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The Seven Against Thebes

Aeschylus · Euripides

ΕΠΤΑ ΕΠΙ ΘΗΒΑΣ
ΙΚΕΤΙΔΕΣ
ΦΟΙΝΙΣΣΑΙ
ΙΚΕΤΙΔΕΣ
ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΔΑΙ

The Seven Against Thebes

With the Suppliants of Aeschylus, and the Phoenician Women, Suppliants, and Children of Heracles of Euripides

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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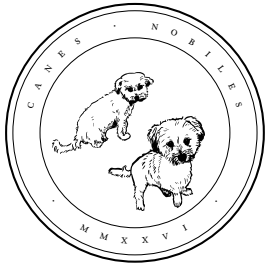

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Lines the editors seclude are not printed; † marks
a word they obelize; ∗∗∗ marks a gap in the text.

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AESCHYLUS

ΕΠΤΑ ΕΠΙ ΘΗΒΑΣ

The Seven Against Thebes

I · ETEOCLES TAKES COMMAND

Eteocles tells the citizens of Thebes that every man must defend the city, its gods, and the land that reared him: a seer reading the birds warns that the Achaeans have planned a great assault in a council by night. A scout reports that seven chieftains have slain a bull, sworn by Ares, Enyo, and Rout to sack the city or die, and are casting lots for the seven gates. Eteocles prays to Zeus, Earth, the city's gods, and his father's mighty Curse not to uproot Thebes. The chorus of Theban maidens rushes in, terrified by the noise of the army.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ Κάδμου πολῖται, χρὴ λέγειν τὰ καίρια
of-Cadmus citizens must to-say the timely-things
ὅστις φυλάσσει πρᾶγος ἐν πρύμνῃ πόλεως
whoever guards affairs in stern of-city
οἴακα νωμῶν, βλέφαρα μὴ κοιμῶν ὕπνῳ.
helm plying eyelids not lulling in-sleep
εἰ μὲν γὰρ εὖ πράξαιμεν, αἰτία θεοῦ·
if indeed for well we-should-fare cause of-god
εἰ δ' αὖθ', ὃ μὴ γένοιτο, συμφορὰ τύχοι,
if but again which not may-it-happen disaster should-befall
Ἐτεοκλέης ἂν εἷς πολὺς κατὰ πτόλιν
Eteocles — one much throughout city
ὑμνοῖθ' ὑπ' ἀστῶν φροιμίοις πολυρρόθοις
would-be-sung by citizens in-preludes much-resounding
οἰμώγμασίν θ', ὧν Ζεὺς ἀλεξητήριος
with-wailings and of-which Zeus averter
ἐπώνυμος γένοιτο Καδμείων πόλει.
eponymous may-be of-the-Cadmeans for-city
ὑμᾶς δὲ χρὴ νῦν, καὶ τὸν ἐλλείποντ' ἔτι
you and must now both the falling-short still

ἥβης ἀκμαίας καὶ τὸν ἔξηβον χρόνῳ,
of-youth prime and the past-youth in-time
βλαστημὸν ἀλδαίνοντα σώματος πολύν,
growth nurturing of-body much
ὥραν τ' ἔχονθ' ἕκαστον ὥστε συμπρεπές,
season and having each as befitting
πόλει τ' ἀρήγειν καὶ θεῶν ἐγχωρίων
city and to-help and of-gods native
βωμοῖσι, τιμὰς μὴ 'ξαλειφθῆναί ποτε·
altars honors lest to-be-blotted-out ever
τέκνοις τε, Γῆ τε μητρί, φιλτάτῃ τροφῷ·
children and Earth and mother dearest nurse
ἡ γὰρ νέους ἕρποντας εὐμενεῖ πέδῳ,
she for young crawling on-kindly ground
ἅπαντα πανδοκοῦσα παιδείας ὄτλον,
all bearing-in-full of-rearing toil
ἐθρέψατ' οἰκητῆρας ἀσπιδηφόρους
reared settlers shield-bearing
πιστοὺς ὅπως γένοισθε πρὸς χρέος τόδε.
faithful so-that you-might-be for need this
καὶ νῦν μὲν ἐς τόδ' ἦμαρ εὖ ῥέπει θεός·
and now indeed to this day well inclines god
χρόνον γὰρ ἤδη τόνδε πυργηρουμένοις
time for already this being-besieged
καλῶς τὰ πλείω πόλεμος ἐκ θεῶν κυρεῖ.
well the most war from gods turns-out
νῦν δ' ὡς ὁ μάντις φησίν, οἰωνῶν βοτήρ,
now and as the prophet says of-birds herdsman
ἐν ὠσὶ νωμῶν καὶ φρεσίν, πυρὸς δίχα,
in ears plying and mind fire without

χρηστηρίους ὄρνιθας ἀψευδεῖ τέχνῃ·
oracular birds with-unerring art

οὗτος τοιῶνδε δεσπότης μαντευμάτων
he of-such master of-prophecies

λέγει μεγίστην προσβολὴν Ἀχαιΐδα
says greatest assault Achaean

νυκτηγορεῖσθαι κἀπιβουλεύσειν πόλει.
to-be-planned-by-night and-to-plot against-city

ἀλλ' ἔς τ' ἐπάλξεις καὶ πύλας πυργωμάτων
but to both battlements and gates of-towers

ὁρμᾶσθε πάντες, σοῦσθε σὺν παντευχίᾳ,
rush all hasten with full-armor

πληροῦτε θωρακεῖα, κἀπὶ σέλμασιν
man parapets and-on platforms

πύργων στάθητε, καὶ πυλῶν ἐπ' ἐξόδοις
of-towers stand and of-gates at exits

μίμνοντες εὖ θαρσεῖτε, μηδ' ἐπηλύδων
staying well take-courage nor of-invaders

ταρβεῖτ' ἄγαν ὅμιλον· εὖ τελεῖ θεός.
fear too-much crowd well will-accomplish god

σκοποὺς δὲ κἀγὼ καὶ κατοπτῆρας στρατοῦ
scouts and I-too and spies of-the-army

ἔπεμψα, τοὺς πέποιθα μὴ ματᾶν ὁδῷ·
sent whom I-trust not to-loiter on-the-way

καὶ τῶνδ' ἀκούσας οὔ τι μὴ ληφθῶ δόλῳ.
and of-these having-heard not at-all — shall-I-be-taken by-trick

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ Ἐτεόκλεες, φέριστε Καδμείων ἄναξ,
Eteocles mightiest of-Cadmeans lord

ἥκω σαφῆ τἀκεῖθεν ἐκ στρατοῦ φέρων,
I-come clear the-things-there from the-army bringing

αὐτὸς κατόπτης δ' εἶμ' ἐγὼ τῶν πραγμάτων·
myself eye-witness and am I of-the matters
ἄνδρες γὰρ ἑπτά, θούριοι λοχαγέται,
men for seven furious captains
ταυροσφαγοῦντες ἐς μελάνδετον σάκος
bull-slaughtering into black-bound shield
καὶ θιγγάνοντες χερσὶ ταυρείου φόνου,
and touching with-hands of-bull blood
Ἄρη τ', Ἐνυώ, καὶ φιλαίματον Φόβον
Ares and Enyo and blood-loving Rout
ὡρκωμότησαν ἢ πόλει κατασκαφὰς
swore either to-the-city destruction
θέντες λαπάξειν ἄστυ Καδμείων βίᾳ,
having-wrought to-sack town of-Cadmeans by-force
ἢ γῆν θανόντες τήνδε φυράσειν φόνῳ·
or land dying this to-knead with-blood
μνημεῖά θ' αὑτῶν τοῖς τεκοῦσιν ἐς δόμους
memorials and of-themselves for-the parents to homes
πρὸς ἅρμ' Ἀδράστου χερσὶν ἔστεφον, δάκρυ
on chariot of-Adrastus with-hands they-wreathed tear
λείβοντες· οἶκτος δ' οὔτις ἦν διὰ στόμα.
shedding pity but no was through mouth
σιδηρόφρων γὰρ θυμὸς ἀνδρείᾳ φλέγων
iron-hearted for spirit with-courage blazing
ἔπνει, λεόντων ὡς Ἄρη δεδορκότων.
breathed of-lions as Ares glaring
καὶ τῶνδε πύστις οὐκ ὄκνῳ χρονίζεται·
and of-these knowledge not by-sloth is-delayed
κληρουμένους δ' ἔλειπον, ὡς πάλῳ λαχὼν
casting-lots and I-left-them how by-lot having-obtained

ἕκαστος αὐτῶν πρὸς πύλας ἄγοι λόχον.
each of-them to gates should-lead company

πρὸς ταῦτ᾽ ἀρίστους ἄνδρας ἐκκρίτους πόλεως
for this best men chosen of-city

πυλῶν ἐπ᾽ ἐξόδοισι τάγευσαι τάχος·
of-gates at exits station quickly

ἐγγὺς γὰρ ἤδη πάνοπλος Ἀργείων στρατὸς
near for already full-armed of-Argives army

χωρεῖ, κονίει, πεδία δ᾽ ἀργηστὴς ἀφρὸς
comes raises-dust plains and white foam

χραίνει σταλαγμοῖς ἱππικῶν ἐκ πλευμόνων.
stains with-drops of-horses from lungs

σὺ δ᾽ ὥστε ναὸς κεδνὸς οἰακοστρόφος
you and like of-ship careful helmsman

φράξαι πόλισμα, πρὶν καταιγίσαι πνοὰς
fortify city before burst blasts

Ἄρεως· βοᾷ γὰρ κῦμα χερσαῖον στρατοῦ·
of-Ares roars for wave of-land of-army

καὶ τῶνδε καιρὸν ὅστις ὤκιστος λαβέ·
and of-these occasion whatever swiftest take

κἀγὼ τὰ λοιπὰ πιστὸν ἡμεροσκόπον
and-I the rest trusty day-watching

ὀφθαλμὸν ἕξω, καὶ σαφηνείᾳ λόγου
eye will-keep and with-clearness of-report

εἰδὼς τὰ τῶν θύραθεν ἀβλαβὴς ἔσῃ.
knowing the-things of-the outside unharmed you-will-be

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ὦ Ζεῦ τε καὶ Γῆ καὶ πολισσοῦχοι θεοί,
O Zeus both and Earth and city-guarding gods

Ἀρά τ᾽ Ἐρινὺς πατρὸς ἡ μεγασθενής,
Curse and Erinys of-father the mighty

μή μοι πόλιν γε πρυμνόθεν πανώλεθρον
not my city at-least root-and-branch utterly-destroyed
ἐκθαμνίσητε δῃάλωτον, Ἑλλάδος
uproot captured of-Hellas
φθόγγον χέουσαν, καὶ δόμους ἐφεστίους·
voice pouring and homes hearth-holding
ἐλευθέραν δὲ γῆν τε καὶ Κάδμου πόλιν
free but land both and of-Cadmus city
ζυγοῖσι δουλίοισι μήποτε σχεθεῖν·
in-yokes slavish never to-hold
γένεσθε δ' ἀλκή· ξυνὰ δ' ἐλπίζω λέγειν·
be and strength common but I-hope to-say
πόλις γὰρ εὖ πράσσουσα δαίμονας τίει.
city for well faring the-gods honors
ΧΟΡΟΣ θρέομαι φοβερὰ μεγάλ' ἄχη·
I-cry fearful great griefs
μεθεῖται στρατός· στρατόπεδον λιπὼν
is-let-loose army camp having-left
ῥεῖ πολὺς ὅδε λεὼς πρόδρομος ἱππότας·
flows much this host foremost horseman
αἰθερία κόνις με πείθει φανεῖσ',
airy dust me persuades appearing
ἄναυδος σαφὴς ἔτυμος ἄγγελος.
voiceless clear true messenger
ἔτι δὲ γᾶς ἐμᾶς πεδί' ὁπλόκτυπ' ὠ-
still and of-land my plains weapon-struck to-ear
τὶ χρίμπτει βοάν· ποτᾶται, βρέμει δ'
— approaches cry flies roars and
ἀμαχέτου δίκαν ὕδατος ὀροτύπου.
of-irresistible like water mountain-beating

ἰὼ ἰὼ

oh oh

ἰὼ θεοὶ θεαί τ᾽ ὀρόμενον κακὸν

oh gods goddesses and rising evil

βοᾷ τειχέων ὕπερ ἀλεύσατε.

with-cry walls over ward-off

ὁ λεύκασπις ὄρνυται λαὸς εὐ-

the white-shielded rises host well-equipped

τρεπὴς ἐπὶ πόλιν διώκων. 90

— against city pursuing

τίς ἄρα ῥύσεται, τίς ἄρ᾽ ἐπαρκέσει

who then will-defend who then will-help

θεῶν ἢ θεᾶν;

of-gods or goddesses

πότερα δῆτ᾽ ἐγὼ πάτρια ποτιπέσω

whether then I ancestral should-fall-before

βρέτη δαιμόνων; 95

images of-gods

ἰὼ μάκαρες εὔεδροι,

oh blessed well-throned

ἀκμάζει βρετέων ἔχεσθαι· τί μέλ-

it-is-time images to-cling-to why do-we-delay

λομεν ἀγάστονοι;

— much-groaning

ἀκούετ᾽ ἢ οὐκ ἀκούετ᾽ ἀσπίδων κτύπον; 100

do-you-hear or not do-you-hear of-shields clatter

πέπλων καὶ στεφέων πότ᾽ εἰ μὴ νῦν ἀμ-

of-robes and of-wreaths when if not now around

φὶ λιτάν᾽ ἕξομεν;

— prayer shall-we-hold

κτύπον δέδορκα· πάταγος οὐχ ἑνὸς δορός.
clatter I-see din not of-one spear

τί ῥέξεις; προδώσεις, παλαίχθων
what will-you-do will-you-betray ancient-born

105 Ἄρης, τὰν τεάν;
Ares the your

ἰὼ χρυσοπήληξ δαῖμον, ἔπιδ' ἔπι-
oh golden-helmed god look-upon look-upon

δε πόλιν ἄν ποτ' εὐφιλήταν ἔθου.
— city which once well-loved you-made

II · THE MAIDENS PRAY

The maidens cry to all the gods who hold the city: they hear the clash of shields, the rattle of chariots, and the stones falling on the battlements. They call by name on Zeus, Athena, Poseidon, Ares, Cypris, Apollo Lyceus, Artemis, and Hera not to betray their land to a foreign-tongued army, and beg them to come as defenders.

ΧΟΡΟΣ θεοὶ πολιάοχοι πάντες ἴτε χθονὸς·
gods city-holding all come of-land

110 ἴδετε παρθένων
see of-maidens

ἱκέσιον λόχον δουλοσύνας ὕπερ.
suppliant band slavery against

κῦμα περὶ πτόλιν δοχμολόφων ἀνδρῶν
wave around city of-slant-crested men

115 καχλάζει πνοαῖς Ἄρεος ὀρόμενον.
dashes by-blasts of-Ares stirred

ἀλλ', ὦ Ζεῦ †πάτερ παντελές,
but O Zeus (corrupt)-father all-accomplishing

πάντως ἄρηξον δαΐων ἅλωσιν.
by-all-means ward-off of-foes capture
Ἀργέιοι δὲ πόλισμα Κάδμου
Argives and city of-Cadmus
κυκλοῦνται· φόβος δ' ἀρῆων ὅπλων
encircle terror and of-warlike weapons
δονεῖ, διὰ δέ τοι γενύων ἱππίων
shakes through and surely jaws of-horses
κινύρονται φόνον χαλινοί.
wail slaughter bits
ἑπτὰ δ' ἀγάνορες πρέποντες στρατοῦ
seven and lordly conspicuous of-the-army
δορυσσοΐς σαγαῖς πύλαις ἑβδόμαις
with-spear-brandishing equipment at-gates seventh

***
(lacuna)

προσίστανται πάλῳ λαχόντες.
take-their-stand by-lot having-obtained
σύ τ', ὦ Διογενὲς φιλόμαχον κράτος,
you and O Zeus-born battle-loving might
ῥυσίπολις γενοῦ,
city-saving be
Παλλάς, ὅ θ' ἵππιος ποντομέδων ἄναξ
Pallas the and of-horses sea-ruling lord
ἰχθυβόλῳ Ποσειδάων μαχανᾷ,
with-fish-striking Poseidon device
ἐπίλυσιν φόβων, ἐπίλυσιν δίδου.
release from-fears release grant
σύ τ', Ἄρης, φεῦ, φεῦ, πόλιν ἐπώνυμον
you and Ares alas alas city named

Κάδμου φύλαξον κήδεσαί τ' ἐναργῶς.
of-Cadmus guard care-for and manifestly
καὶ Κύπρις, ἅτ' εἶ γένους προμάτωρ,
and Cypris who are of-race first-mother
ἄλευσον· σέθεν γὰρ ἐξ αἵματος
ward-off of-you for from blood
γεγόναμεν· λιταῖσί σε θεοκλύτοις
we-are-sprung with-prayers you god-calling
ἀυτοῦσαι πελαζόμεσθα.
crying we-approach
καὶ σύ, Λύκει' ἄναξ, Λύκειος γενοῦ
and you Lycean lord Lycean be
στρατῷ δαΐῳ στόνων ἀντίτας.
to-army hostile of-groans requiter
σύ τ', ὦ Λατογένει-
you and O Leto-born
α κούρα, τόξον εὐτυκάζου.
— maiden bow make-ready
ἔ ἔ ἔ ἔ,
eh eh eh eh
ὄτοβον ἁρμάτων ἀμφὶ πόλιν κλύω·
rattle of-chariots around city I-hear
ὦ πότνι' Ἥρα.
O lady Hera
ἔλακον ἀξόνων βριθομένων χνόαι.
shrieked of-axles laden naves
Ἄρτεμι φίλα, ἔ ἔ ἔ ἔ,
Artemis dear eh eh eh eh
δοριτίνακτος αἰθὴρ δ' ἐπιμαίνεται.
spear-brandished air and rages

τί πόλις ἄμμι πάσχει, τί γενήσεται;
what city our suffers what will-happen
ποῖ δ' ἔτι τέλος ἐπάγει θεός;
where and still end brings god
ἒ ἒ ἒ ἔ,
eh eh eh eh
ἀκροβόλων δ' ἐπάλξεων λιθὰς ἔρχεται·
of-far-hurling and battlements stone comes
ὦ φίλ' Ἄπολλον·
O dear Apollo
κόναβος ἐν πύλαις χαλκοδέτων σακέων,
din at gates of-bronze-bound shields
παῖ Διός, ὅθεν
son of-Zeus whence
πολεμόκραντον ἁγνὸν τέλος ἐν μάχᾳ.
war-deciding holy end in battle
σύ τε, μάκαιρ' ἄνασσ' Ὄγκα, πρὸ πόλεως
you and blessed queen Onca before city
ἑπτάπυλον ἕδος ἐπιρρύου.
seven-gated seat protect
ἰὼ παναρκεῖς θεοί,
oh all-powerful gods
ἰὼ τέλειοι τέλειαί τε γᾶς
oh accomplishing-gods accomplishing-goddesses and of-land
τᾶσδε πυργοφύλακες,
of-this tower-guards
πόλιν δορίπονον μὴ προδῶθ'
city spear-toiling not betray
ἑτεροφώνῳ στρατῷ.
to-foreign-tongued army

κλύετε παρθένων κλύετε πανδίκως
hear of-maidens hear justly
χειροτόνους λιτάς.
hand-raised prayers
ἰὼ φίλοι δαίμονες,
oh dear gods
λυτήριοί τ' ἀμφιβάντες πόλιν,
deliverers and encircling city
δείξαθ' ὡς φιλοπόλεις,
show how city-loving-you-are
μέλεσθέ θ' ἱερῶν δημίων,
care-for and of-rites public
μελόμενοι δ' ἀρήξατε·
caring and help
φιλοθύτων δέ τοι πόλεος ὀργίων
of-sacrifice-loving and surely of-city of-rites
μνήστορες ἐστέ μοι.
mindful be for-me

III · ETEOCLES REBUKES THE WOMEN

Eteocles turns on the women as creatures not to be endured: falling at the images of the city's gods and shrieking, they spread panic among the citizens and help the enemy outside. He wishes never to share a house with womankind. What is outside is the men's concern; let the women stay indoors, and any who disobeys will be stoned.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ὑμᾶς ἐρωτῶ, θρέμματ᾽ οὐκ ἀνασχετά,
you I-ask creatures not endurable
ἦ ταῦτ᾽ ἄριστα καὶ πόλει σωτήρια,
— these-things best and for-the-city saving
στρατῷ τε θάρσος τῷδε πυργηρουμένῳ,
for-the-army and courage this being-besieged
βρέτη πεσούσας πρὸς πολισσούχων θεῶν
images having-fallen at of-city-guarding gods
αὔειν, λακάζειν, σωφρόνων μισήματα;
to-shout to-shriek of-the-prudent abominations
μήτ᾽ ἐν κακοῖσι μήτ᾽ ἐν εὐεστοῖ φίλῃ
neither in evils nor in prosperity dear
ξύνοικος εἴην τῷ γυναικείῳ γένει.
housemate may-I-be with-the female race
κρατοῦσα μὲν γὰρ οὐχ ὁμιλητὸν θράσος,
prevailing indeed for not sociable boldness
δείσασα δ᾽ οἴκῳ καὶ πόλει πλέον κακόν.
fearing and for-house and for-city more evil
καὶ νῦν πολίταις τάσδε διαδρόμους φυγὰς
and now for-the-citizens these running-about flights
θεῖσαι διερροθήσατ᾽ ἄψυχον κάκην·
having-made you-spread-the-rumor spiritless cowardice
τὰ τῶν θύραθεν δ᾽ ὡς ἄριστ᾽ ὀφέλλεται,
the of-the outside and as best are-furthered

αὐτοὶ δ' ὑπ' αὐτῶν ἔνδοθεν πορθούμεθα.
we and by ourselves from-within are-sacked
τοιαῦτά τἂν γυναιξὶ συνναίων ἔχοις.
such-things surely with-women living-with would-have
κεἰ μή τις ἀρχῆς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀκούσεται,
and-if not anyone authority the my will-heed
ἀνὴρ γυνή τε χὤ τι τῶν μεταίχμιον,
man woman and and-what any of-them in-between
ψῆφος κατ' αὐτῶν ὀλεθρία βουλεύσεται,
vote against them deadly will-be-decided
λευστῆρα δήμου δ' οὔ τι μὴ φύγῃ μόρον.
stoning by-the-people and not at-all — shall-be-escape doom
μέλει γὰρ ἀνδρί, μὴ γυνὴ βουλευέτω,
it-concerns for man not woman let-her-counsel
τἄξωθεν· ἔνδον δ' οὖσα μὴ βλάβην τίθει.
the-things-outside within and being not harm cause
ἤκουσας ἢ οὐκ ἤκουσας, ἢ κωφῇ λέγω;
did-you-hear or not did-you-hear or to-deaf-one do-I-speak

IV · THE HELMSMAN AND THE STORM

In a sung exchange the maidens explain that they ran to the ancient images in terror at the din of chariots and the roar at the gates. Eteocles answers that a sailor in a storm does not flee from the stern to the prow, that the gods are said to desert a captured city, and that obedience is the mother of success. He bids them be calm and leave the gods' business to the men.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ φίλον Οἰδίπου τέκος, ἔδεισ' ἀκού-
O dear of-Oedipus child I-feared hearing
σασα τὸν ἁρματόκτυπον ὄτοβον ὄτοβον,
— the chariot-rattling din din
ὅτε τε σύριγγες ἔκλαγξαν ἑλίτροχοι,
when and pipes clanged wheel-rolling
ἱππικῶν τ' ἄπυον πηδαλίων διὰ στόμα
of-horses and cried-out rudders through mouth
πυριγενετᾶν χαλινῶν.
of-fire-forged bits
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ τί οὖν; ὁ ναύτης ἆρα μὴ 's πρῷραν φυγὼν
what then the sailor — not to prow fleeing
πρύμνηθεν ηὗρε μηχανὴν σωτηρίας,
from-stern found means of-safety
νεὼς καμούσης ποντίῳ πρὸς κύματι;
of-ship laboring sea at wave
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' ἐπὶ δαιμόνων πρόδρομος ἦλθον ἀρ-
but to of-gods having-run-before I-came ancient
χαῖα βρέτη, θεοῖσι πίσυνος, νιφάδος
— images in-gods trusting of-snow-storm
ὅτ' ὀλοᾶς νειφομένας βρόμος ἐν πύλαις·
when of-deadly snowing roar at gates

δὴ τότ᾽ ἤρθην φόβῳ πρὸς μακάρων λιτάς, πόλεως
indeed then I-was-roused by-fear to of-blessed prayers of-city
ἵν᾽ ὑπερέχοιεν ἀλκάν.
that they-might-hold-over strength
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ πύργον στέγειν εὔχεσθε πολέμιον δόρυ.
tower to-keep-off pray hostile spear
οὐκοῦν τάδ᾽ ἔσται πρὸς θεῶν· ἀλλ᾽ οὖν θεοὺς
then these will-be from gods but then gods
τοὺς τῆς ἁλούσης πόλεος ἐκλείπειν λόγος.
the of-the captured city to-desert report
ΧΟΡΟΣ μήποτ᾽ ἐμὸν κατ᾽ αἰῶνα λίποι θεῶν
never my in life may-it-leave of-gods
ἕδε πανάγυρις, μηδ᾽ ἐπίδοιμι τάνδ᾽
this assembly nor may-I-see this
ἀστυδρομουμέναν πόλιν καὶ στράτευμ᾽
overrun city and army
ἁπτόμενον πυρὶ δαΐῳ.
touched by-fire hostile
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ μή μοι θεοὺς καλοῦσα βουλεύου κακῶς·
not me gods calling counsel badly
πειθαρχία γάρ ἐστι τῆς εὐπραξίας
obedience for is of-the success
μήτηρ, γυνὴ σωτῆρος· ὧδ᾽ ἔχει λόγος.
mother wife of-savior thus has saying
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔστι· θεοῦ δ᾽ ἔτ᾽ ἰσχὺς καθυπερτέρα·
it-is of-god but still strength superior
πολλάκι δ᾽ ἐν κακοῖσι τὸν ἀμάχανον
often and in evils the helpless
κἀκ χαλεπᾶς δύας ὕπερθ᾽ ὀμμάτων
and-from grievous pain above eyes

κρημναμενᾶν νεφελᾶν ὀρθοῖ.
of-hanging clouds sets-upright

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ἀνδρῶν τάδ' ἐστί, σφάγια καὶ χρηστήρια
of-men these are sacrifices and offerings

θεοῖσιν ἔρδειν πολεμίων πειρωμένους·
to-gods to-perform enemies testing

σὸν δ' αὖ τὸ σιγᾶν καὶ μένειν εἴσω δόμων.
your and in-turn the to-be-silent and to-stay within house

ΧΟΡΟΣ διὰ θεῶν πόλιν νεμόμεθ' ἀδάματον,
through gods city we-hold unconquered

δυσμενέων δ' ὄχλον πύργος ἀποστέγει.
of-foes and throng tower keeps-off

τίς τάδε νέμεσις στυγεῖ;
what at-this nemesis hates

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ οὔτοι φθονῶ σοι δαιμόνων τιμᾶν γένος·
surely-not I-grudge you of-gods to-honor race

ἀλλ' ὡς πολίτας μὴ κακοσπλάγχνους τιθῇς,
but so-that citizens not faint-hearted you-make

εὔκηλος ἴσθι μηδ' ἄγαν ὑπερφοβοῦ.
calm be nor too-much be-afraid

ΧΟΡΟΣ ποτίφατον κλύουσα πάταγον ἀνάμιγα
newly-spoken hearing clatter confused

ταρβοσύνῳ φόβῳ τάνδ' ἐς ἀκρόπτολιν,
with-fearful fear this to acropolis

τίμιον ἕδος, ἱκόμαν.
honored seat I-came

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ μή νυν, ἐὰν θνῄσκοντας ἢ τετρωμένους
not now if dying or wounded

πύθησθε, κωκυτοῖσιν ἁρπαλίζετε.
you-hear with-wailings snatch-at
τούτῳ γὰρ Ἄρης βόσκεται, φόνῳ βροτῶν.
on-this for Ares feeds on-slaughter of-mortals

V · ETEOCLES' VOW

The maidens hear the snorting of horses and the city groaning; Eteocles demands silence, and they agree to suffer what is fated with the rest. He bids them pray properly and raise the Greek cry of sacrifice, and he vows to bloody the gods' hearths with sheep and to hang the enemy's spoils as trophies if Thebes is saved. Then he goes to post six men and himself as the seventh at the gates.

245 ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ἀκούω γ' ἱππικῶν φρυαγμάτων.
and indeed I-hear at-least of-horses snortings
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ μή νυν ἀκούουσ' ἐμφανῶς ἄκου' ἄγαν.
not now hearing clearly hear too-much
ΧΟΡΟΣ στένει πόλισμα γῆθεν, ὡς κυκλουμένων.
groans city from-earth as being-surrounded
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ οὐκοῦν ἔμ' ἀρκεῖ τῶνδε βουλεύειν πέρι.
then me suffices of-these to-plan about
ΧΟΡΟΣ δέδοικ', ἀραγμὸς δ' ἐν πύλαις ὀφέλλεται.
I-fear clatter and at gates increases
250 ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ οὐ σῖγα μηδὲν τῶνδ' ἐρεῖς κατὰ πτόλιν;
not silence nothing of-these will-you-say throughout city
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ ξυντέλεια, μὴ προδῷς πυργώματα.
O fellowship not betray towers
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ οὐκ ἐς φθόρον σιγῶσ' ἀνασχήσῃ τάδε;
not to destruction in-silence will-you-endure these
ΧΟΡΟΣ θεοὶ πολῖται, μή με δουλείας τυχεῖν.
gods citizens not me of-slavery to-get

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ αὐτὴ σὺ δουλοῖς κἀμὲ καὶ πᾶσαν πόλιν.
yourself you enslave and-me and all city

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ παγκρατὲς Ζεῦ, τρέψον εἰς ἐχθροὺς βέλος. 255
O all-powerful Zeus turn against enemies shaft

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ὦ Ζεῦ, γυναικῶν οἷον ὤπασας γένος.
O Zeus of-women what you-gave race

ΧΟΡΟΣ μοχθηρόν, ὥσπερ ἄνδρας ὧν ἁλῷ πόλις.
troublesome just-as men whose is-taken city

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ παλινστομεῖς αὖ θιγγάνουσ' ἀγαλμάτων;
you-cry-back again touching images

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀψυχίᾳ γὰρ γλῶσσαν ἁρπάζει φόβος.
from-faintness for tongue seizes fear

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ αἰτουμένῳ μοι κοῦφον εἰ δοίης τέλος. 260
asking for-me light if you-would-give completion

ΧΟΡΟΣ λέγοις ἂν ὡς τάχιστα, καὶ τάχ' εἴσομαι.
you-may-speak — as quickest and soon I-shall-know

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ σίγησον, ὦ τάλαινα, μὴ φίλους φόβει.
be-silent O wretched not friends frighten

ΧΟΡΟΣ σιγῶ· σὺν ἄλλοις πείσομαι τὸ μόρσιμον.
I-am-silent with others I-shall-suffer the fated

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ τοῦτ' ἀντ' ἐκείνων τοὔπος αἱροῦμαι σέθεν.
this instead-of those the-word I-choose from-you

καὶ πρός γε τούτοις, ἐκτὸς οὖσ' ἀγαλμάτων, 265
and besides at-least these outside being images

εὔχου τὰ κρείσσω, ξυμμάχους εἶναι θεούς·
pray the better allies to-be gods

κἀμῶν ἀκούσασ' εὐγμάτων, ἔπειτα σὺ
and-my having-heard prayers then you

ὀλολυγμὸν ἱερὸν εὐμενῆ παιώνισον,
cry sacred propitious raise-the-paean

Ἑλληνικὸν νόμισμα θυστάδος βοῆς,
Greek custom of-sacrificial cry
θάρσος φίλοις, λύουσα πολέμιον φόβον.
courage to-friends loosing hostile fear
ἐγὼ δὲ χώρας τοῖς πολισσούχοις θεοῖς,
I and of-land to-the city-guarding gods
πεδιονόμοις τε καὐγορᾶς ἐπισκόποις,
plain-ruling and and-of-market overseers
Δίρκης τε πηγαῖς, ὕδατί τ' Ἰσμηνοῦ λέγω
of-Dirce and springs to-water and of-Ismenus I-say
εὖ ξυντυχόντων καὶ πόλεως σεσωμένης,
well turning-out and city being-saved
μήλοισιν αἱμάσσοντας ἑστίας θεῶν,
with-sheep bloodying hearths of-gods
θύσειν τροπαῖα, δαΐων δ' ἐσθήματα,
to-sacrifice trophies of-foes and robes
στέψω λάφυρα δουρίπληχθ' ἁγνοῖς δόμοις.
I-will-hang spoils spear-struck in-holy halls
τοιαῦτ' ἐπεύχου μὴ φιλοστόνως θεοῖς,
such-things pray not lamentingly to-gods
μηδ' ἐν ματαίοις καὐγρίοις ποιφύγμασιν·
nor in vain and-wild pantings
οὐ γάρ τι μᾶλλον μὴ φύγῃς τὸ μόρσιμον.
not for at-all more — you-will-escape the fated
ἐγὼ δέ γ' ἄνδρας ἓξ ἐμοὶ σὺν ἑβδόμῳ
I and indeed men six me with seventh
ἀντηρέτας ἐχθροῖσι τὸν μέγαν τρόπον
opponents to-the-enemies the great manner
εἰς ἑπτατειχεῖς ἐξόδους τάξω μολών,
at seven-walled exits I-will-station having-gone

πρὶν ἀγγέλους σπερχνούς τε καὶ ταχυρρόθους
before messengers hasty both and swift-running
λόγους ἱκέσθαι καὶ φλέγειν χρείας ὕπο.
words to-come and to-blaze necessity under

VI · THE FEARS OF A CAPTURED CITY

The maidens' fear will not sleep: they tremble like a dove for its nestlings before a snake. They pray the gods to send panic on the attackers, and imagine the sack of the city: the town burned and plundered, young and old women dragged by the hair, brides led off before their marriage, children crying, and the fruits of the earth spilled on the ground.

ΧΟΡΟΣ μέλει, φόβῳ δ' οὐχ ὑπνώσσει κέαρ·
I-care from-fear but not sleeps heart
γείτονες δὲ καρδίας
neighbors and of-heart
μέριμναι ζωπυροῦσι τάρβος
cares kindle dread
τὸν ἀμφιτειχῆ λεών,
the around-the-walls host
δράκοντας ὥς τις τέκνων
serpents as some of-young
ὑπερδέδοικεν λεχαίων δυσευνάτορας
fears-exceedingly of-the-nest evil-bedfellows
πάντρομος πελειάς.
all-trembling dove
τοὶ μὲν γὰρ ποτὶ πύργους
they indeed for toward towers
πανδαμεὶ πανομιλεὶ
in-full-force in-full-throng

στείχουσιν. τί γένωμαι;
advance what may-I-become
τοὶ δ' ἐπ' ἀμφιβόλοισιν
they and on encompassed
ἰάπτουσι πολίταις
hurl citizens
χερμάδ' ὀκριόεσσαν.
stone jagged
παντὶ τρόπῳ, Διογενεῖς
in-every way Zeus-born
θεοί, πόλιν καὶ στρατὸν
gods city and army
Καδμογενῆ ῥύεσθε.
Cadmus-born defend
ποῖον δ' ἀμείψεσθε γαίας πέδον
what and will-you-take-in-exchange of-land plain
τᾶσδ' ἄρειον, ἐχθροῖς
than-this better to-enemies
ἀφέντες τὰν βαθύχθον' αἶαν,
having-left the deep-soiled land
ὕδωρ τε Διρκαῖον, εὐ-
water and of-Dirce best-nourishing
τραφέστατον πωμάτων
— *of-drinks*
ὅσων ἵησιν Ποσει-
of-all-that sends Poseidon
δᾶν ὁ γαιάοχος
— *the earth-holder*
Τηθύος τε παῖδες.
of-Tethys and children

πρὸς τάδ', ὦ πολιοῦχοι
for this O city-guarding
θεοί, τοῖσι μὲν ἔξω
gods to-those indeed outside
πύργων ἀνδρολέτειραν
of-towers man-slaying
κῆρα, ῥίψοπλον ἄταν,
fate arms-casting ruin
ἐμβαλόντες ἄροισθε
having-cast-in may-you-win
κῦδος τοῖσδε πολίταις.
glory for-these citizens
καὶ πόλεως ῥύτορες ἔστ'
and of-city saviors be
εὔεδροί τε στάθητ'
well-throned and stand
ὀξυγόοις λιταῖσιν.
at-shrill-wailing prayers
οἰκτρὸν γὰρ πόλιν ὧδ' ὠγυγίαν
pitiable for city thus ancient
Ἀΐδᾳ προϊάψαι, δορὸς ἄγραν
to-Hades to-hurl-forth of-spear prey
δουλίαν ψαφαρᾷ σποδῷ
slavish in-crumbling ash
ὑπ' ἀνδρὸς Ἀχαιοῦ θεόθεν
by man Achaean by-god's-will
περθομέναν ἀτίμως,
sacked dishonorably
τὰς δὲ κεχειρωμένας ἄγεσθαι,
the and having-been-conquered to-be-led

ἒ ἔ, νέας τε καὶ παλαιὰς
eh eh young both and old
ἱππηδὸν πλοκάμων, περιρ-
like-horses by-hair rent-around
ρηγνυμένων φαρέων. βοᾷ
— *robes cries*
δ' ἐκκενουμένα πόλις,
and being-emptied city
λαΐδος ὀλλυμένας μιξοθρόου·
of-booty perishing of-mixed-cries
βαρείας τοι τύχας προταρβῶ.
heavy surely fortunes I-fear-beforehand
κλαυτὸν δ' ἀρτιτρόποις ὠμοδρόποις
lamentable and untimely-plucked raw-plucked
νομίμων προπάροιθεν διαμεῖψαι
of-customs before to-pass
δωμάτων στυγερὰν ὁδόν·
of-homes hateful journey
τί; τὸν φθίμενον γὰρ προλέγω
what the dead for I-say-beforehand
βέλτερα τῶνδε πράσσειν·
better than-these to-fare
πολλὰ γάρ, εὖτε πτόλις δαμασθῇ,
many-things for when city is-subdued
ἒ ἔ, δυστυχῆ τε πράσσει.
eh eh unfortunate and it-suffers
ἄλλος δ' ἄλλον ἄγει, φονεύ-
one and another carries-off slays
ει, τὰ δὲ πυρφορεῖ· καπνῷ
— *the and sets-fire with-smoke*

χραίνεται πόλισμ᾽ ἅπαν·
is-stained city all
μαινόμενος δ᾽ ἐπιπνεῖ λαοδάμας
raging and breathes-upon people-subduing
μιαίνων εὐσέβειαν Ἄρης.
defiling piety Ares
κορκορυγαὶ δ᾽ ἀν᾽ ἄστυ, προτὶ δ᾽ ὁρκάνα
uproars and up town toward and net
πυργῶτις· πρὸς ἀνδρὸς δ᾽ ἀνὴρ
towering by man and man
ἀμφὶ δορὶ κλίνεται·
by spear is-laid-low
βλαχαὶ δ᾽ αἱματόεσσαι
bleatings and bloody
τῶν ἐπιμαστιδίων
of-the at-the-breast
ἀρτιτρεφεῖς βρέμονται.
newly-nursed resound
ἁρπαγαὶ δὲ διαδρομᾶν ὁμαίμονες·
plunderings and of-rushings kin
ξυμβολεῖ φέρων φέροντι,
meets carrying with-one-carrying
καὶ κενὸς κενὸν καλεῖ,
and empty empty calls
ξύννομον θέλων ἔχειν,
partner wishing to-have
οὔτε μεῖον οὔτ᾽ ἴσον λελιμμένοι.
neither less nor equal longing
τἀκ τῶνδ᾽ εἰκάσαι λόγος πάρα.
the-things-from these to-guess reason is-possible

παντοδαπὸς δὲ καρπὸς χαμάδις πεσὼν
all-kinds and produce on-the-ground fallen
ἀλγύνει κυρήσας· πικρὸν δ'
pains meeting bitter and
ὄμμα θαλαμηπόλων·
eye of-housekeepers
πολλὰ δ' ἀκριτόφυρτος
much and indiscriminately-mixed
γᾶς δόσις οὐτιδανοῖς
of-earth gift worthless
ἐν ῥοθίοις φορεῖται.
in streams is-borne
δμωίδες δὲ καινοπήμονες νέαι·
handmaids and new-to-woe young
τλάμον' εὐνὰν αἰχμάλωτον
wretched bed captive
ἀνδρὸς εὐτυχοῦντος ὡς
of-man prospering as
δυσμενοῦς ὑπερτέρου
of-hostile superior
ἐλπίς ἐστι νύκτερον τέλος μολεῖν,
hope is nocturnal end to-come
παγκλαύτων ἀλγέων ἐπίρροθον.
of-all-lamented woes helper

VII · TYDEUS AT THE PROETID GATES

The scout returns, and Eteocles hurries in. Tydeus rages at the Proetid gates, held back only because the seer forbids him to cross the Ismenus; on his shield is the night sky with its stars and the full moon. Eteocles answers that devices do not wound, and that the night on the shield may foretell the night of death for its bearer. Against him he sets Melanippus, son of Astacus, of the race of the Sown Men.

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ ὅ τοι κατόπτης, ὡς ἐμοὶ δοκεῖ, στρατοῦ
the surely spy as to-me seems of-the-army
πευθώ τιν᾽ ἡμῖν, ὦ φίλαι, νέαν φέρει,
news some to-us O friends new brings
σπουδῇ διώκων πομπίμους χνόας ποδῶν.
with-haste plying guiding naves of-feet
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ καὶ μὴν ἄναξ ὅδ᾽ αὐτὸς Οἰδίπου τόκος
and indeed lord this himself of-Oedipus son
εἰς ἀρτίκολλον ἀγγέλου λόγον μαθεῖν·
to the-timely of-messenger word to-learn
σπουδὴ δὲ καὶ τοῦδ᾽ οὐκ ἀπαρτίζει πόδα.
haste and also of-him not keeps-even foot
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ λέγοιμ᾽ ἂν εἰδὼς εὖ τὰ τῶν ἐναντίων,
I-would-tell — knowing well the-things of-the opponents
ὥς τ᾽ ἐν πύλαις ἕκαστος εἴληχεν πάλον.
how and at gates each has-obtained lot
Τυδεὺς μὲν ἤδη πρὸς πύλαισι Προιτίσιν
Tydeus indeed already at gates Proetid
βρέμει, πόρον δ᾽ Ἰσμηνὸν οὐκ ἐᾷ περᾶν
roars ford and Ismenus not allows to-cross
ὁ μάντις· οὐ γὰρ σφάγια γίγνεται καλά.
the prophet not for sacrifices become fair

Τυδεὺς δὲ μαργῶν καὶ μάχης λελιμμένος
Tydeus and raging and for-battle eager
μεσημβριναῖς κλαγγαῖσιν ὡς δράκων βοᾷ·
at-noonday with-clangs like serpent shouts
θείνει δ' ὀνείδει μάντιν Οἰκλείδην σοφόν,
strikes and with-reproach seer son-of-Oicles wise
σαίνειν μόρον τε καὶ μάχην ἀψυχίᾳ.
to-fawn-on doom both and battle from-cowardice
τοιαῦτ' ἀυτῶν τρεῖς κατασκίους λόφους
such-things shouting three shadowy crests
σείει, κράνους χαίτωμ', ὑπ' ἀσπίδος δ' ἔσω
shakes of-helmet mane under shield and inside
χαλκήλατοι κλάζουσι κώδωνες φόβον·
bronze-forged clang bells terror
ἔχει δ' ὑπέρφρον σῆμ' ἐπ' ἀσπίδος τόδε,
he-has and arrogant device on shield this
φλέγονθ' ὑπ' ἄστροις οὐρανὸν τετυγμένον·
blazing with stars heaven wrought
λαμπρὰ δὲ πανσέληνος ἐν μέσῳ σάκει,
bright and full-moon in middle shield
πρέσβιστον ἄστρων, νυκτὸς ὀφθαλμός, πρέπει.
oldest of-stars of-night eye stands-out
τοιαῦτ' ἀλύων ταῖς ὑπερκόμποις σαγαῖς
such-things raving in-the boastful trappings
βοᾷ παρ' ὄχθαις ποταμίαις, μάχης ἐρῶν,
he-shouts by banks river for-battle longing
ἵππος χαλινῶν ὡς κατασθμαίνων μένει,
horse of-bits as panting waits
ὅστις βοὴν σάλπιγγος ὁρμαίνει μένων.
which shout of-trumpet chafes waiting

τίν᾽ ἀντιτάξεις τῷδε; τίς Προίτου πυλῶν
whom will-you-set-against him who of-Proetus of-gates
κληῖθρων λυθέντων προστατεῖν φερέγγυος;
bolts being-loosed to-stand-before trustworthy
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ κόσμον μὲν ἀνδρὸς οὔτιν᾽ ἂν τρέσαιμ᾽ ἐγώ,
adornment indeed of-man no — would-fear I
οὐδ᾽ ἑλκοποιὰ γίγνεται τὰ σήματα·
nor wound-making become the devices
λόφοι δὲ κώδων τ᾽ οὐ δάκνουσ᾽ ἄνευ δορός.
crests and bell and not bite without spear
καὶ νύκτα ταύτην ἣν λέγεις ἐπ᾽ ἀσπίδος
and night this which you-speak-of on shield
ἄστροισι μαρμαίρουσαν οὐρανοῦ κυρεῖν,
with-stars gleaming of-heaven to-be
τάχ᾽ ἂν γένοιτο μάντις ἡ ἀνοία τινί.
perhaps — might-become prophet the folly to-someone
εἰ γὰρ θανόντι νὺξ ἐπ᾽ ὀφθαλμοῖς πέσοι,
if for to-him-dead night on eyes should-fall
τῷ τοι φέροντι σῆμ᾽ ὑπέρκομπον τόδε
for-the surely bearing device boastful this
γένοιτ᾽ ἂν ὀρθῶς ἐνδίκως τ᾽ ἐπώνυμον,
would-be — rightly justly and named
καὐτὸς καθ᾽ αὑτοῦ τήνδ᾽ ὕβριν μαντεύσεται.
and-himself against himself this insolence will-prophesy
ἐγὼ δὲ Τυδεῖ κεδνὸν Ἀστακοῦ τόκον
I and to-Tydeus trusty of-Astacus son
τῶνδ᾽ ἀντιτάξω προστάτην πυλωμάτων,
of-these will-set-against defender of-gates
μάλ᾽ εὐγενῆ τε καὶ τὸν Αἰσχύνης θρόνον
very well-born both and the of-Modesty throne

τιμῶντα καὶ στυγοῦνθ' ὑπέρφρονας λόγους.
honoring and hating arrogant words
αἰσχρῶν γὰρ ἀργός, μὴ κακὸς δ' εἶναι φιλεῖ.
of-shameful-things for idle not base and to-be is-wont
σπαρτῶν δ' ἀπ' ἀνδρῶν, ὧν Ἄρης ἐφείσατο,
of-the-sown and from men whom Ares spared
ῥίζωμ' ἀνεῖται, κάρτα δ' ἔστ' ἐγχώριος,
the-root is-sprung very and he-is native
Μελάνιππος· ἔργον δ' ἐν κύβοις Ἄρης κρινεῖ·
Melanippus the-work and in dice Ares will-decide
Δίκη δ' ὁμαίμων κάρτα νιν προστέλλεται
Justice and kin very him sends-forth
εἴργειν τεκούσῃ μητρὶ πολέμιον δόρυ.
to-ward-off from-the-bearing mother hostile spear

VIII · FIVE CHAMPIONS AT FIVE GATES

The scout names the champions gate by gate, and Eteocles answers each: Capaneus, who boasts he will burn the city, meets Polyphontes; Eteoclus meets Megareus; Hippomedon, his shield showing Typhon, meets Hyperbius, whose shield bears Zeus; Parthenopaeus meets Actor. Against the seer Amphiaraus, who wishes not to seem but to be the best, Eteocles sets Lasthenes. The maidens pray between the speeches.

ΧΟΡΟΣ τὸν ἁμόν νυν ἀντίπαλον εὐτυχεῖν
the my now champion to-prosper
θεοὶ δοῖεν, ὡς δικαίως πόλεως
gods may-grant since justly of-city
πρόμαχος ὄρνυται· τρέμω δ' αἱματη-
champion rises I-tremble and bloody
φόρους μόρους ὑπὲρ φίλων
— *dooms for friends*

ὀλομένων ἰδέσθαι.
perishing to-see

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τούτῳ μὲν οὕτως εὐτυχεῖν δοῖεν θεοί·
to-him indeed thus to-prosper may-grant gods

Καπανεὺς δ' ἐπ' Ἠλέκτραισιν εἵληχεν πύλαις,
Capaneus and at Electran has-obtained gates

γίγας ὅδ' ἄλλος τοῦ πάρος λελεγμένου
giant this another than-the before described

μείζων, ὁ κόμπος δ' οὐ κατ' ἄνθρωπον φρονεῖ,
greater the boast and not as-befits man he-thinks

πύργοις δ' ἀπειλεῖ δείν', ἃ μὴ κραίνοι τύχη·
towers and threatens terrible-things which not may-fulfill fortune

θεοῦ τε γὰρ θέλοντος ἐκπέρσειν πόλιν
of-god both for willing to-sack city

καὶ μὴ θέλοντός φησιν, οὐδὲ τὴν Διὸς
and not willing he-says nor the of-Zeus

ἔριν πέδοι σκήψασαν ἐμποδὼν σχεθεῖν.
strife on-the-ground falling in-the-way to-check

τὰς δ' ἀστραπάς τε καὶ κεραυνίους βολὰς
the and lightnings both and thunder shafts

μεσημβρινοῖσι θάλπεσιν προσήκασεν·
to-noonday heats he-likened

ἔχει δὲ σῆμα γυμνὸν ἄνδρα πυρφόρον,
he-has and device naked man fire-bearing

φλέγει δὲ λαμπὰς διὰ χερῶν ὡπλισμένη·
blazes and torch in hands armed

χρυσοῖς δὲ φωνεῖ γράμμασιν "πρήσω πόλιν."
in-golden and says letters I-will-burn city

τοιῷδε φωτὶ πέμπε — τίς ξυστήσεται,
to-such man send who will-meet-him

τίς ἄνδρα κομπάζοντα μὴ τρέσας μενεῖ;
who man boasting not fearing will-stand

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ καὶ τῷδε κέρδει κέρδος ἄλλο τίκτεται.
and with-this gain gain other is-born

τῶν τοι ματαίων ἀνδράσιν φρονημάτων
of-the surely vain for-men thoughts

ἡ γλῶσσ' ἀληθὴς γίγνεται κατήγορος·
the tongue true becomes accuser

Καπανεὺς δ' ἀπειλεῖ, δρᾶν παρεσκευασμένος,
Capaneus and threatens to-do prepared

θεοὺς ἀτίζων, κἀπογυμνάζων στόμα
gods dishonoring and-exercising mouth

χαρᾷ ματαίᾳ θνητὸς ὢν εἰς οὐρανὸν
with-joy vain mortal being to heaven

πέμπει γεγωνὰ Ζηνὶ κυμαίνοντ' ἔπη·
sends loud to-Zeus surging words

πέποιθα δ' αὐτῷ ξὺν δίκῃ τὸν πυρφόρον
I-trust and to-him with justice the fire-bearing

ἥξειν κεραυνόν, οὐδὲν ἐξῃκασμένον
to-come thunderbolt nothing likened

μεσημβρινοῖσι θάλπεσιν τοῖς ἡλίου.
to-noonday heats of-the sun

ἀνὴρ δ' ἐπ' αὐτῷ, κεἰ στόμαργός ἐστ' ἄγαν,
man and against him even-if loud-mouthed he-is too-much

αἴθων τέτακται λῆμα, Πολυφόντου βία,
fiery is-stationed spirit of-Polyphontes might

φερέγγυον φρούρημα, προστατηρίας
trusty guard of-protection

Ἀρτέμιδος εὐνοίαισι σύν τ' ἄλλοις θεοῖς.
of-Artemis good-will with and other gods

λέγ᾽ ἄλλον ἄλλαις ἐν πύλαις εἰληχότα.
tell another other at gates having-obtained

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὄλοιθ᾽ ὃς πόλει μεγάλ᾽ ἐπεύχεται,
may-he-perish who against-city great-things vaunts

κεραυνοῦ δέ νιν βέλος ἐπισχέθοι,
of-thunderbolt and him shaft may-check

πρὶν ἐμὸν ἐσθορεῖν δόμον, πωλικῶν
before my to-leap-into house maidenly

θ᾽ ἑδωλίων ὑπερκόπῳ
and chambers with-arrogant

δορί ποτ᾽ ἐκλαπάξαι.
with-spear ever to-sack

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ καὶ μὴν τὸν ἐντεῦθεν λαχόντα πρὸς πύλαις
and indeed the next having-obtained at gates

λέξω· τρίτῳ γὰρ Ἐτεόκλῳ τρίτος πάλος
I-will-tell to-third for Eteoclus third lot

ἐξ ὑπτίου ᾽πήδησεν εὐχάλκου κράνους,
from upturned leaped well-bronzed helmet

πύλαισι Νηίστῃσι προσβαλεῖν λόχον.
at-gates Neistan to-hurl company

ἵππους δ᾽ ἐν ἀμπυκτῆρσιν ἐμβριμωμένας
mares and in frontlets snorting

δινεῖ, θελούσας πρὸς πύλαις πεπτωκέναι.
he-wheels wishing at gates to-fall

φιμοὶ δὲ συρίζουσι βάρβαρον τρόπον,
muzzles and whistle barbarous fashion

μυκτηροκόμποις πνεύμασιν πληρούμενοι.
with-nostril-boasting breaths filled

ἐσχημάτισται δ᾽ ἀσπὶς οὐ σμικρὸν τρόπον·
is-fashioned and shield not small fashion

ἀνὴρ ὁπλίτης κλίμακος προσαμβάσεις
man armed of-ladder rungs
στείχει πρὸς ἐχθρῶν πύργον, ἐκπέρσαι θέλων.
climbs to of-enemies tower to-sack wishing
βοᾷ δὲ χοὗτος γραμμάτων ἐν ξυλλαβαῖς,
shouts and and-he of-letters in syllables
ὡς οὐδ' ἂν Ἄρης σφ' ἐκβάλοι πυργωμάτων.
that not-even — Ares him would-cast-out from-towers
καὶ τῷδε φωτὶ πέμπε τὸν φερέγγυον
and to-this man send the trustworthy
πόλεως ἀπείργειν τῆσδε δούλιον ζυγόν.
of-city to-keep-off this slavish yoke
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ πέμποιμ' ἂν ἤδη τόνδε, σὺν τύχῃ δέ τῳ·
I-would-send — already this-one with fortune and some
καὶ δὴ πέπεμπται κόμπον ἐν χεροῖν ἔχων,
and indeed he-is-sent boast in hands having
Μεγαρεύς, Κρέοντος σπέρμα τοῦ σπαρτῶν γένους,
Megareus of-Creon seed of-the of-the-sown race
ὃς οὔτι μάργων ἱππικῶν φρυαγμάτων
who not-at-all of-raging horse snortings
βρόμον φοβηθεὶς ἐκ πυλῶν χωρήσεται,
din fearing from gates will-retreat
ἀλλ' ἢ θανὼν τροφεῖα πληρώσει χθονί,
but either dying nurture will-repay to-land
ἢ καὶ δύ' ἄνδρε καὶ πόλισμ' ἐπ' ἀσπίδος
or both two men and city on shield
ἑλὼν λαφύροις δῶμα κοσμήσει πατρός.
taking with-spoils house will-adorn of-father
κόμπαζ' ἐπ' ἄλλῳ, μηδέ μοι φθόνει λέγων.
boast at another nor to-me grudge telling

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐπεύχομαι τῷδε μὲν εὐτυχεῖν, ἰὼ
I-pray for-him indeed to-prosper oh
πρόμαχ' ἐμῶν δόμων, τοῖσι δὲ δυστυχεῖν.
champion of-my house for-them and to-fare-ill
ὡς δ' ὑπέραυχα βάζουσιν ἐπὶ πτόλει
as and arrogantly they-speak against city
μαινομένᾳ φρενί, τώς νιν
with-raging mind so them
Ζεὺς νεμέτωρ ἐπίδοι κοταίνων.
Zeus avenger may-look-upon in-wrath
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τέταρτος ἄλλος, γείτονας πύλας ἔχων
fourth another neighboring gates having
Ὄγκας Ἀθάνας, ξὺν βοῇ παρίσταται,
of-Onca Athena with shout stands-beside
Ἱππομέδοντος σχῆμα καὶ μέγας τύπος·
of-Hippomedon form and great figure
ἅλω δὲ πολλήν, ἀσπίδος κύκλον λέγω,
threshing-floor and huge of-shield circle I-mean
ἔφριξα δινήσαντος· οὐκ ἄλλως ἐρῶ.
I-shuddered him-whirling not otherwise will-I-say
ὁ σηματουργὸς δ' οὔ τις εὐτελὴς ἄρ' ἦν
the device-maker and not any cheap then was
ὅστις τόδ' ἔργον ὤπασεν πρὸς ἀσπίδι,
who this work gave on shield
Τυφῶν' ἱέντα πύρπνοον διὰ στόμα
Typhon sending-forth fire-breathing through mouth
λιγνὺν μέλαιναν, αἰόλην πυρὸς κάσιν·
smoke black flickering of-fire sister
ὄφεων δὲ πλεκτάναισι περίδρομον κύτος
of-serpents and with-coils encircled rim

προσηδάφισται κοιλογάστορος κύκλου.
is-bolted-on of-hollow-bellied circle
αὐτὸς δ' ἐπηλάλαξεν, ἔνθεος δ' Ἄρει
himself and raised-the-war-cry possessed and by-Ares
βακχᾷ πρὸς ἀλκὴν Θυιὰς ὡς φόβον βλέπων.
he-raves to battle Thyiad like terror looking
τοιοῦδε φωτὸς πεῖραν εὖ φυλακτέον·
of-such man attack well must-be-guarded
Φόβος γὰρ ἤδη πρὸς πύλαις κομπάζεται.
Rout for already at gates boasts
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ πρῶτον μὲν Ὄγκα Παλλάς, ἥτ' ἀγχίπτολις,
first indeed Onca Pallas who near-the-city
πύλαισι γείτων, ἀνδρὸς ἐχθαίρουσ' ὕβριν,
to-the-gates neighbor of-man hating outrage
εἴρξει νεοσσῶν ὡς δράκοντα δύσχιμον·
will-keep-off from-nestlings as serpent hard-wintered
Ὑπέρβιος δέ, κεδνὸς Οἴνοπος τόκος,
Hyperbius and trusty of-Oenops son
ἀνὴρ κατ' ἄνδρα τοῦτον ᾑρέθη, θέλων
man against man this was-chosen wishing
ἐξιστορῆσαι μοῖραν ἐν χρείᾳ τύχης,
to-search-out fate in need of-fortune
οὔτ' εἶδος οὔτε θυμὸν οὐδ' ὅπλων σχέσιν
neither in-form nor spirit nor of-arms bearing
μωμητός, Ἑρμῆς δ' εὐλόγως ξυνήγαγεν.
blameworthy Hermes and reasonably brought-together
ἐχθρὸς γὰρ ἀνὴρ ἀνδρὶ τῷ ξυστήσεται,
enemy for the-man to-man with-whom he-will-meet
ξυνοίσετον δὲ πολεμίους ἐπ' ἀσπίδων
will-bring-together-both and hostile on shields

θεούς· ὁ μὲν γὰρ πύρπνοον Τυφῶν' ἔχει,
gods the-one indeed for fire-breathing Typhon has
Ὑπερβίῳ δὲ Ζεὺς πατὴρ ἐπ' ἀσπίδος
for-Hyperbius and Zeus father on shield
σταδαῖος ἧσται, διὰ χερὸς βέλος φλέγων·
steadfast sits in hand shaft blazing
κοὔπω τις εἶδε Ζῆνά που νικώμενον.
and-never anyone saw Zeus surely being-conquered
τοιάδε μέντοι προσφίλεια δαιμόνων·
such however friendship of-gods
πρὸς τῶν κρατούντων δ' ἐσμέν, οἱ δ' ἡσσωμένων,
of the conquering and we-are they and of-the-conquered
εἰ Ζεύς γε Τυφῶ καρτερώτερος μάχῃ·
if Zeus at-least than-Typhon stronger in-battle
εἰκὸς δὲ πράξειν ἄνδρας ὧδ' ἀντιστάτας,
likely and to-fare men thus opponents
Ὑπερβίῳ τε πρὸς λόγον τοῦ σήματος
for-Hyperbius and according-to reason of-the device
σωτὴρ γένοιτ' ἂν Ζεὺς ἐπ' ἀσπίδος τυχών.
savior would-be — Zeus on shield being
ΧΟΡΟΣ πέποιθα δὴ τὸν Διὸς ἀντίτυπον ἔχοντ'
I-trust indeed the of-Zeus opposite having
ἄφιλον ἐν σάκει τοῦ χθονίου δέμας
unfriendly on shield of-the underworld form
δαίμονος, ἐχθρὸν εἴκασμα βροτοῖς τε καὶ
of-god hateful image to-mortals both and
δαροβίοισι θεοῖσιν,
long-lived to-gods
πρόσθε πυλᾶν κεφαλὰν ἰάψειν.
before gates head to-hurl

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οὕτως γένοιτο. τὸν δὲ πέμπτον αὖ λέγω,
so may-it-be the and fifth again I-tell
πέμπταισι προσταχθέντα Βορραίαις πύλαις,
at-fifth assigned Borraean gates
τύμβον κατ᾽ αὐτὸν Διογενοῦς Ἀμφίονος·
tomb at very of-Zeus-born Amphion
ὄμνυσι δ᾽ αἰχμὴν ἣν ἔχει μᾶλλον θεοῦ
swears and by-spear which he-has more than-god
σέβειν πεποιθὼς ὀμμάτων θ᾽ ὑπέρτερον,
to-revere trusting of-eyes and higher
ἦ μὴν λαπάξειν ἄστυ Καδμείων βίᾳ
truly indeed to-sack town of-Cadmeans by-force
Διός· τόδ᾽ αὐδᾷ μητρὸς ἐξ ὀρεσκόου
of-Zeus this says mother from mountain-ranging
βλάστημα καλλίπρωρον, ἀνδρόπαις ἀνήρ·
offspring fair-faced man-boy man
στείχει δ᾽ ἴουλος ἄρτι διὰ παρηίδων,
goes and down just-now over cheeks
ὥρας φυούσης, ταρφὺς ἀντέλλουσα θρίξ.
of-season growing thick rising hair
ὁ δ᾽ ὠμόν, οὔτι παρθένων ἐπώνυμον,
he and savage not-at-all of-maidens named
φρόνημα, γοργὸν δ᾽ ὄμμ᾽ ἔχων, προσίσταται.
spirit grim and eye having stands-beside
οὐ μὴν ἀκόμπαστός γ᾽ ἐφίσταται πύλαις·
not however unboastful at-least he-stands-at gates
τὸ γὰρ πόλεως ὄνειδος ἐν χαλκηλάτῳ
the for of-city reproach on bronze-beaten
σάκει, κυκλωτῷ σώματος προβλήματι,
shield round of-body defense

Σφίγγ᾽ ὠμόσιτον προσμεμηχανημένην
Sphinx raw-eating fastened
γόμφοις ἐνώμα, λαμπρὸν ἔκκρουστον δέμας,
with-bolts he-plied bright embossed body
φέρει δ᾽ ὑφ᾽ αὑτῇ φῶτα Καδμείων ἕνα,
she-bears and under herself man of-Cadmeans one
ὡς πλεῖστ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ἀνδρὶ τῷδ᾽ ἰάπτεσθαι βέλη.
so-that most at man this to-be-hurled shafts
ἐλθὼν δ᾽ ἔοικεν οὐ καπηλεύσειν μάχην,
having-come and he-seems not to-huckster battle
μακρᾶς κελεύθου δ᾽ οὐ καταισχυνεῖν πόρον,
of-long journey and not to-shame passage
Παρθενοπαῖος Ἀρκάς· ὁ δὲ τοιόσδ᾽ ἀνὴρ
Parthenopaeus Arcadian he and such man
μέτοικος, Ἄργει δ᾽ ἐκτίνων καλὰς τροφάς,
alien in-Argos and repaying fair nurture
πύργοις ἀπειλεῖ τοῖσδ᾽ ἃ μὴ κραίνοι θεός.
towers threatens these which not may-fulfill god
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ εἰ γὰρ τύχοιεν ὧν φρονοῦσι πρὸς θεῶν,
if for they-should-obtain what they-intend from gods
αὐτοῖς ἐκείνοις ἀνοσίοις κομπάσμασιν·
with-very those unholy boasts
ἦ τἂν πανώλεις παγκάκως τ᾽ ὀλοίατο.
truly surely utterly-ruined most-wretchedly and they-would-perish
ἔστιν δὲ καὶ τῷδ᾽, ὃν λέγεις τὸν Ἀρκάδα,
there-is and also for-this whom you-speak-of the Arcadian
ἀνὴρ ἄκομπος, χεὶρ δ᾽ ὁρᾷ τὸ δράσιμον,
man unboasting hand and sees the deed-to-be-done
Ἄκτωρ ἀδελφὸς τοῦ πάρος λελεγμένου·
Actor brother of-the before described

ὃς οὐκ ἐάσει γλῶσσαν ἐργμάτων ἄτερ
who not will-allow tongue deeds without
ἔσω πυλῶν ῥέουσαν ἀλδαίνειν κακά,
inside gates flowing to-nourish evils
οὐδ' εἰσαμεῖψαι θηρὸς ἐχθίστου δάκους
nor to-pass-in of-beast most-hateful biting
εἰκὼ φέροντα πολεμίας ἐπ' ἀσπίδος
image bearing hostile on shield
ἥ 'ξωθεν εἴσω τῷ φέροντι μέμψεται,
which from-outside inside the bearer will-blame
πυκνοῦ κροτησμοῦ τυγχάνουσ' ὑπὸ πτόλιν.
thick battering meeting under city
θεῶν θελόντων τἂν ἀληθεύσαιμ' ἐγώ.
gods willing surely would-speak-truth I
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἱκνεῖται λόγος διὰ στηθέων,
penetrates word through breasts
τριχὸς δ' ὀρθίας πλόκαμος ἵσταται,
of-hair and upright lock stands
μεγάλα μεγαληγόρων κλυούσᾳ
great-things of-great-boasters hearing
ἀνοσίων ἀνδρῶν. εἴθε γὰρ
unholy of-men would-that for
θεοὶ τούσδ' ὀλέσειαν ἐν γᾷ.
gods them destroy in land
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἕκτον λέγοιμ' ἂν ἄνδρα σωφρονέστατον,
sixth I-would-tell — man most-prudent
ἀλκήν τ' ἄριστον μάντιν, Ἀμφιάρεω βίαν·
in-valor and best seer Amphiaraus might
Ὁμολωίσιν δὲ πρὸς πύλαις τεταγμένος
Homoloid and at gates stationed

κακοῖσι βάζει πολλὰ Τυδέως βίαν·
with-evils he-reviles much Tydeus might
τὸν ἀνδροφόντην, τὸν πόλεως ταράκτορα,
the man-slayer the of-city disturber
μέγιστον Ἄργει τῶν κακῶν διδάσκαλον,
greatest to-Argos of-the evils teacher
Ἐρινύος κλητῆρα, πρόσπολον φόνου,
of-Erinys summoner minister of-murder
κακῶν τ' Ἀδράστῳ τῶνδε βουλευτήριον.
of-evils and for-Adrastus these counselor
καὶ τὸν σὸν αὖθις προσθροῶν ὁμόσπορον,
and the your again calling-out brother
ἐξυπτιάζων ὄμμα, Πολυνείκους βίαν,
turning-up eye Polynices might
δίς τ' ἐν τελευτῇ τοὔνομ' ἐνδατούμενος,
twice and at end the-name dividing
καλεῖ. λέγει δὲ τοῦτ' ἔπος διὰ στόμα·
he-calls says and this word through mouth
"ἦ τοῖον ἔργον καὶ θεοῖσι προσφιλές,
truly such deed and to-gods dear
καλόν τ' ἀκοῦσαι καὶ λέγειν μεθυστέροις,
fair and to-hear and to-tell to-later-men
πόλιν πατρῴαν καὶ θεοὺς τοὺς ἐγγενεῖς
city paternal and gods the native
πορθεῖν, στράτευμ' ἐπακτὸν ἐμβεβληκότα;
to-sack army foreign having-brought-in
μητρός τε πηγὴν τίς κατασβέσει δίκη;
of-mother and spring what will-quench justice
πατρίς τε γαῖα σῆς ὑπὸ σπουδῆς δορὶ
fatherland and land your by eagerness spear

ἁλοῦσα πῶς σοι ξύμμαχος γενήσεται;
captured how to-you ally will-be
ἔγωγε μὲν δὴ τήνδε πιανῶ χθόνα,
I-for-my-part indeed indeed this will-enrich land
μάντις κεκευθὼς πολεμίας ὑπὸ χθονός.
prophet hidden hostile under earth
μαχώμεθ', οὐκ ἄτιμον ἐλπίζω μόρον."
let-us-fight not dishonorable I-hope doom
τοιαῦθ' ὁ μάντις ἀσπίδ' εὐκήλως ἔχων
such-things the prophet shield calmly holding
πάγχαλκον ηὔδα· σῆμα δ' οὐκ ἐπῆν κύκλῳ.
all-bronze spoke device and not was-upon on-circle
οὐ γὰρ δοκεῖν ἄριστος, ἀλλ' εἶναι θέλει,
not for to-seem best but to-be wishes
βαθεῖαν ἄλοκα διὰ φρενὸς καρπούμενος,
deep furrow through mind reaping
ἐξ ἧς τὰ κεδνὰ βλαστάνει βουλεύματα.
from which the trusty sprout counsels
τούτῳ σοφούς τε κἀγαθοὺς ἀντηρέτας
to-him wise and and-good opponents
πέμπειν ἐπαινῶ. δεινὸς ὃς θεοὺς σέβει.
to-send I-advise terrible who gods reveres
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ φεῦ τοῦ ξυναλλάσσοντος ὄρνιθος βροτοῖς
alas of-the joining bird mortals
δίκαιον ἄνδρα τοῖσι δυσσεβεστέροις.
just man with-the more-impious
ἐν παντὶ πράγει δ' ἔσθ' ὁμιλίας κακῆς
in every matter and is of-company evil
κάκιον οὐδέν, καρπὸς οὐ κομιστέος·
worse nothing fruit not to-be-gathered

ἄτης ἄρουρα θάνατον ἐκκαρπίζεται.
of-ruin field death bears-as-fruit
ἢ γὰρ ξυνεισβὰς πλοῖον εὐσεβὴς ἀνὴρ
either for embarking-with boat pious man
ναύταισι θερμοῖς καὶ πανουργίᾳ τινὶ
with-sailors hot and villainy some
ὄλωλεν ἀνδρῶν σὺν θεοπτύστῳ γένει,
perishes of-men with god-loathed race
ἢ ξὺν πολίταις ἀνδράσιν δίκαιος ὢν
or with citizens men just being
ἐχθροξένοις τε καὶ θεῶν ἀμνήμοσιν,
stranger-hating both and of-gods unmindful
ταὐτοῦ κυρήσας ἐκδίκως ἀγρεύματος,
the-same meeting unjustly of-net
πληγεὶς θεοῦ μάστιγι παγκοίνῳ ᾽δάμη.
struck of-god by-whip common was-subdued
οὕτως δ᾽ ὁ μάντις, υἱὸν Οἰκλέους λέγω,
so and the prophet son of-Oicles I-mean
σώφρων δίκαιος ἀγαθὸς εὐσεβὴς ἀνήρ,
prudent just good pious man
μέγας προφήτης, ἀνοσίοισι συμμιγεὶς
great prophet with-unholy mingled
θρασυστόμοισιν ἀνδράσιν βίᾳ φρενῶν,
with-bold-mouthed men by-force of-wits
τείνουσι πομπὴν τὴν μακρὰν πάλιν μολεῖν,
who-stretch journey the long back to-come
Διὸς θέλοντος ξυγκαθελκυσθήσεται.
Zeus willing will-be-dragged-down-with-them
δοκῶ μὲν οὖν σφε μηδὲ προσβαλεῖν πύλαις,
I-think indeed then him not-even to-attack gates

οὐχ ὡς ἄθυμος οὐδὲ λήματος κάκῃ,
not as faint-hearted nor of-spirit through-baseness
ἀλλ' οἶδεν ὥς σφε χρὴ τελευτῆσαι μάχῃ,
but he-knows how him must to-die in-battle
εἰ καρπὸς ἔσται θεσφάτοισι Λοξίου·
if fruit will-be to-the-oracles of-Loxias
φιλεῖ δὲ σιγᾶν ἢ λέγειν τὰ καίρια.
he-is-wont and to-be-silent or to-say the timely
ὅμως δ' ἐπ' αὐτῷ φῶτα, Λασθένους βίαν,
nevertheless and against him man Lasthenes might
ἐχθρόξενον πυλωρὸν ἀντιτάξομεν,
stranger-hating gatekeeper we-will-set-against
γέροντα τὸν νοῦν, σάρκα δ' ἡβῶσαν φύει,
old the mind flesh and youthful he-grows
ποδῶκες ὄμμα, χεῖρα δ' οὐ βραδύνεται
swift-footed eye hand and not is-slow
παρ' ἀσπίδος γυμνωθὲν ἁρπάσαι δόρυ.
from shield bared to-snatch spear
θεοῦ δὲ δῶρόν ἐστιν εὐτυχεῖν βροτούς.
of-god and gift is to-prosper mortals
ΧΟΡΟΣ κλύοντες θεοὶ δικαίας λιτὰς
hearing gods just prayers
ἁμετέρας τελεῖθ', ὡς πόλις εὐτυχῇ,
our fulfill so-that city may-prosper
δορίπονα κάκ' ἐκτρέποντες ἐς γᾶς
spear-toiling evils turning to of-land
ἐπιμόλους· πύργων δ' ἔκτοθεν
invaders of-towers and from-outside
βαλὼν Ζεύς σφε κάνοι κεραυνῷ.
striking Zeus them may-kill with-thunderbolt

IX · POLYNICES AT THE SEVENTH GATE

At the seventh gate stands Polynices, praying to kill his brother or drive him into exile; on his shield Justice leads an armed man with the words that she will bring him home. Eteocles sees his father's curse fulfilled. He says that Justice never stood beside Polynices, and declares that he himself will face him, brother against brother, and calls for his greaves. The maidens beg him not to go.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τὸν ἕβδομον δὴ τόνδ' ἐφ' ἑβδόμαις πύλαις
the seventh indeed this-one at seventh gates
λέξω, τὸν αὐτοῦ σοῦ κασίγνητον, πόλει
I-will-tell the own your brother to-the-city
οἵας ἀρâται καὶ κατεύχεται τύχας·
what-kind he-curses and imprecates fortunes
πύργοις ἐπεμβὰς κἀπικηρυχθεὶς χθονί,
towers having-mounted and-having-been-proclaimed to-land
ἁλώσιμον παιᾶν' ἐπεξιακχάσας, 635
of-capture paean having-shouted
σοὶ ξυμφέρεσθαι καὶ κτανὼν θανεῖν πέλας,
with-you to-close and having-killed to-die near
ἢ ζῶντ' ἀτιμαστῆρα τὼς ἀνδρηλάτην
or living dishonorer like man-driver
φυγῇ τὸν αὐτὸν τόνδε τείσασθαι τρόπον.
by-exile the same this to-repay manner
τοιαῦτ' ἀυτεῖ καὶ θεοὺς γενεθλίους
such-things he-shouts and gods of-race
καλεῖ πατρῴας γῆς ἐποπτῆρας λιτῶν 640
calls of-paternal land overseers of-prayers
τῶν ὧν γενέσθαι πάγχυ Πολυνείκους βία.
of-the his to-be wholly Polynices might

ἔχει δὲ καινοπηγὲς εὔκυκλον σάκος
he-has and newly-made well-rounded shield
διπλοῦν τε σῆμα προσμεμηχανημένον.
twofold and device fastened
χρυσήλατον γὰρ ἄνδρα τευχηστὴν ἰδεῖν
gold-beaten for man armed to-see
ἄγει γυνή τις σωφρόνως ἡγουμένη.
leads woman some modestly leading
Δίκη δ' ἄρ' εἶναί φησιν, ὡς τὰ γράμματα
Justice and then to-be she-says as the letters
λέγει "κατάξω δ' ἄνδρα τόνδε καὶ πόλιν
say I-will-bring-back and man this and city
ἕξει πατρῴων δωμάτων τ' ἐπιστροφάς."
he-will-have of-paternal house and possession
τοιαῦτ' ἐκείνων ἐστὶ τἀξευρήματα.
such-things of-them are the-devices
ὡς οὔποτ' ἀνδρὶ τῷδε κηρυκευμάτων
that never man this of-messages
μέμψῃ, σὺ δ' αὐτὸς γνῶθι ναυκληρεῖν πόλιν.
will-you-blame you and yourself know to-steer city
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ὦ θεομανές τε καὶ θεῶν μέγα στύγος,
O god-maddened both and of-gods great loathing
ὦ πανδάκρυτον ἁμὸν Οἰδίπου γένος·
O all-lamented my of-Oedipus race
ὤμοι, πατρὸς δὴ νῦν ἀραὶ τελεσφόροι.
ah-me of-father indeed now curses fulfilled
ἀλλ' οὔτε κλαίειν οὔτ' ὀδύρεσθαι πρέπει,
but neither to-weep nor to-lament befits
μὴ καὶ τεκνωθῇ δυσφορώτερος γόος.
lest even be-born more-grievous lament

ἐπωνύμῳ δὲ κάρτα, Πολυνείκει λέγω,
named and very Polynices I-say
τάχ᾽ εἰσόμεσθα τοὐπίσημ᾽ ὅποι τελεῖ,
soon we-shall-know the-device where it-ends
εἴ νιν κατάξει χρυσότευκτα γράμματα
if him will-bring-back gold-wrought letters
ἐπ᾽ ἀσπίδος φλύοντα σὺν φοίτῳ φρενῶν.
on shield babbling with wandering of-wits
εἰ δ᾽ ἡ Διὸς παῖς παρθένος Δίκη παρῆν
if and the of-Zeus child maiden Justice were-by
ἔργοις ἐκείνου καὶ φρεσίν, τάχ᾽ ἂν τόδ᾽ ἦν·
deeds his and thoughts perhaps — this would-be
ἀλλ᾽ οὔτε νιν φυγόντα μητρόθεν σκότον,
but neither him having-escaped from-mother darkness
οὔτ᾽ ἐν τροφαῖσιν, οὔτ᾽ ἐφηβήσαντά πω,
nor in nurture nor having-come-to-manhood yet
οὔτ᾽ ἐν γενείου ξυλλογῇ τριχώματος,
nor in of-chin gathering of-hair
Δίκη προσεῖδε καὶ κατηξιώσατο·
Justice looked-on and deemed-worthy
οὐδ᾽ ἐν πατρῴας μὴν χθονὸς κακουχίᾳ
nor in paternal truly of-land maltreatment
οἶμαί νιν αὐτῷ νῦν παραστατεῖν πέλας.
I-think her him now to-stand-by near
ἦ δῆτ᾽ ἂν εἴη πανδίκως ψευδώνυμος
truly then — she-would-be utterly falsely-named
Δίκη, ξυνοῦσα φωτὶ παντόλμῳ φρένας.
Justice consorting with-man all-daring in-wits
τούτοις πεποιθὼς εἶμι καὶ ξυστήσομαι
in-these trusting I-will-go and will-meet

αὐτός· τίς ἄλλος μᾶλλον ἐνδικώτερος;
myself who other rather more-just

ἄρχοντί τ' ἄρχων καὶ κασιγνήτῳ κάσις,
with-ruler and ruler and with-brother brother

ἐχθρὸς σὺν ἐχθρῷ στήσομαι. φέρ' ὡς τάχος
enemy with enemy I-will-stand bring as quickly

κνημῖδας, αἰχμῆς καὶ πέτρων προβλήματα.
greeves of-spear and of-stones defenses

ΧΟΡΟΣ μή, φίλτατ' ἀνδρῶν, Οἰδίπου τέκος, γένῃ
not dearest of-men of-Oedipus child be

ὀργὴν ὁμοῖος τῷ κάκιστ' αὐδωμένῳ·
in-anger like to-the worst being-called

ἀλλ' ἄνδρας Ἀργείοισι Καδμείους ἅλις
but men with-Argives Cadmeans enough

ἐς χεῖρας ἐλθεῖν· αἷμα γὰρ καθάρσιον.
into hands to-come blood for purifiable

ἀνδροῖν δ' ὁμαίμοιν θάνατος ὧδ' αὐτοκτόνος,
of-men and of-kin death thus self-slain

οὐκ ἔστι γῆρας τοῦδε τοῦ μιάσματος.
not is old-age of-this the pollution

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ εἴπερ κακὸν φέροι τις, αἰσχύνης ἄτερ
if-indeed evil should-bear someone shame without

ἔστω· μόνον γὰρ κέρδος ἐν τεθνηκόσι·
let-it-be only for gain among dead

κακῶν δὲ κᾀσχρῶν οὔτιν' εὐκλείαν ἐρεῖς.
of-evils and and-shameful-things no glory will-you-speak

X · ETEOCLES RESOLVES TO GO

The maidens plead with him not to be carried off by a spear-mad lust for a brother's unlawful blood. Eteocles answers that the gods have long ago abandoned the race of Laius, hated by Phoebus, and that his father's curse sits beside him with dry eyes. He will not be held back, even by their talk of a god who may still change, and goes out to the seventh gate.

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί μέμονας, τέκνον; μή τί σε θυμοπλη-
why are-you-eager child not any you anger-filled
θὴς δορίμαργος ἄτα φερέτω· κακοῦ δ'
— *spear-mad ruin carry-away of-evil and*
ἔκβαλ' ἔρωτος ἀρχάν.
cast-out of-desire beginning

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ἐπεὶ τὸ πρᾶγμα κάρτ' ἐπισπέρχει θεός,
since the matter very urges god
ἴτω κατ' οὖρον κῦμα Κωκυτοῦ λαχὸν 690
let-it-go down wind wave of-Cocytus having-obtained
Φοίβῳ στυγηθὲν πᾶν τὸ Λαΐου γένος.
by-Phoebus hated all the of-Laius race

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὠμοδακής σ' ἄγαν ἵμερος ἐξοτρύ-
raw-biting you too-much desire spurs
νει πικρόκαρπον ἀνδροκτασίαν τελεῖν
— *bitter-fruited man-slaying to-accomplish*
αἵματος οὐ θεμιστοῦ.
of-blood not lawful

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ φίλου γὰρ ἐχθρά μοι πατρὸς τάλαιν' ἀρὰ 695
of-dear for hateful to-me of-father wretched curse
ξηροῖς ἀκλαύτοις ὄμμασιν προσιζάνει,
with-dry tearless eyes sits-near

λέγουσα κέρδος πρότερον ὑστέρου μόρου.
saying gain first later death

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλὰ σὺ μὴ ᾽ποτρύνου· κακὸς οὐ κεκλή-
but you not be-urged base not you-will-be-called

σῃ βίον εὖ κυρήσας· μελάναιγις οὐκ
— life well having-fared black-shielded not

εἶσι δόμων Ἐρινύς, ὅταν ἐκ χερῶν
goes from-house Erinys when from hands

θεοὶ θυσίαν δέχωνται;
gods sacrifice receive

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ θεοῖς μὲν ἤδη πως παρημελήμεθα,
by-gods indeed already somehow we-are-neglected

χάρις δ᾽ ἀφ᾽ ἡμῶν ὀλομένων θαυμάζεται·
favor and from us perishing is-admired

τί οὖν ἔτ᾽ ἂν σαίνοιμεν ὀλέθριον μόρον;
why then still — should-we-fawn-on destructive doom

ΧΟΡΟΣ νῦν ὅτε σοι παρέστακεν· ἐπεὶ δαίμων
now when to-you it-stands-near since fate

λήματος ἐν τροπαίᾳ χρονίᾳ μεταλ-
of-spirit in change slow changed

λακτὸς ἴσως ἂν ἔλθοι θελεμωτέρῳ
— perhaps — might-come with-gentler

πνεύματι· νῦν δ᾽ ἔτι ζεῖ.
breath now and still boils

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ἐξέζεσεν γὰρ Οἰδίπου κατεύγματα·
boiled-over for of-Oedipus curses

ἄγαν δ᾽ ἀληθεῖς ἐνυπνίων φαντασμάτων
too and true of-dream phantoms

ὄψεις, πατρῴων χρημάτων δατήριοι.
visions of-paternal possessions dividers

ΧΟΡΟΣ πιθοῦ γυναιξί, καίπερ οὐ στέργων ὅμως.
obey women although not liking nevertheless

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ λέγοιτ' ἂν ὧν ἄνη τις· οὐδὲ χρὴ μακράν.
you-may-say — of-which accomplishment some nor must long

ΧΟΡΟΣ μὴ 'λθῃς ὁδοὺς σὺ τάσδ' ἐφ' ἑβδόμαις πύλαις.
not go roads you these at seventh gates

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ τεθηγμένον τοί μ' οὐκ ἀπαμβλυνεῖς λόγῳ. 715
whetted surely me not will-you-blunt with-word

ΧΟΡΟΣ νίκην γε μέντοι καὶ κακὴν τιμᾷ θεός.
victory at-least however even base honors god

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ οὐκ ἄνδρ' ὁπλίτην τοῦτο χρὴ στέργειν ἔπος.
not man armed this must to-like word

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' αὐτάδελφον αἷμα δρέψασθαι θέλεις;
but own-brother blood to-reap you-wish

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ θεῶν διδόντων οὐκ ἂν ἐκφύγοις κακά.
gods giving not — you-would-escape evils

XI · THE CURSE OF LAIUS

The maidens shudder at the Erinys of the house. Laius disobeyed Apollo, who three times warned him to die childless and save the city, and begot Oedipus, who killed his father and sowed his mother's field. The ruin of the house, they sing, is now in its third generation, and Oedipus, maddened by his discovery, cursed his sons to divide their wealth with the sword.

ΧΟΡΟΣ πέφρικα τὰν ὠλεσίοικον 720
I-shudder-at the house-destroying

θεόν, οὐ θεοῖς ὁμοίαν,
goddess not to-gods like

παναλαθῆ κακόμαντιν
all-true prophet-of-ill

πατρὸς εὐκταίαν Ἐρινὺν
of-father prayed-for Erinys
τελέσαι τὰς περιθύμους
to-accomplish the angry
κατάρας Οἰδιπόδα βλαψίφρονος·
curses of-Oedipus mind-maddened
παιδολέτωρ δ' ἔρις ἅδ' ὀτρύνει.
child-destroying and strife this urges
ξένος δὲ κλήρους ἐπινωμᾷ,
stranger and lots distributes
Χάλυβος Σκυθᾶν ἄποικος,
of-Chalybes of-Scythians colonist
κτεάνων χρηματοδαίτας
of-possessions property-divider
πικρός, ὠμόφρων σίδαρος,
bitter raw-minded iron
χθόνα ναίειν διαπήλας,
land to-dwell apportioning
ὁπόσαν καὶ φθιμένοισιν κατέχειν,
as-much-as and dead to-hold
τῶν μεγάλων πεδίων ἀμοίρους.
of-the great plains without-share
ἐπεὶ δ' ἂν αὐτοκτόνως
when and — self-slaying
αὐτοδάικτοι θάνωσι,
mutually-slain they-die
καὶ γαῖα κόνις πίῃ
and earthly dust drinks
μελαμπαγὲς αἷμα φοίνιον,
black-clotted blood gory

τίς ἂν καθαρμοὺς πόροι,
who — purifications might-provide
τίς ἄν σφε λούσειεν; ὦ
who — them would-wash O
πόνοι δόμων νέοι παλαι-
toils of-house new with-old
οῖσι συμμιγεῖς κακοῖς.
— mingled evils
παλαιγενῆ γὰρ λέγω
ancient for I-tell
παρβασίαν ὠκύποινον·
transgression swift-punished
αἰῶνα δ' ἐς τρίτον μένει·
age and to third abides
Ἀπόλλωνος εὖτε Λάιος
of-Apollo when Laius
βίᾳ, τρὶς εἰπόντος ἐν
by-force thrice having-said in
μεσομφάλοις Πυθικοῖς
central Pythian
χρηστηρίοις θνᾴσκοντα γέν-
oracles dying offspring
νας ἄτερ σῴζειν πόλιν,
— without to-save city
κρατηθεὶς δ' ἐκ φίλων ἀβουλιᾶν
overcome and from dear follies
ἐγείνατο μὲν μόρον αὑτῷ,
begot indeed doom for-himself
πατροκτόνον Οἰδιπόδαν,
father-slaying Oedipus

ὅστε ματρὸς ἁγνὰν
who of-mother holy
σπείρας ἄρουραν, ἵν' ἐτράφη,
sowing field where he-was-nurtured
ῥίζαν αἱματόεσσαν
root bloody
ἔτλα· παράνοια συνᾶγε
dared madness brought-together
νυμφίους φρενώλεις.
bride-and-groom mind-crazed
κακῶν δ' ὥσπερ θάλασσα κῦμ' ἄγει·
of-evils and like sea wave drives
τὸ μὲν πίτνον, ἄλλο δ' ἀείρει
the one falling another and raises
τρίχαλον, ὃ καὶ περὶ πρύμ-
triple which also around stern
ναν πόλεως καχλάζει.
— of-city dashes
μεταξὺ δ' ἀλκὰ δι' ὀλίγου
between and strength through little
τείνει, πύργος ἐν εὔρει.
stretches tower in breadth
δέδοικα δὲ σὺν βασιλεῦσι
I-fear and with kings
μὴ πόλις δαμασθῇ.
lest city be-subdued
τελειᾶν γὰρ παλαιφάτων ἀρᾶν
of-fulfilled for ancient-spoken curses
βαρεῖαι καταλλαγαί· τὰ δ' ὀλοὰ
heavy settlements the and baneful-things

πελόμεν᾽ οὐ παρέρχεται.
coming not pass-by
πρόπρυμνα δ᾽ ἐκβολὰν φέρει
from-the-stern and jettison brings
ἀνδρῶν ἀλφηστᾶν
of-men bread-eating
ὄλβος ἄγαν παχυνθείς.
wealth too-much fattened
τίν᾽ ἀνδρῶν γὰρ τοσόνδ᾽ ἐθαύμασαν
whom of-men for so-much admired
θεοὶ καὶ ξυνέστιοι πόλεος ὁ
gods and sharers-of-hearth of-city the
πολύβατός τ᾽ ἀγὼν βροτῶν,
much-frequented and assembly of-mortals
ὅσον τότ᾽ Οἰδίπουν τίον,
as-much-as then Oedipus they-honored
τὰν ἁρπαξάνδραν
the man-snatching
κῆρ᾽ ἀφελόντα χώρας;
bane having-removed from-land
ἐπεὶ δ᾽ ἀρτίφρων
when and of-sound-mind
ἐγένετο μέλεος ἀθλίων
became wretched of-miserable
γάμων, ἐπ᾽ ἄλγει δυσφορῶν
marriage at pain distraught
μαινομένᾳ κραδίᾳ
with-raging heart
δίδυμα κάκ᾽ ἐτέλεσεν·
twofold evils he-accomplished

πατροφόνῳ χερὶ τῶν
with-father-slaying hand from-the
†κρεισσοτέκνων ὀμμάτων ἐπλάγχθη·
(corrupt)-dearer-than-children of-eyes was-bereft
τέκνοις δ᾽ ἀγρίας
on-children and savage
ἐφῆκεν ἐπικότους τροφᾶς,
he-let-loose angry of-nurture
αἰαῖ, πικρογλώσσους ἀράς,
alas bitter-tongued curses
καί σφε σιδαρονόμῳ
and them iron-dividing
διὰ χερί ποτε λαχεῖν
with hand ever to-obtain
κτήματα· νῦν δὲ τρέω
possessions now and I-fear
μὴ τελέσῃ καμψίπους Ἐρινύς,
lest accomplish swift-footed Erinys

A messenger announces that the city is saved: at six gates the defenders held, but at the seventh Apollo fulfilled the ancient folly of Laius. Eteocles and Polynices have killed each other. Their fate was common to both; they have divided their inheritance with Scythian iron, and each holds only as much land as his grave.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ θαρσεῖτε, παῖδες μητέρων τεθραμμέναι.
take-courage children of-mothers reared

πόλις πέφευγεν ἥδε δούλιον ζυγόν·
city has-escaped this slavish yoke

πέπτωκεν ἀνδρῶν ὀβρίμων κομπάσματα·
has-fallen of-men mighty boasts

πόλις δ' ἐν εὐδίᾳ τε καὶ κλυδωνίου 795
city and in fair-weather both and of-billow

πολλαῖσι πληγαῖς ἄντλον οὐκ ἐδέξατο.
with-many blows bilge not admitted

στέγει δὲ πύργος, καὶ πύλας φερεγγύοις
holds and tower and gates with-trustworthy

ἐφραξάμεσθα μονομάχοισι προστάταις·
we-fenced single-combat-fighting defenders

καλῶς ἔχει τὰ πλεῖστ', ἐν ἓξ πυλώμασι·
well it-is the most in six gates

τὰς δ' ἑβδόμας ὁ σεμνὸς ἑβδομαγέτης 800
the and seventh the holy seventh-leader

ἄναξ Ἀπόλλων εἵλετ', Οἰδίπου γένει
lord Apollo chose of-Oedipus for-race

κραίνων παλαιὰς Λαΐου δυσβουλίας.
fulfilling ancient of-Laius follies

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί δ' ἔστι πρᾶγμα νεόκοτον πόλει πλέον;
what and is-there matter new-fangled for-the-city more

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ πόλις σέσωσται· βασιλέες δ' ὁμόσποροι —
city is-saved kings and of-one-seed

ΧΟΡΟΣ τίνες; τί δ' εἶπας; παραφρονῶ φόβῳ λόγου.
who what and did-you-say I-am-mad from-fear of-word

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ φρονοῦσα νῦν ἄκουσον· Οἰδίπου τόκοι —
being-sane now hear of-Oedipus sons

ΧΟΡΟΣ οἲ 'γὼ τάλαινα, μάντις εἰμὶ τῶν κακῶν.
ah me wretched prophet I-am of-the evils

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οὐδ' ἀμφιλέκτως μὴν κατεσποδημένοι —
nor doubtfully indeed laid-low

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐκεῖθι κεῖσθον; βαρέα δ' οὖν ὅμως φράσον.
there do-they-lie heavy-things and then nevertheless tell

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἄνδρες τεθνᾶσιν ἐκ χερῶν αὐτοκτόνων.
the-men are-dead from hands self-slaying

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὕτως ἀδελφαῖς χερσὶν ἠναίρονθ' ἅμα;
thus with-brother hands did-they-slay-each-other together

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οὕτως ὁ δαίμων κοινὸς ἦν ἀμφοῖν ἄγαν.
thus the fate common was to-both too-much

αὐτὸς δ' ἀναλοῖ δῆτα δύσποτμον γένος.
itself and destroys then ill-fated race

τοιαῦτα χαίρειν καὶ δακρύεσθαι πάρα·
such-things to-rejoice and to-weep it-is-possible

πόλιν μὲν εὖ πράσσουσαν, οἱ δ' ἐπιστάται,
city indeed well faring the and leaders

δισσὼ στρατηγώ, διέλαχον σφυρηλάτῳ
two generals divided with-hammer-beaten

Σκύθῃ σιδήρῳ κτημάτων παμπησίαν.
with-Scythian iron of-possessions whole-ownership

ἔξουσι δ᾽ ἣν λάβωσιν ἐν ταφῇ χθονός,
they-will-have and what they-take in burial of-land
πατρὸς κατ᾽ εὐχὰς δυσπότμως φορούμενοι.
of-father according-to curses ill-fatedly borne

XIII · THE LAMENT FOR THE BROTHERS

The maidens do not know whether to rejoice for the city or mourn the kings. The father's curse has done its work, and Laius' disobedient counsels have held out to the end. The bodies are brought in, and the maidens raise a dirge over the brothers, who settled their quarrel with the sword, received their equal portion of the land, and now lie side by side, the house's strife ended.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ μεγάλε Ζεῦ καὶ πολιοῦχοι
O great Zeus and city-guarding
δαίμονες, οἳ δὴ Κάδμου πύργους
gods who indeed of-Cadmus towers
τούσδε ῥύεσθε,
these defend
πότερον χαίρω κἀπολολύξω
whether am-I-to-rejoice and-raise-the-cry
πόλεως ἀσινεῖ †σωτῆρι ∗∗∗,
for-city unharmed (corrupt)-savior (lacuna)
ἢ τοὺς μογεροὺς καὶ δυσδαίμονας
or the wretched and ill-fated
ἀτέκνους κλαύσω πολεμάρχους;
childless am-I-to-weep war-leaders
οἳ δῆτ᾽ ὀρθῶς κατ᾽ ἐπωνυμίαν
who then rightly according-to name
καὶ πολυνεικεῖς
and much-striving

ὤλοντ᾽ ἀσεβεῖ διανοίᾳ.
perished with-impious intent

ὦ μέλαινα καὶ τελεία
O black and fulfilled

γένεος Οἰδίπου τ᾽ ἀρά,
of-race of-Oedipus and curse

κακόν με καρδίαν τι περιπίτνει κρύος.
evil me heart some falls-around chill

ἔτευξα τύμβῳ μέλος
I-made for-tomb song

Θυιὰς αἱματοσταγεῖς
Thyiad blood-dripping

νεκροὺς κλύουσα δυσμόρως
corpses hearing ill-fatedly

θανόντας· ἦ δύσορνις ἅ-
dead truly ill-omened this

δε ξυναυλία δορός.
— concert of-spear

ἐξέπραξεν, οὐδ᾽ ἀπεῖπεν
accomplished nor gave-up

πατρόθεν εὐκταία φάτις·
from-father prayed-for word

βουλαὶ δ᾽ ἄπιστοι Λαΐου διήρκεσαν.
counsels and disobedient of-Laius have-lasted

μέριμνα δ᾽ ἀμφὶ πτόλιν·
care and about city

θέσφατ᾽ οὐκ ἀμβλύνεται.
oracles not are-blunted

ἰὼ πολύστονοι, τόδ' εἰρ-
oh much-lamented this you-wrought
γάσασθ' ἄπιστον· ἦλθε δ' αἰ-
— incredible came and lamentable
ακτὰ πήματ' οὐ λόγῳ.
— woes not in-word
τάδ' αὐτόδηλα, προῦπτος ἀγγέλου λόγος·
these self-evident visible of-messenger word
διπλαῖ μέριμναι, †διδυμάνορα
twofold cares (corrupt)-double-manned
κάκ' αὐτοφόνα, δίμοιρα τέ-
evils self-slain twin-fated accomplished
λεια τάδε πάθη. τί φῶ;
— these sufferings what shall-I-say
τί δ' ἄλλο γ' ἢ πόνοι πόνων
what and other at-least than toils of-toils
δόμων ἐφέστιοι;
of-house at-the-hearth
ἀλλὰ γόων, ὦ φίλαι, κατ' οὖρον
but of-laments O friends down wind
ἐρέσσετ' ἀμφὶ κρατὶ πόμπιμον χεροῖν
row around head speeding with-hands
πίτυλον, ὃς αἰὲν δι' Ἀχέροντ' ἀμείβεται
stroke which ever through Acheron crosses
τὰν ἄστολον μελάγκροκον θεωρίδα,
the unrobed black-sailed sacred-ship
τὰν ἀστιβῆ 'πόλλωνι, τὰν ἀνάλιον
the untrodden by-Apollo the sunless
πάνδοκον εἰς ἀφανῆ τε χέρσον.
all-receiving to unseen and shore

ἀλλὰ γὰρ ἥκουσ᾽ αἵδ᾽ ἐπὶ πρᾶγος
but for are-coming these to task
πικρὸν Ἀντιγόνη τ᾽ ἠδ᾽ Ἰσμήνη,
bitter Antigone both and Ismene
θρῆνον ἀδελφοῖν· οὐκ ἀμφιβόλως
lament for-brothers not doubtfully
οἶμαί σφ᾽ ἐρατῶν ἐκ βαθυκόλπων
I-think they lovely from deep-bosomed
στηθέων ἥσειν ἄλγος ἐπάξιον.
breasts to-utter grief worthy
ἡμᾶς δὲ δίκη πρότερον φήμης
us and justice before report
τὸν δυσκέλαδόν θ᾽ ὕμνον Ἐρινύος
the ill-sounding and hymn of-Erinys
ἰαχεῖν Ἅίδα τ᾽
to-cry of-Hades and
ἐχθρὸν παιᾶν᾽ ἐπιμέλπειν.
hateful paean to-sing-over
ἰώ, δυσαδελφόταται πασῶν ὁπόσαι
oh most-ill-brothered of-all as-many-as
στρόφον ἐσθῆσιν περιβάλλονται,
girdle on-robes put-around
κλαίω, στένομαι, καὶ δόλος οὐδεὶς
I-weep I-groan and guile none
μὴ ᾽κ φρενὸς ὀρθῶς με λιγαίνειν.
not from heart truly me to-shrill
ἰὼ ἰὼ δύσφρονες,
oh oh senseless
φίλων ἄπιστοι καὶ κακῶν ἀτρύμονες,
to-friends faithless and of-evils unwearied

δόμους πατρῴους ἑλόν-
house paternal having-seized
τες μέλεοι σὺν αἰχμᾷ.
— wretched with spear
μέλεοι δῆθ' οἳ μελέους θανάτους
wretched indeed who wretched deaths
εὕροντο δόμων ἐπὶ λύμῃ.
found of-house to ruin
ἰὼ ἰὼ δωμάτων
oh oh of-houses
ἐρειψίτοιχοι καὶ πικρὰς μοναρχίας
wall-overthrowing and bitter monarchy
ἰδόντες, ἤδη διήλ-
having-seen already you-are-reconciled
λαχθε σὺν σιδάρῳ.
— with iron
κάρτα δ' ἀληθῆ πατρὸς Οἰδιπόδα
very and true-things of-father Oedipus
πότνι' Ἐρινὺς ἐπέκρανεν.
lady Erinys accomplished
δι' εὐωνύμων τετυμμένοι,
through left-sides struck
τετυμμένοι δῆθ',
struck indeed
ὁμοσπλάγχνων τε πλευρωμάτων
of-same-womb and of-sides

***
(lacuna)

αἰαῖ δαιμόνιοι,
alas god-struck

αἰαῖ δ' ἀντιφόνων
alas and of-retaliating
θανάτων ἀραί.
of-deaths curses
διανταίαν λέγεις δόμοισι καὶ
right-through you-say in-houses and
σώμασιν πεπλαγμένους,
in-bodies struck
ἀναυδάτῳ μένει
with-unspeakable wrath
ἀραίῳ τ' ἐκ πατρὸς
with-cursing and from father
οὐ διχόφρονι πότμῳ.
not divided by-fate
διήκει δὲ καὶ πόλιν στόνος,
pervades and also city groan
στένουσι πύργοι,
groan towers
στένει πέδον φίλανδρον· μένει
groans plain man-loving remain
κτέανα δ' ἐπιγόνοις,
possessions and for-descendants
δι' ὧν αἰνομόροις,
through which dread-fated
δι' ὧν νεῖκος ἔβα
through which strife came
θανάτου τέλος.
of-death end
ἐμοιράσαντο δ' ὀξυκάρδιοι
they-divided and sharp-hearted

κτήμαθ', ὥστ' ἴσον λαχεῖν.
possessions so-that equal to-obtain
διαλλακτῆρι δ' οὐκ
for-the-reconciler and not
ἀμεμφεία φίλοις,
blamelessness from-friends
οὐδ' ἐπίχαρις Ἄρης.
nor pleasing Ares
σιδαρόπλακτοι μὲν ὧδ' ἔχουσιν,
iron-struck indeed thus they-are
σιδαρόπλακτοι δὲ τοὺς μένουσι,
iron-struck and them await
τάχ' ἄν τις εἴποι, τίνες;
perhaps — someone might-say what
τάφων πατρῴων λαχαί.
of-tombs paternal portions
ὅδ' ἀμῶν μάλ' ἀχέτας τοὺς
this our very sounding them
προπέμπει δαϊκτὴρ γόος αὐ-
escorts rending lament self-groaning
τόστονος, αὐτοπήμων,
— self-suffering
δαϊόφρων, οὐ φιλογαθής, ἐτύμως
hostile-minded not joy-loving truly
δακρυχέων ἐκ φρενός, ἃ
tear-shedding from heart which
κλαιομένας μου μινύθει
weeping my wastes
τοῖνδε δυοῖν ἀνάκτοιν.
of-these two lords

πάρεστι δ' εἰπεῖν ἐπ' ἀθλίοισιν
it-is-possible and to-say over the-wretched
ὡς ἐρξάτην πολλὰ μὲν πολίτας,
how they-did much indeed citizens
ξένων τε πάντων στίχας
of-strangers and all ranks
πολυφθόρους ἐν δαΐ.
much-destroyed in battle
δυσδαίμων σφιν ἁ τεκοῦσα
ill-fated for-them the having-borne
πρὸ πασᾶν γυναικῶν ὁπόσαι
before all women as-many-as
τεκνογόνοι κέκληνται.
child-bearers are-called
παῖδα τὸν αὑτᾶς πόσιν αὑτᾷ θεμένα
son the her-own husband for-herself having-made
τούσδ' ἔτεχ', οἱ δ' ὧδ' ἐτελεύ-
these bore they and thus ended
τασαν ὑπ' ἀλλαλοφόνοις
— by mutually-slaying
χερσὶν ὁμοσπόροισιν.
hands of-one-seed
ὁμόσποροι δῆτα καὶ πανώλεθροι,
of-one-seed indeed and utterly-destroyed
διατομαῖς οὐ φίλοις,
by-severings not friendly
ἔριδι μαινομένᾳ,
by-strife raging
νείκεος ἐν τελευτᾷ.
of-quarrel at end

πέπαυται δ' ἔχθος, ἐν δὲ γαίᾳ
has-ceased and hatred in and earth
ζόα φονορύτῳ
life gore-flowing
μέμεικται· κάρτα δ' εἴσ' ὅμαιμοι.
is-mingled very and they-are of-one-blood
πικρὸς λυτὴρ νεικέων ὁ πόντιος
bitter reconciler of-quarrels the from-over-sea
ξεῖνος ἐκ πυρὸς συθεὶς
stranger from fire rushing
θακτὸς σίδαρος· πικρὸς δὲ χρημάτων
sharpened iron bitter and of-possessions
κακὸς δατητὰς Ἄρης ἀρὰν πατρῴ-
evil divider Ares curse paternal
αν τιθεὶς ἀλαθῆ.
— *making true*
ἔχουσι μοῖραν λαχόντες οἱ μέλεοι
they-have portion having-obtained the wretched
διοδότων ἀχθέων·
of-Zeus-given griefs
ὑπὸ δὲ σώματι γᾶς
under and body of-earth
πλοῦτος ἄβυσσος ἔσται.
wealth bottomless will-be
ἰὼ πολλοῖς ἐπανθίσαντες
oh with-many having-made-to-bloom
πόνοισι γενεάν·
toils race
τελευταῖαι δ' ἐπηλάλαξαν
at-last and raised-the-cry

Ἀραὶ τὸν ὀξὺν νόμον, τετραμμένου
Curses the shrill strain turned
παντρόπῳ φυγᾷ γένους.
in-all-ways rout of-race
ἔστακε δ' Ἄτας τροπαῖον ἐν πύλαις,
stands and of-Ruin trophy at gates
955 ἐν αἷς ἐθείνοντο, καὶ δυοῖν κρατή-
in which they-were-struck and of-two having-conquered
σας ἔληξε δαίμων.
— *ceased fate*

XIV · ANTIGONE AND ISMENE

Antigone and Ismene lament antiphonally over their brothers: each struck and was struck, each killed and died. They mourn the wretched house, the curse, and the black Erinys, and ask where the brothers will be buried, and answer: in the place of greatest honor, beside their father.

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ παισθεὶς ἔπαισας. ΙΣΜΗΝΗ σὺ δ' ἔθανες κατακτανών.
struck you-struck you and died having-slain
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ δορὶ δ' ἔκανες —
by-spear and you-killed
ΙΣΜΗΝΗ δορὶ δ' ἔθανες —
by-spear and you-died
960 ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ μελεοπόνος.
wretched-in-deed
ΙΣΜΗΝΗ μελεοπαθής.
wretched-in-suffering
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἴτω γόος.
let-come lament

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ ἴτω δάκρυ.
let-come tear

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ πρόκεισαι —
you-lie-before

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ κατακτάς.
having-slain

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἠέ. ΙΣΜΗΝΗ ἠέ.
ah ah

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ μαίνεται γόοισι φρήν.
raves with-laments mind

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ ἐντὸς δὲ καρδία στένει.
within and heart groans

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἰὼ ἰὼ πάνδυρτε σύ.
oh oh all-lamented you

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ σὺ δ' αὖτε καὶ πανάθλιε.
you and in-turn and all-wretched

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ πρὸς φίλου ἔφθισο.
by friend you-perished

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ καὶ φίλον ἔκτανες.
and friend you-slew

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ διπλᾶ λέγειν —
twofold to-tell

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ διπλᾶ δ' ὁρᾶν —
twofold and to-see

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἄχθεα τῶνδε τάδ' ἐγγύθεν.
griefs of-these these near

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ πέλας ἀδελφέ' ἀδελφεῶν.
near kindred-things of-brothers

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ Μοῖρα βαρυδότειρα μογερά,
oh Fate grievous-giver wretched
πότνιά τ᾽ Οἰδίπου σκιά,
lady and of-Oedipus shade
μέλαιν᾽ Ἐρινύς, ἦ μεγασθενής τις εἶ.
black Erinys truly mighty some you-are
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἠέ. ΙΣΜΗΝΗ ἠέ.
ah ah
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ δυσθέατα πήματα —
hard-to-behold woes
ΙΣΜΗΝΗ ἔδειξεν ἐκ φυγᾶς ἐμοί.
showed from exile for-me
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ οὐδ᾽ ἵκεθ᾽ ὡς κατέκτανεν.
nor he-came when he-had-killed
ΙΣΜΗΝΗ σωθεὶς δὲ πνεῦμ᾽ ἀπώλεσεν.
saved and breath he-lost
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ὤλεσε δῆτ᾽ ἄγαν.
he-lost then too-much
ΙΣΜΗΝΗ καὶ τὸν ἐνόσφισεν.
and the-other robbed
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ τάλαν γένος.
wretched race
ΙΣΜΗΝΗ τάλαν πάθος.
wretched suffering
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ δύστονα κήδε᾽ ὁμαίμονα.
grievous sorrows kin
ΙΣΜΗΝΗ †δύγρα τριπάλτων πημάτων.
(corrupt)-drenched of-thrice-hurled woes

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ Μοῖρα βαρυδότειρα μογερά,
oh Fate grievous-giver wretched
πότνιά τ' Οἰδίπου σκιά,
lady and of-Oedipus shade
μέλαιν' Ἐρινύς, ἦ μεγασθενής τις εἶ.
black Erinys truly mighty some you-are
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ σὺ τοί νιν οἶσθα διαπερῶν —
you surely it know having-passed-through
ΙΣΜΗΝΗ σὺ δ' οὐδὲν ὕστερος μαθών — 995
you and nothing later having-learned
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἐπεὶ κατῆλθες ἐς πόλιν,
when you-came-back to city
ΙΣΜΗΝΗ δορός γε τῷδ' ἀντηρέτας.
of-spear at-least to-this opponent
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ὀλοὰ λέγειν.
deadly to-tell
ΙΣΜΗΝΗ ὀλοὰ δ' ὁρᾶν.
deadly and to-see
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἰὼ πόνος — 1000
oh toil
ΙΣΜΗΝΗ ἰὼ κακά —
oh evils
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ δώμασι καὶ χθονί.
for-house and for-land
ΙΣΜΗΝΗ πρὸ πάντων δ' ἐμοί.
before all and for-me
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ καὶ τὸ πρόσω γ' ἐμοί.
and the forward at-least for-me
ΙΣΜΗΝΗ ἰὼ ἰὼ δυστόνων κακῶν, ἄναξ. 1005
oh oh of-grievous evils lord

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἰὼ πάντων πολυστονώτατοι.
oh of-all most-lamented

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ ἰὼ ἰὼ δαιμονῶντες ἄτᾳ.
oh oh possessed by-ruin

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἰὼ ἰώ, ποῦ σφε θήσομεν χθονός;
oh oh where them shall-we-lay of-land

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ ἰώ, ὅπου ’στι τιμιώτατον.
oh where it-is most-honored

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἰὼ ἰώ, πῆμα πατρὶ πάρευνον.
oh oh woe to-father lying-beside

XV · THE HERALD’S DECREE

A herald announces the council’s decree: Eteocles, who died defending the city, is to be buried with honor, but Polynices is to be cast out unburied for the dogs as the enemy of his country. Antigone refuses to obey and declares that she will bury her brother herself, even as a woman. The herald warns her and leaves. The maidens divide: one half goes with Antigone to bury Polynices, the other follows Eteocles, as the city and justice approve.

ΚΗΡΥΞ δοκοῦντα καὶ δόξαντ’ ἀπαγγέλλειν με χρὴ
the-things-seeming and decided to-announce me must

δήμου προβούλοις τῆσδε Καδμείας πόλεως·
of-people by-councilors of-this Cadmean city

’Ετεοκλέα μὲν τόνδ’ ἐπ’ εὐνοίᾳ χθονὸς
Eteocles indeed this-one for loyalty to-land

θάπτειν ἔδοξε γῆς φίλαις κατασκαφαῖς·
to-bury it-was-decided of-earth in-dear burial

στυγῶν γὰρ ἐχθροὺς θάνατον εἵλετ’ ἐν πόλει
hating for enemies death he-chose in city

ἱερῶν πατρῴων δ' ὅσιος ὢν μομφῆς ἄτερ
of-shrines paternal and pure being reproach without
τέθνηκεν οὗπερ τοῖς νέοις θνῄσκειν καλόν.
he-is-dead where for-the young to-die fair
οὕτω μὲν ἀμφὶ τοῦδ' ἐπέσταλται λέγειν·
thus indeed about this-one it-is-enjoined to-say
τούτου δ' ἀδελφὸν τόνδε Πολυνείκους νεκρὸν
his and brother this of-Polynices corpse
ἔξω βαλεῖν ἄθαπτον, ἁρπαγὴν κυσίν,
outside to-cast unburied prey for-dogs
ὡς ὄντ' ἀναστατῆρα Καδμείων χθονός,
as being destroyer of-Cadmean land
εἰ μὴ θεῶν τις ἐμποδὼν ἔστη δορὶ
if not of-gods some in-the-way stood with-spear
τῷ τοῦδ'. ἄγος δὲ καὶ θανὼν κεκτήσεται
the his pollution and even dead he-will-keep
θεῶν πατρῴων, οὓς ἀτιμάσας ὅδε
of-gods paternal whom having-dishonored this-one
στράτευμ' ἐπακτὸν ἐμβαλὼν ᾖρει πόλιν.
army foreign having-brought-in tried-to-take city
οὕτω πετηνῶν τόνδ' ὑπ' οἰωνῶν δοκεῖ
thus winged this-one by birds it-is-decided
ταφέντ' ἀτίμως τοὐπιτίμιον λαβεῖν,
buried dishonorably the-penalty to-receive
καὶ μήθ' ὁμαρτεῖν τυμβοχόα χειρώματα
and neither to-attend tomb-heaping hand-labors
μήτ' ὀξυμόλποις προσσέβειν οἰμώγμασιν,
nor with-shrill-songs to-honor wailings
ἄτιμον εἶναι δ' ἐκφορᾶς φίλων ὕπο.
dishonored to-be and of-funeral friends by

τοιαῦτ᾽ ἔδοξε τῷδε Καδμείων τέλει.
such-things was-decided by-this of-Cadmeans authority

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἐγὼ δὲ Καδμείων γε προστάταις λέγω·
I and of-Cadmeans at-least to-the-leaders say

ἢν μή τις ἄλλος τόνδε συνθάπτειν θέλῃ,
if not some other this-one to-bury-with wishes

ἐγώ σφε θάψω κἀνὰ κίνδυνον βαλῶ
I him will-bury and-in danger will-throw

θάψασ᾽ ἀδελφὸν τὸν ἐμόν, οὐδ᾽ αἰσχύνομαι
having-buried brother the my nor am-I-ashamed

ἔχουσ᾽ ἄπιστον τήνδ᾽ ἀναρχίαν πόλει.
having disobedient this anarchy to-city

δεινὸν τὸ κοινὸν σπλάγχνον, οὗ πεφύκαμεν,
terrible the common womb from-which we-were-born

μητρὸς ταλαίνης κἀπὸ δυστήνου πατρός.
of-mother wretched and-from wretched father

τοιγὰρ θέλουσ᾽ ἄκοντι κοινώνει κακῶν
therefore willing with-the-unwilling share of-evils

ψυχή, θανόντι ζῶσα συγγόνῳ φρενί.
soul with-the-dead living with-sisterly mind

τούτου δὲ σάρκας οὐδὲ κοιλογάστορες
of-him and flesh not-even hollow-bellied

λύκοι σπάσονται· μὴ δοκησάτω τινί.
wolves shall-tear not let-it-seem to-anyone

τάφον γὰρ αὐτῷ καὶ κατασκαφὰς ἐγώ,
tomb for for-him and burial I

γυνή περ οὖσα, τῷδε μηχανήσομαι,
woman though being to-him will-contrive

κόλπῳ φέρουσα βυσσίνου πεπλώματος.
in-fold bearing of-linen robe

καὐτὴ καλύψω, μηδέ τῳ δόξῃ πάλιν·
and-myself will-cover nor to-anyone let-it-seem otherwise
θάρσει, παρέσται μηχανὴ δραστήριος.
take-courage will-be-at-hand means effective
ΚΗΡΥΞ αὐδῶ πόλιν σε μὴ βιάζεσθαι τάδε.
I-forbid city you not to-defy in-these-things
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ αὐδῶ σὲ μὴ περισσὰ κηρύσσειν ἐμοί.
I-forbid you not superfluous-things to-proclaim to-me
ΚΗΡΥΞ τραχύς γε μέντοι δῆμος ἐκφυγὼν κακά. 1050
harsh at-least however people having-escaped evils
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ τράχυν'· ἄθαπτος δ' οὗτος οὐ γενήσεται.
be-harsh unburied and this-one not will-be
ΚΗΡΥΞ ἀλλ' ὃν πόλις στυγεῖ, σὺ τιμήσεις τάφῳ;
but whom city hates you will-honor with-tomb
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἤδη τὰ τοῦδε διατετίμηται θεοῖς.
already the his has-been-honored by-gods
ΚΗΡΥΞ οὔ, πρίν γε χώραν τήνδε κινδύνῳ βαλεῖν.
not before at-least land this into-danger to-throw
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ παθὼν κακῶς κακοῖσιν ἀντημείβετο. 1055
having-suffered badly with-evils be-requited
ΚΗΡΥΞ ἀλλ' εἰς ἅπαντας ἀνθ' ἑνὸς τόδ' ἔργον ἦν.
but upon all instead-of one this deed was
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἔρις περαίνει μῦθον ὑστάτη θεῶν.
strife finishes word last of-gods
ἐγὼ δὲ θάψω τόνδε· μὴ μακρηγόρει.
I and will-bury this-one not speak-at-length
ΚΗΡΥΞ ἀλλ' αὐτόβουλος ἴσθ', ἀπεννέπω δ' ἐγώ.
but self-willed be I-forbid and I

ΧΟΡΟΣ φεῦ φεῦ.
alas alas

ὦ μεγάλαυχοι καὶ φθερσιγενεῖς
O boastful and race-destroying
Κῆρες Ἐρινύες, αἵτ' Οἰδιπόδα
Fates Erinyes who of-Oedipus
γένος ὠλέσατε πρυμνόθεν οὕτως,
race destroyed root-and-branch thus
τί πάθω; τί δὲ δρῶ; τί δὲ μήσωμαι;
what am-I-to-suffer what and am-I-to-do what and am-I-to-devise
πῶς τολμήσω μήτε σὲ κλαίειν
how shall-I-dare neither you to-weep
μήτε προπέμπειν ἐπὶ τύμβον;
nor to-escort to tomb
ἀλλὰ φοβοῦμαι καὶ ποτρέπομαι
but I-fear and-turn-away
δεῖμα πολιτῶν.
dread of-citizens
σύ γε μὴν πολλῶν πενθητήρων
you at-least indeed of-many mourners
τεύξει· κεῖνος δ' ὁ τάλας ἄγοος
will-obtain he and the wretched unlamented
μονόκλαυτον ἔχων θρῆνον ἀδελφῆς
alone-lamented having dirge of-sister
εἶσιν· τίς ἂν οὖν τὰ πίθοιτο;
goes who — then these-things would-obey
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ δράτω τι πόλις καὶ μὴ δράτω
let-do something city and not let-do
τοὺς κλαίοντας Πολυνείκη.
the weeping Polynices

ἡμεῖς μὲν ἴμεν καὶ συνθάψομεν
we indeed go and will-bury-with
αἵδε προπομποί. καὶ γὰρ γενεᾷ
these escorts and for to-the-race
κοινὸν τόδ' ἄχος, καὶ πόλις ἄλλως
common this grief and city otherwise
ἄλλοτ' ἐπαινεῖ τὰ δίκαια.
at-other-times approves the just-things
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ ἡμεῖς δ' ἅμα τῷδ', ὥσπερ τε πόλις
we and with this-one as both city
καὶ τὸ δίκαιον ξυνεπαινεῖ.
and the just approves
μετὰ γὰρ μάκαρας καὶ Διὸς ἰσχὺν
after for blessed-ones and of-Zeus might
ὅδε Καδμείων ἤρυξε πόλιν
this-one of-Cadmeans checked city
μὴ 'νατραπῆναι μηδ' ἀλλοδαπῷ
not to-be-overturned nor with-foreign
κύματι φωτῶν
wave of-men
κατακλυσθῆναι τὰ μάλιστα.
to-be-flooded the most

AESCHYLUS

ΙΚΕΤΙΔΕΣ

The Suppliants

The daughters of Danaus pray to Zeus, god of suppliants, as they arrive from the mouths of the Nile. They have fled not for bloodshed but from an impious marriage with the sons of Aegyptus, on the counsel of their father Danaus, and have come to Argos, the land of their ancestress Io. They call on the city, its land and waters, and its gods to receive them, and pray that the insolent band of suitors be driven back to sea and perish in the storm before they mount unwilling beds.

ΧΟΡΟΣ Ζεὺς μὲν ἀφίκτωρ ἐπίδοι προφρόνως
Zeus indeed of-suppliants may-he-look-on graciously
στόλον ἡμέτερον νάιον ἀρθέντ᾽
band our ship-borne having-set-out
ἀπὸ προστομίων λεπτοψαμάθων
from mouths fine-sanded
Νείλου. Δίαν δὲ λιποῦσαι
of-Nile of-Zeus and having-left
χθόνα σύγχορτον Συρίᾳ φεύγομεν,
land bordering on-Syria we-flee
οὔτιν᾽ ἐφ᾽ αἵματι δημηλασίαν
no for blood banishment
ψήφῳ πόλεως γνωσθεῖσαν,
by-vote of-city decreed
ἀλλ᾽ αὐτογενεῖ φυξανορίᾳ
but by-self-born aversion-to-men
γάμον Αἰγύπτου παίδων ἀσεβῆ
marriage of-Aegyptus of-sons impious
᾽ξονοταζόμεναι.
abhorring
Δαναὸς δὲ πατὴρ καὶ βούλαρχος
Danaus and father and counsel-leader

καὶ στασίαρχος τάδε πεσσονομῶν
and faction-leader these moving-like-pieces
κύδιστ᾽ ἀχέων ἐπέκρανε,
most-glorious of-griefs decided
φεύγειν ἀνέδην διὰ κῦμ᾽ ἅλιον,
to-flee unchecked through wave sea
κέλσαι δ᾽ Ἄργους γαῖαν, ὅθεν δὴ
to-land and of-Argos land whence indeed
γένος ἡμέτερον τῆς οἰστροδόνου
race our of-the gadfly-driven
βοὸς ἐξ ἐπαφῆς κἀξ ἐπιπνοίας
of-cow from touch and-from breath
Διὸς εὐχόμενον τετέλεσται.
of-Zeus boasting has-been-accomplished
τίν᾽ ἂν οὖν χώραν εὔφρονα μᾶλλον
what — then land kindly more
τῆσδ᾽ ἀφικοίμεθα
than-this might-we-reach
σὺν τοῖσδ᾽ ἱκετῶν ἐγχειριδίοις
with these of-suppliants hand-held
ἐριοστέπτοισι κλάδοισιν;
wool-wreathed branches
ὦ πόλις, ὦ γῆ, καὶ λευκὸν ὕδωρ,
O city O land and white water
ὕπατοί τε θεοί, καὶ βαρύτιμοι
highest and gods and heavy-avenging
χθόνιοι θήκας κατέχοντες,
of-the-underworld tombs holding
καὶ Ζεὺς σωτὴρ τρίτος, οἰκοφύλαξ
and Zeus savior third house-guardian

ὁσίων ἀνδρῶν, δέξασθ' ἱκέτην
of-holy men receive suppliant
τὸν θηλυγενῆ στόλον αἰδοίῳ
the female-born band with-reverent
πνεύματι χώρας· ἀρσενοπληθῆ δ'
spirit of-land male-thronged but
ἑσμὸν ὑβριστὴν Αἰγυπτογενῆ,
swarm insolent Egypt-born
πρὶν πόδα χέρσῳ τῇδ' ἐν ἀσώδει
before foot land this in muddy
θεῖναι, ξὺν ὄχῳ ταχυήρει
to-set with car swift-oared
πέμψατε πόντονδ'· ἔνθα δὲ λαίλαπι
send to-sea there and with-hurricane
χειμωνοτύπῳ, βροντῇ στεροπῇ τ'
storm-beating thunder lightning and
ὀμβροφόροισίν τ' ἀνέμοις ἀγρίας
rain-bearing and with-winds of-savage
ἁλὸς ἀντήσαντες, ὄλοιντο,
of-sea having-met may-they-perish
πρίν ποτε λέκτρων, ὧν θέμις εἴργει,
before ever of-beds which right forbids
σφετεριξάμενοι πατραδέλφειαν
having-appropriated paternal-uncle's-daughter
τήνδ' ἀεκόντων ἐπιβῆναι.
this unwilling to-mount

The maidens invoke Epaphus, born of Io by the touch of Zeus, and liken their lament to the nightingale's. They ask the gods to hate the suitors' insolence; Zeus' purpose is hidden but sure. They pray Artemis to protect them, and swear that, if the Olympians fail them, they will hang themselves.

40 ΧΟΡΟΣ νῦν δ' ἐπικεκλομένα
now and invoking
Δῖον πόρτιν ὑπερ-
of-Zeus calf overseas
πόντιον τιμάορ', ἶνίν τ'
— *avenger offspring and*
ἀνθονομούσας προγόνου
of-flower-grazing of-ancestress
βοὸς ἐξ ἐπιπνοίας
of-cow from breath
45 Ζηνὸς ἔφαψιν· ἐπωνυμίᾳ δ'
of-Zeus touching with-name and
ἐπεκραίνετο μόρσιμος αἰὼν
was-fulfilled destined age
εὐλόγως,
fittingly
Ἔπαφόν τ' ἐγέννασεν·
Epaphus and she-bore
ὅντ' ἐπιλεξαμένα,
whom choosing
50 νῦν ἐν ποιονόμοις
now in grassy
ματρὸς ἀρχαίας τόποις τῶν
of-mother ancient places the

πρόσθε πόνων μνασαμένα,
former toils recalling
τά τε νῦν ἐπιδείξω
the and now I-will-show
πιστὰ τεκμήρια γαιονόμοις,
trusty proofs to-the-inhabitants
τὰ δ' ἄελπτά περ ὄντα φανεῖται.
the and unexpected though being will-appear
γνώσεται
will-know
δὲ λόγους τις ἐν μάκει.
and words someone in length
εἰ δὲ κυρεῖ τις πέλας οἰωνοπόλων
if and happens someone near of-augurs
ἔγγαιος οἶκτον ἀίων,
native lament hearing
δοξάσει τις ἀκούειν ὄπα τᾶς Τηρείας
will-think someone to-hear voice of-the Tereus
Μήτιδος οἰκτρᾶς ἀλόχου,
of-Metis piteous wife
κιρκηλάτου τ' ἀηδόνος,
hawk-chased and nightingale
ἅτ' ἀπὸ χλωρῶν πετάλων ἐργομένα
who from green leaves shut-out
πενθεῖ μὲν οἶκτον ἠθέων·
mourns indeed lament of-haunts
ξυντίθησι δὲ παιδὸς μόρον, ὡς αὐτοφόνως
composes and of-son death how by-own-hand
ὤλετο πρὸς χειρὸς ἕθεν
he-perished by hand her

δυσμάτορος κότου τυχών·
of-unmotherly wrath meeting
τὼς καὶ ἐγὼ φιλόδυρ-
so also I lamentation-loving
τος Ἰαονίοισι νόμοισι
— in-Ionian strains
δάπτω τὰν ἁπαλὰν
tear the soft
Νειλοθερῆ παρειὰν
Nile-ripened cheek
ἀπειρόδακρύν τε καρδίαν.
unused-to-tears and heart
γοεδνὰ δ' ἀνθεμίζομαι
mournful-flowers and I-pluck
δειμαίνουσα φίλους, τᾶσδε φυγᾶς
fearing friends of-this flight
ἀερίας ἀπὸ γᾶς
misty from land
εἴ τις ἐστὶ κηδεμών.
if any is guardian
ἀλλά, θεοὶ γενέται,
but gods ancestral
κλύετ' εὖ τὸ δίκαιον ἰδόντες·
hear well the just seeing
ἦβᾳ μὴ τέλεον
to-youth not fulfillment
δόντες ἔχειν παρ' αἶσαν,
granting to-have against right
ὕβριν δ' ἑτοίμως στυγοῦντες,
insolence but readily hating

πέλοιτ᾽ ἂν ἔνδικοι γάμοις.
you-would-be — just to-marriage
ἔστι δὲ κἀκ πολέμου τειρομένοις
is and even-from war for-the-worn
βωμὸς ἀρῆς φυγάσιν
altar defense for-fugitives
ῥῦμα, δαιμόνων σέβας.
shield of-gods reverence
εὖ δ᾽ εἴη Διόθεν παναληθῶς.
well and may-it-be from-Zeus all-truly
Διὸς ἵμερος οὐκ εὐθήρατος ἐτύχθη.
of-Zeus desire not easily-hunted was-made
παντᾷ τοι φλεγέθει
everywhere surely it-blazes
κἀν σκότῳ μελαίνᾳ ξὺν τύχᾳ
even-in darkness black with fortune
μερόπεσσι λαοῖς.
for-mortal peoples
πίπτει δ᾽ ἀσφαλὲς οὐδ᾽ ἐπὶ νώτῳ,
falls and safe not on back
κορυφᾷ Διὸς εἰ κρανθῇ πρᾶγμα τέλειον.
on-head of-Zeus if be-accomplished deed complete
δαυλοὶ γὰρ πραπίδων
tangled for of-mind
δάσκιοί τε τείνουσιν πόροι
shadowy and stretch ways
κατιδεῖν ἄφραστοι.
to-see unsearchable
ἰάπτει δ᾽ ἐλπίδων
he-hurls and hopes

ἀφ᾽ ὑψιπύργων πανώλεις
from high-towered utterly-destroyed
βροτούς, βίαν δ᾽
mortals force and
οὔτιν᾽ ἐξοπλίζει·
no arms
πᾶν ἄπονον δαιμονίων.
all effortless of-gods
ἥμενος ὂν φρόνημά πως
sitting his thought somehow
αὐτόθεν ἐξέπραξεν ἔμπας
from-there accomplished nevertheless
ἑδράνων ἐφ᾽ ἁγνῶν.
seats on holy
ἰδέσθω δ᾽ εἰς ὕβριν
let-him-look and to insolence
βρότειον, οἵα νεάζει
mortal how grows-young
πυθμὴν δι᾽ ἀ-
stock on-account-of our
μὸν γάμον τεθαλὼς
— marriage flourishing
δυσπαραβούλοισι φρεσίν,
with-ill-counseled minds
καὶ διάνοιαν μαινόλιν
and intent frenzied
κέντρον ἔχων ἄφυκτον, ἄταν δ᾽
goad having inescapable ruin and
ἀπάτᾳ μεταγνούς.
by-deceit having-changed-mind

τοιαῦτα πάθεα μέλεα θρεομένα λέγω
such sufferings wretched crying-aloud I-speak
λιγέα βαρέα δακρυοπετῆ,
shrill grievous tear-falling
ἰὴ ἰή,
ie ie
ἰηλέμοισιν ἐμπρεπῆ·
with-dirges conspicuous
ζῶσα γόοις με τιμῶ.
living with-laments myself I-honor
ἱλεοῦμαι μὲν Ἀπίαν βοῦνιν,
I-propitiate indeed Apian hill-land
καρβâνα δ' αὐδὰν
foreign and speech
εὖ, γâ, κοννεῖς.
well O-land you-understand
πολλάκι δ' ἐμπίτνω ξὺν λακίδι
often and I-fall-upon with rending
λινοσινεῖ
linen-destroying
Σιδονίᾳ καλύπτρᾳ.
Sidonian veil
θεοῖς δ' ἐναγέα τέλεα πελομένων καλῶς
to-gods and offerings fulfillment coming well
ἐπίδρομ', ὁπόθι θάνατος ἀπῇ.
hurried where death is-absent
ἰὼ ἰώ,
oh oh
ἰὼ δυσάγκριτοι πόνοι.
oh hard-to-discern toils

ποῖ τόδε κῦμ᾽ ἀπάξει;
where this wave will-lead
ἱλεοῦμαι μὲν Ἀπίαν βοῦνιν,
I-propitiate indeed Apian hill-land
καρβâνα δ᾽ αὐδὰν
foreign and speech
εὖ, γâ, κοννεῖς.
well O-land you-understand
πολλάκι δ᾽ ἐμπίτνω ξὺν λακίδι
often and I-fall-upon with rending
λινοσινεῖ
linen-destroying
Σιδονίᾳ καλύπτρᾳ.
Sidonian veil
πλάτα μὲν οὖν λινορραφὴς τε
oar indeed then linen-sewn and
δόμος ἅλα στέγων δορὸς
house sea warding-off of-plank
ἀχείματόν μ᾽ ἔπεμπε σὺν πνοαῖς·
unstormed me sent with breezes
οὐδὲ μέμφομαι·
nor do-I-complain
τελευτὰς δ᾽ ἐν χρόνῳ
ends and in time
πατήρ μοι παντόπτας
father my all-seeing
πρευμενεῖς κτίσειεν,
favorable may-be-make
σπέρμα σεμνâς μέγα ματρὸς
seed of-holy greatly of-mother

εὐνὰς ἀνδρῶν, ἔ ἔ,
beds of-men eh eh
ἄγαμον ἀδάματον ἐκφυγεῖν.
unwed unsubdued to-escape
θέλουσα δ' αὖ θέλουσαν ἁγνά μ'
willing and in-turn willing pure me
ἐπιδέτω Διὸς κόρα,
may-look-on of-Zeus daughter
ἔχουσα σέμν' ἐνώπι' ἀσφαλῶς,
having holy front safely
παντὶ δὲ σθένει
with-all and strength
διωγμοῖς ἀσχαλῶσ'
by-pursuits being-vexed
ἀδμήτας ἀδμήτα
for-unwed unwed
ῥύσιος γενέσθω,
rescuer may-she-become
σπέρμα σεμνᾶς μέγα ματρὸς
seed of-holy greatly of-mother
εὐνὰς ἀνδρῶν, ἔ ἔ,
beds of-men eh eh
ἄγαμον ἀδάματον ἐκφυγεῖν.
unwed unsubdued to-escape
εἰ δὲ μή, μελανθὲς
if but not dark
ἡλιόκτυπον γένος
sun-struck race
τὸν γάιον,
the of-earth

τὸν πολυξενώτατον
the most-hospitable
Ζῆνα τῶν κεκμηκότων
Zeus of-the dead
ἱξόμεσθα σὺν κλάδοις
we-shall-come with branches
ἀρτάναις θανοῦσαι,
by-nooses having-died
μὴ τυχοῦσαι θεῶν Ὀλυμπίων.
not having-obtained gods Olympian
ἆ Ζήν, Ἰοῦς ἰῷ
ah Zeus of-Io oh
μῆνις μάστειρ' ἐκ θεῶν·
wrath hunting from gods
κοννῶ δ' ἄγαν
I-know and too-well
γαμετᾶς οὐρανόνικον.
of-wife heaven-conquering
χαλεποῦ γὰρ ἐκ
hard for from
πνεύματος εἶσι χειμών.
wind will-come storm
καὶ τότ' οὐ δικαίοις
and then not with-just
Ζεὺς ἐνέξεται λόγοις,
Zeus will-be-held words
τὸν τᾶς βοὸς
the of-the cow

παῖδ᾽ ἀτιμάσας, τὸν αὐ-
son having-dishonored whom himself
τός ποτ᾽ ἔκτισεν γόνῳ,
— once begot by-offspring
νῦν ἔχων παλίντροπον
now having turned-away
ὄψιν ἐν λιταῖσιν;
face at prayers
ὑψόθεν δ᾽ εὖ κλύοι καλούμενος. 175
from-on-high and well may-he-hear being-called
ἆ Ζήν, Ἰοῦς ἰῷ
ah Zeus of-Io oh
μῆνις μάστειρ᾽ ἐκ θεῶν·
wrath hunting from gods
κοννῶ δ᾽ ἄγαν
I-know and too-well
γαμετᾶς οὐρανόνικον
of-wife heaven-conquering
χαλεποῦ γὰρ ἐκ
hard for from
πνεύματος εἶσι χειμών.
wind will-come storm

Danaus sees dust and an army approaching, and bids his daughters sit at the mound of the gods with their suppliant branches and speak modestly, as strangers should. They greet the eagle of Zeus, Apollo, Poseidon's trident, and Hermes. The king, Pelasgus, marvels at their foreign dress and describes his realm, which stretches to the Strymon. They prove their Argive descent through Io, the gadfly, Epaphus, Libya, and Belus, father of Danaus and Aegyptus, and ask him not to give them up to the sons of Aegyptus. He fears a new war.

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ παῖδες, φρονεῖν χρή· ξὺν φρονοῦντι δ' ἥκετε
children to-be-prudent must with prudent and you-came
πιστῷ γέροντι τῷδε ναυκλήρῳ πατρί.
trusty old-man this ship-master father
καὶ τἀπὶ χέρσου νῦν προμηθίαν λαβὼν
and the-things-on land now forethought having-taken
αἰνῶ φυλάξαι τἄμ' ἔπη δελτουμένας.
I-advise to-guard my words inscribing
ὁρῶ κόνιν, ἄναυδον ἄγγελον στρατοῦ·
I-see dust voiceless messenger of-army
σύριγγες οὐ σιγῶσιν ἀξονήλατοι·
naves not are-silent axle-driven
ὄχλον δ' ὑπασπιστῆρα καὶ δορυσσόον
crowd and shield-bearing and spear-brandishing
λεύσσω, ξὺν ἵπποις καμπύλοις τ' ὀχήμασιν·
I-see with horses curved and cars
τάχ' ἂν πρὸς ἡμᾶς τῆσδε γῆς ἀρχηγέται
perhaps — to us of-this land rulers
ὀπτῆρες εἶεν ἀγγέλων πεπυσμένοι.
observers might-be from-messengers having-learned

ἀλλ᾽ εἴτ᾽ ἀπήμων εἴτε καὶ τεθηγμένος
but whether harmless or also sharpened
ὠμῇ ξὺν ὀργῇ τόνδ᾽ ἐπόρνυται στόλον,
savage with anger this rouses expedition
ἄμεινόν ἐστι παντὸς εἵνεκ᾽, ὦ κόραι,
better it-is everything for-the-sake O girls
πάγον προσίζειν τόνδ᾽ ἀγωνίων θεῶν.
mound to-sit-at this of-assembled gods
κρεῖσσον δὲ πύργου βωμός, ἄρρηκτον σάκος.
stronger and than-tower altar unbreakable shield
ἀλλ᾽ ὡς τάχιστα βᾶτε, καὶ λευκοστεφεῖς
but as quickly go and white-wreathed
ἱκετηρίας, ἁγάλματ᾽ αἰδοίου Διός,
suppliant-branches emblems of-reverend Zeus
σεμνῶς ἔχουσαι διὰ χερῶν εὐωνύμων,
holily holding in hands left
αἰδοῖα καὶ γοεδνὰ καὶ ζαχρεῖ᾽ ἔπη
reverent and mournful and needful words
ξένους ἀμείβεσθ᾽, ὡς ἐπήλυδας πρέπει,
strangers answer as newcomers befits
τορῶς λέγουσαι τάσδ᾽ ἀναιμάκτους φυγάς.
clearly telling these bloodless flights
φθογγῇ δ᾽ ἑπέσθω πρῶτα μὲν τὸ μὴ θρασύ,
voice and let-follow first indeed the not bold
τὸ μὴ μάταιον δ᾽ ἐκ μετωποσωφρόνων
the not vain and from modest-browed
ἴτω προσώπων ὄμματος παρ᾽ ἡσύχου.
let-go faces eye from calm
καὶ μὴ πρόλεσχος μηδ᾽ ἐφολκὸς ἐν λόγῳ
and not forward-in-speech nor tedious in speech

γένῃ· τὸ τῇδε κάρτ᾽ ἐπίφθονον γένος.
be the here very jealous race

μέμνησο δ᾽ εἴκειν· χρεῖος εἶ ξένη φυγάς.
remember and to-yield needy you-are foreign exile

θρασυστομεῖν γὰρ οὐ πρέπει τοὺς ἥσσονας.
to-be-bold-of-speech for not befits the weaker

ΧΟΡΟΣ πάτερ, φρονούντως πρὸς φρονοῦντας ἐννέπεις.
father prudently to prudent-ones you-speak

φυλάξομαι δὲ τάσδε μεμνῆσθαι σέθεν
I-will-take-care and these to-remember of-you

κεδνὰς ἐφετμάς· Ζεὺς δὲ γεννήτωρ ἴδοι.
careful commands Zeus and begetter may-he-see

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ ἴδοιτο δῆτα πρευμενοῦς ἀπ᾽ ὄμματος.
may-he-see indeed favorable from eye

ΧΟΡΟΣ θέλοιμ᾽ ἂν ἤδη σοὶ πέλας θρόνους ἔχειν.
I-would-wish — already to-you near seats to-have

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ μή νυν σχόλαζε, μηχανῆς δ᾽ ἔστω κράτος.
not now delay of-plan and let-be power

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ Ζεῦ, κόπων οἴκτιρε μὴ ἀπολωλότας.
O Zeus of-toils pity not perished-ones

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ κείνου θέλοντος εὖ τελευτήσει τάδε.
he willing well will-end these

ΧΟΡΟΣ ***
(lacuna)

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ καὶ Ζηνὸς ὄρνιν τόνδε νῦν κικλήσκετε.
and of-Zeus bird this now invoke

ΧΟΡΟΣ καλοῦμεν αὐγὰς ἡλίου σωτηρίους, —
we-call rays of-sun saving

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ ἁγνόν τ᾽ Ἀπόλλω, φυγάδ᾽ ἀπ᾽ οὐρανοῦ θεόν.
holy and Apollo exiled from heaven god

ΧΟΡΟΣ εἰδὼς ἂν αἶσαν τήνδε συγγνοίη βροτοῖς.
knowing — lot this would-sympathize with-mortals

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ συγγνοῖτο δῆτα καὶ παρασταίη πρόφρων.
may-he-sympathize indeed and stand-by graciously

ΧΟΡΟΣ τίν' οὖν κικλήσκω τῶνδε δαιμόνων ἔτι;
whom then shall-I-invoke of-these gods still

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ ὁρῶ τρίαιναν τήνδε σημεῖον θεοῦ.
I-see trident this sign of-god

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' εὖ τ' ἔπεμψεν εὖ τε δεξάσθω χθονί.
but well and he-sent well and let-him-receive in-land

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ Ἑρμῆς ὅδ' ἄλλος τοῖσιν Ἑλλήνων νόμοις,
Hermes this other by-the of-Greeks customs

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐλευθέροις νυν ἐσθλὰ κηρυκευέτω.
to-free now good-things let-him-herald

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ πάντων δ' ἀνάκτων τῶνδε κοινοβωμίαν
of-all and lords of-these common-altar

σέβεσθ'· ἐν ἁγνῷ δ' ἑσμὸς ὡς πελειάδων
revere in holy and swarm like of-doves

ἵζεσθε κίρκων τῶν ὁμοπτέρων φόβῳ,
sit of-hawks the same-feathered from-fear

ἐχθρῶν ὁμαίμων καὶ μιαινόντων γένος.
of-enemies kin and defiling race

ὄρνιθος ὄρνις πῶς ἂν ἁγνεύοι φαγών;
of-bird bird how — would-be-pure having-eaten

πῶς δ' ἂν γαμῶν ἄκουσαν ἄκοντος πάρα
how and — marrying unwilling unwilling from

ἁγνὸς γένοιτ' ἄν; οὐδὲ μὴ 'ν Ἅιδου θανὼν
pure might-he-be — not-even — in of-Hades dead

φύγῃ ματαίων αἰτίας, πράξας τάδε.
will-he-escape of-folly charge having-done these

κἀκεῖ δικάζει τἀπλακήμαθ', ὡς λόγος,
and-there judges the-misdeeds as story
Ζεὺς ἄλλος ἐν καμοῦσιν ὑστάτας δίκας.
Zeus another among the-dead last judgments
σκοπεῖτε, κἀμείβεσθε τόνδε τὸν τρόπον,
consider and-answer in-this the way
ὅπως ἂν ὑμῖν πρᾶγος εὖ νικᾷ τόδε.
so-that — for-you affair well may-win this
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ποδαπὸν ὅμιλον τόνδ' ἀνελληνόστολον
from-what-land crowd this un-Greek-robed
πέπλοισι βαρβάροισι καὶ πυκνώμασι
in-robes barbarian and in-thick-weavings
χλίοντα προσφωνοῦμεν; οὐ γὰρ Ἀργολὶς
luxuriating do-we-address not for Argive
ἐσθὴς γυναικῶν οὐδ' ἀφ' Ἑλλάδος τόπων.
dress of-women nor from of-Hellas places
ὅπως δὲ χώραν οὔτε κηρύκων ὕπο,
how and land neither heralds by
ἀπρόξενοί τε, νόσφιν ἡγητῶν, μολεῖν
without-patrons and without guides to-come
ἔτλητ' ἀτρέστως, τοῦτο θαυμαστὸν πέλει.
you-dared fearlessly this marvelous is
κλάδοι γε μὲν δὴ κατὰ νόμους ἀφικτόρων
branches at-least indeed indeed according-to customs of-suppliants
κεῖνται παρ' ὑμῖν πρὸς θεοῖς ἀγωνίοις·
lie by you at gods assembled
μόνον τόδ' Ἑλλὰς χθὼν συνοίσεται στόχῳ.
only this Greek land will-agree with-guess
καὶ τἄλλα πόλλ' ἔτ' εἰκάσαι δίκαιον ἦν,
and the-rest many still to-guess just was

εἰ μὴ παρόντι φθόγγος ἦν ὁ σημανῶν.
if not to-one-present voice was the about-to-show

ΧΟΡΟΣ εἴρηκας ἀμφὶ κόσμον ἀψευδῆ λόγον.
you-have-spoken about dress unlying word

ἐγὼ δὲ πρὸς σὲ πότερον ὡς ἔτην λέγω,
I but to you whether as citizen I-speak

ἢ ῥήτορ' ἱεροράβδον, ἢ πόλεως ἀγόν;
or speaker holy-staffed or of-city leader

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ πρὸς ταῦτ' ἀμείβου καὶ λέγ' εὐθαρσὴς ἐμοί.
to these-things answer and speak boldly to-me

τοῦ γηγενοῦς γάρ εἰμ' ἐγὼ Παλαίχθονος
of-the earth-born for am I Palaechthon

ἶνις Πελασγός, τῆσδε γῆς ἀρχηγέτης.
offspring Pelasgus of-this land ruler

ἐμοῦ δ' ἄνακτος εὐλόγως ἐπώνυμον
of-me and lord fittingly named

γένος Πελασγῶν τήνδε καρποῦται χθόνα.
race of-Pelasgians this reaps land

καὶ πᾶσαν αἶαν, ἧς δι' ἀγνὸς ἔρχεται
and all region which through holy goes

Στρυμών, τὸ πρὸς δύνοντος ἡλίου, κρατῶ.
Strymon the toward setting sun I-rule

ὁρίζομαι δὲ τήν τε Περραίβων χθόνα,
I-bound and the and of-Perrhaebians land

Πίνδου τε τἀπέκεινα, Παιόνων πέλας,
of-Pindus and the-parts-beyond of-Paeonians near

ὄρη τε Δωδωναῖα. συντέμνει δ' ὅρος
mountains and Dodonaean cuts-off and boundary

ὑγρᾶς θαλάσσης· τῶνδε τἀπὶ τάδε κρατῶ.
of-wet sea of-these the-parts-on this-side I-rule

αὐτῆς δὲ χώρας Ἀπίας πέδον τόδε
itself and of-land Apian plain this
πάλαι κέκληται φωτὸς ἰατροῦ χάριν.
long-since has-been-called of-man healer for-the-sake
Ἆπις γὰρ ἐλθὼν ἐκ πέρας Ναυπακτίας
Apis for having-come from shore Naupactian
ἰατρόμαντις παῖς Ἀπόλλωνος χθόνα
healer-seer son of-Apollo land
τήνδ' ἐκκαθαίρει κνωδάλων βροτοφθόρων,
this cleanses of-monsters man-destroying
τὰ δὴ παλαιῶν αἱμάτων μιάσμασιν
which indeed of-ancient bloods by-pollutions
χρανθεῖσ' ἀνῆκε γαῖα μηνιταῖ' ἄχη
defiled sent-up earth wrathful griefs
δρακονθόμιλον δυσμενῆ ξυνοικίαν.
serpent-thronged hostile cohabitation
τούτων ἄκη τομαῖα καὶ λυτήρια
of-these remedies cutting and releasing
πράξας ἀμέμπτως Ἆπις Ἀργείᾳ χθονὶ
having-done blamelessly Apis for-Argive land
μνήμην ποτ' ἀντίμισθον ηὕρετ' ἐν λιταῖς.
memory once in-payment found in prayers
ἔχουσα δ' ἤδη τἀπ' ἐμοῦ τεκμήρια
having and already the-things-from me proofs
γένος τ' ἂν ἐξεύχοιο καὶ λέγοις πρόσω.
race and — you-might-declare and might-speak further
μακράν γε μὲν δὴ ῥῆσιν οὐ στέργει πόλις.
long at-least indeed indeed speech not loves city

ΧΟΡΟΣ βραχὺς τορός θ' ὁ μῦθος· Ἀργεῖαι γένος
brief clear and the story Argive by-race
ἐξευχόμεσθα, σπέρματ' εὐτέκνου βοός·
we-claim seed of-fruitful cow
καὶ ταῦτ' ἀληθῆ πάντα προσφύσω λόγῳ.
and these-things true all I-will-attach by-word
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ἄπιστα μυθεῖσθ', ὦ ξέναι, κλύειν ἐμοί,
incredible-things you-say O strangers to-hear to-me
ὅπως τόδ' ὑμῖν ἐστιν Ἀργεῖον γένος.
how this of-you is Argive race
Λιβυστικαῖς γὰρ μᾶλλον ἐμφερέστεραι
to-Libyan for rather more-like
γυναιξίν ἐστε κοὐδαμῶς ἐγχωρίαις.
women you-are and-in-no-way native
καὶ Νεῖλος ἂν θρέψειε τοιοῦτον φυτόν,
and Nile — might-nourish such plant
Κύπριος χαρακτὴρ τ' ἐν γυναικείοις τύποις
Cyprian stamp and in womanly forms
εἰκὼς πέπληκται τεκτόνων πρὸς ἀρσένων·
likely is-struck craftsmen by male
τοίας τ' ἀκούω νομάδας ἱπποβάμοσιν
such and I-hear nomad on-horse-riding
εἶναι καμήλοις ἀστραβιζούσας, χθόνα
to-be on-camels saddle-riding land
παρ' Αἰθίοψιν ἀστυγειτονουμένας.
by Ethiopians bordering
καὶ τὰς ἀνάνδρους κρεοβόρους τ' Ἀμαζόνας,
and the husbandless flesh-eating and Amazons
εἰ τοξοτευχεῖς ἦτε, κάρτ' ἂν ᾔκασα
if bow-armed you-were very — I-would-have-likened

ὑμᾶς. διδαχθεὶς δ' ἂν τόδ' εἰδείην πλέον,
you having-been-taught but — this I-might-know more
ὅπως γένεθλον σπέρμα τ' Ἀργεῖον τὸ σόν.
how birth seed and Argive the your
ΧΟΡΟΣ κληδοῦχον Ἥρας φασὶ δωμάτων ποτὲ
key-bearer of-Hera they-say of-house once
Ἰὼ γενέσθαι τῇδ' ἐν Ἀργείᾳ χθονί;
Io to-have-been this in Argive land
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ἦν ὡς μάλιστα, καὶ φάτις πολλὴ κρατεῖ.
she-was as most and report much prevails
ΧΟΡΟΣ μὴ καὶ λόγος τις Ζῆνα μειχθῆναι βροτῷ;
not also story some Zeus to-have-lain-with mortal
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ κἄκρυπτά γ' Ἥρας ταῦτα τἀμπαλάγματα.
and-unbidden at-least of-Hera these the-embraces
ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς οὖν τελευτᾷ βασιλέων νείκη τάδε;
how then end of-royals strifes these
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ βοῦν τὴν γυναῖκ' ἔθηκεν Ἀργεία θεός.
cow the woman made Argive goddess
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὔκουν πελάζει Ζεὺς ἐπ' εὐκραίρῳ βοΐ;
not-then approaches Zeus to fair-horned cow
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ φασίν, πρέποντα βουθόρῳ ταύρῳ δέμας.
they-say befitting cow-mounting to-bull body
ΧΟΡΟΣ τί δῆτα πρὸς ταῦτ' ἄλοχος ἰσχυρὰ Διός;
what then to these-things wife mighty of-Zeus
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ τὸν πάνθ' ὁρῶντα φύλακ' ἐπέστησεν βοΐ.
the all seeing guard set-over cow
ΧΟΡΟΣ ποῖον πανόπτην οἰοβουκόλον λέγεις;
what-sort all-seeing lone-herdsman do-you-mean
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ Ἄργον, τὸν Ἑρμῆς παῖδα γῆς κατέκτανεν.
Argus whom Hermes son of-earth killed

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί οὖν ἔτευξεν ἄλλο δυσπότμῳ βοΐ;
what then contrived other for-ill-fated cow

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ βοηλάτην μύωπα κινητήριον.
cattle-driving gadfly goading

ΧΟΡΟΣ οἶστρον καλοῦσιν αὐτὸν οἱ Νείλου πέλας.
gadfly call it the of-Nile near

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ τοιγάρ νιν ἐκ γῆς ἤλασεν μακρῷ δρόμῳ
therefore her from land drove in-long course

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ ταῦτ' ἔλεξας πάντα συγκόλλως ἐμοί. 310
and these-things you-have-said all agreeing with-me

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ καὶ μὴν Κάνωβον κἀπὶ Μέμφιν ἵκετο.
and indeed Canobus and-to Memphis she-came

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ Ζεύς γ' ἐφάπτωρ χειρὶ φιτύει γόνον.
and Zeus at-least toucher by-hand begets offspring

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ τίς οὖν ὁ Διὸς πόρτις εὔχεται βοός;
who then the of-Zeus calf boasts of-cow

ΧΟΡΟΣ Ἔπαφος ἀληθῶς ῥυσίων ἐπώνυμος. 315
Epaphus truly from-rescue named

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ***
(lacuna)

ΧΟΡΟΣ Λιβύη, μέγιστον γῆς πέδον καρπουμένη.
Libya greatest of-land plain reaping

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ***
(lacuna)

ΧΟΡΟΣ ***
(lacuna)

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ τίν' οὖν ἔτ' ἄλλον τῆσδε βλαστημὸν λέγεις;
what then still other of-this offshoot do-you-mean

ΧΟΡΟΣ Βῆλον δίπαιδα, πατέρα τοῦδ' ἐμοῦ πατρός.
Belus with-two-sons father of-this my father

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ τὸ πάνσοφον νῦν ὄνομα τοῦτό μοι φράσον.
the all-wise now name this to-me tell

ΧΟΡΟΣ Δαναός, ἀδελφὸς δ' ἐστὶ πεντηκοντάπαις.
Danaus brother and is with-fifty-sons

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ καὶ τοῦδ' ἄνοιγε τοὔνομ' ἀφθόνῳ λόγῳ.
and of-this-one open the-name with-ungrudging word

ΧΟΡΟΣ Αἴγυπτος. εἰδὼς δ' ἁμὸν ἀρχαῖον γένος
Aegyptus knowing and our ancient race

πράσσοις ἂν ὡς Ἀργεῖον ἀνστήσῃς στόλον.
you-would-act — so-that Argive you-may-raise band

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ δοκεῖτε δή μοι τῆσδε κοινωνεῖν χθονὸς
you-seem indeed to-me in-this to-share land

τἀρχαῖον. ἀλλὰ πῶς πατρῷα δώματα
of-old but how paternal house

λιπεῖν ἔτλητε; τίς κατέσκηψεν τύχη;
to-leave did-you-dare what swooped-down fortune

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄναξ Πελασγῶν, αἰόλ' ἀνθρώπων κακά.
lord of-Pelasgians varied of-men evils

πόνου δ' ἴδοις ἂν οὐδαμοῦ ταὐτὸν πτερόν·
of-toil and you-would-see — nowhere the-same wing

ἐπεὶ τίς ηὔχει τήνδ' ἀνέλπιστον φυγὴν
since who would-have-expected this unexpected flight

κέλσειν ἐς Ἄργος κῆδος ἐγγενὲς τὸ πρίν,
to-land at Argos kinship native the formerly

ἔχθει μεταπτοιοῦσαν εὐναίων γάμων;
by-hatred fleeing of-marriage-bed marriage

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ τί φὴς ἱκνεῖσθαι τῶνδ' ἀγωνίων θεῶν,
what do-you-say you-supplicate of-these assembled gods

λευκοστεφεῖς ἔχουσα νεοδρέπτους κλάδους;
white-wreathed holding fresh-plucked branches

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὡς μὴ γένωμαι δμωὶς Αἰγύπτου γένει.
that not I-may-become slave of-Aegyptus to-race

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ πότερα κατ᾽ ἔχθραν, ἢ τὸ μὴ θέμις λέγεις;
whether through hatred or the not lawful do-you-mean

ΧΟΡΟΣ τίς δ᾽ ἂν φίλους ὠνοῖτο τοὺς κεκτημένους;
who and — kinsmen would-buy the masters

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ σθένος μὲν οὕτως μεῖζον αὔξεται βροτοῖς.
strength indeed thus greater is-increased for-mortals

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ δυστυχούντων γ᾽ εὐμαρὴς ἀπαλλαγή.
and of-those-faring-ill at-least easy release

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ πῶς οὖν πρὸς ὑμᾶς εὐσεβὴς ἐγὼ πέλω;
how then toward you pious I am

ΧΟΡΟΣ αἰτοῦσι μὴ ᾽κδοὺς παισὶν Αἰγύπτου πάλιν.
asking not handing-over to-sons of-Aegyptus back

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ βαρέα σύ γ᾽ εἶπας, πόλεμον ἄρασθαι νέον.
grievous-things you at-least you-said war to-take-up new

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἡ δίκη γε ξυμμάχων ὑπερστατεῖ.
but the justice at-least of-allies stands-over

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ εἴπερ γ᾽ ἀπ᾽ ἀρχῆς πραγμάτων κοινωνὸς ἦν.
if-indeed at-least from beginning of-affairs partner she-was

ΧΟΡΟΣ αἰδοῦ σὺ πρύμναν πόλεος ὧδ᾽ ἐστεμμένην.
revere you stern of-city thus wreathed

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ πέφρικα λεύσσων τάσδ᾽ ἕδρας κατασκίους.
I-shudder seeing these seats shaded

ΧΟΡΟΣ βαρύς γε μέντοι Ζηνὸς ἱκεσίου κότος.
heavy at-least however of-Zeus suppliants wrath

The maidens implore Pelasgus as the city's sole ruler to protect them. He answers that he cannot promise without the people, since the pollution would fall on all, and that the sons of Aegyptus may claim them by the law of their home as nearest kin. The maidens answer that they will never be subject to men, warn him of Zeus' wrath, and describe how they would be dragged by their robes from the gods' images.

ΧΟΡΟΣ Παλαίχθονος τέκος, κλῦθί μου
of-Palaechthon child hear me
πρόφρονι καρδίᾳ, Πελασγῶν ἄναξ.
with-gracious heart of-Pelasgians lord
ἴδε με τὰν ἱκέτιν φυγάδα περίδρομον,
see me the suppliant fugitive running-around
λυκοδίωκτον ὡς δάμαλιν ἂμ πέτραις
wolf-chased like heifer on rocks
ἠλιβάτοις, ἵν' ἀλκᾷ πίσυνος μέμυ-
steep where in-help trusting she-lows
κε φράζουσα βοτῆρι μόχθους.
— *telling to-herdsman toils*
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ὁρῶ κλάδοισι νεοδρόποις κατάσκιον
I-see with-branches fresh-plucked shaded
νεύονθ' ὅμιλον τόνδ' ἀγωνίων θεῶν.
nodding throng this of-assembled gods
εἴη δ' ἄνατον πρᾶγμα τοῦτ' ἀστοξένων.
may-be and harmless affair this of-citizen-strangers
μηδ' ἐξ ἀέλπτων κἀπρομηθήτων πόλει
nor from unexpected and-unforeseen for-city
νεῖκος γένηται· τῶν γὰρ οὐ δεῖται πόλις.
strife arise of-which for not needs city

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἴδοιτο δῆτ᾽ ἄνατον φυγὰν
may-she-look-on indeed harmless flight
ἱκεσία Θέμις Διὸς κλαρίου.
suppliant Themis of-Zeus lots
σὺ δὲ παρ᾽ ὀψιγόνου μάθε γεραιόφρων·
you and from late-born learn old-minded
ποτιτρόπαιον αἰδόμενος †οὖνπερ
suppliant revering (corrupt)-whom-indeed
ἱεροδόκα† ***
holy-receiving(corrupt) (lacuna)
θεῶν λήματ᾽ ἀπ᾽ ἀνδρὸς ἁγνοῦ.
of-gods spirits from man pure
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ οὔτοι κάθησθε δωμάτων ἐφέστιοι
surely-not you-sit of-house at-the-hearth
ἐμῶν. τὸ κοινὸν δ᾽ εἰ μιαίνεται πόλις,
of-my the common but if is-defiled city
ξυνῇ μελέσθω λαὸς ἐκπονεῖν ἄκη.
in-common let-be-concerned people to-work-out remedies
ἐγὼ δ᾽ ἂν οὐ κραίνοιμ᾽ ὑπόσχεσιν πάρος,
I but — not would-ratify promise before
ἀστοῖς δὲ πᾶσι τῶνδε κοινώσας πέρι.
with-citizens and all these having-shared about
ΧΟΡΟΣ σύ τοι πόλις, σὺ δὲ τὸ δάμιον·
you surely city you and the public
πρύτανις ἄκριτος ὤν,
president unjudged being
κρατύνεις βωμόν, ἑστίαν χθονός,
you-rule altar hearth of-land
μονοψήφοισι νεύμασιν σέθεν,
by-single-voted nods of-you

μονοσκήπτροισι δ' ἐν θρόνοις χρέος
single-sceptered and on thrones need
πᾶν ἐπικραίνεις· ἄγος φυλάσσου.
all you-accomplish pollution guard-against
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ἄγος μὲν εἴη τοῖς ἐμοῖς παλιγκότοις,
pollution indeed may-be for-the my adversaries
ὑμῖν δ' ἀρήγειν οὐκ ἔχω βλάβης ἄτερ·
you but to-help not I-can harm without
οὐδ' αὖ τόδ' εὖφρον, τάσδ' ἀτιμάσαι λιτάς.
nor again this wise these to-dishonor prayers
ἀμηχανῶ δὲ καὶ φόβος μ' ἔχει φρένας
I-am-at-a-loss and and fear me holds heart
δρᾶσαί τε μὴ δρᾶσαί τε καὶ τύχην ἑλεῖν.
to-do both not to-do and also fortune to-take
ΧΟΡΟΣ τὸν ὑψόθεν σκοπὸν ἐπισκόπει,
the from-above watcher look-to
φύλακα πολυπόνων
guardian of-much-toiling
βροτῶν, οἳ τοῖς πέλας προσήμενοι
of-mortals who to-the neighbors sitting-as-suppliants
δίκας οὐ τυγχάνουσιν ἐννόμου.
justice not obtain lawful
μένει τοι Ζηνὸς ἱκταίου κότος
remains surely of-Zeus suppliants wrath
δυσπαραθέλκτους παθόντος οἴκτοις.
hard-to-soothe of-sufferer by-laments
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ εἴ τοι κρατοῦσι παῖδες Αἰγύπτου σέθεν
if surely rule sons of-Aegyptus you
νόμῳ πόλεως, φάσκοντες ἐγγύτατα γένους
by-law of-city saying nearest of-kin

εἶναι, τίς ἂν τοῖσδ' ἀντιωθῆναι θέλοι;
to-be who — these to-oppose would-wish

δεῖ τοί σε φεύγειν κατὰ νόμους τοὺς οἴκοθεν,
must surely you to-plead according-to laws the from-home

ὡς οὐκ ἔχουσιν κῦρος οὐδὲν ἀμφὶ σοῦ.
that not they-have authority none over you

ΧΟΡΟΣ μή τί ποτ' οὖν γενοίμαν ὑποχείριος
not at-all ever then may-I-become subject

κράτεσιν ἀρσένων. ὕπαστρον δέ τοι
to-powers of-males under-stars and surely

μῆχαρ ὁρίζομαι γάμου δύσφρονος
remedy I-mark-out of-marriage hateful

φυγάν· ξύμμαχον δ' ἑλόμενος δίκαν
flight ally and having-chosen justice

κρῖνε σέβας τὸ πρὸς θεῶν.
judge reverence the from gods

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ οὐκ εὔκριτον τὸ κρῖμα· μή μ' αἱροῦ κριτήν.
not easily-judged the judgment not me choose judge

εἶπον δὲ καὶ πρίν, οὐκ ἄνευ δήμου τάδε
I-said and also before not without people these

πράξαιμ' ἄν, οὐδέ περ κρατῶν, μὴ καί ποτε
would-I-do — not-even though being-in-power lest even ever

εἴπῃ λεώς, εἴ πού τι μὴ τοῖον τύχοι,
should-say people if somehow anything not such should-happen

"ἐπήλυδας τιμῶν ἀπώλεσας πόλιν."
newcomers honoring you-destroyed city

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀμφοτέρους ὁμαίμων τάδ' ἐπισκοπεῖ
both of-kin these watches

Ζεὺς ἑτερορρεπής, νέμων εἰκότως
Zeus inclining-either-way allotting fittingly

ἄδικα μὲν κακοῖς, ὅσια δ' ἐννόμοις.
unjust-things indeed to-evil holy-things and to-law-abiding
τί τῶνδ' ἐξ ἴσου ῥεπομένων μεταλ-
why these from equal being-balanced do-you-grieve
γεῖς τὸ δίκαιον ἔρξας;
— the just having-done
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ δεῖ τοι βαθείας φροντίδος σωτηρίου,
must surely of-deep thought saving
δίκην κολυμβητῆρος, ἐς βυθὸν μολεῖν
like diver into depth to-go
δεδορκὸς ὄμμα, μηδ' ἄγαν ὠνωμένον,
seeing eye nor too-much wine-drunk
ὅπως ἄνατα ταῦτα πρῶτα μὲν πόλει,
so-that harmless these-things first indeed for-city
αὐτοῖσί θ' ἡμῖν ἐκτελευτήσει καλῶς,
for-ourselves and for-us will-end well
καὶ μήτε δῆρις ῥυσίων ἐφάψεται
and neither strife of-reprisals will-lay-hold
μήτ' ἐν θεῶν ἕδραισιν ὧδ' ἱδρυμένας
nor in of-gods seats thus seated
ἐκδόντες ὑμᾶς τὸν πανώλεθρον θεὸν
having-surrendered you the all-destroying god
βαρὺν ξύνοικον θησόμεσθ' ἀλάστορα,
heavy fellow-dweller shall-we-make avenger
ὃς οὐδ' ἐν Ἅιδου τὸν θανόντ' ἐλευθεροῖ.
who not-even in Hades the dead frees
μῶν οὐ δοκεῖ δεῖν φροντίδος σωτηρίου;
surely-not not seems to-be-needed of-thought saving

χορος φρόντισον καὶ γενοῦ
take-thought and be
πανδίκως εὐσεβὴς
all-justly pious
πρόξενος· τὰν φυγάδα μὴ προδῷς,
patron the fugitive not betray
τὰν ἔκαθεν ἐκβολαῖς
the from-afar by-expulsions
δυσθέοις ὀρμέναν·
godless driven
μηδ' ἴδῃς μ' ἐξ ἑδρᾶν
nor see me from seats
πολυθέων ῥυσια-
of-many-gods seized-as-prize
σθεῖσαν, ὦ πᾶν κράτος ἔχων χθονός.
— *O all power having of-land*
γνῶθι δ' ὕβριν ἀνέρων
know and insolence of-men
καὶ φύλαξαι κότον.
and guard-against wrath
μή τι τλῇς τὰν ἱκέτιν εἰσιδεῖν
not at-all endure the suppliant to-see
ἀπὸ βρετέων βίᾳ
from images by-force
δίκας ἀγομέναν
against-justice led
ἱππηδὸν ἀμπύκων,
like-a-horse by-headbands
πολυμίτων πέπλων τ' ἐπιλαβὰς ἐμῶν.
of-many-threaded robes and seizings my

ἴσθι γάρ· παισὶ τάδε καὶ δόμοις,
know for for-children these and for-house
ὁπότερ᾽ ἂν κτίσῃς,
whichever — you-choose
435 μένει ἄρ᾽ ἐκτίνειν
remains then to-pay
ὁμοῖαν θέμιν.
like justice
τάδε φράσαι δίκαια Διόθεν κράτη.
these consider just from-Zeus powers

V · A THREAT OF POLLUTION

Pelasgus sees that he must either wage a great war or offend the gods. The maidens reveal their last resource: they will hang themselves with their girdles from the images, a pollution no arrow could overshoot. He yields, and sends Danaus with escorts to lay branches on the city's altars so that the citizens may pity them. He bids the maidens wait in the grove and goes to persuade the people.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ καὶ δὴ πέφρασμαι· δεῦρο δ᾽ ἐξοκέλλεται·
and indeed I-have-considered hither and it-runs-aground
ἢ τοῖσιν ἢ τοῖς πόλεμον αἴρεσθαι μέγαν
either with-these or with-those war to-take-up great
440 πᾶσ᾽ ἔστ᾽ ἀνάγκη, καὶ γεγόμφωται σκάφος
all is necessity and has-been-bolted ship
στρέβλαισι ναυτικαῖσιν ὡς προσηγμένον.
with-windlasses nautical as hauled-up
ἄνευ δὲ λύπης οὐδαμοῦ καταστροφή.
without and grief nowhere end
καὶ χρημάτων μὲν ἐκ δόμων πορθουμένων,
and of-goods indeed from house being-plundered

†ἄτην γε μείζω καὶ μέγ' ἐμπλήσας γόμου†
(corrupt)-ruin at-least greater and greatly having-filled cargo(corrupt)
γένοιτ' ἂν ἄλλα Κτησίου Διὸς χάριν·
might-come — others of-Property Zeus by-favor
καὶ γλῶσσα τοξεύσασα μὴ τὰ καίρια,
and tongue having-shot not the timely-things
γένοιτο μύθου μῦθος ἂν θελκτήριος
might-be of-word word — soothing
ὅπως δ' ὅμαιμον αἷμα μὴ γενήσεται,
so-that and kindred blood not shall-be
δεῖ κάρτα θύειν καὶ πεσεῖν χρηστήρια
must very to-sacrifice and to-fall victims
θεοῖσι πολλοῖς πολλά, πημονῆς ἄκη.
to-gods many many of-woe remedies
ἦ κάρτα νείκους τοῦδ' ἔσω παροίχομαι·
surely very of-strife this into I-have-gone
θέλω δ' ἄιδρις μᾶλλον ἢ σοφὸς κακῶν
I-wish and ignorant rather than wise of-evils
εἶναι· γένοιτο δ' εὖ παρὰ γνώμην ἐμήν.
to-be may-it-turn-out and well against judgment my
ΧΟΡΟΣ πολλῶν ἄκουσον τέρματ' αἰδοίων λόγων.
of-many hear ends of-reverent words
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ἤκουσα, καὶ λέγοις ἄν· οὔ με φεύξεται.
I-heard and you-may-speak — not me will-escape
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔχω στρόφους ζώνας τε, συλλαβὰς πέπλων.
I-have bands girdles and fastenings of-robes
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ τάχ' ἂν γυναιξὶ ταῦτα συμπρεπῆ πέλοι.
perhaps — for-women these-things fitting might-be
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐκ τῶνδε τοίνυν, ἴσθι, μηχανὴ καλή —
from these then know-that device fine

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ λέξον τίν᾽ αὐδὴν τήνδε γηρυθεῖσ᾽ ἔσει.
say what utterance this having-uttered you-will-be

ΧΟΡΟΣ εἰ μή τι πιστὸν τῷδ᾽ ὑποστήσεις στόλῳ —
if not something faithful to-this you-assure band

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ τί σοι περαίνει μηχανὴ συζωμάτων;
what for-you accomplishes device of-girdles

ΧΟΡΟΣ νέοις πίναξι βρέτεα κοσμῆσαι τάδε.
with-new tablets images to-adorn these

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ αἰνιγματῶδες τοὔπος· ἀλλ᾽ ἁπλῶς φράσον.
riddling the-word but simply tell

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐκ τῶνδ᾽ ὅπως τάχιστ᾽ ἀπάγξασθαι θεῶν.
from these how quickest to-hang-ourselves of-gods

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ἤκουσα μαστικτῆρα καρδίας λόγον.
I-heard lashing of-heart word

ΧΟΡΟΣ ξυνῆκας· ὠμμάτωσα γὰρ σαφέστερον.
you-understood I-made-it-plain for more-clearly

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ καὶ πολλαχῇ γε δυσπάλαιστα πράγματα,
and in-many-ways at-least hard-to-wrestle affairs

κακῶν δὲ πλῆθος ποταμὸς ὡς ἐπέρχεται·
of-evils and multitude river like comes-on

ἄτης δ᾽ ἄβυσσον πέλαγος οὐ μάλ᾽ εὔπορον
of-ruin and bottomless sea not very easy-to-cross

τόδ᾽ ἐσβέβηκα, κοὐδαμοῦ λιμὴν κακῶν.
this I-have-embarked and-nowhere harbor of-evils

εἰ μὲν γὰρ ὑμῖν μὴ τόδ᾽ ἐκπράξω χρέος,
if indeed for to-you not this I-accomplish debt

μίασμ᾽ ἔλεξας οὐχ ὑπερτοξεύσιμον·
pollution you-said not to-be-overshot

εἰ δ᾽ αὖθ᾽ ὁμαίμοις παισὶν Αἰγύπτου σέθεν
if but again with-kindred sons of-Aegyptus your

σταθεὶς πρὸ τειχέων διὰ μάχης ἥξω τέλους,
standing before walls through battle I-come to-end

πῶς οὐχὶ τἀνάλωμα γίγνεται πικρόν,
how not the-expense becomes bitter

ἄνδρας γυναικῶν οὕνεχ' αἱμάξαι πέδον;
men of-women for-the-sake to-bloody ground

ὅμως δ' ἀνάγκη Ζηνὸς αἰδεῖσθαι κότον
nevertheless but necessity of-Zeus to-respect wrath

ἱκτῆρος· ὕψιστος γὰρ ἐν βροτοῖς φόβος.
of-suppliant highest for among mortals fear

σὺ μέν, πάτερ γεραιὲ τῶνδε παρθένων,
you indeed father old of-these maidens

κλάδους τε τούτους αἶψ' ἐν ἀγκάλαις λαβὼν
branches and these quickly in arms having-taken

βωμοὺς ἐπ' ἄλλους δαιμόνων ἐγχωρίων
altars on other of-gods native

θές, ὡς ἴδωσι τῆσδ' ἀφίξεως τέκμαρ
place so-that may-see of-this arrival proof

πάντες πολῖται, μηδ' ἀπορριφθῇ λόγος
all citizens nor be-rejected word

ἐμοῦ· κατ' ἀρχῆς γὰρ φιλαίτιος λεώς.
of-me against rule for fond-of-blame people

καὶ γὰρ τάχ' ἄν τις οἰκτίσας ἰδὼν τάδε
and for perhaps — someone pitying seeing these

ὕβριν μὲν ἐχθήρειεν ἄρσενος στόλου,
insolence indeed might-hate of-male band

ὑμῖν δ' ἂν εἴη δῆμος εὐμενέστερος·
to-you but — would-be people more-well-disposed

τοῖς ἥσσοσιν γὰρ πᾶς τις εὐνοίας φέρει.
to-the weaker for every one goodwill bears

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ πολλῶν τάδ' ἡμῖν ἐστιν ἠξιωμένα,
of-many these to-us is having-been-deemed-worth
αἰδοῖον εὑρεθέντα πρόξενον λαβεῖν.
reverend having-been-found patron to-take
ὀπάονας δὲ φράστοράς τ' ἐγχωρίων
attendants and guides and of-natives
ξύμπεμψον, ὡς ἂν τῶν πολισσούχων θεῶν
send-with so-that — of-the city-holding gods
βωμοὺς προνάους καὶ †πολισσούχων ἕδρας
altars before-temples and (corrupt)-city-holding seats
εὕρωμεν, ἀσφάλεια δ' ᾖ δι' ἄστεως
we-may-find safety and may-be through town
στείχουσι· μορφῆς δ' οὐχ ὁμόστολος φύσις.
going of-form and not same-robed nature
Νεῖλος γὰρ οὐχ ὅμοιον Ἰνάχῳ γένος
Nile for not like to-Inachus race
τρέφει. φύλαξαι μὴ θράσος τέκῃ φόβον·
nourishes guard lest boldness beget fear
καὶ δὴ φίλον τις ἔκταν' ἀγνοίας ὕπο.
and indeed friend someone killed ignorance through
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ στείχοιτ' ἄν, ἄνδρες· εὖ γὰρ ὁ ξένος λέγει.
you-may-go — men well for the stranger speaks
ἡγεῖσθε βωμοὺς ἀστικούς, θεῶν ἕδρας·
lead altars of-city of-gods seats
καὶ ξυμβολοῦσιν οὐ πολυστομεῖν χρεὼν
and to-those-meeting not to-talk-much must
ναύτην ἄγοντας τόνδ' ἐφέστιον θεῶν.
sailor leading this suppliant of-gods

ΧΟΡΟΣ τούτῳ μὲν εἶπας, καὶ τεταγμένος κίοι·
to-this-one indeed you-spoke and instructed let-him-go
ἐγὼ δὲ πῶς δρῶ; ποῦ θράσος νέμεις ἐμοί; 505
I but how do-I-do where boldness do-you-assign to-me
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ κλάδους μὲν αὐτοῦ λεῖπε, σημεῖον πόνου.
branches indeed here leave sign of-toil
ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ δή σφε λείπω χειρὶ καὶ λόγοις σέθεν.
and indeed them I-leave by-hand and by-words of-you
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ λευρὸν κατ᾽ ἄλσος νῦν ἐπιστρέφου τόδε.
level in grove now turn this
ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ πῶς βέβηλον ἄλσος ἂν ῥύοιτό με;
and how profane grove — would-protect me
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ οὔτοι πτερωτῶν ἁρπαγαῖς σ᾽ ἐκδώσομεν. 510
surely-not of-winged to-snatchings you will-we-surrender
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ εἰ δρακόντων δυσφρόνων ἐχθίοσιν;
but if of-serpents hostile more-hateful
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ εὔφημον εἴη τοὔπος εὐφημουμένῃ.
auspicious may-be the-word to-one-being-reassured
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὔτοι τι θαῦμα δυσφορεῖν φόβῳ φρενός.
surely-not at-all marvel to-be-distressed in-fear of-mind
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ἀεί γ᾽ ἄναρκτόν ἐστι δεῖμ᾽ ἐξαίσιον.
ever at-least unruled is fear excessive
ΧΟΡΟΣ σὺ καὶ λέγων εὔφραινε καὶ πράσσων φρένα. 515
you and speaking cheer and doing heart
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ἀλλ᾽ οὔτι δαρὸν χρόνον ἐρημώσει πατήρ.
but not-at-all long time will-leave-alone father
ἐγὼ δὲ λαοὺς συγκαλῶν ἐγχωρίους
I and peoples calling-together native
στείχω, τὸ κοινὸν ὡς ἂν εὐμενὲς τιθῶ·
go the commons so-that — well-disposed I-may-make

καὶ σὸν διδάξω πατέρα ποῖα χρὴ λέγειν.
and your I-will-instruct father what-things must to-say
πρὸς ταῦτα μίμνε καὶ θεοὺς ἐγχωρίους
to these-things wait and gods native
λιταῖς παραιτοῦ τῶν σ' ἔρως ἔχει τυχεῖν.
with-prayers beseech of-what-things you desire holds to-obtain
ἐγὼ δὲ ταῦτα πορσυνῶν ἐλεύσομαι·
I and these-things to-provide shall-come
πειθὼ δ' ἕποιτο καὶ τύχη πρακτήριος.
persuasion and may-follow and fortune effective

VI · THE WANDERINGS OF IO

The maidens sing to Zeus, lord of lords, and recall Io: driven by the gadfly through Asia, Phrygia, Mysia, Lydia, Cilicia, and Pamphylia, she came at last to Egypt, to the grove of Zeus fed by the Nile. There Zeus with gentle force and divine breath ended her madness, and she bore Epaphus, the blameless son from whom their race descends. Who but Zeus can be called the author of their line?

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄναξ ἀνάκτων, μακάρων
lord of-lords blessed
μακάρτατε καὶ τελέων
most-blessed and of-perfect
τελειότατον κράτος, ὄλβιε Ζεῦ,
most-perfect power prosperous Zeus
πιθοῦ τε καὶ γένει σῷ
be-persuaded both and for-race your
ἄλευσον ἀνδρῶν ὕβριν εὖ στυγήσας·
ward-off of-men insolence well having-hated
λίμνᾳ δ' ἔμβαλε πορφυροειδεῖ
in-sea and cast purple

τὰν μελανόζυγ' ἄταν.
the black-benched ruin
τὸ πρὸς γυναικῶν δ' ἐπιδὼν
the from women and looking-on
παλαίφατον ἁμέτερον
of-ancient-fame our
γένος φιλίας προγόνου γυναικὸς
race of-dear ancestress woman
νέωσον εὔφρον' αἶνον,
renew kindly tale
γενοῦ πολυμνάστωρ, ἔφαπτορ Ἰοῦς,
be much-remembering toucher of-Io
Διῖαι τοι γένος εὐχόμεθ' εἶναι
of-Zeus surely race we-boast to-be
γᾶς ἀπὸ τᾶσδ' ἄποικοι.
land from this colonists
παλαιὸν δ' εἰς ἴχνος μετέσταν
ancient and into track I-have-moved
ματέρος ἀνθονόμους ἐπωπάς,
of-mother flower-grazing watching-places
λειμῶνα βούχιλον, ἔνθεν Ἰὼ
meadow cow-pasture whence Io
οἴστρῳ ἐρεθομένα
by-gadfly goaded
φεύγει ἀμαρτίνοος,
flees distraught
πολλὰ βροτῶν διαμειβομένα
many of-mortals passing-through
φῦλα, διχῇ δ' ἀντίπορον
tribes in-two and opposite

γαῖαν ἐν αἴσᾳ διατέμ-
land in fate cleaving
νουσα πόρον κυματίαν ὁρίζει·
— strait wavy she-marks-out
ἰάπτει δ' Ἀσίδος δι' αἴας
she-darts and Asian through land
μηλοβότου Φρυγίας διαμπάξ.
of-sheep-grazing Phrygia right-through
περᾷ δὲ Τεύθραντος ἄστυ Μυσῶν,
crosses and of-Teuthras town of-Mysians
Λύδιά τε γύαλα,
Lydian and valleys
καὶ δι' ὀρῶν Κιλίκων
and through mountains of-Cilicians
Παμφύλων τε διορνυμένα
of-Pamphylians and rushing-through
καὶ ποταμοὺς ἀενάους
and rivers ever-flowing
καὶ βαθύπλουτον χθόνα καὶ
and deep-rich land and
τὰν Ἀφροδίτας πολύπυρον αἶαν.
the of-Aphrodite wheat-rich land
ἱκνεῖται δὴ σινουμένα βέλει
comes indeed being-harried by-shaft
βουκόλου πτερόεντος
of-herdsman winged
Διῖον πάμβοτον ἄλσος,
of-Zeus all-feeding grove
λειμῶνα χιονόβοσκον, ὅντ' ἐπέρχεται
meadow snow-fed which comes-upon

Τυφῶ μένος,
of-Typhon might
ὕδωρ τε Νείλου νόσοις ἄθικτον,
water and of-Nile by-diseases untouched
μαινομένα πόνοις ἀτί-
maddened by-toils dishonored
μοις ὀδύναις τε κεντροδα-
— *by-pains and goad-driven*
λήτισι θυιὰς Ἥρας.
— *maenad of-Hera*
βροτοὶ δ', οἳ γᾶς τότ' ἦσαν ἔννομοι,
mortals and who of-land then were dwellers
χλωρῷ δείματι θυμὸν
with-pale fear heart
πάλλοντ' ὄψιν ἀήθη,
shaking sight unaccustomed
βοτὸν ἐσορῶντες δυσχερὲς μειξόμβροτον,
creature seeing loathsome half-human
τὰν μὲν βοός,
the indeed of-cow
τὰν δ' αὖ γυναικός· τέρας δ' ἐθάμβουν.
the and again of-woman portent and they-marveled
καὶ τότε δὴ τίς ἦν ὁ θέλ-
and then indeed who was the having-charmed
ξας πολύπλαγκτον ἀθλίαν
— *far-wandering wretched*
οἰστροδόνητον Ἰώ;
gadfly-driven Io
δι' αἰῶνος κρέων ἀπαύστου
through age ruling unceasing

575 Ζεὺς ***
Zeus (lacuna)
Διὸς δ' ἀπημάντῳ σθένει
of-Zeus and with-harmless strength
καὶ θείαις ἐπιπνοίαις
and with-divine breathings
παύεται, δακρύων δ' ἀπο-
she-ceases of-tears and drips-off
στάζει πένθιμον αἰδῶ.
— *mournful shame*
580 λαβοῦσα δ' ἕρμα Διὸν ἀψευδεῖ λόγῳ
having-received and burden of-Zeus by-unlying word
γείνατο παῖδ' ἀμεμφῆ,
bore son blameless
δι' αἰῶνος μακροῦ πάνολβον·
through age long all-blessed
ἔνθεν πᾶσα βοᾷ χθών,
whence all cries land
"φυσιζόου γένος τόδε
of-life-giving race this
585 Ζηνός ἐστιν ἀληθῶς·
of-Zeus is truly
τίς γὰρ ἂν κατέπαυσεν Ἥ-
who for — could-have-stopped of-Hera
ρας νόσους ἐπιβούλους;"
— *diseases plotting*
Διὸς τόδ' ἔργον καὶ τόδ' ἂν γένος λέγων
of-Zeus this work and this — race saying
ἐξ Ἐπάφου κυρήσαις.
from Epaphus you-would-hit-the-mark

τίν᾽ ἂν θεῶν ἐνδικωτέροισιν
whom — of-gods juster
κεκλοίμαν εὐλόγως ἐπ᾽ ἔργοις;
might-I-invoke fittingly for deeds
αὐτὸς ὁ πατὴρ φυτουργὸς αὐτόχειρ ἄναξ
himself the father begetter with-own-hand lord
γένους παλαιόφρων μέγας
of-race ancient-minded great
τέκτων, τὸ πᾶν μῆχαρ οὔριος Ζεύς.
craftsman the all means favorable Zeus
ὑπ᾽ ἀρχᾶς δ᾽ οὔ τινος θοάζων
under rule and not of-anyone sitting
τὸ μεῖον κρεισσόνων κρατύνει.
the less than-stronger rules
οὔτινος ἄνωθεν ἡμένου σέβει κράτη.
of-no-one above sitting reveres powers
πάρεστι δ᾽ ἔργον ὡς ἔπος
is-possible and deed as word
σπεῦσαί τι τῶν βούλιος φέρει φρήν.
to-hasten something of-what counsel brings mind

Danaus returns with good news: the Argives have voted with one show of hands that the strangers shall live in Argos free, safe from seizure, and that any citizen who fails to defend them shall lose his rights and go into exile. Pelasgus persuaded them by warning of the wrath of Zeus, god of suppliants. The maidens prepare to pray for Argos.

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ θαρσεῖτε παῖδες· εὖ τὰ τῶν ἐγχωρίων·
take-heart children well the of-the natives
δήμου δέδοκται παντελῆ ψηφίσματα.
of-people have-been-decided complete decrees
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ χαῖρε πρέσβυ, φίλτατ' ἀγγέλλων ἐμοί·
O greetings old-man dearest-things announcing to-me
ἔνισπε δ' ἡμῖν ποῖ κεκύρωται τέλος,
tell and to-us how has-been-ratified end
δήμου κρατοῦσα χεὶρ ὅπῃ πληθύνεται.
of-people ruling hand how is-made-majority
ΔΑΝΑΟΣ ἔδοξεν Ἀργείοισιν οὐ διχορρόπως,
it-seemed-good to-Argives not two-ways
ἀλλ' ὥστ' ἀνηβῆσαί με γηραιᾷ φρενί·
but so-that to-grow-young me in-old mind
πανδημίᾳ γὰρ χερσὶ δεξιωνύμοις
with-whole-people for with-hands right-hand
ἔφριξεν αἰθὴρ τόνδε κραινόντων λόγον·
bristled air this ratifying word
ἡμᾶς μετοικεῖν τῆσδε γῆς ἐλευθέρους
us to-dwell-as-aliens of-this land free
κἀρρυσιάστους ξύν τ' ἀσυλίᾳ βροτῶν·
and-unseizable with and inviolability of-mortals

καὶ μήτ᾽ ἐνοίκων μήτ᾽ ἐπηλύδων τινὰ
and neither of-inhabitants nor of-newcomers anyone
ἄγειν· ἐὰν δὲ προστιθῇ τὸ καρτερόν,
to-lead-away if but uses the force
τὸν μὴ βοηθήσαντα τῶνδε γαμόρων
the not having-helped of-these landowners
ἄτιμον εἶναι ξὺν φυγῇ δημηλάτῳ.
disenfranchised to-be with exile public
τοιάνδ᾽ ἔπειθεν ῥῆσιν ἀμφ᾽ ἡμῶν λέγων
such persuaded speech about us speaking
ἄναξ Πελασγῶν, ἱκεσίου Ζηνὸς κότον
lord of-Pelasgians of-suppliant Zeus wrath
μέγαν προφωνῶν μήποτ᾽ εἰσόπιν χρόνου
great proclaiming never in-future of-time
πόλιν παχῦναι, ξενικὸν ἀστικόν θ᾽ ἅμα
city to-fatten foreign of-citizens and at-once
λέγων διπλοῦν μίασμα πρὸ πόλεως φανὲν
saying double pollution before city appearing
ἀμήχανον βόσκημα πημονῆς πέλειν.
helpless food of-woe to-be
τοιαῦτ᾽ ἀκούων χερσὶν Ἀργεῖος λεὼς
such-things hearing with-hands Argive people
ἔκραν᾽ ἄνευ κλητῆρος ὡς εἶναι τάδε.
ratified without herald so-that to-be these
δημηγόρους δ᾽ ἤκουσεν εὐπιθὴς στροφὰς
popular and heard well-persuaded turns
δῆμος Πελασγῶν· Ζεὺς δ᾽ ἐπέκρανεν τέλος.
people of-Pelasgians Zeus and accomplished end

625 ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄγε δή, λέξωμεν ἐπ᾽ Ἀργείοις
come indeed let-us-say for Argives
εὐχὰς ἀγαθάς, ἀγαθῶν ποινάς.
prayers good of-good-things requitals
Ζεὺς δ᾽ ἐφορεύοι ξένιος ξενίου
Zeus and may-oversee god-of-strangers of-strangers
στόματος τιμὰς ἐπ᾽ ἀληθείᾳ,
of-mouth honors in truth
τέρμον᾽ ἄμεμπτον προσαπαντᾶν.
end blameless to-bring-to-pass

VIII · A BLESSING ON ARGOS

The maidens pray for Argos, since it honored the suppliants of Zeus: may war and plague never empty the city, nor civil strife bloody its soil; may its youth flourish, its mothers bear children, its herds and fields be fruitful, its singers praise the gods, and its people keep the law, give justice to strangers, and honor the gods and their parents.

630 ΧΟΡΟΣ νῦν ὅτε καί, θεοὶ
now when also gods
διογενεῖς, κλύοιτ᾽ εὐ-
Zeus-born may-you-hear prayed-for
κταῖα γένει χεούσας·
— for-race pouring
μήποτε πυρίφατον
never fire-slain
γᾶν Πελασγίαν
land Pelasgian
635 τὸν ἄκορον βοᾶς
the insatiate of-cry

κτίσαι μάχλον Ἄρη,
to-make lewd Ares
τὸν ἀρότοις θερί-
the plowings reaping
ζοντα βροτοὺς ἐν ἄλλοις,
— mortals in others
οὕνεκ᾽ ᾤκτισαν ἡμᾶς,
because they-pitied us
ψῆφον δ᾽ εὔφρον᾽ ἔθεντο,
vote and kindly they-made
αἰδοῦνται δ᾽ ἱκέτας Διός,
they-respect and suppliants of-Zeus
ποίμναν τάνδ᾽ ἀμέγαρτον·
flock this unenviable
οὐδὲ μετ᾽ ἀρσένων
nor with males
ψῆφον ἔθεντ᾽ ἀτιμώ-
vote they-made having-dishonored
σαντες ἔριν γυναικῶν,
— strife of-women
Δῖον ἐπιδόμενοι
of-Zeus looking-to
πράκτορά σκοπὸν
avenger watcher
δυσπολέμητον, ὃν
hard-to-fight whom
τίς ἂν δόμος ἔχοι
what — house would-have

ἐπ᾽ ὀρόφων μιαί-
on roofs defiling
νοντα; βαρὺς δ᾽ ἐφίζει.
— heavy and he-settles
ἄζονται γὰρ ὁμαίμους
they-revere for kin
Ζηνὸς ἵκτορας ἁγνοῦ.
of-Zeus suppliants of-holy
τοιγάρτοι καθαροῖσι βω-
therefore with-pure altars
μοῖς θεοὺς ἀρέσονται.
— gods they-will-please
τοιγὰρ ὑποσκίων
therefore shaded
ἐκ στομάτων ποτά-
from mouths let-fly
σθω φιλότιμος εὐχά,
— honoring prayer
μήποτε λοιμὸς ἀνδρῶν
never plague of-men
τάνδε πόλιν κενώσαι·
this city may-empty
μηδ᾽ ἐπιχωρίοις ἔρις
nor with-native strife
πτώμασιν αἱματίσαι πέδον γᾶς.
with-fallings may-bloody plain of-land
ἥβας δ᾽ ἄνθος ἄδρεπτον
of-youth and flower unplucked
ἔστω, μηδ᾽ Ἀφροδίτας
let-be nor of-Aphrodite

εὐνάτωρ βροτολοιγὸς Ἄ-
bedfellow man-destroying Ares
ρης κέρσειεν ἄωτον.
— may-be-cut-off bloom
†καὶ γεραροῖσι πρε-
(corrupt)-and for-old elder-receiving
σβυτοδόκοι γεμόν-
— being-full(corrupt)
των† θυμέλαι φλεγόντων.
— altars blazing
τὼς πόλις εὖ νέμοιτο
so city well may-be-governed
Ζῆνα μέγαν σεβόντων,
Zeus great revering
τὸν ξένιον δ' ὑπερτάτως,
the of-strangers and supremely
ὃς πολιῷ νόμῳ αἶσαν ὀρθοῖ.
who by-gray law fate sets-right
τίκτεσθαι δ' ἐφόρους γᾶς
to-be-born and guardians of-land
ἄλλους εὐχόμεθ' ἀεί,
others we-pray ever
Ἄρτεμιν δ' Ἑκάταν γυναι-
Artemis and Hecate of-women
κῶν λόχους ἐφορεύειν.
— childbeds to-oversee
μηδέ τις ἀνδροκμὴς
nor any man-slaying
λοιγὸς ἐπελθέτω
ruin let-come

τάνδε πόλιν δαΐζων,
this city ravaging
ἄχορον ἀκίθαριν
danceless lyreless
δακρυογόνον Ἄρη
tear-begetting Ares
βοάν τ' ἔνδημον ἐξοπλίζων.
cry and civil arming
νούσων δ' ἑσμὸς ἀπ' ἀστῶν
of-diseases and swarm from citizens
ἴζοι κρατὸς ἀτερπής·
may-settle of-head joyless
εὐμενὴς δ' ὁ Λύκειος ἔ-
gracious and the Lycian let-be
στω πάσᾳ νεολαίᾳ.
— to-all youth
καρποτελῆ δέ τοι
fruit-perfecting and surely
Ζεὺς ἐπικραινέτω
Zeus let-accomplish
φέρματι γᾶν πανώρῳ.
with-produce land in-all-seasons
πρόνομα δὲ βότ' ἀγροῖς
grazing and cattle in-fields
πολύγονα τελέθοι·
much-producing may-be
τὸ πᾶν τ' ἐκ δαιμόνων λάχοιεν.
the all and from gods may-they-obtain
εὔφαμον δ' ἐπὶ βωμοῖς
auspicious and at altars

μοῦσαν θείατ᾽ ἀοιδοί·
song may-make singers
ἁγνῶν τ᾽ ἐκ στομάτων φερέ-
holy and from mouths let-be-borne
σθω φάμα φιλοφόρμιγξ.
— voice lyre-loving
φυλάσσοι τ᾽ ἀτρεμαῖα τιμὰς
may-guard and undisturbed honors
τὸ δάμιον, τὸ πτόλιν κρατύνει,
the populace which city rules
προμαθὶς εὐκοινόμητις ἀρχά·
foreseeing well-counseling rule
ξένοισί τ᾽ εὐξυμβόλους,
to-strangers and fair-covenanted
πρὶν ἐξοπλίζειν Ἄρη,
before to-arm Ares
δίκας ἄτερ πημάτων διδοῖεν.
justice without woes may-they-give
θεοὺς δ᾽, οἳ γᾶν ἔχουσιν, ἀεὶ
gods and who land hold ever
τίοιεν ἐγχωρίοις πατρῴαις
may-they-honor with-native ancestral
δαφνηφόροις βουθύτοισι τιμαῖς.
laurel-bearing ox-slaying honors
τὸ γὰρ τεκόντων σέβας
the for of-parents reverence
τρίτον τόδ᾽ ἐν θεσμίοις
third this in statutes
Δίκας γέγραπται μεγιστοτίμου.
of-Justice is-written most-honored

From the lookout Danaus sees the fleet of the sons of Aegyptus arriving: he recognizes the ship by its sails and prow, and the black-limbed sailors. He tells his daughters not to fear, since the Argives will fight for them, and goes for help. They beg him not to leave them alone. He reassures them that a fleet cannot quickly land on a harborless shore at nightfall.

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ εὐχὰς μὲν αἰνῶ τάσδε σώφρονας, φίλαι·
prayers indeed I-praise these prudent dear-ones
ὑμεῖς δὲ μὴ τρέσητ' ἀκούσασαι πατρὸς
you but not fear having-heard father
ἀπροσδοκήτους τούσδε καὶ νέους λόγους.
unexpected these and new words
ἱκεταδόκου γὰρ τῆσδ' ἀπὸ σκοπῆς ὁρῶ
suppliant-receiving for this from lookout I-see
τὸ πλοῖον. εὔσημον γὰρ οὔ με λανθάνει·
the ship well-marked for not me escapes
στολμοί τε λαίφους καὶ παραρρύσεις νεώς,
trappings and of-sail and screens of-ship
καὶ πρῷρα πρόσθεν ὄμμασιν βλέπουσ' ὁδόν,
and prow in-front with-eyes looking-on way
οἴακος εὐθυντῆρος ὑστάτου νεὼς
of-rudder steering of-last ship
ἄγαν καλῶς κλύουσα, τοῖσιν οὐ φίλη.
too well obeying to-whom not dear
πρέπουσι δ' ἄνδρες ναίοι μελαγχίμοις
are-conspicuous and men of-ship with-black
γυίοισι λευκῶν ἐκ πεπλωμάτων ἰδεῖν,
with-limbs white from robes to-see

καὶ τἄλλα πλοῖα πᾶσά θ' ἡ 'πικουρία
and the-other ships all and the auxiliary-force
εὔπρεπτος· αὐτὴ δ' ἡγεμὼν ὑπὸ χθόνα
conspicuous itself and leader under land
στείλασα λαῖφος παγκρότως ἐρέσσεται.
having-furled sail with-full-stroke is-rowed
ἀλλ' ἡσύχως χρὴ καὶ σεσωφρονισμένως
but calmly must and prudently
πρὸς πρᾶγμ' ὁρώσας τῶνδε μὴ ἀμελεῖν θεῶν.
to affair looking of-these not to-neglect gods
ἐγὼ δ' ἀρωγοὺς ξυνδίκους θ' ἥξω λαβών.
I and helpers advocates and will-come having-taken
ἴσως γὰρ ἂν κῆρυξ τις ἢ πρέσβη μόλοι,
perhaps for — herald some or envoys might-come
ἄγειν θέλοντες ῥυσίων ἐφάπτορες.
to-lead-away wishing of-reprisals seizers
ἀλλ' οὐδὲν ἔσται τῶνδε· μὴ τρέσητέ νιν.
but nothing will-be of-these not fear them
ὅμως δ' ἄμεινον, εἰ βραδύνοιμεν βοῇ,
nevertheless but better if we-should-be-slow with-cry
ἀλκῆς λαθέσθαι τῆσδε μηδαμῶς ποτε.
of-help to-forget this in-no-way ever
θάρσει· χρόνῳ τοι κυρίῳ τ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ
take-heart in-time surely appointed and on day
θεοὺς ἀτίζων τις βροτῶν δώσει δίκην.
gods dishonoring any of-mortals will-give penalty
ΧΟΡΟΣ πάτερ, φοβοῦμαι, νῆες ὡς ὠκύπτεροι
father I-fear ships as swift-winged
ἥκουσι· μῆκος δ' οὐδὲν ἐν μέσῳ χρόνου.
come length and none in middle of-time

περίφοβόν μ᾽ ἔχει τάρβος ἐτητύμως
exceedingly-fearful me holds dread truly
πολυδρόμου φυγᾶς ὄφελος εἴ τί μοι.
of-much-running flight profit if any to-me
παροίχομαι, πάτερ, δείματι.
I-am-undone father with-fear
ΔΑΝΑΟΣ ἐπεὶ τελεία ψῆφος Ἀργείων, τέκνα,
since final vote of-Argives children
θάρσει, μαχοῦνται περὶ σέθεν, σάφ᾽ οἶδ᾽ ἐγώ.
take-heart they-will-fight for you clearly know I
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐξώλές ἐστι μάργον Αἰγύπτου γένος
accursed is lustful of-Aegyptus race
μάχης τ᾽ ἄπληστον· καὶ λέγω πρὸς εἰδότα.
of-battle and insatiate and I-speak to one-who-knows
δοριπαγεῖς δ᾽ ἔχοντες κυανώπιδας
spear-fastened and having dark-eyed
νῆας ἔπλευσαν ὧδ᾽ ἐπιτυχεῖ κότῳ
ships they-sailed thus successful with-wrath
πολεῖ μελαγχίμῳ σὺν στρατῷ.
many black with army
ΔΑΝΑΟΣ πολλοὺς δέ γ᾽ εὑρήσουσιν ἐν μεσημβρίας
many and at-least they-will-find in of-midday
θάλπει βραχίον᾽ εὖ κατερρινημένους.
heat arms well filed-down
ΧΟΡΟΣ μόνην δὲ μὴ πρόλειπε· λίσσομαι, πάτερ.
alone but not leave-behind I-beg father
γυνὴ μονωθεῖσ᾽ οὐδέν· οὐκ ἔνεστ᾽ Ἄρης.
woman left-alone nothing not is-in Ares
οὐλόφρονες δὲ καὶ δολιομήτιδες
murderous and and crafty-minded

δυσάγνοις φρεσίν, κόρακες ὥστε, βω-
with-impure minds ravens like altars
μῶν ἀλέγοντες οὐδέν.
— regarding nothing
ΔΑΝΑΟΣ καλῶς ἂν ἡμῖν ξυμφέροι ταῦτ', ὦ τέκνα,
well — for-us would-turn-out these-things O children
εἰ σοί τε καὶ θεοῖσιν ἐχθαιροίατο.
if to-you both and to-gods they-should-be-hated
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐ μὴ τριαίνας τάσδε καὶ θεῶν σέβη
not — tridents these and of-gods emblems
δείσαντες ἡμῶν χεῖρ' ἀπόσχωνται, πάτερ.
fearing from-us hand they-will-hold-off father
περίφρονες δ' ἄγαν ἀνιέρῳ μένει
haughty and too-much with-unholy might
μεμαργωμένοι κυνοθρασεῖς, θεῶν
maddened dog-bold of-gods
οὐδὲν ἐπαΐοντες.
nothing heeding
ΔΑΝΑΟΣ ἀλλ' ἔστι φήμη τοὺς λύκους κρείσσους κυνῶν
but is saying the wolves stronger than-dogs
εἶναι· βύβλου δὲ καρπὸς οὐ κρατεῖ στάχυν.
to-be of-papyrus and fruit not masters ear-of-grain
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὡς καὶ ματαίων ἀνοσίων τε κνωδάλων
as even of-foolish unholy and of-beasts
ἔχοντας ὀργάς, χρὴ φυλάσσεσθαι τάχος.
having tempers must to-guard-against quickly
ΔΑΝΑΟΣ οὔτοι ταχεῖα ναυτικοῦ στρατοῦ στολή,
surely-not swift of-naval army setting-out
οὐδ' ὅρμος, οὗ δεῖ πεισμάνων σωτήρια
nor mooring where must of-cables safety

ἐς γῆν ἐνεγκεῖν, οὐδ' ἐν ἀγκυρουχίαις
to land to-bring nor in anchorings
θαρσοῦσι ναῶν ποιμένες παραυτίκα,
are-confident of-ships shepherds at-once
ἄλλως τε καὶ μολόντες ἀλίμενον χθόνα
otherwise and also having-come harborless land
ἐς νύκτ' ἀποστείχοντος ἡλίου. φιλεῖ
into night departing sun is-wont
770 ὠδῖνα τίκτειν νὺξ κυβερνήτῃ σοφῷ.
travail to-bear night for-helmsman wise
οὕτω γένοιτ' ἂν οὐδ' ἂν ἔκβασις στρατοῦ
thus might-be — not — landing of-army
καλή, πρὶν ὅρμῳ ναῦν θρασυνθῆναι. σὺ δὲ
fine before in-mooring ship to-be-confident you but
φρόνει μὲν ὡς ταρβοῦσα μὴ ἀμελεῖν θεῶν·
take-thought indeed as fearing not to-neglect gods

***

(lacuna)

πράξας ἀρωγήν· ἄγγελον δ' οὐ μέμψεται
having-got help messenger and not will-blame
775 πόλις γέρονθ', ἡβῶντα δ' εὐγλώσσῳ φρενί.
city old-man young and with-eloquent mind

Left alone, the maidens wish they could vanish like smoke into the sky or fall from a sheer rock, and would rather be the prey of dogs and birds than wives against their will. The herald of the Egyptians arrives and orders them to hurry to the boat, threatening them with plucking, branding, and beheading.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ γᾶ βοῦνι, πάνδικον σέβας,
oh land hill-country all-just reverence
τί πεισόμεσθα; ποῖ φύγωμεν Ἀπίας
what shall-we-suffer where shall-we-flee of-Apian
χθονός, κελαινὸν εἴ τι κεῦθός ἐστί που;
land dark if any hiding-place is anywhere
μέλας γενοίμαν καπνὸς
black may-I-become smoke
νέφεσσι γειτονῶν Διός·
to-clouds neighboring of-Zeus
τὸ πᾶν δ' ἄφαντος
the all and invisible
ἀμπετὴς ἀιδνὸς ὡς
flying-up unseen like
κόνις ἄτερθε πτερύγων ὀλοίμαν.
dust without wings may-I-perish
ἄφυκτον δ' οὐκέτ' ἂν πέλοι κακόν·
inescapable and no-longer — would-be evil
κελαινόχρως δὲ πάλλεταί μου καρδία.
dark-colored and throbs my heart
πατρὸς σκοπαὶ δέ μ' εἷλον· οἴχομαι φόβῳ.
of-father lookouts and me caught I-am-undone with-fear
θέλοιμι δ' ἂν μορσίμου
I-would-wish and — of-fated

βρόχου τυχεῖν ἐν ἀρτάναις,
noose to-obtain in nooses
πρὶν ἄνδρ' ἀπευκτὸν
before man abhorred
τῷδε χριμφθῆναι χροΐ·
to-this to-be-touched flesh
πρόπαρ θανούσας δ' Ἀίδας ἀνάσσοι.
before dead and Hades may-rule
πόθεν δέ μοι γένοιτ' ἂν αἰθέρος θρόνος,
whence and to-me might-be — of-air seat
πρὸς ὃν νέφη μυδηλὰ γίγνεται χιών,
toward which clouds wet become snow
ἢ λισσὰς αἰγίλιψ ἀπρόσ-
or smooth goat-deserted inaccessible
δεικτος οἰόφρων κρεμὰς
— lonely-minded hanging
γυπιὰς πέτρα, βαθὺ
vulture-haunted rock deep
πτῶμα μαρτυροῦσά μοι,
fall bearing-witness to-me
πρὶν δαΐκτορος βίᾳ
before of-heart-rending by-force
καρδίας γάμου κυρῆσαι;
of-heart marriage to-meet
κυσὶν δ' ἔπειθ' ἕλωρα κἀπιχωρίοις
to-dogs and then prey and-for-native
ὄρνισι δεῖπνον οὐκ ἀναίνομαι πέλειν
birds meal not I-refuse to-be

τὸ γὰρ θανεῖν ἐλευθεροῦ-
the for to-die frees
ται φιλαιάκτων κακῶν.
— from-lamentable evils
ἐλθέτω μόρος, πρὸ κοί-
let-come death before bed
τας γαμηλίου τυχών.
— nuptial having-obtained
ἀμφυγᾶς τίν᾽ ἔτι πόρον
of-escape what still way
τέμνω γάμου λυτῆρα;
do-I-cut of-marriage releasing
ἴυζε δ᾽ ὀμφὰν οὐρανίαν
cry and voice heavenly
μέλεα μέλη λιτανὰ θεοῖς·
wretched songs suppliant to-gods
τέλεα δέ πως πελόμενά μοι
fulfilled and somehow being for-me
λύσιμά τ᾽ ἄχιμά τ᾽ ἔπιδε, πάτερ,
releasing and griefless and look-on father
βίαια μὴ φαιδρῶς ὁρῶν
violent-things not kindly seeing
ὄμμασιν ἐνδίκοις.
with-eyes just
σεβίζου δ᾽ ἱκέτας σέθεν,
revere and suppliants of-you
γαιάοχε παγκρατὲς Ζεῦ.
earth-holder all-powerful Zeus
γένος γὰρ Αἰγύπτειον ὕβριν
race for Egyptian insolence

δύσφορον ἀρσενογενὲς
hard-to-bear male-born
μετά με δρόμοισι διόμενοι
after me with-courses pursuing
φυγάδα μάταισι πολυθρόοις
fugitive with-pursuits much-clamorous
βίαια δίζηνται λαβεῖν.
violent seek to-take
σὸν δ' ἐπίπαν ζυγὸν
yours and wholly beam
ταλάντου. τί δ' ἄνευ σέθεν
of-balance what and without you
θνατοῖσι τέλειόν ἐστιν;
for-mortals accomplished is
ὁ ὁ ὁ, ἁ ἁ ἁ·
o o o a a a
ὅδε μάρπτις νάιος γάιος.
this seizer on-ship on-land
τῶν πρό, μάρπτι, κάμνοις·
of-the before seizer may-you-labor
†ἰόφ *** ὀμ *** αὖθι κάκκας νυ
(corrupt) (lacuna) (corrupt) (lacuna) there evils (corrupt)
δυϊαν βοᾶν ἀμφαίνω.†
misery cry I-show(corrupt)
ὁρῶ τάδε φροίμια †πράξαν πόνων
I-see these preludes (corrupt)-of-having-done of-toils
βιαίων ἐμῶν. ἠὲ ἠέ.
violent my ee ee
βαῖνε φυγᾷ πρὸς ἀλκάν·
go in-flight to defense

†βλοσυρόφρονα χλιδᾷ
(corrupt)-grim-minded with-luxury
δύσφορα ναΐ κἀν γᾷ.
unbearable on-ship and-on land
γαϊάναξ προτάσσου.† 835
earth-lord stand-before(corrupt)
ΚΗΡΥΞ σοῦσθε σοῦσθ' ἐπὶ βᾶ-
hurry hurry to ship
ριν ὅπως ποδῶν ἔχετε
— *as-fast-as of-feet you-can*
†οὐκοῦν οὐκοῦν†
(corrupt)-then then(corrupt)
τιλμοὶ τιλμοὶ καὶ στιγμοί,
tearings tearings and brandings
πολυαίμων φόνιος 840
much-bloody murderous
ἀποκοπὰ κρατός.
cutting-off of-head
σοῦσθε σοῦσθ' †ὀλύμεναι ὀλόμεν' ἐπαμίδα.
hurry hurry (corrupt)-perishing perished into-boat

The maidens curse the herald and wish he had perished at sea. He threatens to drag them to the boat by their hair, and says he does not fear the gods of Argos. They cry to Mother Earth and to Zeus to turn away the two-footed serpent.

ΧΟΡΟΣ εἴθ᾽ ἀνὰ πολύρυτον
would-that over much-flowing
ἁλμήεντα πόρον
briny strait
δεσποσίῳ ξὺν ὕβρει,
masterful with insolence
γομφοδέτῳ τε δόρει διώλου.
with-bolt-fastened and plank you-had-perished
†ταῖμονες ὡς ἐπάμιδα
(corrupt)-bloody as into-boat
ησυδουπιάπιτα†
(corrupt)
ΚΗΡΥΞ †κελεύω βοᾶν μεθέσθαι
(corrupt)-I-bid cry to-let-go
ἴχαρ φρενί τ᾽ ἄταν.†
desire to-mind and ruin(corrupt)
ἰοὺ ἰού.
oh oh
λεῖφ᾽ ἕδρανα, κἰ᾽ ἐς δόρυ.
leave seats go to ship
ἀτίετον ἄπολιν οὐ σέβω.
unhonored cityless not I-revere

ΧΟΡΟΣ μήποτε πάλιν ἴδοιμ'
never again may-I-see
ἀλφεσίβοιον ὕδωρ,
cattle-yielding water
ἔνθεν ἀεξόμενον
whence increased
ζώφυτον αἷμα βροτοῖσι θάλλει.
life-giving blood for-mortals flourishes
ἔγγαιος ἐγὼ βαθυχαΐος
native I deep-born
†βαθρείας βαθρείας, γέρον.†
(corrupt)-of-the-seat of-the-seat old-man(corrupt)
ΚΗΡΥΞ σὺ δ' ἐν ναΐ ναΐ βάσῃ
you and on ship ship will-go
τάχα θέλεος ἀθέλεος,
quickly willing unwilling
βίᾳ βίᾳ τε πολλᾷ φροῦδα.
by-force by-force and great gone
†βάτεαι βαθυμιτροκακὰ παθῶν†
(corrupt)-you-will-go deep-belted-evils of-sufferings(corrupt)
ΧΟΡΟΣ αἰαῖ αἰαῖ.
alas alas
αἲ γὰρ δυσπαλάμως ὄλοιο
if-only for helplessly may-you-perish
δι' ἁλίρρυτον ἄλσος,
through sea-washed grove
κατὰ Σαρπηδόνιον
at Sarpedonian
χῶμα πολύψαμμον ἀλαθεὶς
mound much-sanded having-wandered

Εὐρεΐαισιν αὔραις.
by-Eurian breezes

ΚΗΡΥΞ ἴυζε καὶ λάκαζε καὶ κάλει θεούς.
cry and shriek and call gods

Αἰγυπτίαν γὰρ βᾶριν οὐχ ὑπερθορῇ·
Egyptian for boat not you-will-leap-over

875 βόα, χέον πικρότερον οἰζύος νόμον.
cry pour more-bitter than-woe strain

ΧΟΡΟΣ οἰοῖ οἰοῖ,
oioi oioi

λύμας, ᾗ σὺ πρὸ γᾶς ὑλάσκων
of-outrage where you before land barking

περί, χάμψα, βρυάζεις·
around crocodile you-swell-wantonly

ὃς ἐπωπᾷ σ', ὁ μέγας
who looks-on you the great

880 Νεῖλος, ὑβρίζοντά σ' ἀποτρέ-
Nile insolent you may-he-turn-aside

ψειεν ἄιστον ὕβριν.
— vanishing insolence

ΚΗΡΥΞ βαίνειν κελεύω βᾶριν εἰς ἀμφίστροφον
to-go I-bid boat into curved

ὅσον τάχιστα· μηδέ τις σχολαζέτω.
as-much-as quickest nor any let-him-delay

ὀλκὴ γὰρ οὗτοι πλόκαμον οὐδάμ' ἄζεται.
dragging for surely-not lock in-no-way respects

885 ΧΟΡΟΣ οἰοῖ, πάτερ, βρέτεος ἄρος
oioi father of-image help

ἀτᾷ μ'· ἅλαδ' ἄγει
harms me seaward leads

ἄραχνος ὡς βάδην.
spider like step-by-step
ὄναρ ὄναρ μέλαν,
dream dream black
ὀτοτοτοτοῖ,
ototototoi
μᾶ Γᾶ μᾶ Γᾶ, βοὰν
mother Earth mother Earth cry
φοβερὸν ἀπότρεπε,
fearful turn-away
ὦ πᾶ, Γᾶς παῖ, Ζεῦ.
O father of-Earth son Zeus
ΚΗΡΥΞ οὔτοι φοβοῦμαι δαίμονας τοὺς ἐνθάδε·
surely-not I-fear gods the here
οὐ γάρ μ' ἔθρεψαν, οὐδ' ἐγήρασαν τροφῇ.
not for me reared nor brought-to-old-age by-nurture
ΧΟΡΟΣ μαιμᾷ πέλας δίπους ὄφις·
rages near two-footed snake

***

(lacuna)

ἔχιδνα δ' ὥς μέ τις
viper and like me some
πόδα δακοῦσ' ἔχει.
foot having-bitten holds
ὀτοτοτοτοῖ,
ototototoi
μᾶ Γᾶ μᾶ Γᾶ βοὰν
mother Earth mother Earth cry

φοβερὸν ἀπότρεπε,
fearful turn-away
ὦ πᾶ, Γᾶς παῖ, Ζεῦ.
O father of-Earth son Zeus

XII · THE KING RETURNS

Pelasgus arrives and rebukes the herald for his insolence. The herald claims the women as his masters' property, but Pelasgus answers that the people have voted never to surrender them by force and that he may take them only if they consent. The herald threatens war and departs. Pelasgus invites the maidens to live in the city. Danaus returns with an Argive bodyguard and warns his daughters to guard their chastity, since strangers are judged harshly; they promise to obey.

ΚΗΡΥΞ εἰ μή τις ἐς ναῦν εἶσιν αἰνέσας τάδε,
if not anyone to ship goes having-consented to-these-things
λακὶς χιτῶνος ἔργον οὐ κατοικτιεῖ.
tearing of-tunic work not will-pity
ΧΟΡΟΣ διωλόμεσθ'· ἄσεπτ', ἄναξ, πάσχομεν.
we-are-destroyed unholy-things lord we-suffer
ΚΗΡΥΞ πολλοὺς ἄνακτας, παῖδας Αἰγύπτου, τάχα
many lords sons of-Aegyptus soon
ὄψεσθε· θαρσεῖτ', οὐκ ἐρεῖτ' ἀναρχίαν.
you-will-see take-heart not you-will-say anarchy
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ πόλεως ἀγοὶ πρόμοι, δάμναμαι.
oh of-city leaders chiefs I-am-overpowered
ΚΗΡΥΞ ἕλξειν ἔοιχ' ὑμᾶς ἀποσπάσας κόμης,
to-drag it-seems you having-torn-away by-hair
ἐπεὶ οὐκ ἀκούετ' ὀξὺ τῶν ἐμῶν λόγων.
since not you-hear sharply of-the my words

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ οὗτος, τί ποιεῖς; ἐκ ποίου φρονήματος
you what are-you-doing from what-sort mind
ἀνδρῶν Πελασγῶν τήνδ' ἀτιμάζεις χθόνα;
of-men Pelasgian this you-dishonor land
ἀλλ' ἢ γυναικῶν ἐς πόλιν δοκεῖς μολεῖν;
but — of-women to city do-you-think to-have-come
κάρβανος ὢν δ' Ἕλλησιν ἐγχλίεις ἄγαν·
foreigner being and to-Greeks you-wax-wanton too-much
καὶ πόλλ' ἁμαρτὼν οὐδὲν ὤρθωσας φρενί.
and many-things having-erred nothing you-set-right by-mind
ΚΗΡΥΞ τί δ' ἠμπλάκηται τῶνδ' ἐμοὶ δίκης ἄτερ;
what and has-been-erred of-these by-me justice without
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ξένος μὲν εἶναι πρῶτον οὐκ ἐπίστασαι.
stranger indeed to-be first not you-know
ΚΗΡΥΞ πῶς δ' οὐχί; τἄμ' ὀλωλόθ' εὑρίσκων ἄγω.
how and not my-things lost finding I-lead
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ποίοισιν εἰπὼν προξένοις ἐγχωρίοις;
to-what having-spoken patrons native
ΚΗΡΥΞ Ἑρμῇ μεγίστῳ προξένῳ μαστηρίῳ.
to-Hermes greatest patron of-searchers
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ θεοῖσιν εἰπὼν τοὺς θεοὺς οὐδὲν σέβῃ.
to-gods having-spoken the gods not-at-all you-revere
ΚΗΡΥΞ τοὺς ἀμφὶ Νεῖλον δαίμονας σεβίζομαι.
the about Nile gods I-revere
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ οἱ δ' ἐνθάδ' οὐδέν, ὡς ἐγὼ σέθεν κλύω;
the but here nothing as I from-you hear
ΚΗΡΥΞ ἄγοιμ' ἄν, εἴ τις τάσδε μὴ 'ξαιρήσεται.
I-would-lead — if anyone these not will-rescue
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ κλάοις ἄν, εἰ ψαύσειας, οὐ μάλ' ἐς μακράν.
you-would-weep — if you-should-touch not very in long

ΚΗΡΥΞ ἤκουσα τοὔπος δ᾽ οὐδαμῶς φιλόξενον.
I-heard the-word and in-no-way hospitable

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ οὐ γὰρ ξενοῦμαι τοὺς θεῶν συλήτορας.
not for I-host the of-gods robbers

ΚΗΡΥΞ λέγοιμ᾽ ἂν ἐλθὼν παισὶν Αἰγύπτου τάδε.
I-would-say — having-gone to-sons of-Aegyptus these

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ἀβουκόλητον τοῦτ᾽ ἐμῷ φρονήματι.
unheeded this by-my mind

ΚΗΡΥΞ ἀλλ᾽ ὡς ἂν εἰδὼς ἐννέπω σαφέστερον, —
but so-that — knowing I-may-tell more-clearly

καὶ γὰρ πρέπει κήρυκ᾽ ἀπαγγέλλειν τορῶς
and for befits herald to-report clearly

ἕκαστα, — πῶς φῶ, πρὸς τίνος τ᾽ ἀφαιρεθεὶς
each-thing how shall-I-say by whom and having-been-deprived

ἥκειν γυναικῶν αὐτανέψιον στόλον;
to-come of-women of-cousins band

οὔτοι δικάζει ταῦτα μαρτύρων ὕπο
surely-not judges these-things witnesses by

Ἄρης· τὸ νεῖκος δ᾽ οὐκ ἐν ἀργύρου λαβῇ
Ares the strife and not in of-silver taking

ἔλυσεν· ἀλλὰ πολλὰ γίγνεται πάρος
settled but many become before

πεσήματ᾽ ἀνδρῶν κἀπολακτισμοὶ βίου.
fallings of-men and-kickings-away of-life

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ τί σοι λέγειν χρὴ τοὔνομ᾽; ἐν χρόνῳ μαθὼν
why to-you to-tell must the-name in time having-learned

εἴσῃ σύ τ᾽ αὐτὸς χοἱ ξυνέμποροι σέθεν.
you-will-know you and yourself and-the fellow-travelers of-you

ταύτας δ᾽ ἑκούσας μὲν κατ᾽ εὔνοιαν φρενῶν
these and willing indeed by goodwill of-minds

ἄγοις ἄν, εἴπερ εὐσεβὴς πίθοι λόγος.
you-may-lead — if-indeed pious should-persuade word

τοία δὲ δημόπρακτος ἐκ πόλεως μία
such and by-the-people-enacted from city single

ψῆφος κέκρανται, μήποτ' ἐκδοῦναι βίᾳ
vote has-been-ratified never to-surrender by-force

στόλον γυναικῶν· τῶνδ' ἐφήλωται τορῶς
band of-women of-these is-nailed clearly

γόμφος διαμπάξ, ὡς μένειν ἀραρότως. 945
bolt right-through so-that to-remain firmly

ταῦτ' οὐ πίναξίν ἐστιν ἐγγεγραμμένα
these-things not on-tablets are inscribed

οὐδ' ἐν πτυχαῖς βίβλων κατεσφραγισμένα,
nor in folds of-books sealed

σαφῆ δ' ἀκούεις ἐξ ἐλευθεροστόμου
clear-things and you-hear from free-speaking

γλώσσης. κομίζου δ' ὡς τάχιστ' ἐξ ὀμμάτων.
tongue take-yourself and as quickly from eyes

ΚΗΡΥΞ ἔοιγμεν ἤδη πόλεμον ἀρεῖσθαι νέον. 950
we-seem already war to-take-up new

εἴη δὲ νίκη καὶ κράτη τοῖς ἄρσεσιν.
may-be and victory and power to-the males

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ἀλλ' ἄρσενάς τοι τῆσδε γῆς οἰκήτορας
but males surely of-this land inhabitants

εὑρήσετ' οὐ πίνοντας ἐκ κριθῶν μέθυ.
you-will-find not drinking from barley wine

ὑμεῖς δὲ πᾶσαι σὺν φίλαις ὀπάοσι
you but all with dear attendants

θράσος λαβοῦσαι στείχετ' εὐερκῆ πόλιν, 955
courage taking go well-fenced city

πύργων βαθείᾳ μηχανῇ κεκλῃμένην.
of-towers with-deep device locked
καὶ δώματ᾽ ἐστὶ πολλὰ μὲν τὰ δήμια,
and houses are many indeed the public
δεδωμάτωμαι δ᾽ οὐδ᾽ ἐγὼ σμικρᾷ χερί.
I-am-housed and not-even I with-small hand
ἔνθ᾽ ὑμίν ἐστιν εὐτύκους ναίειν δόμους
there to-you is well-made to-dwell-in houses
960 πολλῶν μετ᾽ ἄλλων· εἰ δέ τις μείζων χάρις,
many with others if but some greater pleasure
πάρεστιν οἰκεῖν καὶ μονορρύθμους δόμους.
is-possible to-dwell-in also single-arranged houses
τούτων τὰ λῷστα καὶ τὰ θυμηδέστατα
of-these the best and the most-pleasing
πάρεστι, λωτίσασθε. προστάτης δ᾽ ἐγὼ
is-possible choose patron and I
ἀστοί τε πάντες, ὧνπερ ἥδε κραίνεται
citizens and all of-whom this is-ratified
965 ψῆφος. τί τῶνδε κυριωτέρους μένεις;
vote why than-these more-authoritative do-you-wait-for
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἀντ᾽ ἀγαθῶν ἀγαθοῖσι βρύοις,
but for good-things with-good-things may-you-abound
δῖε Πελασγῶν.
divine of-Pelasgians
πέμψον δὲ πρόφρων δεῦρ᾽ ἡμέτερον
send and graciously hither our
πατέρ᾽ εὐθαρσῆ Δαναόν, πρόνοον
father courageous Danaus provident
970 καὶ βούλαρχον. τοῦ γὰρ προτέρα
and counsel-leader his for prior

μῆτις, ὅπου χρὴ δώματα ναίειν
counsel where must house to-dwell
καὶ τόπος εὔφρων. πᾶς τις ἐπειπεῖν
and place kindly every one to-say
ψόγον ἀλλοθρόοις
blame against-foreign-tongued
εὔτυκος· εἴη δὲ τὰ λῷστα.
ready may-be but the best-things
σύν τ' εὐκλείᾳ καὶ ἀμηνίτῳ 975
with and good-fame and without-wrath
βάξει λαῶν ἐγχώρων
by-speech of-people native

***

(lacuna)

τάσσεσθε, φίλαι δμωίδες, οὕτως
arrange-yourselves dear servants thus
ὡς ἐφ' ἑκάστῃ διεκλήρωσεν
as to each assigned-by-lot
Δαναὸς θεραποντίδα φερνήν.
Danaus servant-maid dowry
ΔΑΝΑΟΣ ὦ παῖδες, Ἀργείοισιν εὔχεσθαι χρεών, 980
O children to-Argives to-pray must
θύειν τε λείβειν θ', ὡς θεοῖς Ὀλυμπίοις,
to-sacrifice and to-pour and as to-gods Olympian
σπονδάς, ἐπεὶ σωτῆρες οὐ διχορρόπως.
libations since saviors not two-ways
καί μου τὰ μὲν πραχθέντα πρὸς τοὺς ἐγγενεῖς
and of-me the indeed things-done toward the kindred
φίλους πικρῶς ἤκουσαν αὐτανεψίοις·
friends bitterly they-heard to-cousins

985 ἐμοὶ δ' ὀπαδοὺς τούσδε καὶ δορυσσόους
to-me and attendants these and spearmen
ἔταξαν, ὡς ἔχοιμι τίμιον γέρας,
they-assigned so-that I-might-have honored prize
καὶ μὴ 'ξ ἀέλπτων δορικανεῖ μόρῳ θανὼν
and not from unexpected by-spear-killing death dying
λάθοιμι, χώρᾳ δ' ἄχθος ἀείζων πέλοι.
I-might-be-unawares to-land and burden everlasting might-be
τοιῶνδε τυγχάνοντας ἐκ πρυμνῆς φρενὸς
such-things obtaining from bottom of-heart
990 χάριν σέβεσθαι τιμιωτέραν χρεών.
gratitude to-revere more-honorable must
καὶ ταῦθ' ἅμ' ἐγγράψασθε πρὸς γεγραμμένοις
and these-things together inscribe to written
πολλοῖσιν ἄλλοις σωφρονίσμασιν πατρός,
many other precepts of-father
ἀγνῶθ' ὅμιλον ἐξελέγχεσθαι χρόνῳ.
unknown throng to-be-tested in-time
πᾶς δ' ἐν μετοίκῳ γλῶσσαν εὔτυκον φέρει
every-one and on alien tongue ready bears
995 κακήν, τό τ' εἰπεῖν εὐπετὲς μύσαγμά πως.
evil the and to-say easy defilement somehow
ὑμᾶς δ' ἐπαινῶ μὴ καταισχύνειν ἐμέ,
you and I-urge not to-shame me
ὥραν ἐχούσας τήνδ' ἐπίστρεπτον βροτοῖς.
bloom having this attractive to-mortals
τέρειν' ὀπώρα δ' εὐφύλακτος οὐδαμῶς·
tender ripe-fruit and easily-guarded in-no-way
θῆρες δὲ κηραίνουσι καὶ βροτοί, τί μήν;
beasts and ravage and mortals what indeed

καὶ κνώδαλα πτεροῦντα καὶ πεδοστιβῆ.
and creatures winged and ground-treading
†καρπώματα στάζοντα κηρύσσει Κύπρις
(corrupt)-fruits dripping proclaims Cypris
καλωρα κωλύουσαν θωσμένειν ἐρῶ,†
(corrupt) (corrupt) (corrupt) love(corrupt)
καὶ παρθένων χλιδαῖσιν εὐμόρφοις ἔπι
and of-maidens delicacies shapely at
πᾶς τις παρελθὼν ὄμματος θελκτήριον
every one passing of-eye charming
τόξευμ᾽ ἔπεμψεν, ἱμέρου νικώμενος.
arrow sent by-desire overcome
πρὸς ταῦτα μὴ πάθωμεν ὧν πολὺς πόνος
for these-things not may-we-suffer for-which much toil
πολὺς δὲ πόντος οὕνεκ᾽ ἠρόθη δορί,
much and sea for-the-sake-of-which was-plowed with-ship
μηδ᾽ αἶσχος ἡμῖν, ἡδονὴν δ᾽ ἐχθροῖς ἐμοῖς
nor shame for-us pleasure and for-enemies my
πράξωμεν. οἴκησις δὲ καὶ διπλῆ πάρα·
let-us-do dwelling and also double is-available
τὴν μὲν Πελασγός, τὴν δὲ καὶ πόλις διδοῖ,
the one Pelasgus the other also city gives
οἰκεῖν λάτρων ἄτερθεν· εὐπετῆ τάδε.
to-dwell rent without easy these
μόνον φύλαξαι τάσδ᾽ ἐπιστολὰς πατρός,
only guard these commands of-father
τὸ σωφρονεῖν τιμῶσα τοῦ βίου πλέον.
the to-be-chaste honoring than-the life more

ΧΟΡΟΣ τἄλλ' εὐτυχοῖμεν πρὸς θεῶν Ὀλυμπίων·
the-rest may-we-prosper from gods Olympian
ἐμῆς δ' ὀπώρας οὕνεκ' εὖ θάρσει, πάτερ.
of-my and ripe-fruit for-the-sake well take-heart father
εἰ γάρ τι μὴ θεοῖς βεβούλευται νέον,
if for anything not by-gods has-been-planned new
ἴχνος τὸ πρόσθεν οὐ διαστρέψω φρενός.
track the former not I-will-turn-aside of-mind

XIII · THE DEPARTURE

The maidens leave to praise the gods who guard Argos and its rivers, no longer the Nile. Their attendants warn them not to neglect Cypris, who with Hera holds power nearest to Zeus, and beside whom stand Desire and Persuasion, and fear the wars that may follow. The maidens pray that Zeus avert the hateful marriage with the sons of Aegyptus, as he once released Io, and grant power to women.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἴτε μὰν ἀστυάνακτας
go indeed city-lords
μάκαρας θεοὺς γανάοντες πολιούχους
blessed gods brightening city-holding
τε καὶ οἳ χεῦμ' Ἐρασίνου
both and who stream of-Erasinus
περιναίουσιν παλαιόν.
dwell-around ancient
ὑποδέξασθε δ' ὀπαδοὶ
take-up and attendants
μέλος· αἶνος δὲ πόλιν τήνδε Πελασγῶν
song praise and city this of-Pelasgians
ἐχέτω, μηδ' ἔτι Νείλου
let-have nor still of-Nile

προχοὰς σέβωμεν ὕμνοις·
outflows let-us-revere with-hymns
ποταμοὺς δ' οἳ διὰ χώρας
rivers but which through land
θελεμὸν πῶμα χέουσιν πολύτεκνοι,
gentle drink pour with-many-children
λιπαροῖς χεύμασι γαίας
with-rich streams of-earth
τόδε μειλίσσοντες οὖδας.
this soothing ground
ἐπίδοι δ' Ἄρτεμις ἁγνὰ
may-look-on and Artemis holy
στόλον οἰκτιζομένα, μηδ' ὑπ' ἀνάγκας
band pitying nor by necessity
γάμος ἔλθοι Κυθερείας·
marriage may-come of-Cytherea
στυγίων πέλοι τόδ' ἆθλον.
of-hateful may-be this prize
ΧΟΡΟΣ ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΩΝ Κύπριδος δ' οὐκ ἀμελεῖ θεσμὸς ὅδ' εὔφρων.
of-Cypris but not neglects ordinance this kindly
δύναται γὰρ Διὸς ἄγχιστα σὺν Ἥρᾳ·
has-power for of-Zeus nearest with Hera
τίεται δ' αἰολόμητις
is-honored and of-varied-counsel
θεὸς ἔργοις ἐπὶ σεμνοῖς.
goddess deeds for holy
μετάκοινοι δὲ φίλᾳ ματρὶ πάρεισιν
sharing and with-dear mother are-present
Πόθος ᾧ τ' οὐδὲν ἄπαρνον
Desire to-whom and nothing denied

τελέθει θέλκτορι Πειθοῖ.
is to-charming Persuasion
δέδοται δ' Ἁρμονίᾳ μοῖρ' Ἀφροδίτας
is-given and to-Harmony share of-Aphrodite
ψεδυρᾷ τρίβῳ τ' Ἐρώτων.
to-whispering track and of-Loves
φυγάδεσσιν δ' ἐπιπνοίας κακά τ' ἄλγη
for-fugitives and breathings evil and griefs
πολέμους θ' αἱματόεντας προφοβοῦμαι.
wars and bloody I-fear-beforehand
τί ποτ' εὔπλοιαν ἔπραξαν
why ever fair-voyage did-they-make
ταχυπόμποισι διωγμοῖς;
with-swift-sending pursuits
ὅ τί τοι μόρσιμόν ἐστιν, τὸ γένοιτ' ἄν.
what ever surely fated is this would-happen —
Διὸς οὐ παρβατός ἐστιν
of-Zeus not to-be-transgressed is
μεγάλα φρὴν ἀπέρατος·
great mind unbounded
μετὰ πολλῶν δὲ γάμων ἅδε τελευτὰ
with many and marriages this end
προτερᾶν πέλοι γυναικῶν.
of-former may-be of-women
ΔΑΝΑΙΣ ὁ μέγας Ζεὺς ἀπαλέξαι
the great Zeus ward-off
γάμον Αἰγυπτογενῆ μοι.
marriage Egypt-born from-me
ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ τὸ μὲν ἂν βέλτατον εἴη·
this indeed — best would-be

ΔΑΝΑΙΣ σὺ δὲ θέλγοις ἂν ἄθελκτον.
you but would-charm — the-uncharmable
ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ σὺ δέ γ' οὐκ οἶσθα τὸ μέλλον.
you but at-least not know the future
ΔΑΝΑΙΣ τί δὲ μέλλω φρένα Δίαν
why and am-I-to mind of-Zeus
καθορᾶν, ὄψιν ἄβυσσον;
to-look-down-on sight bottomless
ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ μέτριον νῦν ἔπος εὔχου·
moderate now word pray
ΔΑΝΑΙΣ τίνα καιρόν με διδάσκεις;
what due-measure me do-you-teach
ΘΕΡΑΠΑΙΝΑ τὰ θεῶν μηδὲν ἀγάζειν.
the of-gods nothing to-overdo
ΧΟΡΟΣ Ζεὺς ἄναξ ἀποστεροί-
Zeus lord may-be-take-away
η γάμον δυσάνορα
— marriage ill-wedded
δάιον, ὅσπερ Ἰὼ
hostile who-indeed Io
πημονᾶς ἐλύσατ' εὖ
from-woe released well
χειρὶ παιωνίᾳ κατασχεθών,
with-hand healing having-held
εὐμενῆ βίαν κτίσας.
kindly force having-made
καὶ κράτος νέμοι γυναι-
and power may-be-assign to-women
ξίν· τὸ βέλτερον κακοῦ
— the better than-evil

καὶ τὸ δίμοιρον αἰνῶ,
and the two-thirds I-approve
καὶ δίκᾳ δίκας ἕπε-
and with-justice justice to-follow
σθαι, ξὺν εὐχαῖς ἐμαῖς, λυτηρίοις
— with prayers my by-releasing
μαχαναῖς θεοῦ πάρα.
devices god from

EURIPIDES

ΦΟΙΝΙΣΣΑΙ

The Phoenician Women

I · JOCASTA AND THE WALL

Jocasta tells the story of the house: Laius was warned not to beget a son; Oedipus was exposed, killed his father, solved the Sphinx's riddle, and married his mother. When he blinded himself, his sons shut him away, and he cursed them to divide the house with the sword. The brothers agreed to rule in turn, but Eteocles would not give up the throne, and Polynices has come with an Argive army; Jocasta has arranged a truce so that they may meet. From the roof Antigone and an old servant look out at the army, and he names its champions for her, until the chorus approaches.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ ὦ τὴν ἐν ἄστροις οὐρανοῦ τέμνων ὁδὸν
O the among stars of-heaven cleaving road
καὶ χρυσοκολλήτοισιν ἐμβεβὼς δίφροις
and on-gold-studded mounted chariot
Ἥλιε, θοαῖς ἵπποισιν εἰλίσσων φλόγα,
Sun with-swift mares whirling flame
ὡς δυστυχῆ Θήβαισι τῇ τόθ' ἡμέρᾳ
how unlucky to-Thebes on-the then day
ἀκτῖν' ἐφῆκας, Κάδμος ἡνίκ' ἦλθε γῆν
ray you-sent Cadmus when he-came land
τήνδ', ἐκλιπὼν Φοίνισσαν ἐναλίαν χθόνα·
this having-left Phoenician sea-girt land
ὃς παῖδα γήμας Κύπριδος Ἁρμονίαν ποτὲ
who child having-married of-Cypris Harmonia once
Πολύδωρον ἐξέφυσε, τοῦ δὲ Λάβδακον
Polydorus begot of-him and Labdacus
φῦναι λέγουσιν, ἐκ δὲ τοῦδε Λάιον,
to-be-born they-say from and him Laius
ἐγὼ δὲ παῖς μὲν κλήζομαι Μενοικέως,
I and child indeed am-called of-Menoeceus

Κρέων τ' ἀδελφὸς μητρὸς ἐκ μιᾶς ἔφυ·
Creon and brother mother from one was-born
καλοῦσι δ' Ἰοκάστην με, τοῦτο γὰρ πατὴρ
they-call and Jocasta me this for father
ἔθετο, γαμεῖ δὲ Λάιός μ'· ἐπεὶ δ' ἄπαις
gave weds and Laius me since and childless
ἦν χρόνια λέκτρα τἄμ' ἔχων ἐν δώμασιν,
was long-time bed my having in house
ἐλθὼν ἐρωτᾷ Φοῖβον ἐξαιτεῖ θ' ἅμα
having-gone asks Phoebus begs and at-the-same-time
παίδων ἐς οἴκους ἀρσένων κοινωνίαν.
of-children for house male sharing
ὁ δ' εἶπεν· ὦ Θήβαισιν εὐίπποις ἄναξ,
he and said O of-Thebes with-good-horses lord
μὴ σπεῖρε τέκνων ἄλοκα δαιμόνων βίᾳ·
not sow of-children furrow of-gods in-defiance
εἰ γὰρ τεκνώσεις παῖδ', ἀποκτενεῖ σ' ὁ φύς,
if for you-beget child will-kill you the born
καὶ πᾶς σὸς οἶκος βήσεται δι' αἵματος.
and all your house will-go through blood
ὁ δ' ἡδονῇ δοὺς εἴς τε βακχεῖον πεσὼν
he and to-pleasure yielding into and revelry falling
ἔσπειρεν ἡμῖν παῖδα, καὶ σπείρας βρέφος,
sowed for-us child and having-sown babe
γνοὺς τἀμπλάκημα τοῦ θεοῦ τε τὴν φάτιν,
knowing his-error of-the god and the word
λειμῶν' ἐς Ἥρας καὶ Κιθαιρῶνος λέπας
meadow to of-Hera and of-Cithaeron crag
δίδωσι βουκόλοισιν ἐκθεῖναι βρέφος,
gives to-herdsmen to-expose babe

σφυρῶν σιδηρᾶ κέντρα διαπείρας μέσον·
of-ankles iron spikes having-pierced middle
ὅθεν νιν Ἑλλὰς ὠνόμαζεν Οἰδίπουν.
whence him Hellas named Oedipus
Πολύβου δέ νιν λαβόντες ἱπποβουκόλοι
of-Polybus and him having-taken horse-herds
φέρουσ' ἐς οἴκους εἴς τε δεσποίνης χέρας
bring to house into and of-mistress hands
ἔθηκαν. ἡ δὲ τὸν ἐμὸν ὠδίνων πόνον
placed she and the my of-birth-pangs toil
μαστοῖς ὑφεῖτο καὶ πόσιν πείθει τεκεῖν.
to-breasts put and husband persuades to-have-borne
ἤδη δὲ πυρσαῖς γένυσιν ἐξανδρούμενος
already and with-ruddy cheeks becoming-a-man
παῖς οὑμός, ἢ γνοὺς ἤ τινος μαθὼν πάρα,
son my either having-guessed or someone having-learned from
ἔστειχε τοὺς φύσαντας ἐκμαθεῖν θέλων
went the having-begotten to-learn-thoroughly wishing
πρὸς δῶμα Φοίβου, Λάιός θ', οὑμὸς πόσις,
to house of-Phoebus Laius and my husband
τὸν ἐκτεθέντα παῖδα μαστεύων μαθεῖν,
the exposed child seeking to-learn
εἰ μηκέτ' εἴη. καὶ ξυνάπτετον πόδα
if no-longer he-might-be and joined foot
εἰς ταὐτὸν ἄμφω Φωκίδος σχιστῆς ὁδοῦ.
to the-same both of-Phocis of-the-cleft road
καί νιν κελεύει Λαΐου τροχηλάτης·
and him commands of-Laius charioteer
ὦ ξένε, τυράννοις ἐκποδὼν μεθίστασο.
O stranger for-princes out-of-the-way remove

ὁ δ' εἶρπ' ἄναυδος, μέγα φρονῶν· πῶλοι δέ νιν
he and went voiceless great thinking mares and him
χηλαῖς τένοντας ἐξεφοίνισσον ποδῶν.
with-hooves tendons bloodied of-feet
ὅθεν — τί τἀκτὸς τῶν κακῶν με δεῖ λέγειν; —
whence why the-things-outside of-the evils me must to-tell
παῖς πατέρα καίνει καὶ λαβὼν ὀχήματα
son father kills and having-taken chariot
Πολύβῳ τροφεῖ δίδωσιν. ὡς δ' ἐπεζάρει
to-Polybus nurturer gives when and was-oppressing
Σφὶγξ ἁρπαγαῖσι πόλιν, ἐμός τ' οὐκ ἦν πόσις,
Sphinx with-raids city my and not was husband
Κρέων ἀδελφὸς τἀμὰ κηρύσσει λέχη,
Creon brother my proclaims bed
ὅστις σοφῆς αἴνιγμα παρθένου μάθοι,
whoever of-the-wise riddle of-maiden should-learn
τούτῳ ξυνάψειν λέκτρα. τυγχάνει δέ πως
to-him to-join bed happens and somehow
μούσας ἐμὸς παῖς Οἰδίπους Σφιγγὸς μαθών,
songs my son Oedipus of-Sphinx having-learned
ὅθεν τύραννος τῆσδε γῆς καθίσταται
whence tyrant of-this land is-made
καὶ σκῆπτρ' ἔπαθλα τῆσδε λαμβάνει χθονός.
and scepter as-prizes of-this receives land
γαμεῖ δὲ τὴν τεκοῦσαν οὐκ εἰδὼς τάλας
weds and the having-borne not knowing wretched
οὐδ' ἡ τεκοῦσα παιδὶ συγκοιμωμένη.
nor the having-borne with-son sleeping
τίκτω δὲ παῖδας παιδὶ δύο μὲν ἄρσενας,
I-bear and children to-son two indeed male

Ἐτεοκλέα κλεινήν τε Πολυνείκους βίαν,
Eteocles famous and of-Polynices might
κόρας δὲ δισσάς· τὴν μὲν Ἰσμήνην πατὴρ
girls and two the one Ismene father
ὠνόμασε, τὴν δὲ πρόσθεν Ἀντιγόνην ἐγώ.
named the and older Antigone I
μαθὼν δὲ τἀμὰ λέκτρα μητρῴων γάμων
having-learned and my bed of-maternal marriage
ὁ πάντ' ἀνατλὰς Οἰδίπους παθήματα
the all having-endured Oedipus sufferings
εἰς ὄμματ' αὑτοῦ δεινὸν ἐμβάλλει φόνον,
into eyes his-own terrible strikes murder
χρυσηλάτοις πόρπαισιν αἱμάξας κόρας.
with-gold-wrought brooches having-bloodied pupils
ἐπεὶ δὲ τέκνων γένυς ἐμῶν σκιάζεται,
when and of-children cheek my is-shadowed
κλῄθροις ἔκρυψαν πατέρ', ἵν' ἀμνήμων τύχη
with-bars they-hid father so-that forgotten fortune
γένοιτο πολλῶν δεομένη σοφισμάτων.
might-be of-many needing contrivances
ζῶν δ' ἔστ' ἐν οἴκοις. πρὸς δὲ τῆς τύχης νοσῶν
living and is in house by and the fortune sick
ἀρὰς ἀρᾶται παισὶν ἀνοσιωτάτας,
curses he-curses on-sons most-unholy
θηκτῷ σιδήρῳ δῶμα διαλαχεῖν τόδε.
with-whetted iron house to-divide this
τὼ δ' εἰς φόβον πεσόντε, μὴ τελεσφόρους
they and into fear having-fallen lest fulfilled
εὐχὰς θεοὶ κραίνωσιν οἰκούντων ὁμοῦ,
prayers gods should-accomplish dwelling together

ξυμβάντ᾽ ἔταξαν τὸν νεώτερον πάρος
having-agreed arranged the younger first
φεύγειν ἑκόντα τήνδε Πολυνείκην χθόνα,
to-go-into-exile willingly this Polynices land
Ἐτεοκλέα δὲ σκῆπτρ᾽ ἔχειν μένοντα γῆς
Eteocles and scepter to-hold staying of-land
ἐνιαυτὸν ἀλλάσσοντ᾽. ἐπεὶ δ᾽ ἐπὶ ζυγοῖς
year in-turn when and on the-benches
καθέζετ᾽ ἀρχῆς, οὐ μεθίσταται θρόνων,
he-sat of-rule not he-quits throne
φυγάδα δ᾽ ἀπωθεῖ τῆσδε Πολυνείκη χθονός.
exile and thrusts-out from-this Polynices land
ὁ δ᾽ Ἄργος ἐλθών, κῆδος Ἀδράστου λαβών,
he and to-Argos having-gone marriage of-Adrastus having-taken
πολλὴν ἀθροίσας ἀσπίδ᾽ Ἀργείων ἄγει·
many having-gathered shield of-Argives leads
ἐπ᾽ αὐτὰ δ᾽ ἐλθὼν ἑπτάπυλα τείχη τάδε,
to very and having-come seven-gated walls these
πατρῷ᾽ ἀπαιτεῖ σκῆπτρα καὶ μέρη χθονός.
paternal demands scepter and shares of-land
ἐγὼ δ᾽ ἔριν λύουσ᾽ ὑπόσπονδον μολεῖν
I and strife loosing under-truce to-come
ἔπεισα παιδὶ παῖδα πρὶν ψαῦσαι δορός.
persuaded son son before to-touch spear
ἥξειν δ᾽ ὁ πεμφθείς φησιν αὐτὸν ἄγγελος.
to-come and the sent says him messenger
ἀλλ᾽ ὦ φαεννὰς οὐρανοῦ ναίων πτυχὰς
but O bright of-heaven dwelling folds
Ζεῦ, σῶσον ἡμᾶς, δὸς δὲ σύμβασιν τέκνοις.
Zeus save us grant and reconciliation to-children

χρὴ δ', εἰ σοφὸς πέφυκας, οὐκ ἐᾶν βροτὸν
must and if wise you-are not to-let mortal
τὸν αὐτὸν αἰεὶ δυστυχῆ καθεστάναι.
the same always unlucky to-be-established
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ ὦ κλεινὸν οἴκοις Ἀντιγόνη θάλος πατρί,
O famous to-house Antigone shoot to-father
ἐπεί σε μήτηρ παρθενῶνας ἐκλιπεῖν
since you mother maiden-chambers to-leave
μεθῆκε μελάθρων ἐς διῆρες ἔσχατον
allowed of-house to roof uppermost
στράτευμ' ἰδεῖν Ἀργεῖον ἱκεσίαισι σαῖς,
army to-see Argive at-entreaties your
ἐπίσχες, ὡς ἂν προυξερευνήσω στίβον,
wait so-that — I-may-search-out path
μή τις πολιτῶν ἐν τρίβῳ φαντάζεται,
lest any of-citizens in road appears
κἀμοὶ μὲν ἔλθῃ φαῦλος ὡς δούλῳ ψόγος,
and-to-me indeed comes mean as to-slave blame
σοὶ δ' ὡς ἀνάσσῃ· πάντα δ' ἐξειδὼς φράσω
to-you and as princess all and having-learned I-will-tell
ἅ τ' εἶδον εἰσήκουσά τ' Ἀργείων πάρα,
what and I-saw I-heard and Argives from
σπονδὰς ὅτ' ἦλθον σῷ κασιγνήτῳ φέρων
truce when I-went to-your brother bearing
ἐνθένδ' ἐκεῖσε δεῦρό τ' αὖ κείνου πάρα.
from-here thither here and again him from
ἀλλ' οὔτις ἀστῶν τοῖσδε χρίμπτεται δόμοις,
but no-one of-citizens these approaches house
κέδρου παλαιὰν κλίμακ' ἐκπέρα ποδί·
of-cedar old ladder pass-up with-foot

σκόπει δὲ πεδία καὶ παρ' Ἰσμηνοῦ ῥοὰς
look and plains and by of-Ismenus streams
Δίρκης τε νᾶμα, πολεμίων στράτευμ' ὅσον.
of-Dirce and stream of-enemies army how-great
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ὄρεγέ νυν ὄρεγε γεραιὰν νέᾳ
reach-out now reach-out aged to-young
χεῖρ', ἀπὸ κλιμάκων ποδὸς
hand from ladder of-foot
ἴχνος ἐπαντέλλων.
step raising
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ ἰδοὺ ξύναψον, παρθέν'· εἰς καιρὸν δ' ἔβης·
see join maiden in time and you-came
κινούμενον γὰρ τυγχάνει Πελασγικὸν
moving for happens Pelasgian
στράτευμα, χωρίζουσι δ' ἀλλήλων λόχους.
army they-separate and from-one-another companies
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἰὼ πότνια παῖ Λατοῦς
oh lady child of-Leto
Ἑκάτα, κατάχαλκον ἅπαν
Hecate bronze-clad whole
πεδίον ἀστράπτει.
plain flashes
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ οὐ γάρ τι φαύλως ἦλθε Πολυνείκης χθόνα,
not for at-all meanly came Polynices land
πολλοῖς μὲν ἵπποις, μυρίοις δ' ὅπλοις βρέμων.
with-many indeed horses with-countless and arms roaring
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἆρα πύλαι κλῄθροις χαλκόδετ' ἆρ' ἔμβολα
— gates with-bolts bronze-bound — bars
λαϊνέοισιν Ἀμφίονος ὀργάνοις
with-stone of-Amphion tools

τείχεος ἥρμοσται;
of-wall fitted

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ θάρσει· τά γ' ἔνδον ἀσφαλῶς ἔχει πόλις.
take-heart the at-least within safely is city

ἀλλ' εἰσόρα τὸν πρῶτον, εἰ βούλει μαθεῖν.
but look-at the first if you-wish to-learn

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ τίς οὗτος ὁ λευκολόφας,
who this the white-crested

πρόπαρ ὃς ἀγεῖται στρατοῦ
in-front who leads army

πάγχαλκον ἀσπίδ' ἀμφὶ βρα-
bronze shield about arm

χίονι κουφίζων;
— *lifting-lightly*

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ λοχαγός, ὦ δέσποινα. ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ τίς πόθεν γεγώς;
captain O mistress who from-where born

αὔδασον, ὦ γεραιέ, τίς ὀνομάζεται;
tell O old-man who is-named

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ οὗτος Μυκηναῖος μὲν αὐδᾶται γένος,
this-one Mycenaean indeed is-called by-race

Λερναῖα δ' οἰκεῖ νάμαθ', Ἱππομέδων ἄναξ.
Lernaean and dwells waters Hippomedon lord

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἒ ἒ ὡς γαῦρος, ὡς φοβερὸς εἰσιδεῖν,
eh eh how proud how fearful to-look-on

γίγαντι γηγενέτᾳ προσόμοιος
to-giant earth-born like

ἀστερωπὸς ἐν γραφαῖσιν, οὐχὶ πρόσφορος
starry-faced in pictures not like

ἀμερίῳ γέννᾳ.
to-mortal race

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ τὸν δ' ἐξαμείβοντ' οὐχ ὁρᾷς Δίρκης ὕδωρ;
the and crossing not do-you-see of-Dirce water

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἄλλος ἄλλος ὅδε τευχέων τρόπος.
another another this of-arms fashion

τίς δ' ἐστὶν οὗτος; ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ παῖς μὲν Οἰνέως ἔφυ
who and is this-one son indeed of-Oeneus is

Τυδεύς, Ἄρη δ' Αἰτωλὸν ἐν στέρνοις ἔχει.
Tydeus Ares and Aetolian in breast he-has

135 ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ οὗτος ὁ τᾶς Πολυνείκεος, ὦ γέρον,
this-one the of-the of-Polynices O old-man

αὐτοκασιγνήτας νύμφας
own-sister bride

ὁμόγαμος κυρεῖ;
married-to-sister is

ὡς ἀλλόχρως ὅπλοισι μιξοβάρβαρος.
how strange-colored with-arms half-barbarian

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ σακεσφόροι γὰρ πάντες Αἰτωλοί, τέκνον,
shield-bearing for all Aetolians child

140 λόγχαις τ' ἀκοντιστῆρες εὐστοχώτατοι.
with-spears and javelin-throwers most-accurate

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ σὺ δ', ὦ γέρον, πῶς αἰσθάνει σαφῶς τάδε;
you and O old-man how do-you-perceive clearly these-things

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ σημεῖ' ἰδὼν τότ' ἀσπίδων ἐγνώρισα,
signs having-seen then of-shields I-recognized

σπονδὰς ὅτ' ἦλθον σῷ κασιγνήτῳ φέρων·
truce when I-went to-your brother bearing

ἃ προσδεδορκὼς οἶδα τοὺς ὡπλισμένους.
which having-looked-at I-know the armed

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ τίς δ' οὗτος ἀμφὶ μνῆμα τὸ Ζήθου περᾷ
who and this-one about tomb the of-Zethus passes
καταβόστρυχος, ὄμμασι γοργὸς εἰσ-
long-haired with-eyes grim to-look-on
ιδεῖν νεανίας,
— *young-man*
λοχαγός, ὡς ὄχλος νιν ὑστέρῳ ποδὶ
captain how crowd him with-following foot
πάνοπλος ἀμφέπει;
all-armed attends
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ ὅδ' ἐστὶ Παρθενοπαῖος, Ἀταλάντης γόνος.
this-one is Parthenopaeus of-Atalanta son
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἀλλά νιν ἁ κατ' ὄρη μετὰ ματέρος
but him the on mountains with mother
Ἄρτεμις ἱεμένα τόξοις δαμάσασ' ὀλέσειεν,
Artemis hastening with-arrows having-subdued may-destroy
ὃς ἐπ' ἐμὰν πόλιν ἔβα πέρσων.
who against my city came to-sack
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ εἴη τάδ', ὦ παῖ· σὺν δίκῃ δ' ἥκουσι γῆν,
may-it-be these-things O child with justice but they-come land
ὃ καὶ δέδοικα μὴ σκοπῶσ' ὀρθῶς θεοί.
which also I-fear lest look rightly gods
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ποῦ δ' ὃς ἐμοὶ μιᾶς ἐγένετ' ἐκ ματρὸς
where and who to-me one was-born from mother
πολυπόνῳ μοίρᾳ;
with-much-toiling fate
ὦ φίλτατ', εἰπέ, ποῦ 'στι Πολυνείκης, γέρον.
O dearest say where is Polynices old-man

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ ἐκεῖνος ἑπτὰ παρθένων τάφου πέλας
he of-seven maidens tomb near
Νιόβης Ἀδράστῳ πλησίον παραστατεῖ.
of-Niobe to-Adrastus near stands
ὁρᾷς; ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ὁρῶ δῆτ᾽ οὐ σαφῶς, ὁρῶ δέ πως
do-you-see I-see then not clearly I-see but somehow
μορφῆς τύπωμα στέρνα τ᾽ ἐξηκασμένα.
of-form outline breast and likened
ἀνεμώκεος εἴθε δρόμον νεφέλας
wind-swift would-that course of-cloud
ποσὶν ἐξανύσαιμι δι᾽ αἰθέρος
with-feet I-might-accomplish through air
πρὸς ἐμὸν ὁμογενέτορα, περὶ δ᾽ ὠλένας
to my brother around and arms
δέρᾳ φιλτάτᾳ βάλοιμι χρόνῳ
to-neck dearest I-might-throw in-time
φυγάδα μέλεον. ὡς
exile wretched how
ὅπλοισι χρυσέοισιν ἐκπρεπής, γέρον,
with-arms golden conspicuous old-man
ἑῴοις ὅμοια φλεγέθων βολαῖς ἁλίου.
dawn's like blazing with-rays of-sun
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ ἥξει δόμους τούσδ᾽, ὥστε σ᾽ ἐμπλῆσαι χαρᾶς,
he-will-come to-house this so-that you to-fill with-joy
ἔνσπονδος. ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ οὗτος δ᾽, ὦ γεραιέ, τίς κυρεῖ,
under-truce this-one and O old-man who is
ὃς ἅρμα λευκὸν ἡνιοστροφεῖ βεβώς;
who chariot white guides mounted

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ ὁ μάντις Ἀμφιάραος, ὦ δέσποιν', ὅδε·
the seer Amphiaraus O mistress this
σφάγια δ' ἅμ' αὐτῷ, γῆς φιλαίματοι ῥοαί.
sacrifices and with him of-earth blood-loving streams
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ὦ λιπαροζώνου θύγατερ Ἀελίου
O of-bright-girdled daughter of-Sun
Σελαναία, χρυσεόκυκλον φέγγος,
Moon golden-circled light
ὡς ἀτρεμαῖα κέντρα καὶ σώφρονα
how calm goads and prudent
πώλοις μεταφέρων ἰθύνει.
to-colts changing he-guides
ποῦ δ' ὃς τὰ δεινὰ τῇδ' ἐφυβρίζει πόλει
where and who the terrible-things to-this insults city
Καπανεύς; ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ ἐκεῖνος προσβάσεις τεκμαίρεται
Capaneus he approaches calculates
πύργων ἄνω τε καὶ κάτω τείχη μετρῶν.
of-towers up both and down walls measuring
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἰώ,
oh
Νέμεσι καὶ Διὸς βαρύβρομοι βρονταί,
Nemesis and of-Zeus deep-roaring thunders
κεραυνῶν τε φῶς αἰθαλόεν, σύ τοι
of-thunderbolts and light flaming you surely
μεγαλαγορίαν ὑπεράνορα κοιμίζεις·
boasting superhuman lull
ὅδ' ἐστίν, αἰχμαλωτίδας
this-one is captive
ὃς δορὶ Θηβαίας Μυκηνῄσιν
who by-spear Theban to-Mycenaean

Λερναίᾳ τε δώσειν τριαίνᾳ,
to-Lernaean and to-give trident
Ποσειδανίοις Ἀμυμωνίοις
to-Poseidon's Amymone's
ὕδασι, δουλείαν περιβαλών, λέγει;
waters slavery having-cast-around says
μήποτε μήποτε τάνδ', ὦ πότνια,
never never this O lady
χρυσεοβόστρυχον ὦ Διὸς ἔρνος
golden-haired O of-Zeus offspring
Ἄρτεμι, δουλοσύναν τλαίην.
Artemis slavery may-I-endure
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ ὦ τέκνον, εἴσβα δῶμα καὶ κατὰ στέγας
O child go-into house and in roof
ἐν παρθενῶσι μίμνε σοῖς, ἐπεὶ πόθου
in maiden-chambers stay your since of-longing
εἰς τέρψιν ἦλθες ὧν ἔχρηζες εἰσιδεῖν.
to delight you-came of-what you-desired to-see
ὄχλος γάρ, ὡς ταραγμὸς εἰσῆλθέν πόλιν,
crowd for as confusion entered city
χωρεῖ γυναικῶν πρὸς δόμους τυραννικούς·
goes of-women to house royal
φιλόψογον δὲ χρῆμα θηλειῶν ἔφυ,
fault-loving and thing of-women is
σμικράς τ' ἀφορμὰς ἢν λάβωσι τῶν λόγων,
small and occasions if they-get of-the words
πλείους ἐπεισφέρουσιν· ἡδονὴ δέ τις
more they-add-in pleasure and some
γυναιξὶ μηδὲν ὑγιὲς ἀλλήλας λέγειν.
to-women nothing sound of-one-another to-speak

The chorus of Phoenician maidens tell how they were sent from Tyre as an offering to Apollo at Delphi, and came first to Thebes, sent to the towers of Laius as kin of the sons of Agenor, while Castalia still awaits them. They feel kinship with the city through their common descent from Io and Agenor. War now blazes before the walls, and they share the Thebans' danger, since the suffering of kin is their own; they fear Argos and the gods' will, for Polynices comes to claim his house not unjustly.

ΧΟΡΟΣ Τύριον οἶδμα λιποῦσ' ἔβαν
Tyrian swell having-left I-came
ἀκροθίνια Λοξίᾳ
first-fruits for-Loxias
Φοινίσσας ἀπὸ νάσου
Phoenician from island
Φοίβῳ δούλα μελάθρων,
to-Phoebus slave of-halls
ἵν' ὑπὸ δειράσι νιφοβόλοις
where under ridges snow-beaten
Παρνασοῦ κατενάσθη,
of-Parnassus he-dwells
Ἰόνιον κατὰ πόντον ἐλά-
Ionian across sea with-oar
τᾳ πλεύσασα περιρρύτων
— having-sailed sea-girt
ὑπὲρ ἀκαρπίστων πεδίων
over unharvested plains
Σικελίας Ζεφύρου πνοαῖς
of-Sicily of-Zephyr with-blasts
ἱππεύσαντος ἐν οὐρανῷ
riding in heaven

κάλλιστον κελάδημα.
most-beautiful sound
πόλεος ἐκπροκριθεῖσ' ἐμᾶς
from-city chosen-out my
καλλιστεύματα Λοξίᾳ
choicest-offerings to-Loxias
Καδμείων ἔμολον γᾶν,
of-Cadmeans I-came land
κλεινῶν Ἀγηνοριδᾶν
of-famous sons-of-Agenor
ὁμογενεῖς ἐπὶ Λαΐου
kindred to of-Laius
πεμφθεῖσ' ἐνθάδε πύργους.
sent here towers
ἴσα δ' ἀγάλμασι χρυσοτεύ-
equal and to-images gold-wrought
κτοις Φοίβῳ γενόμαν λάτρις.
— to-Phoebus I-became servant
ἔτι δὲ Κασταλίας ὕδωρ
still and of-Castalia water
περιμένει με κόμας ἐμᾶς
awaits me hair my
δεῦσαι παρθένιον χλιδὰν
to-wet maidenly pride
Φοιβείαισι λατρείαις.
in-Phoebean services
ὦ λάμπουσα πέτρα πυρὸς
O shining rock of-fire
δικόρυφον σέλας ὑπὲρ ἄκρων
two-peaked gleam over heights

Βακχείων Διονύσου,
Bacchic of-Dionysus
οἴνα θ', ἃ καθαμέριον
vine and which day-by-day
στάζεις τὸν πολύκαρπον
you-drip the much-fruited
οἰνάνθας ἱεῖσα βότρυν,
of-vine-bloom sending-forth cluster
ζάθεά τ' ἄντρα δράκοντος οὔ-
holy and caves of-dragon mountain
ρειαί τε σκοπιαὶ θεῶν
— and peaks of-gods
νιφόβολόν τ' ὄρος ἱερόν, εἰ-
snow-beaten and mountain holy whirling
λίσσων ἀθανάτας θεοῦ
— of-immortal goddess
χορὸς γενοίμαν ἄφοβος
dancer may-I-become fearless
παρὰ μεσόμφαλα γύαλα Φοί-
by central hollows of-Phoebus
βου Δίρκαν προλιποῦσα.
— Dirce having-left
νῦν δέ μοι πρὸ τειχέων
now and to-me before walls
θούριος μολὼν Ἄρης
furious having-come Ares
αἷμα δάιον φλέγει
blood hostile kindles
τᾷδ', ὃ μὴ τύχοι, πόλει·
to-this which not may-it-happen city

κοινὰ γὰρ φίλων ἄχη·
common for of-friends griefs
κοινὰ δ', εἴ τι πείσεται
common and if anything it-shall-suffer
καλλίπυργος ἅδε γᾶ
fair-towered this land
Φοινίσσᾳ χώρᾳ. φεῦ φεῦ.
to-the-Phoenician land alas alas
κοινὸν αἷμα, κοινὰ τέκεα
common blood common children
τᾶς κερασφόρου πέφυκεν Ἰοῦς·
of-the horned are-born Io
ὧν μέτεστί μοι πόνων.
of-which share to-me of-toils
ἀμφὶ δὲ πτόλιν νέφος
around and city cloud
ἀσπίδων πυκνὸν φλέγει
of-shields thick blazes
σῆμα φοινίου μάχης,
sign of-bloody battle
ἂν Ἄρης τάχ' εἴσεται
which Ares soon will-know
παισὶν Οἰδίπου φέρων
to-sons of-Oedipus bringing
πημονὰν Ἐρινύων.
woe of-Erinyes
Ἄργος ὦ Πελασγικόν,
Argos O Pelasgian
δειμαίνω τὰν σὰν ἀλκὰν
I-fear the your strength

καὶ τὸ θεόθεν· οὐ γὰρ ἄδικον
and the from-god not for unjust
εἰς ἀγῶνα τόνδ' ἔνοπλος ὁρμᾷ
into contest this armed rushes
παῖς μετέρχεται δόμους.
son seeks-out house

III · THE BROTHERS' DEBATE

Polynices enters the city warily under the truce. Jocasta embraces him and laments his exile and his marriage abroad; he tells her the miseries of exile. Eteocles arrives, and Jocasta presides over their debate. Polynices asks only for his turn as king; Eteocles answers that he will never give up power, the greatest of the gods. Jocasta urges them to honor Equality rather than Ambition, but they part in fury, each eager to meet the other at the gates.

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ τὰ μὲν πυλωρῶν κλῇθρά μ' εἰσεδέξατο
the indeed of-gatekeepers bars me admitted
δι' εὐπετείας τειχέων εἴσω μολεῖν.
through ease of-walls within to-come
ὃ καὶ δέδοικα μή με δικτύων ἔσω
which also I-fear lest me of-nets within
λαβόντες οὐκ ἐκφρῶσ' ἀναίμακτον χρόα.
having-taken not they-let-out unbloodied skin
ὧν εἵνεκ' ὄμμα πανταχῇ διοιστέον
of-which for-the-sake eye everywhere must-be-turned
κἀκεῖσε καὶ τὸ δεῦρο, μὴ δόλος τις ᾖ.
and-thither and the here lest trick any be
ὡπλισμένος δὲ χεῖρα τῷδε φασγάνῳ
armed and hand with-this sword

τὰ πίστ᾽ ἐμαυτῷ τοῦ θράσους παρέξομαι.
the pledges to-myself of-the boldness I-will-provide
ὠὴ τίς οὗτος; ἢ κτύπον φοβούμεθα;
ho who this-one or noise do-we-fear
ἅπαντα γὰρ τολμῶσι δεινὰ φαίνεται,
all for to-the-daring terrible-things appear
ὅταν δι᾽ ἐχθρᾶς ποὺς ἀμείβηται χθονός.
when through hostile foot passes land
πέποιθα μέντοι μητρί, κοὐ πέποιθ᾽ ἅμα,
I-trust however mother and-not I-trust at-the-same-time
ἥτις μ᾽ ἔπεισε δεῦρ᾽ ὑπόσπονδον μολεῖν.
who me persuaded here under-truce to-come
ἀλλ᾽ ἐγγὺς ἀλκή· βώμιοι γὰρ ἑσχάραι
but near help altar for hearths
πέλας πάρεισι, κοὐκ ἔρημα δώματα.
near are-present and-not empty house
φέρ᾽ ἐς σκοτεινὰς περιβολὰς μεθῶ ξίφος
come into dark sheath let-me-put sword
καὶ τάσδ᾽ ἔρωμαι, τίνες ἐφεστᾶσιν δόμοις.
and these let-me-ask who they-stand-at house
ξέναι γυναῖκες, εἴπατ᾽, ἐκ ποίας πάτρας
foreign women tell from what fatherland
Ἑλληνικοῖσι δώμασιν πελάζετε;
to-Greek house you-approach
ΧΟΡΟΣ Φοίνισσα μὲν γῆ πατρὶς ἡ θρέψασά με,
Phoenician indeed land fatherland the having-reared me
Ἀγήνορος δὲ παῖδες ἐκ παίδων δορὸς
of-Agenor and children from children of-spear
Φοίβῳ μ᾽ ἔπεμψαν ἐνθάδ᾽ ἀκροθίνιον.
to-Phoebus me sent here first-fruits

μέλλων δὲ πέμπειν μ' Οἰδίπου κλεινὸς γόνος
about and to-send me of-Oedipus famous son
μαντεῖα σεμνὰ Λοξίου τ' ἐπ' ἐσχάρας,
oracles holy of-Loxias and to hearths
ἐν τῷδ' ἐπεστράτευσαν Ἀργεῖοι πόλιν. 285
in this marched-against Argives city
σὺ δ' ἀντάμειψαί μ', ὅστις ὢν ἐλήλυθας
you and answer me who being you-have-come
ἑπτάστομον πύργωμα Θηβαίας πόλεως.
seven-mouthed tower of-Theban city
ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ πατὴρ μὲν ἡμῖν Οἰδίπους ὁ Λαΐου,
father indeed to-us Oedipus the of-Laius
ἔτικτε δ' Ἰοκάστη με, παῖς Μενοικέως·
bore and Jocasta me child of-Menoeceus
καλεῖ δὲ Πολυνείκη με Θηβαῖος λεώς. 290
calls and Polynices me Theban people
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ συγγένεια τῶν Ἀγήνορος τέκνων,
O kinship of-the of-Agenor children
ἐμῶν τυράννων, ὧν ἀπεστάλην ὕπο —
my princes whom I-was-sent by
γονυπετεῖς ἕδρας προσπίτνω σ', ἄναξ,
kneeling seats I-fall-before you lord
τὸν οἴκοθεν νόμον σέβουσα —
the from-home custom revering
ἔβας ὦ χρόνῳ γᾶν πατρῴαν. 295
you-came O in-time land paternal
ἰὼ ἰώ· πότνια, μόλε πρόδομος,
oh oh lady come before-the-house
ἀμπέτασον πύλας.
open gates

κλύεις, ὦ τεκοῦσα τόνδε μᾶτερ;
do-you-hear O having-borne this mother
τί μέλλεις ὑπώροφα μέλαθρα περᾶν,
why do-you-delay roofed halls to-pass
θιγεῖν τ᾽ ὠλέναις τέκνου;
to-touch and with-arms child
ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ Φοίνισσαν βοὰν
Phoenician cry
κλύουσ᾽, ὦ νεάνιδες, γηραιὸν
hearing O young-women aged
πόδ᾽ ἕλκω, τρομερὰν βάσιν.
foot I-drag trembling step
ἰὼ τέκνον,
oh child
χρόνῳ σὸν ὄμμα μυρίαις ἐν ἁμέραις
in-time your eye countless in days
προσεῖδον· ἀμφίβαλλε μα-
I-saw throw-round breast
στὸν ὠλέναισι ματέρος,
— with-arms of-mother
παρηίδων τ᾽ ὄρεγμα βο-
of-cheeks and reaching of-curls
στρύχων τε κυανόχρωτα χαί-
— and dark-colored of-hair
τας πλόκαμον, σκιάζων δέραν ἁμάν.
— lock shading neck my
ἰὼ ἰώ, μόλις φανεὶς
oh oh hardly appearing
ἄελπτα καὐδόκητα ματρὸς ὠλέναις.
unhoped and-unexpected of-mother to-arms

τί φῶ σε; πῶς ἅπαντα
what shall-I-say to-you how all
καὶ χερσὶ καὶ λόγοισι
both with-hands and with-words
πολυέλικτον ἁδονὰν
much-whirling delight
ἐκεῖσε καὶ τὸ δεῦρο
thither and the here
περιχορεύουσα τέρψιν παλαιᾶν λάβω
dancing-around joy of-old shall-I-take
χαρμονᾶν; ἰὼ τέκος,
of-joys oh child
ἔρημον πατρῷον ἔλιπες δόμον
deserted paternal you-left house
φυγὰς ἀποσταλεὶς ὁμαίμου λώβᾳ,
exile sent-away of-kinsman by-outrage
ἦ ποθεινὸς φίλοις,
truly longed-for by-friends
ἦ ποθεινὸς Θήβαις.
truly longed-for by-Thebes
ὅθεν ἐμάν τε λευκόχροα κείρομαι
whence my and white I-shear
δακρυόεσσ᾽ ἀνεῖσα πένθει κόμαν,
tearful letting-fall in-grief hair
ἄπεπλος φαρέων λευκῶν, τέκνον,
without-robes of-robes white child
δυσόρφναια δ᾽ ἀμφὶ τρύχη τάδε
dark and about rags these
σκότι᾽ ἀμείβομαι.
gloomy I-take-in-exchange

ὁ δ' ἐν δόμοισι πρέσβυς ὀμματοστερὴς
the and in house old-man eye-bereft
ἀπήνας ὁμοπτέρου τᾶς ἀπο-
of-the-yoke paired the unyoked
ζυγείσας δόμων
— *of-house*
πόθον ἀμφιδάκρυτον ἀεὶ κατέχων
longing tear-wept always holding
ἀνῆξε μὲν ξίφους
rushed indeed of-sword
ἐπ' αὐτόχειρά τε σφαγάν,
to self-handed and slaughter
ὑπὲρ τέραμνά τ' ἀγχόνας,
over rafters and noose
στενάζων ἀρὰς τέκνοις·
groaning curses on-children
σὺν ἀλαλαῖσι δ' αἰὲν αἰαγμάτων
with cries and always of-wails
σκότια κρύπτεται.
in-darkness hides
σὲ δ', ὦ τέκνον, καὶ γάμοισι δὴ
you and O child and in-marriage indeed
κλύω ζυγέντα παιδοποιὸν ἀδονὰν
I-hear yoked child-making pleasure
ξένοισιν ἐν δόμοις ἔχειν
foreign in house to-have
ξένον τε κῆδος ἀμφέπειν,
foreign and alliance to-embrace

ἄλαστα ματρὶ τᾷδε Λα-
unbearable to-mother this to-Laius
ίῳ τε τῷ παλαιγενεῖ,
— and the of-ancient-birth
γάμων ἐπακτὸν ἄταν.
of-marriage brought-in ruin
ἐγὼ δ' οὔτε σοι πυρὸς ἀνῆψα φῶς
I and neither for-you of-fire kindled light
νόμιμον ἐν γάμοις
customary in marriages
ὡς πρέπει ματέρι μακαρίᾳ·
as befits mother blessed
ἀνυμέναια δ' Ἰσμηνὸς ἐκηδεύθη
without-wedding-song and Ismenus was-allied
λουτροφόρου χλιδᾶς· ἀνὰ δὲ Θηβαίαν
of-bathing-water pride through and Theban
πόλιν ἐσιγάθη σᾶς ἔσοδοι νύμφας.
city was-hushed your entry of-bride
ὄλοιτο τάδ', εἴτε σίδαρος
may-it-perish this whether iron
εἴτ' ἔρις εἴτε πατὴρ ὁ σὸς αἴτιος,
or strife or father the your cause
εἴτε τὸ δαιμόνιον κατεκώμασε
or the divine reveled-riot
δώμασιν Οἰδιπόδα·
in-house of-Oedipus
πρὸς ἐμὲ γὰρ κακῶν ἔμολε τῶνδ' ἄχη.
to me for of-evils came of-these griefs

ΧΟΡΟΣ δεινὸν γυναιξὶν αἱ δι᾽ ὠδίνων γοναί,
terrible to-women the through birth-pangs offspring
καὶ φιλότεκνόν πως πᾶν γυναικεῖον γένος.
and child-loving somehow all female race
ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ μῆτερ, φρονῶν εὖ κοὐ φρονῶν ἀφικόμην
mother thinking well and-not thinking I-came
ἐχθροὺς ἐς ἄνδρας· ἀλλ᾽ ἀναγκαίως ἔχει
hostile to men but by-necessity it-is
πατρίδος ἐρᾶν ἅπαντας· ὃς δ᾽ ἄλλως λέγει,
fatherland to-love all who and otherwise speaks
λόγοισι χαίρει, τὸν δὲ νοῦν ἐκεῖσ᾽ ἔχει.
in-words rejoices the but mind there holds
οὕτω δὲ τάρβους εἰς φόβον τ᾽ ἀφικόμην,
so and of-dread to fear and I-came
μή τις δόλος με πρὸς κασιγνήτου κτάνῃ,
lest some trick me by brother kill
ὥστε ξιφήρη χεῖρ᾽ ἔχων δι᾽ ἄστεως
so-that sword-bearing hand having through town
κυκλῶν πρόσωπον ἦλθον. ἓν δέ μ᾽ ὠφελεῖ,
turning face I-came one-thing and me helps
σπονδαί τε καὶ σὴ πίστις, ἥ μ᾽ ἐσήγαγε
truce both and your pledge which me brought-in
τείχη πατρῷα· πολύδακρυς δ᾽ ἀφικόμην,
walls paternal much-tearful and I-came
χρόνιος ἰδὼν μέλαθρα καὶ βωμοὺς θεῶν
after-long-time having-seen halls and altars of-gods
γυμνάσιά θ᾽ οἷσιν ἐνετράφην, Δίρκης θ᾽ ὕδωρ·
gymnasia and in-which I-was-reared of-Dirce and water
ὧν οὐ δικαίως ἀπελαθεὶς ξένην πόλιν
from-which not justly driven-out strange city

ναίω, δι᾽ ὄσσων ὄμμ᾽ ἔχων δακρυρροοῦν.
I-inhabit through eyes eye having tear-flowing
ἀλλ᾽ ἐκ γὰρ ἄλγους ἄλγος αὖ σὲ δέρκομαι
but from for pain pain again you I-see
ἔχουσαν, οἴμοι τῶν ἐμῶν ἐγὼ κακῶν.
having ah-me of-the my I evils
ὡς δεινὸν ἔχθρα, μῆτερ, οἰκείων φίλων
how terrible hatred mother of-kindred friends
καὶ δυσλύτους ἔχουσα τὰς διαλλαγάς.
and hard-to-loose having the reconciliations
τί γὰρ πατήρ μοι πρέσβυς ἐν δόμοισι δρᾷ,
what for father to-me old in house does
σκότον δεδορκώς; τί δὲ κασίγνηται δύο;
darkness seeing what and sisters two
ἦ που στένουσι τλήμονας φυγὰς ἐμάς;
— surely lament wretched exile my
ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ κακῶς θεῶν τις Οἰδίπου φθείρει γένος·
badly of-gods someone of-Oedipus destroys race
οὕτω γὰρ ἤρξατ᾽, ἄνομα μὲν τεκεῖν ἐμέ,
so for it-began lawlessly indeed to-bear me
κακῶς δὲ γῆμαι πατέρα σὸν φῦναί τε σέ.
badly and to-wed father your to-be-born and you
ἀτὰρ τί ταῦτα; δεῖ φέρειν τὰ τῶν θεῶν.
but why these-things must to-bear the of-the gods
ὅπως δ᾽ ἔρωμαι, μή τι σὴν δάκω φρένα,
how and shall-I-ask lest anything your bite heart
δέδοιχ᾽, ἃ χρήζω· διὰ πόθου δ᾽ ἐλήλυθα.
I-fear what I-want through longing and I-have-come

ΠΟΛΤΝΕΙΚΗΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἐξερώτα, μηδὲν ἐνδεὲς λίπῃς·
but ask nothing lacking leave
ἃ γὰρ σὺ βούλει, ταὔτ᾽ ἐμοί, μῆτερ, φίλα.
what for you wish the-same-things to-me mother dear
ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ καὶ δή σ᾽ ἐρωτῶ πρῶτον ὧν χρῄζω τυχεῖν,
and indeed you I-ask first what I-want to-obtain
τί τὸ στέρεσθαι πατρίδος; ἦ κακὸν μέγα;
what the to-be-bereft of-fatherland — evil great
ΠΟΛΤΝΕΙΚΗΣ μέγιστον· ἔργῳ δ᾽ ἐστὶ μεῖζον ἢ λόγῳ.
greatest in-deed and is greater than in-word
ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ τίς ὁ τρόπος αὐτοῦ; τί φυγάσιν τὸ δυσχερές;
what the manner of-it what for-exiles the hardship
ΠΟΛΤΝΕΙΚΗΣ ἓν μὲν μέγιστον, οὐκ ἔχει παρρησίαν.
one-thing indeed greatest not he-has freedom-of-speech
ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ δούλου τόδ᾽ εἶπας, μὴ λέγειν ἅ τις φρονεῖ.
of-slave this you-said not to-say what one thinks
ΠΟΛΤΝΕΙΚΗΣ τὰς τῶν κρατούντων ἀμαθίας φέρειν χρεών.
the of-the ruling follies to-bear must
ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ καὶ τοῦτο λυπρόν, συνασοφεῖν τοῖς μὴ σοφοῖς.
and this painful to-be-foolish-with the not wise
ΠΟΛΤΝΕΙΚΗΣ ἀλλ᾽ εἰς τὸ κέρδος παρὰ φύσιν δουλευτέον.
but for the gain against nature must-be-a-slave
ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ αἱ δ᾽ ἐλπίδες βόσκουσι φυγάδας, ὡς λόγος.
the and hopes feed exiles as saying
ΠΟΛΤΝΕΙΚΗΣ καλοῖς βλέπουσαί γ᾽ ὄμμασιν, μέλλουσι δέ.
with-fair looking at-least eyes they-delay but
ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ οὐδ᾽ ὁ χρόνος αὐτὰς διεσάφησ᾽ οὔσας κενάς;
nor the time them made-clear being empty
ΠΟΛΤΝΕΙΚΗΣ ἔχουσιν ἀφροδίτην τιν᾽ ἡδεῖαν κακῶν.
they-have charm some sweet of-evils

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ πόθεν δ' ἐβόσκου πρὶν γάμοις εὑρεῖν βίον;
whence and were-you-fed before by-marriage to-find livelihood

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ ποτὲ μὲν ἐπ' ἦμαρ εἶχον, εἶτ' οὐκ εἶχον ἄν.
sometimes indeed for day I-had then not I-had —

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ φίλοι δὲ πατρὸς καὶ ξένοι σ' οὐκ ὠφέλουν;
friends and of-father and guests you not helped

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ εὖ πρᾶσσε· τὰ φίλων δ' οὐδέν, ἤν τι δυστυχῇς·
well fare the of-friends but nothing if anything you-fare-ill

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ οὐδ' ηὐγένειά σ' ἦρεν εἰς ὕψος μέγα;
nor noble-birth you lifted to height great

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ κακὸν τὸ μὴ ἔχειν· τὸ γένος οὐκ ἔβοσκέ με.
evil the not to-have the birth not fed me

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ ἡ πατρίς, ὡς ἔοικε, φίλτατον βροτοῖς.
the fatherland as it-seems dearest to-mortals

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ οὐδ' ὀνομάσαι δύναι' ἂν ὡς ἐστὶν φίλον.
nor to-name you-could — how it-is dear

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ πῶς δ' ἦλθες Ἄργος; τίν' ἐπίνοιαν ἔσχεθες;
how and did-you-come to-Argos what plan did-you-have

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ οὐκ οἶδ'· ὁ δαίμων μ' ἐκάλεσεν πρὸς τὴν τύχην.
not I-know the god me called to the fortune

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ σοφὸς γὰρ ὁ θεός· τίνι τρόπῳ δ' ἔσχες λέχος;
wise for the god in-what way and did-you-get bed

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ ἔχρησ' Ἀδράστῳ Λοξίας χρησμόν τινα.
gave-oracle to-Adrastus Loxias oracle some

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ ποῖον; τί τοῦτ' ἔλεξας; οὐκ ἔχω μαθεῖν.
what what this did-you-say not I-can to-learn

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ κάπρῳ λέοντί θ' ἁρμόσαι παίδων γάμους.
to-boar to-lion and to-join of-children marriages

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ καὶ σοὶ τί θηρῶν ὀνόματος μετῆν, τέκνον;
and to-you what of-beasts of-name was-share child

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ νὺξ ἦν, Ἀδράστου δ' ἦλθον εἰς παραστάδας.
night was of-Adrastus and I-came to porch

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ κοίτας ματεύων ᾗ φυγὰς πλανώμενος;
bed seeking where exile wandering

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ ἦν ταῦτα· κᾆτά γ' ἦλθεν ἄλλος αὖ φυγάς.
was these-things and-then at-least came other again exile

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ τίς οὗτος; ὡς ἄρ' ἄθλιος κἀκεῖνος ἦν.
who this how then wretched also-he was

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ Τυδεύς, ὃν Οἰνέως φασὶν ἐκφῦναι πατρός.
Tydeus whom of-Oeneus they-say to-be-born father

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ τί θηρσὶν ὑμᾶς δῆτ' Ἄδραστος �😀κασεν;
why to-beasts you then Adrastus likened

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ στρωμνῆς ἐς ἀλκὴν οὕνεκ' ἤλθομεν πέρι.
bedding to fight because we-came about

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ ἐνταῦθα Ταλαοῦ παῖς συνῆκε θέσφατα;
there of-Talaus son understood oracles

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ κἄδωκεν ἡμῖν δύο δυοῖν νεάνιδας.
and-gave to-us two to-two maidens

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ ἆρ' εὐτυχεῖς οὖν τοῖς γάμοις ἢ δυστυχεῖς;
— prosper then in-the marriage or fare-ill

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ οὐ μεμπτὸς ἡμῖν ὁ γάμος εἰς τόδ' ἡμέρας.
not blameworthy to-us the marriage to this of-day

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ πῶς δ' ἐξέπεισας δεῦρό σοι σπέσθαι στρατόν;
how and did-you-persuade here you to-follow army

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ δισσοῖς Ἄδραστος ὤμοσεν γαμβροῖς τόδε,
to-two Adrastus swore to-sons-in-law this

ἄμφω κατάξειν εἰς πάτραν, πρόσθεν δ' ἐμέ.
both to-restore to fatherland first and me

πολλοὶ δὲ Δαναῶν καὶ Μυκηναίων ἄκροι
many and of-Danaans and of-Mycenaeans chiefs

πάρεισι, λυπρὰν χάριν, ἀναγκαίαν δ', ἐμοὶ
are-present painful favor necessary but to-me
διδόντες· ἐπὶ γὰρ τὴν ἐμὴν στρατεύομαι
giving against for the my I-march
πόλιν. θεοὺς δ' ἐπώμοσ' ὡς ἀκουσίως
city gods and I-swore that unwillingly
τοῖς φιλτάτοις τοκεῦσιν ἠράμην δόρυ.
against-the dearest parents I-raised spear
ἀλλ' εἰς σὲ τείνει τῶνδε διάλυσις κακῶν,
but to you stretches of-these release of-evils
μῆτερ, διαλλάξασαν ὁμογενεῖς φίλους
mother having-reconciled kindred friends
παῦσαι πόνων με καὶ σὲ καὶ πᾶσαν πόλιν.
stop from-toils me and you and all city
πάλαι μὲν οὖν ὑμνηθέν, ἀλλ' ὅμως ἐρῶ·
long-ago indeed then sung but nevertheless I-will-say
τὰ χρήματ' ἀνθρώποισι τιμιώτατα
the possessions for-men most-honored
δύναμίν τε πλείστην τῶν ἐν ἀνθρώποις ἔχει.
power and greatest of-the among men have
ἁγὼ μεθήκω δεῦρο μυρίαν ἄγων
which I-pursue here countless leading
λόγχην· πένης γὰρ οὐδὲν εὐγενὴς ἀνήρ.
spear poor for nothing noble man
ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν Ἐτεοκλῆς εἰς διαλλαγὰς ὅδε
and indeed Eteocles to reconciliation this-one
χωρεῖ· σὸν ἔργον, μῆτερ Ἰοκάστη, λέγειν
comes your task mother Jocasta to-say
τοιούσδε μύθους οἷς διαλλάξεις τέκνα.
such words by-which you-will-reconcile children

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ μῆτερ, πάρειμι· τήνδε σοὶ χάριν διδοὺς
mother I-am-here this to-you favor giving
ἦλθον. τί χρὴ δρᾶν; ἀρχέτω δέ τις λόγου.
I-came what must to-do let-begin and someone of-speech
ὡς ἀμφὶ τείχη καὶ ξυνωρίδας λόχων
since about walls and pairs of-companies
τάσσων ἐπέσχον πόλιν, ὅπως κλύοιμί σου
arranging I-stopped city so-that I-might-hear of-you
κοινὰς βραβείας, αἷς ὑπόσπονδον μολεῖν
common arbitration by-which under-truce to-come
τόνδ' εἰσεδέξω τειχέων πείσασά με.
this-one you-admitted of-walls having-persuaded me
ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ ἐπίσχες· οὔτοι τὸ ταχὺ τὴν δίκην ἔχει·
hold surely-not the swift the justice has
βραδεῖς δὲ μῦθοι πλεῖστον ἀνύουσιν σοφόν.
slow and words most accomplish wise
σχάσον δὲ δεινὸν ὄμμα καὶ θυμοῦ πνοάς·
check and terrible eye and of-anger blasts
οὐ γὰρ τὸ λαιμότμητον εἰσορᾷς κάρα
not for the throat-cut you-see head
Γοργόνος, ἀδελφὸν δ' εἰσορᾷς ἥκοντα σόν.
of-Gorgon brother but you-see having-come your
σύ τ' αὖ πρόσωπον πρὸς κασίγνητον στρέφε,
you and again face to brother turn
Πολύνεικες· εἰς γὰρ ταὐτὸν ὄμμασι βλέπων
Polynices to for the-same with-eyes looking
λέξεις τ' ἄμεινον τοῦδέ τ' ἐνδέξει λόγους.
you-will-speak and better of-this-one and will-receive words
παραινέσαι δὲ σφῷν τι βούλομαι σοφόν·
to-advise and you-two something I-wish wise

ὅταν φίλος τις ἀνδρὶ θυμωθεὶς φίλῳ
when friend any with-man angered with-friend
εἰς ἓν συνελθὼν ὄμματ' ὄμμασιν διδῷ,
into one coming-together eyes to-eyes gives
ἐφ' οἷσιν ἥκει, ταῦτα χρὴ μόνον σκοπεῖν,
on what he-comes these-things must only to-consider
κακῶν δὲ τῶν πρὶν μηδενὸς μνείαν ἔχειν.
of-evils and of-the before of-none memory to-have
λόγος μὲν οὖν σὸς πρόσθε, Πολύνεικες τέκνον·
word indeed then your first Polynices child
σὺ γὰρ στράτευμα Δαναΐδῶν ἥκεις ἄγων,
you for army of-Danaans come leading
ἄδικα πεπονθώς, ὡς σὺ φῄς· κριτὴς δέ τις
unjust-things having-suffered as you say judge and some
θεῶν γένοιτο καὶ διαλλακτὴς κακῶν.
of-gods may-be and reconciler of-evils
ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ ἁπλοῦς ὁ μῦθος τῆς ἀληθείας ἔφυ,
simple the word of-the truth is
κοὐ ποικίλων δεῖ τἄνδιχ' ἑρμηνευμάτων.
and-not of-intricate needs the-just of-interpretations
ἔχει γὰρ αὐτὰ καιρόν· ὁ δ' ἄδικος λόγος
has for themselves fitness the but unjust word
νοσῶν ἐν αὑτῷ φαρμάκων δεῖται σοφῶν.
sick in itself of-drugs needs wise
ἐγὼ δὲ πατρὸς δωμάτων προυσκεψάμην
I and of-father of-house foresaw
τοὐμόν τε καὶ τοῦδ', ἐκφυγεῖν χρῄζων ἀρὰς
my both and of-this-one to-escape wishing curses
ἃς Οἰδίπους ἐφθέγξατ' εἰς ἡμᾶς ποτε,
which Oedipus uttered against us once

ἐξῆλθον ἔξω τῆσδ' ἑκὼν αὐτὸς χθονός,
I-went out this willingly myself land
δοὺς τῷδ' ἀνάσσειν πατρίδος ἐνιαυτοῦ κύκλον,
giving to-this-one to-rule of-fatherland of-year circle
ὥστ' αὐτὸς ἄρχειν αὖθις ἀνὰ μέρος λαβὼν
so-that myself to-rule again in turn having-taken
καὶ μὴ δι' ἔχθρας τῷδε καὶ φόνου μολὼν
and not through hatred to-this-one and murder coming
480 κακόν τι δρᾶσαι καὶ παθεῖν, ἃ γίγνεται.
evil anything to-do and to-suffer which happen
ὁ δ' αἰνέσας ταῦθ' ὁρκίους τε δοὺς θεούς,
he and having-approved these-things oath-witnesses and giving gods
ἔδρασεν οὐδὲν ὧν ὑπέσχετ', ἀλλ' ἔχει
did nothing of-what he-promised but has
τυραννίδ' αὐτὸς καὶ δόμων ἐμὸν μέρος.
tyranny himself and of-house my part
καὶ νῦν ἕτοιμός εἰμι τἀμαυτοῦ λαβὼν
and now ready I-am my-own having-taken
485 στρατὸν μὲν ἔξω τῆσδ' ἀποστεῖλαι χθονός,
army indeed outside this to-send-away land
οἰκεῖν δὲ τὸν ἐμὸν οἶκον ἀνὰ μέρος λαβὼν
to-dwell and the my house in turn having-taken
καὶ τῷδ' ἀφεῖναι τὸν ἴσον αὖθις αὖ χρόνον,
and to-this-one to-yield the equal again again time
καὶ μήτε πορθεῖν πατρίδα μήτε προσφέρειν
and neither to-sack fatherland nor to-bring
πύργοισι πηκτῶν κλιμάκων προσαμβάσεις,
to-towers of-fixed ladders approaches
490 ἃ μὴ κυρήσας τῆς δίκης πειράσομαι
which not obtaining the justice I-will-try

δρᾶν. μάρτυρας δὲ τῶνδε δαίμονας καλῶ,
to-do witnesses and of-these gods I-call
ὡς πάντα πράσσων σὺν δίκῃ, δίκης ἄτερ
how all-things doing with justice of-justice without
ἀποστεροῦμαι πατρίδος ἀνοσιώτατα.
I-am-robbed of-fatherland most-unholily
ταῦτ' αὖθ' ἕκαστα, μῆτερ, οὐχὶ περιπλοκὰς
these-things very each mother not windings
λόγων ἀθροίσας εἶπον, ἀλλὰ καὶ σοφοῖς 495
of-words having-collected I-said but both for-wise
καὶ τοῖσι φαύλοις ἔνδιχ', ὡς ἐμοὶ δοκεῖ.
and for-the simple just as to-me seems
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐμοὶ μέν, εἰ καὶ μὴ καθ' Ἑλλήνων χθόνα
to-me indeed if even not throughout of-Greeks land
τεθράμμεθ', ἀλλ' οὖν ξυνετά μοι δοκεῖς λέγειν.
we-were-reared but nevertheless intelligent to-me you-seem to-say
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ εἰ πᾶσι ταὐτὸ καλὸν ἔφυ σοφόν θ' ἅμα,
if to-all the-same fair was wise and at-the-same-time
οὐκ ἦν ἂν ἀμφίλεκτος ἀνθρώποις ἔρις· 500
not would-be — disputed for-men strife
νῦν δ' οὔθ' ὅμοιον οὐδὲν οὔτ' ἴσον βροτοῖς,
now and neither like nothing nor equal for-mortals
πλὴν ὀνόμασιν, τὸ δ' ἔργον οὐκ ἔστιν τόδε.
except in-names the but thing not is this
ἐγὼ γὰρ οὐδέν, μῆτερ, ἀποκρύψας ἐρῶ·
I for nothing mother having-concealed will-speak
ἄστρων ἂν ἔλθοιμ' ἡλίου πρὸς ἀντολὰς
of-stars — I-would-go of-sun to risings
καὶ γῆς ἔνερθε δυνατὸς ὢν δρᾶσαι τάδε, 505
and of-earth below able being to-do these-things

τὴν θεῶν μεγίστην ὥστ' ἔχειν Τυραννίδα.
the of-gods greatest so-that to-have Tyranny
τοῦτ' οὖν τὸ χρηστόν, μῆτερ, οὐχὶ βούλομαι
this then the good mother not I-wish
ἄλλῳ παρεῖναι μᾶλλον ἢ σῴζειν ἐμοί·
to-another to-yield rather than to-keep for-me
ἀνανδρία γάρ, τὸ πλέον ὅστις ἀπολέσας
unmanliness for the more whoever having-lost
τοὔλασσον ἔλαβε. πρὸς δὲ τοῖσδ' αἰσχύνομαι,
the-less took besides and these I-am-ashamed
ἐλθόντα σὺν ὅπλοις τόνδε καὶ πορθοῦντα γῆν
having-come with arms this-one and ravaging land
τυχεῖν ἃ χρῄζει· καὶ γὰρ ἂν Θήβαις τόδε
to-obtain what he-wants and for — for-Thebes this
γένοιτ' ὄνειδος, εἰ Μυκηναίου δορὸς
would-be reproach if of-Mycenaean spear
φόβῳ παρείην σκῆπτρα τἀμὰ τῷδ' ἔχειν.
from-fear I-should-yield scepter my to-this-one to-have
χρῆν δ' αὐτὸν οὐχ ὅπλοισι τὰς διαλλαγάς,
it-behooved and him not with-arms the reconciliations
μῆτερ, ποιεῖσθαι· πᾶν γὰρ ἐξαιρεῖ λόγος
mother to-make all for removes word
ὃ καὶ σίδηρος πολεμίων δράσειεν ἄν.
which also iron of-enemies might-do —
ἀλλ' εἰ μὲν ἄλλως τήνδε γῆν οἰκεῖν θέλει,
but if indeed otherwise this land to-dwell he-wishes
ἔξεστ'· ἐκεῖνο δ' οὐχ ἑκὼν μεθήσομαι,
it-is-possible that but not willingly I-will-let-go
ἄρχειν παρόν μοι, τῷδε δουλεῦσαί ποτε.
to-rule being-possible for-me to-this-one to-be-a-slave ever

πρὸς ταῦτ᾽ ἴτω μὲν πῦρ, ἴτω δὲ φάσγανα,
for this let-come indeed fire let-come and swords
ζεύγνυσθε δ᾽ ἵππους, πεδία πίμπλαθ᾽ ἁρμάτων,
yoke and horses plains fill with-chariots
ὡς οὐ παρήσω τῷδ᾽ ἐμὴν τυραννίδα.
since not I-will-yield to-this-one my tyranny
εἴπερ γὰρ ἀδικεῖν χρή, τυραννίδος πέρι
if-indeed for to-do-wrong must tyranny for-the-sake
κάλλιστον ἀδικεῖν, τἄλλα δ᾽ εὐσεβεῖν χρεών.
noblest to-do-wrong the-rest and to-be-pious must
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκ εὖ λέγειν χρὴ μὴ ᾽πὶ τοῖς ἔργοις καλοῖς,
not well to-speak must not on the deeds noble
οὐ γὰρ καλὸν τοῦτ᾽, ἀλλὰ τῇ δίκῃ πικρόν.
not for fine this but to-the justice bitter
ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ ὦ τέκνον, οὐχ ἅπαντα τῷ γήρᾳ κακά,
O child not all to-the old-age evils
Ἐτεόκλεες, πρόσεστιν· ἀλλ᾽ ἡμπειρία
Eteocles are-attached but experience
ἔχει τι λέξαι τῶν νέων σοφώτερον.
has something to-say than-the young wiser
τί τῆς κακίστης δαιμόνων ἐφίεσαι
why for-the worst of-divinities do-you-strive
Φιλοτιμίας, παῖ; μὴ σύ γ᾽· ἄδικος ἡ θεός·
Ambition child not you at-least unjust the goddess
πολλοὺς δ᾽ ἐς οἴκους καὶ πόλεις εὐδαίμονας
many and into houses and cities prosperous
εἰσῆλθε κἀξῆλθ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ὀλέθρῳ τῶν χρωμένων·
she-entered and-went-out to ruin of-the users
ἐφ᾽ ᾗ σὺ μαίνει. κεῖνο κάλλιον, τέκνον,
for which you are-mad that better child

Ἰσότητα τιμᾶν, ἣ φίλους ἀεὶ φίλοις
Equality to-honor which friends always to-friends
πόλεις τε πόλεσι συμμάχους τε συμμάχοις
cities and to-cities allies and to-allies
συνδεῖ· τὸ γὰρ ἴσον νόμιμον ἀνθρώποις ἔφυ,
binds the for equal lawful for-men is
τῷ πλέονι δ' ἀεὶ πολέμιον καθίσταται
to-the more and always hostile is-established
τοὔλασσον ἐχθρᾶς θ' ἡμέρας κατάρχεται.
the-less of-hateful and day begins
καὶ γὰρ μέτρ' ἀνθρώποισι καὶ μέρη σταθμῶν
and for measures for-men and divisions of-weights
Ἰσότης ἔταξε κἀριθμὸν διώρισε,
Equality ordained and-number defined
νυκτός τ' ἀφεγγὲς βλέφαρον ἡλίου τε φῶς
of-night and lightless eyelid of-sun and light
ἴσον βαδίζει τὸν ἐνιαύσιον κύκλον,
equally walks the yearly circle
κοὐδέτερον αὐτῶν φθόνον ἔχει νικώμενον.
and-neither of-them envy has being-conquered
εἶθ' ἥλιος μὲν νύξ τε δουλεύει βροτοῖς,
then sun indeed night and serve mortals
σὺ δ' οὐκ ἀνέξει δωμάτων ἔχων ἴσον
you and not will-endure of-house having equal
καὶ τῷδ' ἀπονέμειν; κᾆτα ποῦ 'στιν ἡ δίκη;
and to-this-one to-allot and-then where is the justice
τί τὴν τυραννίδ', ἀδικίαν εὐδαίμονα,
why the tyranny injustice prosperous
τιμᾷς ὑπέρφευ, καὶ μέγ' ἥγησαι τόδε;
do-you-honor exceedingly and great consider this

περιβλέπεσθαι τίμιον; κενὸν μὲν οὖν.
to-be-looked-at honored empty indeed then
ἢ πολλὰ μοχθεῖν πόλλ' ἔχων εὐδαίμονα
or many to-toil much having prosperous
βούλει; τί δ' ἔστι τὸ πλέον; ὄνομ' ἔχει μόνον·
do-you-wish what and is the more name it-has only
ἐπεὶ τά γ' ἀρκοῦνθ' ἱκανὰ τοῖς γε σώφροσιν.
since the at-least sufficient enough for-the at-least prudent
οὔτοι τὰ χρήματ' ἴδια κέκτηνται βροτοί,
surely-not the possessions private own mortals
τὰ τῶν θεῶν δ' ἔχοντες ἐπιμελούμεθα·
the of-the gods but having we-take-care
ὅταν δὲ χρῄζωσ', αὖτ' ἀφαιροῦνται πάλιν.
when and they-want them they-take-away back
ἄγ', ἤν σ' ἔρωμαι δύο λόγω προθεῖσ' ἅμα,
come if you I-ask two words setting-before at-the-same-time
πότερα τυραννεῖν ἢ πόλιν σῶσαι θέλεις,
whether to-be-tyrant or city to-save do-you-wish
ἐρεῖς τυραννεῖν; ἢν δὲ νικήσῃ σ' ὅδε
you-will-say to-be-tyrant if but conquers you this-one
Ἀργεῖά τ' ἔγχη δόρυ τὸ Καδμείων ἕλῃ,
Argive and spears spear the of-Cadmeans take
ὄψει δαμασθὲν ἄστυ Θηβαῖον τόδε,
you-will-see subdued town Theban this
ὄψει δὲ πολλὰς αἰχμαλωτίδας κόρας
you-will-see and many captive girls
βίᾳ πρὸς ἀνδρῶν πολεμίων πορθουμένας.
by-force by men hostile ravaged
ὀδυνηρὸς ἆρ' ὁ πλοῦτος, ὃν ζητεῖς ἔχειν,
painful then the wealth which you-seek to-have

γενήσεται Θήβαισι, φιλότιμος δὲ σύ.
will-be to-Thebes ambitious and you
σοὶ μὲν τάδ' αὐδῶ. σοὶ δὲ Πολύνεικες λέγω·
to-you indeed these-things I-say to-you and Polynices I-say
ἀμαθεῖς Ἄδραστος χάριτας εἵς σ' ἀνήψατο,
foolish Adrastus favors on you fastened
ἀσύνετα δ' ἦλθες καὶ σὺ πορθήσων πόλιν.
foolishly and you-came also you to-sack city
φέρ', ἢν ἕλῃς γῆν τήνδ', ὃ μὴ τύχοι ποτέ,
come if you-take land this which not may-it-happen ever
πρὸς θεῶν, τρόπαια πῶς ἀναστήσεις Διί;
by gods trophies how will-you-set-up to-Zeus
πῶς δ' αὖ κατάρξει θυμάτων, ἑλὼν πάτραν,
how and again will-you-begin sacrifices having-taken fatherland
καὶ σκῦλα γράψεις πῶς ἐπ' Ἰνάχου ῥοαῖς;
and spoils will-you-inscribe how at of-Inachus streams
Θήβας πυρώσας τάσδε Πολυνείκης θεοῖς
Thebes having-burned these Polynices to-gods
ἀσπίδας ἔθηκε; μήποτ', ὦ τέκνον, κλέος
shields dedicated never O child glory
τοιόνδε σοι γένοιθ' ὑφ' Ἑλλήνων λαβεῖν.
such to-you may-it-be from Greeks to-win
ἢν δ' αὖ κρατηθῇς καὶ τὰ τοῦδ' ὑπερδράμῃ,
if and again you-are-conquered and the his prevail
πῶς Ἄργος ἥξεις μυρίους λιπὼν νεκρούς;
how to-Argos will-you-come countless having-left dead
ἐρεῖ δὲ δή τις· ὦ κακὰ μνηστεύματα
will-say and indeed someone O evil wooings
Ἄδραστε προσθείς, διὰ μιᾶς νύμφης γάμον
Adrastus having-bestowed through of-one bride marriage

ἀπωλόμεσθα. δύο κακὼ σπεύδεις, τέκνον,
we-perished two evils you-hasten child
κείνων στέρεσθαι, τῶνδέ τ' ἐν μέσῳ πεσεῖν.
those to-be-robbed-of these and in midst to-fall
μέθετον τὸ λίαν, μέθετον· ἀμαθίαι δυοῖν,
let-go-both the excess let-go-both follies of-two
εἰς ταὔθ' ὅταν μόλητον, ἔχθιστον κακόν.
into the-same when you-come most-hateful evil
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ θεοί, γένοισθε τῶνδ' ἀπότροποι κακῶν
O gods may-you-be of-these averters of-evils
καὶ ξύμβασίν τιν' Οἰδίπου τέκνοις δότε.
and reconciliation some of-Oedipus to-children grant
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ μῆτερ, οὐ λόγων ἔθ' ἁγών, ἀλλ' ἀνήλωται χρόνος
mother not of-words still the-contest but is-wasted time
οὐν μέσῳ μάτην, περαίνει δ' οὐδὲν ἡ προθυμία·
the-in middle in-vain accomplishes and nothing the zeal
οὐ γὰρ ἂν ξυμβαῖμεν ἄλλως ἢ 'πὶ τοῖς εἰρημένοις,
not for — we-could-agree otherwise than on the said
ὥστ' ἐμὲ σκήπτρων κρατοῦντα τῆσδ' ἄνακτ' εἶναι χθονός·
so-that me of-scepter ruling of-this lord to-be land
τῶν μακρῶν δ' ἀπαλλαγεῖσα νουθετημάτων μ' ἔα.
of-the long and released admonitions me let
καὶ σὺ τῶνδ' ἔξω κομίζου τειχέων, ἢ κατθανεῖ.
and you these outside take-yourself walls or you-will-die
ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ πρὸς τίνος; τίς ὧδ' ἄτρωτος, ὅστις εἰς ἡμᾶς ξίφος
by whom who so invulnerable who against us sword
φόνιον ἐμβαλὼν τὸν αὐτὸν οὐκ ἀποίσεται μόρον;
bloody having-thrust the same not will-carry-off doom
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ἐγγύς, οὐ πρόσω βέβηκεν· εἰς χέρας λεύσσεις ἐμάς;
near not far he-stands to hands you-see my

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ εἰσορῶ· δειλὸν δ' ὁ πλοῦτος καὶ φιλόψυχον κακόν.
I-see cowardly and the wealth and life-loving evil

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ κᾆτα σὺν πολλοῖσιν ἦλθες πρὸς τὸν οὐδὲν ἐς μάχην;
and-then with many you-came to the nothing to battle

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ ἀσφαλὴς γάρ ἐστ' ἀμείνων
safe for is better
ἢ θρασὺς στρατηλάτης.
than bold general

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ κομπὸς εἶ σπονδαῖς πεποιθώς,
boaster you-are in-truce trusting
αἵ σε σῴζουσιν θανεῖν.
which you save to-die

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ καὶ σέ· δεύτερον δ' ἀπαιτῶ
and you second-time and I-demand
σκῆπτρα καὶ μέρη χθονός.
scepter and shares of-land

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ οὐκ ἀπαιτούμεσθ'· ἐγὼ γὰρ τὸν ἐμὸν οἰκήσω δόμον.
not we-are-asked I for the my will-dwell house

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ τοῦ μέρους ἔχων τὸ πλεῖον;
of-the share having the larger

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ φήμ'· ἀπαλλάσσου δὲ γῆς.
I-say depart and from-land

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ ὦ θεῶν βωμοὶ πατρῴων —
O of-gods altars paternal

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ οὓς σὺ πορθήσων πάρει.
whom you to-sack are-present

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ κλύετέ μου — ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ τίς δ' ἂν κλύοι σου
hear me who and — would-hear you
πατρίδ' ἐπεστρατευμένου;
fatherland having-attacked

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ καὶ θεῶν τῶν λευκοπώλων δώμαθ',
and of-gods of-the white-colted halls

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ οἳ στυγοῦσί σε.
who hate you

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ ἐξελαυνόμεσθα πατρίδος,
we-are-driven-out of-fatherland

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ καὶ γὰρ ἦλθες ἐξελῶν.
and for you-came to-drive-out

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ ἀδικίᾳ γ', ὦ θεοί.
by-injustice at-least O gods

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ Μυκήναις, μὴ 'νθάδ' ἀνακάλει θεούς.
at-Mycenae not here call gods

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ ἀνόσιος πέφυκας,
unholy you-are

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ἀλλ' οὐ πατρίδος, ὡς σύ, πολέμιος·
but not of-fatherland as you enemy

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ ὅς μ' ἄμοιρον ἐξελαύνεις. 610
who me portionless drive-out

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ καὶ κατακτενῶ γε πρός.
and I-will-kill at-least besides

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ ὦ πάτερ, κλύεις ἃ πάσχω;
O father do-you-hear what I-suffer

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ καὶ γὰρ οἷα δρᾷς κλύει.
and for what you-do he-hears

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ καὶ σύ, μῆτερ;
and you mother

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ἀθέμιτόν σοι μητρὸς ὀνομάζειν κάρα.
unlawful for-you of-mother to-name head

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ ὦ πόλις. ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ μολὼν ἐς Ἄργος ἀνακάλει
O city coming to Argos call-on
Λέρνης ὕδωρ.
of-Lerna water
ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ εἶμι, μὴ πόνει· σὲ δ' αἰνῶ, μῆτερ.
I-go not trouble you and I-thank mother
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ἔξιθι χθονός.
go-out from-land
615 ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ ἔξιμεν· πατέρα δέ μοι δὸς εἰσιδεῖν.
we-will-go father and to-me grant to-see
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ οὐκ ἂν τύχοις.
not — you-would-obtain
ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ ἀλλὰ παρθένους ἀδελφάς.
but maiden sisters
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ οὐδὲ τάσδ' ὄψει ποτέ.
nor these will-you-see ever
ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ ὦ κασίγνηται.
O sisters
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ τί ταύτας ἀνακαλεῖς ἔχθιστος ὤν;
why these do-you-call most-hateful being
ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ μῆτερ, ἀλλά μοι σὺ χαῖρε.
mother but to-me you farewell
ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ χαρτὰ γοῦν πάσχω, τέκνον.
joyful-things at-least I-suffer child
ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ οὐκέτ' εἰμὶ παῖς σός.
no-longer am-I son yours
ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ εἰς πόλλ' ἀθλία πέφυκ' ἐγώ.
to much wretched am I

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ ὅδε γὰρ εἰς ἡμᾶς ὑβρίζει.
this-one for to us insults

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ καὶ γὰρ ἀνθυβρίζομαι.
and indeed I-insult-in-return

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ ποῦ ποτε στήσει πρὸ πύργων;
where ever will-you-stand before towers

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ὡς τί μ' ἱστορεῖς τόδε;
as why me do-you-ask this

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ ἀντιτάξομαι κτενῶν σε.
I-will-set-myself-against to-kill you

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ κἀμὲ τοῦδ' ἔρως ἔχει.
and-me of-this desire holds

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ ὦ τάλαιν' ἐγώ. τί δράσετ', ὦ τέκν';
O wretched I what will-you-do O children

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ αὐτὸ σημανεῖ.
itself will-show

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ πατρὸς οὐ φεύξεσθ' Ἐρινῦς;
of-father not will-you-escape Erinyes

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ἐρρέτω πρόπας δόμος.
let-perish all house

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ ὡς τάχ' οὐκέθ' αἱματηρὸν τοὐμὸν ἀργήσει ξίφος.
since soon no-longer bloody my will-be-idle sword

τὴν δὲ θρέψασάν με γαῖαν καὶ θεοὺς μαρτύρομαι
the and having-reared me land and gods I-call-to-witness

ὡς ἄτιμος οἰκτρὰ πάσχων ἐξελαύνομαι χθονός,
how dishonored piteous-things suffering I-am-driven-out from-land

δοῦλος ὥς, ἀλλ' οὐχὶ ταὐτοῦ πατρὸς Οἰδίπου γεγώς·
slave like but not of-the-same father Oedipus born

κἄν τί σοι, πόλις, γένηται, μὴ 'μέ, τόνδε δ' αἰτιῶ.
and-if anything to-you city suffers not me this-one but blame

οὐχ ἑκὼν γὰρ ἦλθον, ἄκων δ' ἐξελαύνομαι χθονός.
not willing for I-came unwilling and I-am-driven-out from-land
καὶ σύ, Φοῖβ' ἄναξ Ἀγυιεῦ, καὶ μέλαθρα χαίρετε,
and you Phoebus lord of-the-Streets and halls farewell
ἥλικές θ' οὑμοί, θεῶν τε δεξίμηλ' ἀγάλματα.
comrades and my of-gods and sheep-receiving images
οὐ γὰρ οἶδ' εἴ μοι προσειπεῖν αὖθις ἔσθ' ὑμᾶς ποτε·
not for I-know if to-me to-address again it-is you ever
ἐλπίδες δ' οὔπω καθεύδουσ', αἷς πέποιθα σὺν θεοῖς
hopes and not-yet sleep in-which I-trust with gods
τόνδ' ἀποκτείνας κρατήσειν τῆσδε Θηβαίας χθονός.
this-one having-killed to-rule of-this Theban land

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ἔξιθ' ἐκ χώρας· ἀληθῶς δ' ὄνομα Πολυνείκη πατὴρ
go-out from land truly and name Polynices father
ἔθετό σοι θείᾳ προνοίᾳ νεικέων ἐπώνυμον.
gave to-you by-divine foresight of-strife named

IV · CADMUS AND THE DRAGON

The maidens sing the founding of Thebes: Cadmus followed the cow to the place where the city now stands, killed the serpent of Ares, and sowed its teeth, from which armed men sprang and slew one another. They call on Epaphus, son of Zeus, to come to the land his descendants founded and send the goddesses Persephone and Demeter to defend it.

ΧΟΡΟΣ Κάδμος ἔμολε τάνδε γᾶν
Cadmus came to-this land
Τύριος, ᾧ τετρασκελὴς
Tyrian for-whom four-legged
μόσχος ἀδάματος πέσημα
heifer unyoked fall

δίκε τελεσφόρον διδοῦσα
flung fulfilling giving
χρησμόν, οὗ κατοικίσαι
oracle where to-settle
πεδία νιν τὸ θέσφατον
plains him the divine-word
πυροφόρ᾽ Ἀόνων ἔχρη,
wheat-bearing of-Aonians ordained
καλλιπόταμος ὕδατος ἵνα τε
with-fair-river of-water where and
νοτὶς ἐπέρχεται ῥυτᾶς
moisture comes-over of-flowing
Δίρκας χλοηφόρους
of-Dirce green
καὶ βαθυσπόρους γύας,
and deep-sown fields
Βρόμιον ἔνθα τέκετο μά-
Bromius where bore mother
τηρ Διὸς γάμοισι,
— of-Zeus by-marriage
κισσὸς ὃν περιστεφὴς
ivy whom encircling
ἑλικτὸς εὐθὺς ἔτι βρέφος
twining at-once still babe
χλοηφόροισιν ἔρνεσιν
with-green shoots
κατασκίοισιν ὀλβίσας ἐνώτισεν,
shady blessing covered
Βάκχιον χόρευμα παρθένοισι Θηβαίαισι
Bacchic dance for-maidens Theban

καὶ γυναιξὶν εὐίοις.
and for-women crying-evoe
ἔνθα φόνιος ἦν δράκων
where bloody was serpent
Ἄρεος, ὠμόφρων φύλαξ
of-Ares savage guard
νάματ' ἔνυδρα καὶ ῥέεθρα
streams watery and channels
660 χλοερὰ δεργμάτων κόραισι
green of-eyes with-pupils
πολυπλάνοις ἐπισκοπῶν·
far-roaming watching
ὃν ἐπὶ χέρνιβας μολὼν
whom for lustral-water coming
Κάδμος ὄλεσε μαρμάρῳ,
Cadmus killed with-stone
κρᾶτα φόνιον ὀλεσίθηρος
head bloody beast-slaying
665 ὠλένας δικὼν βολαῖς,
of-arm hurling with-casts
δίας ἀμάτορος δ'
of-divine motherless and
εἰς βαθυσπόρους γύας
into deep-sown fields
γαπετεῖς δικὼν ὀδόν-
earth-falling hurling teeth
τας Παλλάδος φραδαῖσιν·
— of-Pallas by-counsels
670 ἔνθεν ἐξανῆκε γᾶ
whence sent-up earth

πάνοπλον ὄψιν ὑπὲρ ἄκρων
all-armed sight over heights
ὅρων χθονός· σιδαρόφρων
of-boundaries of-land iron-hearted
δέ νιν φόνος πάλιν ξυνῆψε γᾷ φίλᾳ.
and him slaughter again joined to-land dear
αἵματος δ' ἔδευσε γαῖαν, ἅ νιν εὐηλίοισι
with-blood and wetted land which him to-sunny
δεῖξεν αἰθέρος πνοαῖς.
showed of-air to-breezes
καὶ σὲ τὸν προμάτορος
and you the of-foremother
Ἰοῦς ποτ' ἔκγονον
of-Io once offspring
Ἔπαφον, ὦ Διὸς γένεθλον,
Epaphus O of-Zeus offspring
ἐκάλεσ' ἐκάλεσα βαρβάρῳ βοᾷ,
I-called I-called with-foreign cry
ἰώ, βαρβάροις λιταῖς·
oh with-foreign prayers
βᾶθι βᾶθι τάνδε γᾶν·
come come to-this land
σοί νιν ἔκγονοι κτίσαν,
your it descendants founded
ἂν διώνυμοι θεαί,
which two-named goddesses
Περσέφασσα καὶ φίλα
Persephone and dear
Δαμάτηρ θεά,
Demeter goddess

πάντων ἄνασσα, πάντων δὲ Γᾶ τροφός,
of-all queen of-all and Earth nurse
ἐκτήσαντο· πέμπε πυρφόρους
won send fire-bearing
θεάς, ἄμυνε τᾷδε γᾷ·
goddesses defend this land
πάντα δ' εὐπετῆ θεοῖς.
all and easy for-gods

V · ETEOCLES AND CREON

Eteocles consults Creon, who advises him not to make a sortie but to set a chosen captain at each of the seven gates. Eteocles will send Creon's son Menoeceus to fetch Tiresias; he orders Creon to give Antigone in marriage to his son Haemon if he himself dies, and never to allow Polynices to be buried in Theban soil.

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ χώρει σὺ καὶ κόμιζε τὸν Μενοικέως
go you and bring the of-Menoeceus
Κρέοντ', ἀδελφὸν μητρὸς Ἰοκάστης ἐμῆς,
Creon brother of-mother of-Jocasta my
λέγων τάδ', ὡς οἰκεῖα καὶ κοινὰ χθονὸς
saying these-things that private and public of-land
θέλω πρὸς αὐτὸν συμβαλεῖν βουλεύματα,
I-wish with him to-join counsels
πρὶν εἰς μάχην τε καὶ δορὸς τάξιν μολεῖν.
before into battle both and of-spear rank to-go
καίτοι ποδῶν σῶν μόχθον ἐκλύει παρών·
and-yet of-feet your toil he-releases being-present
ὁρῶ γὰρ αὐτὸν πρὸς δόμους στείχοντ' ἐμούς.
I-see for him to house coming my

ΚΡΕΩΝ ἦ πόλλ᾽ ἐπῆλθον εἰσιδεῖν χρῄζων σ᾽, ἄναξ
truly much I-went-round to-see wanting you lord
Ἐτεόκλεες, πέριξ δὲ Καδμείων πύλας
Eteocles around and of-Cadmeans gates
φύλακάς τ᾽ ἐπῆλθον σὸν δέμας θηρώμενος.
guards and I-went-round your person hunting
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ καὶ μὴν ἐγὼ σ᾽ ἔχρῃζον εἰσιδεῖν, Κρέον· 700
and indeed I you wanted to-see Creon
πολλῷ γὰρ ἦρον ἐνδεεῖς διαλλαγάς,
far for I-found lacking reconciliation
ὡς εἰς λόγους συνῆψα Πολυνείκει μολών.
when to words I-joined with-Polynices coming
ΚΡΕΩΝ ἤκουσα μεῖζον αὐτὸν ἢ Θήβας φρονεῖν,
I-heard greater him than Thebes to-think
κήδει τ᾽ Ἀδράστου καὶ στρατῷ πεποιθότα.
in-alliance and of-Adrastus and in-army trusting
ἀλλ᾽ εἰς θεοὺς χρὴ ταῦτ᾽ ἀναρτήσαντ᾽ ἔχειν· 705
but to gods must these-things having-hung-up to-hold
ἃ δ᾽ ἐμποδὼν μάλιστα, ταῦθ᾽ ἥκω φράσων.
what and in-the-way most these-things I-come to-tell
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ τὰποῖα ταῦτα; τὸν λόγον γὰρ ἀγνοῶ.
the what-kind these the word for I-do-not-know
ΚΡΕΩΝ ἥκει τις αἰχμάλωτος Ἀργείων πάρα.
has-come some prisoner Argives from
ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ λέγει δὲ δὴ τί τῶν ἐκεῖ νεώτερον;
he-says and indeed what of-the there newer
ΚΡΕΩΝ μέλλειν πέριξ πύργοισι Καδμείων πόλιν 710
to-be-going around towers of-Cadmeans city
ὅπλοις ἑλίξειν αὐτίκ᾽ Ἀργείων στρατόν.
with-arms to-encircle at-once of-Argives army

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ἐξοιστέον τἄρ' ὅπλα Καδμείων πόλει.
must-be-brought-out then arms of-Cadmeans by-city

ΚΡΕΩΝ ποῖ; μῶν νεάζων οὐχ ὁρᾷς ἃ χρῆν σ' ὁρᾶν;
where surely-not being-young not you-see what must you to-see

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ἐκτὸς τάφρων τῶνδ', ὡς μαχουμένους τάχα.
outside trenches these as about-to-fight soon

ΚΡΕΩΝ σμικρὸν τὸ πλῆθος τῆσδε γῆς, οἱ δ' ἄφθονοι.
small the number of-this land they and abundant

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ἐγῷδα κείνους τοῖς λόγοις ὄντας θρασεῖς.
I-know them in-the words being bold

ΚΡΕΩΝ ἔχει τιν' ὄγκον Ἄργος Ἑλλήνων πάρα.
has some weight Argos Greeks among

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ θάρσει· τάχ' αὐτῶν πεδίον ἐμπλήσω φόνου.
take-heart soon of-them plain I-will-fill with-gore

ΚΡΕΩΝ θέλοιμ' ἄν· ἀλλὰ τοῦθ' ὁρῶ πολλοῦ πόνου.
I-would-wish — but this I-see of-much toil

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ὡς οὐ καθέξω τειχέων εἴσω στρατόν.
since not I-will-hold-back walls within army

ΚΡΕΩΝ καὶ μὴν τὸ νικᾶν ἐστι πᾶν εὐβουλία.
and indeed the to-conquer is all good-counsel

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ βούλει τράπωμαι δῆθ' ὁδοὺς ἄλλας τινάς;
do-you-wish shall-I-turn then roads other some

ΚΡΕΩΝ πάσας γε, πρὶν κίνδυνον εἰς ἅπαξ μολεῖν.
all at-least before danger into once to-go

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ εἰ νυκτὸς αὐτοῖς προσβάλοιμεν ἐκ λόχου;
if by-night them we-should-attack from ambush

ΚΡΕΩΝ εἴπερ σφαλείς γε δεῦρο σωθήσει πάλιν.
if-indeed failing at-least here you-will-be-saved back

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ἴσον φέρει νύξ, τοῖς δὲ τολμῶσιν πλέον.
equal bears night to-the but daring more

ΚΡΕΩΝ ἐνδυστυχῆσαι δεινὸν εὐφρόνης κνέφας.
to-meet-misfortune terrible of-night darkness

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἀμφὶ δεῖπνον οὖσι προσβάλω δόρυ;
but about supper being shall-I-attack spear

ΚΡΕΩΝ ἔκπληξις ἂν γένοιτο· νικῆσαι δὲ δεῖ.
panic — might-be to-conquer but it-is-necessary

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ βαθύς γέ τοι Διρκαῖος ἀναχωρεῖν πόρος. 730
deep at-least surely Dircaean to-retreat ford

ΚΡΕΩΝ ἅπαν κάκιον τοῦ φυλάσσεσθαι καλῶς.
all worse than-the to-be-on-guard well

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ τί δ᾽, εἰ καθιππεύσαιμεν Ἀργείων στρατόν;
what and if we-should-ride-down of-Argives army

ΚΡΕΩΝ κἀκεῖ πέφρακται λαὸς ἅρμασιν πέριξ.
and-there is-fenced host with-chariots around

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ τί δῆτα δράσω; πολεμίοισι δῶ πόλιν;
what then shall-I-do to-enemies shall-I-give city

ΚΡΕΩΝ μὴ δῆτα· βουλεύου δ᾽, ἐπείπερ εἶ σοφός. 735
not then counsel and since you-are wise

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ τίς οὖν πρόνοια γίγνεται σοφωτέρα;
what then forethought is wiser

ΚΡΕΩΝ ἕπτ᾽ ἄνδρας αὐτοῖς φασιν, ὡς ἤκουσ᾽ ἐγώ, —
seven men to-them they-say as I-heard I

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ τί προστετάχθαι δρᾶν; τὸ γὰρ σθένος βραχύ.
what assigned to-do the for strength small

ΚΡΕΩΝ λόχων ἀνάσσειν ἑπτὰ προσκεῖσθαι πύλαις.
companies to-lead seven to-beset gates

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ τί δῆτα δρῶμεν; ἀπορίαν γὰρ οὐ μενῶ. 740
what then shall-we-do helplessness for not I-will-await

ΚΡΕΩΝ ἕπτ᾽ ἄνδρας αὐτοῖς καὶ σὺ πρὸς πύλαις ἑλοῦ.
seven men for-them also you at gates choose

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ λόχων ἀνάσσειν ἢ μονοστόλου δορός;
companies to-lead or of-single-armed spear

ΚΡΕΩΝ λόχων, προκρίνας οἵπερ ἀλκιμώτατοι,
of-companies choosing who-indeed most-valiant

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ξυνῆκ'· ἀμύνειν τειχέων προσαμβάσεις.
I-understood to-ward-off of-walls approaches

ΚΡΕΩΝ καὶ ξυστρατήγους· εἷς δ' ἀνὴρ οὐ πάνθ' ὁρᾷ.
and fellow-generals one and man not all sees

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ θάρσει προκρίνας ἢ φρενῶν εὐβουλίᾳ;
for-courage choosing or of-wits by-good-counsel

ΚΡΕΩΝ ἀμφότερον· ἀπολειφθὲν γὰρ οὐδὲν θάτερον.
both lacking for nothing the-other

ΕΤΕΟΚΛΗΣ ἔσται τάδ'· ἐλθὼν δ' ἑπτάπυργον ἐς πόλιν
it-shall-be these-things going and seven-towered to city

τάξω λοχαγοὺς πρὸς πύλαισιν, ὡς λέγεις,
I-will-station captains at gates as you-say

ἴσους ἴσοισι πολεμίοισιν ἀντιθείς.
equal to-equal enemies setting-against

ὄνομα δ' ἑκάστου διατριβὴ πολλὴ λέγειν,
name and of-each delay much to-tell

ἐχθρῶν ὑπ' αὐτοῖς τείχεσιν καθημένων.
enemies under very walls sitting

ἀλλ' εἶμ', ὅπως ἂν μὴ καταργῶμεν χέρα.
but I-go so-that — not we-may-make-idle hand

καί μοι γένοιτ' ἀδελφὸν ἀντήρη λαβεῖν
and to-me may-it-be brother opposite to-take

καὶ ξυσταθέντα διὰ μάχης ἑλεῖν δορί,
and met through battle to-take by-spear

κτανεῖν θ' ὃς ἦλθε πατρίδα πορθήσων ἐμήν.
to-kill and who came fatherland to-sack my

γάμους δ' ἀδελφῆς Ἀντιγόνης παιδός τε σοῦ
marriage and of-sister Antigone of-son and your
Αἵμονος, ἐάν τι τῆς τύχης ἐγὼ σφαλῶ,
Haemon if anything of-the fortune I fail
σοὶ χρὴ μέλεσθαι· τὴν δόσιν δ' ἐχέγγυον
to-you must to-be-a-care the gift and secure
τὴν πρόσθε ποιῶ νῦν ἐπ' ἐξόδοις ἐμαῖς. 760
the former I-make now at going-out my
μητέρος ἀδελφὸς εἶ· τί δεῖ μακρηγορεῖν;
of-mother brother you-are why must to-speak-long
τρέφ' ἀξίως νιν σοῦ τε τήν τ' ἐμὴν χάριν.
rear worthily her of-you both the and my favor
πατὴρ δ' ἐς αὐτὸν ἀμαθίαν ὀφλισκάνει,
father and on himself folly incurs
ὄψιν τυφλώσας· οὐκ ἄγαν σφ' ἐπῄνεσα·
sight having-blinded not too-much him I-praised
ἡμᾶς τ' ἀραῖσιν, ἢν τύχῃ, κατακτενεῖ. 765
us and with-curses if he-should-happen will-kill
ἓν δ' ἐστὶν ἡμῖν ἀργόν, εἴ τι θέσφατον
one-thing and is to-us left-undone if any oracle
οἰωνόμαντις Τειρεσίας ἔχει φράσαι,
bird-seer Tiresias has to-tell
τοῦδ' ἐκπυθέσθαι ταῦτ'· ἐγὼ δὲ παῖδα σὸν
from-him to-learn these-things I and son your
Μενοικέα, σοῦ πατρὸς αὐτεπώνυμον,
Menoeceus your of-father same-named
ἄξοντα πέμψω δεῦρο Τειρεσίαν, Κρέον· 770
to-bring will-send here Tiresias Creon
σοὶ μὲν γὰρ ἡδὺς εἰς λόγους ἀφίξεται·
to-you indeed for pleasant to words he-will-come

ἐγὼ δὲ τέχνην μαντικὴν ἐμεμψάμην
I and art prophetic blamed
ἤδη πρὸς αὐτόν, ὥστε μοι μομφὰς ἔχειν.
already to him so-that against-me reproaches to-have
πόλει δὲ καὶ σοὶ ταῦτ' ἐπισκήπτω, Κρέον·
to-city and and to-you these-things I-enjoin Creon
ἤνπερ κρατήσῃ τἀμά, Πολυνείκους νέκυν
if-indeed should-prevail my of-Polynices corpse
μήποτε ταφῆναι τῇδε Θηβαίᾳ χθονί·
never to-be-buried in-this Theban land
θνήσκειν δὲ τὸν θάψαντα, κἂν φίλων τις ᾖ.
to-die and the having-buried even-if of-friends anyone be
σοὶ μὲν τάδ' αὐδῶ· προσπόλοις δ' ἐμοῖς λέγω.
to-you indeed these-things I-say to-attendants and my I-say
ἐκφέρετε τεύχη πάνοπλά τ' ἀμφιβλήματα,
bring-out arms full-armor and coverings
ὡς εἰς ἀγῶνα τὸν προκείμενον δορὸς
since to contest the before-us of-spear
ὁρμώμεθ' ἤδη ξὺν δίκῃ νικηφόρῳ.
we-set-out already with justice victorious
τῇ δ' Εὐλαβείᾳ χρησιμωτάτῃ θεῶν
to-the and Caution most-useful of-gods
προσευχόμεσθα τήνδε διασῴζειν πόλιν.
we-pray this to-preserve city

The maidens sing against Ares, who does not delight in the dances of Bromius but rouses Argive armies against Thebes, and against Strife, goddess of the house. They recall Cithaeron, where the infant Oedipus was exposed, the Sphinx, the Sown Men born of the serpent's teeth, the wedding of Harmonia, Amphion's walls, and Io, foremother of the Cadmean kings.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ πολύμοχθος Ἄρης, τί ποθ' αἵματι
O much-toiling Ares why ever with-blood
καὶ θανάτῳ κατέχει Βρομίου παράμουσος ἑορταῖς;
and with-death are-you-possessed of-Bromius out-of-tune with-festivals
οὐκ ἐπὶ καλλιχόροις στεφάνοισι νεάνιδος ὥρας
not at fair-dancing wreaths of-youthful bloom
βόστρυχον ἀμπετάσας, λωτοῦ κατὰ πνεύματα μέλπει
lock having-spread of-flute to breaths you-sing
μοῦσαν, ἐν ᾗ χάριτες χοροποιοί,
song in which graces dance-making
ἀλλὰ σὺν ὁπλοφόροις στρατὸν Ἀργείων ἐπιπνεύσας
but with arms-bearing army of-Argives having-breathed-on
αἵματι Θήβαις
with-blood for-Thebes
κῶμον ἀναυλότατον προχορεύεις.
revel most-flute-less you-lead-the-dance
οὐδ' ὑπὸ θυρσομανεῖ νεβρίδων μέτα δίνᾳ,
nor under thyrsus-mad fawnskins with whirl
ἅρμασι καὶ ψαλίοις τετραβάμοσι μώνυχα πῶλον,
with-chariots and with-bits four-footed single-hoofed colt
ἱππείαις ἐπὶ χεύμασι βαίνων
horse at streams going

Ἰσμηνοῖο θοάζεις, Ἀργείοις ἐπιπνεύσας
of-Ismenus you-rush on-Argives having-breathed-on
Σπαρτῶν γένναν,
of-the-Sown race
ἀσπιδοφέρμονα θίασον ἔνοπλον,
shield-bearing band armed
ἀντίπαλον κατὰ λάινα τείχεα
opposing against stone walls
χαλκῷ κοσμήσας.
with-bronze having-adorned
ἦ δεινά τις Ἔρις θεός, ἃ τάδε
truly terrible some Strife goddess who these
μήσατο πήματα γᾶς βασιλεῦσιν,
devised woes of-land for-kings
Λαβδακίδαις πολυμόχθοις.
for-Labdacids much-toiling
ὦ ζαθέων πετάλων πολυθηρότα-
O of-holy leaves much-game-filled
τον νάπος, Ἀρτέμιδος χιονοτρόφον ὄμμα Κιθαιρών,
— glen of-Artemis snow-nourishing eye Cithaeron
μήποτε τὸν θανάτῳ προτεθέντα, λόχευμ' Ἰοκάστας,
never the to-death exposed offspring of-Jocasta
ὤφελες Οἰδιπόδαν θρέψαι βρέφος ἔκβολον οἴκων,
you-ought Oedipus to-have-reared babe cast-out of-house
χρυσοδέτοις περόναις ἐπίσαμον·
with-gold-bound pins marked
μηδὲ τὸ παρθένιον πτερόν, οὔρειον τέρας, ἐλθεῖν
nor the maiden winged mountain portent to-have-come
πένθεα γαίας,
griefs of-land

Σφίγγ', ἀπομουσοτάταισι σὺν ᾠδαῖς,
Sphinx most-unmusical with songs
ἅ ποτε Καδμογενῆ τετραβάμοσι χαλαῖς
who once Cadmus-born with-four-footed talons
τείχεσι χριμπτομένα φέρεν αἰθέρος εἰς ἄβατον φῶς
to-walls approaching carried of-air to untrodden light
γένναν, ἃν ὁ κατὰ χθονὸς Ἅιδας
race which the under earth Hades
Καδμείοις ἐπιπέμπει· δυσδαίμων δ' ἔρις ἄλλα
upon-Cadmeans sends ill-fated and strife other
θάλλει παίδων
flourishes of-children
Οἰδιπόδα κατὰ δώματα καὶ πόλιν.
of-Oedipus throughout house and city
οὐ γὰρ ὃ μὴ καλὸν οὔποτ' ἔφυ καλόν,
not for what not fair never was fair
οὐδ' οἱ μὴ νόμιμοι †παῖδες
nor the not lawful (corrupt)-children
ματρὶ λόχευμα, μίασμα πατρὸς δὲ συν-
to-mother offspring pollution of-father and kindred
αίμονος εἰς λέχος ἦλθεν.†
— into bed came(corrupt)
ἔτεκες, ὦ γᾶ, ἔτεκές ποτε,
you-bore O earth you-bore once
βάρβαρον ὡς ἀκοὰν ἐδάην ἐδάην ποτ' ἐν οἴκοις,
foreign as report I-learned I-learned once in house
τὰν ἀπὸ θηροτρόφου φοινικολόφοιο δράκοντος
the from beast-rearing crimson-crested serpent
γένναν ὀδοντοφυῆ, Θήβαις κάλλιστον ὄνειδος·
race tooth-born for-Thebes most-beautiful reproach

Ἁρμονίας δέ ποτ᾽ εἰς ὑμεναίους
of-Harmonia and once to marriage-songs
ἦλυθον οὐρανίδαι, φόρμιγγί τε τείχεα Θήβας
came heavenly-ones with-lyre and walls of-Thebes
τᾶς Ἀμφιονίας τε λύρας ὕπο πύργος ἀνέστα
of-the Amphion and lyre at tower rose
διδύμων ποταμῶν πόρον ἀμφὶ μέσον
of-two rivers passage about middle
Δίρκας, χλοεροτρόφον ἃ πεδίον
of-Dirce green-nurturing which plain
πρόπαρ Ἰσμηνοῦ καταδεύει·
before Ismenus waters
Ἰώ θ᾽ ἁ κερόεσσα προμάτωρ
Io and the horned foremother
Καδμείων βασιλῆας ἐγείνατο,
of-Cadmeans kings begot
μυριάδας δ᾽ ἀγαθῶν ἑτέροις ἑτέ-
countless and of-goods from-others to-others
ρας μεταμειβομένα πόλις ἅδ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ἄ-
— *changing city this on top*
κροις ἕστακεν Ἀρῆ-
— *has-stood Ares'*
οις στεφάνοισιν.
— *crowns*

Tiresias is led in by his daughter and by Menoeceus, Creon's son. He tells Creon that the city can be saved only if Menoeceus is slain at the den of the dragon of Ares. Creon refuses, offering to die for the city himself, and plans to send his son away from Thebes. Menoeceus pretends to agree, but when his father leaves he declares that he will not betray his country, and goes to cut his throat on the topmost battlements over the dragon's den.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ ἡγοῦ πάροιθε, θύγατερ· ὡς τυφλῷ ποδὶ
lead before daughter as to-blind foot
ὀφθαλμὸς εἶ σύ, ναυβάταισιν ἄστρον ὥς·
eye are you to-sailors star like
δεῦρ' εἰς τὸ λευρὸν πέδον ἴχνος τιθεῖσ' ἐμόν,
here into the level ground step setting my
πρόβαινε, μὴ σφαλῶμεν· ἀσθενὴς πατήρ·
go-forward lest we-stumble weak father
κλήρους τέ μοι φύλασσε παρθένῳ χερί,
lots and for-me guard with-maiden hand
οὓς ἔλαβον οἰωνίσματ' ὀρνίθων μαθὼν
which I-took omens of-birds having-learned
θάκοισιν ἐν ἱεροῖσιν, οὗ μαντεύομαι.
seats in holy where I-prophesy
τέκνον Μενοικεῦ, παῖ Κρέοντος, εἰπέ μοι
child Menoeceus son of-Creon tell me
πόση τις ἡ 'πίλοιπος ἄστεως ὁδὸς
how-much some the remaining of-town road
πρὸς πατέρα τὸν σόν· ὡς ἐμὸν κάμνει γόνυ,
to father the your since my is-weary knee
πυκνὴν δὲ βαίνων ἧλυσιν μόλις περῶ.
thick and going approach hardly I-pass

ΚΡΕΩΝ θάρσει· πέλας γάρ, Τειρεσία, φίλοισι σοῖς
take-heart near for Tiresias to-friends your
ἐξωρμίσαι σὸν πόδα· λαβοῦ δ' αὐτοῦ, τέκνον·
to-bring-to-anchor your foot take-hold and of-him child
ὡς πᾶσ' ἀπήνη πούς τε πρεσβύτου φιλεῖ
since every carriage foot and of-old-man is-wont
χειρὸς θυραίας ἀναμένειν κουφίσματα.
of-hand outside to-await liftings
ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ εἶεν, πάρεσμεν· τί με καλεῖς σπουδῇ, Κρέον;
well we-are-here why me do-you-call in-haste Creon
ΚΡΕΩΝ οὔπω λελήσμεθ'· ἀλλὰ σύλλεξαι σθένος
not-yet we-have-forgotten but gather strength
καὶ πνεῦμ' ἄθροισον, αἶπος ἐκβαλὼν ὁδοῦ.
and breath collect ascent having-left of-road
ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ κόπῳ παρεῖμαι γοῦν Ἐρεχθειδῶν ἄπο
from-toil I-am-relaxed at-any-rate Erechtheids from
δεῦρ' ἐκκομισθεὶς τῆς πάροιθεν ἡμέρας·
here brought on-the before day
κἀκεῖ γὰρ ἦν τις πόλεμος Εὐμόλπου δορός,
and-there for was some war of-Eumolpus of-spear
οὗ καλλινίκους Κεκροπίδας ἔθηκ' ἐγώ·
where gloriously-victorious Cecropids I-made I
καὶ τόνδε χρυσοῦν στέφανον, ὡς ὁρᾷς, ἔχω
and this golden crown as you-see I-have
λαβὼν ἀπαρχὰς πολεμίων σκυλευμάτων.
having-taken first-fruits of-hostile spoils
ΚΡΕΩΝ οἰωνὸν ἐθέμην καλλίνικα σὰ στέφη·
omen I-took gloriously-victorious your crowns
ἐν γὰρ κλύδωνι κείμεθ', ὥσπερ οἶσθα σύ,
in for surge we-lie as know you

δορὸς Δαναίδων, καὶ μέγας Θήβαις ἀγών.
of-spear of-Danaans and great for-Thebes contest
βασιλεὺς μὲν οὖν βέβηκε κοσμηθεὶς ὅπλοις
king indeed then has-gone adorned with-arms
ἤδη πρὸς ἀλκὴν Ἐτεοκλῆς Μυκηνίδα·
already to battle Eteocles Mycenaean
ἐμοὶ δ' ἐπέσταλκ' ἐκμαθεῖν σέθεν πάρα,
to-me and he-has-enjoined to-learn you from
τί δρῶντες ἂν μάλιστα σώσαιμεν πόλιν.
what doing — most we-might-save city
ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ Ἐτεοκλέους μὲν εἵνεκ' ἂν κλήσας στόμα
of-Eteocles indeed for-the-sake — having-shut mouth
χρησμοὺς ἐπέσχον· σοὶ δ', ἐπεὶ χρῄζεις μαθεῖν,
oracles I-would-have-withheld to-you and since you-want to-learn
λέξω. νοσεῖ γὰρ ἥδε γῆ πάλαι, Κρέον,
I-will-tell is-sick for this land long Creon
ἐξ οὗ 'τεκνώθη Λάιος βίᾳ θεῶν
from when begot-children Laius in-defiance of-gods
πόσιν τ' ἔφυσε μητρὶ μέλεον Οἰδίπουν·
husband and begot to-mother wretched Oedipus
αἵ θ' αἱματωποὶ δεργμάτων διαφθοραὶ
the and bloody of-eyes destructions
θεῶν σόφισμα κἀπίδειξις Ἑλλάδι.
of-gods device and-display to-Hellas
ἃ συγκαλύψαι παῖδες Οἰδίπου χρόνῳ
which to-cover-up children of-Oedipus with-time
χρῄζοντες, ὡς δὴ θεοὺς ὑπεκδραμούμενοι,
wanting as indeed gods to-escape
ἥμαρτον ἀμαθῶς· οὔτε γὰρ γέρα πατρὶ
erred foolishly neither for honors to-father

οὔτ' ἔξοδον διδόντες, ἄνδρα δυστυχῆ
nor going-out giving man unlucky
ἐξηγρίωσαν· ἐκ δ' ἔπνευσ' αὐτοῖς ἀρὰς
they-maddened out and he-breathed against-them curses
δεινάς, νοσῶν τε καὶ πρὸς ἠτιμασμένος.
terrible being-sick both and besides dishonored
ἁγὼ τί οὐ δρῶν, ποῖα δ' οὐ λέγων ἔπη
which-I what not doing what and not saying words
εἰς ἔχθος ἦλθον παισὶ τοῖσιν Οἰδίπου.
into hatred came to-sons the of-Oedipus
ἐγγὺς δὲ θάνατος αὐτόχειρ αὐτοῖς, Κρέον·
near and death self-handed for-them Creon
πολλοὶ δὲ νεκροὶ περὶ νεκροῖς πεπτωκότες
many and corpses around corpses fallen
Ἀργεῖα καὶ Καδμεῖα μίξαντες βέλη
Argive and Cadmean having-mingled shafts
πικροὺς γόους δώσουσι Θηβαίᾳ χθονί.
bitter laments will-give to-Theban land
σύ τ' ὦ τάλαινα συγκατασκάπτει πόλι,
you and O wretched are-razed-with city
εἰ μὴ λόγοις τις τοῖς ἐμοῖσι πείσεται.
if not words someone the my will-obey
ἐκεῖνο μὲν γὰρ πρῶτον ἦν, τῶν Οἰδίπου
that indeed for first was of-the of-Oedipus
μηδένα πολίτην μηδ' ἄνακτ' εἶναι χθονός,
none citizen nor lord to-be of-land
ὡς δαιμονῶντας κἀνατρέψοντας πόλιν.
as possessed and-about-to-overturn city
ἐπεὶ δὲ κρεῖσσον τὸ κακόν ἐστι τἀγαθοῦ,
since and stronger the evil is than-the-good

μί᾽ ἔστιν ἄλλη μηχανὴ σωτηρίας. 890
one is other means of-safety

ἀλλ᾽ — οὐ γὰρ εἰπεῖν οὔτ᾽ ἐμοὶ τόδ᾽ ἀσφαλὲς
but not for to-say neither for-me this safe

πικρόν τε τοῖσι τὴν τύχην κεκτημένοις
bitter and to-the the fortune having

πόλει παρασχεῖν φάρμακον σωτηρίας —
to-city to-provide remedy of-safety

ἄπειμι, χαίρεθ᾽· εἷς γὰρ ὢν πολλῶν μέτα
I-go-away farewell one for being many with

τὸ μέλλον, εἰ χρή, πείσομαι· τί γὰρ πάθω; 895
the future if must I-will-suffer what for am-I-to-suffer

ΚΡΕΩΝ ἐπίσχες αὐτοῦ, πρέσβυ. ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ μὴ ᾽πιλαμβάνου.
stay here old-man not seize-on-it

ΚΡΕΩΝ μεῖνον, τί φεύγεις; ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ ἡ τύχη σ᾽, ἀλλ᾽ οὐκ ἐγώ.
wait why do-you-flee the fortune you but not I

ΚΡΕΩΝ φράσον πολίταις καὶ πόλει σωτηρίαν.
tell to-citizens and to-city safety

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ βούλει σὺ μέντοι κοὐχὶ βουλήσει τάχα.
you-wish you however and-not will-wish soon

ΚΡΕΩΝ καὶ πῶς πατρῴαν γαῖαν οὐ σῶσαι θέλω; 900
and how paternal land not to-save do-I-wish

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ θέλεις ἀκοῦσαι δῆτα καὶ σπουδὴν ἔχεις;
do-you-wish to-hear then and eagerness have

ΚΡΕΩΝ εἰς γὰρ τί μᾶλλον δεῖ προθυμίαν ἔχειν;
to for what more must zeal to-have

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ κλύοις ἂν ἤδη τῶν ἐμῶν θεσπισμάτων.
you-may-hear — already of-the my oracles

πρῶτον δ᾽ ἐκεῖνο βούλομαι σαφῶς μαθεῖν,
first and that I-wish clearly to-learn

905 ποῦ ’στιν Μενοικεύς, ὅς με δεῦρ’ ἐπήγαγεν;
where is Menoeceus who me here brought

ΚΡΕΩΝ ὅδ’ οὐ μακρὰν ἄπεστι, πλησίον δέ σου.
he not far is-away near and you

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ ἀπελθέτω νυν θεσφάτων ἐμῶν ἑκάς.
let-him-go-away now of-oracles my far

ΚΡΕΩΝ ἐμὸς πεφυκὼς παῖς ἃ δεῖ σιγήσεται.
my being son what must will-keep-silent

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ βούλει παρόντος δῆτά σοι τούτου φράσω;
do-you-wish being-present then to-you this-one shall-I-tell

910 ΚΡΕΩΝ κλύων γὰρ ἂν τέρποιτο τῆς σωτηρίας.
hearing for — he-would-delight of-the safety

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ ἄκουε δή νυν θεσφάτων ἐμῶν ὁδόν·
hear indeed now of-oracles my way

σφάξαι Μενοικῆ τόνδε δεῖ σ’ ὑπὲρ πάτρας
to-slay Menoeceus this-one must you for fatherland

σὸν παῖδ’, ἐπειδὴ τὴν τύχην αὐτὸς καλεῖς.
your son since the fortune yourself call

915 ΚΡΕΩΝ τί φῄς; τίν’ εἶπας τόνδε μῦθον, ὦ γέρον;
what do-you-say what did-you-say this word O old-man

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ ἅπερ πέφυκε, ταῦτα κἀνάγκη σε δρᾶν.
what-indeed is these-things and-necessity you to-do

ΚΡΕΩΝ ὦ πολλὰ λέξας ἐν βραχεῖ χρόνῳ κακά.
O many-things having-said in short time evils

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ σοί γ’, ἀλλὰ πατρίδι μεγάλα καὶ σωτήρια.
for-you at-least but for-fatherland great and saving

ΚΡΕΩΝ οὐκ ἔκλυον, οὐκ ἤκουσα· χαιρέτω πόλις.
not I-heard not I-listened farewell city

920 ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ ἀνὴρ ὅδ’ οὐκέθ’ αὑτός, ἐκνεύει πάλιν.
the-man this no-longer the-same he-turns-away back

ΚΡΕΩΝ χαίρων ἴθ'· οὐ γὰρ σῶν με δεῖ μαντευμάτων.
rejoicing go not for your me need of-oracles

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ ἀπόλωλεν ἀλήθει', ἐπεὶ σὺ δυστυχεῖς;
has-perished truth since you are-unlucky

ΚΡΕΩΝ ὦ πρός σε γονάτων καὶ γερασμίου τριχός,
O by you knees and of-venerable hair

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ τί προσπίτνεις με; δυσφύλακτ' αἰτεῖ κακά.
why do-you-fall-before me hard-to-guard you-ask evils

ΚΡΕΩΝ σίγα· πόλει δὲ τούσδε μὴ λέξῃς λόγους. 925
be-silent to-city and these not speak words

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ ἀδικεῖν κελεύεις μ'· οὐ σιωπήσαιμεν ἄν.
to-do-wrong you-bid me not we-would-keep-silent —

ΚΡΕΩΝ τί δή με δράσεις; παῖδά μου κατακτενεῖς;
what indeed me will-you-do son my will-you-kill

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ ἄλλοις μελήσει ταῦτ', ἐμοὶ δ' εἰρήσεται.
to-others will-be-a-care these-things by-me but will-be-said

ΚΡΕΩΝ ἐκ τοῦ δ' ἐμοὶ τόδ' ἦλθε καὶ τέκνῳ κακόν;
from what and to-me this came and to-son evil

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ ὀρθῶς μ' ἐρωτᾷς κεἰς ἀγῶν' ἔρχει λόγων. 930
rightly me you-ask and-into contest you-come of-words

δεῖ τόνδε θαλάμαις, οὗ δράκων ὁ γηγενὴς
must this-one in-the-chamber where serpent the earth-born

ἐγένετο Δίρκης ναμάτων ἐπίσκοπος,
was of-Dirce of-streams watcher

σφαγέντα φόνιον αἷμα γῇ δοῦναι χοὰς
slain gory blood to-earth to-give libations

Κάδμου παλαιῶν Ἄρεος ἐκ μηνιμάτων,
of-Cadmus of-old of-Ares from wraths

ὃς γηγενεῖ δράκοντι τιμωρεῖ φόνον. 935
who for-earth-born serpent avenges murder

καὶ ταῦτα δρῶντες σύμμαχον κτήσεσθ' Ἄρη.
and these-things doing ally you-will-win Ares
χθὼν δ' ἀντὶ καρποῦ καρπὸν ἀντί θ' αἵματος
earth and for fruit fruit for and blood
αἷμ' ἢν λάβῃ βρότειον, ἕξετ' εὐμενῆ
blood if she-gets mortal you-will-have propitious
γῆν, ἥ ποθ' ἡμῖν χρυσοπήληκα στάχυν
earth which once to-us golden-helmed crop
σπαρτῶν ἀνῆκεν· ἐκ γένους δὲ δεῖ θανεῖν
of-sown sent-up from race and must to-die
τοῦδ', ὃς δράκοντος γένυος ἐκπέφυκε παῖς.
of-this who of-serpent of-jaw is-sprung son
σὺ δ' ἐνθάδ' ἡμῖν λοιπὸς εἶ σπαρτῶν γένους
you and here for-us remaining are of-sown race
ἀκέραιος, ἔκ τε μητρὸς ἀρσένων τ' ἄπο,
pure from both mother males and from
οἱ σοί τε παῖδες. Αἵμονος μὲν οὖν γάμοι
the your and sons of-Haemon indeed then marriage
σφαγὰς ἀπείργουσ'· οὐ γάρ ἐστιν ἥθεος·
slaughter keeps-off not for is unmarried
κεἰ μὴ γὰρ εὐνῆς ἥψατ', ἀλλ' ἔχει λέχος·
and-if not for bed touched but he-has bride
οὗτος δὲ πῶλος τῇδ' ἀνειμένος πόλει
this and colt to-this devoted to-city
θανὼν πατρῴαν γαῖαν ἐκσώσειεν ἄν.
dying paternal land would-save —
πικρὸν δ' Ἀδράστῳ νόστον Ἀργείοισί τε
bitter and for-Adrastus return for-Argives and
θήσει, μέλαιναν κῆρ' ἐπ' ὄμμασιν βαλών,
he-will-make black doom over eyes having-cast

κλεινάς τε Θήβας. τοῖνδ' ἑλοῦ δυοῖν πότμοιν
famous and Thebes of-these choose of-two fates
τὸν ἕτερον· ἢ γὰρ παῖδα σῶσον ἢ πόλιν.
the one either for son save or city
τὰ μὲν παρ' ἡμῶν πάντ' ἔχεις· ἡγοῦ, τέκνον,
the indeed from us all you-have lead child
πρὸς οἶκον. ὅστις δ' ἐμπύρῳ χρῆται τέχνῃ,
to home whoever and fire-reading uses art
μάταιος· ἢν μὲν ἐχθρὰ σημήνας τύχῃ,
foolish if indeed hostile having-signified be-happens
πικρὸς καθέστηχ' οἷς ἂν οἰωνοσκοπῇ·
hateful he-is-made to-whom — he-takes-omens
ψευδῆ δ' ὑπ' οἴκτου τοῖσι χρωμένοις λέγων
false and from pity to-those consulting saying
ἀδικεῖ τὰ τῶν θεῶν. Φοῖβον ἀνθρώποις μόνον
he-wrongs the of-the gods Phoebus to-men alone
χρῆν θεσπιῳδεῖν, ὃς δέδοικεν οὐδένα.
it-was-right to-prophesy who fears no-one
ΧΟΡΟΣ Κρέον, τί σιγᾷς γῆρυν ἄφθογγον σχάσας;
Creon why are-you-silent voice voiceless having-checked
καὐμοὶ γὰρ οὐδὲν ἧσσον ἔκπληξις πάρα.
and-to-me for nothing less dismay is-present
ΚΡΕΩΝ τί δ' ἄν τις εἴποι; δῆλον οἵ γ' ἐμοὶ λόγοι.
what and — anyone might-say clear the at-least my words
ἐγὼ γὰρ οὔποτ' εἰς τόδ' εἶμι συμφορᾶς,
I for never to this shall-go of-misfortune
ὥστε σφαγέντα παῖδα προσθεῖναι πόλει.
so-that slain son to-give to-city
πᾶσιν γὰρ ἀνθρώποισι φιλότεκνος βίος,
to-all for men child-loving life

οὐδ' ἂν τὸν αὑτοῦ παῖδά τις δοίη κτανεῖν.
nor — the his-own son anyone would-give to-kill

μή μ' εὐλογείτω τἀμά τις κτείνων τέκνα.
not me let-praise my anyone killing children

αὐτὸς δ', ἐν ὡραίῳ γὰρ ἔσταμεν βίου,
myself and in prime for we-stand of-life

θνήσκειν ἕτοιμος πατρίδος ἐκλυτήριον.
to-die ready of-fatherland release

970 ἀλλ' εἶα, τέκνον, πρὶν μαθεῖν πᾶσαν πόλιν,
but come child before to-learn all city

ἀκόλαστ' ἐάσας μάντεων θεσπίσματα,
unbridled letting of-seers oracles

φεῦγ' ὡς τάχιστα τῆσδ' ἀπαλλαχθεὶς χθονός·
flee as quickest from-this freed land

λέξει γὰρ ἀρχαῖς καὶ στρατηλάταις τάδε,
he-will-tell for to-rulers and generals these-things

πύλας ἐφ' ἑπτὰ καὶ λοχαγέτας μολών·
gates to seven and captains having-gone

975 κἂν μὲν φθάσωμεν, ἔστι σοι σωτηρία·
and-if indeed we-anticipate is for-you safety

ἢν δ' ὑστερήσῃς, οἰχόμεσθα, κατθανεῖ.
if but you-are-late we-are-lost you-will-die

ΜΕΝΟΙΚΕΥΣ ποῖ δῆτα φεύγω; τίνα πόλιν; τίνα ξένων;
where then shall-I-flee what city what of-strangers

ΚΡΕΩΝ ὅπου χθονὸς τῆσδ' ἐκποδὼν μάλιστ' ἔσει.
where of-land this out-of-the-way most you-will-be

ΜΕΝΟΙΚΕΥΣ οὔκουν σὲ φράζειν εἰκός, ἐκπονεῖν δ' ἐμέ;
not-then you to-tell fitting to-work-out but me

ΚΡΕΩΝ Δελφοὺς περάσας — ΜΕΝΟΙΚΕΥΣ ποῖ με χρή, πάτερ,
Delphi passing where me must father
μολεῖν;
to-go
ΚΡΕΩΝ Αἰτωλίδ' εἰς γῆν. ΜΕΝΟΙΚΕΥΣ ἐκ δὲ τῆσδε ποῖ περῶ;
Aetolian to land from and this where shall-I-pass
ΚΡΕΩΝ Θεσπρωτὸν οὖδας. ΜΕΝΟΙΚΕΥΣ σεμνὰ Δωδώνης βάθρα;
Thesprotian ground holy of-Dodona seats
ΚΡΕΩΝ ἔγνως. ΜΕΝΟΙΚΕΥΣ τί δὴ τόδ' ἔρυμά μοι γενήσεται;
you-understood what indeed this defense to-me will-be
ΚΡΕΩΝ πόμπιμος ὁ δαίμων. ΜΕΝΟΙΚΕΥΣ χρημάτων δὲ τίς πόρος;
escorting the god of-money and what means
ΚΡΕΩΝ ἐγὼ πορεύσω χρυσόν. ΜΕΝΟΙΚΕΥΣ εὖ λέγεις, πάτερ.
I will-provide gold well you-say father
χώρει νυν· ὡς σὴν πρὸς κασιγνήτην μολών,
go now as your to sister going
ἧς πρῶτα μαστὸν εἵλκυσ', Ἰοκάστην λέγω,
of-whom first breast I-drew Jocasta I-mean
μητρὸς στερηθεὶς ὀρφανός τ' ἀποζυγείς,
of-mother bereaved orphan and parted
προσηγορήσων εἶμι καὶ σώσων βίον.
to-address I-go and to-save life
ἀλλ' εἶα, χώρει. μὴ τὸ σὸν κωλυέτω.
but come go not the your let-it-hinder
γυναῖκες, ὡς εὖ πατρὸς ἐξεῖλον φόβον,
women how well of-father I-took-away fear
κλέψας λόγοισιν, ὥσθ' ἃ βούλομαι τυχεῖν·
deceiving with-words so-that what I-wish to-obtain
ὅς μ' ἐκκομίζει, πόλιν ἀποστερῶν τύχης,
who me takes-away city robbing of-fortune

καὶ δειλίᾳ δίδωσι. καὶ συγγνωστὰ μὲν
and to-cowardice gives and pardonable indeed
γέροντι· τοὐμὸν δ' οὐχὶ συγγνώμην ἔχει,
to-old-man my and not pardon has
προδότην γενέσθαι πατρίδος ἥ μ' ἐγείνατο.
traitor to-become of-fatherland which me begot
ὡς οὖν ἂν εἰδῆτ', εἶμι καὶ σώσω πόλιν
so then — you-may-know I-go and will-save city
ψυχήν τε δώσω τῆσδ' ὑπερθανεῖν χθονός.
life and will-give for-this to-die-for land
αἰσχρὸν γάρ, οἱ μὲν θεσφάτων ἐλεύθεροι
shameful for they indeed of-oracles free
κοὐκ εἰς ἀνάγκην δαιμόνων ἀφιγμένοι
and-not into necessity of-gods having-come
στάντες παρ' ἀσπίδ' οὐκ ὀκνήσουσιν θανεῖν,
standing by shield not will-shrink to-die
πύργων πάροιθε μαχόμενοι πάτρας ὕπερ·
of-towers before fighting fatherland for
ἐγὼ δέ, πατέρα καὶ κασίγνητον προδοὺς
I and father and brother having-betrayed
πόλιν τ' ἐμαυτοῦ, δειλὸς ὡς ἔξω χθονὸς
city and my coward like outside land
ἄπειμ'· ὅπου δ' ἂν ζῶ, κακὸς φανήσομαι.
shall-go-away where and — I-live base I-shall-appear
μὰ τὸν μετ' ἄστρων Ζῆν' Ἄρη τε φοίνιον,
by the with stars Zeus Ares and bloody
ὃς τοὺς ὑπερτείλαντας ἐκ γαίας ποτὲ
who the risen from earth once
Σπαρτοὺς ἄνακτας τῆσδε γῆς ἱδρύσατο.
Sown lords of-this land established

ἀλλ᾽ εἶμι καὶ στὰς ἐξ ἐπάλξεων ἄκρων
but I-go and standing on battlements topmost
σφάξας ἐμαυτὸν σηκὸν ἐς μελαμβαθῆ
having-slain myself den into black-deep
δράκοντος, ἔνθ᾽ ὁ μάντις ἐξηγήσατο,
of-serpent where the seer directed
ἐλευθερώσω γαῖαν· εἴρηται λόγος.
I-will-free land is-spoken word
στείχω δέ, θανάτου δῶρον οὐκ αἰσχρὸν πόλει
I-go and of-death gift not shameful to-city
δώσων, νόσου δὲ τήνδ᾽ ἀπαλλάξω χθόνα.
to-give of-sickness and this I-will-free land
εἰ γὰρ λαβὼν ἕκαστος ὅ τι δύναιτό τις
if for having-taken each what — could anyone
χρηστὸν διέλθοι τοῦτο κεἰς κοινὸν φέροι
good should-go-through this and-to common should-bring
πατρίδι, κακῶν ἂν αἱ πόλεις ἐλασσόνων
for-fatherland of-evils — the cities fewer
πειρώμεναι τὸ λοιπὸν εὐτυχοῖεν ἄν.
experiencing the hereafter would-prosper —

The maidens sing of the Sphinx, who snatched the youths of Thebes, and of Oedipus, who freed the city and married his mother; his sons now fight each other. They praise Menoeceus.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔβας ἔβας,
you-came you-came
ὦ πτεροῦσσα, γᾶς λόχευμα
O winged of-earth offspring
νερτέρου τ' Ἐχίδνας,
of-nether and of-Echidna
Καδμείων ἁρπαγά,
of-Cadmeans snatcher
πολύφθορος πολύστονος,
much-destroying much-lamented
μιξοπάρθενος,
half-maiden
δάιον τέρας,
hostile portent
φοιτάσι πτεροῖς
with-roaming wings
χαλαῖσί τ' ὠμοσίτοις·
with-talons and raw-eating
Διρκαίων ἅ ποτ' ἐκ
of-Dirce which once from
τόπων νέους πεδαίρουσ'
places youths lifting
ἄλυρον ἀμφὶ μοῦσαν
lyreless about song

ὀλομέναν τ᾽ Ἐρινὺν
deadly and Erinys
ἔφερες ἔφερες ἄχεα πατρίδι
you-brought you-brought griefs to-fatherland
φόνια· φόνιος ἐκ θεῶν
bloody bloody from gods
ὃς τάδ᾽ ἦν ὁ πράξας.
who these-things was the having-done
ἰάλεμοι δὲ ματέρων,
wails and of-mothers
ἰάλεμοι δὲ παρθένων
wails and of-maidens
ἐστέναζον οἴκοις·
groaned in-houses
ἰήιον βοὰν βοάν,
shrieking cry cry
ἰήιον μέλος μέλος
shrieking strain strain
ἄλλος ἄλλ᾽ ἐπωτότυζε
one another cried-out
διαδοχαῖς ἀνὰ πτόλιν.
in-succession through city
βροντᾷ δὲ στεναγμὸς
to-thunder and groaning
ἀχά τ᾽ ἦν ὅμοιος,
sound and was like
ὁπότε πόλεος ἀφανίσειεν
when from-city should-snatch-away
ἁ πτεροῦσσα παρθένος τιν᾽ ἀνδρῶν.
the winged maiden some of-men

χρόνῳ δ' ἔβα
in-time and came
Πυθίαις ἀποστολαῖσιν
by-Pythian missions
Οἰδίπους ὁ τλάμων
Oedipus the wretched
Θηβαίαν τάνδε γᾶν
Theban this land
τότ' ἀσμένοις, πάλιν δ' ἄχη·
then to-glad again and griefs
ματρὶ γὰρ γάμους
to-mother for marriage
δυσγάμους τάλας
ill-wed wretched
καλλίνικος ὢν
gloriously-victorious being
αἰνιγμάτων συνάπτει,
of-riddles joins
μιαίνει δὲ πτόλιν·
defiles and city
δι' αἱμάτων δ' ἀμείβει
through bloodshed and changes
μυσαρὸν εἰς ἀγῶνα
abominable to contest
καταβαλὼν ἀραῖσι
having-cast-down with-curses
τέκεα μέλεος. ἀγάμεθ' ἀγάμεθ',
children wretched we-marvel we-marvel
ὃς ἐπὶ θάνατον οἴχεται
who to death goes

γᾶς ὑπὲρ πατρῴας,
land on-behalf-of paternal
Κρέοντι μὲν λιπὼν γόους,
to-Creon indeed having-left laments
τὰ δ' ἑπτάπυργα κληῖθρα γᾶς
the and seven-towered bars of-land
καλλίνικα θήσων.
gloriously-victorious to-make
γενοίμεθ' ὧδε ματέρες
may-we-be so mothers
γενοίμεθ' εὔτεκνοι, φίλα
may-we-be well-childed dear
Παλλάς, ἃ δράκοντος αἷμα
Pallas who of-serpent blood
λιθόβολον κατειργάσω,
stone-struck you-accomplished
Καδμείαν μέριμναν
Cadmean care
ὁρμήσασ' ἐπ' ἔργον,
having-set-on to deed
ὅθεν ἐπέσυτο τάνδε γαῖαν
whence rushed-upon this land
ἁρπαγαῖσι δαιμόνων τις ἄτα.
by-snatchings of-gods some ruin

A messenger tells Jocasta that her sons are alive and the city is saved. He describes the battle: Menoeceus' death, the champions at the seven gates and their devices, Parthenopaeus killed by a stone from the battlements, and Capaneus struck down by Zeus' thunderbolt as he climbed the ladder. Pressed, he reveals that the brothers mean to settle the war in single combat. Jocasta calls Antigone from the house, and they hurry to stop them.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ὠή, τίς ἐν πύλαισι δωμάτων κυρεῖ;
ho who at gates of-house is
ἀνοίγετ', ἐκπορεύετ' Ἰοκάστην δόμων.
open come-out Jocasta from-house
ὠὴ μάλ' αὖθις· διὰ μακροῦ μέν, ἀλλ' ὅμως
ho very again after long indeed but nevertheless
ἔξελθ', ἄκουσον, Οἰδίπου κλεινὴ δάμαρ,
come-out hear of-Oedipus famous wife
λήξασ' ὀδυρμῶν πενθίμων τε δακρύων.
having-ceased from-laments mournful and tears
ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ ὦ φίλτατ', ἦ που ξυμφορὰν ἥκεις φέρων
O dearest — surely misfortune you-come bringing
Ἐτεοκλέους θανόντος, οὗ παρ' ἀσπίδα
of-Eteocles dead whose by shield
βέβηκας ἀεὶ πολεμίων εἴργων βέλη;
you-went always of-enemies warding-off shafts
τέθνηκεν ἢ ζῇ παῖς ἐμός; σήμαινέ μοι.
is-he-dead or does-he-live son my tell me
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ζῇ, μὴ τρέσῃς τόδ', ὥς σ' ἀπαλλάξω φόβου.
he-lives not fear this so-that you I-may-free from-fear
ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ τί δ', ἑπτάπυργοι πῶς ἔχουσι περιβολαί;
what and seven-towered how are walls

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἑστᾶσ᾽ ἄθραυστοι, κοὐκ ἀνήρπασται πόλις.
they-stand unbroken and-not is-plundered city

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ ἦλθον δὲ πρὸς κίνδυνον Ἀργείου δορός; 1080
came and into danger of-Argive spear

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἀκμήν γ᾽ ἐπ᾽ αὐτήν· ἀλλ᾽ ὁ Καδμείων Ἄρης
the-edge at-least to very but the of-Cadmeans Ares
κρείσσων κατέστη τοῦ Μυκηναίου δορός.
stronger was-proved than-the Mycenaean spear

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ ἓν εἰπὲ πρὸς θεῶν, εἴ τι Πολυνείκους πέρι
one-thing tell by gods if anything Polynices about
οἶσθ᾽, ὡς μέλει μοι καὶ τόδ᾽, εἰ λεύσσει φάος.
you-know since it-concerns me also this if he-sees light

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ζῇ σοι ξυνωρὶς εἰς τόδ᾽ ἡμέρας τέκνων. 1085
lives for-you pair to this of-day of-sons

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ εὐδαιμονοίης. πῶς γὰρ Ἀργείων δόρυ
may-you-prosper how for of-Argives spear
πυλῶν ἀπεστήσασθε πυργηρούμενοι;
from-gates you-repelled being-besieged
λέξον, γέροντα τυφλὸν ὡς κατὰ στέγας
tell old-man blind that in house
ἐλθοῦσα τέρψω, τῆσδε γῆς σεσωσμένης.
going I-may-delight of-this land saved

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἐπεὶ Κρέοντος παῖς ὁ γῆς ὑπερθανὼν 1090
when of-Creon son who for-land dying
πύργων ἐπ᾽ ἄκρων στὰς μελάνδετον ξίφος
of-towers on top standing black-bound sword
λαιμῶν διῆκε τῇδε γῇ σωτήριον,
through-throat sent for-this land saving
λόχους ἔνειμεν ἑπτὰ καὶ λοχαγέτας
companies distributed seven and captains

πύλας ἐφ' ἑπτά, φύλακας Ἀργείου δορός,
gates to seven guards of-Argive spear
σὸς παῖς, ἐφέδρους δ' ἱππότας μὲν ἱππόταις
your son reserves and horsemen indeed against-horsemen
ἔταξ', ὁπλίτας δ' ἀσπιδηφόροις ἔπι,
he-stationed hoplites and shield-bearers against
ὡς τῷ νοσοῦντι τειχέων εἴη δορὸς
so-that to-the being-weak of-walls might-be of-spear
ἀλκὴ δι' ὀλίγου. περγάμων δ' ἀπ' ὀρθίων
help at hand towers and from steep
λεύκασπιν εἰσορῶμεν Ἀργείων στρατὸν
white-shielded we-see of-Argives army
Τευμησὸν ἐκλιπόντα· καὶ τάφρου πέλας
Teumessus having-left and of-trench near
δρόμῳ συνῆψεν ἄστυ Καδμείας χθονός.
at-a-run joined town of-Cadmean land
παιὰν δὲ καὶ σάλπιγγες ἐκελάδουν ὁμοῦ
paean and and trumpets sounded together
ἐκεῖθεν ἔκ τε τειχέων ἡμῶν πάρα.
from-there from and walls us from
καὶ πρῶτα μὲν προσῆγε Νηίσταις πύλαις
and first indeed brought to-Neistan gates
λόχον πυκναῖσιν ἀσπίσιν πεφρικότα
company with-thick shields bristling
ὁ τῆς κυναγοῦ Παρθενοπαῖος ἔκγονος,
the of-the huntress Parthenopaeus offspring
ἐπίσημ' ἔχων οἰκεῖον ἐν μέσῳ σάκει,
device having own in middle shield
ἑκηβόλοις τόξοισιν Ἀταλάντην κάπρον
with-far-shooting arrows Atalanta boar

χειρουμένην Αἰτωλόν. εἰς δὲ Προιτίδας
subduing Aetolian to and Proetid
πύλας ἐχώρει σφάγι' ἔχων ἐφ' ἅρματι
gates went victims having on chariot
ὁ μάντις Ἀμφιάραος, οὐ σημεῖ' ἔχων
the seer Amphiaraus not devices having
ὑβρισμέν', ἀλλὰ σωφρόνως ἄσημ' ὅπλα.
insolent but modestly unmarked arms
Ὠγύγια δ' εἰς πυλώμαθ' Ἱππομέδων ἄναξ
Ogygian and to gates Hippomedon lord
ἔστειχ' ἔχων σημεῖον ἐν μέσῳ σάκει
went having device in middle shield
στικτοῖς Πανόπτην ὄμμασιν δεδορκότα,
with-spotted All-seeing with-eyes looking
τὰ μὲν σὺν ἄστρων ἐπιτολαῖσιν ὄμματα
some indeed with of-stars risings eyes
βλέποντα, τὰ δὲ κρύπτοντα δυνόντων μέτα,
looking others and hiding setting with
ὡς ὕστερον θανόντος εἰσορᾶν παρῆν.
so-that afterward of-him-dead to-see it-was-possible
Ὁμολωίσιν δὲ τάξιν εἶχε πρὸς πύλαις
at-Homoloid and station had at gates
Τυδεύς, λέοντος δέρος ἔχων ἐπ' ἀσπίδι
Tydeus of-lion skin having on shield
χαίτῃ πεφρικός· δεξιᾷ δὲ λαμπάδα
with-mane bristling in-right and torch
Τιτὰν Προμηθεὺς ἔφερεν ὡς πρήσων πόλιν.
Titan Prometheus bore as about-to-burn city
ὁ σὸς δὲ Κρηναίαισι Πολυνείκης πύλαις
the your and at-Crenaean Polynices gates

Ἄρη προσῆγε· Ποτνιάδες δ' ἐπ' ἀσπίδι
Ares brought Potnian and on shield
ἐπίσημα πῶλοι δρομάδες ἐσκίρτων φόβῳ,
as-device mares running leapt with-terror
εὖ πως στρόφιγξιν ἔνδοθεν κυκλούμεναι
well somehow by-pivots within whirled
πόρπαχ' ὑπ' αὐτόν, ὥστε μαίνεσθαι δοκεῖν.
handle under itself so-that to-rage to-seem
ὁ δ' οὐκ ἔλασσον Ἄρεος εἰς μάχην φρονῶν
he and not less than-Ares for battle minded
Καπανεὺς προσῆγε λόχον ἐπ' Ἠλέκτραις πύλαις·
Capaneus brought company to Electran gates
σιδηρονώτοις δ' ἀσπίδος τύποις ἐπῆν
on-iron-backed and of-shield with-figures was-upon
γίγας ἐπ' ὤμοις γηγενὴς ὅλην πόλιν
giant on shoulders earth-born whole city
φέρων μοχλοῖσιν ἐξανασπάσας βάθρων,
carrying with-levers having-torn-up from-foundations
ὑπόνοιαν ἡμῖν οἷα πείσεται πόλις.
a-hint to-us what-sort will-suffer city
ταῖς δ' ἑβδόμαις Ἄδραστος ἐν πύλαισιν ἦν,
at-the and seventh Adrastus at gates was
ἑκατὸν ἐχίδναις ἀσπίδ' ἐκπληρῶν γραφῇ
hundred with-vipers shield filling with-painting
ὕδρας ἔχων λαιοῖσιν ἐν βραχίοσιν
water-serpents having left on arms
Ἀργεῖον αὔχημ'· ἐκ δὲ τειχέων μέσων
Argive boast from and walls middle
δράκοντες ἔφερον τέκνα Καδμείων γνάθοις.
serpents carried children of-Cadmeans in-jaws

παρῆν δ' ἑκάστου τῶνδέ μοι θεάματα
was-possible and of-each of-these to-me sights
ξύνθημα παραφέροντι ποιμέσιν λόχων.
watchword carrying-along to-shepherds of-companies
καὶ πρῶτα μὲν τόξοισι καὶ μεσαγκύλοις
and first indeed with-bows and javelin-thongs
ἐμαρνάμεσθα σφενδόναις θ' ἑκηβόλοις
we-fought with-slings and with-far-shooting
πετρῶν τ' ἀραγμοῖς· ὡς δ' ἐνικῶμεν μάχῃ,
of-stones and with-crashings when and we-were-winning in-battle
ἔκλαγξε Τυδεὺς χὠ σὸς ἐξαίφνης γόνος·
cried-out Tydeus and-the your suddenly son
ὦ τέκνα Δαναῶν, πρὶν κατεξάνθαι βολαῖς,
O children of-Danaans before being-torn-to-pieces by-shafts
τί μέλλετ' ἄρδην πάντες ἐμπίπτειν πύλαις,
why do-you-delay with-a-rush all to-fall-upon gates
γυμνῆτες ἱππῆς ἁρμάτων τ' ἐπιστάται;
light-armed horsemen of-chariots and drivers
ἠχῆς δ' ὅπως ἤκουσαν, οὔτις ἀργὸς ἦν·
shout and when they-heard no-one idle was
πολλοὶ δ' ἔπιπτον κρᾶτας αἱματούμενοι,
many and fell heads bloodied
ἡμῶν τ' ἐς οὖδας εἶδες ἂν πρὸ τειχέων
of-ours and to ground you-would-have-seen — before walls
πυκνοὺς κυβιστητῆρας ἐκπεπνευκότας·
thick divers having-breathed-out
ξηρὰν δ' ἔδευον γαῖαν αἵματος ῥοαῖς.
dry and they-wetted earth of-blood with-streams
ὁ δ' Ἀρκάς, οὐκ Ἀργεῖος, Ἀταλάντης γόνος
the and Arcadian not Argive of-Atalanta son

τυφὼς πύλαισιν ὥς τις ἐμπεσὼν βοᾷ
whirlwind on-gates like some falling shouts
πῦρ καὶ δικέλλας, ὡς κατασκάψων πόλιν·
fire and mattocks as about-to-raze city
ἀλλ' ἔσχε μαργῶντ' αὐτὸν ἐναλίου θεοῦ
but checked raging him of-the-sea god
Περικλύμενος παῖς λᾶαν ἐμβαλὼν κάρᾳ
Periclymenus son stone having-hurled on-head
ἁμαξοπληθῆ, γεῖσ' ἐπάλξεων ἄπο·
wagon-load copings battlements from
ξανθὸν δὲ κρᾶτα διεπάλυνε καὶ ῥαφὰς
yellow and head crushed and seams
ἔρρηξεν ὀστέων, ἄρτι δ' οἰνωπὸν γένυν
broke of-bones just-now and ruddy cheek
καθημάτωσεν· οὐδ' ἀποίσεται βίον
bloodied nor will-be-carry-back life
τῇ καλλιτόξῳ μητρὶ Μαινάλου κόρῃ.
to-the fair-bowed mother of-Maenalus maiden
ἐπεὶ δὲ τάσδ' εἰσεῖδεν εὐτυχεῖς πύλας,
when and these he-saw successful gates
ἄλλας ἐπῄει παῖς σός, εἱπόμην δ' ἐγώ.
other went-to son your followed and I
ὁρῶ δὲ Τυδῆ καὶ παρασπιστὰς πυκνοὺς
I-see and Tydeus and shield-bearers thick
Αἰτωλίσιν λόγχαισιν εἰς ἄκρον στόμα
with-Aetolian spears at top mouth
πύργων ἀκοντίζοντας, ὥστ' ἐπάλξεων
of-towers hurling so-that of-battlements
λιπεῖν ἐρίπνας φυγάδας· ἀλλά νιν πάλιν,
to-leave crags fleeing but them again

κυναγὸς ὡσεί, παῖς σὸς ἐξαθροίζεται,
hunter like son your gathers
πύργοις δ' ἐπέστησ' αὖθις. εἰς δ' ἄλλας πύλας
on-towers and stationed again to and other gates
ἠπειγόμεσθα, τοῦτο παύσαντες νοσοῦν.
we-hastened this having-stopped being-sick
Καπανεὺς δὲ πῶς εἴποιμ' ἂν ὡς ἐμαίνετο;
Capaneus and how might-I-say — how he-raged
μακραύχενος γὰρ κλίμακος προσαμβάσεις
long-necked for of-ladder approaches
ἔχων ἐχώρει, καὶ τοσόνδ' ἐκόμπασε,
having went and so-much boasted
μηδ' ἂν τὸ σεμνὸν πῦρ νιν εἰργαθεῖν Διὸς
not-even — the holy fire him to-keep-off of-Zeus
τὸ μὴ οὐ κατ' ἄκρων περγάμων ἑλεῖν πόλιν.
the not not from top towers to-take city
καὶ ταῦθ' ἅμ' ἠγόρευε καὶ πετρούμενος
and these-things at-once he-said and being-stoned
ἀνεἰρφ' ὑπ' αὐτὴν ἀσπίδ' εἰλίξας δέμας,
crept-up under very shield having-coiled body
κλίμακος ἀμείβων ξέστ' ἐνηλάτων βάθρα.
of-ladder passing smooth of-rungs steps
ἤδη δ' ὑπερβαίνοντα γεῖσα τειχέων
already and climbing-over copings of-walls
βάλλει κεραυνῷ Ζεύς νιν. ἐκτύπησε δὲ
strikes with-thunderbolt Zeus him resounded and
χθών, ὥστε δεῖσαι πάντας· ἐκ δὲ κλιμάκων
earth so-that to-fear all from and ladders
ἐσφενδονᾶτο χωρὶς ἀλλήλων μέλη,
were-slung apart from-one-another limbs

κόμαι μὲν εἰς Ὄλυμπον, αἷμα δ' εἰς χθόνα,
hair indeed to Olympus blood and to earth
χεῖρες δὲ καὶ κῶλ' ὡς κύκλωμ' Ἰξίονος
hands and and limbs like wheel of-Ixion
εἱλίσσετ'· εἰς γῆν δ' ἔμπυρος πίπτει νεκρός.
whirled to earth and fiery falls corpse
ὡς δ' εἶδ' Ἄδραστος Ζῆνα πολέμιον στρατῷ,
when and saw Adrastus Zeus hostile to-the-army
ἔξω τάφρου καθῖσεν Ἀργείων στρατόν.
outside trench he-settled of-Argives army
οἱ δ' αὖ παρ' ἡμῶν δεξιὸν Διὸς τέρας
they and again from us favorable of-Zeus portent
ἰδόντες ἐξήλαυνον ἁρμάτων ὄχους
seeing drove-out of-chariots cars
ἱππῆς· ὁπλῖταί τ' εἰς μέσ' Ἀργείων ὅπλα
horsemen hoplites and into middle of-Argive arms
συνῆψαν ἔγχη, πάντα δ' ἦν ὁμοῦ κακά·
joined spears all and was together evils
ἔθνῃσκον ἐξέπιπτον ἀντύγων ἄπο,
they-died fell-out rails from
τροχοί τ' ἐπήδων ἄξονές τ' ἐπ' ἄξοσι,
wheels and leapt axles and on axles
νεκροὶ δὲ νεκροῖς ἐξεσωρεύονθ' ὁμοῦ.
dead and with-dead were-heaped together
πύργων μὲν οὖν γῆς ἔσχομεν κατασκαφὰς
of-towers indeed then of-land we-prevented destruction
εἰς τὴν παροῦσαν ἡμέραν· εἰ δ' εὐτυχὴς
to the present day if and fortunate
ἔσται τὸ λοιπὸν ἥδε γῆ, θεοῖς μέλει·
will-be the hereafter this land for-gods it-is-a-care

καὶ νῦν γὰρ αὐτὴν δαιμόνων ἔσωσέ τις.
and now for it of-gods saved someone

ΧΟΡΟΣ καλὸν τὸ νικᾶν· εἰ δ' ἀμείνον' οἱ θεοὶ 1200
fair the to-conquer if but better the gods

γνώμην ἔχουσιν — εὐτυχὴς εἴην ἐγώ.
judgment have fortunate may-be I

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ καλῶς τὰ τῶν θεῶν καὶ τὰ τῆς τύχης ἔχει·
well the of-the gods and the of-the fortune are

παῖδές τε γάρ μοι ζῶσι κἀκπέφευγε γῆ.
children and for for-me live and-has-escaped land

Κρέων δ' ἔοικε τῶν ἐμῶν νυμφευμάτων
Creon and seems of-the my of-marriage

τῶν τ' Οἰδίπου δύστηνος ἀπολαῦσαι κακῶν, 1205
of-the and of-Oedipus wretched to-reap evils

παιδὸς στερηθείς, τῇ πόλει μὲν εὐτυχῶς,
of-son bereaved for-the city indeed fortunately

ἰδίᾳ δὲ λυπρῶς. ἀλλ' ἄνελθέ μοι πάλιν,
privately and painfully but go-back to-me again

τί τἀπὶ τούτοις παῖδ' ἐμὼ δρασείετον.
what the-things-after these sons my intend-to-do

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἔα τὰ λοιπά· δεῦρ' ἀεὶ γὰρ εὐτυχεῖς.
let-be the rest here always for you-prosper

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ τοῦτ' εἰς ὕποπτον εἶπας· οὐκ ἐατέον. 1210
this into suspicion you-said not to-be-let-be

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ μεῖζόν τι χρῄζεις παῖδας ἢ σεσῳσμένους;
greater something do-you-want sons than saved

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ καὶ τἀπίλοιπά γ' εἰ καλῶς πράσσω κλύειν.
and the-rest at-least if well I-fare to-hear

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ μέθες μ'· ἔρημος παῖς ὑπασπιστοῦ σέθεν.
let-go me deserted son of-shield-bearer your

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ κακόν τι κεύθεις καὶ στέγεις ὑπὸ σκότῳ.
evil some you-hide and cover under darkness

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οὐκ ἄν γε λέξαιμ' ἐπ' ἀγαθοῖσί σοι κακά.
not — at-least I-would-tell upon goods to-you evils

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ ἢν μή γε φεύγων ἐκφύγῃς πρὸς αἰθέρα.
if not at-least fleeing you-escape to air

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ αἰαῖ· τί μ' οὐκ εἴασας ἐξ εὐαγγέλου
alas why me not you-let from good-news

φήμης ἀπελθεῖν, ἀλλὰ μηνῦσαι κακά;
report to-go-away but to-reveal evils

τὼ παῖδε τὼ σὼ μέλλετον, τολμήματα
the two-sons the your intend daring-deeds

αἴσχιστα, χωρὶς μονομαχεῖν παντὸς στρατοῦ,
most-shameful apart to-fight-singly from-all army

λέξαντες Ἀργείοισι Καδμείοισί τε
having-spoken to-Argives to-Cadmeans and

εἰς κοινὸν οἷον μήποτ' ὤφελον λόγον.
to common such-as never they-ought word

Ἐτεοκλέης δ' ὑπῆρξ' ἀπ' ὀρθίου σταθεὶς
Eteocles and began on high standing

πύργου, κελεύσας σῖγα κηρῦξαι στρατῷ·
tower having-bidden silence to-proclaim to-army

Δαναῶν ἀριστῆς, οἵπερ ἦλθετ' ἐνθάδε,
of-Danaans chiefs who-indeed came here

Κάδμου τε λαός, μήτε Πολυνείκους χάριν
of-Cadmus and people neither of-Polynices for-the-sake

ψυχὰς ἀπεμπολᾶτε μήθ' ἡμῶν ὕπερ.
lives sell nor us for

ἐγὼ γὰρ αὐτὸς τόνδε κίνδυνον μεθεὶς
I for myself this danger letting-go

μόνος συνάψω συγγόνῳ τῷμῷ μάχην·
alone will-join with-brother my battle
κἂν μὲν κτάνω τόνδ', οἶκον οἰκήσω μόνος,
and-if indeed I-kill this-one house I-will-dwell alone
ἡσσώμενος δὲ τῷδε παραδώσω μόνῳ·
being-defeated and to-this-one will-hand-over alone
ὑμεῖς δ' ἀγῶν' ἀφέντες, Ἀργεῖοι, χθόνα
you and contest letting-go Argives land
νίσσεσθε, βίοτον μὴ λιπόντες ἐνθάδε,
go-to life not having-left here
Σπαρτῶν τε λαὸς ἄλις ὅσος κεῖται νεκρός.
of-Sown and people enough as-much-as lies dead
τοσαῦτ' ἔλεξε· σὸς δὲ Πολυνείκης γόνος
so-much he-said your and Polynices son
ἐκ τάξεων ὥρουσε κἀπῄνει λόγους.
from ranks rushed and-approved words
πάντες δ' ἐπερρόθησαν Ἀργεῖοι τάδε
all and applauded Argives these-things
Κάδμου τε λαὸς ὡς δίκαι' ἡγούμενοι.
of-Cadmus and people as just-things considering
ἐπὶ τοῖσδε δ' ἐσπείσαντο, κἀν μεταιχμίοις
on these and they-made-truce and-in no-man's-land
ὅρκους συνῆψαν ἐμμενεῖν στρατηλάται.
oaths joined to-abide generals
ἤδη δ' ἔκρυπτον σῶμα παγχάλκοις ὅπλοις
already and hid body with-all-bronze arms
δισσοὶ γέροντος Οἰδίπου νεανίαι·
two of-aged of-Oedipus youths
φίλοι δ' ἐκόσμουν, τῆσδε μὲν πρόμον χθονὸς
friends and equipped of-this indeed champion of-land

Σπαρτῶν ἀριστῆς, τὸν δὲ Δαναϊδῶν ἄκροι.
of-Sown chiefs the and of-Danaans leaders
ἔσταν δὲ λαμπρώ, χρῶμά τ᾽ οὐκ ἠλλαξάτην
stood and bright-both color and not changed-both
μαργῶντ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ἀλλήλοισιν ἱέναι δόρυ.
raging at one-another to-hurl spear
παρεξιόντες δ᾽ ἄλλος ἄλλοθεν φίλων
passing-by and one from-elsewhere of-friends
λόγοισι θαρσύνοντες ἐξηύδων τάδε·
with-words encouraging spoke these-things
Πολύνεικες, ἐν σοὶ Ζηνὸς ὀρθῶσαι βρέτας
Polynices on you of-Zeus to-set-up image
τρόπαιον Ἄργει τ᾽ εὐκλεᾶ δοῦναι λόγον·
trophy for-Argos and glorious to-give report
Ἐτεοκλέα δ᾽ αὖ· νῦν πόλεως ὑπερμαχεῖς,
Eteocles and again now of-city you-fight-for
σὺ καλλίνικος γενόμενος σκήπτρων κρατεῖς.
you gloriously-victorious having-become of-scepter rule
τάδ᾽ ἠγόρευον παρακαλοῦντες εἰς μάχην.
these-things they-spoke urging to battle
μάντεις δὲ μῆλ᾽ ἔσφαζον, ἐμπύρους τ᾽ ἀκμὰς
seers and sheep slew fiery and points
ῥήξεις τ᾽ ἐνώμων, ὑγρότητ᾽ ἐναντίαν,
breakings and watched moisture opposite
ἄκραν τε λαμπάδ᾽, ἣ δυοῖν ὅρους ἔχει,
topmost and flame which of-two limits has
νίκης τε σῆμα καὶ τὸ τῶν ἡσσωμένων.
of-victory and sign and the of-the defeated
ἀλλ᾽ εἴ τιν᾽ ἀλκὴν ἢ σοφοὺς ἔχεις λόγους
but if some strength or wise you-have words

ἢ φίλτρ᾽ ἐπῳδῶν, στεῖχ᾽, ἐρήτυσον τέκνα
or charms of-spells go check children

δεινῆς ἁμίλλης, ὡς ὁ κίνδυνος μέγας·
from-terrible strife since the danger great

κἄπαθλα δεινὰ δάκρυά σοι γενήσεται
and-prizes terrible tears to-you will-be

δισσοῖν στερείσῃ τῇδ᾽ ἐν ἡμέρᾳ τέκνοιν.
of-two bereaved this in day of-children

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ ὦ τέκνον, ἔξελθ᾽, Ἀντιγόνη, δόμων πάρος·
O child come-out Antigone house before

οὐκ ἐν χορείαις οὐδὲ παρθενεύμασι
not in dances nor maidenly-pursuits

νῦν σοι προχωρεῖ δαιμόνων κατάστασις,
now for-you goes-forward of-gods condition

ἀλλ᾽ ἄνδρ᾽ ἀρίστω καὶ κασιγνήτῳ σέθεν
but men best and brothers of-you

εἰς θάνατον ἐκνεύοντε κωλῦσαί σε δεῖ
to death turning to-stop you must

ξὺν μητρὶ τῇ σῇ μὴ πρὸς ἀλλήλοιν θανεῖν.
with mother the your not by one-another to-die

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ τίν᾽, ὦ τεκοῦσα μῆτερ, ἔκπληξιν νέαν
what O having-borne mother dismay new

φίλοις ἀυτεῖς τῶνδε δωμάτων πάρος;
to-friends you-cry this of-house before

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ ὦ θύγατερ, ἔρρει σῶν κασιγνήτων βίος.
O daughter is-gone of-your brothers life

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ πῶς εἶπας; ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ αἰχμὴν ἐς μίαν καθέστατον.
how did-you-say spear to one they-have-stood

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ οἲ ’γώ, τί λέξεις, μῆτερ; ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ οὐ φίλ’,
ah I what will-you-say mother not dear-things
ἀλλ’ ἕπου.
but follow

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ποῖ, παρθενῶνας ἐκλιποῦσ’; ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ ἀνὰ στρατόν.
where maiden-chambers having-left through army

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ αἰδούμεθ’ ὄχλον. ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ οὐκ ἐν αἰσχύνῃ τὰ σά.
we-are-ashamed-before crowd not in shame the your

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ δράσω δὲ δὴ τί; ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ συγγόνων λύσεις ἔριν.
I-will-do and indeed what of-brothers you-will-loose strife

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ τί δρῶσα, μῆτερ; ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ προσπίτνουσ’ ἐμοῦ μέτα.
what doing mother falling-before with me

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἡγοῦ σὺ πρὸς μεταίχμι’, οὐ μελλητέον.
lead you to no-man's-land not must-delay

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ ἔπειγ’ ἔπειγε, θύγατερ· ὡς ἢν μὲν φθάσω
hasten hasten daughter since if indeed I-anticipate
παῖδας πρὸ λόγχης, οὐμὸς ἐν φάει βίος·
sons before spear my in light life
θανοῦσι δ’ αὐτοῖς συνθανοῦσα κείσομαι.
dying and them with-dying I-shall-lie

The maidens lament in terror: which of the twin brothers will bloody the other? They foresee the slaughter the Furies bring on the house.

ΧΟΡΟΣ αἰαῖ αἰαῖ,
alas alas
τρομερὰν φρίκᾳ τρομερὰν φρέν' ἔχω·
trembling with-shuddering trembling heart I-have
διὰ σάρκα δ' ἐμὰν
through flesh and my
ἔλεος ἔλεος ἔμολε ματέρος δειλαίας.
pity pity came of-mother wretched
δίδυμα τέκεα πότερος ἄρα πότερον αἱμάξει —
twin children which then which will-bloody
ἰώ μοι πόνων,
oh me of-toils
ἰὼ Ζεῦ, ἰὼ γᾶ —
oh Zeus oh earth
ὁμογενῆ δέραν, ὁμογενῆ ψυχὰν
kindred neck kindred soul
δι' ἀσπίδων, δι' αἱμάτων;
through shields through blood
τάλαιν' ἐγὼ τάλαινα,
wretched I wretched
πότερον ἄρα νέκυν ὀλόμενον ἀχήσω;
which then corpse perished shall-I-mourn
φεῦ δᾶ φεῦ δᾶ,
alas ah alas ah

δίδυμοι θῆρες, φόνιαι ψυχαὶ
twin beasts bloody souls
δορὶ παλλόμεναι
with-spear brandishing
πέσεα πέσεα δάι᾽ αὐτίχ᾽ αἱμάξετον.
falls falls hostile soon they-will-bloody
τάλανες, ὅ τι ποτὲ μονομάχον ἐπὶ φρέν᾽ ἠλθέτην,
wretched what — ever single-combat to mind they-came
βοᾷ βαρβάρῳ
with-cry foreign
ἰαχὰν στενακτὰν
shout groaning
μελομέναν νεκροῖς δάκρυσι θρηνήσω.
devoted to-the-dead with-tears I-will-lament
σχεδὸν τύχα πέλας φόνου·
near fortune near of-slaughter
κρινεῖ ξίφος τὸ μέλλον.
will-decide sword the future
ἄποτμος ἄποτμος ὁ φόνος ἕνεκ᾽ Ἐρινύων.
ill-fated ill-fated the slaughter because-of Erinyes

Creon, mourning his son, learns that Jocasta's sons have killed each other in single combat and that Jocasta has killed herself over their bodies; the Thebans have routed the Argives. Antigone returns with the three bodies and calls her blind father out to mourn. Creon, now king, banishes Oedipus, forbids the burial of Polynices, and orders Antigone to marry Haemon. She defies the edict, vowing to bury her brother herself. She refuses the marriage, threatening to kill Haemon on their wedding night, and resolves to go into exile with her father. Oedipus recalls the oracle that he will die at Colonus near Athens, and departs.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλὰ γὰρ Κρέοντα λεύσσω τόνδε δεῦρο συννεφῆ
but for Creon I-see this-one here gloomy
πρὸς δόμους στείχοντα, παύσω τοὺς παρεστῶτας γόους.
to house coming I-will-stop the present laments
ΚΡΕΩΝ οἴμοι, τί δράσω; πότερ' ἐμαυτὸν ἢ πόλιν 1310
ah-me what shall-I-do whether myself or city
στένω δακρύσας, ἣν πέριξ ἔχει νέφος
shall-I-lament weeping which around holds cloud
τοιοῦτον ὥστε δι' Ἀχέροντος ἰέναι;
such so-that through Acheron to-go
ἐμός τε γὰρ παῖς γῆς ὄλωλ' ὑπερθανών,
my and for son of-land has-perished dying-for
τοὔνομα λαβὼν γενναῖον, ἀνιαρὸν δ' ἐμοί·
the-name having-taken noble grievous but to-me
ὃν ἄρτι κρημνῶν ἐκ δρακοντείων ἑλὼν 1315
whom just-now cliffs from serpent's having-taken
αὐτοσφαγῆ δύστηνος ἐκόμισ' ἐν χεροῖν,
self-slain wretched I-carried in hands
βοᾷ δὲ δῶμα πᾶν· ἐγὼ δ' ἥκω μετὰ
cries and house all I and come for

γέρων ἀδελφὴν γραῖαν Ἰοκάστην, ὅπως
old-man sister old Jocasta so-that
λούσῃ προθῆταί τ' οὐκέτ' ὄντα παῖδ' ἐμόν.
she-may-wash lay-out and no-longer being son my
τοῖς γὰρ θανοῦσι χρὴ τὸν οὐ τεθνηκότα
to-the for dead must the not dead
τιμὰς διδόντα χθόνιον εὐσεβεῖν θεόν.
honors giving underworld to-revere god
ΧΟΡΟΣ βέβηκ' ἀδελφὴ σή, Κρέων, ἔξω δόμων
has-gone sister your Creon outside of-house
κόρη τε μητρὸς Ἀντιγόνη κοινῷ ποδί.
daughter and of-mother Antigone with-common foot
ΚΡΕΩΝ ποῖ κἀπὶ ποίαν συμφοράν; σήμαινέ μοι.
where and-to what misfortune tell me
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἤκουσε τέκνα μονομάχῳ μέλλειν δορὶ
she-heard children with-single-combat to-be-going with-spear
εἰς ἀσπίδ' ἥξειν βασιλικῶν δόμων ὕπερ.
into shield to-come royal house for
ΚΡΕΩΝ πῶς φής; νέκυν τοι παιδὸς ἀγαπάζων ἐμοῦ
how do-you-say corpse surely of-son caressing my
οὐκ εἰς τόδ' ἦλθον ὥστε καὶ τάδ' εἰδέναι.
not to this I-came so-that also these-things to-know
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' οἴχεται μὲν σὴ κασιγνήτη πάλαι·
but she-is-gone indeed your sister long-since
δοκῶ δ' ἀγῶνα τὸν περὶ ψυχῆς, Κρέον,
I-think and contest the for life Creon
ἤδη πεπρᾶχθαι παισὶ τοῖσιν Οἰδίπου.
already to-have-been-done by-sons the of-Oedipus

ΚΡΕΩΝ οἴμοι, τὸ μὲν σημεῖον εἰσορῶ τόδε,
ah-me the indeed sign I-see this
σκυθρωπὸν ὄμμα καὶ πρόσωπον ἀγγέλου
gloomy eye and face of-messenger
στείχοντος, ὃς πᾶν ἀγγελεῖ τὸ δρώμενον.
coming who all will-announce the deed
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ὦ τάλας ἐγώ, τίν' εἴπω μῦθον ἢ τίνας γόους; 1335
O wretched I what shall-I-say word or what laments
ΚΡΕΩΝ οἰχόμεσθ'· οὐκ εὐπροσώποις φροιμίοις ἄρχει λόγου.
we-are-lost not with-fair-faced preludes you-begin of-speech
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ὦ τάλας, δισσῶς αὐτῶ· μεγάλα γὰρ φέρω κακά.
O wretched twice I-cry great for I-bring evils
ΚΡΕΩΝ πρὸς πεπραγμένοισιν ἄλλοις πήμασιν; λέγεις δὲ τί;
to done other woes you-say and what
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οὐκέτ' εἰσὶ σῆς ἀδελφῆς παῖδες ἐν φάει, Κρέον.
no-longer are your of-sister children in light Creon
ΚΡΕΩΝ αἰαῖ. 1340
alas
μεγάλα μοι θροεῖς πάθεα καὶ πόλει.
great to-me you-cry sufferings and to-city
ὦ δώματ' εἰσηκούσατ' Οἰδίπου τάδε
O house did-you-hear of-Oedipus these-things
παίδων ὁμοίαις συμφοραῖς ὀλωλότων;
of-sons by-like misfortunes perished
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὥστ' ἂν δακρῦσαί γ', εἰ φρονοῦντ' ἐτύγχανεν.
so-that — to-weep at-least if sane it-happened
ΚΡΕΩΝ οἴμοι ξυμφορᾶς βαρυποτμωτάτας, 1345
ah-me of-misfortune most-ill-fated
οἴμοι κακῶν δύστηνος· ὦ τάλας ἐγώ.
ah-me of-evils wretched O wretched I

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ εἰ καὶ τὰ πρὸς τούτοισί γ' εἰδείης κακά.
if even the besides these at-least you-should-know evils

ΚΡΕΩΝ καὶ πῶς γένοιτ' ἂν τῶνδε δυσποτμώτερα;
and how could-be — than-these more-ill-fated

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τέθνηκ' ἀδελφὴ σὴ δυοῖν παίδοιν μέτα.
is-dead sister your two sons with

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀνάγετ' ἀνάγετε κωκυτόν,
raise raise wailing

ἐπὶ κάρα τε λευκοπήχεις κτύπους χεροῖν.
on head and white-armed blows with-hands

ΚΡΕΩΝ ὦ τλῆμον, οἷον τέρμον', Ἰοκάστη, βίου
O wretched what end Jocasta of-life

γάμων τε τῶν σῶν Σφιγγὸς αἰνιγμοῖς ἔτλης.
of-marriage and the your of-Sphinx by-riddles you-endured

πῶς καὶ πέπρακται διπτύχων παίδων φόνος
how indeed has-been-done of-twin sons murder

ἀρᾶς τ' ἀγώνισμ' Οἰδίπου; σήμαινέ μοι.
of-curse and contest of-Oedipus tell me

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τὰ μὲν πρὸ πύργων εὐτυχήματα χθονὸς
the indeed before towers successes of-land

οἶσθ'· οὐ μακρὰν γὰρ τειχέων περιπτυχαί.
you-know not far for of-walls circuits

ἐπεὶ δὲ χαλκέοις σῶμ' ἐκοσμήσανθ' ὅπλοις
when and with-bronze body adorned with-arms

οἱ τοῦ γέροντος Οἰδίπου νεανίαι,
the of-the old of-Oedipus youths

ἔστησαν ἐλθόντ' εἰς μέσον μεταίχμιον
stood having-come into middle no-man's-land

ὡς εἰς ἀγῶνα μονομάχου τ' ἀλκὴν δορός.
as to contest of-single-fighting and strength of-spear

βλέψας δ' ἐς Ἄργος ἦκε Πολυνείκης ἀράς·
looking and to Argos sent Polynices prayers
ὦ πότνι' Ἥρα, σὸς γάρ εἰμ', ἐπεὶ γάμοις
O lady Hera yours for I-am since by-marriage
ἔζευξ' Ἀδράστου παῖδα καὶ ναίω χθόνα,
I-yoked of-Adrastus daughter and dwell land
δός μοι κτανεῖν ἀδελφόν, ἀντήρη δ' ἐμὴν
grant me to-kill brother opposing and my
καθαιματῶσαι δεξιὰν νικηφόρον·
to-bloody right-hand victorious
Ἐτεοκλέης δὲ Παλλάδος χρυσάσπιδος
Eteocles and of-Pallas golden-shield
βλέψας πρὸς οἶκον ηὔξατ'· ὦ Διὸς κόρη,
looking to temple prayed O of-Zeus daughter
δὸς ἔγχος ἡμῖν καλλίνικον ἐκ χερὸς
grant spear to-us gloriously-victorious from hand
εἰς στέρν' ἀδελφοῦ τῆσδ' ἀπ' ὠλένης βαλεῖν,
into breast of-brother this from arm to-cast
κτανεῖν θ' ὃς ἦλθε πατρίδα πορθήσων ἐμήν.
to-kill and who came fatherland to-sack my
ἐπεὶ δ' ἀφείθη πυρσὸς ὡς Τυρσηνικῆς
when and was-let-go torch like Tyrrhenian
σάλπιγγος ἠχή, σῆμα φοινίου μάχης,
of-trumpet sound signal of-bloody battle
ἦξαν δρόμημα δεινὸν ἀλλήλοις ἔπι·
they-darted run terrible one-another against
κάπροι δ' ὅπως θήγοντες ἀγρίαν γένυν
boars and as whetting savage jaw
ξυνῆψαν, ἀφρῷ διάβροχοι γενειάδας·
closed with-foam drenched beards

ἦσσον δὲ λόγχαις· ἀλλ᾽ ὑφίζανον κύκλοις,
they-darted and with-spears but crouched behind-rims
ὅπως σίδηρος ἐξολισθάνοι μάτην.
so-that iron might-glance-off vainly
εἰ δ᾽ ὄμμ᾽ ὑπερσχὸν ἴτυος ἄτερος μάθοι,
if and eye peeping-over rim the-other perceived
λόγχην ἐνώμα, στόματι προφθῆναι θέλων.
spear he-plied at-the-face to-anticipate wishing
ἀλλ᾽ εὖ προσῆγον ἀσπίδων κεγχρώμασιν
but well they-held of-shields to-the-eyeholes
ὀφθαλμόν, ἀργὸν ὥστε γίγνεσθαι δόρυ.
eye idle so-that to-become spear
πᾶσιν δὲ τοῖς ὁρῶσιν ἐστάλασσ᾽ ἱδρὼς
to-all and the seeing dripped sweat
ἢ τοῖσι δρῶσι, διὰ φίλων ὀρρωδίαν.
than to-the doing because-of friends fear
Ἐτεοκλέης δὲ ποδὶ μεταψαίρων πέτρον
Eteocles and with-foot brushing-aside stone
ἴχνους ὑπόδρομον, κῶλον ἐκτὸς ἀσπίδος
of-track running-under limb outside shield
τίθησι· Πολυνείκης δ᾽ ἀπήντησεν δορί,
puts Polynices and met with-spear
πληγὴν σιδήρῳ παραδοθεῖσαν εἰσιδών,
blow with-iron given seeing
κνήμης τε διεπέρασεν Ἀργεῖον δόρυ·
of-shin and pierced Argive spear
στρατὸς δ᾽ ἀνηλάλαξε Δαναϊδῶν ἅπας.
army and shouted of-Danaans all
κἀν τῷδε μόχθῳ γυμνὸν ὦμον εἰσιδὼν
and-in this toil bare shoulder seeing

ὁ πρόσθε τρωθεὶς στέρνα Πολυνείκους βίᾳ
the before wounded breast of-Polynices with-might
διῆκε λόγχην, κἀπέδωκεν ἡδονὰς
sent spear and-gave delights
Κάδμου πολίταις, ἀπὸ δ' ἔθραυσ' ἄκρον δόρυ.
of-Cadmus to-citizens off and broke tip spear
εἰς δ' ἄπορον ἥκων δορὸς ἐπὶ σκέλος πάλιν
into and helplessness coming of-spear to leg back
χωρεῖ, λαβὼν δ' ἀφῆκε μάρμαρον πέτρον,
goes having-taken and he-hurled marble stone
μέσον δ' ἄκοντ' ἔθραυσεν· ἐξ ἴσου δ' Ἄρης
middle and javelin he-broke from equal and Ares
ἦν, κάμακος ἀμφοῖν χεῖρ' ἀπεστερημένοιν.
was of-shaft both hand bereft
ἔνθεν δὲ κώπας ἁρπάσαντε φασγάνων
thence and hilts having-seized-both of-swords
ἐς ταὐτὸν ἦκον, συμβαλόντε δ' ἀσπίδας
into the-same came having-clashed-both and shields
πολὺν ταραγμὸν ἀμφιβάντ' εἶχον μάχης.
much tumult going-round they-had of-battle
καί πως νοήσας Ἐτεοκλῆς τὸ Θεσσαλὸν
and somehow having-thought Eteocles the Thessalian
εἰσήγαγεν σόφισμ' ὁμιλίᾳ χθονός·
brought-in trick from-intercourse of-land
ἐξαλλαγεὶς γὰρ τοῦ παρεστῶτος πόνου,
shifting for from-the present toil
λαιὸν μὲν εἰς τοὔπισθεν ἀμφέρει πόδα,
left indeed to the-back brings-back foot
πρόσω τὰ κοῖλα γαστρὸς εὐλαβούμενος·
forward the hollow of-belly guarding

προβὰς δὲ κῶλον δεξιὸν δι᾽ ὀμφαλοῦ
having-stepped and leg right through navel
καθῆκεν ἔγχος σφονδύλοις τ᾽ ἐνήρμοσεν.
drove spear to-vertebrae and fitted
ὁμοῦ δὲ κάμψας πλευρὰ καὶ νηδὺν τάλας
together and bending sides and belly wretched
1415 σὺν αἱματηραῖς σταγόσι Πολυνείκης πίτνει.
with bloody drops Polynices falls
ὁ δ᾽, ὡς κρατῶν δὴ καὶ νενικηκὼς μάχῃ,
he and as conquering indeed and having-won in-battle
ξίφος δικὼν εἰς γαῖαν ἐσκύλευέ νιν,
sword hurling into earth began-stripping him
τὸν νοῦν πρὸς αὐτὸν οὐκ ἔχων, ἐκεῖσε δέ·
the mind to himself not having there and
ὃ καί νιν ἔσφηλ᾽· ἔτι γὰρ ἐμπνέων βραχύ,
which also him tripped still for breathing a-little
1420 σῴζων σίδηρον ἐν λυγρῷ πεσήματι,
keeping iron in grievous fall
μόλις μέν, ἐξέτεινε δ᾽ εἰς ἧπαρ ξίφος.
hardly indeed stretched but into liver sword
Ἐτεοκλέους ὁ πρόσθε Πολυνείκης πεσών.
of-Eteocles the before Polynices fallen
γαῖαν δ᾽ ὀδὰξ ἑλόντες ἀλλήλων πέλας
earth and with-teeth having-seized of-one-another near
πίπτουσιν ἄμφω κοὐ διώρισαν κράτος.
fall both and-not they-decided mastery
1425 ΧΟΡΟΣ φεῦ φεῦ, κακῶν σῶν, Οἰδίπου, σ᾽ ὅσων στένω·
alas alas of-evils your Oedipus you how-many I-lament
τὰς σὰς δ᾽ ἀρὰς ἔοικεν ἐκπλῆσαι θεός.
the your and curses seems to-have-fulfilled god

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἄκουε δή νυν καὶ τὰ πρὸς τούτοις κακά.
hear indeed now also the besides these evils

ὡς γὰρ τέκνω πεσόντ' ἐλειπέτην βίον,
when for children fallen left life

ἐν τῷδε μήτηρ ἡ τάλαινα προσπίτνει
in this mother the wretched falls-upon

σὺν παρθένῳ τε καὶ προθυμίᾳ ποδός.
with maiden both and eagerness of-foot

τετρωμένους δ' ἰδοῦσα καιρίους σφαγὰς
wounded and seeing mortal slaughters

ὤμωξεν· ὦ τέκν', ὑστέρα βοηδρόμος
cried-out O children late helper

πάρειμι. προσπίτνουσα δ' ἐν μέρει τέκνα
I-am-here falling-upon and in turn children

ἔκλαι', ἐθρήνει τὸν πολὺν μάτην πόνον
she-wept lamented the much vain toil

στένουσ', ἀδελφή θ' ἡ παρασπίζουσ' ὁμοῦ·
groaning sister and the shield-bearing together

ὦ γηροβοσκὼ μητρός, ὦ γάμους ἐμοὺς
O old-age-nurturers of-mother O marriage my

προδόντ' ἀδελφὼ φιλτάτω. στέρνων δ' ἄπο
having-betrayed brothers dearest breast and from

φύσημ' ἀνεὶς δύσθνητον Ἐτεοκλῆς ἄναξ
gasp sending-up hard-dying Eteocles lord

ἤκουσε μητρός, κἀπιθεὶς ὑγρὰν χέρα
heard mother and-placing moist hand

φωνὴν μὲν οὐκ ἀφῆκεν, ὀμμάτων δ' ἄπο
voice indeed not he-uttered eyes but from

προσεῖπε δακρύοις, ὥστε σημῆναι φίλα.
spoke with-tears so-that to-signify loving-things

ὃ δ' ἦν ἔτ' ἔμπνους, πρὸς κασιγνήτην δ' ἰδὼν
he and was still breathing to sister and looking
γραῖάν τε μητέρ' εἶπε Πολυνείκης τάδε·
old and mother said Polynices these-things
ἀπωλόμεσθα, μῆτερ· οἰκτείρω δὲ σὲ
we-are-lost mother I-pity and you
καὶ τήνδ' ἀδελφὴν καὶ κασίγνητον νεκρόν.
and this sister and brother dead
φίλος γὰρ ἐχθρὸς ἐγένετ', ἀλλ' ὅμως φίλος.
dear for enemy became but nevertheless dear
θάψον δέ μ', ὦ τεκοῦσα, καὶ σύ, σύγγονε,
bury and me O having-borne and you sister
ἐν γῇ πατρῴᾳ, καὶ πόλιν θυμουμένην
in land paternal and city being-angry
παρηγορεῖτον, ὡς τοσόνδε γοῦν τύχω
persuade-both so-that this-much at-least I-may-obtain
χθονὸς πατρῴας, κεἰ δόμους ἀπώλεσα.
of-land paternal even-if house I-lost
ξυνάρμοσον δὲ βλέφαρά μου τῇ σῇ χερί,
close and eyelids my with-the your hand
μῆτερ — τίθησι δ' αὐτὸς ὀμμάτων ἔπι —
mother he-places and himself eyes upon
καὶ χαίρετ'· ἤδη γάρ με περιβάλλει σκότος.
and farewell already for me surrounds darkness
ἄμφω δ' ἅμ' ἐξέπνευσαν ἄθλιον βίον.
both and together breathed-out wretched life
μήτηρ δ', ὅπως ἐσεῖδε τήνδε συμφοράν,
mother and when she-saw this misfortune
ὑπερπαθήσασ', ἥρπασ' ἐκ νεκρῶν ξίφος
overcome-with-grief snatched from corpses sword

κἄπραξε δεινά· διὰ μέσου γὰρ αὐχένος
and-did terrible-things through middle for neck
ὠθεῖ σίδηρον, ἐν δὲ τοῖσι φιλτάτοις
she-thrusts iron among and the dearest
θανοῦσα κεῖται περιβαλοῦσ' ἀμφοῖν χέρας.
having-died lies having-thrown-around both arms
ἀνῇξε δ' ὀρθὸς λαὸς εἰς ἔριν λόγων,
leapt-up and upright people to strife of-words
ἡμεῖς μὲν ὡς νικῶντα δεσπότην ἐμόν,
we indeed as conquering master my
οἱ δ' ὡς ἐκεῖνον. ἦν δ' ἔρις στρατηλάταις,
they and as him was and strife to-generals
οἱ μὲν πατάξαι πρόσθε Πολυνείκην δορί,
some indeed to-have-struck before Polynices with-spear
οἱ δ' ὡς θανόντων οὐδαμοῦ νίκη πέλοι.
others and as of-the-dead nowhere victory might-be
κἀν τῷδ' ὑπεξῆλθ' Ἀντιγόνη στρατοῦ δίχα.
and-in this slipped-away Antigone army apart
οἱ δ' εἰς ὅπλ' ᾖσσον· εὖ δέ πως προμηθίᾳ
they and to arms darted well and somehow with-forethought
καθῆστο Κάδμου λαὸς ἀσπίδων ἔπι·
sat of-Cadmus people shields upon
κἄφθημεν οὔπω τεύχεσιν πεφραγμένον
and-we-anticipated not-yet with-armor fenced
Ἀργεῖον εἰσπεσόντες ἐξαίφνης στρατόν.
Argive falling-on suddenly army
κοὐδεὶς ὑπέστη, πεδία δ' ἐξεπίμπλασαν
and-no-one withstood plains and they-filled
φεύγοντες, ἔρρει δ' αἷμα μυρίων νεκρῶν
fleeing flowed and blood of-countless dead

λόγχαις πιτνόντων. ὡς δ' ἐνικῶμεν μάχῃ,
by-spears falling when and we-were-winning in-battle
οἱ μὲν Διὸς τροπαῖον ἵστασαν βρέτας,
some indeed of-Zeus trophy set-up image
οἱ δ' ἀσπίδας συλῶντες Ἀργείων νεκρῶν
others and shields stripping of-Argive dead
σκυλεύματ' εἴσω τειχέων ἐπέμπομεν.
spoils within walls we-sent
ἄλλοι δὲ τοὺς θανόντας Ἀντιγόνης μέτα
others and the dead Antigone with
νεκροὺς φέρουσιν ἐνθάδ' οἰκτίσαι φίλοις.
corpses bring here to-mourn for-friends
πόλει δ' ἀγῶνες οἱ μὲν εὐτυχέστατοι
for-city and contests some indeed most-fortunate
τῇδ' ἐξέβησαν, οἱ δὲ δυστυχέστατοι.
for-this turned-out others and most-unfortunate
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκ εἰς ἀκοὰς ἔτι δυστυχία
not into hearing still misfortune
δώματος ἥκει· πάρα γὰρ λεύσσειν
of-house comes it-is-possible for to-see
πτώματα νεκρῶν τρισσῶν ἤδη
fallen of-corpses three already
τάδε πρὸς μελάθροις κοινῷ θανάτῳ
these at halls by-common death
σκοτίαν αἰῶνα λαχόντων.
dark life having-obtained
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ οὐ προκαλυπτομένα βοτρυχώδεος
not veiling of-curly
ἁβρὰ παρηίδος οὐδ' ὑπὸ
delicate cheek nor from

παρθενίας τὸν ὑπὸ βλεφάροις
maidenhood the under eyelids
φοίνικ', ἐρύθημα προσώπου,
crimson blush of-face
αἰδομένα φέρομαι βάκχα νεκύων,
being-ashamed I-am-borne bacchant of-dead
κράδεμνα δικοῦσα κόμας ἀπ' ἐμᾶς,
veil casting hair from my
στολίδος κροκόεσσαν ἀνεῖσα τρυφάν,
of-robe saffron letting-go luxury
ἀγεμόνευμα νεκροῖσι πολύστονον. αἰαῖ, ἰώ μοι.
leader for-the-dead much-lamenting alas oh me
ὦ Πολύνεικες, ἔφυς ἄρ' ἐπώνυμος, ὤμοι, Θήβαι·
O Polynices you-were then rightly-named ah-me Thebes
σὰ δ' ἔρις οὐκ ἔρις, ἀλλὰ φόνῳ φόνος
your and strife not strife but by-murder murder
Οἰδιπόδα δόμον ὤλεσε κρανθεὶς
of-Oedipus house destroyed accomplished
αἵματι δεινῷ, αἵματι λυγρῷ.
with-blood terrible with-blood grievous
τίνα προσῳδὸν
what tuneful
ἢ τίνα μουσοπόλον στοναχὰν ἐπὶ
or what music-serving lament with
δάκρυσι δάκρυσιν, ὦ δόμος ὦ δόμος,
tears tears O house O house
ἀγκαλέσωμαι,
shall-I-call
τρισσὰ φέρουσα τάδε σώματα σύγγονα,
three bearing these bodies kindred

ματέρα καὶ τέκνα, χάρματ' Ἐρινύος;
mother and children delights of-Erinys
ἃ δόμον Οἰδιπόδα πρόπαν ὤλεσε,
who house of-Oedipus utterly destroyed
τᾶς ἀγρίας ὅτε
of-the savage when
δυσξύνετον ξυνετὸς μέλος ἔγνω
hard-to-understand understanding song he-knew
Σφιγγὸς ἀοιδοῦ σῶμα φονεύσας.
of-Sphinx singer body having-slain
ἰώ μοι, πάτερ,
oh me father
τίς Ἑλλὰς ἢ βάρβαρος ἢ
what Greek or barbarian or
τῶν προπάροιθ' εὐγενετᾶν ἕτερος
of-the before nobly-born another
ἔτλα κακῶν τοσῶνδ'
endured of-evils so-many
αἵματος ἀμερίου
of-blood mortal
τοιάδ' ἄχεα φανερά;
such sorrows manifest
τάλαιν', ὡς ἐλελίζει.
wretched how she-trills
τίς ἄρ' ὄρνις ἢ δρυὸς ἢ ἐλάτας
what then bird or of-oak or of-fir
ἀκροκόμοις ἀμφὶ κλάδοις
high-leaved about branches
ἑζομένα μονομάτορος ὀδυρμοῖς
sitting of-motherless with-laments

ἐμοῖς ἄχεσι συνῳδός;
with-my sorrows singing-with
αἴλινον αἰάγμασιν ἃ
ailinon with-wailings who
τοῖσδε προκλαίω μονάδ' αἰῶνα
these I-lament-for lonely life
διάξουσα τὸν ἀεὶ χρόνον ἐν
to-pass the always time in
λειβομένοισιν δακρύοισιν.
streaming tears
τίν' ἰαχήσω;
whom shall-I-cry-to
τίν' ἐπὶ πρῶτον ἀπὸ χαίτας
whom upon first from hair
σπαραγμοῖς ἀπαρχὰς βάλω;
with-rendings offerings shall-I-cast
ματρὸς ἐμᾶς διδύ-
of-mother my twin
μοισι γάλακτος παρὰ μαστοῖς,
— of-milk by breasts
ἢ πρὸς ἀδελφῶν
or to of-brothers
οὐλόμεν' αἰκίσματα νεκρῶν;
destructive outrages of-corpses
ὀτοτοτοῖ· λεῖπε σοὺς δόμους,
ototoi leave your house
ἀλαὸν ὄμμα φέρων,
blind eye bearing
πάτερ γεραιέ, δεῖξον,
father old show

Οἰδιπόδα, σὸν αἰῶνα μέλεον, ὃς ἐπὶ
Oedipus your life wretched who over
δώμασιν ἀέριον σκότον ὄμμασι
house airy darkness on-eyes
σοῖσι βαλὼν ἕλκεις μακρόπνουν ζωάν.
your having-cast you-drag long-breathed life
κλύεις, ὦ κατ᾽ αὐλὰν ἀλαίνων γεραιὸν
do-you-hear O in court wandering old
πόδα δεμνίοις
foot on-couches
δύστανος ἰαύων;
wretched lying
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ τί μ᾽, ὦ παρθένε, βακτρεύμασι τυ-
why me O maiden with-staffs of-blind
φλοῦ ποδὸς ἐξάγαγες εἰς φῶς
— foot you-led-out into light
λεχήρη σκοτίων ἐκ θαλάμων
bedridden dark from chambers
οἰκτροτάτοισιν δακρύοισιν,
with-most-piteous tears
πολιὸν αἰθέρος ἀφανὲς εἴδωλον ἢ
gray of-air invisible phantom or
νέκυν ἔνερθεν ἢ
corpse below or
πτανὸν ὄνειρον;
winged dream
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ δυστυχὲς ἀγγελίας ἔπος οἴσει·
unlucky of-message word you-will-bear
πάτερ, οὐκέτι σοι τέκνα λεύσσει
father no-longer for-you children see

φάος οὐδ' ἄλοχος, παραβάκτροις
light nor wife staff-supporting
ἃ πόδα σὸν τυφλόπουν θεραπεύμασιν αἰὲν ἐμόχθει,
who foot your blind-footed with-tendings always toiled
ὦ πάτερ, ὤμοι.
O father ah-me
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ὤμοι ἐμῶν παθέων· πάρα γὰρ στενάχειν τάδ',
ah-me my sufferings it-is-possible for to-groan these-things
ἀυτεῖν.
to-cry
τρισσαὶ ψυχαὶ ποίᾳ μοίρᾳ
three souls by-what fate
πῶς ἔλιπον φάος; ὦ τέκνον, αὔδα.
how left light O child speak
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ οὐκ ἐπ' ὀνείδεσιν οὐδ' ἐπιχάρμασιν,
not for reproaches nor exultings
ἀλλ' ὀδύναισι λέγω· σὸς ἀλάστωρ
but in-pains I-say your avenging-spirit
ξίφεσιν βρίθων
with-swords laden
καὶ πυρὶ καὶ σχετλίαισι μάχαις ἐπὶ παῖδας ἔβα σούς,
and with-fire and with-wretched battles against sons came your
ὦ πάτερ, ὤμοι.
O father ah-me
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ αἰαῖ. ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ τί τάδε καταστένεις;
alas why these-things do-you-lament
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ τέκνα. ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ δι' ὀδύνας ἔβας·
children through pains you-went
εἰ δὲ τὰ τέθριππά γ' ἐς ἅρματα λεύσσων
if and the four-horsed at-least to chariots seeing

ἀελίου τάδε σώματα νεκρῶν
of-sun these bodies of-corpses
ὄμματος αὐγαῖς σαῖς ἐπενώμας.
of-eye with-rays your you-were-directing
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ τῶν μὲν ἐμῶν τεκέων φανερὸν κακόν·
the indeed my of-children manifest evil
ἁ δὲ τάλαιν' ἄλοχος τίνι μοι, τέκνον, ὤλετο μοίρᾳ;
the but wretched wife by-what to-me child perished by-fate
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ δάκρυα γοερὰ φανερὰ πᾶσι τιθεμένα,
tears mournful manifest to-all setting
τέκεσι μαστὸν
to-children breast
ἔφερεν ἔφερεν ἱκέτις ἱκέτιν ὀρομένα.
she-bore she-bore suppliant suppliant rushing
ηὗρε δ' ἐν Ἠλέκτραισι πύλαις τέκνα
she-found and at Electran gates children
λωτοτρόφον κατὰ λείμακα
lotus-nourishing in meadow
λόγχαις κοινὸν ἐνυάλιον
with-spears common battle
μάτηρ, ὥστε λέοντας ἐναύλους,
mother like lions in-lairs
μαρναμένους ἐπὶ τραύμασιν, αἵματος
fighting over wounds of-blood
ἤδη ψυχρὰν λοιβὰν φονίαν,
already cold libation bloody
ἃν ἔλαχ' Ἅιδας, ὤπασε δ' Ἄρης·
which got Hades gave and Ares
χαλκόκροτον δὲ λαβοῦσα νεκρῶν πάρα φάσγανον εἴσω
bronze-wrought and taking of-corpses from sword into

σαρκὸς ἔβαψεν, ἄχει δὲ τέκνων ἔπεσ᾽ ἀμφὶ τέκνοισι.
flesh she-dipped with-grief and for-children fell about children

πάντα δ᾽ ἐν ἄματι τῷδε συνάγαγεν,
all and in day this brought-together

ὦ πάτερ, ἀμετέροισι δόμοισιν ἄχη θεὸς 1580
O father to-our house woes god

ὃς τάδε τελευτᾷ.
who these-things accomplishes

ΧΟΡΟΣ πολλῶν κακῶν κατῆρξεν Οἰδίπου δόμοις
of-many evils began of-Oedipus for-house

τόδ᾽ ἦμαρ· εἴη δ᾽ εὐτυχέστερος βίος.
this day may-be and more-fortunate life

ΚΡΕΩΝ οἴκτων μὲν ἤδη λήγεθ᾽, ὡς ὥρα τάφου
from-laments indeed already cease since it-is-time of-burial

μνήμην τίθεσθαι· τῶνδε δ᾽, Οἰδίπου, λόγων 1585
memory to-make of-these and Oedipus words

ἄκουσον· ἀρχὰς τῆσδε γῆς ἔδωκέ μοι
hear rule of-this land gave me

Ἐτεοκλέης παῖς σός, γάμων φερνὰς διδοὺς
Eteocles son your of-marriage dowry giving

Αἵμονι κόρης τε λέκτρον Ἀντιγόνης σέθεν.
to-Haemon of-girl and bed of-Antigone of-you

οὐκ οὖν σ᾽ ἐάσω τήνδε γῆν οἰκεῖν ἔτι·
not then you I-will-allow this land to-dwell longer

σαφῶς γὰρ εἶπε Τειρεσίας οὐ μή ποτε 1590
clearly for said Tiresias not — ever

σοῦ τήνδε γῆν οἰκοῦντος εὖ πράξειν πόλιν.
of-you this land dwelling well to-fare city

ἀλλ᾽ ἐκκομίζου. καὶ τάδ᾽ οὐχ ὕβρει λέγω
but take-yourself-away and these-things not in-insolence I-say

οὐδ' ἐχθρὸς ὢν σός, διὰ δὲ τοὺς ἀλάστορας
nor enemy being your because-of but the avengers
τοὺς σοὺς δεδοικὼς μή τι γῆ πάθῃ κακόν.
the your fearing lest anything land suffer evil
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ὦ μοῖρ', ἀπ' ἀρχῆς ὡς μ' ἔφυσας ἄθλιον
O fate from beginning how me you-made wretched
καὶ τλήμον', εἴ τις ἄλλος ἀνθρώπων ἔφυ·
and miserable if any other of-men was
ὃν καὶ πρὶν εἰς φῶς μητρὸς ἐκ γονῆς μολεῖν,
whom even before to light of-mother from womb to-come
ἄγονον Ἀπόλλων Λαΐῳ μ' ἐθέσπισε
unborn Apollo to-Laius me prophesied
φονέα γενέσθαι πατρός· ὦ τάλας ἐγώ.
murderer to-become of-father O wretched I
ἐπεὶ δ' ἐγενόμην, αὐτὸς ὁ σπείρας πατὴρ
when and I-was-born himself the having-sown father
κτείνει με νομίσας πολέμιον πεφυκέναι·
kills me thinking enemy to-be
χρῆν γὰρ θανεῖν νιν ἐξ ἐμοῦ· πέμπει δέ με
it-was-fated for to-die him by me sends and me
μαστὸν ποθοῦντα θηρσὶν ἄθλιον βοράν·
breast longing for-beasts wretched food
οὗ σῳζόμεσθα. Ταρτάρου γὰρ ὤφελεν
where we-are-saved of-Tartarus for ought
ἐλθεῖν Κιθαιρὼν εἰς ἄβυσσα χάσματα,
to-go Cithaeron into bottomless chasms
ὅς μ' οὐ διώλεσ', ἀλλὰ δουλεῦσαί γέ μοι
who me not destroyed but to-serve at-least for-me
δαίμων ἔδωκε Πόλυβον ἀμφὶ δεσπότην.
fate gave Polybus about master

κτανὼν δ᾽ ἐμαυτοῦ πατέρ᾽ ὁ δυσδαίμων ἐγὼ
having-killed and my-own father the ill-fated I
εἰς μητρὸς ἦλθον τῆς ταλαιπώρου λέχος,
to of-mother I-came of-the wretched bed
παῖδάς τ᾽ ἀδελφοὺς ἔτεκον, οὓς ἀπώλεσα,
sons and brothers begot whom I-destroyed
ἀρὰς παραλαβὼν Λαΐου καὶ παισὶ δούς.
curses having-received of-Laius and to-sons having-given
οὐ γὰρ τοσοῦτον ἀσύνετος πέφυκ᾽ ἐγὼ
not for so-much foolish am I
ὥστ᾽ εἰς ἔμ᾽ ὄμματ᾽ εἴς τ᾽ ἐμῶν παίδων βίον
so-that against my eyes against and of-my sons life
ἄνευ θεῶν του ταῦτ᾽ ἐμηχανησάμην.
without of-gods some these-things I-contrived
εἶεν· τί δράσω δῆθ᾽ ὁ δυσδαίμων ἐγώ;
well what shall-I-do then the ill-fated I
τίς ἡγεμών μοι ποδὸς ὁμαρτήσει τυφλοῦ;
who guide to-me of-foot will-accompany of-blind
ἥδ᾽ ἡ θανοῦσα; ζῶσά γ᾽ ἂν σάφ᾽ οἶδ᾽ ὅτι.
she the dead living at-least — clearly I-know that
ἀλλ᾽ εὔτεκνος ξυνωρίς; ἀλλ᾽ οὐκ ἔστι μοι.
but well-childed pair but not is for-me
ἀλλ᾽ ἔτι νεάζων αὐτὸς εὕροιμ᾽ ἂν βίον;
but still being-young myself might-find — livelihood
πόθεν; τί μ᾽ ἄρδην ὧδ᾽ ἀποκτείνεις, Κρέον;
whence why me utterly so do-you-kill Creon
ἀποκτενεῖς γάρ, εἴ με γῆς ἔξω βαλεῖς.
you-will-kill for if me of-land outside you-will-cast
οὐ μὴν ἑλίξας γ᾽ ἀμφὶ σὸν χεῖρας γόνυ
not indeed having-wound at-least about your hands knee

κακὸς φανοῦμαι· τὸ γὰρ ἐμόν ποτ' εὐγενὲς
base shall-I-appear the for my ever nobility
οὐκ ἂν προδοίην, οὐδέ περ πράσσων κακῶς.
not — I-would-betray not-even though faring badly
ΚΡΕΩΝ σοί τ' εὖ λέλεκται γόνατα μὴ χρῴζειν ἐμά,
by-you and well it-has-been-spoken knees not to-touch my
ἐγώ τε ναίειν σ' οὐκ ἐάσαιμ' ἂν χθόνα.
I and to-dwell you not would-allow — land
νεκρῶν δὲ τῶνδε τὸν μὲν εἰς δόμους χρεὼν
of-dead and of-these the one into house must
ἤδη κομίζειν, τόνδε δ', ὃς πέρσων πόλιν
already to-bring this and who to-sack city
πατρίδα σὺν ἄλλοις ἦλθε, Πολυνείκους νέκυν
fatherland with others came of-Polynices corpse
ἐκβάλετ' ἄθαπτον τῆσδ' ὅρων ἔξω χθονός.
cast-out unburied of-this boundaries outside of-land
κηρύξεται δὲ πᾶσι Καδμείοις τάδε,
will-be-proclaimed and to-all Cadmeans these-things
ὃς ἂν νεκρὸν τόνδ' ἢ καταστέφων ἁλῷ
whoever — corpse this either crowning is-caught
ἢ γῇ καλύπτων, θάνατον ἀνταλλάξεται.
or with-earth covering death will-receive-in-exchange
ἐᾶν δ' ἄκλαυστον, ἄταφον, οἰωνοῖς βοράν.
to-let and unwept unburied for-birds food
σὺ δ' ἐκλιποῦσα τριπτύχων θρήνους νεκρῶν
you and leaving of-three laments of-corpses
κόμιζε σαυτήν, Ἀντιγόνη, δόμων ἔσω,
take yourself Antigone of-house within
καὶ παρθενεύου τὴν ἰοῦσαν ἡμέραν
and keep-maiden the coming day

μένουσ᾽ ἐν ᾗ σε λέκτρον Αἵμονος μένει.
waiting on which you bed of-Haemon awaits

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ὦ πάτερ, ἐν οἵοις κείμεθ᾽ ἄθλιοι κακοῖς.
O father in what we-lie wretched in-evils

ὥς σε στενάζω τῶν τεθνηκότων πλέον·
how you I-lament than-the dead more

οὐ γὰρ τὸ μέν σοι βαρὺ κακῶν, τὸ δ᾽ οὐ βαρύ,
not for the one to-you heavy of-evils the other not heavy

ἀλλ᾽ εἰς ἅπαντα δυστυχὴς ἔφυς, πάτερ.
but in all unfortunate you-were father

ἀτὰρ σ᾽ ἐρωτῶ τὸν νεωστὶ κοίρανον·
but you I-ask the newly lord

τί θεσμοποιεῖς ἐπὶ ταλαιπώρῳ νεκρῷ;
why do-you-make-law over wretched corpse

ΚΡΕΩΝ Ἐτεοκλέους βουλεύματ᾽, οὐχ ἡμῶν, τάδε.
of-Eteocles counsels not ours these-things

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἄφρονά γε, καὶ σὺ μῶρος ὃς ἐπίθου τάδε.
foolish at-least and you fool who obeyed these-things

ΚΡΕΩΝ πῶς; τἀντεταλμέν᾽ οὐ δίκαιον ἐκπονεῖν;
how the-things-enjoined not just to-carry-out

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ οὔκ, ἦν πονηρά γ᾽ ᾖ κακῶς τ᾽ εἰρημένα.
not if wicked at-least they-be badly and spoken

ΚΡΕΩΝ τί δ᾽; οὐ δικαίως ὅδε κυσὶν δοθήσεται;
what and not justly this-one to-dogs will-be-given

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ οὐκ ἔννομον γὰρ τὴν δίκην πράσσεσθέ νιν.
not lawful for the penalty you-exact from-him

ΚΡΕΩΝ εἴπερ γε πόλεως ἐχθρὸς ἦν, οὐκ ἐχθρὸς ὤν.
if-indeed at-least of-city enemy he-was not enemy being

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ οὔκουν ἔδωκε τῇ τύχῃ τὸν δαίμονα;
not-then he-gave to-the fortune the fate

ΚΡΕΩΝ καὶ τῷ τάφῳ νυν τὴν δίκην παρασχέτω.
and to-the tomb now the penalty let-him-pay

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ τί πλημμελήσας, τὸ μέρος εἰ μετῆλθε γῆς;
what having-erred the share if he-claimed of-land

ΚΡΕΩΝ ἄταφος ὅδ' ἀνήρ, ὡς μάθῃς, γενήσεται.
unburied this the-man that you-may-learn will-be

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἐγώ σφε θάψω, κἂν ἀπεννέπῃ πόλις.
I him will-bury even-if forbids city

ΚΡΕΩΝ σαυτὴν ἄρ' ἐγγὺς τῷδε συνθάψεις νεκρῷ.
yourself then near to-this you-will-bury-with to-corpse

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἀλλ' εὐκλεές τοι δύο φίλω κεῖσθαι πέλας.
but glorious surely two friends to-lie near

ΚΡΕΩΝ λάζυσθε τήνδε κεἰς δόμους κομίζετε.
seize this-one and-to house bring

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεὶ τοῦδ' οὐ μεθήσομαι νεκροῦ.
not then since this not I-will-let-go corpse

ΚΡΕΩΝ ἔκριν' ὁ δαίμων, παρθέν', οὐχ ἃ σοὶ δοκεῖ.
decided the god maiden not what to-you seems

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ κἀκεῖνο κέκριται, μὴ ἐφυβρίζεσθαι νεκρούς.
and-that is-decided not to-insult the-dead

ΚΡΕΩΝ ὡς οὔτις ἀμφὶ τῷδ' ὑγρὰν θήσει κόνιν.
since no-one about this moist will-put dust

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ναὶ πρός σε τῆσδε μητρὸς Ἰοκάστης, Κρέον.
yes by you of-this mother Jocasta Creon

ΚΡΕΩΝ μάταια μοχθεῖς· οὐ γὰρ ἂν τύχοις τάδε.
in-vain you-toil not for — you-would-obtain these-things

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ σὺ δ' ἀλλὰ νεκρῷ λουτρὰ περιβαλεῖν μ' ἔα.
you but at-least to-corpse washing to-put-around me allow

ΚΡΕΩΝ ἓν τοῦτ' ἂν εἴη τῶν ἀπορρήτων πόλει.
one this — would-be of-the forbidden to-city

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἀλλ᾽ ἀμφὶ τραύματ᾽ ἄγρια τελαμῶνας βαλεῖν.
but about wounds savage bandages to-put

ΚΡΕΩΝ οὐκ ἔσθ᾽ ὅπως σὺ τόνδε τιμήσεις νέκυν. 1670
not it-is how you this-one will-honor corpse

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ὦ φίλτατ᾽, ἀλλὰ στόμα γε σὸν προσπτύξομαι.
O dearest but mouth at-least your I-will-embrace

ΚΡΕΩΝ οὐ μὴ ἐς γάμους σοὺς συμφορὰν κτήσῃ γόοις.
not — to marriage your misfortune get with-laments

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἦ γὰρ γαμοῦμαι ζῶσα παιδὶ σῷ ποτε;
— for shall-I-marry living to-son your ever

ΚΡΕΩΝ πολλή γ᾽ ἀνάγκη· ποῖ γὰρ ἐκφεύξει λέχος;
great at-least necessity where for will-you-escape bed

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ νὺξ ἆρ᾽ ἐκείνη Δαναΐδων μ᾽ ἕξει μίαν. 1675
night then that of-Danaids me will-have one

ΚΡΕΩΝ εἶδες τὸ τόλμημ᾽ οἷον ἐξωνείδισεν;
did-you-see the daring how-great she-reproached

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἴστω σίδηρος ὅρκιόν τέ μοι ξίφος.
let-know iron oath-witness and to-me sword

ΚΡΕΩΝ τί δ᾽ ἐκπροθυμεῖ τῶνδ᾽ ἀπηλλάχθαι γάμων;
why and are-you-eager from-this to-be-released marriage

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ συμφεύξομαι τῷδ᾽ ἀθλιωτάτῳ πατρί.
I-will-go-into-exile-with with-this most-wretched father

ΚΡΕΩΝ γενναιότης σοι, μωρία δ᾽ ἔνεστί τις. 1680
nobility in-you folly but is-in some

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ καὶ ξυνθανοῦμαί γ᾽, ὡς μάθῃς περαιτέρω.
and I-will-die-with at-least so-that you-may-learn further

ΚΡΕΩΝ ἴθ᾽, οὐ φονεύσεις παῖδ᾽ ἐμόν, λίπε χθόνα.
go not you-will-murder son my leave land

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ ὦ θύγατερ, αἰνῶ μέν σε τῆς προθυμίας.
O daughter I-praise indeed you for-the zeal

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἀλλ᾽ εἰ γαμοίμην, σὺ δὲ μόνος φεύγοις, πάτερ;
but if I-should-marry you and alone should-go-into-exile father

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ μέν᾽ εὐτυχοῦσα, τἄμ᾽ ἐγὼ στέρξω κακά.
remain prospering my I will-bear evils

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ καὶ τίς σε τυφλὸν ὄντα θεραπεύσει, πάτερ;
and who you blind being will-tend father

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ πεσὼν ὅπου μοι μοῖρα κείσομαι πέδῳ.
having-fallen where to-me fate I-shall-lie on-ground

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ὁ δ᾽ Οἰδίπους ποῦ καὶ τὰ κλεί᾽ αἰνίγματα;
the and Oedipus where and the famous riddles

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ὄλωλ᾽· ἓν ἦμάρ μ᾽ ὤλβισ᾽, ἓν δ᾽ ἀπώλεσεν.
he-has-perished one day me blessed one and destroyed

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ οὔκουν μετασχεῖν κἀμὲ δεῖ τῶν σῶν κακῶν;
not-then to-share and-me must of-the your evils

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ αἰσχρὰ φυγὴ θυγατρὶ σὺν τυφλῷ πατρί.
shameful exile for-daughter with blind father

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ οὔ, σωφρονούσῃ γ᾽, ἀλλὰ γενναία, πάτερ.
not for-one-prudent at-least but noble father

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ προσάγαγέ νύν με, μητρὸς ὡς ψαύσω σέθεν.
lead now me of-mother so-that I-may-touch of-you

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἰδού, γεραιᾶς φιλτάτης ψαῦσον χερί.
see of-aged dearest touch with-hand

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ὦ μῆτερ, ὦ ξυνάορ᾽ ἀθλιωτάτη.
O mother O consort most-wretched

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ οἰκτρὰ πρόκειται, πάντ᾽ ἔχουσ᾽ ὁμοῦ κακά.
pitifully lies all having together evils

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ Ἐτεοκλέους δὲ πτῶμα Πολυνείκους τε ποῦ;
of-Eteocles and corpse of-Polynices and where

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ τώδ᾽ ἐκτάδην σοι κεῖσθον ἀλλήλοιν πέλας.
these-two stretched-out for-you lie one-another near

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ πρόσθες τυφλὴν χεῖρ᾽ ἐπὶ πρόσωπα δυστυχῆ.
put blind hand on faces unlucky

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἰδού, θανόντων σῶν τέκνων ἅπτου χερί. 1700
see of-dead your children touch with-hand

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ ὦ φίλα πεσήματ᾽ ἄθλι᾽ ἀθλίου πατρός.
O dear fallen wretched of-wretched father

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ὦ φίλτατον δῆτ᾽ ὄνομα Πολυνείκους ἐμοί.
O dearest then name of-Polynices to-me

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ νῦν χρησμός, ὦ παῖ, Λοξίου περαίνεται.
now oracle O child of-Loxias is-fulfilled

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ὁ ποῖος; ἀλλ᾽ ἢ πρὸς κακοῖς ἐρεῖς κακά;
the what but — on evils will-you-tell evils

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ ἐν ταῖς Ἀθήναις κατθανεῖν μ᾽ ἀλώμενον. 1705
in the Athens to-die me wandering

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ποῦ; τίς σε πύργος Ἀτθίδος προσδέξεται;
where what you tower of-Attica will-receive

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ ἱερὸς Κολωνός, δώμαθ᾽ ἱππίου θεοῦ.
holy Colonus house of-horse god

ἀλλ᾽ εἶα, τυφλῷ τῷδ᾽ ὑπηρέτει πατρί,
but come to-blind this serve father

ἐπεὶ προθυμεῖ τῆσδε κοινοῦσθαι φυγῆς.
since you-are-eager this to-share exile

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἴθ᾽ εἰς φυγὰν τάλαιναν· ὄρεγε χέρα φίλαν, 1710
go into exile wretched reach-out hand dear

πάτερ γεραιέ, πομπίμαν
father old guiding

ἔχων ἔμ᾽ ὥστε ναυσίπομπον αὔραν.
having me as ship-escorting breeze

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ἰδοὺ πορεύομαι, τέκνον·
see I-go child

σύ μοι ποδαγὸς ἀθλία γενοῦ.
you to-me foot-guide wretched be

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ γενόμεθα γενόμεθ', ἄθλιαί
we-have-become we-have-become wretched

γε δῆτα Θηβαιᾶν μάλιστα παρθένων.
at-least indeed of-Theban most of-maidens

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ πόθι γεραιὸν ἴχνος τίθημι;
where old step do-I-set

βάκτρα πρόσφερ', ὦ τέκνον.
staff bring O child

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ τᾷδε τᾷδε βᾶθί μοι,
here here go to-me

τᾷδε τᾷδε πόδα τίθει
here here foot set

ὥστ' ὄνειρον ἰσχύν.
like dream strength

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ἰὼ ἰώ, δυστυχεστάτας φυγὰς
oh oh most-unlucky exile

ἐλαύνων τὸν γέροντά μ' ἐκ πάτρας.
driving the old-man me from fatherland

ἰὼ ἰώ, δεινὰ δείν' ἐγὼ τλάς.
oh oh terrible-things terrible I having-endured

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ τί τλάς; τί τλάς; οὐχ ὁρᾷ Δίκα κακούς,
what having-endured what having-endured not sees Justice evil

οὐδ' ἀμείβεται βροτῶν ἀσυνεσίας.
nor requites of-mortals follies

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ὅδ᾽ εἰμὶ μοῦσαν ὃς ἐπὶ καλ-
this I-am song who to gloriously-victorious
λίνικον οὐράνιον ἔβαν
— heavenly went
παρθένου κόρας αἴ-
of-maiden of-girl riddle
νιγμ᾽ ἀσύνετον εὑρών.
— unintelligible having-found
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ Σφιγγὸς ἀναφέρεις ὄνειδος.
of-Sphinx you-bring-up reproach
ἄπαγε τὰ πάρος εὐτυχήματ᾽ αὐδῶν.
away the former successes speaking
τάδε σ᾽ ἐπέμενε μέλεα πάθεα
these you awaited wretched sufferings
φυγάδα πατρίδος ἄπο γενόμενον,
exile fatherland from having-become
ὦ πάτερ, θανεῖν που.
O father to-die somewhere
ποθεινὰ δάκρυα παρὰ φίλαισι παρθένοις
longed-for tears by dear maidens
λιποῦσ᾽ ἄπειμι πατρίδος ἀποπρὸ γαίας
leaving I-go-away of-fatherland far-from land
ἀπαρθένευτ᾽ ἀλωμένα.
unmaidenly wandering
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ φεῦ τὸ χρήσιμον φρενῶν.
alas the good of-wits
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ εἰς πατρός γε συμφορὰς
in of-father at-least misfortunes
εὐκλεᾶ με θήσει·
glorious me will-make

τάλαιν' ἐγὼ σῶν συγγόνου θ' ὑβρισμάτων,
wretched I of-your brother and outrages
ὃς ἐκ δόμων νέκυς ἄθαπτος οἴχεται
who from house corpse unburied is-gone
μέλεος, ὅν, εἴ με καὶ θανεῖν, πάτερ, χρεών,
wretched whom if me even to-die father it-is-fated
σκότια γᾷ καλύψω.
dark with-earth I-will-cover
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ πρὸς ἥλικας φάνηθι σάς.
to companions appear your
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ ἅλις ὀδυρμάτων ἐμῶν.
enough of-laments my
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ σὺ δ' ἀμφὶ βωμίους λιτὰς —
you and about altar prayers
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ κόρον ἔχουσ' ἐμῶν κακῶν.
surfeit having of-my evils
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ἴθ' ἀλλὰ Βρόμιος ἵνα τεση-
go but Bromius where and precinct
κὸς ἄβατος ὄρεσι μαινάδων.
— untrodden on-mountains of-maenads
ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ Καδμείαν ᾗ
Cadmean in-which
νεβρίδα στολιδωσαμένα ποτ' ἐγὼ
fawnskin having-girded once I
Σεμέλας θίασον
of-Semele band
ἱερὸν ὄρεσιν ἀνεχόρευσα,
holy on-mountains danced
χάριν ἀχάριτον εἰς θεοὺς διδοῦσα;
favor thankless to gods giving

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ὦ πάτρας κλεινῆς πολῖται, λεύσσετ', Οἰδίπους ὅδε,
O of-fatherland famous citizens see Oedipus this
ὃς τὰ κλείν' αἰνίγματ' ἔγνω καὶ μέγιστος ἦν ἀνήρ,
who the famous riddles knew and greatest was man
ὃς μόνος Σφιγγὸς κατέσχον τῆς μιαιφόνου κράτη,
who alone of-Sphinx checked the bloody might
νῦν ἄτιμος αὐτὸς οἰκτρὸς ἐξελαύνομαι χθονός.
now dishonored myself pitiable am-driven-out from-land
ἀλλὰ γὰρ τί ταῦτα θρηνῶ καὶ μάτην ὀδύρομαι;
but for why these-things do-I-lament and in-vain wail
τὰς γὰρ ἐκ θεῶν ἀνάγκας θνητὸν ὄντα δεῖ φέρειν.
the for from gods necessities mortal being must to-bear
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ μέγα σεμνὴ Νίκη, τὸν ἐμὸν
O greatly holy Victory the my
βίοτον κατέχοις,
life may-you-hold
καὶ μὴ λήγοις στεφανοῦσα.
and not cease crowning

EURIPIDES

ΙΚΕΤΙΔΕΣ

The Suppliants

Aethra, mother of Theseus, prays at Demeter's altar at Eleusis. The mothers of the seven Argive captains who fell at Thebes have come as suppliants, because the Thebans will not let them bury their sons. Adrastus, king of Argos, lies here weeping and has asked her to persuade Theseus to recover the bodies. She has sent for Theseus.

ΑΙΘΡΑ Δήμητερ ἑστιοῦχ' Ἐλευσῖνος χθονὸς
Demeter hearth-holder of-Eleusis of-land
τῆσδ', οἵ τε ναοὺς ἔχετε πρόσπολοι θεᾶς,
of-this who and temples you-hold ministers of-goddess
εὐδαιμονεῖν με Θησέα τε παῖδ' ἐμὸν
to-prosper me Theseus and son my
πόλιν τ' Ἀθηνῶν τήν τε Πιτθέως χθόνα,
city and of-Athens the and of-Pittheus land
ἐν ᾗ με θρέψας ὀλβίοις ἐν δώμασιν
in which me having-reared wealthy in house
Αἴθραν πατὴρ δίδωσι τῷ Πανδίονος
Aethra father gives to-the of-Pandion
Αἰγεῖ δάμαρτα, Λοξίου μαντεύμασιν.
Aegeus as-wife of-Loxias by-oracles
εἰς τάσδε γὰρ βλέψασ' ἐπηυξάμην τάδε
at these for looking I-prayed these-things
γραῦς, αἳ λιποῦσαι δώματ' Ἀργείας χθονὸς
old-women who having-left house of-Argive land
ἱκτῆρι θαλλῷ προσπίτνουσ' ἐμὸν γόνυ
with-suppliant branch falling-before my knee
πάθος παθοῦσαι δεινόν· ἀμφὶ γὰρ πύλας
suffering having-suffered terrible about for gates
Κάδμου θανόντων ἑπτὰ γενναίων τέκνων
of-Cadmus having-died seven noble children

ἄπαιδές εἰσιν, οὕς ποτ' Ἀργείων ἄναξ
childless they-are whom once of-Argives lord
Ἄδραστος ἦγαγ', Οἰδίπου παγκληρίας
Adrastus led of-Oedipus inheritance
μέρος κατασχεῖν φυγάδι Πολυνείκει θέλων
share to-get for-exile for-Polynices wishing
γαμβρῷ. νεκροὺς δὲ τοὺς ὀλωλότας δορὶ
son-in-law corpses and the having-perished by-spear
θάψαι θέλουσι τῶνδε μητέρες χθονί·
to-bury wish of-these mothers in-land
εἴργουσι δ' οἱ κρατοῦντες οὐδ' ἀναίρεσιν
prevent but the ruling nor taking-up
δοῦναι θέλουσι, νόμιμ' ἀτίζοντες θεῶν.
to-give wish customs dishonoring of-gods
κοινὸν δὲ φόρτον ταῖσδ' ἔχων χρείας ἐμῆς
common and burden with-these having of-need my
Ἄδραστος ὄμμα δάκρυσιν τέγγων ὅδε
Adrastus eye with-tears wetting here
κεῖται, τό τ' ἔγχος τήν τε δυστυχεστάτην
lies the and spear the and most-unfortunate
στένων στρατείαν ἣν ἔπεμψεν ἐκ δόμων·
lamenting expedition which he-sent from house
ὅς μ' ἐξοτρύνει παῖδ' ἐμὸν πεῖσαι λιταῖς
who me urges son my to-persuade with-prayers
νεκρῶν κομιστὴν ἢ λόγοισιν ἢ δορὸς
of-corpses recoverer either by-words or of-spear
ῥώμῃ γενέσθαι καὶ τάφου μεταίτιον,
by-strength to-become and of-burial partly-responsible
μόνον τόδ' ἔργον προστιθεὶς ἐμῷ τέκνῳ
alone this task assigning to-my son

πόλει τ᾽ Ἀθηνῶν. τυγχάνω δ᾽ ὑπὲρ χθονὸς
city and of-Athens I-happen and on-behalf-of land
ἀρότου προθύουσ᾽ ἐκ δόμων ἐλθοῦσ᾽ ἐμῶν
of-plowing sacrificing-first from house having-come my
πρὸς τόνδε σηκόν, ἔνθα πρῶτα φαίνεται
to this precinct where first appears
φρίξας ὑπὲρ γῆς τῆσδε κάρπιμος στάχυς.
bristling over land this fruitful ear
δεσμὸν δ᾽ ἄδεσμον τόνδ᾽ ἔχουσα φυλλάδος
bond and unbinding this having of-leafage
μένω πρὸς ἁγναῖς ἐσχάραις δυοῖν θεαῖν
I-remain at holy hearths of-two goddesses
Κόρης τε καὶ Δήμητρος, οἰκτείρουσα μὲν
of-Kore both and of-Demeter pitying indeed
πολιὰς ἄπαιδας τάσδε μητέρας τέκνων,
gray childless these mothers of-children
σέβουσα δ᾽ ἱερὰ στέμματ᾽. οἴχεται δέ μοι
revering and holy wreaths is-gone and for-me
κῆρυξ πρὸς ἄστυ δεῦρο Θησέα καλῶν,
herald to city here Theseus calling
ὡς ἢ τὸ τούτων λυπρὸν ἐξέλῃ χθονός,
so-that either the of-these grief he-may-remove from-land
ἢ τάσδ᾽ ἀνάγκας ἱκεσίους λύσῃ, θεοὺς
or these necessities suppliant he-may-loose gods
ὅσιόν τι δράσας· πάντα γὰρ δι᾽ ἀρσένων
holy something having-done all for through males
γυναιξὶ πράσσειν εἰκός, αἵτινες σοφαί.
for-women to-do fitting who wise

The chorus of Argive mothers kneel before Aethra and beg her to persuade her son to give them back the bodies of their children, which lie unburied on the hills. She too once bore a son. They tear their cheeks with their nails and lament without end, since grief is natural to women.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἱκετεύω σε, γεραιά,
I-supplicate you old-woman
γεραιῶν ἐκ στομάτων,
of-aged from mouths
πρὸς γόνυ πίπτουσα τὸ σόν·
to knee falling the your
ἄνα μοι τέκνα λῦσαι φθιμένων
up for-me children to-recover of-dead
νεκύων, οἳ καταλείπουσι μέλη
of-corpses who leave limbs
θανάτῳ λυσιμελεῖ θηρσὶν ὀρείοισι βοράν·
by-death limb-loosening for-beasts mountain food
ἐσιδοῦσ' οἰκτρὰ μὲν ὄσσων
seeing pitiful indeed of-eyes
δάκρυ' ἀμφὶ βλεφάροις,
tears about eyelids
ῥυσὰ δὲ σαρκῶν πολιᾶν
wrinkled and of-flesh gray
καταδρύμματα χειρῶν· τί γάρ; ἆ
tearings of-hands what for who
φθιμένους παῖδας ἐμοὺς οὔτε δόμοις
dead sons my neither in-house
προθέμαν, οὔτε τάφων χώματα γαίας ἐσορῶ.
laid-out nor of-tombs mounds of-earth I-see

ἔτεκες καὶ σύ ποτ', ὦ πότνια, κοῦρον
you-bore also you once O lady son
φίλα ποιησαμένα
dear having-made
λέκτρα πόσει σῷ· μέτα νυν
bed to-husband your with now
δὸς ἐμοὶ σᾶς διανοίας,
give to-me of-your thought
μετάδος δ', ὅσσον ἐπαλγῶ μελέα
share and as-much-as I-grieve wretched
τῶν φθιμένων οὓς ἔτεκον·
over-the dead whom I-bore
παράπεισον δὲ τὸ σόν, λισσόμεθ', ἐλθεῖν
persuade and the your we-pray to-go
τέκνον Ἰσμηνὸν ἐμάν τ' εἰς χέρα θεῖναι
son to-Ismenus my and into hand to-place
νεκύων θαλερῶν σώματ' ἀλαίνοντ' ἄταφα.
of-corpses young bodies wandering unburied
ὁσίως οὔχ, ὑπ' ἀνάγκας δὲ προπίπτου-
piously not by necessity but falling-forward
σα προσαιτοῦσ' ἔμολον
— begging I-came
δεξιπύρους θεῶν θυμέλας·
fire-receiving of-gods altars
ἔχομεν δ' ἔνδικα· καὶ σοί
we-have and just-things and to-you
τι πάρεστι σθένος ὥστ' εὐτεκνίᾳ
some is-present might so-that by-fair-offspring
δυστυχίαν τὰν παρ' ἐμοὶ
misfortune the with me

καθελεῖν· οἰκτρὰ δὲ πάσχουσ᾽ ἱκετεύω
to-remove pitiful and suffering I-supplicate
τὸν ἐμὸν παῖδα τάλαιν᾽ ἐν χερὶ θεῖναι
the my son wretched in hand to-place
νέκυν, ἀμφιβαλεῖν λυγρὰ μέλη παιδὸς ἐμοῦ.
corpse to-embrace grievous limbs of-son my
ἀγὼν ὅδ᾽ ἄλλος ἔρχεται γόων γόοις
contest this other comes of-laments to-laments
διάδοχος· ἀχοῦσιν προπόλων χέρες.
succeeding resound of-attendants hands
ἴτ᾽ ὦ ξυνῳδοὶ κακοῖς,
come O singers-with to-evils
ἴτ᾽ ὦ ξυναλγηδόνες,
come O fellow-sufferers
χορὸν τὸν Ἅιδας σέβει,
dance which Hades reveres
διὰ παρῇδος ὄνυχα λευκὸν
through cheek nail white
αἱματοῦτε χρῶτά τε φόνιον·
make-bloody flesh and bloody
τὰ γὰρ φθιτῶν τοῖς ὁρῶσι κόσμος.
the for of-dead to-the living adornment
ἄπληστος ἅδε μ᾽ ἐξάγει χάρις γόων
insatiable this me leads-out pleasure of-laments
πολύπονος, ὡς ἐξ ἀλιβάτου πέτρας
much-toiling as from steep rock
ὑγρὰ ῥέουσα σταγών,
wet flowing drop
ἄπαυστος ἀεὶ γόων·
unceasing always of-laments

τὸ γὰρ θανόντων τέκνων
the for of-dead children
ἐπίπονόν τι κατὰ γυναῖκας
toilsome something in women
εἰς γόους πέφυκε πάθος. ἒ ἔ· 85
to laments is suffering ah ah
θανοῦσα τῶνδ' ἀλγέων λαθοίμαν.
dying of-these griefs may-I-forget

III · THESEUS AND ADRASTUS

Theseus arrives and questions Adrastus, who explains that he led the expedition against Thebes, against the warnings of Amphiaraus and the will of the gods, after marrying his daughters to two exiles, Tydeus and Polynices. Theseus answers that the good in life outweighs the bad, that Adrastus was misled by ambitious young men, and he refuses to help. The mothers beg him again. Aethra speaks out: Theseus must uphold the law of Greece and not seem a coward. He yields, and goes to win the consent of the Athenian people.

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ τίνων γόων ἤκουσα καὶ στέρνων κτύπον
what laments did-I-hear and of-breasts beating
νεκρῶν τε θρήνους, τῶνδ' ἀνακτόρων ἄπο
of-dead and dirges these shrines from
ἠχοῦς ἰούσης; ὡς φόβος μ' ἀναπτεροῖ
of-echo going how fear me sets-fluttering
μή μοί τι μήτηρ, ἣν μεταστείχω ποδὶ 90
lest for-me something mother whom I-follow with-foot
χρονίαν ἀποῦσαν ἐκ δόμων, ἔχῃ νέον.
long absent from house holds new
ἔα·
ha

τί χρῆμα; καινὰς εἰσβολὰς ὁρῶ λόγων·
what thing new beginnings do-I-see of-words
μητέρα γεραιὰν βωμίαν ἐφημένην
mother old at-altar seated
ξένας θ' ὁμοῦ γυναῖκας, οὐχ ἕνα ῥυθμὸν
foreign and together women not one measure
κακῶν ἐχούσας· ἔκ τε γὰρ γερασμίων
of-evils having from and for venerable
ὄσσων ἐλαύνουσ' οἰκτρὸν εἰς γαῖαν δάκρυ,
eyes driving piteous to earth tear
κουραὶ δὲ καὶ πεπλώματ' οὐ θεωρικά.
shorn-hair and and robes not festal
τί ταῦτα, μῆτερ; σὸν τὸ μηνύειν ἐμοί,
what these-things mother yours the to-tell to-me
ἡμῶν δ' ἀκούειν· προσδοκῶ τι γὰρ νέον.
of-us and to-hear I-expect something for new
ΑΙΘΡΑ ὦ παῖ, γυναῖκες αἵδε μητέρες τέκνων
O son women these mothers of-children
τῶν κατθανόντων ἀμφὶ Καδμείας πύλας
of-the having-died about Cadmean gates
ἑπτὰ στρατηγῶν· ἱκεσίοις δὲ σὺν κλάδοις
seven of-generals suppliant and with branches
φρουροῦσί μ', ὡς δέδορκας, ἐν κύκλῳ, τέκνον.
guard me as you-see in circle child
ΘΗΣΕΤΣ τίς δ' ὁ στενάζων οἰκτρὸν ἐν πύλαις ὅδε;
who and the groaning piteously in gates this-one
ΑΙΘΡΑ Ἄδραστος, ὡς λέγουσιν, Ἀργείων ἄναξ.
Adrastus as they-say of-Argives lord
ΘΗΣΕΤΣ οἱ δ' ἀμφὶ τόνδε παῖδες ἢ τούτου τέκνα;
they and about this-one boys — of-this children

ΑΙΘΡΑ οὔκ, ἀλλὰ νεκρῶν τῶν ὀλωλότων κόροι.
not but of-dead of-the perished sons

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ τί γὰρ πρὸς ἡμᾶς ἦλθον ἱκεσίᾳ χερί;
why for to us came with-suppliant hand

ΑΙΘΡΑ οἶδ'· ἀλλὰ τῶνδε μῦθος οὑντεῦθεν, τέκνον.
I-know but of-these word the-thereafter child

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ σὲ τὸν κατήρη χλανιδίοις ἀνιστορῶ. 110
you the cloaked-over with-mantle I-ask

λέγ' ἐκκαλύψας κρᾶτα καὶ πάρες γόον·
speak uncovering head and let-go lament

πέρας γὰρ οὐδὲν μὴ διὰ γλώσσης ἰόν.
end for nothing not through tongue going

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ὦ καλλίνικε γῆς Ἀθηναίων ἄναξ,
O gloriously-victorious of-land of-Athenians lord

Θησεῦ, σὸς ἱκέτης καὶ πόλεως ἥκω σέθεν.
Theseus your suppliant and of-city I-come of-you

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ τί χρῆμα θηρῶν καὶ τίνος χρείαν ἔχων; 115
what thing hunting and of-what need having

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ οἶσθ' ἣν στρατείαν ἐστράτευσ' ὀλεθρίαν.
you-know which expedition I-led ruinous

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ οὐ γάρ τι σιγῇ διεπέρασας Ἑλλάδα.
not for — in-silence you-crossed Hellas

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ἐνταῦθ' ἀπώλεσ' ἄνδρας Ἀργείων ἄκρους.
there I-lost men of-Argives foremost

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ τοιαῦθ' ὁ τλήμων πόλεμος ἐξεργάζεται.
such-things the wretched war works-out

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ τούτους θανόντας ἦλθον ἐξαιτῶν πόλιν. 120
these dead I-came asking-back city

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ κήρυξιν Ἑρμοῦ πίσυνος, ὡς θάψῃς νεκρούς;
in-heralds of-Hermes trusting so-that you-might-bury corpses

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ καἄπειτά γ᾽ οἱ κτανόντες οὐκ ἐῶσί με.
and-then at-least the having-killed not allow me

ΘΗΣΕΤΣ τί γὰρ λέγουσιν, ὅσια χρήζοντος σέθεν;
what for they-say holy-things asking of-you

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ τί δ᾽; εὐτυχοῦντες οὐκ ἐπίστανται φέρειν.
what but prospering not they-know to-bear

ΘΗΣΕΤΣ ξύμβουλον οὖν μ᾽ ἐπῆλθες; ἢ τίνος χάριν;
adviser then me you-came-to or for-what favor

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ κομίσαι σε, Θησεῦ, παῖδας Ἀργείων θέλων.
to-recover you Theseus sons of-Argives wishing

ΘΗΣΕΤΣ τὸ δ᾽ Ἄργος ὑμῖν ποῦ ᾽στιν; ἢ κόμποι μάτην;
the but Argos to-you where is or boasts vainly

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ σφαλέντες οἰχόμεσθα. πρὸς σὲ δ᾽ ἥκομεν.
having-fallen we-are-gone to you and we-have-come

ΘΗΣΕΤΣ ἰδίᾳ δοκῆσάν σοι τόδ᾽ ἢ πάσῃ πόλει;
privately having-seemed to-you this or to-all city

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ πάντες σ᾽ ἱκνοῦνται Δαναΐδαι θάψαι νεκρούς.
all you supplicate Danaans to-bury corpses

ΘΗΣΕΤΣ ἐκ τοῦ δ᾽ ἐλαύνεις ἑπτὰ πρὸς Θήβας λόχους;
from what and you-drive seven to Thebes companies

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ δισσοῖσι γαμβροῖς τήνδε πορσύνων χάριν.
to-two sons-in-law this providing favor

ΘΗΣΕΤΣ τῷ δ᾽ ἐξέδωκας παῖδας Ἀργείων σέθεν;
to-whom and gave daughters of-Argives your

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ οὐκ ἐγγενῆ συνῆψα κηδείαν δόμοις.
not native I-joined alliance to-house

ΘΗΣΕΤΣ ἀλλὰ ξένοις ἔδωκας Ἀργείας κόρας;
but to-foreigners you-gave Argive girls

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ Τυδεῖ γε Πολυνείκει τε τῷ Θηβαγενεῖ.
to-Tydeus at-least to-Polynices and the Theban-born

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ τίν᾽ εἰς ἔρωτα τῆσδε κηδείας μολών;
what to desire of-this marriage-alliance having-come

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ Φοίβου μ᾽ ὑπῆλθε δυστόπαστ᾽ αἰνίγματα.
of-Phoebus me came-over hard-to-guess riddles

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ τί δ᾽ εἶπ᾽ Ἀπόλλων παρθένοις κραίνων γάμον;
what and said Apollo for-maidens ordaining marriage

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ κάπρῳ με δοῦναι καὶ λέοντι παῖδ᾽ ἐμώ. 140
to-boar me to-give and to-lion daughters my

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ σὺ δ᾽ ἐξελίσσεις πῶς θεοῦ θεσπίσματα;
you and unravel how of-god oracles

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ἐλθόντε φυγάδε νυκτὸς εἰς ἐμὰς πύλας,
having-come-both exiles by-night to my gates

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ τίς καὶ τίς; εἰπέ· δύο γὰρ ἐξαυδᾷς ἅμα.
who and who say two for you-speak-of together

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ Τυδεὺς μάχην ξυνῆψε Πολυνείκης θ᾽ ἅμα.
Tydeus battle joined Polynices and together

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ἦ τοῖσδ᾽ ἔδωκας θηρσὶν ὡς κόρας σέθεν; 145
— to-these you-gave beasts as daughters of-you

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ μάχην γε δισσοῖν κνωδάλοιν ἀπεικάσας.
battle at-least of-two beasts likening

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ἦλθον δὲ δὴ πῶς πατρίδος ἐκλιπόνθ᾽ ὅρους;
came and indeed how of-fatherland having-left boundaries

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ Τυδεὺς μὲν αἷμα συγγενὲς φεύγων χθονός.
Tydeus indeed blood kindred fleeing of-land

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ὁ δ᾽ Οἰδίπου παῖς τίνι τρόπῳ Θήβας λιπών;
the and of-Oedipus son in-what way Thebes having-left

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ἀραῖς πατρῴαις, μὴ κασίγνητον κτάνοι. 150
by-curses paternal lest brother he-might-kill

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ σοφήν γ᾽ ἔλεξας τήνδ᾽ ἑκούσιον φυγήν.
wise at-least you-said this voluntary exile

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ οἱ μένοντες τοὺς ἀπόντας ἠδίκουν.
but the remaining the absent wronged

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ἦ πού σφ᾽ ἀδελφὸς χρημάτων νοσφίζεται;
— surely him brother of-goods robs

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ταῦτ᾽ ἐκδικάζων ἦλθον· εἶτ᾽ ἀπωλόμην.
this avenging I-came then I-was-destroyed

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ μάντεις δ᾽ ἐπῆλθες ἐμπύρων τ᾽ εἶδες φλόγα;
seers and you-approached of-burnt-offerings and saw flame

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ οἴμοι· διώκεις μ᾽ ᾗ μάλιστ᾽ ἐγὼ ᾽σφάλην.
ah-me you-pursue me where most I I-erred

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ οὐκ ἦλθες, ὡς ἔοικεν, εὐνοίᾳ θεῶν.
not you-came as seems with-goodwill of-gods

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ τὸ δὲ πλέον, ἦλθον Ἀμφιάρεώ γε πρὸς βίαν.
the and more I-came of-Amphiaraus at-least against will

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ οὕτω τὸ θεῖον ῥᾳδίως ἀπεστράφης;
so the divine easily you-turned-from

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ νέων γὰρ ἀνδρῶν θόρυβος ἐξέπλησσέ με.
of-young for of-men clamor confounded me

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ εὐψυχίαν ἔσπευσας ἀντ᾽ εὐβουλίας.
courage you-pursued instead-of good-counsel

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ὃ δή γε πολλοὺς ὤλεσε στρατηλάτας.
which indeed at-least many destroyed generals

ἀλλ᾽, ὦ καθ᾽ Ἑλλάδ᾽ ἀλκιμώτατον κάρα,
but O through Hellas most-valiant head

ἄναξ Ἀθηνῶν, ἐν μὲν αἰσχύναις ἔχω
lord of-Athens in indeed shame I-am

πίτνων πρὸς οὖδας γόνυ σὸν ἀμπίσχειν χερί,
falling to ground knee your to-clasp with-hand

πολιὸς ἀνὴρ τύραννος εὐδαίμων πάρος·
gray-haired man king prosperous before

ὅμως δ᾽ ἀνάγκη συμφοραῖς εἴκειν ἐμαῖς.
nevertheless but necessity to-misfortunes to-yield my
σῶσον νεκρούς μοι τἀμά τ᾽ οἰκτείρας κακὰ
save corpses for-me my and pitying evils
καὶ τῶν θανόντων τάσδε μητέρας τέκνων,
and of-the dead these mothers of-children
αἷς γῆρας ἥκει πολιὸν εἰς ἀπαιδίαν,
to-whom old-age comes gray into childlessness
ἐλθεῖν δ᾽ ἔτλησαν δεῦρο καὶ ξένον πόδα
to-come and they-dared here and foreign foot
θεῖναι μόλις γεραιὰ κινοῦσαι μέλη,
to-set hardly old moving limbs
πρεσβεύματ᾽ οὐ Δήμητρος εἰς μυστήρια,
embassies not of-Demeter into mysteries
ἀλλ᾽ ὡς νεκροὺς θάψωσιν, ἃς αὐτὰς ἐχρῆν
but so-that corpses they-may-bury who themselves ought
κείνων ταφείσας χερσὶν ὡραίων τυχεῖν.
of-those buried by-hands of-due-rites to-obtain
σοφὸν δὲ πενίαν τ᾽ εἰσορᾶν τὸν ὄλβιον,
wise and poverty and to-look-on the wealthy
πένητά τ᾽ εἰς τοὺς πλουσίους ἀποβλέπειν
poor-man and to the rich to-look
ζηλοῦνθ᾽, ἵν᾽ αὐτὸν χρημάτων ἔρως ἔχῃ,
envying so-that him of-goods desire may-hold
τά τ᾽ οἰκτρὰ τοὺς μὴ δυστυχεῖς δεδορκέναι·
the and pitiful-things the not unfortunate to-behold
τάχ᾽ οὖν ἂν εἴποις, Πελοπίαν παρεὶς χθόνα
perhaps then — you-might-say Pelopian passing-over land
πῶς ταῖς Ἀθήναις τόνδε προστάσσεις πόνον;
how on-the Athens this you-impose toil

ἐγὼ δίκαιός εἰμ᾽ ἀφηγεῖσθαι τάδε.
I just am to-explain these-things

Σπάρτη μὲν ὠμὴ καὶ πεποίκιλται τρόπους,
Sparta indeed harsh and is-intricate in-ways

τὰ δ᾽ ἄλλα μικρὰ κἀσθενῆ· πόλις δὲ σὴ
the and others small and-weak city but your

μόνη δύναιτ᾽ ἂν τόνδ᾽ ὑποστῆναι πόνον.
alone could — this to-undertake toil

τά τ᾽ οἰκτρὰ γὰρ δέδορκε καὶ νεανίαν
the and pitiful-things for it-beholds and young

ἔχει σὲ ποιμέν᾽ ἐσθλόν· οὗ χρείᾳ πόλεις
it-has you shepherd good of-whom by-lack cities

πολλαὶ διώλοντ᾽, ἐνδεεῖς στρατηλάτου.
many perished lacking general

ΧΟΡΟΣ κἀγὼ τὸν αὐτὸν τῷδέ σοι λόγον λέγω,
and-I the same to-this-one to-you word say

Θησεῦ, δι᾽ οἶκτου τὰς ἐμὰς λαβεῖν τύχας.
Theseus through pity the my to-take fortunes

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ἄλλοισι δὴ 'πόνησ᾽ ἀμιλληθεὶς λόγῳ
with-others indeed I-toiled having-contended in-argument

τοιῷδ᾽. ἔλεξε γάρ τις ὡς τὰ χείρονα
such said for someone that the worse

πλείω βροτοῖσίν ἐστι τῶν ἀμεινόνων·
more for-mortals are than-the better

ἐγὼ δὲ τούτοις ἀντίαν γνώμην ἔχω,
I but to-these opposite opinion have

πλείω τὰ χρηστὰ τῶν κακῶν εἶναι βροτοῖς·
more the good than-the evil to-be for-mortals

εἰ μὴ γὰρ ἦν τόδ᾽, οὐκ ἂν ἦμεν ἐν φάει.
if not for was this not — we-would-be in light

αἰνῶ δ' ὃς ἡμῖν βίοτον ἐκ πεφυρμένου
I-praise and who for-us life from confused
καὶ θηριώδους θεῶν διεσταθμήσατο,
and beastlike of-gods set-in-order
πρῶτον μὲν ἐνθεὶς σύνεσιν, εἶτα δ' ἄγγελον
first indeed having-put-in understanding then and messenger
γλῶσσαν λόγων δούς, ὡς γεγωνίσκειν ὄπα,
tongue of-words having-given so-that to-utter voice
τροφήν τε καρποῦ τῇ τροφῇ τ' ἀπ' οὐρανοῦ
nourishment and of-fruit for-the nourishment and from heaven
σταγόνας ὑδρηλάς, ὡς τά γ' ἐκ γαίας τρέφῃ
drops watery so-that the at-least from earth he-may-nourish
ἄρδῃ τε νηδύν· πρὸς δὲ τοῖσι χείματος
he-may-water and belly besides and these of-storm
προβλήματ', αἶθρον ἐξαμύνασθαι θεοῦ,
defenses chill to-ward-off of-god
πόντου τε ναυστολήμαθ', ὡς διαλλαγὰς
of-sea and voyages so-that exchanges
ἔχοιμεν ἀλλήλοισιν ὧν πένοιτο γῆ.
we-might-have with-one-another of-what might-be-poor land
ἃ δ' ἔστ' ἄσημα κοὐ σαφῶς γιγνώσκομεν,
what and are obscure and-not clearly we-know
εἰς πῦρ βλέποντες καὶ κατὰ σπλάγχνων πτυχὰς
into fire looking and in of-entrails folds
μάντεις προσημαίνουσιν οἰωνῶν τ' ἄπο.
seers foretell of-birds and from
ἆρ' οὐ τρυφῶμεν θεοῦ κατασκευὴν βίῳ
— not are-we-fastidious of-god provision for-life
δόντος τοιαύτην, οἷσιν οὐκ ἀρκεῖ τάδε;
having-given such to-whom not suffice these-things

ἀλλ᾽ ἡ φρόνησις τοῦ θεοῦ μεῖζον σθένειν
but the wisdom than-the god greater to-have-strength
ζητεῖ, τὸ γαῦρον δ᾽ ἐν φρεσὶν κεκτημένοι
seeks the pride and in hearts having-acquired
δοκοῦμεν εἶναι δαιμόνων σοφώτεροι.
we-think to-be than-gods wiser
ἧς καὶ σὺ φαίνει δεκάδος οὐ σοφὸς γεγώς,
of-which also you appear set not wise being
ὅστις κόρας μὲν θεσφάτοις Φοίβου ζυγεὶς
who daughters indeed to-oracles of-Phoebus having-been-yoked
ξένοισιν ὧδ᾽ ἔδωκας ὡς ζώντων θεῶν,
to-foreigners so you-gave as of-living gods
λαμπρὸν δὲ θολερῷ δῶμα συμμίξας τὸ σὸν
bright and with-muddy house having-mixed the your
ἤλκωσας οἶκους· χρῆν γὰρ οὐδὲ σώματα
you-wounded house it-was-right for not-even bodies
ἄδικα δικαίοις τὸν σοφὸν συμμιγνύναι,
unjust with-just the wise-man to-mix
εὐδαιμονοῦντας δ᾽ εἰς δόμους κτᾶσθαι φίλους.
prospering and to house to-acquire friends
κοινὰς γὰρ ὁ θεὸς τὰς τύχας ἡγούμενος
common for the god the fortunes considering
τοῖς τοῦ νοσοῦντος πήμασιν διώλεσε
by-the of-the sick-one woes destroyed
τὸν συννοσοῦντα κοὐδὲν ἠδικηκότα.
the fellow-sufferer and-nothing having-done-wrong
εἰς δὲ στρατείαν πάντας Ἀργείους ἄγων,
to and expedition all Argives leading
μάντεων λεγόντων θέσφατ᾽, εἶτ᾽ ἀτιμάσας
seers saying oracles then having-dishonored

βίᾳ παρελθὼν θεοὺς ἀπώλεσας πόλιν,
by-force having-overridden gods you-destroyed city
νέοις παραχθείς, οἵτινες τιμώμενοι
by-young-men led-astray who being-honored
χαίρουσι πολέμους τ᾽ αὐξάνουσ᾽ ἄνευ δίκης,
rejoice wars and increase without justice
φθείροντες ἀστούς, ὁ μὲν ὅπως στρατηλατῇ,
corrupting citizens one indeed so-that he-may-be-general
ὁ δ᾽ ὡς ὑβρίζῃ δύναμιν εἰς χεῖρας λαβών,
another and so-that he-may-be-insolent power into hands having-taken
ἄλλος δὲ κέρδους εἵνεκ᾽, οὐκ ἀποσκοπῶν
another and of-gain for-the-sake not considering
τὸ πλῆθος εἴ τι βλάπτεται πάσχον τάδε.
the multitude if in-any-way is-harmed suffering these-things
τρεῖς γὰρ πολιτῶν μερίδες· οἱ μὲν ὄλβιοι
three for of-citizens parts the indeed wealthy
ἀνωφελεῖς τε πλειόνων τ᾽ ἐρῶσ᾽ ἀεί·
useless and of-more and desire always
οἱ δ᾽ οὐκ ἔχοντες καὶ σπανίζοντες βίου,
the and not having and lacking of-livelihood
δεινοί, νέμοντες τῷ φθόνῳ πλέον μέρος,
terrible allotting to-the envy more share
εἰς τοὺς ἔχοντας κέντρ᾽ ἀφιᾶσιν κακά,
against the having stings they-let-fly evil
γλώσσαις πονηρῶν προστατῶν φηλούμενοι·
by-tongues of-wicked leaders deceived
τριῶν δὲ μοιρῶν ἡ ᾽ν μέσῳ σῴζει πόλεις,
of-three and of-parts the in middle saves cities
κόσμον φυλάσσουσ᾽ ὅντιν᾽ ἂν τάξῃ πόλις.
order guarding whatever — sets city

κἄπειτ᾽ ἐγώ σοι σύμμαχος γενήσομαι;
and-then I to-you ally shall-become
τί πρὸς πολίτας τοὺς ἐμοὺς λέγων καλόν;
what to citizens the my saying fair
χαίρων ἴθ᾽· εἰ γὰρ μὴ βεβούλευσαι καλῶς,
rejoicing go if for not you-have-counseled well
αὐτὸς πιέζειν τὴν τύχην, ἡμᾶς δ᾽ ἐᾶν.
yourself to-press-on the fortune us but to-let-be
250 ΧΟΡΟΣ ἥμαρτεν· ἐν νέοισι δ᾽ ἀνθρώπων τόδε
he-erred among young-men and of-men this
ἔνεστι· συγγνώμην δὲ τῷδ᾽ ἔχειν χρεών.
is-present pardon and to-this-one to-have must
ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ οὔτοι δικαστήν σ᾽ εἱλόμην ἐμῶν κακῶν,
surely-not as-judge you I-chose of-my evils
ἀλλ᾽ ὡς ἰατρὸν τῶνδ᾽, ἄναξ, ἀφίγμεθα,
but as healer of-these lord we-have-come
οὐδ᾽, εἴ τι πράξας μὴ καλῶς εὑρίσκομαι,
nor if something having-done not well I-am-found
255 τούτων κολαστὴν κἀπιτιμητήν, ἄναξ,
of-these punisher and-censurer lord
ἀλλ᾽ ὡς ὀναίμην. εἰ δὲ μὴ βούλει τάδε,
but so-that I-might-benefit if but not you-wish these-things
στέργειν ἀνάγκη τοῖσι σοῖς· τί γὰρ πάθω;
to-acquiesce necessity in-the your what for shall-I-suffer
ἄγ᾽, ὦ γεραιαί, στείχετε, γλαυκὴν χλόην
come O old-women go gray foliage
αὐτοῦ λιποῦσαι φυλλάδος καταστεφῆ,
there having-left of-leafage wreathed
260 θεούς τε καὶ γῆν τήν τε πυρφόρον θεὰν
gods both and earth the and fire-bearing goddess

Δήμητρα θέμεναι μάρτυρ' ἡλίου τε φῶς,
Demeter having-made witness of-sun and light
ὡς οὐδὲν ἡμῖν ἤρκεσαν λιταὶ θεῶν.
that nothing to-us availed prayers to-gods

ΧΟΡΟΣ ***
(lacuna)

ὃς Πέλοπος ἦν παῖς, Πελοπίας δ' ἡμεῖς χθονὸς
who of-Pelops was son Pelopian and we of-land
ταὐτὸν πατρῷον αἷμα σοὶ κεκτήμεθα.
the-same paternal blood with-you we-possess

ΑΙΘΡΑ τί δρᾷς; προδώσεις ταῦτα κἀκβαλεῖς χθονὸς 265
what are-you-doing will-you-betray these-things and-cast-out from-land
γραῦς οὐ τυχούσας οὐδὲν ὧν αὐτὰς ἐχρῆν;
old-women not having-obtained nothing of-what them it-was-right
μὴ δῆτ'· ἔχει γὰρ καταφυγὴν θὴρ μὲν πέτραν,
not indeed has for refuge beast indeed rock
δοῦλος δὲ βωμοὺς θεῶν, πόλις δὲ πρὸς πόλιν
slave and altars of-gods city and to city
ἔπτηξε χειμασθεῖσα· τῶν γὰρ ἐν βροτοῖς
cowers storm-tossed of-the for among mortals
οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδὲν διὰ τέλους εὐδαιμονοῦν. 270
not is nothing through end prospering

ΧΟΡΟΣ βᾶθι, τάλαιν', ἱερῶν δαπέδων ἄπο Περσεφονείας,
go wretched holy grounds from of-Persephone
βᾶθι καὶ ἀντίασον γονάτων ἔπι χεῖρα βαλοῦσα,
go and meet knees to hand having-cast
τέκνων τεθνεώτων κομίσαι δέμας, ὦ μελέα 'γώ,
of-children dead to-recover body O wretched I
οὓς ὑπὸ τείχεσι Καδμείοισιν ἀπώλεσα κούρους.
whom under walls Cadmean I-lost sons

ἰώ μοι· λάβετε φέρετε πέμπετε ἀείρετε
oh me take carry send raise
ταλαίνας χέρας γεραιάς.
wretched hands old
πρός σε γενειάδος, ὦ φίλος, ὦ δοκιμώτατος Ἑλλάδι,
by you beard O dear O most-esteemed in-Hellas
ἄντομαι ἀμφιπίτνουσα τὸ σὸν γόνυ καὶ χέρα δειλαία·
I-entreat falling-about the your knee and hand wretched
οἴκτισαι ἀμφὶ τέκνων μ' ἱκέταν τιν' ἀλάταν
pity about children me suppliant some wanderer
οἰκτρὸν ἰάλεμον οἰκτρὸν ἱεῖσαν,
piteous lament piteous sending-forth
μηδ' ἀτάφους, τέκνον, ἐν χθονὶ Κάδμου χάρματα θηρῶν
nor unburied child in land of-Cadmus delights of-beasts
παῖδας ἐν ἁλικίᾳ τᾷ σᾷ κατίδῃς, ἱκετεύω.
sons in age the your see I-supplicate
βλέψον ἐμῶν βλεφάρων ἔπι δάκρυον, ἃ περὶ σοῖσι
look of-my eyelids at tear who around your
γούνασιν ὧδε πίτνω, τέκνοις τάφον ἐξανύσασθαι.
knees so I-fall for-children burial to-accomplish
ΘΗΣΕΤΣ μῆτερ, τί κλαίεις λέπτ' ἐπ' ὀμμάτων φάρη
mother why do-you-weep fine over eyes robes
βαλοῦσα τῶν σῶν; ἆρα δυστήνους γόους
having-cast the your — wretched laments
κλύουσα τῶνδε; κἀμὲ γὰρ διῆλθέ τι.
hearing of-these and-me for went-through something
ἔπαιρε λευκὸν κρᾶτα, μὴ δακρυρρόει
lift white head not shed-tears
σεμναῖσι Δηοῦς ἐσχάραις παρημένη.
holy of-Deo hearths sitting-beside

ΑΙΘΡΑ αἰαῖ. ΘΗΣΕΤΣ τὰ τούτων οὐχὶ σοὶ στενακτέον.
alas the of-these not for-you to-be-lamented

ΑΙΘΡΑ ὦ τλήμονες γυναῖκες. ΘΗΣΕΤΣ οὐ σὺ τῶνδ' ἔφυς.
O wretched women not you of-these were

ΑΙΘΡΑ εἴπω τι, τέκνον, σοί τε καὶ πόλει καλόν;
shall-I-say something child to-you both and to-city fine

ΘΗΣΕΤΣ ὡς πολλά γ' ἐστὶ κἀπὸ θηλειῶν σοφά.
since many at-least are even-from women wise-things

ΑΙΘΡΑ ἀλλ' εἰς ὄκνον μοι μῦθος ὃν κεύθω φέρει. 295
but into hesitation for-me word which I-hide brings

ΘΗΣΕΤΣ αἰσχρόν γ' ἔλεξας, χρήστ' ἔπη κρύπτειν φίλοις.
shameful at-least you-said good words to-hide from-friends

ΑΙΘΡΑ οὔτοι σιωπῶσ' εἶτα μέμψομαί ποτε
surely-not being-silent then I-shall-blame-myself ever

τὴν νῦν σιωπὴν ὡς ἐσιγήθη κακῶς,
the now silence as was-kept-silent wrongly

οὐδ' ὡς ἀχρεῖον τὰς γυναῖκας εὖ λέγειν
nor as useless the women well to-speak

δείσασ' ἀφήσω τῷ φόβῳ τοὐμὸν καλόν. 300
fearing shall-I-let-go by-the fear my good

ἐγὼ δέ σ', ὦ παῖ, πρῶτα μὲν τὰ τῶν θεῶν
I but you O son first indeed the of-the gods

σκοπεῖν κελεύω μὴ σφαλῇς ἀτιμάσας·
to-consider bid lest you-err having-dishonored

τἄλλ' εὖ φρονῶν γάρ, ἐν μόνῳ τούτῳ 'σφάλης.
in-other-things well thinking for in only this you-erred

πρὸς τοῖσδε δ', εἰ μὲν μὴ ἀδικουμένοις ἐχρῆν
to these and if indeed not to-the-wronged it-was-necessary

τολμηρὸν εἶναι, κάρτ' ἂν εἶχον ἡσύχως· 305
bold to-be very — I-would-have-kept quietly

νυνὶ δὲ σοί τε τοῦτο τὴν τιμὴν φέρει
now but to-you and this the honor brings
κἀμοὶ παραινεῖν οὐ φόβον φέρει, τέκνον,
and-to-me to-advise not fear brings child
ἄνδρας βιαίους καὶ κατείργοντας νεκροὺς
men violent and preventing corpses
τάφου τε μοίρας καὶ κτερισμάτων λαχεῖν
of-burial and share and of-funeral-rites to-obtain
εἰς τήνδ' ἀνάγκην σῇ καταστῆναι χερί,
into this necessity by-your to-be-brought hand
νόμιμά τε πάσης συγχέοντας Ἑλλάδος
customs and of-all confounding of-Hellas
παῦσαι· τὸ γάρ τοι συνέχον ἀνθρώπων πόλεις
stop the for surely holding-together of-men cities
τοῦτ' ἔσθ', ὅταν τις τοὺς νόμους σῴζῃ καλῶς.
this is when anyone the laws keeps well
ἐρεῖ δὲ δή τις ὡς ἀνανδρίᾳ χερῶν,
will-say and indeed someone that through-cowardice of-hands
πόλει παρόν σοι στέφανον εὐκλείας λαβεῖν,
for-city it-being-possible for-you crown of-glory to-take
δείσας ἀπέστης, καὶ συὸς μὲν ἀγρίου
fearing you-stood-aside and of-boar indeed savage
ἀγῶνος ἥψω φαῦλον ἀθλήσας πόνον,
contest you-touched mean having-labored toil
οὗ δ' εἰς κράνος βλέψαντα καὶ λόγχης ἀκμὴν
where and to helmet looking and of-spear point
χρῆν ἐκπονῆσαι, δειλὸς ὢν ἐφηυρέθης.
it-was-necessary to-accomplish coward being you-were-found
μὴ δῆτ' ἐμός γ' ὤν, ὦ τέκνον, δράσῃς τάδε.
not indeed mine at-least being O child do these-things

ὁρᾷς, ἄβουλος ὡς κεκερτομημένη
you-see unadvised how mocked
τοῖς κερτομοῦσι γοργὸν ὄμμ' ἀναβλέπει
at-the mocking fierce eye looks-up
σὴ πατρίς; ἐν γὰρ τοῖς πόνοισιν αὔξεται·
your fatherland in for the toils grows
αἱ δ' ἥσυχοι σκοτεινὰ πράσσουσαι πόλεις
the but quiet darkly faring cities
σκοτεινὰ καὶ βλέπουσιν εὐλαβούμεναι.
darkly also look being-cautious
οὐκ εἶ νεκροῖσι καὶ γυναιξὶν ἀθλίαις
not will-you-go for-the-dead and for-women wretched
προσωφελήσων, ὦ τέκνον, κεχρημέναις;
to-help O child being-in-need
ὡς οὔτε ταρβῶ σὺν δίκῃ σ' ὁρμώμενον,
since neither do-I-fear with justice you setting-out
Κάδμου θ' ὁρῶσα λαὸν εὖ πεπραγότα,
of-Cadmus and seeing people well having-fared
ἔτ' αὐτὸν ἄλλα βλήματ' ἐν κύβοις βαλεῖν
still them other throws in dice to-cast
πέποιθ'· ὁ γὰρ θεὸς πάντ' ἀναστρέφει πάλιν.
I-trust the for god all-things turns back
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ φιλτάτη μοι, τῷδέ τ' εἴρηκας καλῶς
O dearest to-me to-this-one and you-have-spoken well
κἀμοί· διπλοῦν δὲ χάρμα γίγνεται τόδε.
and-to-me double and delight becomes this
ΘΗΣΕΤΣ ἐμοὶ λόγοι μέν, μῆτερ, οἱ λελεγμένοι
to-me words indeed mother the spoken
ὀρθῶς ἔχουσ' εἰς τόνδε, κἀπεφηνάμην
rightly having against this-one and-I-declared

γνώμην ὑφ᾽ οἵων ἐσφάλη βουλευμάτων·
judgment by what-sort he-erred of-counsels
ὁρῶ δὲ κἀγὼ ταῦθ᾽ ἅπερ με νουθετεῖς,
I-see and also-I these-things which me you-warn
ὡς τοῖς ἐμοῖσιν οὐχὶ πρόσφορον τρόποις
that to-the my not fitting to-ways
φεύγειν τὰ δεινά. πολλὰ γὰρ δράσας καλά,
to-flee the terrible-things many for having-done fine-things
ἔθος τόδ᾽ εἰς Ἕλληνας ἐξεδειξάμην,
custom this to Greeks I-displayed
ἀεὶ κολαστὴς τῶν κακῶν καθεστάναι.
always punisher of-the evil to-stand
οὔκουν ἀπαυδᾶν δυνατόν ἐστί μοι πόνους.
not-then to-refuse possible is for-me toils
τί γάρ μ᾽ ἐροῦσιν οἵ γε δυσμενεῖς βροτῶν,
what for me will-say they at-least hostile of-mortals
ὅθ᾽ ἡ τεκοῦσα χὑπερορρωδοῦσ᾽ ἐμοῦ
when the having-borne-me and-fearing-greatly for-me
πρώτη κελεύεις τόνδ᾽ ὑποστῆναι πόνον;
first you-bid this to-undertake toil
δράσω τάδ᾽· εἶμι καὶ νεκροὺς ἐκλύσομαι
I-will-do these-things I-will-go and corpses I-will-free
λόγοισι πείθων· εἰ δὲ μή, βίᾳ δορὸς
with-words persuading if but not by-force of-spear
ἤδη τόδ᾽ ἔσται κοὐχὶ σὺν φθόνῳ θεῶν.
already this will-be and-not with envy of-gods
δόξαι δὲ χρῄζω καὶ πόλει πάσῃ τόδε.
to-seem-good and I-want and to-city all this
δόξει δ᾽ ἐμοῦ θέλοντος· ἀλλὰ τοῦ λόγου
it-will-seem-good and of-me wishing but the word

προσδοὺς ἔχοιμ᾽ ἂν δῆμον εὐμενέστερον.
having-given-also I-would-have — people more-well-disposed
καὶ γὰρ κατέστησ᾽ αὐτὸν εἰς μοναρχίαν
and for I-established them into monarchy
ἐλευθερώσας τήνδ᾽ ἰσόψηφον πόλιν.
having-freed this equal-voting city
λαβὼν δ᾽ Ἄδραστον δεῖγμα τῶν ἐμῶν λόγων,
having-taken and Adrastus proof of-the my of-words
εἰς πλῆθος ἀστῶν εἶμι· καὶ πείσας τάδε, 355
to crowd of-citizens I-will-go and having-persuaded these-things
λεκτοὺς ἀθροίσας δεῦρ᾽ Ἀθηναίων κόρους
chosen having-assembled here of-Athenians youths
ἥξω· παρ᾽ ὅπλοις θ᾽ ἥμενος πέμψω λόγους
I-will-come by arms and sitting I-will-send words
Κρέοντι νεκρῶν σώματ᾽ ἐξαιτούμενος.
to-Creon of-corpses bodies asking-back
ἀλλ᾽ ὦ γεραιαί, σέμν᾽ ἀφαιρεῖτε στέφη
but O old-women holy remove wreaths
μητρός, πρὸς οἴκους ὥς νιν Αἰγέως ἄγω, 360
of-mother to house so-that her of-Aegeus I-may-lead
φίλην προσάψας χεῖρα· τοῖς τεκοῦσι γὰρ
dear having-fastened hand to-the having-borne for
δύστηνος ὅστις μὴ ἀντιδουλεύει τέκνων.
wretched whoever not serves-in-return children
κάλλιστον ἔρανον δοὺς γὰρ ἀντιλάζυται
fairest contribution having-given for receives-in-return
παίδων παρ᾽ αὐτοῦ τοιάδ᾽ ἂν τοκεῦσι δῷ.
from-children from him such-things whatever to-parents he-gives

The mothers pray that Athens, honoring the gods, may defend them and win back their sons' bodies, and that the city of Pallas may protect the laws of mortals.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἱππόβοτον Ἄργος, ὦ πάτριον ἐμὸν πέδον,
horse-pasturing Argos O paternal my plain
ἐκλύετε τάδ' ἐκλύετ' ἄνακτος
you-heard these-things you-heard of-the-lord
ὅσια περὶ θεοὺς καὶ μεγάλᾳ Πελασγίᾳ
holy-things concerning gods and for-great Pelasgia
καὶ κατ' Ἄργος.
and throughout Argos
εἰ γὰρ ἐπὶ τέρμα καὶ τὸ πλέον ἐμῶν κακῶν
if for to end and the more of-my evils
ἱκόμενος ἔτι ματέρος ἄγαλμα
having-come still of-mother adornment
φόνιον ἐξέλοι, γᾶν δὲ φίλιον Ἰνάχου
bloody he-might-remove land and friendly of-Inachus
θεῖτ' ὀνήσας.
might-make having-benefited
καλὸν δ' ἄγαλμα πόλεσιν εὐσεβὴς πόνος
fair and adornment for-cities pious toil
χάριν τ' ἔχει τὰν ἐς ἀεί.
gratitude and has the for always
τί μοι πόλις κρανεῖ ποτ'; ἆρα φίλιά μοι
what for-me city will-ordain ever — friendship for-me
τεμεῖ, καὶ τέκνοις ταφὰς ληψόμεσθα;
will-it-strike and for-children burials shall-we-obtain

ἄμυνε ματρί, πόλις, ἄμυνε, Παλλάδος,
defend mother city defend of-Pallas
νόμους βροτῶν μὴ μιαίνειν.
laws of-mortals not to-defile
σύ τοι σέβεις δίκαν, τὸ δ' ἧσσον ἀδικίᾳ
you surely revere justice the and lesser to-injustice
νέμεις, δυστυχῆ τ' ἀεὶ πάντα ῥύει.
you-allot unfortunate and always all you-rescue

V · DEMOCRACY AND TYRANNY

Theseus is sending his own herald to Creon when a Theban herald arrives asking for the tyrant of the land. Theseus answers that Athens is free and its people rule in turn, and they debate the merits of democracy and tyranny. The herald forbids Athens to receive Adrastus or recover the bodies, warning that peace is better than war. Theseus insists on the law of all Greeks that the dead be buried, and sets out with his army.

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ τέχνην μὲν ἀεὶ τήνδ' ἔχων ὑπηρετεῖς
craft indeed always this having you-serve
πόλει τε κἀμοί, διαφέρων κηρύγματα·
for-city and and-me carrying-about proclamations
ἐλθὼν δ' ὑπέρ τ' Ἀσωπὸν Ἰσμηνοῦ θ' ὕδωρ
going and beyond and Asopus of-Ismenus and water
σεμνῷ τυράννῳ φράζε Καδμείων τάδε·
to-holy king tell of-Cadmeans these-things
Θησεύς σ' ἀπαιτεῖ πρὸς χάριν θάψαι νεκρούς,
Theseus you asks as favor to-bury corpses
συγγείτον' οἰκῶν γαῖαν, ἀξιῶν τυχεῖν,
neighboring dwelling land deeming-worthy to-obtain

φίλον τε θέσθαι πάντ' Ἐρεχθειδῶν λεών.
friend and to-make all of-Erechtheids people
κἂν μὲν θέλωσιν αἰνέσαι, παλίσσυτος
and-if indeed they-are-willing to-consent back-again
στεῖχ'· ἢν δ' ἀπιστῶσ', οἵδε δεύτεροι λόγοι·
go if but they-distrust these second words
κῶμον δέχεσθαι τὸν ἐμὸν ἀσπιδηφόρον.
revel to-receive the my shield-bearing
στρατὸς δὲ θάσσει κἀξετάζεται παρὼν
army and sits and-is-reviewed being-present
Καλλίχορον ἀμφὶ σεμνὸν εὐτρεπὴς ὅδε.
Callichorus about holy ready here
καὶ μὴν ἑκοῦσά γ' ἀσμένη τ' ἐδέξατο
and indeed willing at-least gladly and received
πόλις πόνον τόνδ', ὡς θέλοντά μ' ᾔσθετο.
city toil this when wishing me it-perceived
ἔα· λόγων τίς ἐμποδὼν ὅδ' ἔρχεται;
ha of-words who in-the-way this-one comes
Καδμεῖος, ὡς ἔοικεν οὐ σάφ' εἰδότι.
Cadmean as seems to-one-not clearly knowing
κῆρυξ. ἐπίσχες, ἤν σ' ἀπαλλάξῃ πόνου
herald wait if you he-may-release from-toil
μολὼν ὕπαντα τοῖς ἐμοῖς βουλεύμασιν.
coming to-meet to-the my plans
ΚΗΡΥΞ τίς γῆς τύραννος; πρὸς τίν' ἀγγεῖλαί με χρὴ
who of-land king to whom to-announce me must
λόγους Κρέοντος, ὃς κρατεῖ Κάδμου χθονός,
words of-Creon who rules of-Cadmus land
Ἐτεοκλέους θανόντος ἀμφ' ἑπταστόμους
of-Eteocles having-died at seven-mouthed

πύλας ἀδελφοῦ χειρὶ Πολυνείκους ὕπο;
gates of-brother hand of-Polynices by
ΘΗΣΕΤΣ πρῶτον μὲν ἦρξω τοῦ λόγου ψευδῶς, ξένε,
first indeed you-began the speech falsely stranger
ζητῶν τύραννον ἐνθάδ'· οὐ γὰρ ἄρχεται
seeking king here not for is-ruled
ἑνὸς πρὸς ἀνδρός, ἀλλ' ἐλευθέρα πόλις.
one by man but free city
δῆμος δ' ἀνάσσει διαδοχαῖσιν ἐν μέρει
people and rules by-successions in turn
ἐνιαυσίαισιν, οὐχὶ τῷ πλούτῳ διδοὺς
annual not to-the wealth giving
τὸ πλεῖστον, ἀλλὰ χὠ πένης ἔχων ἴσον.
the most but and-the poor-man having equal
ΚΗΡΥΞ ἓν μὲν τόδ' ἡμῖν ὥσπερ ἐν πεσσοῖς δίδως
one indeed this to-us as-it-were in checkers you-give
κρεῖσσον· πόλις γὰρ ἧς ἐγὼ πάρειμ' ἄπο
advantage city for of-which I come from
ἑνὸς πρὸς ἀνδρός, οὐκ ὄχλῳ κρατύνεται·
one by man not by-mob is-ruled
οὐδ' ἔστιν αὐτὴν ὅστις ἐκχαυνῶν λόγοις
nor is-there it who puffing-up with-words
πρὸς κέρδος ἴδιον ἄλλοτ' ἄλλοσε στρέφει·
to gain private now-here now-there turns
ὁ δ' αὐτίχ' ἡδὺς καὶ διδοὺς πολλὴν χάριν,
he and at-once pleasant and giving much favor
εἰσαῦθις ἔβλαψ', εἶτα διαβολαῖς νέαις
later harmed then with-slanders new
κλέψας τὰ πρόσθε σφάλματ' ἐξέδυ δίκης.
having-concealed the former errors slipped-out of-justice

ἄλλως τε πῶς ἂν μὴ διορθεύων λόγους
otherwise and how — not straightening words
ὀρθῶς δύναιτ' ἂν δῆμος εὐθύνειν πόλιν;
rightly could — people to-steer city
ὁ γὰρ χρόνος μάθησιν ἀντὶ τοῦ τάχους
the for time learning instead-of the haste
κρείσσω δίδωσι. γαπόνος δ' ἀνὴρ πένης
better gives farmer and man poor
εἰ καὶ γένοιτο μὴ ἀμαθής, ἔργων ὕπο
if even he-should-be not unlearned works by
οὐκ ἂν δύναιτο πρὸς τὰ κοίν' ἀποβλέπειν.
not — could to the common-things to-look
ἦ δὴ νοσῶδες τοῦτο τοῖς ἀμείνοσιν,
surely indeed sickly this for-the better
ὅταν πονηρὸς ἀξίωμ' ἀνὴρ ἔχῃ
when wicked rank man has
γλώσσῃ κατασχὼν δῆμον, οὐδὲν ὢν τὸ πρίν.
with-tongue having-possessed people nothing being the before
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ κομψός γ' ὁ κῆρυξ καὶ παρεργάτης λόγων.
clever at-least the herald and side-worker of-words
ἐπεὶ δ' ἀγῶνα καὶ σὺ τόνδ' ἠγωνίσω,
since and contest also you this contested
ἄκου'· ἄμιλλαν γὰρ σὺ προύθηκας λόγων.
hear contest for you proposed of-words
οὐδὲν τυράννου δυσμενέστερον πόλει,
nothing than-tyrant more-hostile to-city
ὅπου τὸ μὲν πρώτιστον οὐκ εἰσὶν νόμοι
where the indeed first-of-all not are laws
κοινοί, κρατεῖ δ' εἷς τὸν νόμον κεκτημένος
common rules and one the law having-acquired

αὐτὸς παρ᾽ αὑτῷ, καὶ τόδ᾽ οὐκέτ᾽ ἔστ᾽ ἴσον.
himself by himself and this no-longer is equal
γεγραμμένων δὲ τῶν νόμων ὅ τ᾽ ἀσθενὴς
written and the laws the and weak
ὁ πλούσιός τε τὴν δίκην ἴσην ἔχει,
the rich and the justice equal has
ἔστιν δ᾽ ἐνισπεῖν τοῖσιν ἀσθενεστέροις
it-is-possible and to-speak for-the weaker
τὸν εὐτυχοῦντα ταὔθ᾽, ὅταν κλύῃ κακῶς.
the prospering the-same-things when he-hears badly
νικᾷ δ᾽ ὁ μείων τὸν μέγαν δίκαι᾽ ἔχων.
wins and the lesser the great just-things having
τοὐλεύθερον δ᾽ ἐκεῖνο· Τίς θέλει πόλει
the-freedom and that Who wishes for-city
χρηστόν τι βούλευμ᾽ εἰς μέσον φέρειν ἔχων;
useful some counsel into middle to-bring having
καὶ ταῦθ᾽ ὁ χρῄζων λαμπρός ἐσθ᾽, ὁ μὴ θέλων
and in-this the wanting brilliant is the not wishing
σιγᾷ. τί τούτων ἔστ᾽ ἰσαίτερον πόλει;
is-silent what than-these is more-equal for-city
καὶ μὴν ὅπου γε δῆμος εὐθυντὴς χθονός,
and indeed where at-least people steerer of-land
ὑποῦσιν ἀστοῖς ἥδεται νεανίαις·
being-subject in-citizens rejoices in-youths
ἀνὴρ δὲ βασιλεὺς ἐχθρὸν ἡγεῖται τόδε,
man but king hostile considers this
καὶ τοὺς ἀρίστους, οὓς ἂν ἡγῆται φρονεῖν
and the best whom — he-thinks to-be-wise
κτείνει, δεδοικὼς τῆς τυραννίδος πέρι.
kills fearing the tyranny concerning

πῶς οὖν ἔτ' ἂν γένοιτ' ἂν ἰσχυρὰ πόλις,
how then still — might-be — strong city
ὅταν τις ὡς λειμῶνος ἠρινοῦ στάχυν
when anyone as of-meadow spring ear
τόλμας ἀφαιρῇ κἀπολωτίζῃ νέους;
daring-ones should-remove and-should-lop youths
κτᾶσθαι δὲ πλοῦτον καὶ βίον τί δεῖ τέκνοις,
to-acquire and wealth and livelihood why must for-children
ὡς τῷ τυράννῳ πλείον' ἐκμοχθῇ βίον;
so-that for-the tyrant more may-toil-out livelihood
ἢ παρθενεύειν παῖδας ἐν δόμοις καλῶς,
or to-keep-maiden daughters in house fairly
τερπνὰς τυράννοις ἡδονάς, ὅταν θέλῃ,
delightful for-tyrants pleasures when he-wishes
δάκρυα δ' ἑτοιμάζουσι; μὴ ζῴην ἔτι,
tears and preparing not may-I-live longer
εἰ τἀμὰ τέκνα πρὸς βίαν νυμφεύσεται.
if my children by force shall-be-wed
καὶ ταῦτα μὲν δὴ πρὸς τὰ σὰ ἐξηκόντισα.
and these-things indeed indeed against the your I-hurled
ἥκεις δὲ δὴ τί τῆσδε γῆς κεχρημένος;
you-come and indeed what of-this land needing
κλαίων γ' ἂν ἦλθες, εἴ σε μὴ 'πεμψεν πόλις,
weeping at-least — you-would-have-come if you not sent city
περισσὰ φωνῶν· τὸν γὰρ ἄγγελον χρεὼν
superfluous-things speaking the for messenger must
λέξαντ' ὅσ' ἂν τάξῃ τις ὡς τάχος πάλιν
having-said what-things — orders someone as quickly back
χωρεῖν. τὸ λοιπὸν δ' εἰς ἐμὴν πόλιν Κρέων
to-go the hereafter and to my city Creon

ἧσσον λάλον σου πεμπέτω τιν᾽ ἄγγελον.
less talkative than-you let-him-send some messenger

ΧΟΡΟΣ φεῦ φεῦ· κακοῖσιν ὡς ὅταν δαίμων διδῷ
alas alas to-evil-men how when fate gives

καλῶς, ὑβρίζουσ᾽ ὡς ἀεὶ πράξοντες εὖ.
well they-are-insolent as always about-to-fare well

ΚΗΡΥΞ λέγοιμ᾽ ἂν ἤδη. τῶν μὲν ἠγωνισμένων
I-would-say — already of-the indeed contested

σοὶ μὲν δοκείτω ταῦτ᾽, ἐμοὶ δὲ τἀντία.
to-you indeed let-seem these-things to-me but the-opposite

ἐγὼ δ᾽ ἀπαυδῶ πᾶς τε Καδμεῖος λεὼς
I and forbid all and Cadmean people

Ἄδραστον εἰς γῆν τήνδε μὴ παριέναι·
Adrastus into land this not to-admit

εἰ δ᾽ ἔστιν ἐν γῇ, πρὶν θεοῦ δῦναι σέλας,
if but he-is in land before of-god to-set light

λύσαντα σεμνὰ στεμμάτων μυστήρια
having-loosed holy of-wreaths mysteries

τῆσδ᾽ ἐξελαύνειν, μηδ᾽ ἀναιρεῖσθαι νεκροὺς
from-this to-drive-out nor to-take-up corpses

βίᾳ, προσήκοντ᾽ οὐδὲν Ἀργείων πόλει.
by-force belonging nothing of-Argives to-city

κἂν μὲν πίθῃ μοι, κυμάτων ἄτερ πόλιν
and-if indeed you-obey me of-waves without city

σὴν ναυστολήσεις· εἰ δὲ μή, πολὺς κλύδων
your you-will-steer if but not great surge

ἡμῖν τε καὶ σοὶ συμμάχοις τ᾽ ἔσται δορός.
for-us both and for-you for-allies and will-be of-spear

σκέψαι δὲ, καὶ μὴ τοῖς ἐμοῖς θυμούμενος
consider and and not at-the my being-angry

λόγοισιν, ὡς δὴ πόλιν ἐλευθέραν ἔχων,
words as indeed city free having
σφριγῶντ' ἀμείψῃ μῦθον ἐκ βραχιόνων.
swelling you-should-answer word from arms
ἐλπὶς γάρ ἐστ' ἄπιστον, ἣ πολλὰς πόλεις
hope for is untrustworthy which many cities
συνῆψ', ἄγουσα θυμὸν εἰς ὑπερβολάς.
joined leading spirit into excesses
ὅταν γὰρ ἔλθῃ πόλεμος εἰς ψῆφον λεώ,
when for comes war to vote of-people
οὐδεὶς ἔθ' αὑτοῦ θάνατον ἐκλογίζεται,
no-one still of-himself death reckons
τὸ δυστυχὲς δὲ τοῦτ' ἐς ἄλλον ἐκτρέπει·
the misfortune but this to another turns-aside
εἰ δ' ἦν παρ' ὄμμα θάνατος ἐν ψήφου φορᾷ,
if but was before eye death in of-vote casting
οὐκ ἄν ποθ' Ἑλλὰς δοριμανὴς ἀπώλλυτο.
not — ever Hellas spear-mad would-be-destroyed
καίτοι δυοῖν γε πάντες ἄνθρωποι λόγοιν
and-yet of-two at-least all men of-words
τὸν κρείσσον' ἴσμεν καὶ τὰ χρηστὰ καὶ κακά,
the better we-know both the good and evil
ὅσῳ τε πολέμου κρεῖσσον εἰρήνη βροτοῖς·
how-much and than-war better peace for-mortals
ἣ πρῶτα μὲν Μούσαισι προσφιλεστάτη,
who first indeed to-Muses most-dear
Ποιναῖσι δ' ἐχθρά, τέρπεται δ' εὐπαιδίᾳ,
to-Avengers but hostile delights and in-fair-offspring
χαίρει δὲ πλούτῳ. ταῦτ' ἀφέντες οἱ κακοὶ
rejoices and in-wealth these having-let-go the evil

πολέμους ἀναιρούμεσθα καὶ τὸν ἥσσονα
wars we-take-up and the weaker
δουλούμεθ', ἄνδρες ἄνδρα καὶ πόλις πόλιν.
we-enslave men man and city city
σὺ δ' ἄνδρας ἐχθροὺς καὶ θανόντας ὠφελεῖς,
you but men hostile and dead benefit
θάπτων κομίζων θ' ὕβρις οὓς ἀπώλεσεν.
burying bringing and insolence whom destroyed
οὔ τἄρ' ἔτ' ὀρθῶς Καπανέως κεραύνιον
not then still rightly of-Capaneus thunder-struck
δέμας καπνοῦται, κλιμάκων ὀρθοστάτας
body smokes of-ladders upright-shafts
ὃς προσβαλὼν πύλαισιν ὤμοσεν πόλιν
who having-attacked to-gates swore city
πέρσειν θεοῦ θέλοντος ἤν τε μὴ θέλῃ,
to-sack god willing if and not he-wills
οὐδ' ἥρπασεν χάρυβδις οἰωνοσκόπον,
nor snatched chasm the-augur
τέθριππον ἅρμα περιβαλοῦσα χάσματι,
four-horse chariot having-enfolded with-gulf
ἄλλοι τε κεῖνται πρὸς πύλαις λοχαγέται
others and lie at gates captains
πέτροις καταξανθέντες ὀστέων ῥαφάς.
by-stones crushed of-bones seams
ἤ νυν φρονεῖν ἄμεινον ἐξαύχει Διός,
either now to-be-wise better boast than-Zeus
ἢ θεοὺς δικαίως τοὺς κακοὺς ἀπολλύναι.
or gods justly the evil to-destroy
φιλεῖν μὲν οὖν χρὴ τοὺς σοφοὺς πρῶτον τέκνα,
to-love indeed then must the wise first children

ἔπειτα τοκέας πατρίδα θ', ἣν αὔξειν χρεὼν
then parents fatherland and which to-increase must
καὶ μὴ κατᾶξαι. σφαλερὸν ἡγεμὼν θρασὺς
and not to-shatter dangerous leader rash
νεώς τε ναύτης· ἥσυχος καιρῷ σοφός.
of-ship and sailor quiet in-season wise
καὶ τοῦτό τοι τἀνδρεῖον, ἡ προμηθία.
and this surely the-courage the forethought
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐξαρκέσας ἦν Ζεὺς ὁ τιμωρούμενος,
having-sufficed was Zeus the avenging
ὑμᾶς δ' ὑβρίζειν οὐκ ἐχρῆν τοιάνδ' ὕβριν.
you and to-commit-outrage not it-was-right such outrage
ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ὦ παγκάκιστε — ΘΗΣΕΥΣ σῖγ', Ἄδραστ', ἔχε στόμα,
O utterly-vile be-silent Adrastus hold mouth
καὶ μὴ 'πίπροσθεν τῶν ἐμῶν τοὺς σοὺς λόγους
and not before the my the your words
θῇς· οὐ γὰρ ἥκει πρὸς σὲ κηρύσσων ὅδε,
put not for comes to you proclaiming this-one
ἀλλ' ὡς ἔμ'· ἡμᾶς κἀποκρίνασθαι χρεών.
but to me us and-to-answer must
καὶ πρῶτα μέν σε πρὸς τὰ πρῶτ' ἀμείψομαι.
and first indeed you to the first-things I-will-answer
οὐκ οἶδ' ἐγὼ Κρέοντα δεσπόζοντ' ἐμοῦ
not know I Creon being-master of-me
οὐδὲ σθένοντα μεῖζον, ὥστ' ἀναγκάσαι
nor having-strength greater so-that to-compel
δρᾶν τὰς Ἀθήνας ταῦτ'· ἄνω γὰρ ἂν ῥέοι
to-do the Athens these-things upward for — would-flow
τὰ πράγματ' οὕτως, εἰ 'πιταξόμεσθα δή.
the affairs thus if we-shall-be-commanded indeed

πόλεμον δὲ τοῦτον οὐκ ἐγὼ καθίσταμαι,
war but this not I establish
ὃς οὐδὲ σὺν τοῖσδ' ἦλθον εἰς Κάδμου χθόνα.
who not-even with these I-came to of-Cadmus land
νεκροὺς δὲ τοὺς θανόντας, οὐ βλάπτων πόλιν
corpses and the dead not harming city
οὐδ' ἀνδροκμῆτας προσφέρων ἀγωνίας,
nor man-slaying bringing contests
θάψαι δικαιῶ, τὸν Πανελλήνων νόμον
to-bury I-claim the of-all-Greeks law
σῴζων. τί τούτων ἐστὶν οὐ καλῶς ἔχον;
preserving what of-these is not well being
εἰ γάρ τι καὶ πεπόνθατ' Ἀργείων ὕπο,
if for something also you-suffered Argives by
τεθνᾶσιν, ἠμύνασθε πολεμίους καλῶς,
they-are-dead you-repelled enemies well
αἰσχρῶς δ' ἐκείνοις, χὴ δίκη διοίχεται.
shamefully and for-those and-the justice is-gone
ἐάσατ' ἤδη γῇ καλυφθῆναι νεκρούς,
allow already with-earth to-be-covered corpses
ὅθεν δ' ἕκαστον εἰς τὸ φῶς ἀφίκετο,
whence and each to the light came
ἐνταῦθ' ἀπελθεῖν, πνεῦμα μὲν πρὸς αἰθέρα,
there to-go-back breath indeed to air
τὸ σῶμα δ' εἰς γῆν· οὔτι γὰρ κεκτήμεθα
the body and to earth not-at-all for we-possess
ἡμέτερον αὐτὸ πλὴν ἐνοικῆσαι βίον,
our it except to-dwell-in life
κἄπειτα τὴν θρέψασαν αὐτὸ δεῖ λαβεῖν.
and-then the having-nourished it must to-take

δοκεῖς κακουργεῖν Ἄργος οὐ θάπτων νεκρούς;
do-you-think to-harm Argos not burying corpses
ἥκιστα· πάσης Ἑλλάδος κοινὸν τόδε,
least of-all Hellas common this
εἰ τοὺς θανόντας νοσφίσας ὧν χρῆν λαχεῖν
if the dead having-deprived of-what was-right to-obtain
ἀτάφους τις ἕξει· δειλίαν γὰρ εἰσφέρει
unburied anyone will-keep cowardice for brings-in
τοῖς ἀλκίμοισιν, οὗτος ἢν τεθῇ νόμος.
for-the valiant this if is-made law
κἀμοὶ μὲν ἦλθες δεῖν' ἀπειλήσων ἔπη,
and-to-me indeed you-came terrible-things to-threaten words
νεκροὺς δὲ ταρβεῖτ', εἰ κρυβήσονται χθονί;
corpses but you-fear if they-will-be-hidden in-earth
τί μὴ γένηται; μὴ κατασκάψωσι γῆν
what lest it-happen lest they-dig-up land
ταφέντες ὑμῶν; ἢ τέκν' ἐν μυχοῖς χθονὸς
buried your or children in recesses of-earth
φύσωσιν, ἐξ ὧν εἶσί τις τιμωρία;
beget from whom will-come some vengeance
σκαιόν γε τἀνάλωμα τῆς γλώσσης τόδε,
foolish at-least the-waste of-the tongue this
φόβους πονηροὺς καὶ κενοὺς δεδοικέναι.
fears wicked and empty to-fear
ἀλλ' ὦ μάταιοι, γνῶτε τἀνθρώπων κακά·
but O foolish know the-of-men evils
παλαίσματ' ἡμῶν ὁ βίος· εὐτυχοῦσι δὲ
wrestling-bouts our the life prosper but
οἱ μὲν τάχ', οἱ δ' ἐσαῦθις, οἱ δ' ἤδη βροτῶν.
some indeed soon others and later others and already of-mortals

τρυφᾷ δ' ὁ δαίμων· πρός τε γὰρ τοῦ δυστυχοῦς,
is-fastidious and the god by and for of-the unfortunate
ὡς εὐμενὴς ᾖ, τίμιος γεραίρεται,
that propitious he-may-be honored is-revered
ὅ τ' ὄλβιός νιν πνεῦμα δειμαίνων λιπεῖν
the and prosperous him breath fearing to-leave
ὑψηλὸν αἴρει. γνόντας οὖν χρεὼν τάδε
on-high exalts knowing then must these-things
ἀδικουμένους τε μέτρια μὴ θυμῷ φέρειν
being-wronged and moderately not with-anger to-bear
ἀδικεῖν τε τοιαῦθ' οἷα μὴ βλάψει πόλιν.
to-wrong and such-things which not will-harm city
πῶς οὖν ἂν εἴη; τοὺς ὀλωλότας νεκροὺς
how then — might-it-be the perished corpses
θάψαι δόθ' ἡμῖν τοῖς θέλουσιν εὐσεβεῖν.
to-bury grant to-us the wishing to-be-pious
ἢ δῆλα τἀνθένδ'· εἶμι καὶ θάψω βίᾳ.
or plain the-hereafter I-will-go and will-bury by-force
οὐ γάρ ποτ' εἰς Ἕλληνας ἐξοισθήσεται
not for ever to Greeks will-be-reported
ὡς εἰς ἔμ' ἐλθὼν καὶ πόλιν Πανδίονος
that to me having-come and city of-Pandion
νόμος παλαιὸς δαιμόνων διεφθάρη.
law ancient of-gods was-destroyed
ΧΟΡΟΣ θάρσει· τὸ γάρ τοι τῆς Δίκης σῴζων φάος
take-heart the for surely of-the of-Justice preserving light
πολλοὺς ὑπεκφύγοις ἂν ἀνθρώπων ψόγους.
many might-escape — of-men reproaches
ΚΗΡΥΞ βούλει συνάψω μῦθον ἐν βραχεῖ σέθεν;
do-you-wish shall-I-sum-up word in brief of-you

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ λέγ', εἴ τι βούλει· καὶ γὰρ οὐ σιγηλὸς εἶ.
speak if anything you-wish and for not silent you-are

ΚΗΡΥΞ οὐκ ἄν ποτ' ἐκ γῆς παῖδας Ἀργείων λάβοις.
not — ever from land sons of-Argives would-you-take

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ κἀμοῦ νυν ἀντάκουσον, εἰ βούλει, πάλιν.
and-of-me now hear-in-turn if you-wish again

570 ΚΗΡΥΞ κλύοιμ' ἄν· οὐ γὰρ ἀλλὰ δεῖ δοῦναι μέρος.
I-would-hear — not for but must to-give share

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ θάψω νεκροὺς γῆς ἐξελὼν Ἀσωπίας.
I-will-bury corpses from-land having-taken of-Asopus

ΚΗΡΥΞ ἐν ἀσπίσιν σοι πρῶτα κινδυνευτέον.
in shields for-you first is-to-be-risked

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ πολλοὺς ἔτλην δὴ χἀτέρους ἄλλους πόνους.
many I-endured indeed and-others other toils

ΚΗΡΥΞ ἦ πᾶσιν οὖν σ' ἔφυσεν ἐξαρκεῖν πατήρ;
— to-all then you begot to-suffice father

575 ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ὅσοι γ' ὑβρισταί· χρηστὰ δ' οὐ κολάζομεν.
as-many-as at-least insolent good but not we-punish

ΚΗΡΥΞ πράσσειν σὺ πόλλ' εἴωθας ἥ τε σὴ πόλις.
to-do you many-things are-accustomed and the your city

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ τοιγὰρ πονούσῃ πολλὰ πόλλ' εὐδαίμονα.
therefore toiling many-things many-things prosperous

ΚΗΡΥΞ ἔλθ', ὡς σε λόγχη σπαρτὸς ἐν πόλει λάβῃ.
come so-that you spear sown in city may-take

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ τίς δ' ἐκ δράκοντος θοῦρος ἂν γένοιτ' Ἄρης;
what and from serpent impetuous — might-be Ares

580 ΚΗΡΥΞ γνώσει σὺ πάσχων· νῦν δ' ἔτ' εἶ νεανίας.
you-will-know you suffering now but still you-are youth

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ οὔτοι μ᾽ ἐπαρεῖς ὥστε θυμοῦσθαι φρένας
surely-not me you-will-excite so-that to-be-angered heart
τοῖς σοῖσι κόμποις· ἀλλ᾽ ἀποστέλλου χθονός,
by-the your boasts but take-yourself-away from-land
λόγους ματαίους οὕσπερ ἠνέγκω λαβών.
words vain which-indeed you-brought having-taken
περαίνομεν γὰρ οὐδέν. ὁρμᾶσθαι χρεὼν
we-accomplish for nothing to-set-out must
πάντ᾽ ἄνδρ᾽ ὁπλίτην ἁρμάτων τ᾽ ἐπεμβάτην, 585
every man hoplite of-chariots and rider
μοναμπύκων τε φάλαρα κινεῖσθαι στόμα
single-frontleted and cheek-pieces to-move mouth
ἀφρῷ καταστάζοντα, Καδμείαν χθόνα.
with-foam dripping-on Cadmean land
χωρήσομαι γὰρ ἑπτὰ πρὸς Κάδμου πύλας
I-will-go for seven to of-Cadmus gates
αὐτὸς σίδηρον ὀξὺν ἐν χεροῖν ἔχων 590
myself iron sharp in hands having
αὐτός τε κῆρυξ. σοὶ δὲ προστάσσω μένειν,
myself and herald to-you but I-bid to-remain
Ἄδραστε, κἀμοὶ μὴ ἀναμίγνυσθαι τύχας
Adrastus and-with-me not to-mingle fortunes
τὰς σάς· ἐγὼ γὰρ δαίμονος τοὐμοῦ μέτα
the your I for of-fate my with
στρατηλατήσω καινὸς ἐν καινῷ δορί.
will-lead-the-army new in new spear
ἑνὸς μόνου δεῖ, τοὺς θεοὺς ἔχειν, ὅσοι
one only must the gods to-have as-many-as
δίκην σέβονται· ταῦτα γὰρ ξυνόνθ᾽ ὁμοῦ 595
justice revere these for being-together together

νίκην δίδωσιν. ἀρετὴ δ' οὐδὲν φέρει
victory gives valor but nothing brings
βροτοῖσιν, ἢν μὴ τὸν θεὸν χρῄζοντ' ἔχῃ.
to-mortals if not the god willing it-has

VI · WAITING FOR THE BATTLE

The mothers, in two half-choruses, wait anxiously for news of the battle: will it be decided by words or by bloodshed? They trust in the gods' justice and wish they could fly to Thebes to see the fortunes of their friends.

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Α′ ὦ μέλεαι μελέων ματέρες λοχαγῶν,
O wretched of-wretched mothers of-captains
ὥς μοι ὑφ' ἥπατι δεῖμα χλοερὸν ταράσσει.
how for-me under liver fear pale troubles
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Β′ τίν' αὐδὰν τάνδε προσφέρεις νέαν;
what cry this do-you-bring new
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Α′ στράτευμα πᾷ Παλλάδος κριθήσεται.
army how of-Pallas will-be-judged
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Β′ διὰ δορὸς εἶπας ἢ λόγων ξυναλλαγαῖς;
through spear you-said or of-words by-exchanges
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Α′ γένοιτ' ἂν κέρδος· εἰ δ' ἀρείφατοι
might-be — gain if but war-slain
φόνοι, μάχαι, στερνοτυπεῖς τ' ἀνὰ τόπον
murders battles breast-beating and throughout place
πάλιν φανήσονται κτύποι,
again will-appear beatings
τίν' ἂν λόγον, τάλαινα,
what — word wretched

τίν᾽ ἂν τῶνδ᾽ αἰτία λάβοιμι;
what — of-these cause might-I-take

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Β′ ἀλλὰ τὸν εὐτυχίᾳ λαμπρὸν ἄν τις αἱροῖ
but the by-prosperity bright — some might-catch

μοῖρα πάλιν· τόδε μοι τὸ θράσος ἀμφιβαίνει.
fate again this for-me the boldness surrounds

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Α′ δικαίους δαίμονας σύ γ᾽ ἐννέπεις.
just gods you at-least speak-of

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Β′ τίνες γὰρ ἄλλοι νέμουσι συμφοράς;
who for others allot misfortunes

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Α′ διάφορα πολλὰ θεῶν βροτοῖσιν εἰσορῶ.
differences many of-gods for-mortals I-see

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Β′ φόβῳ γὰρ τῷ πάρος διόλλυσαι·
by-fear for the former you-are-destroyed

δίκα δίκαν δ᾽ ἐκάλεσε καὶ φόνος
justice justice but called and murder

φόνον, κακῶν δ᾽ ἀναψυχὰς
murder of-evils and respites

θεοὶ βροτοῖς νέμουσιν,
gods to-mortals allot

ἁπάντων τέρμ᾽ ἔχοντες αὐτοί.
of-all end holding themselves

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Α′ τὰ καλλίπυργα πεδία πῶς ἱκοίμεθ᾽ ἄν,
the fair-towered plains how might-we-come —

Καλλίχορον θεᾶς ὕδωρ λιποῦσαι;
Callichorus of-goddess water having-left

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ Β′ ποτανὰν εἴ μέ τις θεῶν κτίσαι,
winged if me some of-gods would-make

διπόταμον ἵνα πόλιν μόλω.
two-rivered so-that city I-may-come

ΧΟΡΟΣ εἰδείης ἂν φίλων
you-would-know — of-friends
εἰδείης ἂν τύχας.
you-would-know — fortunes
τίς ποτ᾽ αἶσα, τίς ἄρα πότμος
what ever lot what then destiny
ἐπιμένει τὸν ἄλκιμον
awaits the valiant
τᾶσδε γᾶς ἄνακτα;
of-this land lord
κεκλημένους μὲν ἀνακαλούμεθ᾽ αὖ θεούς·
having-been-called indeed we-call-on again gods
ἀλλὰ φόβων πίστις ἅδε πρώτα.
but of-fears trust this first
ἰὼ Ζεῦ, τᾶς παλαιομάτορος
oh Zeus of-the ancient-mother
παιδογόνε πόριος Ἰνάχου.
child-begetter of-heifer of-Inachus
πόλει μοι ξύμμαχος
to-city to-me ally
γενοῦ τᾷδ᾽ εὐμενής.
become to-this well-disposed
τὸ σὸν ἄγαλμα, τὸ σὸν ἵδρυμα
the your glory the your foundation
πόλεος ἐκκομίζομαι
of-city I-carry-out
πρὸς πυρὰν ὑβρισθέν.
to pyre outraged

A messenger reports the battle before the Electran gates: the cavalry and chariots clash, Creon leads out the Sown Men, and Theseus with his club routs the Thebans but refuses to sack the city, having come only for the bodies. He has buried the common soldiers on Cithaeron and washed the bodies of the leaders with his own hands. Adrastus laments the folly of men who choose war.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ γυναῖκες, ἥκω πόλλ' ἔχων λέγειν φίλα,
women I-come many-things having to-say dear
αὐτός τε σωθείς, ἡρέθην γὰρ ἐν μάχῃ,
myself and having-been-saved I-was-taken for in battle
ἣν οἱ θανόντων ἑπτὰ δεσποτῶν λόχοι
which the of-dead seven of-chiefs companies
ἠγωνίσαντο ῥεῦμα Διρκαῖον πάρα,
fought stream Dircaean by
νίκην τε Θησέως ἀγγελῶν. λόγου δέ σε
victory and of-Theseus to-announce of-speech but you
μακροῦ ἀποπαύσω· Καπανέως γὰρ ἦ λάτρις,
long I-will-relieve of-Capaneus for I-was servant
ὃν Ζεὺς κεραυνῷ πυρπόλῳ καταιθαλοῖ.
whom Zeus with-thunderbolt fire-wasting burns
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ φίλτατ', εὖ μὲν νόστον ἀγγέλλεις σέθεν
O dearest well indeed return you-announce of-you
τήν τ' ἀμφὶ Θησέως βάξιν· εἰ δὲ καὶ στρατὸς
the and about Theseus report if and also army
σῶς ἐστ' Ἀθηνῶν, πάντ' ἂν ἀγγέλλοις φίλα.
safe is of-Athens all — you-would-announce dear-things

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ σῶς, καὶ πέπραγεν ὡς Ἄδραστος ὤφελε
safe and has-fared as Adrastus ought
πρᾶξαι ξὺν Ἀργείοισιν, οὓς ἀπ᾽ Ἰνάχου
to-have-fared with Argives whom from Inachus
στείλας ἐπεστράτευσε Καδμείων πόλιν.
having-sent he-marched-against of-Cadmeans city
ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς γὰρ τροπαῖα Ζηνὸς Αἰγέως τόκος
how for trophies of-Zeus of-Aegeus offspring
ἔστησεν οἵ τε συμμετασχόντες δορός;
set-up the and sharing-in spear
λέξον· παρὼν γὰρ τοὺς παρόντας εὐφρανεῖς.
tell being-present for the present you-will-cheer
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ λαμπρὰ μὲν ἀκτὶς ἡλίου, κανὼν σαφής,
bright indeed ray of-sun rule clear
ἔβαλλε γαῖαν· ἀμφὶ δ᾽ Ἠλέκτρας πύλας
struck earth about and Electran gates
ἔστην θεατὴς πύργον εὐαγῆ λαβών.
I-stood spectator tower clear-viewed having-taken
ὁρῶ δὲ φῦλα τρία τριῶν στρατευμάτων·
I-see and tribes three of-three armies
τευχεσφόρον μὲν λαὸν ἐκτείνοντ᾽ ἄνω
armor-bearing indeed host stretching up
Ἰσμήνιον πρὸς ὄχθον, ὡς μὲν ἦν λόγος,
Ismenian to hill as indeed was word
αὐτόν τ᾽ ἄνακτα, παῖδα κλεινὸν Αἰγέως,
himself and lord son famous of-Aegeus
καὶ τοὺς σὺν αὐτῷ, δεξιὸν τεταγμένους
and the with him right placed
κέρας, παλαιᾶς Κεκροπίας τ᾽ οἰκήτορας,
wing old of-Cecropia and inhabitants

ἴσους ἀριθμόν· ἁρμάτων δ' ὀχήματα
equal in-number of-chariots and cars
αὐτόν τε Πάραλον ἐστολισμένον δορί·
himself and Paralus armed with-spear
κρήνην παρ' αὐτὴν Ἄρεος· ἱππότην δ' ὄχλον
spring beside itself of-Ares mounted and crowd
πρὸς κρασπέδοισι στρατοπέδου τεταγμένον.
at edges of-camp placed
Κάδμου δὲ λαὸς ἧστο πρόσθε τειχέων,
of-Cadmus and host sat before walls
νεκροὺς ὄπισθεν θέμενος, ὧν ἔκειτ' ἀγών.
corpses behind having-placed for-whom lay contest
ἔνερθε σεμνῶν μνημάτων Ἀμφίονος.
below holy tombs of-Amphion
ἱππεῦσι δ' ἱππῆς ἦσαν ἀνθωπλισμένοι
against-horsemen and horsemen were armed-against
τετραόροισί τ' ἀντί' ἅρμαθ' ἅρμασιν.
four-horsed and opposite chariots to-chariots
κῆρυξ δὲ Θησέως εἶπεν εἰς πάντας τάδε·
herald and of-Theseus said to all these-things
σιγᾶτε, λαοί, σῖγα, Καδμείων στίχες,
be-silent people silence of-Cadmeans ranks
ἀκούσαθ'· ἡμεῖς ἥκομεν νεκροὺς μέτα
hear we come corpses for
θάψαι θέλοντες, τὸν Πανελλήνων νόμον
to-bury wishing the of-all-Greeks law
σῴζοντες, οὐδὲν δεόμενοι τεῖναι φόνον.
preserving not-at-all wanting to-stretch slaughter
κοὐδὲν Κρέων τοῖσδ' ἀντεκήρυξεν λόγοις,
and-nothing Creon to-these proclaimed-in-reply words

ἀλλ᾽ ἧστ᾽ ἐφ᾽ ὅπλοις σῖγα. ποιμένες δ᾽ ὄχων
but sat on arms in-silence shepherds and of-cars
τετραόρων κατῆρχον ἐντεῦθεν μάχης·
four-horsed began thereupon battle
πέραν δὲ διελάσαντες ἀλλήλων ὄχους,
across and having-driven-through one-another cars
παραιβάτας ἔστησαν εἰς τάξιν δορός.
riders set in rank of-spear
χοὶ μὲν σιδήρῳ διεμάχονθ᾽, οἱ δ᾽ ἔστρεφον
and-they indeed with-iron fought others and turned
πώλους ἐς ἀλκὴν αὖθις ἐς παραιβάτας.
colts to fight again to riders
ἰδὼν δὲ Φόρβας, ὃς μοναμπύκων ἄναξ
having-seen and Phorbas who of-single-frontleted lord
ἦν τοῖς Ἐρεχθείδαισιν, ἁρμάτων ὄχλον,
was for-the Erechtheids of-chariots crowd
οἵ τ᾽ αὖ τὸ Κάδμου διεφύλασσον ἱππικόν,
they and again the of-Cadmus guarded cavalry
συνῆψαν ἀλκὴν κἀκράτουν ἡσσῶντό τε.
joined fight and-prevailed were-defeated and
λεύσσων δὲ ταῦτα κοὐ κλύων, ἐκεῖ γὰρ ἦ
seeing and these-things and-not hearing there for I-was
ἔνθ᾽ ἅρματ᾽ ἠγωνίζεθ᾽ οἵ τ᾽ ἐπεμβάται.
where chariots fought the and riders
τἀκεῖ παρόντα πολλὰ πήματ᾽, οὐκ ἔχω
the-things-there present many woes not I-can
τί πρῶτον εἴπω, πότερα τὴν ἐς οὐρανὸν
what first to-say whether the to heaven
κόνιν προσαντέλλουσαν, ὡς πολλὴ παρῆν,
dust rising-up how much was-there

ἢ τοὺς ἄνω τε καὶ κάτω φορουμένους
or the up both and down being-borne
ἱμᾶσιν, αἵματός τε φοινίου ῥοάς,
by-reins of-blood and bloody streams
τῶν μὲν πιτνόντων, τῶν δέ, θραυσθέντων δίφρων,
of-the indeed falling of-the and broken of-cars
εἰς κρᾶτα πρὸς γῆν ἐκκυβιστώντων βίᾳ
on head to earth tumbling-headlong by-force
πρὸς ἁρμάτων τ' ἀγαῖσι λειπόντων βίον.
by of-chariots and breakings leaving life
νικῶντα δ' ἵπποις ὡς ὑπείδετο στρατὸν
conquering and with-horses when he-saw army
Κρέων τὸν ἐνθένδ', ἰτέαν λαβὼν χερὶ
Creon the from-here wicker-shield having-taken in-hand
χωρεῖ, πρὶν ἐλθεῖν ξυμμάχοις δυσθυμίαν.
goes before to-come for-allies dejection
καὶ συμπατάξαντες μέσον πάντα στρατὸν
and having-struck-together middle all army
ἔκτεινον ἐκτείνοντο, καὶ παρηγγύων
they-killed were-killed and passed-along
κελευσμὸν ἀλλήλοισι σὺν πολλῇ βοῇ·
order to-one-another with much shouting
θεῖν', ἀντέρειδε τοῖς Ἐρεχθείδαις δόρυ.
strike thrust-against the Erechtheids spear
καὶ μὴν τὰ Θησέως γ' οὐκ ὄκνῳ διεφθάρη,
and indeed the of-Theseus at-least not by-hesitation was-ruined
ἀλλ' ἵετ' εὐθὺς λάμπρ' ἀναρπάσας ὅπλα·
but rushed at-once bright having-snatched-up arms
λόχος δ' ὀδόντων ὄφεος ἐξηνδρωμένος
company and of-teeth of-serpent grown-to-men

δεινὸς παλαιστὴς ἦν· ἔκλινε γὰρ κέρας
terrible wrestler was bent for wing
τὸ λαιὸν ἡμῶν· δεξιοῦ δ' ἡσσώμενον
the left our of-right but being-defeated
φεύγει τὸ κείνων· ἦν δ' ἀγὼν ἰσόρροπος.
flees the of-those was and contest evenly-balanced
κἀν τῷδε τὸν στρατηγὸν αἰνέσαι παρῆν·
and-in this the general to-praise it-was-possible
οὐ γὰρ τὸ νικῶν τοῦτ' ἐκέρδαινεν μόνον,
not for the winning this he-gained only
ἀλλ' ᾧχετ' εἰς τὸ κάμνον οἰκείου στρατοῦ.
but went to the laboring own of-army
ἔρρηξε δ' αὐδήν, ὥσθ' ὑπηχῆσαι χθόνα·
broke-out and voice so-that to-resound land
ὦ παῖδες, εἰ μὴ σχήσετε στερρὸν δόρυ
O sons if not you-will-check firm spear
σπαρτῶν τόδ' ἀνδρῶν, οἴχεται τὰ Παλλάδος.
of-sown this of-men is-gone the of-Pallas
θάρσος δ' ἐνῶρσε παντὶ Κραναΐδων στρατῷ.
courage and roused in-all of-Cranaids army
αὐτός θ' ὅπλισμα τοὐπιδαύριον λαβὼν
himself and weapon the-Epidaurian having-taken
δεινῆς κορύνης διαφέρων ἐσφενδόνα,
of-terrible club swinging slung
ὁμοῦ τραχήλους κἀπικείμενον κάρα
together necks and-the-upon-lying head
κυνέας θερίζων κἀποκαυλίζων ξύλῳ.
helmets mowing and-breaking-off with-wood
μόλις δέ πως ἔτρεψεν εἰς φυγὴν πόδα.
hardly and somehow turned to flight foot

ἐγὼ δ᾽ ἀνηλάλαξα κἀνωρχησάμην
I and raised-a-cry and-danced
κἄκρουσα χεῖρας. οἱ δ᾽ ἔτεινον εἰς πύλας. 720
and-clapped hands they and stretched to gates
βοὴ δὲ καὶ κωκυτὸς ἦν ἀνὰ πτόλιν
shout and and wailing was throughout city
νέων, γερόντων, ἱερά τ᾽ ἐξεπίμπλασαν
of-young of-old shrines and they-filled
φόβῳ. παρὸν δὲ τειχέων εἴσω μολεῖν,
with-fear it-being-possible and walls within to-go
Θησεὺς ἐπέσχεν· οὐ γὰρ ὡς πέρσων πόλιν
Theseus held-back not for as about-to-sack city
μολεῖν ἔφασκεν, ἀλλ᾽ ἀπαιτήσων νεκρούς. 725
to-have-come he-said but to-ask-back corpses
τοιόνδε τοι στρατηγὸν αἱρεῖσθαι χρεών,
such surely general to-choose must
ὃς ἔν τε τοῖς δεινοῖσίν ἐστιν ἄλκιμος
who in and the terrible-things is valiant
μισεῖ θ᾽ ὑβριστὴν λαόν, ὃς πράσσων καλῶς
hates and insolent people who faring well
εἰς ἄκρα βῆναι κλιμάκων ἐνήλατα
to top to-step of-ladders rungs
ζητῶν ἀπώλεσ᾽ ὄλβον ᾧ χρῆσθαι παρῆν. 730
seeking lost prosperity which to-use it-was-possible
ΧΟΡΟΣ νῦν τήνδ᾽ ἄελπτον ἡμέραν ἰδοῦσ᾽ ἐγὼ
now this unhoped-for day having-seen I
θεοὺς νομίζω, καὶ δοκῶ τῆς συμφορᾶς
gods believe and think of-the misfortune
ἔχειν ἔλασσον, τῶνδε τισάντων δίκην.
to-have less of-these having-paid penalty

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ὦ Ζεῦ, τί δῆτα τοὺς ταλαιπώρους βροτοὺς
O Zeus why then the wretched mortals
φρονεῖν λέγουσι; σοῦ γὰρ ἐξηρτήμεθα
to-think they-say on-you for we-depend
δρῶμέν τε τοιαῦθ' ἂν σὺ τυγχάνῃς θέλων.
we-do and such-things whatever you happen wishing
ἡμῖν γὰρ ἦν τό τ' Ἄργος οὐχ ὑποστατόν,
for-us for was the and Argos not withstandable
αὐτοί τε πολλοὶ καὶ νέοι βραχίοσιν·
ourselves and many and young in-arms
Ἐτεοκλέους δὲ σύμβασιν ποιουμένου,
of-Eteocles and agreement making
μέτρια θέλοντος, οὐκ ἐχρῄζομεν λαβεῖν,
moderate-things wishing not we-were-willing to-take
κἄπειτ' ἀπωλόμεσθ'. ὁ δ' αὖ τότ' εὐτυχής,
and-then we-were-destroyed he and again then prosperous
λαβὼν πένης ὡς ἀρτίπλουτα χρήματα,
having-taken poor-man as newly-rich money
ὕβριζ', ὑβρίζων τ' αὖθις ἀνταπώλετο
was-insolent being-insolent and in-turn perished-in-turn
Κάδμου κακόφρων λαός. ὦ καιροῦ πέρα
of-Cadmus evil-minded people O measure beyond
τὸ τόξον ἐντείνοντες, ὦ κενοὶ βροτῶν,
the bow stretching O empty of-mortals
καὶ πρὸς δίκης γε πολλὰ πάσχοντες κακά,
and by justice at-least many suffering evils
φίλοις μὲν οὐ πείθεσθε, τοῖς δὲ πράγμασι·
friends indeed not you-obey the but events
πόλεις τ', ἔχουσαι διὰ λόγου κάμψαι κακά,
cities and being-able through word to-bend evils

φόνῳ καθαιρεῖσθ', οὐ λόγῳ, τὰ πράγματα.
by-murder you-settle not by-word the affairs
ἀτὰρ τί ταῦτα; κεῖνο βούλομαι μαθεῖν,
but why these-things that I-wish to-learn
πῶς ἐξεσώθης· εἶτα τἄλλ' ἐρήσομαι.
how were-you-saved then the-rest I-will-ask
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἐπεὶ ταραγμὸς πόλιν ἐκίνησεν δορί,
when tumult city moved with-spear
πύλας διῆλθον, ᾗπερ εἰσήει στρατός.
gates I-passed-through where entered army
ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ὧν δ' εἵνεχ' ἁγὼν ἦν, νεκροὺς κομίζετε;
of-whom and for-the-sake the-contest was corpses do-you-bring
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ὅσοι γε κλεινοῖς ἕπτ' ἐφέστασαν λόχοις.
as-many-as at-least famous seven stood-over companies
ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ πῶς φής; ὁ δ' ἄλλος ποῦ κεκμηκότων ὄχλος;
how do-you-say the and other where of-the-fallen crowd
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τάφῳ δέδονται πρὸς Κιθαιρῶνος πτυχαῖς.
to-burial have-been-given at of-Cithaeron folds
ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ τοὐκεῖθεν ἢ τοὐνθένδε; τίς δ' ἔθαψέ νιν;
from-there or from-here who and buried them
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ Θησεύς, σκιώδης ἔνθ' Ἐλευθερὶς πέτρα.
Theseus shadowy where Eleutherian rock
ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ οὓς δ' οὐκ ἔθαψε ποῦ νεκροὺς ἥκεις λιπών;
whom and not he-buried where corpses do-you-come having-left
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἐγγύς· πέλας γὰρ πᾶν ὅ τι σπουδάζεται.
near near for all what — is-urged-on
ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ἦ που πικρῶς νιν θέραπες ἦγον ἐκ φόνου;
— surely bitterly them servants brought from slaughter
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οὐδεὶς ἐπέστη τῷδε δοῦλος ὢν πόνῳ.
no-one was-set-over this slave being toil

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ***

(lacuna)

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ φαίης ἄν, εἰ παρῆσθ' ὅτ' ἠγάπα νεκρούς.

you-would-say — if you-had-been-present when he-tended corpses

765 ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ἔνιψεν αὐτὸς τῶν ταλαιπώρων σφαγάς;

he-washed himself of-the wretched wounds

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ κἄστρωσέ γ' εὐνὰς κἀκάλυψε σώματα.

and-spread at-least beds and-covered bodies

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ δεινὸν μὲν οὖν βάσταγμα κᾀσχύνην ἔχον.

terrible indeed then burden and-shame having

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ τί δ' αἰσχρὸν ἀνθρώποισι τἀλλήλων κακά;

what but shameful for-men of-one-another evils

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ οἴμοι· πόσῳ σφιν συνθανεῖν ἂν ἤθελον.

ah-me how-much with-them to-die-with — I-would-wish

770 ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἄκραντ' ὀδύρει ταῖσδέ τ' ἐξάγεις δάκρυ.

vainly you-lament for-these and you-draw-out tear

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ δοκῶ μέν, αὐταί γ' εἰσὶν αἱ διδάσκαλοι.

I-think indeed they at-least are the teachers

ἀλλ' εἶεν· αἴρω χεῖρ' ἀπαντήσας νεκροῖς

but well I-raise hand meeting corpses

Ἅιδου τε μολπὰς ἐκχέω δακρυρρόους,

of-Hades and songs I-pour-out tearful

φίλους προσαυδῶν, ὧν λελειμμένος τάλας

friends addressing by-whom left wretched

775 ἔρημα κλαίω· τοῦτο γὰρ μόνον βροτοῖς

desolate I-weep this for alone for-mortals

οὐκ ἔστι τἀνάλωμ' ἀναλωθὲν λαβεῖν,

not is the-expense spent to-take-back

ψυχὴν βροτείαν· χρημάτων δ' εἰσὶν πόροι.

soul mortal of-goods but are ways

The bodies of the fallen captains are carried in. The mothers and Adrastus lament antiphonally: their sons are dead, and they grow old childless.

ΧΟΡΟΣ τὰ μὲν εὖ, τὰ δὲ δυστυχῆ·
some indeed well others but unfortunate
πόλει μὲν εὐδοξία
for-city indeed good-repute
καὶ στρατηλάταις δορὸς
and for-generals of-spear
διπλάζεται τιμά·
is-doubled honor
ἐμοὶ δὲ παίδων μὲν εἰσιδεῖν μέλη
for-me but of-sons indeed to-see limbs
πικρόν, καλὸν θέαμα δ', εἴπερ ὄψομαι
bitter fair sight but if-indeed I-shall-see
τὰν ἄελπτον ἁμέραν,
the unhoped-for day
ἰδοῦσα, πάντων μέγιστον ἄλγος.
having-seen of-all greatest grief
ἄγαμόν μ' ἔτι δεῦρ' ἀεὶ
unwed me still here always
χρόνος παλαιὸς πατὴρ
time ancient father
ὤφελ' ἁμερᾶν κτίσαι.
ought of-days to-have-made
τί γάρ μ' ἔδει παίδων;
what for me needed of-children

τί μὲν γὰρ ἤλπιζον ἂν πεπονθέναι
what indeed for would-I-have-expected — to-have-suffered
πάθος περισσόν, εἰ γάμων ἀπεζύγην;
suffering excessive if from-marriage I-was-unyoked
νῦν δ' ὁρῶ σαφέστατον
now but I-see most-clear
κακόν, τέκνων φιλτάτων στερεῖσθαι.
evil of-children dearest to-be-bereft
ἀλλὰ τάδ' ἤδη σώματα λεύσσω
but these already bodies I-see
τῶν οἰχομένων παίδων· μελέα
of-the gone of-sons wretched
πῶς ἂν ὀλοίμην σὺν τοῖσδε τέκνοις
how — might-I-perish with these children
κοινὸν ἐς Ἅιδην καταβᾶσα;
common to Hades having-gone-down
ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ στεναγμόν, ὦ ματέρες,
lament O mothers
τῶν κατὰ χθονὸς νεκρῶν
of-the below earth of-dead
ἀύσατ' ἀπύσατ' ἀντίφων' ἐμῶν
cry cry-out answering my
στεναγμάτων κλύουσαι.
groans hearing
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ παῖδες, ὦ πικρὸν φίλων
O sons O bitter of-dear
προσηγόρημα ματέρων,
address of-mothers
προσαυδῶ σε τὸν θανόντα.
I-address you the dead

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ἰὼ ἰώ, ΧΟΡΟΣ τῶν γ' ἐμῶν κακῶν ἐγώ.
oh oh of-the at-least my evils I

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ αἰαῖ. ΧΟΡΟΣ ***
alas (lacuna)

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ἐπάθομεν ὦ — ΧΟΡΟΣ τὰ κύνταθ' ἄλγη κακῶν.
we-suffered O the most-shameless griefs of-evils

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ὦ πόλις Ἀργεία, τὸν ἐμὸν πότμον οὐκ ἐσορᾶτε;
O city Argive the my fate not you-see

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὁρῶσιν ἐμὲ τὴν
they-see me the

τάλαιναν, τέκνων ἄπαιδα.
wretched of-children childless

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ προσάγετε τῶν δυσπότμων
bring-near of-the ill-fated

σώματθ' αἱματοσταγῆ,
bodies blood-dripping

σφαγέντας οὐκ ἄξι' οὐδ' ὑπ' ἀξίων,
slain not worthily nor by worthy-men

ἐν οἷς ἀγὼν ἐκράνθη.
in whom contest was-decided

ΧΟΡΟΣ δόθ', ὡς περιπτυχαῖσι δὴ
give so-that in-embraces indeed

χέρας προσαρμόσασ' ἐμοῖς
hands having-fitted my

ἐν ἀγκῶσι τέκνα θῶμαι.
in arms children I-may-place

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ἔχεις ἔχεις. ΧΟΡΟΣ πημάτων γ' ἄλις βάρος.
you-have you-have of-woes at-least enough burden

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ αἰαῖ. ΧΟΡΟΣ τοῖς τεκοῦσι δ' οὐ λέγεις;
alas to-the having-borne but not you-say

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ἀίετέ μου. ΧΟΡΟΣ στένεις ἐπ᾽ ἀμφοῖν ἄχη.
hear me you-groan over both griefs

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ εἴθε με Καδμείων ἔναρον στίχες ἐν κονίαισιν.
would-that me of-Cadmeans had-slain ranks in dust

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐμὸν δὲ μήποτ᾽ ἐζύγη
my and never was-yoked

δέμας γ᾽ ἐς ἀνδρὸς εὐνάν.
body at-least to of-man bed

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ἴδετε κακῶν πέλαγος, ὦ
see of-evils sea O

ματέρες τάλαιναι τέκνων.
mothers wretched of-children

ΧΟΡΟΣ κατὰ μὲν ὄνυξιν ἠλοκίσμεθ᾽, ἀμφὶ δὲ
down indeed with-nails we-are-furrowed about and

σποδὸν κάρα κεχύμεθα.
ashes head we-have-poured

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ἰὼ ἰώ μοί μοι·
oh oh me me

κατά με πέδον γᾶς ἕλοι,
down me ground of-earth might-take

διὰ δὲ θύελλα σπάσαι,
through and storm might-tear

πυρός τε φλογμὸς ὁ Διὸς ἐν κάρᾳ πέσοι.
of-fire and blaze the of-Zeus on head might-fall

ΧΟΡΟΣ πικροὺς ἐσεῖδες γάμους,
bitter you-saw marriage

πικρὰν δὲ Φοίβου φάτιν·
bitter and of-Phoebus saying

ἔρημά σ' ἁ πολύστονος Οἰδιπόδα
desolate you the much-lamented of-Oedipus
δώματα λιποῦσ' ἦλθ' Ἐρινύς.
house having-left came Erinys

IX · ADRASTUS' FUNERAL ORATION

Theseus asks Adrastus to tell the young men of Athens what kind of men the fallen were. Adrastus praises Capaneus, rich but never proud; Eteoclus, poor but honored; Hippomedon, the hunter and athlete; Parthenopaeus, an Arcadian who served Argos well; and Tydeus, a great soldier. Theseus adds Amphiaraus and Polynices. Capaneus, struck by Zeus, is to be burned on his own pyre, the others on one. Theseus forbids the mothers to see the mangled bodies.

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ μέλλων σ' ἐρωτᾶν, ἡνίκ' ἐξήντλεις στρατῷ
about-to you to-ask when you-poured-out to-army
γόους, ἀφήσω· τοὺς ἐκεῖ μὲν ἐκλιπὼν
laments I-will-let-go the there indeed having-left
εἴασα μύθους, νῦν δ' Ἄδραστον ἱστορῶ·
I-let-go words now but Adrastus I-ask
πόθεν ποθ' οἵδε διαπρεπεῖς εὐψυχίᾳ
whence ever these conspicuous in-courage
θνητῶν ἔφυσαν; εἰπέ γ', ὡς σοφώτερος,
of-mortals were-born say at-least as wiser
νέοισιν ἀστῶν τῶνδ'· ἐπιστήμων γὰρ εἶ.
to-young of-citizens of-these knowing for you-are
εἶδες γὰρ αὐτῶν κρείσσον' ἢ λέξαι λόγῳ
you-saw for of-them greater than to-tell in-word
τολμήμαθ', οἷς ἤλπιζον αἱρήσειν πόλιν.
daring-deeds by-which they-hoped to-take city

ἓν δ' οὐκ ἐρήσομαί σε, μὴ γέλωτ' ὄφλω,
one-thing but not I-will-ask you lest laughter I-incur
ὅτῳ ξυνέστη τῶνδ' ἕκαστος ἐν μάχῃ
with-whom met of-these each in battle
ἢ τραῦμα λόγχης πολεμίων ἐδέξατο.
or wound of-spear of-enemies received
κοινοὶ γὰρ οὗτοι τῶν τ' ἀκουόντων λόγοι
common for these of-the and hearing words
καὶ τοῦ λέγοντος· πῶς τις ἐν μάχῃ βεβὼς
and of-the speaking how anyone in battle having-stood
λόγχης ἰούσης πρόσθεν ὀμμάτων πυκνῆς
of-spear going before of-eyes thick
σαφῶς ἀπήγγειλ' ὅστις ἐστὶν ἀγαθός;
clearly reported whoever is brave
οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην οὔτ' ἐρωτῆσαι τάδε
not — could neither to-ask these-things
οὔτ' ἂν πιθέσθαι τοῖσι τολμῶσιν λέγειν·
nor — to-believe the daring to-say
μόλις γὰρ ἄν τις αὐτὰ τἀναγκαῖ' ὁρᾶν
hardly for — anyone the-very necessary-things to-see
δύναιτ' ἂν ἑστὼς πολεμίοις ἐναντίος.
could — standing to-enemies opposite
ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ἄκουε δή νυν· καὶ γὰρ οὐκ ἄκοντί μοι
hear indeed now and for not unwilling to-me
δίδως ἔπαινον τῶνδ', ἐγώ τε βούλομαι
you-give praise of-these I and wish
φίλων ἀληθῆ καὶ δίκαι' εἰπεῖν πέρι.
of-friends true-things and just-things to-speak about
ὁρᾷς τὸ Διῖον οὗ βέλος διέπτατο;
you-see the of-Zeus where bolt flew-through

Καπανεὺς ὅδ' ἐστίν· ᾧ βίος μὲν ἦν πολύς,
Capaneus this is to-whom livelihood indeed was much
ἥκιστα δ' ὄλβῳ γαῦρος ἦν· φρόνημα δὲ
least and in-wealth proud he-was pride but
οὐδέν τι μεῖζον εἶχεν ἢ πένης ἀνήρ,
nothing — greater he-had than poor man
φεύγων τραπέζαις ὅστις ἐξογκοῖτ' ἄγαν
avoiding at-tables whoever puffed-himself-up too-much
τἀρκοῦντ' ἀτίζων· οὐ γὰρ ἐν γαστρὸς βορᾷ
the-sufficient dishonoring not for in of-belly food
τὸ χρηστὸν εἶναι, μέτρια δ' ἐξαρκεῖν ἔφη.
the good to-be moderate-things but to-suffice he-said
φίλος τ' ἀληθὴς ἦν φίλοις παροῦσί τε
friend and true was to-friends present and
καὶ μὴ παροῦσιν· ὧν ἀριθμὸς οὐ πολύς.
and not present of-whom number not great
ἀψευδὲς ἦθος, εὐπροσήγορον στόμα,
unlying character courteous mouth
ἄκραντον οὐδὲν οὔτ' ἐς οἰκέτας ἔχων
unfulfilled nothing neither to servants having
οὔτ' εἰς πολίτας. τὸν δὲ δεύτερον λέγω
nor to citizens the and second I-speak-of
Ἐτέοκλον, ἄλλην χρηστότητ' ἠσκηκότα·
Eteoclus other goodness having-practiced
νεανίας ἦν τῷ βίῳ μὲν ἐνδεής,
young-man he-was in-the livelihood indeed lacking
πλείστας δὲ τιμὰς ἔσχ' ἐν Ἀργείᾳ χθονί.
most and honors he-had in Argive land
φίλων δὲ χρυσὸν πολλάκις δωρουμένων
friends and gold often giving

οὐκ εἰσεδέξατ᾽ οἶκον ὥστε τοὺς τρόπους
not he-received house so-that the character
δούλους παρασχεῖν χρημάτων ζευχθεὶς ὕπο.
slaves to-render money yoked by
τοὺς δ᾽ ἐξαμαρτάνοντας, οὐχὶ τὴν πόλιν
the and erring not the city
ἤχθαιρ᾽· ἐπεί τοι κοὐδὲν αἰτία πόλις
he-hated since surely and-not-at-all to-blame city
880 κακῶς κλύουσα διὰ κυβερνήτην κακόν.
badly being-spoken-of through helmsman bad
ὁ δ᾽ αὖ τρίτος τῶνδ᾽ Ἱππομέδων τοιόσδ᾽ ἔφυ·
the and again third of-these Hippomedon such was
παῖς ὢν ἐτόλμησ᾽ εὐθὺς οὐ πρὸς ἡδονὰς
boy being he-dared at-once not to pleasures
Μουσῶν τραπέσθαι πρὸς τὸ μαλθακὸν βίου,
of-Muses to-turn to the soft of-life
ἀγροὺς δὲ ναίων, σκληρὰ τῇ φύσει διδοὺς
fields but dwelling hard-things to-the nature giving
885 ἔχαιρε πρὸς τἀνδρεῖον, εἴς τ᾽ ἄγρας ἰὼν
he-rejoiced in the-manly to and hunts going
ἵπποις τε χαίρων τόξα τ᾽ ἐντείνων χεροῖν,
in-horses and rejoicing bows and stretching with-hands
πόλει παρασχεῖν σῶμα χρήσιμον θέλων.
to-city to-offer body useful wishing
ὁ τῆς κυναγοῦ δ᾽ ἄλλος Ἀταλάντης γόνος,
the of-the huntress and other of-Atalanta offspring
παῖς Παρθενοπαῖος, εἶδος ἐξοχώτατος,
boy Parthenopaeus in-form most-outstanding
890 Ἀρκὰς μὲν ἦν, ἐλθὼν δ᾽ ἐπ᾽ Ἰνάχου ῥοὰς
Arcadian indeed he-was having-come but to of-Inachus streams

παιδεύεται κατ᾽ Ἄργος. ἐκτραφεὶς δ᾽ ἐκεῖ
is-brought-up in Argos having-been-reared and there
πρῶτον μέν, ὡς χρὴ τοὺς μετοικοῦντας ξένους,
first indeed as must the dwelling-as-aliens foreigners
λυπηρὸς οὐκ ἦν οὐδ᾽ ἐπίφθονος πόλει
troublesome not he-was nor invidious to-city
οὐδ᾽ ἐξεριστὴς τῶν λόγων, ὅθεν βαρὺς
nor disputer of-the words whence offensive
μάλιστ᾽ ἂν εἴη δημότης τε καὶ ξένος·
most — would-be citizen both and foreigner
λόχοις δ᾽ ἐφεστὼς ὥσπερ Ἀργεῖος γεγὼς
companies and standing-over as-if Argive born
ἤμυνε χώρᾳ, χὠπότ᾽ εὖ πράσσοι πόλις,
he-defended land and-when well fared city
ἔχαιρε, λυπρῶς δ᾽ ἔφερεν, εἴ τι δυστυχοῖ.
he-rejoiced grievously and bore if in-anything it-was-unfortunate
πολλοὺς δ᾽ ἐραστὰς κἀπὸ θηλειῶν ὅσας
many and lovers and-from women as-many
ἔχων, ἐφρούρει μηδὲν ἐξαμαρτάνειν.
having he-kept-guard nothing to-err
Τυδέως δ᾽ ἔπαινον ἐν βραχεῖ θήσω μέγαν·
of-Tydeus and praise in brief I-will-place great
οὐκ ἐν λόγοις ἦν λαμπρός, ἀλλ᾽ ἐν ἀσπίδι
not in words was-he brilliant but in shield
δεινὸς σοφιστὴς πολλά τ᾽ ἐξευρεῖν σοφός.
terrible master many-things and to-discover wise
γνώμῃ δ᾽ ἀδελφοῦ Μελεάγρου λελειμμένος,
in-judgment and to-brother Meleager inferior
ἴσον παρέσχεν ὄνομα, διὰ τέχνης δορὸς
equal he-rendered name through art of-spear

εὑρὼν ἀκριβῆ μουσικὴν ἐν ἀσπίδι·
having-found exact music in shield
φιλότιμον ἦθος, πλούσιον φρόνημα δὲ
ambitious character rich spirit but
ἐν τοῖσιν ἔργοις, οὐχὶ τοῖς λόγοις, ἴσον.
in the deeds not in-the words equal
ἐκ τῶνδε μὴ θαύμαζε τῶν εἰρημένων,
from these not marvel the spoken
Θησεῦ, πρὸ πύργων τούσδε τολμῆσαι θανεῖν.
Theseus before towers these to-have-dared to-die
τὸ γὰρ τραφῆναι μὴ κακῶς αἰδῶ φέρει·
the for to-be-reared not badly shame brings
αἰσχύνεται δὲ τἀγάθ' ἀσκήσας ἀνὴρ
is-ashamed and the-good having-practiced man
κακὸς κεκλῆσθαι πᾶς τις. ἡ δ' εὐανδρία
bad to-be-called every one the and manliness
διδακτός, εἴπερ καὶ βρέφος διδάσκεται
teachable if-indeed even infant is-taught
λέγειν ἀκούειν θ' ὧν μάθησιν οὐκ ἔχει.
to-say to-hear and of-what knowledge not it-has
ἃ δ' ἂν μάθῃ τις, ταῦτα σῴζεσθαι φιλεῖ
what and — learns anyone these to-be-kept loves
πρὸς γῆρας. οὕτω παῖδας εὖ παιδεύετε.
to old-age thus children well educate
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ τέκνον, δυστυχῆ σ'
oh child unfortunate you
ἔτρεφον, ἔφερον ὑφ' ἥπατος
I-reared I-carried under liver
πόνους ἐνεγκοῦσ' ἐν ὠδῖσι· καὶ νῦν
pains having-borne in birth-pangs and now

Ἅιδας τὸν ἐμὸν ἔχει
Hades the my has
μόχθον ἀθλίας, ἐγὼ δὲ
toil of-wretched I but
γηροβοσκὸν οὐκ ἔχω
old-age-nurse not have
τεκοῦσ' ἁ τάλαινα παῖδα.
having-borne the wretched son
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ καὶ μὴν τὸν Οἰκλέους γε γενναῖον τόκον
and indeed the of-Oecles at-least noble offspring
θεοὶ ζῶντ' ἀναρπάσαντες εἰς μυχοὺς χθονὸς
gods living having-snatched-up into recesses of-earth
αὐτοῖς τεθρίπποις εὐλογοῦσιν ἐμφανῶς·
along-with four-horse-chariot praise openly
τὸν Οἰδίπου δὲ παῖδα, Πολυνείκην λέγω,
the of-Oedipus and son Polynices I-mean
ἡμεῖς ἐπαινέσαντες οὐ ψευδοίμεθ' ἄν.
we having-praised not would-lie —
ξένος γὰρ ἦν μοι πρὶν λιπὼν Κάδμου πόλιν
guest-friend for he-was to-me before having-left of-Cadmus city
φυγῇ πρὸς Ἄργος διαβαλεῖν αὐθαίρετος.
in-exile to Argos to-cross self-chosen
ἀλλ' οἶσθ' ὃ δρᾶσαι βούλομαι τούτων πέρι;
but you-know what to-do I-wish about these
ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ οὐκ οἶδα πλὴν ἕν, σοῖσι πείθεσθαι λόγοις.
not I-know except one-thing to-your to-obey words
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ τὸν μὲν Διὸς πληγέντα Καπανέα πυρί —
the indeed of-Zeus struck Capaneus by-fire
ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ἦ χωρὶς ἱερὸν ὡς νεκρὸν θάψαι θέλεις;
— apart holy as corpse to-bury you-wish

ΘΗΣΕΤΣ ναί· τοὺς δέ γ' ἄλλους πάντας ἐν μιᾷ πυρᾷ.
yes the and at-least others all in one pyre

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ποῦ δῆτα θήσεις μνῆμα τῷδε χωρίσας;
where then will-you-place tomb for-this-one having-separated

ΘΗΣΕΤΣ αὐτοῦ παρ' οἴκους τούσδε συμπήξας τάφον.
here by house this having-fixed grave

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ οὗτος μὲν ἤδη δμωσὶν ἂν μέλοι πόνος.
this-one indeed already to-servants — would-be-a-care toil

ΘΗΣΕΤΣ ἡμῖν δέ γ' οἵδε· στειχέτω δ' ἄχθη νεκρῶν.
to-us but at-least these let-go and burdens of-dead

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ ἴτ', ὦ τάλαιναι μητέρες, τέκνων πέλας.
go O wretched mothers children near

ΘΗΣΕΤΣ ἥκιστ', Ἄδραστε, τοῦτο πρόσφορον λέγεις.
least Adrastus this fitting you-say

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ πῶς; τὰς τεκούσας οὐ χρεὼν ψαῦσαι τέκνων;
how the having-borne not must to-touch children

ΘΗΣΕΤΣ ὄλοιντ' ἰδοῦσαι τούσδ' ἂν ἠλλοιωμένους.
they-would-perish seeing these — altered

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ πικρὰ γὰρ ὄψις αἵμα κὠτειλαὶ νεκρῶν.
bitter for sight blood and-wounds of-dead

ΘΗΣΕΤΣ τί δῆτα λύπην ταῖσδε προσθεῖναι θέλεις;
why then grief to-these to-add you-wish

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ νικᾷς· μένειν χρὴ τλημόνως· λέγει γὰρ εὖ
you-win to-remain must patiently says for well
Θησεύς. ὅταν δὲ τούσδε προσθῶμεν πυρί,
Theseus when and these we-put to-fire
ὀστᾶ προσάξεσθ'. ὦ ταλαίπωροι βροτῶν,
bones you-will-bring-to O wretched of-mortals
τί κτᾶσθε λόγχας καὶ κατ' ἀλλήλων φόνους
why acquire spears and against one-another slaughters

τίθεσθε; παύσασθ', ἀλλὰ λήξαντες πόνων
make cease but having-ceased from-toils
ἄστη φυλάσσεθ' ἥσυχοι μεθ' ἡσύχων.
cities guard quiet with quiet
σμικρὸν τὸ χρῆμα τοῦ βίου· τοῦτον δὲ χρὴ
small the thing of-the life this and must
ὡς ῥᾷστα καὶ μὴ σὺν πόνοις διεκπερᾶν.
as most-easily and not with toils to-pass-through

X · THE CHILDLESS MOTHERS

The mothers lament that they are no longer blessed in their children; they bore seven sons, the most famous in Argos, and now grow old without them, neither among the living nor the dead.

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκέτ' εὔτεκνος, οὐκέτ' εὔπαις,
no-longer blessed-in-children no-longer blessed-in-sons
οὐδ' εὐτυχίας μετεστίν μοι
nor in-good-fortune is-there-share for-me
κουροτόκοις ἐν Ἀργείαις·
son-bearing among Argive-women
οὐδ' Ἄρτεμις λοχία
nor Artemis of-childbirth
προσφθέγξαιτ' ἂν τὰς ἀτέκνους.
would-address — the childless
δυσαίων δ' ὁ βίος,
unhappy and the life
πλαγκτὰ δ' ὡσεί τις νεφέλα,
wandering and like some cloud

πνευμάτων ὑπὸ δυσχίμων ἀίσσω.
of-winds under wintry I-dart
ἑπτὰ ματέρες ἑπτὰ κούρους
seven mothers seven sons
ἐγεινάμεθ' αἱ ταλαίπωροι
bore the wretched
965 κλεινοτάτους ἐν Ἀργείοις·
most-famous among Argives
καὶ νῦν ἄπαις ἄτεκνος
and now sonless childless
γηράσκω δυστηνοτάτως,
I-grow-old most-wretchedly
οὔτ' ἐν φθιμένοις
neither among dead
οὔτ' ἐν ζῶσιν κρινομένα,
nor among living reckoned
970 χωρὶς δή τινα τῶνδ' ἔχουσα μοῖραν.
apart indeed some of-these having lot
ὑπολελειμμένα μοι δάκρυα·
left for-me tears
μέλεα παιδὸς ἐν οἴκοις
wretched of-son in house
κεῖται μνήματα, πένθιμοι
lie memorials mournful
κουραὶ καὶ στέφανοι κόμας,
shorn-locks and garlands of-hair
λοιβαί τε νεκύων φθιμένων,
libations and of-dead perished
975 ἀοιδαί θ' ἃς χρυσοκόμας
songs and which golden-haired

Ἀπόλλων οὐκ ἐνδέχεται·
Apollo not receives
γόοισιν δ' ὀρθρευομένα
with-laments and rising-at-dawn
δάκρυσι νοτερὸν ἀεὶ πέπλων
with-tears wet always of-robes
πρὸς στέρνῳ πτύχα τέγξω.
at breast fold I-shall-moisten

XI · EVADNE AND IPHIS

Evadne, wife of Capaneus, appears on a rock above her husband's pyre, dressed not in mourning but in festive attire. Her father Iphis arrives, mourning his son Eteoclus and looking for her. She tells him she will win glory by dying with her husband, and leaps into the flames. Iphis laments that men cannot live twice, and wishes for death.

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν θαλάμας τάσδ' ἐσορῶ δὴ
and indeed chambers these I-see indeed
Καπανέως ἤδη τύμβον θ' ἱερὸν
of-Capaneus already tomb and holy
μελάθρων τ' ἐκτὸς
of-palace and outside
Θησέως ἀναθήματα νεκροῖς,
of-Theseus offerings for-the-dead
κλεινήν τ' ἄλοχον τοῦ καταφθιμένου
famous and wife of-the having-perished
τοῦδε κεραυνῷ πέλας Εὐάδνην,
of-this-one by-thunderbolt near Evadne
ἣν Ἶφις ἄναξ παῖδα φυτεύει.
whom Iphis lord daughter begets

τί ποτ᾽ αἰθερίαν ἔστηκε πέτραν,
why ever airy has-she-stood-on rock
ἥ τῶνδε δόμων ὑπερακρίζει,
who of-this house towers-over
τήνδ᾽ ἐμβαίνουσα κέλευθον;
this treading path
ΕΤΑΔΝΗ τί φέγγος, τίν᾽ αἴγλαν
what radiance what gleam
ἐδίφρευε τόθ᾽ ἅλιος
drove-her-car then sun
σελάνα τε κατ᾽ αἰθέρα,
moon and through air
λαμπάσιν ὠκυθόαις λυγρᾶς
with-torches swift grievous
ἱππεύουσα δι᾽ ὄρφνας,
riding through darkness
*** ἀνίκα γάμων
(lacuna) when of-marriage
τῶν ἐμῶν πόλις Ἄργους
of-the my city of-Argos
ἀοιδὰς εὐδαιμονίας
songs of-happiness
ἐπύργωσε καὶ γαμέτα
towered and of-husband
χαλκεοτευχοῦς τε Καπανέως;
bronze-armored and of-Capaneus
δρομὰς ἐξ ἐμῶν πρός σ᾽ ἔβαν
running from my to you I-came
οἴκων ἐκβακχευσαμένα,
house having-gone-in-bacchic-frenzy

πυρὸς φῶς τάφον τε
of-fire light tomb and
ματεύουσα τὸν αὐτόν,
seeking the same
ἐς Ἅιδαν καταλύσουσ᾽ ἔμμοχθον
to Hades to-end toilsome
βίοτον αἰῶνός τε πόνους·
life of-life and toils
ἥδιστος γάρ τοι θάνατος
sweetest for surely death
συνθνήσκειν θνήσκουσι φίλοις,
to-die-with dying friends
εἰ δαίμων τάδε κραίνοι.
if fate these-things should-accomplish
ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ὁρᾷς τήνδ᾽ ἣς ἐφέστηκας πέλας
and indeed you-see this of-which you-stand near
πυράν, Διὸς θησαυρόν, ἔνθ᾽ ἔνεστι σὸς
pyre of-Zeus treasure where is-within your
πόσις δαμασθεὶς λαμπάσιν κεραυνίοις.
husband subdued by-torches of-thunderbolt
ΕΤΑΔΝΗ ὁρῶ δὴ τελευτάν,
I-see indeed end
ἵν᾽ ἕστακα· τύχα δέ μοι
where I-stand fortune and for-me
ξυνάπτει ποδός· ἀλλὰ τῆς
joins of-foot but of-the
εὐκλείας χάριν ἔνθεν ὁρ-
of-glory for-the-sake whence I-shall-rush
μάσω τᾶσδ᾽ ἀπὸ πέτρας
— this from rock

πηδήσασα πυρὸς ἔσω,
having-leapt fire into
σῶμά τ' αἴθοπι φλογμῷ
body and blazing with-flame
πόσει συμμίξασα φίλον,
with-husband having-mingled dear
χρῶτα χρωτὶ πέλας θεμένα
flesh to-flesh near having-placed
Περσεφονείας ἥξω θαλάμους,
of-Persephone I-will-come to-chambers
σὲ τὸν θανόντ' οὔποτ' ἐμᾷ
you the dead never with-my
προδοῦσα ψυχᾷ κατὰ γᾶς.
having-betrayed soul below earth
ἴτω φῶς γάμοι τε.
let-go light marriage and
†εἴθ' ἀμείνονες εὐναὶ
(corrupt)-would-that better beds
δικαίων ὑμεναίων ἐν Ἄργει
of-just wedding-songs in Argos
φανεῖεν τέκνοισιν ἐμοῖς,
may-appear for-children my
εἴη δ' εὐναῖος γαμέτας†
may-be and of-the-bed husband(corrupt)
συντηχθεὶς αὔραις ἀδόλοις
melted-together with-breezes guileless
γενναίας ψυχᾶς ἀλόχῳ.
of-noble soul with-wife

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ὅδ' αὐτὸς σὸς πατὴρ βαίνει πέλας,
and indeed this-one himself your father comes near
γεραιὸς Ἶφις εἰς νεωτέρους λόγους,
old Iphis to newer words
οὓς οὐ κατειδὼς πρόσθεν ἀλγήσει κλύων.
which not knowing before he-will-grieve hearing
ΙΦΙΣ ὦ δυστάλαιναι, δυστάλας δ' ἐγὼ γέρων,
O most-wretched most-wretched and I old-man
ἥκω διπλοῦν πένθημ' ὁμαιμόνων ἔχων,
I-come double grief of-kin having
τὸν μὲν θανόντα παῖδα Καδμείων δορὶ
the indeed dead son of-Cadmeans by-spear
Ἐτέοκλον εἰς γῆν πατρίδα ναυσθλώσων νεκρόν,
Eteoclus to land paternal to-ship corpse
ζητῶν δ' ἐμὴν παῖδ', ἣ δόμων ἐξώπιος
seeking and my daughter who of-house out
βέβηκε πηδήσασα Καπανέως δάμαρ,
has-gone having-leapt of-Capaneus wife
θανεῖν ἐρῶσα σὺν πόσει. χρόνον μὲν οὖν
to-die desiring with husband time indeed then
τὸν πρόσθ' ἐφρουρεῖτ' ἐν δόμοις· ἐπεὶ δ' ἐγὼ
the before she-was-guarded in house when but I
φυλακὰς ἀνῆκα τοῖς παρεστῶσιν κακοῖς,
guards let-go for-the present evils
βέβηκεν, ἀλλὰ τῇδέ νιν δοξάζομεν
she-has-gone but here her we-think
μάλιστ' ἂν εἶναι· φράζετ' εἰ κατείδετε.
most — to-be tell if you-saw

ΕΤΑΔΝΗ τί τάσδ' ἐρωτᾷς; ἧδ' ἐγὼ πέτρας ἔπι
why these do-you-ask here I rock on
ὄρνις τις ὡσεὶ Καπανέως ὑπὲρ πυρᾶς
bird some like of-Capaneus above pyre
δύστηνον αἰώρημα κουφίζω, πάτερ.
wretched suspension I-lift father
ΙΦΙΣ τέκνον, τίς αὔρα; τίς στόλος; τίνος χάριν
child what breeze what journey of-what for-the-sake
δόμων ὑπερβᾶσ' ἦλθες εἰς τήνδε χθόνα;
house having-stepped-over did-you-come to this land
ΕΤΑΔΝΗ ὀργὴν λάβοις ἂν τῶν ἐμῶν βουλευμάτων
anger you-would-take — at-the my plans
κλύων· ἀκοῦσαι δ' οὔ σε βούλομαι, πάτερ.
hearing to-hear but not you I-wish father
ΙΦΙΣ τί δ'; οὐ δίκαιον πατέρα τὸν σὸν εἰδέναι;
what but not just father the your to-know
ΕΤΑΔΝΗ κριτὴς ἂν εἴης οὐ σοφὸς γνώμης ἐμῆς.
judge — you-would-be not wise of-judgment my
ΙΦΙΣ σκευῇ δὲ τῇδε τοῦ χάριν κοσμεῖς δέμας;
attire but with-this of-what for-the-sake do-you-adorn body
ΕΤΑΔΝΗ θέλει τι κλεινὸν οὗτος ὁ στολμός, πάτερ.
means something glorious this the attire father
ΙΦΙΣ ὡς οὐκ ἐπ' ἀνδρὶ πένθιμος πρέπεις ὁρᾶν.
since not over husband mournful you-seem to-look
ΕΤΑΔΝΗ εἰς γάρ τι πρᾶγμα νεοχμὸν ἐσκευάσμεθα.
to for some deed new we-have-been-equipped
ΙΦΙΣ κἄπειτα τύμβῳ καὶ πυρᾷ φαίνει πέλας;
and-then at-tomb and at-pyre you-appear near
ΕΤΑΔΝΗ ἐνταῦθα γὰρ δὴ καλλίνικος ἔρχομαι.
there for indeed gloriously-victorious I-come

ΙΦΙΣ νικῶσα νίκην τίνα; μαθεῖν χρῄζω σέθεν.
conquering victory what to-learn I-want from-you

ΕΥΑΔΝΗ πάσας γυναῖκας ἃς δέδορκεν ἥλιος.
all women whom has-seen sun

ΙΦΙΣ ἔργοις Ἀθάνας ἢ φρενῶν εὐβουλίᾳ;
in-works of-Athena or of-mind in-good-counsel

ΕΥΑΔΝΗ ἀρετῇ· πόσει γὰρ συνθανοῦσα κείσομαι.
in-valor with-husband for dying-with I-shall-lie

ΙΦΙΣ τί φῄς; τί τοῦτ' αἴνιγμα σημαίνεις σαθρόν;
what do-you-say what this riddle do-you-signify unsound

ΕΥΑΔΝΗ ᾄσσω θανόντος Καπανέως τήνδ' εἰς πυράν.
I-rush dead of-Capaneus this into pyre

ΙΦΙΣ ὦ θύγατερ, οὐ μὴ μῦθον εἰς πολλοὺς ἐρεῖς;
O daughter not — word to many will-you-speak

ΕΥΑΔΝΗ τοῦτ' αὐτὸ χρῄζω, πάντας Ἀργείους μαθεῖν.
this very-thing I-want all Argives to-learn

ΙΦΙΣ ἀλλ' οὐδέ τοί σοι πείσομαι δρώσῃ τάδε.
but not-even surely you I-will-obey doing these-things

ΕΥΑΔΝΗ ὅμοιον· οὐ γὰρ μὴ κίχῃς μ' ἑλὼν χερί.
all-one not for — you-will-reach me having-caught with-hand

καὶ δὴ παρεῖται σῶμα, σοὶ μὲν οὐ φίλον,
and indeed is-let-go body to-you indeed not dear

ἡμῖν δὲ καὶ τῷ συμπυρουμένῳ πόσει.
to-us but and to-the being-burned-with husband

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰώ, γύναι, δεινὸν ἔργον ἐξειργάσω.
oh woman terrible deed you-wrought

ΙΦΙΣ ἀπωλόμην δύστηνος, Ἀργείων κόραι.
I-am-lost wretched of-Argives daughters

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἒ ἔ, σχέτλια τάδε παθών,
ah ah cruel these-things having-suffered
τὸ πάντολμον ἔργον ὄψει τάλας.
the all-daring deed you-will-see wretched
ΙΦΙΣ οὐκ ἄν τιν' εὕροιτ' ἄλλον ἀθλιώτερον.
not — any you-would-find other more-wretched
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ τάλας·
oh wretched
μετέλαχες τύχας Οἰδιπόδα, γέρον,
you-shared fortunes of-Oedipus old-man
μέρος καὶ σὺ καὶ πόλις ἐμὰ τλάμων.
part also you and city my wretched
ΙΦΙΣ οἴμοι· τί δὴ βροτοῖσιν οὐκ ἔστιν τόδε,
ah-me why indeed for-mortals not is this
νέους δὶς εἶναι καὶ γέροντας αὖ πάλιν;
young twice to-be and old again back
ἀλλ' ἐν δόμοις μὲν ἦν τι μὴ καλῶς ἔχῃ,
but in house indeed if anything not well is
γνώμαισιν ὑστέραισιν ἐξορθούμεθα,
by-judgments later we-are-set-right
αἰῶνα δ' οὐκ ἔξεστιν. εἰ δ' ἦμεν νέοι
life but not is-possible if but we-were young
δὶς καὶ γέροντες, εἴ τις ἐξημάρτανε,
twice and old if anyone erred
διπλοῦ βίου τυχόντες ἐξωρθούμεθ' ἄν.
double life having-obtained we-would-be-set-right —
ἐγὼ γὰρ ἄλλους εἰσορῶν τεκνουμένους
I for others seeing having-children
παίδων τ' ἐραστὴς ἦ πόθῳ τ' ἀπωλλύμην.
of-children and lover was with-longing and I-was-perishing

εἰ δ' εἰς τόδ' ἦλθον κἀξεπειράθην παθὼν
if but to this I-had-come and-had-made-trial suffering
οἷον στέρεσθαι πατέρα γίγνεται τέκνων,
how to-be-bereft father becomes of-children
οὐκ ἄν ποτ' εἰς τόδ' ἦλθον εἰς ὃ νῦν κακόν·
not — ever to this I-would-have-come to which now evil
ὅστις φυτεύσας καὶ νεανίαν τεκὼν
who having-begotten and youth having-fathered
ἄριστον, εἶτα τοῦδε νῦν στερίσκομαι.
best then of-this now am-bereft
εἶεν· τί δὴ χρὴ τὸν ταλαίπωρόν με δρᾶν;
well what indeed must the wretched me to-do
στείχειν πρὸς οἴκους; κᾆτ' ἐρημίαν ἴδω
to-go to house and-then desolation I-may-see
πολλὴν μελάθρων ἀπορίαν τ' ἐμῷ βίῳ;
great of-house and helplessness my for-life
ἢ πρὸς μέλαθρα τοῦδε Καπανέως μόλω;
or to house of-this Capaneus may-I-go
ἥδιστα πρίν γε δῆθ', ὅτ' ἦν παῖς ἥδε μοι.
most-sweetly before at-least indeed when was daughter this to-me
ἀλλ' οὐκέτ' ἔστιν· ἥ γ' ἐμὴν γενειάδα
but no-longer is who at-least my beard
προσήγετ' ἀεὶ στόματι καὶ κάρα τόδε
brought always to-mouth and head this
κατεῖχε χερσίν· οὐδὲν ἥδιον πατρὶ
held with-hands nothing sweeter to-father
γέροντι θυγατρός· ἀρσένων δὲ μείζονες
old than-daughter than-males but greater
ψυχαί, γλυκεῖαι δ' ἧσσον εἰς θωπεύματα.
souls sweet but less to caresses

οὐχ ὡς τάχιστα δῆτά μ' ἄξετ' εἰς δόμους
not as quickly then me will-you-lead to house
σκότῳ τε δώσετ'; ἔνθ' ἀσιτίαις ἐμὸν
to-darkness and will-give where with-fastings my
δέμας γεραιὸν συντακεὶς ἀποφθερῶ.
body old wasting-away I-will-destroy
τί μ' ὠφελήσει παιδὸς ὀστέων θιγεῖν;
what me will-it-help of-child bones to-touch
ὦ δυσπάλαιστον γῆρας, ὡς μισῶ σ' ἔχων,
O hard-to-wrestle old-age how I-hate you having
μισῶ δ' ὅσοι χρῄζουσιν ἐκτείνειν βίον,
I-hate and as-many-as wish to-stretch life
βρωτοῖσι καὶ ποτοῖσι καὶ μαγεύμασι
with-foods and with-drinks and with-charms
παρεκτρέποντες ὀχετὸν ὥστε μὴ θανεῖν·
turning-aside channel so-that not to-die
οὓς χρῆν, ἐπειδὰν μηδὲν ὠφελῶσι γῆν,
who ought when nothing they-benefit land
θανόντας ἔρρειν κἀκποδὼν εἶναι νέοις.
dying to-be-gone and-out-of-the-way to be for-young

The sons of the fallen bring the ashes of their fathers. The mothers and grandsons lament together, and the boys vow to avenge their fathers' deaths when they grow up.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰώ, τάδε δὴ παίδων φθιμένων
oh these indeed of-sons dead
ὀστᾶ φέρεται. λάβετ', ἀμφίπολοι
bones are-carried take attendants
γραίας ἀμενοῦς· οὐ γὰρ ἔνεστιν
of-old-woman feeble not for is-in
ῥώμη παίδων ὑπὸ πένθους,
strength for-sons from grief
πολλοῦ τε χρόνου ζώσης μέτα δή,
of-much and time living with indeed
καταλειβομένης τ' ἄλγεσι πολλοῖς.
being-wasted and by-griefs many
τί γὰρ ἂν μεῖζον τοῦδ' ἔτι θνητοῖς
what for — greater than-this still for-mortals
πάθος ἐξεύροις
suffering might-you-find
ἢ τέκνα θανόντ' ἐσιδέσθαι;
than children dead to-see
ΠΑΙΔΕΣ φέρω φέρω,
I-bring I-bring
τάλαινα μᾶτερ, ἐκ πυρᾶς πατρὸς μέλη,
wretched mother from pyre of-father limbs
βάρος μὲν οὐκ ἀβριθὲς ἀλγέων ὕπερ,
weight indeed not light griefs because-of

ἐν δ' ὀλίγῳ τἀμὰ πάντα συνθείς.
in but small my all having-gathered

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ ἰώ·
oh oh

πᾷ δάκρυα φέρεις φίλᾳ
where tears do-you-bring dear

ματρὶ τῶν ὀλωλότων,
to-mother of-the perished

σποδοῦ τε πλῆθος ὀλίγον ἀντὶ σωμάτων
of-ashes and heap small instead-of bodies

εὐδοκίμων δήποτ' ἐν Μυκήναις;
of-reputable once in Mycenae

ΠΑΙΔΕΣ παπαῖ παπαῖ·
alas alas

ἐγὼ δ' ἔρημος ἀθλίου πατρὸς τάλας
I and bereft of-wretched father wretched

ἔρημον οἶκον ὀρφανεύσομαι λαβών,
desolate house shall-be-orphaned having-received

οὐ πατρὸς ἐν χερσὶ τοῦ τεκόντος.
not of-father in hands of-the having-begotten

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ ἰώ·
oh oh

ποῦ δὲ πόνος ἐμῶν τέκνων,
where and toil of-my children

ποῦ λοχευμάτων χάρις
where of-childbirths favor

τροφαί τε ματρὸς ἄυπνά τ' ὀμμάτων τέλη
nursings and of-mother sleepless and of-eyes rites

καὶ φίλιαι προσβολαὶ προσώπων;
and dear meetings of-faces

ΠΑΙΔΕΣ βεβᾶσιν, οὐκέτ' εἰσίν· οἴμοι πάτερ·
they-are-gone no-longer they-are ah-me father
βεβᾶσιν· αἰθὴρ ἔχει νιν ἤδη,
they-are-gone air holds them already
ΧΟΡΟΣ πυρὸς τετακότας σποδῷ·
of-fire melted in-ash
ποτανοὶ δ' ἤνυσαν τὸν Ἅιδαν.
winged and they-reached the Hades
ΠΑΙΔΕΣ πάτερ, μῶν σῶν κλύεις τέκνων γόους;
father surely-not your you-hear of-children laments
ἆρ' ἀσπιδοῦχος ἔτι ποτ' ἀντιτίσομαι σὸν φόνον;
— shield-bearing still ever shall-I-avenge your murder
ΧΟΡΟΣ εἰ γὰρ γένοιτο, τέκνον.
if for might-be child
ΠΑΙΔΕΣ ἔτ' ἂν θεοῦ θέλοντος ἔλθοι δίκα
still — god willing might-come justice
πατρῷος· οὔπω κακὸν τόδ' εὕδει.
paternal not-yet evil this sleeps
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἅλις γόων, ἅλις τύχας,
enough of-laments enough of-fortune
ἅλις δ' ἀλγέων ἐμοὶ πάρεστιν.
enough and of-griefs to-me is-present
ΠΑΙΔΕΣ ἔτ' Ἀσωποῦ με δέξεται γάνος
still of-Asopus me will-receive brightness
χαλκέοις ἐν ὅπλοις Δαναΐδῶν στρατηλάταν,
bronze in arms of-Danaans general
ΧΟΡΟΣ τοῦ φθιμένου πατρὸς ἐκδικαστάν.
of-the dead father avenger
ΠΑΙΔΕΣ ἔτ' εἰσορᾶν σε, πάτερ, ἐπ' ὀμμάτων δοκῶ —
still to-see you father before eyes I-think

ΧΟΡΟΣ φίλον φίλημα παρὰ γένυν τιθέντα σόν.
dear kiss on cheek placing your

ΠΑΙΔΕΣ λόγων δὲ παρακέλευσμα σῶν
of-words and exhortation your

ἀέρι φερόμενον οἴχεται.
by-air being-carried is-gone

ΧΟΡΟΣ δυοῖν δ' ἄχη, ματέρι τ' ἔλιπε —
to-two but griefs to-mother and he-left

σέ τ' οὔποτ' ἄλγη πατρῷα λείψει.
you and never griefs paternal will-leave

ΠΑΙΔΕΣ ἔχω τοσόνδε βάρος ὅσον μ' ἀπώλεσεν.
I-have such weight as-much-as me destroyed

ΧΟΡΟΣ φέρ', ἀμφὶ μαστὸν ὑποβάλω σποδόν.
come about breast let-me-put-under ash

ΠΑΙΔΕΣ ἔκλαυσα τόδε κλύων ἔπος
I-wept this hearing word

στυγνότατον· ἔθιγέ μου φρενῶν.
most-hateful it-touched my heart

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ τέκνον, ἔβας· οὐκέτι φίλον
O child you-went no-longer dear

φίλας ἄγαλμ' ὄψομαί σε ματρός.
of-dear adornment shall-I-see you of-mother

Theseus gives the ashes to the sons, asking Adrastus and the Argive women to remember Athens' kindness. Athena appears and orders Theseus to make Adrastus swear that Argos will never attack Athens, the oath inscribed on a tripod at Delphi, with the sacrificial knife buried at the pyres. She foretells that the sons of the fallen will one day sack Thebes as the Epigoni.

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ Ἄδραστε καὶ γυναῖκες Ἀργεῖαι γένος,
Adrastus and women Argive by-race
ὁρᾶτε παῖδας τούσδ' ἔχοντας ἐν χεροῖν
you-see sons these having in hands
πατέρων ἀρίστων σώμαθ' ὧν ἀνειλόμην·
of-fathers best bodies whom I-recovered
τούτοις ἐγώ σφε καὶ πόλις δωρούμεθα.
to-these I them and city present
ὑμᾶς δὲ τῶνδε χρὴ χάριν μεμνημένους
you but of-these must favor remembering
σῴζειν, ὁρῶντας ὧν ἐκύρσατ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ.
to-preserve seeing what-things you-obtained from me
παισὶν δ' ὑπεῖπον τοῖσδε τοὺς αὐτοὺς λόγους,
to-sons and I-told these the same words
τιμᾶν πόλιν τήνδ', ἐκ τέκνων ἀεὶ τέκνοις
to-honor city this from children always to-children
μνήμην παραγγέλλοντας ὧν ἐκύρσατε.
memory passing-on of-what-things you-obtained
Ζεὺς δὲ ξυνίστωρ οἵ τ' ἐν οὐρανῷ θεοὶ
Zeus and witness the and in heaven gods
οἵων ὑφ' ἡμῶν στείχετ' ἠξιωμένοι.
what-sort by us you-go having-been-deemed-worthy

ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ Θησεῦ, ξύνισμεν πάνθ' ὅσ' Ἀργείαν χθόνα
Theseus we-know all as-many-as Argive land
δέδρακας ἐσθλὰ δεομένην εὐεργετῶν,
you-have-done good-things needing benefiting
χάριν τ' ἀγήρων ἕξομεν· γενναῖα γὰρ
gratitude and ageless we-will-have noble-things for
παθόντες ὑμᾶς ἀντιδρᾶν ὀφείλομεν.
having-received you to-do-in-return we-owe
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ τί δῆτ' ἔθ' ὑμῖν ἄλλ' ὑπουργῆσαί με χρή;
what then still to-you other to-render me must
ΑΔΡΑΣΤΟΣ χαῖρ'· ἄξιος γὰρ καὶ σὺ καὶ πόλις σέθεν.
farewell worthy for both you and city of-you
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ ἔσται τάδ'· ἀλλὰ καὶ σὺ τῶν αὐτῶν τύχοις.
it-will-be these-things but also you the same may-you-obtain
ΑΘΗΝΑ ἄκουε, Θησεῦ, τούσδ' Ἀθηναίας λόγους,
hear Theseus these of-Athena words
ἃ χρή σε δρᾶσαι, δρῶντα δ' ὠφελεῖν τάδε.
what-things must you to-do doing and to-benefit these
μὴ δῷς τάδ' ὀστᾶ τοῖσδ' ἐς Ἀργείαν χθόνα
not give these bones to-these to Argive land
παισὶν κομίζειν ῥᾳδίως οὕτω μεθείς,
to-children to-carry easily thus letting-go
ἀλλ' ἀντὶ τῶν σῶν καὶ πόλεως μοχθημάτων
but in-return-for the your and of-city toils
πρῶτον λάβ' ὅρκον. τόνδε δ' ὀμνύναι χρεὼν
first take oath this and to-swear must
Ἄδραστον· οὗτος κύριος, τύραννος ὤν,
Adrastus this-one sovereign king being
πάσης ὑπὲρ γῆς Δαναϊδῶν ὁρκωμοτεῖν.
all on-behalf-of land of-Danaans to-swear

ὁ δ' ὅρκος ἔσται, μήποτ' Ἀργείους χθόνα
the and oath will-be never Argives land
εἰς τήνδ' ἐποίσειν πολέμιον παντευχίαν,
to this to-bring-against hostile full-armor
ἄλλων τ' ἰόντων ἐμποδὼν θήσειν δόρυ.
others and going in-the-way to-put spear
ἢν δ' ὅρκον ἐκλιπόντες ἔλθωσιν, πάλιν
if but oath having-forsaken they-come again
κακῶς ὀλέσθαι πρόστρεπ' Ἀργείων χθόνα.
badly to-perish pray-against of-Argives land
ἐν ᾧ δὲ τέμνειν σφάγια χρή σ', ἄκουέ μου.
in which and to-cut victims must you hear me
ἔστιν τρίπους σοι χαλκόπους εἴσω δόμων,
is tripod to-you bronze-footed within house
ὃν Ἰλίου ποτ' ἐξαναστήσας βάθρα
which of-Ilium once having-overthrown foundations
σπουδὴν ἐπ' ἄλλην Ἡρακλῆς ὁρμώμενος
eagerness to other Heracles setting-out
στῆσαί σ' ἐφεῖτο Πυθικὴν πρὸς ἑσχάραν.
to-set-up you he-bade Pythian at hearth
ἐν τῷδε λαιμοὺς τρεῖς τριῶν μήλων τεμὼν
in this throats three of-three sheep having-cut
ἔγγραψον ὅρκους τρίποδος ἐν κοίλῳ κύτει,
inscribe oaths of-tripod in hollow vessel
κἄπειτα σῴζειν θεῷ δὸς ᾧ Δελφῶν μέλει,
and-then to-keep to-god give to-whom of-Delphi is-a-care
μνημεῖά θ' ὅρκων μαρτύρημά θ' Ἑλλάδι.
memorials and of-oaths testimony and to-Hellas
ᾗ δ' ἂν διοίξῃς σφάγια καὶ τρώσῃς φόνον
where and — you-open victims and wound slaughter

ὀξύστομον μάχαιραν ἐς γαίας μυχοὺς
sharp-mouthed knife into of-earth recesses
κρύψον παρ' αὐτὰς ἑπτὰ πυρκαιὰς νεκρῶν·
hide by very seven pyres of-dead
φόβον γὰρ αὐτοῖς, ἤν ποτ' ἔλθωσιν πόλιν,
fear for to-them if ever they-come-against city
δειχθεῖσα θήσει καὶ κακὸν νόστον πάλιν.
having-been-shown it-will-make and evil return back
δράσας δὲ ταῦτα πέμπε γῆς ἔξω νεκρούς.
having-done and these-things send of-land outside corpses
τεμένη δ', ἵν' αὐτῶν σώμαθ' ἡγνίσθη πυρί,
precincts and where their bodies were-purified by-fire
μέθες παρ' αὐτὴν τρίοδον Ἰσθμίαν θεῷ.
dedicate by very crossroads Isthmian to-god
σοὶ μὲν τάδ' εἶπον· παισὶ δ' Ἀργείων λέγω·
to-you indeed these-things I-said to-sons but of-Argives I-say
πορθήσεθ' ἡβήσαντες Ἰσμηνοῦ πόλιν,
you-will-sack having-come-of-age of-Ismenus city
πατέρων θανόντων ἐκδικάζοντες φόνον,
of-fathers dead avenging murder
σύ τ' ἀντὶ πατρός, Αἰγιαλεῦ, στρατηλάτης
you and in-place-of father Aegialeus general
νέος καταστάς, παῖς τ' ἀπ' Αἰτωλῶν μολὼν
young established son and from Aetolians having-come
Τυδέως, ὃν ὠνόμαζε Διομήδην πατήρ.
of-Tydeus whom named Diomedes father
ἀλλ' οὐ φθάνειν χρὴ συσκιάζοντας γένυν
but not to-delay must shadowing cheek
καὶ χαλκοπληθῆ Δαναϊδῶν ὁρμᾶν στρατὸν
and bronze-filled of-Danaans to-set-in-motion army

ἑπτάστομον πύργωμα Καδμείων ἔπι.
seven-mouthed towers of-Cadmeans against
πικροὶ γὰρ αὐτοῖς ἥξετ', ἐκτεθραμμένοι
bitter for to-them you-will-come having-been-reared
σκύμνοι λεόντων, πόλεος ἐκπορθήτορες.
cubs of-lions of-city sackers
κοὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλως· Ἐπίγονοι δ' ἀν' Ἑλλάδα
and-not it-is otherwise Epigoni and throughout Hellas
κληθέντες ᾠδὰς ὑστέροισι θήσετε·
called songs for-later-men you-will-make
τοῖον στράτευμα σὺν θεῷ πορεύσετε.
such expedition with god you-will-lead
ΘΗΣΕΥΣ δέσποιν' Ἀθάνα, πείσομαι λόγοισι σοῖς·
lady Athena I-will-obey words your
σὺ γάρ μ' ἀνορθοῖς, ὥστε μὴ 'ξαμαρτάνειν·
you for me set-right so-that not to-err
καὶ τόνδ' ἐν ὅρκοις ζεύξομαι· μόνον σύ με
and this-one in oaths I-will-bind only you me
εἰς ὀρθὸν ἵστη· σοῦ γὰρ εὐμενοῦς πόλει
to upright set of-you for being-well-disposed to-city
οὔσης τὸ λοιπὸν ἀσφαλῶς οἰκήσομεν.
being the hereafter safely we-will-dwell
ΧΟΡΟΣ στείχωμεν, Ἄδρασθ', ὅρκια δῶμεν
let-us-go Adrastus pledges let-us-give
τῷδ' ἀνδρὶ πόλει τ'· ἄξια δ' ἡμῖν
to-this man to-city and worthy and for-us
προμεμοχθήκασι σέβεσθαι.
having-toiled-before to-be-revered

EURIPIDES

ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΔΑΙ

The Children of Heracles

I · IOLAUS AT MARATHON

Iolaus, old companion of Heracles, explains that he has fled with Heracles' children from Eurystheus, king of Argos, who seeks to kill them, and that they have taken refuge at the altar of Zeus at Marathon. Alcmene and the girls are in the temple, and Hyllus is seeking a new refuge. A herald of Eurystheus arrives and tries to drag the children away; Iolaus cries for help.

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ πάλαι ποτ᾽ ἐστὶ τοῦτ᾽ ἐμοὶ δεδογμένον·
long-ago ever is this by-me decided
ὁ μὲν δίκαιος τοῖς πέλας πέφυκ᾽ ἀνήρ,
the indeed just to-the neighbors is man
ὁ δ᾽ εἰς τὸ κέρδος λῆμ᾽ ἔχων ἀνειμένον
the but to the gain spirit having let-loose
πόλει τ᾽ ἄχρηστος καὶ συναλλάσσειν βαρύς,
to-city and useless and to-deal-with hard
αὑτῷ δ᾽ ἄριστος· οἶδα δ᾽ οὐ λόγῳ μαθών. 5
for-himself but best I-know and not by-word having-learned
ἐγὼ γὰρ αἰδοῖ καὶ τὸ συγγενὲς σέβων,
I for by-shame and the kinship revering
ἐξὸν κατ᾽ Ἄργος ἡσύχως ναίειν, πόνων
it-being-possible in Argos quietly to-dwell of-toils
πλείστων μετέσχον εἷς ἀνὴρ Ἡρακλέει,
most shared one man with-Heracles
ὅτ᾽ ἦν μεθ᾽ ἡμῶν· νῦν δ᾽, ἐπεὶ κατ᾽ οὐρανὸν
when he-was with us now but since in heaven
ναίει, τὰ κείνου τέκν᾽ ἔχων ὑπὸ πτεροῖς 10
he-dwells the his children having under wings
σῴζω τάδ᾽ αὐτὸς δεόμενος σωτηρίας.
I-save these myself needing safety

ἐπεὶ γὰρ αὐτῶν γῆς ἀπηλλάχθη πατήρ,
when for of-them from-earth departed father
πρῶτον μὲν ἡμᾶς ἤθελ' Εὐρυσθεὺς κτανεῖν·
first indeed us wished Eurystheus to-kill
ἀλλ' ἐξέδραμεν· καὶ πόλις μὲν οἴχεται,
but we-ran-out and city indeed is-gone
ψυχὴ δ' ἐσώθη. φεύγομεν δ' ἀλώμενοι
life but was-saved we-flee and wandering
ἄλλην ἀπ' ἄλλης ἐξορίζοντες πόλιν.
other from other crossing-borders-to city
πρὸς τοῖς γὰρ ἄλλοις καὶ τόδ' Εὐρυσθεὺς κακοῖς
to the for other also this Eurystheus evils
ὕβρισμ' ἐς ἡμᾶς ἠξίωσεν ὑβρίσαι·
outrage to us thought-fit to-commit
πέμπων ὅπου γῆς πυνθάνοιθ' ἱδρυμένους
sending where of-land he-learns-of-us settled
κήρυκας ἐξαιτεῖ τε κἀξείργει χθονός,
heralds he-demands and and-shuts-out from-land
πόλιν προτείνων Ἄργος οὐ σμικρὰν φίλην
city holding-out Argos not small friendly
ἐχθράν τε θέσθαι, χαὐτὸν εὐτυχοῦνθ' ἅμα.
hostile and to-make and-himself prospering at-once
οἱ δ' ἀσθενῆ μὲν τἀπ' ἐμοῦ δεδορκότες,
they and weak indeed the-things-from me seeing
σμικροὺς δὲ τούσδε καὶ πατρὸς τητωμένους,
small and these and of-father bereft
τοὺς κρείσσονας σέβοντες ἐξείργουσι γῆς.
the stronger revering shut-out from-land
ἐγὼ δὲ σὺν φεύγουσι συμφεύγω τέκνοις
I and with fleeing flee-with children

καὶ σὺν κακῶς πράσσουσι συμπράσσω κακῶς,
and with badly faring fare-with badly
ὀκνῶν προδοῦναι, μή τις ὧδ' εἴπῃ βροτῶν·
shrinking to-betray lest someone so say of-mortals
ἴδεσθ', ἐπειδὴ παισὶν οὐκ ἔστιν πατήρ,
see since for-the-children not is father
Ἰόλαος οὐκ ἤμυνε συγγενὴς γεγώς.
Iolaus not defended kin being
πάσης δὲ χώρας Ἑλλάδος τητώμενοι,
all and of-land of-Hellas bereft
Μαραθῶνα καὶ σύγκληρον ἐλθόντες χθόνα
to-Marathon and joint-allotted having-come land
ἱκέται καθεζόμεσθα βώμιοι θεῶν,
suppliants we-sit at-the-altars of-gods
προσωφελῆσαι· πεδία γὰρ τῆσδε χθονὸς
to-help-us plains for of-this land
δισσοὺς κατοικεῖν Θησέως παῖδας λόγος,
two to-inhabit of-Theseus sons report
κλήρῳ λαχόντας, ἐκ γένους Πανδίονος,
by-lot having-obtained from race of-Pandion
τοῖσδ' ἐγγὺς ὄντας· ὧν ἕκατι τέρμονας
to-these near being for-whose sake boundaries
κλεινῶν Ἀθηνῶν τήνδ' ἀφικόμεσθ' ὁδόν.
of-famous Athens this we-came road
δυοῖν γερόντοιν δὲ στρατηγεῖται φυγή·
of-two old-men and is-generaled exile
ἐγὼ μὲν ἀμφὶ τοῖσδε καλχαίνων τέκνοις,
I indeed about these anxious children
ἡ δ' αὖ τὸ θῆλυ παιδὸς Ἀλκμήνη γένος
she and again the female of-son Alcmene offspring

ἔσωθε ναοῦ τοῦδ' ὑπηγκαλισμένη
within temple of-this taken-in-arms
σῴζει· νέας γὰρ παρθένους αἰδούμεθα
saves young for maidens we-are-ashamed
ὄχλῳ πελάζειν κἀπιβωμιοστατεῖν.
to-crowd to-approach and-to-stand-at-altars
Ὕλλος δ' ἀδελφοί θ' οἷσι πρεσβεύει γένος
Hyllus and brothers and to-whom is-eldest offspring
ζητοῦσ' ὅπου γῆς πύργον οἰκιούμεθα,
seek where of-land tower we-shall-inhabit
ἢν τῆσδ' ἀπωθώμεσθα πρὸς βίαν χθονός.
if from-this we-are-thrust by force land
ὦ τέκνα τέκνα, δεῦρο, λαμβάνεσθ' ἐμῶν
O children children here take-hold of-my
πέπλων· ὁρῶ κήρυκα τόνδ' Εὐρυσθέως
robes I-see herald this of-Eurystheus
στείχοντ' ἐφ' ἡμᾶς, οὗ διωκόμεσθ' ὕπο
coming against us whom we-are-pursued by
πάσης ἀλῆται γῆς ἀπεστερημένοι.
of-all wanderers of-land deprived
ὦ μῖσος, εἴθ' ὄλοιο χὠ πέμψας σ' ἀνήρ·
O hateful-thing would-that you-might-perish and-the having-sent you man
ὃς πολλὰ δὴ καὶ τῶνδε γενναίῳ πατρὶ
who many-things indeed also of-these to-noble father
ἐκ τοῦδε ταὐτοῦ στόματος ἤγγειλας κακά.
from this same mouth announced evils
ΚΗΡΥΞ ἦ που καθῆσθαι τήνδ' ἔδραν καλὴν δοκεῖς
— surely to-sit this seat fair you-think
πόλιν τ' ἀφῖχθαι σύμμαχον; κακῶς φρονῶν·
city and to-have-reached ally badly thinking

οὐ γάρ τις ἔστιν ὃς πάροιθ' αἱρήσεται
not for anyone is who before will-choose
τὴν σὴν ἀχρεῖον δύναμιν ἀντ' Εὐρυσθέως·
the your useless power instead-of Eurystheus
χώρει· τί μοχθεῖς ταῦτ'; ἀνίστασθαί σε χρὴ
go-on why do-you-toil these-things to-rise you must
εἰς Ἄργος, οὗ σε λεύσιμος μένει δίκη.
to Argos where you stoning awaits justice
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεί μοι βωμὸς ἀρκέσει θεοῦ,
not indeed since for-me altar will-suffice of-god
ἐλευθέρα τε γαῖ' ἐν ᾗ βεβήκαμεν.
free and land in which we-have-stepped
ΚΗΡΥΞ βούλει πόνον μοι τῇδε προσθεῖναι χερί;
do-you-wish toil for-me with-this to-give hand
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ οὔτοι βίᾳ γέ μ' οὐδὲ τούσδ' ἄξεις λαβών.
surely-not by-force at-least me nor these will-you-lead having-taken
ΚΗΡΥΞ γνώσει σύ· μάντις δ' ἦσθ' ἄρ' οὐ καλὸς τάδε.
you-will-know you seer but you-were then not good these-things
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ οὐκ ἂν γένοιτο τοῦτ' ἐμοῦ ζῶντός ποτε.
not — would-be this I living ever
ΚΗΡΥΞ ἄπαιρ'· ἐγὼ δὲ τούσδε, κἂν σὺ μὴ θέλῃς,
go-away I but these even-if you not wish
ἄξω κομίζων, οὗπέρ εἰσ', Εὐρυσθέως.
will-lead carrying whose they-are of-Eurystheus
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ὦ τὰς Ἀθήνας δαρὸν οἰκοῦντες χρόνον,
O the Athens long dwelling time
ἀμύνεθ'· ἱκέται δ' ὄντες ἀγοραίου Διὸς
defend suppliants and being of-market Zeus

βιαζόμεσθα καὶ στέφη μιαίνεται,
we-are-forced and wreaths are-defiled
πόλει τ' ὄνειδος καὶ θεῶν ἀτιμία.
to-city and reproach and of-gods dishonor

II · THE OLD MEN OF MARATHON

The chorus of old men of Marathon come running and ask who the strangers are. Iolaus tells them, and they forbid the herald to remove suppliants from the gods' altar by force.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔα ἔα· τίς ἡ βοὴ βωμοῦ πέλας
ha ha what the shout altar near
ἔστηκε; ποίαν συμφορὰν δείξει τάχα;
has-arisen what misfortune will-show soon
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ἴδετε τὸν γέροντ' ἀμαλὸν ἐπὶ πέδῳ
see the old-man feeble on ground
χύμενον· ὦ τάλας.
poured O wretched
ΧΟΡΟΣ πρὸς τοῦ ποτ' ἐν γῇ πτῶμα δύστηνον πίτνεις;
by whom ever on earth fall wretched you-fall
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ὅδ', ὦ ξένοι, με σοὺς ἀτιμάζων θεούς
this-one O strangers me your dishonoring gods
ἕλκει βιαίως Ζηνὸς ἐκ προβωμίων.
drags by-force of-Zeus from altar-steps

ΧΟΡΟΣ σὺ δ' ἐκ τίνος γῆς, ὦ γέρον, τετράπτολιν
you and from what land O old-man four-citied
ξύνοικον ἦλθες λαόν; ἢ πέρα-
dwelling-together did-you-come-to people or from-beyond
θεν ἁλίῳ πλάτᾳ
— with-sea oar
κατέχετ' ἐκλιπόντες Εὐβοΐδ' ἀκτάν;
do-you-land having-left Euboean shore
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ οὐ νησιώτην, ὦ ξένοι, τρίβω βίον,
not islander O strangers I-pass life
ἀλλ' ἐκ Μυκηνῶν σὴν ἀφίγμεθα χθόνα.
but from Mycenae your we-have-come land
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὄνομα τί σε, γέρον,
name what you old-man
Μυκηναῖος ὠνόμαζεν λεώς;
Mycenaean called people
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ τὸν Ἡράκλειον ἴστε που παραστάτην
the Heraclean you-know surely companion
Ἰόλαον· οὐ γὰρ ὄνομ' ἀκήρυκτον τόδε.
Iolaus not for name unheralded this
ΧΟΡΟΣ οἶδ' εἰσακούσας καὶ πρίν· ἀλλὰ τοῦ
I-know having-heard even before but whose
ποτ' ἐν χειρὶ σᾷ κομίζεις κόρους
ever in hand your do-you-bring boys
νεοτρεφεῖς; φράσον.
young-reared tell
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ Ἡρακλέους οἵδ' εἰσὶ παῖδες, ὦ ξένοι,
of-Heracles these are children O strangers
ἱκέται σέθεν τε καὶ πόλεως ἀφιγμένοι.
suppliants of-you both and of-city having-come

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί χρέος; ἢ λόγων πόλεος, ἔνεπέ μοι,
what need or of-words of-city tell me
μελόμενοι τυχεῖν;
anxious to-obtain
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ μήτ' ἐκδοθῆναι μήτε πρὸς βίαν θεῶν
neither to-be-surrendered nor by force from-gods
τῶν σῶν ἀποσπασθέντες εἰς Ἄργος μολεῖν.
the your having-been-torn-away to Argos to-go
ΚΗΡΥΞ ἀλλ' οὔτι τοῖς σοῖς δεσπόταις τάδ' ἀρκέσει,
but not-at-all to-the your masters these-things will-suffice
οἳ σοῦ κρατοῦντες ἐνθάδ' εὑρίσκουσί σε.
who of-you being-masters here find you
ΧΟΡΟΣ εἰκὸς θεῶν ἱκτῆρας αἰδεῖσθαι, ξένε,
fitting of-gods suppliants to-respect stranger
καὶ μὴ βιαίῳ χειρὶ δαιμόνων
and not with-violent hand of-gods
ἀπολιπεῖν ἕδη·
to-leave seats
πότνια γὰρ Δίκα τάδ' οὐ πείσεται.
lady for Justice these-things not will-suffer
ΚΗΡΥΞ ἔκπεμπέ νυν γῆς τούσδε τοὺς Εὐρυσθέως,
send-out now from-land these the of-Eurystheus
κοὐδὲν βιαίῳ τῇδε χρήσομαι χερί.
and-nothing with-violent this I-will-use hand
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄθεον ἱκεσίαν
godless supplication
μεθεῖναι πόλει ξένων προστροπάν.
to-let-go for-city of-strangers appeal

ΚΗΡΥΞ καλὸν δέ γ' ἔξω πραγμάτων ἔχειν πόδα,
fine and at-least out-of affairs to-keep foot
εὐβουλίας τυχόντα τῆς ἀμείνονος.
of-counsel having-obtained the better

III · DEMOPHON'S DECISION

Demophon, king of Athens, arrives with his brother Acamas. The herald argues that Argos has the right to take back its own exiles. Iolaus answers that they are no longer Argives and are kin of Demophon through Pelops. Demophon refuses to surrender the suppliants for the sake of Zeus, of kinship, and of Athens' honor. The herald threatens war and leaves; Iolaus thanks the king, and Demophon prepares the city's defense.

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὔκουν τυράννῳ τῆσδε γῆς φράσαντά σε
not-then to-king of-this land having-told you
χρῆν ταῦτα τολμᾶν, ἀλλὰ μὴ βίᾳ ξένους
it-was-right these-things to-dare but not by-force strangers
θεῶν ἀφέλκειν, γῆν σέβοντ' ἐλευθέραν;
from-gods to-drag land revering free
ΚΗΡΥΞ τίς δ' ἐστὶ χώρας τῆσδε καὶ πόλεως ἄναξ;
who and is of-land of-this and city lord
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐσθλοῦ πατρὸς παῖς Δημοφῶν ὁ Θησέως.
of-noble father son Demophon the of-Theseus
ΚΗΡΥΞ πρὸς τοῦτον ἀγὼν ἄρα τοῦδε τοῦ λόγου
to this-one the-contest then of-this the word
μάλιστ' ἂν εἴη· τἄλλα δ' εἴρηται μάτην.
most — would-be the-rest and are-said in-vain

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ὅδ' αὐτὸς ἔρχεται σπουδὴν ἔχων
and indeed this-one himself comes haste having
Ἀκάμας τ' ἀδελφός, τῶνδ' ἐπήκοοι λόγων.
Acamas and brother of-these hearers words
ΔΗΜΟΦΩΝ ἐπείπερ ἔφθης πρέσβυς ὢν νεωτέρους
since-indeed you-anticipated old-man being younger-men
βοηδρομήσας τήνδ' ἐπ' ἐσχάραν Διός,
running-to-help this to hearth of-Zeus
λέξον, τίς ὄχλον τόνδ' ἀθροίζεται τύχη;
tell what crowd this gathers fortune
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἱκέται κάθηνται παῖδες οἵδ' Ἡρακλέους
suppliants sit children these of-Heracles
βωμὸν καταστέψαντες ὡς ὁρᾷς, ἄναξ,
altar having-wreathed as you-see lord
πατρός τε πιστὸς Ἰόλεως παραστάτης.
of-father and faithful Iolaus companion
ΔΗΜΟΦΩΝ τί δῆτ' ἰυγμῶν ἥδ' ἐδεῖτο συμφορά;
why then of-shrieks this needed misfortune
ΧΟΡΟΣ βίᾳ νιν οὗτος τῆσδ' ἀπ' ἐσχάρας ἄγειν
by-force them this-one this from hearth to-lead
ζητῶν βοὴν ἔστησε κἄσφηλεν γόνυ
seeking shout raised and-tripped knee
γέροντος, ὥστε μ' ἐκβαλεῖν οἴκτῳ δάκρυ.
of-old-man so-that me to-shed in-pity tear
ΔΗΜΟΦΩΝ καὶ μὴν στολήν γ' Ἕλληνα καὶ ῥυθμὸν πέπλων
and indeed dress at-least Greek and fashion of-robes
ἔχει, τὰ δ' ἔργα βαρβάρου χερὸς τάδε.
he-has the but deeds of-barbarian hand these
σὸν δὴ τὸ φράζειν ἐστί, μὴ μέλλειν τ', ἐμοί
yours indeed the to-tell is not to-delay and for-me

ποίας ἀφῖξαι δεῦρο γῆς ὅρους λιπών;
what you-came here of-land boundaries having-left
ΚΗΡΥΞ Ἀργεῖός εἰμι, τοῦτο γὰρ θέλεις μαθεῖν·
Argive I-am this for you-wish to-learn
ἐφ᾽ οἷσι δ᾽ ἥκω καὶ παρ᾽ οὗ λέγειν θέλω.
on what and I-come and from whom to-say I-wish
πέμπει Μυκηνῶν δεῦρό μ᾽ Εὐρυσθεὺς ἄναξ
sends of-Mycenae here me Eurystheus lord
ἄξοντα τούσδε· πολλὰ δ᾽ ἦλθον, ὦ ξένε,
to-lead these many and I-came O stranger
δίκαι᾽ ὁμαρτῇ δρᾶν τε καὶ λέγειν ἔχων.
just-things together to-do both and to-say having
Ἀργεῖος ὢν γὰρ αὐτὸς Ἀργείους ἄγω
Argive being for myself Argives I-lead
ἐκ τῆς ἐμαυτοῦ τούσδε δραπέτας ἑλών,
from the my-own these runaways having-taken
νόμοισι τοῖς ἐκεῖθεν ἐψηφισμένους
by-laws the from-there condemned
θανεῖν· δίκαιοι δ᾽ ἐσμὲν οἰκοῦντες πόλιν
to-die entitled and we-are dwelling city
αὐτοὶ καθ᾽ αὑτῶν κυρίους κραίνειν δίκας.
ourselves concerning ourselves valid to-decide judgments
πολλῶν δὲ κἄλλων ἑστίας ἀφιγμένων,
many and also-others hearths having-reached
ἐν τοῖσιν αὐτοῖς τοισίδ᾽ ἔσταμεν λόγοις,
in the same these we-stood words
κοὐδεὶς ἐτόλμησ᾽ ἴδια προσθέσθαι κακά.
and-no-one dared private-things to-add evils
ἀλλ᾽ ἤ τιν᾽ εἰς σὲ μωρίαν ἐσκεμμένοι
but either some in you folly having-detected

δεῦρ᾽ ἦλθον ἢ κίνδυνον ἐξ ἀμηχάνων
here they-came or risk from desperation
ῥίπτοντες, εἴτ᾽ οὖν εἴτε μὴ γενήσεται·
casting whether then or not it-will-be
οὐ γὰρ φρενήρη γ᾽ ὄντα σ᾽ ἐλπίζουσί που
not for sane at-least being you they-hope surely
μόνον τοσαύτης ἣν ἐπῆλθον Ἑλλάδος
alone of-so-much which they-traversed of-Hellas
τὰς τῶνδ᾽ ἀβούλους συμφορὰς κατοικτιεῖν·
the of-these foolish misfortunes to-pity
φέρ᾽ ἀντίθες γάρ, τούσδε τ᾽ εἰς γαῖαν παρεὶς
come compare for these and into land admitting
ἡμᾶς τ᾽ ἐάσας ἐξάγειν, τί κερδανεῖς;
us and allowing to-lead-away what will-you-gain
τὰ μὲν παρ᾽ ἡμῶν τοιάδ᾽ ἔστι σοι λαβεῖν,
the indeed from us such-things are for-you to-take
Ἄργους τοσήνδε χεῖρα τήν τ᾽ Εὐρυσθέως
of-Argos so-great hand the and of-Eurystheus
ἰσχὺν ἅπασαν τῇδε προσθέσθαι πόλει.
strength all to-this to-add city
ἢν δ᾽ εἰς λόγους τε καὶ τὰ τῶνδ᾽ οἰκτίσματα
if but to words both and the of-these laments
βλέψας πεπανθῇς, εἰς πάλην καθίσταται
looking you-are-softened to wrestling is-brought
δορὸς τὸ πρᾶγμα· μὴ γὰρ ὡς μεθήσομεν
of-spear the matter not for as we-will-let-go
δόξῃς ἀγῶνα τόνδ᾽ ἄτερ χαλυβδικοῦ.
think contest this without steel
τί δῆτα φήσεις, ποῖα πεδί᾽ ἀφαιρεθείς,
what then will-you-say what plains having-been-robbed-of

Τιρυνθίοις θεὶς πόλεμον Ἀργείοις ἔχειν;
with-Tirynthians having-made war with-Argives to-have
ποίοις δ' ἀμύνων συμμάχοις; τίνος δ' ὕπερ
what and defending allies whom and on-behalf-of
θάψεις νεκροὺς πεσόντας; ἦ κακὸν λόγον
will-you-bury corpses fallen surely bad word
κτήσει πρὸς ἀστῶν, εἰ γέροντος εἵνεκα,
you-will-get from citizens if of-old-man for-the-sake
τύμβου, τὸ μηδὲν ὄντος, ὡς εἰπεῖν ἔπος,
of-tomb the nothing being as to-say word
παίδων τε τῶνδ', εἰς ἄντλον ἐμβήσει πόδα.
of-children and of-these into bilge you-will-step foot
ἐρεῖς τὸ λῷστον ἐλπίδ' εὑρήσειν μόνον.
you-will-say the best hope to-find only
καὶ τοῦτο πολλῷ τοῦ παρόντος ἐνδεές·
and this much than-the present lacking
κακῶς γὰρ Ἀργείοισιν οἵδ' ὡπλισμένοι
badly for against-Argives these armed
μάχοιντ' ἂν ἡβήσαντες, εἴ τι τοῦτό σε
would-fight — having-grown-up if at-all this you
ψυχὴν ἐπαίρει, χοὐν μέσῳ πολὺς χρόνος,
heart lifts and-the-in middle much time
ἐν ᾧ διεργασθεῖτ' ἄν. ἀλλ' ἐμοὶ πιθοῦ·
in which you-would-be-destroyed — but me obey
δοὺς μηδέν, ἀλλὰ τἄμ' ἐῶν ἄγειν ἐμὲ
giving nothing but my-things allowing to-lead me
κτῆσαι Μυκήνας, μηδ' ὅπερ φιλεῖτε δρᾶν
acquire Mycenae nor which-very you-love to-do
πάθῃς σὺ τοῦτο, τοὺς ἀμείνονας παρὸν
suffer you this the better it-being-possible

φίλους ἑλέσθαι, τοὺς κακίονας λάβῃς.
friends to-choose the worse take

ΧΟΡΟΣ τίς ἂν δίκην κρίνειεν ἢ γνοίη λόγον,
who — judgment would-decide or would-know word

180 πρὶν ἂν παρ' ἀμφοῖν μῦθον ἐκμάθῃ σαφῶς;
before — from both story he-learns clearly

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ἄναξ, ὑπάρχει μὲν τόδ' ἐν τῇ σῇ χθονί,
lord exists indeed this in the your land

εἰπεῖν ἀκοῦσαί τ' ἐν μέρει πάρεστί μοι,
to-speak to-hear and in turn is-possible for-me

κοὐδείς μ' ἀπώσει πρόσθεν, ὥσπερ ἄλλοθεν.
and-no-one me will-thrust-away before as-from elsewhere

ἡμῖν δὲ καὶ τῷδ' οὐδέν ἐστιν ἐν μέσῳ·
to-us and and to-this-one nothing is in common

185 ἐπεὶ γὰρ Ἄργους οὐ μέτεσθ' ἡμῖν ἔτι,
since for of-Argos not is-share to-us still

ψήφῳ δοκῆσαν, ἀλλὰ φεύγομεν πάτραν,
by-vote having-been-decided but we-are-exiled from-fatherland

πῶς ἂν δικαίως ὡς Μυκηναίους ἄγοι
how — justly as Mycenaeans could-be-lead

ὧδ' ὄντας ἡμᾶς, οὓς ἀπήλασαν χθονός;
so being us whom they-drove from-land

ξένοι γάρ ἐσμεν. ἢ τὸν Ἑλλήνων ὅρον
strangers for we-are or the of-Greeks boundary

190 φεύγειν δικαιοῦθ' ὅστις ἂν τἄργος φύγῃ;
to-flee do-you-claim whoever — Argos flees

οὔκουν Ἀθήνας γ'· οὐ γὰρ Ἀργείων φόβῳ
not-then Athens at-least not for of-Argives by-fear

τοὺς Ἡρακλείους παῖδας ἐξελῶσι γῆς.
the Heraclean children they-will-drive from-land

οὐ γάρ τι Τραχίς ἐστιν οὐδ' Ἀχαικὸν
not for — Trachis is nor Achaean
πόλισμ', ὅθεν σὺ τούσδε τῇ δίκῃ μὲν οὔ,
town whence you these by-the justice indeed not
τὸ δ' Ἄργος ὀγκῶν, οἷάπερ καὶ νῦν λέγεις,
the but Argos vaunting such-as also now you-say
ἤλαυνες ἱκέτας βωμίους καθημένους.
you-drove suppliants at-altars sitting
εἰ γὰρ τόδ' ἔσται καὶ λόγους κρανοῦσι σούς,
if for this shall-be and words they-will-ratify your
οὐ φήμ' Ἀθήνας τάσδ' ἐλευθέρας ἔτι.
not I-say Athens this free longer
ἀλλ' οἶδ' ἐγὼ τὸ τῶνδε λῆμα καὶ φύσιν·
but I-know I the of-these spirit and nature
θνήσκειν θελήσουσ'· ἡ γὰρ αἰσχύνη πάρος
to-die they-will-wish the for shame before
τοῦ ζῆν παρ' ἐσθλοῖς ἀνδράσιν νομίζεται.
the to-live among noble men is-held
πόλιν μὲν ἀρκεῖ· καὶ γὰρ οὖν ἐπίφθονον
city indeed enough and for indeed invidious
λίαν ἐπαινεῖν ἐστι, πολλάκις δὲ δὴ
too-much to-praise is often and indeed
καὐτὸς βαρυνθεὶς οἶδ' ἄγαν αἰνούμενος·
and-myself burdened I-know too-much being-praised
σοὶ δ' ὡς ἀνάγκη τούσδε βούλομαι φράσαι
to-you and how necessity these I-wish to-tell
σῴζειν, ἐπείπερ τῆσδε προστατεῖς χθονός.
to-save since-indeed of-this you-rule land
Πιτθεὺς μέν ἐστι Πέλοπος, ἐκ δὲ Πιτθέως
Pittheus indeed is of-Pelops from and Pittheus

Αἴθρα, πατὴρ δ' ἐκ τῆσδε γεννᾶται σέθεν
Aethra father and from her is-born your
Θησεύς. πάλιν δὲ τῶνδ' ἄνειμί σοι γένος.
Theseus back and of-these I-go-up for-you race
Ἡρακλέης ἦν Ζηνὸς Ἀλκμήνης τε παῖς,
Heracles was of-Zeus of-Alcmene and son
κείνη δὲ Πέλοπος θυγατρός· αὐτανεψίων
she and of-Pelops of-daughter of-first-cousins
πατὴρ ἂν εἴη σός τε χὠ τούτων γεγώς.
father — would-be yours and and-the of-these born
γένους μὲν ἥκεις ὧδε τοῖσδε, Δημοφῶν·
of-kin indeed you-come so to-these Demophon
ἃ δ' ἐκτὸς ἤδη τοῦ προσήκοντός σε δεῖ
what and outside already of-the belonging you must
τῖσαι λέγω σοι παισί· φημὶ γάρ ποτε
repay I-say to-you for-the-children I-say for once
σύμπλους γενέσθαι τῶνδ' ὑπασπίζων πατρὶ
fellow-sailor to-have-been of-these shield-bearing for-father
ζωστῆρα Θησεῖ τὸν πολυκτόνον μέτα,
girdle Theseus the much-slaying with
Ἅιδου τ' ἐρεμνῶν ἐξανήγαγεν μυχῶν
of-Hades and dark he-brought-up recesses
πατέρα σόν· Ἑλλὰς πᾶσα τοῦτο μαρτυρεῖ.
father your Hellas all this witnesses
ἀλλ' ἄντομαί σε καὶ καταστέφω χεροῖν,
but I-entreat you and wreathe with-hands
μὴ πρὸς γενείου, μηδαμῶς ἀτιμάσῃς
not by beard in-no-way dishonor
τοὺς Ἡρακλείους παῖδας εἰς χέρας λαβών.
the Heraclean children into hands having-taken

γενοῦ δὲ τοῖσδε συγγενής, γενοῦ φίλος
be and for-these kinsman be friend
πατὴρ ἀδελφὸς δεσπότης· ἅπαντα γὰρ
father brother master all for
ταῦτ᾽ ἐστὶ κρείσσω πλὴν ὑπ᾽ Ἀργείοις πεσεῖν.
these-things are better except by Argives to-fall
ΧΟΡΟΣ ᾠκτειρ᾽ ἀκούσας τούσδε συμφορᾶς, ἄναξ.
I-pitied hearing these of-misfortune lord
τὴν δ᾽ εὐγένειαν τῆς τύχης νικωμένην
the and noble-birth by-the fortune being-overcome
νῦν δὴ μάλιστ᾽ εἰσεῖδον· οἵδε γὰρ πατρὸς
now indeed most I-saw these for of-father
ἐσθλοῦ γεγῶτες δυστυχοῦσ᾽ ἀναξίως.
of-noble born are-unfortunate unworthily
ΔΗΜΟΦΩΝ τρισσαί μ᾽ ἀναγκάζουσι συμφορᾶς ὁδοί,
three me compel of-concern roads
Ἰόλαε, τοὺς σοὺς μὴ παρώσασθαι λόγους·
Iolaus the your not to-thrust-aside words
τὸ μὲν μέγιστον Ζεὺς ἐφ᾽ οὗ σὺ βώμιος
the indeed greatest Zeus at whose you at-the-altar
θακεῖς νεοσσῶν τήνδ᾽ ἔχων ὁμήγυριν,
sit of-nestlings this having gathering
τὸ συγγενές τε καὶ τὸ προυφείλειν καλῶς
the kinship both and the owing-from-before well
πράσσειν παρ᾽ ἡμῶν τούσδε πατρῴαν χάριν·
to-fare from us these paternal favor
τό τ᾽ αἰσχρόν, οὗπερ δεῖ μάλιστα φροντίσαι·
the and shameful which-very must most to-consider
εἰ γὰρ παρήσω τόνδε συλᾶσθαι βίᾳ
if for I-allow this to-be-plundered by-force

ξένου πρὸς ἀνδρὸς βωμόν, οὐκ ἐλευθέραν
foreign by man altar not free
οἰκεῖν δοκήσω γαῖαν, Ἀργείοις δ' ὄκνῳ
to-inhabit I-shall-seem land to-Argives and from-fear
ἱκέτας προδοῦναι· καὶ τάδ' ἀγχόνης πέλας.
suppliants to-betray and this of-noose near
ἀλλ' ὤφελες μὲν εὐτυχέστερος μολεῖν·
but ought indeed more-fortunate to-have-come
ὅμως δὲ καὶ νῦν μὴ τρέσῃς ὅπως σέ τις
nevertheless but also now not fear lest you anyone
σὺν παισὶ βωμοῦ τοῦδ' ἀποσπάσει βίᾳ.
with children from-altar this will-drag by-force
σὺ δ' Ἄργος ἐλθὼν ταῦτά τ' Εὐρυσθεῖ φράσον,
you and to-Argos having-gone these-things and to-Eurystheus tell
πρὸς τοῖσδέ τ', εἴ τι τοισίδ' ἐγκαλεῖ ξένοις,
in addition and if anything these he-charges strangers
δίκης κυρήσειν· τούσδε δ' οὐκ ἄξεις ποτέ.
justice to-obtain these but not will-you-lead ever

ΚΗΡΥΞ οὐδ' ἦν δίκαιον ᾖ τι καὶ νικῶ λόγῳ;
not-even if just be anything and I-win by-argument

ΔΗΜΟΦΩΝ καὶ πῶς δίκαιον τὸν ἱκέτην ἄγειν βίᾳ;
and how just the suppliant to-lead by-force

ΚΗΡΥΞ οὐκοῦν ἐμοὶ τόδ' αἰσχρόν, ἀλλ' οὐ σοὶ βλάβος.
then to-me this shameful but not to-you harm

ΔΗΜΟΦΩΝ ἐμοί γ', ἐάν σοι τούσδ' ἐφέλκεσθαι μεθῶ.
to-me at-least if to-you these to-drag-away I-allow

ΚΗΡΥΞ σὺ δ' ἐξόριζε, κᾆτ' ἐκεῖθεν ἄξομεν.
you but banish and-then from-there we-will-lead

ΔΗΜΟΦΩΝ σκαιὸς πέφυκας τοῦ θεοῦ πλείω φρονῶν.
clumsy you-are than-the god more thinking

ΚΗΡΥΞ δεῦρ', ὡς ἔοικε, τοῖς κακοῖσι φευκτέον.
here as seems for-the wretched to-flee

ΔΗΜΟΦΩΝ ἅπασι κοινὸν ῥῦμα δαιμόνων ἕδρα.
to-all common defense of-gods seat

ΚΗΡΥΞ ταῦτ' οὐ δοκήσει τοῖς Μυκηναίοις ἴσως.
these-things not will-seem-good to-the Mycenaeans perhaps

ΔΗΜΟΦΩΝ οὔκουν ἐγὼ τῶν ἐνθάδ' εἰμὶ κύριος;
not-then I of-the-things here am master

ΚΗΡΥΞ βλάπτων γ' ἐκείνους μηδέν, ἢν σὺ σωφρονῇς.
harming at-least those nothing if you are-wise

ΔΗΜΟΦΩΝ βλάπτεσθ', ἐμοῦ γε μὴ μιαίνοντος θεούς.
be-harmed me at-least not defiling gods

ΚΗΡΥΞ οὐ βούλομαί σε πόλεμον Ἀργείοις ἔχειν.
not I-wish you war with-Argives to-have

ΔΗΜΟΦΩΝ κἀγὼ τοιοῦτος· τῶνδε δ' οὐ μεθήσομαι.
and-I such-a-one these but not I-will-let-go

ΚΗΡΥΞ ἄξω γε μέντοι τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἐγὼ λαβών.
I-will-lead at-least however the my I having-taken

ΔΗΜΟΦΩΝ οὐκ ἆρ' ἐς Ἄργος ῥᾳδίως ἄπει πάλιν.
not then to Argos easily you-will-go back

ΚΗΡΥΞ πειρώμενος δὴ τοῦτό γ' αὐτίκ' εἴσομαι.
trying indeed this at-least at-once I-will-know

ΔΗΜΟΦΩΝ κλαίων ἄρ' ἅψει τῶνδε κοὐκ ἐς ἀμβολάς.
weeping then you-will-touch these and-not to delays

ΧΟΡΟΣ μὴ πρὸς θεῶν κήρυκα τολμήσῃς θενεῖν.
not by gods herald dare to-strike

ΔΗΜΟΦΩΝ εἰ μή γ' ὁ κῆρυξ σωφρονεῖν μαθήσεται.
if not at-least the herald to-be-sensible will-learn

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄπελθε· καὶ σὺ τοῦδε μὴ θίγῃς, ἄναξ.
go-away and you this-one not touch lord

ΚΗΡΥΞ στείχω· μιᾶς γὰρ χειρὸς ἀσθενὴς μάχη.
I-go of-one for hand weak battle
ἥξω δὲ πολλὴν Ἄρεος Ἀργείου λαβὼν
I-will-come and much of-Ares Argive having-taken
πάγχαλκον αἰχμὴν δεῦρο. μυρίοι δέ με
all-bronze spear here countless and me
μένουσιν ἀσπιστῆρες Εὐρυσθεύς τ' ἄναξ
await shield-bearers Eurystheus and lord
αὐτὸς στρατηγῶν· Ἀλκάθου δ' ἐπ' ἐσχάτοις
himself generaling of-Alcathous and at furthest
καραδοκῶν τἀνθένδε τέρμασιν μένει.
watching the-things-here borders waits
λαμπρὸς δ' ἀκούσας σὴν ὕβριν φανήσεται
bright and hearing your insolence he-will-appear
σοὶ καὶ πολίταις γῇ τε τῇδε καὶ φυτοῖς·
to-you and to-citizens to-land and this and to-plants
μάτην γὰρ ἥβην ὥδέ γ' ἂν κεκτώμεθα
in-vain for youth so at-least — would-we-possess
πολλὴν ἐν Ἄργει, μή σε τιμωρούμενοι.
much in Argos not you punishing
ΔΗΜΟΦΩΝ φθείρου· τὸ σὸν γὰρ Ἄργος οὐ δέδοικ' ἐγώ.
perish the your for Argos not fear I
ἐνθένδε δ' οὐκ ἔμελλες αἰσχύνας ἐμὲ
from-here and not you-were-going disgracing me
ἄξειν βίᾳ τούσδ'· οὐ γὰρ Ἀργείων πόλει
to-lead by-force these not for of-Argives to-city
ὑπήκοον τήνδ', ἀλλ' ἐλευθέραν ἔχω.
subject this but free I-hold

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὥρα προνοεῖν, πρὶν ὅροις πελάσαι
it-is-time to-take-thought before borders to-approach
στρατὸν Ἀργείων·
army of-Argives
μάλα δ' ὀξὺς Ἄρης ὁ Μυκηναίων,
very and keen Ares the of-Mycenaeans
ἐπὶ τοῖσι δὲ δὴ μᾶλλον ἔτ' ἢ πρίν.
in these and indeed more still than before
πᾶσι γὰρ οὗτος κήρυξι νόμος,
to-all for this to-heralds custom
δὶς τόσα πυργοῦν τῶν γιγνομένων.
twice so-much to-tower of-the happening
πόσα νιν λέξειν βασιλεῦσι δοκεῖς,
how-much him to-tell to-kings do-you-think
ὡς δείν' ἔπαθεν καὶ παρὰ μικρὸν
how terrible-things he-suffered and by little
ψυχὴν ἦλθεν διακναῖσαι;
life came to-be-destroyed
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ οὐκ ἔστι τοῦδε παισὶ κάλλιον γέρας
not is than-this for-children finer prize
ἢ πατρὸς ἐσθλοῦ κἀγαθοῦ πεφυκέναι
than of-father noble and-good to-be-born
τὸ δυστυχὲς γὰρ ηὐγένει' ἀμύνεται
the misfortune for nobility wards-off
τῆς δυσγενείας μᾶλλον· ἡμεῖς γὰρ κακῶν
than-the low-birth more we for of-evils
εἰς τοὔσχατον πεσόντες ηὕρομεν φίλους
to the-uttermost having-fallen we-found friends
καὶ ξυγγενεῖς τούσδ', οἳ τοσῆσδ' οἰκουμένης
and kinsmen these who of-so-great inhabited

Ἑλληνίδος γῆς τῶνδε προύστησαν μόνοι.
of-Greek land of-these championed alone
δότ', ὦ τέκν', αὐτοῖς χεῖρα δεξιάν, δότε·
give O children to-them hand right give
ὑμεῖς τε παισί, καὶ πέλας προσέλθετε.
you and to-the-children and near approach
ὦ παῖδες, εἰς μὲν πεῖραν ἤλθομεν φίλων
O children to indeed trial we-came of-friends
ἢν δ' οὖν ποθ' ὑμῖν νόστος εἰς πάτραν φανῇ,
if but then ever for-you return to fatherland appears
καὶ δώματ' οἰκήσητε καὶ τιμὰς πατρός,
and house you-inhabit and honors of-father
σωτῆρας ἀεὶ καὶ φίλους νομίζετε,
saviors always and friends consider
καὶ μήποτ' εἰς γῆν ἐχθρὸν αἴρεσθαι δόρυ,
and never against land hostile to-raise spear
μεμνημένοι τῶνδ', ἀλλὰ φιλτάτην πόλιν
remembering these but dearest city
πασῶν νομίζετ'. ἄξιοι δ' ὑμῖν σέβειν
of-all consider worthy and to-you to-revere
οἳ γῆν τοσήνδε καὶ Πελασγικὸν λεὼν
who land so-great and Pelasgian people
ἡμῶν ἀπηλλάξαντο πολεμίους ἔχειν,
for-us took-in-exchange as-enemies to-have
πτωχοὺς ἀλήτας εἰσορῶντες· ἀλλ' ὅμως
beggars wanderers seeing but nevertheless
οὐκ ἐξέδωκαν οὐδ' ἀπήλασαν χθονός.
not surrendered nor drove from-land
ἐγὼ δὲ καὶ ζῶν καὶ θανών, ὅταν θάνω,
I and both living and dying when I-die

πολλῷ σ' ἐπαίνῳ Θησέως, ὦ τᾶν, πέλας
much you with-praise to-Theseus O good-sir near
ὑψηλὸν ἀρῶ καὶ λέγων τάδ' εὐφρανῶ,
high will-raise and saying these-things will-delight
ὡς εὖ τ' ἐδέξω καὶ τέκνοισιν ἤρκεσας
how well both you-received and children helped
τοῖς Ἡρακλείοις, εὐγενὴς δ' ἀν' Ἑλλάδα
the Heraclean noble and throughout Hellas
σῴζεις πατρῴαν δόξαν, ἐξ ἐσθλῶν δὲ φὺς
you-preserve paternal glory from noble but born
οὐδὲν κακίων τυγχάνεις γεγὼς πατρός,
nothing worse you-happen born than-father
παύρων μετ' ἄλλων· ἕνα γὰρ ἐν πολλοῖς ἴσως
few with others one for among many perhaps
εὕροις ἂν ὅστις ἐστὶ μὴ χείρων πατρός.
you-might-find — who is not worse than-father
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀεί ποθ' ἥδε γαῖα τοῖς ἀμηχάνοις
always ever this land for-the helpless
σὺν τῷ δικαίῳ βούλεται προσωφελεῖν.
with the justice wishes to-help
τοιγὰρ πόνους δὴ μυρίους ὑπὲρ φίλων
therefore toils indeed countless on-behalf-of friends
ἤνεγκε, καὶ νῦν τόνδ' ἀγῶν' ὁρῶ πέλας.
it-bore and now this contest I-see near
ΔΗΜΟΦΩΝ σοί τ' εὖ λέλεκται, καὶ τὰ τῶνδ' αὐχῶ, γέρον,
to-you and well it-has-been-said and the of-these I-trust old-man
τοιαῦτ' ἔσεσθαι· μνημονεύσεται χάρις.
such to-be will-be-remembered favor
κἀγὼ μὲν ἀστῶν σύλλογον ποιήσομαι,
and-I indeed of-citizens assembly will-make

τάξω δ', ὅπως ἂν τὸν Μυκηναίων στρατὸν
I-will-arrange and how — the of-Mycenaeans army
πολλῇ δέχωμαι χειρί· πρῶτα μὲν σκοποὺς
with-great I-may-receive hand first indeed scouts
πέμψω πρὸς αὐτόν, μὴ λάθῃ με προσπεσών·
I-will-send to it lest unnoticed me it-fall-upon
ταχὺς γὰρ Ἄργει πᾶς ἀνὴρ βοηδρόμος·
swift for at-Argos every man running-to-help
μάντεις δ' ἀθροίσας θύσομαι· σὺ δ' εἰς δόμους
seers and having-gathered I-will-sacrifice you but to house
σὺν παισὶ χώρει, Ζηνὸς ἐσχάραν λιπών.
with children go of-Zeus hearth having-left
εἰσὶν γὰρ οἵ σου, κἂν ἐγὼ θυραῖος ὦ,
are for who of-you even-if I outside be
μέριμναν ἕξουσ'. ἀλλ' ἴθ' εἰς δόμους, γέρον.
care will-have but go into house old-man
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ οὐκ ἂν λίποιμι βωμόν, ἐζώμεσθα δὲ
not — I-would-leave altar let-us-sit but
ἱκέται μένοντες ἐνθάδ' εὖ πρᾶξαι πόλιν·
suppliants remaining here well to-fare city
ὅταν δ' ἀγῶνος τοῦδ' ἀπαλλαχθῇς καλῶς,
when and from-contest this you-are-released well
ἴμεν πρὸς οἴκους. θεοῖσι δ' οὐ κακίοσι
we-will-go to house to-gods and not worse
χρώμεσθα συμμάχοισιν Ἀργείων, ἄναξ·
we-have as-allies of-Argives lord
τῶν μὲν γὰρ Ἥρα προστατεῖ, Διὸς δάμαρ,
of-them indeed for Hera is-champion of-Zeus wife
ἡμῶν δ' Ἀθάνα. φημὶ δ' εἰς εὐπραξίαν
of-us and Athena I-say and to good-fortune

καὶ τοῦθ' ὑπάρχειν, θεῶν ἀμεινόνων τυχεῖν·
also this to-belong of-gods better to-obtain
νικωμένη γὰρ Παλλὰς οὐκ ἀνέξεται.
being-defeated for Pallas not will-endure

IV · ATHENS DEFIANT

The old men tell the Argive herald that his boasting will not frighten them; Athens wants peace but will defend itself.

ΧΟΡΟΣ εἰ σὺ μέγ' αὐχεῖς, ἕτεροι
if you greatly boast others
σοῦ πλέον οὐ μέλονται,
than-you more not are-cared-for
ὦ ξεῖν' Ἀργόθεν ἐλθών·
O stranger from-Argos having-come
μεγαληγορίαισι δ' ἐμὰς
with-big-talk and my
φρένας οὐ φοβήσεις.
heart not you-will-frighten
μήπω ταῖς μεγάλαισιν οὕτω
not-yet to-the great thus
καὶ καλλιχόροις Ἀθάναις
and fair-dancing to-Athens
εἴη. σὺ δ' ἄφρων ὅ τ' Ἄργει
may-it-be you and fool the and in-Argos
Σθενέλου τύραννος·
of-Sthenelus king
ὃς πόλιν ἐλθὼν ἑτέραν
who to-city having-come another

οὐδὲν ἐλάσσον᾽ Ἄργους,
nothing less than-Argos
θεῶν ἱκτῆρας ἀλάτας
of-gods suppliants wanderers
καὶ ἐμᾶς χθονὸς ἀντομένους
and my of-land entreating
ξένος ὢν βιαίως
stranger being by-force
ἕλκεις, οὐ βασιλεῦσιν εἴξας,
you-drag not to-kings having-yielded
οὐκ ἄλλο δίκαιον εἰπών·
not other just-thing having-said
ποῦ ταῦτα καλῶς ἂν εἴη
where these-things well — might-be
παρά γ᾽ εὖ φρονοῦσιν;
among at-least well thinking
εἰρήνα μὲν ἔμοιγ᾽ ἀρέσκει·
peace indeed to-me-at-least is-pleasing
σοὶ δ᾽, ὦ κακόφρων ἄναξ,
to-you but O evil-minded lord
λέγω· εἰ πόλιν ἥξεις,
I-say if to-city you-come
οὐχ οὕτως ἃ δοκεῖς κυρήσεις.
not thus what you-think you-will-obtain
οὐ σοὶ μόνῳ ἔγχος οὐδ᾽
not to-you alone spear nor
ἰτέα κατάχαλκός ἐστιν.
shield bronze-covered is
ἀλλ᾽ οὐ, πολέμων ἐραστά,
but not of-wars lover

μή μοι δορὶ συνταράξῃς
— my with-spear confound
τὰν εὖ χαρίτων ἔχουσαν
the well of-graces having
πόλιν, ἀλλ' ἀνάσχου. 380
city but restrain-yourself

V · MACARIA'S SACRIFICE

Demophon returns: the oracles demand the sacrifice of a noble maiden to the daughter of Demeter, and he will not force any Athenian to give a daughter. Iolaus despairs and offers himself. Heracles' daughter comes out of the temple, learns of the oracle, and volunteers to die. She refuses to draw lots, says farewell to her brothers and Iolaus, and goes to her death.

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ὦ παῖ, τί μοι σύννοιαν ὄμμασιν φέρων
O son why to-me anxiety on-eyes bearing
ἥκεις; νέον τι πολεμίων λέγεις πέρι;
do-you-come new something enemies do-you-say about
μέλλουσιν ἢ πάρεισιν ἢ τί πυνθάνει;
are-they-about-to or are-they-present or what do-you-learn
οὐ γάρ τι μὴ ψεύσῃ γε κήρυκος λόγος·
not for in-any-way — will-be-false at-least of-herald word
ὁ γὰρ στρατηγὸς εὐτυχὴς τὰ πρόσθεν ὢν 385
the for general fortunate in-the before being
εἶσιν, σάφ' οἶδα, καὶ μάλ' οὐ σμικρὸν φρονῶν
will-come clearly I-know and very not small thinking
εἰς τὰς Ἀθήνας. ἀλλὰ τῶν φρονημάτων
to the Athens but of-the haughtinesses
ὁ Ζεὺς κολαστὴς τῶν ἄγαν ὑπερφρόνων.
the Zeus punisher of-the too proud

ΔΗΜΟΦΩΝ ἥκει στράτευμ᾽ Ἀργεῖον Εὐρυσθεύς τ᾽ ἄναξ·
comes army Argive Eurystheus and lord
ἐγώ νιν αὐτὸς εἶδον. ἄνδρα γὰρ χρεών,
I him myself saw man for must
ὅστις στρατηγεῖν φησ᾽ ἐπίστασθαι καλῶς,
who to-be-general says to-know well
οὐκ ἀγγέλοισι τοὺς ἐναντίους ὁρᾶν.
not by-messengers the enemy to-see
πεδία μὲν οὖν γῆς εἰς τάδ᾽ οὐκ ἐφῆκέ πω
plains indeed then of-land into these not he-sent yet
στρατόν, λεπαίαν δ᾽ ὀφρύην καθήμενος
army rocky and brow sitting
σκοπεῖ, δόκησιν δὴ τόδ᾽ ἂν λέγοιμί σοι,
he-surveys guessing indeed this — I-would-say to-you
ποίᾳ προσάξει στρατόπεδόν τ᾽ ἄνευ δορὸς
by-what-way he-will-bring camp and without spear
ἐν ἀσφαλεῖ τε τῆσδ᾽ ἱδρύσεται χθονός.
in safety and of-this will-settle land
καὶ τἀμὰ μέντοι πάντ᾽ ἄραρ᾽ ἤδη καλῶς·
and my-things however all are-fitted already well
πόλις τ᾽ ἐν ὅπλοις, σφάγιά θ᾽ ἡτοιμασμένα
city and in arms victims and prepared
ἕστηκεν οἷς χρὴ ταῦτα τέμνεσθαι θεῶν,
stand to-whom must these-things to-be-cut of-gods
τροπαῖά τ᾽ ἐχθρῶν καὶ πόλει σωτήρια.
rout-bringing and of-enemies and for-city saving
θυηπολεῖται δ᾽ ἄστυ μάντεων ὕπο,
is-sacrificed and town seers by
χρησμῶν δ᾽ ἀοιδοὺς πάντας εἰς ἓν ἁλίσας
of-oracles and singers all into one having-gathered

ἤλεγξα καὶ βέβηλα καὶ κεκρυμμένα
I-examined both profane and hidden
λόγια παλαιά, τῇδε γῇ σωτήρια.
oracles ancient for-this land saving
καὶ τῶν μὲν ἄλλων διάφορ᾽ ἐστὶ θεσφάτων
and of-the indeed others different are of-oracles
πόλλ᾽· ἓν δὲ πᾶσι γνῶμα ταὐτὸν ἐμπρέπει·
many one but in-all judgment the-same is-conspicuous
σφάξαι κελεύουσίν με παρθένον κόρῃ
to-slaughter they-bid me maiden to-the-daughter
Δήμητρος, ἥτις ἐστὶ πατρὸς εὐγενοῦς.
of-Demeter who is of-father noble
ἐγὼ δ᾽ ἔχω μέν, ὡς ὁρᾷς, προθυμίαν
I and have indeed as you-see zeal
τοσήνδ᾽ ἐς ὑμᾶς· παῖδα δ᾽ οὔτ᾽ ἐμὴν κτενῶ
so-great toward you child but neither my will-I-kill
οὔτ᾽ ἄλλον ἀστῶν τῶν ἐμῶν ἀναγκάσω
nor other of-citizens of-the my will-I-compel
ἄκονθ᾽· ἑκὼν δὲ τίς κακῶς οὕτω φρονεῖ,
unwilling willing and who badly thus thinks
ὅστις τὰ φίλτατ᾽ ἐκ χερῶν δώσει τέκνα;
who the dearest from hands will-give children
καὶ νῦν πικρὰς ἂν συστάσεις ἂν εἰσίδοις,
and now bitter — gatherings — you-might-see
τῶν μὲν λεγόντων ὡς δίκαιον ἦν ξένοις
of-the indeed saying that just it-was to-strangers
ἱκέταις ἀρήγειν, τῶν δὲ μωρίαν ἐμοῦ
to-suppliants to-help of-the but folly of-me
κατηγορούντων· εἰ δὲ δὴ δράσω τόδε,
accusing if and indeed I-do this

οἰκεῖος ἤδη πόλεμος ἐξαρτύεται.
civil already war is-being-prepared
ταῦτ' οὖν ὅρα σὺ καὶ συνεξεύρισχ' ὅπως
these-things then see you and help-find how
αὐτοί τε σωθήσεσθε καὶ πέδον τόδε,
yourselves and you-will-be-saved and ground this
κἀγὼ πολίταις μὴ διαβληθήσομαι.
and-I to-citizens not shall-be-slandered
οὐ γὰρ τυραννίδ' ὥστε βαρβάρων ἔχω·
not for tyranny like of-barbarians I-have
ἀλλ' ἢν δίκαια δρῶ, δίκαια πείσομαι.
but if just-things I-do just-things I-shall-suffer
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' ἦ πρόθυμον οὖσαν οὐκ ἐᾷ θεὸς
but — eager being not allows god
ξένοις ἀρήγειν τήνδε χρήζουσαν πόλιν;
strangers to-help this wanting city
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ὦ τέκν', ἔοιγμεν ναυτίλοισιν, οἵτινες
O children we-are-like to-sailors who
χειμῶνος ἐκφυγόντες ἄγριον μένος
of-storm having-escaped savage might
εἰς χεῖρα γῇ συνῆψαν, εἶτα χερσόθεν
to hand with-land joined then from-the-land
πνοαῖσιν ἠλάθησαν εἰς πόντον πάλιν.
by-blasts were-driven to sea back
οὕτω δὲ χἡμεῖς τῆσδ' ἀπωθούμεσθα γῆς
thus and also-we from-this are-thrust land
ἤδη πρὸς ἀκταῖς ὄντες ὡς σεσωσμένοι.
already at shores being as saved
οἴμοι· τί δῆτ' ἔτερψας ὦ τάλαινά με
ah-me why then did-you-delight O wretched me

ἐλπὶς τότ', οὐ μέλλουσα διατελεῖν χάριν;
hope then not being-about to-accomplish favor
συγγνωστὰ γάρ τοι καὶ τὰ τοῦδ', εἰ μὴ θέλει
pardonable for surely also the of-this-one if not he-wishes
κτείνειν πολιτῶν παῖδας, αἰνέσαι δ' ἔχω
to-kill of-citizens children to-praise and I-can
καὶ τἀνθάδ'. εἰ θεοῖσι δὴ δοκεῖ τάδε
also the-things-here if to-gods indeed seems these-things
πράσσειν ἔμ', οὔτοι σοί γ' ἀπόλλυται χάρις.
to-fare me surely-not to-you at-least is-lost gratitude
ὦ παῖδες, ὑμῖν δ' οὐκ ἔχω τί χρήσομαι.
O children with-you but not I-have what I-shall-do
ποῖ τρεψόμεσθα; τίς γὰρ ἄστεπτος θεῶν;
where shall-we-turn which for unwreathed of-gods
ποῖον δὲ γαίας ἕρκος οὐκ ἀφίγμεθα;
what and of-land enclosure not have-we-reached
ὀλούμεθ', ὦ τέκν', ἐκδοθησόμεσθα δή.
we-shall-perish O children we-shall-be-surrendered indeed
κἀμοῦ μὲν οὐδὲν εἴ με χρὴ θανεῖν μέλει,
and-of-me indeed nothing if me must to-die is-a-care
πλὴν εἴ τι τέρψω τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἐχθροὺς θανών·
except if in-any-way I-shall-delight the my enemies dying
ὑμᾶς δὲ κλαίω καὶ κατοικτείρω, τέκνα,
you but I-weep-for and pity children
καὶ τὴν γεραιὰν μητέρ' Ἀλκμήνην πατρός.
and the old mother Alcmene of-father
ὦ δυστάλαινα τοῦ μακροῦ βίου σέθεν,
O most-wretched of-the long of-life of-you
τλήμων δὲ κἀγὼ πολλὰ μοχθήσας μάτην.
wretched and also-I much having-toiled in-vain

χρῆν χρῆν ἄρ᾽ ἡμᾶς ἀνδρὸς εἰς ἐχθροῦ χέρας
it-was-fated it-was-fated then us of-man into of-enemy hands
πεσόντας αἰσχρῶς καὶ κακῶς λιπεῖν βίον.
having-fallen shamefully and badly to-leave life
ἀλλ᾽ οἶσθ᾽ ὅ μοι σύμπραξον; οὐχ ἅπασα γὰρ
but you-know what me help-do not all for
πέφευγεν ἐλπὶς τῶνδέ μοι σωτηρίας.
has-fled hope of-these for-me of-safety
ἔμ᾽ ἔκδος Ἀργείοισιν ἀντὶ τῶνδ᾽, ἄναξ,
me surrender to-Argives instead-of these lord
καὶ μήτε κινδύνευε, σωθήτω τέ μοι
and neither run-risk let-be-saved and for-me
τέκν᾽· οὐ φιλεῖν δεῖ τὴν ἐμὴν ψυχήν· ἴτω.
children not to-love must the my life let-it-go
μάλιστα δ᾽ Εὐρυσθεύς με βούλοιτ᾽ ἂν λαβὼν
most and Eurystheus me would-wish — having-taken
τὸν Ἡράκλειον σύμμαχον καθυβρίσαι·
the Heraclean ally to-outrage
σκαιὸς γὰρ ἀνήρ· τοῖς σοφοῖς δ᾽ εὐκτὸν σοφῷ
clumsy for the-man for-the wise and desirable with-a-wise
ἔχθραν συνάπτειν, μὴ ἀμαθεῖ φρονήματι.
enmity to-join not with-ignorant mind
πολλῆς γὰρ αἰδοῦς καὶ δίκης τις ἂν τύχοι.
much for of-respect and of-justice one — would-obtain
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ πρέσβυ, μή νυν τήνδ᾽ ἐπαιτιῶ πόλιν·
O old-man not now this blame city
τάχ᾽ ἂν γὰρ ἡμῖν ψευδὲς ἀλλ᾽ ὅμως κακὸν
perhaps — for to-us false but nevertheless evil
γένοιτ᾽ ὄνειδος ὡς ξένους προυδώκαμεν.
might-be reproach that strangers we-betrayed

ΔΗΜΟΦΩΝ γενναῖα μὲν τάδ' εἶπας, ἀλλ' ἀμήχανα.
noble indeed these-things you-said but impossible
οὐ σοῦ χατίζων δεῦρ' ἄναξ στρατηλατεῖ·
not you needing here lord leads-army
τί γὰρ γέροντος ἀνδρὸς Εὐρυσθεῖ πλέον
what for of-old man for-Eurystheus more
θανόντος; ἀλλὰ τούσδε βούλεται κτανεῖν.
having-died but these he-wishes to-kill
δεινὸν γὰρ ἐχθροῖς βλαστάνοντες εὐγενεῖς,
terrible for to-enemies growing-up nobly-born
νεανίαι τε καὶ πατρὸς μεμνημένοι
young-men both and of-father remembering
λύμης· ἃ κεῖνον πάντα προσκοπεῖν χρεών.
of-outrage which him all to-foresee must
ἀλλ' εἴ τιν' ἄλλην οἶσθα καιριωτέραν
but if some other you-know more-timely
βουλήν, ἑτοίμαζ', ὡς ἔγωγ' ἀμήχανος
plan prepare since I helpless
χρησμῶν ἀκούσας εἰμὶ καὶ φόβου πλέως.
oracles having-heard am and of-fear full
ΜΑΚΑΡΙΑ ξένοι, θράσος μοι μηδὲν ἐξόδοις ἐμαῖς
strangers boldness to-me nothing to-goings-out my
προσθῆτε· πρῶτον γὰρ τόδ' ἐξαιτήσομαι·
attribute first for this I-will-ask
γυναικὶ γὰρ σιγή τε καὶ τὸ σωφρονεῖν
for-woman for silence both and the to-be-modest
κάλλιστον, εἴσω θ' ἥσυχον μένειν δόμων.
finest within and quiet to-remain house
τῶν σῶν δ' ἀκούσασ', Ἰόλεως, στεναγμάτων
the your and having-heard Iolaus groans

ἐξῆλθον, οὐ ταχθεῖσα πρεσβεύειν γένους.
I-came-out not appointed to-be-eldest of-family
ἀλλ' εἰμὶ γάρ πως πρόσφορος, μέλει δέ μοι
but I-am for somehow fitting is-a-care and to-me
μάλιστ' ἀδελφῶν τῶνδε, κἀμαυτῆς πέρι
most brothers these and-myself about
θέλω πυθέσθαι, μὴ 'πὶ τοῖς πάλαι κακοῖς
I-wish to-learn lest on the of-old evils
προσκείμενόν τι πῆμα σὴν δάκνει φρένα.
added some woe your bites heart
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ὦ παῖ, μάλιστα σ' οὐ νεωστὶ δὴ τέκνων
O child most you not newly indeed of-children
τῶν Ἡρακλείων ἐνδίκως αἰνεῖν ἔχω.
of-the Heraclean justly to-praise I-can
ἡμῖν δὲ δόξας εὖ προχωρῆσαι δόμος
to-us and having-seemed well to-advance house
πάλιν μεθέστηκ' αὖθις εἰς τἀμήχανον·
back has-changed again into the-helpless
χρησμῶν γὰρ ᾠδούς φησι σημαίνειν ὅδε,
of-oracles for singers says to-signify this-one
οὐ ταῦρον οὐδὲ μόσχον, ἀλλὰ παρθένον
not bull nor calf but maiden
σφάξαι κόρῃ Δήμητρος ἥτις εὐγενής,
to-slaughter to-the-daughter of-Demeter who noble
εἰ χρὴ μὲν ἡμᾶς, χρὴ δὲ τήνδ' εἶναι πόλιν.
if must indeed us must but this to-be city
ταῦτ' οὖν ἀμηχανοῦμεν· οὔτε γὰρ τέκνα
these-things then we-are-at-a-loss neither for children
σφάξειν ὅδ' αὐτοῦ φησιν οὔτ' ἄλλου τινός,
to-slaughter this-one his-own says nor of-other anyone

καὐμοὶ λέγει μὲν οὐ σαφῶς, λέγει δέ πως,
and-to-me says indeed not clearly says but somehow
εἰ μή τι τούτων ἐξαμηχανήσομεν,
if not something of-these we-shall-devise
ἡμᾶς μὲν ἄλλην γαῖαν εὑρίσκειν τινά,
us indeed other land to-find some
αὐτὸς δὲ σῶσαι τήνδε βούλεται χθόνα.
himself but to-save this wishes land
ΜΑΚΑΡΙΑ ἐν τῷδε καὐχόμεσθα σωθῆναι λόγῳ;
in this and-we-are-held to-be-saved word
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ἐν τῷδε, τἄλλα γ' εὐτυχῶς πεπραγότες.
in this the-rest at-least fortunately having-fared
ΜΑΚΑΡΙΑ μή νυν τρέσῃς ἔτ' ἐχθρὸν Ἀργεῖον δόρυ·
not now fear still hostile Argive spear
ἐγὼ γὰρ αὐτὴ πρὶν κελευσθῆναι, γέρον,
I for myself before to-be-bidden old-man
θνήσκειν ἑτοίμη καὶ παρίστασθαι σφαγῇ.
to-die ready and to-stand-by for-slaughter
τί φήσομεν γάρ, εἰ πόλις μὲν ἀξιοῖ
what shall-we-say for if city indeed thinks-fit
κίνδυνον ἡμῶν εἵνεκ' αἴρεσθαι μέγαν,
danger us for-the-sake to-take-up great
αὐτοὶ δὲ προστιθέντες ἄλλοισιν πόνους,
ourselves but laying-on others toils
παρόν σφε σῶσαι, φευξόμεσθα μὴ θανεῖν;
it-being-possible them to-save shall-we-flee not to-die
οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεί τοι καὶ γέλωτος ἄξια,
not then since surely even of-laughter worthy
στένειν μὲν ἱκέτας δαιμόνων καθημένους,
to-groan indeed suppliants of-gods sitting

πατρὸς δ' ἐκείνου φύντας οὗ πεφύκαμεν
of-father but of-that sprung of-whom we-are-born
κακοὺς ὁρᾶσθαι· ποῦ τάδ' ἐν χρηστοῖς πρέπει;
cowards to-be-seen where these-things among good-men befits
κάλλιον, οἶμαι, τῆσδ', ἃ μὴ τύχοι ποτέ,
finer I-think this which not may-it-happen ever
πόλεως ἁλούσης, χεῖρας εἰς ἐχθρῶν πεσεῖν,
of-city taken hands into of-enemies to-fall
κἄπειτα δεινά, πατρὸς οὖσαν εὐγενοῦς,
and-then terrible-things of-father being of-noble
παθοῦσαν Ἅιδην μηδὲν ἧσσον εἰσιδεῖν.
having-suffered Hades nothing less to-see
ἀλλ' ἐκπεσοῦσα τῆσδ' ἀλητεύσω χθονός,
but having-been-cast-out from-this shall-I-wander land
κοὐκ αἰσχυνοῦμαι δῆτ', ἐὰν δή τις λέγῃ·
and-not shall-I-be-ashamed then if indeed someone says
τί δεῦρ' ἀφίκεσθ' ἱκεσίοισι σὺν κλάδοις
why here did-you-come suppliant with branches
αὐτοὶ φιλοψυχοῦντες; ἔξιτε χθονός·
yourselves loving-life go-out from-land
κακοὺς γὰρ ἡμεῖς οὐ προσωφελήσομεν.
cowards for we not shall-help
ἀλλ' οὐδὲ μέντοι, τῶνδε μὲν τεθνηκότων,
but not-even however of-these indeed dead
αὐτὴ δὲ σωθεῖσ', ἐλπίδ' εὖ πράξειν ἔχω·
myself but saved hope well to-fare I-have
πολλοὶ γὰρ ἤδη τῇδε προύδοσαν φίλους·
many for already in-this-way betrayed friends
τίς γὰρ κόρην ἔρημον ἢ δάμαρτ' ἔχειν,
who for girl desolate or wife to-have

ἢ παιδοποιεῖν ἐξ ἐμοῦ βουλήσεται;
or to-beget-children from me will-wish
οὔκουν θανεῖν ἄμεινον ἢ τούτων τυχεῖν
not-then to-die better than these to-meet
ἀναξίαν; ἄλλῃ δὲ καὶ πρέπει τινὶ
unworthy for-other and also befits some
μᾶλλον τάδ', ἥτις μὴ 'πίσημος ὡς ἐγώ.
rather these-things who not conspicuous as I
ἡγεῖσθ' ὅπου δεῖ σῶμα κατθανεῖν τόδε
lead where must body to-die this
καὶ στεμματοῦτε καὶ κατάρχεσθ', εἰ δοκεῖ·
and wreathe and begin-the-rites if it-seems-good
νικᾶτε δ' ἐχθρούς· ἥδε γὰρ ψυχὴ πάρα
conquer and enemies this for life is-present
ἑκοῦσα κοὐκ ἄκουσα· κἀξαγγέλλομαι
willing and-not unwilling and-I-proclaim
θνήσκειν ἀδελφῶν τῶνδε κἀμαυτῆς ὕπερ.
to-die brothers these and-myself for
εὕρημα γάρ τοι μὴ φιλοψυχοῦσ' ἐγὼ
discovery for surely not loving-life I
κάλλιστον ηὕρηκ', εὐκλεῶς λιπεῖν βίον.
finest I-have-found gloriously to-leave life
ΧΟΡΟΣ φεῦ φεῦ, τί λέξω παρθένου μέγαν λόγον
alas alas what shall-I-say of-maiden great word
κλύων, ἀδελφῶν ἢ πάρος θέλει θανεῖν;
hearing of-brothers who before wishes to-die
τούτων τίς ἂν λέξειε γενναίους λόγους
than-these who — could-speak noble words
μᾶλλον, τίς ἂν δράσειεν ἀνθρώπων ἔτι;
more who — could-do of-men still

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ὦ τέκνον, οὐκ ἔστ' ἄλλοθεν τὸ σὸν κάρα,
O child not it-is from-elsewhere the your head
ἀλλ' ἐξ ἐκείνου σπέρμα τῆς θείας φρενὸς
but from that seed of-the divine mind
πέφυκας Ἡράκλειος· οὐδ' αἰσχύνομαι
you-are Heraclean nor am-I-ashamed
τοῖς σοῖς λόγοισι, τῇ τύχῃ δ' ἀλγύνομαι.
at-the your words at-the fortune but I-am-grieved
ἀλλ' ᾗ γένοιτ' ἂν ἐνδικωτέρως φράσω·
but how might-be — more-justly I-will-tell
πάσας ἀδελφὰς τῆσδε δεῦρο χρὴ καλεῖν,
all sisters of-this-one here must to-call
κᾆθ' ἡ λαχοῦσα θνῃσκέτω γένους ὕπερ·
and-then the having-drawn-the-lot let-her-die family for
σὲ δ' οὐ δίκαιον κατθανεῖν ἄνευ πάλου.
you but not just to-die without lot
ΜΑΚΑΡΙΑ οὐκ ἂν θάνοιμι τῇ τύχῃ λαχοῦσ' ἐγώ·
not — I-would-die by-the chance having-drawn I
χάρις γὰρ οὐ πρόσεστι· μὴ λέξῃς, γέρον.
favor for not is-attached not say old-man
ἀλλ' εἰ μὲν ἐνδέχεσθε καὶ βούλεσθέ μοι
but if indeed you-accept and wish me
χρῆσθαι προθύμως, τὴν ἐμὴν ψυχὴν ἐγὼ
to-use eagerly the my life I
δίδωμ' ἑκοῦσα τοῖσδ', ἀναγκασθεῖσα δ' οὔ.
give willing for-these compelled but not
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ φεῦ.
alas
ὅδ' αὖ λόγος σοι τοῦ πρὶν εὐγενέστερος·
this again speech of-you than-the former nobler

κἀκεῖνος ἦν ἄριστος, ἀλλ' ὑπερφέρεις
and-that was best but you-surpass
τόλμῃ τε τόλμαν καὶ λόγῳ χρηστῷ λόγον.
with-daring and daring and with-word good word
οὐ μὴν κελεύω γ' οὐδ' ἀπεννέπω, τέκνον,
not indeed I-bid at-least nor forbid child
θνῄσκειν σ'· ἀδελφοὺς δ' ὠφελεῖς θανοῦσα σούς.
to-die you brothers but you-benefit dying your
ΜΑΚΑΡΙΑ σοφῶς κελεύεις· μὴ τρέσῃς μιάσματος
wisely you-bid not fear of-pollution
τοὐμοῦ μετασχεῖν, ἀλλ' ἐλευθέρως θάνω.
of-mine to-share but freely let-me-die
ἕπου δέ, πρέσβυ· σῇ γὰρ ἐνθανεῖν χερὶ
follow and old-man in-your for to-die-in hand
θέλω· πέπλοις δὲ σῶμ' ἐμὸν κρύψον παρών·
I-wish with-robes and body my cover being-present
ἐπεὶ σφαγῆς γε πρὸς τὸ δεινὸν εἶμ' ἐγώ,
since of-slaughter at-least to the terrible I-go I
εἴπερ πέφυκα πατρὸς οὗπερ εὔχομαι.
if-indeed I-am-born of-father of-whom-indeed I-boast
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην σῷ παρεστάναι μόρῳ.
not — I-could to-your to-stand-by death
ΜΑΚΑΡΙΑ σὺ δ' ἀλλὰ τοῦδε χρῄζε, μή μ' ἐν ἀρσένων,
you but at-least this ask not me in of-men
ἀλλ' ἐν γυναικῶν χερσὶν ἐκπνεῦσαι βίον.
but in of-women hands to-breathe-out life
ΔΗΜΟΦΩΝ ἔσται τάδ', ὦ τάλαινα παρθένων· ἐπεὶ
it-will-be these-things O wretched of-maidens since
κἀμοὶ τόδ' αἰσχρόν, μή σε κοσμεῖσθαι καλῶς,
also-for-me this shameful not you to-be-adorned well

πολλῶν ἕκατι, τῆς τε σῆς εὐψυχίας
of-many for-the-sake of-the and your of-courage
καὶ τοῦ δικαίου· τλημονεστάτην δὲ σὲ
and of-the just most-daring and you
πασῶν γυναικῶν εἶδον ὀφθαλμοῖς ἐγώ.
of-all women saw with-eyes I
ἀλλ' εἴ τι βούλει τούσδε τὸν γέροντά τε,
but if something you-wish these the old-man and
χώρει προσειποῦσ' ὑστάτοις προσφθέγμασιν.
go having-addressed with-last addresses
ΜΑΚΑΡΙΑ ὦ χαῖρε, πρέσβυ. χαῖρε καὶ δίδασκέ μοι
O farewell old-man farewell and teach for-me
τοιούσδε τούσδε παῖδας εἰς τὸ πᾶν σοφοὺς
such these boys in the all wise
ὥσπερ σύ, μηδὲν μᾶλλον· ἀρκέσουσι γάρ.
as you nothing more they-will-suffice for
πειρῶ δὲ σῶσαι μὴ θανεῖν, πρόθυμος ὤν·
try and to-save not to-die eager being
σοὶ παῖδές ἐσμεν· σαῖν χεροῖν τεθράμμεθα.
your children we-are by-your hands we-were-reared
ὁρᾷς δὲ κἀμὲ τὴν ἐμὴν ὥραν γάμου
you-see and also-me the my bloom of-marriage
διδοῦσαν ἀντὶ τῶνδε κατθανουμένην.
giving in-place-of these about-to-die
ὑμεῖς δ' ἀδελφῶν ἡ παροῦσ' ὁμιλία,
you and of-brothers the present company
εὐδαιμονοῖτε, καὶ γένοιθ' ὑμῖν ὅσων
may-you-prosper and may-there-be for-you as-much-as
ἡμὴ πάροιθε καρδία σφαγήσεται.
my on-behalf-of heart will-be-slain

καὶ τὸν γέροντα τήν τ᾽ ἔσω γραῖαν δόμων
and the old-man the and within old-woman of-house
τιμᾶτε πατρὸς μητέρ᾽ Ἀλκμήνην ἐμοῦ
honor of-father mother Alcmene my
ξένους τε τούσδε. κἂν ἀπαλλαγὴ πόνων
strangers and these and-if release from-toils
καὶ νόστος ὑμῖν εὑρεθῇ ποτ᾽ ἐκ θεῶν,
and return for-you is-found ever from gods
μέμνησθε τὴν σώτειραν ὡς θάψαι χρεών·
remember the savior how to-bury must
κάλλιστά τοι δίκαιον· οὐ γὰρ ἐνδεὴς
most-finely surely just not for lacking
ὑμῖν παρέστην, ἀλλὰ προύθανον γένους.
to-you I-stood-by but died-before of-family
τάδ᾽ ἀντὶ παίδων ἐστί μοι κειμήλια
these instead-of children are for-me treasures
καὶ παρθενείας, εἴ τι δὴ κάτω χθονός·
and of-maidenhood if anything indeed below earth
εἴη γε μέντοι μηδέν· εἰ γὰρ ἕξομεν
may-there-be at-least however nothing if for we-shall-have
κἀκεῖ μερίμνας οἱ θανούμενοι βροτῶν,
even-there cares the about-to-die of-mortals
οὐκ οἶδ᾽ ὅποι τις τρέψεται· τὸ γὰρ θανεῖν
not I-know where anyone will-turn the for to-die
κακῶν μέγιστον φάρμακον νομίζεται.
of-evils greatest remedy is-thought
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ἀλλ᾽, ὦ μέγιστον ἐκπρέπουσ᾽ εὐψυχίᾳ
but O greatest excelling in-courage
πασῶν γυναικῶν, ἴσθι, τιμιωτάτη
of-all women know-that most-honored

καὶ ζῶσ᾽ ὑφ᾽ ἡμῶν καὶ θανοῦσ᾽ ἔσει πολύ·
both living by us and dead you-will-be much
καὶ χαῖρε· δυσφημεῖν γὰρ ἄζομαι θεάν,
and farewell to-speak-ill for I-fear goddess
ᾗ σὸν κατῆρκται σῶμα, Δήμητρος κόρην.
to-whom your has-been-consecrated body of-Demeter daughter
ὦ παῖδες, οἰχόμεσθα· λύεται μέλη
O children we-are-gone are-loosed limbs
λύπῃ· λάβεσθε κεἰς ἕδραν μ᾽ ἐρείσατε
with-grief take-hold and-on seat me prop
αὐτοῦ πέπλοισι τοῖσδε κρύψαντες, τέκνα.
here with-robes these covering children
ὡς οὔτε τούτοις ἥδομαι πεπραγμένοις,
since neither in-these I-rejoice done
χρησμοῦ τε μὴ κρανθέντος οὐ βιώσιμον·
of-oracle and not fulfilled not livable
μείζων γὰρ ἄτη, συμφορὰ δὲ καὶ τάδε.
greater for ruin misfortune but also these-things

VI · FORTUNE AND GLORY

The old men sing that no one is happy or unhappy without the gods, and that the maiden has won a glorious death worthy of her father.

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὔτινά φημι θεῶν ἄτερ ὄλβιον, οὐ βαρύποτμον,
no-one I-say of-gods without blessed not ill-fated
ἄνδρα γενέσθαι,
man to-become
οὐδὲ τὸν αὐτὸν ἀεὶ βεβάναι δόμον
nor the same always to-stand house

εὐτυχίᾳ· παρὰ δ' ἄλλαν ἄλλα
in-prosperity after and other other
μοῖρα διώκει·
fate pursues
τὸν μὲν ἀφ' ὑψηλῶν βραχὺν ὤκισε,
the indeed from high-things small settles
τὸν δ' ἀτίταν εὐδαίμονα τεύχει.
the but unhonored happy makes
μόρσιμα δ' οὔτι φυγεῖν θέμις, 615
fated-things but not-at-all to-flee is-lawful
οὐ σοφίᾳ τις ἀπώσεται·
not by-wisdom anyone will-thrust-away
ἀλλὰ μάταν ὁ πρόθυμος ἀεὶ πόνον ἕξει.
but vainly the eager always toil will-have
ἀλλὰ σὺ μὴ προπίτνων τὰ θεῶν φέρε μηδ' ὑπεράλγει
but you not falling-forward the of-gods bear nor grieve-overmuch
φροντίδα λύπᾳ· 620
mind with-grief
εὐδόκιμον γὰρ ἔχει θανάτου μέρος
honorable for she-has of-death share
ἁ μελέα πρό τ' ἀδελφῶν καὶ γᾶς·
the wretched for and brothers and land
οὐδ' ἀκλεής νιν
nor inglorious her
δόξα πρὸς ἀνθρώπων ὑποδέξεται·
fame from men will-receive
ἁ δ' ἀρετὰ βαίνει διὰ μόχθων. 625
the and virtue goes through toils
ἄξια μὲν πατρός, ἄξια δ'
worthy indeed of-father worthy and

εὐγενίας τάδε γίγνεται·
of-noble-birth these-things become
εἰ δὲ σέβεις θανάτους ἀγαθῶν, μετέχω σοι.
if and you-revere deaths of-good I-share with-you

VII · IOLAUS ARMS

A servant of Hyllus announces that Hyllus has arrived with an army. Iolaus insists, despite his age, on taking down armor from the temple and going to battle. Alcmene, called out of the temple, protests at being left alone with the children; the servant helps him on his way.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ὦ τέκνα, χαίρετ'· Ἰόλεως δὲ ποῦ γέρων
O children greetings Iolaus and where old-man
μήτηρ τε πατρὸς τῆσδ' ἕδρας ἀποστατεῖ;
mother and of-father from-this seat is-absent
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ πάρεσμεν, οἵα δή γ' ἐμοῦ παρουσία.
we-are-present such indeed at-least of-me presence
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ τί χρῆμα κεῖσαι καὶ κατηφὲς ὄμμ' ἔχεις;
what thing do-you-lie and downcast eye have
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ φροντίς τις ἦλθ' οἰκεῖος, ᾗ συνειχόμην.
anxiety some came domestic by-which I-was-held
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ἔπαιρέ νυν σεαυτόν, ὄρθωσον κάρα.
lift-up now yourself raise head
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ γέροντές ἐσμεν κοὐδαμῶς ἐρρώμεθα.
old-men we-are and-in-no-way are-we-strong
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ἥκω γε μέντοι χάρμα σοι φέρων μέγα.
I-come at-least however joy to-you bringing great
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ τίς δ' εἶ σύ; ποῦ σοι συντυχὼν ἀμνημονῶ;
who and are you where you having-met do-I-forget

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ Ἄλλου πενέστης· οὔ με γιγνώσκεις ὁρῶν;
of-Hyllus serf not me you-know seeing

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ὦ φίλταθ', ἦκεις ἆρα νῷν σωτὴρ βλάβης;
O dearest you-come then to-us-two savior from-harm

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ μάλιστα· καὶ πρός γ' εὐτυχεῖς τὰ νῦν τάδε.
most and besides at-least you-are-fortunate the now these

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ὦ μῆτερ ἐσθλοῦ παιδός, Ἀλκμήνην λέγω,
O mother of-noble son Alcmene I-mean

ἔξελθ', ἄκουσον τούσδε φιλτάτους λόγους.
come-out hear these dearest words

πάλαι γὰρ ὠδίνουσα τῶν ἀφιγμένων
long-since for being-in-travail for-the having-come

ψυχὴν ἐτήκου νόστος εἰ γενήσεται.
in-soul you-were-melting return if will-be

ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ τί χρῆμ' ἀϋτῆς πᾶν τόδ' ἐπλήσθη στέγος;
what thing with-shouting all this was-filled house

Ἰόλαε, μῶν τίς σ' αὖ βιάζεται παρὼν
Iolaus surely-not someone you again forces being-present

κῆρυξ ἀπ' Ἄργους; ἀσθενὴς μὲν ἥ γ' ἐμὴ
herald from Argos weak indeed the at-least my

ῥώμη, τοσόνδε δ' εἰδέναι σε χρή, ξένε,
strength so-much but to-know you must stranger

οὐκ ἔστ' ἄγειν σε τούσδ' ἐμοῦ ζώσης ποτέ.
not it-is to-lead you these me living ever

ἦ τἄρ' ἐκείνου μὴ νομιζοίμην ἐγὼ
surely then of-him not may-I-be-considered I

μήτηρ ἔτ'· εἰ δὲ τῶνδε προσθίξει χερί,
mother still if but these you-will-touch with-hand

δυοῖν γερόντοιν οὐ καλῶς ἀγωνιεῖ.
two old-people not well you-will-contend

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ θάρσει, γεραιά, μὴ τρέσῃς· οὐκ Ἀργόθεν
take-heart old-woman not fear not from-Argos
κῆρυξ ἀφῖκται πολεμίους λόγους ἔχων.
herald has-come hostile words having
ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ τί γὰρ βοὴν ἔστησας ἄγγελον φόβου;
why for shout did-you-raise messenger of-fear
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ σὺ πρόσθε ναοῦ τοῦδ' ὅπως βαίης πέλας.
you before temple this that you-might-come near
ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ οὐκ ἦσμεν ἡμεῖς ταῦτα· τίς γάρ ἐσθ' ὅδε;
not knew we these-things who for is this-one
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ἥκοντα παῖδα παιδὸς ἀγγέλλει σέθεν.
coming son of-son announces of-you
ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ ὦ χαῖρε καὶ σὺ τοῖσδε τοῖς ἀγγέλμασιν.
O greetings and you for-these the tidings
ἀτὰρ τί χώρᾳ τῇδε προσβαλὼν πόδα
but why to-land this having-set foot
ποῦ νῦν ἄπεστι; τίς νιν εἶργε συμφορὰ
where now is-he-absent what him kept misfortune
σὺν σοὶ φανέντα δεῦρ' ἐμὴν τέρψαι φρένα;
with you having-appeared here my to-delight heart
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ στρατὸν καθίζει τάσσεταί θ' ὃν ἦλθ' ἔχων.
army he-encamps arrays and which he-came having
ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ τοῦδ' οὐκέθ' ἡμῖν τοῦ λόγου μέτεστι δή.
of-this no-longer to-us the word is-share indeed
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ μέτεστιν· ἡμῶν δ' ἔργον ἱστορεῖν τάδε.
there-is-share of-us but task to-inquire these-things
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ τί δῆτα βούλει τῶν πεπραγμένων μαθεῖν;
what then do-you-wish of-the done to-learn
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ πόσον τι πλῆθος συμμάχων πάρεστ' ἔχων;
how-great some multitude of-allies is-present having

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ πολλούς· ἀριθμὸν δ' ἄλλον οὐκ ἔχω φράσαι.
many number and other not I-can to-tell

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ἴσασιν, οἶμαι, ταῦτ' Ἀθηναίων πρόμοι. 670
they-know I-think these-things of-Athenians leaders

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ἴσασι· καὶ δὴ λαιὸν ἕστηκεν κέρας.
they-know and indeed left stands wing

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ἤδη γὰρ ὡς εἰς ἔργον ὥπλισται στρατός;
already for as for action is-armed army

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ καὶ δὴ παρῆκται σφάγια τάξεων ἑκάς.
and indeed are-brought victims of-ranks far

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ πόσον τι δ' ἔστ' ἄπωθεν Ἀργεῖον δόρυ;
how-much some and is away Argive spear

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ὥστ' ἐξορᾶσθαι τὸν στρατηγὸν ἐμφανῶς. 675
so-that to-be-seen the general clearly

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ τί δρῶντα; μῶν τάσσοντα πολεμίων στίχας;
what doing surely-not arraying of-enemies ranks

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ᾐκάζομεν ταῦτ'· οὐ γὰρ ἐξηκούομεν.
we-guessed these-things not for we-heard

ἀλλ' εἶμ'· ἐρήμους δεσπότας τοὐμὸν μέρος
but I-will-go deserted masters my part

οὐκ ἂν θέλοιμι πολεμίοισι συμβαλεῖν.
not — I-would-wish with-enemies to-engage

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ κἄγωγε σὺν σοί· ταὐτὰ γὰρ φροντίζομεν, 680
and-I with you the-same for we-think

φίλοις παρόντες, ὡς ἔοικεν, ὠφελεῖν.
to-friends being-present as we-seem to-help

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ἥκιστα πρὸς σοῦ μῶρον ἦν εἰπεῖν ἔπος.
least from you foolish was to-say word

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ καὶ μὴ μετασχεῖν γ' ἀλκίμου μάχης φίλοις.
and not to-share at-least of-valiant battle with-friends

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ οὐκ ἔστ᾽ ἐν ὄψει τραῦμα μὴ δρώσης χερός.
not is in sight wound not doing of-hand

685 ΙΟΛΑΟΣ τί δ᾽; οὐ θένοιμι κἂν ἐγὼ δι᾽ ἀσπίδος;
what but not might-I-strike even I through shield

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ θένοις ἄν, ἀλλὰ πρόσθεν αὐτὸς ἂν πέσοις.
you-might-strike — but before yourself — you-would-fall

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ οὐδεὶς ἔμ᾽ ἐχθρῶν προσβλέπων ἀνέξεται.
no-one me of-enemies looking-at will-endure

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ οὐκ ἔστιν, ὦ τᾶν, ἥ ποτ᾽ ἦν ῥώμη σέθεν.
not is O good-sir which once was strength of-you

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ἀλλ᾽ οὖν μαχοῦμαί γ᾽ ἀριθμὸν οὐκ ἐλάσσοσι.
but then I-will-fight at-least in-number not with-fewer

690 ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ σμικρὸν τὸ σὸν σήκωμα προστίθης φίλοις.
small the your weight you-add for-friends

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ μή τοί μ᾽ ἔρυκε δρᾶν παρεσκευασμένον.
not surely me hold-back to-do being-prepared

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ δρᾶν μὲν σύ γ᾽ οὐχ οἷός τε, βούλεσθαι δ᾽ ἴσως.
to-do indeed you at-least not able — to-wish but perhaps

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ὡς μὴ μενοῦντα τἄλλα σοι λέγειν πάρα.
as not about-to-remain the-rest for-you to-say is-possible

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ πῶς οὖν ὁπλίτης τευχέων ἄτερ φανεῖ;
how then hoplite of-arms without will-you-appear

695 ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ἔστ᾽ ἐν δόμοισιν ἔνδον αἰχμάλωθ᾽ ὅπλα
are in house within captured arms

τοῖσδ᾽, οἷσι χρησόμεσθα κἀποδώσομεν
these which we-shall-use and-shall-give-back

ζῶντες· θανόντας δ᾽ οὐκ ἀπαιτήσει θεός.
living the-dead but not will-demand god

ἀλλ᾽ εἴσιθ᾽ εἴσω κἀπὸ πασσάλων ἑλὼν
but go-in inside and-from pegs having-taken

ἔνεγχ᾽ ὁπλίτην κόσμον ὡς τάχιστά μοι.
bring hoplite gear as quickly to-me
αἰσχρὸν γὰρ οἰκούρημα γίγνεται τόδε,
shameful for house-keeping becomes this
τοὺς μὲν μάχεσθαι, τοὺς δὲ δειλίᾳ μένειν.
the indeed to-fight the but from-cowardice to-remain
ΧΟΡΟΣ λῆμα μὲν οὔπω στόρνυσι χρόνος
spirit indeed not-yet lays-low time
τὸ σόν, ἀλλ᾽ ἡβᾷ· σῶμα δὲ φροῦδον.
the your but is-young body but gone
τί πονεῖς ἄλλως ἃ σὲ μὲν βλάψει,
why do-you-toil vainly what you indeed will-harm
σμικρὰ δ᾽ ὀνήσει πόλιν ἡμετέραν;
little but will-help city our
χρῆν γνωσιμαχεῖν σὴν ἡλικίαν,
it-was-right to-recognize your age
τὰ δ᾽ ἀμήχαν᾽ ἐᾶν· οὐκ ἔστιν ὅπως
the and impossible-things to-let-be not is how
ἥβην κτήσει πάλιν αὖθις.
youth you-will-get back again
ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ τί χρῆμα μέλλεις σῶν φρενῶν οὐκ ἔνδον ὢν
what thing are-you-about-to of-your wits not within being
λιπεῖν μ᾽ ἔρημον σὺν τέκνοισι τοῖς ἐμοῖς;
to-leave me desolate with children the my
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ἀνδρῶν γὰρ ἀλκή· σοὶ δὲ χρὴ τούτων μέλειν.
of-men for strength for-you but must of-these to-care
ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ τί δ᾽; ἢν θάνῃς σύ, πῶς ἐγὼ σωθήσομαι;
what but if you-die you how I shall-be-saved
ΙΟΛΑΟΣ παιδὸς μελήσει παισὶ τοῖς λελειμμένοις.
of-son will-care for-sons the left

ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ ἦν δ' οὖν, ὃ μὴ γένοιτο, χρήσωνται τύχῃ;
if but then which not may-it-happen they-meet with-fortune

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ οἵδ' οὐ προδώσουσίν σε, μὴ τρέσῃς, ξένοι.
these not will-betray you not fear strangers

ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ τοσόνδε γάρ τοι θάρσος, οὐδὲν ἄλλ' ἔχω.
so-much for surely courage nothing other I-have

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ καὶ Ζηνὶ τῶν σῶν, οἶδ' ἐγώ, μέλει πόνων.
and to-Zeus of-the your I-know I are-a-care toils

ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ φεῦ.
alas

Ζεὺς ἐξ ἐμοῦ μὲν οὐκ ἀκούσεται κακῶς·
Zeus from me indeed not will-hear badly

εἰ δ' ἐστὶν ὅσιος αὐτὸς οἶδεν εἰς ἐμέ.
if but he-is pious himself knows toward me

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ὅπλων μὲν ἤδη τήνδ' ὁρᾷς παντευχίαν.
of-arms indeed already this you-see full-armor

φθάνοις δ' ἂν οὐκ ἂν τοῖσδε συγκρύπτων δέμας·
you-would-anticipate but — not — in-these hiding body

ὡς ἐγγὺς ἀγών, καὶ μάλιστ' Ἄρης στυγεῖ
since near the-contest and most Ares hates

μέλλοντας· εἰ δὲ τευχέων φοβεῖ βάρος,
delayers if but of-arms you-fear weight

νῦν μὲν πορεύου γυμνός, ἐν δὲ τάξεσιν
now indeed go unarmed in and ranks

κόσμῳ πυκάζου τῷδ'· ἐγὼ δ' οἴσω τέως.
with-gear arm-yourself this I and will-carry meanwhile

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ καλῶς ἔλεξας· ἀλλ' ἐμοὶ πρόχειρ' ἔχων
well you-said but for-me at-hand having

τεύχη κόμιζε, χειρὶ δ' ἔνθες ὀξύην,
arms bring in-hand and put spear

λαιόν τ' ἔπαιρε πῆχυν, εὐθύνων πόδα.
left and raise forearm guiding foot

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ἦ παιδαγωγεῖν γὰρ τὸν ὁπλίτην χρεών;
— to-lead-like-a-child for the hoplite must

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ὄρνιθος εἵνεκ' ἀσφαλῶς πορευτέον.
of-omen for-the-sake safely one-must-go

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ εἴθ' ἦσθα δυνατὸς δρᾶν ὅσον πρόθυμος εἶ.
would-that you-were able to-do as-much-as eager you-are

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ ἔπειγε· λειφθεὶς δεινὰ πείσομαι μάχης.
hasten being-left terrible-things I-shall-suffer of-battle

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ σύ τοι βραδύνεις, οὐκ ἐγώ, δοκῶν τι δρᾶν.
you surely delay not I seeming something to-do

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ οὔκουν ὁρᾷς μου κῶλον ὡς ἐπείγεται;
not-then you-see my limb how it-hastens

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ὁρῶ δοκοῦντα μᾶλλον ἢ σπεύδοντά σε.
I-see seeming rather than hastening you

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ οὐ ταῦτα λέξεις, ἡνίκ' ἂν λεύσσῃς μ' ἐκεῖ.
not these-things you-will-say when — you-see me there

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ τί δρῶντα; βουλοίμην δ' ἂν εὐτυχοῦντά γε.
what doing I-would-wish but — faring-well at-least

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ δι' ἀσπίδος θείνοντα πολεμίων τινά.
through shield striking of-enemies some

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ εἰ δή ποθ' ἥξομέν γε· τοῦτο γὰρ φόβος.
if indeed ever we-shall-come at-least this for fear

ΙΟΛΑΟΣ φεῦ·
alas

εἴθ', ὦ βραχίων, οἷον ἡβήσαντά σε
would-that O arm such having-been-young you

μεμνήμεθ' ἡμεῖς, ἡνίκα ξὺν Ἡρακλεῖ
we-remember we when with Heracles

Σπάρτην ἐπόρθεις, σύμμαχος γένοιό μοι
Sparta you-sacked ally become to-me
τοιοῦτος· οἷος ἂν τροπὴν Εὐρυσθέως
such as — rout of-Eurystheus
θείμην· ἐπεί τοι καὶ κακὸς μένειν δόρυ.
I-might-make since surely also coward to-await spear
745 ἔστιν δ' ἐν ὄλβῳ καὶ τόδ' οὐκ ὀρθῶς ἔχον,
is and in prosperity also this not rightly being
εὐψυχίας δόκησις· οἰόμεσθα γὰρ
of-courage reputation we-think for
τὸν εὐτυχοῦντα πάντ' ἐπίστασθαι καλῶς.
the prospering all to-know well

VIII · A PRAYER TO ATHENA

The old men pray to Earth, Moon, and Sun, and to Athena, that the city may be victorious, for it honors her with sacrifices and dances.

ΧΟΡΟΣ γᾶ καὶ παννύχιος σελάνα
earth and all-night moon
καὶ λαμπρόταται θεοῦ
and brightest of-god
750 φαεσίμβροτοι αὐγαί,
mortal-lighting rays
ἀγγελίαν μοι ἐνέγκαιτ'·
message to-me bring
ἰαχήσατε δ' οὐρανῷ
shout and to-heaven
καὶ παρὰ θρόνον ἀρχέταν,
and by throne chief

γλαυκᾶς τ᾽ ἐν Ἀθάνας.
of-gray-eyed and in of-Athena
μέλλω τᾶς πατριώτιδος γᾶς,
I-am-about of-the native land
μέλλω καὶ ὑπὲρ δόμων,
I-am-about and on-behalf-of house
ἱκέτας ὑποδεχθείς,
suppliants having-received
κίνδυνον πολιῷ τεμεῖν σιδάρῳ.
danger with-gray to-cut with-iron
δεινὸν μὲν πόλιν ὡς Μυκήνας
terrible indeed city like Mycenae
εὐδαίμονα καὶ δορὸς
prosperous and of-spear
πολυαίνετον ἀλκᾷ
much-praised in-might
μῆνιν ἐμᾷ χθονὶ κεύθειν·
wrath to-my land to-hide
κακὸν δ᾽, ὦ πόλις, εἰ ξένους
evil and O city if strangers
ἱκτῆρας παραδώσομεν
suppliants we-shall-hand-over
κελεύσμασιν Ἄργους.
at-commands of-Argos
Ζεύς μοι σύμμαχος, οὐ φοβοῦμαι,
Zeus to-me ally not I-fear
Ζεύς μοι χάριν ἐνδίκως
Zeus to-me favor justly
ἔχει· οὔποτε θνατῶν
has never than-mortals

ἥσσονες παρ᾽ ἐμοὶ θεοὶ φανοῦνται.
lesser with me gods will-appear
ἀλλ᾽, ὦ πότνια, σὸν γὰρ οὖδας
but O lady yours for ground
γᾶς, σὸν καὶ πόλις, ἃς σὺ μάτηρ
of-land yours and city of-which you mother
δέσποινά τε καὶ φύλαξ,
mistress both and guardian
πόρευσον ἄλλᾳ τὸν οὐ δικαίως
convey elsewhere the not justly
τᾷδ᾽ ἐπάγοντα δορυσσοῦν
here leading spear-brandishing
στρατὸν Ἀργόθεν· οὐ γὰρ ἐμᾷ γ᾽ ἀρετᾷ
army from-Argos not for by-my at-least valor
δίκαιός εἰμ᾽ ἐκπεσεῖν μελάθρων.
just am to-be-cast-out from-house
ἐπεί σοι πολύθυστος αἰεὶ
since to-you much-sacrificed always
τιμὰ κραίνεται, οὐδὲ λάθει
honor is-accomplished nor escapes-notice
μηνῶν φθινὰς ἁμέρα,
of-months waning day
νέων τ᾽ ἀοιδαὶ χορῶν τε μολπαί.
of-young and songs of-dances and strains
ἀνεμόεντι δ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ὄχθῳ
windy and on hill
ὀλολύγματα παννυχίοις ὑπὸ παρ-
cries all-night under of-maidens
θένων ἰαχεῖ ποδῶν κρότοισιν.
— resounds of-feet to-beats

The servant reports the battle to Alcmene. Hyllus challenged Eurystheus to single combat, but he refused; the battle followed and the Argives were routed. Iolaus prayed to Zeus and Hebe to be young for one day, and, renewed, captured Eurystheus at the Scironian rocks. Alcmene thanks Zeus, and asks why Eurystheus was not killed.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ δέσποινα, μύθους σοί τε συντομωτάτους
lady words to-you and most-brief
κλύειν ἐμοί τε τῷδε καλλίστους φέρω. 785
to-hear for-me and to-this-one finest I-bring
νικῶμεν ἐχθροὺς καὶ τροπαῖ' ἱδρύεται
we-conquer enemies and trophies are-set-up
παντευχίαν ἔχοντα πολεμίων σέθεν.
full-armor having of-enemies of-you
ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ ὦ φίλταθ', ἥδε σ' ἡμέρα διήλασεν
O dearest this you day brought
ἠλευθερῶσθαι τοῖσδε τοῖς ἀγγέλμασιν.
to-be-freed by-these the tidings
μιᾶς δέ μ' οὔπω συμφορᾶς ἐλευθεροῖς· 790
from-one but me not-yet misfortune you-free
φόβος γὰρ εἴ μοι ζῶσιν οὓς ἐγὼ θέλω.
fear for if for-me live whom I wish
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ζῶσιν μέγιστόν γ' εὐκλεεῖς κατὰ στρατόν.
they-live greatest at-least glorious in army
ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ ὁ μὲν γέρων οὖν ἔστιν Ἰόλεως ἔτι;
the indeed old-man then is Iolaus still
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ μάλιστα· πράξας δ' ἐκ θεῶν κάλλιστα δή.
most having-fared but from gods finely indeed

795 ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ τί δ' ἔστι; μῶν τι κεδνὸν ἠγωνίζετο;
what but is-it surely-not something noble he-achieved
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ νέος μεθέστηκ' ἐκ γέροντος αὖθις αὖ.
young he-has-changed from old-man again again
ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ θαυμάστ' ἔλεξας· ἀλλά σ' εὐτυχῆ φίλων
marvels you-said but you fortunate of-friends
μάχης ἀγῶνα πρῶτον ἀγγεῖλαι θέλω.
of-battle contest first to-announce I-wish
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ εἷς μου λόγος σοι πάντα σημανεῖ τάδε.
one my word to-you all will-signify these-things
800 ἐπεὶ γὰρ ἀλλήλοισιν ὁπλίτην στρατὸν
when for to-one-another hoplite army
κατὰ στόμ' ἐκτείνοντες ἀντετάξαμεν,
by front stretching we-arrayed
ἐκβὰς τεθρίππων Ὕλλος ἁρμάτων πόδα
having-stepped of-four-horse Hyllus of-chariots foot
ἔστη μέσοισιν ἐν μεταιχμίοις δορός.
stood middle in no-man's-land of-spear
κἄπειτ' ἔλεξεν· ὦ στρατήγ' ὃς Ἀργόθεν
and-then said O general who from-Argos
805 ἥκεις, τί τήνδε γαῖαν οὐκ εἰάσαμεν;
you-come why this land not did-we-leave-alone
καὶ τὰς Μυκήνας οὐδὲν ἐργάσει κακὸν
and the Mycenae nothing you-will-do evil
ἀνδρὸς στερήσας· ἀλλ' ἐμοὶ μόνος μόνῳ
of-man having-bereft but to-me alone with-alone
μάχην συνάψας, ἢ κτανὼν ἄγου λαβὼν
battle having-joined either having-killed lead having-taken
τοὺς Ἡρακλείους παῖδας, ἢ θανὼν ἐμοὶ
the Heraclean children or dying to-me

τιμὰς πατρῴους καὶ δόμους ἔχειν ἄφες.
honors paternal and house to-have allow

στρατὸς δ' ἐπήνεσ', εἴς τ' ἀπαλλαγὰς πόνων
army and praised to and release from-toils

καλῶς λελέχθαι μῦθον εἴς τ' εὐψυχίαν.
well to-have-been-said word for and courage

ὁ δ' οὔτε τοὺς κλύοντας αἰδεσθεὶς λόγων
he but neither the hearing being-ashamed-before words

οὔτ' αὐτὸς αὑτοῦ δειλίαν στρατηγὸς ὢν
nor himself of-himself cowardice general being

ἐλθεῖν ἐτόλμησ' ἐγγὺς ἀλκίμου δορός,
to-come dared near valiant spear

ἀλλ' ἦν κάκιστος· εἶτα τοιοῦτος γεγὼς
but was most-base then such being

τοὺς Ἡρακλείους ἦλθε δουλώσων γόνους.
the Heraclean came to-enslave offspring

Ὕλλος μὲν οὖν ἀπῴχετ' εἰς τάξιν πάλιν·
Hyllus indeed then went-off to rank back

μάντεις δ', ἐπειδὴ μονομάχου δι' ἀσπίδος
seers and when of-single-combat through shield

διαλλαγὰς ἔγνωσαν οὐ τελουμένας,
reconciliations they-knew not being-accomplished

ἔσφαζον, οὐκ ἔμελλον, ἀλλ' ἀφίεσαν
slaughtered not delayed but let-go

λαιμῶν †βροτείων εὐθὺς οὔριον φόνον·
of-throats (corrupt)-human at-once favorable blood

οἱ δ' ἅρματ' εἰσέβαινον, οἱ δ' ὑπ' ἀσπίδων
they and chariots mounted others and under shields

πλευροῖς ἔκρυπτον πλεύρ'· Ἀθηναίων δ' ἄναξ
to-sides hid sides of-Athenians and lord

στρατῷ παρήγγειλ᾽ οἷα χρὴ τὸν εὐγενῆ·
to-army exhorted what-sort must the noble
ὦ ξυμπολῖται, τῇ τε βοσκούσῃ χθονὶ
O fellow-citizens to-the and nourishing land
καὶ τῇ τεκούσῃ νῦν τιν᾽ ἀρκέσαι χρεών.
and to-the having-borne now someone to-help must
ὁ δ᾽ αὖ τό τ᾽ Ἄργος μὴ καταισχῦναι θέλειν
he and again the and Argos not to-disgrace to-wish
καὶ τὰς Μυκήνας συμμάχους ἐλίσσετο.
and the Mycenae allies entreated
ἐπεὶ δ᾽ ἐσήμην᾽ ὄρθιον Τυρσηνικῇ
when and it-signaled shrill with-Tyrrhenian
σάλπιγγι καὶ συνῆψαν ἀλλήλοις μάχην,
with-trumpet and they-joined with-one-another battle
πόσον τιν᾽ αὐχεῖς πάταγον ἀσπίδων βρέμειν,
how-great some do-you-think clash of-shields to-roar
πόσον τινὰ στεναγμὸν οἰμωγήν θ᾽ ὁμοῦ;
how-great some groaning wailing and together
τὰ πρῶτα μέν νυν πίτυλος Ἀργείου δορὸς
the first indeed now onset of-Argive spear
ἐρρήξαθ᾽ ἡμᾶς· εἶτ᾽ ἐχώρησαν πάλιν.
broke us then they-gave-way back
τὸ δεύτερον δὲ ποὺς ἐπαλλαχθεὶς ποδί,
the second and foot exchanged with-foot
ἀνὴρ δ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ἀνδρὶ στὰς ἐκαρτέρει μάχῃ·
man and on man standing persevered in-battle
πολλοὶ δ᾽ ἔπιπτον, ἦν δὲ δύο κελεύσματα·
many and fell were and two cries
ὦ τὰς Ἀθήνας — ὦ τὸν Ἀργείων γύην
O the Athens O the of-Argives field

σπείροντες — οὐκ ἀρήξετ' αἰσχύνην πόλει;
sowing not will-you-ward-off shame from-city
μόλις δὲ πάντα δρῶντες οὐκ ἄτερ πόνων
hardly and all doing not without toils
ἐτρεψάμεσθ' Ἀργεῖον εἰς φυγὴν δόρυ.
we-turned Argive to flight spear
κἀνταῦθ' ὁ πρέσβυς Ὕλλον ἐξορμώμενον
and-there the old-man Hyllus rushing-out
ἰδών, ὀρέξας ἱκέτευσε δεξιὰν
seeing reaching-out entreated right-hand
Ἰόλαος ἐμβῆσαί νιν ἵππειον δίφρον.
Iolaus to-mount him horse car
λαβὼν δὲ χερσὶν ἡνίας Εὐρυσθέως
having-taken and in-hands reins of-Eurystheus
πώλοις ἐπεῖχε. τἀπὸ τοῦδ' ἤδη κλύων
with-colts he-pressed-on the-things-from this already hearing
λέγοιμ' ἂν ἄλλων, δεῦρο δ' αὐτὸς εἰσιδών.
I-would-say — from-others here but myself having-seen
Παλληνίδος γὰρ σεμνὸν ἐκπερῶν πάγον
of-Pallenis for holy passing hill
δίας Ἀθάνας, ἅρμ' ἰδὼν Εὐρυσθέως,
of-divine Athena chariot having-seen of-Eurystheus
ἠράσαθ' Ἥβῃ Ζηνί θ', ἡμέραν μίαν
prayed to-Hebe to-Zeus and day one
νέος γενέσθαι κἀποτίσασθαι δίκην
young to-become and-to-exact penalty
ἐχθρούς· κλύειν δὴ θαύματος πάρεστί σοι.
from-enemies to-hear indeed of-marvel it-is-possible for-you
δισσὼ γὰρ ἀστέρ' ἱππικοῖς ἐπὶ ζυγοῖς
two for stars horse on yokes

σταθέντ' ἔκρυψαν ἅρμα λυγαίῳ νέφει·
having-stood hid chariot with-murky cloud
σὸν δὴ λέγουσι παῖδά γ' οἱ σοφώτεροι
your indeed they-say son at-least the wiser
Ἥβην θ'· ὁ δ' ὄρφνης ἐκ δυσαιθρίου νέων
Hebe and he and darkness from murky young
βραχιόνων ἔδειξεν ἡβητὴν τύπον.
of-arms showed youthful form
αἱρεῖ δ' ὁ κλεινὸς Ἰόλεως Εὐρυσθέως
takes and the famous Iolaus of-Eurystheus
τέτρωρον ἅρμα πρὸς πέτραις Σκειρωνίσι.
four-horse chariot at rocks Scironian
δεσμοῖς τε δήσας χεῖρας ἀκροθίνιον
with-bonds and having-bound hands first-fruit
κάλλιστον ἥκει τὸν στρατηλάτην ἄγων
fairest he-comes the general leading
τὸν ὄλβιον πάροιθε· τῇ δὲ νῦν τύχῃ
the prosperous before by-the but now fortune
βροτοῖς ἅπασι λαμπρὰ κηρύσσει μαθεῖν,
to-mortals all clearly proclaims to-learn
τὸν εὐτυχεῖν δοκοῦντα μὴ ζηλοῦν, πρὶν ἂν
the to-prosper seeming not to-envy before —
θανόντ' ἴδῃ τις· ὡς ἐφήμεροι τύχαι.
dead sees one since for-a-day fortunes
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ Ζεῦ τροπαῖε, νῦν ἐμοὶ δεινοῦ φόβου
O Zeus of-rout now for-me from-terrible fear
ἐλεύθερον πάρεστιν ἦμαρ εἰσιδεῖν.
free is-possible day to-see

ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ ὦ Ζεῦ, χρόνῳ μὲν τἄμ' ἐπεσκέψω κακά,
O Zeus in-time indeed my you-regarded evils
χάριν δ' ὅμως σοι τῶν πεπραγμένων ἔχω·
gratitude but nevertheless to-you for-the done I-have
καὶ παῖδα τὸν ἐμὸν πρόσθεν οὐ δοκοῦσ' ἐγὼ
and son the my before not thinking I
θεοῖς ὁμιλεῖν νῦν ἐπίσταμαι σαφῶς.
with-gods to-consort now I-know clearly
ὦ τέκνα, νῦν δὴ νῦν ἐλεύθεροι πόνων,
O children now indeed now free from-toils
ἐλεύθεροι δὲ τοῦ κακῶς ὀλουμένου
free and of-the badly to-perish
Εὐρυσθέως ἔσεσθε καὶ πόλιν πατρὸς
of-Eurystheus you-will-be and city of-father
ὄψεσθε, κλήρους δ' ἐμβατεύσετε χθονός,
you-will-see allotments and you-will-enter of-land
καὶ θεοῖς πατρῴοις θύσεθ', ὧν ἀπειργμένοι
and to-gods paternal you-will-sacrifice from-whom shut-out
ξένοι πλανήτην εἴχετ' ἄθλιον βίον.
strangers wandering you-had wretched life
ἀτὰρ τί κεύθων Ἰόλεως σοφόν ποτε
but why hiding Iolaus wise ever
Εὐρυσθέως ἐφείσαθ' ὥστε μὴ κτανεῖν;
Eurystheus spared so-that not to-kill
λέξον· παρ' ἡμῖν μὲν γὰρ οὐ σοφὸν τόδε,
tell among us indeed for not wise this
ἐχθροὺς λαβόντα μὴ ἀποτίσασθαι δίκην.
enemies having-taken not to-exact penalty

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ τὸ σὸν προτιμῶν, ὥς νιν ὀφθαλμοῖς ἴδοις
the your preferring that him with-eyes you-might-see
ἁλόντα καὶ σῇ δεσποτούμενον χερί.
caught and by-your being-mastered hand
οὐ μὴν ἑκόντα γ' αὐτόν, ἀλλὰ πρὸς βίαν
not indeed willing at-least himself but by force
ἔζευξ' ἀνάγκῃ· καὶ γὰρ οὐκ ἐβούλετο
he-yoked by-necessity and for not he-wished
ζῶν εἰς σὸν ἐλθεῖν ὄμμα καὶ δοῦναι δίκην.
living into your to-come eye and to-give penalty
ἀλλ', ὦ γεραιά, χαῖρε καὶ μέμνησό μοι
but O old-woman farewell and remember for-me
ὃ πρῶτον εἶπας, ἡνίκ' ἠρχόμην λόγου,
what first you-said when I-began of-speech
ἐλευθερώσειν μ'· ἐν δὲ τοῖς τοιοῖσδε χρὴ
to-free me in and the such must
ἀψευδὲς εἶναι τοῖσι γενναίοις στόμα.
unlying to-be for-the noble mouth

X · HERACLES IN HEAVEN

The old men sing that it is pleasant to see friends' fortunes turn, that Athens follows justice, and that Heracles lives in heaven, married to Hebe.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐμοὶ χορὸς μὲν ἡδύς, εἰ λίγεια
to-me dance indeed sweet if clear
λωτοῦ χάρις ἐνὶ δαιτί,
of-pipe grace at feast
εἴη δ' εὔχαρις Ἀφροδίτα·
may-be and graceful Aphrodite

τερπνὸν δέ τι καὶ φίλων ἆρ’
pleasant and something also of-friends then
εὐτυχίαν ἰδέσθαι
good-fortune to-see
τῶν πάρος οὐ δοκούντων.
of-the before not seeming
πολλὰ γὰρ τίκτει
many-things for bears
Μοῖρα τελεσσιδώτειρ’
Fate accomplishment-giving
Αἰών τε Κρόνου παῖς.
Age and of-Cronus son
ἔχεις ὁδόν τιν’, ὦ πόλις, δίκαιον·
you-have road some O city just
οὐ χρή ποτε τοῦδ’ ἀφέσθαι,
not must ever this to-let-go
τιμᾶν θεούς· ὁ δὲ μή σε φάσκων
to-honor gods the but not you saying
ἐγγὺς μανιῶν ἐλαύνει,
near madness drives
δεικνυμένων ἐλέγχων
being-shown proofs
τῶνδ’· ἐπίσημα γάρ τοι
of-these signs for surely
θεὸς παραγγέλλει,
god proclaims
τῶν ἀδίκων παραιρῶν
of-the unjust taking-away
φρονήματος ἀεί.
of-pride always

ἔστιν ἐν οὐρανῷ βεβακὼς
is in heaven having-gone
τεὸς γόνος, ὦ γεραιά·
your offspring O old-woman
φεύγω λόγον ὡς τὸν Ἅιδα
I-flee word that the of-Hades
δόμον κατέβα, πυρὸς
house he-went-down of-fire
δεινᾷ φλογὶ σῶμα δαισθείς·
by-terrible flame body burned
Ἥβας τ' ἐρατὸν χροΐζει
of-Hebe and lovely touches
λέχος χρυσέαν κατ' αὐλάν.
bed golden in court
ὦ Ὑμέναιε, δισσοὺς
O Hymenaeus two
παῖδας Διὸς ἠξίωσας.
children of-Zeus you-deemed-worthy
συμφέρεται τὰ πολλὰ πολλοῖς·
agree the many-things with-many
καὶ γὰρ πατρὶ τῶνδ' Ἀθάναν
and for to-father of-these Athena
λέγουσ' ἐπίκουρον εἶναι,
they-say helper to-be
καὶ τούσδε θεᾶς πόλις
and these of-goddess city
καὶ λαὸς ἔσωσε κείνας,
and people saved of-her

ἔσχεν δ' ὕβριν ἀνδρός, ᾧ θυ-
checked and insolence of-man to-whom spirit
μὸς ἦν πρὸ δίκας βίαιος. 925
— was before justice violent
μήποτ' ἐμοὶ φρόνημα
never for-me pride
ψυχά τ' ἀκόρεστος εἴη.
soul and insatiable may-be

XI · THE FATE OF EURYSTHEUS

Eurystheus is brought before Alcmene, who demands his death. The chorus warns that Athens does not kill captives. Eurystheus says that Hera made him persecute Heracles and that he does not fear death; he reveals an oracle that, buried at Pallene, he will protect Athens against the descendants of Heracles. Alcmene orders him killed and his body thrown to the dogs.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ δέσποιν', ὁρᾷς μέν, ἀλλ' ὅμως εἰρήσεται,
lady you-see indeed but nevertheless it-will-be-said
Εὐρυσθέα σοι τόνδ' ἄγοντες ἥκομεν,
Eurystheus to-you this-one leading we-come
ἄελπτον ὄψιν, τῷδέ τ' οὐχ ἧσσον τύχην· 930
unhoped-for sight to-this-one and not less fortune
οὐ γάρ ποτ' ηὔχει χεῖρας ἵξεσθαι σέθεν,
not for ever he-expected hands to-come of-you
ὅτ' ἐκ Μυκηνῶν πολυπόνῳ σὺν ἀσπίδι
when from Mycenae much-toiling with shield
ἔστειχε μεῖζον τῆς δίκης φρονῶν, πόλιν
he-came greater than-the justice thinking city
πέρσων Ἀθάνας. ἀλλὰ τὴν ἐναντίαν
to-sack Athens but the opposite

δαίμων ἔθηκε καὶ μετέστησεν τύχην.
fate made and changed fortune

Ὕλλος μὲν οὖν ὅ τ' ἐσθλὸς Ἰόλεως βρέτας
Hyllus indeed then the and noble Iolaus image

Διὸς τροπαίου καλλίνικον ἵστασαν·
of-Zeus rout gloriously-victorious set-up

ἐμοὶ δὲ πρὸς σὲ τόνδ' ἐπιστέλλουσ' ἄγειν,
to-me and to you this-one they-bid to-lead

τέρψαι θέλοντες σὴν φρέν'· ἐκ γὰρ εὐτυχοῦς
to-delight wishing your heart from for prosperous

ἥδιστον ἐχθρὸν ἄνδρα δυστυχοῦνθ' ὁρᾶν.
sweetest enemy man unfortunate to-see

ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ ὦ μῖσος, ἥκεις; εἶλέ σ' ἡ Δίκη χρόνῳ;
O hateful-thing you-come caught you the Justice in-time

πρῶτον μὲν οὖν μοι δεῦρ' ἐπίστρεψον κάρα
first indeed then for-me here turn head

καὶ τλῆθι τοὺς σοὺς προσβλέπειν ἐναντίον
and endure the your to-look-at face-to-face

ἐχθρούς· κρατεῖ γὰρ νῦν γε κοὐ κρατεῖς ἔτι.
enemies you-are-ruled for now at-least and-not you-rule any-longer

ἐκεῖνος εἶ σύ, βούλομαι γὰρ εἰδέναι,
that-man are you I-wish for to-know

ὃς πολλὰ μὲν τὸν ὄνθ' ὅπου 'στὶ νῦν ἐμὸν
who many-things indeed the being where he-is now my

παῖδ' ἠξίωσας, ὦ πανοῦργ', ἐφυβρίσαι;
son you-thought-fit O villain to-outrage

τί γὰρ σὺ κεῖνον οὐκ ἔτλης καθυβρίσαι;
what for you him not dared to-outrage

ὃς καὶ παρ' Ἅιδην ζῶντά νιν κατήγαγες,
who even to Hades living him you-brought-down

ὕδρας λέοντάς τ᾽ ἐξαπολλύναι λέγων
hydras lions and to-destroy telling
ἔπεμπες. ἄλλα δ᾽ οἷ᾽ ἐμηχανῶ κακὰ
you-sent other and such-as you-contrived evils
σιγῶ· μακρὸς γὰρ μῦθος ἂν γένοιτό μοι.
I-am-silent long for story — would-be for-me
κοὐκ ἤρκεσέν σοι ταῦτα τολμῆσαι μόνον,
and-not sufficed for-you these-things to-dare alone
ἀλλ᾽ ἐξ ἁπάσης κἀμὲ καὶ τέκν᾽ Ἑλλάδος
but from all and-me and children of-Hellas
ἤλαυνες ἱκέτας δαιμόνων καθημένους,
you-drove suppliants of-gods sitting
τοὺς μὲν γέροντας, τοὺς δὲ νηπίους ἔτι.
the indeed old the but infants still
ἀλλ᾽ ηὗρες ἄνδρας καὶ πόλισμ᾽ ἐλεύθερον,
but you-found men and city free
οἵ σ᾽ οὐκ ἔδεισαν. δεῖ σε κατθανεῖν κακῶς,
who you not feared must you to-die badly
καὶ κερδανεῖς ἅπαντα· χρῆν γὰρ οὐχ ἅπαξ
and you-will-gain all ought for not once
θνήσκειν σὲ πολλὰ πήματ᾽ ἐξειργασμένον.
to-die you many woes having-wrought

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκ ἔστ᾽ ἀνυστὸν τόνδε σοι κατακτανεῖν.
not is possible this-one for-you to-kill

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἄλλως ἄρ᾽ αὐτὸν αἰχμάλωτον εἵλομεν.
in-vain then him captive we-took

ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ εἴργει δὲ δὴ τίς τόνδε μὴ θανεῖν νόμος;
prevents and indeed what this-one not to-die law

ΧΟΡΟΣ τοῖς τῆσδε χώρας προστάταισιν οὐ δοκεῖ.
to-the of-this land rulers not it-seems-good

965 ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ τί δὴ τόδ'; ἐχθροὺς τοισίδ' οὐ καλὸν κτανεῖν;
what indeed this enemies to-these not fine to-kill

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐχ ὅντιν' ἄν γε ζῶνθ' ἕλωσιν ἐν μάχῃ.
not whomever — at-least living they-take in battle

ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ καὶ ταῦτα δόξανθ' Ὕλλος ἐξηνέσχετο;
and these-things having-been-resolved Hyllus endured

ΧΟΡΟΣ χρῆν δ' αὐτόν, οἶμαι, τῇδ' ἀπιστῆσαι χθονί;
it-was-right and him I-think this to-disobey land

ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ χρῆν τόνδε μὴ ζῆν μηδ' ἔτ' εἰσορᾶν φάος.
it-was-right this-one not to-live nor still to-see light

970 ΧΟΡΟΣ τότ' ἠδικήθη πρῶτον οὐ θανὼν ὅδε.
then was-wronged first not dying this-one

ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ οὔκουν ἔτ' ἐστὶν ἐν καλῷ δοῦναι δίκην;
not-then still is in good-time to-give penalty

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκ ἔστι τοῦτον ὅστις ἂν κατακτάνοι.
not is this-one who — would-kill

ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ ἔγωγε· καίτοι φημὶ κἄμ' εἶναί τινα.
I and-yet I-say also-I to-be someone

ΧΟΡΟΣ πολλὴν ἄρ' ἕξεις μέμψιν, εἰ δράσεις τόδε.
much then you-will-have blame if you-do this

975 ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ φιλῶ πόλιν τήνδ'· οὐδὲν ἀντιλεκτέον.
I-love city this nothing to-be-gainsaid

τοῦτον δ', ἐπείπερ χεῖρας ἦλθεν εἰς ἐμάς,
this-one but since-indeed hands he-came into my

οὐκ ἔστι θνητῶν ὅστις ἐξαιρήσεται.
not is of-mortals who will-take-away

πρὸς ταῦτα τὴν θρασεῖαν ὅστις ἂν θέλῃ
for these-things the bold whoever — wishes

καὶ τὴν φρονοῦσαν μεῖζον ἢ γυναῖκα χρὴ
and the thinking greater than woman must

λέξει· τὸ δ' ἔργον τοῦτ' ἐμοὶ πεπράξεται. 980
will-call the but deed this by-me will-be-done

ΧΟΡΟΣ δεινόν τι καὶ συγγνωστόν, ὦ γύναι, σ' ἔχει
terrible something and pardonable O woman you holds

μῖσος πρὸς ἄνδρα τόνδε, γιγνώσκω καλῶς.
hatred toward man this I-know well

ΕΥΡΥΣΘΕΥΣ γύναι, σάφ' ἴσθι μή με θωπεύσοντά σε,
woman clearly know not me to-flatter you

μηδ' ἄλλο μηδὲν τῆς ἐμῆς ψυχῆς πέρι
nor other nothing the my life about

λέξονθ' ὅθεν χρὴ δειλίαν ὀφλεῖν τινα. 985
to-say whence must cowardice to-incur someone

ἐγὼ δὲ νεῖκος οὐχ ἑκὼν τόδ' ἠράμην·
I but strife not willing this took-up

ᾔδη γε σοὶ μὲν αὐτανέψιος γεγώς,
I-knew at-least to-you indeed first-cousin being

τῷ σῷ δὲ παιδὶ συγγενὴς Ἡρακλέει.
to-the your and son kinsman to-Heracles

ἀλλ' εἴτ' ἔχρῃζον εἴτε μή, θεὸς γὰρ ἦν,
but whether I-wished or not god for was

Ἥρα με κάμνειν τήνδ' ἔθηκε τὴν νόσον. 990
Hera me to-labor this made the sickness

ἐπεὶ δ' ἐκείνῳ δυσμένειαν ἠράμην
when and to-him hostility I-took-up

κἄγνων ἀγῶνα τόνδ' ἀγωνιούμενος,
and-knew contest this to-contest

πολλῶν σοφιστὴς πημάτων ἐγιγνόμην
of-many contriver of-woes I-became

καὶ πόλλ' ἔτικτον, νυκτὶ συνθακῶν ἀεί,
and many-things I-begot by-night sitting-together always

ὅπως διώσας καὶ κατακτείνας ἐμοὺς
how having-thrust-away and having-killed my
ἐχθροὺς τὸ λοιπὸν μὴ συνοικοίην φόβῳ,
enemies the hereafter not I-might-dwell-with fear
εἰδὼς μὲν οὐκ ἀριθμὸν ἀλλ' ἐτητύμως
knowing indeed not cipher but truly
ἄνδρ' ὄντα τὸν σὸν παῖδα· καὶ γὰρ ἐχθρὸς ὢν
man being the your son and for enemy being
ἀκούσεται τά γ' ἐσθλὰ χρηστὸς ὢν ἀνήρ.
will-hear the at-least good-things good being man
κείνου δ' ἀπαλλαχθέντος οὐκ ἐχρῆν μ' ἄρα
of-him but having-departed not was-it-right me then
μισούμενον πρὸς τῶνδε καὶ ξυνειδότα
being-hated by these and knowing
ἔχθραν πατρῴαν, πάντα κινῆσαι πέτρον,
enmity paternal every to-move stone
κτείνοντα κἀκβάλλοντα καὶ τεχνώμενον;
killing and-casting-out and contriving
τοιαῦτα δρῶντι τἄμ' ἐγίγνετ' ἀσφαλῆ.
such-things doing my-things became safe
οὔκουν σύ γ' ἂν λαχοῦσα τὰς ἐμὰς τύχας
not-then you at-least — having-obtained the my fortunes
ἐχθροῦ λέοντος δυσμενῆ βλαστήματα
of-enemy lion hostile offspring
ἤλαυνες ἂν κακοῖσιν, ἀλλὰ σωφρόνως
would-have-driven — with-evils but prudently
εἴασας οἰκεῖν Ἄργος; οὔτιν' ἂν πίθοις.
you-would-have-allowed to-dwell-in Argos no-one — you-would-persuade
νῦν οὖν ἐπειδή μ' οὐ διώλεσαν τότε
now then since me not they-destroyed then

πρόθυμον ὄντα, τοῖσιν Ἑλλήνων νόμοις
eager being for-the of-Greeks laws
οὐχ ἁγνός εἰμι τῷ κτανόντι κατθανών·
not pure am to-the having-killed dying
πόλις δ' ἀφῆκε σωφρονοῦσα, τὸν θεὸν
city and let-go being-prudent the god
μεῖζον τίουσα τῆς ἐμῆς ἔχθρας πολύ.
more honoring than-the my enmity much
ἅ γ' εἶπας ἀντήκουσας· ἐντεῦθεν δὲ χρὴ
what at-least you-said you-heard-in-reply from-now and must
τὸν προστρόπαιον τόν τε γενναῖον καλεῖν.
the suppliant the and noble to-call
οὕτω γε μέντοι τἄμ' ἔχει· θανεῖν μὲν οὐ
thus at-least however my-things stand to-die indeed not
χρῄζω, λιπὼν δ' ἂν οὐδὲν ἀχθοίμην βίον.
I-wish having-left but — nothing I-would-be-grieved life
ΧΟΡΟΣ παραινέσαι σοι σμικρόν, Ἀλκμήνη, θέλω,
to-advise to-you small Alcmene I-wish
τὸν ἄνδρ' ἀφεῖναι τόνδ', ἐπεὶ δοκεῖ πόλει.
the man to-release this since seems-good to-city
ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ τί δ', ἢν θάνῃ τε καὶ πόλει πιθώμεθα;
what but if he-dies both and city we-obey
ΧΟΡΟΣ τὰ λῷστ' ἂν εἴη· πῶς τάδ' οὖν γενήσεται;
the best-things — would-be how these then will-it-be
ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ ἐγὼ διδάξω ῥᾳδίως· κτανοῦσα γὰρ
I will-teach easily having-killed for
τόνδ' εἶτα νεκρὸν τοῖς μετελθοῦσιν φίλων
this-one then corpse to-the having-come-for of-friends
δώσω· τὸ γὰρ σῶμ' οὐκ ἀπιστήσω χθονί,
I-will-give the for body not I-shall-disobey land

οὗτος δὲ δώσει τὴν δίκην θανὼν ἐμοί.
this-one and will-give the penalty dying to-me

ΕΥΡΥΣΘΕΥΣ κτεῖν', οὐ παραιτοῦμαί σε· τήνδε δὲ πτόλιν,
kill not I-beg-off you this and city

ἐπεί μ' ἀφῆκε καὶ κατῃδέσθη κτανεῖν,
since me it-let-go and was-ashamed to-kill

χρησμῷ παλαιῷ Λοξίου δωρήσομαι,
with-oracle ancient of-Loxias I-will-present

ὃς ὠφελήσει μείζον' ἢ δοκεῖν χρόνῳ.
which will-benefit greater than to-seem in-time

θανόντα γάρ με θάψεθ' οὗ τὸ μόρσιμον,
dead for me you-will-bury where the fated-place

δίας πάροιθε παρθένου Παλληνίδος·
of-divine before maiden of-Pallene

καὶ σοὶ μὲν εὔνους καὶ πόλει σωτήριος
and to-you indeed well-disposed and to-city saving

μέτοικος αἰεὶ κείσομαι κατὰ χθονός,
resident-alien always I-shall-lie below earth

τοῖς τῶνδε δ' ἐκγόνοισι πολεμιώτατος,
to-the of-these and descendants most-hostile

ὅταν μόλωσι δεῦρο σὺν πολλῇ χερὶ
when they-come here with great hand

χάριν προδόντες τήνδε· τοιούτων ξένων
favor having-betrayed this of-such strangers

προύστητε. πῶς οὖν ταῦτ' ἐγὼ πεπυσμένος
you-championed how then these-things I having-learned

δεῦρ' ἦλθον, ἀλλ' οὐ χρησμὸν ᾐδούμην θεοῦ;
here came but not oracle respected of-god

Ἥραν νομίζων θεσφάτων κρείσσω πολύ,
Hera thinking than-oracles stronger much

κοὐκ ἂν προδοῦναί μ'. ἀλλὰ μήτε μοι χοὰς
and-not — to-betray me but neither for-me libations
μήθ' αἷμ' ἐάσῃς εἰς ἐμὸν στάξαι τάφον.
nor blood allow on my to-drip tomb
κακὸν γὰρ αὐτοῖς νόστον ἀντὶ τῶνδ' ἐγὼ
evil for to-them return in-return-for these I
δώσω· διπλοῦν δὲ κέρδος ἕξετ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ,
will-give double and gain you-will-have from me
ὑμᾶς τ' ὀνήσω τούσδε τε βλάψω θανών.
you and I-will-help these and will-harm dying
ΑΛΚΜΗΝΗ τί δῆτα μέλλετ', εἰ πόλει σωτηρίαν
why then do-you-delay if for-city safety
κατεργάσασθαι τοῖσί τ' ἐξ ὑμῶν χρεών,
to-accomplish for-the and from you must
κτείνειν τὸν ἄνδρα τόνδ', ἀκούοντες τάδε;
to-kill the man this hearing these-things
δείκνυσι γὰρ κέλευθον ἀσφαλεστάτην.
shows for path safest
ἐχθρὸς μὲν ἀνήρ, ὠφελεῖ δὲ κατθανών.
enemy indeed the-man benefits but dying
κομίζετ' αὐτόν, δμῶες, εἶτα χρὴ κυσὶ
take him servants then must to-dogs
δοῦναι κτανόντας· μὴ γὰρ ἐλπίσῃς ὅπως
to-give having-killed not for hope how
αὖθις πατρῴας ζῶν ἔμ' ἐκβαλεῖς χθονός.
again from-paternal living me you-will-cast land
ΧΟΡΟΣ ταὐτὰ δοκεῖ μοι. στείχετ', ὀπαδοί.
the-same seems-good to-me go attendants

τὰ γὰρ ἐξ ἡμῶν
the for from us
καθαρῶς ἔσται βασιλεῦσιν.
purely will-be for-kings
