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Ajax and Philoctetes

Sophocles · Euripides

ΑΙΑΣ
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ

Ajax and Philoctetes

With the Electra of Sophocles and the Electra of Euripides

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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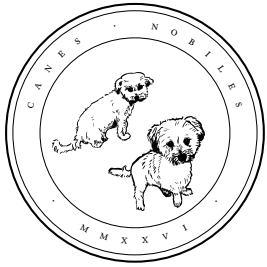

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Lines the editors seclude are not printed; † marks
a word they obelize; ∗∗∗ marks a gap in the text.

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SOPHOCLES

ΑΙΑΣ

Ajax

I · ATHENA AND ODYSSEUS

Athena finds Odysseus tracking Ajax by the hero's tent at Troy and tells him what he wants to know: angered that the arms of Achilles went to Odysseus, Ajax set out by night to kill the generals, but she sent madness on him, and he slaughtered the army's cattle and their herdsmen, thinking them his enemies. She calls Ajax out, and he boasts of killing the sons of Atreus and of the whip waiting for Odysseus inside. Odysseus pities him, seeing in him what every mortal is. The chorus of Salaminian sailors arrives, troubled by the rumor that Odysseus spreads.

ΑΘΗΝΑ ἀεὶ μέν, ὦ παῖ Λαρτίου, δέδορκά σε
always indeed O son of-Laertes I-have-seen you
πεῖράν τιν' ἐχθρῶν ἁρπάσαι θηρώμενον·
attempt some on-enemies to-snatch hunting
καὶ νῦν ἐπὶ σκηναῖς σε ναυτικαῖς ὁρῶ
and now at tents you naval I-see
Αἴαντος, ἔνθα τάξιν ἐσχάτην ἔχει,
of-Ajax where post last he-holds
πάλαι κυνηγετοῦντα καὶ μετρούμενον
long-since hunting and measuring
ἴχνη τὰ κείνου νεοχάραχθ', ὅπως ἴδῃς
tracks the his newly-printed so-that you-may-see
εἴτ' ἔνδον εἴτ' οὐκ ἔνδον. εὖ δέ σ' ἐκφέρει
whether within or not within well and you leads
κυνὸς Λακαίνης ὥς τις εὔρινος βάσις.
of-hound Laconian as some keen-scented course
ἔνδον γὰρ ἀνὴρ ἄρτι τυγχάνει, κάρα
within for the-man just-now happens head
στάζων ἱδρῶτι καὶ χέρας ξιφοκτόνους.
dripping with-sweat and hands sword-slaying

καί σ' οὐδὲν εἴσω τῆσδε παπταίνειν πύλης
and you nothing within this to-peer-in gate
ἔτ' ἔργον ἐστίν, ἐννέπειν δ' ὅτου χάριν
still need is to-tell and of-what for-the-sake
σπουδὴν ἔθου τήνδ', ὡς παρ' εἰδυίας μάθῃς.
eagerness you-have-set this so-that from one-who-knows you-may-learn
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ὦ φθέγμ' Ἀθάνας, φιλτάτης ἐμοὶ θεῶν,
O voice of-Athena dearest to-me of-gods
ὡς εὐμαθές σου, κἂν ἄποπτος ᾖς ὅμως,
how easily-known your even-if out-of-sight you-be nevertheless
φώνημ' ἀκούω καὶ ξυναρπάζω φρενὶ
voice I-hear and seize with-mind
χαλκοστόμου κώδωνος ὡς Τυρσηνικῆς.
of-bronze-mouthed trumpet as Tyrrhenian
καὶ νῦν ἐπέγνως εὖ μ' ἐπ' ἀνδρὶ δυσμενεῖ
and now you-have-recognized well me on man hostile
βάσιν κυκλοῦντ', Αἴαντι τῷ σακεσφόρῳ·
step circling to-Ajax the shield-bearer
κεῖνον γάρ, οὐδέν' ἄλλον, ἰχνεύω πάλαι.
him for no other I-track long-since
νυκτὸς γὰρ ἡμᾶς τῆσδε πρᾶγος ἄσκοπον
by-night for us this deed unintelligible
ἔχει περάνας, εἴπερ εἴργασται τάδε·
has having-done if-indeed he-has-done this
ἴσμεν γὰρ οὐδὲν τρανές, ἀλλ' ἀλώμεθα·
we-know for nothing clear but we-wander
κἀγὼ 'θελοντὴς τῷδ' ὑπεζύγην πόνῳ.
and-I willingly to-this was-yoked to-labor
ἐφθαρμένας γὰρ ἀρτίως εὑρίσκομεν
destroyed for just-now we-find

λείας ἁπάσας καὶ κατηναρισμένας
the-spoils all and slaughtered
ἐκ χειρὸς αὐτοῖς ποιμνίων ἐπιστάταις.
by hand with-themselves of-the-flocks guardians
τήνδ᾽ οὖν ἐκείνῳ πᾶς τις αἰτίαν νέμει.
this then to-him every one blame assigns
καί μοί τις ὀπτὴρ αὐτὸν εἰσιδὼν μόνον
and to-me some watcher him having-seen alone
πηδῶντα πεδία σὺν νεορράντῳ ξίφει
leaping-over plains with freshly-dripping sword
φράζει τε κἀδήλωσεν· εὐθέως δ᾽ ἐγὼ
tells and and-showed at-once and I
κατ᾽ ἴχνος ᾄσσω, καὶ τὰ μὲν σημαίνομαι,
on track I-dart and the indeed I-make-out
τὰ δ᾽ ἐκπέπληγμαι κοὐκ ἔχω μαθεῖν ὅτου.
the but I-am-bewildered and-not I-have to-learn whose
καιρὸν δ᾽ ἐφήκεις· πάντα γὰρ τά τ᾽ οὖν πάρος
in-season and you-have-come all for the both then before
τά τ᾽ εἰσέπειτα σῇ κυβερνῶμαι χερί.
the and hereafter by-your I-am-steered hand
ΑΘΗΝΑ ἔγνων, Ὀδυσσεῦ, καὶ πάλαι φύλαξ ἔβην
I-knew Odysseus and long-since guard I-came
τῇ σῇ πρόθυμος εἰς ὁδὸν κυναγίᾳ.
to-the your eager on road hunt
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἦ καί, φίλη δέσποινα, πρὸς καιρὸν πονῶ;
— and dear mistress to the-purpose do-I-toil
ΑΘΗΝΑ ὡς ἔστιν ἀνδρὸς τοῦδε τἄργα ταὐτά σοι.
since are of-man this the-deeds these to-you
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ καὶ πρὸς τί δυσλόγιστον ὧδ᾽ ἦξεν χέρα;
and to what senseless thus he-darted hand

ΑΘΗΝΑ χόλῳ βαρυνθεὶς τῶν Ἀχιλλείων ὅπλων.
by-wrath weighed-down of-the of-Achilles arms

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ τί δῆτα ποίμναις τήνδ' ἐπεμπίπτει βάσιν;
why then on-the-flocks this he-falls-upon step

ΑΘΗΝΑ δοκῶν ἐν ὑμῖν χεῖρα χραίνεσθαι φόνῳ.
thinking in you hand to-be-staining with-murder

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἦ καὶ τὸ βούλευμ' ὡς ἐπ' Ἀργείοις τόδ' ἦν;
— and the plan as against Argives this was

ΑΘΗΝΑ κἂν ἐξεπράξατ', εἰ κατημέλησ' ἐγώ.
and he-would-have-accomplished-it if had-been-careless I

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ποίαισι τόλμαις ταῖσδε καὶ φρενῶν θράσει;
with-what daring this and of-mind boldness

ΑΘΗΝΑ νύκτωρ ἐφ' ὑμᾶς δόλιος ὁρμᾶται μόνος.
by-night against you guileful he-rushes alone

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἦ καὶ παρέστη κἀπὶ τέρμ' ἀφίκετο;
— and he-stood-near and-to goal he-came

ΑΘΗΝΑ καὶ δὴ 'πὶ δισσαῖς ἦν στρατηγίσιν πύλαις.
and indeed at double he-was of-the-generals gates

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ καὶ πῶς ἐπέσχε χεῖρα μαιμῶσαν φόνου;
and how did-he-check hand eager of-murder

ΑΘΗΝΑ ἐγώ σφ' ἀπείργω, δυσφόρους ἐπ' ὄμμασι
I him keep-off grievous on eyes

γνώμας βαλοῦσα τῆς ἀνηκέστου χαρᾶς,
fancies having-cast of-the incurable joy

καὶ πρός τε ποίμνας ἐκτρέπω σύμμικτά τε
and to both flocks I-turn mixed and

λείας ἄδαστα βουκόλων φρουρήματα·
of-booty undivided of-herdsmen charges

ἔνθ' εἰσπεσὼν ἔκειρε πολύκερων φόνον
there falling-on he-hewed many-horned slaughter

κύκλῳ ῥαχίζων· κἀδόκει μὲν ἔσθ' ὅτε
in-a-circle breaking-spines and-he-thought indeed there-were times
δισσοὺς Ἀτρείδας αὐτόχειρ κτείνειν ἔχων,
two sons-of-Atreus with-his-own-hand to-kill holding
ὅτ' ἄλλοτ' ἄλλον ἐμπίτνων στρατηλατῶν.
when at-one-time another falling-on of-the-generals
ἐγὼ δὲ φοιτῶντ' ἄνδρα μανιάσιν νόσοις
I and ranging man in-maniac diseases
ὤτρυνον, εἰσέβαλλον εἰς ἕρκη κακά.
urged-on drove into nets evil
κἄπειτ' ἐπειδὴ τοῦδ' ἐλώφησεν πόνου,
and-then when from-this he-rested toil
τοὺς ζῶντας αὖ δεσμοῖσι συνδήσας βοῶν
the living again with-bonds having-bound of-oxen
ποίμνας τε πάσας εἰς δόμους κομίζεται,
flocks and all to house carries
ὡς ἄνδρας, οὐχ ὡς εὔκερων ἄγραν ἔχων,
as men not as horned prey having
καὶ νῦν κατ' οἴκους συνδέτους αἰκίζεται.
and now in house bound-together he-torments
δείξω δὲ καὶ σοὶ τήνδε περιφανῆ νόσον,
I-will-show and also to-you this plain disease
ὡς πᾶσιν Ἀργείοισιν εἰσιδὼν θροῇς.
so-that to-all to-Argives having-seen you-may-tell
θαρσῶν δὲ μίμνε μηδὲ συμφορὰν δέχου
taking-heart and stay nor disaster expect
τὸν ἄνδρ'· ἐγὼ γὰρ ὀμμάτων ἀποστρόφους
the man I for of-eyes turned-away
αὐγὰς ἀπείρξω σὴν πρόσοψιν εἰσιδεῖν.
gaze will-keep-off your face to-see

οὗτος, σὲ τὸν τὰς αἰχμαλωτίδας χέρας
you you the the captive hands
δεσμοῖς ἀπευθύνοντα προσμολεῖν καλῶ·
with-bonds binding to-come-near I-call
Αἴαντα φωνῶ· στεῖχε δωμάτων πάρος.
Ajax I-call come house before

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ τί δρᾷς, Ἀθάνα; μηδαμῶς σφ' ἔξω κάλει.
what are-you-doing Athena by-no-means him outside call

75 ΑΘΗΝΑ οὐ σῖγ' ἀνέξει μηδὲ δειλίαν ἀρεῖ;
not silent will-you-bear nor cowardice will-you-incur

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ μὴ πρὸς θεῶν, ἀλλ' ἔνδον ἀρκείτω μένων.
not by gods but within let-it-suffice remaining

ΑΘΗΝΑ τί μὴ γένηται; πρόσθεν οὐκ ἀνὴρ ὅδ' ἦν;
what not may-happen before not man this was

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἐχθρός γε τῷδε τἀνδρὶ καὶ τανῦν ἔτι.
enemy at-least to-this the-man and even-now still

ΑΘΗΝΑ οὔκουν γέλως ἥδιστος εἰς ἐχθροὺς γελᾶν;
not-then laughter sweetest at enemies to-laugh

80 ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἐμοὶ μὲν ἀρκεῖ τοῦτον ἐν δόμοις μένειν.
to-me indeed it-suffices him in house to-remain

ΑΘΗΝΑ μεμηνότ' ἄνδρα περιφανῶς ὀκνεῖς ἰδεῖν;
maddened man openly do-you-shrink to-see

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ φρονοῦντα γάρ νιν οὐκ ἂν ἐξέστην ὄκνῳ.
sane for him not — would-I-have-shrunk in-fear

ΑΘΗΝΑ ἀλλ' οὐδὲ νῦν σε μὴ παρόντ' ἴδῃ πέλας.
but not-even now you — present he-shall-see near

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ πῶς, εἴπερ ὀφθαλμοῖς γε τοῖς αὐτοῖς ὁρᾷ;
how if-indeed with-eyes at-least the same he-sees

85 ΑΘΗΝΑ ἐγὼ σκοτώσω βλέφαρα καὶ δεδορκότα.
I will-darken eyes even seeing

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ γένοιτο μέντἂν πᾶν θεοῦ τεχνωμένου.
might-happen surely-then anything god contriving

ΑΘΗΝΑ σίγα νυν ἑστὼς καὶ μέν᾽ ὡς κυρεῖς ἔχων.
silent now standing and stay as you-chance being

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ μένοιμ᾽ ἄν· ἤθελον δ᾽ ἂν ἐκτὸς ὢν τυχεῖν.
I-would-stay — I-would-wish and — outside being to-be

ΑΘΗΝΑ ὦ οὗτος, Αἴας, δεύτερόν σε προσκαλῶ.
O you Ajax a-second-time you I-call

τί βαιὸν οὕτως ἐντρέπει τῆς συμμάχου; 90
why little thus do-you-regard the ally

ΑΙΑΣ ὦ χαῖρ᾽ Ἀθάνα, χαῖρε Διογενὲς τέκνον,
O hail Athena hail Zeus-born child

ὡς εὖ παρέστης· καί σε παγχρύσοις ἐγὼ
how well you-stood-by and you with-all-golden I

στέψω λαφύροις τῆσδε τῆς ἄγρας χάριν.
will-crown with-spoils of-this the hunt for-the-sake

ΑΘΗΝΑ καλῶς ἔλεξας· ἀλλ᾽ ἐκεῖνό μοι φράσον,
well you-said but that to-me tell

ἔβαψας ἔγχος εὖ πρὸς Ἀργείων στρατῷ; 95
did-you-dip spear well on of-Argives the-host

ΑΙΑΣ κόμπος πάρεστι κοὐκ ἀπαρνοῦμαι τὸ μή.
boast is-present and-not I-deny the not

ΑΘΗΝΑ ἦ καὶ πρὸς Ἀτρείδαισιν ᾔχμασας χέρα;
— and against the-sons-of-Atreus did-you-arm hand

ΑΙΑΣ ὥστ᾽ οὔποτ᾽ Αἴανθ᾽ οἵδ᾽ ἀτιμάσουσ᾽ ἔτι.
so-that never Ajax these will-dishonor still

ΑΘΗΝΑ τεθνᾶσιν ἄνδρες, ὡς τὸ σὸν ξυνῆκ᾽ ἐγώ.
are-dead the-men as the your I-understand I

ΑΙΑΣ θανόντες ἤδη τἄμ᾽ ἀφαιρείσθων ὅπλα. 100
having-died now my let-them-take-away arms

ΑΘΗΝΑ εἶεν, τί γὰρ δὴ παῖς ὁ τοῦ Λαερτίου,
well what for indeed son the — of-Laertes
ποῦ σοι τύχης ἕστηκεν; ἢ πέφευγέ σε;
where for-you of-fortune does-he-stand or has-he-escaped you
ΑΙΑΣ ἦ τοὐπίτριπτον κίναδος ἐξήρου μ᾽ ὅπου;
— the-accursed fox you-asked me where
ΑΘΗΝΑ ἔγωγ᾽· Ὀδυσσέα τὸν σὸν ἐνστάτην λέγω.
I-for-my-part Odysseus the your adversary I-mean
105 ΑΙΑΣ ἥδιστος, ὦ δέσποινα, δεσμώτης ἔσω
sweetest O mistress prisoner within
θακεῖ· θανεῖν γὰρ αὐτὸν οὔ τί πω θέλω.
sits to-die for him not at-all yet I-wish
ΑΘΗΝΑ πρὶν ἂν τί δράσῃς ἢ τί κερδάνῃς πλέον;
before — what you-do or what you-gain more
ΑΙΑΣ πρὶν ἂν δεθεὶς πρὸς κίον᾽ ἑρκείου στέγης.
before — bound to pillar of-the-court-of the-house
ΑΘΗΝΑ τί δῆτα τὸν δύστηνον ἐργάσει κακόν;
what then the wretched will-you-do evil
110 ΑΙΑΣ μάστιγι πρῶτον νῶτα φοινιχθεὶς θάνῃ.
with-whip first back reddened he-may-die
ΑΘΗΝΑ μὴ δῆτα τὸν δύστηνον ὧδέ γ᾽ αἰκίσῃ.
not then the wretched thus at-least torture
ΑΙΑΣ χαίρειν, Ἀθάνα, τἄλλ᾽ ἐγώ σ᾽ ἐφίεμαι·
to-rejoice Athena in-the-rest I you bid
κεῖνος δὲ τίσει τήνδε κοὐκ ἄλλην δίκην.
he but shall-pay this and-not other penalty
ΑΘΗΝΑ σὺ δ᾽ οὖν, ἐπειδὴ τέρψις ἥδε σοι τὸ δρᾶν,
you and then since delight this to-you the to-do
115 χρῶ χειρί, φείδου μηδὲν ὧνπερ ἐννοεῖς.
use hand spare nothing of-what-indeed you-intend

ΑΙΑΣ χωρῶ πρὸς ἔργον· σοὶ δὲ τοῦτ' ἐφίεμαι,
I-go to work to-you and this I-enjoin
τοιάνδ' ἀεί μοι σύμμαχον παρεστάναι.
such always to-me ally to-stand-by
ΑΘΗΝΑ ὁρᾷς, Ὀδυσσεῦ, τὴν θεῶν ἰσχὺν ὅση;
you-see Odysseus the of-gods strength how-great
τούτου τίς ἄν σοι τἀνδρὸς ἢ προνούστερος
of-this who — to-you than-the-man either more-foresighted
ἢ δρᾶν ἀμείνων ηὑρέθη τὰ καίρια;
or to-do better was-found the timely-things
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἐγὼ μὲν οὐδέν' οἶδ'· ἐποικτίρω δέ νιν
I indeed no-one know I-pity and him
δύστηνον ἔμπας, καίπερ ὄντα δυσμενῆ,
wretched nevertheless although being hostile
ὁθούνεκ' ἄτῃ συγκατέζευκται κακῇ,
because to-ruin he-is-yoked evil
οὐδὲν τὸ τούτου μᾶλλον ἢ τοὐμὸν σκοπῶν·
nothing the his rather than the-mine considering
ὁρῶ γὰρ ἡμᾶς οὐδὲν ὄντας ἄλλο πλὴν
I-see for us nothing being other except
εἴδωλ' ὅσοιπερ ζῶμεν ἢ κούφην σκιάν.
phantoms as-many-as-indeed live or empty shadow
ΑΘΗΝΑ τοιαῦτα τοίνυν εἰσορῶν ὑπέρκοπον
such then seeing overweening
μηδέν ποτ' εἴπῃς αὐτὸς εἰς θεοὺς ἔπος,
nothing ever say yourself against gods word
μηδ' ὄγκον ἄρῃ μηδέν', εἴ τινος πλέον
nor pride take-on any if than-anyone more
ἢ χειρὶ βρίθεις ἢ μακροῦ πλούτου βάθει.
either in-hand you-are-weighty or of-great wealth by-depth

ὡς ἡμέρα κλίνει τε κἀνάγει πάλιν
since day lays-low and and-raises again
ἅπαντα τἀνθρώπεια· τοὺς δὲ σώφρονας
all the-human-things the and self-controlled
θεοὶ φιλοῦσι καὶ στυγοῦσι τοὺς κακούς.
gods love and hate the bad
ΧΟΡΟΣ Τελαμώνιε παῖ, τῆς ἀμφιρύτου
Telamonian son of-the sea-girt
Σαλαμῖνος ἔχων βάθρον ἀγχιάλου,
of-Salamis holding seat sea-near
σὲ μὲν εὖ πράσσοντ' ἐπιχαίρω·
over-you indeed well faring I-rejoice
σὲ δ' ὅταν πληγὴ Διὸς ἢ ζαμενὴς
you and when stroke of-Zeus or violent
λόγος ἐκ Δαναῶν κακόθρους ἐπιβῇ,
rumor from Danaans evil-voiced comes-upon
μέγαν ὄκνον ἔχω καὶ πεφόβημαι
great fear I-have and am-afraid
πτηνῆς ὡς ὄμμα πελείας.
winged like eye of-dove
ὡς καὶ τῆς νῦν φθιμένης νυκτὸς
so also of-the now passed night
μεγάλοι θόρυβοι κατέχουσ' ἡμᾶς
great tumults hold us
ἐπὶ δυσκλείᾳ, σὲ τὸν ἱππομανῆ
to disgrace you the horse-mad
λειμῶν' ἐπιβάντ' ὀλέσαι Δαναῶν
meadow having-entered to-have-destroyed of-Danaans
βοτὰ καὶ λείαν,
cattle and spoil

ἥπερ δορίληπτος ἔτ' ἦν λοιπή,
which-indeed spear-won still was left
κτείνοντ' αἴθωνι σιδήρῳ.
killing with-blazing iron
τοιούσδε λόγους ψιθύρους πλάσσων
such words whispered fashioning
εἰς ὦτα φέρει πᾶσιν Ὀδυσσεύς,
to ears brings to-all Odysseus
καὶ σφόδρα πείθει· περὶ γὰρ σοῦ νῦν
and greatly persuades about for you now
εὔπειστα λέγει, καὶ πᾶς ὁ κλύων
easily-believed he-says and every the hearing
τοῦ λέξαντος χαίρει μᾶλλον
than-the having-said rejoices more
τοῖς σοῖς ἄχεσιν καθυβρίζων.
at-the your griefs exulting
τῶν γὰρ μεγάλων ψυχῶν ἐὶς
the for great souls aiming
οὐκ ἂν ἁμάρτοις· κατὰ δ' ἄν τις ἐμοῦ
not — would-you-miss against but — anyone me
τοιαῦτα λέγων οὐκ ἂν πείθοι·
such-things saying not — would-persuade
πρὸς γὰρ τὸν ἔχονθ' ὁ φθόνος ἕρπει.
to for the having the envy creeps
καίτοι σμικροὶ μεγάλων χωρὶς
and-yet small great without
σφαλερὸν πύργου ῥῦμα πέλονται·
precarious of-tower defense are
μετὰ γὰρ μεγάλων βαιὸς ἄριστ' ἂν
with for great small best —

καὶ μέγας ὀρθοῖθ' ὑπὸ μικροτέρων.
and great would-be-upheld by smaller
ἀλλ' οὐ δυνατὸν τοὺς ἀνοήτους
but not possible the foolish
τούτων γνώμας προδιδάσκειν.
of-these judgments to-teach-beforehand
ὑπὸ τοιούτων ἀνδρῶν θορυβεῖ
by such men you-are-clamored-at
χἠμεῖς οὐδὲν σθένομεν πρὸς ταῦτ'
and-we nothing are-strong against this
ἀπαλέξασθαι σοῦ χωρίς, ἄναξ.
to-ward-off you without lord
ἀλλ' ὅτε γὰρ δὴ τὸ σὸν ὄμμ' ἀπέδραν,
but when for indeed the your eye they-escape
παταγοῦσιν ἅπερ πτηνῶν ἀγέλαι·
they-chatter like of-winged-birds flocks
μέγαν αἰγυπιὸν δ' ὑποδείσαντες
great vulture but fearing
τάχ' ἂν ἐξαίφνης, εἰ σὺ φανείης,
quickly — suddenly if you should-appear
σιγῇ πτήξειαν ἄφωνοι.
in-silence they-would-cower voiceless

The sailors ask what god drove Ajax against the herds, Artemis or Ares, if the tale is true. They beg him to come out of his tent and stop the slander of the Greeks, which grows while he stays hidden, for his enemies laugh without fear.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἦ ῥά σε Ταυροπόλα Διὸς Ἄρτεμις —
— then you Tauropolos of-Zeus Artemis

ὦ μεγάλα φάτις, ὦ
O great rumor O

μᾶτερ αἰσχύνας ἐμᾶς —
mother of-shame my

ὥρμασε πανδάμους ἐπὶ βοῦς ἀγελαίας,
drove of-all-the-people against cattle of-the-herd

ἦ πού τινος νίκας ἀκάρπωτον χάριν,
— perhaps for-some victory unfruitful thanks

ἤ ῥα κλυτῶν ἐνάρων
or then of-famous spoils

ψευσθεῖσ', ἀδώροις, εἴτ' ἐλαφαβολίας;
cheated without-gifts or of-deer-shooting

ἢ χαλκοθώραξ μή τιν' Ἐνυάλιος
or bronze-cuirassed — some Enyalius

μομφὰν ἔχων ξυνοῦ δορὸς ἐννυχίοις
grievance having of-common spear by-nightly

μαχαναῖς ἐτίσατο λώβαν;
by-devices avenged outrage

οὔ ποτε γὰρ φρενόθεν γ' ἐπ' ἀριστερά,
not ever for from-the-mind at-least to the-left

παῖ Τελαμῶνος, ἔβας
son of-Telamon did-you-go

τόσσον, ἐν ποίμναις πίτνων·
so-far among flocks falling
ἤκοι γὰρ ἂν θεία νόσος· ἀλλ' ἀπερύκοι
might-come for — god-sent sickness but may-ward-off
καὶ Ζεὺς κακὰν καὶ Φοῖβος Ἀργείων φάτιν.
both Zeus evil and Phoebus of-Argives the-rumor
εἰ δ' ὑποβαλλόμενοι
if and suborning
κλέπτουσι μύθους οἱ μεγάλοι βασιλῆς
steal tales the great kings
ἢ τᾶς ἀσώτου Σισυφιδᾶν γενεᾶς,
or of-the profligate of-Sisyphids race
μὴ μή, ἄναξ, ἔθ' ὧδ' ἐφάλοις κλισίαις
not not lord still thus by-the-sea huts
ὄμμ' ἔχων κακὰν φάτιν ἄρῃ.
face keeping evil rumor incur
ἀλλ' ἄνα ἐξ ἑδράνων, ὅπου μακραίωνι
but up from seats where in-long-lasting
στηρίζει ποτὲ τᾷδ' ἀγωνίῳ σχολᾷ
you-are-fixed ever in-this strife leisure
ἄταν οὐρανίαν φλέγων.
ruin heavenly kindling
ἐχθρῶν δ' ὕβρις ὧδ' ἀτάρβητα
of-enemies and insolence thus fearlessly
ὁρμᾶται ἐν εὐανέμοις βάσσαις,
rushes in breezy glens
πάντων καγχαζόντων
all cackling

γλώσσαις βαρυάλγητα·
with-tongues grievous
ἐμοὶ δ' ἄχος ἔστακεν.
to-me and grief is-fixed

III · TECMESSA

Tecmessa, Ajax's captive wife, comes out to the sailors and tells them that great Ajax is lying stricken by a storm of madness.

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ναὸς ἀρωγοὶ τῆς Αἴαντος,
of-ship helpers of-the of-Ajax
γενεᾶς χθονίων ἀπ' Ἐρεχθειδῶν,
race of-earthborn from Erechtheids
ἔχομεν στοναχὰς οἱ κηδόμενοι
we-have laments the caring
τοῦ Τελαμῶνος τηλόθεν οἴκου.
of-the of-Telamon far-off house
νῦν γὰρ ὁ δεινὸς μέγας ὠμοκρατὴς
now for the dread great savage
Αἴας θολερῷ
Ajax with-turbid
κεῖται χειμῶνι νοσήσας.
lies with-storm sick
ΧΟΡΟΣ τί δ' ἐνήλλακται τῆς ἡμερίας
what and has-been-exchanged for-the daily
νὺξ ἥδε βάρος;
night this burden
παῖ τοῦ Φρυγίου Τελεύταντος,
child of-the Phrygian Teleutas

λέγ', ἐπεὶ σὲ λέχος δουριάλωτον
speak since you bed spear-won
στέρξας ἀνέχει θούριος Αἴας·
loving holds bold Ajax
ὥστ' οὐκ ἂν ἄϊδρις ὑπείποις.
so-that not — unknowing you-could-tell

IV · THE SLAUGHTERED FLOCKS

Tecmessa and the chorus exchange laments. She tells them that inside the tent lie the beasts Ajax killed, slaughtered by his own hand, and the sailors see that the rumor was true. They fear for their own lives and think of flight, since the sons of Atreus will stone them along with their lord. Tecmessa tells them that his madness has passed, but that now he grieves, which is a new pain.

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ πῶς δῆτα λέγω λόγον ἄρρητον;
how then shall-I-tell word unspeakable
θανάτῳ γὰρ ἴσον βάρος ἐκπεύσει.
to-death for equal burden you-will-learn
μανίᾳ γὰρ ἁλοὺς ἡμὶν ὁ κλεινὸς
by-madness for seized to-us the famous
νύκτερος Αἴας ἀπελωβήθη.
by-night Ajax was-disgraced
τοιαῦτ' ἂν ἴδοις σκηνῆς ἔνδον
such-things — you-may-see of-the-tent within
χειροδάϊκτα σφάγι' αἱμοβαφῆ,
hand-slain victims blood-dyed
κείνου χρηστήρια τἀνδρός.
his sacrifices of-the-man

ΧΟΡΟΣ οἵαν ἐδήλωσας ἀνέρος αἴθονος
what you-have-revealed of-man fiery
ἀγγελίαν ἄτλατον οὐδὲ φευκτάν,
report unbearable nor escapable
τῶν μεγάλων Δαναῶν ὕπο κληζομέναν,
the great Danaans by noised-abroad
τὰν ὁ μέγας μῦθος ἀέξει.
which the great rumor increases
οἴμοι φοβοῦμαι τὸ προσέρπον· περίφαντος ἀνὴρ
ah-me I-fear the approaching conspicuous the-man
θανεῖται, παραπλάκτῳ χερὶ συγκατακτὰς
will-die with-frenzied hand having-slain
κελαινοῖς ξίφεσιν βοτὰ καὶ βοτῆρας ἱππονώμας.
with-dark swords cattle and herdsmen horse-tending
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ὤμοι· κεῖθεν κεῖθεν ἄρ' ἡμῖν
ah-me thence thence then to-us
δεσμῶτιν ἄγων ἤλυθε ποίμνην·
captive leading came the-flock
ὧν τὴν μὲν ἔσω σφάζ' ἐπὶ γαίας,
of-which some indeed within he-slaughtered on ground
τὰ δὲ πλευροκοπῶν δίχ' ἀνερρήγνυ.
others and smiting-the-ribs apart he-tore
δύο δ' ἀργίποδας κριοὺς ἀνελὼν
two and white-footed rams having-taken
τοῦ μὲν κεφαλὴν καὶ γλῶσσαν ἄκραν
of-one indeed head and tongue tip
ῥιπτεῖ θερίσας, τὸν δ' ὀρθὸν ἄνω
throws having-cut the other upright up
κίονι δήσας
to-pillar having-bound

μέγαν ἱπποδέτην ῥυτῆρα λαβὼν
great horse-tether rein having-taken
παίει λιγυρᾷ μάστιγι διπλῇ,
strikes with-shrill whip double
κακὰ δεννάζων ῥήμαθ', ἃ δαίμων
evil reviling words which a-god
κοὐδεὶς ἀνδρῶν ἐδίδαξεν.
and-no-one of-men taught
245 ΧΟΡΟΣ ὥρα τιν' ἤδη τοι κρᾶτα καλύμμασι
it-is-time for-some already surely head with-veils
κρυψάμενον ποδοῖν κλοπὰν ἀρέσθαι
having-hidden of-feet stealthy-flight to-take
ἢ θοὸν εἰρεσίας ζυγὸν ἑζόμενον
or swift of-oarage bench sitting
250 ποντοπόρῳ ναΐ μεθεῖναι.
to-sea-going to-ship to-let-loose
τοίας ἐρέσσουσιν ἀπειλὰς δικρατεῖς Ἀτρεῖδαι
such they-ply threats twin-ruling sons-of-Atreus
καθ' ἡμῶν· πεφόβημαι λιθόλευστον Ἄρη
against us I-fear stone-stoning Ares
255 ξυναλγεῖν μετὰ τοῦδε τυπείς, τὸν αἶσ' ἄπλατος ἴσχει.
to-share-pain with this-one struck whom fate unapproachable holds
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ οὐκέτι· λαμπρᾶς γὰρ ἄτερ στεροπῆς
no-longer bright for without lightning
ᾄξας ὀξὺς νότος ὡς λήγει,
having-rushed sharp south-wind as ceases
καὶ νῦν φρόνιμος νέον ἄλγος ἔχει·
and now sane new pain he-has
260 τὸ γὰρ ἐσλεύσσειν οἰκεῖα πάθη,
the for to-look-upon one's-own sufferings

μηδενὸς ἄλλου παραπράξαντος,
no-one other having-had-a-hand
μεγάλας ὀδύνας ὑποτείνει.
great pains brings

V · THE NIGHT

Tecmessa tells how Ajax went out in the night with his sword, came back driving cattle, and tortured them as men, speaking to a shadow as he did. When he came to himself and saw the tent full of carcasses, he struck his head and sat among them in silence, then threatened her until she told him all. He groaned as she had never heard him, and she fears he plans something terrible. Ajax is heard crying out within.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ εἰ πέπαυται, κάρτ᾽ ἂν εὐτυχεῖν δοκῶ·
but if he-has-ceased greatly — to-be-fortunate I-think
φρούδου γὰρ ἤδη τοῦ κακοῦ μείων λόγος.
gone for already the evil less account
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ πότερα δ᾽ ἄν, εἰ νέμοι τις αἵρεσιν, λάβοις, 265
which and — if should-give some choice would-you-take
φίλους ἀνιῶν αὐτὸς ἡδονὰς ἔχειν,
friends paining yourself pleasures to-have
ἢ κοινὸς ἐν κοινοῖσι λυπεῖσθαι ξυνών;
or sharing among sharers to-grieve being-with
ΧΟΡΟΣ τό τοι διπλάζον, ὦ γύναι, μεῖζον κακόν.
the surely double O lady greater evil
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ἡμεῖς ἄρ᾽ οὐ νοσοῦντες ἀτώμεσθα νῦν.
we then not being-sick are-ruined now
ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς τοῦτ᾽ ἔλεξας; οὐ κάτοιδ᾽ ὅπως λέγεις. 270
how this did-you-say not I-understand how you-mean

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ἀνὴρ ἐκεῖνος, ἡνίκ᾽ ἦν ἐν τῇ νόσῳ,
the-man that when he-was in the sickness
αὐτὸς μὲν ἥδεθ᾽ οἷσιν εἶχετ᾽ ἐν κακοῖς,
himself indeed was-pleased at-what he-was-held in evils
ἡμᾶς δὲ τοὺς φρονοῦντας ἠνία ξυνών·
us and the sane he-pained being-with
νῦν δ᾽ ὡς ἔληξε κἀνέπνευσε τῆς νόσου,
now and when he-ceased and-breathed-again from-the sickness
κεῖνός τε λύπῃ πᾶς ἐλήλαται κακῇ
he both by-grief wholly is-driven evil
ἡμεῖς θ᾽ ὁμοίως οὐδὲν ἧσσον ἢ πάρος.
we and likewise not-at-all less than before
ἆρ᾽ ἔστι ταῦτα δὶς τόσ᾽ ἐξ ἁπλῶν κακά;
— are this twice so-many from single evils
ΧΟΡΟΣ ξύμφημι δή σοι καὶ δέδοικα μὴ ᾽κ θεοῦ
I-agree indeed with-you and I-fear lest from god
πληγή τις ἥκῃ. πῶς γάρ, εἰ πεπαυμένος
stroke some has-come how for if having-ceased
μηδέν τι μᾶλλον ἢ νοσῶν εὐφραίνεται;
not-at-all at-all more than being-sick he-is-cheered
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ὡς ὧδ᾽ ἐχόντων τῶνδ᾽ ἐπίστασθαί σε χρή.
as thus being these-things to-understand you must
ΧΟΡΟΣ τίς γάρ ποτ᾽ ἀρχὴ τοῦ κακοῦ προσέπτατο;
what for ever beginning of-the evil flew-upon-him
δήλωσον ἡμῖν τοῖς ξυναλγοῦσιν τύχας.
show to-us the sharing-grief fortunes
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ἅπαν μαθήσει τοὔργον ὡς κοινωνὸς ὤν.
all you-will-learn the-deed as partner being
κεῖνος γὰρ ἄκρας νυκτός, ἡνίχ᾽ ἕσπεροι
he for at-the-depth of-night when evening

λαμπτῆρες οὐκέτ᾽ ἦθον, ἄμφηκες λαβὼν
lamps no-longer burned two-edged taking
ἐμαίετ᾽ ἔγχος ἐξόδους ἕρπειν κενάς.
sought sword expeditions to-creep empty
κἀγὼ ᾽πιπλήσσω καὶ λέγω· τί χρῆμα δρᾷς,
and-I rebuke and say what thing are-you-doing
Αἴας; τί τήνδ᾽ ἄκλητος οὔθ᾽ ὑπ᾽ ἀγγέλων
Ajax why this uncalled neither by messengers
κληθεὶς ἀφορμᾷς πεῖραν οὔτε τοῦ κλύων
summoned do-you-set-out attempt nor any hearing
σάλπιγγος; ἀλλὰ νῦν γε πᾶς εὕδει στρατός.
trumpet but now at-least all sleeps army
ὁ δ᾽ εἶπε πρός με βαΐ, ἀεὶ δ᾽ ὑμνούμενα·
he and said to me brief-things always and hymned
γύναι, γυναιξὶ κόσμον ἡ σιγὴ φέρει.
lady to-women ornament the silence brings
κἀγὼ μαθοῦσ᾽ ἔληξ᾽, ὁ δ᾽ ἐσσύθη μόνος.
and-I having-learned ceased he and rushed alone
καὶ τὰς ἐκεῖ μὲν οὐκ ἔχω λέγειν πάθας·
and the there indeed not I-can to-tell sufferings
ἔσω δ᾽ ἐσῆλθε συνδέτους ἄγων ὁμοῦ
within and he-came bound leading together
ταύρους, κύνας βοτῆρας, εὔερόν τ᾽ ἄγραν.
bulls dogs herding fleecy and prey
καὶ τοὺς μὲν ηὐχένιζε, τοὺς δ᾽ ἄνω τρέπων
and some indeed he-beheaded others and up turning
ἔσφαζε κἀρράχιζε, τοὺς δὲ δεσμίους
he-slaughtered and-broke-the-spines others and bound
ᾐκίζεθ᾽ ὥστε φῶτας ἐν ποίμναις πίτνων.
he-tortured as men among flocks falling

τέλος δ' ὑπάξας διὰ θυρῶν σκιᾷ τινι
at-last and darting through doors to-shadow some
λόγους ἀνέσπα, τοὺς μὲν Ἀτρειδῶν κάτα,
words he-drew-forth some indeed sons-of-Atreus against
τοὺς δ' ἀμφ' Ὀδυσσεῖ, συντιθεὶς γέλων πολύν,
others and about Odysseus combining laughter much
ὅσην κατ' αὐτῶν ὕβριν ἐκτίσαιτ' ἰών·
how-much against them outrage he-had-avenged going
καὖπειτ' ἐπάξας αὖθις ἐς δόμους πάλιν,
and-then darting back into house again
ἔμφρων μόλις πως ξὺν χρόνῳ καθίσταται,
sane hardly somehow with time he-becomes
καὶ πλῆρες ἄτης ὡς διοπτεύει στέγος,
and full of-ruin when he-looks-through the-house
παίσας κάρα ᾤμωξεν· ἐν δ' ἐρειπίοις
striking head he-shrieked in and wrecks
νεκρῶν ἐρειφθεὶς ἕζετ' ἀρνείου φόνου,
of-carcasses fallen he-sat of-sheep slaughter
κόμην ἀπρὶξ ὄνυξι συλλαβὼν χερί.
hair tightly with-nails having-clutched with-hand
καὶ τὸν μὲν ἦστο πλεῖστον ἄφθογγος χρόνον·
and the indeed he-sat most voiceless time
ἔπειτ' ἐμοὶ τὰ δεί' ἐπηπείλησ' ἔπη,
then to-me the terrible-things he-threatened words
εἰ μὴ φανοίην πᾶν τὸ συντυχὸν πάθος,
if not I-should-reveal all the having-happened suffering
κἀνήρετ' ἐν τῷ πράγματος κυροῖ ποτέ.
and-asked in what of-matter he-was ever
κἀγώ, φίλοι, δείσασα τοὐξειργασμένον
and-I friends having-feared the-thing-done

ἔλεξα πᾶν ὅσονπερ ἐξηπιστάμην.
told all as-much-as-indeed I-knew
ὁ δ' εὐθὺς ἐξώμωξεν οἰμωγὰς λυγράς,
he and at-once wailed-out wailings mournful
ἃς οὔποτ' αὐτοῦ πρόσθεν εἰσήκουσ' ἐγώ·
which never his before heard I
πρὸς γὰρ κακοῦ τε καὶ βαρυψύχου γόους
to for of-base and and of-heavy-spirited laments
τοιούσδ' ἀεί ποτ' ἀνδρὸς ἐξηγεῖτ' ἔχειν·
such always ever of-man he-held to-have
ἀλλ' ἀψόφητος ὀξέων κωκυμάτων
but noiseless of-shrill wailings
ὑπεστέναζε ταῦρος ὡς βρυχώμενος.
he-groaned bull like bellowing
νῦν δ' ἐν τοιᾷδε κείμενος κακῇ τύχῃ
now and in such lying evil fortune
ἄσιτος ἀνήρ, ἄποτος, ἐν μέσοις βοτοῖς
foodless the-man drinkless in midst cattle
σιδηροκμῆσιν ἥσυχος θακεῖ πεσών·
iron-slain quiet sits fallen
καὶ δῆλός ἐστιν ὥς τι δρασείων κακόν.
and plain he-is that something minded-to-do evil
τοιαῦτα γάρ πως καὶ λέγει κὠδύρεται.
such-things for somehow and he-says and-laments
ἀλλ', ὦ φίλοι, τούτων γὰρ οὕνεκ' ἐστάλην,
but O friends of-these for for-the-sake I-was-sent
ἀρήξατ' εἰσελθόντες, εἰ δύνασθέ τι·
help having-entered if you-can anything
φίλων γὰρ οἱ τοιοίδε νικῶνται λόγοις.
of-friends for the such are-conquered by-words

ΧΟΡΟΣ Τέκμησσα, δεινά, παῖ Τελεύταντος, λέγεις
Tecmessa terrible-things child of-Teleutas you-say
ἡμῖν, τὸν ἄνδρα διαπεφοιβάσθαι κακοῖς.
to-us the man to-be-frenzied by-evils
ΑΙΑΣ ἰώ μοί μοι.
ah me me
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ τάχ', ὡς ἔοικε, μᾶλλον· ἢ οὐκ ἠκούσατε
soon as it-seems more or not did-you-hear
Αἴαντος οἵαν τήνδε θωΰσσει βοήν;
of-Ajax what this shouts cry
ΑΙΑΣ ἰώ μοί μοι.
ah me me
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀνὴρ ἔοικεν ἢ νοσεῖν ἢ τοῖς πάλαι
the-man seems either to-be-sick or at-the long-standing
νοσήμασιν ξυνοῦσι λυπεῖσθαι παρών.
sicknesses present to-grieve being-present
ΑΙΑΣ ἰὼ παῖ παῖ.
ah child child
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ὤμοι τάλαιν'· Εὐρύσακες, ἀμφὶ σοὶ βοᾷ.
ah-me wretched Eurysaces about you he-cries
τί ποτε μενοινᾷ; ποῦ ποτ' εἶ; τάλαιν' ἐγώ.
what ever does-be-intend where ever are-you wretched I
ΑΙΑΣ Τεῦκρον καλῶ. ποῦ Τεῦκρος; ἢ τὸν εἰσαεὶ
Teucer I-call where Teucer or the for-ever
λεηλατήσει χρόνον, ἐγὼ δ' ἀπόλλυμαι;
will-be-be-plundering time I and perish
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀνὴρ φρονεῖν ἔοικεν. ἀλλ' ἀνοίγετε.
the-man to-be-sane seems but open
τάχ' ἄν τιν' αἰδῶ κἀπ' ἐμοὶ βλέψας λάβοι.
perhaps — some shame even-at me looking he-might-take

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ἰδού, διοίγω· προσβλέπειν δ' ἔξεστί σοι
behold I-open to-look and is-possible for-you
τὰ τοῦδε πράγη, καὐτὸς ὡς ἔχων κυρεῖ.
the of-this-one deeds and-himself how being he-is

VI · THE LAMENT OF AJAX

Ajax, revealed among the beasts, laments in lyric to his loyal sailors and begs them to kill him. He grieves that he let the enemies he meant to kill escape, and that Odysseus laughs at him. He calls on darkness and on the gloom of the underworld, and bids farewell to the sea-roaring straits, the caves and grove by the shore, and the streams of Scamander, which will see him no longer, though he was the greatest of the Greeks.

ΑΙΑΣ ἰὼ
ah
φίλοι ναυβάται, μόνοι ἐμῶν φίλων,
friends sailors alone of-my friends
μόνοι ἔτ' ἐμμένοντες ὀρθῷ νόμῳ,
alone still abiding-by right custom
ἴδεσθέ μ' οἷον ἄρτι κῦμα φοινίας ὑπὸ ζάλης
see me what just-now wave bloody by squall
ἀμφίδρομον κυκλεῖται.
running-round circles
ΧΟΡΟΣ οἴμ' ὡς ἔοικας ὀρθὰ μαρτυρεῖν ἄγαν.
ah-me how you-seem rightly to-bear-witness too-much
δηλοῖ δὲ τοὔργον ὡς ἀφροντίστως ἔχει.
shows and the-deed how senselessly he-is

ΑΙΑΣ ἰὼ

ah

γένος ναΐας ἀρωγὸν τέχνας,

race of-ship helping of-the-craft

ἅλιον ὃς ἐπέβας ἑλίσσων πλάταν,

of-the-sea who embarked plying oar

σέ τοι σέ τοι μόνον δέδορκα πημονὰν ἐπαρκέσοντ'·

you surely you surely alone I-see woe to-relieve

ἀλλά με συνδάϊξον.

but me slay-with

ΧΟΡΟΣ εὔφημα φώνει· μὴ κακὸν κακῷ διδοὺς

words-of-good-omen speak not evil to-evil giving

ἄκος, πλέον τὸ πῆμα τῆς ἄτης τίθει.

remedy more the woe of-the ruin make

ΑΙΑΣ ὁρᾷς τὸν θρασύν, τὸν εὐκάρδιον,

you-see the bold the stout-hearted

τὸν ἐν δαΐοις ἄτρεστον μάχαις,

the in deadly fearless battles

ἐν ἀφόβοις με θηρσὶ δεινὸν χέρας;

among fearless me beasts terrible in-hands

ὤμοι γέλωτος, οἷον ὑβρίσθην ἄρα.

ah-me of-laughter how I-was-insulted then

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ μή, δέσποτ' Αἴας, λίσσομαί σ', αὔδα τάδε.

not master Ajax I-beseech you say this

ΑΙΑΣ οὐκ ἐκτός; οὐκ ἄψορρον ἐκνεμεῖ πόδα;

not outside not back will-you-move foot

αἰαῖ αἰαῖ.

alas alas

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ πρὸς θεῶν ὕπεικε καὶ φρόνησον εὖ.

O by gods yield and think well

ΑΙΑΣ ὦ δύσμορος, ὃς χερὶ μὲν
O ill-fated who with-hand indeed
μεθῆκα τοὺς ἀλάστορας, ἐν δ' ἑλίκεσσι
let-go the cursed-ones in and twisted-horned
βουσὶ καὶ κλυτοῖς πεσὼν αἰπολίοις
oxen and famous falling goat-flocks
ἐρεμνὸν αἷμ' ἔδευσα.
dark blood I-shed
ΧΟΡΟΣ τί δῆτ' ἂν ἀλγοίης ἐπ' ἐξειργασμένοις;
why then — would-you-grieve at things-done
οὐ γὰρ γένοιτ' ἂν ταῦθ' ὅπως οὐχ ὧδ' ἔχειν.
not for could-be — this so-that not thus to-be
ΑΙΑΣ ἰὼ πάνθ' ὁρῶν ἁπάντων τ' ἀεὶ
ah all-things seeing of-all and always
κακῶν ὄργανον, τέκνον Λαρτίου,
of-evils instrument child of-Laertes
κακοπινέστατόν τ' ἄλημα στρατοῦ,
filthiest and vagabond of-the-army
ἦ που πολὺν γέλωθ' ὑφ' ἡδονῆς ἄγεις.
— surely much laughter from pleasure you-raise
ΧΟΡΟΣ ξύν τοι θεῷ πᾶς καὶ γελᾷ κὠδύρεται.
with surely god every-one both laughs and-laments
ΑΙΑΣ ἴδοιμι μήν νιν, καίπερ ὧδ' ἀτώμενος.
may-I-see indeed him although thus ruined
ἰώ μοί μοι.
ah me me
ΧΟΡΟΣ μηδὲν μέγ' εἴπῃς· οὐχ ὁρᾷς ἵν' εἶ κακοῦ;
nothing great say not you-see where you-are of-evil

ΑΙΑΣ ὦ Ζεῦ, προγόνων προπάτωρ,
O Zeus of-forefathers forefather
πῶς ἂν τὸν αἰμυλώτατον, ἐχθρὸν ἄλημα,
how — the wiliest hateful vagabond
τούς τε δισσάρχας ὀλέσσας βασιλῆς
the and two-ruling having-destroyed kings
τέλος θάνοιμι καὐτός;
at-last might-I-die and-myself
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ὅταν κατεύχῃ ταῦθ', ὁμοῦ κἀμοὶ θανεῖν
when you-pray-for this together also-me to-die
εὔχου· τί γὰρ δεῖ ζῆν με σοῦ τεθνηκότος;
pray why for must to-live me you having-died
ΑΙΑΣ ἰὼ
ah
σκότος, ἐμὸν φάος,
darkness my light
ἔρεβος ὦ φαεννότατον, ὡς ἐμοί,
nether-gloom O brightest as for-me
ἕλεσθ' ἕλεσθέ μ' οἰκήτορα,
take take me dweller
ἕλεσθέ μ'· οὔτε γὰρ θεῶν γένος οὔθ' ἁμερίων
take me neither for of-gods race nor of-mortals
ἔτ' ἄξιος βλέπειν τιν' εἰς ὄνασιν ἀνθρώπων.
still worthy to-look any to help of-men
ἀλλά μ' ἁ Διὸς
but me the of-Zeus
ἀλκίμα θεὸς
mighty goddess
ὀλέθρι' αἰκίζει.
destructively torments

ποῖ τις οὖν φύγῃ;
where one then may-flee
ποῖ μολὼν μενῶ;
where going shall-I-stay
εἰ τὰ μὲν φθίνει, φίλοι, τοιοῖσδ'
if the indeed perish friends in-such
ὁμοῦ πέλας, μώραις δ' ἄγραις προσκείμεθα,
together near in-foolish and hunts we-are-engaged
πᾶς δὲ στρατὸς δίπαλτος ἄν με
all and army with-two-handed — me
χειρὶ φονεύοι.
with-hand would-kill
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ὦ δυστάλαινα, τοιάδ' ἄνδρα χρήσιμον
O unhappy such-things man useful
φωνεῖν, ἃ πρόσθεν οὗτος οὐκ ἔτλη ποτ' ἄν.
to-utter which before he not would-have-dared ever —
ΑΙΑΣ ἰὼ
ah
πόροι ἁλίρροθοι
straits sea-roaring
πάραλά τ' ἄντρα καὶ νέμος ἐπάκτιον,
by-the-sea and caves and grove on-the-shore
πολὺν πολύν με δαρόν τε δὴ
much much me long and indeed
κατείχετ' ἀμφὶ Τροίαν χρόνον· ἀλλ' οὐκέτι μ', οὐκ
you-held about Troy time but no-longer me not
ἔτ' ἀμπνοὰς ἔχοντα· τοῦτό τις φρονῶν ἴστω.
any-longer breath having this one being-wise let-him-know
ὦ Σκαμάνδριοι
O of-Scamander

γείτονες ῥοαί,
neighboring streams
εὔφρονες Ἀργείοις,
kindly to-Argives
οὐκέτ' ἄνδρα μὴ
no-longer man not
τόνδ' ἴδητ', ἔπος
this you-shall-see word
ἐξερῶ μέγ', οἷον οὔτινα
I-will-speak great such-as no-one
Τροία στρατοῦ δέρχθη χθονὸς μολόντ' ἀπὸ
Troy of-the-army saw of-land having-come from
Ἑλλανίδος· τανῦν δ' ἄτιμος
Greek now and dishonored
ὧδε πρόκειμαι.
thus I-lie-prostrate
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὔτοι σ' ἀπείργειν οὐδ' ὅπως ἐὼ λέγειν
not-surely you to-restrain nor how I-may-let to-speak
ἔχω, κακοῖς τοιοῖσδε συμπεπτωκότα.
I-have by-evils such having-fallen

Ajax reflects on his name of woe and his father's glory at Troy: he must either win some deed that clears him or die nobly. Tecmessa begs him not to leave her a slave and his son an orphan, reminding him of what she has lost and of his parents. He asks for the child Eurysaces and speaks to him, wishing him better fortune than his father's but his father's nature in all else, entrusts him to Teucer, and leaves his famous shield to him. He orders the tent closed and refuses all pleading.

ΑΙΑΣ αἰαῖ· τίς ἄν ποτ' ᾠ̔ήθ' ὧδ' ἐπώνυμον
alas who — ever would-have-thought thus appropriate
τοὐμὸν ξυνοίσειν ὄνομα τοῖς ἐμοῖς κακοῖς;
the-my to-agree name with-the my evils
νῦν γὰρ πάρεστι καὶ δὶς αἰάζειν ἐμοὶ
now for it-is-possible even twice to-cry-aiai for-me
καὶ τρίς· τοιούτοις γὰρ κακοῖς ἐντυγχάνω·
and thrice such for evils I-meet
ὅτου πατὴρ μὲν τῆσδ' ἀπ' Ἰδαίας χθονὸς
whose father indeed this from Idaean land
τὰ πρῶτα καλλιστεῖ' ἀριστεύσας στρατοῦ
the first prizes having-won-the-prize of-the-army
πρὸς οἶκον ἦλθε πᾶσαν εὔκλειαν φέρων·
to home came all glory bearing
ἐγὼ δ' ὁ κείνου παῖς, τὸν αὐτὸν ἐς τόπον
I and the his son the same to place
Τροίας ἐπελθὼν οὐκ ἐλάσσονι σθένει
of-Troy having-come with-no less strength
οὐδ' ἔργα μείω χειρὸς ἀρκέσας ἐμῆς,
nor deeds less of-hand having-performed my
ἄτιμος Ἀργείοισιν ὧδ' ἀπόλλυμαι.
dishonored by-Argives thus perish

καίτοι τοσοῦτόν γ' ἐξεπίστασθαι δοκῶ·
and-yet so-much at-least to-know-well I-think
εἰ ζῶν Ἀχιλλεὺς τῶν ὅπλων τῶν ὧν πέρι
if living Achilles the arms the his about
κρίνειν ἔμελλε κράτος ἀριστείας τινί,
to-judge were-going prize of-valor to-someone
οὐκ ἄν τις αὖτ' ἔμαρψεν ἄλλος ἀντ' ἐμοῦ.
not — anyone them would-have-seized other instead-of me
νῦν δ' αὖτ' Ἀτρεῖδαι φωτὶ παντουργῷ φρένας
now and them sons-of-Atreus to-man all-doing in-mind
ἔπραξαν, ἀνδρὸς τοῦδ' ἀπώσαντες κράτη.
gave of-man this having-thrust-away the-prize
κεἰ μὴ τόδ' ὄμμα καὶ φρένες διάστροφοι
and-if not this eye and mind distorted
γνώμης ἀπῇξαν τῆς ἐμῆς, οὐκ ἄν ποτε
from-purpose had-swerved the my not — ever
δίκην κατ' ἄλλου φωτὸς ὧδ' ἐψήφισαν.
justice against other man thus would-they-have-voted
νῦν δ' ἡ Διὸς γοργῶπις ἀδάματος θεὰ
now and the of-Zeus Gorgon-eyed unconquerable goddess
ἤδη μ' ἐπ' αὐτοῖς χεῖρ' ἐπεντύνοντ' ἐμὴν
already me against them hand preparing my
ἔσφηλεν, ἐμβαλοῦσα λυσσώδη νόσον,
tripped having-cast raging sickness
ὥστ' ἐν τοιοῖσδε χεῖρας αἱμάξαι βοτοῖς·
so-that in such hands to-bloody cattle
κεῖνοι δ' ἐπεγγελῶσιν ἐκπεφευγότες,
they and laugh having-escaped
ἐμοῦ μὲν οὐχ ἑκόντος· εἰ δέ τις θεῶν
me indeed not willing if but some of-gods

βλάπτοι, φύγοι τἂν χὠ κακὸς τὸν κρείσσονα.
should-harm would-escape surely-then even-the base the better
καὶ νῦν τί χρὴ δρᾶν; ὅστις ἐμφανῶς θεοῖς
and now what must one-do who openly by-gods
ἐχθαίρομαι, μισεῖ δέ μ' Ἑλλήνων στρατός,
am-hated hates and me of-Greeks army
ἔχθει δὲ Τροία πᾶσα καὶ πεδία τάδε.
hates and Troy all and plains these
πότερα πρὸς οἴκους, ναυλόχους λιπὼν ἕδρας
whether to home naval leaving station
μόνους τ' Ἀτρείδας, πέλαγος Αἰγαῖον περῶ;
alone and sons-of-Atreus sea Aegean shall-I-cross
καὶ ποῖον ὄμμα πατρὶ δηλώσω φανεὶς
and what eye to-father shall-I-show appearing
Τελαμῶνι; πῶς με τλήσεταί ποτ' εἰσιδεῖν
to-Telamon how me will-be-endure ever to-look-at
γυμνὸν φανέντα τῶν ἀριστείων ἄτερ,
stripped appearing the prizes without
ὧν αὐτὸς ἔσχε στέφανον εὐκλείας μέγαν;
of-which himself had crown of-glory great
οὐκ ἔστι τοὔργον τλητόν. ἀλλὰ δῆτ' ἰὼν
not it-is the-deed bearable but then going
πρὸς ἔρυμα Τρώων, ξυμπεσὼν μόνος μόνοις
to fortress of-Trojans falling-upon alone with-them-alone
καὶ δρῶν τι χρηστόν, εἶτα λοίσθιον θάνω;
and doing something good then last shall-I-die
ἀλλ' ὧδέ γ' Ἀτρείδας ἂν εὐφράναιμί που.
but thus at-least sons-of-Atreus — I-would-gladden surely
οὐκ ἔστι ταῦτα. πεῖρά τις ζητητέα
not it-is this attempt some must-be-sought

τοιάδ᾽ ἀφ᾽ ἧς γέροντι δηλώσω πατρὶ
such from which to-old I-shall-show father
μή τοι φύσιν γ᾽ ἄσπλαγχνος ἐκ κείνου γεγώς.
not surely in-nature at-least gutless from him born
αἰσχρὸν γὰρ ἄνδρα τοῦ μακροῦ χρῄζειν βίου,
shameful for man of-the long to-desire life
κακοῖσιν ὅστις μηδὲν ἐξαλλάσσεται.
in-evils who in-nothing changes
τί γὰρ παρ᾽ ἦμαρ ἡμέρα τέρπειν ἔχει
what for beside day day to-delight has
προσθεῖσα κἀναθεῖσα τοῦ γε κατθανεῖν;
putting-forward and-putting-back the at-least to-die
οὐκ ἂν πριαίμην οὐδενὸς λόγου βροτὸν
not — would-I-buy of-no worth mortal
ὅστις κεναῖσιν ἐλπίσιν θερμαίνεται·
who with-empty hopes is-warmed
ἀλλ᾽ ἢ καλῶς ζῆν ἢ καλῶς τεθνηκέναι
but either nobly to-live or nobly to-have-died
τὸν εὐγενῆ χρή. πάντ᾽ ἀκήκοας λόγον.
the well-born must all you-have-heard word

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐδεὶς ἐρεῖ ποθ᾽ ὡς ὑπόβλητον λόγον,
no-one will-say ever that a-spurious word
Αἴας, ἔλεξας, ἀλλὰ τῆς σαυτοῦ φρενός·
Ajax you-spoke but of-the your-own mind
παῦσαί γε μέντοι καὶ δὸς ἀνδράσιν φίλοις
stop at-least however and allow men friends
γνώμης κρατῆσαι, τάσδε φροντίδας μεθείς.
of-judgment to-prevail these thoughts dismissing

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ὦ δέσποτ᾽ Αἴας, τῆς ἀναγκαίας τύχης
O master Ajax than-the compulsory fortune
οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδὲν μεῖζον ἀνθρώποις κακόν.
not there-is nothing greater for-men evil
ἐγὼ δ᾽ ἐλευθέρου μὲν ἐξέφυν πατρός,
I and of-free indeed was-born father
εἴπερ τινὸς σθένοντος ἐν πλούτῳ Φρυγῶν·
if-indeed of-any strong in wealth of-Phrygians
νῦν δ᾽ εἰμὶ δούλη· θεοῖς γὰρ ὧδ᾽ ἔδοξέ που
now and I-am slave to-gods for thus it-seemed surely
καὶ σῇ μάλιστα χειρί. τοιγαροῦν, ἐπεὶ
and by-your most hand therefore since
τὸ σὸν λέχος ξυνῆλθον, εὖ φρονῶ τὰ σά,
the your bed I-came-to well I-think the yours
καί σ᾽ ἀντιάζω πρός τ᾽ ἐφεστίου Διὸς
and you I-entreat by and of-the-hearth Zeus
εὐνῆς τε τῆς σῆς, ᾗ συνηλλάχθης ἐμοί,
by-bed and the your in-which you-were-united to-me
μή μ᾽ ἀξιώσῃς βάξιν ἀλγεινὴν λαβεῖν
not me deem-it-right report painful to-take
τῶν σῶν ὑπ᾽ ἐχθρῶν, χειρίαν ἐφείς τινι.
the your from enemies in-subjection letting-go to-someone
ᾗ γὰρ θάνῃς σὺ καὶ τελευτήσας ἀφῇς,
in-which for you-die you and having-ended you-leave
ταύτῃ νόμιζε κἀμὲ τῇ τόθ᾽ ἡμέρᾳ
on-this think and-me the then day
βίᾳ ξυναρπασθεῖσαν Ἀργείων ὕπο
by-force seized Argives by
ξὺν παιδὶ τῷ σῷ δουλίαν ἕξειν τροφήν.
with child the your slavish to-have life

καί τις πικρὸν πρόσφθεγμα δεσποτῶν ἐρεῖ
and some bitter address of-masters will-say
λόγοις ἰάπτων· ἴδετε τὴν ὁμευνέτιν
with-words assailing see the bedfellow
Αἴαντος, ὃς μέγιστον ἴσχυσεν στρατοῦ,
of-Ajax who most was-strong of-the-army
οἵας λατρείας ἀνθ' ὅσου ζήλου τρέφει.
what servitude instead-of how-great envy she-lives
τοιαῦτ' ἐρεῖ τις· κἀμὲ μὲν δαίμων ἐλᾷ,
such-things will-say someone and-me indeed fate will-drive
σοὶ δ' αἰσχρὰ τἄπη ταῦτα καὶ τῷ σῷ γένει.
to-you and shameful the-words these and to-the your race
ἀλλ' αἴδεσαι μὲν πατέρα τὸν σὸν ἐν λυγρῷ
but have-respect-for indeed father the your in mournful
γήρᾳ προλείπων, αἴδεσαι δὲ μητέρα
old-age forsaking have-respect-for and mother
πολλῶν ἐτῶν κληροῦχον, ἥ σε πολλάκις
of-many years possessor who you often
θεοῖς ἀρᾶται ζῶντα πρὸς δόμους μολεῖν·
to-the-gods prays living to home to-come
οἴκτιρε δ', ὦναξ, παῖδα τὸν σόν, εἰ νέας
pity and lord son the your if young
τροφῆς στερηθεὶς σοῦ διοίσεται μόνος
of-nurture deprived of-you he-shall-live-on alone
ὑπ' ὀρφανιστῶν μὴ φίλων, ὅσον κακὸν
by guardians not friends how-much evil
κείνῳ τε κἀμοὶ τοῦθ', ὅταν θάνῃς, νεμεῖς.
to-him both and-to-me this when you-die you-will-allot
ἐμοὶ γὰρ οὐκέτ' ἔστιν εἰς ὅ τι βλέπω
to-me for no-longer is-there to what ever I-look

πλὴν σοῦ. σὺ γάρ μοι πατρίδ' ἤστωσας δόρει,
except you you for me fatherland destroyed with-spear
καὶ μητέρ' ἄλλη μοῖρα τὸν φύσαντά τε
and mother another fate the begetter and
καθεῖλεν Ἅιδου θανασίμους οἰκήτορας.
brought-down of-Hades dead dwellers
τίς δῆτ' ἐμοὶ γένοιτ' ἂν ἀντὶ σοῦ πατρίς;
what then to-me could-be — instead-of you fatherland
τίς πλοῦτος; ἐν σοὶ πᾶσ' ἔγωγε σῴζομαι.
what wealth in you wholly I-for-my-part am-kept-safe
ἀλλ' ἴσχε κἀμοῦ μνῆστιν· ἀνδρί τοι χρεὼν
but hold and-of-me remembrance for-a-man surely it-behooves
μνήμην προσεῖναι, τερπνὸν εἴ τί που πάθοι.
memory to-be-present pleasant if anything somehow he-should-experience
χάρις χάριν γάρ ἐστιν ἡ τίκτουσ' ἀεί·
favor favor for is the begetting always
ὅτου δ' ἀπορρεῖ μνῆστις εὖ πεπονθότος,
from-whom and flows-away remembrance well having-been-treated
οὐκ ἂν γένοιτ' ἔθ' οὗτος εὐγενὴς ἀνήρ.
not — would-be still this well-born man
ΧΟΡΟΣ Αἴας, ἔχειν σ' ἂν οἶκτον ὡς κἀγὼ φρενὶ
Ajax to-have you — pity as and-I in-mind
θέλοιμ' ἄν· αἰνοίης γὰρ ἂν τὰ τῆσδ' ἔπη.
I-would-wish — you-would-approve for — the of-this-one words
ΑΙΑΣ καὶ κάρτ' ἐπαίνου τεύξεται πρὸς γοῦν ἐμοῦ,
and very-much praise she-will-get from at-least me
ἐὰν μόνον τὸ ταχθὲν εὖ τολμᾷ τελεῖν.
if only the commanded well she-dares to-accomplish
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ἀλλ' ὦ φίλ' Αἴας, πάντ' ἔγωγε πείσομαι.
but O dear Ajax all I-for-my-part will-obey

ΑΙΑΣ κόμιζέ νύν μοι παῖδα τὸν ἐμόν, ὡς ἴδω.
bring now to-me son the my so-that I-may-see

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ καὶ μὴν φόβοισί γ' αὐτὸν ἐξελυσάμην.
and indeed in-fears at-least him I-released

ΑΙΑΣ ἐν τοῖσδε τοῖς κακοῖσιν; ἢ τί μοι λέγεις;
in these the evils or what to-me do-you-mean

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ μὴ σοί γέ που δύστηνος ἀντήσας θάνοι.
lest to-you at-least somehow wretched meeting he-might-die

ΑΙΑΣ πρέπον γέ τἂν ἦν δαίμονος τοὐμοῦ τόδε.
fitting at-least surely-then it-would-have-been of-fortune the-my this

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ἀλλ' οὖν ἐγὼ 'φύλαξα τοῦτό γ' ἀρκέσαι.
but then I guarded this at-least to-avert

ΑΙΑΣ ἐπῄνεσ' ἔργον καὶ πρόνοιαν ἣν ἔθου.
I-praise the-deed and forethought which you-took

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ τί δῆτ' ἂν ὡς ἐκ τῶνδ' ἂν ὠφελοῖμί σε;
what then — as from these-things — could-I-help you

ΑΙΑΣ δός μοι προσειπεῖν αὐτὸν ἐμφανῆ τ' ἰδεῖν.
give to-me to-address him in-sight and to-see

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ καὶ μὴν πέλας γε προσπόλοις φυλάσσεται.
and indeed near at-least by-attendants he-is-guarded

ΑΙΑΣ τί δῆτα μέλλει μὴ οὐ παρουσίαν ἔχειν;
why then does-he-delay not — presence to-have

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ὦ παῖ, πατὴρ καλεῖ σε. δεῦρο προσπόλων
O child father calls you hither of-attendants

ἄγ' αὐτὸν ὅσπερ χερσὶν εὐθύνων κυρεῖς.
lead him whoever with-hands guiding you-happen

ΑΙΑΣ ἔρποντι φωνεῖς ἢ λελειμμένῳ λόγων;
to-one-coming do-you-speak or to-one-left-behind of-words

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ καὶ δὴ κομίζει προσπόλων ὅδ' ἐγγύθεν.
and indeed brings of-attendants this-one from-near

ΑΙΑΣ αἶρ᾽ αὐτόν, αἶρε δεῦρο· ταρβήσει γὰρ οὔ
lift him lift hither will-fear for not
νεοσφαγῆ που τόνδε προσλεύσσων φόνον,
newly-slaughtered surely this looking-at gore
εἴπερ δικαίως ἔστ᾽ ἐμὸς τὰ πατρόθεν.
if-indeed justly he-is mine the on-the-father's-side
ἀλλ᾽ αὐτίκ᾽ ὠμοῖς αὐτὸν ἐν νόμοις πατρὸς
but at-once savage him in ways of-father
δεῖ πωλοδαμνεῖν κἀξομοιοῦσθαι φύσιν.
must to-break-like-a-colt and-to-be-made-like in-nature
ὦ παῖ, γένοιο πατρὸς εὐτυχέστερος,
O child may-you-be than-father more-fortunate
τὰ δ᾽ ἄλλ᾽ ὅμοιος· καὶ γένοι᾽ ἂν οὐ κακός.
the and other-things like and you-would-be — not base
καίτοι σε καὶ νῦν τοῦτό γε ζηλοῦν ἔχω,
and-yet you even now this at-least to-envy I-can
ὀθούνεκ᾽ οὐδὲν τῶνδ᾽ ἐπαισθάνει κακῶν·
because nothing of-these you-perceive of-evils
ἐν τῷ φρονεῖν γὰρ μηδὲν ἥδιστος βίος,
in the to-know for nothing sweetest life
ἕως τὸ χαίρειν καὶ τὸ λυπεῖσθαι μάθῃς.
until the to-rejoice and the to-grieve you-learn
ὅταν δ᾽ ἵκῃ πρὸς τοῦτο, δεῖ σ᾽ ὅπως πατρὸς
when and you-come to this must you how of-father
δείξεις ἐν ἐχθροῖς, οἷος ἐξ οἵου ᾽τράφης.
you-will-show among enemies what-sort from what-sort you-were-reared
τέως δὲ κούφοις πνεύμασιν βόσκου, νέαν
meanwhile and on-light breezes feed young
ψυχὴν ἀτάλλων, μητρὶ τῇδε χαρμονήν.
soul cherishing for-mother this a-joy

οὔτοι σ' Ἀχαιῶν, οἶδα, μή τις ὑβρίσῃ
not-surely you of-Achaeans I-know — any shall-outrage
στυγναῖσι λώβαις, οὐδὲ χωρὶς ὄντ' ἐμοῦ.
with-hateful outrages nor apart being from-me
τοῖον πυλωρὸν φύλακα Τεῦκρον ἀμφί σοι
such gate-keeper guardian Teucer about you
λείψω τροφῆ τ' ἄοκνον ἔμπα, κεἰ τανῦν
I-shall-leave for-nurture and unhesitating nevertheless even-if now
τηλωπὸς οἰχνεῖ, δυσμενῶν θήραν ἔχων.
far-off he-goes of-foes chase having
ἀλλ', ἄνδρες ἀσπιστῆρες, ἐνάλιος λεώς,
but men shield-bearers sea-faring people
ὑμῖν τε κοινὴν τήνδ' ἐπισκήπτω χάριν,
on-you and common this I-enjoin favor
κείνῳ τ' ἐμὴν ἀγγείλατ' ἐντολήν, ὅπως
to-him and my announce command so-that
τὸν παῖδα τόνδε πρὸς δόμους ἐμοὺς ἄγων
the son this to house my leading
Τελαμῶνι δείξει μητρί τ', Ἐριβοίᾳ λέγω,
to-Telamon he-may-show to-mother and Eriboea I-mean
ὥς σφιν γένηται γηροβοσκὸς εἰσαεί,
so-that to-them he-may-be sustainer-in-old-age forever
καὶ τἀμὰ τεύχη μήτ' ἀγωνάρχαι τινὲς
and my arms neither umpires any
θήσουσ' Ἀχαιοῖς μήθ' ὁ λυμεὼν ἐμός.
will-set for-Achaeans nor the destroyer my
ἀλλ' αὐτό μοι σύ, παῖ, λαβὼν ἐπώνυμον,
but it for-me you child taking named-after
Εὐρύσακες, ἴσχε διὰ πολυρράφου στρέφων
Eurysaces hold by much-stitched turning

πόρπακος, ἑπτάβοιον ἄρρηκτον σάκος·
handle seven-hided unbreakable shield
τὰ δ' ἄλλα τεύχη κοίν' ἐμοὶ τεθάψεται.
the and other arms in-common with-me shall-be-buried
ἀλλ' ὡς τάχος τὸν παῖδα τόνδ' ἤδη δέχου
but as quickly the son this now take
καὶ δῶμα πάκτου, μηδ' ἐπισκήνους γόους
and house shut nor before-the-tent laments
δάκρυε· κάρτα τοι φιλοίκτιστον γυνή. 580
weep greatly surely fond-of-pity woman
πύκαζε θᾶσσον· οὐ πρὸς ἰατροῦ σοφοῦ
close-it more-quickly not of physician wise
θρηνεῖν ἐπῳδὰς πρὸς τομῶντι πήματι.
to-chant incantations over needing-the-knife woe
ΧΟΡΟΣ δέδοικ' ἀκούων τήνδε τὴν προθυμίαν·
I-fear hearing this the eagerness
οὐ γάρ μ' ἀρέσκει γλῶσσά σου τεθηγμένη.
not for me pleases tongue your sharpened
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ὦ δέσποτ' Αἴας, τί ποτε δρασείεις φρενί; 585
O master Ajax what ever are-you-minded-to-do in-mind
ΑΙΑΣ μὴ κρῖνε, μὴ 'ξέταζε· σωφρονεῖν καλόν.
not judge not question to-be-self-controlled is-good
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ οἴμ' ὡς ἀθυμῶ· καί σε πρὸς τοῦ σοῦ τέκνου
ah-me how I-despair and you by the your child
καὶ θεῶν ἱκνοῦμαι, μὴ προδοὺς ἡμᾶς γένῃ.
and gods I-beseech not betraying us become
ΑΙΑΣ ἄγαν γε λυπεῖς· οὐ κάτοισθ' ἐγὼ θεοῖς
too-much at-least you-vex not you-know I to-gods
ὡς οὐδὲν ἀρκεῖν εἶμ' ὀφειλέτης ἔτι; 590
that nothing to-serve I-am debtor longer

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ εὔφημα φώνει. ΑΙΑΣ τοῖς ἀκούουσιν λέγε.
words-of-good-omen utter to-the hearing speak
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ σὺ δ' οὐχὶ πείσει; ΑΙΑΣ πόλλ' ἄγαν ἤδη θροεῖς.
you and not will-obey many-things too-much already you-babble
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ταρβῶ γάρ, ὦναξ. ΑΙΑΣ οὐ ξυνέρξεθ' ὡς τάχος;
I-am-afraid for lord not will-you-shut-it as quickly
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ πρὸς θεῶν, μαλάσσου.
by gods relent
ΑΙΑΣ μῶρά μοι δοκεῖς φρονεῖν,
foolish-things to-me you-seem to-think
595 εἰ τοὐμὸν ἦθος ἄρτι παιδεύειν νοεῖς.
if my character now to-train you-intend

VIII · SALAMIS

The sailors address glorious Salamis, sea-washed and happy, while they waste away at Troy in long waiting for death. Ajax, once their strength, is now sick in mind, a great grief to his friends, and his deeds have fallen friendless among the friendless sons of Atreus. His mother will wail aloud when she hears of his madness, and his father will mourn a fate unknown in their line.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ κλεινὰ Σαλαμίς, σὺ μέν που
O famous Salamis you indeed surely
ναίεις ἁλίπλακτος, εὐδαίμων,
dwell sea-beaten happy
πᾶσιν περίφαντος ἀεί·
to-all conspicuous always
600 ἐγὼ δ' ὁ τλάμων παλαιὸς ἀφ' οὗ χρόνος
I and the wretched long from which time
Ἰδαῖα μίμνων λειμώνι' ἔπαυλα μηνῶν
Idaean abiding meadow camps of-months

ἀνήριθμος αἰὲν εὐνῶμαι
numberless always am-lodged
χρόνῳ τρυχόμενος,
by-time worn
κακὰν ἐλπίδ᾽ ἔχων
evil expectation having
ἔτι μέ ποτ᾽ ἀνύσειν
yet me ever to-come-to
τὸν ἀπότροπον ἀΐδηλον Ἅιδαν.
the abhorred unseen Hades
καί μοι δυσθεράπευτος Αἴας
and to-me hard-to-cure Ajax
ξύνεστιν ἔφεδρος, ὤμοι μοι,
is-with in-reserve ah-me me
θείᾳ μανίᾳ ξύναυλος·
with-god-sent madness consorting
ὃν ἐξεπέμψω πρὶν δή ποτε θουρίῳ
whom you-sent-out before indeed once furious
κρατοῦντ᾽ ἐν Ἄρει· νῦν δ᾽ αὖ φρενὸς οἰοβώτας
prevailing in war now and again of-mind lone-grazer
φίλοις μέγα πένθος ηὕρηται.
for-friends great grief is-found
τὰ πρὶν δ᾽ ἔργα χεροῖν
the before and deeds of-hands
μεγίστας ἀρετᾶς
of-greatest valor
ἄφιλα παρ᾽ ἀφίλοις
friendless among friendless
ἔπεσ᾽ ἔπεσε μελέοις Ἀτρείδαις.
fell fell for-wretched sons-of-Atreus

ἦ που παλαιᾷ μὲν σύντροφος ἁμέρᾳ,
— *surely with-ancient indeed reared-with day*
λευκῷ δὲ γήρᾳ μάτηρ νιν ὅταν νοσοῦντα
with-white and old-age mother him when sick
φρενομόρως ἀκούσῃ,
mind-destroyed she-hears
αἴλινον αἴλινον
ailinon ailinon
οὐδ' οἰκτρᾶς γόον ὄρνιθος ἀηδοῦς
nor of-piteous lament of-bird nightingale
ἥσει δύσμορος, ἀλλ' ὀξυτόνους μὲν ᾠδὰς
will-she-utter unhappy but shrill indeed songs
θρηνήσει, χερόπλακτοι δ'
she-will-wail hand-struck and
ἐν στέρνοισι πεσοῦνται
on breast will-fall
δοῦποι καὶ πολιᾶς ἄμυγμα χαίτας.
blows and of-gray tearing of-hair
κρείσσων παρ' Ἅιδᾳ κεύθων ὁ νοσῶν μάταν,
better in Hades lying the being-sick vainly
ὃς ἐκ πατρῴας ἥκων γενεᾶς ἄριστος
who from paternal coming race best
πολυπόνων Ἀχαιῶν,
of-much-toiling Achaeans
οὐκέτι συντρόφοις
no-longer with-accustomed
ὀργαῖς ἔμπεδος, ἀλλ' ἐκτὸς ὁμιλεῖ.
tempers steadfast but outside consorts
ὦ τλᾶμον πάτερ, οἵαν σε μένει πυθέσθαι
O wretched father what you awaits to-learn

παιδὸς δύσφορον ἄταν,
of-son unbearable ruin
ἃν οὔπω τις ἔθρεψεν
which never-yet any nursed
δίων Αἰακιδᾶν ἄτερθε τοῦδε.
of-divine of-Aeacids without this-one

IX · THE SWORD

Ajax comes out with his sword and speaks of time, which brings all things to light and hides them again. He says his hard heart has been softened by Tecmessa's words, and that he will go to the shore to bathe and purify himself, and bury the sword that Hector gave him, an enemy's gift that has brought no good. He will learn to yield to the gods and to the sons of Atreus, as winter yields to summer, night to day, and he bids Tecmessa go in and pray for him, and his men to do the same and tell Teucer to care for him and to be kind to them.

ΑΙΑΣ ἄπανθ' ὁ μακρὸς κἀναρίθμητος χρόνος
all-things the long and-countless time
φύει τ' ἄδηλα καὶ φανέντα κρύπτεται·
brings-forth and unseen-things and having-appeared hides
κοὐκ ἔστ' ἄελπτον οὐδέν, ἀλλ' ἁλίσκεται
and-not there-is unexpected nothing but is-caught
χὠ δεινὸς ὅρκος καὶ περισκελεῖς φρένες.
both-the dread oath and-the stubborn minds
κἀγὼ γάρ, ὃς τὰ δεί' ἐκαρτέρουν τότε,
and-I for who the terrible-things endured then
βαφῇ σίδηρος ὡς ἐθηλύνθην στόμα
by-dipping iron like was-made-womanish in-edge
πρὸς τῆσδε τῆς γυναικός· οἰκτίρω δέ νιν
by this the woman I-pity and her

χήραν παρ᾽ ἐχθροῖς παῖδά τ᾽ ὀρφανὸν λιπεῖν.
widow among enemies son and orphan to-leave
ἀλλ᾽ εἶμι πρός τε λουτρὰ καὶ παρακτίους
but I-will-go to both baths and seaside
λειμῶνας, ὡς ἂν λύμαθ᾽ ἁγνίσας ἐμὰ
meadows so-that — stains having-purified my
μῆνιν βαρεῖαν ἐξαλύξωμαι θεᾶς·
wrath heavy I-may-escape of-the-goddess
μολών τε χῶρον ἔνθ᾽ ἂν ἀστιβῆ κίχω,
having-come and to-place where — untrodden I-may-find
κρύψω τόδ᾽ ἔγχος τοὐμόν, ἔχθιστον βελῶν,
I-will-hide this sword my most-hateful of-weapons
γαίας ὀρύξας ἔνθα μή τις ὄψεται·
of-earth having-dug where not anyone will-see
ἀλλ᾽ αὐτὸ νὺξ Ἅιδης τε σῳζόντων κάτω.
but it night Hades and let-keep below
ἐγὼ γὰρ ἐξ οὗ χειρὶ τοῦτ᾽ ἐδεξάμην
I for from which with-hand this I-received
παρ᾽ Ἕκτορος δώρημα δυσμενεστάτου,
from Hector gift most-hostile
οὔπω τι κεδνὸν ἔσχον Ἀργείων πάρα.
not-yet anything good I-had Argives from
ἀλλ᾽ ἔστ᾽ ἀληθὴς ἡ βροτῶν παροιμία,
but is true the of-mortals proverb
ἐχθρῶν ἄδωρα δῶρα κοὐκ ὀνήσιμα.
of-enemies ungifts gifts and-not profitable
τοιγὰρ τὸ λοιπὸν εἰσόμεσθα μὲν θεοῖς
therefore the hereafter we-shall-know indeed to-gods
εἴκειν, μαθησόμεσθα δ᾽ Ἀτρείδας σέβειν.
to-yield we-shall-learn and sons-of-Atreus to-revere

ἄρχοντές εἰσιν, ὥσθ' ὑπεικτέον. τί μήν;
rulers they-are so-that one-must-yield what indeed

καὶ γὰρ τὰ δεινὰ καὶ τὰ καρτερώτατα
and for the terrible and the mightiest

ἕτοιμ' ὑπείκει· τοῦτο μὲν νιφοστιβεῖς
readily yield this indeed snow-trodden

χειμῶνες ἐκχωροῦσιν εὐκάρπῳ θέρει·
winters give-way to-fruitful to-summer

ἐξίσταται δὲ νυκτὸς αἰανὴς κύκλος
gives-place and of-night weary circle

τῇ λευκοπώλῳ φέγγος ἡμέρᾳ φλέγειν·
to-the white-horsed light day to-kindle

δεινῶν τ' ἄημα πνευμάτων ἐκοίμισε
of-terrible and blast of-winds lulls

στένοντα πόντον· ἐν δ' ὁ παγκρατὴς ὕπνος
groaning sea in and the all-powerful sleep

λύει πεδήσας, οὐδ' ἀεὶ λαβὼν ἔχει.
looses having-fettered nor always having-taken holds

ἡμεῖς δὲ πῶς οὐ γνωσόμεσθα σωφρονεῖν;
we and how not shall-we-learn to-be-self-controlled

ἔγωγ'· ἐπίσταμαι γὰρ ἀρτίως ὅτι
I-for-my-part I-know for just-now that

ὅ τ' ἐχθρὸς ἡμῖν ἐς τοσόνδ' ἐχθαρτέος,
the both enemy to-us to so-far to-be-hated

ὡς καὶ φιλήσων αὖθις, ἔς τε τὸν φίλον
as also to-love again toward and the friend

τοσαῦθ' ὑπουργῶν ὠφελεῖν βουλήσομαι,
so-much serving to-help I-shall-wish

ὡς αἰὲν οὐ μενοῦντα· τοῖς πολλοῖσι γὰρ
as always not to-remain for-the many for

βροτῶν ἄπιστός ἐσθ' ἑταιρείας λιμήν.
of-mortals untrustworthy is of-comradeship the-harbor
ἀλλ' ἀμφὶ μὲν τούτοισιν εὖ σχήσει· σὺ δὲ
but about indeed these well it-will-be you but
ἔσω θεοῖς ἐλθοῦσα διὰ τάχους, γύναι,
within to-the-gods going with speed lady
εὔχου τελεῖσθαι τοὐμὸν ὧν ἐρᾷ κέαρ.
pray to-be-fulfilled my what desires heart
ὑμεῖς δ', ἑταῖροι, ταὐτὰ τῇδέ μοι τάδε
you and comrades the-same with-her for-me this
τιμᾶτε, Τεύκρῳ τ', ἢν μόλῃ, σημήνατε
honor to-Teucer and if he-comes signify
μέλειν μὲν ἡμῶν, εὐνοεῖν δ' ὑμῖν ἅμα.
to-care indeed for-us to-be-well-disposed and to-you at-the-same-time
ἐγὼ γὰρ εἶμ' ἐκεῖσ' ὅποι πορευτέον·
I for go thither where one-must-go
ὑμεῖς δ' ἃ φράζω δρᾶτε, καὶ τάχ' ἄν μ' ἴσως
you and what I-say do and soon — me perhaps
πύθοισθε, κεἰ νῦν δυστυχῶ, σεσωσμένον.
you-may-learn even-if now I-am-unfortunate saved

X · THE DANCE

The sailors dance for joy and call on Pan to come from the mountains and lead their dances, and on Apollo to come over the sea. Ares has lifted the trouble from their eyes, since Ajax has forgotten his grief and turned from his anger against the sons of Atreus.

χορος ἔφριξ᾽ ἔρωτι, περιχαρὴς δ᾽ ἀνεπτόμαν.
I-shudder with-desire overjoyed and I-fly-up

ἰὼ ἰὼ Πὰν Πάν,
ah ah Pan Pan

ὦ Πὰν Πὰν ἁλίπλαγκτε, Κυλλανίας χιονοκτύπου
O Pan Pan sea-roving of-Cyllene snow-beaten

πετραίας ἀπὸ δειράδος φάνηθ᾽, ὦ
rocky from ridge appear O

θεῶν χοροποῖ᾽ ἄναξ, ὅπως μοι
of-gods dance-maker lord so-that with-me

Νύσια Κνώσι᾽ ὀρχήματ᾽ αὐτοδαῆ ξυνὼν ἰάψῃς·
Nysian Cnossian dances self-taught joining you-may-throw

νῦν γὰρ ἐμοὶ μέλει χορεῦσαι.
now for to-me it-is-a-care to-dance

Ἰκαρίων δ᾽ ὑπὲρ πελαγέων μολὼν ἄναξ Ἀπόλλων
Icarian and over seas coming lord Apollo

ὁ Δάλιος εὔγνωστος
the Delian well-known

ἐμοὶ ξυνείη διὰ παντὸς εὔφρων.
with-me may-he-be through all kindly

ἔλυσεν αἰνὸν ἄχος ἀπ᾽ ὀμμάτων Ἄρης.
has-loosed dread grief from eyes Ares

ἰὼ ἰώ, νῦν αὖ,
ah ah now again

νῦν, ὦ Ζεῦ, πάρα λευκὸν εὐάμερον πελάσαι φάος
now O Zeus it-is-possible white fair-day to-approach light

θοᾶν ὠκυάλων νεῶν, ὅτ' Αἴας
of-swift sea-skimming ships since Ajax

λαθίπονος πάλιν, θεῶν δ' αὖ
forgetful-of-toil again of-gods and again

πάνθυτα θέσμι' ἐξήνυσ' εὐνομίᾳ σέβων μεγίστᾳ.
all-sacrificing rites has-fulfilled with-due-order revering greatest

πάνθ' ὁ μέγας χρόνος μαραίνει,
all-things the great time withers

κοὐδὲν ἀναύδατον φατίσαιμ' ἄν, εἴτέ γ' ἐξ ἀέλπτων
and-nothing unsayable would-I-call — since at-least beyond expectation

Αἴας μετανεγνώσθη
Ajax has-repented

θυμοῦ τ' Ἀτρείδαις μεγάλων τε νεικέων.
of-wrath and toward-the-sons-of-Atreus great and of-quarrels

XI · THE SWORD IN THE GROUND

A messenger reports that Teucer has come back from Mysia and been abused by the army, and that the prophet Calchas warned that Ajax must be kept inside this one day, for Athena's anger will pursue him only today, since in his pride he twice spurned the gods' help, first answering his father that he would win glory without them, then telling Athena to stand by the other Greeks. Tecmessa learns that Ajax has gone and sends the sailors to search the shore. Ajax, alone, plants Hector's sword in the ground and prays to Zeus to let Teucer find his body, to Hermes to bring him to rest, and to the Furies to avenge him on the sons of Atreus. He bids farewell to the sun, to Salamis, and to Athens, and falls on the sword. The sailors search for him and find nothing.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἄνδρες φίλοι, τὸ πρῶτον ἀγγεῖλαι θέλω·
men friends the first to-announce I-wish
Τεῦκρος πάρεστιν ἄρτι Μυσίων ἀπὸ 720
Teucer is-present just-now Mysian from
κρημνῶν· μέσον δὲ προσμολὼν στρατήγιον
crags middle and having-come-to headquarters
κυδάζεται τοῖς πᾶσιν Ἀργείοις ὁμοῦ.
is-reviled by-the all Argives together
στείχοντα γὰρ πρόσωθεν αὐτὸν ἐν κύκλῳ
coming for from-afar him in circle
μαθόντες ἀμφέστησαν, εἶτ' ὀνείδεσιν
learning they-stood-around then with-taunts
ἤρασσον ἔνθεν κἄνθεν οὔτις ἔσθ' ὃς οὔ, 725
assailed from-here and-from-there no-one there-is who not
τὸν τοῦ μανέντος κἀπιβουλευτοῦ στρατοῦ
the of-the madman and-plotter-against of-the-army
ξύναιμον ἀποκαλοῦντες, ὡς οὐκ ἀρκέσοι
kinsman calling that not he-would-avail

τὸ μὴ οὐ πέτροισι πᾶς καταξανθεὶς θανεῖν·
the not — with-stones all mangled to-die
ὥστ᾽ εἰς τοσοῦτον ἦλθον ὥστε καὶ χεροῖν
so-that to so-far they-came that even in-hands
κολεῶν ἐρυστὰ διεπεραιώθη ξίφη.
of-scabbards drawn passed-across swords
λήγει δ᾽ ἔρις δραμοῦσα τοῦ προσωτάτω
ceases but strife having-run of-the farthest
ἀνδρῶν γερόντων ἐν ξυναλλαγῇ λόγου.
of-men old in reconciliation of-word
ἀλλ᾽ ἡμὶν Αἴας ποῦ ᾽στιν, ὡς φράσω τάδε;
but to-us Ajax where is-he so-that I-may-tell this
τοῖς κυρίοις γὰρ πάντα χρὴ δηλοῦν λόγον.
to-the masters for all must to-declare word
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκ ἔνδον, ἀλλὰ φροῦδος ἀρτίως, νέας
not within but gone just-now new
βουλὰς νέοισιν ἐγκαταζεύξας τρόποις.
counsels with-new having-yoked ways
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἰοὺ ἰού·
alas alas
βραδεῖαν ἡμᾶς ἆρ᾽ ὁ τήνδε τὴν ὁδὸν
slow us then the this the journey
πέμπων ἔπεμψεν ἢ ᾽φάνην ἐγὼ βραδύς.
sending sent or appeared I slow
ΧΟΡΟΣ τί δ᾽ ἐστὶ χρείας τῆσδ᾽ ὑπεσπανισμένον;
what and is of-need this lacking
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τὸν ἄνδρ᾽ ἀπηύδα Τεῦκρος ἔνδοθεν στέγης
the man forbade Teucer from-within of-the-tent
μὴ ᾽ξω παρήκειν, πρὶν παρὼν αὐτὸς τύχῃ.
not out to-let-pass before present himself he-be

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ οἴχεταί τοι, πρὸς τὸ κέρδιστον τραπεὶς
but he-is-gone surely to the most-profitable having-turned
γνώμης, θεοῖσιν ὡς καταλλαχθῇ χόλου.
of-mind to-the-gods so-that he-may-be-reconciled from-wrath
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ταῦτ᾽ ἐστὶ τἄπη μωρίας πολλῆς πλέα,
these are the-words of-folly much full
εἴπερ τι Κάλχας εὖ φρονῶν μαντεύεται.
if-indeed anything Calchas well thinking prophesies
ΧΟΡΟΣ ποῖον; τί δ᾽ εἰδὼς τοῦδε πράγματος πάρει;
what-kind what and knowing of-this matter are-you-present
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τοσοῦτον οἶδα καὶ παρὼν ἐτύγχανον.
so-much I-know and present I-happened-to-be
ἐκ γὰρ συνέδρου καὶ τυραννικοῦ κύκλου
from for council and of-kingly circle
Κάλχας μεταστὰς οἷος Ἀτρειδῶν δίχα,
Calchas having-moved alone the-sons-of-Atreus apart-from
εἰς χεῖρα Τεύκρου δεξιὰν φιλοφρόνως
into hand of-Teucer right kindly
θεὶς εἶπε κἀπέσκηψε, παντοίᾳ τέχνῃ
placing said and-charged by-every means
εἶρξαι κατ᾽ ἦμαρ τοὐμφανὲς τὸ νῦν τόδε
to-confine during day the-present the now this
Αἴανθ᾽ ὑπὸ σκηναῖσι μηδ᾽ ἀφέντ᾽ ἐᾶν,
Ajax under tents nor having-let-go to-allow
εἰ ζῶντ᾽ ἐκεῖνον εἰσιδεῖν θέλοι ποτέ.
if living him to-see he-would-wish ever
ἐλᾷ γὰρ αὐτὸν τῇδε θἠμέρᾳ μόνῃ
will-drive for him this day alone
δίας Ἀθάνας μῆνις, ὡς ἔφη λέγων.
of-divine Athena wrath as he-said speaking

τὰ γὰρ περισσὰ κἀνόνητα σώματα
the for excessive and-useless bodies
πίπτειν βαρείαις πρὸς θεῶν δυσπραξίαις
to-fall with-heavy from gods misfortunes
ἔφασχ' ὁ μάντις, ὅστις ἀνθρώπου φύσιν
said the prophet whoever of-man nature
βλαστὼν ἔπειτα μὴ κατ' ἄνθρωπον φρονῇ.
having-sprung then not according-to man thinks
κεῖνος δ' ἀπ' οἴκων εὐθὺς ἐξορμώμενος
he and from home at-once setting-out
ἄνους καλῶς λέγοντος ηὑρέθη πατρός.
foolish well speaking was-found father
ὁ μὲν γὰρ αὐτὸν ἐννέπει· τέκνον, δόρει
he indeed for him tells child with-spear
βούλου κρατεῖν μέν, σὺν θεῷ δ' ἀεὶ κρατεῖν.
wish to-prevail indeed with god but always to-prevail
ὁ δ' ὑψικόμπως κἀφρόνως ἠμείψατο·
he and boastfully and-senselessly replied
πάτερ, θεοῖς μὲν κἂν ὁ μηδὲν ὢν ὁμοῦ
father with-gods indeed even the nothing being together
κράτος κατακτήσαιτ'· ἐγὼ δὲ καὶ δίχα
might might-win I and even without
κείνων πέποιθα τοῦτ' ἐπισπάσειν κλέος.
them trust this to-win glory
τοσόνδ' ἐκόμπει μῦθον. εἶτα δεύτερον
such he-boasted word then secondly
δίας Ἀθάνας, ἡνίκ' ὀτρύνουσά νιν
of-divine Athena when urging him
ηὐδᾶτ' ἐπ' ἐχθροῖς χεῖρα φοινίαν τρέπειν,
she-bade at enemies hand bloody to-turn

τότ᾽ ἀντιφωνεῖ δεινὸν ἄρρητόν τ᾽ ἔπος·
then he-answers terrible unspeakable and word
ἄνασσα, τοῖς ἄλλοισιν Ἀργείων πέλας
queen to-the others of-Argives near
ἵστω, καθ᾽ ἡμᾶς δ᾽ οὔποτ᾽ ἐκρήξει μάχη. 775
stand by us and never will-break-through battle
τοιοῖσδέ τοι λόγοισιν ἀστεργῆ θεᾶς
by-such surely words implacable of-the-goddess
ἐκτήσατ᾽ ὀργήν, οὐ κατ᾽ ἄνθρωπον φρονῶν.
he-incurred wrath not according-to man thinking
ἀλλ᾽ εἴπερ ἔστι τῇδε θἠμέρᾳ, τάχ᾽ ἂν
but if-indeed he-is this day perhaps —
γενοίμεθ᾽ αὐτοῦ σὺν θεῷ σωτήριοι.
we-may-become his with god saviors
τοσαῦθ᾽ ὁ μάντις εἶφ᾽· ὁ δ᾽ εὐθὺς ἐξ ἕδρας 780
so-much the prophet said he and at-once from seat
πέμπει με σοὶ φέροντα τάσδ᾽ ἐπιστολὰς
sends me to-you bearing these commands
Τεῦκρος φυλάσσειν. εἰ δ᾽ ἀπεστερήμεθα,
Teucer to-guard if but we-have-been-robbed
οὐκ ἔστιν ἀνὴρ κεῖνος, εἰ Κάλχας σοφός.
not is the-man he if Calchas wise
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ δαΐα Τέκμησσα, δύσμορον γένος,
O wretched Tecmessa unhappy race
ὅρα μολοῦσα τόνδ᾽ ὁποῖ᾽ ἔπη θροεῖ· 785
see coming this-one what-sort words he-utters
ξυρεῖ γὰρ ἐν χρῷ τοῦτο μὴ χαίρειν τινά.
shaves for to the-skin this not to-rejoice anyone

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ τί μ᾽ αὖ τάλαιναν, ἀρτίως πεπαυμένην
why me again wretched just-now having-rested
κακῶν ἀτρύτων, ἐξ ἕδρας ἀνίστατε;
from-evils unwearying from seat do-you-raise
ΧΟΡΟΣ τοῦδ᾽ εἰσάκουε τἀνδρός, ὡς ἥκει φέρων
of-this-one hear the-man how he-comes bringing
Αἴαντος ἡμῖν πρᾶξιν ἣν ἤλγησ᾽ ἐγώ.
of-Ajax to-us fortune which I-grieved I
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ οἴμοι, τί φῄς, ἄνθρωπε; μῶν ὀλώλαμεν;
ah-me what do-you-say man — are-we-undone
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οὐκ οἶδα τὴν σὴν πρᾶξιν, Αἴαντος δ᾽ ὅτι,
not I-know the your fortune of-Ajax but that
θυραῖος εἴπερ ἐστίν, οὐ θαρσῶ πέρι.
outside if-indeed he-is not I-am-confident about
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ καὶ μὴν θυραῖος, ὥστε μ᾽ ὠδίνειν τί φῄς.
and indeed outside so-that me to-be-in-travail what do-you-say
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἐκεῖνον εἴργειν Τεῦκρος ἐξεφίεται
him to-confine Teucer enjoins
σκηνῆς ὕπαυλον μηδ᾽ ἀφιέναι μόνον.
of-the-tent under-the-roof nor to-let-go alone
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ποῦ δ᾽ ἐστὶ Τεῦκρος, κἀπὶ τῷ λέγει τάδε;
where and is Teucer and-on what does-he-say this
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ πάρεστ᾽ ἐκεῖνος ἄρτι· τήνδε δ᾽ ἔξοδον
is-present he just-now this and going-out
ὀλεθρίαν Αἴαντος ἐλπίζει φέρειν.
deadly of-Ajax he-expects to-bring
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ οἴμοι τάλαινα, τοῦ ποτ᾽ ἀνθρώπων μαθών;
ah-me wretched from-whom ever of-men having-learned

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τοῦ Θεστορείου μάντεως, καθ' ἡμέραν
the of-Thestor prophet during day
τὴν νῦν, ὅτ' αὐτῷ θάνατον ἢ βίον φέρει.
the now when to-him death or life brings
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ οἲ 'γώ, φίλοι, πρόστητ' ἀναγκαίας τύχης,
ah I friends protect from-necessary fortune
καὶ σπεύσαθ', οἱ μὲν Τεῦκρον ἐν τάχει μολεῖν,
and hasten some indeed Teucer in haste to-come
οἱ δ' ἑσπέρους ἀγκῶνας, οἱ δ' ἀντηλίους
others and western bays others and eastern
ζητεῖτ' ἰόντες τἀνδρὸς ἔξοδον κακήν.
search going of-the-man going-out evil
ἔγνωκα γὰρ δὴ φωτὸς ἠπατημένη
I-know for indeed by-the-man deceived
καὶ τῆς παλαιᾶς χάριτος ἐκβεβλημένη.
and from-the old favor cast-out
οἴμοι, τί δράσω, τέκνον; οὐχ ἱδρυτέον·
ah-me what shall-I-do child not one-must-sit
ἀλλ' εἶμι κἀγὼ κεῖσ' ὅποιπερ ἂν σθένω.
but I-will-go and-I there wherever — I-can
χωρῶμεν, ἐγκονῶμεν, οὐχ ἕδρας ἀκμὴ
let-us-go let-us-hasten not of-sitting the-moment
σῴζειν θέλοντας ἄνδρα γ' ὃς σπεύδῃ θανεῖν.
to-save wishing man at-least who hastens to-die
ΧΟΡΟΣ χωρεῖν ἕτοιμος, κοὐ λόγῳ δείξω μόνον·
to-go ready and-not by-word I-will-show only
τάχος γὰρ ἔργου καὶ ποδῶν ἅμ' ἕψεται,
speed for of-deed and of-feet together will-follow

ΑΙΑΣ ὁ μὲν σφαγεὺς ἕστηκεν ᾗ τομώτατος
the indeed slayer stands where most-cutting
γένοιτ' ἄν, εἴ τῳ καὶ λογίζεσθαι σχολή·
it-would-be — if for-anyone even to-reckon leisure
δῶρον μὲν ἀνδρὸς Ἕκτορος ξένων ἐμοὶ
gift indeed of-man Hector of-guest-friends to-me
μάλιστα μισηθέντος ἐχθίστου θ' ὁρᾶν·
most hated most-hostile and to-see
πέπηγε δ' ἐν γῇ πολεμίᾳ τῇ Τρῳάδι,
it-is-fixed and in land hostile the Trojan
σιδηροβρῶτι θηγάνῃ νεηκονής·
iron-eating on-whetstone newly-sharpened
ἔπηξα δ' αὐτὸν εὖ περιστείλας ἐγώ,
I-fixed and it well setting-around I
εὐνούστατον τῷδ' ἀνδρὶ διὰ τάχους θανεῖν.
most-kindly to-this to-man through speed to-die
οὕτω μὲν εὐσκευοῦμεν· ἐκ δὲ τῶνδέ μοι
thus indeed we-are-well-equipped from and these to-me
σὺ πρῶτος, ὦ Ζεῦ, καὶ γὰρ εἰκός, ἄρκεσον.
you first O Zeus and for fitting help
αἰτήσομαι δέ σ' οὐ μακρὸν γέρας λαχεῖν.
I-will-ask and you not great prize to-obtain
πέμψον τιν' ἡμῖν ἄγγελον, κακὴν φάτιν
send some to-us messenger evil news
Τεύκρῳ φέροντα, πρῶτος ὥς με βαστάσῃ
to-Teucer bearing first so-that me he-may-lift
πεπτῶτα τῷδε περὶ νεορράντῳ ξίφει,
fallen this around freshly-sprinkled sword
καὶ μὴ πρὸς ἐχθρῶν του κατοπτευθεὶς πάρος
and not by enemies some spied-out before

ῥιφθῶ κυσὶν πρόβλητος οἰωνοῖς θ' ἕλωρ.
I-be-thrown to-dogs cast-out for-birds and prey

τοσαῦτά σ', ὦ Ζεῦ, προστρέπω, καλῶ δ' ἅμα
such-things you O Zeus I-pray I-call and at-the-same-time

πομπαῖον Ἑρμῆν χθόνιον εὖ με κοιμίσαι,
escorting Hermes underground well me to-lull-to-sleep

ξὺν ἀσφαδάστῳ καὶ ταχεῖ πηδήματι
with without-struggle and swift leap

πλευρὰν διαρρήξαντα τῷδε φασγάνῳ.
side having-pierced with-this sword

καλῶ δ' ἀρωγοὺς τὰς ἀεί τε παρθένους
I-call and helpers the always and virgins

ἀεί θ' ὁρώσας πάντα τἀν βροτοῖς πάθη,
always and seeing all the-things-among mortals sufferings

σεμνὰς Ἐρινῦς τανύποδας, μαθεῖν ἐμὲ
holy Furies long-striding to-learn me

πρὸς τῶν Ἀτρειδῶν ὡς διόλλυμαι τάλας,
by the sons-of-Atreus how I-perish wretched

καί σφας κακοὺς κάκιστα καὶ πανωλέθρους
and them evil most-evilly and utterly-destroyed

ξυναρπάσειαν, ὥσπερ εἰσορῶσ' ἐμὲ
may-they-seize just-as seeing me

ἴτ', ὦ ταχεῖαι ποίνιμοί τ' Ἐρινύες,
go O swift avenging and Furies

γεύεσθε, μὴ φείδεσθε πανδήμου στρατοῦ·
taste not spare of-the-whole-people army

σὺ δ', ὦ τὸν αἰπὺν οὐρανὸν διφρηλατῶν
you and O the steep heaven driving

Ἥλιε, πατρῴαν τὴν ἐμὴν ὅταν χθόνα
Sun paternal the my when land

ἴδῃς, ἐπισχὼν χρυσόνωτον ἡνίαν
you-see checking golden-backed rein
ἄγγειλον ἄτας τὰς ἐμὰς μόρον τ᾽ ἐμὸν
announce ruin the my doom and my
γέροντι πατρὶ τῇ τε δυστήνῳ τροφῷ.
to-old father to-the and wretched nurse
ἦ που τάλαινα, τήνδ᾽ ὅταν κλύῃ φάτιν,
— surely wretched this when she-hears report
ἥσει μέγαν κωκυτὸν ἐν πάσῃ πόλει.
will-raise great wailing in all city
ἀλλ᾽ οὐδὲν ἔργον ταῦτα θρηνεῖσθαι μάτην,
but no work this to-be-lamented in-vain
ἀλλ᾽ ἀρκτέον τὸ πρᾶγμα σὺν τάχει τινί.
but one-must-begin the deed with speed some
ὦ Θάνατε Θάνατε, νῦν μ᾽ ἐπίσκεψαι μολών.
O Death Death now me visit having-come
καίτοι σὲ μὲν κἀκεῖ προσαυδήσω ξυνών.
and-yet you indeed even-there I-shall-address being-with
σὲ δ᾽, ὦ φαεννῆς ἡμέρας τὸ νῦν σέλας,
you and O of-bright day the present gleam
καὶ τὸν διφρευτὴν Ἥλιον προσεννέπω,
and the charioteer Sun I-address
πανύστατον δὴ κοὔποτ᾽ αὖθις ὕστερον.
for-the-very-last-time indeed and-never again afterward
ὦ φέγγος, ὦ γῆς ἱερὸν οἰκείας πέδον
O light O of-land holy own ground
Σαλαμῖνος, ὦ πατρῷον ἑστίας βάθρον
of-Salamis O paternal of-hearth seat
κλειναί τ᾽ Ἀθῆναι καὶ τὸ σύντροφον γένος
famous and Athens and the reared-with race

κρῆναί τε ποταμοί θ' οἵδε, καὶ τὰ Τρωϊκὰ
springs and rivers and these and the Trojan
πεδία προσαυδῶ, χαίρετ', ὦ τροφῆς ἐμοί·
plains I-address farewell O nurses to-me
τοῦθ' ὑμὶν Αἴας τοὔπος ὕστατον θροεῖ,
this to-you Ajax word last utters
τὰ δ' ἄλλ' ἐν Ἅιδου τοῖς κάτω μυθήσομαι.
the and rest in of-Hades to-the below I-will-tell
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Α′ πόνος πόνῳ πόνον φέρει.
toil on-toil toil brings
πᾷ πᾷ
where where
πᾷ γὰρ οὐκ ἔβαν ἐγώ;
where for not went I
κοὐδεὶς ἐπίσταταί με συμμαθεῖν τόπος.
and-no knows me to-share-the-knowledge place
ἰδού.
behold
δοῦπον αὖ κλύω τινά.
thud again I-hear some
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Β′ ἡμῶν γε ναὸς κοινόπλουν ὁμιλίαν.
our at-least of-ship sharing-the-voyage company
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Α′ τί οὖν δή;
what then indeed
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Β′ πᾶν ἐστίβηται πλευρὸν ἕσπερον νεῶν
all has-been-trodden side western of-the-ships
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Α′ ἔχεις οὖν;
do-you-have then
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Β′ πόνου γε πλῆθος, κοὐδὲν εἰς ὄψιν πλέον.
of-toil at-least abundance and-nothing to sight more

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Α′ ἀλλ᾽ οὐδὲ μὲν δὴ τὴν ἀφ᾽ ἡλίου βολῶν
but neither indeed indeed the from of-sun of-rays
κέλευθον ἀνὴρ οὐδαμοῦ δηλοῖ φανείς.
path the-man nowhere shows having-appeared

XII · THE BODY

The sailors ask who can tell them where Ajax wanders. Tecmessa cries out: she has found him lying newly slain, folded around the sword he fixed in the ground. She covers the body with her cloak, since no friend could bear to look on it, and she and the sailors lament. She fears the yoke of slavery for herself and the child. Tecmessa says that Athena planted this woe for Odysseus' sake, and the chorus that Odysseus and the sons of Atreus laugh at this grief.

ΧΟΡΟΣ τίς ἂν δῆτά μοι, τίς ἂν φιλοπόνων
who — then for-me who — of-toil-loving
880 ἁλιαδᾶν ἔχων ἀΰπνους ἄγρας,
of-fishermen having sleepless hunts
ἢ τίς Ὀλυμπιάδων θεᾶν ἢ ῥυτῶν
or what of-Olympian goddesses or of-flowing
Βοσπορίων ποταμῶν, τὸν ὠμόθυμον
Bosporan rivers the savage-hearted
885 εἴ ποθι πλαζόμενον λεύσσων
if somewhere wandering seeing
ἀπύοι; σχέτλια γὰρ
might-call wretched-things for
ἐμέ γε τὸν μακρῶν ἀλάταν πόνων
me at-least the of-long wanderer of-toils
οὐρίῳ μὴ πελάσαι δρόμῳ,
with-favoring not to-come-near course

ἀλλ᾽ ἀμενηνὸν ἄνδρα μὴ λεύσσειν ὅπου.
but feeble man not to-see where

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ἰώ μοί μοι.
ah me me

ΧΟΡΟΣ τίνος βοὴ πάραυλος ἐξέβη νάπους;
whose cry from-the-neighborhood came-out of-the-glen

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ἰὼ τλήμων.
ah wretched

ΧΟΡΟΣ τὴν δουρίληπτον δύσμορον νύμφην ὁρῶ
the spear-won ill-fated bride I-see

Τέκμησσαν, οἴκτῳ, τῷδε συγκεκραμένην.
Tecmessa with-wailing this steeped

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ᾠχωκ᾽, ὄλωλα, διαπεπόρθημαι, φίλοι.
I-am-gone I-am-lost I-am-utterly-destroyed friends

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί δ᾽ ἔστιν;
what and is-it

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ Αἴας ὅδ᾽ ἡμῖν ἀρτίως νεοσφαγὴς
Ajax this-one to-us just-now newly-slain

κεῖται, κρυφαίῳ φασγάνῳ περιπτυχής.
lies on-hidden sword folded-around

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὤμοι ἐμῶν νόστων·
ah-me my of-homecoming

ὤμοι, κατέπεφνες, ἄναξ,
ah-me you-have-slain lord

τόνδε συνναύταν, τάλας
this shipmate wretched

ὦ ταλαίφρων γύναι·
O wretched-minded lady

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ὡς ὧδε τοῦδ᾽ ἔχοντος αἰάζειν πάρα.
since thus this-one being to-cry-aiai is-possible

ΧΟΡΟΣ τίνος ποτ᾽ ἆρ᾽ ἔπραξε χειρὶ δύσμορος;
of-whom ever then did-he-do by-hand ill-fated

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ αὐτὸς πρὸς αὑτοῦ, δῆλον· ἐν γάρ οἱ χθονὶ
himself by himself clear in for his ground

πηκτὸν τόδ᾽ ἔγχος περιπετὲς κατηγορεῖ.
fixed this sword fallen-upon convicts

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὤμοι ἐμᾶς ἄτας, οἷος ἄρ᾽ αἱμάχθης, ἄφαρκτος φίλων·
ah-me my of-ruin alone then you-bled unguarded by-friends

ἐγὼ δ᾽ ὁ πάντα κωφός, ὁ πάντ᾽ ἄϊδρις, κατημέλησα.
I and the all deaf the all ignorant neglected

πᾷ πᾷ
where where

κεῖται ὁ δυστράπελος, δυσώνυμος Αἴας;
lies the intractable ill-named Ajax

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ οὔτοι θεατός· ἀλλά νιν περιπτυχεῖ
not-surely to-be-seen but him with-enfolding

φάρει καλύψω τῷδε παμπήδην, ἐπεὶ
with-robe I-will-cover this entirely since

οὐδεὶς ἄν, ὅστις καὶ φίλος, τλαίη βλέπειν
no-one — who even friend could-bear to-see

φυσῶντ᾽ ἄνω πρὸς ῥῖνας ἔκ τε φοινίας
breathing up to nostrils from and bloody

πληγῆς μελανθὲν αἷμ᾽ ἀπ᾽ οἰκείας σφαγῆς.
of-blow blackened blood from self-inflicted slaughter

οἴμοι, τί δράσω; τίς σε βαστάσει φίλων;
ah-me what shall-I-do who you will-lift of-friends

ποῦ Τεῦκρος; ὡς ἀκμαῖ᾽ ἄν, εἰ βαίη, μόλοι,
where Teucer how timely — if he-should-come he-would-come

πεπτῶτ᾽ ἀδελφὸν τόνδε συγκαθαρμόσαι.
fallen brother this to-help-lay-out

ὦ δύσμορ᾽ Αἴας, οἷος ὢν οἵως ἔχεις,
O ill-fated Ajax what-sort being how you-are
ὡς καὶ παρ᾽ ἐχθροῖς ἄξιος θρήνων τυχεῖν.
as even among enemies worthy of-laments to-obtain
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔμελλες, τάλας, ἔμελλες χρόνῳ
you-were-to wretched you-were-to in-time
στερεόφρων ἄρ᾽ ἐξανύσσειν κακὰν
stubborn-minded then to-accomplish evil
μοῖραν ἀπειρεσίων πόνων. τοιά μοι
fate of-boundless toils such-things to-me
πάννυχα καὶ φαέθοντ᾽ ἀνεστέναζες
all-night and shining you-groaned
ὠμόφρων ἐχθοδόπ᾽ Ἀτρείδαις
savage-minded hostile-things to-sons-of-Atreus
οὐλίῳ σὺν πάθει.
deadly with suffering
μέγας ἄρ᾽ ἦν ἐκεῖνος ἄρχων χρόνος
great then was that beginning time
πημάτων, ἦμος ἀριστόχειρ
of-woes when the-best-in-hand
*** ὅπλων ἔκειτ᾽ ἀγὼν πέρι.
(lacuna) of-arms was-set contest about
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ἰώ μοί μοι.
ah me me
ΧΟΡΟΣ χωρεῖ πρὸς ἦπαρ, οἶδα, γενναία δύη.
it-goes to liver I-know noble grief
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ ἰώ μοί μοι.
ah me me

940 ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐδέν σ' ἀπιστῶ καὶ δὶς οἰμῶξαι, γύναι,
not-at-all you I-disbelieve even twice to-wail lady
τοιοῦδ' ἀποβλαφθεῖσαν ἀρτίως φίλου.
of-such bereft just-now of-friend
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ σοὶ μὲν δοκεῖν ταῦτ' ἔστ', ἐμοὶ δ' ἄγαν φρονεῖν.
for-you indeed to-conjecture this it-is for-me and too-much to-know
ΧΟΡΟΣ ξυναυδῶ.
I-agree
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ οἴμοι, τέκνον, πρὸς οἷα δουλείας ζυγὰ
ah-me child to what of-slavery yokes
945 χωροῦμεν, οἷοι νῷν ἐφεστᾶσιν σκοποί.
we-go such-as over-us stand watchers
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὤμοι, ἀναλγήτων
ah-me of-unfeeling
δισσῶν ἐθρόησας ἄναυδ'
two you-have-uttered unspeakable
ἔργ' Ἀτρειδᾶν τῷδ' ἄχει.
deeds of-sons-of-Atreus at-this grief
ἀλλ' ἀπείργοι θεός.
but may-ward-off god
950 ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ οὐκ ἂν τάδ' ἔστη τῇδε μὴ θεῶν μέτα.
not — this would-have-stood thus not gods with
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄγαν ὑπερβριθὲς γὰρ ἄχθος ἤνυσαν.
too heavy for burden they-wrought
ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ τοιόνδε μέντοι Ζηνὸς ἡ δεινὴ θεὸς
such however of-Zeus the dread goddess
Παλλὰς φυτεύει πῆμ' Ὀδυσσέως χάριν.
Pallas plants woe of-Odysseus for-the-sake

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἦ ῥα κελαινώπαν θυμὸν ἐφυβρίζει πολύτλας ἀνήρ,
— *then dark-faced spirit insults much-enduring man*
γελᾷ δὲ τοῖσδε μαινομένοις ἄχεσιν πολὺν γέλωτα, φεῦ φεῦ,
laughs and at-these mad griefs much laughter alas alas
ξύν τε διπλοῖ βασιλῆς κλύοντες Ἀτρεῖδαι.
together and twin kings hearing sons-of-Atreus

XIII · TEUCER AND MENELAUS

Tecmessa says that Ajax's death is bitter to her, sweet to his enemies, and welcome to himself, and that the Greeks who laugh may yet miss him in war. Teucer arrives, sends at once for the child, and laments his brother, fearing what his father Telamon will say. He reflects on how Hector's girdle and Ajax's sword, each a gift from the other, have destroyed both men. Menelaus comes to forbid the burial, as Ajax was an enemy of the army. Teucer defies him, and they trade insults until Menelaus leaves. Teucer sets the boy and Tecmessa as suppliants by the body and goes to dig a grave.

ΤΕΚΜΗΣΣΑ οἱ δ' οὖν γελώντων κἀπιχαιρόντων κακοῖς
they and then let-them-laugh and-rejoice at-evils
τοῖς τοῦδ'· ἴσως τοι, κεἰ βλέποντα μὴ 'πόθουν,
the of-this-one perhaps surely even-if living not they-missed
θανόντ' ἂν οἰμώξειαν ἐν χρείᾳ δορός.
dead — they-would-lament in need of-spear
οἱ γὰρ κακοὶ γνώμαισι τἀγαθὸν χεροῖν
the for base in-judgment the-good in-hands
ἔχοντες οὐκ ἴσασι, πρίν τις ἐκβάλῃ.
having not know before one throws-away
ἐμοὶ πικρὸς τέθνηκεν ἢ κείνοις γλυκύς,
to-me bitter he-is-dead than to-them sweet

αὐτῷ δὲ τερπνός· ὧν γὰρ ἠράσθη τυχεῖν
to-himself and pleasant what for he-desired to-obtain
ἐκτήσαθ' αὑτῷ, θάνατον ὅνπερ ἤθελεν.
he-won for-himself death which-indeed he-wished
τί δῆτα τοῦδ' ἐπεγγελῷεν ἂν κάτα;
why then of-this-one would-they-laugh — over
θεοῖς τέθνηκεν οὗτος, οὐ κείνοισιν, οὔ.
by-gods is-dead this-one not by-them no
πρὸς ταῦτ' Ὀδυσσεὺς ἐν κενοῖς ὑβριζέτω.
to this let-Odysseus in empty-things insult
Αἴας γὰρ αὐτοῖς οὐκέτ' ἐστίν, ἀλλ' ἐμοὶ
Ajax for to-them no-longer is but to-me
λιπὼν ἀνίας καὶ γόους διοίχεται.
having-left griefs and laments has-departed
ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ ἰώ μοί μοι.
ah me me
ΧΟΡΟΣ σίγησον· αὐδὴν γὰρ δοκῶ Τεύκρου κλύειν
be-silent voice for I-think of-Teucer to-hear
βοῶντος ἄτης τῆσδ' ἐπίσκοπον μέλος.
shouting of-ruin this aimed-at song
ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ ὦ φίλτατ' Αἴας, ὦ ξύναιμον ὄμμ' ἐμοί,
O dearest Ajax O kindred face to-me
ἆρ' ἠμπόληκας, ὥσπερ ἡ φάτις κρατεῖ;
— have-you-fared as the report prevails
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὄλωλεν ἀνήρ, Τεῦκρε, τοῦτ' ἐπίστασο.
has-perished the-man Teucer this know
ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ ὤμοι βαρείας ἆρα τῆς ἐμῆς τύχης.
ah-me heavy then the my fortune
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὡς ὧδ' ἐχόντων ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ ὦ τάλας ἐγώ, τάλας.
since thus being O wretched I wretched

ΧΟΡΟΣ πάρα στενάζειν. ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ ὦ περισπερχὲς πάθος.
it-is-possible to-groan O violent suffering
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄγαν γε, Τεῦκρε. ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ φεῦ τάλας· τί γὰρ τέκνον
too-much at-least Teucer alas wretched what for child
τὸ τοῦδε, ποῦ μοι γῆς κυρεῖ τῆς Τρῳάδος;
the of-this-one where to-me of-land is of-the Trojan
ΧΟΡΟΣ μόνος παρὰ σκηναῖσιν. ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ οὐχ ὅσον τάχος
alone by tents not as-much-as speed
δῆτ' αὐτὸν ἄξεις δεῦρο, μή τις ὡς κενῆς
then him will-you-bring here lest anyone as of-empty
σκύμνον λεαίνης δυσμενῶν ἀναρπάσῃ;
whelp of-lioness of-foes may-snatch-away
ἴθ', ἐγκόνει, σύγκαμνε· τοῖς θανοῦσί τοι
go hasten help-labor for-the dead surely
φιλοῦσι πάντες κειμένοις ἐπεγγελᾶν.
love all over-the-fallen to-laugh
ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ἔτι ζῶν, Τεῦκρε, τοῦδέ σοι μέλειν
and indeed still living Teucer of-this-one for-you to-care
ἐφίεθ' ἀνὴρ κεῖνος, ὥσπερ οὖν μέλει.
enjoined the-man he as-indeed then you-care
ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ ὦ τῶν ἁπάντων δὴ θεαμάτων ἐμοὶ
O of-the all indeed of-sights to-me
ἄλγιστον ὧν προσεῖδον ὀφθαλμοῖς ἐγώ,
most-painful of-which I-looked-on with-eyes I
ὁδός θ' ὁδῶν πασῶν ἀνιάσασα δὴ
road and of-roads all having-grieved indeed
μάλιστα τοὐμὸν σπλάγχνον, ἣν δὴ νῦν ἔβην.
most my heart which indeed now I-went
ὦ φίλτατ' Αἴας, τὸν σὸν ὡς ἐπῃσθόμην
O dearest Ajax the your when I-perceived

μόρον διώκων κἀξιχνοσκοπούμενος.
doom pursuing and-tracking
ὀξεῖα γάρ σου βάξις ὡς θεοῦ τινος
swift for your rumor as of-god some
διῆλθ' Ἀχαιοὺς πάντας ὡς οἴχει θανών.
went-through Achaeans all that you-are-gone dead
ἀγὼ κλύων δύστηνος ἐκποδὼν μὲν ὢν
which-I hearing wretched out-of-the-way indeed being
ὑπεστέναζον, νῦν δ' ὁρῶν ἀπόλλυμαι.
groaned now and seeing I-perish
οἴμοι.
ah-me
ἴθ', ἐκκάλυψον, ὡς ἴδω τὸ πᾶν κακόν.
go uncover so-that I-may-see the whole evil
ὦ δυσθέατον ὄμμα καὶ τόλμης πικρᾶς,
O hard-to-look-at face and of-daring bitter
ὅσας ἀνίας μοι κατασπείρας φθίνεις.
how-many griefs for-me having-sown you-perish
ποῖ γὰρ μολεῖν μοι δυνατόν, εἰς ποίους βροτούς,
where for to-go for-me possible to what mortals
τοῖς σοῖς ἀρήξαντ' ἐν πόνοισι μηδαμοῦ;
the your having-helped in labors nowhere
ἦ πού με Τελαμών, σὸς πατὴρ ἐμός θ' ἅμα,
— surely me Telamon your father mine and at-the-same-time
δέξαιτ' ἂν εὐπρόσωπος ἵλεώς τ' ἴσως
would-receive — with-kindly-face gracious and perhaps
χωροῦντ' ἄνευ σοῦ. πῶς γὰρ οὔχ; ὅτῳ πάρα
coming without you how for not to-whom it-is-possible
μηδ' εὐτυχοῦντι μηδὲν ἥδιον γελᾶν.
not-even prospering at-all more-sweetly to-smile

οὗτος τί κρύψει; ποῖον οὐκ ἐρεῖ κακὸν
he what will-he-conceal what not he-will-say evil
τὸν ἐκ δορὸς γεγῶτα πολεμίου νόθον,
the from spear born of-enemy bastard
τὸν δειλίᾳ προδόντα καὶ κακανδρίᾳ
the by-cowardice having-betrayed and by-unmanliness
σέ, φίλτατ' Αἴας, ἢ δόλοισιν, ὡς τὰ σὰ
you dearest Ajax or by-tricks so-that the your
κράτη θανόντος καὶ δόμους νέμοιμι σούς.
power having-died and house I-might-hold your
τοιαῦτ' ἀνὴρ δύσοργος, ἐν γήρᾳ βαρύς,
such-things a-man ill-tempered in old-age heavy
ἐρεῖ, πρὸς οὐδὲν εἰς ἔριν θυμούμενος.
will-say for nothing to strife being-angered
τέλος δ' ἀπωστὸς γῆς ἀπορριφθήσομαι,
end and cast-out of-land I-shall-be-thrown-out
δοῦλος λόγοισιν ἀντ' ἐλευθέρου φανείς.
slave in-words instead-of free appearing
τοιαῦτα μὲν κατ' οἶκον· ἐν Τροίᾳ δέ μοι
such-things indeed at home in Troy and to-me
πολλοὶ μὲν ἐχθροί, παῦρα δ' ὠφελήσιμα.
many indeed enemies few and helpful-things
καὶ ταῦτα πάντα σοῦ θανόντος ηὑρόμην.
and these all you having-died I-found
οἴμοι, τί δράσω; πῶς σ' ἀποσπάσω πικροῦ
ah-me what shall-I-do how you shall-I-draw-off bitter
τοῦδ' αἰόλου κνώδοντος, ὦ τάλας, ὑφ' οὗ
this gleaming blade O wretched by which
φονέως ἄρ' ἐξέπνευσας; εἶδες ὡς χρόνῳ
murderer then you-breathed-out you-saw how in-time

ἔμελλέ σ' Ἕκτωρ καὶ θανὼν ἀποφθίσειν;
was-to you Hector even dead to-destroy
σκέψασθε, πρὸς θεῶν, τὴν τύχην δυοῖν βροτοῖν.
consider by gods the fortune of-two mortals
Ἕκτωρ μέν, ᾧ δὴ τοῦδ' ἐδωρήθη πάρα,
Hector indeed with-which indeed this-one was-gifted from
ζωστῆρι πρισθεὶς ἱππικῶν ἐξ ἀντύγων
by-girdle gripped chariot from rails
ἐκνάπτετ' αἰέν, ἔστ' ἀπέψυξεν βίον·
was-mangled always until he-breathed-out life
οὗτος δ' ἐκείνου τήνδε δωρεὰν ἔχων
this-one and from-him this gift having
πρὸς τοῦδ' ὄλωλε θανασίμῳ πεσήματι.
by this has-perished with-deadly fall
ἆρ' οὐκ Ἐρινὺς τοῦτ' ἐχάλκευσεν ξίφος
— not Fury this forged sword
κἀκεῖνον Ἅιδης, δημιουργὸς ἄγριος;
and-that Hades craftsman savage
ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν καὶ ταῦτα καὶ τὰ πάντ' ἀεὶ
I indeed then both this and the all always
φάσκοιμ' ἂν ἀνθρώποισι μηχανᾶν θεούς·
would-say — for-men to-contrive gods
ὅτῳ δὲ μὴ τάδ' ἐστὶν ἐν γνώμῃ φίλα,
to-whom and not this are in judgment dear
κεἰνός τ' ἐκεῖνα στεργέτω κἀγὼ τάδε.
he and those-things let-him-love and-I this
ΧΟΡΟΣ μὴ τεῖνε μακράν, ἀλλ' ὅπως κρύψεις τάφῳ
not stretch long but how you-will-hide in-tomb
φράζου τὸν ἄνδρα χὤ τι μυθήσει τάχα.
consider the man and-what ever you-will-say soon

βλέπω γὰρ ἐχθρὸν φῶτα, καὶ τάχ᾽ ἂν κακοῖς
I-see for enemy man and perhaps — at-evils
γελῶν ἃ δὴ κακοῦργος ἐξίκοιτ᾽ ἀνήρ.
laughing what indeed evil-doer may-come man
ΤΕΤΚΡΟΣ τίς δ᾽ ἐστὶν ὅντιν᾽ ἄνδρα προσλεύσσεις στρατοῦ;
who and is whatever man you-see of-the-army
ΧΟΡΟΣ Μενέλαος, ᾧ δὴ τόνδε πλοῦν ἐστείλαμεν.
Menelaus for-whom indeed this voyage we-made
ΤΕΤΚΡΟΣ ὁρῶ· μαθεῖν γὰρ ἐγγὺς ὢν οὐ δυσπετής.
I-see to-learn for near being not hard
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὗτος, σὲ φωνῶ τόνδε τὸν νεκρὸν χεροῖν
you you I-call this the corpse with-hands
μὴ συγκομίζειν, ἀλλ᾽ ἐᾶν ὅπως ἔχει.
not to-help-carry but to-let-be as it-is
ΤΕΤΚΡΟΣ τίνος χάριν τοσόνδ᾽ ἀνήλωσας λόγον;
of-what for-the-sake so-much did-you-spend speech
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ δοκοῦντ᾽ ἐμοί, δοκοῦντα δ᾽ ὃς κραίνει στρατοῦ.
seeming-good to-me seeming-good and who rules of-the-army
ΤΕΤΚΡΟΣ οὔκουν ἂν εἴποις ἥντιν᾽ αἰτίαν προθείς;
not-then — would-you-say what reason putting-forward
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὁθούνεκ᾽ αὐτὸν ἐλπίσαντες οἴκοθεν
because him hoping from-home
ἄγειν Ἀχαιοῖς ξύμμαχόν τε καὶ φίλον,
to-bring for-Achaeans ally both and friend
ἐξηύρομεν ζητοῦντες ἐχθίω Φρυγῶν·
we-found seeking more-hostile than-Phrygians
ὅστις στρατῷ ξύμπαντι βουλεύσας φόνον
who for-army whole having-plotted murder
νύκτωρ ἐπεστράτευσεν, ὡς ἕλοι δόρει·
by-night marched-against so-that he-might-take with-spear

κεἰ μὴ θεῶν τις τήνδε πεῖραν ἔσβεσεν,
and-if not of-gods some this attempt quenched
ἡμεῖς μὲν ἂν τήνδ' ἦν ὅδ' εἴληχεν τύχην
we indeed — this which this-one has-gotten fortune
θανόντες ἂν προυκείμεθ' αἰσχίστῳ μόρῳ,
dead — would-lie-exposed by-most-shameful doom
οὗτος δ' ἂν ἔζη. νῦν δ' ἐνήλλαξεν θεὸς
this-one and — would-be-living now but altered god
τὴν τοῦδ' ὕβριν πρὸς μῆλα καὶ ποίμνας πεσεῖν.
the of-this-one outrage on sheep and flocks to-fall
ὧν εἵνεκ' αὐτὸν οὔτις ἔστ' ἀνὴρ σθένων
of-which for-the-sake him no-one is man strong
τοσοῦτον ὥστε σῶμα τυμβεῦσαι τάφῳ,
so-much as body to-entomb in-tomb
ἀλλ' ἀμφὶ χλωρὰν ψάμαθον ἐκβεβλημένος
but on yellow sand cast-out
ὄρνισι φορβὴ παραλίοις γενήσεται.
for-birds food of-the-shore he-will-become
πρὸς ταῦτα μηδὲν δεινὸν ἐξάρῃς μένος.
to this no terrible rouse wrath
εἰ γὰρ βλέποντος μὴ 'δυνήθημεν κρατεῖν,
if for living not we-were-able to-control
πάντως θανόντος γ' ἄρξομεν, κἂν μὴ θέλῃς,
wholly dead at-least we-shall-rule even-if not you-wish
χερσὶν παρευθύνοντες· οὐ γὰρ ἔσθ' ὅπου
with-hands guiding not for is-there where
λόγων γ' ἀκοῦσαι ζῶν ποτ' ἠθέλησ' ἐμῶν.
words at-least to-hear living ever he-wished my
καίτοι κακοῦ πρὸς ἀνδρὸς ὄντα δημότην
and-yet base of man being commoner

μηδὲν δικαιοῦν τῶν ἐφεστώτων κλύειν.
nothing to-think-fit of-the set-over to-heed
οὐ γάρ ποτ' οὔτ' ἂν ἐν πόλει νόμοι καλῶς
not for ever neither — in city laws well
φέροιντ' ἄν, ἔνθα μὴ καθεστήκῃ δέος,
would-fare — where not is-established fear
οὔτ' ἂν στρατός γε σωφρόνως ἄρχοιτ' ἔτι,
nor — army at-least prudently would-be-ruled still
μηδὲν φόβου πρόβλημα μηδ' αἰδοῦς ἔχων.
no of-fear bulwark nor of-respect having
ἀλλ' ἄνδρα χρή, κἂν σῶμα γεννήσῃ μέγα,
but man must even-if body he-should-grow great
δοκεῖν πεσεῖν ἂν κἂν ἀπὸ σμικροῦ κακοῦ.
to-think to-fall — even from small evil
δέος γὰρ ᾧ πρόσεστιν αἰσχύνη θ' ὁμοῦ,
fear for to-whom is-present shame and together
σωτηρίαν ἔχοντα τόνδ' ἐπίστασο·
safety having this know
ὅπου δ' ὑβρίζειν δρᾶν θ' ἃ βούλεται παρῇ,
where and to-be-insolent to-do and what he-wishes is-allowed
ταύτην νόμιζε τὴν πόλιν χρόνῳ ποτὲ
this think the city in-time ever
ἐξ οὐρίων δραμοῦσαν εἰς βυθὸν πεσεῖν.
from fair-winds having-run into depth to-fall
ἀλλ' ἑστάτω μοι καὶ δέος τι καίριον,
but let-be-established for-me also fear some timely
καὶ μὴ δοκῶμεν δρῶντες ἃν ἡδώμεθα
and not let-us-think doing what we-like
οὐκ ἀντιτίσειν αὖθις ἂν λυπώμεθα.
not to-pay-back in-turn what we-may-grieve-at

ἔρπει παραλλὰξ ταῦτα. πρόσθεν οὗτος ἦν
goes in-turn this before this-one was
αἴθων ὑβριστής, νῦν δ' ἐγὼ μέγ' αὖ φρονῶ.
fiery insolent now and I great again think
καί σοι προφωνῶ τόνδε μὴ θάπτειν, ὅπως
and to-you I-proclaim this-one not to-bury so-that
μὴ τόνδε θάπτων αὐτὸς εἰς ταφὰς πέσῃς.
not this-one burying yourself into graves you-fall
ΧΟΡΟΣ Μενέλαε, μὴ γνώμας ὑποστήσας σοφὰς
Menelaus not judgments having-laid-down wise
εἶτ' αὐτὸς ἐν θανοῦσιν ὑβριστὴς γένῃ.
then yourself among dead insolent become
ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ οὐκ ἄν ποτ', ἄνδρες, ἄνδρα θαυμάσαιμ' ἔτι,
not — ever men a-man would-I-wonder-at still
ὃς μηδὲν ὢν γοναῖσιν εἶθ' ἁμαρτάνει,
who nothing being by-birth then errs
ὅθ' οἱ δοκοῦντες εὐγενεῖς πεφυκέναι
when the seeming well-born to-be
τοιαῦθ' ἁμαρτάνουσιν ἐν λόγοις ἔπη·
such-things err in words words
ἄγ' εἶπ' ἀπ' ἀρχῆς αὖθις, ἦ σὺ φὴς ἄγειν
come say from beginning again — you claim to-have-brought
τόνδ' ἄνδρ' Ἀχαιοῖς δεῦρο σύμμαχον λαβών;
this man for-Achaeans here ally taking
οὐκ αὐτὸς ἐξέπλευσεν ὡς αὑτοῦ κρατῶν;
not himself sailed-out as of-himself master
ποῦ σὺ στρατηγεῖς τοῦδε; ποῦ δὲ σοὶ λεῶν
where you command of-this-one where and to-you of-the-peoples
ἔξεστ' ἀνάσσειν ὧν ὅδ' ἦγαγ' οἴκοθεν;
is-it-possible to-rule whom this-one led from-home

Σπάρτης ἀνάσσων ἦλθες, οὐχ ἡμῶν κρατῶν·
of-Sparta ruling you-came not of-us master
οὐδ' ἔσθ' ὅπου σοὶ τόνδε κοσμῆσαι πλέον
nor is-there where for-you this-one to-order more
ἀρχῆς ἔκειτο θεσμὸς ἢ καὶ τῷδε σέ.
of-rule lay law than also for-this-one you
ὕπαρχος ἄλλων δεῦρ' ἔπλευσας, οὐχ ὅλων
subordinate of-others here you-sailed not of-the-whole
στρατηγός, ὥστ' Αἴαντος ἡγεῖσθαί ποτε.
general so-that of-Ajax to-lead ever
ἀλλ' ὧνπερ ἄρχεις ἄρχε καὶ τὰ σέμν' ἔπη
but whom-indeed you-rule rule and the haughty words
κόλαζ' ἐκείνους· τόνδε δ', εἴτε μὴ σὺ φὴς
chastise them this-one and whether not you say
εἴθ' ἄτερος στρατηγός, εἰς ταφὰς ἐγὼ
or the-other general into tomb I
θήσω δικαίως, οὐ τὸ σὸν δείσας στόμα.
will-put justly not the your fearing mouth
οὐ γάρ τι τῆς σῆς εἵνεκ' ἐστρατεύσατο
not for at-all of-the your for-the-sake he-went-to-war
γυναικός, ὥσπερ οἱ πόνου πολλοῦ πλέῳ,
wife as the of-toil much full
ἀλλ' εἵνεχ' ὅρκων οἷσιν ἦν ἐνώμοτος,
but for-the-sake of-oaths to-which he-was sworn
σοῦ δ' οὐδέν· οὐ γὰρ ἠξίου τοὺς μηδένας.
of-you and nothing not for he-valued the nobodies
πρὸς ταῦτα πλείους δεῦρο κήρυκας λαβὼν
to this more here heralds taking
καὶ τὸν στρατηγὸν ἧκε, τοῦ δὲ σοῦ ψόφου
and the general come of-the and your noise

οὐκ ἂν στραφείην, ἕως ἂν ᾖς οἷός περ εἶ.
not — would-I-turn as-long-as — you-are such-as indeed you-are

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐδ' αὖ τοιαύτην γλῶσσαν ἐν κακοῖς φιλῶ·
nor again such tongue in evils I-love

τὰ σκληρὰ γάρ τοι, κἂν ὑπέρδικ' ᾖ, δάκνει.
the harsh-things for surely even-if very-just they-be bite

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὁ τοξότης ἔοικεν οὐ σμικρὸν φρονεῖν.
the archer seems not small to-think

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ οὐ γὰρ βάναυσον τὴν τέχνην ἐκτησάμην.
not for vulgar the art I-acquired

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ μέγ' ἄν τι κομπάσειας, ἀσπίδ' εἰ λάβοις.
great — something you-would-boast shield if you-should-take

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ κἂν ψιλὸς ἀρκέσαιμι σοί γ' ὡπλισμένῳ.
even light-armed I-would-be-a-match for-you at-least armed

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἡ γλῶσσά σου τὸν θυμὸν ὡς δεινὸν τρέφει.
the tongue your the spirit how terribly feeds

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ ξὺν τῷ δικαίῳ γὰρ μέγ' ἔξεστιν φρονεῖν.
with the just for great it-is-possible to-think

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ δίκαια γὰρ τόνδ' εὐτυχεῖν κτείναντά με;
just-thing for this-one to-prosper having-killed me

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ κτείναντα; δεινόν γ' εἶπας, εἰ καὶ ζῇς θανών.
having-killed strange at-least you-said if even you-live dead

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ θεὸς γὰρ ἐκσῴζει με, τῷδε δ' οἴχομαι.
god for saves me by-this-one but I-am-gone

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ μή νυν ἀτίμα θεούς, θεοῖς σεσωσμένος.
not now dishonor gods by-gods saved

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἐγὼ γὰρ ἂν ψέξαιμι δαιμόνων νόμους;
I for — would-I-blame of-divinities laws

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ εἰ τοὺς θανόντας οὐκ ἐᾷς θάπτειν παρών.
if the dead not you-allow to-bury being-present

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τούς γ' αὐτὸς αὑτοῦ πολεμίους. οὐ γὰρ καλόν.
the at-least himself his-own enemies not for honorable

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ ἦ σοὶ γὰρ Αἴας πολέμιος προύστη ποτέ;
— to-you for Ajax as-enemy stood-forth ever

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ μισοῦντ' ἐμίσει· καὶ σὺ τοῦτ' ἠπίστασο.
hating he-hated and you this knew

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ κλέπτης γὰρ αὐτοῦ ψηφοποιὸς ηὑρέθης. 1135
thief for of-him vote-maker you-were-found

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἐν τοῖς δικασταῖς, κοὐκ ἐμοί, τόδ' ἐσφάλη.
among the judges and-not by-me this was-tripped

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ πόλλ' ἂν κακῶς λάθρᾳ σὺ κλέψειας κακά.
many — badly secretly you would-steal evils

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τοῦτ' εἰς ἀνίαν τοὔπος ἔρχεταί τινι.
this to pain the-word comes for-someone

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ οὐ μᾶλλον, ὡς ἔοικεν, ἢ λυπήσομεν.
not more as it-seems than we-shall-pain

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἕν σοι φράσω· τόνδ' ἐστὶν οὐχὶ θαπτέον. 1140
one-thing to-you I-will-tell this-one is not to-be-buried

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ ἀλλ' ἀντακούσει τοῦτον ὡς τεθάψεται.
but you-will-hear-in-reply this that he-shall-be-buried

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἤδη ποτ' εἶδον ἄνδρ' ἐγὼ γλώσσῃ θρασὺν
already once I-saw man I with-tongue bold

ναύτας ἐφορμήσαντα χειμῶνος τὸ πλεῖν,
sailors having-urged in-winter the to-sail

ᾧ φθέγμ' ἂν οὐκ ἂν ηὗρες, ἡνίκ' ἐν κακῷ
in-whom voice — not — you-would-have-found when in evil

χειμῶνος εἶχετ', ἀλλ' ὑφ' εἵματος κρυφεὶς 1145
of-storm he-was-held but under cloak hidden

πατεῖν παρεῖχε τῷ θέλοντι ναυτίλων.
to-trample he-let the wishing of-sailors

οὕτω δὲ καὶ σὲ καὶ τὸ σὸν λάβρον στόμα
thus and also you and the your violent mouth
σμικροῦ νέφους τάχ᾽ ἄν τις ἐκπνεύσας μέγας
from-small cloud soon — some blowing-out great
χειμὼν κατασβέσειε τὴν πολλὴν βοήν.
storm may-quench the much shouting
ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ ἐγὼ δέ γ᾽ ἄνδρ᾽ ὄπωπα μωρίας πλέων,
I and at-least man have-seen of-folly full
ὃς ἐν κακοῖς ὕβριζε τοῖσι τῶν πέλας.
who in evils insulted the of-the neighbors
κᾆτ᾽ αὐτὸν εἰσιδών τις ἐμφερὴς ἐμοὶ
and-then him seeing someone like me
ὀργήν θ᾽ ὅμοιος εἶπε τοιοῦτον λόγον·
in-temper and similar spoke such word
ὦνθρωπε, μὴ δρᾶ τοὺς τεθνηκότας κακῶς·
O-man not do to-the dead badly
εἰ γὰρ ποήσεις, ἴσθι πημανούμενος.
if for you-shall-do know to-be-harmed
τοιαῦτ᾽ ἄνολβον ἄνδρ᾽ ἐνουθέτει παρών.
such-things wretched man he-warned being-present
ὁρῶ δέ τοί νιν, κἄστιν, ὡς ἐμοὶ δοκεῖ,
I-see and surely him and-he-is as to-me seems
οὐδείς ποτ᾽ ἄλλος ἢ σύ. μῶν ἠνιξάμην;
no-one ever other than you — did-I-speak-in-riddles
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἄπειμι· καὶ γὰρ αἰσχρόν, εἰ πύθοιτό τις
I-will-go-away and for shameful if should-learn anyone
λόγοις κολάζειν ὦ βιάζεσθαι πάρα.
with-words to-chastise whom to-use-force it-is-possible

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ ἄφερπέ νυν· κἀμοὶ γὰρ αἴσχιστον κλύειν
go-away now and-to-me for most-shameful to-hear
ἀνδρὸς ματαίου φλαῦρ᾽ ἔπη μυθουμένου.
of-man foolish worthless words telling
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔσται μεγάλης ἔριδός τις ἀγών.
there-will-be of-great of-strife some contest
ἀλλ᾽ ὡς δύνασαι, Τεῦκρε, ταχύνας
but as you-can Teucer hastening
σπεῦσον κοίλην κάπετόν τιν᾽ ἰδεῖν
hurry hollow trench some to-see
τῷδ᾽, ἔνθα βροτοῖς τὸν ἀείμνηστον
for-this-one where to-mortals the ever-remembered
τάφον εὐρώεντα καθέξει.
tomb dank he-will-occupy
ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ἐς αὐτὸν καιρὸν οἵδε πλησίοι
and indeed to the-very moment these near
πάρεισιν ἀνδρὸς τοῦδε παῖς τε καὶ γυνή,
are-present of-man this son both and wife
τάφον περιστελοῦντε δυστήνου νεκροῦ.
tomb to-tend of-wretched corpse
ὦ παῖ, πρόσελθε δεῦρο καὶ σταθεὶς πέλας
O child come-near here and standing near
ἱκέτης ἔφαψαι πατρός, ὅς σ᾽ ἐγείνατο.
as-suppliant lay-hold-of father who you begot
θάκει δὲ προστρόπαιος ἐν χεροῖν ἔχων
sit and as-suppliant in hands having
κόμας ἐμὰς καὶ τῆσδε καὶ σαυτοῦ τρίτου,
locks my and of-her and of-yourself third
ἱκτήριον θησαυρόν. εἰ δέ τις στρατοῦ
suppliant treasure if and anyone of-the-army

βίᾳ σ᾽ ἀποσπάσειε τοῦδε τοῦ νεκροῦ,
by-force you should-tear-away from-this the corpse
κακὸς κακῶς ἄθαπτος ἐκπέσοι χθονός,
base basely unburied may-he-be-cast-out of-land
γένους ἅπαντος ῥίζαν ἐξημημένος,
of-race all root cut-off
αὔτως ὅπωσπερ τόνδ᾽ ἐγὼ τέμνω πλόκον.
just-so as this I cut lock
ἔχ᾽ αὐτόν, ὦ παῖ, καὶ φύλασσε, μηδέ σε
hold it O child and guard nor you
κινησάτω τις, ἀλλὰ προσπεσὼν ἔχου.
let-move anyone but falling-on hold
ὑμεῖς τε μὴ γυναῖκες ἀντ᾽ ἀνδρῶν πέλας
you and not women instead-of men near
παρέστατ᾽, ἀλλ᾽ ἀρήγετ᾽, ἔστ᾽ ἐγὼ μολὼν
stand but help until I having-gone
τάφου μεληθῶ τῷδε, κἂν μηδεὶς ἐᾷ.
for-tomb take-care this even-if no-one allows

The chorus asks when the years of wandering war will end, and curses the man who first taught the Greeks to make war. He took away garlands, wine, the sound of the flute, and the joys of love, and left them lying in the dew at Troy. Ajax was once their shield in the night; now they wish they were by the wooded headland of Sunium, to greet holy Athens.

ΧΟΡΟΣ τίς ἄρα νέατος ἐς πότε λήξει
what then last to when will-cease
πολυπλάγκτων ἐτέων ἀριθμός,
of-much-wandering years number
τὰν ἄπαυστον αἰὲν ἐμοὶ δορυσσοήτων
the unceasing always on-me of-spear-hurling
μόχθων ἄταν ἐπάγων
of-toils ruin bringing
ἀν᾽ τὰν εὐρώδεα Τρωΐαν,
throughout the dank Troy
δύστανον ὄνειδος Ἑλλάνων;
wretched reproach of-Greeks
ὄφελε πρότερον αἰθέρα δῦναι μέγαν
he-ought before air to-have-entered great
ἢ τὸν πολύκοινον Ἅιδαν
or the common-to-all Hades
κεῖνος ἀνήρ, ὃς στυγερῶν ἔδειξεν ὅπλων
that the-man who of-hateful showed of-arms
Ἕλλασιν κοινὸν Ἄρη.
to-Greeks common war
ἰὼ πόνοι πρόγονοι πόνων·
ah toils begetting toils

κεῖνος γὰρ ἔπερσεν ἀνθρώπους.
he for destroyed men
ἐκεῖνος οὔτε στεφάνων
he neither of-garlands
οὔτε βαθεῖαν κυλίκων
nor deep of-cups
νεῖμεν ἐμοὶ τέρψιν ὁμιλεῖν,
allotted to-me delight to-share
οὔτε γλυκὺν αὐλῶν ὄτοβον,
nor sweet of-flutes din
δύσμορος, οὔτ' ἐννυχίαν
ill-fated nor nightly
τέρψιν ἰαύειν.
delight to-sleep
ἐρώτων δ', ἐρώτων ἀπέπαυσεν, ὤμοι.
from-loves and from-loves he-cut-me-off ah-me
κεῖμαι δ' ἀμέριμνος οὕτως,
I-lie and uncared-for thus
ἀεὶ πυκιναῖς δρόσοις
always with-thick dews
τεγγόμενος κόμας,
wetted hair
λυγρᾶς μνήματα Τροίας.
of-grim memorials of-Troy
καὶ πρὶν μὲν αἰὲν νυχίου·
and before indeed always nightly
δείματος ἦν μοι προβολὰ
of-terror was for-me defense
καὶ βελέων θούριος Αἴας·
and of-missiles impetuous Ajax

νῦν δ' οὗτος ἀνεῖται στυγερῷ
now and he is-given-up to-hateful
δαίμονι· τίς μοι, τίς ἔτ' οὖν
to-god what to-me what still then
τέρψις ἐπέσται;
delight will-remain
γενοίμαν ἵν' ὑλᾶεν ἔπεστι πόντου
may-I-be where wooded lies-upon of-sea
πρόβλημ' ἁλίκλυστον, ἄκραν
headland sea-washed topmost
ὑπὸ πλάκα Σουνίου,
under plateau of-Sunium
τὰς ἱερὰς ὅπως
the holy so-that
προσείποιμεν Ἀθάνας.
we-may-greet Athens

Agamemnon comes and scorns Teucer as the son of a captive, asking what Ajax ever did that he did not do himself. Teucer recounts how Ajax saved the ships from Hector's fire and fought him in single combat, and recalls the crimes of Agamemnon's own line. Odysseus intervenes and persuades Agamemnon that it is unjust to deny a brave man burial, even an enemy. Agamemnon yields to him as a friend. Teucer thanks Odysseus and welcomes his help in the rest, but will not let him take part in the burial itself, lest it displease the dead, and leads the burial.

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ἰδὼν ἔσπευσα τὸν στρατηλάτην
and indeed seeing I-hastened the general
Ἀγαμέμνον' ἡμῖν δεῦρο τόνδ' ὁρμώμενον·
Agamemnon to-us hither this-one hastening
δῆλος δέ μοὐστὶ σκαιὸν ἐκλύσων στόμα.
clear and to-me-he-is sinister to-loose mouth
ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ σὲ δὴ τὰ δεινὰ ῥήματ' ἀγγέλλουσί μοι
you indeed the terrible words report to-me
τλῆναι καθ' ἡμῶν ὧδ' ἀνοιμωκτὶ χανεῖν;
to-have-dared against us thus with-impunity to-utter
σέ τοι, τὸν ἐκ τῆς αἰχμαλωτίδος λέγω,
you surely the from the captive I-mean
ἦ που τραφεὶς ἂν μητρὸς εὐγενοῦς ἄπο
— surely reared — of-mother well-born from
ὑψήλ' ἐκόμπεις κἀπ' ἄκρων ὠδοιπόρεις,
lofty-things you-would-boast and-on tiptoe would-walk
ὅτ' οὐδὲν ὢν τοῦ μηδὲν ἀντέστης ὕπερ,
when nothing being for-the nothing you-stood-up for
κοὔτε στρατηγοὺς οὔτε ναυάρχους μολεῖν
and-neither generals nor admirals to-have-come

ἡμᾶς Ἀχαιῶν οὐδὲ σοῦ διωμόσω,
us of-Achaeans nor of-you you-declared
ἀλλ' αὐτὸς ἄρχων, ὡς σὺ φής, Αἴας ἔπλει.
but himself ruling as you say Ajax sailed
ταῦτ' οὐκ ἀκούειν μεγάλα πρὸς δούλων κακά;
this not to-hear great from slaves evils
ποίου κέκραγας ἀνδρὸς ὧδ' ὑπέρφρονα;
of-what you-have-shouted man thus overweening
ποῖ βάντος ἢ ποῦ στάντος οὗπερ οὐκ ἐγώ;
where having-gone or where having-stood where not I
οὐκ ἆρ' Ἀχαιοῖς ἄνδρες εἰσὶ πλὴν ὅδε;
not — for-Achaeans men are except this-one
πικροὺς ἔοιγμεν τῶν Ἀχιλλείων ὅπλων
bitter we-seem of-the of-Achilles arms
ἀγῶνας Ἀργείοισι κηρῦξαι τότε,
contests for-Argives to-have-proclaimed then
εἰ πανταχοῦ φανούμεθ' ἐκ Τεύκρου κακοί,
if everywhere we-shall-appear by Teucer base
κοὐκ ἀρκέσει ποθ' ὑμὶν οὐδ' ἡσσημένοις
and-not it-will-suffice ever for-you not-even defeated
εἴκειν ἃ τοῖς πολλοῖσιν ἤρεσκεν κριταῖς,
to-yield what to-the many pleased judges
ἀλλ' αἰὲν ἡμᾶς ἢ κακοῖς βαλεῖτέ που
but always us either with-insults you-will-assail somehow
ἢ σὺν δόλῳ κεντήσεθ' οἱ λελειμμένοι.
or with guile you-will-stab the left-behind
ἐκ τῶνδε μέντοι τῶν τρόπων οὐκ ἄν ποτε
from these however the ways not — ever
κατάστασις γένοιτ' ἂν οὐδενὸς νόμου,
establishment would-be — of-no law

εἰ τοὺς δίκῃ νικῶντας ἐξωθήσομεν
if the by-justice winning we-shall-thrust-aside
καὶ τοὺς ὄπισθεν εἰς τὸ πρόσθεν ἄξομεν.
and the behind to the front shall-lead
ἀλλ' εἰρκτέον τάδ' ἐστίν· οὐ γὰρ οἱ πλατεῖς
but must-be-restrained this are not for the broad
οὐδ' εὐρύνωτοι φῶτες ἀσφαλέστατοι,
nor broad-backed men safest
ἀλλ' οἱ φρονοῦντες εὖ κρατοῦσι πανταχοῦ.
but the thinking well prevail everywhere
μέγας δὲ πλευρὰ βοῦς ὑπὸ σμικρᾶς ὅμως
great and in-ribs ox by small nevertheless
μάστιγος ὀρθὸς εἰς ὁδὸν πορεύεται.
whip straight on road goes
καὶ σοὶ προσέρπον τοῦτ' ἐγὼ τὸ φάρμακον
and for-you approaching this I the medicine
ὁρῶ τάχ', εἰ μὴ νοῦν κατακτήσει τινά·
see soon if not sense you-acquire some
ὃς ἀνδρὸς οὐκέτ' ὄντος, ἀλλ' ἤδη σκιᾶς,
who of-man no-longer being but already of-shadow
θαρσῶν ὑβρίζεις κἀξελευθεροστομεῖς.
being-bold you-insult and-speak-freely
οὐ σωφρονήσεις; οὐ μαθὼν ὃς εἶ φύσιν
not will-you-be-wise not having-learned who you-are by-nature
ἄλλον τιν' ἄξεις ἄνδρα δεῦρ' ἐλεύθερον,
other some will-you-bring man here free
ὅστις πρὸς ἡμᾶς ἀντὶ σοῦ λέξει τὰ σά;
who to us instead-of you will-say the yours
σοῦ γὰρ λέγοντος οὐκέτ' ἂν μάθοιμ' ἐγώ·
you for speaking no-longer — could-understand I

τὴν βάρβαρον γὰρ γλῶσσαν οὐκ ἐπαΐω.
the barbarian for tongue not I-understand

ΧΟΡΟΣ εἴθ' ὑμὶν ἀμφοῖν νοῦς γένοιτο σωφρονεῖν·
would-that for-you both sense might-come to-be-wise

τούτου γὰρ οὐδὲν σφῷν ἔχω λῷον φράσαι.
than-this for nothing to-you-two I-have better to-say

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ φεῦ· τοῦ θανόντος ὡς ταχεῖά τις βροτοῖς
alas of-the dead how swift some for-mortals

χάρις διαρρεῖ καὶ προδοῦσ' ἁλίσκεται,
gratitude flows-away and having-betrayed is-caught

εἰ σοῦ γ' ὅδ' ἀνὴρ οὐδ' ἐπὶ σμικρῶν λόγων,
if of-you at-least this the-man not-even in small words

Αἴας, ἔτ' ἴσχει μνῆστιν, οὗ σὺ πολλάκις
Ajax still holds memory for-whom you often

τὴν σὴν προτείνων προύκαμες ψυχὴν δόρει.
the your putting-forward toiled life with-spear

ἀλλ' οἴχεται δὴ πάντα ταῦτ' ἐρριμμένα.
but gone indeed all this cast-away

ὦ πολλὰ λέξας ἄρτι κἀνόητ' ἔπη,
O many-things having-said just-now and-senseless words

οὐ μνημονεύεις οὐκέτ' οὐδέν, ἡνίκα
not you-remember no-longer nothing when

ἑρκέων ποθ' ὑμᾶς οὗτος ἐγκεκλῃμένους,
in-the-fences once you this-one shut-in

ἤδη τὸ μηδὲν ὄντας, ἐν τροπῇ δορὸς
already the nothing being in rout of-spear

ἐρρύσατ' ἐλθὼν μοῦνος, ἀμφὶ μὲν νεῶν
rescued having-come alone around indeed of-the-ships

ἄκροισιν ἤδη ναυτικοῖς ἑδωλίοις
topmost already naval decks

πυρὸς φλέγοντος, εἰς δὲ ναυτικὰ σκάφη
fire blazing into and naval hulls
πηδῶντος ἅρδην Ἕκτορος τάφρων ὕπερ;
leaping on-high Hector trenches over
τίς ταῦτ' ἀπεῖρξεν; οὐχ ὅδ' ἦν ὁ δρῶν τάδε,
who this kept-off not this-one was the doing this
ὃν οὐδαμοῦ φής, οὗ σὺ μή, βῆναι ποδί;
whom nowhere you-say where you not set foot
ἆρ' ὑμὶν οὗτος ταῦτ' ἔδρασεν ἔνδικα;
— to-you this-one this did just
χὥτ' αὖθις αὐτὸς Ἕκτορος μόνος μόνου
and-when again himself with-Hector alone alone
λαχών τε κἀκέλευστος ἦλθ' ἐναντίος,
having-obtained-by-lot and and-unbidden came opposing
οὐ δραπέτην τὸν κλῆρον ἐς μέσον καθείς,
not runaway the lot into middle having-cast
ὑγρᾶς ἀρούρας βῶλον, ἀλλ' ὃς εὐλόφου
of-moist ground clod but which of-well-crested
κυνῆς ἔμελλε πρῶτος ἅλμα κουφιεῖν;
of-helmet was-about first leap to-make-light
ὅδ' ἦν ὁ πράσσων ταῦτα, σὺν δ' ἐγὼ παρών,
this-one was the doing this with and I present
ὁ δοῦλος, οὐκ τῆς βαρβάρου μητρὸς γεγώς.
the slave the-one-from the barbarian mother born
δύστηνε, ποῖ βλέπων ποτ' αὐτὰ καὶ θροεῖς;
wretched where looking ever these-things also you-utter
οὐκ οἶσθα σοῦ πατρὸς μὲν ὃς προύφυ πατὴρ
not you-know of-your of-father indeed who was-born-before father
ἀρχαῖον ὄντα Πέλοπα βάρβαρον Φρύγα;
ancient being Pelops barbarian Phrygian

Ἀτρέα δ', ὃς αὖ σ' ἔσπειρε δυσσεβέστατον,
Atreus and who again you begot most-impious
προθέντ' ἀδελφῷ δεῖπνον οἰκείων τέκνων;
having-served to-brother meal of-his-own children
αὐτὸς δὲ μητρὸς ἐξέφυς Κρήσσης, ἐφ' ᾗ
yourself and from-mother were-born Cretan on whom
λαβὼν ἐπακτὸν ἄνδρ' ὁ φιτύσας πατὴρ
having-caught foreign man the begetting father
ἐφῆκεν ἐλλοῖς ἰχθύσιν διαφθοράν.
sent for-the-dumb fishes destruction
τοιοῦτος ὢν τοιῷδ' ὀνειδίζεις σποράν;
such being to-such you-reproach birth
ὃς ἐκ πατρὸς μέν εἰμι Τελαμῶνος γεγώς,
who from father indeed I-am of-Telamon born
ὅστις στρατοῦ τὰ πρῶτ' ἀριστεύσας ἐμὴν
who of-the-army the first having-won-the-prize my
ἴσχει ξύνευνον μητέρ', ἣ φύσει μὲν ἦν
has as-bedfellow mother who by-birth indeed was
βασίλεια, Λαομέδοντος· ἔκκριτον δέ νιν
queen of-Laomedon choice and her
δώρημα κείνῳ 'δωκεν Ἀλκμήνης γόνος.
gift to-him gave of-Alcmene son
ἆρ' ὧδ' ἄριστος ἐξ ἀριστέοιν δυοῖν
— thus best from best two
βλαστὼν ἂν αἰσχύνοιμι τοὺς πρὸς αἵματος,
sprung — would-I-shame the by blood
οὓς νῦν σὺ τοιοῖσδ' ἐν πόνοισι κειμένους
whom now you such in toils lying
ὠθεῖς ἀθάπτους, οὐδ' ἐπαισχύνει λέγων;
thrust-out unburied nor are-you-ashamed saying

εὖ νυν τόδ' ἴσθι, τοῦτον εἰ βαλεῖτέ που,
well now this know him if you-will-cast somewhere
βαλεῖτε χἠμᾶς τρεῖς ὁμοῦ συγκειμένους.
you-will-cast and-us three together lying-together
ἐπεὶ καλόν μοι τοῦδ' ὑπερπονουμένῳ
since fair to-me for-him laboring
θανεῖν προδήλως μᾶλλον ἢ τῆς σῆς ὑπὲρ
to-die openly rather than the your for
γυναικός, ἢ τοῦ σοῦ γ' ὁμαίμονος λέγω;
wife or the your at-least kinsman I-mean
πρὸς ταῦθ' ὅρα μὴ τοὐμόν, ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸ σόν·
to this look not the-mine but also the yours
ὡς εἴ με πημανεῖς τι, βουλήσει ποτὲ
since if me you-harm in-any-way you-will-wish ever
καὶ δειλὸς εἶναι μᾶλλον ἢ 'ν ἐμοὶ θρασύς.
and cowardly to-be rather than against me bold
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄναξ Ὀδυσσεῦ, καιρὸν ἴσθ' ἐληλυθώς,
lord Odysseus in-season know you-have-come
εἰ μὴ ξυνάψων, ἀλλὰ συλλύσων πάρει.
if not to-join but to-loosen you-are-present
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ τί δ' ἔστιν, ἄνδρες; τηλόθεν γὰρ ἠσθόμην
what and is-it men from-afar for I-perceived
βοὴν Ἀτρειδῶν τῷδ' ἐπ' ἀλκίμῳ νεκρῷ.
shout of-sons-of-Atreus this over valiant corpse
ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ οὐ γὰρ κλύοντές ἐσμεν αἰσχίστους λόγους,
not for hearing we-are most-shameful words
ἄναξ Ὀδυσσεῦ, τοῦδ' ὑπ' ἀνδρὸς ἀρτίως;
lord Odysseus this by man just-now

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ποίους; ἐγὼ γὰρ ἀνδρὶ συγγνώμην ἔχω
what-kind I for for-a-man pardon have
κλύοντι φλαῦρα συμβαλεῖν ἔπη κακά.
hearing base to-exchange words evil
ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ ἤκουσεν αἰσχρά· δρῶν γὰρ ἦν τοιαῦτά με.
he-heard shameful-things doing for he-was such-things me
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ τί γάρ σ' ἔδρασεν, ὥστε καὶ βλάβην ἔχειν; 1325
what for you did-he-do so-that also harm to-have
ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ οὔ φησ' ἐάσειν τόνδε τὸν νεκρὸν ταφῆς
not he-says to-allow this the corpse of-burial
ἄμοιρον, ἀλλὰ πρὸς βίαν θάψειν ἐμοῦ.
without-share but in-spite-of force to-bury me
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἔξεστιν οὖν εἰπόντι τἀληθῆ φίλῳ
is-it-possible then to-one-saying the-truth to-friend
σοὶ μηδὲν ἧσσον ἢ πάρος ξυνηρετεῖν;
to-you no less than before to-row-with
ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ εἴπ'· ἦ γὰρ εἶην οὐκ ἂν εὖ φρονῶν, ἐπεὶ 1330
speak truly for I-would-be not — well thinking since
φίλον σ' ἐγὼ μέγιστον Ἀργείων νέμω.
friend you I greatest of-Argives regard
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἄκουέ νυν. τὸν ἄνδρα τόνδε πρὸς θεῶν
hear now the man this by gods
μὴ τληῇς ἄθαπτον ὧδ' ἀναλγήτως βαλεῖν·
not dare unburied thus ruthlessly to-cast
μηδ' ἡ βία σε μηδαμῶς νικησάτω
nor the force you by-no-means let-conquer
τοσόνδε μισεῖν ὥστε τὴν δίκην πατεῖν. 1335
so-much to-hate that the justice to-trample
κἀμοὶ γὰρ ἦν ποθ' οὗτος ἔχθιστος στρατοῦ,
and-to-me for was once he most-hateful of-the-army

ἐξ οὗ ᾽κράτησα τῶν Ἀχιλλείων ὅπλων,
from when I-won the of-Achilles arms
ἀλλ᾽ αὐτὸν ἔμπας ὄντ᾽ ἐγὼ τοιόνδ᾽ ἐμοὶ
but him nevertheless being I such to-me
οὐκ ἀντατιμάσαιμ᾽ ἄν, ὥστε μὴ λέγειν
not would-dishonor-in-return — so-as not to-say
ἕν᾽ ἄνδρ᾽ ἰδεῖν ἄριστον Ἀργείων, ὅσοι
one man to-see best of-Argives as-many-as
Τροίαν ἀφικόμεσθα, πλὴν Ἀχιλλέως.
Troy reached except Achilles
ὥστ᾽ οὐκ ἂν ἐνδίκως γ᾽ ἀτιμάζοιτό σοι·
so-that not — justly at-least would-be-be-dishonored by-you
οὐ γάρ τι τοῦτον, ἀλλὰ τοὺς θεῶν νόμους
not for at-all him but the of-gods laws
φθείροις ἄν. ἄνδρα δ᾽ οὐ δίκαιον, εἰ θάνοι,
you-would-destroy — man and not just if he-should-die
βλάπτειν τὸν ἐσθλόν, οὐδ᾽ ἐὰν μισῶν κυρῇς.
to-harm the noble not-even if hating you-happen

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ σὺ ταῦτ᾽, Ὀδυσσεῦ, τοῦδ᾽ ὑπερμαχεῖς ἐμοί;
you this Odysseus for-this-one fight against-me

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἔγωγ᾽· ἐμίσουν δ᾽, ἡνίκ᾽ ἦν μισεῖν καλόν.
I-for-my-part I-hated but when it-was to-hate honorable

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ οὐ γὰρ θανόντι καὶ προσεμβῆναί σε χρή;
not for dead also to-trample-upon you must

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ μὴ χαῖρ᾽, Ἀτρείδη, κέρδεσιν τοῖς μὴ καλοῖς.
not rejoice son-of-Atreus in-gains the not honorable

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ τόν τοι τύραννον εὐσεβεῖν οὐ ῥᾴδιον.
the surely tyrant to-be-pious not easy

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἀλλ᾽ εὖ λέγουσι τοῖς φίλοις τιμὰς νέμειν.
but well speaking to-the friends honors to-give

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ κλύειν τὸν ἐσθλὸν ἄνδρα χρὴ τῶν ἐν τέλει.
to-heed the noble man must the in office

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ παῦσαι· κρατεῖς τοι τῶν φίλων νικώμενος.
stop you-prevail surely by-the friends being-overcome

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ μέμνησ᾽ ὁποίῳ φωτὶ τὴν χάριν δίδως.
remember to-what-sort man the favor you-give

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ὅδ᾽ ἐχθρὸς ἀνήρ, ἀλλὰ γενναῖός ποτ᾽ ἦν. 1355
this enemy the-man but noble once he-was

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ τί ποτε ποήσεις; ἐχθρὸν ὧδ᾽ αἰδεῖ νέκυν;
what ever will-you-do enemy thus you-respect corpse

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ νικᾷ γὰρ ἀρετή με τῆς ἔχθρας πολύ.
prevails for the-valor me than-the enmity much

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ τοιοίδε μέντοι φῶτες ἔμπληκτοι βροτῶν.
such however men unstable of-mortals

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἦ κάρτα πολλοὶ νῦν φίλοι καὖθις πικροί.
truly very many now friends and-again bitter

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ τοιούσδ᾽ ἐπαινεῖς δῆτα σὺ κτᾶσθαι φίλους; 1360
such you-praise then you to-get friends

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ σκληρὰν ἐπαινεῖν οὐ φιλῶ ψυχὴν ἐγώ.
harsh to-praise not I-love soul I

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ ἡμᾶς σὺ δειλοὺς τῇδε θἠμέρᾳ φανεῖς.
us you cowards on-this day will-show

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἄνδρας μὲν οὖν Ἕλλησι πᾶσιν ἐνδίκους.
men indeed rather to-Greeks all just

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ ἄνωγας οὖν με τὸν νεκρὸν θάπτειν ἐᾶν;
you-bid then me the corpse to-bury to-allow

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἔγωγε· καὶ γὰρ αὐτὸς ἐνθάδ᾽ ἵξομαι. 1365
I-for-my-part and for myself here shall-come

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ ἦ πάνθ᾽ ὅμοια πᾶς ἀνὴρ αὑτῷ πονεῖ.
truly all-things alike every man for-himself toils

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ τῷ γάρ με μᾶλλον εἰκὸς ἢ ᾽μαυτῷ πονεῖν;
for-whom for me rather fitting than for-myself to-toil

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ σὸν ἆρα τοὔργον, οὐκ ἐμὸν κεκλήσεται.
yours then the-deed not mine will-be-called

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ὡς ἂν ποήσῃς, πανταχῇ χρηστός γ᾽ ἔσει.
however — you-do everywhere good at-least you-will-be

ΑΓΑΜΕΜΝΩΝ ἀλλ᾽ εὖ γε μέντοι τοῦτ᾽ ἐπίστασ᾽ ὡς ἐγὼ
but well at-least however this know that I

σοὶ μὲν νέμοιμ᾽ ἂν τῆσδε καὶ μείζω χάριν,
to-you indeed would-grant — than-this even greater favor

οὗτος δὲ κἀκεῖ κἀνθάδ᾽ ὢν ἔμοιγ᾽ ὁμῶς
he and both-there and-here being to-me-at-least alike

ἔχθιστος ἔσται· σοὶ δὲ δρᾶν ἔξεσθ᾽ ἃ χρῄς.
most-hateful will-be for-you and to-do it-is-possible what you-wish

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὅστις σ᾽, Ὀδυσσεῦ, μὴ λέγει γνώμῃ σοφὸν
whoever you Odysseus not says in-judgment wise

φῦναι, τοιοῦτον ὄντα, μῶρός ἐστ᾽ ἀνήρ.
to-be-born such being fool is man

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ καὶ νῦν γε Τεύκρῳ τἀπὸ τοῦδ᾽ ἀγγέλλομαι,
and now at-least to-Teucer the-things-from now I-announce

ὅσον τότ᾽ ἐχθρὸς ἦ, τοσόνδ᾽ εἶναι φίλος.
as-much-as then enemy I-was so-much to-be friend

καὶ τὸν θανόντα τόνδε συνθάπτειν θέλω
and the dead this to-help-bury I-wish

καὶ ξυμπονεῖν καὶ μηδὲν ἐλλείπειν ὅσων
and to-toil-with and nothing to-leave-out of-what

χρὴ τοῖς ἀρίστοις ἀνδράσιν πονεῖν βροτούς.
must for-the best men to-toil mortals

ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ ἄριστ᾽ Ὀδυσσεῦ, πάντ᾽ ἔχω σ᾽ ἐπαινέσαι
best Odysseus all-things I-can you to-praise
λόγοισι, καί μ᾽ ἔψευσας ἐλπίδος πολύ.
in-words and me you-deceived of-expectation much
τούτῳ γὰρ ὢν ἔχθιστος Ἀργείων ἀνὴρ
to-this-one for being most-hateful of-Argives man
μόνος παρέστης χερσίν, οὐδ᾽ ἔτλης παρὼν
alone you-stood-by with-hands nor dared present
θανόντι τῷδε ζῶν ἐφυβρίσαι μέγα, 1385
the-dead this-one living to-insult greatly
ὡς ὁ στρατηγὸς οὑπιβρόντητος μολὼν
as the general the-thunderstruck having-come
αὐτός τε χὠ ξύναιμος ἠθελησάτην
himself and and-the kinsman wished
λωβητὸν αὐτὸν ἐκβαλεῖν ταφῆς ἄτερ.
outraged him to-cast-out burial without
τοιγάρ σφ᾽ Ὀλύμπου τοῦδ᾽ ὁ πρεσβεύων πατὴρ
therefore them of-Olympus this the ruling father
μνήμων τ᾽ Ἐρινὺς καὶ τελεσφόρος Δίκη 1390
mindful and Fury and fulfilling Justice
κακοὺς κακῶς φθείρειαν, ὥσπερ ἤθελον
base basely may-destroy just-as they-wished
τὸν ἄνδρα λώβαις ἐκβαλεῖν ἀναξίως.
the man with-outrages to-cast-out unworthily
σὲ δ᾽, ὦ γεραιοῦ σπέρμα Λαέρτου πατρός,
you and O of-aged offspring of-Laertes father
τάφου μὲν ὀκνῶ τοῦδ᾽ ἐπιψαύειν ἐᾶν,
tomb indeed I-hesitate this to-touch to-allow
μὴ τῷ θανόντι τοῦτο δυσχερὲς ποιῶ· 1395
lest to-the dead this displeasing I-do

τὰ δ' ἄλλα καὶ ξύμπρασσε, κεἴ τινα στρατοῦ
the and rest also help-in and-if any of-the-army
θέλεις κομίζειν, οὐδὲν ἄλγος ἕξομεν.
you-wish to-bring no grief we-shall-have
ἐγὼ δὲ τἄλλα πάντα πορσυνῶ· σὺ δὲ
I and the-rest all will-provide you and
ἀνὴρ καθ' ἡμᾶς ἐσθλὸς ὢν ἐπίστασο.
man toward us good being know
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἀλλ' ἤθελον μέν· εἰ δὲ μή 'στί σοι φίλον
but I-wished indeed if but not is to-you dear
πράσσειν τάδ' ἡμᾶς, εἶμ' ἐπαινέσας τὸ σόν.
to-do this us I-will-go having-praised the your
ΤΕΥΚΡΟΣ ἅλις· ἤδη γὰρ πολὺς ἐκτέταται
enough already for long has-been-stretched-out
χρόνος. ἀλλ' οἱ μὲν κοίλην κάπετον
time but some indeed hollow trench
χερσὶ ταχύνατε, τοὶ δ' ὑψίβατον
with-hands hasten others and high-standing
τρίποδ' ἀμφίπυρον λουτρῶν ὁσίων
tripod fire-surrounded of-baths holy
θέσθ' ἐπίκαιρον·
set timely
μία δ' ἐκ κλισίας ἀνδρῶν ἴλη
one and from tent of-men troop
τὸν ὑπασπίδιον κόσμον φερέτω.
the under-the-shield equipment let-carry
παῖ, σὺ δὲ πατρός γ', ὅσον ἰσχύεις,
child you and of-father at-least as-much-as you-are-strong
φιλότητι θιγὼν πλευρὰς σὺν ἐμοὶ
with-love touching sides with me

τάσδ' ἐπικούφιζ'· ἔτι γὰρ θερμαὶ
these lift still for warm
σύριγγες ἄνω φυσῶσι μέλαν
veins upward spout dark
μένος. ἀλλ' ἄγε πᾶς, φίλος ὅστις ἀνὴρ
force but come every friend who man
φησὶ παρεῖναι, σούσθω, βάτω,
claims to-be-present let-him-hasten let-him-go
τῷδ' ἀνδρὶ πονῶν τῷ πάντ' ἀγαθῷ
for-this man toiling for-the in-all good
κοὐδενί πω λώονι θνητῶν
and-to-none ever better of-mortals
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἦ πολλὰ βροτοῖς ἔστιν ἰδοῦσιν
truly many-things to-mortals it-is having-seen
γνῶναι· πρὶν ἰδεῖν δ' οὐδὲὶς μάντις
to-know before to-see but no-one prophet
τῶν μελλόντων, ὅ τι πράξει.
of-the things-to-come what ever he-will-do

SOPHOCLES

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ

Electra

The old tutor who saved Orestes as a child brings him back to Mycenae, the house of the Pelopids, with Pylades. Orestes tells how Apollo bade him take vengeance by stealth, and lays out his plan: the tutor will go in with a false report that Orestes has died in a chariot race at Delphi, while he and Pylades take offerings to his father's tomb and come later with an urn. Electra is heard crying within. She comes out and laments to the light and air, and calls on the gods below and the Furies to avenge her father's murder and send her brother.

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ ὦ τοῦ στρατηγήσαντος ἐν Τροίᾳ ποτὲ
O of-the having-led-the-army in Troy once
Ἀγαμέμνονος παῖ, νῦν ἐκεῖν' ἔξεστί σοι
of-Agamemnon son now those-things it-is-possible for-you
παρόντι λεύσσειν, ὧν πρόθυμος ἦσθ' ἀεί.
present to-see of-which eager you-were always
τὸ γὰρ παλαιὸν Ἄργος οὑπόθεις τόδε,
the for ancient Argos the-one-you-longed-for this
τῆς οἰστροπλῆγος ἄλσος Ἰνάχου κόρης·
of-the gadfly-driven grove of-Inachus daughter
αὕτη δ', Ὀρέστα, τοῦ λυκοκτόνου θεοῦ
this and Orestes of-the wolf-slaying god
ἀγορὰ Λύκειος· οὐξ ἀριστερᾶς δ' ὅδε
marketplace Lycean the-one-from left and this
Ἥρας ὁ κλεινὸς ναός· οἷ δ' ἱκάνομεν,
of-Hera the famous temple where and we-come
φάσκειν Μυκήνας τὰς πολυχρύσους ὁρᾶν
to-say Mycenae the rich-in-gold to-see
πολύφθορόν τε δῶμα Πελοπιδῶν τόδε,
much-ruined and house of-Pelopids this

ὅθεν σε πατρὸς ἐκ φονῶν ἐγώ ποτε
whence you of-father from murder I once
πρὸς σῆς ὁμαίμου καὶ κασιγνήτης λαβὼν
from your kinswoman and sister having-taken
ἤνεγκα κἀξέσωσα κἀξεθρεψάμην
carried and-saved and-reared
τοσόνδ' ἐς ἥβης, πατρὶ τιμωρὸν φόνου.
so-far to youth for-father avenger of-murder
νῦν οὖν, Ὀρέστα καὶ σὺ φίλτατε ξένων
now then Orestes and you dearest of-guest-friends
Πυλάδη, τί χρὴ δρᾶν ἐν τάχει βουλευτέον·
Pylades what one-must do in haste must-be-planned
ὡς ἡμὶν ἤδη λαμπρὸν ἡλίου σέλας
since for-us already bright of-sun gleam
ἑῷα κινεῖ φθέγματ' ὀρνίθων σαφῆ
at-dawn stirs songs of-birds clear
μέλαινά τ' ἄστρων ἐκλέλοιπεν εὐφρόνη.
black and of-stars has-failed night
πρὶν οὖν τιν' ἀνδρῶν ἐξοδοιπορεῖν στέγης,
before then some of-men to-go-out of-the-house
ξυνάπτετον λόγοισιν· ὡς ἐνταῦθ' ἐμέν,
join in-words since here we-are
ἵν' οὐκέτ' ὀκνεῖν καιρός, ἀλλ' ἔργων ἀκμή.
where no-longer to-hesitate the-moment but of-deeds the-time
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ φίλτατ' ἀνδρῶν προσπόλων, ὥς μοι σαφῆ
O dearest of-men servants how to-me clear
σημεῖα φαίνεις ἐσθλὸς εἰς ἡμᾶς γεγώς.
signs you-show good toward us being
ὥσπερ γὰρ ἵππος εὐγενής, κἂν ᾖ γέρων,
just-as for horse well-bred even-if he-be old

ἐν τοῖσι δεινοῖς θυμὸν οὐκ ἀπώλεσεν,
in the dangers spirit not has-lost
ἀλλ᾽ ὀρθὸν οὖς ἵστησιν, ὡσαύτως δὲ σὺ
but upright ear sets just-so and you
ἡμᾶς τ᾽ ὀτρύνεις καὐτὸς ἐν πρώτοις ἕπει.
us both urge and-yourself among first follow
τοιγὰρ τὰ μὲν δόξαντα δηλώσω, σὺ δὲ
therefore the indeed resolved I-will-show you and
ὀξεῖαν ἀκοὴν τοῖς ἐμοῖς λόγοις διδούς,
sharp hearing to-the my words giving
εἰ μή τι καιροῦ τυγχάνω, μεθάρμοσον.
if not at-all of-the-mark I-hit amend
ἐγὼ γὰρ ἡνίχ᾽ ἱκόμην τὸ Πυθικὸν
I for when I-came-to the Pythian
μαντεῖον, ὡς μάθοιμ᾽ ὅτῳ τρόπῳ πατρὶ
oracle so-that I-might-learn by-what manner for-father
δίκας ἀροίμην τῶν φονευσάντων πάρα,
penalties I-might-take the having-murdered from
χρῇ μοι τοιαῦθ᾽ ὁ Φοῖβος ὢν πεύσει τάχα·
answers me such-things the Phoebus which you-will-learn soon
ἄσκευον αὐτὸν ἀσπίδων τε καὶ στρατοῦ
unequipped myself of-shields both and of-army
δόλοισι κλέψαι χειρὸς ἐνδίκους σφαγάς.
by-guile to-steal of-hand just slaughters
ὅτ᾽ οὖν τοιόνδε χρησμὸν εἰσηκούσαμεν,
when then such oracle we-heard
σὺ μὲν μολών, ὅταν σε καιρὸς εἰσάγῃ,
you indeed going when you the-moment brings
δόμων ἔσω τῶνδ᾽, ἴσθι πᾶν τὸ δρώμενον,
house within of-this know all the being-done

ὅπως ἂν εἰδὼς ἡμὶν ἀγγείλῃς σαφῆ.
so-that — knowing to-us you-may-report clear-things
οὐ γάρ σε μὴ γήρᾳ τε καὶ χρόνῳ μακρῷ
not for you — by-old-age both and by-time long
γνῶσ', οὐδ' ὑποπτεύσουσιν ὧδ' ἠνθισμένον.
they-will-know nor suspect thus grizzled
λόγῳ δὲ χρῶ τοιῷδ', ὅτι ξένος μὲν εἶ
story and use such that stranger indeed you-are
Φωκέως παρ' ἀνδρὸς Φανοτέως ἥκων· ὃ γὰρ
Phocian from man Phanoteus coming he for
μέγιστος αὐτοῖς τυγχάνει δορυξένων.
greatest to-them happens of-spear-friends
ἄγγελλε δ' ὅρκον προστιθεὶς ὁθούνεκα
announce and oath adding that
τέθνηκ' Ὀρέστης ἐξ ἀναγκαίας τύχης,
is-dead Orestes from necessary fortune
ἄθλοισι Πυθικοῖσιν ἐκ τροχηλάτων
at-games Pythian from wheeled
δίφρων κυλισθείς· ὧδ' ὁ μῦθος ἑστάτω.
chariot rolled thus the tale let-stand
ἡμεῖς δὲ πατρὸς τύμβον, ὡς ἐφίετο,
we and of-father tomb as he-enjoined
λοιβαῖσι πρῶτον καὶ καρατόμοις χλιδαῖς
with-libations first and shorn locks
στέψαντες εἶτ' ἄψορρον ἥξομεν πάλιν,
having-crowned then back will-come again
τύπωμα χαλκόπλευρον ἠρμένοι χεροῖν,
urn bronze-sided carrying in-hands
ὃ καὶ σὺ θάμνοις οἶσθά που κεκρυμμένον,
which also you in-thickets know surely hidden

ὅπως λόγῳ κλέπτοντες ἡδεῖαν φάτιν
so-that in-word deceiving pleasant report
φέρωμεν αὐτοῖς, τοὐμὸν ὡς ἔρρει δέμας
we-may-bring to-them my that has-perished body
φλογιστὸν ἤδη καὶ κατηνθρακωμένον.
burned already and reduced-to-ashes
τί γάρ με λυπεῖ τοῦθ', ὅταν λόγῳ θανὼν
what for me does-it-pain this when in-word dead
ἔργοισι σωθῶ κἀξενέγκωμαι κλέος;
in-deeds I-am-saved and-win glory
δοκῶ μέν, οὐδὲν ῥῆμα σὺν κέρδει κακόν.
I-think indeed no word with gain evil
ἤδη γὰρ εἶδον πολλάκις καὶ τοὺς σοφοὺς
already for I-saw often even the wise
λόγῳ μάτην θνῄσκοντας· εἶθ', ὅταν δόμους
in-word falsely dying then when house
ἔλθωσιν αὖθις, ἐκτετίμηνται πλέον·
they-come again are-honored more
ὡς κἄμ' ἐπαυχῶ τῆσδε τῆς φήμης ἄπο
as and-me I-boast this the report from
δεδορκότ' ἐχθροῖς ἄστρον ὡς λάμψειν ἔτι.
alive on-enemies star like to-shine still
ἀλλ', ὦ πατρῴα γῆ θεοί τ' ἐγχώριοι,
but O paternal land gods and native
δέξασθέ μ' εὐτυχοῦντα ταῖσδε ταῖς ὁδοῖς,
receive me prospering in-these the journeys
σύ τ', ὦ πατρῷον δῶμα· σοῦ γὰρ ἔρχομαι
you and O paternal house of-you for I-come
δίκῃ καθαρτὴς πρὸς θεῶν ὡρμημένος·
with-justice purifier by gods sped

καὶ μή μ᾽ ἄτιμον τῆσδ᾽ ἀποστείλητε γῆς,
and not me dishonored from-this send-away land
ἀλλ᾽ ἀρχέπλουτον καὶ καταστάτην δόμων.
but master-of-wealth and restorer of-house
εἴρηκα μέν νυν ταῦτα· σοὶ δ᾽ ἤδη, γέρον,
I-have-said indeed now this to-you and now old-man
τὸ σὸν μελέσθω βάντι φρουρῆσαι χρέος.
the your let-be-a-care going to-guard duty
νὼ δ᾽ ἔξιμεν· καιρὸς γάρ, ὅσπερ ἀνδράσιν
we-two and will-go-out the-moment for which for-men
μέγιστος ἔργου παντός ἐστ᾽ ἐπιστάτης.
greatest of-deed every is overseer
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἰώ μοί μοι δύστηνος.
ah me me wretched
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ καὶ μὴν θυρῶν ἔδοξα προσπόλων τινὸς
and indeed at-the-doors I-thought of-servants of-some
ὑποστενούσης ἔνδον αἰσθέσθαι, τέκνον.
groaning within to-perceive child
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἆρ᾽ ἐστὶν ἡ δύστηνος Ἠλέκτρα· θέλεις
— is the wretched Electra do-you-wish
μείνωμεν αὐτοῦ κἀπακούσωμεν γόων;
let-us-stay here and-listen-to laments
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ ἥκιστα· μηδὲν πρόσθεν ἢ τὰ Λοξίου
by-no-means nothing before than the of-Loxias
πειρώμεθ᾽ ἔρδειν κἀπὸ τῶνδ᾽ ἀρχηγετεῖν,
let-us-try to-do and-from these to-begin
πατρὸς χέοντες λουτρά· ταῦτα γὰρ φέρει
for-father pouring libations this for brings
νίκην τ᾽ ἐφ᾽ ἡμῖν καὶ κράτος τῶν δρωμένων.
victory and to us and mastery of-the deeds

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ φάος ἁγνὸν
O light holy
καὶ γῆς ἰσόμοιρ' ἀήρ, ὥς μοι
and of-earth equal-share air how to-me
πολλὰς μὲν θρήνων ᾠδάς,
many indeed of-laments songs
πολλὰς δ' ἀντήρεις ᾔσθου
many and opposing you-perceived
στέρνων πληγὰς αἱμασσομένων, 90
of-breast blows bloodied
ὁπόταν δνοφερὰ νὺξ ὑπολειφθῇ·
whenever dark night is-left-behind
τὰ δὲ παννυχίδων ἤδη στυγεραὶ
the and of-night-long-vigils already hateful
ξυνίσασ' εὐναὶ μογερῶν οἴκων,
know beds of-wretched house
ὅσα τὸν δύστηνον ἐμὸν θρηνῶ
how-many-things the wretched my I-lament
πατέρ', ὃν κατὰ μὲν βάρβαρον αἶαν 95
father whom in indeed barbarian land
φοίνιος Ἄρης οὐκ ἐξένισεν,
bloody Ares not entertained
μήτηρ δ' ἠμὴ χὠ κοινολεχὴς
mother and my and-the bed-fellow
Αἴγισθος ὅπως δρῦν ὑλοτόμοι
Aegisthus as oak woodcutters
σχίζουσι κάρα φονίῳ πελέκει,
split head with-bloody axe
κοὐδεὶς τούτων οἶκτος ἀπ' ἄλλης 100
and-no for-these-things pity from other

ἢ ᾽μοῦ φέρεται, σοῦ, πάτερ, οὕτως
than me is-borne for-you father thus
αἰκῶς οἰκτρῶς τε θανόντος.
shamefully piteously and having-died
ἀλλ᾽ οὐ μὲν δὴ
but not indeed indeed
λήξω θρήνων στυγερῶν τε γόων,
I-will-cease from-laments hateful and from-moans
ἔστ᾽ ἂν παμφεγγεῖς ἄστρων
as-long-as — all-bright of-stars
ῥιπάς, λεύσσω δὲ τόδ᾽ ἦμαρ,
quiverings I-see and this day
μὴ οὐ τεκνολέτειρ᾽ ὥς τις ἀηδὼν
not not child-slaying like some nightingale
ἐπὶ κωκυτῷ τῶνδε πατρῴων
over wailing of-these paternal
πρὸ θυρῶν ἠχὼ πᾶσι προφωνεῖν.
before doors echo to-all to-proclaim
ὦ δῶμ᾽ Ἀΐδου καὶ Περσεφόνης,
O house of-Hades and of-Persephone
ὦ χθόνι᾽ Ἑρμῆ καὶ πότνι᾽ Ἀρὰ
O underworld Hermes and lady Curse
σεμναί τε θεῶν παῖδες Ἐρινύες,
holy and of-gods children Furies
αἳ τοὺς ἀδίκως θνήσκοντας ὁρᾶθ᾽,
who the unjustly dying see
αἳ τοὺς εὐνὰς ὑποκλεπτομένους,
who the beds being-stolen
ἔλθετ᾽, ἀρήξατε, τίσασθε πατρὸς
come help avenge of-father

φόνον ἡμετέρου,
murder our
καί μοι τὸν ἐμὸν πέμψατ᾽ ἀδελφόν·
and to-me the my send brother
μούνη γὰρ ἄγειν οὐκέτι σωκῶ
alone for to-bear no-longer am-I-able
λύπης ἀντίρροπον ἄχθος.
of-grief counterpoised burden

II · ELECTRA AND THE CHORUS

The women of Mycenae come to comfort Electra, but she will not stop mourning her father, like the nightingale lamenting Itys. They remind her that she is not alone in grief, that her sisters bear it, and that Orestes will come, but she says she has waited without husband or child, and he never comes. They urge her not to add to her troubles by her anger, but she will not live at peace with the murderers.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ παῖ, παῖ δυστανοτάτας
O child child of-most-wretched
Ἠλέκτρα ματρός, τίν᾽ ἀεὶ
Electra of-mother what always
τάκεις ὧδ᾽ ἀκόρεστον οἰμωγὰν
do-you-melt thus insatiate lamentation
τὸν πάλαι ἐκ δολερᾶς ἀθεώτατα
for-the long-ago from crafty most-godlessly
ματρὸς ἁλόντ᾽ ἀπάταις Ἀγαμέμνονα
of-mother caught by-deceits Agamemnon
κακᾷ τε χειρὶ πρόδοτον; ὡς ὁ τάδε πορὼν
by-evil and hand betrayed as the this having-wrought
ὄλοιτ᾽, εἴ μοι θέμις τάδ᾽ αὐδᾶν.
may-perish if for-me right this to-utter

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ γενέθλα γενναίων,
O offspring of-noble-ones
ἥκετ' ἐμῶν καμάτων παραμύθιον.
you-have-come of-my toils as-consolation
οἶδά τε καὶ ξυνίημι τάδ', οὔ τί με
I-know both and understand this not at-all me
φυγγάνει, οὐδ' ἐθέλω προλιπεῖν τόδε,
escapes nor I-wish to-forsake this
μὴ οὐ τὸν ἐμὸν στενάχειν πατέρ' ἄθλιον.
not not the my to-mourn father wretched
ἀλλ' ὦ παντοίας φιλότητος ἀμειβόμεναι χάριν,
but O of-every-kind of-friendship returning favor
ἐᾶτέ μ' ὧδ' ἀλύειν,
let me thus to-wander-in-mind
αἰαῖ, ἱκνοῦμαι.
alas I-beseech
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' οὔτοι τόν γ' ἐξ Ἀΐδα
but not-surely him at-least from of-Hades
παγκοίνου λίμνας πατέρ' ἀν-
common-to-all lake father you-will-raise-up
στάσεις οὔτε γόοισιν οὔτ' εὐχαῖς.
— *neither by-laments nor by-prayers*
ἀλλ' ἀπὸ τῶν μετρίων ἐπ' ἀμήχανον
but from the moderate to helpless
ἄλγος ἀεὶ στενάχουσα διόλλυσαι,
pain always lamenting you-are-destroyed
ἐν οἷς ἀνάλυσίς ἐστιν οὐδεμία κακῶν.
in which release is no of-evils
τί μοι τῶν δυσφόρων ἐφίει;
why to-me of-the unbearable do-you-desire

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ νήπιος ὃς τῶν οἰκτρῶς
foolish who of-the piteously
οἰχομένων γονέων ἐπιλάθεται.
departed parents forgets
ἀλλ᾽ ἐμέ γ᾽ ἁ στονόεσσ᾽ ἄραρεν φρένας,
but me at-least the mournful has-suited in-heart
ἃ Ἴτυν, αἰὲν Ἴτυν ὀλοφύρεται,
who Itys always Itys laments
ὄρνις ἀτυζομένα, Διὸς ἄγγελος.
bird distraught of-Zeus messenger
ἰὼ παντλάμων Νιόβα, σὲ δ᾽ ἔγωγε νέμω θεόν,
ah all-suffering Niobe you and I-for-my-part regard as-god
ἅτ᾽ ἐν τάφῳ πετραίῳ
who in tomb rocky
αἰεὶ δακρύεις.
always weep
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὔτοι σοὶ μούνᾳ, τέκνον,
not-surely to-you alone child
ἄχος ἐφάνη βροτῶν,
grief has-appeared of-mortals
πρὸς ὅ τι σὺ τῶν ἔνδον εἶ περισσά,
in-respect-of what ever you than-the within are in-excess
οἷς ὁμόθεν εἶ καὶ γονᾷ ξύναιμος,
with-whom of-the-same-house you-are and by-birth kin
οἷα Χρυσόθεμις ζώει καὶ Ἰφιάνασσα,
such-as Chrysothemis lives and Iphianassa
κρυπτᾷ τ᾽ ἀχέων ἐν ἥβᾳ,
hidden and from-griefs in youth
ὄλβιος, ὃν ἁ κλεινὰ
happy whom the famous

γᾶ ποτε Μυκηναίων
land ever of-Mycenaeans
δέξεται εὐπατρίδαν, Διὸς εὔφρονι
will-receive nobly-born of-Zeus with-kindly
βήματι μολόντα τάνδε γᾶν Ὀρέσταν.
step having-come this land Orestes
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὅν γ' ἐγὼ ἀκάματα προσμένουσ', ἄτεκνος,
whom at-least I unwearyingly awaiting childless
τάλαιν', ἀνύμφευτος αἰὲν οἰχνῶ,
wretched unwedded always go
δάκρυσι μυδαλέα, τὸν ἀνήνυτον
with-tears drenched the endless
οἶτον ἔχουσα κακῶν· ὁ δὲ λάθεται
doom bearing of-evils he and forgets
ὧν τ' ἔπαθ' ὧν τ' ἐδάη. τί γὰρ οὐκ ἐμοὶ
both-what and he-suffered what and he-learned what for not to-me
ἔρχεται ἀγγελίας ἀπατώμενον;
comes of-message deceived
ἀεὶ μὲν γὰρ ποθεῖ,
always indeed for he-longs
ποθῶν δ' οὐκ ἀξιοῖ φανῆναι.
longing but not he-thinks-fit to-appear
ΧΟΡΟΣ θάρσει μοι, θάρσει, τέκνον.
take-heart for-me take-heart child
ἔτι μέγας οὐρανῷ
still great in-heaven
Ζεύς, ὃς ἐφορᾷ πάντα καὶ κρατύνει·
Zeus who oversees all-things and rules
ᾧ τὸν ὑπεραλγῆ χόλον νέμουσα
to-whom the excessive anger committing

μήθ' οἷς ἐχθαίρεις ὑπεράχθεο μήτ' ἐπιλάθου·
neither at-whom you-hate be-too-vexed nor forget
χρόνος γὰρ εὐμαρὴς θεός.
time for easy god
οὔτε γὰρ ὁ τὰν Κρῖσαν
neither for the the Crisa
βούνομον ἔχων ἀκτὰν
cattle-pasturing having shore
παῖς Ἀγαμεμνονίδας ἀπερίτροπος
son of-Agamemnon unheeding
οὔθ' ὁ παρὰ τὸν Ἀχέροντα θεὸς ἀνάσσων.
nor the by the Acheron god ruling
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀλλ' ἐμὲ μὲν ὁ πολὺς ἀπολέλοιπεν ἤδη
but me indeed the much has-left already
βίοτος ἀνέλπιστος, οὐδ' ἔτ' ἀρκῶ·
life hopeless nor longer am-I-strong
ἅτις ἄνευ τεκέων κατατάκομαι,
who without children waste-away
ἇς φίλος οὔτις ἀνὴρ ὑπερίσταται,
for-whom dear no man stands-up
ἀλλ' ἁπερεί τις ἔποικος ἀναξία
but just-as some stranger unworthy
οἰκονομῶ θαλάμους πατρός, ὧδε μὲν
I-manage chambers of-father thus indeed
ἀεικεῖ σὺν στολᾷ,
unseemly with dress
κεναῖς δ' ἀμφίσταμαι τραπέζαις.
by-empty and stand tables

ΧΟΡΟΣ οἰκτρὰ μὲν νόστοις αὐδά,
piteous indeed at-the-homecoming voice
οἰκτρὰ δ' ἐν κοίταις πατρῴαις
piteous and in bed paternal
ὅτε οἱ παγχάλκων ἀνταία
when for-him all-bronze opposing
γενύων ὡρμάθη πλαγά.
of-jaws was-launched blow
δόλος ἦν ὁ φράσας, ἔρος ὁ κτείνας,
guile was the having-planned lust the having-killed
δεινὰν δεινῶς προφυτεύσαντες
dread dreadfully having-engendered
μορφάν, εἴτ' οὖν θεὸς εἴτε βροτῶν
form whether then god or of-mortals
ἦν ὁ ταῦτα πράσσων.
was the this doing
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ πασᾶν κείνα πλέον ἁμέρα
O of-all that most day
ἐλθοῦσ' ἐχθίστα δή μοι·
having-come most-hateful indeed to-me
ὦ νύξ, ὦ δείπνων ἀρρήτων
O night O of-feast unspeakable
ἔκπαγλ' ἄχθη,
terrible burdens
τοὺς ἐμὸς ἴδε πατὴρ
which my saw father
θανάτους αἰκεῖς διδύμαιν χειροῖν,
deaths shameful of-twin hands
αἳ τὸν ἐμὸν εἷλον βίον πρόδοτον, αἵ μ' ἀπώλεσαν·
which the my seized life betrayed which me destroyed

οἷς θεὸς ὁ μέγας Ὀλύμπιος
to-whom god the great Olympian
ποίνιμα πάθεα παθεῖν πόροι,
avenging sufferings to-suffer may-grant
μηδέ ποτ' ἀγλαΐας ἀποναίατο
nor ever of-splendor may-they-enjoy
τοιάδ' ἀνύσαντες ἔργα.
such having-accomplished deeds
ΧΟΡΟΣ φράζου μὴ πόρσω φωνεῖν.
consider not further to-speak
οὐ γνώμαν ἴσχεις ἐξ οἵων
not judgment do-you-have from what
τὰ παρόντ' οἰκείας εἰς ἄτας
the present one's-own into ruin
ἐμπίπτεις οὕτως αἰκῶς;
you-fall thus shamefully
πολὺ γάρ τι κακῶν ὑπερεκτήσω,
much for some of-evils you-have-acquired-besides
σᾷ δυσθύμῳ τίκτουσ' ἀεὶ
with-your despondent breeding always
ψυχᾷ πολέμους· τὰ δὲ τοῖς δυνατοῖς
soul wars these and with-the powerful
οὐκ ἐριστὰ πλάθειν.
not to-be-contested to-bring-near
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ δεινοῖς ἠναγκάσθην, δεινοῖς·
by-terrible-things I-was-compelled by-terrible-things
ἔξοιδ', οὐ λάθει μ' ὀργά.
I-know-well not escapes me temper
ἀλλ' ἐν γὰρ δεινοῖς οὐ σχήσω
but in for terrible-things not I-will-restrain

ταύτας ἄτας,
these ruin
ὄφρα με βίος ἔχῃ.
while me life holds
τίνι γάρ ποτ' ἄν, ὦ φιλία γενέθλα,
to-whom for ever — O dear offspring
πρόσφορον ἀκούσαιμ' ἔπος, τίνι φρονοῦντι καίρια;
suitable might-I-hear word to-whom thinking timely-things
ἄνετέ μ' ἄνετε, παράγοροι·
let-go me let-go comforters
τάδε γὰρ ἄλυτα κεκλήσεται,
this for not-to-be-loosed will-be-called
οὐδέ ποτ' ἐκ καμάτων ἀποπαύσομαι
nor ever from toils shall-I-cease
ἀνάριθμος ὧδε θρήνων.
countless thus of-laments
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' οὖν εὐνοίᾳ γ' αὐδῶ,
but then in-goodwill at-least I-speak
μάτηρ ὡσεί τις πιστά,
mother as some faithful
μὴ τίκτειν σ' ἄταν ἄταις.
not to-breed you ruin on-ruin
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὶ τί μέτρον κακότατος ἔφυ; φέρε,
and what measure of-evil is come
πῶς ἐπὶ τοῖς φθιμένοις ἀμελεῖν καλόν;
how on the dead to-be-neglectful is-noble
ἐν τίνι τοῦτ' ἔβλαστ' ἀνθρώπων;
in whom this was-born of-men
μήτ' εἴην ἔντιμος τούτοις
neither may-I-be honored by-these

μήτ᾽, εἴ τῳ πρόσκειμαι χρηστῷ,
nor if to-any I-am-attached good
ξυνναίοιμ᾽ εὔκηλος, γονέων
may-I-dwell-with at-ease of-parents
ἐκτίμους ἴσχουσα πτέρυγας
dishonoring holding wings
ὀξυτόνων γόων.
of-shrill laments
εἰ γὰρ ὁ μὲν θανὼν γᾶ τε καὶ οὐδὲν ὢν
if for the indeed dead earth both and nothing being
κείσεται τάλας,
will-lie wretched
οἱ δὲ μὴ πάλιν
they and not in-turn
δώσουσ᾽ ἀντιφόνους δίκας,
will-give requiting-murder penalties
ἔρροι τ᾽ ἂν αἰδὼς
would-perish and — shame
ἁπάντων τ᾽ εὐσέβεια θνατῶν.
of-all and piety of-mortals

Electra explains her grief: she lives with her father's killers, sees Aegisthus on his throne and in his bed, and is treated as a slave. Her sister Chrysothemis comes and advises her to yield to those in power, and warns that they mean to shut her away in a dungeon. Chrysothemis is taking offerings from Clytemnestra to their father's tomb, because their mother dreamed that Agamemnon came back and planted his scepter, from which grew a branch that shaded all Mycenae. Electra persuades her to throw the offerings away and lay locks of their own hair on the tomb instead.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐγὼ μέν, ὦ παῖ, καὶ τὸ σὸν σπεύδουσ᾽ ἅμα
I indeed O child both the your hastening at-the-same-time
καὶ τοὐμὸν αὐτῆς ἦλθον· εἰ δὲ μὴ καλῶς
and the-mine of-myself came if but not well
λέγω, σὺ νίκα· σοὶ γὰρ ἑψόμεσθ᾽ ἅμα.
I-speak you prevail you for we-shall-follow together
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ αἰσχύνομαι μέν, ὦ γυναῖκες, εἰ δοκῶ
I-am-ashamed indeed O women if I-seem
πολλοῖσι θρήνοις δυσφορεῖν ὑμῖν ἄγαν.
with-many laments to-be-impatient to-you too-much
ἀλλ᾽ ἡ βία γὰρ ταῦτ᾽ ἀναγκάζει με δρᾶν,
but the force for this compels me to-do
σύγγνωτε· πῶς γὰρ ἥτις εὐγενὴς γυνή,
forgive how for who well-born woman
πατρῷ᾽ ὁρῶσα πήματ᾽, οὐ δρᾴη τάδ᾽ ἄν;
paternal seeing woes not would-do this —
ἁγὼ κατ᾽ ἦμαρ καὶ κατ᾽ εὐφρόνην ἀεὶ
which-I by day and by night always
θάλλοντα μᾶλλον ἢ καταφθίνονθ᾽ ὁρῶ·
flourishing rather than wasting I-see

ᾗ πρῶτα μὲν τὰ μητρός, ἥ μ᾽ ἐγείνατο,
to-whom first indeed the of-mother who me bore
ἔχθιστα συμβέβηκεν· εἶτα δώμασιν
most-hateful have-befallen then house
ἐν τοῖς ἐμαυτῆς τοῖς φονεῦσι τοῦ πατρὸς
in the my-own with-the murderers of-the father
ξύνειμι, κἀκ τῶνδ᾽ ἄρχομαι κἀκ τῶνδέ μοι
I-live and-by these am-ruled and-from these to-me
λαβεῖν θ᾽ ὁμοίως καὶ τὸ τητᾶσθαι πέλει.
to-get and alike and the to-go-without is
ἔπειτα ποίας ἡμέρας δοκεῖς μ᾽ ἄγειν,
then what-sort days do-you-think me to-lead
ὅταν θρόνοις Αἴγισθον ἐνθακοῦντ᾽ ἴδω
when on-thrones Aegisthus sitting I-see
τοῖσιν πατρῴοις, εἰσίδω δ᾽ ἐσθήματα
the paternal I-see and robes
φοροῦντ᾽ ἐκείνῳ ταὐτὰ καὶ παρεστίους
wearing to-him the-same and at-the-hearth
σπένδοντα λοιβὰς ἔνθ᾽ ἐκεῖνον ὤλεσεν,
pouring libations where him he-destroyed
ἴδω δὲ τούτων τὴν τελευταίαν ὕβριν,
I-see and of-these the final outrage
τὸν αὐτοέντην ἡμὶν ἐν κοίτῃ πατρὸς
the murderer to-us in bed of-father
ξὺν τῇ ταλαίνῃ μητρί, μητέρ᾽ εἰ χρεὼν
with the wretched mother mother if it-is-right
ταύτην προσαυδᾶν τῷδε συγκοιμωμένην·
her to-call with-this-one sleeping
ἡ δ᾽ ὧδε τλήμων ὥστε τῷ μιάστορι
she and thus wretched that with-the polluter

ξύνεστ', ἐρινὺν οὔτιν' ἐκφοβουμένη·
lives fury no fearing
ἀλλ' ὥσπερ ἐγγελῶσα τοῖς ποιουμένοις,
but as-if exulting in-the things-done
εὑροῦσ' ἐκείνην ἡμέραν, ἐν ᾗ τότε
having-found that day in which then
πατέρα τὸν ἀμὸν ἐκ δόλου κατέκτανεν,
father the my by guile she-killed
ταύτῃ χοροὺς ἵστησι καὶ μηλοσφαγεῖ
on-this dances she-sets-up and slaughters-sheep
θεοῖσιν ἔμμην' ἱερὰ τοῖς σωτηρίοις.
to-the-gods monthly sacrifices to-the saviors
ἐγὼ δ' ὁρῶσ' ἡ δύσμορος κατὰ στέγας
I and seeing the ill-fated in house
κλαίω, τέτηκα, κἀπικωκύω πατρὸς
weep waste-away and-bewail of-father
τὴν δυστάλαιναν δαῖτ' ἐπωνομασμένην
the most-wretched feast named
αὐτὴ πρὸς αὑτήν. οὐδὲ γὰρ κλαῦσαι πάρα
myself to myself nor for to-weep is-possible
τοσόνδ' ὅσον μοι θυμὸς ἡδονὴν φέρει.
as-much as for-me heart pleasure brings
αὕτη γὰρ ἡ λόγοισι γενναία γυνὴ
she for the in-words noble woman
φωνοῦσα τοιάδ' ἐξονειδίζει κακά·
uttering such reproaches evils
ὦ δύσθεον μίσημα, σοὶ μόνῃ πατὴρ
O godless hated-thing to-you alone father
τέθνηκεν; ἄλλος δ' οὔτις ἐν πένθει βροτῶν;
is-dead other and no-one in mourning of-mortals

κακῶς ὄλοιο, μηδέ σ' ἐκ γόων ποτὲ
badly may-you-perish nor you from laments ever
τῶν νῦν ἀπαλλάξειαν οἱ κάτω θεοί.
the present may-release the below gods
τάδ' ἐξυβρίζει· πλὴν ὅταν κλύῃ τινὸς
this she-insults except when she-hears from-someone
ἥξοντ' Ὀρέστην· τηνικαῦτα δ' ἐμμαν�ὴς
about-to-come Orestes then and maddened
βοᾷ παραστᾶσ'· οὐ σύ μοι τῶνδ' αἰτία; 295
shouts standing-near not you to-me of-these the-cause
οὐ σὸν τόδ' ἐστὶ τοὔργον, ἥτις ἐκ χερῶν
not yours this is the-deed who from hands
κλέψασ' Ὀρέστην τῶν ἐμῶν ὑπεξέθου;
having-stolen Orestes the my you-put-away
ἀλλ' ἴσθι τοι τίσουσά γ' ἀξίαν δίκην.
but know surely to-pay at-least worthy penalty
τοιαῦθ' ὑλακτεῖ, σὺν δ' ἐποτρύνει πέλας
such-things she-barks with and urges near
ὁ κλεινὸς αὐτῇ ταὐτὰ νυμφίος παρών, 300
the famous to-her the-same bridegroom present
ὁ πάντ' ἄναλκις οὗτος, ἡ πᾶσα βλάβη,
the all coward this the whole bane
ὁ σὺν γυναιξὶ τὰς μάχας ποιούμενος.
the with women the battles making
ἐγὼ δ' Ὀρέστην τῶνδε προσμένουσ' ἀεὶ
I and Orestes of-these awaiting always
παυστῆρ' ἐφήξειν ἡ τάλαιν' ἀπόλλυμαι.
stopper to-come the wretched perish
μέλλων γὰρ ἀεὶ δρᾶν τι τὰς οὔσας τέ μου 305
intending for always to-do something the being and my

καὶ τὰς ἀπούσας ἐλπίδας διέφθορεν.
and the absent hopes he-has-destroyed

ἐν οὖν τοιούτοις οὔτε σωφρονεῖν, φίλαι,
in then such neither to-be-self-controlled friends

οὔτ' εὐσεβεῖν πάρεστιν· ἀλλ' ἔν τοι κακοῖς
nor to-be-pious it-is-possible but in surely evils

πολλή 'στ' ἀνάγκη κἀπιτηδεύειν κακά.
great is necessity and-to-practice evils

ΧΟΡΟΣ φέρ' εἰπέ, πότερον ὄντος Αἰγίσθου πέλας
come tell whether being Aegisthus near

λέγεις τάδ' ἡμῖν ἢ βεβῶτος ἐκ δόμων;
you-say this to-us or having-gone from house

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἦ κάρτα· μὴ δόκει μ' ἄν, εἴπερ ἦν πέλας,
truly very-much not think me — if-indeed he-were near

θυραῖον οἰχνεῖν· νῦν δ' ἀγροῖσι τυγχάνει.
out-of-doors to-roam now and in-the-fields he-happens-to-be

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἦ κἂν ἐγὼ θαρσοῦσα μᾶλλον ἐς λόγους
— and-would I with-confidence more to words

τοὺς σοὺς ἱκοίμην, εἴπερ ὧδε ταῦτ' ἔχει;
the your I-would-come if-indeed thus this are

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὡς νῦν ἀπόντος ἱστόρει· τί σοι φίλον;
since now being-absent ask what to-you dear

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ δή σ' ἐρωτῶ· τοῦ κασιγνήτου τί φῄς,
and indeed you I-ask of-the brother what do-you-say

ἥξοντος ἢ μέλλοντος; εἰδέναι θέλω.
coming or delaying to-know I-wish

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ φησίν γε· φάσκων δ' οὐδὲν ὢν λέγει ποεῖ.
he-says at-least saying but nothing of-what he-says he-does

ΧΟΡΟΣ φιλεῖ γὰρ ὀκνεῖν πρᾶγμ' ἀνὴρ πράσσων μέγα.
is-wont for to-hesitate deed man doing great

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὶ μὴν ἔγωγ' ἔσωσ' ἐκεῖνον οὐκ ὄκνῳ.
and indeed I-for-my-part saved him not in-hesitation

ΧΟΡΟΣ θάρσει· πέφυκεν ἐσθλός, ὥστ' ἀρκεῖν φίλοις.
take-heart he-is noble so-that to-help friends

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πέποιθ', ἐπεί τἂν οὐ μακρὰν ἔζων ἐγώ.
I-trust since surely-then not long would-have-lived I

ΧΟΡΟΣ μὴ νῦν ἔτ' εἴπῃς μηδέν· ὡς δόμων ὁρῶ
not now still say nothing since from-the-house I-see

τὴν σὴν ὅμαιμον ἐκ πατρὸς ταὐτοῦ φύσιν, 325
the your sister from father same by-nature

Χρυσόθεμιν, ἔκ τε μητρός, ἐντάφια χεροῖν
Chrysothemis from and mother grave-offerings in-hands

φέρουσαν, οἷα τοῖς κάτω νομίζεται.
carrying such-as for-the below are-customary

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ τίν' αὖ σὺ τήνδε πρὸς θυρῶνος ἐξόδοις
what again you this at of-the-porch outlet

ἐλθοῦσα φωνεῖς, ὦ κασιγνήτη, φάτιν,
having-come speak O sister speech

κοὐδ' ἐν χρόνῳ μακρῷ διδαχθῆναι θέλεις 330
and-not-even in time long to-be-taught you-wish

θυμῷ ματαίῳ μὴ χαρίζεσθαι κενά;
to-anger to-vain not to-indulge empty-things

καίτοι τοσοῦτόν γ' οἶδα κἀμαυτήν, ὅτι
and-yet so-much at-least I-know and-myself that

ἀλγῶ 'πὶ τοῖς παροῦσιν· ὥστ' ἄν, εἰ σθένος
I-grieve at the present so-that — if strength

λάβοιμι, δηλώσαιμ' ἂν οἷ' αὐτοῖς φρονῶ.
I-should-get I-would-show — what about-them I-think

νῦν δ' ἐν κακοῖς μοι πλεῖν ὑφειμένῃ δοκεῖ, 335
now and in evils to-me to-sail with-lowered-sail seems

καὶ μὴ δοκεῖν μὲν δρᾶν τι, πημαίνειν δὲ μή·
and not to-seem indeed to-do something to-harm but not
τοιαῦτα δ' ἄλλα καὶ σὲ βούλομαι ποεῖν.
such and other also you I-wish to-do
καίτοι τὸ μὲν δίκαιον οὐχ ᾗ 'γὼ λέγω,
and-yet the indeed just not where I say
ἀλλ' ᾗ σὺ κρίνεις· εἰ δ' ἐλευθέραν με δεῖ
but where you judge if but free me it-is-necessary
ζῆν, τῶν κρατούντων ἐστὶ πάντ' ἀκουστέα.
to-live of-the rulers is all must-be-obeyed
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ δεινόν γέ σ' οὖσαν πατρὸς οὗ σὺ παῖς ἔφυς,
strange at-least you being of-father whose you child were-born
κείνου λελῆσθαι, τῆς δὲ τικτούσης μέλειν.
him to-have-forgotten of-the and mother to-care
ἅπαντα γάρ σοι τἀμὰ νουθετήματα
all for to-you my admonitions
κείνης διδακτά, κοὐδὲν ἐκ σαυτῆς λέγεις.
by-her taught and-nothing from yourself you-say
ἔπειθ' ἑλοῦ γε θάτερ', ἢ φρονεῖν κακῶς
then choose at-least one-of-two either to-think badly
ἢ τῶν φίλων φρονοῦσα μὴ μνήμην ἔχειν·
or of-the friends thinking not memory to-have
ἥτις λέγεις μὲν ἀρτίως ὡς, εἰ λάβοις
who you-say indeed just-now that if you-should-get
σθένος, τὸ τούτων μῖσος ἐκδείξειας ἄν,
strength the of-these hatred you-would-show —
ἐμοῦ δὲ πατρὶ πάντα τιμωρουμένης
me and for-father all-things avenging
οὔτε ξυνέρδεις τήν τε δρῶσαν ἐκτρέπεις.
neither you-help-do her and doing you-turn-away

οὐ ταῦτα πρὸς κακοῖσι δειλίαν ἔχει;
not this to evils cowardice has
ἐπεὶ δίδαξον, ἢ μάθ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ, τί μοι
since teach or learn from me what to-me
κέρδος γένοιτ' ἂν τῶνδε ληξάσῃ γόων.
profit would-be — from-these having-ceased laments
οὐ ζῶ; κακῶς μέν, οἶδ', ἐπαρκούντως δ' ἐμοί.
not I-live badly indeed I-know sufficiently and for-me
λυπῶ δὲ τούτους, ὥστε τῷ τεθνηκότι
I-grieve and them so-that to-the dead
τιμὰς προσάπτειν, εἴ τις ἔστ' ἐκεῖ χάρις.
honors to-attach if any there-is there gratitude
σὺ δ' ἡμὶν ἡ μισοῦσα μισεῖς μὲν λόγῳ,
you and to-us the hating hate indeed in-word
ἔργῳ δὲ τοῖς φονεῦσι τοῦ πατρὸς ξύνει.
in-deed but with-the murderers of-the father live
ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν οὐκ ἄν ποτ', οὐδ' εἴ μοι τὰ σὰ
I indeed then not — ever not-even if to-me the yours
μέλλοι τις οἴσειν δῶρ', ἐφ' οἷσι νῦν χλιδᾷς,
should some to-bring gifts at which now you-pride-yourself
τούτοις ὑπεικάθοιμι· σοὶ δὲ πλουσία
to-these would-yield to-you but rich
τράπεζα κείσθω καὶ περιρρείτω βίος.
table let-be-set and let-flow-around life
ἐμοὶ γὰρ ἔστω τοὐμὲ μὴ λυπεῖν μόνον
for-me for let-be the-myself not to-pain only
βόσκημα· τῆς σῆς δ' οὐκ ἐρῶ τιμῆς τυχεῖν,
food of-the your and not I-desire honor to-obtain
οὐδ' ἂν σύ, σώφρων γ' οὖσα. νῦν δ' ἐξὸν πατρὸς
nor — you self-controlled at-least being now and it-being-possible of-father

πάντων ἀρίστου παῖδα κεκλῆσθαι, καλοῦ
of-all best child to-be-called be-called
τῆς μητρός· οὕτω γὰρ φανεῖ πλείστοις κακή,
of-the mother thus for you-will-appear to-most base
θανόντα πατέρα καὶ φίλους προδοῦσα σούς.
dead father and friends having-betrayed your
ΧΟΡΟΣ μηδὲν πρὸς ὀργήν, πρὸς θεῶν· ὡς τοῖς λόγοις
nothing in anger by gods since in-the words
ἔνεστιν ἀμφοῖν κέρδος, εἰ σὺ μὲν μάθοις
there-is for-both profit if you indeed should-learn
τοῖς τῆσδε χρῆσθαι, τοῖς δὲ σοῖς αὕτη πάλιν.
the of-her to-use the and your she again
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ἐγὼ μέν, ὦ γυναῖκες, ἠθάς εἰμί πως
I indeed O women used-to am somehow
τῶν τῆσδε μύθων· οὐδ' ἂν ἐμνήσθην ποτέ,
of-the of-her words nor — would-I-have-mentioned ever
εἰ μὴ κακὸν μέγιστον εἰς αὐτὴν ἰὸν
if not evil greatest to her coming
ἤκουσ', ὃ ταύτην τῶν μακρῶν σχήσει γόων.
I-had-heard which her from-the long will-check laments
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ φέρ' εἰπὲ δὴ τὸ δεινόν· εἰ γὰρ τῶνδέ μοι
come tell indeed the terrible-thing if for than-these to-me
μεῖζόν τι λέξεις, οὐκ ἂν ἀντείποιμ' ἔτι.
greater anything you-will-say not — I-would-speak-against still
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ἀλλ' ἐξερῶ σοι πᾶν ὅσον κάτοιδ' ἐγώ.
but I-will-tell you all as-much-as I-know I
μέλλουσι γάρ σ', εἰ τῶνδε μὴ λήξεις γόων,
they-intend for you if from-these not you-will-cease laments
ἐνταῦθα πέμψειν ἔνθα μή ποθ' ἡλίου
thither to-send where not ever of-sun

φέγγος προσόψει, ζῶσα δ' ἐν κατηρεφεῖ
light you-will-look-on living and in roofed
στέγῃ χθονὸς τῆσδ' ἐκτὸς ὑμνήσεις κακά.
chamber land this outside you-will-sing evils
πρὸς ταῦτα φράζου καί με μή ποθ' ὕστερον
to this consider and me not ever afterward
παθοῦσα μέμψῃ· νῦν γὰρ ἐν καλῷ φρονεῖν.
having-suffered blame now for in season to-be-wise
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἦ ταῦτα δή με καὶ βεβούλευνται ποεῖν;
— this indeed me also they-have-planned to-do
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ μάλισθ'· ὅταν περ οἴκαδ' Αἴγισθος μόλῃ.
especially when indeed home Aegisthus comes
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀλλ' ἐξίκοιτο τοῦδέ γ' οὕνεκ' ἐν τάχει.
but may-he-come of-this at-least for-the-sake in haste
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ τίν', ὦ τάλαινα, τόνδ' ἐπηράσω λόγον;
what O wretched this did-you-pray-for word
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐλθεῖν ἐκεῖνον, εἴ τι τῶνδε δρᾶν νοεῖ.
to-come he if anything of-these to-do he-intends
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ὅπως πάθῃς τί χρῆμα; ποῦ ποτ' εἶ φρενῶν;
so-that you-may-suffer what thing where ever are-you of-wits
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὅπως ἀφ' ὑμῶν ὡς προσωτάτω φύγω.
so-that from you as farthest I-may-flee
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ βίου δὲ τοῦ παρόντος οὐ μνείαν ἔχεις;
of-life and of-the present not care you-have
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καλὸς γὰρ οὑμὸς βίοτος ὥστε θαυμάσαι.
fair for my life so-as to-marvel
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ἀλλ' ἦν ἄν, εἰ σύ γ' εὖ φρονεῖν ἠπίστασο.
but it-would-be — if you at-least well to-think knew
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ μή μ' ἐκδίδασκε τοῖς φίλοις εἶναι κακήν.
not me teach to-the friends to-be base

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ἀλλ᾽ οὐ διδάσκω· τοῖς κρατοῦσι δ᾽ εἰκαθεῖν.
but not I-teach to-the rulers but to-yield

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ σὺ ταῦτα θώπευ᾽· οὐκ ἐμοὺς τρόπους λέγεις.
you this fawn-on not my ways you-tell

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ καλόν γε μέντοι μὴ ᾽ξ ἀβουλίας πεσεῖν.
noble at-least however not from folly to-fall

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πεσούμεθ᾽, εἰ χρή, πατρὶ τιμωρούμενοι.
we-shall-fall if need-be for-father avenging

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ πατὴρ δὲ τούτων, οἶδα, συγγνώμην ἔχει.
father and for-these I-know pardon has

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ταῦτ᾽ ἐστὶ τἄπη πρὸς κακῶν ἐπαινέσαι.
this are the-words by evil-ones to-praise

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ σὺ δ᾽ οὐχὶ πείσει καὶ συναινέσεις ἐμοί;
you and not will-obey and agree with-me

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐ δῆτα· μή πω νοῦ τοσόνδ᾽ εἴην κενή.
not then not yet of-sense so-much may-I-be empty

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ χωρήσομαί τἄρ᾽ οἷπερ ἐστάλην ὁδοῦ.
I-will-go then where-indeed I-was-sent on-the-road

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ποῖ δ᾽ ἐμπορεύει; τῷ φέρεις τάδ᾽ ἔμπυρα;
where and do-you-journey for-whom do-you-bring these burnt-offerings

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ μήτηρ με πέμπει πατρὶ τυμβεῦσαι χοάς.
mother me sends for-father to-pour-at-the-tomb libations

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πῶς εἶπας; ἦ τῷ δυσμενεστάτῳ βροτῶν;
how did-you-say — to-the most-hostile of-mortals

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ὃν ἔκταν᾽ αὐτή· τοῦτο γὰρ λέξαι θέλεις.
whom killed she-herself this for to-say you-wish

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐκ τοῦ φίλων πεισθεῖσα; τῷ τοῦτ᾽ ἤρεσεν;
from what of-friends persuaded to-whom this pleased

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ἐκ δείματός του νυκτέρου, δοκεῖν ἐμοί.
from fear some nightly as-it-seems to-me

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ θεοὶ πατρῷοι, συγγένεσθέ γ' ἀλλὰ νῦν.
O gods paternal help at-least but now
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ἔχεις τι θάρσος τοῦδε τοῦ τάρβους πέρι;
have-you any confidence this the fear about
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ εἴ μοι λέγοις τὴν ὄψιν, εἴποιμ' ἂν τότε.
if to-me you-should-tell the vision I-could-say — then
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ἀλλ' οὐ κάτοιδα πλὴν ἐπὶ σμικρὸν φράσαι.
but not I-know except on small to-tell
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ λέγ' ἀλλὰ τοῦτο· πολλά τοι σμικροὶ λόγοι
tell but this many-things surely small words
ἔσφηλαν ἤδη καὶ κατώρθωσαν βροτούς.
tripped already and set-upright mortals
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ λόγος τις αὐτήν ἐστιν εἰσιδεῖν πατρὸς
story some her is to-see of-father
τοῦ σοῦ τε κἀμοῦ δευτέραν ὁμιλίαν
of-the your and and-mine second company
ἐλθόντος ἐς φῶς· εἶτα τόνδ' ἐφέστιον
coming into light then this at-the-hearth
πῆξαι λαβόντα σκῆπτρον οὑφόρει ποτὲ
to-fix taking scepter which-he-bore once
αὐτός, τανῦν δ' Αἴγισθος· ἐκ δὲ τοῦδ' ἄνω
himself now and Aegisthus from and this upward
βλαστεῖν βρύοντα θαλλόν, ᾧ κατάσκιον
to-grow teeming shoot by-which overshadowed
πᾶσαν γενέσθαι τὴν Μυκηναίων χθόνα.
all to-become the of-Mycenaeans land
τοιαῦτά του παρόντος, ἡνίχ' Ἡλίῳ
such-things from-someone present when to-Sun
δείκνυσι τοὔναρ, ἔκλυον ἐξηγουμένου.
she-shows the-dream I-heard relating

πλείω δὲ τούτων οὐ κάτοιδα, πλὴν ὅτι
more and than-these not I-know except that
πέμπει με κείνη τοῦδε τοῦ φόβου χάριν.
sends me she of-this the fear for-the-sake
πρός νυν θεῶν σε λίσσομαι τῶν ἐγγενῶν
by now gods you I-beseech the of-our-race
ἐμοὶ πιθέσθαι μηδ' ἀβουλίᾳ πεσεῖν·
me to-obey nor from-folly to-fall
εἰ γάρ μ' ἀπώσει, σὺν κακῷ μέτει πάλιν.
if for me you-thrust-away with evil you-will-seek again

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀλλ', ὦ φίλη, τούτων μὲν ὧν ἔχεις χεροῖν
but O dear of-these indeed which you-have in-hands
τύμβῳ προσάψῃς μηδέν· οὐ γάρ σοι θέμις
to-tomb attach nothing not for for-you right
οὐδ' ὅσιον ἐχθρᾶς ἀπὸ γυναικὸς ἱστάναι
nor holy hateful from wife to-set-up
κτερίσματ' οὐδὲ λουτρὰ προσφέρειν πατρί·
offerings nor libations to-bring to-father
ἀλλ' ἢ πνοαῖσιν ἢ βαθυσκαφεῖ κόνει
but either to-winds or in-deep-dug dust
κρύψον νιν, ἔνθα μή ποτ' εἰς εὐνὴν πατρὸς
hide them where not ever into bed of-father
τούτων πρόσεισι μηδέν· ἀλλ' ὅταν θάνῃ
of-these shall-come nothing but when she-dies
κειμήλι' αὐτῇ ταῦτα σῳζέσθω κάτω.
treasures for-her these let-be-kept below
ἀρχὴν δ' ἄν, εἰ μὴ τλημονεστάτη γυνὴ
at-all and — if not most-shameless woman
πασῶν ἔβλαστε, τάσδε δυσμενεῖς χοὰς
of-all she-had-been these hostile libations

οὐκ ἄν ποθ' ὅν γ' ἔκτεινε, τῷδ' ἐπέστεφε.
not — ever whom at-least she-killed to-this-one would-have-crowned

σκέψαι γὰρ εἴ σοι προσφιλῶς αὐτῇ δοκεῖ
consider for if to-you kindly to-her seems

γέρα τάδ' οὖν τάφοισι δέξεσθαι νέκυς,
gifts these the-one-in tomb to-receive the-dead

ὑφ' ἧς θανὼν ἄτιμος, ὥστε δυσμενής,
by whom dying dishonored like enemy

ἐμασχαλίσθη, κἀπὶ λουτροῖσιν κάρᾳ
he-was-mutilated and-on washings on-head

κηλῖδας ἐξέμαξεν. ἆρα μὴ δοκεῖς
stains she-wiped-off — not do-you-think

λυτήρι' αὐτῇ ταῦτα τοῦ φόνου φέρειν;
release to-her this of-the murder to-bring

οὐκ ἔστιν. ἀλλὰ ταῦτα μὲν μέθες· σὺ δὲ
not it-is but this indeed let-go you and

τεμοῦσα κρατὸς βοστρύχων ἄκρας φόβας
having-cut from-head of-locks topmost tresses

κἀμοῦ ταλαίνης, σμικρὰ μὲν τάδ', ἀλλ' ὅμως
and-of-me wretched small indeed these but nevertheless

ἄχω, δὸς αὐτῷ, τήνδ' ἀλιπαρῆ τρίχα
what-I-have give to-him this unanointed hair

καὶ ζῶμα τοὐμὸν οὐ χλιδαῖς ἠσκημένον.
and girdle my not with-luxuries adorned

αἰτοῦ δὲ προσπίτνουσα γῆθεν εὐμενῆ
pray and falling-down from-the-earth kindly

ἡμῖν ἀρωγὸν αὐτὸν εἰς ἐχθροὺς μολεῖν,
for-us helper him against enemies to-come

καὶ παῖδ' Ὀρέστην ἐξ ὑπερτέρας χερὸς
and son Orestes from superior hand

ἐχθροῖσιν αὐτοῦ ζῶντ' ἐπεμβῆναι ποδί,
on-enemies of-him living to-trample with-foot
ὅπως τὸ λοιπὸν αὐτὸν ἀφνεωτέραις
so-that the hereafter him with-richer
χερσὶν στέφωμεν ἢ τανῦν δωρούμεθα.
hands we-may-crown than now we-endow
οἶμαι μὲν οὖν, οἶμαί τι κἀκείνῳ μέλον
I-think indeed then I-think something also-to-him caring
460 πέμψαι τάδ' αὐτῇ δυσπρόσοπτ' ὀνείρατα·
to-send these to-her ill-looking dreams
ὅμως δ', ἀδελφή, σοί θ' ὑπούργησον τάδε
nevertheless and sister to-you and do-service this
ἐμοί τ' ἀρωγὰ τῷ τε φιλτάτῳ βροτῶν
for-me and helping-things for-the and dearest of-mortals
πάντων, ἐν Ἅιδου κειμένῳ κοινῷ πατρί.
of-all in Hades lying common father
ΧΟΡΟΣ πρὸς εὐσέβειαν ἡ κόρη λέγει· σὺ δέ,
to piety the maiden speaks you and
465 εἰ σωφρονήσεις, ὦ φίλη, δράσεις τάδε.
if you-will-be-wise O dear you-will-do this
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ δράσω· τὸ γὰρ δίκαιον οὐκ ἔχει λόγον
I-will-do the for just not has reason
δυοῖν ἐρίζειν, ἀλλ' ἐπισπεύδειν τὸ δρᾶν.
for-two to-dispute but to-hasten the doing
πειρωμένῃ δὲ τῶνδε τῶν ἔργων ἐμοὶ
attempting and these the deeds for-me
σιγὴ παρ' ὑμῶν, πρὸς θεῶν, ἔστω, φίλαι·
silence from you by gods let-be friends

ὡς εἰ τάδ' ἡ τεκοῦσα πεύσεται, πικρὰν
since if this the having-borne shall-learn bitter
δοκῶ με πεῖραν τήνδε τολμήσειν ἔτι.
I-think me attempt this to-dare still

IV · JUSTICE

The chorus believes the dream means that Justice is coming, and that the Fury of the bronze feet waits in ambush, since the murder of Agamemnon has not been forgotten. If the dream does not come true, there is no truth in prophecies. The house has had no rest from trouble since Myrtilus was thrown from Pelops' chariot into the sea.

ΧΟΡΟΣ εἰ μὴ 'γὼ παράφρων μάντις ἔφυν καὶ γνώμας
if not I senseless prophet was-born and of-judgment
λειπομένα σοφᾶς,
lacking wise
εἶσιν ἁ πρόμαντις
will-come the forewarning
Δίκα, δίκαια φερομένα χεροῖν κράτη·
Justice just carrying in-hands might
μέτεισιν, ὦ τέκνον, οὐ μακροῦ χρόνου.
will-pursue O child not long time
ὕπεστί μοι θάρσος,
is-under me confidence
ἁδυπνόων κλύουσαν
sweet-breathing hearing
ἀρτίως ὀνειράτων.
just-now dreams
οὐ γάρ ποτ' ἀμναστεῖ γ' ὁ φύσας σ' Ἑλλάνων ἄναξ,
not for ever is-forgetful at-least the having-begotten you of-Greeks lord

485 οὐδ' ἁ παλαιὰ χαλκόπλακτος ἀμφάκης γένυς,
nor the ancient bronze-beaten two-edged jaw
ἅ νιν κατέπεφνεν αἰσχίσταις ἐν αἰκίαις.
which him slew most-shameful in outrages
ἥξει καὶ πολύπους καὶ πολύχειρ ἁ δεινοῖς
will-come both many-footed and many-handed the in-dread
490 κρυπτομένα λόχοις
hidden ambushes
χαλκόπους Ἐρινύς.
bronze-footed Fury
ἄλεκτρ' ἄνυμφα γὰρ ἐπέβα μιαιφόνων
unwedded unwived for came-upon of-bloodstained
γάμων ἁμιλλήμαθ' οἷσιν οὐ θέμις.
marriage the-striving for-whom not right
495 πρὸ τῶνδέ τοί μ' ἔχει
before these surely me holds
μή ποτε μή ποθ' ἡμῖν
not ever not ever to-us
ἀψεγὲς πελᾶν τέρας
without-blame to-approach portent
500 τοῖς δρῶσι καὶ συνδρῶσιν. ἤ τοι μαντεῖαι βροτῶν
for-the doers and accomplices or indeed prophecies of-mortals
οὐκ εἰσὶν ἐν δεινοῖς ὀνείροις οὐδ' ἐν θεσφάτοις,
not are in dread dreams nor in oracles
εἰ μὴ τόδε φάσμα νυκτὸς εὖ κατασχήσει.
if not this vision of-night well will-come-to-rest
ὦ Πέλοπος ἁ πρόσθεν
O of-Pelops the former
505 πολύπονος ἱππεία,
much-toiling horsemanship

ὡς ἔμολες αἰανὴς
how you-came grievous
τᾷδε γᾶ.
for-this land
εὖτε γὰρ ὁ ποντισθεὶς
when for the plunged-into-the-sea
Μυρτίλος ἐκοιμάθη,
Myrtilus was-laid-to-sleep
παγχρύσεων δίφρων
from-all-golden chariot
δυστάνοις αἰκίαις
by-wretched outrages
πρόρριζος ἐκριφθείς,
roots-and-all cast-out
οὔ τί πω
not at-all yet
ἔλειπεν ἐκ τοῦδ' οἴκου
left from this house
πολύπονος αἰκία.
much-toiling outrage

Clytemnestra reproaches Electra and defends the killing of Agamemnon, who sacrificed her daughter. Electra answers that Agamemnon sacrificed her sister because Artemis demanded it, and accuses her mother of living with a murderer. Clytemnestra prays to Apollo to fulfill her dream if it was good, and to turn it on her enemies if it was hostile. The tutor arrives claiming to be from Phocis, and tells at length how Orestes, having won every contest at the Pythian games, was killed when his chariot crashed on the last lap of the race. Clytemnestra is both grieved and relieved, and goes in with the messenger. Electra, alone, says she will waste away by the gate.

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ ἀνειμένη μέν, ὡς ἔοικας, αὖ στρέφει·
let-loose indeed as you-seem again you-range
οὐ γὰρ πάρεστ᾽ Αἴγισθος, ὅς σ᾽ ἐπεῖχ᾽ ἀεὶ
not for is-present Aegisthus who you restrained always
μή τοι θυραίαν γ᾽ οὖσαν αἰσχύνειν φίλους·
not surely out-of-doors at-least being to-shame friends
νῦν δ᾽ ὡς ἄπεστ᾽ ἐκεῖνος, οὐδὲν ἐντρέπει
now and since is-away he nothing you-heed
ἐμοῦ γε· καίτοι πολλὰ πρὸς πολλούς με δὴ
me at-least and-yet many-things to many me indeed
ἐξεῖπας ὡς θρασεῖα καὶ πέρα δίκης
you-have-declared that bold and beyond justice
ἄρχω, καθυβρίζουσα καὶ σὲ καὶ τὰ σά·
I-rule insulting both you and the yours
ἐγὼ δ᾽ ὕβριν μὲν οὐκ ἔχω, κακῶς δέ σε
I and insolence indeed not have badly and you
λέγω κακῶς κλύουσα πρὸς σέθεν θαμά.
I-speak-of badly hearing from you often
πατὴρ γάρ, οὐδὲν ἄλλο, σοὶ πρόσχημ᾽ ἀεὶ
father for nothing other to-you pretext always

ὡς ἐξ ἐμοῦ τέθνηκεν. ἐξ ἐμοῦ· καλῶς
that by me he-died by me well
ἔξοιδα· τῶνδ' ἄρνησις οὐκ ἔνεστί μοι·
I-know-well of-these denial not is-in me
ἡ γὰρ Δίκη νιν εἷλεν, οὐκ ἐγὼ μόνη,
the for Justice him seized not I alone
ᾗ χρῆν σ' ἀρήγειν, εἰ φρονοῦσ' ἐτύγχανες·
whom it-behooved you to-help if sane you-happened-to-be
ἐπεὶ πατὴρ σὸς οὗτος, ὃν θρηνεῖς ἀεί,
since father your this whom you-lament always
τὴν σὴν ὅμαιμον μοῦνος Ἑλλήνων ἔτλη
the your sister alone of-Greeks dared
θῦσαι θεοῖσιν, οὐκ ἴσον καμὼν ἐμοὶ
to-sacrifice to-the-gods not equal having-labored with-me
λύπης, ὅς ἔσπειρ', ὥσπερ ἡ τίκτουσ' ἐγώ.
of-the-pain who begot as the bearing I
εἶεν, δίδαξον δή με τοῦ χάριν, τίνων
well teach indeed me of-what for-the-sake of-whom
ἔθυσεν αὐτήν· πότερον Ἀργείων ἐρεῖς;
he-sacrificed her whether of-Argives will-you-say
ἀλλ' οὐ μετῆν αὐτοῖσι τήν γ' ἐμὴν κτανεῖν.
but not it-was-their-right to-them her at-least my to-kill
ἀλλ' ἀντ' ἀδελφοῦ δῆτα Μενέλεω κτανὼν
but for brother then Menelaus having-killed
τἄμ', οὐκ ἔμελλε τῶνδέ μοι δώσειν δίκην;
my-things not was-he-to for-these to-me to-give penalty
πότερον ἐκείνῳ παῖδες οὐκ ἦσαν διπλοῖ,
whether to-him children not were two
οὓς τῆσδε μᾶλλον εἰκὸς ἦν θνήσκειν, πατρὸς
whom than-her rather fitting was to-die of-father

καὶ μητρὸς ὄντας, ἧς ὁ πλοῦς ὅδ' ἦν χάριν;
and of-mother being whom the voyage this was for-the-sake

ἢ τῶν ἐμῶν Ἅιδης τιν' ἵμερον τέκνων
or of-the my Hades some desire of-children

ἢ τῶν ἐκείνης ἔσχε δαίσασθαι πλέον;
or of-the her had to-feast-on more

ἢ τῷ πανώλει πατρὶ τῶν μὲν ἐξ ἐμοῦ
or in-the accursed father of-the indeed from me

παίδων πόθος παρεῖτο, Μενέλεω δ' ἐνῆν;
children love was-let-go of-Menelaus but was-in

οὐ ταῦτ' ἀβούλου καὶ κακοῦ γνώμην πατρός;
not this of-thoughtless and of-base in-judgment of-father

δοκῶ μέν, εἰ καὶ σῆς δίχα γνώμης λέγω·
I-think indeed if even your apart judgment I-speak

φαίη δ' ἂν ἡ θανοῦσά γ', εἰ φωνὴν λάβοι.
would-say but — the dead at-least if voice she-should-get

ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν οὐκ εἰμὶ τοῖς πεπραγμένοις
I indeed then not am at-the things-done

δύσθυμος· εἰ δὲ σοὶ δοκῶ φρονεῖν κακῶς,
despondent if and to-you I-seem to-think badly

γνώμην δικαίαν σχοῦσα τοὺς πέλας ψέγε.
judgment just having-got the neighbors blame

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐρεῖς μὲν οὐχὶ νῦν γέ μ' ὡς ἄρξασά τι
you-will-say indeed not now at-least me that having-begun anything

λυπηρὸν εἶτα σοῦ τάδ' ἐξήκουσ' ὕπο·
painful then you this I-heard by

ἀλλ' ἢν ἐφῇς μοι, τοῦ τεθνηκότος θ' ὕπερ
but if you-allow me of-the dead and on-behalf

λέξαιμ' ἂν ὀρθῶς τῆς κασιγνήτης θ' ὁμοῦ.
I-would-speak — rightly of-the sister and together

ΚΛΤΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ καὶ μὴν ἐφίημ᾽· εἰ δέ μ᾽ ὧδ᾽ ἀεὶ λόγους
and indeed I-allow if and me thus always words
ἐξῆρχες, οὐκ ἂν ἦσθα λυπηρὰ κλύειν.
you-began not — you-would-be painful to-hear
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὶ δὴ λέγω σοι. πατέρα φὴς κτεῖναι. τίς ἂν
and indeed I-say to-you father you-say to-have-killed what —
τούτου λόγος γένοιτ᾽ ἂν αἰσχίων ἔτι,
than-this word would-be — more-shameful still
εἴτ᾽ οὖν δικαίως εἴτε μή; λέξω δέ σοι
whether then justly or not I-will-say and to-you
ὡς οὐ δίκῃ γ᾽ ἔκτεινας, ἀλλά σ᾽ ἔσπασεν
that not justly at-least you-killed but you drew
πειθὼ κακοῦ πρὸς ἀνδρός, ᾧ τανῦν ξύνει.
persuasion base from man with-whom now you-live
ἐροῦ δὲ τὴν κυναγὸν Ἄρτεμιν, τίνος
ask and the huntress Artemis of-what
ποινὰς τὰ πολλὰ πνεύματ᾽ ἔσχ᾽ ἐν Αὐλίδι·
penalty the many winds she-held in Aulis
ἢ ᾽γὼ φράσω· κείνης γὰρ οὐ θέμις μαθεῖν.
or I will-tell her for not right to-learn
πατήρ ποθ᾽ οὑμός, ὡς ἐγὼ κλύω, θεᾶς
father once my as I hear of-the-goddess
παίζων κατ᾽ ἄλσος ἐξεκίνησεν ποδοῖν
sporting in grove started with-feet
στικτὸν κεράστην ἔλαφον, οὗ κατὰ σφαγὰς
dappled horned stag whose about slaughter
ἐκκομπάσας ἔπος τι τυγχάνει βαλών.
having-boasted word some he-happens having-let-fall
κἀκ τοῦδε μηνίσασα Λητῴα κόρη
and-from this angered Leto's daughter

κατεῖχ᾽ Ἀχαιούς, ὡς πατὴρ ἀντίσταθμον
held-back Achaeans until father as-equivalent
τοῦ θηρὸς ἐκθύσειε τὴν αὐτοῦ κόρην.
of-the beast should-sacrifice the his-own daughter
ὧδ᾽ ἦν τὰ κείνης θύματ᾽· οὐ γὰρ ἦν λύσις
thus was the her sacrifice not for was release
ἄλλη στρατῷ πρὸς οἶκον οὐδ᾽ εἰς Ἴλιον.
other for-the-army toward home nor to Ilium
575 ἀνθ᾽ ὧν, βιασθεὶς πολλὰ κἀντιβάς, μόλις
in-return-for which forced much and-resisting hardly
ἔθυσεν αὐτήν, οὐχὶ Μενέλεω χάριν.
he-sacrificed her not of-Menelaus for-the-sake
εἰ δ᾽ οὖν, ἐρῶ γὰρ καὶ τὸ σόν, κεῖνον θέλων
if and then I-will-say for also the yours him wishing
ἐπωφελῆσαι ταῦτ᾽ ἔδρα, τούτου θανεῖν
to-benefit this he-did this to-die
χρῆν αὐτὸν οὕνεκ᾽ ἐκ σέθεν; ποίῳ νόμῳ;
was-it-right him for-the-sake from you by-what law
580 ὅρα τιθεῖσα τόνδε τὸν νόμον βροτοῖς
see setting this the law for-mortals
μὴ πῆμα σαυτῇ καὶ μετάγνοιαν τιθῇς.
lest woe for-yourself and repentance you-set
εἰ γὰρ κτενοῦμεν ἄλλον ἀντ᾽ ἄλλου, σύ τοι
if for we-shall-kill other for other you surely
πρώτη θάνοις ἄν, εἰ δίκης γε τυγχάνοις.
first would-die — if of-justice at-least you-should-obtain
ἀλλ᾽ εἰσόρα μὴ σκῆψιν οὐκ οὖσαν τίθῃς.
but look not pretext not being you-put
585 εἰ γὰρ θέλεις, δίδαξον ἀνθ᾽ ὅτου τανῦν
if for you-wish teach in-return-for what now

αἴσχιστα πάντων ἔργα δρῶσα τυγχάνεις,
most-shameful of-all deeds doing you-happen
ἥτις ξυνεύδεις τῷ παλαμναίῳ, μεθ' οὗ
you-who sleep-with the blood-guilty with whom
πατέρα τὸν ἀμὸν πρόσθεν ἐξαπώλεσας,
father the my before you-destroyed
καὶ παιδοποιεῖς, τοὺς δὲ πρόσθεν εὐσεβεῖς
and beget-children the and former pious
κἀξ εὐσεβῶν βλαστόντας ἐκβαλοῦσ' ἔχεις.
and-from pious sprung having-cast-out you-have
πῶς ταῦτ' ἐπαινέσαιμ' ἄν; ἢ καὶ ταῦτ' ἐρεῖς
how this would-I-praise — or also this will-you-say
ὡς τῆς θυγατρὸς ἀντίποινα λαμβάνεις;
that for-the daughter requital you-take
αἰσχρῶς δ', ἐάν περ καὶ λέγῃς· οὐ γὰρ καλὸν
shamefully but if indeed even you-say not for honorable
ἐχθροῖς γαμεῖσθαι τῆς θυγατρὸς οὕνεκα.
with-enemies to-wed of-the daughter for-the-sake
ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ οὐδὲ νουθετεῖν ἔξεστί σε,
but not for not-even to-admonish is-possible you
ἥ πᾶσαν ἵης γλῶσσαν ὡς τὴν μητέρα
who all you-let-loose tongue that the mother
κακοστομοῦμεν. καί σ' ἔγωγε δεσπότιν
we-revile and you I-for-my-part mistress
ἥ μητέρ' οὐκ ἔλασσον εἰς ἡμᾶς νέμω,
than mother not less toward us regard
ἥ ζῶ βίον μοχθηρόν, ἔκ τε σοῦ κακοῖς
who I-live life wretched from both you with-evils
πολλοῖς ἀεὶ ξυνοῦσα τοῦ τε συννόμου·
many always living of-the and partner

ὃ δ' ἄλλος ἔξω, χεῖρα σὴν μόλις φυγών,
the and other outside hand your hardly having-escaped
τλήμων Ὀρέστης δυστυχῆ τρίβει βίον·
wretched Orestes unhappy wears-out life
ὃν πολλὰ δή με σοὶ τρέφειν μιάστορα
whom often indeed me for-you to-rear as-avenger
ἐπῃτιάσω· καὶ τόδ', εἴπερ ἔσθενον,
you-accused and this if-indeed I-had-strength
ἔδρων ἄν, εὖ τοῦτ' ἴσθι· τοῦδέ γ' οὕνεκα
I-would-do — well this know of-this at-least for-the-sake
κήρυσσέ μ' εἰς ἅπαντας, εἴτε χρῇς κακὴν
proclaim me to all whether you-wish evil
εἴτε στόμαργον εἴτ' ἀναιδείας πλέαν.
or loud-mouthed or of-shamelessness full
εἰ γὰρ πέφυκα τῶνδε τῶν ἔργων ἴδρις,
if for I-am-by-nature of-these the deeds skilled
σχεδόν τι τὴν σὴν οὐ καταισχύνω φύσιν.
nearly at-all the your not I-shame nature
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὁρῶ μένος πνέουσαν· εἰ δὲ σὺν δίκῃ
I-see wrath breathing if and with justice
ξύνεστι, τοῦδε φροντίδ' οὐκέτ' εἰσορῶ.
it-is-with of-this care no-longer I-see
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ ποίας δ' ἐμοὶ δεῖ πρός γε τήνδε φροντίδος,
what-kind and for-me need toward at-least this-one of-care
ἥτις τοιαῦτα τὴν τεκοῦσαν ὕβρισεν,
who such-things the having-borne insulted
καὶ ταῦτα τηλικοῦτος; ἆρά σοι δοκεῖ
and this at-such-an-age — to-you seems
χωρεῖν ἂν εἰς πᾶν ἔργον αἰσχύνης ἄτερ;
to-go — to every deed shame without

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ εὖ νυν ἐπίστω τῶνδέ μ᾽ αἰσχύνην ἔχειν,
well now know of-these me shame to-have
κεἰ μὴ δοκῶ σοι· μανθάνω δ᾽ ὁθούνεκα
even-if not I-seem to-you I-understand and that
ἔξωρα πράσσω κοὐκ ἐμοὶ προσεικότα.
untimely I-do and-not to-me befitting-things
ἀλλ᾽ ἡ γὰρ ἐκ σοῦ δυσμένεια καὶ τὰ σὰ
but the for from you hostility and the yours
ἔργ᾽ ἐξαναγκάζει με ταῦτα δρᾶν βίᾳ·
deeds compel me this to-do by-force
αἰσχροῖς γὰρ αἰσχρὰ πράγματ᾽ ἐκδιδάσκεται.
by-shameful for shameful deeds are-taught
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ ὦ θρέμμ᾽ ἀναιδές, ἦ σ᾽ ἐγὼ καὶ τἄμ᾽ ἔπη
O creature shameless truly you I and my words
καὶ τἄργα τἀμὰ πόλλ᾽ ἄγαν λέγειν ποεῖ.
and the-deeds my many-things too-much to-say make
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ σύ τοι λέγεις νιν, οὐκ ἐγώ· σὺ γὰρ ποεῖς
you surely say them not I you for do
τοὔργον· τὰ δ᾽ ἔργα τοὺς λόγους εὑρίσκεται.
the-deed the and deeds the words find
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ ἀλλ᾽ οὐ μὰ τὴν δέσποιναν Ἄρτεμιν θράσους
but not by the mistress Artemis of-boldness
τοῦδ᾽ οὐκ ἀλύξεις, εὖτ᾽ ἂν Αἴγισθος μόλῃ.
this not you-will-escape when — Aegisthus comes
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὁρᾷς; πρὸς ὀργὴν ἐκφέρει, μεθεῖσά μοι
you-see to anger you-are-carried having-allowed me
λέγειν ἃ χρῄζοιμ᾽, οὐδ᾽ ἐπίστασαι κλύειν.
to-say what I-might-wish nor you-know-how to-listen

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ οὔκουν ἐάσεις οὐδ' ὑπ' εὐφήμου βοῆς
not-then will-you-allow not-even with of-good-omen cry
θῦσαί μ', ἐπειδὴ σοί γ' ἐφῆκα πᾶν λέγειν;
to-sacrifice me since you at-least I-allowed all to-say
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐῶ, κελεύω, θῦε· μηδ' ἐπαιτιῶ
I-allow I-bid sacrifice nor blame
τοὐμὸν στόμ', ὡς οὐκ ἂν πέρα λέξαιμ' ἔτι.
my mouth since not — further I-would-speak still
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ ἔπαιρε δὴ σὺ θύμαθ' ἡ παροῦσά μοι
lift indeed you the-offerings the present with-me
πάγκαρπ', ἄνακτι τῷδ' ὅπως λυτηρίους
of-all-fruits to-lord this so-that releasing
εὐχὰς ἀνάσχω δειμάτων, ἃ νῦν ἔχω.
prayers I-may-raise of-fears which now I-have
κλύοις ἂν ἤδη, Φοῖβε προστατήριε,
hear — now Phoebus protector
κεκρυμμένην μου βάξιν· οὐ γὰρ ἐν φίλοις
hidden my word not for among friends
ὁ μῦθος, οὐδὲ πᾶν ἀναπτύξαι πρέπει
the speech nor all to-unfold befits
πρὸς φῶς παρούσης τῆσδε πλησίας ἐμοί,
to light being-present this-one near me
μὴ σὺν φθόνῳ τε καὶ πολυγλώσσῳ βοῇ
lest with envy and and much-tongued cry
σπείρῃ ματαίαν βάξιν εἰς πᾶσαν πόλιν.
she-sow vain rumor into all city
ἀλλ' ὧδ' ἄκουε· τῇδε γὰρ κἀγὼ φράσω.
but thus hear thus for and-I will-speak
ἃ γὰρ προσεῖδον νυκτὶ τῇδε φάσματα
what for I-saw by-night this visions

διοσσῶν ὀνείρων, ταῦτά μοι, Λύκει᾽ ἄναξ,
of-two dreams this to-me Lycean lord
εἰ μὲν πέφηνεν ἐσθλά, δὸς τελεσφόρα,
if indeed they-have-appeared good grant to-be-fulfilled
εἰ δ᾽ ἐχθρά, τοῖς ἐχθροῖσιν ἔμπαλιν μέθες·
if but hostile to-the enemies back send
καὶ μή με πλούτου τοῦ παρόντος εἴ τινες
and not me of-wealth the present if any
δόλοισι βουλεύουσιν ἐκβαλεῖν, ἐφῇς,
by-tricks plan to-cast-out allow
ἀλλ᾽ ὧδέ μ᾽ αἰεὶ ζῶσαν ἀβλαβεῖ βίῳ
but thus me always living with-unharmed life
δόμους Ἀτρειδῶν σκῆπτρά τ᾽ ἀμφέπειν τάδε,
house of-sons-of-Atreus scepter and to-hold this
φίλοισί τε ξυνοῦσαν οἷς ξύνειμι νῦν
with-friends and living with-whom I-live now
εὐημεροῦσαν καὶ τέκνων ὅσων ἐμοὶ
prospering and of-children as-many-as to-me
δύσνοια μὴ πρόσεστιν ἢ λύπη πικρά.
ill-will not is-present or grief bitter
ταῦτ᾽, ὦ Λύκει᾽ Ἄπολλον, ἵλεως κλύων
this O Lycean Apollo graciously hearing
δὸς πᾶσιν ἡμῖν ὥσπερ ἐξαιτούμεθα.
grant to-all us as we-ask
τὰ δ᾽ ἄλλα πάντα καὶ σιωπώσης ἐμοῦ
the and other all even being-silent me
ἐπαξιῶ σε δαίμον᾽ ὄντ᾽ ἐξειδέναι·
I-think-fit you god being to-know
τοὺς ἐκ Διὸς γὰρ εἰκός ἐστι πάνθ᾽ ὁρᾶν.
the from Zeus for fitting it-is all-things to-see

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ ξέναι γυναῖκες, πῶς ἂν εἰδείην σαφῶς
foreign women how — might-I-know clearly
εἰ τοῦ τυράννου δώματ' Αἰγίσθου τάδε;
if of-the tyrant the-house of-Aegisthus this
ΧΟΡΟΣ τάδ' ἐστίν, ὦ ξέν'· αὐτὸς ᾔκασας καλῶς.
this is O stranger yourself you-guessed well
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ ἦ καὶ δάμαρτα τήνδ' ἐπεικάζων κυρῶ
— and wife this guessing am-I-right
κείνου; πρέπει γὰρ ὡς τύραννος εἰσορᾶν.
of-him she-befits for as tyrant to-look
ΧΟΡΟΣ μάλιστα πάντων· ἥδε σοι κείνη πάρα.
most of-all she to-you she is-present
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ ὦ χαῖρ', ἄνασσα· σοὶ φέρων ἥκω λόγους
O hail queen to-you bringing I-come words
ἡδεῖς φίλου παρ' ἀνδρὸς Αἰγίσθῳ θ' ὁμοῦ.
pleasant of-friend from man to-Aegisthus and together
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ ἐδεξάμην τὸ ῥηθέν· εἰδέναι δέ σου
I-welcome the said to-know and from-you
πρώτιστα χρῄζω τίς σ' ἀπέστειλεν βροτῶν.
first-of-all I-want who you sent of-mortals
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ Φανοτεὺς ὁ Φωκεύς, πρᾶγμα πορσύνων μέγα.
Phanoteus the Phocian matter accomplishing great
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ τὸ ποῖον, ὦ ξέν'; εἰπέ· παρὰ φίλου γὰρ ὢν
the what O stranger say from friend for being
ἀνδρός, σάφ' οἶδα, προσφιλεῖς λέξεις λόγους.
man clearly I-know kindly you-will-say words
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ τέθνηκ' Ὀρέστης· ἐν βραχεῖ ξυνθεὶς λέγω.
is-dead Orestes in short putting-together I-say
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οἰ 'γὼ τάλαιν', ὄλωλα τῇδ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ.
ah me wretched I-am-undone this on day

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ τί φής, τί φής, ὦ ξεῖνε; μὴ ταύτης κλύε.
what do-you-say what do-you-say O stranger not her listen

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ θανόντ' Ὀρέστην νῦν τε καὶ πάλαι λέγω.
dead Orestes now both and before I-say

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀπωλόμην δύστηνος, οὐδέν εἰμ' ἔτι.
I-am-destroyed wretched nothing am still

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ σὺ μὲν τὰ σαυτῆς πρᾶσσ', ἐμοὶ δὲ σύ, ξένε,
you indeed the your-own do to-me and you stranger
τἀληθὲς εἰπέ, τῷ τρόπῳ διόλλυται;
the-truth tell in-what way does-he-perish

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ κἀπεμπόμην πρὸς ταῦτα καὶ τὸ πᾶν φράσω.
and-I-was-sent for this and the whole I-will-tell
κεῖνος γὰρ ἐλθὼν εἰς τὸ κλεινὸν Ἑλλάδος
he for having-come to the famous of-Hellas
πρόσχημ' ἀγῶνος Δελφικῶν ἄθλων χάριν,
showpiece of-contest of-Delphic games for-the-sake
ὅτ' ᾔσθετ' ἀνδρὸς ὀρθίων κηρυγμάτων
when he-perceived of-man loud proclamations
δρόμον προκηρύξαντος, οὗ πρώτη κρίσις,
race proclaiming whose first trial
εἰσῆλθε λαμπρός, πᾶσι τοῖς ἐκεῖ σέβας·
he-entered brilliant to-all the there an-object-of-awe
δρόμου δ' ἰσώσας τἀφέσει τὰ τέρματα
of-the-course and having-equaled with-the-start the finish
νίκης ἔχων ἐξῆλθε πάντιμον γέρας.
of-victory having went-out all-honored prize
χὤπως μὲν ἐν πολλοῖσι παῦρά σοι λέγω
and-how indeed in many few-things to-you I-say
οὐκ οἶδα τοιοῦδ' ἀνδρὸς ἔργα καὶ κράτη·
not I-know of-such man deeds and triumphs

ἓν δ' ἴσθ'· ὅσων γὰρ εἰσεκήρυξαν βραβῆς
one-thing and know as-many-as for proclaimed the-judges
τούτων ἐνεγκὼν πάντα τἀπινίκια
of-these having-borne-off all the-victory-prizes
ὠλβίζετ', Ἀργεῖος μὲν ἀνακαλούμενος,
he-was-deemed-happy Argive indeed being-proclaimed
ὄνομα δ' Ὀρέστης, τοῦ τὸ κλεινὸν Ἑλλάδος
by-name and Orestes of-the the famous of-Hellas
Ἀγαμέμνονος στράτευμ' ἀγείραντός ποτε.
of-Agamemnon army having-gathered once
καὶ ταῦτα μὲν τοιαῦθ'· ὅταν δέ τις θεῶν
and this indeed such when but some of-gods
βλάπτῃ, δύναιτ' ἂν οὐδ' ἂν ἰσχύων φυγεῖν.
harms could — not-even — being-strong escape
κεῖνος γὰρ ἄλλης ἡμέρας, ὅθ' ἱππικῶν
he for on-another day when of-horses
ἦν ἡλίου τέλλοντος ὠκύπους ἀγών,
was of-sun rising swift-footed contest
εἰσῆλθε πολλῶν ἁρματηλατῶν μέτα.
entered of-many charioteers with
εἷς ἦν Ἀχαιός, εἷς ἀπὸ Σπάρτης, δύο
one was Achaean one from Sparta two
Λίβυες ζυγωτῶν ἁρμάτων ἐπιστάται·
Libyans of-yoked chariots masters
κἀκεῖνος ἐν τούτοισι, Θεσσαλὰς ἔχων
and-he among these Thessalian having
ἵππους, ὁ πέμπτος· ἕκτος ἐξ Αἰτωλίας
mares the fifth sixth from Aetolia
ξανθαῖσι πώλοις· ἕβδομος Μάγνης ἀνήρ·
with-chestnut colts seventh Magnesian man

ὁ δ' ὄγδοος λεύκιππος, Αἰνιὰν γένος·
the and eighth with-white-horses Aenian by-race
ἔνατος Ἀθηνῶν τῶν θεοδμήτων ἄπο·
ninth Athens the god-built from
Βοιωτὸς ἄλλος, δέκατον ἐκπληρῶν ὄχον.
Boeotian another tenth filling-up car
στάντες δ' ἵν' αὐτοὺς οἱ τεταγμένοι βραβῆς
standing and where them the appointed judges
κλήροις ἔπηλαν καὶ κατέστησαν δίφρους,
by-lots placed and stationed chariots
χαλκῆς ὑπαὶ σάλπιγγος ᾒξαν· οἱ δ' ἅμα
of-bronze at trumpet they-darted they and together
ἵπποις ὁμοκλήσαντες ἡνίας χεροῖν
to-horses shouting reins in-hands
ἔσεισαν· ἐν δὲ πᾶς ἐμεστώθη δρόμος
shook in and all was-filled course
κτύπου κροτητῶν ἁρμάτων· κόνις δ' ἄνω
of-din of-rattling chariots dust and up
φορεῖθ'· ὁμοῦ δὲ πάντες ἀναμεμιγμένοι
was-borne together and all mingled
φείδοντο κέντρων οὐδέν, ὡς ὑπερβάλοι
spared goads nothing so-that might-pass
χνόας τις αὐτῶν καὶ φρυάγμαθ' ἱππικά.
naves any of-them and snortings of-horses
ὁμοῦ γὰρ ἀμφὶ νῶτα καὶ τροχῶν βάσεις
together for around backs and of-wheels tracks
ἤφριζον, εἰσέβαλλον ἱππικαὶ πνοαί.
foamed struck of-horses breaths
κεῖνος δ' ὑπ' αὐτὴν ἐσχάτην στήλην ἔχων
he and under very last pillar keeping

ἔχριμπτ᾽ ἀεὶ σύριγγα, δεξιὸν δ᾽ ἀνεὶς
grazed always hub right and slackening
σειραῖον ἵππον εἶργε τὸν προσκείμενον.
trace horse he-checked the inner
καὶ πρὶν μὲν ὀρθοὶ πάντες ἕστασαν δίφροι·
and before indeed upright all stood chariots
ἔπειτα δ᾽ Αἰνιᾶνος ἀνδρὸς ἄστομοι
then and of-Aenian man hard-mouthed
πῶλοι βίᾳ φέρουσιν· ἐκ δ᾽ ὑποστροφῆς
colts by-force carry-off from and turning
τελοῦντες ἕκτον ἕβδομόν τ᾽ ἤδη δρόμον
completing the-sixth seventh and already lap
μέτωπα συμπαίουσι Βαρκαίοις ὄχοις·
foreheads dash with-Barcaean cars
κἀντεῦθεν ἄλλος ἄλλον ἐξ ἑνὸς κακοῦ
and-thence one another from one evil
ἔθραυε κἀνέπιπτε, πᾶν δ᾽ ἐπίμπλατο
crushed and-fell-on all and was-filled
ναυαγίων Κρισαῖον ἱππικῶν πέδον.
of-wrecks Crisaean of-chariots plain
γνοὺς δ᾽ οὐξ Ἀθηνῶν δεινὸς ἡνιοστρόφος
perceiving and the-one-from Athens clever charioteer
ἔξω παρασπᾷ κἀνακωχεύει παρεὶς
outside draws-aside and-holds-back letting-pass
κλύδων᾽ ἔφιππον ἐν μέσῳ κυκώμενον.
surge of-horses in middle seething
ἤλαυνε δ᾽ ἔσχατος μέν, ὑστέρας δ᾽ ἔχων
drove and last indeed behind and having
πώλους Ὀρέστης, τῷ τέλει πίστιν φέρων·
mares Orestes to-the end trust bringing

ὅπως δ' ὁρᾷ μόνον νιν ἐλλελειμμένον,
when and he-sees alone him left-behind
ὀξὺν δι' ὤτων κέλαδον ἐνσείσας θοαῖς
sharp through ears shout having-sent with-swift
πώλοις διώκει, καὐξισώσαντε ζυγὰ
colts he-pursues and-having-made-equal yokes
ἠλαυνέτην, τότ' ἄλλος, ἄλλοθ' ἕτερος
the-two-drove then the-one at-another-time the-other
κάρα προβάλλων ἱππικῶν ὀχημάτων.
head thrusting-forward of-horse chariots
καὶ τοὺς μὲν ἄλλους πάντας ἀσφαλεῖς δρόμους
and the indeed other all safe courses
ὡρμᾶθ' ὁ τλήμων ὀρθὸς ἐξ ὀρθῶν δίφρων·
he-rode the wretched upright from upright chariot
ἔπειτα λύων ἡνίαν ἀριστερὰν
then loosening rein left
κάμπτοντος ἵππου λανθάνει στήλην ἄκραν
turning the-horse he-fails-to-notice pillar topmost
παίσας· ἔθραυσε δ' ἄξονος μέσας χνόας
having-struck broke and of-axle middle naves
κἀξ ἀντύγων ὤλισθεν· ἐν δ' ἑλίσσεται
and-from rails slipped in and is-entangled
τμητοῖς ἱμᾶσι· τοῦ δὲ πίπτοντος πέδῳ
in-cut reins him and falling to-the-ground
πῶλοι διεσπάρησαν ἐς μέσον δρόμον.
colts scattered into middle course
στρατὸς δ' ὅπως ὁρᾷ νιν ἐκπεπτωκότα
army and when it-sees him having-fallen
δίφρων, ἀνωλόλυξε τὸν νεανίαν,
from-chariot shrieked-for the youth

οἷ᾽ ἔργα δράσας οἷα λαγχάνει κακά,
what deeds having-done what gets evils
φορούμενος πρὸς οὖδας, ἄλλοτ᾽ οὐρανῷ
borne to ground at-times to-heaven
σκέλη προφαίνων, ἕς τέ νιν διφρηλάται,
legs showing until and him charioteers
μόλις κατασχεθόντες ἱππικὸν δρόμον,
hardly checking horse course
ἔλυσαν αἱματηρόν, ὥστε μηδένα
loosed bloodstained so-that no-one
γνῶναι φίλων ἰδόντ᾽ ἂν ἄθλιον δέμας.
to-know of-friends seeing — wretched body
καί νιν πυρᾷ κέαντες εὐθὺς ἐν βραχεῖ
and him on-pyre having-burned at-once in small
χαλκῷ μέγιστον σῶμα δειλαίας σποδοῦ
bronze greatest body of-wretched of-ash
φέρουσιν ἄνδρες Φωκέων τεταγμένοι,
bring men of-Phocians appointed
ὅπως πατρῴας τύμβον ἐκλάχῃ χθονός.
so-that paternal tomb he-may-obtain of-land
τοιαῦτά σοι ταῦτ᾽ ἐστίν, ὡς μὲν ἐν λόγῳ
such to-you this are as indeed in word
ἀλγεινά, τοῖς δ᾽ ἰδοῦσιν, οἵπερ εἴδομεν,
painful for-the but having-seen who-indeed we-saw
μέγιστα πάντων ὧν ὅπωπ᾽ ἐγὼ κακῶν.
greatest of-all which have-seen I of-evils
ΧΟΡΟΣ φεῦ φεῦ· τὸ πᾶν δὴ δεσπόταισι τοῖς πάλαι
alas alas the whole indeed for-masters the of-old
πρόρριζον, ὡς ἔοικεν, ἔφθαρται γένος.
roots-and-all as it-seems is-destroyed race

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ ὦ Ζεῦ, τί ταῦτα, πότερον εὐτυχῆ λέγω,
O Zeus what this whether fortunate shall-I-say
ἢ δεινὰ μέν, κέρδη δέ; λυπηρῶς δ' ἔχει,
or terrible indeed gains but painfully but it-is
εἰ τοῖς ἐμαυτῆς τὸν βίον σῴζω κακοῖς.
if by-the my-own the life I-save evils
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ τί δ' ὧδ' ἀθυμεῖς, ὦ γύναι, τῷ νῦν λόγῳ;
why and thus are-you-despondent O lady at-the present word
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ δεινὸν τὸ τίκτειν ἐστίν· οὐδὲ γὰρ κακῶς
dread the to-give-birth is not-even for badly
πάσχοντι μῖσος ὧν τέκῃ προσγίγνεται.
suffering hatred of-whom one-bears is-added
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ μάτην ἄρ' ἡμεῖς, ὡς ἔοικεν, ἥκομεν.
in-vain then we as it-seems have-come
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ οὔτοι μάτην γε· πῶς γὰρ ἂν μάτην λέγοις,
not-surely in-vain at-least how for — in-vain could-you-say
εἴ μοι θανόντος πίστ' ἔχων τεκμήρια
if to-me of-dead trustworthy having proofs
προσῆλθες, ὅστις τῆς ἐμῆς ψυχῆς γεγώς,
you-came who of-the my of-soul born
μαστῶν ἀποστὰς καὶ τροφῆς ἐμῆς, φυγὰς
from-breasts having-withdrawn and of-nurture my exile
ἀπεξενοῦτο καί μ', ἐπεὶ τῆσδε χθονὸς
was-estranged and me since from-this land
ἐξῆλθεν, οὐκέτ' εἶδεν, ἐγκαλῶν δέ μοι
he-went-out no-longer saw charging but me
φόνους πατρῴους δείν' ἐπηπείλει τελεῖν;
murders paternal terrible-things threatened to-accomplish
ὥστ' οὔτε νυκτὸς ὕπνον οὔτ' ἐξ ἡμέρας
so-that neither by-night sleep nor by day

ἐμὲ στεγάζειν ἡδύν, ἀλλ' ὁ προστατῶν
me to-shelter sweet but the presiding
χρόνος διῆγέ μ' αἰὲν ὡς θανουμένην.
time led me always as about-to-die
νῦν δ' — ἡμέρᾳ γὰρ τῇδ' ἀπήλλαγμαι φόβου
now and on-day for this I-am-freed from-fear
πρὸς τῆσδ' ἐκείνου θ'· ἥδε γὰρ μείζων βλάβη
from her him and she for greater harm
785 ξύνοικος ἦν μοι, τοὐμὸν ἐκπίνουσ' ἀεὶ
housemate was for-me my drinking-up always
ψυχῆς ἄκρατον αἷμα — νῦν δ' ἔκηλά που
of-soul pure blood now and in-peace surely
τῶν τῆσδ' ἀπειλῶν οὕνεχ' ἡμερεύσομεν.
of-the her threats for-the-sake we-shall-pass-our-days
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οἴμοι τάλαινα· νῦν γὰρ οἰμῶξαι πάρα,
ah-me wretched now for to-wail is-possible
Ὀρέστα, τὴν σὴν ξυμφοράν, ὅθ' ὧδ' ἔχων
Orestes the your misfortune when thus being
790 πρὸς τῆσδ' ὑβρίζει μητρός. ἆρ' ἔχει καλῶς;
by this you-are-insulted mother — is-it well
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ οὔτοι σύ· κεῖνος δ' ὡς ἔχει καλῶς ἔχει.
not-surely you he but as he-is well he-is
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἄκουε, Νέμεσι τοῦ θανόντος ἀρτίως.
hear Nemesis of-the dead just-now
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ ἤκουσεν ὧν δεῖ κἀπεκύρωσεν καλῶς.
she-heard what must and-ratified well
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὕβριζε· νῦν γὰρ εὐτυχοῦσα τυγχάνεις.
insult now for prospering you-happen
795 ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ οὔκουν Ὀρέστης καὶ σὺ παύσετον τάδε.
not-then Orestes and you will-stop this

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πεπαύμεθ' ἡμεῖς, οὐχ ὅπως σὲ παύσομεν.
we-are-stopped we not much-less you we-shall-stop

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ πολλῶν ἂν ἥκοις, ὦ ξέν', ἄξιος τυχεῖν,
much — you-would-deserve O stranger worthy to-obtain

εἰ τήνδ' ἔπαυσας τῆς πολυγλώσσου βοῆς.
if her you-stopped of-the much-tongued cry

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ οὐκοῦν ἀποστείχοιμ' ἄν, εἰ τάδ' εὖ κυρεῖ.
then I-might-depart — if this well are

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ ἥκιστ'· ἐπείπερ οὔτ' ἐμοῦ κατάξι' ἂν 800
by-no-means since neither of-me worthily —

πράξειας οὔτε τοῦ πορεύσαντος ξένου.
you-would-fare nor of-the having-sent guest-friend

ἀλλ' εἴσιθ' εἴσω· τήνδε δ' ἔκτοθεν βοᾶν
but go-in within her and outside to-shout

ἔα τά θ' αὑτῆς καὶ τὰ τῶν φίλων κακά.
let the and of-her-own and the of-the friends evils

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἆρ' ὑμὶν ὡς ἀλγοῦσα κὠδυνωμένη
— to-you as grieving and-suffering

δεινῶς δακρῦσαι κἀπικωκῦσαι δοκεῖ 805
terribly to-weep and-to-wail seems

τὸν υἱὸν ἡ δύστηνος ὧδ' ὀλωλότα;
the son the wretched thus perished

ἀλλ' ἐγγελῶσα φροῦδος· ὦ τάλαιν' ἐγώ.
but exulting she-is-gone O wretched I

Ὀρέστα φίλταθ', ὥς μ' ἀπώλεσας θανών.
Orestes dearest how me you-destroyed dying

ἀποσπάσας γὰρ τῆς ἐμῆς οἴχει φρενὸς
having-torn-away for from-the my you-are-gone heart

αἵ μοι μόναι παρῆσαν ἐλπίδων ἔτι, 810
which to-me alone were-present of-hopes still

σὲ πατρὸς ἥξειν ζῶντα τιμωρόν ποτε
you of-father to-come living avenger ever
κἀμοῦ ταλαίνης. νῦν δὲ ποῖ με χρὴ μολεῖν;
and-of-me wretched now and where me must to-go
μόνη γάρ εἰμι, σοῦ τ᾽ ἀπεστερημένη
alone for I-am of-you and bereft
καὶ πατρός. ἤδη δεῖ με δουλεύειν πάλιν
and of-father already must me to-be-a-slave again
ἐν τοῖσιν ἐχθίστοισιν ἀνθρώπων ἐμοὶ
among the most-hateful of-men to-me
φονεῦσι πατρός. ἆρά μοι καλῶς ἔχει;
murderers of-father — to-me well it-is
ἀλλ᾽ οὔ τι μὴν ἔγωγε τοῦ λοιποῦ χρόνου
but not at-all indeed I-for-my-part for-the remaining time
ξύνοικος, εἴσειμ᾽, ἀλλὰ τῇδε πρὸς πύλῃ
housemate shall-go-in but this at gate
παρεῖσ᾽ ἐμαυτὴν ἄφιλος αὐανῶ βίον.
letting-go myself friendless shall-wither life
πρὸς ταῦτα καινέτω τις, εἰ βαρύνεται,
to this let-kill someone if he-is-vexed
τῶν ἔνδον ὄντων· ὡς χάρις μέν, ἢν κτάνῃ,
of-the within being since favor indeed if he-kills
λύπη δ᾽, ἐὰν ζῶ· τοῦ βίου δ᾽ οὐδεὶς πόθος.
pain but if I-live of-the life and no longing

Electra and the chorus lament together. They remind her of Amphiaraus, who died by a woman's treachery but rules below, and was avenged. She answers that there is no one left to avenge her father: Orestes is dead, torn apart in the race, and she could neither tend his body nor mourn at his tomb.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ποῦ ποτε κεραυνοὶ Διὸς ἢ ποῦ φαέθων
where ever thunderbolts of-Zeus or where shining
Ἅλιος, εἰ ταῦτ' ἐφορῶντες κρύπτουσιν ἔκηλοι; 825
Sun if this overseeing they-hide at-ease
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἔ ἔ, αἰαῖ.
ah ah alas
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ παῖ, τί δακρύεις;
O child why do-you-weep
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ φεῦ.
alas
ΧΟΡΟΣ μηδὲν μέγ' ἀΰσῃς. 830
nothing great cry-out
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀπολεῖς.
you-will-destroy-me
ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς;
how
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ εἰ τῶν φανερῶς οἰχομένων
if of-the manifestly departed
εἰς Ἄΐδαν ἐλπίδ' ὑποίσεις, κατ' ἐμοῦ τακομένας
to Hades hope you-will-suggest against me wasting
μᾶλλον ἐπεμβάσει. 835
more you-will-trample

ΧΟΡΟΣ οἶδα γὰρ ἄνακτ᾽ Ἀμφιάρεων χρυσοδέτοις
I-know for lord Amphiaraus by-gold-bound
ἕρκεσι κρυφθέντα γυναικῶν· καὶ νῦν ὑπὸ γαίας
by-snares hidden of-women and now under earth
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἔ ἔ, ἰώ.
ah ah ah
ΧΟΡΟΣ πάμψυχος ἀνάσσει.
with-full-soul rules
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ φεῦ.
alas
ΧΟΡΟΣ φεῦ δῆτ᾽· ὀλοὰ γὰρ
alas then baneful for
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐδάμη.
was-subdued
ΧΟΡΟΣ ναί.
yes
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οἶδ᾽ οἶδ᾽· ἐφάνη γὰρ μελέτωρ
I-know I-know appeared for a-champion
ἀμφὶ τὸν ἐν πένθει· ἐμοὶ δ᾽ οὔτις ἔτ᾽ ἔσθ᾽· ὃς γὰρ ἔτ᾽ ἦν,
over the in grief to-me but no-one longer is who for still was
φροῦδος ἀναρπασθείς.
gone snatched-away
ΧΟΡΟΣ δειλαία δειλαίων κυρεῖς.
wretched of-wretched-things you-meet
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ κἀγὼ τοῦδ᾽ ἴστωρ, ὑπερίστωρ,
and-I of-this witness over-witness
πανσύρτῳ παμμήνῳ πολλῶν
in-all-swept-together all-the-months of-many
δεινῶν στυγνῶν τ᾽ αἰῶνι.
terrible hateful and in-life

ΧΟΡΟΣ εἴδομεν ἀθρήνεις.

we-saw what-you-lament

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ μή μέ νυν μηκέτι

not me now no-longer

παραγάγῃς, ἵν᾽ οὐ

lead-astray where not

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί φής;

what do-you-say

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πάρεισιν ἐλπίδων ἔτι κοινοτόκων

are-present of-hopes still of-common-birth

εὐπατριδᾶν ἀρωγαί.

noble helps

ΧΟΡΟΣ πᾶσι θνατοῖς ἔφυ μόρος.

to-all mortals is doom

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἦ καὶ χαλάργοις ἐν ἁμίλλαις

— and swift-hoofed in contests

οὕτως, ὡς κείνῳ δυστάνῳ,

thus as to-him wretched

τμητοῖς ὁλκοῖς ἐγκῦρσαι;

in-cut traces to-be-entangled

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄσκοπος ἁ λώβα.

unseen the outrage

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πῶς γὰρ οὔκ; εἰ ξένος

how for not if stranger

ἄτερ ἐμᾶν χερῶν

without my hands

ΧΟΡΟΣ παπαῖ.

alas

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ κέκευθεν, οὔτε του τάφου ἀντιάσας
he-is-hidden neither any of-tomb having-met
οὔτε γόων παρ' ἡμῶν.
nor of-laments from us

VII · THE LOCK

Chrysothemis returns in joy and tells Electra that Orestes is here: at the tomb she found fresh milk, flowers, and a lock of hair that can only be his. Electra tells her that he is dead and the offerings must have been left by someone in his memory. She proposes that the two of them kill Aegisthus themselves, and promises glory if they do. Chrysothemis refuses as madness, since they are women and weaker than their enemies, and warns her to give way. Electra resolves to act alone, and the sisters part in bitterness.

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ὑφ' ἡδονῆς τοι, φιλτάτη, διώκομαι
by joy surely dearest I-am-driven
τὸ κόσμιον μεθεῖσα σὺν τάχει μολεῖν·
the decorum having-let-go with speed to-come
φέρω γὰρ ἡδονάς τε κἀνάπαυλαν ὧν
I-bring for joys both and-relief of-which
πάροιθεν εἶχες καὶ κατέστενες κακῶν
before you-had and lamented of-evils
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πόθεν δ' ἂν εὕροις τῶν ἐμῶν σὺ πημάτων
whence and — could-you-find of-the my you of-woes
ἄρηξιν, οἷς ἴασιν οὐκ ἔνεστ' ἰδεῖν;
help for-which cure not is-possible to-see
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ πάρεστ' Ὀρέστης ἡμίν, ἴσθι τοῦτ' ἐμοῦ
is-present Orestes to-us know this from-me
κλύουσ', ἐναργῶς, ὥσπερ εἰσορᾷς ἐμέ.
hearing clearly as you-see me

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀλλ᾽ ἦ μέμηνας, ὦ τάλαινα, κἀπὶ τοῖς
but — are-you-mad O wretched and-at the
σαυτῆς κακοῖσι κἀπὶ τοῖς ἐμοῖς γελᾷς;
your-own evils and-at the my do-you-laugh
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ μὰ τὴν πατρῴαν ἑστίαν, ἀλλ᾽ οὐχ ὕβρει
by the paternal hearth but not in-insolence
λέγω τάδ᾽, ἀλλ᾽ ἐκεῖνον ὡς παρόντα νῷν.
I-say this but him as present for-us-two
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οἴμοι τάλαινα· καὶ τίνος βροτῶν λόγον
ah-me wretched and of-which of-mortals the-word
τόνδ᾽ εἰσακούσασ᾽ ὧδε πιστεύεις ἄγαν;
this having-heard thus do-you-trust too-much
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ἐγὼ μὲν ἐξ ἐμοῦ τε κοὐκ ἄλλης, σαφῆ
I indeed from myself and and-not another clear
σημεῖ᾽ ἰδοῦσα, τῷδε πιστεύω λόγῳ.
signs having-seen this I-trust word
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τίν᾽, ὦ τάλαιν᾽, ἔχουσα πίστιν; ἐς τί μοι
what O wretched having proof at what to-me
βλέψασα θάλπει τῷδ᾽ ἀνηκέστῳ πυρί;
looking are-you-warmed by-this incurable fire
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ πρός νυν θεῶν ἄκουσον, ὡς μαθοῦσά μου
by now gods hear so-that having-learned from-me
τὸ λοιπὸν ἢ φρονοῦσαν ἢ μωρὰν λέγῃς.
the hereafter either sane or foolish you-may-call-me
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ σὺ δ᾽ οὖν λέγ᾽, εἴ σοι τῷ λόγῳ τις ἡδονή.
you and then speak if to-you in-the word any pleasure
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ καὶ δὴ λέγω σοι πᾶν ὅσον κατειδόμην.
and indeed I-tell you all as-much-as I-saw
ἐπεὶ γὰρ ἦλθον πατρὸς ἀρχαῖον τάφον,
when for I-came of-father ancient tomb

ὁρῶ κολώνης ἐξ ἄκρας νεορρύτους
I-see of-mound from top freshly-flowing
πηγὰς γάλακτος καὶ περιστεφῆ κύκλῳ
streams of-milk and crowned-around in-a-circle
πάντων ὅσ᾽ ἐστὶν ἀνθέων θήκην πατρός.
of-all as-many-as there-are flowers the-sepulcher of-father
ἰδοῦσα δ᾽ ἔσχον θαῦμα, καὶ περισκοπῶ
having-seen and I-had wonder and I-look-around
μή πού τις ἡμῖν ἐγγὺς ἐγχρίμπτῃ βροτῶν.
lest somewhere some to-us near approaches of-mortals
ὡς δ᾽ ἐν γαλήνῃ πάντ᾽ ἐδερκόμην τόπον,
when and in calm all I-saw place
τύμβου προσεῖρπον ἆσσον· ἐσχάτης δ᾽ ὁρῶ
of-the-tomb I-crept nearer at-the-edge and I-see
πυρᾶς νεώρη βόστρυχον τετμημένον·
of-the-pyre fresh lock cut
κεὐθὺς τάλαιν᾽ ὡς εἶδον, ἐμπαίει τί μοι
and-at-once wretched when I-saw strikes some to-me
ψυχῇ σύνηθες ὄμμα, φιλτάτου βροτῶν
in-soul familiar image of-dearest of-mortals
πάντων Ὀρέστου τοῦθ᾽ ὁρᾶν τεκμήριον·
of-all of-Orestes this to-see as-a-token
καὶ χερσὶ βαστάσασα δυσφημῶ μὲν οὔ,
and in-hands lifting I-speak-ill-omen indeed not
χαρᾷ δὲ πίμπλημ᾽ εὐθὺς ὄμμα δακρύων.
with-joy and I-fill at-once eye of-tears
καὶ νῦν θ᾽ ὁμοίως καὶ τότ᾽ ἐξεπίσταμαι
and now and alike and then I-know-well
μή του τόδ᾽ ἀγλάϊσμα πλὴν κείνου μολεῖν·
not someone's this ornament except his to-have-come

τῷ γὰρ προσήκει πλήν γ' ἐμοῦ καὶ σοῦ τόδε;
to-whom for it-belongs except at-least me and you this
κἀγὼ μὲν οὐκ ἔδρασα, τοῦτ' ἐπίσταμαι,
and-I indeed not did this I-know
οὐδ' αὖ σύ· πῶς γάρ; ᾗ γε μηδὲ πρὸς θεοὺς
nor again you how for to-whom at-least not-even to gods
ἔξεστ' ἀκλαύστῳ τῆσδ' ἀποστῆναι στέγης.
it-is-possible unpunished from-this to-depart house
ἀλλ' οὐδὲ μὲν δὴ μητρὸς οὔθ' ὁ νοῦς φιλεῖ
but not-even indeed indeed of-mother neither the mind loves
τοιαῦτα πράσσειν οὔτε δρῶσ' ἐλάνθαν' ἄν·
such-things to-do nor doing would-have-escaped-notice —
ἀλλ' ἔστ' Ὀρέστου ταῦτα τἀπιτύμβια.
but it-is of-Orestes these the-tomb-offerings
ἀλλ', ὦ φίλη, θάρσυνε· τοῖς αὐτοῖσί τοι
but O dear take-courage for-the same surely
οὐχ αὐτὸς αἰεὶ δαιμόνων παραστατεῖ.
not same always of-gods stands-by
νῷν ἦν τὰ πρόσθεν στυγνός· ἡ δὲ νῦν ἴσως
for-us-two was the before hateful the but now perhaps
πολλῶν ὑπάρξει κῦρος ἡμέρα καλῶν.
of-many will-begin ratification day of-good-things
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ φεῦ, τῆς ἀνοίας ὡς σ' ἐποικτίρω πάλαι.
alas of-the folly how you I-pity long
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ τί δ' ἔστιν; οὐ πρὸς ἡδονὴν λέγω τάδε;
what and is-it not to pleasure I-say this
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐκ οἶσθ' ὅποι γῆς οὐδ' ὅποι γνώμης φέρει.
not you-know where of-earth nor where of-mind you-are-borne
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ πῶς δ' οὐκ ἐγὼ κάτοιδ' ἃ γ' εἶδον ἐμφανῶς;
how and not I know what at-least I-saw clearly

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τέθνηκεν, ὦ τάλαινα, τἀκείνου δέ σοι
he-is-dead O wretched the-his and for-you
σωτήρι᾽ ἔρρει· μηδὲν εἰς κεῖνόν γ᾽ ὅρα.
safety is-gone nothing to him at-least look
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ οἴμοι τάλαινα· τοῦ τάδ᾽ ἤκουσας βροτῶν;
ah-me wretched from-whom this did-you-hear of-mortals
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τοῦ πλησίον παρόντος, ἡνίκ᾽ ὤλλυτο.
from-the nearby present when he-was-perishing
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ καὶ ποῦ ᾽στιν οὗτος; θαῦμά τοί μ᾽ ὑπέρχεται.
and where is he wonder surely me comes-over
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ κατ᾽ οἶκον, ἡδὺς οὐδὲ μητρὶ δυσχερής.
in house pleasant nor to-mother displeasing
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ οἴμοι τάλαινα· τοῦ γὰρ ἀνθρώπων ποτ᾽ ἦν
ah-me wretched of-whom for of-men ever were
τὰ πολλὰ πατρὸς πρὸς τάφον κτερίσματα;
the many of-father to tomb offerings
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οἶμαι μάλιστ᾽ ἔγωγε τοῦ τεθνηκότος
I-think most I-for-my-part of-the dead
μνημεῖ᾽ Ὀρέστου ταῦτα προσθεῖναί τινα.
memorials of-Orestes these to-have-placed someone
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ὦ δυστυχής· ἐγὼ δὲ σὺν χαρᾷ λόγους
O unfortunate I and with joy words
τοιούσδ᾽ ἔχουσ᾽ ἔσπευδον, οὐκ εἰδυῖ᾽ ἄρα
such having I-hastened not knowing then
ἵν᾽ ἦμεν ἄτης· ἀλλὰ νῦν, ὅθ᾽ ἱκόμην,
where we-were of-ruin but now when I-came
τά τ᾽ ὄντα πρόσθεν ἄλλα θ᾽ εὑρίσκω κακά.
the and being before others and I-find evils

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὕτως ἔχει σοι ταῦτ᾽· ἐὰν δέ μοι πίθῃ,
thus is for-you this if but me you-obey
τῆς νῦν παρούσης πημονῆς λύσεις βάρος.
of-the now present woe you-will-loose the-weight
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ἦ τοὺς θανόντας ἐξαναστήσω ποτέ; 940
— the dead shall-I-raise ever
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐκ ἔσθ᾽ ὅ γ᾽ εἶπον· οὐ γὰρ ὧδ᾽ ἄφρων ἔφυν.
not it-is which at-least I-said not for thus foolish I-was-born
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ τί γὰρ κελεύεις ὧν ἐγὼ φερέγγυος;
what for do-you-bid of-which I competent
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τλῆναί σε δρῶσαν ἃν ἐγὼ παραινέσω.
to-dare you doing what I shall-advise
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ἀλλ᾽ εἴ τις ὠφέλειά γ᾽, οὐκ ἀπώσομαι.
but if any help at-least not I-will-refuse
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὅρα, πόνου τοι χωρὶς οὐδὲν εὐτυχεῖ. 945
see toil surely without nothing prospers
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ὁρῶ. ξυνοίσω πᾶν ὅσονπερ ἂν σθένω.
I-see I-will-contribute all as-much-as-indeed — I-am-able
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἄκουε δή νυν ᾗ βεβούλευμαι ποεῖν.
hear indeed now how I-have-resolved to-do
παρουσίαν μὲν οἶσθα καὶ σύ που φίλων
presence indeed you-know also you surely of-friends
ὡς οὔτις ἡμῖν ἔστιν, ἀλλ᾽ Ἅιδης λαβὼν
that none to-us is but Hades taking
ἀπεστέρηκε καὶ μόνα λελείμμεθον. 950
has-robbed and alone we-two-are-left
ἐγὼ δ᾽ ἕως μὲν τὸν κασίγνητον βίῳ
I and while indeed the brother in-life
θάλλοντ᾽ ἔτ᾽ εἰσήκουον, εἶχον ἐλπίδας
flourishing still I-heard I-had hopes

φόνου ποτ᾽ αὐτὸν πράκτορ᾽ ἴξεσθαι πατρός·
of-murder ever him avenger to-come of-father
νῦν δ᾽ ἡνίκ᾽ οὐκέτ᾽ ἔστιν, εἰς σὲ δὴ βλέπω,
now and when no-longer he-is to you indeed I-look
ὅπως τὸν αὐτόχειρα πατρῴου φόνου
so-that the murderer of-paternal murder
ξὺν τῇδ᾽ ἀδελφῇ μὴ κατοκνήσεις κτανεῖν
with this sister not you-will-shrink to-kill
Αἴγισθον· οὐδὲν γάρ σε δεῖ κρύπτειν μ᾽ ἔτι.
Aegisthus nothing for you must to-hide from-me longer
ποῖ γὰρ μενεῖς ῥᾴθυμος, εἰς τίν᾽ ἐλπίδων
where for will-you-wait idle to what of-hopes
βλέψασ᾽ ἔτ᾽ ὀρθήν; ᾗ πάρεστι μὲν στένειν
looking still upright for-whom it-is-possible indeed to-lament
πλούτου πατρῴου κτῆσιν ἐστερημένῃ,
of-wealth paternal possession bereft
πάρεστι δ᾽ ἀλγεῖν ἐς τοσόνδε τοῦ χρόνου
it-is-possible and to-grieve to such of-the time
ἄλεκτρα γηράσκουσαν ἀνυμέναιά τε.
unwedded growing-old without-marriage-song and
καὶ τῶνδε μέντοι μηκέτ᾽ ἐλπίσῃς ὅπως
and of-these however no-longer hope that
τεύξει ποτ᾽· οὐ γὰρ ὧδ᾽ ἄβουλός ἐστ᾽ ἀνὴρ
you-will-obtain ever not for thus foolish is man
Αἴγισθος ὥστε σόν ποτ᾽ ἢ κἀμὸν γένος
Aegisthus as your ever or and-my race
βλαστεῖν ἐᾶσαι, πημονὴν αὑτῷ σαφῆ.
to-grow to-let woe for-himself clear
ἀλλ᾽ ἢν ἐπίσπῃ τοῖς ἐμοῖς βουλεύμασιν,
but if you-follow the my counsels

πρῶτον μὲν εὐσέβειαν ἐκ πατρὸς κάτω
first indeed piety from father below
θανόντος οἴσει τοῦ κασιγνήτου θ' ἅμα·
dead you-will-win of-the brother and at-the-same-time
ἔπειτα δ', ὥσπερ ἐξέφυς, ἐλευθέρα
then and as you-were-born free
καλεῖ τὸ λοιπὸν καὶ γάμων ἐπαξίων
you-will-be-called the hereafter and marriage worthy
τεύξει· φιλεῖ γὰρ πρὸς τὰ χρηστὰ πᾶς ὁρᾶν.
you-will-obtain is-wont for to the good every-one to-look
λόγων γε μὴν εὔκλειαν οὐχ ὁρᾷς ὅσην
of-words at-least indeed glory not you-see how-great
σαυτῇ τε κἀμοὶ προσβαλεῖς πεισθεῖσ' ἐμοί;
for-yourself and and-for-me you-will-bring having-been-persuaded by-me
τίς γάρ ποτ' ἀστῶν ἢ ξένων ἡμᾶς ἰδὼν
who for ever of-citizens or of-strangers us seeing
τοιοῖσδ' ἐπαίνοις οὐχὶ δεξιώσεται·
with-such praises not will-greet
ἴδεσθε τώδε τὼ κασιγνήτω, φίλοι,
see these two sisters friends
ὦ τὸν πατρῷον οἶκον ἐξεσωσάτην,
who the paternal house saved
ὦ τοῖσιν ἐχθροῖς εὖ βεβηκόσιν ποτὲ
who on-the enemies well standing once
ψυχῆς ἀφειδήσαντε προὐστήτην φόνου·
of-life unsparing stood-forth of-murder
τούτω φιλεῖν χρή, τώδε χρὴ πάντας σέβειν,
these-two to-love must these-two must all to-revere
τώδ' ἔν θ' ἑορταῖς ἔν τε πανδήμῳ πόλει
these-two in and festivals in and whole-people's city

τιμᾶν ἅπαντας οὕνεκ᾽ ἀνδρείας χρεών.
to-honor all because-of courage it-behooves

τοιαῦτά τοι νὼ πᾶς τις ἐξερεῖ βροτῶν,
such-things surely of-us-two every one will-say of-mortals

ζώσαιν θανούσαιν θ᾽ ὥστε μὴ ᾽κλιπεῖν κλέος.
living dying and so-that not to-fail glory

ἀλλ᾽, ὦ φίλη, πείσθητι, συμπόνει πατρί,
but O dear be-persuaded toil-with father

σύγκαμν᾽ ἀδελφῷ, παῦσον ἐκ κακῶν ἐμέ,
labor-with brother stop from evils me

παῦσον δὲ σαυτήν, τοῦτο γιγνώσκουσ᾽ ὅτι
stop and yourself this knowing that

ζῆν αἰσχρὸν αἰσχρῶς τοῖς καλῶς πεφυκόσιν.
to-live shameful shamefully for-the nobly born

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐν τοῖς τοιούτοις ἐστὶν ἡ προμηθία
in the such is the forethought

καὶ τῷ λέγοντι καὶ κλύοντι σύμμαχος.
both to-the speaker and listener ally

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ καὶ πρίν γε φωνεῖν, ὦ γυναῖκες, εἰ φρενῶν
and before at-least to-speak O women if of-wits

ἐτύγχαν᾽ αὕτη μὴ κακῶν, ἐσῴζετ᾽ ἂν
happened-to-be she not of-the-bad she-would-have-preserved —

τὴν εὐλάβειαν, ὥσπερ οὐχὶ σῴζεται.
the caution as not she-preserves

ποῖ γάρ ποτ᾽ ἐμβλέψασα τοιοῦτον θράσος
where for ever looking such boldness

αὐτή θ᾽ ὁπλίζει κἄμ᾽ ὑπηρετεῖν καλεῖς;
yourself both do-you-arm and-me to-assist do-you-call

οὐκ εἰσορᾷς; γυνὴ μὲν οὐδ᾽ ἀνὴρ ἔφυς,
not you-see woman indeed not man you-were-born

σθένεις δ' ἔλασσον τῶν ἐναντίων χερί.
you-are-strong and less than-the opponents in-hand
δαίμων δὲ τοῖς μὲν εὐτυχεῖ καθ' ἡμέραν,
fortune and for-them indeed prospers by day
ἡμῖν δ' ἀπορρεῖ κἀπὶ μηδὲν ἔρχεται.
to-us but ebbs and-to nothing comes
τίς οὖν τοιοῦτον ἄνδρα βουλεύων ἑλεῖν
who then such man planning to-take
ἄλυπος ἄτης ἐξαπαλλαχθήσεται;
unpained from-ruin shall-be-released
ὅρα κακῶς πράσσοντε μὴ μείζω κακὰ
see badly we-two-faring lest greater evils
κτησώμεθ', εἴ τις τούσδ' ἀκούσεται λόγους.
we-get if anyone these shall-hear words
λύει γὰρ ἡμῖν οὐδὲν οὐδ' ἐπωφελεῖ
it-profits for us nothing nor helps
βάξιν καλὴν λαβόντε δυσκλεῶς θανεῖν.
report fair having-gotten ingloriously to-die
οὐ γὰρ θανεῖν ἔχθιστον, ἀλλ' ὅταν θανεῖν
not for to-die most-hateful but when to-die
χρῄζων τις εἶτα μηδὲ τοῦτ' ἔχῃ λαβεῖν.
wishing one then not-even this can to-get
ἀλλ' ἀντιάζω, πρὶν πανωλέθρους τὸ πᾶν
but I-beseech before utterly-destroyed the whole
ἡμᾶς τ' ὀλέσθαι κἀξερημῶσαι γένος,
us both to-perish and-to-desolate race
κατάσχες ὀργήν. καὶ τὰ μὲν λελεγμένα
restrain anger and the indeed spoken
ἄρρητ' ἐγώ σοι κἀτελῆ φυλάξομαι,
unspoken I for-you and-unaccomplished will-keep

αὐτὴ δὲ νοῦν σχὲς ἀλλὰ τῷ χρόνῳ ποτέ,
yourself and sense have but in-the time ever
σθένουσα μηδὲν τοῖς κρατοῦσιν εἰκαθεῖν.
being-strong nothing to-the ruling to-yield
ΧΟΡΟΣ πείθου· προνοίας οὐδὲν ἀνθρώποις ἔφυ
obey of-forethought nothing for-men is
κέρδος λαβεῖν ἄμεινον οὐδὲ νοῦ σοφοῦ.
gain to-take better nor of-mind wise
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀπροσδόκητον οὐδὲν εἴρηκας· καλῶς δ'
unexpected nothing you-have-said well but
ᾔδη σ' ἀπορρίψουσαν ἀπηγγελλόμην.
I-knew you to-reject what-I-proposed
ἀλλ' αὐτόχειρί μοι μόνῃ τε δραστέον
but with-my-own-hand by-me alone and must-be-done
τοὔργον τόδ'· οὐ γὰρ δὴ κενόν γ' ἀφήσομεν.
deed this not for indeed vain at-least we-shall-let-go
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ φεῦ·
alas
εἴθ' ὤφελες τοιάδε τὴν γνώμην πατρὸς
would-that you-ought such the mind of-father
θνήσκοντος εἶναι· πᾶν γὰρ ἂν κατειργάσω.
dying to-be all for — you-would-have-accomplished
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀλλ' ἦ φύσιν γε, τὸν δὲ νοῦν ἧσσων τότε.
but truly in-nature at-least the but mind weaker then
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ἄσκει τοιαύτη νοῦν δι' αἰῶνος μένειν.
practice such mind through life to-remain
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὡς οὐχὶ συνδράσουσα νουθετεῖς τάδε.
since not to-help-do you-advise this
ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ εἰκὸς γὰρ ἐγχειροῦντα καὶ πράσσειν κακῶς.
fitting for setting-to-work also to-fare badly

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ζηλῶ σε τοῦ νοῦ, τῆς δὲ δειλίας στυγῶ.
I-envy you for-the mind for-the but cowardice I-hate

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ἀνέξομαι κλύουσα χὤταν εὖ λέγῃς.
I-will-endure hearing and-when well you-speak

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀλλ᾽ οὔ ποτ᾽ ἐξ ἐμοῦ γε μὴ πάθῃς τόδε.
but not ever from me at-least not you-will-suffer this

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ μακρὸς τὸ κρῖναι ταῦτα χὠ λοιπὸς χρόνος. 1030
long the to-judge this and-the remaining time

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἄπελθε· σοὶ γὰρ ὠφέλησις οὐκ ἔνι.
go-away to-you for help not is-in

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ἔνεστιν· ἀλλὰ σοὶ μάθησις οὐ πάρα.
is-in but for-you learning not is-present

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐλθοῦσα μητρὶ ταῦτα πάντ᾽ ἔξειπε σῇ.
going to-mother this all tell your

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ οὐδ᾽ αὖ τοσοῦτον ἔχθος ἐχθαίρω σ᾽ ἐγώ.
nor again so-great hatred hate you I

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀλλ᾽ οὖν ἐπίστω γ᾽ οἵ μ᾽ ἀτιμίας ἄγεις. 1035
but then know at-least to-what me of-dishonor you-lead

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ἀτιμίας μὲν οὔ, προμηθίας δὲ σοῦ.
of-dishonor indeed not of-forethought but for-you

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τῷ σῷ δικαίῳ δῆτ᾽ ἐπισπέσθαι με δεῖ;
to-the your justice then to-follow me must

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ὅταν γὰρ εὖ φρονῇς, τόθ᾽ ἡγήσει σὺ νῷν.
when for well you-think then will-lead you for-us-two

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἦ δεινὸν εὖ λέγουσαν ἐξαμαρτάνειν.
— terrible well speaking to-err

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ εἴρηκας ὀρθῶς ᾧ σὺ πρόσκεισαι κακῷ. 1040
you-have-said rightly to-which you are-attached to-evil

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τί δ᾽; οὐ δοκῶ σοι ταῦτα σὺν δίκῃ λέγειν;
why and not do-I-seem to-you this with justice to-say

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἔστιν ἔνθα χὴ δίκη βλάβην φέρει.
but there-is where even-the justice harm brings

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τούτοις ἐγὼ ζῆν τοῖς νόμοις οὐ βούλομαι.
by-these I to-live the laws not wish

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ἀλλ᾽ εἰ ποήσεις ταῦτ᾽, ἐπαινέσεις ἐμέ.
but if you-will-do this you-will-praise me

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὶ μὴν ποήσω γ᾽ οὐδὲν ἐκπλαγεῖσά σε.
and indeed I-will-do at-least nothing terrified-of you

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ καὶ τοῦτ᾽ ἀληθές, οὐδὲ βουλεύσει πάλιν;
and this true nor will-you-reconsider again

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ βουλῆς γὰρ οὐδέν ἐστιν ἔχθιον κακῆς.
of-counsel for nothing is more-hateful evil

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ φρονεῖν ἔοικας οὐδὲν ὧν ἐγὼ λέγω.
to-think you-seem nothing of-what I say

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πάλαι δέδοκται ταῦτα κοὐ νεωστί μοι.
long-ago resolved this and-not newly by-me

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ἄπειμι τοίνυν· οὔτε γὰρ σὺ τἄμ᾽ ἔπη
I-will-go-away then neither for you my words

τολμᾷς ἐπαινεῖν οὔτ᾽ ἐγὼ τοὺς σοὺς τρόπους.
dare to-praise nor I the your ways

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀλλ᾽ εἴσιθ᾽. οὔ σοι μὴ μεθέψομαί ποτε,
but go-in not you — I-shall-follow ever

οὐδ᾽ ἢν σφόδρ᾽ ἱμείρουσα τυγχάνῃς· ἐπεὶ
not-even if greatly longing you-happen since

πολλῆς ἀνοίας καὶ τὸ θηρᾶσθαι κενά.
of-much of-folly even the to-hunt empty-things

ΧΡΥΣΟΘΕΜΙΣ ἀλλ᾽ εἰ σεαυτῇ τυγχάνεις δοκοῦσά τι
but if to-yourself you-happen seeming anything

φρονεῖν, φρόνει τοιαῦθ'. ὅταν γὰρ ἐν κακοῖς
to-think think such-things when for in evils
ἤδη βεβήκῃς, τἄμ' ἐπαινέσεις ἔπη.
already you-have-come my you-will-praise words

VIII · ELECTRA'S CHOICE

The chorus asks why mortals do not care for their parents as the wise birds do, and calls on the voice that carries news to the dead to tell the sons of Atreus of their daughters' quarrel. Electra stands alone, careless of death, choosing honor over life; may she rise above her enemies, since she keeps the highest laws in piety to Zeus.

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί τοὺς ἄνωθεν φρονιμωτάτους οἰωνοὺς
why the from-above wisest birds
ἐσορώμενοι τροφᾶς
seeing of-nurture
κηδομένους ἀφ' ὧν τε βλάστωσιν ἀφ' ὧν τ' ὄνασιν εὕρ-
caring from whom both they-sprang from whom and benefit they-find
ωσι, τάδ' οὐκ ἐπ' ἴσας τελοῦμεν;
— this not in equal-measure do-we-perform
ἀλλ' οὐ τὰν Διὸς ἀστραπὰν
but not by-the of-Zeus lightning
καὶ τὰν οὐρανίαν Θέμιν,
and by-the heavenly Themis
δαρὸν οὐκ ἀπόνητοι.
long not without-suffering
ὦ χθονία βροτοῖσι φάμα, κατά μοι βόασον οἰκτρὰν
O underworld to-mortals voice down for-me cry-out piteous
ὄπα τοῖς ἔνερθ' Ἀτρείδαις, ἀχόρευτα φέρουσ'
voice to-the below sons-of-Atreus joyless bearing

ὀνείδη·
reproaches

ὅτι σφὶν ἤδη τὰ μὲν ἐκ δόμων νοσεῖ δή,
that for-them already the indeed from house is-sick indeed

τὰ δὲ πρὸς τέκνων διπλῆ
the and toward children twofold

φύλοπις οὐκέτ᾽ ἐξισοῦται φιλοτασίῳ διαί-
strife no-longer is-equalized in-friendly life

τᾳ· πρόδοτος δὲ μόνα σαλεύει
— betrayed and alone is-tossed

Ἠλέκτρα, τὸν ἀεὶ πατρὸς
Electra the always of-father

δειλαία στενάχουσ᾽, ὅπως
wretched lamenting like

ἁ πάνδυρτος ἀηδών,
the all-mourning nightingale

οὔτε τι τοῦ θανεῖν προμηθὴς τό τε μὴ βλέπειν ἑτοίμα,
neither at-all of-the to-die careful the and not to-see ready

διδύμαν ἑλοῦσ᾽ Ἐρινύν· τίς ἂν εὔπατρις ὧδε βλάστοι;
twofold having-destroyed Fury who — well-born thus might-be-born

οὐδεὶς τῶν ἀγαθῶν γὰρ
no-one of-the good for

ζῶν κακῶς εὔκλειαν αἰσχῦναι θέλει
living basely good-name to-shame wishes

νώνυμος, ὦ παῖ παῖ.
nameless O child child

ὡς καὶ σὺ πάγκλαυτον αἰῶνα κοινὸν εἵλου,
as also you all-tearful life common chose

τὸ μὴ καλὸν καθοπλίσασα, δύο φέρειν ἐν ἑνὶ λόγῳ,
the not noble having-overpowered two to-bear in one word

σοφά τ᾽ ἀρίστα τε παῖς κεκλῆσθαι.
wise and best and child to-be-called
ζώῃς μοι καθύπερθεν
may-you-live for-me above
χειρὶ καὶ πλούτῳ τεῶν ἐχθρῶν ὅσον
in-hand and in-wealth of-your enemies as-much-as
νῦν ὑπόχειρ ναίεις·
now under-their-hand you-dwell
ἐπεί σ᾽ ἐφηύρηκα μοίρᾳ μὲν οὐκ ἐν ἐσθλᾷ
since you I-have-found in-fate indeed not in good
βεβῶσαν, ἃ δὲ μέγιστ᾽ ἔβλαστε νόμιμα, τῶνδε φερομέναν
standing which but greatest sprang laws these winning
ἄριστα τᾷ Ζηνὸς εὐσεβείᾳ.
best by-the of-Zeus piety

IX · THE URN

Orestes, unrecognized, arrives with attendants carrying an urn that he says holds his own ashes. Electra takes it and laments over it: she sent him away to safety as a child, and now he has come back as dust, and her hopes are gone with him. Orestes, moved by her grief and her wretched state, slowly reveals himself. He takes back the urn, tells her that the ashes are not Orestes', and shows her their father's seal. She embraces him in joy.

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἆρ᾽, ὦ γυναῖκες, ὀρθά τ᾽ εἰσηκούσαμεν
— O women rightly and did-we-hear
ὀρθῶς θ᾽ ὁδοιποροῦμεν ἔνθα χρῄζομεν;
rightly and are-we-traveling where we-want
ΧΟΡΟΣ τί δ᾽ ἐξερευνᾷς καὶ τί βουληθεὶς πάρει;
what and do-you-seek and what wishing are-you-here

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Αἴγισθον ἔνθ' ᾤκηκεν ἱστορῶ πάλαι.
Aegisthus where he-has-dwelt I-ask long-since

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' εὖ θ' ἱκάνεις χὠ φράσας ἀζήμιος.
but well and you-come and-the having-told unpunished

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τίς οὖν ἂν ὑμῶν τοῖς ἔσω φράσειεν ἂν
who then — of-you to-the within would-tell —
ἡμῶν ποθεινὴν κοινόπουν παρουσίαν;
our longed-for joint presence

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἥδ', εἰ τὸν ἄγχιστόν γε κηρύσσειν χρεών.
this-one if the nearest at-least to-announce it-is-right

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἴθ', ὦ γύναι, δήλωσον εἰσελθοῦσ' ὅτι
go O lady show having-gone-in that
Φωκῆς ματεύουσ' ἄνδρες Αἴγισθόν τινες,
Phocian seeking men Aegisthus some

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οἴμοι τάλαιν', οὐ δή ποθ' ἥς ἠκούσαμεν
ah-me wretched not indeed ever which we-heard
φήμης φέροντες ἐμφανῆ τεκμήρια;
of-report bearing manifest proofs

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκ οἶδα τὴν σὴν κληδόν'· ἀλλά μοι γέρων
not I-know the your rumor but to-me old
ἐφεῖτ' Ὀρέστου Στρόφιος ἀγγεῖλαι πέρι.
enjoined of-Orestes Strophius to-announce about

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τί δ' ἔστιν, ὦ ξέν'; ὡς μ' ὑπέρχεται φόβος.
what and is-it O stranger how me steals-over fear

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ φέροντες αὐτοῦ σμικρὰ λείψαν' ἐν βραχεῖ
bearing of-him small remains in small
τεύχει θανόντος, ὡς ὁρᾷς, κομίζομεν.
urn dead as you-see we-bring

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οἳ ’γὼ τάλαινα, τοῦτ’ ἐκεῖν’ ἤδη σαφὲς
ah me wretched this that already clear
πρόχειρον ἄχθος, ὡς ἔοικε, δέρκομαι.
ready-to-hand burden as it-seems I-see
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εἴπερ τι κλαίεις τῶν Ὀρεστείων κακῶν,
if-indeed anything you-weep of-the of-Orestes evils
τόδ’ ἄγγος ἴσθι σῶμα τοὐκείνου στέγον.
this vessel know body his containing
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ ξεῖνε, δός νυν, πρὸς θεῶν, εἴπερ τόδε
O stranger give now by gods if-indeed this
κέκευθεν αὐτὸν τεῦχος, εἰς χεῖρας λαβεῖν,
holds him urn into hands to-take
ὅπως ἐμαυτὴν καὶ γένος τὸ πᾶν ὁμοῦ
so-that myself and race the whole together
ξὺν τῇδε κλαύσω κἀποδύρωμαι σποδῷ.
with this I-may-weep and-lament with-ash
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ δόθ’, ἥτις ἐστί, προσφέροντες· οὐ γὰρ ὡς
give whoever she-is bringing not for as
ἐν δυσμενείᾳ γ’ οὖσ’ ἐπαιτεῖται τάδε,
in enmity at-least being she-asks this
ἀλλ’ ἢ φίλων τις ἢ πρὸς αἵματος φύσιν.
but either of-friends someone or by of-blood nature
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ φιλτάτου μνημεῖον ἀνθρώπων ἐμοὶ
O of-dearest memorial of-men to-me
ψυχῆς Ὀρέστου λοιπόν, ὥς σ’ ἀπ’ ἐλπίδων
of-soul of-Orestes remnant how you from hopes
οὐχ ὧνπερ ἐξέπεμπον εἰσεδεξάμην.
not with-which-indeed I-sent-out I-received
νῦν μὲν γὰρ οὐδὲν ὄντα βαστάζω χεροῖν,
now indeed for nothing being I-bear in-hands

δόμων δέ σ', ὦ παῖ, λαμπρὸν ἐξέπεμψ' ἐγώ.
from-house but you O child bright I-sent-out I
ὡς ὤφελον πάροιθεν ἐκλιπεῖν βίον,
how I-ought before to-have-left life
πρὶν ἐς ξένην σε γαῖαν ἐκπέμψαι χεροῖν
before to strange you land to-send-out with-hands
κλέψασα ταῖνδε κἀνασώσασθαι φόνου,
having-stolen with-these and-to-have-rescued from-murder
ὅπως θανὼν ἔκεισο τῇ τόθ' ἡμέρᾳ,
so-that dead you-might-have-lain on-the then day
τύμβου πατρῴου κοινὸν εἰληχὼς μέρος.
of-tomb paternal common having-obtained share
νῦν δ' ἐκτὸς οἴκων κἀπὶ γῆς ἄλλης φυγὰς
now and outside house and-on land other exile
κακῶς ἀπώλου, σῆς κασιγνήτης δίχα,
badly you-perished of-your sister apart
κοὔτ' ἐν φίλαισι χερσὶν ἡ τάλαιν' ἐγὼ
and-neither in dear hands the wretched I
λουτροῖς σ' ἐκόσμησ' οὔτε παμφλέκτου πυρὸς
with-baths you adorned nor all-consuming of-fire
ἀνειλόμην, ὡς εἰκός, ἄθλιον βάρος,
took-up as fitting wretched burden
ἀλλ' ἐν ξέναισι χερσὶ κηδευθεὶς τάλας
but in strange hands tended wretched
σμικρὸς προσήκεις ὄγκος ἐν σμικρῷ κύτει.
small you-come bulk in small urn
οἴμοι τάλαινα τῆς ἐμῆς πάλαι τροφῆς
ah-me wretched of-the my long-ago nurture
ἀνωφελήτου, τὴν ἐγὼ θάμ' ἀμφὶ σοὶ
useless which I often about you

πόνῳ γλυκεῖ παρέσχον· οὔτε γάρ ποτε
with-toil sweet bestowed neither for ever
μητρὸς σύ γ' ἦσθα μᾶλλον ἢ κἀμοῦ φίλος,
of-mother you at-least were rather than and-of-me dear
οὔθ' οἱ κατ' οἶκον ἦσαν, ἀλλ' ἐγὼ τροφός,
nor the in house were but I nurse
ἐγὼ δ' ἀδελφὴ σοὶ προσηυδώμην ἀεί.
I and sister to-you was-called always
νῦν δ' ἐκλέλοιπε ταῦτ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ μιᾷ
now and has-vanished this in day one
θανόντι σὺν σοί· πάντα γὰρ συναρπάσας
dying with you all for having-snatched-away
θύελλ' ὅπως βέβηκας. οἴχεται πατήρ·
whirlwind like you-have-gone is-gone father
τέθνηκ' ἐγὼ σοί· φροῦδος αὐτὸς εἶ θανών·
I-am-dead I to-you gone yourself you-are dead
γελῶσι δ' ἐχθροί· μαίνεται δ' ὑφ' ἡδονῆς
laugh and enemies is-mad and with joy
μήτηρ ἀμήτωρ, ἧς ἐμοὶ σὺ πολλάκις
mother no-mother about-whom to-me you often
φήμας λάθρᾳ προύπεμπες ὡς φανούμενος
messages secretly sent-before that about-to-appear
τιμωρὸς αὐτός. ἀλλὰ ταῦθ' ὁ δυστυχὴς
avenger yourself but this the unfortunate
δαίμων ὁ σός τε κἀμὸς ἐξαφείλετο,
fate the your and and-mine took-away
ὅς σ' ὧδέ μοι προύπεμψεν ἀντὶ φιλτάτης
which you thus to-me sent-forth instead-of dearest
μορφῆς σποδόν τε καὶ σκιὰν ἀνωφελῆ.
form ash both and shadow useless

οἴμοι μοι.
ah-me me

ὦ δέμας οἰκτρόν. φεῦ φεῦ.
O body piteous alas alas

ὦ δεινοτάτας, οἴμοι μοι,
O most-terrible ah-me me

πεμφθεὶς κελεύθους, φίλταθ', ὥς μ' ἀπώλεσας·
having-been-sent paths dearest how me you-destroyed

ἀπώλεσας δῆτ', ὦ κασίγνητον κάρα.
you-destroyed then O brother head

τοιγὰρ σὺ δέξαι μ' ἐς τὸ σὸν τόδε στέγος,
therefore you receive me into the your this house

τὴν μηδὲν εἰς τὸ μηδέν, ὡς σὺν σοὶ κάτω
the nothing into the nothing so-that with you below

ναίω τὸ λοιπόν· καὶ γὰρ ἡνίκ' ἦσθ' ἄνω,
I-may-dwell the hereafter and for when you-were above

ξὺν σοὶ μετεῖχον τῶν ἴσων, καὶ νῦν ποθῶ
with you I-shared of-the equal-things and now I-long

τοῦ σοῦ θανοῦσα μὴ ἀπολείπεσθαι τάφου.
from-the your having-died not to-be-left-out tomb

τοὺς γὰρ θανόντας οὐχ ὁρῶ λυπουμένους.
the for dead not I-see grieving

ΧΟΡΟΣ θνητοῦ πέφυκας πατρός, Ἠλέκτρα, φρόνει,
of-mortal you-were-born father Electra consider

θνητὸς δ' Ὀρέστης. ὥστε μὴ λίαν στένε.
mortal and Orestes so-that not too-much lament

πᾶσιν γὰρ ἡμῖν τοῦτ' ὀφείλεται παθεῖν.
to-all for to-us this is-owed to-suffer

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ φεῦ φεῦ. τί λέξω; ποῖ λόγων ἀμηχανῶν
alas alas what shall-I-say where of-words at-a-loss
ἔλθω; κρατεῖν γὰρ οὐκέτι γλώσσης σθένω.
shall-I-go to-control for no-longer tongue am-I-able

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τί δ' ἔσχες ἄλγος; πρὸς τί τοῦτ' εἰπὼν κυρεῖς;
what and did-you-have pain to what this saying are-you
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἦ σὸν τὸ κλεινὸν εἶδος Ἠλέκτρας τόδε;
— your the famous form of-Electra this
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τόδ' ἔστ' ἐκεῖνο, καὶ μάλ' ἀθλίως ἔχον.
this is that and very wretchedly being
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οἴμοι ταλαίνης ἆρα τῆσδε συμφορᾶς.
ah-me of-wretched then of-this of-misfortune
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐ δή ποτ', ὦ ξέν', ἀμφ' ἐμοὶ στένεις τάδε;
not indeed ever O stranger about me you-lament this
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ σῶμ' ἀτίμως κἀθέως ἐφθαρμένον.
O body dishonorably and-godlessly wasted
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὔτοι ποτ' ἄλλην ἢ 'μὲ δυσφημεῖς, ξένε.
not-surely ever other than me you-call-ill-omened stranger
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ φεῦ τῆς ἀνύμφου δυσμόρου τε σῆς τροφῆς.
alas of-the unwedded ill-fated and your of-life
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τί δή ποτ', ὦ ξέν', ὧδ' ἐπισκοπῶν στένεις;
why indeed ever O stranger thus looking you-lament
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὡς οὐκ ἄρ' ᾔδη τῶν ἐμῶν οὐδὲν κακῶν.
that not then I-knew of-the my nothing evils
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐν τῷ διέγνως τοῦτο τῶν εἰρημένων;
in what did-you-recognize this of-the things-said
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὁρῶν σε πολλοῖς ἐμπρέπουσαν ἄλγεσιν.
seeing you with-many conspicuous pains
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὶ μὴν ὁρᾷς γε παῦρα τῶν ἐμῶν κακῶν.
and indeed you-see at-least few of-the my evils

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καὶ πῶς γένοιτ᾽ ἂν τῶνδ᾽ ἔτ᾽ ἐχθίω βλέπειν;
and how could-be — than-these still more-hateful to-see

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὀθούνεκ᾽ εἰμὶ τοῖς φονεῦσι σύντροφος
because I-am with-the murderers living-together

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τοῖς τοῦ; πόθεν τοῦτ᾽ ἐξεσήμηνας κακόν;
with-the of-whom whence this did-you-indicate evil

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τοῖς πατρός· εἶτα τοῖσδε δουλεύω βίᾳ.
with-the of-father then to-these I-am-a-slave by-force

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τίς γάρ σ᾽ ἀνάγκη τῇδε προτρέπει βροτῶν;
who for you by-necessity this urges of-mortals

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ μήτηρ καλεῖται, μητρὶ δ᾽ οὐδὲν ἐξισοῖ.
mother is-called to-mother but nothing she-is-equal

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί δρῶσα; πότερα χερσὶν ἢ λύμῃ βίου;
what doing whether with-hands or by-mistreatment of-life

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὶ χερσὶ καὶ λύμαισι καὶ πᾶσιν κακοῖς.
both with-hands and with-mistreatments and with-all evils

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐδ᾽ οὑπαρήξων οὐδ᾽ ὁ κωλύσων πάρα;
nor the-helper nor the preventer is-present

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐ δῆθ᾽. ὃς ἦν γάρ μοι σὺ προὔθηκας σποδόν.
not then who was for to-me you set-before as-ash

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ δύσποτμ᾽, ὡς ὁρῶν σ᾽ ἐποικτίρω πάλαι.
O ill-starred how seeing you I-pity long

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ μόνος βροτῶν νυν ἴσθ᾽ ἐποικτίρας ποτέ.
alone of-mortals now know having-pitied ever

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μόνος γὰρ ἥκω τοῖς ἴσοις ἀλγῶν κακοῖς.
alone for I-come with-the equal grieving at-evils

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐ δή ποθ᾽ ἡμῖν ξυγγενὴς ἥκεις ποθέν;
not indeed ever to-us kinsman you-come from-somewhere

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἐγὼ φράσαιμ᾽ ἄν, εἰ τὸ τῶνδ᾽ εὔνουν πάρα.
I would-tell — if the of-these well-disposed is-present

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀλλ᾽ ἐστὶν εὔνουν, ὥστε πρὸς πιστὰς ἐρεῖς.
but it-is well-disposed so-that to faithful you-will-speak

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μέθες τόδ᾽ ἄγγος νῦν, ὅπως τὸ πᾶν μάθῃς. 1205
let-go this urn now so-that the whole you-may-learn

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ μὴ δῆτα πρὸς θεῶν τοῦτό μ᾽ ἐργάσῃ, ξένε.
not then by gods this to-me do stranger

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πείθου λέγοντι κοὐχ ἁμαρτήσει ποτέ.
obey one-speaking and-not you-will-err ever

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ μή, πρὸς γενείου, μὴ ᾽ξέλῃ τὰ φίλτατα.
not by beard not take-away the dearest-things

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὔ φημ᾽ ἐάσειν. ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ τάλαιν᾽ ἐγὼ σέθεν,
not I-say I-will-allow O wretched I of-you

Ὀρέστα, τῆς σῆς εἰ στερήσομαι ταφῆς. 1210
Orestes of-the your if I-shall-be-deprived burial

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εὔφημα φώνει· πρὸς δίκης γὰρ οὐ στένεις.
words-of-good-omen utter according-to justice for not you-lament

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πῶς τὸν θανόντ᾽ ἀδελφὸν οὐ δίκῃ στένω;
how the dead brother not with-justice do-I-lament

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὔ σοι προσήκει τήνδε προσφωνεῖν φάτιν.
not to-you it-belongs this to-address speech

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὕτως ἄτιμός εἰμι τοῦ τεθνηκότος;
thus dishonored am-I by-the dead

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἄτιμος οὐδενὸς σύ· τοῦτο δ᾽ οὐχὶ σόν. 1215
dishonored by-no-one you this but not yours

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ εἴπερ γ᾽ Ὀρέστου σῶμα βαστάζω τόδε;
if-indeed at-least of-Orestes body I-bear this

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἀλλ᾽ οὐκ Ὀρέστου, πλὴν λόγῳ γ᾽ ἠσκημένον.
but not of-Orestes except in-word at-least decked-out

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ποῦ δ᾽ ἔστ᾽ ἐκείνου τοῦ ταλαιπώρου τάφος;
where and is of-that the wretched tomb

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκ ἔστι· τοῦ γὰρ ζῶντος οὐκ ἔστιν τάφος.
not there-is of-the for living not is tomb

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πῶς εἶπας, ὦ παῖ; ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ψεῦδος οὐδὲν ὧν λέγω.
how did-you-say O child falsehood nothing of-what I-say

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἦ ζῇ γὰρ ἀνήρ; ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εἴπερ ἔμψυχός γ' ἐγώ.
— lives for the-man if-indeed alive at-least I

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἦ γὰρ σὺ κεῖνος; ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τήνδε προσβλέψασά μου
— for you be this looking-at of-me

σφραγῖδα πατρὸς ἔκμαθ' εἰ σαφῆ λέγω.
seal of-father learn if clearly I-speak

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ φίλτατον φῶς. ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ φίλτατον, συμμαρτυρῶ.
O dearest light dearest I-bear-witness

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ φθέγμ', ἀφίκου; ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μηκέτ' ἄλλοθεν πύθῃ,
O voice you-have-come no-longer from-elsewhere ask

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἔχω σε χερσίν; ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὡς τὰ λοίπ' ἔχοις ἀεί.
I-hold you in-hands as the rest may-you-hold always

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ φίλταται γυναῖκες, ὦ πολίτιδες,
O dearest women O citizen-women

ὁρᾶτ' Ὀρέστην τόνδε, μηχαναῖσι μὲν
see Orestes this-one by-devices indeed

θανόντα, νῦν δὲ μηχαναῖς σεσωσμένον.
dead now and by-devices saved

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὁρῶμεν, ὦ παῖ, κἀπὶ συμφοραῖσί μοι
we-see O child and-at misfortunes for-me

γεγηθὸς ἕρπει δάκρυον ὀμμάτων ἄπο.
joyful creeps tear of-eyes from

Electra sings her joy at seeing her brother, while Orestes urges her to keep silent lest someone inside hear. She cannot hold back her words now that she can speak freely, and swears she will never again fear the women in the house. He tells her that the time will come for all she has to say.

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἰὼ γοναί,
ah offspring
γοναὶ σωμάτων ἐμοὶ φιλτάτων,
offspring of-persons to-me dearest
ἐμόλετ' ἀρτίως,
you-came just-now
ἐφηύρετ', ἤλθετ', εἴδεθ' οὓς ἐχρῄζετε. 1235
you-found you-came you-saw whom you-desired
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πάρεσμεν· ἀλλὰ σῖγ' ἔχουσα πρόσμενε.
we-are-here but silence keeping wait
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τί δ' ἔστιν;
what and is-it
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σιγᾶν ἄμεινον, μή τις ἔνδοθεν κλύῃ.
to-be-silent better lest someone from-within hear
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀλλ' οὐ μὰ τὴν ἄδμητον αἰὲν Ἄρτεμιν,
but not by the unwed always Artemis
τόδε μὲν οὔ ποτ' ἀξιώσω τρέσαι, 1240
this indeed not ever shall-I-deign to-fear
περισσὸν ἄχθος ἔνδον
superfluous burden within
γυναικῶν ὂν αἰεί.
of-women being always

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὅρα γε μὲν δὴ κἀν γυναιξὶν ὡς Ἄρης
see at-least indeed indeed and-in women how Ares
ἔνεστιν· εὖ δ' ἔξοισθα πειραθεῖσά που.
is-in well and you-know having-made-trial surely
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὀτοτοτοτοῖ τοτοῖ,
ototototoi totoi
ἀνέφελον ἐνέβαλες οὔ ποτε καταλύσιμον,
unclouded you-have-cast-in not ever to-be-undone
οὐδέ ποτε λησόμενον ἁμέτερον
nor ever to-be-forgotten our
οἷον ἔφυ κακόν.
how-great was evil
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἔξοιδα, παῖ, ταῦτ'· ἀλλ' ὅταν παρουσία
I-know-well child this but when occasion
φράζῃ, τότ' ἔργων τῶνδε μεμνῆσθαι χρεών.
bids then of-deeds these to-remember it-is-right
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὁ πᾶς ἐμοί,
the whole to-me
ὁ πᾶς ἂν πρέποι παρὼν ἐννέπειν
the whole — would-befit present to-tell
τάδε δίκᾳ χρόνος·
this justly time
μόλις γὰρ ἔσχον νῦν ἐλεύθερον στόμα.
hardly for I-have now free mouth
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ξύμφημι κἀγώ· τοιγαροῦν σῴζου τόδε.
I-agree and-I therefore guard this
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τί δρῶσα;
what doing
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὗ μή 'στι καιρὸς μὴ μακρὰν βούλου λέγειν.
where not is occasion not long wish to-speak

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τίς οὖν ἂν ἀξίαν γε σοῦ πεφηνότος
who then — worthily at-least of-you having-appeared
μεταβάλοιτ' ἂν ὧδε σιγὰν λόγων;
would-exchange — thus silence for-words
ἐπεί σε νῦν ἀφράστως
since you now unspeakably
ἀέλπτως τ' ἐσεῖδον.
unhoped-for and I-beheld
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τότ' εἶδες, εὖτε θεοί μ' ἐπώτρυναν μολεῖν
then you-saw when gods me urged to-come
***
(lacuna)
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἔφρασας ὑπερτέραν
you-have-told higher
τᾶς πάρος ἔτι χάριτος, εἴ σε θεὸς ἐπόρισεν
than-the before still grace if you god brought
ἁμέτερα πρὸς μέλαθρα· δαιμόνιον
our to halls divine
αὐτὸ τίθημ' ἐγώ.
it I-set I
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τὰ μέν σ' ὀκνῶ χαίρουσαν εἰργαθεῖν, τὰ δὲ
the indeed you I-hesitate rejoicing to-restrain the but
δέδοικα λίαν ἡδονῇ νικωμένην.
I-fear too-much by-joy overcome
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἰὼ χρόνῳ μακρῷ φιλτάταν ὁδὸν.
ah in-time long dearest journey
ἐπαξιώσας ὧδέ μοι φανῆναι,
having-deigned thus to-me to-appear
μή τί με, πολύπονον ὧδ' ἰδὼν
not in-any-way me of-much-toil thus having-seen

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί μὴ ποήσω;
what not shall-I-do

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ μή μ' ἀποστερήσῃς
not me deprive

τῶν σῶν προσώπων ἁδονὰν μεθέσθαι.
of-the your of-face the-joy to-let-go

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἦ κάρτα κἂν ἄλλοισι θυμοίμην ἰδών.
truly indeed even others I-would-be-angry seeing

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ξυναινεῖς;
you-agree

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί μὴν οὔ;
what indeed not

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ φίλαι, ἔκλυον ἂν ἐγὼ οὐδ' ἂν ἤλπισ' αὐδάν,
O friends I-heard which I not-even — would-have-hoped voice

οὐδ' ἂν ἔσχον ὁρμὰν
nor — would-I-have-held impulse

ἄναυδον οὐδὲ σὺν βοᾷ κλύουσα,
voiceless nor with cry hearing

τάλαινα. νῦν δ' ἔχω σε· προυφάνης δὲ
wretched now and I-have you you-appeared and

φιλτάταν ἔχων πρόσοψιν,
dearest having face

ἃς ἐγὼ οὐδ' ἂν ἐν κακοῖς λαθοίμαν.
which I not-even — in evils might-forget

Orestes tells Electra to spare long words and to keep a grieving face before their mother, who is alone inside, while Aegisthus is away. The old tutor comes out and scolds them for talking on the threshold, telling them that he has kept watch and that their mother believes Orestes dead. Electra learns that he is the man to whom she gave Orestes as a child, and blesses him. The men go in to strike, and Electra prays to Apollo to help them.

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τὰ μὲν περισσεύοντα τῶν λόγων ἄφες,
the indeed superfluous of-the words let-go
καὶ μήτε μήτηρ ὡς κακὴ δίδασκέ με,
and neither mother how evil teach me
μήθ' ὡς πατρῴαν κτῆσιν Αἴγισθος δόμων
nor how paternal wealth Aegisthus of-house
ἀντλεῖ, τὰ δ' ἐκχεῖ, τὰ δὲ διασπείρει μάτην·
drains the but pours-out the but scatters in-vain
χρόνου γὰρ ἄν σοι καιρὸν ἐξείργοι λόγος.
of-time for — to-you occasion would-shut-out speech
ἃ δ' ἁρμόσει μοι τῷ παρόντι νῦν χρόνῳ
what but will-suit me in-the present now time
σήμαιν', ὅπου φανέντες ἢ κεκρυμμένοι
signify where appearing or hidden
γελῶντας ἐχθροὺς παύσομεν τῇ νῦν ὁδῷ.
laughing enemies we-shall-stop by-the present journey
οὕτω δ' ὅπως μήτηρ σε μὴ 'πιγνώσεται
thus and that mother you not will-detect
φαιδρῷ προσώπῳ νῷν ἐπελθόντοιν δόμους·
with-bright face of-us-two having-come-to house
ἀλλ' ὡς ἐπ' ἄτῃ τῇ μάτην λελεγμένῃ
but as at ruin the vainly told

στέναζ᾽· ὅταν γὰρ εὐτυχήσωμεν, τότε
lament when for we-succeed then
χαίρειν παρέσται καὶ γελᾶν ἐλευθέρως.
to-rejoice it-will-be-possible and to-laugh freely
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀλλ᾽, ὦ κασίγνηθ᾽, ὧδ᾽ ὅπως καὶ σοὶ φίλον
but O brother thus as also to-you dear
καὶ τοὐμὸν ἔσται τῇδ᾽· ἐπεὶ τὰς ἡδονὰς
also my-part will-be thus since the joys
πρὸς σοῦ λαβοῦσα κοὐκ ἐμὰς ἐκτησάμην,
from you having-taken and-not my-own I-gained
κοὐδ᾽ ἄν σε λυπήσασα δεξαίμην βραχὺ
and-not — you having-grieved would-I-accept briefly
αὐτὴ μέγ᾽ εὑρεῖν κέρδος· οὐ γὰρ ἂν καλῶς
myself great to-find gain not for — well
ὑπηρετοίην τῷ παρόντι δαίμονι.
I-would-serve the present fortune
ἀλλ᾽ οἶσθα μὲν τἀνθένδε, πῶς γὰρ οὔ; κλύων
but you-know indeed the-things-here how for not hearing
ὀθούνεκ᾽ Αἴγισθος μὲν οὐ κατὰ στέγας,
that Aegisthus indeed not in house
μήτηρ δ᾽ ἐν οἴκοις· ἣν σὺ μὴ δείσῃς ποθ᾽ ὡς
mother but in house whom you not fear ever that
γέλωτι τοὐμὸν φαιδρὸν ὄψεται κάρα.
with-laughter my bright will-see face
μῖσός τε γὰρ παλαιὸν ἐντέτηκέ μοι,
hatred both for old has-melted-into me
κἀπεί σ᾽ ἐσεῖδον, οὔ ποτ᾽ ἐκλήξω χαρᾷ
and-since you I-saw not ever shall-I-cease for-joy
δακρυρροοῦσα· πῶς γὰρ ἂν λήξαιμ᾽ ἐγώ,
weeping how for — could-cease I

ἥτις μιᾷ σε τῇδ' ὁδῷ θανόντα τε
who in-one you on-this journey dead both
καὶ ζῶντ' ἐσεῖδον; εἴργασαι δέ μ' ἄσκοπα· 1315
and living saw you-have-done and to-me unlooked-for-things
ὥστ' εἰ πατήρ μοι ζῶν ἵκοιτο, μηκέτ' ἂν
so-that if father to-me living should-come no-longer —
τέρας νομίζειν αὐτό, πιστεύειν δ' ὁρᾶν.
portent to-think it to-believe but to-see
ὅτ' οὖν τοιαύτην ἡμὶν ἐξήκεις ὁδόν,
when then such to-us you-have-come journey
ἄρχ' αὐτὸς ὥς σοι θυμός· ὡς ἐγὼ μόνη
lead yourself as to-you heart since I alone
οὐκ ἂν δυοῖν ἥμαρτον· ἢ γὰρ ἂν καλῶς 1320
not — of-two-things would-have-failed either for — nobly
ἔσωσ' ἐμαυτὴν ἢ καλῶς ἀπωλόμην.
would-have-saved myself or nobly would-have-perished
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σιγᾶν ἐπῄνεσ' ὡς ἐπ' ἐξόδῳ κλύω
to-be-silent I-advise for at going-out I-hear
τῶν ἔνδοθεν χωροῦντος. ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ εἴσιτ', ὦ ξένοι,
of-the within going go-in O strangers
ἄλλως τε καὶ φέροντες οἷ' ἂν οὔτε τις
otherwise both and bringing what — neither anyone
δόμων ἀπώσαιτ' οὔτ' ἂν ἡσθείη λαβών. 1325
from-house would-reject nor — would-be-pleased receiving
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ ὦ πλεῖστα μῶροι καὶ φρενῶν τητώμενοι,
O most foolish and of-wits bereft
πότερα παρ' οὐδὲν τοῦ βίου κήδεσθ' ἔτι
whether at nothing of-the life do-you-care still
ἢ νοῦς ἔνεστιν οὔτις ὑμὶν ἐγγενής,
or mind is-in none in-you inborn

ὅτ᾽ οὐ παρ᾽ αὐτοῖς, ἀλλ᾽ ἐν αὐτοῖσιν κακοῖς
when not near them but in the-very evils
τοῖσιν μεγίστοις ὄντες οὐ γιγνώσκετε;
the greatest being not you-recognize
ἀλλ᾽ εἰ σταθμοῖσι τοῖσδε μὴ ᾽κύρουν ἐγὼ
but if at-posts these not had-been I
πάλαι φυλάσσων, ἦν ἂν ὑμὶν ἐν δόμοις
long-since watching were — for-you in house
τὰ δρώμεν᾽ ὑμῶν πρόσθεν ἢ τὰ σώματα·
the doings of-you before than the bodies
νῦν δ᾽ εὐλάβειαν τῶνδε προυθέμην ἐγώ.
now but caution of-these I-set-before I
καὶ νῦν ἀπαλλαχθέντε τῶν μακρῶν λόγων
and now you-two-freed from-the long words
καὶ τῆς ἀπλήστου τῆσδε σὺν χαρᾷ βοῆς
and from-the insatiable this with joy cry
εἴσω παρέλθεθ᾽, ὡς τὸ μὲν μέλλειν κακὸν
within go-in since the indeed delaying evil
ἐν τοῖς τοιούτοις ἔστ᾽, ἀπηλλάχθαι δ᾽ ἀκμή.
in the such it-is to-be-done but the-moment

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πῶς οὖν ἔχει τἀντεῦθεν εἰσιόντι μοι;
how then is the-things-there entering for-me

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ καλῶς· ὑπάρχει γάρ σε μὴ γνῶναί τινα.
well it-is for you not to-know anyone

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἤγγειλας, ὡς ἔοικεν, ὡς τεθνηκότα.
you-announced as it-seems as dead

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ εἷς τῶν ἐν Ἅιδου μάνθαν᾽ ἐνθάδ᾽ ὢν ἀνήρ.
one of-the in Hades learn here being man

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ χαίρουσιν οὖν τούτοισιν; ἢ τίνες λόγοι;
they-rejoice then at-these or what words

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ τελουμένων εἴποιμ᾽ ἄν· ὡς δὲ νῦν ἔχει,
being-accomplished I-would-say — as but now it-is
καλῶς τὰ κείνων πάντα, καὶ τὰ μὴ καλῶς.
well the their all even the not well
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τίς οὗτός ἐστ᾽, ἀδελφέ; πρὸς θεῶν φράσον.
who this is brother by gods tell
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐχὶ ξυνίης; ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐδέ γ᾽ ἐς θυμὸν φέρω.
not you-understand nor at-least to mind I-bring
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκ οἶσθ᾽ ὅτῳ μ᾽ ἔδωκας εἰς χέρας ποτέ;
not you-know to-whom me you-gave into hands once
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ποίῳ; τί φωνεῖς; ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὗ τὸ Φωκέων πέδον
to-whom what do-you-say by-whom the of-Phocians plain
ὑπεξεπέμφθην σῇ προμηθίᾳ χεροῖν.
I-was-secretly-sent with-your forethought by-hands
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἦ κεῖνος οὗτος, ὅν ποτ᾽ ἐκ πολλῶν ἐγὼ
— he this whom once from many I
μόνον προσηῦρον πιστὸν ἐν πατρὸς φόνῳ;
alone found faithful at of-father murder
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὅδ᾽ ἐστί· μή μ᾽ ἔλεγχε πλείοσιν λόγοις.
this-one is not me question with-more words
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ φίλτατον φῶς, ὦ μόνος σωτὴρ δόμων
O dearest light O alone savior of-house
Ἀγαμέμνονος, πῶς ἦλθες; ἦ σὺ κεῖνος εἶ,
of-Agamemnon how you-came — you he are
ὃς τόνδε κἄμ᾽ ἔσωσας ἐκ πολλῶν πόνων;
who this-one and-me saved from many toils
ὦ φίλταται μὲν χεῖρες, ἥδιστον δ᾽ ἔχων
O dearest indeed hands sweetest and having
ποδῶν ὑπηρέτημα, πῶς οὕτω πάλαι
of-feet service how thus long

ξυνών μ' ἔληθες οὐδ' ἔφαινες, ἀλλά με
being-with me you-escaped-notice nor revealed but me
λόγοις ἀπώλλυς, ἔργ' ἔχων ἥδιστ' ἐμοί;
with-words were-killing deeds having sweetest to-me
χαῖρ', ὦ πάτερ· πατέρα γὰρ εἰσορᾶν δοκῶ·
hail O father father for to-see I-seem
χαῖρ'· ἴσθι δ' ὡς μάλιστά σ' ἀνθρώπων ἐγὼ
hail know and that most you of-men I
ἤχθηρα κἀφίλησ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ μιᾷ.
hated and-loved in day one
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ ἀρκεῖν δοκεῖ μοι· τοὺς γὰρ ἐν μέσῳ λόγους
to-suffice seems to-me the for in middle words
πολλαὶ κυκλοῦνται νύκτες ἡμέραι τ' ἴσαι,
many circle nights days and equal
αἳ ταῦτά σοι δείξουσιν, Ἠλέκτρα, σαφῆ.
which this to-you will-show Electra clear
σφῷν δ' ἐννέπω γε τοῖν παρεστώτοιν ὅτι
to-you-two and I-say at-least the standing-by that
νῦν καιρὸς ἔρδειν· νῦν Κλυταιμνήστρα μόνη,
now the-moment to-act now Clytemnestra alone
νῦν οὔτις ἀνδρῶν ἔνδον· εἰ δ' ἐφέξετον,
now no-one of-men within if but you-two-will-hold-back
φροντίζεθ' ὡς τούτοις τε καὶ σοφωτέροις
consider that with-these both and with-wiser
ἄλλοισι τούτων πλείοσιν μαχούμενοι.
others than-these more about-to-fight
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκ ἂν μακρῶν ἔθ' ἡμὶν οὐδὲν ἂν λόγων,
not — of-long still for-us nothing — of-words
Πυλάδη, τόδ' εἴη τοὔργον, ἀλλ' ὅσον τάχος
Pylades this would-be the-task but as-much-as speed

χωρεῖν ἔσω, πατρῷα προσκύσανθ' ἕδη
to-go within paternal having-saluted seats
θεῶν, ὅσοιπερ πρόπυλα ναίουσιν τάδε. 1375
of-gods as-many-as-indeed the-porch dwell this
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἄναξ Ἄπολλον, ἵλεως αὐτοῖν κλύε
lord Apollo graciously them hear
ἐμοῦ τε πρὸς τούτοισιν, ἥ σε πολλὰ δὴ
of-me and besides these who you often indeed
ἀφ' ὧν ἔχοιμι λιπαρεῖ προύστην χερί.
from what I-might-have with-bountiful stood-before hand
νῦν δ', ὦ Λύκει' Ἄπολλον, ἐξ οἵων ἔχω
now and O Lycean Apollo from what I-have
αἰτῶ, προπίτνω, λίσσομαι, γενοῦ πρόφρων 1380
I-ask I-fall-before I-beg be kindly
ἡμῖν ἀρωγὸς τῶνδε τῶν βουλευμάτων,
to-us helper of-these the counsels
καὶ δεῖξον ἀνθρώποισι τἀπιτίμια
and show to-men the-wages
τῆς δυσσεβείας οἷα δωροῦνται θεοί.
of-the impiety what bestow gods

The chorus sings that the hounds of vengeance have gone into the house, led by Hermes. Electra comes out to watch for Aegisthus. Clytemnestra's cries are heard within, begging her son for pity, and Electra tells Orestes to strike twice. Orestes comes out with bloody hands and says that all is well. Aegisthus is seen approaching, and the young men go back inside to wait for him.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἴδεθ' ὅποι προνέμεται
see where advances
τὸ δυσέριστον αἷμα φυσῶν Ἄρης.
the hard-to-contend-with blood breathing Ares
βεβᾶσιν ἄρτι δωμάτων ὑπόστεγοι
have-gone just-now of-house under-the-roof
μετάδρομοι κακῶν πανουργημάτων ἄφυκτοι κύνες,
pursuers of-evil villainies inescapable hounds
ὥστ' οὐ μακρὰν ἔτ' ἀμμενεῖ
so-that not long still it-will-wait
τοὐμὸν φρενῶν ὄνειρον αἰωρούμενον.
my of-mind dream hovering
παράγεται γὰρ ἐνέρων
is-led-in for of-the-dead
δολιόπους ἀρωγὸς εἴσω στέγας,
crafty-footed avenger within house
ἀρχαιόπλουτα πατρὸς εἰς ἑδώλια,
of-ancient-wealth of-father into seats
νεακόνητον αἷμα χειροῖν ἔχων· ὁ Μαίας δὲ παῖς
newly-sharpened blood in-hands having the of-Maia and son
Ἑρμῆς σφ' ἄγει δόλον σκότῳ
Hermes them leads the-trick in-darkness

κρύψας πρὸς αὐτὸ τέρμα κοὐκέτ᾽ ἀμμένει.
having-hidden to very goal and-no-longer waits

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ φίλταται γυναῖκες, ἄνδρες αὐτίκα
O dearest women the-men at-once

τελοῦσι τοὔργον· ἀλλὰ σῖγα πρόσμενε.
accomplish the-deed but in-silence wait

ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς δή; τί νῦν πράσσουσιν;
how indeed what now are-they-doing

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἡ μὲν ἐς τάφον 1400
she indeed for burial

λέβητα κοσμεῖ, τὼ δ᾽ ἐφέστατον πέλας.
urn adorns the-two and stand near

ΧΟΡΟΣ σὺ δ᾽ ἐκτὸς ἦξας πρὸς τί; ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ φρουρήσουσ᾽ ὅπως
you and outside darted for what to-watch so-that

Αἴγισθος ἡμᾶς μὴ λάθῃ μολὼν ἔσω.
Aegisthus us not escape-notice having-come within

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ αἰαῖ. ἰὼ στέγαι
alas ah house

φίλων ἔρημοι, τῶν δ᾽ ἀπολλύντων πλέαι. 1405
of-friends empty of-the and destroying full

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ βοᾷ τις ἔνδον· οὐκ ἀκούετ᾽, ὦ φίλαι;
cries someone within not do-you-hear O friends

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἤκουσ᾽ ἀνήκουστα δύστανος, ὥστε φρῖξαι.
I-heard unheard-of wretched so-that to-shudder

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ οἴμοι τάλαιν᾽· Αἴγισθε, ποῦ ποτ᾽ ὢν κυρεῖς;
ah-me wretched Aegisthus where ever being are-you

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἰδοὺ μάλ᾽ αὖ θροεῖ τις.
see indeed again cries someone

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ ὦ τέκνον τέκνον,
O child child
οἴκτιρε τὴν τεκοῦσαν. ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀλλ᾽ οὐκ ἐκ σέθεν
pity the having-borne but not by you
ᾠκτίρεθ᾽ οὗτος οὐδ᾽ ὁ γεννήσας πατήρ.
was-pitied this-one nor the having-begotten father
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ πόλις, ὦ γενεὰ τάλαινα, νῦν σοι
O city O race wretched now for-you
μοῖρα καθαμερία φθίνει φθίνει.
fate day-by-day wanes wanes
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ ὤμοι πέπληγμαι.
ah-me I-am-struck
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ παῖσον, εἰ σθένεις, διπλῆν.
strike if you-are-able twofold
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ ὤμοι μάλ᾽ αὖθις.
ah-me indeed again
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ εἰ γὰρ Αἰγίσθῳ θ᾽ ὁμοῦ.
would-that for to-Aegisthus and together
ΧΟΡΟΣ τελοῦσ᾽ ἀραί· ζῶσιν οἱ γᾶς ὑπαὶ κείμενοι.
are-fulfilled curses live the of-earth under lying
παλίρρυτον γὰρ αἷμ᾽ ὑπεξαιροῦσι τῶν
flowing-back for blood draw-away of-the
κτανόντων οἱ πάλαι θανόντες.
having-killed the long-ago dead
καὶ μὴν πάρεισιν οἵδε· φοινία δὲ χεὶρ
and indeed are-here these bloody and hand
στάζει θυηλῆς Ἄρεος, οὐδ᾽ ἔχω ψέγειν.
drips of-sacrifice of-Ares nor can-I blame

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ Ὀρέστα, πῶς κυρεῖτε; ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τἀν δόμοισι μὲν
Orestes how do-you-fare the-things-in house indeed
καλῶς, Ἀπόλλων εἰ καλῶς ἐθέσπισεν.
well Apollo if well prophesied
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τέθνηκεν ἡ τάλαινα;
is-dead the wretched
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μηκέτ' ἐκφοβοῦ
no-longer fear
μητρῷον ὥς σε λῆμ' ἀτιμάσει ποτέ.
maternal that you spirit will-dishonor ever
ΧΟΡΟΣ παύσασθε· λεύσσω γὰρ Αἴγισθον ἐκ προδήλου.
stop I-see for Aegisthus in plain-view
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ παῖδες, οὐκ ἄψορρον;
O children not back
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εἰσορᾶτε ποῦ
do-you-see where
τὸν ἄνδρ'; ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐφ' ἡμῖν οὗτος ἐκ προαστίου
the man at us he from the-suburb
χωρεῖ γεγηθὼς ***
goes rejoicing (lacuna)
ΧΟΡΟΣ βᾶτε κατ' ἀντιθύρων ὅσον τάχιστα,
go at the-doorway as-much-as quickest
νῦν, τὰ πρὶν εὖ θέμενοι, τάδ' ὡς πάλιν.
now the before well having-set this so again
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ θάρσει· τελοῦμεν.
take-heart we-shall-accomplish
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ᾗ νοεῖς ἔπειγέ νυν.
where you-intend hasten now
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καὶ δὴ βέβηκα. ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τἀνθάδ' ἂν μέλοιτ' ἐμοί.
and indeed I-am-gone the-things-here — would-be-a-care to-me

ΧΟΡΟΣ δι᾽ ὠτὸς ἂν παῦρά γ᾽ ὡς ἠπίως ἐννέπειν
through ear — few-things at-least as gently to-say
πρὸς ἄνδρα τόνδε συμφέροι, λαθραῖον ὡς
to man this would-be-useful secret that
ὀρούσῃ πρὸς δίκας ἀγῶνα.
he-may-rush to of-justice contest

XIII · AEGISTHUS

Aegisthus asks Electra about the Phocians who brought news of Orestes' death, and she tells him they have brought the proof. He orders the gates opened for all Argos to see the body. Orestes bids him lift the cover himself, and he finds Clytemnestra. He understands, and asks to speak, but Electra will not let him plead. Orestes drives him inside to be killed where Agamemnon died, and the chorus says that the seed of Atreus has at last come through to freedom.

ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ τίς οἶδεν ὑμῶν ποῦ ποθ᾽ οἱ Φωκῆς ξένοι,
who knows of-you where ever the Phocian strangers
οὕς φασ᾽ Ὀρέστην ἡμὶν ἀγγεῖλαι βίον
who they-say Orestes to-us to-have-announced life
λελοιπόθ᾽ ἱππικοῖσιν ἐν ναυαγίοις;
to-have-left horse in wrecks
σέ τοι, σὲ κρίνω, ναὶ σέ, τὴν ἐν τῷ πάρος
you surely you I-ask yes you the in the former
χρόνῳ θρασεῖαν· ὡς μάλιστα σοὶ μέλειν
time bold since most to-you to-be-a-care
οἶμαι, μάλιστα δ᾽ ἂν κατειδυῖαν φράσαι.
I-think most and — knowing to-tell

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἔξοιδα· πῶς γὰρ οὐχί; συμφορᾶς γὰρ ἂν
I-know how for not of-misfortune for —
ἔξωθεν εἴην τῶν ἐμῶν τῆς φιλτάτης.
outside would-I-be of-the my of-the dearest
ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ ποῦ δῆτ' ἂν εἶεν οἱ ξένοι; δίδασκέ με. 1450
where then — might-be the strangers teach me
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἔνδον· φίλης γὰρ προξένου κατήνυσαν.
within of-dear for hostess they-have-arrived
ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ ἦ καὶ θανόντ' ἤγγειλαν ὡς ἐτητύμως;
— and dead did-they-announce as truly
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὔκ, ἀλλὰ κἀπέδειξαν, οὐ λόγῳ μόνον.
no but and-they-showed not in-word only
ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ πάρεστ' ἄρ' ἡμῖν ὥστε κἀμφανῆ μαθεῖν;
is-present then to-us so-that and-plainly to-learn
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πάρεστι δῆτα, καὶ μάλ' ἄζηλος θέα. 1455
is-present then and very unenviable sight
ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ ἦ πολλὰ χαίρειν μ' εἶπας οὐκ εἰωθότως.
— many-things to-rejoice me you-said not as-usual
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ χαίροις ἄν, εἴ σοι χαρτὰ τυγχάνοι τάδε.
you-may-rejoice — if to-you joyful happen this
ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ σιγᾶν ἄνωγα κἀναδεικνύναι πύλας
to-be-silent I-order and-to-open gates
πᾶσιν Μυκηναίοισιν Ἀργείοις θ' ὁρᾶν,
to-all Mycenaeans Argives and to-see
ὡς εἴ τις αὐτῶν ἐλπίσιν κεναῖς πάρος 1460
so-that if any of-them with-hopes empty before
ἐξῄρετ' ἀνδρὸς τοῦδε, νῦν ὁρῶν νεκρὸν
was-elated of-man this now seeing the-corpse
στόμια δέχηται τἀμὰ μηδὲ πρὸς βίαν
bits accept my nor by force

ἐμοῦ κολαστοῦ προστυχὼν φύσῃ φρένας.
me as-chastiser meeting grow wits

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὶ δὴ τελεῖται τἀπ' ἐμοῦ· τῷ γὰρ χρόνῳ
and indeed is-being-accomplished the-from me in-the for time

1465 νοῦν ἔσχον, ὥστε συμφέρειν τοῖς κρείσσοσιν.
sense I-got so-that to-agree with-the stronger

ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ ὦ Ζεῦ, δέδορκα φάσμ' ἄνευ φθόνου μὲν οὐ
O Zeus I-see sight without envy indeed not

πεπτωκός· εἰ δ' ἔπεστι νέμεσις, οὐ λέγω.
fallen if but is-on-it nemesis not I-say

χαλᾶτε πᾶν κάλυμμ' ἀπ' ὀφθαλμῶν, ὅπως
loosen all covering from eyes so-that

τὸ συγγενές τοι κἀπ' ἐμοῦ θρήνων τύχῃ.
the kinship surely and-from me of-laments may-obtain

1470 ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ αὐτὸς σὺ βάσταζ'· οὐκ ἐμὸν τόδ', ἀλλὰ σόν,
yourself you lift not mine this but yours

τὸ ταῦθ' ὁρᾶν τε καὶ προσηγορεῖν φίλως.
the this to-see both and to-address kindly

ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ ἀλλ' εὖ παραινεῖς κἀπιπείσομαι· σὺ δέ,
but well you-advise and-will-obey you and

εἴ που κατ' οἰκόν μοι Κλυταιμνήστρα, κάλει.
if somewhere in house for-me Clytemnestra call

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ αὕτη πέλας σοῦ· μηκέτ' ἄλλοσε σκόπει.
she near you no-longer elsewhere look

1475 ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ οἴμοι, τί λεύσσω;
ah-me what do-I-see

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τίνα φοβεῖ; τίν' ἀγνοεῖς;
whom do-you-fear whom do-you-not-know

ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ τίνων ποτ᾽ ἀνδρῶν ἐν μέσοις ἀρκυστάτοις
of-what ever of-men in middle in-nets
πέπτωχ᾽ ὁ τλήμων; ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐ γὰρ αἰσθάνει πάλαι
I-have-fallen the wretched not for do-you-perceive long
ζῶντας θανοῦσιν οὕνεκ᾽ ἀνταυδᾷς ἴσα;
living for-the-dead that you-speak-back like
ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ οἴμοι, ξυνῆκα τοὔπος· οὐ γὰρ ἔσθ᾽ ὅπως
ah-me I-understood the-word not for it-is how
ὅδ᾽ οὐκ Ὀρέστης ἔσθ᾽ ὁ προσφωνῶν ἐμέ.
this-one not Orestes is the addressing me
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καὶ μάντις ὢν ἄριστος ἐσφάλλου πάλαι.
and prophet being best you-were-deceived long
ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ ὄλωλα δὴ δείλαιος. ἀλλά μοι πάρες
I-am-undone indeed wretched but to-me allow
κἂν σμικρὸν εἰπεῖν. ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ μὴ πέρα λέγειν ἔα
even little to-say not further to-speak allow
πρὸς θεῶν, ἀδελφέ, μηδὲ μηκύνειν λόγους.
by gods brother nor to-lengthen words
τί γὰρ βροτῶν ἂν σὺν κακοῖς μεμιγμένων
what for of-mortals — with evils mingled
θνήσκειν ὁ μέλλων οὐ χρόνου κέρδος φέροι;
to-die the about not of-time gain could-bring
ἀλλ᾽ ὡς τάχιστα κτεῖνε καὶ κτανὼν πρόθες
but as quickest kill and having-killed set-out
ταφεῦσιν, ὧν τόνδ᾽ εἰκός ἐστι τυγχάνειν,
for-buriers of-whom this-one fitting it-is to-obtain
ἄποπτον ἡμῶν· ὡς ἐμοὶ τόδ᾽ ἂν κακῶν
out-of-sight of-us as to-me this — of-evils
μόνον γένοιτο τῶν πάλαι λυτήριον.
alone might-be of-the old release

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ χωροῖς ἂν εἴσω σὺν τάχει· λόγων γὰρ οὐ
you-may-go — within with speed of-words for not
νῦν ἐστιν ἀγών, ἀλλὰ σῆς ψυχῆς πέρι.
now is the-contest but your of-life about
ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ τί δ' ἐς δόμους ἄγεις με; πῶς, τόδ' εἰ καλὸν
why and to house do-you-lead me how this if fair
τοὔργον, σκότου δεῖ κοὐ πρόχειρος εἶ κτανεῖν;
the-deed of-darkness need and-not ready are-you to-kill
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μὴ τάσσε· χώρει δ' ἔνθαπερ κατέκτανες
not order go and where-indeed you-killed
πατέρα τὸν ἀμόν, ὡς ἂν ἐν ταὐτῷ θάνῃς,
father the my so-that — in the-same-place you-may-die
ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ ἦ πᾶσ' ἀνάγκη τήνδε τὴν στέγην ἰδεῖν
— all necessity this the house to-see
τά τ' ὄντα καὶ μέλλοντα Πελοπιδῶν κακά;
the both being and to-be of-the-Pelopids evils
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τὰ γοῦν σ'· ἐγώ σοι μάντις εἰμὶ τῶνδ' ἄκρος.
the at-least yours I for-you prophet am of-these unerring
ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ ἀλλ' οὐ πατρῴαν τὴν τέχνην ἐκόμπασας.
but not paternal the art you-boasted
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πόλλ' ἀντιφωνεῖς, ἡ δ' ὁδὸς βραδύνεται.
many-things you-answer the and road is-slowed
ἀλλ' ἕρφ'. ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ ὑφηγοῦ. ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σοὶ βαδιστέον πάρος.
but go lead for-you must-be-walked first
ΑΙΓΙΣΘΟΣ ἦ μὴ φύγω σε; ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μὴ μὲν οὖν καθ' ἡδονὴν
— lest I-may-escape you not indeed then according-to pleasure
θάνῃς· φυλάξαι δεῖ με τοῦτό σοι πικρόν.
you-may-die to-guard must me this for-you bitter
χρῆν δ' εὐθὺς εἶναι τήνδε τοῖς πᾶσιν δίκην,
it-behooved and at-once to-be this for-the all justice

ὅστις πέρα πράσσειν τι τῶν νόμων θέλει,
whoever beyond to-do anything of-the laws wishes
κτείνειν· τὸ γὰρ πανοῦργον οὐκ ἂν ἦν πολύ.
to-kill the for villainy not — would-be much
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ σπέρμ᾽ Ἀτρέως, ὡς πολλὰ παθὸν
O seed of-Atreus how many-things having-suffered
δι᾽ ἐλευθερίας μόλις ἐξῆλθες
through freedom hardly you-came-out
τῇ νῦν ὁρμῇ τελεωθέν. 1510
by-the present impulse made-perfect

SOPHOCLES

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ

Philoctetes

Odysseus brings Neoptolemus, Achilles' son, to the shore of desert Lemnos where he once put Philoctetes ashore, with his festering foot and his cries that made the army's sacrifices impossible. They find his cave. Odysseus explains that Troy cannot be taken without Philoctetes' bow, and that Neoptolemus must win it by deceit, telling Philoctetes he has left the army in anger at being denied his father's arms. Neoptolemus is reluctant, preferring force to lies, but is persuaded by the promise of glory, and Odysseus returns to the ship.

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἀκτὴ μὲν ἥδε τῆς περιρρύτου χθονὸς
shore indeed this of-the sea-girt land
Λήμνου, βροτοῖς ἄστιπτος οὐδ' οἰκουμένη,
of-Lemnos by-mortals untrodden nor inhabited
ἔνθ', ὦ κρατίστου πατρὸς Ἑλλήνων τραφεὶς
where O of-mightiest father of-Greeks reared
Ἀχιλλέως παῖ Νεοπτόλεμε, τὸν Μηλιᾶ
of-Achilles son Neoptolemus the Malian
Ποίαντος υἱὸν ἐξέθηκ' ἐγώ ποτε, 5
of-Poeas son put-ashore I once
ταχθεὶς τόδ' ἔρδειν τῶν ἀνασσόντων ὕπο,
ordered this to-do the ruling by
νόσῳ καταστάζοντα διαβόρῳ πόδα·
with-disease dripping devouring foot
ὅτ' οὔτε λοιβῆς ἡμὶν οὔτε θυμάτων
when neither of-libation for-us nor of-sacrifices
παρῆν ἑκήλοις προσθιγεῖν, ἀλλ' ἀγρίαις
was-possible in-peace to-touch but with-savage
κατεῖχ' ἀεὶ πᾶν στρατόπεδον δυσφημίαις, 10
he-filled always all camp with-cries-of-ill-omen

βοῶν, στενάζων. ἀλλὰ ταῦτα μὲν τί δεῖ
shouting groaning but this indeed why must-I
λέγειν; ἀκμὴ γὰρ οὐ μακρῶν ἡμῖν λόγων,
say the-moment for not of-long for-us of-words
μὴ καὶ μάθῃ μ' ἥκοντα κἀκχέω τὸ πᾶν
lest also he-learn me having-come and-I-waste the whole
σόφισμα, τῷ νιν αὐτίχ' αἱρήσειν δοκῶ.
contrivance by-which him at-once to-take I-think
ἀλλ' ἔργον ἤδη σὸν τὰ λοίφ' ὑπηρετεῖν
but task now yours the rest to-serve
σκοπεῖν θ' ὅπου 'στ' ἐνταῦθα δίστομος πέτρα
to-look and where is here two-mouthed rock
τοιάδ', ἵν' ἐν ψύχει μὲν ἡλίου διπλῆ
such where in cold indeed of-sun twofold
πάρεστιν ἐνθάκησις, ἐν θέρει δ' ὕπνον
is-present seat in summer but sleep
δι' ἀμφιτρῆτος αὐλίου πέμπει πνοή·
through double-opening of-cave sends breeze
βαιὸν δ' ἔνερθεν ἐξ ἀριστερᾶς τάχ' ἂν
a-little and below on left perhaps —
ἴδοις ποτὸν κρηναῖον, εἴπερ ἐστὶ σῶν.
you-may-see drink spring-fed if-indeed it-is safe
ἅ μοι προσελθὼν σῖγα σήμαιν' εἴτ' ἐκεῖ
which to-me having-approached in-silence signify whether there
χῶρον τὸν αὐτὸν τόνδ' ἔτ' εἴτ' ἄλλῃ κυρεῖ,
place the same this still or elsewhere it-is
ὡς τἀπίλοιπα τῶν λόγων σὺ μὲν κλύῃς,
so-that the-rest of-the words you indeed may-hear
ἐγὼ δὲ φράζω, κοινὰ δ' ἐξ ἀμφοῖν ἴῃ.
I and tell common and from both may-go

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἄναξ Ὀδυσσεῦ, τοὔργον οὐ μακρὰν λέγεις·
lord Odysseus the-task not far you-speak
δοκῶ γὰρ οἷον εἶπας ἄντρον εἰσορᾶν.
I-think for such-as you-said cave to-see
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἄνωθεν ἢ κάτωθεν; οὐ γὰρ ἐννοῶ.
above or below not for I-perceive
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τόδ' ἐξύπερθε· καὶ στίβου γ' οὐδεὶς κτύπος.
this above and of-step at-least no sound
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ὅρα καθ' ὕπνον μὴ καταυλισθεὶς κυρεῖ. 30
see in sleep lest lodged he-is
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ὁρῶ κενὴν οἴκησιν ἀνθρώπων δίχα.
I-see empty dwelling of-men without
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ οὐδ' ἔνδον οἰκοποιός ἐστί τις τροφή;
nor within housekeeping is any nourishment
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ στιπτή γε φυλλὰς ὡς ἐναυλίζοντί τῳ.
pressed at-least bed-of-leaves as for-one-lodging some
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ τὰ δ' ἄλλ' ἔρημα, κοὐδέν ἐσθ' ὑπόστεγον;
the and rest empty and-nothing is under-roof
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ αὐτόξυλόν γ' ἔκπωμα, φλαυρουργοῦ τινος 35
of-plain-wood at-least cup of-poor-workman some
τεχνήματ' ἀνδρός, καὶ πυρεῖ' ὁμοῦ τάδε.
the-contrivances of-man and fire-kindlings together this
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ κείνου τὸ θησαύρισμα σημαίνεις τόδε.
of-him the treasure you-show this
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἰοὺ ἰού· καὶ ταῦτά γ' ἄλλα θάλπεται
alas alas and these at-least other are-drying
ῥάκη, βαρείας του νοσηλείας πλέα.
rags of-heavy some sickness full

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἀνὴρ κατοικεῖ τούσδε τοὺς τόπους σαφῶς,
the-man inhabits these the places clearly
κἄστ᾽ οὐχ ἑκάς που· πῶς γὰρ ἂν νοσῶν ἀνὴρ
and-he-is not far surely how for — sick man
κῶλον παλαιᾷ κηρὶ προσβαίη μακράν;
limb with-ancient doom could-approach far
ἀλλ᾽ ἢ ᾽πὶ φορβῆς νόστον ἐξελήλυθεν
but either for of-food a-search he-has-gone-out
ἢ φύλλον εἴ τι νώδυνον κάτοιδέ που.
or leaf if any pain-killing he-knows somewhere
τὸν οὖν παρόντα πέμψον εἰς κατασκοπήν,
the then present send for watch
μὴ καὶ λάθῃ με προσπεσών· ὡς μᾶλλον ἂν
lest also escape-notice me falling-upon since rather —
ἕλοιτό μ᾽ ἢ τοὺς πάντας Ἀργείους λαβεῖν.
he-would-take me than the all Argives to-take
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἔρχεταί τε καὶ φυλάξεται στίβος.
but he-goes both and will-be-guarded the-path
σὺ δ᾽, εἴ τι χρῄζεις, φράζε δευτέρῳ λόγῳ.
you and if anything you-want say with-second word
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ Ἀχιλλέως παῖ, δεῖ σ᾽ ἐφ᾽ οἷς ἐλήλυθας
of-Achilles son must you for what you-have-come
γενναῖον εἶναι, μὴ μόνον τῷ σώματι,
noble to-be not only in-the body
ἀλλ᾽ ἤν τι καινὸν ὧν πρὶν οὐκ ἀκήκοας
but if anything new of-what before not you-have-heard
κλύῃς, ὑπουργεῖν, ὡς ὑπηρέτης πάρει.
you-hear to-help as servant you-are-here

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τί δῆτ᾽ ἄνωγας; ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ τὴν Φιλοκτήτου σε δεῖ
what then do-you-bid the of-Philoctetes you must
ψυχὴν ὅπως δόλοισιν ἐκκλέψεις λέγων.
soul so-that with-tricks you-will-steal-away speaking
ὅταν σ᾽ ἐρωτᾷ τίς τε καὶ πόθεν πάρει,
when you he-asks who both and from-where you-are-here
λέγειν, Ἀχιλλέως παῖς· τόδ᾽ οὐχὶ κλεπτέον·
to-say of-Achilles son this not to-be-concealed
πλεῖς δ᾽ ὡς πρὸς οἶκον, ἐκλιπὼν τὸ ναυτικὸν
you-sail and as to home having-left the naval
στράτευμ᾽ Ἀχαιῶν, ἔχθος ἐχθήρας μέγα,
army of-Achaeans hatred having-hated great
οἵ σ᾽ ἐν λιταῖς στείλαντες ἐξ οἴκων μολεῖν,
who you with prayers having-sent from home to-come
μόνην ἔχοντες τήνδ᾽ ἅλωσιν Ἰλίου,
only having this capture of-Ilium
οὐκ ἠξίωσαν τῶν Ἀχιλλείων ὅπλων
not deemed-worthy of-the of-Achilles arms
ἐλθόντι δοῦναι κυρίως αἰτουμένῳ,
having-come to-give rightfully asking
ἀλλ᾽ αὖτ᾽ Ὀδυσσεῖ παρέδοσαν· λέγων ὅσ᾽ ἂν
but them to-Odysseus handed-over saying what-ever —
θέλῃς καθ᾽ ἡμῶν ἔσχατ᾽ ἐσχάτων κακά.
you-wish against me last of-last evils
τούτῳ γὰρ οὐδέν μ᾽ ἀλγυνεῖς· εἰ δ᾽ ἐργάσει
with-this for nothing me you-will-pain if but you-do
μὴ ταῦτα, λύπην πᾶσιν Ἀργείοις βαλεῖς.
not this grief to-all Argives you-will-cast
εἰ γὰρ τὰ τοῦδε τόξα μὴ ληφθήσεται,
if for the his bow not shall-be-taken

οὐκ ἔστι πέρσαι σοι τὸ Δαρδάνου πέδον.
not it-is-possible to-sack for-you the of-Dardanus plain
ὡς δ' ἔστ' ἐμοὶ μὲν οὐχί, σοὶ δ' ὁμιλία
how and is for-me indeed not for-you but dealings
πρὸς τόνδε πιστὴ καὶ βέβαιος, ἔκμαθε.
with him trustworthy and secure learn
σὺ μὲν πέπλευκας οὔτ' ἔνορκος οὐδενὶ
you indeed have-sailed neither bound-by-oath to-anyone
οὔτ' ἐξ ἀνάγκης οὔτε τοῦ πρώτου στόλου·
nor of necessity nor of-the first expedition
ἐμοὶ δὲ τούτων οὐδέν ἐστ' ἀρνήσιμον.
for-me but of-these nothing is deniable
ὥστ' εἴ με τόξων ἐγκρατὴς αἰσθήσεται,
so-that if me of-bow master shall-perceive
ὄλωλα καὶ σὲ προσδιαφθερῶ ξυνών.
I-am-lost and you shall-destroy-besides being-with
ἀλλ' αὐτὸ τοῦτο δεῖ σοφισθῆναι, κλοπεὺς
but very this-thing must be-contrived thief
ὅπως γενήσει τῶν ἀνικήτων ὅπλων.
how you-will-be of-the invincible arms
ἔξοιδα, παῖ, φύσει σε μὴ πεφυκότα
I-know-well child by-nature you not born
τοιαῦτα φωνεῖν μηδὲ τεχνᾶσθαι κακά·
such-things to-say nor to-contrive evils
ἀλλ' ἡδὺ γάρ τι κτῆμα τῆς νίκης λαβεῖν,
but sweet for some possession of-the victory to-take
τόλμα· δίκαιοι δ' αὖθις ἐκφανούμεθα.
dare just and again we-shall-appear
νῦν δ' εἰς ἀναιδὲς ἡμέρας μέρος βραχὺ
now and for shameless of-day part short

δός μοι σεαυτόν, κᾆτα τὸν λοιπὸν χρόνον
give me yourself and-then the remaining time
κέκλησο πάντων εὐσεβέστατος βροτῶν.
be-called of-all most-pious of-mortals
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἐγὼ μὲν οὖς ἂν τῶν λόγων ἀλγῶ κλύων,
I indeed which — of-the words I-grieve hearing
Λαερτίου παῖ, τούσδε καὶ πράσσειν στυγῶ·
of-Laertes son these also to-do I-hate
ἔφυν γὰρ οὐδὲν ἐκ τέχνης πράσσειν κακῆς,
I-was-born for nothing by craft to-do base
οὔτ' αὐτὸς οὔθ', ὡς φασιν, οὑκφύσας ἐμέ.
neither myself nor as they-say the-one-having-begotten me
ἀλλ' εἶμ' ἑτοῖμος πρὸς βίαν τὸν ἄνδρ' ἄγειν
but I-am ready by force the man to-take
καὶ μὴ δόλοισιν· οὐ γὰρ ἐξ ἑνὸς ποδὸς
and not by-tricks not for from one foot
ἡμᾶς τοσούσδε πρὸς βίαν χειρώσεται.
us so-many by force will-overpower
πεμφθείς γε μέντοι σοὶ ξυνεργάτης ὀκνῶ
sent at-least however to-you as-co-worker I-shrink
προδότης καλεῖσθαι· βούλομαι δ', ἄναξ, καλῶς
traitor to-be-called I-wish but lord nobly
δρῶν ἐξαμαρτεῖν μᾶλλον ἢ νικᾶν κακῶς.
doing to-fail rather than to-win basely
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἐσθλοῦ πατρὸς παῖ, καὐτὸς ὢν νέος ποτὲ
of-noble father son also-myself being young once
γλῶσσαν μὲν ἀργόν, χεῖρα δ' εἶχον ἐργάτιν·
tongue indeed idle hand and had working
νῦν δ' εἰς ἔλεγχον ἐξιὼν ὁρῶ βροτοῖς
now and to testing going-out I-see for-mortals

τὴν γλῶσσαν, οὐχὶ τἄργα, πάνθ' ἡγουμένην.
the tongue not the-deeds all leading

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τί μ' οὖν ἄνωγας ἄλλο πλὴν ψευδῆ λέγειν;
what me then do-you-bid other except false-things to-say

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ λέγω σ' ἐγὼ δόλῳ Φιλοκτήτην λαβεῖν.
I-tell you I by-trick Philoctetes to-take

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τί δ' ἐν δόλῳ δεῖ μᾶλλον ἢ πείσαντ' ἄγειν;
why and by trick must rather than having-persuaded to-bring

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ οὐ μὴ πίθηται· πρὸς βίαν δ' οὐκ ἂν λάβοις.
not — he-will-be-persuaded by force and not — could-you-take

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οὕτως ἔχει τι δεινὸν ἰσχύος θράσος;
thus has some terrible of-strength boldness

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἰούς γ' ἀφύκτους καὶ προπέμποντας φόνον.
arrows at-least inescapable and sending-forth death

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οὐκ ἆρ' ἐκείνῳ γ' οὐδὲ προσμῖξαι θρασύ;
not — with-him at-least not-even to-engage bold

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ οὔ, μὴ δόλῳ λαβόντα γ', ὡς ἐγὼ λέγω.
no not by-trick having-taken at-least as I say

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οὐκ αἰσχρὸν ἡγεῖ δῆτα τὸ ψευδῆ λέγειν;
not shameful do-you-think then the false-things to-say

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ οὔκ, εἰ τὸ σωθῆναί γε τὸ ψεῦδος φέρει.
no if the to-be-saved at-least the lie brings

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ πῶς οὖν βλέπων τις ταῦτα τολμήσει λακεῖν;
how then looking anyone this will-dare to-utter

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ὅταν τι δρᾷς εἰς κέρδος, οὐκ ὀκνεῖν πρέπει.
when anything you-do for gain not to-shrink befits

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ κέρδος δ' ἐμοὶ τί τοῦτον ἐς Τροίαν μολεῖν;
gain and for-me what this-one to Troy to-come

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ αἱρεῖ τὰ τόξα ταῦτα τὴν Τροίαν μόνα.
takes the bow these the Troy alone

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οὐκ ἆρ' ὁ πέρσων, ὡς ἐφάσκετ', εἴμ' ἐγώ;
not — the sacker as you-said am I

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ οὔτ' ἂν σὺ κείνων χωρὶς οὔτ' ἐκεῖνα σοῦ.
neither — you of-them without nor they of-you

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ θηρατέ' οὖν γίγνοιτ' ἄν, εἴπερ ὧδ' ἔχει.
must-be-hunted then would-be — if-indeed thus it-is

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ὡς τοῦτό γ' ἔρξας δύο φέρει δωρήματα.
since this at-least having-done two you-win gifts

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ποίω; μαθὼν γὰρ οὐκ ἂν ἀρνοίμην τὸ δρᾶν.
what-two having-learned for not — would-I-refuse the to-do

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ σοφός τ' ἂν αὐτὸς κἀγαθὸς κεκλῇ' ἅμα.
wise both — the-same and-good would-be-called together

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἴτω· ποήσω, πᾶσαν αἰσχύνην ἀφείς.
let-it-go I-will-do-it all shame having-let-go

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἦ μνημονεύεις οὖν ἅ σοι παρῄνεσα;
— you-remember then what to-you I-advised

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ σάφ' ἴσθ', ἐπείπερ εἰσάπαξ συνήνεσα.
clearly know since once-for-all I-agreed

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ σὺ μὲν μένων νυν κεῖνον ἐνθάδ' ἐκδέχου,
you indeed waiting now him here await

ἐγὼ δ' ἄπειμι, μὴ κατοπτευθῶ παρών,
I and will-go-away lest I-be-spied being-present

καὶ τὸν σκοπὸν πρὸς ναῦν ἀποστελῶ πάλιν.
and the scout to ship I-will-send back

καὶ δεῦρ', ἐάν μοι τοῦ χρόνου δοκῆτέ τι
and hither if to-me of-the time you-seem at-all

κατασχολάζειν, αὖθις ἐκπέμψω πάλιν
to-linger again I-will-send-out again

τοῦτον τὸν αὐτὸν ἄνδρα, ναυκλήρου τρόποις
this the same man of-a-ship-captain in-fashion

μορφὴν δολώσας, ὡς ἂν ἀγνοία προσῇ·
in-form disguising so-that — ignorance be-may-come

οὗ δῆτα, τέκνον, ποικίλως αὐδωμένου
from-whom then child cunningly speaking

δέχου τὰ συμφέροντα τῶν ἀεὶ λόγων.
take the useful of-the from-time-to-time words

ἐγὼ δὲ πρὸς ναῦν εἶμι, σοὶ παρεὶς τάδε·
I and to ship go to-you having-left this

Ἑρμῆς δ' ὁ πέμπων δόλιος ἡγήσαιτο νῷν
Hermes and the guide crafty may-lead us-two

Νίκη τ' Ἀθάνα Πολιάς, ἣ σῴζει μ' ἀεί.
Victory and Athena Polias who saves me always

II · THE SAILORS

The sailors of Neoptolemus' crew ask how they can serve him, and he shows them the cave of the man they have come for. They pity Philoctetes, alone and sick and without help, a man of a noble house who lies apart from all among the wild beasts. Neoptolemus says that his suffering came from the gods, so that he should not draw his bow against Troy before the time. A cry is heard as Philoctetes approaches.

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί χρὴ τί χρή με, δέσποτ', ἐν ξένᾳ ξένον
what must what must me master in strange stranger

στέγειν ἢ τί λέγειν πρὸς ἄνδρ' ὑπόπταν;
conceal or what say to man suspicious

φράζε μοι. τέχνα γὰρ
tell me art for

τέχνας ἑτέρας προύχει
over-art other excels

καὶ γνώμα παρ' ὅτῳ τὸ θεῖον
and judgment with whom the divine

Διὸς σκῆπτρον ἀνάσσεται.
of-Zeus scepter is-wielded

σὲ δ', ὦ τέκνον, τόδ' ἐλήλυθεν
to-you and O child this has-come

πᾶν κράτος ὠγύγιον· τό μοι ἔννεπε
all power ancient this to-me tell

τί σοι χρεὼν ὑπουργεῖν.
what you it-behooves to-serve

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ νῦν μέν, ἴσως γὰρ τόπον ἐσχατιαῖς
now indeed perhaps for place at-the-edge

προσιδεῖν ἐθέλεις ὅντινα κεῖται,
to-look-at you-wish where it-lies

δέρκου θαρσῶν· ὁπόταν δὲ μόλῃ
look taking-courage when but comes

δεινὸς ὁδίτης, τῶνδ' οὐκ μελάθρων
the-terrible traveler these the-one-from house

πρὸς ἐμὴν αἰεὶ χεῖρα προχωρῶν
to my always hand coming-forward

πειρῶ τὸ παρὸν θεραπεύειν.
try the present to-serve

ΧΟΡΟΣ μέλον πάλαι μέλημά μοι λέγεις, ἄναξ,
caring long-ago care to-me you-speak-of lord

φρουρεῖν ὄμμ' ἐπὶ σῷ μάλιστα καιρῷ·
to-watch eye on your most occasion

νῦν δέ μοι λέγ', αὐλὰς
now but to-me tell dwelling

ποίας ἔνδρος ναίει
what lodging he-dwells

καὶ χῶρον τίν' ἔχει. τὸ γάρ μοι
and place what he-holds the for to-me

μαθεῖν οὐκ ἀποκαίριον,
to-learn not untimely

μὴ προσπεσών με λάθῃ ποθέν·
lest falling-upon me he-escape-notice from-somewhere

τίς τόπος ἢ τίς ἕδρα; τίν' ἔχει στίβον,
what place or what seat what does-he-hold path

ἔναυλον ἢ θυραῖον;
in-the-cave or out-of-doors

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οἶκον μὲν ὁρᾷς τόνδ' ἀμφίθυρον
home indeed you-see this double-doored

πετρίνης κοίτης.
of-rocky bed

ΧΟΡΟΣ ποῦ γὰρ ὁ τλήμων αὐτὸς ἄπεστιν;
where for the wretched himself is-away

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ δῆλον ἔμοιγ' ὡς φορβῆς χρείᾳ
clear to-me-at-least that for-food in-need

στίβον ὀγμεύει τῇδε πέλας που.
path he-furrows here near somewhere

ταύτην γὰρ ἔχειν βιοτῆς αὐτὸν
this for to-have of-life him

λόγος ἐστὶ φύσιν, θηροβολοῦντα
story is way shooting-beasts

πτηνοῖς ἰοῖς στυγερὸν στυγερῶς,
with-winged arrows wretched wretchedly

οὐδέ τιν' αὐτῷ
nor any to-him

παιῶνα κακῶν ἐπινωμᾶν.
healer of-ills to-apply

ΧΟΡΟΣ οἰκτίρω νιν ἔγωγ', ὅπως,
I-pity him I-for-my-part how
μή του κηδομένου βροτῶν
not any caring of-mortals
μηδὲ ξύντροφον ὄμμ' ἔχων,
nor fellow-nurtured eye having
δύστανος, μόνος ἀεί,
wretched alone always
νοσεῖ μὲν νόσον ἀγρίαν,
he-is-sick indeed sickness savage
ἀλύει δ' ἐπὶ παντί τῳ
he-is-distraught and at every any
χρείας ἱσταμένῳ. πῶς ποτε πῶς δύσμορος ἀντέχει;
need standing how ever how ill-fated does-he-endure
ὦ παλάμαι θεῶν,
O devices of-gods
ὦ δύστανα γένη βροτῶν,
O wretched races of-mortals
οἷς μὴ μέτριος αἰών.
for-whom not measured life
οὗτος πρωτογόνων ἴσως
this-one of-first-born perhaps
οἴκων οὐδενὸς ὕστερος,
houses to-none inferior
πάντων ἄμμορος ἐν βίῳ
of-all without-share in life
κεῖται μοῦνος ἀπ' ἄλλων,
lies alone apart-from others
στικτῶν ἢ λασίων μετὰ
dappled or shaggy with

θηρῶν, ἔν τ' ὀδύναις ὁμοῦ
beasts in and pains together
λιμῷ τ' οἰκτρός, ἀνήκεστα μεριμνήματ' ἔχων· ὀρεί-
with-hunger and piteous incurable cares having of-the-mountains
α δ' ἀθυρόστομος
— and unbridled-mouthed
Ἀχὼ τηλεφανὴς πικραῖς
Echo far-appearing to-bitter
οἰμωγαῖς ὑπακούει.
lamentations answers
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οὐδὲν τούτων θαυμαστὸν ἐμοί·
nothing of-these wonderful to-me
θεῖα γάρ, εἴπερ κἀγώ τι φρονῶ,
divine for if-indeed and-I anything think
καὶ τὰ παθήματα κεῖνα πρὸς αὐτὸν
also the sufferings those to him
τῆς ὠμόφρονος Χρύσης ἐπέβη,
from-the savage-minded Chryse came
καὶ νῦν ἃ πονεῖ δίχα κηδεμόνων,
and now what he-suffers apart-from caretakers
οὐκ ἔσθ' ὡς οὐ θεῶν του μελέτῃ
not it-is that not of-gods some by-the-care
τοῦ μὴ πρότερον τόνδ' ἐπὶ Τροίᾳ
of-the not before this-one against Troy
τεῖναι τὰ θεῶν ἀμάχητα βέλη,
to-draw the of-gods invincible shafts
πρὶν ὅδ' ἐξήκοι χρόνος, ᾧ λέγεται
before this should-come time in-which it-is-said
χρῆναί σφ' ὑπὸ τῶνδε δαμῆναι.
it-must her by these be-subdued

ΧΟΡΟΣ εὔστομ᾽ ἔχε, παῖ.
silence keep child

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τί τόδε;
what this

ΧΟΡΟΣ προυφάνη κτύπος,
appeared sound

φωτὸς σύντροφος ὡς τειρομένου του,
of-man companion as being-worn-down of-someone

ἤ που τῇδ᾽ ἢ τῇδε τόπων.
— somewhere here or here of-places

βάλλει βάλλει μ᾽ ἐτύμα
strikes strikes me true

φθογγά του στίβον κατ᾽ ἀνάγκαν
voice of-someone path by necessity

ἕρποντος, οὐδέ με λάθει
creeping nor me escapes

βαρεῖα τηλόθεν αὐδὰ τρυσάνωρ· διάσημα γὰρ θρηνεῖ.
heavy from-afar cry man-wearing clearly for he-laments

ἀλλ᾽ ἔχε, τέκνον,
but hold child

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ λέγ᾽ ὅ τι.
say what —

ΧΟΡΟΣ φροντίδας νέας.
cares new

ὡς οὐκ ἔξεδρος, ἀλλ᾽ ἔντοπος ἀνήρ,
since not away but in-place the-man

οὐ μολπὰν σύριγγος ἔχων,
not song of-pipe having

ὡς ποιμὴν ἀγροβότας, ἀλλ᾽ ἤ που πταίων ὑπ᾽ ἀνάγκας
like shepherd field-grazing but — somewhere stumbling under necessity

βοᾷ τηλωπὸν ἰωάν,
he-shouts far-reaching cry
ἢ ναὸς ἄξενον αὐγάζων ὅρμον· προβοᾷ τι γὰρ δεινόν.
or of-ship inhospitable seeing harbor he-cries-out something for dread

III · THE MEETING

Philoctetes greets the strangers and is overjoyed to hear Greek. Neoptolemus says he is Achilles' son, sailing home from Troy. Philoctetes tells his story: the Atridae and Odysseus left him asleep on the shore with a few rags and a little food, and he has survived ten years alone, hunting with his bow. Neoptolemus tells his false tale: after Achilles' death the Atridae gave his father's arms to Odysseus, and he sails home to Scyros in anger.

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἰὼ ξένοι,
ah strangers
τίνες ποτ' ἐς γῆν τήνδε κἀκ ποίας πάτρας
who ever to land this and-from what fatherland
κατέσχετ' οὔτ' εὔορμον οὔτ' οἰκουμένην;
put-in neither with-good-harbor nor inhabited
ποίας ἂν ὑμᾶς πατρίδος ἢ γένους ποτὲ
of-what — you of-fatherland or of-race ever
τύχοιμ' ἂν εἰπών; σχῆμα μὲν γὰρ Ἑλλάδος
would-I-hit-it — telling form indeed for of-Greek
στολῆς ὑπάρχει προσφιλεστάτης ἐμοί·
of-dress is-there dearest to-me
φωνῆς δ' ἀκοῦσαι βούλομαι· καὶ μή μ' ὄκνῳ
voice but to-hear I-wish and not me in-shrinking
δείσαντες ἐκπλαγῆτ' ἀπηγριωμένον,
fearing be-dismayed-at made-savage

ἀλλ᾽ οἰκτίσαντες ἄνδρα δύστηνον, μόνον,
but having-pitied man wretched alone
ἔρημον ὧδε κἄφιλον κακούμενον,
deserted thus and-friendless suffering
φωνήσατ᾽, εἴπερ ὡς φίλοι προσήκετε.
speak if-indeed as friends you-come
ἀλλ᾽ ἀνταμείψασθ᾽· οὐ γὰρ εἰκὸς οὔτ᾽ ἐμὲ 230
but answer not for fitting neither me
ὑμῶν ἁμαρτεῖν τοῦτό γ᾽ οὔθ᾽ ὑμᾶς ἐμοῦ.
of-you to-fail this at-least nor you of-me
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀλλ᾽, ὦ ξέν᾽, ἴσθι τοῦτο πρῶτον, οὕνεκα
but O stranger know this first that
Ἕλληνές ἐσμεν· τοῦτο γὰρ βούλει μαθεῖν.
Greeks we-are this for you-wish to-learn
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ φίλτατον φώνημα· φεῦ τὸ καὶ λαβεῖν
O dearest sound alas the even to-receive
πρόσφθεγμα τοιοῦδ᾽ ἀνδρὸς ἐν χρόνῳ μακρῷ. 235
address of-such man in time long
τίς σ᾽, ὦ τέκνον, προσέσχε, τίς προσήγαγεν
who you O child brought-in who led-here
χρεία; τίς ὁρμή; τίς ἀνέμων ὁ φίλτατος;
need what impulse what of-winds the dearest
γέγωνέ μοι πᾶν τοῦθ᾽, ὅπως εἰδῶ τίς εἶ.
speak to-me all this so-that I-may-know who you-are
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἐγὼ γένος μέν εἰμι τῆς περιρρύτου
I by-race indeed am of-the sea-girt
Σκύρου· πλέω δ᾽ ἐς οἶκον· αὐδῶμαι δὲ παῖς 240
Scyros I-sail and to home I-am-called and son
Ἀχιλλέως, Νεοπτόλεμος. οἶσθα δὴ τὸ πᾶν.
of-Achilles Neoptolemus you-know indeed the whole

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ φιλτάτου παῖ πατρός, ὦ φίλης χθονός,
O of-dearest son father O of-dear land
ὦ τοῦ γέροντος θρέμμα Λυκομήδους, τίνι
O of-the old nursling Lycomedes with-what
στόλῳ προσέσχες τήνδε γῆν πόθεν πλέων;
expedition did-you-put-in-to this land whence sailing
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἐξ Ἰλίου τοι δὴ τανῦν γε ναυστολῶ.
from Ilium surely indeed now at-least I-sail
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ πῶς εἶπας; οὐ γὰρ δὴ σύ γ' ἦσθα ναυβάτης
how did-you-say not for indeed you at-least were sailor
ἡμῖν κατ' ἀρχὴν τοῦ πρὸς Ἴλιον στόλου.
with-us at beginning of-the to Ilium of-expedition
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἦ γὰρ μετέσχες καὶ σὺ τοῦδε τοῦ πόνου;
— for shared also you of-this the toil
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ τέκνον, οὐ γὰρ οἶσθά μ' ὅντιν' εἰσορᾷς;
O child not for you-know me whom you-see
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ πῶς γὰρ κάτοιδ' ὅν γ' εἶδον οὐδεπώποτε;
how for do-I-know whom at-least I-saw never
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οὐδ' ὄνομ' ἄρ' οὐδὲ τῶν ἐμῶν κακῶν κλέος
not-even name then nor of-the my evils report
ᾔσθου ποτ' οὐδέν, οἷς ἐγὼ διωλλύμην;
did-you-hear ever nothing by-which I was-being-destroyed
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ὡς μηδὲν εἰδότ' ἴσθι μ' ὧν ἀνιστορεῖς.
as nothing knowing know me of-what you-ask
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ πόλλ' ἐγὼ μοχθηρός, ὦ πικρὸς θεοῖς,
O much I wretched O bitter to-gods
οὗ μηδὲ κληδὼν ὦδ' ἔχοντος οἴκαδε
of-whom not-even rumor thus being homeward
μηδ' Ἑλλάδος γῆς μηδαμοῦ διῆλθέ που.
nor of-Greek land anywhere went somewhere

ἀλλ᾽ οἱ μὲν ἐκβαλόντες ἀνοσίως ἐμὲ
but they indeed having-cast-out unholily me
γελῶσι σῖγ᾽ ἔχοντες, ἡ δ᾽ ἐμὴ νόσος
laugh silence keeping the and my disease
ἀεὶ τέθηλε κἀπὶ μεῖζον ἔρχεται.
always flourishes and-to greater goes
ὦ τέκνον, ὦ παῖ πατρὸς ἐξ Ἀχιλλέως,
O child O son of-father from Achilles
ὅδ᾽ εἶμ᾽ ἐγώ σοι κεῖνος, ὃν κλύεις ἴσως
this am I to-you he whom you-hear perhaps
τῶν Ἡρακλείων ὄντα δεσπότην ὅπλων,
of-the of-Heracles being master arms
ὁ τοῦ Ποίαντος παῖς Φιλοκτήτης, ὃν οἱ
the of-the Poeas son Philoctetes whom the
δισσοὶ στρατηγοὶ χὠ Κεφαλλήνων ἄναξ
two generals and-the of-Cephallenians lord
ἔρριψαν αἰσχρῶς ὧδ᾽ ἔρημον, ἀγρίᾳ
cast-out shamefully thus deserted with-savage
νόσῳ καταφθίνοντα, τῆς ἀνδροφθόρου
with-disease wasting from-the man-destroying
πληγέντ᾽ ἐχίδνης ἀγρίῳ χαράγματι·
struck of-viper with-savage bite
ξὺν ᾗ μ᾽ ἐκεῖνοι, παῖ, προθέντες ἐνθάδε
with which me they child having-set-out here
ᾤχοντ᾽ ἔρημον, ἡνίκ᾽ ἐκ τῆς ποντίας
went-away deserted when from the sea-girt
Χρύσης κατέσχον δεῦρο ναυβάτῃ στόλῳ.
Chryse they-put-in hither with-sea-borne fleet
τότ᾽ ἄσμενοί μ᾽ ὡς εἶδον ἐκ πολλοῦ σάλου
then gladly me when they-saw after much tossing

εὕδοντ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ἀκτῆς ἐν κατηρεφεῖ πέτρᾳ,
sleeping on shore in roofed rock
λιπόντες ᾤχονθ᾽, οἷα φωτὶ δυσμόρῳ
leaving went-off such-as for-man ill-fated
ῥάκη προθέντες βαιὰ καί τι καὶ βορᾶς
rags having-set-out few and some also of-food
ἐπωφέλημα σμικρόν, οἷ᾽ αὐτοῖς τύχοι.
help small such-as for-them it-might-chance
σὺ δή, τέκνον, ποίαν μ᾽ ἀνάστασιν δοκεῖς
you then child what me rising do-you-think
αὐτῶν βεβώτων ἐξ ὕπνου στῆναι τότε;
them gone from sleep to-stand then
ποῖ᾽ ἐκδακρῦσαι, ποῖ᾽ ἀποιμῶξαι κακά;
what to-weep-out what to-wail-out evils
ὁρῶντα μὲν ναῦς, ἃς ἔχων ἐναυστόλουν,
seeing indeed ships which having I-sailed
πάσας βεβώσας, ἄνδρα δ᾽ οὐδέν᾽ ἔντοπον,
all gone man but no-one in-place
οὐχ ὅστις ἀρκέσειεν οὐδ᾽ ὅστις νόσου
not who might-help nor who of-disease
κάμνοντι συλλάβοιτο· πάντα δὲ σκοπῶν
suffering might-assist all and looking-at
ηὕρισκον οὐδὲν πλὴν ἀνιᾶσθαι παρόν,
I-found nothing except to-be-distressed present
τούτου δὲ πολλὴν εὐμάρειαν, ὦ τέκνον.
of-this but much abundance O child
ὁ μὲν χρόνος δὴ διὰ χρόνου προύβαινέ μοι,
the indeed time indeed through time went-on for-me
κἄδει τι βαιᾷ τῇδ᾽ ὑπὸ στέγῃ μόνον
and-I-had something small this under roof alone

διακονεῖσθαι. γαστρὶ μὲν τὰ σύμφορα
to-provide for-belly indeed the useful-things
τόξον τόδ' ἐξηύρισκε, τὰς ὑποπτέρους
bow this found the winged
βάλλον πελείας· πρὸς δὲ τοῦθ', ὅ μοι βάλοι
striking doves to and this which for-me it-might-strike
νευροσπαδὴς ἄτρακτος, αὐτὸς ἂν τάλας
string-drawn shaft myself — wretched
εἱλυόμην, δύστηνον ἐξέλκων πόδα,
would-crawl wretched dragging foot
πρὸς τοῦτ' ἄν· εἴ τ' ἔδει τι καὶ ποτὸν λαβεῖν,
to this — if and it-was-necessary something also drink to-get
καί που πάγου χυθέντος, οἷα χείματι,
and somewhere frost being-shed as in-winter
ξύλον τι θραῦσαι, ταῦτ' ἂν ἐξέρπων τάλας
wood some to-break this — creeping-out wretched
ἐμηχανώμην· εἶτα πῦρ ἂν οὐ παρῆν,
would-contrive then fire — not would-be-present
ἀλλ' ἐν πέτροισι πέτρον ἐκτρίβων μόλις
but in rocks rock rubbing hardly
ἔφην' ἄφαντον φῶς, ὃ καὶ σῴζει μ' ἀεί.
I-showed hidden light which also saves me always
οἰκουμένη γὰρ οὖν στέγη πυρὸς μέτα
inhabited for indeed roof fire with
πάντ' ἐκπορίζει πλὴν τὸ μὴ νοσεῖν ἐμέ.
all provides except the not to-be-sick me
φέρ', ὦ τέκνον, νῦν καὶ τὸ τῆς νήσου μάθῃς.
come O child now also the of-the island learn
ταύτῃ πελάζει ναυβάτης οὐδεὶς ἑκών·
to-this approaches sailor none willing

οὐ γάρ τις ὅρμος ἔστιν οὐδ' ὅποι πλέων
not for any anchorage is nor where sailing
ἐξεμπολήσει κέρδος ἢ ξενώσεται.
he-will-sell-for gain or will-be-entertained
οὐκ ἐνθάδ' οἱ πλοῖ τοῖσι σώφροσιν βροτῶν.
not here the voyages for-the prudent of-mortals
τάχ' οὖν τις ἄκων ἔσχε· πολλὰ γὰρ τάδε
perhaps then someone unwilling put-in many for this
ἐν τῷ μακρῷ γένοιτ' ἂν ἀνθρώπων χρόνῳ·
in the long may-happen — of-men time
οὗτοί μ', ὅταν μόλωσιν, ὦ τέκνον, λόγοις
these me when they-come O child in-words
ἐλεοῦσι μέν, καί πού τι καὶ βορᾶς μέρος
pity indeed and somewhere some also of-food portion
προσέδοσαν οἰκτίραντες ἤ τινα στολήν·
gave having-pitied or some clothing
ἐκεῖνο δ' οὐδείς, ἡνίκ' ἂν μνησθῶ, θέλει,
that but no-one when — I-mention wishes
σῶσαί μ' ἐς οἴκους, ἀλλ' ἀπόλλυμαι τάλας
to-save me to home but I-perish wretched
ἔτος τόδ' ἤδη δέκατον ἐν λιμῷ τε καὶ
year this already tenth in hunger both and
κακοῖσι βόσκων τὴν ἀδηφάγον νόσον.
in-evils feeding the voracious disease
τοιαῦτ' Ἀτρεῖδαί μ' ἥ τ' Ὀδυσσέως βία,
such-things sons-of-Atreus me the and of-Odysseus might
ὦ παῖ, δεδράκασ', οἵ' Ὀλύμπιοι θεοὶ
O child have-done such-as Olympian gods
δοῖέν ποτ' αὐτοῖς ἀντίποιν' ἐμοῦ παθεῖν.
may-give some-day to-them in-requital of-me to-suffer

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔοικα κἀγὼ τοῖς ἀφιγμένοις ἴσα
I-seem and-I to-the arrived like
ξένοις ἐποικτίρειν σε, Ποίαντος τέκνον.
strangers to-pity you of-Poeas child
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἐγὼ δὲ καὐτὸς τοῖσδε μάρτυς ἐν λόγοις,
I and myself to-these witness in words
ὡς εἴσ' ἀληθεῖς οἶδα, συντυχὼν κακῶν
that they-are true I-know having-met evils
ἀνδρῶν Ἀτρειδῶν τῆς τ' Ὀδυσσέως βίας.
of-men sons-of-Atreus of-the and of-Odysseus might
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἦ γάρ τι καὶ σὺ τοῖς πανωλέθροις ἔχεις
— for some also you against-the utterly-accursed have
ἔγκλημ' Ἀτρείδαις, ὥστε θυμοῦσθαι παθών;
charge sons-of-Atreus so-that to-be-angry having-suffered
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ θυμὸν γένοιτο χειρὶ πληρῶσαί ποτε,
anger might-it-be with-hand to-fill some-day
ἵν' αἱ Μυκῆναι γνοῖεν ἡ Σπάρτη θ' ὅτι
so-that the Mycenae might-know the Sparta and that
χἠ Σκῦρος ἀνδρῶν ἀλκίμων μήτηρ ἔφυ.
also-the Scyros of-men valiant mother was
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ εὖ γ', ὦ τέκνον· τίνος γὰρ ὧδε τὸν μέγαν
well at-least O child of-what for thus the great
χόλον κατ' αὐτῶν ἐγκαλῶν ἐλήλυθας;
wrath against them charging have-you-come
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ὦ παῖ Ποίαντος, ἐξερῶ, μόλις δ' ἐρῶ,
O son of-Poeas I-will-speak-out hardly but I-will-speak
ἄγωγ' ὑπ' αὐτῶν ἐξελωβήθην μολών.
what-I-at-least by them I-was-outraged having-come
ἐπεὶ γὰρ ἔσχε μοῖρ' Ἀχιλλέα θανεῖν,
when for held fate Achilles to-die

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οἴμοι· φράσῃς μοι μὴ πέρα, πρὶν ἂν μάθω
ah-me tell me not further before — I-learn
πρῶτον τόδ', ἦ τέθνηχ' ὁ Πηλέως γόνος;
first this — is-dead the of-Peleus son
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τέθνηκεν, ἀνδρὸς οὐδενός, θεοῦ δ' ὕπο,
he-is-dead of-man none of-god but by
τοξευτός, ὡς λέγουσιν, ἐκ Φοίβου δαμείς.
shot as they-say by Phoebus subdued
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἀλλ' εὐγενὴς μὲν ὁ κτανών τε χὠ θανών·
but noble indeed the having-killed both and-the having-died
ἀμηχανῶ δὲ πότερον, ὦ τέκνον, τὸ σὸν
I-am-at-a-loss and whether O child the your
πάθημ' ἐλέγχω πρῶτον ἢ κεῖνον στένω.
suffering should-I-examine first or him should-I-lament
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οἶμαι μὲν ἀρκεῖν σοί γε καὶ τὰ σ', ὦ τάλας,
I-think indeed to-suffice for-you at-least also the your O wretched
ἀλγήμαθ', ὥστε μὴ τὰ τῶν πέλας στένειν.
pains so-that not the of-the neighbors to-lament
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὀρθῶς ἔλεξας· τοιγαροῦν τὸ σὸν φράσον
rightly you-said therefore the yours tell
αὖθις πάλιν μοι πρᾶγμ', ὅτῳ σ' ἐνύβρισαν.
again back to-me matter in-what you they-insulted
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἦλθόν με νηὶ ποικιλοστόλῳ μέτα
they-came for-me in-ship gaily-decked with
δῖός τ' Ὀδυσσεὺς χὠ τροφεὺς τοὐμοῦ πατρός,
noble and Odysseus and-the tutor of-my of-father
λέγοντες, εἴτ' ἀληθὲς εἴτ' ἄρ' οὖν μάτην,
saying whether true or then in-fact in-vain
ὡς οὐ θέμις γίγνοιτ', ἐπεὶ κατέφθιτο
that not right it-would-be since had-perished

πατὴρ ἐμός, τὰ πέργαμ᾽ ἄλλον ἢ μ᾽ ἑλεῖν.
father my the towers another than me to-take
ταῦτ᾽, ὦ ξέν᾽, οὕτως ἐννέποντες οὐ πολὺν
this O stranger thus saying not long
χρόνον μ᾽ ἐπέσχον μή με ναυστολεῖν ταχύ,
time me they-held-back lest me to-sail quickly
μάλιστα μὲν δὴ τοῦ θανόντος ἱμέρῳ,
most indeed indeed for-the dead by-longing
ὅπως ἴδοιμ᾽ ἄθαπτον· οὐ γὰρ εἰδόμην·
so-that I-might-see unburied not for I-had-seen
ἔπειτα μέντοι χὠ λόγος καλὸς προσῆν,
then however and-the word fair was-added
εἰ τἀπὶ Τροίᾳ πέργαμ᾽ αἱρήσοιμ᾽ ἰών.
if the-at Troy towers I-should-take going
ἦν δ᾽ ἦμαρ ἤδη δεύτερον πλέοντί μοι,
was and day already second sailing for-me
κἀγὼ πικρὸν Σίγειον οὐρίῳ πλάτῃ
and-I bitter Sigeum with-fair-wind oar
κατηγόμην· καί μ᾽ εὐθὺς ἐν κύκλῳ στρατὸς
put-in and me at-once in circle army
ἐκβάντα πᾶς ἠσπάζετ᾽, ὀμνύντες βλέπειν
having-landed all greeted swearing to-see
τὸν οὐκέτ᾽ ὄντα ζῶντ᾽ Ἀχιλλέα πάλιν.
the no-longer being living Achilles again
κεῖνος μὲν οὖν ἔκειτ᾽· ἐγὼ δ᾽ ὁ δύσμορος
he indeed then lay I and the ill-fated
ἐπεὶ ᾽δάκρυσα κεῖνον, οὐ μακρῷ χρόνῳ
when I-had-wept-for him not in-long time
ἐλθὼν Ἀτρείδας πρὸς φίλους, ὡς εἰκὸς ἦν,
coming sons-of-Atreus to friends as fitting was

τά θ' ὅπλ' ἀπῄτουν τοῦ πατρὸς τά τ' ἄλλ' ὅσ' ἦν.
the and arms asked of-the father the and other as-much-as was
οἱ δ' εἶπον, οἴμοι, τλημονέστατον λόγον·
they and said ah-me most-wretched word
ὦ σπέρμ' Ἀχιλλέως, τἄλλα μὲν πάρεστί σοι
O seed of-Achilles the-other indeed it-is-possible for-you
πατρῷ' ἑλέσθαι, τῶν δ' ὅπλων κείνων ἀνὴρ
paternal to-take of-the but arms those man
ἄλλος κρατύνει νῦν, ὁ Λαέρτου γόνος.
other holds now the of-Laertes son
κἀγὼ δακρύσας εὐθὺς ἐξανίσταμαι
and-I weeping at-once rise-up
ὀργῇ βαρείᾳ, καὶ καταλγήσας λέγω·
with-anger heavy and grieving-sorely I-say
ὦ σχέτλι', ἦ 'τολμήσατ' ἀντ' ἐμοῦ τινι
O wretches — did-you-dare instead-of me to-someone
δοῦναι τὰ τεύχη τἀμά, πρὶν μαθεῖν ἐμοῦ;
to-give the arms mine before to-learn from-me
ὁ δ' εἶπ' Ὀδυσσεύς, πλησίον γὰρ ὢν κυρεῖ,
the and said Odysseus near for being he-happened
ναί, παῖ, δεδώκασ' ἐνδίκως οὗτοι τάδε·
yes child they-have-given justly these this
ἐγὼ γὰρ αὖτ' ἔσωσα κἀκεῖνον παρών.
I for them saved and-him being-present
κἀγὼ χολωθεὶς εὐθὺς ἤρασσον κακοῖς
and-I angered at-once assailed with-evils
τοῖς πᾶσιν, οὐδὲν ἐνδεὲς ποιούμενος,
with-the all nothing lacking making
εἰ τἀμὰ κεῖνος ὅπλ' ἀφαιρήσοιτό με.
if my he arms should-take-away me

ὁ δ' ἐνθάδ' ἥκων, καίπερ οὐ δύσοργος ὤν,
he and to-this coming although not quick-to-anger being
δηχθεὶς πρὸς ἀξήκουσεν ὧδ' ἠμείψατο·
stung at what-he-heard thus answered
οὐκ ἦσθ' ἵν' ἡμεῖς, ἀλλ' ἀπῆσθ' ἵν' οὔ σ' ἔδει·
not you-were where we but you-were-away where not you it-behooved
καὶ ταῦτ', ἐπειδὴ καὶ λέγεις θρασυστομῶν,
and this since also you-speak boldly
οὐ μήποτ' ἐς τὴν Σκῦρον ἐκπλεύσῃς ἔχων.
not ever to the Scyros shall-you-sail-off having
τοιαῦτ' ἀκούσας κἀξονειδισθεὶς κακὰ
such-things having-heard and-reproached evils
πλέω πρὸς οἴκους, τῶν ἐμῶν τητώμενος
I-sail to home of-the mine bereft
πρὸς τοῦ κακίστου κἀκ κακῶν Ὀδυσσέως.
by the worst and-from base Odysseus
κοὐκ αἰτιῶμαι κεῖνον ὡς τοὺς ἐν τέλει·
and-not I-blame him as the in authority
πόλις γάρ ἐστι πᾶσα τῶν ἡγουμένων
city for is all of-the leaders
στρατός τε σύμπας· οἱ δ' ἀκοσμοῦντες βροτῶν
army and whole the and disorderly of-mortals
διδασκάλων λόγοισι γίγνονται κακοί.
of-teachers by-the-words become bad
λόγος λέλεκται πᾶς· ὁ δ' Ἀτρείδας στυγῶν
word has-been-spoken all the and sons-of-Atreus hating
ἐμοί θ' ὁμοίως καὶ θεοῖς εἴη φίλος.
to-me and alike and to-gods may-he-be dear

The sailors back their master's tale, calling on Earth, mother of Zeus, who rules the golden Pactolus. They say they called on her at Troy when the sons of Atreus handed Achilles' arms to Odysseus.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὀρεστέρα παμβῶτι Γᾶ, μᾶτερ αὐτοῦ Διός,
mountain-dwelling all-nourishing Earth mother of-very Zeus
ἃ τὸν μέγαν Πακτωλὸν εὔχρυσον νέμεις,
who the great Pactolus rich-in-gold rule
σὲ κἀκεῖ, μᾶτερ πότνι', ἐπηυδώμαν,
you also-there mother lady I-invoked
ὅτ' ἐς τόνδ' Ἀτρειδᾶν ὕβρις πᾶσ' ἐχώρει,
when to this-one of-the-sons-of-Atreus insolence all came
ὅτε τὰ πάτρια τεύχεα παρεδίδοσαν,
when the paternal arms they-handed-over
ἰὼ μάκαιρα ταυροκτόνων
ah blessed of-bull-slaying
λεόντων ἔφεδρε, τῷ Λαρτίου
of-lions rider to-the of-Laertes
σέβας ὑπέρτατον.
honor supreme

Philoctetes recognizes the work of Odysseus. He asks after the Greeks, and learns that Ajax, Antilochus, and Patroclus are dead, while Diomedes, Odysseus, and the worthless Thersites live. Neoptolemus says that war takes the good and never the wicked, and Philoctetes agrees that the gods turn the villainous back from Hades and send the just below. Neoptolemus says that he will go, and Philoctetes begs him by all he holds dear to take him home, anywhere in the ship, to Oeta and his father.

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἔχοντες, ὡς ἔοικε, σύμβολον σαφὲς
having as it-seems token clear
λύπης πρὸς ἡμᾶς, ὦ ξένοι, πεπλεύκατε,
of-grief to us O strangers you-have-sailed
καί μοι προσᾴδεθ' ὥστε γιγνώσκειν ὅτι
and to-me you-sing-in-tune so-that to-recognize that
ταῦτ' ἐξ Ἀτρειδῶν ἔργα κἀξ Ὀδυσσέως.
this from sons-of-Atreus deeds and-from Odysseus
ἔξοιδα γάρ νιν παντὸς ἂν λόγου κακοῦ
I-know-well for him every — word evil
γλώσσῃ θιγόντα καὶ πανουργίας, ἀφ' ἧς
with-tongue would-touch and villainy from which
μηδὲν δίκαιον ἐς τέλος μέλλοι ποεῖν.
nothing just to end he-would-be-likely to-do
ἀλλ' οὔ τι τοῦτο θαῦμ' ἔμοιγ', ἀλλ' εἰ παρὼν
but not at-all this wonder to-me-at-least but if being-present
Αἴας ὁ μείζων ταῦθ' ὁρῶν ἠνείχετο.
Ajax the greater this seeing endured
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οὐκ ἦν ἔτι ζῶν, ὦ ξέν'· οὐ γὰρ ἄν ποτε
not he-was still living O stranger not for — ever
ζῶντός γ' ἐκείνου ταῦτ' ἐσυλήθην ἐγώ.
living at-least he this would-I-have-been-robbed I

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ πῶς εἶπας; ἀλλ᾽ ἦ χοὗτος οἴχεται θανών;
how did-you-say but — and-he is-gone dead

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ὡς μηκέτ᾽ ὄντα κεῖνον ἐν φάει νόει.
as no-longer being him in light think

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οἴμοι τάλας. ἀλλ᾽ οὐχ ὁ Τυδέως γόνος
ah-me wretched but not the of-Tydeus son

οὐδ᾽ οὑμπολητὸς Σισύφου Λαερτίῳ,
nor the-bought of-Sisyphus by-Laertes

οὐ μὴ θάνωσι· τούσδε γὰρ μὴ ζῆν ἔδει.
not — they-will-die these for not to-live it-behooved

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οὐ δῆτ᾽· ἐπίστω τοῦτό γ᾽· ἀλλὰ καὶ μέγα
not then know this at-least but even greatly

θάλλοντές εἰσι νῦν ἐν Ἀργείων στρατῷ.
flourishing they-are now in of-Argives army

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ τί δ᾽; οὐ παλαιὸς κἀγαθὸς φίλος τ᾽ ἐμός,
what and not old and-good friend and my

Νέστωρ ὁ Πύλιος, ἔστιν; οὗτος γὰρ τά γε
Nestor the Pylian is he for the at-least

κείνων κάκ᾽ ἐξήρυκε, βουλεύων σοφά.
their evils kept-off counseling wise-things

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ κεῖνός γε πράσσει νῦν κακῶς, ἐπεὶ θανὼν
he at-least fares now badly since dead

Ἀντίλοχος αὐτῷ φροῦδος, ὃς παρῆν, γόνος.
Antilochus to-him is-gone who was-present son

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οἴμοι, δύ᾽ αὖ τώδ᾽ ἄνδρ᾽ ἔλεξας, οἷν ἐγὼ
ah-me two again these men you-named whom-both I

ἥκιστ᾽ ἂν ἠθέλησ᾽ ὀλωλότοιν κλύειν.
least — would-have-wished dead to-hear

φεῦ φεῦ· τί δῆτα δεῖ σκοπεῖν, ὅθ᾽ οἵδε μὲν
alas alas what then must-one look-to when these indeed

τεθνᾶσ', Ὀδυσσεὺς δ' ἔστιν αὖ κἀνταῦθ' ἵνα
are-dead Odysseus and is again and-there where
χρῆν ἀντὶ τούτων αὐτὸν αὐδᾶσθαι νεκρόν; 430
it-behooved instead-of these him to-be-called corpse
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ σοφὸς παλαιστὴς κεῖνος· ἀλλὰ χαὶ σοφαὶ
clever wrestler he but even-the clever
γνῶμαι, Φιλοκτῆτ', ἐμποδίζονται θαμά.
judgments Philoctetes are-tripped often
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ φέρ' εἰπὲ πρὸς θεῶν, ποῦ γὰρ ἦν ἐνταῦθά σοι
come tell by gods where for was there for-you
Πάτροκλος, ὃς σοῦ πατρὸς ἦν τὰ φίλτατα;
Patroclus who of-your of-father was the dearest
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ χοὗτος τεθνηκὼς ἦν· λόγῳ δέ σ' ἐν βραχεῖ 435
and-he dead was in-word and you in short
τοῦτ' ἐκδιδάξω· πόλεμος οὐδέν' ἄνδρ' ἑκὼν
this I-will-teach war no man willingly
αἱρεῖ πονηρόν, ἀλλὰ τοὺς χρηστοὺς ἀεί.
takes wicked but the good always
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ξυμμαρτυρῶ σοι· καὶ κατ' αὐτὸ τοῦτό γε
I-bear-witness to-you and about very this at-least
ἀναξίου μὲν φωτὸς ἐξερήσομαι,
of-unworthy indeed of-man I-will-ask
γλώσσῃ δὲ δεινοῦ καὶ σοφοῦ, τί νῦν κυρεῖ. 440
with-tongue but of-clever and of-skilled what now he-is
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ποίου δὲ τούτου πλήν γ' Ὀδυσσέως ἐρεῖς;
of-what and this-one except at-least Odysseus will-you-speak
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οὐ τοῦτον εἶπον, ἀλλὰ Θερσίτης τις ἦν,
not this-one I-said but Thersites one was
ὃς οὐκ ἂν εἵλετ' εἰσάπαξ εἰπεῖν, ὅπου
who not — would-have-chosen once to-speak where

μηδεὶς ἐᾷ̣η· τοῦτον οἶσθ' εἰ ζῶν κυρεῖ;
nobody would-allow this-one do-you-know if living he-is

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οὐκ εἶδον αὐτόν, ἠσθόμην δ' ἔτ' ὄντα νιν.
not I-saw him I-heard and still being him

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἔμελλ'· ἐπεὶ οὐδέν πω κακόν γ' ἀπώλετο,
he-was-bound-to since nothing yet evil at-least perished

ἀλλ' εὖ περιστέλλουσιν αὐτὰ δαίμονες,
but well wrap them gods

καί πως τὰ μὲν πανοῦργα καὶ παλιντριβῆ
and somehow the indeed villainous and practiced

χαίρουσ' ἀναστρέφοντες ἐξ Ἅιδου, τὰ δὲ
they-delight turning-back from Hades the but

δίκαια καὶ τὰ χρήστ' ἀποστέλλουσ' ἀεί.
just and the good they-send-off always

ποῦ χρὴ τίθεσθαι ταῦτα, ποῦ δ' αἰνεῖν, ὅταν
where must-one set this where and praise when

τὰ θεῖ' ἐπαινῶν τοὺς θεοὺς εὕρω κακούς;
the divine praising the gods I-find bad

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἐγὼ μέν, ὦ γένεθλον Οἰταίου πατρός,
I indeed O offspring of-Oetaean father

τὸ λοιπὸν ἤδη τηλόθεν τό τ' Ἴλιον
the hereafter now from-afar the and Ilium

καὶ τοὺς Ἀτρείδας εἰσορῶν φυλάξομαι·
and the sons-of-Atreus looking-on I-will-beware

ὅπου δ' ὁ χείρων τἀγαθοῦ μεῖζον σθένει
where and the worse than-the-good more is-strong

κἀποφθίνει τὰ χρηστὰ χὠ δειλὸς κρατεῖ,
and-wastes-away the good and-the coward rules

τούτους ἐγὼ τοὺς ἄνδρας οὐ στέρξω ποτέ·
these I the men not will-love ever

ἀλλ᾽ ἡ πετραία Σκῦρος ἐξαρκοῦσά μοι
but the rocky Scyros sufficing for-me
ἔσται τὸ λοιπόν, ὥστε τέρπεσθαι δόμῳ.
will-be the hereafter so-that to-delight in-home
νῦν δ᾽ εἶμι πρὸς ναῦν· καὶ σύ, Ποίαντος τέκνον,
now and I-go to ship and you of-Poeas child
χαῖρ᾽ ὡς μέγιστα, χαῖρε· καί σε δαίμονες
farewell as greatly farewell and you gods
νόσου μεταστήσειαν, ὡς αὐτὸς θέλεις.
from-disease may-remove as yourself you-wish
ἡμεῖς δ᾽ ἴωμεν, ὡς ὁπηνίκ᾽ ἂν θεὸς
we and let-us-go so-that whenever — god
πλοῦν ἡμὶν εἴκῃ, τηνικαῦθ᾽ ὁρμώμεθα.
voyage to-us allows then we-may-set-out
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἤδη, τέκνον, στέλλεσθε;
already child you-set-out
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ καιρὸς γὰρ καλεῖ
time for calls
πλοῦν μὴ ’ξ ἀπόπτου μᾶλλον ἢ ’γγύθεν σκοπεῖν.
the-voyage not from afar rather than from-near to-watch
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ πρός νύν σε πατρὸς πρός τε μητρός, ὦ τέκνον,
by now you of-father by and of-mother O child
πρός τ᾽ εἴ τί σοι κατ᾽ οἰκόν ἐστι προσφιλές,
by and if anything to-you in house is dear
ἱκέτης ἱκνοῦμαι, μὴ λίπῃς μ᾽ οὕτω μόνον,
suppliant I-beseech not leave me thus alone
ἔρημον ἐν κακοῖσι τοῖσδ᾽ οἵοις ὁρᾷς
deserted in evils these such-as you-see
ὅσοισί τ᾽ ἐξήκουσας ἐνναίοντά με·
how-many and you-heard dwelling me

ἀλλ᾽ ἐν παρέργῳ θοῦ με. δυσχέρεια μέν,
but as by-the-way put me trouble indeed
ἔξοιδα, πολλὴ τοῦδε τοῦ φορήματος·
I-know-well much of-this the cargo
ὅμως δὲ τλῆθι· τοῖσι γενναίοισί τοι
nevertheless but endure to-the noble surely
τό τ᾽ αἰσχρὸν ἐχθρὸν καὶ τὸ χρηστὸν εὐκλεές.
the and shameful hateful and the good glorious
σοὶ δ᾽ ἐκλιπόντι τοῦτ᾽ ὄνειδος οὐ καλόν,
for-you and having-abandoned this reproach not fine
δράσαντι δ᾽, ὦ παῖ, πλεῖστον εὐκλείας γέρας,
having-done but O child greatest of-glory prize
ἐὰν μόλω ᾽γὼ ζῶν πρὸς Οἰταίαν χθόνα.
if I-come I living to Oetaean land
ἴθ᾽· ἡμέρας τοι μόχθος οὐχ ὅλης μιᾶς.
come of-a-day surely trouble not whole one
τόλμησον. ἐμβαλοῦ μ᾽ ὅπῃ θέλεις ἄγων,
dare throw-in me where you-wish taking
εἰς ἀντλίαν, εἰς πρῷραν, εἰς πρύμνην, ὅποι
into bilge into prow into stern where
ἥκιστα μέλλω τοὺς ξυνόντας ἀλγυνεῖν.
least I-am-likely the shipmates to-pain
νεῦσον, πρὸς αὐτοῦ Ζηνὸς ἱκεσίου, τέκνον,
nod by very Zeus of-suppliants child
πείσθητι· προσπίτνω σε γόνασι, καίπερ ὢν
be-persuaded I-fall-before you at-knees although being
ἀκράτωρ ὁ τλήμων, χωλός. ἀλλὰ μή μ᾽ ἀφῇς
powerless the wretched lame but not me leave
ἔρημον οὕτω χωρὶς ἀνθρώπων στίβου,
deserted thus apart-from of-men path

ἀλλ᾽ ἢ πρὸς οἶκον τὸν σὸν ἔκσωσόν μ᾽ ἄγων
but either to home the your save me taking
ἢ πρὸς τὰ Χαλκώδοντος Εὐβοίας σταθμά·
or to the of-Chalcodon of-Euboea dwellings
κἀκεῖθεν οὔ μοι μακρὸς εἰς Οἴτην στόλος
and-thence not for-me long to Oeta voyage
Τραχινίαν τε δεράδα καὶ τὸν εὔροον
Trachinian and ridge and the fair-flowing
Σπερχειὸν ἔσται· πατρί μ᾽ ὡς δείξῃς φίλῳ,
Spercheius it-will-be to-father me that you-may-show dear
ὃν δὴ παλαιὸν ἐξ ὅτου δέδοικ᾽ ἐγὼ
who indeed long-ago since when I-fear I
μή μοι βεβήκῃ. πολλὰ γὰρ τοῖς ἱγμένοις
lest to-me he-has-gone often for to-the having-arrived
ἔστελλον αὐτὸν ἱκεσίους πέμπων λιτάς,
I-sent him suppliant sending prayers
αὐτόστολον πέμψαντά μ᾽ ἐκσῶσαι δόμους.
himself-sailing having-sent me to-save to-home
ἀλλ᾽ ἢ τέθνηκεν ἢ τὰ τῶν διακόνων,
but either he-is-dead or the of-the messengers
ὡς εἰκός, οἶμαι, τοὐμὸν ἐν σμικρῷ μέρος
as fitting I-think my in small part
ποιούμενοι τὸν οἴκαδ᾽ ἤπειγον στόλον.
making the homeward hastened voyage
νῦν δ᾽, εἰς σὲ γὰρ πομπόν τε καὐτὸν ἄγγελον
now and to you for escort both and-very messenger
ἥκω, σὺ σῶσον, σύ μ᾽ ἐλέησον, εἰσορῶν
I-come you save you me pity seeing
ὡς πάντα δεινὰ κἀπικινδύνως βροτοῖς
how all-things terrible and-perilously for-mortals

κεῖται παθεῖν μὲν εὖ, παθεῖν δὲ θάτερα.
lie to-fare indeed well to-fare but otherwise
χρὴ δ' ἐκτὸς ὄντα πημάτων τὰ δείν' ὁρᾶν,
must and outside being of-woes the terrible to-see
χὥταν τις εὖ ζῇ, τηνικαῦτα τὸν βίον
and-when someone well lives then the life
σκοπεῖν μάλιστα, μὴ διαφθαρεὶς λάθῃ.
to-watch most lest destroyed he-escape-notice

VI · THE SAILORS' PITY

The sailors urge Neoptolemus to pity Philoctetes and, if he hates the sons of Atreus, to take him home on the swift ship, and so to escape the anger of the gods.

ΧΟΡΟΣ οἶκτιρ', ἄναξ· πολλῶν ἔλεξεν δυσοίστων πόνων
pity lord of-many he-has-told hard-to-bear toils
ἆθλ', οἷα μηδεὶς τῶν ἐμῶν τύχοι φίλων.
trials such-as none of-the my may-meet friends
εἰ δὲ πικρούς, ἄναξ, ἔχθεις Ἀτρείδας,
if and bitter lord you-hate sons-of-Atreus
ἐγὼ μέν, τὸ κείνων κακὸν τῷδε κέρδος
I indeed the their evil for-him gain
μετατιθέμενος, ἔνθαπερ ἐπιμέμονεν,
changing where-indeed he-has-longed
ἐπ' εὐστόλου ταχείας νεὼς
on well-equipped swift ship
πορεύσαιμ' ἂν ἐς δόμους, τὰν θεῶν
would-bring — to home the of-gods
νέμεσιν ἐκφυγών.
retribution having-escaped

Neoptolemus agrees to take Philoctetes. A man who says he is a merchant arrives with one of Neoptolemus' sailors. He says that Phoenix and the sons of Theseus have sailed to bring Neoptolemus back, and that Odysseus and Diomedes are coming for Philoctetes, since the prophet Helenus has said that Troy can only be taken with him. Philoctetes is horrified and eager to sail at once. He goes in to collect his things, and allows Neoptolemus to hold the bow of Heracles.

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ὅρα σὺ μὴ νῦν μέν τις εὐχερὴς παρῇς,
see you lest now indeed somewhat easy you-be
ὅταν δὲ πλησθῇς τῆς νόσου ξυνουσίᾳ,
when but you-are-filled of-the disease with-company
τότ' οὐκέθ' αὑτὸς τοῖς λόγοις τούτοις φανῇς.
then no-longer the-same to-the words these you-appear
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἥκιστα· τοῦτ' οὐκ ἔσθ' ὅπως ποτ' εἰς ἐμὲ
least this not there-is how ever against me
τοὔνειδος ἕξεις ἐνδίκως ὀνειδίσαι.
the-reproach you-will-have justly to-reproach
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀλλ' αἰσχρὰ μέντοι σοῦ γέ μ' ἐνδεέστερον
but shameful-things however than-you at-least me more-lacking
ξένῳ φανῆναι πρὸς τὸ καίριον πονεῖν.
to-stranger to-appear to the timely to-toil
ἀλλ' εἰ δοκεῖ, πλέωμεν, ὁρμάσθω ταχύς·
but if it-seems-good let-us-sail let-him-set-out quick
χἠ ναῦς γὰρ ἄξει κοὐκ ἀπαρνηθήσεται.
and-the ship for will-take and-not will-refuse
μόνον θεοὶ σῴζοιεν ἔκ τε τῆσδε γῆς
only gods may-save from both this land
ἡμᾶς ὅποι τ' ἐνθένδε βουλοίμεσθα πλεῖν.
us where and from-here we-might-wish to-sail

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ φίλτατον μὲν ἦμαρ, ἥδιστος δ' ἀνήρ,
O dearest indeed day sweetest and man
φίλοι δὲ ναῦται, πῶς ἂν ὑμὶν ἐμφανὴς
dear and sailors how — to-you manifest
ἔργῳ γενοίμην, ὥς μ' ἔθεσθε προσφιλῆ;
in-deed might-I-become how me you-made dear
ἴωμεν, ὦ παῖ, προσκύσαντε τὴν ἔσω
let-us-go O son having-saluted-both the within
ἄοικον εἰσοίκησιν, ὥς με καὶ μάθῃς
homeless dwelling so-that me also you-may-learn
ἀφ' ὧν διέζων ὥς τ' ἔφυν εὐκάρδιος.
from what I-lived how and I-was stout-hearted
οἶμαι γὰρ οὐδ' ἂν ὄμμασιν μόνην θέαν
I-think for not-even — with-eyes only sight
ἄλλον λαβόντα πλὴν ἐμοῦ τλῆναι τάδε·
another having-taken except me would-have-endured this
ἐγὼ δ' ἀνάγκῃ προύμαθον στέργειν κακά.
I but by-necessity learned-first to-bear-with evils
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐπίσχετον, μάθωμεν· ἄνδρε γὰρ δύο,
stop-both let-us-learn men for two
ὁ μὲν νεὼς σῆς ναυβάτης, ὁ δ' ἀλλόθρους,
the one of-ship your sailor the other foreign
χωρεῖτον, ὧν μαθόντες αὖθις εἴσιτον.
come of-whom having-learned afterward go-in
ΕΜΠΟΡΟΣ Ἀχιλλέως παῖ, τόνδε τὸν ξυνέμπορον,
of-Achilles son this the fellow-traveler
ὃς ἦν νεὼς σῆς σὺν δυοῖν ἄλλοιν φύλαξ,
who was of-ship your with two other guard
ἐκέλευσ' ἐμοί σε ποῦ κυρῶν εἴης φράσαι,
bade me you where being you-might-be to-tell

ἐπείπερ ἀντέκυρσα, δοξάζων μὲν οὔ,
since-indeed I-met-you expecting indeed not
τύχῃ δέ πως πρὸς ταὐτὸν ὁρμισθεὶς πέδον.
by-chance but somehow to the-same having-anchored ground
πλέων γὰρ ὡς ναύκληρος οὐ πολλῷ στόλῳ
sailing for as captain not with-large fleet
ἀπ᾽ Ἰλίου πρὸς οἶκον ἐς τὴν εὔβοτρυν
from Ilium toward home to the vine-rich
Πεπάρηθον, ὡς ἤκουσα τοὺς ναύτας ὅτι
Peparethus when I-heard the sailors that
σοὶ πάντες εἶεν συννεναυστοληκότες,
with-you all were having-sailed-together
ἔδοξέ μοι μὴ σῖγα, πρὶν φράσαιμί σοι,
it-seemed-good to-me not silently before I-told you
τὸν πλοῦν ποεῖσθαι, προστυχόντι τῶν ἴσων.
the voyage to-make having-met-with the fair-dealings
οὐδὲν σύ που κάτοισθα τῶν σαυτοῦ πέρι,
nothing you surely know the of-yourself about
ἃ τοῖσιν Ἀργείοισιν ἀμφὶ σοῦ νέα
what to-the Argives about you new
βουλεύματ᾽ ἐστί, κοὐ μόνον βουλεύματα,
plans are and-not only plans
ἀλλ᾽ ἔργα δρώμεν᾽, οὐκέτ᾽ ἐξαργούμενα.
but deeds being-done no-longer delayed
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἡ χάρις μὲν τῆς προμηθίας, ξένε,
but the thanks indeed for-the forethought stranger
εἰ μὴ κακὸς πέφυκα, προσφιλὴς μενεῖ·
if not base I-am-born dear will-remain
φράσον δ᾽ ἅπερ, γ᾽ ἔλεξας, ὡς μάθω τί μοι
tell and what-indeed at-least you-said so-that I-may-learn what for-me

νεώτερον βούλευμ᾽ ἀπ᾽ Ἀργείων ἔχεις.
newer plan from Argives you-have

ΕΜΠΟΡΟΣ φροῦδοι διώκοντές σε ναυτικῷ στόλῳ
gone pursuing you with-naval fleet

Φοῖνιξ ὁ πρέσβυς οἵ τε Θησέως κόροι.
Phoenix the old-man the and of-Theseus sons

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ὡς ἐκ βίας μ᾽ ἄξοντες ἢ λόγοις πάλιν;
as by force me about-to-bring or by-words back

ΕΜΠΟΡΟΣ οὐκ οἶδ᾽· ἀκούσας δ᾽ ἄγγελος πάρειμί σοι.
not I-know having-heard and messenger I-am-here for-you

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἦ ταῦτα δὴ Φοίνιξ τε χοἱ ξυνναυβάται
— this indeed Phoenix both and-the shipmates

οὕτω καθ᾽ ὁρμὴν δρῶσιν Ἀτρειδῶν χάριν;
thus in haste do of-the-sons-of-Atreus for-the-sake

ΕΜΠΟΡΟΣ ὡς ταῦτ᾽ ἐπίστω δρώμεν᾽, οὐ μέλλοντ᾽ ἔτι.
as this know being-done not delayed still

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ πῶς οὖν Ὀδυσσεὺς πρὸς τάδ᾽ οὐκ αὐτάγγελος
how then Odysseus for this not his-own-messenger

πλεῖν ἦν ἕτοιμος; ἢ φόβος τις εἶργέ νιν;
to-sail was ready or fear some kept-back him

ΕΜΠΟΡΟΣ κεἰνός γ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ἄλλον ἄνδρ᾽ ὁ Τυδέως τε παῖς
he at-least after other man the of-Tydeus and son

ἔστελλον, ἡνίκ᾽ ἐξανηγόμην ἐγώ.
were-setting-out when was-putting-out I

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ πρὸς ποῖον αὖ τόνδ᾽ αὐτὸς οὐδυσσεὺς ἔπλει;
for what again this-one himself Odysseus sailed

ΕΜΠΟΡΟΣ ἦν δή τις — ἀλλὰ τόνδε μοι πρῶτον φράσον
was indeed one but this-one to-me first tell

τίς ἐστίν· ἂν λέγῃς δὲ μὴ φώνει μέγα.
who he-is what you-say and not utter aloud

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ὅδ' ἔσθ' ὁ κλεινός σοι Φιλοκτήτης, ξένε.
this is the famous to-you Philoctetes stranger

ΕΜΠΟΡΟΣ μή νύν μ' ἔρῃ τὰ πλείον', ἀλλ' ὅσον τάχος
not now me ask the more but as-much-as speed
ἔκπλει σεαυτὸν ξυλλαβὼν ἐκ τῆσδε γῆς.
sail-out yourself having-gathered from this land

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ τί φησιν, ὦ παῖ; τί με κατὰ σκότον ποτὲ
what does-he-say O child why me in darkness ever
διεμπολᾷ λόγοισι πρός σ' ὁ ναυβάτης;
traffics with-words to you the sailor

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οὐκ οἶδά πω τί φησι· δεῖ δ' αὐτὸν λέγειν
not I-know yet what he-says must but him to-say
εἰς φῶς ὃ λέξει, πρὸς σὲ κἀμὲ τούσδε τε.
to light what he-will-say to you and-me these and

ΕΜΠΟΡΟΣ ὦ σπέρμ' Ἀχιλλέως, μή με διαβάλῃς στρατῷ
O seed of-Achilles not me slander to-the-army
λέγονθ' ἃ μὴ δεῖ· πόλλ' ἐγὼ κείνων ὕπο
saying what not must many-things I them from
δρῶν ἀντιπάσχω χρηστά θ', οἷ' ἀνὴρ πένης.
doing I-get-in-return good-things and such-as man poor

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἐγώ εἰμ' Ἀτρείδαις δυσμενής· οὗτος δέ μοι
I am to-sons-of-Atreus hostile this-one and to-me
φίλος μέγιστος, οὕνεκ' Ἀτρείδας στυγεῖ.
friend greatest because sons-of-Atreus he-hates
δεῖ δή σ' ἔμοιγ' ἐλθόντα προσφιλῆ, λόγων
must then you to-me-at-least having-come dear of-words
κρύψαι πρὸς ἡμᾶς μηδέν' ὧν ἀκήκοας.
to-hide from us none of-what you-have-heard

ΕΜΠΟΡΟΣ ὅρα τί ποιεῖς, παῖ. ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ σκοπῶ κἀγὼ πάλαι.
see what you-do child I-am-looking and-I long

ΕΜΠΟΡΟΣ σὲ θήσομαι τῶνδ' αἴτιον. ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ποιοῦ λέγων.
you I-will-make of-this responsible do speaking

ΕΜΠΟΡΟΣ λέγω. 'πὶ τοῦτον ἄνδρε τώδ' ὥπερ κλύεις,
I-say for this-one men these-two as you-hear

ὁ Τυδέως παῖς ἥ τ' Ὀδυσσέως βία,
the of-Tydeus son the and of-Odysseus might

διώμοτοι πλέουσιν ἦ μὴν ἢ λόγῳ
sworn sail truly indeed either by-word

πείσαντες ἄξειν ἢ πρὸς ἰσχύος κράτος.
having-persuaded to-bring or by of-strength force

καὶ ταῦτ' Ἀχαιοὶ πάντες ἤκουον σαφῶς
and this Achaeans all heard clearly

Ὀδυσσέως λέγοντος· οὗτος γὰρ πλέον
Odysseus saying he for more

τὸ θάρσος εἶχε θατέρου δράσειν τάδε.
the boldness had than-the-other to-do this

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τίνος δ' Ἀτρεῖδαι τοῦδ' ἄγαν οὕτω χρόνῳ
for-what and sons-of-Atreus this too-much thus after-time

τοσῷδ' ἐπεστρέφοντο πράγματος χάριν,
so-long turned-their-attention matter for-the-sake

ὅν γ' εἶχον ἤδη χρόνιον ἐκβεβληκότες;
whom at-least they-had already long-since having-cast-out

τίς ὁ πόθος αὐτοὺς ἵκετ'; ἢ θεῶν βία
what the longing them came or of-gods force

καὶ νέμεσις, οἵπερ ἔργ' ἀμύνουσιν κακά;
and nemesis who-indeed deeds requite evil

ΕΜΠΟΡΟΣ ἐγώ σε τοῦτ', ἴσως γὰρ οὐκ ἀκήκοας,
I you this perhaps for not you-have-heard

πᾶν ἐκδιδάξω. μάντις ἦν τις εὐγενής,
all will-teach prophet was one noble

Πριάμου μὲν υἱός, ὄνομα δ' ὠνομάζετο
of-Priam indeed son by-name and was-named
Ἕλενος, ὃν οὗτος νυκτὸς ἐξελθὼν μόνος,
Helenus whom this-one by-night having-gone-out alone
ὁ πάντ' ἀκούων αἰσχρὰ καὶ λωβήτ' ἔπη
the all hearing shameful and outrageous words
δόλιος Ὀδυσσεὺς εἷλε· δέσμιόν τ' ἄγων
crafty Odysseus took prisoner and leading
ἔδειξ' Ἀχαιοῖς ἐς μέσον, θήραν καλήν·
showed to-Achaeans into middle prey fine
ὃς δὴ τά τ' ἄλλ' αὐτοῖσι πάντ' ἐθέσπισεν
who indeed the both other to-them all prophesied
καὶ τἀπὶ Τροίᾳ πέργαμ' ὡς οὐ μή ποτε
and the-at Troy towers that not — ever
πέρσοιεν, εἰ μὴ τόνδε πείσαντες λόγῳ
they-would-sack if not this-one having-persuaded by-word
ἄγοιντο νήσου τῆσδ' ἐφ' ἧς ναίει τανῦν.
they-should-bring from-island this on which he-dwells now
καὶ ταῦθ' ὅπως ἤκουσ' ὁ Λαέρτου τόκος
and this when heard the of-Laertes son
τὸν μάντιν εἰπόντ', εὐθέως ὑπέσχετο
the prophet saying at-once promised
τὸν ἄνδρ' Ἀχαιοῖς τόνδε δηλώσειν ἄγων·
the man to-Achaeans this to-show bringing
οἴοιτο μὲν μάλισθ' ἑκούσιον λαβών,
he-would-think indeed most willing having-taken
εἰ μὴ θέλοι δ', ἄκοντα· καὶ τούτων κάρα
if not he-should-wish and unwilling and of-these head
τέμνειν ἐφεῖτο τῷ θέλοντι μὴ τυχών.
to-cut he-allowed to-the wishing not succeeding

ἤκουσας, ὦ παῖ, πάντα· τὸ σπεύδειν δέ σοι
you-heard O child all the to-hasten and for-you
καὐτῷ παραινῶ κεἴ τινος κήδει πέρι.
and-for-him I-advise and-if anyone you-care about
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οἴμοι τάλας· ἦ κεῖνος, ἡ πᾶσα βλάβη,
ah-me wretched — he the whole bane
ἔμ' εἰς Ἀχαιοὺς ὤμοσεν πείσας στελεῖν;
me to Achaeans swore having-persuaded to-bring
πεισθήσομαι γὰρ ὧδε κἀξ Ἅιδου θανὼν
I-shall-be-persuaded for thus even-from Hades dead
πρὸς φῶς ἀνελθεῖν, ὥσπερ οὐκείνου πατήρ.
to light to-come-up as the-of-him father
ΕΜΠΟΡΟΣ οὐκ οἶδ' ἐγὼ ταῦτ'· ἀλλ' ἐγὼ μὲν εἶμ' ἐπὶ
not I-know I this but I indeed go to
ναῦν, σφῷν δ' ὅπως ἄριστα συμφέροι θεός.
ship to-you-two and how best may-help god
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οὔκουν τάδ', ὦ παῖ, δεινά, τὸν Λαερτίου
not-then this O child terrible the of-Laertes
ἔμ' ἐλπίσαι ποτ' ἂν λόγοισι μαλθακοῖς
me to-hope ever — with-words soft
δεῖξαι νεὼς ἄγοντ' ἐν Ἀργείοις μέσοις;
could-show from-ship bringing among Argives middle
οὔ· θᾶσσον ἂν τῆς πλεῖστον ἐχθίστης ἐμοὶ
no sooner — of-the most most-hateful to-me
κλύοιμ' ἐχίδνης, ἥ μ' ἔθηκεν ὧδ' ἄπουν.
I-would-heed viper which me made thus footless
ἀλλ' ἔστ' ἐκείνῳ πάντα λεκτά, πάντα δὲ
but it-is for-him all-things sayable all and
τολμητά· καὶ νῦν οἶδ' ὁθούνεχ' ἵξεται.
to-be-dared and now I-know that he-will-come

ἀλλ', ὦ τέκνον, χωρῶμεν, ὡς ἡμᾶς πολὺ
but O child let-us-go so-that us much
πέλαγος ὁρίζῃ τῆς Ὀδυσσέως νεώς.
sea may-separate from-the of-Odysseus ship
ἴωμεν· ἥ τοι καίριος σπουδὴ πόνου
let-us-go the surely timely haste of-toil
λήξαντος ὕπνον κἀνάπαυλαν ἤγαγεν.
having-ceased sleep and-rest brings
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οὐκοῦν ἐπειδὰν πνεῦμα τοὐκ πρῴρας ἀνῇ,
then when wind the-from prow lets-go
τότε στελοῦμεν· νῦν γὰρ ἀντιοστατεῖ.
then we-shall-set-out now for it-is-against-us
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἀεὶ καλὸς πλοῦς ἔσθ', ὅταν φεύγῃς κακά.
always fair voyage is when you-flee evils
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οὔκ, ἀλλὰ κἀκείνοισι ταῦτ' ἐναντία.
no but and-for-them this contrary
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οὐκ ἔστι λῃσταῖς πνεῦμ' ἐναντιούμενον,
not there-is for-pirates wind being-contrary
ὅταν παρῇ κλέψαι τι χἀρπάσαι βίᾳ.
when it-is-possible to-steal something and-to-snatch by-force
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀλλ' εἰ δοκεῖ, χωρῶμεν, ἔνδοθεν λαβὼν
but if it-seems-good let-us-go from-within having-taken
ὅτου σε χρεία καὶ πόθος μάλιστ' ἔχει.
of-what you need and longing most holds
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἀλλ' ἔστιν ὧν δεῖ, καίπερ οὐ πολλῶν ἄπο.
but there-are which I-need although not many from
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τί τοῦθ' ὃ μὴ νεώς γε τῆς ἐμῆς ἔπι;
what this which not ship at-least the my on

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ φύλλον τί μοι πάρεστιν, ᾧ μάλιστ' ἀεὶ
leaf some to-me is-present by-which most always
κοιμῶ τόδ' ἕλκος, ὥστε πραΰνειν πάνυ.
I-lull this wound so-that to-soothe quite
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀλλ' ἔκφερ' αὐτό. τί γὰρ ἔτ' ἄλλ' ἐρᾷς λαβεῖν;
but fetch it what for still other you-want to-take
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ εἴ μοί τι τόξων τῶνδ' ἀπημελημένον
if to-me any of-arrows these neglected
παρερρύηκεν, ὡς λίπω μή τῳ λαβεῖν.
has-slipped-away so-that I-may-leave not to-anyone to-take
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἦ ταῦτα γὰρ τὰ κλεινὰ τόξ' ἃ νῦν ἔχεις;
— these for the famous bow which now you-have
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ταῦτ', οὐ γὰρ ἄλλ' ἔστ', ἀλλ' ἃ βαστάζω χεροῖν.
these not for other are but which I-carry in-hands
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἆρ' ἔστιν ὥστε κἀγγύθεν θέαν λαβεῖν
— is-it-possible so-that also-from-near view to-take
καὶ βαστάσαι με προσκύσαι θ' ὥσπερ θεόν;
and to-hold me to-kiss and as god
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ σοί γ', ὦ τέκνον, καὶ τοῦτο κἄλλο τῶν ἐμῶν
to-you at-least O child both this and-other of-the mine
ὁποῖον ἄν σοι ξυμφέρῃ γενήσεται.
whatever — for-you may-be-useful will-be
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ καὶ μὴν ἐρῶ γε, τὸν δ' ἔρωθ' οὕτως ἔχω·
and indeed I-desire at-least the and desire thus I-have
εἴ μοι θέμις, θέλοιμ' ἄν· εἰ δὲ μή, πάρες.
if to-me right I-would-wish — if but not let-it-be
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὅσιά τε φωνεῖς ἔστι τ', ὦ τέκνον, θέμις,
holy-things both you-utter it-is and O child right
ὅς γ' ἡλίου τόδ' εἰσορᾶν ἐμοὶ φάος
who at-least of-sun this to-see for-me light

μόνος δέδωκας, ὃς χθόν' Οἰταίαν ἰδεῖν,
alone have-given who land Oetaean to-see
ὃς πατέρα πρέσβυν, ὃς φίλους, ὃς τῶν ἐμῶν
who father aged who friends who of-the my
ἐχθρῶν μ' ἔνερθεν ὄντ' ἀνέστησας πέρα.
enemies me below being raised-up beyond
θάρσει, παρέσται ταῦτά σοι καὶ θιγγάνειν
take-heart it-will-be-possible these-things for-you both to-touch
καὶ δόντι δοῦναι κἀξεπεύξασθαι βροτῶν
and to-the-giver to-give and-to-boast of-mortals
ἀρετῆς ἕκατι τῶνδ' ἐπιψαῦσαι μόνον·
of-virtue for-the-sake these to-touch alone
εὐεργετῶν γὰρ καὐτὸς αὖτ' ἐκτησάμην.
doing-good for and-myself them gained
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οὐκ ἄχθομαί σ' ἰδών τε καὶ λαβὼν φίλον·
not I-am-sorry you having-seen both and having-gained friend
ὅστις γὰρ εὖ δρᾶν εὖ παθὼν ἐπίσταται,
whoever for well to-do well having-fared knows
παντὸς γένοιτ' ἂν κτήματος κρείσσων φίλος.
than-every would-be — possession better friend
χωροῖς ἂν εἴσω. ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ καὶ σέ γ' εἰσάξω· τὸ γὰρ
you-may-go — within and you at-least I-will-bring-in the for
νοσοῦν ποθεῖ σε ξυμπαραστάτην λαβεῖν.
being-sick longs you as-helper to-take

The chorus knows of no one but Ixion, bound to his wheel, who has met a fate as hateful as Philoctetes', who wronged no one and robbed no one. They describe how he lived alone with his pain, living on what he shot with his bow and drinking from stagnant pools, and say that now he has met a noble son who will take him home to the Spercheius and to Oeta, where Heracles was raised among the gods.

ΧΟΡΟΣ λόγῳ μὲν ἐξήκουσ', ὄπωπα δ' οὐ μάλα,
in-word indeed I-heard I-have-seen but not at-all
τὸν πελάταν λέκτρων ποτὲ τῶν Διὸς
the approacher of-bed once the of-Zeus
κατὰ δρομάδ' ἄμπυκα δέσμιον ὡς ἔβαλεν
on running wheel bound how cast
παγκρατὴς Κρόνου παῖς·
all-powerful of-Cronus son
ἄλλον δ' οὔτιν' ἔγωγ' οἶδα κλύων οὐδ' ἐσιδὼν μοίρᾳ
other but no-one I-for-my-part know hearing nor seeing in-fate
τοῦδ' ἐχθίονι συντυχόντα
than-this more-hateful having-met
θνατῶν, ὃς οὔτ' ἔρξας τιν' οὔ τι νοσφίσας,
of-mortals who neither having-wronged anyone nor at-all having-robbed
ἀλλ' ἴσος ὢν ἴσοις ἀνήρ,
but fair being to-the-fair man
ὤλλυθ' ὧδ' ἀναξίως.
was-perishing thus unworthily
τόδε τοι θαῦμά μ' ἔχει,
this surely wonder me holds
πῶς ποτε πῶς ποτ' ἀμφιπλάκτων ῥοθίων μόνος κλύων,
how ever how ever of-sea-beating surges alone hearing

πῶς ἄρα πανδάκρυτον οὕτω βιοτὰν κατέσχεν·
how then all-tearful thus life he-held

ἵν' αὐτὸς ἦν πρόσουρος, οὐκ ἔχων βάσιν,
where himself was neighbor not having step

οὐδέ τιν' ἐγχώρων κακογείτονα,
nor any of-natives ill-neighbor

παρ' ᾧ στόνον ἀντίτυπον
with whom groan answering

βαρυβρῶτ' ἀποκλαύσειεν αἱματηρόν·
heavy-gnawing he-might-weep-out bloody

ὃς τὰν θερμοτάταν αἱμάδα κηκιομέναν ἑλκέων
who the hottest blood oozing from-wounds

ἐνθήρου ποδὸς ἠπίοισι
of-beast-bitten of-foot with-gentle

φύλλοις κατευνάσειεν, εἴ τις ἐμπέσοι,
with-leaves might-lull if any should-fall

φορβάδος ἐκ γαίας ἑλών·
nourishing from earth having-taken

εἶρπε γὰρ ἄλλοτ' ἀλλαχᾷ
he-crept for at-times to-another-place

τότ' ἂν εἰλυόμενος
then — rolling

παῖς ἄτερ ὡς φίλας τιθήνας ὅθεν εὐμάρει' ὑπάρ-
child without like dear nurse where ease might-be-at-hand

χοι πόρου, ἀνίκ' ἐξανείη δακέθυμος ἄτα·
— of-passage when should-let-go heart-gnawing affliction

οὐ φορβὰν ἱερᾶς γᾶς σπόρον, οὐκ ἄλλων
not food of-holy earth seed not of-others

αἴρων τῶν νεμόμεσθ' ἀνέρες ἀλφησταί,
taking which we-live-on men bread-eating

πλὴν ἐξ ὠκυβόλων εἴ ποτε τόξων
except from swift-shooting if ever bow
πτανοῖς ἰοῖς ἀνύσειε γαστρὶ φορβάν.
with-winged arrows he-obtained for-belly food
ὦ μελέα ψυχά,
O wretched soul
ὃς μηδ' οἰνοχύτου πώματος ἥσθη δεκέτει χρόνῳ,
who not-even of-wine-poured drink had-pleasure in-ten-year time
λεύσσων δ' ὅπου γνοίη στατὸν εἰς ὕδωρ,
looking and where he-might-know standing to water
ἀεὶ προσενώμα.
always he-approached
νῦν δ' ἀνδρῶν ἀγαθῶν παιδὸς ὑπαντήσας
now but of-men noble of-son having-met
εὐδαίμων ἀνύσει καὶ μέγας ἐκ κείνων·
happy he-will-end and great from those
ὅς νιν ποντοπόρῳ δούρατι, πλήθει
who him with-sea-crossing timber with-fullness
πολλῶν μηνῶν, πατρίαν ἄγει πρὸς αὐλὰν
of-many months paternal leads to home
Μαλιάδων νυμφᾶν
of-Malian of-nymphs
Σπερχειοῦ τε παρ' ὄχθας, ἵν' ὁ χάλκασπις ἀνὴρ θεοῖς
of-Spercheius and by banks where the bronze-shielded man to-gods
πλάθει πατρὸς θείῳ πυρὶ παμφαής,
approached of-father with-divine fire all-blazing
Οἴτας ὑπὲρ ὄχθων.
of-Oeta above hills

As they leave the cave, Philoctetes is seized by a fit of pain, which he tries to hide. He gives the bow to Neoptolemus to keep while he sleeps, begging him not to give it to anyone. He begs to be burned on a pyre, as he once did for Heracles, and takes Neoptolemus' hand as his pledge to stay. At last, exhausted, he falls asleep.

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἕρπ', εἰ θέλεις. τί δή ποθ' ὧδ' ἐξ οὐδενὸς
go if you-wish why indeed ever thus from no
λόγου σιωπᾷς κἀπόπληκτος ὧδ' ἔχει;
reason are-you-silent and-stricken thus are-you
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἀᾶ, ἀᾶ.
ah ah
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τί δ' ἔστιν; ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οὐδὲν δεινόν· ἀλλ' ἴθ',
what and is-it nothing terrible but go
ὦ τέκνον.
O child
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ μῶν ἄλγος ἴσχεις τῆς παρεστώσης νόσου;
surely-not pain you-have of-the present disease
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οὐ δῆτ' ἔγωγ', ἀλλ' ἄρτι κουφίζειν δοκῶ.
not then I-for-my-part but just-now to-be-relieved I-think
ὦ θεοί.
O gods
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τί τοὺς θεοὺς ὧδ' ἀναστένων καλεῖς;
why the gods thus groaning do-you-call
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ σωτῆρας αὐτοὺς ἠπίους θ' ἡμῖν μολεῖν.
saviors them gentle and to-us to-come
ἀᾶ, ἀᾶ.
ah ah

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τί ποτε πέπονθας; οὐκ ἐρεῖς, ἀλλ' ὧδ' ἔσει
what ever have-you-suffered not will-you-say but thus will-you-be
σιγηλός; ἐν κακῷ δέ τῳ φαίνει κυρῶν.
silent in evil and some you-appear being
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἀπόλωλα, τέκνον, κοὐ δυνήσομαι κακὸν
I-am-lost child and-not I-shall-be-able the-evil
κρύψαι παρ' ὑμῖν, ἀτταταῖ· διέρχεται
to-hide among you attatai it-goes-through
διέρχεται. δύστηνος, ὦ τάλας ἐγώ.
it-goes-through wretched O wretched I
ἀπόλωλα, τέκνον· βρύκομαι, τέκνον· παπαῖ,
I-am-lost child I-am-devoured child papai
ἀππαππαπαῖ, παπαππαπαππαπαππαπαῖ.
apappapai papappapappapappapai
πρὸς θεῶν, πρόχειρον εἴ τί σοι, τέκνον, πάρα
by gods ready if any to-you child is-at-hand
ξίφος χεροῖν, πάταξον εἰς ἄκρον πόδα·
sword with-hands strike at end foot
ἀπάμησον ὡς τάχιστα· μὴ φείσῃ βίου.
cut-off as quickest not spare life
ἴθ', ὦ παῖ.
come O child
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τί δ' ἔστιν οὕτω νεοχμὸν ἐξαίφνης, ὅτου
what and is-it thus new suddenly of-which
τοσήνδ' ἰυγὴν καὶ στόνον σαυτοῦ ποεῖ;
such cry and groan of-yourself you-make

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οἶσθ', ὦ τέκνον; ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τί δ' ἔστιν;
you-know O child what and is-it
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οἶσθ', ὦ παῖ; ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τί σοί;
you-know O son what to-you
οὐκ οἶδα. ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ πῶς οὐκ οἶσθα; παππαπαππαπαῖ.
not I-know how not do-you-know pappapappapai
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ δεινόν γε τοὐπίσαγμα τοῦ νοσήματος. 755
terrible at-least the-burden of-the sickness
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ δεινὸν γὰρ οὐδὲ ῥητόν· ἀλλ' οἴκτιρέ με.
terrible for nor utterable but pity me
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τί δῆτα δράσω;
what then shall-I-do
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ μή με ταρβήσας προδῷς·
not me fearing betray
ἥκει γὰρ αὕτη διὰ χρόνου πλάνοις ἴσως
it-comes for this through time with-wanderings perhaps
ὡς ἐξεπλήσθη. ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἰὼ ἰὼ δύστηνε σύ,
when it-has-had-its-fill ah ah wretched you
δύστηνε δῆτα διὰ πόνων πάντων φανείς. 760
wretched then through toils all appearing
βούλει λάβωμαι δῆτα καὶ θίγω τί σου;
do-you-wish shall-I-take-hold then and touch something of-you
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ μὴ δῆτα τοῦτό γ'· ἀλλά μοι τὰ τόξ' ἑλὼν
not then this at-least but to-me the bow taking
τάδ', ὥσπερ ᾔτοῦ μ' ἀρτίως, ἕως ἀνῇ
this as you-asked me just-now until it-lets-go
τὸ πῆμα τοῦτο τῆς νόσου τὸ νῦν παρόν, 765
the woe this of-the disease the now present
σῴζ' αὐτὰ καὶ φύλασσε. λαμβάνει γὰρ οὖν
save them and guard takes for indeed

ὕπνος μ', ὅταν περ τὸ κακὸν ἐξίῃ τόδε·
sleep me when indeed the evil goes-out this
κοὐκ ἔστι λῆξαι πρότερον· ἀλλ' ἐᾶν χρεὼν
and-not it-is-possible to-end before but to-let it-behooves
ἕκηλον εὕδειν. ἢν δὲ τῷδε τῷ χρόνῳ
quietly to-sleep if but in-this the time
μόλωσ' ἐκεῖνοι, πρὸς θεῶν ἐφίεμαι
come they by gods I-charge
ἑκόντα μηδ' ἄκοντα μηδέ τῳ τέχνῃ
willing nor unwilling nor by-any art
κείνοις μεθεῖναι ταῦτα, μὴ σαυτόν θ' ἅμα
to-them to-release this lest yourself and at-once
κἄμ', ὄντα σαυτοῦ πρόστροπον, κτείνας γένῃ.
and-me being your suppliant having-killed you-become
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ θάρσει προνοίας οὕνεκ'· οὐ δοθήσεται
take-heart forethought for-the-sake not they-shall-be-given
πλὴν σοί τε κἀμοί· ξὺν τύχῃ δὲ πρόσφερε.
except to-you both and-to-me with fortune and bring-them
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἰδοὺ δέχου, παῖ· τὸν φθόνον δὲ πρόσκυσον
see receive son the envy and kiss-away
μή σοι γενέσθαι πολύπον' αὐτὰ μηδ' ὅπως
lest for-you to-become of-much-toil them nor as
ἐμοί τε καὶ τῷ πρόσθ' ἐμοῦ κεκτημένῳ.
to-me both and to-the before me having-owned
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ὦ θεοί, γένοιτο ταῦτα νῷν· γένοιτο δὲ
O gods may-be this for-us-two may-be and
πλοῦς οὔριός τε κεὐσταλὴς ὅποι ποτὲ
voyage favorable both and-well-sped where ever
θεὸς δικαιοῖ χὠ στόλος πορσύνεται.
god deems-right and-the voyage is-furnished

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἀλλ᾽ οὖν δέδοικα μὴ ἀτέλεστ᾽ εὖχῃ, τέκνον.
but then I-fear lest unfulfilled you-pray child

στάζει γὰρ αὖ μοι φοίνιον τόδ᾽ ἐκ βυθοῦ
drips for again for-me bloody this from depth

κηκῖον αἷμα, καί τι προσδοκῶ νέον.
oozing blood and something I-expect new

παπαῖ, φεῦ. 785
papai alas

παπαῖ μάλ᾽, ὦ πούς, οἷά μ᾽ ἐργάσει κακά.
papai indeed O foot what me you-will-do evils

προσέρπει,
it-creeps-on

προσέρχεται τόδ᾽ ἐγγύς. οἴμοι μοι τάλας.
it-comes-on this near ah-me me wretched

ἔχετε τὸ πρᾶγμα· μὴ φύγητε μηδαμῇ.
you-have the matter not flee nowhere

ἀτταταῖ. 790
attatai

ὦ ξένε Κεφαλλήν, εἴθε σου διαμπερὲς
O stranger Cephallenian would-that you right-through

στέρνων ἔχοιτ᾽ ἄλγησις ἥδε. φεῦ, παπαῖ,
of-the-breast might-hold pain this alas papai

παπαῖ μάλ᾽ αὖθις. ὦ διπλοῖ στρατηλάται,
papai indeed again O two generals

Ἀγάμεμνον, ὦ Μενέλαε, πῶς ἂν ἀντ᾽ ἐμοῦ
Agamemnon O Menelaus how — instead-of me

τὸν ἴσον χρόνον τρέφοιτε τήνδε τὴν νόσον; 795
the equal time might-you-nurse this the disease

ἰώ μοι.
ah me

ὦ Θάνατε Θάνατε, πῶς ἀεὶ καλούμενος
O Death Death how always being-called
οὕτω κατ᾽ ἦμαρ, οὐ δύνᾳ μολεῖν ποτε;
thus by day not are-you-able to-come ever
ὦ τέκνον ὦ γενναῖον, ἀλλὰ συλλαβὼν
O child O noble but having-taken-me
τῷ Λημνίῳ τῷδ᾽ ἀνακαλουμένῳ πυρὶ
with-the Lemnian this being-invoked fire
ἔμπρησον, ὦ γενναῖε· κἀγώ τοί ποτε
burn-me-up O noble and-I surely once
τὸν τοῦ Διὸς παῖδ᾽ ἀντὶ τῶνδε τῶν ὅπλων,
the of-the Zeus son in-return-for these the arms
ἃ νῦν σὺ σῴζεις, τοῦτ᾽ ἐπηξίωσα δρᾶν.
which now you guard this thought-it-right to-do
τί φής, παῖ;
what do-you-say child
τί φής; τί σιγᾷς; ποῦ ποτ᾽ ὤν, τέκνον, κυρεῖς;
what do-you-say why are-you-silent where ever being child are-you
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀλγῶ πάλαι δὴ τἀπὶ σοὶ στένων κακά.
I-grieve long indeed the-for you lamenting evils
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἀλλ᾽, ὦ τέκνον, καὶ θάρσος ἴσχ᾽· ὡς ἥδε μοι
but O child also courage have since this to-me
ὀξεῖα φοιτᾷ καὶ ταχεῖ᾽ ἀπέρχεται.
sharp comes and quickly goes-away
ἀλλ᾽ ἀντιάζω, μή με καταλίπῃς μόνον.
but I-beseech not me abandon alone
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ θάρσει, μενοῦμεν. ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἦ μενεῖς;
take-heart we-shall-stay — will-you-stay
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ σαφῶς φρόνει.
clearly think

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οὐ μήν σ᾽ ἔνορκόν γ᾽ ἀξιῶ θέσθαι, τέκνον.
not indeed you oath-bound at-least I-think-it-right to-make child

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ὡς οὐ θέμις γ᾽ ἐμοὔστι σοῦ μολεῖν ἄτερ.
since not right at-least for-me-it-is you to-go without

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἔμβαλλε χειρὸς πίστιν. ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἐμβάλλω μενεῖν.
put-in of-hand pledge I-put-in to-stay

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἐκεῖσε νῦν μ᾽, ἐκεῖσε ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ποῖ λέγεις;
there now me there where do-you-mean

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἄνω
above

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τί παραφρονεῖς αὖ; τί τὸν ἄνω λεύσσεις κύκλον; 815
why are-you-raving again why the above do-you-look-at circle

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ μέθες μέθες με. ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ποῖ μεθῶ;
let-go let-go me where shall-I-let-go

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ μέθες ποτέ.
let-go at-last

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οὔ φημ᾽ ἐάσειν. ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἀπό μ᾽ ὀλεῖς,
not I-say I-will-let-you off me you-will-kill

ἢν προσθίγῃς.
if you-touch

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ καὶ δὴ μεθίημ᾽, εἴ τι δὴ πλέον φρονεῖς.
and indeed I-let-go if at-all indeed more you-think

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ γαῖα, δέξαι θανάσιμόν μ᾽ ὅπως ἔχω
O earth receive dying me as I-am

τὸ γὰρ κακὸν τόδ᾽ οὐκέτ᾽ ὀρθοῦσθαί μ᾽ ἐᾷ. 820
the for evil this no-longer to-stand-up me allows

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τὸν ἄνδρ᾽ ἔοικεν ὕπνος οὐ μακροῦ χρόνου
the man it-seems sleep not of-long time

ἕξειν· κάρα γὰρ ὑπτιάζεται τόδε·
will-hold head for is-thrown-back this

ἱδρώς γέ τοί νιν πᾶν καταστάζει δέμας,
sweat at-least surely him all drips-down body
μέλαινά τ' ἄκρου τις παρέρρωγεν ποδὸς
black and from-end some has-burst-out of-foot
825 αἱμορραγὴς φλέψ. ἀλλ' ἐάσωμεν, φίλοι,
bleeding vein but let-us-leave friends
ἕκηλον αὐτόν, ὡς ἂν εἰς ὕπνον πέσῃ.
quiet him so-that — into sleep he-may-fall

X · SLEEP

The sailors sing a hymn to Sleep and urge Neoptolemus to take the bow and leave while Philoctetes sleeps. Neoptolemus says that the bow is useless without its owner, since the god commanded that he be brought, and that it would be shameful to boast of a half-done deed with lies.

ΧΟΡΟΣ Ὕπν' ὀδύνας ἀδαής, Ὕπνε δ' ἀλγέων,
Sleep of-pain ignorant Sleep and of-griefs
εὐαὲς ἡμῖν ἔλθοις,
gently-breathing to-us may-you-come
εὐαίων εὐαίων, ὦναξ·
blessed blessed O-lord
830 ὄμμασι δ' ἀντίσχοις
on-eyes and may-you-hold
τάνδ' αἴγλαν, ἃ τέταται τανῦν.
this radiance which is-spread now
ἴθι ἴθι μοι παιών.
come come to-me healer
ὦ τέκνον, ὅρα ποῦ στάσει,
O child see where you-will-stand

ποῖ δέ μοι τἀνθένδε βάσει,
where and to-me the-next will-you-step
φροντίδος. ὁρᾷς ἤδη.
of-thought you-see already
πρὸς τί μενοῦμεν πράσσειν;
for what shall-we-wait to-act
καιρός τοι πάντων γνώμαν ἴσχων
occasion surely of-all judgment holding
πολύ τι πολὺ παρὰ πόδα κράτος ἄρνυται.
much somewhat much at foot might wins
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ ὅδε μὲν κλύει οὐδέν,
but he indeed hears nothing
ἐγὼ δ᾽ ὁρῶ οὕνεκα θήραν
I but see that prey
τήνδ᾽ ἁλίως ἔχομεν τόξων, δίχα τοῦδε πλέοντες.
this in-vain we-hold of-bow without this sailing
τοῦδε γὰρ ὁ στέφανος, τοῦτον θεὸς εἶπε κομίζειν.
his for the crown him god told to-bring
κομπεῖν δ᾽ ἔστ᾽ ἀτελῆ σὺν ψεύδεσιν αἰσχρὸν ὄνειδος.
to-boast and is unfulfilled with lies shameful reproach
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλά, τέκνον, τάδε μὲν θεὸς ὄψεται·
but child this indeed god will-see
ὧν δ᾽ ἂν ἀμείβῃ μ᾽ αὖθις,
what and — you-answer me again
βαιάν μοι, βαιάν, ὦ τέκνον,
low to-me low O child
πέμπε λόγων φάμαν·
send of-words voice
ὡς πάντων ἐν νόσῳ εὐδρακὴς
since of-all in sickness quick-sighted

ὕπνος ἄϋπνος λεύσσειν.
sleep sleepless to-look
ἀλλ' ὅτι δύνᾳ μάκιστον
but what you-can furthest
κεῖνο δή μοι κεῖνο λάθρᾳ
that indeed to-me that secretly
ἐξιδοῦ ὅπᾳ πράξεις.
look-out how you-will-act
οἶσθα γὰρ ἂν αὐδῶμαι,
you-know for what I-mean
εἰ ταύταν τούτων γνώμαν ἴσχεις,
if this of-these judgment you-hold
μάλα τοι ἄπορα πυκινοῖς ἐνιδεῖν πάθη.
very surely perplexing for-the-shrewd to-see sufferings
οὖρός τοι, τέκνον, οὖρος·
fair-wind surely child fair-wind
ἀνὴρ δ' ἀνόμματος οὐδ' ἔχων
the-man and sightless nor having
ἀρωγὰν ἐκτέταται νύχιος,
help is-stretched-out nocturnal
(ἀλεὴς ὕπνος ἐσθλός,)
in-the-sun-warmth sleep good
οὐ χερός, οὐ ποδός, οὔ τινος ἄρχων,
not of-hand not of-foot not of-any master
ἀλλά τις ὡς Ἀΐδᾳ παρακείμενος.
but someone like to-Hades lying-beside
ὅρα, βλέπ' εἰ καίρια
see look if timely
φθέγγει· τὸ δ' ἁλώσιμον
you-speak the and catchable

ἐμᾷ φροντίδι, παῖ,
to-my thought child
πόνος ὁ μὴ φοβῶν κράτιστος.
toil the not fearing strongest

XI · THE CONFESSION

Philoctetes wakes and thanks Neoptolemus for staying. Neoptolemus, unable to keep up the lie, tells him that he must sail to Troy. Philoctetes demands his bow, but Neoptolemus says he must obey the generals. Philoctetes laments to the cliffs and the beasts. As Neoptolemus begins to waver, Odysseus appears and says that Philoctetes must come, or be taken by force. When Philoctetes threatens to throw himself from the rocks, Odysseus has him seized, and Philoctetes curses him. Odysseus decides that the bow is enough, since Teucer can shoot it, and leaves him.

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ σιγᾶν κελεύω μηδ' ἀφεστάναι φρενῶν·
to-be-silent I-bid nor to-stand-away from-wits
κινεῖ γὰρ ἀνὴρ ὄμμα κἀνάγει κάρα.
moves for the-man eye and-raises head
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ φέγγος ὕπνου διάδοχον τό τ' ἐλπίδων
O light of-sleep succeeding the and of-hopes
ἄπιστον οἰκούρημα τῶνδε τῶν ξένων.
unbelievable watch of-these the strangers
οὐ γάρ ποτ', ὦ παῖ, τοῦτ' ἂν ἐξηύχησ' ἐγώ,
not for ever O child this — would-I-have-boasted I
τλῆναί σ' ἐλεινῶς ὧδε τἀμὰ πήματα
to-endure you pitifully thus my woes
μεῖναι παρόντα καὶ ξυνωφελοῦντά μοι.
to-stay being-present and helping me
οὔκουν Ἀτρεῖδαι τοῦτ' ἔτλησαν εὐφόρως
not-then sons-of-Atreus this endured patiently

οὕτως ἐνεγκεῖν, ἀγαθοὶ στρατηλάται.
thus to-bear the-good generals
ἀλλ' εὐγενὴς γὰρ ἡ φύσις κἀξ εὐγενῶν,
but noble for the nature and-from noble
ὦ τέκνον, ἡ σή, πάντα ταῦτ' ἐν εὐχερεῖ
O child the yours all this in easy
ἔθου, βοῆς τε καὶ δυσοσμίας γέμων.
you-made of-shouting both and of-stench full
καὶ νῦν ἐπειδὴ τοῦδε τοῦ κακοῦ δοκεῖ
and now since of-this the evil it-seems
λήθη τις εἶναι κἀνάπαυλα δή, τέκνον,
forgetfulness some to-be and-rest indeed child
σύ μ' αὐτὸς ἆρον, σύ με κατάστησον, τέκνον,
you me yourself lift you me set-up child
ἵν', ἡνίκ' ἂν κόπος μ' ἀπαλλάξῃ ποτέ,
so-that when — fatigue me releases ever
ὁρμώμεθ' ἐς ναῦν μηδ' ἐπίσχωμεν τὸ πλεῖν.
we-may-set-out to ship nor delay the to-sail
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀλλ' ἥδομαι μέν σ' εἰσιδὼν παρ' ἐλπίδα
but I-rejoice indeed you seeing beyond hope
ἀνώδυνον βλέποντα κἀμπνέοντ' ἔτι·
painless looking and-breathing still
ὡς οὐκέτ' ὄντος γὰρ τὰ συμβόλαιά σου
since no-longer being for the symptoms of-you
πρὸς τὰς παρούσας ξυμφορὰς ἐφαίνετο.
in the present misfortunes appeared
νῦν δ' αἶρε σαυτόν· εἰ δέ σοι μᾶλλον φίλον,
now but lift yourself if but to-you rather dear
οἴσουσί σ' οἵδε· τοῦ πόνου γὰρ οὐκ ὄκνος,
will-carry you these of-the toil for not shrinking

ἐπείπερ οὕτω σοί τ᾽ ἔδοξ᾽ ἐμοί τε δρᾶν.
since-indeed thus to-you both it-seemed to-me and to-do

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ αἰνῶ τάδ᾽, ὦ παῖ, καί μ᾽ ἔπαιρ᾽, ὥσπερ νοεῖς·
I-approve this O child and me lift as you-intend

τούτους δ᾽ ἔασον, μὴ βαρυνθῶσιν κακῇ
these but leave lest they-be-burdened with-foul

ὀσμῇ πρὸ τοῦ δέοντος· οὐπὶ νηὶ γὰρ
with-smell before the needed the-on ship for

ἅλις πόνος τούτοισι συνναίειν ἐμοί.
enough toil for-these to-live-with me

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἔσται τάδ᾽· ἀλλ᾽ ἵστω τε καὐτὸς ἀντέχου.
it-shall-be this but stand both and-yourself hold-on

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ θάρσει· τό τοι σύνηθες ὀρθώσει μ᾽ ἔθος.
take-heart the surely familiar will-set-up me habit

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ παπαῖ· τί δῆτ᾽ ἂν δρῷμ᾽ ἐγὼ τοὐνθένδε γε;
papai what then — should-do I from-here at-least

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ τί δ᾽ ἔστιν, ὦ παῖ; ποῖ ποτ᾽ ἐξέβης λόγῳ;
what and is-it O child where ever did-you-go-off in-word

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οὐκ οἶδ᾽ ὅποι χρὴ τἄπορον τρέπειν ἔπος.
not I-know where must the-helpless turn word

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἀπορεῖς δὲ τοῦ σύ; μὴ λέγ᾽, ὦ τέκνον, τάδε.
are-you-at-a-loss and at-what you not say O child this

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἐνθάδ᾽ ἤδη τοῦδε τοῦ πάθους κυρῶ.
but here already in-this the suffering I-am

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οὐ δή σε δυσχέρεια τοῦ νοσήματος
not then you disgust of-the disease

ἔπεισεν ὥστε μή μ᾽ ἄγειν ναύτην ἔτι;
persuaded so-that not me to-take as-sailor still

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἅπαντα δυσχέρεια, τὴν αὑτοῦ φύσιν
all-things disgust the his-own nature
ὅταν λιπών τις δρᾷ τὰ μὴ προσεικότα.
when having-left someone does the not befitting
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἀλλ᾽ οὐδὲν ἔξω τοῦ φυτεύσαντος σύ γε
but nothing outside the having-begotten you at-least
δρᾷς οὐδὲ φωνεῖς, ἐσθλὸν ἄνδρ᾽ ἐπωφελῶν.
do nor say noble man helping
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ αἰσχρὸς φανοῦμαι· τοῦτ᾽ ἀνιῶμαι πάλαι.
shameful I-shall-appear this I-am-pained long
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οὔκουν ἐν οἷς γε δρᾷς· ἐν οἷς δ᾽ αὐδᾷς ὀκνῶ.
not-then in what at-least you-do in what but you-say I-hesitate
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ὦ Ζεῦ, τί δράσω; δεύτερον ληφθῶ κακός,
O Zeus what shall-I-do a-second-time be-caught base
κρύπτων θ᾽ ἃ μὴ δεῖ καὶ λέγων αἴσχιστ᾽ ἐπῶν;
hiding and what not must and saying most-shameful of-words
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἀνὴρ ὅδ᾽, εἰ μὴ ᾽γὼ κακὸς γνώμων ἔφυν,
the-man this if not I bad judge was
προδούς μ᾽ ἔοικε κἀκλιπὼν τὸν πλοῦν στελεῖν.
having-betrayed me seems and-having-abandoned the voyage to-set-out
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ λιπὼν μὲν οὐκ ἔγωγε· λυπηρῶς δὲ μὴ
having-abandoned indeed not I-for-my-part painfully but lest
πέμπω σε μᾶλλον, τοῦτ᾽ ἀνιῶμαι πάλαι.
I-send you rather this I-am-pained long
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ τί ποτε λέγεις, ὦ τέκνον; ὡς οὐ μανθάνω.
what ever do-you-say O child since not I-understand
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οὐδέν σε κρύψω· δεῖ γὰρ ἐς Τροίαν σε πλεῖν
nothing you I-will-hide must for to Troy you to-sail
πρὸς τοὺς Ἀχαιοὺς καὶ τὸν Ἀτρειδῶν στόλον.
to the Achaeans and the of-the-sons-of-Atreus expedition

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οἴμοι, τί εἶπας; ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ μὴ στέναζε,
ah-me what did-you-say not lament
πρὶν μάθῃς.
before you-learn
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ποῖον μάθημα; τί με νοεῖς δρᾶσαί ποτε;
what lesson what me do-you-intend to-do ever
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ σῶσαι κακοῦ μὲν πρῶτα τοῦδ', ἔπειτα δὲ
to-save from-evil indeed first of-this then and
ξὺν σοὶ τὰ Τροίας πεδία πορθῆσαι μολών.
with you the of-Troy plains to-sack having-come
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ καὶ ταῦτ' ἀληθῆ δρᾶν νοεῖς;
and this truly to-do do-you-intend
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ πολλὴ κρατεῖ
much prevails
τούτων ἀνάγκη, καὶ σὺ μὴ θυμοῦ κλύων.
of-these necessity and you not be-angry hearing
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἀπόλωλα τλήμων, προδέδομαι. τί μ', ὦ ξένε,
I-am-lost wretched I-am-betrayed what me O stranger
δέδρακας; ἀπόδος ὡς τάχος τὰ τόξα μοι.
have-you-done give-back as quick the bow to-me
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀλλ' οὐχ οἷόν τε· τῶν γὰρ ἐν τέλει κλύειν
but not possible both the for in authority to-obey
τό τ' ἔνδικόν με καὶ τὸ συμφέρον ποεῖ.
the and just me and the expedient makes
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ πῦρ σὺ καὶ πᾶν δεῖμα καὶ πανουργίας
O fire you and all horror and of-villainy
δεινῆς τέχνημ' ἔχθιστον, οἷά μ' εἰργάσω,
terrible contrivance most-hateful what me you-have-done
οἵ' ἠπάτηκας· οὐδ' ἐπαισχύνει μ' ὁρῶν
how you-have-deceived nor are-you-ashamed me seeing

τὸν προστρόπαιον, τὸν ἱκέτην, ὦ σχέτλιε;
the suppliant the beseecher O wretch
ἀπεστέρηκας τὸν βίον τὰ τόξ' ἑλών.
you-have-robbed the life the bow having-taken
ἀπόδος, ἱκνοῦμαί σ', ἀπόδος, ἱκετεύω, τέκνον·
give-back I-beseech you give-back I-implore child
πρὸς θεῶν πατρῴων, τὸν βίον με μὴ ἀφέλῃ.
by gods paternal the life me not take-away
ὤμοι τάλας. ἀλλ' οὐδὲ προσφωνεῖ μ' ἔτι,
ah-me wretched but not-even does-he-address me still
ἀλλ' ὡς μεθήσων μήποθ', ὧδ' ὁρᾷ πάλιν.
but as about-to-release never thus he-looks again
ὦ λιμένες, ὦ προβλῆτες, ὦ ξυνουσίαι
O harbors O headlands O companies
θηρῶν ὀρείων, ὦ καταρρῶγες πέτραι,
of-beasts mountain O sheer rocks
ὑμῖν τάδ', οὐ γὰρ ἄλλον οἶδ' ὅτῳ λέγω,
to-you this not for other I-know to-whom I-may-speak
ἀνακλαίομαι παροῦσι τοῖς εἰωθόσιν,
I-lament being-present to-the accustomed
οἷ' ἔργ' ὁ παῖς μ' ἔδρασεν οὐξ Ἀχιλλέως·
what deeds the son me has-done the-son-of Achilles
ὀμόσας ἀπάξειν οἴκαδ', ἐς Τροίαν μ' ἄγει·
having-sworn to-take-back home to Troy me he-leads
προσθείς τε χεῖρα δεξιάν, τὰ τόξα μου
having-given and hand right the bow of-me
ἱερὰ λαβὼν τοῦ Ζηνὸς Ἡρακλέους ἔχει,
holy having-taken of-the of-Zeus Heracles he-holds
καὶ τοῖσιν Ἀργείοισι φήνασθαι θέλει·
and to-the Argives to-show-off wishes

ὡς ἄνδρ᾽ ἑλὼν ἰσχυρόν ἐκ βίας μ᾽ ἄγει,
as man having-taken strong by force me he-leads
κοὐκ οἶδ᾽ ἐναίρων νεκρὸν ἢ καπνοῦ σκιάν,
and-not he-knows slaying a-corpse or of-smoke shadow
εἴδωλον ἄλλως· οὐ γὰρ ἂν σθένοντά γε
image merely not for — being-strong at-least
εἷλέν μ᾽· ἐπεὶ οὐδ᾽ ἂν ὧδ᾽ ἔχοντ᾽, εἰ μὴ δόλῳ·
he-would-have-taken me since not-even — thus being if not by-trick
νῦν δ᾽ ἠπάτημαι δύσμορος. τί χρή με δρᾶν;
now and I-am-deceived ill-fated what must me do
ἀλλ᾽ ἀπόδος, ἀλλὰ νῦν ἔτ᾽ ἐν σαυτῷ γενοῦ.
but give-back but now still in yourself become
τί φής; σιωπᾷς; οὐδέν εἰμ᾽ ὁ δύσμορος.
what do-you-say are-you-silent nothing I-am the ill-fated
ὦ σχῆμα πέτρας δίπυλον, αὖθις αὖ πάλιν
O form of-rock two-gated again again back
εἴσειμι πρὸς σὲ ψιλός, οὐκ ἔχων τροφήν·
I-shall-go-in to you bare not having food
ἀλλ᾽ αὐανοῦμαι τῷδ᾽ ἐν αὐλίῳ μόνος,
but I-shall-wither this in cave alone
οὐ πτηνὸν ὄρνιν οὐδὲ θῆρ᾽ ὀρειβάτην
not winged bird nor beast mountain-ranging
τόξοις ἐναίρων τοισίδ᾽, ἀλλ᾽ αὐτὸς τάλας
with-bow slaying this but myself wretched
θανὼν παρέξω δαῖθ᾽ ὑφ᾽ ὧν ἐφερβόμην,
dying shall-provide feast by whom I-was-fed
καί μ᾽ οὓς ἐθήρων πρόσθε θηράσουσι νῦν·
and me whom I-hunted before will-hunt now
φόνον φόνου δὲ ῥύσιον τίσω τάλας
murder of-murder and requital I-shall-pay wretched

πρὸς τοῦ δοκοῦντος οὐδὲν εἰδέναι κακόν.
by the seeming nothing to-know evil

ὄλοιο — μή πω, πρὶν μάθοιμ' εἰ καὶ πάλιν
may-you-perish not yet before I-learn if even again

γνώμην μετοίσεις· εἰ δὲ μή, θάνοις κακῶς.
judgment you-will-change if but not may-you-die badly

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί δρῶμεν; ἐν σοὶ καὶ τὸ πλεῖν ἡμᾶς, ἄναξ,
what shall-we-do in you also the to-sail us lord

ἤδη 'στὶ καὶ τοῖς τοῦδε προσχωρεῖν λόγοις.
already is and to-the his to-yield words

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἐμοὶ μὲν οἶκτος δεινὸς ἐμπέπτωκέ τις
to-me indeed pity terrible has-fallen some

τοῦδ' ἀνδρὸς οὐ νῦν πρῶτον, ἀλλὰ καὶ πάλαι.
of-this man not now first but even long-since

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἐλέησον, ὦ παῖ, πρὸς θεῶν, καὶ μὴ παρῇς
pity O child by gods and not allow

σαυτοῦ βροτοῖς ὄνειδος, ἐκκλέψας ἐμέ.
of-yourself for-mortals reproach having-stolen me

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οἴμοι, τί δράσω; μή ποτ' ὤφελον λιπεῖν
ah-me what shall-I-do not ever I-ought to-have-left

τὴν Σκῦρον· οὕτω τοῖς παροῦσιν ἄχθομαι.
the Scyros thus at-the present-things I-am-grieved

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οὐκ εἶ κακὸς σύ, πρὸς κακῶν δ' ἀνδρῶν μαθών
not are bad you by bad but men having-learned

ἔοικας ἥκειν αἰσχρά· νῦν δ' ἄλλοισι δοὺς
you-seem to-come shameful-things now and to-others having-given

οἷς εἰκὸς ἔκπλει, τἀμά μοι μεθεὶς ὅπλα.
to-whom fitting sail-off my to-me having-released arms

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τί δρῶμεν, ἄνδρες; ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ὦ κάκιστ' ἀνδρῶν,
what shall-we-do men O worst of-men
τί δρᾷς;
what are-you-doing
οὐκ εἶ μεθεὶς τὰ τόξα ταῦτ' ἐμοὶ πάλιν; 975
not will-you-go having-left the bow this to-me back
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οἴμοι, τίς ἀνήρ; ἆρ' Ὀδυσσέως κλύω;
ah-me what the-man — of-Odysseus do-I-hear
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ Ὀδυσσέως, σάφ' ἴσθ', ἐμοῦ γ', ὃν εἰσορᾷς.
of-Odysseus clearly know of-me at-least whom you-see
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οἴμοι· πέπραμαι κἀπόλωλ'· ὅδ' ἦν ἄρα
ah-me I-am-sold and-am-lost this-one was then
ὁ ξυλλαβών με κἀπονοσφίσας ὅπλων.
the having-seized me and-having-robbed of-arms
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἐγώ, σάφ' ἴσθ', οὐκ ἄλλος· ὁμολογῶ τάδε. 980
I clearly know not other I-admit this
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἀπόδος, ἄφες μοι, παῖ, τὰ τόξα. ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ τοῦτο μέν,
give-back release to-me son the bow this indeed
οὐδ' ἢν θέλῃ, δράσει ποτ'· ἀλλὰ καὶ σὲ δεῖ
not-even if he-wish will-he-do ever but also you must
στείχειν ἅμ' αὐτοῖς, ἢ βίᾳ στελοῦσί σε.
to-go with them or by-force they-will-bring you
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἔμ', ὦ κακῶν κάκιστε καὶ τολμήστατε,
me O of-evils vilest and most-audacious
οἵδ' ἐκ βίας ἄξουσιν; ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἢν μὴ ἕρπῃς ἑκών. 985
these by force will-bring if not you-go willing
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ Λημνία χθὼν καὶ τὸ παγκρατὲς σέλας
O Lemnian land and the all-mastering light
Ἡφαιστότευκτον, ταῦτα δῆτ' ἀνασχετά,
Hephaestus-wrought this then endurable

εἴ μ' οὗτος ἐκ τῶν σῶν ἀπάξεται βίᾳ;
if me this-one from the yours shall-lead-away by-force

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ Ζεύς ἐσθ', ἵν' εἰδῇς, Ζεύς, ὁ τῆσδε γῆς κρατῶν,
Zeus it-is that you-may-know Zeus the of-this land ruling

Ζεύς, ᾧ δέδοκται ταῦθ'· ὑπηρετῶ δ' ἐγώ.
Zeus by-whom has-been-decided this I-serve and I

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ μῖσος, οἷα κἀξανευρίσκεις λέγειν·
O hateful-thing what and-you-invent to-say

θεοὺς προτείνων τοὺς θεοὺς ψευδεῖς τίθης.
gods putting-forward the gods false you-make

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ οὔκ, ἀλλ' ἀληθεῖς· ἡ δ' ὁδὸς πορευτέα.
no but true the and road must-be-traveled

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οὔ φημ'. ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἐγὼ δέ φημι. πειστέον τάδε.
not I-say I but say must-be-obeyed this

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οἴμοι τάλας. ἡμᾶς μὲν ὡς δούλους σαφῶς
ah-me wretched us indeed as slaves clearly

πατὴρ ἄρ' ἐξέφυσεν οὐδ' ἐλευθέρους.
father then begot nor free

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ οὔκ, ἀλλ' ὁμοίους τοῖς ἀρίστοισιν, μεθ' ὧν
no but equal to-the best with whom

Τροίαν σ' ἑλεῖν δεῖ καὶ κατασκάψαι βίᾳ.
Troy you to-take must and to-raze by-force

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οὐδέποτέ γ'· οὐδ' ἢν χρῇ με πᾶν παθεῖν κακόν,
never at-least not-even if must me every to-suffer evil

ἕως ἂν ᾖ μοι γῆς τόδ' αἰπεινὸν βάθρον.
while — is to-me of-earth this steep base

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ τί δ' ἐργασείεις; ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ κρᾶτ' ἐμὸν τόδ' αὐτίκα
what and do-you-intend head my this at-once

πέτρᾳ πέτρας ἄνωθεν αἱμάξω πεσών.
on-rock of-rock from-above I-will-bloody falling

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ξυλλάβετον αὐτόν· μὴ ’πὶ τῷδ’ ἔστω τάδε.
seize-both him not in this let-be this

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ χεῖρες, οἷα πάσχετ’ ἐν χρείᾳ φίλης
O hands what you-suffer in need of-dear
νευρᾶς, ὑπ’ ἀνδρὸς τοῦδε συνθηρώμεναι.
of-bowstring by man this hunted-down
ὦ μηδὲν ὑγιὲς μηδ’ ἐλεύθερον φρονῶν,
O nothing sound nor free thinking
οἵ’ αὖ μ’ ὑπῆλθες, ὥς μ’ ἐθηράσω, λαβὼν
how again me you-crept-upon how me you-hunted having-taken
πρόβλημα σαυτοῦ παῖδα τόνδ’ ἀγνῶτ’ ἐμοί,
as-a-screen for-yourself boy this unknown to-me
ἀνάξιον μὲν σοῦ, κατάξιον δ’ ἐμοῦ,
unworthy indeed of-you worthy but of-me
ὃς οὐδὲν ᾔδει πλὴν τὸ προσταχθὲν ποεῖν,
who nothing knew except the ordered to-do
δῆλος δὲ καὶ νῦν ἐστιν ἀλγεινῶς φέρων
clear and also now he-is grievously bearing
οἷς τ’ αὐτὸς ἐξήμαρτεν οἷς τ’ ἐγὼ ’παθον.
what both himself erred what and I suffered
ἀλλ’ ἡ κακὴ σὴ διὰ μυχῶν βλέπουσ’ ἀεὶ
but the base your through crannies looking always
ψυχή νιν ἀφυᾶ τ’ ὄντα κοὐ θέλονθ’ ὅμως
soul him unapt both being and-not willing nevertheless
εὖ προυδίδαξεν ἐν κακοῖς εἶναι σοφόν.
well taught-beforehand in evils to-be wise
καὶ νῦν ἔμ’, ὦ δύστηνε, συνδήσας νοεῖς
and now me O wretched having-bound you-intend
ἄγειν ἀπ’ ἀκτῆς τῆσδ’, ἐν ᾗ με προυβάλου
to-lead from shore this in which me you-cast-out

ἄφιλον ἔρημον ἄπολιν, ἐν ζῶσιν νεκρόν.
friendless deserted cityless among the-living corpse
φεῦ.
alas
ὄλοιο· καί σοι πολλάκις τόδ' ηὐξάμην.
may-you-perish and for-you often this I-have-prayed
ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ οὐδὲν θεοὶ νέμουσιν ἡδύ μοι,
but not for nothing gods allot sweet to-me
σὺ μὲν γέγηθας ζῶν, ἐγὼ δ' ἀλγύνομαι
you indeed rejoice living I but am-pained
τοῦτ' αὖθ', ὅτι ζῶ σὺν κακοῖς πολλοῖς τάλας,
for-this very that I-live with evils many wretched
γελώμενος πρὸς σοῦ τε καὶ τῶν Ἀτρέως
laughed-at by you both and the of-Atreus
διπλῶν στρατηγῶν, οἷς σὺ ταῦθ' ὑπηρετεῖς.
two generals to-whom you this serve
καίτοι σὺ μὲν κλοπῇ τε κἀνάγκῃ ζυγεὶς
and-yet you indeed by-theft both and-necessity yoked
ἔπλεις ἅμ' αὐτοῖς, ἐμὲ δὲ τὸν πανάθλιον,
sailed with them me but the all-wretched
ἑκόντα πλεύσανθ' ἑπτὰ ναυσὶ ναυβάτην,
willing having-sailed with-seven ships sailor
ἄτιμον ἔβαλον, ὡς σὺ φῄς, κεῖνοι δὲ σέ.
dishonored they-cast-out as you say they and you
καὶ νῦν τί μ' ἄγετε; τί μ' ἀπάγεσθε; τοῦ χάριν;
and now why me do-you-take why me do-you-carry-off of-what for-the-sake
ὃς οὐδέν εἰμι καὶ τέθνηχ' ὑμῖν πάλαι.
who nothing am and am-dead for-you long-since
πῶς, ὦ θεοῖς ἔχθιστε, νῦν οὐκ εἰμί σοι
how O to-gods most-hateful now not am-I for-you

χωλός, δυσώδης; πῶς θεοῖς ἔξεσθ', ὁμοῦ
lame foul-smelling how to-gods will-it-be-possible together
πλεύσαντος αἴθειν ἱερά; πῶς σπένδειν ἔτι;
having-sailed to-burn sacrifices how to-pour-libations still
αὕτη γὰρ ἦν σοι πρόφασις ἐκβαλεῖν ἐμέ.
this for was for-you pretext to-cast-out me
κακῶς ὄλοισθ'· ὀλεῖσθε δ' ἠδικηκότες
badly may-you-perish you-shall-perish and having-wronged
τὸν ἄνδρα τόνδε, θεοῖσιν εἰ δίκης μέλει.
the man this to-gods if for-justice it-is-a-care
ἔξοιδα δ' ὡς μέλει γ'· ἐπεὶ οὔποτ' ἂν στόλον
I-know-well and that it-is-a-care at-least since never — expedition
ἐπλεύσατ' ἂν τόνδ' εἵνεκ' ἀνδρὸς ἀθλίου,
would-you-have-sailed — this for-the-sake-of man wretched
εἰ μή τι κέντρον θεῖον ἦγ' ὑμᾶς ἐμοῦ.
if not some goad divine drove you of-me
ἀλλ', ὦ πατρῴα γῆ θεοί τ' ἐπόψιοι,
but O paternal land gods and watching
τίσασθε τίσασθ' ἀλλὰ τῷ χρόνῳ ποτὲ
avenge avenge but in-the time ever
ξύμπαντας αὐτούς, εἴ τι κἄμ' οἰκτίρετε·
all them if at-all also-me you-pity
ὡς ζῶ μὲν οἰκτρῶς, εἰ δ' ἴδοιμ' ὀλωλότας
since I-live indeed pitifully if but I-should-see destroyed
τούτους, δοκοῖμ' ἂν τῆς νόσου πεφευγέναι.
these I-would-seem — from-the disease to-have-escaped
ΧΟΡΟΣ βαρύς τε καὶ βαρεῖαν ὁ ξένος φάτιν
heavy both and heavy the stranger speech
τήνδ' εἶπ', Ὀδυσσεῦ, κοὐχ ὑπείκουσαν κακοῖς.
this spoke Odysseus and-not yielding to-evils

ODYSSEUS πόλλ' ἂν λέγειν ἔχοιμι πρὸς τὰ τοῦδ' ἔπη,
much — to-say I-could to the his words
εἴ μοι παρείκοι· νῦν δ' ἑνὸς κρατῶ λόγου.
if to-me it-were-allowed now but of-one I-am-master word
οὗ γὰρ τοιούτων δεῖ, τοιοῦτός εἰμ' ἐγώ·
where for such-ones is-needed such am I
χὤπου δικαίων κἀγαθῶν ἀνδρῶν κρίσις,
and-where of-just and-good men judgment
οὐκ ἂν λάβοις μου μᾶλλον οὐδέν' εὐσεβῆ.
not — you-could-find than-me more no-one pious
νικᾶν γε μέντοι πανταχοῦ χρῄζων ἔφυν,
to-win at-least however everywhere wishing I-was-born
πλὴν εἰς σέ· νῦν δὲ σοί γ' ἑκὼν ἐκστήσομαι.
except against you now and to-you at-least willingly I-will-yield
ἄφετε γὰρ αὐτὸν μηδὲ προσψαύσητ' ἔτι·
let-go for him nor touch still
ἐᾶτε μίμνειν. οὐδὲ σοῦ προσχρῄζομεν,
let to-remain nor of-you do-we-need
τά γ' ὅπλ' ἔχοντες ταῦτ', ἐπεὶ πάρεστι μὲν
the at-least arms having these since is-present indeed
Τεῦκρος παρ' ἡμῖν, τήνδ' ἐπιστήμην ἔχων,
Teucer with us this skill having
ἐγώ θ', ὃς οἶμαι σοῦ κάκιον οὐδὲν ἂν
I and who think than-you worse nothing —
τούτων κρατύνειν, μηδ' ἐπιθύνειν χερί.
these could-wield nor to-aim with-hand
τί δῆτα σοῦ δεῖ; χαῖρε τὴν Λῆμνον πατῶν·
what then of-you need farewell the Lemnos treading
ἡμεῖς δ' ἴωμεν, καὶ τάχ' ἂν τὸ σὸν γέρας
we and let-us-go and perhaps — the your prize

τιμὴν ἐμοὶ νείμειεν, ἣν σὲ χρῆν ἔχειν.
honor to-me might-allot which you it-behooved to-have

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οἴμοι· τί δράσω δύσμορος; σὺ τοῖς ἐμοῖς
ah-me what shall-I-do ill-fated you in-the my

ὅπλοισι κοσμηθεὶς ἐν Ἀργείοις φανεῖ;
arms adorned among Argives will-appear

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ μή μ' ἀντιφώνει μηδέν, ὡς στείχοντα δή.
not me answer nothing as going indeed

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ σπέρμ' Ἀχιλλέως, οὐδὲ σοῦ φωνῆς ἔτι
O seed of-Achilles not-even of-your voice still

γενήσομαι προσφθεγκτός, ἀλλ' οὕτως ἄπει;
shall-I-be addressed but thus you-will-go

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ χώρει σύ· μὴ πρόσλευσσε, γενναῖός περ ὤν,
go you not look-at noble although being

ἡμῶν ὅπως μὴ τὴν τύχην διαφθερεῖς.
at-us so-that not the fortune you-ruin

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἦ καὶ πρὸς ὑμῶν ὧδ' ἔρημος, ὦ ξένοι,
— and by you thus deserted O strangers

λειφθήσομαι δὴ κοὐκ ἐποικτερεῖτέ με;
shall-I-be-left indeed and-not will-you-pity me

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὅδ' ἐστὶν ἡμῶν ναυκράτωρ ὁ παῖς· ὅσ' ἂν
this-one is our ship-master the boy whatever —

οὗτος λέγῃ σοι, ταῦτά σοι χἠμεῖς φαμέν.
he says to-you these-things to-you and-we say

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀκούσομαι μὲν ὡς ἔφυν οἴκτου πλέως
I-shall-be-called indeed that I-was-born of-pity full

πρὸς τοῦδ'· ὅμως δὲ μείνατ', εἰ τούτῳ δοκεῖ,
from this-one nevertheless but stay if to-him it-seems-good

χρόνον τοσοῦτον, εἰς ὅσον τά τ' ἐκ νεὼς
time so-long to as-much-as the both from ship

στείλωσι ναῦται καὶ θεοῖς εὐξώμεθα.
make-ready sailors and to-gods we-pray
χοὗτος τάχ᾽ ἂν φρόνησιν ἐν τούτῳ λάβοι
and-he perhaps — wisdom in this might-take
λῴω τιν᾽ ἡμῖν. νὼ μὲν οὖν ὁρμώμεθον,
better some for-us we-two indeed then set-out
ὑμεῖς δ᾽, ὅταν καλῶμεν, ὁρμᾶσθαι ταχεῖς.
you but when we-call to-set-out quick

XII · THE CAVE

Philoctetes laments in his cave, which will be his tomb. He has lost his bow, and with it his living, and the birds and beasts will hunt him now. He curses Odysseus, and the sailors tell him that it is his own choice. They urge him to come, but he refuses, wishing only for a sword to kill himself.

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ κοίλας πέτρας γύαλον
O of-hollow rock hollow
θερμὸν καὶ παγετῶδες, ὥς σ᾽ οὐκ ἔμελλον ἄρ᾽, ὦ τάλας,
warm and icy how you not I-was-to then O wretched
λείψειν οὐδέποτ᾽, ἀλλά μοι καὶ θνῄσκοντι συνείσει.
to-leave ever but to-me also dying you-will-be-witness
ὤμοι μοί μοι.
ah-me me me
ὦ πληρέστατον αὔλιον
O fullest cave
λύπας τᾶς ἀπ᾽ ἐμοῦ τάλαν,
of-grief the from me wretched
τίπτ᾽ αὖ μοι τὸ κατ᾽ ἦμαρ
why again to-me the by day

ἔσται; τοῦ ποτε τεύξομαι
will-be from-what ever shall-I-obtain
σιτονόμου μέλεος πόθεν ἐλπίδος;
food-providing wretched whence of-hope
πέλειαι δ' ἄνω
doves and above
πτωκάδες ὀξυτόνου διὰ πνεύματος
cowering shrill through wind
ἐλῶσιν· οὐκέτ' ἴσχω.
they-will-drive no-longer I-hold
ΧΟΡΟΣ σύ τοι σύ τοι κατηξίωσας,
you surely you surely chose
ὦ βαρύποτμε, κοὐκ
O ill-fated and-not
ἄλλοθεν ἔχει τύχᾳ τᾷδ' ἀπὸ μείζονος,
from-elsewhere you-are-held by-fortune this from greater
εὖτέ γε παρὸν φρονῆσαι
when at-least it-being-possible to-be-wise
τοῦ λώονος δαίμονος εἵλου τὸ κάκιον αἰνεῖν.
the better fortune you-chose the worse to-approve
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ τλάμων τλάμων ἄρ' ἐγὼ
O wretched wretched then I
καὶ μόχθῳ λωβατός, ὃς ἤδη μετ' οὐδενὸς ὕστερον
and with-toil outraged who now with no hereafter
ἀνδρῶν εἰσοπίσω τάλας ναίων ἐνθάδ' ὀλοῦμαι,
of-men afterward wretched dwelling here shall-perish
αἰαῖ αἰαῖ,
alas alas
οὐ φορβὰν ἔτι προσφέρων,
not food still bringing

οὐ πτανῶν ἀπ᾽ ἐμῶν ὅπλων
not of-winged from my arms
κραταιαῖς μετὰ χερσὶν
mighty with hands
ἴσχων· ἀλλά μοι ἄσκοπα
holding but to-me unseen
κρυπτά τ᾽ ἔπη δολερᾶς ὑπέδυ φρενός·
hidden and words of-crafty stole-in mind
ἰδοίμαν δέ νιν,
may-I-see and him
τὸν τάδε μησάμενον, τὸν ἴσον χρόνον
the this having-devised the equal time
ἐμὰς λαχόντ᾽ ἀνίας.
my having-gotten pains
ΧΟΡΟΣ πότμος, πότμος σε δαιμόνων τάδ᾽,
fate fate you of-gods this
οὐδὲ σέ γε δόλος,
nor you at-least trick
ἔσχεν ὑπὸ χειρὸς ἀμᾶς. στυγερὰν ἔχε
held under hand my hateful hold
δύσποτμον ἀρὰν ἐπ᾽ ἄλλοις.
ill-starred curse upon others
καὶ γὰρ ἐμοὶ τοῦτο μέλει, μὴ φιλότητ᾽ ἀπώσῃ.
and for to-me this is-a-care not friendship you-thrust-away
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οἴμοι μοι, καί που πολιᾶς
ah-me me and somewhere of-gray
πόντου θινὸς ἐφήμενος
of-sea of-shore sitting
ἐγγελᾷ, χερὶ πάλλων
he-laughs in-hand brandishing

τὰν ἐμὰν μελέου τροφάν,
the my of-wretched sustenance
τὰν οὐδείς ποτ᾽ ἐβάστασεν.
which no-one ever handled
ὦ τόξον φίλον, ὦ φίλων
O bow dear O from-dear
χειρῶν ἐκβεβιασμένον,
hands forced-away
ἦ που ἐλεινὸν ὁρᾷς, φρένας εἴ τινας 1130
— surely pitifully you-see wits if any
ἔχεις, τὸν Ἡράκλειον
you-have the of-Heracles
ἄρθμιον ὧδέ σοι
companion thus for-you
οὐκέτι χρησόμενον τὸ μεθύστερον,
no-longer to-use the hereafter
ἄλλου δ᾽ ἐν μεταλλαγᾷ
of-another but in exchange
πολυμηχάνου ἀνδρὸς ἐρέσσει, 1135
of-many-devices of-man you-are-plied
ὁρῶν μὲν αἰσχρὰς ἀπάτας, στυγνὸν δὲ φῶτ᾽ ἐχθοδοπόν,
seeing indeed shameful deceits hateful but man enemy
μυρί᾽, ἀπ᾽ αἰσχρῶν ἀνατέλλονθ᾽, ὃς ἐφ᾽ ἡμῖν κάκ᾽ ἐμήσατ᾽,
countless from shameful rising who against us evils devised
ὦ Ζεῦ.
O Zeus
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀνδρός τοι τὰ μὲν ἔνδικ᾽ αἰὲν εἰπεῖν, 1140
of-man surely the indeed just always to-say
εἰπόντος δὲ μὴ φθονερὰν
having-said but not hateful

ἐξῶσαι γλώσσας ὀδύναν.
to-thrust-out of-tongue pain
κεῖνος δ' εἷς ἀπὸ πολλῶν
he and one from many
ταχθεὶς τῶνδ' ἐφημοσύνᾳ
appointed by-their command
κοινὰν ἤνυσεν ἐς φίλους ἀρωγάν.
common accomplished for friends help
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ πταναὶ θῆραι χαροπῶν τ'
O winged prey bright-eyed and
ἔθνη θηρῶν, οἵς ὅδ' ἔχει
tribes of-beasts which this holds
χῶρος οὐρεσιβώτας,
place mountain-ranging
μηκέτ' ἀπ' αὐλίων φυγᾷ
no-longer from lairs in-flight
πηδᾶτ'· οὐ γὰρ ἔχω χεροῖν
leap not for I-have in-hands
τὰν πρόσθεν βελέων ἀλκάν,
the before of-shafts strength
ὦ δύστανος ἐγὼ τανῦν,
O wretched I now
ἀλλ' ἀνέδην, ὁ δὲ χῶρος ἄρ' οὐκέτι
but freely the and place then no-longer
φοβητὸς οὐκέθ' ὑμῖν,
fearful no-longer to-you
ἕρπετε· νῦν καλὸν
come now fair
ἀντίφονον κορέσαι στόμα πρὸς χάριν
in-turn-for-blood to-glut mouth to pleasure

ἐμᾶς σαρκὸς αἰόλας·
of-my of-flesh gleaming
ἀπὸ γὰρ βίον αὐτίκα λείψω.
off for life at-once I-shall-leave
πόθεν γὰρ ἔσται βιοτά; τίς ὧδ' ἐν αὔραις τρέφεται,
whence for will-be livelihood who thus on breezes is-nourished
μηκέτι μηδενὸς κρατύνων ὅσα πέμπει βιόδωρος αἶα;
no-longer nothing commanding which sends life-giving earth
ΧΟΡΟΣ πρὸς θεῶν, εἴ τι σέβει ξένον, πέλασσον,
by gods if at-all you-revere stranger approach
εὐνοίᾳ πάσᾳ πελάταν·
with-goodwill all approaching
ἀλλὰ γνῶθ', εὖ γνῶθ' ἐπὶ σοὶ
but know well know on you
κῆρα τάνδ' ἀποφεύγειν.
fate this to-escape
οἰκτρὰ γὰρ βόσκειν, ἀδαὴς δ'
pitiful for to-feed ignorant and
ἔχειν μυρίον ἄχθος, ὃ ξυνοικεῖ.
to-bear countless burden which dwells-with
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ πάλιν πάλιν παλαιὸν ἄλγημ' ὑπέμνασας, ὦ
again again old pain you-have-reminded O
λῷστε τῶν πρὶν ἐντόπων.
best of-the former inhabitants
τί μ' ὤλεσας; τί μ' εἴργασαι;
why me you-destroyed why me you-have-done
ΧΟΡΟΣ τί τοῦτ' ἔλεξας;
what this did-you-say

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ εἰ σὺ τὰν ἐμοὶ στυγερὰν
if you the to-me hateful

Τρῳάδα γᾶν μ' ἤλπισας ἄξειν.
Trojan land me you-hoped to-bring

ΧΟΡΟΣ τόδε γὰρ νοῶ κράτιστον.
this for I-think best

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἀπό νύν με λείπετ' ἤδη.
off now me leave already

ΧΟΡΟΣ φίλα μοι, φίλα ταῦτα παρήγγειλας ἑκόντι τε πράσσειν.
dear to-me dear this you-urged willing and to-do

ἴωμεν ἴωμεν
let-us-go let-us-go

ναὸς ἵν' ἡμῖν τέτακται.
of-ship where for-us is-assigned

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ μή, πρὸς ἀραίου Διός, ἔλθῃς, ἱκετεύω.
not by of-curses Zeus go I-beseech

ΧΟΡΟΣ μετρίαζ'.
be-moderate

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ ξένοι,
O strangers

μείνατε, πρὸς θεῶν.
stay by gods

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί θροεῖς;
what do-you-cry

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ αἰαῖ αἰαῖ, δαίμων δαίμων·
alas alas fate fate

ἀπόλωλ' ὁ τάλας·
I-am-lost the wretched

ὦ ποὺς πούς, τί σ' ἔτ' ἐν βίῳ
O foot foot what you still in life

τεύξω τῷ μετόπιν τάλας;
shall-I-do in-the hereafter wretched

ὦ ξένοι, ἔλθετ' ἐπήλυδες αὖθις. 1190
O strangers come foreigners again

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί ῥέξοντες ἀλλοκότῳ
what to-do with-strange

γνώμᾳ τῶν πάρος, ὧν προύφαινες;
mind than-the former which you-showed

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οὔτοι νεμεσητόν,
not-surely blameworthy

ἀλύοντα χειμερίῳ
being-distraught with-wintry

λύπᾳ καὶ παρὰ νοῦν θροεῖν. 1195
grief and beyond mind to-cry

ΧΟΡΟΣ βᾶθί νυν, ὦ τάλαν, ὥς σε κελεύομεν.
go now O wretched as you we-bid

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οὐδέποτ' οὐδέποτ', ἴσθι τόδ' ἔμπεδον,
never never know this firm

οὐδ' εἰ πυρφόρος ἀστεροπητὴς
not-even if fire-bearing lightener

βροντᾶς αὐγαῖς μ' εἶσι φλογίζων.
of-thunder with-flashes me shall-come blazing

ἐρρέτω Ἴλιον οἵ θ' ὑπ' ἐκείνῳ 1200
let-it-perish Ilium those and under it

πάντες ὅσοι τόδ' ἔτλασαν ἐμοῦ ποδὸς ἄρθρον ἀπῶσαι.
all as-many-as this dared of-my of-foot joint to-cast-out

ἀλλ', ὦ ξένοι, ἕν γέ μοι εὖχος ὀρέξατε.
but O strangers one at-least to-me prayer grant

ΧΟΡΟΣ ποῖον ἐρεῖς τόδ᾽ ἔπος; ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ξίφος, εἴ ποθεν,
what will-you-say this word sword if from-somewhere

ἢ γέννυν ἢ βελέων τι προπέμψατε.
or axe or of-shafts something send

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὡς τίνα δὴ ῥέξῃς παλάμαν ποτέ;
so-that what indeed you-may-do deed ever

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ χρῶτ᾽ ἀπὸ πάντα καὶ ἄρθρα τέμω χερί·
flesh off all and joints I-may-cut with-hand

φονᾷ φονᾷ νόος ἤδη.
for-slaughter for-slaughter mind now

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί ποτε;
what ever

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ πατέρα ματεύων.
father seeking

ΧΟΡΟΣ ποῖ γᾶς; ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἐς Ἄιδου·
where of-earth to of-Hades

οὐ γάρ ἐστ᾽ ἐν φάει γ᾽ ἔτι.
not for he-is in light at-least still

ὦ πόλις, ὦ πατρία,
O city O paternal

πῶς ἂν εἰσίδοιμ᾽ ἄθλιός σ᾽ ἀνήρ,
how — might-I-see wretched you man

ὅς γε σὰν λιπὼν ἱερὰν
who at-least your having-left sacred

λιβάδ᾽ ἐχθροῖς ἔβαν Δαναοῖς
stream to-hostile went Danaans

ἀρωγός· ἔτ᾽ οὐδέν εἰμι.
helper still nothing I-am

Neoptolemus comes back, followed by Odysseus, determined to undo the wrong. He returns the bow to Philoctetes despite Odysseus' threats, and Philoctetes draws on Odysseus, who withdraws. Neoptolemus urges him to go to Troy, where he will be healed and win glory, but Philoctetes refuses to aid the sons of Atreus, and Neoptolemus agrees to take him home. Heracles appears and tells him to go to Troy, to be healed by Asclepius, and to kill Paris and take the city. Philoctetes obeys, and bids farewell to Lemnos.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐγὼ μὲν ἤδη καὶ πάλαι νεὼς ὁμοῦ
I indeed now also long-ago of-ship near
στείχων ἂν ἦ σοι τῆς ἐμῆς, εἰ μὴ πέλας
going — would-be for-you of-the my if not near
Ὀδυσσέα στείχοντα τόν τ' Ἀχιλλέως
Odysseus coming the and of-Achilles
γόνον πρὸς ἡμᾶς δεῦρ' ἰόντ' ἐλεύσσομεν. 1220
son to us hither going we-saw
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ οὐκ ἂν φράσειας ἥντιν' αὖ παλίντροπος
not — would-you-tell what again turned-back
κέλευθον ἕρπεις ὧδε σὺν σπουδῇ ταχύς;
path you-go thus with haste quick
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ λύσων ὅσ' ἐξήμαρτον ἐν τῷ πρὶν χρόνῳ.
to-undo what I-did-wrong in the former time
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ δεινόν γε φωνεῖς· ἡ δ' ἁμαρτία τίς ἦν;
terrible-thing at-least you-say the and wrong what was-it
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἣν σοὶ πιθόμενος τῷ τε σύμπαντι στρατῷ 1225
which to-you obeying to-the and whole army
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἔπραξας ἔργον ποῖον ὧν οὔ σοι πρέπον;
did-you-do deed what of-which not for-you befitting

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀπάταισιν αἰσχραῖς ἄνδρα καὶ δόλοις ἑλών.
by-deceits shameful man and by-tricks taking

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ τὸν ποῖον; ὤμοι· μῶν τι βουλεύει νέον;
the what ah-me surely-not some you-plan new

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ νέον μὲν οὐδέν, τῷ δὲ Ποίαντος τόκῳ,
new indeed nothing to-the but of-Poeas son

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ τί χρῆμα δράσεις; ὡς μ' ὑπῆλθέ τις φόβος.
what thing will-you-do how me came-over some fear

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ παρ' οὗπερ ἔλαβον τάδε τὰ τόξ', αὖθις πάλιν
from whom-indeed I-took this the bow again back

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ὦ Ζεῦ, τί λέξεις; οὔ τί που δοῦναι νοεῖς;
O Zeus what will-you-say not at-all surely to-give you-intend

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ αἰσχρῶς γὰρ αὐτὰ κοὐ δίκῃ λαβὼν ἔχω.
shamefully for them and-not justly having-taken I-have

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ πρὸς θεῶν, πότερα δὴ κερτομῶν λέγεις τάδε;
by gods whether indeed mocking you-say this

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ εἰ κερτόμησίς ἐστι τἀληθῆ λέγειν.
if mockery it-is the-truth to-say

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ τί φής, Ἀχιλλέως παῖ; τίν' εἴρηκας λόγον;
what do-you-say of-Achilles son what have-you-said word

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ δὶς ταὐτὰ βούλει καὶ τρὶς ἀναπολεῖν μ' ἔπη;
twice the-same do-you-wish and thrice to-repeat me words

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἀρχὴν κλύειν ἂν οὐδ' ἅπαξ ἐβουλόμην.
at-all to-hear — not-even once I-would-have-wished

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ εὖ νῦν ἐπίστω πάντ' ἀκηκοὼς λόγον.
well now know all having-heard word

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἔστιν τις, ἔστιν ὅς σε κωλύσει τὸ δρᾶν.
there-is someone there-is who you will-prevent the to-do

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τί φής; τίς ἔσται μ' οὐπικωλύσων τάδε;
what do-you-say who will-be me the-preventer this

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ξύμπας Ἀχαιῶν λαός, ἐν δὲ τοῖς ἐγώ.
whole of-Achaeans people among and them I

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ σοφὸς πεφυκὼς οὐδὲν ἐξαυδᾷς σοφόν.
clever being-born nothing you-utter clever

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ σὺ δ' οὔτε φωνεῖς οὔτε δρασείεις σοφά.
you but neither speak nor intend-to-do clever-things

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀλλ' εἰ δίκαια, τῶν σοφῶν κρείσσω τάδε.
but if just than-the clever stronger this

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ καὶ πῶς δίκαιον, ἅ γ' ἔλαβες βουλαῖς ἐμαῖς,
and how just what at-least you-took by-counsels my

πάλιν μεθεῖναι ταῦτα; ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τὴν ἁμαρτίαν
back to-release this the wrong

αἰσχρὰν ἁμαρτὼν ἀναλαβεῖν πειράσομαι.
shameful having-done to-take-back I-shall-try

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ στρατὸν δ' Ἀχαιῶν οὐ φοβεῖ, πράσσων τάδε;
army and of-Achaeans not do-you-fear doing this

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ξὺν τῷ δικαίῳ τὸν σὸν οὐ ταρβῶ φόβον.
with the just the your not I-fear fear

ἀλλ' οὐδέ τοι σῇ χειρὶ πείθομαι τὸ δρᾶν.
but nor surely to-your hand I-yield the to-do

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ οὔ τἄρα Τρωσίν, ἀλλὰ σοὶ μαχούμεθα.
not then with-Trojans but with-you we-shall-fight

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἴτω τὸ μέλλον. ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ χεῖρα δεξιὰν ὁρᾷς
let-come the future hand right you-see

κώπης ἐπιψαύουσαν; ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀλλὰ κἀμέ τοι
of-hilt touching but and-me surely

ταὐτὸν τόδ' ὄψει δρῶντα κοὐ μέλλοντ' ἔτι.
the-same this you-will-see doing and-not delaying still

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ καίτοι σ᾽ ἐάσω· τῷ δὲ σύμπαντι στρατῷ
and-yet you I-will-leave to-the but whole army
λέξω τάδ᾽ ἐλθών, ὅς σε τιμωρήσεται.
I-will-tell this having-gone who you will-punish
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἐσωφρόνησας· κἂν τὰ λοίφ᾽ οὕτω φρονῇς,
you-were-wise and-if the rest thus you-think
ἴσως ἂν ἐκτὸς κλαυμάτων ἔχοις πόδα.
perhaps — outside of-tears you-may-have foot
σὺ δ᾽, ὦ Ποίαντος παῖ, Φιλοκτήτην λέγω,
you and O of-Poeas son Philoctetes I-mean
ἔξελθ᾽, ἀμείψας τάσδε πετρήρεις στέγας.
come-out having-left these rocky dwellings
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ τίς αὖ παρ᾽ ἄντροις θόρυβος ἵσταται βοῆς;
what again by caves uproar arises of-shouting
τί μ᾽ ἐκκαλεῖσθε; τοῦ κεχρημένοι, ξένοι;
why me do-you-call-out of-what needing strangers
ὤμοι· κακὸν τὸ χρῆμα. μῶν τί μοι νέα
ah-me evil the thing surely-not some to-me new
πάρεστε πρὸς κακοῖσι πέμποντες κακά;
you-are-here on-top-of evils sending evils
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ θάρσει· λόγους δ᾽ ἄκουσον οὓς ἥκω φέρων.
take-heart words but hear which I-come bringing
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ δέδοικ᾽ ἔγωγε· καὶ τὰ πρὶν γὰρ ἐκ λόγων
I-fear I-for-my-part also the before for from words
καλῶν κακῶς ἔπραξα, σοῖς πεισθεὶς λόγοις.
fair badly I-fared by-your persuaded words
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οὔκουν ἔνεστι καὶ μεταγνῶναι πάλιν;
not-then is-it-possible also to-change-mind again

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ τοιοῦτος ἦσθα τοῖς λόγοισι χὥτε μου
such you-were in-the words and-when of-me
τὰ τόξ' ἔκλεπτες, πιστός, ἀτηρὸς λάθρᾳ.
the bow you-stole trustworthy baneful secretly
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀλλ' οὔ τι μὴν νῦν· βούλομαι δέ σου κλύειν,
but not at-all truly now I-wish and you to-hear
πότερα δέδοκταί σοι μένοντι καρτερεῖν
whether it-has-been-decided by-you remaining to-endure
ἢ πλεῖν μεθ' ἡμῶν; ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ παῦε, μὴ λέξῃς πέρα· 1275
or to-sail with us stop not say further
μάτην γὰρ ἂν εἴπῃς γε πάντ' εἰρήσεται.
in-vain for what you-say at-least all will-be-said
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οὕτω δέδοκται; ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ καὶ πέρα γ'
thus it-has-been-decided and further at-least
ἴσθ' ἢ λέγω.
know than I-say
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀλλ' ἤθελον μὲν ἄν σε πεισθῆναι λόγοις
but I-would-have-wished indeed — you to-be-persuaded by-words
ἐμοῖσιν· εἰ δὲ μή τι πρὸς καιρὸν λέγων
my if but not anything to the-purpose saying
κυρῶ, πέπαυμαι. ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ πάντα γὰρ φράσεις μάτην. 1280
I-am I-have-stopped all for you-will-say in-vain
οὐ γάρ ποτ' εὔνουν τὴν ἐμὴν κτήσει φρένα,
not for ever well-disposed the my you-will-get mind
ὅστις γ' ἐμοῦ δόλοισι τὸν βίον λαβὼν
who at-least of-me by-tricks the livelihood having-taken
ἀπεστέρηκας, κἆτα νουθετεῖς ἐμὲ
you-have-robbed and-then admonish me
ἐλθών, ἀρίστου πατρὸς αἴσχιστος γεγώς.
having-come of-best father most-shameful born

ὄλοισθ', Ἀτρεῖδαι μὲν μάλιστ', ἔπειτα δὲ
may-you-perish sons-of-Atreus indeed most then and
ὁ Λαρτίου παῖς καὶ σύ. ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ μὴ 'πεύξῃ πέρα·
the of-Laertes son and you not pray further
δέχου δὲ χειρὸς ἐξ ἐμῆς βέλη τάδε.
receive but hand from my shafts these
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ πῶς εἶπας; ἆρα δεύτερον δολούμεθα;
how did-you-say — a-second-time are-we-tricked
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀπώμοσ' ἁγνὸν Ζηνὸς ὑψίστου σέβας.
I-swear-it-off by-the-pure of-Zeus highest majesty
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ φίλτατ' εἰπών, εἰ λέγεις ἐτήτυμα.
O dearest saying if you-speak truly
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τοὔργον παρέσται φανερόν· ἀλλὰ δεξιὰν
the-deed will-be-present plain but right
πρότεινε χεῖρα, καὶ κράτει τῶν σῶν ὅπλων.
stretch-out hand and master the your arms
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ ἐγὼ δ' ἀπαυδῶ γ', ᾧ θεοὶ ξυνίστορες,
I and forbid at-least to-which gods are-witnesses
ὑπέρ τ' Ἀτρειδῶν τοῦ τε σύμπαντος στρατοῦ.
on-behalf and of-sons-of-Atreus of-the and whole army
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ τέκνον, τίνος φώνημα, μῶν Ὀδυσσέως,
child whose voice surely-not of-Odysseus
ἐπῃσθόμην; ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ σάφ' ἴσθι· καὶ πέλας γ' ὁρᾷς,
I-perceived clearly know and near at-least you-see
ὅς σ' ἐς τὰ Τροίας πεδί' ἀποστελῶ βίᾳ,
who you to the of-Troy plains will-send by-force
ἐάν τ' Ἀχιλλέως παῖς ἐάν τε μὴ θέλῃ·
if both of-Achilles son if and not wishes
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἀλλ' οὔ τι χαίρων, ἢν τόδ' ὀρθωθῇ βέλος.
but not at-all rejoicing if this be-aimed shaft

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἆ, μηδαμῶς, μή, πρὸς θεῶν, μεθῇς βέλος. 1300
ah by-no-means not by gods let-go shaft

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ μέθες με, πρὸς θεῶν, χεῖρα, φίλτατον τέκνον.
let-go me by gods hand dearest child

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οὐκ ἂν μεθείην. ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ φεῦ·
not — I-would-let-go alas

τί μ' ἄνδρα πολέμιον
why me man warring

ἐχθρόν τ' ἀφείλου μὴ κτανεῖν τόξοις ἐμοῖς;
hostile and you-prevented not to-kill with-bow my

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀλλ' οὔτ' ἐμοὶ τοῦτ' ἐστὶν οὔτε σοὶ καλόν.
but neither for-me this is nor for-you honorable

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἀλλ' οὖν τοσοῦτόν γ' ἴσθι, 1305
but then so-much at-least know

τοὺς πρώτους στρατοῦ,
the first of-the-army

τοὺς τῶν Ἀχαιῶν ψευδοκήρυκας, κακοὺς
the of-the Achaeans false-heralds base

ὄντας πρὸς αἰχμήν, ἐν δὲ τοῖς λόγοις θρασεῖς.
being toward spear in but the words bold

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ εἶεν· τὰ μὲν δὴ τόξ' ἔχεις, κοὐκ ἔσθ' ὅτου
well the indeed then bow you-have and-not there-is for-what

ὀργὴν ἔχοις ἂν οὐδὲ μέμψιν εἰς ἐμέ.
anger you-might-have — nor blame against me

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ξύμφημι· τὴν φύσιν δ' ἔδειξας, ὦ τέκνον, 1310
I-agree the nature but you-showed O child

ἐξ ἧς ἔβλαστες, οὐχὶ Σισύφου πατρός,
from which you-sprang not of-Sisyphus father

ἀλλ' ἐξ Ἀχιλλέως, ὃς μετὰ ζώντων ὅτ' ἦν
but of Achilles who among the-living when he-was

ἤκου᾽ ἄριστα, νῦν δὲ τῶν τεθνηκότων.
was-spoken-of best now and of-the dead

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἥσθην πατέρα τὸν ἀμὸν εὐλογοῦντά σε
I-was-glad father the my praising you

αὐτόν τ᾽ ἔμ᾽· ὧν δέ σου τυχεῖν ἐφίεμαι,
myself and me what but from-you to-get I-desire

ἄκουσον. ἀνθρώποισι τὰς μὲν ἐκ θεῶν
hear for-men the indeed from gods

τύχας δοθείσας ἔστ᾽ ἀναγκαῖον φέρειν·
fortunes given it-is necessary to-bear

ὅσοι δ᾽ ἑκουσίοισιν ἔγκεινται βλάβαις,
as-many-as but in-self-chosen are-involved harms

ὥσπερ σύ, τούτοις οὔτε συγγνώμην ἔχειν
as you these neither pardon to-have

δίκαιόν ἐστιν οὔτ᾽ ἐποικτίρειν τινά.
just is nor to-pity anyone

σὺ δ᾽ ἠγρίωσαι, κοὔτε σύμβουλον δέχει,
you and have-grown-savage and-neither counselor accept

ἐάν τε νουθετῇ τις εὐνοίᾳ λέγων,
if and should-admonish someone with-goodwill speaking

στυγεῖς, πολέμιον δυσμενῆ θ᾽ ἡγούμενος.
you-hate enemy hostile and considering-him

ὅμως δὲ λέξω· Ζῆνα δ᾽ ὅρκιον καλῶ·
nevertheless but I-will-speak Zeus and as-oath-god I-call

καὶ ταῦτ᾽ ἐπίστω καὶ γράφου φρενῶν ἔσω.
and this know and write of-wits within

σὺ γὰρ νοσεῖς τόδ᾽ ἄλγος ἐκ θείας τύχης,
you for are-sick this pain from divine fortune

Χρύσης πελασθεὶς φύλακος, ὃς τὸν ἀκαλυφῆ
of-Chryse having-approached the-guardian who the unroofed

σηκὸν φυλάσσει κρύφιος οἰκουρῶν ὄφις·
precinct guards secretly keeping-house snake
καὶ παῦλαν ἴσθι τῆσδε μή ποτ' ἂν τυχεῖν
and respite know this not ever — would-get
νόσου βαρείας, ἕως ἂν αὐτὸς ἥλιος
of-disease heavy while — the-same sun
ταύτῃ μὲν αἴρῃ, τῇδε δ' αὖ δύνῃ πάλιν,
here indeed rises here and again sets back
πρὶν ἂν τὰ Τροίας πεδί' ἑκὼν αὐτὸς μόλῃς,
before — the of-Troy plains willing yourself you-come
καὶ τοῖν παρ' ἡμῖν ἐντυχὼν Ἀσκληπίδαιν
and the-two among us meeting sons-of-Asclepius
νόσου μαλαχθῇς τῆσδε, καὶ τὰ πέργαμα
from-disease you-are-relieved this and the towers
ξὺν τοῖσδε τόξοις ξύν τ' ἐμοὶ πέρσας φανῇς.
with this bow with and me having-sacked you-appear
ὡς δ' οἶδα ταῦτα τῇδ' ἔχοντ' ἐγὼ φράσω.
how and I-know this thus being I will-tell
ἀνὴρ γὰρ ἡμῖν ἐστιν ἐκ Τροίας ἁλούς,
man for to-us is from Troy captured
Ἕλενος ἀριστόμαντις, ὃς λέγει σαφῶς
Helenus best-prophet who says clearly
ὡς δεῖ γενέσθαι ταῦτα· καὶ πρὸς τοῖσδ' ἔτι
that must happen this and in-addition-to these still
ὡς ἔστ' ἀνάγκη τοῦ παρεστῶτος θέρους
that it-is necessary of-the present summer
Τροίαν ἁλῶναι πᾶσαν· ἢ δίδωσ' ἑκὼν
Troy to-be-taken all or he-gives willing
κτείνειν ἑαυτόν, ἣν τάδε ψευσθῇ λέγων.
to-kill himself if in-this he-be-false speaking

ταῦτ᾽ οὖν ἐπεὶ κάτοισθα, συγχώρει θέλων.
this then since you-know yield willing

καλὴ γὰρ ἡ ᾽πίκτησις, Ἑλλήνων ἕνα
fair for the addition of-Greeks one

κριθέντ᾽ ἄριστον τοῦτο μὲν παιωνίας
judged best this indeed healing

ἐς χεῖρας ἐλθεῖν, εἶτα τὴν πολύστονον
into hands to-come then the much-lamented

Τροίαν ἑλόντα κλέος ὑπέρτατον λαβεῖν.
Troy having-taken glory highest to-win

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ στυγνὸς αἰών, τί με, τί δῆτ᾽ ἔχεις ἄνω
O hateful life why me why then do-you-hold above

βλέποντα κοὐκ ἀφῆκας εἰς Ἅιδου μολεῖν;
seeing and-not let-go to Hades to-go

οἴμοι, τί δράσω; πῶς ἀπιστήσω λόγοις
ah-me what shall-I-do how shall-I-disbelieve words

τοῖς τοῦδ᾽, ὃς εὔνους ὢν ἐμοὶ παρῄνεσεν;
the of-this-one who well-disposed being to-me advised

ἀλλ᾽ εἰκάθω δῆτ᾽; εἶτα πῶς ὁ δύσμορος
but shall-I-yield then then how the ill-fated

εἰς φῶς τάδ᾽ ἔρξας εἶμι; τῷ προσήγορος;
into light this having-done shall-I-go with-whom speaking

πῶς, ὦ τὰ πάντ᾽ ἰδόντες ἀμφ᾽ ἐμοὶ κύκλοι,
how O the all having-seen about me circles

ταῦτ᾽ ἐξανασχήσεσθε, τοῖσιν Ἀτρέως
this will-you-endure with-the of-Atreus

ἐμὲ ξυνόντα παισίν, οἵ μ᾽ ἀπώλεσαν;
me consorting sons who me destroyed

πῶς τῷ πανώλει παιδὶ τῷ Λαερτίου;
how with-the accursed son the of-Laertes

οὐ γάρ με τἄλγος τῶν παρελθόντων δάκνει,
not for me the-pain of-the past bites
ἀλλ᾽ οἷα χρὴ παθεῖν με πρὸς τούτων ἔτι
but what must to-suffer me from these still
δοκῶ προλεύσσειν· οἷς γὰρ ἡ γνώμη κακῶν
I-seem to-foresee for-whom for the mind of-evils
μήτηρ γένηται, τἄλλα παιδεύει κακούς.
mother becomes the-rest it-trains bad
καὶ σοῦ δ᾽ ἔγωγε θαυμάσας ἔχω τόδε.
and at-you and I-for-my-part marveling have this
χρῆν γάρ σε μήτ᾽ αὐτόν ποτ᾽ ἐς Τροίαν μολεῖν
it-behooved for you neither yourself ever to Troy to-go
ἡμᾶς τ᾽ ἀπείργειν, οἵ γέ σου καθύβρισαν,
us and to-keep-away who at-least you insulted
πατρὸς γέρας συλῶντες, εἶτα τοῖσδε σὺ
of-father prize robbing then for-these you
εἶ ξυμμαχήσων, κἄμ᾽ ἀναγκάζεις τόδε;
are to-fight-with and-me compel to-this
μὴ δῆτα, τέκνον· ἀλλ᾽ ἅ μοι ξυνώμοσας,
not then child but what to-me you-swore
πέμψον πρὸς οἴκους· καὐτὸς ἐν Σκύρῳ μένων
send to home and-yourself in Scyros remaining
ἔα κακῶς αὐτοὺς ἀπόλλυσθαι κακούς.
let badly them perish base
χοὕτω διπλῆν μὲν ἐξ ἐμοῦ κτήσει χάριν,
and-so double indeed from me you-will-get thanks
διπλῆν δὲ πατρός, κοὐ κακοὺς ἐπωφελῶν
double and of-father and-not base helping
δόξεις ὁμοῖος τοῖς κακοῖς πεφυκέναι.
you-will-seem like to-the base to-be-born

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ λέγεις μὲν εἰκότ', ἀλλ' ὅμως σε βούλομαι
you-say indeed reasonable-things but nevertheless you I-wish
θεοῖς τε πιστεύσαντα τοῖς τ' ἐμοῖς λόγοις
to-gods both trusting to-the and my words
φίλου μετ' ἀνδρὸς τοῦδε τῆσδ' ἐκπλεῖν χθονός.
friend with man this from-this to-sail-off land
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἦ πρὸς τὰ Τροίας πεδία καὶ τὸν Ἀτρέως
— to the of-Troy plains and the of-Atreus
ἔχθιστον υἱὸν τῷδε δυστήνῳ ποδί;
most-hateful son with-this wretched foot
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ πρὸς τοὺς μὲν οὖν σε τήνδε τ' ἔμπυον βάσιν
to those indeed then you this and festering step
παύσοντας ἄλγους κἀποσώσοντας νόσου.
who-will-stop of-pain and-will-save from-disease
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ δεινὸν αἶνον αἰνέσας, τί φῄς ποτε;
O dread counsel counseling what do-you-say ever
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἃ σοί τε κἀμοὶ λῷσθ' ὁρῶ τελούμενα.
what for-you both and-for-me best I-see accomplished
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ καὶ ταῦτα λέξας οὐ καταισχύνει θεούς;
and this saying not are-you-ashamed-before gods
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ πῶς γάρ τις αἰσχύνοιτ' ἂν ὠφελῶν φίλους;
how for anyone would-be-ashamed — helping friends
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ λέγεις δ' Ἀτρείδαις ὄφελος ἢ 'π' ἐμοὶ τόδε;
do-you-say and to-sons-of-Atreus help or against me this
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ σοί που, φίλος γ' ὤν, χὠ λόγος τοιόσδε μου.
to-you surely friend at-least being and-the word such of-me
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ πῶς, ὅς γε τοῖς ἐχθροῖσί μ' ἐκδοῦναι θέλεις;
how who at-least to-the enemies me to-hand-over wish
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ὦ τᾶν, διδάσκου μὴ θρασύνεσθαι κακοῖς.
O sir learn not to-be-bold in-evils

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὀλεῖς με, γιγνώσκω σε, τοῖσδε τοῖς λόγοις.
you-will-destroy me I-know you by-these the words

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ οὔκουν ἔγωγε· φημὶ δ' οὔ σε μανθάνειν.
not-then I-for-my-part I-say and not you to-understand

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἐγὼ οὐκ Ἀτρείδας ἐκβαλόντας οἶδά με; 1390
I not sons-of-Atreus having-cast-out know me

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀλλ' ἐκβαλόντες εἰ πάλιν σώσουσ' ὅρα.
but having-cast-out if back they-will-save see

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ οὐδέποθ' ἑκόντα γ' ὥστε τὴν Τροίαν ἰδεῖν.
never willing at-least so-that the Troy to-see

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τί δῆτ' ἂν ἡμεῖς δρῳμεν, εἰ σέ γ' ἐν λόγοις
what then — we should-do if you at-least in words

πείσειν δυνησόμεσθα μηδὲν ὧν λέγω;
to-persuade we-shall-be-able nothing of-what I-say

ὡς ῥᾷστ' ἐμοὶ μὲν τῶν λόγων λῆξαι, σὲ δὲ 1395
as easiest for-me indeed from-the words to-cease you but

ζῆν, ὥσπερ ἤδη ζῇς, ἄνευ σωτηρίας.
to-live as now you-live without salvation

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἔα με πάσχειν ταῦθ' ἅπερ παθεῖν με δεῖ·
let me to-suffer this which to-suffer me must

ἃ δ' ᾔνεσάς μοι δεξιᾶς ἐμῆς θιγών,
what and you-promised me right my having-touched

πέμπειν πρὸς οἴκους, ταῦτά μοι πρᾶξον, τέκνον,
to-send to home these-things for-me do child

καὶ μὴ βράδυνε μηδ' ἐπιμνησθῇς ἔτι 1400
and not delay nor make-mention still

Τροίας· ἅλις γάρ μοι τεθρήνηται γόοις.
of-Troy enough for for-me it-has-been-lamented with-wailings

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ εἰ δοκεῖ, στείχωμεν.
if it-seems-good let-us-go

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ γενναῖον εἰρηκὼς ἔπος.
O noble having-spoken word

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ ἀντέρειδε νῦν βάσιν σήν.
plant-firmly now step your

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ εἰς ὅσον γ' ἐγὼ σθένω.
to as-far at-least I am-able

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ αἰτίαν δὲ πῶς Ἀχαιῶν φεύξομαι;
blame and how of-Achaeans shall-I-escape

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ μὴ φροντίσῃς.
not worry

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τί γάρ, ἐὰν πορθῶσι χώραν τὴν ἐμήν;
what for if they-ravage land the my

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ἐγὼ παρὼν
I being-present

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ τίνα προσωφέλησιν ἕρξεις;
what help will-you-render

ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ βέλεσι τοῖς Ἡρακλέους
with-shafts the of-Heracles

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ πῶς λέγεις; ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ εἴρξω πελάζειν.
how do-you-say I-shall-keep-them to-approach

ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ στεῖχε προσκύσας χθόνα.
go having-kissed land

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ μήπω γε, πρὶν ἂν τῶν ἡμετέρων
not-yet at-least before — of-the our

ἀίῃς μύθων, παῖ Ποίαντος·
you-hear words son of-Poeas

φάσκειν δ' αὐδὴν τὴν Ἡρακλέους
think and voice the of-Heracles

ἀκοῇ τε κλύειν λεύσσειν τ' ὄψιν.
with-hearing and to-hear to-see and sight
τὴν σὴν δ' ἥκω χάριν οὐρανίας
the your and I-come for-the-sake heavenly
ἕδρας προλιπών,
seats having-left
τὰ Διός τε φράσων βουλεύματά σοι
the of-Zeus and to-tell counsels to-you
κατερητύσων θ' ὁδὸν ἣν στέλλει·
to-check and road which you-set-out-on
σὺ δ' ἐμῶν μύθων ἐπάκουσον.
you and my words hear
καὶ πρῶτα μέν σοι τὰς ἐμὰς λέξω τύχας,
and first indeed to-you the my I-will-tell fortunes
ὅσους πονήσας καὶ διεξελθὼν πόνους
how-many having-toiled and having-gone-through toils
ἀθάνατον ἀρετὴν ἔσχον, ὡς πάρεσθ' ὁρᾶν.
deathless glory I-won as is-possible to-see
καὶ σοί, σάφ' ἴσθι, τοῦτ' ὀφείλεται παθεῖν,
and for-you clearly know this is-owed to-suffer
ἐκ τῶν πόνων τῶνδ' εὐκλεᾶ θέσθαι βίον.
from the toils these glorious to-make life
ἐλθὼν δὲ σὺν τῷδ' ἀνδρὶ πρὸς τὸ Τρωικὸν
having-gone and with this man to the Trojan
πόλισμα, πρῶτον μὲν νόσου παύσει λυγρᾶς,
city first indeed from-disease you-will-cease grievous
ἀρετῇ τε πρῶτος ἐκκριθεὶς στρατεύματος,
in-valor and first chosen-out of-the-army
Πάριν μέν, ὃς τῶνδ' αἴτιος κακῶν ἔφυ,
Paris indeed who of-these cause of-evils was

τόξοισι τοῖς ἐμοῖσι νοσφιεῖς βίου,
with-bow the my you-will-rob of-life
πέρσεις τε Τροίαν, σκῦλά τ' εἰς μέλαθρα σὰ
you-will-sack and Troy spoils and to halls your
πέμψεις, ἀριστεῖ' ἐκλαβὼν στρατεύματος,
you-will-send prizes having-received of-the-army
Ποίαντι πατρὶ πρὸς πάτρας Οἴτης πλάκα.
to-Poeas father to native of-Oeta plateau
ἃ δ' ἂν λάβῃς σὺ σκῦλα τοῦδε τοῦ στρατοῦ,
what and — you-take you spoils of-this the army
τόξων ἐμῶν μνημεῖα πρὸς πυρὰν ἐμὴν
of-bow my memorials to pyre my
κόμιζε. καὶ σοὶ ταῦτ', Ἀχιλλέως τέκνον,
bring and to-you this of-Achilles child
παρῄνεσ'· οὔτε γὰρ σὺ τοῦδ' ἄτερ σθένεις
I-advise neither for you him without are-able
ἑλεῖν τὸ Τροίας πεδίον οὔθ' οὗτος σέθεν.
to-take the of-Troy plain nor he without-you
ἀλλ' ὡς λέοντε συννόμω φυλάσσετον
but like lions companions guard-both
οὗτος σὲ καὶ σὺ τόνδ'· ἐγὼ δ' Ἀσκληπιὸν
he you and you him I and Asclepius
παυστῆρα πέμψω σῆς νόσου πρὸς Ἴλιον.
as-healer will-send of-your of-disease to Ilium
τὸ δεύτερον γὰρ τοῖς ἐμοῖς αὐτὴν χρεὼν
the second-time for by-the my it it-is-fated
τόξοις ἁλῶναι. τοῦτο δ' ἐννοεῖθ', ὅταν
by-bow to-be-taken this but bear-in-mind when
πορθῆτε γαῖαν, εὐσεβεῖν τὰ πρὸς θεούς·
you-sack land to-be-pious the toward gods

ὡς τἄλλα πάντα δεύτερ᾽ ἡγεῖται πατὴρ
since the-rest all second regards father
Ζεύς· οὐ γὰρ εὐσέβεια συνθνῄσκει βροτοῖς·
Zeus not for piety dies-with mortals
κἂν ζῶσι κἂν θάνωσιν, οὐκ ἀπόλλυται.
both-if they-live and-if they-die not it-perishes
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ ὦ φθέγμα ποθεινὸν ἐμοὶ πέμψας
O voice longed-for to-me having-sent
χρόνιός τε φανείς,
after-long-time and having-appeared
οὐκ ἀπιθήσω τοῖς σοῖς μύθοις.
not I-shall-disobey the your words
ΝΕΟΠΤΟΛΕΜΟΣ κἀγὼ γνώμην ταύτῃ τίθεμαι.
and-I judgment thus set
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ μή νυν χρόνιοι μέλλετε πράσσειν·
not now late delay to-act
καιρὸς καὶ πλοῦς
the-moment and the-voyage
ὅδ᾽ ἐπείγει γὰρ κατὰ πρύμνην.
this presses for at stern
ΦΙΛΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ φέρε νυν στείχων χώραν καλέσω.
come now going the-land I-will-address
χαῖρ᾽, ὦ μέλαθρον ξύμφρουρον ἐμοί,
farewell O chamber watching-with me
νύμφαι τ᾽ ἔνυδροι λειμωνιάδες,
nymphs and of-water of-the-meadows
καὶ κτύπος ἄρσην πόντου προβολῆς,
and sound male of-sea of-headland
οὗ πολλάκι δὴ τοὐμὸν ἐτέγχθη
where often indeed my was-wetted

κρᾶτ᾽ ἐνδόμυχον πληγαῖσι νότου,
head in-the-recess by-blows of-south-wind
πολλὰ δὲ φωνῆς τῆς ἡμετέρας
many and of-voice of-the our
Ἑρμαῖον ὄρος παρέπεμψεν ἐμοὶ
Hermaean mount sent to-me
στόνον ἀντίτυπον χειμαζομένῳ.
groan answering storm-tossed
νῦν δ᾽, ὦ κρῆναι Λύκιόν τε ποτόν,
now and O springs Lycian and drink
λείπομεν ὑμᾶς, λείπομεν ἤδη
we-leave you we-leave now
δόξης οὔ ποτε τῆσδ᾽ ἐπιβάντες.
of-belief not ever this having-attained
χαῖρ᾽, ὦ Λήμνου πέδον ἀμφίαλον,
farewell O of-Lemnos plain sea-girt
καί μ᾽ εὐπλοίᾳ πέμψον ἀμέμπτως,
and me with-fair-voyage send blamelessly
ἔνθ᾽ ἡ μεγάλη Μοῖρα κομίζει
where the great Fate carries
γνώμη τε φίλων χὠ πανδαμάτωρ
judgment and of-friends and-the all-subduing
δαίμων, ὃς ταῦτ᾽ ἐπέκρανεν.
god who this accomplished

ΧΟΡΟΣ χωρῶμεν δὴ πάντες ἀολλεῖς,
let-us-go then all together
νύμφαις ἁλίαισιν ἐπευξάμενοι
to-the-nymphs of-the-sea having-prayed
νόστου σωτῆρας ἱκέσθαι.
of-return as-saviors to-come

EURIPIDES

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ

Electra

I · THE FARMER

A poor farmer tells how, when Agamemnon returned from Troy, Aegisthus and Clytemnestra murdered him, and Orestes was taken to Phocis. Aegisthus, fearing a son from Electra, married her to the farmer, who has respected her and never touched her. Electra goes for water before dawn, lamenting. Orestes and Pylades arrive at the farm, and Orestes explains that he has come secretly by night to his father's tomb and will look for his sister.

ΑΥΤΟΥΡΓΟΣ ὦ γῆς παλαιὸν Ἄργος, Ἰνάχου ῥοαί,
O of-land ancient Argos of-Inachus streams
ὅθεν ποτ' ἄρας ναυσὶ χιλίαις Ἄρη
whence once having-raised with-ships thousand war
εἰς γῆν ἔπλευσε Τρῳάδ' Ἀγαμέμνων ἄναξ.
to land sailed Trojan Agamemnon lord
κτείνας δὲ τὸν κρατοῦντ' ἐν Ἰλίᾳ χθονὶ
having-killed and the ruling in Ilian land
Πρίαμον, ἑλών τε Δαρδάνου κλεινὴν πόλιν,
Priam having-taken and of-Dardanus famous city
ἀφίκετ' εἰς τόδ' Ἄργος, ὑψηλῶν δ' ἐπὶ
he-came to this Argos high and on
ναῶν τέθεικε σκῦλα πλεῖστα βαρβάρων.
temples has-set spoils very-many of-barbarians
κἀκεῖ μὲν ηὐτύχησεν· ἐν δὲ δώμασι
and-there indeed he-prospered in but house
θνῄσκει γυναικὸς πρὸς Κλυταιμνήστρας δόλῳ
he-dies wife by Clytemnestra with-guile
καὶ τοῦ Θυέστου παιδὸς Αἰγίσθου χερί.
and the of-Thyestes son of-Aegisthus by-hand
χὠ μὲν παλαιὰ σκῆπτρα Ταντάλου λιπὼν
and-he indeed ancient scepters of-Tantalus having-left

ὄλωλεν, Αἴγισθος δὲ βασιλεύει χθονός,
has-perished Aegisthus and rules land
ἄλοχον ἐκείνου Τυνδαρίδα κόρην ἔχων.
the-wife of-that-man Tyndarean girl having
οὗς δ' ἐν δόμοισιν ἔλιφ', ὅτ' εἰς Τροίαν ἔπλει,
whom and in house he-left when to Troy he-sailed
ἄρσενά τ' Ὀρέστην θῆλύ τ' Ἠλέκτρας θάλος,
male both Orestes female and of-Electra shoot
τὸν μὲν πατρὸς γεραιὸς ἐκκλέπτει τροφεὺς
him indeed of-father old snatches-away guardian
μέλλοντ' Ὀρέστην χερὸς ὕπ' Αἰγίσθου θανεῖν,
being-about Orestes hand by of-Aegisthus to-die
Στροφίῳ τ' ἔδωκε Φωκέων εἰς γῆν τρέφειν·
to-Strophius and gave of-Phocians to land to-rear
ἡ δ' ἐν δόμοις ἔμεινεν Ἠλέκτρα πατρός,
she and in house remained Electra of-father
ταύτην ἐπειδὴ θαλερὸς εἶχ' ἥβης χρόνος,
her when blooming held of-youth time
μνηστῆρες ᾔτουν Ἑλλάδος πρῶτοι χθονός.
suitors asked of-Hellas first of-land
δείσας δὲ μή τῳ παῖδ' ἀριστέων τέκοι
having-feared and lest to-some son of-nobles she-should-bear
Ἀγαμέμνονος ποινάτορ', εἶχεν ἐν δόμοις
of-Agamemnon avenger he-kept in house
Αἴγισθος, οὐδ' ἥρμοζε νυμφίῳ τινί.
Aegisthus nor betrothed to-bridegroom any
ἐπεὶ δὲ καὶ τοῦτ' ἦν φόβου πολλοῦ πλέων,
since and also this was of-fear much full
μή τῳ λαθραίως τέκνα γενναίῳ τέκοι,
lest to-some secretly children to-noble she-should-bear

κτανεῖν σφε βουλεύσαντος ὠμόφρων ὅμως
to-kill her having-planned savage nevertheless
μήτηρ νιν ἐξέσωσεν Αἰγίσθου χερός.
mother her saved of-Aegisthus from-hand
εἰς μὲν γὰρ ἄνδρα σκῆψιν εἶχ' ὀλωλότα,
to indeed for husband excuse she-had dead
παίδων δ' ἔδεισε μὴ φθονηθείη φόνῳ.
of-children but she-feared lest she-be-hated for-murder
ἐκ τῶνδε δὴ τοιόνδ' ἐμηχανήσατο
from these indeed such contrived
Αἴγισθος· ὃς μὲν γῆς ἀπηλλάχθη φυγὰς
Aegisthus who indeed from-land was-gone exile
Ἀγαμέμνονος παῖς, χρυσὸν εἶφ' ὃς ἂν κτάνῃ,
of-Agamemnon son gold he-said whoever — should-kill
ἡμῖν δὲ δὴ δίδωσιν Ἠλέκτραν ἔχειν
to-us and indeed gives Electra to-have
δάμαρτα, πατέρων μὲν Μυκηναίων ἄπο
as-wife fathers indeed Mycenaean from
γεγῶσιν· οὐ δὴ τοῦτό γ' ἐξελέγχομαι·
born not indeed in-this at-least I-am-shamed
λαμπροὶ γὰρ εἰς γένος γε, χρημάτων γε μὴν
illustrious for in race at-least of-money at-least however
πένητες, ἔνθεν ηὐγένει' ἀπόλλυται·
poor whence good-birth perishes
ὡς ἀσθενεῖ δοὺς ἀσθενῆ λάβοι φόβον.
so-that to-a-weak having-given weak he-might-get fear
εἰ γάρ νιν ἔσχεν ἀξίωμ' ἔχων ἀνήρ,
if for her had rank having man
εὕδοντ' ἂν ἐξήγειρε τὸν Ἀγαμέμνονος
sleeping — he-would-have-awakened the of-Agamemnon

φόνον, δίκη τ' ἂν ἦλθεν Αἰγίσθῳ τότε.
murder justice and — would-have-come to-Aegisthus then
ἣν οὔποθ' ἁνὴρ ὅδε, σύνοιδέ μοι Κύπρις,
whom never the-man this knows-with me Cypris
ᾔσχυνεν εὐνῇ· παρθένος δ' ἔτ' ἐστὶ δή.
shamed with-bed maiden and still she-is indeed
αἰσχύνομαι γὰρ ὀλβίων ἀνδρῶν τέκνα
I-am-ashamed for of-prosperous men children
λαβὼν ὑβρίζειν, οὐ κατάξιος γεγώς.
having-taken to-outrage not worthy being
στένω δὲ τὸν λόγοισι κηδεύοντ' ἐμοὶ
I-groan and the in-word marriage-kin to-me
ἄθλιον Ὀρέστην, εἴ ποτ' εἰς Ἄργος μολὼν
wretched Orestes if ever to Argos coming
γάμους ἀδελφῆς δυστυχεῖς ἐσόψεται.
the-marriage of-sister unhappy he-will-see
ὅστις δέ μ' εἶναί φησι μῶρον, εἰ λαβὼν
whoever and me to-be says fool if having-taken
νέαν ἐς οἴκους παρθένον μὴ θιγγάνω,
young into house maiden not I-touch
γνώμης πονηροῖς κανόσιν ἀναμετρούμενος
of-judgment by-base rules measuring
τὸ σῶφρον ἴστω, καὐτὸς αὖ τοιοῦτος ὤν.
the chastity let-him-know and-himself again such being
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ νὺξ μέλαινα, χρυσέων ἄστρων τροφέ,
O night black of-golden stars nurse
ἐν ᾗ τόδ' ἄγγος τῷδ' ἐφεδρεῦον κάρᾳ
in which this vessel on-this resting head
φέρουσα πηγὰς ποταμίας μετέρχομαι,
carrying springs river I-go-after

οὐ δή τι χρείας εἰς τοσόνδ' ἀφιγμένη,
not indeed at-all of-need to such having-come
ἀλλ' ὡς ὕβριν δείξωμεν Αἰγίσθου θεοῖς,
but so-that the-outrage we-may-show of-Aegisthus to-the-gods
γόους τ' ἀφίημ' αἰθέρ' εἰς μέγαν πατρί.
laments and I-send-forth air into great to-father
ἡ γὰρ πανώλης Τυνδαρὶς μήτηρ ἐμὴ
the for utterly-ruined daughter-of-Tyndareus mother my
ἐξέβαλέ μ' οἴκων, χάριτα τιθεμένη πόσει·
cast-out me from-house favor making for-husband
τεκοῦσα δ' ἄλλους παῖδας Αἰγίσθῳ πάρα
having-borne and other children Aegisthus by
πάρεργ' Ὀρέστην κἀμὲ ποιεῖται δόμων.
side-issues Orestes and-me makes of-the-house
ΑΓΡΟΤΗΣ τί γὰρ τάδ', ὦ δύστην', ἐμὴν μοχθεῖς χάριν
why for these-things O wretched-one my for-sake you-toil
πόνους ἔχουσα, πρόσθεν εὖ τεθραμμένη,
labors having before well reared
καὶ ταῦτ' ἐμοῦ λέγοντος οὐκ ἀφίστασαι;
and these-things me saying not you-stop
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐγώ σ' ἴσον θεοῖσιν ἡγοῦμαι φίλον·
I you equal to-gods regard friend
ἐν τοῖς ἐμοῖς γὰρ οὐκ ἐνύβρισας κακοῖς.
in the my for not you-insulted evils
μεγάλη δὲ θνητοῖς μοῖρα συμφορᾶς κακῆς
great and for-mortals fortune of-misfortune bad
ἰατρὸν εὑρεῖν, ὡς ἐγὼ σὲ λαμβάνω.
healer to-find as I you take
δεῖ δή με κἀκέλευστον εἰς ὅσον σθένω
it-is-necessary indeed me and-unbidden to as-far-as I-am-able

μόχθου ’πικουφίζουσαν, ὡς ῥᾷον φέρῃς,
of-toil lightening so-that more-easily you-may-bear
συνεκκομίζειν σοὶ πόνους· ἅλις δ’ ἔχεις
to-help-bear for-you the-labors enough and you-have
τἄξωθεν ἔργα· τἀν δόμοις δ’ ἡμᾶς χρεὼν
the-outside works the-things-in house and us it-behooves
ἐξευτρεπίζειν. εἰσιόντι δ’ ἐργάτῃ
to-make-ready for-the-coming-in and worker
θύραθεν ἡδὺ τἄνδον εὑρίσκειν καλῶς.
from-outside pleasant the-things-within to-find well
ΑΥΤΟΤΡΓΟΣ εἴ τοι δοκεῖ σοι, στεῖχε· καὶ γὰρ οὐ πρόσω
if surely it-seems to-you go and for not far
πηγαὶ μελάθρων τῶνδ’. ἐγὼ δ’ ἅμ’ ἡμέρᾳ
the-springs of-house this I and with day
βοῦς εἰς ἀρούρας εἰσβαλὼν σπερῶ γύας.
oxen into fields driving will-sow furrows
ἀργὸς γὰρ οὐδεὶς θεοὺς ἔχων ἀνὰ στόμα
idle for no-one gods having on lips
βίον δύναιτ’ ἂν ξυλλέγειν ἄνευ πόνου.
livelihood could — gather without toil
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Πυλάδη, σὲ γὰρ δὴ πρῶτον ἀνθρώπων ἐγὼ
Pylades you for indeed first of-men I
πιστὸν νομίζω καὶ φίλον ξένον τ’ ἐμοί·
faithful think and friend host and to-me
μόνος δ’ Ὀρέστην τόνδ’ ἐθαύμαζες φίλων
alone and Orestes this-one you-honored of-friends
πράσσονθ’ ἃ πράσσω δείν’ ὑπ’ Αἰγίσθου παθών,
faring what I-fare terrible by Aegisthus having-suffered
ὅς μου κατέκτα πατέρα χἠ πανώλεθρος

μήτηρ. ἀφῖγμαι δ' ἐκ θεοῦ χρηστηρίων
mother I-have-come and from of-god oracles
Ἀργεῖον οὖδας, οὐδενὸς ξυνειδότος,
Argive ground no-one knowing
φόνον φονεῦσι πατρὸς ἀλλάξων ἐμοῦ.
murder for-the-murderers of-father to-repay my
νυκτὸς δὲ τῆσδε πρὸς τάφον μολὼν πατρὸς
by-night and this to tomb coming of-father
δάκρυά τ' ἔδωκα καὶ κόμης ἀπηρξάμην
tears and I-gave and of-hair made-first-offering
πυρᾷ τ' ἐπέσφαξ' αἷμα μηλείου φόνου,
on-the-pyre and I-slaughtered blood of-sheep slaughter
λαθὼν τυράννους οἳ κρατοῦσι τῆσδε γῆς.
escaping-notice the-tyrants who rule this land
καὶ τειχέων μὲν ἐντὸς οὐ βαίνω πόδα,
and of-the-walls indeed within not I-set foot
δυοῖν δ' ἄμιλλαν ξυντιθεὶς ἀφικόμην
of-two and contest combining I-came
πρὸς τέρμονας γῆς τῆσδ', ἵν' ἐκβάλω ποδὶ
to borders of-land this so-that I-may-flee on-foot
ἄλλην ἐπ' αἶαν, εἴ μέ τις γνοίη σκοπῶν,
other to land if me any should-know watching
ζητῶν τ' ἀδελφήν, φασὶ γάρ νιν ἐν γάμοις
seeking and sister they-say for her in marriage
ζευχθεῖσαν οἰκεῖν, οὐδὲ παρθένον μένειν,
yoked to-dwell nor maiden to-remain
ὡς συγγένωμαι καὶ φόνου συνεργάτιν
so-that I-may-meet and of-murder fellow-worker
λαβὼν τά γ' εἴσω τειχέων σαφῶς μάθω.
having-taken the at-least within walls clearly I-may-learn

νῦν οὖν, Ἕως γὰρ λευκὸν ὄμμ᾽ ἀναίρεται,
now then Dawn for white eye raises
ἔξω τρίβου τοῦδ᾽ ἴχνος ἀλλαξώμεθα.
outside path of-this step let-us-move
ἢ γάρ τις ἀροτὴρ ἤ τις οἰκέτις γυνὴ
either for some plowman or some servant woman
φανήσεται νῷν, ἥντιν᾽ ἱστορήσομεν
will-appear to-us whom we-shall-ask
εἰ τούσδε ναίει σύγγονος τόπους ἐμή.
if these dwells sister places my
ἀλλ᾽ εἰσορῶ γὰρ τήνδε προσπόλων τινά,
but I-see for this-one of-servants some
πηγαῖον ἄχθος ἐν κεκαρμένῳ κάρᾳ
of-spring burden on shorn head
φέρουσαν· ἐζώμεσθα κἀκπυθώμεθα
carrying let-us-sit and-let-us-learn
δούλης γυναικός, ἤν τι δεξώμεσθ᾽ ἔπος
of-slave woman if any we-may-receive word
ἐφ᾽ οἷσι, Πυλάδη, τήνδ᾽ ἀφίγμεθα χθόνα.
for which Pylades this we-have-come land

II · ELECTRA'S SONG

Electra sings of her father's murder, her mother's new husband, and her brother's exile, carrying her water jar. The chorus of local girls invites her to the festival of Hera, but she refuses, having no fine clothes and only tears. They offer to lend her robes and gold, and tell her to honor the gods with prayer, but she answers that no god hears her.

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ σύντειν', ὥρα, ποδὸς ὁρμάν·
quicken it-is-time of-foot the-rush
ὦ ἔμβα ἔμβα κατακλαίουσα.
oh step step weeping-aloud
ἰώ μοί μοι.
oh me me
ἐγενόμαν Ἀγαμέμνονος
I-was-born of-Agamemnon
κούρα, καί μ' ἔτεκε Κλυταιμνήστρα,
daughter and me bore Clytemnestra
στυγνὰ Τυνδάρεω κόρα·
hateful of-Tyndareus daughter
κικλήσκουσι δέ μ' ἀθλίαν
call and me wretched
Ἠλέκτραν πολιῆται.
Electra the-citizens
φεῦ φεῦ τῶν σχετλίων πόνων
alas alas of-the cruel labors
καὶ στυγερᾶς ζόας.
and of-hateful life
ὦ πάτερ, σὺ δ' ἐν Ἅϊδα
O father you and in Hades

κεῖσαι, σᾶς ἀλόχου σφαγαῖς
lie of-your of-wife by-the-slaughter
Αἰγίσθου τ', Ἀγάμεμνον.
of-Aegisthus and Agamemnon
ἴθι τὸν αὐτὸν ἔγειρε γόον,
go the same rouse lament
ἄναγε πολύδακρυν ἀδονάν.
raise-up much-weeping pleasure
σύντειν', ὥρα, ποδὸς ὁρμάν·
quicken it-is-time of-foot the-rush
ὢ ἔμβα ἔμβα κατακλαίουσα.
oh step step weeping-aloud
ἰώ μοί μοι.
oh me me
τίνα πόλιν, τίνα δ' οἶκον, ὦ
what city what and house O
τλᾶμον σύγγονε, λατρεύεις
wretched brother do-you-serve
οἰκτρὰν ἐν θαλάμοις λιπὼν
piteous in chambers having-left
πατρῴοις ἐπὶ συμφοραῖς
paternal amid misfortunes
ἀλγίσταισιν ἀδελφάν;
most-grievous sister
ἔλθοις τῶνδε πόνων ἐμοὶ
may-you-come of-these labors for-me
τᾷ μελέᾳ λυτήρ,
the wretched deliverer
ὦ Ζεῦ Ζεῦ, πατρί θ' αἱμάτων
O Zeus Zeus for-father and of-blood

ἐχθίστων ἐπίκουρος, Ἄρ-
most-hateful helper to-Argos
γει κέλσας πόδ' ἀλάταν.
— having-landed foot wandering
θὲς τόδε τεῦχος ἐμᾶς ἀπὸ κρατὸς ἑ- 140
put this vessel my from head having-taken
λοῦσ', ἵνα πατρὶ γόους νυχίους
— so-that for-father laments nightly
ἐπορθρεύσω,
I-may-shout-at-dawn
ἰαχὰν μέλος Ἀΐδα,
cry song of-Hades
Ἀΐδα, πάτερ,
of-Hades father
σοὶ κατὰ γᾶς ἐννέπω γόους,
to-you below earth I-utter laments
οἷς ἀεὶ τὸ κατ' ἦμαρ 145
in-which always the by day
διέπομαι, κατὰ μὲν φίλαν
I-pass-through by indeed dear
ὄνυχι τεμνομένα δέραν,
with-nail cutting neck
χέρα δὲ κρᾶτ' ἐπὶ κούριμον
hand and head upon shorn
τιθεμένα θανάτῳ σῷ.
laying for-death your
ἔ ἔ, δρύπτε κάρα· 150
ah ah tear head
οἷα δέ τις κύκνος ἀχέτας
as and some swan clear-voiced

ποταμίοις παρὰ χεύμασιν
river by streams
πατέρα φίλτατον ἀγκαλεῖ,
father dearest calls
ὀλόμενον δολίοις βρόχων
perished in-treacherous of-nets
ἕρκεσιν, ὡς σὲ τὸν ἄθλιον,
in-snares so you the wretched
πατέρ' ἐγὼ κατακλαίομαι,
father I bewail
λουτρὰ πανύσταθ' ὑδρανάμενον χροΐ,
bath last having-bathed on-skin
κοίτᾳ ἐν οἰκτροτάτᾳ θανάτου.
bed in most-piteous of-death
ἰώ μοί μοι
oh me me
πικρᾶς μὲν πελέκεως τομᾶς
bitter indeed of-axe of-the-cut
σᾶς, πάτερ, πικρᾶς δ'
your father bitter and
ἐκ Τροΐας ὁδίου βουλᾶς.
from Troy of-the-journey of-plan
οὐ μίτραισι γυνή σε
not with-fillets wife you
δέξατ' οὐδ' ἐπὶ στεφάνοις.
received nor with garlands
ξίφεσι δ' ἀμφιτόμοις λυγρὰν
with-swords but two-edged grievous
Αἰγίσθου λώβαν θεμένα
of-Aegisthus outrage having-made

δόλιον ἔσχεν ἀκοίταν.
treacherous she-had husband

ΧΟΡΟΣ Ἀγαμέμνονος ὦ κόρα,
of-Agamemnon O daughter

ἤλυθον, Ἠλέκτρα, ποτὶ σὰν ἀγρότειραν αὐλάν.
I-came Electra to your rustic court

ἔμολέ τις ἔμολε γαλακτοπότας ἀνὴρ
came someone came milk-drinking man

Μυκηναῖος ὀρειβάτας·
Mycenaean mountain-ranger

ἀγγέλλει δ' ὅτι νῦν τριταί-
announces and that now on-the-third

αν καρύσσουσιν θυσίαν
— *proclaim sacrifice*

Ἀργεῖοι, πᾶσαι δὲ παρ' Ἥ-
Argives all and to Hera

ραν μέλλουσιν παρθενικαὶ στείχειν.
— *are-about maidens to-go*

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐκ ἐπ' ἀγλαΐαις, φίλαι,
not on splendors dear

θυμὸν οὐδ' ἐπὶ χρυσέοις
heart nor on golden

ὅρμοισιν πεπόταμαι
necklaces have-I-fluttered

τάλαιν', οὐδ' ἱστᾶσα χοροὺς
wretched nor setting dances

Ἀργείαις ἅμα νύμφαις
with-Argive together brides

εἱλικτὸν κρούσω πόδ' ἐμόν.
whirling shall-I-strike foot my

δάκρυσι νυχεύω, δακρύων δέ μοι μέλει
in-tears I-pass-the-night of-tears and to-me is-a-care
δειλαίᾳ τὸ κατ᾽ ἆμαρ.
wretched the by day
σκέψαι μου πιναρὰν κόμαν
look-at my squalid hair
καὶ τρύχη τάδ᾽ ἐμῶν πέπλων,
and rags these of-my robes
εἰ πρέποντ᾽ Ἀγαμέμνονος
if befitting of-Agamemnon
κούρᾳ τᾷ βασιλείᾳ
daughter the royal
Τροίᾳ θ᾽, ἃ τοὐμοῦ πατέρος
to-Troy and which my of-father
μέμναταί ποθ᾽ ἁλοῦσα.
remembers once taken
ΧΟΡΟΣ μεγάλα θεός· ἀλλ᾽ ἴθι,
great goddess but come
καὶ παρ᾽ ἐμοῦ χρῆσαι πολύπηνα φάρεα δῦναι,
and from me borrow thick-woven robes to-put-on
χρύσεά τε χάρισι προσθήματ᾽ ἀγλαΐας.
golden and for-graces additions of-splendor
δοκεῖς τοῖσι σοῖς δακρύοις,
do-you-think with-the your tears
μὴ τιμῶσα θεούς, κρατή-
not honoring gods to-overcome
σειν ἐχθρῶν; οὔτοι στοναχαῖς,
— enemies surely-not with-groans
ἀλλ᾽ εὐχαῖσι θεοὺς σεβί-

ζουσ᾽ ἕξεις εὐαμερίαν, ὦ παῖ.
— *you-will-have happiness O child*

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐδεὶς θεῶν ἐνοπᾶς κλύει
no-one of-gods cry hears

τᾶς δυσδαίμονος, οὐ παλαι-
of-the ill-starred not ancient

ῶν πατρὸς σφαγιασμῶν.
— *of-father slaughters*

οἴμοι τοῦ καταφθιμένου
ah-me of-the dead

τοῦ τε ζῶντος ἀλάτα,
of-the and living wanderer

ὅς που γᾶν ἄλλαν κατέχει
who somewhere land other occupies

μέλεος ἀλαίνων ποτὶ θῆσσαν ἑστίαν,
wretched wandering to serf's hearth

τοῦ κλεινοῦ πατρὸς ἐκφύς.
of-the famous of-father sprung

αὐτὰ δ᾽ ἐν χερνῆσι δόμοις
I-myself and in laborer's house

ναίω ψυχὰν τακομένα
dwell soul melting

δωμάτων πατρίων φυγάς,
of-house paternal exile

οὐρείας ἀν᾽ ἐρίπνας.
mountain amid crags

μάτηρ δ᾽ ἐν λέκτροις φονίοις
mother and in bed bloody

ἄλλῳ σύγγαμος οἰκεῖ.
with-another wedded dwells

Orestes approaches, pretending to be a messenger from Orestes. Electra tells him of her marriage, her poverty, and her mother's luxury, and how Aegisthus leaps on Agamemnon's tomb and taunts Orestes. The farmer returns and offers the strangers his hospitality. Orestes reflects that nobility is not measured by wealth. Electra sends the farmer for the old man who once saved Orestes.

ΧΟΡΟΣ πολλῶν κακῶν Ἕλλησιν αἰτίαν ἔχει
of-many evils for-Greeks blame has
σῆς μητρὸς Ἑλένη σύγγονος δόμοις τε σοῖς.
your of-mother Helen sister for-house and your
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οἴμοι, γυναῖκες, ἐξέβην θρηνημάτων.
ah-me women I-have-left-off from-laments
ξένοι τινὲς παρ' οἶκον οἵδ' ἐφεστίους
strangers some by house these at-the-hearth
εὐνὰς ἔχοντες ἐξανίστανται λόχου·
couches having rise-up from-ambush
φυγῇ, σὺ μὲν κατ' οἶμον, εἰς δόμους δ' ἐγώ,
in-flight you indeed along path into house and I
φῶτας κακούργους ἐξαλύξωμεν ποδί.
men evil-doing let-us-escape on-foot
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μέν', ὦ τάλαινα· μὴ τρέσῃς ἐμὴν χέρα.
stay O wretched-one not fear my hand
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ Φοῖβ' Ἄπολλον, προσπίτνω σε μὴ θανεῖν.
O Phoebus Apollo I-fall-before you not to-die
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἄλλους κτάνοιμι μᾶλλον ἐχθίους σέθεν·
others I-would-kill rather more-hateful than-you
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἄπελθε, μὴ ψαῦ' ὧν σε μὴ ψαύειν χρεών.
go-away not touch whom you not to-touch it-behooves

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκ ἔσθ' ὅτου θίγοιμ' ἂν ἐνδικώτερον.
not there-is whom I-could-touch — more-justly

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὶ πῶς ξιφήρης πρὸς δόμοις λοχᾷς ἐμοῖς; 225
and how sword-bearing by house you-lie-in-wait my

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μείνασ' ἄκουσον, καὶ τάχ' οὐκ ἄλλως ἐρεῖς.
having-stayed hear and soon not otherwise you-will-say

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἔστηκα· πάντως δ' εἰμὶ σή· κρείσσων γὰρ εἶ.
I-stand altogether and I-am yours stronger for you-are

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἥκω φέρων σοι σοῦ κασιγνήτου λόγους.
I-come bringing to-you of-your brother words

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ φίλτατ', ἆρα ζῶντος ἢ τεθνηκότος;
O dearest — living or dead

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ζῇ· πρῶτα γάρ σοι τἀγάθ' ἀγγέλλειν θέλω. 230
he-lives first for to-you the-good-things to-announce I-wish

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ εὐδαιμονοίης, μισθὸν ἡδίστων λόγων.
may-you-prosper as-reward for-sweetest words

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ κοινῇ δίδωμι τοῦτο νῷν ἀμφοῖν ἔχειν.
in-common I-give this for-us both to-have

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ποῦ γῆς ὁ τλήμων τλήμονας φυγὰς ἔχων;
where of-land the wretched wretched exile having

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐχ ἕνα νομίζων φθείρεται πόλεως νόμον.
not one following is-wasted of-city custom

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὔ που σπανίζων τοῦ καθ' ἡμέραν βίου; 235
not surely lacking of-the by day livelihood

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἔχει μέν, ἀσθενὴς δὲ δὴ φεύγων ἀνήρ.
he-has indeed weak but indeed fleeing man

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ λόγον δὲ δὴ τίν' ἦλθες ἐκ κείνου φέρων;
word but indeed what you-came from him bringing

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εἰ ζῇς, ὅπως τε ζῶσα συμφορᾶς ἔχεις.
if you-live how and living of-misfortune you-are

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὔκουν ὁρᾷς μου πρῶτον ὡς ξηρὸν δέμας;
not-then you-see my first how dry body

240 ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ λύπαις γε συντετηκός, ὥστε με στένειν.
by-griefs at-least wasted so-that me to-groan

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὶ κρᾶτα πλόκαμόν τ' ἐσκυθισμένον ξυρῷ.
and head hair and shorn-Scythian-fashion with-razor

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ δάκνει σ' ἀδελφὸς ὅ τε θανὼν ἴσως πατήρ.
gnaws you brother the and dead perhaps father

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οἴμοι, τί γάρ μοι τῶνδέ γ' ἐστὶ φίλτερον;
ah-me what for to-me than-these at-least is dearer

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ φεῦ φεῦ· τί δ' αὖ σὺ σῷ κασιγνήτῳ δοκεῖς;
alas alas what and again you for-your brother seem

245 ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀπὼν ἐκεῖνος, οὐ παρὼν ἡμῖν φίλος.
absent he not present to-us friend

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἐκ τοῦ δὲ ναίεις ἐνθάδ' ἄστεως ἑκάς;
from what and you-dwell here from-town far

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐγημάμεσθ', ὦ ξεῖνε, θανάσιμον γάμον.
we-were-wedded O stranger deadly marriage

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ᾤμωξ' ἀδελφὸν σόν. Μυκηναίων τίνι;
I-groaned-for brother your of-Mycenaeans to-whom

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐχ ᾧ πατήρ μ' ἤλπιζεν ἐκδώσειν ποτέ.
not to-whom father me hoped to-give once

250 ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εἴφ', ὡς ἀκούσας σῷ κασιγνήτῳ λέγω.
tell so-that having-heard to-your to-brother I-may-say

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐν τοῖσδ' ἐκείνου τηλορὸς ναίω δόμοις.
in these his far-off I-dwell house

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σκαφεύς τις ἢ βουφορβὸς ἄξιος δόμων.
digger some or herdsman worthy of-house

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πένης ἀνὴρ γενναῖος εἴς τ' ἔμ' εὐσεβής.
poor man noble toward and me reverent

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἡ δ' εὐσέβεια τίς πρόσεστι σῷ πόσει;
the and reverence what is-present with-your husband

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐπώποτ' εὐνῆς τῆς ἐμῆς ἔτλη θιγεῖν.
never bed the my he-dared to-touch

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἄγνευμ' ἔχων τι θεῖον ἤ σ' ἀπαξιῶν;
chastity having some divine or you disdaining

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ γονέας ὑβρίζειν τοὺς ἐμοὺς οὐκ ἠξίου.
parents to-outrage the my not he-thought-fit

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καὶ πῶς γάμον τοιοῦτον οὐχ ἥσθη λαβών;
and how marriage such not he-was-pleased having-gotten

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐ κύριον τὸν δόντα μ' ἡγεῖται, ξένε.
not lawful the giver me he-thinks stranger

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ξυνῆκ'· Ὀρέστῃ μή ποτ' ἐκτίσῃ δίκην.
I-understand for-Orestes lest ever he-should-pay penalty

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τοῦτ' αὐτὸ ταρβῶν, πρὸς δὲ καὶ σώφρων ἔφυ.
this itself fearing besides and also self-controlled he-is

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ φεῦ.
alas

γενναῖον ἄνδρ' ἔλεξας, εὖ τε δραστέον.
noble man you-have-told well and to-be-treated

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ εἰ δή ποθ' ἥξει γ' εἰς δόμους ὁ νῦν ἀπών.
if indeed ever he-will-come at-least to house the now absent

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μήτηρ δέ σ' ἡ τεκοῦσα ταῦτ' ἠνέσχετο;
mother and you the having-borne these-things endured

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ γυναῖκες ἀνδρῶν, ὦ ξέν', οὐ παίδων φίλαι.
women of-husbands O stranger not of-children are-friends

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τίνος δέ σ' εἵνεχ' ὕβρισ' Αἴγισθος τάδε;
of-what and you for-the-sake outraged Aegisthus these-things

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τεκεῖν μ' ἐβούλετ' ἀσθενῆ, τοιῷδε δούς.
to-bear me he-wished weak to-such having-given

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὡς δῆθε παῖδας μὴ τέκοις ποινάτορας;
so-that indeed children not you-might-bear avengers

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τοιαῦτ' ἐβούλευσ'· ὧν ἐμοὶ δοίη δίκην.
such-things he-planned for-which to-me may-he-pay penalty

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οἶδεν δέ σ' οὖσαν παρθένον μητρὸς πόσις;
knows and you being maiden of-mother husband

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐκ οἶδε· σιγῇ τοῦθ' ὑφαιρουμεσθά νιν.
not he-knows silently this we-steal-away from-him

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ αἵδ' οὖν φίλαι σοι τούσδ' ἀκούουσιν λόγους;
these then friends to-you these hear words

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὥστε στέγειν γε τἀμὰ καὶ σ' ἔπη καλῶς.
so-that to-keep-secret at-least my and your words well

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί δῆτ' Ὀρέστης πρὸς τάδ', Ἄργος ἦν μόλῃ;
what then Orestes to these-things Argos if he-should-come

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἤρου τόδ'; αἰσχρόν γ' εἶπας· οὐ γὰρ νῦν ἀκμή;
you-asked this shameful at-least you-said not for now is-the-moment

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἐλθὼν δὲ δὴ πῶς φονέας ἂν κτάνοι πατρός;
having-come but indeed how the-murderers — could-he-kill of-father

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τολμῶν ὑπ' ἐχθρῶν οἵ' ἐτολμήθη πατήρ.
daring by enemies such-as were-dared-against father

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἦ καὶ μετ' αὐτοῦ μητέρ' ἂν τλαίης κτανεῖν;
— and with him mother — would-you-dare to-kill

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ταὐτῷ γε πελέκει τῷ πατὴρ ἀπώλετο.
with-the-same at-least axe by-which father perished

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ λέγω τάδ' αὐτῷ, καὶ βέβαια τἀπὸ σοῦ;
am-I-to-say these-things to-him and firm the-things-from you

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ θάνοιμι μητρὸς αἷμ' ἐπισφάξασ' ἐμῆς.
may-I-die of-mother blood having-shed my

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ φεῦ·
alas
εἴθ' ἦν Ὀρέστης πλησίον κλύων τάδε.
would-that was Orestes near hearing these-things
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀλλ', ὦ ξέν', οὐ γνοίην ἂν εἰσιδοῦσά νιν.
but O stranger not I-would-know — seeing him
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ νέα γάρ, οὐδὲν θαῦμ', ἀπεζεύχθης νέου.
young for no wonder you-were-parted young
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ εἷς ἂν μόνος νιν τῶν ἐμῶν γνοίη φίλων. 285
one — only him of-the my would-know of-friends
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἆρ' ὃν λέγουσιν αὐτὸν ἐκκλέψαι φόνου;
— whom they-say him to-have-snatched-away from-murder
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πατρός γε παιδαγωγὸς ἀρχαῖος γέρων.
of-father at-least tutor ancient old-man
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὁ κατθανὼν δὲ σὸς πατὴρ τύμβου κυρεῖ;
the dead and your father of-tomb meets
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἔκυρσεν ὡς ἔκυρσεν, ἐκβληθεὶς δόμων.
he-met as he-met cast-out from-house
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οἴμοι, τόδ' οἷον εἶπας· αἴσθησις γὰρ οὖν 290
ah-me this what you-said feeling for then
κἀκ τῶν θυραίων πημάτων δάκνει βροτούς.
even-from the outside woes stings mortals
λέξον δ', ἵν' εἰδὼς σῷ κασιγνήτῳ φέρω
tell and so-that knowing to-your to-brother I-may-bring
λόγους ἀτερπεῖς, ἀλλ' ἀναγκαίους κλύειν.
words joyless but necessary to-hear
ἔνεστι δ' οἶκτος, ἀμαθίᾳ μὲν οὐδαμοῦ,
is-in and pity in-ignorance indeed nowhere
σοφοῖσι δ' ἀνδρῶν· καὶ γὰρ οὐδ' ἀζήμιον 295
in-the-wise and of-men and for not-even without-cost

γνώμην ἐνεῖναι τοῖς σοφοῖς λίαν σοφήν.
mind to-be-in for-the wise too wise

ΧΟΡΟΣ κἀγὼ τὸν αὐτὸν τῷδ' ἔρον ψυχῆς ἔχω.
and-I the same with-this-one desire of-soul have

πρόσω γὰρ ἄστεως οὖσα τἀν πόλει κακὰ
far for from-town being the-things-in city evils

οὐκ οἶδα, νῦν δὲ βούλομαι κἀγὼ μαθεῖν.
not I-know now but I-wish and-I to-learn

300 ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ λέγοιμ' ἄν, εἰ χρή· χρὴ δὲ πρὸς φίλον λέγειν
I-would-tell — if must must and to friend to-tell

τύχας βαρείας τὰς ἐμὰς κἀμοῦ πατρός.
fortunes heavy the my and-of-my of-father

ἐπεὶ δὲ κινεῖς μῦθον, ἱκετεύω, ξένε,
since and you-stir-up word I-beseech stranger

ἄγγελλ' Ὀρέστῃ τἀμὰ καὶ κείνου κακά,
announce to-Orestes my-things and his evils

πρῶτον μὲν οἵοις ἐν πέπλοις αὐλίζομαι,
first indeed what in robes I-am-lodged

305 πίνῳ θ' ὅσῳ βέβριθ', ὑπὸ στέγαισί τε
with-filth and how-much I-am-weighed-down under roofs and

οἵαισι ναίω βασιλικῶν ἐκ δωμάτων,
what I-dwell royal from house

αὐτὴ μὲν ἐκμοχθοῦσα κερκίσιν πέπλους,
myself indeed laboring-out with-shuttles robes

ἢ γυμνὸν ἕξω σῶμα καὶ στερήσομαι,
or naked I-shall-have body and shall-be-deprived

αὐτὴ δὲ πηγὰς ποταμίους φορουμένη.
myself and springs river carrying

310 ἀνέορτος ἱερῶν καὶ χορῶν τητωμένη,
without-festival of-rites and of-dances bereft

ἀναίνομαι γυναῖκας, οὖσα παρθένος,
I-shun women being maiden
ἀναίνομαι δὲ Κάστορ', ᾧ, πρὶν εἰς θεοὺς
I-shun and Castor to-whom before to gods
ἐλθεῖν ἔμ' ἐμνήστευον, οὖσαν ἐγγενῆ.
to-go me they-betrothed being kin
μήτηρ δ' ἐμὴ Φρυγίοισιν ἐν σκυλεύμασι
mother and my Phrygian amid spoils
θρόνῳ κάθηται, πρὸς δ' ἕδραισιν Ἀσίδες
on-throne sits by and seats Asian
δμωαὶ στατίζουσ', ἃς ἔπερσ' ἐμὸς πατήρ,
slaves stand whom sacked my father
Ἰδαῖα φάρη χρυσέαις ἐζευγμέναι
Idaean robes golden fastened
πόρπαισιν. αἷμα δ' ἔτι πατρὸς κατὰ στέγας
with-brooches blood and still of-father in house
μέλαν σέσηπεν· ὃς δ' ἐκεῖνον ἔκτανεν,
black has-rotted he-who and him killed
εἰς ταὐτὰ βαίνων ἅρματ' ἐκφοιτᾷ πατρί,
into the-same mounting chariots goes-out as-father
καὶ σκῆπτρ' ἐν οἷς Ἕλλησιν ἐστρατηλάτει
and scepter in which over-Greeks he-led-the-army
μιαιφόνοισι χερσὶ γαυροῦται λαβών.
with-bloody hands exults having-taken
Ἀγαμέμνονος δὲ τύμβος ἠτιμασμένος
of-Agamemnon and tomb dishonored
οὔπω χοάς ποτ' οὐδὲ κλῶνα μυρσίνης
never-yet libations ever nor sprig of-myrtle
ἔλαβε, πυρὰ δὲ χέρσος ἀγλαϊσμάτων.
received pyre and bare of-adornments

μέθῃ δὲ βρεχθεὶς τῆς ἐμῆς μητρὸς πόσις
with-wine and soaked of-the my of-mother husband
ὁ κλεινός, ὡς λέγουσιν, ἐνθρῴσκει τάφῳ
the famous as they-say leaps-upon tomb
πέτροις τε λεύει μνῆμα λάϊνον πατρός,
with-stones and pelts monument stone of-father
καὶ τοῦτο τολμᾷ τοὔπος εἰς ἡμᾶς λέγειν·
and this dares the-word against us to-say
330 ποῦ παῖς Ὀρέστης; ἆρά σοι τύμβῳ καλῶς
where son Orestes — for-you tomb well
παρὼν ἀμύνει; ταῦτ᾽ ἀπὼν ὑβρίζεται.
present defends this-way absent he-is-outraged
ἀλλ᾽, ὦ ξέν᾽, ἱκετεύω σ᾽, ἀπάγγειλον τάδε·
but O stranger I-beseech you announce these-things
πολλοὶ δ᾽ ἐπιστέλλουσιν, ἑρμηνεὺς δ᾽ ἐγώ,
many and send-message spokesman and I
αἱ χεῖρες, ἡ γλῶσσ᾽ ἡ ταλαίπωρός τε φρὴν
the hands the tongue the wretched and mind
335 κάρα τ᾽ ἐμὸν ξυρῆκες ὅ τ᾽ ἐκείνου τεκών.
head and my shorn he and his begetter
αἰσχρὸν γάρ, εἰ πατὴρ μὲν ἐξεῖλεν Φρύγας,
shameful for if father indeed destroyed Phrygians
ὁ δ᾽ ἄνδρ᾽ ἕν᾽ εἷς ὢν οὐ δυνήσεται κτανεῖν,
he and man one alone being not will-be-able to-kill
νέος πεφυκὼς κἀξ ἀμείνονος πατρός.
young being and-from better father
ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν δέδορκα τόνδε, σὸν λέγω πόσιν,
and indeed I-see this-one your I-mean husband
340 λήξαντα μόχθου πρὸς δόμους ὡρμημένον.
having-ceased from-toil toward house hastening

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἔα· τίνας τούσδ' ἐν πύλαις ὁρῶ ξένους;
ha who these at gates I-see strangers
τίνος δ' ἕκατι τάσδ' ἐπ' ἀγραύλους πύλας
whom and for-the-sake these to rustic gates
προσῆλθον; ἦ 'μοῦ δεόμενοι; γυναικί τοι
have-they-come — me seeking for-a-woman surely
αἰσχρὸν μετ' ἀνδρῶν ἑστάναι νεανιῶν.
shameful with men to-stand young
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ φίλτατ', εἰς ὕποπτα μὴ μόλῃς ἐμοί· 345
O dearest into suspicion not come to-me
τὸν ὄντα δ' εἴσῃ μῦθον· οἵδε γὰρ ξένοι
the true and you-will-know word these for strangers
ἥκουσ' Ὀρέστου πρός με κήρυκες λόγων.
have-come of-Orestes to me heralds of-words
ἀλλ', ὦ ξένοι, σύγγνωτε τοῖς εἰρημένοις.
but O strangers pardon the spoken-things
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τί φασίν; ἀνὴρ ἔστι καὶ λεύσσει φάος;
what they-say the-man lives and sees light
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἔστιν λόγῳ γοῦν· φασὶ δ' οὐκ ἄπιστ' ἐμοί. 350
he-is in-word at-least they-say and not unbelievable to-me
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἦ καί τι πατρὸς σῶν τε μέμνηται κακῶν;
— and anything of-father your and remembers evils
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐν ἐλπίσιν ταῦτ'· ἀσθενὴς φεύγων ἀνήρ.
in hopes these-things weak fleeing man
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἦλθον δ' Ὀρέστου τίν' ἀγορεύοντες λόγον;
they-came and of-Orestes what announcing word
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ σκοποὺς ἔπεμψε τούσδε τῶν ἐμῶν κακῶν.
watchers he-sent these of-the my evils
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οὔκουν τὰ μὲν λεύσσουσι, τὰ δὲ σύ που λέγεις 355
not-then some indeed they-see some and you surely tell

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἴσασιν, οὐδὲν τῶνδ' ἔχουσιν ἐνδεές.
they-know nothing of-these they-have lacking

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οὐκοῦν πάλαι χρῆν τοῖσδ' ἀνεπτύχθαι πύλας.
then long-ago it-was-right for-these to-have-been-opened the-gates

χωρεῖτ' ἐς οἴκους· ἀντὶ γὰρ χρηστῶν λόγων
go into house in-return for good words

ξενίων κυρήσεθ', οἷ' ἐμὸς κεύθει δόμος.
gifts-of-hospitality you-will-meet such-as my hides house

αἴρεσθ', ὀπαδοί, τῶνδ' ἔσω τεύχη δόμων·
take-up attendants of-these inside the-gear house

καὶ μηδὲν ἀντείπητε, παρὰ φίλου φίλοι
and nothing speak-against from friend friends

μολόντες ἀνδρός· καὶ γὰρ εἰ πένης ἔφυν,
having-come man and for if poor I-was-born

οὔτοι τό γ' ἦθος δυσγενὲς παρέξομαι.
surely-not the at-least character ignoble I-shall-show

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πρὸς θεῶν, ὅδ' ἀνὴρ ὃς συνεκκλέπτει γάμους
by gods this the-man who helps-hide marriage

τοὺς σούς, Ὀρέστην οὐ καταισχύνειν θέλων;
the your Orestes not to-shame wishing

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὗτος κέκληται πόσις ἐμὸς τῆς ἀθλίας.
this-one is-called husband my the wretched

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ φεῦ·
alas

οὐκ ἔστ' ἀκριβὲς οὐδὲν εἰς εὐανδρίαν·
not there-is exact nothing toward manliness

ἔχουσι γὰρ ταραγμὸν αἱ φύσεις βροτῶν.
have for confusion the natures of-mortals

ἤδη γὰρ εἶδον παῖδα γενναίου πατρὸς
already for I-saw son of-noble father

τὸ μηδὲν ὄντα, χρηστὰ δ' ἐκ κακῶν τέκνα,
the nothing being good and from bad children
λιμόν τ' ἐν ἀνδρὸς πλουσίου φρονήματι,
famine and in of-man rich mind
γνώμην δὲ μεγάλην ἐν πένητι σώματι.
judgment and great in poor body
πῶς οὖν τις αὐτὰ διαλαβὼν ὀρθῶς κρινεῖ;
how then one these distinguishing rightly will-judge
πλούτῳ; πονηρῷ τἄρα χρήσεται κριτῇ·
by-wealth base then he-will-use judge
ἢ τοῖς ἔχουσι μηδέν; ἀλλ' ἔχει νόσον
or by-the having nothing but it-has disease
πενία, διδάσκει δ' ἄνδρα τῇ χρείᾳ κακόν.
poverty teaches and man by-the need evil
ἀλλ' εἰς ὅπλ' ἔλθω; τίς δὲ πρὸς λόγχην βλέπων
but to arms shall-I-go who and to spear looking
μάρτυς γένοιτ' ἂν ὅστις ἐστὶν ἀγαθός;
witness could-become — who is good
κράτιστον εἰκῇ ταῦτ' ἐᾶν ἀφειμένα.
best at-random these-things to-leave let-go
οὗτος γὰρ ἀνὴρ οὔτ' ἐν Ἀργείοις μέγας
this-one for the-man neither among Argives great
οὔτ' αὖ δοκήσει δωμάτων ὠγκωμένος,
nor again in-repute with-house puffed-up
ἐν τοῖς δὲ πολλοῖς ὤν, ἄριστος ηὑρέθη.
among the and many being best was-found
οὐ μὴ ἀφρονήσεθ', οἳ κενῶν δοξασμάτων
not — will-you-be-foolish who of-empty opinions
πλήρεις πλανᾶσθε, τῇ δ' ὁμιλίᾳ βροτοὺς
full wander by-the and company mortals

κρινεῖτε καὶ τοῖς ἤθεσιν τοὺς εὐγενεῖς;
will-you-judge and by-the characters the well-born
οἱ γὰρ τοιοίδε τὰς πόλεις οἰκοῦσιν εὖ
the for such the cities manage well
καὶ δώμαθ', αἱ δὲ σάρκες αἱ κεναὶ φρενῶν
and houses the and flesh the empty of-wits
ἀγάλματ' ἀγορᾶς εἰσιν. οὐδὲ γὰρ δόρυ
statues of-market-place are nor for spear
μᾶλλον βραχίων σθεναρὸς ἀσθενοῦς μένει·
rather arm strong than-weak awaits
ἐν τῇ φύσει δὲ τοῦτο κἀν εὐψυχίᾳ.
in the nature and this and-in courage
ἀλλ' ἄξιος γὰρ ὅ τε παρὼν ὅ τ' οὐ παρὼν
but worthy for the both present the and not present
Ἀγαμέμνονος παῖς, οὕνεκ' εἶνεχ' ἥκομεν,
of-Agamemnon son whose-indeed for-the-sake we-have-come
δεξώμεθ' οἴκων καταλύσεις· χωρεῖν χρεών,
let-us-accept of-house lodgings to-go it-is-necessary
δμῶες, δόμων τῶνδ' ἐντός. ὡς ἐμοὶ πένης
servants house of-this inside since for-me poor
εἴη πρόθυμος πλουσίου μᾶλλον ξένος.
may-be eager than-rich rather host
αἰνῶ μὲν οὖν τοῦδ' ἀνδρὸς εἰσδοχὰς δόμων·
I-praise indeed then of-this of-man receptions house
ἐβουλόμην δ' ἄν, εἰ κασίγνητός με σὸς
I-would-wish and — if brother me your
εἰς εὐτυχοῦντας ἦγεν εὐτυχῶν δόμους.
into prospering were-leading prospering house
ἴσως δ' ἂν ἔλθοι· Λοξίου γὰρ ἔμπεδοι
perhaps and — he-may-come of-Loxias for steadfast

χρησμοί, βροτῶν δὲ μαντικὴν χαίρειν ἐῶ.
the-oracles of-mortals but prophecy farewell I-bid

ΧΟΡΟΣ νῦν ἢ πάροιθεν μᾶλλον, Ἠλέκτρα, χαρᾷ
now than before rather Electra with-joy

θερμαινόμεσθα καρδίαν· ἴσως γὰρ ἂν
we-are-warmed in-heart perhaps for —

μόλις προβαίνουσ' ἡ τύχη σταίη καλῶς.
with-difficulty advancing the fortune may-stand well

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ τλῆμον, εἰδὼς δωμάτων χρείαν σέθεν
O wretched knowing of-house the-need your

τί τούσδ' ἐδέξω μείζονας σαυτοῦ ξένους;
why these did-you-receive greater than-yourself strangers

ΑΓΓΕΛΤΡΟΣ τί δ'; εἴπερ εἰσὶν ὡς δοκοῦσιν εὐγενεῖς,
what and if-indeed they-are as they-seem well-born

οὐκ ἔν τε μικροῖς ἔν τε μὴ στέρξουσ' ὁμῶς;
not in both small in and not will-they-be-content alike

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐπεί νυν ἐξήμαρτες ἐν σμικροῖσιν ὤν,
since now you-have-erred among small-means being

ἔλθ' ὡς παλαιὸν τροφὸν ἐμοῦ φίλον πατρός·
go to ancient guardian my dear of-father

ὃς ἀμφὶ ποταμὸν Ταναὸν Ἀργείας ὅρους
who about river Tanaus Argive borders

τέμνοντα γαίας Σπαρτιάτιδός τε γῆς
cutting of-land Spartan and of-land

ποίμναις ὁμαρτεῖ πόλεος ἐκβεβλημένος·
flocks attends from-city cast-out

κέλευε δ' αὐτὸν εἰς δόμους ἀφιγμένον
bid and him to house arrived

ἐλθεῖν, ξένων τ' εἰς δαῖτα πορσῦναί τινα.
to-come of-strangers and for feast to-prepare some

ἡσθήσεταί τοι καὶ προσεύξεται θεοῖς,
he-will-rejoice surely and will-pray to-gods
ζῶντ᾽ εἰσακούσας παῖδ᾽ ὃν ἐκσώζει ποτέ.
living hearing child whom he-saved once
οὐ γὰρ πατρῴων ἐκ δόμων μητρὸς πάρα
not for paternal from house mother from
λάβοιμεν ἄν τι· πικρὰ δ᾽ ἀγγείλαιμεν ἄν,
could-we-take — anything bitter and could-we-announce —
εἰ ζῶντ᾽ Ὀρέστην ἡ τάλαιν᾽ αἴσθοιτ᾽ ἔτι.
if living Orestes the wretched should-perceive still
ΑΥΤΟΤΡΓΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ εἰ δοκεῖ σοι, τούσδ᾽ ἀπαγγελῶ λόγους
but if it-seems to-you these I-will-carry words
γέροντι· χώρει δ᾽ εἰς δόμους ὅσον τάχος
to-the-old-man go and into house as-fast-as possible
καὶ τἄνδον ἐξάρτυε. πολλά τοι γυνὴ
and the-things-within prepare many-things surely woman
χρῄζουσ᾽ ἂν εὕροι δαιτὶ προσφορήματα.
seeking — could-find for-feast additions
ἔστιν δὲ δὴ τοσαῦτά γ᾽ ἐν δόμοις ἔτι,
there-are and indeed so-much at-least in house still
ὥσθ᾽ ἕν γ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ἦμαρ τούσδε πληρῶσαι βορᾶς.
so-that one at-least for day these to-fill with-food
ἐν τοῖς τοιούτοις δ᾽ ἡνίκ᾽ ἂν γνώμη πέσῃ,
in the such and when — judgment falls
σκοπῶ τὰ χρήμαθ᾽ ὡς ἔχει μέγα σθένος,
I-see the riches how has great power
ξένοις τε δοῦναι σῶμά τ᾽ εἰς νόσον πεσὸν
for-strangers both to-give body and into sickness fallen
δαπάναισι σῶσαι· τῆς δ᾽ ἐφ᾽ ἡμέραν βορᾶς
with-expenses to-save of-the and for day food

εἰς μικρὸν ἥκει· πᾶς γὰρ ἐμπλησθεὶς ἀνὴρ
to small comes all for filled man
ὁ πλούσιός τε χὠ πένης ἴσον φέρει.
the rich both and-the poor equal carries

IV · ACHILLES' SHIELD

The chorus recalls the ships that sailed to Troy with Achilles, and the armor that the Nereids brought him from Hephaestus. They describe the images on his shield and his helmet. The leader of such men was killed by Clytemnestra, and they foresee that she will die for it.

ΧΟΡΟΣ κλειναὶ ναῦες, αἵ ποτ' ἔμβατε Τροίαν
famous ships which once you-went-to Troy
τοῖς ἀμετρήτοις ἐρετμοῖς
with-the countless oars
πέμπουσαι χοροὺς μετὰ Νηρήδων,
escorting dances with Nereids
ἵν' ὁ φίλαυλος ἔπαλλε δελ-
where the flute-loving leapt dolphin
φὶς πρῴραις κυανεμβόλοις
— by-prows dark-beaked
εἱλισσόμενος,
whirling
πορεύων τὸν τᾶς Θέτιδος
conveying the — of-Thetis
κοῦφον ἅλμα ποδῶν Ἀχιλῆ
light leap of-feet Achilles
σὺν Ἀγαμέμνονι Τρωίας
with Agamemnon of-Troy

ἐπὶ Σιμουντίδας ἀκτάς.
to Simoeis shores
Νηρῇδες δ' Εὐβοῖδας ἀκτὰς λιποῦσαι
Nereids and Euboean headlands having-left
Ἡφαίστου χρυσέων ἀκμόνων
of-Hephaestus of-golden anvils
μόχθους ἀσπιστὰς ἔφερον τευχέων,
toils shield brought of-armor
ἀνά τε Πήλιον ἀνά τε πρύ-
up both Pelion up and the-lower-slopes
μνὰς Ὄσσας ἱερὰς νάπας,
— of-Ossa holy glens
Νυμφαίας σκοπιάς,
nymph lookouts
ἐμάστευον, ἔνθα πατὴρ
sought where father
ἱππότας τρέφεν Ἑλλάδι φῶς,
horseman reared for-Hellas a-light
Θέτιδος εἰνάλιον γόνον,
of-Thetis sea son
ταχύπορον πόδ' Ἀτρείδαις.
swift-going foot for-the-sons-of-Atreus
Ἰλιόθεν δ' ἔκλυόν τινος ἐν λιμέσιν
from-Ilium and I-heard someone in harbor
Ναυπλίοισι βεβῶτος
Nauplian having-come
τᾶς σᾶς, ὦ Θέτιδος παῖ,
of-the your O of-Thetis son
κλεινᾶς ἀσπίδος ἐν κύκλῳ
famous of-shield in circle

τοιάδε σήματα, δείματα
such signs terrors
Φρύγια, τετύχθαι·
Phrygian to-have-been-wrought
περιδρόμῳ μὲν ἴτυος ἕδρᾳ
running-round indeed of-rim in-seat
Περσέα λαιμοτόμον ὑπὲρ
Perseus throat-cutting over
ἁλὸς ποτανοῖσι πεδίλοι-
sea with-winged sandals
σι φυὰν Γοργόνος ἴσχειν,
— the-body of-Gorgon holding
Διὸς ἀγγέλῳ σὺν Ἑρμᾷ
of-Zeus messenger with Hermes
τῷ Μαίας ἀγροτῆρι κούρῳ·
the of-Maia rustic son
ἐν δὲ μέσῳ κατέλαμπε σάκει φαέθων
in and middle shone-out on-shield shining
κύκλος ἀελίοιο
circle of-sun
ἵπποις ἂμ πτεροέσσαις
horses on winged
ἄστρων τ' αἰθέριοι χοροί,
of-stars and heavenly dances
Πλειάδες, Ὑάδες, Ἕκτορος
Pleiades Hyades to-Hector's
ὄμμασι τροπαῖοι·
eyes routing
ἐπὶ δὲ χρυσοτύπῳ κράνει
on and gold-wrought helmet

Σφίγγες ὄνυξιν ἀοίδιμον
Sphinxes with-claws song-sung
ἄγραν φέρουσαι· περιπλεύρῳ
prey carrying on-the-flanked
δὲ κύτει πύρπνοος ἔσπευ-
and hollow fire-breathing hastened
δε δρόμῳ λέαινα χαλαῖς
— in-course lioness with-claws
Πειρηναῖον ὁρῶσα πῶλον.
Peirenean seeing colt
ἄορι δ' ἐν φονίῳ τετραβάμονες ἵπποι ἔπαλλον,
sword and in murderous four-footed horses leapt
κελαινὰ δ' ἀμφὶ νῶθ' ἵετο κόνις.
dark and around backs flew dust
τοιῶνδ' ἄνακτα δοριπόνων
of-such the-lord of-spear-toiling
480 ἔκανες ἀνδρῶν, Τυνδαρί,
you-killed of-men daughter-of-Tyndareus
σὰ λέχεα, κακόφρων κόρα.
your bed evil-minded girl
τοιγάρ σέ ποτ' οὐρανίδαι
therefore you once the-heavenly-ones
πέμψουσιν θανάτοις· ἦ σὰν
will-send to-death truly your
485 ἔτ' ἔτι φόνιον ὑπὸ δέραν
still still bloody under neck
ὄψομαι αἷμα χυθὲν σιδάρῳ.
I-shall-see blood shed by-iron

The old man arrives, having found a lock of hair and an offering at Agamemnon's tomb. He suggests that Orestes has returned, but Electra refuses to believe him. He then recognizes Orestes by a scar on his brow, and brother and sister embrace. They plan the revenge: Orestes will kill Aegisthus at a sacrifice, and Electra will lure their mother by pretending to have given birth to a son. They pray to the gods and to their father.

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ ποῦ ποῦ νεᾶνις πότνι᾽ ἐμὴ δέσποινά τε,
where where young-woman lady my mistress and
Ἀγαμέμνονος παῖς, ὅν ποτ᾽ ἐξέθρεψ᾽ ἐγώ;
of-Agamemnon child whom once reared I
ὡς πρόσβασιν τῶνδ᾽ ὀρθίαν οἴκων ἔχει
how approach of-this steep house has
ῥυσῷ γέροντι τῷδε προσβῆναι ποδί.
for-wrinkled old-man this to-go-up on-foot
ὅμως δὲ πρός γε τοὺς φίλους ἐξελκτέον
nevertheless but to at-least the friends I-must-drag
διπλῆν ἄκανθαν καὶ παλίρροπον γόνυ.
double spine and bending knee
ὦ θύγατερ, ἄρτι γάρ σε πρὸς δόμοις ὁρῶ,
O daughter just-now for you by house I-see
ἥκω φέρων σοι τῶν ἐμῶν βοσκημάτων
I-come bringing to-you of-the my flocks
ποίμνης νεογνὸν θρέμμ᾽ ὑποσπάσας τόδε,
of-flock newborn nursling having-taken-from this
στεφάνους τε τευχέων τ᾽ ἐξελὼν τυρεύματα,
garlands and of-baskets and having-taken-out cheeses
παλαιόν τε θησαύρισμα Διονύσου τόδε
old and treasure of-Dionysus this

ὀσμῇ κατῆρες, μικρόν, ἀλλ' ἐπεισβαλεῖν
with-fragrance laden small but to-pour-in
ἡδὺ σκύφον τοῦδ' ἀσθενεστέρῳ ποτῷ.
sweet cup of-this to-weaker drink
ἴτω φέρων τις τοῖς ξένοις τάδ' εἰς δόμους·
let-go carrying someone to-the strangers these-things into house
ἐγὼ δὲ τρύχει τῷδ' ἐμῶν πέπλων κόρας
I and with-rag this of-my robes eyes
δακρύοισι τέγξας ἐξομόρξασθαι θέλω.
with-tears having-wet to-wipe wish
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τί δ', ὦ γεραιέ, διάβροχον τόδ' ὄμμ' ἔχεις;
why and O old-man drenched this eye you-have
μῶν τἀμὰ διὰ χρόνου σ' ἀνέμνησεν κακά;
surely-not my-things after time you have-reminded evils
ἢ τὰς Ὀρέστου τλήμονας φυγὰς στένεις
or the of-Orestes wretched exiles you-bewail
καὶ πατέρα τὸν ἐμόν, ὅν ποτ' ἐν χεροῖν ἔχων
and father the my whom once in arms holding
ἀνόνητ' ἔθρεψάς σοί τε καὶ τοῖς σοῖς φίλοις;
uselessly you-reared for-you both and for-the your friends
ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ ἀνόνηθ'· ὅμως δ' οὖν τοῦτό γ' οὐκ ἠνεσχόμην.
uselessly nevertheless but then this at-least not I-endured
ἦλθον γὰρ αὐτοῦ πρὸς τάφον πάρεργ' ὁδοῦ,
I-came for his to tomb as-a-side-trip of-the-road
καὶ προσπεσὼν ἔκλαυσ' ἐρημίας τυχών,
and falling-down I-wept solitude having-found
σπονδάς τε, λύσας ἀσκὸν ὃν φέρω ξένοις,
libations and loosing wineskin which I-bring for-strangers
ἔσπεισα, τύμβῳ δ' ἀμφέθηκα μυρσίνας.
I-poured on-the-tomb and I-placed-around myrtles

πυρᾶς δ' ἐπ' αὐτῆς οἶν μελάγχιμον πόκῳ
pyre and on itself sheep black in-fleece
σφάγιον ἐσεῖδον αἱμά τ' οὐ πάλαι χυθὲν
slaughtered I-saw blood and not long-ago shed
ξανθῆς τε χαίτης βοστρύχους κεκαρμένους.
of-yellow and of-hair locks shorn
κἀθαύμασ', ὦ παῖ, τίς ποτ' ἀνθρώπων ἔτλη
and-I-marveled O child who ever of-men dared
πρὸς τύμβον ἐλθεῖν· οὐ γὰρ Ἀργείων γέ τις·
to tomb to-go not for of-Argives at-least anyone
ἀλλ' ἦλθ' ἴσως που σὸς κασίγνητος λάθρᾳ,
but came perhaps somehow your brother secretly
μολὼν δ' ἐθαύμασ' ἄθλιον τύμβον πατρός.
coming and he-honored wretched tomb of-father
σκέψαι δὲ χαίτην προστιθεῖσα σῇ κόμῃ,
look-at and the-hair putting-beside to-your hair
εἰ χρῶμα ταὐτὸν κουρίμης ἔσται τριχός·
if color the-same of-shorn hair will-be
φιλεῖ γάρ, αἷμα ταὐτὸν οἷς ἂν ᾖ πατρός
is-wont for blood the-same whom — be of-father
τὰ πόλλ' ὅμοια σώματος πεφυκέναι.
the many-things like of-body to-be
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐκ ἄξι' ἀνδρός, ὦ γέρον, σοφοῦ λέγεις,
not worthy of-a-man O old-man wise you-say
εἰ κρυπτὸν εἰς γῆν τήνδ' ἂν Αἰγίσθου φόβῳ
if secretly to land this — of-Aegisthus from-fear
δοκεῖς ἀδελφὸν τὸν ἐμὸν εὐθαρσῆ μολεῖν.
you-think brother the my bold to-come
ἔπειτα χαίτης πῶς συνοίσεται πλόκος,
then of-hair how will-agree lock

ὁ μὲν παλαίστραις ἀνδρὸς εὐγενοῦς τραφείς,
the-one indeed in-wrestling-schools of-man well-born reared
ὁ δὲ κτενισμοῖς θῆλυς; ἀλλ' ἀμήχανον.
the-other and by-combings womanish but impossible
πολλοῖς δ' ἂν εὕροις βοστρύχους ὁμοπτέρους
in-many and — you-would-find locks of-like-feather
καὶ μὴ γεγῶσιν αἵματος ταὐτοῦ, γέρον.
even not being of-blood same old-man
ἀλλ' ἤ τις αὐτοῦ τάφον ἐποικτείρας ξένος
but or some his tomb pitying stranger
ἐκείρατ', ἢ τῆσδε σκοπὸς λαθὼν χθονός.
cut-it or of-this spy escaping-notice of-land
ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ σὺ δ' εἰς ἴχνος βᾶσ' ἀρβύλης σκέψαι βάσιν,
you and into track stepping of-boot look-at the-print
εἰ σύμμετρος σῷ ποδὶ γενήσεται, τέκνον.
if commensurate with-your foot it-will-be child
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πῶς δ' ἂν γένοιτ' ἂν ἐν κραταιλέῳ πέδῳ
how and — could-there-be — in rocky ground
γαίας ποδῶν ἔκμακτρον; εἰ δ' ἔστιν τόδε,
of-earth of-feet print if and there-is this
δυοῖν ἀδελφοῖν ποὺς ἂν οὐ γένοιτ' ἴσος
of-two siblings foot — not would-be equal
ἀνδρός τε καὶ γυναικός, ἀλλ' ἄρσην κρατεῖ.
of-man both and of-woman but male prevails
ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ οὐκ ἔστιν, εἰ καὶ γῆν κασίγνητος μόλοι,
not is-it if even land brother should-come
κερκίδος ὅτῳ γνοίης ἂν ἐξύφασμα σῆς,
of-shuttle by-which you-could-know — weaving your
ἐν ᾧ ποτ' αὐτὸν ἐξέκλεψα μὴ θανεῖν;
in which once him I-stole-away not to-die

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐκ οἶσθ', Ὀρέστης ἡνίκ' ἐκπίπτει χθονός,
not you-know Orestes when he-is-cast-out of-land
νέαν μ' ἔτ' οὖσαν; εἰ δὲ κἄκρεκον πέπλους,
young me still being if and even-I-was-weaving robes
πῶς ἂν τότ' ὢν παῖς ταὐτὰ νῦν ἔχοι φάρη,
how — then being child the-same now could-have robes
εἰ μὴ ξυναύξοιν' οἱ πέπλοι τῷ σώματι;
if not grow-with the robes with-the body
ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ οἱ δὲ ξένοι ποῦ; βούλομαι γὰρ εἰσιδὼν
the and strangers where I-wish for having-seen
αὐτοὺς ἔρεσθαι σοῦ κασιγνήτου πέρι.
them to-ask your of-brother about
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οἵδ' ἐκ δόμων βαίνουσι λαιψηρῷ ποδί.
these from house come with-swift foot
ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ ἀλλ' εὐγενεῖς μέν, ἐν δὲ κιβδήλῳ τόδε· 550
but well-born indeed in but counterfeit this
πολλοὶ γὰρ ὄντες εὐγενεῖς εἰσιν κακοί.
many for being well-born are base
ὅμως δὲ χαίρειν τοὺς ξένους προσεννέπω.
nevertheless but to-fare-well the strangers I-bid
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ χαῖρ', ὦ γεραιέ. τοῦ ποτ', Ἠλέκτρα, τόδε
hail O old-man of-whom ever Electra this
παλαιὸν ἀνδρὸς λείψανον φίλων κυρεῖ;
ancient of-man remnant of-friends is
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὗτος τὸν ἀμὸν πατέρ' ἔθρεψεν, ὦ ξένε. 555
this-one the my father reared O stranger
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί φής; ὅδ' ὃς σὸν ἐξέκλεψε σύγγονον;
what do-you-say this-one who your stole-away brother
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὅδ' ἔσθ' ὁ σώσας κεῖνον, εἴπερ ἔστ' ἔτι.
this-one is the having-saved him if-indeed he-is still

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἔα·

ha

τί μ᾽ εἰσδέδορκεν ὥσπερ ἀργύρου σκοπῶν

why me does-he-stare-at as-if of-silver examining

λαμπρὸν χαρακτῆρ᾽; ἢ προσεικάζει μέ τῳ;

bright stamp or likens me to-someone

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἴσως Ὀρέστου σ᾽ ἥλιχ᾽ ἥδεται βλέπων.

perhaps of-Orestes you of-like-age he-is-pleased seeing

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ φίλου γε φωτός. τί δὲ κυκλεῖ πέριξ πόδα;

of-friend at-least of-man why and does-he-circle around foot

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὐτὴ τόδ᾽ εἰσορῶσα θαυμάζω, ξένε.

and-I-myself this seeing marvel stranger

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ ὦ πότνι᾽, εὔχου, θύγατερ Ἠλέκτρα, θεοῖς —

O lady pray daughter Electra to-the-gods

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τί τῶν ἀπόντων ἢ τί τῶν ὄντων πέρι;

for-what of-the absent or what of-the present about

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ λαβεῖν φίλον θησαυρόν, ὃν φαίνει θεός.

to-take dear treasure which shows god

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἰδού, καλῶ θεούς. ἢ τί δὴ λέγεις, γέρον;

see I-call gods or what indeed do-you-mean old-man

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ βλέψον νυν εἰς τόνδ᾽, ὦ τέκνον, τὸν φίλτατον.

look now at this-one O child the dearest

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πάλαι δέδοικα, μὴ σύ γ᾽ οὐκέτ᾽ εὖ φρονῇς.

long-ago I-fear lest you at-least no-longer well are-thinking

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ οὐκ εὖ φρονῶ ᾽γὼ σὸν κασίγνητον βλέπων;

not well I-think I your brother seeing

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πῶς εἶπας, ὦ γεραί, ἀνέλπιστον λόγον;

how did-you-say O old-man unhoped-for word

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ ὁρᾶν Ὀρέστην τόνδε τὸν Ἀγαμέμνονος.

to-see Orestes this-one the of-Agamemnon

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ποῖον χαρακτῆρ' εἰσιδών, ᾧ πείσομαι;
what-kind-of stamp having-seen in-which I-shall-trust
ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ οὐλὴν παρ' ὀφρύν, ἥν ποτ' ἐν πατρὸς δόμοις
scar by eyebrow which once in of-father house
νεβρὸν διώκων σοῦ μέθ' ἡμάχθη πεσών.
fawn chasing you with he-bled having-fallen
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πῶς φής; ὁρῶ μὲν πτώματος τεκμήριον.
how do-you-say I-see indeed of-fall the-mark
ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ ἔπειτα μέλλεις προσπίτνειν τοῖς φιλτάτοις;
then do-you-delay to-fall-upon the dearest
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀλλ' οὐκέτ', ὦ γεραιέ· συμβόλοισι γὰρ
but no-longer O old-man by-tokens for
τοῖς σοῖς πέπεισμαι θυμόν. ὦ χρόνῳ φανείς,
the your I-am-persuaded in-heart O after-time having-appeared
ἔχω σ' ἀέλπτως ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ κἀξ ἐμοῦ γ' ἔχει χρόνῳ.
I-hold you unhoped-for and-from me at-least you-are-held after-time
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐδέποτε δόξασ'. ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐδ' ἐγὼ γὰρ ἤλπισα.
never thinking nor I for hoped
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐκεῖνος εἶ σύ; ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σύμμαχός γέ σοι μόνος,
that-one are you ally at-least to-you only
ἢν ἐκσπάσωμαί γ' ὃν μετέρχομαι βόλον.
if I-draw-in at-least which I-go-after the-cast
πέποιθα δ'· ἢ χρὴ μηκέθ' ἡγεῖσθαι θεούς,
I-trust and or must no-longer to-believe-in gods
εἰ τἄδικ' ἔσται τῆς δίκης ὑπέρτερα.
if the-unjust-things will-be than-the justice higher
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔμολες, ἔμολες, ὦ χρόνιος ἁμέρα,
you-came you-came O late day
κατέλαμψας, ἔδειξας ἐμφανῆ
you-shone-out you-showed manifest

πόλει πυρσόν, ὃς παλαιᾷ φυγᾷ
to-the-city a-beacon who in-ancient exile
πατρίων ἀπὸ δωμάτων τάλας
paternal from house wretched
ἀλαίνων ἔβα. θεὸς αὖ θεὸς
wandering went god again god
590 ἁμετέραν τις ἄγει
our some brings
νίκαν, ὦ φίλα.
victory O dear
ἄνεχε χέρας, ἄνεχε
raise hands raise
λόγον, ἵει λιτὰς εἰς τοὺς θεούς,
word send prayers to the gods
595 τύχᾳ σοι τύχᾳ
with-fortune for-you with-fortune
κασίγνητον ἐμβατεῦσαι πόλιν.
brother to-set-foot-in the-city
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εἶεν· φίλας μὲν ἡδονὰς ἀσπασμάτων
well dear indeed the-pleasures of-embraces
ἔχω, χρόνῳ δὲ καὖθις αὐτὰ δώσομεν.
I-have in-time but and-again them we-will-give
σὺ δ', ὦ γεραιέ, καίριος γὰρ ἦλυθες,
you and O old-man timely for you-came
λέξον, τί δρῶν ἂν φονέα τισαίμην πατρὸς
tell what doing — the-murderer I-might-punish of-father
600 μητέρα τε τὴν κοινωνὸν ἀνοσίων γάμων;
mother and the partner of-unholy marriage
ἔστιν τί μοι κατ' Ἄργος εὐμενὲς φίλων;
is-there anything to-me in Argos well-disposed of-friends

ἢ πάντ᾽ ἀνεσκευάσμεθ᾽, ὥσπερ αἱ τύχαι;
or all have-we-been-ruined as the fortunes

τῷ συγγένωμαι; νύχιος ἢ καθ᾽ ἡμέραν;
with-whom shall-I-meet by-night or by day

ποίαν ὁδὸν τραπώμεθ᾽ εἰς ἐχθροὺς ἐμούς;
what road shall-we-turn to enemies my

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ ὦ τέκνον, οὐδεὶς δυστυχοῦντί σοι φίλος.
O child no-one to-the-unfortunate to-you friend

εὔρημα γὰρ τὸ χρῆμα γίγνεται τόδε,
windfall for the thing becomes this

κοινῇ μετασχεῖν τἀγαθοῦ καὶ τοῦ κακοῦ.
in-common to-share of-the-good and of-the bad

σὺ δ᾽, ἐκ βάθρων γὰρ πᾶς ἀνῄρησαι φίλοις
you and from foundations for wholly have-been-destroyed for-friends

οὐδ᾽ ἐλλέλοιπας ἐλπίδ᾽, ἴσθι μου κλύων,
nor have-you-left hope know me hearing

ἐν χειρὶ τῇ σῇ πάντ᾽ ἔχεις καὶ τῇ τύχῃ,
in hand the your all-things you-have and the fortune

πατρῷον οἶκον καὶ πόλιν λαβεῖν σέθεν.
paternal house and city to-take your

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί δῆτα δρῶντες τοῦδ᾽ ἂν ἐξικοίμεθα;
what then doing this — might-we-attain

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ κτανὼν Θυέστου παῖδα σήν τε μητέρα.
having-killed of-Thyestes son your and mother

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἥκω ᾽πὶ τόνδε στέφανον· ἀλλὰ πῶς λάβω,
I-come for this crown but how may-I-take

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ τειχέων μὲν ἐλθὼν ἐντὸς οὐδ᾽ ἂν εἰ θέλοις.
of-the-walls indeed coming inside not-even — if you-should-wish

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ φρουραῖς κέκασται δεξιαῖς τε δορυφόρων;
with-guards he-is-furnished with-right-hands and of-spearmen

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ ἔγνως· φοβεῖται γάρ σε κοὐχ εὕδει σαφῶς.
you-know he-fears for you and-not sleeps clearly

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εἶεν· σὺ δὴ τοὐνθένδε βούλευσον, γέρον.
well you indeed from-here advise old-man

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ κἀμοῦ γ' ἄκουσον· ἄρτι γάρ μ' ἐσῆλθέ τι.
and-me at-least hear just-now for me occurred something

620 ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἐσθλόν τι μηνύσειας, αἰσθοίμην δ' ἐγώ.
good something may-you-reveal may-perceive and I

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ Αἴγισθον εἶδον, ἡνίχ' εἶρπον ἐνθάδε,
Aegisthus I-saw when I-was-creeping hither

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ προσηκάμην τὸ ῥηθέν. ἐν ποίοις τόποις;
I-welcome the said-thing in what places

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ ἀγρῶν πέλας τῶνδ' ἱπποφορβίων ἔπι.
of-fields near these horse-pastures by

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί δρῶνθ'; ὁρῶ γὰρ ἐλπίδ' ἐξ ἀμηχάνων.
what doing I-see for hope from helplessness

625 ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ Νύμφαις ἐπόρσυν' ἔροτιν, ὡς ἔδοξέ μοι.
for-the-Nymphs he-was-preparing festival as seemed to-me

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τροφεῖα παίδων, ἢ πρὸ μέλλοντος τόκου;
nursing-fee of-children or for coming birth

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ οὐκ οἶδα πλὴν ἕν· βουσφαγεῖν ὡπλίζετο.
not I-know except one-thing to-slaughter-oxen he-was-arming

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πόσων μετ' ἀνδρῶν; ἢ μόνος δμώων μέτα;
how-many with men or alone servants with

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ οὐδεὶς παρῆν Ἀργεῖος, οἰκεία δὲ χείρ.
no-one was-present Argive household but hand

630 ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὔ που τις ὅστις γνωριεῖ μ' ἰδών, γέρον;
not surely anyone who will-know me having-seen old-man

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ δμῶες μέν εἰσιν, οἳ σέ γ' οὐκ εἶδόν ποτε.
servants indeed are who you at-least not saw ever

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἡμῖν ἂν εἶεν, εἰ κρατοῖμεν, εὐμενεῖς;
to-us — would-be if we-should-prevail well-disposed

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ δούλων γὰρ ἴδιον τοῦτο, σοὶ δὲ σύμφορον.
of-slaves for peculiar this to-you and advantageous

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πῶς οὖν ἂν αὐτῷ πλησιασθείην ποτέ;
how then — to-him could-I-come-near ever

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ στείχων ὅθεν σε βουθυτῶν ἐσόψεται.
going whence you sacrificing-oxen he-will-see

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὁδὸν παρ᾽ αὐτήν, ὡς ἔοικ᾽, ἀγροὺς ἔχει.
road by itself as it-seems fields he-has

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ ὅθεν γ᾽ ἰδών σε δαιτὶ κοινωνὸν καλεῖ.
whence at-least seeing you to-feast as-partner he-calls

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πικρόν γε συνθοινάτορ᾽, ἢν θεὸς θέλῃ.
bitter at-least fellow-feaster if god wills

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ τοὐνθένδε πρὸς τὸ πῖπτον αὐτὸς ἐννόει.
from-there toward the falling yourself consider

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καλῶς ἔλεξας. ἡ τεκοῦσα δ᾽ ἐστὶ ποῦ;
well you-spoke the having-borne and is where

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ Ἄργει· παρέσται δ᾽ ἐν τάχει θοίνην ἔπι.
in-Argos she-will-be-present and in haste feast for

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί δ᾽ οὐχ ἅμ᾽ ἐξωρμᾶτ᾽ ἐμὴ μήτηρ πόσει;
why and not together set-out my mother with-husband

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ ψόγον τρέμουσα δημοτῶν ἐλείπετο.
blame fearing of-citizens she-was-left-behind

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ξυνῆχ᾽· ὕποπτος οὖσα γιγνώσκει πόλει.
I-understand suspected being she-knows by-the-city

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ τοιαῦτα· μισεῖται γὰρ ἀνόσιος γυνή.
such-things is-hated for unholy woman

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πῶς οὖν ἐκείνην τόνδε τ᾽ ἐν ταὐτῷ κτενῶ;
how then her this-one and at the-same-time shall-I-kill

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐγὼ φόνον γε μητρὸς ἐξαρτύσομαι.
I murder at-least of-mother will-prepare

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καὶ μὴν ἐκεῖνά γ' ἡ τύχη θήσει καλῶς.
and indeed those-things at-least the fortune will-set well

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὑπηρετείτω μὲν δυοῖν ὄντοιν ὅδε.
let-serve indeed for-two being this-one

650 ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ ἔσται τάδ'· εὑρίσκεις δὲ μητρὶ πῶς φόνον;
it-will-be these-things you-find and for-mother how murder

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ λέγ', ὦ γεραιέ, τάδε Κλυταιμνήστρᾳ μολών·
tell O old-man these-things to-Clytemnestra going

λεχώ μ' ἀπάγγελλ' οὖσαν ἄρσενος τόκου.
in-childbed me announce being of-male birth

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ πότερα πάλαι τεκοῦσαν ἢ νεωστὶ δή;
whether long-ago having-borne or newly indeed

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ δέχ' ἡλίους, ἐν οἷσιν ἁγνεύει λεχώ.
ten days in which is-pure the-new-mother

655 ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ καὶ δὴ τί τοῦτο μητρὶ προσβάλλει φόνον;
and indeed how this to-mother brings murder

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἥξει κλύουσα λόχι' ἐμοῦ νοσήματα.
she-will-come hearing childbirth my sickness

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ πόθεν; τί δ' αὐτῇ σοῦ μέλειν δοκεῖς, τέκνον;
whence why and to-her of-you to-care you-think child

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ναί· καὶ δακρύσει γ' ἀξίωμ' ἐμῶν τόκων.
yes and she-will-weep at-least the-rank of-my offspring

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ ἴσως· πάλιν τοι μῦθον εἰς καμπὴν ἄγε.
perhaps again surely the-tale to turn bring

660 ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐλθοῦσα μέντοι δῆλον ὡς ἀπόλλυται.
having-come however clear that she-perishes

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ καὶ μὴν ἐπ' αὐτάς γ' εἰσίτω δόμων πύλας.
and indeed to the-very at-least let-her-enter of-house gates

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὔκουν τραπέσθαι σμικρὸν εἰς Ἅιδου τόδε;
not-then to-turn little to of-Hades this

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ εἰ γὰρ θάνοιμι τοῦτ' ἰδὼν ἐγώ ποτε.
if-only for I-might-die this having-seen I ever

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πρώτιστα μέν νυν τῷδ' ὑφήγησαι, γέρον.
first-of-all indeed now for-this-one guide old-man

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ Αἴγισθος ἔνθα νῦν θυηπολεῖ θεοῖς; 665
Aegisthus where now sacrifices to-gods

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἔπειτ' ἀπαντῶν μητρὶ τἀπ' ἐμοῦ φράσον.
then meeting mother the-things-from me tell

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ ὥστ' αὐτά γ' ἐκ σοῦ στόματος εἰρῆσθαι δοκεῖν.
so-that them at-least from your mouth to-be-spoken to-seem

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ σὸν ἔργον ἤδη· πρόσθεν εἴληχας φόνου.
your the-task already before you-have-been-allotted of-murder

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ στείχοιμ' ἄν, εἴ τις ἡγεμὼν γίγνοιθ' ὁδοῦ.
I-would-go — if some guide should-be of-road

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ καὶ μὴν ἐγὼ πέμποιμ' ἂν οὐκ ἀκουσίως. 670
and indeed I would-send — not unwillingly

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ Ζεῦ πατρῷε καὶ τροπαῖ' ἐχθρῶν ἐμῶν,
O Zeus paternal and router of-enemies my

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οἴκτειρέ θ' ἡμᾶς, οἰκτρὰ γὰρ πεπόνθαμεν,
pity and us piteous-things for we-have-suffered

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ οἴκτειρε δῆτα σούς γε φύντας ἐκγόνους.
pity then your at-least sprung descendants

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ Ἥρα τε, βωμῶν ἣ Μυκηναίων κρατεῖς,
Hera and of-altars who Mycenaean rule

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ νίκην δὸς ἡμῖν, εἰ δίκαι' αἰτούμεθα. 675
victory give to-us if just-things we-ask

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ δὸς δῆτα πατρὸς τοῖσδε τιμωρὸν δίκην.
give then of-father to-these avenging justice

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ Γαῖ' ἄνασσα, χεῖρας ᾗ δίδωμ' ἐμάς,
O Earth queen hands to-whom I-give my
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σύ τ', ὦ κάτω γῆς ἀνοσίως οἰκῶν πάτερ,
you and O below earth unholily dwelling father
ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ ἄμυν' ἄμυνε τοῖσδε φιλτάτοις τέκνοις.
defend defend these dearest children
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ νῦν πάντα νεκρὸν ἐλθὲ σύμμαχον λαβών,
now every dead come ally having-taken
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οἵπερ γε σὺν σοὶ Φρύγας ἀνήλωσαν δορί,
who-indeed at-least with you Phrygians destroyed with-spear
ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ χὥσοι στυγοῦσιν ἀνοσίους μιάστορας·
and-as-many-as hate unholy polluters
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἤκουσας, ὦ δεί' ἐξ ἐμῆς μητρὸς παθών;
did-you-hear O terrible-things from my mother having-suffered
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πάντ', οἶδ', ἀκούει τάδε πατήρ·
all I-know hears these-things father
στείχειν δ' ἀκμή.
to-go and it-is-the-moment
καί σοι προφωνῶ πρὸς τάδ' Αἴγισθον θανεῖν·
and to-you I-proclaim to this Aegisthus to-die
ὡς, εἰ παλαισθεὶς πτῶμα θανάσιμον πεσεῖ,
as if thrown fall deadly you-shall-fall
τέθνηκα κἀγώ, μηδέ με ζῶσαν λέγε.
I-am-dead and-I nor me living call
παίσω γὰρ ἧπαρ τοὐμὸν ἀμφήκει ξίφει.
I-will-strike for liver my two-edged with-sword
δόμων δ' ἔσω βᾶσ' εὐτρεπὲς ποιήσομαι,
of-house and inside going ready I-shall-make
ὡς, ἢν μὲν ἔλθῃ πύστις εὐτυχὴς σέθεν,
so-that if indeed comes news fortunate of-you

ὀλολύξεται πᾶν δῶμα· θνῄσκοντος δὲ σοῦ
will-cry-aloud all house dying and you
τἀναντί' ἔσται τῶνδε· ταῦτά σοι λέγω.
the-opposite will-be of-these these-things to-you I-say
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πάντ' οἶδα. ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πρὸς τάδ' ἄνδρα
all-things I-know to these-things man
γίγνεσθαί σε χρή.
to-become you must
ὑμεῖς δέ μοι, γυναῖκες, εὖ πυρσεύετε
you and for-me women well signal
κραυγὴν ἀγῶνος τοῦδε. φρουρήσω δ' ἐγὼ 695
the-shout of-contest this will-keep-watch and I
πρόχειρον ἔγχος χειρὶ βαστάζουσ' ἐμῇ.
ready sword in-hand bearing my
οὐ γάρ ποτ' ἐχθροῖς τοῖς ἐμοῖς νικωμένη
not for ever by-enemies the my conquered
δίκην ὑφέξω, σῶμ' ἐμὸν καθυβρίσαι.
penalty shall-I-submit body my to-outrage

The chorus sings of the golden lamb that Pan brought to Atreus, and of how Thyestes seduced Atreus' wife and stole it. Zeus then turned the sun and stars backward. They say they do not believe the story, but it serves to frighten mortals into honoring the gods, and Clytemnestra forgot it when she killed her husband.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀταλᾶς ὑπὸ ματρὸς
tender from mother
Ἀργείων ὀρέων ποτὲ κληδὼν
of-Argive mountains once report
ἐν πολιαῖσι μένει φάμαις
in hoary abides tales
εὐαρμόστοις ἐν καλάμοις
well-fitted in reeds
Πᾶνα μοῦσαν ἁδύθροον
Pan music sweet-sounding
πνέοντ', ἀγρῶν ταμίαν,
breathing of-fields steward
χρυσέαν ἄρνα καλλίποκον πορεῦσαι·
golden lamb fair-fleeced to-have-brought
πετρίνοις δ' ἐπιστὰς
on-stone and standing
κᾶρυξ ἴαχεν βάθροις·
herald cried on-steps
ἀγορὰν ἀγοράν, Μυκηναῖοι,
to-assembly to-assembly Mycenaeans
στείχετε μακαρίων ὀψόμενοι τυράννων
go of-blessed to-see rulers
φάσματα, †δείματα.
apparitions (corrupt)-terrors

χοροὶ δ' Ἀτρειδᾶν †ἐγέραιρον† οἴκους·
dances and of-the-sons-of-Atreus (corrupt)-honored house
θυμέλαι δ' ἐπίτναντο
altars and were-spread
χρυσήλατοι, σελαγεῖτο δ' ἀν' ἄστυ
gold-beaten blazed and through town
πῦρ ἐπιβώμιον Ἀργείων·
fire on-the-altar of-Argives
λωτὸς δὲ φθόγγον κελάδει
flute and voice sounds
κάλλιστον, Μουσᾶν θεράπων·
most-beautiful of-Muses servant
μολπαὶ δ' ηὔξοντ' ἐραταὶ
songs and swelled lovely
χρυσέας ἀρνός, ὡς ἐστὶ λάχος Θυέστου·
golden of-lamb that is portion of-Thyestes
κρυφίαις γὰρ εὐναῖς
with-secret for bed
πείσας ἄλοχον φίλαν
having-persuaded wife dear
Ἀτρέως, τέρας ἐκκομίζει πρὸς
of-Atreus portent carries-off to
δώματα· νεόμενος δ' εἰς ἀγόρους ἀύτει
house coming and to assemblies shouts
τὰν κερόεσσαν ἔ-
the horned to-have
χειν χρυσόμαλλον κατὰ δῶμα ποίμναν.
— golden-fleeced in house flock
τότε δὴ τότε φαεννὰς
then indeed then shining

ἄστρων μετέβασ᾽ ὁδοὺς
of-stars changed paths
Ζεὺς καὶ φέγγος ἀελίου
Zeus and light of-sun
730 λευκόν τε πρόσωπον ἀοῦς,
white and face of-dawn
τὰ δ᾽ ἕσπερα νῶτ᾽ ἐλαύνει
the and western backs he-drives
θερμᾷ φλογὶ θεοπύρῳ,
with-hot flame god-kindled
νεφέλαι δ᾽ ἔνυδροι πρὸς ἄρκτον,
clouds and watery toward north
ξηραί τ᾽ Ἀμμωνίδες ἕδραι
dry and Ammonian seats
735 φθίνουσ᾽ ἀπειρόδροσοι,
waste dewless
καλλίστων ὄμβρων Διόθεν στερεῖσαι.
of-fairest rains from-Zeus deprived
λέγεται, τάδε δὲ πίστιν
it-is-said these-things but belief
σμικρὰν παρ᾽ ἔμοιγ᾽ ἔχει,
small with me-at-least has
στρέψαι θερμὰν ἀέλιον
to-have-turned hot sun
740 χρυσωπὸν ἕδραν ἀλλάξαν-
golden-faced seat changing
τα δυστυχίᾳ βροτείῳ
— for-misfortune mortal
θνατᾶς ἕνεκεν δίκας.
mortal for-the-sake-of justice

φοβεροὶ δὲ βροτοῖσι μῦθοι
fearful and for-mortals tales
κέρδος πρὸς θεῶν θεραπείας.
gain toward of-gods worship
ὧν οὐ μνασθεῖσα πόσιν
of-which not mindful husband
κτείνεις, κλεινῶν συγγενέτειρ' ἀδελφῶν.
you-kill of-famous kinswoman brothers

VII · THE SACRIFICE

A messenger reports Aegisthus' death. The king, sacrificing to the Nymphs, invited the strangers to join him. Orestes cut open the calf, and when Aegisthus bent over the entrails, which showed ill omens, Orestes struck him in the back. The servants rallied to Orestes when he revealed himself.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔα ἔα·
ha ha
φίλαι, βοῆς ἠκούσατ', ἢ δοκῶ κενὴ
friends a-cry did-you-hear or seeming empty
ὑπῆλθέ μ', ὥστε νερτέρα βροντὴ Διός;
came-over me like nether thunder of-Zeus
ἰδού, τάδ' οὐκ ἄσημα πνεύματ' αἴρεται·
see these not unclear breaths rise
δέσποιν', ἄμειψον δώματ', Ἠλέκτρα, τάδε.
mistress leave house Electra this
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ φίλαι, τί χρῆμα; πῶς ἀγῶνος ἥκομεν;
friends what thing how of-the-contest have-we-come
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκ οἶδα πλὴν ἕν· φόνιον οἰμωγὴν κλύω.
not I-know except one-thing murderous groan I-hear

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἤκουσα κἀγώ, τηλόθεν μέν, ἀλλ' ὅμως.
I-heard and-I far-off indeed but nevertheless

ΧΟΡΟΣ μακρὰν γὰρ ἕρπει γῆρυς, ἐμφανής γε μήν.
from-afar for creeps the-voice clear at-least indeed

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ Ἀργεῖος ὁ στεναγμὸς ἢ φίλων ἐμῶν;
Argive the groan or of-friends my

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκ οἶδα· πᾶν γὰρ μίγνυται μέλος βοῆς.
not I-know all for is-mixed the-tune of-the-cry

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ σφαγὴν ἀυτεῖς τήνδε μοι· τί μέλλομεν;
slaughter you-proclaim this to-me why do-we-delay

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔπισχε, τρανῶς ὡς μάθῃς τύχας σέθεν.
hold-back clearly so-that you-may-learn the-fortunes your

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐκ ἔστι· νικώμεσθα· ποῦ γὰρ ἄγγελοι;
not it-is we-are-defeated where for messengers

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἥξουσιν· οὔτοι βασιλέα φαῦλον κτανεῖν.
will-come surely-not king mean to-kill

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ὦ καλλίνικοι παρθένοι Μυκηνίδες,
O gloriously-victorious maidens Mycenaean

νικῶντ' Ὀρέστην πᾶσιν ἀγγέλλω φίλοις,
victorious Orestes to-all I-announce friends

Ἀγαμέμνονος δὲ φονέα κείμενον πέδῳ
of-Agamemnon and the-murderer lying on-the-ground

Αἴγισθον· ἀλλὰ θεοῖσιν εὔχεσθαι χρεών.
Aegisthus but to-the-gods to-pray it-is-necessary

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τίς δ' εἶ σύ; πῶς μοι πιστὰ σημαίνεις τάδε;
who and are you how to-me trustworthy-things you-signify these-things

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οὐκ οἶσθ' ἀδελφοῦ μ' εἰσορῶσα πρόσπολον;
not you-know of-brother me seeing servant

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ φίλτατ', ἔκ τοι δείματος δυσγνωσίαν
O dearest from surely fear failure-to-recognize
εἶχον προσώπου· νῦν δὲ γιγνώσκω σε δή.
I-had of-face now and I-recognize you indeed
τί φής; τέθνηκε πατρὸς ἐμοῦ στυγνὸς φονεύς;
what do-you-say is-dead of-father my hateful murderer
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τέθνηκε· δίς σοι ταῦθ', ἃ γ' οὖν βούλει, λέγω. 770
he-is-dead twice to-you these-things which at-least then you-wish I-say
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ θεοί, Δίκη τε πάνθ' ὁρῶσ', ἦλθές ποτε.
O gods Justice and all-things seeing you-came at-last
ποίῳ τρόπῳ δὲ καὶ τίνι ῥυθμῷ φόνου
in-what manner and and in-what fashion of-murder
κτείνει Θυέστου παῖδα, βούλομαι μαθεῖν.
does-he-kill of-Thyestes son I-wish to-learn
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἐπεὶ μελάθρων τῶνδ' ἀπήραμεν πόδα,
when from-house this we-lifted foot
εἰσβάντες ἥμεν δίκροτον εἰς ἁμαξιτόν, 775
having-mounted we-went double-rutted to wagon-road
ἔνθ' ἦν ὁ κλεινὸς τῶν Μυκηναίων ἄναξ.
where was the famous of-the Mycenaeans lord
κυρεῖ δὲ κήποις ἐν καταρρύτοις βεβώς,
happens and gardens in well-watered having-gone
δρέπων τερείνης μυρσίνης κάρᾳ πλόκους·
plucking of-tender myrtle for-head sprigs
ἰδών τ' ἀυτεῖ· χαίρετ', ὦ ξένοι· τίνες;
seeing and he-shouts greetings O strangers who
πόθεν πορεύεσθ'; ἔστε τ' ἐκ ποίας χθονός; 780
whence do-you-journey are and from what land
ὁ δ' εἶπ' Ὀρέστης· Θεσσαλοί· πρὸς δ' Ἀλφεὸν
he and said Orestes Thessalians to and Alpheus

θύσοντες ἐρχόμεσθ' Ὀλυμπίῳ Διί.
to-sacrifice we-go to-Olympian to-Zeus
κλύων δὲ ταῦτ' Αἴγισθος ἐννέπει τάδε·
hearing and these-things Aegisthus utters these-things
νῦν μὲν παρ' ἡμῖν χρὴ συνεστίους ἐμοὶ
now indeed with us must fellow-hearth-sharers with-me
θοίνῃ γενέσθαι· τυγχάνω δὲ βουθυτῶν
at-feast to-be I-happen and sacrificing-oxen
Νύμφαις· ἑῷοι δ' ἐξαναστάντες λέχους
to-the-Nymphs at-dawn and having-risen from-bed
εἰς ταὐτὸν ἥξετ'. ἀλλ' ἴωμεν εἰς δόμους —
to the-same you-will-come but let-us-go into house
καὶ ταῦθ' ἅμ' ἠγόρευε καὶ χερὸς λαβὼν
and these-things at-once he-spoke and by-the-hand having-taken
παρῆγεν ἡμᾶς — οὐδ' ἀπαρνεῖσθαι χρεών·
he-led us nor to-refuse it-was-right
ἐπεὶ δ' ἐν οἴκοις ἦμεν, ἐννέπει τάδε·
when and in house we-were he-utters these-things
λούτρ' ὡς τάχιστα τοῖς ξένοις τις αἰρέτω,
baths as quickly-as-possible for-the strangers someone let-bring
ὡς ἀμφὶ βωμὸν στῶσι χερνίβων πέλας.
so-that around altar they-may-stand of-the-lustral-water near
ἀλλ' εἶπ' Ὀρέστης· ἀρτίως ἡγνίσμεθα
but said Orestes just-now we-have-purified-ourselves
λουτροῖσι καθαροῖς ποταμίων ῥείθρων ἄπο.
with-baths pure river streams from
εἰ δὲ ξένους ἀστοῖσι συνθύειν χρεών,
if and strangers with-citizens to-sacrifice-with it-is-necessary
Αἴγισθ', ἕτοιμοι κοὐκ ἀπαρνούμεσθ', ἄναξ.
Aegisthus ready and-not we-refuse lord

τοῦτον μὲν οὖν μεθεῖσαν ἐκ μέσου λόγον·
this indeed then they-let-go from middle word
λόγχας δὲ θέντες δεσπότου φρουρήματα
spears and having-put-down of-the-master guards
δμῶες πρὸς ἔργον πάντες ἵεσαν χέρας.
servants to work all put hands
οἱ μὲν σφαγεῖον ἔφερον, οἱ δ' ἦρον κανᾶ,
some indeed the-bowl carried others and lifted baskets
ἄλλοι δὲ πῦρ ἀνῆπτον ἀμφί τ' ἐσχάρας
others and fire kindled around and hearths
λέβητας ὤρθουν· πᾶσα δ' ἐκτύπει στέγη.
cauldrons set-up all and resounded house
λαβὼν δὲ προχύτας μητρὸς εὐνέτης σέθεν
having-taken and barley-grains of-mother consort your
ἔβαλλε βωμούς, τοιάδ' ἐννέπων ἔπη·
threw-on altars such uttering words
Νύμφαι πετραῖαι, πολλάκις με βουθυτεῖν
Nymphs of-the-rocks often me to-sacrifice-oxen
καὶ τὴν κατ' οἴκους Τυνδαρίδα δάμαρτ' ἐμὴν
and the in house Tyndarean wife my
πράσσοντας ὡς νῦν, τοὺς δ' ἐμοὺς ἐχθροὺς κακῶς·
faring as now the and my enemies badly
λέγων Ὀρέστην καὶ σέ. δεσπότης δ' ἐμὸς
meaning Orestes and you master and my
τἀναντί' ηὔχετ', οὐ γεγωνίσκων λόγους,
the-opposite prayed not uttering-aloud the-words
λαβεῖν πατρῷα δώματ'. ἐκ κανοῦ δ' ἑλὼν
to-take paternal house from basket and taking
Αἴγισθος ὀρθὴν σφαγίδα, μοσχείαν τρίχα
Aegisthus straight knife calf's hair

τεμών, ἐφ' ἁγνὸν πῦρ ἔθηκε δεξιᾷ,
having-cut on holy fire set with-right-hand
κἄσφαξ' ἐπ' ὤμων μόσχον ὡς ἦραν χεροῖν
and-slaughtered on shoulders the-calf when they-lifted with-hands
δμῶες, λέγει δὲ σῷ κασιγνήτῳ τάδε·
servants he-says and to-your to-brother these-things
ἐκ τῶν καλῶν κομποῦσι τοῖσι Θεσσαλοῖς
from the fair-things they-boast the Thessalians
εἶναι τόδ', ὅστις ταῦρον ἀρταμεῖ καλῶς
to-be this whoever bull carves well
ἵππους τ' ὀχμάζει. λαβὲ σίδηρον, ὦ ξένε,
horses and tames take iron O stranger
δεῖξόν τε φήμην ἔτυμον ἀμφὶ Θεσσαλῶν.
show and report true about Thessalians
ὁ δ' εὐκρότητον Δωρίδ' ἁρπάσας χεροῖν,
he and well-wrought Dorian having-snatched with-hands
ῥίψας ἀπ' ὤμων εὐπρεπῆ πορπάματα
having-flung from shoulders comely broochèd-cloak
Πυλάδην μὲν εἵλετ' ἐν πόνοις ὑπηρέτην,
Pylades indeed chose in labors helper
δμῶας δ' ἀπωθεῖ· καὶ λαβὼν μόσχου πόδα,
slaves and thrusts-away and having-taken of-calf foot
λευκὰς ἐγύμνου σάρκας ἐκτείνων χέρα·
white bared flesh stretching-out hand
θᾶσσον δὲ βύρσαν ἐξέδειρεν ἢ δρομεὺς
faster and hide flayed than runner
δισσοὺς διαύλους ἱππίους διήνυσε,
double courses for-horses completes
κἀνεῖτο λαγόνας. ἱερὰ δ' εἰς χεῖρας λαβὼν
and-opened flanks sacred-parts and into hands having-taken

Αἴγισθος ἤθρει. καὶ λοβὸς μὲν οὐ προσῆν
Aegisthus looked-at and lobe indeed not was-present
σπλάγχνοις, πύλαι δὲ καὶ δοχαὶ χολῆς πέλας
on-the-entrails gates and and receptacles of-bile near
κακὰς ἔφαινον τῷ σκοποῦντι προσβολάς.
evil showed to-the examiner approaches
χὠ μὲν σκυθράζει, δεσπότης δ' ἀνιστορεῖ·
and-he indeed scowls master and inquires
τί χρῆμ' ἀθυμεῖς, ὦ ξέν'; ὀρρωδῶ τινα
what thing are-you-downcast O stranger I-dread some
δόλον θυραῖον. ἔστι δ' ἔχθιστος βροτῶν
guile from-outside is and most-hateful of-mortals
Ἀγαμέμνονος παῖς πολέμιός τ' ἐμοῖς δόμοις·
of-Agamemnon son hostile and to-my house
ὁ δ' εἶπε· φυγάδος δῆτα δειμαίνεις δόλον,
he and said of-an-exile then you-dread guile
πόλεως ἀνάσσων; οὐχ, ὅπως παστήρια
of-city ruling not so-that the-entrails
θοινασόμεσθα, Φθιάδ' ἀντὶ Δωρικῆς
shall-we-feast-on Phthian instead-of Dorian
οἴσει τις ἡμῖν κοπίδ'; ἀπορρήξω χέλυν.
will-bring someone to-us cleaver I-will-break-open the-breastbone
λαβὼν δὲ κόπτει. σπλάγχνα δ' Αἴγισθος λαβὼν
having-taken and he-cuts the-entrails and Aegisthus having-taken
ἤθρει διαιρῶν· τοῦ δὲ νεύοντος κάτω
looked-at separating him and bending down
ὄνυχας ἐπ' ἄκρους στὰς κασίγνητος σέθεν
nails on tips standing brother your
εἰς σφονδύλους ἔπαισε, νωτιαῖα δὲ
into vertebrae struck spinal and

ἔρρηξεν ἄρθρα· πᾶν δὲ σῶμ᾽ ἄνω κάτω
he-broke joints all and body up down
ἤσπαιρεν, ἐσφάδαζε δυσθνῃσκον φόνῳ.
writhed struggled dying-hard in-gore
δμῶες δ᾽ ἰδόντες εὐθὺς ᾔξαν εἰς δόρυ,
servants and seeing straightway darted to spear
πολλοὶ μάχεσθαι πρὸς δύ᾽· ἀνδρείας δ᾽ ὕπο
many to-fight against two courage and by
ἔστησαν ἀντίπρῳρα σείοντες βέλη
they-stood facing brandishing weapons
Πυλάδης Ὀρέστης τ᾽· εἶπε δ᾽, οὐχὶ δυσμενὴς
Pylades Orestes and said and not hostile
ἥκω πόλει τῇδ᾽ οὐδ᾽ ἐμοῖς ὀπάοσι,
I-come to-city this nor to-my attendants
φονέα δὲ πατρὸς ἀντετιμωρησάμην
murderer and of-father I-have-avenged-myself-on
τλήμων Ὀρέστης· ἀλλὰ μή με καίνετε,
wretched Orestes but not me kill
πατρὸς παλαιοὶ δμῶες· οἱ δ᾽, ἐπεὶ λόγων
of-father old servants they and when words
ἤκουσαν, ἔσχον κάμακας· ἐγνώσθη δ᾽ ὑπὸ
heard held-back poles he-was-recognized and by
γέροντος ἐν δόμοισιν ἀρχαίου τινός.
old-man in house ancient some
στέφουσι δ᾽ εὐθὺς σοῦ κασιγνήτου κάρα
they-crown and straightway of-your brother head
χαίροντες ἀλαλάζοντες. ἔρχεται δὲ σοὶ
rejoicing shouting-in-triumph he-comes and to-you
κάρα ᾽πιδείξων, οὐχὶ Γοργόνος φέρων,
head to-show not of-Gorgon bringing

ἀλλ᾽ ὃν στυγεῖς Αἴγισθον· αἷμα δ᾽ αἵματος
but whom you-hate Aegisthus blood and for-blood
πικρὸς δανεισμὸς ἦλθε τῷ θανόντι νῦν.
bitter loan came to-the dead now

VIII · THE VICTORY DANCE

The chorus dances for joy and compares Orestes' victory to the Olympic games. Electra brings out garlands to crown her brother.

ΧΟΡΟΣ θὲς εἰς χορόν, ὦ φίλα, ἴχνος,
set into dance O dear foot
ὡς νεβρὸς οὐράνιον
as fawn heavenward
πήδημα κουφίζουσα σὺν ἀγλαΐᾳ·
leap lifting with splendor
νικᾷ στεφαναφορίαν
he-wins a-crown-bearing-victory
οἵαν παρ᾽ Ἀλφειοῦ ῥεέθροις τελέσας
such-as by of-Alpheus streams having-won
κασίγνητος σέθεν· ἀλλ᾽ ἐπάειδε
brother your but sing-to
καλλίνικον ᾠδὰν ἐμῷ χορῷ.
gloriously-victorious song to-my to-dance
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ φέγγος, ὦ τέθριππον ἡλίου σέλας,
O light O four-horsed of-sun gleam
ὦ γαῖα καὶ νὺξ ἣν ἐδερκόμην πάρος,
O earth and night which I-beheld before
νῦν ὄμμα τοὐμὸν ἀμπτυχαί τ᾽ ἐλεύθεροι,
now eye my folds and free

ἐπεὶ πατρὸς πέπτωκεν Αἴγισθος φονεύς.
since of-father has-fallen Aegisthus murderer

φέρ', οἷα δὴ ἔχω καὶ δόμοι κεύθουσί μου
come such-as indeed I-have and house hides my

κόμης ἀγάλματ' ἐξενέγκωμαι, φίλαι,
of-hair ornaments let-me-bring-out friends

στέψω τ' ἀδελφοῦ κρᾶτα τοῦ νικηφόρου.
I-will-crown and of-brother head the victorious

ΧΟΡΟΣ σὺ μέν νυν ἀγάλματ' ἄειρε
you indeed now ornaments raise

κρατί· τὸ δ' ἀμέτερον
for-head the and our

χωρήσεται Μούσαισι χόρευμα φίλον.
will-go for-the-Muses dance dear

νῦν οἱ πάρος ἀμέτεροι
now the before our

γαίας τυραννεύσουσι φίλοι βασιλῆς,
of-land will-rule dear kings

δικαίως τούσδ' ἀδίκους καθελόντες.
justly these unjust having-cast-down

ἀλλ' ἴτω ξύναυλος βοὰ χαρᾷ.
but let-go accompanied-by-flute shout with-joy

Electra crowns Orestes and Pylades, and they bring in Aegisthus' body, which Electra addresses at length, listing his crimes. Clytemnestra is seen approaching, and Orestes hesitates, but Electra urges him on and he goes inside. Clytemnestra arrives and justifies Agamemnon's murder by the sacrifice of Iphigenia and by Cassandra. Electra answers her and blames her for her own fate. Clytemnestra admits some regret, and goes in to perform the rites for Electra's supposed child.

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ καλλίνικε, πατρὸς ἐκ νικηφόρου
O gloriously-victorious of-father from victorious
γεγώς, Ὀρέστα, τῆς ὑπ' Ἰλίῳ μάχης,
born Orestes of-the at Ilium battle
δέξαι κόμης σῆς βοστρύχων ἀνδήματα.
receive of-hair your of-locks bindings
ἥκεις γὰρ οὐκ ἀχρεῖον ἔκπλεθρον δραμὼν
you-come for not useless six-plethra-long having-run
ἀγῶν' ἐς οἴκους, ἀλλὰ πολέμιον κτανὼν
race to house but enemy having-killed
Αἴγισθον, ὃς σὸν πατέρα κἀμὸν ὤλεσε.
Aegisthus who your father and-my destroyed
σύ τ', ὦ παρασπίστ', ἀνδρὸς εὐσεβεστάτου
you and O shield-bearer of-man most-pious
παίδευμα, Πυλάδη, στέφανον ἐξ ἐμῆς χερὸς
nursling Pylades crown from my hand
δέχου· φέρει γὰρ καὶ σὺ τῷδ' ἴσον μέρος
receive you-bear for also you with-this-one equal share
ἀγῶνος· ἀεὶ δ' εὐτυχεῖς φαίνοισθέ μοι.
of-the-contest always and fortunate may-you-appear to-me

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ θεοὺς μὲν ἡγοῦ πρῶτον, Ἠλέκτρα, τύχης
gods indeed consider first Electra of-fortune
ἀρχηγέτας τῆσδ', εἶτα κἄμ' ἐπαίνεσον
authors of-this then and-me praise
τὸν τῶν θεῶν τε τῆς τύχης θ' ὑπηρέτην.
the of-the gods both of-the fortune and servant
ἥκω γὰρ οὐ λόγοισιν ἀλλ' ἔργοις κτανὼν
I-come for not in-words but in-deeds having-killed
Αἴγισθον· ὡς δέ τῳ σάφ' εἰδέναι τάδε
Aegisthus so-that and anyone clearly to-know these-things
προθῶμεν, αὐτὸν τὸν θανόντα σοι φέρω,
let-us-set-out him the dead to-you I-bring
ὅν, εἴτε χρῄζεις, θηρσὶν ἁρπαγὴν πρόθες,
whom whether you-want for-beasts as-prey set-out
ἢ σκῦλον οἰωνοῖσιν αἰθέρος τέκνοις
or as-spoil for-birds of-the-air children
πήξασ' ἔρεισον σκόλοπι· σὸς γάρ ἐστι νῦν
fixing prop-up on-a-stake yours for he-is now
δοῦλος, πάροιθε δεσπότης κεκλημένος.
slave before master called

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ αἰσχύνομαι μέν, βούλομαι δ' εἰπεῖν ὅμως,
I-am-ashamed indeed I-wish but to-speak nevertheless
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί χρῆμα; λέξον, ὡς φόβου γ' ἔξωθεν εἶ.
what thing tell since of-fear at-least outside you-are
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ νεκροὺς ὑβρίζειν, μή μέ τις φθόνῳ βάλῃ.
the-dead to-outrage lest me anyone with-envy should-strike
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδεὶς ὅστις ἂν μέμψαιτό σε.
not there-is no-one who — would-blame you
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ δυσάρεστος ἡμῶν καὶ φιλόψογος πόλις.
hard-to-please our and fond-of-blame city

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ λέγ', εἴ τι χρῄζεις, σύγγον'· ἀσπόνδοισι γὰρ
say if anything you-want sister truceless for
νόμοισιν ἔχθραν τῷδε συμβεβλήκαμεν.
by-laws enmity with-this-one we-have-joined
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ εἶεν· τίν' ἀρχὴν πρώτά σ' ἐξείπω κακῶν;
well what beginning first to-you shall-I-tell of-evils
ποίας τελευτάς; τίνα μέσον τάξω λόγον;
what ends what middle shall-I-set word
καὶ μὴν δι' ὄρθρων γ' οὔποτ' ἐξελίμπανον
and indeed through dawns at-least never I-ceased
θρυλοῦσ' ἃ γ' εἰπεῖν ἤθελον κατ' ὄμμα σόν,
repeating what at-least to-say I-wished to face your
εἰ δὴ γενοίμην δειμάτων ἐλευθέρα
if indeed I-should-be of-fears free
τῶν πρόσθε· νῦν οὖν ἐσμεν· ἀποδώσω δέ σοι
of-the former now then we-are I-will-pay and to-you
ἐκεῖν' ἃ σε ζῶντ' ἤθελον λέξαι κακά.
those which you living I-wished to-say evils
ἀπώλεσάς με κὠρφανὴν φίλου πατρὸς
you-destroyed me and-orphan of-dear father
καὶ τόνδ' ἔθηκας, οὐδὲν ἠδικημένος,
and this-one you-made nothing having-been-wronged
κἄγημας αἰσχρῶς μητέρ' ἄνδρα τ' ἔκτανες
and-you-married shamefully mother man and you-killed
στρατηλατοῦνθ' Ἕλλησιν, οὐκ ἐλθὼν Φρύγας.
leading-the-army for-Greeks not having-gone to-Phrygians
εἰς τοῦτο δ' ἦλθες ἀμαθίας ὥστ' ἤλπισας
to this and you-came of-folly that you-hoped
ὡς ἐς σὲ μὲν δὴ μητέρ' οὐχ ἕξεις κακὴν
that toward you indeed indeed mother not you-will-have bad

γήμας, ἐμοῦ δὲ πατρὸς ἠδίκεις λέχη.
having-married of-my and of-father you-wronged the-bed
ἴστω δ', ὅταν τις διολέσας δάμαρτά του
let-him-know but when one having-seduced wife of-someone
κρυπταῖσιν εὐναῖς εἶτ' ἀναγκασθῇ λαβεῖν,
in-secret with-bed then is-compelled to-take
δύστηνός ἐστιν, εἰ δοκεῖ τὸ σωφρονεῖν
wretched he-is if he-thinks the to-be-chaste
ἐκεῖ μὲν αὐτὴν οὐκ ἔχειν, παρ' οἷ δ' ἔχειν.
there indeed her not to-have by himself and to-have
ἄλγιστα δ' ᾤκεις, οὐ δοκῶν οἰκεῖν κακῶς·
most-painfully and you-dwelt not seeming to-dwell badly
ᾔδησθα γὰρ δῆτ' ἀνόσιον γήμας γάμον,
you-knew for then unholy having-married marriage
μήτηρ δὲ σ' ἄνδρα δυσσεβῆ κεκτημένη.
mother and you husband impious having-got
ἄμφω πονηρὼ δ' ὄντ' ἀφαιρεῖσθον τύχην,
both wicked and being take-away the-fortune
κείνη τε τὴν σὴν καὶ σὺ τοὐκείνης κακόν.
she both the your and you the-her evil
πᾶσιν δ' ἐν Ἀργείοισιν ἤκουες τάδε·
all and among Argives you-heard these-things
ὁ τῆς γυναικός, οὐχὶ τἀνδρὸς ἡ γυνή.
the of-the wife not the-husband's the wife
καίτοι τόδ' αἰσχρόν, προστατεῖν γε δωμάτων
and-yet this shameful to-rule at-least the-house
γυναῖκα, μὴ τὸν ἄνδρα· κἀκείνους στυγῶ
wife not the husband and-those I-hate
τοὺς παῖδας, ὅστις τοῦ μὲν ἄρσενος πατρὸς
the children who of-the indeed male father

οὐκ ὠνόμασται, τῆς δὲ μητρὸς ἐν πόλει.
not are-named of-the but mother in city
ἐπίσημα γὰρ γήμαντι καὶ μείζω λέχη
conspicuous for for-the-one-marrying and greater bed
τἀνδρὸς μὲν οὐδείς, τῶν δὲ θηλειῶν λόγος.
of-the-man indeed no of-the and women account
ὃ δ' ἠπάτα σε πλεῖστον οὐκ ἐγνωκότα,
what and deceived you most not having-known
ηὔχεις τις εἶναι τοῖσι χρήμασι σθένων·
you-boasted someone to-be with-the money strong
τὰ δ' οὐδὲν εἰ μὴ βραχὺν ὁμιλῆσαι χρόνον.
these and nothing if not short to-dwell-with time
ἡ γὰρ φύσις βέβαιος, οὐ τὰ χρήματα.
the for nature steadfast not the money
ἡ μὲν γὰρ ἀεὶ παραμένουσ' αἴρει κάρα·
it indeed for always remaining lifts head
ὁ δ' ὄλβος ἄδικος καὶ μετὰ σκαιῶν ξυνὼν
the and wealth unjust and with fools dwelling
ἐξέπτατ' οἴκων, σμικρὸν ἀνθήσας χρόνον.
flew-away from-house little having-bloomed time
ἃ δ' εἰς γυναῖκας, παρθένῳ γὰρ οὐ καλὸν
what and to women to-maiden for not fair
λέγειν, σιωπῶ, γνωρίμως δ' αἰνίξομαι.
to-say I-am-silent intelligibly but will-hint
ὕβριζες, ὡς δὴ βασιλικοὺς ἔχων δόμους
you-were-insolent as indeed royal having house
κάλλει τ' ἀραρώς. ἀλλ' ἔμοιγ' εἴη πόσις
with-beauty and fitted but for-me-at-least may-be husband
μὴ παρθενωπός, ἀλλὰ τἀνδρείου τρόπου.
not maiden-faced but of-manly fashion

τὰ γὰρ τέκν' αὐτῶν Ἄρεος ἐκκρεμάννυται,
the for children of-them on-Ares hang
τὰ δ' εὐπρεπῆ δὴ κόσμος ἐν χοροῖς μόνον.
the and comely indeed ornament in dances only
ἔρρ', οὐδὲν εἰδὼς ὢν ἐφευρεθεὶς χρόνῳ
perish nothing knowing for-what found-out in-time
δίκην δέδωκας, ὧδέ τις κακοῦργος ὤν.
penalty you-have-paid so any evil-doer being
μή μοι, τὸ πρῶτον βῆμ' ἐὰν δράμῃ καλῶς,
not to-me the first step if runs well
νικᾶν δοκείτω τὴν δίκην, πρὶν ἂν πέρας
to-conquer let-him-think the justice before — the-end
γραμμῆς ἵκηται καὶ τέλος κάμψῃ βίου.
of-line he-reaches and end turns of-life

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔπραξε δεινά, δεινὰ δ' ἀντέδωκε σοὶ
he-did terrible-things terrible-things and repaid to-you
καὶ τῷδ'· ἔχει γὰρ ἡ Δίκη μέγα σθένος.
and to-this-one has for the Justice great strength

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εἶεν· κομίζειν τοῦδε σῶμ' εἴσω χρεὼν
well to-carry of-this-one the-body inside it-behooves
σκότῳ τε δοῦναι, δμῶες, ὡς ὅταν μόλῃ
to-darkness and to-give servants so-that when comes
μήτηρ, σφαγῆς πάροιθε μὴ εἰσίδῃ νεκρόν.
mother of-slaughter before not she-may-see corpse

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐπίσχες· ἐμβάλωμεν εἰς ἄλλον λόγον.
hold let-us-turn into other speech

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί δ'; ἐκ Μυκηνῶν μῶν βοηδρόμους ὁρᾷς;
what and from Mycenae surely-not rescuers do-you-see

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὔκ, ἀλλὰ τὴν τεκοῦσαν ἥ μ' ἐγείνατο.
no but the having-borne who me bore

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καλῶς ἄρ᾽ ἄρκυν εἰς μέσην πορεύεται.
well then net into middle she-goes

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὶ μὴν ὄχοις γε καὶ στολῇ λαμπρύνεται.
and indeed with-chariot at-least and with-dress she-is-resplendent

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί δῆτα δρῶμεν; μητέρ᾽ ἢ φονεύσομεν;
what then shall-we-do mother — shall-we-murder

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ μῶν σ᾽ οἶκτος εἶλε, μητρὸς ὡς εἶδες δέμας;
surely-not you pity seized of-mother when you-saw body

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ φεῦ.
alas

πῶς γὰρ κτάνω νιν, ἥ μ᾽ ἔθρεψε κἄτεκεν;
how for may-I-kill her who me reared and-bore

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὥσπερ πατέρα σὸν ἥδε κἀμὸν ὤλεσεν.
as father your she and-mine destroyed

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ Φοῖβε, πολλήν γ᾽ ἀμαθίαν ἐθέσπισας,
O Phoebus much at-least folly you-prophesied

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὅπου δ᾽ Ἀπόλλων σκαιὸς ᾖ, τίνες σοφοί;
where but Apollo foolish is who wise

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὅστις μ᾽ ἔχρησας μητέρ᾽, ἣν οὐ χρῆν, κτανεῖν.
who me prophesied mother whom not it-was-right to-kill

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ βλάπτει δὲ δὴ τί πατρὶ τιμωρῶν σέθεν;
harms and indeed what father avenging your

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μητροκτόνος νῦν φεύξομαι, τόθ᾽ ἁγνὸς ὤν.
mother-killer now I-shall-be-exiled then pure being

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὶ μή γ᾽ ἀμύνων πατρὶ δυσσεβὴς ἔσει.
and not at-least defending father impious you-will-be

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἐγὼ δὲ μητρὶ τοῦ φόνου δώσω δίκας.
I and to-mother of-the murder shall-give penalty

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τῷ δ᾽, ἢν πατρῴαν διαμεθῇς τιμωρίαν.
to-whom and if paternal you-let-go vengeance

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἆρ᾽ αὖτ᾽ ἀλάστωρ εἶπ᾽ ἀπεικασθεὶς θεῷ;
— it a-fiend spoke likened to-god

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἱερὸν καθίζων τρίποδ᾽; ἐγὼ μὲν οὐ δοκῶ.
holy sitting-on tripod I indeed not think

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκ ἂν πιθοίμην εὖ μεμαντεῦσθαι τάδε.
not — would-I-believe well to-have-been-prophesied these-things

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐ μὴ κακισθεὶς εἰς ἀνανδρίαν πεσεῖ;
not — having-been-made-coward into unmanliness will-you-fall

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἢ τὸν αὐτὸν τῇδ᾽ ὑποστήσω δόλον;
but — the same for-her shall-I-set-under trick

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ᾧ καὶ πόσιν καθεῖλες Αἴγισθον κτανών.
by-which also husband you-cast-down Aegisthus having-killed

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εἶσειμι· δεινοῦ δ᾽ ἄρχομαι προβλήματος,
I-will-go-in terrible and I-begin enterprise

καὶ δεινὰ δράσω γ᾽· εἰ θεοῖς δοκεῖ τάδε,
and terrible-things I-will-do at-least if to-gods seem these-things

ἔστω· πικρὸν δὲ χἠδὺ τἀγώνισμά μοι.
let-it-be bitter and and-sweet the-contest for-me

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰώ,
oh

βασίλεια γύναι χθονὸς Ἀργείας,
queen woman of-land Argive

παῖ Τυνδάρεω,
child of-Tyndareus

καὶ τοῖν ἀγαθοῖν ξύγγονε κούροιν
and of-the good sister youths

Διός, οἳ φλογερὰν αἰθέρ᾽ ἐν ἄστροις
of-Zeus who flaming air among stars

ναίουσι, βροτῶν ἐν ἁλὸς ῥοθίοις
dwell of-mortals in of-sea surges

τιμὰς σωτῆρας ἔχοντες·
honors savior having
χαῖρε, σεβίζω σ' ἴσα καὶ μάκαρας
hail I-revere you equally even blessed-ones
πλούτου μεγάλης τ' εὐδαιμονίας.
for-wealth great and happiness
τὰς σὰς δὲ τύχας θεραπεύεσθαι
the your and fortunes to-be-served
καιρός. χαῖρ', ὦ βασίλεια.
it-is-the-moment hail O queen
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ ἔκβητ' ἀπήνης, Τρῳάδες, χειρὸς δ' ἐμῆς
step-down from-carriage Trojans by-hand and my
λάβεσθ', ἵν' ἔξω τοῦδ' ὄχου στήσω πόδα.
take so-that out of-this chariot I-may-set foot
σκύλοισι μὲν γὰρ θεῶν κεκόσμηνται δόμοι
with-spoils indeed for of-gods are-adorned houses
Φρυγίοις, ἐγὼ δὲ τάσδε, Τρῳάδος χθονὸς
Phrygian I and these of-Trojan land
ἐξαίρετ', ἀντὶ παιδὸς ἣν ἀπώλεσα,
choice in-place-of child whom I-lost
σμικρὸν γέρας, καλὸν δὲ κέκτημαι δόμοις.
small reward fair but I-have-got for-house
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὔκουν ἐγώ, δούλη γὰρ ἐκβεβλημένη
not-then I slave for cast-out
δόμων πατρῴων δυστυχεῖς οἰκῶ δόμους
from-house paternal unhappy dwell house
μῆτερ, λάβωμαι μακαρίας τῆς σῆς χερός;
mother let-me-take blessed the your hand
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ δοῦλαι πάρεισιν αἵδε, μὴ σύ μοι πόνει.
slaves are-present these not you for-me toil

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τί δ'; αἰχμάλωτόν τοί μ' ἀπῴκισας δόμων,
why and captive surely me you-sent-away from-house
ᾑρημένων δὲ δωμάτων ᾑρήμεθα,
taken and house we-were-taken
ὡς αἵδε, πατρὸς ὀρφαναὶ λελειμμέναι.
as these of-father orphans left
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ τοιαῦτα μέντοι σὸς πατὴρ βουλεύματα
such however your father plans
εἰς οὓς ἐχρῆν ἥκιστ' ἐβούλευσεν φίλων.
against whom it-behooved least he-planned of-friends
λέξω δέ· καίτοι δόξ' ὅταν λάβῃ κακὴ
I-will-speak and and-yet repute when takes bad
γυναῖκα, γλώσσῃ πικρότης ἔνεστί τις·
woman in-tongue bitterness is-in some
ὡς μὲν παρ' ἡμῖν, οὐ καλῶς· τὸ πρᾶγμα δὲ
as indeed with us not well the matter but
μαθόντας, ἦν μὲν ἀξίως μισεῖν ἔχῃ,
having-learned if indeed worthily to-hate it-has
στυγεῖν δίκαιον· εἰ δὲ μή, τί δεῖ στυγεῖν;
to-loathe just if but not why must one-loathe
ἡμᾶς δ' ἔδωκε Τυνδάρεως τῷ σῷ πατρί,
us and gave Tyndareus to-the your father
οὐχ ὥστε θνῄσκειν, οὐδ' ἃ γειναίμην ἐγώ.
not so-that to-die nor what I-should-bear I
κεῖνος δὲ παῖδα τὴν ἐμήν, Ἀχιλλέως
he and child the my to-Achilles'
λέκτροισι πείσας, ᾧχετ' ἐκ δόμων ἄγων
bed having-persuaded went from house taking
πρυμνοῦχον Αὐλιν· ἔνθ' ὑπερτείνας πυρᾶς
holding-ships Aulis there having-stretched-over pyre

λευκὴν διήμησ᾽ Ἰφιγόνης παρηίδα.
white cut-through of-Iphigenia cheek
κεἰ μὲν πόλεως ἄλωσιν ἐξιώμενος
and-if indeed of-city capture warding-off
ἢ δῶμ᾽ ὀνήσων τἄλλα τ᾽ ἐκσώσων τέκνα
or house to-benefit the-others and to-save children
ἔκτεινε πολλῶν μίαν ὕπερ, συγγνώστ᾽ ἂν ἦν·
he-killed many one for pardonable — it-would-have-been
νῦν δ᾽, οὕνεχ᾽ Ἑλένη μάργος ἦν, ὅ τ᾽ αὖ λαβὼν
now and because Helen wanton was the and again having-taken
ἄλοχον κολάζειν προδότιν οὐκ ἠπίστατο,
wife to-punish traitress not knew-how
τούτων ἕκατι παῖδ᾽ ἐμὴν διώλεσεν.
of-these for-the-sake child my he-destroyed
ἐπὶ τοῖσδε τοίνυν, καίπερ ἠδικημένη
on these then although wronged
οὐκ ἠγριώμην οὐδ᾽ ἂν ἔκτανον πόσιν·
not I-was-savage nor — would-I-have-killed husband
ἀλλ᾽ ἦλθ᾽ ἔχων μοι μαινάδ᾽ ἔνθεον κόρην
but he-came having to-me a-maenad inspired girl
λέκτροις τ᾽ ἐπεισέφρηκε, καὶ νύμφα δύο
into-bed and brought-in and brides two
ἐν τοῖσιν αὐτοῖς δώμασιν κατεῖχ᾽ ὁμοῦ.
in the same house he-kept together
μῶρον μὲν οὖν γυναῖκες, οὐκ ἄλλως λέγω·
foolish indeed then women not otherwise I-say
ὅταν δ᾽, ὑπόντος τοῦδ᾽, ἁμαρτάνῃ πόσις
when and being-at-hand this errs husband
τἄνδον παρώσας λέκτρα, μιμεῖσθαι θέλει
the-home thrusting-aside bed to-imitate wishes

γυνὴ τὸν ἄνδρα χἄτερον κτᾶσθαι φίλον·
woman the husband and-other to-get friend
κἄπειτ' ἐν ἡμῖν ὁ ψόγος λαμπρύνεται,
and-then among us the blame is-made-bright
οἱ δ' αἴτιοι τῶνδ' οὐ κλύουσ' ἄνδρες κακῶς.
the and causes of-these not are-spoken-of men badly
εἰ δ' ἐκ δόμων ἥρπαστο Μενέλεως λάθρᾳ,
if and from house had-been-seized Menelaus secretly
κτανεῖν μ' Ὀρέστην χρῆν, κασιγνήτης πόσιν
to-kill me Orestes it-was-necessary of-sister husband
Μενέλαον ὡς σώσαιμι; σὸς δὲ πῶς πατὴρ
Menelaus so-that I-might-save your and how father
ἠνέσχετ' ἂν ταῦτ'; εἶτα τὸν μὲν οὐ θανεῖν
would-have-endured — these-things then him indeed not to-die
κτείνοντα χρῆν τἄμ', ἐμὲ δὲ πρὸς κείνου παθεῖν;
killing it-was-right my-things me and from him to-suffer
ἔκτειν', ἐτρέφθην ἥνπερ ἦν πορεύσιμον
I-killed I-turned by-which was passable
πρὸς τοὺς ἐκείνῳ πολεμίους. φίλων γὰρ ἂν
to the to-him enemies of-friends for —
τίς ἂν πατρὸς σοῦ φόνον ἐκοινώνησέ μοι;
who — of-father your murder would-have-shared with-me
λέγ', εἴ τι χρῄζεις, κἀντίθες παρρησίᾳ,
speak if anything you-want and-oppose with-freedom
ὅπως τέθνηκε σὸς πατὴρ οὐκ ἐνδίκως.
how is-dead your father not justly
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ δίκην ἔλεξας· σὴ δίκη δ' αἰσχρῶς ἔχει·
justice you-told your justice and shamefully has
γυναῖκα γὰρ χρὴ πάντα συγχωρεῖν πόσει,
woman for must all-things to-yield to-husband

ἥτις φρενήρης· ἦ δὲ μὴ δοκεῖ τάδε,
who sensible to-whom and not seem these-things
οὐδ' εἰς ἀριθμὸν τῶν ἐμῶν ἥκει λόγων.
not-even into number of-the my comes of-words
μέμνησο, μῆτερ, οἵς ἔλεξας ὑστάτους
remember mother which you-spoke last
λόγους, διδοῦσα πρὸς σέ μοι παρρησίαν.
words giving to you me freedom-of-speech
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ καὶ νῦν δέ φημι κοὐκ ἀπαρνοῦμαι τὸ μή.
and now and I-say and-not I-deny the not
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἆρα κλύουσα, μῆτερ, εἶτ' ἔρξεις κακῶς;
— hearing mother then will-you-do evil
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ οὐκ ἔστι, τῇ σῇ δ' ἡδὺ προσθήσω φρενί.
not it-is to-the your and sweet I-will-add to-mind
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ λέγοιμ' ἄν· ἀρχὴ δ' ἥδε μοι προοιμίου.
I-would-speak — beginning and this to-me of-preface
εἴθ' εἶχες, ὦ τεκοῦσα, βελτίους φρένας.
would-that you-had O having-borne better mind
τὸ μὲν γὰρ εἶδος αἶνον ἄξιον φέρει
the indeed for beauty praise worthy brings
Ἑλένης τε καὶ σοῦ, δύο δ' ἔφυτε συγγόνω,
of-Helen both and of-you two and you-were-born sisters
ἄμφω ματαίω Κάστορός τ' οὐκ ἀξίω.
both vain of-Castor and not worthy
ἡ μὲν γὰρ ἁρπασθεῖσ' ἑκοῦσ' ἀπώλετο,
she indeed for having-been-seized willing perished
σὺ δ' ἄνδρ' ἄριστον Ἑλλάδος διώλεσας,
you and man best of-Hellas destroyed
σκῆψιν προτείνουσ', ὡς ὑπὲρ τέκνου πόσιν
excuse holding-out that for child husband

ἔκτεινας· οὐ γάρ, ὡς ἔγωγ', ἴσασί σ' εὖ·
you-killed not for as I know you well
ἥτις θυγατρὸς πρὶν κεκυρῶσθαι σφαγὰς
who of-daughter before to-have-been-ratified the-slaughter
νέον τ' ἀπ' οἴκων ἀνδρὸς ἐξωρμημένου,
newly and from house of-husband having-set-out
ξανθὸν κατόπτρῳ πλόκαμον ἐξήσκεις κόμης.
yellow in-mirror lock you-dressed of-hair
ἥτις δ' ἀπόντος ἀνδρὸς ἐκ δόμων γυνὴ
who and being-absent husband from house woman
εἰς κάλλος ἀσκεῖ, διάγραφ' ὡς οὖσαν κακήν.
for beauty practices strike-out as being bad
οὐδὲν γὰρ αὐτὴν δεῖ θύρασιν εὐπρεπὲς
nothing for her must out-of-doors comely
φαίνειν πρόσωπον, ἤν τι μὴ ζητῇ κακόν.
to-show face if anything not she-seeks bad
μόνην δὲ πασῶν οἶδ' ἐγὼ σ' Ἑλληνίδων,
alone and of-all I-know I you of-Greek-women
εἰ μὲν τὰ Τρώων εὐτυχοῖ, κεχαρμένην,
if indeed the of-Trojans prospered rejoicing
εἰ δ' ἧσσον', εἴη, συννεφοῦσαν ὄμματα
if and worse it-was clouding eyes
Ἀγαμέμνον' οὐ χρῄζουσαν ἐκ Τροίας μολεῖν.
Agamemnon not wanting from Troy to-come
καίτοι καλῶς γε σωφρονεῖν παρεῖχέ σοι·
and-yet well at-least to-be-chaste was-possible for-you
ἄνδρ' εἶχες οὐ κακίον' Αἰγίσθου πόσιν,
husband you-had not worse than-Aegisthus husband
ὃν Ἑλλὰς αὑτῆς εἵλετο στρατηλάτην.
whom Hellas of-herself chose general

Ἑλένης δ' ἀδελφῆς τοιάδ' ἐξειργασμένης
of-Helen and sister such-things having-done
ἐξῆν κλέος σοι μέγα λαβεῖν· τὰ γὰρ κακὰ
it-was-possible glory for-you great to-take the for evils
παράδειγμα τοῖς ἐσθλοῖσιν εἴσοψίν τ' ἔχει.
example for-the good spectacle and has
εἰ δ', ὡς λέγεις, σὴν θυγατέρ' ἔκτεινεν πατήρ.
if and as you-say your daughter killed father
ἐγὼ τί σ' ἠδίκησ' ἐμός τε σύγγονος;
I what you wronged my and brother
πῶς οὐ πόσιν κτείνασα πατρῴους δόμους
how not husband having-killed paternal house
ἡμῖν προσῆψας, ἀλλ' ἐπηνέγκω λέχη
to-us you-gave but you-brought bed
τἀλλότρια, μισθοῦ τοὺς γάμους ὠνουμένη;
the-others' as-payment the marriage buying
κοὔτ' ἀντιφεύγει παιδὸς ἀντὶ σοῦ πόσις,
and-neither is-exiled-in-turn child in-place-of your husband
οὔτ' ἀντ' ἐμοῦ τέθνηκε, δὶς τόσως ἐμὲ
nor in-place-of me has-died twice so-much me
κτείνας ἀδελφῆς ζῶσαν. εἰ δ' ἀμείψεται
having-killed of-sister living if and will-requite
φόνον δικάζων φόνος, ἀποκτενῶ σ' ἐγὼ
murder judging murder I-will-kill you I
καὶ παῖς Ὀρέστης πατρὶ τιμωρούμενοι·
and son Orestes father avenging
εἰ γὰρ δίκαι' ἐκεῖνα, καὶ τάδ' ἔνδικα.
if for just those-things also these-things just

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ ὦ παῖ, πέφυκας πατέρα σὸν στέργειν ἀεί.
O child you-were-born father your to-love always
ἔστιν δὲ καὶ τόδ'· οἱ μέν εἰσιν ἀρσένων,
it-is and also this some indeed are of-males
οἱ δ' αὖ φιλοῦσι μητέρας μᾶλλον πατρός.
others and again love mothers rather than-father
συγγνώσομαί σοι· καὶ γὰρ οὐχ οὕτως ἄγαν
I-will-forgive you and for not so very
χαίρω τι, τέκνον, τοῖς δεδραμένοις ἐμοί.
I-rejoice at-all child at-the done by-me
σὺ δ' ὧδ' ἄλουτος καὶ δυσείματος χρόα
you and so unwashed and ill-clad on-skin
λεχὼ νεογνῶν ἐκ τόκων πεπαυμένη;
new-mother newborn from childbirth having-ceased
οἴμοι τάλαινα τῶν ἐμῶν βουλευμάτων·
ah-me wretched of-the my of-plans
ὡς μᾶλλον ἢ χρῆν ἤλασ' εἰς ὀργὴν πόσιν.
how more than was-right I-drove into anger husband
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὀψὲ στενάζεις, ἡνίκ' οὐκ ἔχεις ἄκη.
late you-groan when not you-have remedies
πατὴρ μὲν οὖν τέθνηκε. τὸν δ' ἔξω χθονὸς
father indeed then is-dead the and outside of-land
πῶς οὐ κομίζει παῖδ' ἀλητεύοντα σόν;
how not you-bring child wandering your
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ δέδοικα· τοὐμὸν δ', οὐχὶ τοὐκείνου, σκοπῶ.
I-fear my-things and not his I-consider
πατρὸς γάρ, ὡς λέγουσι, θυμοῦται φόνῳ.
of-father for as they-say he-is-enraged for-murder
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τί δαὶ πόσιν σὸν ἄγριον εἰς ἡμᾶς ἔχεις;
why then husband your savage against us you-have

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ τρόποι τοιοῦτοι· καὶ σὺ δ' αὐθάδης ἔφυς.
ways such and you and willful you-are

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀλγῶ γάρ· ἀλλὰ παύσομαι θυμουμένη.
I-grieve for but I-will-stop being-angry

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ καὶ μὴν ἐκεῖνος οὐκέτ' ἔσται σοι βαρύς.
and indeed he no-longer will-be to-you heavy

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ φρονεῖ μέγ'· ἐν γὰρ τοῖς ἐμοῖς ναίει δόμοις. 1120
he-thinks great in for the my dwells house

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ ὁρᾷς, ἀν' αὖ σὺ ζωπυρεῖς νείκη νέα.
you-see — again you kindle quarrels new

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ σιγῶ· δέδοικα γάρ νιν ὡς δέδοικ' ἐγώ.
I-am-silent I-fear for him as I-fear I

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ παῦσαι λόγων τῶνδ'· ἀλλὰ τί μ' ἐκάλεις, τέκνον;
stop of-words these but why me did-you-call child

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἤκουσας, οἶμαι, τῶν ἐμῶν λοχευμάτων·
you-heard I-think of-the my of-childbirth

τούτων ὕπερ μοι θῦσον, οὐ γὰρ οἶδ' ἐγώ, 1125
of-these for for-me sacrifice not for I-know I

δεκάτῃ σελήνῃ παιδὸς ὡς νομίζεται·
for-the-tenth moon of-child as is-customary

τρίβων γὰρ οὐκ εἶμ', ἄτοκος οὖσ' ἐν τῷ πάρος.
practiced for not I-am childless being in the past

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ ἄλλης τόδ' ἔργον, ἥ σ' ἔλυσεν ἐκ τόκων.
of-another this the-work who you delivered from childbirth

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ αὐτὴ 'λόχευον κἄτεκον μόνη βρέφος.
myself I-was-in-labor and-I-bore alone babe

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ οὕτως ἀγείτον' οἶκον ἵδρυσαι φίλων; 1130
so neighborless house you-are-settled of-friends

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ πένητας οὐδεὶς βούλεται κτᾶσθαι φίλους.
the-poor no-one wishes to-get as-friends

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ ἀλλ᾽ εἶμι, παιδὸς ἀριθμὸν ὡς τελεσφόρον
but I-will-go for-child number as complete
θύσω θεοῖσι· σοὶ δ᾽ ὅταν πράξω χάριν
I-will-sacrifice to-the-gods to-you and when I-shall-do favor
τήνδ᾽, εἶμ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ἀγρόν, οὗ πόσις θυηπολεῖ
this I-go to field where husband sacrifices
Νύμφαισιν. ἀλλὰ τούσδ᾽ ὄχους, ὀπάονες,
to-the-Nymphs but these chariots attendants
φάτναις ἄγοντες πρόσθεθ᾽· ἡνίκ᾽ ἂν δέ με
to-the-stalls leading set when — and me
δοκῆτε θυσίας τῆσδ᾽ ἀπηλλάχθαι θεοῖς,
you-think from-sacrifice this to-be-done for-the-gods
πάρεστε· δεῖ γὰρ καὶ πόσει δοῦναι χάριν.
be-present it-is-necessary for also for-husband to-give favor
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ χώρει πένητας εἰς δόμους· φρούρει δέ μοι
go poor into house beware and for-me
μή σ᾽ αἰθαλώσῃ πολύκαπνον στέγος πέπλους.
lest you smoke-blacken smoky house the-robes
θύσεις γὰρ οἷα χρή σε δαίμοσιν θύειν.
you-will-sacrifice for such-as must you to-gods to-sacrifice
κανοῦν δ᾽ ἐνῆρκται καὶ τεθηγμένη σφαγίς,
basket and is-begun and sharpened knife
ἥπερ καθεῖλε ταῦρον, οὗ πέλας πεσεῖ
which-indeed cast-down bull whom near you-will-fall
πληγεῖσα· νυμφεύσει δὲ κἀν Ἅιδου δόμοις
struck you-will-be-wed and and-in of-Hades house
ᾧπερ ξυνηῦδες ἐν φάει. τοσήνδ᾽ ἐγὼ
to-whom-indeed you-slept in light so-much I
δώσω χάριν σοι, σὺ δὲ δίκην ἐμοὶ πατρός.
I-will-give favor to-you you and penalty to-me of-father

The chorus sings of Agamemnon's murder, and Clytemnestra's death cries are heard from within. Orestes and Electra come out, stained with their mother's blood, with the two bodies, and they lament together over what they have done, recalling how she begged for pity and how Orestes covered his eyes as he struck.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀμοιβαὶ κακῶν· μετάτροποι πνέου-
requitals of-evils changing blow
σιν αὖραι δόμων. τότε μὲν ἐν λουτροῖς
— breezes of-house then indeed in baths
ἔπεσεν ἐμὸς ἐμὸς ἀρχέτας,
fell my my chieftain
ἰάχησε δὲ στέγα λάινοί 1150
cried-out and the-roof stone
τε θριγκοὶ δόμων, τάδ' ἐνέποντος· ὦ
and copings of-house these-things him-uttering O
σχετλία, τί με, γύναι, φονεύεις φίλαν
cruel why me woman do-you-murder dear
πατρίδα δεκέτεσι
fatherland in-ten-years'
σποραῖσιν ἐλθόντ' ἐμάν;
seasons having-come my
παλίρρους δὲ τάνδ' ὑπάγεται δίκα 1155
flowing-back and this brings-under justice
διαδρόμου λέχους, μέλεον ἃ πόσιν
of-wandering bed wretched who husband
χρόνιον ἱκόμενον εἰς οἴκους
after-long-time having-arrived into house
Κυκλώπειά τ' οὐράνια τείχε' ὀ-
Cyclopean and heaven-high walls sharp-whetted

ξυθήκτῳ βέλει κατέκαν᾽ αὐτόχειρ,
— *with-weapon slew with-her-own-hand*
πέλεκυν ἐν χεροῖν λαβοῦσα. τλάμων
axe in hands having-taken wretched
πόσις, ὅ τί ποτε τὰν
husband what thing ever the
τάλαιναν ἔσχεν κακόν.
wretched seized evil
ὀρεία τις ὡς λέαιν᾽ ὀργάδων
of-the-mountains some like lioness of-meadows
δρύοχα νεμομένα, τάδε κατήνυσεν.
thickets inhabiting these-things accomplished
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ ὦ τέκνα, πρὸς θεῶν μὴ κτάνητε μητέρα.
O children by gods not kill mother
ΧΟΡΟΣ κλύεις ὑπώροφον βοάν;
do-you-hear under-the-roof cry
ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΝΗΣΤΡΑ ἰώ μοί μοι.
oh me me
ΧΟΡΟΣ ᾤμωξα κἀγὼ πρὸς τέκνων χειρουμένης.
I-groaned and-I by children being-overcome
νέμει τοι δίκαν θεός, ὅταν τύχῃ·
deals surely justice god when it-happens
σχέτλια μὲν ἔπαθες, ἀνόσια δ᾽ εἰργάσω,
cruel indeed you-suffered unholy but you-wrought
τάλαιν᾽, εὐνέταν.
wretched-one on-your-bedfellow
ἀλλ᾽ οἵδε μητρὸς νεοφόνοισιν αἵμασι
but these of-mother in-freshly-shed blood
πεφυρμένοι βαίνουσιν ἐξ οἴκων πόδα,
bespattered step from house foot

τροπαῖα δείγματ᾽ ἀθλίων προσφθεγμάτων.
trophies tokens of-wretched addresses
οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδεὶς οἶκος ἀθλιώτερος
not there-is no house more-wretched
τῶν Τανταλείων οὐδ᾽ ἔφυ ποτ᾽ ἐκγόνων.
than-the of-Tantalus nor was ever of-descendants
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἰὼ Γᾶ καὶ Ζεῦ πανδερκέτα
oh Earth and Zeus all-seeing
βροτῶν, ἴδετε τάδ᾽ ἔργα φόνι-
of-mortals see these works bloody
α μυσαρά, δίγονα σώματ᾽ ἐν
— foul two bodies in
χθονὶ κείμενα, πλαγᾷ
ground lying by-the-blow
χερὸς ὑπ᾽ ἐμᾶς, ἄποιν᾽ ἐμῶν πημάτων,
hand by my requital of-my woes

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(lacuna)

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(lacuna)

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ δακρύτ᾽ ἄγαν, ὦ σύγγον᾽, αἰτία δ᾽ ἐγώ.
to-be-wept too-much O brother cause but I
διὰ πυρὸς ἔμολον ἁ τάλαινα ματρὶ τᾷδ᾽,
through fire I-came the wretched against-mother this
ἅ μ᾽ ἔτικτε κούραν.
who me bore daughter
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ τύχας, τᾶς σᾶς τύχας, μᾶτερ τεκοῦσ᾽,
oh fortune the your fortune mother having-borne
ἄλαστα μέλεα καὶ πέρα
unforgettable miseries and beyond

παθοῦσα σῶν τέκνων ὑπαί.
having-suffered your children by
πατρὸς δ' ἔτισας φόνον δικαίως.
of-father but you-paid murder justly
ορεστης ἰὼ Φοῖβ', ἀνύμνησας δίκαν,
oh Phoebus you-hymned justice
ἄφαντα φανερὰ δ' ἐξέπρα-
unseen manifest and you-accomplished
ξας ἄχεα, φόνια δ' ὤπασας
— griefs bloody and you-granted
λέχε' ἀπὸ γᾶς Ἑλλανίδος.
beds from land Greek
τίνα δ' ἑτέραν μόλω πόλιν; τίς ξένος,
what and other shall-I-go city what host
τίς εὐσεβὴς ἐμὸν κάρα
what pious my head
προσόψεται ματέρα κτανόντος;
will-look-at mother having-killed
ηλεκτρα ἰὼ ἰώ μοι. ποῖ δ' ἐγώ; τίν' εἰς χορόν,
oh oh me where and I what into dance
τίνα γάμον εἶμι; τίς πόσις με δέξεται
to-what marriage shall-I-go what husband me will-receive
νυμφικὰς ἐς εὐνάς;
bridal to bed
χορος πάλιν, πάλιν φρόνημα σὸν μετεστάθη πρὸς αὔραν·
again again mind your has-changed with breeze
φρονεῖς γὰρ ὅσια νῦν, τότ' οὐ
you-think for holy-things now then not
φρονοῦσα, δεινὰ δ' εἰργάσω,
thinking terrible-things and you-wrought

φίλα, κασίγνητον οὐ θέλοντα.
dear brother not willing

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ κατεῖδες, οἷον ἁ τάλαιν' ἐμῶν πέπλων
you-saw how the wretched my robes

ἐλάβετ', ἔδειξε μαστὸν ἐν φοναῖσιν,
took-hold she-showed breast in murders

ἰώ μοι, πρὸς πέδῳ
oh me on ground

τιθεῖσα γόνιμα μέλεα; τὰν κόμαν δ' ἐγώ —
laying begetting limbs the hair and I

ΧΟΡΟΣ σάφ' οἶδα δι' ὀδύνας ἔβας, ἰήιον
clearly I-know through pain you-went mournful

κλύων γόον ματρός, ἅ σ' ἔτικτεν.
hearing lament of-mother who you bore

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ βοὰν δ' ἔλασκε τάνδε, πρὸς γένυν ἐμὰν
cry and she-uttered this to cheek my

τιθεῖσα χεῖρα· τέκος ἐμόν, λιταίνω·
laying hand child my I-beseech

παρῄδων τ' ἐξ ἐμᾶν
cheeks and from my

ἐκρήμναθ', ὥστε χέρας ἐμὰς λιπεῖν βέλος.
she-hung so-that hands my to-let-fall weapon

ΧΟΡΟΣ τάλαινα, πῶς ἔτλας φόνον δι' ὀμμάτων
wretched-one how did-you-dare murder through eyes

ἰδεῖν σέθεν ματρὸς ἐκπνεούσας;
to-see your of-mother breathing-out

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἐγὼ μὲν ἐπιβαλὼν φάρη κόραις ἐμαῖς
I indeed having-cast robes over-eyes my

φασγάνῳ κατηρξάμαν
with-sword I-began

ματέρος ἔσω δέρας μεθείς.
of-mother into neck plunging

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐγὼ δ' ἐπεγκέλευσά σοι
I and urged-on you

ξίφους τ' ἐφηψάμαν ἅμα.
sword and I-touched at-the-same-time

δεινότατον παθέων ἔρεξα.
most-terrible of-sufferings I-did

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ λαβοῦ, κάλυπτε μέλεα ματέρος πέπλοις,
take cover limbs of-mother with-robes

καὶ καθάρμοσον σφαγάς.
and fit-together the-wounds

φονέας ἔτικτες ἆρά σοι.
murderers you-bore then to-you

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἰδού, φίλα τε κοὐ φίλα,
see dear and and-not dear

φάρεα σέ γ' ἀμφιβάλλομεν.
robes you at-least we-cast-around

τέρμα κακῶν μεγάλων δόμοισιν.
end of-evils great for-house

Castor and Polydeuces appear and say that Clytemnestra's death was just but that the act was not. Apollo's oracle was unwise. They command Electra to marry Pylades, and Orestes to go to Athens to be tried before the Areopagus, where he will be acquitted. Menelaus, back from taking Troy, and Helen, who never went there, will bury Clytemnestra. Brother and sister part in grief, and the gods go to protect the ships on the Sicilian sea.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ οἵδε δόμων ὑπὲρ ἀκροτάτων
but these house above topmost
φαίνουσί τινες δαίμονες ἢ θεῶν
appear some divinities or of-gods
τῶν οὐρανίων; οὐ γὰρ θνητῶν γ᾽ 1235
of-the heavenly not for of-mortals at-least
ἥδε κέλευθος· τί ποτ᾽ εἰς φανερὰν
this path why ever into manifest
ὄψιν βαίνουσι βροτοῖσιν;
sight do-they-come to-mortals
ΚΑΣΤΩΡ Ἀγαμέμνονος παῖ, κλῦθι· δίπτυχοι δέ σε
of-Agamemnon son hear twin and you
καλοῦσι μητρὸς σύγγονοι Διόσκοροι,
call of-mother brothers Dioscuri
Κάστωρ κασίγνητός τε Πολυδεύκης ὅδε. 1240
Castor brother and Polydeuces this
δεινὸν δὲ ναὸς ἀρτίως πόντου σάλον
terrible and of-ship just-now of-sea tossing
παύσαντ᾽ ἀφίγμεθ᾽ Ἄργος, ὡς ἐσείδομεν
having-stopped we-have-come to-Argos when we-saw
σφαγὰς ἀδελφῆς τῆσδε, μητέρος δὲ σῆς.
slaughter of-sister this of-mother and your

δίκαια μὲν νῦν ἥδ' ἔχει, σὺ δ' οὐχὶ δρᾷς·
just indeed now she has you but not do
Φοῖβός τε Φοῖβος — ἀλλ' ἄναξ γάρ ἐστ' ἐμός,
Phoebus and Phoebus but lord for is my
σιγῶ· σοφὸς δ' ὢν οὐκ ἔχρησέ σοι σοφά.
I-am-silent wise but being not he-prophesied to-you wise-things
αἰνεῖν δ' ἀνάγκη ταῦτα· τἀντεῦθεν δὲ χρὴ
to-assent and necessity these-things the-things-hereafter and must
πράσσειν ἃ μοῖρα Ζεύς τ' ἔκρανε σοῦ πέρι.
to-do what fate Zeus and ordained you about
Πυλάδῃ μὲν Ἠλέκτραν δὸς ἄλοχον εἰς δόμους,
to-Pylades indeed Electra give as-wife into house
σὺ δ' Ἄργος ἔκλιπ'· οὐ γὰρ ἔστι σοι πόλιν
you and Argos leave not for it-is for-you city
τήνδ' ἐμβατεύειν, μητέρα κτείναντα σήν.
this to-set-foot-in mother having-killed your
δειναὶ δὲ Κῆρές σ' αἱ κυνώπιδες θεαὶ
dread and Fates you the dog-faced goddesses
τροχηλατήσουσ' ἐμμανῆ πλανώμενον.
will-drive-in-circles maddened wandering
ἐλθὼν δ' Ἀθήνας, Παλλάδος σεμνὸν βρέτας
having-come and to-Athens of-Pallas holy image
πρόσπτυξον· εἴρξει γάρ νιν ἐπτοημένας
embrace she-will-keep-off for them fluttering
δεινοῖς δράκουσιν ὥστε μὴ ψαύειν σέθεν,
with-dread snakes so-that not to-touch you
γοργῶφ' ὑπερτείνουσά σου κάρᾳ κύκλον.
Gorgon-faced holding-over your head circle
ἔστιν δ' Ἄρεώς τις ὄχθος, οὗ πρῶτον θεοὶ
there-is and of-Ares a hill where first gods

ἕζοντ᾽ ἐπὶ ψήφοισιν αἵματος πέρι,
sat at votes blood about
Ἁλιρρόθιον ὅτ᾽ ἔκταν᾽ ὠμόφρων Ἄρης,
Halirrhothius when killed savage Ares
μῆνιν θυγατρὸς ἀνοσίων νυμφευμάτων,
in-wrath for-daughter of-unholy nuptials
πόντου κρέοντος παῖδ᾽, ἵν᾽ εὐσεβεστάτη
of-sea ruling son where most-holy
ψῆφος βεβαία τ᾽ ἐστὶν †ἔκ γε τοῦ θεοῖς.
vote secure and is (corrupt)-from at-least that-time for-gods
ἐνταῦθα καὶ σὲ δεῖ δραμεῖν φόνου πέρι.
there also you must to-run murder about
ἴσαι δέ σ᾽ ἐκσῴζουσι μὴ θανεῖν δίκῃ
equal and you save not to-die by-the-verdict
ψῆφοι τεθεῖσαι· Λοξίας γὰρ αἰτίαν
votes cast Loxias for blame
εἰς αὐτὸν οἴσει, μητέρος χρήσας φόνον.
onto himself will-take of-mother having-prophesied murder
καὶ τοῖσι λοιποῖς ὅδε νόμος τεθήσεται
and for-the rest this law will-be-laid-down
νικᾶν ἴσαις ψήφοισι τὸν φεύγοντ᾽ ἀεί.
to-win with-equal votes the defendant always
δειναὶ μὲν οὖν θεαὶ τῷδ᾽ ἄχει πεπληγμέναι
dread indeed then goddesses at-this grief stricken
πάγον παρ᾽ αὐτὸν χάσμα δύσονται χθονός,
hill by itself chasm will-enter of-earth
σεμνὸν βροτοῖσιν εὐσεβὲς χρηστήριον·
holy for-mortals reverend oracle
σὲ δ᾽ Ἀρκάδων χρὴ πόλιν ἐπ᾽ Ἀλφειοῦ ῥοαῖς
you and of-Arcadians must city by of-Alpheus streams

οἰκεῖν Λυκαίου πλησίον σηκώματος·
to-dwell of-Lycaean near precinct
ἐπώνυμος δὲ σοῦ πόλις κεκλήσεται.
named and from-you city will-be-called
σοὶ μὲν τάδ' εἶπον· τόνδε δ' Αἰγίσθου νέκυν
to-you indeed these-things I-have-said this and of-Aegisthus corpse
Ἄργους πολῖται γῆς καλύψουσιν τάφῳ.
of-Argos citizens in-earth will-cover in-tomb
μητέρα δὲ τὴν σὴν ἄρτι Ναυπλίαν παρὼν
mother and the your just-now Nauplia having-reached
Μενέλαος, ἐξ οὗ Τρωικὴν εἶλε χθόνα,
Menelaus from when Trojan he-took land
Ἑλένη τε θάψει· Πρωτέως γὰρ ἐκ δόμων
Helen and will-bury of-Proteus for from house
ἥκει λιποῦσ' Αἴγυπτον οὐδ' ἦλθεν Φρύγας.
she-comes having-left Egypt nor went to-Phrygians
Ζεὺς δ', ὡς ἔρις γένοιτο καὶ φόνος βροτῶν,
Zeus but so-that strife might-arise and slaughter of-mortals
εἴδωλον Ἑλένης ἐξέπεμψ' ἐς Ἴλιον.
phantom of-Helen sent to Ilium
Πυλάδης μὲν οὖν κόρην τε καὶ δάμαρτ' ἔχων
Pylades indeed then maiden both and wife having
Ἀχαιίδος γῆς οἴκαδ' εἰσπορευέτω,
of-Achaean land homeward let-him-journey
καὶ τὸν λόγῳ σὸν πενθερὸν κομιζέτω
and the in-word your brother-in-law let-him-bring
Φωκέων ἐς αἶαν, καὶ δότω πλούτου βάρος·
of-Phocians to land and let-him-give of-wealth weight
σὺ δ' Ἰσθμίας γῆς αὐχέν' ἐμβαίνων ποδὶ
you and of-Isthmian land neck stepping on-foot

χώρει πρὸς οἶκον Κεκροπίας εὐδαίμονα.
go to house of-Cecrops blessed

πεπρωμένην γὰρ μοῖραν ἐκπλήσας φόνου
destined for fate having-fulfilled of-murder

εὐδαιμονήσεις τῶνδ' ἀπαλλαχθεὶς πόνων.
you-will-be-happy from-these released labors

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ παῖδε Διός, θέμις εἰς φθογγὰς
O sons of-Zeus is-it-right to words

τὰς ὑμετέρας ἡμῖν πελάθειν;
the your for-us to-approach

ΚΑΣΤΩΡ θέμις, οὐ μυσαραῖς τοῖσδε σφαγίοις.
it-is-right not by-polluted these sacrifices

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ κἀμοὶ μύθου μέτα, Τυνδαρίδαι;
and-for-me of-speech share sons-of-Tyndareus

ΚΑΣΤΩΡ καὶ σοί· Φοίβῳ τήνδ' ἀναθήσω
and for-you to-Phoebus this I-will-attribute

πρᾶξιν φονίαν.
deed murderous

ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς ὄντε θεὼ τῆσδέ τ' ἀδελφὼ
how being gods of-this and brothers

τῆς καταφθιμένης
of-the dead

οὐκ ἠρκέσατον κῆρας μελάθροις;
not did-you-ward-off Fates from-the-house

ΚΑΣΤΩΡ μοῖραν ἀνάγκης ἦγεν τὸ χρεών,
fate of-necessity led the necessity

Φοίβου τ' ἄσοφοι γλώσσης ἐνοπαί.
of-Phoebus and unwise of-tongue utterances

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τίς δ' ἔμ' Ἀπόλλων, ποῖοι χρησμοὶ
what and me Apollo what oracles
φονίαν ἔδοσαν μητρὶ γενέσθαι;
murderess gave to-mother to-become
ΚΑΣΤΩΡ κοιναὶ πράξεις, κοινοὶ δὲ πότμοι,
common deeds common and fates
μία δ' ἀμφοτέρους
one and both
ἄτη πατέρων διέκναισεν.
ruin of-fathers wore-down
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ σύγγονέ μοι, χρονίαν σ' ἐσιδὼν
O sister to-me late you having-seen
τῶν σῶν εὐθὺς φίλτρων στέρομαι,
of-the your at-once love I-am-deprived
καὶ σ' ἀπολείψω σοῦ λειπόμενος.
and you I-shall-leave by-you being-left
ΚΑΣΤΩΡ πόσις ἔστ' αὐτῇ καὶ δόμος· οὐχ ἥδ'
husband is for-her and house not she
οἰκτρὰ πέπονθεν, πλὴν ὅτι λείπει
piteous-things has-suffered except that she-leaves
πόλιν Ἀργείων.
the-city of-Argives
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὶ τίνες ἄλλαι στοναχαὶ μείζους
and what other groans greater
ἢ γῆς πατρίας ὅρον ἐκλείπειν;
than of-land paternal border to-leave
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἀλλ' ἐγὼ οἴκων ἔξειμι πατρός,
but I from-house shall-go-out of-father
καὶ ἐπ' ἀλλοτρίαις ψήφοισι φόνον
and at alien votes murder

μητρὸς ὑφέξω.
of-mother shall-submit-to

ΚΑΣΤΩΡ θάρσει· Παλλάδος
take-heart of-Pallas

ὁσίαν ἥξεις πόλιν· ἀλλ' ἀνέχου.
holy you-will-come city but endure

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ περί μοι στέρνοις στέρνα πρόσαψον,
around to-me to-breast breast fasten

σύγγονε φίλτατε·
brother dearest

διὰ γὰρ ζευγνῦσ' ἡμᾶς πατρίων
apart for yokes us paternal

μελάθρων μητρὸς φόνιοι κατάραι.
of-house of-mother bloody curses

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ βάλε, πρόσπτυξον σῶμα· θανόντος δ'
throw embrace body of-the-dead and

ὡς ἐπὶ τύμβῳ καταθρήνησον.
as at tomb lament

ΚΑΣΤΩΡ φεῦ φεῦ. δεινὸν τόδ' ἐγηρύσω
alas alas terrible this you-uttered

καὶ θεοῖσι κλύειν.
even for-gods to-hear

ἔνι γὰρ κἀμοὶ τοῖς τ' οὐρανίδαις
is-in for also-in-me in-the and heavenly-ones

οἶκτοι θνητῶν πολυμόχθων.
pity for-mortals much-toiling

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκέτι σ' ὄψομαι.
no-longer you shall-I-see

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐδ' ἐγὼ εἰς σὸν βλέφαρον πελάσω.
nor I into your eye shall-come-near

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τάδε λοίσθιά μοι προσφθέγματά σου.
these last for-me addresses of-you

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ χαῖρε, πόλις·
O farewell city

χαίρετε δ' ὑμεῖς πολλά, πολίτιδες.
farewell and you much women-of-the-city

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ πιστοτάτη, στείχεις ἤδη;
O most-faithful you-go already

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ στείχω βλέφαρον τέγγουσ' ἁπαλόν.
I-go eye wetting tender

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Πυλάδη, χαίρων ἴθι, νυμφεύου
Pylades rejoicing go take-as-bride

δέμας Ἠλέκτρας.
body of-Electra

ΚΑΣΤΩΡ τοῖσδε μελήσει γάμος· ἀλλὰ κύνας
these-ones will-care-for marriage but hounds

τάσδ' ὑποφεύγων στεῖχ' ἐπ' Ἀθηνῶν·
these escaping go to Athens

δεινὸν γὰρ ἴχνος βάλλουσ' ἐπὶ σοὶ
terrible for track they-cast on you

χειροδράκοντες χρῶτα κελαιναί,
snake-handed in-skin black

δεινῶν ὀδυνῶν καρπὸν ἔχουσαι·
of-terrible pains fruit having

νὼ δ' ἐπὶ πόντον Σικελὸν σπουδῇ
we-two and to sea Sicilian in-haste

σώσοντε νεῶν πρῴρας ἐνάλους.
to-save of-ships prows sea-going

διὰ δ' αἰθερίας στείχοντε πλακὸς
through and airy going plain

τοῖς μὲν μυσαροῖς οὐκ ἐπαρήγομεν,
the indeed polluted not we-help
οἷσιν δ' ὅσιον καὶ τὸ δίκαιον
for-whom and holy and the just
φίλον ἐν βιότῳ, τούτους χαλεπῶν
dear in life these from-harsh
ἐκλύοντες μόχθων σῴζομεν.
releasing toils we-save
οὕτως ἀδικεῖν μηδεὶς θελέτω,
so to-do-wrong no-one let-wish
μηδ' ἐπιόρκων μέτα συμπλείτω·
nor perjurers with let-sail-together
θεὸς ὢν θνητοῖς ἀγορεύω.
god being to-mortals I-proclaim
ΧΟΡΟΣ χαίρετε· χαίρειν δ' ὅστις δύναται
farewell to-fare-well and whoever is-able
καὶ ξυντυχίᾳ μή τινι κάμνει
and with-misfortune not any is-troubled
θνητῶν, εὐδαίμονα πράσσει.
of-mortals happily fares