GREEK SERIES · VOLUME 66

Alcestis and Helen

Euripides · Sophocles

ΑΛΚΗΣΤΙΣ
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ
ΕΛΕΝΗ
ΤΡΑΧΙΝΙΑΙ

Alcestis and Helen

With the Andromache and the Women of Trachis

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order

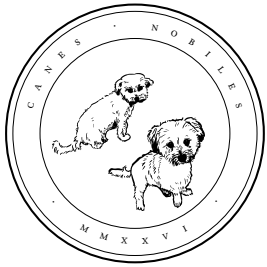


CANES NOBILES · MMXXVI

Copyright © 2026 Christopher Hench
All rights reserved

Published by Canes Nobiles
canesnobiles.com

The source text is used under a Creative Commons
Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License
creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0



Volume 66 of the Canes Nobiles Greek interlinear texts

The Greek text follows Arthur S. Way's Loeb Euripides (1912)
and Francis Storr's Loeb Sophocles (1913)

Set from the Perseus Digital Library, with corrections

Translated and composed with AI, edited by Christopher Hench
Artwork by Esther Steves

Lines the editors seclude are not printed.

CONTENTS

EURIPIDES · ALCESTIS

I · Apollo and Death 11
II · The Silent House 16
III · The Queen Prepares to Die 21
IV · The Boat of Charon 26
V · The Promise 32
VI · Farewell to Alcestis 43
VII · The Guest 46
VIII · The Hospitable House 53
IX · Pheres 55
X · The Empty House 73
XI · The Veiled Woman 83

EURIPIDES · ANDROMACHE

I · The Slave of Phthia 97
II · The Women of Phthia 105

EURIPIDES · ANDROMACHE

(continued)

III · Hermione 107
IV · The Judgment of Paris 116
V · Menelaus 118
VI · Two Wives 129
VII · Peleus 131
VIII · Noble Birth 149
IX · Orestes 152
X · The Walls of Troy 166
XI · The Death at Delphi 168
XII · The Lament of Peleus 177
XIII · Thetis 181

EURIPIDES · HELEN

I · Helen in Egypt 189
II · Sirens and Songs of Mourning 200
III · Helen Resolves to Die 206
IV · The Shipwrecked Man 216
V · Husband and Wife 225
VI · The Phantom Vanishes 231
VII · Plans to Escape 242
VIII · Theonoe 250
IX · The Stratagem 261

EURIPIDES · HELEN

(continued)

X · The Nightingale 267
XI · Theoclymenus Deceived 271
XII · The Mother of the Gods 281
XIII · The Ship 286
XIV · Homeward 292
XV · The Escape 296

SOPHOCLES · THE WOMEN OF TRACHIS

I · Deianeira 313
II · The Sun 319
III · The Tablet 322
IV · Iole 326
V · Cypris 346
VI · The Robe 348
VII · The Homecoming 355
VIII · The News from Cenaeum 358
IX · The Oracle Fulfilled 369
X · The Death of Deianeira 372
XI · Heracles Is Carried In 378
XII · The Waking 380
XIII · The Agony 383
XIV · The Pyre on Oeta 385

EURIPIDES

ΑΛΚΗΣΤΙΣ

Alcestis

Apollo tells why he served the mortal Admetus as a herdsman: Zeus killed his son Asclepius, and he killed the Cyclopes in revenge. Because Admetus was a holy host, Apollo tricked the Fates into letting him escape death if another died in his place, and only his wife Alcestis consented; today she dies. Death arrives to claim her. Apollo begs for her life in vain, and foretells that a guest will come and take her from Death by force.

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ ὮΩ δώματ᾽ Ἀδμήτει᾽, ἐν οἷς ἔτλην ἐγὼ
O halls Admetus' in which endured I
θῆσσαν τράπεζαν αἰνέσαι θεός περ ὤν.
menial table to-accept god though being
Ζεὺς γὰρ κατακτὰς παῖδα τὸν ἐμὸν αἴτιος
Zeus for having-killed son — my (was)-to-blame
Ἀσκληπιόν, στέρνοισιν ἐμβαλὼν φλόγα·
Asclepius into-chest having-hurled fire
οὗ δὴ χολωθεὶς τέκτονας Δίου πυρὸς
at-which indeed angered builders Zeus' of-fire
κτείνω Κύκλωπας· καί με θητεύειν πατὴρ
I-kill Cyclopes and me to-serve-for-hire father
θνητῷ παρ᾽ ἀνδρὶ τῶνδ᾽ ἄποιν᾽ ἠνάγκασεν.
mortal beside man for-these(-things) (as)-penalty compelled
ἐλθὼν δὲ γαῖαν τήνδ᾽ ἐβουφόρβουν ξένῳ,
having-come and land this I-herded-cattle for-host
καὶ τόνδ᾽ ἔσῳζον οἶκον ἐς τόδ᾽ ἡμέρας.
and this I-kept-safe house to this of-day
ὁσίου γὰρ ἀνδρὸς ὅσιος ὢν ἐτύγχανον,
of-holy for man holy being I-happened
παιδὸς Φέρητος, ὃν θανεῖν ἐρρυσάμην,
of-son of-Pheres whom to-die I-saved(-from)

Μοίρας δολώσας· ᾔνεσαν δέ μοι θεαὶ
Fates having-tricked consented and to-me goddesses
Ἄδμητον ᾅδην τὸν παραυτίκ᾽ ἐκφυγεῖν,
Admetus death the immediate to-escape
ἄλλον διαλλάξαντα τοῖς κάτω νεκρόν.
another having-given-in-exchange to-the(-ones) below corpse
πάντας δ᾽ ἐλέγξας καὶ διεξελθὼν φίλους,
all and having-tested and having-gone-through friends
πατέρα γεραιάν θ᾽ ἥ σφ᾽ ἔτικτε μητέρα,
father aged and who him bore mother
οὐχ ηὗρε πλὴν γυναικὸς ὅστις ἤθελε
not he-found except wife who was-willing
θανεῖν πρὸ κείνου μήδ᾽ ἔτ᾽ εἰσορᾶν φάος·
to-die for him nor still to-look-on light
ἥ νῦν κατ᾽ οἴκους ἐν χεροῖν βαστάζεται
who now throughout house in two-hands is-borne
ψυχορραγοῦσα· τῇδε γάρ σφ᾽ ἐν ἡμέρᾳ
breaking-from-life this for her on day
θανεῖν πέπρωται καὶ μεταστῆναι βίου.
to-die it-is-fated and to-depart from-life
ἐγὼ δέ, μὴ μίασμά μ᾽ ἐν δόμοις κίχῃ,
I and lest pollution me in house should-catch
λείπω μελάθρων τῶνδε φιλτάτην στέγην.
I-leave of-halls these dearest roof
ἤδη δὲ τόνδε Θάνατον εἰσορῶ πέλας,
already and this Death I-see near
ἱερῆ θανόντων, ὅς νιν εἰς Ἅιδου δόμους
priest of-the-dead who her into of-Hades house
μέλλει κατάξειν· συμμέτρως δ᾽ ἀφίκετο,
is-about to-lead-down timely and he-has-come

φρουρῶν τόδ᾽ ἦμαρ ᾧ θανεῖν αὐτὴν χρεών.
watching this day on-which to-die her (it-is)-fated

ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ ἆ ἆ·
ah ah

τί σὺ πρὸς μελάθροις; τί σὺ τῇδε πολεῖς,
why you at halls why you here haunt

Φοῖβ᾽; ἀδικεῖς αὖ τιμὰς ἐνέρων
Phoebus you-wrong again honors of-those-below

ἀφοριζόμενος καὶ καταπαύων.
taking-away and abolishing

οὐκ ἤρκεσέ σοι μόρον Ἀδμήτου
not was-it-enough for-you doom of-Admetus

διακωλῦσαι, Μοίρας δολίῳ
to-prevent Fates with-crafty

σφήλαντι τέχνῃ; νῦν δ᾽ ἐπὶ τῇδ᾽ αὖ
having-tripped art now and for her again

χέρα τοξήρη φρουρεῖς ὁπλίσας,
hand bow-armed you-guard having-armed

ᾗ τόδ᾽ ὑπέστη πόσιν ἐκλύσασ᾽
who this undertook husband having-freed

αὐτὴ προθανεῖν Πελίου παῖς.
herself to-die-for(-him) of-Pelias child

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ θάρσει· δίκην τοι καὶ λόγους κεδνοὺς ἔχω.
take-heart justice surely and words good I-have

ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ τί δῆτα τόξων ἔργον, εἰ δίκην ἔχεις;
what then of-bows work if justice you-have

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ σύνηθες ἀεὶ ταῦτα βαστάζειν ἐμοί.
(it-is)-customary always these to-carry for-me

ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ καὶ τοῖσδέ γ᾽ οἴκοις ἐκδίκως προσωφελεῖν.
and this at-least house unjustly to-help

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ φίλου γὰρ ἀνδρὸς συμφοραῖς βαρύνομαι.
of-friend for man by-misfortunes I-am-weighed-down

ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ καὶ νοσφιεῖς με τοῦδε δευτέρου νεκροῦ;
and will-you-rob me of-this second corpse

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ ἀλλ᾽ οὐδ᾽ ἐκεῖνον πρὸς βίαν σ᾽ ἀφειλόμην.
but not-even that-one by force from-you I-took

ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ πῶς οὖν ὑπὲρ γῆς ἐστι κοὐ κάτω χθονός;
how then above earth is-he and-not below ground

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ δάμαρτ᾽ ἀμείψας, ἣν σὺ νῦν ἥκεις μέτα.
wife having-exchanged whom you now come for

ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ κἀπάξομαί γε νερτέραν ὑπὸ χθόνα.
and-I-will-take-away at-least below under earth

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ λαβὼν ἴθ᾽· οὐ γὰρ οἶδ᾽ ἂν εἰ πείσαιμί σε.
having-taken go not for I-know — if I-could-persuade you

ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ κτείνειν γ᾽ ὃν ἂν χρῇ; τοῦτο γὰρ τετάγμεθα.
to-kill at-least whom — it-is-needful this for we-are-appointed

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ οὔκ, ἀλλὰ τοῖς μέλλουσι θάνατον ἐμβαλεῖν.
no but on-the(-ones) about-to(-die) death to-throw

ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ ἔχω λόγον δὴ καὶ προθυμίαν σέθεν.
I-have account indeed and eagerness your

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ ἔστ᾽ οὖν ὅπως Ἄλκηστις εἰς γῆρας μόλοι;
is-it then how Alcestis to old-age might-come

ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ οὐκ ἔστι· τιμαῖς κἀμὲ τέρπεσθαι δόκει.
not it-is in-honors me-too to-delight think

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ οὔτοι πλέον γ᾽ ἂν ἢ μίαν ψυχὴν λάβοις.
surely-not more at-least — than one life you-would-take

ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ νέων φθινόντων μεῖζον ἄρνυμαι γέρας.
young dying greater I-win prize

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ κἂν γραῦς ὄληται, πλουσίως ταφήσεται.
even-if old-woman should-die richly she-will-be-buried

ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ πρὸς τῶν ἐχόντων, Φοῖβε, τὸν νόμον τίθης.
in-favor-of the(-ones) having Phoebus the law you-set

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ πῶς εἶπας; ἀλλ᾽ ἦ καὶ σοφὸς λέληθας ὤν;
how did-you-say but — also clever have-you-escaped-notice being

ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ ὠνοῖντ᾽ ἂν οὓς πάρεστι γηραιοὺς θανεῖν.
would-buy — whom it-is-possible old to-die

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ οὔκουν δοκεῖ σοι τήνδε μοι δοῦναι χάριν;
not-then does-it-seem-good to-you this to-me to-give favor

ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ οὐ δῆτ᾽· ἐπίστασαι δὲ τοὺς ἐμοὺς τρόπους.
not then you-know and — my ways

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ ἐχθρούς γε θνητοῖς καὶ θεοῖς στυγουμένους.
hateful at-least to-mortals and to-gods loathed

ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ οὐκ ἂν δύναιο πάντ᾽ ἔχειν ἃ μή σε δεῖ.
not — you-could all to-have which not you it-is-needful

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ ἦ μὴν σὺ παύσει καίπερ ὠμὸς ὢν ἄγαν·
truly indeed you will-stop though cruel being too

τοῖος Φέρητος εἶσι πρὸς δόμους ἀνήρ,
such of-Pheres will-come to house man

Εὐρυσθέως πέμψαντος ἵππειον μέτα
of-Eurystheus having-sent horse-drawn for

ὄχημα Θρῄκης ἐκ τόπων δυσχειμέρων,
chariot of-Thrace from places wintry

ὃς δὴ ξενωθεὶς τοῖσδ᾽ ἐν Ἀδμήτου δόμοις
who indeed having-been-made-guest these in of-Admetus house

βίᾳ γυναῖκα τήνδε σ᾽ ἐξαιρήσεται.
by-force woman this from-you will-take-away

κοὔθ᾽ ἡ παρ᾽ ἡμῶν σοι γενήσεται χάρις
and-neither the from us to-you will-be favor

δράσεις θ᾽ ὁμοίως ταῦτ᾽, ἀπεχθήσει τ᾽ ἐμοί.
you-will-do and likewise these you-will-be-hated and by-me

ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ πόλλ' ἂν σὺ λέξας οὐδὲν ἂν πλέον λάβοις.
many(-things) — you having-said nothing — more would-take
ἡ δ' οὖν γυνὴ κάτεισιν εἰς Ἅιδου δόμους.
the and then woman will-go-down into of-Hades house
στείχω δ' ἐπ' αὐτήν, ὡς κατάρξωμαι ξίφει·
I-go and to her that I-may-consecrate with-sword
ἱερὸς γὰρ οὗτος τῶν κατὰ χθονὸς θεῶν
sacred for this(-one) of-the below earth gods
ὅτου τόδ' ἔγχος κρατὸς ἁγνίσῃ τρίχα.
of-whom this blade of-head consecrates hair

II · THE SILENT HOUSE

The elders of Pherae gather before the palace and wonder at its silence. They hear no mourning and see no lock of hair at the door, no water for purifying, no servant at the gates, and no women beating their breasts, yet this is the appointed day. If Asclepius were alive, Alcestis might come back from the dead; now every sacrifice has been offered and there is no cure for the evil.

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Α′ τί ποθ' ἡσυχία πρόσθεν μελάθρων;
why ever (is-there)-quiet before halls
τί σεσίγηται δόμος Ἀδμήτου;
why is-it-silent house of-Admetus
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Β′ ἀλλ' οὐδὲ φίλων πέλας οὐδείς,
but not-even of-friends near (is)-anyone
ὅστις ἂν εἴποι πότερον φθιμένην
who — might-say whether dead
βασίλειαν χρὴ πενθεῖν, ἢ ζῶσ'
queen (one)-must to-mourn or living
ἔτι φῶς λεύσσει Πελίου τόδε παῖς
still light sees of-Pelias this child

Ἄλκηστις, ἐμοὶ πᾶσί τ᾽ ἀρίστη
Alcestis to-me to-all and best
δόξασα γυνὴ
having-seemed woman
πόσιν εἰς αὑτῆς γεγενῆσθαι·
husband towards her-own to-have-been
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Α′ κλύει τις ἢ στεναγμὸν ἢ
hears anyone either groaning or
χειρῶν κτύπον κατὰ στέγας
of-hands beating throughout roof
ἢ γόον ὡς πεπραγμένων;
or wailing as of-things-done
οὐ μὰν οὐδέ τις ἀμφιπόλων
not indeed not-even anyone of-servants
στατίζεται ἀμφὶ πύλας.
is-stationed about gates
εἰ γὰρ μετακύμιος ἄτας,
if for after-the-wave of-ruin
ὦ Παιάν, φανείης.
O Healer you-would-appear
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Β′ οὔ τἂν φθιμένης γ᾽ ἐσιώπων.
not surely of-dead at-least they-would-be-silent
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Α′ νέκυς ἤδη.
corpse already
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Β′ οὐ δὴ φροῦδός γ᾽ ἐξ οἴκων.
not indeed gone at-least from house
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Α′ πόθεν; οὐκ αὐχῶ. τί σε θαρσύνει;
whence not I-boast what you encourages

HMIXOPION B′ πῶς ἂν ἔρημον τάφον Ἄδμητος
how — lonely burial Admetus
κεδνῆς ἂν ἔπραξε γυναικός;
of-good — would-have-made wife
HMIXOPION A′ πυλῶν πάροιθε δ᾽ οὐκ ὁρῶ
of-gates before and not I-see
πηγαῖον ὡς νομίζεται
from-the-spring as is-customary
χέρνιβ᾽ ἐπὶ φθιτῶν πύλαις,
lustral-water at of-dead gates
χαίτη τ᾽ οὔτις ἐπὶ προθύροις
hair and no on porches
τομαῖος, ἃ δὴ νεκύων
cut which indeed of-corpses
πένθει πίτνει· οὐ νεολαία
in-mourning falls not young
δουπεῖ χεὶρ γυναικῶν.
beats hand of-women
HMIXOPION B′ καὶ μὴν τόδε κύριον ἦμαρ —
and indeed this appointed day
HMIXOPION A′ τί τόδ᾽ αὐδᾷς;
what this you-say
HMIXOPION B′ ᾧ χρή σφε μολεῖν κατὰ γαίας.
on-which (one)-must her to-go below earth
HMIXOPION A′ ἔθιγες ψυχῆς, ἔθιγες δὲ φρενῶν.
you-have-touched soul you-have-touched and mind

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Β′ χρὴ τῶν ἀγαθῶν διακναιομένων
(one)-must of-the good being-worn-away

πενθεῖν ὅστις
to-mourn whoever

χρηστὸς ἀπ᾽ ἀρχῆς νενόμισται.
good from beginning has-been-held

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ οὐδὲ ναυκληρίαν
but not-even voyage

ἔσθ᾽ ὅποι τις αἴας
is-there whither anyone of-land

στείλας, ἢ Λυκίας
having-sent either to-Lycia

εἴτ᾽ ἐπὶ τὰς ἀνύδρους
or to the waterless

Ἀμμωνιάδας ἕδρας
Ammonian seats

δυστάνου παραλύσαι
of-wretched to-release

ψυχάν· μόρος γὰρ ἀπότομος
soul doom for sheer

πλάθει· θεῶν δ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ἐσχάραις
draws-near of-gods and at hearths

οὐκ ἔχω ἐπὶ τίνα
not I-have to whom

μηλοθύταν πορευθῶ.
sheep-sacrificer I-may-go

μόνος δ᾽ ἄν, εἰ φῶς τόδ᾽ ἦν
alone and — if light this were

ὄμμασιν δεδορκὼς
with-eyes seeing

Φοίβου παῖς, προλιποῦσ᾽
of-Phoebus child having-left
ἦλθεν ἕδρας σκοτίους
would-have-come seats dark
Ἅιδα τε πύλας·
of-Hades and gates
δμαθέντας γὰρ ἀνίστη,
the-subdued for he-raised
πρὶν αὐτὸν εἶλε διόβολον
before him took Zeus-hurled
πλῆκτρον πυρὸς κεραυνίου.
bolt of-fire of-thunderbolt
νῦν δὲ τίν᾽ ἔτι βίου
now and what still of-life
ἐλπίδα προσδέχωμαι;
hope am-I-to-await
πάντα γὰρ ἤδη τετέλεσται βασιλεῦσι,
all for already has-been-done by-the-kings
πάντων δὲ θεῶν ἐπὶ βωμοῖς
of-all and gods at altars
αἱμόρραντοι θυσίαι πλήρεις,
blood-sprinkled sacrifices full
οὐδ᾽ ἔστι κακῶν ἄκος οὐδέν.
nor is of-ills cure none

III · THE QUEEN PREPARES TO DIE

A maidservant comes out in tears: Alcestis lives and is dying. She bathed and dressed herself, prayed to Hestia for her children, crowned the altars, and wept on her marriage bed, telling it that she did not hate it, though she died for its sake. She embraced her children and gave her hand to every servant. Admetus holds her and begs her not to leave him, and she longs to see the sun once more.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἥδ᾽ ὀπαδῶν ἐκ δόμων τις ἔρχεται
but this of-attendants from house one comes
δακρυρροοῦσα· τίνα τύχην ἀκούσομαι;
weeping what fortune shall-I-hear
πενθεῖν μέν, εἴ τι δεσπόταισι τυγχάνει,
to-mourn indeed if anything to-masters befalls
συγγνωστόν· εἰ δ᾽ ἔτ᾽ ἐστὶν ἔμψυχος γυνὴ
(is)-pardonable if and still is alive woman
εἴτ᾽ οὖν ὄλωλεν εἰδέναι βουλοίμεθ᾽ ἄν. 140
or then has-perished to-know we-would-wish —

ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ καὶ ζῶσαν εἰπεῖν καὶ θανοῦσαν ἔστι σοι.
both living to-call and dead it-is-possible for-you

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ πῶς ἂν αὐτὸς κατθάνοι τε καὶ βλέποι;
and how — the-same might-die both and see

ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ ἤδη προνωπής ἐστι καὶ ψυχορραγεῖ.
already drooping-forward she-is and breaks-from-life

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ τλῆμον, οἵας οἷος ὢν ἁμαρτάνεις.
O wretched of-what what-a(-man) being you-are-bereft

ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ οὔπω τόδ᾽ οἶδε δεσπότης, πρὶν ἂν πάθῃ. 145
not-yet this knows master before — he-suffers

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐλπὶς μὲν οὐκέτ᾽ ἐστὶ σῴζεσθαι βίον;
hope indeed no-longer is to-be-saved life

ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ πεπρωμένη γὰρ ἡμέρα βιάζεται.
fated for day presses

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὔκουν ἐπ᾽ αὐτῇ πράσσεται τὰ πρόσφορα;
not-then for her are-being-done the fitting(-things)

ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ κόσμος γ᾽ ἕτοιμος, ᾧ σφε συνθάψει πόσις.
adornment at-least (is)-ready with-which her will-bury-with husband

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἴστω νυν εὐκλεής γε κατθανουμένη
let-her-know then glorious at-least about-to-die

γυνή τ᾽ ἀρίστη τῶν ὑφ᾽ ἡλίῳ μακρῷ.
woman and best of-the(-ones) under sun by-far

ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ πῶς δ᾽ οὐκ ἀρίστη; τίς δ᾽ ἐναντιώσεται;
how and not best who and will-oppose(-it)

τί χρὴ γενέσθαι τὴν ὑπερβεβλημένην
what must to-become the surpassing

γυναῖκα; πῶς δ᾽ ἂν μᾶλλον ἐνδείξαιτό τις
woman how and — more could-show anyone

πόσιν προτιμῶσ᾽ ἢ θέλουσ᾽ ὑπερθανεῖν;
husband honoring-before than willing to-die-for(-him)

καὶ ταῦτα μὲν δὴ πᾶσ᾽ ἐπίσταται πόλις·
and these indeed indeed all knows city

ἃ δ᾽ ἐν δόμοις ἔδρασε θαυμάσει κλύων.
what but in house she-did you-will-wonder hearing

ἐπεὶ γὰρ ᾔσθεθ᾽ ἡμέραν τὴν κυρίαν
when for she-perceived day the appointed

ἥκουσαν, ὕδασι ποταμίοις λευκὸν χρόα
having-come with-waters of-river white skin

ἐλούσατ᾽, ἐκ δ᾽ ἑλοῦσα κεδρίνων δόμων
she-washed from and having-taken cedar chambers

ἐσθῆτα κόσμον τ᾽ εὐπρεπῶς ἠσκήσατο,
dress adornment and becomingly she-arrayed(-herself)

καὶ στᾶσα πρόσθεν Ἑστίας κατηύξατο·
and having-stood before Hestia prayed
δέσποιν', ἐγὼ γὰρ ἔρχομαι κατὰ χθονός,
mistress I for go below earth
πανύστατόν σε προσπίτνουσ' αἰτήσομαι,
for-the-very-last-time you falling-before I-will-ask
τέκν' ὀρφανεῦσαι τἀμά, καὶ τῷ μὲν φίλην
children to-tend-as-orphans my and to-the one dear
σύζευξον ἄλοχον, τῇ δὲ γενναῖον πόσιν.
yoke wife to-the other noble husband
μηδ' ὥσπερ αὐτῶν ἡ τεκοῦσ' ἀπόλλυμαι
nor as of-them the mother I-perish
θανεῖν ἀώρους παῖδας, ἀλλ' εὐδαίμονας
to-die untimely children but happy
ἐν γῇ πατρῴᾳ τερπνὸν ἐκπλῆσαι βίον.
in land of-the-fathers delightful to-fulfill life
πάντας δὲ βωμοὺς οἳ κατ' Ἀδμήτου δόμους
all and altars which throughout of-Admetus house
προσῆλθε κἀξέστεψε καὶ προσηύξατο,
she-approached and-garlanded and prayed-at
πτόρθων ἀποσχίζουσα μυρσίνης φόβην,
of-shoots stripping of-myrtle foliage
ἄκλαυστος ἀστένακτος, οὐδὲ τοὐπιὸν
tearless unsighing nor the-coming
κακὸν μεθίστη χρωτὸς εὐειδῆ φύσιν.
evil changed of-skin fair nature
κἄπειτα θάλαμον εἰσπεσοῦσα καὶ λέχος,
and-then chamber having-rushed-into and bed
ἐνταῦθα δὴ 'δάκρυσε καὶ λέγει τάδε·
there indeed she-wept and says these(-things)

ὦ λέκτρον, ἔνθα παρθένει᾽ ἔλυσ᾽ ἐγώ
O bed where maiden I-loosed I
κορεύματ᾽ ἐκ τοῦδ᾽ ἀνδρός, οὗ θνῄσκω πέρι,
maidenhood by this man whom I-die for
χαῖρ᾽· οὐ γὰρ ἐχθαίρω σ᾽· ἀπώλεσας δέ με
farewell not for I-hate you you-have-destroyed but me
μόνην· προδοῦναι γάρ σ᾽ ὀκνοῦσα καὶ πόσιν
alone to-betray for you shrinking and husband
θνῄσκω. σὲ δ᾽ ἄλλη τις γυνὴ κεκτήσεται,
I-die you and other some woman will-possess
σώφρων μὲν οὐκ ἂν μᾶλλον, εὐτυχὴς δ᾽ ἴσως.
chaste indeed not — more fortunate but perhaps
κυνεῖ δὲ προσπίτνουσα, πᾶν δὲ δέμνιον
she-kisses and falling-upon(-it) all and couch
ὀφθαλμοτέγκτῳ δεύεται πλημμυρίδι.
with-eye-wetting is-drenched flood
ἐπεὶ δὲ πολλῶν δακρύων εἶχεν κόρον,
when and of-many tears she-had fill
στείχει προνωπὴς ἐκπεσοῦσα δεμνίων,
she-goes drooping-forward having-fallen-out from-the-couch
καὶ πολλὰ θαλάμων ἐξιοῦσ᾽ ἐπεστράφη
and often from-the-chamber going-out she-turned-back
κἄρριψεν αὑτὴν αὖθις εἰς κοίτην πάλιν.
and-threw herself again onto bed back
παῖδες δὲ πέπλων μητρὸς ἐξηρτημένοι
children and of-robes of-mother hanging
ἔκλαιον· ἣ δὲ λαμβάνουσ᾽ ἐς ἀγκάλας
were-weeping she and taking into arms
ἠσπάζετ᾽ ἄλλοτ᾽ ἄλλον, ὡς θανουμένη.
embraced now(-one) (now)-another as about-to-die

πάντες δ' ἔκλαιον οἰκέται κατὰ στέγας
all and were-weeping servants throughout roof
δέσποιναν οἰκτείροντες. ἥ δὲ δεξιὰν
mistress pitying she and right(-hand)
προύτειν' ἑκάστῳ, κοὔτις ἦν οὕτω κακὸς
held-out to-each and-no-one was so bad
ὃν οὐ προσεῖπε καὶ προσερρήθη πάλιν.
whom not she-addressed and was-addressed back
τοιαῦτ' ἐν οἴκοις ἐστὶν Ἀδμήτου κακά.
such in house are of-Admetus ills
καὶ κατθανών τ' ἂν ὤλετ', ἐκφυγὼν δ' ἔχει
both having-died and — he-would-have-perished having-escaped but he-has
τοσοῦτον ἄλγος, οὗ ποτ' οὐ λελήσεται.
so-great grief which ever not he-will-forget
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἦ που στενάζει τοισίδ' Ἄδμητος κακοῖς,
truly I-suppose groans at-these Admetus ills
ἐσθλῆς γυναικὸς εἰ στερηθῆναί σφε χρή;
noble wife if to-be-bereft him (one)-must
ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ κλαίει γ' ἄκοιτιν ἐν χεροῖν φίλην ἔχων,
he-weeps at-least wife in two-hands dear holding
καὶ μὴ προδοῦναι λίσσεται, τἀμήχανα
and not to-betray(-him) begs the-impossible(-things)
ζητῶν· φθίνει γὰρ καὶ μαραίνεται νόσῳ,
seeking she-wastes for and withers with-sickness
παρειμένη δέ, χειρὸς ἄθλιον βάρος,
fainting and of-hand wretched weight
ὅμως δὲ καίπερ σμικρὸν ἐμπνέουσ' ἔτι
nevertheless but though little breathing still
βλέψαι πρὸς αὐγὰς βούλεται τὰς ἡλίου,
to-look toward rays she-wishes of-the sun

ὡς οὔποτ' αὖθις, ἀλλὰ νῦν πανύστατον.
as never again but now for-the-last-time
ἀλλ' εἶμι καὶ σὴν ἀγγελῶ παρουσίαν·
but I-will-go and your I-will-announce presence
οὐ γάρ τι πάντες εὖ φρονοῦσι κοιράνοις,
not for at-all all well are-minded to-masters
ὥστ' ἐν κακοῖσιν εὐμενεῖς παρεστάναι.
so-as in ills kindly to-stand-by
σὺ δ' εἶ παλαιὸς δεσπόταις ἐμοῖς φίλος.
you but are old to-masters my friend

IV · THE BOAT OF CHARON

The chorus prays to Zeus and to Apollo for some way out and pities Admetus. Alcestis is carried out with her husband and children. She sees the lake and Charon's boat, hears the ferryman calling, and feels a winged figure under dark brows dragging her toward Hades. She bids her children farewell, and Admetus begs her not to abandon him, for in her lies his life.

ΧΟΡΟΣ Α′ ἰὼ Ζεῦ, τίς ἂν πᾷ πόρος κακῶν
oh Zeus what — anywhere way of-ills
γένοιτο καὶ λύσις τύχας ἃ πάρεστι κοιράνοις;
might-be and release of-fortune which is-present to-the-lords
ΧΟΡΟΣ Β′ ἔξεισί τις; ἢ τέμω τρίχα,
will-come-out anyone or am-I-to-cut hair
καὶ μέλανα στολμὸν πέπλων
and black garb of-robes
ἀμφιβαλώμεθ' ἤδη;
are-we-to-put-about already

χορος γ′ δῆλα μέν, φίλοι, δῆλά γ', ἀλλ' ὅμως
clear indeed friends clear at-least but nevertheless
θεοῖσιν εὐχώμεσθα· θεῶν
to-gods let-us-pray of-gods
γὰρ δύναμις μεγίστη.
for power (is)-greatest
χορος δ′ ὦναξ Παιάν,
O-lord Healer
ἔξευρε μηχανάν τιν' Ἀδμήτῳ κακῶν.
find-out means some for-Admetus of-ills
χορος ε′ πόριζε δὴ πόριζε· καὶ πάρος γὰρ
provide indeed provide also before for
τῷδ' ἐφεῦρες τοῦτο, καὶ νῦν
for-him you-found-out this and now
λυτήριος ἐκ θανάτου γενοῦ,
deliverer from death become
φόνιον δ' ἀπόπαυσον Ἅιδαν.
murderous and stop Hades
χορος ς′ παπαῖ φεῦ, παπαῖ φεῦ· ἰὼ ἰώ.
alas alas alas alas oh oh
ὦ παῖ Φέρητος, οἷ' ἔπρα-
O child of-Pheres what you-have-done
ξας δάμαρτος σᾶς στερείς.
— of-wife your having-been-bereft
χορος ζ′ ἆρ' ἄξια καὶ σφαγᾶς τάδε,
— worthy even of-slaughter these(-things)
καὶ πλέον ἢ βρόχῳ δέρην
and more than with-noose neck
οὐρανίῳ πελάσσαι;
heaven-hung to-bring-near

ΧΟΡΟΣ Η′ τὰν γὰρ οὐ φίλαν ἀλλὰ φιλτάταν
the for not dear but dearest
γυναῖκα κατθανοῦσαν εἰν
wife dead on
ἄματι τῷδ᾽ ἐπόψει.
day this you-will-see
ΧΟΡΟΣ Θ′ ἰδοὺ ἰδού,
see see
ἥδ᾽ ἐκ δόμων δὴ καὶ πόσις πορεύεται.
this-one from house indeed and husband comes
ΧΟΡΟΣ βόασον ὦ, στέναξον, ὦ Φεραία
cry-out O groan O Pheraean
χθών, τὰν ἀρίσταν
land the best
γυναῖκα μαραινομέναν νόσῳ
woman wasting with-sickness
κατὰ γᾶς χθόνιον παρ᾽ Ἄιδαν.
below earth of-the-underworld to Hades
οὔποτε φήσω γάμον εὐφραίνειν
never will-I-say marriage to-gladden
πλέον ἢ λυπεῖν, τοῖς τε πάροιθεν
more than to-grieve from-the(-things) both before
τεκμαιρόμενος καὶ τάσδε τύχας
judging and these fortunes
λεύσσων βασιλέως, ὅστις ἀρίστης
seeing of-the-king who best
ἀπλακὼν ἀλόχου τῆσδ᾽ ἀβίωτον
having-lost wife this unlivable
τὸν ἔπειτα χρόνον βιοτεύσει.
the hereafter time will-live

ΑΛΚΗΣΤΙΣ Ἅλιε καὶ φάος ἁμέρας,
Sun and light of-day
οὐράνιαί τε δῖναι νεφέλας δρομαίου.
heavenly and whirlings of-cloud running
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ὁρᾷ σὲ κἀμέ, δύο κακῶς πεπραγότας,
it-sees you and-me two badly having-fared
οὐδὲν θεοὺς δράσαντας ἀνθ᾽ ὅτου θανεῖ.
nothing to-gods having-done for which you-will-die
ΑΛΚΗΣΤΙΣ γαῖά τε καὶ μελάθρων στέγαι
earth both and of-halls roofs
νυμφίδιοί τε κοῖται πατρίας Ἰωλκοῦ.
bridal and chambers of-ancestral Iolcus
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἔπαιρε σαυτήν, ὦ τάλαινα, μὴ προδῷς·
lift yourself O wretched not betray(-me)
λίσσου δὲ τοὺς κρατοῦντας οἰκτεῖραι θεούς.
pray and the ruling to-pity gods
ΑΛΚΗΣΤΙΣ ὁρῶ δίκωπον ὁρῶ σκάφος ἐν λίμνᾳ,
I-see two-oared I-see boat on lake
νεκύων δὲ πορθμεὺς
of-corpses and ferryman
ἔχων χέρ᾽ ἐπὶ κοντῷ Χάρων
having hand on pole Charon
μ᾽ ἤδη καλεῖ· τί μέλλεις;
me already calls why do-you-delay
ἐπείγου· σὺ κατείργεις.
hasten you hold-(us)-back
τάδε τοί με σπερχόμενος ταχύνει.
these(-words) surely me hurrying he-urges

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ οἴμοι, πικράν γε τήνδε μοι ναυκληρίαν
ah-me bitter at-least this to-me voyage
ἔλεξας. ὦ δύσδαιμον, οἷα πάσχομεν.
you-have-named O ill-fated what-things we-suffer
ΑΛΚΗΣΤΙΣ ἄγει μ' ἄγει μέ τις — οὐχ ὁρᾷς; —
leads me leads me someone not do-you-see
νεκύων ἐς αὐλὰν
of-corpses to hall
ὑπ' ὀφρύσι κυαναυγέσι
under brows dark-gleaming
βλέπων πτερωτὸς Ἅιδας.
looking winged Hades
τί ῥέξεις; μέθες. οἵαν
what will-you-do let-go what
ὁδὸν ἁ δειλαιοτάτα προβαίνω.
road the most-wretched I-go
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ οἰκτρὰν φίλοισιν, ἐκ δὲ τῶν μάλιστ' ἐμοὶ
pitiful for-friends from and the(-ones) most for-me
καὶ παισίν, οἷς δὴ πένθος ἐν κοινῷ τόδε.
and for-children for-whom indeed grief in common (is)-this
ΑΛΚΗΣΤΙΣ μέθετε μέθετέ μ' ἤδη.
let-go let-go me already
κλίνατ', οὐ σθένω ποσίν·
lay(-me)-down not I-have-strength with-feet
πλησίον Ἅιδας·
near (is)-Hades
σκοτία δ' ἐπ' ὄσσοις νὺξ ἐφέρπει.
dark and on eyes night creeps
τέκνα τέκν', οὐκέτι δὴ
children children no-longer indeed

οὐκέτι μάτηρ σφῷν ἔστιν.
no-longer mother for-you-two is
χαίροντες, ὦ τέκνα, τόδε φάος ὁρῷτον.
rejoicing O children this light may-you-two-see
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ οἴμοι· τόδ᾽ ἔπος λυπρὸν ἀκούω
ah-me this word grievous I-hear
καὶ παντὸς ἐμοὶ θανάτου μεῖζον.
and than-all to-me death greater
μὴ πρός σε θεῶν τλῇς με προδοῦναι, 275
not by you gods dare me to-betray
μὴ πρὸς παίδων οὓς ὀρφανιεῖς,
not by children whom you-will-orphan
ἀλλ᾽ ἄνα, τόλμα·
but up take-heart
σοῦ γὰρ φθιμένης οὐκέτ᾽ ἂν εἴην·
you for having-died no-longer — I-would-be
ἐν σοὶ δ᾽ ἐσμὲν καὶ ζῆν καὶ μή·
in you and we-are both to-live and not
σὴν γὰρ φιλίαν σεβόμεσθα.
your for love we-revere

Alcestis, who chose to die for Admetus though his parents would not, asks a favor in return: he must never set a stepmother over her children, who would hate them, and her daughter would have no mother at her marriage. He swears to stay unmarried, to mourn her all his life, to banish feasts and music, and to keep an image of her in his bed. She hands him the children and dies. Her son laments, and Admetus orders the city into mourning.

ΑΛΚΗΣΤΙΣ Ἄδμηθ', ὁρᾷς γὰρ τἀμὰ πράγματ' ὡς ἔχει,
Admetus you-see for my affairs how they-stand
λέξαι θέλω σοι πρὶν θανεῖν ἃ βούλομαι.
to-tell I-wish to-you before to-die what I-want
ἐγώ σε πρεσβεύουσα κἀντὶ τῆς ἐμῆς
I you honoring-above and-instead-of — my
ψυχῆς καταστήσασα φῶς τόδ' εἰσορᾶν,
life having-set light this to-look-on
θνήσκω, παρόν μοι μὴ θανεῖν ὑπὲρ σέθεν,
I-die it-being-possible for-me not to-die for you
ἀλλ' ἄνδρα τε σχεῖν Θεσσαλῶν ὃν ἤθελον,
but husband both to-have of-Thessalians whom I-wished
καὶ δῶμα ναίειν ὄλβιον τυραννίδι,
and house to-dwell-in blessed in-royal-power
οὐκ ἠθέλησα ζῆν ἀποσπασθεῖσά σου
not I-wished to-live torn-from you
σὺν παισὶν ὀρφανοῖσιν· οὐδ' ἐφεισάμην
with children orphaned nor did-I-spare
ἥβης ἔχουσα δῶρ', ἐν οἷς ἐτερπόμην.
of-youth having gifts in which I-delighted
καίτοι σ' ὁ φύσας χἠ τεκοῦσα προύδοσαν,
and-yet you the begetter and-the bearer betrayed

καλῶς μὲν αὐτοῖς κατθανεῖν ἦκον βίου,
well indeed for-them to-die having-come of-life
καλῶς δὲ σῶσαι παῖδα κεὐκλεῶς θανεῖν.
well and to-save son and-gloriously to-die
μόνος γὰρ αὐτοῖς ἦσθα, κοὔτις ἐλπὶς ἦν
only(-son) for to-them you-were and-no hope was
σοῦ κατθανόντος ἄλλα φιτύσειν τέκνα.
you having-died other to-beget children
κἀγώ τ' ἂν ἔζων καὶ σὺ τὸν λοιπὸν χρόνον,
and-I both — would-live and you the remaining time
κοὐκ ἂν μονωθεὶς σῆς δάμαρτος ἔστενες
and-not — left-alone of-your wife you-would-groan
καὶ παῖδας ὠρφάνευες. ἀλλὰ ταῦτα μὲν
and children you-would-rear-as-orphans but these indeed
θεῶν τις ἐξέπραξεν ὥσθ' οὕτως ἔχειν.
of-gods some-one brought-about so-as so to-be
εἶεν· σὺ νῦν μοι τῶνδ' ἀπόμνησαι χάριν·
well you now to-me for-these return favor
αἰτήσομαι γάρ σ' ἀξίαν μὲν οὔποτε·
I-will-ask for you worthy indeed never
ψυχῆς γὰρ οὐδέν ἐστι τιμιώτερον·
than-life for nothing is more-precious
δίκαια δ', ὡς φήσεις σύ· τούσδε γὰρ φιλεῖς
just but as will-say you these for you-love
οὐχ ἧσσον ἢ 'γὼ παῖδας, εἴπερ εὖ φρονεῖς·
not less than I children if-indeed well you-think
τούτους ἀνάσχου δεσπότας ἐμῶν δόμων,
these let-them-be masters of-my house
καὶ μὴ 'πιγήμῃς τοῖσδε μητρυιὰν τέκνοις,
and not marry for-these stepmother children

ἥτις κακίων οὖσ᾽ ἐμοῦ γυνὴ φθόνῳ
who worse being than-me woman in-envy
τοῖς σοῖσι κἀμοῖς παισὶ χεῖρα προσβαλεῖ.
on-the your and-my children hand will-lay
μὴ δῆτα δράσῃς ταῦτά γ᾽, αἰτοῦμαί σ᾽ ἐγώ.
not then do these at-least I-ask you I
ἐχθρὰ γὰρ ἡ ᾽πιοῦσα μητρυιὰ τέκνοις
hostile for the coming stepmother to-children
τοῖς πρόσθ᾽, ἐχίδνης οὐδὲν ἠπιωτέρα.
the former than-viper in-nothing kinder
καὶ παῖς μὲν ἄρσην πατέρ᾽ ἔχει πύργον μέγαν,
and son indeed male father has tower great
ὃν καὶ προσεῖπε καὶ προσερρήθη πάλιν·
whom both he-addressed and was-addressed back
σὺ δ᾽, ὦ τέκνον μοι, πῶς κορευθήσει καλῶς;
you and O child my how will-you-be-reared-in-maidenhood well
ποίας τυχοῦσα συζύγου τῷ σῷ πατρί;
what having-got consort for-the your father
μή σοί τιν᾽ αἰσχρὰν προσβαλοῦσα κληδόνα
lest on-you some shameful having-cast report
ἥβης ἐν ἀκμῇ σοὺς διαφθείρῃ γάμους.
of-youth in prime your should-ruin marriage
οὐ γάρ σε μήτηρ οὔτε νυμφεύσει ποτὲ
not for you mother neither will-give-in-marriage ever
οὔτ᾽ ἐν τόκοισι τοῖσι σοῖσι θαρσυνεῖ
nor in childbirths the your will-encourage
παροῦσ᾽, ἵν᾽ οὐδὲν μητρὸς εὐμενέστερον.
being-by when nothing than-mother (is)-kinder
δεῖ γὰρ θανεῖν με· καὶ τόδ᾽ οὐκ ἐς αὔριον
must for to-die me and this not to tomorrow

οὐδ᾽ εἰς τρίτην μοι μηνὸς ἔρχεται κακόν,
nor to third for-me of-the-month comes ill
ἀλλ᾽ αὐτίκ᾽ ἐν τοῖς μηκέτ᾽ οὖσι λέξομαι.
but at-once among the(-ones) no-longer being I-will-be-counted
χαίροντες εὐφραίνοισθε· καὶ σοὶ μέν, πόσι,
rejoicing may-you-fare-well and for-you indeed husband
γυναῖκ᾽ ἀρίστην ἔστι κομπάσαι λαβεῖν,
wife best it-is-possible to-boast to-have-had
ὑμῖν δέ, παῖδες, μητρὸς ἐκπεφυκέναι.
for-you and children of-mother to-have-been-born
ΧΟΡΟΣ θάρσει· πρὸ τούτου γὰρ λέγειν οὐχ ἅζομαι·
take-heart for this for to-speak not I-fear
δράσει τάδ᾽, εἴπερ μὴ φρενῶν ἁμαρτάνει.
he-will-do these(-things) if-indeed not in-mind he-errs
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἔσται τάδ᾽ ἔσται, μὴ τρέσῃς· ἐπεὶ σ᾽ ἐγὼ
it-will-be these(-things) it-will-be do-not fear since you I
καὶ ζῶσαν εἶχον καὶ θανοῦσ᾽ ἐμὴ γυνὴ
both living had and dead my wife
μόνη κεκλήσει, κοὔτις ἀντὶ σοῦ ποτε
alone you-will-be-called and-no-one instead-of you ever
τόνδ᾽ ἄνδρα νύμφη Θεσσαλὶς προσφθέγξεται.
this man bride Thessalian will-address
οὐκ ἔστιν οὕτως οὔτε πατρὸς εὐγενοῦς
not is so neither of-father nobly-born
οὔτ᾽ εἶδος ἄλλως ἐκπρεπεστάτη γυνή.
nor in-form otherwise most-distinguished woman
ἅλις δὲ παίδων, τῶνδ᾽ ὄνησιν εὔχομαι
enough and of-children of-these profit I-pray
θεοῖς γενέσθαι· σοῦ γὰρ οὐκ ὠνήμεθα.
to-the-gods to-be of-you for not we-had-profit

οἴσω δὲ πένθος οὐκ ἐτήσιον τὸ σόν,
I-will-bear and mourning not yearlong the your
ἀλλ' ἔστ' ἂν αἰὼν οὑμὸς ἀντέχῃ, γύναι,
but while — life my endures woman
στυγῶν μὲν ἥ μ' ἔτικτεν, ἐχθαίρων δ' ἐμὸν
hating indeed her-who me bore hating and my
πατέρα· λόγῳ γὰρ ἦσαν οὐκ ἔργῳ φίλοι.
father in-word for they-were not in-deed friends
340 σὺ δ' ἀντιδοῦσα τῆς ἐμῆς τὰ φίλτατα
you and having-given-in-exchange of-the my the dearest(-things)
ψυχῆς ἔσωσας. ἆρά μοι στένειν πάρα
life you-saved — for-me to-groan (is-it)-possible
τοιᾶσδ' ἁμαρτάνοντι συζύγου σέθεν;
such being-bereft of-consort of-you
παύσω δὲ κώμους συμποτῶν θ' ὁμιλίας
I-will-stop and revels of-drinkers and companies
στεφάνους τε μοῦσάν θ' ἣ κατεῖχ' ἐμοὺς δόμους.
garlands and music and which filled my house
345 οὐ γάρ ποτ' οὔτ' ἂν βαρβίτου θίγοιμ' ἔτι
not for ever neither — of-lyre would-I-touch again
οὔτ' ἂν φρέν' ἐξαίροιμι πρὸς Λίβυν λακεῖν
nor — heart would-I-lift to Libyan to-cry
αὐλόν· σὺ γάρ μου τέρψιν ἐξείλου βίου.
pipe you for my delight took-away of-life
σοφῇ δὲ χειρὶ τεκτόνων δέμας τὸ σὸν
by-skilled and hand of-craftsmen form the your
εἰκασθὲν ἐν λέκτροισιν ἐκταθήσεται,
imaged in bed will-be-laid-out
350 ᾧ προσπεσοῦμαι καὶ περιπτύσσων χέρας
on-which I-will-fall and folding hands

ὄνομα καλῶν σὸν τὴν φίλην ἐν ἀγκάλαις
name calling your the dear in arms
δόξω γυναῖκα καίπερ οὐκ ἔχων ἔχειν,
I-will-think wife though not having to-have
ψυχρὰν μέν, οἶμαι, τέρψιν, ἀλλ' ὅμως βάρος
cold indeed I-think delight but nevertheless weight
ψυχῆς ἀπαντλοίην ἄν· ἐν δ' ὀνείρασι
of-soul I-could-drain — in and dreams
φοιτῶσά μ' εὐφραίνοις ἄν· ἡδὺ γὰρ φίλους
visiting me you-would-gladden — sweet for friends
κἀν νυκτὶ λεύσσειν, ὅντιν' ἂν παρῇ χρόνον.
even-at night to-see whatever — they-be-by time
εἰ δ' Ὀρφέως μοι γλῶσσα καὶ μέλος παρῆν,
if and of-Orpheus to-me tongue and song were-present
ὥστ' ἢ κόρην Δήμητρος ἢ κείνης πόσιν
so-as either maiden of-Demeter or her husband
ὕμνοισι κηλήσαντά σ' ἐξ Ἅιδου λαβεῖν,
by-hymns having-charmed you from Hades to-take
κατῆλθον ἄν, καί μ' οὔθ' ὁ Πλούτωνος κύων
I-would-go-down — and me neither the of-Pluto hound
οὔθ' οὑπὶ κώπῃ ψυχοπομπὸς ἂν Χάρων
nor the-at oar soul-guide — Charon
ἔσχον, πρὶν εἰς φῶς σὸν καταστῆσαι βίον.
would-have-held before into light your to-set life
ἀλλ' οὖν ἐκεῖσε προσδόκα μ', ὅταν θάνω,
but then there await me when I-die
καὶ δῶμ' ἑτοίμαζ', ὡς συνοικήσουσά μοι.
and house prepare as to-dwell-with me
ἐν ταῖσιν αὐταῖς γάρ μ' ἐπισκήψω κέδροις
in the same for me I-will-charge cedar

σοὶ τούσδε θεῖναι πλευρά τ' ἐκτεῖναι πέλας
for-you these to-lay sides and to-stretch near
πλευροῖσι τοῖς σοῖς· μηδὲ γὰρ θανών ποτε
to-sides the your not-even for having-died ever
σοῦ χωρὶς εἴην τῆς μόνης πιστῆς ἐμοί.
of-you apart may-I-be the only faithful to-me
ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ἐγώ σοι πένθος ὡς φίλος φίλῳ
and indeed I to-you grief as friend to-friend
λυπρὸν συνοίσω τῆσδε· καὶ γὰρ ἀξία.
grievous will-share for-her and for she-is-worthy
ΑΛΚΗΣΤΙΣ ὦ παῖδες, αὐτοὶ δὴ τάδ' εἰσηκούσατε
O children yourselves indeed these(-things) heard
πατρὸς λέγοντος μὴ γαμεῖν ἄλλην τινὰ
father saying not to-marry other any
γυναῖκ' ἐφ' ὑμῖν μηδ' ἀτιμάσειν ἐμέ.
woman over you nor to-dishonor me
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ καὶ νῦν γέ φημι, καὶ τελευτήσω τάδε.
and now at-least I-say and I-will-fulfill these(-things)
ΑΛΚΗΣΤΙΣ ἐπὶ τοῖσδε παῖδας χειρὸς ἐξ ἐμῆς δέχου.
on these(-terms) children hand from my receive
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ δέχομαι φίλον γε δῶρον ἐκ φίλης χερός.
I-receive dear at-least gift from dear hand
ΑΛΚΗΣΤΙΣ σὺ νῦν γενοῦ τοῖσδ' ἀντ' ἐμοῦ μήτηρ τέκνοις.
you now become for-these instead-of me mother children
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ πολλή μ' ἀνάγκη, σοῦ γ' ἀπεστερημένοις.
great for-me (is-the)-necessity of-you at-least bereft
ΑΛΚΗΣΤΙΣ ὦ τέκν', ὅτε ζῆν χρῆν μ', ἀπέρχομαι κάτω.
O children when to-live (it)-was-needful me I-go-away below
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ οἴμοι, τί δράσω δῆτα σοῦ μονούμενος;
ah-me what shall-I-do then of-you left-alone

ΑΛΚΗΣΤΙΣ χρόνος μαλάξει σ᾽· οὐδέν ἐσθ᾽ ὁ κατθανών.
time will-soften you nothing is the dead(-one)

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἄγου με σὺν σοί, πρὸς θεῶν, ἄγου κάτω.
take me with you by gods take below

ΑΛΚΗΣΤΙΣ ἀρκοῦμεν ἡμεῖς οἱ προθνήσκοντες σέθεν.
we-suffice we the(-ones) dying-for you

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ὦ δαῖμον, οἵας συζύγου μ᾽ ἀποστερεῖς.
O god of-what consort me you-rob

ΑΛΚΗΣΤΙΣ καὶ μὴν σκοτεινὸν ὄμμα μου βαρύνεται. 385
and indeed dark eye my is-weighed-down

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἀπωλόμην ἄρ᾽, εἴ με δὴ λείψεις, γύναι.
I-am-lost then if me indeed you-will-leave wife

ΑΛΚΗΣΤΙΣ ὡς οὐκέτ᾽ οὖσαν οὐδὲν ἂν λέγοις ἐμέ.
as no-longer being nothing — you-might-call me

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ὄρθου πρόσωπον, μὴ λίπῃς παῖδας σέθεν.
lift face not leave children your

ΑΛΚΗΣΤΙΣ οὐ δῆθ᾽ ἑκοῦσά γ᾽, ἀλλὰ χαίρετ᾽, ὦ τέκνα.
not then willingly at-least but farewell O children

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ βλέψον πρὸς αὐτοὺς βλέψον. ΑΛΚΗΣΤΙΣ οὐδέν εἰμ᾽ ἔτι. 390
look at them look nothing I-am still

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ τί δρᾷς; προλείπεις; ΑΛΚΗΣΤΙΣ χαῖρ᾽.
what are-you-doing are-you-leaving farewell

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἀπωλόμην τάλας.
I-am-lost wretched

ΧΟΡΟΣ βέβηκεν, οὐκέτ᾽ ἔστιν Ἀδμήτου γυνή.
she-is-gone no-longer is of-Admetus wife

ΕΤΜΗΛΟΣ ἰώ μοι τύχας. μαῖα δὴ κάτω
oh me fortunes mother indeed below
βέβακεν, οὐκέτ᾽ ἔστιν, ὦ
has-gone no-longer she-is O

πάτερ, ὑφ᾽ ἁλίῳ.
father under sun
προλιποῦσα δ᾽ ἀμὸν βίον
having-left and my life
ὠρφάνισεν τλάμων.
she-orphaned(-me) wretched
ἴδε γὰρ ἴδε βλέφαρον
see for see eyelid
καὶ παρατόνους χέρας.
and outstretched hands
ὑπάκουσον ἄκουσον, ὦ μᾶτερ, ἀντιάζω
listen hear O mother I-beseech
σ᾽ ἐγώ, μᾶτερ, ἐγὼ
you I mother I
*** καλοῦμαί σ᾽ ὁ
(lacuna) I-call you the
σὸς ποτὶ σοῖσι πίτνων στόμασιν νεοσσός.
your on your falling lips nestling
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ τὴν οὐ κλύουσαν οὐδ᾽ ὁρῶσαν· ὥστ᾽ ἐγὼ
the not hearing nor seeing so-that I
καὶ σφὼ βαρείᾳ συμφορᾷ πεπλήγμεθα.
and you-two by-heavy misfortune have-been-struck
ΕΥΜΗΛΟΣ νέος ἐγώ, πάτερ, λείπομαι φίλας
young I father am-left of-dear
μονόστολός τε ματρός· ὦ
lonely and mother O
σχέτλια δὴ παθὼν
cruel indeed having-suffered
ἐγὼ ἔργα *** σύ τε,
I things (lacuna) you and

σύγκασι μοι κούρα,
sister mine girl
∗∗∗ συνέτλας·
(lacuna) you-endured
∗∗∗ ὦ πάτερ.
(lacuna) O father
ἀνόνατ' ἀνόνατ' ἐνύμφευσας, οὐδὲ γήρως
unprofitably unprofitably you-married nor of-old-age
ἔβας τέλος σὺν τᾷδ'·
you-reached end with her
ἔφθιτο γὰρ πάρος,
she-perished for before
οἰχομένας δὲ σοῦ, μᾶτερ, ὄλωλεν οἶκος.
gone and you mother has-perished house
ΧΟΡΟΣ Ἄδμητ', ἀνάγκη τάσδε συμφορὰς φέρειν·
Admetus (it-is)-necessary these misfortunes to-bear
οὐ γάρ τι πρῶτος οὐδὲ λοίσθιος βροτῶν
not for at-all first nor last of-mortals
γυναικὸς ἐσθλῆς ἤμπλακες· γίγνωσκε δὲ
wife noble you-have-lost recognize and
ὡς πᾶσιν ἡμῖν κατθανεῖν ὀφείλεται.
that for-all us to-die is-owed
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἐπίσταμαί γε, κοὐκ ἄφνω κακὸν τόδε
I-know at-least and-not suddenly evil this
προσέπτατ'· εἰδὼς δ' αὖτ' ἐτειρόμην πάλαι.
flew-upon(-me) knowing and it I-was-worn-down long-ago
ἀλλ', ἐκφορὰν γὰρ τοῦδε θήσομαι νεκροῦ,
but carrying-out for of-this I-will-make corpse
πάρεστε καὶ μένοντες ἀντηχήσατε
be-present and remaining sing-in-answer

παιᾶνα τῷ κάτωθεν ἀσπόνδῳ θεῷ.
paean to-the below unappeasable god

πᾶσιν δὲ Θεσσαλοῖσιν ὧν ἐγὼ κρατῶ
to-all and Thessalians whom I rule

πένθους γυναικὸς τῆσδε κοινοῦσθαι λέγω
of-mourning for-woman this to-share I-bid

κουρᾷ ξυρήκει καὶ μελαμπέπλῳ στολῇ.
with-shearing razor-cut and with-black-robed garb

τέθριππά θ' οἷ ζεύγνυσθε καὶ μονάμπυκας
four-horse-teams and which you-yoke and single-frontleted

πώλους, σιδήρῳ τέμνετ' αὐχένων φόβην.
colts with-iron cut of-necks mane

αὐλῶν δὲ μὴ κατ' ἄστυ, μὴ λύρας κτύπος
of-pipes and not throughout town not of-lyre sound

ἔστω σελήνας δώδεκ' ἐκπληρουμένας·
let-there-be moons twelve being-fulfilled

οὐ γάρ τιν' ἄλλον φίλτερον θάψω νεκρὸν
not for any other dearer I-will-bury corpse

τοῦδ' οὐδ' ἀμείνον' εἰς ἔμ'· ἀξία δέ μοι
than-this nor better toward me worthy and to-me

τιμῆς, ἐπεὶ τέθνηκεν ἀντ' ἐμοῦ μόνη.
of-honor since she-has-died instead-of me alone

The chorus bids the daughter of Pelias farewell in the house of Hades and asks Hades and the old ferryman at the oar to know that the best of women crosses the lake. Poets will sing of her at Sparta's festival and in Athens. They wish they could bring her back, for she alone dared to die for her husband, while his parents, old and gray, would not die for their son; should he remarry, he will be hated. Such a wife is rare; theirs would be a life without grief.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ Πελίου θύγατερ,
O of-Pelias daughter
χαίρουσά μοι εἰν Ἀΐδα δόμοισιν
rejoicing for-me in of-Hades halls
τὸν ἀνάλιον οἶκον οἰκετεύοις.
the sunless house may-you-dwell-in
ἴστω δ' Ἀΐδας ὁ μελαγχαίτας θεὸς ὅς τ' ἐπὶ κώπᾳ
let-him-know and Hades the black-haired god who and at oar
πηδαλίῳ τε γέρων
at-helm and old
νεκροπομπὸς ἵζει,
corpse-conveyor sits
πολὺ δὴ πολὺ δὴ γυναῖκ' ἀρίσταν
far indeed far indeed woman best
λίμναν Ἀχεροντίαν πορευ-
lake Acherontian having-conveyed
σας ἐλάτᾳ δικώπῳ.
— with-pine two-oared
πολλά σε μουσοπόλοι
much you servants-of-the-Muses
μέλψουσι καθ' ἑπτάτονόν τ' ὀρείαν
will-sing on seven-toned and mountain

χέλυν ἔν τ' ἀλύροις κλέοντες ὕμνοις,
lyre in and lyreless celebrating hymns
Σπάρτᾳ κύκλος ἁνίκα Καρνείου περινίσσεται ὥρας
at-Sparta circle when of-Carneian comes-round season
μηνός, ἀειρομένας
month rising-high
παννύχου σελάνας,
all-night moon
λιπαραῖσί τ' ἐν ὀλβίαις Ἀθάναις.
rich and in blessed Athens
τοίαν ἔλιπες θανοῦσα μολ-
such you-left dying song
πὰν μελέων ἀοιδοῖς.
— of-songs for-singers
εἴθ' ἐπ' ἐμοὶ μὲν εἴη,
would-that in me indeed it-were
δυναίμαν δέ σε πέμψαι
I-could and you to-send
φάος ἐξ Ἅιδα τεράμνων
light(-to) from of-Hades halls
Κωκυτοῦ τε ῥεέθρων
of-Cocytus and streams
ποταμίᾳ νερτέρᾳ τε κώπᾳ.
with-river below and oar
σὺ γάρ, ὦ μόνα, ὦ φίλα γυναικῶν,
you for O alone O dear of-women
σὺ τὸν αὑτᾶς
you the your-own
ἔτλας πόσιν ἀντὶ σᾶς ἀμεῖψαι
dared husband instead-of your to-ransom

ψυχᾶς ἐξ Ἅιδα. κούφα σοι
life from Hades light for-you
χθὼν ἐπάνωθε πέσοι, γύναι. εἰ δέ τι
earth from-above may-fall woman if and at-all
καινὸν ἕλοιτο λέχος πόσις, ἦ μάλ᾽ ἂν ἔμοιγ᾽ ἂν εἴη
new should-take bed husband truly very — by-me-at-least — he-would-be
στυγηθεὶς τέκνοις τε τοῖς σοῖς.
hated by-children and the your
ματέρος οὐ θελούσας
mother not willing
πρὸ παιδὸς χθονὶ κρύψαι
for son in-earth to-hide
δέμας, οὐδὲ πατρὸς γεραιοῦ,
body nor of-father old

***

(lacuna)

ὃν ἔτεκον δ᾽, οὐκ ἔτλαν ῥύεσθαι
whom they-bore and not they-dared to-save
σχετλίω, πολιὰν ἔχοντε χαίταν.
cruel-pair gray having hair
σὺ δ᾽ ἐν ἥβᾳ
you and in youth
νέᾳ προθανοῦσα φωτὸς οἴχει.
young dying-for of-man you-are-gone
τοιαύτας εἴη μοι κῦρσαι
such may-it-be to-me to-meet-with
συνδυάδος φιλίας ἀλόχου· τοῦτο γὰρ
of-paired love of-wife this for

ἐν βιότῳ σπάνιον μέρος· ἦ γὰρ ἂν ἔμοιγ' ἄλυπος
in life rare portion truly for — with-me-at-least painless
διʼ αἰῶνος ἂν ξυνείη.
through life — she-would-be-with

VII · THE GUEST

Heracles arrives on his way to capture the man-eating horses of Diomedes in Thrace. Admetus, his hair shorn, first answers in riddles about Alcestis, then says the dead woman was an orphan of the house, not of his blood, and insists that he stay in the guest rooms apart from the mourning. The chorus rebukes him for taking in a guest at such a time; Admetus replies that his house does not turn strangers away.

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ξένοι, Φεραίας τῆσδε κωμῆται χθονός,
strangers of-Pheraean this villagers of-land
Ἄδμητον ἐν δόμοισιν ἆρα κιγχάνω;
Admetus in house — do-I-find
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔστ' ἐν δόμοισι παῖς Φέρητος, Ἡράκλεις.
he-is in house child of-Pheres Heracles
ἀλλ' εἰπὲ χρεία τίς σε Θεσσαλῶν χθόνα
but tell need what you of-Thessalians to-land
πέμπει, Φεραῖον ἄστυ προσβῆναι τόδε.
sends Pheraean city to-come-to this
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ Τιρυνθίῳ πράσσω τίν' Εὐρυσθεῖ πόνον.
for-Tirynthian I-do some for-Eurystheus labor
ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ ποῖ πορεύει; τῷ προσέζευξαι πλάνῳ;
and whither do-you-go to-what are-you-yoked wandering
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ Θρῃκὸς τέτρωρον ἅρμα Διομήδους μέτα.
of-Thracian four-horse chariot of-Diomedes after
ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς οὖν δυνήσει; μῶν ἄπειρος εἶ ξένου;
how then will-you-be-able surely-not unacquainted are-you with-the-host

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἄπειρος· οὔπω Βιστόνων ἦλθον χθόνα.
unacquainted not-yet of-Bistones I-came-to land

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκ ἔστιν ἵππων δεσπόσαι σ' ἄνευ μάχης.
not it-is of-horses to-master you without battle

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἀπειπεῖν τοὺς πόνους οἷόν τ' ἐμοί.
but not-even to-refuse the labors possible — for-me

ΧΟΡΟΣ κτανὼν ἄρ' ἥξεις ἢ θανὼν αὐτοῦ μενεῖς.
having-killed then you-will-come or having-died there will-remain

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οὐ τόνδ' ἀγῶνα πρῶτον ἂν δράμοιμ' ἐγώ.
not this contest first — I-would-run I

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί δ' ἂν κρατήσας δεσπότην πλέον λάβοις;
what and — having-mastered master more would-you-gain

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ πώλους ἀπάξω κοιράνῳ Τιρυνθίῳ.
colts I-will-lead-away to-lord Tirynthian

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκ εὐμαρὲς χαλινὸν ἐμβαλεῖν γνάθοις.
not easy bit to-put-in jaws

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ εἰ μή γε πῦρ πνέουσι μυκτήρων ἄπο.
if not at-least fire they-breathe nostrils from

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' ἄνδρας ἀρταμοῦσι λαιψηραῖς γνάθοις.
but men they-tear with-swift jaws

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ θηρῶν ὀρείων χόρτον, οὐχ ἵππων, λέγεις.
of-beasts mountain fodder not of-horses you-speak-of

ΧΟΡΟΣ φάτνας ἴδοις ἂν αἵμασιν πεφυρμένας.
mangers you-would-see — with-blood stained

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τίνος δ' ὁ θρέψας παῖς πατρὸς κομπάζεται;
of-what and the having-reared(-them) son father boasts

ΧΟΡΟΣ Ἄρεος, ζαχρύσου Θρηκίας πέλτης ἄναξ.
of-Ares of-the-all-golden Thracian shield lord

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ καὶ τόνδε τοὐμοῦ δαίμονος πόνον λέγεις,
and this of-my fortune labor you-speak-of
σκληρὸς γὰρ ἀεὶ καὶ πρὸς αἶπος ἔρχεται,
hard for always and toward steep it-goes
εἰ χρή με παισὶν οὓς Ἄρης ἐγείνατο
if must me with-sons whom Ares begot
μάχην συνάψαι, πρῶτα μὲν Λυκάονι,
battle to-join first indeed with-Lycaon
αὖθις δὲ Κύκνῳ, τόνδε δ' ἔρχομαι τρίτον
again and with-Cycnus this and I-come third
ἀγῶνα πώλοις δεσπότῃ τε συμβαλῶν.
contest with-colts master and to-engage
ἀλλ' οὔτις ἔστιν ὃς τὸν Ἀλκμήνης γόνον
but no-one is who the of-Alcmene offspring
τρέσαντα χεῖρα πολεμίαν ποτ' ὄψεται.
trembling at-hand hostile ever will-see
ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ὅδ' αὐτὸς τῆσδε κοίρανος χθονὸς
and indeed this himself of-this lord of-land
Ἄδμητος ἔξω δωμάτων πορεύεται.
Admetus out of-halls comes
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ χαῖρ', ὦ Διὸς παῖ Περσέως τ' ἀφ' αἵματος.
hail O of-Zeus son of-Perseus and from blood
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ Ἄδμητε, καὶ σὺ χαῖρε, Θεσσαλῶν ἄναξ.
Admetus and you hail of-Thessalians lord
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ θέλοιμ' ἄν· εὔνουν δ' ὄντα σ' ἐξεπίσταμαι.
I-would-wish — well-disposed and being you I-know
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τί χρῆμα κουρᾷ τῇδε πενθίμῳ πρέπεις;
what thing with-shearing this mourning are-you-marked
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ θάπτειν τιν' ἐν τῇδ' ἡμέρᾳ μέλλω νεκρόν.
to-bury some on this day I-am-about corpse

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἀπ᾽ οὖν τέκνων σῶν πημονὴν εἴργοι θεός.
from then children your misery may-keep god

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ζῶσιν κατ᾽ οἴκους παῖδες οὓς ἔφυσ᾽ ἐγώ. 515
they-live in house children whom begot I

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ πατήρ γε μὴν ὡραῖος, εἴπερ οἴχεται.
father at-least indeed ripe if-indeed he-is-gone

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ κἀκεῖνος ἔστι χἠ τεκοῦσά μ᾽, Ἡράκλεις.
both-he is and-the mother my Heracles

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οὐ μὴν γυνή γ᾽ ὄλωλεν Ἄλκηστις σέθεν;
not indeed wife at-least has-perished Alcestis your

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ διπλοῦς ἐπ᾽ αὐτῇ μῦθος ἔστι μοι λέγειν.
twofold about her tale is for-me to-tell

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ πότερα θανούσης εἶπας ἢ ζώσης πέρι; 520
whether dead did-you-speak or living about

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἔστιν τε κοὐκέτ᾽ ἔστιν, ἀλγύνει δέ με.
she-is both and-no-longer is grieves and me

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οὐδέν τι μᾶλλον οἶδ᾽· ἄσημα γὰρ λέγεις.
nothing at-all more I-know obscure(-things) for you-say

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ οὐκ οἶσθα μοίρας ἧς τυχεῖν αὐτὴν χρεών;
not do-you-know fate which to-meet her (it-is)-fated

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οἶδ᾽ ἀντὶ σοῦ γε κατθανεῖν ὑφειμένην.
I-know instead-of you at-least to-die having-undertaken

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ πῶς οὖν ἔτ᾽ ἔστιν, εἴπερ ᾔνεσεν τάδε; 525
how then still is-she if-indeed she-consented-to these(-things)

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἆ, μὴ πρόκλαι᾽ ἄκοιτιν, εἰς τόδ᾽ ἀμβαλοῦ.
ah not weep-beforehand wife till this put-(it)-off

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ τέθνηχ᾽ ὁ μέλλων, κοὐκέτ᾽ ἔσθ᾽ ὁ κατθανών.
is-dead the(-one) about-to(-die) and-no-longer is the dead(-one)

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ χωρὶς τό τ᾽ εἶναι καὶ τὸ μὴ νομίζεται.
apart the both to-be and the not is-held

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ σὺ τῇδε κρίνεις, Ἡράκλεις, κείνῃ δ' ἐγώ.
you in-this-way judge Heracles in-that and I

530 ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τί δῆτα κλαίεις; τίς φίλων ὁ κατθανών;
why then do-you-weep who of-friends (is)-the dead(-one)

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ γυνή· γυναικὸς ἀρτίως μεμνήμεθα.
a-woman of-a-woman just-now we-have-made-mention

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ὀθνεῖος ἢ σοὶ συγγενὴς γεγῶσά τις;
outsider or to-you kin being some(-one)

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ὀθνεῖος, ἄλλως δ' ἦν ἀναγκαία δόμοις.
outsider otherwise but she-was bound to-house

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ πῶς οὖν ἐν οἴκοις σοῖσιν ὤλεσεν βίον;
how then in house your did-she-lose life

535 ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ πατρὸς θανόντος ἐνθάδ' ὠρφανεύετο.
father having-died here she-was-orphaned

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ φεῦ.
alas

εἴθ' ἠῦρομέν σ', Ἄδμητε, μὴ λυπούμενον.
would-that we-had-found you Admetus not grieving

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ὡς δὴ τί δράσων τόνδ' ὑπορράπτεις λόγον;
as indeed what about-to-do this do-you-stitch-up word

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ξένων πρὸς ἄλλων ἑστίαν πορεύσομαι.
of-hosts to other hearth I-will-go

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ οὐκ ἔστιν, ὦναξ· μὴ τοσόνδ' ἔλθοι κακόν.
not it-is O-lord not so-great may-come ill

540 ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ λυπουμένοις ὀχληρός, εἰ μόλοι, ξένος.
to-the-grieving troublesome if he-should-come guest

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ τεθνᾶσιν οἱ θανόντες· ἀλλ' ἴθ' εἰς δόμους.
are-dead the dead but go into house

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ αἰσχρὸν παρὰ κλαίουσι θοινᾶσθαι φίλοις.
shameful beside weeping to-feast friends

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ χωρὶς ξενῶνές εἰσιν οἷ σ᾽ ἐσάξομεν.
apart guest-rooms are into-which you we-will-bring

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ μέθες με, καί σοι μυρίαν ἔξω χάριν.
let-go me and to-you countless I-will-have thanks

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλου σ᾽ ἀνδρὸς ἑστίαν μολεῖν. 545
not it-is of-other you man hearth to-go-to

ἡγοῦ σὺ τῷδε δωμάτων ἐξωπίους
lead you this-man of-halls detached

ξενῶνας οἴξας, τοῖς τ᾽ ἐφεστῶσιν φράσον
guest-rooms having-opened to-those and set-over tell

σίτων παρεῖναι πλῆθος· ἐν δὲ κλῄσατε
of-food to-be-present abundance in and shut

θύρας μεσαύλους· οὐ πρέπει θοινωμένους
doors of-the-court not it-is-fitting feasting

κλύειν στεναγμῶν οὐδὲ λυπεῖσθαι ξένους. 550
to-hear groans nor to-be-grieved guests

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί δρᾷς; τοιαύτης συμφορᾶς προσκειμένης,
what are-you-doing such misfortune lying-on(-you)

Ἄδμητε, τολμᾷς ξενοδοκεῖν; τί μῶρος εἶ;
Admetus do-you-dare to-entertain-guests why foolish are-you

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ εἰ δόμων σφε καὶ πόλεως ἀπήλασα
but if from-house him and from-city I-had-driven

ξένον μολόντα, μᾶλλον ἄν μ᾽ ἐπῄνεσας;
guest having-come more — me would-you-have-praised

οὐ δῆτ᾽, ἐπεί μοι συμφορὰ μὲν οὐδὲν ἂν 555
not then since to-me misfortune indeed nothing —

μείων ἐγίγνετ᾽, ἀξενώτερος δ᾽ ἐγώ.
less would-have-become more-inhospitable but I

καὶ πρὸς κακοῖσιν ἄλλο τοῦτ᾽ ἂν ἦν κακόν,
and besides ills other this — would-be ill

δόμους καλεῖσθαι τοὺς ἐμοὺς κακοξένους.
house to-be-called the my inhospitable
αὐτὸς δ' ἀρίστου τοῦδε τυγχάνω ξένου,
myself and best this I-find host
ὅταν ποτ' Ἄργους διψίαν ἔλθω χθόνα.
whenever ever of-Argos thirsty I-come-to land
ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς οὖν ἔκρυπτες τὸν παρόντα δαίμονα,
how then did-you-hide the present fortune
φίλου μολόντος ἀνδρός, ὡς αὐτὸς λέγεις;
friend having-come man as yourself you-say
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ οὐκ ἄν ποτ' ἠθέλησεν εἰσελθεῖν δόμους,
not — ever he-would-have-wished to-enter house
εἰ τῶν ἐμῶν τι πημάτων ἐγνώρισε.
if of-the my any of-woes he-had-learned
καὶ τῷ μέν, οἶμαι, δρῶν τάδ' οὐ φρονεῖν δοκῶ,
and to-some indeed I-think doing these(-things) not to-be-sensible I-seem
οὐδ' αἰνέσει με· τἀμὰ δ' οὐκ ἐπίσταται
nor will-praise me my but not knows-how
μέλαθρ' ἀπωθεῖν οὐδ' ἀτιμάζειν ξένους.
house to-drive-off nor to-dishonor guests

The chorus praises Admetus' house, always open to strangers. Apollo himself lived there as a shepherd, and wild beasts came to dance to his lyre. Admetus' lands reach west to the Molossian mountains and east to the harborless shore of Pelion. Now he has welcomed a guest while weeping for his wife, as nobility does; the chorus trusts that a god-fearing man will prosper.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ πολύξεινος καὶ ἐλεύθερος ἀνδρὸς ἀεί ποτ' οἶκος,
O hospitable and free of-man always ever house
σέ τοι καὶ ὁ Πύθιος εὐλύρας Ἀπόλλων
you surely even the Pythian fair-lyred Apollo
ἠξίωσε ναίειν,
deemed-worthy to-dwell-in
ἔτλα δὲ σοῖσι μηλονόμας
endured and in-your shepherd
ἐν δόμοις γενέσθαι,
in house to-become
δοχμιᾶν διὰ κλιτύων
slanting along slopes
βοσκήμασι σοῖσι συρίζων
for-flocks your piping
ποιμνίτας ὑμεναίους.
shepherd's marriage-songs
σὺν δ' ἐποιμαίνοντο χαρᾷ μελέων βαλιαί τε λύγκες,
with and shepherded-together in-joy of-songs dappled and lynxes
ἔβα δὲ λιποῦσ' Ὄθρυος νάπαν λεόντων
went and having-left of-Othrys glen of-lions
ἄ δαφοινὸς ὖλα·
the tawny troop

χόρευσε δ' ἀμφὶ σὰν κιθάραν,
danced and around your lyre
Φοῖβε, ποικιλόθριξ
Phoebus dappled-haired
νεβρὸς ὑψικόμων πέραν
fawn high-tressed beyond
βαίνουσ' ἐλατᾶν σφυρῷ κούφῳ,
stepping of-firs with-ankle light
χαίρουσ' εὔφρονι μολπᾷ.
rejoicing in-glad song
τοιγὰρ πολυμηλοτάταν
therefore richest-in-flocks
ἑστίαν οἰκεῖ παρὰ καλλίναον
hearth he-dwells-at beside fair-flowing
Βοιβίαν λίμναν· ἀρότοις δὲ γυᾶν
Boebian lake to-tillings and of-fields
καὶ πεδίων δαπέδοις
and of-plains to-the-floors
ὅρον ἀμφὶ μὲν ἀελίου κνεφαίαν
boundary toward indeed of-the-sun dark
ἱππόστασιν αἰθέρα τὰν Μολοσσῶν ὀρέων τίθεται,
stabling air the of-Molossians of-mountains he-sets
πόντιον δ' Αἰγαίων' ἐπ' ἀκτὰν
of-sea and Aegean to shore
ἀλίμενον Πηλίου κρατύνει.
harborless of-Pelion he-rules
καὶ νῦν δόμον ἀμπετάσας
and now house having-thrown-open
δέξατο ξεῖνον νοτερῷ βλεφάρῳ,
he-received guest with-wet eyelid

τᾶς φίλας κλαίων ἀλόχου νέκυν ἐν
the dear weeping of-wife corpse in
δώμασιν ἀρτιθανῆ·
halls freshly-dead
τὸ γὰρ εὐγενὲς ἐκφέρεται πρὸς αἰδῶ.
the for noble is-carried-away to respect
ἐν τοῖς ἀγαθοῖσι δὲ πάντ' ἔνεστιν σοφίας. ἄγαμαι·
in the good and all is of-wisdom I-admire(-it)
πρὸς δ' ἐμᾷ ψυχᾷ θάρσος ἧσται
in and my soul confidence sits
θεοσεβῆ φῶτα κεδνὰ πράξειν.
god-fearing man good(-things) to-fare

IX · PHERES

Admetus' father Pheres brings gifts for the dead. Admetus rejects them and abuses him for refusing to die in his place; Pheres retorts that no law binds a father to die for his son, and calls Admetus his wife's murderer. The procession leaves for the tomb. A servant complains of the guest's drunken singing, and Heracles urges him to enjoy life, until Heracles learns who has died. Ashamed, he resolves to wrestle Death at the grave.

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἀνδρῶν Φεραίων εὐμενὴς παρουσία,
of-men Pheraean kindly presence
νέκυν μὲν ἤδη πάντ' ἔχοντα πρόσπολοι
corpse indeed already all(-things) having attendants
φέρουσιν ἄρδην εἰς τάφον τε καὶ πυράν·
carry raised-high to tomb both and pyre
ὑμεῖς δὲ τὴν θανοῦσαν, ὡς νομίζεται,
you and the dead(-woman) as is-customary

προσείπατ᾽ ἐξιοῦσαν ὑστάτην ὁδόν.
address going-out on-last road

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ὁρῶ σὸν πατέρα γηραιῷ ποδὶ
and indeed I-see your father with-aged foot
στείχοντ᾽, ὀπαδούς τ᾽ ἐν χεροῖν δάμαρτι σῇ
coming attendants and in hands for-wife your
κόσμον φέροντας, νερτέρων ἀγάλματα.
adornment carrying of-the-dead honors

ΦΕΡΗΣ ἥκω κακοῖσι σοῖσι συγκάμνων, τέκνον·
I-come in-ills your toiling-with(-you) child
ἐσθλῆς γάρ, οὐδεὶς ἀντερεῖ, καὶ σώφρονος
noble for no-one will-gainsay and self-controlled
γυναικὸς ἡμάρτηκας. ἀλλὰ ταῦτα μὲν
wife you-have-lost but these indeed
φέρειν ἀνάγκη καίπερ ὄντα δύσφορα.
to-bear (is)-necessity though being hard-to-bear
δέχου δὲ κόσμον τόνδε, καὶ κατὰ χθονὸς
receive and adornment this and below earth
ἴτω· τὸ ταύτης σῶμα τιμᾶσθαι χρεών,
let-it-go the of-her body to-be-honored (it-is)-fitting
ἥτις γε τῆς σῆς προύθανε ψυχῆς, τέκνον,
who at-least for-the your died-for life child
καί μ᾽ οὐκ ἄπαιδ᾽ ἔθηκεν οὐδ᾽ εἴασε σοῦ
and me not childless made nor allowed of-you
στερέντα γήρᾳ πενθίμῳ καταφθίνειν,
bereft in-old-age mournful to-waste-away
πάσαις δ᾽ ἔθηκεν εὐκλεέστερον βίον
for-all and made more-glorious life
γυναιξίν, ἔργον τλᾶσα γενναῖον τόδε.
women deed having-dared noble this

ὦ τόνδε μὲν σώσασ᾽, ἀναστήσασα δὲ
O this-one indeed having-saved having-raised-up and
ἡμᾶς πίτνοντας, χαῖρε, κἀν Ἅιδου δόμοις
us falling farewell and-in of-Hades house
εὖ σοι γένοιτο. φημὶ τοιούτους γάμους
well for-you may-it-be I-say such marriages
λύειν βροτοῖσιν, ἢ γαμεῖν οὐκ ἄξιον.
to-profit for-mortals or to-marry not (is)-worthy
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ οὔτ᾽ ἦλθες εἰς τόνδ᾽ ἐξ ἐμοῦ κληθεὶς τάφον,
neither you-came to this by me called tomb
οὔτ᾽ ἐν φίλοισι σὴν παρουσίαν νέμω.
nor among friends your presence I-count
κόσμον δὲ τὸν σὸν οὔποθ᾽ ἥδ᾽ ἐνδύσεται.
adornment and the your never she will-put-on
οὐ γάρ τι τῶν σῶν ἐνδεὴς ταφήσεται.
not for at-all of-the your lacking she-will-be-buried
τότε ξυναλγεῖν χρῆν σ᾽ ὅτ᾽ ὠλλύμην ἐγώ.
then to-grieve-with (it)-was-needful you when I-was-perishing I
σὺ δ᾽ ἐκποδὼν στὰς καὶ παρεὶς ἄλλῳ θανεῖν
you and out-of-the-way standing and letting another to-die
νέῳ γέρων ὤν, τόνδ᾽ ἀποιμώξει νεκρόν;
young old being this will-you-wail-for corpse
οὐκ ἦσθ᾽ ἄρ᾽ ὀρθῶς τοῦδε σώματος πατήρ;
not were-you then truly of-this body father
οὐδ᾽ ἡ τεκεῖν φάσκουσα καὶ κεκλημένη
nor the to-have-borne claiming and called
μήτηρ μ᾽ ἔτικτε; δουλίου δ᾽ ἀφ᾽ αἵματος
mother me bore of-slave and from blood
μαστῷ γυναικὸς σῆς ὑπεβλήθην λάθρᾳ;
at-breast of-wife your was-I-put-under secretly

ἔδειξας εἰς ἔλεγχον ἐξελθὼν ὃς εἶ,
you-showed to test having-come who you-are
καί μ' οὐ νομίζω παῖδα σὸν πεφυκέναι.
and me not I-think son your to-have-been-born
ἦ τἄρα πάντων διαπρέπεις ἀψυχίᾳ,
truly surely of-all you-excel in-cowardice
ὃς τηλικόσδ' ὢν κἀπὶ τέρμ' ἥκων βίου
who so-old being and-to end having-come of-life
οὐκ ἠθέλησας οὐδ' ἐτόλμησας θανεῖν
not you-wished nor you-dared to-die
τοῦ σοῦ πρὸ παιδός, ἀλλὰ τήνδ' εἰάσατε
the your for son but this you-let
γυναῖκ' ὀθνείαν, ἣν ἐγὼ καὶ μητέρα
woman outsider whom I both mother
πατέρα τ' ἂν ἐνδίκως ἂν ἡγοίμην μόνην.
father and — justly — would-consider alone
καίτοι καλόν γ' ἂν τόνδ' ἀγῶν' ἠγωνίσω
and-yet noble at-least — this contest you-would-have-contended
τοῦ σοῦ πρὸ παιδὸς κατθανών, βραχὺς δέ σοι
the your for son having-died short and for-you
πάντως ὁ λοιπὸς ἦν βιώσιμος χρόνος.
in-any-case the remaining was livable time
καὶ μὴν ὅσ' ἄνδρα χρὴ παθεῖν εὐδαίμονα
and indeed as-much-as man must to-suffer happy
πέπονθας· ἥβησας μὲν ἐν τυραννίδι,
you-have-suffered you-were-young indeed in royal-power
παῖς δ' ἦν ἐγώ σοι τῶνδε διάδοχος δόμων,
son and was I to-you of-this successor house
ὥστ' οὐκ ἄτεκνος κατθανὼν ἄλλοις δόμον
so-that not childless having-died to-others house

λείψειν ἔμελλες ὀρφανὸν διαρπάσαι.
to-leave you-were-about orphaned to-plunder
οὐ μὴν ἐρεῖς γέ μ' ὡς ἀτιμάζων τὸ σὸν
not indeed you-will-say at-least me that dishonoring the your
γῆρας θανεῖν προὔδωκά σ', ὅστις αἰδόφρων
old-age to-die I-betrayed you who reverent
πρὸς σ' ἦ μάλιστα· κἀντὶ τῶνδέ μοι χάριν
toward you was most and-for these to-me thanks
τοιάνδε καὶ σὺ χἠ τεκοῦσ' ἠλλαξάτην.
such both you and-the mother exchanged
τοιγὰρ φυτεύων παῖδας οὐκέτ' ἂν φθάνοις,
therefore begetting children no-longer — you-could-be-too-soon
οἳ γηροβοσκήσουσι καὶ θανόντα σε
who will-tend-your-old-age and dead you
περιστελοῦσι καὶ προθήσονται νεκρόν.
will-shroud and will-lay-out corpse
οὐ γάρ σ' ἔγωγε τῇδ' ἐμῇ θάψω χερί·
not for you I with-this my will-bury hand
τέθνηκα γὰρ δὴ τοὐπὶ σ'· εἰ δ' ἄλλου τυχὼν
I-am-dead for indeed as-far-as-in you if and other having-found
σωτῆρος αὐγὰς εἰσορῶ, κείνου λέγω
savior rays I-look-on of-him I-say
καὶ παῖδά μ' εἶναι καὶ φίλον γηροτρόφον.
both son me to-be and dear nurse-of-age
μάτην ἄρ' οἱ γέροντες εὔχονται θανεῖν,
in-vain then the old pray to-die
γῆρας ψέγοντες καὶ μακρὸν χρόνον βίου·
old-age blaming and long time of-life
ἢν δ' ἐγγὺς ἔλθῃ θάνατος, οὐδεὶς βούλεται
if but near comes death no-one wishes

θνῄσκειν, τὸ γῆρας δ' οὐκέτ' ἔστ' αὐτοῖς βαρύ.
to-die the old-age and no-longer is to-them heavy

ΧΟΡΟΣ παύσασθ', ἅλις γὰρ ἡ παροῦσα συμφορά,
stop enough for the present misfortune

ὦ παῖ· πατρὸς δὲ μὴ παροξύνῃς φρένας.
O child of-father and not provoke heart

675 ΦΕΡΗΣ ὦ παῖ, τίν' αὐχεῖς, πότερα Λυδὸν ἢ Φρύγα
O child whom do-you-presume whether Lydian or Phrygian

κακοῖς ἐλαύνειν ἀργυρώνητον σέθεν;
with-ills to-drive bought-with-silver of-you

οὐκ οἶσθα Θεσσαλόν με κἀπὸ Θεσσαλοῦ
not do-you-know Thessalian me and-from Thessalian

πατρὸς γεγῶτα γνησίως ἐλεύθερον;
father having-been-born legitimately free

ἄγαν ὑβρίζεις, καὶ νεανίας λόγους
too-much you-insult and youthful words

680 ῥίπτων ἐς ἡμᾶς οὐ βαλὼν οὕτως ἄπει.
hurling at us not having-struck so you-will-go-away

ἐγὼ δέ σ' οἴκων δεσπότην ἐγεινάμην
I and you of-house master begot

κἄθρεψ', ὀφείλω δ' οὐχ ὑπερθνῄσκειν σέθεν·
and-reared I-owe and not to-die-for you

οὐ γὰρ πατρῷον τόνδ' ἐδεξάμην νόμον,
not for ancestral this I-received custom

παίδων προθνῄσκειν πατέρας, οὐδ' Ἑλληνικόν.
for-children to-die-for fathers nor Hellenic

685 σαυτῷ γὰρ εἴτε δυστυχὴς εἴτ' εὐτυχὴς
for-yourself for either unfortunate or fortunate

ἔφυς· ἃ δ' ἡμῶν χρῆν σε τυγχάνειν, ἔχεις.
you-were-born what but from-us (it)-was-needful you to-get you-have

πολλῶν μὲν ἄρχεις, πολυπλέθρους δέ σοι γύας
many indeed you-rule many-acred and to-you fields
λείψω· πατρὸς γὰρ ταῦτ' ἐδεξάμην πάρα.
I-will-leave of-father for these I-received from
τί δῆτά σ' ἠδίκηκα; τοῦ σ' ἀποστερῶ;
how then you have-I-wronged of-what you do-I-rob
μὴ θνῇσχ' ὑπὲρ τοῦδ' ἀνδρός, οὐδ' ἐγὼ πρὸ σοῦ. 690
not die for this man nor I for you
χαίρεις ὁρῶν φῶς· πατέρα δ' οὐ χαίρειν δοκεῖς;
you-rejoice seeing light father and not to-rejoice do-you-think
ἦ μὴν πολύν γε τὸν κάτω λογίζομαι
truly indeed long at-least the below I-reckon
χρόνον, τὸ δὲ ζῆν μικρόν, ἀλλ' ὅμως γλυκύ.
time the and to-live short but nevertheless sweet
σὺ γοῦν ἀναιδῶς διεμάχου τὸ μὴ θανεῖν,
you at-least shamelessly fought the not to-die
καὶ ζῇς παρελθὼν τὴν πεπρωμένην τύχην, 695
and you-live having-passed the fated fortune
ταύτην κατακτάς· εἶτ' ἐμὴν ἀψυχίαν
her having-killed then my cowardice
λέγεις, γυναικός, ὦ κάκισθ', ἡσσημένος,
you-speak-of by-a-woman O worst worsted
ἢ τοῦ καλοῦ σοῦ προύθανεν νεανίου;
who for-the fine you died-for young-man
σοφῶς δ' ἐφηῦρες ὥστε μὴ θανεῖν ποτε,
cleverly and you-found-out so-as not to-die ever
εἰ τὴν παροῦσαν κατθανεῖν πείσεις ἀεὶ 700
if the present to-die you-will-persuade always
γυναῖχ' ὑπὲρ σοῦ· κᾆτ' ὀνειδίζεις φίλοις
wife for you and-then do-you-reproach friends

τοῖς μὴ θέλουσι δρᾶν τάδ', αὐτὸς ὢν κακός;
the(-ones) not willing to-do these(-things) yourself being base
σίγα· νόμιζε δ', εἰ σὺ τὴν σαυτοῦ φιλεῖς
be-silent think and if you the of-yourself love
ψυχήν, φιλεῖν ἅπαντας· εἰ δ' ἡμᾶς κακῶς
life to-love all if and us badly
ἐρεῖς, ἀκούσει πολλὰ κοὐ ψευδῆ κακά.
you-will-speak you-will-hear many and-not false evils
ΧΟΡΟΣ πλείω λέλεκται νῦν τε καὶ τὰ πρὶν κακά·
more have-been-said now both and the before evils
παῦσαι δέ, πρέσβυ, παῖδα σὸν κακορροθῶν.
stop and old-man son your reviling
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ λέγ', ὡς ἐμοῦ λέξαντος· εἰ δ' ἀλγεῖς κλύων
speak as of-me having-spoken if and you-are-pained hearing
τἀληθές, οὐ χρῆν σ' εἰς ἔμ' ἐξαμαρτάνειν.
the-truth not (it)-was-needful you toward me to-do-wrong
ΦΕΡΗΣ σοῦ δ' ἂν προθνήσκων μᾶλλον ἐξημάρτανον.
of-you and — dying-for more I-would-have-done-wrong
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ταὐτὸν γὰρ ἡβῶντ' ἄνδρα καὶ πρέσβυν θανεῖν;
the-same for young man and old to-die
ΦΕΡΗΣ ψυχῇ μιᾷ ζῆν, οὐ δυοῖν ὀφείλομεν.
with-life one to-live not with-two we-ought
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ καὶ μὴν Διός γε μείζονα ζῴης χρόνον.
and indeed than-Zeus at-least greater may-you-live time
ΦΕΡΗΣ ἀρᾷ γονεῦσιν οὐδὲν ἔκδικον παθών;
do-you-curse parents nothing undeserved having-suffered
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ μακροῦ βίου γὰρ ἠσθόμην ἐρῶντά σε.
long of-life for I-perceived loving you
ΦΕΡΗΣ ἀλλ' οὐ σὺ νεκρόν γ' ἀντὶ σοῦ τόνδ' ἐκφέρεις;
but not you corpse at-least instead-of you this carry-out

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ σημεῖα τῆς σῆς, ὦ κάκιστ', ἀψυχίας.
signs of-the your O worst of-cowardice

ΦΕΡΗΣ οὔτοι πρὸς ἡμῶν γ' ὤλετ'· οὐκ ἐρεῖς τόδε.
surely-not by us at-least she-perished not you-will-say this

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ φεῦ·
alas

εἴθ' ἀνδρὸς ἔλθοις τοῦδέ γ' εἰς χρείαν ποτέ.
would-that of-man you-might-come of-this at-least into need ever

ΦΕΡΗΣ μνήστευε πολλάς, ὡς θάνωσι πλείονες. 720
woo many so-that may-die more

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ σοὶ τοῦτ' ὄνειδος· οὐ γὰρ ἤθελες θανεῖν.
to-you this (is-a)-reproach not for you-wished to-die

ΦΕΡΗΣ φίλον τὸ φέγγος τοῦτο τοῦ θεοῦ, φίλον.
dear the light this of-the god dear

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ κακὸν τὸ λῆμα κοὐκ ἐν ἀνδράσιν τὸ σόν.
base the spirit and-not among men the your

ΦΕΡΗΣ οὐκ ἐγγελᾷς γέροντα βαστάζων νεκρόν.
not you-mock old-man carrying corpse

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ θανεῖ γε μέντοι δυσκλεής, ὅταν θάνῃς. 725
you-will-die at-least however inglorious when you-die

ΦΕΡΗΣ κακῶς ἀκούειν οὐ μέλει θανόντι μοι.
badly to-be-spoken-of not concerns dead me

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ φεῦ φεῦ· τὸ γῆρας ὡς ἀναιδείας πλέων.
alas alas the old-age how of-shamelessness full

ΦΕΡΗΣ ἥδ' οὐκ ἀναιδής· τήνδ' ἐφηῦρες ἄφρονα.
she not shameless her you-found senseless

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἄπελθε κἀμὲ τόνδ' ἔα θάψαι νεκρόν.
go-away and-me this let to-bury corpse

ΦΕΡΗΣ ἄπειμι· θάψεις δ' αὐτὸς ὢν αὐτῆς φονεύς,
I-go-away you-will-bury and yourself being her murderer
δίκας τε δώσεις τοῖσι κηδεσταῖς ἔτι.
penalty and you-will-pay to-the in-laws yet
ἦ τἄρ' Ἄκαστος οὐκέτ' ἔστ' ἐν ἀνδράσιν,
truly surely Acastus no-longer is among men
εἰ μή σ' ἀδελφῆς αἷμα τιμωρήσεται.
if not you of-sister blood will-avenge
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἔρρων νυν αὐτὸς χἠ ξυνοικήσασά σοι,
going-to-ruin then yourself and-the having-lived-with you
ἄπαιδε παιδὸς ὄντος, ὥσπερ ἄξιοι,
childless-pair son being as you-deserve
γηράσκετ'· οὐ γὰρ τῷδέ γ' εἰς ταὐτὸν στέγος
grow-old not for with-me at-least into the-same house
νεῖσθ'· εἰ δ' ἀπειπεῖν χρῆν με κηρύκων ὕπο
you-will-come if and to-renounce (it)-were-needful me heralds by
τὴν σὴν πατρῴαν ἑστίαν, ἀπεῖπον ἄν.
the your ancestral hearth I-would-have-renounced —
ἡμεῖς δέ, τοὐν ποσὶν γὰρ οἰστέον κακόν,
we and the-at feet for one-must-bear evil
στείχωμεν, ὡς ἂν ἐν πυρᾷ θῶμεν νεκρόν.
let-us-go so-that — on pyre we-may-lay corpse
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ ἰώ. σχετλία τόλμης,
oh oh wretched in-daring
ὦ γενναία καὶ μέγ' ἀρίστη,
O noble and greatly best
χαῖρε· πρόφρων σὲ χθόνιός θ' Ἑρμῆς
farewell kindly you of-the-underworld and Hermes
Ἄιδης τε δέχοιτ'. εἰ δέ τι κἀκεῖ
Hades and may-receive if and anything even-there

πλέον ἔστ᾽ ἀγαθοῖς, τούτων μετέχουσ᾽
more is for-the-good in-these sharing
Ἅιδου νύμφῃ παρεδρεύοις.
of-Hades with-bride may-you-sit-beside
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ πολλοὺς μὲν ἤδη κἀπὸ παντοίας χθονὸς
many indeed already and-from every land
ξένους μολόντας οἶδ᾽ ἐς Ἀδμήτου δόμους,
guests having-come I-know to of-Admetus house
οἷς δεῖπνα προύθηκ᾽· ἀλλὰ τοῦδ᾽ οὔπω ξένου
for-whom dinners I-set-before but than-this not-yet guest
κακίον᾽ εἰς τήνδ᾽ ἑστίαν ἐδεξάμην.
worse to this hearth I-received
ὃς πρῶτα μὲν πενθοῦντα δεσπότην ὁρῶν
who first indeed mourning master seeing
εἰσῆλθε κἀτόλμησ᾽ ἀμείψασθαι πύλας.
entered and-dared to-pass gates
ἔπειτα δ᾽ οὔτι σωφρόνως ἐδέξατο
then and not-at-all moderately he-received
τὰ προστυχόντα ξένια, συμφορὰν μαθών,
the chancing hospitality misfortune having-learned
ἀλλ᾽, εἴ τι μὴ φέροιμεν, ὤτρυνεν φέρειν.
but if anything not we-brought he-urged to-bring
ποτῆρα δ᾽ ἐν χείρεσσι κίσσινον λαβὼν
cup and in hands ivy-wood having-taken
πίνει μελαίνης μητρὸς εὔζωρον μέθυ,
he-drinks of-black mother unmixed wine
ἕως ἐθέρμην᾽ αὐτὸν ἀμφιβᾶσα φλὸξ
until warmed him having-surrounded flame
οἴνου· στέφει δὲ κρᾶτα μυρσίνης κλάδοις
of-wine he-crowns and head of-myrtle with-sprays

ἄμουσ᾽ ὑλακτῶν· δισσὰ δ᾽ ἦν μέλη κλύειν·
unmusically barking twofold and were songs to-hear
ὃ μὲν γὰρ ᾖδε, τῶν ἐν Ἀδμήτου κακῶν
he indeed for sang of-the in of-Admetus ills
οὐδὲν προτιμῶν, οἰκέται δ᾽ ἐκλαίομεν
nothing caring servants and we-wept-for
δέσποιναν· ὄμμα δ᾽ οὐκ ἐδείκνυμεν ξένῳ
mistress eye and not we-showed to-the-guest
τέγγοντες· Ἄδμητος γὰρ ὧδ᾽ ἐφίετο.
wetting Admetus for so ordered
καὶ νῦν ἐγὼ μὲν ἐν δόμοισιν ἑστιῶ
and now I indeed in house entertain
ξένον, πανοῦργον κλῶπα καὶ ληστήν τινα,
guest knavish thief and robber some
ἥ δ᾽ ἐκ δόμων βέβηκεν, οὐδ᾽ ἐφεσπόμην
she and from house has-gone nor did-I-follow
οὐδ᾽ ἐξέτεινα χεῖρ᾽, ἀποιμώζων ἐμὴν
nor did-I-stretch-out hand wailing-for my
δέσποιναν, ἣ ᾽μοὶ πᾶσί τ᾽ οἰκέταισιν ἦν
mistress who to-me to-all and servants was
μήτηρ· κακῶν γὰρ μυρίων ἐρρύετο,
mother from-ills for countless she-saved(-us)
ὀργὰς μαλάσσουσ᾽ ἀνδρός. ἆρα τὸν ξένον
tempers softening of-husband — the guest
στυγῶ δικαίως, ἐν κακοῖς ἀφιγμένον;
do-I-hate justly in ills having-come
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οὗτος, τί σεμνὸν καὶ πεφροντικὸς βλέπεις;
you why solemn and thoughtful do-you-look
οὐ χρὴ σκυθρωπὸν τοῖς ξένοις τὸν πρόσπολον
not must sullen to-the guests the servant

εἶναι, δέχεσθαι δ' εὐπροσηγόρῳ φρενί.
to-be to-receive and with-affable mind
σὺ δ' ἄνδρ' ἑταῖρον δεσπότου παρόνθ' ὁρῶν,
you and man comrade of-master present seeing
στυγνῷ προσώπῳ καὶ συνωφρυωμένῳ
with-gloomy face and frowning
δέχει, θυραίου πήματος σπουδὴν ἔχων.
you-receive of-outside woe zeal having
δεῦρ' ἔλθ', ὅπως ἂν καὶ σοφώτερος γένῃ.
here come so-that — also wiser you-may-become
τὰ θνητὰ πράγματ' οἶδας ἣν ἔχει φύσιν;
the mortal things do-you-know what has nature
οἶμαι μὲν οὔ· πόθεν γάρ; ἀλλ' ἄκουέ μου.
I-think indeed not whence for but listen to-me
βροτοῖς ἅπασι κατθανεῖν ὀφείλεται,
for-mortals all to-die is-owed
κοὐκ ἔστι θνητῶν ὅστις ἐξεπίσταται
and-not is of-mortals who knows
τὴν αὔριον μέλλουσαν εἰ βιώσεται·
the tomorrow coming if be-will-live
τὸ τῆς τύχης γὰρ ἀφανὲς οἳ προβήσεται,
the of-the fortune for (is)-obscure where it-will-go
κἄστ' οὐ διδακτὸν οὐδ' ἁλίσκεται τέχνῃ.
and-is not teachable nor is-caught by-art
ταῦτ' οὖν ἀκούσας καὶ μαθὼν ἐμοῦ πάρα,
these then having-heard and having-learned me from
εὔφραινε σαυτόν, πῖνε, τὸν καθ' ἡμέραν
cheer yourself drink the by day
βίον λογίζου σόν, τὰ δ' ἄλλα τῆς τύχης.
life reckon your the and other(-things) of-the fortune

τίμα δὲ καὶ τὴν πλεῖστον ἡδίστην θεῶν
honor and also the by-far sweetest of-gods
Κύπριν βροτοῖσιν· εὐμενὴς γὰρ ἡ θεός.
Cypris to-mortals kindly for the goddess
τὰ δ' ἄλλ' ἔασον ταῦτα καὶ πιθοῦ λόγοις
the and other(-things) let-go these and obey words
ἐμοῖσιν, εἴπερ ὀρθά σοι δοκῶ λέγειν·
my if-indeed right(-things) to-you I-seem to-say
οἶμαι μέν. οὔκουν τὴν ἄγαν λύπην ἀφεὶς
I-think indeed not-then the excessive grief having-let-go
πίει μεθ' ἡμῶν τάσδ' ὑπερβαλὼν τύχας,
will-you-drink with us these having-overcome fortunes
στεφάνοις πυκασθείς; καὶ σάφ' οἶδ' ὁθούνεκα
with-garlands crowned and clearly I-know that
τοῦ νῦν σκυθρωποῦ καὶ ξυνεστῶτος φρενῶν
from-the now sullen and contracted of-mind
μεθορμιεῖ σε πίτυλος ἐμπεσὼν σκύφου.
will-shift you stroke having-fallen of-cup
ὄντας δὲ θνητοὺς θνητὰ καὶ φρονεῖν χρεών·
being and mortal mortal(-thoughts) also to-think (it-is)-fitting
ὡς τοῖς γε σεμνοῖς καὶ συνωφρυωμένοις
since for-the at-least solemn and frowning
ἅπασίν ἐστιν, ὥς γ' ἐμοὶ χρῆσθαι κριτῇ,
all is as at-least me to-use as-judge
οὐ βίος ἀληθῶς ὁ βίος, ἀλλὰ συμφορά.
not life truly the life but misfortune
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ἐπιστάμεσθα ταῦτα· νῦν δὲ πράσσομεν
we-know these(-things) now but we-fare
οὐχ οἷα κώμου καὶ γέλωτος ἄξια.
not such of-revel and of-laughter worthy

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ γυνὴ θυραῖος ἡ θανοῦσα· μὴ λίαν
woman outside(-the-house) the dead(-one) not too-much
πένθει· δόμων γὰρ ζῶσι τῶνδε δεσπόται.
mourn of-house for live of-this masters
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ τί ζῶσιν; οὐ κάτοισθα τἀν δόμοις κακά;
how do-they-live not do-you-know the-in house ills
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ εἰ μή τι σός με δεσπότης ἐψεύσατο.
if not at-all your me master deceived
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ἄγαν ἐκεῖνός ἐστ' ἄγαν φιλόξενος.
too-much he is too-much hospitable
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οὐ χρῆν μ' ὀθνείου γ' εἵνεκ' εὖ πάσχειν νεκροῦ;
not ought I of-outsider at-least for-the-sake well to-fare corpse
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ἦ κάρτα μέντοι καὶ λίαν θυραῖος ἦν.
truly greatly however and too outside(-the-house) she-was
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ μῶν ξυμφοράν τιν' οὖσαν οὐκ ἔφραζέ μοι;
surely-not misfortune some being not he-told me
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ χαίρων ἴθ'. ἡμῖν δεσποτῶν μέλει κακά.
rejoicing go to-us of-masters are-a-care ills
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ὅδ' οὐ θυραίων πημάτων ἄρχει λόγος.
this not of-outside woes begins tale
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ οὐ γάρ τι κωμάζοντ' ἂν ἠχθόμην σ' ὁρῶν.
not for at-all reveling — I-would-be-vexed you seeing
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἀλλ' ἦ πέπονθα δεινὰ ὑπὸ ξένων ἐμῶν;
but — have-I-suffered terrible(-things) by hosts my
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ οὐκ ἦλθες ἐν δέοντι δέξασθαι δόμοις·
not you-came in time to-be-received in-house
πένθος γὰρ ἡμῖν ἐστι· καὶ κουρὰν βλέπεις
mourning for to-us is and shorn-hair you-see

μελαμπέπλους στολμούς τε. ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τίς δ' ὁ κατθανών;
black-robed garb and who and the dead(-one)

μῶν ἢ τέκνων τι φροῦδον ἢ πατὴρ γέρων;
surely-not either of-children any gone or father old

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ γυνὴ μὲν οὖν ὄλωλεν Ἀδμήτου, ξένε.
wife indeed then has-perished of-Admetus stranger

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τί φής; ἔπειτα δῆτά μ' ἐξενίζετε;
what do-you-say then then me were-you-entertaining

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ᾐδεῖτο γάρ σε τῶνδ' ἀπώσασθαι δόμων.
he-was-ashamed for you from-this to-thrust house

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ὦ σχέτλι', οἵας ἤμπλακες ξυναόρου.
O wretched what you-have-lost consort

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ἀπωλόμεσθα πάντες, οὐ κείνη μόνη.
we-have-perished all not she alone

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἀλλ' ᾐσθόμην μὲν ὄμμ' ἰδὼν δακρυρροοῦν
but I-perceived indeed eye having-seen weeping

κουράν τε καὶ πρόσωπον· ἀλλ' ἔπειθέ με
cut-hair both and face but persuaded me

λέγων θυραῖον κῆδος εἰς τάφον φέρειν.
saying outside burial to tomb to-carry

βίᾳ δὲ θυμοῦ τάσδ' ὑπερβαλὼν πύλας
by-force and of-heart these having-passed gates

ἔπινον ἀνδρὸς ἐν φιλοξένου δόμοις
I-was-drinking of-man in hospitable house

πράσσοντος οὕτω. κᾆτα κωμάζω κάρα
faring so and-then do-I-revel head

στεφάνοις πυκασθείς; ἀλλὰ σοῦ τὸ μὴ φράσαι,
with-garlands crowned but of-you the not to-tell

κακοῦ τοσούτου δώμασιν προσκειμένου.
evil so-great on-house lying

ποῦ καί σφε θάπτει; ποῦ νιν εὑρήσω μολών;
where and her does-he-bury where her will-I-find having-gone

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ὀρθὴν παρ᾽ οἶμον, ἣ ᾽πὶ Λάρισαν φέρει,
straight beside path which to Larisa leads

τύμβον κατόψει ξεστὸν ἐκ προαστίου.
tomb you-will-see polished from suburb

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ὦ πολλὰ τλᾶσα καρδία καὶ χεὶρ ἐμή,
O many(-things) having-endured heart and hand my

νῦν δεῖξον οἷον παῖδά σ᾽ ἡ Τιρυνθία
now show what-a son you the Tirynthian

Ἠλεκτρυόνος ἐγείνατ᾽ Ἀλκμήνη Διί.
of-Electryon bore Alcmene to-Zeus

δεῖ γάρ με σῶσαι τὴν θανοῦσαν ἀρτίως
must for me to-save the having-died just-now

γυναῖκα κεἰς τόνδ᾽ αὖθις ἱδρῦσαι δόμον
woman and-into this again to-settle house

Ἄλκηστιν, Ἀδμήτῳ θ᾽ ὑπουργῆσαι χάριν.
Alcestis for-Admetus and to-render favor

ἐλθὼν δ᾽ ἄνακτα τὸν μελάμπεπλον νεκρῶν
having-gone and lord the black-robed of-corpses

Θάνατον φυλάξω, καί νιν εὑρήσειν δοκῶ
Death I-will-watch-for and him to-find I-think

πίνοντα τύμβου πλησίον προσφαγμάτων.
drinking of-tomb near of-the-offerings

κἄνπερ λοχαίας αὐτὸν ἐξ ἕδρας συθεὶς
and-if ambushing him from seat having-rushed

μάρψω, κύκλον δὲ περιβαλῶ χεροῖν ἐμαῖν,
I-seize circle and I-throw with-arms my

οὐκ ἔστιν ὅστις αὐτὸν ἐξαιρήσεται
not is who him will-take-away

μογοῦντα πλευρά, πρὶν γυναῖκ' ἐμοὶ μεθῇ.
laboring in-sides before woman to-me he-lets-go

ἢν δ' οὖν ἁμάρτω τῆσδ' ἄγρας, καὶ μὴ μόλῃ
if and then I-miss this prey and not he-comes

πρὸς αἱματηρὸν πέλανον, εἶμι τῶν κάτω
to bloody cake I-will-go of-the below

Κόρης Ἄνακτός τ' εἰς ἀνηλίους δόμους
of-Maiden of-Lord and to sunless house

αἰτήσομαί τε· καὶ πέποιθ' ἄξειν ἄνω
I-will-ask and and I-trust to-bring up

Ἄλκηστιν, ὥστε χερσὶν ἐνθεῖναι ξένου,
Alcestis so-as into-hands to-put of-host

ὅς μ' εἰς δόμους ἐδέξατ' οὐδ' ἀπήλασε,
who me into house received nor drove-away

καίπερ βαρείᾳ συμφορᾷ πεπληγμένος,
though by-heavy misfortune struck

ἔκρυπτε δ' ὢν γενναῖος, αἰδεσθεὶς ἐμέ.
he-hid and being noble showing-respect-to me

τίς τοῦδε μᾶλλον Θεσσαλῶν φιλόξενος,
who than-this more of-Thessalians hospitable

τίς Ἑλλάδ' οἰκῶν; τοιγὰρ οὐκ ἐρεῖ κακὸν
who Hellas dwelling-in therefore not he-will-say base(-one)

εὐεργετῆσαι φῶτα γενναῖος γεγώς.
to-have-done-good-to man noble being

X · THE EMPTY HOUSE

Admetus returns from the grave and cannot bear to enter the house. He envies the dead, and with the chorus laments the empty bed, his children's cries, and the taunts he will hear for letting his wife die. The chorus sings of Necessity, whom no drug and no god's will can overcome, and foretells that travelers will honor Alcestis' tomb as a goddess's shrine.

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἰώ. στυγναὶ πρόσοδοι, στυγναὶ δ' ὄψεις
oh hateful approaches hateful and sights
χήρων μελάθρων· ἰώ μοί μοι. αἰαῖ.
of-widowed halls oh me me alas
ποῖ βῶ; πᾷ στῶ; τί λέγω; τί δὲ μή;
where am-I-to-go where am-I-to-stand what am-I-to-say what and not
πῶς ἂν ὀλοίμαν;
how — might-I-perish
ἦ βαρυδαίμονα μήτηρ μ' ἔτεκεν. 865
truly heavy-fated mother me bore
ζηλῶ φθιμένους, κείνων ἔραμαι,
I-envy the-dead them I-long-for
κεῖν' ἐπιθυμῶ δώματα ναίειν.
those I-desire house to-dwell-in
οὔτε γὰρ αὐγὰς χαίρω προσορῶν
neither for rays I-rejoice looking-at
οὔτ' ἐπὶ γαίας πόδα πεζεύων·
nor on earth foot treading
τοῖον ὅμηρόν μ' ἀποσυλήσας 870
such hostage me having-robbed
Ἅιδῃ Θάνατος παρέδωκεν.
to-Hades Death has-handed-over

ΧΟΡΟΣ πρόβα πρόβα. βâθι κεῦθος οἴκων. ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ αἰαῖ.
go-on go-on go to-depth of-house alas

ΧΟΡΟΣ πέπονθας ἄξι' αἰαγμάτων. ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἐ ἔ.
you-have-suffered worthy(-things) of-wailings ah ah

ΧΟΡΟΣ δι' ὀδύνας ἔβας,
through pains you-have-gone

σάφ' οἶδα. ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ φεῦ φεῦ.
clearly I-know alas alas

ΧΟΡΟΣ τὰν νέρθεν οὐδὲν ὠφελεῖς. ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἰώ μοί μοι.
the(-one) below nothing you-help oh me me

ΧΟΡΟΣ τὸ μήποτ' εἰσιδεῖν φιλίας ἀλόχου
the never to-see of-dear wife

πρόσωπον ἄντα λυπρόν.
face face-to-face (is)-grievous

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἔμνησας ὅ μου φρένας ἤλκωσεν·
you-have-reminded what my heart has-wounded

τί γὰρ ἀνδρὶ κακὸν μεῖζον ἁμαρτεῖν
what for for-man ill greater to-lose

πιστῆς ἀλόχου; μή ποτε γήμας
faithful wife not ever having-married

ὤφελον οἰκεῖν μετὰ τῆσδε δόμους.
would-that-I to-dwell with her house

ζηλῶ δ' ἀγάμους ἀτέκνους τε βροτῶν·
I-envy and unmarried childless and of-mortals

μία γὰρ ψυχή, τῆς ὑπεραλγεῖν
one for life for-which to-grieve-exceedingly

μέτριον ἄχθος·
(is)-moderate burden

παίδων δὲ νόσους καὶ νυμφιδίους
of-children but sicknesses and bridal

εὐνὰς θανάτοις κεραϊζομένας
beds by-deaths ravaged
οὐ τλητὸν ὁρᾶν, ἐξὸν ἀτέκνους
not bearable to-see it-being-possible childless
ἀγάμους τ᾽ εἶναι διὰ παντός.
unmarried and to-be through all(-time)
ΧΟΡΟΣ τύχα τύχα δυσπάλαιστος ἥκει· ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ αἰαῖ.
fortune fortune hard-to-wrestle has-come alas
ΧΟΡΟΣ πέρας δέ γ᾽ οὐδὲν ἀλγῶν τίθης. ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἔ ἔ. 890
end and at-least none grieving you-set ah ah
ΧΟΡΟΣ βαρέα μὲν φέρειν,
heavy(-things) indeed to-bear
ὅμως δὲ — ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ φεῦ φεῦ.
nevertheless but alas alas
ΧΟΡΟΣ τλᾶθ᾽· οὐ σὺ πρῶτος ὤλεσας — ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἰώ μοί μοι.
endure not you first have-lost oh me me
ΧΟΡΟΣ γυναῖκα· συμφορὰ δ᾽ ἑτέρους ἑτέρα
wife misfortune and others another
πιέζει φανεῖσα θνατῶν.
presses having-appeared of-mortals
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ὦ μακρὰ πένθη λῦπαί τε φίλων 895
O long griefs pains and for-friends
τῶν ὑπὸ γαῖαν.
the(-ones) under earth
τί μ᾽ ἐκώλυσας ῥῖψαι τύμβου
why me did-you-hinder to-throw of-tomb
τάφρον εἰς κοίλην καὶ μετ᾽ ἐκείνης
trench into hollow and with her
τῆς μέγ᾽ ἀρίστης κεῖσθαι φθίμενον;
the greatly best to-lie dead

δύο δ' ἀντὶ μιᾶς Ἅιδης ψυχὰς
two and instead-of one Hades souls
τὰς πιστοτάτας σὺν ἂν ἔσχεν, ὁμοῦ
the most-faithful together — would-have-had together
χθονίαν λίμνην διαβάντε.
underground lake both-having-crossed
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐμοί τις ἦν
to-me someone was
ἐν γένει, ᾧ κόρος ἀξιόθρηνος
in family to-whom son worthy-of-dirge
ὤλετ' ἐν δόμοισιν
perished in house
μονόπαις· ἀλλ' ἔμπας
only-child but nevertheless
ἔφερε κακὸν ἄλις, ἄτεκνος ὤν,
he-bore ill enough childless being
πολιὰς ἐπὶ χαίτας
gray on hair
ἤδη προπετὴς ὢν
already sunk-forward being
βιότου τε πόρσω.
of-life and far-on
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ὦ σχῆμα δόμων, πῶς εἰσέλθω;
O shape of-house how am-I-to-enter
πῶς δ' οἰκήσω μεταπίπτοντος
how and shall-I-dwell changing
δαίμονος; οἴμοι. πολὺ γὰρ τὸ μέσον·
fortune ah-me great for the interval
τότε μὲν πεύκαις σὺν Πηλιάσιν
then indeed pine-torches with Pelian

σύν θ᾽ ὑμεναίοις ἔστειχον ἔσω,
with and wedding-songs I-went inside
φιλίας ἀλόχου χέρα βαστάζων·
of-dear wife hand holding
πολυάχητος δ᾽ εἵπετο κῶμος,
many-voiced and followed revel
τήν τε θανοῦσαν κἄμ᾽ ὀλβίζων,
the both dead(-woman) and-me blessing
ὡς εὐπατρίδαι καὶ ἀπ᾽ ἀμφοτέρων
as nobly-born and from both
ὄντες ἀριστέων σύζυγες ἦμεν.
being of-the-best consorts we-were
νῦν δ᾽ ὑμεναίων γόος ἀντίπαλος
now and of-wedding-songs wailing opposing
λευκῶν τε πέπλων μέλανες στολμοὶ
white and of-robes black garb
πέμπουσί μ᾽ ἔσω
send me inside
λέκτρων κοίτας ἐς ἐρήμους.
of-bed chambers to empty
ΧΟΡΟΣ παρ᾽ εὐτυχῆ
to fortunate
σοὶ πότμον ἦλθεν ἀπειροκάκῳ τόδ᾽
for-you fate came inexperienced-in-ill this
ἄλγος· ἀλλ᾽ ἔσωσας
grief but you-saved
βίοτον καὶ ψυχάν.
life and soul
ἔθανε δάμαρ, ἔλιπε φιλίαν·
died wife left love

τί νέον τόδε; πολλοὺς
what new this many
ἤδη παρέλυσεν
already has-released
θάνατος δάμαρτος.
death from-wife
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ φίλοι, γυναικὸς δαίμον' εὐτυχέστερον
friends of-wife fortune more-happy
τοὐμοῦ νομίζω, καίπερ οὐ δοκοῦνθ' ὅμως·
than-my I-think though not seeming nevertheless
τῆς μὲν γὰρ οὐδὲν ἄλγος ἅψεταί ποτε,
her indeed for no grief will-touch ever
πολλῶν δὲ μόχθων εὐκλεὴς ἐπαύσατο.
many and from-toils glorious she-has-ceased
ἐγὼ δ', ὃν οὐ χρῆν ζῆν, παρεὶς τὸ μόρσιμον
I and who not ought to-live having-passed the fated
λυπρὸν διάξω βίοτον· ἄρτι μανθάνω.
grievous will-pass life just-now I-learn
πῶς γὰρ δόμων τῶνδ' εἰσόδους ἀνέξομαι;
how for of-house this entrances shall-I-endure
τίν' ἂν προσειπών, τοῦ δὲ προσρηθεὶς ὕπο,
whom — having-addressed whom and addressed by
τερπνῆς τύχοιμ' ἂν εἰσόδου; ποῖ τρέψομαι;
delightful might-I-find — entrance where shall-I-turn
ἡ μὲν γὰρ ἔνδον ἐξελᾷ μ' ἐρημία,
the indeed for inside will-drive-out me loneliness
γυναικὸς εὐνὰς εὖτ' ἂν εἰσίδω κενὰς
of-wife beds when — I-see empty
θρόνους τ' ἐν οἷσιν ἷζε, καὶ κατὰ στέγας
seats and in which she-sat and throughout roof

αὐχμηρὸν οὖδας, τέκνα δ' ἀμφὶ γούνασι
squalid floor children and about knees
πίπτοντα κλαίῃ μητέρ', οἱ δὲ δεσπότιν
falling weep-for mother they and mistress
στένωσιν οἵαν ἐκ δόμων ἀπώλεσαν.
lament what from house they-have-lost
τὰ μὲν κατ' οἴκους τοιάδ'· ἔξωθεν δέ με
the indeed in house such(-things) from-outside and me
γάμοι τ' ἐλῶσι Θεσσαλῶν καὶ ξύλλογοι
weddings and will-drive of-Thessalians and gatherings
γυναικοπληθεῖς· οὐ γὰρ ἐξανέξομαι
full-of-women not for I-will-endure
λεύσσων δάμαρτος τῆς ἐμῆς ὁμήλικας.
seeing of-wife the my age-mates
ἐρεῖ δέ μ' ὅστις ἐχθρὸς ὢν κυρεῖ τάδε·
will-say and me whoever enemy being happens these(-things)
ἰδοῦ τὸν αἰσχρῶς ζῶνθ', ὃς οὐκ ἔτλη θανεῖν,
look-at the(-man) shamefully living who not dared to-die
ἀλλ' ἣν ἔγημεν ἀντιδοὺς ἀψυχίᾳ
but whom he-married having-given-in-exchange in-cowardice
πέφευγεν Ἅιδην· εἶτ' ἀνὴρ εἶναι δοκεῖ;
has-escaped Hades then man to-be does-he-seem
στυγεῖ δὲ τοὺς τεκόντας, αὐτὸς οὐ θέλων
he-hates and the parents himself not willing
θανεῖν. τοιάνδε πρὸς κακοῖσι κληδόνα
to-die such besides ills report
ἕξω. τί μοι ζῆν δῆτα κύδιον, φίλοι,
I-will-have why for-me to-live then (is)-more-glorious friends
κακῶς κλύοντι καὶ κακῶς πεπραγότι;
badly being-spoken-of and badly having-fared

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐγὼ καὶ διὰ μούσας
I both through the-Muses
καὶ μετάρσιος ᾖξα, καὶ
and aloft I-darted and
πλείστων ἁψάμενος λόγων
of-most having-touched words
κρεῖσσον οὐδὲν Ἀνάγκας
stronger nothing than-Necessity
ηὗρον, οὐδέ τι φάρμακον
found nor any drug
Θρῄσσαις ἐν σανίσιν, τὰς
Thracian in tablets which
Ὀρφεία κατέγραψεν
Orphic wrote-down
γῆρυς, οὐδ' ὅσα Φοῖβος Ἀ-
voice nor as-many-as Phoebus to-the-Asclepiads
σκληπιάδαις ἔδωκε
— *gave*
φάρμακα πολυπόνοις
drugs for-much-suffering
ἀντιτεμὼν βροτοῖσιν.
having-cut-as-remedy mortals
μόνας δ' οὔτ' ἐπὶ βωμοὺς
of-her-alone and neither to altars
ἔστιν οὔτε βρέτας θεᾶς
is nor image of-the-goddess
ἐλθεῖν, οὐ σφαγίων κλύει.
to-go not sacrifices she-hears
μή μοι, πότνια, μείζων
not on-me lady greater

ἔλθοις ἢ τὸ πρὶν ἐν βίῳ.
may-you-come than the before in life
καὶ γὰρ Ζεὺς ὅ τι νεύσῃ,
also for Zeus what ever he-nods
σὺν σοὶ τοῦτο τελευτᾷ.
with you this he-accomplishes
καὶ τὸν ἐν Χαλύβοις δαμά-
also the among Chalybes you-subdue
ζεις σὺ βίᾳ σίδαρον,
— you by-force iron
οὐδέ τις ἀποτόμου
nor any of-sheer
λήματός ἐστιν αἰδώς.
spirit is respect
καὶ σ' ἐν ἀφύκτοισι χερῶν εἷλε θεὰ δεσμοῖς.
and you in inescapable of-hands has-seized goddess bonds
τόλμα δ'· οὐ γὰρ ἀνάξεις ποτ' ἔνερθεν
endure and not for you-will-lead-up ever from-below
κλαίων τοὺς φθιμένους ἄνω.
weeping the dead up
καὶ θεῶν σκότιοι φθίνουσι
even of-gods dark wither
παῖδες ἐν θανάτῳ.
children in death
φίλα μὲν ὅτ' ἦν μεθ' ἡμῶν,
dear indeed when she-was with us
φίλα δὲ †καὶ θανοῦσ' ἔσται†·
dear and (corrupt)-even dead she-will-be(corrupt)
γενναιοτάταν δὲ πασᾶν
noblest and of-all

ἐζεύξω κλισίαις ἄκοιτιν.
you-yoked to-bed wife

μηδὲ νεκρῶν ὡς φθιμένων χῶμα νομιζέσθω
nor of-dead as dead mound let-it-be-held

τύμβος σᾶς ἀλόχου, θεοῖσι δ' ὁμοίως
tomb of-your wife to-gods but alike

τιμάσθω, σέβας ἐμπόρων.
let-it-be-honored reverence of-travelers

καί τις δοχμίαν κέλευθον
and someone slanting road

ἐμβαίνων τόδ' ἐρεῖ·
stepping-on this will-say

αὕτα ποτὲ προὔθαν' ἀνδρός,
this-one once died-for husband

νῦν δ' ἐστὶ μάκαιρα δαίμων·
now and she-is blessed spirit

χαῖρ', ὦ πότνι', εὖ δὲ δοίης.
hail O lady well and may-you-grant

τοῖαί νιν προσεροῦσι φᾶμαι.
such her will-address sayings

XI · THE VEILED WOMAN

Heracles returns leading a veiled woman and reproaches Admetus for hiding his loss. He asks him to keep her as a prize won in a contest. Admetus refuses, loyal to his dead wife and fearing the city's blame, but is made to take her by the hand. Heracles unveils Alcestis, won from Death at the tomb, and says she may not speak until three days have passed. He leaves for Thrace, and Admetus orders dances.

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ὅδ', ὡς ἔοικεν, Ἀλκμήνης γόνος,
and indeed this-one as it-seems of-Alcmene offspring
Ἄδμητε, πρὸς σὴν ἑστίαν πορεύεται.
Admetus to your hearth comes
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ φίλον πρὸς ἄνδρα χρὴ λέγειν ἐλευθέρως,
friendly to man (one)-must to-speak freely
Ἄδμητε, μομφὰς δ' οὐχ ὑπὸ σπλάγχνοις ἔχειν
Admetus complaints and not under heart to-keep
σιγῶντ'. ἐγὼ δὲ σοῖς κακοῖσιν ἠξίουν
being-silent I and in-your ills thought-it-right
ἐγγὺς παρεστὼς ἐξετάζεσθαι φίλος·
near standing-by to-be-proved friend
σὺ δ' οὐκ ἔφραζες σῆς προκείμενον νέκυν
you but not told your laid-out corpse
γυναικός, ἀλλά μ' ἐξένιζες ἐν δόμοις,
of-wife but me you-entertained in house
ὡς δὴ θυραίου πήματος σπουδὴν ἔχων.
as indeed of-outside woe zeal having
κἄστεψα κρᾶτα καὶ θεοῖς ἐλειψάμην
and-I-crowned head and to-gods poured
σπονδὰς ἐν οἴκοις δυστυχοῦσι τοῖσι σοῖς.
libations in house unfortunate the your

καὶ μέμφομαι μὲν μέμφομαι παθὼν τάδε,
and I-blame indeed I-blame having-suffered these(-things)
οὐ μήν σε λυπεῖν ἐν κακοῖσι βούλομαι.
not indeed you to-pain in ills I-wish
ὧν δ' εἵνεχ' ἥκω δεῦρ' ὑποστρέψας πάλιν
what and for-the-sake I-come here having-turned back
λέξω. γυναῖκα τήνδε μοι σῶσον λαβών,
I-will-tell woman this for-me keep having-taken
ἕως ἂν ἵππους δεῦρο Θρηκίας ἄγων
until — horses here Thracian leading
ἔλθω, τύραννον Βιστόνων κατακτανών.
I-come lord of-Bistones having-killed
πράξας δ' ὃ μὴ τύχοιμι, νοστήσαιμι γάρ,
having-fared and what not may-I-meet may-I-return for
δίδωμι τήνδε σοῖσι προσπολεῖν δόμοις.
I-give this-one for-your to-serve house
πολλῷ δὲ μόχθῳ χεῖρας ἦλθεν εἰς ἐμάς·
with-much and toil hands she-came into my
ἀγῶνα γὰρ πάνδημον εὑρίσκω τινὰς
contest for public I-find some(-men)
τιθέντας, ἀθληταῖσιν ἄξιον πόνον,
holding for-athletes worthy labor
ὅθεν κομίζω τήνδε νικητήρια
whence I-bring this-one as-prize
λαβών· τὰ μὲν γὰρ κοῦφα τοῖς νικῶσιν ἦν
having-taken the indeed for light(-ones) to-the winners were
ἵππους ἄγεσθαι, τοῖσι δ' αὖ τὰ μείζονα
horses to-lead to-those and again the greater(-contests)
νικῶσι, πυγμὴν καὶ πάλην, βουφόρβια·
winning boxing and wrestling cattle

γυνὴ δ' ἐπ' αὐτοῖς εἵπετ'· ἐντυχόντι δὲ
woman and on them followed having-met and
αἰσχρὸν παρεῖναι κέρδος ἦν τόδ' εὐκλεές.
shameful to-let-pass gain was this glorious
ἀλλ', ὥσπερ εἶπον, σοὶ μέλειν γυναῖκα χρή·
but as I-said for-you to-care-for woman (one)-must
οὐ γὰρ κλοπαίαν, ἀλλὰ σὺν πόνῳ λαβὼν
not for stolen but with toil having-taken
ἥκω· χρόνῳ δὲ καὶ σύ μ' αἰνέσεις ἴσως.
I-come in-time and also you me will-praise perhaps
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ οὔτοι σ' ἀτίζων οὐδ' ἐν ἐχθροῖσιν τιθεὶς
surely-not you dishonoring nor among enemies placing
ἔκρυψ' ἐμῆς γυναικὸς ἀθλίους τύχας·
I-hid of-my wife wretched fortunes
ἀλλ' ἄλγος ἄλγει τοῦτ' ἂν ἦν προσκείμενον,
but grief to-grief this — would-be laid-upon
εἴ του πρὸς ἄλλου δώμαθ' ὡρμήθης ξένου·
if of-some to other house you-had-set-out host
ἅλις δὲ κλαίειν τοὐμὸν ἦν ἐμοὶ κακόν.
enough and to-weep my was for-me ill
γυναῖκα δ', εἴ πως ἔστιν, αἰτοῦμαί σ', ἄναξ,
woman and if somehow it-is-possible I-ask you lord
ἄλλον τιν' ὅστις μὴ πέπονθεν οἵ' ἐγὼ
other some who not has-suffered what-things I
σῴζειν ἄνωχθι Θεσσαλῶν· πολλοί δέ σοι
to-keep bid of-Thessalians many and to-you
ξένοι Φεραίων· μή μ' ἀναμνήσῃς κακῶν.
guest-friends of-Pheraeans not me remind of-ills
οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην τήνδ' ὁρῶν ἐν δώμασιν
not — I-could her seeing in house

ἄδακρυς εἶναι· μὴ νοσοῦντί μοι νόσον
tearless to-be not on-sick me sickness
προσθῇς· ἅλις γὰρ συμφορᾷ βαρύνομαι.
lay enough for by-misfortune I-am-weighed-down
ποῦ καὶ τρέφοιτ' ἂν δωμάτων νέα γυνή;
where and would-be-kept — of-house young woman
νέα γάρ, ὡς ἐσθῆτι καὶ κόσμῳ πρέπει.
young for as by-dress and adornment she-appears
πότερα μετ' ἀνδρῶν δῆτ' ἐνοικήσει στέγην;
whether with men then will-she-dwell-in roof
καὶ πῶς ἀκραιφνὴς ἐν νέοις στρωφωμένη
and how untouched among young-men roaming
ἔσται; τὸν ἡβῶνθ', Ἡράκλεις, οὐ ῥᾴδιον
will-she-be the(-one) being-young Heracles not easy
εἴργειν· ἐγὼ δὲ σοῦ προμηθίαν ἔχω.
to-restrain I and for-you forethought have
ἢ τῆς θανούσης θάλαμον εἰσβήσας τρέφω;
or of-the dead(-woman) chamber having-brought-in shall-I-keep(-her)
καὶ πῶς ἐπεισφρῶ τήνδε τῷ κείνης λέχει;
and how shall-I-bring-in her to-the of-her bed
διπλῆν φοβοῦμαι μέμψιν, ἔκ τε δημοτῶν,
twofold I-fear blame from both citizens
μή τίς μ' ἐλέγξῃ τὴν ἐμὴν εὐεργέτιν
lest anyone me convict the my benefactress
προδόντ' ἐν ἄλλης δεμνίοις πίτνειν νέας,
having-betrayed in of-other bed to-fall young
καὶ τῆς θανούσης· ἀξία δ' ἐμοὶ σέβειν·
and of-the dead(-woman) worthy and for-me to-revere
πολλὴν πρόνοιαν δεῖ μ' ἔχειν. σὺ δ', ὦ γύναι,
much forethought must me to-have you and O woman

ἥτις ποτ᾽ εἶ σύ, ταὔτ᾽ ἔχουσ᾽ Ἀλκήστιδι
whoever ever are you the-same having with-Alcestis
μορφῆς μέτρ᾽ ἴσθι καὶ προσήιξαι δέμας.
of-form measures know and you-resemble in-body
οἴμοι. κόμιζε πρὸς θεῶν ἐξ ὀμμάτων
ah-me take by gods from eyes
γυναῖκα τήνδε, μή μ᾽ ἕλῃς ᾑρημένον.
woman this not me take having-been-taken
δοκῶ γὰρ αὐτὴν εἰσορῶν γυναῖχ᾽ ὁρᾶν
I-think for her looking-at wife to-see
ἐμήν· θολοῖ δὲ καρδίαν, ἐκ δ᾽ ὀμμάτων
my troubles and heart from and eyes
πηγαὶ κατερρώγασιν· ὦ τλήμων ἐγώ,
springs have-burst-forth O wretched I
ὡς ἄρτι πένθους τοῦδε γεύομαι πικροῦ.
how just-now of-grief this I-taste bitter
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐγὼ μὲν οὐκ ἔχοιμ᾽ ἂν εὖ λέγειν τύχην·
I indeed not could — well to-speak-of fortune
χρὴ δ᾽, ὅστις εἶ σύ, καρτερεῖν θεοῦ δόσιν.
must but whoever you-are you to-endure of-god gift
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ εἰ γὰρ τοσαύτην δύναμιν εἶχον ὥστε σὴν
if for so-much power I-had so-as your
εἰς φῶς πορεῦσαι νερτέρων ἐκ δωμάτων
into light to-convey of-the-dead from halls
γυναῖκα καί σοι τήνδε πορσῦναι χάριν.
wife and for-you this to-furnish favor
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ σάφ᾽ οἶδα βούλεσθαί σ᾽ ἄν. ἀλλὰ ποῦ τόδε;
clearly I-know to-wish you — but where this
οὐκ ἔστι τοὺς θανόντας εἰς φάος μολεῖν.
not it-is the dead into light to-come

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ μή νυν ὑπέρβαλλ', ἀλλ' ἐναισίμως φέρε.
not then exceed but in-measure bear(-it)

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ῥᾷον παραινεῖν ἢ παθόντα καρτερεῖν.
easier to-advise than having-suffered to-endure

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τί δ' ἂν προκόπτοις, εἰ θέλοις ἀεὶ στένειν;
what and — would-you-gain if you-wished always to-groan

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἔγνωκα καὐτός, ἀλλ' ἔρως τις ἐξάγει.
I-know and-myself but love some draws-out

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τὸ γὰρ φιλῆσαι τὸν θανόντ' ἄγει δάκρυ.
the for to-love the dead(-one) leads-to tear

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἀπώλεσέν με, κἄτι μᾶλλον ἢ λέγω.
she-destroyed me and-yet more than I-say

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ γυναικὸς ἐσθλῆς ἤμπλακες· τίς ἀντερεῖ;
of-wife noble you-are-bereft who will-gainsay

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ὥστ' ἄνδρα τόνδε μηκέθ' ἥδεσθαι βίῳ.
so-that man this no-longer to-delight in-life

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ χρόνος μαλάξει, νῦν δ' ἔθ' ἡβᾷ σοι κακόν.
time will-soften now but still is-young for-you ill

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ χρόνον λέγοις ἄν, εἰ χρόνος τὸ κατθανεῖν.
time you-might-say — if time (is)-the to-die

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ γυνή σε παύσει καὶ νέου γάμου πόθοι.
wife you will-stop and of-new marriage longings

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ σίγησον· οἷον εἶπας. οὐκ ἂν ὠόμην.
be-silent what you-said not — I-would-have-thought

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τί δ'; οὐ γαμεῖς γάρ, ἀλλὰ χηρεύσει λέχος;
what and not you-will-marry then but will-be-widowed bed

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ οὐκ ἔστιν ἥτις τῷδε συγκλιθήσεται.
not is who with-this will-lie-down

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ μῶν τὴν θανοῦσαν ὠφελεῖν τι προσδοκᾷς;
surely-not the dead(-woman) to-help at-all do-you-expect

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ κείνην ὅπουπερ ἔστι τιμᾶσθαι χρεών.
her wherever she-is to-be-honored (it-is)-fitting

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ αἰνῶ μὲν αἰνῶ· μωρίαν δ' ὀφλισκάνεις.
I-praise indeed I-praise folly but you-incur

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ὡς μήποτ' ἄνδρα τόνδε νυμφίον καλῶν.
as never man this bridegroom calling

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἐπῄνεσ' ἀλόχῳ πιστὸς οὕνεκ' εἶ φίλος. 1095
I-praise to-wife faithful because you-are dear

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ θάνοιμ' ἐκείνην καίπερ οὐκ οὖσαν προδούς.
may-I-die her though not being having-betrayed

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ δέχου νυν εἴσω τήνδε γενναίων δόμων.
receive then inside this-one of-noble house

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ μή, πρός σε τοῦ σπείραντος ἄντομαι Διός.
no by you the begetter I-beseech Zeus

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ καὶ μὴν ἁμαρτήσει γε μὴ δράσας τάδε.
and indeed you-will-err at-least not having-done these(-things)

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ καὶ δρῶν γε λύπῃ καρδίαν δηχθήσομαι. 1100
and doing at-least with-grief in-heart I-shall-be-stung

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ πιθοῦ· τάχ' ἂν γὰρ εἰς δέον πέσοι χάρις.
obey perhaps — for into need may-fall favor

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ φεῦ·
alas

εἴθ' ἐξ ἀγῶνος τήνδε μὴ 'λαβές ποτε.
would-that from contest this-one not you-had-taken ever

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ νικῶντι μέντοι καὶ σὺ συννίκᾳς ἐμοί.
winning however also you win-with me

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ καλῶς ἔλεξας· ἡ γυνὴ δ' ἀπελθέτω.
well you-said the woman and let-her-go-away

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἄπεισιν, εἰ χρή· πρῶτα δ' εἰ χρεὼν ἄθρει. 1105
she-will-go-away if (one)-must first and if (it-is)-needful consider

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ χρή, σοῦ γε μὴ μέλλοντος ὀργαίνειν ἐμοί.
(it-is)-needful you at-least not being-about to-be-angry with-me

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ εἰδώς τι κἀγὼ τήνδ' ἔχω προθυμίαν.
knowing something and-I this have eagerness

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ νίκα νυν. οὐ μὴν ἀνδάνοντά μοι ποιεῖς.
win then not indeed pleasing to-me you-do

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἀλλ' ἔσθ' ὅθ' ἡμᾶς αἰνέσεις· πιθοῦ μόνον.
but there-is when us you-will-praise obey only

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ κομίζετ', εἰ χρὴ τήνδε δέξασθαι δόμοις.
bring(-her) if (one)-must this-one to-receive in-house

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οὐκ ἂν μεθείην τὴν γυναῖκα προσπόλοις.
not — I-would-let-go the woman to-servants

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ σὺ δ' αὐτὸς αὐτὴν εἴσαγ', εἰ βούλει, δόμους.
you and yourself her lead-in if you-wish house

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ εἰς σὰς μὲν οὖν ἔγωγε θήσομαι χέρας.
into your indeed then I will-put hands

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ οὐκ ἂν θίγοιμι· δώματ' εἰσελθεῖν πάρα.
not — I-would-touch(-her) house to-enter (is)-possible

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τῇ σῇ πέποιθα χειρὶ δεξιᾷ μόνῃ.
in-the your I-trust hand right alone

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἄναξ, βιάζει μ' οὐ θέλοντα δρᾶν τάδε.
lord you-force me not wishing to-do these(-things)

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τόλμα προτεῖναι χεῖρα καὶ θιγεῖν ξένης.
dare to-stretch-out hand and to-touch stranger

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ καὶ δὴ προτείνω, Γοργόν' ὡς καρατομῶν.
and indeed I-stretch-out Gorgon as beheading

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἔχεις; ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἔχω. ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ναί, σῴζέ νυν,
have-you(-her) I-have yes keep(-her) then

καὶ τὸν Διὸς
and the of-Zeus

φήσεις ποτ᾽ εἶναι παῖδα γενναῖον ξένον.
you-will-say ever to-be son noble guest

βλέψον πρὸς αὐτήν, εἴ τι σῇ δοκεῖ πρέπειν
look at her if at-all your she-seems to-resemble

γυναικί· λύπης δ᾽ εὐτυχῶν μεθίστασο.
wife from-grief and fortunate change

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ὦ θεοί, τί λέξω; θαῦμ᾽ ἀνέλπιστον τόδε·
O gods what shall-I-say wonder unhoped-for (is)-this

γυναῖκα λεύσσω τὴν ἐμὴν ἐτητύμως,
wife I-see the my truly

ἢ κέρτομός με θεοῦ τις ἐκπλήσσει χαρά;
or mocking me of-god some amazes joy

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οὐκ ἔστιν, ἀλλὰ τήνδ᾽ ὁρᾷς δάμαρτα σήν.
not it-is but this-one you-see wife your

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ὅρα γε μή τι φάσμα νερτέρων τόδ᾽ ᾖ.
see at-least lest any phantom of-the-dead this be

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οὐ ψυχαγωγὸν τόνδ᾽ ἐποιήσω ξένον.
not soul-raiser this you-made guest

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἣν ἔθαπτον εἰσορῶ δάμαρτ᾽ ἐμήν;
but whom I-buried I-see wife my

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ σάφ᾽ ἴσθ᾽. ἀπιστεῖν δ᾽ οὔ σε θαυμάζω τύχην.
clearly know to-disbelieve and not you I-wonder-at fortune

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ θίγω, προσείπω ζῶσαν ὡς δάμαρτ᾽ ἐμήν;
may-I-touch may-I-address living as wife my

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ πρόσειπ᾽· ἔχεις γὰρ πᾶν ὅσονπερ ἤθελες.
address(-her) you-have for all as-much-as you-wished

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ὦ φιλτάτης γυναικὸς ὄμμα καὶ δέμας,
O of-dearest wife eye and body
ἔχω σ' ἀέλπτως, οὔποτ' ὄψεσθαι δοκῶν.
I-have you unhoped-for never to-see(-you) thinking
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἔχεις· φθόνος δὲ μὴ γένοιτό τις θεῶν.
you-have envy and not may-arise any of-gods
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ὦ τοῦ μεγίστου Ζηνὸς εὐγενὲς τέκνον,
O of-the greatest Zeus noble child
εὐδαιμονοίης, καί σ' ὁ φιτύσας πατὴρ
may-you-be-happy and you the having-begotten father
σῴζοι· σὺ γὰρ δὴ τἄμ' ἀνώρθωσας μόνος.
may-keep you for indeed my(-things) set-right alone
πῶς τήνδ' ἔπεμψας νέρθεν εἰς φάος τόδε;
how this-one did-you-send from-below into light this
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ μάχην συνάψας δαιμόνων τῷ κυρίῳ.
battle having-joined of-gods with-the master
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ποῦ τόνδε Θανάτῳ φὴς ἀγῶνα συμβαλεῖν;
where this with-Death do-you-say contest to-engage
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τύμβον παρ' αὐτὸν ἐκ λόχου μάρψας χεροῖν.
tomb beside itself from ambush having-seized with-two-hands
ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ τί γάρ ποθ' ἥδ' ἄναυδος ἕστηκεν γυνή;
why for ever this-one speechless stands woman
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οὔπω θέμις σοι τῆσδε προσφωνημάτων
not-yet lawful for-you of-her addresses
κλύειν, πρὶν ἂν θεοῖσι τοῖσι νερτέροις
to-hear before — to-the-gods the below
ἀφαγνίσηται καὶ τρίτον μόλῃ φάος.
she-be-purified and third comes light
ἀλλ' εἴσαγ' εἴσω τήνδε· καὶ δίκαιος ὢν
but lead-in inside this-one and just being

τὸ λοιπόν, Ἄδμητ', εὐσέβει περὶ ξένους.
the remaining(-time) Admetus be-reverent toward guests
καὶ χαῖρ'· ἐγὼ δὲ τὸν προκείμενον πόνον
and farewell I and the lying-before labor
Σθενέλου τυράννῳ παιδὶ πορσυνῶ μολών.
of-Sthenelus for-lord son will-accomplish having-gone

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ μεῖνον παρ' ἡμῖν καὶ συνέστιος γενοῦ.
stay with us and hearth-sharer become

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ αὖθις τόδ' ἔσται, νῦν δ' ἐπείγεσθαί με δεῖ.
again this will-be now but to-hasten me must

ΑΔΜΗΤΟΣ ἀλλ' εὐτυχοίης, νόστιμον δ' ἔλθοις ὁδόν
but may-you-prosper homeward and may-you-go road
ἀστοῖς δὲ πάσῃ τ' ἐννέπω τετραρχίᾳ,
to-citizens and to-all and I-bid tetrarchy
χοροὺς ἐπ' ἐσθλαῖς συμφοραῖσιν ἱστάναι
dances for good fortunes to-set-up
βωμούς τε κνισᾶν βουθύτοισι προστροπαῖς.
altars and to-make-steam with-ox-slaying offerings
νῦν γὰρ μεθηρμόσμεσθα βελτίω βίον
now for we-have-changed-to better life
τοῦ πρόσθεν· οὐ γὰρ εὐτυχῶν ἀρνήσομαι.
than-the before not for being-fortunate I-will-deny(-it)

χορος πολλαὶ μορφαὶ τῶν δαιμονίων,
many forms of-the divine(-things)
πολλὰ δ' ἀέλπτως κραίνουσι θεοί·
many(-things) and unexpectedly accomplish gods
καὶ τὰ δοκηθέντ' οὐκ ἐτελέσθη,
and the expected not was-fulfilled
τῶν δ' ἀδοκήτων πόρον ηὗρε θεός.
of-the and unexpected way found god
τοιόνδ' ἀπέβη τόδε πρᾶγμα.
such turned-out this matter

EURIPIDES

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ

Andromache

I · THE SLAVE OF PHTHIA

Andromache, once Hector's wife, recalls seeing her husband killed and her son Astyanax thrown from the walls of Troy. Given as a prize to Neoptolemus, she has borne him a son, but his Spartan wife Hermione accuses her of making her barren with drugs. With her master away at Delphi she has fled to the shrine of Thetis. A servant warns that Menelaus seeks her son, and she sends her to Peleus.

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ Ἀσιάτιδος γῆς σχῆμα, Θηβαία πόλις,

of-Asian land glory Theban city

ὅθεν ποθ' ἕδνων σὺν πολυχρύσῳ χλιδῇ

whence once of-dowry with much-golden luxury

Πριάμου τύραννον ἑστίαν ἀφικόμην

of-Priam royal hearth I-came-to

δάμαρ δοθεῖσα παιδοποιὸς Ἕκτορι,

wife given child-bearing to-Hector

ζηλωτὸς ἔν γε τῷ πρὶν Ἀνδρομάχη χρόνῳ, 5

envied in at-least the former Andromache time

νῦν δ' εἴ τις ἄλλη δυστυχεστάτη γυνή

now and if any other most-unfortunate woman

ἥτις πόσιν μὲν Ἕκτορ' ἐξ Ἀχιλλέως

who husband indeed Hector by Achilles

θανόντ' ἐσεῖδον, παῖδά θ' ὃν τίκτω πόσει

dead saw son and whom I-bore to-husband

ῥιφθέντα πύργων Ἀστυάνακτ' ἀπ' ὀρθίων, 10

hurled towers Astyanax from steep

ἐπεὶ τὸ Τροίας εἷλον Ἕλληνες πέδον·

when the of-Troy took Greeks plain

αὐτὴ δὲ δούλη τῶν ἐλευθερωτάτων

myself and slave of-the most-free

οἴκων νομισθεῖσ' Ἑλλάδ' εἰσαφικόμην
house held to-Hellas I-came
τῷ νησιώτῃ Νεοπτολέμῳ δορὸς γέρας
to-the islander Neoptolemus of-spear prize
δοθεῖσα λείας Τρωικῆς ἐξαίρετον.
given of-booty Trojan chosen
Φθίας δὲ τῆσδε καὶ πόλεως Φαρσαλίας
of-Phthia and of-this and of-city Pharsalian
σύγχορτα ναίω πεδί', ἵν' ἡ θαλασσία
bordering I-dwell-in plains where the sea(-goddess)
Πηλεῖ ξυνῴκει χωρὶς ἀνθρώπων Θέτις
with-Peleus lived apart from-men Thetis
φεύγουσ' ὄμιλον· Θεσσαλὸς δέ νιν λεὼς
fleeing crowd Thessalian and it people
Θετίδειον αὐδᾷ θεᾶς χάριν νυμφευμάτων.
Thetideum calls of-the-goddess for-the-sake-of nuptials
ἔνθ' οἶκον ἔσχε τόνδε παῖς Ἀχιλλέως,
there house held this son of-Achilles
Πηλέα δ' ἀνάσσειν γῆς ἐᾷ Φαρσαλίας,
Peleus and to-rule of-land lets Pharsalian
ζῶντος γέροντος σκῆπτρον οὐ θέλων λαβεῖν
living old-man scepter not wishing to-take
κἀγὼ δόμοις τοῖσδ' ἄρσεν' ἐντίκτω κόρον,
and-I in-house this male bear son
πλαθεῖσ' Ἀχιλλέως παιδί, δεσπότῃ δ' ἐμῷ.
having-lain-with of-Achilles son master and my
καὶ πρὶν μὲν ἐν κακοῖσι κειμένην ὅμως
and before indeed in ills lying nevertheless
ἐλπίς μ' ἀεὶ προσῆγε σωθέντος τέκνου
hope me always led-on saved child

ἀλκήν τιν᾽ εὑρεῖν κἀπικούρησιν κακῶν·
help some to-find and-defense of-ills
ἐπεὶ δὲ τὴν Λάκαιναν Ἑρμιόνην γαμεῖ
since and the Laconian Hermione marries
τοὐμὸν παρώσας δεσπότης δοῦλον λέχος,
my having-thrust-aside master slave bed
κακοῖς πρὸς αὐτῆς σχετλίοις ἐλαύνομαι.
with-ills by her cruel I-am-driven
λέγει γὰρ ὥς νιν φαρμάκοις κεκρυμμένοις
she-says for that her with-drugs hidden
τίθημ᾽ ἄπαιδα καὶ πόσει μισουμένην,
I-make childless and by-husband hated
αὐτὴ δὲ ναίειν οἶκον ἀντ᾽ αὐτῆς θέλω
myself and to-dwell-in house instead-of her I-wish
τόνδ᾽, ἐκβαλοῦσα λέκτρα τἀκείνης βίᾳ·
this having-thrown-out bed her by-force
ἀγὼ τὸ πρῶτον οὐχ ἑκοῦσ᾽ ἐδεξάμην,
which-I at-the first not willing received
νῦν δ᾽ ἐκλέλοιπα· Ζεὺς τάδ᾽ εἰδείη μέγας
now and I-have-left(-it) Zeus this may-know great
ὡς οὐχ ἑκοῦσα τῷδ᾽ ἐκοινώθην λέχει.
that not willing to-this I-was-joined bed
ἀλλ᾽ οὔ σφε πείθω, βούλεται δέ με κτανεῖν,
but not her I-persuade she-wishes and me to-kill
πατήρ τε θυγατρὶ Μενέλεως συνδρᾷ τάδε.
father and with-daughter Menelaus does-with(-her) these(-things)
καὶ νῦν κατ᾽ οἴκους ἔστ᾽, ἀπὸ Σπάρτης μολὼν
and now in house he-is from Sparta having-come
ἐπ᾽ αὐτὸ τοῦτο· δειματουμένη δ᾽ ἐγὼ
for itself this fearing and I

δόμων πάροικον Θέτιδος εἰς ἀνάκτορον
of-house neighboring of-Thetis to shrine
θάσσω τόδ' ἐλθοῦσ', ἤν με κωλύσῃ θανεῖν.
I-sit this having-come if me it-may-prevent to-die
Πηλεύς τε γάρ νιν ἔκγονοί τε Πηλέως
Peleus both for it descendants and of-Peleus
σέβουσιν, ἑρμήνευμα Νηρῇδος γάμων.
revere memorial of-Nereid of-marriage
ὃς δ' ἔστι παῖς μοι μόνος, ὑπεκπέμπω λάθρᾳ
who and is child to-me only I-send-away secretly
ἄλλους ἐς οἴκους, μὴ θάνῃ φοβουμένη.
other to house lest he-die fearing
ὁ γὰρ φυτεύσας αὐτὸν οὔτ' ἐμοὶ πάρα
the for having-begotten him neither to-me is-at-hand
προσωφελῆσαι, παιδί τ' οὐδέν ἐστ', ἀπὼν
to-help to-child and nothing he-is absent
Δελφῶν κατ' αἶαν, ἔνθα Λοξίᾳ δίκην
of-Delphi in land where to-Loxias penalty
δίδωσι μανίας, ᾗ ποτ' ἐς Πυθὼ μολὼν
he-pays for-madness by-which once to Pytho having-gone
ᾔτησε Φοῖβον πατρὸς οὗ κτείνει δίκην,
he-demanded Phoebus of-father whom he-kills penalty
εἴ πως τὰ πρόσθε σφάλματ' ἐξαιτούμενος
if somehow the former errors begging-off
θεὸν παράσχοιτ' εἰς τὸ λοιπὸν εὐμενῆ.
god he-might-render for the future kindly
ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ δέσποιν', ἐγώ τοι τοὔνομ' οὐ φεύγω τόδε
mistress I surely the-name not shun this
καλεῖν σ', ἐπείπερ καὶ κατ' οἶκον ἠξίουν
to-call you since also in house I-thought-right

τὸν σόν, τὸ Τροίας ἡνίκ᾽ ὠκοῦμεν πέδον,
the your the of-Troy when we-dwelt-in plain
εὔνους δὲ καὶ σοὶ ζῶντί τ᾽ ἦ τῷ σῷ πόσει·
well-disposed and both to-you living and was to-the your husband
καὶ νῦν φέρουσά σοι νέους ἥκω λόγους,
and now bringing to-you new I-come words
φόβῳ μέν, εἴ τις δεσποτῶν αἰσθήσεται,
in-fear indeed lest any of-masters will-perceive
οἴκτῳ δὲ τῷ σῷ· δεινὰ γὰρ βουλεύεται
in-pity and the your terrible(-things) for plots
Μενέλαος εἰς σὲ παῖς θ᾽, ἅ σοι φυλακτέα.
Menelaus against you child and which by-you are-to-be-guarded
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ὦ φιλτάτη σύνδουλε, σύνδουλος γὰρ εἶ
O dearest fellow-slave fellow-slave for you-are
τῇ πρόσθ᾽ ἀνάσσῃ τῇδε, νῦν δὲ δυστυχεῖ,
to-the former queen this now and unfortunate
τί δρῶσι; ποίας μηχανὰς πλέκουσιν αὖ,
what are-they-doing what devices do-they-weave again
κτεῖναι θέλοντες τὴν παναθλίαν ἐμέ;
to-kill wishing the all-wretched me
ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ τὸν παῖδά σου μέλλουσιν, ὦ δύστηνε σύ,
the son your they-are-about O wretched you
κτείνειν ὃν ἔξω δωμάτων ὑπεξέθου.
to-kill whom out of-house you-sent-away
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ οἴμοι· πέπυσται τὸν ἐμὸν ἔκθετον γόνον;
ah-me has-he-learned the my sent-out offspring
πόθεν ποτ᾽; ὦ δύστηνος, ὡς ἀπωλόμην.
whence ever O wretched how I-am-lost

ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ οὐκ οἶδ', ἐκείνων δ' ἠσθόμην ἐγὼ τάδε·
not I-know of-those but I-learned I these(-things)
φροῦδος δ' ἐπ' αὐτὸν Μενέλεως δόμων ἄπο.
gone and for him Menelaus house from
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ἀπωλόμην ἄρ'· ὦ τέκνον, κτενοῦσί σε
I-am-lost then O child they-will-kill you
75 δισσοὶ λαβόντες γῦπες. ὁ δὲ κεκλημένος
two having-seized vultures the and called
πατὴρ ἔτ' ἐν Δελφοῖσι τυγχάνει μένων.
father still in Delphi happens remaining
ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ δοκῶ γὰρ οὐκ ἂν ὧδέ σ' ἂν πράσσειν κακῶς
I-think for not — so you — to-fare badly
κείνου παρόντος· νῦν δ' ἔρημος εἶ φίλων.
him being-present now and bereft you-are of-friends
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ οὐδ' ἀμφὶ Πηλέως ἦλθεν, ὡς ἥξοι, φάτις;
nor about Peleus came that he-would-come report
80 ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ γέρων ἐκεῖνος ὥστε σ' ὠφελεῖν παρών.
old he(-is) so-as you to-help being-present
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ καὶ μὴν ἔπεμψ' ἐπ' αὐτὸν οὐχ ἅπαξ μόνον.
and indeed I-sent for him not once only
ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ μῶν οὖν δοκεῖς σου φροντίσαι τιν' ἀγγέλων;
surely-not then do-you-think of-you to-have-cared any of-messengers
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ πόθεν; θέλεις οὖν ἄγγελος σύ μοι μολεῖν;
whence will-you then messenger you for-me to-go
ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ τί δῆτα φήσω χρόνιος οὖσ' ἐκ δωμάτων;
what then shall-I-say long-absent being from house
85 ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ πολλὰς ἂν εὕροις μηχανάς· γυνὴ γὰρ εἶ.
many — you-could-find devices woman for you-are
ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ κίνδυνος· Ἑρμιόνη γὰρ οὐ σμικρὸν φύλαξ.
(it-is-a)-danger Hermione for not small guard

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ὁρᾷς; ἀπαυδᾷς ἐν κακοῖς φίλοισι σοῖς.
you-see you-renounce in ills friends your
ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ οὐ δῆτα· μηδὲν τοῦτ' ὀνειδίσῃς ἐμοί.
not then not-at-all this reproach me
ἀλλ' εἶμ', ἐπεί τοι κοὐ περίβλεπτος βίος
but I-will-go since surely and-not looked-at life
δούλης γυναικός, ἤν τι καὶ πάθω κακόν.
of-slave woman if anything even I-suffer ill
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ χώρει νῦν· ἡμεῖς δ', οἷσπερ ἐγκείμεσθ' ἀεὶ
go now we and in-which we-are-sunk always
θρήνοισι καὶ γόοισι καὶ δακρύμασι,
in-laments and wailings and tears
πρὸς αἰθέρ' ἐκτενοῦμεν· ἐμπέφυκε γὰρ
to air will-stretch(-them) it-is-inborn for
γυναιξὶ τέρψις τῶν παρεστώτων κακῶν
in-women delight of-the present ills
ἀνὰ στόμ' ἀεὶ καὶ διὰ γλώσσης ἔχειν.
on lips always and through tongue to-have
πάρεστι δ' οὐχ ἓν ἀλλὰ πολλά μοι στένειν,
it-is-possible and not one but many for-me to-groan
πόλιν πατρῴαν τὸν θανόντα θ' Ἕκτορα
city ancestral the dead and Hector
στερρόν τε τὸν ἐμὸν δαίμον' ᾧ συνεζύγην
hard and the my fortune to-which I-was-yoked
δούλειον ἦμαρ εἰσπεσοῦσ' ἀναξίως.
slave day having-fallen-into unworthily
χρὴ δ' οὔποτ' εἰπεῖν οὐδέν' ὄλβιον βροτῶν,
must and never to-call no-one blessed of-mortals
πρὶν ἂν θανόντος τὴν τελευταίαν ἴδῃς
before — of-one-dead the last you-see

ὅπως περάσας ἡμέραν ἥξει κάτω.
how having-passed day he-will-come below
Ἰλίῳ αἰπεινᾷ Πάρις οὐ γάμον ἀλλά τιν' ἄταν
to-Ilium steep Paris not marriage but some ruin
ἠγάγετ' εὐναίαν εἰς θαλάμους Ἑλέναν.
led as-bedmate into chambers Helen
ἃς ἕνεκ', ὦ Τροία, δορὶ καὶ πυρὶ δηιάλωτον
for-whose sake O Troy by-spear and by-fire spear-captured
εἷλέ σ' ὁ χιλιόναυς Ἑλλάδος ὠκὺς Ἄρης
took you the thousand-shipped of-Hellas swift Ares
καὶ τὸν ἐμὸν μελέας πόσιν Ἕκτορα, τὸν περὶ τείχη
and the my of-wretched husband Hector whom around walls
εἵλκυσε διφρεύων παῖς ἁλίας Θέτιδος·
dragged driving-chariot son of-sea Thetis
αὐτὰ δ' ἐκ θαλάμων ἀγόμαν ἐπὶ θῖνα θαλάσσας,
myself and from chambers I-was-led to shore of-sea
δουλοσύναν στυγερὰν ἀμφιβαλοῦσα κάρᾳ.
slavery hateful having-put-about head
πολλὰ δὲ δάκρυά μοι κατέβα χροός, ἀνίκ' ἔλειπον
many and tears for-me ran-down skin when I-was-leaving
ἄστυ τε καὶ θαλάμους καὶ πόσιν ἐν κονίαις.
city both and chambers and husband in dust
ὤμοι ἐγὼ μελέα, τί μ' ἐχρῆν ἔτι φέγγος ὁρᾶσθαι
ah-me I wretched why me (it)-was-needful still light to-see
Ἑρμιόνας δούλαν; ἃς ὕπο τειρομένα
of-Hermione slave whom by worn-down
πρὸς τόδ' ἄγαλμα θεᾶς ἱκέτις περὶ χεῖρε βαλοῦσα
at this image of-the-goddess suppliant around hands having-thrown
τάκομαι ὡς πετρίνα πιδακόεσσα λιβάς.
I-melt as rocky spring-fed stream

The women of Phthia come to the suppliant at Thetis' shrine. They pity her and urge her to leave the altar, since she is a stranger and a slave, without friends, and cannot hope to prevail against the lords of Sparta. They have come in sympathy, but fear that Hermione may see them taking her side.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ γύναι, ἃ Θέτιδος δάπεδον καὶ ἀνάκτορα θάσσεις
O woman who of-Thetis floor and shrine sit-at
δαρὸν οὐδὲ λείπεις,
long nor leave(-it)
Φθιὰς ὅμως ἔμολον ποτὶ σὰν Ἀσιήτιδα γένναν,
Phthian nevertheless I-came to your Asian offspring
εἴ τί σοι δυναίμαν
if at-all for-you I-could
ἄκος τῶν δυσλύτων πόνων τεμεῖν,
cure of-the hard-to-loose labors to-cut
οἳ σὲ καὶ Ἑρμιόναν ἔριδι στυγερᾷ συνέκλῃσαν,
which you and Hermione in-strife hateful shut-together
τλάμον' † ἀμφὶ λέκτρων
wretched (corrupt) about bed
διδύμων ἐπίκοινον ἐοῦσαν
twofold sharing being
†ἀμφὶ παῖδ' Ἀχιλλέως.
(corrupt)-about son of-Achilles
γνῶθι τύχαν, λόγισαι τὸ παρὸν κακὸν εἰς ὅπερ ἥκεις.
know fortune consider the present ill into which you-have-come
δεσπόταις ἁμιλλᾷ
with-masters do-you-contend
Ἰλιὰς οὖσα κόρα Λακεδαίμονος ἐγγενέταισιν;
Trojan being girl of-Lacedaemon with-native-born

λεῖπε δεξίμηλον
leave sheep-receiving

δόμον τᾶς ποντίας θεοῦ. τί σοι
house of-the sea goddess why for-you

καιρὸς ἀτυζομένᾳ δέμας αἰκέλιον καταλείβειν
(is-it)-the-time bewildered body unseemly to-waste

δεσποτῶν ἀνάγκαις;
of-masters by-constraints

τὸ κρατοῦν δέ σ' ἔπεισι. τί μόχθον
the ruling and you will-come-upon why toil

οὐδὲν οὖσα μοχθεῖς;
nothing being do-you-toil

ἀλλ' ἴθι λεῖπε θεᾶς Νηρηίδος ἀγλαὸν ἕδραν,
but go leave of-the-goddess Nereid shining seat

γνῶθι δ' οὖσ' ἐπὶ ξένας
know and being on foreign

δμωὶς ἐπ' ἀλλοτρίας
slave-woman on another's

πόλεος, ἔνθ' οὐ φίλων τιν' εἰσορᾷς
city where not of-friends any you-see

σῶν, ὦ δυστυχεστάτα,
your O most-unfortunate

παντάλαινα νύμφα.
all-wretched bride

οἰκτροτάτα γὰρ ἔμοιγ' ἔμολες, γύναι Ἰλιάς, οἴκους
most-pitiable for to-me-at-least you-came woman Trojan house

δεσποτῶν ἐμῶν· φόβῳ δ'
of-masters my in-fear and

ἡσυχίαν ἄγομεν,
quiet we-keep

τὸ δὲ σὸν οἴκτῳ φέρουσα τυγχάνω,
the but your with-pity bearing I-happen
μὴ παῖς τᾶς Διὸς κόρας
lest child of-the of-Zeus daughter
σοί μ᾽ εὖ φρονοῦσαν ἴδῃ.
to-you me well thinking should-see

III · HERMIONE

Hermione appears in the finery of her Spartan dowry and charges Andromache with drugging her womb so that she may rule the house. She mocks her as a slave who sleeps with the son of her husband's killer. Andromache answers that wives keep husbands by their goodness, not their beauty, and that she nursed Hector's bastards herself. Hermione threatens to drive her from the altar with fire.

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ κόσμον μὲν ἀμφὶ κρατὶ χρυσέας χλιδῆς
adornment indeed about head of-golden luxury
στολμόν τε χρωτὸς τόνδε ποικίλων πέπλων,
garb and of-body this of-embroidered robes
οὐ τῶν Ἀχιλλέως οὐδὲ Πηλέως ἄπο
not of-the of-Achilles nor of-Peleus from
δόμων ἀπαρχὰς δεῦρ᾽ ἔχουσ᾽ ἀφικόμην,
house first-fruits here having I-came
ἀλλ᾽ ἐκ Λακαίνης Σπαρτιάτιδος χθονὸς
but from Laconian Spartan land
Μενέλαος ἡμῖν ταῦτα δωρεῖται πατὴρ
Menelaus to-me these gives father
πολλοῖς σὺν ἕδνοις, ὥστ᾽ ἐλευθεροστομεῖν.
many with bridal-gifts so-as to-speak-freely
ὑμᾶς μὲν οὖν τοῖσδ᾽ ἀνταμείβομαι λόγοις·
you indeed then with-these I-answer words

σὺ δ' οὖσα δούλη καὶ δορίκτητος γυνὴ
you but being slave and spear-won woman
δόμους κατασχεῖν ἐκβαλοῦσ' ἡμᾶς θέλεις
house to-hold having-thrown-out us you-wish
τούσδε, στυγοῦμαι δ' ἀνδρὶ φαρμάκοισι σοῖς,
this I-am-hated and by-husband through-drugs your
νηδὺς δ' ἀκύμων διὰ σέ μοι διόλλυται·
womb and barren because-of you for-me is-ruined
δεινὴ γὰρ ἠπειρῶτις εἰς τὰ τοιάδε
clever for mainland at the such(-things)
ψυχὴ γυναικῶν· ὧν ἐπισχήσω σ' ἐγώ,
soul of-women from-which will-stop you I
κοὐδέν σ' ὀνήσει δῶμα Νηρῇδος τόδε,
and-nothing you will-help house of-Nereid this
οὐ βωμὸς οὐδὲ ναός, ἀλλὰ κατθανεῖ.
not altar nor temple but you-will-die
ἢν δ' οὖν βροτῶν τίς σ' ἢ θεῶν σῶσαι θέλῃ,
if and then of-mortals any you or of-gods to-save wishes
δεῖ σ' ἀντὶ τῶν πρὶν ὀλβίων φρονημάτων
must you instead-of the former prosperous thoughts
πτῆξαι ταπεινὴν προσπεσεῖν τ' ἐμὸν γόνυ,
to-cower humble to-fall-at and my knee
σαίρειν τε δῶμα τοὐμὸν ἐκ χρυσηλάτων
to-sweep and house my from gold-beaten
τευχέων χερὶ σπείρουσαν Ἀχελῴου δρόσον,
vessels with-hand sprinkling of-Achelous dew
γνῶναί θ' ἵν' εἶ γῆς. οὐ γάρ ἐσθ' Ἕκτωρ τάδε,
to-know and where you-are of-earth not for is Hector these(-parts)
οὐ Πρίαμος οὐδὲ χρυσός, ἀλλ' Ἑλλὰς πόλις.
not Priam nor gold but Hellenic city

εἰς τοῦτο δ' ἥκεις ἀμαθίας, δύστηνε σύ,
to this and you-have-come of-ignorance wretched you
ἢ παιδὶ πατρός, ὃς σὸν ὤλεσεν πόσιν,
who with-son of-father who your destroyed husband
τολμᾷς ξυνεύδειν καὶ τέκν' αὐθέντου πάρα
dare to-sleep-with and children of-murderer from
τίκτειν. τοιοῦτον πᾶν τὸ βάρβαρον γένος·
to-bear such all the barbarian race
πατήρ τε θυγατρὶ παῖς τε μητρὶ μίγνυται
father both with-daughter son and with-mother mingles
κόρη τ' ἀδελφῷ, διὰ φόνου δ' οἱ φίλτατοι
girl and with-brother through murder and the dearest
χωροῦσι, καὶ τῶνδ' οὐδὲν ἐξείργει νόμος.
go and of-these nothing excludes law
ἃ μὴ παρ' ἡμᾶς εἴσφερ'· οὐδὲ γὰρ καλὸν
which not among us bring-in nor for (is-it)-fine
δυοῖν γυναικοῖν ἄνδρ' ἕν' ἡνίας ἔχειν,
of-two women man one reins to-hold
ἀλλ' εἰς μίαν βλέποντες εὐναίαν Κύπριν
but to one looking bed Cypris
στέργουσιν, ὅστις μὴ κακῶς οἰκεῖν θέλει.
they-are-content whoever not badly to-keep-house wishes

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐπίφθονόν τι χρῆμα θηλείας φρενὸς
jealous some thing of-female mind
καὶ ξυγγάμοισι δυσμενὲς μάλιστ' ἀεί.
and to-co-wives hostile most always

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ φεῦ φεῦ·
alas alas
κακόν γε θνητοῖς τὸ νέον ἔν τε τῷ νέῳ
an-ill at-least for-mortals the young(-temper) in and the young

185 τὸ μὴ δίκαιον ὅστις ἀνθρώπων ἔχει.
the not just whoever of-men has
ἐγὼ δὲ ταρβῶ μὴ τὸ δουλεύειν μέ σοι
I and fear lest the to-be-slave me to-you
λόγων ἀπώσῃ πόλλ' ἔχουσαν ἔνδικα,
from-words should-thrust-off many(-things) having just
ἢν δ' αὖ κρατήσω, μὴ 'πὶ τῷδ' ὄφλω βλάβην·
if and again I-prevail lest for this I-incur harm
οἱ γὰρ πνέοντες μεγάλα τοὺς κρείσσους λόγους
the for breathing great the stronger words
190 πικρῶς φέρουσι τῶν ἐλασσόνων ὕπο·
bitterly bear the inferior by
ὅμως δ' ἐμαυτὴν οὐ προδοῦσ' ἁλώσομαι.
nevertheless but myself not having-betrayed I-shall-be-convicted
εἶπ', ὦ νεᾶνι, τῷ σ' ἐχεγγύῳ λόγῳ
tell O young-woman by-what you trustworthy argument
πεισθεῖσ' ἀπωθῶ γνησίων νυμφευμάτων;
persuaded do-I-push-away from-legitimate marriage
ὡς ἡ Λάκαινα τῶν Φρυγῶν μείων πόλις,
that the Laconian than-the of-Phrygians (is)-lesser city
195 τύχῃ θ' ὑπερθεῖ, κἄμ' ἐλευθέραν ὁρᾷς;
in-fortune and it-outruns and-me free you-see
ἢ τῷ νέῳ τε καὶ σφριγῶντι σώματι
or by-the young both and swelling body
πόλεως τε μεγέθει καὶ φίλοις ἐπηρμένη
of-city and by-greatness and by-friends exalted
οἶκον κατασχεῖν τὸν σὸν ἀντὶ σοῦ θέλω;
house to-hold the your instead-of you I-wish
πότερον ἵν' αὐτὴ παῖδας ἀντὶ σοῦ τέκω
whether so-that myself children instead-of you I-may-bear

δούλους ἐμαυτῇ τ᾽ ἀθλίαν ἐφολκίδα;
slaves for-myself and wretched trailing-boat
ἢ τοὺς ἐμούς τις παῖδας ἐξανέξεται
or the my anyone children will-endure
Φθίας τυράννους ὄντας, ἢν σὺ μὴ τέκῃς;
of-Phthia kings being if you not bear
φιλοῦσι γάρ μ᾽ Ἕλληνες Ἕκτορός τ᾽ ἄπο;
love for me Greeks of-Hector and for-the-sake
αὐτή τ᾽ ἀμαυρὰ κοὐ τύραννος ἦ Φρυγῶν;
myself and obscure and-not queen I-was of-Phrygians
οὐκ ἐξ ἐμῶν σε φαρμάκων στυγεῖ πόσις,
not from my you drugs hates husband
ἀλλ᾽ εἰ ξυνεῖναι μὴ ᾽πιτηδεία κυρεῖς.
but if to-be-with not fit you-happen
φίλτρον δὲ καὶ τόδ᾽· οὐ τὸ κάλλος, ὦ γύναι,
love-charm and also this not the beauty O woman
ἀλλ᾽ ἀρεταὶ τέρπουσι τοὺς ξυνευνέτας.
but the-virtues delight the bedfellows
σὺ δ᾽ ἤν τι κνισθῇς, ἡ Λάκαινα μὲν πόλις
you but if at-all you-are-galled the Laconian indeed city
μέγ᾽ ἐστί, τὴν δὲ Σκῦρον οὐδαμοῦ τίθης,
great is the and Scyros nowhere you-set
πλουτεῖς δ᾽ ἐν οὐ πλουτοῦσι, Μενέλεως δέ σοι
you-are-rich and among not rich(-men) Menelaus and to-you
μείζων Ἀχιλλέως. ταῦτά τοί σ᾽ ἔχθει πόσις.
greater than-Achilles these surely you hates husband
χρὴ γὰρ γυναῖκα, κἂν κακῷ πόσει δοθῇ,
must for wife even-if to-base husband she-be-given
στέργειν, ἅμιλλάν τ᾽ οὐκ ἔχειν φρονήματος.
to-love contest and not to-hold of-pride

εἰ δ' ἀμφὶ Θρῄκην χιόνι τὴν κατάρρυτον
if and about Thrace with-snow the drenched
τύραννον ἔσχες ἄνδρ', ἵν' ἐν μέρει λέχος
king you-had man where in turn bed
δίδωσι πολλαῖς εἷς ἀνὴρ κοινούμενος,
gives to-many one man sharing
ἔκτεινας ἂν τάσδ'; εἶτ' ἀπληστίαν λέχους
would-you-have-killed — these(-women) then insatiability of-bed
πάσαις γυναιξὶ προστιθεῖσ' ἂν ηὑρέθης.
to-all women attaching — you-would-have-been-found
αἰσχρόν γε· καίτοι χείρον' ἀρσένων νόσον
shameful at-least and-yet worse than-men sickness
ταύτην νοσοῦμεν, ἀλλὰ προύστημεν καλῶς.
this we-are-sick-with but we-stood-before(-it) well
ὦ φίλταθ' Ἕκτορ, ἀλλ' ἐγὼ τὴν σὴν χάριν
O dearest Hector but I the your for-sake
σοὶ καὶ ξυνήρων, εἴ τί σε σφάλλοι Κύπρις,
to-you even shared-love if at-all you tripped Cypris
καὶ μαστὸν ἤδη πολλάκις νόθοισι σοῖς
and breast already often to-bastards your
ἐπέσχον, ἵνα σοι μηδὲν ἐνδοίην πικρόν.
I-held-out so-that to-you nothing I-might-show bitter
καὶ ταῦτα δρῶσα τἀρετῇ προσηγόμην
and these doing by-the-virtue I-drew-to(-me)
πόσιν· σὺ δ' οὐδὲ ῥανίδ' ὑπαιθρίας δρόσου
husband you and not-even drop of-open-air dew
τῷ σῷ προσίζειν ἀνδρὶ δειμαίνουσ' ἐᾷς.
the your to-settle-on husband fearing you-let
μὴ τὴν τεκοῦσαν τῇ φιλανδρίᾳ, γύναι,
not the mother in-the love-of-husband woman

ζήτει παρελθεῖν· τῶν κακῶν γὰρ μητέρων
seek to-surpass of-the bad for mothers
φεύγειν τρόπους χρὴ τέκν', ὅσοις ἔνεστι νοῦς.
to-shun ways must children in-as-many-as is sense
ΧΟΡΟΣ δέσποιν', ὅσον σοι ῥᾳδίως προσίσταται,
mistress as-far-as to-you easily it-comes
τοσόνδε πείθου τῇδε συμβῆναι λόγοις.
so-far obey with-this-one to-come-to-terms words
ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ τί σεμνομυθεῖς κεἰς ἀγῶν' ἔρχει λόγων,
why speak-proudly and-into contest come of-words
ὡς δὴ σὺ σώφρων, τἀμὰ δ' οὐχὶ σώφρονα;
as indeed you self-controlled my(-things) and not self-controlled
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ οὔκουν ἐφ' οἷς γε νῦν καθέστηκας λόγοις.
not-then on what at-least now you-have-taken-your-stand words
ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ ὁ νοῦς ὁ σός μοι μὴ ξυνοικοίη, γύναι.
the mind the your with-me not may-dwell woman
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ νέα πέφυκας καὶ λέγεις αἰσχρῶν πέρι.
young you-are and you-speak shameful(-things) about
ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ σὺ δ' οὐ λέγεις γε, δρᾷς δέ μ' εἰς ὅσον δύνῃ.
you and not you-speak at-least you-do but me to as-much-as you-can
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ οὐκ αὖ σιωπῇ Κύπριδος ἀλγήσεις πέρι;
not again in-silence of-Cypris will-you-grieve about
ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ τί δ'; οὐ γυναιξὶ ταῦτα πρῶτα πανταχοῦ;
what then not for-women these first everywhere
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ καλῶς γε χρωμέναισιν· εἰ δὲ μή, οὐ καλά.
well at-least using if and not not fine
ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ οὐ βαρβάρων νόμοισιν οἰκοῦμεν πόλιν.
not of-barbarians by-laws we-dwell-in city
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ κἀκεῖ τά γ' αἰσχρὰ κἀνθάδ' αἰσχύνην ἔχει.
both-there the at-left shameful(-things) and-here shame have

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ σοφὴ σοφὴ σύ· κατθανεῖν δ' ὅμως σε δεῖ.
clever clever you to-die but nevertheless you must

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ὁρᾷς ἄγαλμα Θέτιδος εἰς σ' ἀποβλέπον;
do-you-see image of-Thetis at you looking

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ μισοῦν γε πατρίδα σὴν Ἀχιλλέως φόνῳ.
hating at-least country your for-Achilles' murder

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ Ἑλένη νιν ὤλεσ', οὐκ ἐγώ, μήτηρ δὲ σή.
Helen him destroyed not I mother and your

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ ἦ καὶ πρόσω γὰρ τῶν ἐμῶν ψαύσεις κακῶν;
— even further for of-the my will-you-touch ills

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ἰδοὺ σιωπῶ κἀπιλάζυμαι στόμα.
see I-am-silent and-I-check mouth

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ ἐκεῖνο λέξον, οὕνεκ' ἐστάλην.
that tell of-which-very for-the-sake I-was-sent

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ λέγω σ' ἐγὼ νοῦν οὐκ ἔχειν ὅσον σε δεῖ.
I-say you I sense not to-have as-much-as you must

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ λείψεις τόδ' ἁγνὸν τέμενος ἐναλίας θεοῦ;
will-you-leave this holy precinct of-the-sea goddess

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ εἰ μὴ θανοῦμαί γ'· εἰ δὲ μή, οὐ λείψω ποτέ.
if not I-shall-die at-least if and not not I-will-leave ever

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ ὡς τοῦτ' ἄραρε, κοὐ μενῶ πόσιν μολεῖν.
as this is-fixed and-not I-will-wait-for husband to-come

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἐγὼ μὴν πρόσθεν ἐκδώσω μέ σοι.
but not-even I indeed before will-give-up myself to-you

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ πῦρ σοι προσοίσω κοὐ τὸ σὸν προσκέψομαι,
fire to-you I-will-bring and-not the your will-regard

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ σὺ δ' οὖν κάταιθε· θεοὶ γὰρ εἴσονται τάδε.
you and then burn gods for will-know these(-things)

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ καὶ χρωτὶ δεινῶν τραυμάτων ἀλγηδόνας.
and for-skin of-terrible wounds pains

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ σφάζ', αἱμάτου θεᾶς βωμόν, ἣ μέτεισί σε.
slay make-bloody of-the-goddess altar who will-pursue you

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ ὦ βάρβαρον σὺ θρέμμα καὶ σκληρὸν θράσος,
O barbarian you creature and hard boldness

ἐγκαρτερεῖς δὴ θάνατον; ἀλλ' ἐγώ σ' ἕδρας
do-you-persist-in indeed death but I you from-seat

ἐκ τῆσδ' ἑκοῦσαν ἐξαναστήσω τάχα·
from this willing will-raise-up soon

τοιόνδ' ἔχω σου δέλεαρ. ἀλλὰ γὰρ λόγους
such I-have of-you bait but for words

κρύψω, τὸ δ' ἔργον αὐτὸ σημανεῖ τάχα.
I-will-hide the but deed itself will-show soon

κάθησ' ἑδραία· καὶ γὰρ εἰ πέριξ σ' ἔχει
sit seated even for if around you holds

τηκτὸς μόλυβδος, ἐξαναστήσω σ' ἐγὼ
molten lead I-will-raise-up you I

πρὶν ᾧ πέποιθας παῖδ' Ἀχιλλέως μολεῖν.
before in-whom you-trust son of-Achilles to-come

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ πέποιθα. δεινὸν δ' ἑρπετῶν μὲν ἀγρίων
I-trust(-him) strange and of-reptiles indeed wild

ἄκη βροτοῖσι θεῶν καταστῆσαί τινα·
cures for-mortals of-gods to-have-established someone

ἃ δ' ἔστ' ἐχίδνης καὶ πυρὸς περαιτέρω,
what but is of-viper and of-fire beyond

οὐδεὶς γυναικὸς φάρμακ' ἐξηύρηκέ πω
no-one of-woman drugs has-found yet

κακῆς· τοσοῦτόν ἐσμεν ἀνθρώποις κακόν.
bad so-great we-are to-men ill

The chorus traces the evil to the day Hermes led the three goddesses to the herdsman Paris on Ida, where they quarreled over their beauty. Aphrodite's sweet words won, and Troy was ruined. They wish Paris had been killed as a child, as Cassandra urged, so that Greece would not have suffered ten years of war, nor widows and childless old men been left.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἦ μεγάλων ἀχέων ἄρ' ὑπῆρξεν, ὅτ'
truly of-great woes then it-began when
Ἰδαίαν ἐς νάπαν
Idaean to glen
ἦλθ' ὁ Μαίας τε καὶ Διὸς τόκος,
came the of-Maia both and of-Zeus offspring
τρίπωλον ἅρμα δαιμόνων
three-horse chariot of-goddesses
ἄγων τὸ καλλιζυγές,
leading the fair-yoked
ἔριδι στυγερᾷ κεκορυθμένον εὐμορφίας
for-strife hateful armed of-beauty
σταθμοὺς ἐπὶ βούτα
folds to of-the-herdsman
βοτῆρά τ' ἀμφὶ μονότροπον νεανίαν
herdsman and about solitary young-man
ἔρημόν θ' ἑστιοῦχον αὐλάν.
lonely and hearth-keeping court
ταὶ δ' ἐπεὶ ὑλόκομον νάπος ἦλυθον,
they and when wooded glen they-came
οὐρειᾶν πιδάκων
of-mountain of-springs

νίψαν αἰγλᾶντα σώματα ῥοαῖς·
washed gleaming bodies in-streams
ἔβαν δὲ Πριαμίδαν ὑπερ-
went and to-Priam's-son by-excesses
βολαῖς λόγων δυσφρόνων
— of-words ill-minded
παραβαλλόμεναι. δολίοις δ' ἕλε Κύπρις λόγοις,
vying with-crafty and took Cypris words
τερπνοῖς μὲν ἀκοῦσαι, 290
delightful indeed to-hear
πικρὰν δὲ σύγχυσιν βίου Φρυγῶν πόλει
bitter but confounding of-life of-Phrygians for-city
ταλαίνᾳ περγάμοις τε Τροίας.
wretched for-towers and of-Troy
εἴθε δ' ὑπὲρ κεφαλὰν ἔβαλεν κακὸν
would-that and over head had-cast evil
ἁ τεκοῦσά νιν Πάριν,
the having-borne him Paris
πρὶν Ἰδαῖον κατοικίσαι λέπας,
before Idaean to-settle rock
ὅτε νιν παρὰ θεσπεσίῳ δάφνᾳ
when him beside divine laurel
βόασε Κασάνδρα κτανεῖν,
cried Cassandra to-kill
μεγάλαν Πριάμου πόλεως λώβαν.
great of-Priam's of-city ruin
τίν' οὐκ ἐπῆλθε, ποῖον οὐκ ἐλίσσετο
whom not did-she-approach what not did-she-entreat
δαμογερόντων βρέφος φονεύειν;
of-the-elders babe to-kill

οὔτ' ἂν ἐπ' Ἰλιάσι ζυγὸν ἤλυθε
neither — on Trojan-women yoke would-have-come
δούλιον, σύ τ' ἄν, γύναι,
slave you and — woman
τυράννων ἔσχες ἂν δόμων ἕδρας·
of-kings you-would-have-held — of-house seats
παρέλυσε δ' ἂν Ἑλλάδος ἀλγεινοὺς
would-have-released and — of-Hellas painful
μόχθους, οὓς ἀμφὶ Τροίαν
toils which around Troy
δεκέτεις ἀλάληντο νέοι λόγχαις·
ten-year wandered young-men with-spears
λέχη τ' ἔρημ' ἂν οὔποτ' ἐξελείπετο,
beds and empty — never would-have-been-left
καὶ τεκέων ὀρφανοὶ γέροντες.
and of-children bereft old-men

V · MENELAUS

Menelaus arrives with Andromache's son, found where she hid him, and offers a choice: she leaves the altar to die, or the boy dies. She mocks his fame won by Helen's war and warns that Neoptolemus, acting worthy of Peleus and Achilles, will drive Hermione from his house. Then, for her son's sake, she leaves the altar and is seized. Menelaus reveals that Hermione will decide the boy's fate, and Andromache curses the Spartans as liars.

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἥκω λαβὼν σὸν παῖδ', ὃν εἰς ἄλλους δόμους
I-come having-taken your son whom into other house
λάθρᾳ θυγατρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς ὑπεξέθου.
secretly of-daughter the my you-sent-away

σὲ μὲν γὰρ ηὔχεις θεᾶς βρέτας σώσειν τόδε,
you indeed for boasted of-the-goddess image to-save this
τοῦτον δὲ τοὺς κρύψαντας· ἀλλ' ἐφηυρέθης
him and those having-hidden(-him) but you-were-found
ἧσσον φρονοῦσα τοῦδε Μενέλεω, γύναι.
less wise than-this Menelaus woman
κεἰ μὴ τόδ' ἐκλιποῦσ' ἐρημώσεις πέδον,
and-if not this having-left you-will-empty floor
ὅδ' ἀντὶ τοῦ σοῦ σώματος σφαγήσεται.
this-one instead-of the your body will-be-slain
ταῦτ' οὖν λογίζου, πότερα κατθανεῖν θέλεις
these(-things) then consider whether to-die you-wish
ἢ τόνδ' ὀλέσθαι σῆς ἁμαρτίας ὕπερ,
or this-one to-perish your error for
ἣν εἰς ἔμ' εἴς τε παῖδ' ἐμὴν ἁμαρτάνεις.
which against me against and child my you-err
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ὦ δόξα δόξα, μυρίοισι δὴ βροτῶν
O glory glory to-countless indeed of-mortals
οὐδὲν γεγῶσι βίοτον ὤγκωσας μέγαν.
nothing being life you-have-swelled great
εὔκλεια δ' οἷς μὲν ἔστ' ἀληθείας ὕπο,
good-repute and to-whom indeed it-is truth by
εὐδαιμονίζω· τοὺς δ' ὑπὸ ψευδῶν, ἔχειν
I-count-happy those and by falsehoods to-have
οὐκ ἀξιώσω, πλὴν τύχῃ φρονεῖν δοκεῖν.
not I-will-allow except by-chance to-be-wise to-seem
σὺ δὴ στρατηγῶν λογάσιν Ἑλλήνων ποτὲ
you indeed leading with-picked of-Greeks once
Τροίαν ἀφείλου Πρίαμον, ὧδε φαῦλος ὤν;
Troy did-you-take-from Priam so worthless being

ὅστις θυγατρὸς ἀντίπαιδος ἐκ λόγων
who of-daughter childish from words
τοσόνδ' ἔπνευσας καὶ γυναικὶ δυστυχεῖ
so-much you-breathed and with-woman unfortunate
δούλῃ κατέστης εἰς ἀγῶν'· οὐκ ἀξιῶ
slave you-entered into contest not I-deem
οὔτ' οὖν σὲ Τροίας οὔτε σοῦ Τροίαν ἔτι.
neither then you of-Troy nor of-you Troy any-more
ἔξωθέν εἰσιν οἱ δοκοῦντες εὖ φρονεῖν
from-outside are the(-men) seeming well to-think
λαμπροί, τὰ δ' ἔνδον πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις ἴσοι,
splendid the but inside to-all men equal
πλὴν εἴ τι πλούτῳ· τοῦτο δ' ἰσχύει μέγα.
except if in-something in-wealth this and is-strong greatly
Μενέλαε, φέρε δὴ διαπεράνωμεν λόγους·
Menelaus come indeed let-us-bring-to-an-end words
τέθνηκα τῇ σῇ θυγατρὶ καί μ' ἀπώλεσε·
I-am-dead by-the your daughter and me she-has-destroyed
μιαιφόνον μὲν οὐκέτ' ἂν φύγοι μύσος,
blood-guilty indeed no-longer — she-could-escape pollution
ἐν τοῖς δὲ πολλοῖς καὶ σὺ τόνδ' ἀγωνιεῖ
in the and many also you this will-be-tried-for
φόνον· τὸ συνδρῶν γάρ σ' ἀναγκάσει χρέος.
murder the being-accomplice for you will-compel need
ἦν δ' οὖν ἐγὼ μὲν μὴ θανεῖν ὑπεκδράμω,
if and then I indeed not to-die escape
τὸν παῖδά μου κτενεῖτε; κᾆτα πῶς πατὴρ
the son my will-you-kill and-then how father
τέκνου θανόντος ῥᾳδίως ἀνέξεται;
of-child having-died easily will-endure

οὐχ ὧδ' ἄνανδρον αὐτὸν ἡ Τροία καλεῖ·
not so cowardly him — Troy calls
ἀλλ' εἶσιν οἷ χρή· Πηλέως γὰρ ἄξια
but he-will-go where (one)-must of-Peleus for worthy
πατρός τ' Ἀχιλλέως ἔργα δρῶν φανήσεται,
of-father and of-Achilles deeds doing he-will-appear
ὤσει δὲ σὴν παῖδ' ἐκ δόμων· σὺ δ' ἐκδιδοὺς
he-will-thrust and your daughter from house you but giving-in-marriage
ἄλλῳ τί λέξεις; πότερον ὡς κακὸν πόσιν
to-another what will-you-say whether that base husband
φεύγει τὸ ταύτης σῶφρον; ἀλλὰ ψεύσεται.
flees the of-her self-control but she-will-lie
γαμεῖ δὲ τίς νιν; ἢ σφ' ἄνανδρον ἐν δόμοις
will-marry and who her or her husbandless in house
χήραν καθέξεις πολιόν; ὦ τλήμων ἄνερ,
widow will-you-keep gray O wretched man
κακῶν τοσούτων οὐχ ὁρᾷς ἐπιρροάς;
of-ills so-many not do-you-see floods
πόσας ἂν εὐνὰς θυγατέρ' ἠδικημένην
how-many — beds daughter wronged
βούλοι' ἂν εὑρεῖν ἢ παθεῖν ἁγὼ λέγω;
would-you-wish — to-find than to-suffer what-I say
οὐ χρὴ 'πὶ μικροῖς μεγάλα πορσύνειν κακὰ
not (one)-must for small(-things) great to-contrive evils
οὐδ', εἰ γυναῖκές ἐσμεν ἀτηρὸν κακόν,
nor if women we-are ruinous evil
ἄνδρας γυναιξὶν ἐξομοιοῦσθαι φύσιν.
men to-women to-assimilate nature
ἡμεῖς γὰρ εἰ σὴν παῖδα φαρμακεύομεν
we for if your daughter drug

καὶ νηδὺν ἐξαμβλοῦμεν, ὡς αὐτὴ λέγει,
and womb make-miscarry as she-herself says
ἑκόντες οὐκ ἄκοντες, οὐδὲ βώμιοι
willingly not unwillingly nor at-altars
πίτνοντες, αὐτοὶ τὴν δίκην ὑφέξομεν
falling ourselves the penalty will-undergo
ἐν σοῖσι γαμβροῖς, οἷσιν οὐκ ἐλάσσονα
in your sons-in-law to-whom not less
βλάβην ὀφείλω προστιθεῖσ' ἀπαιδίαν.
harm I-owe adding childlessness
ἡμεῖς μὲν οὖν τοιοίδε· τῆς δὲ σῆς φρενὸς
we indeed then such of-the and your mind
ἕν σου δέδοικα· διὰ γυναικείαν ἔριν
one of-you I-fear because-of womanish strife
καὶ τὴν τάλαιναν ὤλεσας Φρυγῶν πόλιν.
also the wretched you-destroyed of-Phrygians city
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄγαν ἔλεξας ὡς γυνὴ πρὸς ἄρσενας,
too-much you-spoke as woman to men
καί σου τὸ σῶφρον ἐξετόξευσεν φρενός.
and of-you the self-control has-shot-away of-mind
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ γύναι, τάδ' ἐστὶ σμικρὰ καὶ μοναρχίας
woman these(-things) are small and of-monarchy
οὐκ ἄξι', ὡς φῄς, τῆς ἐμῆς οὐδ' Ἑλλάδος.
not worthy as you-say the my nor of-Hellas
εὖ δ' ἴσθ', ὅτου τις τυγχάνει χρείαν ἔχων,
well and know of-whatever one happens need having
τοῦτ' ἔσθ' ἑκάστῳ μεῖζον ἢ Τροίαν ἑλεῖν.
this is to-each greater than Troy to-take
κἀγὼ θυγατρί, μεγάλα γὰρ κρίνω τάδε,
and-I for-daughter great for I-judge these(-things)

λέχους στέρεσθαι, σύμμαχος καθίσταμαι.
of-bed to-be-deprived ally I-stand

τὰ μὲν γὰρ ἄλλα δεύτερ᾽ ἂν πάσχῃ γυνή·
the indeed for other(-things) secondary if suffers woman

ἀνδρὸς δ᾽ ἁμαρτάνουσ᾽ ἁμαρτάνει βίου.
of-husband but failing she-fails of-life

δούλων δ᾽ ἐκεῖνον τῶν ἐμῶν ἄρχειν χρεὼν
of-slaves and him the my to-rule (it-is)-fitting

καὶ τῶν ἐκείνου τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἡμᾶς τε πρός· 375
and of-the his the my us and also

φίλων γὰρ οὐδὲν ἴδιον οἵτινες φίλοι
of-friends for nothing (is)-private whoever friends

ὀρθῶς πεφύκασ᾽, ἀλλὰ κοινὰ χρήματα.
rightly are but common goods

μένων δὲ τοὺς ἀπόντας, εἰ μὴ θήσομαι
waiting and for-the absent if not I-will-set

τἄμ᾽ ὡς ἄριστα, φαῦλός εἰμι κοὐ σοφός.
my(-things) as best worthless I-am and-not wise

ἀλλ᾽ ἐξανίστω τῶνδ᾽ ἀνακτόρων θεᾶς· 380
but rise-up from-this shrine of-the-goddess

ὡς, ἢν θάνῃς σύ, παῖς ὅδ᾽ ἐκφεύγει μόρον,
since if you-die you child this escapes doom

σοῦ δ᾽ οὐ θελούσης κατθανεῖν, τόνδε κτενῶ.
you and not willing to-die this-one I-will-kill

δυοῖν δ᾽ ἀνάγκη θατέρῳ λιπεῖν βίον.
of-two and (it-is)-necessity for-one to-leave life

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ οἴμοι, πικρὰν κλήρωσιν αἵρεσίν τέ μοι
ah-me bitter allotment choice and for-me

βίου καθίστης, καὶ λαχοῦσά γ᾽ ἀθλία 385
of-life you-set and having-drawn-the-lot at-least wretched

καὶ μὴ λαχοῦσα δυστυχὴς καθίσταμαι.
and not having-drawn-the-lot unfortunate I-stand
ὦ μεγάλα πράσσων αἰτίας μικρᾶς πέρι,
O great(-things) doing cause small about
πιθοῦ· τί καίνεις μ'; ἀντὶ τοῦ; ποίαν πόλιν
obey why do-you-kill me for what what city
προὔδωκα; τίνα σῶν ἔκτανον παίδων ἐγώ;
did-I-betray whom of-your killed of-children I
ποῖον δ' ἔπρησα δῶμ'; ἐκοιμήθην βίᾳ
what and did-I-burn house I-lay by-force
σὺν δεσπόταισι· κᾆτ' ἔμ', οὐ κεῖνον κτενεῖς
with masters and-then me not him will-you-kill
τὸν αἴτιον τῶνδ', ἀλλὰ τὴν ἀρχὴν ἀφεὶς
the cause of-these but the beginning letting-go
πρὸς τὴν τελευτὴν ὑστέραν οὖσαν φέρει;
to the end later being you-are-borne
οἴμοι κακῶν τῶνδ', ὦ τάλαιν' ἐμὴ πατρίς,
ah-me for-ills these O wretched my country
ὡς δεινὰ πάσχω· τί δέ με καὶ τεκεῖν ἐχρῆν
how terrible(-things) I-suffer why and me even to-bear (it)-was-needful
ἄχθος τ' ἐπ' ἄχθει τῷδε προσθέσθαι διπλοῦν;
burden and on burden this to-add twofold
ἥτις σφαγὰς μὲν Ἕκτορος τροχηλάτους
who slaughter indeed of-Hector wheel-dragged
κατεῖδον οἰκτρῶς τ' Ἴλιον πυρούμενον,
saw piteously and Ilium burning
αὐτὴ δὲ δούλη ναῦς ἐπ' Ἀργείων ἔβην
myself and slave ships to of-Argives went
κόμης ἐπισπασθεῖσ'· ἐπεὶ δ' ἀφικόμην
by-hair dragged when and I-came

Φθίαν, φονεῦσιν Ἕκτορος νυμφεύομαι.
to-Phthia to-murderers of-Hector I-am-wedded
τί δῆτ' ἐμοὶ ζῆν ἡδύ; πρὸς τί χρὴ βλέπειν;
why then for-me to-live (is)-sweet to what must to-look
πρὸς τὰς παρούσας ἢ παρελθούσας τύχας;
to the present or past fortunes
εἷς παῖς ὅδ' ἦν μοι λοιπὸς ὀφθαλμὸς βίου·
one child this was for-me remaining eye of-life
τοῦτον κτανεῖν μέλλουσιν οἷς δοκεῖ τάδε.
him to-kill are-about to-whom seems-good these(-things)
οὐ δῆτα τοὐμοῦ γ' εἵνεκ' ἀθλίου βίου·
not then of-my at-least for-the-sake wretched life
ἐν τῷδε μὲν γὰρ ἐλπίς, εἰ σωθήσεται·
in him indeed for (is)-hope if he-will-be-saved
ἐμοὶ δ' ὄνειδος μὴ θανεῖν ὑπὲρ τέκνου.
for-me and (is-a)-reproach not to-die for child
ἰδοὺ προλείπω βωμὸν ἥδε χειρία
see I-leave altar this-one in-your-hands
σφάζειν, φονεύειν, δεῖν, ἀπαρτῆσαι δέρην.
to-slay to-murder to-bind to-hang neck
ὦ τέκνον, ἡ τεκοῦσά σ', ὡς σὺ μὴ θάνῃς,
O child the having-borne you that you not may-die
στείχω πρὸς Ἅιδην· ἢν δ' ὑπεκδράμῃς μόρον,
I-go to Hades if and you-escape doom
μέμνησο μητρός, οἷα τλᾶσ' ἀπωλόμην,
remember mother what having-endured I-perished
καὶ πατρὶ τῷ σῷ διὰ φιλημάτων ἰὼν
and to-father the your through kisses going
δάκρυά τε λείβων καὶ περιπτύσσων χέρας
tears and shedding and folding hands

λέγ᾽ οἷ᾽ ἔπραξα. πᾶσι δ᾽ ἀνθρώποις ἄρ᾽ ἦν
tell what-things I-did to-all and men then was
ψυχὴ τέκν᾽· ὅστις δ᾽ αὖτ᾽ ἄπειρος ὢν ψέγει,
life children whoever and them inexperienced being blames
ἧσσον μὲν ἀλγεῖ, δυστυχὼν δ᾽ εὐδαιμονεῖ.
less indeed he-grieves unfortunate but he-is-happy
ΧΟΡΟΣ ᾠκτιρ᾽ ἀκούσασ᾽· οἰκτρὰ γὰρ τὰ δυστυχῆ
I-pitied having-heard pitiable for the unfortunate(-things)
βροτοῖς ἅπασι, κἂν θυραῖος ὢν κυρῇ.
to-mortals all even-if a-stranger being he-happens
εἰς ξύμβασιν δὲ χρῆν σε παῖδα σὴν ἄγειν,
to reconciliation and (it)-was-needful you child your to-bring
Μενέλαε, καὶ τήνδ᾽, ὡς ἀπαλλαχθῇ πόνων.
Menelaus and this-woman that she-may-be-freed from-toils
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ λάβεσθέ μοι τῆσδ᾽, ἀμφελίξαντες χέρας,
take for-me hold-of-this-woman having-wrapped hands
δμῶες· λόγους γὰρ οὐ φίλους ἀκούσεται
servants words for not dear she-will-hear
ἔγωγ᾽, ἵν᾽ ἁγνὸν βωμὸν ἐκλίποις θεᾶς,
I so-that holy altar you-might-leave of-the-goddess
προύτεινα παιδὸς θάνατον, ᾧ σ᾽ ὑπήγαγον
held-out of-child death by-which you I-led
εἰς χεῖρας ἐλθεῖν τὰς ἐμὰς ἐπὶ σφαγήν.
into hands to-come the my for slaughter
καὶ τἀμφὶ σοῦ μὲν ὧδ᾽ ἔχοντ᾽ ἐπίστασο·
and the(-things)-about you indeed so being know
τὰ δ᾽ ἀμφὶ παιδὸς τοῦδε παῖς ἐμὴ κρινεῖ,
the but about child this daughter my will-decide
ἤν τε κτανεῖν νιν ἤν τε μὴ κτανεῖν θέλῃ.
if both to-kill him if and not to-kill she-wishes

ἀλλ᾽ ἔρπ᾽ ἐς οἴκους τούσδ᾽, ἵν᾽ εἰς ἐλευθέρους
but go into house this so-that toward free(-men)
δούλη γεγῶσα μήποθ᾽ ὑβρίζειν μάθῃς.
slave being never to-be-insolent you-may-learn

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ οἴμοι· δόλῳ μ᾽ ὑπῆλθες, ἠπατήμεθα. 435
ah-me by-trick me you-have-crept-up-on we-have-been-deceived

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ κήρυσσ᾽ ἅπασιν· οὐ γὰρ ἐξαρνούμεθα.
proclaim(-it) to-all not for we-deny(-it)

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ἦ ταῦτ᾽ ἐν ὑμῖν τοῖς παρ᾽ Εὐρώτᾳ σοφά;
— these(-are) among you the(-ones) by Eurotas wise

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ καὶ τοῖς γε Τροίᾳ, τοὺς παθόντας ἀντιδρᾶν.
and among-those at-least at-Troy the(-ones) having-suffered to-retaliate

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ τὰ θεῖα δ᾽ οὐ θεῖ᾽ οὐδ᾽ ἔχειν ἡγεῖ δίκην;
the divine and not divine nor to-have do-you-think justice

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὅταν τάδ᾽ ᾖ τότ᾽ οἴσομεν· σὲ δὲ κτενῶ. 440
when these(-things) be then we-will-bear(-it) you but I-will-kill

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ἦ καὶ νεοσσὸν τόνδ᾽, ὑπὸ πτερῶν σπάσας;
— also nestling this from-under wings having-dragged

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὐ δῆτα· θυγατρὶ δ᾽, ἢν θέλῃ, δώσω κτανεῖν.
not then to-daughter and if she-wishes I-will-give to-kill

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ οἴμοι· τί δῆτά σ᾽ οὐ καταστένω, τέκνον;
ah-me why then you not do-I-lament child

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὔκουν θρασεῖά γ᾽ αὐτὸν ἐλπὶς ἀμμένει.
not-then confident at-least him hope awaits

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ὦ πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποισιν ἔχθιστοι βροτῶν 445
O to-all men most-hateful of-mortals

Σπάρτης ἔνοικοι, δόλια βουλευτήρια,
of-Sparta inhabitants crafty councils
ψευδῶν ἄνακτες, μηχανορράφοι κακῶν,
of-lies lords contrivers of-ills

ἑλικτὰ κοὐδὲν ὑγιές, ἀλλὰ πᾶν πέριξ
twisted and-nothing sound but all around
φρονοῦντες, ἀδίκως εὐτυχεῖτ' ἀν' Ἑλλάδα.
thinking unjustly you-prosper throughout Hellas
τί δ' οὐκ ἐν ὑμῖν ἐστιν; οὐ πλεῖστοι φόνοι;
what and not among you is not most murders
οὐκ αἰσχροκερδεῖς; οὐ λέγοντες ἄλλα μὲν
not greedy-of-shameful-gain not saying other(-things) indeed
γλώσσῃ, φρονοῦντες δ' ἄλλ' ἐφευρίσκεσθ' ἀεί;
with-tongue thinking but other(-things) you-are-found always
ὄλοισθ'. ἐμοὶ δὲ θάνατος οὐχ οὕτω βαρὺς
may-you-perish to-me and death not so heavy
ὡς σοὶ δέδοκται· κεῖνα γάρ μ' ἀπώλεσεν,
as to-you has-seemed those(-things) for me destroyed
ὅθ' ἡ τάλαινα πόλις ἀναλώθη Φρυγῶν
when the wretched city was-consumed of-Phrygians
πόσις θ' ὁ κλεινός, ὅς σε πολλάκις δορὶ
husband and the famous who you often by-spear
ναύτην ἔθηκεν ἀντὶ χερσαίου κακόν.
sailor made instead-of landsman coward
νῦν δ' εἰς γυναῖκα γοργὸς ὁπλίτης φανεὶς
now and against woman grim hoplite appearing
κτείνεις μ'; ἀπόκτειν'· ὡς ἀθώπευτόν γέ σε
do-you-kill me kill(-me) since unflattered at-least you
γλώσσης ἀφήσω τῆς ἐμῆς καὶ παῖδα σήν.
by-tongue I-will-let-go the my and daughter your
ἐπεὶ σὺ μὲν πέφυκας ἐν Σπάρτῃ μέγας,
since you indeed are in Sparta great

ἡμεῖς δὲ Τροίᾳ γ'. εἰ δ' ἐγὼ πράσσω κακῶς,
we and in-Troy at-least if and I fare badly
μηδὲν τόδ' αὔχει· καὶ σὺ γὰρ πράξειας ἄν.
not-at-all this boast and you for would-fare(-so) —

VI · TWO WIVES

The chorus will never praise two wives for one husband, nor sons from two mothers, which breed strife in a house. Two rulers in a city, two poets on one song, and two minds at a ship's helm all do harm, and a single ruler is better. Hermione's plan to kill her rival and her son is a godless crime, and they foresee that a reversal will come upon her for it.

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐδέποτε δίδυμα
never twofold
λέκτρ' ἐπαινέσω βροτῶν
beds will-I-praise of-mortals
οὐδ' ἀμφιμάτορας κόρους,
nor of-two-mothers sons
ἔριδας οἴκων δυσμενεῖς τε λύπας.
strifes of-houses hostile and griefs
μίαν μοι στεργέτω πόσις γάμοις
one for-me let-love husband in-marriage
ἀκοινώνητον ἀνδρὸς εὐνάν. 470
unshared with-man bed
οὐδὲ γὰρ ἐν πόλεσι
not-even for in cities
δίπτυχοι τυραννίδες
double tyrannies
μιᾶς ἀμείνονες φέρειν, 475
than-one better to-bear

ἄχθος ἐπ᾽ ἄχθει καὶ στάσις πολίταις·
burden on burden and faction for-citizens
τεκόντοιν θ᾽ ὕμνον ἐργάταιν δυοῖν
having-begotten and hymn craftsmen two
ἔριν Μοῦσαι φιλοῦσι κραίνειν·
strife Muses love to-bring-about
πνοαὶ δ᾽ ὅταν φέρωσι ναυτίλους θοαί,
breezes and when bear sailors swift
κατὰ πηδαλίων δίδυμαι πραπίδων γνῶμαι
at helms twofold of-wits judgments
σοφῶν τε πλῆθος ἀθρόον ἀσθενέστερον
of-wise and multitude crowded (is)-weaker
φαυλοτέρας φρενὸς αὐτοκρατοῦς
than-a-poorer mind with-full-power
ἑνός, ἃ δύνασις ἀνά τε μέλαθρα κατά τε πόλιας,
of-one which (is)-power throughout both halls throughout and cities
ὁπόταν εὑρεῖν θέλωσι καιρόν.
whenever to-find they-wish occasion
ἔδειξεν ἡ Λάκαινα τοῦ στρατηλάτα
showed the Laconian of-the general
Μενέλα· διὰ γὰρ πυρὸς ἦλθ᾽ ἑτέρῳ λέχεϊ,
Menelaus through for fire she-came on-other bed
κτείνει δὲ τὴν τάλαιναν Ἰλιάδα κόραν
kills and the wretched Trojan girl
παῖδά τε δύσφρονος ἔριδος ὕπερ.
child and of-ill-minded strife for
ἄθεος ἄνομος ἄχαρις ὁ φόνος· ἔτι σε, πότνια,
godless lawless graceless the murder still you lady
μετατροπὰ τῶνδ᾽ ἔπεισιν ἔργων.
reversal of-these will-come-upon deeds

Andromache and her son are led out in bonds, lamenting, and Menelaus stands over them. The old Peleus arrives and orders the cords cut. He abuses Spartan women and Helen and calls Menelaus a coward who lost his wife and has come to kill a slave. Menelaus defends himself and threatens, but goes home to march on a hostile city near Sparta, promising to return. Peleus leads Andromache and her son away under his protection.

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ἐσορῶ
and indeed I-see
τόδε σύγκρατον ζεῦγος πρὸ δόμων,
this joined pair before house
ψήφῳ θανάτου κατακεκριμένον.
by-vote of-death condemned
δύστηνε γύναι, τλῆμον δὲ σὺ παῖ,
wretched woman wretched and you child
μητρὸς λεχέων ὃς ὑπερθνήσκεις
of-mother for-bed who die-for(-it)
οὐδὲν μετέχων
nothing sharing
οὐδ' αἴτιος ὢν βασιλεῦσιν.
nor to-blame being to-the-kings
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ἆδ' ἐγὼ χέρας αἱματη-
here I hands bloody
ρὰς βρόχοισι κεκλημένα
— in-nooses bound
πέμπομαι κατὰ γαίας.
am-sent below earth

ΜΟΛΟΣΣΟΣ μᾶτερ μᾶτερ, ἐγὼ δὲ σᾷ
mother mother I and your
πτέρυγι συγκαταβαίνω.
under-wing go-down-with(-you)
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ θῦμα δάιον, ὦ χθονὸς
sacrifice hostile O of-land
Φθίας κράντορες. ΜΟΛΟΣΣΟΣ ὦ πάτερ,
of-Phthia rulers O father
μόλε φίλοις ἐπίκουρος.
come to-friends helper
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ κείσει δή, τέκνον, ὦ φίλος,
you-will-lie indeed child O dear
μαστοῖς ματέρος ἀμφὶ σᾶς
at-breasts of-mother about your
νεκρὸς ὑπὸ χθονὶ σὺν νεκρῷ.
dead under earth with dead
ΜΟΛΟΣΣΟΣ ὤμοι μοι, τί πάθω τάλας
ah-me me what am-I-to-suffer wretched
δῆτ' ἐγὼ σύ τε, μᾶτερ;
then I you and mother
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἴθ' ὑποχθόνιοι· καὶ γὰρ ἀπ' ἐχθρῶν
go below-the-earth also for from enemy
ἥκετε πύργων· δύο δ' ἐκ δισσαῖν
you-come towers two and from double
θνήσκετ' ἀνάγκαιν· σὲ μὲν ἡμετέρα
you-die necessities you indeed our
ψῆφος ἀναιρεῖ, παῖδα δ' ἐμὴ παῖς
vote takes-off child but my child
τόνδ' Ἑρμιόνη· καὶ γὰρ ἀνοία
this Hermione also for folly

μεγάλη λείπειν ἐχθροὺς ἐχθρῶν,
great to-leave enemies of-enemies

ἐξὸν κτείνειν
it-being-possible to-kill

καὶ φόβον οἴκων ἀφελέσθαι.
and fear from-house to-take-away

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ὦ πόσις πόσις, εἴθε σὰν
O husband husband would-that your

χεῖρα καὶ δόρυ σύμμαχον
hand and spear allied

κτησαίμαν, Πριάμου παῖ.
I-could-get of-Priam son

ΜΟΛΟΣΣΟΣ δύστανος, τί δ' ἐγὼ μόρου
wretched what and I of-doom

παράτροπον μέλος εὕρω;
turning-aside song am-I-to-find

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ λίσσου, γούνασι δεσπότου
beseech at-knees of-master

χρίμπτων, ὦ τέκνον. ΜΟΛΟΣΣΟΣ ὦ φίλος,
touching O child O dear

φίλος, ἄνες θάνατόν μοι.
dear remit death for-me

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ λείβομαι δάκρυσιν κόρας,
I-am-wet with-tears in-eyes

στάζω λισσάδος ὡς πέτρας
I-drip of-smooth like rock

λιβὰς ἀνήλιος, ἁ τάλαιν'.
stream sunless the wretched

535 ΜΟΛΟΣΣΟΣ ὤμοι μοι, τί δ' ἐγὼ κακῶν
ah-me me what and I of-ills
μῆχος ἐξανύσωμαι;
device am-I-to-achieve
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τί με προσπίτνεις, ἁλίαν πέτραν
why me do-you-fall-at sea rock
ἢ κῦμα λιταῖς ὡς ἱκετεύων;
or wave with-prayers as supplicating
τοῖς γὰρ ἐμοῖσιν γέγον' ὠφελία,
to-the for my(-own) I-have-become help
540 σοὶ δ' οὐδὲν ἔχω φίλτρον, ἐπεί τοι
for-you and nothing I-have love-charm since surely
μέγ' ἀναλώσας ψυχῆς μόριον
great having-spent of-life portion
Τροίαν εἷλον καὶ μητέρα σήν·
Troy I-took and mother your
ἧς ἀπολαύων
whom enjoying
Ἅιδην χθόνιον καταβήσει.
Hades underground you-will-go-down
545 ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν δέδορκα τόνδε Πηλέα πέλας,
and indeed I-see this Peleus near
σπουδῇ τιθέντα δεῦρο γηραιὸν πόδα.
in-haste setting here aged foot
ΠΗΛΕΥΣ ὑμᾶς ἐρωτῶ τόν τ' ἐφεστῶτα σφαγῇ,
you I-ask the(-man) and set-over slaughter
τί ταῦτα καὶ πῶς; ἐκ τίνος λόγου νοσεῖ
what these(-things) and how from what account is-sick
δόμος; τί πράσσετ' ἄκριτα μηχανώμενοι;
house what are-you-doing unjudged(-things) contriving

Μενέλα᾽, ἐπίσχες· μὴ τάχυν᾽ ἄνευ δίκης.
Menelaus hold not hasten without trial
ἡγοῦ σὺ θᾶσσον· οὐ γὰρ ὡς ἔοικέ μοι,
lead you faster not for as it-seems to-me
σχολῆς τόδ᾽ ἔργον, ἀλλ᾽ ἀνηβητηρίαν
of-leisure this work but youth-renewing
ῥώμην μ᾽ ἐπαινῶ λαμβάνειν, εἴπερ ποτέ.
strength me I-urge to-take if-indeed ever
πρῶτον μὲν οὖν κατ᾽ οὖρον ὥσπερ ἱστίοις
first indeed then before wind as-if on-sails
ἐμπνεύσομαι τῇδ᾽· εἰπέ, τίνι δίκῃ χέρας
I-will-breathe-on this(-woman) tell by-what justice hands
βρόχοισιν ἐκδήσαντες οἵδ᾽ ἄγουσί σε
in-nooses having-bound these lead you
καὶ παῖδ᾽; ὕπαρνος γάρ τις ὡς ἀπόλλυσαι,
and child with-lamb-beneath for some as you-are-perishing
ἡμῶν ἀπόντων τοῦ τε κυρίου σέθεν.
us being-absent of-the and lord your
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ οἵδ᾽, ὦ γεραιέ, σὺν τέκνῳ θανουμένην
these O old-man with child about-to-die
ἄγουσί μ᾽ οὕτως ὡς ὁρᾷς. τί σοι λέγω;
lead me so as you-see what to-you shall-I-say
οὐ γὰρ μιᾶς σε κληδόνος προθυμίᾳ
not for of-one you report with-eagerness
μετῆλθον, ἀλλὰ μυρίων ὑπ᾽ ἀγγέλων.
I-came-for but countless by messengers
ἔριν δὲ τὴν κατ᾽ οἶκον οἶσθά που κλύων
strife and the in house you-know I-suppose hearing
τῆς τοῦδε θυγατρός, ὧν τ᾽ ἀπόλλυμαι χάριν.
of-the this-man's daughter of-which and I-perish for-the-sake

καὶ νῦν με βωμοῦ Θέτιδος, ἣ τὸν εὐγενῆ
and now me from-altar of-Thetis who the noble
ἔτικτέ σοι παῖδ', ἣν σὺ θαυμαστὴν σέβεις,
bore to-you son whom you wonderful revere
ἄγουσ' ἀποσπάσαντες, οὔτε τῳ δίκῃ
they-lead having-torn-away neither by-any justice
κρίναντες οὔτε τοὺς ἀπόντας ἐκ δόμων
having-judged nor the(-ones) absent from house
μείναντες, ἀλλὰ τὴν ἐμὴν ἐρημίαν
having-waited-for but the my loneliness
γνόντες τέκνου τε τοῦδ', ὃν οὐδὲν αἴτιον
having-known child and this whom nothing guilty
μέλλουσι σὺν ἐμοὶ τῇ ταλαιπώρῳ κτενεῖν.
they-are-about with me the wretched to-kill
ἀλλ' ἀντιάζω σ', ὦ γέρον, τῶν σῶν πάρος
but I-beseech you O old-man the your before
πίτνουσα γονάτων, χειρὶ δ' οὐκ ἔξεστί μοι
falling knees with-hand and not it-is-possible for-me
τῆς σῆς λαβέσθαι φιλτάτης γενειάδος,
the your to-take-hold-of dearest beard
ῥῦσαί με πρὸς θεῶν· εἰ δὲ μή, θανούμεθα
rescue me by gods if and not we-shall-die
αἰσχρῶς μὲν ὑμῖν, δυστυχῶς δ' ἐμοί, γέρον.
shamefully indeed for-you unfortunately but for-me old-man
ΠΗΛΕΥΣ χαλᾶν κελεύω δεσμὰ πρὶν κλαίειν τινά,
to-loose I-bid bonds before to-weep someone
καὶ τῆσδε χεῖρας διπτύχους ἀνιέναι.
and of-her hands double to-release

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἐγὼ δ' ἀπαυδῶ γ' ἄλλος οὐχ ἥσσων σέθεν
I and forbid(-it) at-least other not less than-you
καὶ τῆσδε πολλῷ κυριώτερος γεγώς.
and of-her by-much more-authoritative being

ΠΗΛΕΥΣ πῶς; ἦ σὺ τὸν ἐμὸν οἶκον οἰκήσεις μολὼν
how truly you the my house will-dwell-in having-come
δεῦρ'; οὐχ ἅλις σοι τῶν κατὰ Σπάρτην κρατεῖν;
here not enough for-you the(-things) in Sparta to-rule

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ εἷλόν νιν αἰχμάλωτον ἐκ Τροίας ἐγώ.
I-took her captive from Troy I

ΠΗΛΕΥΣ οὑμὸς δέ γ' αὐτὴν ἔλαβε παῖς παιδὸς γέρας.
the-my and at-least her took son of-son as-prize

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὔκουν ἐκείνου τἀμὰ τἀκείνου τ' ἐμά;
not-then of-him my(-things) his(-things) and mine

ΠΗΛΕΥΣ δρᾶν εὖ, κακῶς δ' οὔ, μηδ' ἀποκτείνειν βίᾳ.
to-do well badly but not nor to-kill by-force

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὡς τήνδ' ἀπάξεις οὔποτ' ἐξ ἐμῆς χερός.
that this-woman you-will-lead-away never from my hand

ΠΗΛΕΥΣ σκήπτρῳ δὲ τῷδε σὸν καθαιμάξω κάρα.
with-scepter and this your I-will-bloody head

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ψαῦσόν γ', ἵν' εἰδῇς, καὶ πέλας πρόσελθέ μου.
touch(-me) at-least that you-may-know and near approach me

ΠΗΛΕΥΣ σὺ γὰρ μετ' ἀνδρῶν, ὦ κάκιστε κἀκ κακῶν;
you for among men O worst and-from base
σοὶ ποῦ μέτεστιν ὡς ἐν ἀνδράσιν λόγου;
to-you where is-there-a-share as among men of-account
ὅστις πρὸς ἀνδρὸς Φρυγὸς ἀπηλλάγης λέχος,
who by man Phrygian were-rid-of bed
ἄκλῃστ' ἄφρουρα δώματ' ἑστίας λιπών,
unlocked unguarded house of-hearth having-left

ὡς δὴ γυναῖκα σώφρον᾽ ἐν δόμοις ἔχων
as indeed wife chaste in house having
πασῶν κακίστην. οὐδ᾽ ἂν εἰ βούλοιτό τις
of-all worst not-even — if should-wish one
σώφρων γένοιτο Σπαρτιατίδων κόρη,
chaste could-be of-Spartan-women girl
αἳ ξὺν νέοισιν ἐξερημοῦσαι δόμους
who with young-men leaving-empty houses
γυμνοῖσι μηροῖς καὶ πέπλοις ἀνειμένοις
with-bare thighs and with-robes loosened
δρόμους παλαίστρας τ᾽ οὐκ ἀνασχετοὺς ἐμοὶ
race-courses wrestling-schools and not tolerable to-me
κοινὰς ἔχουσι. κᾆτα θαυμάζειν χρεὼν
in-common have and-then to-wonder (it-is)-fitting
εἰ μὴ γυναῖκας σώφρονας παιδεύετε;
if not women chaste you-train
Ἑλένην ἐρέσθαι χρῆν τάδ᾽, ἥτις ἐκ δόμων
Helen to-ask (it)-was-needful these(-things) who from house
τὸν σὸν λιποῦσα Φίλιον ἐξεκώμασε
the your having-left Friendly(-Zeus) reveled-away
νεανίου μετ᾽ ἀνδρὸς εἰς ἄλλην χθόνα.
young with man to other land
κἄπειτ᾽ ἐκείνης εἵνεχ᾽ Ἑλλήνων ὄχλον
and-then her for-the-sake of-Greeks crowd
τοσόνδ᾽ ἀθροίσας ἦγες πρὸς Ἴλιον·
so-great having-gathered you-led to Ilium
ἣν χρῆν σ᾽ ἀποπτύσαντα μὴ κινεῖν δόρυ,
whom (it)-was-needful you having-spat-out not to-move spear
κακὴν ἐφευρόντ᾽, ἀλλ᾽ ἐᾶν αὐτοῦ μένειν
bad having-found(-her) but to-let there to-remain

μισθόν τε δόντα μήποτ' εἰς οἴκους λαβεῖν.
pay and having-given never into house to-take
ἀλλ' οὔτι ταύτῃ σὸν φρόνημ' ἐπούρισας·
but not-at-all this-way your mind you-wafted
ψυχὰς δὲ πολλὰς καὐγαθὰς ἀπώλεσας
lives and many and-good you-destroyed
παίδων τ' ἄπαιδας γραῦς ἔθηκας ἐν δόμοις,
of-children and childless old-women you-made in house
πολιούς τ' ἀφείλου πατέρας εὐγενῆ τέκνα.
gray and you-robbed fathers of-noble children
ὧν εἷς ἐγὼ δύστηνος· αὐθέντην δὲ σὲ
of-whom one I wretched murderer and you
μιάστορ' ὥς τιν' εἰσδέδορκ' Ἀχιλλέως.
avenging-fiend as some I-look-upon of-Achilles
ὃς οὐδὲ τρωθεὶς ἦλθες ἐκ Τροίας μόνος,
who not-even wounded you-came from Troy alone
κάλλιστα τεύχη δ' ἐν καλοῖσι σάγμασιν
fairest arms and in fair cases
ὅμοι' ἐκεῖσε δεῦρό τ' ἤγαγες πάλιν.
the-same there here and you-brought back
κἀγὼ μὲν ηὔδων τῷ γαμοῦντι μήτε σοὶ
and-I indeed told the marrying(-one) neither with-you
κῆδος ξυνάψαι μήτε δώμασιν λαβεῖν
marriage-bond to-tie nor into-house to-take
κακῆς γυναικὸς πῶλον· ἐκφέρουσι γὰρ
of-bad woman foal they-carry-out for
μητρῷ' ὀνείδη. τοῦτο καὶ σκοπεῖτέ μοι,
mother's reproaches this also consider for-me
μνηστῆρες, ἐσθλῆς θυγατέρ' ἐκ μητρὸς λαβεῖν.
wooers of-noble daughter from mother to-take

πρὸς τοῖσδε δ' εἰς ἀδελφὸν οἷ' ἐφύβρισας,
in-addition-to these and against brother what-things you-outraged
σφάξαι κελεύσας θυγατέρ' εὐηθέστατον.
to-slay having-bidden daughter most-simply
οὕτως ἔδεισας μὴ οὐ κακὴν δάμαρτ' ἔχῃς.
so you-feared lest not bad wife you-should-have
ἑλὼν δὲ Τροίαν, εἶμι γὰρ κἀνταῦθά σοι,
having-taken and Troy I-will-go for even-there against-you
οὐκ ἔκτανες γυναῖκα χειρίαν λαβών·
not you-killed wife into-hand having-got(-her)
ἀλλ' ὡς ἐσεῖδες μαστόν, ἐκβαλὼν ξίφος
but when you-saw breast having-thrown-away sword
φίλημ' ἐδέξω, προδότιν αἰκάλλων κύνα,
kiss you-received traitress fawning-on bitch
ἥσσων πεφυκὼς Κύπριδος, ὦ κάκιστε σύ.
weaker being than-Cypris O worst you
κἄπειτ' ἐς οἴκους τῶν ἐμῶν ἐλθὼν τέκνων
and-then into house of-the my having-come of-children
πορθεῖς ἀπόντων καὶ γυναῖκα δυστυχῆ
you-plunder absent and wife unfortunate
κτείνεις ἀτίμως παῖδά θ', ὃς κλαίοντά σε
you-kill dishonorably son and who weeping you
καὶ τὴν ἐν οἴκοις σὴν καταστήσει κόρην,
and the in house your will-make daughter
κεἰ τρὶς νόθος πέφυκε. πολλάκις δέ τοι
and-if thrice bastard he-is often and surely
ξηρὰ βαθεῖαν γῆν ἐνίκησε σπορά,
dry deep land has-beaten seed
νόθοι τε πολλοὶ γνησίων ἀμείνονες.
bastards and many than-legitimate better

ἀλλ᾽ ἐκκομίζου παῖδα. κύδιον βροτοῖς
but carry-away daughter more-glorious for-mortals
πένητα χρηστὸν ἢ κακὸν καὶ πλούσιον
poor good(-man) than base and rich
γαμβρὸν πεπᾶσθαι καὶ φίλον· σὺ δ᾽ οὐδὲν εἶ.
son-in-law to-have-acquired and friend you and nothing are
ΧΟΡΟΣ σμικρᾶς ἀπ᾽ ἀρχῆς νεῖκος ἀνθρώποις μέγα
small from beginning quarrel for-men great
γλῶσσ᾽ ἐκπορίζει· τοῦτο δ᾽ οἱ σοφοὶ βροτῶν
tongue produces this but the wise of-mortals
ἐξευλαβοῦνται, μὴ φίλοις τεύχειν ἔριν.
guard-against not for-friends to-make strife
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τί δῆτ᾽ ἂν εἴποις τοὺς γέροντας ὡς σοφοὺς
what then — would-you-say the old as wise
καὶ τοὺς φρονεῖν δοκοῦντας Ἕλλησίν ποτε;
and the(-ones) to-be-wise seeming to-Greeks once
ὅτ᾽ ὢν σὺ Πηλεὺς καὶ πατρὸς κλεινοῦ γεγώς,
when being you Peleus and of-father famous born
κῆδος ξυνάψας, αἰσχρὰ μὲν σαυτῷ λέγεις
marriage-bond having-tied shameful(-things) indeed for-yourself you-say
ἡμῖν δ᾽ ὀνείδη διὰ γυναῖκα βάρβαρον,
to-us and reproaches through woman barbarian
ἣν χρῆν σ᾽ ἐλαύνειν τήνδ᾽ ὑπὲρ Νείλου ῥοὰς
whom (it)-was-needful you to-drive this-one beyond of-Nile streams
ὑπέρ τε Φᾶσιν κἀμὲ παρακαλεῖν ἀεί·
beyond and Phasis and-me to-call-on always
οὖσαν μὲν Ἠπειρῶτιν, οὗ πεσήματα
being indeed of-the-mainland where falls
πλεῖσθ᾽ Ἑλλάδος πέπτωκε δοριπετῆ νεκρῶν,
most of-Hellas have-fallen spear-fallen of-corpses

τοῦ σοῦ δὲ παιδὸς αἵματος κοινουμένην.
of-the your and son of-blood sharing
Πάρις γάρ, ὃς σὸν παῖδ' ἔπεφν' Ἀχιλλέα,
Paris for who your son slew Achilles
Ἕκτορος ἀδελφὸς ἦν, δάμαρ δ' ἥδ' Ἕκτορος.
of-Hector brother was wife and this-one of-Hector
καὶ τῇδέ γ' εἰσέρχει σὺ ταὐτὸν εἰς στέγος
and with-her at-least you-go you the-same into roof
καὶ ξυντράπεζον ἀξιοῖς ἔχειν βίον,
and table-sharing you-think-fit to-have life
τίκτειν δ' ἐν οἴκοις παῖδας ἐχθίστους ἐᾷς.
to-bear and in house children most-hateful you-allow
ἁγὼ προνοίᾳ τῇ τε σῇ κἀμῇ, γέρον,
which-I by-forethought the both your and-my old-man
κτανεῖν θέλων τήνδ' ἐκ χερῶν ἁρπάζομαι.
to-kill wishing her from hands am-snatched
καίτοι φέρ', ἅψασθαι γὰρ οὐκ αἰσχρὸν λόγου,
and-yet come to-touch for not (is)-shameful the-word
ἢν παῖς μὲν ἡμὴ μὴ τέκῃ, ταύτης δ' ἄπο
if child indeed our not bear her and from
βλάστωσι παῖδες, τῆσδε γῆς Φθιώτιδος
spring children of-this land Phthian
στήσεις τυράννους, βάρβαροι δ' ὄντες γένος
you-will-set-up kings barbarians and being by-race
Ἕλλησιν ἄρξουσ'; εἶτ' ἐγὼ μὲν οὐ φρονῶ
over-Greeks will-rule then I indeed not think
μισῶν τὰ μὴ δίκαια, σοὶ δ' ἔνεστι νοῦς;
hating the not just(-things) you and is sense
κἀκεῖνο νῦν ἄθρησον· εἰ σὺ παῖδα σὴν
and-that now consider if you child your

δούς τῳ πολιτῶν, εἶτ' ἔπασχε τοιάδε,
having-given to-someone of-citizens then suffered such(-things)
σιγῇ καθῆσ' ἄν; οὐ δοκῶ· ξένης δ' ὕπερ
in-silence would-you-sit — not I-think stranger and for
τοιαῦτα λάσκεις τοὺς ἀναγκαίους φίλους;
such(-things) do-you-bark-at the near friends
καὶ μὴν ἴσον γ' ἀνήρ τε καὶ γυνὴ σθένει
and indeed equal at-least man both and woman has-power
ἀδικουμένη πρὸς ἀνδρός· ὡς δ' αὔτως ἀνὴρ
wronged by husband likewise and so man
γυναῖκα μωραίνουσαν ἐν δόμοις ἔχων.
wife foolish in house having
καὶ τῷ μὲν ἔστιν ἐν χεροῖν μέγα σθένος,
and to-the-one indeed is in hands great strength
τῇ δ' ἐν γονεῦσι καὶ φίλοις τὰ πράγματα.
to-the and in parents and friends the matters
οὔκουν δίκαιον τοῖς γ' ἐμοῖς ἐπωφελεῖν;
not-then just(-is-it) the at-least mine to-help
γέρων γέρων εἶ· τὴν δ' ἐμὴν στρατηγίαν
old-man old-man you-are the and my generalship
λέγων ἔμ' ὠφελοῖς ἂν ἢ σιγῶν πλέον.
speaking me you-would-help — than being-silent more
Ἑλένη δ' ἐμόχθησ' οὐχ ἑκοῦσ', ἀλλ' ἐκ θεῶν,
Helen and toiled not willing but from gods
καὶ τοῦτο πλεῖστον ὠφέλησεν Ἑλλάδα·
and this most helped Hellas
ὅπλων γὰρ ὄντες καὶ μάχης ἀίστορες
of-arms for being and of-battle ignorant
ἔβησαν εἰς τἀνδρεῖον· ἡ δ' ὁμιλία
they-went to the-manly the and association

πάντων βροτοῖσι γίγνεται διδάσκαλος.
of-all for-mortals becomes teacher
εἰ δ' εἰς πρόσοψιν τῆς ἐμῆς ἐλθὼν ἐγὼ
if and into sight of-the my having-come I
γυναικὸς ἔσχον μὴ κτανεῖν, ἐσωφρόνουν.
of-wife I-held-back not to-kill I-was-sensible
οὐδ' ἄν σε Φῶκον ἤθελον κατακτανεῖν.
nor — you Phocus would-I-have-wished to-have-killed
ταῦτ' εὖ φρονῶν σ' ἐπῆλθον, οὐκ ὀργῆς χάριν·
these(-things) well thinking you I-approached not of-anger for-the-sake
ἢν δ' ὀξυθυμῇς, σοὶ μὲν ἡ γλωσσαλγία
if and you-are-hot-tempered for-you indeed the wordiness
μείζων, ἐμοὶ δὲ κέρδος ἡ προμηθία.
greater for-me and gain the forethought
ΧΟΡΟΣ παύσασθον ἤδη, λῷστα γὰρ μακρῷ τάδε,
stop-you-two now best for by-far these(-things)
λόγων ματαίων, μὴ δύο σφαλῆθ' ἅμα.
from-words vain lest two you-both-fail together
ΠΗΛΕΥΣ οἴμοι, καθ' Ἑλλάδ' ὡς κακῶς νομίζεται·
ah-me throughout Hellas how badly it-is-customary
ὅταν τροπαῖα πολεμίων στήσῃ στρατός,
when trophies of-enemies sets-up army
οὐ τῶν πονούντων τοὔργον ἡγοῦνται τόδε,
not of-the(-ones) toiling the-deed they-consider this
ἀλλ' ὁ στρατηγὸς τὴν δόκησιν ἄρνυται,
but the general the credit wins
ὃς εἷς μετ' ἄλλων μυρίων πάλλων δόρυ,
who one with others countless brandishing spear
οὐδὲν πλέον δρῶν ἑνὸς ἔχει πλείω λόγον.
nothing more doing than-one has more account

σεμνοὶ δ' ἐν ἀρχαῖς ἥμενοι κατὰ πτόλιν
solemn and in offices sitting throughout city
φρονοῦσι δήμου μεῖζον, ὄντες οὐδένες·
they-think than-the-people greater being nobodies
οἱ δ' εἰσὶν αὐτῶν μυρίῳ σοφώτεροι,
they and are than-them countless-times wiser
εἰ τόλμα προσγένοιτο βούλησίς θ' ἅμα.
if daring were-added will and together
ὡς καὶ σὺ σός τ' ἀδελφὸς ἐξωγκωμένοι
as also you your and brother puffed-up
Τροίᾳ κάθησθε τῇ τ' ἐκεῖ στρατηγίᾳ,
at-Troy sit and the there in-generalship
μόχθοισιν ἄλλων καὶ πόνοις ἐπηρμένοι.
with-toils of-others and with-labors exalted
δείξω δ' ἐγώ σοι μὴ τὸν Ἰδαῖον Πάριν
I-will-show and I you not the Idaean Paris
ἧσσω νομίζειν Πηλέως ἐχθρόν ποτε,
less to-consider of-Peleus enemy ever
εἰ μὴ φθερεῖ τῆσδ' ὡς τάχιστ' ἀπὸ στέγης
if not you-will-be-off this as quickly-as-possible from roof
καὶ παῖς ἄτεκνος, ἣν ὅδ' ἐξ ἡμῶν γεγὼς
and child childless whom this-one from us born
ἐλᾷ δι' οἴκων τῶνδ' ἐπισπάσας κόμης·
will-drive through house this having-dragged by-hair
ἣ στερρὸς οὖσα μόσχος οὐκ ἀνέξεται
who barren being heifer not will-endure
τίκτοντας ἄλλους, οὐκ ἔχουσ' αὐτὴ τέκνα.
bearing others not having herself children
ἀλλ' εἰ τὸ κείνης δυστυχεῖ παίδων πέρι,
but if the(-matter) of-her is-unfortunate children about

ἄπαιδας ἡμᾶς δεῖ καταστῆναι τέκνων;
childless us must to-be-made of-children
φθείρεσθε τῆσδε, δμῶες, ὡς ἂν ἐκμάθω
be-off from-her servants that — I-may-learn
εἴ τίς με λύειν τῆσδε κωλύσει χέρας.
if anyone me to-loose of-her will-prevent hands
ἔπαιρε σαυτήν· ὡς ἐγὼ καίπερ τρέμων
lift yourself since I though trembling
πλεκτὰς ἱμάντων στροφίδας ἐξανήσομαι.
plaited of-thongs knots will-undo
ὧδ', ὦ κάκιστε, τῆσδ' ἐλυμήνω χέρας;
so O worst of-her did-you-maltreat hands
βοῦν ἢ λέοντ' ἤλπιζες ἐντείνειν βρόχοις;
ox or lion did-you-expect to-stretch in-nooses
ἢ μὴ ξίφος λαβοῦσ' ἀμυνάθοιτό σε
or lest sword having-taken she-might-defend-herself-against you
ἔδεισας; ἔρπε δεῦρ' ὑπ' ἀγκάλας, βρέφος,
did-you-fear come here under arms babe
ξύλλυε δεσμὰ μητρός· ἐν Φθίᾳ σ' ἐγὼ
help-loose bonds of-mother in Phthia you I
θρέψω μέγαν τοῖσδ' ἐχθρόν. εἰ δ' ἀπῆν δορὸς
will-rear great to-these(-men) enemy if and were-absent of-spear
τοῖς Σπαρτιάταις δόξα καὶ μάχης ἀγών,
for-the Spartans glory and of-battle contest
τἄλλ' ὄντες ἴστε μηδενὸς βελτίονες.
in-the-rest being know of-no-one better
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀνειμένον τι χρῆμα πρεσβυτῶν γένος
unrestrained some thing of-old-men race
καὶ δυσφύλακτον ὀξυθυμίας ὕπο.
and hard-to-guard of-quick-temper because-of

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἄγαν προνωπὴς εἰς τὸ λοιδορεῖν φέρει·
too headlong to the reviling you-are-borne
ἐγὼ δὲ πρὸς βίαν μέν, εἰς Φθίαν μολών,
I and by force indeed to Phthia having-gone
οὔτ' οὖν τι δράσω φλαῦρον οὔτε πείσομαι.
neither then anything shall-do mean nor shall-suffer
καὶ νῦν μέν, οὐ γὰρ ἄφθονον σχολὴν ἔχω,
and now indeed not for unstinted leisure I-have
ἄπειμ' ἐς οἴκους· ἔστι γάρ τις οὐ πρόσω
I-will-go-away to house is for some not far
Σπάρτης πόλις τις, ἣ πρὸ τοῦ μὲν ἦν φίλη,
from-Sparta city some which before this indeed was friendly
νῦν δ' ἐχθρὰ ποιεῖ· τήνδ' ἐπεξελθεῖν θέλω
now but hostile acts this to-attack I-wish
στρατηλατήσας χὑποχείριον λαβεῖν.
having-led-an-army and-under-hand to-take
ὅταν δὲ τἀκεῖ θῶ κατὰ γνώμην ἐμήν,
when and the(-things)-there I-set according-to judgment my
ἥξω· παρὼν δὲ πρὸς παρόντας ἐμφανῶς
I-will-come being-present and to present openly
γαμβροὺς διδάξω καὶ διδάξομαι λόγους.
sons-in-law I-will-teach and will-be-taught words
κἂν μὲν κολάζῃ τήνδε καὶ τὸ λοιπὸν ᾖ
and-if indeed he-chastises her and the rest is
σώφρων καθ' ἡμᾶς, σώφρον' ἀντιλήψεται.
self-controlled toward us self-controlled he-will-receive-back
θυμούμενος δὲ τεύξεται θυμουμένων,
angry and he-will-meet angry(-men)
ἔργοισι δ' ἔργα διάδοχ' ἀντιλήψεται.
with-deeds and deeds in-succession he-will-receive-back

τοὺς σοὺς δὲ μύθους ῥᾳδίως ἐγὼ φέρω·
the your and words easily I bear
σκιᾷ γὰρ ἀντίστοιχος ὢν φωνὴν ἔχεις,
to-shadow for corresponding being voice you-have
ἀδύνατος οὐδὲν ἄλλο πλὴν λέγειν μόνον.
powerless (in)-nothing other except to-speak only
ΠΗΛΕΥΣ ἡγοῦ τέκνον μοι δεῦρ' ὑπ' ἀγκάλαις σταθείς,
lead child for-me here under arms standing
σύ τ', ὦ τάλαινα· χείματος γὰρ ἀγρίου
you and O wretched from-storm for wild
τυχοῦσα λιμένας ἦλθες εἰς εὐηνέμους.
having-met havens you-came to well-sheltered
ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ ὦ πρέσβυ, θεοί σοι δοῖεν εὖ καὶ τοῖσι σοῖς,
O old-man gods to-you may-grant well and to-the your
σώσαντι παῖδα κἀμὲ τὴν δυσδαίμονα.
having-saved child and-me the ill-fated
ὅρα δὲ μὴ νῷν εἰς ἐρημίαν ὁδοῦ
see and lest us-two at lonely(-spot) of-road
πτήξαντες οἵδε πρὸς βίαν ἄγωσί με,
cowering these by force lead me
γέροντα μὲν σ' ὁρῶντες, ἀσθενῆ δ' ἐμὲ
old indeed you seeing weak and me
καὶ παῖδα τόνδε νήπιον· σκόπει τάδε,
and child this infant consider these(-things)
μὴ νῦν φυγόντες εἶθ' ἁλῶμεν ὕστερον.
lest now having-escaped then we-be-caught later
ΠΗΛΕΥΣ οὐ μὴ γυναικῶν δειλὸν εἰσοίσεις λόγον;
not — of-women cowardly will-you-bring-in word
χώρει· τίς ὑμῶν ἅψεται; κλαίων ἄρα
go who of-you will-touch(-us) weeping then

ψαύσει. θεῶν γὰρ εἵνεχ' ἱππικοῦ τ' ὄχλου
he-will-touch(-us) of-gods for for-the-sake of-cavalry and of-crowd
πολλῶν θ' ὁπλιτῶν ἄρχομεν Φθίαν κάτα· 760
many and of-hoplites we-rule Phthia throughout
ἡμεῖς δ' ἔτ' ὀρθοὶ κοὐ γέροντες, ὡς δοκεῖς,
we and still upright and-not old as you-think
ἀλλ' εἴς γε τοιόνδ' ἄνδρ' ἀποβλέψας μόνον
but to at-least such man having-looked only
τροπαῖον αὐτοῦ στήσομαι, πρέσβυς περ ὤν.
trophy of-him I-will-set-up old though being
πολλῶν νέων γὰρ κἂν γέρων εὔψυχος ᾖ
than-many young for even-if old stout-hearted be
κρείσσων· τί γὰρ δεῖ δειλὸν ὄντ' εὐσωματεῖν; 765
(is)-stronger what for need cowardly being to-be-well-bodied

VIII · NOBLE BIRTH

The chorus would rather not be born than be born of base parents or lack a wealthy house. In trouble the nobly born do not lack help, and the fame of good men does not fade. Better to win a just victory than one gained by force. They praise old Peleus, who fought the Centaurs, sailed on the Argo, and went with Heracles to sack Troy the first time.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἢ μὴ γενοίμαν ἢ πατέρων ἀγαθῶν
either not may-I-be-born or of-fathers noble
εἴην πολυκτήτων τε δόμων μέτοχος.
may-I-be of-wealthy and house sharer
εἴ τι γὰρ πάσχοι τις ἀμήχανον, ἀλκᾶς 770
if anything for suffers someone helpless of-help
οὐ σπάνις εὐγενέταις,
not (is-there)-lack for-the-nobly-born

κηρυσσομένοισι δ' ἀπ' ἐσθλῶν δωμάτων
for-proclaimed and from noble houses
τιμὰ καὶ κλέος· οὔτοι
honor and glory surely-not
λείψανα τῶν ἀγαθῶν
relics of-the noble
ἀνδρῶν ἀφαιρεῖται χρόνος· ἁ δ' ἀρετὰ
men takes-away time the and virtue
καὶ θανοῦσι λάμπει.
even for-the-dead shines
κρεῖσσον δὲ νίκαν μὴ κακόδοξον ἔχειν
better and victory not ill-famed to-have
ἢ ξὺν φθόνῳ σφάλλειν δυνάμει τε δίκαν.
than with envy to-overthrow by-power and justice
ἡδὺ μὲν γὰρ αὐτίκα τοῦτο βροτοῖσιν,
sweet indeed for at-once this for-mortals
ἐν δὲ χρόνῳ τελέθει
in but time it-becomes
ξηρὸν καὶ ὀνείδεσιν ἔγκειται δόμων.
dry and to-reproaches is-attached of-house
ταύταν ᾔνεσα ταύταν
this I-praised this
καὶ φέρομαι βιοτάν,
and I-choose life
μηδὲν δίκας ἔξω κράτος ἐν θαλάμοις
no of-justice outside power in chambers
καὶ πόλει δύνασθαι.
and in-city to-wield
ὦ γέρον Αἰακίδα,
O old-man son-of-Aeacus

πείθομαι καὶ σὺν Λαπίθαισί σε Κενταύροις
I-believe both with Lapiths you Centaurs
ὁμιλῆσαι δορὶ κλεινοτάτῳ
to-have-engaged with-spear most-famous
καὶ ἐπ᾽ Ἀργῴου δορὸς ἄξενον ὑγρὰν
and on of-Argo timber unfriendly sea
ἐκπερᾶσαι ποντιᾶν Ξυμπληγάδων
to-have-passed-through of-sea Clashing-Rocks
κλεινὰν ἐπὶ ναυστολίαν,
famous on voyage
Ἰλιάδα τε πόλιν ὅτε πάρος
Trojan and city when before
εὐδόκιμος Διὸς ἶνις
renowned of-Zeus offspring
ἀμφέβαλεν φόνῳ,
encompassed with-slaughter
κοινὰν τὰν εὔκλειαν ἔχοντ᾽
common the glory having
Εὐρώπαν ἀφικέσθαι.
to-Europe to-have-come

Hermione's nurse reports that her mistress, terrified of her husband's anger, wants to hang herself. Hermione rushes out half dressed, lamenting. Orestes arrives on his way to Dodona, and she begs him to take her to her father. He reveals that she was promised to him before the war, that Neoptolemus insulted him as a matricide, and that he has laid a plot at Delphi. He leads her away.

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ὦ φίλταται γυναῖκες, ὡς κακὸν κακῶν
O dearest women how ill to-ills
διάδοχον ἐν τῇδ' ἡμέρᾳ πορσύνεται.
successor on this day is-being-prepared
δέσποινα γὰρ κατ' οἶκον, Ἑρμιόνην λέγω,
mistress for in house Hermione I-mean
805 πατρός τ' ἐρημωθεῖσα συννοίᾳ θ' ἅμα
by-father both deserted with-remorse and together
οἷον δέδρακεν ἔργον Ἀνδρομάχην κτανεῖν
what she-has-done deed Andromache to-kill
καὶ παῖδα βουλεύσασα, κατθανεῖν θέλει,
and child having-plotted to-die wishes
πόσιν τρέμουσα, μὴ ἀντὶ τῶν δεδραμένων
husband trembling-at lest for the things-done
ἐκ τῶνδ' ἀτίμως δωμάτων ἀποσταλῇ,
from this dishonorably house she-be-sent-away
810 ἢ κατθάνῃ κτείνουσα τοὺς οὐ χρὴ κτανεῖν.
or die killing the(-ones) not (one)-must to-kill
μόλις δέ νιν θέλουσαν ἀρτῆσαι δέρην
hardly and her wishing to-hang neck
εἴργουσι φύλακες δμῶες ἔκ τε δεξιᾶς
keep-from guards servants from and right(-hand)

ξίφη καθαρπάζουσιν ἐξαιρούμενοι.
swords they-snatch taking-away

οὕτω μεταλγεῖ καὶ τὰ πρὶν δεδραμένα
so she-repents and the before done(-things)

ἔγνωκε πράξασ᾽ οὐ καλῶς. ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν
she-knows having-done not well I indeed then

δέσποιναν εἴργουσ᾽ ἀγχόνης κάμνω, φίλαι·
mistress keeping-from noose am-weary friends

ὑμεῖς δὲ βᾶσαι τῶνδε δωμάτων ἔσω
you and having-gone this house inside

θανάτου νιν ἐκλύσασθε· τῶν γὰρ ἠθάδων
from-death her release of-the for accustomed

φίλων νέοι μολόντες εὐπιθέστεροι.
friends new having-come (are)-more-persuasive

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ἐν οἴκοις προσπόλων ἀκούομεν
and indeed in house of-servants we-hear

βοὴν ἐφ᾽ οἷσιν ἦλθες ἀγγέλλουσα σύ.
shout for which you-came announcing you

δείξειν δ᾽ ἔοικεν ἡ τάλαιν᾽ ὅσον στένει
to-show and seems the wretched how-much she-groans

πράξασα δεινά· δωμάτων γὰρ ἐκπερᾷ
having-done terrible(-things) from-house for she-passes-out

φεύγουσα χεῖρας προσπόλων πόθῳ θανεῖν.
fleeing hands of-servants in-longing to-die

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ ἰώ μοί μοι·
oh me me

σπάραγμα κόμας ὀνύχων τε δάι᾽ ἀ-
tearing of-hair of-nails and cruel scratchings

μύγματα θήσομαι.
— *I-will-make*

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ὦ παῖ, τί δράσεις; σῶμα σὸν καταικιεῖ;
O child what will-you-do body your will-you-mutilate

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ αἰαῖ αἰαῖ·
alas alas

ἔρρ' αἰθέριον πλοκάμων ἐμῶν ἄπο,
be-gone to-the-air tresses my from

λεπτόμιτον φάρος.
fine-threaded veil

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ τέκνον, κάλυπτε στέρνα, σύνδησαι πέπλους.
child cover breasts fasten robes

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ τί δέ με δεῖ στέρνα καλύπτειν πέπλοις;
why and me must breasts to-cover with-robes

δῆλα καὶ ἀμφιφανῆ καὶ ἄκρυπτα
clear and manifest and unbidden(-things)

δεδράκαμεν πόσιν.
we-have-done to-husband

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ἀλγεῖς, φόνον ῥάψασα συγγάμῳ σέθεν;
do-you-grieve murder having-stitched against-the-co-wife of-you

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ κατὰ μὲν οὖν στένω δαΐας τόλμας, ἃν ἔρεξ'
in-full indeed then I-lament hostile of-daring which I-did

ἁ κατάρατος ἐγὼ κατάρατος
the accursed I accursed

ἀνθρώποις.
to-men

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ συγγνώσεταί σοι τήνδ' ἁμαρτίαν πόσις.
will-pardon you this error husband

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ τί μοι ξίφος ἐκ χερὸς ἠγρεύσω;
why from-me sword from hand did-you-hunt

ἀπόδος, ὦ φίλ', ἀπόδος, ἵν' ἀνταίαν
give-back O dear give-back that opposing

ἐρείσω πλαγάν· τί με βρόχων εἴργεις;
I-may-plant blow why me from-nooses do-you-keep

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ἀλλ' εἴ σ' ἀφείην μὴ φρονοῦσαν, ὡς θάνοις;
but if you I-should-let-go not being-sane that you-might-die

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ οἴμοι πότμου.
ah-me for-fate

ποῦ μοι πυρὸς φίλα φλόξ;
where for-me of-fire dear flame

ποῦ δ' εἰς πέτρας ἀερθῶ,
where and to rocks am-I-to-be-raised

ἢ κατὰ πόντον ἢ καθ' ὕλαν ὀρέων,
or down-to sea or through wood of-mountains

ἵνα θανοῦσα νερτέροισιν μέλω;
that having-died to-those-below I-may-be-a-care

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ τί ταῦτα μοχθεῖς; συμφοραὶ θεήλατοι
why these(-things) do-you-toil misfortunes god-sent

πᾶσιν βροτοῖσιν ἢ τότ' ἦλθον ἢ τότε.
to-all mortals either then come or then

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ ἔλιπες ἔλιπες, ὦ πάτερ, ἐπακτίαν
you-left you-left O father on-the-shore

ὡσεὶ μονάδ' ἔρημον οὖσαν ἐνάλου κώπας.
as-if lonely deserted being of-sea oar

ὀλεῖ ὀλεῖ με· τᾷδ' οὐκέτ' ἐνοικήσω
he-will-destroy he-will-destroy me in-this no-longer I-shall-dwell

νυμφιδίῳ στέγᾳ.
bridal roof

τίνος ἀγαλμάτων ἱκέτις ὁρμαθῶ,
of-what of-images suppliant am-I-to-rush

ἢ δούλα δούλας γόνασι προσπέσω;
or slave of-slave at-knees am-I-to-fall

Φθιάδος ἐκ γᾶς
of-Phthian from land
κυανόπτερος ὄρνις εἴθ' εἴην,
dark-winged bird would-that I-were
ἢ πευκᾶεν σκάφος, ἃ
or pine-built hull which
διὰ Κυανέας ἐπέρασεν ἀκτὰς
through Dark passed headlands
πρωτόπλοος πλάτα.
first-sailing oar
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ὦ παῖ, τὸ λίαν οὔτ' ἐκεῖν' ἐπήνεσα,
O child the excess neither that I-praised
ὅτ' εἰς γυναῖκα Τρῳάδ' ἐξημάρτανες,
when against woman Trojan you-erred
οὔτ' αὖ τὸ νῦν σου δεῖμ' ὃ δειμαίνεις ἄγαν.
nor again the now your fear which you-fear too-much
οὐχ ὧδε κῆδος σὸν διώσεται πόσις
not so marriage your will-reject husband
φαύλοις γυναικὸς βαρβάρου πεισθεὶς λόγοις.
by-paltry of-woman barbarian persuaded words
οὐ γάρ τί σ' αἰχμάλωτον ἐκ Τροίας ἔχει,
not for at-all you captive from Troy he-has
ἀλλ' ἀνδρὸς ἐσθλοῦ παῖδα σὺν πολλοῖς λαβὼν
but of-man noble child with many having-taken
ἔδνοισι, πόλεώς τ' οὐ μέσως εὐδαίμονος.
bridal-gifts of-city and not moderately prosperous
πατὴρ δέ σ' οὐχ ὧδ' ὡς σὺ δειμαίνεις, τέκνον,
father and you not so as you fear child
προδοὺς ἐάσει δωμάτων τῶνδ' ἐκπεσεῖν.
having-betrayed will-allow from-house this to-be-cast-out

ἀλλ᾽ εἴσιθ᾽ εἴσω μηδὲ φαντάζου δόμων
but go inside nor show-yourself house
πάροιθε τῶνδε, μή τιν᾽ αἰσχύνην λάβῃς
before this lest some shame you-incur
πρόσθεν μελάθρων τῶνδ᾽ ὁρωμένη, τέκνον.
in-front-of halls this being-seen child
ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ὅδ᾽ ἀλλόχρως τις ἔκδημος ξένος
and indeed this of-other-skin someone foreign stranger
σπουδῇ πρὸς ἡμᾶς βημάτων πορεύεται.
with-haste toward us of-steps comes
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ξέναι γυναῖκες, ἦ τάδ᾽ ἔστ᾽ Ἀχιλλέως
foreign women truly these is of-Achilles
παιδὸς μέλαθρα καὶ τυραννικαὶ στέγαι;
of-son halls and royal roofs
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔγνως· ἀτὰρ τίς ὢν σὺ πυνθάνει τάδε;
you-know but who being you ask these(-things)
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Ἀγαμέμνονός τε καὶ Κλυταιμνήστρας τόκος,
of-Agamemnon both and of-Clytemnestra offspring
ὄνομα δ᾽ Ὀρέστης. ἔρχομαι δὲ πρὸς Διὸς
name and Orestes I-go and to of-Zeus
μαντεῖα Δωδωναῖ᾽. ἐπεὶ δ᾽ ἀφικόμην
oracles of-Dodona since and I-came
Φθίαν, δοκεῖ μοι ξυγγενοῦς μαθεῖν πέρι
to-Phthia it-seems-good to-me kin to-learn about
γυναικός, εἰ ζῇ κεὐτυχοῦσα τυγχάνει
woman whether she-lives and-prospering happens
ἡ Σπαρτιᾶτις Ἑρμιόνη· τηλουρὰ γὰρ
the Spartan Hermione distant for
ναίουσ᾽ ἀφ᾽ ἡμῶν πεδί᾽ ὅμως ἐστὶν φίλη.
dwelling from us plains nevertheless she-is dear

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ ὦ ναυτίλοισι χείματος λιμὴν φανεὶς
O to-sailors from-storm harbor having-appeared
Ἀγαμέμνονος παῖ, πρός σε τῶνδε γουνάτων,
of-Agamemnon son by you these knees
οἴκτειρον ἡμᾶς ὧν ἐπισκοπεῖς τύχας,
pity us whose you-look-on fortunes
πράσσοντας οὐκ εὖ. στεμμάτων δ' οὐχ ἥσσονας
faring not well than-garlands and not less
895 σοῖς προστίθημι γόνασιν ὠλένας ἐμάς.
to-your I-put-to knees arms my
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἔα·
ha
τί χρῆμα; μῶν ἐσφάλμεθ' ἢ σαφῶς ὁρῶ
what thing surely-not have-we-erred or clearly do-I-see
δόμων ἄνασσαν τήνδε Μενέλεω κόρην;
of-house queen this of-Menelaus daughter
ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ ἥνπερ μόνην γε Τυνδαρὶς τίκτει γυνὴ
whom-very alone at-least Tyndarid bears woman
Ἑλένη κατ' οἴκους πατρί· μηδὲν ἀγνόει.
Helen in house to-father in-nothing be-ignorant
900 ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ Φοῖβ' ἀκέστορ, πημάτων δοίης λύσιν.
O Phoebus healer of-woes may-you-grant release
τί χρῆμα; πρὸς θεῶν ἢ βροτῶν πάσχεις κακά;
what thing from gods or mortals do-you-suffer ills
ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ τὰ μὲν πρὸς ἡμῶν, τὰ δὲ πρὸς
the(-ones) indeed from us the(-ones) and from
ἀνδρὸς ὅς μ' ἔχει,
husband who me has
τὰ δ' ἐκ θεῶν του· πανταχῇ δ' ὀλώλαμεν.
the(-ones) and from gods some(-one) in-every-way and we-have-perished

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τίς οὖν ἂν εἴη μὴ πεφυκότων γέ πω
what then — could-be not having-been-born at-least yet
παίδων γυναικὶ συμφορὰ πλὴν εἰς λέχος;
children for-a-woman misfortune except to bed
ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ τοῦτ᾽ αὐτὸ καὶ νοσοῦμεν· εὖ μ᾽ ὑπηγάγου.
this itself also we-are-sick-with well me you-led-on
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἄλλην τίν᾽ εὐνὴν ἀντὶ σοῦ στέργει πόσις;
other some bed instead-of you loves husband
ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ τὴν αἰχμάλωτον Ἕκτορος ξυνευνέτιν.
the captive of-Hector bedfellow
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ κακόν γ᾽ ἔλεξας, ἄνδρα δίσσ᾽ ἔχειν λέχη.
an-ill at-least you-said man double to-have beds
ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ τοιαῦτα ταῦτα· κᾆτ᾽ ἔγωγ᾽ ἠμυνάμην.
such(-things) these(-are) and-then I defended(-myself)
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μῶν εἰς γυναῖκ᾽ ἔρραψας οἷα δὴ γυνή;
surely-not against woman you-stitched such-as indeed woman(-does)
ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ φόνον γ᾽ ἐκείνῃ καὶ τέκνῳ νοθαγενεῖ.
murder at-least for-her and for-child bastard
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ κἄκτεινας, ἤ τις συμφορά σ᾽ ἀφείλετο;
and-did-you-kill(-her) or some misfortune you robbed
ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ γέρων γε Πηλεύς, τοὺς κακίονας σέβων.
old at-least Peleus the baser(-ones) revering
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σοὶ δ᾽ ἦν τις ὅστις τοῦδ᾽ ἐκοινώνει φόνου;
to-you and was-there someone who in-this shared murder
ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ πατήρ γ᾽ ἐπ᾽ αὐτὸ τοῦτ᾽ ἀπὸ Σπάρτης μολών.
father at-least for itself this from Sparta having-come
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ κἄπειτα τοῦ γέροντος ἡσσήθη χερί;
and-then by-the old-man was-he-worsted by-hand
ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ αἰδοῖ γε· καί μ᾽ ἔρημον οἴχεται λιπών.
by-reverence at-least and me deserted he-is-gone having-left

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ συνῆκα· ταρβεῖς τοῖς δεδραμένοις πόσιν.
I-understand you-fear for-the things-done husband

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ ἔγνως· ὀλεῖ γάρ μ' ἐνδίκως. τί δεῖ λέγειν;
you-know he-will-destroy for me justly what must to-say

ἀλλ' ἄντομαί σε Δία καλοῦσ' ὁμόγνιον,
but I-beseech you Zeus calling of-kin

πέμψον με χώρας τῆσδ' ὅποι προσωτάτω
send me from-land this where farthest

ἢ πρὸς πατρῷον μέλαθρον· ὡς δοκοῦσί γε
or to ancestral hall since seem at-least

δόμοι τ' ἐλαύνειν φθέγμ' ἔχοντες οἵδε με,
house and to-drive voice having this me

μισεῖ τε γαῖα Φθιάς· εἰ δ' ἥξει πάρος
hates and land Phthian if and will-come before

Φοίβου λιπὼν μαντεῖον εἰς δόμους πόσις,
of-Phoebus having-left oracle to house husband

κτενεῖ μ' ἐπ' αἰσχίστοισιν· ἢ δουλεύσομεν
he-will-kill me for most-shameful(-deeds) or we-shall-be-slaves

νόθοισι λέκτροις ὧν ἐδέσποζον πρὸ τοῦ.
to-bastard beds whom I-ruled before this

πῶς οὖν τάδ', ὡς εἴποι τις, ἐξημάρτανες;
how then these(-things) as might-say someone did-you-err

κακῶν γυναικῶν εἴσοδοί μ' ἀπώλεσαν,
of-bad women visits me destroyed

αἵ μοι λέγουσαι τούσδ' ἐχαύνωσαν λόγους·
who to-me saying these puffed-up words

σὺ τὴν κακίστην αἰχμάλωτον ἐν δόμοις
you the worst captive in house

δούλην ἀνέξει σοὶ λέχους κοινουμένην;
slave will-endure with-you of-bed sharing

μὰ τὴν ἄνασσαν, οὐκ ἂν ἔν γ' ἐμοῖς δόμοις
by the queen not — in at-least my house
βλέπουσ' ἂν αὐγὰς τἄμ' ἐκαρποῦτ' ἂν λέχη.
seeing — light my would-reap — bed
κἀγὼ κλύουσα τούσδε Σειρήνων λόγους
and-I hearing these of-Sirens words
σοφῶν, πανούργων, ποικίλων λαλημάτων,
of-clever of-knavish of-subtle chatterers
ἐξηνεμώθην μωρίᾳ. τί γάρ μ' ἐχρῆν
was-blown-up with-folly why for me (it)-was-needful
πόσιν φυλάσσειν, ᾧ παρῆν ὅσων ἔδει;
husband to-guard to-whom were-at-hand as-much-as was-needful
πολὺς μὲν ὄλβος, δωμάτων δ' ἠνάσσομεν,
great indeed wealth of-house and we-were-mistress
παῖδας δ' ἐγὼ μὲν γνησίους ἔτικτον ἄν,
children and I indeed legitimate would-have-borne —
ἡ δ' ἡμιδούλους τοῖς ἐμοῖς νοθαγενεῖς.
she and half-slaves to-the my bastard
ἀλλ' οὔποτ' οὔποτ', οὐ γὰρ εἰσάπαξ ἐρῶ,
but never never not for once will-I-say
χρὴ τούς γε νοῦν ἔχοντας οἷς ἔστιν γυνή,
must the at-least sense having who have wife
πρὸς τὴν ἐν οἴκοις ἄλοχον εἰσφοιτᾶν ἐᾶν
to the in house wife to-visit to-allow
γυναῖκας· αὗται γὰρ διδάσκαλοι κακῶν·
women these for (are)-teachers of-evils
ἡ μέν τι κερδαίνουσα συμφθείρει λέχος,
one indeed something gaining corrupts-with(-her) bed
ἡ δ' ἀμπλακοῦσα συννοσεῖν αὑτῇ θέλει,
another and having-erred to-share-sickness with-herself wishes

πολλαὶ δὲ μαργότητι· κἀντεῦθεν δόμοι
many and from-lust and-hence houses
νοσοῦσιν ἀνδρῶν. πρὸς τάδ' εὖ φυλάσσετε
are-sick of-men against these(-things) well guard
κλῃθροισι καὶ μοχλοῖσι δωμάτων πύλας·
with-bars and with-bolts of-house gates
ὑγιὲς γὰρ οὐδὲν αἱ θύραθεν εἴσοδοι
sound for nothing the from-outside visits
δρῶσιν γυναικῶν, ἀλλὰ πολλὰ καὶ κακά.
do of-women but many(-things) and bad
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄγαν ἐφῆκας γλῶσσαν εἰς τὸ σύμφυτον.
too-much you-let-loose tongue against the inborn(-sex)
συγγνωστὰ μέν νυν σοὶ τάδ', ἀλλ' ὅμως χρεὼν
pardonable indeed then for-you these(-things) but nevertheless (it-is)-fitting
κοσμεῖν γυναῖκας τὰς γυναικείας νόσους.
to-gloss women the womanish sicknesses
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σοφόν τι χρῆμα τοῦ διδάξαντος βροτοὺς
wise some thing of-the having-taught mortals
λόγους ἀκούειν τῶν ἐναντίων πάρα.
words to-hear the opposite from
ἐγὼ γὰρ εἰδὼς τῶνδε σύγχυσιν δόμων
I for knowing of-this confusion house
ἔριν τε τὴν σὴν καὶ γυναικὸς Ἕκτορος,
strife and the your and of-wife of-Hector
φυλακὰς ἔχων ἔμιμνον, εἴτ' αὐτοῦ μενεῖς
watch keeping I-waited whether there you-will-stay
εἴτ' ἐκφοβηθεῖσ' αἰχμαλωτίδος φόβῳ
or frightened of-captive by-fear
γυναικὸς οἴκων τῶνδ' ἀπηλλάχθαι θέλεις.
woman from-house this to-be-rid you-wish

ἦλθον δὲ σὰς μὲν οὐ σέβων ἐπιστολάς,
I-came and your indeed not revering commands
εἰ δ' ἐνδιδοίης, ὥσπερ ἐνδίδως, λόγον,
if and you-should-give as you-give word
πέμψων σ' ἀπ' οἴκων τῶνδ'. ἐμὴ γὰρ οὖσα πρὶν
to-send you from house this mine for being before
σὺν τῷδε ναίεις ἀνδρὶ σοῦ πατρὸς κάκῃ,
with this you-dwell man of-your father by-baseness
ὃς πρὶν τὰ Τροίας εἰσβαλεῖν ὁρίσματα
who before the of-Troy to-invade borders
γυναῖκ' ἐμοί σε δοὺς ὑπέσχεθ' ὕστερον
wife to-me you having-given promised later
τῷ νῦν σ' ἔχοντι, Τρῳάδ' εἰ πέρσοι πόλιν.
to-the(-man) now you having Trojan if he-sacked city
ἐπεὶ δ' Ἀχιλλέως δεῦρ' ἐνόστησεν γόνος,
when and of-Achilles here returned offspring
σῷ μὲν συνέγνων πατρί, τὸν δ' ἐλισσόμην
your indeed I-pardoned father him and I-begged
γάμους ἀφεῖναι σούς, ἐμὰς λέγων τύχας
marriage to-let-go your my telling fortunes
καὶ τὸν παρόντα δαίμον', ὡς φίλων μὲν ἂν
and the present fortune that from-friends indeed —
γήμαιμ' ἀπ' ἀνδρῶν, ἔκτοθεν δ' οὐ ῥᾳδίως,
I-could-marry from men from-outside but not easily
φεύγων ἀπ' οἴκων ἃς ἐγὼ φεύγω φυγάς.
fleeing from house which I flee exiles
ὁ δ' ἦν ὑβριστὴς εἴς τ' ἐμῆς μητρὸς φόνον
he and was insolent at both my mother's murder
τάς θ' αἱματωπὸς θεὰς ὀνειδίζων ἐμοί.
the and blood-faced goddesses reproaching me

κἀγὼ ταπεινὸς ὢν τύχαις ταῖς οἴκοθεν
and-I humbled being by-fortunes the from-home
ἤλγουν μὲν ἤλγουν, ξυμφοραὰς δ' ἠνειχόμην,
grieved indeed grieved misfortunes and bore
σῶν δὲ στερηθεὶς ᾠχόμην ἄκων γάμων.
of-your and bereft I-went unwilling marriage
νῦν οὖν ἐπειδὴ περιπετεῖς ἔχεις τύχας
now then since reversed you-have fortunes
καὶ ξυμφορὰν τήνδ' εἰσπεσοῦσ' ἀμηχανεῖς,
and misfortune this having-fallen-into are-helpless
ἄξω σ' ἀπ' οἴκων καὶ πατρὸς δώσω χερί.
I-will-lead you from house and of-father will-give into-hand
τὸ συγγενὲς γὰρ δεινόν, ἔν τε τοῖς κακοῖς
the kinship for (is)-strong in and the ills
οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδὲν κρεῖσσον οἰκείου φίλου.
not is nothing better than-kindred friend
ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ νυμφευμάτων μὲν τῶν ἐμῶν πατὴρ ἐμὸς
of-marriage indeed of-the my father my
μέριμναν ἕξει, κοὐκ ἐμὸν κρίνειν τόδε.
care will-have and-not mine to-decide this
ἀλλ' ὡς τάχιστα τῶνδέ μ' ἔκπεμψον δόμων,
but as quickly-as-possible from-this me send-out house
μὴ φθῇ με προσβὰς δῶμα καὶ μολὼν πόσις,
lest first me having-reached house and having-come husband
ἢ παιδὸς οἴκους μ' ἐξερημοῦσαν μαθὼν
or of-son house me deserting having-learned
Πηλεὺς μετέλθῃ πωλικοῖς διώγμασιν.
Peleus pursue with-horse-drawn pursuits

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ θάρσει γέροντος χεῖρα· τὸν δ' Ἀχιλλέως
take-heart of-old-man hand him and of-Achilles
μηδὲν φοβηθῇς παῖδ', ὅσ' εἰς ἔμ' ὕβρισε.
not-at-all fear son as-much-as against me he-outraged
τοία γὰρ αὐτῷ μηχανὴ πεπλεγμένη
such for for-him device woven
βρόχοις ἀκινήτοισιν ἕστηκεν φόνου
with-nooses immovable stands of-murder
πρὸς τῆσδε χειρός· ἣν πάρος μὲν οὐκ ἐρῶ,
by this hand which before indeed not I-will-tell
τελουμένων δὲ Δελφὶς εἴσεται πέτρα.
being-accomplished but Delphian will-know rock
ὁ μητροφόντης δ', ἢν δορυξένων ἐμῶν
the mother-killer and if of-spear-friends my
μείνωσιν ὅρκοι Πυθικὴν ἀνὰ χθόνα,
remain oaths Pythian throughout land
δείξει γαμεῖν σε μηδέν', ἣν ἐχρῆν ἐμέ.
will-show to-marry you no-one whom (it)-was-needful me
πικρῶς δὲ πατρὸς φόνιον αἰτήσει δίκην
bitterly and of-father murderous he-will-demand penalty
ἄνακτα Φοῖβον· οὐδέ νιν μετάστασις
lord Phoebus nor him change
γνώμης ὀνήσει θεῷ διδόντα νῦν δίκας,
of-mind will-help to-god paying now penalty
ἀλλ' ἔκ τ' ἐκείνου διαβολαῖς τε ταῖς ἐμαῖς
but from both him by-slanders and the my
κακῶς ὀλεῖται· γνώσεται δ' ἔχθραν ἐμήν.
badly he-will-perish he-will-know and enmity my
ἐχθρῶν γὰρ ἀνδρῶν μοῖραν εἰς ἀναστροφὴν
of-hostile for men lot to overturning

δαίμων δίδωσι κοὐκ ἐᾷ φρονεῖν μέγα.
god gives and-not allows to-think great

X · THE WALLS OF TROY

The chorus asks why Apollo and Poseidon, who built the walls of Troy, gave up their work to ruin. Many Trojan horses were yoked in vain and many men died by the Simois. Agamemnon was killed by his wife, and she in turn by her son at Apollo's command. Grief came to Greece as well as to Troy, and wives left their homes for other men.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ Φοῖβε πυργώσας
O Phoebus having-towered
τὸν ἐν Ἰλίῳ εὐτειχῆ πάγον,
the in Ilium well-walled hill
καὶ πόντιε κυανέαις
and sea(-lord) with-dark
ἵπποις διφρεύων ἅλιον πέλαγος,
horses driving-over sea main
τίνος εἵνεκ' ἄτιμον ὀργά-
for-what for-the-sake dishonored craftsman's
ναν χέρα τεκτοσύνας Ἐ-
— hand of-building to-En-
νυαλίῳ δοριμήστορι προσθέντες τάλαιναν
-yalius spear-lord having-given wretched
τάλαιναν μεθεῖτε Τροίαν;
wretched did-you-abandon Troy
πλείστους δ' ἐπ' ἀκταῖσιν
most and on shores
Σιμοεντίσιν εὐίππους ὄχους
Simoeian well-horsed chariots

ἐζεύξατε καὶ φονίους
you-yoked and murderous
ἀνδρῶν ἁμίλλας ἔθετ' ἀστεφάνους·
of-men contests you-set crownless
ἀπὸ δὲ φθίμενοι βεβᾶσιν
off and perished have-gone
Ἰλιάδαι βασιλῆες,
Trojan kings
οὐδ' ἔτι πῦρ ἐπιβώμιον ἐν Τροίᾳ θεοῖσιν
nor still fire on-altar in Troy for-gods
λέλαμπεν καπνῷ θυώδει.
has-shone with-smoke fragrant
βέβακε δ' Ἀτρείδας ἀλόχου παλάμαις·
has-gone and the-son-of-Atreus of-wife by-hands
αὐτά τ' ἐναλλάξασα φόνον θανάτῳ
herself and having-exchanged murder for-death
πρὸς τέκνων ἀπηύρα·
from children she-took(-it)
θεοῦ θεοῦ νιν κέλευσμ' ἐπεστράφη
of-god of-god her command turned-upon(-her)
μαντόσυνον, ὅτε νιν Ἀργόθεν πορευθεὶς
oracular when her from-Argos having-come
Ἀγαμεμνόνιος κέλωρ
Agamemnon's son
ἀδύτων ἐπιβὰς κτάνεν ματρὸς φονεύς·
of-shrine having-stepped-from killed of-mother murderer
ὦ δαῖμον, ὦ Φοῖβε, πῶς πείθομαι;
O god O Phoebus how do-I-believe(-it)
πολλαὶ δ' ἀν' Ἑλλάνων ἀγόρους στοναχὰς
many and throughout of-Greeks assemblies groans

μέλποντο δυστάνων τεκέων, ἄλοχοι δ'
sang of-wretched children wives and
ἐξέλειπον οἴκους
left house
πρὸς ἄλλον εὐνάτορ'. οὐχὶ σοὶ μόνᾳ
for other bedfellow not for-you alone
δύσφρονες ἐπέπεσον, οὐ φίλοισι, λῦπαι·
ill-minded fell not for-friends griefs
νόσον Ἑλλὰς ἔτλα, νόσον·
sickness Hellas endured sickness
διέβα δὲ Φρυγῶν πρὸς εὐκάρπους γύας
passed and of-Phrygians to fruitful fields
σκηπτὸς σταλάσσων τὸν Ἅιδα φόνον.
thunderbolt dripping the of-Hades murder

XI · THE DEATH AT DELPHI

Peleus learns that Hermione has fled with Orestes, who is plotting Neoptolemus' death. A messenger reports that Neoptolemus has been killed at Delphi. Orestes spread word that Neoptolemus had come to rob the temple, and as Neoptolemus prayed at the altar the Delphians attacked him with swords. He held them off in armor, but fell to a blow from a Delphian, and his body was thrown out of the temple. Apollo, who should judge, nursed an old grudge like a base man.

ΠΗΛΕΥΣ Φθιώτιδες γυναῖκες, ἱστοροῦντι μοι
Phthian women asking to-me
σημήνατ'· ἠσθόμην γὰρ οὐ σαφῆ λόγον
tell I-heard for not clear report
ὡς δώματ' ἐκλιποῦσα Μενέλεω κόρη
that house having-left of-Menelaus daughter

φρούδη τάδ'· ἥκω δ' ἐκμαθεῖν σπουδὴν ἔχων
gone (is)-this I-come and to-learn haste having
εἰ ταῦτ' ἀληθῆ· τῶν γὰρ ἐκδήμων φίλων
whether these(-things) (are)-true of-the for absent friends
δεῖ τοὺς κατ' οἶκον ὄντας ἐκπονεῖν τύχας.
must the(-ones) at home being to-labor-at fortunes
ΧΟΡΟΣ Πηλεῦ, σαφῶς ἤκουσας· οὐδ' ἐμοὶ καλὸν
Peleus clearly you-heard nor for-me (is-it)-fine
κρύπτειν ἐν οἷσπερ οὖσα τυγχάνω κακοῖς.
to-hide in which-very being I-happen ills
βασίλεια γὰρ τῶνδ' οἴχεται φυγὰς δόμων.
queen for from-this is-gone exile house
ΠΗΛΕΥΣ τίνος φόβου τυχοῦσα; διαπέραινέ μοι.
what fear having-met-with go-through for-me
ΧΟΡΟΣ πόσιν τρέμουσα, μὴ δόμων νιν ἐκβάλῃ.
husband fearing lest from-house her he-cast-out
ΠΗΛΕΥΣ μῶν ἀντὶ παιδὸς θανασίμων βουλευμάτων;
surely-not for child murderous of-plots
ΧΟΡΟΣ ναί, καὶ γυναικὸς αἰχμαλωτίδος φόβῳ.
yes and of-woman captive in-fear
ΠΗΛΕΥΣ σὺν πατρὶ δ' οἴκους ἢ τίνος λείπει μέτα;
with father and house or whom does-she-leave with
ΧΟΡΟΣ Ἀγαμέμνονός νιν παῖς βέβηκ' ἄγων χθονός.
of-Agamemnon her son has-gone leading from-land
ΠΗΛΕΥΣ ποίαν περαίνων ἐλπίδ'; ἦ γῆμαι θέλων;
what accomplishing hope — to-marry wishing
ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ σοῦ γε παιδὸς παιδὶ πορσύνων μόρον.
and of-you at-least of-son for-son contriving doom
ΠΗΛΕΥΣ κρυπτὸς καταστὰς ἢ κατ' ὄμμ' ἐλθὼν μάχῃ;
hidden standing or face-to face coming in-battle

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἁγνοῖς ἐν ἱεροῖς Λοξίου Δελφῶν μέτα.
holy in shrines of-Loxias Delphians with

ΠΗΛΕΥΣ οἴμοι· τόδ' ἤδη δεινόν. οὐχ ὅσον τάχος
ah-me this already (is)-terrible not as-much-as speed

χωρήσεταί τις Πυθικὴν πρὸς ἑστίαν
will-go someone Pythian to hearth

καὶ τἀνθάδ' ὄντα τοῖς ἐκεῖ λέξει φίλοις
and the(-things)-here being to-the there will-tell friends

πρὶν παῖδ' Ἀχιλλέως κατθανεῖν ἐχθρῶν ὕπο;
before son of-Achilles to-die enemies by

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ὤμοι μοι·
ah-me me

οἵας ὁ τλήμων ἀγγελῶν ἥκω τύχας
what the wretched to-announce I-come fortunes

σοί τ', ὦ γεραιέ, καὶ φίλοισι δεσπότου.
to-you and O old-man and to-friends of-master

ΠΗΛΕΥΣ αἰαῖ· πρόμαντις θυμὸς ὥς τι προσδοκᾷ.
alas foreboding heart how something expects

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οὐχ ἔστι σοι παῖς παιδός, ὡς μάθῃς, γέρον
not is to-you son of-son that you-may-learn old-man

Πηλεῦ· τοιάσδε φασγάνων πληγὰς ἔχει
Peleus such of-swords blows he-has

Δελφῶν ὑπ' ἀνδρῶν καὶ Μυκηναίου ξένου.
of-Delphians by men and of-Mycenaean stranger

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἆ ἆ, τί δράσεις, ὦ γεραιέ; μὴ πέσῃς·
ah ah what will-you-do O old-man not fall

ἔπαιρε σαυτόν. ΠΗΛΕΥΣ οὐδέν εἰμ'· ἀπωλόμην.
lift yourself nothing I-am I-am-lost

φρούδη μὲν αὐδή, φροῦδα δ' ἄρθρα μου κάτω.
gone indeed voice gone and joints my below

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἄκουσον, εἰ καὶ σοῖς φίλοις ἀμυναθεῖν
hear if even your friends to-help
χρῄζεις, τὸ πραχθέν, σὸν κατορθώσας δέμας.
you-want the deed your having-set-upright body
ΠΗΛΕΥΣ ὦ μοῖρα, γήρως ἐσχάτοις πρὸς τέρμασιν
O fate of-old-age at-the-last at limits
οἷα με τὸν δύστηνον ἀμφιβᾶσ' ἔχεις.
what me the wretched having-encompassed you-hold
πῶς δ' οἴχεταί μοι παῖς μόνου παιδὸς μόνος;
how and is-gone for-me son of-only son only
σήμαιν'· ἀκοῦσαι δ' οὐκ ἀκούσθ' ὅμως θέλω.
tell to-hear and not to-be-heard(-things) nevertheless I-wish
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἐπεὶ τὸ κλεινὸν ἤλθομεν Φοίβου πέδον,
when the famous we-came of-Phoebus plain
τρεῖς μὲν φαεννὰς ἡλίου διεξόδους
three indeed bright of-sun courses
θέᾳ διδόντες ὄμματ' ἐξεπίμπλαμεν.
to-sightseeing giving eyes we-were-filling
καὶ τοῦθ' ὕποπτον ἦν ἄρ'· εἰς δὲ συστάσεις
and this suspicious was then into and knots
κύκλους τ' ἐχώρει λαὸς οἰκήτωρ θεοῦ.
circles and went people dweller of-the-god
Ἀγαμέμνονος δὲ παῖς διαστείχων πόλιν
of-Agamemnon and son going-through city
εἰς οὖς ἑκάστῳ δυσμενεῖς ηὔδα λόγους·
into ear to-each hostile spoke words
ὁρᾶτε τοῦτον, ὃς διαστείχει θεοῦ
see this-man who goes-through of-god
χρυσοῦ γέμοντα γύαλα, θησαυροὺς βροτῶν,
with-gold full hollows treasures of-mortals

τὸ δεύτερον παρόντ᾽ ἐφ᾽ οἷσι καὶ πάρος
the second-time present for which-things also before
δεῦρ᾽ ἦλθε, Φοίβου ναὸν ἐκπέρσαι θέλων;
here he-came of-Phoebus temple to-sack wishing
κἀκ τοῦδ᾽ ἐχώρει ῥόθιον ἐν πόλει κακόν,
and-from this went surge in city evil
ἀρχαί τ᾽ ἐπληροῦντ᾽ εἴς τε βουλευτήρια
offices and were-filled into and council-chambers
ἰδίᾳ θ᾽ ὅσοι θεοῦ χρημάτων ἐφέστασαν
privately and as-many-as of-god of-treasures were-set-over
φρουρὰν ἐτάξαντ᾽ ἐν περιστύλοις δόμοις.
guard posted in colonnaded house
ἡμεῖς δὲ μῆλα, φυλλάδος Παρνασίας
we and sheep of-foliage Parnassian
παιδεύματ᾽, οὐδὲν τῶνδέ πω πεπυσμένοι,
nurslings nothing of-these yet having-learned
λαβόντες ᾖμεν ἐσχάραις τ᾽ ἐφέσταμεν
having-taken went at-hearths and stood
σὺν προξένοισι μάντεσίν τε Πυθικοῖς.
with proxenoi seers and Pythian
καί τις τόδ᾽ εἶπεν· ὦ νεανία, τί σοι
and someone this said O young-man what for-you
θεῷ κατευξώμεσθα; τίνος ἥκεις χάριν;
to-the-god shall-we-pray for-what you-come for-the-sake
ὁ δ᾽ εἶπε· Φοίβῳ τῆς πάροιθ᾽ ἁμαρτίας
he and said to-Phoebus for-the former error
δίκας παρασχεῖν βουλόμεσθ᾽· ᾔτησα γὰρ
penalty to-pay we-wish I-demanded for
πατρός ποτ᾽ αὐτὸν αἵματος δοῦναι δίκην.
of-father once him for-blood to-give penalty

κἀνταῦθ' Ὀρέστου μῦθος ἰσχύων μέγα
and-there of-Orestes tale prevailing greatly
ἐφαίνεθ', ὡς ψεύδοιτο δεσπότης ἐμὸς
appeared that was-lying master my
ἥκων ἐπ' αἰσχροῖς. ἔρχεται δ' ἀνακτόρων
come for shameful(-things) he-goes and of-shrine
κρηπῖδος ἐντός, ὡς πάρος χρηστηρίων
platform within that before oracles
εὔξαιτο Φοίβῳ, τυγχάνει δ' ἐν ἐμπύροις·
he-might-pray to-Phoebus he-happens and at burnt-offerings
τῷ δὲ ξιφήρης ἆρ' ὑφειστήκει λόχος
for-him and sword-armed then had-been-set-in-wait ambush
δάφνῃ σκιασθείς· ὧν Κλυταιμνήστρας τόκος
by-laurel shaded of-whom of-Clytemnestra offspring
εἷς ἦν ἁπάντων τῶνδε μηχανορράφος.
one was of-all these contriver
χὠ μὲν κατ' ὄμμα στὰς προσεύχεται θεῷ·
and-he indeed in sight standing prays to-the-god
οἱ δ' ὀξυθήκτοις φασγάνοις ὡπλισμένοι
they and with-sharp-whetted swords armed
κεντοῦσ' ἀτευχῆ παῖδ' Ἀχιλλέως λάθρᾳ.
stab unarmed son of-Achilles secretly
χωρεῖ δὲ πρύμναν· οὐ γὰρ εἰς καιρὸν τυπεὶς
he-goes and back not for in vital-spot struck
ἐτύγχαν', ἐξέλκει δέ, καὶ παραστάδος
he-happened draws-out and and of-doorpost
κρεμαστὰ τεύχη πασσάλων καθαρπάσας
hanging armor from-pegs having-snatched-down
ἔστη 'πὶ βωμοῦ γοργὸς ὁπλίτης ἰδεῖν,
stood on altar grim hoplite to-see

βοᾷ δὲ Δελφῶν παῖδας ἱστορῶν τάδε·
shouts and of-Delphians sons asking these(-things)
τίνος μ' ἕκατι κτείνετ' εὐσεβεῖς ὁδοὺς
for-what me for-the-sake do-you-kill on-pious ways
ἥκοντα; ποίας ὄλλυμαι πρὸς αἰτίας;
having-come what do-I-perish for causes
τῶν δ' οὐδὲν οὐδεὶς μυρίων ὄντων πέλας
of-them and nothing no-one countless being near
ἐφθέγξατ', ἀλλ' ἔβαλλον ἐκ χειρῶν πέτροις.
uttered but they-pelted from hands with-stones
πυκνῇ δὲ νιφάδι πάντοθεν σποδούμενος
thick and with-snowstorm from-every-side pummeled
προὔτεινε τεύχη κἀφυλάσσετ' ἐμβολὰς
he-held-out armor and-guarded-against onsets
ἐκεῖσε κἀκεῖσ' ἀσπίδ' ἐκτείνων χερί.
here and-there shield stretching with-hand
ἀλλ' οὐδὲν ἦνεν· ἀλλὰ πόλλ' ὁμοῦ βέλη,
but nothing he-achieved but many together shafts
οἰστοί, μεσάγκυλ' ἔκλυτοί τ' ἀμφώβολοι,
arrows thonged-javelins unsheathed and double-pointed
σφαγῆς ἐχώρουν βουπόροι ποδῶν πάρος·
of-slaughter went ox-piercing feet before
δεινὰς δ' ἂν εἶδες πυρρίχας φρουρουμένου
terrible and — you-would-have-seen war-dances guarding-against
βέλεμνα παιδός. ὡς δέ νιν περισταδὸν
missiles of-the-boy when and him standing-around
κύκλῳ κατεῖχον οὐ διδόντες ἀμπνοάς,
in-circle they-held-fast not giving breathing-spaces
βωμοῦ κενώσας δεξίμηλον ἐσχάραν,
of-altar having-emptied sheep-receiving hearth

τὸ Τρωικὸν πήδημα πηδήσας ποδοῖν
the Trojan leap having-leapt with-two-feet
χωρεῖ πρὸς αὐτούς· οἱ δ' ὅπως πελειάδες
he-goes at them they and like doves
ἱέρακ' ἰδοῦσαι πρὸς φυγὴν ἐνώτισαν.
hawk having-seen to flight turned-their-backs
πολλοὶ δ' ἔπιπτον μιγάδες ἔκ τε τραυμάτων
many and fell mingled from both wounds
αὐτοί θ' ὑφ' αὑτῶν στενοπόρους κατ' ἐξόδους,
themselves and by themselves narrow-passaged in exits
κραυγὴ δ' ἐν εὐφήμοισι δύσφημος δόμοις
cry and in well-omened ill-omened house
πέτραισιν ἀντέκλαγξ'· ἐν εὐδίᾳ δέ πως
from-rocks rang-back in calm and somehow
ἔστη φαεννοῖς δεσπότης στίλβων ὅπλοις,
stood in-bright master gleaming arms
πρὶν δή τις ἀδύτων ἐκ μέσων ἐφθέγξατο
until indeed someone of-shrine from midst uttered
δεινόν τε καὶ φρικῶδες, ὦρσε δὲ στρατὸν
terrible both and shuddering roused and army
στρέψας πρὸς ἀλκήν. ἔνθ' Ἀχιλλέως πίτνει
having-turned to battle there of-Achilles falls
παῖς ὀξυθήκτῳ πλευρὰ φασγάνῳ τυπεὶς
son with-sharp-whetted in-side sword struck
Δελφοῦ πρὸς ἀνδρός, ὅσπερ αὐτὸν ὤλεσε
of-Delphian by man who-very him destroyed
πολλῶν μετ' ἄλλων· ὡς δὲ πρὸς γαῖαν πίτνει,
many with others when and to earth he-falls
τίς οὐ σίδηρον προσφέρει, τίς οὐ πέτρον,
who not iron brings who not stone

βάλλων ἀράσσων; πᾶν δ' ἀνάλωται δέμας
pelting battering all and is-destroyed body
τὸ καλλίμορφον τραυμάτων ὑπ' ἀγρίων.
the beautiful wounds by savage
νεκρὸν δὲ δή νιν κείμενον βωμοῦ πέλας
corpse and indeed him lying altar near
ἐξέβαλον ἐκτὸς θυοδόκων ἀνακτόρων.
they-cast-out out-of incense-receiving shrine
ἡμεῖς δ' ἀναρπάσαντες ὡς τάχος χεροῖν
we and having-snatched-up with speed with-two-hands
κομίζομέν νιν σοὶ κατοιμῶξαι γόοις
bring him to-you to-lament with-wailings
κλαῦσαί τε, πρέσβυ, γῆς τε κοσμῆσαι τάφῳ.
to-weep and old-man of-earth and to-honor with-tomb
τοιαῦθ' ὁ τοῖς ἄλλοισι θεσπίζων ἄναξ,
such the to-the others prophesying lord
ὁ τῶν δικαίων πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις κριτής,
the of-the just to-all men judge
δίκας διδόντα παῖδ' ἔδρασ' Ἀχιλλέως.
penalty paying son did of-Achilles
ἐμνημόνευσε δ' ὥσπερ ἄνθρωπος κακὸς
he-remembered and like man bad
παλαιὰ νείκη· πῶς ἂν οὖν εἴη σοφός;
old quarrels how — then could-he-be wise

The body of Neoptolemus is carried in from Delphi. Peleus laments him and his own fate: Phoebus has robbed him of two children, Achilles and now Achilles' son, and no one of his line is left. He curses Hermione's marriage, which brought on this, and Apollo who killed him. He flings his scepter to the ground and tells his wife Thetis that she will see him fall to the earth, utterly ruined.

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ὅδ' ἄναξ ἤδη φοράδην
and indeed this lord already borne-aloft
Δελφίδος ἐκ γῆς δῶμα πελάζει.
Delphian from land to-house draws-near
τλήμων ὁ παθών, τλήμων δέ, γέρον,
wretched the having-suffered wretched and old-man
καὶ σύ· δέχει γὰρ τὸν Ἀχίλλειον
also you you-receive for the Achillean
σκύμνον ἐς οἴκους, οὐχ ὡς σὺ θέλεις·
whelp into house not as you wish
αὐτός τε κακοῖς πήμασι κύρσας
yourself and with-evil woes having-met
εἰς ἓν μοίρας συνέκυρσας.
into one of-fate you-have-met
ΠΗΛΕΥΣ ὤμοι ἐγώ, κακὸν οἷον ὁρῶ τόδε
ah-me I evil what I-see this
καὶ δέχομαι χερὶ δώμασί τ' ἀμοῖς.
and receive with-hand to-house and my
ἰώ μοί μοι, αἰαῖ,
oh me me alas
ὦ πόλι Θεσσαλία, διολώλαμεν,
O city Thessalian we-have-perished

οἰχόμεθ'· οὐκέτι μοι γένος, οὐκέτι
we-are-gone no-longer to-me race no-longer
λείπεται οἴκοις.
is-left in-house
ὦ σχέτλιος παθέων ἐγώ· εἰς τίνα
O wretched in-sufferings I to whom
δὴ φίλον αὐγὰς βάλλων τέρψομαι;
indeed dear rays casting shall-I-delight
ὦ φίλιον στόμα καὶ γένυ καὶ χέρες,
O dear mouth and chin and hands
εἴθε σ' ὑπ' Ἰλίῳ ἤναρε δαίμων
would-that you under Ilium had-slain god
Σιμοεντίδα παρ' ἀκτάν
Simoeian beside shore
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὗτός τ' ἂν ὡς ἐκ τῶνδ' ἐτιμᾶτ' ἄν, γέρον,
this-one and — as from this would-have-been-honored — old-man
θανών, τὸ σὸν δ' ἦν ὧδ' ἂν εὐτυχέστερον.
having-died the your and would-have-been so — more-fortunate
ΠΗΛΕΥΣ ὦ γάμος, ὦ γάμος, ὃς τάδε δώματα
O marriage O marriage which this house
καὶ πόλιν ὤλεσας ὤλεσας ἀμάν,
and city destroyed destroyed my
† αἰαῖ αἰαῖ. ὦ παῖ,
(corrupt) alas alas O child
μήποτε σῶν λεχέων τὸ δυσώνυμον
never of-your bed the ill-named
ὄφελ', ἐμὸν γένος, εἰς τέκνα καὶ δόμον
would-that my offspring onto children and house
ἀμφιβαλέσθαι
to-throw-about

Ἑρμιόνας Ἅιδαν ἐπὶ σοί, τέκνον, †
of-Hermione Hades for you child (corrupt)
ἀλλὰ κεραυνῷ πρόσθεν ὀλέσθαι,
but by-thunderbolt before to-perish
μηδ' ἐπὶ τοξοσύνᾳ φονίῳ πατρὸς
nor for archery murderous of-father
† αἷμα τὸ διογενές ποτε Φοῖβον
(corrupt) blood the Zeus-born ever Phoebus
βροτὸς εἰς θεὸν ἀνάψαι. †
mortal to god to-fasten (corrupt)
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὀτοτοῖ ὀτοτοῖ·
ototoi ototoi
θανόντα δεσπόταν γόοις
dead master with-wailings
νόμῳ τῷ νερτέρων κατάρξω.
in-custom the of-the-dead I-will-begin
ΠΗΛΕΥΣ ὀτοτοῖ ὀτοτοῖ·
ototoi ototoi
διάδοχα δ', ὦ τάλας ἐγώ,
in-turn and O wretched I
γέρων καὶ δυστυχὴς δακρύω.
old and unfortunate I-weep
ΧΟΡΟΣ θεοῦ γὰρ αἶσα, θεὸς ἔκρανε συμφοράν.
of-god for (is-the)-lot god accomplished misfortune
ΠΗΛΕΥΣ ὦ φίλος, ἔλειπες ἐν δόμῳ μ' ἔρημον,
O dear you-left in house me lonely
γέροντ' ἄπαιδα νοσφίσας.
old childless having-bereft
ΧΟΡΟΣ θανεῖν θανεῖν σε, πρέσβυ, χρὴν πάρος τέκνων.
to-die to-die you old-man ought before children

ΠΗΛΕΥΣ οὐ σπαράξομαι κόμαν,
not will-I-tear hair

οὐκ ἐπιθήσομαι δ' ἐμῷ
not will-I-lay and on-my

κάρᾳ κτύπημα χειρὸς ὀλοόν; ὦ πόλις,
head blow of-hand deadly O city

διπλῶν τέκνων μ' ἐστέρησε Φοῖβος.
of-two children me has-bereft Phoebus

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ κακὰ παθὼν ἰδών τε δυστυχὴς γέρων,
O evils having-suffered having-seen and unfortunate old-man

τίν' αἰῶν' εἰς τὸ λοιπὸν ἕξεις;
what life to the future will-you-have

ΠΗΛΕΥΣ ἄτεκνος, ἔρημος, οὐκ ἔχων πέρας κακῶν
childless lonely not having end of-ills

διαντλήσω πόνους ἐς Ἅιδαν.
I-will-drain-to-the-dregs toils to Hades

ΧΟΡΟΣ μάτην δέ σ' ἐν γάμοισιν ὤλβισαν θεοί.
in-vain and you at marriage blessed gods

ΠΗΛΕΥΣ ἀμπτάμενα φροῦδα τἀμὰ πάντα κεῖται
having-flown-away gone my all lie

κόμπων μεταρσίων πρόσω.
of-boasts lofty far-from

ΧΟΡΟΣ μόνος μόνοισιν ἐν δόμοις ἀναστρέφει.
alone lonely in house you-turn-about

ΠΗΛΕΥΣ οὐκέτ' ἔστι μοι πόλις,
no-longer is to-me city

σκῆπτρά τάδ' ἐρρέτω 'πὶ γᾶν,
scepter this let-it-go to earth

σύ τ', ὦ κατ' ἄντρα νύχια Νηρέως κόρη,
you and O in caves nightly of-Nereus daughter

πανώλεθρον γᾷ πίτνοντά μ᾽ ὄψει.
all-ruined to-earth falling me you-will-see

XIII · THETIS

Thetis appears and consoles Peleus. Neoptolemus is to be buried at Delphi as a reproach to the Delphians. Andromache must go to Molossia and marry Helenus, and her son will found a line of kings. Peleus is to become a god and live with her in the house of Nereus, and Achilles dwells on the White Isle. Peleus obeys, and the chorus closes the play.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ ἰώ·
oh oh
τί κεκίνηται; τίνος αἰσθάνομαι
what has-been-stirred what do-I-perceive
θείου; κοῦραι, λεύσσετ᾽ ἀθρήσατε·
divine girls look gaze
δαίμων ὅδε τις λευκὴν αἰθέρα
god this some white air
πορθμευόμενος τῶν ἱπποβότων
ferried of-the horse-grazing
Φθίας πεδίων ἐπιβαίνει. 1230
of-Phthia plains sets-foot-on
ΘΕΤΙΣ Πηλεῦ, χάριν σῶν τῶν πάρος νυμφευμάτων
Peleus for-the-sake-of your of-the former nuptials
ἥκω Θέτις λιποῦσα Νηρέως δόμους.
I-come Thetis having-left of-Nereus house
καὶ πρῶτα μέν σοι τοῖς παρεστῶσιν κακοῖς
and first indeed to-you at-the present ills
μηδέν τι λίαν δυσφορεῖν παρῄνεσα·
not at-all too-much to-be-distressed I-advise

κἀγὼ γάρ, ἣν ἄκλαυστ᾽ ἐχρῆν τίκτειν τέκνα,
and-I for whom not-to-be-wept-for (it)-was-fitting to-bear children
ἀπώλεσ᾽ ἐκ σοῦ παῖδα τὸν ταχὺν πόδας
lost from you son the swift in-feet
Ἀχιλλέα τεκοῦσα πρῶτον Ἑλλάδος.
Achilles having-borne first of-Hellas
ὧν δ᾽ εἵνεκ᾽ ἦλθον σημανῶ, σὺ δ᾽ ἐνδέχου.
of-which and for-the-sake I-came I-will-tell you and receive(-it)
τὸν μὲν θανόντα τόνδ᾽ Ἀχιλλέως γόνον
the indeed dead this of-Achilles offspring
θάψον πορεύσας Πυθικὴν πρὸς ἑσχάραν,
bury having-conveyed Pythian to hearth
Δελφοῖς ὄνειδος, ὡς ἀπαγγέλλῃ τάφος
to-Delphians reproach that may-announce tomb
φόνον βίαιον τῆς Ὀρεστείας χερός·
murder violent of-the Orestean hand
γυναῖκα δ᾽ αἰχμάλωτον, Ἀνδρομάχην λέγω,
wife and captive Andromache I-mean
Μολοσσίαν γῆν χρὴ κατοικῆσαι, γέρον,
Molossian land must to-settle old-man
Ἑλένῳ συναλλαχθεῖσαν εὐναίοις γάμοις,
to-Helenus joined in-wedded marriage
καὶ παῖδα τόνδε τῶν ἀπ᾽ Αἰακοῦ μόνον
and child this of-the(-ones) from Aeacus alone
λελειμμένον δή· βασιλέα δ᾽ ἐκ τοῦδε χρὴ
left indeed king and from this-one must
ἄλλον δι᾽ ἄλλου διαπερᾶν Μολοσσίας
one after another to-pass of-Molossia
εὐδαιμονοῦντας· οὐ γὰρ ὧδ᾽ ἀνάστατον
prospering not for so overthrown

γένος γενέσθαι δεῖ τὸ σὸν κἀμόν, γέρον,
race to-become must the your and-mine old-man
Τροίας τε· καὶ γὰρ θεοῖσι κἀκείνης μέλει,
of-Troy and also for to-gods even-of-that is-a-care
καίπερ πεσούσης Παλλάδος προθυμίᾳ.
though having-fallen of-Pallas by-eagerness
σὲ δ', ὡς ἂν εἰδῇς τῆς ἐμῆς εὐνῆς χάριν,
you and that — you-may-know of-the my bed favor
κακῶν ἀπαλλάξασα τῶν βροτησίων
from-ills having-freed of-the mortal
ἀθάνατον ἄφθιτόν τε ποιήσω θεόν.
immortal imperishable and I-will-make god
κἄπειτα Νηρέως ἐν δόμοις ἐμοῦ μέτα
and-then of-Nereus in house me with
τὸ λοιπὸν ἤδη θεὸς συνοικήσεις θεᾷ·
the future already god you-will-dwell-with goddess
ἔνθεν κομίζων ξηρὸν ἐκ πόντου πόδα
thence bringing dry from sea foot
τὸν φίλτατον σοὶ παῖδ' ἐμοί τ' Ἀχιλλέα
the dearest to-you son to-me and Achilles
ὄψει δόμους ναίοντα νησιωτικοὺς
you-will-see house dwelling-in island
Λευκὴν κατ' ἀκτὴν ἐντὸς Εὐξείνου πόρου.
White on shore within Euxine of-strait
ἀλλ' ἔρπε Δελφῶν εἰς θεόδμητον πόλιν
but go of-Delphians to god-built city
νεκρὸν κομίζων τόνδε, καὶ κρύψας χθονὶ
corpse bringing this and having-hidden in-earth
ἐλθὼν παλαιᾶς χοιράδος κοῖλον μυχὸν
having-gone of-ancient of-reef hollow recess

Σηπιάδος ἵζου· μίμνε δ', ἔστ' ἂν ἐξ ἁλὸς
of-Sepias sit stay and until — from sea
λαβοῦσα πεντήκοντα Νηρῄδων χορὸν
having-taken fifty of-Nereids chorus
ἔλθω κομιστήν σου· τὸ γὰρ πεπρωμένον
I-come escort of-you the for fated
δεῖ σ' ἐκκομίζειν· Ζηνὶ γὰρ δοκεῖ τάδε.
must you to-carry-out to-Zeus for seems-good these(-things)
παῦσαι δὲ λύπης τῶν τεθνηκότων ὕπερ·
cease and from-grief the dead for
πᾶσιν γὰρ ἀνθρώποισιν ἥδε πρὸς θεῶν
to-all for men this from gods
ψῆφος κέκρανται κατθανεῖν τ' ὀφείλεται.
vote has-been-decreed to-die and is-owed
ΠΗΛΕΥΣ ὦ πότνι', ὦ γενναῖα συγκοιμήματα,
O lady O noble bedfellow
Νηρέως γένεθλον, χαῖρε· ταῦτα δ' ἀξίως
of-Nereus offspring hail these(-things) and worthily
σαυτῆς τε ποιεῖς καὶ τέκνων τῶν ἐκ σέθεν.
of-yourself both you-do and of-children the from you
παύσω δὲ λύπην σοῦ κελευούσης, θεά,
I-will-stop and grief of-you bidding goddess
καὶ τόνδε θάψας εἶμι Πηλίου πτυχάς,
and this having-buried I-will-go of-Pelion to-glens
οὗπερ σὸν εἷλον χερσὶ κάλλιστον δέμας.
where-very your I-took with-hands most-beautiful body
κᾆτ' οὐ γαμεῖν δῆτ' ἔκ τε γενναίων χρεὼν
and-then not to-marry then from both noble (it-is)-fitting
δοῦναί τ' ἐς ἐσθλούς, ὅστις εὖ βουλεύεται,
to-give and to good(-men) whoever well counsels

κακῶν δὲ λέκτρων μὴ ’πιθυμίαν ἔχειν,
of-bad but beds not desire to-have
μηδ’ εἰ ζαπλούτους οἴσεται φερνὰς δόμοις;
not-even if very-rich she-will-bring dowries to-house
οὐ γάρ ποτ’ ἂν πράξειαν ἐκ θεῶν κακῶς.
not for ever — they-would-fare from gods badly
ΧΟΡΟΣ πολλαὶ μορφαὶ τῶν δαιμονίων,
many forms of-the divine(-things)
πολλὰ δ’ ἀέλπτως κραίνουσι θεοί· 1285
many(-things) and unexpectedly accomplish gods
καὶ τὰ δοκηθέντ’ οὐκ ἐτελέσθη,
and the expected not was-fulfilled
τῶν δ’ ἀδοκήτων πόρον εὗρε θεός.
of-the and unexpected way found god
τοιόνδ’ ἀπέβη τόδε πρᾶγμα.
such turned-out this matter

EURIPIDES

ΕΛΕΝΗ

Helen

I · HELEN IN EGYPT

Helen stands by the Nile at the tomb of Proteus, king of Egypt. Hera, angry at losing the judgment of Paris, gave Paris a phantom of air in her likeness, and Hermes brought the true Helen here; the war was fought for the phantom. Proteus' son Theoclymenus wants to marry her, and she takes refuge at the tomb. The Greek Teucer, come to consult Theonoe, recoils at her likeness to Helen and tells her that Troy has fallen, Menelaus is lost, and Leda is dead; she warns him to flee before Theoclymenus kills him.

ΕΛΕΝΗ Νείλου μὲν αἵδε καλλιπάρθενοι ῥοαί,
of-Nile indeed these fair-maidened streams
ὃς ἀντὶ δίας ψακάδος Αἰγύπτου πέδον
which instead-of heavenly rain of-Egypt plain
λευκῆς τακείσης χιόνος ὑγραίνει γύας.
white melted snow waters fields
Πρωτεὺς δ' ὅτ' ἔζη τῆσδε γῆς τύραννος ἦν,
Proteus and when he-lived of-this land king was
Φάρον μὲν οἰκῶν νῆσον, Αἰγύπτου δ' ἄναξ,
Pharos indeed dwelling-in island of-Egypt and lord
ὃς τῶν κατ' οἶδμα παρθένων μίαν γαμεῖ,
who of-the in swell maidens one marries
Ψαμάθην, ἐπειδὴ λέκτρ' ἀφῆκεν Αἰακοῦ.
Psamathe when bed she-left of-Aeacus
τίκτει δὲ τέκνα δισσὰ τοῖσδε δώμασι,
she-bears and children two in-this house
Θεοκλύμενον ἄρσεν', † ὅτι δὴ θεοὺς σέβων
Theoclymenus male (corrupt) because indeed gods revering
βίον διήνεγκ', εὐγενῆ τε παρθένον
life he-spent noble and maiden

Εἰδώ, τὸ μητρὸς ἀγλάϊσμ', ὅτ' ἦν βρέφος·
Eido the of-mother pride when she-was babe
ἐπεὶ δ' ἐς ἥβην ἦλθεν ὡραίων γάμων,
when and to youth she-came of-ripe marriage
καλοῦσιν αὐτὴν Θεονόην· τὰ θεῖα γὰρ
they-call her Theonoe the divine(-things) for
τά τ' ὄντα καὶ μέλλοντα πάντ' ἠπίστατο,
the both being and to-be all she-knew
προγόνου λαβοῦσα Νηρέως τιμὰς πάρα.
ancestor having-received Nereus honors from
ἡμῖν δὲ γῆ μὲν πατρὶς οὐκ ἀνώνυμος
for-us and land indeed native not nameless
Σπάρτη, πατὴρ δὲ Τυνδάρεως· ἔστιν δὲ δὴ
Sparta father and Tyndareus there-is and indeed
λόγος τις ὡς Ζεὺς μητέρ' ἔπτατ' εἰς ἐμὴν
story some that Zeus to-mother flew to my
Λήδαν κύκνου μορφώματ' ὄρνιθος λαβών,
Leda of-swan form of-bird having-taken
ὃς δόλιον εὐνὴν ἐξέπραξ' ὑπ' αἰετοῦ
who crafty bed accomplished from eagle
δίωγμα φεύγων, εἰ σαφὴς οὗτος λόγος.
pursuit fleeing if clear this story
Ἑλένη δ' ἐκλήθην· ἃ δὲ πεπόνθαμεν κακὰ
Helen and I-was-called what but we-have-suffered evils
λέγοιμ' ἄν. ἦλθον τρεῖς θεαὶ κάλλους πέρι
I-would-tell — came three goddesses beauty about
Ἰδαῖον εἰς κευθμῶν' Ἀλέξανδρον πάρα,
Idaean to recess Alexander to
Ἥρα Κύπρις τε διογενής τε παρθένος,
Hera Cypris and Zeus-born and maiden

μορφῆς θέλουσαι διαπεράνασθαι κρίσιν.
of-form wishing to-settle judgment
τοὐμὸν δὲ κάλλος, εἰ καλὸν τὸ δυστυχές,
my and beauty if beautiful the unfortunate
Κύπρις προτείνασ᾽ ὡς Ἀλέξανδρος γαμεῖ,
Cypris having-held-out that Alexander should-marry
νικᾷ· λιπὼν δὲ βούσταθμ᾽ Ἰδαῖος Πάρις
wins having-left and folds Idaean Paris
Σπάρτην ἀφίκεθ᾽ ὡς ἐμὸν σχήσων λέχος.
to-Sparta came that my to-have bed
Ἥρα δὲ μεμφθεῖσ᾽ οὕνεκ᾽ οὐ νικᾷ θεάς,
Hera and angered because not she-wins over-goddesses
ἐξηνέμωσε τἄμ᾽ Ἀλεξάνδρῳ λέχη,
made-wind my for-Alexander bed
δίδωσι δ᾽ οὐκ ἔμ᾽, ἀλλ᾽ ὁμοιώσασ᾽ ἐμοὶ
gives and not me but having-made-like to-me
εἴδωλον ἔμπνουν οὐρανοῦ ξυνθεῖσ᾽ ἄπο,
image breathing of-sky having-compounded from
Πριάμου τυράννου παιδί· καὶ δοκεῖ μ᾽ ἔχειν
of-Priam king to-son and he-thinks me to-have
κενὴν δόκησιν, οὐκ ἔχων. τὰ δ᾽ αὖ Διὸς
empty thought not having the and again of-Zeus
βουλεύματ᾽ ἄλλα τοῖσδε συμβαίνει κακοῖς·
plans other to-these join ills
πόλεμον γὰρ εἰσήνεγκεν Ἑλλήνων χθονὶ
war for he-brought of-Greeks to-land
καὶ Φρυξὶ δυστήνοισιν, ὡς ὄχλου βροτῶν
and to-Phrygians wretched that of-crowd of-mortals
πλήθους τε κουφίσειε μητέρα χθόνα
of-multitude and he-might-lighten mother earth

γνωτόν τε θείη τὸν κράτιστον Ἑλλάδος.
famous and might-make the strongest of-Hellas
Φρυγῶν δ' ἐς ἀλκὴν προυτέθην ἐγὼ μὲν οὔ,
of-Phrygians and for battle was-set-forth I indeed not
τὸ δ' ὄνομα τοὐμόν, ἆθλον Ἕλλησιν δορός.
the but name my prize for-Greeks of-spear
λαβὼν δέ μ' Ἑρμῆς ἐν πτυχαῖσιν αἰθέρος
having-taken and me Hermes in folds of-air
νεφέλῃ καλύψας, οὐ γὰρ ἠμέλησέ μου
with-cloud having-covered not for neglected me
Ζεύς, τόνδ' ἐς οἶκον Πρωτέως ἱδρύσατο,
Zeus this to house of-Proteus settled
πάντων προκρίνας σωφρονέστατον βροτῶν,
of-all having-preferred most-chaste of-mortals
ἀκέραιον ὡς σώσαιμι Μενέλεῳ λέχος.
undefiled that I-might-keep for-Menelaus bed
κἀγὼ μὲν ἐνθάδ' εἶμ', ὁ δ' ἄθλιος πόσις
and-I indeed here am the and wretched husband
στράτευμ' ἀθροίσας τὰς ἐμὰς ἀναρπαγὰς
army having-gathered the my carrying-off
θηρᾷ πορευθεὶς Ἰλίου πυργώματα.
hunts having-gone-to of-Ilium towers
ψυχαὶ δὲ πολλαὶ δι' ἔμ' ἐπὶ Σκαμανδρίοις
souls and many because-of me by Scamandrian
ῥοαῖσιν ἔθανον· ἡ δὲ πάντα τλᾶσ' ἐγὼ
streams died the and all having-endured I
κατάρατός εἰμι καὶ δοκῶ προδοῦσ' ἐμὸν
accursed am and seem having-betrayed my
πόσιν συνάψαι πόλεμον Ἕλλησιν μέγαν.
husband to-have-joined war for-Greeks great

τί δῆτ᾽ ἔτι ζῶ; θεοῦ τόδ᾽ εἰσήκουσ᾽ ἔπος
why then still do-I-live of-god this I-heard word
Ἑρμοῦ, τὸ κλεινόν μ᾽ ἔτι κατοικήσειν πέδον
Hermes' the famous me still to-dwell-in plain
Σπάρτης σὺν ἀνδρί, γνόντος ὡς ἐς Ἴλιον
of-Sparta with husband knowing that to Ilium
οὐκ ἦλθον, ἵνα μὴ λέκτρ᾽ ὑποστρώσω τινί.
not I-went so-that not bed I-might-strew for-anyone
ἕως μὲν οὖν φῶς ἡλίου τόδ᾽ ἔβλεπε
while indeed then light of-sun this saw
Πρωτεύς, ἄσυλος ἦν γάμων· ἐπεὶ δὲ γῆς
Proteus inviolate I-was from-marriage when but of-earth
σκότῳ κέκρυπται, παῖς ὁ τοῦ τεθνηκότος
in-darkness he-is-hidden son the of-the dead
θηρᾷ γαμεῖν με. τὸν πάλαι δ᾽ ἐμὸν πόσιν
hunts to-marry me the of-old and my husband
τιμῶσα Πρωτέως μνῆμα προσπίτνω τόδε
honoring of-Proteus tomb I-fall-at this
ἱκέτις, ἵν᾽ ἀνδρὶ τἀμὰ διασώσῃ λέχη,
suppliant that for-husband my he-may-keep bed
ὡς, εἰ καθ᾽ Ἑλλάδ᾽ ὄνομα δυσκλεὲς φέρω,
that if through Hellas name ill-famed I-bear
μή μοι τὸ σῶμά γ᾽ ἐνθάδ᾽ αἰσχύνην ὄφλῃ.
not for-me the body at-least here shame incur
ΤΕΤΚΡΟΣ τίς τῶνδ᾽ ἐρυμνῶν δωμάτων ἔχει κράτος;
who of-this fortified house holds power
Πλούτου γὰρ οἶκος ἄξιος προσεικάσαι
of-Plutus for house (is)-worthy to-be-compared
βασίλειά τ᾽ ἀμφιβλήματ᾽ εὔθριγκοί θ᾽ ἕδραι.
royal and enclosures well-coped and seats

ἔα·

ha

ὦ θεοί, τίν' εἶδον ὄψιν; ἐχθίστην ὁρῶ

O gods what did-I-see sight most-hateful I-see

γυναικὸς εἰκὼ φόνιον, ἥ μ' ἀπώλεσε

of-woman image murderous who me destroyed

πάντας τ' Ἀχαιούς. θεοί σ', ὅσον μίμημ' ἔχεις

all and Achaeans gods you as-much-as image you-have

Ἑλένης, ἀποπτύσειαν. εἰ δὲ μὴ 'ν ξένῃ

of-Helen may-spit-out if and not in foreign

γαίᾳ πόδ' εἶχον, τῷδ' ἂν εὐστόχῳ πτερῷ

land foot I-had with-this — well-aimed feather

ἀπόλαυσιν εἰκοῦς ἔθανες ἂν Διὸς κόρης.

in-requital of-likeness you-would-have-died — of-Zeus of-daughter

ΕΛΕΝΗ τί δ'; ὦ ταλαίπωρ', ὅστις ὤν μ' ἀπεστράφης,

what and O wretched whoever being me you-turned-from

καὶ ταῖς ἐκείνης συμφοραῖς ἐμὲ στυγεῖς;

and for-the of-her misfortunes me do-you-hate

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ ἥμαρτον· ὀργῇ δ' εἶξα μᾶλλον ἤ με χρῆν·

I-erred to-anger and I-yielded more than me (it)-was-needful

μισεῖ γὰρ Ἑλλὰς πᾶσα τὴν Διὸς κόρην.

hates for Hellas all the of-Zeus daughter

σύγγνωθι δ' ἡμῖν τοῖς λελεγμένοις, γύναι.

forgive and us the(-things) said woman

ΕΛΕΝΗ τίς δ' εἶ; πόθεν γῆς τῆσδ' ἐπεστράφης πέδον;

who and are-you whence of-land this have-you-turned-to plain

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ εἷς τῶν Ἀχαιῶν, ὦ γύναι, τῶν ἀθλίων.

one of-the Achaeans O woman of-the wretched

ΕΛΕΝΗ οὐ τἄρα σ' Ἑλένην εἰ στυγεῖς θαυμαστέον.
not surely you Helen if you-hate one-must-wonder

ἀτὰρ τίς εἶ πόθεν; τίνος δ' αὐδᾶν σε χρή;
but who are-you whence of-whom and to-call you must

ΤΕΤΚΡΟΣ ὄνομα μὲν ἡμῖν Τεῦκρος, ὁ δὲ φύσας πατὴρ
name indeed to-us Teucer the and having-begotten father

Τελαμών, Σαλαμὶς δὲ πατρὶς ἡ θρέψασά με.
Telamon Salamis and country the having-reared me

ΕΛΕΝΗ τί δῆτα Νείλου τούσδ' ἐπιστρέφει γύας;
why then of-Nile these do-you-visit fields

ΤΕΤΚΡΟΣ φυγὰς πατρῴας ἐξελήλαμαι χθονός.
exile from-ancestral I-have-been-driven land

ΕΛΕΝΗ τλήμων ἂν εἴης· τίς δέ σ' ἐκβάλλει πάτρας;
wretched — you-must-be who and you casts-out from-country

ΤΕΤΚΡΟΣ Τελαμὼν ὁ φύσας. τίν' ἂν ἔχοις μᾶλλον φίλον;
Telamon the having-begotten whom — could-you-have more friend

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἐκ τοῦ; τὸ γάρ τοι πρᾶγμα συμφορὰν ἔχει.
from what the for surely matter misfortune holds

ΤΕΤΚΡΟΣ Αἴας μ' ἀδελφὸς ὤλεσ' ἐν Τροίᾳ θανών.
Ajax me brother destroyed in Troy having-died

ΕΛΕΝΗ πῶς; οὔ τί που σῷ φασγάνῳ βίον στερείς;
how surely-not at-all I-suppose by-your sword of-life bereft

ΤΕΤΚΡΟΣ οἰκεῖον αὐτὸν ὤλεσ' ἅλμ' ἐπὶ ξίφος.
his-own him destroyed leap on sword

ΕΛΕΝΗ μανέντ'; ἐπεὶ τίς σωφρονῶν τλαίη τάδ' ἄν;
mad since who sane would-dare these(-things) —

ΤΕΤΚΡΟΣ τὸν Πηλέως τιν' οἶσθ' Ἀχιλλέα γόνον;
the of-Peleus some do-you-know Achilles offspring

ΕΛΕΝΗ μνηστὴρ ποθ' Ἑλένης ἦλθεν, ὡς ἀκούομεν.
wooer once of-Helen he-came as we-hear

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ θανὼν ὅδ' ὅπλων ἔριν ἔθηκε συμμάχοις.
having-died he of-arms strife set for-allies

ΕΛΕΝΗ καὶ δὴ τί τοῦτ' Αἴαντι γίγνεται κακόν;
and indeed how this to-Ajax becomes evil

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ ἄλλου λαβόντος ὅπλ' ἀπηλλάχθη βίου.
another having-taken arms he-departed from-life

ΕΛΕΝΗ σὺ τοῖς ἐκείνου δῆτα πήμασιν νοσεῖς;
you with-the his then woes are-sick

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ ὀθούνεκ' αὐτῷ γ' οὐ ξυνωλόμην ὁμοῦ.
because him at-least not I-perished-with together

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἦλθες γάρ, ὦ ξέν', Ἰλίου κλεινὴν πόλιν;
you-went then O stranger of-Ilium famous city

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ καὶ ξύν γε πέρσας αὐτὸς ἀνταπωλόμην.
and with at-least having-sacked myself I-perished-in-turn

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἤδη γὰρ ἧπται καὶ κατείργασται πυρί;
already for it-has-been-kindled and destroyed by-fire

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ ὥστ' οὐδ' ἴχνος γε τειχέων εἶναι σαφές.
so-that not-even trace at-least of-walls to-be clear

ΕΛΕΝΗ ὦ τλῆμον Ἑλένη, διὰ σ' ἀπόλλυνται Φρύγες.
O wretched Helen because-of you perish Phrygians

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ καὶ πρός γ' Ἀχαιοί· μεγάλα δ' εἴργασται κακά.
and besides at-least Achaeans great and have-been-done ills

ΕΛΕΝΗ πόσον χρόνον γὰρ διαπεπόρθηται πόλις;
how-much time for has-been-sacked city

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ ἑπτὰ σχεδόν τι καρπίμους ἐτῶν κύκλους.
seven nearly about fruitful of-years cycles

ΕΛΕΝΗ χρόνον δ' ἐμείνατ' ἄλλον ἐν Τροίᾳ πόσον;
time and you-stayed other in Troy how-much

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ πολλὰς σελήνας, δέκα διελθούσας ἔτη.
many moons ten having-gone-through years

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἦ καὶ γυναῖκα Σπαρτιᾶτιν εἵλετε;
— *also woman Spartan did-you-take*

ΤΕΤΚΡΟΣ Μενέλαος αὐτὴν ἦγ' ἐπισπάσας κόμης.
Menelaus her led having-dragged by-hair

ΕΛΕΝΗ εἶδες σὺ τὴν δύστηνον; ἢ κλύων λέγεις;
did-see you the wretched or hearing you-speak

ΤΕΤΚΡΟΣ ὥσπερ σέ γ', οὐδὲν ἧσσον, ὀφθαλμοῖς ὁρῶ.
as you at-least nothing less with-eyes I-see

ΕΛΕΝΗ σκοπεῖτε μὴ δόκησιν εἴχετ' ἐκ θεῶν.
look lest thought you-had from gods

ΤΕΤΚΡΟΣ ἄλλου λόγου μέμνησο, μὴ κείνης ἔτι.
of-other word remember not of-her still

ΕΛΕΝΗ οὕτω δοκεῖτε τὴν δόκησιν ἀσφαλῆ;
so you-think the thought (to-be)-sure

ΤΕΤΚΡΟΣ αὐτὸς γὰρ ὅσσοις εἶδον, εἰ καὶ νῦν σ' ὁρῶ.
myself for with-eyes I-saw as even now you I-see

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἤδη δ' ἐν οἴκοις σὺν δάμαρτι Μενέλεως;
already and in house with wife Menelaus

ΤΕΤΚΡΟΣ οὔκουν ἐν Ἄργει γ' οὐδ' ἐπ' Εὐρώτα ῥοαῖς.
not-then in Argos at-least nor at of-Eurotas streams

ΕΛΕΝΗ αἰαῖ· κακὸν τόδ' εἶπας οἷς κακὸν λέγεις.
alas evil this you-said to-whom evil you-speak

ΤΕΤΚΡΟΣ ὡς κεῖνος ἀφανὴς σὺν δάμαρτι κλῄζεται.
since he vanished with wife is-reported

ΕΛΕΝΗ οὐ πᾶσι πορθμὸς αὐτὸς Ἀργείοισιν ἦν;
not for-all voyage the-same Argives was

ΤΕΤΚΡΟΣ ἦν, ἀλλὰ χειμὼν ἄλλοσ' ἄλλον ὥρισεν.
it-was but storm in-different-directions one-from-another set

ΕΛΕΝΗ ποίοισιν ἐν νώτοισι ποντίας ἁλός;
what on backs of-sea brine

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ μέσον περῶσι πέλαγος Αἰγαίου πόρου.
middle passing sea of-Aegean strait

ΕΛΕΝΗ κἀκ τοῦδε Μενέλαν οὔτις εἶδ' ἀφιγμένον;
and-from this Menelaus no-one saw arrived

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ οὐδείς· θανὼν δὲ κλῄζεται καθ' Ἑλλάδα.
no-one dead but he-is-reported throughout Hellas

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἀπωλόμεσθα· Θεστιὰς δ' ἔστιν κόρη;
we-are-lost of-Thestius and is daughter

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ Λήδαν ἔλεξας; οἴχεται θανοῦσα δή.
Leda you-mean she-is-gone having-died indeed

ΕΛΕΝΗ οὔ που νιν Ἑλένης αἰσχρὸν ὤλεσεν κλέος;
surely-not I-suppose her of-Helen shameful destroyed fame

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ φασίν, βρόχῳ γ' ἄψασαν εὐγενῆ δέρην.
they-say with-noose at-least having-fastened noble neck

ΕΛΕΝΗ οἱ Τυνδάρειοι δ' εἰσὶν ἢ οὐκ εἰσὶν κόροι;
the of-Tyndareus and are or not are sons

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ τεθνᾶσι κοὐ τεθνᾶσι· δύο δ' ἐστὸν λόγω.
they-are-dead and-not are-dead two and are stories

ΕΛΕΝΗ πότερος ὁ κρείσσων; ὦ τάλαιν' ἐγὼ κακῶν.
which (is)-the better O wretched I in-ills

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ ἄστροις σφ' ὁμοιωθέντε φάσ' εἶναι θεώ.
to-stars them made-like they-say to-be gods

ΕΛΕΝΗ καλῶς ἔλεξας τοῦτο· θάτερον δὲ τί;
well you-said this the-other and what

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ σφαγαῖς ἀδελφῆς εἵνεκ' ἐκπνεῦσαι βίον.
by-slaughter of-sister for-the-sake to-have-breathed-out life

ἄλις δὲ μύθων· οὐ διπλᾶ χρῄζω στένειν.
enough and of-tales not double I-want to-groan

ὧν δ' εἵνεκ' ἦλθον τούσδε βασιλείους δόμους,
of-which and for-the-sake I-came to-this royal house

τὴν θεσπιῳδὸν Θεονόην χρῄζων ἰδεῖν,
the oracular Theonoe wanting to-see
σὺ προξένησον, ὡς τύχω μαντευμάτων
you be-my-patron that I-may-obtain oracles
ὅπῃ νεὼς στείλαιμ' ἂν οὔριον πτερὸν
how of-ship I-may-send — fair wing
εἰς γῆν ἐναλίαν Κύπρον, οὗ μ' ἐθέσπισεν
to land sea-girt Cyprus where me prophesied
οἰκεῖν Ἀπόλλων, ὄνομα νησιωτικὸν
to-dwell Apollo name island
Σαλαμῖνα θέμενον τῆς ἐκεῖ χάριν πάτρας.
Salamis having-given of-the there for-the-sake-of fatherland

ΕΛΕΝΗ πλοῦς, ὦ ξέν', αὐτὸς σημανεῖ· σὺ δ' ἐκλιπὼν
voyage O stranger itself will-show you and having-left
γῆν τήνδε φεῦγε πρίν σε παῖδα Πρωτέως
land this flee before you son of-Proteus
ἰδεῖν, ὃς ἄρχει τῆσδε γῆς· ἄπεστι δὲ
to-see who rules this land is-away and
κυσὶν πεποιθὼς ἐν φοναῖς θηροκτόνοις·
in-dogs trusting in slaughters beast-killing
κτείνει γὰρ Ἕλλην' ὅντιν' ἂν λάβῃ ξένον·
he-kills for Greek whomever — he-takes stranger
ὅτου δ' ἕκατι, μήτε σὺ ζήτει μαθεῖν
of-what and for-the-sake neither you seek to-learn
ἐγώ τε σιγῶ· τί γὰρ ἂν ὠφελοῖμί σε;
I and am-silent why for — could-I-help you

ΤΕΤΚΡΟΣ καλῶς ἔλεξας, ὦ γύναι· θεοὶ δέ σοι
well you-said O woman gods and to-you
ἐσθλῶν ἀμοιβὰς ἀντιδωρησαίατο.
of-good-deeds returns may-give-in-turn

Ἑλένῃ δ' ὅμοιον σῶμ' ἔχουσ' οὐ τὰς φρένας
to-Helen and like body having not the mind
ἔχεις ὁμοίας, ἀλλὰ διαφόρους πολύ.
you-have like but different much
κακῶς δ' ὄλοιτο μηδ' ἐπ' Εὐρώτα ῥοὰς
badly and may-she-perish nor to of-Eurotas streams
ἔλθοι· σὺ δ' εἴης εὐτυχὴς ἀεί, γύναι.
come you and may-you-be fortunate always woman

II · SIRENS AND SONGS OF MOURNING

Helen calls on the Sirens to join her laments. The chorus of Greek captive women, who were drying purple robes in the sun by the river, come at her cries. She grieves for Troy burned for her sake, for her mother who hanged herself in shame, for her brothers, and for her husband believed lost at sea, while her name has a false fame by the Simois.

ΕΛΕΝΗ ὦ μεγάλων ἀχέων καταβαλλομένα μέγαν οἶκτον,
O of-great woes beginning great lament
ποῖον ἁμιλλαθῶ γόον; ἢ τίνα μοῦσαν ἐπέλθω,
what am-I-to-strive-in wailing or what music am-I-to-approach
δάκρυσιν ἢ θρήνοις ἢ πένθεσιν; ἔ ἔ.
with-tears or with-dirges or with-mourning ah ah
πτεροφόροι νεάνιδες,
winged maidens
παρθένοι Χθονὸς κόραι
virgins of-Earth daughters
Σειρῆνες, εἴθ' ἐμοῖς γόοις
Sirens would-that to-my wailings
μόλοιτ' ἔχουσαι τὸν Λίβυν
you-might-come having the Libyan

λωτὸν ἢ σύριγγας, αἰλίνοις κακοῖς
lotus or pipes to-mournful ills
τοῖς ἐμοῖσι σύνοχα δάκρυα,
to-the my in-accord tears
πάθεσι πάθεα, μέλεσι μέλεα·
for-sufferings sufferings for-songs songs
μουσεῖα θρηνήμασι ξυνῳδὰ
music to-dirges in-unison
πέμψειε Φερσέφασσα
may-send Persephone
φόνια, χάριτας ἵν' ἐπὶ δάκρυσι
murderous thanks so-that besides tears
παρ' ἐμέθεν ὑπὸ μέλαθρα νύχια παιᾶνας
from me under halls nightly paeans
νέκυσιν ὀλομένοις λάβῃ.
for-corpses dead she-may-receive
ΧΟΡΟΣ κυανοειδὲς ἀμφ' ὕδωρ
dark-blue by water
ἔτυχον ἕλικά τ' ἀνὰ χλόαν
I-happened twisting and on grass
φοίνικας ἁλίου πέπλους
crimson in-sun's robes
αὐγαῖσιν ἐν ταῖς χρυσέαις
rays in the golden
ἀμφιθάλπουσ' ἔν τε δόνακος ἔρνεσιν·
warming in and of-reed shoots
ἔνθεν οἰκτρὸν ὅμαδον ἔκλυον,
thence pitiful din I-heard
ἄλυρον ἔλεγον, ὅ τι ποτ' ἔλακεν
lyreless elegy what — ever cried

*** αἰάγμασι στένουσα,
(lacuna) with-wailings groaning
Νύμφα τις οἷα Ναΐς
nymph some like Naiad
ὄρεσι φυγάδα νόμον ἱεῖσα
in-mountains fugitive song sending-forth
γοερόν, ὑπὸ δὲ πέτρινα γύαλα κλαγγαῖσιν
mournful under and rocky hollows with-cries
Πανὸς ἀναβοᾷ γάμους.
of-Pan cries-out marriage
ΕΛΕΝΗ ἰὼ ἰώ·
oh oh
θήραμα βαρβάρου πλάτας,
prey of-barbarian oar
Ἑλλανίδες κόραι,
Greek girls
ναύτας Ἀχαιῶν
sailor of-Achaeans
τις ἔμολεν ἔμολε δάκρυα δάκρυσί μοι φέρων,
some came came tears to-tears to-me bringing
Ἰλίου κατασκαφὰν
of-Ilium destruction
πυρὶ μέλουσαν δαΐῳ
to-fire being-a-care hostile
δι' ἐμὲ τὰν πολυκτόνον,
because-of me the much-murderous
δι' ἐμὸν ὄνομα πολύπονον.
because-of my name much-toiling
Λήδα δ' ἐν ἀγχόναις
Leda and in nooses

θάνατον ἔλαβεν
death took
αἰσχύνας ἐμᾶς ὑπ᾽ ἀλγέων.
of-shame my from griefs
ὁ δ᾽ ἐμὸς ἐν ἁλὶ πολυπλανὴς
the and my in sea much-wandering
πόσις ὀλόμενος οἴχεται,
husband perished is-gone
Κάστορός τε συγγόνου τε
of-Castor both of-brother and
διδυμογενὲς ἄγαλμα πατρίδος
twin-born glory of-country
ἀφανὲς ἀφανὲς ἱππόκροτα λέλοιπε δάπεδα
vanished vanished horse-beaten has-left floors
γυμνάσιά τε δονακόεντος
gymnasia and of-reedy
Εὐρώτα, νεανιᾶν πόνον.
of-Eurotas of-young-men toil
ΧΟΡΟΣ αἰαῖ αἰαῖ·
alas alas
ὦ δαίμονος πολυστόνου
O of-fortune much-lamenting
μοίρας τε σᾶς, γύναι.
of-fate and your woman
αἰὼν δυσαίων
life ill-lived
τις ἔλαχεν ἔλαχεν, ὅτε σ᾽ ἐτέκετο ματρόθεν
some got got when you begot from-mother
Ζεὺς πρέπων δι᾽ αἰθέρος
Zeus shining through air

χιονόχρως κύκνου πτερῷ·
snow-skinned of-swan with-wing
τί γὰρ ἄπεστί σοι κακῶν;
what for is-absent to-you of-ills
τίνα δὲ βίοτον οὐκ ἔτλας;
what and life not you-endured
μάτηρ μὲν οἴχεται,
mother indeed is-gone
δίδυμά τε Διὸς
twin and of-Zeus
οὐκ εὐδαιμονεῖ τέκεα φίλα,
not are-happy children dear
χθόνα δὲ πάτριον οὐχ ὁρᾷς,
land and ancestral not you-see
διὰ δὲ πόλεας ἔρχεται
through and cities goes
βάξις, ἅ σε βαρβάροισι
rumor which you to-barbarian
λέχεσι, πότνια, παραδίδωσιν,
bed lady hands-over
ὁ δὲ σὸς ἐν ἁλὶ κύμασί τε λέλοιπε βίοτον,
the and your in sea waves and has-left life
οὐδέ ποτ' ἔτι πάτρια μέλαθρα
nor ever still ancestral halls
καὶ τὰν Χαλκίοικον ὀλβιεῖς.
and the Brazen-House(-Goddess) will-you-bless
ΕΛΕΝΗ φεῦ, τίς ἦν Φρυγῶν, τίς ἦν
alas who was of-Phrygians who was
τὰν δακρυόεσσαν Ἰλίῳ τε πεύκαν
the tearful for-Ilium and pine

† ὃς ἔτεμε τοῖς θ' Ἑλλανίας ἀπὸ χθονός;
(corrupt) who cut for-the(-men) and of-Hellenic from land

ἔνθεν ὀλόμενον σκάφος
whence ruinous hull

ὁ Πριαμίδας συναρμόσας
the son-of-Priam having-fitted-together

ἔπλευσε βαρβάρῳ πλάτᾳ
sailed with-barbarian oar

τὰν ἐμὰν ἐφ' ἑστίαν,
the my to hearth

ἐπὶ τὸ δυστυχὲς
to the unfortunate

κάλλος, ὡς ἕλοι γάμον ἐμόν,
beauty that he-might-take marriage my

ἅ τε δόλιος ἁ πολυκτόνος Κύπρις
the and crafty the much-murderous Cypris

Δαναΐδαις ἄγουσα θάνατον Πριαμίδαις τε.
to-Danaans bringing death to-the-sons-of-Priam and

ὦ τάλαινα συμφορᾶς.
O wretched in-misfortune

ἁ δὲ χρυσέοις θρόνοις
the and on-golden thrones

Διὸς ὑπαγκάλισμα σεμνὸν Ἥρα
of-Zeus embrace august Hera

τὸν ὠκύπουν ἔπεμψε Μαιάδος γόνον,
the swift-footed sent of-Maia offspring

ὅς με χλοερὰ δρεπομέναν ἔσω πέπλων
who me green plucking inside robes

ῥόδεα πέταλα, χαλκίοικον ὡς Ἀθάναν
rosy petals brazen-housed to Athena

μόλοιμ', ἀναρπάσας δι' αἰθέρος
I-might-come having-snatched-up through air
τάνδε γαῖαν εἰς ἄνολβον
this land to unblessed
ἔριν ἔριν τάλαιναν ἔθετο
strife strife wretched set
Πριαμίδαισιν Ἑλλάδος.
for-the-sons-of-Priam of-Hellas
τὸ δ' ἐμὸν ὄνομα παρὰ Σιμουντίοις ῥοαῖσι
the and my name beside Simoeian streams
μαψίδιον ἔχει φάτιν.
vain has report

III · HELEN RESOLVES TO DIE

The chorus urges her to bear what must be. Helen reckons her life: her beauty brought ruin, her name is hated, her mother and her husband are dead, and she is courted by a barbarian. She thinks of the noose or the sword. The chorus advises her to ask the prophetess Theonoe whether Menelaus is alive, and Helen goes in with them, lamenting Troy and the Greeks who died.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔχεις μὲν ἀλγεί', οἶδα· σύμφορον δέ τοι
you-have indeed painful(-things) I-know profitable but surely
ὡς ῥᾷστα τἀναγκαῖα τοῦ βίου φέρειν.
as most-easily the-necessities of-the life to-bear
255 ΕΛΕΝΗ φίλαι γυναῖκες, τίνι πότμῳ συνεζύγην;
dear women to-what fate was-I-yoked
ἆρ' ἡ τεκοῦσά μ' ἔτεκεν ἀνθρώποις τέρας;
— the mother me bore for-men monster
γυνὴ γὰρ οὔθ' Ἕλληνὶς οὔτε βάρβαρος
woman for neither Greek nor barbarian

τεῦχος νεοσσῶν λευκὸν ἐκλοχεύεται,
case of-chicks white gives-birth-to
ἐν ᾧ με Λήδαν φασὶν ἐκ Διὸς τεκεῖν.
in which me Leda they-say from Zeus to-bear
τέρας γὰρ ὁ βίος καὶ τὰ πράγματ' ἐστί μοι,
a-monster for the life and the affairs are to-me
τὰ μὲν δι' Ἥραν, τὰ δὲ τὸ κάλλος αἴτιον.
the(-ones) indeed because-of Hera the(-others) and the beauty (is)-cause
εἴθ' ἐξαλειφθεῖσ' ὡς ἄγαλμ' αὖθις πάλιν
would-that wiped-out like statue again back
αἴσχιον εἶδος ἔλαβον ἀντὶ τοῦ καλοῦ,
uglier form I-had-taken instead-of the beautiful
καὶ τὰς τύχας μὲν τὰς κακὰς ἃς νῦν ἔχω
and the fortunes indeed the bad which now I-have
Ἕλληνες ἐπελάθοντο, τὰς δὲ μὴ κακὰς
Greeks had-forgotten the and not bad
ἔσῳζον ὥσπερ τὰς κακὰς σῴζουσί μου.
were-keeping as the bad they-keep of-me
ὅστις μὲν οὖν εἰς μίαν ἀποβλέπων τύχην
whoever indeed then to one looking fortune
πρὸς θεῶν κακοῦται, βαρὺ μέν, οἰστέον δ' ὅμως·
by gods is-afflicted heavy indeed one-must-bear but nevertheless
ἡμεῖς δὲ πολλαῖς συμφοραῖς ἐγκείμεθα.
we and in-many misfortunes are-sunk
πρῶτον μὲν οὐκ οὖσ' ἄδικος, εἰμὶ δυσκλεής·
first indeed not being unjust I-am ill-famed
καὶ τοῦτο μεῖζον τῆς ἀληθείας κακόν,
and this greater than-the truth evil
ὅστις τὰ μὴ προσόντα κέκτηται κακά.
whoever the not belonging has-acquired evils

ἔπειτα πατρίδος θεοί μ' ἀφιδρύσαντο γῆς
then from-country gods me removed land
εἰς βάρβαρ' ἤθη, καὶ φίλων τητωμένη
to barbarian ways and of-friends bereft
δούλη καθέστηκ' οὖσ' ἐλευθέρων ἄπο·
slave I-have-become being free(-parents) from
τὰ βαρβάρων γὰρ δοῦλα πάντα πλὴν ἑνός.
the of-barbarians for slaves all except one
ἄγκυρα δ' ἥ μου τὰς τύχας ὤχει μόνη,
anchor and which my the fortunes held-up alone
πόσιν ποθ' ἥξειν καί μ' ἀπαλλάξειν κακῶν,
husband once to-come and me to-free from-ills
οὗτος τέθνηκεν, οὗτος οὐκέτ' ἔστι δή.
this-one is-dead this-one no-longer is indeed
μήτηρ δ' ὄλωλε, καὶ φονεὺς αὐτῆς ἐγώ,
mother and has-perished and murderer of-her I
ἀδίκως μέν, ἀλλὰ τἄδικον τοῦτ' ἔστ' ἐμόν.
unjustly indeed but the-injustice this is mine
ὃ δ' ἀγλάϊσμα δωμάτων ἐμοῦ τ' ἔφυ,
what and pride of-house of-me and was
θυγάτηρ ἄνανδρος πολιὰ παρθενεύεται·
daughter husbandless gray remains-a-maiden
τὼ τοῦ Διὸς δὲ λεγομένω Διοσκόρω
the-two — of-Zeus and called Dioscuri
οὐκ ἐστόν. ἀλλὰ πάντ' ἔχουσα δυστυχῆ
not are but all(-things) having unfortunate
τοῖς πράγμασιν τέθνηκα, τοῖς δ' ἔργοισιν οὔ.
in-the fortunes I-am-dead in-the but deeds not
τὸ δ' ἔσχατον τοῦτ', εἰ μόλοιμεν εἰς πάτραν,
the and last this if we-should-come into fatherland

κληῖθροις ἂν εἴργοιέν με, τὴν ὑπ᾽ Ἰλίῳ
with-bars — they-would-shut-out me the-one at Ilium
δοκοῦντες Ἑλένην Μενέλεώ μ᾽ ἐλθεῖν μέτα.
thinking Helen Menelaus me to-have-gone with
εἰ μὲν γὰρ ἔζη πόσις, ἀνεγνώσθημεν ἂν
if indeed for lived husband we-would-have-been-recognized —
εἰς ξύμβολ᾽ ἐλθόνθ᾽ ἃ φανέρ᾽ ἂν μόνοις ἂν ἦν.
to tokens having-come which plain — to-(us)-alone — would-be
νῦν δ᾽ οὔτε τοῦτ᾽ ἔστ᾽ οὔτε μὴ σωθῇ ποτε.
now but neither this is nor not he-will-be-saved ever
τί δῆτ᾽ ἔτι ζῶ; τίν᾽ ὑπολείπομαι τύχην;
why then still do-I-live what am-I-left fortune
γάμους ἑλομένη τῶν κακῶν ὑπαλλαγάς,
marriage having-chosen of-the ills release
μετ᾽ ἀνδρὸς οἰκεῖν βαρβάρου πρὸς πλουσίαν
with man to-dwell barbarian at rich
τράπεζαν ἵζουσ᾽; ἀλλ᾽ ὅταν πόσις πικρὸς
table sitting but when husband bitter
ξυνῇ γυναικί, καὶ τὸ σῶμ᾽ ἐστιν πικρόν.
lives-with woman also the body is bitter
θανεῖν κράτιστον· πῶς θάνοιμ᾽ ἂν οὖν καλῶς;
to-die (is)-best how might-I-die — then nobly
ἀσχήμονες μὲν ἀγχόναι μετάρσιοι,
unseemly indeed nooses hanging
κἀν τοῖσι δούλοις δυσπρεπὲς νομίζεται·
and-among the slaves unbecoming it-is-thought
σφαγαὶ δ᾽ ἔχουσιν εὐγενές τι καὶ καλόν,
slaughters and have noble something and fine
† σμικρὸς δ᾽ ὁ καιρὸς σάρκ᾽ ἀπαλλάξαι βίου.
(corrupt) short and the moment flesh to-release from-life

εἰς γὰρ τοσοῦτον ἤλθομεν βάθος κακῶν·
into for so-great we-have-come depth of-ills
αἱ μὲν γὰρ ἄλλαι διὰ τὸ κάλλος εὐτυχεῖς
the indeed for other through the beauty (are)-fortunate
γυναῖκες, ἡμᾶς δ' αὐτὸ τοῦτ' ἀπώλεσεν.
women us and itself this destroyed
ΧΟΡΟΣ Ἑλένη, τὸν ἐλθόνθ', ὅστις ἐστὶν ὁ ξένος,
Helen the having-come whoever is the stranger
μὴ πάντ' ἀληθῆ δοξάσῃς εἰρηκέναι.
not all true(-things) think to-have-spoken
ΕΛΕΝΗ καὶ μὴν σαφῶς ἔλεξ' ὀλωλέναι πόσιν.
and indeed clearly he-said to-have-perished husband
ΧΟΡΟΣ πόλλ' ἂν γένοιτο καὶ διὰ ψευδῶν ἔπη.
many(-things) — might-arise even through lies words
ΕΛΕΝΗ καὶ τἄμπαλίν γε τῶνδ' ἀληθείᾳ σαφῆ.
and the-reverse at-least of-these by-truth clear
ΧΟΡΟΣ εἰς ξυμφορὰν γὰρ ἀντὶ τἀγαθοῦ φέρει.
into misfortune for instead-of the-good it-carries
ΕΛΕΝΗ φόβος γὰρ εἰς τὸ δεῖμα περιβαλών μ' ἄγει.
fear for into the terror having-thrown-around me leads
ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς δ' εὐμενείας τοισίδ' ἐν δόμοις ἔχεις;
how and goodwill this in house do-you-have
ΕΛΕΝΗ πάντες φίλοι μοι πλὴν ὁ θηρεύων γάμους.
all friends to-me except the(-one) hunting marriage
ΧΟΡΟΣ οἶσθ' οὖν ὃ δρᾶσον; μνήματος λιποῦσ' ἕδραν —
do-you-know then what to-do of-tomb having-left seat
ΕΛΕΝΗ εἰς ποῖον ἕρπεις μῦθον ἢ παραίνεσιν;
to what are-you-moving word or advice

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐλθοῦσ᾽ ἐς οἴκους, ἥ τὰ πάντ᾽ ἐπίσταται,
having-gone into house who the all(-things) knows
τῆς ποντίας Νηρῇδος ἐκγόνου κόρης,
of-the sea Nereid offspring maiden
πυθοῦ πόσιν σὸν Θεονόης, εἴτ᾽ ἔστ᾽ ἔτι
inquire-of husband your Theonoe whether he-is still
εἴτ᾽ ἐκλέλοιπε φέγγος· ἐκμαθοῦσα δ᾽ εὖ
or has-left light having-learned and well
πρὸς τὰς τύχας τὸ χάρμα τοὺς γόους τ᾽ ἔχε.
for the fortunes the joy the wailings and keep
πρὶν δ᾽ οὐδὲν ὀρθῶς εἰδέναι, τί σοι πλέον
before and nothing rightly to-know what to-you more
λυπουμένῃ γένοιτ᾽ ἄν; ἀλλ᾽ ἐμοὶ πιθοῦ·
grieving would-become — but me obey
τάφον λιποῦσα τόνδε σύμμιξον κόρῃ,
tomb having-left this join-with maiden
ὅθενπερ εἴσει πάντα· τἀληθῆ φράσαι
whence-very you-will-know all(-things) the-truth to-tell
ἔχουσ᾽ ἐν οἴκοις τήνδε, τί βλέπεις πρόσω;
having in house this-one why do-you-look further
θέλω δὲ κἀγὼ σοὶ συνεισελθεῖν δόμους
I-wish and I-too with-you to-enter house
καὶ συμπυθέσθαι παρθένου θεσπίσματα·
and to-learn-with of-maiden prophecies
γυναῖκα γὰρ δὴ συμπονεῖν γυναικὶ χρή.
woman for indeed to-labor-with woman must
ΕΛΕΝΗ φίλαι, λόγους ἐδεξάμαν·
friends words I-have-received
βᾶτε βᾶτε δ᾽ εἰς δόμους,
go go and into house

ἀγῶνας ἐντὸς οἴκων ὡς
contests inside house that
πύθησθε τοὺς ἐμούς.
you-may-learn the my
ΧΟΡΟΣ θέλουσαν οὐ μόλις καλεῖς.
willing not hardly you-call
ΕΛΕΝΗ ἰὼ μέλεος ἁμέρα.
oh wretched day
τίν' ἄρα τάλαινα τίνα δακρυό-
what then wretched what tearful
εντα λόγον ἀκούσομαι;
— word shall-I-hear
ΧΟΡΟΣ μὴ πρόμαντις ἀλγέων
not foreboding of-griefs
προλάμβαν', ὦ φίλα, γόους.
anticipate O dear wailings
ΕΛΕΝΗ τί μοι πόσις μέλεος ἔτλα;
what my husband wretched has-endured
πότερα δέρκεται φάος
whether he-sees light
τέθριππά θ' ἁλίου
four-horse-chariots and of-sun
κέλευθά τ' ἀστέρων,
paths and of-stars
ΧΟΡΟΣ ***
(lacuna)
ΕΛΕΝΗ ***
(lacuna)
ἢ 'ν νέκυσι κατὰ χθονὸς
or among corpses below earth

τὰν χθόνιον ἔχει τύχαν;
the underground has fortune

ΧΟΡΟΣ εἰς τὸ φέρτερον τίθει
to the better put

τὸ μέλλον, ὅ τι γενήσεται.
the to-come what ever will-be

ΕΛΕΝΗ σὲ γὰρ ἐκάλεσα, σὲ δὲ κατόμοσα,
you for I-called you and I-swore-by

τὸν ὑδρόεντα δόνακι χλωρὸν
the watery with-reed green

Εὐρώταν, θανόντος εἰ βάξις
Eurotas of-dead if report

ἔτυμος ἀνδρὸς ἅδε μοι —
true of-man this to-me

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί τάδ' ἀσύνετα;
what (are)-these senseless(-things)

ΕΛΕΝΗ φόνιον αἰώρημα
murderous suspension

διὰ δέρης ὀρέξομαι,
through neck I-will-stretch

ἢ ξιφοκτόνον δίωγμα
or sword-killing pursuit

λαιμορύτου σφαγᾶς
of-throat-flowing slaughter

αὐτοσίδαρον ἔσω πελάσω διὰ σαρκὸς ἄμιλλαν,
self-iron inside I-will-drive through flesh striving

θῦμα τριζύγοις θεαῖσι
sacrifice to-three-yoked goddesses

† τῷ τε συρίγγων ἀοιδὰν σεβί-
(corrupt) to-the and of-pipes song honoring

ζοντι Πριαμίδᾳ ποτ' ἀμφὶ βουστάθμους.
— *son-of-Priam once by cattle-folds*

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄλλοσ' ἀποτροπὰ κακῶν
elsewhere turning of-ills

γένοιτο, τὸ δὲ σὸν εὐτυχές.
may-be the and your fortunate

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἰὼ Τροία τάλαινα,
oh Troy wretched

δι' ἔργ' ἄνεργ' ὄλλυσαι μέλεά τ' ἔτλας·
through deeds undone you-perish wretched(-things) and endured

τὰ δ' ἐμὰ δῶρα Κύπριδος ἔτεκε
the and my gifts of-Cypris bore

πολὺ μὲν αἷμα, πολὺ δὲ δάκρυον, ἄχεά τ' ἄχεσι,
much indeed blood much and tear woes and on-woes

† δάκρυα δάκρυσιν ἔλαβε πάθεα,
(corrupt) tears on-tears took sufferings

ματέρες τε παῖδας ὤλεσαν,
mothers and children lost

ἀπὸ δὲ παρθένοι κόμας
off and maidens hair

ἔθεντο σύγγονοι νεκρῶν Σκαμάνδριον
put sisters of-corpses Scamandrian

ἀμφὶ Φρύγιον οἶδμα.
by Phrygian swell

βοὰν βοὰν δ' Ἑλλὰς
a-cry a-cry and Hellas

κελάδησε κἀνωτότυξεν,
shouted and-wailed

ἐπὶ δὲ κρατὶ χέρας ἔθηκεν,
on and head hands set

ὄνυχι δ᾽ ἁπαλόχροα γένυν
with-nail and soft-skinned cheek
ἔδευσε φονίαισι πλαγαῖς.
drenched with-murderous blows
ὦ μάκαρ Ἀρκαδίᾳ ποτὲ παρθένε Καλλιστοῖ, Διὸς
O blessed in-Arcadia once maiden Callisto of-Zeus
ἃ λεχέων ἐπέβας τετραβάμοσι γυίοις,
who bed went-up-to with-four-footed limbs
ὡς πολὺ ματρὸς ἐμᾶς ἔλαχες πλέον,
how much than-mother my you-got more
ἁ μορφᾷ θηρῶν λαχνογυίων
who in-form of-beasts shaggy-limbed
ὄμματι λάβρῳ σχῆμα διαίνεις
with-eye fierce shape you-wet
ἐξαλλάξασ᾽ ἄχθεα λύπης·
having-changed burdens of-grief
ἄν τέ ποτ᾽ Ἄρτεμις ἐξεχορεύσατο
whom and once Artemis danced-out(-of-her-band)
χρυσοκέρατ᾽ ἔλαφον Μέροπος Τιτανίδα κούραν
golden-horned deer of-Merops Titan's daughter
καλλοσύνας ἕνεκεν· τὸ δ᾽ ἐμὸν δέμας
of-beauty for-the-sake the but my body
ὤλεσεν ὤλεσε πέργαμα Δαρδανίας
destroyed destroyed citadel of-Dardania
ὀλομένους τ᾽ Ἀχαιούς.
having-perished and Achaeans

Menelaus, shipwrecked and clad in wreckage from his ship, comes to the palace looking for help, having left Helen and his crew in a cave. An old woman keeping the door drives him off, warning that her master kills Greeks, since Helen, Zeus' daughter from Sparta, lives inside. Menelaus is baffled and wonders whether there is another Zeus, another Sparta, and another Helen. He resolves to wait for the master.

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὦ τὰς τεθρίππους Οἰνομάῳ Πῖσαν κάτα
O the four-horse with-Oenomaus Pisa throughout
Πέλοψ ἁμίλλας ἐξαμιλληθείς ποτε,
Pelops races having-contested once
εἴθ' ὤφελες τόθ', ἡνίκ' ἔρανον εἰς θεοὺς
would-that you-ought then when banquet for gods
† πεισθεὶς ἐποίεις, ἐν θεοῖς λιπεῖν βίον,
(corrupt) persuaded you-were-making among gods to-leave life
πρὶν τὸν ἐμὸν Ἀτρέα πατέρα γεννῆσαί ποτε,
before the my Atreus father to-beget ever
ὃς ἐξέφυσεν Ἀερόπης λέκτρων ἄπο
who begot of-Aerope bed from
Ἀγαμέμνον' ἐμέ τε Μενέλεων, κλεινὸν ζυγόν·
Agamemnon me and Menelaus famous pair
πλεῖστον γὰρ οἶμαι, καὶ τόδ' οὐ κόμπῳ λέγω,
greatest for I-think and this not in-boast I-say
στράτευμα κώπῃ διορίσαι Τροίαν ἔπι,
army with-oar to-have-conveyed Troy against
τύραννος οὐδὲν πρὸς βίαν στρατηλατῶν,
king nothing by force leading-the-army
ἑκοῦσι δ' ἄρξας Ἑλλάδος νεανίαις.
willing but having-ruled of-Hellas young-men

καὶ τοὺς μὲν οὐκέτ᾽ ὄντας ἀριθμῆσαι πάρα,
and the(-ones) indeed no-longer being to-count (it-is)-possible
τοὺς δ᾽ ἐκ θαλάσσης ἀσμένως πεφευγότας,
the(-ones) and from sea gladly having-escaped
νεκρῶν φέροντας ὀνόματ᾽ εἰς οἴκους πάλιν.
of-corpses bringing names to house back
ἐγὼ δ᾽ ἐπ᾽ οἶδμα πόντιον γλαυκῆς ἁλὸς
I but over swell of-sea of-gray brine
τλήμων ἀλῶμαι χρόνον ὅσονπερ Ἰλίου
wretched I-wander time as-long-as-very of-Ilium
πύργους ἔπερσα, κεἰς πάτραν χρῄζων μολεῖν,
towers I-sacked and-to fatherland wanting to-come
οὐκ ἀξιοῦμαι τοῦδε πρὸς θεῶν τυχεῖν.
not I-am-deemed-worthy this by gods to-obtain
Λιβύης τ᾽ ἐρήμους ἀξένους τ᾽ ἐπιδρομὰς
of-Libya and deserted inhospitable and landings
πέπλευκα πάσας· χὥταν ἐγγὺς ὦ πάτρας,
I-have-sailed all and-when near I-am of-fatherland
πάλιν μ᾽ ἀπωθεῖ πνεῦμα, κοὔποτ᾽ οὔριον
back me thrusts wind and-never fair
εἰσῆλθε λαῖφος ὥστε μ᾽ εἰς πάτραν μολεῖν.
came-into sail so-as me to fatherland to-come
καὶ νῦν τάλας ναυαγὸς ἀπολέσας φίλους
and now wretched shipwrecked having-lost friends
ἐξέπεσον εἰς γῆν τήνδε· ναῦς δὲ πρὸς πέτρας
I-was-cast-out onto land this ship and against rocks
πολλοὺς ἀριθμοὺς ἄγνυται ναναγίων.
many numbers is-broken of-wrecks
τρόπις δ᾽ ἐλείφθη ποικίλων ἁρμοσμάτων,
keel and was-left of-various fittings

ἐφ᾽ ἧς ἐσώθην μόλις ἀνελπίστῳ τύχῃ
on which I-was-saved hardly by-unhoped-for chance
Ἑλένη τε, Τροίας ἣν ἀποσπάσας ἔχω.
Helen and from-Troy whom having-torn-away I-have
ὄνομα δὲ χώρας ἥτις ἥδε καὶ λεὼς
name and of-land which this and people
οὐκ οἶδ᾽· ὄχλον γὰρ εἰσπεσεῖν ᾐσχυνόμην
not I-know crowd for to-fall-among I-was-ashamed
ὥσθ᾽ ἱστορῆσαι, τῆς ἐμῆς δυσχλαινίας
so-as to-inquire of-the my bad-clothing
κρύπτων ὑπ᾽ αἰδοῦς τὰς τύχας. ὅταν δ᾽ ἀνὴρ
hiding from shame the fortunes when and man
πράξῃ κακῶς ὑψηλός, εἰς ἀηθίαν
fares badly high-placed into strangeness
πίπτει κακίω τοῦ πάλαι δυσδαίμονος.
he-falls worse than-the of-old ill-fated(-man)
χρεία δὲ τείρει μ᾽· οὔτε γὰρ σῖτος πάρα
want and wears me neither for food is-at-hand
οὔτ᾽ ἀμφὶ χρῶτ᾽ ἐσθῆτες· αὐτὰ δ᾽ εἰκάσαι
nor about skin clothes these and to-guess
πάρεστι ναὸς ἔκβολ᾽ οἷς ἀμπίσχομαι.
it-is-possible of-ship wreckage in-which I-am-wrapped
πέπλους δὲ τοὺς πρὶν λαμπρά τ᾽ ἀμφιβλήματα
robes and the former splendid and garments
χλιδάς τε πόντος ἥρπασ᾽· ἐν δ᾽ ἄντρου μυχοῖς
luxuries and sea snatched in and of-cave recesses
κρύψας γυναῖκα τὴν κακῶν πάντων ἐμοὶ
having-hidden woman the of-ills all for-me
ἄρξασαν ἥκω, τούς τε περιλελειμμένους
having-begun I-come the(-ones) and left-over

φίλων φυλάσσειν τἄμ᾽ ἀναγκάσας λέχη.
of-friends to-guard my having-compelled bed
μόνος δὲ νοστῶ, τοῖς ἐκεῖ ζητῶν φίλοις
alone and I-return for-the there seeking friends
τὰ πρόσφορ᾽ ἤν πως ἐξερευνήσας λάβω.
the useful(-things) if somehow having-searched I-may-get
ἰδὼν δὲ δῶμα περιφερὲς θριγκοῖς τόδε
having-seen and house encircled with-copings this
πύλας τε σεμνὰς ἀνδρὸς ὀλβίου τινός,
gates and august of-man prosperous some
προσῆλθον· ἐλπὶς δ᾽ ἔκ γε πλουσίων δόμων
I-approached hope and from at-least rich house
λαβεῖν τι ναύταις· ἐκ δὲ μὴ ᾽χόντων βίον,
to-get something for-sailors from but not having life
οὐδ᾽ εἰ θέλοιεν, ὠφελεῖν ἔχοιεν ἄν.
not-even if they-wished to-help could —
ὠή· τίς ἂν πυλωρὸς ἐκ δόμων μόλοι,
ho who — porter from house might-come
ὅστις διαγγείλειε τἄμ᾽ εἴσω κακά;
who might-announce my inside ills
ΓΡΑΤΣ τίς πρὸς πύλαισιν; οὐκ ἀπαλλάξει δόμων
who (is)-at gates not will-you-be-off from-house
καὶ μὴ πρὸς αὐλείοισιν ἑστηκὼς πύλαις
and not at court standing gates
ὄχλον παρέξεις δεσπόταις; ἢ κατθανεῖ
trouble will-you-cause to-masters or you-will-die
Ἕλλην πεφυκώς, οἷσιν οὐκ ἐπιστροφαί.
Greek being for-whom (there-are)-no dealings

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὦ γραῖα, ταῦτα πάντ' ἔπη καλῶς λέγεις.
O old-woman these all words well you-say
ἔξεστι· πείσομαι γάρ· ἀλλ' ἄνες χόλον.
it-is-possible I-will-obey for but let-go anger
ΓΡΑΥΣ ἄπελθ'· ἐμοὶ γὰρ τοῦτο πρόσκειται, ξένε,
go-away for-me for this is-laid-on stranger
μηδένα πελάζειν τοισίδ' Ἑλλήνων δόμοις.
no-one to-approach this of-Greeks house
445 ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἆ· μὴ προσείλει χεῖρα μηδ' ὦθει βίᾳ.
ah not push hand nor thrust by-force
ΓΡΑΥΣ πείθει γὰρ οὐδὲν ὧν λέγω· σὺ δ' αἴτιος.
you-obey for nothing of-what I-say you and (are)-to-blame
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἄγγειλον εἴσω δεσπόταισι τοῖσι σοῖς.
announce inside to-masters the your
ΓΡΑΥΣ πικρῶς ἂν οἶμαί γ' ἀγγελεῖν τοὺς σοὺς λόγους.
bitterly — I-think at-least to-announce the your words
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ναυαγὸς ἥκω ξένος, ἀσύλητον γένος.
shipwrecked I-come stranger inviolable race
450 ΓΡΑΥΣ οἶκον πρὸς ἄλλον νύν τιν' ἀντὶ τοῦδ' ἴθι.
house to other now some instead-of this go
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὔκ, ἀλλ' ἔσω πάρειμι· καὶ σύ μοι πιθοῦ.
no but inside I-go-in and you me obey
ΓΡΑΥΣ ὀχληρὸς ἴσθ' ὢν· καὶ τάχ' ὠσθήσει βίᾳ.
troublesome know-that-you being and soon you-will-be-thrust by-force
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ αἰαῖ· τὰ κλεινὰ ποῦ 'στί μοι στρατεύματα;
alas the famous where are for-me armies
ΓΡΑΥΣ οὐκοῦν ἐκεῖ που σεμνὸς ἦσθ', οὐκ ἐνθάδε.
then there somewhere august you-were not here
455 ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὦ δαῖμον, ὡς ἀνάξι' ἠτιμώμεθα.
O god how unworthily we-have-been-dishonored

ΓΡΑΥΣ τί βλέφαρα τέγγεις δάκρυσι; πρὸς τί δ' οἰκτρὸς εἶ;
why eyelids do-you-wet with-tears for what and pitiable are-you
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πρὸς τὰς πάροιθεν συμφορὰς εὐδαίμονας.
for the former fortunes happy
ΓΡΑΥΣ οὔκουν ἀπελθὼν δάκρυα σοῖς δώσεις φίλοις;
not-then having-gone-away tears to-your will-you-give friends
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τίς δ' ἥδε χώρα; τοῦ δὲ βασίλειοι δόμοι;
what and this land of-whom and royal house
ΓΡΑΥΣ Πρωτεὺς τάδ' οἰκεῖ δώματ', Αἴγυπτος δὲ γῆ. 460
Proteus this dwells-in house Egypt and land
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ Αἴγυπτος; ὦ δύστηνος, οἳ πέπλευκ' ἄρα.
Egypt O wretched where I-have-sailed then
ΓΡΑΥΣ τί δὴ τὸ Νείλου μεμπτόν ἐστί σοι γάνος;
what indeed the of-Nile blameworthy is to-you sheen
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὐ τοῦτ' ἐμέμφθην· τὰς ἐμὰς στένω τύχας.
not this I-blamed the my I-lament fortunes
ΓΡΑΥΣ πολλοὶ κακῶς πράσσουσιν, οὐ σὺ δὴ μόνος.
many badly fare not you indeed alone
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἔστ' οὖν ἐν οἴκοις ὅντιν' ὀνομάζεις ἄναξ; 465
is-he then in house whom you-name lord
ΓΡΑΥΣ τόδ' ἐστὶν αὐτοῦ μνῆμα, παῖς δ' ἄρχει χθονός.
this is his tomb son and rules land
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ποῦ δῆτ' ἂν εἴη; πότερον ἐκτὸς ἢ 'ν δόμοις;
where then — might-he-be whether outside or in house
ΓΡΑΥΣ οὐκ ἔνδον· Ἕλλησιν δὲ πολεμιώτατος.
not inside to-Greeks and most-hostile
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τίν' αἰτίαν σχὼν ἧς ἐπηυρόμην ἐγώ;
what cause having which I-have-enjoyed I
ΓΡΑΥΣ Ἑλένη κατ' οἴκους ἐστὶ τούσδ' ἡ τοῦ Διός. 470
Helen in house is this the(-daughter) — of-Zeus

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πῶς φής; τίν' εἶπας μῦθον; αὖθίς μοι φράσον.
how do-you-say what did-you-say word again to-me tell

ΓΡΑΤΣ ἡ Τυνδαρὶς παῖς, ἣ κατὰ Σπάρτην ποτ' ἦν.
the Tyndarid child who in Sparta once was

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πόθεν μολοῦσα; τίνα τὸ πρᾶγμ' ἔχει λόγον;
whence having-come what the matter has account

ΓΡΑΤΣ Λακεδαίμονος γῆς δεῦρο νοστήσασ' ἄπο.
of-Lacedaemon land here having-returned from

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πότ'; οὔ τί που λελῄσμεθ' ἐξ ἄντρων λέχος;
when surely-not at-all I-suppose am-I-robbed from caves bed

ΓΡΑΤΣ πρὶν τοὺς Ἀχαιούς, ὦ ξέν', εἰς Τροίαν μολεῖν.
before the Achaeans O stranger to Troy to-go

ἀλλ' ἔρπ' ἀπ' οἴκων· ἔστι γάρ τις ἐν δόμοις
but go from house there-is for some in house

τύχη, τύραννος ᾗ ταράσσεται δόμος.
chance royal by-which is-troubled house

καιρὸν γὰρ οὐδέν' ἦλθες· ἢν δὲ δεσπότης
time for none you-came if and master

λάβῃ σε, θάνατος ξένιά σοι γενήσεται.
takes you death guest-gifts for-you will-be

εὔνους γάρ εἰμ' Ἕλλησιν, οὐχ ὅσον πικροὺς
well-disposed for I-am to-Greeks not as-much-as bitter

λόγους ἔδωκα δεσπότην φοβουμένη.
words I-gave master fearing

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τί φῶ; τί λέξω; συμφορὰς γὰρ ἀθλίας
what am-I-to-say what shall-I-say misfortunes for wretched

ἐκ τῶν πάροιθεν τὰς παρεστώσας κλύω,
from the former the present I-hear

εἰ τὴν μὲν αἱρεθεῖσαν ἐκ Τροίας ἄγων
if the indeed taken from Troy bringing

ἥκω δάμαρτα καὶ κατ᾽ ἄντρα σῴζεται,
I-come wife and in caves she-is-kept
ὄνομα δὲ ταὐτὸν τῆς ἐμῆς ἔχουσά τις
name and the-same of-the my having some
δάμαρτος ἄλλη τοισίδ᾽ ἐνναίει δόμοις.
wife other in-this dwells house
Διὸς δ᾽ ἔλεξε παῖδά νιν πεφυκέναι.
of-Zeus and she-said child her to-be-born
ἀλλ᾽ ἦ τις ἔστι Ζηνὸς ὄνομ᾽ ἔχων ἀνὴρ 490
but truly someone is of-Zeus name having man
Νείλου παρ᾽ ὄχθας; εἷς γὰρ ὅ γε κατ᾽ οὐρανόν.
of-Nile beside banks one for he at-least in heaven
Σπάρτη δὲ ποῦ γῆς ἐστι πλὴν ἵνα ῥοαὶ
Sparta and where of-earth is except where streams
τοῦ καλλιδόνακός εἰσιν Εὐρώτα μόνον;
of-the fair-reeded are of-Eurotas only
διπλοῦν δὲ Τυνδάρειον ὄνομα κλῄζεται;
double and Tyndarean name is-spoken
Λακεδαίμονος δὲ γαῖά τις ξυνώνυμος 495
of-Lacedaemon and land some of-the-same-name
Τροίας τ᾽; ἐγὼ μὲν οὐκ ἔχω τί χρὴ λέγειν.
of-Troy and I indeed not I-have what (one)-must to-say
πολλοὶ γάρ, ὡς εἴξασιν, ἐν πολλῇ χθονὶ
many for as it-seems in wide land
ὀνόματα ταὔτ᾽ ἔχουσι καὶ πόλις πόλει
names the-same have and city with-city
γυνὴ γυναικί τ᾽· οὐδὲν οὖν θαυμαστέον.
woman with-woman and nothing then one-must-wonder
οὐδ᾽ αὖ τὸ δεινὸν προσπόλου φευξούμεθα· 500
not-even again the terror of-the-servant shall-we-flee

ἀνὴρ γὰρ οὐδεὶς ὧδε βάρβαρος φρένας,
man for no-one so barbarous in-mind
ὃς ὄνομ᾽ ἀκούσας τοὐμὸν οὐ δώσει βοράν.
who name having-heard my not will-give food
κλεινὸν τὸ Τροίας πῦρ ἐγώ θ᾽ ὃς ἧψά νιν,
famous the of-Troy fire I and who kindled it
Μενέλαος, οὐκ ἄγνωστος ἐν πάσῃ χθονί.
Menelaus not unknown in all land
δόμων ἄνακτα προσμενῶ· δισσὰς δέ μοι
of-house lord I-will-await twofold and to-me
ἔχει φυλάξεις· ἢν μὲν ὠμόφρων τις ᾖ,
it-has precautions if indeed savage-minded someone be
κρύψας ἐμαυτὸν εἶμι πρὸς ναυάγια·
having-hidden myself I-will-go to wreckage
ἢν δ᾽ ἐνδιδῷ τι μαλθακόν, τὰ πρόσφορα
if and he-yields anything soft the useful(-things)
τῆς νῦν παρούσης συμφορᾶς αἰτήσομαι.
of-the now present misfortune I-will-ask
κακῶν μὲν ἡμῖν ἔσχατον τοῖς ἀθλίοις,
of-ills indeed for-us (is)-last for-the wretched
ἄλλους τυράννους αὐτὸν ὄντα βασιλέα
other kings himself being king
βίον προσαιτεῖν· ἀλλ᾽ ἀναγκαίως ἔχει.
livelihood to-beg but of-necessity it-is
λόγος γάρ ἐστιν οὐκ ἐμός, σοφῶν δ᾽ ἔπος,
saying for is not mine of-wise but word
δεινῆς ἀνάγκης οὐδὲν ἰσχύειν πλέον.
than-terrible necessity nothing to-be-strong more

The chorus returns with Theonoe's answer that Menelaus is alive. Helen comes out again rejoicing and flies in fear from the wild-looking stranger, until each is struck by the other's likeness. Helen claims him as her husband and explains that the Helen at Troy was a phantom Hera made of air, but Menelaus holds that his wife is in the cave and refuses to believe her, since he has one wife and cannot have two. He is about to leave.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἤκουσα τᾶς θεσπιῳδοῦ κόρας,
I-heard the prophetic maiden
ἃ χρῄζουσ' ἐφάνη 'ν τυράννοις
which wishing she-declared in royal
δόμοις, ὡς Μενέλαος οὔπω
house that Menelaus not-yet
μελαμφαὲς οἴχεται
black-gleaming is-gone
δι' ἔρεβος χθονὶ κρυφθείς,
through darkness in-earth hidden
ἀλλ' ἔτι κατ' οἶδμ' ἅλιον
but still on swell of-sea
τρυχόμενος οὔπω λιμένων
worn not-yet of-harbors
ψαύσειεν πατρίας γᾶς,
has-touched of-native land
ἀλατείᾳ βιότου
in-wandering of-life
ταλαίφρων, ἄφιλος φίλων,
wretched friendless of-friends
παντοδαπᾶς πόδα
of-every-kind foot

χρμπτόμενος εἰναλίῳ
bringing-near on-sea
κώπᾳ Τρῳάδος ἐκ γᾶς.
with-oar Trojan from land
ΕΛΕΝΗ ἥδ' αὖ τάφου τοῦδ' εἰς ἕδρας ἐγὼ πάλιν
this-one again of-tomb this to seat I back
στείχω, μαθοῦσα Θεονόης φίλους λόγους,
go having-learned of-Theonoe dear words
ἣ πάντ' ἀληθῶς οἶδε· φησὶ δ' ἐν φάει
who all(-things) truly knows she-says and in light
πόσιν τὸν ἁμὸν ζῶντα φέγγος εἰσορᾶν,
husband the my living light to-look-on
πορθμοὺς δ' ἀλᾶσθαι μυρίους πεπλευκότα
straits and to-wander countless having-sailed
ἐκεῖσε κἀκεῖσ' οὐδ' ἀγύμναστον πλάνοις,
there and-here and-not unpracticed in-wanderings
ἥξειν, ὅταν δὴ πημάτων λάβῃ τέλος.
to-come when indeed of-woes he-takes end
ἓν δ' οὐκ ἔλεξεν, εἰ μολὼν σωθήσεται.
one(-thing) but not she-said whether having-come he-will-be-saved
ἐγὼ δ' ἀπέστην τοῦτ' ἐρωτῆσαι σαφῶς,
I and refrained-from this to-ask clearly
ἡσθεῖσ' ἐπεί νιν εἶπέ μοι σεσωσμένον.
delighted since him she-said to-me saved
ἐγγὺς δέ νίν που τῆσδ' ἔφασκ' εἶναι χθονός,
near and him somewhere of-this she-said to-be land
ναυαγὸν ἐκπεσόντα σὺν παύροις φίλοις.
shipwrecked having-been-cast-out with few friends
ὤμοι, πόθ' ἥξεις; ὡς ποθεινὸς ἂν μόλοις.
ah-me when will-you-come how longed-for — you-would-come

ἔα, τίς οὗτος; οὔ τί που κρυπτεύομαι
ha who (is)-this surely-not at-all I-suppose am-I-ambushed
Πρωτέως ἀσέπτου παιδὸς ἐκ βουλευμάτων;
of-Proteus impious son by plans
οὐχ ὡς δρομαία πῶλος ἢ Βάκχη θεοῦ
not like racing filly or Bacchant of-the-god
τάφῳ ξυνάψω κῶλον; ἄγριος δέ τις
to-tomb shall-I-join limb wild and some(-one)
μορφὴν ὅδ' ἐστίν, ὅς με θηρᾶται λαβεῖν.
in-form this-man is who me hunts to-seize
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ σὲ τὴν ὄρεγμα δεινὸν ἡμιλλημένην
you the(-woman) reach terrible having-striven
τύμβου 'πὶ κρηπῖδ' ἐμπύρους τ' ὀρθοστάτας,
of-tomb to base burnt-offering and pillars
μεῖνον· τί φεύγεις; ὡς δέμας δείξασα σὸν
stay why do-you-flee since body having-shown your
ἔκπληξιν ἡμῖν ἀφασίαν τε προστίθης.
amazement to-us speechlessness and you-add
ΕΛΕΝΗ ἀδικούμεθ', ὦ γυναῖκες· εἰργόμεσθα γὰρ
we-are-wronged O women we-are-kept-off for
τάφου πρὸς ἀνδρὸς τοῦδε, καί μ' ἑλὼν θέλει
from-tomb by man this and me having-seized he-wishes
δοῦναι τυράννοις ὧν ἐφεύγομεν γάμους.
to-give to-kings whose we-were-fleeing marriage
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὐ κλῶπές ἐσμεν, οὐχ ὑπηρέται κακῶν.
not thieves we-are not servants of-ills
ΕΛΕΝΗ καὶ μὴν στολήν γ' ἄμορφον ἀμφὶ σῶμ' ἔχεις.
and indeed garb at-least unshapely about body you-have
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ στῆσον, φόβου μεθεῖσα, λαιψηρὸν πόδα.
stop fear having-let-go swift foot

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἵστημ᾽, ἐπεί γε τοῦδ᾽ ἐφάπτομαι τάφου.
I-stop since at-least this I-cling-to tomb

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τίς εἶ; τίν᾽ ὄψιν σήν, γύναι, προσδέρκομαι;
who are-you what face your woman do-I-look-upon

ΕΛΕΝΗ σὺ δ᾽ εἶ τίς; αὐτὸς γὰρ σὲ κἄμ᾽ ἔχει λόγος.
you and are who the-same for you and-me holds word

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὐπώποτ᾽ εἶδον προσφερέστερον δέμας.
never-yet I-saw more-like body

560 ΕΛΕΝΗ ὦ θεοί· θεὸς γὰρ καὶ τὸ γιγνώσκειν φίλους.
O gods god for also the to-recognize friends

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ Ἑλληνὶς εἶ τις ἢ ᾽πιχωρία γυνή;
Greek are-you some or native woman

ΕΛΕΝΗ Ἑλληνίς· ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸ σὸν θέλω μαθεῖν.
Greek but also the your I-wish to-learn

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ Ἑλένῃ σ᾽ ὁμοίαν δὴ μάλιστ᾽ εἶδον, γύναι.
to-Helen you like indeed most I-saw woman

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἐγὼ δὲ Μενελάῳ γέ σ᾽· οὐδ᾽ ἔχω τί φῶ.
I and to-Menelaus at-least you nor have-I what to-say

565 ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἔγνως ἄρ᾽ ὀρθῶς ἄνδρα δυστυχέστατον.
you-knew then rightly man most-unfortunate

ΕΛΕΝΗ ὦ χρόνιος ἐλθὼν σῆς δάμαρτος ἐς χέρας.
O long-delayed having-come of-your wife into arms

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ποίας δάμαρτος; μὴ θίγῃς ἐμῶν πέπλων.
what wife not touch my robes

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἥν σοι δίδωσι Τυνδάρεως ἐμὸς πατήρ.
whom to-you gives Tyndareus my father

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὦ φωσφόρ᾽ Ἑκάτη, πέμπε φάσματ᾽ εὐμενῆ.
O light-bearing Hecate send visions kindly

570 ΕΛΕΝΗ οὐ νυκτίφαντον πρόπολον Ἐνοδίας μ᾽ ὁρᾷς.
not night-appearing servant of-the-Wayside(-goddess) me you-see

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὐ μὴν γυναικῶν γ᾽ εἷς δυοῖν ἔφυν πόσις.
not indeed of-women at-least one of-two I-was husband

ΕΛΕΝΗ ποίων δὲ λέκτρων δεσπότης ἄλλων ἔφυς;
of-what and bed master other were-you

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἣν ἄντρα κεύθει κἀκ Φρυγῶν κομίζομαι.
whom caves hide and-from Phrygians I-bring

ΕΛΕΝΗ οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλη σή τις ἀντ᾽ ἐμοῦ γυνή.
not is other your any instead-of me wife

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὔ που φρονῶ μὲν εὖ, τὸ δ᾽ ὄμμα μου νοσεῖ; 575
surely-not I-suppose I-think indeed well the but eye my is-sick

ΕΛΕΝΗ οὐ γάρ με λεύσσων σὴν δάμαρθ᾽ ὁρᾶν δοκεῖς;
not for me seeing your wife to-see do-you-think

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τὸ σῶμ᾽ ὅμοιον, τὸ δὲ σαφές μ᾽ ἀποστερεῖ.
the body (is)-like the but certainty me robs

ΕΛΕΝΗ σκέψαι· τί σοι δεῖ πίστεως σαφεστέρας;
look what to-you is-needed of-proof clearer

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἔοικας· οὔτοι τοῦτό γ᾽ ἐξαρνήσομαι.
you-resemble(-her) surely-not this at-least I-will-deny

ΕΛΕΝΗ τίς οὖν διδάξει σ᾽ ἄλλος ἢ τὰ σ᾽ ὄμματα; 580
who then will-teach you other than the your eyes

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἐκεῖ νοσοῦμεν, ὅτι δάμαρτ᾽ ἄλλην ἔχω.
there we-are-sick that wife other I-have

ΕΛΕΝΗ οὐκ ἦλθον εἰς γῆν Τρῳάδ᾽, ἀλλ᾽ εἴδωλον ἦν.
not I-went to land Trojan but image it-was

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ καὶ τίς βλέποντα σώματ᾽ ἐξεργάζεται;
and who seeing bodies fashions

ΕΛΕΝΗ αἰθήρ, ὅθεν σὺ θεοπόνητ᾽ ἔχεις λέχη.
air whence you god-wrought have bed

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τίνος πλάσαντος θεῶν; ἄελπτα γὰρ λέγεις. 585
of-whom having-molded of-gods unexpected(-things) for you-say

ΕΛΕΝΗ Ἥρας, διάλλαγμ', ὡς Πάρις με μὴ λάβοι.
of-Hera substitute so-that Paris me not might-take

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πῶς οὖν ἅμ' ἐνθάδ' ἦσθά τ' ἐν Τροίᾳ θ' ἅμα;
how then together here you-were and in Troy and together

ΕΛΕΝΗ τοὔνομα γένοιτ' ἂν πολλαχοῦ, τὸ σῶμα δ' οὔ.
the-name might-be — in-many-places the body but not

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ μέθες με, λύπης ἄλις ἔχων ἐλήλυθα.
let-go me of-grief enough having I-have-come

590 ΕΛΕΝΗ λείψεις γὰρ ἡμᾶς, τὰ δὲ κέν' ἐξάξεις λέχη;
will-you-leave for us the and empty will-you-lead-away bed

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ καὶ χαῖρέ γ', Ἑλένῃ προσφερὴς ὁθούνεκ' εἶ.
and farewell at-least to-Helen like because you-are

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἀπωλόμην· λαβοῦσά σ' οὐχ ἕξω πόσιν.
I-am-lost having-found you not I-will-have husband

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τοὐκεῖ με μέγεθος τῶν πόνων πείθει, σὺ δ' οὔ.
the-there me greatness of-the toils persuades you but not

ΕΛΕΝΗ οἲ 'γώ· τίς ἡμῶν ἐγένετ' ἀθλιωτέρα;
ah I who of-us became more-wretched

595 οἱ φίλτατοι λείπουσί μ', οὐδ' ἀφίξομαι
the dearest leave me nor shall-I-reach

Ἕλληνας οὐδὲ πατρίδα τὴν ἐμήν ποτε.
Greeks nor country the my ever

A servant of Menelaus arrives: the Helen in the cave has risen into the sky, declaring that the Greeks fought for a phantom made by Hera. Menelaus now accepts the true Helen, and the two sing of their reunion. Helen tells how Hermes carried her to Egypt. The servant marvels and recalls their wedding; sent back to tell the crew to wait on the shore for a chance of escape, he reflects that prophets are worthless and good sense the best seer; the chorus adds that the gods' friendship is the best prophecy.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ Μενέλαε, μαστεύων σε κιγχάνω μόλις
Menelaus seeking you I-find barely
πᾶσαν πλανηθεὶς τήνδε βάρβαρον χθόνα,
all having-wandered this barbarian land
πεμφθεὶς ἑταίρων τῶν λελειμμένων ὕπο —
sent comrades the left-behind by
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τί δ' ἔστιν; οὔ που βαρβάρων συλᾶσθ' ὕπο; 600
what and is-it surely-not I-suppose barbarians are-you-robbed by
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ θαυμάστ', ἔλασσον τοὔνομ' ἢ τὸ πρᾶγμ', ἔχων.
wonderful(-things) less the-name than the deed having
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ λέγ', ὡς φέρεις τι τῇδε τῇ σπουδῇ νέον.
speak since you-bring something with-this the haste new
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ λέγω πόνους σε μυρίους τλῆναι μάτην.
I-say toils you countless to-have-endured in-vain
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ παλαιὰ θρηνεῖς πήματ'· ἀγγέλλεις δὲ τί;
old you-lament woes you-announce but what
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ βέβηκεν ἄλοχος σὴ πρὸς αἰθέρος πτυχὰς 605
has-gone wife your to of-air folds
ἀρθεῖσ' ἄφαντος· οὐρανῷ δὲ κρύπτεται
raised-up unseen in-heaven and is-hidden
λιποῦσα σεμνὸν ἄντρον οὗ σφ' ἐσῴζομεν,
having-left holy cave where her we-were-guarding

τοσόνδε λέξασ'· ὦ ταλαίπωροι Φρύγες
so-much having-said O wretched Phrygians
πάντες τ' Ἀχαιοί, δι' ἔμ' ἐπὶ Σκαμανδρίοις
all and Achaeans because-of me by Scamandrian
ἀκταῖσιν Ἥρας μηχαναῖς ἐθνῄσκετε,
shores by-Hera's devices you-were-dying
δοκοῦντες Ἑλένην οὐκ ἔχοντ' ἔχειν Πάριν.
thinking Helen not having to-have Paris
ἐγὼ δ' ἐπειδὴ χρόνον ἔμειν' ὅσον μ' ἐχρῆν,
I and since time I-stayed as-long-as me (it)-was-needful
τὸ μόρσιμον σώσασα, πατέρ' ἐς οὐρανὸν
the fated having-kept father to heaven
ἄπειμι· φήμας δ' ἡ τάλαινα Τυνδαρὶς
I-go-away reports and the wretched Tyndarid
ἄλλως κακὰς ἤκουσεν οὐδὲν αἰτία.
vainly evil heard nothing guilty
ὦ χαῖρε, Λήδας θύγατερ, ἐνθάδ' ἦσθ' ἄρα;
O hail of-Leda daughter here you-were then
ἐγὼ δέ σ' ἄστρων ὡς βεβηκυῖαν μυχοὺς
I and you of-stars as having-gone recesses
ἤγγελλον εἰδὼς οὐδὲν ὡς ὑπόπτερον
announced knowing nothing that winged
δέμας φοροίης· οὐκ ἐῶ σε κερτομεῖν
body you-bore not I-allow you to-mock
ἡμᾶς τόδ' αὖθις, ὡς μάτην ἐν Ἰλίῳ
us this again as in-vain in Ilium
πόνους παρεῖχες σῷ πόσει καὶ συμμάχοις.
toils you-gave to-your husband and allies

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τοῦτ᾽ ἔστ᾽ ἐκεῖνο· ξυμβεβᾶσιν οἱ λόγοι
this is that agree the words
οἱ τῆσδ᾽ ἀληθεῖς. ὦ ποθεινὸς ἡμέρα,
the of-her true O longed-for day
ἥ σ᾽ εἰς ἐμὰς ἔδωκεν ὠλένας λαβεῖν.
which you into my gave arms to-take
ΕΛΕΝΗ ὦ φίλτατ᾽ ἀνδρῶν Μενέλεως, ὁ μὲν χρόνος 625
O dearest of-men Menelaus the indeed time
παλαιός, ἡ δὲ τέρψις ἀρτίως πάρα.
(is)-old the but delight just-now is-present
ἔλαβον ἀσμένα πόσιν ἐμόν, φίλαι,
I-have-taken gladly husband my friends
περί τ᾽ ἐπέτασα χέρα
around and I-spread hand
φίλιον ἐν μακρᾷ φλογὶ φαεσφόρῳ.
dear in long flame light-bringing
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ κἀγὼ σέ· πολλοὺς δ᾽ ἐν μέσῳ λόγους ἔχων 630
and-I you many and in middle words having
οὐκ οἶδ᾽ ὁποίου πρῶτον ἄρξωμαι τὰ νῦν.
not I-know with-which first I-may-begin the now
ΕΛΕΝΗ γέγηθα, κρατὶ δ᾽ ὀρθίους ἐθείρας
I-rejoice on-head and upright hair
ἀνεπτέρωκα καὶ δάκρυ σταλάσσω,
I-have-raised and tear I-drip
περὶ δὲ γυῖα χέρας ἔβαλον, ἡδονὰν
around and limbs arms I-threw delight
ὡς λάβω, ὦ πόσις. 635
that I-may-take O husband

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὦ φιλτάτη πρόσοψις, οὐκ ἐμέμφθην·
O dearest sight not I-blame(-it)
ἔχω τὰ τῆς Διός τε λέκτρα Λήδας θ',
I-hold the of-the(-daughter) of-Zeus both bed of-Leda and
ἂν ὑπὸ λαμπάδων κόροι λεύκιπποι
whom by torches youths white-horsed
ξυνομαίμονες ὤλβισαν ὤλβισαν
blood-brothers blessed blessed
τὸ πρόσθεν, ἐκ δόμων δὲ νοσφίσας σ' ἐμοῦ
the before from house but having-taken you from-me
πρὸς ἄλλαν ἐλαύνει
to other drives
θεὸς συμφορὰν τᾶσδε κρείσσω.
god misfortune than-this greater
ΕΛΕΝΗ τὸ κακὸν δ' ἀγαθὸν σέ τε κἀμὲ συνάγαγε, πόσι,
the ill but good you and and-me brought-together husband
χρόνιον, ἀλλ' ὅμως ὀναίμαν τύχας.
long-delayed but nevertheless may-I-enjoy fortune
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὄναιο δῆτα. ταὐτὰ δὴ ξυνεύχομαι·
may-you-enjoy indeed the-same indeed I-pray-with(-you)
δυοῖν γὰρ ὄντοιν οὐχ ὁ μὲν τλήμων, ὁ δ' οὔ.
of-two for being not the one wretched the other not
ΕΛΕΝΗ φίλαι φίλαι, τὰ πάρος οὐκέτι
friends friends the past no-longer
στένομεν οὐδ' ἀλγῶ.
we-lament nor do-I-grieve
πόσιν ἐμὸν ἐμὸν ἔχομεν ἔχομεν,
husband my my we-have we-have
ὃν ἔμενον ἔμενον ἐκ Τροίας πολυετῆ μολεῖν.
whom I-awaited I-awaited from Troy many-years to-come

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἔχεις μ᾽ ἐγώ τέ σ᾽· ἡλίους δὲ μυρίους
you-have me I and you suns and countless
μόγις διελθὼν ᾐσθόμην τὰ τῆς θεοῦ.
hardly having-gone-through I-perceived the(-works) of-the goddess
ἐμὰ δὲ δάκρυα χαρμονᾷ πλέον ἔχει
my and tears in-joy more have
χάριτος ἢ λύπας.
of-grace than of-grief

ΕΛΕΝΗ τί φῶ; τίς ἂν τάδ᾽ ἤλπισεν βροτῶν ποτε;
what am-I-to-say who — these(-things) would-have-hoped of-mortals ever
ἀδόκητον ἔχω σε πρὸς στέρνοις.
unexpected I-hold you to breast

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ κἀγὼ σὲ τὴν δοκοῦσαν Ἰδαίαν πόλιν
and-I you the(-one) thought Idaean city
μολεῖν Ἰλίου τε μελέους πύργους.
to-have-gone of-Ilium and wretched towers

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἒ ἔ· πικρὰν ἐς ἀρχὰν βαίνεις,
ah ah bitter to beginning you-go

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πρὸς θεῶν, δόμων πῶς τῶν ἐμῶν ἀπεστάλης;
by gods from-house how the my were-you-sent-away

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἒ ἔ· πικρὰν δ᾽ ἐρευνᾷς φάτιν.
ah ah bitter and you-search-out report

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ λέγ᾽, ὡς ἀκουστά· πάντα δῶρα δαιμόνων.
speak since (are)-to-be-heard all gifts of-gods

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἀπέπτυσα μὲν λόγον, οἷον οἷον ἐσοίσομαι.
I-spat indeed word what what I-shall-bring-in

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὅμως δὲ λέξον· ἡδύ τοι μόχθων κλύειν.
nevertheless but speak sweet surely of-toils to-hear

ΕΛΕΝΗ οὐκ ἐπὶ λέκτρα βαρβάρου νεανία,
not to bed of-barbarian young-man
πετομένας κώπας,
of-flying oar
πετομένου δ' ἔρωτος ἀδίκων γάμων.
of-flying and of-love of-unjust marriage
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τίς γάρ σε δαίμων ἢ πότμος συλᾷ πάτρας;
what for you god or fate robs from-fatherland
ΕΛΕΝΗ ὁ Διὸς ὁ Διός, ὦ πόσι, με παῖς Ἑρμᾶς
the of-Zeus the of-Zeus O husband me son Hermes
ἐπέλασεν Νείλῳ.
brought to-Nile
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ θαυμαστά· τοῦ πέμψαντος; ὦ δεινοὶ λόγοι.
wonderful(-things) of-the(-one) having-sent(-him) O terrible words
ΕΛΕΝΗ κατεδάκρυσα καὶ βλέφαρον ὑγραίνω
I-wept and eyelid I-wet
δάκρυσιν· ἁ Διός μ' ἄλοχος ὤλεσεν.
with-tears the of-Zeus me wife destroyed
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ Ἥρα; τί νῷν χρῄζουσα προσθεῖναι κακόν;
Hera why on-us-two wishing to-lay ill
ΕΛΕΝΗ ὤμοι ἐμῶν δεινῶν, λουτρῶν καὶ κρηνῶν,
ah-me for-my terrible(-things) baths and springs
ἵνα θεαὶ μορφὰν
where goddesses form
ἐφαίδρυναν ἔνθεν ἔμολεν κρίσις.
brightened whence came judgment
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τάδ' εἰς κρίσιν σοι τῶνδ' ἔθηχ' Ἥρα κακῶν;
these(-things) for judgment to-you of-these did-lay Hera ills
ΕΛΕΝΗ Κύπριν ὡς ἀφέλοιτο — ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πῶς; αὔδα.
Cypris that she-might-rob how speak

ΕΛΕΝΗ Πάριν ᾧ μ' ἐπένευσεν — ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὦ τλᾶμον
Paris to-whom me she-promised O wretched
ΕΛΕΝΗ τλάμονα τλάμον' ὧδ' ἐπέλασ' Αἰγύπτῳ.
wretched wretched so she-brought to-Egypt
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ εἶτ' ἀντέδωκ' εἴδωλον, ὡς σέθεν κλύω.
then she-gave-instead image as from-you I-hear
ΕΛΕΝΗ τά τε σὰ κατὰ μέλαθρα πάθεα πάθεα, μᾶ-
the and your in house sufferings sufferings mother
τερ, οἳ 'γώ. ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τί φής; 685
— ah I what do-you-say
ΕΛΕΝΗ οὐκ ἔστιν μάτηρ· ἀγχόνιον βρόχον
not is mother hanging noose
δι' ἐμὲ κατεδήσατο δύσγαμον αἰσχύνᾳ.
because-of me she-tied ill-wedded in-shame
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὤμοι· θυγατρὸς δ' Ἑρμιόνης ἔστιν βίος;
ah-me of-daughter and of-Hermione is life
ΕΛΕΝΗ ἄγαμος ἄτεκνος, ὦ πόσι, καταστένει
unmarried childless O husband she-laments
γάμον ἄγαμον ἐμόν. 690
marriage unmarried my
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὦ πᾶν κατ' ἄκρας δῶμ' ἐμὸν πέρσας Πάρις,
O all from top house my having-sacked Paris
τάδε καὶ σὲ διώλεσε μυριάδας τε
these(-things) also you destroyed tens-of-thousands and
χαλκεόπλων Δαναῶν.
of-bronze-armed Danaans
ΕΛΕΝΗ ἐμὲ δὲ πατρίδος ἄπο κακόποτμον ἀραίαν
me and country from ill-fated cursed
ἔβαλε θεὸς ἀπό τε πόλεος ἀπό τε σέθεν, 695
cast god from and city from and you

ὅτι μέλαθρα λέχεά τ' ἔλιπον οὐ λιποῦσ'
because halls bed and I-left not having-left
ἐπ' αἰσχροῖς γάμοις.
for shameful marriage
ΧΟΡΟΣ εἰ καὶ τὰ λοιπὰ τῆς τύχης εὐδαίμονος
if also the rest of-the fortune happy
τύχοιτε, πρὸς τὰ πρόσθεν ἀρκέσειεν ἄν.
you-should-get to the past it-would-suffice —
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ Μενέλαε, κἀμοὶ πρόσδοτέ τι τῆς ἡδονῆς,
Menelaus to-me-too give something of-the joy
ἣν μανθάνω μὲν καὐτός, οὐ σαφῶς δ' ἔχω.
which I-understand indeed myself not clearly but I-have
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἀλλ', ὦ γεραιέ, καὶ σὺ κοινώνει λόγων.
but O old-man also you share words
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οὐχ ἥδε μόχθων τῶν ἐν Ἰλίῳ βραβεύς;
not this-woman of-toils the in Ilium arbiter
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὐχ ἥδε, πρὸς θεῶν δ' ἦμεν ἠπατημένοι,
not this-one by gods but we-were deceived
νεφέλης ἄγαλμ' ἔχοντες ἐν χεροῖν λυγρόν.
of-cloud image having in hands woeful
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τί φής;
what do-you-say
νεφέλης ἄρ' ἄλλως εἴχομεν πόνους πέρι;
of-cloud then vainly we-had toils about
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ Ἥρας τάδ' ἔργα καὶ θεῶν τρισσῶν ἔρις.
of-Hera these(-are) works and of-goddesses three strife
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἡ δ' οὖσ' ἀληθῶς ἐστιν ἥδε σὴ δάμαρ;
the(-woman) and being truly is this your wife
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ αὕτη· λόγοις δ' ἐμοῖσι πίστευσον τάδε.
this-one in-words and my believe these(-things)

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ὦ θύγατερ, ὁ θεὸς ὡς ἔφυ τι ποικίλον
O daughter the god how is something subtle
καὶ δυστέκμαρτον. εὖ δέ πως ἀναστρέφει
and hard-to-read well and somehow he-turns-about
ἐκεῖσε κἀκεῖσ᾽ ἀναφέρων· ὁ μὲν πονεῖ,
there and-here lifting(-us) the one toils
ὁ δ᾽ οὐ πονήσας αὖθις ὄλλυται κακῶς,
the other not having-toiled again perishes badly
βέβαιον οὐδὲν τῆς ἀεὶ τύχης ἔχων.
sure nothing of-the always fortune having
σὺ γὰρ πόσις τε σὸς πόνων μετέσχετε,
you for husband and your of-toils shared
σὺ μὲν λόγοισιν, ὁ δὲ δορὸς προθυμίᾳ.
you indeed in-words he and of-spear in-eagerness
σπεύδων δ᾽ ὅτ᾽ ἔσπευδ᾽ οὐδὲν εἶχε· νῦν δ᾽ ἔχει
hastening but when he-hastened nothing he-had now but he-has
αὐτόματα πράξας τἀγάθ᾽ εὐτυχέστατα.
spontaneous having-fared the-good(-things) most-fortunately
οὐκ ἄρα γέροντα πατέρα καὶ Διοσκόρω
not then old father and Dioscuri
ᾔσχυνας οὐδ᾽ ἔδρασας οἷα κλῄζεται.
you-shamed nor did what are-reported
νῦν ἀνανεοῦμαι τὸν σὸν ὑμέναιον πάλιν,
now I-renew the your wedding-song again
καὶ λαμπάδων μεμνήμεθ᾽ ἃς τετραόροις
and torches we-remember which with-four-horse
ἵπποις τροχάζων παρέφερον· σὺ δ᾽ ἐν δίφροις
horses running-beside I-carried you and in chariot
σὺν τῷδε νύμφῃ δῶμ᾽ ἔλειπες ὄλβιον.
with this bride house you-left blessed

κακὸς γὰρ ὅστις μὴ σέβει τὰ δεσποτῶν
bad for whoever not reveres the(-affairs) of-masters
καὶ ξυγγέγηθε καὶ συνωδίνει κακοῖς.
and rejoices-with and is-in-travail-with ills
ἐγὼ μὲν εἴην, κεἰ πέφυχ' ὅμως λάτρις,
I indeed may-I-be even-if I-am nevertheless servant
ἐν τοῖσι γενναίοισιν ἠριθμημένος
among the noble numbered
δούλοισι, τοὔνομ' οὐκ ἔχων ἐλεύθερον,
slaves the-name not having free
τὸν νοῦν δέ· κρεῖσσον γὰρ τόδ' ἢ δυοῖν κακοῖν
the mind but better for this than in-two ills
ἕν' ὄντα χρῆσθαι, τὰς φρένας τ' ἔχειν κακὰς
one being to-be-involved the mind and to-have bad
ἄλλων τ' ἀκούειν δοῦλον ὄντα τῶν πέλας.
others and to-obey slave being the neighbors
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἄγ', ὦ γεραιέ, πολλὰ μὲν παρ' ἀσπίδα
come O old-man many indeed beside shield
μοχθήματ' ἐξέπλησας ἐκπονῶν ἐμοί,
toils you-fulfilled laboring for-me
καὶ νῦν μετασχὼν τῆς ἐμῆς εὐπραξίας
and now having-shared of-the my good-fortune
ἄγγειλον ἐλθὼν τοῖς λελειμμένοις φίλοις
announce having-gone to-the left-behind friends
τάδ' ὡς ἔχονθ' ηὕρηκας οὗ τ' ἐσμὲν τύχης,
these(-things) as being you-have-found where and we-are of-fortune
μένειν τ' ἐπ' ἀκταῖς τούς τ' ἐμοὺς καραδοκεῖν
to-wait and on shore the and my to-await
ἀγῶνας οἳ μένουσί μ', ὡς ἐλπίζομεν,
contests which await me as we-hope

κεἰ τήνδε πως δυναίμεθ' ἐκκλέψαι χθονός,
and-if her somehow we-could steal-away from-land
φρουρεῖν ὅπως ἂν εἰς ἓν ἐλθόντες τύχης
to-watch that — into one having-come of-fortune
ἐκ βαρβάρων σωθῶμεν, ἢν δυνώμεθα.
from barbarians we-may-be-saved if we-can
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἔσται τάδ', ὦναξ. ἀλλά τοι τὰ μάντεων
it-will-be these(-things) O-lord but surely the(-affairs) of-seers
ἐσεῖδον ὡς φαῦλ' ἐστὶ καὶ ψευδῶν πλέα.
I-saw how worthless are and of-lies full
οὐκ ἦν ἄρ' ὑγιὲς οὐδὲν ἐμπύρου φλογὸς
not was then sound nothing of-burnt-offering flame
οὐδὲ πτερωτῶν φθέγματ'· εὔηθες δέ τοι
nor of-winged voices foolish but surely
τὸ καὶ δοκεῖν ὄρνιθας ὠφελεῖν βροτούς.
the even to-think birds to-help mortals
Κάλχας γὰρ οὐκ εἶπ' οὐδ' ἐσήμηνε στρατῷ
Calchas for not said nor indicated to-the-army
νεφέλης ὕπερ θνῄσκοντας εἰσορῶν φίλους
cloud for dying seeing friends
οὐδ' Ἕλενος, ἀλλὰ πόλις ἀνηρπάσθη μάτην.
nor Helenus but city was-snatched-up in-vain
εἴποις ἄν, οὕνεχ' ὁ θεὸς οὐκ ἠβούλετο·
you-might-say — because the god not wished
τί δῆτα μαντευόμεθα; τοῖς θεοῖσι χρὴ
why then do-we-consult-oracles to-the gods (one)-must
θύοντας αἰτεῖν ἀγαθά, μαντείας δ' ἐᾶν·
sacrificing to-ask good(-things) oracles and to-let-go
βίου γὰρ ἄλλως δέλεαρ ηὑρέθη τόδε,
of-life for vainly bait was-found this

κοὐδεὶς ἐπλούτησ᾽ ἐμπύροισιν ἀργὸς ὤν·
and-no-one became-rich by-burnt-offerings idle being
γνώμη δ᾽ ἀρίστη μάντις ἥ τ᾽ εὐβουλία.
judgment and (is)-best seer the and good-counsel
ΧΟΡΟΣ εἰς ταὐτὸ κἀμοὶ δόξα μάντεων πέρι
to the-same also-to-me opinion seers about
χωρεῖ γέροντι· τοὺς θεοὺς ἔχων τις ἂν
goes old-man the gods having one —
760 φίλους ἀρίστην μαντικὴν ἔχοι δόμοις.
friends best prophecy would-have for-house

VII · PLANS TO ESCAPE

Menelaus will not tell all his wanderings, only their length: seven years at sea after the ten at Troy. Helen warns that Proteus' son, who now rules, means to marry her by force and will kill Menelaus, while she has kept her bed untouched as a suppliant at his father's tomb. The king's sister Theonoe knows everything and will tell him, so their one hope is to win her over as suppliants. They swear to die together, Menelaus to fight for her and then kill her and himself on the tomb. The doors sound: Theonoe is coming out.

ΕΛΕΝΗ εἶεν· τὰ μὲν δὴ δεῦρ᾽ ἀεὶ καλῶς ἔχει.
well the(-things) indeed indeed hither always well are
ὅπως δ᾽ ἐσώθης, ὦ τάλας, Τροίας ἄπο,
how and you-were-saved O wretched Troy from
κέρδος μὲν οὐδὲν εἰδέναι, πόθος δέ τις
gain indeed nothing to-know longing but some
τὰ τῶν φίλων φίλοισιν αἰσθέσθαι κακά.
the of-the friends for-friends to-perceive ills

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἦ πόλλ᾽ ἀνήρου μ᾽ ἑνὶ λόγῳ μιᾷ θ᾽ ὁδῷ.
truly many(-things) you-asked me in-one word one and road

τί σοι λέγοιμ᾽ ἂν τὰς ἐν Αἰγαίῳ φθορὰς
what to-you would-I-tell — the in Aegean ruins

τὰ Ναυπλίου τ᾽ Εὐβοϊκὰ πυρπολήματα
the of-Nauplius and Euboean beacon-fires

Κρήτην τε Λιβύης θ᾽ ἃς ἐπεστράφην πόλεις,
Crete and of-Libya and which I-visited cities

σκοπιάς τε Περσέως; οὔτ᾽ ἂν ἐμπλήσαιμί σε
watchtowers and of-Perseus not — I-could-fill you

μύθῳ, λέγων τ᾽ ἄν σοι κάκ᾽ ἀλγοίην ἔτι,
with-tale telling and — to-you ills I-would-grieve again

πάσχων τ᾽ ἔκαμνον· δὶς δὲ λυπηθεῖμεν ἄν.
suffering and I-was-worn-out twice and we-would-be-pained —

ΕΛΕΝΗ κάλλιον εἶπας ἤ σ᾽ ἀνηρόμην ἐγώ.
better you-spoke than you I-asked I

ἓν δ᾽ εἰπὲ πάντα παραλιπών, πόσον χρόνον
one(-thing) but tell all(-things) having-passed-over how-much time

πόντου ᾽πὶ νώτοις ἅλιον ἐφθείρου πλάνον.
of-sea on backs sea you-were-wasted wandering

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἐνιαυσίων πρὸς τοῖσιν ἐν Τροίᾳ δέκα
of-year-long in-addition-to the(-ones) in Troy ten

ἔτεσι διῆλθον ἑπτὰ περιδρομὰς ἐτῶν.
years I-passed-through seven circuits of-years

ΕΛΕΝΗ φεῦ φεῦ· μακρόν γ᾽ ἔλεξας, ὦ τάλας, χρόνον.
alas alas long at-least you-told O wretched time

σωθεὶς δ᾽ ἐκεῖθεν ἐνθάδ᾽ ἦλθες εἰς σφαγάς.
saved and from-there here you-came to slaughter

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πῶς φής; τί λέξεις; ὥς μ᾽ ἀπώλεσας, γύναι.
how do-you-say what will-you-say how me you-have-destroyed woman

ΕΛΕΝΗ θανεῖ πρὸς ἀνδρὸς οὗ τάδ' ἐστὶ δώματα.
you-will-die by man whose this is house

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τί χρῆμα δράσας ἄξιον τῆς συμφορᾶς;
what thing having-done worthy of-the misfortune

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἥκεις ἄελπτος ἐμποδών τ' ἐμοῖς γάμοις.
you-come unexpected in-the-way and of-my marriage

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἦ γὰρ γαμεῖν τις τἄμ' ἐβουλήθη λέχη;
— for to-marry someone my wished bed

785 ΕΛΕΝΗ ὕβριν θ' ὑβρίζειν εἰς ἔμ' ἣν ἔτλην ἐγώ.
outrage and to-do against me which endured I

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἰδίᾳ σθένων τις ἢ τυραννεύων χθονός;
privately strong someone or ruling of-land

ΕΛΕΝΗ ὃς γῆς ἀνάσσει τῆσδε Πρωτέως γόνος.
who of-land rules this of-Proteus offspring

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τόδ' ἔστ' ἐκεῖν' αἴνιγμ' ὃ προσπόλου κλύω.
this is that riddle which from-servant I-hear

ΕΛΕΝΗ ποίοις ἐπιστὰς βαρβάροις πυλώμασιν;
at-what having-stood barbarian gates

790 ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τοῖσδ', ἔνθεν ὥσπερ πτωχὸς ἐξηλαυνόμην.
at-these whence like beggar I-was-driven-out

ΕΛΕΝΗ οὔ που προσῄτεις βίοτον; ὦ τάλαιν' ἐγώ.
surely-not I-suppose you-were-begging livelihood O wretched I

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τοὔργον μὲν ἦν τοῦτ', ὄνομα δ' οὐκ εἶχον τόδε.
the-deed indeed was this name but not I-had this

ΕΛΕΝΗ πάντ' οἶσθ' ἄρ', ὡς ἔοικας, ἀμφ' ἐμῶν γάμων.
all(-things) you-know then as you-seem about my marriage

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οἶδ'· εἰ δὲ λέκτρα διέφυγες τάδ' οὐκ ἔχω.
I-know if but bed you-escaped this not I-have

795 ΕΛΕΝΗ ἄθικτον εὐνὴν ἴσθι σοι σεσωσμένην.
untouched bed know for-you kept

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τίς τοῦδε πειθώ; φίλα γάρ, εἰ σαφῆ, λέγεις.
what of-this (is-the)-proof dear(-things) for if clear you-say

ΕΛΕΝΗ ὁρᾷς τάφου τοῦδ' ἀθλίους ἕδρας ἐμάς;
do-you-see of-tomb this wretched seats my

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὁρῶ, τάλαινα, στιβάδας, ὧν τί σοὶ μέτα;
I-see wretched straw-beds of-which what to-you share

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἐνταῦθα λέκτρων ἱκετεύομεν φυγάς.
there of-bed we-supplicate escape

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ βωμοῦ σπανίζουσ' ἢ νόμοισι βαρβάροις; 800
of-altar lacking or by-customs barbarian

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἐρρύεθ' ἡμᾶς τοῦτ' ἴσον ναοῖς θεῶν.
it-protected us this equal to-temples of-gods

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὐδ' ἄρα πρὸς οἴκους ναυστολεῖν σ' ἔξεστί μοι;
not then to home to-sail you is-it-possible for-me

ΕΛΕΝΗ ξίφος μένει σε μᾶλλον ἢ τοὐμὸν λέχος.
sword awaits you more than my bed

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὕτως ἂν εἴην ἀθλιώτατος βροτῶν.
so — I-would-be most-wretched of-mortals

ΕΛΕΝΗ μή νυν καταιδοῦ· φεῦγε δ' ἐκ τῆσδε χθονός. 805
not then be-ashamed flee and from this land

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ λιπών σε; Τροίαν ἐξέπερσα σὴν χάριν.
having-left you Troy I-sacked your for-the-sake

ΕΛΕΝΗ κρεῖσσον γὰρ ἦ σε τἄμ' ἀποκτεῖναι λέχη.
better for than you my to-kill bed

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἄνανδρά γ' εἶπας Ἰλίου τ' οὐκ ἄξια.
unmanly(-things) at-least you-said of-Ilium and not worthy

ΕΛΕΝΗ οὐκ ἂν κτάνοις τύραννον, ὃ σπεύδεις ἴσως.
not — you-could-kill king which you-hasten-to perhaps

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὕτω σιδήρῳ τρωτὸν οὐκ ἔχει δέμας; 810
so with-iron vulnerable not has body

ΕΛΕΝΗ εἴσει. τὸ τολμᾶν δ' ἀδύνατ' ἀνδρὸς οὐ σοφοῦ.
you-will-know the to-dare and impossible(-things) of-man not wise

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ σιγῇ παράσχω δῆτ' ἐμὰς δῆσαι χέρας;
in-silence am-I-to-offer then my to-bind hands

ΕΛΕΝΗ εἰς ἄπορον ἥκεις· δεῖ δὲ μηχανῆς τινος,
to perplexity you-come must but of-device some

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ δρῶντας γὰρ ἢ μὴ δρῶντας ἥδιον θανεῖν.
doing for or not doing (is)-sweeter to-die

ΕΛΕΝΗ μί' ἔστιν ἐλπίς, ᾗ μόνῃ σωθεῖμεν ἄν.
one is hope by-which alone we-could-be-saved —

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὠνητὸς ἢ τολμητὸς ἢ λόγων ὕπο;
by-buying or by-daring or words by

ΕΛΕΝΗ εἰ μὴ τύραννός σ' ἐκπύθοιτ' ἀφιγμένον.
if not king you should-learn-of having-come

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἐρεῖ δὲ τίς μ'; οὐ γνώσεταί γ' ὅς εἰμ' ἐγώ.
will-tell and who me not will-know at-least who am I

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἔστ' ἔνδον αὐτῷ ξύμμαχος θεοῖς ἴση.
there-is inside for-him ally to-gods equal

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ φήμη τις οἴκων ἐν μυχοῖς ἱδρυμένη;
voice some of-house in recesses set-up

ΕΛΕΝΗ οὔκ, ἀλλ' ἀδελφή· Θεονόην καλοῦσί νιν.
no but sister Theonoe they-call her

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ χρηστήριον μὲν τοὔνομ'· ὅ τι δὲ δρᾷ φράσον.
oracular indeed the-name what ever and she-does tell

ΕΛΕΝΗ πάντ' οἶδ', ἐρεῖ τε συγγόνῳ παρόντα σε.
all(-things) she-knows will-tell and to-brother present you

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ θνῄσκοιμεν ἄν· λαθεῖν γὰρ οὐχ οἷόν τέ μοι.
we-would-die — to-escape-notice for not possible — for-me

ΕΛΕΝΗ εἴ πως ἂν ἀναπείσαιμεν ἱκετεύοντέ νιν —
if somehow — we-might-persuade (we)-two-supplicating her

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τί χρῆμα δρᾶσαι; τίν᾽ ὑπάγεις μ᾽ ἐς ἐλπίδα;
what thing to-do to-what do-you-lead me into hope

ΕΛΕΝΗ παρόντα γαίᾳ μὴ φράσαι σε συγγόνῳ.
present in-land not to-tell you to-brother

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πείσαντε δ᾽ ἐκ γῆς διορίσαιμεν ἂν πόδα;
having-persuaded-her and from land could-we-set — foot

ΕΛΕΝΗ κοινῇ γ᾽ ἐκείνῃ ῥᾳδίως, λάθρᾳ δ᾽ ἂν οὔ.
in-common at-least with-her easily secretly but — not

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ σὸν ἔργον, ὡς γυναικὶ πρόσφορον γυνή. 830
your (is-the)-work since to-woman (is)-suited woman

ΕΛΕΝΗ ὡς οὐκ ἄχρωστα γόνατ᾽ ἐμῶν ἕξει χερῶν.
as not untouched knees of-my will-have hands

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ φέρ᾽, ἢν δὲ δὴ νῷν μὴ ἀποδέξηται λόγους;
come if and indeed us-two not she-accept words

ΕΛΕΝΗ θανεῖ· γαμοῦμαι δ᾽ ἥ τάλαιν᾽ ἐγὼ βίᾳ.
you-will-die I-will-be-married and the wretched I by-force

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ προδότις ἂν εἴης· τὴν βίαν σκήψασ᾽ ἔχεις.
traitress — you-would-be the force having-pleaded you-have

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἀλλ᾽ ἁγνὸν ὅρκον σὸν κάρα κατώμοσα — 835
but holy oath your head I-swore

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τί φῄς; θανεῖσθαι κοὔποτ᾽ ἀλλάξειν λέχη;
what do-you-say to-die and-never to-change bed

ΕΛΕΝΗ ταὐτῷ ξίφει γε· κείσομαι δὲ σοῦ πέλας.
by-the-same sword at-least I-will-lie and you near

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἐπὶ τοῖσδε τοίνυν δεξιᾶς ἐμῆς θίγε.
on these(-terms) then right(-hand) my touch

ΕΛΕΝΗ ψαύω, θανόντος σοῦ τόδ᾽ ἐκλείψειν φάος.
I-touch(-it) having-died you this to-leave light

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ κἀγὼ στερηθεὶς σοῦ τελευτήσω βίον. 840
and-I bereft of-you will-end life

ΕΛΕΝΗ πῶς οὖν θανούμεθ' ὥστε καὶ δόξαν λαβεῖν;
how then shall-we-die so-as also glory to-get

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τύμβου 'πὶ νώτῳ σὲ κτανὼν ἐμὲ κτενῶ.
of-tomb on back you having-killed myself I-will-kill

πρῶτον δ' ἀγῶνα μέγαν ἀγωνιούμεθα
first but contest great we-will-contest

λέκτρων ὑπὲρ σῶν· ὁ δὲ θέλων ἴτω πέλας·
bed for your the and wishing let-him-come near

845 τὸ Τρωικὸν γὰρ οὐ καταισχυνῶ κλέος
the Trojan for not I-will-shame glory

οὐδ' Ἑλλάδ' ἐλθὼν λήψομαι πολὺν ψόγον,
nor to-Hellas having-come I-will-get much blame

ὅστις Θέτιν μὲν ἐστέρησ' Ἀχιλλέως,
who Thetis indeed bereft of-Achilles

Τελαμωνίου δ' Αἴαντος εἰσεῖδον σφαγάς,
of-Telamonian and Ajax saw slaughter

τὸν Νηλέως τ' ἄπαιδα· διὰ δὲ τὴν ἐμὴν
the of-Neleus and childless because-of but the my

850 οὐκ ἀξιώσω κατθανεῖν δάμαρτ' ἐγώ;
not shall-I-think-it-right to-die wife I

μάλιστά γ'· εἰ γάρ εἰσιν οἱ θεοὶ σοφοί,
very at-least if for are the gods wise

εὔψυχον ἄνδρα πολεμίων θανόνθ' ὕπο
brave man enemies having-died by

κούφῃ καταμπίσχουσιν ἐν τύμβῳ χθονί,
with-light cover in tomb earth

κακοὺς δ' ἐφ' ἕρμα στερεὸν ἐκβάλλουσι γῆς.
bad(-men) and onto reef hard cast-out of-land

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ θεοί, γενέσθω δήποτ᾽ εὐτυχὲς γένος
O gods let-be at-last fortunate race
τὸ Ταντάλειον καὶ μεταστήτω κακῶν.
the Tantalid and let-it-change from-ills
ΕΛΕΝΗ οἲ ᾽γὼ τάλαινα· τῆς τύχης γὰρ ὧδ᾽ ἔχω.
ah I wretched of-the fortune for so I-am
Μενέλαε, διαπεπράγμεθ᾽· ἐκβαίνει δόμων
Menelaus we-are-undone comes-out of-house
ἥ θεσπιῳδὸς Θεονόη· κτυπεῖ δόμος
the prophetic Theonoe sounds house
κλῃθρων λυθέντων. φεῦγ᾽· ἀτὰρ τί φευκτέον;
bolts having-been-loosed flee but why must-one-flee
ἀποῦσα γάρ σε καὶ παροῦσ᾽ ἀφιγμένον
absent for you and present having-come
δεῦρ᾽ οἶδεν· ὦ δύστηνος, ὡς ἀπωλόμην.
here she-knows O wretched how I-am-lost
Τροίας δὲ σωθεὶς κἀπὸ βαρβάρου χθονὸς
from-Troy and saved and-from barbarian land
εἰς βάρβαρ᾽ ἐλθὼν φάσγαν᾽ αὖθις ἐμπεσεῖ.
to barbarian having-come swords again you-will-fall-on

The prophetess Theonoe comes out with torches and sulfur to purify the air, and tells Helen that Menelaus is here. The gods sit in council over him today, Hera wishing to bring him home with Helen and Aphrodite to ruin him, and the choice rests with Theonoe: to tell her brother or keep silent. Helen begs her to keep the trust her father Proteus kept; Menelaus appeals to Proteus' tomb, vowing to kill Helen and himself there if refused. Theonoe chooses justice and her father's honor, and will keep silent.

ΘΕΟΝΟΗ ἡγοῦ σύ μοι φέρουσα λαμπτήρων σέλας,
lead you for-me carrying of-torches light
θείου δὲ σεμνὸν θεσμὸν αἰθέρος μυχόν,
of-sulfur and holy rite of-air recess
ὡς πνεῦμα καθαρὸν οὐρανοῦ δεξώμεθα·
that breath pure of-heaven we-may-receive
σὺ δ' αὖ κέλευθον εἴ τις ἔβλαψεν ποδὶ
you and again path if anyone harmed with-foot
στείβων ἀνοσίῳ, δὸς καθαρσίῳ φλογί,
treading unholy give with-purifying flame
κροῦσον δὲ πεύκην, ἵνα διεξέλθω, πάρος.
strike and pine that I-may-pass-through before
νόμον δὲ τὸν ἐμὸν θεοῖσιν ἀποδοῦσαι πάλιν
custom and the my to-gods having-rendered back
ἐφέστιον φλόγ' εἰς δόμους κομίζετε.
hearth flame into house carry
Ἑλένη, τί τἀμὰ πῶς ἔχει θεσπίσματα;
Helen what my how stand prophecies
ἥκει πόσις σοι Μενέλεως ὅδ' ἐμφανής,
has-come husband to-you Menelaus this-one visible
νεῶν στερηθεὶς τοῦ τε σοῦ μιμήματος.
of-ships bereft of-the and your image

ὦ τλῆμον, οἵους διαφυγὼν ἦλθες πόνους,
O wretched what having-escaped you-have-come toils
οὐδ' οἶσθα νόστον οἴκαδ' εἴτ' αὐτοῦ μενεῖς·
nor do-you-know return home or there will-remain
ἔρις γὰρ ἐν θεοῖς σύλλογός τε σοῦ πέρι
strife for among gods council and you about
ἔσται πάρεδρος Ζηνὶ τῷδ' ἐν ἤματι.
will-be sitting-by Zeus this on day
Ἥρα μέν, ἥ σοι δυσμενὴς πάροιθεν ἦν,
Hera indeed who to-you hostile before was
νῦν ἐστιν εὔνους κεἰς πάτραν σῶσαι θέλει
now is well-disposed and-to fatherland to-save wishes
ξὺν τῇδ', ἵν' Ἑλλὰς τοὺς Ἀλεξάνδρου γάμους
with her that Hellas the of-Alexander marriage
δώρημα Κύπριδος ψευδονύμφευτον μάθῃ·
gift of-Cypris falsely-wedded may-learn
Κύπρις δὲ νόστον σὸν διαφθεῖραι θέλει,
Cypris and return your to-destroy wishes
ὡς μὴ 'ξελεγχθῇ μηδὲ πριαμένη φανῇ
that not she-be-convicted nor having-bought appear
τὸ κάλλος Ἑλένης εἵνεκ' ἀνονήτοις γάμοις.
the beauty of-Helen for-the-sake in-unprofitable marriage
τέλος δ' ἐφ' ἡμῖν, εἴθ', ἃ βούλεται Κύπρις,
end and (is)-with us whether what wishes Cypris
λέξασ' ἀδελφῷ σ' ἐνθάδ' ὄντα διολέσω,
having-told brother you here being I-am-to-destroy
εἴτ' αὖ μεθ' Ἥρας στᾶσα σὸν σώσω βίον,
or again with Hera standing your I-am-to-save life
κρύψασ' ὁμαίμον', ὅς με προστάσσει τάδε
hiding-from brother who me commands these(-things)

εἰπεῖν, ὅταν γῆν τήνδε νοστήσας τύχῃς.
to-tell when land this having-returned you-happen
τίς εἶσ' ἀδελφῷ τόνδε σημανῶν ἐμῷ
who will-go to-brother this to-announce my
παρόνθ', ὅπως ἂν τοὐμὸν ἀσφαλῶς ἔχῃ;
present so-that — my safely may-stand
ΕΛΕΝΗ ὦ παρθέν', ἱκέτις ἀμφὶ σὸν πίτνω γόνυ,
O maiden suppliant around your I-fall knee
καὶ προσκαθίζω θᾶκον οὐκ εὐδαίμονα
and I-sit-at seat not happy
ὑπέρ τ' ἐμαυτῆς τοῦδέ θ', ὃν μόλις ποτὲ
for both myself this-one and whom hardly ever
λαβοῦσ' ἐπ' ἀκμῆς εἰμι κατθανόντ' ἰδεῖν·
having-got on point I-am dying to-see
μή μοι κατείπῃς σῷ κασιγνήτῳ πόσιν
not for-me tell-against to-your brother husband
τόνδ' εἰς ἐμὰς ἥκοντα φίλτατον χέρας·
this into my having-come dearest arms
σῶσον δέ, λίσσομαί σε· συγγόνῳ δὲ σῷ
save but I-beg you to-brother and your
τὴν εὐσέβειαν μὴ προδῷς τὴν σήν ποτε,
the piety not betray the your ever
χάριτας πονηρὰς κἀδίκους ὠνουμένη.
favors base and-unjust buying
ἡμᾶς δὲ μακαρίως μέν, ἀθλίως δ' ἐμοί,
us and blessedly indeed wretchedly but for-me
Ἑρμῆς ἔδωκε πατρὶ σῷ, σῴζειν πόσει
Hermes gave to-father your to-keep for-husband
τῷδ', ὃς πάρεστι κἀπολάζυσθαι θέλει.
this-one who is-present and-to-take-back wishes

πῶς οὖν θανὼν ἂν ἀπολάβοι; κεῖνος δὲ πῶς
how then having-died — could-he-take-back he and how
τὰ ζῶντα τοῖς θανοῦσιν ἀποδοίη ποτ᾽ ἄν;
the living to-the dead could-give-back ever —
σὺ δὴ τὰ τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ τὰ τοῦ πατρὸς σκόπει,
you indeed the(-things) of-the god and the(-things) of-the father consider
πότερον ὁ δαίμων χὠ θανὼν τὰ τῶν πέλας
whether the god and-the dead the(-things) of-the neighbors
βούλοιντ᾽ ἂν ἢ οὐ βούλοιντ᾽ ἂν ἀποδοῦναι πάλιν.
would-wish — or not would-wish — to-give-back back
δοκῶ μέν. οὔκουν χρή σε συγγόνῳ πλέον
I-think indeed not-then must you to-brother more
νέμειν ματαίῳ μᾶλλον ἢ χρηστῷ πατρί.
to-allot vain rather than good father
εἰ δ᾽ οὖσα μάντις καὶ τὰ θεῖ᾽ ἡγουμένη
if and being seer and the divine(-things) believing
τὸ μὲν δίκαιον τοῦ πατρὸς διαφθερεῖς,
the indeed just of-the father you-will-destroy
τῷ δ᾽ οὐ δικαίῳ συγγόνῳ δώσεις χάριν,
to-the and not just brother you-will-give favor
αἰσχρὸν τὰ μέν σε θεῖα πάντ᾽ ἐξειδέναι,
(it-is)-shameful the(-things) indeed you divine all to-know
τά τ᾽ ὄντα καὶ μή, τὰ δὲ δίκαια μὴ εἰδέναι.
the both being and not the(-things) and just not to-know

***

(lacuna)

τήν τ᾽ ἀθλίαν ἔμ᾽, οἷσιν ἔγκειμαι κακοῖς,
the and wretched me in-what I-am-sunk ills
ῥῦσαι, πάρεργον δοῦσα τοῦτο τῆς τύχης·
rescue as-a-side-task giving this of-the fortune

Ἑλένην γὰρ οὐδεὶς ὅστις οὐ στυγεῖ βροτῶν·
Helen for no-one who not hates of-mortals
ἣ κληΐζομαι καθ' Ἑλλάδ' ὡς προδοῦσ' ἐμὸν
who am-spoken-of throughout Hellas as having-betrayed my
πόσιν Φρυγῶν ᾤκησα πολυχρύσους δόμους.
husband of-Phrygians I-dwelt-in much-golden house
ἦν δ' Ἑλλάδ' ἔλθω κἀπιβῶ Σπάρτης πάλιν,
if and to-Hellas I-come and-set-foot-on Sparta again
κλύοντες εἰσιδόντες ὡς τέχναις θεῶν
hearing seeing that by-arts of-gods
ὤλοντ', ἐγὼ δὲ προδότις οὐκ ἤμην φίλων,
they-perished I and traitress not was of-friends
πάλιν μ' ἀνάξουσ' εἰς τὸ σῶφρον αὖθις αὖ,
back me they-will-lead-up to the chastity again again
ἑδνώσομαί τε θυγατέρ' ἣν οὐδεὶς γαμεῖ,
I-will-dower and daughter whom no-one marries
τὴν δ' ἐνθάδ' ἐκλιποῦσ' ἀλητείαν πικρὰν
the and here having-left wandering bitter
ὄντων ἐν οἴκοις χρημάτων ὀνήσομαι.
being in house of-goods I-shall-enjoy
κεἰ μὲν θανὼν ὅδ' ἐν πυρᾷ κατεσφάγη,
and-if indeed having-died this-one on pyre had-been-slain
πρόσω σφ' ἀπόντα δακρύοις ἂν ἠγάπων·
far him absent with-tears — I-would-have-loved
νῦν δ' ὄντα καὶ σωθέντ' ἀφαιρεθήσομαι;
now but being and saved shall-I-be-robbed(-of-him)
μὴ δῆτα, παρθέν', ἀλλά σ' ἱκετεύω τόδε·
not then maiden but you I-supplicate this
δὸς τὴν χάριν μοι τήνδε καὶ μιμοῦ τρόπους
give the favor to-me this and imitate ways

πατρὸς δικαίου· παισὶ γὰρ κλέος τόδε
of-father just to-children for glory this
κάλλιστον, ὅστις ἐκ πατρὸς χρηστοῦ γεγὼς
(is)-finest whoever from father good being-born
εἰς ταὐτὸν ἦλθε τοῖς τεκοῦσι τοὺς τρόπους.
to the-same came to-the parents the ways
ΧΟΡΟΣ οἰκτρὸν μὲν οἱ παρόντες ἐν μέσῳ λόγοι,
pitiable indeed the present in middle words
οἰκτρὰ δὲ καὶ σύ. τοὺς δὲ Μενέλεω ποθῶ
pitiable and also you the and of-Menelaus I-long
λόγους ἀκοῦσαι τίνας ἐρεῖ ψυχῆς πέρι.
words to-hear what he-will-say life about
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἐγὼ σὸν οὔτ' ἂν προσπεσεῖν τλαίην γόνυ
I your neither — to-fall-at could-bear knee
οὔτ' ἂν δακρῦσαι βλέφαρα· τὴν Τροίαν γὰρ ἂν
nor — to-wet-with-tears eyelids — Troy for —
δειλοὶ γενόμενοι πλεῖστον αἰσχύνοιμεν ἄν.
cowards having-become most we-would-shame —
καίτοι λέγουσιν ὡς πρὸς ἀνδρὸς εὐγενοῦς
and-yet they-say that for man noble
ἐν ξυμφοραῖσι δάκρυ' ἀπ' ὀφθαλμῶν βαλεῖν.
in misfortunes tears from eyes to-shed
ἀλλ' οὐχὶ τοῦτο τὸ καλόν, εἰ καλὸν τόδε,
but not this the fine if fine this
αἱρήσομαι 'γὼ πρόσθε τῆς εὐψυχίας.
shall-choose I before of-the courage
ἀλλ' εἰ μὲν ἄνδρα σοι δοκεῖ σῶσαι ξένον
but if indeed man to-you it-seems-good to-save stranger
ζητοῦντά μ' ὀρθῶς ἀπολαβεῖν δάμαρτ' ἐμήν,
seeking me rightly to-take-back wife my

ἀπόδος τε καὶ πρὸς σῶσον· εἰ δὲ μὴ δοκεῖ,
give-back both and besides save if and not it-seems-good
ἐγὼ μὲν οὐ νῦν πρῶτον, ἀλλὰ πολλάκις
I indeed not now first but often
ἄθλιος ἂν εἴην, σὺ δὲ γυνὴ κακὴ φανεῖ.
wretched — would-be you and woman base will-appear
ἃ δ' ἄξι' ἡμῶν καὶ δίκαι' ἡγούμεθα,
what and worthy of-us and just we-think
960 καὶ σῆς μάλιστα καρδίας ἀνθάψεται,
and of-your most heart will-touch
λέξω τάδ' ἀμφὶ μνῆμα σοῦ πατρὸς πεσών·
I-will-say these(-things) at tomb of-your father having-fallen
ὦ γέρον, ὃς οἰκεῖς τόνδε λάινον τάφον,
O old-man who dwell-in this stone tomb
ἀπόδος, ἀπαιτῶ τὴν ἐμὴν δάμαρτά σε,
give-back I-demand the my wife from-you
ἣν Ζεὺς ἔπεμψε δεῦρό σοι σῴζειν ἐμοί.
whom Zeus sent here to-you to-keep for-me
965 οἶδ' οὔνεχ' ἡμῖν οὔποτ' ἀποδώσεις θανών·
I-know that to-us never you-will-give-back having-died
ἀλλ' ἥδε πατέρα νέρθεν ἀνακαλούμενον
but this-one father from-below called-upon
οὐκ ἀξιώσει τὸν πρὶν εὐκλεέστατον
not will-think-it-right the before most-glorious
κακῶς ἀκοῦσαι· κυρία γάρ ἐστι νῦν.
badly to-be-spoken-of mistress for she-is now
ὦ νέρτερ' Ἄιδη, καὶ σὲ σύμμαχον καλῶ,
O below Hades and you ally I-call
970 ὃς πόλλ' ἐδέξω τῆσδ' ἕκατι σώματα
who many you-received of-her for-the-sake bodies

πεσόντα τῷμῷ φασγάνῳ, μισθὸν δ' ἔχεις·
fallen by-my sword wage and you-have
ἢ νῦν ἐκείνους ἀπόδος ἐμψύχους πάλιν,
either now them give-back alive back
ἢ τήνδ' ἀνάγκασόν γε μὴ εὐσεβοῦς πατρὸς
or her compel at-least not than-pious father
ἥσσω φανεῖσαν τἀμά γ' ἀποδοῦναι λέχη.
worse appearing my at-least to-give-back bed
εἰ δ' ἐμὲ γυναῖκα τὴν ἐμὴν συλήσετε,
if and me wife the my you-will-rob
ἅ σοι παρέλιπεν ἥδε τῶν λόγων, φράσω.
what to-you left this-one of-the words I-will-tell
ὅρκοις κεκλῄμεθ', ὡς μάθῃς, ὦ παρθένε,
by-oaths we-are-bound that you-may-learn O maiden
πρῶτον μὲν ἐλθεῖν διὰ μάχης σῷ συγγόνῳ·
first indeed to-go through battle with-your brother
κἀκεῖνον ἢ 'μὲ δεῖ θανεῖν· ἁπλοῦς λόγος.
and-him or me must to-die simple word
ἢν δ' ἐς μὲν ἀλκὴν μὴ πόδ' ἀντιθῇ ποδί,
if and to indeed fight not foot he-sets-against foot
λιμῷ δὲ θηρᾷ τύμβον ἱκετεύοντε νώ,
by-hunger and he-hunts tomb two-supplicating us-two
κτανεῖν δέδοκται τήνδ' ἐμοί, κἄπειτ' ἐμὸν
to-kill is-resolved her by-me and-then my
πρὸς ἧπαρ ὦσαι δίστομον ξίφος τόδε
to liver to-thrust two-edged sword this
τύμβου 'πὶ νώτοις τοῦδ', ἵν' αἵματος ῥοαὶ
of-tomb on backs of-this so-that of-blood streams
τάφου καταστάζωσι· κεισόμεσθα δὲ
on-tomb may-drip we-will-lie and

νεκρὼ δύ' ἐξῆς τῷδ' ἐπὶ ξεστῷ τάφῳ,
corpses two in-a-row this on polished tomb
ἀθάνατον ἄλγος σοί, ψόγος δὲ σῷ πατρί.
deathless grief for-you blame and for-your father
οὐ γὰρ γαμεῖ τήνδ' οὔτε σύγγονος σέθεν
not for will-marry her neither brother your
οὔτ' ἄλλος οὐδείς· ἀλλ' ἐγώ σφ' ἀπάξομαι,
nor other no-one but I her will-lead-away
εἰ μὴ πρὸς οἴκους δυνάμεθ', ἀλλὰ πρὸς νεκρούς.
if not to home we-can but to corpses
τί ταῦτα; δακρύοις εἰς τὸ θῆλυ τρεπόμενος
why these(-things) with-tears to the womanish turning
ἐλεινὸς ἦν ἂν μᾶλλον ἢ δραστήριος.
pitiable I-would-be — more than effective
κτεῖν', εἰ δοκεῖ σοι· δυσκλεῶς γὰρ οὐ κτενεῖς·
kill if it-seems-good to-you ingloriously for not you-will-kill
μᾶλλόν γε μέντοι τοῖς ἐμοῖς πείθου λόγοις,
rather at-least however the my obey words
ἵν' ᾖς δικαία καὶ δάμαρτ' ἐγὼ λάβω.
that you-may-be just and wife I may-take
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐν σοὶ βραβεύειν, ὦ νεᾶνι, τοὺς λόγους·
in you (it-is)-to-judge O young-woman the words
οὕτω δὲ κρῖνον ὡς ἅπασιν ἀνδάνῃς.
so and decide as to-all you-may-please
ΘΕΟΝΟΗ ἐγὼ πέφυκά τ' εὐσεβεῖν καὶ βούλομαι,
I am-inclined and to-be-pious and wish
φιλῶ τ' ἐμαυτήν, καὶ κλέος τοὐμοῦ πατρὸς
I-love and myself and glory of-my father
οὐκ ἂν μιάναιμ', οὐδὲ συγγόνῳ χάριν
not — I-would-stain nor to-brother favor

δοίην ἂν ἐξ ἧς δυσκλεὴς φανήσεται.
would-give — from which ill-famed he-will-appear
ἔνεστι δ' ἱερὸν τῆς Δίκης ἐμοὶ μέγα
there-is and temple — of-Justice in-me great
ἐν τῇ φύσει· καὶ τοῦτο Νηρέως πάρα
in the nature and this Nereus from
ἔχουσα σῴζειν Μενέλεων πειράσομαι.
having to-save Menelaus I-will-try
Ἥρᾳ δ', ἐπείπερ βούλεταί σ' εὐεργετεῖν,
with-Hera and since she-wishes you to-benefit
εἰς ταὐτὸν οἴσω ψῆφον· ἡ Κύπρις δ' ἐμοὶ
to the-same I-will-cast vote — Cypris and to-me
ἵλεως μὲν εἴη, συμβέβηκε δ' οὐδαμοῦ·
gracious indeed may-be she-has-met-me and nowhere
πειράσομαι δὲ παρθένος μένειν ἀεί.
I-will-try and maiden to-remain always
ἃ δ' ἀμφὶ τύμβῳ τῷδ' ὀνειδίζεις πατρί,
what and about tomb this you-reproach father
ἡμῖν ὅδ' αὐτὸς μῦθος. ἀδικοίημεν ἄν,
for-us this the-same word we-would-do-wrong —
εἰ μὴ ἀποδώσω· καὶ γὰρ ἂν κεῖνος βλέπων
if not I-give-back(-her) also for — he seeing(-light)
ἀπέδωκεν ἂν σοὶ τήνδ' ἔχειν, ταύτῃ δὲ σέ.
would-have-given-back — to-you her to-have to-her and you
καὶ γὰρ τίσις τῶνδ' ἐστὶ τοῖς τε νερτέροις
also for requital of-these is to-the both below
καὶ τοῖς ἄνωθεν πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις· ὁ νοῦς
and to-the above all men the mind
τῶν κατθανόντων ζῇ μὲν οὔ, γνώμην δ' ἔχει
of-the dead lives indeed not judgment but has

ἀθάνατον εἰς ἀθάνατον αἰθέρ' ἐμπεσών.
deathless into deathless air having-fallen

ὡς οὖν περαίνω μὴ μακράν, σιγήσομαι
that then I-may-end not at-length I-will-keep-silent

ἅ μου καθικετεύσατ', οὐδὲ μωρίᾳ
what me you-supplicated nor to-folly

ξύμβουλος ἔσομαι τῇ κασιγνήτου ποτέ.
counselor shall-I-be the of-brother ever

εὐεργετῶ γὰρ κεῖνον οὐ δοκοῦσ' ὅμως,
I-benefit for him not seeming nevertheless

ἐκ δυσσεβείας ὅσιον εἰ τίθημί νιν.
from impiety holy if I-make him

αὐτοὶ μὲν οὖν τιν' ἔξοδόν γ' εὑρίσκετε,
yourselves indeed then some way-out at-least find

ἐγὼ δ' ἀποστᾶσ' ἐκποδὼν σιγήσομαι.
I and having-stood-aside out-of-the-way will-keep-silent

ἐκ τῶν θεῶν δ' ἄρχεσθε χἰκετεύετε
from the gods and begin and-supplicate

τὴν μέν σ' ἐᾶσαι πατρίδα νοστῆσαι Κύπριν,
the one you to-allow country to-reach Cypris

Ἥρας δὲ τὴν ἔννοιαν ἐν ταὐτῷ μένειν
of-Hera and the intent in the-same to-remain

ἣν εἰς σὲ καὶ σὸν πόσιν ἔχει σωτηρίας.
which toward you and your husband she-has of-saving

σὺ δ', ὦ θανών μοι πάτερ, ὅσον γ' ἐγὼ σθένω,
you and O dead for-me father as-much-as at-least I can

οὔποτε κεκλήσει δυσσεβὴς ἀντ' εὐσεβοῦς.
never shall-you-be-called impious instead-of pious

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐδείς ποτ᾽ ηὐτύχησεν ἔκδικος γεγώς,
no-one ever prospered unjust being
ἐν τῷ δικαίῳ δ᾽ ἐλπίδες σωτηρίας.
in the just but hopes of-safety

IX · THE STRATAGEM

Helen devises the plan: Menelaus will be reported dead at sea, and she will ask Theoclymenus for a ship to bury him in the Greek manner, with Menelaus himself as the survivor who brings the news. Menelaus approves, and they go to work. Helen prays to Hera to save them and to Aphrodite to stop persecuting her, the sweetest of the gods if she would be moderate.

ΕΛΕΝΗ Μενέλαε, πρὸς μὲν παρθένου σεσώσμεθα·
Menelaus by indeed maiden we-have-been-saved
τοὐνθένδε δὴ σὲ τοὺς λόγους φέροντα χρὴ
from-here indeed you the words bringing (one)-must
κοινὴν συνάπτειν μηχανὴν σωτηρίας.
common to-fit-together device of-safety
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἄκουε δή νυν· χρόνιος εἶ κατὰ στέγας
listen indeed then long-time you-are in house
καὶ ξυντέθραψαι προσπόλοισι βασιλέως.
and you-have-been-reared-with servants of-king
ΕΛΕΝΗ τί τοῦτ᾽ ἔλεξας; εἰσφέρεις γὰρ ἐλπίδας
what this did-you-say you-bring-in for hopes
ὡς δή τι δράσων χρηστὸν εἰς κοινόν γε νῷν.
as indeed something about-to-do good for common at-least for-us-two
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πείσειας ἄν τιν᾽ οἵτινες τετραζύγων
could-you-persuade — any(-of-those) who of-four-yoked
ὄχων ἀνάσσουσ᾽, ὥστε νῷν δοῦναι δίφρους;
chariots are-masters so-as to-us-two to-give chariots

ΕΛΕΝΗ πείσαιμ᾽ ἄν· ἀλλὰ τίνα φυγὴν φευξούμεθα
I-could-persuade(-them) — but what flight shall-we-flee
πεδίων ἄπειροι βαρβάρου τ᾽ ὄντες χθονός;
of-plains unacquainted with-barbarian and being land
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἀδύνατον εἶπας. φέρε, τί δ᾽ εἰ κρυφθεὶς δόμοις
impossible you-said come what and if hidden in-house
κτάνοιμ᾽ ἄνακτα τῷδε διστόμῳ ξίφει;
I-should-kill king with-this two-edged sword
ΕΛΕΝΗ οὐκ ἄν σ᾽ ἀνάσχοιτ᾽ οὐδὲ σιγήσειεν ἂν
not — you would-endure nor would-keep-silent —
μέλλοντ᾽ ἀδελφὴ σύγγονον κατακτανεῖν.
about-to sister brother to-kill
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ οὐδὲ μὴν ναῦς ἔστιν ᾗ σωθεῖμεν ἂν
but not-even indeed ship is by-which we-could-be-saved —
φεύγοντες· ἦν γὰρ εἴχομεν θάλασσ᾽ ἔχει.
fleeing that for we-had sea holds
ΕΛΕΝΗ ἄκουσον, ἤν τι καὶ γυνὴ λέξῃ σοφόν.
hear if at-all even woman says wise(-thing)
βούλει λέγεσθαι μὴ θανὼν λόγῳ θανεῖν;
do-you-wish to-be-said not having-died in-word to-die
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ κακὸς μὲν ὄρνις· εἰ δὲ κερδανῶ λέγων,
bad indeed (is-the)-omen if but I-will-gain saying(-so)
ἕτοιμός εἰμι μὴ θανὼν λόγῳ θανεῖν.
ready I-am not having-died in-word to-die
ΕΛΕΝΗ καὶ μὴν γυναικείοις σ᾽ ἂν οἰκτισαίμεθα
and indeed with-womanly you — we-would-lament
κουραῖσι καὶ θρήνοισι πρὸς τὸν ἀνόσιον.
cuttings-of-hair and with-dirges before the unholy(-man)

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ σωτηρίας δὲ τοῦτ᾽ ἔχει τί νῷν ἄκος;
of-safety and this has what for-us-two cure
παλαιότης γὰρ τῷ λόγῳ γ᾽ ἔνεστί τις.
staleness for in-the word at-least is some
ΕΛΕΝΗ ὡς δὴ θανόντα σ᾽ ἐνάλιον κενῷ τάφῳ
that indeed dead you at-sea in-empty tomb
θάψαι τύραννον τῆσδε γῆς αἰτήσομαι.
to-bury the-king of-this land I-will-ask
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ καὶ δὴ παρεῖκεν· εἶτα πῶς ἄνευ νεὼς
and indeed he-has-granted(-it) then how without ship
σωθησόμεσθα κενοταφοῦντ᾽ ἐμὸν δέμας;
shall-we-be-saved giving-empty-burial my body
ΕΛΕΝΗ δοῦναι κελεύσω πορθμίδ᾽, ᾗ καθήσομεν
to-give I-will-bid boat in-which we-will-let-down
κόσμον τάφῳ σῷ πελαγίας ἐς ἀγκάλας.
adornment for-tomb your of-sea into arms
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὡς εὖ τόδ᾽ εἶπας, πλὴν ἕν· εἰ χέρσῳ ταφὰς
how well this you-said except one(-thing) if on-land burial
θεῖναι κελεύσει σ᾽, οὐδὲν ἡ σκῆψις φέρει.
to-make he-will-bid you nothing the pretext brings
ΕΛΕΝΗ ἀλλ᾽ οὐ νομίζειν φήσομεν καθ᾽ Ἑλλάδα
but not to-be-customary we-will-say throughout Hellas
χέρσῳ καλύπτειν τοὺς θανόντας ἐναλίους.
on-land to-cover the dead at-sea
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τοῦτ᾽ αὖ κατορθοῖς· εἶτ᾽ ἐγὼ συμπλεύσομαι
this again you-set-right then I will-sail-with(-you)
καὶ συγκαθήσω κόσμον ἐν ταὐτῷ σκάφει.
and will-let-down-with(-you) adornment in the-same boat

ΕΛΕΝΗ σὲ καὶ παρεῖναι δεῖ μάλιστα τούς τε σοὺς
you also to-be-present must most the(-men) and your
πλωτῆρας οἵπερ ἔφυγον ἐκ ναυαγίας.
sailors who-very escaped from shipwreck
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ καὶ μὴν ἐάνπερ ναῦν ἐπ᾽ ἀγκύρας λάβω,
and indeed if-indeed ship at anchor I-get
ἀνὴρ παρ᾽ ἄνδρα στήσεται ξιφηφόρος.
man beside man will-stand sword-bearing
ΕΛΕΝΗ σὲ χρὴ βραβεύειν πάντα· πόμπιμοι μόνον
you must to-direct all(-things) escorting only
λαίφει πνοαὶ γένοιντο καὶ νεὼς δρόμος.
for-sail breezes may-be and of-ship course
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἔσται· πόνους γὰρ δαίμονες παύσουσί μου.
it-will-be toils for gods will-stop my
ἀτὰρ θανόντα τοῦ μ᾽ ἐρεῖς πεπυσμένη;
but dead from-whom me will-you-say having-learned
ΕΛΕΝΗ σοῦ· καὶ μόνος γε φάσκε διαφυγεῖν μόρον
from-you and alone at-least say to-have-escaped doom
Ἀτρέως πλέων σὺν παιδὶ καὶ θανόνθ᾽ ὁρᾶν.
of-Atreus sailing with son and dead to-see(-him)
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ καὶ μὴν τάδ᾽ ἀμφίβληστρα σώματος ῥάκη
and indeed these garments of-body rags
ξυμμαρτυρήσει ναυτικῶν ἐρειπίων.
will-bear-witness of-sea of-wreckage
ΕΛΕΝΗ εἰς καιρὸν ἦλθε, τότε δ᾽ ἄκαιρ᾽ ἀπώλλυτο·
in time they-came then and untimely they-were-lost
τὸ δ᾽ ἄθλιον κεῖν᾽ εὐτυχὲς τάχ᾽ ἂν πέσοι.
the and wretched that fortunate perhaps — may-fall

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πότερα δ' ἐς οἴκους σοὶ συνεισελθεῖν με χρὴ
whether and into house with-you to-enter-with me must
ἢ πρὸς τάφῳ τῷδ' ἥσυχοι καθώμεθα;
or by tomb this quiet should-we-sit
ΕΛΕΝΗ αὐτοῦ μέν'· ἦν γὰρ καί τι πλημμελές σε δρᾷ, 1085
there stay if for even something offensive you does
τάφος σ' ὅδ' ἂν ῥύσαιτο φάσγανόν τε σόν.
tomb you this — would-rescue sword and your
ἐγὼ δ' ἐς οἴκους βᾶσα βοστρύχους τεμῶ
I and into house having-gone locks will-cut
πέπλων τε λευκῶν μέλανας ἀνταλλάξομαι
robes and white black will-exchange
παρῇδί τ' ὄνυχα φόνιον ἐμβαλῶ χροός.
on-cheek and nail murderous will-lay of-skin
μέγας γὰρ ἀγών, καὶ βλέπω δύο ῥοπάς· 1090
great for the-contest and I-see two turnings
ἢ γὰρ θανεῖν δεῖ μ', ἢν ἁλῶ τεχνωμένη,
either for to-die must me if I-be-caught contriving
ἢ πατρίδα τ' ἐλθεῖν καὶ σὸν ἐκσῶσαι δέμας.
or country and to-reach and your to-save body
ὦ πότνι', ἣ Δίοισιν ἐν λέκτροις πίτνεις,
O lady who Zeus' in bed lie
Ἥρα, δύ' οἰκτρὼ φῶτ' ἀνάψυξον πόνων,
Hera two pitiable men relieve of-toils
αἰτούμεθ' ὀρθὰς ὠλένας πρὸς οὐρανὸν 1095
we-ask straight arms to heaven
ῥίπτονθ', ἵν' οἰκεῖς ἀστέρων ποικίλματα.
throwing where you-dwell of-stars embroideries
σύ θ', ἣ 'πὶ τῷμῷ κῦδος ἐκτήσω γάμῳ,
you and who for my glory won marriage

κόρη Διώνης Κύπρι, μή μ' ἐξεργάσῃ.
daughter of-Dione Cypris not me destroy
ἄλις δὲ λύμης ἥν μ' ἐλυμήνω πάρος
enough and of-outrage which me you-outraged before
τοὔνομα παρασχοῦσ', οὐ τὸ σῶμ', ἐν βαρβάροις.
the-name having-offered not the body among barbarians
θανεῖν δ' ἔασόν μ', εἰ κατακτεῖναι θέλεις,
to-die and let me if to-kill you-wish
ἐν γῇ πατρῴᾳ. τί ποτ' ἄπληστος εἶ κακῶν,
in land ancestral why ever insatiable are-you of-ills
ἔρωτας ἀπάτας δόλιά τ' ἐξευρήματα
loves deceits crafty and contrivances
ἀσκοῦσα φίλτρα θ' αἱματηρὰ δωμάτων;
practicing love-charms and bloody of-houses
εἰ δ' ἦσθα μετρία, τἄλλα γ' ἡδίστη θεῶν
if and you-were moderate in-the-rest at-least sweetest of-gods
πέφυκας ἀνθρώποισιν· οὐκ ἄλλως λέγω.
you-are to-men not otherwise I-say

The chorus calls on the nightingale to join their lament for Helen and for Troy, burned on account of a phantom. Many Greeks fell at Troy, and others drowned when Nauplius lit false beacons on the rocks of Euboea. Menelaus sailed for a cloud of Hera's making. No mortal can tell what is divine: Helen, Zeus' daughter, was cried through Greece as a traitress. It is folly to win glory through war; strife could have been settled by words, and Troy would still stand.

ΧΟΡΟΣ σὲ τὰν ἐναυλείοις ὑπὸ δενδροκόμοις
you the in-the-haunts under leafy
μουσεῖα καὶ θάκους ἐνίζουσαν ἀναβοάσω,
music-halls and seats sitting I-will-call-on
σὲ τὰν ἀοιδοτάταν
you the most-songful
ὄρνιθα μελῳδὸν ἀηδόνα δακρυόεσσαν, 1110
bird melodious nightingale tearful
ἐλθὲ διὰ ξουθᾶν γενύων ἐλελιζομένα
come through tawny of-throats trilling
θρήνοις ἐμοῖς ξυνῳδός,
for-dirges my singing-in-accord
Ἑλένας μελέας πόνους
of-Helen wretched toils
τὸν Ἰλιάδων τ' ἀει- 1115
the of-Trojan-women and singing
δούσᾳ δακρυόεντα πότμον
— tearful fate
Ἀχαιῶν ὑπὸ λόγχαις,
of-Achaeans under spears
ὅτ' ἔμολεν ἔμολε πεδία βαρβάρῳ πλάτᾳ,
when came came plains with-barbarian oar

ὃς ἔδραμε ῥόθια, μέλεα Πριαμίδαις ἄγων
who ran billows wretched(-things) to-Priam's-sons bringing
Λακεδαίμονος ἄπο λέχεα
Lacedaemon from bed
σέθεν, ὦ Ἑλένα, Πάρις αἰνόγαμος
your O Helen Paris dread-wedded
πομπαῖσιν Ἀφροδίτας.
by-escorts of-Aphrodite
πολλοὶ δ' Ἀχαιῶν ἐν δορὶ καὶ πετρίναις
many and of-Achaeans by spear and rocky
ῥιπαῖσιν ἐκπνεύσαντες Ἅιδαν μέλεον ἔχουσιν,
hurlings having-breathed-out Hades wretched have
τάλαιναν ὧν ἀλόχων
wretched whose of-wives
κείραντες ἔθειραν· ἄνυμφα μέλαθρα δὲ κεῖται·
having-cut hair bridegroomless halls and lie
πολλοὺς δὲ πυρσεύσας φλογερὸν σέλας ἀμφιρύταν
many and having-kindled fiery light seagirt
Εὔβοιαν εἶλ' Ἀχαιῶν
Euboea took of-Achaeans
μονόκωπος ἀνήρ, πέτραις
single-oared man on-rocks
Καφηρίσιν ἐμβαλὼν
Caphereian having-cast
Αἰγαίαις τ' ἐνάλοισιν ἀκταῖς,
Aegean and sea shores
δόλιον ἀστέρα λάμψας.
crafty star having-flashed
ἀλίμενα δ' ὄρεα †μέλεα βαρβάρου στολᾶς,
harborless and mountains (corrupt)-wretched of-barbarian garb

ὅτ᾽ ἔσυτο πατρίδος ἀποπρὸ χειμάτων πνοᾷ
when rushed of-country far-off of-storms with-blast
γέρας οὐ γέρας, ἀλλ᾽ ἔριν
prize not prize but strife
Δαναῶν νεφέλαν ἐπὶ ναυσὶν ἄγων,
of-Danaans cloud on ships bringing
εἴδωλον ἱρὸν Ἥρας.
image holy of-Hera
ὅ τι θεὸς ἢ μὴ θεὸς ἢ τὸ μέσον,
what ever (is)-god or not god or the between
τίς φησ᾽ ἐρευνήσας βροτῶν
who says having-searched of-mortals
μακρότατον πέρας εὑρεῖν,
farthest end to-find
ὃς τὰ θεῶν ἐσορᾷ
who the(-things) of-gods sees
δεῦρο καὶ αὖθις ἐκεῖσε
here and again thither
καὶ πάλιν ἀντιλόγοις
and back with-contradictory
πηδῶντ᾽ ἀνελπίστοις τύχαις;
leaping unhoped-for fortunes
σὺ Διὸς ἔφυς, ὦ Ἑλένα, θυγάτηρ·
you of-Zeus were-born O Helen daughter
πτανὸς γὰρ ἐν κόλποις σε Λή-
winged for in folds you of-Leda
δας ἐτέκνωσε πατήρ.
— begot father
κᾆτ᾽ ἰαχήθης καθ᾽ Ἑλλανίαν
and-then you-were-cried-out throughout Hellas

ἄδικος, προδότις, ἄπιστος, ἄθεος· οὐδ' ἔχω
unjust traitress faithless godless nor have-I
τί τὸ σαφές, ὅ τι ποτ' ἐν βροτοῖς.
what the certain what — ever among mortals
τὸ θεῶν ἔπος ἀλαθὲς εὗρον.
the of-gods word true I-found
ἄφρονες ὅσοι τὰς ἀρετὰς πολέμῳ
senseless as-many-as the virtues by-war
κτᾶσθε δορὸς ἀλκαίου λόγχαι-
win of-spear valiant with-spears
σιν καταπαυόμενοι πό-
— ending toils
νους θνατῶν ἀμαθῶς.
— of-mortals ignorantly
εἰ γὰρ ἅμιλλα κρινεῖ νιν
if for strife will-decide it
αἵματος, οὔποτ' ἔρις
of-blood never strife
λείψει κατ' ἀνθρώπων πόλεις·
will-leave throughout of-men cities
† ᾶ Πριαμίδος γᾶς ἔλαχεν θαλάμους,
(corrupt) which of-Priam's land got chambers
ἐξὸν διορθῶσαι λόγοις
it-being-possible to-set-right with-words
σὰν ἔριν, ὦ Ἑλένα.
your strife O Helen
νῦν δ' οἱ μὲν Ἅιδᾳ μέλονται κάτω,
now and they indeed by-Hades are-cared-for below
τείχεα δέ, φλογμὸς ὥστε Διός, ἐπέσυτο φλόξ,
walls and flash like of-Zeus rushed-upon flame

ἐπὶ δὲ πάθεα πάθεσι φέρεις
upon and sufferings on-sufferings you-bring
† ἀθλίοις ἐν συμφοραῖς αἰλίνοις.
(corrupt) wretched in misfortunes mournful

XI · THEOCLYMENUS DECEIVED

Theoclymenus returns from hunting and hears that a Greek has landed. He finds Helen in mourning, her hair shorn. She tells him Menelaus is dead and the stranger saw him drown. She now consents to marry him once she has buried her husband. Menelaus, playing the survivor, explains that the Greeks bury those lost at sea with offerings carried out on a ship, and the king grants a ship, a bull, and arms, and promises the stranger clothes and food for his voyage home.

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ὦ χαῖρε, πατρὸς μνῆμ'· ἐπ' ἐξόδοισι γὰρ
O hail of-father tomb at outgoings for
ἔθαψα, Πρωτεῦ, σ' ἕνεκ' ἐμῆς προσρήσεως·
I-buried Proteus you for-the-sake of-my addressing
ἀεὶ δέ σ' ἐξιών τε κεἰσιὼν δόμους
always and you going-out and and-coming-in house
Θεοκλύμενος παῖς ὅδε προσεννέπει, πάτερ.
Theoclymenus son this addresses father
ὑμεῖς μὲν οὖν κύνας τε καὶ θηρῶν βρόχους,
you indeed then hounds both and of-beasts nets
δμῶες, κομίζετ' εἰς δόμους τυραννικούς·
servants carry into house royal
ἐγὼ δ' ἐμαυτὸν πόλλ' ἐλοιδόρησα δή·
I and myself much reviled indeed
οὐ γάρ τι θανάτῳ τοὺς κακοὺς κολάζομεν.
not for at-all with-death the base we-punish

καὶ νῦν πέπυσμαι φανερὸν Ἑλλήνων τινὰ
and now I-have-learned openly of-Greeks someone
εἰς γῆν ἀφῖχθαι καὶ λεληθέναι σκοπούς,
to land to-have-come and to-have-escaped-notice watchers
ἤτοι κατόπτην ἢ κλοπαῖς θηρώμενον
either spy or by-thefts hunting
Ἑλένην· θανεῖται δ', ἢν γε δὴ ληφθῇ μόνον.
Helen he-will-die and if at-least indeed he-be-caught only
ἔα·
ha
ἀλλ', ὡς ἔοικε, πάντα διαπεπραγμένα
but as it-seems all(-things) accomplished
εὕρηκα· τύμβου γὰρ κενὰς λιποῦσ' ἕδρας
I-have-found of-tomb for empty having-left seats
ἥ Τυνδαρὶς παῖς ἐκπεπόρθμευται χθονός.
the Tyndarid child has-been-ferried-away from-land
ὠή, χαλᾶτε κλῆθρα· λύεθ' ἱππικὰς
ho loosen bolts loose of-horses
φάτνας, ὀπαδοί, κἀκκομίζεθ' ἅρματα,
mangers attendants and-bring-out chariots
ὡς ἂν πόνου γ' ἔκατι μὴ λάθῃ με γῆς
that — of-toil at-least for-the-sake not escape me of-land
τῆσδ' ἐκκομισθεῖσ' ἄλοχος, ἧς ἐφίεμαι.
this having-been-carried-off wife whom I-desire
ἐπίσχετ'· εἰσορῶ γὰρ οὓς διώκομεν
stop I-see for whom we-pursue
παρόντας ἐν δόμοισι κοὐ πεφευγότας.
present in house and-not having-fled
αὖτη, τί πέπλους μέλανας ἐξήψω χροὸς
you why robes black have-you-fastened-on to-skin

λευκῶν ἀμείψασ᾽ ἔκ τε κρατὸς εὐγενοῦς
white having-changed from and head noble
κόμας σίδηρον ἐμβαλοῦσ᾽ ἀπέθρισας
hair iron having-put you-have-cropped
χλωροῖς τε τέγγεις δάκρυσι σὴν παρηίδα
with-fresh and you-wet tears your cheek
κλαίουσα; πότερον ἐννύχοις σεσεισμένη 1190
weeping whether by-nightly shaken
στένεις ὀνείροις, ἢ φάτιν τιν᾽ οἴκοθεν
you-lament dreams or report some from-home
κλύουσα λύπῃ σὰς διέφθαρσαι φρένας;
hearing with-grief your are-destroyed mind

ΕΛΕΝΗ ὦ δέσποτ᾽, ἤδη γὰρ τόδ᾽ ὀνομάζω σ᾽ ἔπος,
O master already for this I-name you word
ὄλωλα· φροῦδα τἀμὰ κοὐδέν εἰμ᾽ ἔτι.
I-am-lost gone my(-things) and-nothing I-am still

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ἐν τῷ δὲ κεῖσαι συμφορᾶς; τίς ἡ τύχη; 1195
in what and do-you-lie of-misfortune what (is)-the fortune

ΕΛΕΝΗ Μενέλαος — οἴμοι, πῶς φράσω; — τέθνηκέ μοι.
Menelaus ah-me how shall-I-tell is-dead for-me

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ οὐδέν τι χαίρω σοῖς λόγοις,
nothing at-all I-rejoice at-your words
τὰ δ᾽ εὐτυχῶ.
the(-things) but I-am-fortunate-in

ΕΛΕΝΗ ***
(lacuna)

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ πῶς οἶσθα; μῶν σοι Θεονόη λέγει τάδε;
how do-you-know surely-not to-you Theonoe tells these(-things)

ΕΛΕΝΗ κείνη τέ φησιν ὅ τε παρὼν ὅτ᾽ ὤλλυτο.
she both says and the(-man) present when he-was-perishing

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ἥκει γὰρ ὅστις καὶ τάδ' ἀγγέλλει σαφῆ;
has-come for who also these(-things) announces clear

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἥκει· μόλοι γὰρ ὡς ἐγὼ χρῄζω μολεῖν.
he-has-come may-he-come for as I wish to-come

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ τίς ἐστί; ποῦ 'στιν; ἵνα σαφέστερον μάθω.
who is-he where is-he that more-clearly I-may-learn

ΕΛΕΝΗ ὅδ' ὃς κάθηται τῷδ' ὑποπτήξας τάφῳ.
this-one who sits at-this crouching tomb

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ Ἄπολλον, ὡς ἐσθῆτι δυσμόρφῳ πρέπει.
Apollo how by-dress unshapely he-is-marked

ΕΛΕΝΗ οἴμοι, δοκῶ μὲν κἀμὸν ὦδ' ἔχειν πόσιν.
ah-me I-think indeed and-my so to-be husband

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ποδαπὸς δ' ὅδ' ἀνὴρ καὶ πόθεν κατέσχε γῆν;
of-what-country and this the-man and whence did-he-reach land

ΕΛΕΝΗ Ἕλλην, Ἀχαιῶν εἷς, ἐμῷ σύμπλους πόσει.
Greek of-Achaeans one with-my fellow-voyager husband

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ θανάτῳ δὲ ποίῳ φησὶ Μενέλεων θανεῖν;
by-death and what-sort does-he-say Menelaus to-die

ΕΛΕΝΗ οἰκτρόταθ', ὑγροῖσιν ἐν κλυδωνίοις ἁλός.
most-pitiably watery in surges of-sea

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ποῦ βαρβάροισι πελάγεσιν ναυσθλούμενον;
where in-barbarian seas sailing

ΕΛΕΝΗ Λιβύης ἀλιμένοις ἐκπεσόντα πρὸς πέτραις.
of-Libya harborless cast-out on rocks

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ καὶ πῶς ὅδ' οὐκ ὄλωλε κοινωνῶν πλάτης;
and how this-one not perished sharing oar

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἐσθλῶν κακίους ἐνίοτ' εὐτυχέστεροι.
than-the-noble worse(-men) sometimes (are)-more-fortunate

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ λιπὼν δὲ ναὸς ποῦ πάρεστιν ἔκβολα;
having-left and of-ship where is-he-present wreck

ΕΛΕΝΗ ὅπου κακῶς ὄλοιτο, Μενέλεως δὲ μή.
where badly may-it-perish Menelaus but not

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ὄλωλ' ἐκεῖνος· ἦλθε δ' ἐν ποίῳ σκάφει;
has-perished that(-man) he-came and in what boat

ΕΛΕΝΗ ναῦταί σφ' ἀνείλοντ' ἐντυχόντες, ὡς λέγει.
sailors him took-up having-met-with(-him) as he-says

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ποῦ δὴ τὸ πεμφθὲν ἀντὶ σοῦ Τροίᾳ κακόν;
where indeed the sent instead-of you to-Troy evil

ΕΛΕΝΗ νεφέλης λέγεις ἄγαλμ'; ἐς αἰθέρ' οἴχεται.
of-cloud you-mean image into air it-is-gone

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ὦ Πρίαμε καὶ γῆ Τρῳάς, ὡς ἔρρεις μάτην.
O Priam and land Trojan how you-are-ruined in-vain

ΕΛΕΝΗ κἀγὼ μετέσχον Πριαμίδαις δυσπραξίας.
and-I shared with-Priam's-sons misfortune

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ πόσιν δ' ἄθαπτον ἔλιπεν ἢ κρύπτει χθονί;
husband and unburied did-he-leave or hides in-earth

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἄθαπτον· οἲ 'γὼ τῶν ἐμῶν πλήμων κακῶν.
unburied ah I of-the my wretched ills

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ τῶνδ' εἵνεκ' ἔταμες βοστρύχους ξανθῆς κόμης;
for-these for-the-sake did-you-cut locks of-yellow hair

ΕΛΕΝΗ φίλος γάρ ἐστιν, ὅς ποτ' ἐστίν, ἐνθάδ' ὤν.
dear for he-is who ever he-is here being

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ὀρθῶς μὲν ἥδε συμφορὰ δακρύεται;
rightly indeed this misfortune is-wept

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἐν εὐμαρεῖ γοῦν σὴν κασιγνήτην λαθεῖν.
in easy(-case) at-least your sister to-escape-notice

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ οὐ δῆτα. πῶς οὖν; τόνδ' ἔτ' οἰκήσεις τάφον;
not then how then this still will-you-dwell-at tomb

ΕΛΕΝΗ τί κερτομεῖς με, τὸν θανόντα δ' οὐκ ἐᾷς;
why do-you-mock me the dead(-man) and not you-let(-be)

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ πιστὴ γὰρ εἶ σὺ σῷ πόσει φεύγουσά με.
faithful for are you to-your husband fleeing me

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἀλλ' οὐκέτ'· ἤδη δ' ἄρχε τῶν ἐμῶν γάμων.
but no-longer already and begin of-the my marriage

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ χρόνια μὲν ἦλθεν, ἀλλ' ὅμως αἰνῶ τάδε.
late indeed it-has-come but nevertheless I-praise these(-things)

ΕΛΕΝΗ οἶσθ' οὖν ὃ δρᾶσον; τῶν πάρος λαθώμεθα.
do-you-know then what to-do the former let-us-forget

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ἐπὶ τῷ; χάρις γὰρ ἀντὶ χάριτος ἐλθέτω.
on what(-terms) favor for for favor let-it-come

ΕΛΕΝΗ σπονδὰς τέμωμεν καὶ διαλλάχθητί μοι.
truce let-us-cut and be-reconciled with-me

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ μεθίημι νεῖκος τὸ σόν, ἴτω δ' ὑπόπτερον.
I-let-go quarrel the your let-it-go and winged

ΕΛΕΝΗ πρός νύν σε γονάτων τῶνδ', ἐπείπερ εἶ φίλος —
by then you knees these since you-are friend

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ τί χρῆμα θηρῶσ' ἱκέτις ὠρέχθης ἐμοῦ;
what thing hunting suppliant have-you-reached-out to-me

ΕΛΕΝΗ τὸν κατθανόντα πόσιν ἐμὸν θάψαι θέλω.
the dead husband my to-bury I-wish

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ τί δ'; ἔστ' ἀπόντων τύμβος; ἢ θάψεις σκιάν;
what and is-there of-the-absent a-tomb or will-you-bury shadow

ΕΛΕΝΗ Ἕλλησίν ἐστι νόμος, ὃς ἂν πόντῳ θάνῃ —
for-Greeks is custom whoever — at-sea dies

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ τί δρᾶν; σοφοί τοι Πελοπίδαι τὰ τοιάδε.
what to-do clever surely Pelopids the such(-things)

ΕΛΕΝΗ κενοῖσι θάπτειν ἐν πέπλων ὑφάσμασιν.
empty to-bury in of-robes woven(-shrouds)

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ κτέριζ'· ἀνίστη τύμβον οὗ χρῄζεις χθονός.
give-funeral-rites raise tomb where you-wish of-land

ΕΛΕΝΗ οὐχ ὧδε ναύτας ὀλομένους τυμβεύομεν.
not so sailors perished we-entomb

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ πῶς δαί; λέλειμμαι τῶν ἐν Ἕλλησιν νόμων.
how then I-am-behind of-the among Greeks customs

ΕΛΕΝΗ εἰς πόντον ὅσα χρὴ νέκυσιν ἐξορμίζομεν.
into sea as-much-as must for-corpses we-launch

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ τί σοι παράσχω δῆτα τῷ τεθνηκότι;
what to-you shall-I-provide then for-the dead

ΕΛΕΝΗ ὅδ' οἶδ'· ἐγὼ δ' ἄπειρος, εὐτυχοῦσα πρίν.
this-one knows I and (am)-inexperienced fortunate before

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ὦ ξένε, λόγων μὲν κληδόν' ἤνεγκας φίλην.
O stranger of-words indeed report you-brought dear

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὔκουν ἐμαυτῷ γ' οὐδὲ τῷ τεθνηκότι.
not-then to-myself at-least nor to-the dead

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ πῶς τοὺς θανόντας θάπτετ' ἐν πόντῳ νεκρούς;
how the dead do-you-bury in sea corpses

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὡς ἂν παρούσης οὐσίας ἕκαστος ᾖ.
as — present of-substance each be

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ πλούτου λέγ' εἵνεχ', ὅ τι θέλεις ταύτης χάριν.
of-wealth speak for-the-sake what ever you-wish of-her for-the-sake

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ προσφάζεται μὲν αἷμα πρῶτα νερτέροις.
is-slaughtered-as-offering indeed blood first to-those-below

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ τίνος; σύ μοι σήμαινε, πείσομαι δ' ἐγώ.
of-what you me tell will-obey and I

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ αὐτὸς σὺ γίγνωσκ'· ἀρκέσει γὰρ ἂν διδῷς.
yourself you judge it-will-suffice for what-ever you-give

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ἐν βαρβάροις μὲν ἵππον ἢ ταῦρον νόμος.
among barbarians indeed horse or bull (is-the)-custom

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ διδούς γε μὲν δὴ δυσγενὲς μηδὲν δίδου.
giving at-least indeed indeed ill-bred nothing give

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ οὐ τῶνδ' ἐν ἀγέλαις ὀλβίαις σπανίζομεν.
not of-these in herds rich we-lack

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ καὶ στρωτὰ φέρεται λέκτρα σώματος κενά.
and spread is-borne bed of-body empty

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ἔσται· τί δ' ἄλλο προσφέρειν νομίζεται;
it-will-be what and other to-bring-besides is-customary

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ χαλκήλαθ' ὅπλα· καὶ γὰρ ἦν φίλος δορί.
bronze-wrought arms also for he-was dear to-spear

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ἄξια τάδ' ἔσται Πελοπιδῶν ἃ δώσομεν.
worthy these(-things) will-be of-Pelopids which we-will-give

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ καὶ τἄλλ' ὅσα χθὼν καλὰ φέρει βλαστήματα.
and the-other as-many-as earth fair bears growths

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ πῶς οὖν; ἐς οἶδμα τίνι τρόπῳ καθίετε;
how then into swell in-what way do-you-let-down(-them)

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ναῦν δεῖ παρεῖναι κἀρετμῶν ἐπιστάτας.
ship must to-be-present and-of-oars commanders

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ πόσον δ' ἀπείργει μῆκος ἐκ γαίας δόρυ;
how-much and keeps-off distance from land ship

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὥστ' ἐξορᾶσθαι ῥόθια χερσόθεν μόλις.
so-as to-be-seen billows from-land hardly

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ τί δή; τόδ' Ἑλλὰς νόμιμον ἐκ τίνος σέβει;
why indeed this Hellas custom from what reveres

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὡς μὴ πάλιν γῇ λύματ' ἐκβάλῃ κλύδων.
that not back to-land pollutions may-cast surge

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ Φοίνισσα κώπη ταχύπορος γενήσεται.
Phoenician oared-ship swift-going will-be

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ καλῶς ἂν εἴη Μενέλεῳ τε πρὸς χάριν.
well — it-would-be for-Menelaus and for favor

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ οὔκουν σὺ χωρὶς τῆσδε δρῶν ἀρκεῖς τάδε;
not-then you without her doing suffice these(-things)

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ μητρὸς τόδ' ἔργον ἢ γυναικὸς ἢ τέκνων.
of-mother this (is-the)-work or of-wife or of-children

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ταύτης ὁ μόχθος, ὡς λέγεις, θάπτειν πόσιν;
hers the toil as you-say to-bury husband

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἐν εὐσεβεῖ γοῦν νόμιμα μὴ κλέπτειν νεκρῶν.
in pious(-part) at-least rites not to-cheat of-the-dead

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ἴτω· πρὸς ἡμῶν ἄλοχον εὐσεβῆ τρέφειν.
let-it-go by us wife pious to-keep

ἐλθὼν δ' ἐς οἴκους ἐξελοῦ κόσμον νεκρῷ·
having-gone and into house choose adornment for-corpse

καὶ σ' οὐ κεναῖσι χερσὶ γῆς ἀποστελῶ,
and you not with-empty hands from-land I-will-send

δράσαντα τῇδε πρὸς χάριν· φήμας δέ μοι
having-done for-her for favor reports and to-me

ἐσθλὰς ἐνεγκών γ' ἀντὶ τῆς ἀχλαινίας
good having-brought at-least instead-of the lack-of-cloak

ἐσθῆτα λήψει σῖτά θ', ὥστε σ' εἰς πάτραν
dress you-will-get food and so-as you to fatherland

ἐλθεῖν, ἐπεὶ νῦν γ' ἀθλίως ἔχονθ' ὁρῶ.
to-go since now at-least wretchedly faring I-see(-you)

σὺ δ', ὦ τάλαινα, μὴ 'πὶ τοῖς ἀνηνύτοις
you and O wretched not over the endless(-things)

τρύχου σὺ σαυτήν· Μενέλεως δ' ἔχει πότμον,
wear-out you yourself Menelaus and has doom

κοὐκ ἂν δύναιτο ζῆν ὁ κατθανὼν πόσις.
and-not — could live the dead husband

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ σὸν ἔργον, ὦ νεᾶνι· τὸν παρόντα μὲν
your (is-the)-work O young-man the present indeed

στέργειν πόσιν χρή, τὸν δὲ μηκέτ' ὄντ' ἐᾶν·
to-love husband (one)-must the(-one) and no-longer being to-let-go

ἄριστα γάρ σοι ταῦτα πρὸς τὸ τυγχάνον.
best for for-you these(-things) toward the happening
ἢν δ' Ἑλλάδ' ἔλθω καὶ τύχω σωτηρίας,
if and to-Hellas I-come and I-get safety
παύσω ψόγου σε τοῦ πρίν, ἢν γυνὴ γένῃ
I-will-stop of-blame you the former if wife you-become
οἵαν γενέσθαι χρή σε σῷ ξυνευνέτῃ.
such-as to-become (it-is)-needful you to-your bedfellow
ΕΛΕΝΗ ἔσται τάδ'· οὐδὲ μέμψεται πόσις ποτὲ
it-will-be these(-things) nor will-blame husband ever
ἡμῖν· σὺ δ' αὐτὸς ἐγγὺς ὢν εἴσει τάδε.
us you and yourself near being will-know these(-things)
ἀλλ', ὦ τάλας, εἴσελθε καὶ λουτρῶν τύχε
but O wretched go-in and baths get
ἐσθῆτά τ' ἐξάλλαξον. οὐκ ἐς ἀμβολὰς
dress and change not to delays
εὐεργετήσω σ'· εὐμενέστερον γὰρ ἂν
I-will-benefit you more-kindly for —
τῷ φιλτάτῳ μοι Μενέλεῳ τὰ πρόσφορα
to-the dearest to-me Menelaus the fitting(-things)
δρῴης ἄν, ἡμῶν τυγχάνων οἵων σε χρή.
you-would-do — of-us obtaining such-as you (it-is)-needful

The chorus tells how the Mountain Mother of the gods searched land and sea in her chariot drawn by beasts for her stolen daughter. In her grief she withered the crops and the herds and starved mankind, until Zeus sent the Graces and the Muses to soothe her, and Aphrodite took up the drum and made her laugh. Helen, they sing, neglected the goddess's rites and trusted only in her beauty.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὀρεία ποτὲ δρομάδι κώλῳ
mountain once with-running limb
μάτηρ θεῶν ἐσύθη
mother of-gods rushed
ἀν᾽ ὑλᾶντα νάπη
through wooded glens
ποτάμιόν τε χεῦμ᾽ ὑδάτων
river and stream of-waters
βαρύβρομόν τε κῦμ᾽ ἅλιον
deep-roaring and wave of-sea
πόθῳ τᾶς ἀποιχομένας
in-longing-for the vanished
ἀρρήτου κούρας·
unspeakable daughter
κρόταλα δὲ Βρόμια διαπρύσιον
rattles and Bromian piercing
ἱέντα κέλαδον ἀνεβόα,
sending-forth noise cried-out
θηρῶν ὅτε ζυγίους
of-beasts when yoked
ζευξάσᾳ θεᾷ σατίνας,
having-yoked goddess car

τὰν ἁρπασθεῖσαν κυκλίων
the(-one) snatched from-circling
χορῶν ἔξω παρθενίων
dances outside maiden
μέτα κοῦραι ἀελλόποδες,
with girls storm-footed
ἁ μὲν τόξοις Ἄρτεμις, ἁ δ'
the one with-bows Artemis the other
ἔγχει Γοργῶπις πάνοπλος,
with-spear Gorgon-eyed full-armed
συνείποντο. Ζεὺς δ' ἑδράνων
followed Zeus but from-seats
αὐγάζων δ' ἐξ οὐρανίων
gazing and from heavenly
ἄλλαν μοῖραν ἔκραινε.
other fate accomplished
δρομαῶν δ' ὅτε πολυπλάνητον
of-runnings and when much-wandering
μάτηρ ἔπαυσε πόνον,
mother stopped toil
μαστεύουσ' ἀπόρους
seeking impassable
θυγατρὸς ἁρπαγὰς δολίους,
of-daughter seizures crafty
χιονοθρέμμονας δ' ἐπέρασ'
snow-nursing and she-crossed
Ἰδαιᾶν Νυμφᾶν σκοπιάς·
of-Idaean Nymphs watch-places
ῥίπτει δ' ἐν πένθει
she-throws(-herself) and in grief

πέτρινα κατὰ δρία πολυνιφέα·
rocky through thickets much-snowy
βροτοῖσι δ᾽ ἄχλοα πεδία γᾶς
for-mortals and grassless plains of-earth
οὐ καρπίζουσ᾽ ἀρότοις
not making-fruitful by-plowings
λαῶν φθείρει γενεάν·
of-peoples she-destroys race
ποίμναις δ᾽ οὐχ ἵει θαλερὰς
for-flocks and not she-sent luxuriant
βοσκὰς εὐφύλλων ἑλίκων·
fodder of-leafy tendrils
πολέων δ᾽ ἀπέλειπε βίος,
of-cities and failed life
οὐδ᾽ ἦσαν θεῶν θυσίαι,
nor were of-gods sacrifices
βωμοῖς τ᾽ ἄφλεκτοι πέλανοι·
on-altars and unburnt cakes
πηγάς τ᾽ ἀμπαύει δροσερὰς
springs and she-stops dewy
λευκῶν ἐκβάλλειν ὑδάτων
of-white to-cast-forth waters
πένθει παιδὸς ἀλάστῳ.
in-grief for-child unforgettable
ἐπεὶ δ᾽ ἔπαυσ᾽ εἰλαπίνας
when and she-ended feasts
θεοῖς βροτείῳ τε γένει,
for-gods for-mortal and race
Ζεὺς μειλίσσων στυγίους
Zeus soothing hateful

ματρὸς ὀργὰς ἐνέπει·
of-mother angers speaks
βᾶτε, σεμναὶ Χάριτες,
go august Graces
ἴτε, τὰν περὶ παρθένῳ
go the for maiden
Δηοῖ θυμωσαμένᾳ
Deo enraged
λύπαν ἐξαλλάξατ' ἀλᾶν,
grief change from-wanderings
Μοῦσαί θ' ὕμνοισι χορῶν.
Muses and with-hymns of-dances
χαλκοῦ δ' αὐδὰν χθονίαν
of-bronze and voice underground
τύπανά τ' ἔλαβε βυρσοτενῆ
drums and took hide-stretched
καλλίστα τότε πρῶτα μακάρων
most-beautiful then first of-the-blessed
Κύπρις· γέλασέν τε θεὰ
Cypris laughed and goddess
δέξατό τ' εἰς χέρας
received and into hands
βαρύβρομον αὐλὸν
deep-sounding pipe
τερφθεῖσ' ἀλαλαγμῷ.
delighted with-the-cry
† ὧν οὐ θέμις σ' οὐδ' ὁσία
(corrupt) which not lawful you nor holy
ἐπύρωσας ἐν θαλάμοις,
you-kindled in chambers

μῆνιν δ' εἶχες μεγάλας
wrath and you-had of-the-great
ματρός, ὦ παῖ, θυσίας
mother O child sacrifices
οὐ σεβίζουσα θεᾶς.
not revering of-the-goddess
μέγα τοι δύναται νεβρῶν
greatly surely have-power of-fawns
παμποίκιλοι στολίδες
dappled garments
κισσοῦ τε στεφθεῖσα χλόα
of-ivy and garlanded greenness
νάρθηκας εἰς ἱερούς,
fennel-wands to holy
ῥόμβων θ' εἱλισσομένα
of-tambourine and whirled
κύκλιος ἔνοσις αἰθερία,
circling shaking in-air
βακχεύουσά τ' ἔθειρα Βρομίῳ
raving and hair for-Bromius
καὶ παννυχίδες θεᾶς
and night-festivals of-the-goddess
εὖτέ νιν ὄμμασιν
when her with-eyes
ἔβαλε σελάνα.
struck moon
μορφᾷ μόνον ηὔχεις.
in-beauty only you-boasted

Helen tells the chorus that Theonoe has kept silent. Theoclymenus comes out with the bathed and armed Menelaus, the offerings ready. He tries to keep Helen ashore, but she persuades him that she must make the offerings herself. He orders his men to obey the stranger, has the wedding prepared, and bids Menelaus come back to feast at it. Menelaus prays to Zeus for a safe course home.

ΕΛΕΝΗ τὰ μὲν κατ᾽ οἴκους εὐτυχοῦμεν, ὦ φίλαι·
the(-things) indeed in house we-are-fortunate O friends
ἡ γὰρ συνεκκλέπτουσα Πρωτέως κόρη
the for stealing-away-with(-us) of-Proteus daughter
πόσιν παρόντα τὸν ἐμὸν ἱστορουμένη
husband present the my being-asked
οὐκ εἶπ᾽ ἀδελφῷ· κατθανόντα δ᾽ ἐν χθονὶ
not told brother dead and in earth
οὔ φησιν αὐγὰς εἰσορᾶν ἐμὴν χάριν.
not she-says rays to-see for-my sake
κάλλιστα δὴ τάδ᾽ ἥρπασεν τεύχη πόσις·
most-finely indeed these snatched arms husband
ἃ γὰρ καθήσειν ὅπλ᾽ ἔμελλεν εἰς ἅλα,
which for to-let-down arms he-was-about into sea
ταῦτ᾽ ἐμβαλὼν πόρπακι γενναίαν χέρα
these having-put-into handle noble hand
αὐτὸς κομίζει, δόρυ τε δεξιᾷ λαβών,
himself carries spear and in-right(-hand) having-taken
ὡς τῷ θανόντι χάριτα δὴ συνεκπονῶν.
as for-the dead favor indeed laboring-with
προύργου δ᾽ ἐς ἀλκὴν σῶμ᾽ ὅπλοις ἠσκήσατο,
usefully and for battle body with-arms he-equipped

ὡς βαρβάρων τρόπαια μυρίων χερὶ
as of-barbarians trophies countless with-hand
στήσων, ὅταν κωπῆρες εἰσβῶμεν σκάφος,
about-to-set-up when oared we-board boat
πέπλους ἀμείψας ἀντὶ ναυφθόρου στολῆς,
robes having-changed instead-of ship-wrecked garb
ἁγώ νιν ἐξήσκησα, καὶ λουτροῖς χρόα
which-I him dressed-in and with-baths skin
ἔδωκα, χρόνια νίπτρα ποταμίας δρόσου.
I-gave long-delayed washings of-river dew
ἀλλ' ἐκπερᾷ γὰρ δωμάτων ὁ τοὺς ἐμοὺς
but comes-out for from-house the(-man) the my
γάμους ἑτοίμους ἐν χεροῖν ἔχειν δοκῶν,
marriage ready in hands to-have thinking
σιγητέον μοι· καὶ σὲ προσποιούμεθα
one-must-be-silent for-me and you we-claim-as
εὔνουν κρατεῖν τε στόματος, ἢν δυνώμεθα
well-disposed to-control and mouth if we-can
σωθέντες αὐτοὶ καὶ σὲ συσσῶσαί ποτε.
saved ourselves also you to-save-with ever
ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ χωρεῖτ' ἐφεξῆς, ὡς ἔταξεν ὁ ξένος,
go in-order as arranged the stranger
δμῶες, φέροντες ἐνάλια κτερίσματα.
servants carrying sea funeral-offerings
Ἑλένη, σὺ δ', ἢν σοι μὴ κακῶς δόξω λέγειν,
Helen you and if to-you not badly I-seem to-speak
πείθου, μέν' αὐτοῦ· ταὐτὰ γὰρ παροῦσά τε
obey stay there the-same for being-present and
πράξεις τὸν ἄνδρα τὸν σὸν ἢν τε μὴ παρῇς.
you-will-do for-the man the your if and not you-be-present

δέδοικα γάρ σε μή τις ἐμπεσὼν πόθος
I-fear for you lest some having-fallen longing
πείσῃ μεθεῖναι σῶμ' ἐς οἶδμα πόντιον
persuade to-let-go body into swell of-sea
τοῦ πρόσθεν ἀνδρὸς χάρισιν ἐκπεπληγμένην·
of-the former husband by-charms stricken
ἄγαν γὰρ αὐτὸν οὐ παρόνθ' ὅμως στένεις.
too-much for him not present nevertheless you-lament
ΕΛΕΝΗ ὦ καινὸς ἡμῖν πόσις, ἀναγκαίως ἔχει
O new for-me husband necessarily it-is
τὰ πρῶτα λέκτρα νυμφικάς θ' ὁμιλίας
the first bed bridal and associations
τιμᾶν· ἐγὼ δὲ διὰ τὸ μὲν στέργειν πόσιν
to-honor I and because-of the indeed to-love husband
καὶ ξυνθάνοιμ' ἄν· ἀλλὰ τίς κείνῳ χάρις
also would-die-with(-him) — but what to-him (is-the)-favor
ξὺν κατθανόντι κατθανεῖν; ἔα δ' ἐμὲ
with dead to-die let and me
αὐτὴν μολοῦσαν ἐντάφια δοῦναι νεκρῷ.
myself having-gone burial-gifts to-give to-the-corpse
θεοὶ δὲ σοί τε δοῖεν οἵ' ἐγὼ θέλω,
gods and to-you both may-give what I wish
καὶ τῷ ξένῳ τῷδ', ὅτι συνεκπονεῖ τάδε.
and to-the stranger this because he-labors-with(-us) these(-things)
ἕξεις δέ μ' οἵαν χρή σ' ἔχειν ἐν δώμασι
you-will-have and me such-as must you to-have in house
γυναῖκ', ἐπειδὴ Μενέλεων εὐεργετεῖς
wife since Menelaus you-benefit
κἄμ'· ἔρχεται γὰρ δή τιν' εἰς τύχην τάδε·
and-me comes for indeed some into fortune these(-things)

ὅστις δὲ δώσει ναῦν ἐν ᾗ τάδ' ἄξομεν,
whoever and will-give ship in which these(-things) we-will-carry
πρόσταξον, ὡς ἂν τὴν χάριν πλήρη λάβω.
order that — the favor full I-may-receive
ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ χώρει σὺ καὶ ναῦν τοῖσδε πεντηκόντορον
go you and ship to-these fifty-oared
Σιδωνίαν δὸς κἀρετμῶν ἐπιστάτας.
Sidonian give and-of-oars commanders
ΕΛΕΝΗ οὔκουν ὅδ' ἄρξει ναὸς ὃς κοσμεῖ τάφον;
not-then this-one will-command ship who adorns tomb
ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ μάλιστ'· ἀκούειν τοῦδε χρὴ ναύτας ἐμούς.
most(-certainly) to-hear this-one must sailors my
ΕΛΕΝΗ αὖθις κέλευσον, ἵνα σαφῶς μάθωσί σου.
again order that clearly they-may-learn from-you
ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ αὖθις κελεύω καὶ τρίτον γ', εἴ σοι φίλον.
again I-order and third(-time) at-least if to-you (it-is)-dear
ΕΛΕΝΗ ὄναιο, κἀγὼ τῶν ἐμῶν βουλευμάτων.
may-you-profit and-I from-the my plans
ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ μή νυν ἄγαν σὸν δάκρυσιν ἐκτήξῃς χρόα.
not then too-much your with-tears melt skin
ΕΛΕΝΗ ἥδ' ἡμέρα σοι τὴν ἐμὴν δείξει χάριν.
this day to-you the my will-show favor
ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ τὰ τῶν θανόντων οὐδέν, ἀλλ' ἄλλως πόνος.
the(-things) of-the dead (are)-nothing but vainly toil
ΕΛΕΝΗ ἔστιν τι κἀκεῖ κἀνθάδ' ὧν ἐγὼ λέγω.
is something both-there and-here of-which I speak
ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ οὐδὲν κακίω Μενέλεώ μ' ἕξεις πόσιν.
nothing worse than-Menelaus me you-will-have husband
ΕΛΕΝΗ οὐδὲν σὺ μεμπτός· τῆς τύχης με δεῖ μόνον.
nothing you (are)-blameworthy of-the fortune me need only

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ἐν σοὶ τόδ', ἢν σὴν εἰς ἔμ' εὔνοιαν διδῷς.
in you this if your toward me goodwill you-give

ΕΛΕΝΗ οὐ νῦν διδαξόμεσθα τοὺς φίλους φιλεῖν.
not now we-shall-be-taught the friends to-love

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ βούλει ξυνεργῶν αὐτὸς ἐκπέμψω στόλον;
do-you-wish helping myself shall-I-send-off expedition

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἥκιστα· μὴ δούλευε σοῖς δούλοις, ἄναξ.
least not be-slave to-your slaves lord

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ἀλλ' εἶα· τοὺς μὲν Πελοπιδῶν ἐῶ νόμους·
but come the indeed of-Pelopids I-let-be customs

καθαρὰ γὰρ ἡμῖν δώματ'· οὐ γὰρ ἐνθάδε
pure for to-us (is-the)-house not for here

ψυχὴν ἀφῆκε Μενέλεως· ἴτω δέ τις
life gave-up Menelaus let-go and someone

φράσων ὑπάρχοις τοῖς ἐμοῖς φέρειν γάμων
to-tell to-officers the my to-bring of-marriage

ἀγάλματ' οἴκους εἰς ἐμούς· πᾶσαν δὲ χρὴ
treasures house to my all and must

γαῖαν βοᾶσθαι μακαρίαις ὑμνῳδίαις
land to-resound with-blessed hymns

ὑμέναιον Ἑλένης κἀμόν, ὡς ζηλωτὸς ᾖ.
wedding-song of-Helen and-mine that enviable it-may-be

σὺ δ', ὦ ξέν', ἐλθών, πελαγίους ἐς ἀγκάλας
you and O stranger having-gone of-sea to arms

τῷ τῆσδε πρίν ποτ' ὄντι δοὺς πόσει τάδε,
to-the of-her before once being having-given husband these(-things)

πάλιν πρὸς οἴκους σπεῦδ' ἐμὴν δάμαρτ' ἔχων,
back to house hasten my wife having

ὡς τοὺς γάμους τοὺς τῆσδε συνδαίσας ἐμοὶ
so-that the marriage the of-her having-feasted-with me

στέλλῃ πρὸς οἴκους ἢ μένων εὐδαιμονῇς. 1440
you-may-set-out to home or remaining may-prosper

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὦ Ζεῦ, πατήρ τε καὶ σοφὸς κλῄζει θεός,
O Zeus father both and wise you-are-called god

βλέψον πρὸς ἡμᾶς καὶ μετάστησον κακῶν.
look at us and remove from-ills

ἕλκουσι δ' ἡμῖν πρὸς λέπας τὰς συμφορὰς
dragging and for-us up hill the misfortunes

σπουδῇ σύναψαι· κἂν ἄκρᾳ θίγῃς χερί,
with-haste set-hand-to and-if with-tip you-touch hand

ἥξομεν ἵν' ἐλθεῖν βουλόμεσθα τῆς τύχης. 1445
we-shall-come where to-come we-wish of-the fortune

ἅλις δὲ μόχθων οὓς ἐμοχθοῦμεν πάρος.
enough and of-toils which we-toiled before

κέκλησθέ μοι, θεοί, πολλὰ χρήστ' ἐμοῦ κλύειν
you-have-been-called by-me gods many good(-things) from-me to-hear

καὶ λύπρ'· ὀφείλω δ' οὐκ ἀεὶ πράσσειν κακῶς,
and grievous(-things) I-ought but not always to-fare badly

ὀρθῷ δὲ βῆναι ποδί· μίαν δ' ἐμοὶ χάριν
upright and to-go with-foot one and to-me favor

δόντες τὸ λοιπὸν εὐτυχῆ με θήσετε. 1450
having-given the rest fortunate me you-will-make

The chorus calls on the swift Phoenician ship to bear Helen over the sea, escorted by dolphins, to her home. She will find the daughters of Leucippus at the temple and join the night festival of Hyacinthus. They wish they could fly with the cranes to Sparta, and pray that Castor and Polydeuces will come over the sea to bring their sister safely home.

ΧΟΡΟΣ Φοίνισσα Σιδωνιὰς ὦ
Phoenician Sidonian O
ταχεῖα κώπα, ῥοθίοισι μάτηρ
swift oar to-billows mother
εἰρεσίᾳ φίλα,
to-rowing dear
χοραγὲ τῶν καλλιχόρων
chorus-leader of-the fair-dancing
δελφίνων, ὅταν αὔραις
dolphins when with-breezes
πέλαγος νήνεμον ᾖ,
sea windless be
γλαυκὰ δὲ Πόντου θυγάτηρ
gray and of-Sea daughter
Γαλάνεια τάδ' εἶπη·
Galaneia these(-things) says
κατὰ μὲν ἱστία πετάσατ' αὔ-
down indeed sails spread to-the-breezes
ραις λείποντες ἐναλίαις,
— leaving of-sea
λάβετε δ' εἰλατίνας πλάτας,
take and of-fir oars

ναῦται, ἰὼ ναῦται,
sailors oh sailors
πέμποντες εὐλιμένους
escorting with-good-harbors
Περσείων οἴκων Ἑλέναν ἐπ' ἀκτάς.
of-Perseus' house Helen to shores
ἦ που κόρας ἂν ποταμοῦ
truly I-suppose daughters — of-river
παρ' οἶδμα Λευκιππίδας ἢ πρὸ ναοῦ
beside swell Leucippids or before temple
Παλλάδος ἂν λάβοις
of-Pallas — you-would-find
χρόνῳ ξυνελθοῦσα χοροῖς
in-time having-joined dances
ἢ κώμοις Ὑακίνθου,
or revels of-Hyacinthus
νυχίαν εὐφροσύναν,
nightly festivity
ὃν ἐξαμιλλησάμενος
whom having-competed
τροχῷ ἀτέρμονι δίσκου
with-wheel endless of-discus
ἔκανε Φοῖβος, ὅθεν Λακαί-
killed Phoebus whence to-Laconian
νᾳ γᾷ βούθυτον ἁμέραν
— land ox-slaying day
ὁ Διὸς εἶπε σέβειν γόνος,
the of-Zeus said to-revere offspring
μόσχον θ', ἂν οἴκοις
calf and which in-house

ἔλειπες, Ἑρμιόναν,
you-left Hermione
ἃς οὔπω πεῦκαι πρὸ γάμων ἔλαμψαν.
for-whom not-yet pine-torches before marriage shone
δι᾽ ἀέρος εἴθε ποτανοὶ
through air would-that winged
γενοίμεσθ᾽ ᾗ Λιβύας
we-might-become where of-Libya
οἰωνοὶ στολάδες
birds in-flocks
ὄμβρον λιποῦσαι χειμέριον
rain leaving wintry
νίσσονται πρεσβυτάτᾳ
go most-aged
σύριγγι πειθόμεναι
pipe obeying
ποιμένος, ὃς ἄβροχα
of-shepherd who dry
πεδία καρποφόρα τε γᾶς
plains fruitful and of-earth
ἐπιπετόμενος ἰαχεῖ.
flying-over cries
ὦ πταναὶ δολιχαύχενες,
O winged long-necked
σύννομοι νεφέων δρόμου,
companions of-clouds of-course
βᾶτε Πλειάδας ὑπὸ μέσας
go Pleiads under middle
Ὠρίωνά τ᾽ ἐννύχιον·
Orion and nightly

καρύξατ᾽ ἀγγελίαν,
proclaim message
Εὐρώταν ἐφεζόμεναι,
Eurotas alighting-on
Μενέλαος ὅτι Δαρδάνου
Menelaus that of-Dardanus
πόλιν ἑλὼν δόμον ἥξει.
city having-taken home will-come
μόλοιτέ ποθ᾽ ἵππιον ἅρμα
may-you-come ever horse chariot
δι᾽ αἰθέρος ἱέμενοι
through air speeding
παῖδες Τυνδαρίδαι,
sons of-Tyndareus
λαμπρῶν ἄστρων ὑπ᾽ ἀέλλαισιν·
bright of-stars under whirlwinds
οἳ ναίετ᾽ οὐράνιοι,
who dwell heavenly
σωτῆρε τᾶσδ᾽ Ἑλένας
saviors of-this Helen
γλαυκὸν ἐπ᾽ οἶδμ᾽ ἅλιον
gray on swell of-sea
κυανόχροά τε κυμάτων
dark-colored and of-waves
ῥόθια πολιὰ θαλάσσας,
billows gray of-sea
ναύταις εὐαεῖς ἀνέμων
for-sailors fair-blowing of-winds
πέμποντες Διόθεν πνοάς·
sending from-Zeus breaths

δύσκλειαν δ' ἀπὸ συγγόνου
ill-fame and from sister
βάλετε βαρβάρων λεχέων,
cast of-barbarian bed
ἃν Ἰδαίων ἐρίδων
which of-Idaean strifes
ποιναθεῖσ' ἐκτήσατο, γᾶν
punished she-got to-land
οὐκ ἐλθοῦσά ποτ' Ἰλίου
not having-gone ever of-Ilium
Φοιβείους ἐπὶ πύργους.
Phoebean to towers

XV · THE ESCAPE

A messenger reports that the stranger was Menelaus. When the ship was out at sea, Menelaus' men drew swords, killed the Egyptian crew, and sailed for Greece with Helen. Theoclymenus rages and sets out to kill his sister Theonoe for keeping silent, but the chorus leader seizes his robes, ready to die for her. Castor and Polydeuces appear and stop him: Theonoe acted justly, and Helen will be a goddess. Theoclymenus yields.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ † ἄναξ, κάκιστά σ' ἐν δόμοις εὑρήκαμεν·
(corrupt) lord most-evilly you in house we-have-found
ὡς καίν' ἀκούσει πήματ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ τάχα.
how new you-will-hear woes from me soon
ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ τί δ' ἔστιν; ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἄλλης ἐκπόνει μνηστεύματα
what and is-it of-other labor-at wooings
γυναικός· Ἑλένη γὰρ βέβηκ' ἔξω χθονός.
woman Helen for has-gone out-of land

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ πτεροῖσιν ἀρθεῖσ᾽ ἢ πεδοστιβεῖ ποδί;
by-wings raised or with-ground-treading foot

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ Μενέλαος αὐτὴν ἐκπεπόρθμευται χθονός,
Menelaus her has-ferried-away from-land

ὃς αὐτὸς αὑτὸν ἦλθεν ἀγγέλλων θανεῖν.
who himself himself came announcing to-have-died

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ὦ δεινὰ λέξας· τίς δέ νιν ναυκληρία
O terrible(-things) having-said what and her voyage

ἐκ τῆσδ᾽ ἀπῆρε χθονός; ἄπιστα γὰρ λέγεις. 1520
from this carried-off land incredible(-things) for you-say

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἥν γε ξένῳ δίδως σὺ τούς τε σοὺς ἔχων
which at-least to-the-stranger give you the(-men) and your having

ναύτας βέβηκεν, ὡς ἂν ἐν βραχεῖ μάθῃς.
sailors be-has-gone that — in short you-may-learn

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ πῶς; εἰδέναι πρόθυμος· οὐ γὰρ ἐλπίδων
how to-know (I-am)-eager not for of-hopes

ἔσω βέβηκα μίαν ὑπερδραμεῖν χέρα
within I-have-come one to-overcome hand

τοσούσδε ναύτας, ὧν ἀπεστάλης μέτα. 1525
so-many sailors whom you-were-sent with

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἐπεὶ λιποῦσα τούσδε βασιλικοὺς δόμους
when having-left this royal house

ἡ τοῦ Διὸς παῖς πρὸς θάλασσαν ἐστάλη,
the — of-Zeus child to sea set-out

σοφώταθ᾽ ἁβρὸν πόδα τιθεῖσ᾽ ἀνέστενε
most-cleverly delicate foot placing she-lamented

πόσιν πέλας παρόντα κοὐ τεθνηκότα.
husband near present and-not dead

ὡς δ᾽ ἤλθομεν σῶν περίβολον νεωρίων, 1530
when and we-came of-your enclosure of-dockyards

Σιδωνίαν ναῦν πρωτόπλουν καθείλκομεν,
Sidonian ship first-sailing we-launched
ζυγῶν τε πεντήκοντα κἀρετμῶν μέτρα
of-benches and fifty and-of-oars measures
ἔχουσαν. ἔργου δ' ἔργον ἐξημείβετο·
having of-work and work succeeded
ὁ μὲν γὰρ ἱστόν, ὁ δὲ πλάτην καθίστατο
the one for mast the other oar set
ταρσόν τε χειρί, λευκά θ' ἱστῖ εἰς ἓν ἦν,
blade and with-hand white and sails into one were
πηδάλιά τε ζεύγλαισι παρακαθίετο.
rudders and with-bands were-let-down
κἀν τῷδε μόχθῳ, τοῦτ' ἄρα σκοπούμενοι,
and-in this toil this then watching-for
Ἕλληνες ἄνδρες Μενέλεῳ ξυνέμποροι
Greek men with-Menelaus fellow-travelers
προσῆλθον ἀκταῖς, ναυφθόροις ἠσθημένοι
came-to shore with-ship-wrecked clothed
πέπλοισιν, εὐειδεῖς μέν, αὐχμηροὶ δ' ὁρᾶν.
robes fair-formed indeed squalid but to-see
ἰδὼν δέ νιν παρόντας Ἀτρέως γόνος
having-seen and them present of-Atreus offspring
προσεῖπε, δόλιον οἶκτον εἰς μέσον φέρων·
addressed crafty pity into middle bringing
ὦ τλήμονες, πῶς ἐκ τίνος νεώς ποτε
O wretched how from what ship ever
Ἀχαιΐδος θραύσαντες ἥκετε σκάφος;
Achaean having-broken do-you-come boat
ἆρ' Ἀτρέως παῖδ' ὀλόμενον συνθάπτετε,
— Atreus' son dead do-you-bury-with(-her)

ὃν Τυνδαρὶς παῖς ἥδ' ἀπόντα κενοταφεῖ;
whom Tyndarid child this absent buries-empty
οἱ δ' ἐκβαλόντες δάκρυα ποιητῷ τρόπῳ
they and having-shed tears in-feigned way
εἰς ναῦν ἐχώρουν Μενέλεῳ ποντίσματα
into ship went for-Menelaus sea-offerings
φέροντες. ἡμῖν δ' ἦν μὲν ἥδ' ὑποψία
bringing to-us and was indeed this suspicion
λόγος τ' ἐν ἀλλήλοισι, τῶν ἐπεισβατῶν
talk and among one-another of-the additional-boarders
ὡς πλῆθος εἴη· διεσιωπῶμεν δ' ὅμως
how multitude it-was we-kept-silent but nevertheless
τοὺς σοὺς λόγους σῴζοντες· ἄρχειν γὰρ νεὼς
the your words keeping to-command for of-ship
ξένον κελεύσας πάντα συνέχεας τάδε.
stranger having-bidden all you-confounded these(-things)
καὶ τἄλλα μὲν δὴ ῥᾳδίως εἴσω νεὼς
and the-other(-things) indeed indeed easily inside of-ship
ἐθέμεθα κουφίζοντα· ταύρειος δὲ ποὺς
we-put being-light of-bull but foot
οὐκ ἤθελ' ὀρθὸς σανίδα προσβῆναι κάτα,
not was-willing upright plank to-step-up down
ἀλλ' ἐξεβρυχᾶτ' ὄμμ' ἀναστρέφων κύκλῳ,
but bellowed eye turning-up in-circle
κυρτῶν τε νῶτα κεἰς κέρας παρεμβλέπων
arching and back and-on horn looking-askance
μὴ θιγγάνειν ἀπεῖργεν. ὁ δ' Ἑλένης πόσις
not to-touch it-kept-off the and of-Helen husband
ἐκάλεσεν· ὦ πέρσαντες Ἰλίου πόλιν,
called O having-sacked of-Ilium city

οὐκ εἶ' ἀναρπάσαντες Ἑλλήνων νόμῳ
not come having-snatched-up of-Greeks by-custom
νεανίαις ὤμοισι ταύρειον δέμας
on-young shoulders bull's body
εἰς πρῷραν ἐμβαλεῖτε (φάσγανόν θ' ἅμα
to prow will-you-throw sword and together
πρόχειρον ὥθει) σφάγια τῷ τεθνηκότι;
ready he-thrust victim for-the dead
οἱ δ' εἰς κέλευσμ' ἐλθόντες ἐξανήρπασαν
they and at command having-come snatched-up
ταῦρον, φέροντες δ' εἰσέθεντο σέλματα.
bull carrying and put-in decks
μονάμπυκος δὲ Μενέλεως ψήχων δέρην
single-headbanded and Menelaus stroking neck
μέτωπά τ' ἐξέπεισεν εἰσβῆναι δόρυ.
forehead and persuaded to-board ship
τέλος δ' ἐπειδὴ ναῦς τὰ πάντ' ἐδέξατο,
end and when ship the all(-things) received
πλήσασα κλιμακτῆρας εὐσφύρου ποδὸς
having-filled ladder-steps of-fair-ankled foot
Ἑλένη καθέζετ' ἐν μέσοις ἑδωλίοις
Helen sat in middle benches
ὅ τ' οὐκέτ' ὢν λόγοισι Μενέλεως πέλας·
the and no-longer being in-words Menelaus near
ἄλλοι δὲ τοίχους δεξιοὺς λαιούς τ' ἴσοι
others and walls right left and equal
ἀνὴρ παρ' ἄνδρ' ἕζονθ' ὑφ' εἵμασι ξίφη
man beside man sat under garments swords
λαθραῖ' ἔχοντες, ῥόθιά τ' ἐξεπίμπλατο
hidden having billows and were-filled

βοῆς, κελευστοῦ φθέγμαθ' ὡς ἠκούσαμεν.
with-shout of-the-boatswain voices when we-heard
ἐπεὶ δὲ γαίας ἦμεν οὔτ' ἄγαν πρόσω
when and from-land we-were neither too far
οὔτ' ἐγγύς, οὕτως ἤρετ' οἰάκων φύλαξ·
nor near so asked of-helm guardian
ἔτ', ὦ ξέν', εἰς τὸ πρόσθεν, ἢ καλῶς ἔχει,
still O stranger to the forward or well is-it
πλεύσωμεν; ἀρχαὶ γὰρ νεὼς μέλουσί σοι.
shall-we-sail commands for of-ship are-a-care to-you
ὁ δ' εἶφ'· ἅλις μοι. δεξιᾷ δ' ἑλὼν ξίφος
he and said enough for-me with-right(-hand) and having-taken sword
εἰς πρῷραν εἶρπε κἀπὶ ταυρείῳ σφαγῇ
to prow went and-at bull's slaughter
σταθεὶς νεκρῶν μὲν οὐδενὸς μνήμην ἔχων,
having-stood of-dead indeed of-no-one memory having
τέμνων δὲ λαιμὸν ηὔχετ'· ὦ ναίων ἅλα
cutting and throat prayed O dwelling-in sea
πόντιε Πόσειδον Νηρέως θ' ἁγναὶ κόραι,
sea Poseidon of-Nereus and holy daughters
σώσατέ μ' ἐπ' ἀκτὰς Ναυπλίας δάμαρτά τε
save me to shores Nauplian wife and
ἄσυλον ἐκ γῆς. αἵματος δ' ἀπορροαὶ
unviolated from land of-blood and streams
ἐς οἶδμ' ἐσηκόντιζον οὔριαι ξένῳ.
into swell darted favorable to-the-stranger
καί τις τόδ' εἶπε· δόλιος ἡ ναυκληρία·
and someone this said crafty (is)-the voyage
τί νῦν πλέωμεν Ναυπλίαν; κέλευε σύ,
why now should-we-sail Nauplia order you

σὺ δὲ στρέφ' οἴακ'. ἐκ δὲ ταυρείου φόνου
you and turn helm from and bull's slaughter
Ἀτρέως σταθεὶς παῖς ἀνεβόησε συμμάχους·
of-Atreus standing son shouted-to allies
τί μέλλετ', ὦ γῆς Ἑλλάδος λωτίσματα,
why delay O of-land of-Hellas flowers
σφάζειν, φονεύειν βαρβάρους, νεώς τ' ἄπο
to-slay to-murder barbarians ship and from
ῥίπτειν ἐς οἶδμα; ναυβάταις δὲ τοῖσι σοῖς
to-hurl into swell to-sailors and the your
βοᾷ κελευστὴς τὴν ἐναντίαν ὄπα·
shouts boatswain the opposite cry
οὐκ εἶ' ὁ μέν τις λοῖσθον ἀρεῖται δόρυ,
not come one indeed someone end will-take-up spear
ὁ δὲ ζύγ' ἄξας, ὁ δ' ἀφελὼν σκαλμοῦ πλάτην,
another and bench having-broken another and having-taken from-thole oar
καθαιματώσει κρᾶτα πολεμίων ξένων;
will-bloody heads of-enemy strangers
ὀρθοὶ δ' ἀνῆξαν πάντες, οἱ μὲν ἐν χεροῖν
upright and leapt-up all the(-ones) indeed in hands
κορμοὺς ἔχοντες ναυτικούς, οἱ δὲ ξίφη·
stocks having nautical the(-others) and swords
φόνῳ δὲ ναῦς ἐρρεῖτο. παρακέλευσμα δ' ἦν
with-blood and ship ran exhortation and was
πρύμνηθεν Ἑλένης· ποῦ τὸ Τρωικὸν κλέος;
from-stern of-Helen where the Trojan glory
δείξατε πρὸς ἄνδρας βαρβάρους. σπουδῆς δ' ὕπο
show against men barbarian haste and by
ἔπιπτον, οἱ δ' ὠρθοῦντο, τοὺς δὲ κειμένους
they-fell some and stood-upright some and lying

νεκροὺς ἂν εἶδες. Μενέλεως δ' ἔχων ὅπλα,
dead — you-would-have-seen Menelaus and having arms
ὅπη νοσοῖεν ξύμμαχοι κατασκοπῶν,
where were-weak allies watching
ταύτῃ προσῆγε χειρὶ δεξιᾷ ξίφος,
there he-brought-to with-hand right sword
ὥστ' ἐκκολυμβᾶν ναός· ἠρήμωσε δὲ
so-that to-swim-out from-ship he-emptied and
σῶν ναυβατῶν ἐρέτμ'. ἐπ' οἰάκων δὲ βὰς 1610
of-your sailors oars on helm and having-gone
ἄνακτ' ἐς Ἑλλάδ' εἶπεν εὐθύνειν δόρυ.
lord to Hellas bade to-steer ship
οἱ δ' ἱστί' ᾖρον, οὖριαι δ' ἦκον πνοαί,
they and sails raised favorable and came breezes
βεβᾶσι δ' ἐκ γῆς· διαφυγὼν δ' ἐγὼ φόνον
they-have-gone and from land having-escaped and I slaughter
καθῆκ' ἐμαυτὸν εἰς ἅλ' ἄγκυραν πάρα.
let-down myself into sea anchor beside
ἤδη δὲ κάμνονθ' ὁρμιὰν τείνων μέ τις 1615
already and wearied fishing-line stretching me someone
ἀνείλετ', εἰς δὲ γαῖαν ἐξέβησέ σοι
took-up to and land put-out for-you
τάδ' ἀγγελοῦντα. σώφρονος δ' ἀπιστίας
these(-things) announcing than-sensible and distrust
οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδὲν χρησιμώτερον βροτοῖς.
not is nothing more-useful for-mortals
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκ ἄν ποτ' ηὔχουν οὔτε σ' οὔθ' ἡμᾶς λαθεῖν
not — ever would-I-have-thought neither you nor us to-escape-notice
Μενέλαον, ὦναξ, ὡς ἐλάνθανεν παρών. 1620
Menelaus O-lord as he-escaped-notice being-present

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ὦ γυναικείαις τέχναισιν αἱρεθεὶς ἐγὼ τάλας·
O by-womanly arts caught I wretched
ἐκπεφεύγασιν γάμοι με. κεἰ μὲν ἦν ἁλώσιμος
has-escaped marriage me and-if indeed was catchable
ναῦς διώγμασιν, πονήσας εἷλον ἂν τάχα ξένους·
ship by-pursuits having-toiled I-would-have-caught — soon strangers
νῦν δὲ τὴν προδοῦσαν ἡμᾶς τισόμεσθα σύγγονον,
now but the(-one) having-betrayed us we-will-punish sister
ἥτις ἐν δόμοις ὁρῶσα Μενέλεων, οὐκ εἶπέ μοι.
who in house seeing Menelaus not told me
τοιγὰρ οὔποτ᾽ ἄλλον ἄνδρα ψεύσεται μαντεύμασιν.
therefore never other man will-she-deceive with-prophecies
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὗτος ὦ, ποῖ σὸν πόδ᾽ αἴρεις, δέσποτ᾽, εἰς ποῖον φόνον;
you there where your foot do-you-lift master to what murder
ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ οἷπερ ἡ δίκη κελεύει μ᾽· ἀλλ᾽ ἀφίστασ᾽ ἐκποδών.
where-very the justice bids me but stand-off out-of-the-way
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκ ἀφήσομαι πέπλων σῶν· μεγάλα γὰρ σπεύδεις κακά.
not I-will-let-go robes your great for you-hasten ills
ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ἀλλὰ δεσποτῶν κρατήσεις δοῦλος ὤν;
but of-masters will-you-rule slave being
ΧΟΡΟΣ φρονῶ γὰρ εὖ.
I-think for well
ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ οὐκ ἔμοιγ᾽, εἰ μή μ᾽ ἐάσεις — ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐ
not to-me-at-least if not me you-will-allow not
μὲν οὖν σ᾽ ἐάσομεν.
indeed then you we-will-allow
ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ σύγγονον κτανεῖν κακίστην — ΧΟΡΟΣ εὐσεβεστάτην
sister to-kill most-base most-pious
μὲν οὖν.
indeed then

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ἥ με προύδωκεν — ΧΟΡΟΣ καλήν γε προδοσίαν,
who me betrayed noble at-least betrayal

δίκαια δρᾶν.
just(-things) to-do

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ τἀμὰ λέκτρ᾽ ἄλλῳ διδοῦσα —
my bed to-another giving

ΧΟΡΟΣ τοῖς γε κυριωτέροις,
to-the at-least more-authoritative

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ κύριος δὲ τῶν ἐμῶν τίς; 1635
master and of-the my who

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὃς ἔλαβεν πατρὸς πάρα.
who took father from

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἔδωκεν ἡ τύχη μοι.
but gave the fortune to-me

ΧΟΡΟΣ τὸ δὲ χρεὼν ἀφείλετο.
the but destiny took-away

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ οὐ σὲ τἀμὰ χρὴ δικάζειν.
not you my(-affairs) must to-judge

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἤν γε βελτίω λέγω.
if at-least better(-things) I-say

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ἀρχόμεσθ᾽ ἄρ᾽, οὐ κρατοῦμεν. ΧΟΡΟΣ ὅσια δρᾶν,
we-are-ruled then not we-rule holy(-things) to-do

τὰ δ᾽ ἔκδικ᾽ οὔ.
the but unjust not

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ κατθανεῖν ἐρᾶν ἔοικας. ΧΟΡΟΣ κτεῖνε·
to-die to-long you-seem kill

σύγγονον δὲ σὴν
sister but your

οὐ κτενεῖς ἡμῶν ἑκόντων, ἀλλ᾽ ἔμ᾽· ὡς πρὸ δεσποτῶν 1640
not you-will-kill us willing but me since for masters

τοῖσι γενναίοισι δούλοις εὐκλεέστατον θανεῖν.
for-the noble slaves most-glorious to-die

ΔΙΟΣΚΟΡΟΙ ἐπίσχες ὀργὰς αἷσιν οὐκ ὀρθῶς φέρει,
check angers by-which not rightly you-are-carried

Θεοκλύμενε, γαίας τῆσδ' ἄναξ· δισσοὶ δέ σε
Theoclymenus of-land this lord twin and you

Διόσκοροι καλοῦμεν, οὓς Λήδα ποτὲ
Dioscuri we-call whom Leda once

ἔτικτεν Ἑλένην θ', ἣ πέφευγε σοὺς δόμους·
bore Helen and who has-fled your house

οὐ γὰρ πεπρωμένοισιν ὀργίζει γάμοις,
not for at-fated you-are-angry marriage

οὐδ' ἡ θεᾶς Νηρῇδος ἔκγονος κόρη
nor the of-the-goddess Nereid offspring maiden

ἀδικεῖ σ' ἀδελφὴ Θεονόη, τὰ τῶν θεῶν
wrongs you sister Theonoe the(-things) of-the gods

τιμῶσα πατρός τ' ἐνδίκους ἐπιστολάς.
honoring of-father and just commands

εἰς μὲν γὰρ ἀεὶ τὸν παρόντα νῦν χρόνον
to indeed for always the present now time

κείνην κατοικεῖν σοῖσιν ἐν δόμοις ἐχρῆν·
her to-dwell your in house (it)-was-fated

ἐπεὶ δὲ Τροίας ἐξανεστάθη βάθρα,
when and of-Troy were-overturned foundations

καὶ τοῖς θεοῖς παρέσχε τοὔνομ', οὐκέτι·
and to-the gods she-lent the-name no-longer

ἐν τοῖσιν αὑτῆς δεῖ νιν ἐζεῦχθαι γάμοις,
in the her-own must her to-be-yoked marriage

ἐλθεῖν τ' ἐς οἴκους καὶ συνοικῆσαι πόσει.
to-go and to house and to-live-with husband

ἀλλ᾽ ἴσχε μὲν σῆς συγγόνου μέλαν ξίφος,
but hold indeed of-your sister black sword
νόμιζε δ᾽ αὐτὴν σωφρόνως πράσσειν τάδε.
consider and her prudently to-do these(-things)
πάλαι δ᾽ ἀδελφὴν κἂν πρὶν ἐξεσώσαμεν,
long-ago and sister even before we-would-have-saved
ἐπείπερ ἡμᾶς Ζεὺς ἐποίησεν θεούς·
since us Zeus made gods
ἀλλ᾽ ἥσσον᾽ ἦμεν τοῦ πεπρωμένου θ᾽ ἅμα
but weaker we-were than-the fated and together
καὶ τῶν θεῶν, οἷς ταῦτ᾽ ἔδοξεν ὧδ᾽ ἔχειν.
and than-the gods to-whom these(-things) seemed-good so to-be
σοὶ μὲν τάδ᾽ αὐδῶ, συγγόνῳ δ᾽ ἐμῇ λέγω·
to-you indeed these(-things) I-speak to-sister and my I-say
πλεῖ ξὺν πόσει σῷ· πνεῦμα δ᾽ ἔξετ᾽ οὔριον·
sail with husband your wind and you-will-have favorable
σωτῆρε δ᾽ ἡμεῖς σὼ κασιγνήτω διπλὼ
saviors and we your two-brothers twin
πόντον παριππεύοντε πέμψομεν πάτραν.
sea riding-beside will-escort to-country
ὅταν δὲ κάμψῃς καὶ τελευτήσῃς βίον,
when and you-turn-the-post and end life
θεὸς κεκλήσει καὶ Διοσκόρων μέτα
goddess you-will-be-called and Dioscuri with
σπονδῶν μεθέξεις ξένιά τ᾽ ἀνθρώπων πάρα
of-libations you-will-share gifts and men from
ἕξεις μεθ᾽ ἡμῶν· Ζεὺς γὰρ ὧδε βούλεται.
you-will-have with us Zeus for so wishes
οὗ δ᾽ ὥρισέν σε πρῶτα Μαιάδος τόκος
where and set you first of-Maia offspring

Σπάρτης, ἀπάρας τῶν κατ᾽ οὐρανὸν δόμων
of-Sparta having-departed of-the in heaven house
κλέψας δέμας σόν, μὴ Πάρις γήμειέ σε,
having-stolen body your lest Paris should-marry you
φρουρὸν παρ᾽ Ἀκτῇ τεταμένην νῆσον λέγω,
guard by Acte stretched island I-mean
Ἑλένη τὸ λοιπὸν ἐν βροτοῖς κεκλήσεται,
Helen the future among mortals will-be-called
ἐπεὶ κλοπὰς σὰς ἐκ δόμων ἐδέξατο.
since thefts your from house it-received
καὶ τῷ πλανήτῃ Μενέλεῳ θεῶν πάρα
and for-the wanderer Menelaus gods from
μακάρων κατοικεῖν νῆσόν ἐστι μόρσιμον·
of-the-blessed to-dwell-in island is fated
τοὺς εὐγενεῖς γὰρ οὐ στυγοῦσι δαίμονες,
the noble for not hate gods
τῶν δ᾽ ἀναριθμήτων μᾶλλόν εἰσιν οἱ πόνοι.
of-the and numberless more are the toils

ΘΕΟΚΛΥΜΕΝΟΣ ὦ παῖδε Λήδας καὶ Διός, τὰ μὲν πάρος
O sons of-Leda and of-Zeus the indeed before
νείκη μεθήσω σφῶν κασιγνήτης πέρι·
quarrels I-will-let-go of-you sister about
ἐγὼ δ᾽ ἀδελφὴν οὐκέτ᾽ ἂν κτάνοιμ᾽ ἐμήν.
I and sister no-longer — would-kill my
κείνη δ᾽ ἴτω πρὸς οἶκον, εἰ θεοῖς δοκεῖ.
she and let-her-go to home if to-the-gods it-seems-good
ἴστον δ᾽ ἀρίστης σωφρονεστάτης θ᾽ ἅμα
know-you-two and of-best most-prudent and together
γεγῶτ᾽ ἀδελφῆς ὁμογενοῦς ἀφ᾽ αἵματος.
being sister of-the-same from blood

καὶ χαίρεθ' Ἑλένης εἵνεκ' εὐγενεστάτης
and fare-well of-Helen for-the-sake most-noble
γνώμης, ὃ πολλαῖς ἐν γυναιξὶν οὐκ ἔνι.
mind which many in women not is
ΧΟΡΟΣ πολλαὶ μορφαὶ τῶν δαιμονίων,
many forms of-the divine(-things)
πολλὰ δ' ἀέλπτως κραίνουσι θεοί·
many(-things) and unexpectedly accomplish gods
καὶ τὰ δοκηθέντ' οὐκ ἐτελέσθη, 1690
and the expected not was-fulfilled
τῶν δ' ἀδοκήτων πόρον εὗρε θεός.
of-the and unexpected way found god
τοιόνδ' ἀπέβη τόδε πρᾶγμα.
such turned-out this matter

SOPHOCLES

ΤΡΑΧΙΝΙΑΙ

The Women of Trachis

Deianeira tells her sorrows at Trachis: wooed by the river Achelous in three monstrous shapes, she was won by Heracles in combat, and since then has lived in fear for him. Now he has been gone fifteen months with no word. A servant urges her to send her son Hyllus to look for him. Hyllus reports that Heracles is in Euboea attacking Eurytus' city. She tells him of oracles Heracles left about this land, and he sets out.

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ Λόγος μέν ἐστ' ἀρχαῖος ἀνθρώπων φανείς,
Saying indeed is ancient of-men having-appeared
ὡς οὐκ ἂν αἰῶν' ἐκμάθοις βροτῶν, πρὶν ἂν
that not — life you-could-learn of-mortals before —
θάνῃ τις, οὔτ' εἰ χρηστὸς οὔτ' εἴ τῳ κακός·
die someone neither if good nor if to-anyone bad
ἐγὼ δὲ τὸν ἐμόν, καὶ πρὶν εἰς Ἅιδου μολεῖν,
I and the my even before to of-Hades to-go
ἔξοιδ' ἔχουσα δυστυχῆ τε καὶ βαρύν, 5
know having(-it) unfortunate both and heavy
ἥτις πατρὸς μὲν ἐν δόμοισιν Οἰνέως
who of-father indeed in house of-Oeneus
ναίουσ' ἔτ' ἐν Πλευρῶνι νυμφείων ὄκνον
dwelling still in Pleuron of-marriage dread
ἄλγιστον ἔσχον, εἴ τις Αἰτωλὶς γυνή.
most-painful had if any Aetolian woman
μνηστὴρ γὰρ ἦν μοι ποταμός, Ἀχελῷον λέγω,
wooer for was to-me river Achelous I-mean
ὅς μ' ἐν τρισὶν μορφαῖσιν ἐξήτει πατρός, 10
who me in three forms sought from-father
φοιτῶν ἐναργὴς ταῦρος, ἄλλοτ' αἰόλος
coming visible bull at-another-time spangled

δράκων ἑλικτός, ἄλλοτ' ἀνδρείῳ κύτει
serpent coiled at-another-time with-man's body
βούπρῳρος· ἐκ δὲ δασκίου γενειάδος
ox-faced from and shaggy beard
κρουνοὶ διερραίνοντο κρηναίου ποτοῦ.
streams were-sprinkled of-spring water
τοιόνδ' ἐγὼ μνηστῆρα προσδεδεγμένη
such I wooer having-awaited
δύστηνος αἰεὶ κατθανεῖν ἐπηυχόμην,
wretched always to-die I-prayed
πρὶν τῆσδε κοίτης ἐμπελασθῆναί ποτε.
before this bed to-come-near ever
χρόνῳ δ' ἐν ὑστέρῳ μέν, ἀσμένῃ δέ μοι,
time and in later indeed glad but to-me
ὁ κλεινὸς ἦλθε Ζηνὸς Ἀλκμήνης τε παῖς·
the famous came of-Zeus of-Alcmene and son
ὃς εἰς ἀγῶνα τῷδε συμπεσὼν μάχης
who into contest with-this having-joined of-battle
ἐκλύεταί με· καὶ τρόπον μὲν ἂν πόνων
frees me and manner indeed — of-toils
οὐκ ἂν διείποιμ'· οὐ γὰρ οἶδ'· ἀλλ' ὅστις ἦν
not — I-could-tell not for I-know but whoever was
θακῶν ἀταρβὴς τῆς θέας, ὅδ' ἂν λέγοι·
sitting fearless of-the sight he — would-tell
ἐγὼ γὰρ ἥμην ἐκπεπληγμένη φόβῳ
I for sat struck with-fear
μή μοι τὸ κάλλος ἄλγος ἐξεύροι ποτέ.
lest for-me the beauty pain should-find ever
τέλος δ' ἔθηκε Ζεὺς ἀγώνιος καλῶς,
end and set Zeus of-contests well

εἰ δὴ καλῶς. λέχος γὰρ Ἡρακλεῖ κριτὸν
if indeed well bed for to-Heracles chosen
ξυστᾶσ' ἀεί τιν' ἐκ φόβου φόβον τρέφω,
having-joined always some from fear fear I-nurse
κείνου προκηραίνουσα· νὺξ γὰρ εἰσάγει
for-him being-anxious night for brings-in
καὶ νὺξ ἀπωθεῖ διαδεδεγμένη πόνον.
and night thrusts-out having-received-in-turn toil
κἀφύσαμεν δὴ παῖδας, οὓς κεἰνός ποτε,
and-we-begot indeed children whom he ever
γῄτης ὅπως ἄρουραν ἔκτοπον λαβών,
farmer like field remote having-taken
σπείρων μόνον προσεῖδε κἀξαμῶν ἅπαξ.
sowing only visited and-reaping once
τοιοῦτος αἰὼν εἰς δόμους τε κἀκ δόμων
such life to house and and-from house
αἰεὶ τὸν ἄνδρ' ἔπεμπε λατρεύοντά τῳ.
always the man sent serving someone
νῦν δ' ἡνίκ' ἄθλων τῶνδ' ὑπερτελὴς ἔφυ,
now and when of-labors these beyond-the-end he-was
ἐνταῦθα δὴ μάλιστα ταρβήσασ' ἔχω.
there indeed most having-feared I-am
ἐξ οὗ γὰρ ἔκτα κεῖνος Ἰφίτου βίαν,
from when for killed he of-Iphitus might
ἡμεῖς μὲν ἐν Τραχῖνι τῇδ' ἀνάστατοι
we indeed in Trachis this displaced
ξένῳ παρ' ἀνδρὶ ναίομεν, κεῖνος δ' ὅπου
stranger with man dwell he and where
βέβηκεν οὐδεὶς οἶδε· πλὴν ἐμοὶ πικρὰς
has-gone no-one knows except to-me bitter

ὠδῖνας αὐτοῦ προσβαλὼν ἀποίχεται.
pangs of-him having-cast he-is-gone

σχεδὸν δ' ἐπίσταμαί τι πῆμ' ἔχοντά νιν·
nearly and I-know some woe having him

χρόνον γὰρ οὐχὶ βαιόν, ἀλλ' ἤδη δέκα
time for not short but already ten

μῆνας πρὸς ἄλλοις πέντ' ἀκήρυκτος μένει.
months besides other five unheralded he-remains

καὐστίν τι δεινὸν πῆμα· τοιαύτην ἐμοὶ
and-it-is some terrible woe such to-me

δέλτον λιπὼν ἔστειχε, τὴν ἐγὼ θαμὰ
tablet having-left he-went which I often

θεοῖς ἀρῶμαι πημονῆς ἄτερ λαβεῖν.
to-gods I-pray woe without to-receive

ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ δέσποινα Δηάνειρα, πολλὰ μέν σ' ἐγὼ
mistress Deianeira many indeed you I

κατεῖδον ἤδη πανδάκρυτ' ὀδύρματα
have-seen already all-tearful laments

τὴν Ἡράκλειον ἔξοδον γοωμένην·
the Heraclean departure bewailing

νῦν δ', εἰ δίκαιον τοὺς ἐλευθέρους φρενοῦν
now and if (it-is)-right the free to-instruct

γνώμαισι δούλαις, κἀμὲ χρὴ φράσαι τὸ σόν·
by-thoughts slavish me-too must to-tell the your

πῶς παισὶ μὲν τοσοῖσδε πληθύεις, ἀτὰρ
how with-children indeed so-many you-abound but

ἀνδρὸς κατὰ ζήτησιν οὐ πέμπεις τινά,
of-man for search not you-send anyone

μάλιστα δ' ὅνπερ εἰκὸς Ὕλλον, εἰ πατρὸς
most and whom-very (it-is)-fitting Hyllus if of-father

νέμοι τιν᾽ ὥραν τοῦ καλῶς πράσσειν δοκεῖν;
he-should-allot some care of-the well to-fare to-seem
ἐγγὺς δ᾽ ὅδ᾽ αὐτὸς ἀρτίπους θρῴσκει δόμους,
near and this-one himself fleet-footed leaps-to house
ὥστ᾽ εἴ τί σοι πρὸς καιρὸν ἐννέπειν δοκῶ,
so-that if at-all to-you to time to-speak I-seem
πάρεστι χρῆσθαι τἀνδρὶ τοῖς τ᾽ ἐμοῖς λόγοις. 60
it-is-possible to-use the-man the and my words
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ ὦ τέκνον, ὦ παῖ, κἀξ ἀγεννήτων ἄρα
O child O son even-from low-born then
μῦθοι καλῶς πίπτουσιν· ἥδε γὰρ γυνὴ
words well fall this for woman
δούλη μέν, εἴρηκεν δ᾽ ἐλεύθερον λόγον.
slave indeed has-spoken but free word
ΤΛΛΟΣ ποῖον; δίδαξον, μῆτερ, εἰ διδακτά μοι.
what teach mother if (it-is)-teachable to-me
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ σὲ πατρὸς οὕτω δαρὸν ἐξενωμένου 65
you of-father thus long being-abroad
τὸ μὴ πυθέσθαι ποῦ ᾽στιν, αἰσχύνην φέρειν.
the not to-have-learned where he-is shame to-bring
ΤΛΛΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ οἶδα, μύθοις εἴ τι πιστεύειν χρεών.
but I-know words if at-all to-trust (it-is)-fitting
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ καὶ ποῦ κλύεις νιν, τέκνον, ἱδρῦσθαι χθονός;
and where do-you-hear him child to-be-settled of-land
ΤΛΛΟΣ τὸν μὲν παρελθόντ᾽ ἄροτον ἐν μήκει χρόνου
the indeed past plowing in length of-time
Λυδῇ γυναικί φασί νιν λάτριν πονεῖν. 70
to-Lydian woman they-say him serf to-toil
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ πᾶν τοίνυν, εἰ καὶ τοῦτ᾽ ἔτλη, κλύοι τις ἄν.
all then if even this he-endured would-hear one —

ΤΑΛΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἐξαφεῖται τοῦδέ γ᾽, ὡς ἐγὼ κλύω.
but he-has-been-released from-this at-least as I hear

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ ποῦ δῆτα νῦν ζῶν ἢ θανὼν ἀγγέλλεται;
where then now living or dead is-he-reported

ΤΑΛΟΣ Εὐβοΐδα χώραν φασίν, Εὐρύτου πόλιν,
Euboean land they-say of-Eurytus city

ἐπιστρατεύειν αὐτὸν ἢ μέλλειν ἔτι.
to-march-against him or to-be-about still

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ ἆρ᾽ οἶσθα δῆτ᾽, ὦ τέκνον, ὡς ἔλειπέ μοι
— do-you-know then O child that he-left for-me

μαντεῖα πιστὰ τῆσδε τῆς χώρας πέρι;
oracles trustworthy this the land about

ΤΑΛΟΣ τὰ ποῖα, μῆτερ; τὸν λόγον γὰρ ἀγνοῶ.
the what-sort mother the word for I-do-not-know

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ ὡς ἢ τελευτὴν τοῦ βίου μέλλει τελεῖν
that either end of-the life he-is-about to-accomplish

ἢ τοῦτον ἄρας ἆθλον εἰς τό γ᾽ ὕστερον
or this having-raised labor for the at-least after

τὸν λοιπὸν ἤδη βίοτον εὐαίων᾽ ἔχειν.
the remaining already life prosperous to-have

ἐν οὖν ῥοπῇ τοιᾷδε κειμένῳ, τέκνον,
in then balance such lying child

οὐκ εἶ ξυνέρξων, ἡνίκ᾽ ἢ σεσώσμεθα
not will-you-go to-help when either we-are-saved

κείνου βίον σώσαντος, ἢ οἰχόμεσθ᾽ ἅμα;
of-him life having-saved or we-are-gone together

ΤΑΛΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ εἶμι, μῆτερ· εἰ δὲ θεσφάτων ἐγὼ
but I-go mother if and of-oracles I

βάξιν κατῄδη τῶνδε, κἂν πάλαι παρῆ·
report knew of-these even long-ago I-would-have-been-present

νῦν δ' ὁ ξυνήθης πότμος οὐκ εἴα πατρὸς
now but the accustomed fortune not allowed of-father
ἡμᾶς προταρβεῖν οὐδὲ δειμαίνειν ἄγαν.
us to-fear-beforehand nor to-dread too-much
νῦν δ' ὡς ξυνίημ', οὐδὲν ἐλλείψω τὸ μὴ οὐ
now and as I-understand nothing I-will-leave-undone the not —
πᾶσαν πυθέσθαι τῶνδ' ἀλήθειαν πέρι.
all to-learn of-these truth about
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ χώρει νυν, ὦ παῖ· καὶ γὰρ ὑστέρῳ τό γ' εὖ
go then O son also for to-later the at-least well
πράσσειν, ἐπεὶ πύθοιτο, κέρδος ἐμπολᾷ.
to-fare when one-learns gain it-brings

II · THE SUN

The chorus of Trachinian maidens asks the Sun where Heracles is, and pictures Deianeira longing for him like a bird and wasting with fear in her empty bed. Heracles is tossed by trouble like a wave on the Cretan sea, but some god saves him from Hades. They tell her not to lose hope: joy and pain come around to all like the circling Bear, and Zeus does not forget his children.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὃν αἰόλα νὺξ ἐναριζομένα
whom spangled night being-despoiled
τίκτει κατευνάζει τε, φλογιζόμενον
bears lulls-to-sleep and blazing
Ἅλιον Ἅλιον αἰτῶ
Sun Sun I-ask
τοῦτο καρῦξαι, τὸν Ἀλκμήνας πόθι μοι πόθι παῖς
this to-proclaim the of-Alcmene where for-me where son
ναίει ποτ', ὦ λαμπρᾷ στεροπᾷ φλεγέθων,
dwells ever O with-bright lightning flaming

ἢ ποντίας αὐλῶνος ἢ δισσαῖσιν ἀπείροις κλιθείς,
or of-sea strait or on-two continents leaning
εἶπ', ὦ κρατιστεύων κατ' ὄμμα.
tell O mightiest in eye
ποθουμένᾳ γὰρ φρενὶ πυνθάνομαι
longing for with-heart I-learn
τὰν ἀμφινεικῆ Δηιάνειραν ἀεί,
the fought-for Deianeira always
οἷά τιν' ἄθλιον ὄρνιν,
like some wretched bird
οὔποτ' εὐνάζειν ἀδακρύτων βλεφάρων πόθον, ἀλλ'
never to-lull of-tearless eyelids longing but
εὔμναστον ἀνδρὸς δεῖμα τρέφουσαν ὁδοῦ
mindful of-husband fear nursing of-journey
ἐνθυμίοις εὐναῖς ἀνανδρώτοισι τρύχεσθαι, κακὰν
in-anxious beds husbandless to-be-worn-away evil
δύστανον ἐλπίζουσαν αἶσαν.
unhappy expecting lot
πολλὰ γὰρ ὥστ' ἀκάμαντος ἢ νότου ἢ βορέα τις
many for as of-tireless either of-south or of-north someone
κύματ' ἂν εὐρεῖ πόντῳ βάντ' ἐπιόντα τ' ἴδοι,
waves — on-wide sea going coming and might-see
οὕτω δὲ τὸν Καδμογενῆ στρέφει, τὸ δ' αὔξει,
thus and the Cadmus-born turns the(-other) and swells
βιότου πολύπονον ὥσπερ πέλαγος
of-life much-toiling like sea
Κρήσιον. ἀλλά τις θεῶν αἰὲν ἀναμπλάκητον Ἅιδα
Cretan but some(-one) of-gods always unerring of-Hades
σφε δόμων ἐρύκει.
him from-house keeps

ὧν ἐπιμεμφομένα σ' αἰδοῖα μέν, ἀντία δ' οἴσω.
of-which finding-fault-with you respectful indeed opposite but I-will-bring
φαμὶ γὰρ οὐκ ἀποτρύειν ἐλπίδα τὰν ἀγαθὰν
I-say for not to-wear-away hope the good
χρῆναί σ'· ἀνάλγητα γὰρ οὐδ' ὁ πάντα κραίνων
must you painless for not-even the(-one) all accomplishing
βασιλεὺς ἐπέβαλε θνατοῖς Κρονίδας·
king cast to-mortals son-of-Cronus
ἀλλ' ἐπὶ πῆμα καὶ χαρὰ πᾶσι κυκλοῦσιν, οἷον
but on woe and joy to-all circle like
ἄρκτου στροφάδες κέλευθοι.
of-the-Bear turning paths
μένει γὰρ οὔτ' αἰόλα
remains for neither spangled
νὺξ βροτοῖσιν οὔτε κῆρες
night for-mortals nor dooms
οὔτε πλοῦτος, ἀλλ' ἄφαρ
nor wealth but suddenly
βέβακε, τῷ δ' ἐπέρχεται
it-is-gone to-another and comes
χαίρειν τε καὶ στέρεσθαι.
to-rejoice both and to-be-bereft
ἃ καὶ σὲ τὰν ἄνασσαν ἐλπίσιν λέγω
which also you the queen in-hopes I-bid
τάδ' αἰὲν ἴσχειν· ἐπεὶ τίς ὧδε
this always to-hold since who thus
τέκνοισι Ζῆν' ἄβουλον εἶδεν;
for-children Zeus unconcerned saw

Deianeira contrasts a girl's sheltered life with a wife's cares, and tells of the tablet Heracles left her on leaving. It divided his estate and said that after a year and three months he would either die or live free from trouble, as the oak of Dodona foretold. A messenger arrives with news that Heracles is alive and victorious, and that his herald Lichas is near. Deianeira rejoices.

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ πεπυσμένη μέν, ὡς ἀπεικάσαι, πάρει
having-heard indeed as to-guess you-are-here
πάθημα τοὐμόν· ὡς δ' ἐγὼ θυμοφθορῶ,
suffering my how but I wear-out-my-heart
μήτ' ἐκμάθοις παθοῦσα νῦν τ' ἄπειρος εἶ.
neither may-you-learn having-suffered now and inexperienced you-are
τὸ γὰρ νεάζον ἐν τοιοῖσδε βόσκεται
the for youthful in such feeds
χώροισιν αὑτοῦ, καί νιν οὐ θάλπος θεοῦ
places of-its-own and it not heat of-god
οὐδ' ὄμβρος οὐδὲ πνευμάτων οὐδὲν κλονεῖ,
nor rain nor of-winds any shakes
ἀλλ' ἡδοναῖς ἄμοχθον ἐξαίρει βίον
but in-pleasures toilless lifts life
ἐς τοῦθ' ἕως τις ἀντὶ παρθένου γυνὴ
to this until one instead-of maiden wife
κληθῇ λάβῃ τ' ἐν νυκτὶ φροντίδων μέρος,
is-called takes and in night of-cares share
ἤτοι πρὸς ἀνδρὸς ἢ τέκνων φοβουμένη.
either for husband or children fearing
τότ' ἄν τις εἰσίδοιτο, τὴν αὑτοῦ σκοπῶν
then — one would-see the of-oneself considering

πρᾶξιν, κακοῖσιν οἷς ἐγὼ βαρύνομαι.
fortune with-ills with-which I am-weighed-down
πάθη μὲν οὖν δὴ πόλλ' ἔγωγ' ἐκλαυσάμην·
sufferings indeed then indeed many I-for-my-part have-wept
ἓν δ', οἷον οὔπω πρόσθεν, αὐτίκ' ἐξερῶ.
one and such-as never before at-once I-will-tell
ὁδὸν γὰρ ἧμος τὴν τελευταίαν ἄναξ
journey for when the last lord
ὡρμᾶτ' ἀπ' οἴκων Ἡρακλῆς, τότ' ἐν δόμοις
set-out from house Heracles then in house
λείπει παλαιὰν δέλτον ἐγγεγραμμένην
he-leaves old tablet inscribed
ξυνθήμαθ', ἁμοὶ πρόσθεν οὐκ ἔτλη ποτέ,
tokens which-to-me before not he-dared ever
πολλοὺς ἀγῶνας ἐξιών, οὔπω φράσαι,
many contests going-out-to never to-tell
ἀλλ' ὥς τι δράσων εἶρπε κοὐ θανούμενος.
but as something about-to-do he-went and-not about-to-die
νῦν δ' ὡς ἔτ' οὐκ ὢν εἶπε μὲν λέχους ὅ τι
now but as any-more not being he-said indeed of-bed what ever
χρείη μ' ἑλέσθαι κτῆσιν, εἶπε δ' ἣν τέκνοις
must me to-take possession said and which to-children
μοῖραν πατρῴας γῆς διαιρετὸν νέμοι,
share of-ancestral land divided he-allotted
χρόνον προτάξας ὡς τρίμηνον ἡνίκα
time having-set-before that three-months when
χώρας ἀπείη κἀνιαύσιον βεβώς,
from-land he-should-be-absent and-a-year having-gone
τότ' ἢ θανεῖν χρείη σφε τῷδε τῷ χρόνῳ
then either to-die must him in-this the time

ἢ τοῦθ' ὑπεκδραμόντα τοῦ χρόνου τέλος
or this having-run-past of-the time end
τὸ λοιπὸν ἤδη ζῆν ἀλυπήτῳ βίῳ.
the rest already to-live in-painless life
τοιαῦτ' ἔφραζε πρὸς θεῶν εἱμαρμένα
such(-things) he-said by gods fated
τῶν Ἡρακλείων ἐκτελευτᾶσθαι πόνων,
of-the Heraclean to-be-accomplished labors
ὡς τὴν παλαιὰν φηγὸν αὐδῆσαί ποτε
as the ancient oak to-have-spoken once
Δωδῶνι δισσῶν ἐκ Πελειάδων ἔφη.
at-Dodona two from Doves he-said
καὶ τῶνδε ναμέρτεια συμβαίνει χρόνου
and of-these truth comes-to-pass of-time
τοῦ νῦν παρόντος, ὡς τελεσθῆναι χρεών·
the now present as to-be-fulfilled (it-is)-fated
ὥσθ' ἡδέως εὕδουσαν ἐκπηδᾶν ἐμὲ
so-that sweetly sleeping to-leap-up me
φόβῳ, φίλαι, ταρβοῦσαν, εἴ με χρὴ μένειν
from-fear friends dreading if me must to-remain
πάντων ἀρίστου φωτὸς ἐστερημένην.
of-all best of-man bereft
ΧΟΡΟΣ εὐφημίαν νῦν ἴσχ'· ἐπεὶ καταστεφῆ
holy-silence now keep since garlanded
στείχονθ' ὁρῶ τιν' ἄνδρα πρὸς χαρὰν λόγων.
coming I-see some man for joy of-words
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ δέσποινα Δηάνειρα, πρῶτος ἀγγέλων
mistress Deianeira first of-messengers
ὄκνου σε λύσω· τὸν γὰρ Ἀλκμήνης τόκον
from-fear you I-will-free the for of-Alcmene offspring

καὶ ζῶντ᾽ ἐπίστω καὶ κρατοῦντα κἀκ μάχης
both living know and prevailing and-from battle
ἄγοντ᾽ ἀπαρχὰς θεοῖσι τοῖς ἐγχωρίοις.
bringing first-fruits to-the-gods the native
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ τίν᾽ εἶπας, ὦ γεραιέ, τόνδε μοι λόγον;
what did-you-say O old-man this to-me word
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τάχ᾽ ἐς δόμους σοὺς τὸν πολύζηλον πόσιν
soon to house your the much-envied husband
ἥξειν φανέντα σὺν κράτει νικηφόρῳ.
to-come appearing with might victorious
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ καὶ τοῦ τόδ᾽ ἀστῶν ἢ ξένων μαθὼν λέγεις;
and from-whom this of-citizens or of-strangers having-learned do-you-say
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἐν βουθερεῖ λειμῶνι πρὸς πολλοὺς θροεῖ
in ox-grazing meadow to many proclaims
Λίχας ὁ κῆρυξ ταῦτα· τοῦδ᾽ ἐγὼ κλύων
Lichas the herald this from-him I hearing
ἀπῆξ᾽, ὅπως τοι πρῶτος ἀγγείλας τάδε
rushed-off that surely first having-announced this
πρὸς σοῦ τι κερδάναιμι καὶ κτώμην χάριν.
from you something I-might-gain and might-win favor
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ αὐτὸς δὲ πῶς ἄπεστιν, εἴπερ εὐτυχεῖ;
himself and how is-he-absent if-indeed he-prospers
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οὐκ εὐμαρείᾳ χρώμενος πολλῇ, γύναι.
not ease using much lady
κύκλῳ γὰρ αὐτὸν Μηλιεὺς ἅπας λεὼς
in-circle for him Malian all people
κρίνει παραστάς, οὐδ᾽ ἔχει βῆναι πρόσω·
questions standing-by nor can-he to-go forward
τὸ γὰρ ποθοῦν ἕκαστος ἐκμαθεῖν θέλων
the for longing each to-learn wishing

οὐκ ἂν μεθεῖτο, πρὶν καθ' ἡδονὴν κλύειν.
not — would-let-him-go before to pleasure to-hear
οὕτως ἐκεῖνος οὐχ ἑκών, ἑκοῦσι δὲ
thus he not willingly with-willing but
ξύνεστιν· ὄψει δ' αὐτὸν αὐτίκ' ἐμφανῆ.
is-with(-them) you-will-see and him at-once visible
200 ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ ὦ Ζεῦ, τὸν Οἴτης ἄτομον ὃς λειμῶν' ἔχεις,
O Zeus the of-Oeta unmown who meadow have
ἔδωκας ἡμῖν ἀλλὰ σὺν χρόνῳ χαράν.
you-gave to-us but with time joy
φωνήσατ', ὦ γυναῖκες, αἵ τ' εἴσω στέγης
cry-out O women who both within roof
αἵ τ' ἐκτὸς αὐλῆς, ὡς ἄελπτον ὄμμ' ἐμοὶ
who and outside court since unexpected eye to-me
φήμης ἀνασχὸν τῆσδε νῦν καρπούμεθα.
of-report having-risen this now we-reap

IV · IOLE

The chorus sings for joy. Lichas brings captive women and reports that Heracles, after serving the Lydian queen Omphale for a year, sacked Oechalia. Deianeira pities the captives and questions one girl, who stays silent. The messenger reveals that Heracles sacked the city for love of this girl, Iole. Deianeira presses Lichas, promising not to fight against love, and he confesses. She bids him wait for gifts to take back.

205 ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀνολολυξάτω δόμοις ἐφεστίοις
let-her-raise-a-cry in-house at-the-hearth
ἀλαλαγαῖς ἁ μελλόνυμφος, ἐν δὲ
with-shouts the about-to-be-wed among and
κοινὸς ἀρσένων ἴτω
common of-men let-it-go

κλαγγὰ τὸν εὐφαρέτραν
clamor the fair-quivered
Ἀπόλλω προστάταν· ὁμοῦ δὲ
Apollo protector together and
παιᾶνα παιᾶν᾽ ἀνάγετ᾽, ὦ παρθένοι,
paean paean raise-up O maidens
βοᾶτε τὰν ὁμόσπορον
shout the sister
Ἄρτεμιν Ὀρτυγίαν
Artemis Ortygian
ἐλαφαβόλον ἀμφίπυρον,
deer-shooter two-torched
γείτονάς τε Νύμφας.
neighboring and Nymphs
ἀείρομαι οὐδ᾽ ἀπώσομαι
I-am-lifted nor will-I-reject
τὸν αὐλόν, ὦ τύραννε τᾶς ἐμᾶς φρενός.
the pipe O lord of-the my mind
ἰδού μ᾽ ἀναταράσσει,
look me stirs-up
εὐοῖ μ᾽,
euoi me
ὁ κισσὸς ἄρτι βακχίαν
the ivy just-now Bacchic
ὑποστρέφων ἄμιλλαν. ἰὼ ἰὼ Παιάν.
whirling-round contest ah ah Paean
ἴδ᾽, ὦ φίλα γύναι,
see O dear lady
τάδ᾽ ἀντίπρῳρα δή σοι
these face-to-face indeed for-you

βλέπειν πάρεστ' ἐναργῆ.
to-see is-possible clear

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ ὁρῶ, φίλαι γυναῖκες, οὐδέ μ' ὄμματος
I-see dear women nor me of-eye

φρουρὰν παρῆλθε, τόνδε μὴ λεύσσειν στόλον·
watch escaped this not to-see company

χαίρειν δὲ τὸν κήρυκα προυννέπω, χρόνῳ
to-rejoice and the herald I-bid at-time

πολλῷ φανέντα, χαρτὸν εἴ τι καὶ φέρεις.
long having-appeared joyful if anything also you-bring

ΛΙΧΑΣ ἀλλ' εὖ μὲν ἴγμεθ', εὖ δὲ προσφωνούμεθα,
but well indeed we-have-come well and we-are-greeted

γύναι, κατ' ἔργου κτῆσιν· ἄνδρα γὰρ καλῶς
lady for of-deed achievement man for well

πράσσοντ' ἀνάγκη χρηστὰ κερδαίνειν ἔπη.
faring (it-is)-necessity good to-win words

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ ὦ φίλτατ' ἀνδρῶν, πρῶθ' ἃ πρῶτα βούλομαι
O dearest of-men first what first I-wish

δίδαξον, εἰ ζῶνθ' Ἡρακλῆ προσδέξομαι.
tell if living Heracles I-shall-receive

ΛΙΧΑΣ ἔγωγέ τοι σφ' ἔλειπον ἰσχύοντά τε
I-for-my-part surely him left strong both

καὶ ζῶντα καὶ θάλλοντα κοὐ νόσῳ βαρύν.
and living and flourishing and-not by-sickness heavy

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ ποῦ γῆς; πατρῴας εἴτε βαρβάρου; λέγε.
where of-land ancestral or barbarian tell

ΛΙΧΑΣ ἀκτή τις ἔστ' Εὐβοιίς, ἔνθ' ὁρίζεται
headland some is Euboean where he-marks-out

βωμοὺς τέλη τ' ἔγκαρπα Κηναίῳ Διί.
altars dues and fruitful for-Cenaean Zeus

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ εὐκταῖα φαίνων ἢ ἀπὸ μαντείας τινός;
vowed showing or from oracle some

ΛΙΧΑΣ εὐχαῖς ὅθ' ἥρει τῶνδ' ἀνάστατον δορὶ
in-vows when he-was-taking of-these desolate with-spear

χώραν γυναικῶν ὧν ὁρᾷς ἐν ὄμμασιν.
land of-women whom you-see in eyes

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ αὗται δέ, πρὸς θεῶν, τοῦ ποτ' εἰσὶ καὶ τίνες;
these and by gods of-whom ever are-they and who

οἰκτραὶ γάρ, εἰ μὴ ξυμφοραὶ κλέπτουσί με.
pitiable for if not misfortunes deceive me

ΛΙΧΑΣ ταύτας ἐκεῖνος Εὐρύτου πέρσας πόλιν
these he of-Eurytus having-sacked city

ἐξείλεθ' αὑτῷ κτῆμα καὶ θεοῖς κριτόν.
chose for-himself possession and for-gods choice

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ ἦ καὶπὶ ταύτῃ τῇ πόλει τὸν ἄσκοπον
truly and-against this the city the unforeseen

χρόνον βεβὼς ἦν ἡμερῶν ἀνήριθμον;
time gone was-he of-days numberless

ΛΙΧΑΣ οὔκ, ἀλλὰ τὸν μὲν πλεῖστον ἐν Λυδοῖς χρόνον
no but the indeed most among Lydians time

κατείχεθ', ὡς φησ' αὐτός, οὐκ ἐλεύθερος,
he-was-held as he-says himself not free

ἀλλ' ἐμπολητθείς· τοῦ λόγου δ' οὐ χρὴ φθόνον,
but sold of-the word and not must ill-will

γύναι, προσεῖναι, Ζεὺς ὅτου πράκτωρ φανῇ.
lady to-be-attached Zeus of-whom doer appears

κεῖνος δὲ πραθεὶς Ὀμφάλῃ τῇ βαρβάρῳ
he and sold to-Omphale the barbarian

ἐνιαυτὸν ἐξέπλησεν, ὡς αὐτὸς λέγει.
year fulfilled as himself he-says

χοὕτως ἐδήχθη τοῦτο τοὔνειδος λαβὼν
and-so he-was-stung this the-reproach having-got
ὥσθ' ὅρκον αὑτῷ προσβαλὼν διώμοσεν,
that oath on-himself having-laid he-swore
ἦ μὴν τὸν ἀγχιστῆρα τοῦδε τοῦ πάθους
truly indeed the cause of-this the suffering
ξὺν παιδὶ καὶ γυναικὶ δουλώσειν ἔτι.
with child and wife to-enslave still
κοὐχ ἡλίωσε τοὔπος, ἀλλ' ὅθ' ἁγνὸς ἦν,
and-not he-made-vain the-word but when pure he-was
στρατὸν λαβὼν ἐπακτὸν ἔρχεται πόλιν
army having-taken hired he-goes-to city
τὴν Εὐρυτείαν. τόνδε γὰρ μεταίτιον
the Eurytean this(-man) for accessory
μόνον βροτῶν ἔφασκε τοῦδ' εἶναι πάθους·
alone of-mortals he-said of-this to-be suffering
ὃς αὐτὸν ἐλθόντ' ἐς δόμους ἐφέστιον,
who him having-come into house at-hearth
ξένον παλαιὸν ὄντα, πολλὰ μὲν λόγοις
guest old being many(-things) indeed with-words
ἐπερρόθησε, πολλὰ δ' ἀτηρᾷ φρενί,
reviled many and with-ruinous mind
λέγων χεροῖν μὲν ὡς ἄφυκτ' ἔχων βέλη
saying with-hands indeed that inescapable having arrows
τῶν ὧν τέκνων λείποιτο πρὸς τόξου κρίσιν,
than-the his-own sons he-fell-short in of-bow trial
φωνεῖ δὲ δοῦλος ἀνδρὸς ὡς ἐλευθέρου
proclaims and slave of-man that free
ῥαίοιτο· δείπνοις δ' ἡνίκ' ἦν ᾠνωμένος,
he-was-broken at-dinners and when he-was drunken

ἔρριψεν ἐκτὸς αὐτόν. ὧν ἔχων χόλον,
he-threw outside him for-which-things having anger
ὡς ἵκετ' αὖθις Ἴφιτος Τιρυνθίαν
when came again Iphitus Tirynthian
πρὸς κλιτύν, ἵππους νομάδας ἐξιχνοσκοπῶν,
to slope horses roaming tracking
τότ' ἄλλοσ' αὐτὸν ὄμμα, θατέρᾳ δὲ νοῦν
then elsewhere him eye in-other and mind
ἔχοντ', ἀπ' ἄκρας ἧκε πυργώδους πλακός.
having from top he-hurled of-towered plateau
ἔργου δ' ἕκατι τοῦδε μηνίσας ἄναξ
of-deed and for-the-sake this angered lord
ὁ τῶν ἁπάντων Ζεὺς πατὴρ Ὀλύμπιος
the of-the all Zeus father Olympian
πρατόν νιν ἐξέπεμψεν οὐδ' ἠνέσχετο,
sold him sent-out nor endured
ὁθούνεκ' αὐτὸν μοῦνον ἀνθρώπων δόλῳ
because him alone of-men by-guile
ἔκτεινεν· εἰ γὰρ ἐμφανῶς ἠμύνατο,
he-killed if for openly he-had-avenged-himself
Ζεύς τἂν συνέγνω ξὺν δίκῃ χειρουμένῳ·
Zeus surely would-have-pardoned with justice subduing
ὕβριν γὰρ οὐ στέργουσιν οὐδὲ δαίμονες.
outrage for not love not-even gods
κεῖνοι δ' ὑπερχλίοντες ἐκ γλώσσης κακῆς
they and over-luxuriating from tongue evil
αὐτοὶ μὲν Ἅιδου πάντες εἶσ' οἰκήτορες,
themselves indeed of-Hades all are inhabitants
πόλις δὲ δούλη· τάσδε δ' ἅσπερ εἰσορᾷς
city and (is)-enslaved these and whom you-see

ἐξ ὀλβίων ἄζηλον εὑροῦσαι βίον
from blessed unenviable having-found life

χωροῦσι πρὸς σέ· ταῦτα γὰρ πόσις τε σὸς
come to you these for husband and your

ἐφεῖτ', ἐγὼ δὲ πιστὸς ὢν κείνῳ τελῶ.
enjoined I and faithful being to-him accomplish

αὐτὸν δ' ἐκεῖνον, εὖτ' ἂν ἁγνὰ θύματα
himself and him when — holy sacrifices

ῥέξῃ πατρῴῳ Ζηνὶ τῆς ἁλώσεως,
he-performs to-ancestral Zeus of-the capture

φρόνει νιν ὡς ἥξοντα· τοῦτο γὰρ λόγου
think him as about-to-come this for of-word

πολλοῦ καλῶς λεχθέντος ἥδιστον κλύειν.
much well spoken (is)-sweetest to-hear

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄνασσα, νῦν σοι τέρψις ἐμφανὴς κυρεῖ,
queen now for-you delight visible happens

τῶν μὲν παρόντων, τὰ δὲ πεπυσμένῃ λόγῳ.
of-the indeed present the(-other) and having-learned by-word

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ πῶς δ' οὐκ ἐγὼ χαίροιμ' ἄν, ἀνδρὸς εὐτυχῆ
how and not I would-I-rejoice — of-husband fortunate

κλύουσα πρᾶξιν τήνδε, πανδίκῳ φρενί;
hearing fortune this with-all-just mind

πολλή 'στ' ἀνάγκη τῇδε τοῦτο συντρέχειν.
great is necessity with-this this to-run-together

ὅμως δ' ἔνεστι τοῖσιν εὖ σκοπουμένοις
nevertheless and it-is-possible for-the(-ones) well considering

ταρβεῖν τὸν εὖ πράσσοντα, μὴ σφαλῇ ποτε.
to-fear for-the(-man) well faring lest he-fall ever

ἐμοὶ γὰρ οἶκτος δεινὸς εἰσέβη, φίλαι,
to-me for pity terrible entered friends

ταύτας ὁρώσῃ δυσπότμους ἐπὶ ξένης
these seeing ill-fated in foreign
χώρας ἀοίκους ἀπάτοράς τ᾽ ἀλωμένας,
land homeless fatherless and wandering
αἳ πρὶν μὲν ἦσαν ἐξ ἐλευθέρων ἴσως
who before indeed were of free perhaps
ἀνδρῶν, τανῦν δὲ δοῦλον ἴσχουσιν βίον.
men now and slave have life
ὦ Ζεῦ τροπαῖε, μή ποτ᾽ εἰσίδοιμί σε
O Zeus of-the-rout not ever may-I-see you
πρὸς τοὐμὸν οὕτω σπέρμα χωρήσαντά ποι,
toward my thus seed going anywhere
μηδ᾽, εἴ τι δράσεις, τῆσδέ γε ζώσης ἔτι.
nor if anything you-will-do of-me at-least living still
οὕτως ἐγὼ δέδοικα τάσδ᾽ ὁρωμένη.
thus I fear these seeing
ὦ δυστάλαινα, τίς ποτ᾽ εἶ νεανίδων;
O most-wretched who ever are-you of-young-women
ἄνανδρος ἢ τεκνοῦσσα; πρὸς μὲν γὰρ φύσιν
unwed or a-mother by indeed for nature
πάντων ἄπειρος τῶνδε, γενναία δέ τις.
of-all inexperienced of-these noble and some(-one)
Λίχα, τίνος ποτ᾽ ἐστὶν ἡ ξένη βροτῶν;
Lichas of-whom ever is the stranger of-mortals
τίς ἡ τεκοῦσα, τίς δ᾽ ὁ φιτύσας πατήρ;
who the mother who and the begetting father
ἔξειπ᾽· ἐπεί νιν τῶνδε πλεῖστον ᾠκτισα
tell since her than-these most I-pitied
βλέπουσ᾽, ὅσῳπερ καὶ φρονεῖν οἶδεν μόνη.
seeing as-much-as also to-think she-knows alone

ΛΙΧΑΣ τί δ' οἶδ' ἐγώ, τί δ' ἄν με καὶ κρίνοις; ἴσως
what and know I why and — me even would-you-question perhaps
γέννημα τῶν ἐκεῖθεν οὐκ ἐν ὑστάτοις.
offspring of-the(-ones) there not among last
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ μὴ τῶν τυράννων; Εὐρύτου σπορά τις ἦν;
not of-the kings of-Eurytus seed some was-she
ΛΙΧΑΣ οὐκ οἶδα· καὶ γὰρ οὐδ' ἀνιστόρουν μακράν.
not I-know also for not I-was-questioning at-length
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ οὐδ' ὄνομα πρός του τῶν ξυνεμπόρων ἔχεις;
not-even name from someone of-the fellow-travelers do-you-have
ΛΙΧΑΣ ἥκιστα· σιγῇ τοὐμὸν ἔργον ἤνυτον.
least in-silence my work I-did
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ εἶπ', ὦ τάλαιν', ἀλλ' ἡμὶν ἐκ σαυτῆς, ἐπεὶ
tell O wretched but to-us from yourself since
καὶ ξυμφορά τοι μὴ εἰδέναι σέ γ' ἥτις εἶ.
also misfortune surely not to-know you at-least who you-are
ΛΙΧΑΣ οὔ τἄρα τῷ γε πρόσθεν οὐδὲν ἐξ ἴσου
not surely to-the at-least former nothing on equal
χρόνῳ διήσει γλῶσσαν, ἥτις οὐδαμὰ
time she-will-loose tongue who never
προύφηνεν οὔτε μεῖζον' οὔτ' ἐλάσσονα,
revealed neither greater nor smaller
ἀλλ' αἰὲν ὠδίνουσα συμφορᾶς βάρος
but always being-in-travail-with of-misfortune weight
δακρυρροεῖ δύστηνος, ἐξ ὅτου πάτραν
weeps wretched from when country
διήνεμον λέλοιπεν· ἡ δέ τοι τύχη
windy she-has-left the and surely fortune
κακὴ μὲν αὐτῇ γ', ἀλλὰ συγγνώμην ἔχει.
bad indeed for-her at-least but pardon has

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ ἡ δ' οὖν ἐάσθω, καὶ πορευέσθω στέγας
she and then let-her-be-let-alone and let-her-go roof
οὕτως ὅπως ἥδιστα, μηδὲ πρὸς κακοῖς
thus as most-pleasantly nor besides ills
τοῖς οὖσιν ἄλλην πρός γ' ἐμοῦ λύπην λάβῃ·
the being other from at-least me grief may-she-get
ἅλις γὰρ ἡ παροῦσα. πρὸς δὲ δώματα
enough for the present to and house
χωρῶμεν ἤδη πάντες, ὡς σύ θ' οἷ θέλεις
let-us-go now all that you both where you-wish
σπεύδῃς, ἐγώ τε τἄνδον ἐξαρκῆ τιθῶ.
may-hasten I and the(-things)-within sufficient may-make
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ αὐτοῦ γε πρῶτον βαιὸν ἀμμείνασ', ὅπως
there at-least first little having-waited that
μάθῃς ἄνευ τῶνδ', οὕστινάς τ' ἄγεις ἔσω,
you-may-learn without these whom and you-lead within
ὧν τ' οὐδὲν εἰσήκουσας ἐκμάθῃς ἃ δεῖ·
of-what and nothing you-heard you-may-learn what must
τούτων ἔχω γὰρ πάντ' ἐπιστήμην ἐγώ.
of-these I-have for all knowledge I
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ τί δ' ἐστί; τοῦ με τήνδ' ἐφίστασαι βάσιν;
what and is-it why me this do-you-stop step
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ σταθεῖσ' ἄκουσον· καὶ γὰρ οὐδὲ τὸν πάρος
having-stood listen also for not-even the before
μῦθον μάτην ἤκουσας, οὐδὲ νῦν δοκῶ.
word in-vain did-you-hear nor now I-think
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ πότερον ἐκείνους δῆτα δεῦρ' αὖθις πάλιν
whether them then hither again back
καλῶμεν, ἢ 'μοὶ ταῖσδέ τ' ἐξειπεῖν θέλεις;
shall-we-call or to-me to-these and to-tell do-you-wish

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ σοὶ ταῖσδέ τ' οὐδὲν εἴργεται, τούτους δ' ἔα.
to-you to-these and nothing is-barred them but let-be

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ καὶ δὴ βεβᾶσι, χὠ λόγος σημαινέτω.
and indeed they-have-gone and-the word let-it-show

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἀνὴρ ὅδ' οὐδὲν ὧν ἔλεξεν ἀρτίως
the-man this nothing of-what he-said just-now

φωνεῖ δίκης ἐς ὀρθόν, ἀλλ' ἢ νῦν κακὸς
says of-justice to straightness but either now base

ἢ πρόσθεν οὐ δίκαιος ἄγγελος παρῆν.
or before not just messenger he-was-present

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ τί φήις; σαφῶς μοι φράζε πᾶν ὅσον νοεῖς.
what do-you-say clearly to-me tell all as-much-as you-think

ἃ μὲν γὰρ ἐξείρηκας ἀγνοία μ' ἔχει.
what indeed for you-have-said ignorance me holds

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τούτου λέγοντος τἀνδρὸς εἰσήκουσ' ἐγώ,
this-one saying the-man heard I

πολλῶν παρόντων μαρτύρων, ὡς τῆς κόρης
many present of-witnesses that the girl

ταύτης ἕκατι κεῖνος Εὔρυτόν θ' ἕλοι
this for-the-sake he Eurytus and took

τήν θ' ὑψίπυργον Οἰχαλίαν, Ἔρως δέ νιν
the and high-towered Oechalia Love and him

μόνος θεῶν θέλξειεν αἰχμάσαι τάδε,
alone of-gods charmed to-make-war-on this

οὐ τἀπὶ Λυδοῖς οὐδ' ὑπ' Ὀμφάλῃ πόνων
not the(-things)-in Lydia nor under Omphale of-toils

λατρεύματ' οὐδ' ὁ ῥιπτὸς Ἰφίτου μόρος·
servitudes nor the hurled of-Iphitus doom

ὃν νῦν παρώσας οὗτος ἔμπαλιν λέγει.
which now having-thrust-aside this-man the-opposite says

ἀλλ᾽ ἡνίκ᾽ οὐκ ἔπειθε τὸν φυτοσπόρον
but when not he-persuaded the begetter
τὴν παῖδα δοῦναι, κρύφιον ὡς ἔχοι λέχος,
the girl to-give secret that he-might-have bed
ἔγκλημα μικρὸν αἰτίαν θ᾽ ἑτοιμάσας
complaint small cause and having-prepared
ἐπιστρατεύει πατρίδα τὴν ταύτης, ἐν ᾗ
he-marches-against country the her in which
τὸν Εὔρυτον τόνδ᾽ εἶπε δεσπόζειν θρόνων,
— Eurytus this(-man) he-said to-be-master of-thrones
κτείνει τ᾽ ἄνακτα πατέρα τῆσδε καὶ πόλιν
kills and lord father of-her and city
ἔπερσε. καὶ νῦν, ὡς ὁρᾷς, ἥκει δόμους
sacked and now as you-see he-comes house
ὡς τούσδε πέμπων οὐκ ἀφροντίστως, γύναι,
to these sending not without-forethought lady
οὐδ᾽ ὥστε δούλην· μηδὲ προσδόκα τόδε·
nor as slave nor expect this
οὐδ᾽ εἰκός, εἴπερ ἐντεθέρμανται πόθῳ.
nor (is-it)-likely if-indeed he-is-inflamed with-desire
ἔδοξεν οὖν μοι πρὸς σὲ δηλῶσαι τὸ πᾶν,
it-seemed-good then to-me to you to-reveal the all
δέσποιν᾽, ὃ τοῦδε τυγχάνω μαθὼν πάρα.
mistress which this-one I-happen having-learned from
καὶ ταῦτα πολλοὶ πρὸς μέσῃ Τραχινίων
and this many in middle of-Trachinians
ἀγορᾷ συνεξήκουον ὡσαύτως ἐμοί,
market heard-together likewise with-me
ὥστ᾽ ἐξελέγχειν· εἰ δὲ μὴ λέγω φίλα,
so-as to-convict(-him) if and not I-speak pleasing(-things)

οὐχ ἥδομαι, τὸ δ' ὀρθὸν ἐξείρηχ' ὅμως.
not I-rejoice the but right I-have-spoken nevertheless

375 ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ οἴμοι τάλαινα, ποῦ ποτ' εἰμὶ πράγματος;
ah-me wretched where ever am-I of-the-matter

τίν' εἰσδέδεγμαι πημονὴν ὑπόστεγον
what have-I-received woe under-roof

λαθραῖον; ὦ δύστηνος· ἆρ' ἀνώνυμος
secret O wretched — nameless

πέφυκεν, ὥσπερ οὐπάγων διώμνυτο;
is-she as the(-man)-leading(-her) swore

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἦ κάρτα λαμπρὰ καὶ κατ' ὄνομα καὶ φύσιν,
truly very brilliant both in name and nature

380 πατρὸς μὲν οὖσα γένεσιν Εὐρύτου ποτὲ
of-father indeed being by-birth of-Eurytus once

Ἰόλη 'καλεῖτο, τῆς ἐκεῖνος οὐδαμὰ
Iole she-was-called whose he never

βλάστας ἐφώνει, δῆθεν οὐδὲν ἱστορῶν.
birth told indeed nothing asking

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὄλοιντο — μή τι πάντες οἱ κακοί, τὰ δὲ
may-they-perish not at-all all the base the but

λαθραῖ' ὃς ἀσκεῖ μὴ πρέποντ' αὐτῷ κακά.
secret who practices not befitting to-himself ills

385 ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ τί χρὴ ποεῖν, γυναῖκες; ὡς ἐγὼ λόγοις
what must to-do women since I by-words

τοῖς νῦν παροῦσιν ἐκπεπληγμένη κυρῶ.
the now present struck happen

ΧΟΡΟΣ πεύθου μολοῦσα τἀνδρός, ὡς τάχ' ἂν σαφῆ
learn having-gone of-the-man since perhaps — clear(-things)

λέξειεν, εἴ νιν πρὸς βίαν κρίνειν θέλοις.
he-would-say if him by force to-question you-should-wish

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ ἀλλ᾽ εἶμι· καὶ γὰρ οὐκ ἀπὸ γνώμης λέγεις.
but I-will-go also for not from sense you-speak

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἡμεῖς δὲ προσμένωμεν; ἢ τί χρὴ ποεῖν; 390
we and are-we-to-wait or what must to-do

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ μίμν᾽, ὡς ὅδ᾽ ἀνὴρ οὐκ ἐμῶν ὑπ᾽ ἀγγέλων,
stay since this man not my by messengers
ἀλλ᾽ αὐτόκλητος ἐκ δόμων πορεύεται.
but self-called from house comes

ΛΙΧΑΣ τί χρή, γύναι, μολόντα μ᾽ Ἡρακλεῖ λέγειν;
what must lady having-gone me to-Heracles to-say
δίδαξον, ὡς ἔρποντος, ὡς ὁρᾷς, ἐμοῦ.
tell since setting-out as you-see me

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ ὡς ἐκ ταχείας σὺν χρόνῳ βραδεῖ μολὼν 395
how from swift with time slow having-come
ᾄσσεις, πρὶν ἡμᾶς κἀννεώσασθαι λόγους.
you-dart before us even-to-renew words

ΛΙΧΑΣ ἀλλ᾽ εἴ τι χρῄζεις ἱστορεῖν, πάρειμ᾽ ἐγώ.
but if anything you-wish to-ask am-here I

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ ἦ καὶ τὸ πιστὸν τῆς ἀληθείας νέμεις;
— also the trust of-the truth you-render

ΛΙΧΑΣ ἴστω μέγας Ζεύς, ὧν γ᾽ ἂν ἐξειδὼς κυρῶ.
let-him-know great Zeus of-what at-least — knowing I-happen

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ τίς ἡ γυνὴ δῆτ᾽ ἐστὶν ἣν ἥκεις ἄγων; 400
who the woman then is whom you-come leading

ΛΙΧΑΣ Εὐβοιίς· ὧν δ᾽ ἔβλαστεν οὐκ ἔχω λέγειν.
Euboean from-whom and she-sprang not I-can say

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οὗτος, βλέφ᾽ ὧδε· πρὸς τίν᾽ ἐννέπειν δοκεῖς;
you look here to whom to-speak do-you-think

ΛΙΧΑΣ σὺ δ᾽ εἰς τί δή με τοῦτ᾽ ἐρωτήσας ἔχεις;
you and to what indeed me this having-asked have

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τόλμησον εἰπεῖν, εἰ φρονεῖς, ὅ σ' ἱστορῶ.
dare to-say if you-are-sane what you I-ask

405 ΛΙΧΑΣ πρὸς τὴν κρατοῦσαν Δηάνειραν, Οἰνέως
to the ruling Deianeira of-Oeneus
κόρην δάμαρτά θ' Ἡρακλέους, εἰ μὴ κυρῶ
daughter wife and of-Heracles if not I-happen
λεύσσων μάταια, δεσπότιν τε τὴν ἐμήν.
seeing vain(-things) mistress and the my

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τοῦτ' αὖτ' ἔχρηζον, τοῦτό σου μαθεῖν· λέγεις
this itself I-wanted this from-you to-learn you-say
δέσποιναν εἶναι τήνδε σήν; ΛΙΧΑΣ δίκαια γάρ.
mistress to-be this-one your just(-things) for

410 ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τί δῆτα; ποίαν ἀξιοῖς δοῦναι δίκην,
what then what do-you-deem-fit to-pay penalty
ἢν εὑρεθῇς ἐς τήνδε μὴ δίκαιος ὤν;
if you-are-found toward her not just being

ΛΙΧΑΣ πῶς μὴ δίκαιος; τί ποτε ποικίλας ἔχεις;
how not just why ever having-embroidered do-you-have

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οὐδέν· σὺ μέντοι κάρτα τοῦτο δρῶν κυρεῖς.
nothing you however very this doing happen

ΛΙΧΑΣ ἄπειμι· μῶρος δ' ἦ πάλαι κλύων σέθεν.
I-will-go-away fool and I-was long-since hearing you

415 ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οὔ, πρίν γ' ἂν εἴπῃς ἱστορούμενος βραχύ.
no before at-least — you-tell being-asked briefly

ΛΙΧΑΣ λέγ', εἴ τι χρῄζεις· καὶ γὰρ οὐ σιγηλὸς εἶ.
speak if anything you-wish also for not silent you-are

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τὴν αἰχμάλωτον, ἣν ἔπεμψας ἐς δόμους,
the captive whom you-sent into house
κάτοισθα δήπου; ΛΙΧΑΣ φημί· πρὸς τί δ' ἱστορεῖς;
you-know surely I-say(-so) to what and do-you-ask

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οὔκουν σὺ ταύτην, ἣν ὑπ' ἀγνοίας ὁρᾷς,
not-then you her whom through ignorance you-look-at
Ἰόλην ἔφασκες Εὐρύτου σπορὰν ἄγειν;
Iole you-said of-Eurytus seed to-be-bringing
ΛΙΧΑΣ ποίοις ἐν ἀνθρώποισι; τίς πόθεν μολὼν
what among men who whence having-come
σοὶ μαρτυρήσει ταῦτ' ἐμοῦ κλύειν πάρα;
for-you will-bear-witness this me to-hear from
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ πολλοῖσιν ἀστῶν· ἐν μέσῃ Τραχινίων
to-many of-citizens in middle of-Trachinians
ἀγορᾷ πολύς σου ταῦτά γ' εἰσήκουσ' ὄχλος.
market much from-you this at-least heard crowd
ΛΙΧΑΣ κλύειν γ' ἔφασκον· ταὐτὸ δ' οὐχὶ γίγνεται
to-hear at-least I-said the-same but not becomes
δόκησιν εἰπεῖν κἀξακριβῶσαι λόγον.
opinion to-tell and-to-make-exact word
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ποίαν δόκησιν; οὐκ ἐπώμοτος λέγων
what opinion not on-oath saying
δάμαρτ' ἔφασκες Ἡρακλεῖ ταύτην ἄγειν;
wife did-you-say for-Heracles her to-be-bringing
ΛΙΧΑΣ ἐγὼ δάμαρτα; πρὸς θεῶν, φράσον, φίλη
I wife by gods tell dear
δέσποινα, τόνδε τίς ποτ' ἐστὶν ὁ ξένος.
mistress this who ever is the stranger
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ὃς σοῦ παρὼν ἤκουσεν, ὡς ταύτης πόθῳ
who from-you being-present heard that of-her by-longing
πόλις δαμείη πᾶσα, κοὐχ ἡ Λυδία
city was-subdued all and-not the Lydian(-woman)
πέρσειεν αὐτήν, ἀλλ' ὁ τῆσδ' ἔρως φανείς.
sacked it but the of-her love appearing

ΛΙΧΑΣ ἄνθρωπος, ὦ δέσποιν', ἀποστήτω· τὸ γὰρ
the-man O mistress let-him-stand-off the for
νοσοῦντι ληρεῖν ἀνδρὸς οὐχὶ σώφρονος.
for-sick to-rave of-man not sound
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ μή, πρός σε τοῦ κατ' ἄκρον Οἰταῖον νάπος
not by you the(-one) on top Oetaean glen
Διὸς καταστράπτοντος, ἐκκλέψῃς λόγον.
of-Zeus hurling-lightning steal-away word
οὐ γὰρ γυναικὶ τοὺς λόγους ἐρεῖς κακῇ
not for to-woman the words you-will-tell base
οὐδ' ἥτις οὐ κάτοιδε τἀνθρώπων, ὅτι
nor who not knows the(-ways)-of-men that
χαίρειν πέφυκεν οὐχὶ τοῖς αὐτοῖς ἀεί.
to-rejoice they-are-born not in-the same always
Ἔρωτι μέν νυν ὅστις ἀντανίσταται
Love indeed then whoever stands-up-against
πύκτης ὅπως ἐς χεῖρας, οὐ καλῶς φρονεῖ·
boxer like to hands not well thinks
οὗτος γὰρ ἄρχει καὶ θεῶν ὅπως θέλει,
he for rules even gods as he-wishes
κἀμοῦ γε· πῶς δ' οὐ χἀτέρας οἵας γ' ἐμοῦ;
and-me at-least how and not also-another such-as at-least me
ὥστ' εἴ τι τὠμῷ τ' ἀνδρὶ τῇδε τῇ νόσῳ
so-that if at-all my and husband by-this the sickness
ληφθέντι μεμπτός εἰμι, κάρτα μαίνομαι,
caught blameworthy I-am very I-am-mad
ἢ τῇδε τῇ γυναικὶ τῇ μεταιτίᾳ
or this the woman the partner-in-cause
τοῦ μηδὲν αἰσχροῦ μηδ' ἐμοὶ κακοῦ τινος.
of-the nothing shameful nor to-me ill any

οὐκ ἔστι ταῦτ᾽· ἀλλ᾽ εἰ μὲν ἐκ κείνου μαθὼν
not is this but if indeed from him having-learned
ψεύδει, μάθησιν οὐ καλὴν ἐκμανθάνεις.
you-lie lesson not fine you-learn
εἰ δ᾽ αὐτὸς αὑτὸν ὧδε παιδεύεις, ὅταν
if and yourself yourself thus you-train when
θέλῃς γενέσθαι χρηστός, ὀφθήσει κακός.
you-wish to-become good you-will-be-seen base
ἀλλ᾽ εἰπὲ πᾶν τἀληθές· ὡς ἐλευθέρῳ
but tell all the-truth since to-free(-man)
ψευδεῖ καλεῖσθαι κὴρ πρόσεστιν οὐ καλή.
false to-be-called doom is-attached not fine
ὅπως δὲ λήσεις, οὐδὲ τοῦτο γίγνεται·
how and you-will-escape-notice not-even this happens
πολλοὶ γὰρ οἷς εἴρηκας, οἳ φράσουσ᾽ ἐμοί.
many for to-whom you-have-spoken who will-tell me
κεἰ μὲν δέδοικας, οὐ καλῶς ταρβεῖς, ἐπεὶ
and-if indeed you-fear not well you-dread since
τὸ μὴ πυθέσθαι, τοῦτό μ᾽ ἀλγύνειεν ἄν·
the not to-learn this me would-pain —
τὸ δ᾽ εἰδέναι τί δεινόν; οὐχὶ χἀτέρας
the and to-know what terrible not also-others
πλείστας ἀνὴρ εἷς Ἡρακλῆς ἔγημε δή;
most man one Heracles married indeed
κοὔπω τις αὐτῶν ἔκ γ᾽ ἐμοῦ λόγον κακὸν
and-not-yet any of-them from at-least me word bad
ἠνέγκατ᾽ οὐδ᾽ ὄνειδος· ἥδε τ᾽ οὐδ᾽ ἂν εἰ
received nor reproach this-one and nor — if
κάρτ᾽ ἐντακείη τῷ φιλεῖν, ἐπεί σφ᾽ ἐγὼ
very she-were-melted in-the loving since her I

ᾤκτιρα δὴ μάλιστα προσβλέψασ', ὅτι
pitied indeed most having-looked-at because
τὸ κάλλος αὐτῆς τὸν βίον διώλεσεν,
the beauty her the life ruined
καὶ γῆν πατρῴαν οὐχ ἑκοῦσα δύσμορος
and land ancestral not willing ill-fated
ἔπερσε κἀδούλωσεν. ἀλλὰ ταῦτα μὲν
sacked and-enslaved but this indeed
ῥείτω κατ' οὖρον· σοὶ δ' ἐγὼ φράζω κακὸν
let-them-flow with wind to-you and I say base
πρὸς ἄλλον εἶναι, πρὸς δ' ἔμ' ἀψευδεῖν ἀεί.
to another to-be to and me to-be-truthful always
ΧΟΡΟΣ πείθου λεγούσῃ χρηστά, κοὐ μέμψει χρόνῳ
obey(-her) saying good(-things) and-not you-will-blame in-time
γυναικὶ τῇδε κἀπ' ἐμοῦ κτήσει χάριν.
woman this and-from me you-will-win favor
ΛΙΧΑΣ ἀλλ', ὦ φίλη δέσποιν', ἐπεί σε μανθάνω
but O dear mistress since you I-learn
θνητὴν φρονοῦσαν θνητὰ κοὐκ ἀγνώμονα,
mortal thinking mortal(-things) and-not unreasonable
πᾶν σοι φράσω τἀληθὲς οὐδὲ κρύψομαι.
all to-you I-will-tell the-truth nor will-I-hide
ἔστιν γὰρ οὕτως ὥσπερ οὗτος ἐννέπει.
it-is for thus as this-man says
ταύτης ὁ δεινὸς ἵμερός ποθ' Ἡρακλῆ
of-her the terrible longing once Heracles
διῆλθε, καὶ τῆσδ' εἵνεχ' ἡ πολύφθορος
went-through and of-her for-the-sake the much-ruined
καθῃρέθη πατρῷος Οἰχαλία δόρει.
was-taken ancestral Oechalia by-spear

καὶ ταῦτα, δεῖ γὰρ καὶ τὸ πρὸς κείνου λέγειν,
and this must for also the(-part) on his to-say
οὔτ' εἶπε κρύπτειν οὔτ' ἀπηρνήθη ποτέ,
neither he-said to-hide nor denied ever
ἀλλ' αὐτός, ὦ δέσποινα, δειμαίνων τὸ σὸν
but myself O mistress fearing the your
μὴ στέρνον ἀλγύνοιμι τοῖσδε τοῖς λόγοις,
lest breast I-should-pain with-these the words
ἥμαρτον, εἴ τι τήνδ' ἁμαρτίαν νέμεις.
erred if at-all this error you-reckon
ἐπεί γε μὲν δὴ πάντ' ἐπίστασαι λόγον,
since at-least indeed indeed all you-know word
κείνου τε καὶ σὴν ἐξ ἴσου κοινὴν χάριν
of-him both and your from equal common favor
καὶ στέργε τὴν γυναῖκα καὶ βούλου λόγους,
both love the woman and wish words
οὓς εἶπας ἐς τήνδ', ἐμπέδως εἰρηκέναι·
which you-said to her steadfastly to-have-spoken
ὡς τἄλλ' ἐκεῖνος πάντ' ἀριστεύων χεροῖν
since in-the-rest he all excelling with-hands
τοῦ τῆσδ' ἔρωτος εἰς ἅπανθ' ἥσσων ἔφυ.
by-the of-her love in all weaker was
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ ἀλλ' ὧδε καὶ φρονοῦμεν ὥστε ταῦτα δρᾶν,
but thus also we-think so-as this to-do
κοὔτοι νόσον γ' ἐπακτὸν ἐξαρούμεθα,
and-surely-not sickness at-least brought-in we-will-take-up
θεοῖσι δυσμαχοῦντες. ἀλλ' εἴσω στέγης
with-gods fighting-vainly but within roof
χωρῶμεν, ὡς λόγων τ' ἐπιστολὰς φέρῃς,
let-us-go that of-words and commands you-may-bring

ἅ τ᾽ ἀντὶ δώρων δῶρα χρὴ προσαρμόσαι,
which and instead-of gifts gifts must to-fit
καὶ ταῦτ᾽ ἄγῃς· κενὸν γὰρ οὐ δίκαιά σε
and this may-take empty for not just(-things) you
χωρεῖν προσελθόνθ᾽ ὧδε σὺν πολλῷ στόλῳ.
to-go having-come thus with great company

V · CYPRIS

The chorus sings of Cypris' power, which always wins. Two suitors fought for Deianeira's hand: the river Achelous in the form of a horned bull, and Heracles from Thebes with his bow, club, and spear. Cypris alone stood by as umpire while they wrestled, with blows and groans. The bride sat on a far-seen bank awaiting her husband, then was gone from her mother like a lonely heifer.

ΧΟΡΟΣ μέγα τι σθένος ἁ Κύπρις ἐκφέρεται νίκας ἀεί.
great some strength — Cypris carries-off of-victory always
καὶ τὰ μὲν θεῶν
and the(-things) indeed of-gods
παρέβαν, καὶ ὅπως Κρονίδαν ἀπάτασεν οὐ λέγω,
I-pass-by and how the-son-of-Cronus she-deceived not I-tell
οὐδὲ τὸν ἔννυχον Ἅιδαν
nor the nightly Hades
ἢ Ποσειδάωνα τινάκτορα γαίας·
or Poseidon shaker of-earth
ἀλλ᾽ ἐπὶ τάνδ᾽ ἄρ᾽ ἄκοιτιν
but for this then wife
τίνες ἀμφίγυοι κατέβαν πρὸ γάμων,
who mighty-limbed went-down before marriage
τίνες πάμπληκτα παγκόνιτά τ᾽ ἐξῆλθον ἄεθλ᾽ ἀγώνων;
who all-striking all-dusty and went-through bouts of-contests

ὁ μὲν ἦν ποταμοῦ σθένος, ὑψίκερω τετραόρου
the one was of-river strength high-horned four-legged
φάσμα ταύρου,
apparition of-bull
Ἀχελῷος ἀπ᾽ Οἰνιαδᾶν, ὁ δὲ Βακχίας ἀπὸ
Achelous from Oeniadae the other of-Bacchic from
ἦλθε παλίντονα Θήβας
came back-bent Thebes
τόξα καὶ λόγχας ῥόπαλόν τε τινάσσων,
bow and spears club and shaking
παῖς Διός· οἳ τότ᾽ ἀολλεῖς
son of-Zeus who then thronging
ἴσαν ἐς μέσον ἱέμενοι λεχέων·
went into middle eager for-bed
μόνα δ᾽ εὔλεκτρος ἐν μέσῳ Κύπρις ῥαβδονόμει ξυνοῦσα.
alone and fair-bedded in middle Cypris was-umpire being-with(-them)
τότ᾽ ἦν χερός, ἦν δὲ τόξων πάταγος,
then was of-hand was and of-bows clatter
ταυρείων τ᾽ ἀνάμιγδα κεράτων·
bull's and mingled horns
ἦν δ᾽ ἀμφίπλεκτοι κλίμακες,
were and intertwined grapplings
ἦν δὲ μετώπων ὀλόεντα
were and of-foreheads deadly
πλήγματα, καὶ στόνος ἀμφοῖν.
blows and groan of-both
ἁ δ᾽ εὐῶπις ἁβρὰ
the and fair-faced tender
τηλαυγεῖ παρ᾽ ὄχθῳ
far-seen by bank

ἧστο, τὸν ὃν προσμένουσ᾽ ἀκοίταν.
sat the her-own awaiting husband
ἀγὼν δὲ μαργᾷ μὲν οἷα φράζω·
the-contest and rages indeed such-as I-tell
τὸ δ᾽ ἀμφινείκητον ὄμμα νύμφας
the and fought-over eye of-bride
ἐλεινὸν ἀμμένει·
pitiable awaits
κἀπὸ ματρὸς ἄφαρ βέβακεν,
and-from mother suddenly she-has-gone
ὥστε πόρτις ἐρήμα.
like heifer lonely

VI · THE ROBE

Deianeira tells the chorus she cannot share her husband with Iole. Long ago the Centaur Nessus, carrying her across the river Evenus, laid hands on her and was shot by Heracles' arrow, poisoned with the Hydra's blood. Dying, he told her to keep his clotted blood as a love charm. She has dyed a robe with it, and gives it to Lichas sealed, to be kept from sun and fire until Heracles wears it at the sacrifice.

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ ἦμος, φίλαι, κατ᾽ οἶκον ὁ ξένος θροεῖ
while friends in house the stranger speaks
ταῖς αἰχμαλώτοις παισὶν ὡς ἐπ᾽ ἐξόδῳ,
to-the captive girls as at departure
τῆμος θυραῖος ἦλθον ὡς ὑμᾶς λάθρᾳ,
meanwhile out-of-doors I-came to you secretly
τὰ μὲν φράσουσα χερσὶν ἀτεχνησάμην,
the(-things) indeed to-tell with-hands what-I-contrived
τὰ δ᾽ οἷα πάσχω συγκατοικτιουμένη.
the(-things) and what I-suffer to-lament-with(-you)

κόρην γάρ, οἶμαι δ' οὐκέτ', ἀλλ' ἐζευγμένην,
maiden for I-think and no-longer but yoked
παρεισδέδεγμαι φόρτον ὥστε ναυτίλος,
I-have-received-in-addition cargo as sailor
λωβητὸν ἐμπόλημα τῆς ἐμῆς φρενός.
outrageous merchandise of-the my heart
καὶ νῦν δύ' οὖσαι μίμνομεν μιᾶς ὑπὸ
and now two being we-wait one under
χλαίνης ὑπαγκάλισμα. τοιάδ' Ἡρακλῆς,
cloak embrace such(-things) Heracles
ὁ πιστὸς ἡμῖν κἀγαθὸς καλούμενος,
the faithful to-us and-good called
οἰκούρι' ἀντέπεμψε τοῦ μακροῦ χρόνου.
house-keeping-wages sent-in-return of-the long time
ἐγὼ δὲ θυμοῦσθαι μὲν οὐκ ἐπίσταμαι
I and to-be-angry indeed not know-how
νοσοῦντι κείνῳ πολλὰ τῇδε τῇ νόσῳ·
sick with-him often with-this the sickness
τὸ δ' αὖ ξυνοικεῖν τῇδ' ὁμοῦ τίς ἂν γυνὴ
the and again to-live-with her together what — woman
δύναιτο, κοινωνοῦσα τῶν αὐτῶν γάμων;
could sharing of-the same marriage
ὁρῶ γὰρ ἥβην τὴν μὲν ἕρπουσαν πρόσω,
I-see for youth the one creeping forward
τὴν δὲ φθίνουσαν· ὧν ἀφαρπάζειν φιλεῖ
the(-other) and waning of-which to-snatch loves
ὀφθαλμὸς ἄνθος, τῶν δ' ὑπεκτρέπει πόδα.
eye flower from-those and it-turns-away foot
ταῦτ' οὖν φοβοῦμαι μὴ πόσις μὲν Ἡρακλῆς
this then I-fear lest husband indeed Heracles

ἐμὸς καλῆται, τῆς νεωτέρας δ' ἀνήρ.
mine be-called of-the younger and man
ἀλλ' οὐ γάρ, ὥσπερ εἶπον, ὀργαίνειν καλὸν
but not for as I-said to-be-angry (is)-fine
γυναῖκα νοῦν ἔχουσαν· ᾗ δ' ἔχω, φίλαι,
woman sense having in-which and I-have friends
λυτήριον λώφημα, τῇδ' ὑμῖν φράσω.
releasing relief in-this to-you I-will-tell
555 ἦν μοι παλαιὸν δῶρον ἀρχαίου ποτὲ
there-was to-me old gift of-ancient once
θηρός, λέβητι χαλκέῳ κεκρυμμένον,
beast in-cauldron bronze hidden
ὃ παῖς ἔτ' οὖσα τοῦ δασυστέρνου παρὰ
which girl still being the shaggy-breasted from
Νέσσου φθίνοντος ἐκ φονῶν ἀνειλόμην,
Nessus dying from slaughter I-took-up
ὃς τὸν βαθύρρουν ποταμὸν Εὔηνον βροτοὺς
who the deep-flowing river Evenus mortals
560 μισθοῦ 'πόρευε χερσίν, οὔτε πομπίμοις
for-pay ferried with-hands neither escorting
κώπαις ἐρέσσων οὔτε λαίφεσιν νεώς.
with-oars rowing nor with-sails of-ship
ὃς κἀμέ, τὸν πατρῷον ἡνίκα στόλον
who also-me the ancestral when journey
ξὺν Ἡρακλεῖ τὸ πρῶτον εὖνις ἐσπόμην,
with Heracles at-the first bride I-followed
φέρων ἐπ' ὤμοις, ἡνίκ' ἦ μέσῳ πόρῳ,
carrying on shoulders when I-was in-the-middle passage
565 ψαύει ματαίαις χερσίν· ἐκ δ' ἤυσ' ἐγώ,
touches with-wanton hands out and cried I

χὠ Ζηνὸς εὐθὺς παῖς ἐπιστρέψας χεροῖν
and-the of-Zeus at-once son having-turned with-hands
ἧκεν κομήτην ἰόν· ἐς δὲ πλεύμονας
sent feathered arrow into and lungs
στέρνων διερροίζησεν. ἐκθνήσκων δ' ὁ θὴρ
of-breast it-whizzed-through dying and the beast
τοσοῦτον εἶπε· παῖ γέροντος Οἰνέως,
so-much said child of-old Oeneus
τοσόνδ' ὀνήσει τῶν ἐμῶν, ἐὰν πίθῃ,
so-much you-will-profit from-the my if you-obey
πορθμῶν, ὁθούνεχ' ὑστάτην σ' ἔπεμψ' ἐγώ·
ferryings because last you I-carried I
ἐὰν γὰρ ἀμφίθρεπτον αἷμα τῶν ἐμῶν
if for clotted blood of-the my
σφαγῶν ἐνέγκῃ χερσίν, ᾗ μελαγχόλους
wounds you-carry with-hands where black-galled
ἔβαψεν ἰοὺς θρέμμα Λερναίας ὕδρας,
dipped arrows nursling of-Lernaean hydra
ἔσται φρενός σοι τοῦτο κηλητήριον
it-will-be of-mind for-you this charm
τῆς Ἡρακλείας, ὥστε μήτιν' εἰσιδὼν
the Heraclean so-that no-other having-seen
στέρξει γυναῖκα κεῖνος ἀντὶ σοῦ πλέον.
he-will-love woman he instead-of you more
τοῦτ' ἐννοήσασ', ὦ φίλαι, δόμοις γὰρ ἦν
this having-considered O friends in-house for it-was
κείνου θανόντος ἐγκεκλῃμένον καλῶς,
of-him having-died locked-up well
χιτῶνα τόνδ' ἔβαψα, προσβαλοῦσ' ὅσα
tunic this I-dipped having-applied as-much-as

ζῶν κεῖνος εἶπε· καὶ πεπείρανται τάδε.
living he said and it-has-been-accomplished this

κακὰς δὲ τόλμας μήτ' ἐπισταίμην ἐγὼ
evil and darings neither may-know I

μήτ' ἐκμάθοιμι, τάς τε τολμώσας στυγῶ·
nor may-learn the(-women) and daring I-hate

φίλτροις δ' ἐάν πως τήνδ' ὑπερβαλώμεθα
by-love-charms and if somehow this-one we-overcome

585 τὴν παῖδα καὶ θέλκτροισι τοῖς ἐφ' Ἡρακλεῖ,
the girl and charms the on Heracles

μεμηχάνηται τοὔργον, εἴ τι μὴ δοκῶ
has-been-contrived the-deed if at-all not I-seem

πράσσειν μάταιον· εἰ δὲ μή, πεπαύσομαι.
to-do vain(-thing) if and not I-will-have-stopped

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' εἴ τις ἐστὶ πίστις ἐν τοῖς δρωμένοις,
but if any is trust in the deeds-done

δοκεῖς παρ' ἡμῖν οὐ βεβουλεῦσθαι κακῶς.
you-seem with us not to-have-planned badly

590 ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ οὕτως ἔχει γ' ἡ πίστις, ὡς τὸ μὲν δοκεῖν
thus is at-least the trust that the indeed to-think

ἔνεστι, πείρᾳ δ' οὐ προσωμίλησά πω·
is-in(-it) by-trial but not I-have-had-dealings yet

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' εἰδέναι χρὴ δρῶσαν, ὡς οὐδ' εἰ δοκεῖς
but to-know (one)-must doing since not-even if you-seem

ἔχειν, ἔχοις ἂν γνῶμα, μὴ πειρωμένη.
to-have you-could-have — knowledge not trying

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ ἀλλ' αὐτίκ' εἰσόμεσθα, τόνδε γὰρ βλέπω
but at-once we-shall-know this-one for I-see

595 θυραῖον ἤδη· διὰ τάχους δ' ἐλεύσεται.
outside already with speed and he-will-come

μόνον παρ᾽ ὑμῶν εὖ στεγοίμεθ᾽· ὡς σκότῳ
only by you well may-we-be-covered since in-darkness
κἂν αἰσχρὰ πράσσῃς, οὔποτ᾽ αἰσχύνῃ πεσεῖ.
even-if shameful(-things) you-do never into-shame you-will-fall
ΛΙΧΑΣ τί χρὴ ποεῖν; σήμαινε, τέκνον Οἰνέως,
what must to-do tell child of-Oeneus
ὡς ἐσμὲν ἤδη τῷ μακρῷ χρόνῳ βραδεῖς.
since we-are already in-the long time slow
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ ἀλλ᾽ αὐτὰ δή σοι ταῦτα καὶ πράσσω, Λίχα, 600
but very indeed for-you these also I-do Lichas
ἕως σὺ ταῖς ἔσωθεν ἠγορῶ ξέναις,
while you with-the inside were-talking strangers
ὅπως φέρῃς μοι τόνδε ταναϋφῆ πέπλον,
that you-may-carry for-me this finely-woven robe
δώρημ᾽ ἐκείνῳ τἀνδρὶ τῆς ἐμῆς χερός.
gift for-him the-man of-the my hand
διδοὺς δὲ τόνδε φράζ᾽ ὅπως μηδεὶς βροτῶν
giving and this tell that no-one of-mortals
κείνου πάροιθεν ἀμφιδύσεται χροΐ, 605
of-him before will-put-on on-skin
μηδ᾽ ὄψεταί νιν μήτε φέγγος ἡλίου
nor will-see it neither light of-sun
μήθ᾽ ἕρκος ἱερὸν μήτ᾽ ἐφέστιον σέλας,
nor enclosure holy nor of-the-hearth flame
πρὶν κεῖνος αὐτὸν φανερὸς ἐμφανῶς σταθεὶς
before he it visible openly standing
δείξῃ θεοῖσιν ἡμέρᾳ ταυροσφάγῳ.
shows to-gods on-day of-bull-slaughter
οὕτω γὰρ ηὔγμην, εἴ ποτ᾽ αὐτὸν ἐς δόμους 610
thus for I-had-vowed if ever him into house

ἴδοιμι σωθέντ᾽ ἢ κλύοιμι πανδίκως,
I-should-see saved or hear rightly
στελεῖν χιτῶνι τῷδε καὶ φανεῖν θεοῖς
to-dress(-him) with-tunic this and to-show to-gods
θυτῆρα καινῷ καινὸν ἐν πεπλώματι.
sacrificer new new in robe
καὶ τῶνδ᾽ ἀποίσεις σῆμ᾽, ὃ κεῖνος εὐμαθὲς
and of-these you-will-carry-away sign which he easily
σφραγῖδος ἔρκει τῷδ᾽ ἐπὸν μαθήσεται.
of-seal with-ring this being-on will-recognize
ἀλλ᾽ ἕρπε, καὶ φύλασσε πρῶτα μὲν νόμον,
but go and keep first indeed rule
τὸ μὴ ᾽πιθυμεῖν πομπὸς ὢν περισσὰ δρᾶν·
the not to-desire messenger being excess to-do
ἔπειθ᾽ ὅπως ἂν ἡ χάρις κείνου τέ σοι
then that — the favor from-him both to-you
κἀμοῦ ξυνελθοῦσ᾽ ἐξ ἁπλῆς διπλῆ φανῇ.
and-from-me having-joined from single double may-appear

ΛΙΧΑΣ ἀλλ᾽ εἴπερ Ἑρμοῦ τήνδε πομπεύω τέχνην
but if-indeed of-Hermes this I-ply-as-messenger art
βέβαιον, οὔ τι μὴ σφαλῶ γ᾽ ἐν σοί ποτε,
securely not at-all — I-shall-fail at-least in you ever
τὸ μὴ οὐ τόδ᾽ ἄγγος ὡς ἔχει δεῖξαι φέρων,
the not — this casket as it-is to-show carrying
λόγων τε πίστιν ὧν λέγεις ἐφαρμόσαι.
of-words and trust which you-say to-fit-on

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ στείχοις ἂν ἤδη· καὶ γὰρ ἐξεπίστασαι
you-might-go — already also for you-know
τά γ᾽ ἐν δόμοισιν ὡς ἔχοντα τυγχάνει.
the(-things) at-least in house as being they-happen

ΛΙΧΑΣ ἐπίσταμαί τε καὶ φράσω σεσωσμένα.
I-know both and will-tell kept-safe

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ ἀλλ᾽ οἶσθα μὲν δὴ καὶ τὰ τῆς ξένης ὁρῶν
but you-know indeed indeed also the(-things) of-the stranger seeing
προσδέγματ᾽, αὐτὴν ὡς ἐδεξάμην φίλως.
receptions her how I-received kindly

ΛΙΧΑΣ ὥστ᾽ ἐκπλαγῆναι τοὐμὸν ἡδονῇ κέαρ.
so-that to-be-struck my with-pleasure heart

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ τί δῆτ᾽ ἂν ἄλλο γ᾽ ἐννέποις; δέδοικα γὰρ 630
what then — other at-least would-you-say I-fear for
μὴ πρῲ λέγοις ἂν τὸν πόθον τὸν ἐξ ἐμοῦ,
lest too-early you-might-speak — the longing the from me
πρὶν εἰδέναι τἀκεῖθεν εἰ ποθούμεθα.
before to-know the(-things)-there if we-are-longed-for

VII · THE HOMECOMING

The chorus calls on the people of the Malian shore, by the warm springs and the hills of Oeta, to hear the music of the returning hero. For twelve months he was away while his wife wasted in tears; now the god of war has freed him. They pray that he will come home full of desire, blended with Persuasion by the pretext of the anointed robe.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ ναύλοχα καὶ πετραῖα
O harbors and rocky
θερμὰ λουτρὰ καὶ πάγους
warm baths and peaks
Οἴτας παραναιετάοντες, οἵ τε μέσσαν Μηλίδα πὰρ λίμναν 635
of-Oeta dwelling-by who and middle Malian by lake
χρυσαλακάτου τ᾽ ἀκτὰν κόρας,
of-golden-shafted and shore maiden

ἔνθ' Ἑλλάνων ἀγοραὶ
where of-Greeks assemblies
Πυλάτιδες κλέονται·
Gate are-celebrated
ὁ καλλιβόας τάχ' ὑμῖν
the fair-sounding soon for-you
αὐλὸς οὐκ ἀναρσίαν
pipe not hostile
ἀχῶν καναχὰν ἐπάνεισιν, ἀλλὰ θείας ἀντίλυρον μούσας.
sounding din will-return but divine responsive-to-the-lyre music
ὁ γὰρ Διὸς Ἀλκμήνας κόρος
the for of-Zeus of-Alcmene son
σοῦται πάσας ἀρετᾶς
speeds of-all excellence
λάφυρ' ἔχων ἐπ' οἴκους·
spoils having to house
ὃν ἀπόπτολιν εἴχομεν παντᾷ,
whom far-from-the-city we-had everywhere
δυοκαιδεκάμηνον ἀμμένουσαι
twelve-month awaiting
χρόνον, πελάγιον, ἴδριες οὐδέν·
time on-the-sea knowing nothing
ἁ δέ οἱ φίλα δάμαρ
the and for-him dear wife
τάλαιναν δυστάλαινα καρδίαν
wretched most-wretched heart
πάγκλαυτος αἰὲν ὤλλυτο·
all-weeping always was-perishing
νῦν δ' Ἄρης οἰστρηθεὶς
now but Ares stung-to-frenzy

ἐξέλυσ᾽ ἐπίπονον ἀμέραν.
has-released toilsome day

ἀφίκοιτ᾽ ἀφίκοιτο· μὴ σταίη
may-he-come may-he-come not may-it-stop

πολύκωπον ὄχημα ναὸς αὐτῷ,
many-oared chariot of-ship for-him

πρὶν τάνδε πρὸς πόλιν ἀνύσειε,
before this to city he-reaches

νασιῶτιν ἑστίαν
island hearth

ἀμείψας, ἔνθα κλήζεται θυτήρ·
having-left where he-is-called sacrificer

ὅθεν μόλοι πανίμερος,
whence may-he-come all-desirous

τᾶς πειθοῦς παγχρίστῳ
of-the persuasion all-anointed

συγκραθεὶς ἐπὶ προφάσει φάρους.
blended by pretext of-robe

Deianeira has found the tuft of wool she used to apply the charm crumbled to dust in the sun, frothing on the ground. She fears the arrow's black venom, which harmed even the god Chiron, and resolves to die with Heracles if he dies. Hyllus returns and tells how the robe clung to his father at the sacrifice and ate his flesh. Heracles dashed Lichas on a rock and is being carried home. Hyllus curses his mother, and she goes in silently.

ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ γυναῖκες, ὡς δέδοικα μὴ περαιτέρω
women how I-fear lest further
πεπραγμέν' ᾖ μοι πάνθ' ὅσ' ἀρτίως ἔδρων.
done be by-me all(-things) as-many-as just-now I-did

665 ΧΟΡΟΣ τί δ' ἔστι, Δηάνειρα, τέκνον Οἰνέως;
what and is-it Deianeira child of-Oeneus
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ οὐκ οἶδ'· ἀθυμῶ δ', εἰ φανήσομαι τάχα
not I-know I-despair and whether I-shall-appear soon
κακὸν μέγ' ἐκπράξασ' ἀπ' ἐλπίδος καλῆς.
evil great having-accomplished from hope fair
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐ δή τι τῶν σῶν Ἡρακλεῖ δωρημάτων;
not indeed something of-the your to-Heracles gifts
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ μάλιστά γ', ὥστε μήποτ' ἂν προθυμίαν
most(-certainly) at-least so-that never — eagerness
670 ἄδηλον ἔργου τῳ παραινέσαι λαβεῖν.
obscure of-deed anyone I-would-advise to-take
ΧΟΡΟΣ δίδαξον, εἰ διδακτόν, ἐξ ὅτου φοβεῖ.
tell if (it-is)-teachable from what you-fear
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ τοιοῦτον ἐκβέβηκεν οἷον, ἢν φράσω,
such has-come-out as if I-tell
γυναῖκες, ὑμᾶς θαῦμ' ἀνέλπιστον μαθεῖν.
women you wonder unhoped-for to-learn

ᾧ γὰρ τὸν ἐνδυτῆρα πέπλον ἀρτίως
with-what for the to-be-worn robe just-now
ἔχριον, ἀργὴς οἰὸς εὐέρου πόκος,
I-anointed white of-sheep of-fine-fleece tuft
τοῦτ' ἠφάνισται διάβορον πρὸς οὐδενὸς
this has-vanished devoured by nothing
τῶν ἔνδον, ἀλλ' ἐδεστὸν ἐξ αὑτοῦ φθίνει,
of-the(-things) within but eaten from itself it-wastes
καὶ ψῇ κατ' ἄκρας σπιλάδος· ὡς δ' εἰδῇς ἅπαν,
and crumbles down from-top of-the-stone that and you-may-know all
ᾗ τοῦτ' ἐπράχθη, μείζον' ἐκτενῶ λόγον.
how this was-done longer I-will-stretch-out word
ἐγὼ γὰρ ὧν ὁ θήρ με Κένταυρος, πονῶν
I for of-what the beast me Centaur laboring
πλευρὰν πικρᾷ γλωχῖνι, προυδιδάξατο
in-side with-bitter barb instructed-beforehand
παρῆκα θεσμῶν οὐδέν, ἀλλ' ἐσῳζόμην
let-slip of-ordinances nothing but I-kept(-them)
χαλκῆς ὅπως δύσνιπτον ἐκ δέλτου γραφήν.
of-bronze like hard-to-wash from tablet writing
καί μοι τάδ' ἦν πρόρρητα καὶ τοιαῦτ' ἔδρων·
and to-me this was prescribed and such(-things) I-did
τὸ φάρμακον τοῦτ' ἄπυρον ἀκτῖνός τ' ἀεὶ
the drug this fireless of-ray and always
θερμῆς ἄθικτον ἐν μυχοῖς σῴζειν ἐμέ,
warm untouched in recesses to-keep me
ἕως νιν ἀρτίχριστον ἁρμόσαιμί που.
until it freshly-anointed I-should-apply somewhere
κἄδρων τοιαῦτα. νῦν δ', ὅτ' ἦν ἐργαστέον,
and-I-did such(-things) now and when (it)-was to-be-done

ἔχρισα μὲν κατ᾽ οἶκον ἐν δόμοις κρυφῇ
I-anointed indeed in house in house secretly
μαλλῷ, σπάσασα κτησίου βοτοῦ λάχνην,
with-wool having-plucked of-house of-sheep tuft
κἄθηκα συμπτύξασ᾽ ἀλαμπὲς ἡλίου
and-I-put having-folded-up unlit by-sun
κοίλῳ ζυγάστρῳ δῶρον, ὥσπερ εἶδετε.
in-hollow chest gift as you-saw
εἴσω δ᾽ ἀποστείχουσα δέρκομαι φάτιν
within and going-away I-see sign
ἄφραστον, ἀξύμβλητον ἀνθρώπῳ μαθεῖν.
unspeakable incomprehensible for-man to-learn
τὸ γὰρ κάταγμα τυγχάνω ῥίψασά πως
the for tuft I-happen having-thrown somehow
τῆς οἰός, ᾧ προύχριον, ἐς μέσην φλόγα,
of-the sheep with-which I-anointed into middle flame
ἀκτῖν᾽ ἐς ἡλιῶτιν· ὡς δ᾽ ἐθάλπετο,
ray into sun's when and it-was-warmed
ῥεῖ πᾶν ἄδηλον καὶ κατέψηκται χθονί,
flows all invisible and has-crumbled on-ground
μορφῇ μάλιστ᾽ εἰκαστὸν ὥστε πρίονος
in-form most like as of-saw
ἐκβρώματ᾽ ἂν βλέψειας ἐν τομῇ ξύλου.
sawdust — you-would-see in cutting of-wood
τοιόνδε κεῖται προπετές· ἐκ δὲ γῆς, ὅθεν
such it-lies fallen-forward from and earth where
προύκειτ᾽, ἀναζέουσι θρομβώδεις ἀφροί,
it-lay boil-up clotted foams
γλαυκῆς ὀπώρας ὥστε πίονος ποτοῦ
of-gray autumn-fruit as rich drink

χυθέντος εἰς γῆν Βακχίας ἀπ᾽ ἀμπέλου.
poured onto ground Bacchic from vine
ὥστ᾽ οὐκ ἔχω τάλαινα ποῖ γνώμης πέσω·
so-that not I-have wretched where of-judgment I-may-fall
ὁρῶ δέ μ᾽ ἔργον δεινὸν ἐξειργασμένην.
I-see but me deed terrible having-wrought
πόθεν γὰρ ἄν ποτ᾽, ἀντὶ τοῦ θνήσκων ὁ θὴρ
whence for — ever for what dying the beast
ἐμοὶ παρέσχ᾽ εὔνοιαν, ἧς ἔθνῃσχ᾽ ὕπερ;
to-me gave goodwill whom he-was-dying for
οὐκ ἔστιν, ἀλλὰ τὸν βαλόντ᾽ ἀποφθίσαι
not it-is but the(-man) having-shot to-destroy
χρῄζων ἔθελγέ μ᾽· ὧν ἐγὼ μεθύστερον,
wishing he-beguiled me of-which I afterward
ὅτ᾽ οὐκέτ᾽ ἀρκεῖ, τὴν μάθησιν ἄρνυμαι.
when no-longer it-avails the learning I-win
μόνη γὰρ αὐτόν, εἴ τι μὴ ψευσθήσομαι
alone for him if at-all not I-shall-be-deceived
γνώμης, ἐγὼ δύστηνος ἐξαποφθερῶ·
in-judgment I wretched will-destroy
τὸν γὰρ βαλόντ᾽ ἄτρακτον οἶδα καὶ θεὸν
the for having-struck arrow I-know even god
Χείρωνα πεμήναντα, χὥνπερ ἂν θίγῃ,
Chiron having-hurt and-whatever — it-touches
φθείρει τὰ πάντα κνώδαλ᾽· ἐκ δὲ τοῦδ᾽ ὅδε
destroys the all beasts from and this this
σφαγῶν διελθὼν ἰὸς αἵματος μέλας
of-wounds having-passed-through poison of-blood black
πῶς οὐκ ὀλεῖ καὶ τόνδε; δόξῃ γοῦν ἐμῇ.
how not will-it-destroy also this-one in-opinion at-least my

καίτοι δέδοκται, κεῖνος εἰ σφαλήσεται,
and-yet it-is-resolved he if will-fall
ταύτῃ σὺν ὁρμῇ κἀμὲ συνθανεῖν ἅμα·
this with impulse me-too to-die-with(-him) together
ζῆν γὰρ κακῶς κλύουσαν οὐκ ἀνασχετόν,
to-live for badly being-spoken-of not (is)-bearable
ἥτις προτιμᾷ μὴ κακὴ πεφυκέναι.
who prefers not base to-be
ΧΟΡΟΣ ταρβεῖν μὲν ἔργα δείν' ἀναγκαίως ἔχει,
to-fear indeed deeds terrible necessarily is
τὴν δ' ἐλπίδ' οὐ χρὴ τῆς τύχης κρίνειν πάρος.
the but hope not (one)-must of-the fortune to-judge before
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ οὐκ ἔστιν ἐν τοῖς μὴ καλοῖς βουλεύμασιν
not is in the not fine counsels
οὐδ' ἐλπίς, ἥτις καὶ θράσος τι προξενεῖ.
not-even hope which even boldness some procures
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' ἀμφὶ τοῖς σφαλεῖσι μὴ 'ξ ἑκουσίας
but about the(-ones) having-erred not from willingness
ὀργὴ πέπειρα, τῆς σε τυγχάνειν πρέπει.
anger (is)-mild which you to-meet befits
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ τοιαῦτα δ' ἂν λέξειεν οὐχ ὁ τοῦ κακοῦ
such(-things) and — would-say not the(-one) of-the evil
κοινωνός, ἀλλ' ᾧ μηδέν ἐστ' οἴκοι βαρύ.
partner but to-whom nothing is at-home heavy
ΧΟΡΟΣ σιγᾶν ἂν ἁρμόζοι σε τὸν πλείω λόγον,
to-be-silent — would-befit you the more word
εἰ μή τι λέξεις παιδὶ τῷ σαυτῆς· ἐπεὶ
if not something you-will-say to-son the your since
πάρεστι, μαστὴρ πατρὸς ὃς πρὶν ᾤχετο.
he-is-present seeker of-father who before went

ΥΛΛΟΣ ὦ μῆτερ, ὡς ἂν ἐκ τριῶν σ' ἓν εἱλόμην,
O mother how — of three you one I-would-choose
ἢ μηκέτ' εἶναι ζῶσαν, ἢ σεσωσμένην
either no-longer to-be living or saved
ἄλλου κεκλῆσθαι μητέρ', ἢ λῴους φρένας
of-other to-be-called mother or better mind
τῶν νῦν παρουσῶν τῶνδ' ἀμείψασθαί ποθεν.
than-the now present these to-get-in-exchange somewhere
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ τί δ' ἐστίν, ὦ παῖ, πρός γ' ἐμοῦ στυγούμενον;
what and is-it O child by at-least me hated
ΥΛΛΟΣ τὸν ἄνδρα τὸν σὸν ἴσθι, τὸν δ' ἐμὸν λέγω
the husband the your know the and my I-mean
πατέρα, κατακτείνασα τῇδ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ.
father having-killed this on day
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ οἴμοι, τίν' ἐξήνεγκας, ὦ τέκνον, λόγον;
ah-me what have-you-brought-out O child word
ΥΛΛΟΣ ὃν οὐχ οἷόν τε μὴ οὐ τελεσθῆναι· τὸ γὰρ
which not possible — not — to-be-accomplished the for
φανθὲν τίς ἂν δύναιτ' ἂν ἀγένητον ποεῖν;
having-appeared who — could — undone make
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ πῶς εἶπας, ὦ παῖ; τοῦ παρ' ἀνθρώπων μαθὼν
how did-you-say O child whom from men having-learned
ἄζηλον οὕτως ἔργον εἰργάσθαι με φής;
unenviable thus deed to-have-done me do-you-say
ΥΛΛΟΣ αὐτὸς βαρεῖαν ξυμφορὰν ἐν ὄμμασιν
myself heavy misfortune in eyes
πατρὸς δεδορκὼς κοὐ κατὰ γλῶσσαν κλύων.
of-father having-seen and-not by tongue hearing
ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ ποῦ δ' ἐμπελάζεις τἀνδρὶ καὶ παρίστασαι;
where and do-you-come-near the-man and stand-by(-him)

ΤΛΛΟΣ εἰ χρὴ μαθεῖν σε, πάντα δὴ φωνεῖν χρεών.
if must to-learn you all(-things) indeed to-tell (it-is)-needful

ὅθ' εἶρπε κλεινὴν Εὐρύτου πέρσας πόλιν,
when he-went famous of-Eurytus having-sacked city

νίκης ἄγων τροπαῖα κἀκροθίνια,
of-victory leading trophies and-first-fruits

ἀκτή τις ἀμφίκλυστος Εὐβοίας ἄκρον
headland some sea-washed of-Euboea point

Κήναιόν ἐστιν, ἔνθα πατρῴῳ Διὶ
Cenaeum is where to-ancestral Zeus

βωμοὺς ὁρίζει τεμενίαν τε φυλλάδα·
altars he-marks-out sacred-precinct and foliage

οὗ νιν τὰ πρῶτ' ἐσεῖδον ἄσμενος πόθῳ.
where him the(-things) first I-saw glad with-longing

μέλλοντι δ' αὐτῷ πολυθύτους τεύχειν σφαγὰς
being-about and him many-victimed to-make sacrifices

κῆρυξ ἀπ' οἴκων ἵκετ' οἰκεῖος Λίχας,
herald from house came of-the-household Lichas

τὸ σὸν φέρων δώρημα, θανάσιμον πέπλον·
the your bringing gift deadly robe

ὃν κεῖνος ἐνδύς, ὡς σὺ προυξεφίεσο,
which he having-put-on as you enjoined

ταυροκτονεῖ μὲν δώδεκ' ἐντελεῖς ἔχων
slays-bulls indeed twelve unblemished having

λείας ἀπαρχὴν βοῦς· ἀτὰρ τὰ πάνθ' ὁμοῦ
of-booty first-fruits oxen but the all together

ἑκατὸν προσῆγε συμμιγῆ βοσκήματα.
a-hundred he-brought mixed beasts

καὶ πρῶτα μὲν δείλαιος ἵλεῳ φρενί,
and first indeed wretched with-gracious mind

κόσμῳ τε χαίρων καὶ στολῇ, κατηύχετο·
in-adornment both rejoicing and in-garb he-prayed
ὅπως δὲ σεμνῶν ὀργίων ἐδαίετο
when but of-solemn of-rites was-kindled
φλὸξ αἱματηρὰ κἀπὸ πιείρας δρυός,
flame bloody and-from resinous oak
ἱδρὼς ἀνήει χρωτί, καὶ προσπτύσσεται
sweat rose on-skin and clings
πλευραῖσιν ἀρτίκολλος, ὥστε τέκτονος,
to-sides close-glued as of-craftsman
χιτὼν ἅπαν κατ᾽ ἄρθρον· ἦλθε δ᾽ ὀστέων
tunic all along joint came and of-bones
ἀδαγμὸς ἀντίσπαστος· εἶτα φοινίας
biting spasmodic then bloody
ἐχθρᾶς ἐχίδνης ἰὸς ὡς ἐδαίνυτο.
of-hostile of-viper poison as fed
ἐνταῦθα δὴ ᾽βόησε τὸν δυσδαίμονα
there indeed he-shouted-for the ill-fated
Λίχαν, τὸν οὐδὲν αἴτιον τοῦ σοῦ κακοῦ,
Lichas the(-man) nothing guilty of-the your evil
ποίαις ἐνέγκοι τόνδε μηχαναῖς πέπλον·
by-what he-brought this devices robe
ὁ δ᾽ οὐδὲν εἰδὼς δύσμορος τὸ σὸν μόνης
he and nothing knowing ill-fated the your alone
δώρημ᾽ ἔλεξεν, ὥσπερ ἦν ἐσταλμένον.
gift said as it-had-been sent
κἀκεῖνος ὡς ἤκουσε καὶ διώδυνος
and-he when he-heard and piercing
σπαραγμὸς αὐτοῦ πλευμόνων ἀνθήψατο,
convulsion his lungs seized

μάρψας ποδός νιν, ἄρθρον ᾗ λυγίζεται,
having-seized by-foot him joint where it-bends
ῥιπτεῖ πρὸς ἀμφίκλυστον ἐκ πόντου πέτραν·
hurls against sea-washed from sea rock
κόμης δὲ λευκὸν μυελὸν ἐκραίνει, μέσου
of-hair and white marrow he-makes-ooze middle
κρατὸς διασπαρέντος αἵματός θ' ὁμοῦ.
head scattered of-blood and together
ἅπας δ' ἀνηυφήμησεν οἰμωγῇ λεώς,
all and cried-out with-wailing people
τοῦ μὲν νοσοῦντος, τοῦ δὲ διαπεπραγμένου·
of-the one sick of-the other undone
κοὐδεὶς ἐτόλμα τἀνδρὸς ἀντίον μολεῖν.
and-no-one dared of-the-man opposite to-go
ἐσπᾶτο γὰρ πέδονδε καὶ μετάρσιος,
he-was-dragged for to-the-ground and aloft
βοῶν, ἰύζων· ἀμφὶ δ' ἐκτύπουν πέτραι,
shouting crying around and resounded rocks
Λοκρῶν τ' ὄρειοι πρῶνες Εὐβοίας τ' ἄκραι.
of-Locrians and mountain headlands of-Euboea and capes
ἐπεὶ δ' ἀπεῖπε, πολλὰ μὲν τάλας χθονὶ
when and he-gave-up often indeed wretched on-ground
ῥίπτων ἑαυτόν, πολλὰ δ' οἰμωγῇ βοῶν,
throwing himself often and with-wailing shouting
τὸ δυσπάρευνον λέκτρον ἐνδατούμενος
the ill-mated bed denouncing
σοῦ τῆς ταλαίνης, καὶ τὸν Οἰνέως γάμον
of-you the wretched and the of-Oeneus marriage
οἷον κατακτήσαιτο λυμαντὴν βίου,
how he-had-won ruiner of-life

τότ᾽ ἐκ προσέδρου λιγνύος διάστροφον
then from besetting smoke distorted
ὀφθαλμὸν ἄρας εἶδέ μ᾽ ἐν πολλῷ στρατῷ
eye having-raised he-saw me in great army
δακρυρροοῦντα, καί με προσβλέψας καλεῖ·
weeping and me having-looked-at calls
ὦ παῖ, πρόσελθε, μὴ φύγῃς τοὐμὸν κακόν,
O son come-near not shun my evil
μηδ᾽ εἴ σε χρὴ θανόντι συνθανεῖν ἐμοί·
not-even if you must with-dead to-die-with me
ἀλλ᾽ ἆρον ἔξω, καὶ μάλιστα μέν με θὲς
but lift(-me) out and most indeed me set
ἐνταῦθ᾽ ὅπου με μή τις ὄψεται βροτῶν·
there where me not anyone will-see of-mortals
εἰ δ᾽ οἶκτον ἴσχεις, ἀλλά μ᾽ ἔκ γε τῆσδε γῆς
if and pity you-have but me from at-least this land
πόρθμευσον ὡς τάχιστα, μηδ᾽ αὐτοῦ θάνω.
ferry as quickly-as-possible nor here may-I-die
τοσαῦτ᾽ ἐπισκήψαντος, ἐν μέσῳ σκάφει
so-much having-charged in middle boat
θέντες σφε πρὸς γῆν τήνδ᾽ ἐκέλσαμεν μόλις
having-put him to land this we-landed hardly
βρυχώμενον σπασμοῖσι· καί νιν αὐτίκα
roaring with-convulsions and him at-once
ἢ ζῶντ᾽ ἐσόψεσθ᾽ ἢ τεθνηκότ᾽ ἀρτίως.
either living you-will-see or dead just-now
τοιαῦτα, μῆτερ, πατρὶ βουλεύσασ᾽ ἐμῷ
such(-things) mother against-father having-plotted my
καὶ δρῶσ᾽ ἐλήφθης, ὧν σε ποίνιμος Δίκη
and doing you-have-been-caught for-which you avenging Justice

τίσαιτ᾽ Ἐρινύς τ᾽. εἰ θέμις δ᾽, ἐπεύχομαι·
may-punish Erinys and if (it-is)-lawful and I-pray(-it)

θέμις δ᾽, ἐπεί μοι τὴν θέμιν σὺ προύβαλες,
lawful and since to-me the right you threw-away

πάντων ἄριστον ἄνδρα τῶν ἐπὶ χθονὶ
of-all best man of-the(-men) on earth

κτείνασ᾽, ὁποῖον ἄλλον οὐκ ὄψει ποτέ.
having-killed such-as other not you-will-see ever

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί σῖγ᾽ ἀφέρπεις; οὐ κάτοισθ᾽ ὁθούνεκα
why in-silence do-you-creep-away not do-you-know that

ξυνηγορεῖς σιγῶσα τῷ κατηγόρῳ;
you-plead-with being-silent the accuser

ΤΛΛΟΣ ἐᾶτ᾽ ἀφέρπειν· οὖρος ὀφθαλμῶν ἐμῶν
let(-her) creep-away fair-wind of-eyes my

αὐτῇ γένοιτ᾽ ἄπωθεν ἑρπούσῃ καλός.
for-her may-it-be far-off creeping fair

ὄγκον γὰρ ἄλλως ὀνόματος τί δεῖ τρέφειν
dignity for vainly of-name why must to-nurse

μητρῷον, ἥτις μηδὲν ὡς τεκοῦσα δρᾷ;
mother's who nothing as having-borne does

ἀλλ᾽ ἑρπέτω χαίρουσα· τὴν δὲ τέρψιν ἣν
but let-her-go rejoicing the and delight which

τὠμῷ δίδωσι πατρί, τήνδ᾽ αὐτὴ λάβοι.
to-my she-gives father this herself may-she-get

The chorus sees the old oracle fulfilled: at the end of the twelfth year Heracles' labors would cease. They dread the Centaur's deceit and the Hydra's poison working in him, and pity Deianeira, who acted without understanding. Their tears flow for an evil no enemy ever brought on Heracles. Cypris, silent, has been revealed as the doer of it all.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἴδ' οἷον, ὦ παῖδες, προσέμιξεν ἄφαρ
see how O children has-joined suddenly
τοὔπος τὸ θεοπρόπον ἡμῖν
the-word the prophetic to-us
τᾶς παλαιφάτου προνοίας,
of-the ancient-spoken foresight
ὅ τ' ἔλακεν, ὁπότε τελεόμηνος ἐκφέροι
which and cried when full-monthed brought-forth
δωδέκατος ἄροτος, ἀναδοχὰν τελεῖν πόνων
twelfth year release to-accomplish of-toils
τῷ Διὸς αὐτόπαιδι· καὶ τάδ' ὀρθῶς
to-the of-Zeus own-son and this rightly
ἔμπεδα κατουρίζει. πῶς γὰρ ἂν ὁ μὴ λεύσσων
sure comes-to-port how for — the(-one) not seeing
ἔτι ποτ' ἔτ' ἐπίπονον πόνων ἔχοι θανὼν λατρείαν;
still ever still toilsome of-toils could-have having-died servitude
εἰ γάρ σφε Κενταύρου φονίᾳ νεφέλᾳ
if for him of-Centaur with-murderous cloud
χρίει δολοποιὸς ἀνάγκα
anoints guile-working necessity
πλευρά, προστακέντος ἰοῦ,
sides having-melted-onto poison

ὃν τέκετο θάνατος, ἔτρεφε δ' αἰόλος δράκων,
which begot death nursed and spangled serpent
πῶς ὅδ' ἂν ἀέλιον ἕτερον ἢ τανῦν ἴδοι,
how this-one — sun other than now could-see
δεινοτάτῳ μὲν ὕδρας προστετακὼς
to-most-terrible indeed of-hydra melted-onto
φάσματι; μελαγχαίτα δ' ἄμμιγά νιν αἰκίζει
apparition black-maned and mingled him torments
Νέσσου ὑποφόνια δολιόμυθα κέντρ' ἐπιζέσαντα.
of-Nessus murderous wily-worded goads having-boiled-up
ὧν ἅδ' ἁ τλάμων ἄοκνος μεγάλαν προορῶσα
of-which this-one the wretched unshrinking great foreseeing
δόμοισι βλάβαν νέων
for-house harm of-new
ἀΐσσουσαν γάμων τὰ μὲν αὐτὰ προσέβαλε, τὰ
rushing of-marriage the(-things) indeed herself applied the(-things)
δ' ἀπ' ἀλλόθρου
and from alien
γνώμας μολόντ' ὀλεθρίαισι συναλλαγαῖς
counsel coming by-deadly meetings
ἦ που ὀλοὰ στένει,
truly I-suppose deadly(-things) she-laments
ἦ που ἀδινῶν χλωρὰν
truly I-suppose of-thick green
τέγγει δακρύων ἄχναν.
wets of-tears dew
ἁ δ' ἐρχομένα μοῖρα προφαίνει δολίαν
the and coming fate reveals crafty
καὶ μεγάλαν ἄταν.
and great ruin

ἔρρωγεν παγὰ δακρύων· κέχυται νόσος, ὦ πόποι,
has-burst spring of-tears has-been-poured sickness O gods
οἷον ἀναρσίων
such of-hostile
οὔπω Ἡρακλέους ἀγακλειτὸν ἐπέμολε πάθος οἰκτίσαι.
not-yet of-Heracles glorious came suffering to-pity
ἰὼ κελαινὰ λόγχα προμάχου δορός,
ah dark spear of-champion spear
ἃ τότε θοὰν νύμφαν
which then swift bride
ἄγαγες ἀπ' αἰπεινᾶς
you-brought from steep
τάνδ' Οἰχαλίας αἰχμᾷ·
this of-Oechalia by-spear
ἁ δ' ἀμφίπολος Κύπρις ἄναυδος φανερὰ
the and attendant Cypris speechless visible
τῶνδ' ἐφήνη πράκτωρ.
of-these was-shown doer

A cry is heard in the house, and the old nurse tells the chorus that Deianeira has killed herself with a sword. Alone in the house she moaned at the altars and wept over the things she had used and the servants she loved. Then she spread robes on Heracles' bed, sat on it, bade it farewell, bared her side, and stabbed herself. Hyllus, learning too late that she acted on the Centaur's advice, lay beside her lamenting. No one can count on tomorrow.

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Α′ πότερον ἐγὼ μάταιος, ἢ κλύω τινὸς
whether I (am)-foolish or do-I-hear some
οἴκτου δι' οἴκων ἀρτίως ὁρμωμένου;
wailing through house just-now starting
τί φημι;
what am-I-to-say

865 ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Β′ ἠχεῖ τις οὐκ ἄσημον, ἀλλὰ δυστυχῆ
sounds someone not uncertain but unfortunate
κωκυτὸν εἴσω, καί τι καινίζει στέγη.
lament within and something makes-new roof
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ ξύνες δὲ
mark and
τήνδ' ὡς κατηφὴς καὶ συνωφρυωμένη
her how downcast and frowning
870 χωρεῖ πρὸς ἡμᾶς γραῖα σημανοῦσά τι.
comes toward us old-woman to-tell something
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ὦ παῖδες, ὡς ἄρ' ἡμὶν οὐ σμικρῶν κακῶν
O children how then for-us not of-small ills
ἦρξεν τὸ δῶρον Ἡρακλεῖ τὸ πόμπιμον.
began the gift to-Heracles the sent
ΧΟΡΟΣ τί δ', ὦ γεραιά, καινοποιηθὲν λέγεις;
what and O old-woman newly-done do-you-tell

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ βέβηκε Δηάνειρα τὴν πανυστάτην
has-gone Deianeira the very-last
ὁδῶν ἁπασῶν ἐξ ἀκινήτου ποδός.
of-roads of-all from unmoving foot
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐ δή ποθ' ὡς θανοῦσα;
not indeed ever as dead
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ πάντ' ἀκήκοας.
all you-have-heard
ΧΟΡΟΣ τέθνηκεν ἡ τάλαινα;
is-dead the wretched
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ δεύτερον κλύεις.
a-second-time you-hear
ΧΟΡΟΣ τάλαιν' ὀλεθρία· τίνι τρόπῳ θανεῖν σφε φής;
wretched lost in-what way to-die her do-you-say
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ σχετλιώτατά γε πρὸς πρᾶξιν.
most-cruelly at-least as-to deed
ΧΟΡΟΣ εἰπὲ τῷ μόρῳ,
tell by-what doom
γύναι, ξυντρέχει.
lady she-meets(-it)
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ αὑτὴν διῄστωσε.
herself she-has-stabbed
ΧΟΡΟΣ τίς θυμὸς ἢ τίνες νόσοι
what rage or what sicknesses
τάνδ' αἰχμᾷ βέλεος κακοῦ ξυνεῖλε; πως ἐμήσατο
this with-point of-weapon evil seized how did-she-contrive
πρὸς θανάτῳ θάνατον ἀνύσασα μόνα;
on death death achieving alone
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ στονόεντος ἐν τομᾷ σιδάρου.
of-groaning by cut of-iron

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐπεῖδες, ὦ ματαία, τάνδε τὴν ὕβριν;
did-you-see O foolish this the outrage

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ἐπεῖδον, ὡς δὴ πλησία παραστάτις.
I-saw as indeed near standing-by

ΧΟΡΟΣ τίς ἦν; πῶς; φέρ' εἰπέ.
who was(-it) how come tell

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ αὐτὴ πρὸς αὑτῆς χειροποιεῖται τάδε.
herself by herself with-her-own-hand-does this

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί φωνεῖς;
what do-you-say

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ σαφηνῆ.
clear(-things)

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔτεκεν ἔτεκε δὴ μεγάλαν
bore bore indeed great

ἁ νέορτος ἅδε νύμφα
the new-come this bride

δόμοισι τοῖσδ' ἐρινύν.
for-house this fury

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ ἄγαν γε· μᾶλλον δ', εἰ παροῦσα πλησία
too-much at-least more but if being-present near

ἔλευσσες οἷ' ἔδρασε, κάρτ' ἂν ᾤκτισας.
you-had-seen what-things she-did very — you-would-have-pitied

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ ταῦτ' ἔτλη τις χεὶρ γυναικεία κτίσαι;
and this dared any hand womanly to-do

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ δεινῶς γε· πεύσει δ', ὥστε μαρτυρεῖν ἐμοί.
terribly at-least you-will-learn and so-as to-bear-witness for-me

ἐπεὶ γὰρ ἦλθε δωμάτων εἴσω μόνη
when for she-came of-house within alone

καὶ παῖδ' ἐν αὐλαῖς εἶδε κοῖλα δέμνια
and son in court saw hollow bed

στορνύνθ', ὅπως ἄψορρον ἀντῴη πατρί,
spreading so-that back he-might-go-to-meet father
κρύψασ' ἑαυτὴν ἔνθα μή τις εἰσίδοι,
having-hidden herself where not anyone might-see
βρυχᾶτο μὲν βωμοῖσι προσπίπτουσ' ὅτι
she-moaned indeed at-altars falling-at that
γένοιντ' ἔρημοι, 'κλαιε δ' ὀργάνων ὅτου
they-would-become desolate she-wept and of-vessels whatever
ψαύσειεν οἷς ἐχρῆτο δειλαία πάρος·
she-touched which she-used wretched before
ἄλλῃ δὲ κἄλλῃ δωμάτων στρωφωμένη,
here and and-there of-house roaming
εἴ του φίλων βλέψειεν οἰκετῶν δέμας,
if of-some dear she-saw of-servants form
ἔκλαιεν ἡ δύστηνος εἰσορωμένη,
she-wept the wretched looking
αὐτὴ τὸν αὑτῆς δαίμον' ἀνακαλουμένη
herself the her-own fortune calling-on
καὶ τὰς ἄπαιδας ἐς τὸ λοιπὸν οὐσίας.
and the childless for the future life
ἐπεὶ δὲ τῶνδ' ἔληξεν, ἐξαίφνης σφ' ὁρῶ
when and of-these she-ceased suddenly her I-see
τὸν Ἡράκλειον θάλαμον εἰσορμωμένην.
the Heraclean chamber rushing-into
κἀγὼ λαθραῖον ὄμμ' ἐπεσκιασμένη
and-I secret eye having-shaded
φρούρουν· ὁρῶ δὲ τὴν γυναῖκα δεμνίοις
watched I-see and the woman on-bed
τοῖς Ἡρακλείοις στρωτὰ βάλλουσαν φάρη.
the Heraclean spread casting robes

ὅπως δ' ἐτέλεσε τοῦτ', ἐπενθοροῦσ' ἄνω
when and she-finished this having-leapt up
καθέζετ' ἐν μέσοισιν εὐνατηρίοις,
she-sat in middle couches
καὶ δακρύων ῥήξασα θερμὰ νάματα
and of-tears having-burst hot streams
ἔλεξεν· ὦ λέχη τε καὶ νυμφεῖ' ἐμά,
she-said O bed both and bridal-chamber my
τὸ λοιπὸν ἤδη χαίρεθ', ὡς ἔμ' οὔποτε
the rest already fare-well since me never
δέξεσθ' ἔτ' ἐν κοίταισι ταῖσδ' εὐνάτριαν.
you-will-receive again in chambers these bed-fellow
τοσαῦτα φωνήσασα συντόνῳ χερὶ
so-much having-spoken with-strained hand
λύει τὸν αὑτῆς πέπλον, ᾗ χρυσήλατος
she-loosens the her-own robe where gold-wrought
προύκειτο μαστῶν περονίς, ἐκ δ' ἐλώπισεν
lay-before of-breasts brooch out and she-bared
πλευρὰν ἅπασαν ὠλένην τ' εὐώνυμον.
side all arm and left
κἀγὼ δρομαία βᾶσ', ὅσονπερ ἔσθενον,
and-I running having-gone as-much-as-very I-was-able
τῷ παιδὶ φράζω τῆς τεχνωμένης τάδε.
to-the son tell of-her contriving this
κἀν ᾧ τὸ κεῖσε δεῦρό τ' ἐξορμώμεθα,
and-in which the there here and we-rush
ὁρῶμεν αὐτὴν ἀμφιπλῆγι φασγάνῳ
we-see her with-two-edged sword
πλευρὰν ὑφ' ἧπαρ καὶ φρένας πεπληγμένην.
side under liver and heart struck

ἰδὼν δ᾽ ὁ παῖς ᾤμωξεν· ἔγνω γὰρ τάλας
having-seen and the son wailed he-knew for wretched
τοὔργον κατ᾽ ὀργὴν ὡς ἐφάψειεν τόδε,
the-deed in anger how he-had-fastened this
ὄψ᾽ ἐκδιδαχθεὶς τῶν κατ᾽ οἶκον οὕνεκα
late taught by-the(-ones) in house that
ἄκουσα πρὸς τοῦ θηρὸς ἔρξειεν τάδε.
unwilling at-urging-of the beast she-had-done this
κἀνταῦθ᾽ ὁ παῖς δύστηνος οὔτ᾽ ὀδυρμάτων
and-then the son wretched neither of-laments
ἐλείπετ᾽ οὐδέν, ἀμφί νιν γοώμενος,
lacked nothing about her wailing
οὔτ᾽ ἀμφιπίπτων στόμασιν, ἀλλὰ πλευρόθεν
nor falling-on lips but from-side
πλευρὰν παρεὶς ἔκειτο πόλλ᾽ ἀναστένων,
side having-laid he-lay much groaning
ὥς νιν ματαίως αἰτίᾳ βάλοι κακῇ,
that her vainly with-charge he-had-struck base
κλαίων ὁθούνεκ᾽ ἐκ δυοῖν ἔσοιθ᾽ ἅμα,
weeping because of two he-would-be together
πατρός τ᾽ ἐκείνης τ᾽, ὠρφανισμένος βίον.
of-father both of-her and bereaved in-life
τοιαῦτα τἀνθάδ᾽ ἐστίν· ὥστ᾽ εἴ τις δύο
such the(-things)-here are so-that if anyone two
ἢ καί τι πλείους ἡμέρας λογίζεται,
or even something more days reckons
μάταιός ἐστιν· οὐ γὰρ ἔσθ᾽ ἥ γ᾽ αὔριον,
foolish he-is not for is the at-least tomorrow
πρὶν εὖ πάθῃ τις τὴν παροῦσαν ἡμέραν.
before well fares one the present day

The chorus does not know which grief to lament first, the one in the house or the one they await. They wish a wind would carry them away so that they would not die of fright at the sight of Heracles. A procession of strangers approaches, bearing him silently, and they cannot tell whether he is dead or asleep.

ΧΟΡΟΣ πότερα πρότερον ἐπιστένω,
which first am-I-to-lament
πότερα μέλεα περαιτέρω,
which wretched further
δύσκριτ' ἔμοιγε δυστάνῳ.
hard-to-judge for-me-at-least wretched
τάδε μὲν ἔχομεν ὁρᾶν δόμοις,
these indeed we-have to-see in-house
τάδε δὲ μένομεν ἐπ' ἐλπίσιν·
these and we-await in hopes
κοινὰ δ' ἔχειν τε καὶ μέλλειν.
common and to-have both and to-await
εἴθ' ἀνεμόεσσά τις
would-that windy some
γένοιτ' ἔπουρος ἑστιῶτις αὔρα,
may-become fair-wind from-the-hearth breeze
ἥτις μ' ἀποικίσειεν ἐκ τόπων, ὅπως
which me might-remove from places that
τὸν Διῖον ἄλκιμον γόνον
the Zeus-born valiant son
μὴ ταρβαλέα θάνοιμι
not frightened I-may-die
μοῦνον εἰσιδοῦσ' ἄφαρ·
only having-seen suddenly

ἐπεὶ ἐν δυσαπαλλάκτοις ὀδύναις
since in hard-to-be-rid-of pains
χωρεῖν πρὸ δόμων λέγουσιν
to-go before house they-say
ἄσπετόν τι θαῦμα.
unspeakable some wonder
ἀγχοῦ δ' ἄρα κοὐ μακρὰν
near and then and-not far
προύκλαιον, ὀξύφωνος ὡς ἀηδών.
I-was-wailing-beforehand shrill-voiced like nightingale
ξένων γὰρ ἐξόμιλος ἥδε τις βάσις.
of-strangers for strange this some step
πᾷ δ' αὖ φορεῖ νιν; ὡς φίλου
which-way and again carries him as for-friend
προκηδομένα βαρεῖαν
caring heavy
ἄψοφον φέρει βάσιν.
noiseless it-moves step
αἰαῖ, ὅδ' ἀναύδατος φέρεται.
alas this speechless is-carried
τί χρὴ θανόντα νιν ἢ καθ'
what (one)-must dead him or in
ὕπνον ὄντα κρῖναι;
sleep being to-judge

Hyllus laments over his father, and an old man begs him to be quiet and not wake the sufferer. Heracles wakes in pain and cries out to Zeus. He curses the altar at Cenaeum, which repaid his sacrifice with this torment. No singer and no healer except Zeus can charm away such an evil, he says, and he would wonder to see one even from far off.

ΥΛΛΟΣ οἴμοι ἐγὼ σοῦ,
ah-me I for-you
πάτερ, οἴμοι ἐγὼ σοῦ μέλεος.
father ah-me I for-you wretched
τί πάθω; τί δὲ μήσομαι; οἴμοι.
what am-I-to-suffer what and am-I-to-devise ah-me
975 ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ σίγα, τέκνον, μὴ κινήσῃς
be-silent child not rouse
ἀγρίαν ὀδύνην πατρὸς ὠμόφρονος·
savage pain of-father cruel-minded
ζῇ γὰρ προπετής· ἀλλ᾽ ἴσχε δακὼν
he-lives for prostrate but hold biting
στόμα σόν.
mouth your
ΥΛΛΟΣ πῶς φής, γέρον; ἦ ζῇ;
how do-you-say old-man — he-lives
ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ οὐ μὴ ᾽ξεγερεῖς τὸν ὕπνῳ κάτοχον
not — will-you-wake the(-man) by-sleep held
κἀκκινήσεις κἀναστήσεις
and-stir-up and-raise-up
980 φοιτάδα δεινὴν
roving terrible

νόσον, ὦ τέκνον.
sickness O child

ΤΛΛΟΣ ἀλλ' ἐπί μοι μελέῳ
but on me wretched

βάρος ἄπλετον· ἐμμέμονεν φρήν.
weight immense raves heart

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ὦ Ζεῦ,
O Zeus

ποῖ γᾶς ἥκω; παρὰ τοῖσι βροτῶν
where of-land have-I-come among the(-ones) of-mortals

κεῖμαι πεπονημένος ἀλλήκτοις 985
do-I-lie worn-out by-ceaseless

ὀδύναις; οἴμοι μοι ἐγὼ τλάμων·
pains ah-me me I wretched

ἡ δ' αὖ μιαρὰ βρύκει. φεῦ.
the and again foul gnaws alas

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ ἆρ' ἐξῄδη σ' ὅσον ἦν κέρδος
— did-I-know-well you how-much was gain

σιγῇ κεύθειν καὶ μὴ σκεδάσαι
in-silence to-hide and not to-scatter

τῷδ' ἀπὸ κρατὸς 990
this from head

βλεφάρων θ' ὕπνον;
of-eyelids and sleep

ΤΛΛΟΣ οὐ γὰρ ἔχω πῶς ἂν
not for I-have how —

στέρξαιμι κακὸν τόδε λεύσσων.
I-could-bear evil this seeing

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ὦ Κηναία κρηπὶς βωμῶν,
O Cenaean base of-altars
ἱερῶν οἵαν οἵων ἐπί μοι
of-offerings what what for me
995 μελέῳ χάριν ἠνύσω· ὦ Ζεῦ.
wretched return you-accomplished O Zeus
οἵαν μ' ἄρ' ἔθου λώβαν, οἵαν·
what me then you-made outrage what
ἣν μή ποτ' ἐγὼ προσιδεῖν ὁ τάλας
which not ever I to-look-at the wretched
ὤφελον ὄσσοις, τόδ' ἀκήλητον
would-that-I with-eyes this not-to-be-charmed
μανίας ἄνθος καταδερχθῆναι.
of-madness flower to-behold
1000 τίς γὰρ ἀοιδός, τίς ὁ χειροτέχνης
who for singer who the craftsman
ἰατορίας, ὃς τήνδ' ἄτην
of-healing who this ruin
χωρὶς Ζηνὸς κατακηλήσει;
apart-from Zeus will-charm-away
θαῦμ' ἂν πόρρωθεν ἰδοίμην.
a-wonder — from-far-off I-would-see

Heracles begs to be left to his last sleep and cries out as the pain leaps up again. He reproaches the Greeks, for whom he wore himself out clearing sea and thickets, because none of them will bring fire or a sword or strike off his head. He asks Hyllus to draw a sword and strike under his collarbone, and to cure the pain his godless mother caused, praying to see her fall as he has. He calls on Hades to lull him to sleep with swift death.

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἒ ἔ,

ah ah

ἐᾶτέ μ', ἐᾶτέ με δύσμορον ὕστατον, 1005

let me let me ill-fated last

ἐᾶθ' ὕστατον εὐνᾶσθαι.

let(-me) last to-sleep

πᾷ πᾷ μου ψαύεις; ποῖ κλίνεις;

where where me do-you-touch where do-you-lay(-me)

ἀπολεῖς μ', ἀπολεῖς.

you-will-destroy me you-will-destroy

ἀνατέτροφας ὅ τι καὶ μύσῃ.

you-have-roused whatever — even may-shut

ἥπταί μου, τοτοτοῖ, ἥδ' αὖθ' ἕρπει. πόθεν ἔστ', ὦ 1010

it-has-seized me ototoi it again creeps whence are-you O

πάντων Ἑλλάνων ἀδικώτατοι ἀνέρες, οὓς δὴ

of-all Greeks most-unjust men for-whom indeed

πολλὰ μὲν ἐν πόντῳ κατά τε δρία πάντα καθαίρων

much indeed in sea throughout and thickets all cleansing

ὠλεκόμαν ὁ τάλας, καὶ νῦν ἐπὶ τῷδε νοσοῦντι

I-wasted-away the wretched and now for this sick(-man)

οὐ πῦρ, οὐκ ἔγχος τις ὀνήσιμον οὐκ ἐπιτρέψει;

not fire not sword anyone helpful not will-turn

ἔ ἔ,
ah ah

οὐδ' ἀπαράξαι κρᾶτα βίᾳ θέλει
nor to-strike-off head by-force wishes

μολὼν τοῦ στυγεροῦ; φεῦ φεῦ.
having-come of-the hateful alas alas

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ ὦ παῖ τοῦδ' ἀνδρός, τοὔργον τόδε μεῖζον ἀνήκει
O son of-this man the-task this greater comes

ἢ κατ' ἐμὰν ῥώμαν· σὺ δὲ σύλλαβε. σοὶ γὰρ ἑτοίμα
than according-to my strength you and help for-you for ready

ἐς πλέον ἢ δι' ἐμοῦ σῴζειν.
to more than through me to-save

ΤΛΛΟΣ ψαύω μὲν ἔγωγε,
I-touch indeed I-for-my-part

λαθίπονον δ' ὀδυνᾶν οὔτ' ἔνδοθεν οὔτε θύραθεν
forgetful-of-pain but of-pains neither from-within nor from-without

ἔστι μοι ἐξανύσαι βίοτον· τοιαῦτα νέμει Ζεύς.
it-is-possible for-me to-accomplish life such(-things) allots Zeus

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ὦ παῖ, ποῦ ποτ' εἶ; τᾷδέ με τᾷδέ με
O son where ever are-you here me here me

πρόσλαβε κουφίσας. ἔ ἔ, ἰὼ δαῖμον.
take-hold-of having-lifted ah ah ah god

θρῴσκει δ' αὖ, θρῴσκει δειλαία
leaps and again leaps wretched

διολοῦσ' ἡμᾶς
destroying us

ἀποτίβατος ἀγρία νόσος.
unapproachable savage sickness

ὦ Παλλὰς Παλλάς, τόδε μ' αὖ λωβᾶται. ἰὼ παῖ,
O Pallas Pallas this me again outrages ah son

τὸν φύτορ᾽ οἰκτίρας, ἀνεπίφθονον εἴρυσον ἔγχος,
the begetter having-pitied blameless draw sword
παῖσον ἐμᾶς ὑπὸ κλῇδος· ἀκοῦ δ᾽ ἄχος, ᾧ μ᾽ ἐχόλωσεν
strike my beneath collarbone cure and pain with-which me enraged
σὰ μάτηρ ἄθεος, τὰν ὦδ᾽ ἐπίδοιμι πεσοῦσαν
your mother godless whom thus may-I-see fallen
αὔτως, ὦδ᾽ αὔτως ὥς μ᾽ ὤλεσεν. ὦ γλυκὺς Ἅιδας,
just-so thus just-so as me she-destroyed O sweet Hades
ὦ Διὸς αὐθαίμων, εὔνασον εὔνασον μ᾽
O of-Zeus kinsman lull-to-sleep lull-to-sleep me
ὠκυπέτᾳ μόρῳ τὸν μέλεον φθίσας.
with-swift-flying doom the wretched having-destroyed

XIV · THE PYRE ON OETA

Heracles laments that no army, beast, or giant ever did to him what a woman has done, and shows his body wasted by the robe. Hyllus tells him that Deianeira is dead and erred meaning well, believing the Centaur's charm. Heracles recognizes the oracles that he would die by one already dead. He makes Hyllus swear to carry him to Mount Oeta and build his pyre, though Hyllus will not light it himself, and to marry Iole. Hyllus yields, and as Heracles is carried off, Hyllus charges the gods with unfeelingness toward their own son.

ΧΟΡΟΣ κλύουσ᾽ ἔφριξα τάσδε συμφοράς, φίλαι,
hearing I-shuddered-at these misfortunes friends
ἄνακτος, οἵαις οἷος ὢν ἐλαύνεται.
of-lord with-what such-a-one being he-is-driven
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ὦ πολλὰ δὴ καὶ θερμὰ κοὐ λόγῳ κακὰ
O many indeed and hot and-not in-word ills
καὶ χερσὶ καὶ νώτοισι μοχθήσας ἐγώ·
both with-hands and with-back having-toiled I

κοὔπω τοιοῦτον οὔτ' ἄκοιτις ἡ Διὸς
and-not-yet such-a-thing neither wife the of-Zeus
προύθηκεν οὔθ' ὁ στυγνὸς Εὐρυσθεὺς ἐμοί,
set-before nor the hateful Eurystheus me
οἷον τόδ' ἡ δολῶπις Οἰνέως κόρη
as this the guile-eyed of-Oeneus daughter
καθῆψεν ὤμοις τοῖς ἐμοῖς Ἐρινύων
fastened on-shoulders the my of-Erinyes
ὑφαντὸν ἀμφίβληστρον, ᾧ διόλλυμαι.
woven net by-which I-perish
πλευραῖσι γὰρ προσμαχθὲν ἐκ μὲν ἐσχάτας
to-sides for clinging out indeed outermost
βέβρωκε σάρκας, πλεύμονός τ' ἀρτηρίας
it-has-eaten flesh of-lung and arteries
ῥοφεῖ ξυνοικοῦν, ἐκ δὲ χλωρὸν αἷμά μου
it-gulps dwelling-with out and green blood my
πέπωκεν ἤδη, καὶ διέφθαρμαι δέμας
it-has-drunk already and I-am-ruined body
τὸ πᾶν, ἀφράστῳ τῇδε χειρωθεὶς πέδῃ.
the whole by-unspeakable this subdued fetter
κοὐ ταῦτα λόγχη πεδιάς, οὔθ' ὁ γηγενὴς
and-not this spear of-plain nor the earth-born
στρατὸς Γιγάντων οὔτε θήρειος βία,
host of-Giants nor beastly force
οὔθ' Ἕλλὰς οὔτ' ἄγλωσσος οὔθ' ὅσην ἐγὼ
nor Hellas nor tongueless nor as-much I
γαῖαν καθαίρων ἱκόμην, ἔδρασέ πω·
land cleansing reached did yet
γυνὴ δέ, θῆλυς φῦσα κοὐκ ἀνδρὸς φύσιν,
woman but female being and-not of-man nature

μόνη με δὴ καθεῖλε φασγάνου δίχα.
alone me indeed brought-down sword without
ὦ παῖ, γενοῦ μοι παῖς ἐτήτυμος γεγώς,
O son become for-me son truly being
καὶ μὴ τὸ μητρὸς ὄνομα πρεσβεύσῃς πλέον.
and not the of-mother name honor more
δός μοι χεροῖν σαῖν αὐτὸς ἐξ οἴκου λαβὼν
give for-me with-hands your yourself from house having-taken
ἐς χεῖρα τὴν τεκοῦσαν, ὡς εἰδῶ σάφα
into hand the(-one) having-borne so-that I-may-know clearly
εἰ τοὐμὸν ἀλγεῖς μᾶλλον ἢ κείνης ὁρῶν
whether my you-grieve-for more than her seeing
λωβητὸν εἶδος ἐν δίκῃ κακούμενον.
outraged form in justice mistreated
ἴθ', ὦ τέκνον, τόλμησον· οἴκτιρόν τέ με
go O child dare pity and me
πολλοῖσιν οἰκτρόν, ὅστις ὥστε παρθένος
to-many pitiable who like girl
βέβρυχα κλαίων, καὶ τόδ' οὐδ' ἂν εἷς ποτε
have-bellowed weeping and this not — one ever
τόνδ' ἄνδρα φαίη πρόσθ' ἰδεῖν δεδρακότα,
this man would-say before to-have-seen having-done
ἀλλ' ἀστένακτος αἰὲν εἱπόμην κακοῖς.
but unmoaning always I-followed ills
νῦν δ' ἐκ τοιούτου θῆλυς ηὕρημαι τάλας.
now but from such-a-one female have-been-found wretched
καὶ νῦν προσελθὼν στῆθι πλησίον πατρός,
and now having-come-near stand near father
σκέψαι θ' ὁποίας ταῦτα συμφορᾶς ὕπο
look and of-what this misfortune under

πέπονθα· δείξω γὰρ τάδ' ἐκ καλυμμάτων.
I-have-suffered I-will-show for this from coverings
ἰδού, θεᾶσθε πάντες ἄθλιον δέμας,
behold look all wretched body
ὁρᾶτε τὸν δύστηνον, ὡς οἰκτρῶς ἔχω.
see the miserable how pitiably I-fare
αἰαῖ, ἆ τάλας,
alas ah wretched
ἔθαλψεν ἄτης σπασμὸς ἀρτίως ὅδ' αὖ,
has-scorched of-ruin spasm just-now this again
διῆξε πλευρῶν, οὐδ' ἀγύμναστόν μ' ἐᾶν
has-darted-through sides nor unexercised me to-leave
ἔοικεν ἡ τάλαινα διάβορος νόσος.
seems the wretched devouring sickness
ὦναξ Ἀΐδη, δέξαι μ',
O-lord Hades receive me
ὦ Διὸς ἀκτίς, παῖσον,
O of-Zeus bolt strike
ἔνσεισον, ὦναξ, ἐγκατάσκηψον βέλος,
hurl-in O-lord dart-down shaft
πάτερ, κεραυνοῦ· δαίνυται γὰρ αὖ πάλιν,
father of-thunderbolt it-feasts for again anew
ἤνθηκεν, ἐξώρμηκεν. ὦ χέρες χέρες,
it-has-blossomed it-has-rushed-out O hands hands
ὦ νῶτα καὶ στέρν', ὦ φίλοι βραχίονες,
O back and chest O dear arms
ὑμεῖς δὲ κεῖνοι δὴ καθέσταθ', οἵ ποτε
you and those indeed are-found who once
Νεμέας ἔνοικον, βουκόλων ἀλάστορα
of-Nemea dweller of-herdsmen scourge

λέοντ', ἄπλατον θρέμμα κἀπροσήγορον,
lion unapproachable beast and-unaddressable
βίᾳ κατειργάσασθε, Λερναίαν θ' ὕδραν,
by-force overcame of-Lerna and hydra
διφυῆ τ' ἄμικτον ἱπποβάμονα στρατὸν
double-formed and savage horse-going host
θηρῶν, ὑβριστὴν ἄνομον, ὑπέροχον βίαν,
of-beasts insolent lawless surpassing in-force
Ἐρυμάνθιόν τε θῆρα, τόν θ' ὑπὸ χθονὸς
Erymanthian and beast the and under earth
Ἅιδου τρίκρανον σκύλακ', ἀπρόσμαχον τέρας,
of-Hades three-headed whelp unassailable monster
δεινῆς Ἐχίδνης θρέμμα, τόν τε χρυσέων
of-terrible Echidna offspring the and of-golden
δράκοντα μήλων φύλακ' ἐπ' ἐσχάτοις τόποις.
serpent of-apples guardian at farthest places
ἄλλων τε μόχθων μυρίων ἐγευσάμην,
other and of-toils countless I-tasted
κοὐδεὶς τροπαῖ' ἔστησε τῶν ἐμῶν χερῶν.
and-no-one trophies set-up of-the my hands
νῦν δ' ὧδ' ἄναρθρος καὶ κατερρακωμένος
now but thus jointless and torn-to-rags
τυφλῆς ὑπ' ἄτης ἐκπεπόρθημαι τάλας,
blind by ruin I-am-sacked wretched
ὁ τῆς ἀρίστης μητρὸς ὠνομασμένος,
the(-one) of-the best mother named
ὁ τοῦ κατ' ἄστρα Ζηνὸς αὐδηθεὶς γόνος.
the(-one) of-the among stars of-Zeus called offspring
ἀλλ' εὖ γέ τοι τόδ' ἴστε, κἂν τὸ μηδὲν ὦ
but well at-least surely this know even-if the nothing I-am

κἂν μηδὲν ἕρπω, τήν γε δράσασαν τάδε
even-if nothing I-creep her at-least having-done this
χειρώσομαι κἀκ τῶνδε· προσμόλοι μόνον,
I-will-subdue even-from these(-things) let-her-come-near only
ἵν' ἐκδιδαχθῇ πᾶσιν ἀγγέλλειν ὅτι
so-that she-may-be-taught to-all to-proclaim that
καὶ ζῶν κακούς γε καὶ θανὼν ἐτισάμην.
both living the-wicked at-least and dying I-punished
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ τλῆμον Ἑλλάς, πένθος οἷον εἰσορῶ
O wretched Hellas grief what I-see
ἔξουσαν, ἀνδρὸς τοῦδέ γ' εἰ σφαλήσεται.
about-to-have of-man this at-least if shall-be-tripped
ΥΛΛΟΣ ἐπεὶ παρέσχες ἀντιφωνῆσαι, πάτερ,
since you-have-granted to-answer father
σιγὴν παρασχὼν κλῦθί μου, νοσῶν ὅμως·
silence having-granted hear me sick nevertheless
αἰτήσομαι γάρ σ' ὧν δίκαια τυγχάνειν.
I-will-ask for you of-what(-things) just to-obtain
δός μοι σεαυτόν, μὴ τοσοῦτον ὡς δάκνει
give to-me yourself not so-much as you-are-stung
θυμῷ δύσοργος· οὐ γὰρ ἂν γνοίης ἐν οἷς
in-spirit bitter-tempered not for — you-would-know in what(-things)
χαίρειν προθυμεῖ κἀν ὅτοις ἀλγεῖς μάτην.
to-rejoice you-are-eager and-in what(-things) you-grieve in-vain
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ εἰπὼν ὃ χρῄζεις λῆξον· ὡς ἐγὼ νοσῶν
having-said what you-want cease since I being-sick
οὐδὲν ξυνίημ' ὧν σὺ ποικίλλεις πάλαι.
nothing understand of-what(-things) you embroider long-since

ΤΑΛΟΣ τῆς μητρὸς ἥκω τῆς ἐμῆς φράσων ἐν οἷς
of-the mother I-have-come the my to-tell in what
νῦν ἐστιν ὥς θ' ἥμαρτεν οὐχ ἑκουσία.
now she-is how and she-erred not willing
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ὦ παγκάκιστε, καὶ παρεμνήσω γὰρ αὖ
O all-basest and you-have-made-mention for again
τῆς πατροφόντου μητρός, ὡς κλύειν ἐμέ; 1125
of-the father-slaying mother so-that to-hear me
ΤΑΛΟΣ ἔχει γὰρ οὕτως ὥστε μὴ σιγᾶν πρέπειν.
it-stands for thus so-that not to-be-silent to-befit
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οὐ δῆτα τοῖς γε πρόσθεν ἡμαρτημένοις.
not then for-the at-least before erred(-things)
ΤΑΛΟΣ ἀλλ' οὐδὲ μὲν δὴ τοῖς γ' ἐφ' ἡμέραν ἐρεῖς.
but not indeed truly the(-things) at-least for day you-will-speak
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ λέγ', εὐλαβοῦ δὲ μὴ φανῇς κακὸς γεγώς.
speak beware and lest you-appear base being
ΤΑΛΟΣ λέγω· τέθνηκεν ἀρτίως νεοσφαγής. 1130
I-speak she-is-dead just-now newly-slain
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ πρὸς τοῦ; τέρας τοι διὰ κακῶν ἐθέσπισας.
by whom a-portent surely through ills you-have-prophesied
ΤΑΛΟΣ αὐτὴ πρὸς αὑτῆς, οὐδενὸς πρὸς ἐκτόπου.
herself by herself no-one by outside
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οἴμοι· πρὶν ὡς χρῆν σφ' ἐξ ἐμῆς θανεῖν χερός;
ah-me before as it-was-needful her from my to-die hand
ΤΑΛΟΣ κἂν σοῦ στραφείη θυμός, εἰ τὸ πᾶν μάθοις.
even your would-be-turned spirit if the whole you-should-learn
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ δεινοῦ λόγου κατῆρξας· εἰπὲ δ' ᾗ νοεῖς. 1135
of-terrible word you-have-begun tell and how you-mean
ΤΑΛΟΣ ἅπαν τὸ χρῆμ', ἥμαρτε χρηστὰ μωμένη.
whole the matter she-erred good(-things) seeking

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ χρήστ', ὦ κάκιστε, πατέρα σὸν κτείνασα δρᾷ;
good(-things) O vilest father your having-killed does-she-do

ΤΛΛΟΣ στέργημα γὰρ δοκοῦσα προσβαλεῖν σέθεν
love-charm for thinking to-cast-on of-you

ἀπήμπλαχ', ὡς προσεῖδε τοὺς ἔνδον γάμους.
she-missed when she-saw the within marriage

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ καὶ τίς τοσοῦτος φαρμακεὺς Τραχινίων;
and who so-great sorcerer of-Trachinians

ΤΛΛΟΣ Νέσσος πάλαι Κένταυρος ἐξέπεισέ νιν
Nessus long-ago Centaur persuaded her

τοιῷδε φίλτρῳ τὸν σὸν ἐκμῆναι πόθον.
with-such philter the your to-madden desire

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἰοὺ ἰοὺ δύστηνος, οἴχομαι τάλας·
io io miserable I-am-gone wretched

ὄλωλ' ὄλωλα, φέγγος οὐκέτ' ἔστι μοι.
I-am-lost I-am-lost light no-longer is for-me

οἴμοι, φρονῶ δὴ ξυμφορᾶς ἵν' ἕσταμεν.
ah-me I-understand indeed of-misfortune where we-stand

ἴθ', ὦ τέκνον, πατὴρ γὰρ οὐκέτ' ἔστι σοι·
go O child father for no-longer is for-you

κάλει τὸ πᾶν μοι σπέρμα σῶν ὁμαιμόνων,
call the whole for-me seed of-your brothers

κάλει δὲ τὴν τάλαιναν Ἀλκμήνην, Διὸς
call and the wretched Alcmene of-Zeus

μάτην ἄκοιτιν, ὡς τελευταίαν ἐμοῦ
in-vain wife so-that last of-me

φήμην πύθησθε θεσφάτων ὅσ' οἶδ' ἐγώ.
utterance you-may-learn of-oracles what I-know I

ΥΛΛΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ οὔτε μήτηρ ἐνθάδ᾽, ἀλλ᾽ ἐπακτίᾳ
but neither mother here but at-seaside
Τίρυνθι συμβέβηκεν ὥστ᾽ ἔχειν ἕδραν.
at-Tiryns has-come so-as to-have abode
παίδων δὲ τοὺς μὲν ξυλλαβοῦσ᾽ αὐτὴ τρέφει,
of-children and the(-ones) indeed having-taken herself rears
τοὺς δ᾽ ἂν τὸ Θήβης ἄστυ ναίοντας μάθοις·
the(-others) and — the of-Thebes town dwelling you-would-learn
ἡμεῖς δ᾽ ὅσοι πάρεσμεν, εἴ τι χρή, πάτερ, 1155
we and as-many-as are-present if anything (one)-must father
πράσσειν, κλύοντες ἐξυπηρετήσομεν.
to-do hearing will-serve
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ σὺ δ᾽ οὖν ἄκουε τοὔργον· ἐξήκεις δ᾽ ἵνα
you and then hear the-matter you-have-come and where
φανεῖς ὁποῖος ὢν ἀνὴρ ἐμὸς καλεῖ.
you-will-be-shown of-what-sort being man mine you-are-called
ἐμοὶ γὰρ ἦν πρόφαντον ἐκ πατρὸς πάλαι,
to-me for was foretold from father long-ago
τῶν ἐμπνεόντων μηδενὸς θανεῖν ὕπο, 1160
of-the(-ones) breathing none to-die by
ἀλλ᾽ ὅστις Ἅιδου φθίμενος οἰκήτωρ πέλοι.
but whoever of-Hades dead dweller might-be
ὅδ᾽ οὖν ὁ θὴρ Κένταυρος, ὡς τὸ θεῖον ἦν
this then the beast Centaur as the divine was
πρόφαντον, οὕτω ζῶντά μ᾽ ἔκτεινεν θανών.
foretold thus living me killed dead
φανῶ δ᾽ ἐγὼ τούτοισι συμβαίνοντ᾽ ἴσα
I-will-show and I with-these coinciding equal
μαντεῖα καινά, τοῖς πάλαι ξυνήγορα, 1165
oracles new to-the(-ones) of-old agreeing

ἃ τῶν ὀρείων καὶ χαμαικοιτῶν ἐγὼ
which of-the mountain-dwelling and ground-sleeping I
Σελλῶν ἐσελθὼν ἄλσος εἰσεγραψάμην
of-Selli having-entered grove wrote-down
πρὸς τῆς πατρῴας καὶ πολυγλώσσου δρυός,
from the paternal and many-tongued oak
ἥ μοι χρόνῳ τῷ ζῶντι καὶ παρόντι νῦν
which to-me at-time the living and present now
ἔφασκε μόχθων τῶν ἐφεστώτων ἐμοὶ
said of-toils the set-over me
λύσιν τελεῖσθαι· καὐδόκουν πράξειν καλῶς.
release to-be-accomplished and-I-thought to-fare well
τὸ δ' ἦν ἄρ' οὐδὲν ἄλλο πλὴν θανεῖν ἐμέ.
it but was then nothing else except to-die me
τοῖς γὰρ θανοῦσι μόχθος οὐ προσγίγνεται.
for-the for dead toil not comes-upon
ταῦτ' οὖν ἐπειδὴ λαμπρὰ συμβαίνει, τέκνον,
this then since clear coincide child
δεῖ σ' αὖ γενέσθαι τῷδε τἀνδρὶ σύμμαχον
it-is-needful you again to-become for-this the-man ally
καὶ μὴ 'πιμεῖναι τοὐμὸν ὀξῦναι στόμα,
and not to-wait my to-sharpen mouth
ἀλλ' αὐτὸν εἰκαθόντα συμπράσσειν, νόμον
but yourself yielding to-help-do law
κάλλιστον ἐξευρόντα, πειθαρχεῖν πατρί.
fairest having-found-out to-obey father
ΤΑΛΟΣ ἀλλ', ὦ πάτερ, ταρβῶ μὲν εἰς λόγου στάσιν
but O father I-fear indeed into of-word stand
τοιάνδ' ἐπελθών, πείσομαι δ' ἅ σοι δοκεῖ.
such having-come I-will-obey and what to-you seems(-good)

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἔμβαλλε χεῖρα δεξιὰν πρώτιστά μοι·
put-in hand right first-of-all for-me

ΤΛΛΟΣ ὡς πρὸς τί πίστιν τήνδ' ἄγαν ἐπιστρέφεις;
why for what pledge this too-much do-you-urge

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οὐ θᾶσσον οἴσεις μηδ' ἀπιστήσεις ἐμοί;
not quicker will-you-bring nor will-you-disbelieve me

ΤΛΛΟΣ ἰδοὺ προτείνω, κοὐδὲν ἀντειρήσεταί.
behold I-hold-out and-nothing will-be-gainsaid

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ὄμνυ Διός νυν τοῦ με φύσαντος κάρα,
swear by-Zeus now the(-one) me having-begotten head

ΤΛΛΟΣ ἦ μὴν τί δράσειν; καὶ τόδ' ἐξειρήσεται;
truly indeed what to-do and this will-be-told

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἦ μὴν ἐμοὶ τὸ λεχθὲν ἔργον ἐκτελεῖν.
truly indeed for-me the spoken deed to-accomplish

ΤΛΛΟΣ ὄμνυμ' ἔγωγε, Ζῆν' ἔχων ἐπώμοτον.
I-swear I-for-my-part Zeus having as-witness

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ εἰ δ' ἐκτὸς ἔλθοις, πημονὰς εὔχου λαβεῖν.
if and outside you-should-go woes pray to-receive

ΤΛΛΟΣ οὐ μὴ λάβω· δράσω γάρ· εὔχομαι δ' ὅμως·
not — I-shall-receive I-will-do for I-pray and nevertheless

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οἶσθ' οὖν τὸν Οἴτης Ζηνὸς ὕψιστον πάγον;
do-you-know then the of-Oeta of-Zeus highest crag

ΤΛΛΟΣ οἶδ', ὡς θυτήρ γε πολλὰ δὴ σταθεὶς ἄνω.
I-know as sacrificer at-least often indeed having-stood above

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἐνταῦθά νυν χρὴ τοὐμὸν ἐξάραντά σε
there now it-is-needful my having-lifted you

σῶμ' αὐτόχειρα καὶ ξὺν οἷς χρῄζεις φίλων.
body with-your-own-hand and with whom you-want of-friends

πολλὴν μὲν ὕλην τῆς βαθυρρίζου δρυὸς
much indeed wood of-the deep-rooted oak

κείραντα, πολλὸν δ' ἄρσεν' ἐκτεμόνθ' ὁμοῦ
having-cut much and male having-cut-out together
ἄγριον ἔλαιον, σῶμα τοὐμὸν ἐμβαλεῖν,
wild olive body my to-throw-on
καὶ πευκίνης λαβόντα λαμπάδος σέλας
and of-pine having-taken torch gleam
πρῆσαι. γόου δὲ μηδὲν εἰσίτω δάκρυ,
to-burn of-wailing and no let-enter tear
ἀλλ' ἀστένακτος κἀδάκρυτος, εἴπερ εἶ
but unmoaning and-tearless if-indeed you-are
τοῦδ' ἀνδρός, ἔρξον· εἰ δὲ μή, μενῶ σ' ἐγὼ
of-this man do(-it) if but not I-will-await you I
καὶ νέρθεν ὢν ἀραῖος εἰσαεὶ βαρύς.
even below being curse-laden forever heavy
ΤΛΛΟΣ οἴμοι, πάτερ, τί δ' εἶπας; οἷά μ' εἴργασαι.
ah-me father what and did-you-say what-things me you-have-done
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ὁποῖα δραστέ' ἐστίν· εἰ δὲ μή, πατρὸς
what-sort to-be-done are if but not of-father
ἄλλου γενοῦ του μηδ' ἐμὸς κληθῇς ἔτι.
other become of-some nor mine be-called any-longer
ΤΛΛΟΣ οἴμοι μάλ' αὖθις, οἷά μ' ἐκκαλεῖ, πάτερ,
ah-me very again what-things me you-summon father
φονέα γενέσθαι καὶ παλαμναῖον σέθεν.
murderer to-become and blood-guilty of-you
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οὐ δῆτ' ἔγωγ', ἀλλ' ὧν ἔχω παιώνιον
not then I-for-my-part but of-what(-things) I-have healer
καὶ μοῦνον ἰατῆρα τῶν ἐμῶν κακῶν.
and only physician of-the my ills
ΤΛΛΟΣ καὶ πῶς ὑπαίθων σῶμ' ἂν ἰώμην τὸ σόν;
and how setting-fire-under body — could-I-heal the your

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἀλλ᾽ εἰ φοβεῖ πρὸς τοῦτο, τἄλλα γ᾽ ἔργασαι.
but if you-fear at this the-rest at-least do

ΤΛΛΟΣ φορᾶς γέ τοι φθόνησις οὐ γενήσεται.
of-carrying at-least surely refusal not will-be

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἦ καὶ πυρᾶς πλήρωμα τῆς εἰρημένης;
— also of-pyre the-filling of-the spoken

ΤΛΛΟΣ ὅσον γ᾽ ἂν αὐτὸς μὴ ποτιψαύων χεροῖν·
as-much at-least — myself not touching with-hands

τὰ δ᾽ ἄλλα πράξω κοὐ καμεῖ τοὐμὸν μέρος. 1215
the and rest I-will-do and-not will-fail my part

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἀρκέσει καὶ ταῦτα· πρόσνειμαι δέ μοι
but will-suffice even this add and for-me

χάριν βραχεῖαν πρὸς μακροῖς ἄλλοις διδούς.
favor brief to long others giving

ΤΛΛΟΣ εἰ καὶ μακρὰ κάρτ᾽ ἐστίν, ἐργασθήσεται.
if even long very it-is it-will-be-done

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ τὴν Εὐρυτείαν οἶσθα δῆτα παρθένον;
the Eurytian you-know then maiden

ΤΛΛΟΣ Ἰόλην ἔλεξας, ὥς γ᾽ ἐπεικάζειν ἐμέ. 1220
Iole you-have-said so-as at-least to-guess me

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἔγνως. τοσοῦτον δή σ᾽ ἐπισκήπτω, τέκνον·
you-have-understood so-much indeed you I-charge child

ταύτην ἐμοῦ θανόντος, εἴπερ εὐσεβεῖν
her me having-died if-indeed to-be-pious

βούλει, πατρῴων ὁρκίων μεμνημένος,
you-wish of-paternal oaths mindful

προσθοῦ δάμαρτα, μηδ᾽ ἀπιστήσῃς πατρί·
take-to-yourself as-wife nor disobey father

μηδ᾽ ἄλλος ἀνδρῶν τοῖς ἐμοῖς πλευροῖς ὁμοῦ 1225
nor other of-men by-the my sides together

κλιθεῖσαν αὐτὴν ἀντὶ σοῦ λάβῃ ποτέ,
having-lain her instead-of you may-take ever
ἀλλ᾽ αὐτός, ὦ παῖ, τοῦτο κήδευσον λέχος.
but yourself O son this take-in-marriage bed
πείθου· τὸ γάρ τοι μεγάλα πιστεύσαντ᾽ ἐμοὶ
obey the for surely in-great(-things) having-trusted me
σμικροῖς ἀπιστεῖν τὴν πάρος συγχεῖ χάριν.
in-small(-things) to-distrust the earlier confounds favor
ΤΛΛΟΣ οἴμοι· τὸ μὲν νοσοῦντι θυμοῦσθαι κακόν,
ah-me the indeed with-sick-man to-be-angry base
τὸ δ᾽ ὧδ᾽ ὁρᾶν φρονοῦντα τίς ποτ᾽ ἂν φέροι;
the but thus to-see thinking who ever — could-bear
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ὡς ἐργασείων οὐδὲν ὧν λέγω θροεῖς.
as-though meaning-to-do nothing of-what I-say you-cry
ΤΛΛΟΣ τίς γάρ ποθ᾽, ἥ μοι μητρὶ μὲν θανεῖν μόνη
who for ever her-who for-me to-mother indeed to-die alone
μεταίτιος σοί τ᾽ αὖθις ὡς ἔχεις ἔχειν,
jointly-to-blame for-you and again as you-are to-be
τίς ταῦτ᾽ ἄν, ὅστις μὴ ᾽ξ ἀλαστόρων νοσοῖ,
who this — whoever not from avengers were-sick
ἕλοιτο; κρεῖσσον κἀμέ γ᾽, ὦ πάτερ, θανεῖν
would-choose better and-me at-least O father to-die
ἢ τοῖσιν ἐχθίστοισι συνναίειν ὁμοῦ.
than with-the most-hated to-live-with together
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἀνὴρ ὅδ᾽, ὡς ἔοικεν, οὐ νεμεῖν ἐμοὶ
the-man this as it-seems not to-grant me
φθίνοντι μοῖραν· ἀλλά τοι θεῶν ἀρὰ
perishing share but surely of-gods curse
μενεῖ σ᾽ ἀπιστήσαντα τοῖς ἐμοῖς λόγοις.
will-await you having-disobeyed the my words

ΥΛΛΟΣ ὤμοι, τάχ᾽, ὡς ἔοικας, ὡς νοσεῖς φράσεις.
ah-me soon as you-seem how you-are-sick you-will-show

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ σὺ γάρ μ᾽ ἀπ᾽ εὐνασθέντος ἐκκινεῖς κακοῦ.
you for me from lulled you-stir-up evil

ΥΛΛΟΣ δείλαιος, ὡς ἐς πολλὰ τἀπορεῖν ἔχω.
wretched how into many the-being-at-a-loss I-have

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οὐ γὰρ δικαιοῖς τοῦ φυτεύσαντος κλύειν.
not for you-deem-just of-the(-one) having-begotten to-hear

ΥΛΛΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἐκδιδαχθῶ δῆτα δυσσεβεῖν, πάτερ; 1245
but am-I-to-be-taught then to-be-impious father

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ οὐ δυσσέβεια, τοὐμὸν εἰ τέρψεις κέαρ.
not impiety my if you-will-gladden heart

ΥΛΛΟΣ πράσσειν ἄνωγας οὖν με πανδίκως τάδε;
to-do do-you-bid then me in-all-justice this

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἔγωγε· τούτων μάρτυρας καλῶ θεούς.
I-for-my-part of-these as-witnesses I-call gods

ΥΛΛΟΣ τοιγὰρ ποήσω κοὐκ ἀπώσομαι, τὸ σὸν
therefore I-will-do and-not I-will-refuse the your
θεοῖσι δεικνὺς ἔργον· οὐ γὰρ ἄν ποτε 1250
to-gods showing deed not for — ever
κακὸς φανείην σοί γε πιστεύσας, πάτερ.
base I-could-appear to-you at-least having-obeyed father

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ καλῶς τελευτᾷς, κἀπὶ τοῖσδε τὴν χάριν
well you-end and-to these the favor
ταχεῖαν, ὦ παῖ, πρόσθες, ὡς πρὶν ἐμπεσεῖν
swift O son add so-that before to-fall-on
σπαραγμὸν ἤ τιν᾽ οἶστρον, ἐς πυράν με θῇς.
spasm or some frenzy onto pyre me you-may-set
ἄγ᾽ ἐγκονεῖτ᾽, αἴρεσθε· παῦλά τοι κακῶν 1255
come hasten lift-up rest surely of-ills

αὕτη, τελευτὴ τοῦδε τἀνδρὸς ὑστάτη.
this end of-this the-man last

ΤΛΛΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ οὐδὲν εἴργει σοὶ τελειοῦσθαι τάδε,
but nothing prevents for-you to-be-fulfilled this

ἐπεὶ κελεύεις κἀξαναγκάζεις, πάτερ.
since you-bid and-compel father

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ἄγε νυν, πρὶν τήνδ᾽ ἀνακινῆσαι
come now before this to-stir-up

νόσον, ὦ ψυχὴ σκληρά, χάλυβος
sickness O soul hard of-steel

λιθοκόλλητον στόμιον παρέχουσ᾽,
stone-set curb providing

ἀνάπαυε βοήν, ὡς ἐπίχαρτον
cease cry as joyful

τελέουσ᾽ ἀεκούσιον ἔργον.
accomplishing unwilling deed

ΤΛΛΟΣ αἴρετ᾽, ὀπαδοί, μεγάλην μὲν ἐμοὶ
lift(-him) attendants great indeed to-me

τούτων θέμενοι συγγνωμοσύνην,
of-these having-made fellow-feeling

μεγάλην δὲ θεῶν ἀγνωμοσύνην
great and of-gods unfeelingness

εἰδότες ἔργων τῶν πρασσομένων,
knowing of-deeds of-the being-done

οἳ φύσαντες καὶ κληζόμενοι
who having-begotten and being-called

πατέρες τοιαῦτ᾽ ἐφορῶσι πάθη.
fathers such look-upon sufferings

τὰ μὲν οὖν μέλλοντ᾽ οὐδεὶς ἐφορᾷ,
the(-things) indeed then to-come no-one looks-on

τὰ δὲ νῦν ἑστῶτ' οἰκτρὰ μὲν ἡμῖν,
the(-things) and now standing pitiable indeed for-us
αἰσχρὰ δ' ἐκείνοις,
shameful and for-them
χαλεπώτατα δ' οὖν ἀνδρῶν πάντων
hardest and then of-men all
τῷ τήνδ' ἄτην ὑπέχοντι.
for-the(-one) this ruin bearing
λείπου μηδὲ σύ, παρθέν', ἀπ' οἴκων,
be-left nor you maiden from house
μεγάλους μὲν ἰδοῦσα νέους θανάτους,
great indeed having-seen new deaths
πολλὰ δὲ πήματα καὶ καινοπαθῆ,
many and woes and new-suffered
κοὐδὲν τούτων ὅ τι μὴ Ζεύς.
and-nothing of-these which — not Zeus
