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The Oresteia

Aeschylus

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ
ΧΟΗΦΟΡΟΙ
ΕΥΜΕΝΙΔΕΣ
ΠΕΡΣΑΙ
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ΔΕΣΜΩΤΗΣ

The Oresteia

With the Persians and Prometheus Bound

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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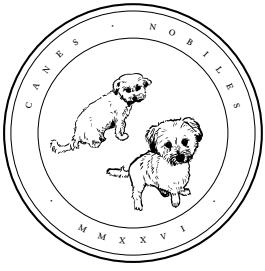

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AESCHYLUS

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ

Agamemnon

I · THE WATCHMAN AND THE ELDERS

On the roof of the Atreidae a watchman has lain through a long year's watch, waiting for the beacon that will report Troy's capture, while a woman with a man's resolve rules the house. The flame appears; he rejoices and goes to tell Agamemnon's wife, though he will say no more about the house. The elders recall the Atreidae sailing for Troy like vultures robbed of their young, sent by Zeus of strangers, and ask Clytemnestra why the altars blaze.

ΦΥΛΑΞ θεοὺς μὲν αἰτῶ τῶνδ' ἀπαλλαγὴν πόνων
gods indeed I-ask of-these release from-toils
φρουρᾶς ἐτείας μῆκος, ἣν κοιμώμενος
of-watch year-long length which lying
στέγαις Ἀτρειδῶν ἄγκαθεν, κυνὸς δίκην,
on-the-roof of-the-Atreidae on-elbows of-dog like
ἄστρων κάτοιδα νυκτέρων ὁμήγυριν,
of-stars I-know of-night assembly
καὶ τοὺς φέροντας χεῖμα καὶ θέρος βροτοῖς
and those bringing winter and summer to-mortals
λαμπροὺς δυνάστας, ἐμπρέποντας αἰθέρι.
bright potentates conspicuous in-the-air
καὶ νῦν φυλάσσω λαμπάδος τὸ σύμβολον,
and now I-watch of-the-beacon the sign
αὐγὴν πυρὸς φέρουσαν ἐκ Τροίας φάτιν
gleam of-fire bearing from Troy report
ἁλώσιμόν τε βάξιν· ὧδε γὰρ κρατεῖ
of-capture and tidings thus for prevails
γυναικὸς ἀνδρόβουλον ἐλπίζον κέαρ.
of-woman man-counseling hoping heart
εὖτ' ἂν δὲ νυκτίπλαγκτον ἔνδροσόν τ' ἔχω
whenever — and night-wandering dew-wet and I-hold

εὐνὴν ὀνείροις οὐκ ἐπισκοπουμένην
bed by-dreams not visited
ἐμήν· φόβος γὰρ ἀνθ' ὕπνου παραστατεῖ,
my fear for instead-of sleep stands-beside
τὸ μὴ βεβαίως βλέφαρα συμβαλεῖν ὕπνῳ·
the not firmly eyelids to-close in-sleep
ὅταν δ' ἀείδειν ἢ μινύρεσθαι δοκῶ,
whenever and to-sing or to-hum I-think
ὕπνου τόδ' ἀντίμολπον ἐντέμνων ἄκος,
of-sleep this counter-song cutting remedy
κλαίω τότ' οἴκου τοῦδε συμφορὰν στένων
I-weep then of-house this misfortune lamenting
οὐχ ὡς τὰ πρόσθ' ἄριστα διαπονουμένου.
not as — before best managed
νῦν δ' εὐτυχὴς γένοιτ' ἀπαλλαγὴ πόνων
now and fortunate may-be release from-toils
εὐαγγέλου φανέντος ὀρφναίου πυρός.
good-news-bringing having-appeared of-dark fire
ὦ χαῖρε λαμπτὴρ νυκτός, ἡμερήσιον
O hail torch of-night day-like
φάος πιφαύσκων καὶ χορῶν κατάστασιν
light showing and of-dances establishment
πολλῶν ἐν Ἄργει, τῆσδε συμφορᾶς χάριν.
of-many in Argos of-this event for-the-sake
ἰοὺ ἰού.
ho ho
Ἀγαμέμνονος γυναικὶ σημαίνω τορῶς
of-Agamemnon to-wife I-signal clearly
εὐνῆς ἐπαντείλασαν ὡς τάχος δόμοις
from-bed rising-up as quickly in-the-house

ὀλολυγμὸν εὐφημοῦντα τῇδε λαμπάδι
cry-of-joy auspicious at-this torch
ἐπορθιάζειν, εἴπερ Ἰλίου πόλις
to-raise-loud if-indeed of-Ilium city
ἑάλωκεν, ὡς ὁ φρυκτὸς ἀγγέλλων πρέπει·
has-been-taken as the beacon announcing shows
αὐτός τ᾽ ἔγωγε φροίμιον χορεύσομαι.
myself and I prelude will-dance
τὰ δεσποτῶν γὰρ εὖ πεσόντα θήσομαι
the of-masters for well fallen I-shall-count
τρὶς ἓξ βαλούσης τῆσδέ μοι φρυκτωρίας.
thrice six having-thrown this for-me beacon-watch
γένοιτο δ᾽ οὖν μολόντος εὐφιλῆ χέρα
may-it-be and then of-having-come dear hand
ἄνακτος οἴκων τῇδε βαστάσαι χερί.
of-lord of-house with-this to-hold hand
τὰ δ᾽ ἄλλα σιγῶ· βοῦς ἐπὶ γλώσσῃ μέγας
the and rest I-keep-silent ox on tongue great
βέβηκεν· οἶκος δ᾽ αὐτός, εἰ φθογγὴν λάβοι,
has-stepped house and itself if voice it-should-take
σαφέστατ᾽ ἂν λέξειεν· ὡς ἑκὼν ἐγὼ
most-clearly — would-say as willing I
μαθοῦσιν αὐδῶ κοὐ μαθοῦσι λήθομαι.
to-those-knowing I-speak and-not to-those-knowing I-forget
ΧΟΡΟΣ δέκατον μὲν ἔτος τόδ᾽ ἐπεὶ Πριάμου
tenth indeed year this since of-Priam
μέγας ἀντίδικος,
great adversary
Μενέλαος ἄναξ ἠδ᾽ Ἀγαμέμνων,
Menelaus lord and Agamemnon

διθρόνου Διόθεν καὶ δισκήπτρου
two-throned from-Zeus and two-sceptered
τιμῆς ὀχυρὸν ζεῦγος Ἀτρειδᾶν
of-honor strong pair of-the-Atreidae
στόλον Ἀργείων χιλιοναύτην,
fleet of-Argives thousand-shipped
τῆσδ' ἀπὸ χώρας
this from land
ἦραν, στρατιῶτιν ἀρωγὰν,
raised warlike aid
μέγαν ἐκ θυμοῦ κλάζοντες Ἄρη
great from heart shouting Ares
τρόπον αἰγυπιῶν, οἵτ' ἐκπατίοις
manner of-vultures which in-lonely
ἄλγεσι παίδων ὕπατοι λεχέων
griefs for-young high-above beds
στροφοδινοῦνται
wheel-round
πτερύγων ἐρετμοῖσιν ἐρεσσόμενοι,
of-wings with-oars rowing
δεμνιοτήρη
nest-watching
πόνον ὀρταλίχων ὀλέσαντες·
toil of-nestlings having-lost
ὕπατος δ' ἀίων ἤ τις Ἀπόλλων
on-high and hearing either some Apollo
ἢ Πὰν ἢ Ζεὺς οἰωνόθροον
or Pan or Zeus bird-voiced
γόον ὀξυβόαν τῶνδε μετοίκων
wail shrill of-these sojourners

ὑστερόποινον
late-avenging
πέμπει παραβᾶσιν Ἐρινύν.
sends on-the-transgressors Erinys
οὕτω δ' Ἀτρέως παῖδας ὁ κρείσσων
so and of-Atreus sons the mightier
ἐπ' Ἀλεξάνδρῳ πέμπει ξένιος
against Alexander sends of-guests
Ζεὺς πολυάνορος ἀμφὶ γυναικὸς
Zeus of-many-men for woman
πολλὰ παλαίσματα καὶ γυιοβαρῆ
many wrestlings and limb-heavy
γόνατος κονίαισιν ἐρειδομένου
knee in-dust being-pressed
διακναιομένης τ' ἐν προτελείοις
being-shattered and in preliminaries
κάμακος θήσων Δαναοῖσι
of-spear to-bring on-Danaans
Τρωσί θ' ὁμοίως. ἔστι δ' ὅπη νῦν
on-Trojans and likewise is and where now
ἔστι· τελεῖται δ' ἐς τὸ πεπρωμένον·
is is-fulfilled and to the fated
οὔθ' ὑποκαίων οὔθ' ὑπολείβων
neither burning-under nor pouring-under
οὔτε δακρύων ἀπύρων ἱερῶν
nor weeping of-fireless of-offerings
ὀργὰς ἀτενεῖς παραθέλξει.
angers intense will-soothe
ἡμεῖς δ' ἀτίται σαρκὶ παλαιᾷ
we and unhonored with-flesh old

τῆς τότ᾽ ἀρωγῆς ὑπολειφθέντες
of-the then aid left-behind
μίμνομεν ἰσχὺν
remain strength
ἰσόπαιδα νέμοντες ἐπὶ σκήπτροις.
child-equal wielding on staffs
ὅ τε γὰρ νεαρὸς μυελὸς στέρνων
the and for young marrow of-breast
ἐντὸς ἀνάσσων
within darting-up
ἰσόπρεσβυς, Ἄρης δ᾽ οὐκ ἔνι χώρᾳ,
equal-to-old Ares and not is-in place
τό θ᾽ ὑπέργηρων φυλλάδος ἤδη
the and very-old of-foliage already
κατακαρφομένης τρίποδας μὲν ὁδοὺς
being-withered three-footed indeed ways
στείχει, παιδὸς δ᾽ οὐδὲν ἀρείων
walks than-child and no better
ὄναρ ἡμερόφαντον ἀλαίνει.
dream day-appearing wanders
σὺ δέ, Τυνδάρεω
you and of-Tyndareus
θύγατερ, βασίλεια Κλυταιμήστρα,
daughter queen Clytemnestra
τί χρέος; τί νέον; τί δ᾽ ἐπαισθομένη,
what need what new what and having-perceived
τίνος ἀγγελίας
what of-message
πειθοῖ περίπεμπτα θυοσκεῖς;
by-persuasion sent-round you-make-sacrifice

πάντων δὲ θεῶν τῶν ἀστυνόμων,
of-all and of-gods of-the city-guarding
ὑπάτων, χθονίων,
supreme of-the-underworld
τῶν τ᾽ οὐρανίων τῶν τ᾽ ἀγοραίων,
of-the and heavenly of-the and of-the-market
βωμοὶ δώροισι φλέγονται·
altars with-gifts blaze
ἄλλη δ᾽ ἄλλοθεν οὐρανομήκης
one and from-another heaven-high
λαμπὰς ἀνίσχει,
torch rises
φαρμασσομένη χρίματος ἁγνοῦ
drugged by-ointment pure
μαλακαῖς ἀδόλοισι παρηγορίαις,
by-soft guileless persuasions
πελάνῳ μυχόθεν βασιλείῳ.
by-cake from-the-inner-store royal
τούτων λέξασ᾽ ὅ τι καὶ δυνατὸν
of-these having-told what — and possible
καὶ θέμις αἰνεῖν,
and right to-tell
παιών τε γενοῦ τῆσδε μερίμνης,
healer and become of-this anxiety
ἣ νῦν τοτὲ μὲν κακόφρων τελέθει,
which now at-one-time indeed evil-minded proves
τοτὲ δ᾽ ἐκ θυσιῶν ἀγανὴ φαίνουσ᾽
at-another and from sacrifices gentle shining

ἐλπὶς ἀμύνει φροντίδ᾽ ἄπληστον
hope wards-off care insatiable
τῆς θυμοβόρου φρένα λύπης.
the heart-eating mind of-grief

II · THE OMEN AT AULIS

The elders sing of two eagles that devoured a pregnant hare as the army set out. Calchas read them as the Atreidae taking Troy, but warned that Artemis, angered, might demand another sacrifice, and that a treacherous wrath would wait in the house to avenge a child. The chorus turns to Zeus, who taught mortals learning through suffering. Becalmed at Aulis, the elder king chose to kill his daughter rather than desert the fleet; gagged, she was lifted over the altar. What followed they did not see.

ΧΟΡΟΣ κύριός εἰμι θροεῖν ὅδιον κράτος αἴσιον ἀνδρῶν
empowered I-am to-tell of-the-way might auspicious of-men
ἐκτελέων· ἔτι γὰρ θεόθεν καταπνεύει
in-authority still for from-the-gods breathes-down
πειθὼ μολπᾶν
persuasion of-songs
ἀλκὰν σύμφυτος αἰών·
strength age-grown life
ὅπως Ἀχαι-
how of-Achaeans
ὢν δίθρονον κράτος, Ἑλλάδος ἥβας
— two-throned command of-Hellas of-youth
ξύμφρονα ταγάν,
like-minded leadership
πέμπει σὺν δορὶ καὶ χερὶ πράκτορι
sends with spear and hand avenging

θούριος ὄρνις Τευκρίδ' ἐπ' αἶαν,
impetuous bird Teucrian to land
οἰωνῶν βασιλεὺς βασιλεῦσι νε-
of-birds king to-kings of-ships
ὧν ὁ κελαινός, ὅ τ' ἐξόπιν ἀργᾶς,
— the black the and behind white
φανέντες ἴ-
appearing near
καρ μελάθρων χερὸς ἐκ δοριπάλτου
— the-palace hand on spear-brandishing
παμπρέπτοις ἐν ἕδραισιν,
conspicuous in seats
βοσκόμενοι λαγίναν, ἐρικύμονα φέρματι γένναν,
feeding-on of-hare teeming with-offspring brood
βλαβέντα λοισθίων δρόμων.
checked of-last courses
αἴλινον αἴλινον εἰπέ, τὸ δ' εὖ νικάτω.
woe woe say the but good let-prevail
κεδνὸς δὲ στρατόμαντις ἰδὼν δύο λήμασι δισσοὺς
trusty and army-prophet seeing two in-temper two
Ἀτρεΐδας μαχίμους ἐδάη λαγοδαίτας
Atreidae warlike recognized hare-devourers
πομπούς τ' ἀρχάς·
leaders and chiefs
οὕτω δ' εἶπε τεράζων·
thus and he-spoke interpreting
"χρόνῳ μὲν ἀγρεῖ
in-time indeed takes
Πριάμου πόλιν ἅδε κέλευθος,
of-Priam city this expedition

πάντα δὲ πύργων
all and of-the-towers
κτήνη πρόσθε τὰ δημιοπληθῆ
herds before the public-stocked
Μοῖρ' ἀλαπάξει πρὸς τὸ βίαιον·
Fate will-sack to the violence
οἷον μή τις ἄγα θεόθεν κνεφά-
only not some resentment from-the-gods may-darken
σῃ προτυπὲν στόμιον μέγα Τροίας
— struck-in-advance bit great of-Troy
στρατωθέν. οἴκτῳ γὰρ ἐπί-
encamped from-pity for jealous
φθονος Ἄρτεμις ἁγνὰ
— Artemis holy
πτανοῖσιν κυσὶ πατρὸς
at-the-winged hounds of-father
αὐτότοκον πρὸ λόχου μογερὰν πτάκα θυομένοισιν
herself-and-young before birth miserable cowering sacrificing
στυγεῖ δὲ δεῖπνον αἰετῶν."
she-loathes and feast of-the-eagles
αἴλινον αἴλινον εἰπέ, τὸ δ' εὖ νικάτω.
woe woe say the but good let-prevail
"τόσον περ εὔφρων, καλά,
so-much although kindly fair-one
δρόσοισι λεπτοῖς μαλερῶν λεόντων
to-cubs tender of-ravening of-lions
πάντων τ' ἀγρονόμων φιλομάστοις
of-all and of-the-field-ranging breast-loving
θηρῶν ὀβρικάλοισι τερπνά,
of-beasts to-young delightful

τούτων αἴνει ξύμβολα κρᾶναι,
of-these approve signs to-fulfill
δεξιὰ μέν, κατάμομφα δὲ φάσματα.
favorable indeed faulty but portents
ἰήιον δὲ καλέω Παιᾶνα,
healer and I-invoke Paean
μή τινας ἀντιπνόους Δανα-
not some counter-blowing for-Danaans
οἷς χρονίας ἐχενῆδας ἀ-
— *long ship-holding unsailing*
πλοίας τεύξῃ,
— *she-may-make*
σπευδομένα θυσίαν ἑτέραν ἄνομόν τιν', ἄδαιτον
hastening sacrifice another lawless some unfeasted
νεικέων τέκτονα σύμφυτον,
of-quarrels builder inborn
οὐ δεισήνορα. μίμνει γὰρ φοβερὰ παλίνορτος
not man-fearing remains for fearful rising-again
οἰκονόμος δολία μνάμων μῆνις τεκνόποινος."
house-keeping treacherous remembering wrath child-avenging
τοιάδε Κάλχας ξὺν μεγάλοις ἀγαθοῖς ἀπέκλαγξεν
such-things Calchas with great blessings proclaimed
μόρσιμ' ἀπ' ὀρνίθων ὁδίων οἴκοις βασιλείοις·
fated from birds of-the-way to-house royal
τοῖς δ' ὁμόφωνον
with-these and in-accord
αἴλινον αἴλινον εἰπέ, τὸ δ' εὖ νικάτω.
woe woe say the but good let-prevail

Ζεύς, ὅστις ποτ' ἐστίν, εἰ τόδ' αὐ-
Zeus whoever ever be-is if this to-him
τῷ φίλον κεκλημένῳ,
— dear being-called
τοῦτό νιν προσεννέπω.
this him I-address
οὐκ ἔχω προσεικάσαι
not I-am-able to-liken
πάντ' ἐπισταθμώμενος
all weighing
πλὴν Διός, εἰ τὸ μάταν ἀπὸ φροντίδος ἄχθος
except Zeus if the vain from mind burden
χρὴ βαλεῖν ἐτητύμως.
it-is-needful to-cast truly
οὐδ' ὅστις πάροιθεν ἦν μέγας,
nor who before was great
παμμάχῳ θράσει βρύων,
with-all-defiant boldness teeming
οὐδὲ λέξεται πρὶν ὤν·
not-even will-be-told before having-been
ὃς δ' ἔπειτ' ἔφυ, τρια-
who and after was-born thrower
κτῆρος οἴχεται τυχών.
— is-gone having-met
Ζῆνα δέ τις προφρόνως ἐπινίκια κλάζων
Zeus and anyone readily victory-songs shouting
τεύξεται φρενῶν τὸ πᾶν·
will-hit of-wisdom the all

τὸν φρονεῖν βροτοὺς ὁδώ-
the to-think mortals having-guided
σαντα, τὸν πάθει μάθος
— the by-suffering learning
θέντα κυρίως ἔχειν.
having-set with-authority to-hold
στάζει δ' ἔν θ' ὕπνῳ πρὸ καρδίας
drips and in and sleep before heart
μνησιπήμων πόνος· καὶ παρ' ἄ- 180
pain-remembering toil and to unwilling
κοντας ἦλθε σωφρονεῖν.
— comes to-be-self-controlled
δαιμόνων δέ που χάρις βίαιος
of-gods and somehow favor violent
σέλμα σεμνὸν ἡμένων.
bench august seated
καὶ τόθ' ἡγεμὼν ὁ πρέ-
and then leader the elder
σβυς νεῶν Ἀχαικῶν, 185
— of-ships Achaean
μάντιν οὔτινα ψέγων,
prophet no-one blaming
ἐμπαίοις τύχαισι συμπνέων,
with-striking fortunes blowing-with
εὖτ' ἀπλοίᾳ κεναγγεῖ βαρύ-
when with-lack-of-sailing emptying-vessels oppressed
νοντ' Ἀχαικὸς λεώς,
— Achaean host

Χαλκίδος πέραν ἔχων παλιρρόχ-
of-Chalcis across holding refluent
θοις ἐν Αὐλίδος τόποις·
— in of-Aulis region
πνοαὶ δ' ἀπὸ Στρυμόνος μολοῦσαι
winds and from Strymon having-come
κακόσχολοι νήστιδες δύσορμοι,
ill-idling starving ill-anchoring
βροτῶν ἄλαι, ναῶν τε καὶ
of-mortals wanderings of-ships both and
πεισμάτων ἀφειδεῖς,
of-cables unsparing
παλιμμήκη χρόνον τιθεῖσαι
twice-long time making
τρίβῳ κατέξαινον ἄν-
by-wearing they-carded flower
θος Ἀργείων· ἐπεὶ δὲ καὶ πικροῦ
— of-Argives when and also bitter
χείματος ἄλλο μῆχαρ
than-storm other remedy
βριθύτερον πρόμοισιν
heavier to-the-chiefs
μάντις ἔκλαγξεν προφέρων
prophet cried-out alleging
Ἄρτεμιν, ὥστε χθόνα βάκ-
Artemis so-that land with-staves
τροις ἐπικρούσαντας Ἀτρεί-
— striking Atreidae
δας δάκρυ μὴ κατασχεῖν·
— tear not to-restrain

ἄναξ δ’ ὁ πρέσβυς τότ’ εἶπε φωνῶν·
lord and the elder then spoke saying
“βαρεῖα μὲν κὴρ τὸ μὴ πιθέσθαι,
heavy indeed doom the not to-obey
βαρεῖα δ’, εἰ τέκνον δαΐ-
heavy and if child I-slaughter
ξω, δόμων ἄγαλμα,
— of-house delight
μιαίνων παρθενοσφάγοισιν
defiling with-maiden-slaughtering
ῥείθροις πατρῴους χέρας
with-streams father’s hands
πέλας βωμοῦ· τί τῶνδ’ ἄνευ κακῶν,
near altar what of-these without evils
πῶς λιπόναυς γένωμαι
how deserter-of-the-fleet may-I-become
ξυμμαχίας ἁμαρτών;
alliance failing
παυσανέμου γὰρ θυσίας
wind-stilling for sacrifice
παρθενίου θ’ αἵματος ὀρ-
maiden and blood with-passion
γᾷ περιόργως ἐπιθυ-
— exceedingly-passionately to-desire
μεῖν θέμις. εὖ γὰρ εἴη.”
— right well for may-it-be
ἐπεὶ δ’ ἀνάγκας ἔδυ λέπαδνον
when and of-necessity he-put-on yoke-strap
φρενὸς πνέων δυσσεβῆ τροπαίαν
of-mind breathing impious veering

ἄναγνον ἀνίερον, τόθεν
impure unholy thence
τὸ παντότολμον φρονεῖν μετέγνω.
the all-daring to-think he-changed
βροτοὺς θρασύνει γὰρ αἰσχρόμητις
mortals emboldens for base-counseling
τάλαινα παρακοπὰ πρωτοπήμων. ἔτλα δ' οὖν
wretched derangement first-of-woes he-dared and then
θυτὴρ γενέσθαι θυγατρός,
sacrificer to-become of-daughter
γυναικοποίνων πολέμων ἀρωγὰν
of-woman-avenging wars aid
καὶ προτέλεια ναῶν.
and prelude of-ships
λιτὰς δὲ καὶ κληδόνας πατρῴους
prayers and and cries of-father
παρ' οὐδὲν αἰῶ τε παρθένειον
at nothing life and maiden
ἔθεντο φιλόμαχοι βραβῆς.
set war-loving chieftains
φράσεν δ' ἀόζοις πατὴρ μετ' εὐχὰν
told and to-attendants father after prayer
δίκαν χιμαίρας ὕπερθε βωμοῦ
like of-kid above altar
πέπλοισι περιπετῆ παντὶ θυμῷ προνωπῆ
in-robes falling-around with-all heart face-down
λαβεῖν ἀέρδην, στόματός
to-lift aloft of-mouth
τε καλλιπρῴρου φυλακᾷ κατασχεῖν
and fair-prowed by-guard to-restrain

φθόγγον ἀραῖον οἴκοις,
voice cursing to-the-house
βίᾳ χαλινῶν τ' ἀναύδῳ μένει.
by-force of-bits and voiceless by-might
κρόκου βαφὰς δ' ἐς πέδον χέουσα
of-saffron dyes and to ground pouring
ἔβαλλ' ἕκαστον θυτήρ-
she-struck each of-sacrificers
ων ἀπ' ὄμματος βέλει
— from eye with-dart
φιλοίκτῳ, πρέπουσά θ' ὡς ἐν γραφαῖς, προσεννέπειν
pitiable standing-out and as in pictures to-address
θέλουσ', ἐπεὶ πολλάκις
wishing since often
πατρὸς κατ' ἀνδρῶνας εὐτραπέζους
of-father in halls well-tabled
ἔμελψεν, ἁγνᾷ δ' ἀταύρωτος αὐδᾷ πατρὸς
she-had-sung holy and unbulled with-voice of-father
φίλου τριτόσπονδον εὖ-
dear third-libation happy
ποτμον παιῶνα φίλως ἐτίμα —
— paean lovingly she-honored
τὰ δ' ἔνθεν οὔτ' εἶδον οὔτ' ἐννέπω·
the and thence neither I-saw nor I-tell
τέχναι δὲ Κάλχαντος οὐκ ἄκραντοι.
arts and of-Calchas not unfulfilled
Δίκα δὲ τοῖς μὲν παθοῦσιν μαθεῖν
Justice and to-those indeed having-suffered to-learn
ἐπιρρέπει·
weighs-in

τὸ μέλλον δ', ἐπεὶ γένοιτ', ἂν κλύοις· πρὸ χαιρέτω·
the future and when it-may-come — you-may-hear before let-it-fare-well
ἴσον δὲ τῷ προστένειν.
equal and to-the to-lament-beforehand
τορὸν γὰρ ἥξει σύνορθρον αὐγαῖς.
clear for it-will-come together-with-dawn with-beams
πέλοιτο δ' οὖν τἀπὶ τούτοισιν εὖ πρᾶξις, ὡς
may-be and then the-things-after these well doing as
θέλει τόδ' ἄγχιστον Ἀ-
wishes this nearest of-Apian
πίας γαίας μονόφρουρον ἔρκος.
— of-land sole-guarding bulwark

III · THE BEACONS

Clytemnestra tells the elders that the Argives have taken Troy that very night. When they doubt her, she traces the chain of beacons from Ida by Athos, Cithaeron, and Arachnaeus to the roof of the Atreidae. She imagines the city: the conquered wailing over their dead, the victors sleeping in Trojan houses, and warns that the army must not offend the gods. The elders begin a hymn to Zeus and Night.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἥκω σεβίζων σόν, Κλυταιμήστρα, κράτος·
I-come revering your Clytemnestra power
δίκη γάρ ἐστι φωτὸς ἀρχηγοῦ τίειν
right for it-is of-man ruling to-honor
γυναῖκ' ἐρημωθέντος ἄρσενος θρόνου.
wife having-been-left-empty male of-throne
σὺ δ' εἴ τι κεδνὸν εἴτε μὴ πεπυσμένη
you and if any good or not having-learned
εὐαγγέλοισιν ἐλπίσιν θυηπολεῖς,
with-good-news hopes you-make-sacrifice

κλύοιμ᾽ ἂν εὔφρων· οὐδὲ σιγώσῃ φθόνος.
I-would-hear — gladly nor for-you-being-silent grudge

ΚΛΤΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ εὐάγγελος μέν, ὥσπερ ἡ παροιμία,
bringer-of-good-news indeed as the proverb

ἕως γένοιτο μητρὸς εὐφρόνης πάρα.
dawn may-be-born of-mother night from

πεύσῃ δὲ χάρμα μεῖζον ἐλπίδος κλύειν·
you-will-learn and joy greater than-hope to-hear

Πριάμου γὰρ ᾑρήκασιν Ἀργεῖοι πόλιν.
of-Priam for have-taken Argives city

ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς φής; πέφευγε τοὔπος ἐξ ἀπιστίας.
how you-say has-escaped the-word from disbelief

ΚΛΤΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ Τροίαν Ἀχαιῶν οὖσαν· ἦ τορῶς λέγω;
Troy of-Achaeans being — clearly I-speak

ΧΟΡΟΣ χαρά μ᾽ ὑφέρπει δάκρυον ἐκκαλουμένη.
joy me steals-over tear calling-forth

ΚΛΤΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ εὖ γὰρ φρονοῦντος ὄμμα σοῦ κατηγορεῖ.
well for thinking eye your accuses

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί γὰρ τὸ πιστόν; ἔστι τῶνδέ σοι τέκμαρ;
what for the trustworthy is of-these for-you proof

ΚΛΤΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ ἔστιν· τί δ᾽ οὐχί; μὴ δολώσαντος θεοῦ.
there-is why and not unless having-deceived god

ΧΟΡΟΣ πότερα δ᾽ ὀνείρων φάσματ᾽ εὐπιθῆ σέβεις;
whether and of-dreams visions persuasive you-revere

ΚΛΤΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ οὐ δόξαν ἂν λάβοιμι βριζούσης φρενός.
not fancy — I-would-take of-slumbering mind

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἦ σ᾽ ἐπίανέν τις ἄπτερος φάτις;
but — you has-fattened some wingless rumor

ΚΛΤΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ παιδὸς νέας ὡς κάρτ᾽ ἐμωμήσω φρένας.
of-child young as greatly you-mocked wits

ΧΟΡΟΣ ποίου χρόνου δὲ καὶ πεπόρθηται πόλις;
what time and also has-been-sacked city

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ τῆς νῦν τεκούσης φῶς τόδ' εὐφρόνης λέγω.
of-the now having-borne light this night I-say

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ τίς τόδ' ἐξίκοιτ' ἂν ἀγγέλων τάχος;
and what this would-reach — of-messengers speed

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ Ἥφαιστος Ἴδης λαμπρὸν ἐκπέμπων σέλας.
Hephaestus from-Ida bright sending-forth blaze

φρυκτὸς δὲ φρυκτὸν δεῦρ' ἀπ' ἀγγάρου πυρὸς
beacon and beacon hither from courier fire

ἔπεμπεν· Ἴδη μὲν πρὸς Ἑρμαῖον λέπας
sent Ida indeed to Hermes' crag

Λήμνου· μέγαν δὲ πανὸν ἐκ νήσου τρίτον
of-Lemnos great and torch from island third

Ἀθῷον αἶπος Ζηνὸς ἐξεδέξατο,
Athoan height of-Zeus received

ὑπερτελής τε, πόντον ὥστε νωτίσαι,
surpassing and sea so-as to-skim

ἰσχὺς πορευτοῦ λαμπάδος πρὸς ἡδονὴν
strength of-traveling torch for joy

*** †πεύκη† τὸ χρυσοφεγγές, ὥς τις ἥλιος,
(lacuna) pine-torch the golden-gleaming like some sun

σέλας παραγγείλασα Μακίστου σκοπαῖς·
blaze having-passed-on of-Macistus to-watchtowers

ὁ δ' οὔτι μέλλων οὐδ' ἀφρασμόνως ὕπνῳ
he and not delaying nor heedlessly by-sleep

νικώμενος παρῆκεν ἀγγέλου μέρος·
overcome let-pass of-messenger part

ἑκὰς δὲ φρυκτοῦ φῶς ἐπ' Εὐρίπου ῥοὰς
far and of-beacon light to of-Euripus streams

Μεσσαπίου φύλαξι σημαίνει μολόν.
of-Messapion to-watchmen signals having-come
οἱ δ' ἀντέλαμψαν καὶ παρήγγειλαν πρόσω
they and lit-in-answer and passed-on forward
γραίας ἐρείκης θωμὸν ἅψαντες πυρί.
of-gray heather heap kindling with-fire
σθένουσα λαμπὰς δ' οὐδέπω μαυρουμένη,
strong torch and not-yet dimmed
ὑπερθοροῦσα πεδίον Ἀσωποῦ, δίκην
leaping-over plain of-Asopus like
φαιδρᾶς σελήνης, πρὸς Κιθαιρῶνος λέπας
bright moon to of-Cithaeron crag
ἤγειρεν ἄλλην ἐκδοχὴν πομποῦ πυρός.
roused another relay of-sending fire
φάος δὲ τηλέπομπον οὐκ ἠναίνετο
light and far-sent not refused
φρουρὰ πλέον καίουσα τῶν εἰρημένων·
watch more burning of-the things-ordered
λίμνην δ' ὑπὲρ Γοργῶπιν ἔσκηψεν φάος·
lake and over Gorgopis darted light
ὄρος τ' ἐπ' Αἰγίπλαγκτον ἐξικνούμενον
mountain and to Aegiplanctus reaching
ὤτρυνε θεσμὸν μὴ χρονίζεσθαι πυρός.
urged rule not to-be-slack of-fire
πέμπουσι δ' ἀνδαίοντες ἀφθόνῳ μένει
they-send and kindling with-unstinted strength
φλογὸς μέγαν πώγωνα, καὶ Σαρωνικοῦ
of-flame great beard and Saronic
πορθμοῦ κάτοπτον πρῶν' ὑπερβάλλειν πρόσω
of-strait overlooking headland to-surpass beyond

φλέγουσαν· ἔστ᾽ ἔσκηψεν εὖτ᾽ ἀφίκετο
blazing until it-swooped when it-came
Ἀραχναῖον αἶπος, ἀστυγείτονας σκοπάς·
Arachnaean height neighboring watch-posts
κἄπειτ᾽ Ἀτρειδῶν ἐς τόδε σκήπτει στέγος
and-then of-the-Atreidae to this swoops roof
φάος τόδ᾽ οὐκ ἄπαπτον Ἰδαίου πυρός.
light this not ungrandsired of-Idaean fire
τοιοῖδε τοί μοι λαμπαδηφόρων νόμοι,
such surely my of-torch-bearers rules
ἄλλος παρ᾽ ἄλλου διαδοχαῖς πληρούμενοι·
one from another in-relays fulfilled
νικᾷ δ᾽ ὁ πρῶτος καὶ τελευταῖος δραμών.
wins and the first and last having-run
τέκμαρ τοιοῦτον σύμβολόν τέ σοι λέγω
proof such sign and to-you I-tell
ἀνδρὸς παραγγείλαντος ἐκ Τροίας ἐμοί.
of-husband having-passed-on from Troy to-me
ΧΟΡΟΣ θεοῖς μὲν αὖθις, ὦ γύναι, προσεύξομαι.
to-gods indeed again O lady I-shall-pray
λόγους δ᾽ ἀκοῦσαι τούσδε κἀποθαυμάσαι
words and to-hear these and-to-marvel-at
διηνεκῶς θέλοιμ᾽ ἂν ὡς λέγοις πάλιν.
continuously I-would-wish — as you-might-tell again
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ Τροίαν Ἀχαιοὶ τῇδ᾽ ἔχουσ᾽ ἐν ἡμέρᾳ.
Troy Achaeans this hold on day
οἶμαι βοὴν ἄμεικτον ἐν πόλει πρέπειν.
I-think cry unmingled in city to-be-plain
ὄξος τ᾽ ἄλειφά τ᾽ ἐγχέας ταὐτῷ κύτει
vinegar and oil and pouring-in in-same vessel

διχοστατοῦντ᾽ ἄν, οὐ φίλω, προσεννέποις.
standing-apart — not friendly you-would-call
καὶ τῶν ἁλόντων καὶ κρατησάντων δίχα
and of-the captured and having-conquered apart
φθογγὰς ἀκούειν ἔστι συμφορᾶς διπλῆς.
cries to-hear it-is of-fortune double
οἱ μὲν γὰρ ἀμφὶ σώμασιν πεπτωκότες
they indeed for around bodies having-fallen
ἀνδρῶν κασιγνήτων τε καὶ φυταλμίων
of-husbands of-brothers both and of-fathers
παῖδες γερόντων οὐκέτ᾽ ἐξ ἐλευθέρου
children of-old-men no-longer from free
δέρης ἀποιμώζουσι φιλτάτων μόρον·
throat bewail of-dearest fate
τοὺς δ᾽ αὖτε νυκτίπλαγκτος ἐκ μάχης πόνος
them and again night-wandering after battle toil
νήστεις πρὸς ἀρίστοισιν ὧν ἔχει πόλις
fasting to breakfasts of-what holds city
τάσσει, πρὸς οὐδὲν ἐν μέρει τεκμήριον,
marshals to no in turn token
ἀλλ᾽ ὡς ἕκαστος ἔσπασεν τύχης πάλον.
but as each drew of-fortune lot
ἐν δ᾽ αἰχμαλώτοις Τρωικοῖς οἰκήμασιν
in and captured Trojan dwellings
ναίουσιν ἤδη, τῶν ὑπαιθρίων πάγων
they-dwell already of-the open-air frosts
δρόσων τ᾽ ἀπαλλαγέντες, ὡς δ᾽ εὐδαίμονες
dews and released like and blessed
ἀφύλακτον εὑδήσουσι πᾶσαν εὐφρόνην.
unguarded they-will-sleep all night

εἰ δ' εὖ σέβουσι τοὺς πολισσούχους θεοὺς
if and well they-revere the city-holding gods
τοὺς τῆς ἁλούσης γῆς θεῶν θ' ἱδρύματα,
those of-the captured land of-gods and shrines
οὔ τἂν ἑλόντες αὖθις ἀνθαλοῖεν ἄν.
not — having-taken in-turn would-be-taken —
ἔρως δὲ μή τις πρότερον ἐμπίπτῃ στρατῷ
desire but lest some before fall-upon army
πορθεῖν ἃ μὴ χρή, κέρδεσιν νικωμένους.
to-sack what not is-right by-gains conquered
δεῖ γὰρ πρὸς οἴκους νοστίμου σωτηρίας
it-is-needful for to home of-returning safety
κάμψαι διαύλου θάτερον κῶλον πάλιν·
to-round of-the-double-course the-other leg back
θεοῖς δ' ἀναμπλάκητος εἰ μόλοι στρατός,
to-gods and guiltless if should-come army
ἐγρηγορὸς τὸ πῆμα τῶν ὀλωλότων
wakeful the harm of-the dead
γένοιτ' ἄν, εἰ πρόσπαια μὴ τύχοι κακά.
may-be — if sudden not should-befall evils
τοιαῦτά τοι γυναικὸς ἐξ ἐμοῦ κλύεις·
such-things surely of-woman from me you-hear
τὸ δ' εὖ κρατοίη μὴ διχορρόπως ἰδεῖν.
the but good may-prevail not wavering to-see
πολλῶν γὰρ ἐσθλῶν τήνδ' ὄνησιν εἱλόμην.
of-many for goods this profit I-have-chosen
ΧΟΡΟΣ γύναι, κατ' ἄνδρα σώφρον' εὐφρόνως λέγεις.
lady like man self-controlled kindly you-speak
ἐγὼ δ' ἀκούσας πιστά σου τεκμήρια
I and having-heard trustworthy your proofs

θεοὺς προσειπεῖν εὖ παρασκευάζομαι.
gods to-address well I-prepare
χάρις γὰρ οὐκ ἄτιμος εἴργασται πόνων.
grace for not unhonored has-been-wrought of-toils
ὦ Ζεῦ βασιλεῦ καὶ νὺξ φιλία
O Zeus king and night friendly
μεγάλων κόσμων κτεάτειρα,
of-great glories possessor
ἥτ' ἐπὶ Τροίας πύργοις ἔβαλες
who on of-Troy towers you-cast
στεγανὸν δίκτυον, ὡς μήτε μέγαν
covering net so-that neither great
μήτ' οὖν νεαρῶν τιν' ὑπερτελέσαι
nor then of-young-ones any to-overleap
μέγα δουλείας
great of-slavery
γάγγαμον, ἄτης παναλώτου.
drag-net of-ruin all-capturing
Δία τοι ξένιον μέγαν αἰδοῦμαι
Zeus surely of-guests great I-revere
τὸν τάδε πράξαντ' ἐπ' Ἀλεξάνδρῳ
who these having-done against Alexander
τείνοντα πάλαι τόξον, ὅπως ἂν
stretching long-ago bow so-that —
μήτε πρὸ καιροῦ μήθ' ὑπὲρ ἄστρων
neither before time nor above stars
βέλος ἠλίθιον σκήψειεν.
shaft vain should-dart

The chorus declares that Zeus has struck Troy and that wealth cannot shelter the man who kicks the altar of Justice. Paris came and stole a wife; Helen went lightly through the gates, and the husband was left with her phantom. In Greece urns of ash come home in place of men, and the people murmur against the Atreidae. The elders fear the gods who watch the killers, and pray never to sack a city. They mistrust a report spread by a woman.

ΧΟΡΟΣ Διὸς πλαγὰν ἔχουσιν εἰπεῖν,
of-Zeus stroke they-have to-tell
πάρεστιν τοῦτό γ' ἐξιχνεῦσαι.
it-is-possible this at-least to-track-out
ἔπραξεν ὡς ἔκρανεν. οὐκ ἔφα τις
he-did as he-decreed not said someone
θεοὺς βροτῶν ἀξιοῦσθαι μέλειν
gods of-mortals to-deign to-care
ὅσοις ἀθίκτων χάρις
as-many-as of-inviolable grace
πατοῖθ'· ὁ δ' οὐκ εὐσεβής.
is-trampled he but not pious
πέφανται δ' ἐκτίνουσ'
it-is-shown and paying-back
ἀτολμήτων ἀρὴ
of-reckless curse
πνεόντων μεῖζον ἢ δικαίως,
breathing greater than justly
φλεόντων δωμάτων ὑπέρφευ
teeming houses beyond-measure

ὑπὲρ τὸ βέλτιστον. ἔστω δ' ἀπή-
beyond the best let-it-be but harmless
μαντον, ὥστ' ἀπαρκεῖν
— so-as to-suffice
εὖ πραπίδων λαχόντα.
well of-wits having-obtained
οὐ γὰρ ἔστιν ἔπαλξις
not for there-is bulwark
πλούτου πρὸς κόρον ἀνδρὶ
of-wealth to surfeit to-man
λακτίσαντι μέγαν Δίκας
having-kicked great of-Justice
βωμὸν εἰς ἀφάνειαν.
altar into obscurity
βιᾶται δ' ἁ τάλαινα πειθώ,
forces and the wretched persuasion
προβούλου παῖς ἄφερτος ἄτας.
of-forecounseling child unbearable of-ruin
ἄκος δὲ πᾶν μάταιον. οὐκ ἐκρύφθη,
remedy and all vain not was-hidden
πρέπει δέ, φῶς αἰνολαμπές, σίνος·
shows-itself but light terrible-shining harm
κακοῦ δὲ χαλκοῦ τρόπον
of-bad and bronze in-manner
τρίβῳ τε καὶ προσβολαῖς
by-rubbing both and by-blows
μελαμπαγὴς πέλει
black-crusted becomes
δικαιωθείς, ἐπεὶ
having-been-tried since

διώκει παῖς ποτανὸν ὄρνιν,
pursues boy winged bird
πόλει πρόστριμμ' ἄφερτον ἐνθείς.
to-city stain unbearable having-set
λιτᾶν δ' ἀκούει μὲν οὔτις θεῶν·
prayers and hears indeed none of-gods
τὸν δ' ἐπίστροφον τῶν
the and conversant with-these
φῶτ' ἄδικον καθαιρεῖ.
man unjust brings-down
οἷος καὶ Πάρις ἐλθὼν
such also Paris having-come
ἐς δόμον τὸν Ἀτρειδᾶν
to house of-the Atreidae
ᾔσχυνε ξενίαν τράπε-
disgraced hospitable table
ζαν κλοπαῖσι γυναικός.
— by-thefts of-woman
λιποῦσα δ' ἀστοῖσιν ἀσπίστορᾶς
having-left and to-citizens shield-bearing
τε καὶ κλόνους λογχίμους
both and tumults spear-armed
ναυβάτας θ' ὁπλισμούς,
ship-going and armaments
ἄγουσά τ' ἀντίφερνον Ἰλίῳ φθορὰν
bringing and instead-of-dowry to-Ilium destruction
βέβακεν ῥίμφα διὰ
she-has-gone lightly through
πυλᾶν ἄτλητα τλᾶσα· πολλὰ δ' ἔστενον
gates unendurable having-endured much and lamented

τόδ᾽ ἐννέποντες δόμων προφῆται·
this saying of-house prophets
"ἰὼ ἰὼ δῶμα δῶμα καὶ πρόμοι,
oh oh house house and princes
ἰὼ λέχος καὶ στίβοι φιλάνορες.
oh bed and steps husband-loving
πάρεστι σιγὰς ἀτίμους ἀλοιδόρους
it-is-possible silences unhonored unreviling
ἄλγιστ᾽ ἀφημένων ἰδεῖν.
most-grievous of-the-deserted to-see
πόθῳ δ᾽ ὑπερποντίας
in-longing and of-one-beyond-the-sea
φάσμα δόξει δόμων ἀνάσσειν.
phantom will-seem of-house to-rule
εὐμόρφων δὲ κολοσσῶν
of-shapely and statues
ἔχθεται χάρις ἀνδρί·
is-hateful grace to-husband
ὀμμάτων δ᾽ ἐν ἀχηνίαις
of-eyes and in want
ἔρρει πᾶσ᾽ Ἀφροδίτα."
is-gone all Aphrodite
"ὀνειρόφαντοι δὲ πενθήμονες
dream-appearing and mournful
πάρεισι δόξαι φέρου-
are-present fancies bringing
σαι χάριν ματαίαν.
— delight vain
μάταν γάρ, εὖτ᾽ ἂν ἐσθλά τις δοκῶν ὁρᾷ,
in-vain for when — good-things someone seeming sees

παραλλάξασα διὰ
slipping-away through
χερῶν βέβακεν ὄψις οὐ μεθύστερον
hands has-gone vision not afterward
πτεροῖς ὀπαδοῦσ᾽ ὕπνου κελεύθοις.”
on-wings following of-sleep on-paths
τὰ μὲν κατ᾽ οἴκους ἐφ᾽ ἑστίας ἄχη
the indeed in house at hearth griefs
τάδ᾽ ἐστὶ καὶ τῶνδ᾽ ὑπερβατώτερα.
these are and than-these surpassing
τὸ πᾶν δ᾽ ἀφ᾽ Ἕλλανος αἴας συνορμένοις
the whole but from Hellas land for-those-setting-out
πένθει᾽ ἀτλησικάρδιος
grief heart-enduring
δόμων ἑκάστου πρέπει.
of-house of-each is-seen
πολλὰ γοῦν θιγγάνει πρὸς ἦπαρ·
many at-least touches to liver
οὓς μὲν γάρ τις ἔπεμψεν
whom indeed for one sent
οἶδεν, ἀντὶ δὲ φωτῶν
he-knows instead-of and men
τεύχη καὶ σποδὸς εἰς ἑκά-
urns and ash to each
στου δόμους ἀφικνεῖται.
— house arrives
ὁ χρυσαμοιβὸς δ᾽ Ἄρης σωμάτων
the gold-changer and Ares of-bodies
καὶ ταλαντοῦχος ἐν μάχῃ δορὸς
and scale-holder in battle of-spear

πυρωθὲν ἐξ Ἰλίου
burned from Ilium
φίλοισι πέμπει βαρὺ
to-friends sends heavy
ψῆγμα δυσδάκρυτον ἀν-
dust bitterly-wept man-replacing
τήνορος σποδοῦ γεμί-
— ash filling
ζων λέβητας εὐθέτους.
— urns well-stowed
στένουσι δ' εὖ λέγοντες ἄν-
they-lament and well speaking-of man
δρα τὸν μὲν ὡς μάχης ἴδρις,
— the-one indeed as of-battle skilled
τὸν δ' ἐν φοναῖς καλῶς πεσόντ' —
the-other and in slaughters nobly having-fallen
ἀλλοτρίας διαὶ γυναι-
of-another's for-the-sake-of woman
κός· τάδε σῖγά τις βαΰ-
— this silently someone snarls
ζει, φθονερὸν δ' ὑπ' ἄλγος ἕρ-
— grudging and stealthily grief creeps
πει προδίκοις Ἀτρείδαις.
— against-the-prosecuting Atreidae
οἱ δ' αὐτοῦ περὶ τεῖχος
they and there around wall
θήκας Ἰλιάδος γᾶς
tombs of-the-Ilian land

εὔμορφοι κατέχουσιν· ἐχ-
shapely occupy hostile
θρὰ δ' ἔχοντας ἔκρυψεν.
— and holding has-hidden
βαρεῖα δ' ἀστῶν φάτις ξὺν κότῳ·
heavy and of-citizens talk with wrath
δημοκράντου δ' ἀρᾶς τίνει χρέος.
people-decreed and of-curse pays debt
μένει δ' ἀκοῦσαί τί μου
waits and to-hear something my
μέριμνα νυκτηρεφές.
anxiety night-shrouded
τῶν πολυκτόνων γὰρ οὐκ
of-the many-slaying for not
ἄσκοποι θεοί. κελαι-
unwatchful gods black
ναὶ δ' Ἐρινύες χρόνῳ
— and Erinyes in-time
τυχηρὸν ὄντ' ἄνευ δίκας
prosperous being without justice
παλιντυχεῖ τριβᾷ βίου
in-reversal-of-fortune by-wearing of-life
τιθεῖσ' ἀμαυρόν, ἐν δ' ἀί-
making dim in and unseen
στοις τελέθοντος οὔτις ἀλ-
— being there-is-no strength
κά· τὸ δ' ὑπερκόπως κλύειν
— the but excessively to-be-spoken-of

εὖ βαρύ· βάλλεται γὰρ ὄσ-
well heavy is-struck for at-eyes
σοις Διόθεν κάρανα.
— *from-Zeus peaks*
κρίνω δ' ἄφθονον ὄλβον·
I-choose and unenvied prosperity
μήτ' εἴην πτολιπόρθης
neither may-I-be city-sacker
μήτ' οὖν αὐτὸς ἁλοὺς ὑπ' ἄλ-
nor then myself captured under others
λων βίον κατίδοιμι.
— *life may-I-look-on*
πυρὸς δ' ὑπ' εὐαγγέλου
of-fire and by good-news-bringing
πόλιν διήκει θοὰ
city pervades swift
βάξις· εἰ δ' ἐτήτυμος,
tidings if but true
τίς οἶδεν, ἤ τι θεῖόν ἐστί πῃ ψύθος. —
who knows or some divine is somehow falsehood
τίς ὧδε παιδνὸς ἢ φρενῶν κεκομμένος,
who so childish or of-wits stricken
φλογὸς παραγγέλμασιν
of-flame by-messages
νέοις πυρωθέντα καρδίαν ἔπειτ'
by-new having-been-fired heart then
ἀλλαγᾷ λόγου καμεῖν; —
at-change of-story to-fall-sick
γυναικὸς αἰχμᾷ πρέπει
of-woman in-temper it-suits

πρὸ τοῦ φανέντος χάριν ξυναινέσαι. —
before the appearing thanks to-assent
πιθανὸς ἄγαν ὁ θῆλυς ὅρος ἐπινέμεται
persuasive too-much the female boundary is-encroached-on
ταχύπορος· ἀλλὰ ταχύμορον
fast-traveling but fast-perishing
γυναικογήρυτον ὄλλυται κλέος. —
by-woman-proclaimed perishes report

V · THE HERALD

A herald arrives from the army and hails his native land, the gods, and the palace: Agamemnon is coming home, having razed Troy. The elders hint at a fear they have long kept silent. He describes the soldiers' miseries but says the gain outweighs them. Clytemnestra claims her rejoicing was right and sends word that she has kept the house faithfully. Asked about Menelaus, the herald tells of a storm that scattered the fleet; Menelaus is missing, though he may yet return.

ΧΟΡΟΣ τάχ' εἰσόμεσθα λαμπάδων φαεσφόρων
soon we-shall-know of-torches light-bringing
φρυκτωριῶν τε καὶ πυρὸς παραλλαγάς,
of-beacon-watches both and of-fire relays
εἴτ' οὖν ἀληθεῖς εἴτ' ὀνειράτων δίκην
whether then true or of-dreams like
τερπνὸν τόδ' ἐλθὸν φῶς ἐφήλωσεν φρένας.
delightful this having-come light deceived wits
κήρυκ' ἀπ' ἀκτῆς τόνδ' ὁρῶ κατάσκιον
herald from shore this I-see shaded
κλάδοις ἐλαίας· μαρτυρεῖ δέ μοι κάσις
with-boughs of-olive bears-witness and to-me brother

πηλοῦ ξύνουρος διψία κόνις τάδε,
of-mud neighbor thirsty dust this
ὡς οὔτ' ἄναυδος οὔτε σοι δαίων φλόγα
that neither voiceless nor to-you kindling flame
ὕλης ὀρείας σημανεῖ καπνῷ πυρός,
of-wood of-the-mountain will-signal with-smoke of-fire
ἀλλ' ἢ τὸ χαίρειν μᾶλλον ἐκβάξει λέγων —
but either the to-rejoice rather will-blurt-out saying
τὸν ἀντίον δὲ τοῖσδ' ἀποστέργω λόγον·
the contrary and to-these I-reject word
εὖ γὰρ πρὸς εὖ φανεῖσι προσθήκη πέλοι. —
good for to good appearing addition may-be
ὅστις τάδ' ἄλλως τῇδ' ἐπεύχεται πόλει,
whoever this otherwise for-this prays city
αὐτὸς φρενῶν καρποῖτο τὴν ἁμαρτίαν.
himself of-wits may-reap the error
ΚΗΡΥΞ ἰὼ πατρῷον οὖδας Ἀργείας χθονός,
oh fatherland soil of-Argive land
δεκάτου σε φέγγει τῷδ' ἀφικόμην ἔτους,
of-tenth you by-light this I-have-come of-year
πολλῶν ῥαγεισῶν ἐλπίδων μιᾶς τυχών.
many having-been-shattered of-hopes one having-gained
οὐ γάρ ποτ' ηὔχουν τῇδ' ἐν Ἀργείᾳ χθονὶ
not for ever I-thought this in Argive land
θανὼν μεθέξειν φιλτάτου τάφου μέρος.
dying to-share of-dearest tomb portion
νῦν χαῖρε μὲν χθών, χαῖρε δ' ἡλίου φάος,
now hail indeed land hail and of-the-sun light
ὕπατός τε χώρας Ζεύς, ὁ Πύθιός τ' ἄναξ,
supreme and of-the-land Zeus the Pythian and lord

τόξοις ἰάπτων μηκέτ᾽ εἰς ἡμᾶς βέλη·
with-bow shooting no-longer at us arrows
ἅλις παρὰ Σκάμανδρον ἦσθ᾽ ἀνάρσιος·
enough beside Scamander you-were hostile
νῦν δ᾽ αὖτε σωτὴρ ἴσθι καὶ παιώνιος,
now but again savior be and healer
ἄναξ Ἄπολλον. τούς τ᾽ ἀγωνίους θεοὺς
lord Apollo the and of-the-contests gods
πάντας προσαυδῶ, τόν τ᾽ ἐμὸν τιμάορον
all I-address the and my avenger
Ἑρμῆν, φίλον κήρυκα, κηρύκων σέβας,
Hermes dear herald of-heralds reverence
ἥρως τε τοὺς πέμψαντας, εὐμενεῖς πάλιν
heroes and the having-sent kindly again
στρατὸν δέχεσθαι τὸν λελειμμένον δορός.
army to-receive the left of-spear
ἰὼ μέλαθρα βασιλέων, φίλαι στέγαι,
oh halls of-kings dear roofs
σεμνοί τε θᾶκοι, δαίμονές τ᾽ ἀντήλιοι,
august and seats spirits and facing-the-sun
εἴ που πάλαι, φαιδροῖσι τοισίδ᾽ ὄμμασι
if ever long-ago with-bright these eyes
δέξασθε κόσμῳ βασιλέα πολλῷ χρόνῳ.
receive in-state king after-much time
ἥκει γὰρ ὑμῖν φῶς ἐν εὐφρόνῃ φέρων
he-comes for to-you light in night bringing
καὶ τοῖσδ᾽ ἅπασι κοινὸν Ἀγαμέμνων ἄναξ.
and to-these all common Agamemnon lord
ἀλλ᾽ εὖ νιν ἀσπάσασθε, καὶ γὰρ οὖν πρέπει
but well him greet also for indeed it-befits

Τροίαν κατασκάψαντα τοῦ δικηφόρου
Troy having-dug-down of-the justice-bearing
Διὸς μακέλλῃ, τῇ κατείργασται πέδον.
of-Zeus with-mattock with-which has-been-wrought-down ground
βωμοὶ δ' ἄιστοι καὶ θεῶν ἱδρύματα,
altars and vanished and of-gods shrines
καὶ σπέρμα πάσης ἐξαπόλλυται χθονός.
and seed of-all perishes land
τοιόνδε Τροίᾳ περιβαλὼν ζευκτήριον
such on-Troy having-cast-around yoke
ἄναξ Ἀτρείδης πρέσβυς εὐδαίμων ἀνὴρ
lord son-of-Atreus elder fortunate man
ἥκει, τίεσθαι δ' ἀξιώτατος βροτῶν
he-comes to-be-honored and most-worthy of-mortals
τῶν νῦν· Πάρις γὰρ οὔτε συντελὴς πόλις
of-the now Paris for nor partner city
ἐξεύχεται τὸ δρᾶμα τοῦ πάθους πλέον.
boasts the deed than-the suffering more
ὀφλὼν γὰρ ἁρπαγῆς τε καὶ κλοπῆς δίκην
having-been-convicted for of-rape both and of-theft justice
τοῦ ῥυσίου θ' ἥμαρτε καὶ πανώλεθρον
of-the plunder and he-lost and in-utter-ruin
αὐτόχθονον πατρῷον ἔθρισεν δόμον.
with-the-land-itself father's mowed-down house
διπλᾶ δ' ἔτεισαν Πριαμίδαι θἀμάρτια.
double and paid sons-of-Priam the-penalties

ΧΟΡΟΣ κῆρυξ Ἀχαιῶν χαῖρε τῶν ἀπὸ στρατοῦ.
herald of-Achaeans hail of-the from army

ΚΗΡΥΞ χαίρω γε· τεθνάναι δ' οὐκέτ' ἀντερῶ θεοῖς.
I-rejoice at-least to-be-dead and no-longer I-will-refuse to-gods

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔρως πατρῴας τῆσδε γῆς σ' ἐγύμνασεν;
love father's of-this land you exercised

ΚΗΡΥΞ ὥστ' ἐνδακρύειν γ' ὄμμασιν χαρᾶς ὕπο.
so-that to-weep at-least with-eyes joy for

ΧΟΡΟΣ τερπνῆς ἄρ' ἦτε τῆσδ' ἐπήβολοι νόσου.
pleasant then you-were of-this possessed sickness

ΚΗΡΥΞ πῶς δή; διδαχθεὶς τοῦδε δεσπόσω λόγου.
how indeed having-been-taught of-this shall-I-master word

ΧΟΡΟΣ τῶν ἀντερώντων ἱμέρῳ πεπληγμένοι.
by-those returning-love with-desire stricken

ΚΗΡΥΞ ποθεῖν ποθοῦντα τήνδε γῆν στρατὸν λέγεις;
to-long-for longing this land army you-say

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὡς πόλλ' ἀμαυρᾶς ἐκ φρενός μ' ἀναστένειν
so-that often dim from heart me to-groan

ΚΗΡΥΞ πόθεν τὸ δύσφρον τοῦτ' ἐπῆν θυμῷ στύγος;
whence the gloom this was-on mind hatred

ΧΟΡΟΣ πάλαι τὸ σιγᾶν φάρμακον βλάβης ἔχω.
long-ago the to-be-silent remedy of-harm I-hold

ΚΗΡΥΞ καὶ πῶς; ἀπόντων κοιράνων ἔτρεις τινάς;
and how being-absent rulers you-feared some

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὡς νῦν, τὸ σὸν δή, καὶ θανεῖν πολλὴ χάρις.
so-that now — your indeed also to-die great grace

ΚΗΡΥΞ εὖ γὰρ πέπρακται. ταῦτα δ' ἐν πολλῷ χρόνῳ
well for it-has-been-done these but in much time

τὰ μέν τις ἂν λέξειεν εὐπετῶς ἔχειν,
the indeed one — would-say well to-be

τὰ δ' αὖτε κἀπίμομφα. τίς δὲ πλὴν θεῶν
the but again and-blameworthy who and except gods

ἅπαντ' ἀπήμων τὸν δι' αἰῶνος χρόνον;
all unharmed the through life time

μόχθους γὰρ εἰ λέγοιμι καὶ δυσαυλίας,
toils for if I-should-tell and hard-lodgings
σπαρνὰς παρήξεις καὶ κακοστρώτους, τί δ' οὐ
narrow gangways and ill-strewn what and not
στένοντες, †οὐ λαχόντες† ἥματος μέρος;
groaning not having-received of-day portion
τὰ δ' αὖτε χέρσῳ καὶ προσῆν πλέον στύγος·
the and again on-land and was-added more hatred
εὐναὶ γὰρ ἦσαν δηΐων πρὸς τείχεσιν·
beds for were of-foes against walls
ἐξ οὐρανοῦ δὲ κἀπὸ γῆς λειμώνιαι
from heaven and and-from earth meadow
δρόσοι κατεψάκαζον, ἔμπεδον σίνος
dews drizzled lasting harm
ἐσθημάτων, τιθέντες ἔνθηρον τρίχα.
of-clothes making full-of-vermin hair
χειμῶνα δ' εἰ λέγοι τις οἰωνοκτόνον,
winter and if should-tell someone bird-killing
οἷον παρεῖχ' ἄφερτον Ἰδαία χιών,
such-as it-gave unbearable Idaean snow
ἢ θάλπος, εὖτε πόντος ἐν μεσημβριναῖς
or heat when sea in midday
κοίταις ἀκύμων νηνέμοις εὕδοι πεσών
couches waveless windless should-sleep having-fallen
τί ταῦτα πενθεῖν δεῖ; παροίχεται πόνος·
why these to-mourn must has-passed toil
παροίχεται δέ, τοῖσι μὲν τεθνηκόσιν
has-passed and for-those indeed dead
τὸ μήποτ' αὖθις μηδ' ἀναστῆναι μέλειν.
the never again not-even to-rise to-care

τί τοὺς ἀναλωθέντας ἐν ψήφῳ λέγειν,
why the spent in count to-tell
τὸν ζῶντα δ' ἀλγεῖν χρὴ τύχης παλιγκότου;
the living and to-grieve must for-fortune spiteful
καὶ πολλὰ χαίρειν ξυμφορὰς καταξιῶ.
and much to-bid-farewell misfortunes I-deem-fit
ἡμῖν δὲ τοῖς λοιποῖσιν Ἀργείων στρατοῦ
for-us and the remaining of-the-Argives of-army
νικᾷ τὸ κέρδος, πῆμα δ' οὐκ ἀντιρρέπει·
wins the gain harm and not counterweighs
ὡς κομπάσαι τῷδ' εἰκὸς ἡλίου φάει
so-that to-boast in-this fitting of-the-sun light
ὑπὲρ θαλάσσης καὶ χθονὸς ποτωμένοις·
over sea and land flying
"Τροίαν ἑλόντες δή ποτ' Ἀργείων στόλος
Troy having-taken indeed once of-the-Argives expedition
θεοῖς λάφυρα ταῦτα τοῖς καθ' Ἑλλάδα
to-gods spoils these the throughout Hellas
δόμοις ἐπασσάλευσαν ἀρχαῖον γάνος."
in-temples nailed-up ancient glory
τοιαῦτα χρὴ κλύοντας εὐλογεῖν πόλιν
such-things it-is-needful hearing to-praise city
καὶ τοὺς στρατηγούς· καὶ χάρις τιμήσεται
and the generals and grace will-be-honored
Διὸς τόδ' ἐκπράξασα. πάντ' ἔχεις λόγον.
of-Zeus this having-accomplished all you-have word
ΧΟΡΟΣ νικώμενος λόγοισιν οὐκ ἀναίνομαι·
being-conquered by-words not I-refuse
ἀεὶ γὰρ ἥβη τοῖς γέρουσιν εὖ μαθεῖν.
always for youth to-the old well to-learn

δόμοις δὲ ταῦτα καὶ Κλυταιμήστρᾳ μέλειν
to-house and these and to-Clytemnestra to-concern
εἰκὸς μάλιστα, σὺν δὲ πλουτίζειν ἐμέ.
fitting most with and to-enrich me
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ ἀνωλόλυξα μὲν πάλαι χαρᾶς ὕπο,
I-raised-the-cry indeed long-ago joy for
ὅτ' ἦλθ' ὁ πρῶτος νύχιος ἄγγελος πυρός,
when came the first nightly messenger of-fire
φράζων ἅλωσιν Ἰλίου τ' ἀνάστασιν.
telling capture of-Ilium and destruction
καί τίς μ' ἐνίπτων εἶπε, "φρυκτωρῶν δία
and someone me rebuking said beacons through
πεισθεῖσα Τροίαν νῦν πεπορθῆσθαι δοκεῖς;
persuaded Troy now to-have-been-sacked you-think
ἦ κάρτα πρὸς γυναικὸς αἴρεσθαι κέαρ."
truly very of woman to-be-lifted heart
λόγοις τοιούτοις πλαγκτὸς οὖσ' ἐφαινόμην.
by-words such wandering being I-seemed
ὅμως δ' ἔθυον, καὶ γυναικείῳ νόμῳ
nevertheless and I-sacrificed and by-women's custom
ὀλολυγμὸν ἄλλος ἄλλοθεν κατὰ πτόλιν
cry-of-joy one from-another throughout city
ἔλασκον εὐφημοῦντες ἐν θεῶν ἕδραις
they-raised auspicious in of-gods seats
θυηφάγον κοιμῶντες εὐώδη φλόγα.
incense-eating lulling fragrant flame
καὶ νῦν τὰ μάσσω μὲν τί δεῖ σέ μοι λέγειν;
and now the further indeed why must you to-me to-tell
ἄνακτος αὐτοῦ πάντα πεύσομαι λόγον.
of-lord himself all I-shall-learn word

ὅπως δ' ἄριστα τὸν ἐμὸν αἰδοῖον πόσιν
how and best — my revered husband
σπεύσω πάλιν μολόντα δέξασθαι· — τί γὰρ
I-shall-hasten again having-come to-receive what for
γυναικὶ τούτου φέγγος ἥδιον δρακεῖν,
to-woman than-this light sweeter to-see
ἀπὸ στρατείας ἀνδρὶ σώσαντος θεοῦ
from campaign for-husband having-saved god
πύλας ἀνοῖξαι; — ταῦτ' ἀπάγγειλον πόσει·
gates to-open these report to-husband
ἥκειν ὅπως τάχιστ' ἐράσμιον πόλει·
to-come as quickly beloved by-city
γυναῖκα πιστὴν δ' ἐν δόμοις εὕροι μολὼν
wife faithful and in house may-be-find having-come
οἵαν περ οὖν ἔλειπε, δωμάτων κύνα
such as then he-left of-the-house watchdog
ἐσθλὴν ἐκείνῳ, πολεμίαν τοῖς δύσφροσιν,
good to-him hostile to-the ill-minded
καὶ τἄλλ' ὁμοίαν πάντα, σημαντήριον
and the-rest alike all seal
οὐδὲν διαφθείρασαν ἐν μήκει χρόνου.
nothing having-destroyed in length of-time
οὐδ' οἶδα τέρψιν οὐδ' ἐπίψογον φάτιν
nor I-know delight nor blameworthy talk
ἄλλου πρὸς ἀνδρὸς μᾶλλον ἢ χαλκοῦ βαφάς.
of-another from man more than of-bronze dippings
ΚΗΡΥΞ τοιόσδ' ὁ κόμπος τῆς ἀληθείας γέμων
such the boast of-the truth full
οὐκ αἰσχρὸς ὡς γυναικὶ γενναίᾳ λακεῖν.
not shameful as for-woman noble to-utter

ΧΟΡΟΣ αὕτη μὲν οὕτως εἶπε μανθάνοντί σοι
she indeed thus spoke to-understanding you
τοροῖσιν ἑρμηνεῦσιν εὐπρεπῶς λόγον.
to-clear interpreters speciously speech
σὺ δ' εἰπέ, κῆρυξ, Μενέλεων δὲ πεύθομαι.
you but tell herald Menelaus and I-ask-about
εἰ νόστιμός τε καὶ σεσωσμένος πάλιν
if returning both and saved back
ἥκει σὺν ὑμῖν, τῆσδε γῆς φίλον κράτος.
he-comes with you of-this land dear power
ΚΗΡΥΞ οὐκ ἔσθ' ὅπως λέξαιμι τὰ ψευδῆ καλὰ
not it-is how I-could-tell the false fair
ἐς τὸν πολὺν φίλοισι καρποῦσθαι χρόνον.
for the long for-friends to-enjoy time
ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς δῆτ' ἂν εἰπὼν κεδνὰ τἀληθῆ τύχοις;
how then — telling good the-true could-you-hit
σχισθέντα δ' οὐκ εὔκρυπτα γίγνεται τάδε.
divided and not easily-hidden become these
ΚΗΡΥΞ ἀνὴρ ἄφαντος ἐξ Ἀχαικοῦ στρατοῦ,
the-man vanished from Achaean army
αὐτός τε καὶ τὸ πλοῖον. οὐ ψευδῆ λέγω.
himself both and the ship not false I-say
ΧΟΡΟΣ πότερον ἀναχθεὶς ἐμφανῶς ἐξ Ἰλίου,
whether having-put-out openly from Ilium
ἢ χεῖμα, κοινὸν ἄχθος, ἥρπασε στρατοῦ;
or storm common burden snatched of-the-army
ΚΗΡΥΞ ἔκυρσας ὥστε τοξότης ἄκρος σκοποῦ·
you-hit like archer expert of-target
μακρὸν δὲ πῆμα συντόμως ἐφημίσω.
long and harm concisely you-told

630 ΧΟΡΟΣ πότερα γὰρ αὐτοῦ ζῶντος ἢ τεθνηκότος
whether for of-him alive or dead
φάτις πρὸς ἄλλων ναυτίλων ἐκλήζετο;
report by other sailors was-spoken-of
ΚΗΡΥΞ οὐκ οἶδεν οὐδεὶς ὥστ' ἀπαγγεῖλαι τορῶς,
not knows no-one so-as to-report clearly
πλὴν τοῦ τρέφοντος Ἡλίου χθονὸς φύσιν.
except the nurturing Sun of-earth nature
ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς γὰρ λέγεις χειμῶνα ναυτικῷ στρατῷ
how for you-say storm on-the-naval army
635 ἐλθεῖν τελευτῆσαί τε δαιμόνων κότῳ;
to-come to-end and of-the-gods by-wrath
ΚΗΡΥΞ εὔφημον ἦμαρ οὐ πρέπει κακαγγέλῳ
auspicious day not it-befits by-ill-news-bringing
γλώσσῃ μιαίνειν· χωρὶς ἡ τιμὴ θεῶν.
tongue to-defile apart the honor of-gods
ὅταν δ' ἀπευκτὰ πήματ' ἄγγελος πόλει
when and accursed woes messenger to-city
στυγνῷ προσώπῳ πτωσίμου στρατοῦ φέρῃ,
with-gloomy face of-fallen army brings
640 πόλει μὲν ἕλκος ἓν τὸ δήμιον τυχεῖν,
to-city indeed wound one the public to-meet
πολλοὺς δὲ πολλῶν ἐξαγισθέντας δόμων
many and from-many driven-out-as-victims houses
ἄνδρας διπλῇ μάστιγι, τὴν Ἄρης φιλεῖ,
men by-double scourge which Ares loves
δίλογχον ἄτην, φοινίαν ξυνωρίδα·
two-speared ruin bloody pair
τοιῶνδε μέντοι πημάτων σεσαγμένον
with-such indeed woes laden

πρέπει λέγειν παιᾶνα τόνδ᾽ Ἐρινύων.
it-befits to-sing paean this of-Erinyes
σωτηρίων δὲ πραγμάτων εὐάγγελον
of-saving but affairs bringing-good-news
ἥκοντα πρὸς χαίρουσαν εὐεστοῖ πόλιν,
coming to rejoicing in-prosperity city
πῶς κεδνὰ τοῖς κακοῖσι συμμείξω, λέγων
how good-things with-the evils shall-I-mix telling
χειμῶν᾽ Ἀχαιοῖς οὐκ ἀμήνιτον θεῶν;
storm on-Achaeans not without-wrath of-gods
ξυνώμοσαν γάρ, ὄντες ἔχθιστοι τὸ πρίν,
they-conspired for being most-hostile — before
πῦρ καὶ θάλασσα, καὶ τὰ πίστ᾽ ἐδειξάτην
fire and sea and the pledges showed
φθείροντε τὸν δύστηνον Ἀργείων στρατόν.
destroying the wretched of-Argives army
ἐν νυκτὶ δυσκύμαντα δ᾽ ὠρώρει κακά.
in night wave-tossed and rose evils
ναῦς γὰρ πρὸς ἀλλήλαισι Θρῄκιαι πνοαὶ
ships for against one-another Thracian blasts
ἤρεικον· αἱ δὲ κεροτυπούμεναι βίᾳ
dashed they and gored by-force
χειμῶνι τυφῷ σὺν ζάλῃ τ᾽ ὀμβροκτύπῳ
by-storm by-hurricane with surge and rain-beaten
ᾤχοντ᾽ ἄφαντοι ποιμένος κακοῦ στρόβῳ.
went vanished of-shepherd evil by-whirling
ἐπεὶ δ᾽ ἀνῆλθε λαμπρὸν ἡλίου φάος,
when and came-up bright of-the-sun light
ὁρῶμεν ἀνθοῦν πέλαγος Αἰγαῖον νεκροῖς
we-see flowering sea Aegean with-corpses

ἀνδρῶν Ἀχαιῶν ναυτικοῖς τ᾽ ἐρειπίοις.
of-men Achaean naval and with-wreckage
ἡμᾶς γε μὲν δὴ ναῦν τ᾽ ἀκήρατον σκάφος
us at-least indeed indeed ship and unharmed hull
ἤτοι τις ἐξέκλεψεν ἢ ᾽ξῃτήσατο
either someone stole-out or begged-off
θεός τις, οὐκ ἄνθρωπος, οἴακος θιγών.
god some not man of-tiller having-touched
τύχη δὲ σωτὴρ ναῦν θέλουσ᾽ ἐφέζετο,
fortune and savior ship willing sat-on
ὡς μήτ᾽ ἐν ὅρμῳ κύματος ζάλην ἔχειν
so-that neither at anchor of-wave surge to-have
μήτ᾽ ἐξοκεῖλαι πρὸς κραταίλεων χθόνα.
nor to-run-aground on rocky shore
ἔπειτα δ᾽ Ἅιδην πόντιον πεφευγότες,
then and Hades of-the-sea having-escaped
λευκὸν κατ᾽ ἦμαρ, οὐ πεποιθότες τύχῃ,
bright by day not trusting fortune
ἐβουκολοῦμεν φροντίσιν νέον πάθος,
we-brooded-over in-thoughts new suffering
στρατοῦ καμόντος καὶ κακῶς σποδουμένου.
of-army having-suffered and evilly crushed
καὶ νῦν ἐκείνων εἴ τίς ἐστιν ἐμπνέων,
and now of-those if any is breathing
λέγουσιν ἡμᾶς ὡς ὀλωλότας, τί μή;
they-say us as dead why not
ἡμεῖς τ᾽ ἐκείνους ταὔτ᾽ ἔχειν δοξάζομεν.
we and them the-same to-have suppose
γένοιτο δ᾽ ὡς ἄριστα. Μενέλεων γὰρ οὖν
may-it-be and as best Menelaus for indeed

πρῶτόν τε καὶ μάλιστα προσδόκα μολεῖν.
first both and most expect to-have-come
εἰ γοῦν τις ἀκτὶς ἡλίου νιν ἱστορεῖ
if at-least some ray of-the-sun him knows
καὶ ζῶντα καὶ βλέποντα, μηχαναῖς Διός,
both living and seeing by-devices of-Zeus
οὔπω θέλοντος ἐξαναλῶσαι γένος,
not-yet willing to-destroy race
ἐλπίς τις αὐτὸν πρὸς δόμους ἥξειν πάλιν.
hope some him to home to-come again
τοσαῦτ' ἀκούσας ἴσθι τἀληθῆ κλύων.
so-much having-heard know the-truth hearing

VI · HELEN

The chorus says Helen was rightly named, destroyer of ships, men, and cities, and that wrath brought Ilium a bitter marriage. A man once reared a lion cub, gentle at first, which grew and filled the house with blood. So she came to Ilium like a windless calm and turned into an Erinys sent by Zeus of guests. The elders reject the old saying that prosperity breeds woe: impiety breeds impiety, outrage breeds outrage, and Justice shines in smoky dwellings.

ΧΟΡΟΣ τίς ποτ' ὠνόμαζεν ὧδ'
who ever named thus
ἐς τὸ πᾶν ἐτητύμως —
to the whole truly
μή τις ὅντιν' οὐχ ὁρῶμεν προνοί-
perhaps someone whom not we-see by-foreknowledge
αισι τοῦ πεπρωμένου
— of-the fated

γλῶσσαν ἐν τύχᾳ νέμων; —
tongue in luck guiding
τὰν δορίγαμβρον ἀμφινει-
the spear-wedded fought-over
κῆ θ' Ἑλέναν; ἐπεὶ πρεπόντως
— and Helen since fittingly
ἑλένας, ἕλανδρος, ἑλέ-
ship-destroying man-destroying city-destroying
πτολις, ἐκ τῶν ἁβροτίμων
— from the delicately-honored
προκαλυμμάτων ἔπλευσε
curtains she-sailed
ζεφύρου γίγαντος αὔρᾳ,
of-Zephyr giant by-breeze
πολύανδροί τε φεράσπιδες κυναγοὶ
many-manned and shield-bearing hunters
κατ' ἴχνος πλατᾶν ἄφαντον
on track of-oars vanished
κελσάντων Σιμόεντος ἀ-
having-beached of-Simois shores
κτὰς ἐπ' ἀεξιφύλλους
— on leafy
δι' ἔριν αἱματόεσσαν.
through strife bloody
Ἰλίῳ δὲ κῆδος ὀρθ-
to-Ilium and marriage-grief rightly-named
ώνυμον τελεσσίφρων
— purpose-fulfilling

μῆνις ἤλασεν, τραπέζας ἀτί-
wrath drove of-table dishonoring
μωσιν ὑστέρῳ χρόνῳ
— *in-later time*
καὶ ξυνεστίου Διὸς
and of-hearth-sharing Zeus
πρασσομένα τὸ νυμφότι-
exacting the bride-honoring
μον μέλος ἐκφάτως τίοντας,
— *song loudly honoring*
ὑμέναιον, ὃς τότ᾽ ἐπέρ-
wedding-song which then fell
ρεπεν γαμβροῖσιν ἀείδειν·
— *to-the-kinsmen to-sing*
μεταμανθάνουσα δ᾽ ὕμνον
learning-anew and hymn
Πριάμου πόλις γεραιὰ
of-Priam city aged
πολύθρηνον μέγα που στένει κικλήσκου-
much-lamenting greatly somehow laments calling
σα Πάριν τὸν αἰνόλεκτρον,
— *Paris the dread-wedded*
παμπορθῆ πολύθρηνον
all-destroying much-lamenting
αἰῶνα διαὶ πολιτᾶν
life through of-citizens
μέλεον αἷμ᾽ ἀνατλᾶσα.
miserable blood having-endured

ἔθρεψεν δὲ λέοντος ἶ-
reared and of-lion cub
νιν δόμοις ἀγάλακτον οὕ-
— in-house unweaned thus
τως ἀνὴρ φιλόμαστον,
— man breast-loving
ἐν βιότου προτελείοις
in of-life preliminaries
ἄμερον, εὐφιλόπαιδα
tame child-loving
καὶ γεραροῖς ἐπίχαρτον.
and to-the-old delightful
πολέα δ' ἔσχ' ἐν ἀγκάλαις
much and he-had in arms
νεοτρόφου τέκνου δίκαν,
newborn child like
φαιδρωπὸς ποτὶ χεῖρα σαί-
bright-eyed toward hand fawning
νων τε γαστρὸς ἀνάγκαις.
— and of-belly by-necessities
χρονισθεὶς δ' ἀπέδειξεν ἦ-
having-grown-up and showed character
θος τὸ πρὸς τοκέων· χάριν
— the from parents return
γὰρ τροφεῦσιν ἀμείβων
for for-nurturers repaying
μηλοφόνοισιν ἐν ἄταις
sheep-slaughtering in ruins
δαῖτ' ἀκέλευστος ἔτευξεν·
feast unbidden he-made

αἵματι δ' οἶκος ἐφύρθη,
with-blood and house was-defiled
ἄμαχον ἄλγος οἰκέταις
irresistible grief to-household
μέγα σίνος πολυκτόνον.
great harm much-slaying
ἐκ θεοῦ δ' ἱερεύς τις ἄ-
from god and priest some of-ruin
τας δόμοις προσεθρέφθη.
— in-house was-reared-in
πάραυτα δ' ἐλθεῖν ἐς Ἰλίου πόλιν
at-first and to-come to of-Ilium city
λέγοιμ' ἂν φρόνημα μὲν
I-would-say — spirit indeed
νηνέμου γαλάνας,
of-windless calm
ἀκασκαῖον δ' ἄγαλμα πλούτου,
gentle and ornament of-wealth
μαλθακὸν ὀμμάτων βέλος,
soft of-eyes dart
δηξίθυμον ἔρωτος ἄνθος.
heart-stinging of-love flower
παρακλίνασ' ἐπέκρανεν
having-turned-aside she-brought-about
δὲ γάμου πικρὰς τελευτάς,
and of-marriage bitter ends
δύσεδρος καὶ δυσόμιλος
ill-seated and ill-companioned
συμένα Πριαμίδαισιν,
rushing on-the-sons-of-Priam

πομπᾷ Διὸς ξενίου,
by-escort of-Zeus of-guests
νυμφόκλαυτος Ἐρινύς.
bride-bewailed Erinys
παλαίφατος δ' ἐν βροτοῖς γέρων λόγος
spoken-of-long-ago and among mortals old saying
τέτυκται, μέγαν τελε-
has-been-made great grown-full
σθέντα φωτὸς ὄλβον
— of-man prosperity
τεκνοῦσθαι μηδ' ἄπαιδα θνῄσκειν,
to-breed nor childless to-die
ἐκ δ' ἀγαθᾶς τύχας γένει
from and good fortune for-the-race
βλαστάνειν ἀκόρεστον οἰζύν.
to-spring insatiable woe
δίχα δ' ἄλλων μονόφρων εἰ-
apart and from-others single-minded I-am
μί· τὸ δυσσεβὲς γὰρ ἔργον
— the impious for deed
μετὰ μὲν πλείονα τίκτει,
afterward indeed more breeds
σφετέρᾳ δ' εἰκότα γέννᾳ.
to-its-own and like brood
οἴκων δ' ἄρ' εὐθυδίκων
of-houses but then righteous
καλλίπαις πότμος αἰεί.
fair-childed lot ever
φιλεῖ δὲ τίκτειν Ὕβρις
is-wont and to-breed Outrage

μὲν παλαιὰ νεά-
indeed old young
ζουσαν ἐν κακοῖς βροτῶν
— in evils of-mortals
ὕβριν τότ᾽ ἢ τόθ᾽, ὅτε τὸ κύρ-
outrage then or then when the appointed
ιον μόλῃ φάος τόκου,
— comes light of-birth
δαίμονά τε τὰν ἄμαχον ἀπόλεμ-
spirit and the irresistible unwarlike
ον, ἀνίερον Θράσος, μελαί-
— unholy Boldness black
νας μελάθροισιν Ἄτας,
— for-the-halls of-Ruin
εἰδομένας τοκεῦσιν.
like to-parents
Δίκα δὲ λάμπει μὲν ἐν
Justice but shines indeed in
δυσκάπνοις δώμασιν,
smoky houses
τὸν δ᾽ ἐναίσιμον τίει.
the and righteous honors
τὰ χρυσόπαστα δ᾽ ἔδεθλα σὺν
the gold-bespangled and dwellings with
πίνῳ χερῶν παλιντρόποις
filth of-hands with-backturned

ὄμμασι λιποῦσ', ὅσια προσέμολ-
eyes having-left holy she-goes
ϵ, δύναμιν οὐ σέβουσα πλού-
— power not revering of-wealth
780 του παράσημον αἴνῳ·
— falsely-stamped with-praise
πᾶν δ' ἐπὶ τέρμα νωμᾷ.
all and to end she-guides

VII · THE TAPESTRIES

The elders greet Agamemnon frankly. He thanks the gods for justice against Troy and will set the city's affairs in order. Clytemnestra describes her years of anguish, explains that Orestes is with Strophius, and bids her maids spread purple cloths for his feet. Agamemnon refuses honors fit for gods, but she argues until he yields. He has his sandals loosed, commends the captive woman to her, and walks in on the purple. Clytemnestra prays to Zeus the fulfiller.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄγϵ δή, βασιλεῦ, Τροίας πτολίπορθ',
come now king of-Troy city-sacker
Ἀτρέως γένϵθλον,
of-Atreus offspring
785 πῶς σϵ προσείπω; πῶς σϵ σϵβίζω
how you shall-I-address how you shall-I-revere
μήθ' ὑπεράρας μήθ' ὑποκάμψας
neither overshooting nor falling-short-of
καιρὸν χάριτος;
due-measure of-grace
πολλοὶ δὲ βροτῶν τὸ δοκεῖν εἶναι
many and of-mortals the to-seem to-be

προτίουσι δίκην παραβάντες.
prefer justice having-transgressed
τῷ δυσπραγοῦντι δ' ἐπιστενάχειν
with-the faring-ill and to-groan
πᾶς τις ἕτοιμος· δῆγμα δὲ λύπης
every one ready sting but of-grief
οὐδὲν ἐφ' ἧπαρ προσικνεῖται·
not-at-all to liver reaches
καὶ ξυγχαίρουσιν ὁμοιοπρεπεῖς
and they-rejoice-with likening-themselves
ἀγέλαστα πρόσωπα βιαζόμενοι.
unsmiling faces forcing
ὅστις δ' ἀγαθὸς προβατογνώμων,
whoever but good judge-of-his-flock
οὐκ ἔστι λαθεῖν ὄμματα φωτός,
not it-is-possible to-escape eyes of-man
τὰ δοκοῦντ' εὔφρονος ἐκ διανοίας
the seeming kindly from mind
ὑδαρεῖ σαίνειν φιλότητι.
with-watery to-fawn friendship
σὺ δέ μοι τότε μὲν στέλλων στρατιὰν
you and to-me then indeed marshaling army
Ἑλένης ἕνεκ', οὐ γάρ σ' ἐπικεύσω,
of-Helen for-the-sake not for you I-shall-hide
κάρτ' ἀπομούσως ἦσθα γεγραμμένος,
very unmusically you-were drawn
οὐδ' εὖ πραπίδων οἴακα νέμων
nor well of-wits helm guiding
θράσος ἐκ θυσιῶν
boldness by sacrifices

ἀνδράσι θνῄσκουσι κομίζων.
to-men dying bringing

νῦν δ' οὐκ ἀπ' ἄκρας φρενὸς οὐδ' ἀφίλως
now but not from surface of-mind nor unkindly

***
(lacuna)

εὔφρων πόνος εὖ τελέσασιν.
kindly toil well to-those-having-finished

γνώσῃ δὲ χρόνῳ διαπευθόμενος
you-will-know and in-time inquiring

τόν τε δικαίως καὶ τὸν ἀκαίρως πόλιν οἰκουροῦντα πολιτῶν.
the both justly and the unseasonably city keeping-house of-citizens

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ πρῶτον μὲν Ἄργος καὶ θεοὺς ἐγχωρίους
first indeed Argos and gods of-the-land

δίκη προσειπεῖν, τοὺς ἐμοὶ μεταιτίους
right to-address the to-me jointly-responsible

νόστου δικαίων θ' ὧν ἐπραξάμην πόλιν
of-return of-justice and which I-exacted city

Πριάμου· δίκας γὰρ οὐκ ἀπὸ γλώσσης θεοὶ
of-Priam pleas for not from tongue gods

κλύοντες ἀνδροθνῆτας Ἰλίου φθορὰς
hearing man-slaying of-Ilium destruction

ἐς αἱματηρὸν τεῦχος οὐ διχορρόπως
into bloody urn not wavering

ψήφους ἔθεντο· τῷ δ' ἐναντίῳ κύτει
votes put to-the and opposite vessel

ἐλπὶς προσῄει χειρὸς οὐ πληρουμένῳ.
hope approached of-hand not being-filled

καπνῷ δ' ἁλοῦσα νῦν ἔτ' εὔσημος πόλις.
by-smoke and captured now still conspicuous city

ἄτης θύελλαι ζῶσι· συνθνῄσκουσα δὲ
of-ruin storms live dying-with and
σποδὸς προπέμπει πίονας πλούτου πνοάς.
ash sends-forth rich of-wealth breaths
τούτων θεοῖσι χρὴ πολύμνηστον χάριν
for-these to-gods it-is-needful much-remembering thanks
τίνειν, ἐπείπερ καὶ πάγας ὑπερκότους
to-pay since-indeed and snares exceedingly-outrageous
ἐφραξάμεσθα καὶ γυναικὸς οὕνεκα
we-fenced and of-woman for-the-sake
πόλιν διημάθυνεν Ἀργεῖον δάκος,
city ground-to-dust Argive monster
ἵππου νεοσσός, ἀσπιδηφόρος λεώς,
of-horse brood shield-bearing host
πήδημ' ὀρούσας ἀμφὶ Πλειάδων δύσιν·
leap having-launched about of-the-Pleiades setting
ὑπερθορὼν δὲ πύργον ὠμηστὴς λέων
having-leaped-over and wall raw-eating lion
ἄδην ἔλειξεν αἵματος τυραννικοῦ.
to-satiety licked of-blood princely
θεοῖς μὲν ἐξέτεινα φροίμιον τόδε·
to-gods indeed I-have-drawn-out prelude this
τὰ δ' ἐς τὸ σὸν φρόνημα, μέμνημαι κλύων,
the and regarding — your thought I-remember hearing
καὶ φημὶ ταὐτὰ καὶ συνήγορόν μ' ἔχεις.
and I-say the-same and advocate me you-have
παύροις γὰρ ἀνδρῶν ἐστι συγγενὲς τόδε,
to-few for of-men is inborn this
φίλον τὸν εὐτυχοῦντ' ἄνευ φθόνου σέβειν.
friend the prospering without envy to-revere

δύσφρων γὰρ ἰὸς καρδίαν προσήμενος
malignant for poison heart having-settled-on
ἄχθος διπλοίζει τῷ πεπαμένῳ νόσον,
burden doubles for-the having-acquired sickness
τοῖς τ' αὐτὸς αὑτοῦ πήμασιν βαρύνεται
by-the and himself his-own woes is-weighed-down
καὶ τὸν θυραῖον ὄλβον εἰσορῶν στένει.
and the outside prosperity seeing laments
εἰδὼς λέγοιμ' ἄν, εὖ γὰρ ἐξεπίσταμαι
knowing I-would-say — well for I-know
ὁμιλίας κάτοπτρον, εἴδωλον σκιᾶς
of-companionship mirror image of-shadow
δοκοῦντας εἶναι κάρτα πρευμενεῖς ἐμοί.
seeming to-be very kindly to-me
μόνος δ' Ὀδυσσεύς, ὅσπερ οὐχ ἑκὼν ἔπλει,
alone but Odysseus who not willing sailed
ζευχθεὶς ἕτοιμος ἦν ἐμοὶ σειραφόρος·
yoked ready was to-me trace-horse
εἴτ' οὖν θανόντος εἴτε καὶ ζῶντος πέρι λέγω.
whether then of-dead or also of-living about I-speak
τὰ δ' ἄλλα πρὸς πόλιν τε καὶ θεοὺς
the and rest concerning city both and gods
κοινοὺς ἀγῶνας θέντες ἐν πανηγύρει
common assemblies having-set in gathering
βουλευσόμεσθα. καὶ τὸ μὲν καλῶς ἔχον
we-shall-take-counsel and the indeed well being
ὅπως χρονίζον εὖ μενεῖ βουλευτέον·
how lasting well will-remain one-must-plan
ὅτῳ δὲ καὶ δεῖ φαρμάκων παιωνίων,
for-whom but also is-needful of-remedies healing

ἤτοι κέαντες ἢ τεμόντες εὐφρόνως
either burning or cutting kindly
πειρασόμεσθα πῆμ᾽ ἀποστρέψαι νόσου.
we-shall-try harm to-turn-away of-sickness
νῦν δ᾽ ἐς μέλαθρα καὶ δόμους ἐφεστίους
now and to halls and house hearthside
ἐλθὼν θεοῖσι πρῶτα δεξιώσομαι,
having-come to-gods first I-shall-pay-greeting
οἵπερ πρόσω πέμψαντες ἤγαγον πάλιν.
who forward having-sent brought back
νίκη δ᾽ ἐπείπερ ἕσπετ᾽, ἐμπέδως μένοι.
victory and since followed steadfastly may-it-remain
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ ἄνδρες πολῖται, πρέσβος Ἀργείων τόδε,
men citizens elders of-Argives here
οὐκ αἰσχυνοῦμαι τοὺς φιλάνορας τρόπους
not I-shall-be-ashamed the husband-loving ways
λέξαι πρὸς ὑμᾶς· ἐν χρόνῳ δ᾽ ἀποφθίνει
to-tell to you in time and dies-away
τὸ τάρβος ἀνθρώποισιν. οὐκ ἄλλων πάρα
the timidity for-men not others from
μαθοῦσ᾽, ἐμαυτῆς δύσφορον λέξω βίον
having-learned of-myself wretched I-shall-tell life
τοσόνδ᾽ ὅσον περ οὗτος ἦν ὑπ᾽ Ἰλίῳ.
so-much as indeed he was before Ilium
τὸ μὲν γυναῖκα πρῶτον ἄρσενος δίχα
the indeed woman first of-male apart
ἧσθαι δόμοις ἔρημον ἔκπαγλον κακόν,
to-sit at-home lonely terrible evil
πολλὰς κλύουσαν κληδόνας παλιγκότους·
many hearing rumors malignant

καὶ τὸν μὲν ἥκειν, τὸν δ' ἐπεσφέρειν κακοῦ
and the-one indeed to-come the-other and to-bring-in than-evil
κάκιον ἄλλο πῆμα, λάσκοντας δόμοις.
worse another harm shouting to-house
καὶ τραυμάτων μὲν εἰ τόσων ἐτύγχανεν
and of-wounds indeed if so-many had-received
ἀνὴρ ὅδ', ὡς πρὸς οἶκον ὠχετεύετο
man this as to home was-channeled
φάτις, τέτρηται δικτύου πλέον λέγειν.
report he-has-been-pierced than-net more to-tell
εἰ δ' ἦν τεθνηκώς, ὡς ἐπλήθυον λόγοι,
if and he-were dead as abounded reports
τρισώματός τἂν Γηρυὼν ὁ δεύτερος
three-bodied — Geryon the second
χθονὸς τρίμοιρον χλαῖναν ἐξηύχει λαβεῖν,
of-earth threefold cloak would-boast to-have-taken
ἅπαξ ἑκάστῳ κατθανὼν μορφώματι.
once for-each having-died form
τοιῶνδ' ἕκατι κληδόνων παλιγκότων
of-such for-the-sake-of rumors malignant
πολλὰς ἄνωθεν ἀρτάνας ἐμῆς δέρης
many from-above nooses of-my neck
ἔλυσαν ἄλλοι πρὸς βίαν λελημμένης.
loosed others by force of-caught
ἐκ τῶνδέ τοι παῖς ἐνθάδ' οὐ παραστατεῖ,
from these surely boy here not stands-by
ἐμῶν τε καὶ σῶν κύριος πιστωμάτων,
of-my both and your master of-pledges
ὡς χρῆν, Ὀρέστης· μηδὲ θαυμάσῃς τόδε.
as he-should Orestes nor wonder this

τρέφει γὰρ αὐτὸν εὐμενὴς δορύξενος
rears for him kindly spear-friend
Στρόφιος ὁ Φωκεύς, ἀμφίλεκτα πήματα
Strophius the Phocian twofold woes
ἐμοὶ προφωνῶν, τόν θ' ὑπ' Ἰλίῳ σέθεν
to-me foretelling the and before Ilium your
κίνδυνον, εἴ τε δημόθρους ἀναρχία
danger if and people-clamoring anarchy
βουλὴν καταρρίψειεν, ὥστε σύγγονον
council should-overthrow so-that inborn
βροτοῖσι τὸν πεσόντα λακτίσαι πλέον.
for-mortals the fallen to-kick more
τοιάδε μέντοι σκῆψις οὐ δόλον φέρει.
such indeed excuse not guile carries
ἔμοιγε μὲν δὴ κλαυμάτων ἐπίσσυτοι
for-me indeed indeed of-weeping gushing
πηγαὶ κατεσβήκασιν, οὐδ' ἔνι σταγών.
springs are-quenched nor there-is drop
ἐν ὀψικοίτοις δ' ὄμμασιν βλάβας ἔχω
in late-sleeping and eyes harms I-have
τὰς ἀμφί σοι κλαίουσα λαμπτηρουχίας
the about you weeping beacons
ἀτημελήτους αἰέν. ἐν δ' ὀνείρασιν
neglected ever in and dreams
λεπταῖς ὑπαὶ κώνωπος ἐξηγειρόμην
by-light by gnat I-was-awakened
ῥιπαῖσι θωύσσοντος, ἀμφί σοι πάθη
by-whirrings buzzing about you sufferings
ὁρῶσα πλείω τοῦ ξυνεύδοντος χρόνου.
seeing more than-the sleeping-with time

νῦν ταῦτα πάντα τλᾶσ᾽ ἀπενθήτῳ φρενὶ
now these all having-endured with-ungrieving mind
λέγοιμ᾽ ἂν ἄνδρα τόνδε τῶν σταθμῶν κύνα,
I-would-call — man this of-the steadings watchdog
σωτῆρα ναὸς πρότονον, ὑψηλῆς στέγης
savior of-ship forestay of-high roof
στῦλον ποδήρη, μονογενὲς τέκνον πατρί,
pillar firm-based only-begotten child to-father
καὶ γῆν φανεῖσαν ναυτίλοις παρ᾽ ἐλπίδα,
and land appearing to-sailors beyond hope
κάλλιστον ἦμαρ εἰσιδεῖν ἐκ χείματος,
fairest day to-see after storm
ὁδοιπόρῳ διψῶντι πηγαῖον ῥέος·
for-wayfarer thirsting spring stream
τερπνὸν δὲ τἀναγκαῖον ἐκφυγεῖν ἅπαν.
sweet and the-necessity to-escape all
τοιοῖσδέ τοί νιν ἀξιῶ προσφθέγμασιν.
with-such surely him I-deem-worthy addresses
φθόνος δ᾽ ἀπέστω· πολλὰ γὰρ τὰ πρὶν κακὰ
envy and let-be-away many for the before evils
ἠνειχόμεσθα. νῦν δέ μοι, φίλον κάρα,
we-endured now and to-me dear head
ἔκβαιν᾽ ἀπήνης τῆσδε, μὴ χαμαὶ τιθεὶς
step-out from-chariot this not on-ground setting
τὸν σὸν πόδ᾽, ὦναξ, Ἰλίου πορθήτορα.
— your foot O-lord of-Ilium sacker
δμῳαί, τί μέλλεθ᾽, αἷς ἐπέσταλται τέλος
maids why you-delay to-whom has-been-charged task
πέδον κελεύθου στρωννύναι πετάσμασιν;
ground of-path to-strew with-tapestries

εὐθὺς γενέσθω πορφυρόστρωτος πόρος
straightway let-become purple-strewn way
ἐς δῶμ᾽ ἄελπτον ὡς ἂν ἡγῆται δίκη.
to house unhoped-for that — may-lead justice
τὰ δ᾽ ἄλλα φροντὶς οὐχ ὕπνῳ νικωμένη
the but rest care not by-sleep overcome
θήσει δικαίως σὺν θεοῖς εἱμαρμένα.
will-order justly with gods fated
ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ Λήδας γένεθλον, δωμάτων ἐμῶν φύλαξ,
of-Leda offspring of-house my guardian
ἀπουσίᾳ μὲν εἶπας εἰκότως ἐμῇ·
to-absence indeed you-spoke fittingly my
μακρὰν γὰρ ἐξέτεινας· ἀλλ᾽ ἐναισίμως
long for you-stretched-out but fittingly
αἰνεῖν, παρ᾽ ἄλλων χρὴ τόδ᾽ ἔρχεσθαι γέρας·
to-praise from others it-is-needful this to-come honor
καὶ τἄλλα μὴ γυναικὸς ἐν τρόποις ἐμὲ
and the-rest not of-woman in ways me
ἄβρυνε, μηδὲ βαρβάρου φωτὸς δίκην
pamper nor of-barbarian man like
χαμαιπετὲς βόαμα προσχάνῃς ἐμοί,
ground-falling cry gape-at me
μηδ᾽ εἵμασι στρώσασ᾽ ἐπίφθονον πόρον
nor with-garments having-strewn envied path
τίθει· θεούς τοι τοῖσδε τιμαλφεῖν χρεών·
make gods surely with-these to-honor it-is-fit
ἐν ποικίλοις δὲ θνητὸν ὄντα κάλλεσιν
in embroidered and mortal being beauties
βαίνειν ἐμοὶ μὲν οὐδαμῶς ἄνευ φόβου.
to-walk for-me indeed in-no-way without fear

λέγω κατ᾽ ἄνδρα, μὴ θεόν, σέβειν ἐμέ.
I-say as man not god to-revere me
χωρὶς ποδοψήστρων τε καὶ τῶν ποικίλων
apart of-foot-wipers both and of-the embroideries
κληδὼν ἀυτεῖ· καὶ τὸ μὴ κακῶς φρονεῖν
fame cries-aloud and the not ill to-think
θεοῦ μέγιστον δῶρον. ὀλβίσαι δὲ χρὴ
of-god greatest gift to-call-blessed and it-is-needful
βίον τελευτήσαντ᾽ ἐν εὐεστοῖ φίλῃ.
life having-ended in prosperity dear
εἰ πάντα δ᾽ ὣς πράσσοιμ᾽ ἄν, εὐθαρσὴς ἐγώ.
if all and thus I-should-fare — confident I

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ καὶ μὴν τόδ᾽ εἰπὲ μὴ παρὰ γνώμην ἐμοί.
and yet this tell not against judgment to-me

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ γνώμην μὲν ἴσθι μὴ διαφθεροῦντ᾽ ἐμέ.
judgment indeed know not about-to-corrupt me

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ ηὔξω θεοῖς δείσας ἂν ὧδ᾽ ἔρδειν τάδε.
would-you-have-vowed to-gods having-feared — thus to-do these

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ εἴπερ τις, εἰδώς γ᾽ εὖ τόδ᾽ ἐξεῖπον τέλος.
if-indeed someone knowing at-least well this pronounced rite

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ τί δ᾽ ἂν δοκεῖ σοι Πρίαμος, εἰ τάδ᾽ ἤνυσεν;
what and — seems to-you Priam if these he-had-done

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ ἐν ποικίλοις ἂν κάρτα μοι βῆναι δοκεῖ.
in embroideries — very to-me to-walk seems

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ μή νυν τὸν ἀνθρώπειον αἰδεσθῇς ψόγον.
not then the human feel-shame-at blame

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ φήμη γε μέντοι δημόθρους μέγα σθένει.
talk at-least however people-uttered great is-strong

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ ὁ δ᾽ ἀφθόνητός γ᾽ οὐκ ἐπίζηλος πέλει.
the but unenvied at-least not enviable is

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ οὔτοι γυναικός ἐστιν ἱμείρειν μάχης.
surely-not of-woman it-is to-long-for battle

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ τοῖς δ' ὀλβίοις γε καὶ τὸ νικᾶσθαι πρέπει.
for-the but prosperous at-least even the to-be-conquered befits

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ ἦ καὶ σὺ νίκην τήνδε δήριος τίεις;
— also you victory this of-contest you-value

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ πιθοῦ· κράτος μέντοι πάρες γ' ἑκὼν ἐμοί.
obey power however yield at-least willing to-me

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ ἀλλ' εἰ δοκεῖ σοι ταῦθ', ὑπαί τις ἀρβύλας
but if seems to-you this under someone boots

λύοι τάχος, πρόδουλον ἔμβασιν ποδός.
let-loosen quickly slave-serving tread of-foot

καὶ τοῖσδέ μ' ἐμβαίνονθ' ἁλουργέσιν θεῶν
and on-these me treading sea-purple of-gods

μή τις πρόσωθεν ὄμματος βάλοι φθόνος.
lest any from-afar of-eye should-strike envy

πολλὴ γὰρ αἰδὼς δωματοφθορεῖν ποσὶν
great for shame to-waste-house with-feet

φθείροντα πλοῦτον ἀργυρωνήτους θ' ὑφάς.
spoiling wealth silver-bought and webs

τούτων μὲν οὕτω· τὴν ξένην δὲ πρευμενῶς
of-these indeed thus the stranger but kindly

τήνδ' ἐσκόμιζε· τὸν κρατοῦντα μαλθακῶς
this bring-in the ruling gently

θεὸς πρόσωθεν εὐμενῶς προσδέρκεται.
god from-afar kindly looks-upon

ἑκὼν γὰρ οὐδεὶς δουλίῳ χρῆται ζυγῷ.
willing for no-one of-slavery uses yoke

αὕτη δὲ πολλῶν χρημάτων ἐξαίρετον
she and of-many treasures chosen

ἄνθος, στρατοῦ δώρημ', ἐμοὶ ξυνέσπετο.
flower of-army gift to-me followed
ἐπεὶ δ' ἀκούειν σοῦ κατέστραμμαι τάδε,
since and to-obey you I-am-subdued these
εἶμ' ἐς δόμων μέλαθρα πορφύρας πατῶν.
I-shall-go into of-house halls purple treading
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ ἔστιν θάλασσα, τίς δέ νιν κατασβέσει;
there-is sea who and it will-drain
τρέφουσα πολλῆς πορφύρας ἰσάργυρον
nurturing of-much purple silver-worth
κηκῖδα παγκαίνιστον, εἱμάτων βαφάς.
ooze ever-renewed of-garments dyes
οἶκος δ' ὑπάρχει τῶνδε σὺν θεοῖς ἅλις
house and has of-these with gods enough
ἔχειν· πένεσθαι δ' οὐκ ἐπίσταται δόμος.
to-have to-be-poor but not knows house
πολλῶν πατησμὸν δ' εἱμάτων ἂν ηὐξάμην,
of-many treading and of-garments — I-would-have-vowed
δόμοισι προυνεχθέντος ἐν χρηστηρίοις,
in-house prescribed in oracles
ψυχῆς κόμιστρα τῆσδε μηχανωμένῃ.
of-life ransom this contriving
ῥίζης γὰρ οὔσης φυλλὰς ἵκετ' ἐς δόμους,
of-root for being foliage comes to house
σκιὰν ὑπερτείνασα σειρίου κυνός.
shade spreading-over of-scorching dog
καὶ σοῦ μολόντος δωματῖτιν ἑστίαν,
and of-you having-come of-house hearth
θάλπος μὲν ἐν χειμῶνι σημαίνεις μολόν·
warmth indeed in winter you-signify having-come

ὅταν δὲ τεύχῃ Ζεὺς ἀπ᾽ ὄμφακος πικρᾶς
when and makes Zeus from grape bitter
οἶνον, τότ᾽ ἤδη ψῦχος ἐν δόμοις πέλει,
wine then already coolness in house is
ἀνδρὸς τελείου δῶμ᾽ ἐπιστρωφωμένου.
of-man fulfilled house ranging
Ζεῦ, Ζεῦ τέλειε, τὰς ἐμὰς εὐχὰς τέλει·
Zeus Zeus fulfiller — my prayers fulfill
μέλοι δέ τοι σοὶ τῶν περ ἂν μέλλῃς τελεῖν.
let-be-care and surely to-you of-the-things indeed — you-intend to-fulfill

VIII · FOREBODING

The chorus cannot shake the dread that sits at its heart, though it has seen the king return. Its spirit sings the Erinys' dirge unbidden. Too great health borders on sickness; a cargo thrown overboard can save the ship, but spilled blood cannot be called back. If fate did not hold fate in check, the heart would outstrip the tongue; instead it mutters in darkness.

ΧΟΡΟΣ τίπτε μοι τόδ᾽ ἐμπέδως
why to-me this steadfastly
δεῖμα προστατήριον
dread standing-before
καρδίας τερασκόπου ποτᾶται,
of-heart portent-seeing flits
μαντιπολεῖ δ᾽ ἀκέλευστος ἄμισθος ἀοιδά,
prophesies and unbidden unpaid song
οὐδ᾽ ἀποπτύσαι δίκαν
nor to-spit-out like
δυσκρίτων ὀνειράτων
of-hard-to-interpret dreams

θάρσος εὐπειθὲς ἵ-
confidence persuasive sits
ζει φρενὸς φίλον θρόνον;
— of-mind dear throne
χρόνος δ' ἐπὶ πρυμνησίων ξυνεμβολαῖς
time and since of-the-stern-cables casting-in
ψαμμί' ἀκτᾶς παρή-
sandy of-shore has-grown-old
μησεν, εὖθ' ὑπ' Ἴλιον
— when to Ilium
ὧρτο ναυβάτας στρατός.
set-out ship-borne army
πεύθομαι δ' ἀπ' ὀμμάτων
I-learn and from eyes
νόστον, αὐτόμαρτυς ὤν·
return self-witness being
τὸν δ' ἄνευ λύρας ὅμως ὑμνῳδεῖ
the and without lyre nevertheless chants
θρῆνον Ἐρινύος αὐτοδίδακτος ἔσωθεν
dirge of-Erinys self-taught within
θυμός, οὐ τὸ πᾶν ἔχων
heart not the whole having
ἐλπίδος φίλον θράσος.
of-hope dear courage
σπλάγχνα δ' οὔτοι ματά-
vitals but surely-not babbles
ζει πρὸς ἐνδίκοις φρεσὶν
— by righteous mind
τελεσφόροις δίναις κυκώμενον κέαρ.
by-fulfilling eddies whirled heart

εὔχομαι δ' ἐξ ἐμᾶς
I-pray and from my
ἐλπίδος ψύθη πεσεῖν
hope falsehoods to-fall
ἐς τὸ μὴ τελεσφόρον.
into the not fulfilled
μάλα γέ τοι τὸ μεγάλας ὑγιείας
very at-least surely the of-great health
ἀκόρεστον τέρμα· νόσος γάρ
insatiable limit disease for
γείτων ὁμότοιχος ἐρείδει.
neighbor sharing-a-wall presses
καὶ πότμος εὐθυπορῶν
and fate going-straight

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(lacuna)

ἀνδρὸς ἔπαισεν ἄφαντον ἔρμα.
of-man struck unseen reef
καὶ πρὸ μέν τι χρημάτων
and before indeed some of-goods
κτησίων ὄκνος βαλὼν
of-possessions caution having-thrown
σφενδόνας ἀπ' εὐμέτρου,
of-sling from well-measured
οὐκ ἔδυ πρόπας δόμος
not sank whole house
πημονᾶς γέμων ἄγαν,
with-misery laden too-much
οὐδ' ἐπόντισε σκάφος.
nor sank hull

πολλά τοι δόσις ἐκ Διὸς ἀμφιλα-
much surely gift from Zeus abundant
φής τε καὶ ἐξ ἀλόκων ἐπετειᾶν
— both and from furrows yearly
νῆστιν ὤλεσεν νόσον.
famine destroyed plague
τὸ δ' ἐπὶ γᾶν πεσὸν ἅπαξ θανάσιμον
the but on earth having-fallen once deadly
πρόπαρ ἀνδρὸς μέλαν αἷμα τίς ἂν
before of-man black blood who —
πάλιν ἀγκαλέσαιτ' ἐπαείδων;
back could-call-back by-chanting
οὐδὲ τὸν ὀρθοδαῆ
not-even the rightly-knowing
τῶν φθιμένων ἀνάγειν
of-the dead to-bring-up
Ζεὺς ἀπέπαυσεν ἐπ' εὐλαβείᾳ;
Zeus stopped for caution
εἰ δὲ μὴ τεταγμένα
if and not ordained
μοῖρα μοῖραν ἐκ θεῶν
fate fate from gods
εἶργε μὴ πλέον φέρειν,
prevented not more to-win
προφθάσασα καρδία
outstripping heart
γλῶσσαν ἂν τάδ' ἐξέχει.
tongue — this would-pour-out
νῦν δ' ὑπὸ σκότῳ βρέμει
now but under darkness mutters

θυμαλγής τε καὶ οὐδὲν ἐπελπομέν-
heart-grieved both and nothing hoping
α ποτὲ καίριον ἐκτολυπεύσειν
— *ever timely to-unwind*
ζωπυρουμένας φρενός.
being-kindled of-mind

IX · CLYTEMNESTRA AND CASSANDRA

Clytemnestra orders Cassandra to come down from the chariot and join the household's sacrifice, reminding her that even Alcmene's son endured slavery and that masters long rich are gentler than the newly rich. The captive does not answer. The chorus suggests she needs an interpreter. Clytemnestra loses patience, says the woman is mad, and goes in. The elders pity her and urge her to accept the yoke.

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ εἴσω κομίζου καὶ σύ, Κασάνδραν λέγω,
inside betake-yourself also you Cassandra I-mean
ἐπεί σ' ἔθηκε Ζεὺς ἀμηνίτως δόμοις
since you placed Zeus without-wrath in-house
κοινωνὸν εἶναι χερνίβων, πολλῶν μέτα
partner to-be of-lustral-water many among
δούλων σταθεῖσαν κτησίου βωμοῦ πέλας·
of-slaves stationed of-household altar near
ἔκβαιν' ἀπήνης τῆσδε, μηδ' ὑπερφρόνει.
step-out from-chariot this nor be-proud
καὶ παῖδα γάρ τοί φασιν Ἀλκμήνης ποτὲ
even son for surely they-say of-Alcmene once
πραθέντα τλῆναι δουλίας μάζης τυχεῖν.
sold to-have-endured of-slavish bread to-taste
εἰ δ' οὖν ἀνάγκη τῆσδ' ἐπιρρέποι τύχης,
if and then necessity of-this should-weigh-down fortune

ἀρχαιοπλούτων δεσποτῶν πολλὴ χάρις.
of-old-rich masters great grace
οἳ δ' οὔποτ' ἐλπίσαντες ἤμησαν καλῶς,
those-who and never having-hoped reaped well
ὠμοί τε δούλοις πάντα καὶ παρὰ στάθμην.
harsh and to-slaves in-all and beyond line
ἔχεις παρ' ἡμῶν οἷά περ νομίζεται.
you-have from us such-as indeed is-customary
ΧΟΡΟΣ σοί τοι λέγουσα παύεται σαφῆ λόγον.
to-you surely speaking she-stops clear word
ἐντός δ' ἂν οὖσα μορσίμων ἀγρευμάτων
within and — being of-fated toils
πείθοι' ἄν, εἰ πείθοι'· ἀπειθοίης δ' ἴσως.
you-would-obey — if you-would-obey you-may-disobey and perhaps
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ ἀλλ' εἴπερ ἐστι μὴ χελιδόνος δίκην
but if-indeed she-is not of-swallow like
ἀγνῶτα φωνὴν βάρβαρον κεκτημένη,
unknown voice barbarian possessing
ἔσω φρενῶν λέγουσα πείθω νιν λόγῳ.
within wits speaking I-persuade her by-word
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἕπου. τὰ λῷστα τῶν παρεστώτων λέγει.
follow the best of-the present she-says
πιθοῦ λιποῦσα τόνδ' ἁμαξήρη θρόνον.
obey having-left this wagon seat
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ οὔτοι θυραίᾳ τῇδ' ἐμοὶ σχολὴ πάρα
surely-not out-of-doors here to-me leisure is-at-hand
τρίβειν· τὰ μὲν γὰρ ἑστίας μεσομφάλου
to-waste the indeed for of-hearth mid-navel
ἕστηκεν ἤδη μῆλα πρὸς σφαγὰς πάρος,
stand already sheep for slaughter before

ὡς οὔποτ᾽ ἐλπίσασι τήνδ᾽ ἔξειν χάριν.
as never for-those-having-hoped this to-have grace
σὺ δ᾽ εἴ τι δράσεις τῶνδε, μὴ σχολὴν τίθει.
you and if any you-will-do of-these not delay make
εἰ δ᾽ ἀξυνήμων οὖσα μὴ δέχῃ λόγον,
if but uncomprehending being not you-receive word
σὺ δ᾽ ἀντὶ φωνῆς φράζε καρβάνῳ χερί.
you and instead-of voice speak with-barbarian hand
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἑρμηνέως ἔοικεν ἡ ξένη τοροῦ
of-interpreter seems the stranger clear
δεῖσθαι· τρόπος δὲ θηρὸς ὡς νεαιρέτου.
to-need manner and of-beast as newly-captured
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ ἦ μαίνεταί γε καὶ κακῶν κλύει φρενῶν,
truly she-is-mad at-least and to-bad listens wits
ἥτις λιποῦσα μὲν πόλιν νεαίρετον
who having-left indeed city newly-captured
ἥκει, χαλινὸν δ᾽ οὐκ ἐπίσταται φέρειν,
comes bridle but not knows to-bear
πρὶν αἱματηρὸν ἐξαφρίζεσθαι μένος.
before bloody to-foam-out rage
οὐ μὴν πλέω ῥίψασ᾽ ἀτιμασθήσομαι.
not indeed more having-thrown I-shall-be-dishonored
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐγὼ δ᾽, ἐποικτίρω γάρ, οὐ θυμώσομαι.
I but I-pity for not I-shall-be-angry
ἴθ᾽, ὦ τάλαινα, τόνδ᾽ ἐρημώσασ᾽ ὄχον,
go O wretched this having-left chariot
εἴκουσ᾽ ἀνάγκῃ τῇδε καίνισον ζυγόν.
yielding to-necessity this take-up yoke

Cassandra cries out to Apollo, her destroyer. She sees a house that hates the gods, a slaughterhouse where children were roasted and eaten by their father. She sees a wife bathing her husband, a net, and a cow striking a bull in a cauldron. When the chorus likens her to the nightingale, she answers that the bird's lot is sweeter, for a two-edged blade awaits her. She mourns the marriage of Paris that ruined her city. The chorus is frightened but cannot follow her.

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ὀτοτοτοῖ πόποι δᾶ.
oh-oh alas ah

ὍΩπολλον ὍΩπολλον.
O-Apollo O-Apollo

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί ταῦτ' ἀνωτότυξας ἀμφὶ Λοξίου;
why this you-cried-woe about Loxias

οὐ γὰρ τοιοῦτος ὥστε θρηνητοῦ τυχεῖν.
not for such so-as of-mourner to-meet

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ὀτοτοτοῖ πόποι δᾶ.
oh-oh alas ah

ὍΩπολλον ὍΩπολλον.
O-Apollo O-Apollo

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἡ δ' αὖτε δυσφημοῦσα τὸν θεὸν καλεῖ
she and again ill-omened the god calls

οὐδὲν προσήκονθ' ἐν γόοις παραστατεῖν.
in-no-way fitting in laments to-stand-by

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ Ἄπολλον Ἄπολλον
Apollo Apollo

ἀγυιᾶτ', ἀπόλλων ἐμός.
of-the-ways destroyer my

ἀπώλεσας γὰρ οὐ μόλις τὸ δεύτερον.
you-destroyed for not hardly the second-time

ΧΟΡΟΣ χρήσειν ἔοικεν ἀμφὶ τῶν αὑτῆς κακῶν.
to-prophesy she-seems about the her-own evils
μένει τὸ θεῖον δουλίᾳ περ ἐν φρενί.
remains the divine slavish though in mind
ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ Ἄπολλον Ἄπολλον
Apollo Apollo
ἀγυιᾶτ', ἀπόλλων ἐμός.
of-the-ways destroyer my
ἆ ποῖ ποτ' ἤγαγές με; πρὸς ποίαν στέγην;
ah where ever have-you-led me to what roof
ΧΟΡΟΣ πρὸς τὴν Ἀτρειδῶν· εἰ σὺ μὴ τόδ' ἐννοεῖς,
to the of-the-Atreidae if you not this perceive
ἐγὼ λέγω σοι· καὶ τάδ' οὐκ ἐρεῖς ψύθη.
I tell you and this not you-will-call falsehoods
ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ μισόθεον μὲν οὖν, πολλὰ συνίστορα
god-hating indeed then many knowing-with
αὐτόφονα κακὰ καρατόμα,
kin-murdering evils head-cutting
ἀνδροσφαγεῖον καὶ πεδορραντήριον.
man-slaughterhouse and floor-sprinkled
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔοικεν εὔρις ἡ ξένη κυνὸς δίκην
seems keen-scented the stranger of-dog like
εἶναι, ματεύει δ' ὧν ἀνευρήσει φόνον.
to-be she-seeks and of-whom she-will-find murder
ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ μαρτυρίοισι γὰρ τοῖσδ' ἐπιπείθομαι·
by-testimonies for these I-am-persuaded
κλαιόμενα τάδε βρέφη σφαγάς,
bewailing these babes slaughters
ὀπτάς τε σάρκας πρὸς πατρὸς βεβρωμένας.
roasted and flesh by father devoured

ΧΟΡΟΣ τὸ μὲν κλέος σοῦ μαντικὸν πεπυσμένοι
the indeed fame your prophetic having-heard
ἦμεν· προφήτας δ' οὔτινας ματεύομεν.
we-were prophets but no we-seek
ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ἰὼ πόποι, τί ποτε μήδεται;
oh alas what ever plots
τί τόδε νέον ἄχος μέγα
what this new grief great
μέγ' ἐν δόμοισι τοῖσδε μήδεται κακὸν
great in house this plots evil
ἄφερτον φίλοισιν, δυσίατον; ἀλκὰ δ'
unbearable to-friends hard-to-cure help and
ἑκὰς ἀποστατεῖ.
far stands-away
ΧΟΡΟΣ τούτων ἄιδρίς εἰμι τῶν μαντευμάτων.
of-these ignorant I-am of-the prophecies
ἐκεῖνα δ' ἔγνων· πᾶσα γὰρ πόλις βοᾷ.
those but I-knew all for city cries
ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ἰὼ τάλαινα, τόδε γὰρ τελεῖς,
oh wretched this for you-will-accomplish
τὸν ὁμοδέμνιον πόσιν
the bed-sharing husband
λουτροῖσι φαιδρύνασα — πῶς φράσω τέλος;
with-baths having-cleansed how shall-I-tell end
τάχος γὰρ τόδ' ἔσται· προτείνει δὲ χεὶρ ἐκ
soon for this will-be stretches-forth and hand from
χερὸς ὀρέγματα.
hand reachings

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὔπω ξυνῆκα· νῦν γὰρ ἐξ αἰνιγμάτων
not-yet I-understood now for after riddles
ἐπαργέμοισι θεσφάτοις ἀμηχανῶ.
by-dim oracles I-am-at-a-loss
ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ἒ ἔ, παπαῖ παπαῖ, τί τόδε φαίνεται;
eh eh oh oh what this appears
ἦ δίκτυόν τί γ᾽ Ἅιδου; 1115
— net some at-least of-Hades
ἀλλ᾽ ἄρκυς ἡ ξύνευνος, ἡ ξυναιτία
but snare the bedfellow the accomplice
φόνου. στάσις δ᾽ ἀκόρετος γένει
of-murder faction and insatiate for-the-race
κατολολυξάτω θύματος λευσίμου.
let-raise-the-cry over-sacrifice of-stoning
ΧΟΡΟΣ ποίαν Ἐρινὺν τήνδε δώμασιν κέλῃ
what Erinys this to-the-house you-bid
ἐπορθιάζειν; οὔ με φαιδρύνει λόγος. 1120
to-raise-loud not me cheers speech
ἐπὶ δὲ καρδίαν ἔδραμε κροκοβαφὴς
to and heart has-run saffron-dyed
σταγών, ἅτε καιρία πτώσιμος
drop which mortal falling
ξυνανύτει βίου δύντος αὐγαῖς·
comes-to-an-end of-life setting with-rays
ταχεῖα δ᾽ ἄτα πέλει.
swift and ruin is
ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ἆ ἆ, ἰδοὺ ἰδού· ἄπεχε τῆς βοὸς 1125
ah ah look look keep-away of-the cow
τὸν ταῦρον· ἐν πέπλοισι
the bull in robes

μελαγκέρῳ λαβοῦσα μηχανήματι
black-horned having-caught with-contrivance
τύπτει· πίτνει δ' ἐν ἐνύδρῳ τεύχει.
she-strikes he-falls and in watery vessel
δολοφόνου λέβητος τύχαν σοι λέγω.
treacherous-murder of-cauldron fortune to-you I-tell
1130 ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐ κομπάσαιμ' ἂν θεσφάτων γνώμων ἄκρος
not I-would-boast — of-oracles judge expert
εἶναι, κακῷ δέ τῳ προσεικάζω τάδε.
to-be evil and to-some I-liken this
ἀπὸ δὲ θεσφάτων τίς ἀγαθὰ φάτις
from but oracles what good word
βροτοῖς τέλλεται; κακῶν γὰρ διαὶ
to-mortals is-sent of-evils for through
πολυεπεῖς τέχναι θεσπιῳδὸν
many-worded arts prophet-singing
1135 φόβον φέρουσιν μαθεῖν.
terror bring to-learn
ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ἰὼ ἰὼ ταλαίνας κακόποτμοι τύχαι·
oh oh of-wretched ill-fated fortunes
τὸ γὰρ ἐμὸν θροῶ πάθος ἐπεγχύδαν.
the for my I-cry suffering pouring-in
ποῖ δή με δεῦρο τὴν τάλαιναν ἤγαγες;
whither indeed me hither the wretched you-led
οὐδέν ποτ' εἰ μὴ ξυνθανουμένην. τί γάρ;
for-nothing ever if not to-die-together what for
1140 ΧΟΡΟΣ φρενομανής τις εἶ θεοφόρητος, ἀμ-
mad some you-are god-possessed about
φὶ δ' αὑτᾶς θροεῖς
— and yourself you-cry

νόμον ἄνομον, οἷά τις ξουθὰ
strain tuneless such-as some tawny
ἀκόρετος βοᾶς, φεῦ, ταλαίναις φρεσίν
insatiate of-cry alas with-wretched heart
Ἴτυν Ἴτυν στένουσ᾽ ἀμφιθαλῆ κακοῖς
Itys Itys lamenting flourishing with-evils
ἀηδὼν βίον.
nightingale life

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ἰὼ ἰὼ λιγείας μόρον ἀηδόνος·
oh oh of-clear-voiced fate of-nightingale
περέβαλον γάρ οἱ πτεροφόρον δέμας
cast-about for her winged body
θεοὶ γλυκύν τ᾽ αἰῶνα κλαυμάτων ἄτερ·
gods sweet and life of-weeping without
ἐμοὶ δὲ μίμνει σχισμὸς ἀμφήκει δορί.
for-me but waits cleaving with-two-edged spear

ΧΟΡΟΣ πόθεν ἐπισσύτους θεοφόρους ἔχεις
whence rushing god-sent you-have
ματαίους δύας,
vain pains
τὰ δ᾽ ἐπίφοβα δυσφάτῳ κλαγγᾷ
the and fearful with-ill-sounding cry
μελοτυπεῖς ὁμοῦ τ᾽ ὀρθίοις ἐν νόμοις;
you-chant together and shrill in strains
πόθεν ὅρους ἔχεις θεσπεσίας ὁδοῦ
whence limits you-have of-prophetic path
κακορρήμονας;
evil-speaking

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ἰὼ γάμοι γάμοι Πάριδος ὀλέθριοι φίλων.
oh marriage marriage of-Paris destructive of-friends
ἰὼ Σκαμάνδρου πάτριον ποτόν.
oh of-Scamander native drink
τότε μὲν ἀμφὶ σὰς ἀϊόνας τάλαιν᾽
then indeed about your banks wretched
ἠνυτόμαν τροφαῖς·
I-grew-up with-nurture
νῦν δ᾽ ἀμφὶ Κωκυτόν τε κἀχερουσίους
now but about Cocytus and and-Acheron's
ὄχθας ἔοικα θεσπιῳδήσειν τάχα.
banks I-seem to-prophesy soon
ΧΟΡΟΣ τί τόδε τορὸν ἄγαν ἔπος ἐφημίσω;
what this clear too-much word you-uttered
νεόγονος ἂν ἀΐων μάθοι.
newborn — hearing could-learn
πέπληγμαι δ᾽ ὑπαὶ δάκει φοινίῳ
I-am-struck and by bite bloody
δυσαλγεῖ τύχᾳ μινυρὰ θρεομένας,
by-painful fortune plaintively of-you-wailing
θραύματ᾽ ἐμοὶ κλύειν.
shattering to-me to-hear
ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ἰὼ πόνοι πόνοι πόλεος ὀλομένας τὸ πᾶν.
oh toils toils of-city destroyed the whole
ἰὼ πρόπυργοι θυσίαι πατρὸς
oh before-the-towers sacrifices of-father
πολυκανεῖς βοτῶν ποιονόμων· ἄκος δ᾽
many-slaughtering of-cattle pasture-grazing remedy and
οὐδὲν ἐπήρκεσαν
nothing availed

τὸ μὴ πόλιν μὲν ὥσπερ οὖν ἔχει παθεῖν.
the not city indeed as indeed it-has to-suffer
ἐγὼ δὲ θερμόνους τάχ᾽ ἐν πέδῳ βαλῶ.
I and hot-hearted soon on ground shall-dash
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἑπόμενα προτέροισι τάδ᾽ ἐφημίσω.
following the-former this you-uttered
καί τίς σε κακοφρονῶν τίθη-
and some you evil-minded makes
σι δαίμων ὑπερβαρὴς ἐμπίτνων
— spirit overweight falling-on
μελίζειν πάθη γοερὰ θανατοφόρα.
to-chant sufferings mournful death-bearing
τέρμα δ᾽ ἀμηχανῶ.
end and I-am-at-a-loss

XI · THE MURDER

Cassandra speaks plainly: Erinyes haunt the house, spurning a brother's bed, and she sees Thyestes' slaughtered children. She tells how she cheated Apollo and was never believed. She foretells Agamemnon's death, a lioness who will kill her too, and an avenger to come, then goes in to die. Agamemnon is heard crying out inside; the elders debate in confusion. Over the body, Clytemnestra tells how she netted him in a robe and struck him three times, and rejoices in his blood like a field in rain.

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ καὶ μὴν ὁ χρησμὸς οὐκέτ᾽ ἐκ καλυμμάτων
and indeed the oracle no-longer from veils
ἔσται δεδορκὼς νεογάμου νύμφης δίκην·
will-be looking of-newly-wed bride like
λαμπρὸς δ᾽ ἔοικεν ἡλίου πρὸς ἀντολὰς
bright and it-seems of-the-sun toward risings

πνέων ἐσᾴξειν, ὥστε κύματος δίκην
blowing to-rush-in so-as of-wave like
κλύζειν πρὸς αὐγὰς τοῦδε πήματος πολὺ
to-wash toward rays of-this woe much
μεῖζον· φρενώσω δ' οὐκέτ' ἐξ αἰνιγμάτων.
greater I-shall-instruct and no-longer by riddles
καὶ μαρτυρεῖτε συνδρόμως ἴχνος κακῶν
and bear-witness running-with track of-evils
ῥινηλατούσῃ τῶν πάλαι πεπραγμένων.
for-me-scenting of-the long-ago done
τὴν γὰρ στέγην τήνδ' οὔποτ' ἐκλείπει χορὸς
the for roof this never leaves chorus
ξύμφθογγος οὐκ εὔφωνος· οὐ γὰρ εὖ λέγει.
singing-together not well-sounding not for well speaks
καὶ μὴν πεπωκώς γ', ὡς θρασύνεσθαι πλέον,
and indeed having-drunk at-least so-as to-grow-bold more
βρότειον αἷμα κῶμος ἐν δόμοις μένει,
human blood revel in house remains
δύσπεμπτος ἔξω, συγγόνων Ἐρινύων.
hard-to-send-away outside of-kindred Erinyes
ὑμνοῦσι δ' ὕμνον δώμασιν προσήμεναι
they-sing and song to-the-house sitting-at
πρώταρχον ἄτην· ἐν μέρει δ' ἀπέπτυσαν
first-beginning ruin in turn and they-spat-upon
εὐνὰς ἀδελφοῦ τῷ πατοῦντι δυσμενεῖς.
bed of-brother for-the treading hostile
ἥμαρτον, ἢ θηρῶ τι τοξότης τις ὥς;
I-have-missed or I-hit something archer some as
ἢ ψευδόμαντίς εἰμι θυροκόπος φλέδων;
or false-prophet I-am door-knocking babbler

ἐκμαρτύρησον προυμόσας τό μ᾽ εἰδέναι
bear-witness having-sworn-first the me to-know
λόγῳ παλαιὰς τῶνδ᾽ ἁμαρτίας δόμων.
by-report ancient of-these sins of-house
ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ πῶς ἂν ὅρκος, πῆγμα γενναίως παγέν,
and how — oath pledge nobly fixed
παιώνιον γένοιτο; θαυμάζω δέ σου,
healing could-become I-wonder but at-you
πόντου πέραν τραφεῖσαν ἀλλόθρουν πόλιν
of-sea beyond reared foreign-tongued city
κυρεῖν λέγουσαν, ὥσπερ εἰ παρεστάτεις.
to-hit speaking as if you-had-stood-by
ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ μάντις μ᾽ Ἀπόλλων τῷδ᾽ ἐπέστησεν τέλει.
prophet me Apollo to-this set office
ΧΟΡΟΣ μῶν καὶ θεός περ ἱμέρῳ πεπληγμένος;
surely-not also god though with-desire stricken
ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ προτοῦ μὲν αἰδὼς ἦν ἐμοὶ λέγειν τάδε.
before indeed shame was for-me to-speak this
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἁβρύνεται γὰρ πᾶς τις εὖ πράσσων πλέον.
is-delicate for every one well faring more
ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ἀλλ᾽ ἦν παλαιστὴς κάρτ᾽ ἐμοὶ πνέων χάριν.
but he-was wrestler very to-me breathing grace
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἦ καὶ τέκνων εἰς ἔργον ἦλθετον νόμῳ;
— and of-children to deed you-two-came by-custom
ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ξυναινέσασα Λοξίαν ἐψευσάμην.
having-consented Loxias I-cheated
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἤδη τέχναισιν ἐνθέοις ᾐρημένη;
already by-arts inspired possessed
ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ἤδη πολίταις πάντ᾽ ἐθέσπιζον πάθη.
already to-citizens all I-prophesied sufferings

ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς δῆτ᾽ ἄνατος ἦσθα Λοξίου κότῳ;
how then unharmed were-you by-Loxias' wrath

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ἔπειθον οὐδέν᾽ οὐδέν, ὡς τάδ᾽ ἥμπλακον.
I-persuaded no-one nothing since this I-erred

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἡμῖν γε μὲν δὴ πιστὰ θεσπίζειν δοκεῖς.
to-us at-least indeed indeed credible to-prophesy you-seem

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ἰοὺ ἰού, ὢ ὢ κακά.
ho ho oh oh evils

ὑπ᾽ αὖ με δεινὸς ὀρθομαντείας πόνος
under again me terrible of-true-prophecy toil

στροβεῖ ταράσσων φροιμίοις δυσφροιμίοις.
whirls confounding with-preludes ill-preluding

ὁρᾶτε τούσδε τοὺς δόμοις ἐφημένους
you-see these the at-house sitting

νέους, ὀνείρων προσφερεῖς μορφώμασιν;
young of-dreams like in-shapes

παῖδες θανόντες ὡσπερεὶ πρὸς τῶν φίλων,
children having-died as-it-were by the kin

χεῖρας κρεῶν πλήθοντες οἰκείας βορᾶς,
hands with-meat filled own food

σὺν ἐντέροις τε σπλάγχν᾽, ἐποίκτιστον γέμος,
with entrails and vitals pitiable burden

πρέπουσ᾽ ἔχοντες, ὧν πατὴρ ἐγεύσατο.
clearly holding of-which father tasted

ἐκ τῶνδε ποινὰς φημὶ βουλεύειν τινὰ
from these vengeance I-say to-plot someone

λέοντ᾽ ἄναλκιν ἐν λέχει στρωφώμενον
lion strengthless in bed rolling

οἰκουρόν, οἴμοι, τῷ μολόντι δεσπότῃ
house-keeper ah-me for-the having-come master

ἐμῷ· φέρειν γὰρ χρὴ τὸ δούλιον ζυγόν·
my to-bear for it-is-needful the slavish yoke
νεῶν τ' ἄπαρχος Ἰλίου τ' ἀναστάτης
of-ships and commander of-Ilium and overthrower
οὐκ οἶδεν οἷα γλῶσσα μισητῆς κυνὸς
not knows what-sort tongue of-hateful bitch
λείξασα κἀκτείνασα φαιδρὸν οὖς, δίκην
having-licked and-having-stretched-out bright ear like
Ἄτης λαθραίου, τεύξεται κακῇ τύχῃ. 1230
of-Ruin secret will-attain with-evil fortune
τοιάδε τόλμα· θῆλυς ἄρσενος φονεὺς
such boldness female of-male murderer
ἔστιν. τί νιν καλοῦσα δυσφιλὲς δάκος
is what her calling hateful monster
τύχοιμ' ἄν; ἀμφίσβαιναν, ἢ Σκύλλαν τινὰ
might-I-hit — amphisbaena or Scylla some
οἰκοῦσαν ἐν πέτραισι, ναυτίλων βλάβην,
dwelling in rocks of-sailors harm
θύουσαν Ἅιδου μητέρ' ἄσπονδόν τ' Ἄρη 1235
raging of-Hades mother truceless and Ares
φίλοις πνέουσαν; ὡς δ' ἐπωλολύξατο
on-friends breathing how and she-raised-the-cry
ἡ παντότολμος, ὥσπερ ἐν μάχης τροπῇ,
the all-daring as in of-battle rout
δοκεῖ δὲ χαίρειν νοστίμῳ σωτηρίᾳ.
seems and to-rejoice in-return safety
καὶ τῶνδ' ὅμοιον εἴ τι μὴ πείθω· τί γάρ;
and of-these alike if anything not I-persuade what for
τὸ μέλλον ἥξει. καὶ σύ μ' ἐν τάχει παρὸν 1240
the future will-come and you me in quickness present

ἄγαν γ' ἀληθόμαντιν οἰκτίρας ἐρεῖς.
too-much at-least true-prophet pitying will-call

ΧΟΡΟΣ τὴν μὲν Θυέστου δαῖτα παιδείων κρεῶν
the indeed of-Thyestes feast of-children's flesh

ξυνῆκα καὶ πέφρικα, καὶ φόβος μ' ἔχει
I-understood and I-shudder and fear me holds

κλύοντ' ἀληθῶς οὐδὲν ἐξῃκασμένα.
hearing truly not-at-all made-up

τὰ δ' ἄλλ' ἀκούσας ἐκ δρόμου πεσὼν τρέχω.
the but rest having-heard from course having-fallen I-run

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ Ἀγαμέμνονός σέ φημ' ἐπόψεσθαι μόρον.
of-Agamemnon you I-say to-look-upon death

ΧΟΡΟΣ εὔφημον, ὦ τάλαινα, κοίμησον στόμα.
auspicious O wretched lull mouth

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ἀλλ' οὔτι παιὼν τῷδ' ἐπιστατεῖ λόγῳ.
but not-at-all healer over-this presides word

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὔκ, εἴπερ ἔσται γ'· ἀλλὰ μὴ γένοιτό πως.
not if-indeed it-will-be at-lest but not may-it-be somehow

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ σὺ μὲν κατεύχῃ, τοῖς δ' ἀποκτείνειν μέλει.
you indeed pray for-them but to-kill is-a-care

ΧΟΡΟΣ τίνος πρὸς ἀνδρὸς τοῦτ' ἄγος πορσύνεται;
what by man this pollution is-prepared

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ἦ κάρτα τἄρ' ἂν
truly very then —

παρεκόπης χρησμῶν ἐμῶν
you-would-have-been-turned-aside of-oracles my

ΧΟΡΟΣ τοῦ γὰρ τελοῦντος οὐ ξυνῆκα μηχανήν.
of-the for accomplishing not I-understood contrivance

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ καὶ μὴν ἄγαν γ' Ἕλλην' ἐπίσταμαι φάτιν.
and indeed too-well at-least Greek I-know speech

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ γὰρ τὰ πυθόκραντα· δυσμαθῆ δ' ὅμως.
and for the Pythian-oracles hard-to-understand but nevertheless

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ παπαῖ, οἷον τὸ πῦρ· ἐπέρχεται δέ μοι.
oh what the fire comes-upon and me

ὀτοτοῖ, Λύκει' Ἄπολλον, οἵ ἐγὼ ἐγώ.
alas Lycean Apollo woe me me

αὕτη δίπους λέαινα συγκοιμωμένη
she two-footed lioness lying-with

λύκῳ, λέοντος εὐγενοῦς ἀπουσίᾳ,
wolf of-lion noble in-absence

κτενεῖ με τὴν τάλαιναν· ὡς δὲ φάρμακον
will-kill me the wretched as and drug

τεύχουσα κἀμοῦ μισθὸν ἐνθήσειν κότῳ
brewing and-my wage to-put-in with-wrath

ἐπεύχεται, θήγουσα φωτὶ φάσγανον
she-vows whetting for-man sword

ἐμῆς ἀγωγῆς ἀντιτείσασθαι φόνον.
my bringing to-take-vengeance-for murder

τί δῆτ' ἐμαυτῆς καταγέλωτ' ἔχω τάδε,
why then of-myself mockeries I-have these

καὶ σκῆπτρα καὶ μαντεῖα περὶ δέρῃ στέφη;
both scepter and prophetic around neck wreaths

σὲ μὲν πρὸ μοίρας τῆς ἐμῆς διαφθερῶ.
you indeed before of-fate — my I-shall-destroy

ἴτ' ἐς φθόρον· πεσόντα γ' ὧδ' ἀμείβομαι.
go to ruin fallen at-least thus I-repay

ἄλλην τιν' ἄτης ἀντ' ἐμοῦ πλουτίζετε.
other some of-ruin instead-of me enrich

ἰδοὺ δ' Ἀπόλλων αὐτὸς ἐκδύων ἐμὲ
look and Apollo himself stripping-off me

χρηστηρίαν ἐσθῆτ', ἐποπτεύσας δέ με
prophetic garment having-watched and me
κἀν τοῖσδε κόσμοις καταγελωμένην μέγα
even-in these ornaments mocked greatly
φίλων ὑπ' ἐχθρῶν οὐ διχορρόπως, μάτην —
friends by enemies not wavering vainly
καλουμένη δὲ φοιτὰς ὡς ἀγύρτρια
called and vagrant like beggar-woman
πτωχὸς τάλαινα λιμοθνὴς ἠνεσχόμην —
beggar wretched starving I-endured
καὶ νῦν ὁ μάντις μάντιν ἐκπράξας ἐμὲ
and now the prophet prophet having-done-for me
ἀπήγαγ' ἐς τοιάσδε θανασίμους τύχας.
led-away to such deadly fortunes
βωμοῦ πατρῴου δ' ἀντ' ἐπίξηνον μένει,
of-altar father's and instead chopping-block awaits
θερμῷ κοπείσης φοινίῳ προσφάγματι.
with-hot of-slaughtered bloody preliminary-sacrifice
οὐ μὴν ἄτιμοί γ' ἐκ θεῶν τεθνήξομεν.
not indeed unhonored at-least by gods we-shall-die
ἥξει γὰρ ἡμῶν ἄλλος αὖ τιμάορος,
will-come for of-us another in-turn avenger
μητροκτόνον φίτυμα, ποινάτωρ πατρός·
mother-slaying offspring avenger of-father
φυγὰς δ' ἀλήτης τῆσδε γῆς ἀπόξενος
exile and wanderer of-this land stranger
κάτεισιν, ἄτας τάσδε θριγκώσων φίλοις·
will-return ruins these to-crown for-kin
ὀμώμοται γὰρ ὅρκος ἐκ θεῶν μέγας,
has-been-sworn for oath by gods great

ἄξειν νιν ὑπτίασμα κειμένου πατρός.
to-bring him supine-posture of-lying father
τί δῆτ' ἐγὼ κάτοικτος ὧδ' ἀναστένω;
why then I pitiable thus lament
ἐπεὶ τὸ πρῶτον εἶδον Ἰλίου πόλιν
since the first I-saw of-Ilium city
πράξασαν ὡς ἔπραξεν, οἳ δ' εἷλον πόλιν
faring as it-fared those-who and took city
οὕτως ἀπαλλάσσουσιν ἐν θεῶν κρίσει,
thus come-off in of-gods judgment
ἰοῦσα πράξω· τλήσομαι τὸ κατθανεῖν.
going I-shall-act I-shall-endure the to-die
Ἅιδου πύλας δὲ τάσδ' ἐγὼ προσεννέπω·
of-Hades gates and these I address
ἐπεύχομαι δὲ καιρίας πληγῆς τυχεῖν,
I-pray and of-fatal blow to-meet
ὡς ἀσφάδαστος, αἱμάτων εὐθνησίμων
so-that without-struggle of-blood easy-dying
ἀπορρυέντων, ὄμμα συμβάλω τόδε.
having-flowed-out eye I-may-close this
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ πολλὰ μὲν τάλαινα, πολλὰ δ' αὖ σοφὴ
O much indeed wretched much and again wise
γύναι, μακρὰν ἔτεινας. εἰ δ' ἐτητύμως
lady long you-extended if but truly
μόρον τὸν αὑτῆς οἶσθα, πῶς θεηλάτου
death the your-own you-know how of-god-driven
βοὸς δίκην πρὸς βωμὸν εὐτόλμως πατεῖς;
of-ox like to altar boldly you-tread
ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ οὐκ ἔστ' ἄλυξις, οὔ, ξένοι, χρόνον πλέω.
not there-is escape not strangers time more

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὁ δ' ὕστατός γε τοῦ χρόνου πρεσβεύεται,
the but last at-least of-the time is-honored

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ἥκει τόδ' ἦμαρ· σμικρὰ κερδανῶ φυγῇ.
has-come this day little I-shall-gain by-flight

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' ἴσθι τλήμων οὖσ' ἀπ' εὐτόλμου φρενός.
but know enduring being from bold mind

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ οὐδεὶς ἀκούει ταῦτα τῶν εὐδαιμόνων.
no-one hears these of-the fortunate

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' εὐκλεῶς τοι κατθανεῖν χάρις βροτῷ.
but gloriously surely to-die grace for-mortal

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ἰὼ πάτερ σοῦ σῶν τε γενναίων τέκνων.
oh father of-you of-your and noble children

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί δ' ἐστὶ χρῆμα; τίς σ' ἀποστρέφει φόβος;
what but is matter what you turns-away fear

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ φεῦ φεῦ.
alas alas

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί τοῦτ' ἔφευξας; εἴ τι μὴ φρενῶν στύγος.
why this you-cried-alas if any not of-mind loathing

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ φόνον δόμοι πνέουσιν αἱματοσταγῆ,
murder house breathes blood-dripping

ΧΟΡΟΣ καί πῶς; τόδ' ὄζει θυμάτων ἐφεστίων.
and how this smells of-victims of-the-hearth

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ὅμοιος ἀτμὸς ὥσπερ ἐκ τάφου πρέπει,
like vapor as from tomb is-plain

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐ Σύριον ἀγλάισμα δώμασιν λέγεις.
not Syrian splendor for-the-house you-speak-of

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ἀλλ' εἶμι κἀν δόμοισι κωκύσουσ' ἐμὴν
but I-shall-go and-in house to-wail my

Ἀγαμέμνονός τε μοῖραν. ἀρκείτω βίος.
of-Agamemnon and fate let-suffice life

ἰὼ ξένοι,
oh strangers

οὔτοι δυσοίζω θάμνον ὡς ὄρνις φόβῳ
surely-not I-cry-out-in-fear-at bush like bird with-fear

ἄλλως· θανούσῃ μαρτυρεῖτέ μοι τόδε,
otherwise for-the-dead bear-witness to-me this

ὅταν γυνὴ γυναικὸς ἀντ᾽ ἐμοῦ θάνῃ,
when woman for-woman instead-of me dies

ἀνήρ τε δυσδάμαρτος ἀντ᾽ ἀνδρὸς πέσῃ.
man and ill-wedded for man falls

ἐπιξενοῦμαι ταῦτα δ᾽ ὡς θανουμένῃ.
I-claim-as-guest-friend these and as about-to-die

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ τλῆμον, οἰκτίρω σε θεσφάτου μόρου.
O wretched I-pity you of-prophesied fate

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ ἅπαξ ἔτ᾽ εἰπεῖν ῥῆσιν οὐ θρῆνον θέλω
once still to-speak speech not dirge I-wish

ἐμὸν τὸν αὐτῆς. ἡλίῳ δ᾽ ἐπεύχομαι
my the own to-the-sun and I-pray

πρὸς ὕστατον φῶς †τοῖς ἐμοῖς τιμαόροις
to last light — to-my avengers

ἐχθροῖς φονεῦσι τοῖς ἐμοῖς τίνειν ὁμοῦ,†
to-enemies to-murderers — my to-pay alike

δούλης θανούσης, εὐμαροῦς χειρώματος.
of-slave having-died easy of-conquest

ἰὼ βρότεια πράγματ᾽· εὐτυχοῦντα μὲν
oh mortal affairs prospering indeed

σκιά τις ἂν τρέψειεν· εἰ δὲ δυστυχῇ,
shadow some — would-overturn if but ill-fare

βολαῖς ὑγρώσσων σπόγγος ὤλεσεν γραφήν.
with-strokes wetting sponge destroyed picture

καὶ ταῦτ᾽ ἐκείνων μᾶλλον οἰκτίρω πολύ.
and these than-those more I-pity much

ΧΟΡΟΣ τὸ μὲν εὖ πράσσειν ἀκόρεστον ἔφυ
the indeed well to-fare insatiable is-by-nature

πᾶσι βροτοῖσιν· δακτυλοδείκτων δ᾽
for-all mortals of-finger-pointed-at and

οὔτις ἀπειπὼν εἴργει μελάθρων,
no-one forbidding bars from-halls

μηκέτ᾽ ἐσέλθῃς, τάδε φωνῶν.
no-longer enter these saying

καὶ τῷδε πόλιν μὲν ἑλεῖν ἔδοσαν
and to-him city indeed to-take granted

μάκαρες Πριάμου·
blessed-ones of-Priam

θεοτίμητος δ᾽ οἴκαδ᾽ ἱκάνει.
god-honored and homeward comes

νῦν δ᾽ εἰ προτέρων αἷμ᾽ ἀποτείσῃ
now but if of-former blood he-shall-pay-for

καὶ τοῖσι θανοῦσι θανὼν ἄλλων
and for-the dead having-died of-others

ποινὰς θανάτων ἐπικράνῃ,
penalties of-deaths shall-accomplish

τίς ἂν ἐξεύξαιτο βροτῶν ἀσινεῖ
who — would-boast of-mortals with-harmless

δαίμονι φῦναι τάδ᾽ ἀκούων;
spirit to-be-born this hearing

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ ὤμοι, πέπληγμαι καιρίαν πληγὴν ἔσω.
ah-me I-am-struck mortal blow within

ΧΟΡΟΣ σῖγα· τίς πληγὴν ἀυτεῖ καιρίως οὐτασμένος;
silence who blow cries mortally wounded

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ ὤμοι μάλ᾽ αὖθις, δευτέραν πεπληγμένος.
ah-me very again second struck

ΧΟΡΟΣ τοὔργον εἰργάσθαι δοκεῖ μοι βασιλέως οἰμώγμασιν.
the-deed to-have-been-done seems to-me by-king's groans

ἀλλὰ κοινωσώμεθ᾽ ἤν πως ἀσφαλῆ βουλεύματα.
but let-us-share-counsel if somehow safe plans

— ἐγὼ μὲν ὑμῖν τὴν ἐμὴν γνώμην λέγω,
I indeed to-you — my opinion tell

πρὸς δῶμα δεῦρ᾽ ἀστοῖσι κηρύσσειν βοήν. —
to house hither to-citizens to-proclaim cry

— ἐμοὶ δ᾽ ὅπως τάχιστά γ᾽ ἐμπεσεῖν δοκεῖ
to-me but how quickest at-least to-burst-in seems

καὶ πρᾶγμ᾽ ἐλέγχειν σὺν νεορρύτῳ ξίφει. —
and deed to-prove with fresh-flowing sword

— κἀγὼ τοιούτου γνώματος κοινωνὸς ὢν
and-I such of-opinion partner being

ψηφίζομαί τι δρᾶν· τὸ μὴ μέλλειν δ᾽ ἀκμή. —
vote something to-do the not to-delay and moment

— ὁρᾶν πάρεστι· φροιμιάζονται γὰρ ὡς
to-see it-is-possible they-make-prelude for as

τυραννίδος σημεῖα πράσσοντες πόλει. —
of-tyranny signs doing to-city

— χρονίζομεν γάρ. οἱ δὲ τῆς μελλοῦς κλέος
we-delay for they but of-the delay glory

πέδοι πατοῦντες οὐ καθεύδουσιν χερί. —
on-ground trampling not sleep with-hand

— οὐκ οἶδα βουλῆς ἥστινος τυχὼν λέγω.
not I-know of-counsel which having-hit-on I-speak

τοῦ δρῶντός ἐστι καὶ τὸ βουλεῦσαι πέρι. —
of-the doer is also the to-plan about

— κἀγὼ τοιοῦτός εἰμ', ἐπεὶ δυσμηχανῶ
and-I such am since I-am-at-a-loss
λόγοισι τὸν θανόντ' ἀνιστάναι πάλιν. —
by-words the dead to-raise again
— ἦ καὶ βίον τείνοντες ὧδ' ὑπείξομεν
— and life prolonging thus shall-we-yield
δόμων καταισχυντῆρσι τοῖσδ' ἡγουμένοις; —
of-house to-defilers these leading
— ἀλλ' οὐκ ἀνεκτόν, ἀλλὰ κατθανεῖν κρατεῖ·
but not endurable but to-die prevails
πεπαιτέρα γὰρ μοῖρα τῆς τυραννίδος. —
milder for fate than-the tyranny
— ἦ γὰρ τεκμηρίοισιν ἐξ οἰμωγμάτων
— for by-proofs from groans
μαντευσόμεσθα τἀνδρὸς ὡς ὀλωλότος; —
shall-we-divine of-the-man as dead
— σάφ' εἰδότας χρὴ τῶνδε θυμοῦσθαι πέρι·
clearly knowing it-is-needful these to-be-angry about
τὸ γὰρ τοπάζειν τοῦ σάφ' εἰδέναι δίχα. —
the for to-guess the clearly to-know apart-from
— ταύτην ἐπαινεῖν πάντοθεν πληθύνομαι,
this to-approve from-all-sides I-am-multiplied
τρανῶς Ἀτρείδην εἰδέναι κυροῦνθ' ὅπως.
clearly son-of-Atreus to-know faring how
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ πολλῶν πάροιθεν καιρίως εἰρημένων
many before timely spoken
τἀναντί' εἰπεῖν οὐκ ἐπαισχυνθήσομαι.
the-opposite to-say not I-shall-be-ashamed
πῶς γάρ τις ἐχθροῖς ἐχθρὰ πορσύνων, φίλοις
how for someone for-enemies hostile-things preparing for-friends

δοκοῦσιν εἶναι, πημονῆς ἀρκύστατ' ἂν
seeming to-be of-harm nets —
φράξειεν, ὕψος κρεῖσσον ἐκπηδήματος;
would-fence height higher than-leaping-over
ἐμοὶ δ' ἀγὼν ὅδ' οὐκ ἀφρόντιστος πάλαι
for-me but contest this not unconsidered long-ago
νείκης παλαιᾶς ἦλθε, σὺν χρόνῳ γε μήν·
of-strife old came with time at-least indeed
ἕστηκα δ' ἔνθ' ἔπαισ' ἐπ' ἐξειργασμένοις.
I-stand and where I-struck over the-deeds-done
οὕτω δ' ἔπραξα, καὶ τάδ' οὐκ ἀρνήσομαι·
thus and I-did and this not I-shall-deny
ὡς μήτε φεύγειν μήτ' ἀμύνεσθαι μόρον,
so-that neither to-flee nor to-ward-off fate
ἄπειρον ἀμφίβληστρον, ὥσπερ ἰχθύων,
endless net-cast like of-fishes
περιστιχίζω, πλοῦτον εἵματος κακόν.
I-fence-around wealth of-robe evil
παίω δέ νιν δίς· κἀν δυοῖν οἰμωγμάτοιν
I-strike and him twice and-in two groans
μεθῆκεν αὑτοῦ κῶλα· καὶ πεπτωκότι
let-go his limbs and to-the-fallen
τρίτην ἐπενδίδωμι, τοῦ κατὰ χθονὸς
third I-give-in-addition of-the under earth
Διὸς νεκρῶν σωτῆρος εὐκταίαν χάριν.
Zeus of-dead savior votive grace
οὕτω τὸν αὑτοῦ θυμὸν ὁρμαίνει πεσών·
thus the his spirit gasps-out having-fallen
κἀκφυσιῶν ὀξεῖαν αἵματος σφαγὴν
and-blowing-out sharp of-blood spurt

βάλλει μ' ἐρεμνῇ ψακάδι φοινίας δρόσου,
strikes me with-dark shower of-bloody dew
χαίρουσαν οὐδὲν ἧσσον ἢ διοσδότῳ
rejoicing nothing less than at-Zeus-given
γάνει σπορητὸς κάλυκος ἐν λοχεύμασιν.
moisture sown-field of-the-bud in births
ὡς ὧδ' ἐχόντων, πρέσβος Ἀργείων τόδε,
since thus being elders of-Argives here
χαίροιτ' ἄν, εἰ χαίροιτ', ἐγὼ δ' ἐπεύχομαι.
you-would-rejoice — if you-would-rejoice I and exult
εἰ δ' ἦν πρεπόντων ὥστ' ἐπισπένδειν νεκρῷ,
if and it-were of-fitting so-as to-pour-libation on-the-dead
τῷδ' ἂν δικαίως ἦν, ὑπερδίκως μὲν οὖν.
over-this — justly it-would-be more-than-justly indeed then
τοσῶνδε κρατῆρ' ἐν δόμοις κακῶν ὅδε
of-so-many bowl in house of-evils this
πλήσας ἀραίων αὐτὸς ἐκπίνει μολών.
having-filled of-curses himself drinks-up having-come
ΧΟΡΟΣ θαυμάζομέν σου γλῶσσαν, ὡς θρασύστομος,
we-marvel-at your tongue how bold-mouthed
ἥτις τοιόνδ' ἐπ' ἀνδρὶ κομπάζεις λόγον.
who such over husband you-boast speech
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ πειρᾶσθέ μου γυναικὸς ὡς ἀφράσμονος·
you-test me of-woman as of-witless
ἐγὼ δ' ἀτρέστῳ καρδίᾳ πρὸς εἰδότας
I but with-fearless heart to knowing
λέγω· σὺ δ' αἰνεῖν εἴτε με ψέγειν θέλεις
speak you and to-praise or me to-blame you-wish
ὅμοιον. οὗτός ἐστιν Ἀγαμέμνων, ἐμὸς
alike this is Agamemnon my

πόσις, νεκρὸς δέ, τῆσδε δεξιᾶς χερὸς
husband corpse and of-this right hand
ἔργον, δικαίας τέκτονος. τάδ' ὧδ' ἔχει.
work of-just craftsman these thus stand

XII · THE ELDERS ACCUSE

The chorus asks what poison drove Clytemnestra to this and tells her she will be cast out of the city. She replies that they never condemned Agamemnon, who sacrificed her daughter like a sheep from his flocks to calm the winds. She threatens to teach them if they resist. The elders call her arrogant and say she must pay blow for blow.

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί κακόν, ὦ γύναι,
what evil O lady
χθονοτρεφὲς ἐδανὸν ἢ ποτὸν
earth-nourished food or drink
πασαμένα ῥυτᾶς ἐξ ἁλὸς ὀρόμενον
having-tasted flowing from sea arisen
τόδ' ἐπέθου θύος, δημοθρόους τ' ἀράς;
this you-laid-on sacrifice people-uttered and curses
ἀπέδικες ἀπέταμες· ἀπόπολις δ' ἔσῃ
you-cast-off you-cut-off outcast and you-will-be
μῖσος ὄβριμον ἀστοῖς.
hatred mighty to-citizens
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ νῦν μὲν δικάζεις ἐκ πόλεως φυγὴν ἐμοὶ
now indeed you-sentence from city exile to-me
καὶ μῖσος ἀστῶν δημόθρους τ' ἔχειν ἀράς,
and hatred of-citizens people-uttered and to-have curses
οὐδὲν τότ' ἀνδρὶ τῷδ' ἐναντίον φέρων·
nothing then man to-this opposing bringing

ὃς οὐ προτιμῶν, ὡσπερεὶ βοτοῦ μόρον,
who not regarding as-it-were of-beast death
μήλων φλεόντων εὐπόκοις νομεύμασιν,
of-sheep abounding in-fleecy flocks
ἔθυσεν αὑτοῦ παῖδα, φιλτάτην ἐμοὶ
sacrificed his child dearest to-me
ὠδῖν', ἐπῳδὸν Θρηκίων ἀημάτων.
travail charm-against of-Thracian blasts
οὐ τοῦτον ἐκ γῆς τῆσδε χρῆν σ' ἀνδρηλατεῖν,
not him from land this it-was-needful you to-banish
μιασμάτων ἄποιν'; ἐπήκοος δ' ἐμῶν
of-pollutions penalty hearer but of-my
ἔργων δικαστὴς τραχὺς εἶ. λέγω δέ σοι
deeds judge harsh you-are I-tell and you
τοιαῦτ' ἀπειλεῖν, ὡς παρεσκευασμένης
such to-threaten as for-one-prepared
ἐκ τῶν ὁμοίων χειρὶ νικήσαντ' ἐμοῦ
on the equal-terms by-hand having-conquered me
ἄρχειν· ἐὰν δὲ τοὔμπαλιν κραίνῃ θεός,
to-rule if but the-opposite should-ordain god
γνώσῃ διδαχθεὶς ὀψὲ γοῦν τὸ σωφρονεῖν.
you-will-know having-been-taught late at-least the to-be-self-controlled
ΧΟΡΟΣ μεγαλόμητις εἶ,
great-minded you-are
περίφρονα δ' ἔλακες. ὥσπερ οὖν
arrogant and you-uttered as-indeed then
φονολιβεῖ τύχᾳ φρὴν ἐπιμαίνεται,
with-blood-dripping fortune mind is-maddened
λίπος ἐπ' ὀμμάτων αἵματος εὖ πρέπει·
fleck on eyes of-blood well is-plain

ἀτίετον ἔτι σὲ χρὴ στερομέναν φίλων
unhonored still you it-is-needful bereft of-friends
τύμμα τύμματι τεῖσαι.
blow with-blow to-pay

XIII · CLYTEMNESTRA'S OATH

Clytemnestra swears by Justice fulfilled for her child, by Ruin, and by the Erinys, to whom she slaughtered him, that she has no fear while Aegisthus keeps her hearth. The man who wronged her lies dead, darling of the women at Troy, with his captive prophetess and bedfellow beside him, who sang her last lament like a swan. Her death has brought a relish to Clytemnestra's bed.

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ καὶ τήνδ' ἀκούεις ὁρκίων ἐμῶν θέμιν·
and this you-hear of-oaths my sanction
μὰ τὴν τέλειον τῆς ἐμῆς παιδὸς Δίκην,
by the fulfilling — of-my child Justice
Ἄτην Ἐρινύν θ', αἷσι τόνδ' ἔσφαξ' ἐγώ,
Ruin Erinys and to-whom him slaughtered I
οὔ μοι φόβου μέλαθρον ἐλπὶς ἐμπατεῖ,
not for-me of-fear hall hope treads
ἕως ἂν αἴθῃ πῦρ ἐφ' ἑστίας ἐμῆς
while — kindles fire on hearth my
Αἴγισθος, ὡς τὸ πρόσθεν εὖ φρονῶν ἐμοί.
Aegisthus as the before well minded to-me
οὗτος γὰρ ἡμῖν ἀσπὶς οὐ σμικρὰ θράσους.
he for to-us shield not small of-boldness
κεῖται γυναικὸς τῆσδε λυμαντήριος,
lies of-woman this defiler
Χρυσηίδων μείλιγμα τῶν ὑπ' Ἰλίῳ·
of-Chryseises darling of-the at Ilium

ἥ τ' αἰχμάλωτος ἥδε καὶ τερασκόπος
she and captive this and portent-seer
καὶ κοινόλεκτρος τοῦδε, θεσφατηλόγος
and bed-sharer of-him oracle-speaker
πιστὴ ξύνευνος, ναυτίλων δὲ σελμάτων
faithful bedfellow of-ships and benches
ἰσοτριβής. ἄτιμα δ' οὐκ ἐπραξάτην.
equal-wearer unhonored but not they-two-fared
ὁ μὲν γὰρ οὕτως, ἡ δέ τοι κύκνου δίκην
he indeed for thus she and surely of-swan like
τὸν ὕστατον μέλψασα θανάσιμον γόον
the last having-sung dying lament
κεῖται, φιλήτωρ τοῦδ'· ἐμοὶ δ' ἐπήγαγεν
lies lover of-him to-me and brought
εὐνῆς παροψώνημα τῆς ἐμῆς χλιδῆς.
of-bed relish — of-my luxury

XIV · THE SPIRIT OF THE HOUSE

The elders long for death, their guardian killed by a woman, and curse Helen. Clytemnestra forbids blaming Helen but approves when they blame the thrice-fattened spirit of the race. The chorus mourns the king in the spider's web. She says the ancient avenger of Atreus struck in her shape, and Iphigenia will greet her father below. The chorus answers that the doer must suffer and the race is glued to ruin. She would swear a pact with the spirit to leave the house for a little wealth.

ΧΟΡΟΣ φεῦ, τίς ἂν ἐν τάχει, μὴ περιώδυνος,
alas what — in speed not very-painful
μηδὲ δεμνιοτήρης,
nor bed-keeping

μόλοι τὸν αἰεὶ φέρουσ᾽ ἐν ἡμῖν
may-come the ever bearing in us
Μοῖρ᾽ ἀτέλευτον ὕπνον, δαμέντος
Fate endless sleep subdued
φύλακος εὐμενεστάτου καὶ
of-guardian most-kindly and
πολλὰ τλάντος γυναικὸς διαί·
much having-endured woman for-the-sake-of
πρὸς γυναικὸς δ᾽ ἀπέφθισεν βίον.
by woman and he-lost life
ἰὼ ἰὼ παράνους Ἑλένα
oh oh mad Helen
μία τὰς πολλάς, τὰς πάνυ πολλὰς
one the many the very many
ψυχὰς ὀλέσασ᾽ ὑπὸ Τροίᾳ.
lives having-destroyed under Troy
νῦν τέλεαν πολύμναστον ἐπηνθίσω
now perfect much-remembered you-have-crowned-yourself
δι᾽ αἷμ᾽ ἄνιπτον. ἦ τις ἦν τότ᾽ ἐν δόμοις
through blood unwashable truly some was then in house
ἔρις ἐρίδματος ἀνδρὸς οἰζύς.
strife strongly-built of-husband woe
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ μηδὲν θανάτου μοῖραν ἐπεύχου
not-at-all of-death fate pray-for
τοῖσδε βαρυνθείς·
by-these weighed-down
μηδ᾽ εἰς Ἑλένην κότον ἐκτρέψῃς,
nor against Helen wrath turn
ὡς ἀνδρολέτειρ᾽, ὡς μία πολλῶν
as man-destroyer as one of-many

ἀνδρῶν ψυχὰς Δαναῶν ὀλέσασ᾽
of-men lives of-Danaans having-destroyed
ἀξύστατον ἄλγος ἔπραξεν.
irresistible grief wrought
ΧΟΡΟΣ δαῖμον, ὃς ἐμπίτνεις δώμασι καὶ διφυί-
spirit who fall-upon the-house and twofold
οισι Ταντα λίδαισιν,
— Tantalids
κράτος τ᾽ ἰσόψυχον ἐκ γυναικῶν
power and equal-souled from women
καρδιόδηκτον ἐμοὶ κρατύνεις.
heart-biting to-me you-wield
ἐπὶ δὲ σώματος δίκαν
on and body like
κόρακος ἐχθροῦ σταθεῖσ᾽ ἐκνόμως
of-raven hostile standing lawlessly
ὕμνον ὑμνεῖν ἐπεύχεται ***
hymn to-hymn exults (lacuna)
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ νῦν δ᾽ ὤρθωσας στόματος γνώμην,
now but you-have-righted of-mouth judgment
τὸν τριπάχυντον
the thrice-fattened
δαίμονα γέννης τῆσδε κικλήσκων.
spirit of-race this invoking
ἐκ τοῦ γὰρ ἔρως αἱματολοιχὸς
from him for lust blood-licking
νείρᾳ τρέφεται, πρὶν καταλῆξαι
in-belly is-nursed before to-cease
τὸ παλαιὸν ἄχος, νέος ἰχώρ.
the old grief new pus

χορος ἦ μέγαν οἰκονόμον
truly great house-ruling
δαίμονα καὶ βαρύμηνιν αἰνεῖς,
spirit and heavy-wrathed you-praise
φεῦ φεῦ, κακὸν αἶνον ἀτη-
alas alas evil praise of-ruinous
ρᾶς τύχας ἀκορέστου·
— fortune insatiable
ἰὴ ἰή, διαὶ Διὸς
ho ho by-will-of Zeus
παναιτίου πανεργέτα·
all-causing all-working
τί γὰρ βροτοῖς ἄνευ Διὸς τελεῖται;
what for for-mortals without Zeus is-accomplished
τί τῶνδ' οὐ θεόκραντόν ἐστιν;
what of-these not god-ordained is
ἰὼ ἰὼ βασιλεῦ βασιλεῦ,
oh oh king king
πῶς σε δακρύσω;
how you shall-I-weep
φρενὸς ἐκ φιλίας τί ποτ' εἴπω;
mind from friendly what ever shall-I-say
κεῖσαι δ' ἀράχνης ἐν ὑφάσματι τῷδ'
you-lie and of-spider in web this
ἀσεβεῖ θανάτῳ βίον ἐκπνέων.
in-impious death life breathing-out
ὤμοι μοι κοίταν τάνδ' ἀνελεύθερον
ah-me me couch this unfree
δολίῳ μόρῳ δαμεὶς δάμαρτος
treacherous by-death subdued of-wife

ἐκ χερὸς ἀμφιτόμῳ βελέμνῳ.
by hand with-two-edged weapon

ΚΛΤΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ αὐχεῖς εἶναι τόδε τοὔργον ἐμόν;
you-boast to-be this the-deed mine

μηδ' ἐπιλεχθῇς
nor reckon

Ἀγαμεμνονίαν εἶναί μ' ἄλοχον.
Agamemnon's to-be me wife

φανταζόμενος δὲ γυναικὶ νεκροῦ
taking-the-shape-of but the-wife of-corpse

τοῦδ' ὁ παλαιὸς δριμὺς ἀλάστωρ
this the ancient bitter avenger

Ἀτρέως χαλεποῦ θοινατῆρος
of-Atreus cruel feast-giver

τόνδ' ἀπέτεισεν,
him has-paid-back

τέλεον νεαροῖς ἐπιθύσας.
full-grown for-young having-sacrificed

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὡς μὲν ἀναίτιος εἶ
that indeed guiltless you-are

τοῦδε φόνου τίς ὁ μαρτυρήσων;
of-this murder who the about-to-bear-witness

πῶς πῶς; πατρόθεν δὲ συλλή-
how how from-the-father and helper

πτωρ γένοιτ' ἂν ἀλάστωρ.
— might-be — avenger

βιάζεται δ' ὁμοσπόροις
forces-his-way and kindred

ἐπιρροαῖσιν αἱμάτων
in-floods of-blood

μέλας Ἄρης, ὅποι δίκαν προβαίνων
black Ares wherever justice advancing
πάχνᾳ κουροβόρῳ παρέξει.
for-gore child-devouring will-provide
ἰὼ ἰὼ βασιλεῦ βασιλεῦ,
oh oh king king
πῶς σε δακρύσω;
how you shall-I-weep
φρενὸς ἐκ φιλίας τί ποτ' εἴπω; 1515
mind from friendly what ever shall-I-say
κεῖσαι δ' ἀράχνης ἐν ὑφάσματι τῷδ'
you-lie and of-spider in web this
ἀσεβεῖ θανάτῳ βίον ἐκπνέων.
in-impious death life breathing-out
ὤμοι μοι κοίταν τάνδ' ἀνελεύθερον
ah-me me couch this unfree
δολίῳ μόρῳ δαμεὶς δάμαρτος
treacherous by-death subdued of-wife
ἐκ χερὸς ἀμφιτόμῳ βελέμνῳ. 1520
by hand with-two-edged weapon
ΚΛΤΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ οὐδὲ γὰρ οὗτος δολίαν ἄτην
not-even for he treacherous ruin
οἴκοισιν ἔθηκ';
in-house set
ἀλλ' ἐμὸν ἐκ τοῦδ' ἔρνος ἀερθέν. 1525
but my from him offspring raised
τὴν πολυκλαύτην Ἰφιγενείαν,
the much-lamented Iphigenia
ἄξια δράσας ἄξια πάσχων
worthy having-done worthy suffering

μηδὲν ἐν Ἅιδου μεγαλαυχείτω,
not-at-all in Hades let-him-boast

ξιφοδηλήτῳ,
by-sword-inflicted

θανάτῳ τείσας ἅπερ ἦρξεν.
by-death having-paid-for which-very he-began

1530 ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀμηχανῶ φροντίδος στερηθεὶς
I-am-at-a-loss of-thought bereft

εὐπάλαμον μέριμναν
resourceful care

ὅπα τράπωμαι, πίτνοντος οἴκου.
where I-may-turn falling house

δέδοικα δ' ὄμβρου κτύπον δομοσφαλῆ
I-fear and of-rain crash house-toppling

τὸν αἱματηρόν· ψακὰς δὲ λήγει.
the bloody shower but ceases

1535 δίκην δ' ἐπ' ἄλλο πρᾶγμα θηγάνει βλάβης
justice and for other deed she-whets of-harm

πρὸς ἄλλαις θηγάναισι μοῖρα.
on other whetstones fate

ἰὼ γᾶ γᾶ, εἴθ' ἔμ' ἐδέξω,
oh earth earth would-that me you-had-received

πρὶν τόνδ' ἐπιδεῖν ἀργυροτοίχου
before him to-see silver-walled

1540 δροίτης κατέχοντα χάμευναν.
of-bath occupying low-couch

τίς ὁ θάψων νιν; τίς ὁ θρηνήσων;
who the about-to-bury him who the about-to-lament

ἦ σὺ τόδ' ἔρξαι τλήσῃ, κτείνασ'
— you this to-do will-you-dare having-killed

ἄνδρα τὸν αὑτῆς ἀποκωκῦσαι
husband the your-own to-wail
ψυχῇ τ᾽ ἄχαριν χάριν ἀντ᾽ ἔργων
for-soul and graceless grace instead-of deeds
μεγάλων ἀδίκως ἐπικρᾶναι;
great unjustly to-accomplish
τίς δ᾽ ἐπιτύμβιον αἶνον ἐπ᾽ ἀνδρὶ θείῳ
who and graveside praise over man godlike
σὺν δακρύοις ἰάπτων
with tears pouring-out
ἀληθείᾳ φρενῶν πονήσει;
in-truth of-heart will-toil
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ οὐ σὲ προσήκει τὸ μέλημ᾽ ἀλέγειν
not you befits the care to-mind
τοῦτο· πρὸς ἡμῶν
this by us
κάππεσε, κάτθανε, καὶ καταθάψομεν,
he-fell he-died and we-shall-bury
οὐχ ὑπὸ κλαυθμῶν τῶν ἐξ οἴκων,
not with laments of-the from house
ἀλλ᾽ Ἰφιγένειά νιν ἀσπασίως
but Iphigenia him gladly
θυγάτηρ, ὡς χρή,
daughter as is-fitting
πατέρ᾽ ἀντιάσασα πρὸς ὠκύπορον
father meeting at swift-passing
πόρθμευμ᾽ ἀχέων
ferry of-woes
περὶ χεῖρε βαλοῦσα φιλήσει.
around arms having-thrown will-kiss

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὄνειδος ἥκει τόδ' ἀντ' ὀνείδους.
reproach comes this for reproach
δύσμαχα δ' ἔστι κρῖναι.
hard-to-fight and it-is to-judge
φέρει φέροντ', ἐκτίνει δ' ὁ καίνων.
he-plunders the-plunderer pays and the slayer
μίμνει δὲ μίμνοντος ἐν θρόνῳ Διὸς
it-remains and while-remains on throne Zeus
παθεῖν τὸν ἔρξαντα· θέσμιον γάρ.
to-suffer the doer ordained for
τίς ἂν γονὰν ἀραῖον ἐκβάλοι δόμων;
who — seed accursed could-cast-out of-house
κεκόλληται γένος πρὸς ἄτᾳ.
is-glued race to ruin
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ ἐς τόνδ' ἐνέβης ξὺν ἀληθείᾳ
into this you-have-entered with truth
χρησμόν. ἐγὼ δ' οὖν
oracle I but then
ἐθέλω δαίμονι τῷ Πλεισθενιδῶν
I-am-willing with-the-spirit the of-Pleisthenids
ὅρκους θεμένη τάδε μὲν στέργειν,
oaths having-made these indeed to-be-content-with
δύστλητά περ ὄνθ'· ὃ δὲ λοιπόν, ἰόντ'
hard-to-bear though being which and henceforth going
ἐκ τῶνδε δόμων ἄλλην γενεὰν
from this house another family
τρίβειν θανάτοις αὐθένταισι.
to-wear-down with-deaths kindred
κτεάνων τε μέρος
of-wealth and portion

βαιὸν ἐχούσῃ πᾶν ἀπόχρη μοι
small having all suffices me
μανίας μελάθρων
madness of-house
ἀλληλοφόνους ἀφελούσῃ.
murderous having-removed

XV · AEGISTHUS

Aegisthus rejoices: Atreus once served his brother Thyestes his own children's flesh, and Thyestes cursed the race. Aegisthus, driven into exile with his father as an infant, returned to plan the killing. The elders threaten him with stoning, scorn him as a woman who would not kill with his own hand, and hope that Orestes will return. Weapons are drawn, but Clytemnestra stops further bloodshed and tells the elders to go home. She and Aegisthus will rule the house.

ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ ὦ φέγγος εὔφρον ἡμέρας δικηφόρου.
O light kindly of-day justice-bringing
φαίην ἂν ἤδη νῦν βροτῶν τιμαόρους
I-would-say — already now of-mortals avengers
θεοὺς ἄνωθεν γῆς ἐποπτεύειν ἄχη,
gods from-above of-earth to-look-upon woes
ἰδὼν ὑφαντοῖς ἐν πέπλοις, Ἐρινύων
seeing woven in robes of-the-Erinyes
τὸν ἄνδρα τόνδε κείμενον φίλως ἐμοί,
the man this lying gladly to-me
χερὸς πατρῴας ἐκτίνοντα μηχανάς.
of-hand father's paying-for contrivances
Ἀτρεὺς γὰρ ἄρχων τῆσδε γῆς, τούτου πατήρ,
Atreus for ruling of-this land his father

πατέρα Θυέστην τὸν ἐμόν, ὡς τορῶς φράσαι,
father Thyestes — my so-that clearly to-tell
αὐτοῦ δ' ἀδελφόν, ἀμφίλεκτος ὢν κράτει,
his and brother disputed being in-power
ἠνδρηλάτησεν ἐκ πόλεώς τε καὶ δόμων.
banished from city both and house
καὶ προστρόπαιος ἑστίας μολὼν πάλιν
and suppliant of-hearth having-come back
τλήμων Θυέστης μοῖραν ηὗρετ' ἀσφαλῆ,
wretched Thyestes lot found safe
τὸ μὴ θανὼν πατρῷον αἱμάξαι πέδον,
the not having-died father's to-bloody ground
αὐτός· ξένια δὲ τοῦδε δύσθεος πατὴρ
himself hospitality and of-this godless father
Ἀτρεύς, προθύμως μᾶλλον ἢ φίλως, πατρὶ
Atreus eagerly more than lovingly to-father
τῷμῷ, κρεουργὸν ἦμαρ εὐθύμως ἄγειν
my butchering day cheerfully to-keep
δοκῶν, παρέσχε δαῖτα παιδείων κρεῶν.
pretending provided feast of-children's flesh
τὰ μὲν ποδήρη καὶ χερῶν ἄκρους κτένας
the indeed feet and of-hands top combs
ἔθρυπτ', ἄνωθεν ***
he-broke-up above (lacuna)
***
(lacuna)
*** ἀνδρακὰς καθήμενος.
(lacuna) apart sitting
ἄσημα δ' αὐτῶν αὐτίκ' ἀγνοίᾳ λαβὼν
unrecognizable and of-them at-once in-ignorance having-taken

ἔσθει βορὰν ἄσωτον, ὡς ὁρᾷς, γένει.
eats food unsaving as you-see for-the-race
κἄπειτ' ἐπιγνοὺς ἔργον οὐ καταίσιον
and-then having-recognized deed not righteous
ᾤμωξεν, ἀμπίπτει δ' ἀπὸ σφαγὴν ἐρῶν,
groaned falls-back and from slaughter vomiting
μόρον δ' ἄφερτον Πελοπίδαις ἐπεύχεται,
fate and unbearable on-Pelopids invokes
λάκτισμα δείπνου ξυνδίκως τιθεὶς ἀρᾷ,
kick of-feast justly making to-curse
οὕτως ὀλέσθαι πᾶν τὸ Πλεισθένους γένος.
so to-perish all the of-Pleisthenes race
ἐκ τῶνδέ σοι πεσόντα τόνδ' ἰδεῖν πάρα.
from these to-you fallen him to-see it-is-possible
κἀγὼ δίκαιος τοῦδε τοῦ φόνου ῥαφεύς.
and-I just of-this the murder stitcher
τρίτον γὰρ ὄντα μ' ἐπὶ δυσαθλίῳ πατρὶ
third for being me with wretched father
συνεξελαύνει τυτθὸν ὄντ' ἐν σπαργάνοις·
drives-out-with tiny being in swaddling-clothes
τραφέντα δ' αὖθις ἡ δίκη κατήγαγεν.
grown and again the justice brought-back
καὶ τοῦδε τἀνδρὸς ἡψάμην θυραῖος ὤν,
and of-this of-the-man I-laid-hold outside being
πᾶσαν συνάψας μηχανὴν δυσβουλίας.
every having-fastened device of-ill-counsel
οὕτω καλὸν δὴ καὶ τὸ κατθανεῖν ἐμοί,
so fair indeed even the to-die to-me
ἰδόντα τοῦτον τῆς δίκης ἐν ἕρκεσιν.
having-seen him of-the justice in nets

ΧΟΡΟΣ Αἴγισθ', ὑβρίζειν ἐν κακοῖσιν οὐ σέβω.
Aegisthus to-insult in evils not I-respect

σὺ δ' ἄνδρα τόνδε φὴς ἑκὼν κατακτανεῖν,
you and man this say willingly to-have-killed

μόνος δ' ἔποικτον τόνδε βουλεῦσαι φόνον·
alone and pitiable this to-have-plotted murder

οὔ φημ' ἀλύξειν ἐν δίκῃ τὸ σὸν κάρα
not I-say to-escape in justice — your head

δημορριφεῖς, σάφ' ἴσθι, λευσίμους ἀράς.
people-hurled clearly know stoning curses

ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ σὺ ταῦτα φωνεῖς νερτέρᾳ προσήμενος
you this speak lower sitting-at

κώπῃ, κρατούντων τῶν ἐπὶ ζυγῷ δορός;
oar ruling those on bench of-ship

γνώσῃ γέρων ὢν ὡς διδάσκεσθαι βαρὺ
you-will-know old being how to-be-taught heavy

τῷ τηλικούτῳ, σωφρονεῖν εἰρημένον.
for-the so-old to-be-self-controlled being-bidden

δεσμὸς δὲ καὶ τὸ γῆρας αἵ τε νήστιδες
bond and also the old-age the and fasting

δύαι διδάσκειν ἐξοχώταται φρενῶν
pains to-teach most-excellent of-wits

ἰατρομάντεις. οὐχ ὁρᾷς ὁρῶν τάδε;
healer-prophets not you-see seeing this

πρὸς κέντρα μὴ λάκτιζε, μὴ παίσας μογῇς.
against goads not kick lest having-struck you-suffer

ΧΟΡΟΣ γύναι, σὺ τοὺς ἥκοντας ἐκ μάχης μένων
woman you those coming from battle awaiting

οἰκουρὸς εὐνὴν ἀνδρὸς αἰσχύνων ἅμα
house-keeper bed of-husband shaming at-the-same-time

ἀνδρὶ στρατηγῷ τόνδ' ἐβούλευσας μόρον;
for-man general this you-plotted death

ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ καὶ ταῦτα τἄπη κλαυμάτων ἀρχηγενῆ.
and these the-words of-weeping originators

Ὀρφεῖ δὲ γλῶσσαν τὴν ἐναντίαν ἔχεις.
to-Orpheus and tongue the opposite you-have

ὁ μὲν γὰρ ἦγε πάντ' ἀπὸ φθογγῆς χαρᾷ, 1630
he indeed for led all by voice with-joy

σὺ δ' ἐξορίνας νηπίοις ὑλάγμασιν
you but having-stirred-up with-foolish yelpings

ἄξῃ· κρατηθεὶς δ' ἡμερώτερος φανῇ.
will-be-led overpowered and tamer will-appear

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὡς δὴ σύ μοι τύραννος Ἀργείων ἔσῃ,
as indeed you to-me tyrant of-Argives will-be

ὃς οὐκ, ἐπειδὴ τῷδ' ἐβούλευσας μόρον,
who not when for-him you-plotted death

δρᾶσαι τόδ' ἔργον οὐκ ἔτλης αὐτοκτόνως. 1635
to-do this deed not dared with-your-own-hand

ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ τὸ γὰρ δολῶσαι πρὸς γυναικὸς ἦν σαφῶς·
the for to-deceive for woman was clearly

ἐγὼ δ' ὕποπτος ἐχθρὸς ἦ παλαιγενής.
I and suspected enemy was of-old

ἐκ τῶν δὲ τοῦδε χρημάτων πειράσομαι
from the and his wealth I-shall-try

ἄρχειν πολιτῶν· τὸν δὲ μὴ πειθάνορα
to-rule citizens the and not obedient

ζεύξω βαρείαις οὔτι μοι σειραφόρον 1640
I-shall-yoke heavy not-at-all to-me trace-horse

κριθῶντα πῶλον· ἀλλ' ὁ δυσφιλὴς σκότῳ
barley-fed colt but the hateful in-darkness

λιμὸς ξύνοικος μαλθακόν σφ' ἐπόψεται.
hunger housemate gentle him will-see

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί δὴ τὸν ἄνδρα τόνδ' ἀπὸ ψυχῆς κακῆς
why indeed the man this from soul evil

οὐκ αὐτὸς ἠνάριζες, ἀλλά νιν γυνὴ
not yourself slew but him woman

χώρας μίασμα καὶ θεῶν ἐγχωρίων
of-land pollution and of-gods of-the-land

ἔκτειν'; Ὀρέστης ἆρά που βλέπει φάος,
killed Orestes — somewhere sees light

ὅπως κατελθὼν δεῦρο πρευμενεῖ τύχῃ
so-that having-come-back hither with-kindly fortune

ἀμφοῖν γένηται τοῖνδε παγκρατὴς φονεύς;
of-both these all-conquering murderer may-become

ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ δοκεῖς τάδ' ἔρδειν καὶ λέγειν, γνώσῃ τάχα
but since you-think this to-do and to-say you-will-learn soon

εἶα δή, φίλοι λοχῖται, τοὔργον οὐχ ἑκὰς τόδε.
come now friends comrades the-deed not far this

ΧΟΡΟΣ εἶα δή, ξίφος πρόκωπον πᾶς τις εὐτρεπιζέτω.
come now sword hilt-forward every one let-make-ready

ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ ἀλλὰ κἀγὼ μὴν πρόκωπος οὐκ ἀναίνομαι θανεῖν.
but and-I indeed hilt-forward not I-refuse to-die

ΧΟΡΟΣ δεχομένοις λέγεις θανεῖν σε· τὴν τύχην δ' αἱρούμεθα.
to-those-welcoming you-say to-die you the fortune and we-choose

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ μηδαμῶς, ὦ φίλτατ' ἀνδρῶν,
in-no-way O dearest of-men

ἄλλα δράσωμεν κακά.
other let-us-do evils

ἀλλὰ καὶ τάδ' ἐξαμῆσαι πολλά, δύστηνον θέρος.
but even these to-reap many wretched harvest

πημονῆς δ᾽ ἅλις γ᾽ ὑπάρχει· μηδὲν αἱματώμεθα.
of-harm and enough at-least exists not-at-all let-us-be-bloodied
στείχετ᾽ αἰδοῖοι γέροντες πρὸς δόμους, πεπρωμένοις
go revered old-men to homes destined
πρὶν παθεῖν εἴξαντες ὥρᾳ· χρῆν τάδ᾽ ὡς ἐπράξαμεν.
before to-suffer having-yielded to-the-time it-was-needful this as we-did
εἰ δέ τοι μόχθων γένοιτο τῶνδ᾽ ἅλις, δεχοίμεθ᾽ ἄν,
if and surely of-toils there-should-be of-these enough we-would-accept —
δαίμονος χηλῇ βαρείᾳ δυστυχῶς πεπληγμένοι.
of-spirit by-hoof heavy unhappily struck
ὧδ᾽ ἔχει λόγος γυναικός, εἴ τις ἀξιοῖ μαθεῖν.
thus has word of-woman if anyone deems-worthy to-learn
ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ ἀλλὰ τούσδ᾽ ἐμοὶ ματαίαν γλῶσσαν ὧδ᾽ ἀπανθίσαι
but these at-me idle tongue thus to-pluck-off
κἀκβαλεῖν ἔπη τοιαῦτα δαίμονος πειρωμένους,
and-to-throw-out words such of-fortune testing
σώφρονος γνώμης θ᾽ ἁμαρτεῖν τὸν κρατοῦντά θ᾽ ὑβρίσαι.
of-self-controlled judgment and to-miss the ruler and to-insult
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκ ἂν Ἀργείων τόδ᾽ εἴη, φῶτα προσσαίνειν κακόν.
not — of-Argives this would-be man to-fawn-on evil
ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἐγώ σ᾽ ἐν ὑστέραισιν ἡμέραις μέτειμ᾽ ἔτι.
but I you in later days will-pursue still
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὔκ, ἐὰν δαίμων, Ὀρέστην δεῦρ᾽ ἀπευθύνῃ μολεῖν.
not if spirit Orestes hither directs to-come
ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ οἶδ᾽ ἐγὼ φεύγοντας ἄνδρας ἐλπίδας σιτουμένους.
I-know I fleeing men hopes feeding-on
ΧΟΡΟΣ πρᾶσσε, πιαίνου, μιαίνων τὴν δίκην, ἐπεὶ πάρα.
act grow-fat defiling the justice since you-can
ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ ἴσθι μοι δώσων ἄποινα τῆσδε μωρίας χάριν.
know to-me about-to-give penalty of-this folly for-the-sake

ΧΟΡΟΣ κόμπασον θαρσῶν, ἀλέκτωρ ὥστε θηλείας πέλας.
boast being-bold cock like hen beside

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ μὴ προτιμήσῃς ματαίων τῶνδ' ὑλαγμάτων· ἐγὼ
not regard idle these yelpings I

καὶ σὺ θήσομεν κρατοῦντε τῶνδε δωμάτων καλῶς.
and you shall-set ruling of-this house well

AESCHYLUS

ΧΟΗΦΟΡΟΙ

The Libation Bearers

I · ORESTES AT THE TOMB

Orestes, returned from exile, prays to Hermes of the underworld at his father's tomb and lays a lock of hair there, one for the Inachus and one in mourning, since he was not present to lament his father's death. He sees a band of women in black approaching with libations, among them his sister Electra, and draws aside with Pylades to learn what their offering means.

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Ἑρμῆ χθόνιε, πατρῷ᾽ ἐποπτεύων κράτη,
Hermes of-the-underworld father's watching-over powers
σωτὴρ γενοῦ μοι ξύμμαχός τ᾽ αἰτουμένῳ·
savior become to-me ally and asking
ἥκω γὰρ ἐς γῆν τήνδε καὶ κατέρχομαι.
I-come for to land this and return-from-exile
τύμβου δ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ὄχθῳ τῷδε κηρύσσω πατρὶ
of-tomb and on mound this I-proclaim to-father
κλύειν, ἀκοῦσαι ***
to-hear to-hearken (lacuna)
***
(lacuna)
*** πλόκαμον Ἰνάχῳ θρεπτήριον.
(lacuna) lock to-Inachus nurture-offering
τὸν δεύτερον δὲ τόνδε πενθητήριον
the second and this mourning-offering
***
(lacuna)
οὐ γὰρ παρὼν ᾤμωξα σόν, πάτερ, μόρον
not for being-present I-wailed your father death
οὐδ᾽ ἐξέτεινα χεῖρ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ἐκφορᾷ νεκροῦ.
nor stretched-out hand at carrying-out of-corpse

***

(lacuna)

τί χρῆμα λεύσσω; τίς ποθ' ἥδ' ὁμήγυρις
what thing do-I-see what ever this gathering

στείχει γυναικῶν φάρεσιν μελαγχίμοις
comes of-women in-cloaks black

πρέπουσα; ποίᾳ ξυμφορᾷ προσεικάσω;
conspicuous to-what misfortune shall-I-liken

πότερα δόμοισι πῆμα προσκυρεῖ νέον;
whether to-the-house harm befalls new

ἢ πατρὶ τῷμῷ τάσδ' ἐπεικάσας τύχω
or to-father my these guessing I-may-hit

χοὰς φερούσας νερτέροις μειλίγματα;
libations bearing to-the-dead appeasements

οὐδέν ποτ' ἄλλο· καὶ γὰρ Ἠλέκτραν δοκῶ
nothing ever else also for Electra I-think

στείχειν ἀδελφὴν τὴν ἐμὴν πένθει λυγρῷ
to-come sister — my in-grief mournful

πρέπουσαν. ὦ Ζεῦ, δός με τείσασθαι μόρον
conspicuous O Zeus grant me to-avenge death

πατρός, γενοῦ δὲ σύμμαχος θέλων ἐμοί.
of-father become and ally willing to-me

Πυλάδη, σταθῶμεν ἐκποδών, ὡς ἂν σαφῶς
Pylades let-us-stand out-of-the-way so-that — clearly

μάθω γυναικῶν ἥτις ἥδε προστροπή.
I-may-learn of-women what this supplication

The slave women come from the house carrying libations, tearing their cheeks and robes. A shriek in the night from the women's quarters has shaken the house, and the interpreters read the dream as the anger of the dead against their killers. A godless woman has sent them with this offering, but no ransom washes out spilled blood. Justice watches, swift or slow. Captives brought from their city, they weep in secret for their masters' fortunes.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰαλτὸς ἐκ δόμων ἔβαν
sent from house I-came
χοὰς προπομπὸς ὀξύχειρι σὺν κτύπῳ.
libations escorting swift-handed with beating
πρέπει παρηὶς φοινίοις ἀμυγμοῖς
is-conspicuous cheek with-bloody scratches
ὄνυχος ἄλοκι νεοτόμῳ· 25
of-nail with-furrow fresh-cut
δι' αἰῶνος δ' ἰυγμοῖσι βόσκεται κέαρ.
through life and on-wailings is-fed heart
λινοφθόροι δ' ὑφασμάτων
linen-destroying and of-weavings
λακίδες ἔφλαδον ὑπ' ἄλγεσιν,
rents have-torn under pains
προστέρνῳ στολμῷ
breast-covering garment
πέπλων ἀγελάστοις 30
of-robes by-joyless
ξυμφοραῖς πεπληγμένων.
by-misfortunes struck
τορὸς δὲ Φοῖβος ὀρθόθριξ
piercing and Phoebus hair-raising

δόμων ὀνειρόμαντις, ἐξ ὕπνου κότον
of-house dream-prophet from sleep wrath
πνέων, ἀωρόνυκτον ἀμβόαμα
breathing at-dead-of-night cry
μυχόθεν ἔλακε περὶ φόβῳ,
from-the-inner-chamber shrieked in fear
γυναικείοισιν ἐν δώμασιν βαρὺς πίτνων.
on-the-women's in house heavy falling
κριταί τε τῶνδ' ὀνειράτων
interpreters and of-these dreams
θεόθεν ἔλακον ὑπέγγυοι
from-god cried pledged
μέμφεσθαι τοὺς γᾶς
to-be-angry the of-earth
νέρθεν περιθύμως
below wrathfully
τοῖς κτανοῦσί τ' ἐγκοτεῖν.
with-the killers and to-be-wroth
τοιάνδε χάριν ἀχάριτον ἀπότροπον κακῶν,
such grace graceless averting of-evils
ἰὼ γαῖα μαῖα,
oh earth nurse
μωμένα μ' ἰάλλει
desiring me sends
δύσθεος γυνά. φοβοῦ-
godless woman I-fear
μαι δ' ἔπος τόδ' ἐκβαλεῖν.
— and word this to-cast-out
τί γὰρ λύτρον πεσόντος αἵματος πέδοι;
what for ransom of-fallen blood on-ground

ἰὼ πάνοιζυς ἑστία,
oh all-woeful hearth
ἰὼ κατασκαφαὶ δόμων.
oh destructions of-house
ἀνήλιοι βροτοστυγεῖς
sunless mortal-hated
δνόφοι καλύπτουσι δόμους
glooms cover house
δεσποτῶν θανάτοισι.
of-masters by-deaths
σέβας δ' ἄμαχον ἀδάματον ἀπόλεμον τὸ πρὶν
awe and irresistible unconquered unassailable the before
δι' ὤτων φρενός τε
through ears of-mind and
δαμίας περαῖνον
of-people penetrating
νῦν ἀφίσταται. φοβεῖ-
now stands-away fears
ται δέ τις. τὸ δ' εὐτυχεῖν,
— and someone the but to-prosper
τόδ' ἐν βροτοῖς θεός τε καὶ θεοῦ πλέον.
this among mortals god both and than-god more
ῥοπὴ δ' ἐπισκοπεῖ δίκας
balance and watches of-justice
ταχεῖα τοὺς μὲν ἐν φάει,
swift those indeed in light
τὰ δ' ἐν μεταιχμίῳ σκότου
the and in borderland of-darkness
μένει χρονίζοντας ἄχη,
awaits delaying griefs

τοὺς δ' ἄκραντος ἔχει νύξ.
those and endless holds night
δι' αἵματ' ἐκποθένθ' ὑπὸ χθονὸς τροφοῦ
through blood drunk by earth nurturing
τίτας φόνος πέπηγεν οὐ διαρρύδαν.
avenging gore is-clotted not dissolving
διαλγὴς δ' ἄτα διαφέρει
grievous and ruin distracts
τὸν αἴτιον παναρκέτας νόσου βρύειν.
the guilty all-sufficient with-disease to-teem
θιγόντι δ' οὔτι νυμφικῶν ἑδωλίων
for-the-having-touched and in-no-way of-bridal chambers
ἄκος, πόροι τε πάντες ἐκ μιᾶς ὁδοῦ
cure streams and all from one way
προβαίνοντες τὸν χερομυσῆ
proceeding the hand-defiling
φόνον καθαίροντες ἴθυσαν μάταν.
murder cleansing would-hasten in-vain
ἐμοὶ δ' — ἀνάγκαν γὰρ ἀμφίπτολιν
to-me and necessity for city-besetting
θεοὶ προσήνεγκαν· ἐκ γὰρ οἴκων
gods brought from for house
πατρῴων δούλιόν μ' ἐσᾶγον αἶσαν —
father's slavish me led lot
δίκαια καὶ μὴ δίκαια ἀρχὰς πρέπον
just and not just from-the-start befitting
βίᾳ φρενῶν αἰνέσαι
by-force of-mind to-approve
πικρὸν στύγος κρατούσῃ.
bitter hatred mastering

δακρύω δ' ὑφ' εἱμάτων
I-weep and beneath garments
ματαίοισι δεσποτᾶν
at-vain of-masters
τύχαις, κρυφαίοις πένθεσιν παχνουμένη.
fortunes in-secret griefs chilled

III · THE RECOGNITION

Electra asks the women what prayer to make, and they urge her to pray for Orestes and for an avenger. She calls on Hermes and her father to bring Orestes home and destroy the killers. At the tomb she finds a lock of hair like her own and footprints that match hers. Orestes steps forward and proves himself with the weaving she made. He prays to Zeus for the eagle's orphaned brood and tells how Apollo's oracle threatens plagues and Furies unless he avenges his father.

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ δμωαὶ γυναῖκες, δωμάτων εὐθήμονες,
slave women of-house orderly
ἐπεὶ πάρεστε τῆσδε προστροπῆς ἐμοὶ
since you-are-present at-this supplication with-me
πομποί, γένεσθε τῶνδε σύμβουλοι πέρι·
escorts become of-these advisers about
τί φῶ χέουσα τάσδε κηδείους χοάς;
what shall-I-say pouring these funeral libations
πῶς εὔφρον' εἴπω, πῶς κατεύξομαι πατρί;
how kindly shall-I-speak how shall-I-pray to-father
πότερα λέγουσα παρὰ φίλης φίλῳ φέρειν
whether saying from dear to-dear to-bring
γυναικὸς ἀνδρί, τῆς ἐμῆς μητρὸς πάρα;
woman to-husband — my mother from

τῶνδ' οὐ πάρεστι θάρσος, οὐδ' ἔχω τί φῶ,
of-this not is-at-hand courage nor I-have what I-may-say
χέουσα τόνδε πέλανον ἐν τύμβῳ πατρός.
pouring this offering on tomb of-father
ἢ τοῦτο φάσκω τοὔπος, ὡς νόμος βροτοῖς,
or this I-may-say the-word as custom for-mortals
ἔσθλ' ἀντιδοῦναι τοῖσι πέμπουσιν τάδε
good-things to-give-in-return to-those sending these
στέφη, δόσιν γε τῶν κακῶν ἐπαξίαν;
wreaths gift at-least of-the evils worthy
ἢ σῖγ' ἀτίμως, ὥσπερ οὖν ἀπώλετο
or in-silence dishonorably as indeed perished
πατήρ, τάδ' ἐκχέασα, γάποτον χύσιν,
father these having-poured earth-drunk outpouring
στείχω καθάρμαθ' ὥς τις ἐκπέμψας πάλιν
shall-I-go offscourings like someone sending-off back
δικοῦσα τεῦχος ἀστρόφοισιν ὄμμασιν;
having-flung vessel with-unturned eyes
τῆσδ' ἐστὲ βουλῆς, ὦ φίλαι, μεταίτιαι·
of-this be counsel O friends sharers
κοινὸν γὰρ ἔχθος ἐν δόμοις νομίζομεν.
common for hatred in house we-hold
μὴ κεύθετ' ἔνδον καρδίας φόβῳ τινός.
not hide within heart from-fear of-anyone
τὸ μόρσιμον γὰρ τόν τ' ἐλεύθερον μένει
the fated for the both free awaits
καὶ τὸν πρὸς ἄλλης δεσποτούμενον χερός.
and the by other ruled hand
λέγοις ἄν, εἴ τι τῶνδ' ἔχοις ὑπέρτερον.
you-may-speak — if anything than-these you-have better

ΧΟΡΟΣ αἰδουμένη σοι βωμὸν ὡς τύμβον πατρὸς
revering to-you altar like tomb of-father
λέξω, κελεύεις γάρ, τὸν ἐκ φρενὸς λόγον.
I-shall-speak you-bid for the from heart word
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ λέγοις ἄν, ὥσπερ ἠδέσω τάφον πατρός.
you-may-speak — as you-revered tomb of-father
ΧΟΡΟΣ φθέγγου χέουσα κεδνὰ τοῖσιν εὔφροσιν.
utter pouring good-things for-the kindly
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τίνας δὲ τούτους τῶν φίλων προσεννέπω; 110
whom and these of-the friends do-I-address
ΧΟΡΟΣ πρῶτον μὲν αὐτὴν χὥστις Αἴγισθον στυγεῖ.
first indeed yourself and-whoever Aegisthus hates
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐμοί τε καὶ σοί τἄρ' ἐπεύξομαι τάδε;
for-me both and for-you then I-shall-pray these
ΧΟΡΟΣ αὐτὴ σὺ ταῦτα μανθάνουσ' ἤδη φράσαι.
yourself you these understanding already consider
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τίν' οὖν ἔτ' ἄλλον τῇδε προστιθῶ στάσει;
whom then still other to-this shall-I-add band
ΧΟΡΟΣ μέμνησ' Ὀρέστου, κεἰ θυραῖός ἐσθ' ὅμως. 115
remember Orestes even-if outside he-is nevertheless
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ εὖ τοῦτο, κἀφρένωσας οὐχ ἥκιστά με.
well this and-you-have-instructed not least me
ΧΟΡΟΣ τοῖς αἰτίοις νῦν τοῦ φόνου μεμνημένη —
for-the guilty now of-the murder mindful
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τί φῶ; δίδασκ' ἄπειρον ἐξηγουμένη.
what shall-I-say teach inexperienced explaining
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐλθεῖν τιν' αὐτοῖς δαίμον' ἢ βροτῶν τινα —
to-come some to-them spirit or of-mortals some
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πότερα δικαστὴν ἢ δικηφόρον λέγεις; 120
whether judge or avenger you-mean

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἁπλῶς τι φράζουσ', ὅστις ἀνταποκτενεῖ.
simply some saying who will-kill-in-return

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὶ ταῦτά μοὐστὶν εὐσεβῆ θεῶν πάρα;
and these to-me-are pious of-gods from

ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς δ' οὐ τὸν ἐχθρὸν ἀνταμείβεσθαι κακοῖς;
how and not the enemy to-repay with-evils

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ κῆρυξ μέγιστε τῶν ἄνω τε καὶ κάτω,
herald greatest of-the above both and below

ἄρηξον, Ἑρμῆ χθόνιε, κηρύξας ἐμοὶ
help Hermes of-the-underworld having-heralded for-me

τοὺς γῆς ἔνερθε δαίμονας κλύειν ἐμὰς
the of-earth below spirits to-hear my

εὐχάς, πατρῴων δωμάτων ἐπισκόπους,
prayers of-father's house watchers

καὶ Γαῖαν αὐτήν, ἣ τὰ πάντα τίκτεται,
and Earth herself who the all bears

θρέψασά τ' αὖθις τῶνδε κῦμα λαμβάνει·
having-nurtured and again of-these increase receives

κἀγὼ χέουσα τάσδε χέρνιβας βροτοῖς
and-I pouring these lustral-waters to-mortals

λέγω καλοῦσα πατέρ', "ἐποίκτιρόν τ' ἐμὲ
I-say calling father pity both me

φίλον τ' Ὀρέστην· πῶς ἀνάξομεν δόμοις;
dear and Orestes how shall-we-rule in-house

πεπραμένοι γὰρ νῦν γέ πως ἀλώμεθα
sold for now at-least somehow we-wander

πρὸς τῆς τεκούσης, ἄνδρα δ' ἀντηλλάξατο
by the having-borne husband and she-took-in-exchange

Αἴγισθον, ὅσπερ σοῦ φόνου μεταίτιος.
Aegisthus who of-your murder sharer

κἀγὼ μὲν ἀντίδουλος· ἐκ δὲ χρημάτων
and-I indeed in-place-of-a-slave from and possessions
φεύγων Ὀρέστης ἐστίν, οἱ δ' ὑπερκόπως
exiled Orestes is they and exceedingly
ἐν τοῖσι σοῖς πόνοισι χλίουσιν μέγα.
in — your toils exult greatly
ἐλθεῖν δ' Ὀρέστην δεῦρο σὺν τύχῃ τινὶ
to-come and Orestes hither with fortune some
κατεύχομαί σοι, καὶ σὺ κλῦθί μου, πάτερ·
I-pray to-you and you hear me father
αὐτῇ τέ μοι δὸς σωφρονεστέραν πολὺ
for-myself and to-me grant more-self-controlled much
μητρὸς γενέσθαι χεῖρά τ' εὐσεβεστέραν.
than-mother to-be hand and more-pious
ἡμῖν μὲν εὐχὰς τάσδε, τοῖς δ' ἐναντίοις
for-us indeed prayers these for-the but opponents
λέγω φανῆναί σου, πάτερ, τιμάορον,
I-pray to-appear your father avenger
καὶ τοὺς κτανόντας ἀντικατθανεῖν δίκῃ.
and the having-killed to-die-in-turn justly
ταῦτ' ἐν μέσῳ τίθημι τῆς καλῆς ἀρᾶς,
these in middle I-place of-the good prayer
κείνοις λέγουσα τήνδε τὴν κακὴν ἀράν·
on-them speaking this the evil curse
ἡμῖν δὲ πομπὸς ἔσθι τῶν ἐσθλῶν ἄνω,
for-us but escort be of-the good-things up
σὺν θεοῖσι καὶ γῇ καὶ δίκῃ νικηφόρῳ."
with gods and earth and justice victorious
τοιαῖσδ' ἐπ' εὐχαῖς τάσδ' ἐπισπένδω χοάς.
with-such on prayers these I-pour libations

ὑμᾶς δὲ κωκυτοῖς ἐπανθίζειν νόμος,
you and with-wailings to-crown custom
παιᾶνα τοῦ θανόντος ἐξαυδωμένας.
paean of-the dead uttering
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἵετε δάκρυ καναχὲς ὀλόμενον
let-fall tear splashing perishing
ὀλομένῳ δεσπότᾳ
for-perished master
πρὸς ἔρυμα τόδε κακῶν, κεδνῶν τ'
toward bulwark this of-evils of-good-things and
ἀπότροπον ἄγος ἀπεύχετον
averting pollution abominable
κεχυμένων χοᾶν. κλύε δέ μοι, κλύε, σέ-
having-been-poured libations hear and me hear majesty
βας ὦ δέσποτ', ἐξ ἀμαυρᾶς φρενός.
— O master from dim mind
ὀτοτοτοτοτοτοῖ,
oh-oh-oh
ἴτω τις δορυ-
let-come some spear-mighty
σθενὴς ἀνήρ, ἀναλυτὴρ δόμων,
— man deliverer of-house
Σκυθικά τ' ἐν χεροῖν παλίντον'
Scythian and in hands back-bent
ἐν ἔργῳ βέλη 'πιπάλλων Ἄρης
in work arrows brandishing Ares
σχέδιά τ' αὐτόκωπα νωμῶν ξίφη.
close-fighting and with-hilt-in-hand wielding swords

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἔχει μὲν ἤδη γαπότους χοὰς πατήρ·
has indeed already earth-drunk libations father
νέου δὲ μύθου τοῦδε κοινωνήσατε·
new and story of-this share
ΧΟΡΟΣ λέγοις ἄν· ὀρχεῖται δὲ καρδία φόβῳ.
you-may-speak — dances and heart with-fear
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὁρῶ τομαῖον τόνδε βόστρυχον τάφῳ.
I-see shorn this lock on-tomb
ΧΟΡΟΣ τίνος ποτ' ἀνδρός, ἢ βαθυζώνου κόρης;
of-whom ever man or deep-girdled maiden
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ εὐξύμβολον τόδ' ἐστὶ παντὶ δοξάσαι.
easy-to-guess this is for-everyone to-judge
ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς οὖν; παλαιὰ παρὰ νεωτέρας μάθω.
how then old-woman from younger may-I-learn
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐκ ἔστιν ὅστις πλὴν ἐμοῦ κείραιτό νιν.
not there-is who except me would-shear it
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐχθροὶ γὰρ οἷς προσῆκε πενθῆσαι τριχί.
enemies for to-whom it-belonged to-mourn with-hair
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὶ μὴν ὅδ' ἐστὶ κάρτ' ἰδεῖν ὁμόπτερος —
and indeed this is very to-see of-like-feather
ΧΟΡΟΣ ποίαις ἐθείραις; τοῦτο γὰρ θέλω μαθεῖν.
to-what locks this for I-wish to-learn
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ αὐτοῖσιν ἡμῖν κάρτα προσφερὴς ἰδεῖν.
to-ourselves to-us very like to-see
ΧΟΡΟΣ μῶν οὖν Ὀρέστου κρύβδα δῶρον ἦν τόδε;
surely-not then of-Orestes secretly gift was this
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ μάλιστ' ἐκείνου βοστρύχοις προσείδεται.
most of-his to-locks it-looks-like
ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ πῶς ἐκεῖνος δεῦρ' ἐτόλμησεν μολεῖν;
and how he hither dared to-come

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἔπεμψε χαίτην κουρίμην χάριν πατρός.
he-sent hair shorn grace of-father

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐχ ἧσσον εὐδάκρυτά μοι λέγεις τάδε,
not less tearful to-me you-say these

εἰ τῆσδε χώρας μήποτε ψαύσει ποδί.
if this land never will-touch with-foot

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ κἀμοὶ προσέστη καρδίας κλυδώνιον
and-to-me stood-against of-heart billow

χολῆς, ἐπαίσθην δ' ὡς διανταίῳ βέλει·
of-bile I-was-struck and as with-piercing dart

ἐξ ὀμμάτων δὲ δίψιοι πίπτουσί μοι
from eyes and thirsty fall to-me

σταγόνες ἄφρακτοι δυσχίμου πλημμυρίδος,
drops unchecked of-wintry flood

πλόκαμον ἰδούσῃ τόνδε· πῶς γὰρ ἐλπίσω
lock seeing this how for shall-I-hope

ἀστῶν τιν' ἄλλον τῆσδε δεσπόζειν φόβης;
of-citizens some other of-this to-own hair

ἀλλ' οὐδὲ μήν νιν ἡ κτανοῦσ' ἐκείρατο,
but nor indeed it the slayer cut-off

ἐμὴ δὲ μήτηρ, οὐδαμῶς ἐπώνυμον
my and mother in-no-way named

φρόνημα παισὶ δύσθεον πεπαμένη.
mind to-children godless having-acquired

ἐγὼ δ' ὅπως μὲν ἄντικρυς τάδ' αἰνέσω,
I and how indeed outright these I-may-allow

εἶναι τόδ' ἀγλάισμά μοι τοῦ φιλτάτου
to-be this ornament to-me of-the dearest

βροτῶν Ὀρέστου — σαίνομαι δ' ὑπ' ἐλπίδος.
of-mortals Orestes I-am-fawned-on and by hope

φεῦ.
alas
εἴθ' εἶχε φωνὴν εὔφρον' ἀγγέλου δίκην,
would-that it-had voice kind of-messenger like
ὅπως διφροντις οὖσα μὴ 'κινυσσόμην,
so-that double-minded being not I-were-tossed
ἀλλ' εὖ 'σαφήνει τόνδ' ἀποπτύσαι πλόκον,
but well it-were-clear this to-spurn lock
εἴπερ γ' ἀπ' ἐχθροῦ κρατὸς ἦν τετμημένος,
if-indeed at-least from hostile head it-was cut
ἢ ξυγγενὴς ὢν εἶχε συμπενθεῖν ἐμοὶ
or kin being it-could to-mourn-with me
ἄγαλμα τύμβου τοῦδε καὶ τιμὴν πατρός.
ornament of-tomb this and honor of-father
ἀλλ' εἰδότας μὲν τοὺς θεοὺς καλούμεθα,
but knowing indeed the gods we-invoke
οἵοισιν ἐν χειμῶσι ναυτίλων δίκην
what-sort in storms of-sailors like
στροβούμεθ'· εἰ δὲ χρὴ τυχεῖν σωτηρίας,
we-are-whirled if and it-is-fated to-meet safety
σμικροῦ γένοιτ' ἂν σπέρματος μέγας πυθμήν.
from-small would-grow — of-seed great stock
καὶ μὴν στίβοι γε, δεύτερον τεκμήριον,
and indeed tracks at-least second proof
ποδῶν ὅμοιοι τοῖς τ' ἐμοῖσιν ἐμφερεῖς —
of-feet like — and to-my resembling
καὶ γὰρ δύ' ἐστὸν τώδε περιγραφὰ ποδοῖν,
and for two are these outlines of-feet
αὐτοῦ τ' ἐκείνου καὶ συνεμπόρου τινός.
of-himself both of-him and of-fellow-traveler some

πτέρναι τενόντων θ' ὑπογραφαὶ μετρούμεναι
heels of-tendons and tracings measured
εἰς ταὐτὸ συμβαίνουσι τοῖς ἐμοῖς στίβοις.
to the-same coincide — with-my tracks
πάρεστι δ' ὠδὶς καὶ φρενῶν καταφθορά.
is-present and pang and of-mind ruin
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εὔχου τὰ λοιπά, τοῖς θεοῖς τελεσφόρους
pray the rest to-the gods fulfilling
εὐχὰς ἐπαγγέλλουσα, τυγχάνειν καλῶς.
prayers announcing to-succeed well
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐπεὶ τί νῦν ἔκατι δαιμόνων κυρῶ;
since what now by-favor of-the-gods do-I-obtain
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εἰς ὄψιν ἥκεις ὧνπερ ἐξηύχου πάλαι.
into sight you-have-come of-whom you-prayed long-ago
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὶ τίνα σύνοισθά μοι καλουμένη βροτῶν;
and whom do-you-know to-me calling of-mortals
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σύνοιδ' Ὀρέστην πολλά σ' ἐκπαγλουμένην.
I-know Orestes much you being-excited-about
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὶ πρὸς τί δῆτα τυγχάνω κατευγμάτων;
and to what then have-I-attained of-prayers
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὅδ' εἰμί· μὴ μάτευ' ἐμοῦ μᾶλλον φίλον.
here I-am not seek than-me more dear
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀλλ' ἦ δόλον τιν', ὦ ξέν', ἀμφί μοι πλέκεις;
but — trick some O stranger around me you-weave
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ αὐτὸς καθ' αὑτοῦ τἄρα μηχανορραφῶ.
myself against myself then I-contrive
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀλλ' ἐν κακοῖσι τοῖς ἐμοῖς γελᾶν θέλεις.
but at evils — my to-laugh you-wish
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ κἀν τοῖς ἐμοῖς ἄρ', εἴπερ ἔν γε τοῖσι σοῖς
and-at — my then if-indeed at at-least — your

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὡς ὄντ᾽ Ὀρέστην τάδε σ᾽ ἐγὼ προσεννέπω;
as being Orestes this you I am-to-address

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ αὐτὸν μὲν οὖν ὁρῶσα δυσμαθεῖς ἐμέ· 225
himself indeed then seeing you-are-slow-to-know me

κουρὰν δ᾽ ἰδοῦσα τήνδε κηδείου τριχὸς
lock but having-seen this of-mourning hair

ἰχνοσκοποῦσά τ᾽ ἐν στίβοισι τοῖς ἐμοῖς
tracking-footprints and in tracks — my

ἀνεπτερώθης κἀδόκεις ὁρᾶν ἐμέ.
you-took-wing and-you-thought to-see me

σκέψαι τομῇ προσθεῖσα βόστρυχον τριχὸς 230
look to-the-cut having-set lock of-hair

σαυτῆς ἀδελφοῦ σύμμετρον τὠμῷ κάρᾳ.
of-yourself of-brother matching with-my head

ἰδοῦ δ᾽ ὕφασμα τοῦτο, σῆς ἔργον χερός,
see and weaving this of-your work of-hand

σπάθης τε πληγὰς ἠδὲ θήρειον γραφήν.
of-batten and strokes and of-beasts picture

ἔνδον γενοῦ, χαρᾷ δὲ μὴ ᾽κπλαγῇς φρένας·
within become with-joy but not be-driven-out-of wits

τοὺς φιλτάτους γὰρ οἶδα νῷν ὄντας πικρούς.
the dearest for I-know to-us-two being bitter

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ φίλτατον μέλημα δώμασιν πατρός, 235
O dearest care to-the-house of-father

δακρυτὸς ἐλπὶς σπέρματος σωτηρίου,
wept-for hope of-seed saving

ἀλκῇ πεποιθὼς δῶμ᾽ ἀνακτήσῃ πατρός.
in-strength trusting house you-will-regain of-father

ὦ τερπνὸν ὄμμα τέσσαρας μοίρας ἔχον
O delightful eye four portions having

ἐμοί· προσαυδᾶν δ' ἐστ' ἀναγκαίως ἔχον
to-me to-address and it-is necessarily being
πατέρα τε, καὶ τὸ μητρὸς ἐς σέ μοι ῥέπει
father both and the of-mother to you to-me inclines
στέργηθρον· ἡ δὲ πανδίκως ἐχθαίρεται·
love she and most-justly is-hated
καὶ τῆς τυθείσης νηλεῶς ὁμοσπόρου·
and of-the sacrificed pitilessly sister
πιστὸς δ' ἀδελφὸς ἦσθ', ἐμοὶ σέβας φέρων
faithful and brother you-were to-me reverence bringing
μόνος· Κράτος τε καὶ Δίκη σὺν τῷ τρίτῳ
only Might both and Justice with the third
πάντων μεγίστῳ Ζηνὶ συγγένοιτό σοι.
of-all greatest Zeus may-be-with you
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Ζεῦ Ζεῦ, θεωρὸς τῶνδε πραγμάτων γενοῦ·
Zeus Zeus spectator of-these affairs become
ἰδοῦ δὲ γένναν εὖνιν αἰετοῦ πατρός,
look and brood bereft of-eagle father
θανόντος ἐν πλεκταῖσι καὶ σπειράμασιν
having-died in coils and twists
δεινῆς ἐχίδνης. τοὺς δ' ἀπωρφανισμένους
of-dread viper them and orphaned
νῆστις πιέζει λιμός· οὐ γὰρ ἐντελεῖς
fasting presses hunger not for full-grown
θήραν πατρῴαν προσφέρειν σκηνήμασιν.
prey father's to-bring to-the-nest
οὕτω δὲ κἀμὲ τήνδε τ', Ἠλέκτραν λέγω,
so and and-me this and Electra I-mean
ἰδεῖν πάρεστί σοι, πατροστερῆ γόνον,
to-see it-is-possible to-you fatherless offspring

ἄμφω φυγὴν ἔχοντε τὴν αὐτὴν δόμων.
both exile having the same from-house
καὶ τοῦ θυτῆρος καί σε τιμῶντος μέγα
and of-the sacrificer and you honoring greatly
πατρὸς νεοσσοὺς τούσδ' ἀποφθείρας πόθεν
of-father nestlings these having-destroyed whence
ἕξεις ὁμοίας χειρὸς εὔθοινον γέρας;
will-you-have of-like hand rich-feasting honor
οὔτ' αἰετοῦ γένεθλ' ἀποφθείρας, πάλιν
nor of-eagle offspring having-destroyed again
πέμπειν ἔχοις ἂν σήματ' εὐπιθῆ βροτοῖς·
to-send you-could — signs persuasive to-mortals
οὔτ' ἀρχικός σοι πᾶς ὅδ' αὐανθεὶς πυθμὴν
nor royal to-you all this withered stock
βωμοῖς ἀρήξει βουθύτοις ἐν ἤμασιν.
altars will-aid ox-sacrificing on days
κόμιζ', ἀπὸ σμικροῦ δ' ἂν ἄρειας μέγαν
foster from small and — you-may-raise great
δόμον, δοκοῦντα κάρτα νῦν πεπτωκέναι.
house seeming very now to-have-fallen
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ παῖδες, ὦ σωτῆρες ἑστίας πατρός,
O children O saviors of-hearth of-father
σιγᾶθ', ὅπως μὴ πεύσεταί τις, ὦ τέκνα,
be-silent lest — will-learn someone O children
γλώσσης χάριν δὲ πάντ' ἀπαγγείλῃ τάδε
of-tongue for-the-sake and all report these
πρὸς τοὺς κρατοῦντας· οὓς ἴδοιμ' ἐγώ ποτε
to the rulers whom may-see I ever
θανόντας ἐν κηκῖδι πισσήρει φλογός.
dead in ooze pitchy of-flame

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὔτοι προδώσει Λοξίου μεγασθενὴς
surely-not will-betray of-Loxias mighty
χρησμὸς κελεύων τόνδε κίνδυνον περᾶν,
oracle bidding this danger to-pass-through
κἀξορθιάζων πολλὰ καὶ δυσχειμέρους
and-raising-loud many and wintry
ἄτας ὑφ' ἧπαρ θερμὸν ἐξαυδώμενος,
ruins under liver hot uttering
εἰ μὴ μέτειμι τοῦ πατρὸς τοὺς αἰτίους·
if not I-pursue of-the father the guilty
τρόπον τὸν αὐτὸν ἀνταποκτεῖναι λέγων,
manner the same to-kill-in-return saying
ἀποχρημάτοισι ζημίαις ταυρούμενον·
by-property-taking penalties infuriated
αὐτὸν δ' ἔφασκε τῇ φίλῃ ψυχῇ τάδε
myself and he-said with-the dear soul these
τείσειν μ' ἔχοντα πολλὰ δυστερπῆ κακά.
to-pay me having many joyless evils
τὰ μὲν γὰρ ἐκ γῆς δυσφρόνων μηνίματα
the indeed for from earth of-malignant wraths
βροτοῖς πιφαύσκων εἶπε, τὰς δ' αἰνῶν νόσους,
to-mortals revealing he-told the and speaking-of plagues
σαρκῶν ἐπαμβατῆρας ἀγρίαις γνάθοις
of-flesh mounting with-savage jaws
λειχῆνας ἐξέσθοντας ἀρχαίαν φύσιν·
leprous-sores eating-out ancient nature
λευκὰς δὲ κόρσας τῇδ' ἐπαντέλλειν νόσῳ·
white and hairs on-this to-sprout disease
ἄλλας τ' ἐφώνει προσβολάς Ἐρινύων
other and he-spoke-of assaults of-Erinyes

ἐκ τῶν πατρῴων αἱμάτων τελουμένας·
from the father's blood accomplished
τὸ γὰρ σκοτεινὸν τῶν ἐνερτέρων βέλος
the for dark of-the nether-gods shaft
ἐκ προστροπαίων ἐν γένει πεπτωκότων,
from suppliants in race fallen
καὶ λύσσα καὶ μάταιος ἐκ νυκτῶν φόβος
and madness and vain from nights fear
ὁρῶντα λαμπρὸν ἐν σκότῳ νωμῶντ' ὀφρὺν
seeing clearly in darkness moving brow
κινεῖ, ταράσσει, καὶ διώκεσθαι πόλεως
stirs troubles and to-be-driven from-city
χαλκηλάτῳ πλάστιγγι λυμανθὲν δέμας.
with-bronze-studded scourge mangled body
καὶ τοῖς τοιούτοις οὔτε κρατῆρος μέρος
and for-the such neither of-bowl part
εἶναι μετασχεῖν, οὐ φιλοσπόνδου λιβός,
to-be to-share not of-libation-loving pouring
βωμῶν τ' ἀπείργειν οὐχ ὁρωμένην πατρὸς
from-altars and to-bar not seen of-father
μῆνιν· δέχεσθαι δ' οὔτε συλλύειν τινά.
wrath to-receive and nor to-lodge-with anyone
πάντων δ' ἄτιμον κἄφιλον θνῄσκειν χρόνῳ
of-all and unhonored and-friendless to-die in-time
κακῶς ταριχευθέντα παμφθάρτῳ μόρῳ.
evilly withered all-destroying by-death
τοιοῖσδε χρησμοῖς ἆρα χρὴ πεποιθέναι;
such oracles — must to-trust
κεἰ μὴ πέποιθα, τοὔργον ἔστ' ἐργαστέον.
and-if not I-trust the-deed is to-be-done

πολλοὶ γὰρ εἰς ἓν συμπίτνουσιν ἵμεροι,
many for to one fall-together desires
θεοῦ τ᾽ ἐφετμαὶ καὶ πατρὸς πένθος μέγα,
of-god and commands and of-father grief great
καὶ πρὸς πιέζει χρημάτων ἀχηνία,
and besides presses of-goods want
τὸ μὴ πολίτας εὐκλεεστάτους βροτῶν,
the not citizens most-glorious of-mortals
Τροίας ἀναστατῆρας εὐδόξῳ φρενί,
of-Troy overthrowers with-glorious spirit
δυοῖν γυναικοῖν ὧδ᾽ ὑπηκόους πέλειν.
of-two women thus subject to-be
θήλεια γὰρ φρήν· εἰ δὲ μή, τάχ᾽ εἴσεται.
female for mind if but not soon he-will-know

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ ὦ μεγάλαι Μοῖραι, Διόθεν
but O great Fates from-Zeus
τῇδε τελευτᾶν,
this-way to-end
τὸ δίκαιον μεταβαίνει.
the just passes
ἀντὶ μὲν ἐχθρᾶς γλώσσης ἐχθρὰ
for indeed hostile tongue hostile
γλῶσσα τελείσθω· τοὐφειλόμενον
tongue let-be-paid the-due
πράσσουσα Δίκη μέγ᾽ ἀυτεῖ·
exacting Justice greatly cries
ἀντὶ δὲ πληγῆς φονίας φονίαν
for and blow murderous murderous

πληγὴν τινέτω. δράσαντι παθεῖν,
blow let-pay for-the-doer to-suffer
τριγέρων μῦθος τάδε φωνεῖ.
thrice-old saying these says

IV · THE INVOCATION

Orestes, Electra, and the chorus call on the dead father below. They wish he had died gloriously at Troy, and mourn that his wife buried him unlamented and mutilated. Electra tells how she was shut away like a fierce dog. They beg Zeus and the powers of the earth to send help, and the chorus declares that blood demands blood. Orestes resolves to make his mother pay for dishonoring his father, though he die for it.

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ πάτερ αἰνόπατερ, τί σοι
O father dread-father what to-you
φάμενος ἢ τί ῥέξας
saying or what doing
τύχοιμ' ἂν ἔκαθεν οὐρίσας,
might-I-hit — from-afar wafting
ἔνθα σ' ἔχουσιν εὐναί,
where you hold beds
σκότῳ φάος ἀντίμοι-
to-darkness light equal-in-fate
ρον; χάριτες δ' ὁμοίως
— graces but alike
κέκληνται γόος εὐκλεὴς
are-called lament glorious
προσθοδόμοις Ἀτρείδαις.
for-the-former-of-the-house Atreidae

ΧΟΡΟΣ τέκνον, φρόνημα τοῦ
child mind of-the
θανόντος οὐ δαμάζει
dead not tames
πυρὸς μαλερὰ γνάθος,
of-fire ravening jaw
φαίνει δ' ὕστερον ὀργάς·
shows and later wraths
ὀτοτύζεται δ' ὁ θνῄσκων,
is-wailed and the dying
ἀναφαίνεται δ' ὁ βλάπτων.
is-revealed and the harming
πατέρων τε καὶ τεκόντων
of-fathers both and of-parents
γόος ἔνδικος ματεύει
lament just seeks
τὸ πᾶν ἀμφιλαφὴς ταραχθείς.
the whole abundant stirred-up
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ κλῦθί νυν, ὦ πάτερ, ἐν μέρει
hear now O father in turn
πολυδάκρυτα πένθη.
much-tearful griefs
δίπαις τοί σ' ἐπιτύμβιος
two-children surely you over-the-tomb
θρῆνος ἀναστενάζει.
dirge bewails
τάφος δ' ἱκέτας δέδεκται
tomb and suppliants has-received
φυγάδας θ' ὁμοίως.
exiles and alike

τί τῶνδ' εὖ, τί δ' ἄτερ κακῶν;
what of-these good what and without evils
οὐκ ἀτρίακτος ἄτα;
not unthrown ruin
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' ἔτ' ἂν ἐκ τῶνδε θεὸς χρῄζων
but still — from these god willing
θείη κελάδους εὐφθογγοτέρους·
could-make cries better-sounding
ἀντὶ δὲ θρήνων ἐπιτυμβιδίων
instead-of and dirges at-the-tomb
παιὰν μελάθροις ἐν βασιλείοις
paean in-halls in royal
νεοκρᾶτα φίλον κομίσειεν.
newly-mixed friend could-bring
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εἰ γὰρ ὑπ' Ἰλίῳ
would-that for under Ilium
πρός τινος Λυκίων, πάτερ,
by some of-Lycians father
δορίτμητος κατηναρίσθης·
spear-cut you-had-been-slain
λιπὼν ἂν εὔκλειαν ἐν δόμοισι
having-left — glory in house
τέκνων τ' ἐν κελεύθοις
of-children and in paths
ἐπιστρεπτὸν αἰῶ
admired life
κτίσας πολύχωστον ἂν εἶχες
having-founded high-heaped — you-would-have
τάφον διαποντίου γᾶς
tomb of-over-the-sea land

δώμασιν εὐφόρητον,
for-the-house easy-to-bear

ΧΟΡΟΣ φίλος φίλοισι τοῖς
dear to-dear the

ἐκεῖ καλῶς θανοῦσιν
there nobly dead

κατὰ χθονὸς ἐμπρέπων
beneath earth eminent

σεμνότιμος ἀνάκτωρ,
august-honored lord

πρόπολός τε τῶν μεγίστων
minister and of-the greatest

χθονίων ἐκεῖ τυράννων·
of-the-underworld there rulers

βασιλεὺς γὰρ ἦσθ', ὄφρ' ἔζης,
king for you-were while you-lived

μόριμον λάχος πιπλάντων
of-fated lot fulfilling

χεροῖν πεισίβροτόν τε βάκτρον.
with-hands mortal-persuading and staff

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ μηδ' ὑπὸ Τρωίας
nor under Troy's

τείχεσι φθίμενος, πάτερ,
walls perished father

μετ' ἄλλῳ δουρικμῆτι λαῷ
with other spear-slain host

παρὰ Σκαμάνδρου πόρον τεθάφθαι.
by of-Scamander ford to-have-been-buried

πάρος δ' οἱ κτανόντες
before and the having-killed

νιν οὕτως δαμῆναι
him thus to-have-been-subdued
φίλοις, θανατηφόρον αἶσαν
by-friends death-bringing fate
πρόσω τινὰ πυνθάνεσθαι
far someone to-learn
τῶνδε πόνων ἄπειρον.
of-these troubles unknowing
ΧΟΡΟΣ ταῦτα μέν, ὦ παῖ, κρείσσονα χρυσοῦ,
these indeed O child better than-gold
μεγάλης δὲ τύχης καὶ ὑπερβορέου
than-great and fortune and Hyperborean
μείζονα φωνεῖς· δύνασαι γάρ.
greater you-utter you-can for
ἀλλὰ διπλῆς γὰρ τῆσδε μαράγνης
but double for of-this scourge
δοῦπος ἱκνεῖται· τῶν μὲν ἀρωγοὶ
thud comes of-the-one indeed helpers
κατὰ γῆς ἤδη, τῶν δὲ κρατούντων
under earth already of-the and ruling
χέρες οὐχ ὅσιαι στυγερῶν τούτων·
hands not holy of-hateful these
παισὶ δὲ μᾶλλον γεγένηται.
for-children and more has-become
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τοῦτο διαμπερὲς οὖς
this right-through ear
ἵκεθ' ἅπερ τι βέλος.
has-come like some arrow
Ζεῦ Ζεῦ, κάτωθεν ἀμπέμπων
Zeus Zeus from-below sending-up

ὑστερόποινον ἄταν
late-avenging ruin

βροτῶν τλάμονι καὶ πανούργῳ
of-mortals for-wretched and villainous

χειρὶ — τοκεῦσι δ' ὅμως τελεῖται.
hand for-parents and nevertheless it-will-be-accomplished

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐφυμνῆσαι γένοιτό μοι πυκά-
to-raise-a-hymn may-it-be to-me shrill

εντ' ὀλολυγμὸν ἀνδρὸς
— cry of-man

θεινομένου, γυναικός τ'
being-struck of-woman and

ὀλλυμένας· τί γὰρ κεύθω φρενὸς οἷον ἔμπας
perishing why for do-I-hide of-mind what nevertheless

ποταῖται; πάροιθεν δὲ πρῴρας
flits before and of-prow

δριμὺς ἄηται κραδίας
bitter blows of-heart

θυμὸς ἔγκοτον στύγος.
wrath rancorous loathing

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καί πότ' ἂν ἀμφιθαλὴς
and when — flourishing

Ζεὺς ἐπὶ χεῖρα βάλοι,
Zeus on hand would-lay

φεῦ φεῦ, κάρανα δαΐξας;
alas alas heads having-cleft

πιστὰ γένοιτο χώρᾳ.
pledges may-be to-land

δίκαν δ' ἐξ ἀδίκων ἀπαιτῶ.
justice and from wrongs I-demand

κλῦτε δὲ Γᾶ χθονίων τε τιμαί.
hear and Earth of-the-underworld and powers

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλὰ νόμος μὲν φονίας σταγόνας
but law indeed murderous drops

χυμένας ἐς πέδον ἄλλο προσαιτεῖν
poured to ground other to-demand

αἷμα. βοᾷ γὰρ λοιγὸς Ἐρινὺν
blood cries for destruction Erinys

παρὰ τῶν πρότερον φθιμένων ἄτην
from the before perished ruin

ἑτέραν ἐπάγουσαν ἐπ᾽ ἄτῃ.
other bringing on ruin

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πόποι δὴ νερτέρων τυραννίδες,
alas indeed of-the-dead tyrannies

ἴδετε πολυκρατεῖς Ἀραὶ φθινομένων,
see mighty Curses of-the-perished

ἴδεσθ᾽ Ἀτρειδᾶν τὰ λοίπ᾽ ἀμηχάνως
see of-the-Atreidae the remnants helplessly

ἔχοντα καὶ δωμάτων
faring and of-house

ἄτιμα. πᾷ τις τράποιτ᾽ ἄν, ὦ Ζεῦ;
dishonored where one could-turn — O Zeus

ΧΟΡΟΣ πέπαλται δαῦτέ μοι φίλον κέαρ
quivers and-again to-me dear heart

τόνδε κλύουσαν οἶκτον
this hearing lament

καὶ τότε μὲν δύσελπις,
and then indeed despondent

σπλάγχνα δέ μοι κελαινοῦ-
vitals and to-me grow-dark
ται πρὸς ἔπος κλυούσᾳ.
— at word hearing
ὅταν δ' αὖτ' ἐπ' ἀλκῆς ἐπάρῃ μ'
when and again to strength lifts me
ἐλπὶς, ἀπέστασεν ἄχος
hope has-removed grief
προσφανεῖσά μοι καλῶς.
appearing to-me fairly
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τί δ' ἂν φάντες τύχοιμεν ἢ τά περ
what and — saying might-we-hit or the-things indeed
πάθομεν ἄχεα πρός γε τῶν τεκομένων;
we-suffered griefs from at-least the parents
πάρεστι σαίνειν, τὰ δ' οὔτι θέλγεται.
it-is-possible to-fawn they but not-at-all are-charmed
λύκος γὰρ ὥστ' ὠμόφρων
wolf for like raw-minded
ἄσαντος ἐκ ματρός ἐστι θυμός.
implacable from mother is spirit
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔκοψα κομμὸν Ἄριον ἔν τε Κισσίας
I-beat dirge Arian in and of-Cissian
νόμοις ἰηλεμιστρίας,
fashion of-wailing-woman
ἀπριγδόπληκτα πολυπλάνητα δ' ἦν ἰδεῖν
with-clenched-fist-struck much-wandering and was to-see
ἐπασσυτεροτριβῆ τὰ χερὸς ὀρέγματα
in-quick-succession the of-hand stretchings
ἄνωθεν ἀνέκαθεν, κτύπῳ δ' ἐπερρόθει
from-above from-on-high with-beating and resounded

κροτητὸν ἀμὸν καὶ πανάθλιον κάρα.
battered my and all-wretched head

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἰὼ δαΐα
oh cruel

πάντολμε μᾶτερ, δαΐαις ἐν ἐκφοραῖς
all-daring mother cruel at funeral

ἄνευ πολιτᾶν ἄνακτ',
without citizens king

ἄνευ δὲ πενθημάτων
without and mournings

ἔτλας ἀνοίμωκτον ἄνδρα θάψαι.
you-dared unbewailed husband to-bury

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τὸ πᾶν ἀτίμως ἔλεξας, οἴμοι.
the whole dishonorably you-told ah-me

πατρὸς δ' ἀτίμωσιν ἆρα τείσει
of-father and dishonor — she-will-pay

ἔκατι μὲν δαιμόνων,
by-will indeed of-spirits

ἔκατι δ' ἀμᾶν χερῶν;
by-will and of-my hands

ἔπειτ' ἐγὼ νοσφίσας ὀλοίμαν.
then I having-killed may-I-perish

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐμασχαλίσθη δέ γ', ὡς τόδ' εἰδῇς·
he-was-mutilated and at-least that this you-may-know

ἔπρασσε δ', ᾗπέρ νιν ὧδε θάπτει,
she-did and she-who him thus buries

μόρον κτίσαι μωμένα
death to-make desiring

ἄφερτον αἰῶνι σῷ.
unbearable to-life your

κλύεις πατρῴους δύας ἀτίμους.
you-hear father's woes dishonored

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ λέγεις πατρῷον μόρον· ἐγὼ δ' ἀπεστάτουν
you-tell father's fate I and was-kept-apart

ἄτιμος, οὐδὲν ἀξία·
dishonored nothing worth

μυχῷ δ' ἄφερκτος πολυσινοῦς κυνὸς δίκαν
in-inner-room and shut-in of-fierce dog like

ἑτοιμότερα γέλωτος ἀνέφερον λίβη,
readier than-laughter I-raised tears

χέουσα πολύδακρυν γόον κεκρυμμένα.
pouring much-tearful lament hidden

τοιαῦτ' ἀκούων ἐν φρεσὶν γράφου ***.
such hearing in mind write (lacuna)

ΧΟΡΟΣ δι' ὤτων δὲ συν-
through ears and pierce

τέτραινε μῦθον ἡσύχῳ φρενῶν βάσει.
— word with-quiet of-mind step

τὰ μὲν γὰρ οὕτως ἔχει,
the indeed for thus is

τὰ δ' αὐτὸς ὄργα μαθεῖν.
the and yourself be-eager to-learn

πρέπει δ' ἀκάμπτῳ μένει καθήκειν.
it-befits and with-unbending fury to-enter

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σέ τοι λέγω, ξυγγενοῦ, πάτερ, φίλοις.
you surely I-tell be-with father to-friends

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐγὼ δ' ἐπιφθέγγομαι κεκλαυμένα.
I and add weeping

ΧΟΡΟΣ στάσις δὲ πάγκοινος ἅδ' ἐπιρροθεῖ·
band and all-together this resounds
ἄκουσον ἐς φάος μολών,
hear to light having-come
ξὺν δὲ γενοῦ πρὸς ἐχθρούς.
with and be against enemies
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Ἄρης Ἄρει ξυμβαλεῖ, Δίκᾳ Δίκα.
Ares with-Ares will-clash with-Justice Justice
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἰὼ θεοί, κραίνετ' ἐνδίκως δίκας.
oh gods accomplish justly justice
ΧΟΡΟΣ τρόμος μ' ὑφέρπει κλύουσαν εὐγμάτων.
trembling me creeps-over hearing of-prayers
τὸ μόρσιμον μένει πάλαι,
the fated waits long
εὐχομένοις δ' ἂν ἔλθοι.
for-those-praying and — would-come
ὦ πόνος ἐγγενὴς
O toil inborn
καὶ παράμουσος Ἄτας
and discordant of-Ruin
αἱματόεσσα πλαγά.
bloody stroke
ἰὼ δύστον' ἄφερτα κήδη·
oh grievous unbearable sorrows
ἰὼ δυσκατάπαυστον ἄλγος.
oh hard-to-stop pain
δώμασιν ἔμμοτον
for-the-house a-salve
τῶνδ' ἄκος, οὐδ' ἀπ' ἄλλων
of-these cure not from others

ἔκτοθεν, ἀλλ᾽ ἀπ᾽ αὐτῶν,
from-outside but from themselves
δι᾽ ὠμὰν ἔριν αἱματηράν.
through cruel strife bloody
θεῶν τῶν κατὰ γᾶς ὅδ᾽ ὕμνος.
of-gods of-the under earth this hymn
ἀλλὰ κλύοντες, μάκαρες χθόνιοι,
but hearing blessed-ones of-the-underworld
τῆσδε κατευχῆς πέμπετ᾽ ἀρωγὴν
of-this prayer send help
παισὶν προφρόνως ἐπὶ νίκῃ.
to-children readily for victory

V · THE PLAN

Orestes and Electra pray once more for their father's help. Orestes asks why his mother sent libations; the chorus tells her dream of bearing a serpent that drew blood with her milk. Orestes takes it as a sign that he is the serpent who will kill her. He sends Electra inside and plans to come to the gate with Pylades as Phocian strangers and kill Aegisthus on sight.

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πάτερ, τρόποισιν οὐ τυραννικοῖς θανών,
father in-ways not kingly having-died
αἰτουμένῳ μοι δὸς κράτος τῶν σῶν δόμων.
asking to-me give power — of-your house
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ κἀγώ, πάτερ, τοιάνδε σου χρείαν ἔχω,
and-I father such of-you need have
φυγεῖν μέγαν προσθεῖσαν Αἰγίσθῳ φθόρον.
to-escape great having-brought on-Aegisthus destruction

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὕτω γὰρ ἄν σοι δαῖτες ἔννομοι βροτῶν
so for — for-you feasts customary of-mortals
κτιζοίατ'· εἰ δὲ μή, παρ' εὐδείπνοις ἔσῃ
would-be-founded if but not among well-feasted you-will-be
ἄτιμος ἐμπύροισι κνισωτοῖς χθονός.
unhonored at-burnt-offerings savory of-land
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ κἀγὼ χοάς σοι τῆς ἐμῆς παγκληρίας
and-I libations to-you — of-my full-inheritance
οἴσω πατρῴων ἐκ δόμων γαμηλίους·
will-bring father's from house bridal
πάντων δὲ πρῶτον τόνδε πρεσβεύσω τάφον.
of-all and first this I-shall-honor tomb
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ Γαῖ', ἄνες μοι πατέρ' ἐποπτεῦσαι μάχην.
O Earth send-up to-me father to-watch-over battle
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ Περσέφασσα, δὸς δ' ἔτ' εὔμορφον κράτος.
O Persephassa give and yet fair power
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μέμνησο λουτρῶν οἷς ἐνοσφίσθης, πάτερ.
remember bath in-which you-were-robbed father
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ μέμνησο δ' ἀμφίβληστρον ὡς ἐκαίνισαν.
remember and net how they-handselled
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πέδαις δ' ἀχαλκεύτοις ἐθηρεύθης, πάτερ.
with-fetters and not-forged-of-bronze you-were-caught father
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ αἰσχρῶς τε βουλευτοῖσιν ἐν καλύμμασιν.
shamefully and devised in coverings
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἆρ' ἐξεγείρῃ τοῖσδ' ὀνείδεσιν, πάτερ;
— are-you-roused by-these reproaches father
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἆρ' ὀρθὸν αἴρεις φίλτατον τὸ σὸν κάρα;
— do-you-raise upright dearest — your head

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἤτοι δίκην ἄλλε σύμμαχον φίλοις,
either justice send ally to-friends
ἢ τὰς ὁμοίας ἀντίδος λαβὰς λαβεῖν,
or the like in-turn-grant holds to-take
εἴπερ κρατηθείς γ' ἀντινικῆσαι θέλεις.
if-indeed overcome at-least to-conquer-in-turn you-wish
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὶ τῆσδ' ἄκουσον λοισθίου βοῆς, πάτερ,
and of-this hear last cry father
ἰδὼν νεοσσοὺς τούσδ' ἐφημένους τάφῳ·
seeing nestlings these sitting at-tomb
οἴκτιρε θῆλυν ἄρσενός θ' ὁμοῦ γόνον,
pity female of-male and together offspring
καὶ μὴ 'ξαλείψῃς σπέρμα Πελοπιδῶν τόδε·
and not wipe-out seed of-Pelopids this
οὕτω γὰρ οὐ τέθνηκας οὐδέ περ θανών·
so for not you-have-died not-even though having-died
παῖδες γὰρ ἀνδρὶ κληδόνες σωτήριοι
children for to-man voices saving
θανόντι· φελλοὶ δ' ὡς ἄγουσι δίκτυον,
to-the-dead corks and as draw net
τὸν ἐκ βυθοῦ κλωστῆρα σῴζοντες λίνου.
the from deep line saving of-flax
ἄκου', ὑπὲρ σοῦ τοιάδ' ἔστ' ὀδύρματα.
hear for you such are laments
αὐτὸς δὲ σῴζῃ τόνδε τιμήσας λόγον.
yourself and you-are-saved this having-honored word
ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ἀμεμφῆ τόνδ' ἐτείνατον λόγον,
and indeed blameless this you-two-drew-out word
τίμημα τύμβου τῆς ἀνοιμώκτου τύχης.
payment of-tomb of-the unlamented fortune

τὰ δ' ἄλλ', ἐπειδὴ δρᾶν κατώρθωσαι φρενί,
the and rest since to-do you-are-resolved in-mind
ἔρδοις ἂν ἤδη δαίμονος πειρώμενος.
you-may-act — now of-fortune making-trial
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἔσται· πυθέσθαι δ' οὐδέν ἐστ' ἔξω δρόμου,
it-shall-be to-learn and nothing is out-of course
πόθεν χοὰς ἔπεμψεν, ἐκ τίνος λόγου
whence libations she-sent from what account
μεθύστερον τιμῶσ' ἀνήκεστον πάθος;
too-late honoring incurable suffering
θανόντι δ' οὐ φρονοῦντι δειλαία χάρις
to-the-dead and not thinking paltry grace
ἐπέμπετ'· οὐκ ἔχοιμ' ἂν εἰκάσαι τόδε.
was-sent not I-could — to-guess this
τὰ δῶρα μείω δ' ἐστὶ τῆς ἁμαρτίας.
the gifts less but are than-the offense
τὰ πάντα γάρ τις ἐκχέας ἀνθ' αἵματος
the all for one pouring-out for blood
ἑνός, μάτην ὁ μόχθος· ὧδ' ἔχει λόγος.
of-one in-vain the toil thus has saying
θέλοντι δ', εἴπερ οἶσθ', ἐμοὶ φράσον τάδε.
to-wishing but if-indeed you-know to-me tell these
ΧΟΡΟΣ οἶδ', ὦ τέκνον, παρῆ γάρ· ἔκ τ' ὀνειράτων
I-know O child I-was-present for from and dreams
καὶ νυκτιπλάγκτων δειμάτων πεπαλμένη
and night-wandering terrors shaken
χοὰς ἔπεμψε τάσδε δύσθεος γυνή.
libations sent these godless woman
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἦ καὶ πέπυσθε τοὔναρ, ὥστ' ὀρθῶς φράσαι;
— and have-you-learned the-dream so-as rightly to-tell

ΧΟΡΟΣ τεκεῖν δράκοντ᾽ ἔδοξεν, ὡς αὐτὴ λέγει.
to-bear serpent she-thought as she-herself says

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καὶ ποῖ τελευτᾷ καὶ καρανοῦται λόγος;
and where ends and is-summed-up story

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐν σπαργάνοισι παιδὸς ὁρμίσαι δίκην.
in swaddling-clothes of-child to-lay like

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τίνος βορᾶς χρῄζοντα, νεογενὲς δάκος;
of-what food needing newborn monster

ΧΟΡΟΣ αὐτὴ προσέσχε μαζὸν ἐν τὠνείρατι.
she-herself offered breast in the-dream

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καὶ πῶς ἄτρωτον οὖθαρ ἦν ὑπὸ στύγους;
and how unwounded udder was by the-loathsome-thing

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὥστ᾽ ἐν γάλακτι θρόμβον αἵματος σπάσαι.
so-that in milk clot of-blood to-draw

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὔτοι μάταιον· ἀνδρὸς ὄψανον πέλει.
surely-not vain of-man vision is

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἡ δ᾽ ἐξ ὕπνου κέκλαγγεν ἐπτοημένη.
she and from sleep shrieked terrified

πολλοὶ δ᾽ ἀνῆθον, ἐκτυφλωθέντες σκότῳ,
many and blazed-up blinded by-darkness

λαμπτῆρες ἐν δόμοισι δεσποίνης χάριν·
lamps in house of-mistress for-the-sake

πέμπει τ᾽ ἔπειτα τάσδε κηδείους χοάς,
she-sends and then these funeral libations

ἄκος τομαῖον ἐλπίσασα πημάτων.
remedy surgical having-hoped of-woes

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἀλλ᾽ εὔχομαι γῇ τῇδε καὶ πατρὸς τάφῳ
but I-pray to-earth this and of-father to-tomb

τοὔνειρον εἶναι τοῦτ᾽ ἐμοὶ τελεσφόρον.
the-dream to-be this to-me fulfilling

κρίνω δέ τοί νιν ὥστε συγκόλλως ἔχειν.
I-judge and surely it so-as fittingly to-be
εἰ γὰρ τὸν αὐτὸν χῶρον ἐκλιπὼν ἐμοὶ
if for the same place having-left me
οὗφις ἐμοῖσι σπαργάνοις ὡπλίζετο,
the-snake in-my swaddling-clothes was-armed
καὶ μαστὸν ἀμφέχασκ' ἐμὸν θρεπτήριον,
and breast gaped-around my nourishing
θρόμβῳ δ' ἔμειξεν αἵματος φίλον γάλα,
with-clot and mixed of-blood dear milk
ἡ δ' ἀμφὶ τάρβει τῷδ' ἐπώμωξεν πάθει,
she and about with-terror this cried-woe at-suffering
δεῖ τοί νιν, ὡς ἔθρεψεν ἔκπαγλον τέρας,
must surely her as she-nursed dreadful portent
θανεῖν βιαίως· ἐκδρακοντωθεὶς δ' ἐγὼ
to-die violently turned-serpent and I
κτείνω νιν, ὡς τοὔνειρον ἐννέπει τόδε.
kill her as the-dream says this
ΧΟΡΟΣ τερασκόπον δὴ τῶνδέ σ' αἱροῦμαι πέρι.
reader-of-portents indeed in-these you I-choose about
γένοιτο δ' οὕτως. τἄλλα δ' ἐξηγοῦ φίλοις,
may-it-be and so the-rest and expound to-friends
τοὺς μέν τι ποιεῖν, τοὺς δὲ μή τι δρᾶν λέγων.
the indeed something to-do the and not anything to-do telling
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἁπλοῦς ὁ μῦθος· τήνδε μὲν στείχειν ἔσω,
simple the plan this indeed to-go within
αἰνῶ δὲ κρύπτειν τάσδε συνθήκας ἐμάς,
I-bid and to-hide these agreements my
ὡς ἂν δόλῳ κτείναντες ἄνδρα τίμιον
so-that — by-guile having-killed man honored

δόλοισι καὶ ληφθῶσιν ἐν ταὐτῷ βρόχῳ
by-guile also may-be-caught in the-same noose
θανόντες, ᾗ καὶ Λοξίας ἐφήμισεν,
dying as also Loxias declared
ἄναξ Ἀπόλλων, μάντις ἀψευδὴς τὸ πρίν.
lord Apollo prophet unlying the before
ξένῳ γὰρ εἰκώς, παντελῆ σαγὴν ἔχων,
to-stranger for like full harness having
ἥξω σὺν ἀνδρὶ τῷδ' ἐφ' ἑρκείους πύλας
I-shall-come with man this to courtyard gates
Πυλάδῃ, ξένος τε καὶ δορύξενος δόμων.
Pylades stranger both and spear-friend of-house
ἄμφω δὲ φωνὴν ἥσομεν Παρνησσίδα,
both and voice we-shall-speak of-Parnassus
γλώσσης ἀυτὴν Φωκίδος μιμουμένω.
of-tongue sound Phocian imitating
καὶ δὴ θυρωρῶν οὔτις ἂν φαιδρᾷ φρενὶ
and indeed of-doorkeepers none — with-bright mind
δέξαιτ', ἐπειδὴ δαιμονᾷ δόμος κακοῖς·
would-receive since is-possessed house by-evils
μενοῦμεν οὕτως ὥστ' ἐπεικάζειν τινὰ
we-shall-wait so so-that to-surmise someone
δόμους παραστείχοντα καὶ τάδ' ἐννέπειν·
house passing-by and these to-say
"τί δὴ πύλαισι τὸν ἱκέτην ἀπείργεται
why indeed with-gates the suppliant shuts-out
Αἴγισθος, εἴπερ οἶδεν ἔνδημος παρών;"
Aegisthus if-indeed he-knows at-home being
εἰ δ' οὖν ἀμείψω βαλὸν ἑρκείων πυλῶν
if and then I-pass threshold of-courtyard gates

κἀκεῖνον ἐν θρόνοισιν εὑρήσω πατρός,
and-him on throne shall-find of-father
ἢ καὶ μολὼν ἔπειτά μοι κατὰ στόμα
or and having-come then to-me to face
ἀρεῖ, σάφ' ἴσθι, καὶ κατ' ὀφθαλμοὺς βαλεῖ,
will-raise clearly know and on eyes will-cast
πρὶν αὐτὸν εἰπεῖν "ποδαπὸς ὁ ξένος;" νεκρὸν
before him to-say whence the stranger corpse
θήσω, ποδώκει περιβαλὼν χαλκεύματι.
I-shall-make with-swift-footed having-encompassed with-bronze
φόνου δ' Ἐρινὺς οὐχ ὑπεσπανισμένη
of-murder and Erinys not stinted
ἄκρατον αἷμα πίεται τρίτην πόσιν.
unmixed blood will-drink third draft
νῦν οὖν σὺ μὲν φύλασσε τἀν οἴκῳ καλῶς,
now then you indeed guard the-things-in house well
ὅπως ἂν ἀρτίκολλα συμβαίνῃ τάδε·
so-that — fitly-joined may-come-together these
ὑμῖν δ' ἐπαινῶ γλῶσσαν εὔφημον φέρειν,
to-you and I-advise tongue well-omened to-bear
σιγᾶν θ' ὅπου δεῖ καὶ λέγειν τὰ καίρια.
to-be-silent and where is-needful and to-say the timely
τὰ δ' ἄλλα τούτῳ δεῦρ' ἐποπτεῦσαι λέγω,
the and rest to-him here to-oversee I-bid
ξιφηφόρους ἀγῶνας ὀρθώσαντί μοι.
sword-bearing contests having-set-up for-me

The chorus sings of the terrors the earth and sea breed, and of the reckless passions of women, which overpower marriage. They recall Thestius' daughter, who burned the brand that measured her son's life; the murderous maiden who, bribed with Minos' gold, robbed Nisus of his immortal hair; and the Lemnian crime. Justice's stock is planted, and Destiny forges the sword: the Erinys brings the child home to pay for old blood.

585 ΧΟΡΟΣ πολλὰ μὲν γᾶ τρέφει
many indeed earth nourishes
δεινὰ δειμάτων ἄχη,
dread of-terrors pains
πόντιαί τ' ἀγκάλαι κνωδάλων
of-the-sea and arms of-monsters
ἀνταίων βρύουσι·
hostile teem
πλάθουσι καὶ πεδαίχμιοι
draw-near and between-earth-and-sky
590 λαμπάδες πεδάοροι,
torches hanging-aloft
πτανά τε καὶ πεδοβά-
winged both and ground-walking
μονα κἀνεμοέντ' ἂν
— *and-windy* —
αἰγίδων φράσαι κότον.
of-storms could-tell wrath
ἀλλ' ὑπέρτολμον ἀν-
but over-bold of-man
595 δρὸς φρόνημα τίς λέγοι
— *spirit who could-tell*

καὶ γυναικῶν φρεσὶν τλαμόνων
and of-women in-hearts reckless
παντόλμους ἔρωτας
all-daring loves
ἄταισι συννόμους βροτῶν;
with-ruins partnered of-mortals
ξυζύγους δ' ὁμαυλίας
wedded and companionships
θηλυκρατὴς ἀπέρω-
woman-mastered loveless
τος ἔρως παρανικᾷ
— love perverts
κνωδάλων τε καὶ βροτῶν.
of-beasts both and of-mortals
ἴστω δ', ὅστις οὐχ ὑπόπτερος
let-know and whoever not flighty
φροντίσιν, δαεὶς
in-thoughts having-learned
τὰν ἁ παιδολυ-
the-one the child-destroying
μὰς τάλαινα Θεστιὰς μήσατο
— wretched daughter-of-Thestius devised
πυρδαῆτιν πρόνοιαν,
fire-kindled forethought
καταίθουσα παιδὸς δαφοινὸν
burning of-son bloody
δαλὸν ἥλικ', ἐπεὶ μολὼν
brand coeval since having-come
ματρόθεν κελάδησε,
from-mother-womb he-cried

ξύμμετρόν τε διαὶ βίου
measuring-with and through life
μοιρόκραντον ἐς ἅμαρ.
fate-ordained to day
ἄλλαν δεῖ τιν' ἐν λόγοις στυγεῖν
other must some in stories to-hate
φοινίαν κόραν,
murderous maiden
ἅτ' ἐχθρῶν ὑπαὶ
who of-enemies for-the-sake
φῶτ' ἀπώλεσεν φίλον Κρητικοῖς
man destroyed dear with-Cretan
χρυσοκμήτοισιν ὅρμοις
gold-wrought necklaces
πιθήσασα δώροισι Μίνω,
persuaded by-gifts of-Minos
Νῖσον ἀθανάτας τριχὸς
Nisus of-immortal hair
νοσφίσασ' ἀπροβούλως
having-robbed heedlessly
πνέονθ' ἁ κυνόφρων ὕπνῳ.
breathing the dog-hearted in-sleep
κιγχάνει δέ μιν Ἑρμῆς.
overtakes and him Hermes
ἐπεὶ δ' ἐπεμνασάμαν ἀμειλίχων
since and I-have-recalled of-unmerciful
πόνων, ὁ καιρὸς δὲ δυσφιλὲς γαμή-
toils the time and hateful marriage
λευμ' ἀπεύχετον δόμοις
— *abominable to-house*

γυναικοβούλους τε μήτιδας φρενῶν
woman-planned and devices of-mind
ἐπ᾽ ἀνδρὶ τευχεσφόρῳ,
against man armor-bearing
ἐπ᾽ ἀνδρὶ δᾴοις ἐπεικότως σέβαι.
against man by-foes rightly revered
τίω δ᾽ ἀθέρμαντον ἑστίαν δόμων
I-honor and unheated hearth of-house
γυναικείαν τ᾽ ἄτολμον αἰχμάν.
womanly and undaring spear
κακῶν δὲ πρεσβεύεται τὸ Λήμνιον
of-evils and is-chief the Lemnian
λόγῳ· γοᾶται δὲ δὴ πάθος κατά-
in-story is-bewailed and indeed suffering abominable
πτυστον· ᾔκασεν δέ τις
— likened and one
τὸ δεινὸν αὖ Λημνίοισι πήμασιν.
the dread again to-Lemnian woes
θεοστυγήτῳ δ᾽ ἄχει
by-god-hated and by-grief
βροτῶν ἀτιμωθὲν οἴχεται γένος.
by-mortals dishonored goes race
σέβει γὰρ οὔτις τὸ δυσφιλὲς θεοῖς.
reveres for no-one the hateful to-gods
τί τῶνδ᾽ οὐκ ἐνδίκως ἀγείρω;
what of-these not justly do-I-gather
τὸ δ᾽ ἄγχι πλευμόνων ξίφος
the and near lungs sword
διανταίαν ὀξυπευκὲς οὐτᾷ
piercing sharp-pointed wounds

διαὶ Δίκας. τὸ μὴ θέμις γὰρ οὖν
by Justice the not right for indeed
λὰξ πέδοι πατούμενον, τὸ πᾶν Διὸς
with-heel on-ground trampled the whole of-Zeus
σέβας παρεκβάντος οὐ θεμιστῶς.
majesty having-transgressed not lawfully
Δίκας δ' ἐρείδεται πυθμήν·
of-Justice and is-planted stock
προχαλκεύει δ' Αἶσα φασγανουργός·
forges-beforehand and Destiny sword-maker
τέκνον δ' ἐπεισφέρει δόμοισιν
child and brings-in to-the-house
αἱμάτων παλαιτέρων τίνειν μύσος
of-blood older to-pay pollution
χρόνῳ κλυτὰ βυσσόφρων Ἐρινύς.
in-time famed deep-thinking Erinys

VII · THE STRANGERS' NEWS

Orestes knocks at the gate as a stranger from Daulis. Clytemnestra receives him, and he reports that Orestes is dead, as a Phocian, Strophius, asked him to tell. She laments and has the strangers taken in. The chorus prays for Persuasion's help. Cilissa, Orestes' old nurse, comes out to fetch Aegisthus and grieves for the child she reared. The chorus persuades her to tell Aegisthus to come without his guards.

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ παῖ παῖ, θύρας ἄκουσον ἑρκείας κτύπον.
boy boy door hear of-courtyard knocking
τίς ἔνδον, ὦ παῖ, παῖ, μάλ' αὖθις, ἐν δόμοις;
who within O boy boy very again in house
τρίτον τόδ' ἐκπέραμα δωμάτων καλῶ,
third this coming-forth from-house I-call

εἴπερ φιλόξεν' ἐστὶν Αἰγίσθου διαί.
if-indeed hospitable it-is Aegisthus through
ΟΙΚΕΤΗΣ εἶεν, ἀκούω· ποδαπὸς ὁ ξένος; πόθεν;
well I-hear from-what-country the stranger whence
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἄγγελλε τοῖσι κυρίοισι δωμάτων,
announce to-the masters of-house
πρὸς οὕσπερ ἥκω καὶ φέρω καινοὺς λόγους.
to whom-indeed I-come and bring new tidings
τάχυνε δ', ὡς καὶ νυκτὸς ἅρμ' ἐπείγεται
hurry and since also of-night chariot presses
σκοτεινόν, ὥρα δ' ἐμπόρους καθιέναι
dark time and for-travelers to-let-down
ἄγκυραν ἐν δόμοισι πανδόκοις ξένων.
anchor in houses all-receiving of-strangers
ἐξελθέτω τις δωμάτων τελεσφόρος
let-come-out someone of-house in-authority
γυνὴ τόπαρχος, ἄνδρα δ' εὐπρεπέστερον·
woman ruling-the-place man but more-seemly
αἰδὼς γὰρ ἐν λεχθεῖσιν οὐκ ἐπαργέμους
modesty for in things-said not dim
λόγους τίθησιν· εἶπε θαρσήσας ἀνὴρ
words makes speaks having-taken-courage man
πρὸς ἄνδρα κἀσήμηνεν ἐμφανὲς τέκμαρ.
to man and-signifies plain token
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ ξένοι, λέγοιτ' ἂν εἴ τι δεῖ· πάρεστι γὰρ
strangers you-may-speak — if anything is-needed is-at-hand for
ὁποῖά περ δόμοισι τοῖσδ' ἐπεικότα,
such indeed for-house this fitting
καὶ θερμὰ λουτρὰ καὶ πόνων θελκτηρία
both warm baths and of-toils soother

στρωμνή, δικαίων τ᾽ ὀμμάτων παρουσία.
bed of-just and of-eyes presence
εἰ δ᾽ ἄλλο πρᾶξαι δεῖ τι βουλιώτερον,
if but other to-do is-needed something more-of-counsel
ἀνδρῶν τόδ᾽ ἐστὶν ἔργον, οἷς κοινώσομεν
of-men this is task with-whom we-shall-share
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ξένος μέν εἰμι Δαυλιεὺς ἐκ Φωκέων·
stranger indeed I-am Daulian from Phocians
675 στείχοντα δ᾽ αὐτόφορτον οἰκείᾳ σαγῇ
traveling and self-burdened with-own pack
εἰς Ἄργος, ὥσπερ δεῦρ᾽ ἀπεζύγην πόδα,
to Argos just-as hither I-unyoked foot
ἀγνὼς πρὸς ἀγνῶτ᾽ εἶπε συμβαλὼν ἀνήρ,
unknown to unknown said having-met man
ἐξιστορήσας καὶ σαφηνίσας ὁδόν,
having-inquired and having-made-clear way
Στρόφιος ὁ Φωκεύς· πεύθομαι γὰρ ἐν λόγῳ
Strophius the Phocian I-learn for in talk
680 "ἐπείπερ ἄλλως, ὦ ξέν᾽, εἰς Ἄργος κίεις,
since-indeed anyway O stranger to Argos you-go
πρὸς τοὺς τεκόντας πανδίκως μεμνημένος
to the parents most-justly remembering
τεθνεῶτ᾽ Ὀρέστην εἰπέ, μηδαμῶς λάθῃ.
dead Orestes tell in-no-way let-it-escape
εἴτ᾽ οὖν κομίζειν δόξα νικήσει φίλων,
whether then to-bring opinion will-prevail of-friends
εἴτ᾽ οὖν μέτοικον, εἰς τὸ πᾶν ἀεὶ ξένον,
or then sojourner for the all ever stranger
685 θάπτειν, ἐφετμὰς τάσδε πόρθμευσον πάλιν.
to-bury instructions these convey back

νῦν γὰρ λέβητος χαλκέου πλευρώματα
now for of-urn bronze sides
σποδὸν κέκευθεν ἀνδρὸς εὖ κεκλαυμένου.”
ashes hold of-man well lamented
τοσαῦτ’ ἀκούσας εἶπον. εἰ δὲ τυγχάνω
so-much having-heard I-spoke if and I-happen
τοῖς κυρίοισι καὶ προσήκουσιν λέγων
to-the masters and kin speaking
οὐκ οἶδα, τὸν τεκόντα δ’ εἰκὸς εἰδέναι.
not I-know the parent but fitting to-know
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ οἲ ’γώ, κατ’ ἄκρας εἶπας ὡς πορθούμεθα.
woe me from top you-have-spoken how we-are-sacked
ὦ δυσπάλαιστε τῶνδε δωμάτων Ἀρά,
O hard-to-wrestle of-this house Curse
ὡς πόλλ’ ἐπωπᾷς, κἀκποδὼν εὖ κείμενα
how much you-spy and-out-of-the-way well lying
τόξοις πρόσωθεν εὐσκόποις χειρουμένη,
with-bows from-afar well-aimed overpowering
φίλων ἀποψιλοῖς με τὴν παναθλίαν.
of-friends you-strip me the all-wretched
καὶ νῦν Ὀρέστης — ἦν γὰρ εὐβούλως ἔχων,
and now Orestes he-was for prudently faring
ἔξω κομίζων ὀλεθρίου πηλοῦ πόδα, —
out bringing of-ruinous mire foot
νῦν δ’ ἥπερ ἐν δόμοισι βακχείας καλῆς
now and which in house of-revelry fair
ἰατρὸς ἐλπὶς ἦν, προδοῦσαν ἔγγραφε.
healer hope was betraying enter

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν ξένοισιν ὧδ' εὐδαίμοσιν
I indeed then to-strangers thus prosperous
κεδνῶν ἕκατι πραγμάτων ἂν ἤθελον
of-good for-the-sake news — I-would-have-wished
γνωστὸς γενέσθαι καὶ ξενωθῆναι· τί γὰρ
known to-become and to-be-hosted what for
ξένου ξένοισίν ἐστιν εὐμενέστερον;
than-stranger to-strangers is kinder
πρὸς δυσσεβείας δ' ἦν ἐμοὶ τόδ' ἐν φρεσίν,
toward impiety but was to-me this in mind
τοιόνδε πρᾶγμα μὴ καρανῶσαι φίλοις,
such matter not to-accomplish for-friends
καταινέσαντα καὶ κατεξενωμένον.
having-promised and having-been-received-as-guest
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ οὔτοι κυρήσεις μεῖον ἀξίως σέθεν,
surely-not you-will-meet-with less worthily of-you
οὐδ' ἧσσον ἂν γένοιο δώμασιν φίλος.
nor less — you-would-be to-the-house friend
ἄλλος δ' ὁμοίως ἦλθεν ἂν τάδ' ἀγγελῶν.
another and likewise would-have-come — these to-announce
ἀλλ' ἔσθ' ὁ καιρὸς ἡμερεύοντας ξένους
but it-is the time day-long-traveling strangers
μακρᾶς κελεύθου τυγχάνειν τὰ πρόσφορα.
of-long journey to-get the fitting-things
ἄγ' αὐτὸν εἰς ἀνδρῶνας εὐξένους δόμων,
lead him into men's-quarters hospitable of-house
ὀπισθόπους τε τούσδε καὶ ξυνέμπορον·
attendants and these and fellow-traveler
κἀκεῖ κυρούντων δώμασιν τὰ πρόσφορα.
and-there let-them-meet in-house the fitting-things

αἰνῶ δὲ πράσσειν ὡς ὑπευθύνῳ τάδε. 715
I-bid and to-do as to-one-accountable these
ἡμεῖς δὲ ταῦτα τοῖς κρατοῦσι δωμάτων
we and these to-the rulers of-house
κοινώσομέν τε κοὐ σπανίζοντες φίλων
shall-communicate and and-not lacking friends
βουλευσόμεσθα τῆσδε συμφορᾶς πέρι.
shall-take-counsel this misfortune about
ΧΟΡΟΣ εἶεν, φίλιαι δμωίδες οἴκων,
well dear handmaids of-house
πότε δὴ στομάτων 720
when indeed of-mouths
δείξομεν ἰσχὺν ἐπ᾽ Ὀρέστῃ;
shall-we-show strength for Orestes
ὦ πότνια χθὼν καὶ πότνι᾽ ἀκτὴ
O lady earth and lady mound
χώματος, ἣ νῦν ἐπὶ ναυάρχῳ
of-tomb which now over naval-commander
σώματι κεῖσαι τῷ βασιλείῳ,
body lie the royal
νῦν ἐπάκουσον, νῦν ἐπάρηξον· 725
now hearken now help
νῦν γὰρ ἀκμάζει Πειθὼ δολίαν
now for is-ripe Persuasion crafty
ξυγκαταβῆναι, χθόνιον δ᾽ Ἑρμῆν
to-descend-with of-the-underworld and Hermes
καὶ τὸν νύχιον τοῖσδ᾽ ἐφοδεῦσαι
and the nightly these to-watch-over
ξιφοδηλήτοισιν ἀγῶσιν.
sword-destroying contests

ἔοικεν ἀνὴρ ὁ ξένος τεύχειν κακόν·
seems the-man the stranger to-be-working evil
τροφὸν δ' Ὀρέστου τήνδ' ὁρῶ κεκλαυμένην.
nurse and of-Orestes this I-see weeping
ποῖ δὴ πατεῖς, Κίλισσα, δωμάτων πύλας;
whither indeed do-you-tread Cilissa of-house gates
λύπη δ' ἄμισθός ἐστί σοι ξυνέμπορος;
grief and unpaid is to-you fellow-traveler
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ Αἴγισθον ἡ κρατοῦσα τοῖς ξένοις καλεῖν
Aegisthus the ruling-woman for-the strangers to-call
ὅπως τάχιστ' ἄνωγεν, ὡς σαφέστερον
as quickly bids that more-clearly
ἀνὴρ ἀπ' ἀνδρὸς τὴν νεάγγελτον φάτιν
man from man the newly-announced report
ἐλθὼν πύθηται τήνδε, πρὸς μὲν οἰκέτας
having-come he-may-learn this before indeed servants
θετοσκυθρωπῶν ἐντὸς ὀμμάτων γέλων
with-gloomy-face within eyes laughter
κεύθουσ' ἐπ' ἔργοις διαπεπραγμένοις καλῶς
hiding over deeds done well
κείνῃ, δόμοις δὲ τοῖσδε παγκάκως ἔχειν,
for-her for-the-house and this most-evilly to-fare
φήμης ὕφ' ἧς ἤγγειλαν οἱ ξένοι τορῶς.
of-report from which announced the strangers clearly
ἦ δὴ κλύων ἐκεῖνος εὐφρανεῖ νόον,
truly indeed hearing he will-cheer mind
εὖτ' ἂν πύθηται μῦθον. ὦ τάλαιν' ἐγώ·
when — he-learns story O wretched I
ὡς μοι τὰ μὲν παλαιὰ συγκεκραμένα
how to-me the indeed old mixed-together

ἄλγη δύσοιστα τοῖσδ' ἐν Ἀτρέως δόμοις
pains hard-to-bear this in of-Atreus house
τυχόντ' ἐμὴν ἤλγυνεν ἐν στέρνοις φρένα.
having-happened my grieved in breast heart
ἀλλ' οὔτι πω τοιόνδε πῆμ' ἀνεσχόμην·
but not-at-all yet such woe I-endured
τὰ μὲν γὰρ ἄλλα τλημόνως ἤντλουν κακά·
the indeed for other patiently I-drained evils
φίλον δ' Ὀρέστην, τῆς ἐμῆς ψυχῆς τριβήν,
dear but Orestes — of-my soul wearing-out
ὃν ἐξέθρεψα μητρόθεν δεδεγμένη, —
whom I-reared from-mother having-received
κἀκ' νυκτιπλάγκτων ὀρθίων κελευμάτων
and-from night-wandering shrill commands
καὶ πολλὰ καὶ μοχθήρ' ἀνωφέλητ' ἐμοὶ
and many and grievous unprofitable to-me
τλάσῃ· — τὸ μὴ φρονοῦν γὰρ ὡσπερεὶ βοτὸν
having-endured the not thinking for like beast
τρέφειν ἀνάγκη, πῶς γὰρ οὔ; τρόπῳ φρενός·
to-rear necessity how for not by-manner of-mind
οὐ γάρ τι φωνεῖ παῖς ἔτ' ὢν ἐν σπαργάνοις,
not for at-all speaks child still being in swaddling-clothes
εἰ λιμός, ἢ δίψη τις, ἢ λιψουρία
if hunger or thirst some or need-to-make-water
ἔχει· νέα δὲ νηδὺς αὐτάρκης τέκνων.
has young and belly self-ruling of-children
τούτων πρόμαντις οὖσα, πολλὰ δ', οἶομαι,
of-these prophet being often and I-think
ψευσθεῖσα παιδὸς σπαργάνων φαιδρύντρια,
deceived of-child of-swaddling-clothes washer

γναφεὺς τροφεύς τε ταὐτὸν εἰχέτην τέλος.
fuller nurse and the-same had office
ἐγὼ διπλᾶς δὲ τάσδε χειρωναξίας
I double and these handicrafts
ἔχουσ᾽ Ὀρέστην ἐξεδεξάμην πατρί·
having Orestes received for-father
τεθνηκότος δὲ νῦν τάλαινα πεύθομαι.
dead and now wretched I-learn
στείχω δ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ἄνδρα τῶνδε λυμαντήριον
I-go and to man of-these defiler
οἴκων, θέλων δὲ τόνδε πεύσεται λόγον.
of-house willing and this he-will-learn word

ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς οὖν κελεύει νιν μολεῖν ἐσταλμένον;
how then bids him to-come equipped

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ἦ πῶς; λέγ᾽ αὖθις, ὡς μάθω σαφέστερον.
— how say again that I-may-learn more-clearly

ΧΟΡΟΣ εἰ ξὺν λοχίταις εἴτε καὶ μονοστιβῆ.
whether with bodyguards or also alone

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ἄγειν κελεύει δορυφόρους ὀπάονας.
to-lead she-bids spear-bearing attendants

ΧΟΡΟΣ μή νυν σὺ ταῦτ᾽ ἄγγελλε δεσπότου στύγει·
not then you this announce of-master to-the-loathed-one
ἀλλ᾽ αὐτὸν ἐλθεῖν, ὡς ἀδειμάντως κλύῃ,
but himself to-come so-that fearlessly he-may-hear
ἄνωχθ᾽ ὅσον τάχιστα γηθούσῃ φρενί.
bid as quickly with-rejoicing mind
ἐν ἀγγέλῳ γὰρ κυπτὸς ὀρθοῦται λόγος.
in messenger for crooked is-made-straight word

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἦ φρονεῖς εὖ τοῖσι νῦν ἠγγελμένοις;
but — you-think well of-the now announced

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ εἰ τροπαίαν Ζεὺς κακῶν θήσει ποτέ.
but if turning-point Zeus of-evils will-set ever

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ καὶ πῶς; Ὀρέστης ἐλπὶς οἴχεται δόμων.
and how Orestes hope is-gone of-house

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὔπω· κακός γε μάντις ἂν γνοίη τάδε.
not-yet bad at-least prophet — would-know these

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ τί φής; ἔχεις τι τῶν λελεγμένων δίχα;
what you-say have-you something of-the said apart

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄγγελλ᾽ ἰοῦσα, πρᾶσσε τἀπεσταλμένα.
announce going do the-things-enjoined

μέλει θεοῖσιν ὧνπερ ἂν μέλῃ πέρι.
care for-gods of-which-indeed — may-be-care about

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ εἶμι καὶ σοῖς ταῦτα πείσομαι λόγοις.
but I-go and to-your these I-shall-obey words

γένοιτο δ᾽ ὡς ἄριστα σὺν θεῶν δόσει.
may-it-be and as best with of-gods grant

VIII · PRAYER FOR ORESTES

The chorus prays to Zeus to bring the house's fortune right, and to Apollo and Hermes to aid Orestes, the colt harnessed to the chariot of woe. They ask the gods of the house to wash out old blood with fresh justice. They urge Orestes, when the moment comes, to answer his mother's cry of "child" with his father's name, and to carry out the bloody ruin with Perseus' heart.

ΧΟΡΟΣ νῦν παραιτουμένᾳ μοι, πάτερ
now begging to-me father

Ζεῦ θεῶν Ὀλυμπίων,
Zeus of-gods Olympian

δὸς τύχας τυχεῖν δόμου κυρίως
give fortunes to-meet of-house rightly

τὰ σώφρον' εὖ μαιομένοις ἰδεῖν.
the self-controlled-things well to-those-seeking to-see
διὰ δίκας πᾶν ἔπος
through justice every word
ἔλακον· ὦ Ζεῦ, σύ νιν φυλάσσοις.
I-uttered O Zeus you it may-you-guard
ἒ ἔ, πρὸ δὲ δὴ 'χθρῶν
eh eh before and indeed of-enemies
τὸν ἔσωθεν μελάθρων, Ζεῦ,
the within of-halls Zeus
θές, ἐπεί νιν μέγαν ἄρας,
set since him great having-raised
δίδυμα καὶ τριπλᾶ
double and triple
παλίμποινα θέλων ἀμείψει.
requitals willing he-will-repay
ἴσθι δ' ἀνδρὸς φίλου πῶλον εὖ-
know and of-man dear colt bereft
νιν ζυγέντ' ἐν ἅρμασιν
— yoked in chariots
πημάτων. σὺ δ' ἐν δρόμῳ προστιθεὶς
of-woes you and in race setting
μέτρον κτίσον σῳζόμενον ῥυθμὸν
measure establish keeping rhythm
τοῦτ' ἰδεῖν διὰ πέδον
this to-see over ground
ἀνομένων βημάτων ὄρεγμα;
of-accomplished strides stretch
οἵ τ' ἔσω δωμάτων
you and within of-house

πλουτογαθῆ μυχὸν νομίζετε,
wealth-rejoicing chamber who-dwell
κλῦτε, σύμφρονες θεοί·
hear like-minded gods
τῶν πάλαι πεπραγμένων
of-the long-ago done
λύσασθ' αἷμα προσφάτοις δίκαις.
release blood with-fresh judgments
γέρων φόνος μηκέτ' ἐν δόμοις τέκοι.
old murder no-longer in house may-breed
τὸ δὲ καλῶς κτίμενον ὦ μέγα ναίων
the and nobly built O greatly dwelling
στόμιον, εὖ δὸς ἀνιδεῖν δόμον ἀνδρός,
mouth well grant to-look-up house of-man
καί νιν ἐλευθερίας φῶς
and it of-freedom light
λαμπρὸν ἰδεῖν φιλίοις
bright to-see with-friendly
ὄμμασιν ἐκ δνοφερᾶς καλύπτρας.
eyes from dark veil
ξυλλάβοι δ' ἐνδίκως
may-lend-a-hand and justly
παῖς ὁ Μαίας, ἐπεὶ φορώτατος
son the of-Maia since most-apt
πρᾶξιν οὐρίαν θέλων.
deed favorable wishing
ἄσκοπον δ' ἔπος λέγων
dark and word speaking
νύκτα πρό τ' ὀμμάτων σκότον φέρει,
night before and eyes darkness brings

καθ' ἡμέραν δ' οὐδὲν ἐμφανέστερος.
by day and not-at-all plainer
καὶ τότ' ἤδη κλυτὸν
and then already famous
δωμάτων λυτήριον,
of-house deliverance
θῆλυν οὐριοστάταν οὐδ'
female fair-wind-bringing and-not
ὀξύκρεκτον γοα-
shrill-struck of-wailing
τᾶν νόμον θήσομεν· "πλεῖ τάδ' εὖ·
— strain we-shall-set it-sails these well
ἐμὸν ἐμὸν κέρδος αὔξεται τόδ'· ἄ-
my my gain is-increased this ruin
τα δ' ἀποστατεῖ φίλων."
— and stands-away from-friends
σὺ δὲ θαρσῶν, ὅταν ἥκῃ μέρος ἔργων,
you but taking-courage when comes part of-deeds
ἐπαΰσας πατρὸς αὐδὰν
having-shouted of-father word
θροούσᾳ τέκνον
to-her-crying child
πέραιν' ἀνεπίμομφον ἄταν.
accomplish blameless ruin
Περσέως τ' ἐν φρεσὶν
of-Perseus and in breast
καρδίαν ἀνασχεθών,
heart holding-up
τοῖς θ' ὑπὸ χθονὸς φίλοισιν,
for-those and under earth friends

τοῖς τ' ἄνωθεν πρόπρασ-
for-those and above accomplish
σε χάριν ὀργᾶς λυγρᾶς, ἔνδοθεν
— grace of-wrath grievous within
φόνιον ἄταν τιθείς, τὸν αἴτιον δ'
murderous ruin setting the guilty and
ἐξαπολλύων μόρου.
destroying of-death

IX · THE KILLING

Aegisthus comes to question the stranger and goes in. His death cry is heard; a servant shouts that the master is slain and calls Clytemnestra. She sends for an axe, but Orestes meets her. She bares her breast and begs; he asks Pylades, who reminds him of Loxias' oracles. Orestes answers her pleas and her warning of a mother's avenging hounds, and drives her inside to die beside Aegisthus.

ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ ἥκω μὲν οὐκ ἄκλητος, ἀλλ' ὑπάγγελος·
I-come indeed not unsummoned but called-by-message
νέαν φάτιν δὲ πεύθομαι λέγειν τινὰς
new report and I-learn to-tell some
ξένους μολόντας οὐδαμῶς ἐφίμερον,
strangers having-come in-no-way welcome
μόρον δ' Ὀρέστου. καὶ τόδ' ἀμφέρειν δόμοις
death and of-Orestes and this to-bear for-the-house
γένοιτ' ἂν ἄχθος δειματοσταγὲς φόνῳ
would-be — burden fear-dripping with-murder
τῷ πρόσθεν ἑλκαίνουσι καὶ δεδηγμένοις.
the former festering and bitten
πῶς ταῦτ' ἀληθῆ καὶ βλέποντα δοξάσω;
how this true and living shall-I-judge

ἢ πρὸς γυναικῶν δειματούμενοι λόγοι
or by women frightened words
πεδάρσιοι θρῴσκουσι, θνήσκοντες μάτην;
aloft leap dying in-vain
τί τῶνδ' ἂν εἴποις ὥστε δηλῶσαι φρενί;
what of-these — could-you-say so-as to-make-clear to-mind
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἠκούσαμεν μέν, πυνθάνου δὲ τῶν ξένων
we-heard indeed inquire but of-the strangers
ἔσω παρελθών. οὐδὲν ἀγγέλων σθένος
inside having-gone nothing of-messengers strength
ὡς αὐτὸν αὐτῶν ἄνδρα πεύθεσθαι πάρα.
as himself them man to-learn possible
ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ ἰδεῖν ἐλέγξαι τ' αὖ θέλω τὸν ἄγγελον,
to-see to-test and again I-wish the messenger
εἴτ' αὐτὸς ἦν θνήσκοντος ἐγγύθεν παρών,
whether himself was dying near present
εἴτ' ἐξ ἀμαυρᾶς κληδόνος λέγει μαθών.
or from dim rumor speaks having-learned
οὔτοι φρέν' ἂν κλέψειεν ὠμματωμένην.
surely-not mind — could-cheat eyed
ΧΟΡΟΣ Ζεῦ Ζεῦ, τί λέγω, πόθεν ἄρξωμαι
Zeus Zeus what shall-I-say whence shall-I-begin
τάδ' ἐπευχομένη κἀπιθεάζουσ',
these praying and-invoking
ὑπὸ δ' εὐνοίας
by and goodwill
πῶς ἴσον εἰποῦσ' ἀνύσωμαι;
how equal speaking shall-I-accomplish
νῦν γὰρ μέλλουσι μιανθεῖσαι
now for are-about stained

πειραὶ κοπάνων ἀνδροδαΐκτων
edges of-knives man-slaying
ἢ πάνυ θήσειν Ἀγαμεμνονίων
either utterly to-make of-Agamemnon's
οἴκων ὄλεθρον διὰ παντός,
house destruction through all
ἢ πῦρ καὶ φῶς ἐπ' ἐλευθερίᾳ
or fire and light for freedom
δαίων ἀρχάς τε πολισσονόμους
kindling rule and city-governing
πατέρων θ' ἕξει μέγαν ὄλβον.
of-fathers and will-have great wealth
τοιάνδε πάλην μόνος ὢν ἔφεδρος
such bout alone being reserve-fighter
δισσοῖς μέλλει θεῖος Ὀρέστης
against-two is-about godlike Orestes
ἄψειν. εἴη δ' ἐπὶ νίκῃ.
to-engage may-it-be and for victory
ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ ἒ ἔ, ὀτοτοτοῖ.
eh eh alas
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔα ἔα μάλα·
ah ah very
πῶς ἔχει; πῶς κέκρανται δόμοις;
how is-it how has-it-been-decided for-the-house
ἀποσταθῶμεν πράγματος τελουμένου,
let-us-stand-aside from-the-matter being-accomplished
ὅπως δοκῶμεν τῶνδ' ἀναίτιαι κακῶν
so-that we-may-seem of-these guiltless evils
εἶναι· μάχης γὰρ δὴ κεκύρωται τέλος.
to-be of-battle for indeed is-settled end

ΟΙΚΕΤΗΣ οἴμοι, πανοίμοι δεσπότου πεπληγμένου·
ah-me all-ah-me of-master struck
οἴμοι μάλ' αὖθις ἐν τρίτοις προσφθέγμασιν.
ah-me very again in third addresses
Αἴγισθος οὐκέτ' ἔστιν. ἀλλ' ἀνοίξατε
Aegisthus no-longer is but open
ὅπως τάχιστα, καὶ γυναικείους πύλας
as quickly and of-women gates
μοχλοῖς χαλᾶτε· καὶ μάλ' ἡβῶντος δὲ δεῖ,
bolts loosen and very of-young-man and is-needed
οὐχ ὡς δ' ἀρῆξαι διαπεπραγμένῳ· τί γάρ;
not so-as but to-help one-done-for what for
ἰοὺ ἰού.
ho ho
κωφοῖς ἀυτῶ καὶ καθεύδουσιν μάτην
to-deaf I-shout and to-sleeping in-vain
ἄκραντα βάζω; ποῖ Κλυταιμήστρα; τί δρᾷ;
vain I-babble where Clytemnestra what does
ἔοικε νῦν αὐτῆς ἐπὶ ξυροῦ πέλας
it-seems now her on razor near
αὐχὴν πεσεῖσθαι πρὸς δίκην πεπληγμένος.
neck to-fall by justice struck
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ τί δ' ἐστὶ χρῆμα; τίνα βοὴν ἵστης δόμοις;
what and is matter what cry raise-you in-house
ΟΙΚΕΤΗΣ τὸν ζῶντα καίνειν τοὺς τεθνηκότας λέγω.
the living to-kill the dead I-say
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ οἲ 'γώ. ξυνῆκα τοὔπος ἐξ αἰνιγμάτων.
woe me I-understood the-word from riddles
δόλοις ὀλούμεθ', ὥσπερ οὖν ἐκτείναμεν.
by-guile we-shall-perish as indeed we-killed

δοίη τις ἀνδροκμῆτα πέλεκυν ὡς τάχος·
let-give someone man-slaying axe as quickly
εἰδῶμεν εἰ νικῶμεν, ἢ νικώμεθα· 890
let-us-know if we-conquer or are-conquered
ἐνταῦθα γὰρ δὴ τοῦδ' ἀφικόμην κακοῦ.
here for indeed of-this I-have-come evil
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σὲ καὶ ματεύω· τῷδε δ' ἀρκούντως ἔχει.
you also I-seek for-him and sufficiently it-is
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ οἲ 'γώ. τέθνηκας, φίλτατ' Αἰγίσθου βία.
woe me you-are-dead dearest Aegisthus' might
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ φιλεῖς τὸν ἄνδρα; τοιγὰρ ἐν ταὐτῷ τάφῳ
you-love the man therefore in the-same tomb
κείσῃ· θανόντα δ' οὔτι μὴ προδῷς ποτε. 895
you-shall-lie dead and in-no-way not you-will-betray ever
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ ἐπίσχες, ὦ παῖ, τόνδε δ' αἴδεσαι, τέκνον,
hold O child this and revere child
μαστόν, πρὸς ᾧ σὺ πολλὰ δὴ βρίζων ἅμα
breast at which you much indeed slumbering at-the-same-time
οὔλοισιν ἐξήμελξας εὐτραφὲς γάλα.
with-gums sucked-out nourishing milk
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Πυλάδη τί δράσω; μητέρ' αἰδεσθῶ κτανεῖν;
Pylades what shall-I-do mother shall-I-shrink to-kill
ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ποῦ δὴ τὰ λοιπὰ Λοξίου μαντεύματα 900
where indeed the rest of-Loxias oracles
τὰ πυθόχρηστα, πιστὰ δ' εὐορκώματα;
the Pythian-given trustworthy and sworn-pledges
ἅπαντας ἐχθροὺς τῶν θεῶν ἡγοῦ πλέον.
all enemies than-the gods hold rather

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ κρίνω σὲ νικᾶν, καὶ παραινεῖς μοι καλῶς.
I-judge you to-win and you-advise me well
ἕπου, πρὸς αὐτὸν τόνδε σὲ σφάξαι θέλω.
follow to him here you to-slay I-wish
καὶ ζῶντα γάρ νιν κρείσσον᾽ ἡγήσω πατρός·
and alive for him better you-held than-father
τούτῳ θανοῦσα ξυγκάθευδ᾽, ἐπεὶ φιλεῖς
with-him having-died sleep since you-love
τὸν ἄνδρα τοῦτον, ὃν δ᾽ ἐχρῆν φιλεῖν στυγεῖς.
the man this whom but it-was-needful to-love you-hate
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ ἐγώ σ᾽ ἔθρεψα, σὺν δὲ γηράναι θέλω.
I you reared with and to-grow-old I-wish
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πατροκτονοῦσα γὰρ ξυνοικήσεις ἐμοί;
father-killing for you-will-live-with me
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ ἡ Μοῖρα τούτων, ὦ τέκνον, παραιτία.
the Fate of-these O child jointly-responsible
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καὶ τόνδε τοίνυν Μοῖρ᾽ ἐπόρσυνεν μόρον.
and this then Fate prepared death
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ οὐδὲν σεβίζῃ γενεθλίους ἀράς, τέκνον;
not-at-all you-revere parental curses child
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τεκοῦσα γάρ μ᾽ ἔρριψας ἐς τὸ δυστυχές.
having-borne for me you-cast into the misfortune
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ οὔτοι σ᾽ ἀπέρριψ᾽ εἰς δόμους δορυξένους.
surely-not you I-cast-out into house of-spear-friends
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ αἰκῶς ἐπράθην ὢν ἐλευθέρου πατρός.
shamefully I-was-sold being of-free father
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ ποῦ δῆθ᾽ ὁ τῖμος, ὅντιν᾽ ἀντεδεξάμην;
where then the price which I-received-in-exchange
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ αἰσχύνομαί σοι τοῦτ᾽ ὀνειδίσαι σαφῶς.
I-am-ashamed to-you this to-reproach openly

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ μὴ ἀλλ᾽ εἶφ᾽ ὁμοίως καὶ πατρὸς τοῦ σοῦ μάτας.
not but say likewise also of-father — your follies

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μὴ ᾽λεγχε τὸν πονοῦντ᾽ ἔσω καθημένη.
not blame the toiling within sitting

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ ἄλγος γυναιξὶν ἀνδρὸς εἴργεσθαι, τέκνον. 920
pain to-women from-husband to-be-kept-apart child

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τρέφει δέ γ᾽ ἀνδρὸς μόχθος ἡμένας ἔσω.
nourishes and at-least of-husband toil those-sitting within

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ κτενεῖν ἔοικας, ὦ τέκνον, τὴν μητέρα.
to-kill you-seem O child the mother

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σύ τοι σεαυτήν, οὐκ ἐγώ, κατακτενεῖς.
you surely yourself not I will-kill

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ ὅρα, φύλαξαι μητρὸς ἐγκότους κύνας.
see guard-against of-mother wrathful hounds

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τὰς τοῦ πατρὸς δὲ πῶς φύγω, παρεὶς τάδε; 925
those of-the father but how shall-I-escape having-neglected these

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ ἔοικα θρηνεῖν ζῶσα πρὸς τύμβον μάτην.
I-seem to-lament living to tomb in-vain

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πατρὸς γὰρ αἶσα τόνδε σοὐρίζει μόρον.
of-father for lot this for-you-decrees death

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ οἰ ᾽γὼ τεκοῦσα τόνδ᾽ ὄφιν ἐθρεψάμην.
woe me having-borne this snake I-nursed

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἦ κάρτα μάντις οὐξ ὀνειράτων φόβος.
truly very prophet the-from dreams fear

ἔκανες ὃν οὐ χρῆν, καὶ τὸ μὴ χρεὼν πάθε. 930
you-killed whom not it-was-right and the not right suffer

ΧΟΡΟΣ στένω μὲν οὖν καὶ τῶνδε συμφορὰν διπλῆν.
I-lament indeed then and of-these misfortune double

ἐπεὶ δὲ πολλῶν αἱμάτων ἐπήκρισε
since and of-much blood has-crowned

τλήμων Ὀρέστης, τοῦθ' ὅμως αἱρούμεθα,
wretched Orestes this nevertheless we-choose
ὀφθαλμὸν οἴκων μὴ πανώλεθρον πεσεῖν.
eye of-house not utterly-ruined to-fall

X · JUSTICE HAS COME

The chorus rejoices: as Justice came to Priam's sons, a double lion has come into the house of Agamemnon. The exile sent by Pytho has driven on to the end, and Zeus' daughter Justice guided his hand, as Loxias proclaimed. The chorus calls on the house to rise from the ground, since light can now be seen, and foretells that time will drive the pollution from the hearth.

935 ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔμολε μὲν δίκα Πριαμίδαις χρόνῳ,
came indeed justice to-the-sons-of-Priam in-time
βαρύδικος ποινά·
heavy-judging vengeance
ἔμολε δ' ἐς δόμον τὸν Ἀγαμέμνονος
came and into house the of-Agamemnon
διπλοῦς λέων, διπλοῦς Ἄρης.
double lion double Ares
ἔλασε δ' ἐς τὸ πᾶν
drove and to the end
940 ὁ πυθόχρηστος φυγὰς
the Pythian-oracled exile
θεόθεν εὖ φραδαῖσιν ὡρμημένος.
from-god well by-counsels urged-on
ἐπολολύξατ' ὦ δεσποσύνων δόμων
raise-the-cry O of-lordly house
ἀναφυγᾶς κακῶν καὶ κτεάνων τριβᾶς
of-escape of-evils and of-wealth of-wasting

ὑπαὶ δυοῖν μιαστόροιν,
by two defilers
δυσοίμου τύχας. 945
of-ill-fated fortune
ἔμολε δ' ᾧ μέλει κρυπταδίου μάχας
came and to-whom is-care of-secret battle
δολιόφρων ποινά·
crafty-minded vengeance
ἔθιγε δ' ἐν μάχᾳ χερὸς ἐτήτυμος
touched and in battle of-hand true
Διὸς κόρα — Δίκαν δέ νιν
of-Zeus daughter Justice and her
προσαγορεύομεν βροτοὶ τυχόντες καλῶς — 950
we-call mortals hitting fairly
ὀλέθριον πνέουσ' ἐν ἐχθροῖς κότον.
deadly breathing on enemies wrath
ἐπολολύξατ' ὦ δεσποσύνων δόμων
raise-the-cry O of-lordly house
ἀναφυγᾶς κακῶν καὶ κτεάνων τριβᾶς
of-escape of-evils and of-wealth of-wasting
ὑπαὶ δυοῖν μιαστόροιν,
by two defilers
δυσοίμου τύχας.
of-ill-fated fortune
τά περ ὁ Λοξίας ὁ Παρνασσίας
which indeed — Loxias the Parnassian
μέγαν ἔχων μυχὸν χθονὸς ἐπωρθία-
great having chamber of-earth proclaimed-aloud
ξεν ἀδόλως δόλοις 955
— guilelessly by-guile

βλάβαν ἐγχρονισθεῖσαν ἐποίχεται.
harm long-standing assails

†κρατεῖταί πως τὸ θεῖον παρὰ τὸ μὴ
is-mastered somehow the divine beside the not

ὑπουργεῖν κακοῖς.†
to-serve the-base

ἄξια δ' οὐρανοῦχον ἀρχὰν σέβειν.
worthy and heaven-holding rule to-revere

πάρα τε φῶς ἰδεῖν
it-is-possible and light to-see

μέγα τ' ἀφῃρέθην ψάλιον οἰκέων.
great and was-removed bit of-the-house

ἄναγε μὰν δόμοι· πολὺν ἄγαν χρόνον
rise-up indeed house much too-long time

χαμαιπετεῖς ἔκεισθ' ἀεί.
on-the-ground you-lay ever

τάχα δὲ παντελὴς χρόνος ἀμείψεται
soon and all-accomplishing time will-pass

πρόθυρα δωμάτων, ὅταν ἀφ' ἑστίας
porch of-house when from hearth

πᾶν ἐλαθῇ μύσος
all is-driven pollution

καθαρμοῖσιν ἀτᾶν ἐλατηρίοις.
by-cleansings of-ruin expelling

τύχαι δ' εὐπροσωποκοῖται τὸ πᾶν
fortunes and fair-faced-lying the whole

ἰδεῖν πρευμενεῖς
to-see kindly

μετοίκοις δόμων πεσοῦνται πάλιν.
to-the-sojourners of-house will-fall again

πάρα τε φῶς ἰδεῖν
it-is-possible and light to-see
μέγα τ' ἀφῃρέθην ψάλιον οἰκέων.
great and was-removed bit of-the-house
ἄναγε μὰν δόμοι· πολὺν ἄγαν χρόνον
rise-up indeed house much too-long time
χαμαιπετεῖς ἔκεισθ' ἀεί.
on-the-ground you-lay ever

XI · THE FURIES

Orestes shows the bodies and the robe in which his father was trapped and declares the killing of his mother just. He says Apollo promised him freedom from blame and that he will go to Delphi as a suppliant. Even as he speaks, his mind begins to fail: he sees his mother's hounds, Gorgon-like and wreathed in snakes, and flees. The chorus asks where the house's fury will end.

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἴδεσθε χώρας τὴν διπλῆν τυραννίδα
behold of-land the double tyranny
πατροκτόνους τε δωμάτων πορθήτορας.
father-murdering and of-house sackers
σεμνοὶ μὲν ἦσαν ἐν θρόνοις τόθ' ἥμενοι, 975
august indeed they-were on thrones then sitting
φίλοι δὲ καὶ νῦν, ὡς ἐπεικάσαι πάθη
friends and also now as to-guess from-sufferings
πάρεστιν, ὅρκος τ' ἐμμένει πιστώμασι.
it-is-possible oath and abides by-pledges
ξυνώμοσαν μὲν θάνατον ἀθλίῳ πατρὶ
they-swore-together indeed death for-wretched father
καὶ ξυνθανεῖσθαι· καὶ τάδ' εὐόρκως ἔχει.
and to-die-together and this well-sworn holds

ἴδεσθε δ' αὖτε, τῶνδ' ἐπήκοοι κακῶν,
behold and again of-these hearers evils
τὸ μηχάνημα, δεσμὸν ἀθλίῳ πατρί,
the device bond for-wretched father
πέδας τε χειροῖν καὶ ποδοῖν ξυνωρίδα.
fetters and for-hands and for-feet pair
ἐκτείνατ' αὐτὸ καὶ κύκλῳ παρασταδὸν
spread-out it and in-circle standing-by
στέγαστρον ἀνδρὸς δείξαθ', ὡς ἴδῃ πατήρ,
covering of-man show so-that may-see father
οὐχ οὑμός, ἀλλ' ὁ πάντ' ἐποπτεύων τάδε
not mine but the all overseeing these
Ἥλιος, ἄναγνα μητρὸς ἔργα τῆς ἐμῆς,
Sun unholy of-mother deeds — of-my
ὡς ἂν παρῇ μοι μάρτυς ἐν δίκῃ ποτέ,
so-that — may-be-present to-me witness in judgment some-day
ὡς τόνδ' ἐγὼ μετῆλθον ἐνδίκως μόρον
that this I pursued justly death
τὸν μητρός· Αἰγίσθου γὰρ οὐ λέγω μόρον·
the of-mother of-Aegisthus for not I-speak-of death
ἔχει γὰρ αἰσχυντῆρος, ὡς νόμος, δίκην·
he-has for of-adulterer as law justice
ἥτις δ' ἐπ' ἀνδρὶ τοῦτ' ἐμήσατο στύγος,
who but against husband this devised loathing
ἐξ οὗ τέκνων ἤνεγχ' ὑπὸ ζώνην βάρος,
from whom of-children she-bore under girdle weight
φίλον τέως, νῦν δ' ἐχθρόν, ὡς φαίνει, κακόν,
dear meanwhile now but hostile as shows evil
τί σοι δοκεῖ; μύραινά γ' εἴτ' ἔχιδν' ἔφυ
what to-you seems moray at-least or viper she-was-born

σήπειν θιγοῦσ᾽ ἂν ἄλλον οὐ δεδηγμένον
to-rot having-touched — another not bitten
τόλμης ἕκατι κἀκδίκου φρονήματος.
of-daring for-the-sake and-lawless of-mind
τί νιν προσείπω, κἂν τύχω μάλ᾽ εὐστομῶν;
what it shall-I-call even-if I-should-hit very well-speaking
ἄγρευμα θηρός, ἢ νεκροῦ ποδένδυτον
trap of-beast or of-corpse foot-wrapping
δροίτης κατασκήνωμα; δίκτυον μὲν οὖν,
of-bath curtain net indeed then
ἄρκυν τ᾽ ἂν εἴποις καὶ ποδιστῆρας πέπλους.
snare and — you-might-call and foot-entangling robes
τοιοῦτον ἂν κτήσαιτο φηλήτης ἀνήρ,
such — might-get cheating man
ξένων ἀπαιόλημα κἀργυροστερῆ
of-strangers trickery and-silver-robbing
βίον νομίζων, τῷδέ τ᾽ ἂν δολώματι
life practicing with-this and — deceit
πολλοὺς ἀναιρῶν πολλὰ θερμαίνοι φρένα.
many destroying much would-warm heart
τοιάδ᾽ ἐμοὶ ξύνοικος ἐν δόμοισι μὴ
such to-me housemate in house not
γένοιτ᾽· ὀλοίμην πρόσθεν ἐκ θεῶν ἄπαις.
may-become may-I-perish before by gods childless
ΧΟΡΟΣ αἰαῖ αἰαῖ μελέων ἔργων·
alas alas for-wretched deeds
στυγερῷ θανάτῳ διεπράχθης.
by-hateful death you-were-done-for
ἔ ἔ,
eh eh

μίμνοντι δὲ καὶ πάθος ἀνθεῖ.
for-one-remaining and also suffering blossoms

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἔδρασεν ἢ οὐκ ἔδρασε; μαρτυρεῖ δέ μοι
she-did or not she-did bears-witness and to-me

φᾶρος τόδ', ὡς ἔβαψεν Αἰγίσθου ξίφος.
robe this how dyed Aegisthus' sword

φόνου δὲ κηκὶς ξὺν χρόνῳ ξυμβάλλεται,
of-gore and stain with time joins

πολλὰς βαφὰς φθείρουσα τοῦ ποικίλματος.
many dyes spoiling of-the embroidery

νῦν αὐτὸν αἰνῶ, νῦν ἀποιμώζω παρών,
now him I-praise now I-bewail being-present

πατροκτόνον θ' ὕφασμα προσφωνῶν τόδε.
father-murdering and web addressing this

ἀλγῶ μὲν ἔργα καὶ πάθος γένος τε πᾶν,
I-grieve-for indeed deeds and suffering race and whole

ἄζηλα νίκης τῆσδ' ἔχων μιάσματα.
unenviable of-victory this having pollutions

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὔτις μερόπων ἀσινὴς βίοτον
no-one of-mortals unharmed life

διὰ παντὸς ἀπήμον' ἀμείψει.
through all unscathed will-pass

ἒ ἔ,
eh eh

μόχθος δ' ὁ μὲν αὐτίχ', ὁ δ' ἤξει.
toil and the indeed at-once the and will-come

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἀλλ', ὡς ἂν εἰδῆτ', οὐ γὰρ οἶδ' ὅπη τελεῖ,
but that — you-may-know not for I-know where it-will-end

ὥσπερ ξὺν ἵπποις ἡνιοστροφῶ δρόμου
as with horses I-drive of-course

ἐξωτέρω· φέρουσι γὰρ νικώμενον
outside bear for conquered
φρένες δύσαρκτοι· πρὸς δὲ καρδίᾳ φόβος
wits hard-to-govern before and heart fear
ᾄδειν ἕτοιμος ἠδ' ὑπορχεῖσθαι κότῳ.
to-sing ready and to-dance with-wrath
ἕως δ' ἔτ' ἔμφρων εἰμί, κηρύσσω φίλοις
while and still in-my-senses I-am I-proclaim to-friends
κτανεῖν τέ φημι μητέρ' οὐκ ἄνευ δίκης,
to-have-killed and I-say mother not without justice
πατροκτόνον μίασμα καὶ θεῶν στύγος.
father-murdering pollution and of-gods loathing
καὶ φίλτρα τόλμης τῆσδε πλειστηρίζομαι
and charms of-daring this I-cite-chiefly
τὸν πυθόμαντιν Λοξίαν, χρήσαντ' ἐμοὶ
the Pythian-prophet Loxias having-declared to-me
πράξαντι μὲν ταῦτ' ἐκτὸς αἰτίας κακῆς
having-done indeed these outside of-guilt evil
εἶναι, παρέντα δ' — οὐκ ἐρῶ τὴν ζημίαν·
to-be having-neglected but not I-will-tell the penalty
τόξῳ γὰρ οὔτις πημάτων ἐφίξεται.
with-bow for no-one of-woes will-reach
καὶ νῦν ὁρᾶτέ μ', ὡς παρεσκευασμένος
and now see me how prepared
ξὺν τῷδε θαλλῷ καὶ στέφει προσίξομαι
with this branch and wreath I-shall-go
μεσόμφαλόν θ' ἵδρυμα, Λοξίου πέδον,
mid-navel and seat of-Loxias ground
πυρός τε φέγγος ἄφθιτον κεκλημένον,
of-fire and gleam unquenchable called

φεύγων τόδ' αἷμα κοινόν· οὐδ' ἐφ' ἑστίαν
fleeing this blood kindred nor to hearth
ἄλλην τραπέσθαι Λοξίας ἐφίετο.
other to-turn Loxias enjoined
καὶ μαρτυρεῖν μὲν ὡς ἐπορσύνθη κακὰ
and to-bear-witness indeed how were-contrived evils
τάδ' ἐν χρόνῳ μοι πάντας Ἀργείους λέγω·
these in time for-me all Argives I-bid
ἐγὼ δ' ἀλήτης τῆσδε γῆς ἀπόξενος,
I and wanderer of-this land stranger
ζῶν καὶ τεθνηκὼς τάσδε κληδόνας λιπών.
living and dead these reports leaving
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' εὖ γ' ἔπραξας, μηδ' ἐπιζευχθῇς στόμα
but well at-least you-did nor be-yoked mouth
φήμῃ πονηρᾷ μηδ' ἐπιγλωσσῶ κακά,
with-speech evil nor speak-ill-omen evils
ἐλευθερώσας πᾶσαν Ἀργείων πόλιν,
having-freed all of-Argives city
δυοῖν δρακόντοιν εὐπετῶς τεμὼν κάρα.
of-two serpents easily having-cut heads
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἆ, ἆ.
ah ah
δμωαὶ γυναῖκες, αἵδε Γοργόνων δίκην
slave women these of-Gorgons like
φαιοχίτωνες καὶ πεπλεκτανημέναι
gray-robed and entwined
πυκνοῖς δράκουσιν· οὐκέτ' ἂν μείναιμ' ἐγώ.
with-thick serpents no-longer — could-remain I

ΧΟΡΟΣ τίνες σε δόξαι, φίλτατ᾽ ἀνθρώπων πατρί,
what you fancies dearest of-men to-father
στροβοῦσιν; ἴσχε, μὴ φόβου νικῶ πολύ.
whirl hold not by-fear be-overcome much
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκ εἰσὶ δόξαι τῶνδε πημάτων ἐμοί·
not are fancies of-these woes to-me
σαφῶς γὰρ αἵδε μητρὸς ἔγκοτοι κύνες.
clearly for these of-mother wrathful hounds
ΧΟΡΟΣ ποταίνιον γὰρ αἷμά σοι χεροῖν ἔτι· 1055
fresh for blood to-you on-hands still
ἐκ τῶνδέ τοι ταραγμὸς ἐς φρένας πίτνει.
from these surely confusion into mind falls
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἄναξ Ἄπολλον, αἵδε πληθύουσι δή,
lord Apollo these multiply indeed
κἀξ ὀμμάτων στάζουσιν αἷμα δυσφιλές.
and-from eyes drip blood hateful
ΧΟΡΟΣ εἷς σοὶ καθαρμός· Λοξίας δὲ προσθιγὼν
one for-you cleansing Loxias and touching
ἐλεύθερόν σε τῶνδε πημάτων κτίσει. 1060
free you of-these woes will-make
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὑμεῖς μὲν οὐχ ὁρᾶτε τάσδ᾽, ἐγὼ δ᾽ ὁρῶ·
you indeed not see these I but see
ἐλαύνομαι δὲ κοὐκέτ᾽ ἂν μείναιμ᾽ ἐγώ.
I-am-driven and and-no-longer — could-remain I
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ εὐτυχοίης, καί σ᾽ ἐποπτεύων πρόφρων
but may-you-fare-well and you watching kindly
θεὸς φυλάσσοι καιρίοισι συμφοραῖς.
god may-guard with-timely fortunes
ὅδε τοι μελάθροις τοῖς βασιλείοις 1065
this surely for-the-halls the royal

τρίτος αὖ χειμὼν
third again storm
πνεύσας γονίας ἐτελέσθη.
having-blown of-the-race has-been-accomplished
παιδοβόροι μὲν πρῶτον ὑπῆρξαν
child-devouring indeed first began
μόχθοι τάλανες·
toils wretched
δεύτερον ἀνδρὸς βασίλεια πάθη·
second of-man royal sufferings
λουτροδάικτος δ' ὤλετ' Ἀχαιῶν
bath-slain and perished of-Achaeans
πολέμαρχος ἀνήρ·
war-lord man
νῦν δ' αὖ τρίτος ἦλθέ ποθεν σωτήρ,
now and again third came from-somewhere savior
ἢ μόρον εἴπω;
or doom shall-I-say
ποῖ δῆτα κρανεῖ, ποῖ καταλήξει
where then will-it-end where will-cease
μετακοιμισθὲν μένος ἄτης;
lulled-to-sleep fury of-ruin

AESCHYLUS

ΕΥΜΕΝΙΔΕΣ

The Eumenides

I · THE TEMPLE AT DELPHI

The Pythian priestess honors the gods who held the oracle before Phoebus, then enters the shrine and staggers out in terror: a polluted man sits at the navel-stone with a bloody sword, and before him sleep women like Gorgons. Apollo promises Orestes protection and sends him to Pallas' city with Hermes. Clytemnestra's ghost rouses the sleeping band, who moan and stir.

ΠΥΘΙΑΣ πρῶτον μὲν εὐχῇ τῇδε πρεσβεύω θεῶν
first indeed in-prayer this I-honor of-gods
τὴν πρωτόμαντιν Γαῖαν· ἐκ δὲ τῆς Θέμιν,
the first-prophet Earth from and her Themis
ἥ δὴ τὸ μητρὸς δευτέρα τόδ' ἕζετο
who indeed the of-mother second this sat-on
μαντεῖον, ὡς λόγος τις· ἐν δὲ τῷ τρίτῳ
oracle as story some in and the third
λάχει, θελούσης, οὐδὲ πρὸς βίαν τινός,
allotment she-willing nor by force any
Τιτανὶς ἄλλη παῖς Χθονὸς καθέζετο,
Titan another child of-Earth sat
Φοίβη· δίδωσι δ' ἥ γενέθλιον δόσιν
Phoebe gives and she birthday gift
Φοίβῳ· τὸ Φοίβης δ' ὄνομ' ἔχει παρώνυμον.
to-Phoebus the of-Phoebe and name he-has derived
λιπὼν δὲ λίμνην Δηλίαν τε χοιράδα,
having-left and lake Delian and reef
κέλσας ἐπ' ἀκτὰς ναυπόρους τὰς Παλλάδος,
having-landed on shores ship-frequented the of-Pallas
ἐς τήνδε γαῖαν ἦλθε Παρνησοῦ θ' ἕδρας.
to this land came of-Parnassus and seats

πέμπουσι δ' αὐτὸν καὶ σεβίζουσιν μέγα
escort and him and revere greatly
κελευθοποιοὶ παῖδες Ἡφαίστου, χθόνα
road-making children of-Hephaestus land
ἀνήμερον τιθέντες ἡμερωμένην.
untamed making tamed
μολόντα δ' αὐτὸν κάρτα τιμαλφεῖ λεώς,
having-come and him greatly honors people
Δελφός τε χώρας τῆσδε πρυμνήτης ἄναξ.
Delphus and of-land this helmsman lord
τέχνης δέ νιν Ζεὺς ἔνθεον κτίσας φρένα
of-art and him Zeus inspired having-made mind
ἵζει τέταρτον τοῖσδε μάντιν ἐν θρόνοις·
seats fourth on-these prophet on thrones
Διὸς προφήτης δ' ἐστὶ Λοξίας πατρός.
of-Zeus spokesman and is Loxias of-father
τούτους ἐν εὐχαῖς φροιμιάζομαι θεούς.
these in prayers I-make-prelude gods
Παλλὰς προναία δ' ἐν λόγοις πρεσβεύεται·
Pallas before-the-temple and in words is-honored
σέβω δὲ νύμφας, ἔνθα Κωρυκὶς πέτρα
I-revere and nymphs where Corycian rock
κοίλη, φίλορνις, δαιμόνων ἀναστροφή·
hollow bird-loving of-spirits haunt
Βρόμιος ἔχει τὸν χῶρον, οὐδ' ἀμνημονῶ,
Bromius holds the place nor I-forget
ἐξ οὗτε Βάκχαις ἐστρατήγησεν θεός,
from when Bacchants led god
λαγὼ δίκην Πενθεῖ καταρράψας μόρον·
of-hare like for-Pentheus having-stitched death

Πλειστοῦ τε πηγὰς καὶ Ποσειδῶνος κράτος
of-Pleistus and springs and of-Poseidon might
καλοῦσα καὶ τέλειον ὕψιστον Δία,
calling and fulfilling highest Zeus
ἔπειτα μάντις ἐς θρόνους καθιζάνω.
then prophet on thrones I-sit
καὶ νῦν τυχεῖν με τῶν πρὶν εἰσόδων μακρῷ
and now to-meet me than-the former entrances by-far
ἄριστα δοῖεν· κεἰ παρ' Ἑλλήνων τινές,
best may-they-grant and-if from Greeks any
ἴτων πάλῳ λαχόντες, ὡς νομίζεται.
let-them-come by-lot drawing as is-customary
μαντεύομαι γὰρ ὡς ἂν ἡγῆται θεός.
I-prophesy for as — may-lead god
ἦ δεινὰ λέξαι, δεινὰ δ' ὀφθαλμοῖς δρακεῖν,
truly terrible-things to-tell terrible and with-eyes to-see
πάλιν μ' ἔπεμψεν ἐκ δόμων τῶν Λοξίου,
back me sent from house of-the Loxias
ὡς μήτε σωκεῖν μήτε μ' ἀκταίνειν βάσιν,
so-that neither to-be-strong nor me to-lift step
τρέχω δὲ χερσίν, οὐ ποδωκείᾳ σκελῶν·
I-run and with-hands not with-swiftness of-legs
δείσασα γὰρ γραῦς οὐδέν, ἀντίπαις μὲν οὖν.
having-feared for old-woman nothing like-a-child indeed rather
ἐγὼ μὲν ἕρπω πρὸς πολυστεφῆ μυχόν·
I indeed creep toward wreath-hung inner-shrine
ὁρῶ δ' ἐπ' ὀμφαλῷ μὲν ἄνδρα θεομυσῆ
I-see and on navel indeed man god-defiled
ἕδραν ἔχοντα προστρόπαιον, αἵματι
seat having suppliant with-blood

στάζοντα χεῖρας καὶ νεοσπαδὲς ξίφος
dripping hands and fresh-drawn sword
ἔχοντ' ἐλαίας θ' ὑψιγέννητον κλάδον,
holding of-olive and high-grown branch
λήνει μεγίστῳ σωφρόνως ἐστεμμένον,
with-wool largest modestly wreathed
ἀργῆτι μαλλῷ· τῇδε γὰρ τανῶς ἐρῶ.
with-white fleece thus for clearly I-shall-say
πρόσθεν δὲ τἀνδρὸς τοῦδε θαυμαστὸς λόχος
before and of-the-man this wondrous band
εὕδει γυναικῶν ἐν θρόνοισιν ἥμενος.
sleeps of-women on thrones sitting
οὔτοι γυναῖκας, ἀλλὰ Γοργόνας λέγω,
surely-not women but Gorgons I-call
οὐδ' αὖτε Γοργείοισιν εἰκάσω τύποις.
nor again to-Gorgon I-shall-liken forms
εἶδόν ποτ' ἤδη Φινέως γεγραμμένας
I-saw once already of-Phineus painted
δεῖπνον φερούσας· ἄπτεροί γε μὴν ἰδεῖν
feast carrying wingless at-least indeed to-see
αὗται, μέλαιναι δ' ἐς τὸ πᾶν βδελύκτροποι·
these black and to the whole loathsome
ῥέγκουσι δ' οὐ πλατοῖσι φυσιάμασιν·
snore and not approachable with-breathings
ἐκ δ' ὀμμάτων λείβουσι δυσφιλῆ λίβα·
from and eyes drip hateful ooze
καὶ κόσμος οὔτε πρὸς θεῶν ἀγάλματα
and attire neither to of-gods images
φέρειν δίκαιος οὔτ' ἐς ἀνθρώπων στέγας.
to-bring right nor into of-men roofs

τὸ φῦλον οὐκ ὄπωπα τῆσδ' ὁμιλίας
the tribe not I-have-seen of-this company
οὐδ' ἥτις αἶα τοῦτ' ἐπεύχεται γένος
nor what land this boasts race
τρέφουσ' ἀνατεὶ μὴ μεταστένειν πόνον.
rearing with-impunity not to-lament toil
τἀντεῦθεν ἤδη τῶνδε δεσπότῃ δόμων
the-rest already of-these to-master of-house
αὐτῷ μελέσθω Λοξίᾳ μεγασθενεῖ.
himself let-be-care to-Loxias mighty
ἰατρόμαντις δ' ἐστὶ καὶ τερασκόπος
healer-prophet and he-is and portent-reader
καὶ τοῖσιν ἄλλοις δωμάτων καθάρσιος.
and for-the others of-houses purifier
ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ οὔτοι προδώσω· διὰ τέλους δέ σοι φύλαξ
surely-not I-shall-betray through end and to-you guardian
ἐγγὺς παρεστὼς καὶ πρόσω δ' ἀποστατῶν
near standing-by and far and standing-off
ἐχθροῖσι τοῖς σοῖς οὐ γενήσομαι πέπων.
to-enemies — your not I-shall-become mild
καὶ νῦν ἁλούσας τάσδε τὰς μάργους ὁρᾷς·
and now caught these the ravening you-see
ὕπνῳ πεσοῦσαι δ' αἱ κατάπτυστοι κόραι,
in-sleep fallen and the abominable maidens
γραῖαι παλαιαὶ παῖδες, αἷς οὐ μείγνυται
gray aged children with-whom not mingles
θεῶν τις οὐδ' ἄνθρωπος οὐδὲ θήρ ποτε.
of-gods any nor man nor beast ever
κακῶν δ' ἕκατι κἀγένοντ', ἐπεὶ κακὸν
of-evil and for-the-sake and-were-born since evil

σκότον νέμονται Τάρταρόν θ' ὑπὸ χθονός,
darkness they-inhabit Tartarus and under earth
μισήματ' ἀνδρῶν καὶ θεῶν Ὀλυμπίων.
hateful-things of-men and of-gods Olympian
ὅμως δὲ φεῦγε μηδὲ μαλθακὸς γένῃ.
nevertheless and flee nor soft become
ἐλῶσι γάρ σε καὶ δι' ἠπείρου μακρᾶς
they-will-drive for you even through land long
βιβῶντ' ἀν' αἰεὶ τὴν πλανοστιβῆ χθόνα
treading on ever the wander-trodden earth
ὑπέρ τε πόντον καὶ περιρρύτας πόλεις.
over and sea and sea-girt cities
καὶ μὴ πρόκαμνε τόνδε βουκολούμενος
and not weary-beforehand this brooding-over
πόνον· μολὼν δὲ Παλλάδος ποτὶ πτόλιν
toil having-come and of-Pallas to city
ἵζου παλαιὸν ἄγκαθεν λαβὼν βρέτας.
sit ancient in-arms having-taken image
κἀκεῖ δικαστὰς τῶνδε καὶ θελκτηρίους
and-there judges of-these and soothing
μύθους ἔχοντες μηχανὰς εὑρήσομεν,
words having devices we-shall-find
ὥστ' ἐς τὸ πᾶν σε τῶνδ' ἀπαλλάξαι πόνων·
so-that to the whole you from-these to-free toils
καὶ γὰρ κτανεῖν σ' ἔπεισα μητρῷον δέμας.
and for to-kill you I-persuaded maternal body
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἄναξ Ἄπολλον, οἶσθα μὲν τὸ μὴ 'δικεῖν·
lord Apollo you-know indeed the not to-do-wrong
ἐπεὶ δ' ἐπίστᾳ, καὶ τὸ μὴ 'μελεῖν μάθε.
since and you-know also the not to-neglect learn

σθένος δὲ ποιεῖν εὖ φερέγγυον τὸ σόν.
might and to-do well trustworthy — your

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ μέμνησο, μὴ φόβος σε νικάτω φρένας.
remember not fear you let-conquer mind

σὺ δ', αὐτάδελφον αἷμα καὶ κοινοῦ πατρός,
you and own-brother blood and of-common father

Ἑρμῆ, φύλασσε· κάρτα δ' ὢν ἐπώνυμος 90
Hermes guard very and being named

πομπαῖος ἴσθι, τόνδε ποιμαίνων ἐμὸν
escort be this shepherding my

ἱκέτην — σέβει τοι Ζεὺς τόδ' ἐκνόμων σέβας —
suppliant reveres surely Zeus this of-outlaws reverence

ὁρμώμενον βροτοῖσιν εὐπόμπῳ τύχῃ.
speeding to-mortals with-good-escort fortune

ΕΙΔΩΛΟΝ εὕδοιτ' ἄν, ὠή, καὶ καθευδουσῶν τί δεῖ;
you-would-sleep — ho and of-sleepers what need

ἐγὼ δ' ὑφ' ὑμῶν ὧδ' ἀπητιμασμένη 95
I and by you thus dishonored

ἄλλοισιν ἐν νεκροῖσιν, ὧν μὲν ἔκτανον
other among dead of-whom indeed I-killed

ὄνειδος ἐν φθιτοῖσιν οὐκ ἐκλείπεται,
reproach among dead not ceases

αἰσχρῶς δ' ἀλῶμαι· προυννέπω δ' ὑμῖν ὅτι
shamefully and I-wander I-declare and to-you that

ἔχω μεγίστην αἰτίαν κείνων ὕπο·
I-have greatest blame them by

παθοῦσα δ' οὕτω δεινὰ πρὸς τῶν φιλτάτων, 100
having-suffered and thus terrible-things from the dearest

οὐδεὶς ὑπέρ μου δαιμόνων μηνίεται,
no-one on-behalf-of me of-spirits is-angry

κατασφαγείσης πρὸς χερῶν μητροκτόνων.
slaughtered by hands mother-killing
ὁρᾶτε πληγὰς τάσδε καρδίας ὅθεν.
see wounds these of-heart whence
εὕδουσα γὰρ φρὴν ὄμμασιν λαμπρύνεται,
sleeping for mind with-eyes is-made-bright
ἐν ἡμέρᾳ δὲ μοῖρ' ἀπρόσκοπος βροτῶν.
in day but fate unforeseeing of-mortals
ἦ πολλὰ μὲν δὴ τῶν ἐμῶν ἐλείξατε,
truly many indeed indeed — of-my you-licked
χοάς τ' ἀοίνους, νηφάλια μειλίγματα,
libations and wineless sober appeasements
καὶ νυκτίσεμνα δεῖπν' ἐπ' ἐσχάρᾳ πυρὸς
and night-solemn feasts on hearth of-fire
ἔθυον, ὥραν οὐδενὸς κοινὴν θεῶν.
I-sacrificed at-hour of-none shared of-gods
καὶ πάντα ταῦτα λὰξ ὁρῶ πατούμενα.
and all these with-heel I-see trampled
ὁ δ' ἐξαλύξας οἴχεται νεβροῦ δίκην,
he and having-escaped is-gone of-fawn like
καὶ ταῦτα κούφως ἐκ μέσων ἀρκυστάτων
and this lightly from middle of-nets
ὤρουσεν ὑμῖν ἐγκατιλλώψας μέγα.
leaped-out at-you having-winked greatly
ἀκούσαθ' ὡς ἔλεξα τῆς ἐμῆς περὶ
hear how I-have-spoken — my about
ψυχῆς, φρονήσατ', ὦ κατὰ χθονὸς θεαί.
soul take-thought O under earth goddesses
ὄναρ γὰρ ὑμᾶς νῦν Κλυταιμήστρα καλῶ.
in-dream for you now Clytemnestra I-call

ΧΟΡΟΣ (μυγμός.)

moaning

ΕΙΔΩΛΟΝ μύζοιτ' ἄν, ἀνὴρ δ' οἴχεται φεύγων πρόσω·

you-may-moan — the-man and is-gone fleeing far

φίλοι γάρ εἰσιν οὐκ ἐμοῖς προσεικότες.

friends for are not to-mine like

ΧΟΡΟΣ (μυγμός.)

moaning

ΕΙΔΩΛΟΝ ἄγαν ὑπνώσσεις κοὐ κατοικτίζεις πάθος·

too-much you-sleep and-not you-pity suffering

φονεὺς δ' Ὀρέστης τῆσδε μητρὸς οἴχεται.

murderer and Orestes of-this mother is-gone

ΧΟΡΟΣ (ὠγμός.)

groaning

ΕΙΔΩΛΟΝ ᾤζεις, ὑπνώσσεις· οὐκ ἀναστήσῃ τάχος;

you-groan you-sleep not will-you-rise quickly

τί σοι πέπρωται πρᾶγμα πλὴν τεύχειν κακά;

what to-you is-fated deed except to-work evils

ΧΟΡΟΣ (ὠγμός.)

groaning

ΕΙΔΩΛΟΝ ὕπνος πόνος τε κύριοι συνωμόται

sleep toil and authoritative conspirators

δεινῆς δρακαίνης ἐξεκήραναν μένος.

of-dread serpent have-exhausted might

ΧΟΡΟΣ (μυγμὸς διπλοῦς ὀξύς.)

moaning double shrill

λαβὲ λαβὲ λαβὲ λαβέ, φράζου.

take take take take mark

ΕΙΔΩΛΟΝ ὄναρ διώκεις θῆρα, κλαγγαίνεις δ' ἅπερ
in-dream you-chase beast you-bay and like
κύων μέριμναν οὔποτ' ἐκλείπων πόνου.
dog care never leaving of-toil
τί δρᾷς; ἀνίστω, μή σε νικάτω πόνος,
what do-you-do rise not you let-conquer toil
μηδ' ἀγνοήσῃς πῆμα μαλθαχθεῖσ' ὕπνῳ.
nor fail-to-know harm softened by-sleep
135 ἄλγησον ἦπαρ ἐνδίκοις ὀνείδεσιν·
pain liver with-just reproaches
τοῖς σώφροσιν γὰρ ἀντίκεντρα γίγνεται.
to-the self-controlled for goads become
σὺ δ' αἱματηρὸν πνεῦμ' ἐπουρίσασα τῷ,
you and bloody breath having-wafted-after on-him
ἀτμῷ κατισχναίνουσα, νηδύος πυρί,
vapor withering of-womb with-fire
ἕπου, μάραινε δευτέροις διώγμασιν.
follow wither with-second pursuits
140 ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔγειρ', ἔγειρε καὶ σὺ τήνδ', ἐγὼ δὲ σέ.
wake wake and you this I and you
εὕδεις; ἀνίστω, κἀπολακτίσασ' ὕπνον,
you-sleep rise and-having-kicked-off sleep
ἰδώμεθ' εἴ τι τοῦδε φροιμίου ματᾷ.
let-us-see if anything of-this prelude is-vain

II · THE ERINYES WAKE

The Erinyes wake to find their prey gone. They blame Apollo, a young god who has ridden down old ones by sheltering a godless mother-killer. The dream has struck them like a charioteer's goad. They declare his shrine stained with blood, and say the fugitive will never be free, even under the earth.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰοὺ ἰοὺ πύπαξ. ἐπάθομεν, φίλαι, —
oh oh alas we-have-suffered friends
ἦ πολλὰ δὴ παθοῦσα καὶ μάτην ἐγώ, —
truly much indeed having-suffered and in-vain I
ἐπάθομεν πάθος δυσαχές, ὦ πόποι,
we-have-suffered suffering grievous O gods
ἄφερτον κακόν·
unbearable evil
ἐξ ἀρκύων πέπτωκεν οἴχεταί θ' ὁ θήρ. —
from nets has-fallen is-gone and the beast
ὕπνῳ κρατηθεῖσ' ἄγραν ὤλεσα.
by-sleep overcome prey I-lost
ἰὼ παῖ Διός, ἐπίκλοπος πέλῃ, —
oh child of-Zeus thievish you-are
νέος δὲ γραίας δαίμονας καθιππάσω, —
young and old spirits you-have-ridden-down
τὸν ἱκέταν σέβων, ἄθεον ἄνδρα καὶ
the suppliant revering godless man and
τοκεῦσιν πικρόν·
to-parents bitter
τὸν μητραλοίαν δ' ἐξέκλεψας ὢν θεός. —
the mother-killer and you-stole-away being god
τί τῶνδ' ἐρεῖ τις δικαίως ἔχειν;
what of-these will-say anyone justly to-be

ἐμοὶ δ' ὄνειδος ἐξ ὀνειράτων μολὸν
to-me and reproach from dreams coming
ἔτυψεν δίκαν διφρηλάτου
struck like of-charioteer
μεσολαβεῖ κέντρῳ
grasping-in-the-middle with-goad
ὑπὸ φρένας, ὑπὸ λοβόν. —
under heart under lobe
πάρεστι μαστίκτορος δαΐου δαμίου
it-is-possible of-scourger cruel public
βαρὺ τὸ περίβαρυ κρύος ἔχειν.
heavy the very-heavy chill to-have
τοιαῦτα δρῶσιν οἱ νεώτεροι θεοί,
such-things do the younger gods
κρατοῦντες τὸ πᾶν δίκας πλέον
ruling the whole than-justice more
φονολιβῆ θρόνον
blood-dripping throne
περὶ πόδα, περὶ κάρα. —
about foot about head
πάρεστι γᾶς ὀμφαλὸν προσδρακεῖν αἱμάτων
it-is-possible of-earth navel to-see of-blood
βλοσυρὸν ἀρόμενον ἄγος ἔχειν.
grim having-taken pollution to-hold
ἐφεστίῳ δὲ μάντις ὢν μιάσματι
on-the-hearth and prophet being by-pollution
μυχὸν ἐχράνατ' αὐτόσσυτος, αὐτόκλητος,
inner-shrine stained self-impelled self-invited
παρὰ νόμον θεῶν βρότεα μὲν τίων,
against law of-gods mortal-things indeed honoring

παλαιγενεῖς δὲ μοίρας φθίσας.
ancient and allotments having-destroyed
κἀμοί γε λυπρός, καὶ τὸν οὐκ ἐκλύσεται,
and-to-me at-least hateful and him not he-will-free
ὑπό τε γᾶν φυγὼν οὔ ποτ' ἐλευθεροῦται. 175
under and earth having-fled not ever is-freed
ποτιτρόπαιος ὢν δ' ἕτερον ἐν κάρᾳ
suppliant being and another on head
μιάστορ' ἐκ γένους πάσεται.
avenger from race will-get

III · APOLLO AND THE ERINYES

Apollo orders the Erinyes out of his temple: their place is where heads are chopped and men impaled. They charge him with ordering the matricide. He answers that they ignore a wife who kills her husband, though the marriage bond is sacred, and that Pallas will judge. They vow to hunt Orestes, and he to protect him. At Athens Orestes clasps Athena's image. The Erinyes track him by the smell of blood and threaten to drain him alive. He says he is purified and calls on Athena.

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ ἔξω, κελεύω, τῶνδε δωμάτων τάχος
out I-bid of-this house quickly
χωρεῖτ', ἀπαλλάσσεσθε μαντικῶν μυχῶν, 180
go depart of-prophetic chambers
μὴ καὶ λαβοῦσα πτηνὸν ἀργηστὴν ὄφιν,
lest even receiving winged gleaming snake
χρυσηλάτου θώμιγγος ἐξορμώμενον,
from-gold-beaten string speeding
ἀνῇς ὑπ' ἄλγους μέλαν' ἀπ' ἀνθρώπων ἀφρόν,
you-cast-up from pain black from men foam

ἐμοῦσα θρόμβους οὓς ἀφείλκυσας φόνου.
vomiting clots which you-drained of-murder
οὔτοι δόμοισι τοῖσδε χρίμπτεσθαι πρέπει·
surely-not to-house this to-approach befits
ἀλλ' οὗ καρανιστῆρες ὀφθαλμωρύχοι
but where head-chopping eye-gouging
δίκαι σφαγαί τε σπέρματός τ' ἀποφθορᾷ
judgments slaughters and of-seed and by-destruction
παίδων κακοῦται χλοῦνις, ἠδ' ἀκρωνία,
of-boys is-ruined vigor and mutilation
λευσμός τε, καὶ μύζουσιν οἰκτισμὸν πολὺν
stoning both and moan lament much
ὑπὸ ῥάχιν παγέντες. ἆρ' ἀκούετε
under spine impaled — do-you-hear
οἵας ἑορτῆς ἔστ' ἀπόπτυστοι θεοῖς
of-what feast you-are abominable to-gods
στέργηθρ' ἔχουσαι; πᾶς δ' ὑφηγεῖται τρόπος
fondness having all and points-the-way manner
μορφῆς. λέοντος ἄντρον αἱματορρόφου
of-shape of-lion cave blood-gulping
οἰκεῖν τοιαύτας εἰκός, οὐ χρηστηρίοις
to-inhabit such fitting not oracles
ἐν τοῖσδε πλησίοισι τρίβεσθαι μύσος.
in these near to-rub-off pollution
χωρεῖτ' ἄνευ βοτῆρος αἰπολούμεναι.
go without herdsman being-herded
ποίμνης τοιαύτης δ' οὔτις εὐφιλὴς θεῶν.
of-flock such and no-one friendly of-gods

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄναξ Ἄπολλον, ἀντάκουσον ἐν μέρει.
lord Apollo hear-in-turn in turn

αὐτὸς σὺ τούτων οὐ μεταίτιος πέλῃ,
yourself you of-these not jointly-responsible are

ἀλλ᾽ εἷς τὸ πᾶν ἔπραξας ὢν παναίτιος.
but alone the whole you-did being all-responsible

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ πῶς δή; τοσοῦτο μῆκος ἔκτεινον λόγου.
how indeed so-much length stretch-out of-word

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔχρησας ὥστε τὸν ξένον μητροκτονεῖν.
you-commanded so-that the stranger to-kill-mother

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ ἔχρησα ποινὰς τοῦ πατρὸς πρᾶξαι. τί μήν;
I-commanded vengeance for-the father to-exact what indeed

ΧΟΡΟΣ κἄπειθ᾽ ὑπέστης αἵματος δέκτωρ νέου.
and-then you-undertook of-blood receiver fresh

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ καὶ προστραπέσθαι τούσδ᾽ ἐπέστελλον δόμους.
and to-turn-as-suppliant to-this I-enjoined house

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ τὰς προπομποὺς δῆτα τάσδε λοιδορεῖς;
and the escorts then these you-revile

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ οὐ γὰρ δόμοισι τοῖσδε πρόσφορον μολεῖν.
not for to-house this fitting to-come

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἔστιν ἡμῖν τοῦτο προστεταγμένον.
but is for-us this enjoined

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ τίς ἥδε τιμή; κόμπασον γέρας καλόν.
what this honor boast prerogative fair

ΧΟΡΟΣ τοὺς μητραλοίας ἐκ δόμων ἐλαύνομεν.
the mother-killers from house we-drive

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ τί γὰρ γυναικὸς ἥτις ἄνδρα νοσφίσῃ;
what for of-woman who husband should-kill

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκ ἂν γένοιθ᾽ ὅμαιμος αὐθέντης φόνος.
not — would-be of-same-blood kin murder

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ ἦ κάρτ᾽ ἄτιμα καὶ παρ᾽ οὐδὲν εἰργάσω
truly very unhonored and at nothing you-have-made
Ἥρας τελείας καὶ Διὸς πιστώματα.
of-Hera fulfilling and of-Zeus pledges
Κύπρις δ᾽ ἄτιμος τῷδ᾽ ἀπέρριπται λόγῳ,
Cypris and unhonored by-this is-cast-away argument
ὅθεν βροτοῖσι γίγνεται τὰ φίλτατα.
whence to-mortals come the dearest-things
εὐνὴ γὰρ ἀνδρὶ καὶ γυναικὶ μόρσιμος
bed for for-man and for-woman fated
ὅρκου ᾽στὶ μείζων τῇ δίκῃ φρουρουμένη.
than-oath is greater by-the justice guarded
εἰ τοῖσιν οὖν κτείνουσιν ἀλλήλους χαλᾷς
if to-those then killing one-another you-are-lax
τὸ μὴ τίνεσθαι μηδ᾽ ἐποπτεύειν κότῳ,
the not to-punish nor to-look-on with-wrath
οὔ φημ᾽ Ὀρέστην σ᾽ ἐνδίκως ἀνδρηλατεῖν.
not I-say Orestes you justly to-drive-out
τὰ μὲν γὰρ οἶδα κάρτα σ᾽ ἐνθυμουμένην,
the indeed for I-know very you laying-to-heart
τὰ δ᾽ ἐμφανῶς πράσσουσαν ἡσυχαιτέραν.
the but openly doing quieter
δίκας δὲ Παλλὰς τῶνδ᾽ ἐποπτεύσει θεά.
justice and Pallas of-these will-oversee goddess
ΧΟΡΟΣ τὸν ἄνδρ᾽ ἐκεῖνον οὔ τι μὴ λίπω ποτέ.
the man that not at-all not I-shall-leave ever
ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ σὺ δ᾽ οὖν δίωκε καὶ πόνον πλείω τίθου.
you and then pursue and toil more make
ΧΟΡΟΣ τιμὰς σὺ μὴ σύντεμνε τὰς ἐμὰς λόγῳ.
honors you not curtail — my by-word

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ οὐδ' ἂν δεχοίμην ὥστ' ἔχειν τιμὰς σέθεν.
not-even — I-would-accept so-as to-have honors yours

ΧΟΡΟΣ μέγας γὰρ ἔμπας πὰρ Διὸς θρόνοις λέγῃ.
great for nevertheless beside of-Zeus thrones you-are-called

ἐγὼ δ', ἄγει γὰρ αἷμα μητρῷον, δίκας
I and leads for blood maternal for-justice

μέτειμι τόνδε φῶτα κἀκκυνηγετῶ.
shall-pursue this man and-shall-hunt-down

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ ἐγὼ δ' ἀρήξω τὸν ἱκέτην τε ῥύσομαι·
I and shall-help the suppliant and shall-rescue

δεινὴ γὰρ ἐν βροτοῖσι κἀν θεοῖς πέλει
terrible for among mortals and-among gods is

τοῦ προστροπαίου μῆνις, εἰ προδῶ σφ' ἑκών.
of-the suppliant wrath if I-betray him willingly

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἄνασσ' Ἀθάνα, Λοξίου κελεύμασιν
queen Athena of-Loxias by-commands

ἥκω, δέχου δὲ πρευμενῶς ἀλάστορα,
I-come receive and kindly accursed-one

οὐ προστρόπαιον οὐδ' ἀφοίβαντον χέρα,
not suppliant nor unpurified hand

ἀλλ' ἀμβλὺς ἤδη προστετριμμένος τε πρὸς
but blunted already worn-off and against

ἄλλοισιν οἴκοις καὶ πορεύμασιν βροτῶν.
other houses and ways of-mortals

ὅμοια χέρσον καὶ θάλασσαν ἐκπερῶν,
alike land and sea crossing

σῴζων ἐφετμὰς Λοξίου χρηστηρίους,
keeping commands of-Loxias oracular

πρόσειμι δῶμα καὶ βρέτας τὸ σόν, θεά.
I-approach house and image — your goddess

αὐτοῦ φυλάσσων ἀναμένω τέλος δίκης.
here guarding I-await end of-judgment

ΧΟΡΟΣ εἶεν· τόδ' ἐστὶ τἀνδρὸς ἐκφανὲς τέκμαρ.
well this is of-the-man plain token

ἕπου δὲ μηνυτῆρος ἀφθέγκτου φραδαῖς.
follow and of-informer voiceless counsels

τετραυματισμένον γὰρ ὡς κύων νεβρὸν
wounded for like hound fawn

πρὸς αἷμα καὶ σταλαγμὸν ἐκματεύομεν.
by blood and dripping we-track

πολλοῖς δὲ μόχθοις ἀνδροκμῆσι φυσιᾷ
many and by-toils man-wearying pants

σπλάγχνον· χθονὸς γὰρ πᾶς πεποίμανται τόπος,
lung of-earth for every has-been-ranged place

ὑπέρ τε πόντον ἀπτέροις ποτήμασιν
over and sea in-wingless flights

ἦλθον διώκουσ', οὐδὲν ὑστέρα νεώς.
I-came pursuing nothing later than-ship

καὶ νῦν ὅδ' ἐνθάδ' ἐστί που καταπτακών.
and now he here is somewhere crouching

ὀσμὴ βροτείων αἱμάτων με προσγελᾷ.
smell of-human blood me smiles-at

ὅρα ὅρα μάλ' αὖ,
look look very again

λεύσσετε πάντα, μὴ
look-at all lest

λάθῃ φύγδα βὰς
he-escape in-flight having-gone

ματροφόνος ἀτίτας.
mother-slayer unpunished

ὁ δ' αὖτέ γ' ἀλκὰν ἔχων
he and again at-least defense having
περὶ βρέτει πλεχθεὶς θεᾶς ἀμβρότου
around image twined of-goddess immortal
ὑπόδικος θέλει γενέσθαι χρεῶν.
to-trial wishes to-become of-debts
τὸ δ' οὐ πάρεστιν· αἷμα μητρῷον χαμαὶ
the but not is-possible blood maternal on-ground
δυσαγκόμιστον, παπαῖ,
hard-to-recover alas
τὸ διερὸν πέδοι χύμενον οἴχεται.
the liquid on-ground poured is-gone
ἀλλ' ἀντιδοῦναι δεῖ σ' ἀπὸ ζῶντος ῥοφεῖν
but to-give-in-turn must you from living to-gulp
ἐρυθρὸν ἐκ μελέων πέλανον· ἀπὸ δὲ σοῦ
red from limbs clot from and you
φεροίμαν βοσκὰν πώματος δυσπότου·
may-I-bear food of-drink ill-to-drink
καὶ ζῶντά σ' ἰσχνάνασ' ἀπάξομαι κάτω,
and living you having-withered I-shall-lead below
ἀντίποιν' ὡς τίνῃς ματροφόνου δύας.
penalty so-that you-may-pay for-mother-murdering woes
ὄψει δὲ κεἴ τις ἄλλος ἤλιτεν βροτῶν
you-will-see and also-if any other sinned of-mortals
ἢ θεὸν ἢ ξένον
either god or stranger
τιν' †ἀσεβῶν† ἢ τοκέας φίλους,
some dishonoring or parents dear
ἔχονθ' ἕκαστον τῆς δίκης ἐπάξια.
having each of-the justice deserts

μέγας γὰρ Ἅιδης ἐστὶν εὔθυνος βροτῶν
great for Hades is auditor of-mortals
ἔνερθε χθονός,
below earth
δελτογράφῳ δὲ πάντ' ἐπωπᾷ φρενί.
with-tablet-writing and all observes mind
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἐγὼ διδαχθεὶς ἐν κακοῖς ἐπίσταμαι
I taught in evils know
πολλοὺς καθαρμούς, καὶ λέγειν ὅπου δίκη
many purifications and to-speak where justice
σιγᾶν θ' ὁμοίως· ἐν δὲ τῷδε πράγματι
to-be-silent and likewise in and this matter
φωνεῖν ἐτάχθην πρὸς σοφοῦ διδασκάλου.
to-speak I-was-bidden by wise teacher
βρίζει γὰρ αἷμα καὶ μαραίνεται χερός,
slumbers for blood and fades from-hand
μητροκτόνον μίασμα δ' ἔκπλυτον πέλει·
mother-killing pollution and washed-out is
ποταίνιον γὰρ ὂν πρὸς ἑστίᾳ θεοῦ
fresh for being at hearth of-god
Φοίβου καθαρμοῖς ἠλάθη χοιροκτόνοις.
of-Phoebus by-purifications it-was-driven-out swine-slaying
πολὺς δέ μοι γένοιτ' ἂν ἐξ ἀρχῆς λόγος,
much and to-me would-be — from beginning word
ὅσοις προσῆλθον ἀβλαβεῖ ξυνουσίᾳ.
to-how-many I-came with-harmless company
καὶ νῦν ἀφ' ἁγνοῦ στόματος εὐφήμως καλῶ
and now from holy mouth reverently I-call
χώρας ἄνασσαν τῆσδ' Ἀθηναίαν ἐμοὶ
of-land queen this Athena to-me

μολεῖν ἀρωγόν· κτήσεται δ' ἄνευ δορὸς
to-come helper she-will-win and without spear
αὐτόν τε καὶ γῆν καὶ τὸν Ἀργεῖον λεὼν
himself both and land and the Argive people
πιστὸν δικαίως ἐς τὸ πᾶν τε σύμμαχον.
faithful justly to the all and ally
ἀλλ' εἴτε χώρας ἐν τόποις Λιβυστικοῖς,
but whether of-land in regions Libyan
Τρίτωνος ἀμφὶ χεῦμα γενεθλίου πόρου,
of-Triton about stream of-native water
τίθησιν ὀρθὸν ἢ κατηρεφῆ πόδα,
she-sets upright or covered foot
φίλοις ἀρήγουσ', εἴτε Φλεγραίαν πλάκα
friends helping or Phlegraean plain
θρασὺς ταγοῦχος ὡς ἀνὴρ ἐπισκοπεῖ,
bold commander like man surveys
ἔλθοι — κλύει δὲ καὶ πρόσωθεν ὢν θεός —
may-she-come hears and even far-off being god
ὅπως γένοιτο τῶνδ' ἐμοὶ λυτήριος.
so-that she-may-become of-these to-me deliverer

The Erinyes tell Orestes that neither Apollo nor Athena can save him and that he will feed them alive. They form a dance to sing their binding song and call on Night, their mother, against Leto's son. Fate spun them their office: to pursue kin-murderers until death. The gods keep apart from them. They bring down the proud, and a murky mist hangs over the murderer's house. Their ancient office remains, though they dwell in sunless darkness.

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὔτοι σ' Ἀπόλλων οὐδ' Ἀθηναίας σθένος
surely-not you Apollo nor of-Athena might
ῥύσαιτ' ἂν ὥστε μὴ οὐ παρημελημένον
could-save — so-that not not neglected
ἔρρειν, τὸ χαίρειν μὴ μαθόνθ' ὅπου φρενῶν,
to-perish the to-rejoice not having-learned where in-mind
ἀναίματον βόσκημα δαιμόνων, σκιάν.
bloodless fodder of-spirits shadow
οὐδ' ἀντιφωνεῖς, ἀλλ' ἀποπτύεις λόγους,
not-even you-answer but you-spurn words
ἐμοὶ τραφείς τε καὶ καθιερωμένος;
to-me reared both and consecrated
καὶ ζῶν με δαίσεις οὐδὲ πρὸς βωμῷ σφαγείς·
and living me you-will-feast nor at altar slaughtered
ὕμνον δ' ἀκούσῃ τόνδε δέσμιον σέθεν.
hymn and you-shall-hear this binding you
ἄγε δὴ καὶ χορὸν ἄψωμεν, ἐπεὶ
come indeed and dance let-us-join since
μοῦσαν στυγερὰν
music hateful
ἀποφαίνεσθαι δεδόκηκεν,
to-display it-has-seemed-good

λέξαι τε λάχη τὰ κατ᾽ ἀνθρώπους
to-tell and allotments the among men
ὡς ἐπινωμᾷ στάσις ἁμά.
how directs band our
εὐθυδίκαιοι δ᾽ οἰόμεθ᾽ εἶναι·
just-dealing and we-think to-be
τὸν μὲν καθαρὰς χεῖρας προνέμοντ᾽
him indeed pure hands holding-out
οὔτις ἐφέρπει μῆνις ἀφ᾽ ἡμῶν,
no creeps-upon wrath from us
ἀσινὴς δ᾽ αἰῶνα διοιχνεῖ·
unharmed and life he-passes-through
ὅστις δ᾽ ἀλιτὼν ὥσπερ ὅδ᾽ ἀνὴρ
whoever but having-sinned as this the-man
χεῖρας φονίας ἐπικρύπτει,
hands murderous hides
μάρτυρες ὀρθαὶ τοῖσι θανοῦσιν
witnesses upright for-the dead
παραγιγνόμεναι πράκτορες αἵματος
present exactors of-blood
αὐτῷ τελέως ἐφάνημεν.
to-him finally we-appear
μᾶτερ ἅ μ᾽ ἔτικτες, ὦ μᾶτερ
mother who me bore O mother
Νύξ, ἀλαοῖσι καὶ δεδορκόσιν
Night for-the-blind and the-seeing
ποινάν, κλῦθ᾽. ὁ Λατοῦς γὰρ ἶ-
vengeance hear the of-Leto for son
νίς μ᾽ ἄτιμον τίθησιν
— me unhonored makes

τόνδ᾽ ἀφαιρούμενος
this taking-away
πτῶκα, ματρῷον ἄ-
cowering of-mother sacrifice
γνισμα κύριον φόνου.
— rightful of-murder
ἐπὶ δὲ τῷ τεθυμένῳ
over and the sacrificed
τόδε μέλος, παρακοπά,
this song frenzy
παραφορὰ φρενοδαλής,
derangement mind-destroying
ὕμνος ἐξ Ἐρινύων,
hymn of Erinyes
δέσμιος φρενῶν, ἀφόρ-
binding of-minds lyreless
μικτος, αὐονὰ βροτοῖς.
— withering to-mortals
τοῦτο γὰρ λάχος διανταία
this for allotment piercing
Μοῖρ᾽ ἐπέκλωσεν ἐμπέδως ἔχειν,
Fate spun steadfastly to-hold
θνατῶν τοῖσιν αὐτουργίαι
of-mortals for-whom kin-murders
ξυμπέσωσιν μάταιοι,
befall wanton
τοῖς ὁμαρτεῖν, ὅφρ᾽ ἂν
them to-follow until —
γᾶν ὑπέλθῃ· θανὼν δ᾽
earth he-goes-under having-died and

οὐκ ἄγαν ἐλεύθερος.
not too free
ἐπὶ δὲ τῷ τεθυμένῳ
over and the sacrificed
τόδε μέλος, παρακοπά,
this song frenzy
παραφορὰ φρενοδαλής,
derangement mind-destroying
ὕμνος ἐξ Ἐρινύων,
hymn of Erinyes
δέσμιος φρενῶν, ἀφόρ-
binding of-minds lyreless
μικτος, αὐονὰ βροτοῖς.
— withering to-mortals
γιγνομέναισι λάχη τάδ' ἐφ' ἁμὶν ἐκράνθη·
being-born allotments these for us were-ordained
ἀθανάτων δ' ἀπέχειν χέρας, οὐδέ τις ἐστί
of-immortals and to-keep-off hands nor any is
συνδαίτωρ μετάκοινος·
fellow-feaster sharing
παλλεύκων δὲ πέπλων ἀπόμοιρος ἄκληρος ἐτύχθην
all-white and of-robes portionless lotless I-was-made

***

(lacuna)

δωμάτων γὰρ εἱλόμαν
of-houses for I-chose
ἀνατροπάς, ὅταν Ἄρης
overthrows when Ares
τιθασὸς ὢν φίλον ἕλῃ.
tame being kin slays

ἐπὶ τὸν ὧδ' ἰέμεναι
after him thus rushing
κρατερὸν ὄνθ' ὅμως ἀμαυ-
strong being nevertheless we-make-dim
ροῦμεν ὑφ' αἵματος νέου.
— through blood fresh
σπεύδομεν αἵδ' ἀφελεῖν τινὰ τάσδε μερίμνας,
we-hasten we-here to-take-away someone these cares
θεῶν δ' ἀτέλειαν ἐμαῖς μελέταις ἐπικραίνειν,
of-gods and exemption by-my cares to-accomplish
μηδ' εἰς ἄγκρισιν ἐλθεῖν·
nor to trial to-come
Ζεὺς δ' αἱμοσταγὲς ἀξιόμισον ἔθνος τόδε λέσχας
Zeus but blood-dripping worthy-of-hate race this of-converse
ἅς ἀπηξιώσατο.
which he-has-deemed-unworthy
δωμάτων γὰρ εἱλόμαν
of-houses for I-chose
ἀνατροπάς, ὅταν Ἄρης
overthrows when Ares
τιθασὸς ὢν φίλον ἕλῃ.
tame being kin slays
ἐπὶ τὸν ὧδ' ἰέμεναι
after him thus rushing
κρατερὸν ὄνθ' ὅμως ἀμαυ-
strong being nevertheless we-make-dim
ροῦμεν ὑφ' αἵματος νέου.
— through blood fresh
δόξαι τ' ἀνδρῶν καὶ μάλ' ὑπ' αἰθέρι σεμναὶ
glories and of-men and very under sky august

τακόμεναι κατὰ γᾶν μινύθουσιν ἄτιμοι
melting under earth dwindle unhonored
ἁμετέραις ἐφόδοις μελανείμοσιν, ὀρχη- 370
by-our onsets black-robed dances
σμοῖς τ᾽ ἐπιφθόνοις ποδός.
— and odious of-foot
μάλα γὰρ οὖν ἁλομένα
very for indeed leaping
ἀνέκαθεν βαρυπεσῆ
from-on-high heavy-falling
καταφέρω ποδὸς ἀκμάν,
I-bring-down of-foot tip
σφαλερὰ καὶ τανυδρόμοις 375
tripping even to-swift-running
κῶλα, δύσφορον ἄταν.
limbs unbearable ruin
πίπτων δ᾽ οὐκ οἶδεν τόδ᾽ ὑπ᾽ ἄφρονι λύμᾳ·
falling and not knows this under senseless outrage
τοῖον ἐπὶ κνέφας ἀνδρὶ μύσος πεπόταται,
such over darkness on-man pollution hovers
καὶ δνοφεράν τιν᾽ ἀχλὺν κατὰ δώματος αὐδᾶ-
and murky some mist over house speaks
ται πολύστονος φάτις. 380
— much-lamenting report
μάλα γὰρ οὖν ἁλομένα
very for indeed leaping
ἀνέκαθεν βαρυπεσῆ
from-on-high heavy-falling
καταφέρω ποδὸς ἀκμάν,
I-bring-down of-foot tip

σφαλερὰ καὶ τανυδρόμοις
tripping even to-swift-running
κῶλα, δύσφορον ἄταν.
limbs unbearable ruin
μένει γάρ. εὐμήχανοί
it-abides for resourceful
τε καὶ τέλειοι, κακῶν
both and accomplishers of-evils
τε μνήμονες σεμναὶ
and mindful august
καὶ δυσπαρήγοροι βροτοῖς,
and hard-to-appease to-mortals
385 ἄτιμ᾽ ἀτίετα διόμεναι
dishonored unhonored pursuing
λάχη θεῶν διχοστατοῦντ᾽ ἀνηλίῳ
offices of-gods kept-apart by-sunless
λάμπᾳ, δυσοδοπαίπαλα
torch rough-pathed
δερκομένοισι καὶ δυσομμάτοις ὁμῶς.
for-the-seeing and for-the-blind alike
τίς οὖν τάδ᾽ οὐχ ἅζεταί
who then this not reveres
390 τε καὶ δέδοικεν βροτῶν,
both and fears of-mortals
ἐμοῦ κλύων θεσμὸν
from-me hearing ordinance
τὸν μοιρόκραντον ἐκ θεῶν
the fate-ordained from gods
δοθέντα τέλεον; ἔτι δέ μοι
given complete further and to-me

μένει γέρας παλαιόν, οὐδ' ἀτιμίας
remains prerogative ancient nor of-dishonor
κύρω, καίπερ ὑπὸ χθόνα
I-meet although under earth
τάξιν ἔχουσα καὶ δυσήλιον κνέφας.
station having and sunless darkness

V · ATHENA

Athena arrives from the Scamander and asks who these strangers are. The Erinyes name themselves and their office. She will not let oaths decide the case and asks Orestes his story: an Argive, son of Agamemnon, purified, he killed his mother at Apollo's urging. The case is too great for any mortal and not hers alone. He is a pure suppliant, but the Erinyes, if defeated, will poison the land. She will choose the best citizens as sworn judges.

ΑΘΗΝΑ πρόσωθεν ἐξήκουσα κληδόνος βοὴν
from-afar I-heard of-summons cry
ἀπὸ Σκαμάνδρου γῆν καταφθατουμένη,
from Scamander land taking-possession
ἣν δῆτ' Ἀχαιῶν ἄκτορές τε καὶ πρόμοι,
which indeed of-Achaeans leaders both and chiefs
τῶν αἰχμαλώτων χρημάτων λάχος μέγα,
of-the captured spoils portion great
ἔνειμαν αὐτόπρεμνον εἰς τὸ πᾶν ἐμοί,
allotted root-and-branch for the all to-me
ἐξαίρετον δώρημα Θησέως τόκοις·
chosen gift to-Theseus' sons
ἔνθεν διώκουσ' ἦλθον ἄτρυτον πόδα,
thence pursuing I-came untiring foot

πτερῶν ἄτερ ῥοιβδοῦσα κόλπον αἰγίδος.
of-wings without whirring fold of-aegis
καινὴν δ' ὁρῶσα τήνδ' ὁμιλίαν χθονὸς
new and seeing this company of-land
ταρβῶ μὲν οὐδέν, θαῦμα δ' ὄμμασιν πάρα.
I-fear indeed nothing wonder but to-eyes is-present
τίνες ποτ' ἐστέ; πᾶσι δ' ἐς κοινὸν λέγω·
who ever you-are to-all and in common I-speak
βρέτας τε τοὐμὸν τῷδ' ἐφημένῳ ξένῳ,
image and my this sitting-at stranger
ὑμᾶς θ' ὁμοίας οὐδενὶ σπαρτῶν γένει,
you and like to-no of-sown-ones race
οὔτ' ἐν θεαῖσι πρὸς θεῶν ὁρωμένας
nor among goddesses by gods seen
οὔτ' οὖν βροτείοις ἐμφερεῖς μορφώμασιν.
nor then to-mortal like forms
λέγειν δ' ἄμομφον ὄντα τοὺς πέλας κακῶς
to-speak but blameless being the neighbors ill
πρόσω δικαίων ἠδ' ἀποστατεῖ θέμις.
far from-just and stands-away right

ΧΟΡΟΣ πεύσῃ τὰ πάντα συντόμως, Διὸς κόρη.
you-will-learn the all briefly of-Zeus daughter
ἡμεῖς γάρ ἐσμεν Νυκτὸς αἰανῆ τέκνα.
we for are of-Night dread children
Ἀραὶ δ' ἐν οἴκοις γῆς ὑπαὶ κεκλήμεθα.
Curses and in homes of-earth under we-are-called

ΑΘΗΝΑ γένος μὲν οἶδα κληδόνας τ' ἐπωνύμους.
race indeed I-know names and fitting

ΧΟΡΟΣ τιμάς γε μὲν δὴ τὰς ἐμὰς πεύσῃ τάχα.
honors at-least indeed indeed — my you-will-learn quickly

ΑΘΗΝΑ μάθοιμ᾽ ἄν, εἰ λέγοι τις ἐμφανῆ λόγον.
I-would-learn — if should-tell someone clear word

ΧΟΡΟΣ βροτοκτονοῦντας ἐκ δόμων ἐλαύνομεν.
mortal-murderers from homes we-drive

ΑΘΗΝΑ καὶ τῷ κτανόντι ποῦ τὸ τέρμα τῆς φυγῆς;
and for-the killer where the end of-the flight

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὅπου τὸ χαίρειν μηδαμοῦ νομίζεται.
where the rejoicing nowhere is-known

ΑΘΗΝΑ ἦ καὶ τοιαύτας τῷδ᾽ ἐπιρροιζεῖς φυγάς;
— and such on-this you-shriek flights

ΧΟΡΟΣ φονεὺς γὰρ εἶναι μητρὸς ἠξιώσατο.
murderer for to-be of-mother he-deemed-right

ΑΘΗΝΑ ἄλλαις ἀνάγκαις, ἤ τινος τρέων κότον;
by-other necessities or of-someone fearing wrath

ΧΟΡΟΣ ποῦ γὰρ τοσοῦτο κέντρον ὡς μητροκτονεῖν;
where for so-great goad as to-kill-mother

ΑΘΗΝΑ δυοῖν παρόντοιν ἥμισυς λόγου πάρα.
of-two being-present half of-argument is-here

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ ὅρκον οὐ δέξαιτ᾽ ἄν, οὐ δοῦναι θέλοι.
but oath not he-would-receive — not to-give he-would-wish

ΑΘΗΝΑ κλύειν δίκαιος μᾶλλον ἢ πρᾶξαι θέλεις.
to-be-called just rather than to-act you-wish

ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς δή; δίδαξον· τῶν σοφῶν γὰρ οὐ πένῃ.
how indeed teach of-the wisdom for not you-are-poor

ΑΘΗΝΑ ὅρκοις τὰ μὴ δίκαια μὴ νικᾶν λέγω.
by-oaths the not just not to-prevail I-say

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἐξέλεγχε, κρῖνε δ᾽ εὐθεῖαν δίκην.
but examine judge and straight judgment

ΑΘΗΝΑ ἦ κἀπ᾽ ἐμοὶ τρέποιτ᾽ ἂν αἰτίας τέλος;
— and-to me would-you-turn — of-charge end

ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς δ᾽ οὔ; σέβουσαί γ᾽ ἀξίαν κἀπ᾽ ἀξίων.
how and not revering at-least worthy and-of worthy

ΑΘΗΝΑ τί πρὸς τάδ᾽ εἰπεῖν, ὦ ξέν᾽, ἐν μέρει θέλεις;
what to this to-say O stranger in turn you-wish

λέξας δὲ χώραν καὶ γένος καὶ ξυμφορὰς
having-told and land and race and misfortunes

τὰς σάς, ἔπειτα τόνδ᾽ ἀμυναθοῦ ψόγον·
— your then this ward-off blame

εἴπερ πεποιθὼς τῇ δίκῃ βρέτας τόδε
if-indeed trusting in-the justice image this

ἧσαι φυλάσσων ἑστίας ἁμῆς πέλας
you-sit guarding hearth our near

σεμνὸς προσίκτωρ ἐν τρόποις Ἰξίονος.
august suppliant in manner of-Ixion

τούτοις ἀμείβου πᾶσιν εὐμαθές τί μοι.
to-these answer all intelligible something to-me

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἄνασσ᾽ Ἀθάνα, πρῶτον ἐκ τῶν ὑστάτων
queen Athena first from the last

τῶν σῶν ἐπῶν μέλημ᾽ ἀφαιρήσω μέγα.
— of-your words anxiety I-shall-remove great

οὐκ εἰμὶ προστρόπαιος, οὐδ᾽ ἔχων μύσος
not I-am suppliant-unpurified nor having pollution

πρὸς χειρὶ τῇμῇ τὸ σὸν ἐφεζόμην βρέτας.
at hand my — your I-sat image

τεκμήριον δὲ τῶνδέ σοι λέξω μέγα.
proof and of-these to-you I-shall-tell great

ἄφθογγον εἶναι τὸν παλαμναῖον νόμος,
voiceless to-be the blood-guilty law

ἔστ᾽ ἂν πρὸς ἀνδρὸς αἵματος καθαρσίου
until — by man of-blood cleansing

σφαγαὶ καθαιμάξωσι νεοθήλου βοτοῦ.
slaughters drench-with-blood of-newborn beast
πάλαι πρὸς ἄλλοις ταῦτ' ἀφιερώμεθα
long-ago at other these we-have-been-purified
οἴκοισι, καὶ βοτοῖσι καὶ ῥυτοῖς πόροις.
houses and with-victims and with-flowing streams
ταύτην μὲν οὕτω φροντίδ' ἐκποδὼν λέγω.
this indeed thus care out-of-the-way I-say
γένος δὲ τοὐμὸν ὡς ἔχει πεύσῃ τάχα.
race and my how it-is you-shall-learn quickly
Ἀργεῖός εἰμι, πατέρα δ' ἱστορεῖς καλῶς,
Argive I-am father and you-ask-about well
Ἀγαμέμνον', ἀνδρῶν ναυβατῶν ἁρμόστορα,
Agamemnon of-men of-ships marshal
ξὺν ᾧ σὺ Τροίαν ἄπολιν Ἰλίου πόλιν
with whom you Troy cityless of-Ilium city
ἔθηκας. ἔφθιθ' οὗτος οὐ καλῶς, μολὼν
made perished he not well having-come
εἰς οἶκον· ἀλλά νιν κελαινόφρων ἐμὴ
to home but him black-hearted my
μήτηρ κατέκτα, ποικίλοις ἀγρεύμασιν
mother killed with-embroidered snares
κρύψασ', ἃ λουτρῶν ἐξεμαρτύρει φόνον.
having-concealed which of-bath bore-witness murder
κἀγὼ κατελθών, τὸν πρὸ τοῦ φεύγων χρόνον,
and-I having-returned the before the exiled time
ἔκτεινα τὴν τεκοῦσαν, οὐκ ἀρνήσομαι,
killed the having-borne not I-shall-deny
ἀντικτόνοις ποιναῖσι φιλτάτου πατρός.
with-retaliating vengeance of-dearest father

καὶ τῶνδε κοινῇ Λοξίας ἐπαίτιος,
and of-these jointly Loxias responsible
ἄλγη προφωνῶν ἀντίκεντρα καρδίᾳ,
pains foretelling goads to-heart
εἰ μή τι τῶνδ' ἔρξαιμι τοὺς ἐπαιτίους.
if not any of-these I-should-do to-the guilty
σὺ δ' εἰ δικαίως εἴτε μὴ κρῖνον δίκην·
you and if justly or not judge judgment
πράξας γὰρ ἐν σοὶ πανταχῇ τάδ' αἰνέσω.
having-acted for in you everywhere this I-shall-accept
ΑΘΗΝΑ τὸ πρᾶγμα μεῖζον, εἴ τις οἴεται τόδε
the matter greater if anyone thinks this
βροτὸς δικάζειν· οὐδὲ μὴν ἐμοὶ θέμις
mortal to-judge nor indeed for-me right
φόνου διαιρεῖν ὀξυμηνίτου δίκας·
of-murder to-decide sharp-wrathed judgments
ἄλλως τε καὶ σὺ μὲν κατηρτυκὼς ἐμοῖς
otherwise both and you indeed having-been-made-ready to-my
ἱκέτης προσῆλθες καθαρὸς ἀβλαβὴς δόμοις·
suppliant came pure harmless to-house
οὕτως δ' ἄμομφον ὄντα σ' αἰδοῦμαι πόλει.
thus and blameless being you I-respect for-city
αὗται δ' ἔχουσι μοῖραν οὐκ εὐπέμπελον,
they and have lot not easy-to-dismiss
καὶ μὴ τυχοῦσαι πράγματος νικηφόρου,
and not obtaining of-matter victorious
χώρᾳ μεταῦθις ἰὸς ἐκ φρονημάτων
to-land afterward poison from minds
πέδοι πεσὼν ἄφερτος αἰανὴς νόσος.
on-ground having-fallen unbearable everlasting plague

τοιαῦτα μὲν τάδ' ἐστίν· ἀμφότερα, μένειν
such indeed these are both to-remain
πέμπειν τε δυσπήμαντ' ἀμηχάνως ἐμοί.
to-send and fraught-with-harm hopelessly for-me
ἐπεὶ δὲ πρᾶγμα δεῦρ' ἐπέσκηψεν τόδε,
since and matter hither has-fallen this
φόνων δικαστὰς ὁρκίους αἱρουμένη
of-murders judges sworn choosing
θεσμὸν τὸν εἰς ἅπαντ' ἐγὼ θήσω χρόνον.
ordinance the for all I shall-set time
ὑμεῖς δὲ μαρτύριά τε καὶ τεκμήρια
you and testimonies both and proofs
καλεῖσθ', ἀρωγὰ τῆς δίκης ὁρκώματα·
call aiding of-the justice oaths
κρίνασα δ' ἀστῶν τῶν ἐμῶν τὰ βέλτατα
having-chosen and of-citizens — my the best
ἥξω, διαιρεῖν τοῦτο πρᾶγμ' ἐτητύμως,
I-shall-come to-decide this matter truly
ὅρκον πορόντας μηδὲν ἔκδικον φράσειν.
oath tendering nothing unjust to-say

The Erinyes warn that if this matricide wins, every crime will become easy and parents will suffer at their children's hands. No one struck by misfortune will cry out to Justice and the Erinyes' thrones. Fear must keep watch over the heart. They praise the middle way between anarchy and despotism and call outrage the child of impiety. They bid all revere the altar of Justice, parents, and guests, and they warn of the shipwreck that awaits the bold transgressor.

490 ΧΟΡΟΣ νῦν καταστροφαὶ νέων
now overthrows of-new
θεσμίων, εἰ κρατή-
ordinances if will-prevail
σει δίκα τε καὶ βλάβα
— *justice both and harm*
τοῦδε ματροκτόνου.
of-this mother-killer
πάντας ἤδη τόδ' ἔργον εὐχερεί-
all already this deed with-ease
495 ᾳ συναρμόσει βροτούς·
— *will-unite mortals*
πολλὰ δ' ἔτυμα παιδότρωτα
many and true child-dealt
πάθεα προσμένει τοκεῦ-
sufferings await for-parents
σιν μεταῦθις ἐν χρόνῳ.
— *afterward in time*
οὐδὲ γὰρ βροτοσκόπων
not-even for mortal-watching

μαινάδων τῶνδ' ἐφέρ-
of-maenads these will-creep
ψει κότος τις ἐργμάτων —
— wrath any for-deeds
πάντ' ἐφήσω μόρον.
all I-shall-let-loose death
πεύσεται δ' ἄλλος ἄλλοθεν, προφω-
will-inquire and one from-another foretelling
νῶν τὰ τῶν πέλας κακά,
— the of-the neighbors evils
λῆξιν ὑπόδοσίν τε μόχθων·
cessation abatement and of-toils
ἄκεά τ' οὐ βέβαια τλά-
remedies and not sure wretched
μων μάταν παρηγορεῖ.
— in-vain consoles
μηδέ τις κικλῃσκέτω
nor anyone let-call
ξυμφορᾷ τετυμμένος,
by-misfortune struck
τοῦτ' ἔπος θροούμενος,
this word crying
ὦ δίκα,
O justice
ὦ θρόνοι τ' Ἐρινύων.
O thrones and of-Erinyes
ταῦτά τις τάχ' ἂν πατὴρ
these some soon — father
ἢ τεκοῦσα νεοπαθὴς
or having-borne newly-suffering

οἶκτον οἰκτίσαιτ', ἐπει-
lament would-lament since
δὴ πίτνει δόμος δίκας.
— falls house of-justice
ἔσθ' ὅπου τὸ δεινὸν εὖ,
there-is where the dread well
καὶ φρενῶν ἐπίσκοπον
and of-minds overseer
δεῖ μένειν καθήμενον.
must to-remain seated
ξυμφέρει
it-profits
σωφρονεῖν ὑπὸ στένει.
to-be-self-controlled under distress
τίς δὲ μηδὲν ἐν δέει
who and nothing in fear
καρδίαν ἂν ἀνατρέφων
heart — nurturing
ἢ πόλις βροτός θ' ὁμοί-
either city mortal and alike
ως ἔτ' ἂν σέβοι δίκαν;
— still — would-revere justice
μήτ' ἀνάρχετον βίον
neither unruled life
μήτε δεσποτούμενον
nor ruled-by-a-master
αἰνέσῃς.
praise
παντὶ μέσῳ τὸ κράτος
to-all middle the power

θεὸς ὤπασεν, ἄλλ’
god granted other
ἄλλᾳ δ’ ἐφορεύει.
otherwise and oversees
ξύμμετρον δ’ ἔπος λέγω,
fitting and word I-speak
δυσσεβίας μὲν ὕβρις
of-impiety indeed outrage
τέκος ὡς ἐτύμως·
child as truly
ἐκ δ’ ὑγιεί-
from and health
ας φρενῶν ὁ πάμφιλος
— of-minds the all-loved
καὶ πολύευκτος ὄλβος.
and much-prayed-for prosperity
ἐς τὸ πᾶν δέ σοι λέγω,
to the whole and to-you I-say
βωμὸν αἴδεσαι Δίκας·
altar revere of-Justice
μηδέ νιν
nor it
κέρδος ἰδὼν ἀθέῳ
gain seeing with-godless
ποδὶ λὰξ ἀτίσῃς·
foot with-heel dishonor
ποινὰ γὰρ ἐπέσται.
penalty for will-come
κύριον μένει τέλος.
appointed remains end

πρὸς τάδε τις τοκέων
for these someone of-parents
σέβας εὖ προτίων
reverence well honoring
καὶ ξενοτί-
and guest-honoring
μους δόμων ἐπιστροφὰς
— of-house visitations
αἰδόμενός τις ἔστω.
revering someone let-be
ἑκὼν δ' ἀνάγκας ἄτερ δίκαιος ὢν
willing and of-compulsion without just being
οὐκ ἄνολβος ἔσται·
not unprosperous will-be
πανώλεθρος δ' οὔποτ' ἂν γένοιτο.
utterly-ruined and never — would-become
τὸν ἀντίτολμον δέ φαμι παρβάταν
the opposing-daring but I-say transgressor
ἄγοντα πολλὰ παντόφυρτ' ἄνευ δίκας
carrying many-things jumbled without justice
βιαίως ξὺν χρόνῳ καθήσειν
by-force with time to-lower
λαῖφος, ὅταν λάβῃ πόνος
sail when may-seize distress
θρανομένας κεραίας.
being-shattered of-yard-arm
καλεῖ δ' ἀκούοντας οὐδὲν ἐν μέσᾳ
calls and those-hearing not-at-all in middle
δυσπαλεῖ τε δίνᾳ·
hard-wrestling and whirlpool

γελᾷ δὲ δαίμων ἐπ᾽ ἀνδρὶ θερμῷ,
laughs and spirit at man hot
τὸν οὔποτ᾽ αὐχοῦντ᾽ ἰδὼν ἀμαχάνοις
the never boasting seeing in-helpless
δύαις λαπαδνὸν οὐδ᾽ ὑπερθέοντ᾽ ἄκραν·
woes weakened nor surmounting crest
δι᾽ αἰῶνος δὲ τὸν πρὶν ὄλβον
through life and the former prosperity
ἔρματι προσβαλὼν δίκας
on-reef having-struck of-justice
ὤλετ᾽ ἄκλαυτος, αἶστος.
perished unwept unseen

VII · THE TRIAL

Athena opens the court. Apollo appears as witness. The Erinyes question Orestes, who admits the killing and says Apollo guided him. Apollo argues that a father's murder outweighs a mother's and that the mother is only nurse to the seed. Athena founds the court on the hill of Ares forever. The judges vote; Athena casts her vote for Orestes, and the votes are found equal, so he is acquitted. He thanks Athena and promises Argos' alliance.

ΑΘΗΝΑ κήρυσσε, κῆρυξ, καὶ στρατὸν κατειργαθοῦ,
proclaim herald and host restrain
ἥ τ᾽ οὖν διάτορος Τυρσηνικὴ
the and then piercing Tyrrhenian
σάλπιγξ, βροτείου πνεύματος πληρουμένη,
trumpet with-human breath filled
ὑπέρτονον γήρυμα φαινέτω στρατῷ.
loud blast let-show to-host

πληρουμένου γὰρ τοῦδε βουλευτηρίου
being-filled for this council
σιγᾶν ἀρήγει καὶ μαθεῖν θεσμοὺς ἐμοὺς
to-be-silent helps and to-learn ordinances my
πόλιν τε πᾶσαν εἰς τὸν αἰανῆ χρόνον
city and whole for the everlasting time
καὶ τούσδ' ὅπως ἂν εὖ καταγνωσθῇ δίκη.
and these so-that — well may-be-decided judgment
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄναξ Ἄπολλον, ὧν ἔχεις αὐτὸς κράτει.
lord Apollo of-what you-have yourself rule
τί τοῦδε σοὶ μέτεστι πράγματος λέγε.
what of-this to-you belongs matter say
ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ καὶ μαρτυρήσων ἦλθον — ἔστι γὰρ νόμῳ
both to-bear-witness I-came is for by-law
ἱκέτης ὅδ' ἀνὴρ καὶ δόμων ἐφέστιος
suppliant this the-man and of-house hearth-sharer
ἐμῶν, φόνου δὲ τοῦδ' ἐγὼ καθάρσιος —
my of-murder and this I purifier
καὶ ξυνδικήσων αὐτός· αἰτίαν δ' ἔχω
and to-plead-with-him myself responsibility and I-have
τῆς τοῦδε μητρὸς τοῦ φόνου. σὺ δ' εἴσαγε
of-the his mother the murder you and bring-in
ὅπως τ' ἐπίστᾳ τήνδε κύρωσον δίκην.
as and you-know this ratify judgment
ΑΘΗΝΑ ὑμῶν ὁ μῦθος, εἰσάγω δὲ τὴν δίκην·
yours the word I-bring-in and the case
ὁ γὰρ διώκων πρότερος ἐξ ἀρχῆς λέγων
the for prosecutor first from beginning speaking
γένοιτ' ἂν ὀρθῶς πράγματος διδάσκαλος.
would-be — rightly of-the-matter instructor

ΧΟΡΟΣ πολλαὶ μέν ἐσμεν, λέξομεν δὲ συντόμως.
many indeed we-are we-shall-speak but briefly
ἔπος δ' ἀμείβου πρὸς ἔπος ἐν μέρει τιθείς
word and answer to word in turn setting
τὴν μητέρ' εἰπὲ πρῶτον εἰ κατέκτονας.
the mother say first whether you-have-killed
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἔκτεινα· τούτου δ' οὔτις ἄρνησις πέλει.
I-killed of-this and no denial is
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἓν μὲν τόδ' ἤδη τῶν τριῶν παλαισμάτων.
one indeed this already of-the three falls
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐ κειμένῳ πω τόνδε κομπάζεις λόγον.
not lying yet this you-boast word
ΧΟΡΟΣ εἰπεῖν γε μέντοι δεῖ σ' ὅπως κατέκτανες.
to-tell at-least however must you how you-killed
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ λέγω· ξιφουλκῷ χειρὶ πρὸς δέρην τεμών.
I-say with-sword-drawing hand at throat cutting
ΧΟΡΟΣ πρὸς τοῦ δ' ἐπείσθης καὶ τίνος βουλεύμασιν;
by whom and were-you-persuaded and by-whose counsels
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τοῖς τοῦδε θεσφάτοισι· μαρτυρεῖ δέ μοι.
by-the his oracles bears-witness and to-me
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὁ μάντις ἐξηγεῖτό σοι μητροκτονεῖν;
the prophet guided you to-kill-mother
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καὶ δεῦρό γ' ἀεὶ τὴν τύχην οὐ μέμφομαι.
and hither at-least ever the fortune not I-blame
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' εἴ σε μάρψει ψῆφος, ἄλλ' ἐρεῖς τάχα.
but if you will-seize vote other you-will-say soon
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πέποιθ'. ἀρωγὰς δ' ἐκ τάφου πέμψει πατήρ.
I-trust help and from tomb will-send father
ΧΟΡΟΣ νεκροῖσί νυν πέπισθι μητέρα κτανών.
in-the-dead then trust mother having-killed

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ δυοῖν γὰρ εἶχε προσβολὰς μιασμάτοιν.
two for she-had attaints of-pollutions

ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς δή; δίδαξον τοὺς δικάζοντας τάδε.
how indeed teach the judging these

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἀνδροκτονοῦσα πατέρ' ἐμὸν κατέκτανεν.
killing-her-husband father my she-killed

ΧΟΡΟΣ τοιγὰρ σὺ μὲν ζῇς, ἡ δ' ἐλευθέρα φόνῳ.
therefore you indeed live she but free by-murder

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί δ' οὐκ ἐκείνην ζῶσαν ἤλαυνες φυγῇ;
why and not her living did-you-drive in-exile

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκ ἦν ὅμαιμος φωτὸς ὃν κατέκτανεν.
not she-was of-same-blood with-man whom she-killed

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἐγὼ δὲ μητρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς ἐν αἵματι;
I and of-mother — my in blood

ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς γάρ σ' ἔθρεψ' ἂν ἐντός, ὦ μιαιφόνε,
how for you would-she-have-nurtured — within O bloodstained

ζώνης; ἀπεύχῃ μητρὸς αἷμα φίλτατον;
girdle do-you-disown of-mother blood dearest

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἤδη σὺ μαρτύρησον· ἐξηγοῦ δέ μοι,
now you bear-witness expound and to-me

Ἄπολλον, εἴ σφε σὺν δίκῃ κατέκτανον.
Apollo if her with justice I-killed

δρᾶσαι γὰρ ὥσπερ ἐστὶν οὐκ ἀρνούμεθα.
to-have-done for as it-is not we-deny

ἀλλ' εἰ δίκαιον εἴτε μὴ τῇ σῇ φρενὶ
but if just or not — by-your mind

δοκεῖ τόδ' αἷμα, κρῖνον, ὡς τούτοις φράσω.
seems this blood judge that to-these I-may-tell

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ λέξω πρὸς ὑμᾶς τόνδ' Ἀθηναίας μέγαν
I-shall-speak to you this of-Athena great
θεσμὸν δικαίως, — μάντις ὢν δ' οὐ ψεύσομαι.
institution justly prophet being and not I-shall-lie
οὐπώποτ' εἶπον μαντικοῖσιν ἐν θρόνοις,
never-yet I-spoke prophetic on thrones
οὐκ ἀνδρός, οὐ γυναικός, οὐ πόλεως πέρι,
not of-man not of-woman not of-city about
ὃ μὴ κελεύσαι Ζεὺς Ὀλυμπίων πατήρ.
which not had-bidden Zeus of-Olympians father
τὸ μὲν δίκαιον τοῦθ' ὅσον σθένει μαθεῖν,
the indeed just this how-much is-strong to-learn
βουλῇ πιφαύσκω δ' ὕμμ' ἐπισπέσθαι πατρός·
to-the-will I-bid and you to-follow of-father
ὅρκος γὰρ οὔτι Ζηνὸς ἰσχύει πλέον.
oath for not-at-all than-Zeus avails more
ΧΟΡΟΣ Ζεύς, ὡς λέγεις σύ, τόνδε χρησμὸν ὤπασε,
Zeus as you-say you this oracle granted
φράζειν Ὀρέστῃ τῷδε, τὸν πατρὸς φόνον
to-tell Orestes this the of-father murder
πράξαντα μητρὸς μηδαμοῦ τιμὰς νέμειν;
having-avenged of-mother in-no-way honors to-pay
ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ οὐ γάρ τι ταὐτὸν ἄνδρα γενναῖον θανεῖν
not for at-all the-same man noble to-die
διοσδότοις σκήπτροισι τιμαλφούμενον,
by-Zeus-given scepters honored
καὶ ταῦτα πρὸς γυναικός, οὔ τι θουρίοις
and this by woman not at-all by-impetuous
τόξοις ἑκηβόλοισιν, ὥστ' Ἀμαζόνος,
bows far-shooting like of-Amazon

ἀλλ᾽ ὡς ἀκούσῃ, Παλλὰς οἵ τ᾽ ἐφήμενοι
but as you-shall-hear Pallas those and sitting
ψήφῳ διαιρεῖν τοῦδε πράγματος πέρι.
by-vote to-decide this matter about
ἀπὸ στρατείας γάρ νιν ἠμπληκότα
from campaign for him having-trafficked
†τὰ πλεῖστ᾽ ἄμεινον εὔφροσιν δεδεγμένη,
— most better with-kind-words having-welcomed
δροίτῃ περῶντι λουτρὰ κἀπὶ τέρματι
in-the-tub to-him-passing baths and-at end
φᾶρος περεσκήνωσεν†, ἐν δ᾽ ἀτέρμονι
robe she-spread-around in and endless
κόπτει πεδήσασ᾽ ἄνδρα δαιδάλῳ πέπλῳ.
strikes having-fettered man in-intricate robe
ἀνδρὸς μὲν ὑμῖν οὗτος εἴρηται μόρος
of-man indeed to-you this has-been-told death
τοῦ παντοσέμνου, τοῦ στρατηλάτου νεῶν.
of-the all-august the commander of-ships
ταύτην τοιαύτην εἶπον, ὡς δηχθῇ λεώς,
her such I-have-described that may-be-stung people
ὅσπερ τέτακται τήνδε κυρῶσαι δίκην.
which is-appointed this to-decide judgment
ΧΟΡΟΣ πατρὸς προτιμᾷ Ζεὺς μόρον τῷ σῷ λόγῳ·
of-father prefers Zeus death — by-your word
αὐτὸς δ᾽ ἔδησε πατέρα πρεσβύτην Κρόνον.
himself and bound father aged Cronus
πῶς ταῦτα τούτοις οὐκ ἐναντίως λέγεις;
how this to-these not contrary you-say
ὑμᾶς δ᾽ ἀκούειν ταῦτ᾽ ἐγὼ μαρτύρομαι.
you and to-hear this I call-to-witness

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ ὦ παντομισῆ κνώδαλα, στύγη θεῶν,
O all-hated beasts loathings of-gods
πέδας μὲν ἂν λύσειεν, ἔστι τοὐδ' ἄκος
fetters indeed — he-could-loose there-is of-this remedy
καὶ κάρτα πολλὴ μηχανὴ λυτήριος·
and very much means releasing
ἀνδρὸς δ' ἐπειδὰν αἷμ' ἀνασπάσῃ κόνις
of-man but when blood has-drawn-up dust
ἅπαξ θανόντος, οὔτις ἔστ' ἀνάστασις.
once having-died no is rising-again
τούτων ἐπῳδὰς οὐκ ἐποίησεν πατὴρ
for-these charms not made father
οὐμός, τὰ δ' ἄλλα πάντ' ἄνω τε καὶ κάτω
my the but other all up both and down
στρέφων τίθησιν οὐδὲν ἀσθμαίνων μένει.
turning sets nothing panting by-might
ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς γὰρ τὸ φεύγειν τοὐδ' ὑπερδικεῖς ὅρα·
how for the to-go-free of-this you-plead see
τὸ μητρὸς αἷμ' ὅμαιμον ἐκχέας πέδοι
the of-mother blood kindred having-poured on-ground
ἔπειτ' ἐν Ἄργει δώματ' οἰκήσει πατρός;
then in Argos house shall-he-dwell of-father
ποίοισι βωμοῖς χρώμενος τοῖς δημίοις;
at-what altars using the public
ποία δὲ χέρνιψ φρατέρων προσδέξεται;
what and lustral-water of-clansmen will-receive
ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ καὶ τοῦτο λέξω, καὶ μάθ' ὡς ὀρθῶς ἐρῶ.
and this I-shall-tell and learn how rightly I-shall-speak
οὔκ ἔστι μήτηρ ἡ κεκλημένου τέκνου
not is mother the called of-child

τοκεύς, τροφὸς δὲ κύματος νεοσπόρου.
parent nurse but of-seed newly-sown
τίκτει δ' ὁ θρῴσκων, ἡ δ' ἅπερ ξένῳ ξένη
begets and the mounting she but as for-stranger stranger
ἔσωσεν ἔρνος, οἷσι μὴ βλάψῃ θεός.
preserved offshoot for-whom not may-harm god
τεκμήριον δὲ τοῦδέ σοι δείξω λόγου.
proof and of-this to-you I-shall-show of-argument
πατὴρ μὲν ἂν γένοιτ' ἄνευ μητρός· πέλας
father indeed — might-be without mother near
μάρτυς πάρεστι παῖς Ὀλυμπίου Διός,
witness is-present child of-Olympian Zeus
οὐδ' ἐν σκότοισι νηδύος τεθραμμένη,
not-even in darkness of-womb nurtured
ἀλλ' οἷον ἔρνος οὔτις ἂν τέκοι θεός.
but such offshoot no-one — could-bear goddess
ἐγὼ δέ, Παλλάς, τἄλλα θ' ὡς ἐπίσταμαι,
I and Pallas the-rest and as I-know
τὸ σὸν πόλισμα καὶ στρατὸν τεύξω μέγαν,
— your city and host shall-make great
καὶ τόνδ' ἔπεμψα σῶν δόμων ἐφέστιον,
and him I-sent of-your house hearth-sharer
ὅπως γένοιτο πιστὸς εἰς τὸ πᾶν χρόνου
so-that he-might-be faithful to the all of-time
καὶ τόνδ' ἐπικτήσαιο σύμμαχον, θεά,
and him you-might-gain-as-well ally goddess
καὶ τοὺς ἔπειτα, καὶ τάδ' αἰανῶς μένοι
and those after and this everlastingly might-remain
στέργειν τὰ πιστὰ τῶνδε τοὺς ἐπισπόρους.
to-cherish the pledges of-these the descendants

ΑΘΗΝΑ ἤδη κελεύω τούσδ' ἀπὸ γνώμης φέρειν
already I-bid these from judgment to-bear
ψῆφον δικαίαν, ὡς ἅλις λελεγμένων;
vote just since enough of-things-said
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἡμῖν μὲν ἤδη πᾶν τετόξευται βέλος.
for-us indeed already every has-been-shot arrow
μένω δ' ἀκοῦσαι πῶς ἀγὼν κριθήσεται.
I-wait and to-hear how contest will-be-decided
ΑΘΗΝΑ τί γάρ; πρὸς ὑμῶν πῶς τιθεῖσ', ἄμομφος ὦ;
what for from you how setting blameless may-I-be
ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ ἠκούσαθ' ὧν ἠκούσατ', ἐν δὲ καρδίᾳ
you-have-heard what you-have-heard in and heart
ψῆφον φέροντες ὅρκον αἰδεῖσθε, ξένοι.
vote bearing oath revere strangers
ΑΘΗΝΑ κλύοιτ' ἂν ἤδη θεσμόν, Ἀττικὸς λεώς,
you-may-hear — now ordinance Attic people
πρώτας δίκας κρίνοντες αἵματος χυτοῦ.
first judgments judging of-blood shed
ἔσται δὲ καὶ τὸ λοιπὸν Αἰγέως στρατῷ
there-will-be and also the henceforth for-Aegeus' host
αἰεὶ δικαστῶν τοῦτο βουλευτήριον.
ever of-judges this council
πάγον δ' Ἄρειον τόνδ', Ἀμαζόνων ἕδραν
hill and of-Ares this of-Amazons seat
σκηνάς θ', ὅτ' ἦλθον Θησέως κατὰ φθόνον
tents and when they-came of-Theseus in grudge
στρατηλατοῦσαι, καὶ πόλιν νεόπτολιν
marching and city new-city
τήνδ' ὑψίπυργον ἀντεπύργωσαν τότε,
this high-towered built-towers-against then

Ἄρει δ' ἔθυον, ἔνθεν ἔστ' ἐπώνυμος
to-Ares and they-sacrificed whence is named
πέτρα, πάγος τ' Ἄρειος· ἐν δὲ τῷ σέβας
rock hill and of-Ares in and it reverence
ἀστῶν φόβος τε ξυγγενὴς τὸ μὴ ἀδικεῖν
of-citizens fear and kindred the not to-do-wrong
σχήσει τό τ' ἦμαρ καὶ κατ' εὐφρόνην ὁμῶς,
will-restrain the both day and by night alike
αὐτῶν πολιτῶν μὴ 'πιχραινόντων νόμους
themselves citizens not polluting laws
κακαῖς ἐπιρροαῖσι· βορβόρῳ δ' ὕδωρ
with-evil infusions with-mud and water
λαμπρὸν μιαίνων οὔποθ' εὑρήσεις ποτόν.
bright defiling never you-will-find drink
τὸ μήτ' ἄναρχον μήτε δεσποτούμενον
the neither unruled nor ruled-by-a-master
ἀστοῖς περιστέλλουσι βουλεύω σέβειν,
to-citizens cherishing I-advise to-revere
καὶ μὴ τὸ δεινὸν πᾶν πόλεως ἔξω βαλεῖν.
and not the dread all of-city out to-cast
τίς γὰρ δεδοικὼς μηδὲν ἔνδικος βροτῶν;
who for fearing nothing just of-mortals
τοιόνδε τοι ταρβοῦντες ἐνδίκως σέβας
such surely fearing justly reverence
ἔρυμά τε χώρας καὶ πόλεως σωτήριον
bulwark and of-land and of-city saving
ἔχοιτ' ἄν, οἷον οὔτις ἀνθρώπων ἔχει,
you-would-have — such-as no-one of-men has
οὔτ' ἐν Σκύθῃσιν οὔτε Πέλοπος ἐν τόποις.
neither among Scythians nor of-Pelops in regions

κερδῶν ἄθικτον τοῦτο βουλευτήριον,
by-gains untouched this council
αἰδοῖον, ὀξύθυμον, εὐδόντων ὕπερ
revered quick-tempered sleepers on-behalf-of
ἐγρηγορὸς φρούρημα γῆς καθίσταμαι.
wakeful guard of-land I-establish
ταύτην μὲν ἐξέτειν' ἐμοῖς παραίνεσιν
this indeed I-have-extended my exhortation
ἀστοῖσιν εἰς τὸ λοιπόν· ὀρθοῦσθαι δὲ χρὴ
to-citizens for the future to-rise-up and must
καὶ ψῆφον αἴρειν καὶ διαγνῶναι δίκην
and vote to-take and to-decide judgment
αἰδουμένους τὸν ὅρκον. εἴρηται λόγος.
revering the oath has-been-spoken word
ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν βαρεῖαν τήνδ' ὁμιλίαν χθονὸς
and indeed heavy this company of-land
ξύμβουλός εἰμι μηδαμῶς ἀτιμάσαι.
counselor I-am in-no-way to-dishonor
ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ κἄγωγε χρησμοὺς τοὺς ἐμούς τε καὶ Διὸς
and-I oracles — my both and of-Zeus
ταρβεῖν κελεύω μηδ' ἀκαρπώτους κτίσαι.
to-fear I-bid nor fruitless to-make
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' αἱματηρὰ πράγματ' οὐ λαχὼν σέβεις,
but bloody deeds not having-obtained you-honor
μαντεῖα δ' οὐκέθ' ἁγνὰ μαντεύσῃ νέμων.
oracles and no-longer pure you-will-prophesy dispensing
ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ ἦ καὶ πατήρ τι σφάλλεται βουλευμάτων
— and father somewhat errs in-counsels
πρωτοκτόνοισι προστροπαῖς Ἰξίονος;
at-first-murder supplications of-Ixion

ΧΟΡΟΣ λέγεις· ἐγὼ δὲ μὴ τυχοῦσα τῆς δίκης
you-say I and not obtaining the justice
βαρεῖα χώρᾳ τῇδ' ὁμιλήσω πάλιν.
heavy to-land this shall-consort again
ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ ἀλλ' ἔν τε τοῖς νέοισι καὶ παλαιτέροις
but among both the young and older
θεοῖς ἄτιμος εἶ σύ· νικήσω δ' ἐγώ.
gods unhonored are you shall-win and I
ΧΟΡΟΣ τοιαῦτ' ἔδρασας καὶ Φέρητος ἐν δόμοις·
such you-did also of-Pheres in house
Μοίρας ἔπεισας ἀφθίτους θεῖναι βροτούς.
Fates you-persuaded immortal to-make mortals
ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ οὔκουν δίκαιον τὸν σέβοντ' εὐεργετεῖν,
not-then just the revering to-benefit
ἄλλως τε πάντως χὥτε δεόμενος τύχοι;
otherwise and all-the-more and-when in-need be-might-be
ΧΟΡΟΣ σύ τοι παλαιὰς διανομὰς καταφθίσας
you surely ancient dispensations having-destroyed
οἴνῳ παρηπάτησας ἀρχαίας θεάς.
with-wine beguiled ancient goddesses
ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ σύ τοι τάχ' οὐκ ἔχουσα τῆς δίκης τέλος
you surely soon not having of-the judgment end
ἐμῇ τὸν ἰὸν οὐδὲν ἐχθροῖσιν βαρύν.
will-vomit the poison not-at-all to-enemies heavy
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐπεὶ καθιππάζῃ με πρεσβῦτιν νέος,
since you-ride-down me old-woman young
δίκης γενέσθαι τῆσδ' ἐπήκοος μένω,
of-judgment to-become this hearer I-wait
ὡς ἀμφίβουλος οὖσα θυμοῦσθαι πόλει.
as in-doubt being to-be-angry with-city

ΑΘΗΝΑ ἐμὸν τόδ' ἔργον, λοισθίαν κρῖναι δίκην.
mine this task last to-judge judgment
ψῆφον δ' Ὀρέστῃ τήνδ' ἐγὼ προσθήσομαι.
vote and for-Orestes this I shall-add
μήτηρ γὰρ οὔτις ἐστὶν ἥ μ' ἐγείνατο,
mother for no-one is who me bore
τὸ δ' ἄρσεν αἰνῶ πάντα, πλὴν γάμου τυχεῖν,
the and male I-approve in-all except marriage to-meet
ἅπαντι θυμῷ, κάρτα δ' εἰμὶ τοῦ πατρός.
with-all heart very and I-am of-the father
οὕτω γυναικὸς οὐ προτιμήσω μόρον
so of-woman not I-shall-prefer death
ἄνδρα κτανούσης δωμάτων ἐπίσκοπον.
husband having-killed of-house overseer
νικᾷ δ' Ὀρέστης, κἂν ἰσόψηφος κριθῇ.
wins and Orestes even-if equal-voted he-be-judged
ἐκβάλλεθ' ὡς τάχιστα τευχέων πάλους,
throw-out as quickly from-urns lots
ὅσοις δικαστῶν τοῦτ' ἐπέσταλται τέλος.
to-whom of-judges this has-been-enjoined office
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ Φοῖβ' Ἄπολλον, πῶς ἀγὼν κριθήσεται;
O Phoebus Apollo how contest will-be-decided
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ Νὺξ μέλαινα μῆτερ, ἆρ' ὁρᾷς τάδε;
O Night black mother — do-you-see these
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ νῦν ἀγχόνης μοι τέρματ', ἢ φάος βλέπειν.
now of-noose to-me ends or light to-see
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἡμῖν γὰρ ἔρρειν, ἢ πρόσω τιμὰς νέμειν.
for-us for to-perish or forward honors to-hold

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ πεμπάζετ᾽ ὀρθῶς ἐκβολὰς ψήφων, ξένοι,
count rightly casting-out of-votes strangers
τὸ μὴ ᾽δικεῖν σέβοντες ἐν διαιρέσει.
the not to-do-wrong revering in division
γνώμης δ᾽ ἀπούσης πῆμα γίγνεται μέγα,
judgment and absent harm becomes great
βαλοῦσά τ᾽ οἶκον ψῆφος ὤρθωσεν μία.
cast and house vote set-upright one
ΑΘΗΝΑ ἀνὴρ ὅδ᾽ ἐκπέφευγεν αἵματος δίκην·
man this has-escaped of-blood judgment
ἴσον γάρ ἐστι τἀρίθμημα τῶν πάλων.
equal for is the-count of-the lots
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ Παλλάς, ὦ σώσασα τοὺς ἐμοὺς δόμους.
O Pallas O having-saved — my house
γαίας πατρῴας ἐστερημένον σύ τοι
of-land father's deprived you surely
κατῴκισάς με· καί τις Ἑλλήνων ἐρεῖ,
restored me and someone of-Greeks will-say
"᾽Αργεῖος ἀνὴρ αὖθις ἔν τε χρήμασιν
Argive the-man again in and possessions
οἰκεῖ πατρῴοις, Παλλάδος καὶ Λοξίου
dwells father's of-Pallas and of-Loxias
ἕκατι, καὶ τοῦ πάντα κραίνοντος τρίτου
by-grace and of-the all accomplishing third
σωτῆρος," ὃς πατρῷον αἰδεσθεὶς μόρον
savior who father's having-respected death
σῴζει με, μητρὸς τάσδε συνδίκους ὁρῶν.
saves me of-mother these advocates seeing
ἐγὼ δὲ χώρᾳ τῇδε καὶ τῷ σῷ στρατῷ
I and to-land this and — to-your host

τὸ λοιπὸν εἰς ἅπαντα πλειστήρη χρόνον
the future for all most-full time
ὁρκωμοτήσας νῦν ἄπειμι πρὸς δόμους,
having-sworn now I-depart to home
μήτοι τιν' ἄνδρα δεῦρο πρυμνήτην χθονὸς
never any man hither helmsman of-land
ἐλθόντ' ἐποίσειν εὖ κεκασμένον δόρυ.
having-come to-bring well furnished spear
αὐτοὶ γὰρ ἡμεῖς ὄντες ἐν τάφοις τότε
ourselves for we being in tombs then
τοῖς τἀμὰ παρβαίνουσι νῦν ὁρκώματα
for-those my transgressing now oaths
ἀμηχάνοισι πράξομεν δυσπραξίαις,
with-helpless shall-work misfortunes
ὁδοὺς ἀθύμους καὶ παρόρνιθας πόρους
ways disheartened and ill-omened paths
τιθέντες, ὡς αὐτοῖσι μεταμέλῃ πόνος·
making so-that to-them may-repent toil
ὀρθουμένων δέ, καὶ πόλιν τὴν Παλλάδος
being-kept and and city the of-Pallas
τιμῶσιν αἰεὶ τήνδε συμμάχῳ δορί,
honoring ever this with-allied spear
αὐτοῖσιν ἡμεῖς ἐσμεν εὐμενέστεροι.
to-them we are more-kindly
καὶ χαῖρε, καὶ σὺ καὶ πολισσοῦχος λεώς·
and farewell and you and city-holding people
πάλαισμ' ἄφυκτον τοῖς ἐναντίοις ἔχοις,
grip inescapable for-the opponents may-you-have
σωτήριόν τε καὶ δορὸς νικηφόρον.
saving both and of-spear victorious

The Erinyes cry that the younger gods have trampled the ancient laws and threaten to pour poison on the land. Athena tells them they were not defeated but met an even vote, offers them a home of honor in her city, and reminds them that she alone knows the keys to Zeus' thunderbolt. They repeat their lament. She promises them honors by Erechtheus' house and bids them not stir up civil war among her citizens.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ θεοὶ νεώτεροι, παλαιοὺς νόμους
oh gods younger ancient laws
καθιππάσασθε κἀκ χερῶν εἵλεσθέ μου.
you-have-ridden-down and-from hands snatched my
ἐγὼ δ' ἄτιμος ἁ τάλαινα βαρύκοτος
I and unhonored the wretched heavy-wrathed
ἐν γᾷ τᾷδε, φεῦ,
in land this alas
ἰὸν ἰὸν ἀντιπενθῆ
poison poison grief-requiting
μεθεῖσα καρδίας, σταλαγμὸν χθονὶ
letting-fall of-heart drop on-ground
ἄφορον· ἐκ δὲ τοῦ
barren from and it
λειχὴν ἄφυλλος, ἄτεκνος,
blight leafless childless
ἰὼ δίκα, πέδον ἐπισύμενος
oh justice ground rushing-over
βροτοφθόρους κηλῖδας ἐν χώρᾳ βαλεῖ.
man-destroying stains in land will-cast
στενάζω· τί ῥέξω;
I-groan what shall-I-do

γελῶμαι πολίταις.
I-am-mocked by-citizens
δύσοισθ' ἄπαθον. 790
unbearable what-I-suffered
ἰὼ μεγάλα τοι κόραι δυστυχεῖς
oh greatly surely daughters unfortunate
Νυκτὸς ἀτιμοπενθεῖς.
of-Night dishonored-grieving
ΑΘΗΝΑ ἐμοὶ πίθεσθε μὴ βαρυστόνως φέρειν.
me be-persuaded not grievously to-bear
οὐ γὰρ νενίκησθ', ἀλλ' ἰσόψηφος δίκη 795
not for you-have-been-conquered but equal-voted judgment
ἐξῆλθ' ἀληθῶς, οὐκ ἀτιμίᾳ σέθεν·
came-out truly not to-dishonor your
ἀλλ' ἐκ Διὸς γὰρ λαμπρὰ μαρτύρια παρῆν,
but from Zeus for bright testimonies were-present
αὐτός θ' ὁ χρήσας αὐτὸς ἦν ὁ μαρτυρῶν,
himself and the having-prophesied himself was the bearing-witness
ὡς ταῦτ' Ὀρέστην δρῶντα μὴ βλάβας ἔχειν.
that this Orestes doing not harms to-have
ὑμεῖς δὲ μὴ θυμοῦσθε μηδὲ τῇδε γῇ 800
you and not be-angry nor on-this land
βαρὺν κότον σκήψητε, μηδ' ἀκαρπίαν
heavy wrath hurl nor barrenness
τεύξητ', ἀφεῖσαι †δαιμόνων† σταλάγματα,
cause letting-fall of-divinities drops
βρωτῆρας αἰχμὰς σπερμάτων ἀνημέρους.
devouring spears of-seeds savage
ἐγὼ γὰρ ὑμῖν πανδίκως ὑπίσχομαι
I for to-you most-justly promise

ἕδρας τε καὶ κευθμῶνας ἐνδίκου χθονὸς
seats both and caverns of-just land
λιπαροθρόνοισιν ἡμένας ἐπ᾽ ἐσχάραις
bright-throned sitting at hearths
ἔξειν ὑπ᾽ ἀστῶν τῶνδε τιμαλφουμένας.
to-have by citizens these honored
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ θεοὶ νεώτεροι, παλαιοὺς νόμους
oh gods younger ancient laws
καθιππάσασθε κἀκ χερῶν εἵλεσθέ μου.
you-have-ridden-down and-from hands snatched my
ἐγὼ δ᾽ ἄτιμος ἁ τάλαινα βαρύκοτος
I and unhonored the wretched heavy-wrathed
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in land this alas
ἰὸν ἰὸν ἀντιπενθῆ
poison poison grief-requiting
μεθεῖσα καρδίας, σταλαγμὸν χθονὶ
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ἄφορον· ἐκ δὲ τοῦ
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blight leafless childless
ἰὼ δίκα, πέδον ἐπισύμενος
oh justice ground rushing-over
βροτοφθόρους κηλῖδας ἐν χώρᾳ βαλεῖ.
man-destroying stains in land will-cast
στενάζω· τί ῥέξω;
I-groan what shall-I-do
γελῶμαι πολίταις·
I-am-mocked by-citizens

δύσοισθ' ἄπαθον.
unbearable what-I-suffered

ἰὼ μεγάλα τοι κόραι δυστυχεῖς
oh greatly surely daughters unfortunate

Νυκτὸς ἀτιμοπενθεῖς.
of-Night dishonored-grieving

ΑΘΗΝΑ οὐκ ἔστ' ἄτιμοι, μηδ' ὑπερθύμως ἄγαν
not you-are unhonored nor in-anger too-much

θεαὶ βροτῶν κτίσητε δύσκηλον χθόνα.
goddesses of-mortals make sick land

κἀγὼ πέποιθα Ζηνί, καὶ τί δεῖ λέγειν;
and-I trust in-Zeus and what need to-say

καὶ κλῆδας οἶδα δώματος μόνη θεῶν,
and keys I-know of-house alone of-gods

ἐν ᾧ κεραυνός ἐστιν ἐσφραγισμένος·
in which thunderbolt is sealed

ἀλλ' οὐδὲν αὐτοῦ δεῖ· σὺ δ' εὐπιθὴς ἐμοὶ
but nothing of-it is-needed you and persuaded by-me

γλώσσης ματαίας μὴ 'κβάλῃς ἔπη χθονί,
of-tongue vain not cast-forth words on-land

καρπὸν φέροντα πάντα μὴ πράσσειν καλῶς
fruit bearing all not to-fare well

κοίμα κελαινοῦ κύματος πικρὸν μένος
lull of-black wave bitter might

ὡς σεμνότιμος καὶ ξυνοικήτωρ ἐμοί·
as august-honored and fellow-dweller with-me

πολλῆς δὲ χώρας τῆσδ' ἔτ' ἀκροθίνια
of-much and land this still first-fruits

θύῃ πρὸ παίδων καὶ γαμηλίου τέλους
sacrifices for children and of-marriage rite

ἔχουσ᾽ ἐς αἰεὶ τόνδ᾽ ἐπαινέσεις λόγον.
having for ever this you-will-praise word

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐμὲ παθεῖν τάδε, φεῦ,
me to-suffer this alas

ἐμὲ παλαιόφρονα κατά τε γᾶς οἰκεῖν,
me ancient-minded under and earth to-dwell

φεῦ, ἀτίετον μύσος.
alas unhonored pollution

πνέω τοι μένος ἄπαντά τε κότον.
I-breathe surely fury all and wrath

οἲ οἲ δᾶ, φεῦ.
oh oh ah alas

τίς μ᾽ ὑποδύεται, τίς ὀδύνα πλευράς;
what me steals-under what pain sides

θυμὸν ἄιε, μᾶτερ
heart hear mother

Νύξ· ἀπὸ γάρ με τι-
Night from for me of-honors

μᾶν δαναιᾶν θεῶν
— ancient of-gods

δυσπάλαμοι παρ᾽ οὐδὲν ἦραν δόλοι.
hard-to-resist for nothing have-taken guiles

ΑΘΗΝΑ ὀργὰς ξυνοίσω σοι· γεραιτέρα γὰρ εἶ.
wraths I-shall-bear-with you older for you-are

καὶ τῷ μὲν εἶ σὺ κάρτ᾽ ἐμοῦ σοφωτέρα·
and in-this indeed are you very than-me wiser

φρονεῖν δὲ κἀμοὶ Ζεὺς ἔδωκεν οὐ κακῶς.
to-think but and-to-me Zeus gave not badly

ὑμεῖς δ᾽ ἐς ἀλλόφυλον ἐλθοῦσαι χθόνα
you and to foreign having-gone land

γῆς τῆσδ' ἐρασθήσεσθε· προυννέπω τάδε.
land this will-long-for I-foretell this
οὐπιρρέων γὰρ τιμιώτερος χρόνος
the-flowing-on for more-honored time
ἔσται πολίταις τοῖσδε. καὶ σὺ τιμίαν
will-be to-citizens these and you honored
ἕδραν ἔχουσα πρὸς δόμοις Ἐρεχθέως
seat having by house of-Erechtheus
τεύξῃ παρ' ἀνδρῶν καὶ γυναικείων στόλων,
will-obtain from men and of-women processions
ὅσων παρ' ἄλλων οὔποτ' ἂν σχέθοις βροτῶν.
as-much from others never — you-could-have mortals
σὺ δ' ἐν τόποισι τοῖς ἐμοῖσι μὴ βάλῃς
you but in places — my not cast
μήθ' αἱματηρὰς θηγάνας, σπλάγχνων βλάβας
neither bloody whetstones of-hearts harms
νέων, ἀοίνοις ἐμμανεῖς θυμώμασιν,
of-young with-wineless maddened rages
μήτ', ἐξελοῦσ' ὡς καρδίαν ἀλεκτόρων,
nor having-plucked-out like heart of-cocks
ἐν τοῖς ἐμοῖς ἀστοῖσιν ἱδρύσῃς Ἄρη
in — my citizens establish Ares
ἐμφύλιόν τε καὶ πρὸς ἀλλήλους θρασύν.
of-kin both and against one-another bold
θυραῖος ἔστω πόλεμος, οὐ μόλις παρών,
outside let-be war not hardly present
ἐν ᾧ τις ἔσται δεινὸς εὐκλείας ἔρως·
in which some will-be dread of-glory love
ἐνοικίου δ' ὄρνιθος οὐ λέγω μάχην
of-the-home and bird not I-speak-of fight

τοιαῦθ' ἑλέσθαι σοι πάρεστιν ἐξ ἐμοῦ,
such to-choose to-you is-possible from me
εὖ δρῶσαν, εὖ πάσχουσαν, εὖ τιμωμένην
well doing well faring well honored
χώρας μετασχεῖν τῆσδε θεοφιλεστάτης.
of-land to-share this most-god-loved
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐμὲ παθεῖν τάδε, φεῦ,
me to-suffer this alas
ἐμὲ παλαιόφρονα κατά τε γᾶς οἰκεῖν,
me ancient-minded under and earth to-dwell
φεῦ, ἀτίετον μύσος.
alas unhonored pollution
πνέω τοι μένος ἅπαντά τε κότον.
I-breathe surely fury all and wrath
οἲ οἲ δᾶ, φεῦ.
oh oh ah alas
τίς μ' ὑποδύεται, τίς ὀδύνα πλευράς;
what me steals-under what pain sides
θυμὸν ἄιε, μᾶτερ
heart hear mother
Νύξ· ἀπὸ γάρ με τι-
Night from for me of-honors
μᾶν δαναιᾶν θεῶν
— *ancient of-gods*
δυσπάλαμοι παρ' οὐδὲν ἦραν δόλοι.
hard-to-resist for nothing have-taken guiles
ΑΘΗΝΑ οὔτοι καμοῦμαί σοι λέγουσα τἀγαθά,
surely-not I-shall-weary to-you telling the-good-things
ὡς μήποτ' εἴπῃς πρὸς νεωτέρας ἐμοῦ
that never you-may-say by younger than-me

θεὸς παλαιὰ καὶ πολισσούχων βροτῶν
goddess ancient and by-city-holding mortals
ἄτιμος ἔρρειν τοῦδ' ἀπόξενος πέδου.
unhonored to-go of-this outcast ground
ἀλλ' εἰ μὲν ἁγνόν ἐστί σοι Πειθοῦς σέβας; 885
but if indeed holy is to-you of-Persuasion reverence
γλώσσης ἐμῆς μείλιγμα καὶ θελκτήριον,
of-tongue my soothing and charm
σὺ δ' οὖν μένοις ἄν· εἰ δὲ μὴ θέλεις μένειν,
you and then would-remain — if but not you-wish to-remain
οὔ τἂν δικαίως τῇδ' ἐπιρρέποις πόλει
not — justly on-this you-would-weigh city
μῆνίν τιν' ἢ κότον τιν' ἢ βλάβην στρατῷ.
wrath some or anger some or harm to-host
ἔξεστι γάρ σοι τῆσδε γαμόρῳ χθονὸς 890
it-is-possible for to-you of-this landholder land
εἶναι δικαίως ἐς τὸ πᾶν τιμωμένῃ.
to-be justly for the all honored

The leader of the Erinyes asks what seat Athena offers. Athena promises that no house shall prosper without them and pledges to keep her word. Charmed, they ask what blessing they should sing. Athena asks for good things from earth, sea, and sky, rich crops and herds, the survival of human seed, and the increase of the pious. Those blessings are theirs; she herself will win the city honor in war.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄνασσ᾽ Ἀθάνα, τίνα με φὴς ἔχειν ἕδραν;
queen Athena what me you-say to-have seat

ΑΘΗΝΑ πάσης ἀπήμον᾽ οἰζύος· δέχου δὲ σύ.
of-all unharmed of-woe accept and you

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ δὴ δέδεγμαι· τίς δέ μοι τιμὴ μένει;
and indeed I-have-accepted what and to-me honor remains

ΑΘΗΝΑ ὡς μή τιν᾽ οἶκον εὐθενεῖν ἄνευ σέθεν.
that not any house to-prosper without you

ΧΟΡΟΣ σὺ τοῦτο πράξεις, ὥστε με σθένειν τόσον;
you this will-bring-about so-that me to-be-strong so-much

ΑΘΗΝΑ τῷ γὰρ σέβοντι συμφορὰς ὀρθώσομεν.
for-the for revering fortunes we-shall-set-upright

ΧΟΡΟΣ καί μοι πρόπαντος ἐγγύην θήσῃ χρόνου;
and to-me for-all pledge will-you-give of-time

ΑΘΗΝΑ ἔξεστι γάρ μοι μὴ λέγειν ἃ μὴ τελῶ.
it-is-possible for to-me not to-say what not I-shall-fulfill

ΧΟΡΟΣ θέλξειν μ᾽ ἔοικας καὶ μεθίσταμαι κότου.
to-charm me you-seem and I-change-from wrath

ΑΘΗΝΑ τοιγὰρ κατὰ χθόν᾽ οὖσ᾽ ἐπικτήσῃ φίλους.
therefore in land being you-will-win friends

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί οὖν μ᾽ ἄνωγας τῇδ᾽ ἐφυμνῆσαι χθονί;
what then me you-bid on-this to-sing land

ΑΘΗΝΑ ὁποῖα νίκης μὴ κακῆς ἐπίσκοπα,
such-as of-victory not evil attending
καὶ ταῦτα γῆθεν ἔκ τε ποντίας δρόσου
and these from-earth from and of-the-sea dew
ἐξ οὐρανοῦ τε· κἀνέμων ἀήματα
from heaven and and-of-winds blasts
εὐηλίως πνέοντ' ἐπιστείχειν χθόνα·
in-sunshine breathing to-come-upon land
καρπόν τε γαίας καὶ βοτῶν ἐπίρρυτον
fruit and of-earth and of-cattle abundant
ἀστοῖσιν εὐθενοῦντα μὴ κάμνειν χρόνῳ,
to-citizens flourishing not to-fail in-time
καὶ τῶν βροτείων σπερμάτων σωτηρίαν.
and of-the human seeds preservation
τῶν εὐσεβούντων δ' ἐκφορωτέρα πέλοις.
of-the pious and more-fruitful may-you-be
στέργω γάρ, ἀνδρὸς φιτυποίμενος δίκην,
I-love for of-man plant-tending like
τὸ τῶν δικαίων τῶνδ' ἀπένθητον γένος.
the of-the just these griefless race
τοιαῦτα σοΰστι. τῶν ἀρειφάτων δ' ἐγὼ
such-things yours-is of-the war-slain and I
πρεπτῶν ἀγώνων οὐκ ἀνέξομαι τὸ μὴ οὐ
splendid contests not shall-endure the not not
τήνδ' ἀστύνικον ἐν βροτοῖς τιμᾶν πόλιν.
this victorious-city among mortals to-honor city

The Erinyes accept a dwelling with Pallas and sing blessings on the city: no blight on trees, no barren plague on the crops, flocks thriving, no untimely deaths, no civil war, but common joy. Athena rejoices that Persuasion has won and Zeus of assemblies has prevailed. The goddesses and the citizens exchange farewells, and Athena prepares to lead them to their new home below.

ΧΟΡΟΣ δέξομαι Παλλάδος ξυνοικίαν,
I-shall-accept of-Pallas fellowship
οὐδ' ἀτιμάσω πόλιν,
nor shall-dishonor city
τὰν καὶ Ζεὺς ὁ παγκρατὴς Ἄρης τε
which also Zeus the all-mighty Ares and
φρούριον θεῶν νέμει,
fortress of-gods holds
ῥυσίβωμον Ἑλλάνων ἄγαλμα δαιμόνων·
altar-guarding of-Greek ornament of-gods
ἅτ' ἐγὼ κατεύχομαι
for-which I pray
θεσπίσασα πρευμενῶς
prophesying kindly
ἐπισσύτους βίου τύχας ὀνησίμους
rushing of-life fortunes beneficial
γαίας ἐξαμβρῦσαι
of-earth to-make-burst-forth
φαιδρὸν ἁλίου σέλας.
bright of-sun gleam

ΑΘΗΝΑ τάδ᾽ ἐγὼ προφρόνως τοῖσδε πολίταις
this I readily for-these citizens
πράσσω, μεγάλας καὶ δυσαρέστους
do great and hard-to-please
δαίμονας αὐτοῦ κατανασσαμένη.
spirits here having-settled
πάντα γὰρ αὗται τὰ κατ᾽ ἀνθρώπους 930
all for they the among men
ἔλαχον διέπειν.
obtained to-govern
ὁ δὲ μὴ κύρσας βαρεῶν τούτων
he and not having-met heavy these
οὐκ οἶδεν ὅθεν πληγαὶ βιότου.
not knows whence blows of-life
τὰ γὰρ ἐκ προτέρων ἀπλακήματά νιν
the for from former sins him
πρὸς τάσδ᾽ ἀπάγει, σιγῶν δ᾽ ὄλεθρος 935
before these brings silent and ruin
καὶ μέγα φωνοῦντ᾽
even loud shouting
ἐχθραῖς ὀργαῖς ἀμαθύνει.
with-hostile wraths destroys
ΧΟΡΟΣ δενδροπήμων δὲ μὴ πνέοι βλάβα,
tree-harming and not may-blow harm
τὰν ἐμὰν χάριν λέγω·
— my grace I-tell
φλογμός τ᾽ ὀμματοστερὴς φυτῶν, τὸ 940
scorching and eye-robbing of-plants the
μὴ περᾶν ὅρον τόπων,
not to-pass boundary of-places

μηδ' ἄκαρπος αἰανὴς ἐφερπέτω νόσος,
nor fruitless lasting let-creep-upon plague
μῆλά τ' εὐθενοῦντα γᾶ
flocks and thriving earth
ξὺν διπλοῖσιν ἐμβρύοις
with double young
τρέφοι χρόνῳ τεταγμένῳ· γόνος δ'
may-nourish at-time appointed offspring and
πλουτόχθων ἑρμαίαν
rich-in-earth windfall
δαιμόνων δόσιν τίοι.
of-spirits gift may-honor
ΑΘΗΝΑ ἦ τάδ' ἀκούετε, πόλεως φρούριον,
— this do-you-hear of-city fortress
οἷ' ἐπικραίνει; μέγα γὰρ δύναται
what she-accomplishes great for has-power
πότνι' Ἐρινὺς παρά τ' ἀθανάτοις
lady Erinys among and immortals
τοῖς θ' ὑπὸ γαῖαν, περί τ' ἀνθρώπων
those and under earth about and men
φανερῶς τελέως διαπράσσουσιν,
manifestly finally accomplish
τοῖς μὲν ἀοιδάς, τοῖς δ' αὖ δακρύων
for-some indeed songs for-others and again of-tears
βίον ἀμβλωπὸν παρέχουσαι.
life dimmed providing
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀνδροκμῆτας δ' ἀώρ-
man-destroying and untimely
ους ἀπεννέπω τύχας,
— I-forbid fortunes

νεανίδων τ᾽ ἐπηράτων
of-maidens and lovely
ἀνδροτυχεῖς βιότους
husband-winning lives
δότε, κύρι᾽ ἔχοντες,
grant authority having
θεαί τ᾽ ὦ Μοῖραι
goddesses and O Fates
ματροκασιγνῆται,
sisters-by-the-mother
δαίμονες ὀρθονόμοι,
spirits right-dealing
παντὶ δόμῳ μετάκοινοι,
in-every house sharing
παντὶ χρόνῳ δ᾽ ἐπιβριθεῖς
in-every time and weighty
ἐνδίκοις ὁμιλίαις,
with-just visitations
πάντᾳ τιμιώταται θεῶν.
everywhere most-honored of-gods
ΑΘΗΝΑ τάδε τοι χώρᾳ τῇμῇ προφρόνως
these surely to-land my readily
ἐπικραινομένων
being-accomplished
γάνυμαι· στέργω δ᾽ ὄμματα Πειθοῦς,
I-rejoice I-love and eyes of-Persuasion
ὅτι μοι γλῶσσαν καὶ στόμ᾽ ἐπωπᾷ
that to-me tongue and mouth watches
πρὸς τάσδ᾽ ἀγρίως ἀπανηναμένας·
toward these fiercely refusing

ἀλλ᾽ ἐκράτησε Ζεὺς ἀγοραῖος·
but has-prevailed Zeus of-assemblies
νικᾷ δ᾽ ἀγαθῶν
wins and of-good-things
ἔρις ἡμετέρα διὰ παντός.
strife our through all
ΧΟΡΟΣ τὰν δ᾽ ἄπλητον κακῶν
the and insatiable of-evils
μήποτ᾽ ἐν πόλει στάσιν
never in city faction
τᾷδ᾽ ἐπεύχομαι βρέμειν.
this I-pray to-roar
μηδὲ πιοῦσα κόνις
nor having-drunk dust
μέλαν αἷμα πολιτᾶν
black blood of-citizens
δι᾽ ὀργὰν ποινᾶς
through anger of-vengeance
ἀντιφόνους ἄτας
retaliating ruins
ἁρπαλίσαι πόλεως.
to-seize-eagerly of-city
χάρματα δ᾽ ἀντιδιδοῖεν
joys and may-they-give-in-return
κοινοφιλεῖ διανοίᾳ,
with-common-loving mind
καὶ στυγεῖν μιᾷ φρενί·
and to-hate with-one mind
πολλῶν γὰρ τόδ᾽ ἐν βροτοῖς ἄκος.
of-many for this among mortals cure

ΑΘΗΝΑ ἆρα φρονοῦσιν γλώσσης ἀγαθῆς
— *do-they-take-thought of-tongue good*
ὁδὸν εὑρίσκειν;
path to-find
ἐκ τῶν φοβερῶν τῶνδε προσώπων
from the fearsome these faces
μέγα κέρδος ὁρῶ τοῖσδε πολίταις·
great gain I-see for-these citizens
τάσδε γὰρ εὔφρονας εὔφρονες αἰεὶ
them for kindly kindly ever
μέγα τιμῶντες καὶ γῆν καὶ πόλιν
greatly honoring both land and city
ὀρθοδίκαιον
right-judging
πρέψετε πάντως διάγοντες.
you-will-shine wholly keeping
ΧΟΡΟΣ χαίρετε χαίρετ' ἐν αἰσιμίαισι πλούτου.
farewell farewell in fortunes of-wealth
χαίρετ' ἀστικὸς λεώς,
farewell city people
ἵκταρ ἥμενοι Διός,
near sitting of-Zeus
παρθένου φίλας φίλοι
of-maiden dear dear
σωφρονοῦντες ἐν χρόνῳ.
being-self-controlled in time
Παλλάδος δ' ὑπὸ πτεροῖς
of-Pallas and under wings
ὄντας ἄζεται πατήρ.
being reveres father

ΑΘΗΝΑ χαίρετε χὐμεῖς· προτέραν δ' ἐμὲ χρὴ
farewell and-you before and me must
στείχειν θαλάμους ἀποδείξουσαν
to-go chambers to-show
πρὸς φῶς ἱερὸν τῶνδε προπομπῶν.
to light holy of-these escorts
ἴτε καὶ σφαγίων τῶνδ' ὑπὸ σεμνῶν
go and slaughter-offerings these under august
κατὰ γῆς σύμεναι τὸ μὲν ἀτηρὸν
under earth hastening the indeed ruinous
χώρας κατέχειν, τὸ δὲ κερδαλέον
of-land to-hold-down the but profitable
πέμπειν πόλεως ἐπὶ νίκῃ.
to-send of-city for victory
ὑμεῖς δ' ἡγεῖσθε, πολισσοῦχοι
you and lead city-holding
παῖδες Κραναοῦ, ταῖσδε μετοίκοις.
children of-Cranaus these sojourners
εἴη δ' ἀγαθῶν
may-be and of-good-things
ἀγαθὴ διάνοια πολίταις.
good thought for-citizens
ΧΟΡΟΣ χαίρετε, χαίρετε δ' αὖθις, ἐπανδιπλάζω,
farewell farewell and again I-say-twice
πάντες οἱ κατὰ πτόλιν,
all the in city
δαίμονές τε καὶ βροτοί,
gods both and mortals

Παλλάδος πόλιν νέμον-
of-Pallas city inhabiting
τες· μετοικίαν δ' ἐμὴν
— sojourning and my
εὖ σέβοντες οὔτι μέμ-
well revering not-at-all you-will-blame
ψεσθε συμφορὰς βίου.
— fortunes of-life

XI · ATHENA'S ESCORT

Athena approves the blessings and announces that she will send the goddesses with torchlight to their places under the earth, escorted by the women who guard her image, and robed in crimson. The light of fire is to lead the way, so that this company may prosper the land.

ΑΘΗΝΑ αἰνῶ τε μύθους τῶνδε τῶν κατευγμάτων
I-approve and words of-these the prayers
πέμψω τε φέγγει λαμπάδων σελασφόρων
I-shall-send and by-light of-torches bright
εἰς τοὺς ἔνερθε καὶ κατὰ χθονὸς τόπους
to the below and under earth places
ξὺν προσπόλοισιν, αἵτε φρουροῦσιν βρέτας
with attendants who guard image
τοὐμὸν δικαίως. ὄμμα γὰρ πάσης χθονὸς
my justly eye for of-all land
Θησῆδος ἐξίκοιτ' ἂν εὐκλεὴς λόχος
of-Theseus would-come — glorious band
παίδων, γυναικῶν, καὶ στόλος πρεσβυτίδων.
of-children of-women and procession of-old-women

φοινικοβάπτοις ἐνδυτοῖς ἐσθήμασι
in-crimson-dyed worn garments
τιμᾶτε, καὶ τὸ φέγγος ὁρμάσθω πυρός,
honor and the light let-be-sped of-fire
ὅπως ἂν εὔφρων ἥδ' ὁμιλία χθονὸς
so-that — kindly this company of-land
τὸ λοιπὸν εὐάνδροισι συμφοραῖς πρέπῃ.
the future with-rich-in-men fortunes may-shine

XII · THE PROCESSION

The escort leads the great, honor-loving children of Night to their home beneath the earth, calling for holy silence and a cry of joy. The goddesses are invited to go gracious to the land. Peace is declared forever between the sojourners and the citizens of Pallas, for all-seeing Zeus and Fate have come down together to this end.

ΠΡΟΠΟΜΠΟΙ βᾶτε δόμῳ, μεγάλαι φιλότιμοι
go to-house great honor-loving
Νυκτὸς παῖδες ἄπαιδες, ὑπ' εὔφρονι πομπᾷ,
of-Night children childless under kindly escort
εὐφαμεῖτε δέ, χωρῖται,
keep-holy-silence and countrymen
γᾶς ὑπὸ κεύθεσιν ὠγυγίοισιν,
of-earth under caverns primeval
τιμαῖς καὶ θυσίαις περίσεπτα τυχοῦσαι,
with-honors and sacrifices revered meeting
εὐφαμεῖτε δὲ πανδαμεί.
keep-holy-silence and all-the-people
ἵλαοι δὲ καὶ σύμφρονες γᾷ
gracious and and like-minded to-land

δεῦρ᾽ ἴτε, σεμναί, ξὺν πυριδάπτῳ
hither come august with fire-devoured
λαμπάδι τερπόμεναι καθ᾽ ὁδόν.
torch delighting along way
ὀλολύξατε νῦν ἐπὶ μολπαῖς.
raise-the-cry now to songs
σπονδαὶ δ᾽ ἐς τὸ πᾶν ἐκ μετοίκων
truce and for the all from sojourners
Παλλάδος ἀστοῖς. Ζεὺς ὁ πανόπτας
of-Pallas to-citizens Zeus the all-seeing
οὕτω Μοῖρά τε συγκατέβα.
thus Fate and came-down-with
ὀλολύξατε νῦν ἐπὶ μολπαῖς.
raise-the-cry now to songs

AESCHYLUS

ΠΕΡΣΑΙ

The Persians

I · THE ARMY THAT MARCHED

The elders of Persia, the Faithful left to guard the land while Xerxes marched on Hellas, fear for the army. All Asia's strength has gone, and no messenger or horseman comes. They list the commanders and peoples who set out: Persians from Susa and Agbatana, Egyptians from the Nile, Lydians from Sardis, Mysians, and Babylonians. The whole land, parents and wives, counts the days and trembles.

ΧΟΡΟΣ Τάδε μὲν Περσῶν τῶν οἰχομένων
These indeed of-Persians of-the gone
Ἑλλάδ' ἐς αἶαν πιστὰ καλεῖται,
Hellas' to land the-faithful are-called
καὶ τῶν ἀφνεῶν καὶ πολυχρύσων
and of-the rich and much-golden
ἑδράνων φύλακες, κατὰ πρεσβείαν
seats guardians according-to seniority
οὓς αὐτὸς ἄναξ Ξέρξης βασιλεὺς
whom himself lord Xerxes king
Δαρειογενὴς
Darius-born
εἵλετο χώρας ἐφορεύειν.
chose the-land to-oversee
ἀμφὶ δὲ νόστῳ τῷ βασιλείῳ
about and return the royal
καὶ πολυχρύσου στρατιᾶς ἤδη
and much-golden of-army already
κακόμαντις ἄγαν ὀρσολοπεῖται
evil-boding too-much is-troubled
θυμὸς ἔσωθεν.
heart within

πᾶσα γὰρ ἰσχὺς Ἀσιατογενὴς
all for strength Asia-born
ᾠχωκε, νέον δ' ἄνδρα βαΰζει,
has-gone young and man it-bays-at
κοὔτε τις ἄγγελος οὔτε τις ἱππεὺς
and-neither any messenger nor any horseman
ἄστυ τὸ Περσῶν ἀφικνεῖται·
city the of-Persians reaches
οἵτε τὸ Σούσων ἠδ' Ἀγβατάνων
who the of-Susa and of-Agbatana
καὶ τὸ παλαιὸν Κίσσιον ἔρκος
and the ancient Cissian bulwark
προλιπόντες ἔβαν, τοὶ μὲν ἐφ' ἵππων.
having-left went some indeed on horses
τοὶ δ' ἐπὶ ναῶν, πεζοί τε βάδην
others and on ships foot-soldiers and in-step
πολέμου στῖφος παρέχοντες·
of-war mass providing
οἷος Ἀμίστρης ἠδ' Ἀρταφρένης
such-as Amistres and Artaphrenes
καὶ Μεγαβάτης ἠδ' Ἀστάσπης,
and Megabates and Astaspes
ταγοὶ Περσῶν,
leaders of-Persians
βασιλῆς βασιλέως ὕποχοι μεγάλου,
kings of-king subjects great
σοῦνται, στρατιᾶς πολλῆς ἔφοροι,
rush of-army great overseers
τοξοδάμαντές τ' ἠδ' ἱπποβάται,
bow-conquering and and horse-riding

φοβεροὶ μὲν ἰδεῖν, δεινοὶ δὲ μάχην
fearful indeed to-see terrible and in-battle
ψυχῆς εὐτλήμονι δόξῃ·
of-soul with-steadfast resolve
Ἀρτεμβάρης θ' ἱππιοχάρμης
Artembares and horse-fighting
καὶ Μασίστρης, ὅ τε τοξοδάμας
and Masistres the and bow-conquering
ἐσθλὸς Ἰμαῖος, Φαρανδάκης θ',
noble Imaeus Pharandaces and
ἵππων τ' ἐλατὴρ Σοσθάνης.
of-horses and driver Sosthanes
ἄλλους δ' ὁ μέγας καὶ πολυθρέμμων
others and the great and much-nurturing
Νεῖλος ἔπεμψεν· Σουσισκάνης,
Nile sent Susiscanes
Πηγασταγὼν Αἰγυπτογενής,
Pegastagon Egypt-born
ὅ τε τῆς ἱερᾶς Μέμφιδος ἄρχων
the and of-the holy Memphis ruler
μέγας Ἀρσάμης, τάς τ' ὠγυγίους
great Arsames the and primeval
Θήβας ἐφέπων Ἀριόμαρδος,
Thebes ruling Ariomardus
καὶ ἑλειοβάται ναῶν ἐρέται
and marsh-dwelling of-ships rowers
δεινοὶ πλῆθός τ' ἀνάριθμοι.
terrible in-number and countless
ἁβροδιαίτων δ' ἕπεται Λυδῶν
of-delicate-living and follows Lydians

ὄχλος, οἵ τ' ἐπίπαν ἠπειρογενὲς
throng who and all mainland-born
κατέχουσιν ἔθνος, τοὺς Μητρογαθὴς
hold race whom Metrogathes
Ἀρκτεύς τ' ἀγαθός, βασιλῆς δίοποι,
Arcteus and good kings commanders
καὶ πολύχρυσοι Σάρδεις ἐπόχους
and much-golden Sardis riders
πολλοῖς ἅρμασιν ἐξορμῶσιν,
on-many chariots send-forth
δίρρυμά τε καὶ τρίρρυμα τέλη,
two-poled both and three-poled teams
φοβερὰν ὄψιν προσιδέσθαι.
fearful sight to-behold
στεῦται δ' ἱεροῦ Τμώλου πελάται
vow and of-holy Tmolus neighbors
ζυγὸν ἀμφιβαλεῖν δούλιον Ἑλλάδι,
yoke to-cast-around slavish on-Hellas
Μάρδων, Θάρυβις, λόγχης ἄκμονες,
Mardon Tharybis of-spear anvils
καὶ ἀκοντισταὶ Μυσοί· Βαβυλὼν δ'
and javelin-men Mysians Babylon and
ἡ πολύχρυσος πάμμικτον ὄχλον
the much-golden all-mixed throng
πέμπει σύρδην, ναῶν τ' ἐπόχους
sends in-a-long-train of-ships and riders
καὶ τοξουλκῷ λήματι πιστούς·
and with-bow-drawing spirit trusting
τὸ μαχαιροφόρον τ' ἔθνος ἐκ πάσης
the sword-bearing and race from all

Ἀσίας ἔπεται
Asia follows
δειναῖς βασιλέως ὑπὸ πομπαῖς.
dread of-king under escort
τοιόνδ᾽ ἄνθος Περσίδος αἴας
such flower of-Persian land
οἴχεται ἀνδρῶν,
is-gone of-men
οὓς πέρι πᾶσα χθὼν Ἀσιῆτις
whom for all land Asian
θρέψασα πόθῳ στένεται μαλερῷ,
having-nursed with-longing laments with-fierce
τοκέες τ᾽ ἄλοχοί θ᾽ ἡμερολεγδὸν
parents and wives and counting-the-days
τείνοντα χρόνον τρομέονται.
lengthening time tremble

II · THE BRIDGE OF SHIPS

The royal army has crossed Helle's strait on a bridge of boats, yoking the neck of the sea. Asia's godlike ruler drives his host by land and sea, and no one can withstand the flood. But no mortal escapes the deceit of a god: Ruin fawns and lures a man into her nets. The elders fear Susa will learn its men are gone, and the women will tear their robes. As they ask how Xerxes fares, his mother, Darius' wife, approaches.

ΧΟΡΟΣ πεπέρακεν μὲν ὁ περσέπτολις ἤδη
has-crossed indeed the city-destroying already
βασίλειος στρατὸς εἰς ἀν-
royal army to opposite
τίπορον γείτονα χώραν,
— neighboring land

λινοδέσμῳ σχεδίᾳ πορθ-
with-flax-bound raft strait
μὸν ἀμείψας
— *having-crossed*
Ἀθαμαντίδος Ἕλλας,
of-Athamas'-daughter of-Helle
πολύγομφον ὅδισμα
much-bolted roadway
ζυγὸν ἀμφιβαλὼν αὐχένι πόντου.
yoke having-cast-around on-neck of-sea
πολυάνδρου δ' Ἀσίας θούριος ἄρχων
of-populous and Asia impetuous ruler
ἐπὶ πᾶσαν χθόνα ποιμα-
over all land shepherding
νόριον θεῖον ἐλαύνει
— *divine drives*
διχόθεν, πεζονόμον τ' ἔκ
in-two-ways foot-soldiers and from
τε θαλάσσας,
and of-sea
ἐχυροῖσι πεποιθὼς
in-strong trusting
στυφελοῖς ἐφέταις, χρυ-
in-stern commanders of-golden
σογόνου γενεᾶς ἰσόθεος φώς.
— *race godlike man*
κυάνεον δ' ὄμμασι λεύσσων
dark and with-eyes looking
φονίου δέργμα δράκοντος,
of-murderous glance of-serpent

πολύχειρ καὶ πολυναύτας,
many-handed and many-shipped
Σύριόν θ' ἅρμα διώκων,
Syrian and chariot driving
ἐπάγει δουρικλύτοις ἀν-
leads-on against-spear-famed men
δράσι τοξόδαμνον Ἄρη.
— bow-conquering Ares
δόκιμος δ' οὔτις ὑποστὰς
approved and no-one withstanding
μεγάλῳ ῥεύματι φωτῶν
great stream of-men
ἐχυροῖς ἕρκεσιν εἴργειν
with-strong barriers to-keep-off
ἄμαχον κῦμα θαλάσσας·
irresistible wave of-sea
ἀπρόσοιστος γὰρ ὁ Περσᾶν
unapproachable for the of-Persians
στρατὸς ἀλκίφρων τε λαός.
army brave-hearted and people
θεόθεν γὰρ κατὰ Μοῖρ'
from-god for by Fate
ἐκράτησεν τὸ παλαι-
prevailed the of-old
όν, ἐπέσκηψε δὲ Πέρσαις
— laid and on-Persians
πολέμους πυργοδαΐκτους
wars tower-destroying
διέπειν ἱππιοχάρμας
to-wage horse-fighting

τε κλόνους
and tumults
πόλεών τ' ἀναστάσεις.
of-cities and overthrows
ἔμαθον δ' εὐρυπόροι-
they-learned and wide-wayed
ο θαλάσσας πολιαι-
— *of-sea whitening*
νομένας πνεύματι λάβρῳ
— *with-wind fierce*
ἐσορᾶν πόντιον ἄλσος,
to-look-on of-sea precinct
πίσυνοι λεπτοδόμοις πεί-
trusting in-slender-built cables
σμασι λα-
— *people-carrying*
οπόροις τε μαχαναῖς.
— *and devices*
δολόμητιν δ' ἀπάταν θεοῦ
crafty-minded and deceit of-god
τίς ἀνὴρ θνατὸς ἀλύξει;
what man mortal will-escape
τίς ὁ κραιπνῷ ποδὶ πήδη-
who the with-swift foot leap
μα τόδ' εὐπετῶς ἀνάσσων;
— *this easily springing-over*
φιλόφρων γὰρ παρασαίνει
friendly for fawns-on
βροτὸν εἰς ἄρκυας Ἄτα,
mortal into nets Ruin

τόθεν οὐκ ἔστιν ὕπερθέν
whence not is from-above
νιν ἄνατον ἐξαλύξαι.
him unharmed to-escape
ταῦτά μοι μελαγχίτων
these my black-robed
φρὴν ἀμύσσεται φόβῳ,
mind is-torn with-fear
ὀᾶ, Περσικοῦ στρατεύματος
oa of-the-Persian army
τοῦδε, μὴ πόλις πύθη-
this lest city learn
ται κένανδρον μέγ' ἄστυ Σουσίδος,
— emptied-of-men great city of-Susa
καὶ τὸ Κισσίων πόλισμ'
and the of-the-Cissians city
ἀντίδουπον ᾄσεται,
answering-echo will-sing
ὀᾶ, τοῦτ' ἔπος γυναικοπλη-
oa this word woman-crowded
θὴς ὅμιλος ἀπύων,
— throng crying
βυσσίνοις δ' ἐν πέπλοις πέσῃ λακίς.
linen and in robes may-fall rending
πᾶς γὰρ ἱππηλάτας
all for horse-driving
καὶ πεδοστιβὴς λεὼς
and foot-going people

σμῆνος ὡς ἐκλέλοιπεν μελισ-
swarm like has-left of-bees
σᾶν σὺν ὀρχάμῳ στρατοῦ,
— with leader of-army
τὸν ἀμφίζευκτον ἐξαμείψας
the double-yoked having-crossed
ἀμφοτέρας ἅλιον
of-both sea
πρῶνα κοινὸν αἴας.
headland common of-land
λέκτρα δ' ἀνδρῶν πόθῳ
beds and of-husbands with-longing
πίμπλαται δακρύμασιν·
are-filled with-tears
Περσίδες δ' ἁβροπενθεῖς ἑκά-
Persian-women and delicately-grieving each
στα πόθῳ φιλάνορι
— with-longing husband-loving
τὸν αἰχμάεντα θοῦρον εὐνα-
the warlike impetuous bedfellow
τῆρ' ἀποπεμψαμένα
— having-sent-off
λείπεται μονόζυξ.
is-left yoked-alone
ἀλλ' ἄγε, Πέρσαι, τόδ' ἐνεζόμενοι
but come Persians this sitting-in
στέγος ἀρχαῖον,
building ancient
φροντίδα κεδνὴν καὶ βαθύβουλον
thought careful and deep-counseled

θώμεθα, χρεία δὲ προσήκει,
let-us-set need and is-fitting
πῶς ἄρα πράσσει Ξέρξης βασιλεὺς
how then fares Xerxes king
Δαρειογενής,
Darius-born
τὸ πατρωνύμιον γένος ἡμέτερον·
the father's-name race our
πότερον τόξου ῥῦμα τὸ νικῶν,
whether of-bow drawing the conquering
ἢ δορικράνου
or spear-headed
λόγχης ἰσχὺς κεκράτηκεν.
of-lance strength has-prevailed
ἀλλ' ἥδε θεῶν ἴσον ὀφθαλμοῖς
but here of-gods equal to-eyes
φάος ὁρμᾶται μήτηρ βασιλέως,
light comes mother of-king
βασίλεια δ' ἐμή· προσπίτνω·
queen and my I-fall-before
καὶ προσφθόγγοις δὲ χρεὼν αὐτὴν
and with-addresses and it-is-fitting her
πάντας μύθοισι προσαυδᾶν.
all with-words to-hail
ὦ βαθυζώνων ἄνασσα Περσίδων ὑπερτάτη,
O of-deep-girdled queen Persian-women highest
μῆτερ ἡ Ξέρξου γεραιά, χαῖρε, Δαρείου γύναι·
mother the of-Xerxes aged hail of-Darius wife

θεοῦ μὲν εὐνάτειρα Περσῶν, θεοῦ δὲ καὶ μήτηρ ἔφυς,
of-god indeed bedfellow of-Persians of-god and also mother you-are
εἴ τι μὴ δαίμων παλαιὸς νῦν μεθέστηκε στρατῷ.
if in-any-way not spirit old now has-changed for-the-army

III · ATOSSA'S DREAM

Atossa, Xerxes' mother, tells the elders her fears for her son's wealth and his house. She dreamed of two women, one in Persian robes and one in Dorian, whom Xerxes yoked to his chariot; the Dorian one broke the yoke, and he fell while Darius stood pitying him. At the altar she saw an eagle flee from a hawk. The elders advise prayers and libations. She asks about Athens. A messenger arrives.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ ταῦτα δὴ λιποῦσ' ἱκάνω χρυσεοστόλμους δόμους
this indeed having-left I-come gold-adorned house
καὶ τὸ Δαρείου τε κἀμὸν κοινὸν εὐνατήριον.
and the of-Darius and and-my common bedchamber
κἀμὲ καρδίαν ἀμύσσει φροντίς· ἐς δ' ὑμᾶς ἐρῶ
and-me heart tears care to and you I-shall-speak
μῦθον οὐδαμῶς ἐμαυτῆς οὖσ' ἀδείμαντος, φίλοι,
word in-no-way of-myself being fearless friends
μὴ μέγας πλοῦτος κονίσας οὖδας ἀντρέψῃ ποδὶ
lest great wealth having-raised-dust ground overturn with-foot
ὄλβον, ὃν Δαρεῖος ἦρεν οὐκ ἄνευ θεῶν τινος.
prosperity which Darius raised not without of-gods some
ταῦτά μοι διπλῆ μέριμνα φραστός ἐστιν ἐν φρεσίν,
this to-me double care to-be-told is in mind
μήτε χρημάτων ἀνάνδρων πλῆθος ἐν τιμῇ σέβειν
neither of-riches without-men mass in honor to-revere
μήτ' ἀχρημάτοισι λάμπειν φῶς ὅσον σθένος πάρα.
nor on-the-poor to-shine light as-much-as strength is-present

ἔστι γὰρ πλοῦτός γ' ἀμεμφής, ἀμφὶ δ' ὀφθαλμῷ φόβος·
there-is for wealth at-least blameless about and eye fear
ὄμμα γὰρ δόμων νομίζω δεσπότου παρουσίαν.
eye for of-house I-hold of-master presence
πρὸς τάδ' ὡς οὕτως ἐχόντων τῶνδε, σύμβουλοι λόγου
to this as thus being of-this counselors word
τοῦδέ μοι γένεσθε, Πέρσαι, γηραλέα πιστώματα·
of-this to-me become Persians aged pledges
πάντα γὰρ τὰ κέδν' ἐν ὑμῖν ἐστί μοι βουλεύματα.
all for the good in you are to-me counsels
ΧΟΡΟΣ εὖ τόδ' ἴσθι, γῆς ἄνασσα τῆσδε, μή σε δὶς φράσαι
well this know of-land queen this not you twice to-tell
μήτ' ἔπος μήτ' ἔργον ὧν ἂν δύναμις ἡγεῖσθαι θέλῃ·
neither word nor deed of-which — power to-lead may-wish
εὐμενεῖς γὰρ ὄντας ἡμᾶς τῶνδε συμβούλους καλεῖς.
well-disposed for being us of-this counselors you-call
ΑΤΟΣΣΑ πολλοῖς μὲν αἰεὶ νυκτέροις ὀνείρασιν
with-many indeed ever nightly dreams
ξύνειμ', ἀφ' οὗπερ παῖς ἐμὸς στείλας στρατὸν
I-consort since when son my having-marshaled army
Ἰαόνων γῆν οἴχεται πέρσαι θέλων·
of-Ionians land is-gone to-sack wishing
ἀλλ' οὔτι πω τοιόνδ' ἐναργὲς εἰδόμην
but not-at-all yet such vivid I-saw
ὡς τῆς πάροιθεν εὐφρόνης· λέξω δέ σοι.
as of-the past night I-shall-tell and to-you
ἐδοξάτην μοι δύο γυναῖκ' εὐείμονε,
seemed to-me two women well-dressed
ἡ μὲν πέπλοισι Περσικοῖς ἠσκημένη,
the-one indeed in-robes Persian adorned

ἡ δ' αὖτε Δωρικοῖσιν, εἰς ὄψιν μολεῖν,
the-other and again in-Dorian to sight to-come
μεγέθει τε τῶν νῦν ἐκπρεπεστάτα πολύ,
in-stature and than-those now most-outstanding by-far
κάλλει τ' ἀμώμω, καὶ κασιγνήτα γένους
in-beauty and faultless and sisters of-race
ταὐτοῦ· πάτραν δ' ἔναιον ἡ μὲν Ἑλλάδα
the-same fatherland and they-inhabited the-one indeed Hellas
κλήρῳ λαχοῦσα γαῖαν, ἡ δὲ βάρβαρον.
by-lot having-received land the-other and barbarian
τούτω στάσιν τιν', ὡς ἐγὼ 'δόκουν ὁρᾶν,
these strife some as I thought to-see
τεύχειν ἐν ἀλλήλαισι· παῖς δ' ἐμὸς μαθὼν
to-make with one-another son and my having-learned
κατεῖχε κἀπράυνεν, ἅρμασιν δ' ὕπο
restrained and-soothed chariot and under
ζεύγνυσιν αὐτὼ καὶ λέπαδν' ἐπ' αὐχένων
yokes them and straps on necks
τίθησι. χἠ μὲν τῇδ' ἐπυργοῦτο στολῇ
places and-the-one indeed in-this towered-up array
ἐν ἡνίαισί τ' εἶχεν εὔαρκτον στόμα,
in reins and held well-ruled mouth
ἡ δ' ἐσφάδαζε, καὶ χεροῖν ἔντη δίφρου
the-other and struggled and with-hands harness of-chariot
διασπαράσσει καὶ ξυναρπάζει βίᾳ
tears-apart and snatches-away by-force
ἄνευ χαλινῶν καὶ ζυγὸν θραύει μέσον.
without bridles and yoke breaks in-the-middle
πίπτει δ' ἐμὸς παῖς, καὶ πατὴρ παρίσταται
falls and my son and father stands-by

Δαρεῖος οἰκτείρων σφε· τὸν δ' ὅπως ὁρᾷ
Darius pitying him him and when sees
Ξέρξης, πέπλους ῥήγνυσιν ἀμφὶ σώματι.
Xerxes robes rends about body
καὶ ταῦτα μὲν δὴ νυκτὸς εἰσιδεῖν λέγω.
and these indeed indeed by-night to-see I-say
ἐπεὶ δ' ἀνέστην καὶ χεροῖν καλλιρρόου
when and I-rose and with-hands fair-flowing
ἔψαυσα πηγῆς, σὺν θυηπόλῳ χερὶ
touched spring with sacrificing hand
βωμὸν προσέστην, ἀποτρόποισι δαίμοσιν
altar I-stood-at to-averting spirits
θέλουσα θῦσαι πέλανον, ὧν τέλη τάδε.
wishing to-offer cake of-whom rites these
ὁρῶ δὲ φεύγοντ' αἰετὸν πρὸς ἑσχάραν
I-see and fleeing eagle toward hearth
Φοίβου· φόβῳ δ' ἄφθογγος ἐστάθην, φίλοι·
of-Phoebus with-fear and speechless I-stood friends
μεθύστερον δὲ κίρκον εἰσορῶ δρόμῳ
afterward and hawk I-see in-course
πτεροῖς ἐφορμαίνοντα καὶ χηλαῖς κάρα
with-wings rushing and with-talons head
τίλλονθ'· ὁ δ' οὐδὲν ἄλλο γ' ἢ πτήξας δέμας
plucking he and nothing else at-least than having-cowered body
παρεῖχε. ταῦτ' ἔμοιγε δείματ' εἰσιδεῖν,
gave these to-me-indeed fears to-see
ὑμῖν δ' ἀκούειν. εὖ γὰρ ἴστε, παῖς ἐμὸς
to-you and to-hear well for you-know son my
πράξας μὲν εὖ θαυμαστὸς ἂν γένοιτ' ἀνήρ,
having-done indeed well admirable — would-be man

κακῶς δὲ πράξας, οὐχ ὑπεύθυνος πόλει,
ill but having-done not accountable to-city
σωθεὶς δ' ὁμοίως τῆσδε κοιρανεῖ χθονός.
saved and alike of-this will-rule land
215 ΧΟΡΟΣ οὔ σε βουλόμεσθα, μῆτερ, οὔτ' ἄγαν φοβεῖν λόγοις
not you we-wish mother neither too-much to-frighten by-words
οὔτε θαρσύνειν. θεοὺς δὲ προστροπαῖς ἱκνουμένη,
nor to-encourage gods but with-supplications approaching
εἴ τι φλαῦρον εἶδες, αἰτοῦ τῶνδ' ἀποτροπὴν τελεῖν,
if anything bad you-saw ask of-these averting to-accomplish
τὰ δ' ἀγάθ' ἐκτελῆ γενέσθαι σοί τε καὶ τέκνοις σέθεν
the and good-things fulfilled to-become for-you both and for-children your
καὶ πόλει φίλοις τε πᾶσι. δεύτερον δὲ χρὴ χοὰς
and for-city for-friends and all second and must libations
220 Γῇ τε καὶ φθιτοῖς χέασθαι· πρευμενῶς δ' αἰτοῦ τάδε,
to-Earth both and to-the-dead to-pour kindly and ask these
σὸν πόσιν Δαρεῖον, ὅνπερ φὴς ἰδεῖν κατ' εὐφρόνην,
your husband Darius whom-indeed you-say to-see by night
ἐσθλά σοι πέμπειν τέκνῳ τε γῆς ἔνερθεν ἐς φάος,
good-things to-you to-send to-child and of-earth from-beneath into light
τἄμπαλιν δὲ τῶνδε γαίᾳ κάτοχα μαυροῦσθαι σκότῳ.
the-opposite and of-these in-earth held to-fade in-darkness
ταῦτα θυμόμαντις ὤν σοι πρευμενῶς παρῄνεσα.
these heart-prophet being to-you kindly I-advised
225 εὖ δὲ πανταχῇ τελεῖν σοι τῶνδε κρίνομεν πέρι.
well and in-every-way to-fulfill for-you of-these we-judge about

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ ἀλλὰ μὴν εὔνους γ'
but indeed well-disposed at-least
ὁ πρῶτος τῶνδ' ἐνυπνίων κριτὴς
the first of-these dreams interpreter
παιδὶ καὶ δόμοις ἐμοῖσι τήνδ' ἐκύρωσας φάτιν.
to-son and to-house my this you-have-ratified word
ἐκτελοῖτο δὴ τὰ χρηστά· ταῦτα δ', ὡς ἐφίεσαι,
may-be-fulfilled indeed the good-things these and as you-bid
πάντα θήσομεν θεοῖσι τοῖς τ' ἔνερθε γῆς φίλοις,
all we-shall-set for-gods for-the and below earth friends
εὖτ' ἂν εἰς οἴκους μόλωμεν. κεῖνα δ' ἐκμαθεῖν θέλω,
when — to home we-come those and to-learn I-wish
ὦ φίλοι, ποῦ τὰς Ἀθήνας φασὶν ἱδρῦσθαι χθονός.
O friends where — Athens they-say to-be-situated of-land
ΧΟΡΟΣ τῆλε πρὸς δυσμαῖς ἄνακτος Ἡλίου φθινασμάτων.
far toward settings of-lord Sun of-wanings
ΑΤΟΣΣΑ ἀλλὰ μὴν ἵμειρ' ἐμὸς παῖς τήνδε θηρᾶσαι πόλιν;
but indeed desired my son this to-hunt city
ΧΟΡΟΣ πᾶσα γὰρ γένοιτ' ἂν Ἑλλὰς βασιλέως ὑπήκοος.
all for would-become — Hellas to-king subject
ΑΤΟΣΣΑ ὧδέ τις πάρεστιν αὐτοῖς ἀνδροπλήθεια στρατοῦ;
so some is-present to-them multitude-of-men of-army
ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ στρατὸς τοιοῦτος, ἔρξας
and army such having-done
πολλὰ δὴ Μήδους κακά.
many indeed to-Medes evils
ΑΤΟΣΣΑ καὶ τί πρὸς τούτοισιν ἄλλο; πλοῦτος ἐξαρκὴς δόμοις;
and what besides these other wealth sufficient for-house
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀργύρου πηγή τις αὐτοῖς ἐστι, θησαυρὸς χθονός.
of-silver spring some to-them is treasure of-land

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ πότερα γὰρ τοξουλκὸς αἰχμὴ
whether for bow-drawing point
διὰ χεροῖν αὐτοῖς πρέπει;
through hands to-them befits

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐδαμῶς· ἔγχη σταδαῖα καὶ φεράσπιδες σαγαί.
in-no-way spears for-close-fight and shield-bearing armor

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ τίς δὲ ποιμάνωρ ἔπεστι κἀπιδεσπόζει στρατῷ;
who and shepherd is-over and-lords to-army

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὔτινος δοῦλοι κέκληνται φωτὸς οὐδ' ὑπήκοοι.
of-no-one slaves they-are-called of-man nor subjects

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ πῶς ἂν οὖν μένοιεν ἄνδρας πολεμίους ἐπήλυδας;
how — then could-they-withstand men hostile invading

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὥστε Δαρείου πολύν τε καὶ καλὸν φθεῖραι στρατόν.
so-as of-Darius many both and fine to-destroy army

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ δεινά τοι λέγεις ἰόντων τοῖς τεκοῦσι φροντίσαι.
terrible surely you-say of-those-gone for-the parents to-ponder

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' ἐμοὶ δοκεῖν τάχ' εἴσῃ πάντα νημερτῆ λόγον.
but to-me to-seem soon you-will-know all true word
τοῦδε γὰρ δράμημα φωτὸς Περσικὸν πρέπει μαθεῖν,
of-this for running of-man Persian it-is-plain to-learn
καὶ φέρει σαφές τι πρᾶγος ἐσθλὸν ἢ κακὸν κλύειν.
and brings clear some matter good or bad to-hear

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ὦ γῆς ἁπάσης Ἀσιάδος πολίσματα,
O of-land all Asian cities
ὦ Περσὶς αἶα καὶ πολὺς πλούτου λιμήν,
O Persian land and great of-wealth haven
ὡς ἐν μιᾷ πληγῇ κατέφθαρται πολὺς
how in one blow has-been-destroyed great
ὄλβος, τὸ Περσῶν δ' ἄνθος οἴχεται πεσόν.
prosperity the of-Persians and flower is-gone fallen

ὤμοι, κακὸν μὲν πρῶτον ἀγγέλλειν κακά·
ah-me evil indeed first to-announce evils
ὅμως δ' ἀνάγκη πᾶν ἀναπτύξαι πάθος,
nevertheless and necessity all to-unfold suffering
Πέρσαι· στρατὸς γὰρ πᾶς ὄλωλε βαρβάρων. 255
Persians army for all has-perished of-barbarians

IV · THE NEWS

The elders lament the news. The messenger says that all is lost and that he himself has come home beyond hope. He saw the disaster himself and did not hear of it from others. The shores of Salamis are full of the dead, and the Persian bows were useless against the ramming ships. They cry out against the name of Salamis and of Athens, which has made so many Persian women widows.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄνι' ἄνια κακὰ
grievous grievous evils
νεόκοτα καὶ δάι'. αἰαῖ,
unheard-of and cruel alas
διαίνεσθε, Πέρσαι,
weep Persians
τόδ' ἄχος κλύοντες.
this grief hearing
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ὡς πάντα γ' ἔστ' ἐκεῖνα διαπεπραγμένα· 260
since all at-least is those done-for
αὐτὸς δ' ἀέλπτως νόστιμον βλέπω φάος.
myself and beyond-hope of-return I-see light
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἦ μακροβίοτος
truly long-lived
ὅδε γέ τις αἰὼν ἐφάνθη
this at-least some life appeared

γεραιοῖς, ἀκούειν
to-the-old to-hear
τόδε πῆμ᾽ ἄελπτον.
this woe unhoped-for
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ καὶ μὴν παρών γε κοὐ λόγους ἄλλων κλύων,
and indeed being-present at-least and-not words of-others hearing
Πέρσαι, φράσαιμ᾽ ἂν οἷ᾽ ἐπορσύνθη κακά.
Persians I-could-tell — what were-prepared evils
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὀτοτοτοῖ, μάταν
oh-oh-oh in-vain
τὰ πολλὰ βέλεα παμμιγῆ
the many weapons all-mingled
γᾶς ἀπ᾽ Ἀσίδος ἦλθε δᾳ-
land from Asian came hostile
αν ἐφ᾽ Ἑλλάδα χώραν.
— against Hellas land
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ πλήθουσι νεκρῶν δυσπότμως ἐφθαρμένων
are-full of-corpses miserably destroyed
Σαλαμῖνος ἀκταὶ πᾶς τε πρόσχωρος τόπος.
of-Salamis shores all and neighboring place
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὀτοτοτοῖ, φίλων
oh-oh-oh of-friends
ἁλίδονα μέλεα πολυβαφῆ
sea-tossed bodies much-dyed
κατθανόντα λέγεις φέρε-
dead you-say to-be-borne
σθαι πλάγκτ᾽ ἐν διπλάκεσσιν.
— drifting in cloaks

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οὐδὲν γὰρ ἤρκει τόξα, πᾶς δ' ἀπώλλυτο
not-at-all for availed bows all and perished
στρατὸς δαμασθεὶς ναΐοισιν ἐμβολαῖς
army subdued by-naval rammings
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἴυζ' ἄποτμον Πέρσαις
cry ill-fated for-Persians
δυσαιανῆ βοὰν
dismal cry
δᾴοις, ὡς πάντα παγκάκως
for-foes as all most-evilly
ἔφθισαν· αἰαῖ στρατοῦ φθαρέντος.
they-destroyed alas for-army having-been-destroyed
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ὦ πλεῖστον ἔχθος ὄνομα Σαλαμῖνος κλύειν.
O most hateful name of-Salamis to-hear
φεῦ, τῶν Ἀθηνῶν ὡς στένω μεμνημένος.
alas — of-Athens how I-groan remembering
ΧΟΡΟΣ στυγναί γ' Ἀθᾶναι δᾴοις·
hateful at-least Athens to-foes
μεμνῆσθαί τοι πάρα
to-remember surely it-is-possible
ὡς πολλὰς Περσίδων μάταν
how many of-Persian-women in-vain
ἔκτισαν εὔνιδας ἠδ' ἀνάνδρους.
they-made bereft and husbandless

Atossa learns that Xerxes lives, and the messenger names the fallen commanders. The Greeks have far fewer ships, but a god tips the scale. A Greek tells Xerxes the enemy will flee by night, so he guards the straits. At dawn the Greeks raise their paean, attack, and wreck the crowded fleet. Persian nobles on an islet are butchered. Xerxes tears his robes and orders flight, and most of the rest die on the march home. Atossa goes to make offerings, and the elders lament Persia's widows.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ σιγῶ πάλαι δύστηνος ἐκπεπληγμένη
I-keep-silent long wretched struck-dumb
κακοῖς· ὑπερβάλλει γὰρ ἥδε συμφορὰ
by-evils surpasses for this misfortune
τὸ μήτε λέξαι μήτ᾽ ἐρωτῆσαι πάθη.
the neither to-tell nor to-ask sufferings
ὅμως δ᾽ ἀνάγκη πημονὰς βροτοῖς φέρειν
nevertheless and necessity woes for-mortals to-bear
θεῶν διδόντων· πᾶν δ᾽ ἀναπτύξας πάθος
gods giving all and having-unfolded suffering
λέξον καταστάς, κεἰ στένεις κακοῖς ὅμως.
tell composed even-if you-groan at-evils nevertheless
τίς οὐ τέθνηκε, τίνα δὲ καὶ πενθήσομεν
who not has-died whom and also shall-we-mourn
τῶν ἀρχελείων, ὅστ᾽ ἐπὶ σκηπτουχίᾳ
of-the commanders who over scepter-command
ταχθεὶς ἄνανδρον τάξιν ἠρήμου θανών;
appointed unmanned rank left having-died
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ Ξέρξης μὲν αὐτὸς ζῇ τε καὶ βλέπει φάος.
Xerxes indeed himself lives both and sees light

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ ἐμοῖς μὲν εἶπας δώμασιν φάος μέγα
to-my indeed you-have-spoken house light great
καὶ λευκὸν ἦμαρ νυκτὸς ἐκ μελαγχίμου.
and white day night from black
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ Ἀρτεμβάρης δὲ μυρίας ἵππου βραβεὺς
Artembares and of-ten-thousand cavalry commander
στύφλους παρ᾽ ἀκτὰς θείνεται Σιληνιῶν.
rugged by shores is-dashed of-Silenia
χὠ χιλίαρχος Δαδάκης πληγῇ δορὸς
and-the chiliarch Dadaces by-blow of-spear
πήδημα κοῦφον ἐκ νεὼς ἀφήλατο·
leap light from ship leaped-off
Τενάγων τ᾽ ἀριστεὺς Βακτρίων ἰθαιγενὴς
Tenagon and chief of-Bactrians native
θαλασσόπληκτον νῆσον Αἴαντος πολεῖ.
sea-beaten island of-Ajax haunts
Λίλαιος, Ἀρσάμης τε κἈργήστης τρίτος,
Lilaeus Arsames and and-Argestes third
οἵδ᾽ ἀμφὶ νῆσον τὴν πελειοθρέμμονα
these around island the dove-nourishing
δινούμενοι ᾽κύρισσον ἰσχυρὰν χθόνα·
whirling struck hard land
πηγαῖς τε Νείλου γειτονῶν Αἰγυπτίου
at-springs and of-Nile neighboring of-Egyptian
Ἀρκτεύς, Ἀδεύης, καὶ φερεσσάκης τρίτος
Arcteus Adeues and shield-bearing third
Φαρνοῦχος, οἵδε ναὸς ἐκ μιᾶς πέσον.
Pharnuchus these ship from one fell
Χρυσεὺς Μάταλλος μυριόνταρχος θανών,
Chryseus Matallus myriarch dying

ἵππου μελαίνης ἡγεμὼν τρισμυρίας,
of-cavalry black leader thirty-thousand
πυρρὰν ζαπληθῆ δάσκιον γενειάδα
red thick shaggy beard
ἔτεγγ', ἀμείβων χρῶτα πορφυρέᾳ βαφῇ.
stained changing color with-purple dye
καὶ Μᾶγος Ἄραβος, Ἀρτάβης τε Βάκτριος,
and Magus Arabian Artabes and Bactrian
σκληρᾶς μέτοικος γῆς, ἐκεῖ κατέφθιτο.
of-harsh settler land there perished
Ἄμιστρις Ἀμφιστρεύς τε πολύπονον δόρυ
Amistris Amphistreus and much-toiling spear
νωμῶν, ὅ τ' ἐσθλὸς Ἀριόμαρδος Σάρδεσι
wielding — and noble Ariomardus for-Sardis
πένθος παρασχών, Σεισάμης θ' ὁ Μύσιος,
grief having-caused Seisames and the Mysian
Θάρυβίς τε πεντήκοντα πεντάκις νεῶν
Tharybis and fifty five-times of-ships
ταγός, γένος Λυρναῖος, εὐειδὴς ἀνήρ,
commander by-race Lyrnaean handsome man
κεῖται θανὼν δείλαιος οὐ μάλ' εὐτυχῶς·
lies having-died wretched not very fortunately
Συέννεσίς τε πρῶτος εἰς εὐψυχίαν,
Syennesis and first in courage
Κιλίκων ἄπαρχος, εἷς ἀνὴρ πλεῖστον πόνον
of-Cilicians commander one man most trouble
ἐχθροῖς παρασχών εὐκλεῶς ἀπώλετο.
to-enemies having-caused gloriously perished
τοσόνδε ταγῶν νῦν ὑπεμνήσθην πέρι.
so-much of-commanders now I-have-recalled about

πολλῶν παρόντων δ' ὀλίγ' ἀπαγγέλλω κακά.
many being-present and few I-report evils

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ αἰαῖ, κακῶν ὕψιστα δὴ κλύω τάδε,
alas of-evils highest indeed I-hear these

αἴσχη τε Πέρσαις καὶ λιγέα κωκύματα.
disgraces and for-Persians and shrill wailings

ἀτὰρ φράσον μοι τοῦτ' ἀναστρέψας πάλιν·
but tell me this having-turned-back again

πόσον δὲ πλῆθος ἦν νεῶν Ἑλληνίδων,
how-great and number was of-ships Greek

ὥστ' ἀξιῶσαι Περσικῷ στρατεύματι
so-as to-dare with-the-Persian army

μάχην συνάψαι ναΐοισιν ἐμβολαῖς;
battle to-join with-naval rammings

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ πλήθους μὲν ἂν σάφ' ἴσθ' ἕκατι βάρβαρον
of-number indeed — clearly know by-reason-of barbarian

ναυσὶν κρατῆσαι. καὶ γὰρ Ἕλλησιν μὲν ἦν
with-ships to-have-prevailed and for for-Greeks indeed was

ὁ πᾶς ἀριθμὸς ἐς τριακάδας δέκα
the whole number to thirties ten

ναῶν, δεκὰς δ' ἦν τῶνδε χωρὶς ἔκκριτος·
of-ships ten and was of-these apart choice

Ξέρξῃ δέ, καὶ γὰρ οἶδα, χιλιὰς μὲν ἦν
for-Xerxes and and for I-know thousand indeed was

ὧν ἦγε πλῆθος, αἱ δ' ὑπέρκοποι τάχει
of-which he-led number they and surpassing in-speed

ἑκατὸν δὶς ἦσαν ἑπτά θ'· ὧδ' ἔχει λόγος.
hundred twice were seven and so stands account

μή σοι δοκοῦμεν τῇδε λειφθῆναι μάχῃ;
not to-you do-we-seem in-this to-have-been-outdone battle

ἀλλ᾽ ὧδε δαίμων τις κατέφθειρε στρατόν,
but so spirit some destroyed army
τάλαντα βρίσας οὐκ ἰσορρόπῳ τύχῃ.
scales weighing-down not equal-balanced with-fortune
θεοὶ πόλιν σῴζουσι Παλλάδος θεᾶς.
gods city preserve of-Pallas goddess
ΑΤΟΣΣΑ ἔτ᾽ ἆρ᾽ Ἀθηνῶν ἔστ᾽ ἀπόρθητος πόλις;
still — of-Athens is unsacked city
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἀνδρῶν γὰρ ὄντων ἕρκος ἐστὶν ἀσφαλές.
of-men for being bulwark is safe
ΑΤΟΣΣΑ ἀρχὴ δὲ ναυσὶ συμβολῆς τίς ἦν, φράσον·
beginning and for-the-ships of-the-clash what was tell
τίνες κατῆρξαν, πότερον Ἕλληνες, μάχης,
who began whether Greeks of-battle
ἢ παῖς ἐμός, πλήθει καταυχήσας νεῶν;
or son my in-number exulting of-ships
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἦρξεν μέν, ὦ δέσποινα, τοῦ παντὸς κακοῦ
began indeed O mistress of-the whole evil
φανεὶς ἀλάστωρ ἢ κακὸς δαίμων ποθέν.
appearing avenger or evil spirit from-somewhere
ἀνὴρ γὰρ Ἕλλην ἐξ Ἀθηναίων στρατοῦ
man for Greek from of-Athenians army
ἐλθὼν ἔλεξε παιδὶ σῷ Ξέρξῃ τάδε,
having-come told to-son your Xerxes this
ὡς εἰ μελαίνης νυκτὸς ἵξεται κνέφας,
that if of-black night shall-come darkness
Ἕλληνες οὐ μενοῖεν, ἀλλὰ σέλμασιν
Greeks not would-remain but on-benches
ναῶν ἐπανθορόντες ἄλλος ἄλλοσε
of-ships leaping-up one elsewhere

δρασμῷ κρυφαίῳ βίοτον ἐκσωσοίατο.
in-flight secret life would-save

ὁ δ' εὐθὺς ὡς ἤκουσεν, οὐ ξυνεὶς δόλον
he and at-once when he-heard not understanding guile

Ἕλληνος ἀνδρὸς οὐδὲ τὸν θεῶν φθόνον,
of-Greek man nor the of-gods jealousy

πᾶσιν προφωνεῖ τόνδε ναυάρχοις λόγον,
to-all announces this to-admirals word

εὖτ' ἂν φλέγων ἀκτῖσιν ἥλιος χθόνα
when — blazing with-rays sun earth

λήξῃ, κνέφας δὲ τέμενος αἰθέρος λάβῃ,
ceases darkness and precinct of-sky takes

τάξαι νεῶν στῖφος μὲν ἐν στοίχοις τρισὶν
to-draw-up of-ships mass indeed in rows three

ἔκπλους φυλάσσειν καὶ πόρους ἁλιρρόθους,
exits to-guard and straits sea-roaring

ἄλλας δὲ κύκλῳ νῆσον Αἴαντος πέριξ·
others and in-circle island of-Ajax around

ὡς εἰ μόρον φευξοίαθ' Ἕλληνες κακόν,
that if death would-escape Greeks evil

ναυσὶν κρυφαίως δρασμὸν εὑρόντες τινά,
with-ships secretly flight finding some

πᾶσιν στέρεσθαι κρατὸς ἦν προκείμενον.
for-all to-be-deprived of-head was set-forth

τοσαῦτ' ἔλεξε κάρθ' ὑπ' εὐθύμου φρενός·
so-much he-said very from confident mind

οὐ γὰρ τὸ μέλλον ἐκ θεῶν ἠπίστατο.
not for the future from gods he-knew

οἱ δ' οὐκ ἀκόσμως, ἀλλὰ πειθάρχῳ φρενὶ
they and not disorderly but obedient with-mind

δεῖπνόν τ' ἐπορσύνοντο, ναυβάτης τ' ἀνὴρ
supper and prepared ship-going and man
τροποῦτο κώπην σκαλμὸν ἀμφ' εὐήρετμον.
looped oar thole about well-fitted
ἐπεὶ δὲ φέγγος ἡλίου κατέφθιτο
when and light of-sun perished
καὶ νὺξ ἐπήει, πᾶς ἀνὴρ κώπης ἄναξ
and night came-on every man of-oar master
ἐς ναῦν ἐχώρει πᾶς θ' ὅπλων ἐπιστάτης·
to ship went every and of-arms master
τάξις δὲ τάξιν παρεκάλει νεὼς μακρᾶς·
rank and rank cheered of-ship long
πλέουσι δ' ὡς ἕκαστος ἦν τεταγμένος,
they-sail and as each was appointed
καὶ πάννυχοι δὴ διάπλοον καθίστασαν
and all-night indeed crossing they-kept
ναῶν ἄνακτες πάντα ναυτικὸν λεών.
of-ships lords all naval host
καὶ νὺξ ἐχώρει, κοὐ μάλ' Ἑλλήνων στρατὸς
and night went and-not at-all of-Greeks army
κρυφαῖον ἔκπλουν οὐδαμῇ καθίστατο·
secret sailing-out in-no-way made
ἐπεί γε μέντοι λευκόπωλος ἡμέρα
when at-least however white-horsed day
πᾶσαν κατέσχε γαῖαν εὐφεγγὴς ἰδεῖν,
all held land bright to-see
πρῶτον μὲν ἠχῇ κέλαδος Ἑλλήνων πάρα
first indeed with-sound clamor of-Greeks from
μολπηδὸν ηὐφήμησεν, ὄρθιον δ' ἅμα
like-song rang-out shrill and at-once

ἀντηλάλαξε νησιώτιδος πέτρας
echoed-back island from-rock
ἠχώ· φόβος δὲ πᾶσι βαρβάροις παρῆν
echo fear and to-all barbarians was-present
γνώμης ἀποσφαλεῖσιν· οὐ γὰρ ὡς φυγῇ
from-judgment having-been-tripped not for as for-flight
παιᾶν' ἐφύμνουν σεμνὸν Ἕλληνες τότε,
paean were-chanting solemn Greeks then
ἀλλ' ἐς μάχην ὁρμῶντες εὐψύχῳ θράσει·
but to battle rushing with-courageous daring
σάλπιγξ δ' ἀϋτῇ πάντ' ἐκεῖν' ἐπέφλεγεν.
trumpet and with-blast all those set-ablaze
εὐθὺς δὲ κώπης ῥοθιάδος ξυνεμβολῇ
at-once and of-oar dashing with-stroke
ἔπαισαν ἅλμην βρύχιον ἐκ κελεύματος,
struck brine deep at command
θοῶς δὲ πάντες ἦσαν ἐκφανεῖς ἰδεῖν.
quickly and all were plain to-see
τὸ δεξιὸν μὲν πρῶτον εὐτάκτως κέρας
the right indeed first in-good-order wing
ἡγεῖτο κόσμῳ, δεύτερον δ' ὁ πᾶς στόλος
led in-order second and the whole fleet
ἐπεξεχώρει, καὶ παρῆν ὁμοῦ κλύειν
came-on and it-was-possible together to-hear
πολλὴν βοήν, "ὦ παῖδες Ἑλλήνων ἴτε,
great cry O sons of-Greeks go
ἐλευθεροῦτε πατρίδ', ἐλευθεροῦτε δὲ
free fatherland free and
παῖδας, γυναῖκας, θεῶν τέ πατρῴων ἕδη,
children wives of-gods and ancestral seats

θήκας τε προγόνων· νῦν ὑπὲρ πάντων ἀγών.”
tombs and of-forebears now for all contest
καὶ μὴν παρ᾽ ἡμῶν Περσίδος γλώσσης ῥόθος
and indeed from us of-Persian tongue roar
ὑπηντίαζε, κοὐκέτ᾽ ἦν μέλλειν ἀκμή.
answered and-no-longer was to-delay moment
εὐθὺς δὲ ναῦς ἐν νηὶ χαλκήρη στόλον
at-once and ship on ship bronze-beaked prow
ἔπαισεν· ἦρξε δ᾽ ἐμβολῆς Ἑλληνικὴ
struck began and of-ramming Greek
ναῦς, κἀποθραύει πάντα Φοινίσσης νεὼς
ship and-breaks-off all of-Phoenician ship
κόρυμβ᾽, ἐπ᾽ ἄλλην δ᾽ ἄλλος ηὔθυνεν δόρυ.
stern-ornaments on other and other steered timber
τὰ πρῶτα μέν νυν ῥεῦμα Περσικοῦ στρατοῦ
the first indeed then stream of-Persian army
ἀντεῖχεν· ὡς δὲ πλῆθος ἐν στενῷ νεῶν
held-out when but mass in narrow of-ships
ἤθροιστ᾽ ἀρωγὴ δ᾽ οὔτις ἀλλήλοις παρῆν,
was-crowded help and no to-one-another was-present
αὐτοὶ δ᾽ ὑφ᾽ αὑτῶν ἐμβόλοις χαλκοστόμοις
themselves and by their-own rams bronze-mouthed
παίοντ᾽, ἔθραυον πάντα κωπήρη στόλον,
being-struck shattered all oared fleet
Ἑλληνικαί τε νῆες οὐκ ἀφρασμόνως
Greek and ships not heedlessly
κύκλῳ πέριξ ἔθεινον, ὑπτιοῦτο δὲ
in-circle around struck were-upturned and
σκάφη νεῶν, θάλασσα δ᾽ οὐκέτ᾽ ἦν ἰδεῖν,
hulls of-ships sea and no-longer was to-see

ναυαγίων πλήθουσα καὶ φόνου βροτῶν.
with-wrecks full and slaughter of-men

ἀκταὶ δὲ νεκρῶν χοιράδες τ' ἐπλήθυον,
shores and of-corpses reefs and were-full

φυγῇ δ' ἀκόσμῳ πᾶσα ναῦς ἠρέσσετο,
in-flight and disorderly every ship rowed

ὅσαιπερ ἦσαν βαρβάρου στρατεύματος.
as-many-as were of-barbarian army

τοὶ δ' ὥστε θύννους ἤ τιν' ἰχθύων βόλον
they and like tunnies or some of-fish haul

ἀγαῖσι κωπῶν θραύμασίν τ' ἐρειπίων
with-broken of-oars fragments and of-wreckage

ἔπαιον, ἐρράχιζον· οἰμωγὴ δ' ὁμοῦ
struck smashed-spines wailing and together

κωκύμασιν κατεῖχε πελαγίαν ἅλα,
with-shrieks held open sea

ἕως κελαινῆς νυκτὸς ὄμμ' ἀφείλετο.
until of-black night eye took-away

κακῶν δὲ πλῆθος, οὐδ' ἂν εἰ δέκ' ἤματα
of-evils and number not — if ten days

στοιχηγοροίην, οὐκ ἂν ἐκπλήσαιμί σοι.
I-should-recount-in-order not — I-could-fill-out for-you

εὖ γὰρ τόδ' ἴσθι, μηδάμ' ἡμέρᾳ μιᾷ
well for this know never in-day one

πλῆθος τοσουτάριθμον ἀνθρώπων θανεῖν.
number so-numerous of-men to-die

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ αἰαῖ, κακῶν δὴ πέλαγος ἔρρωγεν μέγα
alas of-evils indeed sea has-burst great

Πέρσαις τε καὶ πρόπαντι βαρβάρων γένει.
on-Persians both and whole of-barbarians race

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ εὖ νυν τόδ' ἴσθι, μηδέπω μεσοῦν κακόν·
well then this know not-yet halfway evil
τοιάδ' ἐπ' αὐτοῖς ἦλθε συμφορὰ πάθους
such on them came misfortune of-suffering
ὡς τοῖσδε καὶ δὶς ἀντισηκῶσαι ῥοπῇ.
so-as to-these even twice to-counterbalance in-weight
ΑΤΟΣΣΑ καὶ τίς γένοιτ' ἂν τῆσδ' ἔτ' ἐχθίων τύχη;
and what could-be — than-this yet more-hateful fortune
λέξον τίν' αὖ φὴς τήνδε συμφορὰν στρατῷ
tell what again you-say this misfortune to-army
ἐλθεῖν κακῶν ῥέπουσαν ἐς τὰ μάσσονα.
to-have-come of-evils weighing to the greater
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ Περσῶν ὅσοιπερ ἦσαν ἀκμαῖοι φύσιν,
of-Persians as-many-as were in-prime in-nature
ψυχήν τ' ἄριστοι κεὐγένειαν ἐκπρεπεῖς,
in-soul and best and-in-birth outstanding
αὐτῷ τ' ἄνακτι πίστιν ἐν πρώτοις ἀεί,
to-himself and lord in-faith among first ever
τεθνᾶσιν αἰσχρῶς δυσκλεεστάτῳ μόρῳ.
have-died shamefully by-most-inglorious death
ΑΤΟΣΣΑ οἰ 'γὼ τάλαινα συμφορᾶς κακῆς, φίλοι.
woe me wretched of-misfortune evil friends
ποίῳ μόρῳ δὲ τούσδε φὴς ὀλωλέναι;
by-what death and these you-say to-have-perished
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ νῆσός τις ἔστι πρόσθε Σαλαμῖνος τόπων,
island some is before of-Salamis places
βαιά, δύσορμος ναυσίν, ἣν ὁ φιλόχορος
small hard-to-anchor for-ships which the dance-loving
Πὰν ἐμβατεύει, ποντίας ἀκτῆς ἔπι.
Pan haunts of-the-sea shore on

ἐνταῦθα πέμπει τούσδ', ὅπως, ὅταν νεῶν
there he-sends these so-that when of-ships
φθαρέντες ἐχθροὶ νῆσον ἐκσῳζοίατο,
destroyed enemies to-island might-escape
κτείνοιεν εὐχείρωτον Ἑλλήνων στρατόν,
they-might-kill easily-subdued of-Greeks army
φίλους δ' ὑπεκσῴζοιεν ἐναλίων πόρων,
friends and might-rescue of-the-sea from-passages
κακῶς τὸ μέλλον ἱστορῶν. ὡς γὰρ θεὸς
badly the future discerning when for god
ναῶν ἔδωκε κῦδος Ἕλλησιν μάχης,
of-ships gave glory to-Greeks of-battle
αὐθημερὸν φράξαντες εὐχάλκοις δέμας
same-day having-fenced with-good-bronze body
ὅπλοισι ναῶν ἐξέθρῳσκον· ἀμφὶ δὲ
in-arms from-ships they-leaped about and
κυκλοῦντο πᾶσαν νῆσον, ὥστ' ἀμηχανεῖν
encircled whole island so-as to-be-at-a-loss
ὅποι τράποιντο. πολλὰ μὲν γὰρ ἐκ χερῶν
where to-turn many indeed for from hands
πέτροισιν ἠράσσοντο, τοξικῆς τ' ἄπο
with-stones were-struck of-bow and from
θώμιγγος ἰοὶ προσπίτνοντες ὤλλυσαν·
string arrows falling-on destroyed
τέλος δ' ἐφορμηθέντες ἐξ ἑνὸς ῥόθου
at-last and rushing-on with one shout
παίουσι, κρεοκοποῦσι δυστήνων μέλη,
strike butcher of-wretched limbs
ἕως ἁπάντων ἐξαπέφθειραν βίον.
until of-all they-destroyed life

Ξέρξης δ' ἀνώμωξεν κακῶν ὁρῶν βάθος·
Xerxes and wailed of-evils seeing depth
ἕδραν γὰρ εἶχε παντὸς εὐαγῆ στρατοῦ,
seat for he-had of-all clear-view army
ὑψηλὸν ὄχθον ἄγχι πελαγίας ἁλός·
high bank near of-the-open sea
ῥήξας δὲ πέπλους κἀνακωκύσας λιγύ,
having-rent and robes and-having-cried shrill
πεζῷ παραγγείλας ἅφαρ στρατεύματι,
to-the-foot having-given-orders at-once army
ἵησ' ἀκόσμῳ ξὺν φυγῇ. τοιάνδε σοι
sends-off disorderly with flight such to-you
πρὸς τῇ πάροιθε συμφορὰν πάρα στένειν.
in-addition to-the former misfortune it-is-possible to-lament
ΑΤΟΣΣΑ ὦ στυγνὲ δαῖμον, ὡς ἄρ' ἔψευσας φρενῶν
O hateful spirit how then you-cheated of-wits
Πέρσας· πικρὰν δὲ παῖς ἐμὸς τιμωρίαν
Persians bitter and son my vengeance
κλεινῶν Ἀθηνῶν ηὗρε, κοὐκ ἀπήρκεσαν
of-famed Athens found and-not sufficed
οὓς πρόσθε Μαραθὼν βαρβάρων ἀπώλεσεν·
whom before Marathon of-barbarians destroyed
ὧν ἀντίποινα παῖς ἐμὸς πράξειν δοκῶν
for-which requital son my to-exact thinking
τοσόνδε πλῆθος πημάτων ἐπέσπασεν.
so-great number of-woes drew-on
σὺ δ' εἰπέ, ναῶν αἳ πεφεύγασιν μόρον,
you and tell of-ships which have-escaped death
ποῦ τάσδ' ἔλειπες· οἶσθα σημῆναι τορῶς;
where these did-you-leave do-you-know to-signify clearly

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ναῶν γε ταγοὶ τῶν λελειμμένων σύδην
of-ships at-least commanders of-the left in-haste
κατ᾽ οὖρον οὐκ εὔκοσμον αἴρονται φυγήν·
before wind not orderly take flight
στρατὸς δ᾽ ὁ λοιπὸς ἔν τε Βοιωτῶν χθονὶ
army and the rest in both of-Boeotians land
διώλλυθ᾽, οἱ μὲν ἀμφὶ κρηναῖον γάνος
was-perishing some indeed around of-spring brightness
δίψῃ πονοῦντες, οἱ δ᾽ ὑπ᾽ ἄσθματος κενοὶ
with-thirst toiling others and from breath empty
διεκπερῶμεν ἔς τε Φωκέων χθόνα
we-cross-through to and of-Phocians land
καὶ Δωρίδ᾽ αἶαν, Μηλιᾶ τε κόλπον, οὗ
and Dorian land Malian and gulf where
Σπερχειὸς ἄρδει πεδίον εὐμενεῖ ποτῷ·
Spercheus waters plain with-kindly drink
κἀντεῦθεν ἡμᾶς γῆς Ἀχαιίδος πέδον
and-thence us of-land Achaean plain
καὶ Θεσσαλῶν πόλεις ὑπεσπανισμένους
and of-Thessalians cities stinted
βορᾶς ἐδέξαντ᾽· ἔνθα δὴ πλεῖστοι ᾽θάνον
of-food received there indeed most died
δίψῃ τε λιμῷ τ᾽· ἀμφότερα γὰρ ἦν τάδε.
with-thirst and with-hunger and both for were these
Μαγνητικὴν δὲ γαῖαν ἔς τε Μακεδόνων
Magnesian and land to and of-Macedonians
χώραν ἀφικόμεσθ᾽, ἐπ᾽ Ἀξίου πόρον,
land we-came to of-Axius ford
Βόλβης θ᾽ ἕλειον δόνακα, Πάγγαιόν τ᾽ ὄρος,
of-Bolbe and marshy reed Pangaeum and mountain

Ἠδωνίδ' αἶαν· νυκτὶ δ' ἐν ταύτῃ θεὸς
Edonian land night and in this god
χειμῶν' ἄωρον ὦρσε, πήγνυσιν δὲ πᾶν
winter untimely roused freezes and all
ῥέεθρον ἁγνοῦ Στρυμόνος. θεοὺς δέ τις
stream of-holy Strymon gods and someone
τὸ πρὶν νομίζων οὐδαμοῦ τότ' ηὔχετο
the before honoring in-no-way then prayed
λιταῖσι, γαῖαν οὐρανόν τε προσκυνῶν.
with-prayers earth heaven and worshiping
ἐπεὶ δὲ πολλὰ θεοκλυτῶν ἐπαύσατο
when and much invoking-gods he-ceased
στρατός, περᾷ κρυσταλλοπῆγα διὰ πόρον·
army crosses ice-bound through passage
χὥστις μὲν ἡμῶν πρὶν σκεδασθῆναι θεοῦ
and-whoever indeed of-us before to-be-scattered of-god
ἀκτῖνας ὡρμήθη, σεσωσμένος κυρεῖ.
rays set-out saved finds-himself
φλέγων γὰρ αὐγαῖς λαμπρὸς ἡλίου κύκλος
blazing for with-beams bright of-sun disk
μέσον πόρον διῆκε, θερμαίνων φλογί.
middle passage pierced warming with-flame
πῖπτον δ' ἐπ' ἀλλήλοισιν· ηὐτύχει δέ τοι
they-fell and on one-another was-fortunate and surely
ὅστις τάχιστα πνεῦμ' ἀπέρρηξεν βίου.
whoever most-quickly breath broke-off of-life
ὅσοι δὲ λοιποὶ κἄτυχον σωτηρίας,
as-many-as and remaining and-got safety
Θρῄκην περάσαντες μόγις πολλῷ πόνῳ,
Thrace having-crossed hardly with-much toil

ἥκουσιν ἐκφυγόντες, οὐ πολλοί τινες,
come having-escaped not many some
ἐφ' ἑστιοῦχον γαῖαν· ὡς στένειν πόλιν
to hearth-holding land so-as to-lament city
Περσῶν, ποθοῦσαν φιλτάτην ἥβην χθονός.
of-Persians longing-for dearest youth of-land
ταῦτ' ἔστ' ἀληθῆ· πολλὰ δ' ἐκλείπω λέγων
these are true much and I-leave-out telling
κακῶν ἃ Πέρσαις ἐγκατέσκηψεν θεός.
of-evils which on-Persians hurled god
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ δυσπόνητε δαῖμον, ὡς ἄγαν βαρὺς
O grievous spirit how too heavy
ποδοῖν ἐνήλου παντὶ Περσικῷ γένει.
with-feet you-leaped-on all Persian race
ΑΤΟΣΣΑ οἰ 'γὼ τάλαινα διαπεπραγμένου στρατοῦ·
woe me wretched destroyed army
ὦ νυκτὸς ὄψις ἐμφανὴς ἐνυπνίων,
O of-night vision plain of-dreams
ὡς κάρτα μοι σαφῶς ἐδήλωσας κακά.
how very to-me clearly you-showed evils
ὑμεῖς δὲ φαύλως αὖτ' ἄγαν ἐκρίνατε.
you and lightly them too-much judged
ὅμως δ', ἐπειδὴ τῇδ' ἐκύρωσεν φάτις
nevertheless and since this ratified report
ὑμῶν, θεοῖς μὲν πρῶτον εὔξασθαι θέλω·
of-you to-gods indeed first to-pray I-wish
ἔπειτα Γῇ τε καὶ φθιτοῖς δωρήματα
then to-Earth both and to-the-dead gifts
ἥξω λαβοῦσα πέλανον ἐξ οἴκων ἐμῶν, —
I-shall-come having-taken cake from house my

ἐπίσταμαι μὲν ὡς ἐπ' ἐξειργασμένοις,
I-know indeed as over things-done
ἀλλ' ἐς τὸ λοιπὸν εἴ τι δὴ λῷον πέλοι.
but to the future if anything indeed better may-be
ὑμᾶς δὲ χρὴ 'πὶ τοῖσδε τοῖς πεπραγμένοις
you and must for these the done
πιστοῖσι πιστὰ ξυμφέρειν βουλεύματα·
to-faithful faithful to-contribute counsels
καὶ παῖδ', ἐάν περ δεῦρ' ἐμοῦ πρόσθεν μόλῃ,
and son if indeed hither than-me before come
παρηγορεῖτε, καὶ προπέμπετ' ἐς δόμους,
comfort and escort to house
μὴ καί τι πρὸς κακοῖσι προσθῆται κακόν.
lest also some to evils he-add evil
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ Ζεῦ βασιλεῦ, νῦν γὰρ Περσῶν
O Zeus king now for of-Persians
τῶν μεγαλαύχων καὶ πολυάνδρων
of-the great-boasting and populous
στρατιὰν ὀλέσας
army having-destroyed
ἄστυ τὸ Σούσων ἠδ' Ἀγβατάνων
city the of-Susa and of-Agbatana
πένθει δνοφερῷ κατέκρυψας·
with-grief dark you-have-hidden
πολλαὶ δ' ἀταλαῖς χερσὶ καλύπτρας
many and with-tender hands veils
κατερεικόμεναι
tearing
διαμυδαλέοις δάκρυσι κόλπους
with-drenching tears bosoms

τέγγουσ᾽, ἄλγους μετέχουσαι.
wetting of-grief sharing

αἱ δ᾽ ἁβρόγοοι Περσίδες ἀνδρῶν
they and delicately-wailing Persian-women of-husbands

ποθέουσαι ἰδεῖν ἀρτιζυγίαν,
longing to-see the-newly-wed

λέκτρων εὐνὰς ἁβροχίτωνας,
of-beds couches soft-robed

χλιδανῆς ἥβης τέρψιν, ἀφεῖσαι,
of-luxurious youth delight having-let-go

πενθοῦσι γόοις ἀκορεστοτάτοις.
grieve with-laments most-insatiable

κἀγὼ δὲ μόρον τῶν οἰχομένων
and-I and fate of-the gone

αἴρω δοκίμως πολυπενθῆ.
lift truly much-lamented

VI · LAMENT FOR ASIA

The chorus laments that all Asia mourns, emptied of its men: Xerxes led them out, Xerxes destroyed them, and Xerxes pursued everything foolishly with his ships. Why was Darius, the bowmaster, so harmless a ruler? Xerxes himself barely escapes across Thrace. The young men are drowned at Salamis, and parents mourn their sons. The peoples of Asia no longer pay tribute or bow down; the yoke of strength has been loosed.

ΧΟΡΟΣ νῦν γὰρ δὴ πρόπασα μὲν στένει γαῖ᾽
now for indeed whole indeed laments land

Ἀσιὰς ἐκκενουμένα.
Asian being-emptied

Ξέρξης μὲν ἄγαγεν, ποποῖ,
Xerxes indeed led alas
Ξέρξης δ' ἀπώλεσεν, τοτοῖ,
Xerxes and destroyed alas
Ξέρξης δὲ πάντ' ἐπέσπε δυσφρόνως
Xerxes and all pursued foolishly
βαρίδεσσι ποντίαις.
with-barges of-the-sea
τίπτε Δαρεῖος μὲν οὕ-
why Darius indeed so
τω τότ' ἀβλαβὴς ἐπῆν
— then harmless was-over-them
τόξαρχος πολιήταις,
bow-commander for-citizens
Σουσίδαις φίλος ἄκτωρ;
to-men-of-Susa dear leader
πεζούς τε γὰρ καὶ θαλασσίους
foot-soldiers both for and sea-men
λινόπτεροι κυανώπιδες
flax-winged dark-eyed
νᾶες μὲν ἄγαγον, ποποῖ,
ships indeed led alas
νᾶες δ' ἀπώλεσαν, τοτοῖ,
ships and destroyed alas
νᾶες πανωλέθροισιν ἐμβολαῖς,
ships with-all-destroying rammings
αἵ τ' Ἰαόνων χέρες.
the and of-Ionians hands
τυτθὰ δ' ἐκφυγεῖν ἄνακτ'
narrowly and to-escape lord

αὐτὸν εἰσακούομεν
himself we-hear
Θρῄκης ἃμ πεδιήρεις
of-Thrace over plain-tilled
δυσχίμους τε κελεύθους.
stormy and paths
τοὶ δ' ἄρα πρωτόμοιροι, φεῦ,
they and then first-doomed alas
λειφθέντες πρὸς ἀνάγκας, ἠέ,
left by necessity ah
ἀκτὰς ἀμφὶ Κυχρείας, ὀᾶ,
shores about Cychrean oa
σύρονται· στένε καὶ δακνά-
are-dragged groan and grieve
ζου, βαρὺ δ' ἀμβόασον
— heavily and cry-aloud
οὐράνι' ἄχη, ὀᾶ·
heaven-high griefs oa
τεῖνε δὲ δυσβάυκτον
strain and ill-crying
βοᾶτιν τάλαιναν αὐδάν.
shout wretched voice
γναπτόμενοι δὲ δίνᾳ, φεῦ,
mangled and by-whirl alas
σκύλλονται πρὸς ἀναύδων, ἠέ,
are-torn by voiceless ah
παίδων τᾶς ἀμιάντου, ὀᾶ.
children of-the undefiled oa

πενθεῖ δ' ἄνδρα δόμος στερη-
mourns and man house bereaved
θείς τοκέες τ' ἄπαιδες
— parents and childless
δαιμόνι' ἄχη, ὀᾶ,
spirit-sent griefs oa
δυρόμενοι γέροντες
lamenting old-men
τὸ πᾶν δὴ κλύουσιν ἄλγος.
the whole indeed hear grief
τοὶ δ' ἀνὰ γᾶν Ἀσίαν δὴν
they and through land Asian long
οὐκέτι περσονομοῦνται,
no-longer are-Persian-ruled
οὐδ' ἔτι δασμοφοροῦσιν
nor still bring-tribute
δεσποσύνοισιν ἀνάγκαις,
by-lordly compulsions
οὐδ' ἐς γᾶν προπίτνοντες
nor to earth falling-forward
ἄζονται· βασιλεία
worship royal
γὰρ διόλωλεν ἰσχύς.
for has-perished strength
οὐδ' ἔτι γλῶσσα βροτοῖσιν
nor still tongue for-mortals
ἐν φυλακαῖς· λέλυται γὰρ
in guards is-loosed for
λαὸς ἐλεύθερα βάζειν,
people free-things to-speak

ὡς ἐλύθη ζυγὸν ἀλκᾶς.
since was-loosed yoke of-strength
αἱμαχθεῖσα δ' ἄρουραν
bloodied and field
Αἴαντος περικλύστα
of-Ajax sea-washed
νᾶσος ἔχει τὰ Περσᾶν.
island holds the of-Persians

VII · THE LIBATIONS

Atossa returns on foot, without her chariot, for to the fearful every sign looks hostile. She brings offerings to soothe the dead: milk, honey, spring water, wine, olive, and flowers. She asks the elders to sing hymns and to call up the spirit of Darius while she pours libations to the gods below. They pray to Earth, Hermes, and the king of the dead to send his soul up to the light, since he may know a remedy for their evils.

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ φίλοι, κακῶν μὲν ὅστις ἔμπειρος κυρεῖ,
friends of-evils indeed whoever experienced happens
ἐπίσταται βροτοῖσιν ὡς ὅταν κλύδων
knows for-mortals that when billow
κακῶν ἐπέλθῃ πάντα δειμαίνειν φιλεῖ·
of-evils comes all to-fear is-wont
ὅταν δ' ὁ δαίμων εὐροῇ, πεποιθέναι
when and the spirit flows-fair to-trust
τὸν αὐτὸν αἰεὶ δαίμον' οὐριεῖν τύχην.
the same ever spirit to-waft fortune
ἐμοὶ γὰρ ἤδη πάντα μὲν φόβου πλέα
to-me for already all indeed of-fear full
ἐν ὄμμασιν τἀνταῖα φαίνεται θεῶν,
in eyes the-hostile-things appear of-gods

βοᾷ δ' ἐν ὠσὶ κέλαδος οὐ παιώνιος·
roars and in ears clamor not healing
τοία κακῶν ἔκπληξις ἐκφοβεῖ φρένας.
such of-evils dismay terrifies mind
τοιγὰρ κέλευθον τήνδ' ἄνευ τ' ὀχημάτων
therefore way this without and chariots
χλιδῆς τε τῆς πάροιθεν ἐκ δόμων πάλιν
luxury and the former from house again
ἔστειλα, παιδὸς πατρὶ πρευμενεῖς χοάς
I-made of-son to-father kindly libations
φέρουσ', ἅπερ νεκροῖσι μειλικτήρια,
bearing which for-the-dead appeasing
βοός τ' ἀφ' ἁγνῆς λευκὸν εὔποτον γάλα,
of-cow and from holy white good-to-drink milk
τῆς τ' ἀνθεμουργοῦ στάγμα, παμφαὲς μέλι,
of-the and flower-working drop all-shining honey
λιβάσιν ὑδρηλαῖς παρθένου πηγῆς μέτα,
with-drops watery of-maiden spring with
ἀκήρατόν τε μητρὸς ἀγρίας ἄπο
unmixed and of-mother wild from
ποτὸν παλαιᾶς ἀμπέλου γάνος τόδε·
drink of-old vine brightness this
τῆς τ' αἰὲν ἐν φύλλοισι θαλλούσης βίον
of-the and ever in leaves blooming life
ξανθῆς ἐλαίας καρπὸς εὐώδης πάρα,
of-yellow olive fruit fragrant is-here
ἄνθη τε πλεκτά, παμφόρου γαίας τέκνα,
flowers and woven of-all-bearing earth children
ἀλλ', ὦ φίλοι, χοαῖσι ταῖσδε νερτέρων
but O friends with-libations these of-the-dead

ὕμνους ἐπευφημεῖτε, τόν τε δαίμονα
hymns sing-over the and spirit
Δαρεῖον ἀνακαλεῖσθε, γαπότους δ' ἐγὼ
Darius call-up earth-drunk and I
τιμὰς προπέμψω τάσδε νερτέροις θεοῖς.
honors shall-send-forth these to-the-nether gods
ΧΟΡΟΣ βασίλεια γύναι, πρέσβος Πέρσαις,
royal lady revered by-Persians
σύ τε πέμπε χοὰς θαλάμους ὑπὸ γῆς,
you and send libations to-chambers under earth
ἡμεῖς θ' ὕμνοις αἰτησόμεθα
we and with-hymns shall-ask
φθιμένων πομποὺς
of-the-dead escorts
εὔφρονας εἶναι κατὰ γαίας.
kindly to-be under earth
ἀλλά, χθόνιοι δαίμονες ἀγνοί,
but of-the-underworld spirits holy
Γῆ τε καὶ Ἑρμῆ, βασιλεῦ τ' ἐνέρων,
Earth both and Hermes king and of-the-dead
πέμψατ' ἔνερθεν ψυχὴν ἐς φῶς·
send from-below soul to light
εἰ γάρ τι κακῶν ἄκος οἶδε πλέον,
if for any of-evils remedy he-knows more
μόνος ἂν θνητῶν πέρας εἴποι.
alone — of-mortals end could-tell

The elders invoke the dead king, godlike Darius, in barbaric cries. They ask Earth and the rulers below to let him rise, for he never destroyed men in war but was a divine counselor. They summon him to the top of the mound in his royal slipper and tiara, to hear the new griefs: the young generation has perished, and the three-banked ships are ships no more.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἦ ῥ᾽ ἀίει μου μακαρίτας
— then hears me blessed
ἰσοδαίμων βασιλεὺς
god-equal king
βάρβαρ᾽ ἀσαφηνῆ
barbarian obscure
ἱέντος τὰ παναίολ᾽ αἰ-
uttering the all-varied dismal
ανῆ δύσθροα βάγματ᾽, ἢ
— ill-sounding cries or
παντάλαν᾽ ἄχη διαβοάσω;
all-wretched griefs shall-I-cry-out
νέρθεν ἆρα κλύει μου;
below — hears me
ἀλλὰ σύ μοι Γᾶ τε καὶ ἄλλοι
but you to-me Earth both and others
χθονίων ἀγεμόνες
of-the-underworld leaders
δαίμονα μεγαυχῆ
spirit great-boasting
ἰόντ᾽ αἰνέσατ᾽ ἐκ δόμων,
coming allow from house

Περσᾶν Σουσιγενῆ θεόν·
of-Persians Susa-born god
πέμπετε δ' ἄνω οἷον οὔπω
send and up such-as never-yet
Περσὶς αἶ' ἐκάλυψεν.
Persian land covered
ἦ φίλος ἀνήρ, φίλος ὄχθος·
truly dear the-man dear mound
φίλα γὰρ κέκευθεν ἤθη.
dear for it-has-hidden ways
Ἀιδωνεὺς δ' ἀναπομ-
Aidoneus and sending-up
πὸς ἀνείης, Ἀιδωνεύς,
— may-you-let-go Aidoneus
θεῖον ἀνάκτορα Δαριᾶνα. ἠέ.
divine lord Darian ah
οὐδὲ γὰρ ἄνδρας ποτ' ἀπώλλυ
not-even for men ever he-destroyed
πολεμοφθόροισιν ἄταις,
by-war-ruinous ruins
θεομήστωρ δ' ἐκικλή-
god-counselor and he-was-called
σκετο Πέρσαις, θεομήστωρ δ'
— by-Persians god-counselor and
ἔσκεν, ἐπεὶ στρατὸν εὖ ποδούχει. ἠέ.
was since army well guided ah
βαλήν, ἀρχαῖος βαλήν,
king ancient king
ἴθι, ἱκοῦ·
come arrive

ἔλθ' ἐπ' ἄκρον κόρυμβον ὄχθου,
come to top peak of-mound
κροκόβαπτον ποδὸς εὔμαριν ἀείρων,
saffron-dyed of-foot slipper raising
βασιλείου τιάρας
of-royal tiara
φάλαρον πιφαύσκων.
crest showing
βάσκε πάτερ ἄκακε Δαριάν, οἶ.
come father harmless Darian oh
ὅπως αἰανῆ κλύῃς
so-that dismal you-may-hear
νέα τ' ἄχη,
new and griefs
δέσποτα δεσπότου φάνηθι.
master of-master appear
Στυγία γάρ τις ἐπ' ἀχλὺς πεπόταται·
Stygian for some over mist hovers
νεολαία γὰρ ἤδη
youth for already
κατὰ πᾶσ' ὄλωλεν.
throughout all has-perished
βάσκε πάτερ ἄκακε Δαριάν, οἶ.
come father harmless Darian oh
αἰαῖ αἰαῖ·
alas alas
ὦ πολύκλαυτε φίλοισι θανών,
O much-lamented by-friends having-died
†τί τάδε δυνάτα δυνάτα
what these mighty-one mighty-one

περὶ τᾷ σᾷ δίδυμα διαγόεν ἁμάρτια;†
about — your twofold (corrupt) errors
πᾶσαι γᾷ τᾷδ'
all in-land this
ἐξέφθινται τρίσκαλμοι
have-perished three-banked
νᾶες ἄναες ἄναες. 680
ships no-ships no-ships

IX · THE GHOST OF DARIUS

The ghost of Darius appears and asks his old companions what trouble burdens the city. He has seen his wife at the tomb and accepted her libations, and he has heard the elders' shrill laments calling him. The gods below are slow to let go, but he has come quickly and asks to hear the new disaster.

ΕΙΔΩΛΟΝ ΔΑΡΕΙΟΥ ὦ πιστὰ πιστῶν ἥλικές θ' ἥβης ἐμῆς
O faithful of-faithful comrades and of-youth my
Πέρσαι γεραιοί, τίνα πόλις πονεῖ πόνον;
Persians aged what city toils toil
στένει, κέκοπται, καὶ χαράσσεται πέδον.
it-groans is-beaten and is-furrowed ground
λεύσσων δ' ἄκοιτιν τὴν ἐμὴν τάφου πέλας
seeing and wife — my of-tomb near
ταρβῶ, χοὰς δὲ πρευμενὴς ἐδεξάμην. 685
I-fear libations and kindly I-received
ὑμεῖς δὲ θρηνεῖτ' ἐγγὺς ἑστῶτες τάφου
you and lament near standing of-tomb
καὶ ψυχαγωγοῖς ὀρθιάζοντες γόοις
and with-soul-leading shrilling laments

οἰκτρῶς καλεῖσθέ μ'· ἐστὶ δ' οὐκ εὐέξοδον,
piteously call me it-is but not easy-to-get-out
ἄλλως τε πάντως χοὶ κατὰ χθονὸς θεοὶ
otherwise and all-the-more and-the under earth gods
λαβεῖν ἀμείνους εἰσὶν ἢ μεθιέναι.
to-take better are than to-let-go
ὅμως δ' ἐκείνοις ἐνδυναστεύσας ἐγὼ
nevertheless and among-them having-power I
ἥκω. τάχυνε δ' ὡς ἄμεμπτος ὢ χρόνου·
I-have-come hasten and that blameless I-may-be of-time
τί ἐστι Πέρσαις νεοχμὸν ἐμβριθὲς κακόν;
what is to-Persians new heavy evil

X · THE ELDERS' AWE

The elders are too awed to look at Darius or speak to him. He bids them put aside their fear and tell him all briefly. They still fear to speak unwelcome news.

ΧΟΡΟΣ σέβομαι μὲν προσιδέσθαι,
I-am-awed indeed to-look-on
σέβομαι δ' ἀντία λέξαι
I-am-awed and before-you to-speak
σέθεν ἀρχαίῳ περὶ τάρβει.
your ancient about fear
ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ κάτωθεν ἦλθον σοῖς γόοις πεπεισμένος,
but since from-below I-came by-your laments persuaded
μή τι μακιστῆρα μῦθον, ἀλλὰ σύντομον λέγων
not some lengthy word but concise speaking
εἰπὲ καὶ πέραινε πάντα, τὴν ἐμὴν αἰδῶ μεθείς.
speak and accomplish all — my awe having-let-go

ΧΟΡΟΣ δίεμαι μὲν χαρίσασθαι,
I-fear indeed to-gratify
δίεμαι δ' ἀντία φάσθαι,
I-fear and before-you to-speak
λέξας δύσλεκτα φίλοισιν.
having-told hard-to-tell-things to-friends

XI · DARIUS' JUDGMENT

Atossa tells Darius that the army has been destroyed. He learns that Xerxes bridged the Hellespont and sees an oracle fulfilled: a god joins in when a man hastens to ruin. Atossa blames bad counselors who taunted Xerxes. Darius recounts the kings before him and warns the elders never to march on Greece. Those who remain will die at Plataea, punished for burning temples. He bids Atossa meet Xerxes with fresh robes, tells the elders that wealth is nothing to the dead, and departs.

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ δέος παλαιὸν σοὶ φρενῶν ἀνθίσταται,
but since fear old in-you of-mind resists
τῶν ἐμῶν λέκτρων γεραιὰ ξύννομ' εὐγενὲς γύναι,
— of-my bed aged partner noble lady
κλαυμάτων λήξασα τῶνδε καὶ γόων σαφές τί μοι
from-weeping having-ceased these and laments clear something to-me
λέξον· ἀνθρώπεια δ' ἄν τοι πήματ' ἂν τύχοι βροτοῖς.
tell human and — surely woes — may-befall mortals
πολλὰ μὲν γὰρ ἐκ θαλάσσης, πολλὰ δ' ἐκ χέρσου κακὰ
many indeed for from sea many and from land evils
γίγνεται θνητοῖς, ὁ μάσσων βίοτος ἢν ταθῇ, πρόσω.
come to-mortals the longer life if it-be-stretched forward

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ ὦ βροτῶν πάντων ὑπερσχὼν ὄλβον εὐτυχεῖ πότμῳ
O of-mortals all having-surpassed prosperity by-fortunate fate
ὡς ἕως τ᾽ ἔλευσσες αὐγὰς ἡλίου ζηλωτὸς ὢν
since while and you-looked-on rays of-sun envied being
βίοτον εὐαίωνα Πέρσαις ὡς θεὸς διήγαγες,
life happy for-Persians like god you-led
νῦν τέ σε ζηλῶ θανόντα, πρὶν κακῶν ἰδεῖν βάθος.
now and you I-envy having-died before of-evils to-see depth
πάντα γάρ, Δαρεῖ᾽ ἀκούσῃ μῦθον ἐν βραχεῖ χρόνῳ.
all for Darius you-will-hear story in short time
διαπεπόρθηται τὰ Περσῶν πράγματ᾽, ὡς εἰπεῖν ἔπος.
have-been-utterly-sacked the of-Persians affairs so-to to-speak word
ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ τίνι τρόπῳ; λοιμοῦ τις ἦλθε σκηπτὸς ἢ στάσις πόλει;
in-what way of-plague some came stroke or faction to-city
ΑΤΟΣΣΑ οὐδαμῶς· ἀλλ᾽ ἀμφ᾽ Ἀθήνας πᾶς κατέφθαρται στρατός.
in-no-way but about Athens all has-been-destroyed army
ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ τίς δ᾽ ἐμῶν ἐκεῖσε παίδων ἐστρατηλάτει; φράσον.
who and of-my there of-sons led-the-army tell
ΑΤΟΣΣΑ θούριος Ξέρξης, κενώσας πᾶσαν ἠπείρου πλάκα.
impetuous Xerxes having-emptied all of-mainland plain
ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ πεζὸς ἢ ναύτης δὲ πεῖραν τήνδ᾽ ἐμώρανεν τάλας;
foot-soldier or seaman and attempt this made-foolishly wretch
ΑΤΟΣΣΑ ἀμφότερα· διπλοῦν μέτωπον ἦν δυοῖν στρατευμάτοιν.
both double front was of-two armies
ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ πῶς δὲ καὶ στρατὸς τοσόσδε πεζὸς ἤνυσεν περᾶν;
how and also army so-great foot achieved to-cross
ΑΤΟΣΣΑ μηχαναῖς ἔζευξεν Ἕλλης πορθμόν, ὥστ᾽ ἔχειν πόρον.
by-devices he-yoked of-Helle strait so-as to-have passage
ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ καὶ τόδ᾽ ἐξέπραξεν, ὥστε Βόσπορον κλῃσαι μέγαν·
and this he-accomplished so-as Bosporus to-shut great

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ ὧδ᾽ ἔχει· γνώμης δέ πού τις δαιμόνων ξυνήψατο.
thus it-is of-judgment and somehow some of-spirits took-hold

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ φεῦ, μέγας τις ἦλθε δαίμων, ὥστε μὴ φρονεῖν καλῶς.
alas great some came spirit so-as not to-think rightly

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ ὡς ἰδεῖν τέλος πάρεστιν οἷον ἤνυσεν κακόν.
as to-see end is-possible what-sort he-achieved evil

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ καὶ τί δὴ πράξασιν αὐτοῖς ὧδ᾽ ἐπιστενάζετε;
and what indeed having-fared for-them thus you-lament-over

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ ναυτικὸς στρατὸς κακωθεὶς πεζὸν ὤλεσε στρατόν.
naval army being-ruined foot destroyed army

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ ὧδε παμπήδην δὲ λαὸς πᾶς κατέφθαρται δορί;
so utterly and people all has-perished by-spear

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ πρὸς τάδ᾽ ὡς Σούσων μὲν ἄστυ
to this as of-Susa indeed city

πᾶν κενανδρίαν στένει.
all emptiness-of-men laments

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ ὦ πόποι κεδνῆς ἀρωγῆς κἀπικουρίας στρατοῦ.
O alas of-good help and-of-support of-army

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ Βακτρίων δ᾽ ἔρρει πανώλης δῆμος, οὐδέ τις γέρων.
of-Bactrians and is-gone all-destroyed people nor any old-man

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ ὦ μέλεος, οἵαν ἄρ᾽ ἥβην ξυμμάχων ἀπώλεσεν.
O wretched what then youth of-allies he-destroyed

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ μονάδα δὲ Ξέρξην ἔρημόν φασιν οὐ πολλῶν μέτα —
alone and Xerxes desolate they-say not many with

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ πῶς τε δὴ καὶ ποῖ τελευτᾶν; ἔστι τις σωτηρία;
how and indeed and where to-end is any safety

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ ἄσμενον μολεῖν γέφυραν γαῖν δυοῖν ζευκτηρίαν.
gladly to-have-come bridge of-lands two yoking

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ καὶ πρὸς ἤπειρον σεσῶσθαι τήνδε, τοῦτ᾽ ἐτήτυμον;
and to mainland to-have-been-saved this this true

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ ναί· λόγος κρατεῖ σαφηνὴς τοῦτό γ', οὐδ' ἔνι στάσις.
yes report prevails clear this at-least nor is dispute

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ φεῦ, ταχεῖά γ' ἦλθε χρησμῶν
alas swift at-least came of-oracles
πρᾶξις, ἐς δὲ παῖδ' ἐμὸν
fulfillment on and son my

Ζεὺς ἀπέσκηψεν τελευτὴν θεσφάτων· ἐγὼ δέ που
Zeus hurled end of-oracles I and somehow
διὰ μακροῦ χρόνου τάδ' ηὔχουν ἐκτελευτήσειν θεούς·
through long time these prayed to-accomplish gods
ἀλλ' ὅταν σπεύδῃ τις αὐτός, χὠ θεὸς συνάπτεται.
but when hastens someone himself and-the god joins-in
νῦν κακῶν ἔοικε πηγὴ πᾶσιν ηὑρῆσθαι φίλοις.
now of-evils seems spring for-all to-have-been-found friends
παῖς δ' ἐμὸς τάδ' οὐ κατειδὼς ἤνυσεν νέῳ θράσει·
son and my these not perceiving accomplished with-young rashness
ὅστις Ἑλλήσποντον ἱρὸν δοῦλον ὡς δεσμώμασιν
who Hellespont holy slave like with-chains
ἤλπισε σχήσειν ῥέοντα, Βόσπορον ῥόον θεοῦ·
hoped to-hold flowing Bosporus stream of-god
καὶ πόρον μετερρύθμιζε, καὶ πέδαις σφυρηλάτοις
and strait remodeled and with-fetters hammered
περιβαλὼν πολλὴν κέλευθον ἤνυσεν πολλῷ στρατῷ,
having-cast-around great road made for-great army
θνητὸς ὢν θεῶν τε πάντων ᾤετ', οὐκ εὐβουλίᾳ,
mortal being of-gods and all he-thought not with-good-counsel
καὶ Ποσειδῶνος κρατήσειν. πῶς τάδ' οὐ νόσος φρενῶν
and of-Poseidon to-prevail how this not disease of-mind
εἶχε παῖδ' ἐμόν; δέδοικα μὴ πολὺς πλούτου πόνος
held son my I-fear lest great of-wealth toil

οὑμὸς ἀνθρώποις γένηται τοῦ φθάσαντος ἁρπαγή.
my for-men become of-the first-comer plunder

ΑΤΟΣΣΑ ταῦτά τοι κακοῖς ὁμιλῶν ἀνδράσιν διδάσκεται
these surely with-evil consorting men is-taught

θούριος Ξέρξης· λέγουσι δ' ὡς σὺ μὲν μέγαν τέκνοις
impetuous Xerxes they-say and that you indeed great for-children

πλοῦτον ἐκτήσω ξὺν αἰχμῇ, τὸν δ' ἀνανδρίας ὕπο
wealth won with spear he and of-unmanliness by

ἔνδον αἰχμάζειν, πατρῷον δ' ὄλβον οὐδὲν αὐξάνειν.
inside to-play-the-spearman father's and prosperity nothing to-increase

τοιάδ' ἐξ ἀνδρῶν ὀνείδη πολλάκις κλύων κακῶν
such from men reproaches often hearing evil

τήνδ' ἐβούλευσεν κέλευθον καὶ στράτευμ' ἐφ' Ἑλλάδα.
this he-planned road and expedition against Hellas

ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ τοιγάρ σφιν ἔργον ἐστὶν ἐξειργασμένον
therefore for-them deed is accomplished

μέγιστον, ἀείμνηστον, οἷον οὐδέπω
greatest ever-memorable such-as never-yet

τόδ' ἄστυ Σούσων ἐξεκείνωσεν πεσόν,
this city of-Susa emptied fallen

ἐξ οὗτε τιμὴν Ζεὺς ἄναξ τήνδ' ὤπασεν,
from when honor Zeus lord this granted

ἕν' ἄνδρ' ἁπάσης Ἀσίδος μηλοτρόφου
one man of-all Asia sheep-feeding

ταγεῖν, ἔχοντα σκῆπτρον εὐθυντήριον.
to-rule having scepter guiding

Μῆδος γὰρ ἦν ὁ πρῶτος ἡγεμὼν στρατοῦ·
Mede for was the first leader of-army

ἄλλος δ' ἐκείνου παῖς τόδ' ἔργον ἤνυσεν·
other and his son this work accomplished

φρένες γὰρ αὐτοῦ θυμὸν ᾠακοστρόφουν.
mind for his heart steered
τρίτος δ' ἀπ' αὐτοῦ Κῦρος, εὐδαίμων ἀνήρ,
third and from him Cyrus fortunate man
ἄρξας ἔθηκε πᾶσιν εἰρήνην φίλοις·
having-ruled made for-all peace friends
Λυδῶν δὲ λαὸν καὶ Φρυγῶν ἐκτήσατο,
of-Lydians and people and of-Phrygians he-acquired
Ἰωνίαν τε πᾶσαν ἤλασεν βίᾳ.
Ionia and all drove by-force
θεὸς γὰρ οὐκ ἤχθηρεν, ὡς εὔφρων ἔφυ.
god for not hated as well-minded he-was
Κύρου δὲ παῖς τέταρτος ηὔθυνε στρατόν.
of-Cyrus and son fourth directed army
πέμπτος δὲ Μάρδος ἦρξεν, αἰσχύνη πάτρᾳ
fifth and Mardus ruled shame to-fatherland
θρόνοισί τ' ἀρχαίοισι· τὸν δὲ σὺν δόλῳ
to-throne and ancient him and with guile
Ἀρταφρένης ἔκτεινεν ἐσθλὸς ἐν δόμοις,
Artaphrenes killed noble in house
ξὺν ἀνδράσιν φίλοισιν, οἷς τόδ' ἦν χρέος.
with men friends for-whom this was duty
κἀγὼ πάλου τ' ἔκυρσα τοὔπερ ἤθελον,
and-I of-lot and obtained which-indeed I-wished
κἀπεστράτευσα πολλὰ σὺν πολλῷ στρατῷ·
and-I-campaigned much with great army
ἀλλ' οὐ κακὸν τοσόνδε προσέβαλον πόλει.
but not evil so-great I-brought on-city
Ξέρξης δ' ἐμὸς παῖς ὢν νέος νέα φρονεῖ,
Xerxes but my son being young young-things thinks

κοὐ μνημονεύει τὰς ἐμὰς ἐπιστολάς·
and-not remembers — my injunctions
εὖ γὰρ σαφῶς τόδ' ἴστ', ἐμοὶ ξυνήλικες,
well for clearly this know my age-mates
ἅπαντες ἡμεῖς, οἳ κράτη τάδ' ἔσχομεν,
all we who power this held
οὐκ ἂν φανεῖμεν πήματ' ἔρξαντες τόσα.
not — would-appear woes having-done so-many
ΧΟΡΟΣ τί οὖν, ἄναξ Δαρεῖε, ποῖ καταστρέφεις
what then lord Darius where do-you-turn
λόγων τελευτήν; πῶς ἂν ἐκ τούτων ἔτι
of-words end how — from these still
πράσσοιμεν ὡς ἄριστα Περσικὸς λεώς;
might-we-fare as best Persian people
ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ εἰ μὴ στρατεύοισθ' ἐς τὸν Ἑλλήνων τόπον,
if not you-campaign into the of-Greeks place
μηδ' εἰ στράτευμα πλεῖον ᾖ τὸ Μηδικόν.
not-even if army larger be the Median
αὐτὴ γὰρ ἡ γῆ ξύμμαχος κείνοις πέλει.
itself for the land ally to-them is
ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς τοῦτ' ἔλεξας, τίνι τρόπῳ δὲ συμμαχεῖ;
how this you-said in-what way and is-ally
ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ κτείνουσα λιμῷ τοὺς ὑπερπόλλους ἄγαν.
killing by-hunger the too-many too
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' εὐσταλῆ τοι λεκτὸν ἀροῦμεν στόλον.
but well-equipped surely choice we-shall-raise force
ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ ἀλλ' οὐδ' ὁ μείνας νῦν ἐν Ἑλλάδος τόποις
but not-even the remaining now in of-Hellas places
στρατὸς κυρήσει νοστίμου σωτηρίας.
army will-meet-with returning safety

ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς εἶπας; οὐ γὰρ πᾶν στράτευμα βαρβάρων
how you-said not for all army of-barbarians
περᾷ τὸν Ἕλλης πορθμὸν Εὐρώπης ἄπο;
crosses the of-Helle strait Europe from
ΔΑΡΕΙΟΣ παῦροι γε πολλῶν, εἴ τι πιστεῦσαι θεῶν
few at-least of-many if any to-trust of-gods
χρὴ θεσφάτοισιν, ἐς τὰ νῦν πεπραγμένα
must oracles to the now done
βλέψαντα· συμβαίνει γὰρ οὐ τὰ μέν, τὰ δ' οὔ.
looking come-true for not the-ones indeed the-others and not
κεἴπερ τάδ' ἐστί, πλῆθος ἔκκριτον στρατοῦ
and-if this is number choice of-army
λείπει κεναῖσιν ἐλπίσιν πεπεισμένος.
he-leaves with-empty hopes persuaded
μίμνουσι δ' ἔνθα πεδίον Ἀσωπὸς ῥοαῖς
they-remain and where plain Asopus with-streams
ἄρδει, φίλον πίασμα Βοιωτῶν χθονί·
waters dear enrichment of-Boeotians to-land
οὗ σφιν κακῶν ὕψιστ' ἐπαμμένει παθεῖν,
where them of-evils highest awaits to-suffer
ὕβρεως ἄποινα κἀθέων φρονημάτων·
of-outrage requital and-of-godless thoughts
οἳ γῆν μολόντες Ἑλλάδ' οὐ θεῶν βρέτη
who land having-come-to Hellas not of-gods images
ᾐδοῦντο συλᾶν οὐδὲ πιμπράναι νεώς·
scrupled to-plunder nor to-burn temples
βωμοὶ δ' ἄιστοι, δαιμόνων θ' ἱδρύματα
altars and vanished of-spirits and shrines
πρόρριζα φύρδην ἐξανέστραπται βάθρων.
root-and-branch confusedly overturned from-bases

τοιγὰρ κακῶς δράσαντες οὐκ ἐλάσσονα
therefore evilly having-done not less
πάσχουσι, τὰ δὲ μέλλουσι, κοὐδέπω κακῶν
they-suffer the and will-suffer and-not-yet of-evils
κρηνὶς ἀπέσβηκ' ἀλλ' ἔτ' ἐκπιδύεται.
spring is-quenched but still gushes-forth
τόσος γὰρ ἔσται πέλανος αἱματοσφαγὴς
so-great for will-be cake blood-slaughtered
πρὸς γῇ Πλαταιῶν Δωρίδος λόγχης ὕπο·
at land of-Plataeans of-Dorian spear by
θῖνες νεκρῶν δὲ καὶ τριτοσπόρῳ γονῇ
heaps of-corpses and even to-third generation
ἄφωνα σημανοῦσιν ὄμμασιν βροτῶν
voiceless will-signify to-eyes of-mortals
ὡς οὐχ ὑπέρφευ θνητὸν ὄντα χρὴ φρονεῖν.
that not overmuch mortal being must think
ὕβρις γὰρ ἐξανθοῦσ' ἐκάρπωσεν στάχυν
outrage for blossoming bears-fruit ear
ἄτης, ὅθεν πάγκλαυτον ἐξαμᾷ θέρος.
of-ruin whence all-tearful it-reaps harvest
τοιαῦθ' ὁρῶντες τῶνδε τἀπιτίμια
such seeing of-these the-penalties
μέμνησθ' Ἀθηνῶν Ἑλλάδος τε, μηδέ τις
remember Athens Hellas and nor any
ὑπερφρονήσας τὸν παρόντα δαίμονα
having-scorned the present spirit
ἄλλων ἐρασθεὶς ὄλβον ἐκχέῃ μέγαν.
others' desiring prosperity pour-out great
Ζεύς τοι κολαστὴς τῶν ὑπερκόμπων ἄγαν
Zeus surely chastiser of-the over-boastful too

φρονημάτων ἔπεστιν, εὔθυνος βαρύς.
thoughts is-over auditor heavy

πρὸς ταῦτ' ἐκεῖνον, σωφρονεῖν κεχρημένον,
to this him to-be-self-controlled needing

πινύσκετ' εὐλόγοισι νουθετήμασιν,
admonish with-reasoned warnings

λῆξαι θεοβλαβοῦνθ' ὑπερκόμπῳ θράσει.
to-cease offending-god with-over-boastful rashness

σὺ δ', ὦ γεραιὰ μῆτερ ἡ Ξέρξου φίλη,
you and O aged mother the of-Xerxes dear

ἐλθοῦσ' ἐς οἴκους κόσμον ὅστις εὐπρεπὴς
having-gone to house attire whatever seemly

λαβοῦσ' ὑπαντίαζε παιδί. πάντα γὰρ
taking meet son all for

κακῶν ὑπ' ἄλγους λακίδες ἀμφὶ σώματι
of-evils by grief rents about body

στημορραγοῦσι ποικίλων ἐσθημάτων.
are-torn-at-the-seams embroidered of-garments

ἀλλ' αὐτὸν εὐφρόνως σὺ πράυνον λόγοις·
but him kindly you soothe with-words

μόνης γάρ, οἶδα, σοῦ κλύων ἀνέξεται.
alone for I-know of-you hearing he-will-endure

ἐγὼ δ' ἄπειμι γῆς ὑπὸ ζόφον κάτω.
I and depart of-earth under darkness below

ὑμεῖς δέ, πρέσβεις, χαίρετ', ἐν κακοῖς ὅμως
you and elders farewell in evils nevertheless

ψυχῇ διδόντες ἡδονὴν καθ' ἡμέραν,
to-soul giving pleasure by day

ὡς τοῖς θανοῦσι πλοῦτος οὐδὲν ὠφελεῖ.
as to-the dead wealth nothing profits

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἦ πολλὰ καὶ παρόντα καὶ μέλλοντ᾽ ἔτι
truly many both present and to-come still
ἤλγησ᾽ ἀκούσας βαρβάροισι πήματα.
I-grieved having-heard for-barbarians woes
ΑΤΟΣΣΑ ὦ δαῖμον, ὡς με πόλλ᾽ ἐσέρχεται κακὰ 845
O spirit how me many come-upon evils
ἄλγη, μάλιστα δ᾽ ἥδε συμφορὰ δάκνει,
pains most and this misfortune bites
ἀτιμίαν γε παιδὸς ἀμφὶ σώματι
dishonor at-least of-son about body
ἐσθημάτων κλύουσαν, ἥ νιν ἀμπέχει.
of-garments hearing which him clothes
ἀλλ᾽ εἶμι, καὶ λαβοῦσα κόσμον ἐκ δόμων
but I-shall-go and taking attire from house
ὑπαντιάζειν παιδί μου πειράσομαι. 850
to-meet son my I-shall-try
οὐ γὰρ τὰ φίλτατ᾽ ἐν κακοῖς προδώσομεν.
not for the dearest in evils we-shall-betray

The chorus recalls the good life under Darius: glorious armies, laws, and safe return from war. Without crossing the Halys he ruled the cities of Thrace and the coasts, the islands of the Aegean, Cyprus, and the wealthy cities of the Ionian Greeks. Now, beyond doubt, the gods have turned against them, and they are crushed by blows at sea.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ πόποι ἦ μεγάλας ἀγαθᾶς τε πο-
O alas truly great good and city-governing
λισσονόμου βιοτᾶς ἐπεκύρσαμεν,
— *life we-enjoyed*
εὖθ' ὁ γηραιὸς
when the aged
855 πανταρκὴς ἀκάκας
all-sufficing harmless
ἄμαχος βασιλεὺς
invincible king
ἰσόθεος Δαρεῖος ἆρχε χώρας.
godlike Darius ruled land
πρῶτα μὲν εὐδοκίμους στρατιὰς ἀπε-
first indeed glorious armies we-displayed
φαινόμεθ', ἠδὲ νομίσματα πύργινα
— *and laws tower-like*
860 πάντ' ἐπηύθυνε,
all directed
νόστοι δ' ἐκ πολέμων
returns and from wars
ἀπόνους ἀπαθεῖς
without-toil unharmed

ἀνέρας εὖ πράσσοντας ἆγον οἴκους.
men well faring led home
ὅσσας δ' εἶλε πόλεις πόρον
how-many and he-took cities ford
οὐ διαβὰς Ἅλυος ποταμοῖο,
not having-crossed of-Halys river
οὐδ' ἀφ' ἑστίας συθείς,
nor from hearth having-rushed
οἷαι Στρυμονίου πελά-
such-as of-Strymonian sea
γους Ἀχελωίδες εἰσὶ πάροικοι
— Acheloid are neighboring
Θρῃκίων ἐπαύλων,
of-Thracian dwellings
λίμνας τ' ἔκτοθεν αἳ κατὰ
of-lake and outside which on
χέρσον ἐληλαμέναι πέρι πύργον
land driven around wall
τοῦδ' ἄνακτος ἄιον,
this lord obeyed
Ἕλλας τ' ἀμφὶ πόρον πλατὺν
of-Helle and about strait broad
εὐχόμεναι, μυχία τε Προποντίς,
boasting inmost and Propontis
καὶ στόμωμα Πόντου·
and mouth of-Pontus
νᾶσοί θ' αἳ κατὰ πρῶν'
islands and which by headland
ἅλιον περίκλυστοι
in-the-sea washed-around

τᾷδε γᾷ προσήμεναι
to-this land lying-near
οἵα Λέσβος ἐλαι-
such-as Lesbos olive-planted
όφυτός τε Σάμος, Χίος
— and Samos Chios
ἠδὲ Πάρος, Νάξος, Μύκο-
and Paros Naxos Myconos
νος, Τήνῳ τε συνάπτουσ'
— with-Tenos and joining
Ἄνδρος ἀγχιγείτων,
Andros near-neighboring
καὶ τὰς ἀγχιάλους
and the near-the-sea
ἐκράτυνε μεσάκτους,
he-ruled mid-sea
Λῆμνον, Ἰκάρου θ' ἕδος,
Lemnos of-Icarus and seat
καὶ Ῥόδον ἠδὲ Κνίδον
and Rhodes and Cnidus
Κυπρίας τε πόλεις, Πάφον,
Cyprian and cities Paphos
ἠδὲ Σόλους, Σαλαμῖνά τε,
and Soli Salamis and
τᾶς νῦν ματρόπολις τῶνδ'
of-which now mother-city of-these
αἰτία στεναγμῶν.
cause of-groans
καὶ τὰς εὐκτεάνους κατὰ
and the wealthy throughout

κλῆρον Ἰαόνιον πολυάνδρους
allotment Ionian populous
Ἑλλάνων ἐκράτει σφετέραις φρεσίν.
of-Greeks he-ruled by-his-own wits
ἀκάματον δὲ παρῆν σθένος
untiring and was-present strength
ἀνδρῶν τευχηστήρων
of-men armed
παμμίκτων τ' ἐπικούρων.
all-mixed and of-allies
νῦν δ' οὐκ ἀμφιλόγως
now but not doubtfully
θεότρεπτα τάδ' αὖ
god-turned these in-turn
φέρομεν πολέμοισι
we-bear in-wars
δμαθέντες μεγάλως
subdued greatly
πλαγαῖσι ποντίαισιν.
by-blows of-the-sea

Xerxes enters, lamenting the hateful fate that has struck the Persian race; his strength fails at the sight of the old men, and he wishes Zeus had buried him with the dead. The elders mourn the flower of the land destroyed, the myriads of bowmen sent to Hades by Xerxes, and Asia brought to her knees.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ ἰώ,
oh

δύστηνος ἐγὼ στυγερᾶς μοίρας
wretched I of-hateful fate

τῆσδε κυρήσας ἀτεκμαρτοτάτης,
this having-met most-unforeseen

ὡς ὠμοφρόνως δαίμων ἐνέβη
how cruelly spirit trod

Περσῶν γενεᾷ· τί πάθω τλήμων;
of-Persians on-the-race what shall-I-suffer wretch

λέλυται γὰρ ἐμοὶ γυίων ῥώμη
is-loosed for for-me of-limbs strength

τήνδ' ἡλικίαν ἐσιδόντ' ἀστῶν.
this age seeing of-citizens

εἴθ' ὄφελεν, Ζεῦ, κἀμὲ μετ' ἀνδρῶν
would-that ought Zeus and-me with men

τῶν οἰχομένων
the gone

θανάτου κατὰ μοῖρα καλύψαι.
of-death down fate to-have-covered

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὀτοτοῖ, βασιλεῦ, στρατιᾶς ἀγαθῆς
alas king of-army good

καὶ περσονόμου τιμῆς μεγάλης,
and of-Persian-ruling honor great

κόσμου τ᾽ ἀνδρῶν,
order and of-men

οὓς νῦν δαίμων ἐπέκειρεν.
whom now spirit has-shorn

γᾶ δ᾽ αἰάζει τὰν ἐγγαίαν
land and bewails the native

ἥβαν Ξέρξᾳ κταμέναν Ἄιδου
youth by-Xerxes slain to-Hades

σάκτορι Περσᾶν. ᾄδοβάται γὰρ
crammer of-Persians Hades-goers for

πολλοὶ φῶτες, χώρας ἄνθος,
many men of-land flower

τοξοδάμαντες, πάνυ ταρφύς τις
bow-conquering very dense some

μυριὰς ἀνδρῶν, ἐξέφθινται.
myriad of-men have-perished

αἰαῖ αἰαῖ κεδνᾶς ἀλκᾶς.
alas alas of-trusty strength

Ἀσία δὲ χθών, βασιλεῦ γαίας,
Asia and land king of-earth

αἰνῶς αἰνῶς
terribly terribly

ἐπὶ γόνυ κέκλιται.
on knee is-bent

Xerxes and the elders exchange laments. He says he has become the ruin of his race, and they ask for the commanders, whom he left dead at Salamis or saw perish. He shows his torn robe and what is left of his quiver. Ionian Ares has destroyed the fleet. He bids them beat their breasts, tear their hair, and weep, and they escort him home with dirges through the city.

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ ὅδ᾽ ἐγώ, οἰοῖ, αἰακτὸς
here I alas lamentable
μέλεος γέννᾳ γᾷ τε πατρῴᾳ
wretched to-race to-land and father's
κακὸν ἄρ᾽ ἐγενόμαν.
evil then I-was-born
935 ΧΟΡΟΣ πρόσφθογγόν σοι νόστου τὰν
greeting to-you of-return the
κακοφάτιδα βοάν,
ill-omened cry
κακομέλετον ἰὰν
ill-tuned voice
Μαριανδυνοῦ θρηνητῆρος
of-Mariandynian mourner
πέμψω πέμψω,
I-shall-send I-shall-send
940 πολύδακρυν ἰαχάν.
much-tearful cry
ΞΕΡΞΗΣ ἴετ᾽ αἰανῆ πάνδυρτον
utter dismal all-mournful
δύσθροον αὐδάν. δαίμων γὰρ ὅδ᾽ αὖ
ill-sounding voice spirit for this in-turn

μετάτροπος ἐπ᾽ ἐμοί.
turned against me

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἥσω τοι τὰν πάνδυρτον,
I-shall-utter surely the all-mournful

σὰ πάθη τε σέβων
your sufferings and revering

ἁλίτυπά τε βάρη,
sea-struck and burdens

πόλεως γένναις πενθητῆρος·
of-city of-race mourner

κλάγξω κλάγξω
I-shall-wail I-shall-wail

δὲ γόον ἀρίδακρυν.
and lament very-tearful

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ Ἰάνων γὰρ ἀπηύρα,
of-Ionians for took-away

Ἰάνων ναύφρακτος
of-Ionians ship-fenced

Ἄρης ἑτεραλκὴς
Ares deciding-the-fight

νυχίαν πλάκα κερσάμενος
nightly plain having-shorn

δυσδαίμονά τ᾽ ἀκτάν.
ill-fated and shore

ΧΟΡΟΣ οἰοιοῖ βόα καὶ πάντ᾽ ἐκπεύθου. —
oh-oh cry and all inquire

ποῦ δὲ φίλων ἄλλος ὄχλος,
where and of-friends other throng

ποῦ δέ σοι παραστάται,
where and to-you comrades

οἷος ἦν Φαρανδάκης,
such-as was Pharandaces
Σούσας, Πελάγων, Δοτάμας, ἠδ' Ἀ-
Susas Pelagon Dotamas and Agdabatas
γδαβάτας, Ψάμμις, Σουσισκάνης τ'
— Psammis Susiscanes and
Ἀγβάτανα λιπών;
Agbatana having-left
ΞΕΡΞΗΣ ὀλοοὺς ἀπέλειπον
destroyed I-left
Τυρίας ἐκ ναὸς
Tyrian from ship
ἔρροντας ἐπ' ἀκταῖς
perishing on shores
Σαλαμινιάσι στυφελοῦ
of-Salamis rugged
θείνοντας ἐπ' ἀκτᾶς.
striking on shore
ΧΟΡΟΣ οἰοιοῖ, βόα· ποῦ σοι Φαρνοῦχος
oh-oh cry where to-you Pharnuchus
Ἀριόμαρδός τ' ἀγαθός,
Ariomardus and good
ποῦ δὲ Σευάλκης ἄναξ,
where and Seualces lord
ἢ Λίλαιος εὐπάτωρ,
or Lilaeus of-noble-father
Μέμφις, Θάρυβις, καὶ Μασίστρας,
Memphis Tharybis and Masistras
Ἀρτεμβάρης τ' ἠδ' Ὑσταίχμας;
Artembares and and Hystaechmas

τάδε σ᾽ ἐπανερόμαν.
these you I-ask-again

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ ἰὼ ἰώ μοί μοι
oh oh me me

τὰς ὠγυγίους κατιδόντες
the primeval having-looked-down-on

στυγνὰς Ἀθάνας πάντες ἑνὶ πιτύλῳ,
hateful Athens all at-one stroke

ἐὴ ἐή, τλάμονες ἀσπαίρουσι χέρσῳ.
eh eh wretched gasp on-land

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἦ καὶ τὸν Περσᾶν αὐτοῦ
— and the of-Persians there

τὸν σὸν πιστὸν πάντ᾽ ὀφθαλμὸν
— your faithful all eye

μυρία μυρία πεμπαστὰν
ten-thousand ten-thousand counter

Βατανώχου παῖδ᾽ Ἄλπιστον
of-Batanochus son Alpistus

***
(lacuna)

τοῦ Σησάμα τοῦ Μεγαβάτα,
— of-Sesamas — of-Megabates

Πάρθον τε μέγαν τ᾽ Οἰβάρην
Parthus and great and Oebares

ἔλιπες ἔλιπες;
you-left you-left

ὦ ὦ ὦ δᾴων.
oh oh oh of-foes

Πέρσαις ἀγαυοῖς κακὰ πρόκακα λέγεις.
for-Persians noble evils beyond-evils you-tell

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ ἰὼ ἰὼ δῆτα
oh oh indeed
ἴυγγ' ἀγαθῶν ἑτάρων μοι
yearning of-good comrades to-me
κινεῖς ἄλαστα στυγνὰ πρόκακα λέγων.
you-stir unforgettable hateful beyond-evils telling
βοᾷ βοᾷ μοι μελέων ἔντοσθεν ἦτορ.
cries cries to-me of-limbs within heart
ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ἄλλους γε ποθοῦμεν,
and indeed others at-least we-miss
Μάρδων ἀνδρῶν μυριοταγὸν
of-Mardians of-men commander-of-ten-thousand
Ξάνθιν ἄρειόν τ' Ἀγχάρην,
Xanthis warlike and Anchares
Δίαιξίν τ' ἠδ' Ἀρσάκην
Diaexis and and Arsaces
ἱππιάνακτας,
horse-lords
Κηγδαδάταν καὶ Λυθίμναν
Kegdadatas and Lythimnas
Τόλμον τ' αἰχμᾶς ἀκόρεστον.
Tolmus and of-spear insatiate
ἔταφον ἔταφον,
I-am-astonished I-am-astonished
οὐκ ἀμφὶ σκηναῖς
not around tents
τροχηλάτοισιν ὄπιθεν ἑπομένους.
wheel-borne behind following
ΞΕΡΞΗΣ βεβᾶσι γὰρ τοίπερ ἀγρέται στρατοῦ.
they-have-gone for those leaders of-army

ΧΟΡΟΣ βεβᾶσιν, οἴ, νώνυμοι.
they-have-gone alas nameless

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ ἰὴ ἰή, ἰὼ ἰώ.
ah ah oh oh

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ ἰώ, δαίμονες, 1005
oh oh spirits

ἔθεθ' ἄελπτον κακὸν
you-made unexpected evil

διαπρέπον, οἷον δέδορκεν Ἄτα.
conspicuous such-as has-looked Ruin

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ πεπλήγμεθ' οἵᾳ δι' αἰῶνος τύχᾳ·
we-are-struck by-what through life fortune

ΧΟΡΟΣ πεπλήγμεθ'· εὔδηλα γάρ·
we-are-struck clear for

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ νέᾳ νέᾳ δύᾳ δύᾳ. 1010
new new woe woe

ΧΟΡΟΣ κύρσαντες οὐκ εὐτυχῶς
having-met not fortunately

Ἰάνων ναυβατᾶν.
of-Ionians ship-borne

δυσπόλεμον δὴ γένος τὸ Περσᾶν.
ill-warring indeed race the of-Persians

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ πῶς δ' οὔ; στρατὸν μὲν τοσοῦ-
how and not army indeed so-great

τον τάλας πέπληγμαι. 1015
— wretch I-am-struck

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί δ' οὔκ; ὄλωλεν μεγάλως τὰ Περσᾶν.
what and not has-perished greatly the of-Persians

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ ὁρᾷς τὸ λοιπὸν τόδε τᾶς ἐμᾶς στολᾶς;
you-see the rest this — of-my array

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὁρῶ ὁρῶ.
I-see I-see

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ τόνδε τ' ὀιστοδέγμονα —
this and arrow-receiving

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί τόδε λέγεις σεσωσμένον;
what this you-say saved

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ θησαυρὸν βελέεσσιν;
treasure for-arrows

ΧΟΡΟΣ βαιά γ' ὡς ἀπὸ πολλῶν.
little at-least as from many

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ ἐσπανίσμεθ' ἀρωγῶν.
we-are-bereft of-helpers

ΧΟΡΟΣ Ἰάνων λαὸς οὐ φυγαίχμας.
of-Ionians people not spear-shunning

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ ἀγανόρειος· κατεῖ-
manly I-saw

δον δὲ πῆμ' ἄελπτον.
— and woe unexpected

ΧΟΡΟΣ τραπέντα ναύφρακτον ἐρεῖς ὅμιλον;
turned ship-fenced you-will-say throng

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ πέπλον δ' ἐπέρρηξ' ἐπὶ συμφορᾷ κακοῦ.
robe and I-rent at misfortune of-evil

ΧΟΡΟΣ παπαῖ παπαῖ.
alas alas

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ καὶ πλέον ἢ παπαῖ μὲν οὖν.
and more than alas indeed rather

ΧΟΡΟΣ δίδυμα γάρ ἐστι καὶ τριπλᾶ —
double for it-is and triple

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ λυπρά, χάρματα δ' ἐχθροῖς.
grievous joys and to-enemies

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ σθένος γ' ἐκολούσθη —
and strength at-least was-cut-short

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ γυμνός εἰμι προπομπῶν.
naked I-am of-escorts

ΧΟΡΟΣ φίλων ἄταισι ποντίαισιν·
of-friends by-ruins of-the-sea

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ δίαινε δίαινε πῆμα· πρὸς δόμους δ' ἴθι.
weep weep woe to house and go

ΧΟΡΟΣ αἰαῖ αἰαῖ, δύα δύα.
alas alas woe woe

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ βόα νυν ἀντίδουπά μοι.
cry now in-answer to-me

ΧΟΡΟΣ δόσιν κακὰν κακῶν κακοῖς.
gift evil of-evils to-evils

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ ἴυζε μέλος ὁμοῦ τιθείς.
wail song together setting

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὀτοτοτοτοῖ.
oh-oh-oh

βαρεῖά γ' ἅδε συμφορά.
heavy at-least this misfortune

οἲ μάλα καὶ τόδ' ἀλγῶ.
oh very also this I-grieve

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ ἔρεσσ' ἔρεσσε καὶ στέναζ' ἐμὴν χάριν.
row row and groan for-my sake

ΧΟΡΟΣ διαίνομαι γοεδνὸς ὤν.
I-weep mournful being

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ βόα νυν ἀντίδουπά μοι.
cry now in-answer to-me

ΧΟΡΟΣ μέλειν πάρεστι, δέσποτα.
to-care is-possible master

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ ἐπορθίαζέ νυν γόοις.
raise-shrill now with-laments

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὀτοτοτοτοῖ.
oh-oh-oh

μέλαινα δ' ἀμμεμείξεται,
black and will-be-mingled

οἴ, στονόεσσα πλαγά.
oh groaning blow

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ καὶ στέρν' ἄρασσε κἀπιβόα τὸ Μύσιον.
and breast beat and-cry the Mysian

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄνι' ἄνια.
grievous grievous

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ καί μοι γενείου πέρθε λευκήρη τρίχα.
and for-me of-chin sack white-haired hair

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄπριγδ' ἄπριγδα μάλα γοεδνά.
tightly tightly very mournfully

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ ἀύτει δ' ὀξύ.
shout and shrilly

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ τάδ' ἔρξω.
also these I-shall-do

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ πέπλον δ' ἔρεικε κολπίαν ἀκμῇ χερῶν.
robe and rend bosom with-tip of-hands

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄνι' ἄνια.
grievous grievous

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ καὶ ψάλλ' ἔθειραν καὶ κατοίκτισαι στρατόν.
and pluck hair and pity army

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄπριγδ' ἄπριγδα μάλα γοεδνά.
tightly tightly very mournfully

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ διαίνου δ' ὄσσε.
wet and eyes

ΧΟΡΟΣ τέγγομαί τοι.
I-am-wet surely

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ βόα νυν ἀντίδουπά μοι.
cry now in-answer to-me

ΧΟΡΟΣ οἰοῖ οἰοῖ.
oh oh

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ αἰακτὸς ἐς δόμους κίε.
lamenting to house go

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ ἰώ.
oh oh

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ ἰωὰ δὴ κατ' ἄστυ.
ho indeed through city

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰωὰ δῆτα, ναὶ ναί.
ho indeed yes yes

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ γοᾶσθ' ἁβροβάται.
lament delicate-stepping

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ ἰώ, Περσὶς αἶα δύσβατος.
oh oh Persian land hard-to-tread

ΞΕΡΞΗΣ ἰὴ ἰὴ τρισκάλμοισιν,
ah ah with-three-banked

ἰὴ ἰή, βάρισιν ὀλόμενοι.
ah ah with-barges destroyed

ΧΟΡΟΣ πέμψω τοί σε δυσθρόοις γόοις.
I-shall-escort surely you with-ill-sounding laments

AESCHYLUS

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ΔΕΣΜΩΤΗΣ

Prometheus Bound

In a Scythian wilderness, Might and Force bring Prometheus, who stole fire for mortals, to be fastened to a crag at Zeus' command. Hephaestus pities his kinsman but must obey; Might goads him on, and Prometheus is nailed hand and foot, a wedge driven through his breast. Left alone, Prometheus calls on sky, winds, rivers, and earth to see his suffering, foreseen and endured for mortals' sake. He hears wings approaching.

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ Χθονὸς μὲν ἐς τηλουρὸν ἥκομεν πέδον,
Of-earth indeed to far-off we-have-come plain
Σκύθην ἐς οἶμον, ἄβατον εἰς ἐρημίαν.
Scythian to tract untrodden to wilderness
Ἥφαιστε, σοὶ δὲ χρὴ μέλειν ἐπιστολὰς
Hephaestus to-you and must to-be-a-care commands
ἅς σοι πατὴρ ἐφεῖτο, τόνδε πρὸς πέτραις
which to-you father enjoined this on rocks
ὑψηλοκρήμνοις τὸν λεωργὸν ὀχμάσαι
high-cliffed the evil-doer to-fasten
ἀδαμαντίνων δεσμῶν ἐν ἀρρήκτοις πέδαις.
of-adamantine bonds in unbreakable fetters
τὸ σὸν γὰρ ἄνθος, παντέχνου πυρὸς σέλας,
— your for flower of-all-crafting fire gleam
θνητοῖσι κλέψας ὤπασεν. τοιᾶσδέ τοι
to-mortals having-stolen gave of-such surely
ἁμαρτίας σφε δεῖ θεοῖς δοῦναι δίκην,
sin him must to-gods to-pay penalty
ὡς ἂν διδαχθῇ τὴν Διὸς τυραννίδα
so-that — he-may-be-taught the of-Zeus sovereignty
στέργειν, φιλανθρώπου δὲ παύεσθαι τρόπου.
to-accept of-man-loving and to-cease way

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ Κράτος Βία τε, σφῷν μὲν ἐντολὴ Διὸς
Might Force and for-you-two indeed command of-Zeus
ἔχει τέλος δὴ κοὐδὲν ἐμποδὼν ἔτι·
has fulfillment indeed and-nothing in-the-way still
ἐγὼ δ' ἄτολμός εἰμι συγγενῆ θεὸν
I but undaring am kindred god
δῆσαι βίᾳ φάραγγι πρὸς δυσχειμέρῳ.
to-bind by-force ravine on wintry
πάντως δ' ἀνάγκη τῶνδέ μοι τόλμαν σχεθεῖν·
in-every-way but necessity of-this for-me courage to-have
ἐξωριάζειν γὰρ πατρὸς λόγους βαρύ.
to-neglect for of-father words heavy
τῆς ὀρθοβούλου Θέμιδος αἰπυμῆτα παῖ,
— of-straight-counseling of-Themis high-minded son
ἄκοντά σ' ἄκων δυσλύτοις χαλκεύμασι
unwilling you unwilling with-hard-to-loose bronze-bonds
προσπασσαλεύσω τῷδ' ἀπανθρώπῳ πάγῳ
I-shall-nail to-this inhuman crag
ἵν' οὔτε φωνὴν οὔτε του μορφὴν βροτῶν
where neither voice nor of-anyone form of-mortals
ὄψει, σταθευτὸς δ' ἡλίου φοίβῃ φλογὶ
you-will-see scorched and of-sun by-bright flame
χροιᾶς ἀμείψεις ἄνθος. ἀσμένῳ δέ σοι
of-skin you-will-change flower glad and to-you
ἡ ποικιλείμων νὺξ ἀποκρύψει φάος,
the spangle-robed night will-hide light
πάχνην θ' ἑῴαν ἥλιος σκεδᾷ πάλιν·
frost and of-dawn sun will-scatter again
ἀεὶ δὲ τοῦ παρόντος ἀχθηδὼν κακοῦ
ever and of-the present weight evil

τρύσει σ'· ὁ λωφήσων γὰρ οὐ πέφυκέ πω.
will-wear you the one-to-relieve for not is-born yet
τοιαῦτ' ἐπηύρω τοῦ φιλανθρώπου τρόπου.
such you-reaped of-the man-loving way
θεὸς θεῶν γὰρ οὐχ ὑποπτήσσων χόλον
god of-gods for not cowering-before wrath
βροτοῖσι τιμὰς ὤπασας πέρα δίκης.
to-mortals honors you-gave beyond justice
ἀνθ' ὧν ἀτερπῆ τήνδε φρουρήσεις πέτραν
for which joyless this you-shall-guard rock
ὀρθοστάδην, ἄυπνος, οὐ κάμπτων γόνυ·
standing-upright sleepless not bending knee
πολλοὺς δ' ὀδυρμοὺς καὶ γόους ἀνωφελεῖς
many and lamentations and groans useless
φθέγξῃ· Διὸς γὰρ δυσπαραίτητοι φρένες.
you-will-utter of-Zeus for hard-to-appease mind
ἅπας δὲ τραχὺς ὅστις ἂν νέον κρατῇ.
every and harsh whoever — newly rules

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ εἶεν, τί μέλλεις καὶ κατοικτίζῃ μάτην;
well why do-you-delay and pity in-vain
τί τὸν θεοῖς ἔχθιστον οὐ στυγεῖς θεόν,
why the to-gods most-hateful not you-hate god
ὅστις τὸ σὸν θνητοῖσι προὔδωκεν γέρας;
who — your to-mortals betrayed prerogative

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ τὸ συγγενές τοι δεινὸν ἥ θ' ὁμιλία.
the kinship surely terrible the and companionship

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ σύμφημ'· ἀνηκουστεῖν δὲ τῶν πατρὸς λόγων
I-agree to-disobey but of-the of-father words
οἷόν τε πῶς; οὐ τοῦτο δειμαίνεις πλέον;
possible — how not this fear more

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ αἰεί γε δὴ νηλὴς σὺ καὶ θράσους πλέως.
ever at-least indeed pitiless you and of-boldness full

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ ἄκος γὰρ οὐδὲν τόνδε θρηνεῖσθαι. σὺ δὲ
remedy for nothing this to-lament you and

τὰ μηδὲν ὠφελοῦντα μὴ πόνει μάτην.
the nothing profiting not toil in-vain

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ ὦ πολλὰ μισηθεῖσα χειρωναξία.
O much hated handicraft

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ τί νιν στυγεῖς; πόνων γὰρ ὡς ἁπλῷ λόγῳ
why it you-hate of-toils for as in-simple word

τῶν νῦν παρόντων οὐδὲν αἰτία τέχνη.
of-the now present nothing cause craft

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ ἔμπας τις αὐτὴν ἄλλος ὤφελεν λαχεῖν.
nevertheless some it other ought to-have-got

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ ἅπαντ' ἐπαχθῆ πλὴν θεοῖσι κοιρανεῖν·
all burdensome except over-gods to-rule

ἐλεύθερος γὰρ οὔτις ἐστὶ πλὴν Διός.
free for no-one is except Zeus

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ ἔγνωκα τοῖσδε κοὐδὲν ἀντειπεῖν ἔχω.
I-know by-these and-nothing to-gainsay I-have

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ οὔκουν ἐπείξῃ τῷδε δεσμὰ περιβαλεῖν,
not-then will-you-hasten on-him bonds to-cast

ὡς μή σ' ἐλινύοντα προσδερχθῇ πατήρ;
so-that not you loitering may-look-upon father

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ καὶ δὴ πρόχειρα ψάλια δέρκεσθαι πάρα.
and indeed ready rings to-see it-is-possible

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ βαλών νιν ἀμφὶ χερσὶν ἐγκρατεῖ σθένει
having-cast them around hands with-powerful strength

ῥαιστῆρι θεῖνε, πασσάλευε πρὸς πέτραις.
with-hammer strike nail on rocks

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ περαίνεται δὴ κοὐ ματᾷ τοὔργον τόδε.
is-accomplished indeed and-not idles the-work this

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ ἄρασσε μᾶλλον, σφίγγε, μηδαμῇ χάλα.
smite more tighten in-no-way loosen

δεινὸς γὰρ εὑρεῖν κἀξ ἀμηχάνων πόρον.
clever for to-find even-from impossible way

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ ἄραρεν ἥδε γ' ὠλένη δυσεκλύτως.
is-fixed this at-least arm inextricably

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ καὶ τήνδε νῦν πόρπασον ἀσφαλῶς, ἵνα
and this now clasp securely so-that

μάθῃ σοφιστὴς ὢν Διὸς νωθέστερος.
he-may-learn sophist being than-Zeus duller

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ πλὴν τοῦδ' ἂν οὐδεὶς ἐνδίκως μέμψαιτό μοι.
except him — no-one justly could-blame me

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ ἀδαμαντίνου νῦν σφηνὸς αὐθάδη γνάθον
of-adamantine now wedge stubborn jaw

στέρνων διαμπὰξ πασσάλευ' ἐρρωμένως.
of-breast right-through nail mightily

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ αἰαῖ, Προμηθεῦ, σῶν ὑπερστένω πόνων.
alas Prometheus your I-groan-over toils

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ σὺ δ' αὖ κατοκνεῖς τῶν Διός τ' ἐχθρῶν ὕπερ
you and again shrink of-the of-Zeus and enemies on-behalf

στένεις; ὅπως μὴ σαυτὸν οἰκτιεῖς ποτε.
you-groan so-that not yourself you-will-pity ever

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ ὁρᾷς θέαμα δυσθέατον ὄμμασιν.
you-see spectacle hard-to-behold to-eyes

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ ὁρῶ κυροῦντα τόνδε τῶν ἐπαξίων.
I-see getting this of-the deserved

ἀλλ' ἀμφὶ πλευραῖς μασχαλιστῆρας βάλε.
but around sides girths cast

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ δρᾶν ταῦτ᾽ ἀνάγκη, μηδὲν ἐγκέλευ᾽ ἄγαν.
to-do this necessity nothing urge too-much

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ ἦ μὴν κελεύσω κἀπιθωύξω γε πρός.
truly indeed I-shall-urge and-shall-shout-on at-least besides

χώρει κάτω, σκέλη δὲ κίρκωσον βίᾳ.
go down legs and ring by-force

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ καὶ δὴ πέπρακται τοὔργον οὐ μακρῷ πόνῳ.
and indeed is-done the-work not with-long toil

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ ἐρρωμένως νῦν θεῖνε διατόρους πέδας·
mightily now strike piercing fetters

ὡς οὐπιτιμητής γε τῶν ἔργων βαρύς.
as the-assessor at-least of-the works heavy

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ ὅμοια μορφῇ γλῶσσά σου γηρύεται.
like to-form tongue your speaks

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ σὺ μαλθακίζου, τὴν δ᾽ ἐμὴν αὐθαδίαν
you be-soft — but my stubbornness

ὀργῆς τε τραχύτητα μὴ ᾽πίπλησσέ μοι.
of-temper and harshness not reproach me

ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ στείχωμεν, ὡς κώλοισιν ἀμφίβληστρ᾽ ἔχει.
let-us-go since limbs net has

ΚΡΑΤΟΣ ἐνταῦθα νῦν ὕβριζε καὶ θεῶν γέρα
there now outrage and of-gods prerogatives

συλῶν ἐφημέροισι προστίθει. τί σοι
stealing to-ephemerals bestow what for-you

οἷοί τε θνητοὶ τῶνδ᾽ ἀπαντλῆσαι πόνων;
able — mortals of-these to-drain-off toils

ψευδωνύμως σε δαίμονες Προμηθέα
falsely-named you spirits Prometheus

καλοῦσιν· αὐτὸν γάρ σε δεῖ προμηθέως,
call yourself for you must of-a-forethinker

ὅτῳ τρόπῳ τῆσδ᾽ ἐκκυλισθήσῃ τέχνης.
in-what way from-this you-will-roll-out craft

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ὦ δῖος αἰθὴρ καὶ ταχύπτεροι πνοαί,
O divine sky and swift-winged breezes

ποταμῶν τε πηγαί, ποντίων τε κυμάτων
of-rivers and springs of-the-sea and of-waves

ἀνήριθμον γέλασμα, παμμῆτόρ τε γῆ,
countless laughter all-mother and earth

καὶ τὸν πανόπτην κύκλον ἡλίου καλῶ.
and the all-seeing disk of-sun I-call

ἴδεσθέ μ᾽ οἷα πρὸς θεῶν πάσχω θεός.
see me what by gods I-suffer god

δέρχθηθ᾽ οἵαις αἰκείαισιν
see with-what outrages

διακναιόμενος τὸν μυριετῆ
being-worn-down the ten-thousand-year

χρόνον ἀθλεύσω.
time I-shall-struggle

τοιόνδ᾽ ὁ νέος ταγὸς μακάρων
such the new leader of-the-blessed

ἐξηῦρ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ἐμοὶ δεσμὸν ἀεικῆ.
devised against me bond unseemly

φεῦ φεῦ, τὸ παρὸν τό τ᾽ ἐπερχόμενον
alas alas the present the and coming

πῆμα στενάχω, πῇ ποτε μόχθων
woe I-groan where ever of-toils

χρὴ τέρματα τῶνδ᾽ ἐπιτεῖλαι.
must ends of-these to-arise

καίτοι τί φημι; πάντα προυξεπίσταμαι
and-yet what do-I-say all I-foreknow

σκεθρῶς τὰ μέλλοντ', οὐδέ μοι ποταίνιον
exactly the future nor to-me unexpected
πῆμ' οὐδὲν ἥξει. τὴν πεπρωμένην δὲ χρὴ
woe none will-come the destined and must
αἶσαν φέρειν ὡς ῥᾷστα, γιγνώσκονθ' ὅτι
lot to-bear as most-easily knowing that
τὸ τῆς ἀνάγκης ἔστ' ἀδήριτον σθένος.
the of-the necessity is invincible strength
ἀλλ' οὔτε σιγᾶν οὔτε μὴ σιγᾶν τύχας
but neither to-be-silent nor not to-be-silent fortunes
οἷόν τέ μοι τάσδ' ἐστί. θνητοῖς γὰρ γέρα
possible — to-me these is to-mortals for privileges
πορὼν ἀνάγκαις ταῖσδ' ἐνέζευγμαι τάλας·
having-provided to-necessities these I-am-yoked wretched
ναρθηκοπλήρωτον δὲ θηρῶμαι πυρὸς
fennel-stalk-stored and I-hunt of-fire
πηγὴν κλοπαίαν, ἣ διδάσκαλος τέχνης
spring stolen which teacher of-craft
πάσης βροτοῖς πέφηνε καὶ μέγας πόρος.
of-all to-mortals has-appeared and great resource
τοιῶνδε ποινὰς ἀμπλακημάτων τίνω
of-such penalties of-sins I-pay
ὑπαιθρίοις δεσμοῖς πεπασσαλευμένος.
in-open-air bonds nailed
ἆ ἆ ἔα ἔα.
ah ah eh eh
τίς ἀχώ, τίς ὀδμὰ προσέπτα μ' ἀφεγγής,
what echo what scent flew-to me unseen
θεόσυτος, ἢ βρότειος, ἢ κεκραμένη;
god-sent or human or mixed

ἵκετο τερμόνιον ἐπὶ πάγον
came at-the-world's-end to crag
πόνων ἐμῶν θεωρός, ἢ τί δὴ θέλων;
of-toils my spectator or what indeed wishing
ὁρᾶτε δεσμώτην με δύσποτμον θεόν
you-see in-chains me ill-fated god
τὸν Διὸς ἐχθρόν, τὸν πᾶσι θεοῖς
the of-Zeus enemy the to-all gods
δι' ἀπεχθείας ἐλθόνθ' ὁπόσοι
into hatred having-come as-many-as
τὴν Διὸς αὐλὴν εἰσοιχνεῦσιν,
the of-Zeus court enter
διὰ τὴν λίαν φιλότητα βροτῶν.
through the too-great love of-mortals
φεῦ φεῦ, τί ποτ' αὖ κινάθισμα κλύω
alas alas what ever again rustling do-I-hear
πέλας οἰωνῶν; αἰθὴρ δ' ἐλαφραῖς
near of-birds sky and with-light
πτερύγων ῥιπαῖς ὑποσυρίζει.
of-wings beats whistles
πᾶν μοι φοβερὸν τὸ προσέρπον.
all to-me fearful the approaching

The daughters of Ocean arrive in a winged car, roused by the ring of steel, and weep at his torment. Prometheus wishes Zeus had hurled him into Tartarus, where no god could gloat. They say Zeus rules by new laws and will not relent until someone seizes his power. Prometheus answers that Zeus will need him to reveal the plan that will cost him his throne, and he will not tell it until freed. The chorus fears for him, but he says Zeus will soften and seek his friendship.

ΧΟΡΟΣ μηδὲν φοβηθῇς· φιλία
nothing fear friendly
γὰρ ἅδε τάξις πτερύγων
for this band of-wings
θοαῖς ἁμίλλαις προσέβα
with-swift rivalries has-come
τόνδε πάγον, πατρῴας
to-this crag father's
μόγις παρειποῦσα φρένας.
hardly having-won-over mind
κραιπνοφόροι δέ μ' ἔπεμψαν αὖραι·
swift-carrying and me sent breezes
κτύπου γὰρ ἀχὼ χάλυβος
of-din for echo of-steel
διῇξεν ἄντρων μυχόν, ἐκ
pierced of-caves recess out
δ' ἔπληξέ μου τὰν θεμερῶπιν αἰδῶ·
and struck my the grave-eyed modesty
σύθην δ' ἀπέδιλος ὄχῳ πτερωτῷ.
I-rushed and unsandaled in-chariot winged

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ αἰαῖ αἰαῖ,
alas alas
τῆς πολυτέκνου Τηθύος ἔκγονα,
— *of-many-childed of-Tethys offspring*
τοῦ περὶ πᾶσάν θ' εἱλισσομένου
of-him around all and rolling
χθόν' ἀκοιμήτῳ ῥεύματι παῖδες
earth with-unresting stream children
πατρὸς, Ὠκεανοῦ, 140
of-father Ocean
δέρχθητ', ἐσίδεσθ' οἵῳ δεσμῷ,
look behold with-what bond
προσπορπατὸς τῆσδε φάραγγος
pinned of-this ravine
σκοπέλοις ἐν ἄκροις
crags on topmost
φρουρὰν ἄζηλον ὀχήσω.
watch unenviable I-shall-keep
ΧΟΡΟΣ λεύσσω, Προμηθεῦ· φοβερὰ
I-see Prometheus fearful
δ' ἐμοῖσιν ὄσσοις ὀμίχλα 145
and on-my eyes mist
προσῇξε πλήρης δακρύων
rushed full of-tears
σὸν δέμας εἰσιδούσᾳ
your body seeing
πέτραις προσαυαινόμενον
on-rocks withering
ταῖσδ' ἀδαμαντοδέτοισι λύμαις.
these in-adamant-bound outrages

νέοι γὰρ οἰακονόμοι
new for helmsmen
κρατοῦσ', Ὀλύμπου· νεοχμοῖς
rule of-Olympus with-new
δὲ δὴ νόμοις Ζεὺς ἀθέτως κρατύνει.
and indeed laws Zeus lawlessly rules
τὰ πρὶν δὲ πελώρια νῦν ἀιστοῖ.
the before and mighty now he-destroys
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ εἰ γάρ μ' ὑπὸ γῆν νέρθεν θ' Ἅιδου
if for me under earth below and of-Hades
τοῦ νεκροδέγμονος εἰς ἀπέρατον
the corpse-receiving into impassable
Τάρταρον ἦκεν,
Tartarus had-sent
δεσμοῖς ἀλύτοις ἀγρίως πελάσας,
in-bonds unbreakable savagely having-fastened
ὡς μήτε θεὸς μήτε τις ἄλλος
so-that neither god nor any other
τοῖσδ' ἐπεγήθει.
at-these rejoiced
νῦν δ' αἰθέριον κίνυγμ' ὁ τάλας
now but of-the-air plaything the wretched
ἐχθροῖς ἐπίχαρτα πέπονθα.
to-enemies delightful I-have-suffered
ΧΟΡΟΣ τίς ὧδε τλησικάρδιος
who thus hard-hearted
θεῶν, ὅτῳ τάδ' ἐπιχαρῆ;
of-gods to-whom these delightful
τίς οὐ ξυνασχαλᾷ κακοῖς
who not shares-the-anger at-evils

τεοῖσι, δίχα γε Διός; ὁ δ' ἐπικότως ἀεὶ
your except at-least Zeus he and wrathfully ever
θέμενος ἄγναμπτον νόον
having-set unbending mind
δάμναται Οὐρανίαν
subdues Uranian
γένναν, οὐδὲ λήξει, πρὶν ἂν ἢ κορέσῃ κέαρ ἢ παλάμᾳ τινὶ
race nor will-cease before — either he-sates heart or by-hand some
τὰν δυσάλωτον ἕλῃ τις ἀρχάν.
the hard-to-capture may-take someone rule
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ἦ μὴν ἔτ' ἐμοῦ, καίπερ κρατεραῖς
truly indeed still of-me although strong
ἐν γυιοπέδαις αἰκιζομένου,
in fetters being-outraged
χρείαν ἕξει μακάρων πρύτανις,
need will-have of-the-blessed president
δεῖξαι τὸ νέον βούλευμ' ὑφ' ὅτου
to-show the new plan by which
σκῆπτρον τιμάς τ' ἀποσυλᾶται.
scepter honors and he-is-robbed-of
καί μ' οὔτι μελιγλώσσοις πειθοῦς
and me not-at-all with-honey-tongued of-persuasion
ἐπαοιδαῖσιν θέλξει, στερεάς τ'
charms he-will-beguile stern and
οὔποτ' ἀπειλὰς πτήξας τόδ' ἐγὼ
never threats cowering-at this I
καταμηνύσω,
shall-reveal
πρὶν ἂν ἐξ ἀγρίων δεσμῶν χαλάσῃ
before — from savage bonds he-loosens

ποινάς τε τίνειν
penalties and to-pay
τῆσδ' αἰκείας ἐθελήσῃ.
of-this outrage be-willing
ΧΟΡΟΣ σὺ μὲν θρασύς τε καὶ πικραῖς
you indeed bold both and to-bitter
δύαισιν οὐδὲν ἐπιχαλᾷς,
pains not-at-all yield
ἄγαν δ' ἐλευθεροστομεῖς.
too-much and you-speak-freely
ἐμὰς δὲ φρένας ἐρέθισε διάτορος φόβος·
my and mind has-stirred piercing fear
δέδια δ' ἀμφὶ σαῖς τύχαις,
I-fear and about your fortunes
πᾷ ποτε τῶνδε πόνων
where ever of-these toils
χρή σε τέρμα κέλ-
must you end having-put-in
σαντ' ἐσιδεῖν· ἀκίχητα γὰρ ἤθεα καὶ κέαρ
— to-see inaccessible for ways and heart
ἀπαράμυθον ἔχει Κρόνου παῖς.
inexorable has of-Cronus son
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ οἶδ' ὅτι τραχὺς καὶ παρ' ἑαυτῷ
I-know that harsh and by himself
τὸ δίκαιον ἔχων Ζεύς. ἀλλ' ἔμπας
the justice keeping Zeus but nevertheless
μαλακογνώμων
soft-minded
ἔσται ποθ', ὅταν ταύτῃ ῥαισθῇ·
will-be some-time when thus he-is-broken

τὴν δ᾽ ἀτέραμνον στορέσας ὀργὴν
the and unsoftened having-calmed anger
εἰς ἀρθμὸν ἐμοὶ καὶ φιλότητα
into league with-me and friendship
σπεύδων σπεύδοντί ποθ᾽ ἥξει.
eager to-eager some-time will-come

III · PROMETHEUS' STORY AND OCEANUS

Prometheus tells how, when the Titans rejected his counsel, he helped Zeus win the war against Cronus, and how Zeus then planned to destroy mankind until Prometheus saved them, giving them blind hopes and fire. Oceanus arrives on a winged beast, advises him to submit, and offers to plead with Zeus. Prometheus warns him of danger, recalling Atlas and Typhon, and sends him home.

ΧΟΡΟΣ πάντ᾽ ἐκκάλυψον καὶ γέγων᾽ ἡμῖν λόγον,
all reveal and declare to-us word
ποίῳ λαβών σε Ζεὺς ἐπ᾽ αἰτιάματι,
what having-taken you Zeus on charge
οὕτως ἀτίμως καὶ πικρῶς αἰκίζεται·
so dishonorably and bitterly outrages
δίδαξον ἡμᾶς, εἴ τι μὴ βλάπτει λόγῳ.
teach us if anything not harms by-word
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ἀλγεινὰ μέν μοι καὶ λέγειν ἐστὶν τάδε,
painful indeed to-me even to-tell is these
ἄλγος δὲ σιγᾶν, πανταχῇ δὲ δύσποτμα.
pain and to-be-silent in-every-way and ill-fated
ἐπεὶ τάχιστ᾽ ἤρξαντο δαίμονες χόλου
when soonest began spirits wrath
στάσις τ᾽ ἐν ἀλλήλοισιν ὠροθύνετο,
faction and among one-another was-roused

οἱ μὲν θέλοντες ἐκβαλεῖν ἕδρας Κρόνον,
some indeed wishing to-cast-out from-seats Cronus
ὡς Ζεὺς ἀνάσσοι δῆθεν, οἱ δὲ τοὔμπαλιν
so-that Zeus might-rule forsooth the-others and the-opposite
σπεύδοντες, ὡς Ζεὺς μήποτ' ἄρξειεν θεῶν,
hastening that Zeus never might-rule of-gods
ἐνταῦθ' ἐγὼ τὰ λῷστα βουλεύων πιθεῖν
there I the best counseling to-persuade
Τιτᾶνας, Οὐρανοῦ τε καὶ Χθονὸς τέκνα,
Titans of-Heaven both and of-Earth children
οὐκ ἠδυνήθην. αἱμύλας δὲ μηχανὰς
not was-able wily and devices
ἀτιμάσαντες καρτεροῖς φρονήμασιν
scorning with-mighty spirits
ᾤοντ' ἀμοχθεὶ πρὸς βίαν τε δεσπόσειν·
they-thought without-toil by force and to-be-masters
ἐμοὶ δὲ μήτηρ οὐχ ἅπαξ μόνον Θέμις,
to-me and mother not once only Themis
καὶ Γαῖα, πολλῶν ὀνομάτων μορφὴ μία,
and Earth of-many names form one
τὸ μέλλον ᾗ κραίνοιτο προυτεθεσπίκει,
the future how it-would-be-fulfilled had-foretold
ὡς οὐ κατ' ἰσχὺν οὐδὲ πρὸς τὸ καρτερόν
that not by strength nor by the might
χρείη, δόλῳ δὲ τοὺς ὑπερσχόντας κρατεῖν.
it-must by-guile and the prevailing to-rule
τοιαῦτ' ἐμοῦ λόγοισιν ἐξηγουμένου
such me by-words explaining
οὐκ ἠξίωσαν οὐδὲ προσβλέψαι τὸ πᾶν.
not they-deigned not-even to-look-at the whole

κράτιστα δή μοι τῶν παρεστώτων τότε
best indeed to-me of-the present then
ἐφαίνετ' εἶναι προσλαβόντα μητέρα
seemed to-be having-taken-with mother
ἑκόνθ' ἑκόντι Ζηνὶ συμπαραστατεῖν.
willing with-willing Zeus to-stand-beside
ἐμαῖς δὲ βουλαῖς Ταρτάρου μελαμβαθὴς
by-my and counsels of-Tartarus black-deep
κευθμὼν καλύπτει τὸν παλαιγενῆ Κρόνον
pit hides — ancient Cronus
αὐτοῖσι συμμάχοισι. τοιάδ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ
together-with allies such from me
ὁ τῶν θεῶν τύραννος ὠφελημένος
the of-the gods tyrant having-been-benefited
κακαῖσι ποιναῖς ταῖσδέ μ' ἐξημείψατο.
with-evil penalties these me repaid
ἔνεστι γάρ πως τοῦτο τῇ τυραννίδι
is-in for somehow this in-the tyranny
νόσημα, τοῖς φίλοισι μὴ πεποιθέναι.
disease in-the friends not to-trust
ὃ δ' οὖν ἐρωτᾶτ', αἰτίαν καθ' ἥντινα
what and then you-ask cause for which
αἰκίζεταί με, τοῦτο δὴ σαφηνιῶ.
he-outrages me this indeed I-shall-make-clear
ὅπως τάχιστα τὸν πατρῷον ἐς θρόνον
as soonest the father's to throne
καθέζετ', εὐθὺς δαίμοσιν νέμει γέρα
he-sat at-once to-the-spirits distributes privileges
ἄλλοισιν ἄλλα καὶ διεστοιχίζετο
to-others other-things and arranged

ἀρχήν· βροτῶν δὲ τῶν ταλαιπώρων λόγον
rule of-mortals and the wretched account
οὐκ ἔσχεν οὐδέν', ἀλλ' ἀιστώσας γένος
not he-took any but having-destroyed race
τὸ πᾶν ἔχρῃζεν ἄλλο φιτῦσαι νέον.
the whole wished other to-beget new
καὶ τοῖσιν οὐδεὶς ἀντέβαινε πλὴν ἐμοῦ.
and to-these no-one opposed except me
ἐγὼ δ' ἐτόλμησ'· ἐξελυσάμην βροτοὺς
I but dared I-delivered mortals
τὸ μὴ διαρραισθέντας εἰς Ἅιδου μολεῖν.
the not shattered to Hades to-go
τῷ τοι τοιαῖσδε πημοναῖσι κάμπτομαι,
therefore surely with-such woes I-am-bent
πάσχειν μὲν ἀλγειναῖσιν, οἰκτραῖσιν δ' ἰδεῖν·
to-suffer indeed painful pitiable and to-see
θνητοὺς δ' ἐν οἴκτῳ προθέμενος, τούτου τυχεῖν
mortals and in pity having-placed-before this to-obtain
οὐκ ἠξιώθην αὐτός, ἀλλὰ νηλεῶς
not was-deemed-worthy myself but pitilessly
ὧδ' ἐρρύθμισμαι, Ζηνὶ δυσκλεὴς θέα.
thus I-have-been-disciplined for-Zeus inglorious sight
ΧΟΡΟΣ σιδηρόφρων τε κἀκ πέτρας εἰργασμένος
iron-hearted and and-from rock wrought
ὅστις, Προμηθεῦ, σοῖσιν οὐ συνασχαλᾷ
whoever Prometheus at-your not shares-the-anger
μόχθοις· ἐγὼ γὰρ οὔτ' ἂν εἰσιδεῖν τάδε
toils I for neither — to-see these
ἔχρῃζον εἰσιδοῦσά τ' ἠλγύνθην κέαρ.
would-have-wished having-seen and was-pained heart

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ καὶ μὴν φίλοις γ᾽ ἐλεινὸς εἰσορᾶν ἐγώ.
and indeed to-friends at-least pitiable to-see I

ΧΟΡΟΣ μή πού τι προύβης τῶνδε καὶ περαιτέρω;
not perhaps some you-went-forward of-these and further

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ θνητούς γ᾽ ἔπαυσα μὴ προδέρκεσθαι μόρον. 250
mortals at-least I-stopped not to-foresee death

ΧΟΡΟΣ τὸ ποῖον εὑρὼν τῆσδε φάρμακον νόσου;
the what having-found of-this remedy sickness

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ τυφλὰς ἐν αὐτοῖς ἐλπίδας κατῴκισα.
blind in them hopes I-settled

ΧΟΡΟΣ μέγ᾽ ὠφέλημα τοῦτ᾽ ἐδωρήσω βροτοῖς.
great benefit this you-gave to-mortals

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ πρὸς τοῖσδε μέντοι πῦρ ἐγώ σφιν ὤπασα.
besides these however fire I to-them gave

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ νῦν φλογωπὸν πῦρ ἔχουσ᾽ ἐφήμεροι; 255
and now flame-eyed fire have creatures-of-a-day

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ἀφ᾽ οὗ γε πολλὰς ἐκμαθήσονται τέχνας.
from which at-least many will-learn arts

ΧΟΡΟΣ τοιοῖσδε δή σε Ζεὺς ἐπ᾽ αἰτιάμασιν —
for-such indeed you Zeus on charges

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ αἰκίζεταί τε κοὐδαμῇ χαλᾷ κακῶν.
outrages and and-in-no-way relaxes of-evils

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐδ᾽ ἔστιν ἄθλου τέρμα σοι προκείμενον;
nor is of-struggle end to-you set-before

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ οὐκ ἄλλο γ᾽ οὐδέν, πλὴν ὅταν κείνῳ δοκῇ. 260
not other at-least anything except when to-him it-seems

ΧΟΡΟΣ δόξει δὲ πῶς; τίς ἐλπίς; οὐχ ὁρᾷς ὅτι
it-will-seem but how what hope not you-see that

ἥμαρτες; ὡς δ᾽ ἥμαρτες οὔτ᾽ ἐμοὶ λέγειν
you-erred how and you-erred neither to-me to-tell

καθ' ἡδονὴν σοί τ' ἄλγος. ἀλλὰ ταῦτα μὲν
for pleasure to-you and pain but these indeed
μεθῶμεν, ἄθλου δ' ἔκλυσιν ζήτει τινά.
let-us-let-go of-struggle and release seek some
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ἐλαφρὸν ὅστις πημάτων ἔξω πόδα
light whoever of-woes outside foot
ἔχει παραινεῖν νουθετεῖν τε τὸν κακῶς
has to-advise to-admonish and the evilly
πράσσοντ'· ἐγὼ δὲ ταῦθ' ἅπαντ' ἠπιστάμην.
faring I and these all knew
ἑκὼν ἑκὼν ἥμαρτον, οὐκ ἀρνήσομαι·
willingly willingly I-erred not I-shall-deny
θνητοῖς ἀρήγων αὐτὸς ηὑρόμην πόνους.
mortals helping myself I-found toils
οὐ μήν τι ποιναῖς γ' ὠόμην τοίαισί με
not indeed some by-penalties at-least I-thought such me
κατισχνανεῖσθαι πρὸς πέτραις πεδαρσίοις,
to-be-withered on rocks lofty
τυχόντ' ἐρήμου τοῦδ' ἀγείτονος πάγου.
having-got desolate of-this neighborless crag
καί μοι τὰ μὲν παρόντα μὴ δύρεσθ' ἄχη,
and to-me the indeed present not bewail griefs
πέδοι δὲ βᾶσαι τὰς προσερπούσας τύχας
on-ground and having-stepped the approaching fortunes
ἀκούσαθ', ὡς μάθητε διὰ τέλους τὸ πᾶν.
hear so-that you-may-learn through end the whole
πίθεσθέ μοι πίθεσθε, συμπονήσατε
obey me obey toil-with
τῷ νῦν μογοῦντι. ταὐτά τοι πλανωμένη
the now toiling the-same surely wandering

πρὸς ἄλλοτ᾽ ἄλλον πημονὴ προσιζάνει.
to other-time other woe settles

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκ ἀκούσαις ἐπεθώυξας
not to-unwilling you-have-called

τοῦτο, Προμηθεῦ.
this Prometheus

καὶ νῦν ἐλαφρῷ ποδὶ κραιπνόσυτον
and now with-light foot swift-rushing

θᾶκον προλιποῦσ᾽, αἰθέρα θ᾽ ἁγνὸν
seat having-left sky and holy

πόρον οἰωνῶν, ὀκριοέσσῃ
path of-birds to-rugged

χθονὶ τῇδε πελῶ, τοὺς σοὺς δὲ πόνους
to-land this I-shall-come — your and toils

χρήζω διὰ παντὸς ἀκοῦσαι.
I-wish through all to-hear

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ ἥκω δολιχῆς τέρμα κελεύθου
I-come of-long end of-journey

διαμειψάμενος πρὸς σέ, Προμηθεῦ,
having-passed to you Prometheus

τὸν πτερυγωκῆ τόνδ᾽ οἰωνὸν
the wing-swift this bird

γνώμῃ στομίων ἄτερ εὐθύνων·
by-will bits without guiding

ταῖς σαῖς δὲ τύχαις, ἴσθι, συναλγῶ.
— your and fortunes know I-grieve-with

τό τε γάρ με, δοκῶ, συγγενὲς οὕτως
the and for me I-think kinship thus

ἐσαναγκάζει,
compels

χωρίς τε γένους οὐκ ἔστιν ὅτῳ
apart and kin not is to-whom
μείζονα μοῖραν νείμαιμ᾽ ἢ σοί.
greater portion I-would-assign than you
γνώσῃ δὲ τάδ᾽ ὡς ἔτυμ᾽, οὐδὲ μάτην
you-will-know and these as true and-not in-vain
χαριτογλωσσεῖν ἔνι μοι· φέρε γὰρ
to-speak-pleasing is-in me come for
σήμαιν᾽ ὅ τι χρή σοι συμπράσσειν·
signify what — is-needful you to-help
οὐ γάρ ποτ᾽ ἐρεῖς ὡς Ὠκεανοῦ
not for ever you-will-say that than-Ocean
φίλος ἐστὶ βεβαιότερός σοι.
friend is firmer to-you
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ἔα· τί χρῆμα λεύσσω; καὶ σὺ δὴ πόνων ἐμῶν
ha what thing do-I-see and you indeed of-toils my
ἥκεις ἐπόπτης; πῶς ἐτόλμησας, λιπὼν
come spectator how did-you-dare having-left
ἐπώνυμόν τε ῥεῦμα καὶ πετρηρεφῆ
named-after-you and stream and rock-roofed
αὐτόκτιτ᾽ ἄντρα, τὴν σιδηρομήτορα
self-built caves the iron-mothering
ἐλθεῖν ἐς αἶαν; ἦ θεωρήσων τύχας
to-come to land — to-behold fortunes
ἐμὰς ἀφῖξαι καὶ συνασχαλῶν κακοῖς;
my have-you-come and sharing-the-anger at-evils
δέρκου θέαμα, τόνδε τὸν Διὸς φίλον,
look-at spectacle this the of-Zeus friend
τὸν συγκαταστήσαντα τὴν τυραννίδα,
the having-helped-establish the tyranny

οἵαις ὑπ᾽ αὐτοῦ πημοναῖσι κάμπτομαι.
with-what by him woes I-am-bent

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ ὁρῶ, Προμηθεῦ, καὶ παραινέσαι γέ σοι
I-see Prometheus and to-advise at-least you

θέλω τὰ λῷστα, καίπερ ὄντι ποικίλῳ. 310
I-wish the best although being subtle

γίγνωσκε σαυτὸν καὶ μεθάρμοσαι τρόπους
know yourself and change ways

νέους· νέος γὰρ καὶ τύραννος ἐν θεοῖς.
new new for also tyrant among gods

εἰ δ᾽ ὧδε τραχεῖς καὶ τεθηγμένους λόγους
if and thus harsh and sharpened words

ῥίψεις, τάχ᾽ ἄν σου καὶ μακρὰν ἀνωτέρω
you-will-hurl soon — you even far higher

θακῶν κλύοι Ζεύς, ὥστε σοι τὸν νῦν ὄχλον 315
sitting may-hear Zeus so-that to-you the now throng

παρόντα μόχθων παιδιὰν εἶναι δοκεῖν.
present of-toils child's-play to-be to-seem

ἀλλ᾽, ὦ ταλαίπωρ᾽, ἃς ἔχεις ὀργὰς ἄφες,
but O wretched which you-have angers let-go

ζήτει δὲ τῶνδε πημάτων ἀπαλλαγάς.
seek and of-these woes releases

ἀρχαῖ᾽ ἴσως σοι φαίνομαι λέγειν τάδε·
old-fashioned perhaps to-you I-seem to-say these

τοιαῦτα μέντοι τῆς ἄγαν ὑψηγόρου 320
such however of-the too high-speaking

γλώσσης, Προμηθεῦ, τἀπίχειρα γίγνεται.
tongue Prometheus the-wages become

σὺ δ᾽ οὐδέπω ταπεινὸς οὐδ᾽ εἴκεις κακοῖς,
you but not-yet humble nor you-yield to-evils

πρὸς τοῖς παροῦσι δ' ἄλλα προσλαβεῖν θέλεις.
to the present and other to-take-besides you-wish

οὔκουν ἔμοιγε χρώμενος διδασκάλῳ
not-then me-at-least using as-teacher

πρὸς κέντρα κῶλον ἐκτενεῖς, ὁρῶν ὅτι
against goads limb you-will-stretch seeing that

τραχὺς μόναρχος οὐδ' ὑπεύθυνος κρατεῖ.
harsh monarch not accountable rules

καὶ νῦν ἐγὼ μὲν εἶμι καὶ πειράσομαι
and now I indeed shall-go and shall-try

ἐὰν δύνωμαι τῶνδέ σ' ἐκλῦσαι πόνων.
if I-can from-these you to-release toils

σὺ δ' ἡσύχαζε μηδ' ἄγαν λαβροστόμει.
you and be-quiet nor too-much be-loud-mouthed

ἢ οὐκ οἶσθ' ἀκριβῶς ὢν περισσόφρων ὅτι
or not do-you-know exactly being over-wise that

γλώσσῃ ματαίᾳ ζημία προστρίβεται;
on-tongue vain penalty is-inflicted

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ζηλῶ σ' ὀθούνεκ' ἐκτὸς αἰτίας κυρεῖς
I-envy you because outside of-blame you-are

τούτων μετασχεῖν καὶ τετολμηκὼς ἐμοί.
of-these to-have-shared and having-dared with-me

καὶ νῦν ἔασον μηδέ σοι μελησάτω.
and now let-be nor to-you let-it-be-a-care

πάντως γὰρ οὐ πείσεις νιν· οὐ γὰρ εὐπιθής.
in-every-way for not you-will-persuade him not for easily-persuaded

πάπταινε δ' αὐτὸς μή τι πημανθῇς ὁδῷ.
look-out and yourself lest some you-be-harmed by-journey

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ πολλῷ γ᾽ ἀμείνων τοὺς πέλας φρενοῦν ἔφυς
by-far at-least better the neighbors to-advise you-are
ἢ σαυτόν· ἔργῳ κοὐ λόγῳ τεκμαίρομαι.
than yourself by-deed and-not by-word I-judge
ὁρμώμενον δὲ μηδαμῶς ἀντισπάσῃς.
starting but in-no-way draw-back
αὐχῶ γὰρ αὐχῶ τήνδε δωρεὰν ἐμοὶ
I-boast for I-boast this gift to-me
δώσειν Διΐ, ὥστε τῶνδέ σ᾽ ἐκλῦσαι πόνων.
to-give Zeus so-as from-these you to-release toils
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ τὰ μὲν σ᾽ ἐπαινῶ κοὐδαμῇ λήξω ποτέ·
in-part indeed you I-praise and-in-no-way will-cease ever
προθυμίας γὰρ οὐδὲν ἐλλείπεις. ἀτὰρ
of-zeal for nothing you-lack but
μηδὲν πόνει. μάτην γὰρ οὐδὲν ὠφελῶν
nothing toil in-vain for nothing helping
ἐμοὶ πονήσεις, εἴ τι καὶ πονεῖν θέλεις.
to-me you-will-toil if at-all even to-toil you-wish
ἀλλ᾽ ἡσύχαζε σαυτὸν ἐκποδὼν ἔχων·
but be-quiet yourself out-of-the-way keeping
ἐγὼ γὰρ οὐκ, εἰ δυστυχῶ, τοῦδ᾽ εἵνεκα
I for not if I-am-unfortunate for-this sake
θέλοιμ᾽ ἂν ὡς πλείστοισι πημονὰς τυχεῖν.
would-wish — as to-most woes to-befall
οὐ δῆτ᾽ ἐπεί με καὶ κασιγνήτου τύχαι
no indeed since me also of-brother fortunes
τείρουσ᾽ Ἄτλαντος, ὃς πρὸς ἑσπέρους τόπους
wear of-Atlas who toward western places
ἕστηκε κίον᾽ οὐρανοῦ τε καὶ χθονὸς
stands pillar of-heaven both and of-earth

ὤμοις ἐρείδων, ἄχθος οὐκ εὐάγκαλον.
on-shoulders propping burden not easy-to-hold
τὸν γηγενῆ τε Κιλικίων οἰκήτορα
the earth-born and of-Cilicians dweller
ἄντρων ἰδὼν ᾤκτιρα, δάιον τέρας
of-caves seeing I-pitied hostile monster
355 ἑκατογκάρανον πρὸς βίαν χειρούμενον
hundred-headed by force overpowered
Τυφῶνα θοῦρον· πᾶσιν ἀντέστη θεοῖς,
Typhon impetuous to-all opposed gods
σμερδναῖσι γαμφηλαῖσι συρίζων φόβον·
with-terrible jaws hissing terror
ἐξ ὀμμάτων δ' ἤστραπτε γοργωπὸν σέλας,
from eyes and flashed grim-eyed gleam
ὡς τὴν Διὸς τυραννίδ' ἐκπέρσων βίᾳ·
as the of-Zeus tyranny about-to-sack by-force
360 ἀλλ' ἦλθεν αὐτῷ Ζηνὸς ἄγρυπνον βέλος,
but came to-him of-Zeus sleepless weapon
καταιβάτης κεραυνὸς ἐκπνέων φλόγα,
descending thunderbolt breathing-out flame
ὃς αὐτὸν ἐξέπληξε τῶν ὑψηγόρων
which him struck-out-of the high-speaking
κομπασμάτων. φρένας γὰρ εἰς αὐτὰς τυπεὶς
boasts mind for to very struck
ἐφεψαλώθη κἀξεβροντήθη σθένος.
was-burned-to-ashes and-was-thundered-out strength
365 καὶ νῦν ἀχρεῖον καὶ παράορον δέμας
and now useless and sprawling body
κεῖται στενωποῦ πλησίον θαλασσίου
lies of-strait near of-sea

ἰπούμενος ῥίζαισιν Αἰτναίαις ὕπο·
pressed-down roots of-Aetna under
κορυφαῖς δ' ἐν ἄκραις ἥμενος μυδροκτυπεῖ
peaks and on topmost sitting forges-hot-iron
Ἥφαιστος· ἔνθεν ἐκραγήσονταί ποτε
Hephaestus whence will-burst-forth some-day
ποταμοὶ πυρὸς δάπτοντες ἀγρίαις γνάθοις
rivers of-fire devouring with-savage jaws
τῆς καλλικάρπου Σικελίας λευροὺς γύας·
— of-fair-fruited of-Sicily smooth fields
τοιόνδε Τυφὼς ἐξαναζέσει χόλον
such Typhon will-boil-up wrath
θερμοῖς ἀπλάτου βέλεσι πυρπνόου ζάλης,
with-hot unapproachable shafts of-fire-breathing surge
καίπερ κεραυνῷ Ζηνὸς ἠνθρακωμένος.
although by-thunderbolt of-Zeus charred
σὺ δ' οὐκ ἄπειρος, οὐδ' ἐμοῦ διδασκάλου
you and not inexperienced nor of-me as-teacher
χρῄζεις· σεαυτὸν σῷζ' ὅπως ἐπίστασαι·
need yourself save as you-know
ἐγὼ δὲ τὴν παροῦσαν ἀντλήσω τύχην,
I and the present shall-drain fortune
ἔστ' ἂν Διὸς φρόνημα λωφήσῃ χόλου.
until — of-Zeus mind cease of-wrath

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ οὔκουν, Προμηθεῦ, τοῦτο γιγνώσκεις, ὅτι
not-then Prometheus this you-know that
ὀργῆς νοσούσης εἰσὶν ἰατροὶ λόγοι;
of-temper sick are healers words

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ἐάν τις ἐν καιρῷ γε μαλθάσσῃ κέαρ
if someone in season at-least soften heart
καὶ μὴ σφριγῶντα θυμὸν ἰσχναίνῃ βίᾳ.
and not swelling spirit reduce by-force
ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ ἐν τῷ προθυμεῖσθαι δὲ καὶ τολμᾶν τίνα
in the to-be-zealous and also to-dare what
ὁρᾷς ἐνοῦσαν ζημίαν; δίδασκέ με.
do-you-see being-in penalty teach me
385 ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ μόχθον περισσὸν κουφόνουν τ' εὐηθίαν.
toil superfluous light-minded and simplicity
ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ ἔα με τῇδε τῇ νόσῳ νοσεῖν, ἐπεὶ
let me this the sickness to-be-sick since
κέρδιστον εὖ φρονοῦντα μὴ φρονεῖν δοκεῖν.
most-profitable well thinking not to-think to-seem
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ἐμὸν δοκήσει τἀμπλάκημ' εἶναι τόδε.
my will-seem the-fault to-be this
ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ σαφῶς μ' ἐς οἶκον σὸς λόγος στέλλει πάλιν.
clearly me to home your word sends back
390 ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ μὴ γάρ σε θρῆνος οὑμὸς εἰς ἔχθραν βάλῃ.
not for you lament mine into hatred cast
ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ ἦ τῷ νέον θακοῦντι παγκρατεῖς ἕδρας;
— with-the newly sitting all-powerful seats
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ τούτου φυλάσσου μή ποτ' ἀχθεσθῇ κέαρ.
of-him beware lest ever be-vexed heart
ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ ἡ σή, Προμηθεῦ, συμφορὰ διδάσκαλος.
— your Prometheus misfortune teacher
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ στέλλου, κομίζου, σῴζε τὸν παρόντα νοῦν.
go betake-yourself keep the present mind

ΩΚΕΑΝΟΣ ὁρμωμένῳ μοι τόνδ' ἐθώυξας λόγον. 395
starting to-me this you-shouted word

λευρὸν γὰρ οἶμον αἰθέρος ψαίρει πτεροῖς
smooth for path of-air brushes with-wings

τετρασκελὴς οἰωνός· ἄσμενος δέ τἂν
four-legged bird gladly and surely-would

σταθμοῖς ἐν οἰκείοισι κάμψειεν γόνυ.
stalls in own would-bend knee

IV · THE WORLD LAMENTS

The chorus weeps for Prometheus and condemns Zeus, who rules by his own laws and shows a haughty spear to the gods of old. The whole land groans for his ancient honor: the dwellers in Asia, the maidens of Colchis, the Scythians by Lake Maeotis, and the warriors near the Caucasus. They have seen only one other Titan so bound: Atlas, who groans under the vault of heaven. The sea, the depths, Hades, and the rivers all lament.

ΧΟΡΟΣ στένω σε τᾶς οὐλομένας τύχας, Προμηθεῦ·
I-lament you for-the destructive fortune Prometheus

δακρυσίστακτα δ' ἀπ' ὄσσων 400
tear-distilled and from eyes

ῥαδινὰν λειβομένα ῥέος παρειὰν
slender pouring stream cheek

νοτίοις ἔτεγξα παγαῖς·
with-moist I-wet springs

ἀμέγαρτα γὰρ τάδε Ζεὺς
unenviable for these Zeus

ἰδίοις νόμοις κρατύνων
by-own laws ruling

ὑπερήφανον θεοῖς τοῖς
haughty to-the-gods the
πάρος ἐνδείκνυσιν αἰχμάν.
former shows spear
πρόπασα δ' ἤδη στονόεν λέλακε χώρα,
whole and already groaning cries land
μεγαλοσχήμονά τ' ἀρχαι-
stately-figured and ancient-honored
οπρεπῆ ∗∗∗ στένουσι τὰν σὰν
— *(lacuna) lament* — *your*
ξυνομαιμόνων τε τιμάν,
of-kinsmen and honor
ὁπόσοι τ' ἔποικον ἁγνᾶς
as-many-as and neighboring of-holy
Ἀσίας ἕδος νέμονται,
Asia seat inhabit
μεγαλοστόνοισι σοῖς πή-
for-loud-lamenting your woes
μασι συγκάμνουσι θνατοί.
— *suffer-with mortals*
Κολχίδος τε γᾶς ἔνοικοι
of-Colchian and land dwellers
παρθένοι, μάχας ἄτρεστοι,
maidens of-battle fearless
καὶ Σκύθης ὅμιλος, οἳ γᾶς
and Scythian throng who of-earth
ἔσχατον τόπον ἀμφὶ Μαι-
farthest place about Maeotis
ὦτιν ἔχουσι λίμναν,
— *hold lake*

†Ἀραβίας† τ᾽ ἄρειον ἄνθος,
of-Arabia and warlike flower
ὑψίκρημνον οἳ πόλισμα
high-cliffed which city
Καυκάσου πέλας νέμονται,
of-Caucasus near inhabit
δάιος στρατός, ὀξυπρῴ-
hostile host sharp-prowed
ροισι βρέμων ἐν αἰχμαῖς.
— roaring among spears
†μόνον δὴ πρόσθεν ἄλλον ἐν πόνοις
alone indeed before other in toils
δαμέντ᾽ ἀδαμαντοδέτοις
subdued in-adamant-binding
Τιτᾶνα λύμαις εἰσιδόμαν, θεόν,
Titan by-outrages I-beheld god
Ἄτλαντος ὑπέροχον σθένος κραταιόν,
of-Atlas surpassing strength mighty
ὃς οὐράνιόν πόλον
who heavenly vault
νώτοις στέγων ὑποστενάζει.†
on-back bearing groans-beneath
βοᾷ δὲ πόντιος κλύδων
cries and of-the-sea wave
ξυμπίτνων, στένει βυθός,
falling-together groans depth
κελαινὸς δ᾽ Ἅιδος ὑποβρέμει μυχὸς γᾶς,
black and of-Hades rumbles-below recess of-earth

παγαί θ' ἀγνορύτων ποταμῶν
springs and of-pure-flowing rivers
στένουσιν ἄλγος οἰκτρόν.
lament grief pitiable

V · THE GIFTS TO MORTALS

Prometheus describes what he gave to mortals, who once lived like ants in caves: the risings and settings of stars, number, letters, the yoking of beasts, ships, medicines, prophecy, and the metals under the earth. All arts come from Prometheus. The chorus hopes he will be freed, but he says Fate has not yet ordained it; even Zeus cannot escape the Fates and the Erinyes. He keeps a secret.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ μή τοι χλιδῇ δοκεῖτε μηδ' αὐθαδίᾳ
not surely from-pride think nor from-stubbornness
σιγᾶν με· συννοίᾳ δὲ δάπτομαι κέαρ,
to-be-silent me with-thought and I-am-gnawed heart
ὁρῶν ἐμαυτὸν ὧδε προυσελούμενον.
seeing myself thus outraged
καίτοι θεοῖσι τοῖς νέοις τούτοις γέρα
and-yet to-gods the new these privileges
τίς ἄλλος ἢ 'γὼ παντελῶς διώρισεν;
who else than I wholly assigned
ἀλλ' αὐτὰ σιγῶ· καὶ γὰρ εἰδυίαισιν ἂν
but these I-keep-silent and for to-knowing —
ὑμῖν λέγοιμι· τἀν βροτοῖς δὲ πήματα
to-you I-would-say the-things-among mortals and woes
ἀκούσαθ', ὡς σφας νηπίους ὄντας τὸ πρὶν
hear how them childish being the before
ἔννους ἔθηκα καὶ φρενῶν ἐπηβόλους.
intelligent I-made and of-wits possessed

λέξω δέ, μέμψιν οὔτιν' ἀνθρώποις ἔχων,
I-shall-tell and blame none against-men having
ἀλλ' ὧν δέδωκ' εὔνοιαν ἐξηγούμενος·
but of-what I-gave goodwill explaining
οἳ πρῶτα μὲν βλέποντες ἔβλεπον μάτην,
who first indeed seeing saw in-vain
κλύοντες οὐκ ἤκουον, ἀλλ' ὀνειράτων
hearing not heard but of-dreams
ἀλίγκιοι μορφαῖσι τὸν μακρὸν βίον
like to-shapes the long life
ἔφυρον εἰκῇ πάντα, κοὔτε πλινθυφεῖς
mixed at-random all and-neither brick-built
δόμους προσείλους, ἦσαν, οὐ ξυλουργίαν·
houses sunward knew nor woodwork
κατώρυχες δ' ἔναιον ὥστ' ἀήσυροι
underground and they-dwelt like light
μύρμηκες ἄντρων ἐν μυχοῖς ἀνηλίοις.
ants of-caves in recesses sunless
ἦν δ' οὐδὲν αὐτοῖς οὔτε χείματος τέκμαρ
was and nothing to-them neither of-winter sign
οὔτ' ἀνθεμώδους ἦρος οὔτε καρπίμου
nor of-flowery spring nor of-fruitful
θέρους βέβαιον, ἀλλ' ἄτερ γνώμης τὸ πᾶν
summer sure but without judgment the all
ἔπρασσον, ἔστε δή σφιν ἀντολὰς ἐγὼ
they-did until indeed for-them risings I
ἄστρων ἔδειξα τάς τε δυσκρίτους δύσεις.
of-stars showed the and hard-to-discern settings
καὶ μὴν ἀριθμόν, ἔξοχον σοφισμάτων,
and indeed number chief of-devices

ἐξηῦρον αὐτοῖς, γραμμάτων τε συνθέσεις,
I-found for-them of-letters and combinings
μνήμην ἁπάντων, μουσομήτορ' ἐργάνην.
memory of-all Muse-mother worker
κἄζευξα πρῶτος ἐν ζυγοῖσι κνώδαλα
and-I-yoked first in yokes beasts
ζεύγλαισι δουλεύοντα σάγμασίν θ', ὅπως
to-yoke-straps slaving with-pack-saddles and so-that
θνητοῖς μεγίστων διάδοχοι μοχθημάτων
for-mortals of-greatest successors toils
γένοιν θ', ὑφ' ἅρμα τ' ἤγαγον φιληνίους
might-be under chariot and I-led rein-loving
ἵππους, ἄγαλμα τῆς ὑπερπλούτου χλιδῆς.
horses ornament of-the over-wealthy luxury
θαλασσόπλαγκτα δ' οὔτις ἄλλος ἀντ' ἐμοῦ
sea-wandering and no-one other instead-of me
λινόπτερ' ηὗρε ναυτίλων ὀχήματα.
flax-winged found of-sailors carriages
τοιαῦτα μηχανήματ' ἐξευρὼν τάλας
such devices having-found wretched
βροτοῖσιν, αὐτὸς οὐκ ἔχω σόφισμ' ὅτῳ
for-mortals myself not have device by-which
τῆς νῦν παρούσης πημονῆς ἀπαλλαγῶ.
of-the now present woe I-may-be-freed
ΧΟΡΟΣ πέπονθας αἰκὲς πῆμ'· ἀποσφαλεὶς φρενῶν
you-have-suffered unseemly woe having-been-tripped of-wits
πλανᾷ, κακὸς δ' ἰατρὸς ὥς τις ἐς νόσον
you-wander bad and physician like some into sickness
πεσὼν ἀθυμεῖς καὶ σεαυτὸν οὐκ ἔχεις
having-fallen you-despond and yourself not you-are-able

εὑρεῖν ὁποίοις φαρμάκοις ἰάσιμος.
to-find by-what remedies curable

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ τὰ λοιπά μου κλύουσα θαυμάσῃ πλέον,
the rest of-me hearing you-will-wonder more

οἵας τέχνας τε καὶ πόρους ἐμησάμην.
what arts both and resources I-devised

τὸ μὲν μέγιστον, εἴ τις ἐς νόσον πέσοι,
the indeed greatest if anyone into sickness should-fall

οὐκ ἦν ἀλέξημ᾽ οὐδέν, οὔτε βρώσιμον,
not was defense none neither edible

οὐ χριστόν, οὐδὲ πιστόν, ἀλλὰ φαρμάκων
nor anointed nor drinkable but of-remedies

χρείᾳ κατεσκέλλοντο, πρίν γ᾽ ἐγώ σφισιν
by-lack they-withered before at-least I to-them

ἔδειξα κράσεις ἠπίων ἀκεσμάτων,
showed mixtures of-gentle cures

αἷς τὰς ἁπάσας ἐξαμύνονται νόσους.
by-which the all ward-off diseases

τρόπους τε πολλοὺς μαντικῆς ἐστοίχισα,
ways and many of-prophecy I-arranged

κἄκρινα πρῶτος ἐξ ὀνειράτων ἃ χρὴ
and-judged first from dreams which must

ὕπαρ γενέσθαι, κληδόνας τε δυσκρίτους
waking to-be voices and hard-to-discern

ἐγνώρισ᾽ αὐτοῖς ἐνοδίους τε συμβόλους·
I-made-known to-them wayside and signs

γαμψωνύχων τε πτῆσιν οἰωνῶν σκεθρῶς
of-crook-taloned and flight of-birds exactly

διώρισ᾽, οἵτινές τε δεξιοὶ φύσιν
I-defined which both favorable by-nature

εὐωνύμους τε, καὶ δίαιταν ἥντινα
left-handed and and way-of-life what
ἔχουσ' ἕκαστοι, καὶ πρὸς ἀλλήλους τίνες
have each and toward one-another what
ἔχθραι τε καὶ στέργηθρα καὶ συνεδρίαι·
enmities both and loves and companionships
σπλάγχνων τε λειότητα, καὶ χροιὰν τίνα
of-entrails and smoothness and color what
ἔχουσ' ἂν εἴη δαίμοσιν πρὸς ἡδονὴν
having — might-be to-gods for pleasure
χολή, λοβοῦ τε ποικίλην εὐμορφίαν.
gall of-lobe and dappled symmetry
κνίσῃ τε κῶλα συγκαλυπτὰ καὶ μακρὰν
with-fat and limbs wrapped and long
ὀσφῦν πυρώσας δυστέκμαρτον ἐς τέχνην
chine having-burned hard-to-read into art
ὥδωσα θνητούς, καὶ φλογωπὰ σήματα
I-guided mortals and fiery signs
ἐξωμμάτωσα, πρόσθεν ὄντ' ἐπάργεμα.
I-made-clear before being dim
τοιαῦτα μὲν δὴ ταῦτ'· ἔνερθε δὲ χθονὸς
such indeed indeed these below and earth
κεκρυμμέν', ἀνθρώποισιν ὠφελήματα,
hidden for-men benefits
χαλκόν, σίδηρον, ἄργυρον, χρυσόν τε τίς
bronze iron silver gold and who
φήσειεν ἂν πάροιθεν ἐξευρεῖν ἐμοῦ;
would-say — before to-have-found me
οὐδείς, σάφ' οἶδα, μὴ μάτην φλύσαι θέλων.
no-one clearly I-know not vainly to-babble wishing

βραχεῖ δὲ μύθῳ πάντα συλλήβδην μάθε,
in-brief and word all in-sum learn
πᾶσαι τέχναι βροτοῖσιν ἐκ Προμηθέως.
all arts to-mortals from Prometheus
ΧΟΡΟΣ μή νυν βροτοὺς μὲν ὠφέλει καιροῦ πέρα,
not then mortals indeed help due-measure beyond
σαυτοῦ δ' ἀκήδει δυστυχοῦντος. ὡς ἐγὼ
yourself and neglect being-unfortunate since I
εὔελπίς εἰμι τῶνδέ σ' ἐκ δεσμῶν ἔτι
hopeful am these you from bonds yet
λυθέντα μηδὲν μεῖον ἰσχύσειν Διός.
loosed nothing less to-be-strong than-Zeus
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ οὐ ταῦτα ταύτῃ Μοῖρά πω τελεσφόρος
not this thus Fate yet accomplishing
κρᾶναι πέπρωται, μυρίαις δὲ πημοναῖς
to-fulfill is-destined countless and with-woes
δύαις τε καμφθεὶς ὧδε δεσμὰ φυγγάνω·
pains and bent thus bonds I-escape
τέχνη δ' ἀνάγκης ἀσθενεστέρα μακρῷ.
art but than-necessity weaker by-far
ΧΟΡΟΣ τίς οὖν ἀνάγκης ἐστὶν οἰακοστρόφος;
who then of-necessity is helmsman
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ Μοῖραι τρίμορφοι μνήμονές τ' Ἐρινύες
Fates three-formed mindful and Erinyes
ΧΟΡΟΣ τούτων ἄρα Ζεὺς ἐστιν ἀσθενέστερος;
than-these then Zeus is weaker
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ οὔκουν ἂν ἐκφύγοι γε τὴν πεπρωμένην.
not-then — he-could-escape at-least the destined
ΧΟΡΟΣ τί γὰρ πέπρωται Ζηνὶ πλὴν ἀεὶ κρατεῖν;
what for is-destined for-Zeus except ever to-rule

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ τοῦτ᾽ οὐκέτ᾽ ἂν πύθοιο μηδὲ λιπάρει.
this no-longer — you-could-learn nor persist

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἦ πού τι σεμνόν ἐστιν ὃ ξυναμπέχεις.
truly perhaps some solemn is which you-veil

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ἄλλου λόγου μέμνησθε, τόνδε δ᾽ οὐδαμῶς
of-other word remember this and in-no-way

καιρὸς γεγωνεῖν, ἀλλὰ συγκαλυπτέος
time to-declare but to-be-veiled

ὅσον μάλιστα· τόνδε γὰρ σῴζων ἐγὼ
as-much-as most this for keeping I

δεσμοὺς ἀεικεῖς καὶ δύας ἐκφυγγάνω.
bonds unseemly and pains escape

VI · NEVER AGAINST ZEUS

The chorus prays never to oppose the will of Zeus, but to approach the gods with holy feasts. They shudder to see Prometheus' torment, suffered for loving mortals too much, who are feeble and cannot help him. They recall the wedding song they once sang when he married Hesione.

ΧΟΡΟΣ μηδάμ᾽ ὁ πάντα νέμων
never the all dispensing

θεῖτ᾽ ἐμᾷ γνώμᾳ κράτος ἀντίπαλον Ζεύς,
may-set against-my will power opposed Zeus

μηδ᾽ ἐλινύσαιμι θεοὺς ὁσίαις θοίναις ποτινισσομένα
nor may-I-be-slow gods with-holy feasts approaching

βουφόνοις παρ᾽ Ὠκεανοῦ πατρὸς ἄσβεστον πόρον,
of-slain-oxen by of-Ocean father unquenched stream

μηδ᾽ ἁλίτοιμι λόγοις·
nor may-I-sin in-words

ἀλλά μοι τόδ' ἐμμένοι καὶ μήποτ' ἐκτακείη·
but to-me this may-abide and never may-melt-away
ἁδύ τι θαρσαλέαις
sweet some in-confident
τὸν μακρὸν τείνειν βίον ἐλπίσι, φαναῖς
the long to-spend life in-hopes bright
θυμὸν ἀλδαίνουσαν ἐν εὐφροσύναις. φρίσ-
heart nourishing in joys I-shudder
σω δέ σε δερκομένα
— *and you seeing*
μυρίοις μόχθοις διακναιόμενον ***
by-countless toils being-worn-down (lacuna)
Ζῆνα γὰρ οὐ τρομέων
Zeus for not fearing
ἰδίᾳ γνώμᾳ σέβῃ θνατοὺς ἄγαν, Προμηθεῦ.
with-own will you-revere mortals too-much Prometheus
φέρ', ὅπως ἄχαρις χάρις, ὦ φίλος·
come how graceless grace O friend
εἰπὲ ποῦ τίς ἀλκά;
say where what help
τίς ἐφαμερίων ἄρηξις; οὐδ' ἐδέρχθης
what of-creatures-of-a-day aid not you-saw
ὀλιγοδρανίαν ἄκικυν,
feeble-strength helpless
ἰσόνειρον, ᾗ τὸ φωτῶν
dream-like by-which the of-men
ἀλαὸν γένος ἐμπεποδισμένον; οὔποτε ***
blind race fettered never (lacuna)
τὰν Διὸς ἁρμονίαν θνατῶν παρεξίασι βουλαί.
the of-Zeus order of-mortals shall-pass counsels

ἔμαθον τάδε σὰς προσιδοῦσ' ὀλο-
I-learned this your seeing destructive
ὰς τύχας, Προμηθεῦ.
— fortunes Prometheus
τὸ διαμφίδιον δέ μοι μέλος προσέπτα
the different and to-me song flew-to
555 τόδ' ἐκεῖνό θ', ὅ τ' ἀμφὶ λουτρὰ
this that and which and about bath
καὶ λέχος σὸν ὑμεναίουν
and bed your sang-the-marriage-song
ἰότατι γάμων, ὅτε τὰν ὁμοπάτριον ἔδνοις
by-will of-wedding when the of-same-father with-gifts
560 ἄγαγες Ἡσιόναν πιθὼν δάμαρτα κοινόλεκτρον.
you-led Hesione having-won wife bed-sharing

VII · IO

Io, driven by a gadfly, enters and asks what land she has come to and who this is bound to the rock. She is pursued by the ghost of Argus, the herdsman of countless eyes, whom even death does not hold, and who hunts her along the shore.

IΩ τίς γῆ; τί γένος; τίνα φῶ λεύσσειν
what land what race whom shall-I-say to-see
τόνδε χαλινοῖς ἐν πετρίνοισιν
this curbs in rocky
χειμαζόμενον;
storm-tossed
τίνος ἀμπλακίας ποινὰς ὀλέκῃ;
of-what sin penalties you-are-destroyed

σήμηνον ὅποι γῆς ἡ μογερὰ πεπλάνημαι.
signify where of-earth the wretched I-have-wandered
ἆ ἆ, ἒ ἔ,
ah ah eh eh
χρίει τις αὖ με τὰν τάλαιναν οἶστρος,
stings some again me the wretched gadfly
εἴδωλον Ἄργου γηγενοῦς, ἄλευ᾽ ἆ δᾶ· φοβοῦμαι
ghost of-Argus earth-born keep-off ah ah I-fear
τὸν μυριωπὸν εἰσορῶσα βούταν.
the myriad-eyed seeing herdsman
ὁ δὲ πορεύεται δόλιον ὄμμ᾽ ἔχων,
he and goes crafty eye having
ὃν οὐδὲ κατθανόντα γαῖα κεύθει.
whom not-even dead earth hides
ἀλλ᾽, ἐμὲ τὰν τάλαιναν
but me the wretched
ἐξ ἐνέρων περῶν κυναγετεῖ, πλανᾷ
from the-dead passing hunts drives
τε νῆστιν ἀνὰ τὰν παραλίαν ψάμμαν.
and fasting along the shore sand

Io cries out to Zeus, asking why he yoked her to such suffering, and begs to be burned or buried. Prometheus recognizes the daughter of Inachus, whom Zeus loved and Hera hates. She asks how he knows her father's name and begs him to tell her what she must still suffer and whether there is a cure.

ιω ὑπὸ δὲ κηρόπλαστος ὀτοβεῖ δόναξ
beneath and wax-joined sounds pipe
ἀχέτας ὑπνοδόταν νόμον·
clear-toned sleep-giving strain
ἰὼ ἰὼ πόποι, ποῖ μ' ἄγουσι τη-
oh oh alas where me lead far-wandering
λέπλαγκτοι πλάναι;
— *wanderings*
τί ποτέ μ', ὦ Κρόνιε παῖ, τί ποτε ταῖσδ'
why ever me O Cronian son why ever these
ἐνέζευξας εὑρὼν ἁμαρτοῦσαν ἐν
did-you-yoke having-found erring in
πημοναῖσιν; ἔ ἔ,
woes eh eh
οἰστρηλάτῳ δὲ δείματι
with-gadfly-driven and terror
δειλαίαν παράκοπον ὧδε τείρεις;
wretched maddened thus you-wear-out
πυρί με φλέξον, ἢ χθονὶ κάλυψον, ἤ
with-fire me burn or with-earth hide or
ποντίοις δάκεσι δὸς βοράν,
to-sea monsters give food
μηδέ μοι φθονήσῃς
nor me grudge

εὐγμάτων, ἄναξ.
of-prayers lord
ἄδην με πολύπλανοι πλάναι
enough me much-wandering wanderings
γεγυμνάκασιν, οὐδ' ἔχω μαθεῖν ὅπα
have-exercised nor I-can to-learn where
πημονὰς ἀλύξω.
woes I-shall-escape
κλύεις φθέγμα τᾶς βούκερω παρθένου;
do-you-hear voice of-the cow-horned maiden
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ πῶς δ' οὐ κλύω τῆς οἰστροδινήτου κόρης,
how and not do-I-hear of-the gadfly-whirled girl
τῆς Ἰναχείας; ἢ Διὸς θάλπει κέαρ 590
the of-Inachus who of-Zeus warms heart
ἔρωτι, καὶ νῦν τοὺς ὑπερμήκεις δρόμους
with-love and now the over-long courses
Ἥρᾳ στυγητὸς πρὸς βίαν γυμνάζεται.
by-Hera hated by force is-driven
ΙΩ πόθεν ἐμοῦ σὺ πατρὸς ὄνομ' ἀπύεις;
whence of-me you father's name call-out
εἰπέ μοι τᾷ μογερᾷ τίς ὤν;
tell me to-the wretched who being
τίς ἄρα μ', ὦ τάλας, τὰν τάλαιναν ὧδ' 595
who then me O wretch the wretched thus
ἔτυμα προσθροεῖς;
truly do-you-address
θεόσυτόν τε νόσον ὠνόμασας, ἃ
god-sent and sickness named which
μαραίνει με χρίουσα κέντροις, ἰώ,
wastes me stinging with-goads ah

φοιταλέοισιν ἒ ἔ·
roaming eh eh

σκιρτημάτων δὲ νήστισιν
of-leapings and hungry

αἰκείαις λαβρόσυτος ἦλθον, Ἥρας
with-outrages furious-rushing I-came of-Hera

ἐπικότοισι μήδεσι δαμεῖσα. δυσ-
by-wrathful counsels subdued ill-fated

δαιμόνων δὲ τίνες οἵ, ἒ ἔ,
— and who who eh eh

οἷ' ἐγὼ μογοῦσιν;
such-as I suffer

ἀλλά μοι τορῶς
but to-me clearly

τέκμηρον ὅ τι μ' ἐπαμμένει
declare what — me awaits

παθεῖν, τί μῆχαρ, ἢ τί φάρμακον νόσου,
to-suffer what device or what remedy of-sickness

δεῖξον, εἴπερ οἶσθα·
show if-indeed you-know

θρόει, φράζε τᾷ δυσπλάνῳ παρθένῳ.
cry tell to-the wretched-wandering maiden

Io tells how dreams urged her to Zeus' bed, how oracles made her father drive her out, and how she was changed and pursued by Argus. Prometheus foretells her road past Scythia, the Caucasus, and the Bosporus into Asia, and the marriage that will cost Zeus his throne. In Egypt she will bear Epaphus. Fifty maidens of his line will flee to Argos from their cousins and kill them as husbands; from the one who spares her husband comes the archer who frees Prometheus. Then the gadfly seizes her again.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ λέξω τορῶς σοι πᾶν ὅπερ χρῄζεις μαθεῖν,
I-shall-tell clearly to-you all which you-desire to-learn
οὐκ ἐμπλέκων αἰνίγματ', ἀλλ' ἁπλῷ λόγῳ,
not weaving-in riddles but in-simple word
ὥσπερ δίκαιον πρὸς φίλους οἴγειν στόμα.
as just to friends to-open mouth
πυρὸς βροτοῖς δοτῆρ' ὁρᾷς Προμηθέα.
of-fire to-mortals giver you-see Prometheus
ΙΩ ὦ κοινὸν ὠφέλημα θνητοῖσιν φανείς,
O common benefit to-mortals having-appeared
τλῆμον Προμηθεῦ, τοῦ δίκην πάσχεις τάδε;
wretched Prometheus for-what penalty do-you-suffer these
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ἁρμοῖ πέπαυμαι τοὺς ἐμοὺς θρηνῶν πόνους.
just-now I-have-ceased — my lamenting toils
ΙΩ οὔκουν πόροις ἂν τήνδε δωρεὰν ἐμοί;
not-then would-you-grant — this gift to-me
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ λέγ' ἥντιν' αἰτῇ· πᾶν γὰρ ἂν πύθοιό μου.
say what you-ask all for — you-could-learn from-me
ΙΩ σήμηνον ὅστις ἐν φάραγγί σ' ὤχμασεν.
signify who in ravine you fastened

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ βούλευμα μὲν τὸ Διὸν, Ἡφαίστου δὲ χείρ.
plan indeed the of-Zeus of-Hephaestus and hand

620 ΙΩ ποινὰς δὲ ποίων ἀμπλακημάτων τίνεις;
penalties and for-what sins do-you-pay

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ τοσοῦτον ἀρκῶ σοι σαφηνίσας μόνον.
so-much I-suffice to-you having-made-clear only

ΙΩ καὶ πρός γε τούτοις τέρμα τῆς ἐμῆς πλάνης
and besides at-least these end — of-my wandering
δεῖξον, τίς ἔσται τῇ ταλαιπώρῳ χρόνος.
show what will-be for-the wretched time

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ τὸ μὴ μαθεῖν σοι κρεῖσσον ἢ μαθεῖν τάδε.
the not to-learn for-you better than to-learn these

625 ΙΩ μήτοι με κρύψῃς τοῦθ' ὅπερ μέλλω παθεῖν.
do-not me hide that which I-am-about to-suffer

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ἀλλ' οὐ μεγαίρω τοῦδέ σοι δωρήματος.
but not I-begrudge of-this you gift

ΙΩ τί δῆτα μέλλεις μὴ οὐ γεγωνίσκειν τὸ πᾶν;
why then do-you-delay not not to-declare the whole

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ φθόνος μὲν οὐδείς, σὰς δ' ὀκνῶ θράξαι φρένας.
grudge indeed none your and I-shrink to-trouble mind

ΙΩ μή μου προκήδου μᾶσσον ὡς ἐμοὶ γλυκύ.
do-not for-me be-anxious more than for-me sweet

630 ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ἐπεὶ προθυμῇ, χρὴ λέγειν. ἄκουε δή.
since you-are-eager must to-tell hear indeed

ΧΟΡΟΣ μήπω γε· μοῖραν δ' ἡδονῆς κἀμοὶ πόρε.
not-yet at-least share and of-pleasure and-to-me grant
τὴν τῆσδε πρῶτον ἱστορήσωμεν νόσον,
the of-this first let-us-learn sickness
αὐτῆς λεγούσης τὰς πολυφθόρους τύχας·
herself telling the much-destroying fortunes

τὰ λοιπὰ δ' ἄθλων σοῦ διδαχθήτω πάρα.
the rest and of-trials you let-her-be-taught from

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΤΣ σὸν ἔργον, Ἰοῖ, ταῖσδ' ὑπουργῆσαι χάριν,
your task Io to-these to-render favor

ἄλλως τε πάντως καὶ κασιγνήταις πατρός.
otherwise and all-the-more and to-sisters of-father

ὡς τἀποκλαῦσαι κἀποδύρασθαι τύχας
since the-to-weep and-to-lament fortunes

ἐνταῦθ', ὅπου μέλλοι τις οἴσεσθαι δάκρυ
there where may-be-about someone to-win tear

πρὸς τῶν κλυόντων, ἀξίαν τριβὴν ἔχει.
from the hearers worthy spending has

ΙΩ οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως ὑμῖν ἀπιστῆσαί με χρή,
not I-know how to-you to-disobey me must

σαφεῖ δὲ μύθῳ πᾶν ὅπερ προσχρήζετε
in-clear and word all which you-want

πεύσεσθε· καίτοι καὶ λέγουσ' αἰσχύνομαι
you-shall-learn and-yet even telling I-am-ashamed

θεόσσυτον χειμῶνα καὶ διαφθορὰν
god-sent storm and ruin

μορφῆς, ὅθεν μοι σχετλίᾳ προσέπτατο.
of-form whence to-me wretched it-flew

αἰεὶ γὰρ ὄψεις ἔννυχοι πωλεύμεναι
ever for visions nightly visiting

ἐς παρθενῶνας τοὺς ἐμοὺς παρηγόρουν
into maiden-chambers — my coaxed

λείοισι μύθοις "ὦ μέγ' εὔδαιμον κόρη,
with-smooth words O greatly fortunate maiden

τί παρθενεύει δαρόν, ἐξὸν σοι γάμου
why are-you-a-maiden long it-being-possible for-you of-marriage

τυχεῖν μεγίστου; Ζεὺς γὰρ ἱμέρου βέλει
to-get greatest Zeus for of-desire by-shaft
πρὸς σοῦ τέθαλπται καὶ συναίρεσθαι Κύπριν
by you has-been-warmed and to-share Cypris
θέλει· σὺ δ', ὦ παῖ, μὴ 'πολακτίσῃς λέχος
wishes you and O child not spurn bed
τὸ Ζηνός, ἀλλ' ἔξελθε πρὸς Λέρνης βαθὺν
the of-Zeus but go-out to of-Lerna deep
λειμῶνα, ποίμνας βουστάσεις τε πρὸς πατρός,
meadow of-flocks steadings and of father
ὡς ἂν τὸ Διῖον ὄμμα λωφήσῃ πόθου."
so-that — the of-Zeus eye may-cease of-longing
τοιοῖσδε πάσας εὐφρόνας ὀνείρασι
by-such all nights dreams
συνειχόμην δύστηνος, ἔστε δὴ πατρὶ
I-was-beset wretched until indeed to-father
ἔτλην γεγωνεῖν νυκτίφοιτ' ὀνείρατα.
I-dared to-declare night-roaming dreams
ὁ δ' ἔς τε Πυθὼ κἀπὶ Δωδώνης πυκνοὺς
he and to and Pytho and-to of-Dodona many
θεοπρόπους ἴαλλεν, ὡς μάθοι τί χρὴ
god-inquirers sent that he-might-learn what must
δρῶντ' ἢ λέγοντα δαίμοσιν πράσσειν φίλα.
doing or saying to-gods to-do dear
ἦκον δ' ἀναγγέλλοντες αἰολοστόμους
they-came and announcing riddling
χρησμοὺς ἀσήμους δυσκρίτως τ' εἰρημένους.
oracles obscure obscurely and spoken
τέλος δ' ἐναργὴς βάξις ἦλθεν Ἰνάχῳ
at-last and clear utterance came to-Inachus

σαφῶς ἐπισκήπτουσα καὶ μυθουμένη
plainly enjoining and telling
ἔξω δόμων τε καὶ πάτρας ὠθεῖν ἐμέ,
out of-house both and of-fatherland to-thrust me
ἄφετον ἀλᾶσθαι γῆς ἐπ᾽ ἐσχάτοις ὅροις·
let-loose to-wander of-earth on farthest bounds
κεἰ μὴ θέλοι, πυρωπὸν ἐκ Διὸς μολεῖν
and-if not he-would fiery from Zeus to-come
κεραυνόν, ὃς πᾶν ἐξαϊστώσοι γένος.
thunderbolt which all would-destroy race
τοιοῖσδε πεισθεὶς Λοξίου μαντεύμασιν
by-such persuaded of-Loxias prophecies
ἐξήλασέν με κἀπέκλῃσε δωμάτων
he-drove-out me and-shut-out of-house
ἄκουσαν ἄκων· ἀλλ᾽ ἐπηνάγκαζέ νιν
unwilling unwilling but compelled him
Διὸς χαλινὸς πρὸς βίαν πράσσειν τάδε.
of-Zeus bridle by force to-do these
εὐθὺς δὲ μορφὴ καὶ φρένες διάστροφοι
at-once and form and mind distorted
ἦσαν, κεραστὶς δ᾽, ὡς ὁρᾶτ᾽, ὀξυστόμῳ
were horned and as you-see with-sharp-mouthed
μύωπι χρισθεῖσ᾽ ἐμμανεῖ σκιρτήματι
gadfly stung with-maddened leaping
ᾔσσον πρὸς εὔποτόν τε Κερχνείας ῥέος
I-rushed toward sweet-to-drink and of-Cerchnea stream
Λέρνης τε κρήνην· βουκόλος δὲ γηγενὴς
of-Lerna and spring herdsman and earth-born
ἄκρατος ὀργὴν Ἄργος ὠμάρτει, πυκνοῖς
untempered in-anger Argus followed with-many

ὄσσοις δεδορκὼς τοὺς ἐμοὺς κατὰ στίβους.
eyes looking — my along tracks
ἀπροσδόκητος δ' αὐτὸν ἀφνίδιος μόρος
unexpected and him sudden fate
τοῦ ζῆν ἀπεστέρησεν. οἰστροπλὴξ δ' ἐγὼ
of-the to-live robbed gadfly-struck and I
μάστιγι θείᾳ γῆν πρὸ γῆς ἐλαύνομαι.
by-whip divine land before land am-driven
κλύεις τὰ πραχθέντ'· εἰ δ' ἔχεις εἰπεῖν ὅ τι
you-hear the things-done if and you-can to-tell what —
λοιπὸν πόνων, σήμαινε· μηδέ μ' οἰκτίσας
remains of-toils signify nor me pitying
ξύνθαλπε μύθοις ψευδέσιν· νόσημα γὰρ
comfort with-words false sickness for
αἴσχιστον εἶναί φημι συνθέτους λόγους.
most-shameful to-be I-say composed words
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔα ἔα, ἄπεχε, φεῦ·
eh eh keep-off alas
οὔποτ' οὔποτ' ηὔχουν ὧδε ξένους
never never I-thought thus strange
μολεῖσθαι λόγους εἰς ἀκοὰν ἐμάν,
to-come words to hearing my
οὐδ' ὧδε δυσθέατα καὶ δύσοιστα
nor thus hard-to-behold and hard-to-bear
πήματα, λύματα, ἀμ-
woes outrages with-two-edged
φάκει κέντρῳ τύψειν ψυχὰν ἐμάν.
— goad to-strike soul my
ἰὼ μοῖρα μοῖρα,
oh fate fate

πέφρικ᾽ εἰσιδοῦσα πρᾶξιν Ἰοῦς.
I-shudder seeing fortune of-Io

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ πρῴ γε στενάζεις καὶ φόβου πλέα τις εἶ·
too-soon at-least you-groan and of-fear full some you-are

ἐπίσχες ἔστ᾽ ἂν καὶ τὰ λοιπὰ προσμάθῃς.
hold until — also the rest you-learn-besides

ΧΟΡΟΣ λέγ᾽, ἐκδίδασκε· τοῖς νοσοῦσί τοι γλυκὺ
say teach to-the sick surely sweet

τὸ λοιπὸν ἄλγος προυξεπίστασθαι τορῶς.
the remaining pain to-know-beforehand clearly

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ τὴν πρίν γε χρείαν ἠνύσασθ᾽ ἐμοῦ πάρα
the former at-least request you-obtained from me

κούφως· μαθεῖν γὰρ τῆσδε πρῶτ᾽ ἐχρῄζετε
lightly to-learn for of-this first you-desired

τὸν ἀμφ᾽ ἑαυτῆς ἆθλον ἐξηγουμένης·
the about herself trial explaining

τὰ λοιπὰ νῦν ἀκούσαθ᾽, οἷα χρὴ πάθη
the rest now hear what must sufferings

τλῆναι πρὸς Ἥρας τήνδε τὴν νεάνιδα.
to-endure from Hera this the young-woman

σύ τ᾽ Ἰνάχειον σπέρμα, τοὺς ἐμοὺς λόγους
you and Inachian seed — my words

θυμῷ βάλ᾽, ὡς ἂν τέρματ᾽ ἐκμάθῃς ὁδοῦ.
in-heart cast so-that — the-ends you-may-learn of-road

πρῶτον μὲν ἐνθένδ᾽ ἡλίου πρὸς ἀντολὰς
first indeed from-here of-sun toward risings

στρέψασα σαυτὴν στεῖχ᾽ ἀνηρότους γύας·
having-turned yourself go-over unplowed fields

Σκύθας δ᾽ ἀφίξῃ νομάδας, οἳ πλεκτὰς στέγας
Scythians and you-will-reach nomad who woven roofs

πεδάρσιοι ναίουσ᾽ ἐπ᾽ εὐκύκλοις ὄχοις
aloft inhabit on well-wheeled wagons
ἑκηβόλοις τόξοισιν ἐξηρτυμένοι·
with-far-shooting bows equipped
οἷς μὴ πελάζειν, ἀλλ᾽ ἁλιστόνοις πόδας
whom not to-approach but sea-moaning feet
χρίμπτουσα ῥαχίαισιν ἐκπερᾶν χθόνα.
keeping-close-to rocky-shores to-cross land
λαιᾶς δὲ χειρὸς οἱ σιδηροτέκτονες
of-left and hand the iron-workers
οἰκοῦσι Χάλυβες, οὓς φυλάξασθαί σε χρή.
dwell Chalybes whom to-beware you must
ἀνήμεροι γὰρ οὐδὲ πρόσπλατοι ξένοις.
savage for nor approachable for-strangers
ἥξεις δ᾽ Ὑβριστὴν ποταμὸν οὐ ψευδώνυμον,
you-will-come and Hybristes river not falsely-named
ὃν μὴ περάσῃς, οὐ γὰρ εὔβατος περᾶν,
which not cross not for easy to-cross
πρὶν ἂν πρὸς αὐτὸν Καύκασον μόλῃς, ὀρῶν
before — to very Caucasus you-come of-mountains
ὕψιστον, ἔνθα ποταμὸς ἐκφυσᾷ μένος
highest where river blows-out might
κροτάφων ἀπ᾽ αὐτῶν. ἀστρογείτονας δὲ χρὴ
temples from very star-neighboring and must
κορυφὰς ὑπερβάλλουσαν ἐς μεσημβρινὴν
peaks crossing into southward
βῆναι κέλευθον, ἔνθ᾽, Ἀμαζόνων στρατὸν
to-go road where of-Amazons host
ἥξεις στυγάνορ᾽, αἳ Θεμίσκυράν ποτε
you-will-come man-hating who Themiscyra some-day

κατοικιοῦσιν ἀμφὶ Θερμώδονθ', ἵνα
will-inhabit about Thermodon where
τραχεῖα πόντου Σαλμυδησσία γνάθος
rugged of-sea Salmydessian jaw
ἐχθρόξενος ναύταισι, μητρυιὰ νεῶν·
hostile-to-strangers to-sailors stepmother of-ships
αὗταί σ' ὁδηγήσουσι καὶ μάλ' ἀσμένως.
they you will-guide and very gladly
ἰσθμὸν δ' ἐπ' αὐταῖς στενοπόροις λίμνης πύλαις
isthmus and at very narrow of-lake gates
Κιμμερικὸν ἥξεις, ὃν θρασυσπλάγχνως σε χρὴ
Cimmerian you-will-come which boldly you must
λιποῦσαν αὐλῶν' ἐκπερᾶν Μαιωτικόν·
having-left strait to-cross Maeotic
ἔσται δὲ θνητοῖς εἰσαεὶ λόγος μέγας
there-will-be and for-mortals forever story great
τῆς σῆς πορείας, Βόσπορος δ' ἐπώνυμος
— of-your passage Bosporus and named-after
κεκλήσεται. λιποῦσα δ' Εὐρώπης πέδον
will-be-called having-left and of-Europe plain
ἤπειρον ἥξεις Ἀσιάδ'. ἆρ', ὑμῖν δοκεῖ
mainland you-will-come Asian — to-you does-it-seem
ὁ τῶν θεῶν τύραννος ἐς τὰ πάνθ' ὁμῶς
the of-the gods tyrant in the all alike
βίαιος εἶναι; τῇδε γὰρ θνητῇ θεὸς
violent to-be on-this for mortal god
χρῄζων μιγῆναι τάσδ' ἐπέρριψεν πλάνας.
desiring to-lie-with these hurled wanderings
πικροῦ δ' ἔκυρσας, ὦ κόρη, τῶν σῶν γάμων
bitter and you-met O maiden — of-your wedding

μνηστῆρος. οὓς γὰρ νῦν ἀκήκοας λόγους,
suitor which for now you-have-heard words

εἶναι δόκει σοι μηδέπω ’ν προοιμίοις.
to-be think for-you not-yet-even in preludes

ΙΩ ἰώ μοί μοι, ἒ ἔ.
oh me me eh eh

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ σὺ δ’ αὖ κέκραγας κἀναμυχθίζῃ; τί που
you and again cried-out and-moan what perhaps

δράσεις, ὅταν τὰ λοιπὰ πυνθάνῃ κακά;
will-you-do when the rest you-learn evils

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἦ γάρ τι λοιπὸν τῇδε πημάτων ἐρεῖς;
— for some remainder to-her of-woes you-will-tell

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ δυσχείμερόν γε πέλαγος ἀτηρᾶς δύης.
wintry at-least sea of-baneful woe

ΙΩ τί δῆτ’ ἐμοὶ ζῆν κέρδος, ἀλλ’ οὐκ ἐν τάχει
what then to-me to-live gain but not in quickness

ἔρριψ’ ἐμαυτὴν τῆσδ’ ἀπὸ στύφλου πέτρας,
did-I-hurl myself this from rugged rock

ὅπως πέδοι σκήψασα τῶν πάντων πόνων
so-that on-ground having-struck of-the all toils

ἀπηλλάγην; κρεῖσσον γὰρ εἰσάπαξ θανεῖν
I-were-freed better for once-for-all to-die

ἢ τὰς ἁπάσας ἡμέρας πάσχειν κακῶς.
than the all days to-suffer evilly

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ἦ δυσπετῶς ἂν τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἄθλους φέροις,
truly hardly — — my trials you-would-bear

ὅτῳ θανεῖν μέν ἐστιν οὐ πεπρωμένον·
to-whom to-die indeed is not destined

αὕτη γὰρ ἦν ἂν πημάτων ἀπαλλαγή·
this for would-be — of-woes release

νῦν δ' οὐδέν ἐστι τέρμα μοι προκείμενον
now but nothing is end to-me set-before
μόχθων, πρὶν ἂν Ζεὺς ἐκπέσῃ τυραννίδος.
of-toils before — Zeus falls-from tyranny
ΙΩ ἦ γάρ ποτ' ἔστιν ἐκπεσεῖν ἀρχῆς Δία;
— for ever is to-fall from-rule Zeus
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ἥδοι' ἄν, οἶμαι, τήνδ' ἰδοῦσα συμφοράν.
you-would-be-glad — I-think this having-seen misfortune
ΙΩ πῶς δ' οὐκ ἄν, ἥτις ἐκ Διὸς πάσχω κακῶς;
how and not — who from Zeus suffer evilly
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ὡς τοίνυν ὄντων τῶνδέ σοι μαθεῖν πάρα.
since then being these to-you to-learn it-is-possible
ΙΩ πρὸς τοῦ τύραννα σκῆπτρα συληθήσεται;
by whom tyrant scepter will-be-robbed
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ πρὸς αὐτὸς αὑτοῦ κενοφρόνων βουλευμάτων.
by himself his-own of-empty-headed counsels
ΙΩ ποίῳ τρόπῳ; σήμηνον, εἰ μή τις βλάβη.
in-what way signify if not some harm
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ γαμεῖ γάμον τοιοῦτον ᾧ ποτ' ἀσχαλᾷ.
he-weds marriage such which some-day he-will-rue
ΙΩ θέορτον, ἢ βρότειον; εἰ ῥητόν, φράσον.
divine or mortal if utterable tell
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ τί δ' ὅντιν'; οὐ γὰρ ῥητὸν αὐδᾶσθαι τόδε.
why and whom-indeed not for utterable to-be-spoken this
ΙΩ ἦ πρὸς δάμαρτος ἐξανίσταται θρόνων;
— by wife is-he-ousted from-thrones
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ἢ τέξεταί γε παῖδα φέρτερον πατρός.
who will-bear at-least son mightier than-father
ΙΩ οὐδ' ἔστιν αὐτῷ τῆσδ' ἀποστροφὴ τύχης;
nor is to-him of-this averting fortune

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ οὐ δῆτα, πλὴν ἔγωγ' ἂν ἐκ δεσμῶν λυθείς.
not indeed except I — from bonds loosed

ΙΩ τίς οὖν ὁ λύσων ἐστὶν ἄκοντος Διός;
who then the about-to-free is unwilling Zeus

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ τῶν σῶν τιν' αὐτὸν ἐγγόνων εἶναι χρεών.
— of-your one him of-descendants to-be is-fated

ΙΩ πῶς εἶπας; ἦ 'μὸς παῖς σ' ἀπαλλάξει κακῶν;
how you-said — my son you will-free from-evils

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ τρίτος γε γένναν πρὸς δέκ' ἄλλαισιν γοναῖς.
third at-least in-generation besides ten other births

ΙΩ ἥδ' οὐκέτ' εὐξύμβλητος ἡ χρησμῳδία.
this no-longer easy-to-interpret the prophecy

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ καὶ μηδὲ σαυτῆς ἐκμαθεῖν ζήτει πόνους.
and not-even of-yourself to-learn seek toils

ΙΩ μή μοι προτείνων κέρδος εἶτ' ἀποστέρει.
do-not to-me holding-out gain then withdraw

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ δυοῖν λόγοιν σε θατέρῳ δωρήσομαι.
of-two words you with-one I-shall-present

ΙΩ ποίοιν; πρόδειξον, αἵρεσίν τ' ἐμοὶ δίδου.
what-two show choice and to-me give

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ δίδωμ'· ἑλοῦ γάρ, ἢ πόνων τὰ λοιπά σοι
I-give choose for either of-toils the rest to-you

φράσω σαφηνῶς, ἢ τὸν ἐκλύσοντ' ἐμέ.
I-shall-tell clearly or the about-to-free me

ΧΟΡΟΣ τούτων σὺ τὴν μὲν τῇδε, τὴν δ' ἐμοὶ χάριν
of-these you the-one indeed to-her the-other and to-me favor

θέσθαι θέλησον, μηδ' ἀτιμάσῃς λόγου·
to-grant be-willing nor dishonor of-word

καὶ τῇδε μὲν γέγωνε τὴν λοιπὴν πλάνην,
and to-her indeed declare the remaining wandering

ἐμοὶ δὲ τὸν λύσοντα· τοῦτο γὰρ ποθῶ.
to-me and the about-to-free this for I-long-for

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ἐπεὶ προθυμεῖσθ', οὐκ ἐναντιώσομαι
since you-are-eager not I-shall-oppose

τὸ μὴ οὐ γεγωνεῖν πᾶν ὅσον προσχρῄζετε.
the not not to-declare all as-much-as you-need

σοὶ πρῶτον, Ἰοῖ, πολύδονον πλάνην φράσω,
to-you first Io much-driven wandering I-shall-tell

ἣν ἐγγράφου σὺ μνήμοσιν δέλτοις φρενῶν.
which inscribe you on-memory tablets of-mind

ὅταν περάσῃς ῥεῖθρον ἠπείροιν ὅρον,
when you-cross stream of-continents boundary

πρὸς ἀντολὰς φλογώπας ἡλιοστιβεῖς
toward risings flaming sun-trodden

***
(lacuna)

πόντου περῶσα φλοῖσβον, ἔστ' ἂν ἐξίκῃ
of-sea crossing roar until — you-reach

πρὸς Γοργόνεια πεδία Κισθήνης, ἵνα
to Gorgonean plains of-Cisthene where

αἱ Φορκίδες ναίουσι δηναιαὶ κόραι
— Phorcides dwell ancient maidens

τρεῖς κυκνόμορφοι, κοινὸν ὄμμ' ἐκτημέναι,
three swan-shaped common eye having-got

μονόδοντες, ἃς οὔθ' ἥλιος προσδέρκεται
one-toothed whom neither sun looks-upon

ἀκτῖσιν οὔθ' ἡ νύκτερος μήνη ποτέ.
with-rays nor the nightly moon ever

πέλας δ' ἀδελφαὶ τῶνδε τρεῖς κατάπτεροι,
near and sisters of-these three winged

δρακοντόμαλλοι Γοργόνες βροτοστυγεῖς,
snake-haired Gorgons mortal-hated
ἃς θνητὸς οὐδεὶς εἰσιδὼν ἕξει πνοάς.
whom mortal none having-seen will-have breaths
τοιοῦτο μέν σοι τοῦτο φρούριον λέγω·
such indeed to-you this guard I-tell
ἄλλην δ' ἄκουσον δυσχερῆ θεωρίαν·
other but hear hard-to-bear sight
ὀξυστόμους γὰρ Ζηνὸς ἀκραγεῖς κύνας
sharp-mouthed for of-Zeus not-barking hounds
γρῦπας φύλαξαι, τόν τε μουνῶπα στρατὸν
griffins beware the and one-eyed host
Ἀριμασπὸν ἱπποβάμον', οἳ χρυσόρρυτον
Arimaspian horse-riding who gold-flowing
οἰκοῦσιν ἀμφὶ νᾶμα Πλούτωνος πόρου·
dwell about stream of-Pluto ford
τούτοις σὺ μὴ πέλαζε. τηλουρὸν δὲ γῆν
to-these you not approach far-off and land
ἥξεις, κελαινὸν φῦλον, οἳ πρὸς ἡλίου
you-will-come black tribe who by of-sun
ναίουσι πηγαῖς, ἔνθα ποταμὸς Αἰθίοψ.
dwell springs where river Aethiops
τούτου παρ' ὄχθας ἕρφ', ἕως ἂν ἐξίκῃ
of-this along banks go until — you-reach
καταβασμόν, ἔνθα Βιβλίνων ὀρῶν ἄπο
cataract where of-Bybline mountains from
ἵησι σεπτὸν Νεῖλος εὔποτον ῥέος.
sends holy Nile sweet-to-drink stream
οὗτός σ' ὁδώσει τὴν τρίγωνον ἐς χθόνα
this you will-guide the three-cornered to land

Νειλῶτιν, οὗ δὴ τὴν μακρὰν ἀποικίαν,
Nilotic where indeed the far colony
Ἰοῖ, πέπρωται σοί τε καὶ τέκνοις κτίσαι.
Io is-destined for-you both and for-children to-found
τῶν δ' εἴ τί σοι ψελλόν τε καὶ δυσεύρετον,
of-these and if anything to-you obscure both and hard-to-find
ἐπανδίπλαζε καὶ σαφῶς ἐκμάνθανε·
repeat and clearly learn
σχολὴ δὲ πλείων ἢ θέλω πάρεστί μοι.
leisure and more than I-wish is-present for-me
ΧΟΡΟΣ εἰ μέν τι τῇδε λοιπὸν ἢ παρειμένον
if indeed some to-her remainder or omitted
ἔχεις γεγωνεῖν τῆς πολυφθόρου πλάνης,
you-have to-declare of-the much-destroying wandering
λέγ'· εἰ δὲ πάντ' εἴρηκας, ἡμῖν αὖ χάριν
say if but all you-have-told to-us in-turn favor
δὸς ἥνπερ αἰτούμεσθα, μέμνησαι δέ που.
give which-indeed we-ask remember and perhaps
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ τὸ πᾶν πορείας ἥδε τέρμ' ἀκήκοεν.
the whole of-journey she end has-heard
ὅπως δ' ἂν εἰδῇ μὴ μάτην κλύουσά μου,
that and — she-may-know not in-vain hearing me
ἃ πρὶν μολεῖν δεῦρ' ἐκμεμόχθηκεν φράσω,
what before to-come hither she-has-toiled I-shall-tell
τεκμήριον τοῦτ' αὐτὸ δοὺς μύθων ἐμῶν.
proof this itself giving of-words my
ὄχλον μὲν οὖν τὸν πλεῖστον ἐκλείψω λόγων,
throng indeed then the most I-shall-omit of-words
πρὸς αὐτὸ δ' εἶμι τέρμα σῶν πλανημάτων.
to very and I-go end of-your wanderings

ἐπεὶ γὰρ ἦλθες πρὸς Μολοσσὰ γάπεδα,
when for you-came to Molossian plains
τὴν αἰπύνωτόν τ᾽ ἀμφὶ Δωδώνην, ἵνα
— steep-ridged and about Dodona where
μαντεῖα θᾶκός τ᾽ ἐστὶ Θεσπρωτοῦ Διός,
oracles seat and is of-Thesprotian Zeus
τέρας τ᾽ ἄπιστον, αἱ προσήγοροι δρύες,
portent and incredible the speaking oaks
ὑφ᾽ ὧν σὺ λαμπρῶς κοὐδὲν αἰνικτηρίως
by which you clearly and-not-at-all riddlingly
προσηγορεύθης ἡ Διὸς κλεινὴ δάμαρ
were-addressed the of-Zeus famous wife
μέλλουσ᾽ ἔσεσθαι. τῶνδε προσσαίνει σέ τι;
destined to-be of-these flatters you at-all
ἐντεῦθεν οἰστρήσασα τὴν παρακτίαν
thence stung-by-the-gadfly the coastal
κέλευθον ἦξας πρὸς μέγαν κόλπον Ῥέας,
road you-rushed to great gulf of-Rhea
ἀφ᾽ οὗ παλιμπλάγκτοισι χειμάζῃ δρόμοις·
from which by-backward-wandering are-storm-tossed courses
χρόνον δὲ τὸν μέλλοντα πόντιος μυχός,
time and the coming of-sea recess
σαφῶς ἐπίστασ᾽, Ἰόνιος κεκλήσεται.
clearly know Ionian will-be-called
τῆς σῆς πορείας μνῆμα τοῖς πᾶσιν βροτοῖς.
— of-your journey memorial to-the all mortals
σημεῖά σοι τάδ᾽ ἐστὶ τῆς ἐμῆς φρενός,
signs to-you these are — of-my mind
ὡς δέρκεται πλέον τι τοῦ πεφασμένου.
that it-sees more something than-the shown

τὰ λοιπὰ δ' ὑμῖν τῇδέ τ' ἐς κοινὸν φράσω,
the rest and to-you to-her and to common I-shall-tell
ἐς ταὐτὸν ἐλθὼν τῶν πάλαι λόγων ἴχνος.
to the-same having-come of-the old words track
ἔστιν πόλις Κάνωβος ἐσχάτη χθονός,
there-is city Canopus farthest of-land
Νείλου πρὸς αὐτῷ στόματι καὶ προσχώματι·
of-Nile at very mouth and silt-bank
ἐνταῦθα δή σε Ζεὺς τίθησιν ἔμφρονα
there indeed you Zeus makes sane
ἐπαφῶν ἀταρβεῖ χειρὶ καὶ θιγὼν μόνον.
touching with-unterrifying hand and touching only
ἐπώνυμον δὲ τῶν Διὸς γεννημάτων
named-from and of-the of-Zeus begettings
τέξεις κελαινὸν Ἔπαφον, ὃς καρπώσεται
you-will-bear black Epaphus who will-reap
ὅσην πλατύρρους Νεῖλος ἀρδεύει χθόνα·
as-much broad-flowing Nile waters land
πέμπτη δ' ἀπ' αὐτοῦ γέννα πεντηκοντάπαις
fifth and from him generation fifty-children
πάλιν πρὸς Ἄργος οὐχ ἑκοῦσ' ἐλεύσεται
back to Argos not willing will-come
θηλύσπορος, φεύγουσα συγγενῆ γάμον
woman-born fleeing kindred marriage
ἀνεψιῶν· οἱ δ' ἐπτοημένοι φρένας,
of-cousins they and fluttered in-mind
κίρκοι πελειῶν οὐ μακρὰν λελειμμένοι,
hawks of-doves not far left-behind
ἥξουσι θηρεύοντες οὐ θηρασίμους
will-come hunting not to-be-hunted

γάμους, φθόνον δὲ σωμάτων ἕξει θεός·
marriages grudge and of-bodies will-have god
Πελασγία δὲ δέξεται θηλυκτόνῳ
Pelasgia and will-receive by-woman-slaying
Ἄρει, δαμέντων νυκτιφρουρήτῳ θράσει.
Ares of-the-subdued by-night-watching daring
γυνὴ γὰρ ἄνδρ' ἕκαστον αἰῶνος στερεῖ,
wife for husband each of-life deprives
δίθηκτον ἐν σφαγαῖσι βάψασα ξίφος·
two-edged in slaughters having-dipped sword
τοιάδ' ἐπ' ἐχθροὺς τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἔλθοι Κύπρις.
such against enemies — my may-come Cypris
μίαν δὲ παίδων ἵμερος θέλξει τὸ μὴ
one and of-children desire will-charm the not
κτεῖναι σύνευνον, ἀλλ' ἀπαμβλυνθήσεται
to-kill bedfellow but will-be-blunted
γνώμην· δυοῖν δὲ θάτερον βουλήσεται,
in-judgment of-two and the-one she-will-wish
κλύειν ἄναλκις μᾶλλον ἢ μιαιφόνος·
to-be-called weak rather than bloodstained
αὕτη κατ' Ἄργος βασιλικὸν τέξει γένος.
she in Argos royal will-bear race
μακροῦ λόγου δεῖ ταῦτ' ἐπεξελθεῖν τορῶς.
of-long account it-needs this to-go-through clearly
σπορᾶς γε μὴν ἐκ τῆσδε φύσεται θρασὺς
of-seed at-least indeed from this will-be-born bold
τόξοισι κλεινός, ὃς πόνων ἐκ τῶνδ' ἐμὲ
with-bow famous who toils from these me
λύσει. τοιόνδε χρησμὸν ἡ παλαιγενὴς
will-free such prophecy the ancient

μήτηρ ἐμοὶ διῆλθε Τιτανὶς Θέμις·
mother to-me told Titan Themis
ὅπως δὲ χὤπη, ταῦτα δεῖ μακροῦ λόγου
how and and-where these needs long account
εἰπεῖν, σύ τ᾽ οὐδὲν ἐκμαθοῦσα κερδανεῖς.
to-tell you and nothing having-learned will-gain
ιω ἐλελεῦ ἐλελεῦ,
eleleu eleleu
ὑπό μ᾽ αὖ σφάκελος καὶ φρενοπληγεῖς
under me again spasm and mind-striking
μανίαι θάλπουσ᾽, οἴστρου δ᾽ ἄρδις
madnesses inflame of-gadfly and point
χρίει μ᾽ ἄπυρος·
stings me unforged
κραδία δὲ φόβῳ φρένα λακτίζει.
heart and with-fear mind kicks
τροχοδινεῖται δ᾽ ὄμμαθ᾽ ἑλίγδην,
roll and eyes whirling
ἔξω δὲ δρόμου φέρομαι λύσσης
out and of-course I-am-borne of-frenzy
πνεύματι μάργῳ, γλώσσης ἀκρατής·
by-breath raging of-tongue not-master
θολεροὶ δὲ λόγοι παίουσ᾽ εἰκῇ
muddy and words strike at-random
στυγνῆς πρὸς κύμασιν ἄτης.
of-hateful against waves of-ruin

The chorus praises the wise man who said that marriage between equals is best. They pray never to become the bride of a god, fearing the fate of Io, hunted by Hera through her wanderings. Against the love of a greater god there is no defense.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἦ σοφὸς ἦ σοφὸς ὃς
truly wise truly wise who
πρῶτος ἐν γνώμᾳ τόδ' ἐβάστασε καὶ γλώσ-
first in mind this weighed and with-tongue
σᾳ διεμυθολόγησεν,
— told-it-out
890 ὡς τὸ κηδεῦσαι καθ' ἑαυτὸν ἀριστεύει μακρῷ,
that the to-marry within one's-own excels by-far
καὶ μήτε τῶν πλούτῳ διαθρυπτομένων
and neither of-the by-wealth pampered
μήτε τῶν γέννᾳ μεγαλυνομένων
nor of-the by-birth magnified
ὄντα χερνήταν ἐραστεῦσαι γάμων.
being a-laborer to-court marriages
μήποτε μήποτέ μ', ὦ
never never me O
895 πότνιαι Μοῖραι, λεχέων Διὸς εὐνά-
august Fates of-bed of-Zeus bed-partner
τειραν ἴδοισθε πέλουσαν·
— may-you-see being
μηδὲ πλαθείην γαμέτᾳ τινὶ τῶν ἐξ οὐρανοῦ.
nor may-I-be-brought-near to-husband any of-those from heaven
ταρβῶ γὰρ ἀστεργάνορα παρθενίαν
I-fear for husband-shunning maidenhood

εἰσορῶσ᾽ Ἰοῦς ἀμαλαπτομέναν
seeing of-Io being-crushed
δυσπλάνοις Ἥρας ἀλατείαις πόνων.
by-hard-wandering of-Hera wanderings of-toils
ἐμοὶ δ᾽ ὅτε μὲν ὁμαλὸς ὁ γάμος,
for-me and when indeed equal the marriage
ἄφοβος· μηδὲ κρεισσόνων θεῶν
fearless nor of-mightier gods
ἔρως ἄφυκτον ὄμμα προσδράκοι με.
love inescapable eye may-look-at me
ἀπόλεμος ὅδε γ᾽ ὁ πόλεμος, ἄπορα πόριμος·
unwarlike this at-least the war resourceless resourceful
οὐδ᾽ ἔχω τίς ἂν γενοίμαν.
nor I-know what — I-would-become
τὰν Διὸς γὰρ οὐχ ὁρῶ
the of-Zeus for not I-see
μῆτιν ὅπα φύγοιμ᾽ ἄν.
counsel where I-could-flee —

Prometheus declares that Zeus will be overthrown by a marriage. Hermes comes to demand the secret; Prometheus mocks him as a lackey. Hermes warns that Zeus will bury him under the rock, then send an eagle to devour his liver daily. Prometheus refuses, and the chorus stays with him. The earth shakes, thunder roars, and the storm breaks as Prometheus calls on the sky to see his unjust suffering.

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ἦ μὴν ἔτι Ζεύς, καίπερ αὐθάδης φρενῶν,
truly indeed still Zeus although stubborn of-mind
ἔσται ταπεινός, οἷον ἐξαρτύεται
will-be humble such he-prepares
γάμον γαμεῖν, ὃς αὐτὸν ἐκ τυραννίδος
marriage to-marry which him from tyranny
θρόνων τ' ἄϊστον ἐκβαλεῖ· πατρὸς δ' ἀρὰ
thrones and vanished will-cast-out of-father and curse
Κρόνου τότ' ἤδη παντελῶς κρανθήσεται,
of-Cronus then already wholly will-be-fulfilled
ἣν ἐκπίτνων ἠρᾶτο δηναιῶν θρόνων.
which falling-from he-cursed from-ancient thrones
τοιῶνδε μόχθων ἐκτροπὴν οὐδεὶς θεῶν
of-such toils escape no-one of-gods
δύναιτ' ἂν αὐτῷ πλὴν ἐμοῦ δεῖξαι σαφῶς.
could — to-him except me to-show clearly
ἐγὼ τάδ' οἶδα χᾠ τρόπῳ. πρὸς ταῦτά νυν
I these know and-in-what way to this then
θαρσῶν καθήσθω τοῖς πεδαρσίοις κτύποις
confident let-him-sit in-the aloft crashes
πιστός, τινάσσων τ' ἐν χεροῖν πύρπνουν βέλος.
trusting brandishing and in hands fire-breathing shaft

οὐδὲν γὰρ αὐτῷ ταῦτ' ἐπαρκέσει τὸ μὴ οὐ
nothing for him these will-avail the not not
πεσεῖν ἀτίμως πτώματ' οὐκ ἀνασχετά·
to-fall dishonorably falls not to-be-borne
τοῖον παλαιστὴν νῦν παρασκευάζεται
such wrestler now he-prepares
ἐπ' αὐτὸς αὑτῷ, δυσμαχώτατον τέρας·
against he-himself himself most-invincible prodigy
ὃς δὴ κεραυνοῦ κρείσσον' εὑρήσει φλόγα,
who indeed than-thunderbolt stronger will-find flame
βροντῆς θ' ὑπερβάλλοντα καρτερὸν κτύπον·
than-thunder and surpassing mighty crash
θαλασσίαν τε γῆς τινάκτειραν νόσον
of-the-sea and of-earth shaker plague
τρίαιναν, αἰχμὴν τὴν Ποσειδῶνος, σκεδᾷ.
trident spear the of-Poseidon will-scatter
πταίσας δὲ τῷδε πρὸς κακῷ μαθήσεται
having-stumbled and this against evil he-will-learn
ὅσον τό τ' ἄρχειν καὶ τὸ δουλεύειν δίχα.
how-much the both to-rule and the to-serve apart

ΧΟΡΟΣ σύ θην ἃ χρῄζεις, ταῦτ' ἐπιγλωσσᾷ Διός.
you indeed what you-wish these you-bode-against of-Zeus

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ἅπερ τελεῖται, πρὸς δ' ἃ βούλομαι λέγω.
which-indeed is-accomplished besides and what I-wish I-say

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ προσδοκᾶν χρὴ δεσπόσειν Ζηνός τινα;
and to-expect must to-master Zeus someone

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ καὶ τῶνδέ γ', ἕξει δυσλοφωτέρους πόνους.
and than-these at-least he-will-have harder-to-bear toils

ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς δ' οὐχὶ ταρβεῖς τοιάδ' ἐκρίπτων ἔπη;
how and not you-fear such hurling words

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ τί δ' ἂν φοβοίμην ᾧ θανεῖν οὐ μόρσιμον;
why and — should-I-fear for-whom to-die not fated

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' ἆθλον ἄν σοι τοῦδ' ἔτ' ἀλγίω πόροι.
but struggle — to-you than-this still more-painful he-might-give

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ὁ δ' οὖν ποιείτω· πάντα προσδοκητά μοι.
he and then let-him-do all expected by-me

ΧΟΡΟΣ οἱ προσκυνοῦντες τὴν Ἀδράστειαν σοφοί.
those revering the Adrasteia wise

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ σέβου, προσεύχου, θῶπτε τὸν κρατοῦντ' ἀεί.
revere pray flatter the ruler ever

ἐμοὶ δ' ἔλασσον Ζηνὸς ἢ μηδὲν μέλει.
to-me and less of-Zeus than nothing is-a-care

δράτω, κρατείτω τόνδε τὸν βραχὺν χρόνον,
let-him-act let-him-rule this the short time

ὅπως θέλει· δαρὸν γὰρ οὐκ ἄρξει θεοῖς.
as he-wishes long for not he-will-rule the-gods

ἀλλ' εἰσορῶ γὰρ τόνδε τὸν Διὸς τρόχιν,
but I-see for this the of-Zeus runner

τὸν τοῦ τυράννου τοῦ νέου διάκονον·
the of-the tyrant the new servant

πάντως τι καινὸν ἀγγελῶν ἐλήλυθεν.
wholly some new to-announce has-come

ΕΡΜΗΣ σὲ τὸν σοφιστήν, τὸν πικρῶς ὑπέρπικρον,
you the sophist the bitterly over-bitter

τὸν ἐξαμαρτόντ' εἰς θεοὺς ἐφημέροις
the having-sinned against gods for-ephemerals

πορόντα τιμάς, τὸν πυρὸς κλέπτην λέγω·
having-given honors the of-fire thief I-mean

πατὴρ ἄνωγέ σ' οὕστινας κομπεῖς γάμους
father bids you what you-boast marriages

αὐδᾶν, πρὸς ὧν ἐκεῖνος ἐκπίπτει κράτους.
to-declare by which he falls-from power

καὶ ταῦτα μέντοι μηδὲν αἰνικτηρίως,
and these however nothing riddlingly

ἀλλ' αὖθ' ἕκαστα φράζε· μηδέ μοι διπλᾶς
but themselves each tell nor to-me double

ὁδούς, Προμηθεῦ, προσβάλῃς· ὁρᾷς δ' ὅτι
ways Prometheus bring you-see and that

Ζεὺς τοῖς τοιούτοις οὐχὶ μαλθακίζεται.
Zeus by-the such not is-softened

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ σεμνόστομός γε καὶ φρονήματος πλέως
solemn-mouthed at-least and of-pride full

ὁ μῦθός ἐστιν, ὡς θεῶν ὑπηρέτου.
the speech is as of-gods of-a-servant

νέον νέοι κρατεῖτε καὶ δοκεῖτε δὴ
new new-ones you-rule and you-think indeed

ναίειν ἀπενθῆ πέργαμ'· οὐκ ἐκ τῶνδ' ἐγὼ
to-dwell griefless citadel not from these I

δισσοὺς τυράννους ἐκπεσόντας ᾐσθόμην;
two tyrants fallen perceived

τρίτον δὲ τὸν νῦν κοιρανοῦντ' ἐπόψομαι
third and the now ruling I-shall-see

αἴσχιστα καὶ τάχιστα. μή τί σοι δοκῶ
most-shamefully and most-quickly not at-all to-you do-I-seem

ταρβεῖν ὑποπτήσσειν τε τοὺς νέους θεούς;
to-fear to-cower and the new gods

πολλοῦ γε καὶ τοῦ παντὸς ἐλλείπω. σὺ δὲ
much at-least and the whole I-lack you and

κέλευθον ἥνπερ ἦλθες ἐγκόνει πάλιν·
road which you-came hasten back

πεύσῃ γὰρ οὐδὲν ὧν ἀνιστορεῖς ἐμέ.
you-will-learn for nothing of-what you-ask me

ΕΡΜΗΣ τοιοῖσδε μέντοι καὶ πρὶν αὐθαδίσμασιν
by-such however also before stubbornness

965 ἐς τάσδε σαυτὸν πημονὰς καθώρμισας.
into these yourself woes you-moored

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ τῆς σῆς λατρείας τὴν ἐμὴν δυσπραξίαν,
— for-your servitude — my misfortune

σαφῶς ἐπίστασ', οὐκ ἂν ἀλλάξαιμ' ἐγώ.
clearly know not — would-exchange I

ΕΡΜΗΣ κρεῖσσον γὰρ οἶμαι τῇδε λατρεύειν πέτρᾳ
better for I-think this to-serve rock

ἢ πατρὶ φῦναι Ζηνὶ πιστὸν ἄγγελον.
than to-father to-be Zeus faithful messenger

970 ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ οὕτως ὑβρίζειν τοὺς ὑβρίζοντας χρεών.
thus to-outrage the outragers is-fitting

ΕΡΜΗΣ χλιδᾶν ἔοικας τοῖς παροῦσι πράγμασι.
to-revel you-seem in-the present affairs

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ χλιδῶ; χλιδῶντας ὧδε τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἐγὼ
I-revel reveling thus — my I

ἐχθροὺς ἴδοιμι· καὶ σὲ δ' ἐν τούτοις λέγω.
enemies may-I-see and you and among these I-count

ΕΡΜΗΣ ἦ κἀμὲ γάρ τι συμφοραῖς ἐπαιτιᾷ;
— even-me for at-all for-misfortunes do-you-blame

975 ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ἁπλῷ λόγῳ τοὺς πάντας ἐχθαίρω θεούς,
in-simple word the all I-hate gods

ὅσοι παθόντες εὖ κακοῦσί μ' ἐκδίκως.
as-many-as having-been-treated well wrong me unjustly

ΕΡΜΗΣ κλύω σ' ἐγὼ μεμηνότ' οὐ σμικρὰν νόσον.
I-hear you I mad not slight madness

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ νοσοῖμ᾽ ἄν, εἰ νόσημα τοὺς ἐχθροὺς στυγεῖν.
I-would-be-mad — if madness the enemies to-hate

ΕΡΜΗΣ εἴης φορητὸς οὐκ ἄν, εἰ πράσσοις καλῶς.
you-would-be bearable not — if you-fared well

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ὤμοι. 980
ah-me

ΕΡΜΗΣ ὤμοι; τόδε Ζεὺς τοὔπος οὐκ ἐπίσταται.
ah-me this Zeus the-word not knows

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἐκδιδάσκει πάνθ᾽ ὁ γηράσκων χρόνος.
but teaches all the aging time

ΕΡΜΗΣ καὶ μὴν σύ γ᾽ οὔπω σωφρονεῖν ἐπίστασαι.
and indeed you at-least not-yet to-be-self-controlled know

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ σὲ γὰρ προσηύδων οὐκ ἂν ὅνθ᾽ ὑπηρέτην.
you for I-would-address not — being servant

ΕΡΜΗΣ ἐρεῖν ἔοικας οὐδὲν ὧν χρήζει πατήρ.
to-tell you-seem nothing of-what wishes father

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ καὶ μὴν ὀφείλων γ᾽ ἂν τίνοιμ᾽ αὐτῷ χάριν. 985
and indeed owing at-least — I-would-pay him favor

ΕΡΜΗΣ ἐκερτόμησας δῆθεν ὡς παῖδ᾽ ὄντα με.
you-mocked forsooth as child being me

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ οὐ γὰρ σὺ παῖς τε κἄτι τοῦδ᾽ ἀνούστερος
not for you child and and-still than-this more-foolish

εἰ προσδοκᾷς ἐμοῦ τι πεύσεσθαι πάρα;
if you-expect me anything to-learn from

οὐκ ἔστιν αἴκισμ᾽ οὐδὲ μηχάνημ᾽ ὅτῳ
not there-is torture nor device by-which

προτρέψεταί με Ζεὺς γεγωνῆσαι τάδε, 990
will-induce me Zeus to-declare these

πρὶν ἂν χαλασθῇ δεσμὰ λυμαντήρια.
before — are-loosened bonds outrageous

πρὸς ταῦτα ῥιπτέσθω μὲν αἰθαλοῦσσα φλόξ,
to this let-be-hurled indeed blazing flame
λευκοπτέρῳ δὲ νιφάδι καὶ βροντήμασι
with-white-winged and snow and thunders
χθονίοις κυκάτω πάντα καὶ ταρασσέτω.
of-the-earth let-him-confound all and let-him-trouble
γνάμψει γὰρ οὐδὲν τῶνδέ μ' ὥστε καὶ φράσαι
will-bend for nothing of-these me so-as also to-tell
πρὸς οὗ χρεών νιν ἐκπεσεῖν τυραννίδος.
by whom is-fated him to-fall-from tyranny
ΕΡΜΗΣ ὅρα νυν εἴ σοι ταῦτ' ἀρωγὰ φαίνεται.
see now if to-you these helpful appear
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ὤπται πάλαι δὴ καὶ βεβούλευται τάδε.
it-has-been-seen long-ago indeed and planned these
ΕΡΜΗΣ τόλμησον, ὦ μάταιε, τόλμησόν ποτε
dare O fool dare at-last
πρὸς τὰς παρούσας πημονὰς ὀρθῶς φρονεῖν,
in-view-of the present woes rightly to-think
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ ὀχλεῖς μάτην με κῦμ' ὅπως παρηγορῶν.
you-trouble in-vain me wave as soothing
εἰσελθέτω σε μήποθ' ὡς ἐγὼ Διὸς
let-enter you never that I of-Zeus
γνώμην φοβηθεὶς θηλύνους γενήσομαι,
purpose fearing womanish I-shall-become
καὶ λιπαρήσω τὸν μέγα στυγούμενον
and shall-entreat the greatly hated
γυναικομίμοις ὑπτιάσμασιν χερῶν
with-woman-like supinations of-hands
λῦσαί με δεσμῶν τῶνδε· τοῦ παντὸς δέω.
to-free me from-bonds these of-the all I-lack

ΕΡΜΗΣ λέγων ἔοικα πολλὰ καὶ μάτην ἐρεῖν·
speaking I-seem much and in-vain to-say
τέγγῃ γὰρ οὐδὲν οὐδὲ μαλθάσσῃ λιταῖς
you-are-softened for nothing nor are-mollified by-prayers
ἐμαῖς· δακὼν δὲ στόμιον ὡς νεοζυγὴς
my biting and bit like newly-yoked
πῶλος βιάζῃ καὶ πρὸς ἡνίας μάχῃ.
colt you-force and against reins fight
ἀτὰρ σφοδρύνῃ γ' ἀσθενεῖ σοφίσματι·
but you-are-vehement at-least with-feeble device
αὐθαδία γὰρ τῷ φρονοῦντι μὴ καλῶς
stubbornness for for-the thinking not well
αὐτὴ καθ' αὑτὴν οὐδενὸς μεῖζον σθένει.
itself by itself than-nothing more is-strong
σκέψαι δ', ἐὰν μὴ τοῖς ἐμοῖς πεισθῇς λόγοις,
consider and if not — by-my you-are-persuaded words
οἷός σε χειμὼν καὶ κακῶν τρικυμία
what-sort you storm and of-evils triple-wave
ἔπεισ' ἄφυκτος· πρῶτα μὲν γὰρ ὀκρίδα
will-come inescapable first indeed for rugged
φάραγγα βροντῇ καὶ κεραυνίᾳ φλογὶ
ravine with-thunder and thunderbolt flame
πατὴρ σπαράξει τήνδε, καὶ κρύψει δέμας
father will-shatter this and will-hide body
τὸ σόν, πετραία δ' ἀγκάλη σε βαστάσει.
— your rocky and arm you will-hold
μακρὸν δὲ μῆκος ἐκτελευτήσας χρόνου
long and length having-accomplished of-time
ἄψορρον ἥξεις εἰς φάος· Διὸς δέ τοί
back you-will-come into light of-Zeus and surely

πτηνὸς κύων, δαφοινὸς αἰετός, λάβρως
winged hound tawny eagle ravenously
διαρταμήσει σώματος μέγα ῥάκος,
will-tear-apart of-body great rag
ἄκλητος ἕρπων δαιταλεὺς πανήμερος,
unbidden creeping feaster all-day-long
κελαινόβρωτον δ' ἧπαρ ἐκθοινήσεται.
black-gnawed and liver will-feast-on
τοιοῦδε μόχθου τέρμα μή τι προσδόκα,
of-such toil end not any expect
πρὶν ἂν θεῶν τις διάδοχος τῶν σῶν πόνων
before — of-gods some successor — of-your toils
φανῇ, θελήσῃ τ' εἰς ἀναύγητον μολεῖν
appear wish and into rayless to-go
Ἅιδην κνεφαῖά τ' ἀμφὶ Ταρτάρου βάθη.
Hades dark and about of-Tartarus depths
πρὸς ταῦτα βούλευ'· ὡς ὅδ' οὐ πεπλασμένος
to this consider since this not fabricated
ὁ κόμπος, ἀλλὰ καὶ λίαν εἰρημένος·
the boast but and too-truly spoken
ψευδηγορεῖν γὰρ οὐκ ἐπίσταται στόμα
to-speak-falsely for not knows mouth
τὸ Διΐον, ἀλλὰ πᾶν ἔπος τελεῖ· σὺ δὲ
the of-Zeus but every word fulfills you and
πάπταινε καὶ φρόντιζε, μηδ' αὐθαδίαν
look-about and consider nor stubbornness
εὐβουλίας ἀμείνον' ἡγήσῃ ποτέ.
than-good-counsel better consider ever

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἡμῖν μὲν Ἑρμῆς οὐκ ἄκαιρα φαίνεται
to-us indeed Hermes not untimely appears
λέγειν. ἄνωγε γάρ σε τὴν αὐθαδίαν
to-speak bids for you the stubbornness
μεθέντ' ἐρευνᾶν τὴν σοφὴν εὐβουλίαν.
having-let-go to-seek the wise good-counsel
πιθοῦ· σοφῷ γὰρ αἰσχρὸν ἐξαμαρτάνειν.
obey for-wise for shameful to-err
ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ εἰδότι τοί μοι τάσδ' ἀγγελίας 1040
to-knowing surely me these messages
ὅδ' ἐθώυξεν· πάσχειν δὲ κακῶς
he shouted to-suffer and evilly
ἐχθρὸν ὑπ' ἐχθρῶν οὐδὲν ἀεικές.
enemy by enemies nothing unseemly
πρὸς ταῦτ' ἐπ' ἐμοὶ ῥιπτέσθω μὲν
to this on me let-be-hurled indeed
πυρὸς ἀμφήκης βόστρυχος, αἰθὴρ δ'
of-fire double-edged curl sky and
ἐρεθιζέσθω βροντῇ σφακέλῳ τ' 1045
let-be-roused by-thunder by-convulsion and
ἀγρίων ἀνέμων· χθόνα δ' ἐκ πυθμένων
of-savage winds earth and from foundations
αὐταῖς ῥίζαις πνεῦμα κραδαίνοι,
with-very roots blast may-shake
κῦμα δὲ πόντου τραχεῖ ῥοθίῳ
wave and of-sea with-rough surge
συγχώσειεν τῶν οὐρανίων
may-confound of-the heavenly
ἄστρων διόδους· εἴς τε κελαινὸν 1050
stars courses into and black

Τάρταρον ἄρδην ῥίψειε δέμας
Tartarus utterly may-he-hurl body
τοὐμὸν ἀνάγκης στερραῖς δίναις·
my of-necessity in-stern whirls
πάντως ἐμέ γ' οὐ θανατώσει.
in-every-way me at-least not he-will-kill
ΕΡΜΗΣ τοιάδε μέντοι τῶν φρενοπλήκτων
such however of-the mind-stricken
βουλεύματ' ἔπη τ' ἔστιν ἀκοῦσαι.
counsels words and it-is-possible to-hear
τί γὰρ ἐλλείπει μὴ οὐ παραπαίειν
what for lacks not not to-be-deranged
ἡ τοῦδ' εὐχή; τί χαλᾷ μανιῶν;
the his prayer what relaxes of-madness
ἀλλ' οὖν ὑμεῖς γ' αἱ πημοσύναις
but then you at-least who with-woes
συγκάμνουσαι ταῖς τοῦδε τόπων
sympathizing with-the his places
μετά ποι χωρεῖτ' ἐκ τῶνδε θοῶς,
away somewhere go from these quickly
μὴ φρένας ὑμῶν ἠλιθιώσῃ
lest minds your stun
βροντῆς μύκημ' ἀτέραμνον.
of-thunder roar implacable
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄλλο τι φώνει καὶ παραμυθοῦ μ'
other something speak and exhort me
ὅ τι καὶ πείσεις· οὐ γὰρ δή που
what — also you-will-persuade not for indeed I-suppose
τοῦτό γε τλητὸν παρέσυρας ἔπος.
this at-least bearable you-dragged-in word

πῶς με κελεύεις κακότητ' ἀσκεῖν;
how me you-bid baseness to-practice
μετὰ τοῦδ' ὅ τι χρὴ πάσχειν ἐθέλω·
with him what — must to-suffer I-wish
τοὺς προδότας γὰρ μισεῖν ἔμαθον,
the traitors for to-hate I-learned
κοὐκ ἔστι νόσος
and-not is plague
τῆσδ' ἥντιν' ἀπέπτυσα μᾶλλον. 1070
than-this which I-spat-out more
ΕΡΜΗΣ ἀλλ' οὖν μέμνησθ' ἁγὼ προλέγω
but then remember what-I foretell
μηδὲ πρὸς ἄτης θηραθεῖσαι
nor by ruin caught
μέμψησθε τύχην, μηδέ ποτ' εἴπηθ'
blame fortune nor ever say
ὡς Ζεὺς ὑμᾶς εἰς ἀπρόοπτον
that Zeus you into unforeseen
πῆμ' εἰσέβαλεν· μὴ δῆτ' αὐταὶ δ' 1075
woe cast not indeed yourselves but
ὑμᾶς αὐτάς. εἰδυῖαι γὰρ
you yourselves knowing for
κοὐκ ἐξαίφνης οὐδὲ λαθραίως
and-not suddenly nor secretly
εἰς ἀπέρατον δίκτυον ἄτης
into impassable net of-ruin
ἐμπλεχθήσεσθ' ὑπ' ἀνοίας.
you-will-be-entangled by folly

ΠΡΟΜΗΘΕΥΣ καὶ μὴν ἔργῳ κοὐκέτι μύθῳ
and indeed in-deed and-no-longer in-word

χθὼν σεσάλευται·
earth has-been-shaken

βρυχία δ' ἠχὼ παραμυκᾶται
roaring and echo bellows-beside

βροντῆς, ἕλικες δ' ἐκλάμπουσι
of-thunder coils and flash-forth

στεροπῆς ζάπυροι, στρόμβοι δὲ κόνιν
of-lightning fiery whirlwinds and dust

εἱλίσσουσι· σκιρτᾷ δ' ἀνέμων
whirl leap and of-winds

πνεύματα πάντων εἰς ἄλληλα
blasts of-all against one-another

στάσιν ἀντίπνουν ἀποδεικνύμενα·
faction counter-blowing showing

ξυντετάρακται δ' αἰθὴρ πόντῳ.
is-confounded and sky with-sea

τοιάδ' ἐπ' ἐμοὶ ῥιπὴ Διόθεν
such on me blast from-Zeus

τεύχουσα φόβον στείχει φανερῶς.
causing fear comes plainly

ὦ μητρὸς ἐμῆς σέβας, ὦ πάντων
O of-mother my reverence O of-all

αἰθὴρ κοινὸν φάος εἱλίσσων,
sky common light rolling

ἐσορᾷς μ' ὡς ἔκδικα πάσχω.
you-see me how unjustly I-suffer