι.
by-love terrible — by-my plans
καὶ πρὶν μὲν ἐλθεῖν τήνδε γῆν Τροιζηνίαν,
and before indeed to-come this land Troezenian
πέτραν παρ' αὐτὴν Παλλάδος κατόψιον
rock beside itself of-Pallas looking-down
γῆς τῆσδε ναὸν Κύπριδος ἐγκαθίσατο,
of-land this temple of-Cypris she-founded
ἐρῶσ' ἔρωτ' ἔκδημον· Ἱππολύτῳ δ' ἔπι
loving love abroad Hippolytus and after
τὸ λοιπὸν ὠνόμαζεν ἱδρῦσθαι θεάν.
the future named to-be-set-up the-goddess
ἐπεὶ δὲ Θησεὺς Κεκροπίαν λείπει χθόνα,
since and Theseus Cecropian leaves land
μίασμα φεύγων αἵματος Παλλαντιδῶν,
pollution fleeing of-blood of-Pallantids
καὶ τήνδε σὺν δάμαρτι ναυστολεῖ χθόνα,
and to-this with wife sails land
ἐνιαυσίαν ἔκδημον αἰνέσας φυγήν,
year-long abroad having-consented-to exile
ἐνταῦθα δὴ στένουσα κἀκπεπληγμένη
here indeed groaning and-stricken
κέντροις ἔρωτος ἡ τάλαιν' ἀπόλλυται
by-goads of-love the wretched perishes
σιγῇ· σύνοιδε δ' οὔτις οἰκετῶν νόσον.
in-silence knows and no-one of-the-servants the-disease
ἀλλ' οὔτι ταύτῃ τόνδ' ἔρωτα χρὴ πεσεῖν·
but not-at-all thus this love must fall

δείξω δὲ Θησεῖ πρᾶγμα, κἀκφανήσεται.
I-will-show and to-Theseus the-thing and-it-will-be-revealed
καὶ τὸν μὲν ἡμῖν πολέμιον νεανίαν
and the indeed to-us hostile young-man
κτενεῖ πατὴρ ἀραῖσιν, ἃς ὁ πόντιος
will-kill father by-curses which the of-the-sea
ἄναξ Ποσειδῶν ὤπασεν Θησεῖ γέρας,
lord Poseidon granted to-Theseus as-a-privilege
μηδὲν μάταιον εἰς τρὶς εὔξασθαι θεῷ.
nothing vain up-to three-times to-pray to-the-god
ἡ δ' εὐκλεὴς μέν, ἀλλ' ὅμως ἀπόλλυται,
she and glorious indeed but nevertheless perishes
Φαίδρα· τὸ γὰρ τῆσδ' οὐ προτιμήσω κακὸν
Phaedra the for of-her not I-will-value evil
τὸ μὴ οὐ παρασχεῖν τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἐχθροὺς ἐμοί
the not — to-give — my enemies to-me
δίκην τοσαύτην ὥστ' ἐμοὶ καλῶς ἔχειν.
justice so-great that for-me well to-be
ἀλλ', εἰσορῶ γὰρ τόνδε παῖδα Θησέως
but I-see for this son of-Theseus
στείχοντα θήρας μόχθον ἐκλελοιπότα,
coming of-the-hunt toil having-left
Ἱππόλυτον, ἔξω τῶνδε βήσομαι τόπων.
Hippolytus outside of-these I-will-go places
πολὺς δ' ἅμ' αὐτῷ προσπόλων ὀπισθόπους
large and together-with him of-attendants following-behind
κῶμος λέλακεν Ἄρτεμιν τιμῶν θεάν
revel-band has-shouted Artemis honoring goddess
ὕμνοισιν· οὐ γὰρ οἶδ' ἀνεῳγμένας πύλας
with-hymns not for he-knows open gates

Ἄιδου φάος τε λοίσθιον βλέπων τόδε.
of-Hades light and last seeing this

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ἕπεσθ' ᾄδοντες ἕπεσθε
follow singing follow

τὰν Διὸς οὐρανίαν
the of-Zeus heavenly

Ἄρτεμιν, ᾗ μελόμεσθα.
Artemis by-whom we-are-cared-for

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΚΥΝΗΓΩΝ πότνια πότνια σεμνοτάτα,
lady lady most-holy

Ζανὸς γένεθλον,
of-Zeus offspring

χαῖρε χαῖρέ μοι, ὦ κόρα
hail hail to-me O maiden

Λατοῦς Ἄρτεμι καὶ Διός,
of-Leto Artemis and of-Zeus

καλλίστα πολὺ παρθένων,
fairest by-far of-maidens

ἃ μέγαν κατ' οὐρανὸν
who great in heaven

ναίεις εὐπατέρειαν αὐλάν,
dwell-in of-noble-father court

Ζανὸς πολύχρυσον οἶκον.
of-Zeus all-golden house

χαῖρέ μοι, ὦ καλλίστα
hail to-me O fairest

καλλίστα τῶν κατ' Ὄλυμπον
fairest of-the in Olympus

παρθένων, Ἄρτεμι.
maidens Artemis

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ σοὶ τόνδε πλεκτὸν στέφανον ἐξ ἀκηράτου
for-you this woven wreath from undefiled
λειμῶνος, ὦ δέσποινα, κοσμήσας φέρω,
meadow O mistress having-adorned I-bring
ἔνθ' οὔτε ποιμὴν ἀξιοῖ φέρβειν βοτὰ
where neither shepherd thinks-fit to-graze flocks
οὔτ' ἦλθέ πω σίδηρος, ἀλλ' ἀκήρατον
nor came yet iron but undefiled
μέλισσα λειμῶν' ἠρινὸν διέρχεται·
the-bee meadow springtime passes-through
Αἰδὼς δὲ ποταμίαισι κηπεύει δρόσοις.
Reverence and with-river tends dews
ὅσοις διδακτὸν μηδέν, ἀλλ' ἐν τῇ φύσει
to-whom taught nothing but in the nature
τὸ σωφρονεῖν εἴληχεν εἰς τὰ πάνθ' ὁμῶς,
the to-be-self-controlled has-fallen-by-lot in the all-things alike
τούτοις δρέπεσθαι, τοῖς κακοῖσι δ' οὐ θέμις.
for-these to-pluck for-the bad but not lawful
ἀλλ' ὦ φίλη δέσποινα, χρυσέας κόμης
but O dear mistress for-golden hair
ἀνάδημα δέξαι χειρὸς εὐσεβοῦς ἄπο.
band receive hand pious from
μόνῳ γάρ ἐστι τοῦτ' ἐμοὶ γέρας βροτῶν·
alone for is this for-me privilege of-mortals
σοὶ καὶ ξύνειμι καὶ λόγοις σ' ἀμείβομαι,
with-you both I-am-with and with-words you I-answer
κλύων μὲν αὐδήν, ὄμμα δ' οὐχ ὁρῶν τὸ σόν.
hearing indeed voice face but not seeing — your
τέλος δὲ κάμψαιμ' ὥσπερ ἠρξάμην βίου.
the-end and may-I-round as I-began of-life

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ἄναξ, θεοὺς γὰρ δεσπότας καλεῖν χρεών,
lord gods for masters to-call is-right
ἆρ' ἄν τί μου δέξαιο βουλεύσαντος εὖ;
— — *anything from-me would-you-accept advising well*
ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ καὶ κάρτα γ'· ἦ γὰρ οὐ σοφοὶ φαινοίμεθ' ἄν.
and greatly at-least truly for not wise we-would-appear —
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ οἶσθ' οὖν βροτοῖσιν ὃς καθέστηκεν νόμος;
do-you-know then for-mortals which is-established law
ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ οὐκ οἶδα· τοῦ δὲ καί μ' ἀνιστορεῖς πέρι;
not I-know what and even me you-question about
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ μισεῖν τὸ σεμνὸν καὶ τὸ μὴ πᾶσιν φίλον;
to-hate the proud and the not to-all friendly
ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ὀρθῶς γε· τίς δ' οὐ σεμνὸς ἀχθεινὸς βροτῶν;
rightly at-least who and not proud offensive of-mortals
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ἐν δ' εὐπροσηγόροισιν ἔστι τις χάρις;
in and the-affable is some charm
ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ πλείστη γε, καὶ κέρδος γε σὺν μόχθῳ βραχεῖ.
greatest at-least and gain at-least with toil short
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ἦ κἀν θεοῖσι ταὐτὸν ἐλπίζεις τόδε;
— *also-among gods the-same do-you-expect this*
ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ εἴπερ γε θνητοὶ θεῶν νόμοισι χρώμεθα.
if-indeed at-least mortals of-the-gods laws use
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ πῶς οὖν σὺ σεμνὴν δαίμον' οὐ προσεννέπεις;
how then you proud goddess not address
ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ τίν'; εὐλαβοῦ δὲ μή τι σοῦ σφαλῇ στόμα.
whom beware and lest something your slip mouth
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ τήνδ' ἣ πύλαισι σαῖς ἐφέστηκεν Κύπρις.
this who at-gates your stands Cypris
ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ πρόσωθεν αὐτὴν ἁγνὸς ὢν ἀσπάζομαι.
from-afar her pure being I-greet

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ σεμνή γε μέντοι κἀπίσημος ἐν βροτοῖς.
proud at-least however and-notable among mortals

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ἄλλοισιν ἄλλος θεῶν τε κἀνθρώπων μέλει.
to-others other of-gods both and-of-men is-a-care

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ εὐδαιμονοίης νοῦν ἔχων ὅσον σε δεῖ.
may-you-prosper sense having as-much-as you is-needed

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ οὐδείς μ' ἀρέσκει νυκτὶ θαυμαστὸς θεῶν.
no-one me pleases by-night wondrous of-gods

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ τιμαῖσιν, ὦ παῖ, δαιμόνων χρῆσθαι χρεών.
honors O son of-gods to-use is-right

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ χωρεῖτ', ὀπαδοί, καὶ παρελθόντες δόμους
go attendants and having-entered the-house

σίτων μέλεσθε· τερπνὸν ἐκ κυναγίας
of-food take-care pleasant after hunting

τράπεζα πλήρης· καὶ καταψήχειν χρεὼν
table full and to-rub-down is-right

ἵππους, ὅπως ἂν ἅρμασι ζεύξας ὕπο
horses so-that — the-chariots having-yoked under

βορᾶς κορεσθεὶς γυμνάσω τὰ πρόσφορα·
with-food having-been-filled I-may-exercise the fitting

τὴν σὴν δὲ Κύπριν πόλλ' ἐγὼ χαίρειν λέγω.
— your and Cypris much I farewell bid

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ἡμεῖς δέ — τοὺς νέους γὰρ οὐ μιμητέον —
we but the young for not one-must-imitate

φρονοῦντες οὕτως ὡς πρέπει δούλοις λέγειν,
thinking thus as befits slaves to-speak

προσευξόμεσθα τοῖσι σοῖς ἀγάλμασι,
will-pray — to-your images

δέσποινα Κύπρι. χρὴ δὲ συγγνώμην ἔχειν,
mistress Cypris one-must and forgiveness to-have

εἴ τίς σ' ὑφ' ἥβης σπλάγχνον ἔντονον φέρων
if anyone you from youth heart intense bearing
μάταια βάζει· μὴ δόκει τούτου κλύειν·
vain-things babbles not seem him to-hear
σοφωτέρους γὰρ χρὴ βροτῶν εἶναι θεούς. 120
wiser for must than-mortals to-be gods

II · THE QUEEN'S SICKNESS

Women of Troezen have heard from a friend at the spring that the queen lies in her house, fasting for the third day and wishing to die. The chorus wonders whether a god possesses her, Pan, Hecate, the Corybantes, or the Mountain Mother, or Dictynna, or whether Theseus has a secret mistress, or a sailor brought bad news from Crete. Or it may be the helplessness that dwells with women's nature, which the chorus once felt in childbirth, calling on Artemis.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὠκεανοῦ τις ὕδωρ
of-ocean a-certain water
στάζουσα πέτρα λέγεται
dripping rock is-said
βαπτὰν κάλπισι ῥυτὰν
dipping for-pitchers flowing
παγὰν προϊεῖσα κρημνῶν,
stream sending-forth from-the-cliffs
ὅθι μοί τις ἦν φίλα, 125
where to-me a-certain was friend
πορφύρεα φάρεα
purple robes
ποταμίᾳ δρόσῳ
in-river dew

τέγγουσα, θερμᾶς δ' ἐπὶ νῶτα πέτρας
wetting warm and on back of-rock
εὐαλίου κατέβαλλ'· ὅθεν μοι
sunny was-throwing-down whence to-me
πρώτα φάτις ἦλθε δέσποινας·
first rumor came of-the-mistress
τειρομέναν νοσερᾷ
being-worn by-sickly
κοίτᾳ δέμας ἐντὸς ἔχειν
bed body within to-keep
οἴκων, λεπτὰ δὲ φάρη
of-the-house thin and robes
ξανθὰν κεφαλὰν σκιάζειν.
golden head to-shade
135 τριτάταν δέ νιν κλύω
third and her I-hear
τάνδε κατ' ἀμβροσίου
this through immortal
στόματος ἁμέραν
of-mouth day
Δάματρος ἀκτᾶς δέμας ἁγνὸν ἴσχειν,
of-Demeter from-grain body pure to-keep
κρυπτῷ πάθει θανάτου θέλουσαν
by-secret suffering of-death wishing
κέλσαι ποτὶ τέρμα δύστανον.
to-put-in to end wretched
ἦ σύ γ' ἔνθεος, ὦ κούρα,
— you at-least possessed-by-a-god O girl
εἴτ' ἐκ Πανὸς εἴθ' Ἑκάτας
whether from Pan or Hecate

ἢ σεμνῶν Κορυβάντων
or the-holy Corybantes
φοιτᾷς, ἢ ματρὸς ὀρείας;
do-you-wander or the-mother mountain
σὺ δ' ἀμφὶ τὰν πολύθηρον
you and about — of-many-beasts
Δίκτυνναν ἀμπλακίαις
Dictynna for-offenses
ἀνίερος ἀθύτων πελάνων τρύχει;
unholy of-unsacrificed offerings are-you-wasting-away
φοιτᾷ γὰρ καὶ διὰ λίμνας
she-roams for also through the-lake
χέρσον θ' ὑπὲρ πελάγους
the-dry-land and over the-sea
δίναις ἐν νοτίαις ἅλμας.
eddies in wet of-the-brine
ἢ πόσιν, τὸν Ἐρεχθειδᾶν
or husband the of-Erechtheus'-sons
ἀρχαγόν, τὸν εὐπατρίδαν,
leader the well-born
ποιμαίνει τις ἐν οἴκοις
tends someone in the-house
κρυπτὰ κοίτα λεχέων σῶν;
secret bed from-bed your
ἢ ναυβάτας τις ἔπλευσεν
or seafaring someone sailed
Κρήτας ἔξορμος ἀνὴρ
from-Crete out-of-harbor man
λιμένα τὸν εὐξεινότατον ναύταις,
to-harbor the most-hospitable to-sailors

φάμαν πέμπων βασιλείᾳ,
report sending to-the-queen
λύπᾳ δ' ὑπὲρ παθέων
by-grief and over sufferings
εὐναία δέδεται ψυχά;
bed-bound is-bound soul
φιλεῖ δὲ τᾷ δυστρόπῳ γυναικῶν
is-wont and to-the ill-humored of-women
ἁρμονίᾳ κακὰ δύστανος
nature evil wretched
ἀμηχανία συνοικεῖν
helplessness to-dwell-with
ὠδίνων τε καὶ ἀφροσύνας.
of-pangs both and of-folly
δι' ἐμᾶς ᾖξέν ποτε νηδύος ἅδ' αὔρα·
through my rushed once womb this breeze
τὰν δ' εὔλοχον οὐρανίαν
the and of-easy-childbirth heavenly
τόξων μεδέουσαν ἀύτευν
of-bows ruling I-called-on
Ἄρτεμιν, καί μοι πολυζήλωτος ἀεὶ
Artemis and to-me much-envied always
σὺν θεοῖσι φοιτᾷ.
with the-gods she-goes

The nurse brings Phaedra out; delirious, she longs for mountain hunts and for breaking colts on Artemis' grounds, then is ashamed. The nurse begs her to speak, and at Hippolytus' name Phaedra reveals her love. She meant to conquer it in silence, then by self-control, and now resolves to die rather than shame her house. The nurse calls love the gods' work and urges her to yield. Phaedra refuses, so the nurse promises a charm to cure her.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' ἥδε τροφὸς γεραιὰ πρὸ θυρῶν
but this nurse old before the-doors
τήνδε κομίζουσ' ἔξω μελάθρων·
her bringing outside of-the-halls
στυγνὸν δ' ὀφρύων νέφος αὐξάνεται.
gloomy and of-brows cloud grows
τί ποτ' ἔστι μαθεῖν ἔραται ψυχή,
what ever it-is to-learn longs soul
τί δεδήληται
what has-been-ravaged
δέμας ἀλλόχροον βασιλείας.
body changed-in-color of-the-queen
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ὦ κακὰ θνητῶν στυγεραί τε νόσοι.
O evils of-mortals hateful and diseases
τί σ' ἐγὼ δράσω; τί δὲ μὴ δράσω;
what you I shall-I-do what and not shall-I-do
τόδε σοι φέγγος λαμπρὸν, ὅδ' αἰθήρ·
this for-you light bright this air
ἔξω δὲ δόμων ἤδη νοσερᾶς
outside and of-the-house already of-sickly
δέμνια κοίτης.
bedding bed

δεῦρο γὰρ ἐλθεῖν πᾶν ἔπος ἦν σοι·
here for to-come every word was to-you
τάχα δ' εἰς θαλάμους σπεύσεις τὸ πάλιν.
soon and into the-chambers you-will-hasten the back
ταχὺ γὰρ σφάλλει κοὐδενὶ χαίρεις,
quickly for you-are-thrown-off and-in-nothing you-rejoice
οὐδέ σ' ἀρέσκει τὸ παρόν, τὸ δ' ἀπὸν
nor you pleases the present the and absent
185 φίλτερον ἡγεῖ.
dearer you-think
κρεῖσσον δὲ νοσεῖν ἢ θεραπεύειν·
better and to-be-sick than to-tend
τὸ μέν ἐστιν ἁπλοῦν, τῷ δὲ συνάπτει
the(-one) indeed is simple to-the and is-joined
λύπη τε φρενῶν χερσίν τε πόνος.
grief and of-mind for-hands and toil
πᾶς δ' ὀδυνηρὸς βίος ἀνθρώπων,
all and painful life of-men
190 κοὐκ ἔστι πόνων ἀνάπαυσις·
and-not is from-toils rest
ἀλλ' ὅ τι τοῦ ζῆν φίλτερον ἄλλο
but what ever than-the to-live dearer other
σκότος ἀμπίσχων κρύπτει νεφέλαις.
darkness enfolding hides in-clouds
δυσέρωτες δὴ φαινόμεθ' ὄντες
lovesick indeed we-appear being
τοῦδ', ὅ τι τοῦτο στίλβει κατὰ γῆν,
of-this what ever this gleams on earth
195 δι' ἀπειροσύνην ἄλλου βιότου
through inexperience of-other life

κοὐκ ἀπόδειξιν τῶν ὑπὸ γαίας·
and-not proof of-the-things under earth
μύθοις δ' ἄλλως φερόμεσθα.
by-tales and vainly we-are-borne
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ αἴρετέ μου δέμας, ὀρθοῦτε κάρα·
lift my body raise head
λέλυμαι μελέων σύνδεσμα, φίλαι.
I-am-loosened of-limbs the-bonds friends
λάβετ' εὐπήχεις χεῖρας, πρόπολοι.
take shapely hands attendants
βαρύ μοι κεφαλᾶς ἐπίκρανον ἔχειν·
heavy for-me on-the-head headband to-have
ἄφελ', ἀμπέτασον βόστρυχον ὤμοις.
take-off spread-out curls on-shoulders
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ θάρσει, τέκνον, καὶ μὴ χαλεπῶς
take-heart child and not harshly
μετάβαλλε δέμας.
toss body
ῥᾷον δὲ νόσον μετά θ' ἡσυχίας
more-easily and the-sickness with and quiet
καὶ γενναίου λήματος οἴσεις·
and noble spirit you-will-bear
μοχθεῖν δὲ βροτοῖσιν ἀνάγκη.
to-toil and for-mortals necessity
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ αἰαῖ.
alas
πῶς ἂν δροσερᾶς ἀπὸ κρηνῖδος
how — dewy from spring
καθαρῶν ὑδάτων πῶμ' ἀρυσαίμαν,
of-pure waters draft might-I-draw

ὑπό τ᾽ αἰγείροις ἔν τε κομήτῃ
under and poplars in and grassy
λειμῶνι κλιθεῖσ᾽ ἀναπαυσαίμαν.
meadow reclining might-I-rest
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ὦ παῖ, τί θροεῖς;
O child what do-you-cry
οὐ μὴ παρ᾽ ὄχλῳ τάδε γηρύσει
not — before crowd these-things will-you-utter
μανίας ἔποχον ῥίπτουσα λόγον;
of-madness riding flinging word
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ πέμπετέ μ᾽ εἰς ὄρος· εἶμι πρὸς ὕλαν
send me to the-mountain I-will-go to the-wood
καὶ παρὰ πεύκας, ἵνα θηροφόνοι
and by pines where beast-killing
στείβουσι κύνες
tread hounds
βαλιαῖς ἐλάφοις ἐγχριμπτόμεναι·
dappled on-deer pressing-close
πρὸς θεῶν, ἔραμαι κυσὶ θωΰξαι
by the-gods I-long to-the-hounds to-shout
καὶ παρὰ χαίταν ξανθὰν ῥῖψαι
and by hair golden to-hurl
Θεσσαλὸν ὅρπακ᾽, ἐπίλογχον ἔχουσ᾽
Thessalian javelin barbed holding
ἐν χειρὶ βέλος.
in hand weapon
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ τί πότ᾽, ὦ τέκνον, τάδε κηραίνεις;
why ever O child these-things do-you-fret
τί κυνηγεσίων καὶ σοὶ μελέτη;
why of-hunts even for-you care

τί δὲ κρηναίων νασμῶν ἔρασαι;
why and for-spring streams do-you-long
πάρα γὰρ δροσερὰ πύργοις συνεχὴς
near for dewy to-the-towers adjoining
κλιτύς, ὅθεν σοι πῶμα γένοιτ' ἄν.
slope whence for-you drink might-be —
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ δέσποιν' ἁλίας Ἄρτεμι Λίμνας
mistress of-sea Artemis of-Limna
καὶ γυμνασίων τῶν ἱπποκρότων,
and of-exercise-grounds the horse-trampled
εἴθε γενοίμαν ἐν σοῖς δαπέδοις,
would-that I-might-be in your plains
πώλους Ἐνέτας δαμαλιζομένα.
colts Venetian breaking-in
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ τί τόδ' αὖ παράφρων ἔρριψας ἔπος;
why this again distracted have-you-flung word
νῦν δὴ μὲν ὄρος βᾶσ' ἐπὶ θήρας
now just indeed to-the-mountain having-gone for the-chase
πόθον ἐστέλλου, νῦν δ' αὖ ψαμάθοις
longing you-set-out now and again sands
ἐπ' ἀκυμάντοις πώλων ἔρασαι.
on wave-free of-colts you-long
τάδε μαντείας ἄξια πολλῆς,
these-things of-prophecy worthy much
ὅστις σε θεῶν ἀνασειράζει
which you of-the-gods reins-back
καὶ παρακόπτει φρένας, ὦ παῖ.
and strikes-aside the-mind O child

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ δύστανος ἐγώ, τί ποτ᾽ εἰργασάμαν;
wretched I what ever have-I-done

240 ποῖ παρεπλάγχθην γνώμας ἀγαθᾶς;
whither have-I-wandered-from judgment good

ἐμάνην, ἔπεσον δαίμονος ἄτᾳ.
I-raved I-fell of-god by-the-ruin

φεῦ φεῦ, τλάμων.
alas alas wretched

μαῖα, πάλιν μου κρύψον κεφαλάν·
nurse again my cover head

αἰδούμεθα γὰρ τὰ λελεγμένα μοι.
I-am-ashamed for the spoken(-things) by-me

245 κρύπτε· κατ᾽ ὄσσων δάκρυ μοι βαίνει,
cover down eyes tear for-me goes

καὶ ἐπ᾽ αἰσχύναν ὄμμα τέτραπται.
and towards shame eye is-turned

τὸ γὰρ ὀρθοῦσθαι γνώμαν ὀδυνᾷ,
the for to-be-set-right in-judgment pains

τὸ δὲ μαινόμενον κακόν· ἀλλὰ κρατεῖ
the and raving evil but it-prevails

μὴ γιγνώσκοντ᾽ ἀπολέσθαι.
not knowing to-perish

250 ΤΡΟΦΟΣ κρύπτω· τὸ δ᾽ ἐμὸν πότε δὴ θάνατος
I-cover — and my when indeed death

σῶμα καλύψει;
body will-cover

πολλὰ διδάσκει μ᾽ ὁ πολὺς βίοτος·
many-things teaches me the long life

χρῆν γὰρ μετρίας εἰς ἀλλήλους
one-should for moderate to one-another

φιλίας θνητοὺς ἀνακίρνασθαι,
friendships mortals to-mix
καὶ μὴ πρὸς ἄκρον μυελὸν ψυχῆς,
and not to the-utmost marrow of-the-soul
εὔλυτα δ' εἶναι στέργηθρα φρενῶν
easily-loosed and to-be affections of-the-heart
ἀπό τ' ὦσασθαι καὶ ξυντεῖναι.
from and to-push and to-tighten
τὸ δ' ὑπὲρ δισσῶν μίαν ὠδίνειν
the and for two one to-be-in-labor
ψυχὴν χαλεπὸν βάρος, ὡς κἀγὼ
soul hard burden as and-I
τῆσδ' ὑπεραλγῶ.
for-her grieve-too-much
βιότου δ' ἀτρεκεῖς ἐπιτηδεύσεις
of-life and strict practices
φασὶ σφάλλειν πλέον ἢ τέρπειν
they-say to-trip more than to-delight
τῇ θ' ὑγιείᾳ μᾶλλον πολεμεῖν.
with-the and health rather to-war
οὕτω τὸ λίαν ἧσσον ἐπαινῶ
thus the too-much less I-praise
τοῦ μηδὲν ἄγαν·
than-the nothing too-much
καὶ ξυμφήσουσι σοφοί μοι.
and will-agree the-wise with-me

ΧΟΡΟΣ γύναι γεραιά, βασιλίδος πιστὴ τροφὸς
woman old of-the-queen faithful nurse
Φαίδρας, ὁρῶ μὲν τάσδε δυστήνους τύχας,
of-Phaedra I-see indeed these wretched fortunes

ἄσημα δ' ἡμῖν ἥτις ἐστὶν ἡ νόσος·
unclear and to-us what is the disease

σοῦ δ' ἂν πυθέσθαι καὶ κλύειν βουλοίμεθ' ἄν.
from-you and — to-learn and to-hear we-would-wish —

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ οὐκ οἶδ' ἐλέγχουσ'· οὐ γὰρ ἐννέπειν θέλει.
not I-know questioning not for to-tell she-wishes

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐδ' ἥτις ἀρχὴ τῶνδε πημάτων ἔφυ;
nor what beginning of-these woes was

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ εἰς ταὐτὸν ἥκεις· πάντα γὰρ σιγᾷ τάδε.
to the-same you-come all for she-keeps-silent these-things

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὡς ἀσθενεῖ τε καὶ κατέξανται δέμας.
how she-is-weak both and is-wasted body

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ πῶς δ' οὔ, τριταίαν οὖσ' ἄσιτος ἡμέραν;
how and not third being without-food day

ΧΟΡΟΣ πότερον ὑπ' ἄτης ἢ θανεῖν πειρωμένη;
whether by ruin or to-die trying

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ θανεῖν· ἀσιτεῖ δ' εἰς ἀπόστασιν βίου.
to-die she-fasts and for departure of-life

ΧΟΡΟΣ θαυμαστὸν εἶπας, εἰ τάδ' ἐξαρκεῖ πόσει.
wondrous you-have-said if this suffices her-husband

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ κρύπτει γὰρ ἥδε πῆμα κοὔ φησιν νοσεῖν.
hides for she the-pain and-not says to-be-sick

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὁ δ' εἰς πρόσωπον οὐ τεκμαίρεται βλέπων;
he and to face not judges looking

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ἔκδημος ὢν γὰρ τῆσδε τυγχάνει χθονός.
abroad being for from-this happens-to-be land

ΧΟΡΟΣ σὺ δ' οὐκ ἀνάγκην προσφέρεις, πειρωμένη
you but not force do-you-apply trying

νόσον πυθέσθαι τῆσδε καὶ πλάνον φρενῶν;
the-sickness to-learn of-her and the-wandering of-mind

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ εἰς πᾶν ἀφῖγμαι κοὐδὲν εἴργασμαι πλέον·
to all I-have-come and-nothing I-have-achieved more

οὐ μὴν ἀνήσω γ' οὐδὲ νῦν προθυμίας,
not indeed I-will-slacken at-least nor now of-zeal

ὡς ἂν παροῦσα καὶ σύ μοι ξυμμαρτυρῇς
that — being-present also you with-me may-bear-witness

οἵα πέφυκα δυστυχοῦσι δεσπόταις.
what-kind I-am to-unfortunate masters

ἄγ', ὦ φίλη παῖ, τῶν πάροιθε μὲν λόγων
come O dear child the before indeed words

λαθώμεθ' ἄμφω, καὶ σύ θ' ἡδίων γενοῦ
let-us-forget both and you and sweeter become

στυγνὴν ὀφρὺν λύσασα καὶ γνώμης ὁδόν,
gloomy brow having-loosed and of-thought path

ἐγώ θ' ὅπῃ σοι μὴ καλῶς τόθ' εἱπόμην
I and where you not well then I-followed

μεθεῖσ' ἐπ' ἄλλον εἶμι βελτίω λόγον.
having-let-go to another I-will-go better word

κεἰ μὲν νοσεῖς τι τῶν ἀπορρήτων κακῶν,
and-if indeed you-are-sick-with some of-the unspeakable ills

γυναῖκες αἵδε συγκαθιστάναι νόσον·
women these to-help-treat the-disease

εἰ δ' ἔκφορός σοι συμφορὰ πρὸς ἄρσενας,
if and to-be-told for-you the-trouble to men

λέγ', ὡς ἰατροῖς πρᾶγμα μηνυθῇ τόδε.
speak that to-physicians the-thing may-be-disclosed this

εἶεν· τί σιγᾷς; οὐκ ἐχρῆν σιγᾶν, τέκνον,
well why are-you-silent not ought to-be-silent child

ἀλλ' ἤ μ' ἐλέγχειν, εἴ τι μὴ καλῶς λέγω,
but either me to-refute if something not well I-say

ἢ τοῖσιν εὖ λεχθεῖσι συγχωρεῖν λόγοις.
or to-the well spoken to-yield words
φθέγξαι τι, δεῦρ' ἄθρησον· ὦ τάλαιν' ἐγώ.
utter something here look O wretched I
γυναῖκες, ἄλλως τούσδε μοχθοῦμεν πόνους,
women in-vain these we-toil toils
ἴσον δ' ἄπεσμεν τῷ πρίν· οὔτε γὰρ τότε
equal and we-are-away from-the before neither for then
λόγοις ἐτέγγεθ' ἥδε νῦν τ' οὐ πείθεται.
by-words was-softened she now and not is-persuaded
ἀλλ' ἴσθι μέντοι — πρὸς τάδ' αὐθαδεστέρα
but know however to these more-stubborn
γίγνου θαλάσσης — εἰ θανεῖ, προδοῦσα σοὺς
become than-the-sea if you-die having-betrayed your
παῖδας πατρῴων μὴ μεθέξοντας δόμων,
children of-father's not to-share house
μὰ τὴν ἄνασσαν ἱππίαν Ἀμαζόνα,
by the queen riding Amazon
ἣ σοῖς τέκνοισι δεσπότην ἐγείνατο
who to-your children master bore
νόθον φρονοῦντα γνήσι', οἶσθά νιν καλῶς,
bastard thinking-like-a legitimate you-know him well
Ἱππόλυτον, — ΦΑΙΔΡΑ οἴμοι. ΤΡΟΦΟΣ θιγγάνει σέθεν τόδε;
Hippolytus ah-me touches you this
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ ἀπώλεσάς με, μαῖα, καί σε πρὸς θεῶν
you-have-destroyed me nurse and you by the-gods
τοῦδ' ἀνδρὸς αὖθις λίσσομαι σιγᾶν πέρι.
this man again I-beg to-be-silent about

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ὁρᾷς; φρονεῖς μὲν εὖ, φρονοῦσα δ' οὐ θέλεις
do-you-see you-think indeed well thinking but not you-wish
παῖδάς τ' ὀνῆσαι καὶ σὸν ἐκσῶσαι βίον.
children and to-benefit and your to-save life
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ φιλῶ τέκν'· ἄλλῃ δ' ἐν τύχῃ χειμάζομαι.
I-love children another but in fortune I-am-tossed
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ἁγνὰς μέν, ὦ παῖ, χεῖρας αἵματος φορεῖς;
pure indeed O child hands of-blood do-you-bear
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ χεῖρες μὲν ἁγναί, φρὴν δ' ἔχει μίασμά τι.
hands indeed pure mind but has pollution some
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ μῶν ἐξ ἐπακτοῦ πημονῆς ἐχθρῶν τινός;
surely-not from imported woe of-enemies some
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ φίλος μ' ἀπόλλυσ' οὐχ ἑκοῦσαν οὐχ ἑκών.
friend me destroys not willing not willing
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ Θησεύς τιν' ἡμάρτηκεν εἰς σ' ἁμαρτίαν;
Theseus some has-committed against you wrong
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ μὴ δρῶσ' ἔγωγ' ἐκεῖνον ὀφθείην κακῶς.
not doing I him may-I-be-seen badly
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ τί γὰρ τὸ δεινὸν τοῦθ' ὅ σ' ἐξαίρει θανεῖν;
what for the terrible this which you excites to-die
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ ἔα μ' ἁμαρτεῖν· οὐ γὰρ εἰς σ' ἁμαρτάνω.
let me sin not for against you I-sin
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ οὐ δῆθ' ἑκοῦσά γ', ἐν δὲ σοὶ λελείψομαι.
not indeed willingly at-least in and you I-shall-fail
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ τί δρᾷς; βιάζει χειρὸς ἐξαρτωμένη;
what do-you-do do-you-force of-hand clinging
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ καὶ σῶν γε γονάτων, κοὐ μεθήσομαί ποτε.
and your at-least knees and-not I-will-let-go ever
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ κάκ', ὦ τάλαινα, σοὶ τάδ', εἰ πεύσει, κακά.
evils O wretched for-you these-things if you-will-learn evils

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ μείζον γὰρ ἢ σοῦ μὴ τυχεῖν τί μοι κακόν;
greater for than you not to-obtain what for-me evil

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ ὀλεῖ· τὸ μέντοι πρᾶγμ᾽ ἐμοὶ τιμὴν φέρει.
you-will-perish the however thing for-me honor brings

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ κἄπειτα κρύπτεις χρήσθ᾽ ἱκνουμένης ἐμοῦ;
and-then do-you-hide good-things beseeching me

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ ἐκ τῶν γὰρ αἰσχρῶν ἐσθλὰ μηχανώμεθα.
from the for shameful noble-things we-contrive

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ οὔκουν λέγουσα τιμιωτέρα φανεῖ;
not-then saying more-honored will-you-appear

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ ἄπελθε πρὸς θεῶν δεξιᾶς τ᾽ ἐμῆς μέθες.
go-away by the-gods right and my let-go

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ οὐ δῆτ᾽, ἐπεί μοι δῶρον οὐ δίδως ὃ χρῆν.
not indeed since to-me gift not you-give which was-due

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ δώσω· σέβας γὰρ χειρὸς αἰδοῦμαι τὸ σόν.
I-will-give awe for of-the-hand I-respect — your

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ σιγῷμ᾽ ἂν ἤδη· σὸς γὰρ οὑντεῦθεν λόγος.
I-would-be-silent — now yours for from-here the-word

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ ὦ τλῆμον, οἷον, μῆτερ, ἠράσθης ἔρον,
O wretched what mother you-loved love

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ὃν ἔσχε ταύρου, τέκνον, ἢ τί φὴς τόδε;
which she-had for-the-bull child — what do-you-say this

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ σύ τ᾽, ὦ τάλαιν᾽ ὄμαιμε, Διονύσου δάμαρ,
you and O wretched sister of-Dionysus wife

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ τέκνον, τί πάσχεις; συγγόνους κακορροθεῖς;
child what do-you-suffer kin do-you-revile

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ τρίτη τ᾽ ἐγὼ δύστηνος ὡς ἀπόλλυμαι.
third and I wretched how I-perish

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ἔκ τοι πέπληγμαι· ποῖ προβήσεται λόγος;
utterly surely am-astounded whither will-proceed the-word

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ ἐκεῖθεν ἡμεῖς οὐ νεωστὶ δυστυχεῖς.
from-there we not newly unfortunate

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ οὐδέν τι μᾶλλον οἶδ' ἃ βούλομαι κλύειν.
not-at-all at-all more I-know what I-wish to-hear

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ φεῦ· 345
alas

πῶς ἂν σύ μοι λέξειας ἁμὲ χρὴ λέγειν;
how — you to-me would-say what-I one-must to-say

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ οὐ μάντις εἰμὶ τἀφανῆ γνῶναι σαφῶς.
not prophet I-am the-unseen to-know clearly

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ τί τοῦθ', ὃ δὴ λέγουσιν ἀνθρώπους, ἐρᾶν;
what this which indeed they-call men to-love

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ἥδιστον, ὦ παῖ, ταὐτὸν ἀλγεινόν θ' ἅμα.
sweetest O child the-same painful and together

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ ἡμεῖς ἄρ' ἦμεν θατέρῳ κεχρημένοι.
we then were with-the-other afflicted

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ τί φής; ἐρᾷς, ὦ τέκνον, ἀνθρώπων τίνος; 350
what do-you-say you-love O child of-men whom

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ ὅστις πόθ' οὗτός ἐσθ', ὁ τῆς Ἀμαζόνος —
whoever ever this is the(-son) — of-the-Amazon

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ Ἱππόλυτον αὐδᾷς; ΦΑΙΔΡΑ σοῦ τάδ', οὐκ ἐμοῦ κλύεις.
Hippolytus you-name from-you this not from-me you-hear

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ οἴμοι, τί λέξεις, τέκνον; ὥς μ' ἀπώλεσας.
ah-me what will-you-say child how me you-have-destroyed

γυναῖκες, οὐκ ἀνασχέτ', οὐκ ἀνέξομαι
women not to-be-borne not I-will-bear

ζῶσ'· ἐχθρὸν ἦμαρ, ἐχθρὸν εἰσορῶ φάος. 355
living hateful day hateful I-look-upon light

ῥίψω, μεθήσω σῶμ', ἀπαλλαχθήσομαι
I-will-hurl I-will-let-go body I-will-be-rid

βίου θανοῦσα· χαίρετ'· οὐκέτ' εἰμ' ἐγώ.
of-life dying farewell no-longer I-am I
οἱ σώφρονες γὰρ οὐχ ἑκόντες, ἀλλ' ὅμως
the self-controlled for not willing but nevertheless
κακῶν ἐρῶσι. Κύπρις οὐκ ἄρ' ἦν θεός,
evils love Cypris not then was a-god
ἀλλ' εἴ τι μεῖζον ἄλλο γίγνεται θεοῦ,
but if something greater other is than-a-god
ἥ τήνδε κἀμὲ καὶ δόμους ἀπώλεσεν.
who this-woman and-me and house has-destroyed
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄιες ὤ, ἔκλυες ὦ
did-you-hear O did-you-listen O
ἀνήκουστα τᾶς
unheard-of of-the
τυράννου πάθεα μέλεα θρεομένας.
queen sufferings miserable lamenting
ὀλοίμαν ἔγωγε, πρὶν σᾶν, φίλα,
may-I-perish I before your dear
κατανύσαι φρενῶν. ἰώ μοι, φεῦ φεῦ.
to-reach mind ah me alas alas
ὦ τάλαινα τῶνδ' ἀλγέων·
O wretched of-these griefs
ὦ πόνοι τρέφοντες βροτούς.
O toils nurturing mortals
ὄλωλας, ἐξέφηνας εἰς φάος κακά.
you-are-ruined you-have-revealed to light evils
τίς σε παναμέριος ὅδε χρόνος μένει;
what you all-day-long this time awaits
τελευτάσεταί τι καινὸν δόμοις.
will-be-accomplished something new for-the-house

ἄσημα δ' οὐκέτ' ἐστὶν οἷ φθίνει τύχα
unclear and no-longer is where wanes fortune
Κύπριδος, ὦ τάλαινα παῖ Κρησία.
of-Cypris O wretched daughter Cretan
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ Τροιζήνιαι γυναῖκες, αἳ τόδ' ἔσχατον
Troezenian women who this furthest
οἰκεῖτε χώρας Πελοπίας προνώπιον,
inhabit of-land Pelopian forecourt
ἤδη ποτ' ἄϋπνος νυκτὸς ἐν μακρῷ χρόνῳ
already once sleepless of-night in long time
θνητῶν ἐφρόντισ' ᾗ διέφθαρται βίος.
of-mortals I-pondered how is-ruined life
καί μοι δοκοῦσιν οὐ κατὰ γνώμης φύσιν
and to-me they-seem not according-to of-judgment nature
πράσσειν κάκιον, ἔστι γὰρ τό γ' εὖ φρονεῖν
to-fare worse there-is for the at-least well to-think
πολλοῖσιν, ἀλλὰ τῇδ' ἀθρητέον τόδε·
for-many but thus one-must-look this
τὰ χρήστ' ἐπιστάμεσθα καὶ γιγνώσκομεν,
the good we-know and we-recognize
οὐκ ἐκπονοῦμεν δ', οἳ μὲν ἀργίας ὕπο,
not we-carry-out and some indeed idleness by
οἳ δ' ἡδονὴν προθέντες ἀντὶ τοῦ καλοῦ
others and pleasure having-preferred instead-of the noble
ἄλλην τιν'. εἰσὶ δ' ἡδοναὶ πολλαὶ βίου,
other some there-are and pleasures many of-life
μακραί τε λέσχαι καὶ σχολή, τερπνὸν κακόν,
long and talks and leisure pleasant evil
αἰδώς τε. δισσαὶ δ' εἰσίν, ἡ μὲν οὐ κακή,
shame and two and there-are the(-one) indeed not bad

ἡ δ' ἄχθος οἴκων. εἰ δ' ὁ καιρὸς ἦν σαφής,
the-other and burden of-houses if and the occasion were clear
οὐκ ἂν δύ' ἦστην ταὔτ' ἔχοντε γράμματα.
not — two they-would-be the-same having letters
ταῦτ' οὖν ἐπειδὴ τυγχάνω φρονοῦσ' ἐγώ,
these-things then since I-happen thinking I
οὐκ ἔσθ' ὁποίῳ φαρμάκῳ διαφθερεῖν
not it-is by-what drug to-destroy
390 ἔμελλον, ὥστε τοὔμπαλιν πεσεῖν φρενῶν.
I-was-about so-as the-opposite to-fall of-mind
λέξω δὲ καὶ σοὶ τῆς ἐμῆς γνώμης ὁδόν·
I-will-tell and also to-you — of-my judgment the-path
ἐπεί μ' ἔρως ἔτρωσεν, ἐσκόπουν ὅπως
when me love wounded I-considered how
κάλλιστ' ἐνέγκαιμ' αὐτόν. ἠρξάμην μὲν οὖν
best I-might-bear it I-began indeed then
ἐκ τοῦδε, σιγᾶν τήνδε καὶ κρύπτειν νόσον.
from this to-be-silent this and to-hide sickness
395 γλώσσῃ γὰρ οὐδὲν πιστόν, ἢ θυραῖα μὲν
in-tongue for nothing trustworthy which outside indeed
φρονήματ' ἀνδρῶν νουθετεῖν ἐπίσταται,
thoughts of-men to-admonish knows
αὐτὴ δ' ὑφ' αὑτῆς πλεῖστα κέκτηται κακά.
itself and by itself most possesses evils
τὸ δεύτερον δὲ τὴν ἄνοιαν εὖ φέρειν
the second and the folly well to-bear
τῷ σωφρονεῖν νικῶσα προὐνοησάμην.
by-the self-control conquering I-planned
400 τρίτον δ', ἐπειδὴ τοισίδ' οὐκ ἐξήνυτον
third and since by-these not I-could-accomplish

Κύπριν κρατῆσαι, κατθανεῖν ἔδοξέ μοι,
Cypris to-master to-die it-seemed-good to-me
κράτιστον, οὐδεὶς ἀντερεῖ, βουλευμάτων.
best no-one will-deny of-plans
ἐμοὶ γὰρ εἴη μήτε λανθάνειν καλὰ
to-me for may-it-be neither to-be-unseen noble(-deeds)
μήτ' αἰσχρὰ δρώσῃ μάρτυρας πολλοὺς ἔχειν.
nor shameful doing witnesses many to-have
τὸ δ' ἔργον ᾔδη τὴν νόσον τε δυσκλεᾶ,
the and deed I-knew the disease and infamous
γυνή τε πρὸς τοῖσδ' οὖσ' ἐγίγνωσκον καλῶς,
woman and besides these being I-knew well
μίσημα πᾶσιν. ὡς ὄλοιτο παγκάκως
hateful-thing to-all how may-she-perish most-wretchedly
ἥτις πρὸς ἄνδρας ἤρξατ' αἰσχύνειν λέχη
who towards men began to-shame bed
πρώτη θυραίους. ἐκ δὲ γενναίων δόμων
first outside from and noble houses
τόδ' ἦρξε θηλείαισι γίγνεσθαι κακόν.
this began for-women to-be evil
ὅταν γὰρ αἰσχρὰ τοῖσιν ἐσθλοῖσιν δοκῇ,
whenever for shameful-things to-the noble seem-good
ἦ κάρτα δόξει τοῖς κακοῖς γ' εἶναι καλά.
truly greatly will-seem to-the bad at-least to-be fine
μισῶ δὲ καὶ τὰς σώφρονας μὲν ἐν λόγοις,
I-hate and also the self-controlled indeed in words
λάθρᾳ δὲ τόλμας οὐ καλὰς κεκτημένας.
secretly and deeds-of-daring not fine possessing
αἳ πῶς ποτ', ὦ δέσποινα ποντία Κύπρι,
who how ever O mistress of-the-sea Cypris

βλέπουσιν εἰς πρόσωπα τῶν ξυνευνετῶν
look into the-faces of-the bedfellows
οὐδὲ σκότον φρίσσουσι τὸν ξυνεργάτην
nor darkness shudder-at the accomplice
τέραμνά τ᾽ οἴκων μή ποτε φθογγὴν ἀφῇ;
roof and of-the-house lest ever voice it-utter
ἡμᾶς γὰρ αὐτὸ τοῦτ᾽ ἀποκτείνει, φίλαι,
us for very this-thing kills friends
ὡς μήποτ᾽ ἄνδρα τὸν ἐμὸν αἰσχύνασ᾽ ἁλῶ,
that never husband — my having-shamed I-be-caught
μὴ παῖδας οὓς ἔτικτον· ἀλλ᾽ ἐλεύθεροι
nor children whom I-bore but free
παρρησίᾳ θάλλοντες οἰκοῖεν πόλιν
with-free-speech flourishing may-they-inhabit city
κλεινῶν Ἀθηνῶν, μητρὸς εἵνεκ᾽ εὐκλεεῖς.
of-glorious Athens of-mother for-the-sake well-famed
δουλοῖ γὰρ ἄνδρα, κἂν θρασύσπλαγχνός τις ᾖ,
enslaves for a-man even-if bold-hearted someone be
ὅταν ξυνειδῇ μητρὸς ἢ πατρὸς κακά.
whenever he-is-conscious-of of-mother or of-father evils
μόνον δὲ τοῦτό φασ᾽ ἁμιλλᾶσθαι βίῳ,
only and this they-say to-compete with-life
γνώμην δικαίαν κἀγαθήν, ὅτῳ παρῇ.
judgment just and-good to-whom it-is-present
κακοὺς δὲ θνητῶν ἐξέφην᾽, ὅταν τύχῃ,
the-bad and of-mortals reveals whenever it-happens
προθεὶς κάτοπτρον ὥστε παρθένῳ νέᾳ
setting mirror as to-maiden young
χρόνος· παρ᾽ οἷσι μήποτ᾽ ὀφθείην ἐγώ.
time among whom never may-I-be-seen I

ΧΟΡΟΣ φεῦ φεῦ· τὸ σῶφρον ὡς ἁπανταχοῦ καλόν,
alas alas the self-control how everywhere fine
καὶ δόξαν ἐσθλὴν ἐν βροτοῖς καρπίζεται.
and repute noble among mortals reaps
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ δέσποιν', ἐμοί τοι συμφορὰ μὲν ἀρτίως
mistress to-me surely misfortune indeed just-now
ἡ σὴ παρέσχε δεινὸν ἐξαίφνης φόβον·
— your gave terrible suddenly fear
νῦν δ' ἐννοοῦμαι φαῦλος οὖσα· κἀν βροτοῖς
now and I-consider foolish being and-among mortals
αἱ δεύτεραί πως φροντίδες σοφώτεραι.
the second somehow thoughts wiser
οὐ γὰρ περισσὸν οὐδὲν οὐδ' ἔξω λόγου
not for strange nothing nor beyond reason
πέπονθας· ὀργαὶ δ' εἰς σ' ἐπέσκηψαν θεᾶς.
you-have-suffered wraths and against you have-swooped of-the-goddess
ἐρᾷς· — τί τοῦτο θαῦμα; — σὺν πολλοῖς βροτῶν·
you-love what this wonder with many of-mortals
κἄπειτ' ἔρωτος εἵνεκα ψυχὴν ὀλεῖς;
and-then of-love for-the-sake life will-you-destroy
οὔ τἄρα λύει τοῖς ἐρῶσι τῶν πέλας,
not surely-then it-profits for-those loving the neighbors
ὅσοι τε μέλλουσ', εἰ θανεῖν αὐτοὺς χρεών·
as-many-as and will if to-die them must
Κύπρις γὰρ οὐ φορητός, ἢν πολλὴ ῥυῇ·
Cypris for not endurable if much she-flows
ᾗ τὸν μὲν εἴκονθ' ἡσυχῇ μετέρχεται,
who the indeed yielding gently pursues
ὃν δ' ἂν περισσὸν καὶ φρονοῦνθ' εὕρῃ μέγα,
whom but — overweening and thinking she-finds great

τοῦτον λαβοῦσα — πῶς δοκεῖς; — καθύβρισεν.
him having-taken how do-you-think she-outrages

φοιτᾷ δ' ἀν' αἰθέρ', ἔστι δ' ἐν θαλασσίῳ
she-roams and through air is and in sea

κλύδωνι Κύπρις, πάντα δ' ἐκ ταύτης ἔφυ·
wave Cypris all and from her was-born

ἥδ' ἐστὶν ἡ σπείρουσα καὶ διδοῦσ' ἔρον,
she is the sowing and giving love

οὗ πάντες ἐσμὲν οἱ κατὰ χθόν' ἔκγονοι.
of-which all we-are the on earth offspring

ὅσοι μὲν οὖν γραφάς τε τῶν παλαιτέρων
as-many-as indeed then writings both of-the older

ἔχουσιν αὐτοί τ' εἰσὶν ἐν μούσαις ἀεί,
have themselves and are among the-muses always

ἴσασι μὲν Ζεὺς ὥς ποτ' ἠράσθη γάμων
they-know indeed Zeus how once he-loved marriage

Σεμέλης, ἴσασι δ' ὡς ἀνήρπασέν ποτε
of-Semele they-know and how snatched-up once

ἡ καλλιφεγγὴς Κέφαλον εἰς θεοὺς Ἕως
the fair-shining Cephalus to the-gods Dawn

ἔρωτος εἵνεκ'· ἀλλ' ὅμως ἐν οὐρανῷ
of-love for-the-sake but nevertheless in heaven

ναίουσι κοὐ φεύγουσιν ἐκποδὼν θεούς,
they-dwell and-not flee out-of-the-way the-gods

στέργουσι δ', οἶμαι, συμφορᾷ νικώμενοι.
they-acquiesce and I-think by-misfortune conquered

σὺ δ' οὐκ ἀνέξει; χρῆν σ' ἐπὶ ῥητοῖς ἄρα
you but not will-bear one-should you on terms then

πατέρα φυτεύειν ἢ 'πὶ δεσπόταις θεοῖς
father to-beget or under masters gods

ἄλλοισιν, εἰ μὴ τούσδε γε στέρξεις νόμους.
others if not these at-least you-will-accept laws
πόσους δοκεῖς δὴ κάρτ' ἔχοντας εὖ φρενῶν
how-many do-you-think indeed greatly being well of-mind
νοσοῦνθ' ὁρῶντας λέκτρα μὴ δοκεῖν ὁρᾶν;
sick seeing beds not to-seem to-see
πόσους δὲ παισὶ πατέρας ἡμαρτηκόσι
how-many and for-children fathers having-erred
συνεκκομίζειν Κύπριν; ἐν σοφοῖσι γὰρ
to-help-conceal Cypris among wise for
τάδ' ἐστὶ θνητῶν, λανθάνειν τὰ μὴ καλά.
this is of-mortals to-escape-notice the not fine(-things)
οὐδ' ἐκπονεῖν τοι χρὴν βίον λίαν βροτούς·
nor to-labor-at surely ought life too-much mortals
οὐδὲ στέγην γάρ, ἧς κατηρεφεῖς δοκοί,
nor roof for of-which roofed-over beams
κανὼν ἀκριβώσει' ἄν· εἰς δὲ τὴν τύχην
rule would-make-exact — into but the fortune
πεσοῦσ' ὅσην σὺ πῶς ἂν ἐκνεῦσαι δοκεῖς;
having-fallen as-great-as you how — to-swim-out do-you-think
ἀλλ' εἰ τὰ πλείω χρηστὰ τῶν κακῶν ἔχεις,
but if the more good than-the bad you-have
ἄνθρωπος οὖσα κάρτα γ' εὖ πράξειας ἄν.
human being greatly at-least well you-would-fare —
ἀλλ', ὦ φίλη παῖ, λῆγε μὲν κακῶν φρενῶν,
but O dear child cease indeed from-evil thoughts
λῆξον δ' ὑβρίζουσ'· οὐ γὰρ ἄλλο πλὴν ὕβρις
cease and outraging not for other except outrage
τάδ' ἐστί, κρείσσω δαιμόνων εἶναι θέλειν·
this is stronger than-gods to-be to-wish

τόλμα δ' ἐρῶσα· θεὸς ἐβουλήθη τάδε.
dare and loving a-god willed these-things
νοσοῦσα δ' εὖ πως τὴν νόσον καταστρέφου.
being-sick and well somehow the sickness subdue
εἰσὶν δ' ἐπῳδαὶ καὶ λόγοι θελκτήριοι·
there-are and charms and words enchanting
φανήσεταί τι τῆσδε φάρμακον νόσου.
will-appear some this remedy for-sickness
480 ἦ τἄρ' ἂν ὀψέ γ' ἄνδρες ἐξεύροιεν ἄν,
truly then — late at-least men would-find-out —
εἰ μὴ γυναῖκες μηχανὰς εὑρήσομεν.
if not women devices we-shall-find
ΧΟΡΟΣ Φαίδρα, λέγει μὲν ἥδε χρησιμώτερα
Phaedra speaks indeed she more-useful
πρὸς τὴν παροῦσαν συμφοράν, αἰνῶ δὲ σέ.
for the present misfortune I-praise but you
ὁ δ' αἶνος οὗτος δυσχερέστερος λόγων
the and praise this more-grievous than-words
485 τῶν τῆσδε καὶ σοὶ μᾶλλον ἀλγίων κλύειν.
the of-her and to-you more painful to-hear
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ τοῦτ' ἔσθ' ὃ θνητῶν εὖ πόλεις οἰκουμένας
this is what of-mortals well cities inhabited
δόμους τ' ἀπόλλυσ', οἱ καλοὶ λίαν λόγοι.
houses and destroys the fine too words
οὐ γάρ τι τοῖσιν ὠσὶ τερπνὰ χρὴ λέγειν.
not for anything to-the ears pleasing one-must say
ἀλλ' ἐξ ὅτου τις εὐκλεὴς γενήσεται.
but from what one renowned will-become

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ τί σεμνομυθεῖς; οὐ λόγων εὐσχημόνων
why do-you-speak-grandly not of-words fair-seeming
δεῖ σ', ἀλλὰ τἀνδρὸς — ὡς τάχος διοιστέον,
need you but of-the-man as quickly-as-possible one-must-learn-out
τὸν εὐθὺν ἐξειπόντας ἀμφὶ σοῦ λόγον.
the straight having-spoken-out about you word
εἰ μὲν γὰρ ἦν σοι μὴ 'πὶ συμφοραῖς βίος
if indeed for was for-you not in misfortunes life
τοιαῖσδε, σώφρων δ' οὖσ' ἐτύγχανες γυνή,
such self-controlled and being you-happened woman
οὐκ ἄν ποτ' εὐνῆς εἵνεχ' ἡδονῆς τε σῆς
not — ever of-bed for-the-sake of-pleasure and your
προσῆγον ἄν σε δεῦρο· νῦν δ' ἀγὼν μέγας
I-would-lead — you here now but contest great
σῶσαι βίον σόν, κοὐκ ἐπίφθονον τόδε.
to-save life your and-not invidious this
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ ὦ δεινὰ λέξασ', οὐχὶ συγκλῄσεις στόμα,
O terrible-things having-said not will-you-shut mouth
καὶ μὴ μεθήσεις αὖθις αἰσχίστους λόγους;
and not will-you-let-go again most-shameful words
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ αἴσχρ', ἀλλ' ἀμείνω τῶν καλῶν τάδ' ἐστί σοι.
shameful but better than-the fine these-things are for-you
κρεῖσσον δὲ τοὔργον, εἴπερ ἐκσώσει γέ σε,
better and the-deed if-indeed it-will-save at-least you
ἢ τοὔνομ' ᾧ σὺ κατθανεῖ γαυρουμένη.
than the-name in-which you will-die exulting
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ καὶ μή σε πρὸς θεῶν, εὖ λέγεις γάρ, αἰσχρὰ δέ,
and not you by the-gods well you-speak for shameful but
πέρα προβῇς τῶνδ'· ὡς ὑπείργασμαι μὲν εὖ
further go than-these since I-have-been-worked-on indeed well

ψυχὴν ἔρωτι, τἀσχρὰ δ' ἢν λέγῃς καλῶς,
in-soul by-love the-shameful but if you-speak well
εἰς τοῦδ' ὃ φεύγω νῦν ἀναλωθήσομαι.
into this which I-flee now I-shall-be-consumed
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ εἴ τοι δοκεῖ σοι, χρῆν μὲν οὔ σ' ἁμαρτάνειν·
if surely it-seems to-you one-should indeed not you to-err
εἰ δ' οὖν, πιθοῦ μοι· δευτέρα γὰρ ἡ χάρις.
if but then obey me second for the favor
ἔστιν κατ' οἴκους φίλτρα μοι θελκτήρια
there-are in house philters for-me enchanting
ἔρωτος, ἦλθε δ' ἄρτι μοι γνώμης ἔσω,
of-love it-came and just-now to-me of-mind inside
ἃ σ' οὔτ' ἐπ' αἰσχροῖς οὔτ' ἐπὶ βλάβῃ φρενῶν
which you neither to shame nor to harm of-mind
παύσει νόσου τῆσδ', ἢν σὺ μὴ γένῃ κακή.
will-stop from-sickness this if you not become cowardly
δεῖ δ' ἐξ ἐκείνου δή τι τοῦ ποθουμένου
need and from him indeed some the longed-for
σημεῖον, ἢ λόγον τιν' ἢ πέπλων ἄπο
token either word some or robes from
λαβεῖν, συνάψαι τ' ἐκ δυοῖν μίαν χάριν.
to-take to-join and from two one grace
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ πότερα δὲ χριστὸν ἢ ποτὸν τὸ φάρμακον;
whether and ointment or drink the drug
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ οὐκ οἶδ'· ὄνασθαι, μὴ μαθεῖν βούλου, τέκνον.
not I-know to-benefit not to-learn wish child
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ δέδοιχ' ὅπως μοι μὴ λίαν φανῇς σοφή.
I-fear that to-me not too you-prove clever
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ πάντ' ἂν φοβηθεῖσ' ἴσθι· δειμαίνεις δὲ τί;
all — fearing know you-dread but what

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ μή μοί τι Θησέως τῶνδε μηνύσῃς τόκῳ. 520
lest to-me something of-Theseus these you-reveal to-son

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ἔασον, ὦ παῖ· ταῦτ' ἐγὼ θήσω καλῶς.
let-be O child these-things I will-arrange well

μόνον σύ μοι, δέσποινα ποντία Κύπρι,
only you for-me mistress of-the-sea Cypris

συνεργὸς εἴης. τἄλλα δ' οἷ' ἐγὼ φρονῶ
helper be the-rest and what I think

τοῖς ἔνδον ἡμῖν ἀρκέσει λέξαι φίλοις.
to-those inside us it-will-suffice to-tell friends

IV · EROS

The chorus sings of Eros, who drips longing into the eyes and sends Aphrodite's shaft, mightier than fire or the stars. Greece slaughters oxen by the Alpheus and at Apollo's Pythian halls but neglects Love, the tyrant of men. Cypris gave the unwed girl of Oechalia to Alcmene's son amid blood and fire, and with the thunderbolt laid to rest the mother of Bacchus; she breathes on all things and flits like a bee.

ΧΟΡΟΣ Ἔρως Ἔρως, ὃ κατ' ὀμμάτων 525
Love Love who down the-eyes

στάζεις πόθον, εἰσάγων γλυκεῖαν
you-distill longing bringing sweet

ψυχᾷ χάριν οὓς ἐπιστρατεύσῃ,
to-the-soul delight on-whom you-march

μή μοί ποτε σὺν κακῷ φανείης
not to-me ever with evil may-you-appear

μηδ' ἄρρυθμος ἔλθοις.
nor out-of-measure may-you-come

οὔτε γὰρ πυρὸς οὔτ' 530
neither for of-fire nor

ἄστρων ὑπέρτερον βέλος,
of-stars more-potent shaft
οἷον τὸ τᾶς Ἀφροδίτας
as-is the — of-Aphrodite
ἵησιν ἐκ χερῶν
he-sends from hands
Ἔρως ὁ Διὸς παῖς.
Love the of-Zeus child
ἄλλως ἄλλως παρά τ' Ἀλφεῷ
in-vain in-vain by and the-Alpheus
Φοίβου τ' ἐπὶ Πυθίοις τεράμνοις
of-Phoebus and at Pythian halls
βούταν φόνον Ἑλλὰς αἴ ἀέξει·
of-oxen slaughter Hellas land increases
Ἔρωτα δὲ τὸν τύραννον ἀνδρῶν,
Love but the tyrant of-men
τὸν τᾶς Ἀφροδίτας
the — of-Aphrodite
φιλτάτων θαλάμων
of-dearest chambers
κληδοῦχον, οὐ σεβίζομεν,
key-holder not we-revere
πέρθοντα καὶ διὰ πάσας
ravaging and through all
ἰόντα συμφορᾶς
going misfortunes
θνατοῖς, ὅταν ἔλθῃ.
for-mortals whenever he-comes
τὰν μὲν Οἰχαλίᾳ
the indeed in-Oechalia

πῶλον ἄζυγα λέκτρων
filly unyoked to-marriage
ἄνανδρον τὸ πρὶν καὶ ἄνυμφον, οἴκων
husbandless the before and unwedded of-house
ζεύξασ' ἄπ' εἰρεσίᾳ, δρομάδα
having-yoked from rowing running
τὰν Ἅιδος ὥστε Βάκχαν,
the of-Hades as Bacchant
σὺν αἵματι, σὺν καπνῷ
with blood with smoke
φονίοις θ' ὑμεναίοις
murderous and with-wedding-songs
Ἀλκμήνας τόκῳ Κύπρις ἐξέδωκεν·
to-Alcmene's son Cypris gave-in-marriage
ὦ τλάμων ὑμεναίων.
O wretched of-wedding-songs
ὦ Θήβας ἱερὸν
O of-Thebes holy
τεῖχος, ὦ στόμα Δίρκας,
wall O mouth of-Dirce
συνείποιτ' ἂν ἁ Κύπρις οἷον ἕρπει.
would-agree — — Cypris how she-comes
βροντᾷ γὰρ ἀμφιπύρῳ τοκάδα
with-thunder for fire-girt mother
τὰν Διογόνοιο Βάκχου
the of-Zeus-born Bacchus
νυμφευσαμέναν πότμῳ
wedded with-fate
φονίῳ κατηύνασεν.
bloody she-laid-to-rest

δεινὰ γὰρ πάντα γ' ἐπιπνεῖ, μέλισσα δ'
terribly for all-things at-least she-breathes-upon bee and
οἵα τις πεπόταται.
like some she-flits

V · THE NURSE BETRAYS HER

Phaedra hears Hippolytus within shouting at the nurse, who has told him of the queen's love under an oath of silence. He storms out, rails against women and the go-betweens who serve them, and says only his oath keeps him from telling Theseus. Phaedra curses the nurse and binds the chorus by oath to silence. Fearing Hippolytus will denounce her, she resolves to die, saying her death will teach him to be humble.

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ σιγήσατ', ὦ γυναῖκες· ἐξειργάσμεθα.
be-silent O women we-are-undone
ΧΟΡΟΣ τί δ' ἔστι, Φαίδρα, δεινὸν ἐν δόμοισι σοῖς;
what and is-it Phaedra terrible in house your
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ ἐπίσχετ'· αὐδὴν τῶν ἔσωθεν ἐκμάθω.
stop voice of-those inside that-I-may-learn
ΧΟΡΟΣ σιγῶ· τὸ μέντοι φροίμιον κακὸν τόδε.
I-am-silent the however prelude evil this
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ ἰώ μοι, αἰαῖ αἰαῖ·
oh me alas alas
ὦ δυστάλαινα τῶν ἐμῶν παθημάτων.
O most-wretched — of-my sufferings
ΧΟΡΟΣ τίνα θροεῖς αὐδάν; τίνα βοᾷς λόγον;
what do-you-cry voice what do-you-shout word
ἔννεπε τίς φοβεῖ σε φάμα, γύναι,
tell what frightens you report woman
φρένας ἐπίσσυτος.
the-mind rushing-on

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ ἀπωλόμεσθα. ταῖσδ' ἐπιστᾶσαι πύλαις
we-are-ruined at-these standing gates
ἀκούσαθ' οἷος κέλαδος ἐν δόμοις πίτνει.
hear what-kind shout in the-house falls
ΧΟΡΟΣ σὺ παρὰ κλῆθρα· σοὶ μέλει πομπίμα
you by the-bars to-you is-a-care sent
φάτις δωμάτων.
report of-the-house
ἔνεπε δ' ἔνεπέ μοι, τί ποτ' ἔβα κακόν;
tell and tell me what ever came evil
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ ὁ τῆς φιλίππου παῖς Ἀμαζόνος βοᾷ
the of-the horse-loving son Amazon shouts
Ἱππόλυτος, αὐδῶν δεινὰ πρόσπολον κακά.
Hippolytus uttering terrible to-the-servant evils
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀχὰν μὲν κλύω, σαφὲς δ' οὐκ ἔχω·
cry indeed I-hear clear but not I-have
γεγωνεῖ δ' ὅπᾳ
he-cries and how
διὰ πύλας ἔμολεν ἔμολε σοὶ βοά.
through gates came came to-you the-cry
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ καὶ μὴν σαφῶς γε τὴν κακῶν προμνήστριαν,
and indeed clearly at-least the of-evils go-between
τὴν δεσπότου προδοῦσαν ἐξαυδᾷ λέχος.
the master's having-betrayed he-calls bed
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὤμοι ἐγὼ κακῶν· προδέδοσαι, φίλα.
ah-me I of-evils you-are-betrayed dear
τί σοι μήσομαι;
what for-you shall-I-devise
τὰ κρυπτὰ γὰρ πέφηνε, διὰ δ' ὄλλυσαι.
the hidden for has-appeared utterly and you-are-destroyed

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ αἰαῖ, ἐ ἔ.
alas ah ah

ΧΟΡΟΣ πρόδοτος ἐκ φίλων.
betrayed by friends

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ ἀπώλεσέν μ᾽ εἰποῦσα συμφορὰς ἐμάς,
she-has-destroyed me having-told misfortunes my

φίλως, καλῶς δ᾽ οὐ τήνδ᾽ ἰωμένη νόσον.
kindly well but not this healing sickness

ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς οὖν; τί δράσεις, ὦ παθοῦσ᾽ ἀμήχανα;
how then what will-you-do O having-suffered helpless(-things)

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ οὐκ οἶδα πλὴν ἕν, κατθανεῖν ὅσον τάχος
not I-know except one to-die as-much-as quickly

τῶν νῦν παρόντων πημάτων ἄκος μόνον.
of-the now present woes cure only

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ὦ γαῖα μῆτερ ἡλίου τ᾽ ἀναπτυχαί,
O earth mother of-the-sun and unfoldings

οἵων λόγων ἄρρητον εἰσήκουσ᾽ ὄπα.
of-what words unspeakable I-have-heard voice

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ σίγησον, ὦ παῖ, πρίν τιν᾽ αἰσθέσθαι βοῆς.
be-silent O child before someone perceive the-cry

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ οὐκ ἔστ᾽ ἀκούσας δεί᾽ ὅπως σιγήσομαι.
not it-is having-heard terrible-things how I-will-be-silent

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ναὶ πρός σε τῆς σῆς δεξιᾶς εὐωλένου.
yes by you — your right-hand fair-armed

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ οὐ μὴ προσοίσεις χεῖρα μηδ᾽ ἅψει πέπλων;
not — will-you-lay hand nor touch robes

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ὦ πρός σε γονάτων, μηδαμῶς μ᾽ ἐξεργάσῃ.
O by you knees by-no-means me destroy

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ τί δ᾽, εἴπερ ὡς φὴς μηδὲν εἴρηκας κακόν;
why and if-indeed as you-say nothing you-have-said evil

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ὁ μῦθος, ὦ παῖ, κοινὸς οὐδαμῶς ὅδε.
the story O child to-be-shared by-no-means this

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ τά τοι κάλ' ἐν πολλοῖσι κάλλιον λέγειν.
the surely fine-things among many finer to-tell

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ὦ τέκνον, ὅρκους μηδαμῶς ἀτιμάσῃς.
O child oaths by-no-means dishonor

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ἡ γλῶσσ' ὀμώμοχ', ἡ δὲ φρὴν ἀνώμοτος.
the tongue swore the but mind unsworn

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ὦ παῖ, τί δράσεις; σοὺς φίλους διεργάσει;
O child what will-you-do your friends will-you-destroy

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ἀπέπτυσ'· οὐδεὶς ἄδικός ἐστί μοι φίλος.
I-spit-it-out no-one unjust is to-me friend

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ σύγγνωθ'· ἁμαρτεῖν εἰκὸς ἀνθρώπους, τέκνον.
forgive to-err natural for-men child

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ὦ Ζεῦ, τί δὴ κίβδηλον ἀνθρώποις κακὸν
O Zeus why indeed counterfeit for-men evil

γυναῖκας εἰς φῶς ἡλίου κατῴκισας;
women into light of-the-sun did-you-settle

εἰ γὰρ βρότειον ἤθελες σπεῖραι γένος,
if for mortal you-wished to-sow race

οὐκ ἐκ γυναικῶν χρῆν παρασχέσθαι τόδε,
not from women one-should to-provide this

ἀλλ' ἀντιθέντας σοῖσιν ἐν ναοῖς βροτοὺς
but setting-down your in temples mortals

ἢ χρυσὸν ἢ σίδηρον ἢ χαλκοῦ βάρος
either gold or iron or of-bronze weight

παίδων πρίασθαι σπέρμα, τοῦ τιμήματος
of-children to-buy seed of-the price

τῆς ἀξίας ἕκαστον· ἐν δὲ δώμασι
of-the worth each in and houses

ναίειν ἐλευθέροισι θηλειῶν ἄτερ·
to-dwell free of-women without
τούτῳ δὲ δῆλον ὡς γυνὴ κακὸν μέγα·
by-this and clear that woman evil great
προσθεὶς γὰρ ὁ σπείρας τε καὶ θρέψας πατὴρ
having-added for the having-begotten both and having-reared father
φερνὰς ἀπῴκισ', ὡς ἀπαλλαχθῇ κακοῦ.
dowry sends-her-away that he-may-be-rid of-evil
ὁ δ' αὖ λαβὼν ἀτηρὸν εἰς δόμους φυτὸν
he and in-turn having-taken ruinous into house plant
γέγηθε κόσμον προστιθεὶς ἀγάλματι
rejoices finery adding to-the-statue
καλὸν κακίστῳ καὶ πέπλοισιν ἐκπονεῖ
fine to-the-worst and with-robes labors
δύστηνος, ὄλβον δωμάτων ὑπεξελών.
wretched wealth of-house draining-away
ἔχει δ' ἀνάγκην, ὥστε κηδεύσας καλοῖς
he-has and necessity so-that having-married-into noble
γαμβροῖσι χαίρων σῴζεται πικρὸν λέχος,
in-in-laws rejoicing he-keeps bitter bed
ἢ χρηστὰ λέκτρα, πενθεροὺς δ' ἀνωφελεῖς
or good bed in-laws and useless
λαβὼν πιέζει τἀγαθῷ τὸ δυστυχές.
taking crushes with-the-good the bad
ῥᾷστον δ' ὅτῳ τὸ μηδέν, ἀλλ' ἀνωφελὴς
easiest and for-whom the nothing but useless
εὐηθίᾳ κατ' οἶκον ἵδρυται γυνή.
in-simplicity in the-house is-set-up woman
σοφὴν δὲ μισῶ· μὴ γὰρ ἔν γ' ἐμοῖς δόμοις
clever and I-hate not for in at-least my house

εἴη φρονοῦσα πλεῖον ἢ γυναῖκα χρή.
may-she-be thinking more than woman should
τὸ γὰρ πανοῦργον μᾶλλον ἐντίκτει Κύπρις
the for villainy more breeds Cypris
ἐν ταῖς σοφαῖσιν· ἡ δ' ἀμήχανος γυνὴ
in the clever the and helpless woman
γνώμῃ βραχείᾳ μωρίαν ἀφῃρέθη.
by-mind short of-folly was-deprived
χρῆν δ' εἰς γυναῖκα πρόσπολον μὲν οὐ περᾶν, 645
one-should and to a-woman servant indeed not to-go
ἄφθογγα δ' αὐταῖς συγκατοικίζειν δάκη
voiceless but with-them to-house-with biters
θηρῶν, ἵν' εἶχον μήτε προσφωνεῖν τινα
of-beasts that they-might-have neither to-address anyone
μήτ' ἐξ ἐκείνων φθέγμα δέξασθαι πάλιν.
nor from them speech to-receive in-turn
νῦν δ' αἱ μὲν ἔνδον δρῶσιν αἱ κακαὶ κακὰ
now and the indeed inside do the evil evil
βουλεύματ', ἔξω δ' ἐκφέρουσι πρόσπολοι. 650
plans outside and carry servants
ὡς καὶ σύ γ' ἡμῖν πατρός, ὦ κακὸν κάρα,
as also you at-least to-us of-father O evil head
λέκτρων ἀθίκτων ἦλθες εἰς συναλλαγάς·
of-bed untouched came to dealings
ἁγὼ ῥυτοῖς νασμοῖσιν ἐξομόρξομαι,
which-I with-flowing streams will-wipe-away
εἰς ὦτα κλύζων. πῶς ἂν οὖν εἴην κακός,
into ears washing how — then would-I-be evil
ὃς οὐδ' ἀκούσας τοιάδ' ἁγνεύειν δοκῶ; 655
who not-even having-heard such-things to-be-pure seem

εὖ δ' ἴσθι, τοὐμόν σ' εὐσεβὲς σῴζει, γύναι·
well and know my you piety saves woman
εἰ μὴ γὰρ ὅρκοις θεῶν ἄφρακτος ἡρέθην,
if not for by-oaths of-the-gods unguarded I-was-caught
οὐκ ἄν ποτ' ἔσχον μὴ οὐ τάδ' ἐξειπεῖν πατρί.
not — ever I-would-have-held-back not — these-things to-tell-out to-father
νῦν δ' ἐκ δόμων μέν, ἔστ' ἂν ἔκδημος χθονὸς
now and from the-house indeed until — abroad from-the-land
Θησεύς, ἄπειμι· σῖγα δ' ἕξομεν στόμα.
Theseus I-will-depart silent and we-will-keep mouth
θεάσομαι δὲ σὺν πατρὸς μολὼν ποδὶ
I-will-watch and with father's having-come foot
πῶς νιν προσόψει καὶ σὺ καὶ δέσποινα σή·
how her you-will-face both you and mistress your
τῆς σῆς δὲ τόλμης εἴσομαι γεγευμένος.
— your and daring I-shall-know having-tasted
ὄλοισθε. μισῶν δ' οὔποτ' ἐμπλησθήσομαι
may-you-perish hating and never I-will-be-sated
γυναῖκας, οὐδ' εἴ φησί τίς μ' ἀεὶ λέγειν·
women not-even if says someone me always to-speak
ἀεὶ γὰρ οὖν πώς εἰσι κἀκεῖναι κακαί.
always for then somehow are they-too bad
ἤ νύν τις αὐτὰς σωφρονεῖν διδαξάτω,
either now someone them to-be-self-controlled let-teach
ἢ κἄμ' ἐάτω ταῖσδ' ἐπεμβαίνειν ἀεί.
or also-me let to-these to-tread-upon always
ΧΟΡΟΣ τάλανες ὦ κακοτυχεῖς
wretched O ill-fated
γυναικῶν πότμοι.
of-women fates

τίν᾽ αὖ νῦν τέχναν ἔχομεν ἢ λόγους
what again now art have-we or words

σφαλεῖσαι κάθαμμα λύειν λόγου;
having-been-tripped knot to-loose of-word

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ ἐτύχομεν δίκας· ἰὼ γᾶ καὶ φῶς.
we-have-met-with justice oh earth and light

πᾷ ποτ᾽ ἐξαλύξω τύχας;
where ever shall-I-escape fortunes

πῶς δὲ πῆμα κρύψω, φίλαι;
how and woe shall-I-hide friends

τίς ἂν θεῶν ἀρωγὸς ἢ τίς ἂν βροτῶν
who — of-gods helper or who — of-mortals

πάρεδρος ἢ ξυνεργὸς ἀδίκων ἔργων
assistant or accomplice of-unjust deeds

φανείη; τὸ γὰρ παρ᾽ ἡμῖν πάθος
might-appear the for with us suffering

παρὸν δυσεκπέρατον ἔρχεται βίου.
present hard-to-pass-through comes of-life

κακοτυχεστάτα γυναικῶν ἐγώ.
most-ill-fated of-women I

ΧΟΡΟΣ φεῦ φεῦ· πέπρακται, κοὐ κατώρθωνται τέχναι,
alas alas it-is-done and-not have-succeeded arts

δέσποινα, τῆς σῆς προσπόλου, κακῶς δ᾽ ἔχει.
mistress — of-your servant badly but it-is

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ ὦ παγκακίστη καὶ φίλων διαφθορεῦ,
O utterly-base and of-friends destroyer

οἷ᾽ εἰργάσω με. Ζεύς σε γεννήτωρ ἐμὸς
what you-have-done to-me Zeus you begetter my

πρόρριζον ἐκτρίψειεν οὐτάσας πυρί.
root-and-branch may-rub-out having-struck with-fire

οὐκ εἶπον, οὐ σῆς προὐνοησάμην φρενός,
not did-I-say not your did-I-foresee mind
σιγᾶν ἐφ' οἷσι νῦν ἐγὼ κακύνομαι;
to-be-silent on what now I am-disgraced
σὺ δ' οὐκ ἀνέσχου· τοιγὰρ οὐκέτ' εὐκλεεῖς
you but not endured therefore no-longer glorious
θανούμεθ'. ἀλλὰ δεῖ με δὴ καινῶν λόγων.
we-shall-die but need me indeed new words
οὗτος γὰρ ὀργῇ συντεθηγμένος φρένας
this for in-anger whetted in-mind
ἐρεῖ καθ' ἡμῶν πατρὶ σὰς ἁμαρτίας,
will-tell against us to-father your sins
ἐρεῖ δὲ Πιτθεῖ τῷ γέροντι συμφοράς,
will-tell and to-Pittheus the old-man misfortunes
πλήσει δὲ πᾶσαν γαῖαν αἰσχίστων λόγων.
will-fill and all land with-most-shameful words
ὄλοιο καὶ σὺ χὤστις ἄκοντας φίλους
may-you-perish both you and-whoever unwilling friends
πρόθυμός ἐστι μὴ καλῶς εὐεργετεῖν.
eager is not well to-benefit

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ δέσποιν', ἔχεις μὲν τἀμὰ μέμψασθαι κακά·
mistress you-can indeed my to-blame faults
τὸ γὰρ δάκνον σου τὴν διάγνωσιν κρατεῖ·
the for stinging of-you the discernment masters
ἔχω δὲ κἀγὼ πρὸς τάδ', εἰ δέξει, λέγειν.
I-have and and-I to this if you-will-accept to-speak
ἔθρεψά σ' εὔνους τ' εἰμί· τῆς νόσου δέ σοι
I-reared you well-disposed and I-am of-the sickness and for-you
ζητοῦσα φάρμαχ' ηὗρον οὐχ ἁβουλόμην.
seeking cures I-found not what-I-wished

εἰ δ' εὖ γ' ἔπραξα, κάρτ' ἂν ἐν σοφοῖσιν ἦ·
if and well at-least I-had-fared greatly — among wise I-would-be
πρὸς τὰς τύχας γὰρ τὰς φρένας κεκτήμεθα.
according-to the fortunes for the minds we-possess
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ ἦ γὰρ δίκαια ταῦτα κἀξαρκοῦντά μοι,
— for just these-things and-sufficient for-me
τρώσασαν ἡμᾶς εἶτα συγχωρεῖν λόγοις;
having-wounded us then to-yield to-words
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ μακρηγοροῦμεν· οὐκ ἐσωφρόνουν ἐγώ,
we-talk-at-length not I-was-self-controlled I
ἀλλ' ἔστι κἀκ τῶνδ' ὥστε σωθῆναι, τέκνον.
but there-is even-from these so-as to-be-saved child
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ παῦσαι λέγουσα· καὶ τὰ πρὶν γὰρ οὐ καλῶς
cease speaking even the before for not well
παρῄνεσάς μοι κἀπεχείρησας κακά.
you-advised me and-attempted evils
ἀλλ' ἐκποδὼν ἄπελθε καὶ σαυτῆς πέρι
but out-of-the-way go-away and yourself about
φρόντιζ'· ἐγὼ δὲ τἀμὰ θήσομαι καλῶς.
think I and my will-arrange well
ὑμεῖς δέ, παῖδες εὐγενεῖς Τροιζήνιαι,
you and children noble Troezenian
τοσόνδε μοι παράσχετ' ἐξαιτουμένῃ,
so-much to-me grant asking
σιγῇ καλύπτειν ἀνθάδ' εἰσηκούσατε.
in-silence to-hide what-here you-have-heard
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὄμνυμι σεμνὴν Ἄρτεμιν Διὸς κόρην,
I-swear-by holy Artemis of-Zeus daughter
μηδὲν κακῶν σῶν εἰς φάος δείξειν ποτέ.
nothing of-evils your to light to-show ever

ΦΑΙΔΡΑ καλῶς ἔλεξας. ἓν δὲ †προστρέπουσ'† ἐγὼ
well you-have-spoken one but (corrupt)-turning-to I
ηὗρηκα δῆτα τῆσδε συμφορᾶς ἄκος,
I-have-found indeed of-this misfortune cure
ὥστ' εὐκλεᾶ μὲν παισὶ προσθεῖναι βίον,
so-that glorious indeed to-children to-give life
αὐτὴ δ' ὄνασθαι πρὸς τὰ νῦν πεπτωκότα.
myself and to-profit as-for the now fallen(-things)
οὐ γάρ ποτ' αἰσχυνῶ γε Κρησίους δόμους,
not for ever I-will-shame at-least Cretan house
οὐδ' εἰς πρόσωπον Θησέως ἀφίξομαι
nor to face of-Theseus I-will-come
αἰσχροῖς ἐπ' ἔργοις εἵνεκα ψυχῆς μιᾶς.
shameful on deeds for-the-sake life one
ΧΟΡΟΣ μέλλεις δὲ δή τι δρᾶν ἀνήκεστον κακόν;
are-you-about and indeed some to-do incurable evil
ΦΑΙΔΡΑ θανεῖν· ὅπως δέ, τοῦτ' ἐγὼ βουλεύσομαι.
to-die how and this I will-plan
ΧΟΡΟΣ εὔφημος ἴσθι. ΦΑΙΔΡΑ καὶ σύ γ' εὖ με νουθέτει.
of-good-omen be and you at-least well me admonish
ἐγὼ δὲ Κύπριν, ἥπερ ἐξόλλυσί με,
I and Cypris who destroys me
ψυχῆς ἀπαλλαχθεῖσα τῇδ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ
from-life released this on day
τέρψω· πικροῦ δ' ἔρωτος ἡσσηθήσομαι.
will-gladden by-bitter and love I-shall-be-conquered
ἀτὰρ κακόν γε χἀτέρῳ γενήσομαι
but evil at-least to-the-other I-shall-become
θανοῦσ', ἵν' εἰδῇ μὴ 'πὶ τοῖς ἐμοῖς κακοῖς
dying that he-may-know not over — my evils

ὑψηλὸς εἶναι· τῆς νόσου δὲ τῆσδέ μοι 730
high to-be of-the sickness but this with-me
κοινῇ μετασχὼν σωφρονεῖν μαθήσεται.
in-common sharing to-be-self-controlled he-will-learn

VI · ESCAPE

The chorus longs to fly like a bird to the Adriatic shore, where Phaethon's sisters weep amber, or to the garden of the Hesperides at the end of the world. They recall the white-winged Cretan ship that brought the queen from Crete to Athens on an ill-omened voyage; now, broken by Aphrodite's sickness, she will fasten a noose to the beams and choose a good name over her love.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἠλιβάτοις ὑπὸ κευθμῶσι γενοίμαν,
steep under hiding-places may-I-be
ἵνα με πτεροῦσσαν ὄρνιν
that me winged bird
θεὸς εἰνὶ ποταναῖς ἀγέλαις θείη·
a-god among flying flocks might-make
ἀρθείην δ' ἐπὶ πόντιον 735
might-I-be-lifted and over the-sea
κῦμα τᾶς Ἀδριηνᾶς
wave of-the Adriatic
ἀκτᾶς Ἠριδανοῦ θ' ὕδωρ·
shore of-Eridanus and water
ἔνθα πορφύρεον σταλάσσουσ'
where purple dripping
εἰς οἶδμα πατρὸς τριτάλαιναι
into swell of-father thrice-wretched
κόραι Φαέθοντος οἴκτῳ δακρύων
maidens of-Phaethon in-pity of-tears

τὰς ἠλεκτροφαεῖς αὐγάς.
the amber-gleaming rays
Ἑσπερίδων δ' ἐπὶ μηλόσπορον ἀκτὰν
of-the-Hesperides and to apple-sown shore
ἀνύσαιμι τᾶν ἀοιδῶν,
might-I-reach of-the singers
ἵν' ὁ ποντομέδων πορφυρέας λίμνας
where the sea-lord of-purple mere
ναύταις οὐκέθ' ὁδὸν νέμει,
to-sailors no-longer way allows
σεμνὸν τέρμονα κυρῶν
holy boundary reaching
οὐρανοῦ, τὸν Ἄτλας ἔχει,
of-heaven which Atlas holds
κρῆναί τ' ἀμβρόσιαι χέονται
springs and immortal pour
Ζανὸς μελάθρων παρὰ κοίταις,
of-Zeus halls beside the-couches
ἵν' ἁ βιόδωρος αὔξει ζαθέα
where the life-giving increases holy
χθὼν εὐδαιμονίαν θεοῖς.
earth happiness for-the-gods
ὦ λευκόπτερε Κρησία
O white-winged Cretan
πορθμίς, ἃ διὰ πόντιον
ship which through sea
κῦμ' ἁλίκτυπον ἅλμας
wave sea-beaten of-brine
ἐπόρευσας ἐμὰν ἄνασσαν
brought my queen

ὀλβίων ἀπ᾽ οἴκων,
happy from house
κακονυμφοτάταν ὄνασιν.
to-most-ill-wedded joy
ἦ γὰρ ἀπ᾽ ἀμφοτέρων
truly for from both
ἅ Κρησίας ἐκ γᾶς δύσορνις
which Cretan from land ill-omened
ἔπτατ᾽ ἐπὶ κλεινὰς Ἀθήνας,
she-flew to glorious Athens
Μουνίχου δ᾽ ἀκταῖσιν ἐκδή-
of-Munychus and on-shores fastened
σαντο πλεκτὰς πεισμάτων ἀρ- 760
— *plaited of-cables ends*
χὰς ἐπ᾽ ἀπείρου τε γᾶς ἔβασαν.
— *on of-mainland and land they-stepped*
ἀνθ᾽ ὧν οὐχ ὁσίων ἐρώ-
in-return-for which not holy of-loves
των δεινᾷ φρένας Ἀφροδί- 765
— *terrible in-mind of-Aphrodite*
τας νόσῳ κατεκλάσθη·
— *by-sickness she-was-broken*
χαλεπᾷ δ᾽ ὑπέραντλος οὖσα
grievous and overwhelmed being
συμφορᾷ, τεράμνων
by-misfortune the-roof-beams
ἀπὸ νυμφιδίων κρεμαστὸν
from bridal hanging
ἅψεται ἀμφὶ βρόχον
she-will-fasten around noose

λευκᾷ καθαρμόζουσα δείρᾳ,
white fitting to-neck
δαίμονα στυγνὰν καταιδε-
fate hateful having-revered
σθεῖσα, τάν τ' εὔδοξον ἀνθαι-
— *the and good-name preferring*
ρουμένα φάμαν, ἀπαλλάσ-
— *report releasing*
σουσά τ' ἀλγεινὸν φρενῶν ἔρωτα.
— *and painful from-the-mind love*

VII · THE TABLET

A servant cries that the queen has hanged herself. Theseus returns garlanded from a sacred embassy to mourning and finds a tablet in his wife's hand accusing Hippolytus of rape. He calls on Poseidon to fulfill one of his three curses and also banishes his son. Hippolytus protests his chastity and swears his innocence but is bound by his oath not to tell the truth. Theseus calls him a hypocrite and drives him from the land.

ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ ἰοὺ ἰού·
oh oh
βοηδρομεῖτε πάντες οἱ πέλας δόμων·
run-to-help all the near the-house
ἐν ἀγχόναις δέσποινα, Θησέως δάμαρ.
in nooses the-mistress of-Theseus wife
ΧΟΡΟΣ φεῦ φεῦ, πέπρακται· βασιλὶς οὐκέτ' ἔστι δὴ
alas alas it-is-done the-queen no-longer is indeed
γυνή, κρεμαστοῖς ἐν βρόχοις ἠρτημένη.
woman hanging in nooses suspended

ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ οὐ σπεύσετ᾽; οὐκ οἴσει τις ἀμφιδέξιον
not will-you-hurry not will-bring someone two-edged
σίδηρον, ᾧ τόδ᾽ ἄμμα λύσομεν δέρης;
iron with-which this knot we-shall-loose of-the-neck
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Α′ φίλαι, τί δρῶμεν; ἦ δοκεῖ περᾶν δόμους
friends what are-we-to-do — does-it-seem-good to-enter the-house
λῦσαί τ᾽ ἄνασσαν ἐξ ἐπισπαστῶν βρόχων;
to-loose and the-queen from tight-drawn nooses
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Β′ τί δ᾽; οὐ πάρεισι πρόσπολοι νεανίαι;
why and not are-present servants young
τὸ πολλὰ πράσσειν οὐκ ἐν ἀσφαλεῖ βίου.
the many-things to-do not in safety of-life
ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ ὀρθώσατ᾽ ἐκτείνοντες ἄθλιον νέκυν,
straighten stretching wretched corpse
πικρὸν τόδ᾽ οἰκούρημα δεσπόταις ἐμοῖς.
bitter this house-keeping for-masters my
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὄλωλεν ἡ δύστηνος, ὡς κλύω, γυνή·
has-perished the wretched as I-hear woman
ἤδη γὰρ ὡς νεκρόν νιν ἐκτείνουσι δή.
already for as corpse her they-lay-out indeed
ΘΗΣΕΤΣ γυναῖκες, ἴστε τίς ποτ᾽ ἐν δόμοις βοή;
women do-you-know what ever in the-house cry
ἠχὴ βαρεῖα προσπόλων μ᾽ ἀφίκετο.
sound heavy of-servants me reached
οὐ γάρ τί μ᾽ ὡς θεωρὸν ἀξιοῖ δόμος
not for at-all me as envoy thinks-fit the-house
πύλας ἀνοίξας εὐφρόνως προσεννέπειν.
the-gates having-opened kindly to-address
μῶν Πιτθέως τι γῆρας εἴργασται νέον;
surely-not of-Pittheus something old-age has-done new

πρόσω μὲν ἤδη βίοτος, ἀλλ' ὅμως ἔτ' ἂν
far-advanced indeed already his-life but nevertheless still —
λυπηρὸς ἡμῖν τούσδ' ἂν ἐκλίποι δόμους.
painful to-us this — he-would-leave house
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκ εἰς γέροντας ἥδε σοι τείνει τύχη,
not to the-old this to-you reaches fortune
Θησεῦ· νέοι θανόντες ἀλγυνοῦσί σε.
Theseus the-young having-died will-grieve you
ΘΗΣΕΤΣ οἴμοι· τέκνων μοι μή τι συλᾶται βίος;
ah-me of-children for-me not something is-plundered life
ΧΟΡΟΣ ζῶσιν, θανούσης μητρὸς ὡς ἄλγιστά σοι.
they-live having-died mother as most-painfully for-you
ΘΗΣΕΤΣ τί φής; ὄλωλεν ἄλοχος; ἐκ τίνος τύχης;
what do-you-say has-perished wife by what fortune
ΧΟΡΟΣ βρόχον κρεμαστὸν ἀγχόνης ἀνήψατο.
noose hanging of-strangling she-fastened
ΘΗΣΕΤΣ λύπῃ παχνωθεῖσ', ἢ ἀπὸ συμφορᾶς τίνος;
by-grief frozen or from misfortune what
ΧΟΡΟΣ τοσοῦτον ἴσμεν· ἄρτι γὰρ κἀγὼ δόμοις,
so-much we-know just-now for and-I to-the-house
Θησεῦ, πάρειμι σῶν κακῶν πενθήτρια.
Theseus am-present your woes mourner
ΘΗΣΕΤΣ αἰαῖ· τί δῆτα τοῖσδ' ἀνέστεμμαι κάρα
alas why then with-these am-I-crowned head
πλεκτοῖσι φύλλοις, δυστυχὴς θεωρὸς ὤν;
woven leaves unfortunate envoy being
χαλᾶτε κλῆθρα, πρόσπολοι, πυλωμάτων,
loose bars servants of-gates
ἐκλύεθ' ἁρμούς, ὡς ἴδω πικρὰν θέαν
undo fastenings that I-may-see bitter sight

γυναικός, ἥ με κατθανοῦσ' ἀπώλεσεν.
of-wife who me dying has-destroyed

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ ἰὼ τάλαινα μελέων κακῶν·
oh oh wretched of-miserable woes

ἔπαθες, εἰργάσω
you-have-suffered you-have-done

τοσοῦτον ὥστε τούσδε συγχέαι δόμους.
so-much as these to-confound house

αἰαῖ τόλμας, βιαίως θανοῦσ'
alas of-daring violently dying

ἀνοσίῳ τε συμφορᾷ, σᾶς χερὸς
unholy and by-misfortune of-your hand

πάλαισμα μελέας.
struggle of-wretched

τίς ἄρα σάν, τάλαιν', ἀμαυροῖ ζωάν;
who then your wretched darkens life

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ὤμοι ἐγὼ πόνων· ἔπαθον, ὦ πόλις,
ah-me I of-toils I-have-suffered O city

τὰ μάκιστ' ἐμῶν κακῶν. ὦ τύχα,
the greatest of-my woes O fortune

ὥς μοι βαρεῖα καὶ δόμοις ἐπεστάθης,
how on-me heavy and on-house you-have-landed

κηλὶς ἄφραστος ἐξ ἀλαστόρων τινός.
stain unutterable from avenging-spirits some

κατακονὰ μὲν οὖν ἀβίοτος βίου·
destruction indeed then unlivable of-life

κακῶν δ' ὦ τάλας πέλαγος εἰσορῶ
of-evils and O wretched sea I-see

τοσοῦτον ὥστε μήποτ' ἐκνεῦσαι πάλιν,
so-great that never to-swim-out again

μηδ' ἐκπερᾶσαι κῦμα τῆσδε συμφορᾶς.
nor to-cross-over wave of-this misfortune

τίνα λόγον τάλας, τίνα τύχαν σέθεν
what word wretched what fortune your

βαρύποτμον, γύναι, προσαυδῶν τύχω;
heavy-fated woman addressing may-I-hit-on

ὄρνις γὰρ ὥς τις ἐκ χερῶν ἄφαντος εἶ,
bird for as some from hands vanished you-are

πήδημ' ἐς Ἅιδου κραιπνὸν ὁρμήσασά μοι.
leap to of-Hades swift having-rushed from-me

830 αἰαῖ αἰαῖ, μέλεα μέλεα τάδε πάθη.
alas alas wretched wretched these sufferings

πρόσωθεν δέ ποθεν ἀνακομίζομαι
from-far and somewhere I-bring-back

τύχαν δαιμόνων
fortune of-the-gods

ἀμπλακίαισι τῶν πάροιθέν τινος.
for-the-sins of-the former someone

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐ σοὶ τάδ', ὦναξ, ἤλυθεν μόνῳ κακά·
not to-you these-things O-lord came alone evils

835 πολλῶν μετ' ἄλλων δ' ὤλεσας κεδνὸν λέχος.
many with others and you-have-lost dear bed

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ τὸ κατὰ γᾶς θέλω, τὸ κατὰ γᾶς κνέφας
the beneath earth I-wish the beneath earth darkness

μετοικεῖν σκότῳ θανὼν ὁ τλάμων,
to-change-dwelling in-darkness having-died the wretched

τῆς σῆς στερηθεὶς φιλτάτης ὁμιλίας·
— your having-been-deprived of-dearest company

ἀπώλεσας γὰρ μᾶλλον ἢ κατέφθισο.
you-have-destroyed for rather than you-perished

†τίνος κλύω; πόθεν θανάσιμος τύχα,
(corrupt)-of-whom do-I-hear whence deadly fortune
γύναι, σὰν ἔβα τάλαινα καρδίαν;†
woman your came wretched heart(corrupt)
εἴποι τις ἂν τὸ πραχθέν, ἢ μάτην ὄχλον
might-tell someone — the done or in-vain crowd
στέγει τύραννον δῶμα προσπόλων ἐμῶν;
holds royal house of-servants my
ὤμοι μοι σέθεν *** ***
ah-me me for-you (lacuna) (lacuna)
μέλεος, οἷον εἶδον ἄλγος δόμων,
wretched what I-saw grief of-the-house
οὐ τλητὸν οὐδὲ ῥητόν· ἀλλ᾽ ἀπωλόμην·
not bearable nor speakable but I-am-ruined
ἔρημος οἶκος, καὶ τέκν᾽ ὀρφανεύεται.
desolate house and children are-orphaned
ἔλιπες ἔλιπες, ὦ φίλα
you-have-left you-have-left O dear
γυναικῶν ἀρίστα θ᾽ ὁπόσας ἐφορᾷ
of-women best and as-many-as looks-on
φέγγος ἀελίου τε καὶ
light of-the-sun both and
νυκτὸς ἀστερωπὸν σέλας.
of-night starry gleam
ΧΟΡΟΣ τάλας, ὦ τάλας· ὅσον κακὸν ἔχει δόμος.
wretched O wretched how-great evil has the-house
δάκρυσί μου βλέφαρα
with-tears my eyelids
καταχυθέντα τέγγεται σᾷ τύχᾳ·
drenched are-wet at-your fortune

τὸ δ' ἐπὶ τῷδε πῆμα φρίσσω πάλαι.
the but on this woe I-have-dreaded long

ΘΗΣΕΤΣ ἔα ἔα·
ah ah

τί δή ποθ' ἥδε δέλτος ἐκ φίλης χερὸς
what indeed ever this tablet from dear hand

ἠρτημένη; θέλει τι σημῆναι νέον;
hanging wishes something to-signify new

ἀλλ' ἦ λέχους μοι καὶ τέκνων ἐπιστολὰς
but — of-bed to-me and of-children instructions

ἔγραψεν ἡ δύστηνος, ἐξαιτουμένη;
wrote the wretched asking

θάρσει, τάλαινα· λέκτρα γὰρ τὰ Θησέως
take-heart wretched bed for the of-Theseus

οὐκ ἔστι δῶμά θ' ἥτις εἴσεισιν γυνή.
not is house and which will-enter woman

καὶ μὴν τύποι γε σφενδόνης χρυσηλάτου
and indeed the-impressions at-least of-the-seal-ring gold-wrought

τῆς οὐκέτ' οὔσης τῆσδε προσσαίνουσί με.
of-her no-longer living this fawn-on me

φέρ', ἐξελίξας περιβολὰς σφραγισμάτων
come having-unrolled the-wrappings of-the-seals

ἴδω τί λέξαι δέλτος ἥδε μοι θέλει.
may-I-see what to-say tablet this to-me wishes

ΧΟΡΟΣ φεῦ φεῦ· τόδ' αὖ νεοχμὸν ἐκδοχαῖς
alas alas this again new by-successions

ἐπιφέρει θεὸς κακόν. ἐμοί γ' ἂν οὖν
brings the-god evil to-me at-least — then

ἀβίοτος βίου τύχα πρὸς τὸ κρανθὲν εἴη τυχεῖν.
unlivable of-life fortune at the accomplished would-be to-obtain

ὀλομένους γάρ, οὐκέτ᾽ ὄντας λέγω,
destroyed for no-longer being I-speak
φεῦ φεῦ, τῶν ἐμῶν τυράννων δόμους·
alas alas — of-my lords house
ὦ δαῖμον, εἴ πως ἔστι, μὴ σφήλῃς δόμους,
O god if somehow it-is-possible not overthrow the-house
αἰτουμένης δὲ κλῦθί μου· πρὸς γάρ τινος
asking and hear me from for someone
οἰωνὸν ὥστε μάντις εἰσορῶ κακόν.
omen like prophet I-see evil
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ οἴμοι· τόδ᾽ οἷον ἄλλο πρὸς κακῷ κακόν,
ah-me this what other upon evil evil
οὐ τλητὸν οὐδὲ λεκτόν. ὦ τάλας ἐγώ.
not bearable nor speakable O wretched I
ΧΟΡΟΣ τί χρῆμα; λέξον, εἴ τί μοι λόγου μέτα.
what thing say if something for-me of-speech share
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ βοᾷ βοᾷ δέλτος ἄλαστα. πᾷ φύγω
cries cries the-tablet unforgettable-things where shall-I-flee
βάρος κακῶν; ἀπὸ γὰρ ὀλόμενος οἴχομαι,
the-weight of-evils away for destroyed I-am-gone
οἷον οἷον εἶδον ἐν γραφαῖς μέλος
what what I-saw in writing song
φθεγγόμενον τλάμων.
uttering wretched
ΧΟΡΟΣ αἰαῖ, κακῶν ἀρχηγὸν ἐκφαίνεις λόγον.
alas of-evils leading you-reveal word
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ τόδε μὲν οὐκέτι στόματος ἐν πύλαις
this indeed no-longer of-mouth within gates
καθέξω δυσεκπέρατον, ὀλοὸν
I-will-hold hard-to-pass-through deadly

κακόν· ἰὼ πόλις.
evil oh city

Ἱππόλυτος εὐνῆς τῆς ἐμῆς ἔτλη θιγεῖν
Hippolytus bed — my dared to-touch

βίᾳ, τὸ σεμνὸν Ζηνὸς ὄμμ' ἀτιμάσας.
by-force the holy of-Zeus eye having-dishonored

ἀλλ' ὦ πάτερ Πόσειδον, ἃς ἐμοί ποτε
but O father Poseidon which to-me once

ἀρὰς ὑπέσχου τρεῖς, μιᾷ κατέργασαι
curses you-promised three with-one destroy

τούτων ἐμὸν παῖδ', ἡμέραν δὲ μὴ φύγοι
of-these my son day and not may-be-escape

τήνδ', εἴπερ ἡμῖν ὤπασας σαφεῖς ἀράς.
this if-indeed to-us you-granted sure curses

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄναξ, ἀπεύχου ταῦτα πρὸς θεῶν πάλιν·
lord pray-back these-things by the-gods again

γνώσει γὰρ αὖθις ἀμπλακών. ἐμοὶ πιθοῦ.
you-will-know for afterward having-erred me obey

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ οὐκ ἔστι· καὶ πρός γ' ἐξελῶ σφε τῆσδε γῆς,
not it-is and besides at-least I-will-drive-out him from-this land

δυοῖν δὲ μοίραιν θατέρᾳ πεπλήξεται·
two and fates by-one he-will-be-struck

ἢ γὰρ Ποσειδῶν αὐτὸν εἰς Ἅιδου πύλας
either for Poseidon him to of-Hades gates

θανόντα πέμψει τὰς ἐμὰς ἀρὰς σέβων,
dead will-send — my curses revering

ἢ τῆσδε χώρας ἐκπεσὼν ἀλώμενος
or from-this land cast-out wandering

ξένην ἐπ' αἶαν λυπρὸν ἀντλήσει βίον.
foreign on land painful will-drain life

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ὅδ' αὐτὸς παῖς σὸς εἰς καιρὸν πάρα,
and indeed this himself son your in time is-here
Ἱππόλυτος· ὀργῆς δ' ἐξανεὶς κακῆς, ἄναξ
Hippolytus of-wrath and having-let-go evil lord
Θησεῦ, τὸ λῷστον σοῖσι βούλευσαι δόμοις.
Theseus the best for-your plan house
ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ κραυγῆς ἀκούσας σῆς ἀφικόμην, πάτερ,
cry having-heard your I-came father
σπουδῇ· τὸ μέντοι πρᾶγμ' ἐφ' ᾧ τὰ νῦν στένεις
in-haste the however thing over which the now you-groan
οὐκ οἶδα, βουλοίμην δ' ἂν ἐκ σέθεν κλύειν.
not I-know I-would-wish and — from you to-hear
ἔα, τί χρῆμα; σὴν δάμαρθ' ὁρῶ, πάτερ,
ah what thing your wife I-see father
νεκρόν· μεγίστου θαύματος τόδ' ἄξιον·
dead greatest wonder this worthy
ἣν ἀρτίως ἔλειπον, ἣ φάος τόδε
whom just-now I-was-leaving who light this
οὔπω χρόνον παλαιὸν εἰσεδέρκετο.
not-yet time long was-looking-on
τί χρῆμα πάσχει; τῷ τρόπῳ διόλλυται,
what thing suffers-she in-what way does-she-perish
πάτερ, πυθέσθαι βούλομαι σέθεν πάρα.
father to-learn I-wish you from
σιγᾷς; σιωπῆς δ' οὐδὲν ἔργον ἐν κακοῖς·
you-are-silent of-silence but no work in troubles
ἡ γὰρ ποθοῦσα πάντα καρδία κλύειν
the for longing all heart to-hear
κἀν τοῖς κακοῖσι λίχνος οὖσ' ἁλίσκεται.
even-in the troubles greedy being is-caught

οὐ μὴν φίλους γε κἄτι μᾶλλον ἢ φίλους
not indeed friends at-least and-still more than friends
κρύπτειν δίκαιον σάς, πάτερ, δυσπραξίας.
to-hide just your father misfortunes
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ὦ πόλλ' ἁμαρτάνοντες ἄνθρωποι μάτην,
O much erring men in-vain
τί δὴ τέχνας μὲν μυρίας διδάσκετε
why indeed arts indeed ten-thousand do-you-teach
καὶ πάντα μηχανᾶσθε κἀξευρίσκετε,
and all-things contrive and-discover
ἓν δ' οὐκ ἐπίστασθ' οὐδ' ἐθηράσασθέ πω,
one but not you-know nor have-you-hunted yet
φρονεῖν διδάσκειν οἷσιν οὐκ ἔνεστι νοῦς;
to-think to-teach in-whom not is sense
ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ δεινὸν σοφιστὴν εἶπας, ὅστις εὖ φρονεῖν
clever sophist you-have-named whoever well to-think
τοὺς μὴ φρονοῦντας δυνατός ἐστ' ἀναγκάσαι.
those not thinking able is to-compel
ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ ἐν δέοντι λεπτουργεῖς, πάτερ,
but not for in season you-split-hairs father
δέδοικα μή σου γλῶσσ' ὑπερβάλῃ κακοῖς.
I-fear lest your tongue overshoot through-troubles
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ φεῦ, χρῆν βροτοῖσι τῶν φίλων τεκμήριον
alas one-should for-mortals of-the friends a-token
σαφές τι κεῖσθαι καὶ διάγνωσιν φρενῶν,
clear some to-be-set and discernment of-minds
ὅστις τ' ἀληθής ἐστιν ὅς τε μὴ φίλος·
who both true is who and not friend
δισσάς τε φωνὰς πάντας ἀνθρώπους ἔχειν,
two and voices all men to-have

τὴν μὲν δικαίαν, τὴν δ' ὅπως ἐτύγχανεν,
the one just the and however it-happened
ὡς ἡ φρονοῦσα τἄδικ' ἐξηλέγχετο
so-that the thinking the-unjust was-refuted
πρὸς τῆς δικαίας, κοὐκ ἂν ἠπατώμεθα.
by the just and-not — we-would-be-deceived
ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ἀλλ' ἦ τις εἰς σὸν οὖς με διαβαλὼν ἔχει
but — someone into your ear me slandering has
φίλων, νοσοῦμεν δ' οὐδὲν ὄντες αἴτιοι;
of-friends I-am-sick and in-nothing being to-blame
ἔκ τοι πέπληγμαι· σοὶ γὰρ ἐκπλήσσουσί με
out surely I-am-struck you for amaze me
λόγοι παραλλάσσοντες ἔξεδροι φρενῶν.
words straying out-of-place of-mind
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ φεῦ τῆς βροτείας — ποῖ προβήσεται; — φρενός·
alas the of-mortal whither will-it-advance mind
τί τέρμα τόλμης καὶ θράσους γενήσεται;
what end of-daring and boldness will-be
εἰ γὰρ κατ' ἀνδρὸς βίοτον ἐξογκώσεται,
if for by of-man life it-will-swell
ὁ δ' ὕστερος τοῦ πρόσθεν εἰς ὑπερβολὴν
the and later than-the former to excess
πανοῦργος ἔσται, θεοῖσι προσβαλεῖν χθονὶ
villainous will-be the-gods to-add to-the-earth
ἄλλην δεήσει γαῖαν, ἣ χωρήσεται
another will-be-needed land which will-hold
τοὺς μὴ δικαίους καὶ κακοὺς πεφυκότας.
those not just and bad being
σκέψασθε δ' εἰς τόνδ', ὅστις ἐξ ἐμοῦ γεγὼς
look and at this-man who from me born

ἤσχυνε τἀμὰ λέκτρα κἀξελέγχεται
shamed my bed and-is-convicted
πρὸς τῆς θανούσης ἐμφανῶς κάκιστος ὤν.
by the dead clearly worst being
δεῖξον δ', ἐπειδή γ' εἰς μίασμ' ἐλήλυθας,
show and since at-least to pollution you-have-come
τὸ σὸν πρόσωπον δεῦρ' ἐναντίον πατρί.
— your face here opposite to-father
σὺ δὴ θεοῖσιν ὡς περισσὸς ὢν ἀνὴρ
you indeed with-gods as exceptional being man
ξύνει; σὺ σώφρων καὶ κακῶν ἀκήρατος;
consort you self-controlled and of-evils pure
οὐκ ἂν πιθοίμην τοῖσι σοῖς κόμποις ἐγὼ
not — I-would-believe — your boasts I
θεοῖσι προσθεὶς ἀμαθίαν φρονεῖν κακῶς.
to-the-gods attributing ignorance to-think badly
ἤδη νυν αὔχει καὶ δι' ἀψύχου βορᾶς
now then boast and through soulless food
σίτοις καπήλευ', Ὀρφέα τ' ἄνακτ' ἔχων
with-grains peddle Orpheus and lord having
βάκχευε πολλῶν γραμμάτων τιμῶν καπνούς·
revel of-many writings honoring smoke
ἐπεί γ' ἐλήφθης. τοὺς δὲ τοιούτους ἐγὼ
since at-least you-are-caught the and such I
φεύγειν προφωνῶ πᾶσι· θηρεύουσι γὰρ
to-shun proclaim to-all they-hunt for
σεμνοῖς λόγοισιν, αἰσχρὰ μηχανώμενοι.
with-holy words shameful-things contriving
τέθνηκεν ἥδε· τοῦτό σ' ἐκσώσειν δοκεῖς;
is-dead she this you to-save do-you-think

ἐν τῷδ' ἁλίσκει πλεῖστον, ὦ κάκιστε σύ·
in this you-are-caught most O worst you
ποῖοι γὰρ ὅρκοι κρείσσονες, τίνες λόγοι
what for oaths stronger what words
τῆσδ' ἂν γένοιντ' ἄν, ὥστε σ' αἰτίαν φυγεῖν;
than-her — could-be — so-that you the-charge to-escape
μισεῖν σε φήσεις τήνδε καὶ τὸ δὴ νόθον
to-hate you you-will-say her and the indeed bastard
τοῖς γνησίοισι πολέμιον πεφυκέναι·
to-the legitimate hostile to-be
κακὴν ἄρ' αὐτὴν ἔμπορον βίου λέγεις,
bad then her trader of-life you-call
εἰ δυσμενείᾳ σῇ τὰ φίλτατ' ὤλεσεν.
if from-hatred your the dearest(-things) she-lost
ἀλλ' ὡς τὸ μῶρον ἀνδράσιν μὲν οὐκ ἔνι,
but that the folly in-men indeed not is
γυναιξὶ δ' ἐμπέφυκεν; οἶδ' ἐγὼ νέους,
in-women but is-inborn I-know I young-men
οὐδὲν γυναικῶν ὄντας ἀσφαλεστέρους,
in-nothing than-women being safer
ὅταν ταράξῃ Κύπρις ἡβῶσαν φρένα·
whenever stirs Cypris youthful mind
τὸ δ' ἄρσεν αὐτοὺς ὠφελεῖ προσκείμενον.
the but male them helps being-attached
νῦν οὖν τί ταῦτα σοῖς ἁμιλλῶμαι λόγοις
now then why these-things with-your do-I-contend words
νεκροῦ παρόντος μάρτυρος σαφεστάτου;
the-corpse being-present witness clearest
ἔξερρε γαίας τῆσδ' ὅσον τάχος φυγάς,
get-out of-land this as-much-as quickly exile

καὶ μήτ᾽ Ἀθήνας τὰς θεοδμήτους μόλῃς,
and neither Athens the god-built may-you-come-to
μήτ᾽ εἰς ὅρους γῆς ἧς ἐμὸν κρατεῖ δόρυ.
nor to the-bounds of-land which my rules spear
εἰ γὰρ παθών γε σοῦ τάδ᾽ ἡσσηθήσομαι,
if for having-suffered at-least from-you these-things I-shall-be-worsted
οὐ μαρτυρήσει μ᾽ Ἴσθμιος Σίνις ποτὲ
not will-bear-witness me of-the-Isthmus Sinis ever
κτανεῖν ἑαυτόν, ἀλλὰ κομπάζειν μάτην,
to-have-killed himself but to-boast in-vain
οὐδ᾽ αἱ θαλάσσῃ σύννομοι Σκειρωνίδες
nor the by-the-sea neighboring Scironian
φήσουσι πέτραι τοῖς κακοῖς μ᾽ εἶναι βαρύν.
will-say rocks to-the bad me to-be heavy
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκ οἶδ᾽ ὅπως εἴποιμ᾽ ἂν εὐτυχεῖν τινα
not I-know how I-could-say — to-be-fortunate anyone
θνητῶν· τὰ γὰρ δὴ πρῶτ᾽ ἀνέστραπται πάλιν.
of-mortals the for indeed first are-overturned back
ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ πάτερ, μένος μὲν ξύστασίς τε σῶν φρενῶν
father the-fury indeed tension and of-your mind
δεινή· τὸ μέντοι πρᾶγμ᾽ ἔχον καλοὺς λόγους,
terrible the however matter having fine words
εἴ τις διαπτύξειεν, οὐ καλὸν τόδε.
if anyone should-unfold not fine this
ἐγὼ δ᾽ ἄκομψος εἰς ὄχλον δοῦναι λόγον,
I but unskilled to a-crowd to-give account
εἰς ἥλικας δὲ κὠλίγους σοφώτερος.
to age-mates and and-few cleverer
ἔχει δὲ μοῖραν καὶ τόδ᾽· οἱ γὰρ ἐν σοφοῖς
has and its-portion even this the for among wise

φαῦλοι παρ᾽ ὄχλῳ μουσικώτεροι λέγειν.
worthless before a-crowd more-musical to-speak
ὅμως δ᾽ ἀνάγκη, συμφορᾶς ἀφιγμένης,
nevertheless and necessity misfortune having-come
γλῶσσάν μ᾽ ἀφεῖναι. πρῶτα δ᾽ ἄρξομαι λέγειν
tongue me to-let-go first and I-will-begin to-speak
ὅθεν μ᾽ ὑπῆλθες πρῶτον ὡς διαφθερῶν
whence me you-attacked first as to-destroy
οὐκ ἀντιλέξοντ᾽. εἰσορᾷς φάος τόδε
not to-reply you-see light this
καὶ γαῖαν· ἐν τοῖσδ᾽ οὐκ ἔνεστ᾽ ἀνὴρ ἐμοῦ,
and earth in these not is man than-me
οὐδ᾽ ἢν σὺ μὴ φῇς, σωφρονέστερος γεγώς.
not-even if you not say more-self-controlled being
ἐπίσταμαι γὰρ πρῶτα μὲν θεοὺς σέβειν,
I-know for first indeed gods to-revere
φίλοις τε χρῆσθαι μὴ ἀδικεῖν πειρωμένοις,
friends and to-use not to-wrong trying
ἀλλ᾽ οἷσιν αἰδὼς μήτ᾽ ἐπαγγέλλειν κακὰ
but those-in-whom shame neither to-command evils
μήτ᾽ ἀνθυπουργεῖν αἰσχρὰ τοῖσι χρωμένοις·
nor to-render-in-turn shameful-things to-those using(-them)
οὐκ ἐγγελαστὴς τῶν ὁμιλούντων, πάτερ,
not mocker of-the companions father
ἀλλ᾽ αὐτὸς οὐ παροῦσι κἀγγὺς ὢν φίλος.
but the-same not to-present and-near being friend
ἑνὸς δ᾽ ἄθικτος, ᾧ με νῦν ἑλεῖν δοκεῖς·
of-one but untouched in-which me now to-catch you-think
λέχους γὰρ εἰς τόδ᾽ ἡμέρας ἁγνὸν δέμας.
of-bed for to this of-day pure body

οὐκ οἶδα πρᾶξιν τήνδε πλὴν λόγῳ κλύων
not I-know act this except by-word hearing
γραφῇ τε λεύσσων· οὐδὲ ταῦτα γὰρ σκοπεῖν
in-painting and seeing nor these-things for to-look-at
πρόθυμός εἰμι, παρθένον ψυχὴν ἔχων.
eager am maiden soul having
καὶ δὴ τὸ σῶφρον τοὐμὸν οὐ πείθει σ' ἴσως·
and indeed the self-control my not persuades you perhaps
δεῖ δή σε δεῖξαι τῷ τρόπῳ διεφθάρην.
must indeed you to-show in-the way I-was-corrupted
πότερα τὸ τῆσδε σῶμ' ἐκαλλιστεύετο
whether the of-her body was-fairest
πασῶν γυναικῶν; ἢ σὸν οἰκήσειν δόμον
of-all women or your to-inhabit house
ἔγκληρον εὐνὴν προσλαβὼν ἐπήλπισα;
heiress bed taking-besides I-hoped
μάταιος ἆρ' ἦ, κοὐδαμοῦ μὲν οὖν φρενῶν.
foolish then I-was and-nowhere indeed then of-mind
ἀλλ' ὡς τυραννεῖν ἡδὺ τοῖσι σώφροσιν;
but that to-reign is-sweet to-the self-controlled
ἥκιστά γ', εἰ μὴ τὰς φρένας διέφθορε
least at-least if not the minds it-has-corrupted
θνητῶν ὅσοισιν ἀνδάνει μοναρχία.
of-mortals whom pleases monarchy
ἐγὼ δ' ἀγῶνας μὲν κρατεῖν Ἑλληνικοὺς
I and contests indeed to-win Greek
πρῶτος θέλοιμ' ἄν, ἐν πόλει δὲ δεύτερος
first would-wish — in city and second
σὺν τοῖς ἀρίστοις εὐτυχεῖν ἀεὶ φίλοις.
with the best to-prosper always friends

πράσσειν γὰρ εὖ πάρεστι, κίνδυνός τ' ἀπὼν
to-fare for well is-possible danger and absent
κρείσσω δίδωσι τῆς τυραννίδος χάριν.
greater gives than-the tyranny delight
ἓν οὐ λέλεκται τῶν ἐμῶν, τὰ δ' ἄλλ' ἔχεις·
one not has-been-said — of-my the and rest you-have
εἰ μὲν γὰρ ἦν μοι μάρτυς οἷός εἰμ' ἐγώ,
if indeed for were for-me witness such-as am I
καὶ τῆσδ' ὁρώσης φέγγος ἠγωνιζόμην,
and she seeing light I-were-contending
ἔργοις ἂν εἶδες τοὺς κακοὺς διεξιών.
by-deeds — you-would-have-seen the bad going-through
νῦν δ' ὅρκιόν σοι Ζῆνα καὶ πέδον χθονὸς
now and oath-guarding to-you Zeus and plain of-earth
ὄμνυμι τῶν σῶν μήποθ' ἅψασθαι γάμων
I-swear — your never to-have-touched marriage
μηδ' ἂν θελῆσαι μηδ' ἂν ἔννοιαν λαβεῖν.
nor — to-have-wished nor — thought to-have-taken
ἦ τἄρ' ὀλοίμην ἀκλεὴς ἀνώνυμος,
truly then may-I-perish inglorious nameless
ἄπολις ἄοικος, φυγὰς ἀλητεύων χθόνα,
cityless homeless exile wandering the-earth
καὶ μήτε πόντος μήτε γῆ δέξαιτό μου
and neither sea nor earth may-receive my
σάρκας θανόντος, εἰ κακὸς πέφυκ' ἀνήρ.
flesh dead if bad am man
εἰ δ' ἥδε δειμαίνουσ' ἀπώλεσεν βίον
if and she fearing destroyed life
οὐκ οἶδ'· ἐμοὶ γὰρ οὐ θέμις πέρα λέγειν.
not I-know for-me for not lawful further to-speak

ἐσωφρόνησε δ' οὐκ ἔχουσα σωφρονεῖν,
she-was-self-controlled and not having to-be-self-controlled
ἡμεῖς δ', ἔχοντες οὐ καλῶς, ἐχρώμεθα.
we and having not well used(-it)
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀρκοῦσαν εἶπας αἰτίας ἀποστροφήν,
sufficient you-have-said of-the-charge rebuttal
ὅρκους παρασχών, πίστιν οὐ σμικράν, θεῶν.
oaths offering pledge not small of-gods
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ἆρ' οὐκ ἐπῳδὸς καὶ γόης πέφυχ' ὅδε,
— not enchanter and sorcerer is this-man
ὃς τὴν ἐμὴν πέποιθεν εὐοργησίᾳ
who — my has-trusted by-good-temper
ψυχὴν κρατήσειν τὸν τεκόντ' ἀτιμάσας;
soul to-master the begetter having-dishonored
ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ καὶ σοῦ γε κάρτα ταῦτα θαυμάζω, πάτερ·
and you at-least greatly these-things I-wonder-at father
εἰ γὰρ σὺ μὲν παῖς ἦσθ', ἐγὼ δὲ σὸς πατήρ,
if for you indeed son were I and your father
ἔκτεινά τοί σ' ἂν κοὐ φυγαῖς ἐζημίουν,
I-would-kill surely you — and-not with-exile I-would-punish
εἴπερ γυναικὸς ἠξίους ἐμῆς θιγεῖν.
if-indeed wife thought-fit my to-touch
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ὡς ἄξιον τόδ' εἶπας· οὐχ οὕτω θανεῖ,
how worthy this you-have-said not thus you-will-die
ὥσπερ σὺ σαυτῷ τόνδε προὔθηκας νόμον·
as you yourself this proposed law
ταχὺς γὰρ Ἅιδης ῥᾴστος ἀνδρὶ δυστυχεῖ·
quick for Hades easiest for-man unfortunate
ἀλλ' ἐκ πατρῴας φυγὰς ἀλητεύων χθονός
but from ancestral exile wandering land

ξένην ἐπ᾽ αἶαν λυπρὸν ἀντλήσεις βίον·
foreign on land painful you-will-drain life
μισθὸς γὰρ οὗτός ἐστιν ἀνδρὶ δυσσεβεῖ.
wage for this is for-man impious
ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ οἴμοι, τί δράσεις; οὐδὲ μηνυτὴν χρόνον
ah-me what will-you-do not-even informer time
δέξει καθ᾽ ἡμῶν, ἀλλά μ᾽ ἐξελᾷς χθονός;
will-you-accept against us but me will-you-drive from-the-land
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ πέραν γε πόντου τερμόνων τ᾽ Ἀτλαντικῶν,
beyond at-least the-sea the-bounds and Atlantic
εἴ πως δυναίμην, ὡς σὸν ἐχθαίρω κάρα.
if somehow I-could so your I-hate head
ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ οὐδ᾽ ὅρκον οὐδὲ πίστιν οὐδὲ μάντεων·
neither oath nor pledge nor of-seers
φήμας ἐλέγξας ἄκριτον ἐκβαλεῖς με γῆς;
sayings having-tested untried will-you-cast me from-the-land
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ἡ δέλτος ἥδε κλῆρον οὐ δεδεγμένη
the tablet this lot not having-received
κατηγορεῖ σου πιστά· τοὺς δ᾽ ὑπὲρ κάρα
accuses you convincingly the and over head
φοιτῶντας ὄρνεις πόλλ᾽ ἐγὼ χαίρειν λέγω.
roaming birds much I farewell bid
ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ὦ θεοί, τί δῆτα τοὐμὸν οὐ λύω στόμα,
O gods why indeed my not do-I-loose mouth
ὅστις γ᾽ ὑφ᾽ ὑμῶν, οὓς σέβω, διόλλυμαι;
who at-least by you whom I-revere am-destroyed
οὐ δῆτα· πάντως οὐ πίθοιμ᾽ ἂν οὕς με δεῖ,
not indeed in-every-way not I-would-persuade — whom me it-behooves
μάτην δ᾽ ἂν ὅρκους συγχέαιμ᾽ οὓς ὤμοσα.
in-vain and — oaths I-would-violate which I-swore

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ οἴμοι· τὸ σεμνὸν ὥς μ' ἀποκτείνει τὸ σόν.
ah-me the solemnity how me kills — your

οὐκ εἶ πατρῴας ἐκτὸς ὡς τάχιστα γῆς;
not will-you-go ancestral outside as quickly-as-possible land

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ποῖ δῆθ' ὁ τλήμων τρέψομαι; τίνος ξένων
whither then the wretched shall-I-turn of-what of-hosts

δόμους ἔσειμι τῇδ' ἐπ' αἰτίᾳ φυγών;
house shall-I-enter this on charge exiled

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ὅστις γυναικῶν λυμεῶνας ἥδεται
who of-women defilers enjoys

ξένους κομίζων καὶ συνοικούρους κακῶν.
strangers entertaining and fellow-keepers of-evils

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ αἰαῖ· πρὸς ἦπαρ δακρύων τ' ἐγγὺς τόδε,
alas to the-liver of-tears and near this

εἰ δὴ κακός γε φαίνομαι δοκῶ τέ σοι.
if indeed bad at-least I-appear I-seem and to-you

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ τότε στενάζειν καὶ προγιγνώσκειν σ' ἐχρῆν,
then to-groan and to-foresee you it-was-needful

ὅτ' εἰς πατρῴαν ἄλοχον ὑβρίζειν ἔτλης.
when on father's wife to-outrage you-dared

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ὦ δώματ', εἴθε φθέγμα γηρύσαισθέ μοι
O house would-that voice you-might-utter for-me

καὶ μαρτυρήσαιτ' εἰ κακὸς πέφυκ' ἀνήρ.
and might-bear-witness if bad am man

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ εἰς τοὺς ἀφώνους μάρτυρας φεύγεις σοφῶς·
to the voiceless witnesses you-flee cleverly

τὸ δ' ἔργον οὐ λέγον σε μηνύει κακόν.
the but deed not speaking you reveals bad

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ φεῦ·
alas

εἴθ' ἦν ἐμαυτὸν προσβλέπειν ἐναντίον
would-that it-were-possible myself to-look-at face-to-face

στάνθ', ὡς ἐδάκρυσ' οἷα πάσχομεν κακά.
standing how I-would-have-wept what we-suffer evils

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ πολλῷ γε μᾶλλον σαυτὸν ἤσκησας σέβειν 1080
by-much at-least more yourself you-practiced to-revere

ἢ τοὺς τεκόντας ὅσια δρᾶν, δίκαιος ὤν.
than the having-begotten holy-things to-do just being

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ὦ δυστάλαινα μῆτερ, ὦ πικραὶ γοναί·
O most-wretched mother O bitter birth

μηδείς ποτ' εἴη τῶν ἐμῶν φίλων νόθος.
no-one ever may-be — of-my friends bastard

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ οὐχ ἕλξετ' αὐτόν, δμῶες; οὐκ ἀκούετε
not will-you-drag him servants not do-you-hear

πάλαι ξενοῦσθαι τόνδε προὐννέποντά με; 1085
long-ago to-be-banished this-one proclaiming me

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ κλαίων τις αὐτῶν ἆρ' ἐμοῦ γε θίξεται·
weeping someone of-them then me at-least will-touch

σὺ δ' αὐτός, εἴ σοι θυμός, ἐξώθει χθονός.
you but yourself if to-you heart thrust from-the-land

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ δράσω τάδ', εἰ μὴ τοῖς ἐμοῖς πείσει λόγοις·
I-will-do this if not — to-my you-yield words

οὐ γάρ τις οἶκτος σῆς μ' ὑπέρχεται φυγῆς.
not for any pity your me steals-over exile

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ἄραρεν, ὡς ἔοικεν· ὦ τάλας ἐγώ· 1090
it-is-fixed as it-seems O wretched I

ὡς οἶδα μὲν ταῦτ', οἶδα δ' οὐχ ὅπως φράσω.
as I-know indeed these-things I-know but not how I-shall-tell

ὦ φιλτάτη μοι δαιμόνων Λητοῦς κόρη
O dearest to-me of-gods of-Leto daughter
σύνθακε συγκύναγε, φευξόμεσθα δὴ
sitting-companion hunting-companion we-shall-flee indeed
κλεινὰς Ἀθήνας. ἀλλὰ χαίρετ', ὦ πόλις
glorious Athens but farewell O city
καὶ γαῖ' Ἐρεχθέως· ὦ πέδον Τροιζήνιον,
and land of-Erechtheus O plain Troezenian
ὡς ἐγκαθηβᾶν πόλλ' ἔχεις εὐδαίμονα,
how to-be-young-in many-things you-have happy
χαῖρ'· ὕστατον γάρ σ' εἰσορῶν προσφθέγγομαι.
farewell last for you seeing I-address
ἴτ', ὦ νέοι μοι τῆσδε γῆς ὁμήλικες,
come O young to-me of-this land age-mates
προσείπαθ' ἡμᾶς καὶ προπέμψατε χθονός·
address us and escort from-the-land
ὡς οὔποτ' ἄλλον ἄνδρα σωφρονέστερον
since never other man more-self-controlled
ὄψεσθε, κεἰ μὴ ταῦτ' ἐμῷ δοκεῖ πατρί.
you-will-see even-if not this to-my seems father

VIII · HIPPOLYTUS DEPARTS

The chorus finds comfort in the gods' care but cannot make sense of men's shifting fortunes, and prays for good fortune, an untroubled heart, and an easy temper. Now it despairs, seeing the brightest star of Athens driven out by his father's wrath. The sands, the hunt, and his horses will lose him, the maidens their hopes of marrying him, and his mother bore him in vain; the chorus reproaches the Graces for sending him away guiltless.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἦ μέγα μοι τὰ θεῶν μελεδήμαθ', ὅταν φρένας ἔλθῃ,
truly greatly to-me the of-gods cares when the-mind they-come
λύπας παραιρεῖ·
griefs take-away
ξύνεσιν δέ τιν' ἐλπίδι κεύθων
understanding and some in-hope hiding
λείπομαι ἔν τε τύχαις θνατῶν καὶ ἐν ἔργμασι λεύσσων·
I-fall-short in both fortunes of-mortals and in deeds looking
ἄλλα γὰρ ἄλλοθεν ἀμείβεται, 1105
other-things for from-elsewhere change
μετὰ δ' ἵσταται ἀνδράσιν αἰὼν
about and stands for-men life
πολυπλάνητος αἰεί.
much-wandering always
εἴθε μοι εὐξαμένᾳ θεόθεν τάδε μοῖρα παράσχοι,
would-that to-me praying from-the-gods this fate might-grant
τύχαν μετ' ὄλβου
fortune with prosperity
καὶ ἀκήρατον ἄλγεσι θυμόν·
and undisturbed by-griefs heart
δόξα δὲ μήτ' ἀτρεκὴς μήτ' αὖ παράσημος ἐνείη· 1115
opinion and neither exact nor again counterfeit may-be-in-me

ῥᾴδια δ᾽ ἤθεα τὸν αὔριον
easy and ways the tomorrow
μεταβαλλομένα χρόνον αἰεὶ
changing time always
βίον συνευτυχοίην.
life may-I-share-good-fortune
οὐκέτι γὰρ καθαρὰν φρέν᾽ ἔχω τὰ παρ᾽ ἐλπίδα λεύσσων,
no-longer for clear mind I-have the-things beyond hope seeing
ἐπεὶ τὸν Ἑλλανίας
since the of-Hellas
φανερώτατον ἀστέρ᾽ Ἀθάνας
brightest star of-Athens
εἴδομεν εἴδομεν ἐκ πατρὸς ὀργᾶς
we-saw we-saw from of-father wrath
ἄλλαν ἐπ᾽ αἶαν ἰέμενον.
other to land speeding
ὦ ψάμαθοι πολιήτιδος ἀκτᾶς
O sands of-the-city's shore
δρυμός τ᾽ ὄρειος, ὅθι κυνῶν
thicket and mountain where hounds
ὠκυπόδων μέτα θῆρας ἔναιρεν
swift-footed with beasts he-slew
Δίκτυνναν ἀμφὶ σεμνάν.
Dictynna about holy
οὐκέτι συζυγίαν πώλων Ἐνετᾶν ἐπιβάσει
no-longer the-yoked-team of-colts Venetian you-will-mount
τὸν ἀμφὶ Λίμνας τρόχον
the around Limna course
κατέχων ποδὶ γυμνάδος ἵππου.
holding with-foot of-the-trained horse

μοῦσα δ' ἄυπνος ὑπ' ἄντυγι χορδᾶν
the-music and sleepless under rim of-strings
λήξει πατρῷον ἀνὰ δόμον·
will-cease father's through house
ἀστέφανοι δὲ κόραις ἀνάπαυλαι
ungarlanded and of-the-maiden resting-places
Λατοῦς βαθεῖαν ἀνὰ χλόαν·
of-Leto deep through greenery
νυμφιδίων δ' ἀπόλωλε φυγᾷ σᾷ
of-bridal and has-perished by-flight your
λέκτρων ἅμιλλα κούραις.
of-bed rivalry for-the-girls
ἐγὼ δὲ σᾷ δυστυχίᾳ δάκρυσι διοίσω
I and for-your misfortune with-tears will-bear
πότμον ἄποτμον· ὦ τάλαινα
fate fateless O wretched
μᾶτερ, ἔτεκες ἀνόνατα· φεῦ,
mother you-bore in-vain alas
μανίῳ θεοῖσιν·
I-rage at-the-gods
ἰὼ ἰὼ συζύγιαι Χάριτες,
oh oh yoked Graces
τί τὸν τάλαν' ἐκ πατρίας γᾶς
why the wretched from ancestral land
τὸν οὐδὲν ἄτας αἴτιον
the in-nothing of-ruin cause
πέμπετε τῶνδ' ἀπ' οἴκων;
do-you-send this from house

A servant brings news that Hippolytus is dying. As he drove along the shore, a great wave rose and cast up a monstrous bull. His maddened horses bolted until the chariot struck a rock, and he was dragged and broken in the reins. The servant insists the young man is good, whatever women write. Theseus was glad of the news from hatred, but now, revering the gods and his son, he feels neither joy nor grief. He orders his son brought before him to be refuted.

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ὀπαδὸν Ἱππολύτου τόνδ' εἰσορῶ
and indeed attendant of-Hippolytus this I-see
σπουδῇ σκυθρωπὸν πρὸς δόμους ὁρμώμενον.
in-haste gloomy to the-house rushing
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ποῖ γῆς ἄνακτα τῆσδε Θησέα μολὼν
where of-land the-lord of-this Theseus going
εὕροιμ' ἄν, ὦ γυναῖκες; εἴπερ ἴστ', ἐμοὶ
might-I-find — O women if-indeed you-know to-me
σημήνατ'· ἆρα τῶνδε δωμάτων ἔσω;
show — this house within
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὅδ' αὐτὸς ἔξω δωμάτων πορεύεται.
this-man himself outside the-house comes
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ Θησεῦ, μερίμνης ἄξιον φέρω λόγον
Theseus of-care worthy I-bring word
σοὶ καὶ πολίταις οἵ τ' Ἀθηναίων πόλιν
to-you and to-citizens who and of-Athenians city
ναίουσι καὶ γῆς τέρμονας Τροιζηνίας.
inhabit and of-land bounds Troezenian
ΘΗΣΕΤΣ τί δ' ἔστι; μῶν τις συμφορὰ νεωτέρα
what and is-it surely-not some misfortune newer
δισσὰς κατείληφ' ἀστυγείτονας πόλεις;
two has-seized neighboring cities

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ Ἱππόλυτος οὐκέτ᾽ ἔστιν, ὡς εἰπεῖν ἔπος·
Hippolytus no-longer is as to-speak word
δέδορκε μέντοι φῶς ἐπὶ σμικρᾶς ῥοπῆς.
sees however light on small balance
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ πρὸς τοῦ; δι᾽ ἔχθρας μῶν τις ἦν ἀφιγμένος,
by whom through enmity surely-not someone was having-come
ὅτου κατῄσχυν᾽ ἄλοχον ὡς πατρὸς βίᾳ; 1165
whose he-shamed wife as of-the-father by-force
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οἰκεῖος αὐτὸν ὤλεσ᾽ ἁρμάτων ὄχος
his-own him destroyed of-chariot car
ἀραί τε τοῦ σοῦ στόματος, ἃς σὺ σῷ πατρὶ
curses and — of-your mouth which you to-your father
πόντου κρέοντι παιδὸς ἠράσω πέρι.
of-the-sea ruler son prayed about
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ὦ θεοὶ Πόσειδόν θ᾽, ὡς ἄρ᾽ ἦσθ᾽ ἐμὸς πατὴρ
O gods Poseidon and how then you-were my father
ὀρθῶς, ἀκούσας τῶν ἐμῶν κατευγμάτων. 1170
rightly having-heard — my prayers
πῶς καὶ διώλετ᾽; εἰπέ· τῷ τρόπῳ Δίκης
how and did-he-perish say in-what way of-Justice
ἔπαισεν αὐτὸν ῥόπτρον αἰσχύναντ᾽ ἐμέ;
struck him the-club having-shamed me
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἡμεῖς μὲν ἀκτῆς κυμοδέγμονος πέλας
we indeed shore wave-receiving near
ψήκτραισιν ἵππων ἐκτενίζομεν τρίχας
with-combs of-horses were-combing manes
κλαίοντες· ἦλθε γάρ τις ἄγγελος λέγων 1175
weeping came for some messenger saying
ὡς οὐκέτ᾽ ἐν γῇ τῇδ᾽ ἀναστρέψοι πόδα
that no-longer in land this he-would-turn foot

Ἱππόλυτος, ἐκ σοῦ τλήμονας φυγὰς ἔχων.
Hippolytus by you wretched exile having
ὁ δ' ἦλθε ταὐτὸν δακρύων ἔχων μέλος
he and came the-same of-tears having song
ἡμῖν ἐπ' ἀκταῖς· μυρία δ' ὀπισθόπους
to-us on shores ten-thousand and following
φίλων ἅμ' ἔστειχ' ἡλίκων θ' ὁμήγυρις.
of-friends together came of-age-mates and throng
χρόνῳ δὲ δήποτ' εἶπ' ἀπαλλαχθεὶς γόων·
in-time and at-length he-said released from-laments
τί ταῦτ' ἀλύω; πειστέον πατρὸς λόγοις.
why these-things do-I-fret one-must-obey of-father words
ἐντύναθ' ἵππους ἅρμασι ζυγηφόρους,
harness horses to-the-chariot yoke-bearing
δμῶες· πόλις γὰρ οὐκέτ' ἔστιν ἥδε μοι.
servants city for no-longer is this to-me
τοὐνθένδε μέντοι πᾶς ἀνὴρ ἠπείγετο,
from-then however every man hastened
καὶ θᾶσσον ἢ λέγοι τις ἐξηρτυμένας
and quicker than could-say anyone equipped
πώλους παρ' αὐτὸν δεσπότην ἐστήσαμεν.
colts beside very master we-set
μάρπτει δὲ χερσὶν ἡνίας ἀπ' ἄντυγος,
he-seizes and with-hands reins from rail
αὐταῖσιν ἀρβύλαισιν ἁρμόσας πόδας.
very with-boots fitting feet
καὶ πρῶτα μὲν θεοῖς εἶπ' ἀναπτύξας χέρας·
and first indeed to-the-gods he-said spreading-out hands
Ζεῦ, μηκέτ' εἴην, εἰ κακὸς πέφυκ' ἀνήρ·
Zeus no-longer may-I-be if bad am man

αἴσθοιτο δ' ἡμᾶς ὡς ἀτιμάζει πατὴρ
may-perceive and us how dishonors father
ἤτοι θανόντας ἢ φάος δεδορκότας.
either dead or light seeing
κἀν τῷδ' ἐπῆγε κέντρον εἰς χεῖρας λαβὼν
and-in this he-applied goad into hands having-taken
πώλοις ὁμαρτῇ· πρόσπολοι δ' ἐφ' ἅρματος
to-the-colts at-once attendants and by chariot
πέλας χαλινῶν εἱπόμεσθα δεσπότῃ
near the-bridles followed master
τὴν εὐθὺς Ἄργους κἀπιδαυρίας ὁδόν.
the straight-to Argos and-Epidaurian road
ἐπεὶ δ' ἔρημον χῶρον εἰσεβάλλομεν,
when and desolate place we-entered
ἀκτή τις ἔστι τοὐπέκεινα τῆσδε γῆς
shore some is beyond of-this land
πρὸς πόντον ἤδη κειμένη Σαρωνικόν.
towards sea already lying Saronic
ἔνθεν τις ἠχὼ χθόνιος ὡς βροντὴ Διὸς
whence some sound under-earth like thunder of-Zeus
βαρὺν βρόμον μεθῆκε φρικώδη κλύειν·
heavy roar sent-forth dreadful to-hear
ὀρθὸν δὲ κρᾶτ' ἔστησαν οὖς τ' ἐς οὐρανὸν
upright and head they-set ear and to heaven
ἵπποι· παρ' ἡμῖν δ' ἦν φόβος νεανικὸς
the-horses with us and was fear vehement
πόθεν ποτ' εἴη φθόγγος. εἰς δ' ἁλιρρόθους
whence ever might-be the-sound to and sea-dashed
ἀκτὰς ἀποβλέψαντες ἱερὸν εἴδομεν
shores having-looked holy we-saw

κῦμ᾽ οὐρανῷ στηρίζον, ὥστ᾽ ἀφῃρέθη
wave to-heaven fixed so-that was-taken-away
Σκείρωνος ἀκτὰς ὄμμα τοὐμὸν εἰσορᾶν·
of-Sciron shores eye my to-see
ἔκρυπτε δ᾽ Ἰσθμὸν καὶ πέτραν Ἀσκληπιοῦ.
it-hid and Isthmus and rock of-Asclepius
κἄπειτ᾽ ἀνοιδῆσάν τε καὶ πέριξ ἀφρὸν
and-then swelling both and around foam
πολὺν καχλάζον ποντίῳ φυσήματι
much bubbling with-sea blast
χωρεῖ πρὸς ἀκτάς, οὗ τέθριππος ἦν ὄχος.
it-goes to shores where four-horse was car
αὐτῷ δὲ σὺν κλύδωνι καὶ τρικυμίᾳ
very and with surge and triple-wave
κῦμ᾽ ἐξέθηκε ταῦρον, ἄγριον τέρας,
wave threw-out bull wild portent
οὗ πᾶσα μὲν χθὼν φθέγματος πληρουμένη
of-whom all indeed earth with-voice being-filled
φρικῶδες ἀντεφθέγγετ᾽, εἰσορῶσι δὲ
shudderingly bellowed-back to-those-seeing and
κρεῖσσον θέαμα δεργμάτων ἐφαίνετο.
greater sight than-eyes appeared
εὐθὺς δὲ πώλοις δεινὸς ἐμπίπτει φόβος·
at-once and on-the-colts terrible falls fear
καὶ δεσπότης μὲν ἱππικοῖσιν ἤθεσι
and master indeed with-horse ways
πολὺς ξυνοικῶν ἥρπασ᾽ ἡνίας χεροῖν,
much being-familiar seized reins with-hands
ἕλκει δέ, κώπην ὥστε ναυβάτης ἀνήρ,
draws and oar like seafaring man

ἱμᾶσιν εἰς τοὔπισθεν ἀρτήσας δέμας·
to-the-straps to the-back hanging body
αἱ δ' ἐνδακοῦσαι στόμια πυριγενῆ γναθμοῖς
they and having-bitten bits fire-forged in-jaws
βίᾳ φέρουσιν, οὔτι ναυκλήρου χερὸς
by-force carry not-at-all of-the-pilot's hand
οὔθ' ἱπποδέσμων οὔτε κολλητῶν ὄχων
nor of-horse-reins nor of-the-glued car
μεταστρέφουσαι. κεἰ μὲν εἰς τὰ μαλθακὰ
turning-about and-if indeed to the soft
γαίας ἔχων οἴακας εὐθύνοι δρόμον,
of-ground holding helm he-directed course
προὐφαίνετ' εἰς τοὔμπροσθεν, ὥστ' ἀναστρέφειν,
it-appeared to the-front so-as to-turn-back
ταῦρος, φόβῳ τέτρωρον ἐκμαίνων ὄχον·
bull with-fear four-horse maddening car
εἰ δ' εἰς πέτρας φέροιντο μαργῶσαι φρένας,
if and to rocks they-were-carried maddened in-mind
σιγῇ πελάζων ἄντυγι ξυνείπετο
in-silence approaching rail followed
εἰς τοῦθ' ἕως ἔσφηλε κἀνεχαίτισεν,
to this until it-tripped and-overturned
ἁψῖδα πέτρῳ προσβαλὼν ὀχήματος.
wheel to-rock having-struck of-the-chariot
σύμφυρτα δ' ἦν ἅπαντα· σύριγγές τ' ἄνω
mingled and was all naves and up
τροχῶν ἐπήδων ἀξόνων τ' ἐνήλατα.
of-wheels leaped of-axles and linchpins
αὐτὸς δ' ὁ τλήμων ἡνίαισιν ἐμπλακεὶς
himself and the wretched in-reins entangled

δεσμὸν δυσεξήνυστον ἕλκεται δεθείς,
bond hard-to-undo is-dragged bound
σποδούμενος μὲν πρὸς πέτραις φίλον κάρα
crushed indeed against rocks dear head
θραύων δὲ σάρκας, δεινὰ δ' ἐξαυδῶν κλύειν·
mangling and flesh terrible and crying to-hear
στῆτ', ὦ φάτναισι ταῖς ἐμαῖς τεθραμμέναι,
stop O at-mangers — my reared
μή μ' ἐξαλείψητ'· ὦ πατρὸς τάλαιν' ἀρά.
not me destroy O of-father wretched curse
τίς ἄνδρ' ἄριστον βούλεται σῶσαι παρών;
who man best wishes to-save being-present
πολλοὶ δὲ βουληθέντες ὑστέρῳ ποδὶ
many and wishing with-later foot
ἐλειπόμεσθα. χὠ μὲν ἐκ δεσμῶν λυθεὶς
were-left-behind and-he indeed from bonds released
τμητῶν ἱμάντων οὐ κάτοιδ' ὅτῳ τρόπῳ
cut of-straps not I-know in-what way
πίπτει, βραχὺν δὴ βίοτον ἐμπνέων ἔτι·
falls short indeed life breathing still
ἵπποι δ' ἔκρυφθεν καὶ τὸ δύστηνον τέρας
the-horses and vanished and the wretched portent
ταύρου λεπαίας οὐ κάτοιδ' ὅπου χθονός.
of-a-bull of-rocky not I-know where of-land
δοῦλος μὲν οὖν ἔγωγε σῶν δόμων, ἄναξ,
slave indeed then I of-your house lord
ἀτὰρ τοσοῦτόν γ' οὐ δυνήσομαί ποτε
but so-much at-least not I-shall-be-able ever
τὸν σὸν πιθέσθαι παῖδ' ὅπως ἐστὶν κακός,
— your to-believe son that is bad

οὐδ᾽ εἰ γυναικῶν πᾶν κρεμασθείη γένος,
not-even if of-women all should-hang race
καὶ τὴν ἐν Ἴδῃ γραμμάτων πλήσειέ τις
and the on Ida with-writings should-fill someone
πεύκην, ἐπεί νιν ἐσθλὸν ὄντ᾽ ἐπίσταμαι.
pine since him noble being I-know
ΧΟΡΟΣ αἰαῖ· κέκρανται συμφορὰ νέων κακῶν,
alas is-accomplished misfortune new of-evils
οὐδ᾽ ἔστι μοίρας τοῦ χρεών τ᾽ ἀπαλλαγή.
nor is from-fate the necessity and escape
ΘΗΣΕΤΣ μίσει μὲν ἀνδρὸς τοῦ πεπονθότος τάδε
from-hatred indeed of-the-man the having-suffered these-things
λόγοισιν ἥσθην τοῖσδε· νῦν δ᾽ αἰδούμενος
at-words I-was-pleased these now but revering
θεούς τ᾽ ἐκεῖνόν θ᾽, οὕνεκ᾽ ἐστὶν ἐξ ἐμοῦ,
gods and him and because is from me
οὔθ᾽ ἥδομαι τοῖσδ᾽ οὔτ᾽ ἐπάχθομαι κακοῖς.
neither I-am-pleased with-these nor I-am-vexed by-evils
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ πῶς οὖν; κομίζειν, ἢ τί χρὴ τὸν ἄθλιον
how then to-bring or what must the wretched
δράσαντας ἡμᾶς σῇ χαρίζεσθαι φρενί;
having-done us your to-gratify mind
φρόντιζ᾽· ἐμοῖς δὲ χρώμενος βουλεύμασιν
consider my but using counsel
οὐκ ὠμὸς εἰς σὸν παῖδα δυστυχοῦντ᾽ ἔσει.
not harsh to your son unfortunate you-will-be

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ κομίζετ᾽ αὐτόν, ὡς ἰδὼν ἐν ὄμμασι
bring him so-that seeing in eyes
τὸν τἄμ᾽ ἀπαρνηθέντα μὴ χρᾶναι λέχη
the my having-denied not to-have-stained bed
λόγοις τ᾽ ἐλέγξω δαιμόνων τε συμφοραῖς.
by-words and I-may-refute of-gods and by-misfortunes

X · THE POWER OF CYPRIS

The chorus sings that Cypris leads the unbending hearts of gods and men, and that Eros on golden wings flies over land and sea, enchanting every creature the earth nourishes and the sun looks on. Cypris alone rules them all.

ΧΟΡΟΣ σὺ τὰν θεῶν ἄκαμπ-
you the of-gods unbending
τον φρένα καὶ βροτῶν
— mind and of-mortals
ἄγεις, Κύπρι· σὺν δ᾽
lead Cypris with and
ὁ ποικιλόπτερος ἀμφιβαλὼν
the bright-winged encompassing
ὠκυτάτῳ πτερῷ·
with-swiftest wing
ποτᾶται ᾽πὶ γαῖαν εὐάχητόν θ᾽
flies over earth loud-sounding and
ἁλμυρὸν ἐπὶ πόντον.
salt over sea
θέλγει δ᾽ Ἔρως, ᾧ μαινομένᾳ κραδίᾳ
enchants and Love whom raging heart

πτανὸς ἐφορμάσῃ
winged attacks
χρυσοφαὴς,
gold-gleaming
φύσιν ὀρεσκόων
nature of-mountain-bred
σκυλάκων πελαγίων θ' ὅσα τε γᾶ τρέφει,
of-whelps of-the-sea and as-many-as and earth nourishes
τὰν Ἅλιος αἰθόμενος δέρκεται,
which the-Sun blazing looks-on
ἄνδρας τε· συμπάντων δὲ
men and of-all and
βασιληίδα τιμάν, Κύπρι,
royal honor Cypris
τῶνδε μόνα κρατύνεις.
of-these alone you-rule

XI · ARTEMIS

Artemis appears and tells Theseus the truth: Phaedra loved his son, the nurse betrayed it, Hippolytus kept his oath, and Phaedra's letter lied. Theseus has used his father's curse on an innocent son. Hippolytus is carried in, dying. Artemis promises him honor in Troezen, where brides will cut their hair for him, and vows revenge on Aphrodite. She leaves, and Hippolytus forgives his father before he dies.

ΑΡΤΕΜΙΣ σὲ τὸν εὐπατρίδαν Αἰγέως κέλομαι
you the well-born of-Aegeus I-bid
παῖδ' ἐπακοῦσαι·
son to-hearken
Λητοῦς δὲ κόρη σ' Ἄρτεμις αὐδῶ.
of-Leto and daughter you Artemis I-address

Θησεῦ, τί τάλας τοῖσδε συνήδει,
Theseus why wretched in-these do-you-rejoice
παῖδ' οὐχ ὁσίως σὸν ἀποκτείνας,
son not holily your having-killed
ψευδέσι μύθοις ἀλόχου πεισθεὶς
by-false tales of-wife persuaded
ἀφανῆ; φανερὰν δ' ἔσχεθες ἄτην.
unseen clear and you-have-got ruin
πῶς οὐχ ὑπὸ γῆς τάρταρα κρύπτεις
how not under earth tartarus do-you-hide
δέμας αἰσχυνθείς,
body ashamed
ἢ πτηνὸς ἄνω μεταβὰς βίοτον
or winged above changing life
πήματος ἔξω πόδα τοῦδ' ἀνέχεις;
of-woe outside foot this do-you-hold-up
ὡς ἔν γ' ἀγαθοῖς ἀνδράσιν οὔ σοι
since among at-least good men not for-you
κτητὸν βιότου μέρος ἐστίν.
to-be-had of-life share is
ἄκουε, Θησεῦ, σῶν κακῶν κατάστασιν·
hear Theseus of-your woes the-state
καίτοι προκόψω γ' οὐδέν, ἀλγυνῶ δὲ σέ.
and-yet I-shall-gain at-least nothing I-shall-pain but you
ἀλλ' εἰς τόδ' ἦλθον, παιδὸς ἐκδεῖξαι φρένα
but to this I-came of-son to-show the-mind
τοῦ σοῦ δικαίαν, ὡς ὑπ' εὐκλείας θάνῃ,
— your just that in good-fame he-may-die
καὶ σῆς γυναικὸς οἶστρον ἢ τρόπον τινὰ
and your wife's frenzy or in-a-way some

γενναιότητα· τῆς γὰρ ἐχθίστης θεῶν
nobility of-the for most-hateful of-the-gods
ἡμῖν, ὅσαισι παρθένειος ἡδονή,
to-us whom virgin pleasure
δηχθεῖσα κέντροις παιδὸς ἠράσθη σέθεν.
stung by-goads son she-loved your
γνώμῃ δὲ νικᾶν τὴν Κύπριν πειρωμένη
by-reason and to-conquer — Cypris trying
τροφοῦ διώλετ' οὐχ ἑκοῦσα μηχαναῖς,
of-the-nurse perished not willing by-devices
ἣ σῷ δι' ὅρκων παιδὶ σημαίνει νόσον.
who to-your under oaths son reveals the-sickness
ὁ δ', ὥσπερ ὢν δίκαιος, οὐκ ἐφέσπετο
he and as being just not followed
λόγοισιν, οὐδ' αὖ πρὸς σέθεν κακούμενος
the-words nor again by you being-wronged
ὅρκων ἀφεῖλε πίστιν, εὐσεβὴς γεγώς.
of-oaths took-away the-pledge pious being
ἡ δ' εἰς ἔλεγχον μὴ πέσῃ φοβουμένη
she and into proof lest she-fall fearing
ψευδεῖς γραφὰς ἔγραψε καὶ διώλεσε
false letters wrote and destroyed
δόλοισι σὸν παῖδ'· ἀλλ' ὅμως ἔπεισέ σε.
by-wiles your son but nevertheless persuaded you
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ οἴμοι.
ah-me
ΑΡΤΕΜΙΣ δάκνει σε, Θησεῦ, μῦθος; ἀλλ' ἔχ' ἥσυχος,
stings you Theseus the-story but keep quiet
τοὐνθένδ' ἀκούσας ὡς ἂν οἰμώξῃς πλέον.
the-rest having-heard that — you-may-lament more

ἆρ᾽ οἶσθα πατρὸς τρεῖς ἀρὰς ἔχων σαφεῖς;
— do-you-know of-father three curses having sure
ὧν τὴν μίαν παρεῖλες, ὦ κάκιστε σύ,
of-which the one you-spent O worst you
εἰς παῖδα τὸν σόν, ἐξὸν εἰς ἐχθρόν τινα.
on son — your it-being-possible against enemy some
πατὴρ μὲν οὖν σοι πόντιος φρονῶν καλῶς
father indeed then to-you of-the-sea thinking well
ἔδωχ᾽ ὅσονπερ χρῆν, ἐπείπερ ἤνεσεν·
gave as-much-as was-due since he-had-promised
σὺ δ᾽ ἔν τ᾽ ἐκείνῳ κἀν ἐμοὶ φαίνει κακός,
you and in both him and-in me appear bad
ὃς οὔτε πίστιν οὔτε μάντεων ὄπα
who neither pledge nor of-seers voice
ἔμεινας, οὐκ ἤλεγξας, οὐ χρόνῳ μακρῷ
awaited not you-tested not in-time long
σκέψιν παρέσχες, ἀλλὰ θᾶσσον ἤ σ᾽ ἐχρῆν
inquiry you-allowed but quicker than you should
ἀρὰς ἐφῆκας παιδὶ καὶ κατέκτανες.
curses you-launched at-son and killed(-him)
ΘΗΣΕΤΣ δέσποιν᾽, ὀλοίμην. ΑΡΤΕΜΙΣ δεῖν᾽ ἔπραξας, ἀλλ᾽ ὅμως
mistress may-I-perish terrible you-did but yet
ἔτ᾽ ἔστι σοὶ καὶ τῶνδε συγγνώμης τυχεῖν·
still is-possible for-you even for-these pardon to-obtain
Κύπρις γὰρ ἤθελ᾽ ὥστε γίγνεσθαι τάδε,
Cypris for wished so-that to-happen these-things
πληροῦσα θυμόν. θεοῖσι δ᾽ ὧδ᾽ ἔχει νόμος·
filling her-heart for-gods and thus is the-law
οὐδεὶς ἀπαντᾶν βούλεται προθυμίᾳ
no-one to-oppose wishes the-will

τῆ τοῦ θέλοντος, ἀλλ' ἀφιστάμεσθ' ἀεί.
the of-the willing but we-stand-aside always

ἐπεὶ σάφ' ἴσθι, Ζῆνα μὴ φοβουμένη
since clearly know Zeus not fearing

οὐκ ἄν ποτ' ἦλθον εἰς τόδ' αἰσχύνης ἐγὼ
not — ever I-would-have-come to this of-shame I

ὥστ' ἄνδρα πάντων φίλτατον βροτῶν ἐμοὶ
that the-man of-all dearest of-mortals to-me

θανεῖν ἐᾶσαι. τὴν δὲ σὴν ἁμαρτίαν
to-die to-allow — but your fault

τὸ μὴ εἰδέναι μὲν πρῶτον ἐκλύει κάκης·
the not to-know indeed first frees from-baseness

ἔπειτα δ' ἡ θανοῦσ' ἀνήλωσεν γυνὴ
then and the dead used-up woman

λόγων ἐλέγχους ὥστε σὴν πεῖσαι φρένα.
of-words proofs so-as your to-persuade mind

μάλιστα μέν νυν σοὶ τάδ' ἔρρωγεν κακά,
most indeed now on-you these-things have-burst evils

λύπη δὲ κἀμοί· τοὺς γὰρ εὐσεβεῖς θεοὶ
grief and also-to-me the for pious the-gods

θνήσκοντας οὐ χαίρουσι· τούς γε μὴν κακοὺς
dying not rejoice-in the at-least however bad

αὐτοῖς τέκνοισι καὶ δόμοις ἐξόλλυμεν.
with-their-very children and houses we-destroy

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ὁ τάλας ὅδε δὴ στείχει,
and indeed the wretched this-one indeed comes

σάρκας νεαρὰς ξανθόν τε κάρα
flesh young golden and head

διαλυμανθείς. ὦ πόνος οἴκων,
mangled O trouble of-the-house

οἷον ἐκράνθη δίδυμον μελάθροις
what was-accomplished twofold for-the-halls
πένθος θεόθεν καταληπτόν.
grief from-the-gods to-be-seized
ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ αἰαῖ αἰαῖ·
alas alas
δύστηνος ἐγώ, πατρὸς ἐξ ἀδίκου
wretched I father from unjust
χρησμοῖς ἀδίκοις διελυμάνθην.
by-oracles unjust I-was-mangled
ἀπόλωλα τάλας, οἴμοι μοι.
I-am-ruined wretched ah-me me
διά μου κεφαλῆς ᾄσσουσ᾽ ὀδύναι,
through my head dart pains
κατὰ δ᾽ ἐγκέφαλον πηδᾷ σφάκελος.
down and brain leaps spasm
σχές, ἀπειρηκὸς σῶμ᾽ ἀναπαύσω.
stop worn-out body I-will-rest
ἔ ἔ·
ah ah
ὦ στυγνὸν ὄχημ᾽ ἵππειον, ἐμῆς
O hateful chariot of-horses my
βόσκημα χερός,
nursling of-hand
διά μ᾽ ἔφθειρας, κατὰ δ᾽ ἔκτεινας.
utterly me you-destroyed utterly and you-killed
φεῦ φεῦ· πρὸς θεῶν, ἀτρέμας, δμῶες,
alas alas by the-gods gently servants
χροὸς ἑλκώδους ἅπτεσθε χεροῖν.
skin ulcerous touch with-hands

τίς ἐφέστηκεν δεξιὰ πλευροῖς;
who stands at-the-right at-sides
πρόσφορά μ' αἴρετε, σύντονα δ' ἕλκετε
carefully me lift together and draw
τὸν κακοδαίμονα καὶ κατάρατον
the ill-fated and accursed
πατρὸς ἀμπλακίαις. Ζεῦ Ζεῦ, τάδ' ὁρᾷς;
by-father's sins Zeus Zeus these-things do-you-see
ὅδ' ὁ σεμνὸς ἐγὼ καὶ θεοσέπτωρ,
this the reverent I and god-revering
ὅδ' ὁ σωφροσύνῃ πάντας ὑπερσχὼν
this the in-self-control all surpassing
προῦπτον ἐς Ἅιδην στείχω κατὰ γῆς,
foreseen to Hades I-go under earth
ὀλέσας βίοτον· μόχθους δ' ἄλλως
having-lost life toils and in-vain
τῆς εὐσεβίας
of-the piety
εἰς ἀνθρώπους ἐπόνησα.
for men I-labored
αἰαῖ αἰαῖ·
alas alas
καὶ νῦν ὀδύνα μ' ὀδύνα βαίνει.
and now pain me pain comes
μέθετέ με τάλανα·
let-go me wretched
καί μοι Θάνατος Παιὰν ἔλθοι.
and to-me Death Healer may-come

προσαπόλλυτέ μ' ὄλλυτε τὸν δυσδαί-
destroy-besides me kill the ill-fated
μονά μ'· ἀμφιτόμου λόγχας ἔραμαι
— me two-edged of-spear I-long
διαμοιρᾶσαι,
to-cleave-asunder
διά τ' εὐνᾶσαι τὸν ἐμὸν βίοτον.
utterly and to-lay-to-rest — my life
ὦ πατρὸς ἐμοῦ δύστανος ἀρά·
O of-father my wretched curse
μιαιφόνων συγγόνων,
of-murderous kinsmen
παλαιῶν προγεννητόρων
ancient forefathers
ἐξορίζεται κακὸν οὐδὲ μέλλει,
is-sent-across-the-border evil nor delays
ἔμολέ τ' ἐπ' ἐμὲ
it-came and to me
τί ποτε τὸν οὐδὲν ὄντ' ἐπαίτιον κακῶν;
why ever the in-nothing being guilty of-evils
ἰώ μοι, τί φῶ;
oh me what am-I-to-say
πῶς ἀπαλλάξω βιοτὰν
how shall-I-free life
ἐμὰν τοῦδ' ἀναλγήτου πάθους;
my from-this pitiless suffering
εἴθε με κοιμίσειε τὸν δυσδαίμον'
would-that me may-lull the ill-fated
Ἅιδου μέλαινα νύκτερός τ' ἀνάγκα.
of-Hades black nightly and necessity

ΑΡΤΕΜΙΣ ὦ τλῆμον, οἵᾳ συμφορᾷ συνεζύγης·
O wretched with-what misfortune you-were-yoked
τὸ δ' εὐγενές σε τῶν φρενῶν ἀπώλεσεν.
the but nobility you of-the mind destroyed

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ἔα·
ah
ὦ θεῖον ὀδμῆς πνεῦμα· καὶ γὰρ ἐν κακοῖς
O divine of-fragrance breath even for in troubles
ὢν ἠσθόμην σου κἀνεκουφίσθην δέμας·
being I-perceived you and-was-lightened body
ἔστ' ἐν τόποισι τοισίδ' Ἄρτεμις θεά;
is in places these Artemis goddess

ΑΡΤΕΜΙΣ ὦ τλῆμον, ἔστι, σοί γε φιλτάτη θεῶν.
O wretched she-is to-you at-least dearest of-gods

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ὁρᾷς με, δέσποιν', ὡς ἔχω, τὸν ἄθλιον;
do-you-see me mistress how I-am the wretched

ΑΡΤΕΜΙΣ ὁρῶ· κατ' ὄσσων δ' οὐ θέμις βαλεῖν δάκρυ.
I-see down from-eyes but not lawful to-shed tear

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ οὐκ ἔστι σοι κυναγὸς οὐδ' ὑπηρέτης,
not is for-you huntsman nor servant

ΑΡΤΕΜΙΣ οὐ δῆτ'· ἀτάρ μοι προσφιλής γ' ἀπόλλυσαι.
not indeed but to-me dear at-least you-perish

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ οὐδ' ἱπποσώμας οὐδ' ἀγαλμάτων φύλαξ.
nor horse-driver nor of-images guardian

ΑΡΤΕΜΙΣ Κύπρις γὰρ ἡ πανοῦργος ὧδ' ἐμήσατο.
Cypris for the villainous so contrived

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ὤμοι· φρονῶ δὴ δαίμον' ἥ μ' ἀπώλεσε.
ah-me I-perceive indeed the-goddess who me destroyed

ΑΡΤΕΜΙΣ τιμῆς ἐμέμφθη, σωφρονοῦντι δ' ἤχθετο.
of-honor she-complained at-the-self-controlled and she-was-angry

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ τρεῖς ὄντας ἡμᾶς ὤλεσ', ἤσθημαι, Κύπρις.
three being us she-destroyed I-perceive Cypris

ΑΡΤΕΜΙΣ πατέρα γε καὶ σὲ καὶ τρίτην ξυνάορον.
father at-least and you and third wife

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ὤμωξα τοίνυν καὶ πατρὸς δυσπραξίας.
I-lamented well-then also of-father misfortunes

ΑΡΤΕΜΙΣ ἐξηπατήθη δαίμονος βουλεύμασιν.
he-was-deceived of-goddess by-plans

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ὦ δυστάλας σὺ τῆσδε συμφορᾶς, πάτερ.
O most-wretched you of-this misfortune father

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ὄλωλα, τέκνον, οὐδέ μοι χάρις βίου.
I-am-ruined child nor to-me joy of-life

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ στένω σὲ μᾶλλον ἢ 'μὲ τῆς ἁμαρτίας.
I-groan-for you more than me for-the error

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ εἰ γὰρ γενοίμην, τέκνον, ἀντὶ σοῦ νεκρός.
if for I-might-become child instead-of you dead

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ὦ δῶρα πατρὸς σοῦ Ποσειδῶνος πικρά.
O gifts of-father your of-Poseidon bitter

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ὡς μήποτ' ἐλθεῖν ὤφελ' εἰς τοὐμὸν στόμα.
as never to-come they-ought into my mouth

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ τί δ'; ἔκτανές τἄν μ',
why and you-would-have-killed surely me
ὡς τότ' ἦσθ' ὠργισμένος.
so then you-were angered

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ δόξης γὰρ ἦμεν πρὸς θεῶν ἐσφαλμένοι.
of-opinion for we-were by the-gods cheated

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ φεῦ·
alas
εἴθ' ἦν ἀραῖον δαίμοσιν βροτῶν γένος.
would-that it-were cursing to-the-gods of-mortals race

ΑΡΤΕΜΙΣ ἔασον· οὐ γὰρ οὐδὲ γῆς ὑπὸ ζόφον
let-be not for not-even of-earth under darkness
θεᾶς ἄτιμοι Κύπριδος ἐκ προθυμίας
of-the-goddess dishonoring Cypris from eagerness
ὀργαὶ κατασκήψουσιν εἰς τὸ σὸν δέμας
wraths shall-swoop to — your body
σῆς εὐσεβείας κἀγαθῆς φρενὸς χάριν.
your piety and-good mind for-the-sake
ἐγὼ γὰρ αὐτῆς ἄλλον ἐξ ἐμῆς χερὸς
I for her other from my hand
ὃς ἂν μάλιστα φίλτατος κυρῇ βροτῶν
who — most dearest happens of-mortals
τόξοις ἀφύκτοις τοῖσδε τιμωρήσομαι.
with-arrows inescapable these I-will-punish
σοὶ δ', ὦ ταλαίπωρ', ἀντὶ τῶνδε τῶν κακῶν
to-you and O wretched instead-of these the evils
τιμὰς μεγίστας ἐν πόλει Τροιζηνίᾳ
honors greatest in city Troezenian
δώσω· κόραι γὰρ ἄζυγες γάμων πάρος
I-will-give maidens for unyoked marriage before
κόμας κεροῦνταί σοι, δι' αἰῶνος μακροῦ
hair will-cut for-you through age long
πένθη μέγιστα δακρύων καρπουμένῳ.
griefs greatest of-tears reaping
ἀεὶ δὲ μουσοποιὸς εἰς σὲ παρθένων
always and song-making to you of-maidens
ἔσται μέριμνα, κοὐκ ἀνώνυμος πεσὼν
will-be care and-not nameless falling
ἔρως ὁ Φαίδρας εἰς σὲ σιγηθήσεται.
love the of-Phaedra to you will-be-silenced

σὺ δ', ὦ γεραιοῦ τέκνον Αἰγέως, λαβὲ
you and O old child of-Aegeus take
σὸν παῖδ' ἐν ἀγκάλαισι καὶ προσέλκυσαι·
your son in arms and draw-to-yourself
ἄκων γὰρ ὤλεσάς νιν· ἀνθρώποισι δὲ
unwilling for you-destroyed him for-men but
θεῶν διδόντων εἰκὸς ἐξαμαρτάνειν.
the-gods giving natural to-err
καὶ σοὶ παραινῶ πατέρα μὴ στυγεῖν σέθεν,
and you I-advise father not to-hate your
Ἱππόλυτ'· ἔχεις γὰρ μοῖραν ᾗ διεφθάρης.
Hippolytus you-have for the-fate by-which you-were-destroyed
καὶ χαῖρ'· ἐμοὶ γὰρ οὐ θέμις φθιτοὺς ὁρᾶν
and farewell for-me for not lawful the-dead to-see
οὐδ' ὄμμα χραίνειν θανασίμοισιν ἐκπνοαῖς·
nor eye to-stain with-dying breaths
ὁρῶ δέ σ' ἤδη τοῦδε πλησίον κακοῦ.
I-see and you already this near evil
ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ χαίρουσα καὶ σὺ στεῖχε, παρθέν' ὀλβία·
rejoicing also you go maiden blessed
μακρὰν δὲ λείπεις ῥᾳδίως ὁμιλίαν.
long and you-leave easily companionship
λύω δὲ νεῖκος πατρὶ χρῃζούσης σέθεν·
I-end and quarrel with-father wishing you
καὶ γὰρ πάροιθε σοῖς ἐπειθόμην λόγοις.
and for before your I-obeyed words
αἰαῖ, κατ' ὄσσων κιγχάνει μ' ἤδη σκότος·
alas down from-eyes overtakes me already darkness
λαβοῦ, πάτερ, μου καὶ κατόρθωσον δέμας.
take father me and raise body

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ὤμοι, τέκνον, τί δρᾷς με τὸν δυσδαίμονα;
ah-me child what do-you-do to-me the ill-fated

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ὄλωλα καὶ δὴ νερτέρων ὁρῶ πύλας.
I-am-ruined and indeed of-the-dead I-see gates

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ἦ τὴν ἐμὴν ἄναγνον ἐκλιπὼν φρένα;
— — my impure leaving mind

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεί σε τοῦδ' ἐλευθερῶ φόνου.
not indeed since you of-this I-free bloodshed

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ τί φής; ἀφίης αἵματός μ' ἐλεύθερον; 1450
what do-you-say do-you-release of-blood me free

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ τὴν τοξόδαμνον παρθένον μαρτύρομαι.
the bow-subduing maiden I-call-to-witness

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ὦ φίλταθ', ὡς γενναῖος ἐκφαίνει πατρί.
O dearest how noble you-show-yourself to-father

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ τοιῶνδε παίδων γνησίων εὔχου τυχεῖν. 1455
of-such children legitimate pray to-obtain

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ὤμοι φρενὸς σῆς εὐσεβοῦς τε κἀγαθῆς.
ah-me of-mind your pious and and-good

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ ὦ χαῖρε καὶ σύ, χαῖρε πολλά μοι, πάτερ.
O farewell also you farewell much to-me father

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ μή νυν προδῷς με, τέκνον, ἀλλὰ καρτέρει.
not now abandon me child but endure

ΙΠΠΟΛΥΤΟΣ κεκαρτέρηται τἄμ'· ὄλωλα γάρ, πάτερ·
it-has-been-endured my I-am-ruined for father

κρύψον δέ μου πρόσωπον ὡς τάχος πέπλοις.
cover and my face as quickly-as-possible with-robes

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ὦ κλεὶν' Ἀθηνῶν Παλλάδος θ' ὁρίσματα,
O glorious of-Athens of-Pallas and boundaries

οἵου στερήσεσθ' ἀνδρός. ὦ τλήμων ἐγώ· 1460
of-what-a you-will-be-deprived man O wretched I

ὡς πολλά, Κύπρι, σῶν κακῶν μεμνήσομαι.
how many-things Cypris your evils I-shall-remember

ΧΟΡΟΣ κοινὸν τόδ' ἄχος πᾶσι πολίταις
common this grief to-all citizens

ἦλθεν ἀέλπτως.
came unexpectedly

πολλῶν δακρύων ἔσται πίτυλος·
of-many tears will-be stroke

1465 τῶν γὰρ μεγάλων ἀξιοπενθεῖς
of-the for great worthy-of-mourning

φῆμαι μᾶλλον κατέχουσιν.
reports more prevail

EURIPIDES

ΤΡΩΙΑΔΕΣ

The Trojan Women

Poseidon leaves the ruins of Troy, which the wooden horse destroyed. Priam lies dead at the altar of Zeus of the courtyard, the captive women await their masters, and Hecuba lies weeping at the gate; her daughter Polyxena has been killed in secret, and Agamemnon will take Cassandra by force. Athena, angered that the Greeks let Ajax drag Cassandra from her shrine unpunished, asks Poseidon to help her wreck their homeward fleet. He agrees: the Aegean will be filled with Greek dead.

ΠΟΣΕΙΔΩΝ Ἥκω λιπὼν Αἴγαιον ἁλμυρὸν βάθος
I-have-come having-left Aegean salt depth
πόντου, Ποσειδῶν, ἔνθα Νηρῄδων χοροὶ
of-the-sea Poseidon where of-Nereids choruses
κάλλιστον ἴχνος ἐξελίσσουσιν ποδός.
most-beautiful track wind-out of-foot
ἐξ οὗ γὰρ ἀμφὶ τήνδε Τρωικὴν χθόνα
from when for around this Trojan land
Φοῖβός τε κἀγὼ λαΐνους πύργους πέριξ
Phoebus and and-I stone towers around
ὀρθοῖσιν ἔθεμεν κανόσιν, οὔποτ' ἐκ φρενῶν
with-straight we-set rules never from mind
εὔνοι' ἀπέστη τῶν ἐμῶν Φρυγῶν πόλει,
goodwill departed — my of-Phrygians for-the-city
ἣ νῦν καπνοῦται καὶ πρὸς Ἀργείου δορὸς
which now smokes and by Argive spear
ὄλωλε πορθηθεῖσ'. ὁ γὰρ Παρνάσιος
has-perished sacked the for Parnassian
Φωκεὺς Ἐπειὸς μηχαναῖσι Παλλάδος
Phocian Epeius by-the-devices of-Pallas
ἐγκύμον' ἵππον τευχέων συναρμόσας
pregnant horse with-arms having-fitted-together

πύργων ἔπεμψεν ἐντός, ὀλέθριον βάρος·
towers sent within deadly weight
ὅθεν πρὸς ἀνδρῶν ὑστέρων κεκλήσεται
whence by men later will-be-called
δούρειος ἵππος, κρυπτὸν ἀμπισχὼν δόρυ.
wooden horse hidden enclosing spear
ἔρημα δ' ἄλση καὶ θεῶν ἀνάκτορα
deserted and groves and of-gods shrines
φόνῳ καταρρεῖ· πρὸς δὲ κρηπίδων βάθροις
with-slaughter drip at and of-the-base steps
πέπτωκε Πρίαμος Ζηνὸς ἑρκείου θανών.
has-fallen Priam of-Zeus of-the-courtyard dying
πολὺς δὲ χρυσὸς Φρύγιά τε σκυλεύματα
much and gold Phrygian and spoils
πρὸς ναῦς Ἀχαιῶν πέμπεται· μένουσι δὲ
to the-ships of-Achaeans is-sent they-wait and
πρύμνηθεν οὖρον, ὡς δεκασπόρῳ χρόνῳ
from-the-stern wind that in-the-tenth-sown time
ἀλόχους τε καὶ τέκν' εἰσίδωσιν ἄσμενοι,
wives both and children they-may-see gladly
οἳ τήνδ' ἐπεστράτευσαν Ἕλληνες πόλιν.
who this marched-against Greeks city
ἐγὼ δέ, νικῶμαι γὰρ Ἀργείας θεᾶς
I but I-am-conquered for by-Argive goddess
Ἥρας Ἀθάνας θ', αἳ συνεξεῖλον Φρύγας,
Hera Athena and who together-destroyed Phrygians
λείπω τὸ κλεινὸν Ἴλιον βωμούς τ' ἐμούς·
I-leave the glorious Ilium altars and my
ἐρημία γὰρ πόλιν ὅταν λάβῃ κακή,
desolation for city whenever seizes evil

νοσεῖ τὰ τῶν θεῶν οὐδὲ τιμᾶσθαι θέλει.
sicken the of-the gods nor to-be-honored wishes
πολλοῖς δὲ κωκυτοῖσιν αἰχμαλωτίδων
with-many and laments of-captive-women
βοᾷ Σκάμανδρος δεσπότας κληρουμένων.
cries-out Scamander masters getting-by-lot
καὶ τὰς μὲν Ἀρκάς, τὰς δὲ Θεσσαλὸς λεὼς
and some indeed Arcadian others and Thessalian people
εἴληχ' Ἀθηναίων τε Θησεῖδαι πρόμοι.
have-got of-Athenians and Theseus'-sons leaders
ὅσαι δ' ἄκληροι Τρῳάδων, ὑπὸ στέγαις
as-many-as and unallotted of-Trojan-women under roofs
ταῖσδ' εἰσὶ τοῖς πρώτοισιν ἐξηρημέναι
these are for-the first chosen
στρατοῦ, σὺν αὐταῖς δ' ἡ Λάκαινα Τυνδαρὶς
of-the-army with them and the Laconian Tyndarid
Ἑλένη, νομισθεῖσ' αἰχμάλωτος ἐνδίκως.
Helen considered captive justly
τὴν δ' ἀθλίαν τήνδ' εἴ τις εἰσορᾶν θέλει,
the and wretched this if anyone to-see wishes
πάρεστιν Ἑκάβη κειμένη πυλῶν πάρος
is-here Hecuba lying the-gates before
δάκρυα χέουσα πολλὰ καὶ πολλῶν ὕπερ·
tears shedding many and many for
ᾗ παῖς μὲν ἀμφὶ μνῆμ' Ἀχιλλείου τάφου
whose daughter indeed by tomb of-Achilles' grave
λάθρα τέθνηκε τλημόνως Πολυξένη·
secretly has-died wretchedly Polyxena
φροῦδος δὲ Πρίαμος καὶ τέκν'· ἣν δὲ παρθένον
gone and Priam and children whom and maiden

μεθῆκ᾽ Ἀπόλλων δρομάδα Κασάνδραν ἄναξ,
let-go Apollo frenzied Cassandra lord
τὸ τοῦ θεοῦ τε παραλιπὼν τό τ᾽ εὐσεβὲς
the of-the god both having-disregarded the and piety
γαμεῖ βιαίως σκότιον Ἀγαμέμνων λέχος.
weds by-force dark Agamemnon bed
ἀλλ᾽, ὦ ποτ᾽ εὐτυχοῦσα, χαῖρέ μοι, πόλις
but O once prospering farewell to-me city
ξεστόν τε πύργωμ᾽· εἴ σε μὴ διώλεσε
polished and tower if you not had-destroyed
Παλλὰς Διὸς παῖς, ἦσθ᾽ ἂν ἐν βάθροις ἔτι.
Pallas of-Zeus child you-would-be — on foundations still
ΑΘΗΝΑ ἔξεστι τὸν γένει μὲν ἄγχιστον πατρὸς
may-I the in-race indeed nearest of-father
μέγαν δὲ δαίμον᾽ ἐν θεοῖς τε τίμιον
great and god among gods and honored
λύσασαν ἔχθραν τὴν πάρος προσεννέπειν;
having-ended hatred the before address
ΠΟΣΕΙΔΩΝ ἔξεστιν· αἱ γὰρ συγγενεῖς ὁμιλίαι,
you-may the for kindred associations
ἄνασσ᾽ Ἀθάνα, φίλτρον οὐ σμικρὸν φρενῶν.
queen Athena charm not small of-mind
ΑΘΗΝΑ ἐπῄνεσ᾽ ὀργὰς ἠπίους· φέρω δὲ σοὶ
I-approve wraths gentle I-bring and to-you
κοινοὺς ἐμαυτῇ τ᾽ εἰς μέσον λόγους, ἄναξ.
common to-myself and into middle words lord
ΠΟΣΕΙΔΩΝ μῶν ἐκ θεῶν του καινὸν ἀγγελεῖς ἔπος,
surely-not from gods any new will-you-announce word
ἢ Ζηνὸς ἢ καὶ δαιμόνων τινὸς πάρα;
or of-Zeus or also of-gods some from

ΑΘΗΝΑ οὔκ, ἀλλὰ Τροίας εἵνεκ', ἔνθα βαίνομεν,
no but of-Troy for-the-sake where we-walk
πρὸς σὴν ἀφῖγμαι δύναμιν, ὡς κοινὴν λάβω.
to your I-have-come power that common I-may-take
ΠΟΣΕΙΔΩΝ ἦ πού νιν, ἔχθραν τὴν πρὶν ἐκβαλοῦσα, νῦν
— perhaps it hatred the former having-cast-off now
εἰς οἶκτον ἦλθες πυρὶ κατῃθαλωμένης;
to pity you-came by-fire burnt-down
ΑΘΗΝΑ ἐκεῖσε πρῶτ' ἄνελθε· κοινώσει λόγους
there first go-back you-will-share words
καὶ συνθελήσεις ἂν ἐγὼ πρᾶξαι θέλω;
and will-you-will-with what I to-do wish
ΠΟΣΕΙΔΩΝ μάλιστ'· ἀτὰρ δὴ καὶ τὸ σὸν θέλω μαθεῖν·
most-certainly but indeed also — yours I-wish to-learn
πότερον Ἀχαιῶν ἦλθες εἵνεκ' ἢ Φρυγῶν;
whether of-Achaeans you-came for-the-sake or of-Phrygians
ΑΘΗΝΑ τοὺς μὲν πρὶν ἐχθροὺς Τρῶας εὐφρᾶναι θέλω,
the indeed before enemies Trojans to-gladden I-wish
στρατῷ δ' Ἀχαιῶν νόστον ἐμβαλεῖν πικρόν.
on-the-army and of-Achaeans return to-lay bitter
ΠΟΣΕΙΔΩΝ τί δ' ὧδε πηδᾷς ἄλλοτ' εἰς ἄλλους τρόπους
why and thus do-you-leap now into other ways
μισεῖς τε λίαν καὶ φιλεῖς ὃν ἂν τύχῃς;
you-hate and too-much and love whomever — you-happen-on
ΑΘΗΝΑ οὐκ οἶσθ' ὑβρισθεῖσάν με καὶ ναοὺς ἐμούς;
not do-you-know outraged me and temples my
ΠΟΣΕΙΔΩΝ οἶδ', ἡνίκ' Αἴας εἷλκε Κασάνδραν βίᾳ.
I-know when Ajax dragged Cassandra by-force
ΑΘΗΝΑ κοὐδέν γ' Ἀχαιῶν ἔπαθεν οὐδ' ἤκουσ' ὕπο.
and-nothing at-least Achaeans he-suffered nor heard by

ΠΟΣΕΙΔΩΝ καὶ μὴν ἔπερσάν γ᾽ Ἴλιον τῷ σῷ σθένει.
and indeed they-sacked at-least Ilium — by-your strength
ΑΘΗΝΑ τοιγάρ σφε σὺν σοὶ βούλομαι δρᾶσαι κακῶς.
therefore them with you I-wish to-treat badly
ΠΟΣΕΙΔΩΝ ἕτοιμ᾽ ἃ βούλει τἀπ᾽ ἐμοῦ. δράσεις δὲ τί;
ready what you-wish the-from me you-will-do but what
ΑΘΗΝΑ δύστηνον αὐτοῖς νόστον ἐμβαλεῖν θέλω.
wretched for-them return to-lay I-wish
ΠΟΣΕΙΔΩΝ ἐν γῇ μενόντων ἢ καθ᾽ ἁλμυρὰν ἅλα;
in land remaining or on salt sea
ΑΘΗΝΑ ὅταν πρὸς οἴκους ναυστολῶσ᾽ ἀπ᾽ Ἰλίου.
when to home they-sail from Ilium
καὶ Ζεὺς μὲν ὄμβρον καὶ χάλαζαν ἄσπετον
and Zeus indeed rain and hail unspeakable
πέμψει γνοφώδη τ᾽ αἰθέρος φυσήματα,
will-send dark and of-the-air blasts
ἐμοὶ δὲ δώσειν φησὶ πῦρ κεραύνιον,
to-me and to-give he-says fire thunderbolt
βάλλειν Ἀχαιοὺς ναῦς τε πιμπράναι πυρί.
to-strike Achaeans ships and to-burn with-fire
σὺ δ᾽ αὖ τὸ σὸν παράσχες Αἴγαιον πόρον
you and in-turn — your provide Aegean passage
τρικυμίαις βρέμοντα καὶ δίναις ἁλός,
with-triple-waves roaring and with-eddies of-the-sea
πλῆσον δὲ νεκρῶν κοῖλον Εὐβοίας μυχόν,
fill and with-corpses hollow of-Euboea recess
ὡς ἂν τὸ λοιπὸν τἄμ᾽ ἀνάκτορ᾽ εὐσεβεῖν
that — the rest my shrines to-revere
εἰδῶσ᾽ Ἀχαιοὶ θεούς τε τοὺς ἄλλους σέβειν.
may-know Achaeans gods and the other to-reverence

ΠΟΣΕΙΔΩΝ ἔσται τάδ᾽· ἡ χάρις γὰρ οὐ μακρῶν λόγων
it-shall-be so the favor for not of-long words
δεῖται· ταράξω πέλαγος Αἰγαίας ἁλός.
needs I-will-stir-up sea of-Aegean brine
ἀκταὶ δὲ Μυκόνου Δήλιοί τε χοιράδες
shores and of-Myconos Delian and reefs
Σκῦρός τε Λῆμνός θ᾽ αἱ Καφήρειοί τ᾽ ἄκραι
Scyros and Lemnos and the Caphereian and headlands
πολλῶν θανόντων σώμαθ᾽ ἕξουσιν νεκρῶν.
of-many dead bodies will-hold corpses
ἀλλ᾽ ἕρπ᾽ Ὄλυμπον καὶ κεραυνίους βολὰς
but go to-Olympus and thunderbolt shafts
λαβοῦσα πατρὸς ἐκ χερῶν καραδόκει,
having-taken of-father from hands watch
ὅταν στράτευμ᾽ Ἀργεῖον ἐξιῇ κάλως.
when army Argive lets-out cables
μῶρος δὲ θνητῶν ὅστις ἐκπορθῶν πόλεις,
foolish and of-mortals whoever sacking cities
ναούς τε τύμβους θ᾽, ἱερὰ τῶν κεκμηκότων,
temples and tombs and holy-places of-the dead
ἐρημίᾳ δοὺς αὐτὸς ὤλεθ᾽ ὕστερον.
to-desolation having-given himself perishes later

Hecuba rises from the ground and mourns her fallen city, her husband, and her sons, and the ships that came for Helen. The captive women come out, fearing the Greeks are already launching. Hecuba begs that raving Cassandra not be brought out, and fears she will be a slave in some Greek house. The chorus wonders where they will be taken, praying for Athens or Thessaly, Sicily, or the land by the Ionian Sea rather than Sparta, Menelaus' home.

ΕΚΑΒΗ ἄνα δύσδαιμον πεδόθεν κεφαλήν,
up ill-fated from-the-ground head
ἐπάειρε δέρην· οὐκέτι Τροία
lift neck no-longer Troy
τάδε καὶ βασιλῆς ἐσμεν Τροίας.
this and kings we-are of-Troy
μεταβαλλομένου δαίμονος ἀνέχου·
changing fortune endure
πλεῖ κατὰ πορθμόν, πλεῖ κατὰ δαίμονα,
sail with the-strait sail with fortune
μηδὲ προσίστω πρῷραν βιότου
nor set-against prow of-life
πρὸς κῦμα πλέουσα τύχαισιν.
to wave sailing with-fortunes
αἰαῖ αἰαῖ.
alas alas
τί γὰρ οὐ πάρα μοι μελέᾳ στενάχειν,
what for not is-there for-me wretched to-groan
ᾗ πατρὶς ἔρρει καὶ τέκνα καὶ πόσις;
whose fatherland perishes and children and husband
ὦ πολὺς ὄγκος συστελλόμενος
O great pomp shrinking

προγόνων, ὡς οὐδὲν ἄρ᾽ ἦσθα.
of-ancestors how nothing then you-were
τί με χρὴ σιγᾶν; τί δὲ μὴ σιγᾶν; 110
why me must to-be-silent why and not to-be-silent
τί δὲ θρηνῆσαι;
why and to-lament
δύστηνος ἐγὼ τῆς βαρυδαίμονος
wretched I of-the heavy-fated
ἄρθρων κλίσεως, ὡς διάκειμαι,
of-limbs posture how I-lie
νῶτ᾽ ἐν στερροῖς λέκτροισι ταθεῖσ᾽.
back on hard bed stretched
οἴμοι κεφαλῆς, οἴμοι κροτάφων 115
ah-me head ah-me temples
πλευρῶν θ᾽, ὡς μοι πόθος εἰλίξαι
sides and how me longing to-roll
καὶ διαδοῦναι νῶτον ἄκανθάν τ᾽
and to-give-over back spine and
εἰς ἀμφοτέρους τοίχους, μελέων
to both sides of-limbs
ἐπὶ τοὺς αἰεὶ δακρύων ἐλέγους.
to the always of-tears laments
μοῦσα δὲ χαὔτη τοῖς δυστήνοις 120
music and even-this for-the wretched
ἄτας κελαδεῖν ἀχορεύτους.
woes to-sing-out danceless
πρῷραι ναῶν ὠκείαις
prows of-ships swift
Ἴλιον ἱερὸν αἳ κώπαις
Ilium holy which with-oars

δι᾽ ἅλα πορφυροειδέα καὶ λιμένας
through sea purple and harbors
Ἑλλάδος εὐόρμους
of-Hellas well-moored
αὐλῶν παιᾶνι στυγνῷ
of-pipes with-paean hateful
συρίγγων τ᾽ εὐφθόγγων φωναῖς
of-flutes and sweet-voiced with-sounds
βαίνουσαι πλεκτάν, Αἰγύπτου
going woven of-Egypt
παίδευμ᾽, ἐξηρτήσασθ᾽,
craft you-hung-out
αἰαῖ, Τροίας ἐν κόλποις
alas of-Troy in bays
τὰν Μενελάου μετανισσόμεναι
the of-Menelaus seeking
στυγνὰν ἄλοχον, Κάστορι λώβαν
hateful wife to-Castor outrage
τῷ τ᾽ Εὐρώτᾳ δύσκλειαν,
— and to-Eurotas shame
ἃ σφάζει μὲν
who slays indeed
τὸν πεντήκοντ᾽ ἀροτῆρα τέκνων
the fifty sower of-children
Πρίαμον, ἐμέ τε μελέαν Ἑκάβαν
Priam me and wretched Hecuba
εἰς τάνδ᾽ ἐξώκειλ᾽ ἄταν.
to this ran-aground ruin
ὤμοι θάκους οἵους θάσσω
ah-me seat what I-sit

σκηναῖς ἔφεδρος Ἀγαμεμνονίαις.
at-the-tents seated of-Agamemnon
δούλα δ' ἄγομαι γραῦς ἐξ οἴκων,
slave and I-am-led old-woman from home
κουρᾷ ξυρήκει πενθήρη
with-shearing razor-cut mourning
κρᾶτ' ἐκπορθηθεῖσ' οἰκτρῶς.
head ravaged piteously
ἀλλ' ὦ τῶν χαλκεγχέων Τρώων
but O of-the bronze-speared Trojans
ἄλοχοι μέλεαι, μέλεαι κοῦραι
wives wretched wretched maidens
καὶ δύσνυμφοι,
and ill-wedded
τύφεται Ἴλιον, αἰάζωμεν·
smolders Ilium let-us-wail
μάτηρ δ' ὡσεὶ πτανοῖς κλαγγὰν
mother and like for-winged clamor
ὄρνισιν ὅπως ἐξάρξω 'γὼ
birds so I-will-lead I
μολπὰν οὐ τὰν αὐτὰν
song not the same
οἵαν ποτὲ δὴ
such-as once indeed
σκήπτρῳ Πριάμου διερειδομένα
on-scepter of-Priam leaning
ποδὸς ἀρχεχόρου πλαγαῖς Φρυγίαις
of-foot chorus-leading with-beats Phrygian
εὐκόμποις ἐξῆρχον θεούς.
loud-sounding I-led gods

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Ἑκάβη, τί θροεῖς; τί δὲ θωΰσσεις;
Hecuba why do-you-cry why and do-you-shout

ποῖ λόγος ἥκει; διὰ γὰρ μελάθρων
whither word comes through for halls

ἄιον οἴκτους οὓς οἰκτίζει.
I-heard laments which you-lament

διὰ δὲ στέρνων φόβος ἀίσσει
through and breasts fear darted

Τρῳάσιν, αἳ τῶνδ' οἴκων εἴσω
on-Trojan-women who these house within

δουλείαν αἰάζουσιν.
slavery bewail

ΕΚΑΒΗ ὦ τέκνον, Ἀργείων πρὸς ναῦς ἤδη
O child of-Argives to ships already

κινεῖται κωπήρης χείρ.
is-moved oar-plying hand

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ οἲ 'γὼ τλάμων, τί θέλουσ'; ἦ πού μ' ἤδη
ah I wretched what wishing — perhaps me already

ναυσθλώσουσιν πατρίας ἐκ γᾶς;
will-take-by-sea of-fatherland from land

ΕΚΑΒΗ οὐκ οἶδ', εἰκάζω δ' ἄταν.
not I-know I-guess and ruin

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ ἰὼ ἰώ.
oh oh

μέλεαι μόχθων ἐπακουσόμεναι
wretched of-toils about-to-hear

Τρῳάδες, ἔξω κομίσασθ' οἴκων·
Trojan-women outside bring-yourselves the-house

στέλλουσ' Ἀργεῖοι νόστον.
prepare Argives return

ΕΚΑΒΗ ἔ ἔ.
ah ah
μή νύν μοι τὰν
not now to-me the
ἐκβακχεύουσαν Κασάνδραν,
raving Cassandra
πέμψητ' ἔξω,
send outside
αἰσχύναν Ἀργείοισιν,
shame to-Argives
μαινάδ', ἐπ' ἄλγει δ' ἀλγυνθῶ.
maenad at pain and I-be-pained
ἰώ
oh
Τροία Τροία δύσταν', ἔρρεις,
Troy Troy wretched you-perish
δύστανοι δ' οἵ σ' ἐκλείποντες
wretched and who you leaving
καὶ ζῶντες καὶ δμαθέντες.
both living and subdued
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ οἴμοι. τρομερὰ σκηνὰς ἔλιπον
ah-me trembling the-tents I-left
τάσδ' Ἀγαμέμνονος ἐπακουσομένα,
these of-Agamemnon to-hear
βασίλεια, σέθεν, μή με κτείνειν
queen of-you lest me to-kill
δόξ' Ἀργείων κεῖται μελέαν,
resolve of-Argives lies wretched
ἦ κατὰ πρύμνας ἤδη ναῦται
— at the-sterns already sailors

στέλλονται κινεῖν κώπας.
are-preparing to-ply oars

ΕΚΑΒΗ ὦ τέκνον, ὀρθρεύουσαν ψυχὰν
O child dawn-waking soul
ἐκπληχθεῖσ' ἦλθον φρίκᾳ.
stricken I-came with-shuddering

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ ἤδη τις ἔβα Δαναῶν κῆρυξ;
already someone came of-Danaans herald
τῷ πρόσκειμαι δούλα τλάμων;
to-whom I-am-allotted slave wretched

ΕΚΑΒΗ ἐγγύς που κεῖσαι κλήρου.
near somewhere you-lie of-the-lot

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ ἰὼ ἰώ.
oh oh
τίς μ' Ἀργείων ἢ Φθιωτᾶν
who me of-Argives or of-Phthians
ἢ νησαίαν μ' ἄξει χώραν
or island me will-take to-land
δύστανον πόρσω Τροίας;
wretched far-from Troy

ΕΚΑΒΗ φεῦ φεῦ.
alas alas
τῷ δ' ἁ τλάμων
to-whom and the wretched
ποῦ πᾷ γαίας δουλεύσω γραῦς,
where in-what-part of-land shall-I-be-slave old-woman
ὡς κηφήν, ἁ
as drone the
δειλαία νεκροῦ μορφά,
wretched of-corpse form

νεκύων ἀμενηνὸν ἄγαλμ', ἢ
of-the-dead feeble image or
τὰν παρὰ προθύροις φυλακὰν κατέχουσ',
the at doorway watch keeping
ἢ παίδων θρέπτειρ', ἃ Τροίας
or of-children nurse who of-Troy
ἀρχαγοὺς εἶχον τιμάς;
princely had honors
ΧΟΡΟΣ αἰαῖ αἰαῖ. ποίοις δ' οἴκτοις
alas alas with-what and laments
τὰν σὰν λύμαν ἐξαιάζεις·
— your outrage do-you-wail
οὐκ Ἰδαίοις ἱστοῖς κερκίδα
not at-Idaean looms shuttle
δινεύουσ' ἐξαλλάξω.
whirling I-shall-shift
νέατον τεκέων σώματα λεύσσω,
last of-children bodies I-see
νέατον· μόχθους ἔξω κρείσσους,
last toils I-shall-have greater
ἢ λέκτροις πλαθεῖσ' Ἑλλάνων·
either to-bed brought of-Greeks
ἔρροι νὺξ αὕτα καὶ δαίμων·
perish night this and fate
ἢ Πειρήνας ὑδρευσομένα
or of-Peirene drawing-water
πρόπολος σεμνῶν ὑδάτων ἔσομαι.
servant of-holy waters I-shall-be
τὰν κλεινὰν εἴθ' ἔλθοιμεν
the glorious would-that we-might-come

Θησέως εὐδαίμονα χώραν.
of-Theseus happy land
μὴ γὰρ δὴ δίναν γ' Εὐρώτα,
not for indeed eddy at-least of-Eurotas
τὰν ἐχθίσταν θεράπναν Ἑλένας,
the most-hateful dwelling of-Helen
ἔνθ' ἀντάσω Μενέλᾳ δούλα,
where I-shall-meet Menelaus slave
τῷ τᾶς Τροίας πορθητᾷ.
the — of-Troy sacker
τὰν Πηνειοῦ σεμνὰν χώραν,
the of-Peneus holy land
κρηπῖδ' Οὐλύμπου καλλίσταν,
base of-Olympus most-beautiful
ὄλβῳ βρίθειν φάμαν ἤκουσ'
with-wealth to-be-laden report I-heard
εὐθαλεῖ τ' εὐκαρπείᾳ·
flourishing and with-good-harvest
τάδε δεύτερά μοι μετὰ τὰν ἱερὰν
these-things second to-me after the holy
Θησέως ζαθέαν ἐλθεῖν χώραν.
of-Theseus most-holy to-come land
καὶ τὰν Αἰτναίαν Ἡφαίστου
and the Aetnaean of-Hephaestus
Φοινίκας ἀντήρη χώραν,
to-Phoenicia opposite land
Σικελῶν ὀρέων ματέρ', ἀκούω
of-Sicilian mountains mother I-hear
καρύσσεσθαι στεφάνοις ἀρετᾶς.
to-be-proclaimed with-garlands of-excellence

τάν τ' ἀγχιστεύουσαν γᾶν
the and neighboring land
Ἰονίῳ ναίοιν πόντῳ,
by-the-Ionian may-I-dwell sea
ἂν ὑγραίνει καλλιστεύων
which waters surpassing-in-beauty
ὁ ξανθὰν χαίταν πυρσαίνων
the golden hair reddening
Κρᾶθις ζαθέαις παγαῖσι τρέφων
Crathis with-holy springs nourishing
εὔανδρόν τ' ὀλβίζων γᾶν.
of-good-men and making-happy land

III · CASSANDRA'S WEDDING SONG

Talthybius announces the lots: Cassandra goes to Agamemnon, Polyxena to serve Achilles' tomb, Andromache to Achilles' son, and Hecuba to Odysseus. Cassandra rushes out with a torch, singing her own wedding hymn. She prophesies that her marriage will destroy Agamemnon's house and that Odysseus will wander ten years, and she says the Trojans died gloriously for their land. Led away, she bids her mother farewell. Hecuba falls, recalls her lost children, and dreads her slavery in Greece.

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν Δαναῶν ὅδ' ἀπὸ στρατιᾶς
and indeed of-Danaans this from the-army
κῆρυξ νεοχμῶν μύθων ταμίας
herald of-new words steward
στείχει ταχύπουν ἴχνος ἐξανύων.
comes swift-footed track completing
τί φέρει; τί λέγει; δοῦλαι γὰρ δὴ
what does-he-bring what does-he-say slaves for indeed

Δωρίδος ἐσμὲν χθονὸς ἤδη.
of-Dorian we-are land already

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ Ἑκάβη, πυκνὰς γὰρ οἶσθά μ' εἰς Τροίαν ὁδοὺς
Hecuba frequent for you-know me to Troy journeys
ἐλθόντα κήρυκ' ἐξ Ἀχαϊκοῦ στρατοῦ,
having-come herald from Achaean army
ἐγνωσμένος δὲ καὶ πάροιθέ σοι, γύναι,
known and also before to-you woman
Ταλθύβιος ἥκω καινὸν ἀγγελῶν λόγον.
Talthybius I-come new to-announce word

ΕΚΑΒΗ τόδε, φίλαι Τρῳάδες, ὃ φόβος ἦν πάλαι.
this dear Trojan-women which fear was long

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ ἤδη κεκλήρωσθ', εἰ τόδ' ἦν ὑμῖν φόβος.
already you-have-been-allotted if this was to-you fear

ΕΚΑΒΗ αἰαῖ, τίν' ἢ Θεσσαλίας πόλιν
alas what or of-Thessaly city
Φθιάδος εἶπας ἢ Καδμείας χθονός;
of-Phthia did-you-say or of-Cadmean land

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ κατ' ἄνδρ' ἑκάστη κοὐχ ὁμοῦ λελόγχατε.
by man each and-not together you-have-been-allotted

ΕΚΑΒΗ τίν' ἄρα τίς ἔλαχε; τίνα πότμος εὐτυχὴς
whom then who got whom fate fortunate
Ἰλιάδων μένει;
of-Ilium's-women awaits

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ οἶδ'· ἀλλ' ἕκαστα πυνθάνου, μὴ πάνθ' ὁμοῦ.
I-know but each-thing ask not all-things together

ΕΚΑΒΗ τοὐμὸν τίς τίς ἔλαχε τέκος, ἔννεπε,
my who who got child tell
τλάμονα Κασάνδραν;
wretched Cassandra

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ ἐξαίρετόν νιν ἔλαβεν Ἀγαμέμνων ἄναξ.
chosen her took Agamemnon lord

ΕΚΑΒΗ ἦ τᾷ Λακεδαιμονίᾳ νύμφᾳ δούλαν; 250
— to-the Lacedaemonian bride as-slave

ἰώ μοί μοι.
oh me me

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ οὔκ, ἀλλὰ λέκτρων σκότια νυμφευτήρια.
no but of-bed dark wedding-mate

ΕΚΑΒΗ ἦ τὰν τοῦ Φοίβου παρθένον, ᾇ γέρας ὁ
— the — of-Phoebus maiden to-whom as-privilege the

χρυσοκόμας ἔδωκ' ἄλεκτρον ζόαν;
golden-haired gave unwedded life

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ ἔρως ἐτόξευσ' αὐτὸν ἐνθέου κόρης. 255
love shot him of-the-inspired girl

ΕΚΑΒΗ ῥῖπτε, τέκνον, ζαθέους
throw child holy

κλῆδας, ἀπὸ χροὸς ἐν-
keys from skin of-vestments

δυτῶν στεφέων ἱεροὺς στολμούς.
— of-wreaths holy vesture

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ οὐ γὰρ μέγ' αὐτῇ βασιλικῶν λέκτρων τυχεῖν;
not for great for-her royal bed to-obtain

ΕΚΑΒΗ τί δ' ὃ νεοχμὸν ἀπ' ἐμέθεν ἐλάβετε τέκος; 260
what and whom newly from me you-took child

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ Πολυξένην ἔλεξας, ἢ τίν' ἱστορεῖς;
Polyxena you-mean or whom do-you-ask

ΕΚΑΒΗ ταύταν τῷ πάλος ἔζευξεν;
her to-whom the-lot yoked

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ τύμβῳ τέτακται προσπολεῖν Ἀχιλλέως.
to-the-tomb she-is-appointed to-serve of-Achilles

ΕΚΑΒΗ οἴμοι ἐγώ· τάφῳ πρόσπολον ἐτεκόμαν.
ah-me I to-a-tomb servant I-bore

ἀτὰρ τίς ὅδ' ἢ νόμος ἢ
but what this or law or

τί θέσμιον, ὦ φίλος, Ἑλλάνων;
what ordinance O friend of-Greeks

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ εὐδαιμόνιζε παῖδα σήν· ἔχει καλῶς.
call-happy daughter your she-is well

ΕΚΑΒΗ τί τόδ' ἔλακες; ἆρά μοι ἀέλιον λεύσσει;
what this did-you-utter — to-me the-sun sees

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ ἔχει πότμος νιν, ὥστ' ἀπηλλάχθαι πόνων.
has fate her so-as to-be-freed from-toils

ΕΚΑΒΗ τί δ' ἁ τοῦ χαλκεομήστορος Ἕκτορος δάμαρ,
what and the of-the bronze-counseling Hector wife

Ἀνδρομάχα τάλαινα, τίν' ἔχει τύχαν;
Andromache wretched what has fortune

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ καὶ τήνδ' Ἀχιλλέως ἔλαβε παῖς ἐξαίρετον.
and her of-Achilles took son chosen

ΕΚΑΒΗ ἐγὼ δὲ τῷ πρόσπολος, ἁ τριτοβάμονος χερὶ
I and to-whom servant the for-third-foot hand

δευομένα βάκτρου γεραιῷ κάρᾳ;
needing staff for-old head

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ Ἰθάκης Ὀδυσσεὺς ἔλαχ' ἄναξ δούλην σ' ἔχειν.
of-Ithaca Odysseus got lord slave you to-have

ΕΚΑΒΗ ἔ ἔ.
ah ah

ἄρασσε κρᾶτα κούριμον,
beat head shorn

ἕλκ' ὀνύχεσσι δίπτυχον παρειάν.
tear with-nails twofold cheek

ἰώ μοί μοι.
oh me me

μυσαρῷ δολίῳ λέλογχα φωτὶ δουλεύειν,
to-loathsome treacherous I-have-been-allotted man to-serve

πολεμίῳ δίκας, παρανόμῳ δάκει,
enemy of-justice lawless beast

ὃς πάντα τἀκεῖθεν ἐνθάδε στρέφει, τὰ δ' 285
who all-things from-there here turns the and

ἀντίπαλ' αὖθις ἐκεῖσε διπτύχῳ γλώσσᾳ
contrary back there with-double tongue

φίλα τὰ πρότερ' ἄφιλα τιθέμενος πάντων.
friendly the former unfriendly making of-all

γοᾶσθ', ὦ Τρῳάδες, με.
lament O Trojan-women me

βέβακα δύσποτμος, οἴχομαι
I-am-gone ill-fated I-am-lost

ἁ τάλαιν', ἃ δυστυχεστάτῳ 290
the wretched who to-most-unfortunate

προσέπεσον κλήρῳ.
fell to-a-lot

ΧΟΡΟΣ τὸ μὲν σὸν οἶσθα, πότνια, τὰς δ' ἐμὰς τύχας
— indeed yours you-know lady — but my fortunes

τίς ἆρ' Ἀχαιῶν ἢ τίς Ἑλλήνων ἔχει;
who then of-Achaeans or who of-Greeks has

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ ἴτ', ἐκκομίζειν δεῦρο Κασάνδραν χρεών
go to-bring-out here Cassandra one-must

ὅσον τάχιστα, δμῶες, ὡς στρατηλάτῃ 295
as-much-as quickest servants that to-the-general

εἰς χεῖρα δῶμεν· εἶτα τὰς εἰληγμένας
into hand we-may-give then the allotted

καὶ τοῖσιν ἄλλοις αἰχμαλωτίδων ἄγω.
also to-the others of-captive-women I-may-lead
ἔα, τί πεύκης ἔνδον ἵσταται σέλας;
ah why of-pine within stands blaze
πιμπρᾶσιν ἢ τί δρῶσι Τρῳάδες μυχούς,
are-they-burning or what are-doing Trojan-women the-inner-rooms
ὡς ἐξάγεσθαι τῆσδε μέλλουσαι χθονὸς
as to-be-led-away from-this about land
πρὸς Ἄργος, αὑτῶν τ' ἐκπυροῦσι σώματα
to Argos their-own and do-they-burn bodies
θανεῖν θέλουσαι; κάρτα τοι τοὐλεύθερον
to-die wishing very surely the-free(-spirit)
ἐν τοῖς τοιούτοις δυσλόφως φέρει κακά.
in the such chafingly bears evils
ἄνοιγ' ἄνοιγε, μὴ τὸ ταῖσδε πρόσφορον
open open lest the for-them fitting
ἐχθρὸν δ' Ἀχαιοῖς εἰς ἔμ' αἰτίαν βάλῃ.
hateful but to-Achaeans on me blame cast
ΕΚΑΒΗ οὐκ ἔστιν, οὐ πιμπρᾶσιν, ἀλλὰ παῖς ἐμὴ
not it-is not they-burn but daughter my
μαινὰς θοάζει δεῦρο Κασάνδρα δρόμῳ.
maenad rushes here Cassandra at-a-run
ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ἄνεχε, πάρεχε, φῶς φέρε· σέβω, φλέγω,
hold-up bring-forth light bring I-revere I-blaze
ἰδοὺ ἰδού,
see see
λαμπάσι τόδ' ἱερόν.
with-torches this temple
Ὑμήν, ὦ Ὑμέναι' ἄναξ,
Hymen O Hymenaeus lord

μακάριος ὁ γαμέτας,
blessed the bridegroom
μακαρία δ' ἐγὼ βασιλικοῖς λέκτροις
blessed and I in-royal bed
κατ' Ἄργος ἁ γαμουμένα.
at Argos the being-wed
Ὑμήν, ὦ Ὑμέναι' ἄναξ.
Hymen O Hymenaeus lord
ἐπεὶ σύ, μᾶτερ, ἐπὶ δάκρυσι καὶ
since you mother at tears and
γόοισι τὸν θανόντα πατέρα πατρίδα τε
laments the dead father fatherland and
φίλαν καταστένουσ' ἔχεις,
dear lamenting are
ἐγὼ τόδ' ἐπὶ γάμοις ἐμοῖς
I this at marriage my
ἀναφλέγω πυρὸς φῶς
kindle of-fire light
ἐς αὐγάν, ἐς αἴγλαν,
to gleam to radiance
διδοῦσ', ὦ Ὑμέναιε, σοί,
giving O Hymenaeus to-you
δίδου δ', ὦ Ἑκάτα, φάος,
give and O Hecate light
παρθένων ἐπὶ λέκτροις ἃ νόμος ἔχει.
of-maidens at bed as custom holds
πάλλε πόδ' αἰθέριον, ἄναγε χορόν,
whirl foot heavenward lead-up dance
εὐὰν εὐοῖ,
euhan euhoi

ὡς ἐπὶ πατρὸς ἐμοῦ
as in of-father my
μακαριωτάταις τύχαις.
most-blessed fortunes
ὁ χορὸς ὅσιος,
the dance holy
ἄγε σὺ Φοῖβέ νιν· κατὰ σὸν ἐν δάφναις
lead you Phoebus it in your among laurels
ἀνάκτορον θυηπολῶ,
temple I-sacrifice
Ὑμήν, ὦ Ὑμέναι', Ὑμήν.
Hymen O Hymenaeus Hymen
χόρευε, μᾶτερ, ἄναγε, πόδα σὸν
dance mother lead-up foot your
ἕλισσε τᾷδ' ἐκεῖσε μετ' ἐμέθεν ποδῶν
whirl here there with me of-feet
φέρουσα φιλτάταν βάσιν.
bearing dearest step
βοᾶτε τὸν Ὑμέναιον, ὤ,
shout the Hymenaeus oh
μακαρίαις ἀοιδαῖς
with-blessed songs
ἰαχαῖς τε νύμφαν.
with-cries and the-bride
ἴτ', ὦ καλλίπεπλοι Φρυγῶν
go O beautiful-robed of-Phrygians
κόραι, μέλπετ' ἐμῶν γάμων
maidens sing of-my marriage
τὸν πεπρωμένον εὐνᾷ πόσιν ἐμέθεν.
the destined for-bed husband of-me

ΧΟΡΟΣ βασίλεια, βακχεύουσαν οὐ λήψει κόρην,
queen raving not will-you-take girl
μὴ κοῦφον αἴρῃ βῆμ᾽ ἐς Ἀργείων στρατόν;
lest light she-lift step to of-Argives army
ΕΚΑΒΗ Ἥφαιστε, δᾳδουχεῖς μὲν ἐν γάμοις βροτῶν,
Hephaestus you-bear-the-torch indeed at marriages of-mortals
ἀτὰρ λυγράν γε τήνδ᾽ ἀναιθύσσεις φλόγα
but mournful at-least this you-kindle flame
ἔξω τε μεγάλων ἐλπίδων. οἴμοι, τέκνον,
outside and great hopes ah-me child
ὡς οὐχ ὑπ᾽ αἰχμῆς σ᾽ οὐδ᾽ ὑπ᾽ Ἀργείου δορὸς
as not by spear you nor by Argive spear
γάμους γαμεῖσθαι τούσδ᾽ ἐδόξαζόν ποτε.
marriage to-be-married this I-thought ever
παράδος ἐμοὶ φῶς· οὐ γὰρ ὀρθὰ πυρφορεῖς
give-over to-me light not for rightly you-carry-fire
μαινὰς θοάζουσ᾽, οὐδέ σ᾽ αἱ τύχαι, τέκνον,
maenad rushing nor you the fortunes child
σεσωφρονήκασ᾽, ἀλλ᾽ ἔτ᾽ ἐν ταὐτῷ μένεις.
have-made-sober but still in the-same you-remain
εἰσφέρετε πεύκας, δάκρυά τ᾽ ἀνταλλάσσετε
carry-in pine-torches tears and exchange
τοῖς τῆσδε μέλεσι, Τρῳάδες, γαμηλίοις.
for-the of-her songs Trojan-women bridal
ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ μῆτερ, πύκαζε κρᾶτ᾽ ἐμὸν νικηφόρον
mother crown head my victorious
καὶ χαῖρε τοῖς ἐμοῖσι βασιλικοῖς γάμοις,
and rejoice-in — my royal marriage
καὶ πέμπε, κἂν μὴ τἀμά σοι πρόθυμά γ᾽ ᾖ,
and escort and-if not my to-you eager at-least be

ὤθει βιαίως· εἰ γὰρ ἔστι Λοξίας,
push by-force if for is Loxias
Ἑλένης γαμεῖ με δυσχερέστερον γάμον
than-Helen weds me more-grievous marriage
ὁ τῶν Ἀχαιῶν κλεινὸς Ἀγαμέμνων ἄναξ.
the of-the Achaeans glorious Agamemnon lord
κτενῶ γὰρ αὐτὸν κἀντιπορθήσω δόμους
I-will-kill for him and-sack-in-turn house
ποινὰς ἀδελφῶν καὶ πατρὸς λαβοῦσ' ἐμοῦ.
vengeance for-brothers and father taking my
ἀλλ' αὖτ' ἐάσω· πέλεκυν οὐχ ὑμνήσομεν,
but these-things I-will-leave axe not we-will-sing
ὃς εἰς τράχηλον τὸν ἐμὸν εἶσι χἀτέρων,
which on neck — my will-go and-of-others
μητροκτόνους τ' ἀγῶνας, οὓς οὑμοὶ γάμοι
mother-killing and contests which my marriage
θήσουσιν, οἴκων τ' Ἀτρέως ἀνάστασιν.
will-establish of-house and of-Atreus overthrow
πόλιν δὲ δείξω τήνδε μακαριωτέραν
city but I-will-show this more-blessed
ἢ τοὺς Ἀχαιούς, — ἔνθεος μέν, ἀλλ' ὅμως
than the Achaeans possessed indeed but nevertheless
τοσόνδε γ' ἔξω στήσομαι βακχευμάτων, —
so-far at-least outside I-will-stand of-frenzies
οἳ διὰ μίαν γυναῖκα καὶ μίαν Κύπριν
who for one woman and one Cypris
θηρῶντες Ἑλένην μυρίους ἀπώλεσαν.
hunting Helen thousands lost
ὁ δὲ στρατηγὸς ὁ σοφὸς ἐχθίστων ὕπερ
the and general the wise most-hateful on-behalf

τὰ φίλτατ᾽ ὤλεσ᾽, ἡδονὰς τὰς οἴκοθεν
the dearest destroyed pleasures the at-home
τέκνων ἀδελφῷ δοὺς γυναικὸς εἵνεκα,
of-children to-brother giving of-a-woman for-the-sake
καὶ ταῦθ᾽ ἑκούσης κοὐ βίᾳ λελησμένης.
and this willing and-not by-force carried-off
ἐπεὶ δ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ἀκτὰς ἤλυθον Σκαμανδρίους,
when and to shores they-came Scamandrian
ἔθνῃσκον, οὐ γῆς ὅρι᾽ ἀποστερούμενοι,
they-died not of-land bounds being-deprived
οὐδ᾽ ὑψιπύργου πατρίδος· οὓς δ᾽ Ἄρης ἕλοι,
nor high-towered of-fatherland whom but Ares took
οὐ παῖδας εἶδον, οὐ δάμαρτος ἐν χεροῖν
not children they-saw not of-wife in hands
πέπλοις συνεστάλησαν, ἐν ξένῃ δὲ γῇ
in-robes were-wrapped in foreign but land
κεῖνται. τὰ δ᾽ οἴκοι τοῖσδ᾽ ὅμοι᾽ ἐγίγνετο·
they-lie the and at-home to-these like happened
χῆραί τ᾽ ἔθνῃσκον, οἳ δ᾽ ἄπαιδες ἐν δόμοις
widows and died those and childless in house
ἄλλως τέκν᾽ ἐκθρέψαντες· οὐδὲ πρὸς τάφους
in-vain children having-reared nor at tombs
ἔσθ᾽ ὅστις αὐτοῖς αἷμα γῇ δωρήσεται.
is-there who for-them blood to-the-earth will-give
ἦ τοῦδ᾽ ἐπαίνου τὸ στράτευμ᾽ ἐπάξιον.
truly of-this praise the army worthy
σιγᾶν ἄμεινον τἀσχρά, μηδὲ μοῦσά μοι
to-be-silent better the-shameful nor muse for-me
γένοιτ᾽ ἀοιδὸς ἥτις ὑμνήσει κακά.
may-become singer who will-hymn evils

Τρῶες δὲ πρῶτον μέν, τὸ κάλλιστον κλέος,
Trojans but first indeed the fairest glory
ὑπὲρ πάτρας ἔθνῃσκον· οὓς δ' ἕλοι δόρυ,
for fatherland died whom but took spear
νεκροί γ' ἐς οἴκους φερόμενοι φίλων ὕπο
dead at-least to home carried friends by
ἐν γῇ πατρῴᾳ περιβολὰς εἶχον χθονός,
in land ancestral embrace had of-earth
χερσὶν περισταλέντες ὧν ἐχρῆν ὕπο·
by-hands laid-out whom one-should by
ὅσοι δὲ μὴ θάνοιεν ἐν μάχῃ Φρυγῶν,
as-many-as and not died in battle of-Phrygians
ἀεὶ κατ' ἦμαρ σὺν δάμαρτι καὶ τέκνοις
always by day with wife and children
ᾤκουν, Ἀχαιοῖς ὧν ἀπῆσαν ἡδοναί.
dwelt for-Achaeans of-which were-absent pleasures
τὰ δ' Ἕκτορός σοι λύπρ' ἄκουσον ὡς ἔχει·
the and of-Hector to-you painful hear how it-is
δόξας ἀνὴρ ἄριστος οἴχεται θανών,
seeming man best is-gone dead
καὶ ταῦτ' Ἀχαιῶν ἵξις ἐξεργάζεται·
and this of-Achaeans coming works-out
εἰ δ' ἦσαν οἴκοι, χρηστὸς ἔλαθεν ἂν γεγώς.
if but they-were at-home good would-have-escaped-notice — being
Πάρις τ' ἔγημε τὴν Διός· γήμας δὲ μή,
Paris and married the of-Zeus having-married but not
σιγώμενον τὸ κῆδος εἶχεν ἐν δόμοις.
unheard-of the alliance he-would-have-had in house
φεύγειν μὲν οὖν χρὴ πόλεμον ὅστις εὖ φρονεῖ·
to-shun indeed then one-must war whoever well thinks

εἰ δ' εἰς τόδ' ἔλθοι, στέφανος οὐκ αἰσχρὸς πόλει
if but to this it-should-come crown not shameful for-a-city
καλῶς ὀλέσθαι, μὴ καλῶς δὲ δυσκλεές.
nobly to-perish not nobly but inglorious
ὧν εἵνεκ' οὐ χρή, μῆτερ, οἰκτείρειν σε γῆν,
of-which for-the-sake not must mother to-pity you land
οὐ τἀμὰ λέκτρα· τοὺς γὰρ ἐχθίστους ἐμοὶ
nor my bed the for most-hateful to-me
καὶ σοὶ γάμοισι τοῖς ἐμοῖς διαφθερῶ.
and to-you by-marriage — my I-shall-destroy
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὡς ἡδέως κακοῖσιν οἰκείοις γελᾷς,
how gladly at-evils of-your-own you-laugh
μέλπεις θ' ἃ μέλπουσ' οὐ σαφῆ δείξεις ἴσως.
you-sing and what singing not clear you-will-show perhaps
ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ εἰ μή σ' Ἀπόλλων ἐξεβάκχευσεν φρένας,
if not you Apollo had-maddened in-mind
οὔ τἂν ἀμισθὶ τοὺς ἐμοὺς στρατηλάτας
not surely without-pay — my generals
τοιαῖσδε φήμαις ἐξέπεμπες ἂν χθονός.
with-such omens you-would-send-off — from-the-land
ἀτὰρ τὰ σεμνὰ καὶ δοκήμασιν σοφὰ
but the grand and in-seemings wise
οὐδέν τι κρείσσω τῶν τὸ μηδὲν ἦν ἄρα.
nothing at-all better than-those the nothing were then
ὁ γὰρ μέγιστος τῶν Πανελλήνων ἄναξ,
the for greatest of-the all-Greeks lord
Ἀτρέως φίλος παῖς, τῆσδ' ἔρωτ' ἐξαίρετον
of-Atreus dear son of-her love chosen
μαινάδος ὑπέστη· καὶ πένης μέν εἰμ' ἐγώ,
of-the-maenad submitted-to and poor indeed am I

ἀτὰρ λέχος γε τῆσδ' ἂν οὐκ ἐκτησάμην.
but bed at-least of-her — not I-would-have-taken
καὶ σοὶ μέν, οὐ γὰρ ἀρτίας ἔχεις φρένας,
and to-you indeed not for sound you-have mind
Ἀργεῖ' ὀνείδη καὶ Φρυγῶν ἐπαινέσεις
Argive reproaches and of-Phrygians praises
ἀνέμοις φέρεσθαι παραδίδωμ'· ἕπου δέ μοι
to-the-winds to-be-carried I-give-over follow and me
πρὸς ναῦς, καλὸν νύμφευμα τῷ στρατηλάτῃ.
to the-ships fair bride for-the general
σὺ δ', ἡνίκ' ἄν σε Λαρτίου χρῄζῃ τόκος
you and when — you of-Laertes needs son
ἄγειν, ἕπεσθαι· σώφρονος δ' ἔσει λάτρις
to-lead to-follow self-controlled and you-will-be servant
γυναικός, ὥς φασ' οἱ μολόντες Ἴλιον.
of-a-woman as say those having-come to-Ilium
ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ἦ δεινὸς ὁ λάτρις. τί ποτ' ἔχουσι τοὔνομα
truly terrible the servant why ever have the-name
κήρυκες, ἓν ἀπέχθημα πάγκοινον βροτοῖς,
heralds one object-of-hatred common to-mortals
οἱ περὶ τυράννους καὶ πόλεις ὑπηρέται;
those about tyrants and cities servants
σὺ τὴν ἐμὴν φὴς μητέρ' εἰς Ὀδυσσέως
you — my do-you-say mother into of-Odysseus
ἥξειν μέλαθρα; ποῦ δ' Ἀπόλλωνος λόγοι,
to-come halls where and of-Apollo words
οἵ φασιν αὐτὴν εἰς ἔμ' ἡρμηνευμένοι
which say her to me interpreted
αὐτοῦ θανεῖσθαι; τἄλλα δ' οὐκ ὀνειδιῶ.
there to-die the-rest but not I-will-reproach

δύστηνος, οὐκ οἶδ' οἷά νιν μένει πάθη·
wretched not he-knows what him await sufferings
ὡς χρυσὸς αὐτῷ τἀμὰ καὶ Φρυγῶν κακὰ
since gold to-him my and of-Phrygians evils
δόξει ποτ' εἶναι. δέκα γὰρ ἐκπλήσας ἔτη
will-seem one-day to-be ten for having-filled years
πρὸς τοῖσιν ἐνθάδ', ἵξεται μόνος πάτραν ***
in-addition-to the here he-will-reach alone fatherland (lacuna)
οὗ δὴ στενὸν δίαυλον ᾤκισται πέτρας
where indeed narrow channel is-settled of-rock
δεινὴ Χάρυβδις, ὠμοβρώς τ' ὀρειβάτης
terrible Charybdis raw-eating and mountain-ranging
Κύκλωψ, Λιγυστίς θ' ἡ συῶν μορφώτρια
Cyclops Ligurian and the of-swine shape-changer
Κίρκη, θαλάσσης θ' ἁλμυρᾶς ναυάγια,
Circe of-sea and salt shipwrecks
λωτοῦ τ' ἔρωτες, Ἡλίου θ' ἁγναὶ βόες,
of-the-lotus and loves of-Helios and holy cattle
αἳ σάρκα φωνήεσσαν ἥσουσίν ποτε,
which flesh vocal will-utter one-day
πικρὰν Ὀδυσσεῖ γῆρυν. ὡς δὲ συντέμω,
bitter for-Odysseus speech as but I-may-cut-short
ζῶν εἶσ' ἐς Ἅιδου κἀκφυγὼν λίμνης ὕδωρ
living he-will-go to of-Hades and-having-escaped of-the-lake water
κάκ' ἐν δόμοισι μυρί' εὑρήσει μολών.
evils in house ten-thousand will-find having-come
ἀλλὰ γὰρ τί τοὺς Ὀδυσσέως ἐξακοντίζω πόνους;
but for why the of-Odysseus do-I-hurl-forth toils
στεῖχ', ὅπως τάχιστ' ἐς Ἅιδου νυμφίῳ γαμώμεθα.
go as quickly-as-possible to of-Hades to-bridegroom let-us-be-wed

ἦ κακὸς κακῶς ταφήσει νυκτός, οὐκ ἐν ἡμέρᾳ,
truly bad badly you-will-be-buried by-night not in day
ὦ δοκῶν σεμνόν τι πράσσειν, Δαναϊδῶν ἀρχηγέτα.
O seeming lofty something to-do of-Danaans leader
κἀμέ τοι νεκρὸν φάραγγες γυμνάδ' ἐκβεβλημένην
and-me surely corpse ravines naked cast-out
ὕδατι χειμάρρῳ ῥέουσαι, νυμφίου πέλας τάφου,
with-water wintry flowing of-the-bridegroom near tomb
θηρσὶ δώσουσιν δάσασθαι, τὴν Ἀπόλλωνος λάτριν.
to-beasts will-give to-divide the of-Apollo servant
ὦ στέφη τοῦ φιλτάτου μοι θεῶν, ἀγάλματ' εὔια,
O garlands of-the dearest to-me of-gods ornaments baccbic
χαίρετ'· ἐκλέλοιφ' ἑορτάς, αἷς πάροιθ' ἠγαλλόμην.
farewell I-have-left festivals in-which before I-rejoiced
ἴτ' ἀπ' ἐμοῦ χρωτὸς σπαραγμοῖς, ὡς ἔτ' οὖσ' ἁγνὴ χρόα
go from my skin with-tearings that still being pure skin
δῶ θοαῖς αὔραις φέρεσθαί σοι τάδ', ὦ μαντεῖ' ἄναξ.
I-may-give to-swift breezes to-be-borne to-you these O prophetic lord
ποῦ σκάφος τὸ τοῦ στρατηγοῦ; ποῖ ποτ' ἐμβαίνειν με χρή;
where ship the of-the general where ever to-embark me must
οὐκέτ' ἂν φθάνοις ἂν αὔραν ἱστίοις καραδοκῶν,
no-longer — you-would-be-quick — breeze for-sails watching
ὡς μίαν τριῶν Ἐρινὺν τῆσδέ μ' ἐξάξων χθονός.
as one of-the-three Fury from-this me to-lead land
χαῖρέ μοι, μῆτερ, δακρύσῃς μηδέν· ὦ φίλη πατρίς·
farewell to-me mother weep not-at-all O dear fatherland
οἵ τε γῆς ἔνερθ' ἀδελφοὶ χὠ τεκὼν ἡμᾶς πατήρ,
who and of-earth beneath brothers and-the having-begotten us father
οὐ μακρὰν δέξεσθέ μ'· ἥκω δ' εἰς νεκροὺς νικηφόρος
not long you-will-receive me I-come and to the-dead victorious

καὶ δόμους πέρσασ᾽ Ἀτρειδῶν, ὧν ἀπωλόμεσθ᾽ ὕπο.
and house having-sacked of-the-Atreidae whom we-were-destroyed by

ΧΟΡΟΣ Ἑκάβης γεραιᾶς φύλακες, οὐ δεδόρκατε
of-Hecuba old guards not do-you-see

δέσποιναν ὡς ἄναυδος εἰς πέδον πίτνει;
the-mistress how speechless to ground falls

οὐκ ἀντιλήψεσθ᾽; ἦ μεθήσετ᾽, ὦ κακαί,
not will-you-take-hold — will-you-let-go O cowardly

γραῖαν πεσοῦσαν; αἴρετ᾽ εἰς ὀρθὸν δέμας.
old-woman fallen lift to upright body

ΕΚΑΒΗ ἐᾶτέ μ᾽, οὗτοι φίλα τὰ μὴ φίλ᾽, ὦ κόραι,
let me not dear the not dear O maidens

κεῖσθαι πεσοῦσαν· πτωμάτων γὰρ ἄξια
to-lie fallen of-falls for worthy

πάσχω τε καὶ πέπονθα κἄτι πείσομαι.
I-suffer both and have-suffered and-still shall-suffer

ὦ θεοί· κακοὺς μὲν ἀνακαλῶ τοὺς συμμάχους,
O gods bad indeed I-call-on the allies

ὅμως δ᾽ ἔχει τι σχῆμα κικλήσκειν θεούς,
nevertheless and it-has some form to-call-on gods

ὅταν τις ἡμῶν δυστυχῆ λάβῃ τύχην.
whenever one of-us unhappy gets fortune

πρῶτον μὲν οὖν μοι τἀγάθ᾽ ἐξᾷσαι φίλον·
first indeed then for-me the-good-things to-sing-out dear

τοῖς γὰρ κακοῖσι πλείον᾽ οἶκτον ἐμβαλῶ.
to-the for evils more pity I-shall-bring

ἦμην τύραννος κεἰς τύρανν᾽ ἐγημάμην,
I-was royal and-to royal I-married

κἀνταῦθ᾽ ἀριστεύοντ᾽ ἐγεινάμην τέκνα,
and-there excelling I-bore children

οὐκ ἀριθμὸν ἄλλως, ἀλλ' ὑπερτάτους Φρυγῶν·
not number merely but highest of-Phrygians
οὐ Τρῳὰς οὐδ' Ἑλληνὶς οὐδὲ βάρβαρος
no Trojan nor Greek nor barbarian
γυνὴ τεκοῦσα κομπάσειεν ἄν ποτε.
woman having-borne could-boast — ever
κἀκεῖνά τ' εἶδον δορὶ πεσόνθ' Ἑλληνικῷ
and-those and I-saw by-spear fallen Greek
τρίχας δ' ἐτμήθην τάσδε πρὸς τύμβοις νεκρῶν,
hair and I-was-shorn this at tombs of-the-dead
καὶ τὸν φυτουργὸν Πρίαμον οὐκ ἄλλων πάρα
and the begetter Priam not others from
κλύουσ' ἔκλαυσα, τοῖσδε δ' εἶδον ὄμμασιν
hearing I-wept with-these but I-saw eyes
αὐτὴ κατασφαγέντ' ἐφ' ἑρκείῳ πυρᾷ,
myself slaughtered at courtyard altar
πόλιν θ' ἁλοῦσαν. ἃς δ' ἔθρεψα παρθένους
city and taken whom and I-reared maidens
εἰς ἀξίωμα νυμφίων ἐξαίρετον,
to dignity of-bridegrooms choice
ἄλλοισι θρέψασ' ἐκ χερῶν ἀφηρέθην.
for-others having-reared from hands I-was-robbed
κοὔτ' ἐξ ἐκείνων ἐλπὶς ὡς ὀφθήσομαι,
and-neither from them hope that I-shall-be-seen
αὐτή τ' ἐκείνας οὐκέτ' ὄψομαί ποτε.
I and them no-longer shall-see ever
τὸ λοίσθιον δέ, θριγκὸς ἀθλίων κακῶν,
the last and coping of-wretched evils
δούλη γυνὴ γραῦς Ἑλλάδ' εἰσαφίξομαι.
slave woman old-woman to-Hellas I-shall-come

ἃ δ' ἐστὶ γήρᾳ τῷδ' ἀσυμφορώτατα,
what but is for-old-age this most-unsuitable
τούτοις με προσθήσουσιν, ἢ θυρῶν λάτριν
to-these me they-will-set either of-doors servant
κλῆδας φυλάσσειν, τὴν τεκοῦσαν Ἕκτορα,
keys to-guard the having-borne Hector
ἢ σιτοποιεῖν, κἀν πέδῳ κοίτας ἔχειν
or to-bake-bread and-on ground beds to-have
ῥυσοῖσι νώτοις βασιλικῶν ἐκ δεμνίων,
with-wrinkled back royal from couch
τρυχηρὰ περὶ τρυχηρὸν εἱμένην χρόα
ragged around ragged clad skin
πέπλων λακίσματ', ἀδόκιμ' ὀλβίοις ἔχειν.
of-robes tatters unseemly for-the-prosperous to-have
οἰ 'γὼ τάλαινα, διὰ γάμον μιᾶς ἕνα
ah I wretched because-of marriage of-one one
γυναικὸς οἵων ἔτυχον, ὧν τε τεύξομαι.
woman what-things I-got which and I-shall-get
ὦ τέκνον, ὦ σύμβακχε Κασάνδρα θεοῖς,
O child O fellow-bacchant Cassandra with-gods
οἵαις ἔλυσας συμφοραῖς ἄγνευμα σόν.
in-what you-loosed misfortunes chastity your
σύ τ', ὦ τάλαινα, ποῦ ποτ' εἶ, Πολυξένη;
you and O wretched where ever are-you Polyxena
ὡς οὔτε μ' ἄρσην οὔτε θήλεια σπορὰ
how neither me male nor female seed
πολλῶν γενομένων τὴν τάλαιναν ὠφελεῖ.
many having-been-born the wretched helps
τί δῆτά μ' ὀρθοῦτ'; ἐλπίδων ποίων ὕπο;
why then me do-you-raise hopes what by

ἄγετε τὸν ἁβρὸν δήποτ' ἐν Τροίᾳ πόδα,
lead the delicate once in Troy foot
νῦν δ' ὄντα δοῦλον, στιβάδα πρὸς χαμαιπετῆ
now and being slave pallet to on-the-ground
πέτρινά τε κρήδεμν', ὡς πεσοῦσ' ἀποφθαρῶ
stony and head-rest so-that fallen I-may-perish
δακρύοις καταξανθεῖσα. τῶν δ' εὐδαιμόνων
with-tears wasted of-the and fortunate
μηδένα νομίζετ' εὐτυχεῖν πρὶν ἂν θάνῃ.
no-one consider to-be-happy before — he-dies

IV · THE WOODEN HORSE

The chorus sings a new funeral song for Troy. The Greeks left the wooden horse at the gates, and the Trojans hauled it into the citadel as an offering to Athena. Night fell on their dancing and singing, and the chorus was singing to Artemis in the halls. Then a cry of murder filled the city, the hidden army came out, and men were slaughtered at the altars and in their beds.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀμφί μοι Ἴλιον, ὦ
about to-me Ilium O
Μοῦσα, καινῶν ὕμνων
Muse of-new hymns
ἄεισον ἐν δακρύοις
sing with tears
ᾠδὰν ἐπικήδειον·
song funereal
νῦν γὰρ μέλος εἰς Τροίαν
now for song for Troy
ἰαχήσω,
I-will-cry-out

τετραβάμονος ὡς ὑπ᾽ ἀπήνας
four-footed how by wagon
Ἀργείων ὀλόμαν τάλαινα δοριάλωτος,
of-Argives I-perished wretched spear-captured
ὅτ᾽ ἔλιπον ἵππον οὐράνια
when they-left horse to-heaven
βρέμοντα χρυσεοφάλαρον ἔνοπλον
roaring gold-bridled armed
ἐν πύλαις Ἀχαιοί·
at the-gates Achaeans
ἀνὰ δ᾽ ἐβόασεν λεὼς
up and shouted the-people
Τρῳάδος ἀπὸ πέτρας σταθείς·
of-Trojan from rock standing
ἴτ᾽, ὦ πεπαυμένοι πόνων,
go O having-ceased from-toils
τόδ᾽ ἱερὸν ἀνάγετε ξόανον
this holy lead-up image
Ἰλιάδι Διογενεῖ κόρᾳ.
to-the-Ilian Zeus-born maiden
τίς οὐκ ἔβα νεανίδων,
who not went of-young-women
τίς οὐ γεραιὸς ἐκ δόμων;
who not old-man from house
κεχαρμένοι δ᾽ ἀοιδαῖς
rejoicing and in-songs
δόλιον ἔσχον ἄταν.
treacherous they-took ruin
πᾶσα δὲ γέννα Φρυγῶν
all and race of-Phrygians

πρὸς πύλας ὡρμάθη,
to the-gates rushed
πεύκᾳ ἐν οὐρείᾳ
pine in mountain
ξεστὸν λόχον Ἀργείων
polished ambush of-Argives
καὶ Δαρδανίας ἄταν
and of-Dardania ruin
θεᾷ δώσων,
to-the-goddess to-give
χάριν ἄζυγος ἀμβροτοπώλου·
as-a-favor of-the-unyoked of-immortal-steeds
κλωστοῦ δ' ἀμφιβόλοις λίνοιο, ναὸς ὡσεὶ
spun and with-nooses of-flax of-ship like
σκάφος κελαινὸν εἰς ἔδρανα
hull black to the-seat
λάϊνα δάπεδά τε φόνια πατρίδι
stone floors and murderous for-fatherland
Παλλάδος θέσαν θεᾶς.
of-Pallas they-set of-the-goddess
ἐν δὲ πόνῳ καὶ χαρᾷ
in and toil and joy
νύχιον ἐπὶ κνέφας παρῆν,
night-time upon darkness came
Λίβυς τε λωτὸς ἐκτύπει
Libyan and lotus sounded
Φρύγιά τε μέλεα, παρθένοι δ'
Phrygian and songs maidens and
ἀέριον ἀνὰ κρότον ποδῶν
aloft with beat of-feet

βοάν τ' ἔμελπον εὔφρον'· ἐν
cry and sang cheerful in
δόμοις δὲ παμφαὲς σέλας
house and all-gleaming blaze
πυρὸς μέλαιναν αἴγλαν
of-fire black gleam
ἄκος ἔδωκεν ὕπνῳ.
remedy gave for-sleep
ἐγὼ δὲ τὰν ὀρεστέραν
I and the mountain-roaming
τότ' ἀμφὶ μέλαθρα παρθένον,
then around the-halls maiden
Διὸς κόραν ἐμελπόμαν
of-Zeus daughter was-hymning
χοροῖσι· φοινία δ' ἀνὰ
with-dances bloody and through
πτόλιν βοὰ κατεῖχε Περ-
city cry held of-Pergamum
γάμων ἕδρας· βρέφη δὲ φίλι-
— *seats children and dear*
α περὶ πέπλους ἔβαλλε μα-
— *around robes cast to-mother*
τρὶ χεῖρας ἐπτοημένας·
— *hands fluttering*
λόχου δ' ἐξέβαιν' Ἄρης,
from-the-ambush and came-out Ares
κόρας ἔργα Παλλάδος.
of-the-maiden the-work of-Pallas
σφαγαὶ δ' ἀμφιβώμιοι
slaughters and around-the-altars

Φρυγῶν, ἔν τε δεμνίοις
of-Phrygians in and beds
καράτομος ἐρημία
head-severed desolation
νεανιῶν στέφανον ἔφερεν
of-young-men crown bore
Ἑλλάδι κουροτρόφῳ,
to-Hellas nurse-of-youths
Φρυγῶν δὲ πατρίδι πένθος.
of-Phrygians and to-the-fatherland grief

V · ASTYANAX

Andromache arrives on a Greek cart with her son, bound for Achilles' son. She tells Hecuba that Polyxena has been sacrificed, and says the dead are luckier than she, whose good name as a wife has made her a prize. Hecuba urges her to win her new master for her son's sake. Talthybius brings the Greek decree: Astyanax will be thrown from the towers of Troy. Andromache gives up her child and is led away.

ΧΟΡΟΣ Ἑκάβη, λεύσσεις τήνδ' Ἀνδρομάχην
Hecuba do-you-see this Andromache
ξενικοῖς ἐπ' ὄχοις πορθμευομένην
foreign on cars being-carried
παρὰ δ' εἰρεσίᾳ μαστῶν ἕπεται
by and to-the-rowing of-breast follows
φίλος Ἀστυάναξ, Ἕκτορος ἶνις.
dear Astyanax of-Hector child
ΕΚΑΒΗ ποῖ ποτ' ἀπήνης νώτοισι φέρει,
whither ever of-the-wagon on-the-back are-you-carried
δύστηνε γύναι, πάρεδρος χαλκέοις
wretched woman sitting-beside bronze

Ἕκτορος ὅπλοις σκύλοις τε Φρυγῶν
of-Hector arms spoils and of-Phrygians
δοριθηράτοις,
spear-hunted
οἷσιν Ἀχιλλέως παῖς Φθιώτης
with-which of-Achilles son Phthian
στέψει ναοὺς ἀπὸ Τροίας;
will-crown temples from Troy
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ Ἀχαιοὶ δεσπόται μ' ἄγουσιν.
Achaean masters me lead
ΕΚΑΒΗ ὤμοι. ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ τί παιᾶν' ἐμὸν στενάζεις
ah-me why paean my do-you-groan
ΕΚΑΒΗ αἰαῖ. ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ τῶνδ' ἀλγέων
alas of-these griefs
ΕΚΑΒΗ ὦ Ζεῦ. ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ καὶ συμφορᾶς;
O Zeus and misfortune
ΕΚΑΒΗ τέκεα, ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ πρίν ποτ' ἦμεν.
children formerly once we-were
ΕΚΑΒΗ βέβακ' ὄλβος, βέβακε Τροία
is-gone wealth is-gone Troy
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ τλάμων. ΕΚΑΒΗ ἐμῶν τ' εὐγένεια παίδων.
wretched my and nobility of-children
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ φεῦ φεῦ. ΕΚΑΒΗ φεῦ δῆτ' ἐμῶν
alas alas alas indeed of-my
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ κακῶν. ΕΚΑΒΗ οἰκτρὰ τύχα
evils piteous fortune
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ πόλεος, ΕΚΑΒΗ ἃ καπνοῦται.
of-city which smokes
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ μόλοις, ὦ πόσις, μοι,
may-you-come O husband to-me

ΕΚΑΒΗ βοᾷς τὸν παρ᾽ Ἅιδᾳ
you-call the by Hades
παῖδ᾽ ἐμόν, ὦ μελέα.
son my O wretched
590 ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ σᾶς δάμαρτος ἄλκαρ.
of-your wife defense
ΕΚΑΒΗ σύ τ᾽, ὦ λῦμ᾽ Ἀχαιῶν,
you and O bane of-Achaeans
τέκνων δήποτ᾽ ἀμῶν
of-children once our
πρεσβυγενὲς Πριάμῳ,
eldest to-Priam
κοίμισαί μ᾽ ἐς Ἅιδου.
lay-to-sleep me to of-Hades
595 ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ οἵδε πόθοι μεγάλοι· σχετλία, τάδε πάσχομεν ἄλγη,
these longings great wretched these we-suffer griefs
οἰχομένας πόλεως, ἐπὶ δ᾽ ἄλγεσιν ἄλγεα κεῖται
of-gone of-city on and griefs griefs lie
δυσφροσύναισι θεῶν, ὅτε σὸς γόνος ἔκφυγεν Ἅιδαν,
by-the-ill-will of-gods when your offspring escaped Hades
ὃς λεχέων στυγερῶν χάριν ὤλεσε πέργαμα Τροίας.
who of-bed hateful for-the-sake destroyed citadel of-Troy
αἱματόεντα δὲ θεᾷ παρὰ Παλλάδι σώματα νεκρῶν
bloody and the-goddess beside Pallas bodies of-dead
γυψὶ φέρειν τέταται· ζυγὰ δ᾽ ἤνυσε δούλια Τροίᾳ.
for-vultures to-carry are-stretched yokes and accomplished slavish for-Troy
ΕΚΑΒΗ ὦ πατρὶς ὦ μελέα, καταλειπομέναν σε δακρύω,
O fatherland O wretched left-behind you I-weep
νῦν τέλος οἰκτρὸν ὁρᾷς, καὶ ἐμὸν δόμον ἔνθ᾽ ἐλοχεύθην.
now end piteous you-see and my house where I-was-brought-to-bed

†ὦ τέκν', ἐρημόπολις μάτηρ ἀπολείπεται ὑμῶν,
(corrupt)-O children desolate mother is-left of-you
οἷος ἰάλεμος οἷά τε πένθη
what lament what and griefs
δάκρυά τ' ἐκ δακρύων καταλείβεται
tears and from tears are-shed
ἁμετέροισι δόμοις· ὁ θανὼν δ' ἐπι-
for-our house the dead and forgets
λάθεται ἀλγέων ἀδάκρυτος.
— *griefs tearless*
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὡς ἡδὺ δάκρυα τοῖς κακῶς πεπραγόσι
how sweet tears for-those badly having-fared
θρήνων τ' ὀδυρμοὶ μοῦσά θ' ἣ λύπας ἔχει.
of-dirges and lamentings song and which griefs has
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ὦ μῆτερ ἀνδρός, ὅς ποτ' Ἀργείων δορὶ
O mother of-the-man who once of-Argives by-spear
πλείστους διώλεσ', Ἕκτορος, τάδ' εἰσορᾷς;
most destroyed of-Hector this do-you-see
ΕΚΑΒΗ ὁρῶ τὰ τῶν θεῶν, ὡς τὰ μὲν πυργοῦσ' ἄνω
I-see the of-the gods how some indeed they-tower up
τὰ μηδὲν ὄντα, τὰ δὲ δοκοῦντ' ἀπώλεσαν.
the nothing being others and seeming they-destroyed
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ἀγόμεθα λεία σὺν τέκνῳ, τὸ δ' εὐγενὲς
we-are-led plunder with child the and nobility
εἰς δοῦλον ἥκει, μεταβολὰς τοιάσδ' ἔχον.
into slavery comes changes such having
ΕΚΑΒΗ τὸ τῆς ἀνάγκης δεινόν· ἄρτι κἀπ' ἐμοῦ
the of-the necessity terrible just-now also-from me
βέβηκ' ἀποσπασθεῖσα Κασάνδρα βίᾳ.
has-gone torn-away Cassandra by-force

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ φεῦ φεῦ·
alas alas

ἄλλος τις Αἴας, ὡς ἔοικε, δεύτερος
another a-certain Ajax as it-seems second

παιδὸς πέφηνε σῆς· νοσεῖς δὲ χἄτερα.
to-daughter has-appeared your you-are-sick and with-other-things

620 ΕΚΑΒΗ ὧν γ' οὔτε μέτρον οὔτ' ἀριθμός ἐστί μοι·
of-which at-least neither measure nor number is to-me

κακῷ κακὸν γὰρ εἰς ἅμιλλαν ἔρχεται.
for-evil evil for into rivalry comes

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ τέθνηκέ σοι παῖς πρὸς τάφῳ Πολυξένη
is-dead your daughter at tomb Polyxena

σφαγεῖσ' Ἀχιλλέως, δῶρον ἀψύχῳ νεκρῷ.
slaughtered of-Achilles gift to-lifeless corpse

ΕΚΑΒΗ οἳ 'γὼ τάλαινα. τοῦτ' ἐκεῖνό μοι πάλαι
ah I wretched this that to-me long-ago

625 Ταλθύβιος αἴνιγμ' οὐ σαφῶς εἶπεν σαφές.
Talthybius riddle not clearly said clear

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ εἶδόν νιν αὐτὴ κἀποβᾶσα τῶνδ' ὄχων
I-saw her myself and-having-stepped-down from-this car

ἔκρυψα πέπλοις κἀπεκοψάμην νεκρόν.
I-covered with-robes and-beat-my-breast-for the-corpse

ΕΚΑΒΗ αἰαῖ, τέκνον, σῶν ἀνοσίων προσφαγμάτων·
alas child of-your unholy slaughter

αἰαῖ μάλ' αὖθις, ὡς κακῶς διόλλυσαι.
alas greatly again how badly you-perish

630 ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ὄλωλεν ὡς ὄλωλεν, ἀλλ' ὅμως ἐμοῦ
she-has-perished as she-has-perished but nevertheless than-me

ζώσης γ' ὄλωλεν εὐτυχεστέρῳ πότμῳ.
living at-least she-has-perished with-happier fate

ΕΚΑΒΗ οὐ ταὐτόν, ὦ παῖ, τῷ βλέπειν τὸ κατθανεῖν·
not the-same O child to-the to-see the to-die
τὸ μὲν γὰρ οὐδέν, τῷ δ' ἔνεισιν ἐλπίδες.
the indeed for nothing in-the and are-in hopes
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ὦ μῆτερ, ὦ τεκοῦσα, κάλλιστον λόγον
O mother O having-borne fairest word
ἄκουσον, ὡς σοι τέρψιν ἐμβαλῶ φρενί.
hear that to-you delight I-may-bring to-mind
τὸ μὴ γενέσθαι τῷ θανεῖν ἴσον λέγω,
the not to-be-born to-the to-die equal I-say
τοῦ ζῆν δὲ λυπρῶς κρεῖσσόν ἐστι κατθανεῖν.
than-the to-live and painfully better is to-die
ἀλγεῖ γὰρ οὐδὲν τῶν κακῶν ᾐσθημένος·
grieves for nothing of-the evils having-perceived
ὁ δ' εὐτυχήσας εἰς τὸ δυστυχὲς πεσὼν
the but having-prospered into the misfortune falling
ψυχὴν ἀλᾶται τῆς πάροιθ' εὐπραξίας.
in-soul wanders of-the former well-faring
κείνη δ' ὁμοίως ὥσπερ οὐκ ἰδοῦσα φῶς
she and alike as-if not having-seen light
τέθνηκε, κοὐδὲν οἶδε τῶν αὐτῆς κακῶν.
is-dead and-nothing knows of-the her-own evils
ἐγὼ δὲ τοξεύσασα τῆς εὐδοξίας
I and having-aimed at-the good-repute
λαχοῦσα πλεῖστον τῆς τύχης ἡμάρτανον.
having-won most of-the fortune missed
ἃ γὰρ γυναιξὶ σώφρον' ἔσθ' ηὑρημένα,
what for in-women self-controlled is found
ταῦτ' ἐξεμόχθουν Ἕκτορος κατὰ στέγας.
these-things I-labored-at of-Hector in house

πρῶτον μέν, ἔνθα — κἂν προσῇ κἂν μὴ προσῇ
first indeed where even-if is-present even-if not is-present
ψόγος γυναιξίν — αὐτὸ τοῦτ' ἐφέλκεται
blame for-women itself this draws
κακῶς ἀκούειν, ἥτις οὐκ ἔνδον μένει,
badly to-be-spoken-of whoever not inside stays
τούτου παρεῖσα πόθον ἔμιμνον ἐν δόμοις·
of-this having-let-go longing I-stayed in house
εἴσω τε μελάθρων κομψὰ θηλειῶν ἔπη
within and halls clever of-women words
οὐκ εἰσεφρούμην, τὸν δὲ νοῦν διδάσκαλον
not I-admitted the and mind as-teacher
οἴκοθεν ἔχουσα χρηστὸν ἐξήρκουν ἐμοί.
from-home having good I-sufficed for-myself
γλώσσης τε σιγὴν ὄμμα θ' ἥσυχον πόσει
of-tongue and silence eye and quiet for-husband
παρεῖχον· ᾔδη δ' ἁμὲ χρῆν νικᾶν πόσιν,
I-offered I-knew and in-what-me it-was-needful to-conquer husband
κείνῳ τε νίκην ὧν ἐχρῆν παριέναι.
to-him and victory in-what I-ought to-yield
καὶ τῶνδε κληδὼν εἰς στράτευμ' Ἀχαϊκὸν
and of-these report to army Achaean
ἐλθοῦσ' ἀπώλεσέν μ'· ἐπεὶ γὰρ ᾑρέθην,
having-come destroyed me when for I-was-taken
Ἀχιλλέως με παῖς ἐβουλήθη λαβεῖν
of-Achilles me son wished to-take
δάμαρτα· δουλεύσω δ' ἐν αὐθεντῶν δόμοις.
as-wife I-shall-serve and in murderers' house
κεἰ μὲν παρώσασ' Ἕκτορος φίλον κάρα
and-if indeed thrusting-aside of-Hector dear head

πρὸς τὸν παρόντα πόσιν ἀναπτύξω φρένα,
to the present husband I-open mind
κακὴ φανοῦμαι τῷ θανόντι· τόνδε δ' αὖ
false I-shall-appear to-the dead this-one and in-turn
στυγοῦσ' ἐμαυτῆς δεσπόταις μισήσομαι.
hating of-my-own masters I-shall-be-hated
καίτοι λέγουσιν ὡς μί' εὐφρόνη χαλᾷ
and-yet they-say that one night loosens
τὸ δυσμενὲς γυναικὸς εἰς ἀνδρὸς λέχος·
the hostility of-woman to of-man bed
ἀπέπτυσ' αὐτήν, ἥτις ἄνδρα τὸν πάρος
I-spit-at her whoever husband the former
καινοῖσι λέκτροις ἀποβαλοῦσ' ἄλλον φιλεῖ.
for-new bed having-cast-off another loves
ἀλλ' οὐδὲ πῶλος ἥτις ἂν διαζυγῇ
but not-even a-colt which — be-parted
τῆς συντραφείσης, ῥᾳδίως ἕλξει ζυγόν.
from-the reared-with easily will-draw yoke
καίτοι τὸ θηριῶδες ἄφθογγόν τ' ἔφυ
and-yet the beast dumb and is
ξυνέσει τ' ἄχρηστον τῇ φύσει τε λείπεται.
in-understanding and useless in-the nature and is-inferior
σὲ δ', ὦ φίλ' Ἕκτορ, εἶχον ἄνδρ' ἀρκοῦντά μοι
you and O dear Hector I-had husband sufficing for-me
ξυνέσει, γένει, πλούτῳ τε κἀνδρείᾳ μέγαν·
in-understanding in-birth in-wealth and and-in-courage great
ἀκήρατον δέ μ' ἐκ πατρὸς λαβὼν δόμων
undefiled and me from father's having-taken house
πρῶτος τὸ παρθένειον ἐζεύξω λέχος.
first the virgin you-yoked bed

καὶ νῦν ὄλωλας μὲν σύ, ναυσθλοῦμαι δ' ἐγὼ
and now you-have-perished indeed you am-shipped and I
πρὸς Ἑλλάδ' αἰχμάλωτος εἰς δοῦλον ζυγόν.
to Hellas captive to slavish yoke
ἆρ' οὐκ ἐλάσσω τῶν ἐμῶν ἡγεῖ κακῶν
— not less — than-my do-you-consider evils
Πολυξένης ὄλεθρον, ἣν καταστένεις;
of-Polyxena destruction which you-bewail
ἐμοὶ γὰρ οὐδ' ὃ πᾶσι λείπεται βροτοῖς
to-me for not-even what to-all is-left mortals
ξύνεστιν ἐλπίς, οὐδὲ κλέπτομαι φρένας
is-with-me hope nor I-am-deceived in-mind
πράξειν τι κεδνόν· ἡδὺ δ' ἐστὶ καὶ δοκεῖν.
to-fare something good sweet and is even to-seem
ΧΟΡΟΣ εἰς ταὐτὸν ἥκεις συμφορᾶς· θρηνοῦσα δὲ
to the-same you-have-come of-misfortune lamenting and
τὸ σὸν διδάσκεις μ' ἔνθα πημάτων κυρῶ.
— yours you-teach me where of-woes I-am
ΕΚΑΒΗ αὐτὴ μὲν οὔπω ναὸς εἰσέβην σκάφος,
myself indeed not-yet of-ship entered hull
γραφῇ δ' ἰδοῦσα καὶ κλύουσ' ἐπίσταμαι.
in-picture but having-seen and hearing I-know
ναύταις γὰρ ἦν μὲν μέτριος ᾖ χειμὼν φέρειν,
for-sailors for if indeed moderate be storm to-bear
προθυμίαν ἔχουσι σωθῆναι πόνων,
eagerness they-have to-be-saved from-toils
ὁ μὲν παρ' οἴαχ', ὁ δ' ἐπὶ λαίφεσιν βεβώς,
the-one indeed by tiller the-other and at sails stepping
ὁ δ' ἄντλον εἴργων ναός· ἢν δ' ὑπερβάλῃ
the-other and bilge keeping-out of-the-ship if but overwhelm

πολὺς ταραχθεὶς πόντος, ἐνδόντες τύχῃ
much stirred-up sea yielding to-fortune
παρεῖσαν αὐτοὺς κυμάτων δρομήμασιν.
they-give-over themselves to-the-waves' runnings
οὕτω δὲ κἀγὼ πόλλ' ἔχουσα πήματα
so and and-I many having woes
ἄφθογγός εἰμι καὶ παρεῖσ' ἐῶ στόμα·
voiceless am and having-let-go let mouth
νικᾷ γὰρ οὐκ θεῶν με δύστηνος κλύδων.
conquers for the-from gods me wretched surge
ἀλλ', ὦ φίλη παῖ, τὰς μὲν Ἕκτορος τύχας
but O dear child the indeed of-Hector fortunes
ἔασον· οὐ γὰρ δάκρυα νιν σώσει τὰ σά·
let-be not for tears him will-save — your
τίμα δὲ τὸν παρόντα δεσπότην σέθεν,
honor and the present master your
φίλον διδοῦσα δέλεαρ ἀνδρὶ σῶν τρόπων.
dear giving bait to-the-man of-your ways
κἂν δρᾷς τάδ', εἰς τὸ κοινὸν εὐφρανεῖς φίλους
and-if you-do this to the common you-will-gladden friends
καὶ παῖδα τόνδε παιδὸς ἐκθρέψειας ἂν
and child this of-child you-might-rear —
Τροίᾳ μέγιστον ὠφέλημ', ἵν' οἵ ποτε
for-Troy greatest help so-that the once
ἐκ σοῦ γενόμενοι παῖδες ὕστερον πάλιν
from you born children later again
κατοικίσειαν, καὶ πόλις γένοιτ' ἔτι.
might-settle and city might-be still
ἀλλ' ἐκ λόγου γὰρ ἄλλος ἐκβαίνει λόγος,
but from word for other comes-out word

τίν' αὖ δέδορκα τόνδ' Ἀχαϊκὸν λάτριν
whom again do-I-see this Achaean servant
στείχοντα καινῶν ἄγγελον βουλευμάτων;
coming of-new messenger plans
ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ Φρυγῶν ἀρίστου πρίν ποθ' Ἕκτορος δάμαρ,
of-Phrygians best formerly once of-Hector wife
μὴ 'μὲ στυγήσῃς· οὐχ ἑκὼν γὰρ ἀγγελῶ
not me hate not willing for I-shall-announce
Δαναῶν τε κοινὰ Πελοπιδῶν τ' ἀγγέλματα.
of-Danaans and common of-Pelopidae and messages
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ τί δ' ἔστιν; ὡς μοι φροιμίων ἄρχει κακῶν.
what and is-it how to-me of-preludes you-begin evil
ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ ἔδοξε τόνδε παῖδα — πῶς εἴπω λόγον;
it-was-decided this child how shall-I-say word
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ μῶν οὐ τὸν αὐτὸν δεσπότην ἡμῖν ἔχειν;
surely-not not the same master as-us to-have
ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ οὐδεὶς Ἀχαιῶν τοῦδε δεσπόσει ποτέ.
no-one of-Achaeans this-one will-master ever
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ἀλλ' ἐνθάδ' αὐτὸν λείψανον Φρυγῶν λιπεῖν;
but here him remnant of-Phrygians to-leave
ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως σοι ῥᾳδίως εἴπω κακά.
not I-know how to-you easily I-may-tell evils
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ἐπήνεσ' αἰδῶ, πλὴν ἐὰν λέγῃς καλά.
I-commend scruple except if you-tell good-things
ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ κτενοῦσι σὸν παῖδ', ὡς πύθῃ κακὸν μέγα.
they-will-kill your child that you-may-learn evil great
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ οἴμοι, γάμων τόδ' ὡς κλύω μεῖζον κακόν.
ah-me than-marriage this how I-hear greater evil
ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ νικᾷ δ' Ὀδυσσεὺς ἐν Πανέλλησιν λέγων —
prevails and Odysseus among all-Greeks speaking

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ αἰαῖ μάλ', οὐ γὰρ μέτρια πάσχομεν κακά.
alas greatly not for moderate we-suffer evils

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ λέξας ἀρίστου παῖδα μὴ τρέφειν πατρός,
having-said of-best child not to-rear father

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ τοιαῦτα νικήσειε τῶν αὐτοῦ πέρι.
such-things may-be-prevail the-things his-own about

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ ῥῖψαι δὲ πύργων δεῖν σφε Τρωικῶν ἄπο. 725
to-hurl and towers one-must him Trojan from

ἀλλ' ὡς γενέσθω, καὶ σοφωτέρα φανεῖ·
but so let-it-be and wiser you-will-appear

μήτ' ἀντέχου τοῦδ', εὐγενῶς δ' ἄλγει κακοῖς,
neither cling-to him nobly and grieve at-evils

μήτε σθένουσα μηδὲν ἰσχύειν δόκει.
nor being-strong in-nothing to-be-strong think

ἔχεις γὰρ ἀλκὴν οὐδαμῇ· σκοπεῖν δὲ χρή·
you-have for help nowhere to-consider and one-must

πόλις τ' ὄλωλε καὶ πόσις, κρατεῖ δὲ σύ, 730
city and has-perished and husband are-ruled and you

ἡμῖν δὲ πῶς γυναῖκα μάρνασθαι μίαν
us and how woman to-fight one

οἷόν τε; τούτων εἵνεκ' οὐ μάχης ἐρᾶν
possible — of-these for-the-sake not of-battle to-long

οὐδ' αἰσχρὸν οὐδὲν οὐδ' ἐπίφθονόν σε δρᾶν,
nor shameful nothing nor invidious you to-do

οὐδ' αὖ σ' Ἀχαιοῖς βούλομαι ῥίπτειν ἀράς.
nor again you on-Achaeans I-wish to-hurl curses

εἰ γάρ τι λέξεις ᾧ χολώσεται στρατός, 735
if for something you-say by-which will-be-angered the-army

οὔτ' ἂν ταφείη παῖς ὅδ' οὔτ' οἴκτου τύχοι.
neither — would-be-buried child this nor of-pity would-get

σιγῶσα δ' εὖ τε ταῖς τύχαις κεχρημένη
being-silent and well and the fortunes using
τὸν τοῦδε νεκρὸν οὐκ ἄθαπτον ἂν λίποις,
the of-this corpse not unburied — you-would-leave
αὐτή τ' Ἀχαιῶν πρευμενεστέρων τύχοις.
yourself and Achaeans more-kindly you-may-find
740 ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ὦ φίλτατ', ὦ περισσὰ τιμηθεὶς τέκνον,
O dearest O exceedingly honored child
θανεῖ πρὸς ἐχθρῶν μητέρ' ἀθλίαν λιπών.
you-will-die by enemies mother wretched leaving
ἡ τοῦ πατρὸς δέ σ' εὐγένει' ἀπώλεσεν,
the of-the father and you nobility destroyed
ἣ τοῖσιν ἄλλοις γίγνεται σωτηρία,
which for-the others becomes salvation
τὸ δ' ἐσθλὸν οὐκ εἰς καιρὸν ἦλθε σοι πατρός.
the and good not in season came for-you of-father
745 ὦ λέκτρα τἀμὰ δυστυχῆ τε καὶ γάμοι,
O bed my unfortunate both and marriage
οἷς ἦλθον εἰς μέλαθρον Ἕκτορός ποτε,
in-which I-came into hall of-Hector once
οὐ σφάγιον υἱὸν Δαναΐδαις τέξουσ' ἐμόν,
not victim son for-Danaans to-bear my
ἀλλ' ὡς τύραννον Ἀσιάδος πολυσπόρου.
but as ruler of-Asia wide-sown
ὦ παῖ, δακρύεις; αἰσθάνει κακῶν σέθεν;
O child you-weep do-you-perceive evils your
750 τί μου δέδραξαι χερσὶ κἀντέχει πέπλων,
why me have-you-seized with-hands and-cling-to robes
νεοσσὸς ὡσεὶ πτέρυγας εἰσπίτνων ἐμάς;
nestling like wings falling-into my

οὐκ εἶσιν Ἕκτωρ κλεινὸν ἁρπάσας δόρυ,
not will-come Hector glorious having-snatched spear
γῆς ἐξανελθών, σοὶ φέρων σωτηρίαν,
from-earth having-risen to-you bringing safety
οὐ συγγένεια πατρός, οὐκ ἰσχὺς Φρυγῶν·
not kinsmen of-father not strength of-Phrygians
λυγρὸν δὲ πήδημ' εἰς τράχηλον ὑψόθεν
mournful and leap onto neck from-above
πεσὼν ἀνοίκτως, πνεῦμ' ἀπορρήξεις σέθεν
falling pitilessly breath you-will-break your
ὦ νέον ὑπαγκάλισμα μητρὶ φίλτατον,
O young armful to-mother dearest
ὦ χρωτὸς ἡδὺ πνεῦμα· διὰ κενῆς ἄρα
O of-skin sweet breath to-no purpose then
ἐν σπαργάνοις σε μαστὸς ἐξέθρεψ' ὅδε,
in swaddling you breast reared this
μάτην δ' ἐμόχθουν καὶ κατεξάνθην πόνοις.
in-vain and I-toiled and was-worn-out with-toils
νῦν, οὔποτ' αὖθις, μητέρ' ἀσπάζου σέθεν,
now never again mother embrace your
πρόσπιτνε τὴν τεκοῦσαν, ἀμφὶ δ' ὠλένας
fall-upon the having-borne around and arms
ἕλισσ' ἐμοῖς νώτοισι καὶ στόμ' ἅρμοσον.
twine my back and mouth fit
ὦ βάρβαρ' ἐξευρόντες Ἕλληνες κακά,
O barbarous having-devised Greeks evils
τί τόνδε παῖδα κτείνετ' οὐδὲν αἴτιον;
why this child do-you-kill in-nothing guilty
ὦ Τυνδάρειον ἔρνος, οὔποτ' εἶ Διός,
O Tyndarean offspring never you-are of-Zeus

πολλῶν δὲ πατέρων φημί σ' ἐκπεφυκέναι,
many and fathers I-say you to-have-sprung-from
Ἀλάστορος μὲν πρῶτον, εἶτα δὲ Φθόνου,
Avenging-Spirit indeed first then and Envy
Φόνου τε Θανάτου θ', ὅσα τε γῆ τρέφει κακά.
Murder and Death and as-many-as and earth nourishes evils
770 οὐ γάρ ποτ' αὐχῶ Ζῆνά γ' ἐκφῦσαί σ' ἐγώ,
not for ever I-boast Zeus at-least to-have-begotten you I
πολλοῖσι κῆρα βαρβάροις Ἕλλησί τε.
to-many doom barbarians to-Greeks and
ὄλοιο· καλλίστων γὰρ ὀμμάτων ἄπο
may-you-perish fairest for eyes from
αἰσχρῶς τὰ κλεινὰ πεδί' ἀπώλεσας Φρυγῶν.
shamefully the glorious plains you-destroyed of-Phrygians
ἀλλ' ἄγετε, φέρετε, ῥίπτετ', εἰ ῥίπτειν δοκεῖ·
but lead carry hurl if to-hurl it-seems-good
775 δαίνυσθε τοῦδε σάρκας. ἔκ τε γὰρ θεῶν
feast-on of-this flesh from and for gods
διολλύμεσθα, παιδί τ' οὐ δυναίμεθ' ἂν
we-are-destroyed for-child and not we-could —
θάνατον ἀρῆξαι. κρύπτετ' ἄθλιον δέμας
death to-ward-off hide wretched body
καὶ ῥίπτετ' εἰς ναῦν· ἐπὶ καλὸν γὰρ ἔρχομαι
and hurl into ship to fine for I-go
ὑμέναιον, ἀπολέσασα τοὐμαυτῆς τέκνον.
wedding-song having-lost my-own child
780 ΧΟΡΟΣ τάλαινα Τροία, μυρίους ἀπώλεσας
wretched Troy ten-thousand you-have-lost
μιᾶς γυναικὸς καὶ λέχους στυγνοῦ χάριν.
of-one woman and bed hateful for-the-sake

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ ἄγε παῖ, φίλιον πρόσπτυγμα μεθεὶς
come child dear embrace having-let-go
μητρὸς μογερᾶς, βαῖνε πατρῴων
of-mother wretched go of-father's
πύργων ἐπ᾽ ἄκρας στεφάνας, ὅθι σοι
towers to top crown where for-you
πνεῦμα μεθεῖναι ψῆφος ἐκράνθη.
breath to-let-go vote was-accomplished
λαμβάνετ᾽ αὐτόν. τὰ δὲ τοιάδε χρὴ
take him the and such-things must
κηρυκεύειν, ὅστις ἄνοικτος
herald whoever pitiless
καὶ ἀναιδείᾳ τῆς ἡμετέρας
and to-shamelessness — than-our
γνώμης μᾶλλον φίλος ἐστίν.
mind more friend is
ΕΚΑΒΗ ὦ τέκνον, ὦ παῖ παιδὸς μογεροῦ,
O child O child of-son wretched
συλώμεθα σὴν ψυχὴν ἀδίκως
we-are-robbed-of your life unjustly
μήτηρ κἀγώ. τί πάθω; τί σ᾽ ἐγώ,
mother and-I what shall-I-suffer what you I
δύσμορε, δράσω; τάδε σοι δίδομεν
ill-fated shall-I-do these-things to-you we-give
πλήγματα κρατὸς στέρνων τε κόπους·
blows of-head of-breast and beatings
τῶνδε γὰρ ἄρχομεν· οἴ᾽ ἐγὼ πόλεως,
of-these for we-are-masters ah I of-city
οἴμοι δὲ σέθεν· τί γὰρ οὐκ ἔχομεν;
ah-me and for-you what for not do-we-have

τίνος ἐνδέομεν μὴ οὐ πανσυδίᾳ
what do-we-lack not not with-all-speed
χωρεῖν ὀλέθρου διὰ παντός;
to-go of-ruin through all

VI · TELAMON AND GANYMEDE

The chorus recalls how Telamon of Salamis came long ago with Alcmene's son to sack Troy and brought death on Laomedon; twice a spear has destroyed the city. Laomedon's son pours wine for Zeus while the city that bore him burns. Love once made Troy kin to the gods. Dawn took a husband from this land in her golden car, but now she looks on its fallen towers, and the gods' love has gone from Troy.

ΧΟΡΟΣ μελισσοτρόφου Σαλαμῖνος, ὦ βασιλεῦ Τελαμών,
bee-nourishing of-Salamis O king Telamon
νάσου περικύμονος οἰκήσας ἕδραν
island wave-washed having-inhabited seat
τᾶς ἐπικεκλιμένας ὄχθοις ἱεροῖς, ἵν' ἐλαίας
the leaning-on hills holy where of-olive
πρῶτον ἔδειξε κλάδον γλαυκᾶς Ἀθάνα,
first showed shoot gray Athena
οὐράνιον στέφανον λιπαραῖσι τε κόσμον Ἀθήναις,
heavenly crown shining and adornment for-Athens
ἔβας τῷ τοξοφόρῳ συναρι-
you-went with-the bow-bearing sharing-the-prize
στεύων ἅμ' Ἀλκμήνας γόνῳ
— together-with of-Alcmene son
Ἴλιον Ἴλιον ἐκπέρσων πόλιν ἁμετέραν
Ilium Ilium to-sack city our
τὸ πάροιθεν †ὅτ' ἔβας ἀφ' Ἑλλάδος,
the before (corrupt)-when you-went from Hellas

ὅθ' Ἑλλάδος ἄγαγε πρῶτον ἄνθος ἀτυζόμενος
when of-Hellas he-led first flower distressed
πώλων, Σιμόεντι δ' ἐπ' εὐρείτᾳ πλάταν
of-colts Simois and on fair-flowing oar
ἔσχασε ποντοπόρον καὶ ναύδετ' ἀνήψατο πρυμνᾶν
he-stayed seafaring and ship-cables fastened of-sterns
καὶ χερὸς εὐστοχίαν ἐξεῖλε ναῶν,
and of-hand straight-aim took-out of-the-ships
Λαομέδοντι φόνον· κανόνων δὲ τυκίσματα Φοίβου
for-Laomedon death of-rules and workings of-Phoebus
πυρὸς φοίνικι πνοᾷ καθελὼν
of-fire with-red blast having-destroyed
Τροίας ἐπόρθησε χθόνα,
of-Troy he-sacked land
δὶς δὲ δυοῖν πιτύλοιν τείχη περὶ Δαρδανίας
twice and in-two onsets walls around Dardania
φονία κατέλυσεν αἰχμά.
murderous destroyed spear
μάταν ἄρ', ὦ χρυσέαις
in-vain then O golden
ἐν οἰνοχόαις ἁβρὰ βαίνων,
in wine-pourings delicately stepping
Λαομεδόντιε παῖ,
Laomedon's son
Ζανὸς ἔχεις κυλίκων
of-Zeus you-have of-cups
πλήρωμα, καλλίσταν λατρείαν·
the-filling most-beautiful service
ἁ δέ σε γειναμένα πυρὶ δαίεται·
she and you having-borne by-fire is-burned

ἠιόνες δ' ἅλιαι
shores and of-the-sea
ἰαχοῦσ'· οἷον δ' ὑπὲρ
cry like and for
οἰωνὸς τεκέων βοᾷ,
bird young cries
αἱ μὲν εὐνάς, αἱ δὲ παῖδας,
some indeed beds others and children
αἱ δὲ ματέρας γεραιάς.
others and mothers aged
τὰ δὲ σὰ δροσόεντα λουτρὰ
— and your dewy baths
γυμνασίων τε δρόμοι
of-gymnasia and courses
βεβᾶσι· σὺ δὲ πρόσωπα νεα-
are-gone you and face young
ρὰ χάρισι παρὰ Διὸς θρόνοις
— with-graces by of-Zeus thrones
καλλιγάλανα τρέφεις·
serene you-keep
Πριάμοιο δὲ γαῖαν
of-Priam and land
Ἑλλὰς ὤλεσ' αἰχμά.
Greek destroyed spear
Ἔρως Ἔρως, ὃς τὰ Δαρ-
Love Love who the Dardanian
δάνεια μέλαθρά ποτ' ἦλθες
— halls once you-came
οὐρανίδαισι μέλων·
to-the-sons-of-heaven being-a-care

ὡς τότε μὲν μεγάλως
how then indeed greatly
Τροίαν ἐπύργωσας, θεοῖσιν
Troy you-towered-up to-the-gods
κῆδος ἀναψάμενος. τὸ μὲν οὖν Διὸς
alliance having-joined the indeed then of-Zeus
οὐκέτ' ὄνειδος ἐρῶ·
no-longer reproach I-will-speak
τὸ τᾶς δὲ λευκοπτέρου
the — and white-winged
Ἀμέρας φίλιον βροτοῖς
of-Day dear to-mortals
φέγγος ὀλοὸν εἶδε γαῖαν,
light deadly saw land
εἶδε περγάμων ὄλεθρον,
saw of-the-towers destruction
τεκνοποιὸν ἔχουσα τᾶσδε
child-begetting having of-this
γᾶς πόσιν ἐν θαλάμοις,
of-land husband in chambers
ὃν ἀστέρων τέθριππος ἔλα-
whom of-stars four-horse took
βε χρύσεος ὄχος ἀναρπάσας,
— golden car having-snatched-up
ἐλπίδα γᾷ πατρίᾳ
hope for-land of-fathers
μεγάλαν· τὰ θεῶν δὲ
great the of-gods but
φίλτρα φροῦδα Τροίᾳ.
charms gone for-Troy

Menelaus comes to take Helen to Greece for death. Hecuba praises him but warns him not to look at her. Helen pleads her case: Hecuba bore Paris, the goddesses' contest gave her to him, Aphrodite was to blame, and she tried to escape to the Greeks. Hecuba answers that Helen was dazzled by Paris' wealth and never tried to leave. Menelaus sends her to the ships, though not on his own ship, to be killed in Argos.

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὦ καλλιφεγγὲς ἡλίου σέλας τόδε,
O fair-shining of-the-sun blaze this
ἐν ᾧ δάμαρτα τὴν ἐμὴν χειρώσομαι
in which wife — my I-shall-subdue
Ἑλένην· ὁ γὰρ δὴ πολλὰ μοχθήσας ἐγὼ
Helen the for indeed much having-toiled I
Μενέλαός εἰμι καὶ στράτευμ' Ἀχαϊκόν.
Menelaus am and army Achaean
ἦλθον δὲ Τροίαν οὐχ ὅσον δοκοῦσί με
I-came and to-Troy not as-much-as they-think me
γυναικὸς εἵνεκ', ἀλλ' ἐπ' ἄνδρ' ὃς ἐξ ἐμῶν
of-woman for-the-sake but against man who from my
δόμων δάμαρτα ξεναπάτης ἐλῄσατο.
house wife deceiving-his-host carried-off
κεῖνος μὲν οὖν ἔδωκε σὺν θεοῖς δίκην
he indeed then has-paid with gods justice
αὐτός τε καὶ γῆ δορὶ πεσοῦσ' Ἑλληνικῷ.
himself both and land by-spear fallen Greek
ἥκω δὲ τὴν τάλαιναν, οὐ γὰρ ἡδέως
I-come and the wretched not for gladly
ὄνομα δάμαρτος ἥ ποτ' ἦν ἐμὴ λέγω,
name of-wife who once was my I-say

ἄξων· δόμοις γὰρ τοῖσδ' ἐν αἰχμαλωτικοῖς
to-take house for these among captive
κατηρίθμηται Τρῳάδων ἄλλων μέτα.
she-is-counted Trojan-women other with
οἵπερ γὰρ αὐτὴν ἐξεμόχθησαν δορί,
those for her won-by-toil by-spear
κτανεῖν ἐμοί νιν ἔδοσαν, εἴτε μὴ κτανὼν
to-kill to-me her gave or not killing
θέλοιμ' ἄγεσθαι πάλιν ἐς Ἀργείων χθόνα.
I-should-wish to-take back to of-Argives land
ἐμοὶ δ' ἔδοξε τὸν μὲν ἐν Τροίᾳ μόρον
to-me and it-seemed-good the indeed in Troy fate
Ἑλένης ἐᾶσαι, ναυπόρῳ δ' ἄγειν πλάτῃ
of-Helen to-let-go seafaring and to-take oar
Ἑλληνίδ' εἰς γῆν κᾆτ' ἐκεῖ δοῦναι κτανεῖν,
Greek to land and-then there to-give to-kill
ποινὰς ὅσων τεθνᾶσ' ἐν Ἰλίῳ φίλοι.
in-vengeance for-as-many-as died in Ilium friends
ἀλλ' εἶα χωρεῖτ' εἰς δόμους, ὀπάονες,
but come go into house attendants
κομίζετ' αὐτήν, τῆς μιαιφονωτάτης
bring her the most-murderous
κόμης ἐπισπάσαντες· οὔριοι δ' ὅταν
by-hair having-dragged fair and when
πνοαὶ μόλωσι, πέμψομέν νιν Ἑλλάδα.
breezes come we-shall-send her to-Hellas
ΕΚΑΒΗ ὦ γῆς ὄχημα καὐπὶ γῆς ἔχων ἕδραν,
O of-earth support and-on earth having seat
ὅστις ποτ' εἶ σύ, δυστόπαστος εἰδέναι,
whoever ever are you hard-to-guess to-know

Ζεύς, εἴτ' ἀνάγκη φύσεος εἴτε νοῦς βροτῶν,
Zeus or necessity of-nature or mind of-mortals
προσηυξάμην σε· πάντα γὰρ δι' ἀψόφου
I-pray-to you all for through noiseless
βαίνων κελεύθου κατὰ δίκην τὰ θνήτ' ἄγεις.
going path according-to justice the mortal(-things) you-lead
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τί δ' ἔστιν; εὐχὰς ὡς ἐκαίνισας θεῶν.
what and is-it prayers how you-have-made-new of-gods
ΕΚΑΒΗ αἰνῶ σε, Μενέλα', εἰ κτενεῖς δάμαρτα σήν.
I-praise you Menelaus if you-will-kill wife your
ὁρῶν δὲ τήνδε, φεῦγε, μή σ' ἕλῃ πόθῳ.
seeing but her flee lest you she-seize with-longing
αἱρεῖ γὰρ ἀνδρῶν ὄμματ', ἐξαιρεῖ πόλεις,
she-takes for of-men eyes destroys cities
πίμπρησι δ' οἴκους· ὧδ' ἔχει κηλήματα.
burns and houses so has enchantments
ἐγώ νιν οἶδα καὶ σὺ χοἱ πεπονθότες.
I her know and you and-the having-suffered
ΕΛΕΝΗ Μενέλαε, φροίμιον μὲν ἄξιον φόβου
Menelaus prelude indeed worthy of-fear
τόδ' ἐστίν· ἐν γὰρ χερσὶ προσπόλων σέθεν
this is in for hands of-servants your
βίᾳ πρὸ τῶνδε δωμάτων ἐκπέμπομαι.
by-force before this house I-am-sent-out
ἀτὰρ σχεδὸν μὲν οἶδά σοι στυγουμένη,
but nearly indeed I-know to-you hated
ὅμως δ' ἐρέσθαι βούλομαι γνῶμαι τίνες
nevertheless but to-ask I-wish judgments what
Ἕλλησι καὶ σοὶ τῆς ἐμῆς ψυχῆς πέρι.
to-Greeks and to-you — my life about

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὐκ εἰς ἀκριβὲς ἦλθες, ἀλλ' ἅπας στρατὸς
not to exactness you-came but all army
κτανεῖν ἐμοί σ' ἔδωκεν, ὅνπερ ἠδίκεις.
to-kill to-me you gave whom you-wronged
ΕΛΕΝΗ ἔξεστιν οὖν πρὸς ταῦτ' ἀμείψασθαι λόγῳ,
is-it-allowed then to this to-reply in-word
ὡς οὐ δικαίως, ἢν θάνω, θανούμεθα;
that not justly if I-die we-shall-die
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὐκ εἰς λόγους ἐλήλυθ', ἀλλά σε κτενῶν. 905
not to words I-have-come but you to-kill
ΕΚΑΒΗ ἄκουσον αὐτῆς, μὴ θάνῃ τοῦδ' ἐνδεής,
hear her lest she-die of-this lacking
Μενέλαε, καὶ δὸς τοὺς ἐναντίους λόγους
Menelaus and give the opposing words
ἡμῖν κατ' αὐτῆς· τῶν γὰρ ἐν Τροίᾳ κακῶν
to-us against her of-the for in Troy evils
οὐδὲν κάτοισθα. συντεθεὶς δ' ὁ πᾶς λόγος
nothing you-know put-together and the whole word
κτενεῖ νιν οὕτως ὥστε μηδαμῶς φυγεῖν. 910
will-kill her so that by-no-means to-escape
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ σχολῆς τὸ δῶρον· εἰ δὲ βούλεται λέγειν,
of-leisure the gift if and she-wishes to-speak
ἔξεστι. τῶν σῶν δ' εἵνεχ', ὡς μάθῃ, λόγων
it-is-allowed — your but for-the-sake that she-may-learn words
δώσω τόδ' αὐτῇ, τῆσδε δ' οὐ δώσω χάριν.
I-will-grant this to-her of-her but not I-will-grant for-the-sake
ΕΛΕΝΗ ἴσως με, κἂν εὖ κἂν κακῶς δόξω λέγειν,
perhaps me whether well or badly I-seem to-speak
οὐκ ἀνταμείψει πολεμίαν ἡγούμενος. 915
not you-will-answer enemy considering(-me)

ἐγὼ δ', ἃ σ' οἶμαι διὰ λόγων ἰόντ' ἐμοῦ
I and what you I-think through words going me
κατηγορήσειν, ἀντιθεῖσ' ἀμείψομαι
to-accuse setting-against I-will-answer
τοῖς σοῖσι τἀμὰ καὶ τὰ σ' αἰτιάματα.
— to-your mine and — your charges
πρῶτον μὲν ἀρχὰς ἔτεκεν ἥδε τῶν κακῶν,
first indeed beginnings bore she of-the evils
Πάριν τεκοῦσα· δεύτερον δ' ἀπώλεσε
Paris having-borne second and destroyed
Τροίαν τε κἄμ' ὁ πρέσβυς οὐ κτανὼν βρέφος,
Troy and and-me the old-man not having-killed babe
δαλοῦ πικρὸν μίμημ', Ἀλέξανδρόν ποτε.
of-firebrand bitter image Alexander once
ἐνθένδε τἀπίλοιπ' ἄκουσον ὡς ἔχει.
thence the-rest hear how it-is
ἔκρινε τρισσὸν ζεῦγος ὅδε τριῶν θεῶν·
he-judged triple yoke this-man of-three goddesses
καὶ Παλλάδος μὲν ἦν Ἀλεξάνδρῳ δόσις
and of-Pallas indeed was to-Alexander gift
Φρυξὶ στρατηγοῦνθ' Ἑλλάδ' ἐξανιστάναι,
to-Phrygians leading Hellas to-overthrow
Ἥρα δ' ὑπέσχετ' Ἀσιάδ' Εὐρώπης θ' ὅρους
Hera and promised Asia of-Europe and bounds
τυραννίδ' ἔξειν, εἴ σφε κρίνειεν Πάρις·
sovereignty to-have if her should-judge Paris
Κύπρις δὲ τοὐμὸν εἶδος ἐκπαγλουμένη
Cypris and my beauty marveling-at
δώσειν ὑπέσχετ', εἰ θεὰς ὑπερδράμοι
to-give promised if the-goddesses she-surpassed

κάλλει. τὸν ἐνθένδ' ὡς ἔχει σκέψαι λόγον·
in-beauty the from-there how it-is consider word
νικᾷ Κύπρις θεά, καὶ τοσόνδ' οὐμοὶ γάμοι
conquers Cypris goddess and so-much my marriage
ὤνησαν Ἑλλάδ', οὐ κρατεῖσθ' ἐκ βαρβάρων,
benefited Hellas not you-are-ruled by barbarians
οὔτ' εἰς δόρυ σταθέντες, οὐ τυραννίδι.
neither in battle set nor by-tyranny
ἃ δ' ηὐτύχησεν Ἑλλάς, ὠλόμην ἐγὼ 935
in-what and prospered Hellas I-was-ruined I
εὐμορφίᾳ πραθεῖσα, κὠνειδίζομαι
for-beauty sold and-am-reproached
ἐξ ὧν ἐχρῆν με στέφανον ἐπὶ κάρᾳ λαβεῖν.
for which one-should me crown on head to-take
οὔπω με φήσεις αὐτὰ τἀν ποσὶν λέγειν,
not-yet me you-will-say the-very-things the-at feet to-speak
ὅπως ἀφώρμησ' ἐκ δόμων τῶν σῶν λάθρα.
how I-set-out from house — your secretly
ἦλθ' οὐχὶ μικρὰν θεὸν ἔχων αὐτοῦ μέτα 940
he-came not small goddess having himself with
ὁ τῆσδ' ἀλάστωρ, εἴτ' Ἀλέξανδρον θέλεις
the of-her avenging-spirit whether Alexander you-wish
ὀνόματι προσφωνεῖν νιν εἴτε καὶ Πάριν·
by-name to-address him or also Paris
ὅν, ὦ κάκιστε, σοῖσιν ἐν δόμοις λιπὼν
whom O worst your in house having-left
Σπάρτης ἀπῆρας νηὶ Κρησίαν χθόνα.
from-Sparta you-departed by-ship Cretan to-land
εἶεν. 945
well

οὐ σ', ἀλλ' ἐμαυτὴν τοὐπὶ τῷδ' ἐρήσομαι·
not you but myself the-thing-after this I-will-ask
τί δὴ φρονήσασ' ἐκ δόμων ἅμ' ἐσπόμην
what indeed thinking from home together I-followed
ξένῳ, προδοῦσα πατρίδα καὶ δόμους ἐμούς;
the-stranger having-betrayed fatherland and house my
τὴν θεὸν κόλαζε καὶ Διὸς κρείσσων γενοῦ,
the goddess punish and than-Zeus stronger become
ὃς τῶν μὲν ἄλλων δαιμόνων ἔχει κράτος,
who of-the indeed other gods has power
κείνης δὲ δοῦλός ἐστι· συγγνώμη δ' ἐμοί.
of-her but slave is pardon and for-me
ἔνθεν δ' ἔχοις ἂν εἰς ἔμ' εὐπρεπῆ λόγον·
thence but you-might-have — against me specious word
ἐπεὶ θανὼν γῆς ἦλθ' Ἀλέξανδρος μυχούς,
when dead into-earth's went Alexander recesses
χρῆν μ', ἡνίκ' οὐκ ἦν θεοπόνητά μου λέχη,
ought me when not was god-wrought my bed
λιποῦσαν οἴκους ναῦς ἐπ' Ἀργείων μολεῖν.
having-left house the-ships to of-Argives to-come
ἔσπευδον αὐτὸ τοῦτο· μάρτυρες δέ μοι
I-was-eager very this-thing witnesses and for-me
πύργων πυλωροὶ κἀπὸ τειχέων σκοποί,
of-the-towers gatekeepers and-from the-walls watchers
οἳ πολλάκις μ' ἐφηῦρον ἐξ ἐπάλξεων
who often me found from battlements
πλεκταῖσιν εἰς γῆν σῶμα κλέπτουσαν τόδε.
with-ropes to earth body stealing this
βίᾳ δ' ὁ καινός μ' οὗτος ἁρπάσας πόσις
by-force and the new me this having-seized husband

Δηίφοβος ἄλοχον εἶχεν ἀκόντων Φρυγῶν.
Deiphobus wife held unwilling Phrygians
πῶς οὖν ἔτ' ἂν θνῄσκοιμ' ἂν ἐνδίκως, πόσι,
how then still — should-I-die — justly husband
πρὸς σοῦ† δικαίως, ἣν ὁ μὲν βίᾳ γαμεῖ,
by you(corrupt) justly whom he indeed by-force marries
τὰ δ' οἴκοθεν κεῖν' ἀντὶ νικητηρίων
the and from-home those instead-of victory-prizes
πικρῶς ἐδούλευσ'; εἰ δὲ τῶν θεῶν κρατεῖν
bitterly I-slaved if and the gods to-be-stronger
βούλει, τὸ χρῄζειν ἀμαθές ἐστί σοι τόδε.
you-wish the to-wish foolish is for-you this
ΧΟΡΟΣ βασίλει', ἄμυνον σοῖς τέκνοισι καὶ πάτρᾳ,
queen defend your children and fatherland
πειθὼ διαφθείρουσα τῆσδ', ἐπεὶ λέγει
persuasion destroying of-her since she-speaks
καλῶς κακοῦργος οὖσα· δεινὸν οὖν τόδε.
well villain being terrible then this
ΕΚΑΒΗ ταῖς θεαῖσι πρῶτα σύμμαχος γενήσομαι
to-the goddesses first ally I-shall-become
καὶ τήνδε δείξω μὴ λέγουσαν ἔνδικα.
and her I-will-show not speaking justly
ἐγὼ γὰρ Ἥραν παρθένον τε Παλλάδα
I for Hera virgin and Pallas
οὐκ εἰς τοσοῦτον ἀμαθίας ἐλθεῖν δοκῶ,
not to so-much of-folly to-come I-think
ὥσθ' ἡ μὲν Ἄργος βαρβάροις ἀπημπόλα,
that the-one indeed Argos to-barbarians would-sell
Παλλὰς δ' Ἀθήνας Φρυξὶ δουλεύειν ποτέ,
Pallas and Athens to-Phrygians to-be-slave ever

975 αἳ παιδιαῖσι καὶ χλιδῇ μορφῆς πέρι
who in-play and in-wantonness beauty about
ἦλυθον ἐπ᾽ Ἴδην. τοῦ γὰρ εἵνεκ᾽ ἂν θεὰ
came to Ida of-what for for-the-sake — goddess
Ἥρα τοσοῦτον ἔσχ᾽ ἔρωτα καλλονῆς;
Hera so-great had love of-beauty
πότερον ἀμείνον᾽ ὡς λάβοι Διὸς πόσιν,
whether better that she-might-get than-Zeus husband
ἢ γάμον Ἀθάνα θεῶν τινος θηρωμένη,
or marriage Athena of-gods some hunting
980 ἢ παρθενείαν πατρὸς ἐξῃτήσατο
or virginity from-father begged
φεύγουσα λέκτρα; μὴ ἀμαθεῖς ποίει θεὰς
shunning bed not foolish make goddesses
τὸ σὸν κακὸν κοσμοῦσα, μὴ οὐ πείσῃς σοφούς.
— your evil adorning lest not you-persuade wise
Κύπριν δ᾽ ἔλεξας, ταῦτα γὰρ γέλως πολύς,
Cypris and you-said these-things for laughter much
ἐλθεῖν ἐμῷ ξὺν παιδὶ Μενέλεω δόμους.
to-have-come my with son of-Menelaus house
985 οὐκ ἂν μένουσ᾽ ἂν ἥσυχός σ᾽ ἐν οὐρανῷ
not — remaining — quiet you in heaven
αὐταῖς Ἀμύκλαις ἤγαγεν πρὸς Ἴλιον;
very with-Amyclae could-have-brought to Ilium
ἦν οὑμὸς υἱὸς κάλλος ἐκπρεπέστατος,
was my son in-beauty most-conspicuous
ὁ σὸς δ᾽ ἰδών νιν νοῦς ἐποιήθη Κύπρις·
— your and having-seen him mind was-made Cypris
τὰ μῶρα γὰρ πάντ᾽ ἐστὶν Ἀφροδίτη βροτοῖς,
the foolish(-things) for all are Aphrodite for-mortals

καὶ τοὔνομ᾽ ὀρθῶς ἀφροσύνης ἄρχει θεᾶς.
and the-name rightly of-folly begins of-the-goddess

ὃν εἰσιδοῦσα βαρβάροις ἐσθήμασι
whom having-seen in-barbarian garments

χρυσῷ τε λαμπρὸν ἐξεμαργώθης φρένας.
with-gold and gleaming you-went-mad in-mind

ἐν μὲν γὰρ Ἄργει μίκρ᾽ ἔχουσ᾽ ἀνεστρέφου,
in indeed for Argos little having you-moved-about

Σπάρτης δ᾽ ἀπαλλαχθεῖσα τὴν Φρυγῶν πόλιν
of-Sparta but having-been-freed the of-Phrygians city

χρυσῷ ῥέουσαν ἤλπισας κατακλύσειν
with-gold flowing you-hoped to-flood

δαπάναισιν· οὐδ᾽ ἦν ἱκανά σοι τὰ Μενέλεω
with-extravagance nor was sufficient for-you the of-Menelaus

μέλαθρα ταῖς σαῖς ἐγκαθυβρίζειν τρυφαῖς.
halls — in-your to-run-riot luxuries

εἶεν, βίᾳ γὰρ παῖδα φής σ᾽ ἄγειν ἐμόν·
well by-force for son you-say you to-lead my

τίς Σπαρτιατῶν ᾔσθετ᾽, ἢ ποίαν βοὴν
who of-Spartans perceived or what cry

ἀνωλόλυξας, Κάστορος νεανίου
did-you-raise of-Castor young

τοῦ συζύγου τ᾽ ἔτ᾽ ὄντος οὐ κατ᾽ ἄστρα πω;
the twin and still being not among stars yet

ἐπεὶ δὲ Τροίαν ἦλθες Ἀργεῖοί τέ σου
when and to-Troy you-came Argives and your

κατ᾽ ἴχνος, ἦν δὲ δοριπετὴς ἀγωνία,
on track was and spear-falling contest

εἰ μὲν τὰ τοῦδε κρείσσον᾽ ἀγγέλλοιτό σοι,
if indeed the of-this-one stronger were-announced to-you

Μενέλαον ἤνεις, παῖς ὅπως λυποῖτ' ἐμὸς
Menelaus you-praised son that may-be-grieved my
ἔχων ἔρωτος ἀνταγωνιστὴν μέγαν·
having of-love rival great
εἰ δ' εὐτυχοῖεν Τρῶες, οὐδὲν ἦν ὅδε.
if but should-prosper Trojans nothing was this-one
εἰς τὴν τύχην δ' ὁρῶσα τοῦτ' ἤσκεις ὅπως
to the fortune but looking this you-practiced how
ἕποι' ἄμ' αὐτῇ, τἀρετῇ δ' οὐκ ἤθελες.
you-might-follow with it the-virtue but not you-wished
κἄπειτα πλεκταῖς σῶμα σὸν κλέπτειν λέγεις
and-then with-ropes body your to-steal you-say
πύργων καθιεῖσ' ὡς μένουσ' ἀκουσίως;
from-towers letting-down as remaining unwillingly
ποῦ δῆτ' ἐλήφθης ἢ βρόχους ἀρτωμένη
where then were-you-caught either nooses fastening
ἢ φάσγανον θήγουσ', ἃ γενναία γυνὴ
or sword sharpening what noble woman
δράσειεν ἂν ποθοῦσα τὸν πάρος πόσιν;
would-do — longing the former husband
καίτοι γ' ἐνουθέτουν σε πολλὰ πολλάκις·
and-yet at-least I-admonished you much often
ὦ θύγατερ, ἔξελθ', οἱ δ' ἐμοὶ παῖδες γάμους
O daughter go-out — and my sons marriages
ἄλλους γαμοῦσι, σὲ δ' ἐπὶ ναῦς Ἀχαϊκὰς
other marry you and to the-ships Achaean
πέμψω συνεκκλέψασα, καὶ παῦσον μάχης
I-will-send having-helped-steal and stop from-battle
Ἕλληνας ἡμᾶς τ'. ἀλλὰ σοὶ τόδ' ἦν πικρόν.
Greeks us and but to-you this was bitter

ἐν τοῖς Ἀλεξάνδρου γὰρ ὕβριζες δόμοις
in the of-Alexander for you-ran-riot house
καὶ προσκυνεῖσθαι βαρβάρων ὕπ᾽ ἤθελες.
and to-be-bowed-to barbarians by you-wished
μεγάλα γὰρ ἦν σοι. κἀπὶ τοῖσδε σὸν δέμας
great-things for were to-you and-on these your body
ἐξῆλθες ἀσκήσασα κἄβλεψας πόσει
you-came-out having-adorned and-looked with-husband
τὸν αὐτὸν αἰθέρ᾽, ὦ κατάπτυστον κάρα·
the same air O despicable head
ἧν χρῆν ταπεινὴν ἐν πέπλων ἐρειπίοις,
who ought humble in of-robes tatters
φρίκῃ τρέμουσαν κρᾶτ᾽ ἀπεσκυθισμένην
with-shuddering trembling head shorn-Scythian-fashion
ἐλθεῖν, τὸ σῶφρον τῆς ἀναιδείας πλέον
to-come the self-control than-the shamelessness more
ἔχουσαν ἐπὶ τοῖς πρόσθεν ἡμαρτημένοις.
having at the former sins
Μενέλα᾽, ἵν᾽ εἰδῇς οἷ τελευτήσω λόγον,
Menelaus that you-may-know where I-shall-end word
στεφάνωσον Ἑλλάδ᾽, ἀξίως τήνδε κτανὼν
crown Hellas worthily her having-killed
σαυτοῦ, νόμον δὲ τόνδε ταῖς ἄλλαισι θὲς
of-yourself law and this for-the other set
γυναιξί, θνῄσκειν ἥτις ἂν προδῷ πόσιν.
women to-die whoever — betrays husband
ΧΟΡΟΣ Μενέλαε, προγόνων ἀξίως δόμων τε σῶν
Menelaus of-ancestors worthily of-house and your
τῖσαι δάμαρτα, κἀφελοῦ πρὸς Ἑλλάδος
to-punish wife and-remove from Hellas

ψόγον τὸ θῆλύ τ', εὐγενὴς ἐχθροῖς φανείς.
reproach the female and noble to-enemies appearing

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἐμοὶ σὺ συμπέπτωκας εἰς ταὐτὸν λόγου,
with-me you have-fallen into the-same of-word

ἑκουσίως τήνδ' ἐκ δόμων ἐλθεῖν ἐμῶν
willingly her from house to-have-gone my

ξένας ἐς εὐνάς, χὴ Κύπρις κόμπου χάριν
foreign to beds and-the Cypris of-boast for-the-sake

λόγοις ἐνεῖται. βαῖνε λευστήρων πέλας
in-words is-introduced go of-the-stoners near

πόνους τ' Ἀχαιῶν ἀπόδος ἐν μικρῷ μακροὺς
toils and of-Achaeans repay in short long

θανοῦσ', ἵν' εἰδῇς μὴ καταισχύνειν ἐμέ.
dying that you-may-know not to-shame me

ΕΛΕΝΗ μή, πρός σε γονάτων, τὴν νόσον τὴν τῶν θεῶν
no by you knees the sickness the of-the gods

προσθεὶς ἐμοὶ κτάνῃς με, συγγίγνωσκε δέ.
having-attributed to-me kill me pardon but

ΕΚΑΒΗ μηδ' οὓς ἀπέκτειν' ἥδε συμμάχους προδῷς·
nor whom killed she allies betray

ἐγὼ πρὸ κείνων καὶ τέκνων σε λίσσομαι.
I for those and children you beseech

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ παῦσαι, γεραιά· τῆσδε δ' οὐκ ἐφρόντισα.
cease old-woman of-her but not I-cared

λέγω δὲ προσπόλοισι πρὸς πρύμνας νεῶν
I-tell and to-servants to sterns of-ships

τήνδ' ἐκκομίζειν, ἔνθα ναυστολήσεται.
her to-bring-out where she-will-be-shipped

ΕΚΑΒΗ μή νυν νεὼς σοὶ ταὐτὸν εἰσβήτω σκάφος.
not now of-ship with-you the-same let-her-board hull

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τί δ' ἔστι; μεῖζον βρῖθος ἢ πάροιθ' ἔχει;
what and is-it greater weight than before she-has

ΕΚΑΒΗ οὐκ ἔστ' ἐραστὴς ὅστις οὐκ ἀεὶ φιλεῖ.
not is lover who not always loves

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὅπως ἂν ἐκβῇ τῶν ἐρωμένων ὁ νοῦς.
however — may-turn-out of-the beloved the mind

ἔσται δ' ἃ βούλει· ναῦν γὰρ οὐκ εἰσβήσεται
it-will-be and what you-wish ship for not she-will-board

εἰς ἥνπερ ἡμεῖς· καὶ γὰρ οὐ κακῶς λέγεις·
into which we and for not badly you-speak

ἐλθοῦσα δ' Ἄργος ὥσπερ ἀξία κακῶς
having-come and to-Argos as deserving badly

κακὴ θανεῖται καὶ γυναιξὶ σωφρονεῖν
bad will-die and for-women to-be-self-controlled

πάσαισι θήσει. ῥᾴδιον μὲν οὐ τόδε·
for-all she-will-make easy indeed not this

ὅμως δ' ὁ τῆσδ' ὄλεθρος εἰς φόβον βαλεῖ
nevertheless but the of-her destruction into fear will-cast

τὸ μῶρον αὐτῶν, κἂν ἔτ' ὦσ' αἰσχίονες.
the folly of-them even-if still they-be more-shameful

The chorus reproaches Zeus for abandoning his temples and altars in Troy, the sacrifices and dances, and the holy moon festivals. Their husbands lie unburied, and a ship will carry the women to Argos, Salamis, or the Isthmus. Their children cry at the gates as the Achaeans carry them off to the ships. They pray that lightning will strike Menelaus' ship in mid-sea and that he will never reach his home in Laconia.

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὕτω δὴ τὸν ἐν Ἰλίῳ
thus indeed the in Ilium
ναὸν καὶ θυόεντα βω-
temple and incense-fragrant altar
μὸν προύδωκας Ἀχαιοῖς,
— you-betrayed to-Achaeans
ὦ Ζεῦ, καὶ πελάνων φλόγα
O Zeus and of-offerings flame
σμύρνης αἰθερίας τε κα-
of-myrrh heavenly and smoke
πνὸν καὶ Πέργαμον ἱρὰν
— and Pergamum holy
Ἰδαιά τ' Ἰδαῖα κισσοφόρα νάπη
Idaean and Idaean ivy-bearing glens
χιόνι κατάρυτα ποταμίᾳ
with-snow flooded river-born
τέρμονά τε πρωτόβολον ἁλίῳ
boundary and first-struck by-the-sun
τὰν καταλαμπομέναν ζαθέαν θεράπναν.
the shining-down most-holy abode
φροῦδαί σοι θυσίαι χορῶν τ'
gone for-you sacrifices of-dances and

εὔφημοι κέλαδοι κατ᾽ ὄρ-
well-omened sounds through darkness
φναν τε παννυχίδες θεῶν,
— and night-festivals of-gods
χρυσέων τε ξοάνων τύποι
of-golden and images forms
Φρυγῶν τε ζάθεοι σελᾶ- 1075
of-Phrygians and holy moons
ναι συνδώδεκα πλήθει.
— twelve in-number
μέλει μέλει μοι τάδ᾽ εἰ φρονεῖς, ἄναξ,
it-concerns it-concerns me these-things if you-heed lord
οὐράνιον ἕδρανον ἐπιβεβὼς
heavenly seat having-mounted
αἰθέρα τ᾽ ἐμᾶς πόλεος ὀλομένας,
air and of-my city destroyed
ἃν πυρὸς αἰθομένα κατέλυσεν ὁρμά. 1080
which of-fire blazing destroyed onset
ὦ φίλος ὦ πόσι μοι,
O dear O husband to-me
σὺ μὲν φθίμενος ἀλαίνεις
you indeed dead wander
ἄθαπτος ἄνυδρος, ἐμὲ δὲ πόντιον σκάφος 1085
unburied unwashed me and seafaring hull
ἀίσσον πτεροῖσι πορεύσει
darting with-wings will-carry
ἱππόβοτον Ἄργος, ἵνα τείχεα
horse-pasturing Argos where walls
λάϊνα Κυκλώπι᾽ οὐράνια νέμονται.
stone Cyclopean heavenly inhabit

τέκνων δὲ πλῆθος ἐν πύλαις
of-children and throng at the-gates
δάκρυσι κατάορα στένει, βοᾷ βοᾷ,
with-tears hanging laments shouts shouts
μᾶτερ, ὤμοι, μόναν δή μ' Ἀχαιοὶ κομί-
mother ah-me alone indeed me Achaeans carry
ζουσι σέθεν ἀπ' ὀμμάτων
— of-you from eyes
κυανέαν ἐπὶ ναῦν
dark-blue to ship
εἰναλίαισι πλάταις
with-sea oars
ἢ Σαλαμῖν' ἱερὰν
either to-Salamis holy
ἢ δίπορον κορυφὰν
or two-way peak
Ἴσθμιον, ἔνθα πύλας
of-the-Isthmus where gates
Πέλοπος ἔχουσιν ἕδραι.
of-Pelops hold seats
εἴθ' ἀκάτου Μενέλα
would-that of-the-boat of-Menelaus
μέσον πέλαγος ἰούσας,
middle sea going
δίπαλτον ἱερὸν ἀνὰ μέσον πλατᾶν πέσοι
two-handed holy amid middle oars may-fall
Αἰγαίου κεραυνοφαὲς πῦρ,
of-the-Aegean thunder-flashing fire
Ἰλιόθεν ὅς με πολύδακρυν
from-Ilium who me tearful

Ἑλλάδι λάτρευμα γᾶθεν ἐξορίζει·
to-Hellas slave from-the-land banishes
χρύσεα δ' ἔνοπτρα, παρθένων
golden and mirrors of-maidens
χάριτας, ἔχουσα τυγχάνει Διὸς κόρα·
delights having happens of-Zeus daughter
μηδὲ γαῖάν ποτ' ἔλθοι Λάκαιναν πατρῷ- 1110
nor land ever may-he-come-to Laconian father's
όν τε θάλαμον ἑστίας,
— and chamber of-hearth
μηδὲ πόλιν Πιτάνας
nor city of-Pitane
χαλκόπυλόν τε θεάν,
bronze-gated and goddess
δύσγαμον αἶσχος ἑλὼν
evil-married shame having-taken
Ἑλλάδι τᾷ μεγάλᾳ 1115
for-Hellas the great
καὶ Σιμοεντιάσιν
and Simois'
μέλεα πάθη ῥοαῖσιν.
miserable sufferings for-streams

Talthybius brings the dead Astyanax on Hector's shield, since Neoptolemus has sailed and Andromache asked that the boy be buried in it. Hecuba scorns the Greeks for fearing a child, mourns him, and wraps him for burial. The Greek captains set fire to the city. Hecuba tries to run into the flames but is held back. She and the chorus kneel and beat the earth for their dead, and as Troy's towers crash they go to the Greek ships.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ ἰώ,
oh oh
καιναὶ καινῶν μεταβάλλουσαι
new from-new changing
χθονὶ συντυχίαι. λεύσσετε Τρώων
for-the-land fortunes see of-Trojans
τόνδ' Ἀστυάνακτ' ἄλοχοι μέλεαι
this Astyanax wives wretched
νεκρόν, ὃν πύργων δίσκημα πικρὸν
dead whom from-the-towers a-throw bitter
Δαναοὶ κτείναντες ἔχουσιν
Danaans having-killed have
ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ Ἑκάβη, νεὼς μὲν πίτυλος εἷς λελειμμένος
Hecuba of-ship indeed oar-stroke one left
λάφυρα τἀπίλοιπ' Ἀχιλλείου τόκου
spoils the-rest of-Achilles' son
μέλλει πρὸς ἀκτὰς ναυστολεῖν Φθιώτιδας·
is-about to shores to-sail Phthian
αὐτὸς δ' ἀνῆκται Νεοπτόλεμος, καινάς τινας
himself and has-put-to-sea Neoptolemus new some
Πηλέως ἀκούσας συμφοράς, ὥς νιν χθονὸς
of-Peleus having-heard misfortunes how him from-land

Ἄκαστος ἐκβέβληκεν ὁ Πελίου γόνος.
Acastus has-cast-out the of-Pelias son
οὗ θᾶσσον εἵνεκ᾽ ἢ χάριν μονῆς ἔχων,
for-which quicker for-the-sake than favor of-staying having
φροῦδος, μετ᾽ αὐτοῦ δ᾽ Ἀνδρομάχη, πολλῶν ἐμοὶ
gone with him and Andromache many to-me
δακρύων ἀγωγός, ἡνίκ᾽ ἐξώρμα χθονὸς
of-tears drawing when she-set-out from-the-land
πάτραν τ᾽ ἀναστένουσα καὶ τὸν Ἕκτορος
fatherland and bewailing and the of-Hector
τύμβον προσεννέπουσα. καί σφ᾽ ἠτήσατο
tomb addressing and him she-asked
θάψαι νεκρὸν τόνδ᾽, ὃς πεσὼν ἐκ τειχέων
to-bury dead this who having-fallen from walls
ψυχὴν ἀφῆκεν Ἕκτορος τοῦ σοῦ γόνος,
life let-go of-Hector — your son
φόβον τ᾽ Ἀχαιῶν, χαλκόνωτον ἀσπίδα
terror and of-Achaeans bronze-backed shield
τήνδ᾽, ἣν πατὴρ τοῦδ᾽ ἀμφὶ πλεύρ᾽ ἐβάλλετο,
this which father of-him around side threw
μή νιν πορεῦσαι Πηλέως ἐφ᾽ ἑστίαν,
not it to-carry of-Peleus to hearth
μηδ᾽ εἰς τὸν αὐτὸν θάλαμον, οὗ νυμφεύσεται
nor to the same chamber where she-will-be-wed
μήτηρ νεκροῦ τοῦδ᾽ Ἀνδρομάχη, λύπας ὁρᾶν,
mother of-dead this Andromache griefs to-see
ἀλλ᾽ ἀντὶ κέδρου περιβόλων τε λαΐνων
but instead-of cedar enclosures and stone
ἐν τῇδε θάψαι παῖδα· σὰς δ᾽ ἐς ὠλένας
in this to-bury child your and into arms

δοῦναι, πέπλοισιν ὡς περιστείλῃς νεκρὸν
to-give with-robes that you-may-wrap the-dead
στεφάνοις θ', ὅση σοι δύναμις, ὡς ἔχει τὰ σά,
with-garlands and as-much-as to-you power as are — yours
ἐπεὶ βέβηκε καὶ τὸ δεσπότου τάχος
since she-has-gone and the of-the-master haste
ἀφείλετ' αὐτὴν παῖδα μὴ δοῦναι τάφῳ.
took-away her the-child not to-give to-the-tomb
ἡμεῖς μὲν οὖν, ὅταν σὺ κοσμήσῃς νέκυν,
we indeed then when you have-adorned the-corpse
γῆν τῷδ' ἐπαμπισχόντες ἀροῦμεν δόρυ·
earth over-this having-heaped we-will-raise spear
σὺ δ' ὡς τάχιστα πρᾶσσε τἀπεσταλμένα.
you and as quickly-as-possible do the-things-enjoined
ἑνὸς μὲν οὖν μόχθου σ' ἀπαλλάξας ἔχω·
of-one indeed then toil you having-freed I-have
Σκαμανδρίους γὰρ τάσδε διαπερῶν ῥοὰς
the-Scamander for these crossing streams
ἔλουσα νεκρὸν κἀπένιψα τραύματα.
I-washed corpse and-cleansed wounds
ἀλλ' εἶμ' ὀρυκτὸν τῷδ' ἀναρρήξων τάφον,
but I-will-go dug for-this to-break-open grave
ὡς σύντομ' ἡμῖν τἀπ' ἐμοῦ τε κἀπὸ σοῦ
that short for-us the-from me both and-from you
εἰς ἓν ξυνελθόντ' οἴκαδ' ὁρμήσῃ πλάτην.
into one having-come homeward may-rush oar
ΕΚΑΒΗ θέσθ' ἀμφίτορνον ἀσπίδ' Ἕκτορος πέδῳ,
set rounded shield of-Hector on-the-ground
λυπρὸν θέαμα κοὐ φίλον λεύσσειν ἐμοί.
painful sight and-not dear to-see for-me

ὦ μείζον᾽ ὄγκον δορὸς ἔχοντες ἢ φρενῶν,
O greater pride of-spear having than of-mind
τί τόνδ᾽, Ἀχαιοί, παῖδα δείσαντες φόνον
why this Achaeans child fearing murder
καινὸν διειργάσασθε; μὴ Τροίαν ποτὲ
new have-you-done lest Troy ever
πεσοῦσαν ὀρθώσειεν; οὐδὲν ἦτ᾽ ἄρα,
fallen should-raise nothing you-were then
ὅθ᾽ Ἕκτορος μὲν εὐτυχοῦντος εἰς δόρυ
when of-Hector indeed prospering in battle
διολλύμεσθα μυρίας τ᾽ ἄλλης χερός·
we-were-destroyed of-ten-thousand and other hand
πόλεως δ᾽ ἁλούσης καὶ Φρυγῶν ἐφθαρμένων
city and taken and Phrygians destroyed
βρέφος τοσόνδ᾽ ἐδείσατ᾽. οὐκ αἰνῶ φόβον,
babe so-small you-feared not I-praise fear
ὅστις φοβεῖται μὴ διεξελθὼν λόγῳ.
whoever fears not having-gone-through by-reason
ὦ φίλταθ᾽, ὡς σοι θάνατος ἦλθε δυστυχής.
O dearest how to-you death came unhappy
εἰ μὲν γὰρ ἔθανες πρὸ πόλεως, ἥβης τυχὼν
if indeed for you-had-died before the-city youth having-obtained
γάμων τε καὶ τῆς ἰσοθέου τυραννίδος,
marriage both and the godlike sovereignty
μακάριος ἦσθ᾽ ἄν, εἴ τι τῶνδε μακάριον.
blessed you-would-be — if anything of-these blessed
νῦν δ᾽ αὖτ᾽ ἰδὼν μὲν γνούς τε σῇ ψυχῇ, τέκνον,
now but these-things having-seen indeed having-known and in-your soul child
οὐκ οἶσθ᾽, ἐχρήσω δ᾽ οὐδὲν ἐν δόμοις ἔχων.
not you-know you-used but nothing in house having

δύστηνε, κρατὸς ὥς σ' ἔκειρεν ἀθλίως
wretched from-head how you cut wretchedly
τείχη πατρῷα, Λοξίου πυργώματα,
walls ancestral of-Loxias towers
ὃν πόλλ' ἐκήπευσ' ἡ τεκοῦσα βόστρυχον
which much tended the mother curls
φιλήμασίν τ' ἔδωκεν, ἔνθεν ἐκγελᾷ
with-kisses and gave whence grins
ὀστέων ῥαγέντων φόνος, ἵν' αἰσχρὰ μὴ λέγω.
of-bones broken murder that shameful-things not I-may-say
ὦ χεῖρες, ὡς εἰκοὺς μὲν ἡδείας πατρὸς
O hands how likenesses indeed sweet of-father
κέκτησθ', ἐν ἄρθροις δ' ἔκλυτοι πρόκεισθε νῦν.
you-possess in joints but loosened you-lie-before now
ὦ πολλὰ κόμπους ἐκβαλὸν φίλον στόμα,
O many boasts having-uttered dear mouth
ὄλωλας, ἐψεύσω μ', ὅτ' εἰσπίπτων λέχος,
you-have-perished you-deceived me when falling-onto bed
ὦ μῆτερ, ηὔδας, ἦ πολύν σοι βοστρύχων
O mother you-said truly great for-you of-curls
πλόκαμον κεροῦμαι πρὸς τάφον θ' ὁμηλίκων
lock I-will-cut to tomb and of-age-mates
κώμους ἐπάξω, φίλα διδοὺς προσφθέγματα.
bands I-will-bring dear giving addresses
σὺ δ' οὐκ ἔμ', ἀλλ' ἐγὼ σὲ τὸν νεώτερον,
you but not me but I you the younger
γραῦς, ἄπολις, ἄτεκνος, ἄθλιον θάπτω νεκρόν.
old-woman cityless childless wretched bury corpse
οἴμοι, τὰ πόλλ' ἀσπάσματ' αἴ τ' ἐμαὶ τροφαὶ
ah-me the many embraces — and my nursings

ὕπνοι τ᾽ ἐκεῖνοι φροῦδά μοι. τί καί ποτε
sleeps and those gone for-me what also ever
γράψειεν ἂν σῷ μουσοποιὸς ἐν τάφῳ;
would-write — your poet on tomb
τὸν παῖδα τόνδ᾽ ἔκτειναν Ἀργεῖοί ποτε
the child this killed Argives once
δείσαντες; αἰσχρὸν τοὐπίγραμμά γ᾽ Ἑλλάδι.
having-feared shameful the-epitaph at-least for-Hellas
ἀλλ᾽ οὖν πατρῴων οὐ λαχών, ἕξεις ὅμως
but then ancestral not having-obtained you-will-have nevertheless
ἐν ᾗ ταφήσει χαλκόνωτον ἰτέαν.
in which you-will-be-buried bronze-backed shield
ὦ καλλίπηχυν Ἕκτορος βραχίονα
O lovely-armed of-Hector arm
σῴζουσ᾽, ἄριστον φύλακ᾽ ἀπώλεσας σέθεν.
saving best guard you-have-lost your
ὡς ἡδὺς ἐν πόρπακι σῷ κεῖται τύπος
how sweet in handle your lies imprint
ἴτυός τ᾽ ἐν εὐτόρνοισι περιδρόμοις ἱδρώς,
of-the-rim and in well-turned circles sweat
ὃν ἐκ μετώπου πολλάκις πόνους ἔχων
which from forehead often toils having
ἔσταζεν Ἕκτωρ προστιθεὶς γενειάδι.
dripped Hector setting-to beard
φέρετε, κομίζετ᾽ ἀθλίῳ κόσμον νεκρῷ
bring carry for-wretched adornment corpse
ἐκ τῶν παρόντων· οὐ γὰρ εἰς κάλλος τύχας
from the present not for for beauty fortunes
δαίμων δίδωσιν· ὧν δ᾽ ἔχω, λήψει τάδε.
god gives of-what and I-have you-will-get these

θνητῶν δὲ μῶρος ὅστις εὖ πράσσειν δοκῶν
of-mortals and fool whoever well to-fare thinking
βέβαια χαίρει· τοῖς τρόποις γὰρ αἱ τύχαι,
securely rejoices in-the ways for the fortunes
ἔμπληκτος ὡς ἄνθρωπος, ἄλλοτ' ἄλλοσε
capricious as man now-here now-there
πηδῶσι, κοὐδεὶς αὐτὸς εὐτυχεῖ ποτε.
leap and-not-one himself prospers ever
ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν πρὸ χειρῶν αἵδε σοι σκυλευμάτων
and indeed at hands these to-you of-spoils
Φρυγίων φέρουσι κόσμον ἐξάπτειν νεκρῷ.
Phrygian bring adornment to-fasten to-the-corpse
ΕΚΑΒΗ ὦ τέκνον, οὐχ ἵπποισι νικήσαντά σε
O child not with-horses having-conquered you
οὐδ' ἥλικας τόξοισιν, οἷς Φρύγες νόμους
nor age-mates with-bows which Phrygians customs
τιμῶσιν, οὐκ εἰς πλησμονὰς θηρώμενοι,
honor not to excess hunting
μήτηρ πατρός σοι προστίθησ' ἀγάλματα
mother of-father to-you sets ornaments
τῶν σῶν ποτ' ὄντων, νῦν δέ σ' ἡ θεοστυγὴς
— yours once being now and you the god-hated
ἀφείλεθ' Ἑλένη, πρὸς δὲ καὶ ψυχὴν σέθεν
took-away Helen besides and also life your
ἔκτεινε καὶ πάντ' οἶκον ἐξαπώλεσεν.
killed and all house destroyed
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἒ ἔ, φρενῶν
ah ah of-mind
ἔθιγες ἔθιγες· ὦ μέγας ἐμοί ποτ' ὢν
you-touched you-touched O great to-me once being

ἀνάκτωρ πόλεως.
lord of-the-city

ΕΚΑΒΗ ἃ δ' ἐν γάμοις ἐχρῆν σε προσθέσθαι χροΐ
what and in marriage it-was-right you to-put-on skin

Ἀσιατίδων γήμαντα τὴν ὑπερτάτην,
of-Asian-women having-married the highest

Φρύγια πέπλων ἀγάλματ' ἐξάπτω χροός. 1220
Phrygian of-robes ornaments I-fasten to-skin

σύ τ' ὦ ποτ' οὖσα καλλίνικε μυρίων
you and O once being glorious-victor of-ten-thousand

μῆτερ τροπαίων, Ἕκτορος φίλον σάκος,
mother trophies of-Hector dear shield

στεφανοῦ· θανεῖ γὰρ οὐ θανοῦσα σὺν νεκρῷ·
be-crowned you-will-die for not having-died with the-dead

ἐπεὶ σὲ πολλῷ μᾶλλον ἢ τὰ τοῦ σοφοῦ
since you by-much rather than the of-the wise

κακοῦ τ' Ὀδυσσέως ἄξιον τιμᾶν ὅπλα. 1225
evil and Odysseus worthy to-honor arms

ΧΟΡΟΣ αἰαῖ αἰαῖ,
alas alas

πικρὸν ὄδυρμα γαῖά σ', ὦ
bitter lament the-earth you O

τέκνον, δέξεται.
child will-receive

στέναξον, μᾶτερ, ΕΚΑΒΗ αἰαῖ.
groan mother alas

ΧΟΡΟΣ νεκρῶν ἴακχον. ΕΚΑΒΗ οἴμοι μοι. 1230
of-the-dead lament ah-me me

ΧΟΡΟΣ οἴμοι δῆτα σῶν ἀλάστων κακῶν.
ah-me indeed of-your unforgettable evils

ΕΚΑΒΗ τελαμῶσιν ἕλκη τὰ μὲν ἐγώ σ' ἰάσομαι,
with-bandages wounds the indeed I you will-heal
τλήμων ἰατρός, ὄνομ' ἔχουσα, τἄργα δ' οὔ·
wretched physician name having the-work but not
τὰ δ' ἐν νεκροῖσι φροντιεῖ πατὴρ σέθεν.
the-others and among the-dead will-care father your

1235 ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄρασσ' ἄρασσε κρᾶτα
beat beat head
πιτύλους διδοῦσα χειρός, ἰώ μοί μοι.
strokes giving of-hand oh me me
ΕΚΑΒΗ ὦ φίλταται γυναῖκες.
O dearest women
ΧΟΡΟΣ † ∗∗∗ ἔννεπε, τίνα θροεῖς αὐδάν.
(corrupt) (lacuna) tell what you-cry voice

1240 ΕΚΑΒΗ οὐκ ἦν ἄρ' ἐν θεοῖσι πλὴν ἐμοὶ πόνοι
not was then among the-gods except for-me toils
Τροίᾳ τε πόλεων ἔκκριτον μισουμένῃ,
Troy and of-cities chosen hated
μάτην δ' ἐβουθυτοῦμεν. † εἰ δὲ μὴ θεὸς
in-vain and we-sacrificed-oxen (corrupt) if and not a-god
ἔστρεψε τἄνω περιβαλὼν κάτω χθονός,
had-turned the-things-above overthrowing below the-earth
ἀφανεῖς ἂν ὄντες οὐκ ἂν ὑμνήθημεν ἂν
unseen — being not — we-would-have-been-sung —

1245 μούσαις ἀοιδὰς δόντες ὑστέροις βροτῶν.
to-the-muses songs giving for-later of-mortals
χωρεῖτε, θάπτετ' ἀθλίῳ τύμβῳ νεκρόν·
go bury in-wretched tomb the-corpse
ἔχει γὰρ οἷα δεῖ γε νερτέρων στέφη.
it-has for such-as needs at-least of-the-dead wreaths

δοκῶ δὲ τοῖς θανοῦσι διαφέρειν βραχύ,
I-think and to-the dead to-matter little
εἰ πλουσίων τις τεύξεται κτερισμάτων·
if of-rich anyone will-obtain funeral-gifts
κενὸν δὲ γαύρωμ' ἐστὶ τῶν ζώντων τόδε.
empty and vanity is of-the living this
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ ἰώ·
oh oh
μελέα μήτηρ, ἣ τὰς μεγάλας
wretched mother who the great
ἐλπίδας ἐν σοὶ κατέκαμψε βίου.
hopes in you bent of-life
μέγα δ' ὀλβισθεὶς ὡς ἐκ πατέρων
greatly and blessed as from fathers
ἀγαθῶν ἐγένου,
noble you-were
δεινῷ θανάτῳ διόλωλας.
by-terrible death you-are-destroyed
ἔα ἔα·
ah ah
τίνας Ἰλιάσιν ταῖσδ' ἐν κορυφαῖς
whom Ilian these on heights
λεύσσω φλογέας δαλοῖσι χέρας
do-I-see flaming with-firebrands hands
διερέσσοντας; μέλλει Τροίᾳ
plying is-about for-Troy
καινόν τι κακὸν προσέσεσθαι.
new some evil to-be-added

ταλθτβιος αὐδῶ λοχαγοῖς, οἳ τέταχθ' ἐμπιμπράναι
I-call to-captains who are-appointed to-set-fire
Πριάμου τόδ' ἄστυ, μηκέτ' ἀργοῦσαν φλόγα
of-Priam this town no-longer idle flame
ἐν χερσὶ σῴζειν, ἀλλὰ πῦρ ἐνιέναι,
in hands to-keep but fire to-let-in
ὡς ἂν κατασκάψαντες Ἰλίου πόλιν
that — having-razed of-Ilium city
στελλώμεθ' οἴκαδ' ἄσμενοι Τροίας ἄπο.
we-may-set-out home gladly Troy from
ὑμεῖς δ', ἵν' αὐτὸς λόγος ἔχῃ μορφὰς δύο,
you and that the-same word may-have forms two
χωρεῖτε, Τρώων παῖδες, ὀρθίαν ὅταν
go of-Trojans daughters shrill when
σάλπιγγος ἠχὼ δῶσιν ἀρχηγοὶ στρατοῦ,
of-the-trumpet sound give the-leaders of-the-army
πρὸς ναῦς Ἀχαιῶν, ὡς ἀποστέλλησθε γῆς.
to ships of-Achaeans that you-may-be-sent from-the-land
σύ τ', ὦ γεραιὰ δυστυχεστάτη γύναι,
you and O old most-unfortunate woman
ἕπου. μεθήκουσίν σ' Ὀδυσσέως πάρα
follow they-come-for you of-Odysseus from
οἵδ', ᾧ σε δούλην κλῆρος ἐκπέμπει χθονός.
these to-whom you slave the-lot sends from-the-land
εκαβη οἲ 'γὼ τάλαινα· τοῦτο δὴ τὸ λοίσθιον
ah I wretched this indeed the last
καὶ τέρμα πάντων τῶν ἐμῶν ἤδη κακῶν·
and end of-all — my already evils
ἔξειμι πατρίδος, πόλις ὑφάπτεται πυρί.
I-go-out from-fatherland city is-set-on-fire with-fire

ἀλλ', ὦ γεραιὲ πούς, ἐπίσπευσον μόλις,
but O old foot hasten scarcely
ὡς ἀσπάσωμαι τὴν ταλαίπωρον πόλιν.
that I-may-greet the wretched city
ὦ μεγάλα δήποτ' ἐμπνέουσ' ἐν βαρβάροις
O great once breathing among barbarians
Τροία, τὸ κλεινὸν ὄνομ' ἀφαιρήσει τάχα.
Troy the glorious name you-will-be-robbed-of soon
πιμπρᾶσί σ', ἡμᾶς δ' ἐξάγουσ' ἤδη χθονὸς
they-burn you us and lead-out already from-the-land
δούλας· ἰὼ θεοί. καὶ τί τοὺς θεοὺς καλῶ;
slaves oh gods and why the gods do-I-call
καὶ πρὶν γὰρ οὐκ ἤκουσαν ἀνακαλούμενοι.
and before for not they-heard being-called-on
φέρ' εἰς πυρὰν δράμωμεν, ὡς κάλλιστά μοι
come into the-pyre let-us-run as most-gloriously for-me
σὺν τῇδε πατρίδι κατθανεῖν πυρουμένῃ.
with this fatherland to-die burning
ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ ἐνθουσιᾷς, δύστηνε, τοῖς σαυτῆς κακοῖς·
you-are-possessed wretched — by-your-own evils
ἀλλ' ἄγετε, μὴ φείδεσθ'· Ὀδυσσέως δὲ χρὴ
but lead not spare of-Odysseus and one-must
εἰς χεῖρα δοῦναι τήνδε καὶ πέμπειν γέρας.
into hand to-give her and to-send prize
ΕΚΑΒΗ ὀτοτοτοτοῖ.
alas
Κρόνιε, πρύτανι Φρύγιε, γενέτα
son-of-Cronus prince Phrygian father
πάτερ, ἀνάξια τᾶς Δαρδάνου
father unworthy of-the of-Dardanus

γονᾶς τάδ᾽ οἷα πάσχομεν δέδορκας;
race these what we-suffer have-you-seen

ΧΟΡΟΣ δέδορκεν, ἁ δὲ μεγαλόπολις
he-has-seen the and great-city

ἄπολις ὄλωλεν οὐδ᾽ ἔτ᾽ ἔστι Τροία.
cityless has-perished nor still is Troy

ΕΚΑΒΗ ὀτοτοτοτοῖ.
alas

λέλαμπεν Ἴλιος, Περ-
blazes Ilium of-Pergamum

γάμων τε πυρὶ καταίθεται τέραμνα
— and with-fire are-burned roofs

καὶ πόλις ἄκρα τε τειχέων.
and city heights and of-walls

ΧΟΡΟΣ πτέρυγι δὲ καπνὸς ὥς τις οὐ-
on-wing and smoke like some heavenly

ρανίᾳ πεσοῦσα δορὶ καταφθίνει γᾶ.
— having-fallen by-spear perishes land

μαλερὰ μέλαθρα πυρὶ κατάδρομα
fierce halls by-fire overrun

δαΐῳ τε λόγχᾳ.
hostile and by-spear

ΕΚΑΒΗ ὦ τέκνα, κλύετε, μάθετε ματρὸς αὐδάν.
O children hear learn of-mother voice

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰαλέμῳ τοὺς θανόντας ἀπύεις.
with-dirge the dead you-call

ΕΚΑΒΗ γεραιά τ᾽ εἰς πέδον τιθεῖσα μέλεα,
old and to ground setting limbs

καὶ χερσὶ γαῖαν κτυποῦσα δισσαΐς.
and with-hands earth beating both

ΧΟΡΟΣ διάδοχά σοι γόνυ τίθημι γαίᾳ
in-turn to-you knee I-set on-earth
τοὺς ἐμοὺς καλοῦσα νέρθεν
— my calling from-below
ἀθλίους ἀκοίτας.
wretched husbands
ΕΚΑΒΗ ἀγόμεθα φερόμεθ' — ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄλγος ἄλγος βοᾷς. 1310
we-are-led we-are-carried pain pain you-cry
ΕΚΑΒΗ δούλειον ὑπὸ μέλαθρον ἐκ πάτρας γ' ἐμᾶς.
slave under roof from fatherland at-least my
ἰὼ ἰώ·
oh oh
Πρίαμε Πρίαμε, σὺ μὲν ὀλόμενος
Priam Priam you indeed perished
ἄταφος, ἄφιλος,
unburied friendless
ἄτας ἐμᾶς ἄιστος εἶ.
of-ruin my unaware you-are
ΧΟΡΟΣ μέλας γὰρ ὄσσε κατεκάλυψε 1315
black for eyes covered
θάνατος ὅσιον ἀνοσίαις σφαγαῖσιν.
death holy by-unholy slaughters
ΕΚΑΒΗ ἰὼ θεῶν μέλαθρα καὶ πόλις φίλα.
oh of-gods halls and city dear
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἒ ἔ.
ah ah
ΕΚΑΒΗ τὰν φόνιον ἔχετε φλόγα δορός τε λόγχαν.
the murderous you-have flame of-spear and point
ΧΟΡΟΣ τάχ' εἰς φίλαν γᾶν πεσεῖσθ' ἀνώνυμοι.
soon to dear land you-will-fall nameless

ΕΚΑΒΗ κόνις δ' ἴσα καπνῷ πτέρυγι πρὸς αἰθέρ'
dust and like smoke on-wing to sky
ἄιστον οἴκων ἐμῶν με θήσει.
unseen of-house my me will-make
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὄνομα δὲ γᾶς ἀφανὲς εἶσιν· ἄλλᾳ δ'
name and of-the-land unseen will-go other and
ἄλλο φροῦδον, οὐδ' ἔτ' ἔστιν
other gone nor still is
ἁ τάλαινα Τροία.
the wretched Troy
ΕΚΑΒΗ ἐμάθετ', ἐκλύετε; ΧΟΡΟΣ Περγάμων κτύπον.
did-you-learn did-you-hear of-Pergamum crash
ΕΚΑΒΗ ἔνοσις ἅπασαν ἔνοσις ἐπικλύσει πόλιν.
quake all quake will-overwhelm city
ἰὼ ἰώ,
oh oh
τρομερὰ τρομερὰ μέλεα, φέρετ' ἐ-
trembling trembling limbs carry my
μὸν ἴχνος. ἴτ' ἐπὶ
— track go to
δούλειον ἁμέραν βίου.
slave day of-life

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ τάλαινα πόλις· ὅμως δὲ
oh wretched city nevertheless but
πρόφερε πόδα σὸν ἐπὶ πλάτας Ἀχαιῶν.
put-forward foot your to oars of-Achaeans
ΕΚΑΒΗ ἰὼ γᾶ τρόφιμε τῶν ἐμῶν τέκνων.
oh land nurse — my children
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔ ἔ.
ah ah

EURIPIDES

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ

Heracles

Amphitryon tells how Heracles labors for Eurystheus to win his father's return to Argos, and has gone down to Hades for the three-bodied hound without returning. Lycus has killed King Creon and seized the throne, and means to kill Heracles' wife Megara, his children, and Amphitryon. They sit as suppliants at the altar of Zeus, without food or friends. Megara despairs; Amphitryon urges hope, since Heracles may yet come.

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΤΩΝ Τίς τὸν Διὸς σύλλεκτρον οὐκ οἶδεν βροτῶν,
Who the of-Zeus bed-sharer not knows of-mortals
Ἀργεῖον Ἀμφιτρύων', ὃν Ἀλκαῖός ποτε
Argive Amphitryon whom Alcaeus once
ἔτιχθ' ὁ Περσέως, πατέρα τόνδ' Ἡρακλέους;
begot the of-Perseus father this of-Heracles
ὃς τάσδε Θήβας ἔσχεν, ἔνθ' ὁ γηγενὴς
who this Thebes held where the earth-born
σπαρτῶν στάχυς ἔβλαστεν, ὧν γένους Ἄρης
of-sown-men crop sprang of-whose race Ares
ἔσωσ' ἀριθμὸν ὀλίγον, οἳ Κάδμου πόλιν
saved number small who Cadmus' city
τεκνοῦσι παῖδων παισίν. ἔνθεν ἐξέφυ
people with-children's children whence sprang
Κρέων Μενοικέως παῖς, ἄναξ τῆσδε χθονός.
Creon of-Menoeceus son lord of-this land
Κρέων δὲ Μεγάρας τῆσδε γίγνεται πατήρ,
Creon and of-Megara this is father
ἣν πάντες ὑμεναίοισι Καδμεῖοί ποτε
whom all with-wedding-songs Cadmeans once
λωτῷ συνηλάλαξαν, ἡνίκ' εἰς ἐμοὺς
with-the-flute shouted-together when to my

δόμους ὁ κλεινὸς Ἡρακλῆς νιν ἤγετο.
house the glorious Heracles her led
λιπὼν δὲ Θήβας, οὗ κατῳκίσθην ἐγώ,
having-left and Thebes where was-settled I
Μεγάραν τε τήνδε πενθερούς τε παῖς ἐμὸς
Megara and this in-laws and son my
Ἀργεῖα τείχη καὶ Κυκλωπίαν πόλιν
Argive walls and Cyclopean city
ὠρέξατ' οἰκεῖν, ἣν ἐγὼ φεύγω κτανὼν
longed to-inhabit which I flee having-killed
Ἠλεκτρύωνα· συμφοραὶς δὲ τὰς ἐμὰς
Electryon misfortunes and — my
ἐξευμαρίζων καὶ πάτραν οἰκεῖν θέλων,
lightening and fatherland to-inhabit wishing
καθόδου δίδωσι μισθὸν Εὐρυσθεῖ μέγαν,
for-return gives wage to-Eurystheus great
ἐξημερῶσαι γαῖαν, εἴθ' Ἥρας ὕπο
to-tame the-earth whether of-Hera by
κέντροις δαμασθεὶς εἴτε τοῦ χρεὼν μέτα.
by-goads subdued or the necessity with
καὶ τοὺς μὲν ἄλλους ἐξεμόχθησεν πόνους,
and the indeed other has-accomplished toils
τὸ λοίσθιον δὲ Ταινάρου διὰ στόμα
the last and of-Taenarus through mouth
βέβηκ' ἐς Ἅιδου τὸν τρισώματον κύνα
he-has-gone to of-Hades the three-bodied bound
εἰς φῶς ἀνάξων, ἔνθεν οὐχ ἥκει πάλιν.
to light to-bring-up whence not he-comes back
γέρων δὲ δή τις ἔστι Καδμείων λόγος
old and indeed a-certain is of-Cadmeans tale

ὡς ἦν πάρος Δίρκης τις εὐνήτωρ Λύκος
that was before of-Dirce a-certain husband Lycus
τὴν ἑπτάπυργον τήνδε δεσπόζων πόλιν,
the seven-towered this ruling city
τὼ λευκοπώλω πρὶν τυραννῆσαι χθονὸς
the white-horsed(-pair) before to-rule the-land
Ἀμφίον' ἠδὲ Ζῆθον, ἐκγόνω Διός.
Amphion and Zethus offspring of-Zeus
οὗ ταὐτὸν ὄνομα παῖς πατρὸς κεκλημένος,
whose the-same name son of-father called
Καδμεῖος οὐκ ὤν, ἀλλ' ἀπ' Εὐβοίας μολών,
Cadmean not being but from Euboea having-come
κτείνει Κρέοντα καὶ κτανὼν ἄρχει χθονός,
kills Creon and having-killed rules the-land
στάσει νοσοῦσαν τήνδ' ἐπεισπεσὼν πόλιν.
with-faction sick this having-fallen-upon city
ἡμῖν δὲ κῆδος εἰς Κρέοντ' ἀνημμένον
to-us and alliance to Creon attached
κακὸν μέγιστον, ὡς ἔοικε, γίγνεται.
evil greatest as it-seems becomes
τοὐμοῦ γὰρ ὄντος παιδὸς ἐν μυχοῖς χθονὸς
my for being son in recesses of-earth
ὁ καινὸς οὗτος τῆσδε γῆς ἄρχων Λύκος
the new this of-this land ruler Lycus
τοὺς Ἡρακλείους παῖδας ἐξελεῖν θέλει
the Heracles' children to-destroy wishes
κτανὼν δάμαρτά θ', ὡς φόνῳ σβέσῃ φόνον,
having-killed wife and that by-murder he-may-quench murder
κἄμ' — εἴ τι δὴ χρὴ κἄμ' ἐν ἀνδράσιν λέγειν
and-me if somehow indeed one-must and-me among men to-count

γέροντ' ἀχρεῖον — μή ποθ' οἵδ' ἠνδρωμένοι
old useless lest ever these grown-men
μήτρωσιν ἐκπράξωσιν αἵματος δίκην.
for-maternal-kin exact of-blood justice
ἐγὼ δέ — λείπει γάρ με τοῖσδ' ἐν δώμασι
I but leaves for me this in house
τροφὸν τέκνων οἰκουρόν, ἡνίκα χθονὸς
nurse of-children house-keeper when of-earth
μέλαιναν ὄρφνην εἰσέβαινε παῖς ἐμός —
black darkness entered son my
σὺν μητρί, τέκνα μὴ θάνωσ' Ἡρακλέους,
with mother children lest die of-Heracles
βωμὸν καθίζω τόνδε σωτῆρος Διός,
altar I-sit-at this of-savior Zeus
ὃν καλλινίκου δορὸς ἄγαλμ' ἱδρύσατο
which of-glorious-victory spear as-monument set-up
Μινύας κρατήσας οὐμὸς εὐγενὴς τόκος.
Minyans having-conquered my noble son
πάντων δὲ χρεῖοι τάσδ' ἕδρας φυλάσσομεν,
of-all and in-need these seats we-guard
σίτων ποτῶν ἐσθῆτος, ἀστρώτῳ πέδῳ
of-food of-drink of-clothing on-unspread ground
πλευρὰς τιθέντες· ἐκ γὰρ ἐσφραγισμένοι
sides laying from for sealed
δόμων καθήμεθ' ἀπορίᾳ σωτηρίας.
of-the-house we-sit in-lack of-safety
φίλων δὲ τοὺς μὲν οὐ σαφεῖς ὁρῶ φίλους,
of-friends and some indeed not true I-see friends
οἱ δ' ὄντες ὀρθῶς ἀδύνατοι προσωφελεῖν.
others and being truly unable to-help

τοιοῦτον ἀνθρώποισιν ἡ δυσπραξία,
such for-men the misfortune
ἧς μήποθ' ὅστις καὶ μέσως εὔνους ἐμοὶ
of-which never anyone even moderately well-disposed to-me
τύχοι, φίλων ἔλεγχον ἀψευδέστατον.
may-obtain of-friends test most-unfailing
ΜΕΓΑΡΑ ὦ πρέσβυ, Ταφίων ὅς ποτ' ἐξεῖλες πόλιν
O old-man of-Taphians who once sacked city
στρατηλατήσας κλεινὰ Καδμείων δορός,
having-led-an-army glorious of-Cadmeans of-spear
ὡς οὐδὲν ἀνθρώποισι τῶν θείων σαφές.
how nothing to-men of-the divine(-things) clear
ἐγὼ γὰρ οὔτ' εἰς πατέρ' ἀπηλάθην τύχης,
I for neither in-respect-of father was-driven-from fortune
ὃς εἵνεκ' ὄλβου μέγας ἐκομπάσθη ποτέ,
who for-the-sake of-wealth great was-boasted once
ἔχων τυραννίδ', ἧς μακραὶ λόγχαι πέρι
having sovereignty which long spears about
πηδῶσ' ἔρωτι σώματ' εἰς εὐδαίμονα,
leap with-love bodies against prosperous
ἔχων δὲ τέκνα· κἄμ' ἔδωκε παιδὶ σῷ
having and children and-me gave to-son your
ἐπίσημον εὐνὴν Ἡρακλεῖ συνοικίσας·
notable bed with-Heracles having-wedded
καὶ νῦν ἐκεῖνα μὲν θανόντ' ἀνέπτατο·
and now those-things indeed dead have-flown-away
ἐγὼ δὲ καὶ σὺ μέλλομεν θνήσκειν, γέρον,
I and also you are-about to-die old-man
οἵ θ' Ἡράκλειοι παῖδες, οὓς ὑπὸ πτεροῖς
the and Heracles' children whom under wings

σῴζω νεοσσοὺς ὄρνις ὡς ὑφειμένους.
I-guard nestlings bird like crouching
οἱ δ' εἰς ἔλεγχον ἄλλος ἄλλοθεν πίτνων,
the and to questioning other from-elsewhere falling
ὦ μῆτερ, αὐδᾷ, ποῖ πατὴρ ἄπεστι γῆς;
O mother he-says where father is-away of-the-land
τί δρᾷ, πόθ' ἥξει; τῷ νέῳ δ' ἐσφαλμένοι
what does-he-do when will-he-come by-the youth and misled
ζητοῦσι τὸν τεκόντ'· ἐγὼ δὲ διαφέρω
they-seek the begetter I and put-off
λόγοισι μυθεύουσα· θαυμάζω δ', ὅταν
with-words storytelling I-wonder and whenever
πύλαι ψοφῶσι, πᾶς τ' ἀνίστησιν πόδα,
the-gates creak all and raises foot
ὡς πρὸς πατρῷον προσπεσούμενοι γόνυ.
as to father's to-fall-at knee
νῦν οὖν τίν' ἐλπίδ' ἢ πόρον σωτηρίας
now then what hope or way of-safety
ἐξευμαρίζει, πρέσβυ; πρὸς σὲ γὰρ βλέπω.
do-you-contrive old-man to you for I-look
ὡς οὔτε γαίας ὅρι' ἂν ἐκβαῖμεν λάθρᾳ·
since neither of-the-land bounds — we-could-pass secretly
φυλακαὶ γὰρ ἡμῶν κρείσσονες κατ' ἐξόδους·
guards for of-us stronger at the-exits
οὔτ' ἐν φίλοισιν ἐλπίδες σωτηρίας
nor in friends hopes of-safety
ἔτ' εἰσὶν ἡμῖν. ἥντιν' οὖν γνώμην ἔχεις
still are for-us whatever then plan you-have
λέγ' εἰς τὸ κοινόν, μὴ θανεῖν ἕτοιμον ᾖ.
speak into the common lest to-die ready it-be

χρόνον δὲ μηκύνωμεν ὄντες ἀσθενεῖς.
time and let-us-prolong being weak

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΤΩΝ ὦ θύγατερ, οὔτοι ῥᾴδιον τὰ τοιάδε
O daughter surely-not easy the such-things

φαύλως περαίνειν σπουδάσαντ' ἄνευ πόνου.
lightly to-accomplish having-striven without toil

ΜΕΓΑΡΑ λύπης τι προσδεῖς ἢ φιλεῖς οὕτω φάος; 90
of-grief some do-you-lack or love so light

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΤΩΝ καὶ τῷδε χαίρω καὶ φιλῶ τὰς ἐλπίδας.
both this I-rejoice-in and love the hopes

ΜΕΓΑΡΑ κἀγώ· δοκεῖν δὲ τἀδόκητ' οὐ χρή, γέρον.
and-I to-expect but the-unexpected not one-should old-man

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΤΩΝ ἐν ταῖς ἀναβολαῖς τῶν κακῶν ἔνεστ' ἄκη.
in the delays of-the evils are cures

ΜΕΓΑΡΑ ὁ δ' ἐν μέσῳ με λυπρὸς ὢν δάκνει χρόνος.
the and in middle me painful being bites time

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΤΩΝ ἔτ' ἂν γένοιτ', ὦ θύγατερ, οὔριος δρόμος 95
still — may-come O daughter favorable course

ἐκ τῶν παρόντων τῶνδ' ἐμοὶ καὶ σοὶ κακῶν,
out-of the present these to-me and to-you evils

ἔλθοι τ' ἔτ' ἂν παῖς οὑμός, εὐνήτωρ δὲ σός.
may-come and still — son my husband and yours

ἀλλ' ἡσύχαζε καὶ δακρυρρόους τέκνων
but be-quiet and tearful of-children

πηγὰς ἀφαίρει καὶ παρευκήλει λόγοις,
fountains take-away and soothe with-words

κλέπτουσα μύθοις ἀθλίους κλοπὰς ὅμως. 100
cheating with-stories wretched thefts nevertheless

κάμνουσι γάρ τοι καὶ βροτῶν αἱ συμφοραί,
weary for surely also of-mortals the misfortunes

καὶ πνεύματ᾽ ἀνέμων οὐκ ἀεὶ ῥώμην ἔχει,
and blasts of-winds not always strength have
οἵ τ᾽ εὐτυχοῦντες διὰ τέλους οὐκ εὐτυχεῖς·
those and prospering to the-end not prosper
ἐξίσταται γὰρ πάντ᾽ ἀπ᾽ ἀλλήλων δίχα.
stand-apart for all-things from one-another apart
105 οὗτος δ᾽ ἀνὴρ ἄριστος ὅστις ἐλπίσι
this and man best who in-hopes
πέποιθεν ἀεί· τὸ δ᾽ ἀπορεῖν ἀνδρὸς κακοῦ.
trusts always the and to-despair of-man bad

II · THE OLD MEN

The chorus of old Thebans comes leaning on staffs, too weak to help, to mourn with the family. They grieve for the fatherless children, the old man, and the mother, and recall their own youth as spear-bearers. They see in the boys' fierce eyes the look of their father, and lament that Hellas will lose such allies.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὑψόροφα μέλαθρα
high-roofed halls
καὶ γεραιὰ δέμνι᾽, ἀμφὶ βάκτροις
and aged couches on staff
ἔρεισμα θέμενος, ἐστάλην ἰαλέμων
support having-set I-set-out of-laments
110 γόων ἀοιδὸς ὥστε πολιὸς ὄρνις,
of-wails singer like gray bird
ἔπεα μόνον καὶ δόκημα νυκτερωπὸν
words only and phantom night-seen
ἐννύχων ὀνείρων,
of-nightly dreams

τρομερὰ μέν, ἀλλ᾽ ὅμως πρόθυμα.
trembling indeed but nevertheless eager

ὦ τέκεα πατρὸς ἀπάτορ᾽, ὦ
O children of-father fatherless O

γεραιὲ σύ τε τάλαινα μᾶ-
old-man you and wretched mother

τερ, ἃ τὸν Ἀΐδα δόμοις
— who the in-Hades' house

πόσιν ἀναστενάζεις.
husband bewail

μὴ πόδα προκάμητε
not foot weary

βαρύ τε κῶλον, ὥστε πρὸς πετραῖον
heavy and limb like toward rocky

†λέπας ζυγοφόρος ἅρματος βάρος φέρων
(corrupt)-height yoke-bearing of-chariot weight carrying

τροχηλάτοιο πῶλος.
of-the-wheel colt

λαβοῦ χερῶν καὶ πέπλων, ὅτου λέλοιπε
take-hold of-hands and robes of-whomever has-left

ποδὸς ἀμαυρὸν ἴχνος·
of-foot faint track

γέρων γέροντα παρακόμιζε,
old old support

ᾧ ξύνοπλα δόρατα νέα νέῳ
with-whom fellow-armed spears young with-young

τὸ πάρος ἐν ἡλίκων πόνοις
the before in of-age-mates toils

ξυνῆν ποτ᾽, εὐκλεεστάτας
was-with once most-glorious

πατρίδος οὐκ ὀνείδη.
of-fatherland not reproaches
ἴδετε, πατρὸς ὡς
see of-father how
γοργῶπες αἵδε προσφερεῖς
fierce-eyed these like
ὀμμάτων αὐγαί,
of-eyes gleams
τὸ δὲ δὴ κακοτυχὲς οὐ λέλοιπεν ἐκ τέκνων,
the and indeed ill-fortune not has-left from children
οὐδ' ἀποίχεται χάρις.
nor departs grace
Ἑλλὰς ὦ ξυμμάχους
Hellas O allies
οἵους οἵους ὀλέσασα
what-kind what-kind having-lost
τούσδ' ἀποστερήσει.
these you-will-be-deprived-of

Lycus mocks Heracles as a coward who fights with a bow and says he will kill the children so they cannot avenge Creon. Amphitryon defends his son's archery and asks for exile. Lycus orders the suppliants burned at the altar, and the old men defy him. Megara chooses a noble death, and Amphitryon asks to die before the children. Megara asks to dress them in grave clothes, and Lycus allows it. Amphitryon reproaches Zeus.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ εἰσορῶ γὰρ τῆσδε κοίρανον χθονὸς
but I-see for of-this ruler land
Λύκον περῶντα τῶνδε δωμάτων πάρος.
Lycus passing this house before
ΛΥΚΟΣ τὸν Ἡράκλειον πατέρα καὶ ξυνάορον,
the Heracles' father and wife
εἰ χρή μ᾽, ἐρωτῶ· χρὴ δ᾽, ἐπεί γε δεσπότης
if it-is-right me I-ask must and since at-least master
ὑμῶν καθέστηχ᾽, ἱστορεῖν ἃ βούλομαι·
of-you I-am-established to-inquire what I-wish
τίν᾽ εἰς χρόνον ζητεῖτε μηκῦναι βίον;
what to time do-you-seek to-prolong life
τίν᾽ ἐλπίδ᾽ ἀλκήν τ᾽ εἰσορᾶτε μὴ θανεῖν;
what hope defense and do-you-see not to-die
ἢ τὸν παρ᾽ Ἅιδῃ πατέρα τῶνδε κείμενον
or the with Hades father of-these lying
πιστεύεθ᾽ ἥξειν; ὡς ὑπὲρ τὴν ἀξίαν
do-you-trust to-come since beyond the worth
τὸ πένθος αἴρεσθ᾽, εἰ θανεῖν ὑμᾶς χρεών,
the grief you-raise if to-die you is-fated
σὺ μὲν καθ᾽ Ἑλλάδ᾽ ἐκβαλὼν κόμπους κενοὺς
you indeed through Hellas casting-out boasts empty

ὡς σύγγαμός σοι Ζεὺς τέκνου τε κοινέων,
that sharer-of-bed with-you Zeus of-child and sharing
σὺ δ' ὡς ἀρίστου φωτὸς ἐκλήθης δάμαρ.
you and as of-best man were-called wife
τί δὴ τὸ σεμνὸν σῷ κατείργασται πόσει,
what indeed the proud by-your has-been-done husband
ὕδραν ἕλειον εἰ διώλεσε κτανὼν
hydra of-the-marsh if he-destroyed having-killed
ἢ τὸν Νέμειον θῆρ'; ὃν ἐν βρόχοις ἑλὼν
or the Nemean beast which in nooses having-caught
βραχίονός φησ' ἀγχόναισιν ἐξελεῖν.
of-arm he-says in-strangling to-have-destroyed
τοῖσδ' ἐξαγωνίζεσθε; τῶνδ' ἄρ' εἵνεκεν
with-these do-you-contend these then for-the-sake
τοὺς Ἡρακλείους παῖδας οὐ θνήσκειν χρεών;
the Heracles' children not to-die must
ὃς ἔσχε δόξαν οὐδὲν ὢν εὐψυχίας
who had fame nothing being of-courage
θηρῶν ἐν αἰχμῇ, τἄλλα δ' οὐδὲν ἄλκιμος,
of-beasts in fight the-rest and nothing brave
ὃς οὔποτ' ἀσπίδ' ἔσχε πρὸς λαιᾷ χερὶ
who never shield held on left hand
οὐδ' ἦλθε λόγχης ἐγγύς, ἀλλὰ τόξ' ἔχων,
nor came of-spear near but bow having
κάκιστον ὅπλον, τῇ φυγῇ πρόχειρος ἦν.
worst weapon for-the flight ready was
ἀνδρὸς δ' ἔλεγχος οὐχὶ τόξ' εὐψυχίας,
of-man and test not bows of-courage
ἀλλ' ὃς μένων βλέπει τε κἀντιδέρκεται
but who staying looks and and-faces

δορὸς ταχεῖαν ἄλοκα τάξιν ἐμβεβώς.
of-spear swift furrow rank having-stepped-into
ἔχει δὲ τοὐμὸν οὐκ ἀναίδειαν, γέρον,
has but my not shamelessness old-man
ἀλλ' εὐλάβειαν· οἶδα γὰρ κατακτανὼν
but caution I-know for having-killed
Κρέοντα πατέρα τῆσδε καὶ θρόνους ἔχων.
Creon father of-her and throne having
οὔκουν τραφέντων τῶνδε τιμωροὺς ἐμοὶ
not-then grown these avengers for-me
χρῄζω λιπέσθαι τῶν δεδραμένων δίκην.
I-wish to-leave of-the done justice
ΑΜΦΙΤΡΤΩΝ τὸ τοῦ Διὸς μὲν Ζεὺς ἀμυνέτω μέρει
the — of-Zeus indeed Zeus let-defend in-turn
παιδός· τὸ δ' εἰς ἔμ', Ἡράκλεις, ἐμοὶ μέλει
of-son the but for me Heracles to-me is-a-care
λόγοισι τὴν τοῦδ' ἀμαθίαν ὑπὲρ σέθεν
with-words the of-this-man ignorance on-behalf-of you
δεῖξαι· κακῶς γάρ σ' οὐκ ἐατέον κλύειν.
to-show badly for you not one-must-allow to-hear
πρῶτον μὲν οὖν τἄρρητ', ἐν ἀρρήτοισι γὰρ
first indeed then the-unspeakable among unspeakable for
τὴν σὴν νομίζω δειλίαν, Ἡράκλεες,
— your I-reckon cowardice Heracles
σὺν μάρτυσιν θεοῖς δεῖ μ' ἀπαλλάξαι σέθεν.
with witnesses gods must me to-clear you
Διὸς κεραυνὸν δ' ἠρόμην τέθριππά τε,
of-Zeus thunderbolt and I-asked four-horse-chariot and
ἐν οἷς βεβηκὼς τοῖσι γῆς βλαστήμασι
in which having-stood the of-earth offspring

Γίγασι, πλευροῖς πτήν' ἐναρμόσας βέλη,
Giants in-sides winged having-fitted shafts
τὸν καλλίνικον μετὰ θεῶν ἐκώμασε·
the glorious-victory with gods he-celebrated
τετρασκελές θ' ὕβρισμα Κενταύρων γένος,
four-legged and outrage of-Centaurs race
Φολόην ἐπελθών, ὦ κάκιστε βασιλέων,
to-Pholoe having-gone O worst of-kings
ἐροῦ τίν' ἄνδρ' ἄριστον ἐγκρίνειαν ἄν,
ask what man best they-would-judge —
ἢ οὐ παῖδα τὸν ἐμόν, ὃν σὺ φῂς εἶναι δοκεῖν.
or not son — my whom you say to-be to-seem
Δίρφυν δ' ἐρωτῶν ἥ σ' ἔθρεψ' Ἀβαντίδα,
Dirphys and asking which you reared Abantid
οὐκ ἄν σ' ἐπαινέσειεν· οὐ γὰρ ἔσθ' ὅπου
not — you would-praise not for it-is where
ἐσθλόν τι δράσας μάρτυρ' ἂν λάβοις πάτραν.
noble something having-done witness — you-could-take fatherland
τὸ πάνσοφον δ' εὕρημα, τοξήρη σαγήν,
the all-wise and invention bow-carrying gear
μέμφει· κλύων νῦν τἀπ' ἐμοῦ σοφὸς γενοῦ.
you-blame hearing now the-from me wise become
ἀνὴρ ὁπλίτης δοῦλός ἐστι τῶν ὅπλων
man hoplite slave is of-the arms
κἂν τοῖσι συνταχθεῖσιν οὖσι μὴ ἀγαθοῖς
and-if those ranked-with being not good
αὐτὸς τέθνηκε δειλίᾳ τῇ τῶν πέλας,
himself has-died by-cowardice the of-the neighbors
θραύσας τε λόγχην οὐκ ἔχει τῷ σώματι
having-broken and spear not he-has with-the body

θάνατον ἀμῦναι, μίαν ἔχων ἀλκὴν μόνον·
death to-ward-off one having defense only
ὅσοι δὲ τόξοις χεῖρ' ἔχουσιν εὔστοχον,
as-many-as but with-bows hand have well-aiming
ἓν μὲν τὸ λῷστον, μυρίους οἰστοὺς ἀφεὶς
one indeed the best ten-thousand arrows having-sent
ἄλλοις τὸ σῶμα ῥύεται μὴ κατθανεῖν,
for-others the body protects not to-die
ἑκὰς δ' ἀφεστὼς πολεμίους ἀμύνεται
far and standing-off enemies he-wards-off
τυφλοῖς ὁρῶντας οὐτάσας τοξεύμασι,
blind seeing having-wounded with-arrows
τὸ σῶμά τ' οὐ δίδωσι τοῖς ἐναντίοις,
the body and not gives to-the opposite
ἐν εὐφυλάκτῳ δ' ἐστί· τοῦτο δ' ἐν μάχῃ
in well-guarded but is this but in battle
σοφὸν μάλιστα, δρῶντα πολεμίους κακῶς
wise most doing enemies harm
σῴζειν τὸ σῶμα, μὴ ἐκ τύχης ὡρμισμένους.
to-save the body not from fortune moored
λόγοι μὲν οἵδε τοῖσι σοῖς ἐναντίαν
words indeed these — to-your opposite
γνώμην ἔχουσι τῶν καθεστώτων πέρι.
judgment have of-the established about
παῖδας δὲ δὴ τί τούσδ' ἀποκτεῖναι θέλεις;
children but indeed why these to-kill do-you-wish
τί σ' οἵδ' ἔδρασαν; ἕν τί σ' ἡγοῦμαι σοφόν,
what you these did one thing you I-think wise
εἰ τῶν ἀρίστων τἄκγον' αὐτὸς ὢν κακὸς
if of-the best the-offspring yourself being bad

δέδοικας. ἀλλὰ τοῦθ' ὅμως ἡμῖν βαρύ,
you-fear but this nevertheless for-us heavy
εἰ δειλίας σῆς κατθανούμεθ' εἵνεκα,
if of-cowardice your we-shall-die for-the-sake
ὃ χρῆν σ' ὑφ' ἡμῶν τῶν ἀμεινόνων παθεῖν,
which ought you by us the better to-suffer
εἰ Ζεὺς δικαίας εἶχεν εἰς ἡμᾶς φρένας.
if Zeus just had towards us mind
εἰ δ' οὖν ἔχειν γῆς σκῆπτρα τῆσδ' αὐτὸς θέλεις,
if but then to-have of-land scepter of-this yourself you-wish
ἔασον ἡμᾶς φυγάδας ἐξελθεῖν χθονός·
let us exiles to-go-out from-the-land
βίᾳ δὲ δράσῃς μηδέν, ἢ πείσει βίαν,
by-force but do nothing or you-will-suffer force
ὅταν θεός σοι πνεῦμα μεταβαλὼν τύχῃ.
when the-god for-you wind having-changed happens
φεῦ·
alas
ὦ γαῖα Κάδμου, καὶ γὰρ εἰς σ' ἀφίξομαι
O land of-Cadmus also for against you I-will-come
λόγους ὀνειδιστῆρας ἐνδατούμενος,
words reproachful distributing
τοιαῦτ' ἀμύνεθ' Ἡρακλεῖ τέκνοισί τε;
such do-you-ward-off for-Heracles for-children and
ὃς εἷς Μινύαισι πᾶσι διὰ μάχης μολὼν
who alone against-Minyans all through battle having-gone
Θήβαις ἔθηκεν ὄμμ' ἐλεύθερον βλέπειν.
for-Thebes made eye free to-look
οὐδ' Ἑλλάδ' ᾔνεσ', οὐδ' ἀνέξομαί ποτε
nor Hellas I-praised nor I-will-endure ever

σιγῶν, κακίστην λαμβάνων εἰς παῖδ' ἐμόν,
being-silent most-base finding towards son my
ἣν χρῆν νεοσσοῖς τοῖσδε πῦρ λόγχας ὅπλα
which ought for-nestlings these fire spears arms
φέρουσαν ἐλθεῖν, ποντίων καθαρμάτων
bringing to-come of-sea cleansings
χέρσου τ' ἀμοιβάς, ὧν ἐμόχθησεν χάριν.
of-land and requitals for-which he-toiled for-the-sake
τὰ δ', ὦ τέκν', ὑμῖν οὔτε Θηβαίων πόλις
the and O children to-you neither of-Thebans city
οὔθ' Ἑλλὰς ἀρκεῖ· πρὸς δ' ἔμ' ἀσθενῆ φίλον
nor Hellas suffices to and me weak friend
δεδόρκατ', οὐδὲν ὄντα πλὴν γλώσσης ψόφον.
you-have-looked nothing being except of-tongue noise
ῥώμη γὰρ ἐκλέλοιπεν ἣν πρὶν εἴχομεν·
strength for has-failed which before we-had
γήρᾳ δὲ τρομερὰ γυῖα κἀμαυρὸν σθένος.
by-age and trembling limbs and-faint strength
εἰ δ' ἦ νέος τε κἄτι σώματος κρατῶν,
if and I-were young and and-still of-body master
λαβὼν ἂν ἔγχος τοῦδε τοὺς ξανθοὺς πλόκους
having-taken — spear of-this-man the golden locks
καθῃμάτωσ' ἄν, ὥστ' Ἀτλαντικῶν πέραν
I-would-have-bloodied — so-that Atlantic beyond
φεύγειν ὅρων ἂν δειλίᾳ τοὐμὸν δόρυ.
to-flee bounds — through-cowardice my spear
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἆρ' οὐκ ἀφορμὰς τοῖς λόγοισιν ἁγαθοὶ
— not occasions for-the words the-good
θνητῶν ἔχουσι, κἂν βραδύς τις ᾖ λέγειν;
of-mortals have even-if slow anyone be to-speak

ΛΥΚΟΣ σὺ μὲν λέγ' ἡμᾶς οἷς πεπύργωσαι λόγοις,
you indeed speak us with-which you-are-towered words
ἐγὼ δὲ δράσω σ' ἀντὶ τῶν λόγων κακῶς.
I but will-do you instead-of the words harm
ἄγ', οἱ μὲν Ἑλικῶν', οἱ δὲ Παρνασοῦ πτυχὰς
come some indeed to-Helicon others and of-Parnassus glens
τέμνειν ἄνωχθ' ἐλθόντες ὑλουργοὺς δρυὸς
to-cut bid having-gone woodcutters of-oak
κορμούς· ἐπειδὰν δ' εἰσκομισθῶσιν πόλει,
trunks when and they-are-brought to-the-city
βωμὸν πέριξ νήσαντες ἀμφήρη ξύλα
altar around having-heaped closely-fitted wood
ἐμπίπρατ' αὐτῶν καὶ πυροῦτε σώματα
set-fire-to of-them and burn bodies
πάντων, ἵν' εἰδῶσ' οὕνεκ' οὐχ ὁ κατθανὼν
all that they-may-know that not the dead
κρατεῖ χθονὸς τῆσδ', ἀλλ' ἐγὼ τὰ νῦν τάδε.
rules land this but I the now this
ὑμεῖς δὲ πρέσβεις ταῖς ἐμαῖς ἐναντίοι
you and old-men — to-my opposed
γνώμαισιν ὄντες, οὐ μόνον στενάξετε
plans being not only you-will-groan
τοὺς Ἡρακλείους παῖδας, ἀλλὰ καὶ δόμου
the Heracles' children but also of-the-house
τύχας, ὅταν πάσχῃ τι, μεμνήσεσθε δὲ
fortunes when it-suffers something you-will-remember and
δοῦλοι γεγῶτες τῆς ἐμῆς τυραννίδος.
slaves being — of-my sovereignty

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ γῆς λοχεύμαθ', οὓς Ἄρης σπείρει ποτὲ
O of-earth offspring whom Ares sows once
λάβρον δράκοντος ἐξερημώσας γένυν,
fierce of-dragon having-emptied jaw
οὐ σκῆπτρα, χειρὸς δεξιᾶς ἐρείσματα,
not scepters of-hand right supports
ἀρεῖτε καὶ τοῦδ' ἀνδρὸς ἀνόσιον κάρα
will-you-raise and of-this man unholy head
καθαιματώσεθ', ὅστις οὐ Καδμεῖος ὢν
will-you-bloody who not Cadmean being
ἄρχει κάκιστος τῶν νέων ἔπηλυς ὤν;
rules worst of-the young newcomer being
ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐμοῦ γε δεσπόσεις χαίρων ποτε,
but not me at-least you-will-master rejoicing ever
οὐδ' ἀπόνησα πόλλ' ἐγὼ καμὼν χερὶ
nor what-I-toiled-for much I having-labored with-hand
ἕξεις· ἀπέρρων δ' ἔνθεν ἦλθες ἐνθάδε,
you-will-have begone and whence you-came here
ὕβριζ'· ἐμοῦ γὰρ ζῶντος οὐ κτενεῖς ποτε
outrage me for living not you-will-kill ever
τοὺς Ἡρακλείους παῖδας· οὐ τοσόνδε γῆς
the Heracles' children not so-far earth
ἔνερθ' ἐκεῖνος κρύπτεται λιπὼν τέκνα.
beneath he is-hidden having-left children
ἐπεὶ σὺ μὲν γῆν τήνδε διολέσας ἔχεις,
since you indeed land this having-destroyed hold
ὁ δ' ὠφελήσας ἀξίων οὐ τυγχάνει·
he and having-helped worthy-things not obtains
κἄπειτα πράσσω πόλλ' ἐγώ, φίλους ἐμοὺς
and-then do I much my friends

θανόντας εὖ δρῶν, οὗ φίλων μάλιστα δεῖ;
dead well doing where friends most is-need
ὦ δεξιὰ χείρ, ὡς ποθεῖς λαβεῖν δόρυ,
O right hand how you-long to-take spear
ἐν δ' ἀσθενείᾳ τὸν πόθον διώλεσας.
in but weakness the longing you-have-lost
ἐπεί σ' ἔπαυσ' ἂν δοῦλον ἐννέποντά με
since you I-would-have-stopped — slave calling me
καὶ τάσδε Θήβας εὐκλεῶς ᾠκήσαμεν,
and this Thebes gloriously we-would-have-dwelt
ἐν αἷς σὺ χαίρεις. οὐ γὰρ εὖ φρονεῖ πόλις
in which you rejoice not for well thinks the-city
στάσει νοσοῦσα καὶ κακοῖς βουλεύμασιν·
by-faction sick and by-evil plans
οὐ γάρ ποτ' ἂν σὲ δεσπότην ἐκτήσατο.
not for ever — you as-master would-have-gotten
ΜΕΓΑΡΑ γέροντες, αἰνῶ· τῶν φίλων γὰρ εἵνεκα
old-men I-praise the friends for for-the-sake
ὀργὰς δικαίας τοὺς φίλους ἔχειν χρεών·
wraths just the friends to-have is-right
ἡμῶν δ' ἕκατι δεσπόταις θυμούμενοι
of-us but for-the-sake at-masters being-angry
πάθητε μηδέν. τῆς δ' ἐμῆς, Ἀμφιτρύων,
suffer nothing — but my Amphitryon
γνώμης ἄκουσον, ἤν τί σοι δοκῶ λέγειν.
judgment hear if something to-you I-seem to-say
ἐγὼ φιλῶ μὲν τέκνα· πῶς γὰρ οὐ φιλῶ
I love indeed children how for not do-I-love
ἄτικτον, ἀμόχθησα; καὶ τὸ κατθανεῖν
what-I-bore I-toiled-for and the to-die

δεινὸν νομίζω· τῷ δ' ἀναγκαίῳ τρόπῳ
terrible I-consider the but necessary way
ὃς ἀντιτείνει, σκαιὸν ἡγοῦμαι βροτόν.
who resists foolish I-consider mortal
ἡμᾶς δ' ἐπειδὴ δεῖ θανεῖν, θνῄσκειν χρεὼν
us but since must to-die to-die is-right
μὴ πυρὶ καταξανθέντας, ἐχθροῖσιν γέλων
not by-fire consumed for-enemies laughter
διδόντας, οὑμοὶ τοῦ θανεῖν μεῖζον κακόν.
giving which-to-me than-the to-die greater evil
ὀφείλομεν γὰρ πολλὰ δώμασιν καλά.
we-owe for many-things to-the-house fine
σὲ μὲν δόκησις ἔλαβεν εὐκλεὴς δορός,
you indeed repute took glorious of-spear
ὥστ' οὐκ ἀνεκτὸν δειλίας θανεῖν σ' ὕπο·
so-that not bearable of-cowardice to-die you by
οὑμὸς δ' ἀμαρτύρητος εὐκλεὴς πόσις,
my and unwitnessed glorious husband
ὡς τούσδε παῖδας οὐκ ἂν ἐκσῶσαι θέλοι
so these children not — to-save would-wish
δόξαν κακὴν λαβόντας· οἱ γὰρ εὐγενεῖς
fame bad having-taken the for noble
κάμνουσι τοῖς αἰσχροῖσι τῶν τέκνων ὕπερ,
suffer at-the shameful the children on-behalf
ἐμοί τε μίμημ' ἀνδρὸς οὐκ ἀπωστέον.
to-me and example of-the-husband not to-be-rejected
σκέψαι δὲ τὴν σὴν ἐλπίδ', ᾗ λογίζομαι·
consider and — your hope by-which I-reckon
ἥξειν νομίζεις παῖδα σὸν γαίας ὕπο·
to-come you-think son your earth from-under

καὶ τίς θανόντων ἦλθεν ἐξ Ἅιδου πάλιν;
and who of-the-dead came from of-Hades back
ἀλλ' ὡς λόγοισι τόνδε μαλθάξαιμεν ἄν;
but that with-words this-man we-might-soften —
ἥκιστα· φεύγειν σκαιὸν ἄνδρ' ἐχθρὸν χρεών,
least to-flee rude man hostile one-should
σοφοῖσι δ' εἴκειν καὶ τεθραμμένοις καλῶς·
to-the-wise but to-yield and bred well
ῥᾷον γὰρ αἰδοῦς ὑποβαλὼν φίλ' ἂν τύχοις.
easier for respect having-suggested friendly-terms — you-might-get
ἤδη δ' ἐσῆλθέ μ' εἰ παραιτησαίμεθα
already and occurred-to me if we-should-beg-off
φυγὰς τέκνων τῶνδ'· ἀλλὰ καὶ τόδ' ἄθλιον,
exile of-children these but also this wretched
πενίᾳ σὺν οἰκτρᾷ περιβαλεῖν σωτηρίαν·
poverty with piteous to-wrap safety
ὡς τὰ ξένων πρόσωπα φεύγουσιν φίλοις
since the of-hosts faces fleeing for-friends
ἓν ἦμαρ ἡδὺ βλέμμ' ἔχειν φασὶν μόνον.
one day sweet look to-have they-say only
τόλμα μεθ' ἡμῶν θάνατον, ὃς μένει σ' ὅμως.
dare with us death which awaits you nevertheless
προκαλούμεθ' εὐγένειαν, ὦ γέρον, σέθεν·
we-call-forth nobility O old-man your
τὰς τῶν θεῶν γὰρ ὅστις ἐκμοχθεῖ τύχας,
the of-the gods for whoever toils-against fortunes
πρόθυμός ἐστιν, ἡ προθυμία δ' ἄφρων·
eager is the eagerness but foolish
ὃ χρὴ γὰρ οὐδεὶς μὴ χρεὼν θήσει ποτέ.
what must for no-one not must will-make ever

ΧΟΡΟΣ εἰ μὲν σθενόντων τῶν ἐμῶν βραχιόνων
if indeed strong — my arms
ἦν τίς σ' ὑβρίζων, ῥᾳδίως ἐπαύσατ' ἄν·
was someone you outraging easily would-have-stopped —
νῦν δ' οὐδέν ἐσμεν. σὸν δὲ τοὐντεῦθεν σκοπεῖν
now and nothing we-are yours and the-thenceforth to-consider
ὅπως διώσει τὰς τύχας, Ἀμφιτρύων.
how you-will-thrust-away the fortunes Amphitryon
ΑΜΦΙΤΡΤΩΝ οὔτοι τὸ δειλὸν οὐδὲ τοῦ βίου πόθος
surely-not the cowardice nor the of-life longing
θανεῖν ἐρύκει μ', ἀλλὰ παιδὶ βούλομαι
to-die holds-back me but for-son I-wish
σῶσαι τέκν'· ἄλλως δ' ἀδυνάτων ἔοικ' ἐρᾶν.
to-save children otherwise but impossibilities I-seem to-desire
ἰδοὺ πάρεστιν ἥδε φασγάνῳ δέρη
see is-ready this for-sword neck
κεντεῖν φονεύειν, ἰέναι πέτρας ἄπο.
to-stab to-murder to-hurl rock from
μίαν δὲ νῷν δὸς χάριν, ἄναξ, ἱκνούμεθα·
one and to-us-two give favor lord we-beseech
κτεῖνόν με καὶ τήνδ' ἀθλίαν παίδων πάρος,
kill me and this wretched children before
ὡς μὴ τέκν' εἰσίδωμεν, ἀνόσιον θέαν,
that not children we-see unholy sight
ψυχορραγοῦντα καὶ καλοῦντα μητέρα
gasping-out-life and calling mother
πατρός τε πατέρα. τἄλλα δ' ᾗ πρόθυμος εἶ
of-father and father the-rest and in-which eager you-are
πρᾶσσ'· οὐ γὰρ ἀλκὴν ἔχομεν ὥστε μὴ θανεῖν.
do not for defense we-have so-as not to-die

ΜΕΓΑΡΑ κἀγώ σ᾽ ἱκνοῦμαι χάριτι προσθεῖναι χάριν,
and-I you beseech to-favor to-add favor
ἡμῖν ἵν᾽ ἀμφοῖν εἷς ὑπουργήσῃς διπλᾶ·
to-us that both one you-may-render double
κόσμον πάρες μοι παισὶ προσθεῖναι νεκρῶν,
adornment allow me for-children to-put-on of-the-dead
δόμους ἀνοίξας — νῦν γὰρ ἐκκεκλῄμεθα· —
house having-opened now for we-are-shut-out
ὡς ἀλλὰ ταῦτά γ᾽ ἀπολάβωσ᾽ οἴκων πατρός.
that but this at-least they-may-get of-house of-father
ΛΥΚΟΣ ἔσται τάδ᾽· οἴγειν κλῆθρα προσπόλοις λέγω.
it-shall-be so to-open bolts to-servants I-say
κοσμεῖσθ᾽ ἔσω μολόντες· οὐ φθονῶ πέπλων.
adorn-yourselves inside having-gone not I-grudge robes
ὅταν δὲ κόσμον περιβάλησθε σώμασιν,
when and adornment you-have-put-on bodies
ἥξω πρὸς ὑμᾶς νερτέρᾳ δώσων χθονί.
I-will-come to you to-the-nether to-give earth
ΜΕΓΑΡΑ ὦ τέκν᾽, ὁμαρτεῖτ᾽ ἀθλίῳ μητρὸς ποδὶ
O children follow wretched of-mother foot
πατρῷον εἰς μέλαθρον, οὗ τῆς οὐσίας
father's into hall whose the substance
ἄλλοι κρατοῦσι, τὸ δ᾽ ὄνομ᾽ ἔσθ᾽ ἡμῶν ἔτι.
others rule the but name is ours still
ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ὦ Ζεῦ, μάτην ἄρ᾽ ὁμόγαμόν σ᾽ ἐκτησάμην,
O Zeus in-vain then sharer-of-wife you I-got
μάτην δὲ παιδὸς κοινεῶν᾽ σ᾽ ἐκλῄζομεν·
in-vain and of-son partner you we-called
σὺ δ᾽ ἦσθ᾽ ἄρ᾽ ἧσσον ἢ ᾽δόκεις εἶναι φίλος.
you but were then less than seemed to-be friend

ἀρετῇ σε νικῶ θνητὸς ὢν θεὸν μέγαν·
in-virtue you I-surpass mortal being god great
παῖδας γὰρ οὐ προὔδωκα τοὺς Ἡρακλέους.
children for not I-betrayed the of-Heracles
σὺ δ' εἰς μὲν εὐνὰς κρύφιος ἠπίστω μολεῖν,
you but to indeed beds secret knew-how to-come
τἀλλότρια λέκτρα δόντος οὐδενὸς λαβών,
another's bed giving no-one having-taken
σῴζειν δὲ τοὺς σοὺς οὐκ ἐπίστασαι φίλους.
to-save but — your not you-know friends
ἀμαθής τις εἶ θεός, ἢ δίκαιος οὐκ ἔφυς.
ignorant some you-are god or just not you-are

IV · THE LABORS

The chorus sings a dirge for Heracles and his labors: the lion of Zeus' grove, the Centaurs, the golden-horned hind, the man-eating mares of Diomedes, Cycnus, the dragon guarding the golden apples, the calmed seas, the sky held up in Atlas' house, the Amazon's girdle, the hydra, and the three-bodied herdsman. Last he sailed to Hades and has not returned, while his children face death and the old men cannot help them.

ΧΟΡΟΣ αἴλινον μὲν ἐπ' εὐτυχεῖ
dirge indeed upon happy
μολπᾷ Φοῖβος ἰαχεῖ,
song Phoebus sounds
τὰν καλλίφθογγον κιθάραν
the sweet-voiced lyre
ἐλαύνων πλήκτρῳ χρυσέῳ·
striking with-quill golden

ἐγὼ δὲ τὸν γᾶς ἐνέρων τ' ἐς ὄρφναν
I and the of-earth of-the-dead and into darkness
μολόντα, παῖδ' εἴτε Διός νιν εἴπω
having-gone son whether of-Zeus him I-call
εἴτ' Ἀμφιτρύωνος ἶνιν,
or of-Amphitryon child
ὑμνῆσαι στεφάνωμα μό-
to-hymn crown of-toils
χθων δι' εὐλογίας θέλω.
— through praise I-wish
γενναίων δ' ἀρεταὶ πόνων
of-noble and excellences labors
τοῖς θανοῦσιν ἄγαλμα.
for-the dead an-ornament
πρῶτον μὲν Διὸς ἄλσος
first indeed of-Zeus grove
ἠρήμωσε λέοντος,
he-emptied of-lion
πυρσῷ δ' ἀμφεκαλύφθη
with-tawny and he-was-wrapped
ξανθὸν κρᾶτ' ἐπινωτίσας
golden head having-shouldered
δεινῷ χάσματι θηρός·
with-terrible gaping-jaw of-the-beast
τάν τ' ὀρεινόμον ἀγρίων
the and mountain-roaming savage
Κενταύρων ποτὲ γένναν
of-Centaurs once race
ἔστρωσεν τόξοις φονίοις,
he-laid-low with-bows murderous

ἐναίρων πτανοῖς βέλεσιν.
slaying with-winged shafts
ξύνοιδε Πηνειὸς ὁ καλλιδίνας
knows-it Peneus the fair-eddying
μακραί τ' ἄρουραι πεδίων ἄκαρποι
long and fields of-plains unharvested
καὶ Πηλιάδες θεράπναι
and Pelion's dwellings
σύγχορτοί θ' Ὁμόλας ἔναυ-
neighboring and of-Homole glens
λοι, πεύκαισιν ὅθεν χέρας
— with-pines whence hands
πληροῦντες χθόνα Θεσσαλῶν
filling land of-Thessalians
ἱππείαις ἐδάμαζον·
with-horse-feats they-subdued
τάν τε χρυσοκάρανον
the and golden-headed
δόρκαν ποικιλόνωτον
hind dapple-backed
συλήτειραν ἀγρωστᾶν
plunderer of-the-countryfolk
κτείνας, θηροφόνον θεὰν
having-slain beast-slaying goddess
Οἰνωᾶτιν ἀγάλλει·
Oenoan he-glorifies
τεθρίππων τ' ἐπέβα
four-horse-chariots and he-mounted
καὶ ψαλίοις ἐδάμασσε πώλους
and with-bits subdued colts

Διομήδεος, αἳ φονίαισι φάτναις
of-Diomedes which at-bloody mangers
ἀχάλιν' ἐθόαζον
unbridled rushed
κάθαιμα σῖτα γένυσι, χαρμοναῖσιν
bloody food with-jaws joyfully
ἀνδροβρῶσι δυστράπεζοι· περῶν δ'
man-eating foul-feasting crossing and
ἀργυρορρύταν Ἔβρον
silver-flowing Hebrus
ἐξέπρασσε μόχθον,
accomplished toil
Μυκηναίῳ πονῶν τυράννῳ·
for-the-Mycenaean toiling tyrant
τάν τε Μηλιάδ' ἀκτὰν
the and Malian shore
Ἀναύρου παρὰ πηγάς·
of-Anaurus by springs
Κύκνον δὲ ξενοδαίκταν
Cycnus and guest-slaying
τόξοις ὤλεσεν, Ἀμφαναί-
with-bows he-destroyed of-Amphanae
ας οἰκήτορ' ἄμικτον·
— dweller unsociable
ὑμνῳδούς τε κόρας
singing and maidens
ἦλυθεν, Ἑσπερίαν ἐς αὐλάν,
he-came Western to court
χρύσεον πετάλων ἀπὸ μηλοφόρων
golden leaves from apple-bearing

χερὶ καρπὸν ἀμέρξων,
with-hand fruit to-pluck
δράκοντα πυρσόνωτον, ὅς σφ' ἄπλατον
dragon fire-backed who it unapproachable
ἀμφελικτὸς ἕλικ' ἐφρούρει, κτανών·
coiled-around coil guarded having-killed
ποντίας θ' ἁλὸς μυχοὺς
of-the-sea and brine recesses
εἰσέβαινε, θνατοῖς
he-entered for-mortals
γαλανείας τιθεὶς ἐρετμοῖς·
calms setting for-oars
οὐρανοῦ θ' ὑπὸ μέσσαν
of-heaven and under middle
ἐλαύνει χέρας ἕδραν,
drives hands seat
Ἄτλαντος δόμον ἐλθών·
of-Atlas to-house having-come
ἀστρωπούς τε κατέσχεν οἴ-
starry and he-held-up houses
κους εὐανορίᾳ θεῶν·
— with-manliness of-the-gods
τὸν ἱππευτάν τ' Ἀμαζόνων στρατὸν
the horse-riding and of-Amazons army
Μαιῶτιν ἀμφὶ πολυπόταμον
Maeotis around many-rivered
ἔβα δι' Εὔξεινον οἶδμα λίμνας,
he-went through Euxine swell of-lake
τίν' οὐκ ἀφ' Ἑλλανίας
what not from Hellas

ἄγορον ἁλίσας φίλων,
band having-gathered of-friends
†κόρας Ἀρείας πλέων
(corrupt)-maiden of-Ares sailing
χρυσέου στόλον φάρους,†
golden equipment of-robe(corrupt)
ζωστῆρος ὀλεθρίους ἄγρας;
of-the-girdle deadly hunts
τὰ κλεινὰ δ' Ἑλλὰς ἔλαβε βαρβάρου κόρας
the glorious and Hellas took of-barbarian maiden
λάφυρα, καὶ σῴζεται Μυκήναις.
spoils and they-are-kept at-Mycenae
τάν τε μυριόκρανον
the and thousand-headed
πολύφονον κύνα Λέρνας
much-murdering hound of-Lerna
ὕδραν ἐξεπύρωσεν,
hydra he-burned-out
βέλεσί τ' ἀμφέβαλ' ἰόν,
with-shafts and smeared venom
τὸν τρισώματον οἷσιν ἔ-
the three-bodied with-which he-slew
κτα βοτῆρ' Ἐρυθείας.
— herdsman of-Erytheia
δρόμων τ' ἄλλων ἀγάλματ' εὐτυχῆ
of-races and other glories prosperous
διῆλθε· τόν τε πολυδάκρυον
he-went-through the and much-wept
ἔπλευσ' ἐς Ἅιδαν, πόνων τελευτάν,
he-sailed to Hades of-toils end

ἵν᾽ ἐκπεραίνει τάλας
where he-completes wretched
βίοτον οὐδ᾽ ἔβα πάλιν.
life nor came back
στέγαι δ᾽ ἔρημοι φίλων,
house and desolate of-friends
τὰν δ᾽ ἀνόστιμον τέκνων
the and returnless of-children
Χάρωνος ἐπιμένει πλάτα
of-Charon awaits oar
βίου κέλευθον ἄθεον ἄδικον· εἰς δὲ σὰς
of-life path godless unjust to and your
χέρας βλέπει δώματ᾽ οὐ παρόντος.
hands looks house not being-present
εἰ δ᾽ ἐγὼ σθένος ἥβων
if and I strength being-young
δόρυ τ᾽ ἔπαλλον ἐν αἰχμᾷ,
spear and brandished in battle
Καδμείων τε σύνηβοι,
of-Cadmeans and fellow-youths
τέκεσιν ἂν παρέσταν
children — would-stand-by
ἀλκᾷ· νῦν δ᾽ ἀπολείπομαι
with-valor now but I-am-bereft
τᾶς εὐδαίμονος ἥβας.
of-the happy youth

Megara comes out with the children in grave clothes and recalls the kingdoms Heracles promised them, and she calls on him to come even as a shade. Amphitryon prays to Zeus in vain. Heracles suddenly appears. Learning of Lycus' plot, he vows to kill him and the ungrateful Thebans. Amphitryon advises him to wait inside for Lycus. Heracles tells how he brought the three-headed hound up from Hades and rescued Theseus, and he leads his children into the house.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἐσορῶ γὰρ τούσδε φθιμένων
but I-see for these of-the-dead
ἔνδυτ᾽ ἔχοντας, τοὺς τοῦ μεγάλου
garments having the of-the great
δήποτε παῖδας τὸ πρὶν Ἡρακλέους,
once children the before of-Heracles
ἄλοχον τε φίλην ὑποσειραίους
wife and dear like-trace-horses
ποσὶν ἕλκουσαν τέκνα, καὶ γεραιὸν
with-feet drawing children and old
πατέρ᾽ Ἡρακλέους. δύστηνος ἐγώ,
father of-Heracles wretched I
δακρύων ὡς οὐ δύναμαι κατέχειν
of-tears how not I-am-able to-hold-back
γραίας ὄσσων ἔτι πηγάς.
old of-eyes still the-springs
ΜΕΓΑΡΑ εἶεν· τίς ἱερεύς, τίς σφαγεὺς τῶν δυσπότμων
well who priest who slaughterer of-the ill-fated
ἢ τῆς ταλαίνης τῆς ἐμῆς ψυχῆς φονεύς;
or of-the wretched — my life murderer
ἕτοιμ᾽ ἄγειν τὰ θύματ᾽ εἰς Ἅιδου τάδε.
ready to-lead the victims to of-Hades these

ὦ τέκν', ἀγόμεθα ζεῦγος οὐ καλὸν νεκρῶν,
O children we-are-led yoke not fair of-corpses
ὁμοῦ γέροντες καὶ νέοι καὶ μητέρες.
together old and young and mothers
ὦ μοῖρα δυστάλαιν' ἐμή τε καὶ τέκνων
O fate most-wretched mine both and of-children
τῶνδ', οὓς πανύστατ' ὄμμασιν προσδέρκομαι.
these whom for-the-last-time with-eyes I-look-on
ἔτεκον μὲν ὑμᾶς, πολεμίοις δ' ἐθρεψάμην
I-bore indeed you for-enemies and I-reared
ὕβρισμα κἀπίχαρμα καὶ διαφθοράν.
outrage and-mockery and destruction
φεῦ·
alas
ἦ πολύ με δόξης ἐξέπαισαν ἐλπίδες,
truly much me from-expectation have-struck hopes
ἣν πατρὸς ὑμῶν ἐκ λόγων ποτ' ἤλπισα.
which of-father your from words once I-hoped
σοὶ μὲν γὰρ Ἄργος ἔνεμ' ὁ κατθανὼν πατήρ,
to-you indeed for Argos allotted the dead father
Εὐρυσθέως δ' ἔμελλες οἰκήσειν δόμους
of-Eurystheus and you-were-to to-inhabit house
τῆς καλλικάρπου κράτος ἔχων Πελασγίας,
of-the fair-fruited power having Pelasgia
στολήν τε θηρὸς ἀμφέβαλλε σῷ κάρᾳ
garment and of-the-beast he-threw-around your head
λέοντος, ἧπερ αὐτὸς ἐξωπλίζετο·
of-lion with-which himself was-armed
σὺ δ' ἦσθα Θηβῶν τῶν φιλαρμάτων ἄναξ,
you and were of-Thebes the chariot-loving lord

ἔγκληρα πεδία τἀμὰ γῆς κεκτημένος,
inheritance plains my of-land possessing
ὡς ἐξέπειθες τὸν κατασπείραντά σε·
as you-persuaded the having-begotten you
εἰς δεξιὰν δὲ σὴν ἀλεξητήριον
into right-hand and your as-defender
ξύλον καθίει δαίδαλον, ψευδῆ δόσιν.
club he-let-fall wrought false gift
σοὶ δ' ἣν ἔπερσε τοῖς ἑκηβόλοις ποτὲ
to-you and which he-sacked with-the far-shooting once
τόξοισι δώσειν Οἰχαλίαν ὑπέσχετο.
bows to-give Oechalia he-promised
τρεῖς δ' ὄντας ὑμᾶς τριπτύχοις τυραννίσι
three and being you with-threefold sovereignties
πατὴρ ἐπύργου, μέγα φρονῶν εὐανδρίᾳ·
father towered greatly thinking in-manliness
ἐγὼ δὲ νύμφας ἠκροθινιαζόμην,
I and brides was-choosing-as-firstfruits
κήδη συνάψουσ', ἔκ τ' Ἀθηναίων χθονὸς
alliances to-join from and of-Athenians land
Σπάρτης τε Θηβῶν θ', ὡς ἀνημμένοι κάλῳ
Sparta and Thebes and that fastened by-cable
πρυμνησίοισι βίον ἔχοιτ' εὐδαίμονα.
with-stern-cables life you-might-have happy
καὶ ταῦτα φροῦδα· μεταβαλοῦσα δ' ἡ τύχη
and these-things gone having-changed and the fortune
νύμφας μὲν ὑμῖν Κῆρας ἀντέδωκ' ἔχειν,
brides indeed to-you Fates gave-instead to-have
ἐμοὶ δὲ δάκρυα λουτρά· δύστηνος φρενῶν.
to-me and tears baths wretched of-mind

πατὴρ δὲ πατρὸς ἑστιᾷ γάμους ὅδε,
father and of-father feasts marriage this
Ἅιδην νομίζων πενθερόν, κῆδος πικρόν.
Hades considering father-in-law alliance bitter
ὤμοι, τίν' ὑμῶν πρῶτον ἢ τίν' ὕστατον
ah-me whom of-you first or whom last
πρὸς στέρνα θῶμαι; τῷ προσαρμόσω στόμα;
to breast shall-I-put to-whom shall-I-fit mouth
τίνος λάβωμαι; πῶς ἂν ὡς ξουθόπτερος
whom shall-I-take-hold how — like tawny-winged
μέλισσα συνενέγκαιμ' ἂν ἐκ πάντων γόους,
bee might-I-gather — from all laments
εἰς ἓν δ' ἐνεγκοῦσ' ἀθρόον ἀποδοίην δάκρυ.
into one and having-brought together might-I-render tear
ὦ φίλτατ', εἴ τις φθόγγος εἰσακούεται
O dearest if any voice is-heard
θνητῶν παρ' Ἅιδῃ, σοὶ τάδ', Ἡράκλεις, λέγω·
of-mortals with Hades to-you this Heracles I-say
θνήσκει πατὴρ σὸς καὶ τέκν', ὄλλυμαι δ' ἐγώ,
dies father your and children I-perish and I
ἣ πρὶν μακαρία διὰ σ' ἐκλῃζόμην βροτοῖς.
who before blessed through you was-called by-mortals
ἄρηξον, ἐλθέ· καὶ σκιὰ φάνηθί μοι·
help come even shade appear to-me
ἅλις γὰρ ἐλθὼν κἂν ὄναρ γένοιο σύ·
enough for having-come even dream you-might-be you
κακοὶ γάρ εἰσιν οἳ τέκνα κτείνουσι σά.
evil for are who children kill your

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ σὺ μὲν τὰ νέρθεν εὐτρεπῆ ποιοῦ, γύναι·
you indeed the below ready make woman
ἐγὼ δὲ σ', ὦ Ζεῦ, χεῖρ' ἐς οὐρανὸν δικὼν
I but you O Zeus hand to heaven casting
αὐδῶ, τέκνοισιν εἴ τι τοισίδ' ὠφελεῖν
I-call to-children if anything these to-help
μέλλεις, ἀμύνειν, ὡς τάχ' οὐδὲν ἀρκέσεις.
you-intend to-defend as soon nothing you-will-avail
καίτοι κέκλησαι πολλάκις· μάτην πονῶ·
and-yet you-have-been-called often in-vain I-toil
θανεῖν γάρ, ὡς ἔοικ', ἀναγκαίως ἔχει.
to-die for as it-seems necessarily is
ἀλλ', ὦ γέροντες, μικρὰ μὲν τὰ τοῦ βίου·
but O old-men small indeed the of-the life
τοῦτον δ' ὅπως ἥδιστα διαπεράσετε,
this and as most-pleasantly you-will-pass-through
ἐξ ἡμέρας εἰς νύκτα μὴ λυπούμενοι.
from day into night not grieving
ὡς ἐλπίδας μὲν ὁ χρόνος οὐκ ἐπίσταται
since hopes indeed the time not knows
σῴζειν, τὸ δ' αὐτοῦ σπουδάσας διέπτατο.
to-save the and its-own having-pursued has-flown
ὁρᾶτέ μ' ὅσπερ ἦ περίβλεπτος βροτοῖς
you-see me who was conspicuous to-mortals
ὀνομαστὰ πράσσων, καί μ' ἀφείλεθ' ἡ τύχη
famous-things doing and me took-away the fortune
ὥσπερ πτερὸν πρὸς αἰθέρ' ἡμέρᾳ μιᾷ.
like feather to sky in-day one
ὁ δ' ὄλβος ὁ μέγας ἥ τε δόξ' οὐκ οἶδ' ὅτῳ
the and wealth the great the and fame not I-know to-whom

βέβαιός ἐστι. χαίρετ'· ἄνδρα γὰρ φίλον
secure is farewell man for dear
πανύστατον νῦν, ἥλικες, δεδόρκατε.
for-the-last-time now age-mates you-have-seen
ΜΕΓΑΡΑ ἔα·
ah
ὦ πρέσβυ, λεύσσω τἀμὰ φίλτατ'; ἢ τί φῶ;
O old-man do-I-see my dearest or what am-I-to-say
ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ οὐκ οἶδα, θύγατερ· ἀφασία δὲ κἄμ' ἔχει. 515
not I-know daughter speechlessness and also-me holds
ΜΕΓΑΡΑ ὅδ' ἐστὶν ὃν γῆς νέρθεν εἰσηκούομεν,
this is whom earth beneath we-heard
εἰ μή γ' ὄνειρον ἐν φάει τι λεύσσομεν.
if not at-least dream in light some we-see
τί φημί; ποῖ' ὄνειρα κηραίνουσ' ὁρῶ;
what do-I-say what dreams distraught do-I-see
οὐκ ἔσθ' ὅδ' ἄλλος ἀντὶ σοῦ παιδός, γέρον.
not is this other instead-of your son old-man
δεῦρ', ὦ τέκν', ἐκκρήμασθε πατρῴων πέπλων, 520
here O children hang-from father's robes
ἴτ' ἐγκονεῖτε, μὴ μεθῆτ', ἐπεὶ Διὸς
go hurry not let-go since of-Zeus
σωτῆρος ὑμῖν οὐδέν ἐσθ' ὅδ' ὕστερος.
the-savior to-you not-at-all is this-one inferior
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ὦ χαῖρε, μέλαθρον πρόπυλά θ' ἑστίας ἐμῆς,
O hail hall gates and of-hearth my
ὡς ἄσμενός σ' ἐσεῖδον ἐς φάος μολών.
how gladly you I-see to light having-come
ἔα· τί χρῆμα; τέκν' ὁρῶ πρὸ δωμάτων 525
ah what thing children do-I-see before the-house

στολμοῖσι νεκρῶν κρᾶτας ἐξεστεμμένα,
with-garments of-the-dead heads crowned
ὄχλῳ τ' ἐν ἀνδρῶν τὴν ἐμὴν ξυνάορον,
crowd and in of-men — my wife
πατέρα τε δακρύοντα συμφορὰς τίνας;
father and weeping misfortunes what
φέρ' ἐκπύθωμαι τῶνδε πλησίον σταθείς,
come let-me-learn of-these near having-stood
τί καινὸν ἦλθε, γύναι, δώμασιν χρέος;
what new came woman for-the-house need
ΜΕΓΑΡΑ ὦ φίλτατ' ἀνδρῶν —
O dearest of-men
ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ὦ φάος μολὼν πατρί —
O light having-come to-father
ΜΕΓΑΡΑ ἥκεις, ἐσώθης εἰς ἀκμὴν ἐλθὼν φίλοις;
you-come you-are-saved at crisis coming for-friends
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τί φής; τίν' εἰς ταραγμὸν ἥκομεν, πάτερ;
what do-you-say what into confusion have-we-come father
ΜΕΓΑΡΑ διολλύμεσθα· σὺ δέ, γέρον, σύγγνωθί μοι,
we-are-perishing you but old-man forgive me
εἰ πρόσθεν ἥρπασ' ἃ σὲ λέγειν πρὸς τόνδ' ἐχρῆν·
if before I-snatched what you to-say to this-man ought
τὸ θῆλυ γάρ πως μᾶλλον οἰκτρὸν ἀρσένων,
the female for somehow more piteous than-males
καὶ τἄμ' ἔθνῃσκε τέκν', ἀπωλλύμην δ' ἐγώ.
and my were-dying children was-perishing and I
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ Ἄπολλον, οἵοις φροιμίοις ἄρχει λόγου.
Apollo with-what preludes you-begin of-speech
ΜΕΓΑΡΑ τεθνᾶσ' ἀδελφοὶ καὶ πατὴρ οὑμὸς γέρων.
are-dead brothers and father my old

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ πῶς φής; τί δράσας ἢ δορὸς ποίου τυχών;
how do-you-say what having-done or of-spear what having-met

ΜΕΓΑΡΑ Λύκος σφ' ὁ καινὸς γῆς ἄναξ διώλεσεν.
Lycus them the new of-land lord destroyed

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ὅπλοις ἀπαντῶν ἢ νοσησάσης χθονός;
in-arms meeting(-them) or having-sickened the-land

ΜΕΓΑΡΑ στάσει· τὸ Κάδμου δ' ἑπτάπυλον ἔχει κράτος.
in-faction the of-Cadmus and seven-gated holds power

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τί δῆτα πρὸς σὲ καὶ γέροντ' ἦλθεν φόβος;
why then to you and old-man came fear

ΜΕΓΑΡΑ κτείνειν ἔμελλε πατέρα κἀμὲ καὶ τέκνα.
to-kill he-was-about father and-me and children

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τί φής; τί ταρβῶν ὀρφάνευμ' ἐμῶν τέκνων;
what do-you-say what fearing the-orphanhood of-my children

ΜΕΓΑΡΑ μή ποτε Κρέοντος θάνατον ἐκτισαίατο.
lest ever of-Creon death they-should-avenge

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ κόσμος δὲ παίδων τίς ὅδε νερτέροις πρέπων;
adornment and of-the-children what this for-the-nether-ones fitting

ΜΕΓΑΡΑ θανάτου τάδ' ἤδη περιβόλαι' ἐνήμμεθα.
of-death these already wrappings we-have-put-on

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ καὶ πρὸς βίαν ἐθνήσκετ'; ὦ τλήμων ἐγώ.
and by force you-were-dying O wretched I

ΜΕΓΑΡΑ φίλων ἔρημοι, σὲ δὲ θανόντ' ἠκούομεν.
of-friends bereft you and dead we-heard

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ πόθεν δ' ἐς ὑμᾶς ἥδ' ἐσῆλθ' ἀθυμία;
whence and on you this came despondency

ΜΕΓΑΡΑ Εὐρυσθέως κήρυκες ἤγγελλον τάδε.
of-Eurystheus heralds announced this

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τί δ' ἐξελείπετ' οἶκον ἑστίαν τ' ἐμήν;
why and did-you-leave house hearth and my

ΜΕΓΑΡΑ βίᾳ, πατὴρ μὲν ἐκπεσὼν στρωτοῦ λέχους.
by-force father indeed thrown-out of-spread bed

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ κοὐκ ἔσχεν αἰδῶ τὸν γέροντ' ἀτιμάσαι;
and-not had shame the old-man to-dishonor

ΜΕΓΑΡΑ αἰδῶ γ'; ἀποικεῖ τῆσδε τῆς θεοῦ πρόσω.
shame at-least lives-away from-this the goddess far

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οὕτω δ' ἀπόντες ἐσπανίζομεν φίλων;
so and being-away we-lacked friends

ΜΕΓΑΡΑ φίλοι γάρ εἰσιν ἀνδρὶ δυστυχεῖ τίνες;
friends for are to-man unfortunate what

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ μάχας δὲ Μινυῶν ἃς ἔτλην, ἀπέπτυσαν;
battles and of-Minyans which I-endured they-spat-upon

ΜΕΓΑΡΑ ἄφιλον, ἵν' αὖθίς σοι λέγω, τὸ δυστυχές.
friendless that again to-you I-tell the misfortune

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οὐ ῥίψεθ' Ἅιδου τάσδε περιβολὰς κόμης
not will-you-cast-off of-Hades these wrappings of-hair

καὶ φῶς ἀναβλέψεσθε τοῦ κάτω σκότου
and light will-you-look-up-at from-the below darkness

φίλας ἀμοιβὰς ὄμμασιν δεδορκότες;
dear exchange with-eyes looking

ἐγὼ δέ, νῦν γὰρ τῆς ἐμῆς ἔργον χερός,
I but now for — of-my work hand

πρῶτον μὲν εἶμι καὶ κατασκάψω δόμους
first indeed I-will-go and raze house

καινῶν τυράννων, κρᾶτα δ' ἀνόσιον τεμὼν
of-new tyrants head and unholy having-cut

ῥίψω κυνῶν ἕλκημα· Καδμείων δ' ὅσους
I-will-hurl for-dogs to-drag of-Cadmeans and as-many-as

κακοὺς ἐφηῦρον εὖ παθόντας ἐξ ἐμοῦ,
base I-found well having-been-treated by me

τῷ καλλινίκῳ τῷδ' ὅπλῳ χειρώσομαι·
with-the triumphant this weapon I-will-subdue
τοὺς δὲ πτερωτοῖς διαφορῶν τοξεύμασι
others and with-winged scattering arrows
νεκρῶν ἅπαντ' Ἰσμηνὸν ἐμπλήσω φόνου,
with-corpses all Ismenus I-will-fill with-gore
Δίρκης τε νᾶμα λευκὸν αἱμαχθήσεται.
of-Dirce and stream white will-be-bloodied
τῷ γάρ μ' ἀμύνειν μᾶλλον ἢ δάμαρτι χρὴ
whom for me to-defend rather than wife must
καὶ παισὶ καὶ γέροντι; χαιρόντων πόνοι·
and children and old-man farewell toils
μάτην γὰρ αὐτοὺς τῶνδε μᾶλλον ἤνυσα.
in-vain for them than-these rather I-accomplished
καὶ δεῖ μ' ὑπὲρ τῶνδ', εἴπερ οἵδ' ὑπὲρ πατρός,
and must me for these if-indeed these for father
θνήσκειν ἀμύνοντ'· ἢ τί φήσομεν καλὸν
to-die defending or what shall-we-call noble
ὕδρᾳ μὲν ἐλθεῖν εἰς μάχην λέοντί τε
with-hydra indeed to-come into battle with-lion and
Εὐρυσθέως πομπαῖσι, τῶν δ' ἐμῶν τέκνων
of-Eurystheus at-the-sending — but of-my children
οὐκ ἐκπονήσω θάνατον; οὐκ ἄρ' Ἡρακλῆς
not will-I-labor-to-avert death not then Heracles
ὁ καλλίνικος ὡς πάροιθε λέξομαι.
the glorious-victor as before I-shall-be-called
ΧΟΡΟΣ δίκαια τοὺς τεκόντας ὠφελεῖν τέκνα
just the having-begotten to-help children
πατέρα τε πρέσβυν τήν τε κοινωνὸν γάμων.
father and old the and partner of-marriage

585 ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ πρὸς σοῦ μέν, ὦ παῖ, τοῖς φίλοις εἶναι φίλον
from you indeed O child to-the friends to-be friend
τά τ' ἐχθρὰ μισεῖν· ἀλλὰ μὴ 'πείγου λίαν.
the and hostile to-hate but not hasten too-much
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τί δ' ἐστὶ τῶνδε θᾶσσον ἢ χρεών, πάτερ;
what and is of-these quicker than is-needful father
ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ πολλοὺς πένητας, ὀλβίους δὲ τῷ λόγῳ
many poor wealthy but in-the word
δοκοῦντας εἶναι συμμάχους ἄναξ ἔχει,
seeming to-be allies the-lord has
590 οἳ στάσιν ἔθηκαν καὶ διώλεσαν πόλιν
who faction made and destroyed city
ἐφ' ἁρπαγαῖσι τῶν πέλας, τὰ δ' ἐν δόμοις
for plundering of-the neighbors the and in house
δαπάναισι φροῦδα διαφυγόνθ' ὑπ' ἀργίας.
by-extravagance gone escaping by idleness
ὤφθης ἐσελθὼν πόλιν· ἐπεὶ δ' ὤφθης, ὅρα
you-were-seen entering the-city since and you-were-seen look
ἐχθροὺς ἀθροίσας μὴ παρὰ γνώμην πέσῃς.
enemies having-gathered lest against expectation you-fall
595 ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ μέλει μὲν οὐδὲν εἴ με πᾶσ' εἶδεν πόλις·
it-concerns indeed nothing if me all saw city
ὄρνιν δ' ἰδών τιν' οὐκ ἐν αἰσίοις ἕδραις,
bird but having-seen a-certain not in auspicious seats
ἔγνων πόνον τιν' εἰς δόμους πεπτωκότα·
I-knew trouble some upon house fallen
ὥστ' ἐκ προνοίας κρύφιος εἰσῆλθον χθόνα.
so-that from foresight secretly I-entered the-land

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΤΩΝ καλῶς· προσελθὼν νῦν πρόσειπέ θ᾽ ἑστίαν
well having-come now address and hearth
καὶ δὸς πατρῴοις δώμασιν σὸν ὄμμ᾽ ἰδεῖν.
and give to-ancestral house your eye to-see
ἥξει γὰρ αὐτὸς σὴν δάμαρτα καὶ τέκνα
will-come for himself your wife and children
ἕλξων φονεύσων κἄμ᾽ ἐπισφάξων ἄναξ·
to-drag to-murder and-me to-slaughter-besides the-lord
μένοντι δ᾽ αὐτοῦ πάντα σοι γενήσεται
for-one-staying and here all-things for-you will-turn-out
τῇ τ᾽ ἀσφαλείᾳ κερδανεῖς· πόλιν δὲ σὴν
by-the and safety you-will-gain city and your
μὴ πρὶν ταράξῃς πρὶν τόδ᾽ εὖ θέσθαι, τέκνον.
not before stir-up before this well to-arrange child
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ δράσω τάδ᾽· εὖ γὰρ εἶπας· εἶμ᾽ εἴσω δόμων.
I-will-do this well for you-said I-will-go within the-house
χρόνῳ δ᾽ ἀνελθὼν ἐξ ἀνηλίων μυχῶν
in-time and having-come-up from sunless recesses
Ἅιδου Κόρης τ᾽ ἔνερθεν, οὐκ ἀτιμάσω
of-Hades of-the-Maiden and below not I-will-neglect
θεοὺς προσειπεῖν πρῶτα τοὺς κατὰ στέγας.
the-gods to-address first the in house
ΑΜΦΙΤΡΤΩΝ ἦλθες γὰρ ὄντως δώματ᾽ εἰς Ἅιδου, τέκνον;
did-you-go for really the-house to of-Hades child
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ καὶ θῆρά γ᾽ εἰς φῶς τὸν τρίκρανον ἤγαγον.
and the-beast at-least to light the three-headed I-brought
ΑΜΦΙΤΡΤΩΝ μάχῃ κρατήσας ἢ θεᾶς δωρήμασιν;
in-battle having-prevailed or of-the-goddess by-gifts
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ μάχῃ· τὰ μυστῶν δ᾽ ὄργι᾽ ηὐτύχησ᾽ ἰδών.
in-battle the of-the-initiates and rites I-was-fortunate having-seen

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ἦ καὶ κατ᾽ οἴκους ἐστὶν Εὐρυσθέως ὁ θήρ;
— *and in house is of-Eurystheus the beast*

615 ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ Χθονίας νιν ἄλσος Ἑρμιών τ᾽ ἔχει πόλις.
of-Chthonia it grove Hermion and holds city

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ οὐδ᾽ οἶδεν Εὐρυσθεύς σε γῆς ἥκοντ᾽ ἄνω;
nor knows Eurystheus you from-the-earth come up

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οὐκ οἶδεν· ἦλθον τἀνθάδ᾽ εἰδέναι πάρος.
not he-knows I-came the-things-here to-know first

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ χρόνον δὲ πῶς τοσοῦτον ἦσθ᾽ ὑπὸ χθονί;
time and how so-long were-you under earth

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ Θησέα κομίζων ἐχρόνισ᾽ ἐξ Ἅιδου, πάτερ.
Theseus bringing I-delayed from of-Hades father

620 ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ καὶ ποῦ ᾽στιν; ἢ γῆς πατρίδος οἴχεται πέδον;
and where is-he or of-land ancestral is-gone plain

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ βέβηκ᾽ Ἀθήνας, νέρθεν ἄσμενος φυγών.
he-has-gone to-Athens from-below gladly having-fled

ἀλλ᾽ εἶ᾽, ὁμαρτεῖτ᾽, ὦ τέκν᾽, εἰς δόμους πατρί·
but come follow O children into house with-father

καλλίονές τἄρ᾽ εἴσοδοι τῶν ἐξόδων
fairer then entrances than-the exits

πάρεισιν ὑμῖν. ἀλλὰ θάρσος ἴσχετε
are-present for-you but courage have

625 καὶ νάματ᾽ ὄσσων μηκέτ᾽ ἐξανίετε,
and streams of-eyes no-longer let-flow

σύ τ᾽, ὦ γύναι μοι, σύλλογον ψυχῆς λαβὲ
you and O wife to-me composure of-soul take

τρόμου τε παῦσαι, καὶ μέθεσθ᾽ ἐμῶν πέπλων·
from-trembling and cease and let-go my robes

οὐ γὰρ πτερωτὸς οὐδὲ φευξείω φίλους.
not for winged nor I-desire-to-flee friends

ἆ,

ah

οἵδ' οὐκ ἀφιᾶσ', ἀλλ' ἀνάπτονται πέπλων

these not let-go but cling to-robes

τοσῷδε μᾶλλον· ὧδ' ἔβητ' ἐπὶ ξυροῦ; 630

by-so-much more thus you-went on a-razor's-edge

ἄξω λαβών γε τούσδ' ἐφολκίδας χεροῖν,

I-will-lead taking at-least these as-boats-in-tow with-hands

ναῦς δ' ὡς ἐφέλξω· καὶ γὰρ οὐκ ἀναίνομαι

ship and like I-will-draw and for not I-refuse

θεράπευμα τέκνων. πάντα τἀνθρώπων ἴσα.

service of-children all of-men equal

φιλοῦσι παῖδας οἵ τ' ἀμείνονες βροτῶν

love children those and better of-mortals

οἵ τ' οὐδὲν ὄντες· χρήμασιν δὲ διάφοροι· 635

those and nothing being in-wealth but differing

ἔχουσιν, οἱ δ' οὔ· πᾶν δὲ φιλότεκνον γένος.

have others and not all but child-loving race

The chorus sings that youth is dear and old age a burden heavier than Etna; if the gods were wise, the good would live a second youth. They will never stop mingling the Graces and the Muses, and as old singers they hymn Heracles' victory, as the Delian maidens sing paeans for Apollo, for he made life safe for mortals.

χορος ἁ νεότας μοι φίλον· ἄχθος δὲ τὸ γῆρας αἰεὶ
the youth to-me dear burden but the old-age always
βαρύτερον Αἴτνας σκοπέλων
heavier than-Aetna's crags
ἐπὶ κρατὶ κεῖται,
upon head lies
βλεφάρων σκοτεινὸν
of-eyelids dark
φάρος ἐπικαλύψαν.
veil having-covered
μή μοι μήτ' Ἀσιήτιδος
not to-me neither of-Asian
τυραννίδος ὄλβος εἴη,
sovereignty wealth may-be
μὴ χρυσοῦ δώματα πλήρη
nor of-gold house full
τᾶς ἥβας ἀντιλαβεῖν,
the youth to-take-in-exchange
ἃ καλλίστα μὲν ἐν ὄλβῳ,
which fairest indeed in wealth
καλλίστα δ' ἐν πενίᾳ.
fairest and in poverty

τὸ δὲ λυγρὸν φόνιόν τε γῆ-
the but grievous murderous and old-age
ρας μισῶ· κατὰ κυμάτων δ’ 650
— I-hate down the-waves and
ἔρροι, μηδέ ποτ’ ὤφελεν
let-it-go nor ever ought
θνατῶν δώματα καὶ πόλεις
of-mortals houses and cities
ἐλθεῖν, ἀλλὰ κατ’ αἰθέρ’ ἀ-
to-have-come but through the-air always
εἰ πτεροῖσι φορείσθω.
— with-wings let-it-be-borne
εἰ δὲ θεοῖς ἦν ξύνεσις καὶ σοφία κατ’ ἄνδρας, 655
if and in-gods were understanding and wisdom concerning men
δίδυμον ἂν ἥβαν ἔφερον
double — youth they-would-bear
φανερὸν χαρακτῆρ’
clear mark
ἀρετᾶς ὅσοισιν 660
of-excellence for-whomever
μέτα, κατθανόντες τ’
is-a-share dying and
εἰς αὐγὰς πάλιν ἁλίου
to rays back of-the-sun
δισσοὺς ἂν ἔβαν διαύλους,
two — would-go laps
ἁ δυσγένεια δ’ ἁπλᾶν ἂν
the low-birth and single —
εἶχε ζωᾶς βιοτάν,
would-have of-living life

καὶ τῷδ' ἦν τούς τε κακοὺς ἂν
and by-this was the and bad —
γνῶναι καὶ τοὺς ἀγαθούς,
to-know and the good
ἴσον ἅτ' ἐν νεφέλαισιν ἄ-
equal as among clouds of-stars
στρων ναύταις ἀριθμὸς πέλει.
— for-sailors number is
νῦν δ' οὐδεὶς ὅρος ἐκ θεῶν
now and no boundary from gods
χρηστοῖς οὐδὲ κακοῖς σαφής,
for-good nor for-bad clear
ἀλλ' εἱλισσόμενός τις αἰ-
but rolling-on some lifetime
ὼν πλοῦτον μόνον αὔξει.
— wealth only increases
οὐ παύσομαι τὰς Χάριτας
not I-will-cease the Graces
Μούσαις συγκαταμιγνύς,
with-the-Muses mingling
ἀδίσταν συζυγίαν.
sweetest yoking
μὴ ζώην μετ' ἀμουσίας,
not may-I-live with lack-of-music
αἰεὶ δ' ἐν στεφάνοισιν εἴην.
always and among garlands may-I-be
ἔτι τοι γέρων ἀοιδὸς
still surely old singer
κελαδεῖ Μναμοσύναν·
sings Memory

ἔτι τὰν Ἡρακλέους
still the of-Heracles
καλλίνικον ἀείδω
glorious-victory I-sing
παρά τε Βρόμιον οἰνοδόταν
beside and Bromius wine-giver
παρά τε χέλυος ἑπτατόνου
beside and of-the-tortoise-lyre seven-stringed
μολπὰν καὶ Λίβυν αὐλόν·
song and Libyan pipe
οὔπω καταπαύσομεν
not-yet we-will-cease
Μούσας, αἵ μ᾽ ἐχόρευσαν.
the-Muses who me set-dancing
παιᾶνα μὲν Δηλιάδες
paean indeed Delian-maidens
ὑμνοῦσ᾽ ἀμφὶ πύλας τὸν
hymn around gates the
Λατοῦς εὔπαιδα γόνον
of-Leto fair-child offspring
εἱλίσσουσαι καλλίχορον·
whirling fair-dancing
παιᾶνας δ᾽ ἐπὶ σοῖς μελάθροις
paeans and over your halls
κύκνος ὡς γέρων ἀοιδὸς
swan like old singer
πολιᾶν ἐκ γενύων
gray from cheeks
κελαδήσω· τὸ γὰρ εὖ
I-will-sing the for good

τοῖς ὕμνοισιν ὑπάρχει,
to-the hymns belongs
Διὸς ὁ παῖς· τὸ δ' εὐγενίας
of-Zeus the son the and of-noble-birth
κλέος ὑπερβάλλων
glory surpassing
μοχθήσας τὸν ἄκυμον
having-toiled the waveless
θῆκεν βίοτον βροτοῖς
made life for-mortals
πέρσας δείματα θηρῶν.
having-destroyed terrors of-beasts

VII · LYCUS ENTERS THE HOUSE

Lycus comes to fetch the family. Amphitryon says they are inside by Hestia's altar and refuses to bring them out. Lycus goes in himself to take them, and the old man follows to see justice done, saying that Lycus will find a sword where he expected victims.

ΛΥΚΟΣ εἰς καιρὸν οἴκων, Ἀμφιτρύων, ἔξω περᾷς·
in season from-the-house Amphitryon out you-come
χρόνος γὰρ ἤδη δαρὸς ἐξ ὅτου πέπλοις
time for already long from which with-robes
κοσμεῖσθε σῶμα καὶ νεκρῶν ἀγάλμασιν.
you-adorn body and with-the-dead's ornaments
ἀλλ' εἶα, παῖδας καὶ δάμαρθ' Ἡρακλέους
but come children and wife of-Heracles
ἔξω κέλευε τῶνδε φαίνεσθαι δόμων,
outside bid from-this to-appear house

ἐφ᾽ οἷς ὑπέστητ᾽ αὐτεπάγγελτοι θανεῖν.
on which you-undertook self-offered to-die

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΤΩΝ ἄναξ, διώκεις μ᾽ ἀθλίως πεπραγότα
lord you-persecute me wretchedly having-fared

ὕβριν θ᾽ ὑβρίζεις ἐπὶ θανοῦσι τοῖς ἐμοῖς·
outrage and you-commit over dead — my

ἃ χρῆν σε μετρίως, κεἰ κρατεῖς, σπουδὴν ἔχειν.
which ought you moderately even-if you-rule zeal to-have

ἐπεὶ δ᾽ ἀνάγκην προστίθης ἡμῖν θανεῖν, 710
since and necessity you-impose on-us to-die

στέργειν ἀνάγκη, δραστέον θ᾽ ἃ σοὶ δοκεῖ.
to-acquiesce must one-must-do and what to-you seems-good

ΛΥΚΟΣ ποῦ δῆτα Μεγάρα; ποῦ τέκν᾽ Ἀλκμήνης γόνου;
where then Megara where children of-Alcmene's son

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΤΩΝ δοκῶ μὲν αὐτήν, ὡς θύραθεν εἰκάσαι,
I-think indeed her as from-outside to-guess

ΛΥΚΟΣ τί χρῆμα δόξης; τοῦ δ᾽ ἔχεις τεκμήριον;
what thing of-opinion of-what and have-you proof

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΤΩΝ ἱκέτιν πρὸς ἁγνοῖς Ἑστίας θάσσειν βάθροις, 715
suppliant at holy of-Hestia to-sit steps

ΛΥΚΟΣ ἀνόνητά γ᾽ ἱκετεύουσαν ἐκσῶσαι βίον.
uselessly at-least supplicating to-save life

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΤΩΝ καὶ τὸν θανόντα γ᾽ ἀνακαλεῖν μάτην πόσιν.
and the dead at-least to-call-on in-vain husband

ΛΥΚΟΣ ὁ δ᾽ οὐ πάρεστιν οὐδὲ μὴ μόλῃ ποτέ.
he but not is-present nor — will-come ever

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΤΩΝ οὔκ, εἴ γε μή τις θεῶν ἀναστήσειέ νιν.
no if at-least not some of-gods should-raise him

ΛΥΚΟΣ χώρει πρὸς αὐτὴν κἀκκόμιζ᾽ ἐκ δωμάτων. 720
go to her and-bring from the-house

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ μέτοχος ἂν εἴην τοῦ φόνου δράσας τόδε.
sharer — I-would-be of-the murder having-done this

ΛΥΚΟΣ ἡμεῖς, ἐπειδὴ σοὶ τόδ' ἔστ' ἐνθύμιον,
we since to-you this is a-scruple

οἱ δειμάτων ἔξωθεν ἐκπορεύσομεν
the-ones fears outside will-bring-out

σὺν μητρὶ παῖδας. δεῦρ' ἕπεσθε, πρόσπολοι,
with mother children here follow servants

725 ὡς ἂν σχολὴν λύσωμεν ἄσμενοι πόνων.
that — leisure we-may-end gladly of-toils

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ σὺ δ' οὖν ἴθ', ἔρχει δ' οἷ χρεών· τὰ δ' ἄλλ' ἴσως
you and then go you-go and where is-fated the but rest perhaps

ἄλλῳ μελήσει. προσδόκα δὲ δρῶν κακῶς
to-another will-be-a-care expect and doing badly

κακόν τι πράξειν. ὦ γέροντες, εἰς καλὸν
evil something to-fare O old-men to fair

στείχει, βρόχοισι δ' ἀρκύων γενήσεται
he-goes with-nooses and of-nets will-be-caught

730 ξιφηφόροισι, τοὺς πέλας δοκῶν κτενεῖν
sword-bearing the neighbors thinking to-kill

ὁ παγκάκιστος. εἶμι δ' ὡς ἴδω νεκρὸν
the utterly-base I-will-go and that I-may-see corpse

πίπτοντ'· ἔχει γὰρ ἡδονὰς θνήσκων ἀνὴρ
falling has for pleasures dying man

ἐχθροὺς τίνων τε τῶν δεδραμένων δίκην.
enemy paying and of-the done justice

The chorus sings of reversal: the tyrant goes down to Hades. Lycus' death cries are heard from within. The old men call for dances and feasts throughout Thebes, since their older king has returned from the dead, and they say the gods care for justice. They call Ismenus, Dirce, the nymphs, Pytho, and Helicon to join the song, and say Zeus' union with the Perseid bride has proved true.

Α′ μεταβολὰ κακῶν· μέγας ὁ πρόσθ' ἄναξ
reversal of-evils great the former lord
πάλιν ὑποστρέφει βίοτον εἰς Ἅιδαν.
back turns life to Hades
Β′ ἰὼ δίκα καὶ θεῶν παλίρρους πότμος.
oh justice and of-gods back-flowing fate
Γ′ ἦλθες χρόνῳ μὲν οὖ δίκην δώσεις θανών,
you-came in-time indeed where justice you-will-pay dying
Δ′ ὕβρεις ὑβρίζων εἰς ἀμείνονας σέθεν.
outrages committing against better than-you
Ε′ χαρμοναὶ δακρύων ἔδοσαν ἐκβολάς·
joys of-tears gave outpourings
ΣΤ′ πάλιν ἔμολεν ἃ πάρος οὔποτε διὰ φρενὸς
back came what before never through mind
ἤλπισεν παθεῖν γᾶς ἄναξ.
he-hoped to-suffer of-the-land lord
Ζ′ ἀλλ', ὦ γεραιοί, καὶ τὰ δωμάτων ἔσω
but O old-men also the house within
σκοπῶμεν, εἰ πράσσει τις ὡς ἐγὼ θέλω.
let-us-look whether fares someone as I wish
ΛΥΚΟΣ ἰώ μοί μοι.
oh me me

Η′ τόδε κατάρχεται μέλος ἐμοὶ κλύειν
this begins song for-me to-hear
φίλιον ἐν δόμοις· θάνατος οὐ πόρσω.
dear in the-house death not far
Θ′ βοᾷ φόνου φροίμιον στενάζων ἄναξ.
he-cries of-murder prelude groaning the-lord
ΛΥΚΟΣ ὦ πᾶσα Κάδμου γαῖ', ἀπόλλυμαι δόλῳ.
O all of-Cadmus land I-perish by-guile
Ι′ καὶ γὰρ διώλλυς· ἀντίποινα δ' ἐκτίνων
and for you-destroyed requital and paying
τόλμα, διδούς γε τῶν δεδραμένων δίκην.
endure giving at-least of-the done justice
ΙΑ′ τίς ὁ θεοὺς ἀνομίᾳ χραίνων, θνητὸς ὤν,
who the gods with-lawlessness staining mortal being
ἄφρονα λόγον οὐρανίων μακάρων κατέβαλ',
foolish word of-the-heavenly blessed cast-down
ὡς ἄρ' οὐ σθένουσιν θεοί;
that then not are-strong the-gods
ΙΒ′ γέροντες, οὐκέτ' ἔστι δυσσεβὴς ἀνήρ.
old-men no-longer is impious man
σιγᾷ μέλαθρα· πρὸς χοροὺς τραπώμεθα.
is-silent the-hall to dances let-us-turn
φίλοι γὰρ εὐτυχοῦσιν οὓς ἐγὼ θέλω.
friends for prosper whom I wish
ΧΟΡΟΣ χοροὶ χοροὶ καὶ θαλίαι
dances dances and feasts
μέλουσι Θήβας ἱερὸν κατ' ἄστυ.
are-the-care of-Thebes holy throughout the-town
μεταλλαγαὶ γὰρ δακρύων,
changes for of-tears

μεταλλαγαὶ συντυχίας
changes of-fortune
ἔτεκον ἀοιδάς.
have-brought-forth songs
βέβακ᾽ ἄναξ ὁ καινός,
is-gone lord the new
ὁ δὲ παλαίτερος
the and older
κρατεῖ, λιμένα λιπών γε τὸν Ἀχερόντιον.
rules harbor having-left at-least the of-Acheron
δοκημάτων ἐκτὸς ἦλθεν ἐλπίς.
expectations beyond came hope
θεοὶ θεοὶ τῶν ἀδίκων
gods gods of-the unjust
μέλουσι καὶ τῶν ὁσίων ἐπᾴειν.
take-thought and of-the holy to-heed
ὁ χρυσὸς ἅ τ᾽ εὐτυχία
the gold the and prosperity
φρενῶν βροτοὺς ἐξάγεται,
from-wits mortals leads-astray
δύνασιν ἄδικον ἐφέλκων.
power unjust drawing-along
χρόνου γὰρ οὔτις ἔτλα
of-time for no-one dared
τὸ πάλιν εἰσορᾶν·
the back to-look-at
νόμον παρέμενος, ἀνομίᾳ χάριν διδούς,
law having-set-aside to-lawlessness favor giving
ἔθραυσεν ὄλβου κελαινὸν ἅρμα.
he-shattered of-wealth dark chariot

Ἰσμήν᾽ ὦ στεφαναφόρει,
Ismenus O wear-garlands
ξεσταί θ᾽ ἑπταπύλου πόλεως
polished and of-seven-gated city
ἀναχορεύσατ᾽ ἀγυιαί,
dance-up streets
Δίρκα θ᾽ ἁ καλλιρρέεθρος,
Dirce and the fair-flowing
σύν τ᾽ Ἀσωπιάδες κόραι,
with and Asopid maidens
πατρὸς ὕδωρ βᾶτε λιποῦ-
of-father water come having-left
σαι συναοιδοί,
— fellow-singers
Νύμφαι, τὸν Ἡρακλέους
Nymphs the of-Heracles
καλλίνικον ἀγῶν᾽· ὦ
glorious-victory contest O
Πυθίου δενδρῶτι πέτρα
of-the-Pythian tree-clad rock
Μουσῶν θ᾽ Ἑλικωνιάδων δώματα,
of-the-Muses and Heliconian house
ἥξετ᾽ εὐγαθεῖ κελάδῳ
you-will-come with-joyful shout
ἐμὰν πόλιν ἐμά τε τείχη,
my city my and walls
Σπαρτῶν ἵνα γένος ἐφάνη,
of-Sown-men where race appeared
χαλκασπίδων λόχος, ὃς γᾶν
of-bronze-shields band which earth

τέκνων τέκνοις μεταμείβει,
of-children to-children passes-on
Θήβαις ἱερὸν φῶς.
for-Thebes holy light
ὦ λέκτρων δύο συγγενεῖς
O of-bed two kindred
εὐναί, θνατογενοῦς τε καὶ
couches of-mortal-born both and
Διός, ὃς ἦλθεν ἐς εὐνὰς
of-Zeus who came into bed
Νύμφας τᾶς Περσηίδος· ὡς
of-the-bride the Perseid how
πιστόν μοι τὸ παλαιὸν ἔ-
trustworthy to-me the of-old already
δη λέχος, ὦ Ζεῦ, τὸ σὸν οὐκ
— bed O Zeus — your not
ἐπ᾽ ἐλπίδι φάνθη,
beyond hope appeared
λαμπρὰν δ᾽ ἔδειξ᾽ ὁ χρόνος
bright and has-shown the time
τὰν Ἡρακλέος ἀλκάν·
the of-Heracles strength
ὃς γᾶς ἐξέβα θαλάμων,
who of-earth came-out from-chambers
Πλούτωνος δῶμα λιπὼν νέρτερον.
of-Pluto house having-left nether
κρείσσων μοι τύραννος ἔφυς
better to-me ruler you-are
ἢ δυσγένει᾽ ἀνάκτων·
than low-birth of-lords

ἃ νῦν ἐσορᾶν φαίνει
which now to-look-at shows
ξιφηφόρων ἐς ἀγώνων
of-sword-bearing in contests
ἅμιλλαν, εἰ τὸ δίκαιον
rivalry if the just
θεοῖς ἔτ' ἀρέσκει.
to-the-gods still pleases

IX · IRIS AND MADNESS

The old men cry out in fear at a phantom above the house. It is Iris with Lyssa, Madness. Iris explains that Hera, no longer restrained now that the labors are done, wants Heracles to kill his own children. Madness protests that he is a benefactor of gods and men, but Iris insists. Madness calls the Sun to witness that she acts unwillingly, sees his frenzy begin, and enters the house unseen.

815 ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔα ἔα·
ah ah
ἆρ' εἰς τὸν αὐτὸν πίτυλον ἥκομεν φόβου,
— into the same surge have-we-come of-fear
γέροντες, οἷον φάσμ' ὑπὲρ δόμων ὁρῶ;
old-men what phantom over the-house I-see
φυγῇ φυγῇ
in-flight in-flight
νωθὲς πέδαιρε κῶλον, ἐκποδὼν ἔλα.
sluggish lift limb out-of-the-way drive
820 ὦναξ Παιάν,
O-lord Paean
ἀπότροπος γένοιό μοι πημάτων.
averter may-you-be to-me of-woes

ΙΡΙΣ θαρσεῖτε Νυκτὸς τήνδ' ὁρῶντες ἔκγονον
take-heart of-Night this seeing offspring
Λύσσαν, γέροντες, κἀμὲ τὴν θεῶν λάτριν
Madness old-men and-me the of-gods servant
Ἶριν· πόλει γὰρ οὐδὲν ἥκομεν βλάβος,
Iris to-the-city for no we-come harm
ἑνὸς δ' ἐπ' ἀνδρὸς δώματα στρατεύομεν,
of-one but against man house we-march
ὅν φασιν εἶναι Ζηνὸς Ἀλκμήνης τ' ἄπο.
whom they-say to-be Zeus Alcmene and from
πρὶν μὲν γὰρ ἄθλους ἐκτελευτῆσαι πικρούς,
before indeed for labors to-complete bitter
τὸ χρή νιν ἐξέσωζεν, οὐδ' εἴα πατὴρ
the fate him preserved nor allowed father
Ζεύς νιν κακῶς δρᾶν οὔτ' ἔμ' οὔθ' Ἥραν ποτέ.
Zeus him badly to-treat neither me nor Hera ever
ἐπεὶ δὲ μόχθους διεπέρασ' Εὐρυσθέως,
since and the-toils he-has-passed-through of-Eurystheus
Ἥρα προσάψαι κοινὸν αἷμ' αὐτῷ θέλει
Hera to-fasten kindred blood on-him wishes
παῖδας κατακτείναντι, συνθέλω δ' ἐγώ.
children having-killed I-join-in-wishing and I
ἀλλ' εἶ', ἄτεγκτον συλλαβοῦσα καρδίαν,
but come unsoftened having-gathered heart
Νυκτὸς κελαινῆς ἀνυμέναιε παρθένε,
of-Night black unwedded maiden
μανίας τ' ἐπ' ἀνδρὶ τῷδε καὶ παιδοκτόνους
madness and against man this and child-killing
φρενῶν ταραγμοὺς καὶ ποδῶν σκιρτήματα
of-mind confusions and of-feet leapings

ἔλαυνε, κίνει, φόνιον ἐξίει κάλων,
drive stir murderous let-out rope
ὡς ἂν πορεύσας δι' Ἀχερούσιον πόρον
that — having-sent through Acherusian strait
τὸν καλλίπαιδα στέφανον αὐθέντῃ φόνῳ
the fair-childed crown by-kindred murder
840 γνῷ μὲν τὸν Ἥρας οἷός ἐστ' αὐτῷ χόλος,
he-may-know indeed the of-Hera what-kind is to-him wrath
μάθῃ δὲ τὸν ἐμόν· ἢ θεοὶ μὲν οὐδαμοῦ,
may-learn and — my or gods indeed nowhere
τὰ θνητὰ δ' ἔσται μεγάλα, μὴ δόντος δίκην.
the mortal and will-be great not having-given justice
ΛΥΣΣΑ ἐξ εὐγενοῦς μὲν πατρὸς ἔκ τε μητέρος
from noble indeed father from and mother
πέφυκα, Νυκτὸς Οὐρανοῦ τ' ἀφ' αἵματος·
I-am-born of-Night of-Heaven and from blood
845 τιμὰς δ' ἔχω τάσδ', οὐκ ἀγασθῆναι φίλοις,
honors and I-have these not to-be-envied by-friends
οὐδ' ἥδομαι φοιτῶσ' ἐπ' ἀνθρώπων φόνους.
nor I-am-pleased going against of-men murders
παραινέσαι δέ, πρὶν σφαλεῖσαν εἰσιδεῖν,
to-advise but before having-stumbled to-see
Ἥρᾳ θέλω σοί τ', ἢν πίθησθ' ἐμοῖς λόγοις.
to-Hera I-wish to-you and if you-obey my words
ἀνὴρ ὅδ' οὐκ ἄσημος οὔτ' ἐπὶ χθονὶ
man this not obscure neither on earth
850 οὔτ' ἐν θεοῖσιν, οὗ γέ μ' εἰσπέμπεις δόμους·
nor among gods into-whose at-least me you-send house
ἄβατον δὲ χώραν καὶ θάλασσαν ἀγρίαν
untrodden and land and sea savage

ἐξημερώσας, θεῶν ἀνέστησεν μόνος
having-tamed of-gods he-restored alone
τιμὰς πιτνούσας ἀνοσίων ἀνδρῶν ὕπο·
honors falling unholy men by
ὥστ᾽ οὐ παραινῶ μεγάλα βούλεσθαι κακά.
so-that not I-advise great to-wish evils
ΙΡΙΣ μὴ σὺ νουθέτει τά θ᾽ Ἥρας κἀμὰ μηχανήματα.
not you admonish the and of-Hera and-my devices
ΑΤΣΣΑ εἰς τὸ λῷστον ἐμβιβάζω σ᾽ ἴχνος ἀντὶ τοῦ κακοῦ.
to the best I-set you path instead-of the bad
ΙΡΙΣ οὐχὶ σωφρονεῖν γ᾽ ἔπεμψε δεῦρό σ᾽ ἡ Διὸς δάμαρ.
not to-be-self-controlled at-least sent here you the of-Zeus wife
ΑΤΣΣΑ Ἥλιον μαρτυρόμεσθα δρῶσ᾽ ἃ δρᾶν οὐ βούλομαι.
the-Sun we-call-to-witness doing what to-do not I-wish
εἰ δὲ δή μ᾽ Ἥρᾳ θ᾽ ὑπουργεῖν σοί τ᾽ ἀναγκαίως ἔχει
if and indeed me Hera and to-serve you and necessarily is
τάχος ἐπιρροίβδην θ᾽ ὁμαρτεῖν ὡς κυνηγέτῃ κύνας,
quick with-rushing-sound and to-follow as huntsman hounds
εἶμί γ᾽· οὔτε πόντος οὕτω κύμασι στένων λάβρος
I-go at-least neither the-sea so with-waves groaning fierce
οὔτε γῆς σεισμὸς κεραυνοῦ τ᾽ οἶστρος ὠδῖνας πνέων,
nor of-earth quake of-thunderbolt and sting pangs breathing
οἷ᾽ ἐγὼ στάδια δραμοῦμαι στέρνον εἰς Ἡρακλέους·
as I courses shall-run breast into of-Heracles
καὶ καταρρήξω μέλαθρα καὶ δόμους ἐπεμβαλῶ,
and shall-shatter halls and the-house shall-hurl-upon
τέκν᾽ ἀποκτείνασα πρῶτον· ὁ δὲ κανὼν οὐκ εἴσεται
children having-killed first he and having-killed not will-know
παῖδας οὓς ἔτικτ᾽ ἐναίρων, πρὶν ἂν ἐμὰς λύσσας ἀφῇ.
children whom he-begot slaying before — my madness lets-go

ἦν ἰδού· καὶ δὴ τινάσσει κρᾶτα βαλβίδων ἄπο,
see look and indeed he-shakes head starting-posts from
καὶ διαστρόφους ἑλίσσει σῖγα γοργωποὺς κόρας.
and distorted rolls silent fierce-eyed eyeballs
ἀμπνοὰς δ' οὐ σωφρονίζει, ταῦρος ὡς ἐς ἐμβολήν·
breathings and not controls bull like into charge
δεινὰ μυκᾶται δὲ Κῆρας ἀνακαλῶν τὰς Ταρτάρου.
terribly bellows and the-Fates calling-on the of-Tartarus
τάχα σ' ἐγὼ μᾶλλον χορεύσω καὶ καταυλήσω φόβῳ.
soon you I more shall-make-dance and pipe-down with-terror
στεῖχ' ἐς Οὔλυμπον πεδαίρουσ', Ἶρι, γενναῖον πόδα·
go to Olympus lifting Iris noble foot
εἰς δόμους δ' ἡμεῖς ἄφαντοι δυσόμεσθ' Ἡρακλέους.
into house and we unseen shall-enter of-Heracles

X · THE MADNESS BEGINS

The chorus wails that the city's flower, the son of Zeus, is cut down, as Lyssa's chariot drives in. Inside, the frenzy begins, a dance without drums, and the children are told to flee. The old men groan for the old father and for the mother who bore her children in vain. The house shakes and the roof falls; they ask the son of Zeus what he is doing, sending a confusion like Tartarus into the house, as Pallas once sent it on Enceladus.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὀτοτοτοῖ, στέναξον· ἀποκείρεται
alas groan is-shorn
σὸν ἄνθος πόλεος, ὁ Διὸς ἔκγονος.
your flower of-the-city the of-Zeus offspring
μέλεος Ἑλλάς, ἃ τὸν εὐεργέταν
wretched Hellas who the benefactor

ἀποβαλεῖς, ὀλεῖς μανιάσιν λύσσαις
will-cast-off will-destroy with-mad frenzies
χορευθέντ' ἀναύλοις.
danced pipeless
βέβακεν ἐν δίφροισιν ἁ πολύστονος,
she-has-mounted in chariot the much-groaning
ἅρμασι δ' ἐνδίδωσι
to-the-chariot and gives
κέντρον ὡς ἐπὶ λώβᾳ
goad as for outrage
Νυκτὸς Γοργὼν ἑκατογκεφάλοις
of-Night Gorgon with-hundred-headed
ὄφεων ἰαχήμασι, Λύσσα μαρμαρωπός.
of-snakes hissings Madness flashing-eyed
ταχὺ τὸν εὐτυχῆ μετέβαλεν δαίμων,
quickly the prosperous changed the-god
ταχὺ δὲ πρὸς πατρὸς τέκν' ἐκπνεύσεται.
quickly and by father children will-breathe-out
ἰώ μοι μέλεος,
oh me wretched
ἰὼ Ζεῦ, τὸ σὸν γένος ἄγονον αὐτίκα
oh Zeus — your race childless forthwith
λυσσάδες ὠμοβρῶτες ἀποινόδικοι δίκαι
raging raw-eating requiting justices
κακοῖσιν ἐκπετάσουσιν. ἰὼ στέγαι,
with-evils will-lay-low oh roof
κατάρχεται χόρευμα τυμπάνων ἄτερ,
begins dance drums without
οὐ βρομίῳ κεχαρισμένα θύρσῳ,
not of-Bromius pleasing to-the-thyrsus

ἰὼ δόμοι,
oh house
πρὸς αἷματ', οὐχὶ τᾶς Διονυσιάδος
to blood not of-the Dionysian
βοτρύων ἐπὶ χεύμασι λοιβᾶς.
of-grapes over streams libation
φυγῇ, τέκν', ἐξορμᾶτε· δάιον τόδε
in-flight children hasten deadly this
δάιον μέλος ἐπαυλεῖται.
deadly song is-piped
κυναγετεῖ τέκνων διωγμόν·
hunts of-children chase
οὔποτ' ἄκραντα δόμοισι Λύσσα βακχεύσει.
never in-vain in-house Madness will-rave
αἰαῖ κακῶν
alas of-evils
αἰαῖ δῆτα τὸν γεραιὸν ὡς στένω
alas indeed the old-man how I-groan-for
πατέρα, τάν τε παιδοτρόφον, ᾇ μάταν
father the and child-nurse by-whom in-vain
τέκεα γεννᾶται.
children are-born
ἰδοὺ ἰδού,
see see
θύελλα σείει δῶμα, συμπίπτει στέγη·
storm shakes the-house falls-in roof
ἢ ἤ, τί δρᾷς, ὦ Διὸς παῖ; μελάθρων

τάραγμα ταρτάρειον, ὡς
confusion of-Tartarus as
ἐπ᾽ Ἐγκελάδῳ ποτὲ Παλλάς, εἰς δόμους πέμπεις.
on Enceladus once Pallas into the-house you-send

XI · THE MURDERS

A messenger reports that at the purifying sacrifice Heracles' eyes rolled and he foamed at the mouth, imagining he was going to Mycenae to kill Eurystheus. He took his own children for Eurystheus' sons, shot one with an arrow, clubbed another, and broke down a door to kill the third with Megara. He was about to kill his father when Pallas struck him with a stone, and they bound him asleep to a pillar.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ὦ λευκὰ γήρᾳ σώματ᾽,
O white with-age bodies
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀνακαλεῖς τίνα με τίνα βοάν;
do-you-call-on what me what cry
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἄλαστα τἀν δόμοισι.
unforgettable-things the-in house
ΧΟΡΟΣ μάντιν οὐχ ἕτερον ἄξομαι.
prophet not other I-shall-bring
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τεθνᾶσι παῖδες. ΧΟΡΟΣ αἰαῖ.
are-dead the-children alas
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ στενάζεθ᾽, ὡς στενακτά. ΧΟΡΟΣ δάιοι φόνοι,
groan as for-groaning-things deadly murders
δάιοι δὲ τοκέων χεῖρες.
deadly and of-parents hands
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οὐκ ἄν τις εἴποι μᾶλλον ἢ πεπόνθαμεν.
not — anyone could-say more than we-have-suffered

ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς παισὶ στενακτὰν ἄταν ἄταν
how for-children grievous ruin ruin
πατέρος ἀμφαίνεις;
of-father do-you-reveal
λέγε τίνα τρόπον ἔσυτο θεόθεν ἐπὶ
tell in-what way rushed from-the-gods upon
μέλαθρα κακὰ τάδε
the-halls evils these
τλήμονάς τε παίδων τύχας.
wretched and of-children fortunes
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἱερὰ μὲν ἦν πάροιθεν ἐσχάρας Διὸς
holy indeed were before the-hearth of-Zeus
καθάρσι᾽ οἴκων, γῆς ἄνακτ᾽ ἐπεὶ κτανὼν
purifications of-house of-the-land lord since having-killed
ἐξέβαλε τῶνδε δωμάτων Ἡρακλέης·
had-cast-out from-this house Heracles
χορὸς δὲ καλλίμορφος εἱστήκει τέκνων
band and fair-formed stood of-children
πατήρ τε Μεγάρα τ᾽· ἐν κύκλῳ δ᾽ ἤδη κανοῦν
father and Megara and in circle and already basket
εἵλικτο βωμοῦ, φθέγμα δ᾽ ὅσιον εἴχομεν.
had-been-carried-round the-altar voice and holy we-kept
μέλλων δὲ δαλὸν χειρὶ δεξιᾷ φέρειν,
about and brand with-hand right to-carry
εἰς χέρνιβ᾽ ὡς βάψειεν, Ἀλκμήνης τόκος
into the-lustral-water to dip of-Alcmene son
ἔστη σιωπῇ. καὶ χρονίζοντος πατρὸς
stood in-silence and lingering the-father
παῖδες προσέσχον ὄμμ᾽· ὁ δ᾽ οὐκέθ᾽ αὑτὸς ἦν,
children turned eye he and no-longer himself was

ἀλλ᾽ ἐν στροφαῖσιν ὀμμάτων ἐφθαρμένος
but in rollings of-eyes distorted
ῥίζας τ᾽ ἐν ὄσσοις αἱματῶπας ἐκβαλών,
roots and in eyes bloodshot casting
ἀφρὸν κατέσταζ᾽ εὐτρίχου γενειάδος.
foam dripped of-well-haired beard
ἔλεξε δ᾽ ἅμα γέλωτι παραπεπληγμένῳ·
he-said and with laughter deranged
πάτερ, τί θύω πρὶν κτανεῖν Εὐρυσθέα
father why do-I-sacrifice before to-kill Eurystheus
καθάρσιον πῦρ, καὶ πόνους διπλοῦς ἔχω
purifying fire and toils double I-have
ἐξὸν μιᾶς μ᾽ ἐκ χειρὸς εὖ θέσθαι τάδε;
it-being-possible one me from hand well to-settle these-things
ὅταν δ᾽ ἐνέγκω δεῦρο κρᾶτ᾽ Εὐρυσθέως,
when and I-bring here head of-Eurystheus
ἐπὶ τοῖσι νῦν θανοῦσιν ἁγνιῶ χέρας.
for the now dead I-will-purify hands
ἐκχεῖτε πηγάς, ῥίπτετ᾽ ἐκ χειρῶν κανᾶ.
pour-out the-springs throw from hands the-baskets
τίς μοι δίδωσι τόξα; τίς δ᾽ ὅπλον χερός;
who me gives bow who and weapon of-hand
πρὸς τὰς Μυκήνας εἶμι· λάζυσθαι χρεὼν
to the Mycenae I-go to-take one-must
μοχλοὺς δικέλλας θ᾽, ὡς τὰ Κυκλώπων βάθρα
crowbars mattocks and so-that the of-Cyclopes foundations
φοίνικι κανόνι καὶ τύκοις ἡρμοσμένα
with-red rule and chisels fitted
στρεπτῷ σιδήρῳ συντριαινώσω πάλιν.
with-twisted iron I-may-overturn again

ἐκ τοῦδε βαίνων ἅρματ' οὐκ ἔχων ἔχειν
from this going chariot not having to-have
ἔφασκε, δίφρου δ' εἰσέβαινεν ἄντυγα
he-said of-the-car and he-entered the-rail
κἄθεινε, κέντρον δῆθεν ὡς ἔχων, χερί.
and-struck goad as-if as having in-hand
διπλοῦς δ' ὀπαδοῖς ἦν γέλως φόβος θ' ὁμοῦ·
double and to-attendants was laughter fear and together
καί τις τόδ' εἶπεν, ἄλλος εἰς ἄλλον δρακών·
and one this said other to other looking
παίζει πρὸς ἡμᾶς δεσπότης ἢ μαίνεται;
plays with us the-master or is-be-mad
ὁ δ' εἶρπ' ἄνω τε καὶ κάτω κατὰ στέγας,
he and crept up both and down through the-house
μέσον δ' ἐς ἀνδρῶν' εἰσπεσὼν Νίσου πόλιν
middle and into men's-hall having-fallen of-Nisus city
ἥκειν ἔφασκε, δωμάτων εἴσω βεβώς.
to-have-come he-said of-the-house within having-gone
κλιθεὶς δ' ἐς οὖδας ὡς ἔχει σκευάζεται
reclining and on the-floor as he-was he-prepares
θοίνην. διελθὼν δ' ὡς βραχὺν χρόνον μονῆς,
feast having-gone-through and as short time of-stay
Ἰσθμοῦ ναπαίας ἔλεγε προσβαίνειν πλάκας.
of-the-Isthmus wooded said to-approach plains
κἀνταῦθα γυμνὸν σῶμα θεὶς πορπαμάτων,
and-there naked body having-set of-clasps
πρὸς οὐδέν' ἡμιλλᾶτο κἀκηρύσσετο
against no-one he-contended and-was-proclaimed
αὐτὸς πρὸς αὑτοῦ καλλίνικος, οὐδενὸς
himself by himself glorious-victor of-nobody

ἀκοὴν ὑπειπών. δεινὰ δ' Εὐρυσθεῖ βρέμων
hearing having-bidden terrible-things and against-Eurystheus roaring
ἦν ἐν Μυκήναις τῷ λόγῳ. πατὴρ δέ νιν
he-was in Mycenae in-the account father and him
θιγὼν κραταιᾶς χειρὸς ἐννέπει τάδε·
touching mighty hand addresses this
ὦ παῖ, τί πάσχεις; τίς ὁ τρόπος ξενώσεως
O son what do-you-suffer what the manner of-journey
τῆσδ'; οὔ τί που φόνος σ' ἐβάκχευσεν νεκρῶν,
of-this not at-all surely murder you has-maddened of-the-corpses
οὓς ἄρτι καίνεις; ὁ δέ νιν Εὐρυσθέως δοκῶν
whom just-now you-killed he but him of-Eurystheus thinking
πατέρα προταρβοῦνθ' ἱκέσιον ψαύειν χερός,
father cowering in-supplication to-touch hand
ὠθεῖ, φαρέτραν δ' εὐτρεπῆ σκευάζεται
thrusts quiver and ready prepares
καὶ τόξ' ἑαυτοῦ παισί, τοὺς Εὐρυσθέως
and bow of-his-own children the of-Eurystheus
δοκῶν φονεύειν. οἱ δὲ ταρβοῦντες φόβῳ
thinking to-murder they and fearing with-terror
ὥρουον ἄλλος ἄλλοσ', εἰς πέπλους ὁ μὲν
rushed one elsewhere into robes one indeed
μητρὸς ταλαίνης, ὁ δ' ὑπὸ κίονος σκιάν,
of-mother wretched another and under of-pillar shade
ἄλλος δὲ βωμὸν ὄρνις ὡς ἔπτηξ' ὕπο.
another and altar bird like cowered under
βοᾷ δὲ μήτηρ· ὦ τεκών, τί δρᾷς; τέκνα
cries and the-mother O begetter what are-you-doing children
κτείνεις; βοᾷ δὲ πρέσβυς οἰκετῶν τ' ὄχλος.
are-you-killing cries and the-old-man of-servants and crowd

ὁ δ' ἐξελίσσων παῖδα κίονος κύκλῳ,
he and wheeling-around the-child of-pillar in-circle
τόρευμα δεινὸν ποδός, ἐναντίον σταθεὶς
turning terrible of-foot opposite having-stood
βάλλει πρὸς ἧπαρ· ὕπτιος δὲ λαΐνους
strikes to the-liver on-his-back and stone
ὀρθοστάτας ἔδευσεν ἐκπνέων βίον.
pillars he-wet breathing-out life
ὁ δ' ἠλάλαξε κἀπεκόμπασεν τάδε·
he and shouted-in-triumph and-boasted this
εἷς μὲν νεοσσὸς ὅδε θανὼν Εὐρυσθέως
one indeed nestling this dead of-Eurystheus
ἔχθραν πατρῴαν ἐκτίνων πέπτωκέ μοι.
enmity ancestral paying has-fallen to-me
ἄλλῳ δ' ἐπεῖχε τόξ', ὃς ἀμφὶ βωμίαν
at-another and he-aimed bow who about of-the-altar
ἔπτηξε κρηπῖδ' ὡς λεληθέναι δοκῶν.
cowered base as to-have-escaped-notice thinking
φθάνει δ' ὁ τλήμων γόνασι προσπεσὼν πατρὸς
is-first and the wretched at-knees having-fallen of-father
καὶ πρὸς γένειον χεῖρα καὶ δέρην βαλών·
and to chin hand and neck having-cast
ὦ φίλτατ', αὐδᾷ, μή μ' ἀποκτείνῃς, πάτερ·
O dearest he-says not me kill father
σός εἰμι, σὸς παῖς· οὐ τὸν Εὐρυσθέως ὀλεῖς.
yours I-am your son not the of-Eurystheus you-will-destroy
ὁ δ' ἀγριωπὸν ὄμμα Γοργόνος στρέφων,
he but savage eye of-Gorgon rolling
ὡς ἐντὸς ἔστη παῖς λυγροῦ τοξεύματος,
as within stood the-child of-the-grievous bowshot

μυδροκτύπον μίμημ᾽ ὑπὲρ κάρα βαλὼν
of-smith's-hammer likeness over head having-swung
ξύλον καθῆκε παιδὸς εἰς ξανθὸν κάρα,
club brought-down of-the-child onto golden head
ἔρρηξε δ᾽ ὀστᾶ. δεύτερον δὲ παῖδ᾽ ἑλών,
he-broke and bones second and child having-seized
χωρεῖ τρίτον θῦμ᾽ ὡς ἐπισφάξων δυοῖν. 995
goes third victim as to-slay-besides the-two
ἀλλὰ φθάνει νιν ἡ τάλαιν᾽ ἔσω δόμων
but forestalls him the wretched within the-house
μήτηρ ὑπεκλαβοῦσα, καὶ κλῄει πύλας.
mother having-snatched-up and shuts gates
ὁ δ᾽ ὡς ἐπ᾽ αὐτοῖς δὴ Κυκλωπίοισιν ὢν
he and as at very indeed Cyclopean being
σκάπτει μοχλεύει θύρετρα, κἀκβαλὼν σταθμὰ
digs prises doors and-having-thrown-down doorposts
δάμαρτα καὶ παῖδ᾽ ἑνὶ κατέστρωσεν βέλει. 1000
wife and child with-one he-laid-low shaft
κἀνθένδε πρὸς γέροντος ἱππεύει φόνον·
and-thence to old-man's he-rides murder
ἀλλ᾽ ἦλθεν εἰκών, ὡς ὁρᾶν ἐφαίνετο
but came image as to-see it-appeared
Παλλὰς κραδαίνουσ᾽ ἔγχος ἐπιλόφῳ κάρᾳ
Pallas brandishing spear with-crested head
κἄρριψε πέτρον στέρνον εἰς Ἡρακλέους,
and-threw rock breast into of-Heracles
ὅς νιν φόνου μαργῶντος ἔσχε, κεἰς ὕπνον 1005
which him from-murder raging held and-into sleep
καθῆκε· πίτνει δ᾽ εἰς πέδον, πρὸς κίονα
sent-down he-falls and to ground against pillar

νῶτον πατάξας, ὃς πεσήμασι στέγης
back having-struck which with-the-falls of-the-roof
διχορραγὴς ἔκειτο κρηπίδων ἔπι·
broken-in-two lay pedestal on
ἡμεῖς δ' ἐλευθεροῦντες ἐκ δρασμῶν πόδα
we and freeing from flight foot
σὺν τῷ γέροντι δεσμὰ σειραίων βρόχων
with the old-man bonds of-cord nooses
ἀνήπτομεν πρὸς κίον', ὡς λήξας ὕπνου
fastened to pillar that having-ceased from-sleep
μηδὲν προσεργάσαιτο τοῖς δεδραμένοις.
nothing he-might-add to-the done(-deeds)
εὕδει δ' ὁ τλήμων ὕπνον οὐκ εὐδαίμονα,
sleeps and the wretched sleep not happy
παῖδας φονεύσας καὶ δάμαρτ'· ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν
children having-murdered and wife I indeed then
οὐκ οἶδα θνητῶν ὅστις ἀθλιώτερος.
not I-know of-mortals who more-wretched

The chorus compares the murder with those of the past: the Danaids' famous murder at Argos and Procne's killing of her only son were lesser horrors than Heracles' killing of his three children. The doors open on the dead children and Heracles bound and sleeping among them.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὁ φόνος ἦν ὃν Ἀργολὶς ἔχει πέτρα
the murder was which the-Argolid holds rock
τότε μὲν περισαμότατος καὶ ἄπιστος
then indeed most-famous and incredible
Ἑλλάδι τῶν Δαναοῦ παίδων·
for-Hellas of-the of-Danaus children
τὰ δ' ὑπερέβαλε, παρέδραμε τὰ τότε κακά. 1020
these and surpassed outran the then evils
*** τάλανι διογενεῖ κόρῳ.
(lacuna) for-wretched Zeus-born son
μονοτέκνου Πρόκνης
of-only-child-mother Procne
φόνον ἔχω λέξαι θυόμενον Μούσαις·
murder I-have to-tell sacrificed to-the-Muses
σὺ δὲ τέκνα τρίγονα τεκόμενος, ὦ δάιε,
you and children three having-begotten O wretched
λυσσάδι συγκατειργάσω μοίρᾳ.
with-raging you-destroyed fate
τίνα στεναγμὸν 1025
what groan
ἢ γόον ἢ φθιτῶν
or lament or of-the-dead
ᾠδάν, ἢ τίν' Ἄιδα χορὸν ἀχήσω;
song or what of-Hades dance shall-I-sound

φεῦ φεῦ·
alas alas
ἴδεσθε, διάνδιχα κλῆθρα
see apart bolts
κλίνεται ὑψιπύλων δόμων.
are-swinging of-high-gated house
ἰώ μοι·
oh me
ἴδεσθε τάδε τέκνα πρὸ πατρὸς
see these children before father
ἄθλια κείμενα δυστάνου,
wretched lying wretched
εὕδοντος ὕπνον δεινὸν ἐκ παίδων φόνου.
sleeping sleep terrible from children murder
περὶ δὲ δεσμὰ καὶ πολύβροχ' ἁμμάτων
around and bonds and many-noosed of-knots
ἐρείσμαθ' Ἡράκλειον
supports Heracles'
ἀμφὶ δέμας τάδε λαΐνοις
around body these to-stone
ἀνημμένα κίοσιν οἴκων.
fastened pillars of-the-house

Amphitryon and the old men watch over the sleeping Heracles. He wakes, learns what he has done, and resolves to die. Theseus, come to help against Lycus, uncovers his face. Heracles blames Hera and calls his life unlivable. Theseus argues that gods too have sinned and endured, and offers him purification and honors in Athens. Heracles rejects such tales but decides that suicide would be cowardice. He bids his children and wife farewell, keeps his bow, and leaves with Theseus.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὁ δ' ὥς τις ὄρνις ἄπτερον καταστένων
he and like some bird featherless bewailing
ὠδῖνα τέκνων, πρέσβυς ὑστέρῳ ποδὶ
travail of-chicks old-man with-later foot
πικρὰν διώκων ἴλυσιν πάρεσθ' ὅδε.
bitter pursuing course is-here this
ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ Καδμεῖοι γέροντες, οὐ σίγα σί-
Cadmean old-men not in-silence in-silence
γα τὸν ὕπνῳ παρειμένον ἐάσετ' ἐκ-
— *the by-sleep relaxed will-you-let to-forget*
λαθέσθαι κακῶν;
— *troubles*
ΧΟΡΟΣ κατὰ σὲ δακρύοις στένω, πρέσβυ, καὶ
for you with-tears I-groan old-man and
τέκεα καὶ τὸ καλλίνικον κάρα.
children and the glorious-victory head
ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ἑκαστέρω πρόβατε, μὴ
farther go-forward not
κτυπεῖτε, μὴ βοᾶτε, μὴ
make-noise not shout not
τὸν εὖ τ' ἰαύονθ'
the well and slumbering

ὑπνώδεά τ᾽ εὐνᾶς ἐγείρετε.
sleepy and from-bed rouse

ΧΟΡΟΣ οἴμοι.
ah-me

φόνος ὅσος ὅδ᾽ — ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ἆ ἆ,
murder how-great this ah ah

διά μ᾽ ὀλεῖτε. ΧΟΡΟΣ κεχυμένος ἐπαντέλλει.
— me you-will-destroy poured-out it-rises

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ οὐκ ἀτρεμαῖα θρῆνον αἰάξετ᾽, ὦ γέροντες;
not quietly lament will-you-wail O old-men

ἢ δέσμ᾽ ἀνεγειρόμενος χαλάσας ἀπολεῖ πόλιν,
or bonds rousing having-loosed he-will-destroy the-city

ἀπὸ δὲ πατέρα, μέλαθρά τε καταρρήξει.
— and father halls and break-down

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀδύνατ᾽ ἀδύνατά μοι.
impossible impossible to-me

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ σῖγα, πνοὰς μάθω· φέρε πρὸς οὖς βάλω.
hush breaths let-me-learn come to ear let-me-put

ΧΟΡΟΣ εὕδει; ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ναί, εὕδει
sleeps yes sleeps

ὕπνον ὕπνον ὀλόμενον,
sleep sleep destructive

ὃς ἔκαν᾽ ἄλοχον, ἔκανε δὲ τέκεα, τοξήρει
who killed wife killed and children with-bow-twanging

ψαλμῷ τοξεύσας.
plucking having-shot

ΧΟΡΟΣ στέναζέ νυν ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ στενάζω.
groan now I-groan

ΧΟΡΟΣ τέκνων ὄλεθρον — ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ὤμοι.
of-children destruction ah-me

ΧΟΡΟΣ σέθεν τε παιδός. ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ αἰαῖ.
of-your and son alas

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ πρέσβυ — ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ σῖγα σῖγα·
O old-man hush hush

παλίντροπος ἐξεγειρόμενος στρέφεται· φέρ᾽
turning-back being-roused he-turns come

ἀπόκρυφον δέμας ὑπὸ μέλαθρον κρύψω. 1070
hidden body under hall I-will-hide

ΧΟΡΟΣ θάρσει· νὺξ ἔχει βλέφαρα παιδὶ σῷ.
take-heart night holds eyelids of-son your

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ὁρᾶθ᾽ ὁρᾶτε.
see see

τὸ φάος ἐκλιπεῖν ἐπὶ κακοῖσιν οὐ
the light to-leave on evils not

φεύγω τάλας, ἀλλ᾽ εἴ με κανεῖ πατέρ᾽ ὄντα,
I-flee wretched but if me he-will-kill father being

πρὸς δὲ κακοῖς κακὰ μήσεται 1075
on and evils evils he-will-devise

πρὸς Ἐρινύσι θ᾽ αἷμα σύγγονον ἕξει.
on Furies and blood kindred he-will-have

ΧΟΡΟΣ τότε θανεῖν σ᾽ ἐχρῆν, ὅτε δάμαρτι σᾷ
then to-die you should when for-wife your

φόνον ὁμοσπόρων
murder of-brothers

ἔμολες ἐκπράξειν
you-came to-exact

Ταφίων περίκλυστον ἄστυ πέρσας. 1080
of-Taphians sea-washed town having-sacked

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ φυγᾷ φυγᾷ, γέροντες, ἀποπρὸ δωμάτων
in-flight in-flight old-men away-from the-house
διώκετε· φεύγετε μάργον
pursue flee mad
ἄνδρ' ἐπεγειρόμενον.
man rousing
τάχα φόνον ἕτερον ἐπὶ φόνῳ βαλὼν
soon murder another on murder having-cast
ἀν' αὖ βακχεύσει Καδμείων πόλιν.
up again he-will-rave of-Cadmeans city
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ Ζεῦ, τί παῖδ' ἤχθηρας ὧδ' ὑπερκότως
O Zeus why son did-you-hate so excessively
τὸν σόν, κακῶν δὲ πέλαγος εἰς τόδ' ἤγαγες;
— your of-evils and sea to this did-you-bring
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἔα·
ah
ἔμπνους μέν εἰμι καὶ δέδορχ' ἅπερ με δεῖ,
breathing indeed I-am and I-see what me must
αἰθέρα τε καὶ γῆν τόξα θ' Ἡλίου τάδε·
air both and earth beams and of-Helios these
ὡς δ' ἐν κλύδωνι καὶ φρενῶν ταράγματι
how but in surge and of-mind confusion
πέπτωκα δεινῷ καὶ πνοὰς θερμὰς πνέω
I-have-fallen terrible and breaths hot I-breathe
μετάρσι', οὐ βέβαια, πνευμόνων ἄπο.
uplifted not steady lungs from
ἰδού, τί δεσμοῖς ναῦς ὅπως ὡρμισμένος
see why with-bonds ship like moored
νεανίαν θώρακα καὶ βραχίονα,
young chest and arm

πρὸς ἡμιθραύστῳ λαΐνῳ τυκίσματι
to half-shattered stone masonry
ἧμαι νεκροῖσι γείτονας θάκους ἔχων;
I-sit to-corpses neighboring seats having
πτερωτά τ᾽ ἔγχη τόξα τ᾽ ἔσπαρται πέδῳ,
winged and spears bow and are-scattered on-the-ground
ἃ πρὶν παρασπίζονθ᾽ ἑμοῖς βραχίοσιν
which before shield-bearing for-my arms
ἔσωζε πλευρὰς ἐξ ἐμοῦ τ᾽ ἐσῴζετο.
saved sides by me and were-kept
οὔ που κατῆλθον αὖθις εἰς Ἅιδου πάλιν,
not perhaps did-I-go-down again into of-Hades back
Εὐρυσθέως δίαυλον ἐξ Ἅιδου μολών;
of-Eurystheus double-course from of-Hades having-come
ἀλλ᾽ οὔτι Σισύφειον εἰσορῶ πέτρον
but not-at-all Sisyphus' I-see stone
Πλούτωνά τ᾽, οὐδὲ σκῆπτρα Δήμητρος κόρης.
Pluto and nor scepters of-Demeter's daughter
ἔκ τοι πέπληγμαι· ποῦ ποτ᾽ ὢν ἀμνημονῶ;
— surely am-astounded where ever being am-I-at-a-loss
ὠή, τίς ἐγγὺς ἢ πρόσω φίλων ἐμῶν,
ho who near or far of-friends my
δύσγνοιαν ὅστις τὴν ἐμὴν ἰάσεται;
bewilderment who — my will-heal
σαφῶς γὰρ οὐδὲν οἶδα τῶν εἰωθότων.
clearly for nothing I-know of-the accustomed
ΑΜΦΙΤΡΤΩΝ γέροντες, ἔλθω τῶν ἐμῶν κακῶν πέλας;
old-men shall-I-come — of-my evils near
ΧΟΡΟΣ κἄγωγε σὺν σοί, μὴ προδοὺς τὰς συμφοράς.
and-I with you not betraying the misfortunes

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ πάτερ, τί κλαίεις καὶ συναμπίσχει κόρας,
father why do-you-weep and cover-up eyes
τοῦ φιλτάτου σοι τηλόθεν παιδὸς βεβώς;
of-the dearest to-you from-afar son having-stood
ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ὦ τέκνον· εἶ γὰρ καὶ κακῶς πράσσων ἐμός.
O child you-are for even badly faring mine
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ πράσσω δ' ἐγὼ τί λυπρόν, οὗ δακρυρροεῖς;
I-fare and I what grievous for-which you-shed-tears
1115 ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ἆ κἂν θεῶν τις, εἰ πάθοι, καταστένοι.
what even of-gods anyone if suffered would-lament
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ μέγας γ' ὁ κόμπος, τὴν τύχην δ' οὔπω λέγεις.
great at-least the boast the fortune but not-yet you-tell
ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ὁρᾷς γὰρ αὐτός, εἰ φρονῶν ἤδη κυρεῖς.
you-see for yourself if sane already you-are
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ εἶπ' εἴ τι καινὸν ὑπογράφει τῳμῷ βίῳ.
tell if something new you-intimate for-my life
ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ εἰ μηκέθ' Ἅιδου βάκχος εἶ, φράσαιμεν ἄν.
if no-longer of-Hades bacchant you-are we-would-tell —
1120 ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ παπαῖ, τόδ' ὡς ὕποπτον ἠνίξω πάλιν.
alas this how suspiciously you-hinted again
ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ καί σ' εἰ βεβαίως εὖ φρονεῖς ἤδη σκοπῶ.
and you if steadily well you-think already I-examine
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οὐ γάρ τι βακχεύσας γε μέμνημαι φρένας.
not for at-all having-raved at-least I-remember mind
ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ λύσω, γέροντες, δεσμὰ παιδὸς ἢ τί δρῶ;
shall-I-loose old-men bonds of-son or what am-I-to-do
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ καὶ τόν γε δήσαντ' εἶπ'· ἀναινόμεσθα γάρ.
and him at-least having-bound tell we-refuse for
1125 ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ τοσοῦτον ἴσθι τῶν κακῶν· τὰ δ' ἄλλ' ἔα.
so-much know of-the evils the and rest let-be

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἀρκεῖ σιωπὴ γὰρ μαθεῖν ὃ βούλομαι;
it-suffices silence for to-learn what I-wish

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ὦ Ζεῦ, παρ' Ἥρας ἆρ' ὁρᾷς θρόνων τάδε;
O Zeus from of-Hera — do-you-see thrones these-things

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἀλλ' ἦ τι κεῖθεν πολέμιον πεπόνθαμεν;
but — something from-there hostile we-have-suffered

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ τὴν θεὸν ἐάσας τὰ σὰ περιστέλλου κακά.
the goddess having-let-be — your wrap-up evils

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἀπωλόμεσθα· συμφορὰν λέξεις τίνα; 1130
we-are-ruined misfortune will-you-tell what

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ἰδοὺ θέασαι τάδε τέκνων πεσήματα.
see behold these of-children fallen-bodies

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οἴμοι· τίν' ὄψιν τήνδε δέρκομαι τάλας;
ah-me what sight this do-I-see wretched

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ἀπόλεμον, ὦ παῖ, πόλεμον ἔσπευσας τέκνοις.
unwarlike O son war you-hastened on-children

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τί πόλεμον εἶπας; τούσδε τίς διώλεσεν;
what war do-you-say these who destroyed

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ σὺ καὶ σὰ τόξα καὶ θεῶν ὃς αἴτιος. 1135
you and your bow and of-gods whoever is-cause

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τί φής; τί δράσας; ὦ κάκ' ἀγγέλλων πάτερ.
what do-you-say what having-done O evil announcing father

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ μανείς· ἐρωτᾷς δ' ἄθλι' ἑρμηνεύματα.
having-raved you-ask and wretched interpretations

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἦ καὶ δάμαρτός εἰμ' ἐγὼ φονεὺς ἐμῆς;
— also of-wife am I murderer my

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ μιᾶς ἅπαντα χειρὸς ἔργα σῆς τάδε.
of-one all of-hand works your these

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ αἰαῖ· στεναγμῶν γάρ με περιβάλλει νέφος. 1140
alas of-groans for me envelops cloud

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ τούτων ἕκατι σὰς καταστένω τύχας.
of-these for-the-sake your I-bewail fortunes

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἦ γὰρ συνήραξ' οἶκον, ἢ 'βάκχευσ', ἐμόν;
— for did-I-shatter house or did-I-make-bacchic my

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ οὐκ οἶδα πλὴν ἕν· πάντα δυστυχῆ τὰ σά.
not I-know except one all unfortunate the yours

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ποῦ δ' οἶστρος ἡμᾶς ἔλαβε; ποῦ διώλεσεν;
where and frenzy us seized where destroyed

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ὅτ' ἀμφὶ βωμὸν χεῖρας ἡγνίζου πυρί.
when around altar hands you-purified with-fire

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οἴμοι· τί δῆτα φείδομαι ψυχῆς ἐμῆς
ah-me why then do-I-spare life my

τῶν φιλτάτων μοι γενόμενος παίδων φονεύς,
of-the dearest to-me having-become children murderer

κοὐκ εἶμι πέτρας λισσάδος πρὸς ἅλματα
and-not shall-I-go of-rock smooth to leaps

ἢ φάσγανον πρὸς ἧπαρ ἐξακοντίσας
or sword to liver having-darted

τέκνοις δικαστὴς αἵματος γενήσομαι;
for-children avenger of-blood shall-I-become

ἢ σάρκα τήνδε τὴν ἐμὴν πρήσας πυρί,
or flesh this — my having-burned with-fire

δύσκλειαν ἣ μένει μ' ἀπώσομαι βίου;
infamy which awaits me shall-I-thrust-from life

ἀλλ' ἐμποδών μοι θανασίμων βουλευμάτων
but in-the-way to-me of-deadly plans

Θησεὺς ὅδ' ἕρπει συγγενὴς φίλος τ' ἐμός.
Theseus this comes kinsman friend and my

ὀφθησόμεσθα, καὶ τεκνοκτόνον μύσος
we-shall-be-seen and child-killing pollution

εἰς ὄμμαθ' ἥξει φιλτάτῳ ξένων ἐμῶν.
into eyes will-come to-dearest of-guest-friends my
οἴμοι, τί δράσω; ποῖ κακῶν ἐρημίαν
ah-me what shall-I-do where of-evils solitude
εὕρω, πτερωτός, ἢ κατὰ χθονὸς μολών;
shall-I-find winged or below earth having-gone
φέρ' ὦ μέλαν τι κρατὶ περιβάλω σκότος.
come O black some on-head may-I-throw darkness
αἰσχύνομαι γὰρ τοῖς δεδραμένοις κακοῖς, 1160
I-am-ashamed for at-the done evils
καὶ τῷδε προστρόπαιον αἷμα προσβαλὼν
and to-this guilt blood having-attached
οὐδὲν κακῶσαι τοὺς ἀναιτίους θέλω.
nothing to-harm the guiltless I-wish
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ἥκω σὺν ἄλλοις οἳ παρ' Ἀσωποῦ ῥοὰς
I-come with others who by Asopus' streams
μένουσιν, ἔνοπλοι γῆς Ἀθηναίων κόροι,
wait armed of-land of-Athenians young-men
σῷ παιδί, πρέσβυ, σύμμαχον φέρων δόρυ. 1165
to-your son old-man allied bringing spear
κληδὼν γὰρ ἦλθεν εἰς Ἐρεχθειδῶν πόλιν
report for came to of-Erechtheus'-sons city
ὡς σκῆπτρα χώρας τῆσδ' ἀναρπάσας Λύκος
that scepters of-land this having-seized Lycus
εἰς πόλεμον ὑμῖν καὶ μάχην καθίσταται.
into war with-you and battle sets-himself
τίνων δ' ἀμοιβὰς ὧν ὑπῆρξεν Ἡρακλῆς
paying and requital for-which began Heracles
σώσας με νέρθεν, ἦλθον, εἴ τι δεῖ, γέρον, 1170
having-saved me from-below I-came if anything need old-man

ἢ χειρὸς ὑμᾶς τῆς ἐμῆς ἢ συμμάχων.
or of-hand you — my or of-allies
ἔα· τί νεκρῶν τῶνδε πληθύει πέδον;
ah why of-corpses these is-full the-ground
οὔ που λέλειμμαι καὶ νεωτέρων κακῶν
not perhaps I-am-left-behind also of-newer evils
ὕστερος ἀφῖγμαι; τίς τάδ' ἔκτεινεν τέκνα;
late have-I-arrived who these killed children
τίνος γεγῶσαν τήνδ' ὁρῶ συνάορον;
of-whom being this do-I-see wife
οὐ γὰρ δορός γε παῖδες ἵστανται πέλας,
not for of-spear at-least children stand near
ἀλλ' ἄλλο τοί που καινὸν εὑρίσκω κακόν.
but other surely perhaps new I-find evil
ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ὦ τὸν ἐλαιοφόρον ὄχθον ἔχων ἄναξ —
O the olive-bearing hill holding lord
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ τί χρῆμά μ' οἰκτροῖς ἐκάλεσας προοιμίοις;
what thing me with-piteous you-called preludes
ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ἐπάθομεν πάθεα μέλεα πρὸς θεῶν.
we-have-suffered sufferings miserable from the-gods
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ οἱ παῖδες οἵδε τίνες, ἐφ' οἷς δακρυρροεῖς;
the children these who over whom you-weep
ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ἔτεκε μέν νιν οὑμὸς ἶνις τάλας·
begot indeed them my child wretched
τεκόμενος δ' ἔκτανε, φόνιον αἷμα τλάς.
having-begotten and killed murderous blood having-dared
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ εὔφημα φώνει.
auspicious-things speak
ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ βουλομένοισιν ἐπαγγέλλει.
to-the-willing you-announce

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ὦ δεινὰ λέξας.
O terrible-things having-spoken

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ οἰχόμεθ' οἰχόμεθα πτανοί.
we-are-gone we-are-gone winged

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ τί φής; τί δράσας;
what do-you-say what having-done

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ μαινομένῳ πιτύλῳ πλαγχθεὶς
by-maddened stroke driven-astray

ἑκατογκεφάλου βαφαῖς ὕδρας.
of-the-hundred-headed with-dippings of-hydra

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ Ἥρας ὅδ' ἀγών· τίς δ' ὅδ' οὑν νεκροῖς, γέρον;
of-Hera this the-contest who and this the-among the-dead old-man

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ἐμὸς ἐμὸς ὅδε γόνος ὁ πολύπονος, ὃς ἐπὶ
my my this offspring the much-toiling who against

δόρυ γιγαντοφόνον ἦλθεν σὺν θεοῖ-
spear giant-killing came with gods

σι Φλεγραῖον εἰς πεδίον ἀσπιστάς.
— Phlegraean to plain shield-bearing

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ φεῦ φεῦ· τίς ἀνδρῶν ὧδε δυσδαίμων ἔφυ;
alas alas who of-men so unfortunate is

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ οὐκ ἂν εἰδείης ἕτερον
not — you-would-know other

πολυμοχθότερον πολυπλαγκτότερόν τε θνατῶν.
more-toiling more-wandering and of-mortals

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ τί γὰρ πέπλοισιν ἄθλιον κρύπτει κάρα;
why for with-robes wretched hides head

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ αἰδόμενος τὸ σὸν ὄμμα
being-ashamed-of — your eye

καὶ φιλίαν ὁμόφυλον
and friendship kindred

αἱμά τε παιδοφόνον.
blood and child-murdering

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ἀλλ᾽ ὡς συναλγῶν γ᾽ ἦλθον· ἐκκάλυπτέ νιν.
but as grieving-with at-least I-came uncover him

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ὦ τέκνον,
O child

πάρες ἀπ᾽ ὀμμάτων
put-away from eyes

πέπλον, ἀπόδικε, ῥέθος ἀελίῳ δεῖξον·
robe throw-off face to-the-sun show

βάρος ἀντίπαλον δακρύοισιν ἁμιλλᾶται.
weight counter-balancing with-tears contends

ἱκετεύομεν ἀμφὶ σὰν
we-beseech by your

γενειάδα καὶ γόνυ καὶ χέρα προσπίτνων
chin and knee and hand falling-at

πολιόν τε δάκρυον ἐκβαλών.
gray and tear shedding

ἰὼ παῖ, κατά-
oh child restrain

σχεθε λέοντος ἀγρίου θυμόν, ὡς
— of-lion savage the-spirit as

δρόμον ἐπὶ φόνιον ἀνόσιον ἐξάγει,
course to murderous unholy leads

κακὰ θέλων κακοῖς συνάψαι, τέκνον.
evils wishing to-evils to-join child

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ εἶεν· σὲ τὸν θάσσοντα δυστήνους ἕδρας
well you the sitting unhappy seats

αὐδῶ, φίλοισιν ὄμμα δεικνύναι τὸ σόν.
I-bid to-friends face to-show — your

οὐδεὶς σκότος γὰρ ὧδ' ἔχει μέλαν νέφος,
no darkness for so has black cloud
ὅστις κακῶν σῶν συμφορὰν κρύψειεν ἄν.
which of-evils your misfortune would-hide —
τί μοι προσείων χεῖρα σημαίνεις φόνον;
why at-me waving hand do-you-signal murder
ὡς μὴ μύσος με σῶν βάλῃ προσφθεγμάτων;
that not pollution me of-your strike addresses
οὐδὲν μέλει μοι σύν γε σοὶ πράσσειν κακῶς·
nothing concerns me with at-least you to-fare badly
καὶ γάρ ποτ' ηὐτύχησ'· ἐκεῖσ' ἀνοιστέον,
and for once I-prospered thither one-must-refer
ὅτ' ἐξέσωσάς μ' εἰς φάος νεκρῶν πάρα.
when you-saved me into light of-the-dead from
χάριν δὲ γηράσκουσαν ἐχθαίρω φίλων,
gratitude but aging I-hate of-friends
καὶ τῶν καλῶν μὲν ὅστις ἀπολαύειν θέλει,
and the good-things indeed who to-enjoy wishes
συμπλεῖν δὲ τοῖς φίλοισι δυστυχοῦσιν οὔ.
to-sail-with but the friends unfortunate not
ἀνίστασ', ἐκκάλυψον ἄθλιον κάρα.
rise uncover wretched head
βλέψον πρὸς ἡμᾶς. ὅστις εὐγενὴς βροτῶν,
look at us whoever noble of-mortals
φέρει τὰ θεῶν γε πτώματ' οὐδ' ἀναίνεται.
bears the of-gods at-least falls nor refuses
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ Θησεῦ, δέδορκας τόνδ' ἀγῶν' ἐμῶν τέκνων;
Theseus have-you-seen this contest of-my children
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ἤκουσα, καὶ βλέποντι σημαίνεις κακά.
I-heard and to-one-seeing you-show evils

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τί δῆτά μου κρᾶτ᾽ ἀνεκάλυψας ἡλίῳ;
why then my head have-you-uncovered to-the-sun

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ τί δ᾽; οὐ μιαίνεις θνητὸς ὢν τὰ τῶν θεῶν.
why and not you-pollute mortal being the of-the gods

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ φεῦγ᾽, ὦ ταλαίπωρ᾽, ἀνόσιον μίασμ᾽ ἐμόν.
flee O wretched unholy pollution my

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ οὐδεὶς ἀλάστωρ τοῖς φίλοις ἐκ τῶν φίλων.
no avenging-spirit to-the friends from the friends

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἐπήνεσ᾽· εὖ δράσας δέ σ᾽ οὐκ ἀναίνομαι.
I-commend well having-done but you not I-reject

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ἐγὼ δὲ πάσχων εὖ τότ᾽ οἰκτείρω σε νῦν.
I but treated well then pity you now

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οἰκτρὸς γάρ εἰμι τἄμ᾽ ἀποκτείνας τέκνα.
pitiable for I-am my having-killed children

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ κλαίω χάριν σὴν ἐφ᾽ ἑτέραισι συμφοραῖς.
I-weep for-the-sake your at other misfortunes

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ηὗρες δ᾽ ἔτ᾽ ἄλλους ἐν κακοῖσι μείζοσιν;
did-you-find and still others in evils greater

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ἅπτει κάτωθεν οὐρανοῦ δυσπραξίᾳ.
you-touch from-below heaven with-misfortune

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τοιγὰρ παρεσκευάσμεθ᾽ ὥστε κατθανεῖν.
therefore we-are-prepared so-as to-die

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ δοκεῖς ἀπειλῶν σῶν μέλειν τι δαίμοσιν;
do-you-think of-threats your to-care at-all to-the-gods

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ αὔθαδες ὁ θεός, πρὸς δὲ τοὺς θεοὺς ἐγώ.
self-willed the god to and the gods I

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ἴσχε στόμ᾽, ὡς μὴ μέγα λέγων μεῖζον πάθῃς.
hold mouth that not great saying greater you-suffer

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ γέμω κακῶν δή, κοὐκέτ᾽ ἔσθ᾽ ὅπῃ τεθῇ.
I-am-full of-evils indeed and-no-longer is-there where it-may-be-set

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ δράσεις δὲ δὴ τί; ποῖ φέρει θυμούμενος;
you-will-do and indeed what whither are-you-borne being-angry

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ θανών, ὅθενπερ ἦλθον, εἶμι γῆς ὕπο.
dying whence I-came I-will-go earth under

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ εἴρηκας ἐπιτυχόντος ἀνθρώπου λόγους.
you-have-spoken of-chance man words

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ σὺ δ' ἐκτὸς ὤν γε συμφορᾶς με νουθετεῖς.
you and outside being at-least of-misfortune me you-admonish

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ὁ πολλὰ δὴ τλὰς Ἡρακλῆς λέγει τάδε; 1250
the many-things indeed having-endured Heracles says this

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οὔκουν τοσαῦτά γ'· ἐν μέτρῳ μοχθητέον.
not-then so-many at-least in measure one-must-toil

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ εὐεργέτης βροτοῖσι καὶ μέγας φίλος;
benefactor to-mortals and great friend

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οἵδ' οὐδὲν ὠφελοῦσί μ', ἀλλ' Ἥρα κρατεῖ.
these in-nothing help me but Hera prevails

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ οὐκ ἄν σ' ἀνάσχοιθ' Ἑλλὰς ἀμαθίᾳ θανεῖν.
not — you would-endure Hellas in-folly to-die

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἄκουε δή νυν, ὡς ἀμιλληθῶ λόγοις 1255
hear now then that I-may-contend in-words

πρὸς νουθετήσεις σάς· ἀναπτύξω δέ σοι
against admonitions your I-will-unfold and to-you

ἀβίωτον ἡμῖν νῦν τε καὶ πάροιθεν ὄν.
unlivable for-us now both and before being

πρῶτον μὲν ἐκ τοῦδ' ἐγενόμην ὅστις κτανὼν
first indeed from this-man I-was-born who having-killed

μητρὸς γεραιὸν πατέρα προστρόπαιος ὢν
of-mother old father under-curse being

ἔγημε τὴν τεκοῦσαν Ἀλκμήνην ἐμέ. 1260
married the having-borne Alcmene me

ὅταν δὲ κρηπὶς μὴ καταβληθῇ γένους
when and foundation not be-laid of-the-race
ὀρθῶς, ἀνάγκη δυστυχεῖν τοὺς ἐκγόνους.
rightly necessity to-be-unfortunate the descendants
Ζεὺς δ' — ὅστις ὁ Ζεὺς — πολέμιόν μ' ἐγείνατο
Zeus and whoever the Zeus enemy me begot
Ἥρᾳ· σὺ μέντοι μηδὲν ἀχθεσθῇς, γέρον·
to-Hera you however not-at-all be-angry old-man
πατέρα γὰρ ἀντὶ Ζηνὸς ἡγοῦμαί σ' ἐγώ.
father for instead-of Zeus consider you I
ἔτ' ἐν γάλακτί τ' ὄντι γοργωπoὺς ὄφεις
still in milk and being fierce-eyed snakes
ἐπεισέφρησε σπαργάνοισι τοῖς ἐμοῖς
sent-in to-swaddling-clothes — my
ἡ τοῦ Διὸς σύλλεκτρος, ὡς ὀλοίμεθα.
the — of-Zeus bed-mate that we-might-perish
ἐπεὶ δὲ σαρκὸς περιβόλαι' ἐκτησάμην
when and of-flesh coverings I-acquired
ἡβῶντα, μόχθους οὓς ἔτλην τί δεῖ λέγειν;
being-young toils which I-endured why must to-tell
ποίους ποτ' ἢ λέοντας ἢ τρισωμάτους
what-sort ever or lions or three-bodied
Γηρυόνας ἢ Γίγαντας ἢ τετρασκελῆ
Geryons or Giants or four-legged
κενταυροπληθῆ πόλεμον οὐκ ἐξήνυσα;
Centaur-thronged war not did-I-accomplish
τήν τ' ἀμφίκρανον καὶ παλιμβλαστῆ κύνα
the and many-headed and re-sprouting hound
ὕδραν φονεύσας, μυρίων τ' ἄλλων πόνων
hydra having-killed of-ten-thousand and other toils

διῆλθον ἀγέλας κεἰς νεκροὺς ἀφικόμην,
I-went-through herds and-to the-dead I-came
Ἅιδου πυλωρὸν κύνα τρίκρανον εἰς φάος
of-Hades doorkeeper hound three-headed to light
ὅπως πορεύσαιμ' ἐντολαῖς Εὐρυσθέως.
that I-might-convey at-the-commands of-Eurystheus
τὸ λοίσθιον δὲ τόνδ' ἔτλην τάλας φόνον,
the last and this I-endured wretched murder
παιδοκτονήσας δῶμα θριγκῶσαι κακοῖς.
child-killing house to-crown with-evils
ἥκω δ' ἀνάγκης εἰς τόδ'· οὔτ' ἐμαῖς φίλαις
I-come and of-necessity to this neither in-my dear
Θήβαις ἐνοικεῖν ὅσιον· ἢν δὲ καὶ μένω,
Thebes to-dwell holy if and even I-remain
εἰς ποῖον ἱερὸν ἢ πανήγυριν φίλων
to what temple or festival of-friends
εἶμ'; οὐ γὰρ ἄτας εὐπροσηγόρους ἔχω.
shall-I-go not for ruin easy-to-address I-have
ἀλλ' Ἄργος ἔλθω; πῶς, ἐπεὶ φεύγω πάτραν;
but to-Argos shall-I-go how since I-am-exiled-from fatherland
φέρ' ἀλλ' ἐς ἄλλην δή τιν' ὁρμήσω πόλιν·
come but to other indeed some shall-I-hasten city
κἄπειθ' ὑποβλεπώμεθ' ὡς ἐγνωσμένοι,
and-then shall-we-be-looked-askance-at as known
γλώσσης πικροῖς κέντροισι κληδουχούμενοι·
of-tongue with-bitter goads being-kept-in-custody
οὐχ οὗτος ὁ Διός, ὃς τέκν' ἔκτεινέν ποτε
not this-one the of-Zeus who children killed once
δάμαρτά τ'; οὐ γῆς τῆσδ' ἀποφθαρήσεται;
wife and not from-land this will-be-banished

κεκλημένῳ δὲ φωτὶ μακαρίῳ ποτὲ
for-one-called and man blessed once
αἱ μεταβολαὶ λυπηρόν· ᾧ δ' ἀεὶ κακῶς
the changes grievous for-whom but always badly
ἔστ', οὐδὲν ἀλγεῖ συγγενῶς δύστηνος ὤν.
is nothing he-grieves inbred wretched being
εἰς τοῦτο δ' ἥξειν συμφορᾶς οἶμαί ποτε·
to this and to-come of-misfortune I-think some-day
φωνὴν γὰρ ἥσει χθὼν ἀπεννέπουσά με
voice for will-send earth forbidding me
μὴ θιγγάνειν γῆς καὶ θάλασσα μὴ περᾶν
not to-touch land and sea not to-cross
πηγαί τε ποταμῶν, καὶ τὸν ἁρματήλατον
springs and of-rivers and the chariot-driven
Ἰξίον' ἐν δεσμοῖσιν ἐκμιμήσομαι.
Ixion in bonds I-shall-imitate
πρὸς ταῦτ' ἄριστα μηδέν' Ἑλλήνων μ' ὁρᾶν,
to this best no-one of-Greeks me to-see
ἐν οἷσιν εὐτυχοῦντες ἦμεν ὄλβιοι.
among whom prospering we-were blessed
τί δῆτά με ζῆν δεῖ; τί κέρδος ἕξομεν
why then me to-live must what gain shall-we-have
βίοτον ἀχρεῖον ἀνόσιον κεκτημένοι;
life useless unholy possessing
χορευέτω δὴ Ζηνὸς ἡ κλεινὴ δάμαρ
let-dance indeed of-Zeus the glorious wife
κρούουσ' Ὀλύμπου δῖον ἀρβύλῃ πέδον·
striking of-Olympus divine with-boot floor
ἔπραξε γὰρ βούλησιν ἣν ἐβούλετο,
she-has-done for will which she-wished

ἄνδρ᾽ Ἑλλάδος τὸν πρῶτον αὐτοῖσιν βάθροις
man of-Hellas the first with-very foundations
ἄνω κάτω στρέψασα. τοιαύτῃ θεῷ
up down having-turned to-such goddess
τίς ἂν προσεύχοιθ᾽; ἢ γυναικὸς εἵνεκα
who — would-pray who of-a-woman for-the-sake
λέκτρων φθονοῦσα Ζηνὶ τοὺς εὐεργέτας
of-bed jealous of-Zeus the benefactors
Ἑλλάδος ἀπώλεσ᾽ οὐδὲν ὄντας αἰτίους. 1310
of-Hellas destroyed in-nothing being guilty
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλου δαιμόνων ἀγὼν ὅδε
not is of-another of-the-gods contest this
ἢ τῆς Διὸς δάμαρτος· οὐδὲ σοὶ θανεῖν
than of-the of-Zeus wife not-even for-you to-die
παραινέσαιμ᾽ ἂν μᾶλλον ἢ πάσχειν κακῶς.
I-would-advise — rather than to-suffer badly
οὐδεὶς δὲ θνητῶν ταῖς τύχαις ἀκήρατος,
no-one and of-mortals by-the fortunes untouched
οὐ θεῶν, ἀοιδῶν εἴπερ οὐ ψευδεῖς λόγοι. 1315
not of-gods of-singers if-indeed not false words
οὐ λέκτρα τ᾽ ἀλλήλοισιν, ὧν οὐδεὶς νόμος,
not beds and with-one-another of-which no law
συνῆψαν; οὐ δεσμοῖσι διὰ τυραννίδας
did-they-join not with-bonds for sovereignty
πατέρας ἐκηλίδωσαν; ἀλλ᾽ οἰκοῦσ᾽ ὅμως
fathers did-they-defile but they-dwell nevertheless
Ὄλυμπον ἠνέσχοντό θ᾽ ἡμαρτηκότες.
Olympus they-endured and having-sinned
καίτοι τί φήσεις, εἰ σὺ μὲν θνητὸς γεγὼς 1320
and-yet what will-you-say if you indeed mortal being

φέρεις ὑπέρφευ τὰς τύχας, θεοὶ δὲ μή;
bear excessively the fortunes the-gods but not
Θήβας μὲν οὖν ἔκλειπε τοῦ νόμου χάριν,
Thebes indeed then leave of-the law for-the-sake
ἕπου δ' ἅμ' ἡμῖν πρὸς πόλισμα Παλλάδος.
follow and with us to the-citadel of-Pallas
ἐκεῖ χέρας σὰς ἁγνίσας μιάσματος,
there hands your having-purified of-pollution
δόμους τε δώσω χρημάτων τ' ἐμῶν μέρος.
house and I-will-give of-property and my share
ἃ δ' ἐκ πολιτῶν δῶρ' ἔχω σώσας κόρους
what and from citizens gifts I-have having-saved youths
δὶς ἑπτά, ταῦρον Κνώσιον κατακτανών,
twice seven the-bull Cnossian having-killed
σοὶ ταῦτα δώσω. πανταχοῦ δέ μοι χθονὸς
to-you these-things I-will-give everywhere and for-me of-land
τεμένη δέδασται· ταῦτ' ἐπωνομασμένα
precincts are-allotted these named
σέθεν τὸ λοιπὸν ἐκ βροτῶν κεκλήσεται
from-you the future by mortals will-be-called
ζῶντος· θανόντα δ', εὖτ' ἂν εἰς Ἅιδου μόλῃς,
living dead and when — to of-Hades you-go
θυσίαισι λαΐνοισί τ' ἐξογκώμασιν
with-sacrifices with-stone and with-monuments
τίμιον ἀνάξει πᾶσ' Ἀθηναίων πόλις.
honored will-raise all of-Athenians city
καλὸς γὰρ ἀστοῖς στέφανος Ἑλλήνων ὕπο
fair for for-citizens crown of-Greeks from
ἄνδρ' ἐσθλὸν ὠφελοῦντας εὐκλείας τυχεῖν.
man noble helping of-good-fame to-win

κἀγὼ χάριν σοι τῆς ἐμῆς σωτηρίας
and-I gratitude to-you — for-my saving
τήνδ' ἀντιδώσω· νῦν γὰρ εἶ χρεῖος φίλων.
this will-repay now for you-are in-need of-friends
θεοὶ δ' ὅταν τιμῶσιν, οὐδὲν δεῖ φίλων·
the-gods and when they-honor no need of-friends
ἅλις γὰρ ὁ θεὸς ὠφελῶν, ὅταν θέλῃ.
enough for the god helping when he-wishes
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οἴμοι· πάρεργά τοι τάδ' ἔστ' ἐμῶν κακῶν. 1340
ah-me side-issues surely these are of-my evils
ἐγὼ δὲ τοὺς θεοὺς οὔτε λέκτρ' ἃ μὴ θέμις
I and the gods neither bed which not lawful
στέργειν νομίζω, δεσμά τ' ἐξάπτειν χεροῖν
to-love think bonds and to-fasten on-hands
οὔτ' ἠξίωσα πώποτ' οὔτε πείσομαι,
nor I-thought-it-right ever nor I-shall-be-persuaded
οὐδ' ἄλλον ἄλλου δεσπότην πεφυκέναι.
nor other of-another master to-be
δεῖται γὰρ ὁ θεός, εἴπερ ἔστ' ὀρθῶς θεός, 1345
needs for the god if-indeed he-is rightly god
οὐδενός· ἀοιδῶν οἵδε δύστηνοι λόγοι.
nothing of-singers these wretched tales
ἐσκεψάμην δὲ καίπερ ἐν κακοῖσιν ὤν,
I-considered and although in evils being
μὴ δειλίαν ὄφλω τιν' ἐκλιπὼν φάος.
lest cowardice I-incur some leaving light
ταῖς συμφοραῖς γὰρ ὅστις οὐχ ὑφίσταται,
the misfortunes for whoever not withstands
οὐδ' ἀνδρὸς ἂν δύναιθ' ὑποστῆναι βέλος. 1350
nor of-man — could withstand weapon

ἐγκαρτερήσω θάνατον· εἶμι δ' εἰς πόλιν
I-will-endure death I-will-go and to city
τὴν σὴν χάριν τε μυρίαν δώρων ἔχω.
— your thanks and ten-thousand for-gifts I-have
ἀτὰρ πόνων δὴ μυρίων ἐγευσάμην·
but of-toils indeed ten-thousand I-tasted
ὧν οὔτ' ἀπεῖπον οὐδὲν οὔτ' ἀπ' ὀμμάτων
of-which neither I-refused nothing nor from eyes
ἔσταξα πηγάς, οὐδ' ἂν ὠόμην ποτὲ
I-shed streams nor — I-would-have-thought ever
εἰς τοῦθ' ἱκέσθαι, δάκρυ' ἀπ' ὀμμάτων βαλεῖν.
to this to-come tears from eyes to-shed
νῦν δ', ὡς ἔοικε, τῇ τύχῃ δουλευτέον,
now and as it-seems to-the fortune one-must-be-slave
εἶεν· γεραιέ, τὰς ἐμὰς φυγὰς ὁρᾷς,
well old-man — my exile you-see
ὁρᾷς δὲ παίδων ὄντα μ' αὐθέντην ἐμῶν.
you-see and of-children being me murderer my
δὸς τούσδε τύμβῳ καὶ περίστειλον νεκροὺς
give these to-the-tomb and wrap-around the-dead
δακρύοισι τιμῶν — ἐμὲ γὰρ οὐκ ἐᾷ νόμος —
with-tears honoring me for not allows law
πρὸς στέρν' ἐρείσας μητρὶ δούς τ' ἐς ἀγκάλας,
to breast having-laid to-mother giving and into arms
κοινωνίαν δύστηνον, ἣν ἐγὼ τάλας
partnership wretched which I wretched
διώλεσ' ἄκων. γῇ δ' ἐπὴν κρύψῃς νεκρούς,
destroyed unwilling with-earth and when you-hide the-dead
οἴκει πόλιν τήνδ', ἀθλίως μέν, ἀλλ' ὅμως
inhabit city this wretchedly indeed but nevertheless

ψυχὴν βιάζου τἀμὰ συμφέρειν κακά.
heart force my to-bear-with evils
ὦ τέκν', ὁ φύσας χὠ τεκὼν ὑμᾶς πατὴρ
O children the having-begotten and-the having-sired you father
ἀπώλεσ', οὐδ' ὤνασθε τῶν ἐμῶν καλῶν,
destroyed nor you-enjoyed — my goods
ἁγὼ παρεσκεύαζον ἐκμοχθῶν βίᾳ
which-I was-preparing toiling-out by-force
εὔκλειαν ὑμῖν, πατρὸς ἀπόλαυσιν καλήν.
good-fame for-you of-father enjoyment fair
σέ τ' οὐχ ὁμοίως, ὦ τάλαιν', ἀπώλεσα
you and not alike O wretched I-destroyed
ὥσπερ σὺ τἀμὰ λέκτρ' ἔσῳζες ἀσφαλῶς,
as you my bed kept safely
μακρὰς διαντλοῦσ' ἐν δόμοις οἰκουρίας.
long wearing-out in house house-keepings
οἴμοι δάμαρτος καὶ τέκνων, οἴμοι δ' ἐμοῦ·
ah-me for-wife and children ah-me and for-me
ὡς ἀθλίως πέπραγα κἀποζεύγνυμαι
how wretchedly I-have-fared and-am-unyoked
τέκνων γυναικός τ'· ὦ λυγραὶ φιλημάτων
from-children wife and O grievous of-kisses
τέρψεις, λυγραὶ δὲ τῶνδ' ὅπλων κοινωνίαι.
delights grievous and of-these arms companionships
ἀμηχανῶ γὰρ πότερ' ἔχω τάδ' ἢ μεθῶ,
I-am-at-a-loss for whether I-should-keep these or let-go
ἃ πλευρὰ τἀμὰ προσπίτνοντ' ἐρεῖ τάδε·
which at-sides my striking will-say this
ἡμῖν τέκν' εἶλες καὶ δάμαρθ'· ἡμᾶς ἔχεις
with-us children you-killed and wife us you-have

παιδοκτόνους σούς. εἶτ' ἐγὼ τάδ' ὠλέναις
child-killers yours then I these in-arms
οἴσω; τί φάσκων; ἀλλὰ γυμνωθεὶς ὅπλων,
shall-I-carry what saying but stripped of-arms
ξὺν οἷς τὰ κάλλιστ' ἐξέπραξ' ἐν Ἑλλάδι,
with which the fairest I-accomplished in Hellas
ἐχθροῖς ἐμαυτὸν ὑποβαλὼν αἰσχρῶς θάνω;
to-enemies myself subjecting shamefully shall-I-die
οὐ λειπτέον τάδ', ἀθλίως δὲ σωστέον.
not one-must-leave these wretchedly but one-must-keep
ἔν μοί τι, Θησεῦ, σύγκαμ' ἀθλίῳ· κυνὸς
one to-me something Theseus help wretched of-the-hound
κόμιστρ' ἐς Ἄργος συγκατάστησον μολών,
reward to Argos help-bring having-come
λύπῃ τι παίδων μὴ πάθω μονούμενος.
by-grief something for-children lest I-suffer being-alone
ὦ γαῖα Κάδμου πᾶς τε Θηβαῖος λεώς,
O land of-Cadmus all and Theban people
κείρασθε, συμπενθήσατ', ἔλθετ' εἰς τάφον
shear help-mourn come to the-tomb
παίδων, ἅπαντας δ' ἑνὶ λόγῳ πενθήσατε
of-children all and with-one word mourn
νεκρούς τε κἀμέ· πάντες ἐξολώλαμεν
the-dead and and-me all we-have-perished
Ἥρας μιᾷ πληγέντες ἄθλιοι τύχῃ.
of-Hera by-one struck wretched by-fortune
ΘΗΣΕΤΣ ἀνίστασ', ὦ δύστηνε· δακρύων δ' ἅλις.
rise O wretched of-tears and enough
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην· ἄρθρα γὰρ πέπηγέ μου.
not — I-could limbs for are-fixed my

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ καὶ τοὺς σθένοντας γὰρ καθαιροῦσιν τύχαι.
even the strong for bring-down fortunes

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ φεῦ·
alas

αὐτοῦ γενοίμην πέτρος ἀμνήμων κακῶν.
here may-I-become stone forgetful of-evils

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ παῦσαι· δίδου δὲ χεῖρ' ὑπηρέτῃ φίλῳ.
cease give and hand to-helper friend

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἀλλ' αἷμα μὴ σοῖς ἐξομόρξωμαι πέπλοις.
but blood lest on-your I-wipe-off robes

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ἔκμασσε, φείδου μηδέν· οὐκ ἀναίνομαι. 1400
wipe spare nothing not I-refuse

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ παίδων στερηθεὶς παῖδ' ὅπως ἔχω σ' ἐμόν.
of-children bereft child as I-have you my

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ δίδου δέρῃ σὴν χεῖρ', ὁδηγήσω δ' ἐγώ.
give on-neck your hand will-guide and I

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ζεῦγός γε φίλιον· ἄτερος δὲ δυστυχής.
yoke at-least dear one-of-the-two but unfortunate

ὦ πρέσβυ, τοιόνδ' ἄνδρα χρὴ κτᾶσθαι φίλον.
O old-man such man one-should get friend

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ἡ γὰρ τεκοῦσα τόνδε πατρὶς εὔτεκνος. 1405
the for having-borne this-one fatherland blest-in-children

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ Θησεῦ, πάλιν με στρέψον, ὡς ἴδω τέκνα.
Theseus back me turn that I-may-see the-children

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ὡς δὴ τί; φίλτρον τοῦτ' ἔχων ῥᾴων ἔσει;
as indeed what love-charm this having easier will-you-be

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ποθῶ, πατρός τε στέρνα προσθέσθαι θέλω.
I-long-for of-father and breast to-press I-wish

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ἰδοὺ τάδ', ὦ παῖ· τἀμὰ γὰρ σπεύδεις φίλα.
see these O son my for you-seek dear

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ οὕτω πόνων σῶν οὐκέτι μνήμην ἔχεις;
thus of-toils your no-longer memory you-have

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἅπαντ' ἐλάσσω κεῖνα τῶνδ' ἔτλην κακά.
all less those than-these I-endured evils

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ εἴ σ' ὄψεταί τις θῆλυν ὄντ', οὐκ αἰνέσει.
if you will-see anyone womanish being not he-will-praise

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ζῶ σοι ταπεινός; ἀλλὰ πρόσθεν οὐ δοκῶ.
I-live to-you lowly but before not I-seem

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ἄγαν γ'· ὁ κλεινὸς Ἡρακλῆς ποῦ κεῖνος ὤν;
too-much at-least the glorious Heracles where that-man being

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ σὺ ποῖος ἦσθα νέρθεν ἐν κακοῖσιν ὤν;
you what-kind were below among evils being

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ὡς εἰς τὸ λῆμα παντὸς ἦν ἥσσων ἀνήρ.
as to the spirit than-everyone was weaker man

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ πῶς οὖν ἂν εἴποις ὅτι συνέσταλμαι κακοῖς;
how then — could-you-say that I-am-humbled by-evils

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ πρόβαινε. ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ χαῖρ', ὦ πρέσβυ.
go-forward farewell O old-man

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ καὶ σύ μοι, τέκνον.
and you to-me child

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ θάφθ' ὥσπερ εἶπον παῖδας.
bury as I-said the-children

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ ἐμὲ δὲ τίς, τέκνον;
me and who child

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἐγώ. ΑΜΦΙΤΡΥΩΝ πότ' ἐλθών;
I when having-come

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἡνίκ' ἂν θάψῃς τέκνα.
when — you-bury the-children

ΑΜΦΙΤΡΤΩΝ πῶς; ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ εἰς Ἀθήνας πέμψομαι Θηβῶν ἄπο.
how *to* *Athens* *I-shall-be-sent* *Thebes* *from*

ἀλλ᾽ εἰσκόμιζε τέκνα δυσκόμιστα γῇ·
but *bring-in* *the-children* *hard-to-bring* *for-the-earth*

ἡμεῖς δ᾽ ἀναλώσαντες αἰσχύναις δόμον,
we *and* *having-destroyed* *with-shames* *house*

Θησεῖ πανώλεις ἑψόμεσθ᾽ ἐφολκίδες.
to-Theseus *utterly-ruined* *shall-follow* *boats-in-tow*

ὅστις δὲ πλοῦτον ἢ σθένος μᾶλλον φίλων 1425
whoever *and* *wealth* *or* *strength* *rather* *than-friends*

ἀγαθῶν πεπᾶσθαι βούλεται, κακῶς φρονεῖ.
good *to-possess* *wishes* *badly* *thinks*

ΧΟΡΟΣ στείχομεν οἰκτροὶ καὶ πολύκλαυτοι,
we-go *piteous* *and* *much-lamented*

τὰ μέγιστα φίλων ὀλέσαντες.
the *greatest* *of-friends* *having-lost*