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Ion and Iphigenia Among the Taurians

Euripides

ΙΩΝ
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ Η ΕΝ ΤΑΥΡΟΙΣ
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ

Ion and Iphigenia Among the Taurians
With the Orestes

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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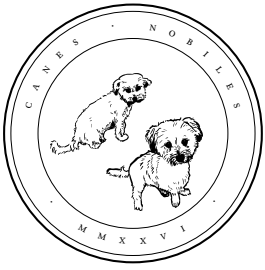

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Lines the editor secludes are not printed; words he supplies are printed without their brackets; † marks a word he obelizes; ∗∗∗ marks a gap in the text.

CONTENTS

ION

I · Hermes Tells the Story 9
II · Ion Keeps the Temple 15
III · Creusa and the Stranger 26
IV · The Prayer for Children 41
V · Xuthus Finds a Son 46
VI · The Chorus Fears for Its Mistress 59
VII · Creusa's Confession 62
VIII · A Prayer to Enodia 84
IX · The Poisoned Cup and the Cradle 88

IPHIGENIA AMONG THE TAURIANS

I · Iphigenia's Dream 127
II · Lament for Orestes 135
III · The Herdsman's Report 143

IPHIGENIA AMONG THE TAURIANS

(continued)

IV · Who Are the Strangers? 154
V · The Letter and the Recognition 158
VI · The Halcyon 201
VII · Iphigenia Deceives Thoas 205
VIII · Apollo at Delphi 212
IX · The Escape and Athena 216

ORESTES

I · Electra's Prologue 235
II · Do Not Wake Him 244
III · Orestes Wakes 249
IV · A Prayer to the Eumenides 257
V · Menelaus and Tyndareus 259
VI · The House of Atreus 293
VII · The Assembly 296
VIII · Electra's Lament 303
IX · The Plan 307
X · Watching the Roads 324
XI · Hermione Is Taken 326
XII · The Chorus Cries Out 331
XIII · The Phrygian Slave 332
XIV · Smoke over the House 345
XV · Apollo Ends the Strife 346

EURIPIDES

ΙΩΝ

Ion

I · HERMES TELLS THE STORY

Hermes tells how Apollo took Creusa, daughter of Erechtheus, by force under the Long Rocks of Athens. She bore a son in secret and left him in the same cave in a round cradle, with golden serpents about him as Erichthonius was guarded. At Apollo's bidding Hermes carried the child to Delphi, where the prophetess found him and reared him, and he grew up a servant of the temple. Creusa has since married Xuthus, an ally from Achaea, and the childless pair have come to ask the oracle for offspring. Apollo will give the boy to Xuthus as his own, so that he may come to Athens and be known by his mother, and will call him Ion. Hermes withdraws into the laurels to watch.

ΕΡΜΗΣ Ἄτλας, ὁ χαλκέοισι νώτοις οὐρανὸν
Atlas the on-brazen on-back heaven
θεῶν παλαιὸν οἶκον ἐκτρίβων, θεῶν
of-gods ancient house wearing of-gods
μιᾶς ἔφυσε Μαῖαν, ἣ ’μ’ ἐγείνατο
of-one begot Maia who me bore
Ἑρμῆν μεγίστῳ Ζηνί, δαιμόνων λάτριν.
Hermes to-greatest Zeus of-gods servant
ἥκω δὲ Δελφῶν τήνδε γῆν, ἵν’ ὀμφαλὸν
I-come and of-Delphi this land where navel
μέσον καθίζων Φοῖβος ὑμνῳδεῖ βροτοῖς
middle sitting Phoebus sings-oracles to-mortals
τά τ’ ὄντα καὶ μέλλοντα θεσπίζων ἀεί.
the-things both being and about-to-be prophesying always
ἔστιν γὰρ οὐκ ἄσημος Ἑλλήνων πόλις,
is for not obscure of-Greeks city
τῆς χρυσολόγχου Παλλάδος κεκλημένη,
of-the golden-speared of-Pallas called
οὗ παῖδ’ Ἐρεχθέως Φοῖβος ἔζευξεν γάμοις
where daughter of-Erechtheus Phoebus yoked in-marriage

βίᾳ Κρέουσαν, ἔνθα προσβόρρους πέτρας
by-force Creusa where northward rocks
Παλλάδος ὑπ' ὄχθῳ τῆς Ἀθηναίων χθονὸς
of-Pallas under hill of-the of-Athenians land
Μακρὰς καλοῦσι γῆς ἄνακτες Ἀτθίδος.
Long-Rocks call of-land lords of-Attic
ἀγνὼς δὲ πατρί, τῷ θεῷ γὰρ ἦν φίλον,
unknown and to-father to-the god for it-was dear
γαστρὸς διήνεγκ' ὄγκον· ὡς δ' ἦλθεν χρόνος,
of-womb carried-through burden when and came time
τεκοῦσ' ἐν οἴκοις παῖδ' ἀπήνεγκεν βρέφος
having-borne in house son carried-away babe
εἰς ταὐτὸν ἄντρον οὗπερ ηὐνάσθη θεῷ
to the-same cave where she-had-lain with-god
Κρέουσα, κἀκτίθησιν ὡς θανούμενον
Creusa and-exposes as about-to-die
κοίλης ἐν ἀντίπηγος εὐτρόχῳ κύκλῳ,
of-hollow in of-cradle well-rounded circle
προγόνων νόμον σῴζουσα τοῦ τε γηγενοῦς
of-ancestors custom keeping of-the and earth-born
Ἐριχθονίου· κείνῳ γὰρ ἡ Διὸς κόρη
of-Erichthonius to-him for the of-Zeus daughter
φρουρὼ παραζεύξασα φύλακε σώματος
guards having-yoked-beside guardians of-body
δισσὼ δράκοντε, παρθένοις Ἀγλαυρίσι
two serpents to-maidens Aglaurids
δίδωσι σῴζειν· ὅθεν Ἐρεχθείδαις ἔτι
gives to-keep whence for-Erechtheids still
νόμος τις ἔστιν ὄφεσιν ἐν χρυσηλάτοις
custom some is serpents in gold-wrought

τρέφειν τέκν᾽. ἀλλ᾽ ἣν εἶχε παρθένος χλιδὴν
to-rear children but what she-had maiden finery
τέκνῳ προσάψασ᾽ ἔλιπεν ὡς θανουμένῳ.
to-child having-fastened left as about-to-die
καί μ᾽ ὢν ἀδελφὸς Φοῖβος αἰτεῖται τάδε·
and me being brother Phoebus asks these-things
ὦ σύγγον᾽, ἐλθὼν λαὸν εἰς αὐτόχθονα
O brother having-gone people to native
κλεινῶν Ἀθηνῶν, οἶσθα γὰρ θεᾶς πόλιν,
of-famous Athens you-know for of-the-goddess city
λαβὼν βρέφος νεογνὸν ἐκ κοίλης πέτρας
having-taken babe new-born from hollow rock
αὐτῷ σὺν ἄγγει σπαργάνοισί θ᾽ οἷς ἔχει
itself with vessel swaddling-clothes and which it-has
ἔνεγκε Δελφῶν τἀμὰ πρὸς χρηστήρια
bring of-Delphi my to oracles
καὶ θὲς πρὸς αὐταῖς εἰσόδοις δόμων ἐμῶν.
and place at very entrances of-house my
τὰ δ᾽ ἄλλ᾽, ἐμὸς γάρ ἐστιν, ὡς εἰδῇς, ὁ παῖς,
the but rest mine for is that you-may-know the child
ἡμῖν μελήσει. Λοξίᾳ δ᾽ ἐγὼ χάριν
to-us will-be-a-care to-Loxias and I favor
πράσσων ἀδελφῷ πλεκτὸν ἐξάρας κύτος
doing to-brother woven having-lifted basket
ἤνεγκα καὶ τὸν παῖδα κρηπίδων ἔπι
carried and the child steps on
τίθημι ναοῦ τοῦδ᾽, ἀναπτύξας κύτος
I-place of-temple this having-opened basket
εἱλικτὸν ἀντίπηγος, ὡς ὁρῷθ᾽ ὁ παῖς.
coiled of-cradle so-that may-be-seen the child

κυρεῖ δ' ἅμ' ἱππεύοντος ἡλίου κύκλῳ
happens and as riding of-sun in-circle
προφῆτις εἰσβαίνουσα μαντεῖον θεοῦ·
prophetess entering oracle of-god
ὄψιν δὲ προσβαλοῦσα παιδὶ νηπίῳ
glance and having-cast at-child infant
ἐθαύμασ' εἴ τις Δελφίδων τλαίη κόρη
she-wondered if any of-Delphian dared girl
λαθραῖον ὠδῖν' εἰς θεοῦ ῥῖψαι δόμον,
secret birth into of-god to-cast house
ὑπὲρ δὲ θυμέλας διορίσαι πρόθυμος ἦν·
over and altar to-remove eager she-was
οἴκτῳ δ' ἀφῆκεν ὠμότητα, καὶ θεὸς
from-pity and let-go cruelty and god
συνεργὸς ἦν τῷ παιδὶ μὴ 'κπεσεῖν δόμων.
helper was to-the child not to-be-cast-out of-house
τρέφει δέ νιν λαβοῦσα· τὸν σπείραντα δὲ
rears and him having-taken the having-begotten and
οὐκ οἶδε Φοῖβον οὐδὲ μητέρ' ἧς ἔφυ,
not she-knows Phoebus nor mother of-whom be-was-born
ὁ παῖς τε τοὺς τεκόντας οὐκ ἐπίσταται.
the child and the having-begotten not knows
νέος μὲν οὖν ὢν ἀμφὶ βωμίους τροφὰς
young indeed then being about altar nourishments
ἠλᾶτ' ἀθύρων· ὡς δ' ἀπηνδρώθη δέμας,
roamed playing when and grew-to-manhood body
Δελφοί σφ' ἔθεντο χρυσοφύλακα τοῦ θεοῦ
Delphians him made gold-keeper of-the god
ταμίαν τε πάντων πιστόν, ἐν δ' ἀνακτόροις
steward and of-all faithful in and shrine

θεοῦ καταζῇ δεῦρ᾽ ἀεὶ σεμνὸν βίον.
of-god he-lives here always holy life
Κρέουσα δ᾽ ἡ τεκοῦσα τὸν νεανίαν
Creusa and the having-borne the youth
Ξούθῳ γαμεῖται συμφορᾶς τοιᾶσδ᾽ ὕπο.
to-Xuthus is-married of-misfortune such by
ἦν ταῖς Ἀθήναις τοῖς τε Χαλκωδοντίδαις,
was to-the Athens the and Chalcodontids
οἳ γῆν ἔχουσ᾽ Εὐβοΐδα, πολέμιος κλύδων·
who land hold Euboean war surge
ὃν συμπονήσας καὶ ξυνεξελὼν δορὶ
which having-toiled-with and having-helped-destroy with-spear
γάμων Κρεούσης ἀξίωμ᾽ ἐδέξατο,
of-marriage of-Creusa honor he-received
οὐκ ἐγγενὴς ὤν, Αἰόλου δὲ τοῦ Διὸς
not native being of-Aeolus but the of-Zeus
γεγὼς Ἀχαιός· χρόνια δὲ σπείρας λέχη
born Achaean long and having-sown bed
ἄτεκνός ἐστι, καὶ Κρέουσ᾽· ὧν εἵνεκα
childless is and Creusa of-which for-the-sake
ἥκουσι πρὸς μαντεῖ᾽ Ἀπόλλωνος τάδε,
they-come to oracles of-Apollo these
ἔρωτι παίδων. Λοξίας δὲ τὴν τύχην
from-desire of-children Loxias and the fortune
εἰς τοῦτ᾽ ἐλαύνει, κοὐ λέληθεν, ὡς δοκεῖ.
into this drives and-not has-escaped-notice as it-seems
δώσει γὰρ εἰσελθόντι μαντεῖον τόδε
will-give for to-having-entered oracle this
Ξούθῳ τὸν αὑτοῦ παῖδα, καὶ πεφυκέναι
to-Xuthus the his-own son and to-have-been-born

κείνου σφε φήσει, μητρὸς ὡς ἐλθὼν δόμους
of-him him will-say of-mother so-that having-come to-house
γνωσθῇ Κρεούσῃ, καὶ γάμοι τε Λοξίου
he-may-be-recognized by-Creusa and marriage and of-Loxias
κρυπτοὶ γένωνται παῖς τ' ἔχῃ τὰ πρόσφορα.
hidden may-be son and may-have the fitting-things
Ἴωνα δ' αὐτόν, κτίστορ' Ἀσιάδος χθονός,
Ion and him founder of-Asian land
ὄνομα κεκλῆσθαι θήσεται καθ' Ἑλλάδα.
name to-be-called he-will-make throughout Hellas
ἀλλ' εἰς δαφνώδη γύαλα βήσομαι τάδε,
but into laurelled hollows I-will-go these
τὸ κρανθὲν ὡς ἂν ἐκμάθω παιδὸς πέρι.
the decided so-that — I-may-learn child about
ὁρῶ γὰρ ἐκβαίνοντα Λοξίου γόνον
I-see for coming-out of-Loxias offspring
τόνδ', ὡς πρὸ ναοῦ λαμπρὰ θῇ πυλώματα
this-one so-that before temple bright may-make gates
δάφνης κλάδοισιν. ὄνομα δ', οὗ μέλλει τυχεῖν,
of-laurel with-branches name and which is-about to-obtain
Ἴων' ἐγώ σφε πρῶτος ὀνομάζω θεῶν.
Ion I him first name of-gods

II · ION KEEPS THE TEMPLE

At sunrise Ion sweeps the god's temple with laurel boughs, sprinkles its floor with water from Castalia, and sings to Paean, glad to serve the house that feeds him. He drives off the birds that would foul the offerings, threatening the eagle and the swan with his bow. Creusa's handmaids arrive and marvel at the sculptures: Heracles and Iolaus killing the Hydra, Bellerophon on his winged horse slaying the Chimaera, and the gods fighting the Giants, Athena with her Gorgon shield and Zeus with his thunderbolt. Ion tells them what they may and may not enter.

ΙΩΝ ἅρματα μὲν τάδε λαμπρὰ τεθρίππων
chariots indeed these bright of-four-horses
ἥλιος ἤδη λάμπει κατὰ γῆν,
sun already shines over earth
ἄστρα δὲ φεύγει πῦρ τόδ' ἀπ' αἰθέρος
stars and flee fire this from air
εἰς νύχθ' ἱεράν, 85
to night holy
Παρνησιάδες δ' ἄβατοι κορυφαὶ
Parnassian and untrodden peaks
καταλαμπόμεναι τὴν ἡμερίαν
lit-up the of-day
ἁψῖδα βροτοῖσι δέχονται.
wheel for-mortals receive
σμύρνης δ' ἀνύδρου καπνὸς εἰς ὀρόφους
of-myrrh and waterless smoke to roofs
Φοίβου πέτεται. 90
of-Phoebus flies
θάσσει δὲ γυνὴ τρίποδα ζάθεον
sits and woman tripod holy

Δελφίς, ἀείδουσ' Ἕλλησι βοάς,
Delphian singing to-Greeks cries
ἃς ἂν Ἀπόλλων κελαδήσῃ.
which — Apollo may-sound
ἀλλ', ὦ Φοίβου Δελφοὶ θέραπες,
but O of-Phoebus Delphian servants
τὰς Κασταλίας ἀργυροειδεῖς
the of-Castalia silvery
βαίνετε δίνας, καθαραῖς δὲ δρόσοις
go-to eddies with-pure and dews
φαιδρυνάμενοι στείχετε ναούς·
having-bathed go-to temples
στόμα τ' εὔφημον φρουρεῖτ' ἀγαθόν,
mouth and of-good-omen guard good
φήμας τ' ἀγαθὰς
utterances and good
τοῖς ἐθέλουσιν μαντεύεσθαι
to-the wishing to-consult-the-oracle
γλώσσης ἰδίας ἀποφαίνειν.
of-tongue own to-show
ἡμεῖς δὲ, πόνους οὓς ἐκ παιδὸς
we and toils which from childhood
μοχθοῦμεν ἀεί, πτόρθοισι δάφνης
we-labor always with-sprays of-laurel
στέφεσίν θ' ἱεροῖς ἐσόδους Φοίβου
with-wreaths and holy entrances of-Phoebus
καθαρὰς θήσομεν, ὑγραῖς τε πέδον
pure will-make with-wet and ground
ῥανίσιν νοτερόν, πτηνῶν τ' ἀγέλας,
with-drops moist of-birds and flocks

αἳ βλάπτουσιν σέμν᾽ ἀναθήματα,
which harm holy offerings
τόξοισιν ἐμοῖς φυγάδας θήσομεν·
with-bows my fugitives will-make
ὡς γὰρ ἀμήτωρ ἀπάτωρ τε γεγὼς
since for motherless fatherless and being
τοὺς θρέψαντας
the having-reared
Φοίβου ναοὺς θεραπεύω.
of-Phoebus temple I-serve
ἄγ᾽ ὦ νεηθαλὲς ὦ
come O fresh-blooming O
καλλίστας προπόλευμα δάφνας,
of-fairest servant of-laurel
ἃ τὰν Φοίβου θυμέλαν
which the of-Phoebus altar
σαίρεις, ὑπὸ ναοῖς
you-sweep beneath temple
κήπων ἐξ ἀθανάτων,
gardens from immortal
ἵνα δρόσοι τέγγουσ᾽ ἱεραί,
where dews moisten holy
†τὰν ἀέναον παγὰν
(corrupt)-the ever-flowing spring
ἐκπροϊεῖσαι
sending-forth
μυρσίνας, ἱερὰν φόβαν
of-myrtle holy foliage
ᾇ σαίρω δάπεδον θεοῦ
with-which I-sweep floor of-god

παναμέριος ἅμ᾽ ἀλίου
all-day-long with of-sun
πτέρυγι θοᾷ
wing swift
λατρεύων τὸ κατ᾽ ἦμαρ.
serving the by day
ὦ Παιὰν ὦ Παιάν,
O Paean O Paean
εὐαίων εὐαίων
blessed blessed
εἴης, ὦ Λατοῦς παῖ.
may-you-be O of-Leto son
καλόν γε τὸν πόνον, ὦ
fair at-least the toil O
Φοῖβε, σοὶ πρὸ δόμων λατρεύω
Phoebus for-you before house I-serve
τιμῶν μαντεῖον ἕδραν·
honoring oracular seat
κλεινὸς δ᾽ ὁ πόνος μοι
glorious and the toil for-me
θεοῖσιν δούλαν χέρ᾽ ἔχειν,
to-gods slave hand to-have
οὐ θνατοῖς ἀλλ᾽ ἀθανάτοις·
not to-mortals but to-immortals
εὐφάμους δὲ πόνους μοχθεῖν
of-good-omen and toils to-labor
οὐκ ἀποκάμνω.
not I-grow-weary
Φοῖβός μοι γενέτωρ πατήρ·
Phoebus to-me begetter father

τὸν βόσκοντα γὰρ εὐλογῶ,
the nourishing for I-praise
τὸ δ' ὠφέλιμον ἐμοὶ πατέρος
the and benefiting me of-father
ὄνομα λέγω,
name I-say
Φοίβου τοῦ κατὰ ναόν.
of-Phoebus of-the in temple
ὦ Παιὰν ὦ Παιάν,
O Paean O Paean
εὐαίων εὐαίων
blessed blessed
εἴης, ὦ Λατοῦς παῖ.
may-you-be O of-Leto son
ἀλλ' ἐκπαύσω γὰρ μόχθους
but I-will-stop for toils
δάφνας ὁλκοῖς,
of-laurel with-sweepings
χρυσέων δ' ἐκ τευχέων ῥίψω
golden and from vessels I-will-cast
γαίας παγάν,
of-earth spring
ἃν ἀποχεύονται
which pour-out
Κασταλίας δῖναι,
of-Castalia eddies
νοτερὸν ὕδωρ βάλλων,
moist water casting
ὅσιος ἀπ' εὐνᾶς ὤν.
holy from bed being

εἴθ' οὕτως αἰεὶ Φοίβῳ
would-that thus always for-Phoebus
λατρεύων μὴ παυσαίμαν,
serving not may-I-cease
ἢ παυσαίμαν ἀγαθᾷ μοίρᾳ.
or may-I-cease with-good fortune
ἔα ἔα·
ha ha
φοιτῶσ' ἤδη λείπουσίν τε
come already leave and
πτανοὶ Παρνασσοῦ κοίτας·
winged of-Parnassus lairs
αὐδῶ μὴ χρίμπτειν θριγκοῖς
I-say not to-approach copings
μηδ' εἰς χρυσήρεις οἴκους.
nor to golden house
μάρψω σ' αὖ τόξοις, ὦ Ζηνὸς
I-will-seize you again with-bow O of-Zeus
κῆρυξ, ὀρνίθων γαμφηλαῖς
herald of-birds with-beak
ἰσχὺν νικῶν.
strength conquering
ὅδε πρὸς θυμέλας ἄλλος ἐρέσσει
this-one to altars another rows
κύκνος· οὐκ ἄλλᾳ
swan not elsewhere
φοινικοφαῆ πόδα κινήσεις;
red-gleaming foot will-you-move
οὐδέν σ' ἁ φόρμιγξ ἁ Φοίβου
not-at-all you the lyre the of-Phoebus

σύμμολπος τόξων ῥύσαιτ᾽ ἄν·
singing-with from-bows would-rescue —

πάραγε πτέρυγας,
turn-aside wings

λίμνας ἐπίβα τᾶς Δηλιάδος·
lake step-on the Delian

αἱμάξεις, εἰ μὴ πείσει,
you-will-bloody if not you-obey

τὰς καλλιφθόγγους ᾠδάς.
the fair-voiced songs

ἔα ἔα·
ha ha

τίς ὅδ᾽ ὀρνίθων καινὸς προσέβα;
what this-one of-birds new approached

μῶν ὑπὸ θριγκοὺς εὐναίας
surely-not under copings nestlike

καρφηρὰς θήσων τέκνοις;
of-straw to-make for-young

ψαλμοί σ᾽ εἴρξουσιν τόξων.
twangings you will-keep-away of-bows

οὐ πείσει; χωρῶν δίνας
not will-you-obey going to-eddies

τὰς Ἀλφειοῦ παιδούργει
the of-Alpheus breed

ἢ νάπος Ἴσθμιον,
or glen Isthmian

ὡς ἀναθήματα μὴ βλάπτηται
so-that offerings not be-harmed

ναοί θ᾽ οἱ Φοίβου.
temple and the of-Phoebus

κτείνειν δ' ὑμᾶς αἰδοῦμαι
to-kill but you I-am-ashamed
τοὺς θεῶν ἀγγέλλοντας φάμας
the of-gods announcing messages
θνατοῖς· οἷς δ' ἔγκειμαι μόχθοις,
to-mortals in-which and I-am-engaged toils
Φοίβῳ δουλεύσω, κοὐ λήξω
for-Phoebus I-will-be-slave and-not I-will-cease
τοὺς βόσκοντας θεραπεύων.
the nourishing serving
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκ ἐν ταῖς ζαθέαις Ἀθά-
not in the holy Athens
ναις εὐκίονες ἦσαν αὐ-
— with-fair-columns were courtyards
λαὶ θεῶν μόνον, οὐδ' ἀγυι-
— of-gods only nor street-guarding
άτιδες θεραπεῖαι·
— services
ἀλλὰ καὶ παρὰ Λοξίᾳ
but also by Loxias
τῷ Λατοῦς διδύμων προσώ-
the of-Leto of-twin faces
πων καλλιβλέφαρον φῶς.
— fair-eyed light
ἰδοὺ τάνδ', ἄθρησον,
see this look-at
Λερναῖον ὕδραν ἐναίρει
Lernaean hydra slays
χρυσέαις ἅρπαις ὁ Διὸς παῖς·
with-golden sickle the of-Zeus son

φίλα, πρόσιδ' ὄσσοις.
dear look-at with-eyes
ἀθρῶ. καὶ πέλας ἄλλος αὐ-
I-look and near another him
τοῦ πανὸν πυρίφλεκτον αἴ-
— *torch fire-blazing raises*
ρει τις· ἆρ' ὃς ἐμαῖσι μυ-
— *someone — who my is-told*
θεύεται παρὰ πήναις
— *by webs*
ἀσπιστὰς Ἰόλαος, ὃς
shield-bearer Iolaus who
κοινοὺς αἰρόμενος πόνους
common taking-up toils
Δίῳ παιδὶ συναντλεῖ;
with-Zeus' son endures
καὶ μὰν τόνδ' ἄθρησον
and indeed this-one look-at
πτεροῦντος ἔφεδρον ἵππου·
winged sitting-on horse
τὰν πῦρ πνέουσαν ἐναίρει
the fire breathing slays
τρισώματον ἀλκάν.
three-bodied might
παντᾷ τοι βλέφαρον διώ-
everywhere surely eye I-pursue
κω. σκέψαι κλόνον ἐν τείχε-
— *look-at rout on walls*
σι λαΐνοισι Γιγάντων.
— *stone of-Giants*

ὧδε δερκόμεθ', ὦ φίλαι,†
here we-look O friends(corrupt)
λεύσσεις οὖν ἐπ' Ἐγκελάδῳ
do-you-see then over Enceladus
γοργωπὸν πάλλουσαν ἴτυν;
grim-eyed shaking shield
λεύσσω Παλλάδ', ἐμὰν θεόν.
I-see Pallas my goddess
τί γάρ, κεραυνὸν
what for thunderbolt
ἀμφίπυρον ὄβριμον ἐν Διὸς
fiery mighty in of-Zeus
ἑκηβόλοισι χερσίν;
far-darting hands
ὁρῶ, τὸν δάιον
I-see the hostile
Μίμαντα πυρὶ καταιθαλοῖ.
Mimas with-fire burns
καὶ Βρόμιος ἄλλον ἀπολέμοισι
and Bromius another with-unwarlike
κισσίνοισι βάκτροις
ivy staffs
ἐναίρει Γᾶς τέκνων ὁ Βακχεύς.
slays of-Earth of-children the Baccheus
σέ τοι τὸν παρὰ ναὸν αὐ-
you surely the by temple I-address
δῶ· θέμις γυάλων ὑπερ-
— *lawful of-hollows to-cross*
βῆναι λευκῷ ποδὶ βηλόν;
— *with-white foot threshold*

ΙΩΝ οὐ θέμις, ὦ ξέναι.
not lawful O strangers

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐδ' ἂν ἐκ σέθεν ἂν πυθοίμαν αὐδάν;
not-even — from you — might-I-learn voice

ΙΩΝ τίνα τήνδε θέλεις;
what this do-you-wish

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἦρ' ὄντως μέσον ὀμφαλὸν
— really middle navel

γᾶς Φοίβου κατέχει δόμος;
of-earth of-Phoebus holds house

ΙΩΝ στέμμασί γ' ἐνδυτόν, ἀμφὶ δὲ γοργόνες.
with-wreaths at-least clad about and gorgons

ΧΟΡΟΣ οὕτω καὶ φάτις αὐδᾷ. 225
so also report says

ΙΩΝ εἰ μὲν ἐθύσατε πέλανον πρὸ δόμων
if indeed you-sacrificed cake before house

καί τι πυθέσθαι χρῄζετε Φοίβου,
and something to-learn you-want of-Phoebus

πάριτ' εἰς θυμέλας, ἐπὶ δ' ἀσφάκτοις
pass-on to altar with but unslaughtered

μήλοισι δόμων μὴ πάριτ' εἰς μυχόν.
sheep of-house not pass into recess

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἔχω μαθοῦσα· 230
I-have-it having-learned

θεοῦ δὲ νόμον οὐ παραβαίνομεν·
of-god and law not we-transgress

ἃ δ' ἐκτός, ὄμμα τέρψει.
what and outside eye will-delight

ΙΩΝ πάντα θεᾶσθ', ὅ τι καὶ θέμις, ὄμμασι.
all view what — also lawful with-eyes

ΧΟΡΟΣ μεθεῖσαν δεσπόται
let-go masters
με θεοῦ γύαλα τάδ' εἰσιδεῖν.
me of-god hollows these to-see
ΙΩΝ δμωαὶ δὲ τίνων κλῄζεσθε δόμων;
handmaids and of-what are-you-called house
ΧΟΡΟΣ Παλλάδος ἔνοικα τρόφιμα μέλαθρα
of-Pallas dwelling nurturing halls
τῶν ἐμῶν τυράννων·
of-the my of-lords
παρούσας δ' ἀμφὶ τᾶσδ' ἐρωτᾷς.
present and about this-one you-ask

III · CREUSA AND THE STRANGER

Creusa comes weeping to the god's house. Ion questions her, and she tells him her lineage: Erichthonius born from the earth, the sisters sacrificed by her father, Erechtheus swallowed by a chasm, and her marriage to Xuthus, still without a child. Ion tells her he does not know his own mother. Creusa then speaks of a friend whom Phoebus forced, who exposed the child and now asks whether it lives; Ion answers that the god will not prophesy against his own shame. Xuthus arrives from the oracle of Trophonius and goes in to consult. Left alone, Ion rebukes Apollo for forcing maidens and abandoning his children, since gods who make laws for mortals should not break them.

ΙΩΝ γενναιότης σοι, καὶ τρόπων τεκμήριον
nobility to-you and of-ways proof
τὸ σχῆμ' ἔχεις τόδ', ἥτις εἶ ποτ', ὦ γύναι.
the bearing you-have this whoever you-are ever O woman
γνοίη δ' ἂν ὡς τὰ πολλά γ' ἀνθρώπου πέρι
might-know and — as the many at-least of-man about

τὸ σχῆμ᾽ ἰδών τις εἰ πέφυκεν εὐγενής.
the bearing having-seen one if he-is noble
ἔα·
ha
ἀλλ᾽ ἐξέπληξάς μ᾽, ὄμμα συγκλῄσασα σὸν
but you-amazed me eye having-closed your
δακρύοις θ᾽ ὑγράνασ᾽ εὐγενῆ παρηίδα,
with-tears and having-wet noble cheek
ὡς εἶδες ἁγνὰ Λοξίου χρηστήρια.
when you-saw holy of-Loxias oracles
τί ποτε μερίμνης εἰς τόδ᾽ ἦλθες, ὦ γύναι;
why ever of-care to this did-you-come O woman
οὗ πάντες ἄλλοι γύαλα λεύσσοντες θεοῦ
where all others hollows seeing of-god
χαίρουσιν, ἐνταῦθ᾽ ὄμμα σὸν δακρυρροεῖ;
rejoice there eye your sheds-tears
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ὦ ξένε, τὸ μὲν σὸν οὐκ ἀπαιδεύτως ἔχει
O stranger the indeed your not uneducated is
εἰς θαύματ᾽ ἐλθεῖν δακρύων ἐμῶν πέρι·
to wonders to-come tears my about
ἐγὼ δ᾽ ἰδοῦσα τούσδ᾽ Ἀπόλλωνος δόμους
I and having-seen this of-Apollo house
μνήμην παλαιὰν ἀνεμετρησάμην τινά·
memory ancient retraced some
οἴκοι δὲ τὸν νοῦν ἔσχον ἐνθάδ᾽ οὖσά περ.
at-home and the mind I-had here being though
ὦ τλήμονες γυναῖκες· ὦ τολμήματα
O wretched women O daring-deeds
θεῶν. τί δῆτα; ποῖ δίκην ἀνοίσομεν,
of-gods what then where justice shall-we-appeal

εἰ τῶν κρατούντων ἀδικίαις ὀλούμεθα;
if of-the ruling by-injustices we-shall-perish

ΙΩΝ τί χρῆμ᾽ ἀνερμήνευτα δυσθυμεῖ, γύναι;
what thing unexplained are-you-dejected woman

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ οὐδέν· μεθῆκα τόξα· τἀπὶ τῷδε δὲ
nothing I-let-go bow the-things-on this but
ἐγώ τε σιγῶ καὶ σὺ μὴ φρόντιζ᾽ ἔτι.
I and am-silent and you not consider longer

ΙΩΝ τίς δ᾽ εἶ; πόθεν γῆς ἦλθες; ἐκ ποίου πατρὸς
who and are-you whence of-land did-you-come from what-sort father
πέφυκας; ὄνομα τί σε καλεῖν ἡμᾶς χρεών;
are-you-born name what you to-call us must

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ Κρέουσα μέν μοι τοὔνομ᾽, ἐκ δ᾽ Ἐρεχθέως
Creusa indeed to-me the-name from and Erechtheus
πέφυκα, πατρὶς γῆ δ᾽ Ἀθηναίων πόλις.
I-am-born fatherland land and of-Athenians city

ΙΩΝ ὦ κλεινὸν οἰκοῦσ᾽ ἄστυ γενναίων τ᾽ ἄπο
O famous dwelling town noble and from
τραφεῖσα πατέρων, ὥς σε θαυμάζω, γύναι.
reared fathers how you I-admire woman

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τοσαῦτα κεὐτυχοῦμεν, ὦ ξέν᾽, οὐ πέρα.
so-far and-we-are-fortunate O stranger not further

ΙΩΝ πρὸς θεῶν ἀληθῶς, ὡς μεμύθευται βροτοῖς,
by gods truly as is-told by-mortals

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τί χρῆμ᾽ ἐρωτᾷς, ὦ ξέν᾽; ἐκμαθεῖν θέλω.
what thing do-you-ask O stranger to-learn I-wish

ΙΩΝ ἐκ γῆς πατρός σου πρόγονος ἔβλαστεν πατήρ;
from earth of-father your ancestor sprang father

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ Ἐριχθόνιός γε· τὸ δὲ γένος μ᾽ οὐκ ὠφελεῖ.
Erichthonius at-least the but race me not helps

ΙΩΝ ἦ καί σφ' Ἀθάνα γῆθεν ἐξανείλετο;
— *also him Athena from-earth took-up*

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ εἰς παρθένους γε χεῖρας, οὐ τεκοῦσά νιν.
into maiden at-least hands not having-borne him

ΙΩΝ δίδωσι δ', ὥσπερ ἐν γραφῇ νομίζεται;
gives and as-if in painting is-thought

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ Κέκροπός γε σῴζειν παισὶν οὐκ ὁρώμενον.
of-Cecrops at-least to-keep to-daughters not to-be-seen

ΙΩΝ ἤκουσα λῦσαι παρθένους τεῦχος θεᾶς.
I-heard to-loose maidens vessel of-the-goddess

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τοιγὰρ θανοῦσαι σκόπελον ἥμαξαν πέτρας.
therefore dying cliff they-bloodied of-rock

ΙΩΝ εἶεν·
well

τί δαὶ τόδ'; ἆρ' ἀληθὲς ἢ μάτην λόγος;
what and this — true or vain story

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τί χρῆμ' ἐρωτᾷς; καὶ γὰρ οὐ κάμνω σχολῇ.
what thing do-you-ask and for not I-am-weary in-leisure

ΙΩΝ πατὴρ Ἐρεχθεὺς σὰς ἔθυσε συγγόνους;
father Erechtheus your sacrificed sisters

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἔτλη πρὸ γαίας σφάγια παρθένους κτανεῖν.
dared for land victims maidens to-kill

ΙΩΝ σὺ δ' ἐξεσώθης πῶς κασιγνήτων μόνη;
you and were-saved how of-sisters alone

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ βρέφος νεογνὸν μητρὸς ἦν ἐν ἀγκάλαις.
babe newborn of-mother I-was in arms

ΙΩΝ πατέρα δ' ἀληθῶς χάσμα σὸν κρύπτει χθονός;
father and truly chasm your hides of-earth

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ πληγαὶ τριαίνης ποντίου σφ' ἀπώλεσαν.
blows of-trident sea him destroyed

ΙΩΝ Μακραὶ δὲ χώρός ἐστ᾽ ἐκεῖ κεκλημένος;
Long-Rocks and place is there called

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τί δ᾽ ἱστορεῖς τόδ᾽; ὥς μ᾽ ἀνέμνησάς τινος.
why and do-you-ask this how me you-reminded of-something

ΙΩΝ τιμᾷ σφε Πύθιος ἀστραπαί τε Πύθιαι;
honors it Pythian lightnings and Pythian

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τιμᾷ — τί τιμᾷ; μήποτ᾽ ὤφελόν σφ᾽ ἰδεῖν.
honors what honors never ought him to-see

ΙΩΝ τί δέ; στυγεῖς σὺ τοῦ θεοῦ τὰ φίλτατα;
what and hate you of-the god the dearest

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ οὐδέν· ξύνοιδ᾽ ἄντροισιν αἰσχύνην τινά.
nothing I-know-with caves shame some

ΙΩΝ πόσις δὲ τίς σ᾽ ἔγημ᾽ Ἀθηναίων, γύναι;
husband and who you married of-Athenians woman

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ οὐκ ἀστός, ἀλλ᾽ ἐπακτὸς ἐξ ἄλλης χθονός.
not citizen but brought-in from other land

ΙΩΝ τίς; εὐγενῆ νιν δεῖ πεφυκέναι τινά.
who noble him must to-be-born someone

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ Ξοῦθος, πεφυκὼς Αἰόλου Διός τ᾽ ἄπο.
Xuthus born of-Aeolus of-Zeus and from

ΙΩΝ καὶ πῶς ξένος σ᾽ ὢν ἔσχεν οὖσαν ἐγγενῆ;
and how foreigner you being had being native

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ Εὔβοι᾽ Ἀθήναις ἔστι τις γείτων πόλις·
Euboea to-Athens is some neighbor city

ΙΩΝ ὅροις ὑγροῖσιν, ὡς λέγουσ᾽, ὡρισμένη.
by-boundaries wet as they-say bounded

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ταύτην ἔπερσε Κεκροπίδαις κοινῷ δορί.
this he-sacked with-Cecropids common spear

ΙΩΝ ἐπίκουρος ἐλθών; κᾆτα σὸν γαμεῖ λέχος;
ally having-come and-then your marries bed

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ φερνάς γε πολέμου καὶ δορὸς λαβὼν γέρας.
dowry at-least of-war and of-spear having-taken prize

ΙΩΝ σὺν ἀνδρὶ δ' ἥκεις ἢ μόνη χρηστήρια;
with husband and do-you-come or alone to-oracles

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ σὺν ἀνδρί. σηκοῖς δ' ἐνστρέφει Τροφωνίου.
with husband in-shrines and lingers of-Trophonius

ΙΩΝ πότερα θεατὴς ἢ χάριν μαντευμάτων;
whether spectator or for-the-sake of-oracles

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ κείνου τε Φοίβου θ' ἓν θέλων μαθεῖν ἔπος.
of-him both of-Phoebus and one wishing to-learn word

ΙΩΝ καρποῦ δ' ὕπερ γῆς ἥκετ', ἢ παίδων πέρι;
crops and for of-land do-you-come or children about

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἄπαιδές ἐσμεν, χρόνι' ἔχοντ' εὐνήματα.
childless we-are long having marriage-bed

ΙΩΝ οὐδ' ἔτεκες οὐδὲν πώποτ', ἀλλ' ἄτεκνος εἶ;
not-even you-bore anything ever but childless you-are

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ὁ Φοῖβος οἶδε τὴν ἐμὴν ἀπαιδίαν.
the Phoebus knows the my childlessness

ΙΩΝ ὦ τλῆμον, ὡς τἄλλ' εὐτυχοῦσ' οὐκ εὐτυχεῖς.
O wretched how in-the-rest prospering not you-prosper

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ σὺ δ' εἶ τίς; ὥς σου τὴν τεκοῦσαν ὤλβισα.
you and are who how your the having-borne I-deemed-blessed

ΙΩΝ τοῦ θεοῦ καλοῦμαι δοῦλος εἰμί τ', ὦ γύναι.
of-the god I-am-called slave I-am and O woman

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἀνάθημα πόλεως, ἤ τινος πραθεὶς ὕπο;
offering of-city or someone sold by

ΙΩΝ οὐκ οἶδα πλὴν ἕν· Λοξίου κεκλήμεθα.
not I-know except one-thing of-Loxias I-am-called

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἡμεῖς σ' ἄρ' αὖθις, ὦ ξέν', ἀντοικτείρομεν.
we you then in-turn O stranger pity-in-return

ΙΩΝ ὡς μὴ εἰδόθ' ἥτις μ' ἔτεκεν ἐξ ὅτου τ' ἔφυν.
as not knowing who me bore from whom and I-was-born

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ναοῖσι δ' οἰκεῖς τοισίδ' ἢ κατὰ στέγας;
in-temple and you-dwell these or in house

ΙΩΝ ἅπαν θεοῦ μοι δῶμ', ἵν' ἂν λάβῃ μ' ὕπνος.
all of-god to-me house where — takes me sleep

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ παῖς δ' ὢν ἀφίκου ναὸν ἢ νεανίας;
child and being did-you-come to-temple or youth

ΙΩΝ βρέφος λέγουσιν οἱ δοκοῦντες εἰδέναι.
babe say the seeming to-know

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ καὶ τίς γάλακτί σ' ἐξέθρεψε Δελφίδων;
and who with-milk you reared of-Delphian-women

ΙΩΝ οὐπώποτ' ἔγνων μαστόν· ἡ δ' ἔθρεψέ με —
never I-knew breast she and reared me

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τίς, ὦ ταλαίπωρ'; ὡς νοσοῦσ' ηὗρον νόσους.
who O wretched how sick I-found sicknesses

ΙΩΝ Φοίβου προφῆτις, μητέρ' ὡς νομίζομεν.
of-Phoebus prophetess mother as I-consider

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ εἰς δ' ἄνδρ' ἀφίκου τίνα τροφὴν κεκτημένος;
to and manhood did-you-come what livelihood having

ΙΩΝ βωμοί μ' ἔφερβον οὐπιών τ' ἀεὶ ξένος.
altars me fed the-one-coming and always stranger

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τάλαινά σ' ἡ τεκοῦσα· τίς ποτ' ἦν ἄρα;
wretched you the having-borne who ever was then

ΙΩΝ ἀδίκημά του γυναικὸς ἐγενόμην ἴσως.
wrong of-some woman I-was perhaps

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἔχεις δὲ βίοτον; εὖ γὰρ ἤσκησαι πέπλοις.
have-you and livelihood well for you-are-adorned with-robes

ΙΩΝ τοῖς τοῦ θεοῦ κοσμούμεθ', ᾧ δουλεύομεν.
with-the of-the god we-are-adorned whom we-serve

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ οὐδ᾽ ἦξας εἰς ἔρευναν ἐξευρεῖν γονάς;
nor did-you-rush into search to-find parentage

ΙΩΝ ἔχω γὰρ οὐδέν, ὦ γύναι, τεκμήριον.
I-have for no O woman proof

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ φεῦ·
alas

πέπονθέ τις σῇ μητρὶ ταὔτ᾽ ἄλλη γυνή.
has-suffered some to-your mother the-same other woman

ΙΩΝ τίς; εἰ πόνου μοι ξυλλάβοι, χαίροιμεν ἄν.
who if toil to-me would-share we-would-rejoice —

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἧς εἵνεκ᾽ ἦλθον δεῦρο πρὶν πόσιν μολεῖν.
of-whom for-the-sake I-came here before husband to-come

ΙΩΝ ποῖόν τι χρῄζουσ᾽; ὡς ὑπουργήσω, γύναι.
what-sort something wanting so-that I-may-serve woman

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ μάντευμα κρυπτὸν δεομένη Φοίβου μαθεῖν.
oracle secret needing of-Phoebus to-learn

ΙΩΝ λέγοις ἄν· ἡμεῖς τἄλλα προξενήσομεν.
you-may-speak — we the-rest will-act-as-patron

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἄκουε δὴ τὸν μῦθον· ἀλλ᾽ αἰδούμεθα.
hear indeed the story but we-are-ashamed

ΙΩΝ οὔ τἄρα πράξεις οὐδέν· ἀργὸς ἡ θεός.
not then you-will-do anything idle the goddess

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ Φοίβῳ μιγῆναί φησί τις φίλων ἐμῶν.
with-Phoebus to-have-lain says some of-friends my

ΙΩΝ Φοίβῳ γυνὴ γεγῶσα; μὴ λέγ᾽, ὦ ξένη.
with-Phoebus woman being not say O stranger

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ καὶ παῖδά γ᾽ ἔτεκε τῷ θεῷ λάθρα πατρός.
and son at-least she-bore to-the god secretly of-father

ΙΩΝ οὐκ ἔστιν· ἀνδρὸς ἀδικίαν αἰσχύνεται.
not it-is of-man wrong she-is-ashamed

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ οὔ φησιν αὐτή· καὶ πέπονθεν ἄθλια.
not says she and has-suffered wretched-things

ΙΩΝ τί χρῆμα δράσασ', εἰ θεῷ συνεζύγη;
what thing having-done if with-god she-was-yoked

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τὸν παῖδ' ὃν ἔτεκεν ἐξέθηκε δωμάτων.
the son whom she-bore she-exposed from-house

ΙΩΝ ὁ δ' ἐκτεθεὶς παῖς ποῦ 'στιν; εἰσορᾷ φάος;
the and exposed child where is does-he-see light

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ οὐκ οἶδεν οὐδείς. ταῦτα καὶ μαντεύομαι.
not knows anyone these-things also I-consult

ΙΩΝ εἰ δ' οὐκέτ' ἔστι, τίνι τρόπῳ διεφθάρη;
if and no-longer is in-what way did-he-perish

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ θῆρας σφε τὸν δύστηνον ἐλπίζει κτανεῖν.
beasts him the wretched she-thinks to-have-killed

ΙΩΝ ποίῳ τόδ' ἔγνω χρωμένη τεκμηρίῳ;
by-what this she-knew using proof

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἐλθοῦσ' ἵν' αὐτὸν ἐξέθησ', οὐχ ηὗρ' ἔτι.
having-come where him she-exposed not found still

ΙΩΝ ἦν δὲ σταλαγμὸς ἐν στίβῳ τις αἵματος;
was and drop on track some of-blood

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ οὔ φησι· καίτοι πόλλ' ἐπεστράφη πέδον.
not she-says and-yet much she-ranged ground

ΙΩΝ χρόνος δὲ τίς τῷ παιδὶ διαπεπραγμένῳ;
time and what for-the child having-perished

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ σοὶ ταὐτὸν ἥβης, εἴπερ ἦν, εἶχ' ἂν μέτρον.
to-you the-same of-youth if-indeed he-were would-have — measure

ΙΩΝ οὔκουν ἔτ' ἄλλον ὕστερον τίκτει γόνον;
not-then still other later bears offspring

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἀδικεῖ νιν ὁ θεός· οὐ τεκοῦσα δ' ἀθλία.
wrongs her the god not having-borne and wretched

ΙΩΝ τί δ', εἰ λάθρα νιν Φοῖβος ἐκτρέφει λαβών;
what and if secretly him Phoebus rears having-taken

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τὰ κοινὰ χαίρων οὐ δίκαια δρᾷ μόνος.
the common-things enjoying not just-things does alone

ΙΩΝ οἴμοι· προσῳδὸς ἡ τύχη τῳμῷ πάθει.
ah-me in-tune the fortune with-my suffering

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ καὶ σ', ὦ ξέν', οἶμαι μητέρ' ἀθλίαν ποθεῖν. 360
and you O stranger I-think mother wretched to-long-for

ΙΩΝ καὶ μή γ' ἐπ' οἰκτόν μ' ἔξαγ' οὗ 'λελήσμεθα.
and not at-least to pity me lead where I-had-forgotten

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ σιγῶ· πέραινε δ' ὧν σ' ἀνιστορῶ πέρι.
I-am-silent finish and which you I-ask about

ΙΩΝ οἶσθ' οὖν ὃ κάμνει τοῦ λόγου μάλιστά σοι;
you-know then what is-weak of-the story most for-you

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τί δ' οὐκ ἐκείνῃ τῇ ταλαιπώρῳ νοσεῖ;
what and not with-that the wretched is-sick

ΙΩΝ πῶς ὁ θεὸς ὃ λαθεῖν βούλεται μαντεύσεται; 365
how the god what to-be-hidden wishes will-prophesy

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ εἴπερ καθίζει τρίποδα κοινὸν Ἑλλάδος.
if-indeed he-sits-on tripod common of-Hellas

ΙΩΝ αἰσχύνεται τὸ πρᾶγμα· μὴ 'ξέλεγχέ νιν.
he-is-ashamed-of the deed not cross-examine him

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἀλγύνεται δέ γ' ἡ παθοῦσα τῇ τύχῃ.
is-grieved but at-least the having-suffered at-the fortune

ΙΩΝ οὐκ ἔστιν ὅστις σοι προφητεύσει τάδε.
not is who to-you will-prophesy these-things

ἐν τοῖς γὰρ αὐτοῦ δώμασιν κακὸς φανεὶς 370
in the for his-own house base appearing

Φοῖβος δικαίως τὸν θεμιστεύοντά σοι
Phoebus justly the giving-oracles to-you

δράσειεν ἄν τι πῆμ᾽· ἀπαλλάσσου, γύναι·
might-do — some harm be-gone woman
τῷ γὰρ θεῷ τἀναντί᾽ οὐ μαντευτέον.
the for god opposite-things not one-must-prophesy
εἰς γὰρ τοσοῦτον ἀμαθίας ἔλθοιμεν ἄν,
to for so-much of-folly we-would-come —
εἰ τοὺς θεοὺς ἄκοντας ἐκπονήσομεν
if the gods unwilling we-shall-force
φράζειν ἃ μὴ θέλουσιν ἢ προβωμίοις
to-tell what not they-wish or at-altar
σφαγαῖσι μήλων ἢ δι᾽ οἰωνῶν πτεροῖς.
with-slaughters of-sheep or through birds with-wings
ἃν γὰρ βίᾳ σπεύδωμεν ἀκόντων θεῶν,
what for by-force we-press-for unwilling gods
ἀνόνητα κεκτήμεσθα τἀγάθ᾽, ὦ γύναι·
unprofitable we-possess the-good-things O woman
ἃ δ᾽ ἂν διδῶσ᾽ ἑκόντες, ὠφελούμεθα.
what but — they-give willing we-are-benefited
ΧΟΡΟΣ πολλαί γε πολλοῖς εἰσι συμφοραὶ βροτῶν,
many at-least to-many are misfortunes of-mortals
μορφαὶ δὲ διαφέρουσιν. ἓν δ᾽ ἂν εὐτυχὲς
forms but differ one but — prosperous
μόλις ποτ᾽ ἐξεύροι τις ἀνθρώπων βίῳ.
hardly ever might-find anyone of-men in-life
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ὦ Φοῖβε, κἀκεῖ κἀνθάδ᾽ οὐ δίκαιος εἶ
O Phoebus both-there and-here not just you-are
εἰς τὴν ἀποῦσαν, ἧς πάρεισιν οἱ λόγοι.
toward the absent whose are-present the words
σὺ δ᾽ οὔτ᾽ ἔσωσας τὸν σὸν ὃν σῶσαί σ᾽ ἐχρῆν,
you and neither saved the your whom to-save you ought

οὔθ' ἱστορούσῃ μητρὶ μάντις ὢν ἐρεῖς,
nor to-inquiring to-mother seer being you-will-say
ὡς εἰ μὲν οὐκέτ' ἔστιν, ὀγκωθῇ τάφῳ,
that if indeed no-longer he-is he-may-be-heaped with-tomb
εἰ δ' ἔστιν, ἔλθῃ μητρὸς εἰς ὄψιν ποτέ.
if but he-is he-may-come of-mother into sight ever
ἀλλ' οὖν, ἐᾶν γὰρ χρὴ τάδ', εἰ πρὸς τοῦ θεοῦ
but well to-let-be for must these-things if by the god
κωλυόμεσθα μὴ μαθεῖν ἃ βούλομαι.
we-are-prevented not to-learn what I-wish
ἀλλ', ὦ ξέν', εἰσορῶ γὰρ εὐγενῆ πόσιν
but O stranger I-see for noble husband
Ξοῦθον πέλας δὴ τόνδε, τὰς Τροφωνίου
Xuthus near indeed this-one the of-Trophonius
λιπόντα θαλάμας, τοὺς λελεγμένους λόγους
having-left chambers the said words
σίγα πρὸς ἄνδρα, μή τιν' αἰσχύνην λάβω
be-silent to husband lest some shame I-get
διακονοῦσα κρυπτά, καὶ προβῇ λόγος
serving secret-things and go-forward word
οὐχ ἧπερ ἡμεῖς αὐτὸν ἐξειλίσσομεν.
not where we it unrolled
τὰ γὰρ γυναικῶν δυσχερῆ πρὸς ἄρσενας,
the for of-women difficult toward males
κἀν ταῖς κακαῖσιν ἀγαθαὶ μεμιγμέναι
and-among the evil good mixed
μισούμεθ'· οὕτω δυστυχεῖς πεφύκαμεν.
we-are-hated so unfortunate we-are-born

ΞΟΥΘΟΣ πρῶτον μὲν ὁ θεὸς τῶν ἐμῶν προσφθεγμάτων
first indeed the god of-the my of-greetings
λαβὼν ἀπαρχὰς χαιρέτω, σύ τ', ὦ γύναι.
having-taken first-fruits let-him-rejoice you and O woman
μῶν χρόνιος ἐλθών σ' ἐξέπληξ' ὀρρωδίᾳ;
surely-not late having-come you I-alarmed with-dread
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ οὐδέν γ'· ἀφίκου δ' εἰς μέριμναν. ἀλλά μοι
not-at-all at-least you-came but to anxiety but to-me
405 λέξον, τί θέσπισμ' ἐκ Τροφωνίου φέρεις,
tell what oracle from Trophonius you-bring
παίδων ὅπως νῷν σπέρμα συγκραθήσεται;
of-children how for-us-two seed will-be-mingled
ΞΟΥΘΟΣ οὐκ ἠξίωσε τοῦ θεοῦ προλαμβάνειν
not he-thought-fit of-the god to-anticipate
μαντεύμαθ'. ἓν δ' οὖν εἶπεν· οὐκ ἄπαιδά με
oracles one but then he-said not childless me
πρὸς οἶκον ἥξειν οὐδὲ σ' ἐκ χρηστηρίων.
to home to-go nor you from oracles
410 ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ὦ πότνια Φοίβου μῆτερ, εἰ γὰρ αἰσίως
O lady of-Phoebus mother if for auspiciously
ἔλθοιμεν, ἅ τε νῷν συμβόλαια πρόσθεν ἦν
we-might-come what and to-us-two dealings before were
ἐς παῖδα τὸν σόν, μεταπέσοι βελτίονα.
to son the your might-change better
ΞΟΥΘΟΣ ἔσται τάδ'· ἀλλὰ τίς προφητεύει θεοῦ;
it-will-be these-things but who prophesies of-god
ΙΩΝ ἡμεῖς τά γ' ἔξω, τῶν ἔσω δ' ἄλλοις μέλει,
we the-things at-least outside of-the inside but to-others are-a-care
415 οἳ πλησίον θάσσουσι τρίποδος, ὦ ξένε,
who near sit tripod O stranger

Δελφῶν ἀριστῆς, οὓς ἐκλήρωσεν πάλος.
of-Delphians nobles whom chose lot
ΞΟΥΘΟΣ καλῶς· ἔχω δὴ πάνθ' ὅσων ἐχρῄζομεν.
well I-have indeed all of-which we-needed
στείχοιμ' ἂν εἴσω· καὶ γάρ, ὡς ἐγὼ κλύω,
I-would-go — within and for as I hear
χρηστήριον πέπτωκε τοῖς ἐπήλυσι
oracle has-fallen for-the strangers
κοινὸν πρὸ ναοῦ· βούλομαι δ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ
common before temple I-wish and on day
τῇδ', αἰσία γάρ, θεοῦ λαβεῖν μαντεύματα.
this auspicious for of-god to-take oracles
σὺ δ' ἀμφὶ βωμούς, ὦ γύναι, δαφνηφόρους
you and about altars O woman laurel-bearing
λαβοῦσα κλῶνας, εὐτέκνους εὔχου θεοῖς
having-taken branches fair-childed pray to-gods
χρησμούς μ' ἐνεγκεῖν ἐξ Ἀπόλλωνος δόμων.
oracles me to-bring from of-Apollo house
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἔσται τάδ', ἔσται. Λοξίας δ' ἐὰν θέλῃ
it-will-be these-things it-will-be Loxias and if he-wishes
νῦν ἀλλὰ τὰς πρὶν ἀναλαβεῖν ἁμαρτίας,
now but the former to-retrieve errors
ἅπας μὲν οὐ γένοιτ' ἂν εἰς ἡμᾶς φίλος,
all indeed not would-be — toward us friend
ὅσον δὲ χρῄζει, θεὸς γάρ ἐστι, δέξομαι.
as-much but wishes god for he-is I-will-accept
ΙΩΝ τί ποτε λόγοισιν ἡ ξένη πρὸς τὸν θεὸν
why ever with-words the stranger to the god
κρυπτοῖσιν ἀεὶ λοιδοροῦσ' αἰνίσσεται,
with-hidden always reviling speaks-in-riddles

ἤτοι φιλοῦσά γ' ἧς ὑπερμαντεύεται,
either loving at-least for-whom she-consults
ἢ καί τι σιγῶσ' ὧν σιωπᾶσθαι χρεών;
or also something being-silent of-what to-be-kept-silent must
ἀτὰρ θυγατρὸς τῆς Ἐρεχθέως τί μοι
but of-daughter of-the Erechtheus what to-me
μέλει; προσήκει γ' οὐδέν. ἀλλὰ χρυσέαις
is-a-care belongs at-least nothing but golden
πρόχοισιν ἐλθὼν εἰς ἀπορραντήρια
with-pitchers having-gone to sprinkling-basins
δρόσον καθήσω. νουθετητέος δέ μοι
dew I-will-let-down to-be-admonished and by-me
Φοῖβος, τί πάσχει· παρθένους βίᾳ γαμῶν
Phoebus what does-he-suffer maidens by-force marrying
προδίδωσι, παῖδας ἐκτεκνούμενος λάθρᾳ
betrays children begetting secretly
θνήσκοντας ἀμελεῖ. μὴ σύ γ'· ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ κρατεῖς,
dying neglects not you at-least but since you-rule
ἀρετὰς δίωκε. καὶ γὰρ ὅστις ἂν βροτῶν
virtues pursue and for whoever — of-mortals
κακὸς πεφύκῃ, ζημιοῦσιν οἱ θεοί.
evil is punish the gods
πῶς οὖν δίκαιον τοὺς νόμους ὑμᾶς βροτοῖς
how then just the laws you for-mortals
γράψαντας, αὐτοὺς ἀνομίαν ὀφλισκάνειν;
having-written yourselves lawlessness to-incur
εἰ δ' — οὐ γὰρ ἔσται, τῷ λόγῳ δὲ χρήσομαι —
if but not for will-be in-the word but I-will-use
δίκας βιαίων δώσετ' ἀνθρώποις γάμων,
penalties of-violent you-will-pay to-men of-marriages

σὺ καὶ Ποσειδῶν Ζεύς θ' ὃς οὐρανοῦ κρατεῖ,
you and Poseidon Zeus and who of-heaven rules
ναοὺς τίνοντες ἀδικίας κενώσετε.
temples paying of-injustice you-will-empty
τὰς ἡδονὰς γὰρ τῆς προμηθίας πάρος
the pleasures for the forethought before
σπεύδοντες ἀδικεῖτ'. οὐκέτ' ἀνθρώπους κακοὺς
pursuing you-do-wrong no-longer men evil
λέγειν δίκαιον, εἰ τὰ τῶν θεῶν καλὰ 450
to-call just if the of-the gods fair-things
μιμούμεθ', ἀλλὰ τοὺς διδάσκοντας τάδε.
we-imitate but the teaching these-things

IV · THE PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

The chorus prays to Athena, born without birth pangs, and to Artemis to come to Delphi and beg Apollo to grant children to the ancient house of Erechtheus. Children are the best wealth a house can hold, its strength in trouble, a joy in good fortune, and a saving light to their country in war. They sing of the haunts of Pan beneath the Long Rocks, where the daughters of Aglauros dance, and where a girl bore a child to Phoebus and left it to be torn by birds, and they say that no tale has shown such children fortunate.

ΧΟΡΟΣ σὲ τὰν ὠδίνων λοχιᾶν
you the of-birth-pangs childbed
ἀνειλείθυιαν, ἐμὰν
without-Eileithyia my
Ἀθάναν, ἱκετεύω,
Athena I-supplicate

Προμηθεῖ Τιτᾶνι λοχευ-
by-Prometheus by-Titan delivered
θεῖσαν κατ᾽ ἀκροτάτας
— from highest
κορυφᾶς Διός, ὦ μάκαιρα Νίκα,
peak of-Zeus O blessed Victory
μόλε Πύθιον οἶκον,
come Pythian to-house
Ὀλύμπου χρυσέων θαλάμων
of-Olympus golden from-chambers
πταμένα πρὸς ἀγυιάς,
flying to streets
Φοιβήιος ἔνθα γᾶς
Phoebean where of-earth
μεσσόμφαλος ἑστία
central-navel hearth
παρὰ χορευομένῳ τρίποδι
by danced-round tripod
μαντεύματα κραίνει,
oracles accomplishes
σὺ καὶ παῖς ἁ Λατογενής,
you and child the Leto-born
δύο θεαὶ δύο παρθένοι,
two goddesses two maidens
κασίγνηται σεμναὶ τοῦ Φοίβου.
sisters holy of-the Phoebus
ἱκετεύσατε δ᾽, ὦ κόραι,
supplicate and O maidens
τὸ παλαιὸν Ἐρεχθέως
the ancient of-Erechtheus

γένος εὐτεκνίας χρονίου καθαροῖς
race of-fair-offspring long-delayed by-pure
μαντεύμασι κῦρσαι.
by-oracles to-obtain
ὑπερβαλλούσας γὰρ ἔχει
surpassing for holds
θνατοῖς εὐδαιμονίας
for-mortals of-happiness
ἀκίνητον ἀφορμάν,
unshakable resource
τέκνων οἷς ἂν καρποτρόφοι
of-children for-whom — fruit-nurturing
λάμπωσιν ἐν θαλάμοις
may-shine in chambers
πατρίοισι νεάνιδες ἥβαι,
ancestral youthful vigors
διαδέκτορα πλοῦτον
succeeding wealth
ὡς ἕξοντες ἐκ πατέρων
as about-to-have from fathers
ἑτέροις ἐπὶ τέκνοις.
other for children
ἀλκά τε γὰρ ἐν κακοῖς
strength and for in evils
σύν τ᾽ εὐτυχίαις φίλον,
with and good-fortunes dear
δορί τε γᾷ πατρίᾳ φέρει
with-spear and for-land paternal brings
σωτήριον αἴγλαν.
saving gleam

ἐμοὶ μὲν πλούτου τε πάρος
to-me indeed of-wealth both before
βασιλικῶν τ' εἶεν θαλάμων
royal and may-be of-chambers
τροφαὶ κήδειοι κεδνῶν γε τέκνων.
nurturings caring of-good at-least of-children
τὸν ἄπαιδα δ' ἀποστυγῶ
the childless and I-loathe
βίον, ᾧ τε δοκεῖ ψέγω·
life whom and pleases I-blame
μετὰ δὲ κτεάνων μετρίων βιοτᾶς
with and possessions moderate of-life
εὔπαιδος ἐχοίμαν.
fair-childed may-I-hold-to
ὦ Πανὸς θακήματα καὶ
O of-Pan seats and
παραυλίζουσα πέτρα
neighboring rock
μυχώδεσι Μακραῖς,
to-cavernous Long-Rocks
ἵνα χοροὺς στείβουσι ποδοῖν
where dances tread with-feet
Ἀγραύλου κόραι τρίγονοι
of-Aglauros daughters three
στάδια χλοερὰ πρὸ Παλλάδος
courses green before of-Pallas
ναῶν, συρίγγων
temples of-pipes
ὑπ' αἰόλας ἰαχᾶς
to shifting cry

ὕμνων, ὅτ' ἀναλίοις
of-hymns when sunless
συρίζεις, ὦ Πάν,
you-pipe O Pan
τοῖσι σοῖς ἐν ἄντροις,
the your in caves
ἵνα τεκοῦσά τις
where having-borne some
παρθένος, ὦ μελέα, βρέφος
maiden O wretched babe
Φοίβῳ, πτανοῖς ἐξώρισε θοίναν
for-Phoebus for-winged cast-out feast
θηρσί τε φοινίαν δαῖτα, πικρῶν γάμων
for-beasts and bloody banquet of-bitter marriage
ὕβριν. οὔτ' ἐπὶ κερκίσιν οὔτε λόγοις
outrage neither at looms nor in-stories
φάτιν ἄιον εὐτυχίας μετέχειν
report I-heard good-fortune to-share
θεόθεν τέκνα θνατοῖς.
from-god children with-mortals

Xuthus comes out of the temple and embraces Ion as his son; Ion thinks him mad and threatens him with his bow. Xuthus explains that the god told him the first person he met on leaving would be his child, and he recalls a night at the Bacchic revels of Delphi when he was young. Ion accepts him as father but grieves for the mother he still lacks. Asked to come to Athens, he answers that a stranger and a bastard will meet the hatred of the earth-born citizens, the envy of the powerful, and a childless stepmother's anger, and that a ruler's life is full of fear. Xuthus insists and plans a birthday feast; he will take Ion to Athens as a sightseer, not as his son, so as not to grieve his childless wife, until in time he can win her consent to his rule. He names him Ion and orders the chorus to keep silent on pain of death.

ΙΩΝ πρόσπολοι γυναῖκες, αἳ τῶνδ' ἀμφὶ κρηπῖδας δόμων
attendant women who of-this about steps of-house
θυοδόκων φρούρημ' ἔχουσαι δεσπότην φυλάσσετε,
of-incense-receiving watch having master guard
ἐκλέλοιπ' ἤδη τὸν ἱερὸν τρίποδα καὶ χρηστήριον
has-he-left already the holy tripod and oracle
Ξοῦθος, ἢ μίμνει κατ' οἶκον ἱστορῶν ἀπαιδίαν;
Xuthus or does-he-remain in house inquiring childlessness
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐν δόμοις ἔστ', ὦ ξέν'· οὔπω δῶμ' ὑπερβαίνει τόδε.
in house he-is O stranger not-yet house passes this
ὡς δ' ἐπ' ἐξόδοισιν ὄντος τῶνδ' ἀκούομεν πυλῶν
as but at exit being of-these we-hear of-gates
δοῦπον, ἐξιόντα τ' ἤδη δεσπότην ὁρᾶν πάρα.
noise coming-out and already master to-see is-possible
ΞΟΥΘΟΣ ὦ τέκνον, χαῖρ'· ἡ γὰρ ἀρχὴ
O child hail the for beginning
τοῦ λόγου πρέπουσά μοι.
of-the word fitting to-me

ΙΩΝ χαίρομεν· σὺ δ' εὖ φρόνει γε, καὶ δύ' ὄντ' εὖ πράξομεν.
we-rejoice you and well be-sane at-least and two being well we-shall-fare

ΞΟΤΘΟΣ δὸς χερὸς φίλημά μοι σῆς σώματός τ' ἀμφιπτυχάς.
give of-hand kiss to-me of-your body and embraces

ΙΩΝ εὖ φρονεῖς μέν; ἤ σ' ἔμηνε θεοῦ τις, ὦ ξένε, βλάβη; 520
well are-you-sane indeed or you maddened of-god some O stranger harm

ΞΟΤΘΟΣ σωφρονῶ, τὰ φίλταθ' εὑρὼν εἰ φιλεῖν ἐφίεμαι.
I-am-sane the dearest having-found if to-love I-long

ΙΩΝ παῦε· μὴ ψαύσας τὰ τοῦ θεοῦ στέμματα ῥήξῃς χερί.
stop lest touching the of-the god wreaths you-break with-hand

ΞΟΤΘΟΣ ἅψομαι· κοὐ ῥυσιάζω, τἀμὰ δ' εὑρίσκω φίλα.
I-will-touch and-not I-seize-as-prize my but I-find dear-ones

ΙΩΝ οὐκ ἀπαλλάξει, πρὶν εἴσω τόξα πλευμόνων λαβεῖν;
not will-you-be-off before within arrow lungs to-take

ΞΟΤΘΟΣ ὡς τί δὴ φεύγεις με 525
so-that why indeed do-you-flee me
σαυτοῦ γνωρίσας τὰ φίλτατα;
of-yourself having-recognized the dearest

ΙΩΝ οὐ φιλῶ φρενοῦν ἀμούσους καὶ μεμηνότας ξένους.
not I-love to-teach-sense boorish and maddened strangers

ΞΟΤΘΟΣ κτεῖνε καὶ πίμπρη· πατρὸς γάρ, ἢν κτάνῃς,
kill and burn of-father for if you-kill
ἔσει φονεύς.
you-will-be murderer

ΙΩΝ ποῦ δέ μοι πατὴρ σύ; ταῦτ' οὖν οὐ γέλως κλύειν ἐμοί;
where and to-me father you these-things then not laughter to-hear to-me

ΞΟΤΘΟΣ οὔ· τρέχων ὁ μῦθος ἄν σοι τἀμὰ σημήνειεν ἄν.
not running the story — to-you my might-show —

ΙΩΝ καὶ τί μοι λέξεις;
and what to-me will-you-say

ΞΟΥΘΟΣ πατὴρ σός εἰμι καὶ σὺ παῖς ἐμός.
father your I-am and you son my

ΙΩΝ τίς λέγει τάδε; ΞΟΥΘΟΣ ὅς σ' ἔθρεψεν ὄντα Λοξίας ἐμόν.
who says these-things who you reared being Loxias mine

ΙΩΝ μαρτυρεῖς σαυτῷ.
you-bear-witness to-yourself

ΞΟΥΘΟΣ τὰ τοῦ θεοῦ γ' ἐκμαθὼν χρηστήρια.
the of-the god at-least having-learned oracles

ΙΩΝ ἐσφάλης αἴνιγμ' ἀκούσας. ΞΟΥΘΟΣ οὐκ ἄρ' ὀρθ' ἀκούομεν.
you-erred riddle having-heard not then rightly we-hear

ΙΩΝ ὁ δὲ λόγος τίς ἐστι Φοίβου;
the and word what is of-Phoebus

ΞΟΥΘΟΣ τὸν συναντήσαντά μοι —
the having-met me

ΙΩΝ τίνα συνάντησιν; ΞΟΥΘΟΣ δόμων τῶνδ' ἐξιόντι τοῦ θεοῦ —
what meeting of-house of-this coming-out of-the god

ΙΩΝ συμφορᾶς τίνος κυρῆσαι; ΞΟΥΘΟΣ παῖδ' ἐμὸν πεφυκέναι.
of-misfortune what to-meet son my to-be-born

ΙΩΝ σὸν γεγῶτ', ἢ δῶρον ἄλλων;
yours being or gift of-others

ΞΟΥΘΟΣ δῶρον, ὄντα δ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ.
gift being but from me

ΙΩΝ πρῶτα δῆτ' ἐμοὶ ξυνάπτεις πόδα σόν;
first then to-me you-join foot your

ΞΟΥΘΟΣ οὐκ ἄλλῳ, τέκνον.
not to-other child

ΙΩΝ ἡ τύχη πόθεν ποθ' ἥκει; ΞΟΥΘΟΣ δύο μίαν θαυμάζομεν.
the fortune whence ever comes two one we-marvel

ΙΩΝ ἔα. τίνος δέ σοι πέφυκα μητρός; ΞΟΤΘΟΣ οὐκ ἔχω φράσαι. 540

ha of-what and to-you am-I-born mother not I-can to-tell

ΙΩΝ οὐδὲ Φοῖβος εἶπε;

not-even Phoebus told

ΞΟΤΘΟΣ τερφθεὶς τοῦτο, κεῖν' οὐκ ἠρόμην.

delighted this that not I-asked

ΙΩΝ γῆς ἄρ' ἐκπέφυκα μητρός; ΞΟΤΘΟΣ οὐ πέδον τίκτει τέκνα.

of-earth then I-am-born mother not ground bears children

ΙΩΝ πῶς ἂν οὖν εἴην σός;

how — then might-I-be yours

ΞΟΤΘΟΣ οὐκ οἶδ', ἀναφέρω δ' εἰς τὸν θεόν.

not I-know I-refer but to the god

ΙΩΝ φέρε λόγων ἁψώμεθ' ἄλλων.

come of-words let-us-take-hold other

ΞΟΤΘΟΣ ταῦτ' ἄμεινον, ὦ τέκνον.

these-things better O child

ΙΩΝ ἦλθες εἰς νόθον τι λέκτρον; 545

did-you-come to bastard some bed

ΞΟΤΘΟΣ μωρίᾳ γε τοῦ νέου.

by-folly at-least of-the youth

ΙΩΝ πρὶν κόρην λαβεῖν Ἐρεχθέως;

before girl to-take of-Erechtheus

ΞΟΤΘΟΣ οὐ γὰρ ὕστερόν γέ πω.

not for later at-least yet

ΙΩΝ ἆρα δῆτ' ἐκεῖ μ' ἔφυσας;

— then there me you-begot

ΞΟΤΘΟΣ τῷ χρόνῳ γε συντρέχει.

with-the time at-least it-agrees

ΙΩΝ κᾆτα πῶς ἀφικόμεσθα δεῦρο, ΞΟΤΘΟΣ ταῦτ' ἀμηχανῶ.

and-then how did-we-come here this I-am-at-a-loss

ΙΩΝ διὰ μακρᾶς ἐλθὼν κελεύθου;
through long having-come path

ΞΟΤΘΟΣ τοῦτο κἄμ᾽ ἀπαιολᾷ.
this and-me confuses

ΙΩΝ Πυθίαν δ᾽ ἦλθες πέτραν πρίν;
Pythian and did-you-come rock before

ΞΟΤΘΟΣ εἰς φανάς γε Βακχίου.
to torch-fires at-least of-Bacchus

ΙΩΝ προξένων δ᾽ ἔν του κατέσχες;
of-public-hosts and in some did-you-lodge

ΞΟΤΘΟΣ ὅς με Δελφίσιν κόραις —
who me to-Delphian girls

ΙΩΝ ἐθιάσευσ᾽, ἢ πῶς τάδ᾽ αὐδᾷς;
initiated or how this do-you-say

ΞΟΤΘΟΣ Μαινάσιν γε Βακχίου.
with-Maenads at-least of-Bacchus

ΙΩΝ ἔμφρον᾽ ἢ κάτοινον ὄντα; ΞΟΤΘΟΣ Βακχίου πρὸς ἡδοναῖς.
sober or in-wine being of-Bacchus at pleasures

ΙΩΝ τοῦτ᾽ ἐκεῖν᾽ ἵν᾽ ἐσπάρημεν.
this that where we-were-begotten

ΞΟΤΘΟΣ ὁ πότμος ἐξηῦρεν, τέκνον.
the fate found child

ΙΩΝ πῶς δ᾽ ἀφικόμεσθα ναούς; ΞΟΤΘΟΣ ἔκβολον κόρης ἴσως.
how and did-we-come to-temple cast-out of-girl perhaps

ΙΩΝ ἐκπεφεύγαμεν τὸ δοῦλον. ΞΟΤΘΟΣ πατέρα νυν δέχου, τέκνον.
we-have-escaped the slavery father now accept child

ΙΩΝ τῷ θεῷ γοῦν οὐκ ἀπιστεῖν εἰκός. ΞΟΤΘΟΣ εὖ φρονεῖς ἄρα.
the god at-least not to-disbelieve fitting well you-think then

ΙΩΝ καὶ τί βουλόμεσθά γ' ἄλλο —
and what do-we-wish at-least other

ΞΟΥΘΟΣ νῦν ὁρᾷς ἃ χρή σ' ὁρᾶν.
now you-see what must you to-see

ΙΩΝ ἢ Διὸς παιδὸς γενέσθαι παῖς;
than of-Zeus of-son to-become son

ΞΟΥΘΟΣ ὃ σοί γε γίγνεται.
which to-you at-least happens

ΙΩΝ ἦ θίγω δῆθ' οἵ μ' ἔφυσαν; 560
— may-I-touch then who me begot

ΞΟΥΘΟΣ πιθόμενός γε τῷ θεῷ.
obeying at-least the god

ΙΩΝ χαῖρέ μοι, πάτερ, ΞΟΥΘΟΣ φίλον γε φθέγμ' ἐδεξάμην τόδε.
hail to-me father dear at-least voice I-received this

ΙΩΝ ἡμέρα θ' ἡ νῦν παροῦσα. ΞΟΥΘΟΣ μακάριόν γ' ἔθηκέ με.
day and the now present blessed at-least made me

ΙΩΝ ὦ φίλη μῆτερ, πότ' ἆρα καὶ σὸν ὄψομαι δέμας;
O dear mother when then also your shall-I-see body

νῦν ποθῶ σε μᾶλλον ἢ πρὶν ἥτις εἶ ποτ' εἰσιδεῖν.
now I-long-for you more than before whoever you-are ever to-see

ἀλλ' ἴσως τέθνηκας, ἡμεῖς δ' οὐδὲν ἂν δυναίμεθα. 565
but perhaps you-are-dead we and nothing — could-do

ΧΟΡΟΣ κοιναὶ μὲν ἡμῖν δωμάτων εὐπραξίαι·
common indeed to-us of-house good-fortunes

ὅμως δὲ καὶ δέσποιναν εἰς τέκν' εὐτυχεῖν
nevertheless and also mistress in children to-prosper

ἐβουλόμην ἂν τούς τ' Ἐρεχθέως δόμους.
I-would-wish — the and of-Erechtheus house

ΞΟΥΘΟΣ ὦ τέκνον, εἰς μὲν σὴν ἀνεύρεσιν θεὸς
O child to indeed your finding god
ὀρθῶς ἔκρανε, καὶ συνῆψ' ἐμοί τε σέ,
rightly accomplished and joined to-me and you
σύ τ' αὖ τὰ φίλταθ' ηὗρες οὐκ εἰδὼς πάρος.
you and again the dearest found not knowing before
ὃ δ' ἦξας ὀρθῶς, τοῦτο κἄμ' ἔχει πόθος,
what and you-rushed-at rightly this and-me holds desire
ὅπως σύ τ', ὦ παῖ, μητέρ' εὑρήσεις σέθεν,
how you and O child mother will-find of-you
ἐγώ θ' ὁποίας μοι γυναικὸς ἐξέφυς.
I and of-what-sort to-me woman you-were-born
χρόνῳ δὲ δόντες ταῦτ' ἴσως εὕροιμεν ἄν.
to-time and giving these-things perhaps we-might-find —
ἀλλ' ἐκλιπὼν θεοῦ δάπεδ' ἀλητείαν τε σὴν
but having-left of-god floors wandering and your
εἰς τὰς Ἀθήνας στεῖχε κοινόφρων πατρί,
to the Athens go like-minded with-father
οὗ σ' ὄλβιον μὲν σκῆπτρον ἀναμένει πατρός,
where you prosperous indeed scepter awaits of-father
πολὺς δὲ πλοῦτος· οὐδὲ θάτερον νοσῶν
much and wealth nor one-of-two being-sick
δυοῖν κεκλήσει δυσγενὴς πένης θ' ἅμα,
two you-will-be-called low-born poor and together
ἀλλ' εὐγενής τε καὶ πολυκτήμων βίου.
but noble both and wealthy of-life
σιγᾷς; τί πρὸς γῆν ὄμμα σὸν βαλὼν ἔχεις
you-are-silent why to ground eye your having-cast you-have
εἰς φροντίδας τ' ἀπῆλθες, ἐκ δὲ χαρμονῆς
into thoughts and went-off from and joy

πάλιν μεταστὰς δεῖμα προσβάλλεις πατρί;
back having-changed fear you-cast-on on-father

ΙΩΝ οὐ ταὐτὸν εἶδος φαίνεται τῶν πραγμάτων
not the-same appearance appears of-the things

πρόσωθεν ὄντων ἐγγύθεν θ' ὁρωμένων.
from-afar being from-near and being-seen

ἐγὼ δὲ τὴν μὲν συμφορὰν ἀσπάζομαι,
I and the indeed fortune welcome

πατέρα σ' ἀνευρών· ὧν δὲ γιγνώσκω πέρι
father you having-found what and I-know about

ἄκουσον. εἶναί φασι τὰς αὐτόχθονας
hear to-be they-say the native

κλεινὰς Ἀθήνας οὐκ ἐπείσακτον γένος,
famous Athens not brought-in race

ἵν' εἰσπεσοῦμαι δύο νόσω κεκτημένος,
where I-shall-fall-in two disorders having

πατρός τ' ἐπακτοῦ καὐτὸς ὢν νοθαγενής.
of-father and foreign and-myself being bastard-born

καὶ τοῦτ' ἔχων τοὔνειδος, ἀσθενὴς μὲν ὤν,
and this having the-reproach weak indeed being

ὁ μηδὲν ὢν κἀξ οὐδένων κεκλήσομαι·
the nothing being and-from nobodies I-shall-be-called

ἢν δ' εἰς τὸ πρῶτον πόλεος ὁρμηθεὶς ζυγὸν
if but to the first of-city having-set-out rank

ζητῶ τις εἶναι, τῶν μὲν ἀδυνάτων ὕπο
I-seek someone to-be the indeed powerless by

μισησόμεσθα· λυπρὰ γὰρ τὰ κρείσσονα·
we-shall-be-hated grievous for the superior

ὅσοι δέ, χρηστοὶ δυνάμενοί τ' εἶναι σοφοί,
as-many-as but good able and to-be wise

σιγῶσι κοὐ σπεύδουσιν εἰς τὰ πράγματα,
are-silent and-not hasten into the affairs
γέλωτ' ἐν αὐτοῖς μωρίαν τε λήψομαι
laughter among them folly and I-shall-get
οὐχ ἡσυχάζων ἐν πόλει ψόγου πλέα.
not keeping-quiet in city of-blame full
τῶν δ' αὖ δοκούντων χρωμένων τε τῇ πόλει
of-the and again esteemed using and the city
εἰς ἀξίωμα βὰς πλέον φρουρήσομαι
to rank having-stepped more I-shall-be-guarded
ψήφοισιν· οὕτω γὰρ τάδ', ὦ πάτερ, φιλεῖ·
by-votes thus for these-things O father is-wont
οἱ τὰς πόλεις ἔχοντες κἀξιώματα
those the cities holding and-ranks
τοῖς ἀνθαμίλλοις εἰσὶ πολεμιώτατοι.
to-the rivals are most-hostile
ἐλθὼν δ' ἐς οἶκον ἀλλότριον ἔπηλυς ὢν
having-come and into house another's newcomer being
γυναῖκά θ' ὡς ἄτεκνον, ἣ κοινουμένη
woman and as childless who sharing
τὰς συμφορὰς σοι πρόσθεν, ἀπολαχοῦσα νῦν
the misfortunes with-you before having-no-share now
αὐτὴ καθ' αὑτὴν τὴν τύχην οἴσει πικρῶς,
herself by herself the fortune will-bear bitterly
πῶς δ' οὐχ ὑπ' αὐτῆς εἰκότως μισήσομαι,
how and not by her fittingly shall-I-be-hated
ὅταν παραστῶ σοὶ μὲν ἐγγύθεν ποδός,
when I-stand-beside to-you indeed near of-foot
ἣ δ' οὖσ' ἄτεκνος τὰ σὰ φίλ' εἰσορᾷ πικρῶς,
she and being childless the your dear-ones sees bitterly

κᾆτ᾽ ἢ προδοὺς σύ μ᾽ ἐς δάμαρτα σὴν βλέπῃς,
and-then either having-betrayed you me to wife your look
ἢ τἀμὰ τιμῶν δῶμα συγχέας ἔχῃς;
or my honoring house having-confounded have
ὅσας σφαγὰς δὴ φαρμάκων τε θανασίμων
how-many slaughters indeed of-drugs and deadly
γυναῖκες εὗρον ἀνδράσιν διαφθοράς.
women found for-men destructions
ἄλλως τε τὴν σὴν ἄλοχον οἰκτείρω, πάτερ.
otherwise and the your wife I-pity father
ἄπαιδα γηράσκουσαν· οὐ γὰρ ἀξία
childless growing-old not for worthy
πατέρων ἀπ᾽ ἐσθλῶν οὖσ᾽ ἀπαιδίᾳ νοσεῖν.
fathers from noble being with-childlessness to-be-sick
τυραννίδος δὲ τῆς μάτην αἰνουμένης
of-tyranny and of-the vainly praised
τὸ μὲν πρόσωπον ἡδύ, τἀν δόμοισι δὲ
the indeed face pleasant the-in house but
λυπηρά· τίς γὰρ μακάριος, τίς εὐτυχής,
painful who for blessed who fortunate
ὅστις δεδοικὼς καὶ παραβλέπων βίου
who fearing and looking-askance of-life
αἰῶνα τείνει; δημότης ἂν εὐτυχὴς
age stretches commoner — prosperous
ζῆν ἂν θέλοιμι μᾶλλον ἢ τύραννος ὤν,
to-live — I-would-wish rather than tyrant being
ᾧ τοὺς πονηροὺς ἡδονὴ φίλους ἔχειν,
to-whom the wicked pleasure friends to-have
ἐσθλοὺς δὲ μισεῖ κατθανεῖν φοβούμενος.
noble but hates to-die fearing

εἴποις ἂν ὡς ὁ χρυσὸς ἐκνικᾷ τάδε,
you-might-say — that the gold outweighs these-things
πλουτεῖν τε τερπνόν· οὐ φιλῶ ψόγους κλύειν
to-be-rich and pleasant not I-love reproaches to-hear
ἐν χερσὶ σώζων ὄλβον οὐδ' ἔχειν πόνους·
in hands keeping wealth nor to-have toils
εἴη δ' ἔμοιγε μέτρια μὴ λυπουμένῳ.
may-be and to-me moderate-things not being-grieved
ἃ δ' ἐνθάδ' εἶχον ἀγάθ' ἄκουσόν μου, πάτερ·
what but here I-had good-things hear me father
τὴν φιλτάτην μὲν πρῶτον ἀνθρώποις σχολήν,
the dearest indeed first to-men leisure
ὄχλον τε μέτριον, οὐδέ μ' ἐξέπληξ' ὁδοῦ
crowd and moderate nor me thrust-out of-road
πονηρὸς οὐδείς· κεῖνο δ' οὐκ ἀνασχετόν,
wicked no-one that and not bearable
εἴκειν ὁδοῦ χαλῶντα τοῖς κακίοσιν.
to-yield of-road giving-way to-the worse
θεῶν δ' ἐν εὐχαῖς ἢ λόγοισιν ἢ βροτῶν,
of-gods and in prayers or words or of-mortals
ὑπηρετῶν χαίρουσιν, οὐ γοωμένοις.
serving rejoicing not lamenting
καὶ τοὺς μὲν ἐξέπεμπον, οἱ δ' ἦκον ξένοι,
and the indeed I-sent-away others and came strangers
ὥσθ' ἡδὺς ἀεὶ καινὸς ὢν καινοῖσιν ἦ.
so-that pleasant always new being to-new I-was
ὃ δ' εὐκτὸν ἀνθρώποισι, κἂν ἄκουσιν ᾖ,
what and to-be-prayed for-men even-if unwilling be
δίκαιον εἶναί μ' ὁ νόμος ἡ φύσις θ' ἅμα
just to-be me the law the nature and together

παρεῖχε τῷ θεῷ. ταῦτα συννοούμενος
made to-the god these-things considering
κρείσσω νομίζω τἀνθάδ' ἢ τἀκεῖ, πάτερ.
better I-think the-things-here than the-things-there father
ἔα δ' ἐμαυτῷ ζῆν· ἴση γὰρ ἡ χάρις,
allow and for-myself to-live equal for the pleasure
μεγάλοισι χαίρειν σμικρά θ' ἡδέως ἔχειν.
in-great to-rejoice small and gladly to-have
ΧΟΡΟΣ καλῶς ἔλεξας, εἴπερ οὓς ἐγὼ φιλῶ
well you-said if-indeed whom I love
ἐν τοῖσι σοῖσιν εὐτυχήσουσιν λόγοις.
in the your will-prosper words
ΞΟΥΘΟΣ παῦσαι λόγων τῶνδ', εὐτυχεῖν δ' ἐπίστασο·
stop of-words these to-prosper but know-how
θέλω γὰρ οὗπέρ σ' ηὗρον ἄρξασθαι, τέκνον,
I-wish for where you I-found to-begin child
κοινῆς τραπέζης δαῖτα πρὸς κοινὴν πεσών,
of-common table feast to common falling
θῦσαί θ' ἅ σου πρὶν γενέθλι' οὐκ ἐθύσαμεν.
to-sacrifice and what of-you before birth-offerings not we-sacrificed
καὶ νῦν μὲν ὡς δὴ ξένον ἄγων σ' ἐφέστιον
and now indeed as indeed guest leading you to-hearth
δείπνοισι τέρψω· τῆς δ' Ἀθηναίων χθονὸς
with-banquets I-will-delight of-the and of-Athenians land
ἄξω θεατὴν δῆθεν, ὡς οὐκ ὄντ' ἐμόν.
I-will-bring spectator forsooth as not being mine
καὶ γὰρ γυναῖκα τὴν ἐμὴν οὐ βούλομαι
and for wife the my not I-wish
λυπεῖν ἄτεκνον οὖσαν αὐτὸς εὐτυχῶν.
to-grieve childless being myself prospering

χρόνῳ δὲ καιρὸν λαμβάνων προσάξομαι
in-time and opportunity taking I-will-bring-over
δάμαρτ᾽ ἐᾶν σε σκῆπτρα τἄμ᾽ ἔχειν χθονός.
wife to-allow you scepter my to-have of-land
Ἴωνα δ᾽ ὀνομάζω σε τῇ τύχῃ πρέπον,
Ion and I-name you to-the fortune fitting
ὁθούνεκ᾽ ἀδύτων ἐξιόντι μοι θεοῦ
because of-shrine coming-out to-me of-god
ἴχνος συνῆψας πρῶτος. ἀλλὰ τῶν φίλων
step joined first but of-the friends
πλήρωμ᾽ ἀθροίσας βουθύτῳ σὺν ἡδονῇ
company having-gathered ox-sacrificing with pleasure
πρόσειπε, μέλλων Δελφίδ᾽ ἐκλιπεῖν πόλιν.
bid-farewell being-about of-Delphi to-leave city
ὑμῖν δὲ σιγᾶν, δμωίδες, λέγω τάδε,
to-you and to-be-silent handmaids I-say these-things
ἢ θάνατον εἰπούσαισι πρὸς δάμαρτ᾽ ἐμήν.
or death telling to wife my
ΙΩΝ στείχοιμ᾽ ἄν· ἓν δὲ τῆς τύχης ἄπεστί μοι·
I-would-go — one but of-the fortune is-lacking to-me
εἰ μὴ γὰρ ἥτις μ᾽ ἔτεκεν εὑρήσω, πάτερ,
if not for who me bore I-shall-find father
ἀβίωτον ἡμῖν· εἰ δ᾽ ἐπεύξασθαι χρεών,
unlivable to-us if but to-pray it-is-right
ἐκ τῶν Ἀθηνῶν μ᾽ ἡ τεκοῦσ᾽ εἴη γυνή,
from the Athens me the having-borne may-be woman
ὥς μοι γένηται μητρόθεν παρρησία.
so-that to-me may-be from-mother free-speech
καθαρὰν γὰρ ἤν τις εἰς πόλιν πέσῃ ξένος,
pure for if any into city fall stranger

κἂν τοῖς λόγοισιν ἀστὸς ᾖ, τό γε στόμα
even-if in-the words citizen he-be the at-least mouth
δοῦλον πέπαται κοὐκ ἔχει παρρησίαν.
slave he-has-gotten and-not has free-speech

VI · THE CHORUS FEARS FOR ITS MISTRESS

The chorus foresees tears for its mistress when she learns that her husband has a son and she has none. It suspects the oracle and the boy reared in the temple, a stranger who may rule Athens, curses Xuthus for deceiving its mistress, and prays that the boy may die before he comes there, and that the old house of Erechtheus may not pass to a foreigner.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὁρῶ δάκρυα καὶ πενθίμους
I-see tears and mournful
ἀλαλαγὰς στεναγμάτων τ᾽ εἰσβολάς,
cries of-groans and onsets
ὅταν ἐμὰ τύραννος εὐπαιδίαν
when my queen happiness-in-children
πόσιν ἔχοντ᾽ εἰδῇ,
husband having knows
αὐτὴ δ᾽ ἄπαις ᾖ καὶ λελειμμένη τέκνων.
herself and childless be and bereft of-children
τίν᾽, ὦ παῖ προμαντι Λατοῦς ἔχρη-
what O son prophetic of-Leto did-you-chant
σας ὑμνῳδίαν;
— hymn
πόθεν ὁ παῖς ὅδ᾽ ἀμφὶ ναοὺς σέθεν
whence the boy this about temple of-you
τρόφιμος ἐξέβα, γυναικῶν τίνος;
nursling came-out of-women of-what

οὐ γάρ με σαίνει
not for me pleases
θέσφατα, μή τιν' ἔχῃ δόλον.
oracles lest some it-has guile
δειμαίνω συμφοράν,
I-fear misfortune
ἐφ' ὅ ποτε βάσεται.
to what ever it-will-go
ἄτοπος ἄτοπα γὰρ παραδίδωσί μοι
strange strange-things for hands-over to-me
τάδε θεοῦ φήμα.
these of-god utterance
ἔχει δόλον τύχαν θ' ὁ παῖς
has guile fortune and the boy
ἄλλων τραφεὶς ἐξ αἱμάτων.
of-others reared from bloods
τίς οὐ τάδε ξυνοίσεται;
who not these-things will-agree
φίλαι, πότερ' ἐμᾷ δεσποίνᾳ
friends whether to-my mistress
τάδε τορῶς ἐς οὖς γεγωνήσομεν;
these-things clearly into ear shall-we-proclaim
πόσιν, ἐν ᾧ τὰ πάντ' ἔχουσ' ἐλπίδων
husband in whom the all having of-hopes
μέτοχος ἦν τλάμων;
sharer was wretched
νῦν δ' ἣ μὲν ἔρρει συμφοραῖς, ὁ δ' εὐτυχεῖ,
now and she indeed goes-to-ruin by-misfortunes he but prospers
πολιὸν εἰσπεσοῦσα γῆρας, πόσις δ'
gray having-fallen-into old-age husband and

ἀτίετος φίλων.
unhonored of-friends
μέλεος, ὃς θυραῖος ἐλθὼν δόμους
wretched who outsider having-come to-house
μέγαν ἐς ὄλβον οὐκ ἔσωσεν τύχας.
great into prosperity not saved fortunes
ὄλοιτ' ὄλοιτο
may-he-perish may-he-perish
πότνιαν ἐξαπαφὼν ἐμάν·
lady having-deceived my
καὶ θεοῖσιν μὴ τύχοι
and to-gods not may-he-obtain
καλλίφλογα πέλανον ἐπὶ
fair-flaming cake on
πυρὶ καθαγνίσας· τὸ δ' ἐμὸν εἴσεται
fire having-burned the and mine he-will-know
***
(lacuna)
τύραννος ἡ φίλα φίλον.
queen the dear dear
ἤδη πέλας δείπνων κυρεῖ
already near of-banquet happens
παῖς καὶ πατὴρ νέος νέων.
son and father new of-new
ἰὼ δειράδες Παρνασσοῦ πέτρας
oh ridges of-Parnassus rock
ἔχουσαι σκόπελον οὐράνιόν θ' ἕδραν,
having lookout heavenly and seat
ἵνα Βάκχιος ἀμφιπύρους ἀνέχων πεύκας
where Bacchus double-blazing holding-up torches

λαιψηρὰ πηδᾷ νυκτιπόλοις ἅμα σὺν Βάκχαις,
nimbly leaps night-roaming together with Bacchants
μή τί ποτ' εἰς ἐμὰν πόλιν ἵκοιθ' ὁ παῖς,
not at-all ever to my city may-come the boy
νέαν δ' ἀμέραν ἀπολιπὼν θάνοι.
new and day having-left may-die
στενομένα γὰρ ἂν πόλις ἔχοι σκῆψιν
groaning for — city would-have excuse
ξενικὸν εἰσβολάν.
foreign invasion
ἅλις ὁ πάρος ἀρχαγὸς ὢν
enough the former leader being
Ἐρεχθεὺς ἄναξ.
Erechtheus lord

VII · CREUSA'S CONFESSION

Creusa enters with her father's old servant, and the chorus tells her that she will have no child while Xuthus has found a son. The old man calls it a plot and urges revenge. Creusa breaks her silence and sings how Phoebus seized her as she gathered flowers and lay with her in the cave, where she later left their child to die. The old man proposes burning the temple or killing Xuthus or the boy; Creusa chooses poison instead, a drop of the Gorgon's blood that Athena gave Erichthonius, which she wears on a golden bracelet, and the old man takes it to put in the boy's cup at the feast.

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ὦ πρέσβυ παιδαγώγ' Ἐρεχθέως πατρὸς
O old-man tutor of-Erechtheus father
τοὐμοῦ ποτ' ὄντος, ἡνίκ' ἦν ἔτ' ἐν φάει,
of-mine once being when he-was still in light

ἔπαιρε σαυτὸν πρὸς θεοῦ χρηστήρια,
lift-up yourself to of-god oracles
ὥς μοι συνησθῇς, εἴ τι Λοξίας ἄναξ
so-that with-me you-may-rejoice if anything Loxias lord
θέσπισμα παίδων εἰς γονὰς ἐφθέγξατο·
oracle of-children for begetting uttered
σὺν τοῖς φίλοις γὰρ ἡδὺ μὲν πράσσειν καλῶς·
with the friends for pleasant indeed to-fare well
ὃ μὴ γένοιτο δ', εἴ τι τυγχάνοι κακόν,
what not may-it-happen but if any should-befall evil
εἰς ὄμματ' εὔνου φωτὸς ἐμβλέψαι γλυκύ.
into eyes of-kindly man to-look sweet
ἐγὼ δέ σ', ὥσπερ καὶ σὺ πατέρ' ἐμόν ποτε,
I and you as also you father my once
δέσποιν' ὅμως οὖσ' ἀντικηδεύω πατρός.
mistress nevertheless being tend-in-return of-father
ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ὦ θύγατερ, ἄξι' ἀξίων γεννητόρων
O daughter worthy of-worthy parents
ἤθη φυλάσσεις κοὐ καταισχύνασ' ἔχεις
ways you-keep and-not having-disgraced you-hold
τοὺς σοὺς παλαιοὺς ἐκγόνους αὐτόχθονας.
the your old descendants native
ἕλχ' ἕλκε πρὸς μέλαθρα καὶ κόμιζέ με.
draw draw to house and bring me
αἰπεινά τοι μαντεῖα· τοῦ γήρως δέ μοι
steep surely oracles of-the old-age but for-me
συνεκπονοῦσα κῶλον ἰατρὸς γενοῦ.
helping-to-work limb healer be
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἕπου νυν· ἴχνος δ' ἐκφύλασσ' ὅπου τίθης.
follow now step and guard where you-set

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ἰδού.
see

τὸ τοῦ ποδὸς μὲν βραδύ, τὸ τοῦ δὲ νοῦ ταχύ.
the of-the foot indeed slow the of-the but mind quick

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ βάκτρῳ δ' ἐρείδου περιφερῆ στίβον χθονός.
with-staff and lean-on winding track of-ground

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ καὶ τοῦτο τυφλόν, ὅταν ἐγὼ βλέπω βραχύ.
and this blind when I see little

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ὀρθῶς ἔλεξας· ἀλλὰ μὴ πάρες κόπῳ.
rightly you-said but not let-go to-weariness

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ οὔκουν ἑκών γε· τοῦ δ' ἀπόντος οὐ κρατῶ.
not-then willingly at-least of-the but absent not I-am-master

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ γυναῖκες, ἱστῶν τῶν ἐμῶν καὶ κερκίδος
women of-looms of-the my and of-shuttle

δούλευμα πιστόν, τίνα τύχην λαβὼν πόσις
service faithful what fortune having-received husband

βέβηκε παίδων ὧνπερ εἵνεχ' ἥκομεν,
has-gone of-children of-whom for-the-sake we-came

σημήνατ'· εἰ γὰρ ἀγαθά μοι μηνύσετε,
show if for good-things to-me you-will-reveal

οὐκ εἰς ἀπίστους δεσπότας βαλεῖς χαράν.
not to faithless masters you-will-cast joy

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ δαῖμον.
oh fate

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ τὸ φροίμιον μὲν τῶν λόγων οὐκ εὐτυχές.
the prelude indeed of-the words not fortunate

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ τλᾶμον.
oh wretched

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ἀλλ' ἦ τι θεσφάτοισι δεσποτῶν νοσῶ;
but — something by-oracles of-masters I-suffer

ΧΟΡΟΣ εἶεν· τί δρῶμεν, θάνατος ὃν κεῖται πέρι;
well what are-we-to-do death which lies about

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τίς ἥδε μοῦσα, χὠ φόβος τίνων πέρι;
what this song and-the fear of-what about

ΧΟΡΟΣ εἴπωμεν ἢ σιγῶμεν; ἢ τί δράσομεν;
shall-we-speak or be-silent or what shall-we-do

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ εἶφ'· ὡς ἔχεις γε συμφοράν τιν' εἰς ἐμέ.
speak since you-have at-least misfortune some toward me

ΧΟΡΟΣ εἰρήσεταί τοι, κεἰ θανεῖν μέλλω διπλῇ. 760
it-shall-be-told surely even-if to-die I-am-to doubly

οὐκ ἔστι σοι, δέσποιν', ἐπ' ἀγκάλαις λαβεῖν
not is for-you mistress in arms to-take

τέκν' οὐδὲ μαστῷ σῷ προσαρμόσαι ποτέ.
child nor to-breast your to-fit ever

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ὤμοι, θάνοιμι.
ah-me may-I-die

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ θύγατερ — ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ὦ τάλαιν' ἐγὼ συμφορᾶς.
daughter O wretched I of-misfortune

ἔλαβον, ἔπαθον ἄχος ἀβίοτον, φίλαι.
I-took I-suffered grief unlivable friends

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ διοιχόμεσθα, τέκνον. ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ αἰαῖ αἰαῖ·
we-are-gone child alas alas

διανταῖος ἔτυπεν ὀδύνα με πλευ-
right-through struck pain me lungs

μόνων τῶνδ' ἔσω,
— *these within*

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ μήπω στενάξῃς, ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἀλλὰ πάρεισι γόοι.
not-yet lament but are-present laments

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ πρὶν ἂν μάθωμεν — ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἀγγελίαν τίνα μοι; 770
before — we-learn message what for-me

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ εἰ ταὐτὰ πράσσων δεσπότης τῆς συμφορᾶς
if the-same faring master of-the misfortune
κοινωνός ἐστιν, ἢ μόνη σὺ δυστυχεῖς.
partner is or alone you are-unfortunate
ΧΟΡΟΣ κείνῳ μέν, ὦ γεραιέ, παῖδα Λοξίας
to-him indeed O old-man son Loxias
775 ἔδωκεν, ἰδίᾳ δ' εὐτυχεῖ ταύτης δίχα.
gave privately and he-prospers her apart
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τόδ' ἐπὶ τῷδε κακὸν ἄκρον ἔλακες ἔλακες
this upon this evil topmost you-uttered you-uttered
ἄχος ἐμοὶ στένειν.
grief for-me to-groan
ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ πότερα δὲ φῦναι δεῖ γυναικὸς ἔκ τινος
whether and to-be-born must woman from some
τὸν παῖδ' ὃν εἶπας, ἢ γεγὼτ' ἐθέσπισεν;
the son whom you-said or born he-prophesied
780 ΧΟΡΟΣ ἤδη πεφυκότ' ἐκτελῆ νεανίαν
already born full-grown youth
δίδωσιν αὐτῷ Λοξίας· παρῆ δ' ἐγώ.
gives to-him Loxias was-present and I
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ πῶς φής; ἄφατον ἄφατον ἀναύδητον
how do-you-say unspeakable unspeakable unutterable
λόγον ἐμοὶ θροεῖς.
word to-me you-cry
785 ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ κἄμοιγε. πῶς δ' ὁ χρησμὸς ἐκπεραίνεται
and-to-me how and the oracle is-fulfilled
σαφέστερόν μοι φράζε, χὥστις ἔσθ' ὁ παῖς.
more-clearly to-me tell and-who is the boy

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὅτῳ ξυναντήσειεν ἐκ ναοῦ συθεὶς
whomever he-should-meet from temple having-rushed
πρώτῳ πόσις σός, παῖδ' ἔδωκ' αὐτῷ θεός.
first husband your son gave to-him god
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ὀτοτοτοῖ· τὸ δ' ἐμὸν ἄτεκνον ἄτεκνον ἔλαβεν
ototoi the and my childless childless took
ἄρα βίοτον, ἐρημίᾳ δ' ὀρφανοὺς
then life in-desolation and orphaned
δόμους οἰκήσω.
house I-shall-dwell
ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ τίς οὖν ἐχρήσθη; τῷ συνῆψ' ἴχνος ποδὸς
who then was-proclaimed to-whom joined step of-foot
πόσις ταλαίνης; πῶς δὲ ποῦ νιν εἰσιδών;
husband of-wretched how and where him seeing
ΧΟΡΟΣ οἶσθ', ὦ φίλη δέσποινα, τὸν νεανίαν
you-know O dear mistress the youth
ὃς τόνδ' ἔσαιρε ναόν; οὗτος ἔσθ' ὁ παῖς.
who this was-sweeping temple this-one is the boy
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἀν' ὑγρὸν ἀμπταίην αἰθέρα πόρσω γαί-
up wet might-I-fly air far-from land
ας Ἑλλανίας, ἀστέρας ἑσπέρους,
— Hellas' to-stars western
οἷον οἷον ἄλγος ἔπαθον, φίλαι.
such such grief I-suffered friends
ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ὄνομα δὲ ποῖον αὐτὸν ὀνομάζει πατήρ;
name and what-sort him names father
οἶσθ', ἢ σιωπῇ τοῦτ' ἀκύρωτον μένει;
do-you-know or in-silence this unratified remains
ΧΟΡΟΣ Ἴων', ἐπείπερ πρῶτος ἥντησεν πατρί.
Ion since first he-met father

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ μητρὸς δ' ὁποίας ἐστίν; ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκ ἔχω φράσαι.
of-mother and of-what-sort he-is not I-can to-say

φροῦδος δ', ἵν' εἰδῇς πάντα τἀπ' ἐμοῦ, γέρον,
is-gone and that you-may-know all the-things-from me old-man

παιδὸς προθύσων ξένια καὶ γενέθλια
of-son to-sacrifice-first guest-gifts and birth-offerings

σκηνὰς ἐς ἱερὰς τῆσδε λαθραίως πόσις,
tents to holy of-this secretly husband

κοινῇ ξυνάψων δαῖτα παιδὶ τῷ νέῳ.
in-common to-share feast with-son the new

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ δέσποινα, προδεδόμεσθα, σὺν γάρ σοι νοσῶ,
mistress we-are-betrayed with for you I-am-sick

τοῦ σοῦ πρὸς ἀνδρός, καὶ μεμηχανημένως
the your by husband and craftily

ὑβριζόμεσθα δωμάτων τ' Ἐρεχθέως
we-are-insulted of-house and of-Erechtheus

ἐκβαλλόμεσθα· καὶ σὸν οὐ στυγῶν πόσιν
we-are-cast-out and your not hating husband

λέγω, σὲ μέντοι μᾶλλον ἢ κεῖνον φιλῶν·
I-say you however more than him loving

ὅστις σε γήμας ξένος ἐπεισελθὼν πόλιν
who you having-married stranger having-come-in city

καὶ δῶμα καὶ σὴν παραλαβὼν παγκληρίαν,
and house and your having-taken whole-inheritance

ἄλλης γυναικὸς παῖδας ἐκκαρπούμενος
of-another woman children harvesting

λάθρᾳ πέφηνεν· ὡς λάθρᾳ δ', ἐγὼ φράσω·
secretly has-appeared how secretly but I will-tell

ἐπεί σ' ἄτεκνον ᾔσθετ', οὐκ ἔστεργέ σοι
when you childless he-perceived not he-was-content to-you

ὅμοιος εἶναι τῆς τύχης τ' ἴσον φέρειν,
like to-be of-the fortune and equal to-bear
λαβὼν δὲ δοῦλα λέκτρα νυμφεύσας λάθρᾳ
having-taken and slave bed having-wed secretly
τὸν παῖδ' ἔφυσεν, ἐξενωμένον δέ τῳ
the son begot made-a-stranger and to-some
Δελφῶν δίδωσιν ἐκτρέφειν· ὁ δ' ἐν θεοῦ
of-Delphians gives to-rear he and in of-god
δόμοισιν ἄφετος, ὡς λάθοι, παιδεύεται.
house at-large so-that he-might-escape-notice is-reared
νεανίαν δ' ὡς ᾔσθετ' ἐκτεθραμμένον,
youth and when he-perceived fully-reared
ἐλθεῖν σ' ἔπεισε δεῦρ' ἀπαιδίας χάριν.
to-come you he-persuaded here of-childlessness for-the-sake
κᾆθ' ὁ θεὸς οὐκ ἐψεύσαθ', ὅδε δ' ἐψεύσατο
and-then the god not lied this-one but lied
πάλαι τρέφων τὸν παῖδα, κἄπλεκεν πλοκὰς
long-since rearing the boy and-wove plots
τοιάσδ'· ἁλοὺς μὲν ἀνέφερ' εἰς τὸν δαίμονα,
such being-caught indeed he-would-refer to the god
†ἐλθὼν δὲ καὶ τὸν χρόνον ἀμύνεσθαι θέλων†
(corrupt)-having-come and also the time to-ward-off wishing(corrupt)
τυραννίδ' αὐτῷ περιβαλεῖν ἔμελλε γῆς.
tyranny on-him to-confer was-about of-land
καινὸν δὲ τοὔνομ' ἀνὰ χρόνον πεπλασμένον
new and the-name over time made-up
Ἴων, ἰόντι δῆθεν ὅτι συνήντετο.
Ion to-one-going forsooth because he-met

ΧΟΡΟΣ οἴμοι, πανούργους ἄνδρας ὡς ἀεὶ στυγῶ,
ah-me villainous men how always I-hate
οἱ συντιθέντες τἄδικ' εἶτα μηχαναῖς
who contriving the-unjust-things then with-devices
κοσμοῦσι. φαῦλον χρηστὸν ἂν λαβεῖν φίλον
adorn worthless good — to-take friend
θέλοιμι μᾶλλον ἢ κακὸν σοφώτερον.
I-would-wish rather than bad cleverer
ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ καὶ τῶνδ' ἁπάντων ἔσχατον πείσει κακόν·
and of-these all last you-will-suffer evil
ἀμήτορ', ἀναρίθμητον, ἐκ δούλης τινὸς
motherless unnumbered from slave some
γυναικός, εἰς σὸν δῶμα δεσπότην ἄγειν.
woman to your house master to-bring
ἁπλοῦν ἂν ἦν γὰρ τὸ κακόν, εἰ παρ' εὐγενοῦς
simple — would-have-been for the evil if from noble
μητρός, πιθών σε, σὴν λέγων ἀπαιδίαν,
mother having-persuaded you your pleading childlessness
ἐσῴκισ' οἴκους· εἰ δὲ σοὶ τόδ' ἦν πικρόν,
he-had-brought-in house if but to-you this was bitter
τῶν Αἰόλου νιν χρῆν ὀρεχθῆναι γάμων.
of-the Aeolus him he-ought to-have-sought marriage
ἐκ τῶνδε δεῖ σε δὴ γυναικείόν τι δρᾶν·
from these must you indeed womanly some to-do
ἢ γὰρ ξίφος λαβοῦσαν ἢ δόλῳ τινὶ
either for sword having-taken or by-guile some
ἢ φαρμάκοισι σὸν κατακτεῖναι πόσιν
or by-drugs your to-kill husband
καὶ παῖδα, πρὶν σοὶ θάνατον ἐκ κείνων μολεῖν.
and son before to-you death from them to-come

ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν σοι καὶ συνεκπονεῖν θέλω,
I indeed then you also to-help-accomplish wish
καὶ συμφονεύειν παῖδ' ἐπεισελθὼν δόμοις
and to-help-murder son having-entered house
οὗ δαῖθ' ὁπλίζει, καὶ τροφεῖα δεσπόταις
where feast he-prepares and nurture to-masters
ἀποδοὺς θανεῖν τε ζῶν τε φέγγος εἰσορᾶν.
having-repaid to-die and living and light to-see
ἓν γάρ τι τοῖς δούλοισιν αἰσχύνην φέρει,
one for some-thing to-the slaves shame brings
τοὔνομα· τὰ δ' ἄλλα πάντα τῶν ἐλευθέρων
the-name the but other all of-the free
οὐδὲν κακίων δοῦλος, ὅστις ἐσθλὸς ᾖ.
nothing worse slave whoever good is
ΧΟΡΟΣ κἀγώ, φίλη δέσποινα, συμφορὰν θέλω
and-I dear mistress misfortune wish
κοινουμένη τήνδ' ἢ θανεῖν ἢ ζῆν καλῶς.
sharing this either to-die or to-live nobly
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ὦ ψυχά, πῶς σιγάσω;
O soul how shall-I-be-silent
πῶς δὲ σκοτίας ἀναφήνω
how and dark shall-I-reveal
εὐνάς, αἰδοῦς δ' ἀπολειφθῶ;
bed of-shame and shall-I-be-parted
τί γὰρ ἐμπόδιον κώλυμ' ἔτι μοι;
what for hindrance obstacle still to-me
πρὸς τίν' ἀγῶνας τιθέμεσθ' ἀρετῆς,
against whom contests do-we-set of-virtue
οὐ πόσις ἡμῶν προδότης γέγονεν;
not husband our betrayer has-become

στέρομαι δ' οἴκων, στέρομαι παίδων,
I-am-bereft and of-house I-am-bereft of-children
φροῦδαι δ' ἐλπίδες, ἃς διαθέσθαι
gone and hopes which to-arrange
χρῄζουσα καλῶς οὐκ ἐδυνήθην,
wanting well not I-was-able
σιγῶσα γάμους,
being-silent marriage
σιγῶσα τόκους πολυκλαύτους.
being-silent birth much-lamented
ἀλλ' οὐ τὸ Διὸς πολύαστρον ἕδος
but no by-the of-Zeus starry seat
καὶ τὴν ἐπ' ἐμοῖς σκοπέλοισι θεὰν
and by-the at my cliffs goddess
λίμνης τ' ἐνύδρου Τριτωνιάδος
of-lake and watery Tritonian
πότνιαν ἀκτάν,
lady shore
οὐκέτι κρύψω λέχος, ὡς στέρνων
no-longer will-I-hide bed so-that from-breast
ἀπονησαμένη ῥᾴων ἔσομαι.
having-relieved easier I-shall-be
στάζουσι κόραι δακρύοισιν ἐμαί,
drip eyes with-tears my
ψυχὰ δ' ἀλγεῖ κακοβουληθεῖσ'
soul and grieves plotted-against
ἔκ τ' ἀνθρώπων ἔκ τ' ἀθανάτων,
by both men by and immortals
οὓς ἀποδείξω
whom I-will-show-up

λέκτρων προδότας ἀχαρίστους.
of-bed betrayers ungrateful

ὦ τᾶς ἑπταφθόγγου μέλπων
O of-the seven-voiced singing

κιθάρας ἐνοπάν, ἅτ' ἀγραύλοις
of-lyre voice which rustic

κέρασιν ἐν ἀψύχοις ἀχεῖ
horns in lifeless resounds

μουσᾶν ὕμνους εὐαχήτους,
of-Muses hymns well-sounding

σοὶ μομφάν, ὦ Λατοῦς παῖ,
to-you reproach O of-Leto son

πρὸς τάνδ' αὐγὰν αὐδάσω.
to this light I-will-cry

ἦλθές μοι χρυσῷ χαίταν
you-came to-me with-gold hair

μαρμαίρων, εὖτ' εἰς κόλπους
gleaming when into lap

κρόκεα πέταλα φάρεσιν ἔδρεπον,
saffron petals to-robes I-was-plucking

ἀνθίζειν χρυσανταυγῆ·
to-adorn gold-reflecting

λευκοῖς δ' ἐμφὺς καρποῖσιν
on-white and having-fastened-on wrists

χειρῶν εἰς ἄντρου κοίτας
of-hands to of-cave bed

κραυγὰν Ὦ μᾶτέρ μ' αὐδῶσαν
cry O mother me crying

θεὸς ὁμευνέτας
god bedfellow

ἆγες ἀναιδείᾳ
you-led with-shamelessness
Κύπριδι χάριν πράσσων.
for-Cypris favor doing
τίκτω δ' ἁ δύστανός σοι
I-bear and the wretched to-you
κοῦρον, τὸν φρίκᾳ ματρὸς
son whom in-fear of-mother
εἰς εὐνὰν βάλλω τὰν σάν,
into bed I-cast the your
ἵνα με λέχεσι μέλεα μέλεος
where me in-bed wretched wretched
ἐζεύξω τὰν δύστανον.
you-yoked the unhappy
οἴμοι μοι· καὶ νῦν ἔρρει
ah-me me and now is-gone
πτανοῖς ἁρπασθεὶς θοίνα
by-winged seized feast
παῖς μοι καὶ σὸς τλάμων,
son mine and yours wretched
σὺ δὲ κιθάρᾳ κλάζεις
you and with-lyre sound
παιᾶνας μέλπων.
paeans singing
ὠή, τὸν Λατοῦς αὐδῶ,
oho the of-Leto I-call
ὃς ὀμφὰν κληροῖς
who voice you-allot
πρὸς χρυσέους θάκους καὶ
to golden seats and

γαίας μεσσήρεις ἕδρας,
of-earth central seats
εἰς οὖς αὐδὰν καρύξω·
into ear voice I-will-proclaim
ἰὼ κακὸς εὐνάτωρ,
oh evil bedfellow
ὃς τῷ μὲν ἐμῷ νυμφεύτᾳ
who to-the indeed my husband
χάριν οὐ προλαβὼν
favor not having-received-before
παῖδ' εἰς οἴκους οἰκίζεις·
son into house you-settle
ὁ δ' ἐμὸς γενέτας καὶ σὸς ἀμαθὴς
the and my child and yours unlearned
οἰωνοῖς ἔρρει συλαθείς, οἰκεῖα
by-birds is-gone torn-away own
σπάργανα ματέρος ἐξαλλάξας.
swaddling-clothes of-mother having-changed
μισεῖ σ' ἁ Δᾶλος καὶ δάφνας
hates you the Delos and of-laurel
ἔρνεα φοίνικα παρ' ἁβροκόμαν,
shoots palm by soft-haired
ἔνθα λοχεύματα σέμν' ἐλοχεύσατο
where childbirths holy bore
Λατὼ Δίοισί σε καρποῖς.
Leto with-Zeus' you with-fruits
ΧΟΡΟΣ οἴμοι, μέγας θησαυρὸς ὡς ἀνοίγνυται
ah-me great treasure how is-opened
κακῶν, ἐφ' οἷσι πᾶς ἂν ἐκβάλοι δάκρυ.
of-evils at which all — would-shed tear

925 ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ὦ θύγατερ, οἴκτου σὸν βλέπων ἐμπίμπλαμαι
O daughter with-pity your seeing I-am-filled
πρόσωπον, ἔξω δ' ἐγενόμην γνώμης ἐμῆς.
face out-of and I-was wits my
κακῶν γὰρ ἄρτι κῦμ' ὑπεξαντλῶν φρενί,
of-evils for just-now wave baling-out in-mind
πρύμνηθεν αἴρει μ' ἄλλο σῶν λόγων ὕπο,
from-stern lifts me another your words by
οὓς ἐκβαλοῦσα τῶν παρεστώτων κακῶν
which having-cast of-the present evils
930 μετῆλθες ἄλλων πημάτων κακὰς ὁδούς.
you-went-after of-other woes evil ways
τί φής; τίνα λόγον Λοξίου κατηγορεῖς;
what do-you-say what word against-Loxias do-you-accuse
ποῖον τεκεῖν φὴς παῖδα; ποῦ θεῖναι πόλεως
what-sort to-have-borne you-say child where to-have-placed of-city
θηρσὶν φίλον τύμβευμ'; ἄνελθέ μοι πάλιν.
for-beasts dear burial come-back to-me again
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ αἰσχύνομαι μέν σ', ὦ γέρον, λέξω δ' ὅμως.
I-am-ashamed indeed you O old-man I-will-speak but nevertheless
935 ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ὡς συστενάζειν γ' οἶδα γενναίως φίλοις.
since to-lament-with at-least I-know nobly with-friends
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἄκουε τοίνυν· οἶσθα Κεκροπίας πέτρας
hear then you-know of-Cecropian rock
πρόσβορρον ἄντρον, ἃς Μακρὰς κικλήσκομεν;
northward cave which Long-Rocks we-call
ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ οἶδ', ἔνθα Πανὸς ἄδυτα καὶ βωμοὶ πέλας.
I-know where of-Pan shrine and altars near
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἐνταῦθ' ἀγῶνα δεινὸν ἠγωνίσμεθα.
there contest terrible we-contested

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ τίν᾽; ὡς ἀπαντᾷ δάκρυά μοι τοῖς σοῖς λόγοις.
what how meet tears to-me the your words

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ Φοίβῳ ξυνῆψ᾽ ἄκουσα δύστηνον γάμον.
with-Phoebus I-joined unwilling unhappy marriage

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ὦ θύγατερ· ἆρ᾽ ἦν ταῦθ᾽ ἃ γ᾽ ἠσθόμην ἐγώ;
O daughter — was these-things which at-least I-perceived I

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ οὐκ οἶδ᾽· ἀληθῆ δ᾽ εἰ λέγεις, φαίημεν ἄν.
not I-know true but if you-say we-might-say —

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ νόσον κρυφαίαν ἡνίκ᾽ ἔστενες λάθρᾳ;
sickness secret when you-groaned secretly

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τότ᾽ ἦν ἃ νῦν σοι φανερὰ σημαίνω κακά.
then were what now to-you openly I-show evils

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ κᾆτ᾽ ἐξέκλεψας πῶς Ἀπόλλωνος γάμους;
and-then you-bid how of-Apollo marriage

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἔτεκον· ἀνάσχου ταῦτ᾽ ἐμοῦ κλύων, γέρον.
I-bore endure these-things from-me hearing old-man

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ποῦ; τίς λοχεύει σ᾽; ἢ μόνη μοχθεῖς τάδε;
where who delivers you or alone you-labor these-things

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ μόνη κατ᾽ ἄντρον οὗπερ ἐζεύχθην γάμοις.
alone in cave where I-was-yoked in-marriage

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ὁ παῖς δὲ ποῦ ᾽στιν, ἵνα σὺ μηκέτ᾽ ἦῃς ἄπαις;
the child and where is so-that you no-longer be childless

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τέθνηκεν, ὦ γεραιέ, θηρσὶν ἐκτεθείς.
is-dead O old-man to-beasts exposed

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ τέθνηκ᾽; Ἀπόλλων δ᾽ ὁ κακὸς οὐδὲν ἤρκεσεν;
is-dead Apollo and the evil nothing helped

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ οὐκ ἤρκεσ᾽· Ἅιδου δ᾽ ἐν δόμοις παιδεύεται.
not helped of-Hades and in house is-reared

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ τίς γάρ νιν ἐξέθηκεν; οὐ γὰρ δὴ σύ γε.
who for him exposed not for indeed you at-least

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἡμεῖς, ἐν ὄρφνῃ σπαργανώσαντες πέπλοις.
we in darkness having-swaddled with-robes

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ οὐδὲ ξυνῄδει σοί τις ἔκθεσιν τέκνου;
nor knew-with you anyone exposure of-child

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ αἱ ξυμφοραί γε καὶ τὸ λανθάνειν μόνον.
the misfortunes at-least and the secrecy alone

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ καὶ πῶς ἐν ἄντρῳ παῖδα σὸν λιπεῖν ἔτλης;
and how in cave child your to-leave did-you-dare

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ πῶς δ'; οἰκτρὰ πολλὰ στόματος ἐκβαλοῦσ' ἔπη.
how and pitiful many-things from-mouth casting words

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ φεῦ·
alas

τλήμων σὺ τόλμης, ὁ δὲ θεὸς μᾶλλον σέθεν.
wretched you of-daring the but god more than-you

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ εἰ παῖδά γ' εἶδες χεῖρας ἐκτείνοντά μοι.
if child at-least you-saw hands stretching to-me

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ μαστὸν διώκοντ' ἢ πρὸς ἀγκάλαις πεσεῖν;
breast seeking or to arms to-fall

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἐνταῦθ', ἵν' οὐκ ὢν ἄδικ' ἔπασχεν ἐξ ἐμοῦ.
there where not being unjust-things he-suffered from me

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ σοὶ δ' ἐς τί δόξ' εἰσῆλθεν ἐκβαλεῖν τέκνον;
to-you and to what thought came to-cast-out child

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ὡς τὸν θεὸν σώσοντα τόν γ' αὐτοῦ γόνον.
that the god about-to-save the at-least his-own offspring

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ οἴμοι, δόμων σῶν ὄλβος ὡς χειμάζεται.
ah-me of-house your prosperity how is-storm-tossed

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τί κρᾶτα κρύψας, ὦ γέρον, δακρυρροεῖς;
why head having-covered O old-man do-you-weep

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ σὲ καὶ πατέρα σὸν δυστυχοῦντας εἰσορῶ.
you and father your unfortunate I-see

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τὰ θνητὰ τοιαῦτ'· οὐδὲν ἐν ταὐτῷ μένει.
the mortal-things such nothing in the-same remains

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ μὴ νῦν ἔτ' οἴκτων, θύγατερ, ἀντεχώμεθα.
not now still to-laments daughter let-us-cling

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τί γάρ με χρὴ δρᾶν; ἀπορία τὸ δυστυχεῖν.
what for me must to-do helplessness the to-be-unfortunate

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ τὸν πρῶτον ἀδικήσαντά σ' ἀποτίνου θεόν.
the first having-wronged you punish god

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ καὶ πῶς τὰ κρείσσω θνητὸς οὖσ' ὑπερδράμω;
and how the stronger mortal being shall-I-outrun

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ πίμπρη τὰ σεμνὰ Λοξίου χρηστήρια.
burn the holy of-Loxias oracles

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ δέδοικα· καὶ νῦν πημάτων ἄδην ἔχω.
I-fear and now of-woes enough I-have

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ τὰ δυνατά νυν τόλμησον, ἄνδρα σὸν κτανεῖν.
the possible now dare husband your to-kill

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ αἰδούμεθ' εὐνὰς τὰς τόθ' ἡνίκ' ἐσθλὸς ἦν.
I-revere bed the then when good he-was

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ σὺ δ' ἀλλὰ παῖδα τὸν ἐπὶ σοὶ πεφηνότα.
you but at-least child the against you having-appeared

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ πῶς; εἰ γὰρ εἴη δυνατόν· ὡς θέλοιμί γ' ἄν.
how if for it-were possible as I-would-wish at-least —

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ξιφηφόρους σοὺς ὁπλίσασ' ὀπάονας.
sword-bearing your having-armed attendants

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ στείχοιμ' ἄν· ἀλλὰ ποῦ γενήσεται τόδε;
I-would-go — but where will-be this

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ἱεραῖσιν ἐν σκηναῖσιν, οὗ θοινᾷ φίλους.
holy in tents where he-feasts friends

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἐπίσημον ὁ φόνος, καὶ τὸ δοῦλον ἀσθενές.
conspicuous the murder and the slave weak

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ὤμοι, κακίζει. φέρε, σύ νυν βούλευέ τι.
ah-me you-are-cowardly come you now plan something

985 ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ καὶ μὴν ἔχω γε δόλια καὶ δραστήρια.
and indeed I-have at-least crafty-things and effective

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ἀμφοῖν ἂν εἴην τοῖνδ' ὑπηρέτης ἐγώ.
of-both — I-would-be of-these servant I

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἄκουε τοίνυν· οἶσθα γηγενῆ μάχην;
hear then you-know earth-born battle

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ οἶδ', ἣν Φλέγρᾳ Γίγαντες ἔστησαν θεοῖς.
I-know which at-Phlegra Giants set against-gods

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἐνταῦθα Γοργόν' ἔτεκε Γῆ, δεινὸν τέρας.
there Gorgon bore Earth terrible portent

990 ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ἦ παισὶν αὑτῆς σύμμαχον, θεῶν πόνον;
— for-sons her ally of-gods toil

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ναί· καί νιν ἔκτειν' ἡ Διὸς Παλλὰς θεά.
yes and her killed the of-Zeus Pallas goddess

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ἆρ' οὗτός ἐσθ' ὁ μῦθος ὃν κλύω πάλαι;
— this is the story which I-heard long-ago

995 ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ταύτης Ἀθάνα δέρος ἐπὶ στέρνοις ἔχει.
of-her Athena skin on breast has

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ἣν αἰγίδ' ὀνομάζουσι, Παλλάδος στολήν;
which aegis they-name of-Pallas garment

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τόδ' ἔσχεν ὄνομα θεῶν ὅτ' ἦξεν εἰς δόρυ.
this had name of-gods when she-rushed to spear

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ποιόν τι μορφῆς σχῆμ' ἔχουσαν ἀγρίας;
what-sort something of-form shape having savage

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ θώρακ' ἐχίδνης περιβόλοις ὡπλισμένον.
breastplate of-viper with-coils armed

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ τί δῆτα, θύγατερ, τοῦτο σοῖς ἐχθροῖς βλάβος;
what then daughter this to-your to-enemies harm

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ Ἐριχθόνιον οἶσθ' ἢ οὔ; τί δ' οὐ μέλλεις, γέρον;
Erichthonius do-you-know or not why and not are-you-likely old-man

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ὃν πρῶτον ὑμῶν πρόγονον ἐξανῆκε γῆ; 1000
whom first of-you ancestor sent-up earth

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τούτῳ δίδωσι Παλλὰς ὄντι νεογόνῳ —
to-him gives Pallas being new-born

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ τί χρῆμα; μέλλον γάρ τι προσφέρεις ἔπος.
what thing coming for some do-you-bring-forward word

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ δισσοὺς σταλαγμοὺς αἵματος Γοργοῦς ἄπο.
two drops of-blood Gorgon from

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ἰσχὺν ἔχοντας τίνα πρὸς ἀνθρώπου φύσιν;
strength having what toward of-man nature

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τὸν μὲν θανάσιμον, τὸν δ' ἀκεσφόρον νόσων. 1005
the one deadly the other healing of-sicknesses

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ἐν τῷ καθάψασ' ἀμφὶ παιδὶ σώματος;
in what having-fastened about child of-body

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ χρυσοῖσι δεσμοῖς· ὁ δὲ δίδωσ' ἐμῷ πατρί.
with-golden bonds he and gives to-my father

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ κείνου δὲ κατθανόντος εἰς σ' ἀφίκετο;
of-him and having-died to you it-came

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ναί· κἀπὶ καρπῷ γ' αὖτ' ἐγὼ χερὸς φέρω.
yes and-on wrist at-least these I of-hand carry

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ πῶς οὖν κέκρανται δίπτυχον δῶρον θεᾶς; 1010
how then is-compounded twofold gift of-the-goddess

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ κοίλης μὲν ὅστις φλεβὸς ἀπέσταξεν φόνῳ —
of-hollow indeed whatever of-vein dripped in-slaughter

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ τί τῷδε χρῆσθαι; δύνασιν ἐκφέρει τίνα;
what by-this to-use power does-it-carry what

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ νόσους ἀπείργει καὶ τροφὰς ἔχει βίου.
sicknesses it-wards-off and nourishments has of-life

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ὁ δεύτερος δ' ἀριθμὸς ὃν λέγεις τί δρᾷ;
the second and number which you-mean what does-it-do

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ κτείνει, δρακόντων ἰὸς ὢν τῶν Γοργόνος.
it-kills of-serpents venom being of-the Gorgon

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ εἰς ἓν δὲ κραθέντ' αὐτὸν ἢ χωρὶς φορεῖς;
into one and mixed it or apart do-you-carry

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ χωρίς· κακῷ γὰρ ἐσθλὸν οὐ συμμίγνυται.
apart with-evil for good not is-mixed

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ὦ φιλτάτη παῖ, πάντ' ἔχεις ὅσων σε δεῖ.
O dearest child all you-have of-what you there-is-need

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τούτῳ θανεῖται παῖς· σὺ δ' ὁ κτείνων ἔσει.
by-this will-die the-boy you and the killing will-be

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ ποῦ καὶ τί δράσας; σὸν λέγειν, τολμᾶν δ' ἐμόν.
where and what having-done yours to-say to-dare but mine

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἐν ταῖς Ἀθήναις, δῶμ' ὅταν τοὐμὸν μόλῃ.
in the Athens house when to-my he-comes

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ οὐκ εὖ τόδ' εἶπας· καὶ σὺ γὰρ τοὐμὸν ψέγεις.
not well this you-said and you for mine you-blame

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ πῶς; ἆρ' ὑπείδου τοῦθ' ὃ κἄμ' ἐσέρχεται;
how — did-you-suspect this which and-me enters

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ σὺ παῖδα δόξεις διολέσαι, κεἰ μὴ κτενεῖς.
you son will-seem to-have-destroyed even-if not you-will-kill

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ὀρθῶς· φθονεῖν γάρ φασι μητρυιὰς τέκνοις.
rightly to-be-jealous for they-say stepmothers of-children

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ αὐτοῦ νυν αὐτὸν κτεῖν', ἵν' ἀρνήσει φόνους.
here now him kill so-that you-may-deny murders

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ προλάζυμαι γοῦν τῷ χρόνῳ τῆς ἡδονῆς.
I-anticipate at-least in-the time the pleasure

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ καὶ σόν γε λήσεις πόσιν ἃ σε σπεύδει λαθεῖν.
and your at-least you-will-escape husband what you he-hastens to-escape

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ οἶσθ' οὖν ὃ δρᾶσον; χειρὸς ἐξ ἐμῆς λαβὼν
you-know then what do hand from my having-taken
χρύσωμ' Ἀθάνας τόδε, παλαιὸν ὄργανον,
golden-work of-Athena this ancient instrument
ἐλθὼν ἵν' ἡμῖν βουθυτεῖ λάθρα πόσις,
having-gone where for-us sacrifices secretly husband
δείπνων ὅταν λήγωσι καὶ σπονδὰς θεοῖς
of-the-banquet when they-cease and libations to-gods
μέλλωσι λείβειν, ἐν πέπλοις ἔχων τόδε
are-about to-pour in robe having this
κάθες βαλὼν εἰς πῶμα τῷ νεανίᾳ,
let-drop having-cast into drink for-the youth
ἰδίᾳ δέ, μή τι πᾶσι, χωρίσας ποτὸν
privately and not something to-all having-separated drink
τῷ τῶν ἐμῶν μέλλοντι δεσπόζειν δόμων.
for-the of-the my being-about to-be-master of-house
κἄνπερ διέλθῃ λαιμόν, οὔποθ' ἵξεται
and-if-indeed it-passes throat never will-he-come
κλεινὰς Ἀθήνας, κατθανὼν δ' αὐτοῦ μενεῖ.
famous Athens dying and here will-remain
ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΣ σὺ μέν νυν εἴσω προξένων μέθες πόδα·
you indeed now within of-hosts send foot
ἡμεῖς δ' ἐφ' ᾧ τετάγμεθ' ἐκπονήσομεν.
we and at which we-are-assigned will-accomplish
ἄγ', ὦ γεραιὲ πούς, νεανίας γενοῦ
come O old foot youthful become
ἔργοισι, κεἰ μὴ τῷ χρόνῳ πάρεστί σοι.
in-deeds even-if not by-the time it-is-possible for-you
ἐχθρὸν δ' ἐπ' ἄνδρα στεῖχε δεσποτῶν μέτα,
hostile but against man go masters with

καὶ συμφόνευε καὶ συνεξαίρει δόμων.
and help-murder and help-remove from-house
τὴν δ' εὐσέβειαν εὐτυχοῦσι μὲν καλὸν
the but piety for-those-faring-well indeed fine
τιμᾶν· ὅταν δὲ πολεμίους δρᾶσαι κακῶς
to-honor when but enemies to-do badly
θέλῃ τις, οὐδεὶς ἐμποδὼν κεῖται νόμος.
wishes one no in-the-way lies law

VIII · A PRAYER TO ENODIA

The chorus prays to Enodia, daughter of Demeter, to guide the poisoned cup to its mark, so that no foreigner may rule the house of Erechtheus; if the plot fails, their mistress will take her own life by the sword or the noose, since a daughter of a noble house could never live to see foreign rulers in it. It would be shameful for the foreign boy to see the torches of the Eleusinian night rites, where the stars and the moon and the Nereids dance for the goddess and her daughter. The songs of men blame women for unlawful loves, but men are more unjust, and let a new song be sung against them, since Xuthus has forgotten his wife and got a bastard son.

ΧΟΡΟΣ Εἰνοδία θύγατερ Δάματρος, ἃ τῶν
Enodia daughter of-Demeter who the
νυκτιπόλων ἐφόδων ἀνάσσεις
night-roaming onsets rule
καὶ μεθαμερίων ὅδωσον δυσθανάτων
and by-day guide of-death-bringing
κρατήρων πληρώματ', ἐφ' οἷσι πέμπει
of-bowls fillings for which sends
πότνια πότνι' ἐμὰ χθονίας
lady lady my of-nether

Γοργοῦς λαιμοτόμων ἀπὸ σταλαγμῶν
of-Gorgon throat-cut from drops
τῷ τῶν Ἐρεχθείδᾶν
to-the the of-Erechtheids
δόμων ἐφαπτομένῳ·
of-house laying-hold
μηδέ ποτ᾽ ἄλλος ἄλλων ἀπ᾽ οἴκων
nor ever other other from house
πόλεως ἀνάσσοι
of-city may-rule
πλὴν τῶν εὐγενετᾶν Ἐρεχθειδᾶν. 1060
except the well-born Erechtheids
εἰ δ᾽ ἀτελὴς θάνατος σπουδαί τε δεσποί-
if but unaccomplished death efforts and of-mistress
νας, ὅ τε καιρὸς ἄπεισι τόλμας,
— the and moment will-be-gone of-daring
ᾗ τε νῦν φέρετ᾽ ἐλπίς, ἢ θηκτὸν ξίφος ἢ
where and now is-borne hope either whetted sword or
λαιμῶν ἐξάψει βρόχον ἀμφὶ δειρήν,
of-throat she-will-fasten noose about neck
πάθεσι πάθεα δ᾽ ἐξανύτουσ᾽
with-sufferings sufferings and ending
εἰς ἄλλας βιότου κάτεισι μορφάς.
to other of-life will-go-down forms
οὐ γὰρ δόμων γ᾽ ἑτέρους
not for of-house at-least other
ἄρχοντας ἀλλοδαποὺς 1070
rulers foreign
ζῶσά ποτ᾽ ὀμμάτων ἐν φαενναῖς
living ever of-eyes in bright

ἀνέχοιτ᾽ ἂν αὐγαῖς
could-endure — rays
ἃ τῶν εὐπατριδᾶν γεγῶσ᾽ οἴκων.
the of-the noble-fathered born houses
αἰσχύνομαι τὸν πολύυμνον
I-am-ashamed-before the much-hymned
θεόν, εἰ παρὰ καλλιχόροισι παγαῖς
god if by fair-dancing springs
λαμπάδα θεωρὸν εἰκάδων
torch watching of-twentieth-day-rites
ὄψεται ἐννύχιος ἄυπνος ὤν,
will-see by-night sleepless being
ὅτε καὶ Διὸς ἀστερωπὸς
when also of-Zeus starry-faced
ἀνεχόρευσεν αἰθήρ,
began-the-dance sky
χορεύει δὲ σελάνα
dances and moon
καὶ πεντήκοντα κόραι
and fifty maidens
Νηρέος, αἱ κατὰ πόντον
of-Nereus who in sea
ἀενάων τε ποταμῶν
ever-flowing and of-rivers
δίνας χορευόμεναι,
eddies dancing
τὰν χρυσοστέφανον κόραν
the gold-crowned maiden
καὶ ματέρα σεμνάν·
and mother holy

ἵν᾽ ἐλπίζει βασιλεύσειν
where he-hopes to-reign
ἄλλων πόνον εἰσπεσὼν
of-others toil having-fallen-upon
ὁ Φοίβειος ἀλάτας.
the Phoebean wanderer
ὁρᾶθ᾽ ὅσοι δυσκελάδοισιν
see as-many-as with-ill-sounding
κατὰ μοῦσαν ἰόντες ἀείδεθ᾽ ὕμνοις
in song going sing with-hymns
ἁμέτερα λέχεα καὶ γάμους
our beds and marriages
Κύπριδος ἀθεμίτους ἀνοσίους,
of-Cypris lawless unholy
ὅσον εὐσεβίᾳ κρατοῦμεν
how-much in-piety we-surpass
ἄδικον ἄροτον ἀνδρῶν.
unjust harvest of-men
παλίμφαμος ἀοιδὰ
backward-turned song
καὶ μοῦσ᾽ εἰς ἄνδρας ἴτω
and strain to men let-it-go
δυσκέλαδος ἀμφὶ λέκτρων,
ill-sounding about beds
δείκνυσι γὰρ ὁ Διὸς ἐκ
shows for the of-Zeus from
παίδων ἀμνημοσύναν,
children forgetfulness
οὐ κοινὰν τεκέων τύχαν
not common of-children fortune

οἴκοισι φυτεύσας
for-house having-begotten
δεσποίνᾳ· πρὸς δ' Ἀφροδίταν
for-mistress toward and Aphrodite
ἄλλαν θέμενος χάριν
other having-paid favor
1105 νόθου παιδὸς ἔκυρσεν.
of-bastard son he-obtained

IX · THE POISONED CUP AND THE CRADLE

A servant tells how Ion built a great tent hung with sacred tapestries and feasted the Delphians, and how the old man poured the poison into his cup. When a servant spoke an ill-omened word, Ion poured his wine on the ground; a dove that drank it died in convulsions. The old man confessed under force, and the Delphian lords condemned Creusa to be stoned. Creusa flees to the altar, and Ion comes to drag her from it, until the prophetess brings the cradle in which she found him. Creusa knows it, leaps from the altar, and names what it holds: her girlhood weaving with the Gorgon at its center, the golden serpents, and the olive wreath. Mother and son rejoice, and she tells him his father is Apollo; doubting, he would ask the god himself. Athena appears, sent by Apollo: Ion is the god's son and will rule Athens, his four sons will name the Ionian tribes, and Xuthus and Creusa will have Dorus and Achaeus, while Xuthus keeps his belief. Creusa praises the god, and they set out for Athens.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ κλεινήν, γυναῖκες, ποῦ κόρην Ἐρεχθέως
famous women where daughter of-Erechtheus
δέσποιναν εὕρω; πανταχῇ γὰρ ἄστεως
mistress may-I-find everywhere for of-town
ζητῶν νιν ἐξέπλησα κοὐκ ἔχω λαβεῖν.
seeking her I-have-gone-through and-not can to-find

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί δ' ἔστιν, ὦ ξύνδουλε; τίς προθυμία
what and is-it O fellow-slave what eagerness
ποδῶν ἔχει σε, καὶ λόγους τίνας φέρεις;
of-feet holds you and words what do-you-bring
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ θηρώμεθ'· ἀρχαὶ δ' ἀπιχώριοι χθονὸς
we-are-hunted rulers and native of-land
ζητοῦσιν αὐτήν, ὡς θάνῃ πετρουμένη.
seek her that she-may-die stoned
ΧΟΡΟΣ οἴμοι, τί λέξεις; οὔτι που λελήμμεθα
ah-me what will-you-say not surely we-have-been-caught
κρυφαῖον εἰς παῖδ' ἐκπορίζουσαι φόνον;
secret for son contriving murder
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ἔγνως· μεθέξεις δ' οὐκ ἐν ὑστάτοις κακοῦ.
you-know you-will-share and not among last of-evil
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὤφθη δὲ πῶς τὰ κρυπτὰ μηχανήματα;
was-seen and how the secret contrivances
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ τὸ μὴ δίκαιον τῆς δίκης ἡσσώμενον
the not just by-the justice being-defeated
ἐξηῦρεν ὁ θεός, οὐ μιανθῆναι θέλων.
found the god not to-be-defiled wishing
ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς; ἀντιάζω σ' ἱκέτις ἐξειπεῖν τάδε.
how I-entreat you suppliant to-tell these-things
πεπυσμέναι γὰρ εἰ θανεῖν ἡμᾶς χρεών,
having-learned for if to-die us must
ἥδιον ἂν θάνοιμεν, εἴθ' ὁρᾶν φάος.
more-gladly — we-would-die or to-see light
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ ἐπεὶ θεοῦ μαντεῖον ᾤχετ' ἐκλιπὼν
when of-god oracle went having-left
πόσις Κρεούσης, παῖδα τὸν καινὸν λαβὼν
husband of-Creusa son the new having-taken

πρὸς δεῖπνα θυσίας θ' ἃς θεοῖς ὡπλίζετο,
to feast sacrifices and which to-gods he-was-preparing
Ξοῦθος μὲν ᾤχετ' ἔνθα πῦρ πηδᾷ θεοῦ
Xuthus indeed went where fire leaps of-god
βακχεῖον, ὡς σφαγαῖσι Διονύσου πέτρας
Bacchic so-that with-slaughters of-Dionysus rocks
δεύσειε δισσὰς παιδὸς ἀντ' ὀπτηρίων,
he-might-wet twin of-son for birth-gifts
λέξας· σὺ μὲν νῦν, τέκνον, ἀμφήρεις μένων
having-said you indeed now child close-fitted remaining
σκηνὰς ἀνίστη τεκτόνων μοχθήμασιν.
tents set-up of-craftsmen with-toils
θύσας δὲ γενέταις θεοῖσιν ἦν μακρὸν χρόνον
having-sacrificed and to-birth-presiding gods if long time
μένω, παροῦσι δαῖτες ἔστωσαν φίλοις.
I-remain for-present feasts let-be for-friends
λαβὼν δὲ μόσχους ᾤχεθ'· ὁ δὲ νεανίας
having-taken and calves went the and youth
σεμνῶς ἀτοίχους περιβολὰς σκηνωμάτων
holily wall-less enclosures of-tents
ὀρθοστάταις ἱδρύεθ', ἡλίου βολὰς
with-upright-posts set-up of-sun rays
καλῶς φυλάξας, οὔτε πρὸς μέσας φλογὸς
well guarding neither toward middle of-flame
ἀκτῖνας, οὔτ' αὖ πρὸς τελευτώσας βίον,
rays nor again toward ending life
πλέθρου σταθμήσας μῆκος εἰς εὐγωνίαν,
of-plethron measuring length into square
μέτρημ' ἔχουσαν τοὐν μέσῳ γε μυρίων
measure having the-in middle at-least of-ten-thousand

ποδῶν ἀριθμόν, ὡς λέγουσιν οἱ σοφοί,
feet number as say the wise
ὡς πάντα Δελφῶν λαὸν εἰς θοίνην καλῶν.
so-that all of-Delphians people to feast calling
λαβὼν δ' ὑφάσμαθ' ἱερὰ θησαυρῶν πάρα
having-taken and tapestries holy treasuries from
κατεσκίαζε, θαύματ' ἀνθρώποις ὁρᾶν.
shaded marvels to-men to-see
πρῶτον μὲν ὀρόφῳ πτέρυγα περιβάλλει πέπλων,
first indeed for-roof wing throws-around of-robes
ἀνάθημα Δίου παιδός, οὓς Ἡρακλέης
offering of-Zeus' son which Heracles
Ἀμαζόνων σκυλεύματ' ἤνεγκεν θεῷ.
of-Amazons spoils brought to-god
ἐνῆν δ' ὑφανταὶ γράμμασιν τοιαῖδ' ὑφαί·
were-in and woven in-figures such weavings
Οὐρανὸς ἀθροίζων ἄστρ' ἐν αἰθέρος κύκλῳ·
Heaven gathering stars in of-air circle
ἵππους μὲν ἤλαυν' εἰς τελευταίαν φλόγα
horses indeed drove to the-last flame
Ἥλιος, ἐφέλκων λαμπρὸν Ἑσπέρου φάος.
Sun drawing bright of-Hesperus light
μελάμπεπλος δὲ Νὺξ ἀσείρωτον ζυγοῖς
black-robed and Night trace-less with-yoke
ὄχημ' ἔπαλλεν· ἄστρα δ' ὠμάρτει θεᾷ.
car swung stars and accompanied goddess
Πλειὰς μὲν ᾔει μεσοπόρου δι' αἰθέρος,
Pleiad indeed went mid-course through air
ὅ τε ξιφήρης Ὠρίων· ὕπερθε δὲ
the and sword-bearing Orion above and

Ἄρκτος στρέφουσ᾽ οὐραῖα χρυσήρει πόλῳ.
Bear turning tail with-golden pole
κύκλος δὲ πανσέληνος ἠκόντιζ᾽ ἄνω
circle and full-moon darted up
μηνὸς διχήρης, Ὑάδες τε, ναυτίλοις
of-month dividing Hyades and for-sailors
σαφέστατον σημεῖον, ἥ τε φωσφόρος
clearest sign the and light-bringing
Ἕως διώκουσ᾽ ἄστρα. τοίχοισιν δ᾽ ἔπι
Dawn pursuing stars walls and on
ἤμπισχεν ἄλλα βαρβάρων ὑφάσματα,
he-put-around other of-barbarians weavings
εὐηρέτμους ναῦς ἀντίας Ἑλληνίσιν,
well-oared ships opposite to-Greek
καὶ μιξόθηρας φῶτας, ἱππείας τ᾽ ἄγρας,
and half-beast men horse and hunts
ἐλάφων λεόντων τ᾽ ἀγρίων θηράματα.
of-deer of-lions and wild huntings
κατ᾽ εἰσόδους δὲ Κέκροπα θυγατέρων πέλας
by entrance and Cecrops daughters near
σπείραισιν εἱλίσσοντ᾽, Ἀθηναίων τινὸς
in-coils rolling of-Athenians of-someone
ἀνάθημα· χρυσέους τ᾽ ἐν μέσῳ συσσιτίῳ
offering golden and in middle common-hall
κρατῆρας ἔστησ᾽· ἐν δ᾽ ἄκροισι βὰς ποσὶ
bowls he-set on and tips stepping with-feet
κῆρυξ ἀνεῖπε τὸν θέλοντ᾽ ἐγχωρίων
herald proclaimed the wishing of-natives
ἐς δαῖτα χωρεῖν. ὡς δ᾽ ἐπληρώθη στέγη,
to feast to-come when and was-filled tent

στεφάνοισι κοσμηθέντες εὐόχθου βορᾶς
with-garlands adorned of-plentiful food
ψυχὴν ἐπλήρουν. ὡς δ' ἀνεῖσαν ἡδονήν,
heart they-filled when and they-had-let-go pleasure
σκηνῆς παρελθὼν πρέσβυς εἰς μέσον πέδον
of-tent having-come-forward old-man into middle floor
ἔστη, γέλων δ' ἔθηκε συνδείπνοις πολύν,
stood laughter and made for-fellow-diners much
πρόθυμα πράσσων· ἔκ τε γὰρ κρωσσῶν ὕδωρ
eager-things doing from and for pitchers water
χεροῖν ἔπεμπε νίπτρα, κἀξεθυμία
for-hands he-sent washing and-burned
σμύρνης ἱδρῶτα, χρυσέων τ' ἐκπωμάτων
of-myrrh sweat golden and of-cups
ἦρχ', αὐτὸς αὑτῷ τόνδε προστάξας πόνον.
was-in-charge himself to-himself this having-assigned toil
ἐπεὶ δ' ἐς αὐλοὺς ἦκον ἐς κρατῆρά τε
when and to flutes they-came to bowl and
κοινόν, γέρων ἔλεξ'· ἀφαρπάζειν χρεὼν
common old-man said to-snatch-away must
οἰνηρὰ τεύχη σμικρά, μεγάλα δ' εἰσφέρειν,
wine vessels small great but to-bring-in
ὡς θᾶσσον ἔλθωσ' οἵδ' ἐς ἡδονὰς φρενῶν.
so-that sooner they-may-come these to pleasures of-mind
ἦν δὴ φερόντων μόχθος ἀργυρηλάτους
was indeed of-carrying labor silver-wrought
χρυσέας τε φιάλας· ὁ δὲ λαβὼν ἐξαίρετον,
golden and bowls he and having-taken choice
ὡς τῷ νέῳ δὴ δεσπότῃ χάριν φέρων,
as to-the new indeed master favor bringing

ἔδωκε πλῆρες τεῦχος, εἰς οἶνον βαλὼν
gave full vessel into wine having-cast
ὅ φασι δοῦναι φάρμακον δραστήριον
which they-say to-have-given drug potent
δέσποιναν, ὡς παῖς ὁ νέος ἐκλίποι φάος·
mistress so-that son the new might-leave light
κοὐδεὶς τάδ' ἤδειν· ἐν χεροῖν ἔχοντι δὲ
and-no-one this knew in hands holding and
σπονδὰς μετ' ἄλλων παιδὶ τῷ πεφηνότι
libations with others to-son the revealed
βλασφημίαν τις οἰκετῶν ἐφθέγξατο·
ill-omened-word some of-servants uttered
ὁ δ', ὡς ἐν ἱερῷ μάντεσίν τ' ἐσθλοῖς τραφείς,
he and as in temple seers and good reared
οἰωνὸν ἔθετο, κἀκέλευσ' ἄλλον νέον
omen made and-ordered another new
κρατῆρα πληροῦν· τὰς δὲ πρὶν σπονδὰς θεοῦ
bowl to-fill the and former libations of-god
δίδωσι γαίᾳ, πᾶσί τ' ἐκσπένδειν λέγει.
gives to-earth to-all and to-pour-out tells
σιγὴ δ' ὑπῆλθεν. ἐκ δ' ἐπίμπλαμεν δρόσου
silence and came-over up and we-filled of-dew
κρατῆρας ἱεροὺς Βυβλίνου τε πώματος.
bowls holy of-Byblian and of-drink
κἀν τῷδε μόχθῳ πτηνὸς εἰσπίπτει δόμους
and-in this toil winged falls-into house
κῶμος πελειῶν· Λοξίου γὰρ ἐν δόμοις
revel of-doves of-Loxias for in house
ἄτρεστα ναίουσ'· ὡς δ' ἀπέσπεισαν μέθυ,
fearless dwelling when and they-poured-out wine

εἰς αὐτὸ χείλη πώματος κεχρημέναι
into it beaks of-drink needing
καθεῖσαν, εἷλκον δ' εὐπτέρους ἐς αὐχένας.
let-down drew and well-feathered into throats
καὶ ταῖς μὲν ἄλλαις ἄνοσος ἦν λοιβὴ θεοῦ·
and to-the indeed others harmless was libation of-god
ἥ δ' ἕζετ' ἔνθ' ὁ καινὸς ἔσπεισεν γόνος,
she but sat where the new poured-libation son
ποτοῦ τ' ἐγεύσατ', εὐθὺς εὔπτερον δέμας
of-drink and tasted at-once well-feathered body
ἔσεισε κἀβάκχευσεν, ἐκ δ' ἔκλαγξ' ὄπα
shook and-went-mad out and shrieked voice
ἀξύνετον αἰάζουσ'· ἐθάμβησεν δὲ πᾶς
unintelligible wailing marveled and all
θοινατόρων ὅμιλος ὄρνιθος πόνους·
of-feasters throng of-bird toils
θνήσκει δ' ἀπασπαίρουσα, φοινικοσκελεῖς
dies and gasping red-legged
χηλὰς παρεῖσα. γυμνὰ δ' ἐκ πέπλων μέλη
claws letting-go naked and from robes limbs
ὑπὲρ τραπέζης ἦχ' ὁ μαντευτὸς γόνος,
over table flung the oracle-given son
βοᾷ δέ· τίς μ' ἔμελλεν ἀνθρώπων κτανεῖν;
cries and who me was-about of-men to-kill
σήμαινε, πρέσβυ· σὴ γὰρ ἡ προθυμία,
show old-man yours for the eagerness
καὶ πῶμα χειρὸς σῆς ἐδεξάμην πάρα.
and drink of-hand your I-received from
εὐθὺς δ' ἐρευνᾷ γραῖαν ὠλένην λαβών,
at-once and searches old arm having-seized

ἐπ᾽ αὐτοφώρῳ πρέσβυν ὡς ἔχονθ᾽ ἕλοι.
in very-act old-man that having he-might-catch
ὤφθη δὲ καὶ κατεῖπ᾽ ἀναγκασθεὶς μόγις
was-seen and and confessed compelled hardly
τόλμας Κρεούσης πώματός τε μηχανάς.
daring-deeds of-Creusa of-drink and contrivances
θεῖ δ᾽ εὐθὺς ἔξω συλλαβὼν θοινάτορας
runs and at-once out having-gathered feasters
ὁ πυθόχρηστος Λοξίου νεανίας,
the Pytho-oracled of-Loxias youth
κἀν κοιράνοισι Πυθικοῖς σταθεὶς λέγει·
and-among lords Pythian having-stood says
ὦ γαῖα σεμνή, τῆς Ἐρεχθέως ὕπο
O land holy the of-Erechtheus by
ξένης γυναικὸς φαρμάκοισι θνήσκομεν.
foreign woman by-drugs we-die
Δελφῶν δ᾽ ἄνακτες ὥρισαν πετρορριφῆ
of-Delphians and lords decreed by-rock-throwing
θανεῖν ἐμὴν δέσποιναν οὐ ψήφῳ μιᾷ,
to-die my mistress not with-vote one
τὸν ἱερὸν ὡς κτείνουσαν ἔν τ᾽ ἀνακτόροις
the holy as killing in and shrine
φόνον τιθεῖσαν. πᾶσα δὲ ζητεῖ πόλις
murder causing all and seeks city
τὴν ἀθλίως σπεύσασαν ἀθλίαν ὁδόν·
the wretchedly having-hastened wretched way
παίδων γὰρ ἐλθοῦσ᾽ εἰς ἔρον Φοῖβον πάρα,
of-children for having-come into desire Phoebus to
τὸ σῶμα κοινῇ τοῖς τέκνοις ἀπώλεσεν.
the body in-common with-the children destroyed

χορος οὐκ ἔστ᾽ οὐκ ἔστιν θανάτου
not is not is of-death
παρατροπὰ μελέᾳ μοι·
turning-aside for-wretched for-me
φανερὰ γὰρ φανερὰ τάδ᾽ ἤδη
manifest for manifest these-things already
σπονδᾶς ἐκ Διονύσου
of-libation from of-Dionysus
βοτρύων θοᾶς ἐχίδνας
grapes of-swift viper
σταγόσι μιγνυμένας φόνῳ,
with-drops being-mixed for-murder
φανερὰ θύματα νερτέρων,
manifest sacrifices of-the-dead
συμφοραὶ μὲν ἐμῷ βίῳ,
misfortunes indeed for-my life
λεύσιμοι δὲ καταφθοραὶ δεσποίνᾳ.
stoning and destructions for-mistress
τίνα φυγὰν πτερόεσσαν ἢ
what flight winged or
χθονὸς ὑπὸ σκοτίων μυχῶν
of-earth under dark recesses
πορευθῶ, θανάτου λεύσιμον ἄταν
shall-I-go of-death stoning ruin
ἀποφεύγουσα, τεθρίππων
fleeing of-four-horse
ὠκίσταν χαλὰν ἐπιβᾶσ᾽,
swiftest hoof having-mounted
ἢ πρύμνας ἐπὶ ναῶν;
or sterns on of-ships

οὐκ ἔστι λαθεῖν, ὅτε μὴ χρήζων
not it-is to-escape-notice when not wishing
θεὸς ἐκκλέπτει.
god steals-away
τί ποτ', ὦ μελέα δέσποινα, μένει
what ever O wretched mistress awaits
ψυχῇ σε παθεῖν; ἆρα θέλουσαι
in-soul you to-suffer — wishing
δρᾶσαί τι κακὸν τοὺς πέλας αὐταὶ
to-do something evil the neighbors ourselves
πεισόμεθ', ὥσπερ τὸ δίκαιον;
we-shall-suffer as-is the just
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ πρόσπολοι, διωκόμεσθα θανασίμους ἐπὶ σφαγάς,
attendants I-am-pursued deadly to slaughters
Πυθίᾳ ψήφῳ κρατηθεῖσ', ἔκδοτος δὲ γίγνομαι.
by-Pythian vote overcome surrendered and I-become
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἴσμεν, ὦ τάλαινα, τὰς σὰς συμφοράς, ἵν' εἶ τύχης.
we-know O wretched the your misfortunes where you-are of-fortune
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ποῖ φύγω δῆτ'; ἐκ γὰρ οἴκων προύλαβον μόγις πόδα,
where shall-I-flee then from for house I-got-ahead hardly foot
μὴ θανεῖν· κλοπῇ δ' ἀφῖγμαι διαφυγοῦσα πολεμίους.
not to-die by-stealth and I-have-come having-escaped enemies
ΧΟΡΟΣ ποῖ δ' ἂν ἄλλοσ' ἢ 'πὶ βωμόν;
where and — elsewhere than to altar
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ καὶ τί μοι πλέον τόδε;
and what to-me more this
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἱκέτιν οὐ θέμις φονεύειν.
suppliant not lawful to-murder
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τῷ νόμῳ δέ γ' ὄλλυμαι.
by-the law but at-least I-perish

ΧΟΡΟΣ χειρία γ᾽ ἁλοῦσα.
in-hand at-least caught

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ καὶ μὴν οἵδ᾽ ἀγωνισταὶ πικροὶ
and indeed these contestants bitter

δεῦρ᾽ ἐπείγονται ξιφήρεις. ΧΟΡΟΣ ἵζε νυν πυρᾶς ἔπι.
here hasten sword-bearing sit now altar on

ἢν θάνῃς γὰρ ἐνθάδ᾽ οὖσα, τοῖς ἀποκτείνασί σε
if you-die for here being to-the having-killed you

προστρόπαιον αἷμα θήσεις· οἰστέον δὲ τὴν τύχην. 1260
suppliant's blood you-will-put must-be-borne and the fortune

ΙΩΝ ὦ ταυρόμορφον ὄμμα Κηφισοῦ πατρός,
O bull-formed face of-Cephisus father

οἵαν ἔχιδναν τήνδ᾽ ἔφυσας ἢ πυρὸς
what viper this you-begot or of-fire

δράκοντ᾽ ἀναβλέποντα φοινίαν φλόγα,
serpent looking-up bloody flame

ᾗ τόλμα πᾶσ᾽ ἔνεστιν, οὐδ᾽ ἥσσων ἔφυ
in-whom daring all is-in nor less is

Γοργοῦς σταλαγμῶν, οἷς ἔμελλέ με κτανεῖν. 1265
of-Gorgon than-drops with-which she-was-about me to-kill

λάζυσθ᾽, ἵν᾽ αὐτῆς τοὺς ἀκηράτους πλόκους
seize so-that her the undefiled locks

κόμης καταξήνωσι Παρνασοῦ πλάκες,
of-hair may-card of-Parnassus slopes

ὅθεν πετραῖον ἅλμα δισκηθήσεται.
whence rocky leap she-will-be-hurled

ἐσθλοῦ δ᾽ ἔκυρσα δαίμονος, πρὶν ἐς πόλιν
good and I-met fate before into city

μολεῖν Ἀθηνῶν χὑπὸ μητρυιὰν πεσεῖν. 1270
to-go of-Athens and-under stepmother to-fall

ἐν συμμάχοις γὰρ ἀνεμετρησάμην φρένας
in allies for I-measured mind
τὰς σάς, ὅσον μοι πῆμα δυσμενής τ' ἔφυς·
the your how-great to-me woe hostile and you-are
εἴσω γὰρ ἄν με περιβαλοῦσα δικτύων
within for — me having-cast-around nets
ἄρδην ἂν ἐξέπεμψας εἰς Ἅιδου δόμους.
utterly — you-would-have-sent into of-Hades house
ἀλλ' οὔτε βωμὸς οὔτ' Ἀπόλλωνος δόμος
but neither altar nor of-Apollo house
σώσει σ'· ὁ δ' οἶκτος ὁ σὸς ἐμοὶ κρείσσων πάρα
will-save you the and pity the your for-me better is-present
καὶ μητρὶ τἠμῇ· καὶ γὰρ εἰ τὸ σῶμά μοι
and for-mother my and for even-if the body to-me
ἄπεστιν αὐτῆς, τοὔνομ' οὐκ ἄπεστί πω.
is-absent hers the-name not is-absent yet
ἴδεσθε τὴν πανοῦργον, ἐκ τέχνης τέχνην
see the villainous from art art
οἵαν ἔπλεξε· βωμὸν ἔπτηξεν θεοῦ,
what-sort she-wove altar she-crouched-at of-god
ὡς οὐ δίκην δώσουσα τῶν εἰργασμένων.
as not penalty to-give of-the deeds
ΚΡΕΟΤΣΑ ἀπεννέπω σε μὴ κατακτείνειν ἐμὲ
I-forbid you not to-kill me
ὑπέρ τ' ἐμαυτῆς τοῦ θεοῦ θ' ἵν' ἔσταμεν.
for and myself the god and where we-stand
ΙΩΝ τί δ' ἐστὶ Φοίβῳ σοί τε κοινὸν ἐν μέσῳ;
what and is to-Phoebus to-you and common in middle
ΚΡΕΟΤΣΑ ἱερὸν τὸ σῶμα τῷ θεῷ δίδωμ' ἔχειν.
holy the body to-the god I-give to-have

ΙΩΝ κᾆτ᾽ ἔκτανες σὺ φαρμάκοις τὸν τοῦ θεοῦ;
and-then you-killed you with-drugs the of-the god

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἀλλ᾽ οὐκέτ᾽ ἦσθα Λοξίου, πατρὸς δὲ σοῦ.
but no-longer you-were of-Loxias of-father but your

ΙΩΝ ἀλλ᾽ ἐγενόμεσθα, πατρὸς ἀπουσίαν λέγω.
but we-became of-father absence I-mean

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ οὔκουν τότ᾽ ἦσθα; νῦν δ᾽ ἐγώ, σὺ δ᾽ οὐκέτ᾽ εἶ.
not-then then you-were now and I you but no-longer are

ΙΩΝ οὐκ εὐσεβής γε· τἀμὰ δ᾽ εὐσεβῆ τότ᾽ ἦν. 1290
not pious at-least my-things but pious then was

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἔκτεινά σ᾽ ὄντα πολέμιον δόμοις ἐμοῖς.
I-killed you being hostile to-house my

ΙΩΝ οὔτοι σὺν ὅπλοις ἦλθον εἰς τὴν σὴν χθόνα.
surely-not with arms I-came to the your land

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ μάλιστα· καὐπίμπρας γ᾽ Ἐρεχθέως δόμους.
very-much and-you-were-burning at-least of-Erechtheus house

ΙΩΝ ποίοισι πανοῖς ἢ πυρὸς ποίᾳ φλογί;
with-what torches or of-fire with-what flame

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἔμελλες οἰκεῖν τἄμ᾽, ἐμοῦ βίᾳ λαβών. 1295
you-intended to-dwell-in my-things from-me by-force having-taken

ΙΩΝ πατρός γε γῆν διδόντος ἣν ἐκτήσατο.
of-father at-least land giving which he-acquired

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τοῖς Αἰόλου δὲ πῶς μετῆν τῆς Παλλάδος;
to-the of-Aeolus and how was-share of-the Pallas

ΙΩΝ ὅπλοισιν αὐτήν, οὐ λόγοις ἐρρύσατο.
with-arms it not with-words he-rescued

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἐπίκουρος οἰκήτωρ γ᾽ ἂν οὐκ εἴη χθονός.
ally dweller at-least — not would-be of-land

ΙΩΝ κἄπειτα τοῦ μέλλειν μ᾽ ἀπέκτεινες φόβῳ; 1300
and-then of-the being-about me you-killed from-fear

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ὡς μὴ θάνοιμί γ', εἰ σὺ μὴ μέλλων τύχοις.
so-that not I-might-die at-least if you not about-to should-happen

ΙΩΝ φθονεῖς ἄπαις οὖσ', εἰ πατὴρ ἐξηῦρέ με.
you-envy childless being if father found me

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ σὺ τῶν ἀτέκνων δῆτ' ἀναρπάσεις δόμους;
you of-the childless then will-you-snatch house

ΙΩΝ ἡμῖν δέ γ' ἀλλὰ πατρικῆς οὐκ ἦν μέρος;
to-us and at-least but of-paternal not was share

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ὅσ' ἀσπὶς ἔγχος θ'· ἥδε σοὶ παμπησία.
as-much-as shield spear and this to-you entire-property

ΙΩΝ ἔκλειπε βωμὸν καὶ θεηλάτους ἕδρας.
leave altar and god-driven seats

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τὴν σὴν ὅπου σοι μητέρ' ἐστὶ νουθέτει.
the your where to-you mother is warn

ΙΩΝ σὺ δ' οὐχ ὑφέξεις ζημίαν, κτείνουσ' ἐμέ;
you but not will-undergo penalty killing me

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἤν γ' ἐντὸς ἀδύτων τῶνδέ με σφάξαι θέλῃς.
if at-least within shrine of-this me to-slay you-wish

ΙΩΝ τίς ἡδονή σοι θεοῦ θανεῖν ἐν στέμμασι;
what pleasure to-you of-god to-die in wreaths

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ λυπήσομέν τιν', ὧν λελυπήμεσθ' ὕπο.
we-shall-grieve someone whom we-are-grieved by

ΙΩΝ φεῦ.
alas

δεινόν γε, θνητοῖς τοὺς νόμους ὡς οὐ καλῶς
terrible at-least for-mortals the laws how not well

ἔθηκεν ὁ θεὸς οὐδ' ἀπὸ γνώμης σοφῆς·
made the god nor from judgment wise

τοὺς μὲν γὰρ ἀδίκους βωμὸν οὐχ ἵζειν ἐχρῆν,
the indeed for unjust altar not to-sit it-was-right

ἀλλ᾽ ἐξελαύνειν· οὐδὲ γὰρ ψαύειν καλὸν
but to-drive-off nor for to-touch fine
θεῶν πονηρὰν χεῖρα· τοῖσι δ᾽ ἐνδίκοις
of-gods wicked hand for-the and just
ἱερὰ καθίζειν, ὅστις ἠδικεῖτ᾽, ἐχρῆν,
holy-things to-sit whoever was-wronged it-was-right
καὶ μὴ ᾽πὶ ταὐτὸ τοῦτ᾽ ἰόντ᾽ ἔχειν ἴσον
and not to the-same this going to-have equal
τόν τ᾽ ἐσθλὸν ὄντα τόν τε μὴ θεῶν πάρα.
the both good being the and not gods from
ΠΡΟΦΗΤΙΣ ἐπίσχες, ὦ παῖ· τρίποδα γὰρ χρηστήριον
stop O son tripod for oracular
λιποῦσα θριγκοῦ τοῦδ᾽ ὑπερβάλλω πόδα
having-left of-coping this I-pass foot
Φοίβου προφῆτις, τρίποδος ἀρχαῖον νόμον
of-Phoebus prophetess of-tripod ancient custom
σῴζουσα, πασῶν Δελφίδων ἐξαίρετος.
keeping of-all Delphian-women chosen
ΙΩΝ χαῖρ᾽, ὦ φίλη μοι μῆτερ, οὐ τεκοῦσά περ.
hail O dear to-me mother not having-borne though
ΠΡΟΦΗΤΙΣ ἀλλ᾽ οὖν ἐλεγόμεσθ᾽· ἡ φάτις δ᾽ οὔ μοι πικρά.
but then we-were-called the report and not to-me bitter
ΙΩΝ ἤκουσας ὡς μ᾽ ἔκτεινεν ἥδε μηχαναῖς;
did-you-hear how me killed she with-plots
ΠΡΟΦΗΤΙΣ ἤκουσα· καὶ σύ γ᾽ ὠμὸς ὢν ἁμαρτάνεις.
I-heard and you at-least savage being do-wrong
ΙΩΝ οὐ χρή με τοὺς κτείνοντας ἀνταπολλύναι;
not must me the killing to-destroy-in-return
ΠΡΟΦΗΤΙΣ προγονοῖς δάμαρτες δυσμενεῖς ἀεί ποτε.
to-stepchildren wives hostile always ever

ΙΩΝ ἡμεῖς δὲ μητρυιαῖς γε πάσχοντες κακῶς.
we and by-stepmothers at-least suffering badly

ΠΡΟΦΗΤΙΣ μὴ ταῦτα· λείπων ἱερὰ καὶ στείχων πάτραν —
not these-things leaving holy and going to-fatherland

ΙΩΝ τί δή με δρᾶσαι νουθετούμενον χρεών;
what indeed me to-do being-advised must

ΠΡΟΦΗΤΙΣ καθαρὸς Ἀθήνας ἔλθ' ὑπ' οἰωνῶν καλῶν.
pure to-Athens go under omens fair

ΙΩΝ καθαρὸς ἅπας τοι πολεμίους ὃς ἂν κτάνῃ.
pure all surely enemies who — kills

ΠΡΟΦΗΤΙΣ μὴ σύ γε· παρ' ἡμῶν δ' ἔκλαβ' οὓς ἔχω λόγους.
not you at-least from us and take what I-have words

ΙΩΝ λέγοις ἄν· εὔνους δ' οὖσ' ἐρεῖς ὅσ' ἂν λέγῃς.
you-may-speak — kindly and being you-will-say whatever — you-say

ΠΡΟΦΗΤΙΣ ὁρᾷς τόδ' ἄγγος χερὸς ὑπ' ἀγκάλαις ἐμαῖς;
you-see this vessel of-hand under arms my

ΙΩΝ ὁρῶ παλαιὰν ἀντίπηγ' ἐν στέμμασιν.
I-see old cradle in wreaths

ΠΡΟΦΗΤΙΣ ἐν τῇδέ σ' ἔλαβον νεόγονον βρέφος ποτέ.
in this you I-took new-born babe once

ΙΩΝ τί φῄς; ὁ μῦθος εἰσενήνεκται νέος.
what do-you-say the story is-brought-in new

ΠΡΟΦΗΤΙΣ σιγῇ γὰρ εἶχον αὐτά· νῦν δὲ δείκνυμεν.
in-silence for I-held these-things now but we-show

ΙΩΝ πῶς οὖν ἔκρυπτες τόδε λαβοῦσ' ἡμᾶς πάλαι;
how then did-you-hide this having-taken us long-ago

ΠΡΟΦΗΤΙΣ ὁ θεός σ' ἐβούλετ' ἐν δόμοις ἔχειν λάτριν.
the god you wished in house to-have servant

ΙΩΝ νῦν δ' οὐχὶ χρῄζει; τῷ τόδε γνῶναί με χρή;
now but not he-wishes by-what this to-know me must

ΠΡΟΦΗΤΙΣ πατέρα κατειπὼν τῆσδέ σ' ἐκπέμπει χθονός.
father having-declared this you he-sends from-land

ΙΩΝ σὺ δ' ἐκ κελευσμῶν ἢ πόθεν σῴζεις τάδε;
you and from commands or whence do-you-keep these-things

ΠΡΟΦΗΤΙΣ ἐνθύμιόν μοι τότε τίθησι Λοξίας —
thought to-me then puts Loxias

ΙΩΝ τί χρῆμα δρᾶσαι; λέγε, πέραινε σοὺς λόγους.
what thing to-do say finish your words

ΠΡΟΦΗΤΙΣ σῶσαι τόδ' εὕρημ' εἰς τὸν ὄντα νῦν χρόνον.
to-keep this find to the present now time

ΙΩΝ ἔχει δέ μοι τί κέρδος ἢ τίνα βλάβην;
has and for-me what gain or what harm

ΠΡΟΦΗΤΙΣ ἐνθάδε κέκρυπται σπάργαν' οἷς ἐνῆσθα σύ.
here are-hidden swaddling-clothes in-which were-in you

ΙΩΝ μητρὸς τάδ' ἡμῖν ἐκφέρεις ζητήματα;
of-mother these to-us you-bring-out searches

ΠΡΟΦΗΤΙΣ ἐπεί γ' ὁ δαίμων βούλεται· πάροιθε δ' οὔ.
since at-least the god wishes before but not

ΙΩΝ ὦ μακαρίων μοι φασμάτων ἥδ' ἡμέρα.
O of-blessed to-me of-sights this day

ΠΡΟΦΗΤΙΣ λαβὼν νυν αὐτὰ τὴν τεκοῦσαν ἐκπόνει.
having-taken now them the having-borne seek-out

ΙΩΝ πᾶσαν δ' ἐπελθὼν Ἀσιάδ' Εὐρώπης θ' ὅρους;
all and having-gone-through Asia of-Europe and boundaries

ΠΡΟΦΗΤΙΣ γνώσει τάδ' αὐτός. τοῦ θεοῦ δ' ἕκατί σε
you-will-know these-things yourself of-the god and for-the-sake you

ἔθρεψά τ', ὦ παῖ, καὶ τάδ' ἀποδίδωμί σοι,
I-reared and O son and these I-give-back to-you

ἃ κεῖνος ἀκέλευστόν μ' ἐβουλήθη λαβεῖν
which he unbidden me wished to-take

σῶσαί θ'· ὅτου δέ γ' εἵνεκ', οὐκ ἔχω λέγειν.
to-keep and of-what and at-least for-the-sake not I-can to-say
ᾔδει δὲ θνητῶν οὔτις ἀνθρώπων τάδε
knew and of-mortals no-one of-men these-things
ἔχοντας ἡμᾶς, οὐδ' ἵν' ἦν κεκρυμμένα.
having us nor where they-were hidden
καὶ χαῖρ'· ἴσον γάρ σ' ὡς τεκοῦσ' ἀσπάζομαι.
and farewell equally for you as having-borne I-embrace
ἄρξαι δ' ὅθεν σὴν μητέρα ζητεῖν σε χρή·
begin and whence your mother to-seek you must
πρῶτον μὲν εἴ τις Δελφίδων τεκοῦσά σε
first indeed if any of-Delphian-women having-borne you
εἰς τούσδε ναοὺς ἐξέθηκε παρθένος,
to these temple exposed maiden
ἔπειτα δ' εἴ τις Ἑλλάς· ἐξ ἡμῶν δ' ἔχεις
then and if any Greek from us and you-have
ἅπαντα Φοίβου θ', ὃς μετέσχε τῆς τύχης.
all of-Phoebus and who shared in-the fortune
ΙΩΝ φεῦ φεῦ· κατ' ὄσσων ὡς ὑγρὸν βάλλω δάκρυ,
alas alas down eyes how wet I-shed tear
ἐκεῖσε τὸν νοῦν δούς, ὅθ' ἡ τεκοῦσά με
there the mind having-given when the having-borne me
κρυφαῖα νυμφευθεῖσ' ἀπημπόλα λάθρα
secretly having-been-wed sold-away secretly
καὶ μαστὸν οὐκ ὑπέσχεν· ἀλλ' ἀνώνυμος
and breast not offered but nameless
ἐν θεοῦ μελάθροις εἶχον οἰκέτην βίον.
in of-god halls I-had servant life
τὰ τοῦ θεοῦ μὲν χρηστά, τοῦ δὲ δαίμονος
the of-the god indeed good of-the but fate

βαρέα· χρόνον γὰρ ὅν μ' ἐχρῆν ἐν ἀγκάλαις
grievous time for which me ought in arms

μητρὸς τρυφῆσαι καί τι τερφθῆναι βίου,
of-mother to-be-pampered and some to-be-delighted of-life

ἀπεστερήθην φιλτάτης μητρὸς τροφῆς.
I-was-deprived of-dearest mother of-nurture

τλήμων δὲ χὴ τεκοῦσά μ', ὡς ταὐτὸν πάθος
wretched and also-the having-borne me how the-same suffering

πέπονθε, παιδὸς ἀπολέσασα χαρμονάς.
has-suffered of-son having-lost joys

καὶ νῦν λαβὼν τήνδ' ἀντίπηγ' οἴσω θεῷ
and now having-taken this cradle I-will-carry to-god

ἀνάθημ', ἵν' εὕρω μηδὲν ὧν οὐ βούλομαι.
offering so-that I-may-find nothing of-what not I-wish

εἰ γάρ με δούλη τυγχάνει τεκοῦσά τις,
if for me slave happens having-borne some

εὑρεῖν κάκιον μητέρ' ἢ σιγῶντ' ἐᾶν.
to-find worse mother than silent to-let-be

ὦ Φοῖβε, ναοῖς ἀνατίθημι τήνδε σοῖς.
O Phoebus to-temple I-dedicate this your

καίτοι τί πάσχω; τοῦ θεοῦ προθυμίᾳ
and-yet what do-I-suffer of-the god by-eagerness

πολεμῶ, τὰ μητρὸς σύμβολ' ὅς σέσωκέ μοι.
I-fight the of-mother tokens which has-kept for-me

ἀνοικτέον τάδ' ἐστὶ καὶ τολμητέον.
to-be-opened these-things is and to-be-dared

τὰ γὰρ πεπρωμέν' οὐχ ὑπερβαίην ποτ' ἄν.
the for fated not I-would-overstep ever —

ὦ στέμματ' ἱερά, τί ποτέ μοι κεκεύθατε,
O wreaths holy why ever for-me have-you-hidden

καὶ σύνδεθ', οἷσι τἄμ' ἐφρουρήθη φίλα;
and bands by-which my were-guarded dear-things

ἰδοὺ περίπτυγμ' ἀντίπηγος εὐκύκλου
see covering of-cradle well-rounded

ὡς οὐ γεγήρακ' ἔκ τινος θεηλάτου,
how not has-grown-old from some divine

εὐρώς τ' ἄπεστι πλεγμάτων· ὁ δ' ἐν μέσῳ
mildew and is-absent of-weavings the and in middle

χρόνος πολὺς δὴ τοῖσδε θησαυρίσμασιν.
time much indeed for-these treasures

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τί δῆτα φάσμα τῶν ἀνελπίστων ὁρῶ;
what then sight of-the unhoped-for do-I-see

ΙΩΝ σίγα σύ· πολλὰ καὶ πάροιθεν οἶσθα μοι.
be-silent you many-things and before you-know to-me

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ οὐκ ἐν σιωπῇ τἀμά· μή με νουθέτει.
not in silence my-things not me admonish

ὁρῶ γὰρ ἄγγος οὑξέθηκ' ἐγώ ποτε
I-see for vessel where-I-exposed I once

σέ γ', ὦ τέκνον μοι, βρέφος ἔτ' ὄντα νήπιον,
you at-least O child my babe still being infant

Κέκροπος ἐς ἄντρα καὶ Μακρὰς πετρηρεφεῖς.
of-Cecrops to caves and Long-Rocks rock-roofed

λείψω δὲ βωμὸν τόνδε, κεἰ θανεῖν με χρή.
I-will-leave and altar this even-if to-die me must

ΙΩΝ λάζυσθε τήνδε· θεομανὴς γὰρ ἥλατο
seize her god-maddened for she-leapt

βωμοῦ λιποῦσα ξόανα· δεῖτε δ' ὠλένας.
of-altar having-left images bind and arms

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ σφάζοντες οὐ λήγοιτ᾽ ἄν· ὡς ἀνθέξομαι
slaying not you-may-stop — since I-will-cling
καὶ τῆσδε καὶ σοῦ τῶν τε σῶν κεκρυμμένων. 1405
both to-this and to-you and to-the your hidden
ΙΩΝ τάδ᾽ οὐχὶ δεινά; ῥυσιάζομαι λόγῳ.
these not terrible I-am-claimed-as-prize by-word
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ οὔκ, ἀλλὰ σοῖς φίλοισιν εὑρίσκει φίλος.
no but to-your friends you-are-found friend
ΙΩΝ ἐγὼ φίλος σός; κᾆτά μ᾽ ἔκτεινες λάθρᾳ;
I friend yours and-then me you-killed secretly
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ παῖς γ᾽, εἰ τόδ᾽ ἐστὶ τοῖς τεκοῦσι φίλτατον.
son at-least if this is to-the parents dearest
ΙΩΝ παῦσαι πλέκουσα· λήψομαί σ᾽ ἐγὼ καλῶς. 1410
stop weaving I-will-catch you I well
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ εἰς τοῦθ᾽ ἱκοίμην, τοῦδε τοξεύω, τέκνον.
to this may-I-come of-this I-aim child
ΙΩΝ κενὸν τόδ᾽ ἄγγος ἢ στέγει πλήρωμά τι;
empty this vessel or holds contents something
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ σά γ᾽ ἔνδυθ᾽, οἷσί σ᾽ ἐξέθηκ᾽ ἐγώ ποτε.
your at-least clothes in-which you I-exposed I once
ΙΩΝ καὶ τοὔνομ᾽ αὐτῶν ἐξερεῖς πρὶν εἰσιδεῖν;
and the-name of-them you-will-tell before seeing
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ κἂν μὴ φράσω γε, κατθανεῖν ὑφίσταμαι, 1415
and-if not I-tell at-least to-die I-undertake
ΙΩΝ λέγ᾽. ὡς ἔχει τι δεινὸν ἡ τόλμη γέ σου.
speak since has something terrible the daring at-least of-you
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ σκέψασθ᾽ ὃ παῖς ποτ᾽ οὖσ᾽ ὕφασμ᾽ ὕφην᾽ ἐγώ·
look-at what child once being weaving wove I
ΙΩΝ ποῖόν τι; πολλὰ παρθένων ὑφάσματα.
what-sort something many of-maidens weavings

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ οὐ τέλεον, οἷον δ' ἐκδίδαγμα κερκίδος.
not complete like and first-lesson of-shuttle

ΙΩΝ μορφὴν ἔχον τίν'; ὥς με μὴ ταύτῃ λάβῃς.
shape having what so-that me not in-this you-may-catch

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ Γοργὼν μὲν ἐν μέσοισιν ἠτρίοις πέπλων.
Gorgon indeed in middle warp of-robes

ΙΩΝ ὦ Ζεῦ, τίς ἡμᾶς ἐκκυνηγετεῖ πότμος;
O Zeus what us hunts-out fate

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ κεκρασπέδωται δ' ὄφεσιν αἰγίδος τρόπον.
is-fringed and with-serpents of-aegis in-manner

ΙΩΝ ἰδού.
see

τόδ' ἔσθ' ὕφασμα· θέσφαθ' ὡς εὑρίσκομεν.
this is weaving oracles how we-find

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ὦ χρόνιον ἱστῶν παρθένευμα τῶν ἐμῶν.
O long-ago of-looms maiden-work of-the my

ΙΩΝ ἔστιν τι πρὸς τῷδ', ἢ μόνῳ τῷδ' εὐτυχεῖς;
is something besides this or with-only this are-you-fortunate

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ δράκοντες· ἀρχαῖόν τι παγχρύσῳ γέννυι.
serpents ancient something with-all-gold jaw

δώρημ' Ἀθάνας, ἣ τέκν' ἐντρέφειν λέγει.
gift of-Athena who children to-rear bids

Ἐριχθονίου γε τοῦ πάλαι μιμήματα.
of-Erichthonius at-least the of-old imitations

ΙΩΝ τί δρᾶν, τί χρῆσθαι, φράζε μοι, χρυσώματι;
what to-do what to-use tell me with-gold-work

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ δέραια παιδὶ νεογόνῳ φέρειν, τέκνον.
necklaces for-child new-born to-wear child

ΙΩΝ ἔνεισιν οἵδε· τὸ δὲ τρίτον ποθῶ μαθεῖν.
are-in these the but third I-long to-learn

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ στέφανον ἐλαίας ἀμφέθηκά σοι τότε,
wreath of-olive I-put-around you then
ἣν πρῶτ᾽ Ἀθάνα σκόπελον ἐξηνέγκατο,
which first Athena to-rock brought-out
ὅς, εἴπερ ἔστιν, οὔποτ᾽ ἐκλείπει χλόην,
which if-indeed it-is never leaves greenness
θάλλει δ᾽, ἐλαίας ἐξ ἀκηράτου γεγώς.
flourishes and olive from undefiled being
ΙΩΝ ὦ φιλτάτη μοι μῆτερ, ἄσμενός σ᾽ ἰδὼν
O dearest to-me mother gladly you having-seen
πρὸς ἀσμένης πέπτωκα σὰς παρηίδας.
on gladdened I-have-fallen your cheeks
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ὦ τέκνον, ὦ φῶς μητρὶ κρεῖσσον ἡλίου —
O child O light to-mother better than-sun
συγγνώσεται γὰρ ὁ θεός — ἐν χεροῖν σ᾽ ἔχω,
will-pardon for the god in arms you I-hold
ἄελπτον εὕρημ᾽, ὃν κατὰ γᾶς ἐνέρων
unhoped-for find whom below earth of-the-dead
χθόνιον μετὰ Περσεφόνας τ᾽ ἐδόκουν ναίειν.
nether with Persephone and I-thought to-dwell
ΙΩΝ ἀλλ᾽, ὦ φίλη μοι μῆτερ, ἐν χεροῖν σέθεν
but O dear to-me mother in arms of-you
ὁ κατθανών τε κοὐ θανὼν φαντάζομαι.
the having-died and and-not having-died I-appear
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἰὼ ἰώ, λαμπρᾶς αἰθέρος ἀμπτυχαί,
oh oh bright of-air folds
τίν᾽ αὐδὰν ἀύσω,
what voice shall-I-utter
βοάσω; πόθεν μοι
shall-I-cry whence to-me

συνέκυρσ᾽ ἀδόκητος ἡδονά; πόθεν
came unexpected pleasure whence
ἐλάβομεν χαράν;
did-we-take joy
ΙΩΝ ἐμοὶ γενέσθαι πάντα μᾶλλον ἄν ποτε,
to-me to-happen all rather — ever
μῆτερ, παρέστη τῶνδ᾽, ὅπως σός εἰμ᾽ ἐγώ.
mother would-have-occurred than-these that yours am I
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἔτι φόβῳ τρέμω.
still with-fear I-tremble
ΙΩΝ μῶν οὐκ ἔχειν μ᾽ ἔχουσα; ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τὰς γὰρ ἐλπίδας
surely-not not to-have me having for the hopes
ἀπέβαλον πρόσω.
I-cast-away far
ἰὼ γύναι, πόθεν πόθεν ἔλαβες ἐμὸν
oh woman whence whence did-you-take my
βρέφος ἐς ἀγκάλας;
babe into arms
τίν᾽ ἀνὰ χέρα δόμους ἔβα Λοξίου;
what in hand to-house went of-Loxias
ΙΩΝ θεῖον τόδ᾽· ἀλλὰ τἀπίλοιπα τῆς τύχης
divine this but the-rest of-the fortune
εὐδαιμονοῖμεν, ὡς τὰ πρόσθε δυστυχῆ.
may-we-prosper as the former unfortunate
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τέκνον, οὐκ ἀδάκρυτος ἐκλοχεύει,
child not without-tears you-are-born
γόοις δὲ ματρὸς ἐκ χερῶν ὁρίζει·
with-laments and of-mother from hands you-are-parted
νῦν δὲ γενειάσιν παρὰ σέθεν πνέω
now but by-cheek beside you I-breathe

μακαριωτάτας τυχοῦσ' ἡδονᾶς.
most-blessed having-obtained pleasures

ΙΩΝ τοὐμὸν λέγουσα καὶ τὸ σὸν κοινῶς λέγεις.
my speaking also the your in-common you-speak

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἄπαιδες οὐκέτ' ἐσμὲν οὐδ' ἄτεκνοι·
childless no-longer we-are nor without-offspring

δῶμ' ἑστιοῦται, γᾶ δ' ἔχει τυράννους·
house has-hearth land and has kings

ἀνηβᾷ δ' Ἐρεχθεύς,
grows-young and Erechtheus

ὅ τε γηγενέτας δόμος οὐκέτι νύκτα
the and earth-born house no-longer night

δέρκεται, ἀελίου δ' ἀναβλέπει λαμπάσιν.
sees of-sun and looks-up with-rays

ΙΩΝ μῆτερ, παρών μοι καὶ πατὴρ μετασχέτω
mother being-present to-me also father let-share

τῆς ἡδονῆς τῆσδ' ἧς ἔδωχ' ὑμῖν ἐγώ.
of-the pleasure this which I-gave to-you I

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ὦ τέκνον, τί φής; οἷον οἷον ἀνελέγχομαι.
O child what do-you-say how how I-am-confuted

ΙΩΝ πῶς εἶπας;
how did-you-say

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἄλλοθεν γέγονας, ἄλλοθεν.
from-elsewhere you-were-born from-elsewhere

ΙΩΝ ὤμοι· νόθον με παρθένευμ' ἔτικτε σόν;
ah-me bastard me maidenhood bore your

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ οὐχ ὑπὸ λαμπάδων οὐδὲ χορευμάτων
not under torches nor dances

ὑμέναιος ἐμός,
wedding-song mine

τέκνον, ἔτικτε σὸν κάρα.
child bore your head

ΙΩΝ αἰαῖ· πέφυκα δυσγενής, μῆτερ, πόθεν;
alas I-am-born low-born mother whence

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἴστω Γοργοφόνα — ΙΩΝ τί τοῦτ' ἔλεξας;
let-know Gorgon-slayer what this did-you-say

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἃ σκοπέλοις ἐπ' ἐμοῖς
who crags on my

τὸν ἐλαιοφυῆ πάγον θάσσει —
the olive-bearing hill sits

ΙΩΝ λέγεις μοι δόλια κοὐ σαφῆ τάδε.
you-tell me crafty and-not clear these-things

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ παρ' ἀηδόνιον πέτραν Φοίβῳ —
by nightingale rock to-Phoebus

ΙΩΝ τί Φοῖβον αὐδᾷς;
why Phoebus do-you-say

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ κρυπτόμενον λέχος ηὐνάσθην.
hidden bed I-lay-with

ΙΩΝ λέγ'· ὡς ἐρεῖς τι κεδνὸν εὐτυχές τέ μοι.
speak since you-will-say something good fortunate and to-me

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ δεκάτῳ δέ σε μηνὸς ἐν
tenth and you of-month in

κύκλῳ κρύφιον ὠδῖν' ἔτεκον Φοίβῳ.
circle secret birth I-bore to-Phoebus

ΙΩΝ ὦ φίλτατ' εἰποῦσ', εἰ λέγεις ἐτήτυμα.
O dearest having-spoken if you-say true-things

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ παρθένια δ' ἐμοῦ ματέρος
maidenly and of-my mother
σπάργαν' ἀμφίβολά σοι τάδ' ἐν- 1490
swaddling-clothes covering for-you these I-fastened
ῆψα, κερκίδος ἐμᾶς πλάνους.
— of-shuttle my wanderings
γάλακτι δ' οὐκ ἐπέσχον, οὐδὲ μαστῷ
with-milk and not I-gave nor breast
τροφεῖα ματρὸς οὐδὲ λουτρὰ χειροῖν,
nurture of-mother nor washing with-hands
ἀνὰ δ' ἄντρον ἔρημον οἰωνῶν
in and cave desolate of-birds
γαμφηλαῖς φόνευμα θοίναμά τ' εἰς 1495
with-beaks slaughter feast and to
Ἅιδαν ἐκβάλλει.
Hades you-are-cast-out
ΙΩΝ ὦ δεινὰ τλᾶσα μῆτερ.
O terrible-things having-dared mother
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἐν φόβῳ καταδεθεῖσα σὰν
in fear having-been-bound your
ψυχὰν ἀπέβαλον, τέκνον·
life I-cast-away child
ἔκτεινά σ' ἄκουσ'. 1500
I-killed you unwilling
ΙΩΝ ἐξ ἐμοῦ τ' οὐχ ὅσι' ἔθνησκες.
from me and not holily you-were-dying
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἰώ· δειναὶ μὲν τότε τύχαι,
oh terrible indeed then fortunes
δεινὰ δὲ καὶ τάδ'· ἑλισσόμεσθ' ἐκεῖθεν
terrible and also these-things we-are-whirled from-there

ἐνθάδε δυστυχίαισιν
here by-misfortunes
εὐτυχίαις τε πάλιν,
by-good-fortunes and back
μεθίσταται δὲ πνεύματα.
change and winds
μενέτω· τὰ πάροιθεν ἄλις κακά· νῦν δ'
let-remain the former enough evils now but
ἐγένετό τις οὖρος ἐκ κακῶν, ὦ παῖ.
came some fair-wind from evils O son
ΧΟΡΟΣ μηδεὶς δοκείτω μηδὲν ἀνθρώπων ποτὲ
no-one let-think nothing of-men ever
ἄελπτον εἶναι πρὸς τὰ τυγχάνοντα νῦν.
unexpected to-be against the happening now
ΙΩΝ ὦ μεταβαλοῦσα μυρίους ἤδη βροτῶν
O having-changed countless already of-mortals
καὶ δυστυχῆσαι καὖθις αὖ πρᾶξαι καλῶς,
both to-be-unfortunate and-again again to-fare well
Τύχη, παρ' οἵαν ἤλθομεν στάθμην βίου,
Fortune by what-sort we-came line of-life
μητέρα φονεῦσαι καὶ παθεῖν ἀνάξια.
mother to-murder and to-suffer unworthy-things
φεῦ·
alas
ἆρ' ἐν φαενναῖς ἡλίου περιπτυχαῖς
— in bright of-sun folds
ἔνεστι πάντα τάδε καθ' ἡμέραν μαθεῖν;
is-in all these by day to-learn
φίλον μὲν οὖν σ' εὕρημα, μῆτερ, ηὕρομεν,
dear indeed then you find mother we-found

καὶ τὸ γένος οὐδὲν μεμπτόν, ὡς ἡμῖν, τόδε·
and the race nothing blameworthy as to-us this
τὰ δ' ἄλλα πρὸς σὲ βούλομαι μόνην φράσαι.
the and other-things to you I-wish alone to-tell
δεῦρ' ἔλθ'· ἐς οὖς σοι τοὺς λόγους εἰπεῖν θέλω
here come into ear to-you the words to-say I-wish
καὶ περικαλύψαι τοῖσι πράγμασι σκότον.
and to-cover for-the affairs darkness
ὅρα σύ, μῆτερ, μὴ σφαλεῖσ' ἃ παρθένοις
see you mother lest having-erred what to-maidens
ἐγγίγνεται νοσήματ' εἰς κρυπτοὺς γάμους,
occur sicknesses into secret marriages
ἔπειτα τῷ θεῷ προστίθης τὴν αἰτίαν,
then to-the god you-attach the blame
καὶ τοὐμὸν αἰσχρὸν ἀποφυγεῖν πειρωμένη,
and my shame to-escape trying
Φοίβῳ τεκεῖν με φής, τεκοῦσ' οὐκ ἐκ θεοῦ.
to-Phoebus to-have-borne me you-say having-borne not from god
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ μὰ τὴν παρασπίζουσαν ἅρμασίν ποτε
by the shield-bearing-beside to-chariots once
Νίκην Ἀθάναν Ζηνὶ γηγενεῖς ἔπι,
Victory Athena to-Zeus earth-born against
οὐκ ἔστιν ὅστις σοι πατὴρ θνητῶν, τέκνον,
not is any to-you father of-mortals child
ἀλλ' ὅσπερ ἐξέθρεψε Λοξίας ἄναξ.
but who-indeed reared Loxias lord
ΙΩΝ πῶς οὖν τὸν αὑτοῦ παῖδ' ἔδωκ' ἄλλῳ πατρί,
how then the his-own son gave to-other father
Ξούθου τε φησὶ παῖδά μ' ἐκπεφυκέναι;
of-Xuthus and he-says son me to-be-born

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ πεφυκέναι μὲν οὐχί, δωρεῖται δέ σε
to-be-born indeed not he-gives but you
αὑτοῦ γεγῶτα· καὶ γὰρ ἂν φίλος φίλῳ
his-own being and for — friend to-friend
δοίη τὸν αὑτοῦ παῖδα δεσπότην δόμων.
might-give the his-own son master of-house
ΙΩΝ ὁ θεὸς ἀληθὴς, ἢ μάτην μαντεύεται,
the god true or vainly prophesies
ἐμοῦ ταράσσει, μῆτερ, εἰκότως φρένα.
of-me troubles mother fittingly mind
ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ἄκουε δή νυν ἅμ' ἐσῆλθεν, ὦ τέκνον·
hear indeed now what came-to-me O child
εὐεργετῶν σε Λοξίας ἐς εὐγενῆ
benefiting you Loxias into noble
δόμον καθίζει· τοῦ θεοῦ δὲ λεγόμενος,
house settles of-the god and called
οὐκ ἔσχες ἄν ποτ' οὔτε παγκλήρους δόμους
not you-would-have — ever neither entire-inheritance house
οὔτ' ὄνομα πατρός. πῶς γάρ, οὗ γ' ἐγὼ γάμους
nor name of-father how for whose at-least I marriage
ἔκρυπτον αὐτὴ καί σ' ἀπέκτεινον λάθρα;
hid myself and you killed secretly
ὁ δ' ὠφελῶν σε προστίθησ' ἄλλῳ πατρί.
he but helping you assigns to-another father
ΙΩΝ οὐχ ὧδε φαύλως αὖτ' ἐγὼ μετέρχομαι,
not so lightly these-things I pursue
ἀλλ' ἱστορήσω Φοῖβον εἰσελθὼν δόμους,
but I-will-ask Phoebus having-entered house
εἴτ' εἰμὶ θνητοῦ πατρὸς εἴτε Λοξίου.
whether I-am of-mortal father or of-Loxias

ἔα· τίς οἴκων θυοδόκων ὑπερτελὴς
ha who of-house incense-receiving rising-above
ἀντήλιον πρόσωπον ἐκφαίνει θεῶν;
facing-the-sun face reveals of-gods
φεύγωμεν, ὦ τεκοῦσα, μὴ τὰ δαιμόνων
let-us-flee O having-borne-me lest the of-gods
ὁρῶμεν, εἰ μὴ καιρός ἐσθ' ἡμᾶς ὁρᾶν.
we-see if not time it-is us to-see
ΑΘΗΝΑ μὴ φεύγετ'· οὐ γὰρ πολεμίαν με φεύγετε,
not flee not for hostile me you-flee
ἀλλ' ἔν τ' Ἀθήναις κἀνθάδ' οὖσαν εὐμενῆ.
but in and Athens and-here being well-disposed
ἐπώνυμος δὲ σῆς ἀφικόμην χθονὸς
named and of-your I-came of-land
Παλλάς, δρόμῳ σπεύσασ' Ἀπόλλωνος πάρα,
Pallas in-haste having-hastened Apollo from
ὃς εἰς μὲν ὄψιν σφῷν μολεῖν οὐκ ἠξίου,
who into indeed sight of-you-two to-come not thought-fit
μὴ τῶν πάροιθε μέμψις εἰς μέσον μόλῃ,
lest of-the former blame into middle might-come
ἡμᾶς δὲ πέμπει τοὺς λόγους ὑμῖν φράσαι,
us and sends the words to-you to-tell
ὡς ἥδε τίκτει σ' ἐξ Ἀπόλλωνος πατρός,
that she bore you from Apollo father
δίδωσι δ' οἷς ἔδωκεν, οὐ φύσασί σε,
gives and to-whom he-gave not having-begotten you
ἀλλ' ὡς κομίζῃ σ' οἶκον εὐγενέστατον.
but that he-might-bring you to-house most-noble
ἐπεὶ δ' ἀνεῴχθη πρᾶγμα μηνυθὲν τόδε,
since and was-opened affair having-been-revealed this

θανεῖν σε δείσας μητρὸς ἐκ βουλευμάτων
to-die you having-feared of-mother from plans
καὶ τήνδε πρὸς σοῦ, μηχαναῖς ἐρρύσατο.
and her from you by-devices he-rescued
ἔμελλε δ' αὐτὰ διασιωπήσας ἄναξ
he-was-about and these-things having-kept-silent lord
ἐν ταῖς Ἀθήναις γνωριεῖν ταύτην τε σήν,
in the Athens to-make-known her and yours
σέ θ' ὡς πέφυκας τῆσδε καὶ Φοίβου πατρός.
you and that you-are-born of-her and of-Phoebus father
ἀλλ' ὡς περαίνω πρᾶγμα, καὶ χρησμοὺς θεοῦ,
but that I-may-finish affair and oracles of-god
ἐφ' οἷσιν ἔζευξ' ἅρματ', εἰσακούσατον.
for which I-yoked chariot listen-both
λαβοῦσα τόνδε παῖδα Κεκροπίαν χθόνα
having-taken this son Cecropian land
χώρει, Κρέουσα, κεἰς θρόνους τυραννικοὺς
go Creusa and-on throne royal
ἵδρυσον· ἐκ γὰρ τῶν Ἐρεχθέως γεγὼς
set from for the of-Erechtheus born
δίκαιος ἄρχειν τῆς ἐμῆς ὅδε χθονός.
just to-rule of-the my this-one of-land
ἔσται δ' ἀν' Ἑλλάδ' εὐκλεής· οἱ τοῦδε γὰρ
he-will-be and throughout Hellas famous the of-this for
παῖδες γενόμενοι τέσσαρες ῥίζης μιᾶς,
sons having-been-born four of-root of-one
ἐπώνυμοι γῆς κἀπιφυλίου χθονὸς
named of-land and-of-tribal of-land
λαῶν ἔσονται, σκόπελον οἳ ναίουσ' ἐμόν.
of-peoples will-be rock who dwell my

Γελέων μὲν ἔσται πρῶτος· εἶτα δεύτερος
Geleon indeed will-be first then second

***
(lacuna)

Ὅπλητες Ἀργαδῆς τ', ἐμῆς τ' ἀπ' αἰγίδος
Hopletes Argadeis and my and from aegis

ἓν φῦλον ἕξουσ' Αἰγικορῆς. οἱ τῶνδε δ' αὖ
one tribe will-have Aegicoreis the of-these and again

παῖδες γενόμενοι σὺν χρόνῳ πεπρωμένῳ
sons born with time fated

Κυκλάδας ἐποικήσουσι νησαίας πόλεις
Cyclades will-colonize island cities

χέρσους τε παράλους, ὃ σθένος τἠμῇ χθονὶ
coastlands and seaside which strength to-my land

δίδωσιν· ἀντίπορθμα δ' ἠπείροιν δυοῖν
gives opposite and of-continents two

πεδία κατοικήσουσιν, Ἀσιάδος τε γῆς
plains will-inhabit of-Asian and of-land

Εὐρωπίας τε· τοῦδε δ' ὀνόματος χάριν
of-European and of-this and of-name for-the-sake

Ἴωνες ὀνομασθέντες ἕξουσιν κλέος.
Ionians named will-have glory

Ξούθῳ δὲ καὶ σοὶ γίγνεται κοινὸν γένος,
to-Xuthus and and to-you is-born common race

Δῶρος μέν, ἔνθεν Δωρὶς ὑμνηθήσεται
Dorus indeed whence Doris will-be-hymned

πόλις· κατ' αἶαν Πελοπίαν δ' ὁ δεύτερος
city in land Pelopian and the second

Ἀχαιός, ὃς γῆς παραλίας Ῥίου πέλας
Achaeus who of-land coastal of-Rhion near

τύραννος ἔσται, κἀπισημανθήσεται
king will-be and-will-be-distinguished
κείνου κεκλῆσθαι λαὸς ὄνομ' ἐπώνυμος.
of-him to-be-called people name named
καλῶς δ' Ἀπόλλων πάντ' ἔπραξε· πρῶτα μὲν
well and Apollo all did first indeed
ἄνοσον λοχεύει σ', ὥστε μὴ γνῶναι φίλους·
without-sickness delivers you so-that not to-know friends
ἐπεὶ δ' ἔτικτες τόνδε παῖδα κἀπέθου
when and you-bore this son and-placed
ἐν σπαργάνοισιν, ἁρπάσαντ' ἐς ἀγκάλας
in swaddling-clothes having-snatched into arms
Ἑρμῆν κελεύει δεῦρο πορθμεῦσαι βρέφος,
Hermes bids here to-convey babe
ἔθρεψέ τ' οὐδ' εἴασεν ἐκπνεῦσαι βίον.
reared and nor allowed to-breathe-out life
νῦν οὖν σιώπα, παῖς ὅδ' ὡς πέφυκε σός,
now then be-silent the-son this-one that is-born yours
ἵν' ἡ δόκησις Ξοῦθον ἡδέως ἔχῃ,
so-that the belief Xuthus pleasantly may-hold
σύ τ' αὖ τὰ σαυτῆς ἀγάθ' ἔχουσ' ἴῃς, γύναι.
you and again the your good-things having may-go woman
καὶ χαίρετ'· ἐκ γὰρ τῆσδ' ἀναψυχῆς πόνων
and farewell from for this respite of-toils
εὐδαίμον' ὑμῖν πότμον ἐξαγγέλλομαι.
fortunate to-you fate I-announce
ΙΩΝ ὦ Διὸς Παλλὰς μεγίστου θύγατερ, οὐκ ἀπιστίᾳ
O of-Zeus Pallas of-greatest daughter not with-disbelief
σοὺς λόγους ἐνδεξόμεσθα· πείθομαι δ' εἶναι πατρὸς
your words we-shall-receive I-believe and to-be of-father

Λοξίου καὶ τῆσδε· καὶ πρὶν τοῦτο δ᾽ οὐκ ἄπιστον ἦν.
of-Loxias and of-her and before this but not unbelievable was

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ τἀμὰ νῦν ἄκουσον· αἰνῶ Φοῖβον οὐκ αἰνοῦσα πρίν,
mine now hear I-praise Phoebus not praising before

οὕνεχ᾽ οὗ ποτ᾽ ἠμέλησε παιδὸς ἀποδίδωσί μοι. 1610
because whom once he-neglected son he-gives-back to-me

αἵδε δ᾽ εὐωποὶ πύλαι μοι καὶ θεοῦ χρηστήρια,
these and fair-faced gates to-me and of-god oracles

δυσμενῆ πάροιθεν ὄντα. νῦν δὲ καὶ ῥόπτρων χέρας
hostile before being now and even of-knockers hands

ἡδέως ἐκκρημνάμεσθα καὶ προσεννέπω πύλας.
gladly I-hang-on and I-address gates

ΑΘΗΝΑ ᾔνεσ᾽ οὕνεκ᾽ εὐλογεῖς θεὸν μεταβαλοῦσ᾽· ἀεὶ γὰρ οὖν
I-praise because you-praise god having-changed always for then

χρόνια μὲν τὰ τῶν θεῶν πως, εἰς τέλος δ᾽ οὐκ ἀσθενῆ. 1615
slow indeed the of-the gods somehow at end but not weak

ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ ὦ τέκνον, στείχωμεν οἴκους.
O child let-us-go to-house

ΑΘΗΝΑ στείχεθ᾽, ἕψομαι δ᾽ ἐγώ.
go I-will-follow and I

ΙΩΝ ἀξία γ᾽ ἡμῶν ὁδουρός. ΚΡΕΟΥΣΑ καὶ φιλοῦσά γε πτόλιν.
worthy at-least of-us guide and loving at-least city

ΑΘΗΝΑ εἰς θρόνους δ᾽ ἵζου παλαιούς. ΙΩΝ ἄξιον τὸ κτῆμά μοι.
to throne and sit ancient worthy the possession to-me

χορος ὦ Διὸς Λητοῦς τ' Ἄπολλον, χαῖρ'· ὅτῳ δ' ἐλαύνεται
O of-Zeus of-Leto and Apollo hail whose but is-driven
συμφοραῖς οἶκος, σέβοντα δαίμονας θαρσεῖν χρεών·
by-misfortunes house revering gods to-take-heart must
εἰς τέλος γὰρ οἱ μὲν ἐσθλοὶ τυγχάνουσιν ἀξίων,
at end for the indeed good obtain worthy-things
οἱ κακοὶ δ', ὥσπερ πεφύκασ', οὔποτ' εὖ πράξειαν ἄν.
the evil but as they-are-born never well would-fare —

EURIPIDES

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ Η ΕΝ ΤΑΥΡΟΙΣ

Iphigenia Among the Taurians

I · IPHIGENIA'S DREAM

Iphigenia tells how her father sacrificed her to Artemis at Aulis for the sake of Helen and a fleet that could not sail, and how the goddess put a deer in her place and carried her to the land of the Taurians, where King Thoas made her priestess. She consecrates the Greek strangers who come there, and others kill them. She dreamed that her father's house fell, all but one pillar, which grew fair hair and took a human voice, and that she sprinkled it for death; so she believes Orestes dead and goes to pour libations. Orestes and Pylades arrive, see the bloodstained altar, and recall Apollo's command to carry the goddess's image to Athens. They hide in the sea caves until night.

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ Πέλοψ ὁ Ταντάλειος εἰς Πῖσαν μολὼν
Pelops the Tantalid to Pisa having-come
θοαῖσιν ἵπποις Οἰνομάου γαμεῖ κόρην,
with-swift horses of-Oenomaus marries daughter
ἐξ ἧς Ἀτρεὺς ἔβλαστεν· Ἀτρέως δ' ἄπο
from whom Atreus sprang of-Atreus and from
Μενέλαος Ἀγαμέμνων τε· τοῦ δ' ἔφυν ἐγώ,
Menelaus Agamemnon and of-him and was-born I
τῆς Τυνδαρείας θυγατρὸς Ἰφιγένεια παῖς,
of-the Tyndarean daughter Iphigenia child
ἣν ἀμφὶ δίναις ἃς θάμ' Εὔριπος πυκναῖς
whom around eddies which often Euripus with-frequent
αὔραις ἑλίσσων κυανέαν ἅλα στρέφει,
with-breezes whirling dark sea turns
ἔσφαξεν Ἑλένης εἵνεχ', ὡς δοκεῖ, πατὴρ
slew of-Helen for-the-sake as it-seems father
Ἀρτέμιδι κλειναῖς ἐν πτυχαῖσιν Αὐλίδος.
to-Artemis famous in folds of-Aulis
ἐνταῦθα γὰρ δὴ χιλίων ναῶν στόλον
there for indeed of-thousand ships fleet

Ἑλληνικὸν συνήγαγ᾽ Ἀγαμέμνων ἄναξ,
Greek gathered Agamemnon lord
τὸν καλλίνικον στέφανον Ἰλίου θέλων
the gloriously-victorious crown of-Ilium wishing
λαβεῖν Ἀχαιούς, τούς θ᾽ ὑβρισθέντας γάμους
to-take Achaeans the and outraged marriage
Ἑλένης μετελθεῖν, Μενέλεῳ χάριν φέρων.
of-Helen to-pursue to-Menelaus favor bringing
δεινῆς δ᾽ ἀπλοίας πνευμάτων τε τυγχάνων,
terrible and lack-of-sailing of-winds and meeting
εἰς ἔμπυρ᾽ ἦλθε, καὶ λέγει Κάλχας τάδε·
to burnt-offerings he-came and says Calchas these-things
ὦ τῆσδ᾽ ἀνάσσων Ἑλλάδος στρατηγίας,
O of-this ruling of-Hellas generalship
Ἀγάμεμνον, οὐ μὴ ναῦς ἀφορμίσῃ χθονός,
Agamemnon not — ships you-will-loose from-land
πρὶν ἂν κόρην σὴν Ἰφιγένειαν Ἄρτεμις
before — daughter your Iphigenia Artemis
λάβῃ σφαγεῖσαν· ὅ τι γὰρ ἐνιαυτὸς τέκοι
take slaughtered what ever for year should-bear
κάλλιστον, ηὔξω φωσφόρῳ θύσειν θεᾷ.
fairest you-vowed to-light-bringing to-sacrifice to-goddess
παῖδ᾽ οὖν ἐν οἴκοις σὴ Κλυταιμνήστρα δάμαρ
child then in house your Clytemnestra wife
τίκτει, τὸ καλλιστεῖον εἰς ἔμ᾽ ἀναφέρων,
bears the prize-of-beauty to me referring
ἣν χρή σε θῦσαι. καί μ᾽ Ὀδυσσέως τέχναις
whom must you to-sacrifice and me of-Odysseus by-arts
μητρὸς παρείλοντ᾽ ἐπὶ γάμοις Ἀχιλλέως.
from-mother they-took-away for marriage of-Achilles

ἐλθοῦσα δ' Αὐλίδ' ἡ τάλαιν' ὑπὲρ πυρᾶς
having-come and to-Aulis the wretched over pyre
μεταρσία ληφθεῖσ' ἐκαινόμην ξίφει·
raised-aloft taken I-was-being-killed with-sword
ἀλλ' ἐξέκλεψεν ἔλαφον ἀντιδοῦσά μου
but stole-away deer having-given-in-exchange for-me
Ἄρτεμις Ἀχαιοῖς, διὰ δὲ λαμπρὸν αἰθέρα
Artemis to-Achaeans through and bright air
πέμψασά μ' εἰς τήνδ' ᾤκισεν Ταύρων χθόνα,
having-sent me to this settled of-Taurians land
οὗ γῆς ἀνάσσει βαρβάροισι βάρβαρος
where land rules over-barbarians barbarian
Θόας, ὃς ὠκὺν πόδα τιθεὶς ἴσον πτεροῖς
Thoas who swift foot setting equal to-wings
εἰς τοὔνομ' ἦλθε τόδε ποδωκείας χάριν.
to the-name came this of-swiftness for-the-sake
ναοῖσι δ' ἐν τοῖσδ' ἱερίαν τίθησί με·
temples and in these priestess makes me
ὅθεν νόμοισι τοῖσιν ἥδεται θεὰ
whence by-customs by-which delights goddess
Ἄρτεμις ἑορτῆς — τοὔνομ' ἧς καλὸν μόνον,
Artemis of-festival the-name of-which fair only
τὰ δ' ἄλλα σιγῶ, τὴν θεὸν φοβουμένη —
the and rest I-keep-silent the goddess fearing
θύω γάρ, ὄντος τοῦ νόμου καὶ πρὶν πόλει,
I-sacrifice for being the custom and before in-city
ὃς ἂν κατέλθῃ τήνδε γῆν Ἕλλην ἀνήρ.
whoever — comes-down-to this land Greek man
κατάρχομαι μέν, σφάγια δ' ἄλλοισιν μέλει
I-consecrate indeed slaughters but to-others is-a-care

ἄρρητ᾽ ἔσωθεν τῶνδ᾽ ἀνακτόρων θεᾶς.
unspeakable within these of-shrines of-the-goddess
ἃ καινὰ δ᾽ ἥκει νὺξ φέρουσα φάσματα,
what new and comes night bringing visions
λέξω πρὸς αἰθέρ᾽, εἴ τι δὴ τόδ᾽ ἔστ᾽ ἄκος.
I-will-tell to air if any indeed this is cure
ἔδοξ᾽ ἐν ὕπνῳ τῆσδ᾽ ἀπαλλαχθεῖσα γῆς
I-seemed in sleep from-this having-been-released land
οἰκεῖν ἐν Ἄργει, παρθενῶσι δ᾽ ἐν μέσοις
to-dwell in Argos maiden-chambers and in middle
εὕδειν, χθονὸς δὲ νῶτα σεισθῆναι σάλῳ,
to-sleep of-earth and backs to-be-shaken by-tossing
φεύγειν δὲ κἄξω στᾶσα θριγκὸν εἰσιδεῖν
to-flee and and-outside standing coping to-see
δόμων πίτνοντα, πᾶν δ᾽ ἐρείψιμον στέγος
of-house falling all and ruined roof
βεβλημένον πρὸς οὖδας ἐξ ἄκρων σταθμῶν.
cast to ground from top posts
μόνος δ᾽ ἐλείφθη στῦλος, ὡς ἔδοξέ μοι,
alone and was-left pillar as seemed to-me
δόμων πατρῴων, ἐκ δ᾽ ἐπικράνων κόμας
of-house paternal from and capitals hair
ξανθὰς καθεῖναι, φθέγμα δ᾽ ἀνθρώπου λαβεῖν,
golden to-let-down voice and of-man to-take
κἀγὼ τέχνην τήνδ᾽ ἣν ἔχω ξενοκτόνον
and-I art this which I-have stranger-killing
τιμῶσ᾽ ὑδραίνειν αὐτὸν ὡς θανούμενον,
honoring to-sprinkle him as about-to-die
κλαίουσα. τοὔναρ δ᾽ ὧδε συμβάλλω τόδε·
weeping the-dream and thus I-interpret this

τέθνηκ᾽ Ὀρέστης, οὗ κατηρξάμην ἐγώ.
is-dead Orestes of-whom I-consecrated I

στῦλοι γὰρ οἴκων εἰσὶ παῖδες ἄρσενες·
pillars for of-houses are sons male

θνήσκουσι δ᾽ οὓς ἂν χέρνιβες βάλωσ᾽ ἐμαί.
die and whom — lustral-waters cast my

οὐδ᾽ αὖ συνάψαι τοὔναρ εἰς φίλους ἔχω·
nor again to-connect the-dream to friends I-can

Στροφίῳ γὰρ οὐκ ἦν παῖς, ὅτ᾽ ὠλλύμην ἐγώ. 60
to-Strophius for not was son when I-was-perishing I

νῦν οὖν ἀδελφῷ βούλομαι δοῦναι χοὰς
now then for-brother I-wish to-give libations

ἀποῦσ᾽ ἀπόντι, ταῦτα γὰρ δυναίμεθ᾽ ἄν,
absent to-absent these-things for we-could —

σὺν προσπόλοισιν, ἃς ἔδωχ᾽ ἡμῖν ἄναξ
with attendants whom gave to-us lord

Ἑλληνίδας γυναῖκας. ἀλλ᾽ ἐξ αἰτίας
Greek women but from reason

οὔπω τινὸς πάρεισιν· εἶμ᾽ εἴσω δόμων 65
not-yet some they-are-present I-will-go within house

ἐν οἷσι ναίω τῶνδ᾽ ἀνακτόρων θεᾶς.
in which I-dwell of-these shrines of-the-goddess

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὅρα, φυλάσσου μή τις ἐν στίβῳ βροτῶν.
see guard lest any on path of-mortals

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ὁρῶ, σκοποῦμαι δ᾽ ὄμμα πανταχοῦ στρέφων.
I-see I-am-looking and eye everywhere turning

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Πυλάδη, δοκεῖ σοι μέλαθρα ταῦτ᾽ εἶναι θεᾶς;
Pylades seems to-you house this to-be of-the-goddess

ἔνθ᾽ Ἀργόθεν ναῦν ποντίαν ἐστείλαμεν; 70
where from-Argos ship sea-going we-sent

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἔμοιγ', Ὀρέστα· σοὶ δὲ συνδοκεῖν χρεών.
to-me-at-least Orestes you and to-agree must

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καὶ βωμός, Ἕλλην οὗ καταστάζει φόνος;
and altar Greek where drips blood

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἐξ αἱμάτων γοῦν ξάνθ' ἔχει θριγκώματα.
from bloods at-least yellow has copings

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ θριγκοῖς δ' ὑπ' αὐτοῖς σκῦλ' ὁρᾷς ἠρτημένα;
copings and under very spoils do-you-see hung

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ τῶν κατθανόντων γ' ἀκροθίνια ξένων.
of-the dead at-least first-fruits strangers

ἀλλ' ἐγκυκλοῦντ' ὀφθαλμὸν εὖ σκοπεῖν χρεών.
but rolling eye well to-look must

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ Φοῖβε, ποῖ μ' αὖ τήνδ' ἐς ἄρκυν ἤγαγες
O Phoebus where me again this into net did-you-lead

χρήσας, ἐπειδὴ πατρὸς αἷμ' ἐτισάμην,
having-prophesied since of-father blood I-avenged

μητέρα κατακτάς; διαδοχαῖς δ' Ἐρινύων
mother having-killed by-successions and of-Furies

ἠλαυνόμεσθα φυγάδες, ἔξεδροι χθονός,
we-were-driven fugitives outcast from-land

δρόμους τε πολλοὺς ἐξέπλησα καμπίμους.
courses and many I-completed turning

ἐλθὼν δέ σ' ἠρώτησα πῶς τροχηλάτου
having-come and you I-asked how of-wheeling

μανίας ἂν ἔλθοιμ' εἰς τέλος πόνων τ' ἐμῶν,
of-madness — I-might-come to end of-toils and my

οὓς ἐξεμόχθουν περιπολῶν καθ' Ἑλλάδα.
which I-was-toiling roaming throughout Hellas

σὺ δ' εἶπας ἐλθεῖν Ταυρικῆς μ' ὅρους χθονός,
you and said to-come Tauric me boundaries of-land

ἔνθ' Ἄρτεμίς σοι σύγγονος βωμοὺς ἔχοι,
where Artemis to-you sister altars has
λαβεῖν τ' ἄγαλμα θεᾶς, ὅ φασιν ἐνθάδε
to-take and image of-the-goddess which they-say here
εἰς τούσδε ναοὺς οὐρανοῦ πεσεῖν ἄπο·
into these temple heaven to-have-fallen from
λαβόντα δ' ἢ τέχναισιν ἢ τύχῃ τινί,
having-taken and either by-arts or by-chance some
κίνδυνον ἐκπλήσαντ', Ἀθηναίων χθονὶ
danger having-fulfilled of-Athenians for-land
δοῦναι· τὸ δ' ἐνθένδ' οὐδὲν ἐρρήθη πέρα·
to-give the but from-here nothing was-said further
καὶ ταῦτα δράσαντ' ἀμπνοὰς ἔξειν πόνων.
and these-things having-done respites to-have of-toils
ἥκω δὲ πεισθεὶς σοῖς λόγοισιν ἐνθάδε
I-have-come and persuaded by-your words here
ἄγνωστον εἰς γῆν, ἄξενον. σὲ δ' ἱστορῶ,
unknown to land inhospitable you but I-ask
Πυλάδη, σὺ γάρ μοι τοῦδε συλλήπτωρ πόνου,
Pylades you for to-me of-this helper of-toil
τί δρῶμεν; ἀμφίβληστρα γὰρ τοίχων ὁρᾷς
what shall-we-do enclosures for of-walls you-see
ὑψηλά· πότερα δωμάτων προσαμβάσεις
high whether of-house by-climbings
ἐκβησόμεσθα; πῶς ἂν οὖν μάθοιμεν ἄν,
shall-we-go-up how — then might-we-learn —
μὴ χαλκότευκτα κλῆθρα λύσαντες μοχλοῖς,
unless bronze-wrought bars having-loosed with-levers
ὧν οὐδὲν ἴσμεν; ἢν δ' ἀνοίγοντες πύλας
of-which nothing we-know if but opening gates

ληφθῶμεν εἰσβάσεις τε μηχανώμενοι,
we-are-caught entrances and devising
θανούμεθ'. ἀλλὰ πρὶν θανεῖν, νεὼς ἔπι
we-shall-die but before to-die ship to
φεύγωμεν, ᾗπερ δεῦρ' ἐναυστολήσαμεν.
let-us-flee where-indeed here we-sailed
ΠΤΛΑΔΗΣ φεύγειν μὲν οὐκ ἀνεκτὸν οὐδ' εἰώθαμεν·
to-flee indeed not endurable nor are-we-accustomed
τὸν τοῦ θεοῦ δὲ χρησμὸν οὐ κακιστέον.
the of-the god but oracle not to-be-disgraced
ναοῦ δ' ἀπαλλαχθέντε κρύψωμεν δέμας
of-temple and having-gone-away-both let-us-hide body
κατ' ἄντρ' ἃ πόντος νοτίδι διακλύζει μέλας,
in caves which sea with-moisture washes black
νεὼς ἄπωθεν, μή τις εἰσιδὼν σκάφος
of-ship far lest anyone seeing hull
βασιλεῦσιν εἴπῃ, κἆτα ληφθῶμεν βίᾳ.
to-kings tell and-then we-be-caught by-force
ὅταν δὲ νυκτὸς ὄμμα λυγαίας μόλῃ,
when and of-night eye dark comes
τολμητέον τοι ξεστὸν ἐκ ναοῦ λαβεῖν
must-dare surely polished from temple to-take
ἄγαλμα πάσας προσφέροντε μηχανάς.
image all bringing-to devices
ὅρα δέ γ' εἴσω τριγλύφων ὅποι κενὸν
see and at-least within triglyphs where empty
δέμας καθεῖναι· τοὺς πόνους γὰρ ἀγαθοὶ
body to-let-down the toils for good
τολμῶσι, δειλοὶ δ' εἰσὶν οὐδὲν οὐδαμοῦ.
dare cowards and are nothing nowhere

οὔτοι μακρὸν μὲν ἤλθομεν κώπῃ πόρον,
surely-not long indeed we-came with-oar way
ἐκ τερμάτων δὲ νόστον ἀροῦμεν πάλιν;
from ends but return shall-we-plow back
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἀλλ' εὖ γὰρ εἶπας, πειστέον· χωρεῖν χρεὼν
but well for you-said must-obey to-go must
ὅποι χθονὸς κρύψαντε λήσομεν δέμας.
where of-land having-hidden-both we-shall-escape-notice body
οὐ γὰρ τὸ τοῦ θεοῦ γ' αἴτιον γενήσεται
not for the of-the god at-least cause will-be
πεσεῖν ἄκραντον θέσφατον· τολμητέον·
to-fall unfulfilled oracle must-dare
μόχθος γὰρ οὐδεὶς τοῖς νέοις σκῆψιν φέρει.
toil for none for-the young excuse brings

II · LAMENT FOR ORESTES

Iphigenia and the chorus of Greek captive women mourn together. She pours libations of milk, wine, and honey for Orestes, whom she believes dead, and the chorus answers with a barbarian dirge. They recall the curse on the house of Atreus since the strife over the golden lamb, when the sun changed its course. Iphigenia mourns her own life: unwed, childless, without city or friends, she sings no hymns to Hera in Argos and weaves no tapestries, but stains the altars with strangers' blood, and she weeps for the brother she left a baby at his mother's breast.

ΧΟΡΟΣ εὐφαμεῖτ', ὦ
keep-holy-silence O
πόντου δισσὰς συγχωρούσας
of-sea twin clashing
πέτρας Εὐξείνου ναίοντες.
rocks of-Euxine dwelling

ὦ παῖ τᾶς Λατοῦς,
O child of-the Leto
Δίκτυνν' οὐρεία,
Dictynna of-mountains
πρὸς σὰν αὐλάν, εὐστύλων
to your court of-fair-columned
ναῶν χρυσήρεις θριγκούς,
of-temples golden copings
πόδα παρθένιον ὅσιον ὁσίας
foot maidenly holy of-holy
κληδούχου δούλα πέμπω,
key-bearer slave I-send
Ἑλλάδος εὐίππου πύργους
of-Hellas fine-horses towers
καὶ τείχη χόρτων τ' εὐδένδρων
and walls of-pastures and well-wooded
ἐξαλλάξασ' Εὐρώταν,
having-exchanged Eurotas
πατρῴων οἴκων ἕδρας.
paternal of-house seats
ἔμολον· τί νέον; τίνα φροντίδ' ἔχεις;
I-came what new what care have-you
τί με πρὸς ναοὺς ἄγαγες ἄγαγες,
why me to temple did-you-bring did-you-bring
ὦ παῖ τοῦ τᾶς Τροίας πύργους
O child of-the the of-Troy towers
ἐλθόντος κλεινᾷ σὺν κώπᾳ
having-come famous with oar
χιλιοναύτᾳ μυριοτευχεῖ
thousand-shipped countless-armored

τῶν Ἀτρειδᾶν τῶν κλεινῶν;
of-the Atreids of-the famous

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἰὼ δμωαί,
oh handmaids

δυσθρηνήτοις ὡς θρήνοις
with-ill-lamented how with-laments

ἔγκειμαι, τᾶς οὐκ εὐμούσου
I-am-sunk of-the not tuneful

μολπαῖσι βοᾶς ἀλύροις ἐλέγοις,
with-strains of-cry with-lyreless elegies

αἰαῖ, κηδείοις οἴκτοις,
alas with-funeral lamentations

αἵ μοι συμβαίνουσ' ἄται,
which to-me come ruins

σύγγονον ἀμὸν κατακλαιομένᾳ
brother my bewailing

ζωᾶς, οἵαν ἰδόμαν ὄψιν ὀνείρων
of-life such I-saw vision of-dreams

νυκτός, τᾶς ἐξῆλθ' ὄρφνα.
of-night of-which went-out darkness

ὀλόμαν ὀλόμαν·
I-perished I-perished

οὐκ εἴσ' οἶκοι πατρῷοι·
not are house paternal

οἴμοι φροῦδος γέννα.
ah-me gone race

φεῦ φεῦ τῶν Ἄργει μόχθων.
alas alas of-the in-Argos toils

ἰὼ ἰὼ δαίμων, ὃς τὸν
oh oh fate which the

μοῦνόν με κασίγνητον συλᾷς
only me brother you-rob
Ἅιδᾳ πέμψας, ᾧ τάσδε χοὰς
to-Hades having-sent to-whom these libations
μέλλω κρατῆρά τε τὸν φθιμένων
I-am-about bowl and the of-dead
ὑδραίνειν γαίας ἐν νώτοις,
to-sprinkle of-earth on backs
πηγάς τ' οὐρείων ἐκ μόσχων
streams and mountain from heifers
Βάκχου τ' οἰνηρὰς λοιβὰς
of-Bacchus and wine libations
ξουθᾶν τε πόνημα μελισσᾶν,
of-yellow and labor of-bees
ἃ νεκροῖς θελκτήρια κεῖται.
which for-the-dead soothing are-laid
ἀλλ' ἔνδος μοι πάγχρυσον
but give to-me all-golden
τεῦχος καὶ λοιβὰν Ἅιδα.
vessel and libation of-Hades
ὦ κατὰ γαίας Ἀγαμεμνόνιον
O below earth Agamemnonian
θάλος, ὡς φθιμένῳ τάδε σοι πέμπω·
offspring as to-dead these to-you I-send
δέξαι δ'· οὐ γὰρ πρὸς τύμβον σοι
receive and not for to tomb to-you
ξανθὰν χαίταν, οὐ δάκρυ' οἴσω.
golden hair not tears I-shall-bring
τηλόσε γὰρ δὴ σᾶς ἀπενάσθην
far for indeed from-your I-was-removed

πατρίδος καὶ ἐμᾶς, ἔνθα δοκήμασι
fatherland and mine where by-the-belief
κεῖμαι σφαχθεῖσ' ἁ τλάμων.
I-lie slaughtered the wretched
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀντιψάλμους ᾠδὰς ὕμνον τ'
responsive songs hymn and
Ἀσιήταν σοι βάρβαρον ἀχὰν
Asiatic to-you barbarian cry
δεσποίνᾳ γ' ἐξαυδάσω,
to-mistress at-least I-will-utter
τὰν ἐν θρήνοισιν μοῦσαν,
the in dirges music
νέκυσι μελομέναν τὰν ἐν μολπαῖς
for-the-dead dear which in songs
Ἅιδας ὑμνεῖ δίχα παιάνων.
Hades sings apart-from paeans
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ οἴμοι, τῶν Ἀτρειδᾶν οἴκων
ah-me of-the Atreid house
ἔρρει φῶς σκήπτρων, ἔρρει·
is-gone light of-scepters is-gone
οἴμοι πατρῴων οἴκων.
ah-me of-paternal house
τίνος ἐκ τῶν εὐόλβων Ἄργει
of-whom from the prosperous in-Argos
βασιλέων ἀρχά;
kings rule
μόχθος δ' ἐκ μόχθων ᾄσσει.
toil and from toils rushes

ΧΟΡΟΣ δινευούσαις ἵπποις πταναῖς
with-whirling horses winged
ἀλλάξας ἐξ ἕδρας
having-changed from seat
ἱερὸν μετέβασ᾽ ὄμμ᾽ αὐγᾶς
holy changed eye of-light
ἅλιος. ἄλλαις δ᾽ ἄλλα προσέβα
sun to-others and other-things came
χρυσέας ἀρνὸς μελάθροις ὀδύνα,
of-golden lamb to-house pain
φόνος ἐπὶ φόνῳ, ἄχεά τ᾽ ἄχεσιν·
murder upon murder griefs and upon-griefs
ἔνθεν τῶν πρόσθεν δμαθέντων
whence of-the before subdued
Ταντα λιδᾶν ἐκβαίνει ποινά γ᾽
Tantalids comes-forth vengeance at-least
εἰς οἴκους· σπεύδει δ᾽ ἀσπούδαστ᾽
into house hastens and unhasting-things
ἐπὶ σοὶ δαίμων.
upon you god
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἐξ ἀρχᾶς μοι δυσδαίμων
from beginning for-me ill-fated
δαίμων τᾶς ματρὸς ζώνας
fate of-the mother girdle
καὶ νυκτὸς κείνας· ἐξ ἀρχᾶς
and of-night that from beginning
λόχιαι στερρὰν παιδείαν
of-childbirth hard upbringing
Μοῖραι συντείνουσιν θεαί,
Fates draw-tight goddesses

ἃν πρωτόγονον θάλος ἐν θαλάμοις
whom firstborn offspring in chambers
ἁ μναστευθεῖσ' ἐξ Ἑλλάνων,
the courted from Greeks
Λήδας ἁ τλάμων κούρα,
of-Leda the wretched girl
σφάγιον πατρῴᾳ λώβᾳ
victim for-paternal outrage
καὶ θῦμ' οὐκ εὐγάθητον
and sacrifice not joyful
ἔτεκεν, ἔτρεφεν, εὐκταίαν
bore reared prayed-for
ἱππείοις ἐν δίφροισιν
horse in cars
ψαμάθων Αὐλίδος ἐπιβᾶσαν
of-sands of-Aulis having-set-foot-on
νύμφαν, οἴμοι, δύσνυμφον
bride ah-me ill-wed
τῷ τᾶς Νηρέως κούρας, αἰαῖ.
to-the of-the Nereus daughter alas
νῦν δ' ἀξείνου πόντου ξείνα
now and of-inhospitable sea stranger
δυσχόρτους οἴκους ναίω
ill-pastured house I-dwell
ἄγαμος, ἄτεκνος, ἄπολις, ἄφιλος,
unwed childless cityless friendless
οὐ τὰν Ἄργει μέλπουσ' Ἥραν
not the in-Argos singing Hera
οὐδ' ἱστοῖς ἐν καλλιφθόγγοις
nor looms on sweet-sounding

κερκίδι Παλλάδος Ἀτθίδος εἰκὼ
with-shuttle of-Pallas Attic image
καὶ Τιτάνων ποικίλλουσ', ἀλλ'
and of-Titans embroidering but
225 αἱμόρραντον δυσφόρμιγγα
blood-sprinkled ill-lyred
ξείνων αἱμάσσουσ' ἄταν βωμούς,
of-strangers bloodying ruin altars
οἰκτράν τ' αἰαζόντων αὐδάν,
pitiful and of-wailing cry
οἰκτρόν τ' ἐκβαλλόντων δάκρυον.
pitiful and of-shedding tear
καὶ νῦν κείνων μέν μοι λάθα,
and now of-those indeed for-me forgetfulness
230 τὸν δ' Ἄργει δμαθέντα κλαίω
the and in-Argos subdued I-weep
σύγγονον, ὃν ἔλιπον ἐπιμαστίδιον
brother whom I-left at-the-breast
ἔτι βρέφος, ἔτι νέον, ἔτι θάλος
still babe still young still sprout
ἐν χερσὶν ματρὸς πρὸς στέρνοις τ'
in arms of-mother at breast and
235 Ἄργει σκηπτοῦχον Ὀρέσταν.
in-Argos scepter-bearer Orestes

A herdsman reports two young Greeks seized on the shore. One herdsman took them for gods, another laughed at him, and then one of the strangers went mad, crying out against a Fury who held his mother in her arms, and slashed at the cattle with his sword. The herdsmen gathered and stoned the pair, while the other stranger wiped the madman's foam away and shielded him, until he woke and called, Pylades, let us die nobly. At last the stones overcame them, and the king has sent them to be sacrificed. Iphigenia says her dream has made her savage and wishes that Helen and Menelaus had come instead. She recalls the false marriage to Achilles at Aulis, and denies that a goddess could delight in human blood: the people here put their own murderousness on her.

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ὅδ' ἀκτὰς ἐκλιπὼν θαλασσίους
and indeed this-one shores having-left of-the-sea
βουφορβὸς ἥκει, σημανῶν τί σοι νέον.
herdsman comes to-show something to-you new
ΒΟΤΚΟΛΟΣ Ἀγαμέμνονός τε καὶ Κλυταιμνήστρας τέκνον,
of-Agamemnon both and of-Clytemnestra child
ἄκουε καινῶν ἐξ ἐμοῦ κηρυγμάτων.
hear new from me tidings
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ τί δ' ἔστι τοῦ παρόντος ἐκπλῆσσον λόγου; 240
what and is-it of-the present startling word
ΒΟΤΚΟΛΟΣ ἥκουσιν εἰς γῆν, κυανέαν Συμπληγάδα
have-come into land dark Symplegades
πλάτῃ φυγόντες, δίπτυχοι νεανίαι,
by-oar having-escaped two youths
θεᾷ φίλον πρόσφαγμα καὶ θυτήριον
to-goddess dear sacrifice and offering
Ἀρτέμιδι. χέρνιβας δὲ καὶ κατάργματα
to-Artemis lustral-waters but and first-offerings

οὐκ ἂν φθάνοις ἂν εὐτρεπῆ ποιουμένη.
not — you-could-anticipate — ready making

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ποδαποί; τίνος γῆς ὄνομ' ἔχουσιν οἱ ξένοι;
from-what-land of-what land name have the strangers

ΒΟΥΚΟΛΟΣ Ἕλληνες· ἓν τοῦτ' οἶδα κοὐ περαιτέρω.
Greeks one this I-know and-not further

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ οὐδ' ὄνομ' ἀκούσας οἶσθα τῶν ξένων φράσαι;
nor name having-heard do-you-know of-the strangers to-tell

ΒΟΥΚΟΛΟΣ Πυλάδης ἐκλήζεθ' ἅτερος πρὸς θατέρου.
Pylades was-called the-one by the-other

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ τοῦ ξυζύγου δὲ τοῦ ξένου τί τοὔνομ' ἦν;
of-the yoke-fellow and of-the stranger what the-name was

ΒΟΥΚΟΛΟΣ οὐδεὶς τόδ' οἶδεν· οὐ γὰρ εἰσηκούσαμεν.
no-one this knows not for we-heard

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ποῦ δ' εἶδετ' αὐτοὺς κἀντυχόντες εἵλετε;
where and did-you-see them and-having-met took

ΒΟΥΚΟΛΟΣ ἄκραις ἐπὶ ῥηγμῖσιν ἀξένου πόρου.
edge at breakers of-inhospitable strait

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ καὶ τίς θαλάσσης βουκόλοις κοινωνία;
and what of-sea to-herdsmen fellowship

ΒΟΥΚΟΛΟΣ βοῦς ἤλθομεν νίψοντες ἐναλίᾳ δρόσῳ.
cattle we-came to-wash in-sea dew

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἐκεῖσε δὴ 'πάνελθε, ποῦ νιν εἵλετε
there indeed go-back where them you-took

τρόπῳ θ' ὁποίῳ· τοῦτο γὰρ μαθεῖν θέλω.
in-way and what-sort this for to-learn I-wish

χρόνιοι γὰρ ἥκουσ', ἐξ ὅτου βωμὸς θεᾶς
long-time for they-have-come from which altar of-the-goddess

Ἑλληνικαῖσιν ἐξεφοινίχθη ῥοαῖς.
with-Greek was-reddened streams

ΒΟΤΚΟΛΟΣ ἐπεὶ τὸν εἰσρέοντα διὰ Συμπληγάδων
when the flowing-in through Symplegades
βοῦς ὑλοφορβοὺς πόντον εἰσεβάλλομεν,
cattle forest-fed into-sea we-were-driving
ἦν τις διαρρὼξ κυμάτων πολλῷ σάλῳ
was some cleft of-waves with-much tossing
κοιλωπὸς ἀγμός, πορφυρευτικαὶ στέγαι.
hollow-eyed broken-place purple-fishers' shelters
ἐνταῦθα δισσοὺς εἶδέ τις νεανίας
there two someone saw youths
βουφορβὸς ἡμῶν, κἀνεχώρησεν πάλιν
herdsman of-us and-retreated back
ἄκροισι δακτύλοισι πορθμεύων ἴχνος.
with-tips toes conveying step
ἔλεξε δ'· οὐχ ὁρᾶτε; δαίμονές τινες
said and not do-you-see gods some
θάσσουσιν οἵδε. θεοσεβὴς δ' ἡμῶν τις ὢν
sit these god-fearing but of-us one being
ἀνέσχε χεῖρε καὶ προσηύξατ' εἰσιδών·
lifted-up hands and prayed having-seen
ὦ ποντίας παῖ Λευκοθέας, νεῶν φύλαξ,
O of-sea child of-Leucothea of-ships guardian
δέσποτα Παλαῖμον, ἵλεως ἡμῖν γενοῦ,
lord Palaemon gracious to-us be
εἴτ' οὖν ἐπ' ἀκταῖς θάσσετον Διοσκόρω,
whether then on shores sit-both Dioscuri
ἢ Νηρέως ἀγάλματθ', ὃς τὸν εὐγενῆ
or of-Nereus images who the noble
ἔτικτε πεντήκοντα Νηρήδων χορόν.
begot fifty of-Nereids chorus

ἄλλος δέ τις μάταιος, ἀνομίᾳ θρασύς,
another and some foolish in-lawlessness bold
ἐγέλασεν εὐχαῖς, ναυτίλους δ' ἐφθαρμένους
laughed at-prayers sailors and shipwrecked
θάσσειν φάραγγ' ἔφασκε τοῦ νόμου φόβῳ,
to-sit in-gully said of-the custom from-fear
κλύοντας ὡς θύοιμεν ἐνθάδε ξένους.
hearing that we-sacrifice here strangers
ἔδοξε δ' ἡμῶν εὖ λέγειν τοῖς πλείοσι,
seemed and of-us well to-speak to-the most
θηρᾶν τε τῇ θεῷ σφάγια τἀπιχώρια.
to-hunt and for-the goddess sacrifices the-local
κἀν τῷδε πέτραν ἄτερος λιπὼν ξένοιν
and-in this rock the-one having-left of-strangers
ἔστη κάρα τε διετίναξ' ἄνω κάτω
stood head and shook up down
κἀπεστέναξεν ὠλένας τρέμων ἄκρας,
and-groaned arms trembling at-tips
μανίαις ἀλαίνων, καὶ βοᾷ κυναγὸς ὥς·
with-madnesses wandering and cries hunter like
Πυλάδη, δέδορκας τήνδε; τήνδε δ' οὐχ ὁρᾷς
Pylades do-you-see this-one this-one and not you-see
Ἅιδου δράκαιναν, ὥς με βούλεται κτανεῖν
of-Hades she-dragon how me wishes to-kill
δειναῖς ἐχίδναις εἰς ἔμ' ἐστομωμένη;
with-terrible vipers at me mouthed
ἥ δ' ἐκ χιτώνων πῦρ πνέουσα καὶ φόνον
she and from robes fire breathing and slaughter
πτεροῖς ἐρέσσει, μητέρ' ἀγκάλαις ἐμὴν
with-wings rows mother in-arms my

ἔχουσα, πέτρινον ὄχθον, ὡς ἐπεμβάλῃ.
holding rocky mass that she-may-hurl-on

οἴμοι κτενεῖ με· ποῖ φύγω; παρῆν δ' ὁρᾶν
ah-me she-will-kill me where shall-I-flee was-possible but to-see

οὐ ταῦτα μορφῆς σχήματ', ἀλλ' ἠλλάσσετο
not these of-form shapes but he-confused

φθογγάς τε μόσχων καὶ κυνῶν ὑλάγματα,
lowings and of-heifers and of-dogs barkings

ἃ 'φασκ' Ἐρινῦς ἱέναι μυκήματα.
which said Furies to-send bellowings

ἡμεῖς δὲ συσταλέντες, ὡς θανούμενοι,
we and having-drawn-together as about-to-die

σιγῇ καθήμεθ'· ὁ δὲ χερὶ σπάσας ξίφος,
in-silence sat he and with-hand having-drawn sword

μόσχους ὀρούσας εἰς μέσας λέων ὅπως,
heifers having-rushed into middle lion like

παίει σιδήρῳ λαγόνας εἰς πλευρὰς ἱείς,
strikes with-iron flanks into sides sending

δοκῶν Ἐρινῦς θεὰς ἀμύνεσθαι τάδε,
thinking Furies goddesses to-ward-off thus

ὡς αἱματηρὸν πέλαγος ἐξανθεῖν ἁλός.
so-that bloody sea to-blossom of-brine

κἀν τῷδε πᾶς τις, ὡς ὁρᾷ βουφόρβια
and-in this every one when he-sees herds

πίπτοντα καὶ πορθούμεν', ἐξωπλίζετο,
falling and being-ravaged armed-himself

κόχλους τε φυσῶν συλλέγων τ' ἐγχωρίους·
conches and blowing gathering and natives

πρὸς εὐτραφεῖς γὰρ καὶ νεανίας ξένους
against well-fed for and young strangers

φαύλους μάχεσθαι βουκόλους ἡγούμεθα.
weak to-fight herdsmen we-thought
πολλοὶ δ' ἐπληρώθημεν οὐ μακρῷ χρόνῳ.
many and were-filled not in-long in-time
πίπτει δὲ μανίας πίτυλον ὁ ξένος μεθείς,
falls and of-madness surge the stranger having-let-go
στάζων ἀφρῷ γένειον· ὡς δ' ἐσείδομεν
dripping with-foam chin when and we-saw
προύργου πεσόντα, πᾶς ἀνὴρ ἔσχεν πόνον
opportunely fallen every man had toil
βάλλων ἀράσσων· ἄτερος δὲ τοῖν ξένοιν
pelting striking the-other and of-the strangers
ἀφρόν τ' ἀπέψη σώματός τ' ἐτημέλει
foam and wiped-off of-body and took-care
πέπλων τε προυκάλυπτεν εὐπήνους ὑφάς,
of-robes and covered-over well-woven weavings
καραδοκῶν μὲν τἀπιόντα τραύματα,
watching-for indeed the-coming wounds
φίλον δὲ θεραπείαισιν ἄνδρ' εὐεργετῶν.
friend and with-services man benefiting
ἔμφρων δ' ἀνάξας ὁ ξένος πεσήματος
sane and having-leapt-up the stranger from-fall
ἔγνω κλύδωνα πολεμίων προσκείμενον
knew wave of-enemies pressing
καὶ τὴν παροῦσαν συμφορὰν αὐτοῖν πέλας,
and the present misfortune to-them near
ᾤμωξέ θ'· ἡμεῖς δ' οὐκ ἀνίεμεν πέτρους
groaned and we and not let-go stones
βάλλοντες, ἄλλος ἄλλοθεν προσκείμενοι.
pelting one from-elsewhere pressing

οὗ δὴ τὸ δεινὸν παρακέλευσμ᾽ ἠκούσαμεν·
where indeed the terrible exhortation we-heard
Πυλάδη, θανούμεθ᾽, ἀλλ᾽ ὅπως θανούμεθα
Pylades we-shall-die but how we-shall-die
κάλλισθ᾽· ἕπου μοι, φάσγανον σπάσας χερί.
most-finely follow me sword having-drawn with-hand
ὡς δ᾽ εἴδομεν δίπαλτα πολεμίων ξίφη,
when and we-saw brandished of-enemies swords
φυγῇ λεπαίας ἐξεπίμπλαμεν νάπας.
in-flight rocky we-filled glens
ἀλλ᾽, εἰ φύγοι τις, ἄτεροι προσκείμενοι
but if fled one the-others pressing
ἔβαλλον αὐτούς· εἰ δὲ τούσδ᾽ ὠσαίατο,
pelted them if and these they-repulsed
αὖθις τὸ νῦν ὑπεῖκον ἤρασσον πέτροις.
again the now yielding struck with-stones
ἀλλ᾽ ἦν ἄπιστον· μυρίων γὰρ ἐκ χερῶν
but was incredible of-countless for from hands
οὐδεὶς τὰ τῆς θεοῦ θύματ᾽ ηὐτύχει βαλών.
no-one the of-the goddess victims succeeded throwing
μόλις δέ νιν τόλμῃ μὲν οὐ χειρούμεθα,
hardly and them by-daring indeed not we-overcome
κύκλῳ δὲ περιβαλόντες ἐξεκλέψαμεν
in-circle and having-surrounded we-stole-away
πέτροισι χειρῶν φάσγαν᾽, εἰς δὲ γῆν γόνυ
with-stones from-hands swords to and earth knee
καμάτῳ καθεῖσαν. πρὸς δ᾽ ἄνακτα τῆσδε γῆς
with-weariness they-let-down to and lord of-this land
κομίζομέν νιν. ὁ δ᾽ ἐσιδὼν ὅσον τάχος
we-bring them he and having-seen as-much-as quickly

εἰς χέρνιβάς τε καὶ σφαγεῖ' ἔπεμπέ σοι.
to lustral-waters and and slaughter-bowls sent to-you
εὔχου δὲ τοιάδ', ὦ νεᾶνί, σοι ξένων
pray and such O maiden for-you of-strangers
σφάγια παρεῖναι· κἂν ἀναλίσκῃς ξένους
sacrifices to-be-present and-if you-spend strangers
τοιούσδε, τὸν σὸν Ἑλλὰς ἀποτίσει φόνον
such the your Hellas will-pay-for murder
δίκας τίνουσα τῆς ἐν Αὐλίδι σφαγῆς.
penalty paying of-the in Aulis of-slaughter

ΧΟΡΟΣ θαυμάστ' ἔλεξας τὸν φανέν θ', ὅστις ποτὲ
marvels you-said the appearing whoever ever
Ἕλληνος ἐκ γῆς πόντον ἦλθεν ἄξενον.
Greek from land sea came inhospitable

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ εἶεν. σὺ μὲν κόμιζε τοὺς ξένους μολών·
well you indeed bring the strangers having-gone
τὰ δ' ἐνθάδ' ἡμεῖς φροντιοῦμεν οἷα χρή.
the and here we will-take-care such-as must
ὦ καρδία τάλαινα, πρὶν μὲν εἰς ξένους
O heart wretched before indeed toward strangers
γαληνὸς ἦσθα καὶ φιλοικτίρμων ἀεί,
calm you-were and compassionate always
εἰς θοὐμόφυλον ἀναμετρουμένη δάκρυ,
to kinship measuring tear
Ἕλληνας ἄνδρας ἡνίκ' εἰς χέρας λάβοις.
Greek men when into hands you-took
νῦν δ' ἐξ ὀνείρων οἷσιν ἠγριώμεθα,
now and from dreams by-which we-are-made-savage
δοκοῦσ' Ὀρέστην μηκέθ' ἥλιον βλέπειν,
thinking Orestes no-longer sun to-see

δύσνουν με λήψεσθ', οἵτινές ποθ' ἥκετε.
ill-disposed me you-will-find whoever ever you-come
καὶ τοῦτ' ἄρ' ἦν ἀληθές, ἠσθόμην, φίλαι·
and this then was true I-perceived friends
οἱ δυστυχεῖς γὰρ τοῖσιν εὐτυχεστέροις
the unfortunate for to-the more-fortunate
αὐτοὶ καλῶς πράξαντες οὐ φρονοῦσιν εὖ.
themselves well having-fared not think well
ἀλλ' οὔτε πνεῦμα Διόθεν ἦλθε πώποτε,
but neither wind from-Zeus came ever
οὐ πορθμίς, ἥτις διὰ πέτρας Συμπληγάδας
nor ferry which through rocks Symplegades
Ἑλένην ἀπήγαγ' ἐνθάδ', ἥ μ' ἀπώλεσε,
Helen brought here who me destroyed
Μενέλεών θ', ἵν' αὐτοὺς ἀντετιμωρησάμην,
Menelaus and so-that them I-might-take-vengeance-on
τὴν ἐνθάδ' Αὐλιν ἀντιθεῖσα τῆς ἐκεῖ,
the here Aulis setting-against the there
οὗ μ' ὥστε μόσχον Δαναΐδαι χειρούμενοι
where me like heifer Danaans overpowering
ἔσφαζον, ἱερεὺς δ' ἦν ὁ γεννήσας πατήρ.
slaughtered priest and was the having-begotten father
οἴμοι· κακῶν γὰρ τῶν τότ' οὐκ ἀμνημονῶ,
ah-me of-evils for of-the then not I-am-forgetful
ὅσας γενείου χεῖρας ἐξηκόντισα
how-many to-chin hands I-darted
γονάτων τε τοῦ τεκόντος ἐξαρτωμένη,
knees and of-the having-begotten clinging
λέγουσα τοιάδ'· ὦ πάτερ, νυμφεύομαι
saying such-things O father I-am-married

365 νυμφεύματ᾽ αἰσχρὰ πρὸς σέθεν· μήτηρ δ᾽ ἐμὲ
marriage shameful by you mother and me
σέθεν κατακτείνοντος Ἀργεῖαί τε νῦν
you killing Argive-women and now
ὑμνοῦσιν ὑμεναίοισιν, αὐλεῖται δὲ πᾶν
sing with-wedding-songs is-filled-with-pipes and all
μέλαθρον· ἡμεῖς δ᾽ ὀλλύμεσθα πρὸς σέθεν.
house we and perish by you
Ἅιδης Ἀχιλλεὺς ἦν ἄρ᾽, οὐχ ὁ Πηλέως,
Hades Achilles was then not the of-Peleus
370 ὅν μοι προτείνας πόσιν, ἐν ἁρμάτων μ᾽ ὄχοις
whom to-me holding-out as-husband in of-chariots me cars
εἰς αἱματηρὸν γάμον ἐπόρθμευσας δόλῳ.
to bloody marriage you-conveyed by-guile
ἐγὼ δὲ λεπτῶν ὄμμα διὰ καλυμμάτων
I and fine eye through veils
ἔχουσ᾽, ἀδελφόν τ᾽ οὐκ ἀνειλόμην χεροῖν,
having brother and not took-up in-arms
ὃς νῦν ὄλωλεν, οὐ κασιγνήτῃ στόμα
who now has-perished not to-sister mouth
375 συνῆψ᾽ ὑπ᾽ αἰδοῦς, ὡς ἰοῦσ᾽ εἰς Πηλέως
I-joined from shame as going to of-Peleus
μέλαθρα· πολλὰ δ᾽ ἀπεθέμην ἀσπάσματα
house many and I-put-off embraces
εἰσαῦθις, ὡς ἥξουσ᾽ ἐς Ἄργος αὖ πάλιν.
again as about-to-come to Argos again back
ὦ τλῆμον, εἰ τέθνηκας, ἐξ οἵων καλῶν
O wretched if you-are-dead from what-sort fine-things
ἔρρεις, Ὀρέστα, καὶ πατρὸς ζηλωμάτων.
you-are-gone Orestes and of-father enviable-things

τὰ τῆς θεοῦ δὲ μέμφομαι σοφίσματα,
the of-the goddess but I-blame subtleties
ἥτις βροτῶν μὲν ἤν τις ἅψηται φόνου,
who of-mortals indeed if anyone touch murder
ἢ καὶ λοχείας ἢ νεκροῦ θίγῃ χεροῖν,
or even childbirth or corpse touch with-hands
βωμῶν ἀπείργει, μυσαρὸν ὡς ἡγουμένη,
from-altars bars polluted as considering
αὐτὴ δὲ θυσίαις ἥδεται βροτοκτόνοις.
herself and in-sacrifices delights man-slaying
οὐκ ἔσθ' ὅπως ἔτικτεν ἡ Διὸς δάμαρ
not it-is how bore the of-Zeus wife
Λητὼ τοσαύτην ἀμαθίαν. ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν
Leto so-great folly I indeed then
τὰ Ταντάλου θεοῖσιν ἑστιάματα
the of-Tantalus for-gods feasts
ἄπιστα κρίνω, παιδὸς ἡσθῆναι βορᾷ,
incredible judge of-son to-have-delighted in-food
τοὺς δ' ἐνθάδ', αὐτοὺς ὄντας ἀνθρωποκτόνους,
the and here themselves being man-killers
εἰς τὴν θεὸν τὸ φαῦλον ἀναφέρειν δοκῶ·
to the goddess the base to-refer I-think
οὐδένα γὰρ οἶμαι δαιμόνων εἶναι κακόν.
none for I-think of-gods to-be evil

The chorus wonders who the strangers are and where they come from, Sparta or Thebes, sailing through the dark Clashing Rocks for love of wealth, past the sleepless shore of Phineus and the white shore of Achilles' racecourse. It wishes that Helen might come instead and die under her mistress's hand, and that some sailor from Greece would end its slavery, so that it might again share the songs of home.

ΧΟΡΟΣ κυάνεαι κυάνεαι σύνοδοι θαλάσσας,
dark dark meetings of-sea
ἵν' οἶστρος ὁ ποτώμενος Ἀργόθεν
where gadfly the flying from-Argos
ἄξενον ἐπ' οἶδμα διεπέρασεν Ἰοῦς
inhospitable over swell crossed of-Io
Ἀσιήτιδα γαῖαν
Asiatic land
Εὐρώπας διαμείψας,
of-Europe having-exchanged
τίνες ποτ' ἄρα τὸν εὔυδρον δονακόχλοον
who ever then the well-watered reed-green
λιπόντες Εὐρώταν
having-left Eurotas
ἢ ῥεύματα σεμνὰ Δίρκας
or streams holy of-Dirce
ἔβασαν ἔβασαν ἄμικτον αἶαν, ἔνθα κούρᾳ
came came unmixed land where for-maiden
δίᾳ τέγγει
divine wets
βωμοὺς καὶ περικίονας
altars and columned

ναοὺς αἷμα βρότειον;
temples blood mortal
ἢ ῥοθίοις εἰλατίναις δικρότοισι κώπαις
— with-surging fir with-double-beating oars
ἔπεμψαν ἐπὶ πόντια κύματα
sent over sea waves
νάιον ὄχημα λινοπόροισί τ᾽ αὔραις,
ship car with-sail-driven and breezes
φιλόπλουτον ἅμιλλαν
wealth-loving rivalry
αὔξοντες μελάθροισιν;
increasing for-house
φίλα γὰρ ἐλπὶς ἐγένετ᾽ ἐπὶ πήμασι βροτῶν
dear for hope became for woes of-mortals
ἄπληστος ἀνθρώποις,
insatiable for-men
ὄλβου βάρος οἳ φέρονται
of-wealth weight who carry-off
πλάνητες ἐπ᾽ οἶδμα πόλεις τε βαρβάρους περῶντες,
wanderers over swell cities and barbarian crossing
κοινᾷ δόξᾳ.
by-common opinion
γνώμα δ᾽ οἷς μὲν ἄκαιρος ὄλ-
judgment but to-some indeed unseasonable of-wealth
βου, τοῖς δ᾽ εἰς μέσον ἥκει.
— to-others but into middle comes
πῶς πέτρας τὰς συνδρομάδας,
how rocks the running-together
πῶς Φινείδας ἀΰπνους
how Phineid sleepless

ἀκτὰς ἐπέρασαν
shores did-they-cross
παρ᾽ ἅλιον αἰγιαλὸν ἐπ᾽ Ἀμφιτρίτας
by sea beach over of-Amphitrite
ῥοθίῳ δραμόντες,
surge running
ὅπου πεντήκοντα κορᾶν
where of-fifty of-maidens
Νηρηίδων χοροὶ
of-Nereids choruses
μέλπουσιν ἐγκύκλιοι,
sing circling
πλησιστίοισι πνοαῖς,
with-full-sail breezes
συριζόντων κατὰ πρύμναν
whistling at stern
εὐναίων πηδαλίων
of-anchored rudders
αὔραισιν νοτίαις
with-breezes southern
ἢ πνεύμασι Ζεφύρου,
or with-winds of-Zephyr
τὰν πολυόρνιθον ἐπ᾽ αἶαν,
the many-birded to land
λευκὰν ἀκτάν, Ἀχιλῆος
white shore of-Achilles
δρόμους καλλισταδίους,
courses fair-coursed
ἄξεινον κατὰ πόντον;
inhospitable across sea

εἴθ' εὐχαῖσιν δεσποσύνοις
would-that by-prayers of-mistress
Λήδας Ἑλένα φίλα παῖς
of-Leda Helen dear child
ἐλθοῦσα τύχοι τὰν
having-come might-happen the
Τρῳάδα λιποῦσα πόλιν, ἵν' ἀμφὶ χαίτᾳ
Trojan having-left city so-that about hair
δρόσον αἱματηρὰν
dew bloody
εἱλιχθεῖσα λαιμοτόμῳ
whirled by-throat-cutting
δεσποίνας χερὶ θάνῃ
of-mistress by-hand she-might-die
ποινὰς δοῦσ' ἀντιπάλους.
penalties having-given in-return
ἥδιστ' ἂν τήνδ' ἀγγελίαν
most-sweetly — this message
δεξαίμεσθ', Ἑλλάδος ἐκ γᾶς
we-would-receive Hellas from land
πλωτήρων εἴ τις ἔβα,
of-sailors if any came
δουλείας ἐμέθεν
of-slavery my
δειλαίας παυσίπονος·
wretched toil-ending
κἀν γὰρ ὀνείρασι συνείην
even-in for dreams may-I-be-with
δόμοις πόλει τε πατρῴᾳ,
house city and paternal

τερπνῶν ὕμνων ἀπόλαυ-
delightful of-hymns enjoyment
σιν, κοινὰν χάριν ὄλβῳ.
— common delight with-prosperity

V · THE LETTER AND THE RECOGNITION

The captives are led in, and Iphigenia questions them. Orestes will not give his name, but says he is from Argos, and she asks after Troy, Helen, Calchas, Odysseus, Achilles, and Agamemnon. She learns that her father died at his wife's hands, that the son killed his mother to avenge him, and that Orestes lives, an outcast. She offers to save one man if he will carry a letter to Argos; Orestes insists that Pylades go, and Pylades yields. For safety she recites the letter, which is addressed to Orestes from Iphigenia, and brother and sister know each other. Orestes proves himself by the woven tale of Atreus and Thyestes and by Pelops' spear, and they rejoice. He tells of his trial at Athens, the Furies who would not accept it, and Apollo's command to fetch the image. Iphigenia contrives their escape: she will say the matricides and the image must be washed in the sea. The women swear silence, and she prays to Artemis.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλ' οἵδε χέρας δεσμοῖς δίδυμοι
but these-two hands in-bonds twin
συνερεισθέντες χωροῦσι, νέον
bound come new
πρόσφαγμα θεᾶς· σιγᾶτε, φίλαι.
sacrifice of-the-goddess be-silent friends
τὰ γὰρ Ἑλλήνων ἀκροθίνια δὴ
the for of-Greeks first-fruits indeed
ναοῖσι πέλας τάδε βαίνει·
temple near these come
οὐδ' ἀγγελίας ψευδεῖς ἔλακεν
nor messages false uttered

βουφορβὸς ἀνήρ.
herdsman man

ὦ πότνι', εἴ σοι τάδ' ἀρεσκόντως
O lady if to-you these pleasingly

πόλις ἥδε τελεῖ, δέξαι θυσίας,
city this performs receive sacrifices

ἃς ὁ παρ' ἡμῖν νόμος οὐχ ὁσίας
which the among us custom not holy

Ἕλλησι διδοὺς ἀναφαίνει.
to-Greeks giving displays

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ εἶεν·
well

τὰ τῆς θεοῦ μὲν πρῶτον ὡς καλῶς ἔχῃ
the of-the goddess indeed first that well may-be

φροντιστέον μοι. μέθετε τῶν ξένων χέρας,
must-take-care by-me loose of-the strangers hands

ὡς ὄντες ἱεροὶ μηκέτ' ὦσι δέσμιοι.
that being holy no-longer they-may-be bound

ναοῦ δ' ἔσω στείχοντες εὐτρεπίζετε
of-temple and within going prepare

ἃ χρὴ 'πὶ τοῖς παροῦσι καὶ νομίζεται.
what must for the present and is-customary

φεῦ·
alas

τίς ἆρα μήτηρ ἡ τεκοῦσ' ὑμᾶς ποτε
who then mother the having-borne you ever

πατήρ τ'; ἀδελφή τ', εἰ γεγῶσα τυγχάνει,
father and sister and if born happens-to-be

οἵων στερεῖσα διπτύχων νεανιῶν
of-what-sort bereft twin youths

ἀνάδελφος ἔσται. τὰς τύχας τίς οἶδ' ὅτῳ
brotherless will-be the fortunes who knows to-whom
τοιαῖδ' ἔσονται; πάντα γὰρ τὰ τῶν θεῶν
such will-be all for the of-the gods
εἰς ἀφανὲς ἕρπει, κοὐδὲν οἶδ' οὐδεὶς κακόν.
into obscure creeps and-nothing knows no-one evil
ἡ γὰρ τύχη παρήγαγ' εἰς τὸ δυσμαθές.
the for fortune led-aside to the hard-to-learn
πόθεν ποθ' ἥκετ', ὦ ταλαίπωροι ξένοι;
whence ever do-you-come O wretched strangers
ὡς διὰ μακροῦ μὲν τήνδ' ἐπλεύσατε χθόνα,
how through long indeed this you-sailed land
μακρὰν δ' ἀπ' οἴκων χθονὸς ἔσεσθ' ἀεὶ κάτω.
long and from home of-land you-will-be always below
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί ταῦτ' ὀδύρει, κἀπὶ τοῖς μέλλουσι νὼ
why these-things do-you-lament and-at the to-come us-two
κακοῖσι λυπεῖς, ἥτις εἶ ποτ', ὦ γύναι;
evils grieve whoever you-are ever O woman
οὔτοι νομίζω σοφόν, ὃς ἂν μέλλων θανεῖν
surely-not I-think wise whoever — about to-die
οἴκτῳ τὸ δεῖμα τοὐλέθρου νικᾶν θέλῃ,
with-lament the dread of-ruin to-conquer wishes
οὐδ' ὅστις Ἅιδην ἐγγὺς ὄντ' οἰκτίζεται,
nor whoever Hades near being bewails
σωτηρίας ἄνελπις· ὡς δύ' ἐξ ἑνὸς
of-safety hopeless since two from one
κακὼ συνάπτει, μωρίαν τ' ὀφλισκάνει
evils joins folly and incurs
θνήσκει θ' ὁμοίως· τὴν τύχην δ' ἐᾶν χρεών.
dies and equally the fortune but to-let-be must

ἡμᾶς δὲ μὴ θρήνει σύ· τὰς γὰρ ἐνθάδε
us and not lament you the for here
θυσίας ἐπιστάμεσθα καὶ γιγνώσκομεν.
sacrifices we-know and we-recognize
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ πότερος ἆρ' ὑμῶν ἐνθάδ' ὠνομασμένος
which then of-you here named
Πυλάδης κέκληται; τόδε μαθεῖν πρῶτον θέλω.
Pylades is-called this to-learn first I-wish
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὅδ', εἴ τι δή σοι τοῦτ' ἐν ἡδονῇ μαθεῖν.
this-one if at-all indeed to-you this in pleasure to-learn
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ποίας πολίτης πατρίδος Ἕλληνος γεγώς;
of-what citizen fatherland Greek born
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί δ' ἂν μαθοῦσα τόδε πλέον λάβοις, γύναι;
what and — having-learned this more would-you-get woman
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ πότερον ἀδελφὼ μητρός ἐστον ἐκ μιᾶς;
whether brothers mother are-you-two from one
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ φιλότητί γ'· ἐσμὲν δ' οὐ κασιγνήτω γένει.
by-friendship at-least we-are and not brothers by-birth
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ σοὶ δ' ὄνομα ποῖον ἔθεθ' ὁ γεννήσας πατήρ;
to-you and name what gave the having-begotten father
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τὸ μὲν δίκαιον δυστυχεῖς καλοίμεθ' ἄν.
the indeed justly unfortunate we-might-be-called —
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ οὐ τοῦτ' ἐρωτῶ· τοῦτο μὲν δὸς τῇ τύχῃ.
not this I-ask this indeed give to-the fortune
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἀνώνυμοι θανόντες οὐ γελῴμεθ' ἄν.
nameless having-died not we-would-be-mocked —
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ τί δὲ φθονεῖς τοῦτ'; ἢ φρονεῖς οὕτω μέγα;
why and do-you-grudge this or are-you-proud so greatly
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τὸ σῶμα θύσεις τοὐμόν, οὐχὶ τοὔνομα.
the body you-will-sacrifice my not the-name

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ οὐδ' ἂν πόλιν φράσειας ἥτις ἐστί σοι;
not-even — city would-you-tell which is to-you

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ζητεῖς γὰρ οὐδὲν κέρδος, ὡς θανουμένῳ.
you-seek for no gain as to-one-about-to-die

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ χάριν δὲ δοῦναι τήνδε κωλύει τι σε;
favor and to-give this prevents something you

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τὸ κλεινὸν Ἄργος πατρίδ' ἐμὴν ἐπεύχομαι.
the famous Argos fatherland my I-boast

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ πρὸς θεῶν ἀληθῶς, ὦ ξέν', εἶ κεῖθεν γεγώς;
by gods truly O stranger are-you thence born

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἐκ τῶν Μυκηνῶν γ', αἵ ποτ' ἦσαν ὄλβιαι.
from the Mycenae at-least which once were prosperous

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ φυγὰς δ' ἀπῆρας πατρίδος, ἢ ποίᾳ τύχῃ;
as-exile and did-you-depart fatherland or by-what fortune

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ φεύγω τρόπον γε δή τιν' οὐχ ἑκὼν ἑκών.
I-flee way at-least indeed some not willing willing

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ καὶ μὴν ποθεινός γ' ἦλθες ἐξ Ἄργους μολών.
and indeed longed-for at-least you-came from Argos having-come

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὔκουν ἐμαυτῷ γ'· εἰ δὲ σοί, σὺ τοῦθ' ὅρα.
not-then to-myself at-least if but to-you you this see

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἆρ' ἄν τί μοι φράσειας ὧν ἐγὼ θέλω;
— — something to-me would-you-tell of-what I wish

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὥς γ' ἐν παρέργῳ τῆς ἐμῆς δυσπραξίας.
as at-least in side-issue of-the my of-ill-fortune

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ Τροίαν ἴσως οἶσθ', ἧς ἁπανταχοῦ λόγος.
Troy perhaps you-know of-which everywhere report

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὡς μήποτ' ὤφελόν γε μηδ' ἰδὼν ὄναρ.
how never would-that at-least nor having-seen in-dream

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ φασίν νιν οὐκέτ' οὖσαν οἴχεσθαι δορί.
they-say it no-longer being to-be-gone by-spear

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἔστιν γὰρ οὕτως οὐδ' ἄκραντ' ἠκούσατε.
it-is for so nor unfulfilled-things you-heard

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ Ἑλένη δ' ἀφῖκται δῶμα Μενέλεω πάλιν;
Helen and has-come house of-Menelaus back

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἥκει, κακῶς γ' ἐλθοῦσα τῶν ἐμῶν τινι.
she-has-come badly at-least having-come of-the my to-someone

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ καὶ ποῦ 'στι; κἀμοὶ γάρ τι προυφείλει κακόν.
and where is-she and-to-me for some owes evil

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Σπάρτῃ ξυνοικεῖ τῷ πάρος ξυνευνέτῃ.
in-Sparta lives-with the former husband

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ὦ μῖσος εἰς Ἕλληνας, οὐκ ἐμοὶ μόνῃ.
O hatred to Greeks not to-me alone

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἀπέλαυσα κἀγὼ δή τι τῶν κείνης γάμων.
reaped and-I indeed some of-the her marriage

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ νόστος δ' Ἀχαιῶν ἐγένεθ', ὡς κηρύσσεται;
return and of-Achaeans happened as is-proclaimed

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὡς πάνθ' ἅπαξ με συλλαβοῦσ' ἀνιστορεῖς.
how all-things at-once me having-gathered you-question

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ πρὶν γὰρ θανεῖν σε, τοῦδ' ἐπαυρέσθαι θέλω.
before for to-die you this to-enjoy I-wish

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἔλεγχ', ἐπειδὴ τοῦδ' ἐρᾷς· λέξω δ' ἐγώ.
question since this you-desire I-will-tell and I

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ Κάλχας τις ἦλθε μάντις ἐκ Τροίας πάλιν;
Calchas a came seer from Troy back

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὄλωλεν, ὡς ἦν ἐν Μυκηναίοις λόγος.
has-perished as was among Mycenaeans report

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ὦ πότνι', ὡς εὖ. τί γὰρ ὁ Λαέρτου γόνος;
O lady how well what for the of-Laertes son

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὔπω νενόστηκ' οἶκον, ἔστι δ', ὡς λόγος.
not-yet has-returned home is but as report

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ὄλοιτο, νόστου μήποτ' εἰς πάτραν τυχών.
may-he-perish of-return never to fatherland having-met

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μηδὲν κατεύχου· πάντα τἀκείνου νοσεῖ.
nothing pray-against all-things of-him is-sick

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ Θέτιδος δὲ τῆς Νηρῇδος ἔστι παῖς ἔτι;
of-Thetis and the of-Nereid is son still

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκ ἔστιν· ἄλλως λέκτρ' ἔγημ' ἐν Αὐλίδι.
not he-is in-vain bed he-married in Aulis

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ δόλια γάρ, ὡς ἴσασιν οἱ πεπονθότες.
treacherous for as know the having-suffered

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τίς εἶ ποθ'; ὡς εὖ πυνθάνει τἀφ' Ἑλλάδος.
who are-you ever how well you-inquire the-things-from Hellas

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἐκεῖθέν εἰμι· παῖς ἔτ' οὖσ' ἀπωλόμην.
thence I-am child still being I-perished

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὀρθῶς ποθεῖς ἄρ' εἰδέναι τἀκεῖ, γύναι.
rightly you-long then to-know the-things-there woman

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ τί δ' ὁ στρατηγός, ὃν λέγουσ' εὐδαιμονεῖν;
what and the general whom they-say to-prosper

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τίς; οὐ γὰρ ὅν γ' ἐγῷδα τῶν εὐδαιμόνων.
who not for whom at-least I-know of-the prosperous

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ Ἀτρέως ἐλέγετο δή τις Ἀγαμέμνων ἄναξ.
of-Atreus was-called indeed a Agamemnon lord

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκ οἶδ'· ἄπελθε τοῦ λόγου τούτου, γύναι.
not I-know go-away from-the word this woman

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ μὴ πρὸς θεῶν, ἀλλ' εἴφ', ἵν' εὐφρανθῶ, ξένε.
not by gods but speak so-that I-may-be-gladdened stranger

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τέθνηχ' ὁ τλήμων, πρὸς δ' ἀπώλεσέν τινα.
is-dead the wretched besides and destroyed someone

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ τέθνηκε; ποίᾳ συμφορᾷ; τάλαιν' ἐγώ.
is-dead by-what misfortune wretched I

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί δ' ἐστέναξας τοῦτο; μῶν προσῆκέ σοι;
why and did-you-groan this surely-not concerned you

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ τὸν ὄλβον αὐτοῦ τὸν πάροιθ' ἀναστένω.
the prosperity his the former I-bemoan

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ δεινῶς γὰρ ἐκ γυναικὸς οἴχεται σφαγείς.
terribly for by woman he-is-gone slaughtered

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ὦ πανδάκρυτος ἡ κτανοῦσα χὠ θανών.
O all-lamented the having-killed and-the having-died

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ παῦσαί νυν ἤδη μηδ' ἐρωτήσῃς πέρα.
stop now already nor ask further

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ τοσόνδε γ', εἰ ζῇ τοῦ ταλαιπώρου δάμαρ.
so-much at-least if lives of-the wretched wife

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκ ἔστι· παῖς νιν ὃν ἔτεχ', οὗτος ὤλεσεν.
not is child her whom bore this-one killed

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ὦ συνταραχθεὶς οἶκος. ὡς τί δὴ θέλων;
O confounded house as what indeed wishing

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πατρὸς θανόντος αἷμα τιμωρούμενος.
of-father having-died blood avenging

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ φεῦ·
alas

ὡς εὖ κακὸν δίκαιον εἰσεπράξατο.
how well evil justice he-exacted

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἀλλ' οὐ τὰ πρὸς θεῶν εὐτυχεῖ δίκαιος ὤν.
but not the-things from gods prospers just being

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ λείπει δ' ἐν οἴκοις ἄλλον Ἀγαμέμνων γόνον;
leaves and in house other Agamemnon offspring

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ λέλοιπεν Ἠλέκτραν γε παρθένον μίαν.
has-left Electra at-least maiden one

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ τί δέ; σφαγείσης θυγατρὸς ἔστι τις λόγος;
what and of-slaughtered daughter is any report

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐδείς γε, πλὴν θανοῦσαν οὐχ ὁρᾶν φάος.
none at-least except having-died not to-see light

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ τάλαιν' ἐκείνη χὠ κτανὼν αὐτὴν πατήρ.
wretched she and-the having-killed her father

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ κακῆς γυναικὸς χάριν ἄχαριν ἀπώλετο.
of-evil woman for-the-sake thankless perished

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ὁ τοῦ θανόντος δ' ἔστι παῖς Ἄργει πατρός;
the of-the having-died and is son in-Argos of-father

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἔστ', ἄθλιός γε, κοὐδαμοῦ καὶ πανταχοῦ.
he-is wretched at-least and-nowhere and everywhere

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ψευδεῖς ὄνειροι, χαίρετ'· οὐδὲν ἦτ' ἄρα.
false dreams farewell nothing you-were then

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐδ' οἱ σοφοί γε δαίμονες κεκλημένοι
nor the wise at-least gods called

πτηνῶν ὀνείρων εἰσὶν ἀψευδέστεροι.
than-winged than-dreams are more-truthful

πολὺς ταραγμὸς ἔν τε τοῖς θείοις ἔνι
much confusion in both the divine is-in

κἀν τοῖς βροτείοις· ἓν δὲ λυπεῖται μόνον,
and-in the mortal one but grieves only

ὅτ' οὐκ ἄφρων ὢν μάντεων πεισθεὶς λόγοις
when not foolish being of-seers having-trusted in-words

ὄλωλεν ὡς ὄλωλε τοῖσιν εἰδόσιν.
has-perished as has-perished to-those knowing

ΧΟΡΟΣ φεῦ φεῦ· τί δ' ἡμεῖς οἵ τ' ἐμοὶ γεννήτορες;
alas alas what and we the and my parents

ἆρ' εἰσίν; ἆρ' οὐκ εἰσί; τίς φράσειεν ἄν;
— are-they — not are-they who would-tell —

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἀκούσατ'· εἰς γὰρ δή τιν' ἥκομεν λόγον,
listen to for indeed some we-have-come word
ὑμῖν τ' ὄνησιν, ὦ ξένοι, σπεύδουσ' ἅμα
for-you and benefit O strangers hastening at-once
κἀμοί. τὸ δ' εὖ μάλιστα τῇδε γίγνεται,
and-for-me the and well most thus comes
εἰ πᾶσι ταὐτὸν πρᾶγμ' ἀρεσκόντως ἔχει.
if to-all the-same thing pleasingly holds
θέλοις ἄν, εἰ σώσαιμί σ', ἀγγεῖλαί τί μοι
would-you-wish — if I-should-save you to-bring-word something for-me
πρὸς Ἄργος ἐλθὼν τοῖς ἐμοῖς ἐκεῖ φίλοις,
to Argos having-gone to-the my there friends
δέλτον τ' ἐνεγκεῖν, ἥν τις οἰκτείρας ἐμὲ
tablet and to-carry which someone pitying me
ἔγραψεν αἰχμάλωτος, οὐχὶ τὴν ἐμὴν
wrote captive not the my
φονέα νομίζων χεῖρα, τοῦ νόμου δ' ὕπο
murderous thinking hand of-the law and by
θνῄσκειν σφε, τῆς θεοῦ τάδε δίκαι' ἡγουμένης;
to-die them the goddess these-things just considering
οὐδένα γὰρ εἶχον ὅστις ἀγγείλαι μολὼν
none for I-had who might-bring-word having-gone
εἰς Ἄργος αὖθις, τάς τ' ἐμὰς ἐπιστολὰς
to Argos again the and my letters
πέμψειε σωθεὶς τῶν ἐμῶν φίλων τινί.
might-send having-been-saved of-the my of-friends to-someone
σὺ δ', εἶ γάρ, ὡς ἔοικας, οὔτε δυσγενὴς
you and are for as you-seem neither low-born
καὶ τὰς Μυκήνας οἶσθα χοὓς κἀγὼ θέλω,
and the Mycenae you-know and-those-whom I-too wish

σώθητι, καὶ σὺ μισθὸν οὐκ αἰσχρὸν λαβών,
be-saved and you wage not shameful having-received
κούφων ἕκατι γραμμάτων σωτηρίαν.
light for-the-sake of-letters safety
595 οὗτος δ', ἐπείπερ πόλις ἀναγκάζει τάδε,
this-one but since city compels these-things
θεᾷ γενέσθω θῦμα χωρισθεὶς σέθεν.
to-goddess let-become sacrifice separated from-you
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καλῶς ἔλεξας τἄλλα πλὴν ἕν, ὦ ξένη·
well you-said the-rest except one O stranger
τὸ γὰρ σφαγῆναι τόνδ' ἐμοὶ βάρος μέγα.
the for to-be-slaughtered this-one to-me weight great
ὁ ναυστολῶν γάρ εἰμ' ἐγὼ τὰς ξυμφοράς·
the sailing for am I the misfortunes
600 οὗτος δὲ συμπλεῖ τῶν ἐμῶν μόχθων χάριν.
this-one and sails-with of-the my of-toils for-the-sake
οὔκουν δίκαιον ἐπ' ὀλέθρῳ τῷ τοῦδ' ἐμὲ
not-then just at ruin the of-him me
χάριν τίθεσθαι καὐτὸν ἐκδῦναι κακῶν.
favor to-get and-myself to-escape evils
ἀλλ' ὡς γενέσθω· τῷδε μὲν δέλτον δίδου,
but so let-it-be to-this-one indeed tablet give
πέμψει γὰρ Ἄργος, ὥστε σοι καλῶς ἔχειν·
he-will-send for to-Argos so-that for-you well to-be
605 ἡμᾶς δ' ὁ χρῄζων κτεινέτω. τὰ τῶν φίλων
us and the wishing let-kill the of-the of-friends
αἴσχιστον ὅστις καταβαλὼν εἰς ξυμφορὰς
most-shameful whoever having-thrown into misfortunes
αὐτὸς σέσωσται. τυγχάνει δ' ὅδ' ὢν φίλος,
himself has-been-saved happens and this-one being friend

ὃν οὐδὲν ἧσσον ἢ ’μὲ φῶς ὁρᾶν θέλω.
whom no less than me light to-see I-wish

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ὦ λῆμ’ ἄριστον, ὡς ἀπ’ εὐγενοῦς τινος
O spirit best how from noble some

ῥίζης πέφυκας τοῖς φίλοις τ’ ὀρθῶς φίλος.
root you-are-sprung for-the friends and rightly friend

τοιοῦτος εἴη τῶν ἐμῶν ὁμοσπόρων
such may-be of-the my of-kin

ὅσπερ λέλειπται. καὶ γὰρ οὐδ’ ἐγώ, ξένοι,
who-indeed is-left and for not I strangers

ἀνάδελφός εἰμι, πλὴν ὅσ’ οὐχ ὁρῶσά νιν.
brotherless am except in-so-far-as not seeing him

ἐπεὶ δὲ βούλει ταῦτα, τόνδε πέμψομεν
since and you-wish these-things this-one we-will-send

δέλτον φέροντα, σὺ δὲ θανεῖ· πολλὴ δέ τις
tablet carrying you but will-die much and some

προθυμία σε τοῦδ’ ἔχουσα τυγχάνει.
eagerness you of-this having happens

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ θύσει δὲ τίς με καὶ τὰ δεινὰ τλήσεται;
will-sacrifice and who me and the terrible-things will-dare

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἐγώ· θεᾶς γὰρ τήνδε προστροπὴν ἔχω
I of-the-goddess for this office I-have

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἄζηλά γ’, ὦ νεᾶνι, κοὐκ εὐδαίμονα.
unenviable at-least O maiden and-not happy

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἀλλ’ εἰς ἀνάγκην κείμεθ’, ἣν φυλακτέον.
but in necessity we-lie which must-be-observed

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ αὐτὴ ξίφει θύουσα θῆλυς ἄρσενας;
yourself with-sword sacrificing female males

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ οὔκ· ἀλλὰ χαίτην ἀμφὶ σὴν χερνίψομαι.
no but hair about your I-will-sprinkle

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὁ δὲ σφαγεὺς τίς; εἰ τάδ' ἱστορεῖν με χρή.
the and slaughterer who if these-things to-ask me must

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ εἴσω δόμων τῶνδ' εἰσὶν οἷς μέλει τάδε.
within house these are to-whom are-a-care these-things

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τάφος δὲ ποῖος δέξεταί μ', ὅταν θάνω;
tomb and what-sort will-receive me when I-die

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ πῦρ ἱερὸν ἔνδον χάσμα τ' εὐρωπὸν πέτρας.
fire holy within chasm and broad of-rock

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ φεῦ·
alas

πῶς ἄν μ' ἀδελφῆς χεὶρ περιστείλειεν ἄν;
how — me of-sister hand might-lay-out —

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ μάταιον εὐχήν, ὦ τάλας, ὅστις ποτ' εἶ,
vain prayer O wretched whoever ever you-are

ηὔξω· μακρὰν γὰρ βαρβάρου ναίει χθονός.
you-prayed far for of-barbarian dwells land

οὐ μήν, ἐπειδὴ τυγχάνεις Ἀργεῖος ὤν,
not indeed since you-happen Argive being

ἀλλ' ὧν γε δυνατὸν οὐδ' ἐγὼ 'λλείψω χάριν.
but of-what at-least possible nor I will-fail favor

πολύν τε γάρ σοι κόσμον ἐνθήσω τάφῳ,
much and for to-you adornment I-will-put-in tomb

ξανθῷ τ' ἐλαίῳ σῶμα σὸν κατασβέσω,
golden and with-oil body your I-will-quench

καὶ τῆς ὀρείας ἀνθεμόρρυτον γάνος
and of-the mountain flower-flowing brightness

ξουθῆς μελίσσης εἰς πυρὰν βαλῶ σέθεν.
of-yellow bee into pyre I-will-throw of-you

ἀλλ' εἶμι, δέλτον τ' ἐκ θεᾶς ἀνακτόρων
but I-will-go tablet and from of-the-goddess shrines

οἴσω· τὸ μέντοι δυσμενὲς μὴ ’μοὶ λάβῃς.
I-will-bring the however hostile not against-me take
φυλάσσετ’ αὐτούς, πρόσπολοι, δεσμῶν ἄτερ.
guard them attendants of-bonds without
ἴσως ἄελπτα τῶν ἐμῶν φίλων τινὶ
perhaps unexpected-things of-the my friends to-someone
πέμψω πρὸς Ἄργος, ὃν μάλιστ’ ἐγὼ φιλῶ,
I-will-send to Argos whom most I love
καὶ δέλτος αὐτῷ ζῶντας οὓς δοκεῖ θανεῖν
and tablet to-him living whom he-thinks to-have-died
λέγουσα πιστὰς ἡδονὰς ἀπαγγελεῖ.
telling trustworthy pleasures will-announce
ΧΟΡΟΣ κατολοφυρόμεθα σὲ τὸν χερνίβων
we-bewail you the of-lustral-water
ῥανίσι βαρβάρων
with-drops of-barbarian
μελόμενον αἱμακταῖς.
destined bloody
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οἶκτος γὰρ οὐ ταῦτ’, ἀλλὰ χαίρετ’, ὦ ξέναι.
pity for not these-things but farewell O strangers
ΧΟΡΟΣ σὲ δὲ τύχας μάκαρος, ἰὼ νεανία,
you and of-fortune blessed oh youth
σεβόμεθ’, εἰς πάτραν
we-revere to fatherland
ὅτι πόδ’ ἐπεμβάσει.
that foot you-will-set-on
ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἄζηλά τοι φίλοισι, θνῃσκόντων φίλων.
unenviable surely to-friends of-dying friends

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ σχέτλιοι πομπαί.
O cruel sendings
φεῦ φεῦ, διόλλυσαι.
alas alas you-perish
αἰαῖ αἰαῖ.
alas alas
πότερος ὁ μέλεος μᾶλλον ὤν;
which the wretched more being
655 ἔτι γὰρ ἀμφίλογα δίδυμα μέμονε φρήν,
still for doubtful twofold yearns mind
σὲ πάρος ἢ σ' ἀναστενάξω γόοις.
you first or you shall-I-bewail with-groans
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Πυλάδη, πέπονθας ταὐτὰ πρὸς θεῶν ἐμοί;
Pylades have-you-felt the-same by gods as-I
ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ οὐκ οἶδ'· ἐρωτᾷς οὐ λέγειν ἔχοντά με.
not I-know you-ask not to-speak being-able me
660 ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τίς ἐστὶν ἡ νεᾶνις; ὡς Ἑλληνικῶς
who is the maiden how in-Greek
ἀνήρεθ' ἡμᾶς τούς τ' ἐν Ἰλίῳ πόνους
asked us the both in Ilium toils
νόστον τ' Ἀχαιῶν τόν τ' ἐν οἰωνοῖς σοφὸν
return and of-Achaeans the and in birds wise
Κάλχαντ' Ἀχιλλέως τ' ὄνομα, καὶ τὸν ἄθλιον
Calchas of-Achilles and name and the wretched
Ἀγαμέμνον' ὡς ᾤκτειρ' ἀνηρώτα τέ με
Agamemnon how she-pitied asked and me
665 γυναῖκα παῖδάς τ'. ἔστιν ἡ ξένη γένος
wife children and is the stranger by-race
ἐκεῖθεν Ἀργεία τις· οὐ γὰρ ἄν ποτε
thence Argive some not for — ever

δέλτον τ᾽ ἔπεμπε καὶ τάδ᾽ ἐξεμάνθανεν,
tablet and would-send and these-things learned
ὡς κοινὰ πράσσουσ᾽, Ἄργος εἰ πράσσοι καλῶς.
as common faring Argos if may-fare well
ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἔφθης με μικρόν· ταὐτὰ δὲ φθάσας λέγεις,
you-anticipated me a-little the-same but anticipating you-say
πλὴν ἕν· τὰ γάρ τοι βασιλέων παθήματα
except one the for surely of-kings sufferings
ἴσασι πάντες, ὧν ἐπιστροφή τις ἦν.
know all of-whom concern some was
ἀτὰρ διῆλθον χἄτερον λόγον τινά.
but I-went-through and-other word some
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τίν᾽; εἰς τὸ κοινὸν δοὺς ἄμεινον ἂν μάθοις.
what to the common having-given better — might-you-learn
ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ αἰσχρὸν θανόντος σοῦ βλέπειν ἡμᾶς φάος,
shameful having-died you to-see us light
κοινῇ τ᾽ ἔπλευσα, δεῖ με καὶ κοινῇ θανεῖν.
in-common and I-sailed must me also in-common to-die
καὶ δειλίαν γὰρ καὶ κάκην κεκτήσομαι
and cowardice for and baseness I-shall-acquire
Ἄργει τε Φωκέων τ᾽ ἐν πολυπτύχῳ χθονί,
in-Argos and of-Phocians and in many-valed land
δόξω δὲ τοῖς πολλοῖσι, πολλοὶ γὰρ κακοί,
I-shall-seem and to-the many many for base
προδούς σε, σωθεὶς δ᾽ αὐτὸς εἰς οἴκους μόνος,
having-betrayed you saved and myself to home alone
ἢ καὶ φονεύσας ἐπὶ νοσοῦσι δώμασι
or even having-murdered upon sick house
ῥάψαι μόρον σοι σῆς τυραννίδος χάριν,
to-stitch death for-you of-your kingship for-the-sake

ἔγκληρον ὡς δὴ σὴν κασιγνήτην γαμῶν.
heiress as indeed your sister marrying
ταῦτ' οὖν φοβοῦμαι καὶ δι' αἰσχύνης ἔχω,
these-things then I-fear and in shame hold
κοὐκ ἔσθ' ὅπως οὐ χρὴ συνεκπνεῦσαί μέ σοι
and-not it-is how not must to-breathe-out-with me you
καὶ συσφαγῆναι καὶ πυρωθῆναι δέμας,
and to-be-slaughtered-with and to-be-burned body
φίλον γεγῶτα καὶ φοβούμενον ψόγον.
friend being and fearing blame
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εὔφημα φώνει· τἀμὰ δεῖ φέρειν ἐμέ·
well-omened-things speak my must to-bear me
ἁπλᾶς δὲ λύπας ἐξόν, οὐκ οἴσω διπλᾶς.
single and griefs it-being-possible not I-shall-bear double
ὃ γὰρ σὺ λυπρὸν κἀπονείδιστον λέγεις,
what for you grievous and-reproachful say
ταῦτ' ἔστιν ἡμῖν, εἴ σε συμμοχθοῦντ' ἐμοὶ
this is for-us if you toiling-with me
κτενῶ· τὸ μὲν γὰρ εἰς ἔμ' οὐ κακῶς ἔχει,
I-shall-kill the indeed for to me not badly holds
πράσσονθ' ἃ πράσσω πρὸς θεῶν, λιπεῖν βίον.
faring what I-fare by gods to-leave life
σὺ δ' ὄλβιός τ' εἶ, καθαρά τ' οὐ νοσοῦντ' ἔχεις
you and prosperous both are pure and not sick have
μέλαθρ', ἐγὼ δὲ δυσσεβῆ καὶ δυστυχῆ.
house I but impious and unfortunate
σωθεὶς δὲ παῖδας ἐξ ἐμῆς ὁμοσπόρου
saved and children from my sister
κτησάμενος, ἣν ἔδωκά σοι δάμαρτ' ἔχειν,
having-gotten whom I-gave to-you wife to-have

ὄνομά τ᾽ ἐμοῦ γένοιτ᾽ ἄν, οὐδ᾽ ἄπαις δόμος
name and my would-be — nor childless house
πατρῷος οὑμὸς ἐξαλειφθείη ποτ᾽ ἄν.
paternal my might-be-wiped-out ever —
ἀλλ᾽ ἕρπε καὶ ζῆ καὶ δόμους οἴκει πατρός.
but go and live and house dwell-in of-father
ὅταν δ᾽ ἐς Ἑλλάδ᾽ ἱππιόν τ᾽ Ἄργος μόλῃς, 700
when and to Hellas horse-rearing and Argos you-come
πρὸς δεξιᾶς σε τῆσδ᾽ ἐπισκήπτω τάδε·
by right-hand you this I-charge these-things
τύμβον τε χῶσον κἀπίθες μνημεῖά μοι,
tomb and heap-up and-set-on memorials for-me
καὶ δάκρυ᾽ ἀδελφὴ καὶ κόμας δότω τάφῳ.
and tears sister and hair let-give to-tomb
ἄγγελλε δ᾽ ὡς ὄλωλ᾽ ὑπ᾽ Ἀργείας τινὸς
announce and how I-perished by Argive some
γυναικός, ἀμφὶ βωμὸν ἁγνισθεὶς φόνῳ. 705
woman about altar consecrated by-slaughter
καὶ μὴ προδῷς μου τὴν κασιγνήτην ποτέ,
and not betray my the sister ever
ἔρημα κήδη καὶ δόμους ὁρῶν πατρός.
desolate kin and house seeing of-father
καὶ χαῖρ᾽· ἐμῶν γὰρ φίλτατον σ᾽ ηὗρον φίλων,
and farewell of-my for dearest you I-found of-friends
ὦ συγκυναγὲ καὶ συνεκτραφεὶς ἐμοί,
O fellow-hunter and reared-with me
ὦ πόλλ᾽ ἐνεγκὼν τῶν ἐμῶν ἄχθη κακῶν. 710
O many-things having-borne of-the my burdens of-evils
ἡμᾶς δ᾽ ὁ Φοῖβος μάντις ὢν ἐψεύσατο·
us and the Phoebus seer being deceived

τέχνην δὲ θέμενος ὡς προσώταθ' Ἑλλάδος
device and having-contrived as farthest of-Hellas
ἀπήλασ' αἰδοῖ τῶν πάρος μαντευμάτων,
drove-away from-shame of-the former oracles
ᾧ πάντ' ἐγὼ δοὺς τἀμὰ καὶ πεισθεὶς λόγοις,
to-whom all I having-given my and persuaded by-words
μητέρα κατακτὰς αὐτὸς ἀνταπόλλυμαι.
mother having-killed myself am-destroyed-in-turn

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἔσται τάφος σοι, καὶ κασιγνήτης λέχος
there-will-be tomb for-you and of-sister bed
οὐκ ἂν προδοίην, ὦ τάλας, ἐπεί σ' ἐγὼ
not — I-would-betray O wretched since you I
θανόντα μᾶλλον ἢ βλέπονθ' ἕξω φίλον.
dead rather than living will-hold friend
ἀτὰρ τὸ τοῦ θεοῦ σ' οὐ διέφθορέν γέ πω
but the of-the god you not has-destroyed at-least yet
μάντευμα, καίτοι γ' ἐγγὺς ἕστηκας φόνου.
oracle and-yet at-least near you-stand of-slaughter
ἀλλ' ἔστιν ἔστιν ἡ λίαν δυσπραξία
but it-is it-is the excessive ill-fortune
λίαν διδοῦσα μεταβολάς, ὅταν τύχῃ.
excessively giving changes when it-happens

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σίγα· τὰ Φοίβου δ' οὐδὲν ὠφελεῖ μ' ἔπη·
be-silent the of-Phoebus and nothing helps me words
γυνὴ γὰρ ἥδε δωμάτων ἔξω περᾷ.
woman for this-one house out passes

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἀπέλθεθ' ὑμεῖς καὶ παρευτρεπίζετε
go-away you and prepare
τἄνδον μολόντες τοῖς ἐφεστῶσι σφαγῆ.
the-things-within having-gone for-those set-over slaughter

δέλτου μὲν αἵδε πολύθυροι διαπτυχαί,
of-tablet indeed these many-leaved folds
ξένοι, πάρεισιν· ἃ δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσδε βούλομαι,
strangers are-here what but besides these-things I-wish
ἀκούσατ'· οὐδεὶς αὐτὸς ἐν πόνοις τ' ἀνὴρ
hear no-one the-same in toils and man
ὅταν τε πρὸς τὸ θάρσος ἐκ φόβου πέσῃ.
when and to the boldness from fear he-falls
ἐγὼ δὲ ταρβῶ μὴ ἀπονοστήσας χθονὸς
I and fear lest having-gone-home from-land
θῆται παρ' οὐδὲν τὰς ἐμὰς ἐπιστολὰς
he-set at nothing the my letters
ὁ τήνδε μέλλων δέλτον εἰς Ἄργος φέρειν.
the this being-about tablet to Argos to-carry

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί δῆτα βούλει; τίνος ἀμηχανεῖς πέρι;
what then do-you-wish what are-you-at-a-loss about

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ὅρκον δότω μοι τάσδε πορθμεύσειν γραφὰς
oath let-him-give to-me these to-convey writings
πρὸς Ἄργος, οἷσι βούλομαι πέμψαι φίλων.
to Argos to-whom I-wish to-send of-friends

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἦ κἀντιδώσεις τῷδε τοὺς αὐτοὺς λόγους;
— and-will-you-give-in-return to-him the same words

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ τί χρῆμα δράσειν ἢ τί μὴ δράσειν; λέγε.
what thing to-do or what not to-do speak

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἐκ γῆς ἀφήσειν μὴ θανόντα βαρβάρου.
from land to-release not dead barbarian

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ δίκαιον εἶπας· πῶς γὰρ ἀγγείλειεν ἄν;
just you-said how for could-he-announce —

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἦ καὶ τύραννος ταῦτα συγχωρήσεται;
— *and tyrant these-things will-agree*
πείσω σφε, καὐτὴ ναὸς εἰσβήσω σκάφος.
I-will-persuade him and-myself of-ship I-will-put-aboard hull
ὄμνυ· σὺ δ' ἔξαρχ' ὅρκον ὅστις εὐσεβής.
swear you and begin oath whatever pious
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ δώσεις, λέγειν χρή, τήνδε τοῖς ἐμοῖς φίλοις
you-will-give to-say must this to-the my friends
745 ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ τοῖς σοῖς φίλοισι γράμματ' ἀποδώσω τάδε.
to-the your friends letters I-will-deliver these
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ κἀγὼ σὲ σώσω κυανέας ἔξω πέτρας.
and-I you will-save dark outside rocks
ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ τίν' οὖν ἐπόμνυς τοισίδ' ὅρκιον θεῶν;
whom then do-you-swear-by for-these as-oath of-gods
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ Ἄρτεμιν, ἐν ἧσπερ δώμασιν τιμὰς ἔχω.
Artemis in whose house honors I-have
ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἐγὼ δ' ἄνακτά γ' οὐρανοῦ, σεμνὸν Δία.
I and lord at-least of-heaven holy Zeus
750 ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ εἰ δ' ἐκλιπὼν τὸν ὅρκον ἀδικοίης ἐμέ;
if and having-abandoned the oath you-should-wrong me
ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἄνοστος εἴην· τί δὲ σύ, μὴ σώσασά με;
without-return may-I-be what and you not having-saved me
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ μήποτε κατ' Ἄργος ζῶσ' ἴχνος θείην ποδός.
never in Argos living step may-I-set of-foot
ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἄκουε δή νυν ὃν παρήλθομεν λόγον.
hear indeed now which we-passed-over word
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἀλλ' οὔτις ἔστ' ἄκαιρος, ἢν καλῶς ἔχῃ.
but nothing is unseasonable if well it-be

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἐξαίρετόν μοι δὸς τόδ', ἤν τι ναῦς πάθῃ,
exception to-me give this if anything ship suffer
χἠ δέλτος ἐν κλύδωνι χρημάτων μέτα
and-the tablet in surge goods with
ἀφανὴς γένηται, σῶμα δ' ἐκσώσω μόνον,
vanished becomes body but I-save alone
τὸν ὅρκον εἶναι τόνδε μηκέτ' ἔμπεδον.
the oath to-be this no-longer binding
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἀλλ' οἶσθ' ὃ δράσω; πολλὰ γὰρ πολλῶν κυρεῖ·
but you-know what I-will-do many for many succeeds
τἀνόντα κἀγγεγραμμέν' ἐν δέλτου πτυχαῖς
the-contents and-written in of-tablet folds
λόγῳ φράσω σοι πάντ' ἀναγγεῖλαι φίλοις.
by-word I-will-tell to-you all to-announce to-friends
ἐν ἀσφαλεῖ γάρ· ἢν μὲν ἐκσώσῃς γραφήν,
in safety for if indeed you-save writing
αὐτὴν φράσει σιγῶσα τἀγγεγραμμένα·
itself will-tell silent the-written
ἢν δ' ἐν θαλάσσῃ γράμματ' ἀφανισθῇ τάδε,
if but in sea letters vanish these
τὸ σῶμα σώσας τοὺς λόγους σώσεις ἐμοί.
the body having-saved the words you-will-save for-me
ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ καλῶς ἔλεξας τῶν τε σῶν ἐμοῦ θ' ὕπερ.
well you-spoke the both your my and on-behalf
σήμαινε δ' ᾧ χρὴ τάσδ' ἐπιστολὰς φέρειν
show and to-whom must these letters to-carry
πρὸς Ἄργος, ὅ τι τε χρὴ κλύοντά σου λέγειν.
to Argos what — and must hearing from-you to-say

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἄγγελλ᾽ Ὀρέστῃ, παιδὶ τἀγαμέμνονος·
announce to-Orestes child of-Agamemnon

ἡ ᾽ν Αὐλίδι σφαγεῖσ᾽ ἐπιστέλλει τάδε
the in Aulis slaughtered sends these-things

ζῶσ᾽ Ἰφιγένεια, τοῖς ἐκεῖ δ᾽ οὐ ζῶσ᾽ ἔτι.
living Iphigenia to-those there but not living still

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ποῦ δ᾽ ἔστ᾽ ἐκείνη; κατθανοῦσ᾽ ἥκει πάλιν;
where and is she having-died has-come back

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἥδ᾽ ἣν ὁρᾷς σύ· μὴ λόγοις ἔκπλησσέ με.
she whom see you not with-words startle me

κόμισαί μ᾽ ἐς Ἄργος, ὦ σύναιμε, πρὶν θανεῖν.
bring me to Argos O brother before to-die

ἐκ βαρβάρου γῆς καὶ μετάστησον θεᾶς
from barbarian land and remove of-the-goddess

σφαγίων, ἐφ᾽ οἷσι ξενοφόνους τιμὰς ἔχω.
sacrifices at which stranger-killing honors I-have

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Πυλάδη, τί λέξω; ποῦ ποτ᾽ ὄνθ᾽ ηὑρήμεθα;
Pylades what shall-I-say where ever being have-we-been-found

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἢ σοῖς ἀραία δώμασιν γενήσομαι,
or to-your cursed house I-shall-become

Ὀρέσθ᾽, ἵν᾽ αὖθις ὄνομα δὶς κλύων μάθῃς.
Orestes so-that again name twice hearing you-may-learn

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ θεοί. ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ τί τοὺς θεοὺς ἀνακαλεῖς ἐν τοῖς ἐμοῖς;
O gods why the gods do-you-invoke in the my

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐδέν· πέραινε δ᾽· ἐξέβην γὰρ ἄλλοσε.
nothing finish but I-went-out for elsewhere

τάχ᾽ οὖν ἐρωτῶν σ᾽ εἰς ἄπιστ᾽ ἀφίξομαι.
perhaps then asking you to incredible-things I-shall-come

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ λέγ᾽ οὕνεκ᾽ ἔλαφον ἀντιδοῦσά μου θεὰ
tell that deer having-given-in-exchange for-me goddess
Ἄρτεμις ἔσωσέ μ᾽, ἣν ἔθυσ᾽ ἐμὸς πατήρ,
Artemis saved me whom sacrificed my father
δοκῶν ἐς ἡμᾶς ὀξὺ φάσγανον βαλεῖν,
thinking at us sharp sword to-strike
εἰς τήνδε δ᾽ ᾠκισ᾽ αἶαν. αἵδ᾽ ἐπιστολαί,
to this and settled land these letters
τάδ᾽ ἐστὶ τἀν δέλτοισιν ἐγγεγραμμένα.
these are the-in tablets written
ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ὦ ῥᾳδίοις ὅρκοισι περιβαλοῦσά με,
O with-easy oaths having-encompassed me
κάλλιστα δ᾽ ὀμόσασ᾽, οὐ πολὺν σχήσω χρόνον,
most-finely but having-sworn not long I-shall-hold time
τὸν δ᾽ ὅρκον ὃν κατώμοσ᾽ ἐμπεδώσομεν.
the and oath which I-swore I-will-keep
ἰδού, φέρω σοι δέλτον ἀποδίδωμί τε,
see I-bring to-you tablet I-give-over and
Ὀρέστα, τῆσδε σῆς κασιγνήτης πάρα.
Orestes this your sister from
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ δέχομαι· παρεὶς δὲ γραμμάτων διαπτυχάς,
I-receive having-let-go and of-letters folds
τὴν ἡδονὴν πρῶτ᾽ οὐ λόγοις αἱρήσομαι.
the pleasure first not in-words I-shall-take
ὦ φιλτάτη μοι σύγγον᾽, ἐκπεπληγμένος
O dearest to-me sister astounded
ὅμως σ᾽ ἀπίστῳ περιβαλὼν βραχίονι
nevertheless you with-unbelieving embracing with-arm
εἰς τέρψιν εἶμι, πυθόμενος θαυμάστ᾽ ἐμοί.
to delight I-go having-learned marvels to-me

ΧΟΡΟΣ ξεῖν', οὐ δικαίως τῆς θεοῦ τὴν πρόσπολον
stranger not justly of-the goddess the attendant
χραίνεις ἀθίκτοις περιβαλὼν πέπλοις χέρα.
you-defile untouchable embracing robes hand
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ συγκασιγνήτη τε κἀκ ταὐτοῦ πατρὸς
O sister and and-from same father
Ἀγαμέμνονος γεγῶσα, μή μ' ἀποστρέφου,
of-Agamemnon born not me turn-away
ἔχουσ' ἀδελφόν, οὐ δοκοῦσ' ἔξειν ποτέ.
having brother not thinking to-have ever
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἐγώ σ' ἀδελφὸν τὸν ἐμόν; οὐ παύσει λέγων;
I you brother the my not will-you-stop saying
τὸ δ' Ἄργος αὐτοῦ μεστὸν ἥ τε Ναυπλία.
the and Argos of-him full the and Nauplia
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκ ἔστ' ἐκεῖ σός, ὦ τάλαινα, σύγγονος.
not is there yours O wretched brother
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἀλλ' ἡ Λάκαινα Τυνδαρίς σ' ἐγείνατο;
but the Laconian Tyndarid you bore
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Πέλοπός γε παιδὶ παιδός, οὗ 'κπέφυκ' ἐγώ.
of-Pelops at-least to-son of-son from-whom am-sprung I
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ τί φής; ἔχεις τι τῶνδέ μοι τεκμήριον;
what do-you-say have-you any of-these to-me proof
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἔχω· πατρῴων ἐκ δόμων τι πυνθάνου.
I-have paternal from house some inquire
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ οὐκοῦν λέγειν μὲν χρὴ σέ, μανθάνειν δ' ἐμέ.
then to-speak indeed must you to-learn but me
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ λέγοιμ' ἂν ἀκοῇ πρῶτον Ἠλέκτρας τάδε.
I-would-tell — by-hearsay first of-Electra these-things
Ἀτρέως Θυέστου τ' οἶσθα γενομένην ἔριν;
of-Atreus of-Thyestes and you-know having-happened strife

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἤκουσα, χρυσῆς ἀρνὸς οὕνεκ᾽ ἦν πέρι.
I-heard golden lamb because was about

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ταῦτ᾽ οὖν ὑφήνασ᾽ οἶσθ᾽ ἐν εὐπήνοις ὑφαῖς;
this then having-woven you-know in well-woven weavings

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ὦ φίλτατ᾽, ἐγγὺς τῶν ἐμῶν κάμπτεις φρενῶν. 815
O dearest near the my you-turn heart

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εἰκώ τ᾽ ἐν ἱστοῖς ἡλίου μετάστασιν;
image and in looms of-sun change

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ὕφηνα καὶ τόδ᾽ εἶδος εὐμίτοις πλοκαῖς.
I-wove and this form well-threaded with-weavings

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καὶ λούτρ᾽ ἐς Αὐλιν μητρὸς ἀνεδέξω πάρα;
and bath to Aulis mother you-received from

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ οἶδ᾽· οὐ γὰρ ὁ γάμος ἐσθλὸς ὢν μ᾽ ἀφείλετο.
I-know not for the marriage noble being me took-away

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί γάρ; κόμας σὰς μητρὶ δοῦσα σῇ φέρειν; 820
what for hair your to-mother having-given your to-bring

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ μνημεῖά γ᾽ ἀντὶ σώματος τοὐμοῦ τάφῳ.
memorials at-least instead-of body my for-tomb

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἃ δ᾽ εἶδον αὐτός, τάδε φράσω τεκμήρια·
which and saw myself these I-will-tell proofs

Πέλοπος παλαιὰν ἐν δόμοις λόγχην πατρός,
of-Pelops ancient in house spear of-father

ἣν χερσὶ πάλλων παρθένον Πισάτιδα
which in-hands brandishing maiden of-Pisa

ἐκτήσαθ᾽ Ἱπποδάμειαν, Οἰνόμαον κτανών, 825
won Hippodamia Oenomaus having-killed

ἐν παρθενῶσι τοῖσι σοῖς κεκρυμμένην.
in maidens'-rooms the your hidden

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ὦ φίλτατ', οὐδὲν ἄλλο, φίλτατος γὰρ εἶ,
O dearest nothing else dearest for you-are
ἔχω σ', Ὀρέστα, τηλύγετον
I-have you Orestes darling
χθονὸς ἀπὸ πατρίδος
land from paternal
Ἀργόθεν, ὦ φίλος.
from-Argos O dear
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ κἀγώ σε τὴν θανοῦσαν, ὡς δοξάζεται.
and-I you the dead as is-thought
κατὰ δὲ δάκρυ' ἀδάκρυα, κατὰ δὲ γόος ἅμα χαρᾷ
down and tears tearless down and groan together with-joy
τὸ σὸν νοτίζει βλέφαρον, ὡσαύτως δ' ἐμόν.
the your wets eyelid likewise and mine
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ τότ' ἔτι βρέφος ἔλιπον ἔλιπον ἀγκάλαις
then still babe I-left I-left in-arms
σὲ νεαρὸν τροφοῦ νεαρὸν ἐν δόμοις.
you young of-nurse young in house
ὦ κρεῖσσον ἢ λόγοισιν εὐτυχοῦσά μου.
O better than in-words faring-well my
ψυχά· τί φῶ; θαυμάτων πέρα καὶ λόγου
soul what am-I-to-say marvels beyond and of-word
πρόσω τάδ' ἐπέβα.
forward these-things went
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τὸ λοιπὸν εὐτυχοῖμεν ἀλλήλων μέτα.
the rest may-we-prosper each-other with
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἄτοπον ἡδονὰν ἔλαβον, ὦ φίλαι·
strange pleasure I-took O friends
δέδοικα δ' ἐκ χερῶν με μὴ πρὸς αἰθέρα
I-fear and from hands me lest to air

ἀμπτάμενος φύγῃ·
flying-up he-flee

ὦ Κυκλωπίδες ἑστίαι, ὦ πατρίς,
O Cyclopean hearths O fatherland

Μυκήνα φίλα,
Mycenae dear

χάριν ἔχω ζόας, χάριν ἔχω τροφᾶς,
gratitude I-have for-life gratitude I-have for-rearing

ὅτι μοι συνομαίμονα
that to-me brother

τόνδε δόμοισιν ἐξεθρέψω φάος.
this in-house you-reared light

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ γένει μὲν εὐτυχοῦμεν, εἰς δὲ συμφοράς,
in-birth indeed we-are-fortunate in but misfortunes

ὦ σύγγον᾽, ἡμῶν δυστυχὴς ἔφυ βίος.
O sister of-us unfortunate was life

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἐγὼ μέλεος οἶδ᾽, ὅτε φάσγανον
I wretched know when sword

δέρᾳ θῆκέ μοι μελεόφρων πατήρ,
to-throat put to-me wretched-minded father

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οἴμοι. δοκῶ γὰρ οὐ παρών σ᾽ ὁρᾶν ἐκεῖ.
ah-me I-seem for not being-present you to-see there

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἀνυμέναιος, ὦ σύγγον᾽, Ἀχιλλέως
unwed O brother of-Achilles

εἰς κλισίαν λέκτρων
to tent of-bed

δόλι᾽ ὅτ᾽ ἀγόμαν·
treacherously when I-was-led

παρὰ δὲ βωμὸν ἦν δάκρυα καὶ γόοι.
by and altar were tears and groans

φεῦ φεῦ χερνίβων τῶν ἐκεῖ.
alas alas of-lustral-waters of-the there

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὤμωξα κἀγὼ τόλμαν ἣν ἔτλη πατήρ.
groaned and-I daring which dared father

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἀπάτορ' ἀπάτορα πότμον ἔλαχον.
fatherless fatherless fate I-received

ἄλλα δ' ἐξ ἄλλων κυρεῖ
other-things and from others happen

δαίμονος τύχᾳ τινός.
of-god by-fortune some

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εἰ σόν γ' ἀδελφόν, ὦ τάλαιν', ἀπώλεσας.
if your at-least brother O wretched you-had-destroyed

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ὦ μελέα δεινᾶς τόλμας· δείν' ἔτλαν
O wretched of-terrible daring terrible-things I-dared

δείν' ἔτλαν, ὤμοι σύγγονε. παρὰ δ' ὀλίγον
terrible-things I-dared ah-me brother by and little

ἀπέφυγες ὄλεθρον ἀνόσιον ἐξ ἐμᾶν
you-escaped death unholy from my

δαϊχθεὶς χερῶν.
slain hands

ἃ δ' ἐπ' αὐτοῖς τίς τελευτά;
the and upon these what end

τίς τύχα μοι συγκυρήσει;
what fortune to-me will-befall

τίνα σοι πόρον εὑρομένα
what for-you way having-found

πάλιν ἀπὸ πόλεως, ἀπὸ φόνου πέμψω
back from city from slaughter I-may-send

πατρίδ' ἐς Ἀργείαν,
fatherland to Argive

πρὶν ἐπὶ ξίφος αἵματι σῷ
before on sword with-blood your
πελάσαι; τόδε σόν, ὦ μελέα ψυχά,
to-come this your O wretched soul
χρέος ἀνευρίσκειν.
need to-find
πότερον κατὰ χέρσον, οὐχὶ ναΐ,
whether by land not by-ship
ἀλλὰ ποδῶν ῥιπᾷ
but of-feet by-rush
θανάτῳ πελάσεις ἀνὰ βάρβαρα φῦλα
to-death you-will-come among barbarian tribes
καὶ δι' ὁδοὺς ἀνόδους στείχων; διὰ κυανέας μὴν
and through roads roadless going through dark indeed
στενοπόρου πέτρας μακρὰ κέλευθα να-
narrow-passaged rock long paths by-ship
ΐοισιν δρασμοῖς.
— by-flights
τάλαινα, τάλαινα.
wretched wretched
τίς ἄρ' οὖν, τάλαν, ἢ θεὸς ἢ βροτὸς ἢ
who then then wretched either god or mortal or
τί τῶν ἀδοκήτων,
what of-the unexpected
πόρον εὔπορον ἐξανύσει,
way passable will-accomplish
δυοῖν τοῖν μόνοιν Ἀτρείδαιν
for-two the only Atreids
κακῶν ἔκλυσιν;
of-evils release

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἐν τοῖσι θαυμαστοῖσι καὶ μύθων πέρα
among the marvels and stories beyond
τάδ' εἶδον αὐτὴ κοὐ κλύουσ' ἀπ' ἀγγέλων.
these-things saw myself and-not hearing from messengers
ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ τὸ μὲν φίλους ἐλθόντας εἰς ὄψιν φίλων,
the indeed friends having-come to sight of-friends
Ὀρέστα, χειρῶν περιβολὰς εἰκὸς λαβεῖν·
Orestes of-hands embraces natural to-take
λήξαντα δ' οἴκτων κἀπ' ἐκεῖν' ἐλθεῖν χρεών,
having-ceased and from-laments and-to that to-come must
ὅπως τὸ κλεινὸν ὄνομα τῆς σωτηρίας
how the famous name of-the safety
λαβόντες ἐκ γῆς βησόμεσθα βαρβάρου.
having-taken from land we-shall-go barbarian
σοφῶν γὰρ ἀνδρῶν ταῦτα, μὴ 'κβάντας τύχης,
of-wise for of-men this not having-stepped-out of-fortune
καιρὸν λαβόντας, ἡδονὰς ἄλλας λαβεῖν.
opportunity having-taken pleasures other to-take
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καλῶς ἔλεξας· τῇ τύχῃ δ' οἶμαι μέλειν
well you-spoke to-the fortune but I-think to-be-a-care
τοῦδε ξὺν ἡμῖν· ἢν δέ τις πρόθυμος ᾖ,
of-this with us if but someone eager be
σθένειν τὸ θεῖον μᾶλλον εἰκότως ἔχει.
to-prevail the divine more fittingly holds
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ οὐ μή μ' ἐπίσχῃς οὐδ' ἀποστήσεις λόγου
not — me you-will-check nor you-will-turn-away from-word
πρῶτον πυθέσθαι τίνα ποτ' Ἠλέκτρα πότμον
first to-learn what ever Electra fate
εἴληχε βιότου· φίλα γάρ ἐστι πάντ' ἐμοί.
has-obtained of-life dear for are all-things to-me

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τῷδε ξυνοικεῖ βίον ἔχουσ' εὐδαίμονα.
with-this-one she-lives life having happy

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ οὗτος δὲ ποδαπὸς καὶ τίνος πέφυκε παῖς;
this-one and from-where and of-whom is-born child

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Στρόφιος ὁ Φωκεὺς τοῦδε κλῄζεται πατήρ.
Strophius the Phocian of-this-one is-called father

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ὅδ' ἐστί γ' Ἀτρέως θυγατρός, ὁμογενὴς ἐμός;
this-one is at-least of-Atreus of-daughter kinsman my

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἀνεψιός γε, μόνος ἐμοὶ σαφὴς φίλος.
cousin at-least only to-me sure friend

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ οὐκ ἦν τόθ' οὗτος ὅτε πατὴρ ἔκτεινέ με.
not was then this-one when father killed me

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκ ἦν· χρόνον γὰρ Στρόφιος ἦν ἄπαις τινά.
not he-was time for Strophius was childless some

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ χαῖρ' ὦ πόσις μοι τῆς ἐμῆς ὁμοσπόρου.
hail O husband to-me of-the my sister

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ κἀμός γε σωτήρ, οὐχὶ συγγενὴς μόνον.
and-my at-least savior not kinsman only

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ τὰ δεινὰ δ' ἔργα πῶς ἔτλης μητρὸς πέρι;
the terrible and deeds how did-you-dare mother regarding

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σιγῶμεν αὐτά· πατρὶ τιμωρῶν ἐμῷ.
let-us-be-silent them for-father avenging my

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἡ δ' αἰτία τίς ἀνθ' ὅτου κτείνει πόσιν;
the and cause what for which she-kills husband

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἔα τὰ μητρός· οὐδὲ σοὶ κλύειν καλόν.
let-be the-things of-mother nor for-you to-hear fine

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ σιγῶ· τὸ δ' Ἄργος πρὸς σὲ νῦν ἀποβλέπει;
I-am-silent the and Argos to you now looks

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Μενέλαος ἄρχει· φυγάδες ἐσμὲν ἐκ πάτρας.
Menelaus rules exiles we-are from fatherland

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ οὔ που νοσοῦντας θεῖος ὕβρισεν δόμους;
not surely sick uncle outraged house

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὔκ, ἀλλ' Ἐρινύων δεῖμά μ' ἐκβάλλει χθονός.
no but of-Furies fear me casts-out from-land

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ταῦτ' ἆρ' ἐπ' ἀκταῖς κἀνθάδ' ἠγγέλθης μανείς;
this then on shores and-here you-were-reported mad

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὤφθημεν οὐ νῦν πρῶτον ὄντες ἄθλιοι.
we-were-seen not now first being wretched

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἔγνωκα, μητρός σ' εἵνεκ' ἠλάστρουν θεαί.
I-understand of-mother you for-the-sake drove goddesses

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὥσθ' αἱματηρὰ στόμι' ἐπεμβαλεῖν ἐμοί.
so-that bloody bits to-put-on me

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ τί γάρ ποτ' εἰς γῆν τήνδ' ἐπόρθμευσας πόδα;
why for ever to land this did-you-ferry foot

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Φοίβου κελευσθεὶς θεσφάτοις ἀφικόμην.
of-Phoebus commanded by-oracles I-came

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ τί χρῆμα δράσων; ῥητὸν ἢ σιγώμενον;
what thing to-do to-be-told or kept-silent

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ λέγοιμ' ἄν· ἀρχαὶ δ' αἵδε μοι πολλῶν πόνων.
I-would-tell — beginnings and these for-me of-many toils

ἐπεὶ τὰ μητρὸς ταῦθ' ἃ σιγῶμεν κακὰ
when the of-mother these which we-keep-silent evils

εἰς χεῖρας ἦλθε, μεταδρομαῖς Ἐρινύων
into hands came by-pursuits of-Furies

ἠλαυνόμεσθα φυγάδες, ἔστ' ἐμὸν πόδα
we-were-driven fugitives until my foot

εἰς τὰς Ἀθήνας δῆτ' ἔπεμψε Λοξίας,
to the Athens then sent Loxias

δίκην παρασχεῖν ταῖς ἀνωνύμοις θεαῖς.
justice to-give to-the nameless goddesses

ἔστιν γὰρ ὁσία ψῆφος, ἣν Ἄρει ποτὲ
is for holy vote which for-Ares once
Ζεὺς εἵσατ᾽ ἔκ του δὴ χερῶν μιάσματος.
Zeus established from some indeed of-hands pollution
ἐλθὼν δ᾽ ἐκεῖσε, πρῶτα μέν μ᾽ οὐδεὶς ξένων
having-come and there first indeed me no-one of-hosts
ἑκὼν ἐδέξαθ᾽, ὡς θεοῖς στυγούμενον·
willingly received as by-gods hated
οἳ δ᾽ ἔσχον αἰδῶ, ξένια μονοτράπεζά μοι
those-who and had shame hospitality at-single-table for-me
παρέσχον, οἴκων ὄντες ἐν ταὐτῷ στέγει,
provided of-house being in same roof
σιγῇ δ᾽ ἐτεκτήναντ᾽ ἀπόφθεγκτον μ᾽, ὅπως
in-silence and contrived unspoken-to me that
δαιτὸς γενοίμην πώματός τ᾽ αὐτῶν δίχα,
meal I-might-be drink and them apart
εἰς δ᾽ ἄγγος ἴδιον ἴσον ἅπασι βακχίου
into and vessel private equal for-all of-wine
μέτρημα πληρώσαντες εἶχον ἡδονήν.
measure having-filled they-had pleasure
κἀγὼ ᾽ξελέγξαι μὲν ξένους οὐκ ἠξίουν,
and-I to-reproach indeed hosts not thought-fit
ἤλγουν δὲ σιγῇ κἀδόκουν οὐκ εἰδέναι,
I-grieved and in-silence and-seemed not to-know
μέγα στενάζων οὕνεκ᾽ ἦ μητρὸς φονεύς.
greatly groaning because I-was of-mother murderer
κλύω δ᾽ Ἀθηναίοισι τἀμὰ δυστυχῆ
I-hear and for-Athenians my misfortunes
τελετὴν γενέσθαι, κἄτι τὸν νόμον μένειν,
rite to-have-become and-still the custom to-remain

χοῆρες ἄγγος Παλλάδος τιμᾶν λεών.
pitcher vessel of-Pallas to-honor people
ὡς δ' εἰς Ἄρειον ὄχθον ἦκον, ἐς δίκην
when and to Ares' hill I-came to trial
ἔστην, ἐγὼ μὲν θάτερον λαβὼν βάθρον,
stood I indeed the-one having-taken platform
τὸ δ' ἄλλο πρέσβειρ' ἥπερ ἦν Ἐρινύων·
the and other eldest who-indeed was of-Furies
εἰπὼν δ' ἀκούσας θ' αἵματος μητρὸς πέρι,
having-spoken and having-heard and blood of-mother about
Φοῖβός μ' ἔσωσε μαρτυρῶν· ἴσας δέ μοι
Phoebus me saved bearing-witness equal and for-me
ψήφους διερρύθμιζε Παλλὰς ὠλένῃ·
votes counted-out Pallas with-arm
νικῶν δ' ἀπῆρα φόνια πειρατήρια.
winning and I-went-off murder trial
ὅσαι μὲν οὖν ἕζοντο πεισθεῖσαι δίκῃ,
as-many indeed then sat persuaded by-the-verdict
ψῆφον παρ' αὐτὴν ἱερὸν ὡρίσαντ' ἔχειν·
vote beside it shrine marked-out to-have
ὅσαι δ' Ἐρινύων οὐκ ἐπείσθησαν νόμῳ,
as-many but of-Furies not were-persuaded by-the-law
δρόμοις ἀνιδρύτοισιν ἠλάστρουν μ' ἀεί,
with-courses unsettled drove me always
ἕως ἐς ἁγνὸν ἦλθον αὖ Φοίβου πέδον,
until to holy I-came again of-Phoebus ground
καὶ πρόσθεν ἀδύτων ἐκταθείς, νῆστις βορᾶς,
and before shrine stretched-out fasting from-food
ἐπώμοσ' αὐτοῦ βίον ἀπορρήξειν θανών,
I-swore there life to-break-off dying

εἰ μή με σώσει Φοῖβος, ὅς μ' ἀπώλεσεν.
if not me will-save Phoebus who me destroyed
ἐντεῦθεν αὐδὴν τρίποδος ἐκ χρυσοῦ λακὼν
thence voice tripod from golden having-uttered
Φοῖβός μ' ἔπεμψε δεῦρο, διοπετὲς λαβεῖν
Phoebus me sent here heaven-fallen to-take
ἄγαλμ' Ἀθηνῶν τ' ἐγκαθιδρῦσαι χθονί.
image of-Athens and to-set-up in-land
ἀλλ' ἥνπερ ἡμῖν ὥρισεν σωτηρίαν,
but which-indeed for-us he-marked-out safety
σύμπραξον· ἢν γὰρ θεᾶς κατάσχωμεν βρέτας,
help-accomplish if for of-the-goddess we-get image
μανιῶν τε λήξω καὶ σὲ πολυκώπῳ σκάφει
from-madnesses and I-will-cease and you in-many-oared in-ship
στείλας Μυκήναις ἐγκαταστήσω πάλιν.
having-sent in-Mycenae I-will-establish back
ἀλλ', ὦ φιληθεῖσ', ὦ κασίγνητον κάρα,
but O beloved O sister head
σῶσον πατρῷον οἶκον, ἔκσωσον δ' ἐμέ·
save paternal house save and me
ὡς τἄμ' ὄλωλε πάντα καὶ τὰ Πελοπιδῶν,
since my-things have-perished all and the of-Pelopids
οὐράνιον εἰ μὴ ληψόμεσθα θεᾶς βρέτας.
heavenly if not we-shall-take of-the-goddess image
ΧΟΡΟΣ δεινή τις ὀργὴ δαιμόνων ἐπέζεσε
terrible some wrath of-gods boiled-over
τὸ Ταντάλειον σπέρμα διὰ πόνων τ' ἄγει.
the Tantalid seed through toils and leads

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ τὸ μὲν πρόθυμον, πρίν σε δεῦρ' ἐλθεῖν, ἔχω
the indeed eagerness before you here to-come I-have
Ἄργει γενέσθαι καὶ σέ, σύγγον', εἰσιδεῖν.
in-Argos to-be and you brother to-see
θέλω δ' ἅπερ σύ, σέ τε μεταστῆσαι πόνων
I-wish and the-same-as you you and to-remove from-toils
νοσοῦντά τ' οἶκον, οὐχὶ τῷ κτανόντι με
sick and house not to-the having-killed me
θυμουμένη, πατρῷον ὀρθῶσαι πάλιν.
being-angry paternal to-set-upright again
σφαγῆς τε γὰρ σῆς χεῖρ' ἀπαλλάξαιμεν ἂν
from-slaughter both for your hand we-might-release —
σώσαιμί τ' οἴκους· τὴν θεὸν δὲ πῶς λάθω;
I-might-save and house the goddess but how may-I-escape-notice
δέδοικα καὶ τύραννον, ἡνίκ' ἂν κενὰς
I-fear and tyrant when — empty
κρηπῖδας εὕρῃ λαΐνας ἀγάλματος.
bases he-finds stone of-image
πῶς δ' οὐ θανοῦμαι; τίς δ' ἔνεστί μοι λόγος;
how and not shall-I-die what and is-in for-me reason
ἀλλ' εἰ μὲν ἕν τι τοῦθ' ὁμοῦ γενήσεται,
but if indeed one some this together shall-happen
ἄγαλμά τ' οἴσεις κἄμ' ἐπ' εὐπρύμνου νεὼς
image and you-will-carry and-me on fine-sterned ship
ἄξεις, τὸ κινδύνευμα γίγνεται καλόν·
will-lead the venture becomes fine
τούτου δὲ χωρισθεῖσ' ἐγὼ μὲν ὄλλυμαι,
from-this and separated I indeed perish
σὺ δ' ἂν τὸ σαυτοῦ θέμενος εὖ νόστου τύχοις.
you but — the your having-set well return might-obtain

οὐ μήν τι φεύγω γ', οὐδέ μ' εἰ θανεῖν χρεὼν
not indeed something I-flee at-least nor me if to-die must
σώσασά σ'· οὐ γὰρ ἀλλ' ἀνὴρ μὲν ἐκ δόμων 1005
having-saved you not for but man indeed from house
θανὼν ποθεινός, τὰ δὲ γυναικὸς ἀσθενῆ.
having-died longed-for the but of-woman weak
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκ ἂν γενοίμην σοῦ τε καὶ μητρὸς φονεύς·
not — I-would-become of-you both and of-mother murderer
ἅλις τὸ κείνης αἷμα· κοινόφρων δὲ σοὶ
enough the her blood like-minded and with-you
καὶ ζῆν θέλοιμ' ἂν καὶ θανὼν λαχεῖν ἴσον.
both to-live I-would-wish — and having-died to-obtain equal
ἄξω δέ σ', ἤνπερ καὐτὸς ἐνταυθοῖ περῶ, 1010
I-will-lead and you if-indeed and-myself here I-pass
πρὸς οἶκον, ἢ σοῦ κατθανὼν μενῶ μέτα.
to house or you having-died I-will-remain with
γνώμης δ' ἄκουσον· εἰ πρόσαντες ἦν τόδε
of-opinion but hear if adverse was this
Ἀρτέμιδι, πῶς ἂν Λοξίας ἐθέσπισε
to-Artemis how — Loxias would-have-prophesied
κομίσαι μ' ἄγαλμα θεᾶς πόλισμα Παλλάδος
to-bring me image of-the-goddess city of-Pallas
καὶ σὸν πρόσωπον εἰσιδεῖν; ἅπαντα γὰρ 1015
and your face to-see all for
συνθεὶς τάδ' εἰς ἓν νόστον ἐλπίζω λαβεῖν.
having-put these into one return I-hope to-take
ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ πῶς οὖν γένοιτ' ἂν ὥστε μήθ' ἡμᾶς θανεῖν
how then might-it-be — so-that neither us to-die
λαβεῖν θ' ἃ βουλόμεσθα; τῇδε γὰρ νοσεῖ
to-take and what we-wish here for is-sick

νόστος πρὸς οἴκους· ἥδε βούλευσις πάρα.
return to home this counsel is-at-hand

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἆρ' ἂν τύραννον διολέσαι δυναίμεθ' ἄν;
— — tyrant to-destroy could-we —

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ δεινὸν τόδ' εἶπας, ξενοφονεῖν ἐπήλυδας.
terrible this you-said to-kill-hosts newcomers

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἀλλ' εἰ σὲ σώσει κἀμέ, κινδυνευτέον.
but if you will-save and-me it-must-be-risked

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην, τὸ δὲ πρόθυμον ᾔνεσα.
not — I-could the but eagerness I-praised

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί δ', εἴ με ναῷ τῷδε κρύψειας λάθρα;
what and if me in-temple this you-should-hide secretly

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ὡς δὴ σκότον λαβόντες ἐκσωθεῖμεν ἄν;
so-that indeed darkness having-taken we-might-be-saved —

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ κλεπτῶν γὰρ ἡ νύξ, τῆς δ' ἀληθείας τὸ φῶς.
of-thieves for the night of-the and truth the light

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ εἴσ' ἔνδον ἱεροῦ φύλακες, οὓς οὐ λήσομεν.
there-are within shrine guards whom not we-shall-escape

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οἴμοι, διεφθάρμεσθα· πῶς σωθεῖμεν ἄν;
ah-me we-are-ruined how might-we-be-saved —

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἔχειν δοκῶ μοι καινὸν ἐξεύρημά τι.
to-have I-seem to-myself new invention some

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ποῖόν τι; δόξης μετάδος, ὡς κἀγὼ μάθω.
what-sort some of-opinion share so-that and-I may-learn

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ταῖς σαῖς ἀνίαις χρήσομαι σοφίσμασιν.
the your troubles I-will-use as-devices

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ δειναὶ γὰρ αἱ γυναῖκες εὑρίσκειν τέχνας.
clever for the women to-find arts

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ φονέα σε φήσω μητρὸς ἐξ Ἄργους μολεῖν.
murderer you I-will-say of-mother from Argos to-have-come

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ χρῆσαι κακοῖσι τοῖς ἐμοῖς, εἰ κερδανεῖς.
use evils the my if you-will-gain

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ὡς οὐ θέμις σε λέξομεν θύειν θεᾷ,
that not lawful you we-will-say to-sacrifice to-goddess

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τίν' αἰτίαν ἔχουσ'; ὑποπτεύω τι γάρ.
what reason having I-suspect something for

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ οὐ καθαρὸν ὄντα, τὸ δ' ὅσιον δώσω φόνῳ.
not pure being the and holy I-will-give for-slaughter

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί δῆτα μᾶλλον θεᾶς ἄγαλμ' ἁλίσκεται;
what then more of-the-goddess image is-taken

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ πόντου σε πηγαῖς ἁγνίσαι βουλήσομαι,
of-sea you in-springs to-purify I-shall-wish

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἔτ' ἐν δόμοισι βρέτας, ἐφ' ᾧ πεπλεύκαμεν.
still in house image for which we-have-sailed

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ κἀκεῖνο νίψαι, σοῦ θιγόντος ὥς, ἐρῶ.
and-that to-wash you having-touched as I-will-say

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ποῖ δῆτα; πόντου νοτερὸν εἶπας ἔκβολον;
where then of-sea wet did-you-say point

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ οὗ ναῦς χαλινοῖς λινοδέτοις ὁρμεῖ σέθεν.
where ship with-cables flax-bound rides yours

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σὺ δ' ἤ τις ἄλλος ἐν χεροῖν οἴσει βρέτας;
you and or some other in arms will-carry image

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἐγώ· θιγεῖν γὰρ ὅσιόν ἐστ' ἐμοὶ μόνῃ.
I to-touch for holy is for-me alone

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Πυλάδης δ' ὅδ' ἡμῖν ποῦ τετάξεται φόνου;
Pylades and this-one for-us where will-be-placed of-slaughter

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ταὐτὸν χεροῖν σοὶ λέξεται μίασμ' ἔχων.
the-same in-hands as-you will-be-said pollution having

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ λάθρᾳ δ' ἄνακτος ἢ εἰδότος δράσεις τάδε;
secretly and of-king or knowing will-you-do these-things

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ πείσασα μύθοις· οὐ γὰρ ἂν λάθοιμί γε.
having-persuaded with-words not for — I-could-escape-notice at-least

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καὶ μὴν νεώς γε πίτυλος εὐήρης πάρα.
and indeed of-ship at-least oar-stroke well-fitted is-at-hand

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ σοὶ δὴ μέλειν χρὴ τἄλλ' ὅπως ἕξει καλῶς.
to-you indeed to-be-a-care must the-rest how will-hold well

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἑνὸς μόνου δεῖ, τάσδε συγκρύψαι τάδε.
of-one only is-need these to-help-bide these-things

ἀλλ' ἀντίαζε καὶ λόγους πειστηρίους
but entreat and words persuasive

εὕρισκ'· ἔχει τοι δύναμιν εἰς οἶκτον γυνή.
find has surely power to pity woman

τὰ δ' ἄλλ' ἴσως ἂν πάντα συμβαίη καλῶς.
the and rest perhaps — all might-turn-out well

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ὦ φίλταται γυναῖκες, εἰς ὑμᾶς βλέπω,
O dearest women to you I-look

καὶ τἄμ' ἐν ὑμῖν ἐστιν ἢ καλῶς ἔχειν
and my-things in you is either well to-be

ἢ μηδὲν εἶναι καὶ στερηθῆναι πάτρας
or nothing to-be and to-be-deprived of-fatherland

φίλου τ' ἀδελφοῦ φιλτάτης τε συγγόνου.
of-dear and of-brother of-dearest and of-sister

καὶ πρῶτα μέν μοι τοῦ λόγου τάδ' ἀρχέτω·
and first indeed for-me of-the word this let-begin

γυναῖκές ἐσμεν, φιλόφρον ἀλλήλαις γένος,
women we-are kindly to-one-another race

σῴζειν τε κοινὰ πράγματ' ἀσφαλέσταται.
to-keep and common affairs most-sure

σιγήσαθ' ἡμῖν καὶ συνεκπονήσατε
keep-silent for-us and help-accomplish

φυγάς. καλόν τοι γλῶσσ' ὅτῳ πιστὴ παρῇ.
flight fine surely tongue to-whom faithful be-present

ὁρᾶτε δ' ὡς τρεῖς μία τύχη τοὺς φιλτάτους
see and how three one fortune the dearest

ἢ γῆς πατρῴας νόστος ἢ θανεῖν ἔχει.
either of-land paternal return or to-die holds

σωθεῖσα δ', ὡς ἂν καὶ σὺ κοινωνῇς τύχης,
saved and that — and you may-share of-fortune

σώσω σ' ἐς Ἑλλάδ'. ἀλλὰ πρός σε δεξιᾶς
I-will-save you to Hellas but by you right-hand

σὲ καὶ σ' ἱκνοῦμαι, σὲ δὲ φίλης παρηίδος
you and you I-beseech you and of-dear cheek

γονάτων τε καὶ τῶν ἐν δόμοισι φιλτάτων.
knees and and of-the in house dearest

τί φατέ; τίς ὑμῶν φησιν, ἢ τίς οὐ θέλει,
what do-you-say who of-you says or who not wishes

φθέγξασθε, ταῦτα; μὴ γὰρ αἰνουσῶν λόγους
speak these-things not for approving words

ὄλωλα κἀγὼ καὶ κασίγνητος τάλας.
I-have-perished and-I and brother wretched

ΧΟΡΟΣ θάρσει, φίλη δέσποινα, καὶ σῴζου μόνον·
take-heart dear mistress and save-yourself only

ὡς ἔκ γ' ἐμοῦ σοι πάντα σιγηθήσεται,
since from at-least me for-you all will-be-kept-silent

ἴστω μέγας Ζεύς, ὧν ἐπισκήπτεις πέρι.
let-know great Zeus what you-charge about

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ὄναισθε μύθων καὶ γένοισθ' εὐδαίμονες.
may-you-profit by-words and may-you-become happy

σὸν ἔργον ἤδη καὶ σὸν εἰσβαίνειν δόμους·
your task already and yours to-go-into house

ὡς αὐτίχ᾽ ἥξει τῆσδε κοίρανος χθονός,
since at-once will-come of-this ruler land
θυσίαν ἐλέγξων, εἰ κατείργασται, ξένων.
sacrifice to-inquire if is-accomplished of-strangers
ὦ πότνι᾽, ἥπερ μ᾽ Αὐλίδος κατὰ πτυχὰς
O lady who-indeed me of-Aulis in folds
δεινῆς ἔσωσας ἐκ πατροκτόνου χερός,
terrible you-saved from father-murdering hand
σῶσόν με καὶ νῦν τούσδε τ᾽· ἢ τὸ Λοξίου
save me and now these and or the of-Loxias
οὐκέτι βροτοῖσι διὰ σ᾽ ἐτήτυμον στόμα.
no-longer for-mortals through you true mouth
ἀλλ᾽ εὐμενὴς ἔκβηθι βαρβάρου χθονὸς
but gracious go-out of-barbarian land
εἰς τὰς Ἀθήνας· καὶ γὰρ ἐνθάδ᾽ οὐ πρέπει
to the Athens and for here not is-fitting
ναίειν, παρόν σοι πόλιν ἔχειν εὐδαίμονα.
to-dwell it-being-possible for-you city to-have happy

The chorus compares itself to the halcyon mourning her husband, and longs for the Greek assemblies and for Artemis on Delos. They recall being sold into a barbarian land when their towers fell. Iphigenia will sail home with Pan's pipe calling the oars, but they will be left behind, and they wish they could fly home and dance again at weddings.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὄρνις, ἃ παρὰ πετρίνας
bird who by rocky
πόντου δειράδας, ἀλκυών,
of-sea ridges halcyon
ἔλεγον οἰκτρὸν ἀείδεις,
lament pitiful you-sing
εὐξύνετον ξυνετοῖσι βοάν,
easily-understood to-the-understanding cry
ὅτι πόσιν κελαδεῖς ἀεὶ μολπαῖς,
that husband you-sing always in-songs
ἐγώ σοι παραβάλλομαι
I to-you compare-myself
θρήνους, ἄπτερος ὄρνις,
in-dirges wingless bird
ποθοῦσ' Ἑλλάνων ἀγόρους,
longing-for of-Greeks assemblies
ποθοῦσ' Ἄρτεμιν ὀλβίαν,
longing-for Artemis blessed
ἃ παρὰ Κύνθιον ὄχθον οἰκεῖ
who by Cynthian hill dwells
φοίνικά θ' ἁβροκόμαν
palm and soft-leaved

δάφναν τ' εὐερνέα καὶ
laurel and well-sprouting and
γλαυκᾶς θαλλὸν ἱρὸν ἐλαίας,
of-gray shoot holy of-olive
Λατοῦς ὠδῖνι φίλας,
of-Leto to-birth-pang dear
λίμναν θ' εἱλίσσουσαν ὕδωρ
lake and whirling water
κύκλιον, ἔνθα κύκνος μελῳ-
circling where swan melodious
δὸς Μούσας θεραπεύει.
— Muses serves
ὦ πολλαὶ δακρύων λιβάδες,
O many of-tears streams
αἳ παρηίδας εἰς ἐμὰς
which cheeks onto my
ἔπεσον, ἀνίκα πύργων
fell when of-towers
ὀλλυμένων ἐπὶ ναυσὶν ἔβαν
being-destroyed upon ships I-went
πολεμίων ἐρετμοῖσι καὶ λόγχαις.
of-enemies by-oars and spears
ζαχρύσου δὲ δι' ἐμπολᾶς
very-golden and through trade
νόστον βάρβαρον ἦλθον,
return barbarian I-went
ἔνθα τᾶς ἐλαφοκτόνου
where of-the deer-slaying
θεᾶς ἀμφίπολον κόραν
goddess attendant girl

παῖδ' Ἀγαμεμνονίαν λατρεύω
child Agamemnonian I-serve
βωμούς θ' Ἑλληνοθύτους,
altars and Greek-sacrificing
ζηλοῦσ' ἄταν διὰ παν-
envying ruin through always
τὸς δυσδαίμον'· ἐν γὰρ ἀνάγκαις
— ill-fated in for necessities
οὐ κάμνει σύντροφος ὤν·
not grows-weary reared-with being
μεταβάλλει δυσδαιμονία·
changes ill-fortune
τὸ δὲ μετ' εὐτυχίας κακοῦ-
the but after good-fortune to-fare-badly
σθαι θνατοῖς βαρὺς αἰών.
— for-mortals heavy life
καὶ σὲ μέν, πότνι', Ἀργεία
and you indeed lady Argive
πεντηκόντορος οἶκον ἄξει·
fifty-oared house will-bring
συρίζων δ' ὁ κηροδέτας
whistling and the wax-bound
κάλαμος οὐρείου Πανὸς
reed of-mountain Pan
κώπαις ἐπιθωΰξει,
to-oars will-shout
ὁ Φοῖβός θ' ὁ μάντις ἔχων
the Phoebus and the seer having
κέλαδον ἑπτατόνου λύρας
sound of-seven-toned lyre

ἀείδων ἄξει λιπαρὰν
singing will-bring shining
εὖ σ' Ἀθηναίων ἐπὶ γᾶν.
well you of-Athenians to land
ἐμὲ δ' αὐτοῦ προλιποῦ-
me and here leaving
σα βήσει ῥοθίοις πλάταις·
— you-will-go with-splashing oars
ἀέρι δ' ἱστί ἐπὶ προτόνοις κατὰ
in-air and sails over forestays at
πρῳραν ὑπὲρ στόλον ἐκπετάσουσι πόδες
prow over bow will-spread sheets
ναὸς ὠκυπόμπου.
of-ship swift-sped
λαμπρὸν ἱππόδρομον βαίην,
bright racecourse may-I-go
ἔνθ' εὐάλιον ἔρχεται πῦρ·
where fair-sunned goes fire
οἰκείων δ' ὑπὲρ θαλάμων
of-home and over chambers
πτέρυγας ἐν νώτοις ἁμοῖς
wings on backs my
λήξαιμι θοάζουσα·
may-I-cease speeding
χοροῖς δὲ σταίην, ὅθι καὶ
in-dances and may-I-stand where also
πάρεδρος εὐδοκίμων γάμων,
companion of-glorious marriages
παρὰ πόδ' εἱλίσσουσα φίλας
by foot whirling of-dear

πρὸς ἡλίκων θιάσους,
to of-age-mates bands
ἐς ἁμίλλας χαρίτων,
to contests of-graces
χλιδᾶς ἁβροπλούτοιο
of-luxury of-soft-wealth
εἰς ἔριν ὀρνυμένα, πολυποίκιλα
to strife rousing many-colored
φάρεα καὶ πλοκάμους περιβαλλομένα γέ- 1150
robes and locks putting-around cheeks
νυν συνεσκίαζον.
— *I-shaded*

VII · IPHIGENIA DECEIVES THOAS

Thoas arrives, and Iphigenia carries out the image, saying it turned on its base because the strangers are polluted: they killed their mother. She must wash them and the image in the sea, apart from all eyes. She has the strangers bound and veiled, asks for attendants, and has the citizens stay indoors; Thoas is to purify the temple with fire. As the procession leaves, she warns everyone away and prays to Artemis that, washed of this blood, the goddess will dwell in a pure house.

ΘΟΑΣ ποῦ 'σθ' ἡ πυλωρὸς τῶνδε δωμάτων γυνὴ
where is the gatekeeper of-this house woman
Ἑλληνίς; ἤδη τῶν ξένων κατήρξατο,
Greek already the strangers has-she-begun
ἀδύτοις τ' ἐν ἁγνοῖς σῶμα δάπτονται πυρί; 1155
sanctuaries and in holy body are-they-consumed with-fire
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἥδ' ἐστίν, ἥ σοι πάντ', ἄναξ, ἐρεῖ σαφῶς.
this-one is who to-you all lord will-say clearly

ΘΟΑΣ ἔα·
ha

τί τόδε μεταίρεις ἐξ ἀκινήτων βάθρων,
why this do-you-lift from immovable base

Ἀγαμέμνονος παῖ, θεᾶς ἄγαλμ' ἐν ὠλέναις;
of-Agamemnon child of-the-goddess image in arms

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἄναξ, ἔχ' αὐτοῦ πόδα σὸν ἐν παραστάσιν.
lord hold there foot your in porch

ΘΟΑΣ τί δ' ἔστιν, Ἰφιγένεια, καινὸν ἐν δόμοις;
what and is-it Iphigenia new in house

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἀπέπτυσ'· Ὁσίᾳ γὰρ δίδωμ' ἔπος τόδε.
I-spit-away to-Holiness for I-give word this

ΘΟΑΣ τί φροιμιάζει νεοχμόν; ἐξαύδα σαφῶς.
what do-you-preface new speak-out clearly

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ οὐ καθαρά μοι τὰ θύματ' ἠγρεύσασθ', ἄναξ.
not pure to-me the victims you-hunted lord

ΘΟΑΣ τί τοὐκδιδάξαν τοῦτό σ'; ἢ δόξαν λέγεις;
what the-informing this you or opinion do-you-say

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ βρέτας τὸ τῆς θεοῦ πάλιν ἕδρας ἀπεστράφη.
image the of-the goddess back seat turned-away

ΘΟΑΣ αὐτόματον, ἤ νιν σεισμὸς ἔστρεψε χθονός;
of-itself or it earthquake turned of-earth

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ αὐτόματον· ὄψιν δ' ὀμμάτων ξυνήρμοσεν.
of-itself sight and of-eyes closed

ΘΟΑΣ ἡ δ' αἰτία τίς; ἢ τὸ τῶν ξένων μύσος;
the and cause what — the of-the strangers pollution

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἥδ', οὐδὲν ἄλλο· δεινὰ γὰρ δεδράκατον.
this nothing else terrible-things for they-have-done

ΘΟΑΣ ἀλλ' ἦ τιν' ἔκανον βαρβάρων ἀκτῆς ἔπι;
but — some killed of-barbarians shore on

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ οἰκεῖον ἦλθον τὸν φόνον κεκτημένοι.
kindred they-came the murder having

ΘΟΑΣ τίν'; εἰς ἔρον γὰρ τοῦ μαθεῖν πεπτώκαμεν.
what into desire for of-the to-learn have-we-fallen

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ μητέρα κατειργάσαντο κοινωνῷ ξίφει.
mother they-killed with-shared sword

ΘΟΑΣ Ἄπολλον, οὐδ' ἐν βαρβάροις ἔτλη τις ἄν.
Apollo not-even among barbarians dared anyone —

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ πάσης διωγμοῖς ἠλάθησαν Ἑλλάδος.
all by-pursuits they-were-driven of-Hellas

ΘΟΑΣ ἦ τῶνδ' ἕκατι δῆτ' ἄγαλμ' ἔξω φέρεις;
— of-these for-the-sake then image out you-carry

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ σεμνόν γ' ὑπ' αἰθέρ', ὡς μεταστήσω φόνου.
holy at-least under air so-that I-may-remove from-murder

ΘΟΑΣ μίασμα δ' ἔγνως τοῖν ξένοιν ποίῳ τρόπῳ;
pollution and did-you-learn of-the strangers in-what way

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἤλεγχον, ὡς θεᾶς βρέτας ἀπεστράφη πάλιν.
I-questioned when of-the-goddess image turned-away back

ΘΟΑΣ σοφήν σ' ἔθρεψεν Ἑλλάς, ὡς ᾔσθου καλῶς.
wise you reared Hellas how you-perceived well

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ καὶ νῦν καθεῖσαν δέλεαρ ἡδύ μοι φρενῶν.
and now they-let-down bait sweet for-me of-heart

ΘΟΑΣ τῶν Ἀργόθεν τι φίλτρον ἀγγέλλοντέ σοι;
of-the from-Argos some charm announcing to-you

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ τὸν μόνον Ὀρέστην ἐμὸν ἀδελφὸν εὐτυχεῖν.
the only Orestes my brother to-prosper

ΘΟΑΣ ὡς δή σφε σώσαις ἡδοναῖς ἀγγελμάτων.
as indeed them you-might-save by-pleasures of-tidings

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ καὶ πατέρα γε ζῆν καὶ καλῶς πράσσειν ἐμόν.
and father at-least to-live and well to-fare my

ΘΟΑΣ σὺ δ' εἰς τὸ τῆς θεοῦ γ' ἐξένευσας εἰκότως.
you but to the of-the goddess at-least inclined naturally

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ πᾶσάν γε μισοῦσ' Ἑλλάδ', ἥ μ' ἀπώλεσεν.
all at-least hating Hellas who me destroyed

ΘΟΑΣ τί δῆτα δρῶμεν, φράζε, τοῖν ξένοιν πέρι;
what then shall-we-do tell the strangers about

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ τὸν νόμον ἀνάγκη τὸν προκείμενον σέβειν.
the law necessity the established to-revere

ΘΟΑΣ οὔκουν ἐν ἔργῳ χέρνιβες ξίφος τε σόν;
not-then at work lustral-waters sword and your

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἁγνοῖς καθαρμοῖς πρῶτά νιν νίψαι θέλω.
in-pure with-cleansings first them to-wash I-wish

ΘΟΑΣ πηγαῖσιν ὑδάτων ἢ θαλασσίᾳ δρόσῳ;
with-springs of-waters or with-sea dew

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ θάλασσα κλύζει πάντα τἀνθρώπων κακά.
sea washes-away all of-men evils

ΘΟΑΣ ὁσιώτερον γοῦν τῇ θεῷ πέσοιεν ἄν.
holier at-least to-the goddess they-would-fall —

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ καὶ τἀμά γ' οὕτω μᾶλλον ἂν καλῶς ἔχοι.
and my at-least so more — well would-be

ΘΟΑΣ οὔκουν πρὸς αὐτὸν ναὸν ἐκπίπτει κλύδων;
not-then to very temple dashes surf

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἐρημίας δεῖ· καὶ γὰρ ἄλλα δράσομεν.
of-solitude is-need and for other-things we-shall-do

ΘΟΑΣ ἄγ' ἔνθα χρῄζεις· οὐ φιλῶ τἄρρηθ' ὁρᾶν.
lead where you-wish not I-love the-unspoken to-see

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἁγνιστέον μοι καὶ τὸ τῆς θεοῦ βρέτας.
must-be-purified by-me also the of-the goddess image

ΘΟΑΣ εἴπερ γε κηλὶς ἔβαλέ νιν μητροκτόνος.
if at-least stain struck it mother-killing

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ οὐ γάρ ποτ᾽ ἄν νιν ἠράμην βάθρων ἄπο.
not for ever — it I-would-have-lifted base from

ΘΟΑΣ δίκαιος ηὐσέβεια καὶ προμηθία.
just piety and forethought

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ οἶσθά νυν ἅ μοι γενέσθω;
do-you-know then what for-me let-be

ΘΟΑΣ σὸν τὸ σημαίνειν τόδε.
yours the to-signal this

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ δεσμὰ τοῖς ξένοισι πρόσθες.
bonds to-the strangers put-on

ΘΟΑΣ ποῖ δέ σ᾽ ἐκφύγοιεν ἄν;
where and you would-they-escape —

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ πιστὸν Ἑλλὰς οἶδεν οὐδέν. 1205
trustworthy Hellas knows nothing

ΘΟΑΣ ἴτ᾽ ἐπὶ δεσμά, πρόσπολοι.
go to bonds attendants

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ κἀκκομιζόντων δὲ δεῦρο τοὺς ξένους,
and-let-them-bring-out and here the strangers

ΘΟΑΣ ἔσται τάδε.
will-be these-things

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ κρᾶτα κρύψαντες πέπλοισιν.
heads having-hidden with-robes

ΘΟΑΣ ἡλίου πρόσθεν φλογός.
of-sun before flame

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ σῶν τέ μοι σύμπεμπ᾽ ὀπαδῶν.
of-your and with-me send of-attendants

ΘΟΑΣ οἵδ᾽ ὁμαρτήσουσί σοι.
these will-accompany you

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ καὶ πόλει πέμψον τιν᾽ ὅστις σημανεῖ
and to-city send someone who will-signal

ΘΟΑΣ ποίας τύχας;
what-sort fortunes

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἐν δόμοις μίμνειν ἅπαντας.
in house to-stay all

ΘΟΑΣ μὴ συναντῶσιν φόνῳ;
not meet with-murder

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ μυσαρὰ γὰρ τὰ τοιάδ᾽ ἐστί.
polluting for the such are

ΘΟΑΣ στεῖχε καὶ σήμαινε σύ.
go and signal you

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ καὶ φίλων γε δεῖ μάλιστα.
and of-friends at-least is-need most

ΘΟΑΣ τοῦτ᾽ ἔλεξας εἰς ἐμέ.
this you-said to me

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ μηδέν᾽ εἰς ὄψιν πελάζειν. ΘΟΑΣ εὖ γε κηδεύεις πόλιν.
no-one into sight to-approach well at-least you-care-for city

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ εἰκότως. ΘΟΑΣ ὡς εἰκότως σε πᾶσα θαυμάζει πόλις.
fittingly how fittingly you all marvels city

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ σὺ δὲ μένων αὐτοῦ πρὸ ναῶν τῇ θεῷ
you and staying here before temple for-the goddess

ΘΟΑΣ τί χρῆμα δρῶ;
what thing shall-I-do

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἄγνισον πυρσῷ μέλαθρον.
purify with-torch house

ΘΟΑΣ καθαρὸν ὡς μόλῃς πάλιν.
pure so-that you-may-come again

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἡνίκ᾽ ἂν δ᾽ ἔξω περῶσιν οἱ ξένοι,
when — and outside pass the strangers

ΘΟΑΣ τί χρή με δρᾶν;
what must me to-do

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ πέπλον ὀμμάτων προθέσθαι.
robe before-eyes to-put

ΘΟΑΣ μὴ παλαμναῖον λάβω;
lest pollution I-take

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ ἢν δ᾽ ἄγαν δοκῶ χρονίζειν,
if and too-much I-seem to-delay

ΘΟΑΣ τοῦδ᾽ ὅρος τίς ἐστί μοι;
of-this limit what is for-me

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ θαυμάσῃς μηδέν. 1220
marvel nothing

ΘΟΑΣ τὰ τῆς θεοῦ πρᾶσσ᾽ ἐπὶ σχολῆς καλῶς.
the of-the goddess doing at leisure well

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ εἰ γὰρ ὡς θέλω καθαρμὸς ὅδε πέσοι. ΘΟΑΣ συνεύχομαι.
if for as I-wish purification this may-fall I-pray-with

ΙΦΙΓΕΝΕΙΑ τούσδ᾽ ἄρ᾽ ἐκβαίνοντας ἤδη δωμάτων ὁρῶ ξένους
these then coming-out already from-house I-see strangers
καὶ θεᾶς κόσμον νεογνούς τ᾽ ἄρνας, ὡς φόνῳ φόνον
and of-the-goddess adornment new-born and lambs that by-murder murder
μυσαρὸν ἐκνίψω, σέλας τε λαμπάδων τά τ᾽ ἄλλ᾽ ὅσα
foul I-may-wash light and of-torches the and rest as-many-as
προυθέμην ἐγὼ ξένοισι καὶ θεᾷ καθάρσια. 1225
set-out I for-strangers and for-goddess purifications
ἐκποδὼν δ᾽ αὐδῶ πολίταις τοῦδ᾽ ἔχειν μιάσματος,
out-of-the-way and I-bid citizens of-this to-keep of-pollution
εἴ τις ἢ ναῶν πυλωρὸς χεῖρας ἁγνεύει θεοῖς,
if any or of-temple gatekeeper hands keeps-pure for-gods

ἢ γάμον στείχει συνάψων ἢ τόκοις βαρύνεται,
or marriage goes to-join or in-childbirth is-heavy
φεύγετ', ἐξίστασθε, μή τῳ προσπέσῃ μύσος τόδε.
flee stand-aside lest to-anyone falls pollution this
ὦ Διὸς Λητοῦς τ' ἄνασσα παρθέν', ἣν νίψω φόνον
O of-Zeus of-Leto and queen maiden if I-wash murder
τῶνδε καὶ θύσωμεν οὗ χρή, καθαρὸν οἰκήσεις δόμον,
of-these and sacrifice where must pure you-will-dwell-in house
εὐτυχεῖς δ' ἡμεῖς ἐσόμεθα. τἄλλα δ' οὐ λέγουσ', ὅμως
fortunate and we shall-be the-rest and not saying nevertheless
τοῖς τὰ πλείον' εἰδόσιν θεοῖς σοί τε σημαίνω, θεά.
to-the the more knowing gods to-you and I-signal goddess

VIII · APOLLO AT DELPHI

The chorus sings of Apollo, born to Leto on Delos, who as a child killed the serpent guarding the oracle on Parnassus and took his seat on the golden tripod. Earth, angered that her daughter Themis had been driven out, sent dreams that told mortals the past and the future. Apollo ran to Olympus and wound his arms around Zeus's throne, and Zeus laughed, ended the dreams, and restored the oracle's honors to him.

ΧΟΡΟΣ εὔπαις ὁ Λατοῦς γόνος,
fair-childed the of-Leto offspring
ὅν ποτε Δηλιάσιν
whom once in-Delian
καρποφόροις γυάλοις
in-fruitful vales
ἔτικτε χρυσοκόμαν
bore golden-haired

ἐν κιθάρᾳ σοφόν, ᾗ τ' ἐπὶ τόξων
on lyre skilled in-which and in of-bows
εὐστοχίᾳ γάνυται, φέρε δ' ἶνιν
good-aim delights carried and child
ἀπὸ δειράδος εἰναλίας,
from ridge of-sea
λοχεῖα κλεινὰ λιποῦσ'
birth-place famous having-left
ἀστάκτων ματέρ' εἰς ὑδάτων,
of-ever-flowing mother to waters
τὰν βακχεύουσαν Διονύσῳ
the reveling for-Dionysus
Παρνάσιον κορυφάν,
Parnassian peak
ὅθι ποικιλόνωτος οἰνωπὸς δράκων
where spotted-backed wine-dark serpent
σκιερᾷ κατάχαλκος εὐφύλλῳ δάφνᾳ,
in-shady bronze-armored in-leafy in-laurel
γᾶς πελώριον τέρας, ἄμφεπε
of-earth monstrous portent guarded
μαντεῖον χθόνιον.
oracle chthonic
ἔτι μιν ἔτι βρέφος, ἔτι φίλας
still him still babe still of-dear
ἐπὶ ματέρος ἀγκάλαισι θρῴσκων,
on of-mother arms leaping
ἔκανες, ὦ Φοῖβε, μαν-
you-killed O Phoebus oracles
τείων δ' ἐπέβας ζαθέων,
— and you-went-onto very-holy

τρίποδί τ᾽ ἐν χρυσέῳ
tripod and on golden
θάσσεις, ἐν ἀψευδεῖ θρόνῳ
you-sit on truthful throne
μαντείας βροτοῖς
prophecies to-mortals
θεσφάτων νέμων
of-oracles dispensing
ἀδύτων ὕπο, Κασταλίας ῥεέθρων
shrines under of-Castalia of-streams
γείτων, μέσον γᾶς ἔχων μέλαθρον.
neighbor middle of-earth having house
Θέμιν δ᾽ ἐπεὶ γᾶς ἰὼν
Themis and when of-earth having-come
παῖδ᾽ ἀπενάσσατο Λα-
child he-drove-away Leto's
τῷος ἀπὸ ζαθέων
— from very-holy
χρηστηρίων, νύχια
oracles nightly
Χθὼν ἐτεκνώσατο φάσματ᾽ ὀνείρων,
Earth begot visions of-dreams
οἳ πολέσιν μερόπων τά τε πρῶτα
which to-many of-mortals the both first-things
τά τ᾽ ἔπειθ᾽ ὅσ᾽ ἔμελλε τυχεῖν
the and afterward as-many-as were-going to-happen
ὕπνου κατὰ δνοφερὰς
of-sleep on dark
εὐνὰς ἔφραζον· Γαῖα δὲ τὰν
beds told Earth and the

μαντείων ἀφείλετο τιμὰν
of-oracles took-away honor
Φοῖβον φθόνῳ θυγατρός·
Phoebus from-jealousy for-daughter
ταχύπους δ' ἐς Ὄλυμπον ὁρμαθεὶς ἄναξ
swift-footed and to Olympus having-rushed lord
χέρα παιδνὸν ἕλιξεν ἐκ Ζηνὸς θρόνων
hand childish wound-around from Zeus' throne
Πυθίων δόμων χθονίαν ἀφε-
of-Pythian house earthly to-take-away
λεῖν θεᾶς μῆνιν νυχίους τ' ὀνείρους.
— of-the-goddess wrath nightly and dreams
γέλασε δ', ὅτι τέκος ἄφαρ ἔβα
laughed and that child at-once came
πολύχρυσα θέλων λατρεύματα σχεῖν·
much-golden wishing services to-have
ἐπὶ δ' ἔσεισεν κόμαν,
on and he-shook hair
παῦσεν νυχίους ἐνοπάς
stopped nightly voices
ἀπὸ δ' ἀλαθοσύναν
from and truth
νυκτωπὸν ἐξεῖλεν βροτῶν,
night-seen took-away of-mortals
καὶ τιμὰς πάλιν
and honors back
θῆκε Λοξίᾳ,
set to-Loxias

πολυάνορι δ' ἐν ξενόεντι θρόνῳ
crowded and in strangers' throne
θάρση βροτοῖς θεσφάτων ἀοιδαῖς.
confidence to-mortals of-oracles in-songs

IX · THE ESCAPE AND ATHENA

A messenger brings word that the strangers and the priestess are gone with the image; the women try to send him away, but Thoas comes out. The messenger tells how they were sent aside during the rites, then found a Greek ship with fifty oars; they fought the strangers with fists, Orestes carried his sister aboard, and the ship sailed, but a wave drove it back toward the rocks. Thoas orders his people to pursue them by sea and land. Athena appears and stops him: Orestes is to found a shrine at Halae for Artemis Tauropolos, where a sword will draw blood from a man's throat as ransom for Orestes' own slaughter, and Iphigenia will be the goddess's keeper at Brauron. The captive women are to be sent home. Thoas obeys, and the chorus departs with a prayer to Victory.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ὦ ναοφύλακες βώμιοί τ' ἐπιστάται,
O temple-guards of-the-altar and overseers
Θόας ἄναξ γῆς τῆσδε ποῦ κυρεῖ βεβώς;
Thoas lord of-land this where happens having-gone
καλεῖτ' ἀναπτύξαντες εὐγόμφους πύλας
call having-opened well-bolted gates
ἔξω μελάθρων τῶνδε κοίρανον χθονός.
out of-house this ruler of-land
ΧΟΡΟΣ τί δ' ἔστιν, εἰ χρὴ μὴ κελευσθεῖσαν λέγειν;
what and is-it if must not bidden to-speak
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ βεβᾶσι φροῦδοι δίπτυχοι νεανίαι
have-gone gone two youths
Ἀγαμεμνονείας παιδὸς ἐκ βουλευμάτων
of-Agamemnon's daughter from plans

φεύγοντες ἐκ γῆς τῆσδε καὶ σεμνὸν βρέτας
fleeing from land this and holy image
λαβόντες ἐν κόλποισιν Ἑλλάδος νεώς.
having-taken in folds of-Greek ship
ΧΟΡΟΣ ἄπιστον εἶπας μῦθον· ὃν δ' ἰδεῖν θέλεις
incredible you-said word whom and to-see you-wish
ἄνακτα χώρας, φροῦδος ἐκ ναοῦ συθείς.
lord of-land gone from temple having-rushed
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ποῖ; δεῖ γὰρ αὐτὸν εἰδέναι τὰ δρώμενα. 1295
where must for him to-know the being-done
ΧΟΡΟΣ οὐκ ἴσμεν· ἀλλὰ στεῖχε καὶ δίωκέ νιν
not we-know but go and pursue him
ὅπου κυρήσας τούσδ' ἀπαγγελεῖς λόγους.
where having-found these you-will-report words
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ὁρᾶτ', ἄπιστον ὡς γυναικεῖον γένος·
see faithless how female race
μέτεστι χὑμῖν τῶν πεπραγμένων μέρος.
has-share and-you of-the things-done part
ΧΟΡΟΣ μαίνει; τί δ' ἡμῖν τῶν ξένων δρασμοῦ μέτα; 1300
you-are-mad what and to-us of-the strangers' flight share-is
οὐκ εἶ κρατούντων πρὸς πύλας ὅσον τάχος;
not will-you-go of-the-rulers to gates as-much-as quickly
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ οὔ, πρίν γ' ἂν εἴπῃ τοὔπος ἑρμηνεὺς τόδε,
not before at-least — tell the-word interpreter this
εἴτ' ἔνδον εἴτ' οὐκ ἔνδον ἀρχηγὸς χθονός.
whether inside or not inside leader of-land
ὠή, χαλᾶτε κλῆθρα, τοῖς ἔνδον λέγω,
ho loosen bars to-those inside I-say
καὶ δεσπότῃ σημήναθ' οὕνεκ' ἐν πύλαις 1305
and to-master signal that at gates

πάρειμι, καινῶν φόρτον ἀγγέλλων κακῶν.
I-am-present new load announcing of-evils

ΘΟΑΣ τίς ἀμφὶ δῶμα θεᾶς τόδ' ἴστησιν βοήν,
who around house of-the-goddess this raises shout

πύλας ἀράξας καὶ ψόφον πέμψας ἔσω;
gates having-struck and noise having-sent within

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ψευδῶς λέγουσαί μ' αἵδ' ἀπήλαυνον δόμων,
falsely saying me these drove-away from-house

ὡς ἐκτὸς εἴης· σὺ δὲ κατ' οἶκον ἦσθ' ἄρα.
that outside you-were you but in house were then

ΘΟΑΣ τί προσδοκῶσαι κέρδος ἢ θηρώμεναι;
what expecting gain or hunting

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ αὖθις τὰ τῶνδε σημανῶ· τὰ δ' ἐν ποσὶ
later the of-these I-will-show the but at feet

παρόντ' ἄκουσον. ἡ νεᾶνις, ἣ 'νθάδε
present hear the maiden who here

βωμοῖς παρίστατ', Ἰφιγένει', ἔξω χθονὸς
at-altars stood Iphigenia out of-land

σὺν τοῖς ξένοισιν οἴχεται, σεμνὸν θεᾶς
with the strangers is-gone holy of-the-goddess

ἄγαλμ' ἔχουσα· δόλια δ' ἦν καθάρματα.
image having treacherous and were purifications

ΘΟΑΣ πῶς φής; τί πνεῦμα συμφορᾶς κεκτημένη;
how do-you-say what breeze of-fortune having

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ σώζουσ' Ὀρέστην· τοῦτο γὰρ σὺ θαυμάσει.
saving Orestes this for you will-marvel

ΘΟΑΣ τὸν ποῖον; ἆρ' ὃν Τυνδαρὶς τίκτει κόρη;
the what-sort — whom Tyndarid bore girl

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ὃν τοῖσδε βωμοῖς θεὰ καθωσιώσατο.
whom at-these altars goddess consecrated

ΘΟΑΣ ὦ θαῦμα, πῶς σε μεῖζον ὀνομάσας τύχω;
O marvel how you greater having-named may-I-hit
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ μὴ ’νταῦθα τρέψῃς σὴν φρέν’, ἀλλ’ ἄκουέ μου·
not there turn your mind but hear me
σαφῶς δ’ ἀθρήσας καὶ κλύων ἐκφρόντισον
clearly and having-looked and hearing consider
διωγμὸν ὅστις τοὺς ξένους θηράσεται.
pursuit whoever the strangers will-hunt
ΘΟΑΣ λέγ’· εὖ γὰρ εἶπας· οὐ γὰρ ἀγχίπλουν πόρον
speak well for you-spoke not for short-voyage way
φεύγουσιν, ὥστε διαφυγεῖν τοὐμὸν δόρυ.
they-flee so-that to-escape my spear
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἐπεὶ πρὸς ἀκτὰς ἤλθομεν θαλασσίας,
when to shores we-came of-the-sea
οὗ ναῦς Ὀρέστου κρύφιος ἦν ὡρμισμένη,
where ship of-Orestes hidden was moored
ἡμᾶς μέν, οὓς σὺ δεσμὰ συμπέμπεις ξένων
us indeed whom you bonds you-send-with of-strangers
ἔχοντας, ἐξένευσ’ ἀποστῆναι πρόσω
holding nodded to-stand-away further
Ἀγαμέμνονος παῖς, ὡς ἀπόρρητον φλόγα
of-Agamemnon child as unspeakable flame
θύουσα καὶ καθαρμὸν ὃν μετῴχετο.
sacrificing and purification which she-went-for
αὐτὴ δ’ ὄπισθε δέσμ’ ἔχουσα τοῖν ξένοιν
herself and behind bonds holding of-the strangers
ἔστειχε χερσί. καὶ τάδ’ ἦν ὕποπτα μέν,
went with-hands and these-things were suspicious indeed
ἤρεσκε μέντοι σοῖσι προσπόλοις, ἄναξ.
pleased however your attendants lord

χρόνῳ δ', ἵν' ἡμῖν δρᾶν τι δὴ δοκοῖ πλέον,
in-time and so-that to-us to-do something indeed might-seem more
ἀνωλόλυξε καὶ κατῇδε βάρβαρα
she-raised-a-cry and chanted barbarian
μέλη μαγεύουσ', ὡς φόνον νίζουσα δή.
songs bewitching as murder washing indeed
ἐπεὶ δὲ δαρὸν ἦμεν ἥμενοι χρόνον,
when and long we-were sitting time
ἐσῆλθεν ἡμᾶς μὴ λυθέντες οἱ ξένοι
came-over us lest released the strangers
κτάνοιεν αὐτὴν δραπέται τ' οἰχοίατο.
might-kill her runaways and might-be-gone
φόβῳ δ' ἃ μὴ χρῆν εἰσορᾶν καθήμεθα
from-fear and what not it-was-right to-see we-sat
σιγῇ· τέλος δὲ πᾶσιν ἦν αὐτὸς λόγος,
in-silence at-last and to-all was same word
στείχειν ἵν' ἦσαν, καίπερ οὐκ ἐωμένοις.
to-go where they-were although not being-allowed
κἀνταῦθ' ὁρῶμεν Ἑλλάδος νεὼς σκάφος
and-there we-see of-Greek ship hull
ταρσῷ κατῆρες, πίτυλον ἐπτερωμένον,
with-oar-blade fitted stroke winged
ναύτας τε πεντήκοντ' ἐπὶ σκαλμῶν πλάτας
sailors and fifty at thole-pins oars
ἔχοντας, ἐκ δεσμῶν δὲ τοὺς νεανίας
holding from bonds and the youths
ἐλευθέρους πρύμνηθεν ἑστῶτας νεώς.
free from-stern standing of-ship
κοντοῖς δὲ πρῳραν εἶχον, οἱ δ' ἐπωτίδων
with-poles and prow held some and from-catheads

ἄγκυραν ἐξανῆπτον, οἱ δέ, κλίμακας
anchor hung-up others and ladders
σπεύδοντες, ἦγον διὰ χερῶν πρυμνήσια,
hastening led through hands stern-cables
πόντῳ δὲ δόντες τοῖν ξένοιν καθίεσαν.
to-sea and having-given for-the strangers let-down
ἡμεῖς δ' ἀφειδήσαντες, ὡς ἐσείδομεν
we and having-been-unsparing when we-saw
δόλια τεχνήματ', εἰχόμεσθα τῆς ξένης
treacherous devices held-onto the stranger-woman
πρυμνησίων τε, καὶ δι' εὐθυντηρίας
of-stern-cables and and through rudder-port
οἴακας ἐξῃροῦμεν εὐπρύμνου νεώς·
steering-oars tried-to-take of-fine-sterned ship
λόγοι δ' ἐχώρουν· τίνι νόμῳ πορθμεύετε
words and went by-what law do-you-convey
κλέπτοντες ἐκ γῆς ξόανα καὶ θυηπόλους;
stealing from land images and priestesses
τίνος τίς ὢν σὺ τήνδ' ἀπεμπολᾷς χθονός;
of-whom who being you this-one do-you-sell-away from-land
ὁ δ' εἶπ'· Ὀρέστης τῆσδ' ὅμαιμος, ὡς μάθῃς,
he and said Orestes of-her brother that you-may-learn
Ἀγαμέμνονος παῖς, τήνδ' ἐμὴν κομίζομαι
of-Agamemnon child this my I-carry-off
λαβὼν ἀδελφήν, ἣν ἀπώλεσ' ἐκ δόμων.
having-recovered sister whom I-lost from house
ἀλλ' οὐδὲν ἧσσον εἰχόμεσθα τῆς ξένης
but nothing less we-held-onto the stranger-woman
καὶ πρὸς σ' ἕπεσθαι διεβιαζόμεσθά νιν,
and to you to-follow we-forced her

ὅθεν τὰ δεινὰ πλήγματ᾽ ἦν γενειάδων.
whence the terrible blows were of-jaws
κεῖνοί τε γὰρ σίδηρον οὐκ εἶχον χεροῖν
those and for iron not had in-hands
ἡμεῖς τε· πυγμαὶ δ᾽ ἦσαν ἐγκροτούμεναι,
we and fists and were pounding
καὶ κῶλ᾽ ἀπ᾽ ἀμφοῖν τοῖν νεανίαιν ἅμα
and legs from both of-the youths at-once
εἰς πλευρὰ καὶ πρὸς ἧπαρ ἠκοντίζετο,
at ribs and at liver were-hurled
ὡς τῷ ξυνάπτειν καὶ συναποκαμεῖν μέλη.
so-that in-the to-close-in and to-grow-weary-with limbs
δεινοῖς δὲ σημάντροισιν ἐσφραγισμένοι
with-terrible and marks sealed
ἐφεύγομεν πρὸς κρημνόν, οἱ μὲν ἐν κάρᾳ
we-fled to cliff some indeed on head
κάθαιμ᾽ ἔχοντες τραύματ᾽, οἱ δ᾽ ἐν ὄμμασιν·
bloody having wounds others and on eyes
ὄχθοις δ᾽ ἐπισταθέντες εὐλαβεστέρως
on-hills and having-stood more-cautiously
ἐμαρνάμεσθα καὶ πέτρους ἐβάλλομεν.
we-fought and stones threw
ἀλλ᾽ εἶργον ἡμᾶς τοξόται πρύμνης ἔπι
but kept-off us archers stern on
σταθέντες ἰοῖς, ὥστ᾽ ἀναστεῖλαι πρόσω.
standing with-arrows so-that to-drive-back further
κἀν τῷδε, δεινὸς γὰρ κλύδων ὤκειλε ναῦν
and-in this terrible for wave drove ship
πρὸς γῆν, φόβος δ᾽ ἦν παρθένῳ τέγξαι πόδα,
to land fear and was for-maiden to-wet foot

λαβὼν Ὀρέστης ὦμον εἰς ἀριστερόν,
having-taken Orestes shoulder onto left
βὰς εἰς θάλασσαν κἀπὶ κλίμακος θορών,
having-gone into sea and-onto ladder having-leapt
ἔθηκ' ἀδελφὴν ἐντὸς εὐσέλμου νεώς,
set sister within well-benched of-ship
τό τ' οὐρανοῦ πέσημα, τῆς Διὸς κόρης
the and of-heaven fallen-thing of-the of-Zeus daughter
ἄγαλμα. ναὸς δ' ἐκ μέσης ἐφθέγξατο
image of-ship and from middle spoke
βοή τις· ὦ γῆς Ἑλλάδος ναῦται νεώς,
voice some O of-land of-Hellas sailors of-ship
λάβεσθε κώπης ῥόθιά τ' ἐκλευκαίνετε·
take-hold of-oar surges and whiten
ἔχομεν γὰρ ὧνπερ εἵνεκ' ἄξενον πόρον
we-have for which-indeed for-the-sake inhospitable strait
Συμπληγάδων ἔσωθεν εἰσεπλεύσαμεν.
of-Symplegades within we-sailed-into
οἱ δὲ στεναγμὸν ἡδὺν ἐκβρυχώμενοι
they and groan sweet roaring-out
ἔπαισαν ἅλμην. ναῦς δ', ἕως μὲν ἐντὸς ἦν
struck brine ship and while indeed within was
λιμένος, ἐχώρει· στόμια διαπερῶσα δὲ
of-harbor went mouth crossing but
λάβρῳ κλύδωνι συμπεσοῦσ' ἠπείγετο·
with-fierce wave having-met was-pressed
δεινὸς γὰρ ἐλθὼν ἄνεμος ἐξαίφνης σκάφος,
terrible for having-come wind suddenly hull
ὤθει παλιμπρυμνηδόν· οἱ δ' ἐκαρτέρουν
pushed stern-foremost they and held-firm

πρὸς κῦμα λακτίζοντες· εἰς δὲ γῆν πάλιν
against wave kicking to and land back
κλύδων παλίρρους ἦγε ναῦν. σταθεῖσα δὲ
wave back-flowing drove ship having-stood and
Ἀγαμέμνονος παῖς ηὔξατ'· ὦ Λητοῦς κόρη,
of-Agamemnon child prayed O of-Leto daughter
σῶσόν με τὴν σὴν ἱερίαν πρὸς Ἑλλάδα
save me the your priestess to Hellas
ἐκ βαρβάρου γῆς καὶ κλοπαῖς σύγγνωθ' ἐμαῖς.
from barbarian land and thefts pardon my
φιλεῖς δὲ καὶ σὺ σὸν κασίγνητον, θεά·
you-love and also you your brother goddess
φιλεῖν δὲ κἀμὲ τοὺς ὁμαίμονας δόκει.
to-love and also-me the kin think
ναῦται δ' ἐπηυφήμησαν εὐχαῖσιν κόρης
sailors and shouted-assent to-prayers of-girl
παιᾶνα, γυμνὰς εὐχερῶς ἐπωμίδας
paean bare readily shoulders
κώπῃ προσαρμόσαντες ἐκ κελεύσματος.
to-oar having-fitted from command
μᾶλλον δὲ μᾶλλον πρὸς πέτρας ᾔει σκάφος·
more and more to rocks went hull
χὠ μέν τις εἰς θάλασσαν ὡρμήθη ποσίν,
and-the indeed one into sea rushed on-foot
ἄλλος δὲ πλεκτὰς ἐξανῆπτεν ἀγκύλας.
other and woven fastened nooses
κἀγὼ μὲν εὐθὺς πρὸς σὲ δεῦρ' ἀπεστάλην,
and-I indeed straightway to you here was-sent
σοὶ τὰς ἐκεῖθεν σημανῶν, ἄναξ, τύχας.
to-you the from-there to-signal lord fortunes

ἀλλ᾽ ἕρπε, δεσμὰ καὶ βρόχους λαβὼν χεροῖν·
but go bonds and nooses having-taken in-hands
εἰ μὴ γὰρ οἶδμα νήνεμον γενήσεται,
if not for swell windless will-become
οὐκ ἔστιν ἐλπὶς τοῖς ξένοις σωτηρίας.
not is hope for-the strangers of-safety
πόντου δ᾽ ἀνάκτωρ Ἴλιόν τ᾽ ἐπισκοπεῖ,
of-sea and lord Ilium and watches-over
σεμνὸς Ποσειδῶν, Πελοπίδαις δ᾽ ἐναντίος. 1415
holy Poseidon to-Pelopids and hostile
καὶ νῦν παρέξει τὸν Ἀγαμέμνονος γόνον
and now will-give the of-Agamemnon offspring
σοὶ καὶ πολίταις, ὡς ἔοικεν, ἐν χεροῖν
to-you and to-citizens as seems into hands
λαβεῖν, ἀδελφήν θ᾽, ἣ φόνον τὸν Αὐλίδι
to-take sister and who murder the in-Aulis
ἀμνημόνευτον θεᾷ προδοῦσ᾽ ἁλίσκεται.
unremembered to-goddess having-betrayed is-caught
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ τλῆμον Ἰφιγένεια, συγγόνου μέτα 1420
O wretched Iphigenia brother with
θανεῖ πάλιν μολοῦσα δεσποτῶν χέρας.
you-will-die again having-come of-masters into-hands
ΘΟΑΣ ὦ πάντες ἀστοὶ τῆσδε βαρβάρου χθονός,
O all citizens of-this barbarian land
οὐκ εἶα πώλοις ἐμβαλόντες ἡνίας
not ho to-colts having-thrown-on reins
παράκτιοι δραμεῖσθε, κἀκβολὰς νεὼς
along-shore will-you-run and-landings of-ship
Ἑλληνίδος δέξεσθε, σὺν δὲ τῇ θεῷ 1425
of-Greek will-you-await with and the goddess

σπεύδοντες ἄνδρας δυσσεβεῖς θηράσετε·
hastening men impious will-you-hunt
οἱ δ' ὠκυπόμπους ἕλξετ' εἰς πόντον πλάτας,
others and swift-sped will-you-drag into sea oars
ὡς ἐκ θαλάσσης ἔκ τε γῆς ἱππεύμασι
so-that from sea from and land by-cavalry
λαβόντες αὐτοὺς ἢ κατὰ στύφλου πέτρας
having-taken them either down rugged rock
ῥίψωμεν, ἢ σκόλοψι πήξωμεν δέμας.
we-may-hurl or on-stakes we-may-fix body
ὑμᾶς δὲ τὰς τῶνδ' ἴστορας βουλευμάτων,
you and the of-these privy-to of-plans
γυναῖκας αὖθις, ἡνίκ' ἂν σχολὴν λάβω,
women later when — leisure I-take
ποινασόμεσθα· νῦν δὲ τὴν προκειμένην
we-shall-punish now but the at-hand
σπουδὴν ἔχοντες οὐ μενοῦμεν ἥσυχοι.
haste having not we-shall-stay quiet

ΑΘΗΝΑ ποῖ ποῖ διωγμὸν τόνδε πορθμεύεις, ἄναξ
where where pursuit this do-you-convey lord
Θόας; ἄκουσον τῆσδ' Ἀθηναίας λόγους.
Thoas hear of-this Athena words
παῦσαι διώκων ῥεῦμά τ' ἐξορμῶν στρατοῦ·
stop pursuing stream and sending-forth of-army
πεπρωμένος γὰρ θεσφάτοισι Λοξίου
destined for by-oracles of-Loxias
δεῦρ' ἦλθ' Ὀρέστης, τόν τ' Ἐρινύων χόλον
here came Orestes the and of-Furies wrath
φεύγων ἀδελφῆς τ' Ἄργος εἰσπέμψων δέμας
fleeing of-sister and to-Argos to-send body

ἄγαλμά θ' ἱερὸν εἰς ἐμὴν ἄξων χθόνα,
image and holy to my to-bring land
τῶν νῦν παρόντων πημάτων ἀναψυχάς.
of-the now present of-woes respites
πρὸς μὲν σ' ὅδ' ἡμῖν μῦθος· ὃν δ' ἀποκτενεῖν
to indeed you this for-us word whom and to-kill
δοκεῖς Ὀρέστην ποντίῳ λαβὼν σάλῳ,
you-think Orestes on-sea having-caught on-swell
ἤδη Ποσειδῶν χάριν ἐμὴν ἀκύμονα
already Poseidon favor my waveless
πόντου τίθησι νῶτα πορθμεύων πλάτῃ.
of-sea makes backs conveying with-oar
μαθὼν δ', Ὀρέστα, τὰς ἐμὰς ἐπιστολάς,
having-learned and Orestes the my commands
κλύεις γὰρ αὐδὴν καίπερ οὐ παρὼν θεᾶς,
you-hear for voice although not being-present of-the-goddess
χώρει λαβὼν ἄγαλμα σύγγονόν τε σήν.
go having-taken image sister and your
ὅταν δ' Ἀθήνας τὰς θεοδμήτους μόλῃς,
when and Athens the god-built you-come
χωρός τις ἔστιν Ἀτθίδος πρὸς ἐσχάτοις
place a is of-Attica at farthest
ὅροισι, γείτων δειράδος Καρυστίας,
boundaries neighbor of-ridge Carystian
ἱερός, Ἁλάς νιν οὑμὸς ὀνομάζει λεώς·
holy Halae it my names people
ἐνταῦθα τεύξας ναὸν ἵδρυσαι βρέτας,
there having-built temple set-up image
ἐπώνυμον γῆς Ταυρικῆς πόνων τε σῶν,
named-after of-land Tauric of-toils and your

οὓς ἐξεμόχθεις περιπολῶν καθ' Ἑλλάδα
which you-toiled roaming throughout Hellas
οἴστροις Ἐρινύων. Ἄρτεμιν δέ νιν βροτοὶ
by-stings of-Furies Artemis and her mortals
τὸ λοιπὸν ὑμνήσουσι Ταυροπόλον θεάν.
the hereafter will-hymn Tauropolos goddess
νόμον τε θὲς τόνδ'· ὅταν ἑορτάζῃ λεώς,
custom and set this when keeps-festival people
τῆς σῆς σφαγῆς ἄποιν' ἐπισχέτω ξίφος
of-the your slaughter in-ransom let-hold sword
δέρῃ πρὸς ἀνδρὸς αἷμά τ' ἐξανιέτω,
throat to of-man blood and let-draw
ὁσίας ἕκατι, θεά θ' ὅπως τιμὰς ἔχῃ.
of-holiness for-the-sake goddess and that honors may-have
σὲ δ' ἀμφὶ σεμνάς, Ἰφιγένεια, κλίμακας
you and about holy Iphigenia steps
Βραυρωνίας δεῖ τῇδε κληδουχεῖν θεᾷ·
of-Brauron must for-this be-key-bearer for-goddess
οὗ καὶ τεθάψει κατθανοῦσα, καὶ πέπλων
where and you-will-be-buried having-died and of-robes
ἄγαλμά σοι θήσουσιν εὐπήνους ὑφάς,
offering to-you they-will-dedicate well-woven weavings
ἃς ἂν γυναῖκες ἐν τόκοις ψυχορραγεῖς
which — women in childbirth breathing-out-life
λείπωσ' ἐν οἴκοις. τάσδε δ' ἐκπέμπειν χθονὸς
leave in house these and to-send-out from-land
Ἑλληνίδας γυναῖκας ἐξεφίεμαι
Greek women I-enjoin
γνώμης δικαίας εἵνεκ'. ἐξέσωσα δὲ
of-judgment just for-the-sake I-saved and

καὶ πρίν σ' Ἀρείοις ἐν πάγοις ψήφους ἴσας
also before you of-Ares on hill votes equal
κρίνασ', Ὀρέστα· καὶ νόμισμ' ἔσται τόδε,
having-judged Orestes and custom will-be this
νικᾶν ἰσήρεις ὅστις ἂν ψήφους λάβῃ.
to-win equal whoever — votes takes
ἀλλ' ἐκκομίζου σὴν κασιγνήτην χθονός,
but carry-out your sister from-land
Ἀγαμέμνονος παῖ· καὶ σὺ μὴ θυμοῦ, Θόας.
of-Agamemnon child and you not be-angry Thoas
ΘΟΑΣ ἄνασσ' Ἀθάνα, τοῖσι τῶν θεῶν λόγοις
queen Athena to-the of-the gods words
ὅστις κλύων ἄπιστος, οὐκ ὀρθῶς φρονεῖ.
whoever hearing disobedient not rightly thinks
ἐγὼ δ' Ὀρέστῃ τ', εἰ φέρων βρέτας θεᾶς
I and with-Orestes and if carrying image of-the-goddess
βέβηκ', ἀδελφῇ τ' οὐχὶ θυμοῦμαι· τί γὰρ
is-gone with-sister and not am-angry what for
πρὸς τοὺς σθένοντας θεοὺς ἁμιλλᾶσθαι καλόν;
against the powerful gods to-contend fine
ἴτωσαν εἰς σὴν σὺν θεᾶς ἀγάλματι
let-them-go to your with of-the-goddess image
γαῖαν, καθιδρύσαιντό τ' εὐτυχῶς βρέτας.
land may-they-set-up and fortunately image
πέμψω δὲ καὶ τάσδ' Ἑλλάδ' εἰς εὐδαίμονα
I-will-send and also these Hellas to happy
γυναῖκας, ὥσπερ σὸν κέλευσμ' ἐφίεται.
women as your command enjoins
παύσω δὲ λόγχην ἣν ἐπαίρομαι ξένοις
I-will-stop and spear which I-raise against-strangers

νεῶν τ᾽ ἐρετμά, σοὶ τάδ᾽ ὡς δοκεῖ, θεά.
of-ships and oars to-you these as seems goddess

ΑΘΗΝΑ αἰνῶ· τὸ γὰρ χρεὼν σοῦ τε καὶ θεῶν κρατεῖ.
I-praise the for necessity you both and gods rules

ἴτ᾽, ὦ πνοαί, ναυσθλοῦσθε τὸν Ἀγαμέμνονος
go O breezes convey the of-Agamemnon

παῖδ᾽ εἰς Ἀθήνας· συμπορεύσομαι δ᾽ ἐγώ,
child to Athens I-will-journey-with and I

σῴζουσ᾽ ἀδελφῆς τῆς ἐμῆς σεμνὸν βρέτας.
saving of-sister the my holy image

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἴτ᾽ ἐπ᾽ εὐτυχίᾳ τῆς σῳζομένης
go on good-fortune of-the being-saved

μοίρας εὐδαίμονες ὄντες.
of-lot fortunate being

ἀλλ᾽, ὦ σεμνὴ παρά τ᾽ ἀθανάτοις
but O holy among and immortals

καὶ παρὰ θνητοῖς, Παλλὰς Ἀθάνα,
and among mortals Pallas Athena

δράσομεν οὕτως ὡς σὺ κελεύεις.
we-will-do so as you bid

μάλα γὰρ τερπνὴν κἀνέλπιστον
very for delightful and-unexpected

φήμην ἀκοαῖσι δέδεγμαι.
report with-ears I-have-received

ὦ μέγα σεμνὴ Νίκη, τὸν ἐμὸν
O greatly holy Victory the my

βίοτον κατέχοις
life may-you-hold

καὶ μὴ λήγοις στεφανοῦσα.

and not may-you-cease crowning

EURIPIDES

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ

Orestes

I · ELECTRA'S PROLOGUE

Electra tells the crimes of the house of Tantalus down to Agamemnon, killed by his wife, and Orestes, who killed his mother at Apollo's command. Now he lies sick and raving, hunted by the Furies, and Argos has forbidden anyone to shelter or speak to the matricides; today the city votes on whether they die by stoning or by the sword. Menelaus has landed, sending Helen ahead by night. Helen comes out and asks Electra to carry offerings to Clytemnestra's tomb; Electra refuses, and Helen sends her daughter Hermione. Electra mocks Helen for cutting only the tips of her hair.

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ Οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδὲν δεινὸν ὧδ' εἰπεῖν ἔπος,
Not is nothing terrible so to-say word
οὐδὲ πάθος, οὐδὲ συμφορὰ θεήλατος,
nor suffering nor misfortune god-sent
ἧς οὐκ ἂν ἄραιτ' ἄχθος ἀνθρώπου φύσις.
of-which not — might-take-up burden of-man nature
ὁ γὰρ μακάριος, κοὐκ ὀνειδίζω τύχας,
the for blessed and-not I-reproach fortunes
Διὸς πεφυκώς, ὡς λέγουσι, Τάνταλος
of-Zeus born as they-say Tantalus
κορυφῆς ὑπερτέλλοντα δειμαίνων πέτρον
head overhanging fearing rock
ἀέρι ποτᾶται καὶ τίνει ταύτην δίκην,
in-air hovers and pays this penalty
ὡς μὲν λέγουσιν, ὅτι θεοῖς ἄνθρωπος ὢν
as indeed they-say because with-gods man being
κοινῆς τραπέζης ἀξίωμ' ἔχων ἴσον,
of-common table honor having equal
ἀκόλαστον ἔσχε γλῶσσαν, αἰσχίστην νόσον.
unbridled he-had tongue most-shameful disease

οὗτος φυτεύει Πέλοπα, τοῦ δ' Ἀτρεὺς ἔφυ,
this-one begets Pelops of-him and Atreus was-born
ᾧ στέμματα ξήνασ' ἐπέκλωσεν θεὰ
for-whom threads having-carded spun goddess
ἔριν, Θυέστῃ πόλεμον ὄντι συγγόνῳ
strife for-Thyestes war being brother
θέσθαι· τί τἄρρητ' ἀναμετρήσασθαί με δεῖ;
to-make why the-unspeakable to-recount me must
ἔδαισε δ' οὖν νιν τέκν' ἀποκτείνας Ἀτρεύς.
feasted and then him children having-killed Atreus
Ἀτρέως δέ, τὰς γὰρ ἐν μέσῳ σιγῶ τύχας,
of-Atreus and the for in between I-pass-over fortunes
ὁ κλεινός, εἰ δὴ κλεινός, Ἀγαμέμνων ἔφυ
the famous if indeed famous Agamemnon was-born
Μενέλεώς τε Κρήσσης μητρὸς Ἀερόπης ἄπο.
Menelaus and of-Cretan mother Aerope from
γαμεῖ δ' ὁ μὲν δὴ τὴν θεοῖς στυγουμένην
marries and the indeed indeed the to-gods hateful
Μενέλαος Ἑλένην, ὁ δὲ Κλυταιμνήστρας λέχος
Menelaus Helen the and of-Clytemnestra bed
ἐπίσημον εἰς Ἕλληνας Ἀγαμέμνων ἄναξ·
notable among Greeks Agamemnon lord
ᾧ παρθένοι μὲν τρεῖς ἔφυμεν ἐκ μιᾶς,
to-whom maidens indeed three were-born from one
Χρυσόθεμις Ἰφιγένειά τ' Ἠλέκτρα τ' ἐγώ,
Chrysothemis Iphigenia and Electra and I
ἄρσην δ' Ὀρέστης, μητρὸς ἀνοσιωτάτης,
male and Orestes of-mother most-unholy
ᾗ πόσιν ἀπείρῳ περιβαλοῦσ' ὑφάσματι
who husband with-endless having-thrown-around with-web

ἔκτεινεν· ὧν δ' ἕκατι, παρθένῳ λέγειν
killed of-which and for-the-sake for-maiden to-speak
οὐ καλόν· ἐῶ τοῦτ' ἀσαφὲς ἐν κοινῷ σκοπεῖν.
not fine I-leave this obscure in public to-consider
Φοίβου δ' ἀδικίαν μὲν τί δεῖ κατηγορεῖν;
of-Phoebus and injustice indeed why must to-accuse
πείθει δ' Ὀρέστην μητέρ' ἥ σφ' ἐγείνατο
persuades and Orestes mother who him bore
κτεῖναι, πρὸς οὐχ ἅπαντας εὔκλειαν φέρον.
to-kill to not all glory bringing
ὅμως δ' ἀπέκτειν' οὐκ ἀπειθήσας θεῷ·
nevertheless and he-killed not having-disobeyed god
κἀγὼ μετέσχον, οἷα δὴ γυνή, φόνου,
and-I shared such-as indeed woman of-murder
Πυλάδης θ', ὃς ἡμῖν συγκατείργασται τάδε.
Pylades and who with-us has-helped-accomplish these-things
ἐντεῦθεν ἀγρίᾳ συντακεὶς νόσῳ δέμας
thence with-savage wasted with-disease body
τλήμων Ὀρέστης ὅδε πεσὼν ἐν δεμνίοις
wretched Orestes this having-fallen in bed
κεῖται, τὸ μητρὸς δ' αἷμά νιν τροχηλατεῖ
lies the of-mother and blood him drives-in-circles
μανίαισιν· ὀνομάζειν γὰρ αἰδοῦμαι θεὰς
with-madnesses to-name for I-am-ashamed goddesses
Εὐμενίδας, αἳ τόνδ' ἐξαμιλλῶνται φόβῳ.
Eumenides who this-one drive-wild with-fear
ἕκτον δὲ δὴ τόδ' ἦμαρ ἐξ ὅτου σφαγαῖς
sixth and indeed this day from which by-slaughter
θανοῦσα μήτηρ πυρὶ καθήγνισται δέμας,
dead mother with-fire has-been-purified body

ὧν οὔτε σῖτα διὰ δέρης ἐδέξατο,
during-which neither food through throat he-took
οὐ λούτρ' ἔδωκε χρωτί· χλανιδίων δ' ἔσω
not washing gave to-skin of-cloaks and within
κρυφθείς, ὅταν μὲν σῶμα κουφισθῇ νόσου,
hidden when indeed body is-lightened of-disease
ἔμφρων δακρύει, ποτὲ δὲ δεμνίων ἄπο
sane he-weeps sometimes and bed from
πηδᾷ δρομαῖος, πῶλος ὡς ἀπὸ ζυγοῦ.
leaps running colt like from yoke
ἔδοξε δ' Ἄργει τῷδε μήθ' ἡμᾶς στέγαις,
it-was-decreed and by-Argos this neither us with-roofs
μὴ πυρὶ δέχεσθαι, μήτε προσφωνεῖν τινα
not with-fire to-receive nor to-address anyone
μητροκτονοῦντας· κυρία δ' ἥδ' ἡμέρα,
matricides appointed and this day
ἐν ᾗ διοίσει ψῆφον Ἀργείων πόλις,
on which will-decide vote of-Argives city
εἰ χρὴ θανεῖν νὼ λευσίμῳ πετρώματι,
whether must to-die us-two by-stoning stone
ἢ φάσγανον θήξαντ' ἐπ' αὐχένος βαλεῖν.
or sword having-whetted on neck to-thrust
ἐλπίδα δὲ δή τιν' ἔχομεν ὥστε μὴ θανεῖν·
hope and indeed some we-have so-that not to-die
ἥκει γὰρ εἰς γῆν Μενέλεως Τροίας ἄπο,
has-come for to land Menelaus Troy from
λιμένα δὲ Ναυπλίειον ἐκπληρῶν πλάτῃ
harbor and Nauplian filling with-oar
ἀκταῖσιν ὁρμεῖ, δαρὸν ἐκ Τροίας χρόνον
on-shores he-is-moored long from Troy time

ἄλαισι πλαγχθείς· τὴν δὲ δὴ πολύστονον
in-wanderings having-strayed the and indeed much-lamented
Ἑλένην, φυλάξας νύκτα, μή τις εἰσιδὼν
Helen having-watched-for night lest anyone seeing
μεθ' ἡμέραν στείχουσαν, ὧν ὑπ' Ἰλίῳ
by day going of-whom under Ilium
παῖδες τεθνᾶσιν, εἰς πέτρων ἔλθῃ βολάς,
sons have-died to of-stones should-come throwings
προύπεμψεν εἰς δῶμ' ἡμέτερον· ἔστιν δ' ἔσω
he-sent-ahead to house our is and within
κλαίουσ' ἀδελφὴν συμφοράς τε δωμάτων.
lamenting sister misfortunes and of-house
ἔχει δὲ δή τιν' ἀλγέων παραψυχήν·
has and indeed some of-griefs consolation
ἣν γὰρ κατ' οἴκους ἔλιφ', ὅτ' ἐς Τροίαν ἔπλει,
whom for in house he-left when to Troy he-sailed
παρθένον ἐμῇ τε μητρὶ παρέδωκεν τρέφειν
maiden to-my and mother he-gave to-rear
Μενέλαος ἀγαγὼν Ἑρμιόνην Σπάρτης ἄπο,
Menelaus having-brought Hermione Sparta from
ταύτῃ γέγηθε κἀπιλήθεται κακῶν.
in-her she-rejoices and-forgets evils
βλέπω δὲ πᾶσαν εἰς ὁδόν, πότ' ὄψομαι
I-look and all to road when shall-I-see
Μενέλαον ἥκονθ'· ὡς τά γ' ἄλλ' ἐπ' ἀσθενοῦς
Menelaus coming since the at-least other-things on weak
ῥώμης ὀχούμεθ', ἤν τι μὴ κείνου πάρα
of-strength we-ride if something not him from
σωθῶμεν. ἄπορον χρῆμα δυστυχῶν δόμος.
we-are-saved helpless thing of-unfortunate-ones house

ΕΛΕΝΗ ὦ παῖ Κλυταιμνήστρας τε κἀγαμέμνονος,
O child of-Clytemnestra and and-of-Agamemnon
παρθένε μακρὸν δὴ μῆκος, Ἠλέκτρα, χρόνου,
maiden long indeed length Electra of-time
πῶς, ὦ τάλαινα, σύ τε κασίγνητός τε σὸς
how O wretched you and brother and your
τλήμων Ὀρέστης μητρὸς ὅδε φονεὺς ἔφυ;
wretched Orestes of-mother this murderer was
προσφθέγμασιν γὰρ οὐ μιαίνομαι σέθεν,
by-addresses for not am-defiled of-you
εἰς Φοῖβον ἀναφέρουσα τὴν ἁμαρτίαν.
to Phoebus referring the error
καίτοι στένω γε τὸν Κλυταιμνήστρας μόρον
and-yet I-lament at-least the of-Clytemnestra death
ἐμῆς ἀδελφῆς, ἥν, ἐπεὶ πρὸς Ἴλιον
my of-sister whom since to Ilium
ἔπλευσ' ὅπως ἔπλευσα θεομανεῖ πότμῳ,
I-sailed how I-sailed god-maddened by-fate
οὐκ εἶδον, ἀπολειφθεῖσα δ' αἰάζω τύχας.
not I-saw left and I-bewail fortunes
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ Ἑλένη, τί σοι λέγοιμ' ἂν ἅ γε παροῦσ' ὁρᾷς,
Helen what to-you would-I-say — what at-least being-present you-see
ἐν συμφοραῖσι τὸν Ἀγαμέμνονος γόνον;
in misfortunes the of-Agamemnon offspring
ἐγὼ μὲν ἄυπνος, πάρεδρος ἀθλίῳ νεκρῷ,
I indeed sleepless sitting-beside wretched corpse
νεκρὸς γὰρ οὗτος εἵνεκα σμικρᾶς πνοῆς,
corpse for this-one for-the-sake of-little breath
θάσσω· τὰ τούτου δ' οὐκ ὀνειδίζω κακά·
I-sit the his and not I-reproach evils

σὺ δ' ἡ μακαρία μακάριός θ' ὁ σὸς πόσις
you and the blessed blessed and the your husband
ἥκετον ἐφ' ἡμᾶς ἀθλίως πεπραγότας.
you-have-come to us wretchedly faring
ΕΛΕΝΗ πόσον χρόνον δὲ δεμνίοις πέπτωχ' ὅδε;
how-much time and in-bed has-lain this-one
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐξ οὗπερ αἷμα γενέθλιον κατήνυσεν.
from which blood kindred he-shed
ΕΛΕΝΗ ὦ μέλεος, ἡ τεκοῦσά θ', ὡς διώλετο. 90
O wretched the having-borne and how she-perished
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὕτως ἔχει τάδ', ὥστ' ἀπείρηκεν κακοῖς.
so stands these-things so-that he-has-given-up by-evils
ΕΛΕΝΗ πρὸς θεῶν, πίθοι' ἂν δῆτά μοί τι, παρθένε;
by gods would-you-obey — then me something maiden
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὡς ἄσχολός γε συγγόνου προσεδρίᾳ.
so-far-as busy at-least brother's by-attendance
ΕΛΕΝΗ βούλει τάφον μοι πρὸς κασιγνήτης μολεῖν;
do-you-wish tomb for-me to of-sister to-go
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ μητρὸς κελεύεις τῆς ἐμῆς; τίνος χάριν; 95
of-mother do-you-bid the my for-what reason
ΕΛΕΝΗ κόμης ἀπαρχὰς καὶ χοὰς φέρουσ' ἐμάς.
of-hair first-fruits and libations bearing my
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ σοὶ δ' οὐ θεμιστὸν πρὸς φίλων στείχειν τάφον;
for-you but not lawful to of-friends to-go tomb
ΕΛΕΝΗ δεῖξαι γὰρ Ἀργείοισι σῶμ' αἰσχύνομαι.
to-show for to-Argives body I-am-ashamed
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὀψέ γε φρονεῖς εὖ, τότε λιποῦσ' αἰσχρῶς δόμους.
late at-least you-think well then having-left shamefully house
ΕΛΕΝΗ ὀρθῶς ἔλεξας, οὐ φίλως δέ μοι λέγεις. 100
rightly you-said not kindly but to-me you-speak

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ αἰδὼς δὲ δὴ τίς σ' εἰς Μυκηναίους ἔχει;
shame but indeed what you before Mycenaeans has

ΕΛΕΝΗ δέδοικα πατέρας τῶν ὑπ' Ἰλίῳ νεκρῶν.
I-fear fathers of-the under Ilium of-dead

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ δεινὸν γάρ· Ἄργει γ' ἀναβοᾷ διὰ στόμα.
terrible for in-Argos at-least you-are-decried through mouth

ΕΛΕΝΗ σύ νυν χάριν μοι τὸν φόβον λύσασα δός.
you now favor to-me the fear having-loosed give

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην μητρὸς εἰσβλέψαι τάφον.
not — I-could of-mother to-look-at tomb

ΕΛΕΝΗ αἰσχρόν γε μέντοι προσπόλους φέρειν τάδε.
shameful at-least however servants to-bring these-things

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τί δ' οὐχὶ θυγατρὸς Ἑρμιόνης πέμπεις δέμας;
why but not of-daughter of-Hermione do-you-send body

ΕΛΕΝΗ εἰς ὄχλον ἔρπειν παρθένοισιν οὐ καλόν.
into crowd to-go for-maidens not fine

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὶ μὴν τίνοι γ' ἂν τῇ τεθνηκυίᾳ τροφάς.
and indeed would-pay at-least — to-the dead nurture

ΕΛΕΝΗ καλῶς ἔλεξας, πείθομαί τέ σοι, κόρη,
well you-said I-obey and you girl

καὶ πέμψομέν γε θυγατέρ'· εὖ γάρ τοι λέγεις.
and we-will-send at-least daughter well for surely you-speak

ὦ τέκνον, ἔξελθ', Ἑρμιόνη, δόμων πάρος,
O child come-out Hermione house before

καὶ λαβὲ χοὰς τάσδ' ἐν χεροῖν κόμας τ' ἐμάς·
and take libations these in hands hair and my

ἐλθοῦσα δ' ἀμφὶ τὸν Κλυταιμνήστρας τάφον
having-gone and about the of-Clytemnestra tomb

μελίκρατ' ἄφες γάλακτος οἰνωπόν τ' ἄχνην,
honey-mixture pour of-milk wine-dark and foam

καὶ στᾶσ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ἄκρου χώματος λέξον τάδε·
and standing on top of-mound say these-things
Ἑλένη σ᾽ ἀδελφὴ ταῖσδε δωρεῖται χοαῖς,
Helen you sister with-these presents libations
φόβῳ προσελθεῖν μνῆμα σόν, ταρβοῦσά τε
from-fear to-approach tomb your fearing and
Ἀργεῖον ὄχλον. εὐμενῆ δ᾽ ἄνωγέ νιν
Argive crowd well-disposed and bid her
ἐμοί τε καὶ σοὶ καὶ πόσει γνώμην ἔχειν
to-me and and to-you and to-husband mind to-have
τοῖν τ᾽ ἀθλίοιν τοῖνδ᾽, οὓς ἀπώλεσεν θεός.
to-the and wretched to-these whom destroyed god
ἃ δ᾽ εἰς ἀδελφὴν καιρὸς ἐκπονεῖν ἐμέ,
what and toward sister time to-perform me
ἅπανθ᾽ ὑπισχνοῦ νερτέρων δωρήματα.
all promise of-the-dead gifts
ἴθ᾽, ὦ τέκνον μοι, σπεῦδε καὶ χοὰς τάφῳ
go O child for-me hasten and libations to-tomb
δοῦσ᾽ ὡς τάχιστα τῆς πάλιν μέμνησ᾽ ὁδοῦ.
having-given as quickly of-the back remember road
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ φύσις, ἐν ἀνθρώποισιν ὡς μέγ᾽ εἶ κακόν,
O nature among men how great you-are evil
σωτήριόν τε τοῖς καλῶς κεκτημένοις.
saving and to-the well possessing
εἶδετε παρ᾽ ἄκρας ὡς ἀπέθρισεν τρίχας,
did-you-see at edges how she-cut hair
σῴζουσα κάλλος; ἔστι δ᾽ ἡ πάλαι γυνή.
keeping beauty is and the of-old woman
θεοί σε μισήσειαν, ὥς μ᾽ ἀπώλεσας
gods you may-hate as me you-destroyed

καὶ τόνδε πᾶσάν θ' Ἑλλάδ'. ὦ τάλαιν' ἐγώ,
and this-one all and Hellas O wretched I
αἵδ' αὖ πάρεισι τοῖς ἐμοῖς θρηνήμασι
these again are-present to-the my laments
φίλαι ξυνῳδοί· τάχα μεταστήσουσ' ὕπνου
dear singers-with soon they-will-rouse from-sleep
τόνδ' ἡσυχάζοντ', ὄμμα δ' ἐκτήξουσ' ἐμὸν
this-one resting eye and they-will-melt my
135 δακρύοις, ἀδελφὸν ὅταν ὁρῶ μεμηνότα.
with-tears brother when I-see maddened
ὦ φίλταται γυναῖκες, ἡσύχῳ ποδὶ
O dearest women with-quiet foot
χωρεῖτε, μὴ ψοφεῖτε, μηδ' ἔστω κτύπος.
go not clatter nor let-there-be noise
φιλία γὰρ ἡ σὴ πρευμενὴς μέν, ἀλλ' ἐμοὶ
kindness for the your gracious indeed but to-me
τόνδ' ἐξεγεῖραι συμφορὰ γενήσεται.
this-one to-wake misfortune will-become

II · DO NOT WAKE HIM

The chorus of Argive women arrives, and Electra begs them to tread softly and speak low so as not to wake her brother. They sing together over the sleeping man, who has no desire even for food, and lament the god who commanded the murder.

140 ΧΟΡΟΣ σῖγα, σῖγα, λεπτὸν ἴχνος ἀρβύλης
hush hush light track of-sandal
τίθετε, μὴ ψοφεῖτε, μὴ 'στω κτύπος.
set not clatter not let-there-be noise

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀποπρὸ βᾶτ' ἐκεῖσ', ἀποπρό μοι κοίτας.
far-off go there far-from for-me bed

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰδού, πείθομαι.
see I-obey

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἆ ἆ, σύριγγος ὅπως πνοὰ λεπτοῦ
ah ah of-pipe like breath of-slender

δόνακος, ὦ φίλα, φώνει μοι.
reed O dear speak to-me

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἴδ', ἀτρεμαῖον ὡς ὑπόροφον φέρω
see quiet as low-roofed I-bring

βοάν. ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ναὶ οὕτως,
cry yes so

κάταγε, κάταγε, πρόσιθ' ἀτρέμας, ἀτρέμας ἴθι·
lower lower approach quietly quietly come

λόγον ἀπόδος ἐφ' ὅ τι χρέος ἐμόλετέ ποτε.
account give for what — need you-came ever

χρόνια γὰρ πεσὼν ὅδ' εὐνάζεται.
long for having-fallen this-one sleeps

ΧΟΡΟΣ πῶς ἔχει; λόγου μετάδος, ὦ φίλα.
how is-he of-word share O dear

τίνα τύχαν εἴπω; τίνα δὲ συμφοράν;
what fortune shall-I-say what and misfortune

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἔτι μὲν ἐμπνέει, βραχὺ δ' ἀναστένει.
still indeed he-breathes briefly and he-groans

ΧΟΡΟΣ τί φής; ὦ τάλας.
what do-you-say O wretched

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὀλεῖς, εἰ βλέφαρα κινήσεις ὕπνου
you-will-destroy if eyelids you-move of-sleep

γλυκυτάταν φερομένῳ χάριν.
sweetest to-one-receiving favor

ΧΟΡΟΣ μέλεος ἐχθίστων θεόθεν ἐργμάτων,
wretched of-most-hateful from-god of-deeds

τάλας. φεῦ μόχθων.
wretched alas of-toils

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἄδικος ἄδικα τότ᾽ ἄρ᾽ ἔλακεν ἔλακεν, ἀπό-
unjust unjust-things then then he-uttered he-uttered slaughterous

φονον ὅτ᾽ ἐπὶ τρίποδι Θέμιδος ἄρ᾽ ἐδίκασε
— *when on tripod of-Themis then he-decreed*

φόνον ὁ Λοξίας ἐμᾶς ματέρος.
murder the Loxias of-my mother

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὁρᾷς; ἐν πέπλοισι κινεῖ δέμας.
you-see in robes he-moves body

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ σὺ γάρ νιν, ὦ τάλαινα,
you for him O wretched

θωΰξασ᾽ ἔβαλες ἐξ ὕπνου.
having-shouted cast from sleep

ΧΟΡΟΣ εὕδειν μὲν οὖν ἔδοξα.
to-sleep indeed rather I-thought

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐκ ἀφ᾽ ἡμῶν, οὐκ ἀπ᾽ οἴκων
not from us not from house

πάλιν ἀνὰ πόδα σὸν εἰλίξεις
back up foot your will-you-turn

μεθεμένα κτύπου;
having-ceased from-noise

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὑπνώσσει. ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ λέγεις εὖ.
he-sleeps you-say well

ΧΟΡΟΣ πότνια, πότνια νύξ,
lady lady Night

ὑπνοδότειρα τῶν πολυπόνων βροτῶν,
sleep-giver of-the much-toiling mortals

ἐρεβόθεν ἴθι, μόλε μόλε κατάπτερος
from-Erebus come come come winged
τὸν Ἀγαμεμνόνιον ἐπὶ δόμον.
the Agamemnonian to house
ὑπὸ γὰρ ἀλγέων ὑπό τε συμφορᾶς
by for griefs by and misfortune
διοιχόμεθ', οἰχόμεθα.
we-are-undone we-are-undone
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ κτύπον ἠγάγετ'· οὐχὶ σῖγα
noise you-made not hush
σῖγα φυλασσομένα
hush guarding
στόματος ἀνακέλαδον ἄπο λέχεος ἥ-
of-mouth resounding from bed quiet
συχον ὕπνου χάριν παρέξεις, φίλα;
— of-sleep favor you-will-give dear
ΧΟΡΟΣ θρόει, τίς κακῶν τελευτὰ μένει;
speak what of-evils end awaits
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ θανεῖν· τί δ' ἄλλο;
to-die what and else
οὐδὲ γὰρ πόθον ἔχει βορᾶς.
not-even for desire he-has of-food
ΧΟΡΟΣ πρόδηλος ἆρ' ὁ πότμος.
manifest then the fate
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐξέθυσεν Φοῖβος ἡμᾶς
sacrificed Phoebus us
μέλεον ἀπόφονον αἷμα δοὺς
wretched slaughterous blood giving
πατροφόνου ματρός.
father-killing of-mother

ΧΟΡΟΣ δίκᾳ μέν. ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καλῶς δ' οὔ.
justly indeed *fairly but not*

ἔκανες ἔθανες, ὦ
you-killed you-died O

τεκομένα με μᾶτερ, ἀπὸ δ' ὤλεσας
having-borne me mother from and you-destroyed

πατέρα τέκνα τε τάδε σέθεν ἀφ' αἵματος·
father children and these of-you from blood

ὀλόμεθ' ἰσονέκυες, ὀλόμεθα.
we-perished like-the-dead we-perished

σύ τε γὰρ ἐν νεκροῖς, τό τ' ἐμὸν οἴχεται
you and for among dead the and my is-gone

βίου τὸ πλέον μέρος ἐν στοναχαῖσί τε καὶ γόοισι
of-life the greater part in groanings and and laments

δάκρυσί τ' ἐννυχίοις·
tears and nightly

ἄγαμος, ἔπιδ', ἄτεκνος ἅτε βίοτον ἀ
unwed look childless as life the

μέλεος εἰς τὸν αἰὲν ἕλκω χρόνον.
wretched for the always I-drag time

III · ORESTES WAKES

Orestes wakes and asks his sister to raise him. Electra tends him and tells him that Menelaus has come. Then his madness returns: he sees the Furies coming and calls for Apollo's bow to drive them off. When the fit passes he grieves for what he has made her suffer, says his father would have begged him not to kill his mother, and sends her to rest.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὅρα παροῦσα, παρθέν' Ἠλέκτρα, πέλας,
see being-present maiden Electra near
μὴ κατθανών σε σύγγονος λέληθ' ὅδε·
lest having-died you brother has-escaped-notice this-one
οὐ γάρ μ' ἀρέσκει τῷ λίαν παρειμένῳ.
not for me pleases the too relaxed
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ φίλον ὕπνου θέλγητρον, ἐπίκουρον νόσου,
O dear of-sleep charm helper of-sickness
ὡς ἡδύ μοι προσῆλθες ἐν δέοντί γε.
how sweetly to-me you-came in need at-least
ὦ πότνια λήθη τῶν κακῶν, ὡς εἶ σοφὴ
O lady oblivion of-the evils how you-are wise
καὶ τοῖσι δυστυχοῦσιν εὐκταία θεός.
and to-the unfortunate prayed-for goddess
πόθεν ποτ' ἦλθον δεῦρο; πῶς δ' ἀφικόμην;
whence ever did-I-come here how and did-I-arrive
ἀμνημονῶ γάρ, τῶν πρὶν ἀπολειφθεὶς φρενῶν.
I-do-not-remember for the before having-been-deprived wits
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ φίλταθ', ὡς μ' ηὔφρανας εἰς ὕπνον πεσών.
O dearest how me you-cheered into sleep having-fallen
βούλει θίγω σου κἀνακουφίσω δέμας;
do-you-wish shall-I-touch you and-lift-up body

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ λαβοῦ λαβοῦ δῆτ', ἐκ δ' ὄμορξον ἀθλίου
take take then out and wipe of-wretched
στόματος ἀφρώδη πέλανον ὀμμάτων τ' ἐμῶν.
of-mouth foamy clot of-eyes and my
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἰδού· τὸ δούλευμ' ἡδύ, κοὐκ ἀναίνομαι
see the service sweet and-not I-refuse
ἀδέλφ' ἀδελφῇ χειρὶ θεραπεύειν μέλη.
sister's with-sister's hand to-tend limbs
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὑπόβαλε πλευροῖς πλευρά, καὐχμώδη κόμην
put-under sides side and-squalid hair
ἄφελε προσώπου· λεπτὰ γὰρ λεύσσω κόραις.
take-away from-face dimly for I-see with-pupils
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ βοστρύχων πινώδες ἄθλιον κάρα,
O of-curls filthy wretched head
ὡς ἠγρίωσαι διὰ μακρᾶς ἀλουσίας.
how you-have-grown-wild through long unwashedness
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ κλῖνόν μ' ἐς εὐνὴν αὖθις· ὅταν ἀνῇ νόσος
lay me to bed again when lets-go sickness
μανιάς, ἄναρθρός εἰμι κἀσθενῶ μέλη.
mad strengthless I-am and-I-am-weak in-limbs
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἰδού. φίλον τοι τῷ νοσοῦντι δέμνιον,
see dear surely to-the sick-one bed
ἀνιαρὸν ὂν τὸ κτῆμ', ἀναγκαῖον δ' ὅμως.
grievous being the possession necessary but nevertheless
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ αὖθίς μ' ἐς ὀρθὸν στῆσον, ἀνακύκλει δέμας·
again me to upright set turn-round body
δυσάρεστον οἱ νοσοῦντες ἀπορίας ὕπο.
hard-to-please the sick helplessness by

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἦ κἀπὶ γαίας ἁρμόσαι πόδας θέλεις,
— *and-on ground to-fit feet you-wish*
χρόνιον ἴχνος θείς; μεταβολὴ πάντων γλυκύ.
long-time step having-set change of-all sweet
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μάλιστα· δόξαν γὰρ τόδ' ὑγιείας ἔχει.
most appearance for this of-health has
κρεῖσσον δὲ τὸ δοκεῖν, κἂν ἀληθείας ἀπῇ.
better and the to-seem even-if from-truth it-be-absent
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἄκουε δὴ νῦν, ὦ κασίγνητον κάρα,
hear indeed now O brotherly head
ἕως ἐῶσί σ' εὖ φρονεῖν Ἐρινύες.
while allow you well to-think Furies
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ λέξεις τι καινόν; κεἰ μὲν εὖ, χάριν φέρεις·
you-will-say something new and-if indeed well favor you-bring
εἰ δ' εἰς βλάβην τιν', ἄλις ἔχω τοῦ δυστυχεῖν.
if but to harm some enough I-have of-the to-be-unfortunate
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ Μενέλαος ἥκει, σοῦ κασίγνητος πατρός,
Menelaus has-come your brother of-father
ἐν Ναυπλίᾳ δὲ σέλμαθ' ὥρμισται νεῶν.
in Nauplia and decks are-moored of-ships
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πῶς εἶπας; ἥκει φῶς ἐμοῖς καὶ σοῖς κακοῖς
how did-you-say has-come light to-my and to-your evils
ἀνὴρ ὁμογενὴς καὶ χάριτας ἔχων πατρός;
man kinsman and favors having of-father
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἥκει, τὸ πιστὸν τόδε λόγων ἐμῶν δέχου,
he-has-come the pledge this of-words my receive
Ἑλένην ἀγόμενος Τρωικῶν ἐκ τειχέων.
Helen bringing Trojan from walls

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εἰ μόνος ἐσώθη, μᾶλλον ἂν ζηλωτὸς ἦν·
if alone he-was-saved more — enviable he-would-be
εἰ δ' ἄλοχον ἄγεται, κακὸν ἔχων ἥκει μέγα.
if but wife he-brings evil having he-comes great
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐπίσημον ἔτεκε Τυνδάρεως εἰς τὸν ψόγον
notable begot Tyndareus for the reproach
γένος θυγατέρων δυσκλεές τ' ἀν' Ἑλλάδα.
race of-daughters infamous and throughout Hellas
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σύ νυν διάφερε τῶν κακῶν· ἔξεστι γάρ·
you now differ from-the evil-ones it-is-possible for
καὶ μὴ μόνον λέγ', ἀλλὰ καὶ φρόνει τάδε.
and not only say but also think these-things
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οἴμοι, κασίγνητ', ὄμμα σὸν ταράσσεται,
ah-me brother eye your is-troubled
ταχὺς δὲ μετέθου λύσσαν, ἄρτι σωφρονῶν.
quickly and you-changed to-frenzy just-now being-sane
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ μῆτερ, ἱκετεύω σε, μὴ 'πίσειέ μοι
O mother I-entreat you not shake-at me
τὰς αἱματωπὸς καὶ δρακοντώδεις κόρας.
the blood-eyed and serpent-like maidens
αὗται γὰρ αὗται πλησίον θρῴσκουσί μου.
these for these near leap me
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ μέν', ὦ ταλαίπωρ', ἀτρέμα σοῖς ἐν δεμνίοις·
remain O wretched quietly your in bed
ὁρᾷς γὰρ οὐδὲν ὧν δοκεῖς σάφ' εἰδέναι.
you-see for nothing of-what you-think clearly to-know
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ Φοῖβ', ἀποκτενοῦσί μ' αἱ κυνώπιδες
O Phoebus will-kill me the dog-faced
γοργῶπες ἐνέρων ἱερίαι, δειναὶ θεαί.
grim-eyed of-the-dead priestesses terrible goddesses

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὔτοι μεθήσω· χεῖρα δ' ἐμπλέξασ' ἐμὴν
surely-not I-will-let-go hand and having-entwined my
σχήσω σε πηδᾶν δυστυχῆ πηδήματα.
I-will-check you to-leap unlucky leaps
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μέθες· μί' οὖσα τῶν ἐμῶν Ἐρινύων
let-go one being of-the my Furies
μέσον μ' ὀχμάζεις, ὡς βάλῃς εἰς Τάρταρον. 265
middle me you-grip so-that you-may-cast into Tartarus
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οἰ 'γὼ τάλαινα, τίν' ἐπικουρίαν λάβω,
ah I wretched what help shall-I-take
ἐπεὶ τὸ θεῖον δυσμενὲς κεκτήμεθα;
since the divine hostile we-have
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ δὸς τόξα μοι κερουλκά, δῶρα Λοξίου,
give bow to-me horn-drawn gift of-Loxias
οἷς μ' εἶπ' Ἀπόλλων ἐξαμύνασθαι θεάς,
with-which me said Apollo to-ward-off goddesses
εἴ μ' ἐκφοβοῖεν μανιάσιν λυσσήμασιν. 270
if me they-should-terrify with-mad ravings
βεβλήσεταί τις θεῶν βροτησίᾳ χερί,
will-be-struck some of-gods by-mortal hand
εἰ μὴ 'ξαμείψει χωρὶς ὀμμάτων ἐμῶν.
if not she-withdraws apart from-eyes my
οὐκ εἰσακούετ'; οὐχ ὁρᾶθ' ἑκηβόλων
not do-you-hear not do-you-see of-far-darting
τόξων πτερωτὰς γλυφίδας ἐξορμωμένας;
bow winged arrows starting-forth
ἆ ἆ·
ah ah
τί δῆτα μέλλετ'; ἐξακρίζετ' αἰθέρα 275
why then do-you-delay soar-up air

πτεροῖς· τὰ Φοίβου δ' αἰτιᾶσθε θέσφατα.
with-wings the of-Phoebus and blame oracles
ἔα·
ha
τί χρῆμ' ἀλύω, πνεῦμ' ἀνεὶς ἐκ πλευμόνων;
what thing do-I-wander breath releasing from lungs
ποῖ ποῖ ποθ' ἡλάμεσθα δεμνίων ἄπο;
where where ever have-we-leapt bed from
ἐκ κυμάτων γὰρ αὖθις αὖ γαλήν' ὁρῶ.
from waves for again again calm I-see
σύγγονε, τί κλαίεις κρᾶτα θεῖσ' εἴσω πέπλων;
sister why do-you-weep head having-put within robes
αἰσχύνομαί σοι μεταδιδοὺς πόνων ἐμῶν,
I-am-ashamed before-you sharing toils my
ὄχλον τε παρέχων παρθένῳ νόσοις ἐμαῖς.
trouble and giving to-maiden by-sickness my
μὴ τῶν ἐμῶν ἕκατι συντήκου κακῶν·
not of-the my for-the-sake waste-away evils
σὺ μὲν γὰρ ἐπένευσας τάδ', εἴργασται δ' ἐμοὶ
you indeed for assented these-things was-done but by-me
μητρῷον αἷμα· Λοξίᾳ δὲ μέμφομαι,
mother's blood Loxias but I-blame
ὅστις μ' ἐπάρας ἔργον ἀνοσιώτατον,
who me having-urged deed most-unholy
τοῖς μὲν λόγοις ηὔφρανε, τοῖς δ' ἔργοισιν οὔ.
with-the indeed words cheered with-the but deeds not
οἶμαι δὲ πατέρα τὸν ἐμόν, εἰ κατ' ὄμματα
I-think and father the my if to face
ἐξιστόρουν νιν, μητέρ' εἰ κτεῖναί με χρή,
I-had-asked him mother if to-kill me must

πολλὰς γενείου τοῦδ' ἂν ἐκτεῖναι λιτὰς
many of-chin of-this — to-stretch-out prayers
μήποτε τεκούσης εἰς σφαγὰς ὦσαι ξίφος,
never of-having-borne into throat to-thrust sword
εἰ μήτ' ἐκεῖνος ἀναλαβεῖν ἔμελλε φῶς,
if neither that-one to-take-back was-going-to light
ἐγώ θ' ὁ τλήμων τοιάδ' ἐκπλήσειν κακά,
I and the wretched such-things to-fulfill evils
καὶ νῦν ἀνακάλυπτ', ὦ κασίγνητον κάρα,
and now uncover O brotherly head
ἐκ δακρύων τ' ἄπελθε, κεἰ μάλ' ἀθλίως
from tears and go-away even-if very wretchedly
ἔχομεν· ὅταν δὲ τἄμ' ἀθυμήσαντ' ἴδῃς,
we-fare when but my-things disheartened you-see
σύ μου τὸ δεινὸν καὶ διαφθαρὲν φρενῶν
you my the terror and destruction of-wits
ἴσχναινε παραμυθοῦ θ'· ὅταν δὲ σὺ στένῃς,
soothe console and when but you groan
ἡμᾶς παρόντας χρή σε νουθετεῖν φίλα·
us being-present must you to-admonish lovingly
ἐπικουρίαι γὰρ αἵδε τοῖς φίλοις καλαί.
help for these for-the friends fine
ἀλλ', ὦ τάλαινα, βᾶσα δωμάτων ἔσω
but O wretched having-gone house within
ὕπνῳ τ' ἄυπνον βλέφαρον ἐκταθεῖσα δός,
to-sleep and sleepless eyelid stretched-out give
σῖτόν τ' ὄρεξαι λουτρά τ' ἐπιβαλοῦ χροΐ.
food and take washing and put-on skin
εἰ γὰρ προλείψεις μ', ἢ προσεδρίᾳ νόσον
if for you-will-forsake me or by-attendance sickness

κτήσει τιν', οἰχόμεσθα· σὲ γὰρ ἔχω μόνην
you-will-get some we-are-gone you for I-have alone
ἐπίκουρον, ἄλλων ὡς ὁρᾷς ἔρημος ὤν.
helper of-others as you-see bereft being
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐκ ἔστι· σὺν σοὶ καὶ θανεῖν αἱρήσομαι
not it-is with you and to-die I-will-choose
καὶ ζῆν· ἔχει γὰρ ταὐτόν· ἢν σὺ κατθάνῃς,
and to-live has for the-same if you die
γυνὴ τί δράσω; πῶς μόνη σωθήσομαι,
woman what shall-I-do how alone shall-I-be-saved
ἀνάδελφος ἀπάτωρ ἄφιλος; εἰ δὲ σοὶ δοκεῖ,
brotherless fatherless friendless if but to-you it-seems
δρᾶν χρὴ τάδ'. ἀλλὰ κλῖνον εἰς εὐνὴν δέμας,
to-do must these-things but lay to bed body
καὶ μὴ τὸ ταρβοῦν κἀκφοβοῦν σ' ἐκ δεμνίων
and not the frightening and-terrifying you from bed
ἄγαν ἀποδέχου, μένε δ' ἐπὶ στρωτοῦ λέχους.
too-much accept remain and on spread couch
κἂν μὴ νοσῇς γάρ, ἀλλὰ δοξάζῃς νοσεῖν,
even-if not you-are-sick for but think to-be-sick
κάματος βροτοῖσιν ἀπορία τε γίγνεται.
weariness for-mortals helplessness and becomes

The chorus prays to the swift, dark goddesses to let Orestes forget his frenzy. It laments that the son of Agamemnon is crushed: great prosperity does not last among mortals, but a god tosses it like a sail in a storm.

ΧΟΡΟΣ αἰαῖ,
alas
δρομάδες ὦ πτεροφόροι
running O winged
ποτνιάδες θεαί,
lady goddesses
ἀβάκχευτον αἳ θίασον ἐλάχετ' ἐν
unbacchic who band you-obtained in
δάκρυσι καὶ γόοις,
tears and laments
μελάγχρωτες Εὐμενίδες, αἵτε τὸν
black-skinned Eumenides who the
ταναὸν αἰθέρ' ἀμπάλλεσθ', αἵματος
wide air leap of-blood
τινύμεναι δίκαν, τινύμεναι φόνον,
exacting justice exacting murder
καθικετεύομαι καθικετεύομαι,
I-supplicate I-supplicate
τὸν Ἀγαμέμνονος
the of-Agamemnon
γόνον ἐάσατ' ἐκλαθέσθαι λύσσας
son allow to-forget frenzy
μανιάδος φοιταλέου. φεῦ μόχθων,
of-mad wandering alas of-toils

οἷων, ὦ τάλας, ὀρεχθεὶς ἔρρεις,
what-sort O wretched having-striven you-go
τρίποδος ἄπο φάτιν, ἣν ὁ Φοῖβος
tripod from word which the Phoebus
ἔλακεν ἔλακε, δεξάμενος ἀνὰ δάπεδον
uttered uttered having-received on floor
ἵνα μεσόμφαλοι λέγονται μυχοί.
where central-navel are-called recesses
ὦ Ζεῦ,
O Zeus
τίς ἔλεος, τίς ὅδ' ἀγὼν
what pity what this contest
φόνιος ἔρχεται,
bloody comes
θοάζων σε τὸν μέλεον, ᾧ δάκρυα
speeding you the wretched to-whom tears
δάκρυσι συμβάλλει
on-tears adds
πορεύων τις εἰς δόμον ἀλαστόρων
bringing some to house of-avengers
ματέρος αἷμα σᾶς, ὅ σ' ἀναβακχεύει;
of-mother blood your which you drives-mad
κατολοφύρομαι κατολοφύρομαι.
I-bewail I-bewail
ὁ μέγας ὄλβος οὐ μόνιμος ἐν βροτοῖς·
the great prosperity not lasting among mortals
ἀνὰ δὲ λαῖφος ὥς
up and sail like
τις ἀκάτου θοᾶς τινάξας δαίμων
some of-skiff swift having-shaken god

κατέκλυσεν δεινῶν πόνων, ὡς πόντου
overwhelmed of-terrible toils as of-sea
λάβροις ὀλεθρίοισιν ἐν κύμασιν.
furious destructive in waves
τίνα γὰρ ἔτι πάρος οἶκον ἄλλον
what for still before house other
ἕτερον ἢ τὸν ἀπὸ θεογόνων γάμων
another than the from god-born marriages
τὸν ἀπὸ Ταντάλου σέβεσθαί με χρή;
the from Tantalus to-revere me must

V · MENELAUS AND TYNDAREUS

Menelaus arrives, and Orestes falls at his knees, telling him of his madness and of the vote the city will cast on him this day. Tyndareus, Clytemnestra's father, arrives in mourning and denounces Orestes: he should have prosecuted his mother by law and banished her. Orestes answers that his father came first, that wives must not be taught to kill husbands, and that Apollo commanded the deed. Tyndareus leaves to urge the city to stone him. Orestes begs Menelaus to repay what Agamemnon did for him at Troy; Menelaus will not use force, but promises to try persuasion, and Orestes calls him a coward. Pylades arrives, banished by his own father, and resolves to share his friend's fate; together they go to plead before the assembly.

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν βασιλεὺς ὅδε δὴ στείχει,
and indeed king this-one indeed comes
Μενέλαος ἄναξ, πολὺ δ' ἁβροσύνῃ
Menelaus lord much and by-luxury
δῆλος ὁρᾶσθαι
plain to-be-seen
τῶν Τανταλιδῶν ἐξ αἵματος ὤν.
of-the Tantalids from blood being

ὦ χιλιόναυν στρατὸν ὁρμήσας
O thousand-ship army having-launched
εἰς γῆν Ἀσίαν,
to land Asian
χαῖρ', εὐτυχίᾳ δ' αὐτὸς ὁμιλεῖς,
hail with-good-fortune and yourself you-consort
θεόθεν πράξας ἅπερ ηὔχου.
from-god having-fared which-very you-prayed
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὦ δῶμα, τῇ μέν σ' ἡδέως προσδέρκομαι
O house in-one-way indeed you gladly I-look-on
Τροίαθεν ἐλθών, τῇ δ' ἰδὼν καταστένω·
from-Troy having-come in-another and having-seen I-lament
κύκλῳ γὰρ εἱλιχθεῖσαν ἀθλίοις κακοῖς
in-circle for encircled with-wretched evils
οὐπώποτ' ἄλλην μᾶλλον εἶδον ἑστίαν.
never other more I-saw hearth
Ἀγαμέμνονος μὲν γὰρ τύχας ἠπιστάμην
of-Agamemnon indeed for fortunes I-knew
καὶ θάνατον, οἵῳ πρὸς δάμαρτος ὤλετο,
and death what-sort by wife he-perished
Μαλέᾳ προσίσχων πρῷραν· ἐκ δὲ κυμάτων
at-Malea bringing-to prow from and waves
ὁ ναυτίλοισι μάντις ἐξήγγειλέ μοι
the to-sailors seer announced to-me
Νηρέως προφήτης Γλαῦκος ἀψευδὴς θεός,
of-Nereus prophet Glaucus unlying god
ὅς μοι τόδ' εἶπεν ἐμφανῶς κατασταθείς·
who to-me this said visibly standing
Μενέλαε, κεῖται σὸς κασίγνητος θανών,
Menelaus lies your brother dead

λουτροῖσιν ἀλόχου περιπεσὼν ἀρκυστάτοις.
in-bath of-wife having-fallen-into net-set
δακρύων δ' ἔπλησεν ἐμέ τε καὶ ναύτας ἐμοὺς
tears and filled me and and sailors my
πολλῶν. ἐπεὶ δὲ Ναυπλίας ψαύω χθονός,
many when and of-Nauplia I-touch land
ἤδη δάμαρτος ἐνθάδ' ἐξορμωμένης,
already of-wife hither setting-out
δοκῶν Ὀρέστην παῖδα τὸν Ἀγαμέμνονος
thinking Orestes son the of-Agamemnon
φίλαισι χερσὶ περιβαλεῖν καὶ μητέρα,
with-dear hands to-embrace and mother
ὡς εὐτυχοῦντας, ἔκλυον ἁλιτύπων τινὸς
as prospering I-heard sea-beaten some
τῆς Τυνδαρείας θυγατρὸς ἀνόσιον φόνον.
of-the Tyndarean daughter unholy murder
καὶ νῦν ὅπου 'στὶν εἴπατ', ὦ νεάνιδες,
and now where is-he tell O maidens
Ἀγαμέμνονος παῖς, ὃς τὰ δεί' ἔτλη κακά.
of-Agamemnon son who the terrible endured evils
βρέφος γὰρ ἦν τότ' ἐν Κλυταιμνήστρας χεροῖν,
infant for he-was then in of-Clytemnestra arms
ὅτ' ἐξέλειπον μέλαθρον εἰς Τροίαν ἰών,
when I-left house to Troy going
ὥστ' οὐκ ἂν αὐτὸν γνωρίσαιμ' ἂν εἰσιδών.
so-that not — him I-would-recognize — having-seen
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὅδ' εἰμ' Ὀρέστης, Μενέλεως, ὃν ἱστορεῖς.
this-one I-am Orestes Menelaus whom you-ask
ἑκὼν ἐγώ σοι τἀμὰ σημανῶ κακά.
willingly I to-you my will-show evils

τῶν σῶν δὲ γονάτων πρωτόλεια θιγγάνω
the your and knees first-fruits I-touch
ἱκέτης, ἀφύλλους στόματος ἐξάπτων λιτάς·
suppliant leafless of-mouth fastening prayers
σῶσόν μ'· ἀφῖξαι δ' αὐτὸν εἰς καιρὸν κακῶν.
save me you-have-come and very into time of-evils

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὦ θεοί, τί λεύσσω; τίνα δέδορκα νερτέρων;
O gods what do-I-see whom have-I-seen of-the-dead

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εὖ γ' εἶπας· οὐ γὰρ ζῶ κακοῖς, φάος δ' ὁρῶ.
well at-least you-said not for I-live by-evils light but I-see

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὡς ἠγρίωσαι πλόκαμον αὐχμηρόν, τάλας.
how you-have-grown-wild hair squalid wretched

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐχ ἡ πρόσοψίς μ', ἀλλὰ τἄργ' αἰκίζεται.
not the sight me but the-deeds torment

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ δεινὸν δὲ λεύσσεις ὀμμάτων ξηραῖς κόραις.
terrible and you-look with-eyes with-dry pupils

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τὸ σῶμα φροῦδον· τὸ δ' ὄνομ' οὐ λέλοιπέ με.
the body gone the but name not has-left me

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὦ παρὰ λόγον μοι σὴ φανεῖσ' ἀμορφία.
O beyond reason to-me your appearing unshapeliness

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὅδ' εἰμὶ μητρὸς τῆς ταλαιπώρου φονεύς.
this-one I-am of-mother the wretched murderer

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἤκουσα· φείδου δ' ὀλιγάκις λέγειν κακά.
I-heard spare and sparingly to-speak evils

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ φειδόμεθ'· ὁ δαίμων δ' εἴς με πλούσιος κακῶν.
I-spare the god but toward me rich of-evils

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τί χρῆμα πάσχεις; τίς σ' ἀπόλλυσιν νόσος;
what thing do-you-suffer what you destroys sickness

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἡ σύνεσις, ὅτι σύνοιδα δεί' εἰργασμένος.
the conscience because I-am-conscious terrible-things having-done

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πῶς φής; σοφόν τοι τὸ σαφές, οὐ τὸ μὴ σαφές.
how do-you-say wise surely the clear not the not clear

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ λύπη μάλιστά γ' ἡ διαφθείρουσά με,
grief most at-least the destroying me

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ δεινὴ γὰρ ἡ θεός, ἀλλ' ὅμως ἰάσιμος.
terrible for the goddess but nevertheless curable

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μανίαι τε, μητρὸς αἵματος τιμωρίαι. 400
madnesses and of-mother of-blood vengeances

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἤρξω δὲ λύσσης πότε; τίς ἡμέρα τότ' ἦν;
did-you-begin and of-frenzy when what day then was

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἐν ᾗ τάλαιναν μητέρ' ἐξώγκουν τάφῳ.
in which wretched mother I-heaped with-tomb

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πότερα κατ' οἴκους ἢ προσεδρεύων πυρᾷ;
whether in house or sitting-by pyre

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ νυκτὸς φυλάσσων ὀστέων ἀναίρεσιν.
by-night watching of-bones gathering

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ παρῆν τις ἄλλος, ὃς σὸν ὤρθευεν δέμας; 405
was-present some other who your raised body

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Πυλάδης, ὁ συνδρῶν αἷμα καὶ μητρὸς φόνον.
Pylades the fellow-doer blood and of-mother murder

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ φαντασμάτων δὲ τάδε νοσεῖς ποίων ὕπο;
of-phantoms and these-things you-are-sick of-what-sort by

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἔδοξ' ἰδεῖν τρεῖς νυκτὶ προσφερεῖς κόρας.
I-seemed to-see three by-night like maidens

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οἶδ' ἃς ἔλεξας, ὀνομάσαι δ' οὐ βούλομαι.
I-know whom you-mean to-name but not I-wish

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σεμναὶ γάρ· εὐπαίδευτα δ' ἀποτρέπει λέγειν. 410
holy for well-taught but turns-away to-speak

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ αὗταί σε βακχεύουσι συγγενεῖ φόνῳ;
these you drive-mad with-kindred murder

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οἴμοι διωγμῶν, οἷς ἐλαύνομαι τάλας.
ah-me of-pursuits by-which I-am-driven wretched

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὐ δεινὰ πάσχειν δεινὰ τοὺς εἰργασμένους.
not terrible-things to-suffer terrible-things the having-done

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἀλλ᾽ ἔστιν ἡμῖν ἀναφορὰ τῆς ξυμφορᾶς —
but is for-us reference of-the misfortune

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ μὴ θάνατον εἴπῃς· τοῦτο μὲν γὰρ οὐ σοφόν.
not death say this indeed for not wise

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Φοῖβος, κελεύσας μητρὸς ἐκπρᾶξαι φόνον.
Phoebus having-bidden of-mother to-accomplish murder

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἀμαθέστερός γ᾽ ὢν τοῦ καλοῦ καὶ τῆς δίκης.
more-ignorant at-least being of-the fair and of-the justice

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ δουλεύομεν θεοῖς, ὅ τι ποτ᾽ εἰσὶν οἱ θεοί.
we-serve gods whatever — ever are the gods

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ κᾆτ᾽ οὐκ ἀμύνει Λοξίας τοῖς σοῖς κακοῖς;
and-then not defends Loxias the your evils

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μέλλει· τὸ θεῖον δ᾽ ἐστὶ τοιοῦτον φύσει.
delays the divine and is such by-nature

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πόσον χρόνον δὲ μητρὸς οἴχονται πνοαί;
how-long time and of-mother are-gone breaths

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἕκτον τόδ᾽ ἦμαρ· ἔτι πυρὰ θερμὴ τάφου.
sixth this day still pyre hot of-tomb

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὡς ταχὺ μετῆλθόν σ᾽ αἷμα μητέρος θεαί.
how quickly pursued you blood of-mother goddesses

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐ σοφός, ἀληθὴς δ᾽ εἰς φίλους ἔφυν φίλος.
not wise true but toward friends I-was friend

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πατρὸς δὲ δή τί σ᾽ ὠφελεῖ τιμωρία;
of-father and indeed what you benefits vengeance

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὔπω· τὸ μέλλον δ᾽ ἴσον ἀπραξίᾳ λέγω.
not-yet the future but equal to-inaction I-call

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τὰ πρὸς πόλιν δὲ πῶς ἔχεις δράσας τάδε;
the toward city and how do-you-stand having-done these-things

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μισούμεθ' οὕτως ὥστε μὴ προσεννέπειν.
we-are-hated so so-that not to-be-addressed

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὐδ' ἤγνισαι σὸν αἷμα κατὰ νόμον χεροῖν;
nor have-you-purified your blood according-to law with-hands

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἐκκλῄομαι γὰρ δωμάτων ὅπῃ μόλω. 430
I-am-shut-out for from-houses where I-go

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τίνες πολιτῶν ἐξαμιλλῶνταί σε γῆς;
who of-citizens drive-out you from-land

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Οἴαξ, τὸ Τροίας μῖσος ἀναφέρων πατρί.
Oeax the of-Troy hatred bringing-up against-father

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ξυνῆκα· Παλαμήδους σε τιμωρεῖ φόνου.
I-understand of-Palamedes you he-avenges murder

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὗ γ' οὐ μετῆν μοι· διὰ τριῶν δ' ἀπόλλυμαι.
of-which at-least not had-share to-me through three and I-am-perishing

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τίς δ' ἄλλος; ἢ που τῶν ἀπ' Αἰγίσθου φίλων; 435
who and other — surely of-the from Aegisthus friends

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὗτοί μ' ὑβρίζουσ', ὧν πόλις ταννῦν κλύει.
these me insult whom city now hears

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ Ἀγαμέμνονος δὲ σκῆπτρ' ἐᾷ σ' ἔχειν πόλις;
of-Agamemnon and scepter allows you to-have city

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πῶς, οἵτινες ζῆν οὐκ ἐῶσ' ἡμᾶς ἔτι;
how who to-live not allow us still

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τί δρῶντες ὅ τι καὶ σαφὲς ἔχεις εἰπεῖν ἐμοί;
what doing what — also clear can-you to-say to-me

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ψῆφος καθ' ἡμῶν οἴσεται τῇδ' ἡμέρᾳ. 440
vote against us will-be-cast this day

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ φεύγειν πόλιν τήνδ', ἢ θανεῖν, ἢ μὴ θανεῖν;
to-flee city this or to-die or not to-die

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ θανεῖν ὑπ᾽ ἀστῶν λευσίμῳ πετρώματι.
to-die by citizens by-stoning stone

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ κᾆτ᾽ οὐχὶ φεύγεις γῆς ὑπερβαλὼν ὅρους;
and-then not do-you-flee of-land having-crossed boundaries

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ κύκλῳ γὰρ εἱλισσόμεθα παγχάλκοις ὅπλοις.
in-circle for we-are-hemmed with-all-bronze arms

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἰδίᾳ πρὸς ἐχθρῶν ἢ πρὸς Ἀργείας χερός;
privately by enemies or by Argive hand

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πάντων πρὸς ἀστῶν, ὡς θάνω· βραχὺς λόγος.
all by citizens that I-may-die brief word

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὦ μέλεος, ἥκεις ξυμφορᾶς εἰς τοὔσχατον.
O wretched you-have-come of-misfortune to the-uttermost

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εἰς σ᾽ ἐλπὶς ἡ ᾽μὴ καταφυγὰς ἔχει κακῶν.
on you hope the my refuges has of-evils

ἀλλ᾽ ἀθλίως πράσσουσιν εὐτυχὴς μολὼν
but wretchedly to-those-faring prosperous having-come

μετάδος φίλοισι σοῖσι σῆς εὐπραξίας,
share with-friends your of-your good-fortune

καὶ μὴ μόνος τὸ χρηστὸν ἀπολαβὼν ἔχε,
and not alone the good having-received keep

ἀλλ᾽ ἀντιλάζου καὶ πόνων ἐν τῷ μέρει,
but take-hold also of-toils in the turn

χάριτας πατρῴας ἐκτίνων ἐς οὕς σε δεῖ.
favors paternal repaying to whom you must

ὄνομα γάρ, ἔργον δ᾽ οὐκ ἔχουσιν οἱ φίλοι
name for deed but not have the friends

οἱ μὴ ᾽πὶ ταῖσι συμφοραῖς ὄντες φίλοι.
who not in the misfortunes are friends

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν γέροντι δεῦρ᾽ ἁμιλλᾶται ποδὶ
and indeed with-old here hastens foot
ὁ Σπαρτιάτης Τυνδάρεως, μελάμπεπλος
the Spartan Tyndareus black-robed
κουρᾷ τε θυγατρὸς πενθίμῳ κεκαρμένος.
with-shearing and of-daughter mournful shorn
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἀπωλόμην, Μενέλαε· Τυνδάρεως ὅδε
I-am-undone Menelaus Tyndareus this-one
στείχει πρὸς ἡμᾶς, οὗ μάλιστ᾽ αἰδώς μ᾽ ἔχει 460
comes to us of-whom most shame me holds
εἰς ὄμματ᾽ ἐλθεῖν τοῖσιν ἐξειργασμένοις.
into eyes to-come for-the having-done
καὶ γάρ μ᾽ ἔθρεψε μικρὸν ὄντα, πολλὰ δὲ
and for me reared small being many and
φιλήματ᾽ ἐξέπλησε, τὸν Ἀγαμέμνονος
kisses lavished the of-Agamemnon
παῖδ᾽ ἀγκάλαισι περιφέρων, Λήδα θ᾽ ἅμα,
son in-arms carrying-about Leda and together
τιμῶντέ μ᾽ οὐδὲν ἧσσον ἢ Διοσκόρω· 465
honoring-both me nothing less than Dioscuri
οἷς, ὦ τάλαινα καρδία ψυχή τ᾽ ἐμή,
to-whom O wretched heart soul and my
ἀπέδωκ᾽ ἀμοιβὰς οὐ καλάς. τίνα σκότον
I-gave-back returns not fine what darkness
λάβω προσώπῳ; ποῖον ἐπίπροσθεν νέφος
shall-I-take for-face what-sort before cloud
θῶμαι, γέροντος ὀμμάτων φεύγων κόρας;
shall-I-put of-old-man of-eyes fleeing pupils

ΤΥΝΔΑΡΕΩΣ ποῦ ποῦ θυγατρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς ἴδω πόσιν,
where where of-daughter the my may-I-see husband
Μενέλαον; ἐπὶ γὰρ τῷ Κλυταιμνήστρας τάφῳ
Menelaus at for the of-Clytemnestra tomb
χοὰς χεόμενος ἔκλυον ὡς εἰς Ναυπλίαν
libations pouring I-heard that to Nauplia
ἥκοι σὺν ἀλόχῳ πολυετὴς σεσῳσμένος.
he-had-come with wife after-many-years saved
ἄγετέ με· πρὸς γὰρ δεξιὰν αὐτοῦ θέλω
lead me to for right-hand his I-wish
στὰς ἀσπάσασθαι, χρόνιος εἰσιδὼν φίλον.
standing to-greet after-long-time seeing friend
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὦ πρέσβυ, χαῖρε, Ζηνὸς ὁμόλεκτρον κάρα.
O old-man hail of-Zeus bed-sharing head
ΤΥΝΔΑΡΕΩΣ ὦ χαῖρε καὶ σύ, Μενέλεως, κήδευμ᾽ ἐμόν.
O hail also you Menelaus kinsman my
ἔα· τὸ μέλλον ὡς κακὸν τὸ μὴ εἰδέναι.
ha the future how evil the not to-know
ὁ μητροφόντης ὅδε πρὸ δωμάτων δράκων
the matricide this before house serpent
στίλβει νοσώδεις ἀστραπάς, στύγημ᾽ ἐμόν.
flashes sickly lightnings hatred mine
Μενέλαε, προσφθέγγει νιν ἀνόσιον κάρα;
Menelaus you-address him unholy head
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τί γάρ; φίλου μοι πατρός ἐστιν ἔκγονος.
what for of-dear to-me of-father he-is offspring
ΤΥΝΔΑΡΕΩΣ κείνου γὰρ ὅδε πέφυκε, τοιοῦτος γεγώς;
of-that-one for this-one is-born such being
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πέφυκεν· εἰ δὲ δυστυχεῖ, τιμητέος.
he-is if but he-is-unfortunate to-be-honored

ΤΥΝΔΑΡΕΩΣ βεβαρβάρωσαι, χρόνιος ὢν ἐν βαρβάροις. 485
you-have-become-barbarian long being among barbarians

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ Ἑλληνικόν τοι τὸν ὁμόθεν τιμᾶν ἀεί.
Greek surely the of-same-blood to-honor always

ΤΥΝΔΑΡΕΩΣ καὶ τῶν νόμων γε μὴ πρότερον εἶναι θέλειν
and the laws at-least not before to-be to-wish

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πᾶν τοὐξ ἀνάγκης δοῦλόν ἐστ' ἐν τοῖς σοφοῖς.
all the-from necessity slave is among the wise

ΤΥΝΔΑΡΕΩΣ κέκτησό νυν σὺ τοῦτ', ἐγὼ δ' οὐ κτήσομαι.
possess now you this I but not will-possess

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὀργὴ γὰρ ἅμα σου καὶ τὸ γῆρας οὐ σοφόν. 490
anger for together your and the old-age not wise

ΤΥΝΔΑΡΕΩΣ πρὸς τόνδ' ἀγὼν ἂν τί σοφίας εἴη πέρι;
against this-one contest — what of-wisdom might-be about

εἰ τὰ καλὰ πᾶσι φανερὰ καὶ τὰ μὴ καλά,
if the fair-things to-all clear and the not fair-things

τούτου τίς ἀνδρῶν ἐγένετ' ἀσυνετώτερος,
than-this-one what of-men was more-senseless

ὅστις τὸ μὲν δίκαιον οὐκ ἐσκέψατο,
who the indeed just not considered

οὐδ' ἦλθεν ἐπὶ τὸν κοινὸν Ἑλλήνων νόμον; 495
nor came to the common of-Greeks law

ἐπεὶ γὰρ ἐξέπνευσεν Ἀγαμέμνων βίον
when for breathed-out Agamemnon life

πληγεὶς θυγατρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς ὑπὲρ κάρα,
struck of-daughter the my on head

αἴσχιστον ἔργον, οὐ γὰρ αἰνέσω ποτέ,
most-shameful deed not for I-will-praise ever

χρῆν αὐτὸν ἐπιθεῖναι μὲν αἵματος δίκην 500
it-was-right him to-impose indeed of-blood penalty

ὁσίαν διώκοντ', ἐκβαλεῖν τε δωμάτων
holy prosecuting to-cast-out and from-house
μητέρα· τὸ σῶφρόν τ' ἔλαβεν ἀντὶ συμφορᾶς,
mother the prudence and he-would-have-taken instead-of misfortune
καὶ τοῦ νόμου τ' ἂν εἶχετ' εὐσεβής τ' ἂν ἦν.
and the law and — he-would-hold pious and — he-would-be
νῦν δ' εἰς τὸν αὐτὸν δαίμον' ἦλθε μητέρι·
now but to the same fate he-came with-mother
κακὴν γὰρ αὐτὴν ἐνδίκως ἡγούμενος,
evil for her justly thinking
αὐτὸς κακίων γέγονε μητέρα κτανών.
himself worse has-become mother having-killed
ἐρήσομαι δέ, Μενέλεως, τοσόνδε σε·
I-will-ask and Menelaus so-much you
εἰ τόνδ' ἀποκτείνειεν ὁμόλεκτρος γυνή,
if this-one should-kill bed-sharing wife
χὠ τοῦδε παῖς αὖ μητέρ' ἀνταποκτενεῖ,
and-the of-this son again mother will-kill-in-return
κἄπειθ' ὁ κείνου γενόμενος φόνῳ φόνον
and-then the of-that-one born by-murder murder
λύσει, πέρας δὴ ποῖ κακῶν προβήσεται;
will-loose end indeed where of-evils will-it-go
καλῶς ἔθεντο ταῦτα πατέρες οἱ πάλαι·
well established these-things fathers the of-old
εἰς ὀμμάτων μὲν ὄψιν οὐκ εἴων περᾶν,
into of-eyes indeed sight not allowed to-pass
οὐδ' εἰς ἀπάντημ', ὅστις αἷμ' ἔχων κυρεῖ,
nor into meeting whoever blood having happens
φυγαῖσι δ' ὁσιοῦν, ἀνταποκτείνειν δὲ μή.
by-exiles and to-purify to-kill-in-return but not

ἀεὶ γὰρ εἷς ἔμελλ' ἐνέξεσθαι φόνῳ,
always for one was-going to-be-bound by-murder
τὸ λοίσθιον μίασμα λαμβάνων χεροῖν.
the last pollution taking with-hands
ἐγὼ δὲ μισῶ μὲν γυναῖκας ἀνοσίους,
I but hate indeed women unholy
πρώτην δὲ θυγατέρ', ἣ πόσιν κατέκτανεν·
first and daughter who husband killed
Ἑλένην τε τὴν σὴν ἄλοχον οὔποτ' αἰνέσω
Helen and the your wife never will-I-praise
οὐδ' ἂν προσείποιμ'· οὐδὲ σὲ ζηλῶ, κακῆς
nor — would-I-address nor you I-envy of-evil
γυναικὸς ἐλθόνθ' εἵνεκ' εἰς Τροίας πέδον.
woman having-gone for-the-sake to of-Troy plain
ἀμυνῶ δ' ὅσονπερ δυνατός εἰμι τῷ νόμῳ,
I-will-defend and as-far-as able I-am the law
τὸ θηριῶδες τοῦτο καὶ μιαιφόνον
the beastlike this and bloodthirsty
παύων, ὃ καὶ γῆν καὶ πόλεις ὄλλυσ' ἀεί.
stopping which both land and cities destroys always
ἐπεὶ τίν' εἶχες, ὦ τάλας, ψυχὴν τότε
since what had-you O wretched soul then
ὅτ' ἐξέβαλλε μαστὸν ἱκετεύουσά σε
when she-bared breast supplicating you
μήτηρ; ἐγὼ μὲν οὐκ ἰδὼν τἀκεῖ κακά,
mother I indeed not having-seen the-there evils
δακρύοις γέροντ' ὀφθαλμὸν ἐκτήκω τάλας.
with-tears old eye melt wretched
ἓν δ' οὖν λόγοισι τοῖς ἐμοῖς ὁμορροθεῖ·
one and then with-words the my agrees

μισεῖ γε πρὸς θεῶν καὶ τίνεις μητρὸς δίκας,
you-are-hated at-least by gods and you-pay of-mother penalties
μανίαις ἀλαίνων καὶ φόβοις. τί μαρτύρων
with-madnesses wandering and with-fears why of-witnesses
ἄλλων ἀκούειν δεῖ μ', ἅ γ' εἰσορᾶν πάρα;
of-others to-hear must me what at-least to-see is-possible
ὡς οὖν ἂν εἰδῇς, Μενέλεως, τοῖσιν θεοῖς
so then — you-may-know Menelaus to-the gods
μὴ πρᾶσσ' ἐναντί', ὠφελεῖν τοῦτον θέλων,
not do contrary to-help this-one wishing
ἔα δ' ὑπ' ἀστῶν καταφονευθῆναι πέτροις,
let and by citizens to-be-killed with-stones
ἢ μὴ 'πίβαινε Σπαρτιάτιδος χθονός.
or not set-foot-on of-Spartan land
θυγάτηρ δ' ἐμὴ θανοῦσ' ἔπραξεν ἔνδικα·
daughter and my dying fared just-things
ἀλλ' οὐχὶ πρὸς τοῦδ' εἰκὸς ἦν αὐτὴν θανεῖν.
but not by this-one fitting was her to-die
ἐγὼ δὲ τἄλλα μακάριος πέφυκ' ἀνήρ,
I but in-other-things blessed am man
πλὴν εἰς θυγατέρας· τοῦτο δ' οὐκ εὐδαιμονῶ.
except in daughters this but not I-am-fortunate
ΧΟΡΟΣ ζηλωτὸς ὅστις ηὐτύχησεν εἰς τέκνα
enviable whoever was-fortunate in children
καὶ μὴ 'πισήμους συμφορὰς ἐκτήσατο.
and not notable misfortunes acquired
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ γέρον, ἐγώ τοι πρὸς σὲ δειμαίνω λέγειν,
O old-man I surely to you fear to-speak
ὅπου γε μέλλω σήν τι λυπήσειν φρένα.
where at-least I-am-about-to your something to-grieve mind

ἀπελθέτω δὴ τοῖς λόγοισιν ἐκποδὼν
let-go indeed for-the words out-of-the-way
τὸ γῆρας ἡμῖν τὸ σόν, ὅ μ' ἐκπλήσσει λόγου,
the old-age for-us the your which me frightens from-speech
καὶ καθ' ὁδὸν εἶμι· νῦν δὲ σὴν ταρβῶ τρίχα.
and on road I-will-go now but your I-fear hair
ἐγῷδ', ἀνόσιός εἰμι μητέρα κτανών,
I-know unholy am mother having-killed
ὅσιος δέ γ' ἕτερον ὄνομα, τιμωρῶν πατρί.
holy but at-least other name avenging for-father
τί χρῆν με δρᾶσαι; δύο γὰρ ἀντίθες λόγω·
what was-it-right me to-do two for set-against words
πατὴρ μὲν ἐφύτευσέν με, σὴ δ' ἔτικτε παῖς,
father indeed begot me your but bore daughter
τὸ σπέρμ' ἄρουρα παραλαβοῦσ' ἄλλου πάρα·
the seed furrow having-received other from
ἄνευ δὲ πατρὸς τέκνον οὐκ εἴη ποτ' ἄν.
without but father child not would-be ever —
ἐλογισάμην οὖν τῷ γένους ἀρχηγέτῃ
I-reckoned then for-the of-race founder
μᾶλλόν μ' ἀμῦναι τῆς ὑποστάσης τροφάς·
rather me to-defend than-the having-undertaken nurture
ἡ σὴ δὲ θυγάτηρ, μητέρ' αἰδοῦμαι λέγειν,
the your but daughter mother I-am-ashamed to-call
ἰδίοισιν ὑμεναίοισι κοὐχὶ σώφροσιν
private with-weddings and-not chaste
εἰς ἀνδρὸς ᾔει λέκτρ'· ἐμαυτόν, ἢν λέγω
to of-man went bed myself if I-speak
κακῶς ἐκείνην, ἐξερῶ· λέξω δ' ὅμως.
badly her I-shall-speak I-will-say but nevertheless

Αἴγισθος ἦν ὁ κρυπτὸς ἐν δόμοις πόσις.
Aegisthus was the secret in house husband
τοῦτον κατέκτειν', ἐπὶ δ' ἔθυσα μητέρα,
this-one I-killed upon and I-sacrificed mother
ἀνόσια μὲν δρῶν, ἀλλὰ τιμωρῶν πατρί.
unholy-things indeed doing but avenging for-father
ἐφ' οἷς δ' ἀπειλεῖς ὡς πετρωθῆναί με χρή,
for which and you-threaten that to-be-stoned me must
ἄκουσον ὡς ἅπασαν Ἑλλάδ' ὠφελῶ.
hear how all Hellas I-benefit
εἰ γὰρ γυναῖκες εἰς τόδ' ἥξουσιν θράσους,
if for women to this will-come of-boldness
ἄνδρας φονεύειν, καταφυγὰς ποιούμεναι
husbands to-murder refuges making
εἰς τέκνα, μαστοῖς τὸν ἔλεον θηρώμεναι,
to children by-breasts the pity hunting
παρ' οὐδὲν αὐταῖς ἦν ἂν ὀλλύναι πόσεις
for nothing to-them it-would-be — to-destroy husbands
ἐπίκλημ' ἐχούσαις ὅ τι τύχοι. δράσας δ' ἐγὼ
pretext having what — might-happen having-done but I
δεί', ὡς σὺ κομπεῖς, τόνδ' ἔπαυσα τὸν νόμον.
terrible-things as you boast this I-stopped the custom
μισῶν δὲ μητέρ' ἐνδίκως ἀπώλεσα,
hating and mother justly I-destroyed
ἥτις μεθ' ὅπλων ἄνδρ' ἀπόντ' ἐκ δωμάτων
who with arms husband absent from house
πάσης ὑπὲρ γῆς Ἑλλάδος στρατηλάτην
all for land of-Hellas general
προύδωκε κοὐκ ἔσωσ' ἀκήρατον λέχος·
betrayed and-not kept undefiled bed

ἐπεὶ δ' ἁμαρτοῦσ' ᾔσθετ', οὐχ αὑτῇ δίκην
when but having-erred she-perceived not on-herself penalty
ἐπέθηκεν, ἀλλ' ὡς μὴ δίκην δοίη πόσει,
inflicted but so-that not penalty she-might-give to-husband
ἐζημίωσε πατέρα κἀπέκτειν' ἐμόν.
she-punished father and-killed my
πρὸς θεῶν, ἐν οὐ καλῷ μὲν ἐμνήσθην θεῶν,
by gods in not fine indeed I-mentioned gods
φόνον δικάζων, εἰ δὲ δὴ τὰ μητέρος
murder judging if but indeed the of-mother
σιγῶν ἐπῄνουν, τί μ' ἂν ἔδρασ' ὁ κατθανών;
being-silent I-approved what me — would-have-done the dead
οὐκ ἄν με μισῶν ἀνεχόρευ' Ἐρινύσιν;
not — me hating would-have-danced-on with-Furies
ἢ μητρὶ μὲν πάρεισι σύμμαχοι θεαί,
or for-mother indeed are-present allies goddesses
τῷ δ' οὐ πάρεισι μᾶλλον ἠδικημένῳ;
for-the but not are-present more wronged
σύ τοι φυτεύσας θυγατέρ', ὦ γέρον, κακὴν
you surely having-begotten daughter O old-man evil
ἀπώλεσάς με· διὰ τὸ γὰρ κείνης θράσος
destroyed me through the for her boldness
πατρὸς στερηθείς, ἐγενόμην μητροκτόνος.
of-father bereft I-became mother-killer
ὁρᾷς; Ὀδυσσέως ἄλοχον οὐ κατέκτανε
you-see of-Odysseus wife not killed
Τηλέμαχος· οὐ γὰρ ἐπεγάμει πόσει πόσιν,
Telemachus not for married-another to-husband husband
μένει δ' ἐν οἴκοις ὑγιὲς εὐνατήριον.
remains and in house sound bed

ὁρᾷς; Ἀπόλλων ὃς μεσομφάλους ἕδρας
you-see Apollo who central-navel seat
ναίων βροτοῖσι στόμα νέμει σαφέστατον,
dwelling to-mortals voice dispenses clearest
ᾧ πειθόμεσθα πάνθ' ὅσ' ἂν κεῖνος λέγῃ,
whom we-obey in-all whatever — he says
τούτῳ πιθόμενος τὴν τεκοῦσαν ἔκτανον.
him having-obeyed the having-borne I-killed
595 ἐκεῖνον ἡγεῖσθ' ἀνόσιον καὶ κτείνετε·
that-one consider unholy and kill
ἐκεῖνος ἥμαρτ', οὐκ ἐγώ. τί χρῆν με δρᾶν;
that-one erred not I what was-it-right me to-do
ἢ οὐκ ἀξιόχρεως ὁ θεὸς ἀναφέροντί μοι
or not sufficient the god to-one-referring to-me
μίασμα λῦσαι; ποῖ τις οὖν ἔτ' ἂν φύγοι,
pollution to-loose where anyone then still — might-flee
εἰ μὴ ὁ κελεύσας ῥύσεταί με μὴ θανεῖν;
if not the having-bidden will-save me not to-die
600 ἀλλ' ὡς μὲν οὐκ εὖ μὴ λέγ' εἴργασται τάδε
but that indeed not well not say has-been-done these-things
ἡμῖν δὲ τοῖς δράσασιν οὐκ εὐδαιμόνως.
for-us but the having-done not happily
γάμοι δ' ὅσοις μὲν εὖ καθεστᾶσιν βροτῶν,
marriages but for-whom indeed well are-established of-mortals
μακάριος αἰών· οἷς δὲ μὴ πίπτουσιν εὖ,
blessed life for-whom but not fall well
τά τ' ἔνδον εἰσὶ τά τε θύραζε δυστυχεῖς.
the both within they-are the and abroad unfortunate

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀεὶ γυναῖκες ἐμποδὼν ταῖς συμφοραῖς
always women in-the-way to-the misfortunes
ἔφυσαν ἀνδρῶν πρὸς τὸ δυστυχέστερον.
are-born of-men to the more-unfortunate
ΤΥΝΔΑΡΕΩΣ ἐπεὶ θρασύνει κοὐχ ὑποστέλλει λόγῳ,
since you-are-bold and-not shrink in-speech
οὕτω δ' ἀμείβει μ' ὥστε μ' ἀλγῆσαι φρένα,
so and you-answer me so-that me to-grieve heart
μᾶλλόν μ' ἀνάψεις ἐπὶ σὸν ἐξελθεῖν φόνον·
more me you-will-incite to your to-go-to death
καλὸν πάρεργον δ' αὐτὸ θήσομαι πόνων
fine side-work and it I-will-make of-toils
ὧν εἵνεκ' ἦλθον θυγατρὶ κοσμήσων τάφον.
of-which for-the-sake I-came for-daughter to-adorn tomb
μολὼν γὰρ εἰς ἔκκλητον Ἀργείων ὄχλον
having-gone for to summoned of-Argives crowd
ἑκοῦσαν οὐκ ἄκουσαν ἐπισείσω πόλιν
willing not unwilling I-will-urge-on city
σοὶ σῇ τ' ἀδελφῇ, λεύσιμον δοῦναι δίκην.
to-you your and sister by-stoning to-give penalty
μᾶλλον δ' ἐκείνη σοῦ θανεῖν ἐπαξία,
more but she than-you to-die worthy
ἥ τῇ τεκούσῃ σ' ἠγρίωσ', ἐς οὖς ἀεὶ
who to-the having-borne you enraged in ear always
πέμπουσα μύθους ἐπὶ τὸ δυσμενέστερον,
sending words to the more-hostile
ὀνείρατ' ἀγγέλλουσα τἀγαμέμνονος,
dreams reporting of-Agamemnon
καὶ τοῦθ' ὃ μισήσειαν Αἰγίσθου λέχος
and this which may-hate of-Aegisthus bed

οἱ νέρτεροι θεοί, καὶ γὰρ ἐνθάδ' ἦν πικρόν,
the nether gods and for here was bitter
ἕως ὑφῆψε δῶμ' ἀνηφαίστῳ πυρί.
until she-kindled house with-fireless fire
Μενέλαε, σοὶ δὲ τάδε λέγω δράσω τε πρός·
Menelaus to-you and these-things I-say I-will-do and besides
εἰ τοὐμὸν ἔχθος ἐναριθμεῖ κῆδός τ' ἐμόν,
if my hatred you-regard kinship and my
μὴ τῷδ' ἀμύνειν φόνον ἐναντίον θεοῖς·
not this-one to-defend murder contrary to-gods
ἔα δ' ὑπ' ἀστῶν καταφονευθῆναι πέτροις,
let and by citizens to-be-killed with-stones
ἢ μὴ 'πίβαινε Σπαρτιάτιδος χθονός.
or not set-foot-on of-Spartan land
τοσαῦτ' ἀκούσας ἴσθι, μηδὲ δυσσεβεῖς
so-much having-heard know-it nor impious
ἕλῃ παρώσας εὐσεβεστέρους φίλους·
choose having-thrust-aside more-pious friends
ἡμᾶς δ' ἀπ' οἴκων ἄγετε τῶνδε, πρόσπολοι.
us but from house lead of-this attendants
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ στεῖχ', ὡς ἀθορύβως οὑπιὼν ἡμῖν λόγος
go so-that undisturbed the-coming to-us word
πρὸς τόνδ' ἵκηται, γῆρας ἀποφυγὼν τὸ σόν.
to this-one may-come old-age having-escaped-from the your
Μενέλαε, ποῖ σὸν πόδ' ἐπὶ συννοίᾳ κυκλεῖς,
Menelaus where your foot in thought do-you-wheel
διπλῆς μερίμνης διπτύχους ἰὼν ὁδούς;
double of-care twofold going ways

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἔασον· ἐν ἐμαυτῷ τι συννοούμενος,
let in myself something pondering
ὅποι τράπωμαι τῆς τύχης ἀμηχανῶ.
where I-may-turn of-the fortune I-am-at-a-loss
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μή νυν πέραινε τὴν δόκησιν, ἀλλ' ἐμοὺς
not now complete the judgment but my
λόγους ἀκούσας πρόσθε, βουλεύου τότε.
words having-heard first plan then
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ λέγ'· εὖ γὰρ εἶπας. ἔστι δ' οὗ σιγὴ λόγου
speak well for you-said is and where silence than-speech
κρείσσων γένοιτ' ἄν, ἔστι δ' οὗ σιγῆς λόγος.
better might-be — is and where than-silence speech
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ λέγοιμ' ἂν ἤδη. τὰ μακρὰ τῶν σμικρῶν λόγων
I-would-speak — already the long than-the short words
ἐπίπροσθέν ἐστι καὶ σαφῆ μᾶλλον κλύειν.
before is and clear more to-hear
ἐμοὶ σὺ τῶν σῶν, Μενέλεως, μηδὲν δίδου,
to-me you of-the your Menelaus nothing give
ἃ δ' ἔλαβες ἀπόδος, πατρὸς ἐμοῦ λαβὼν πάρα.
what but you-received give-back of-father my having-received from
οὐ χρήματ' εἶπον· χρήματ', ἢν ψυχὴν ἐμὴν
not money I-mean money if life my
σώσῃς, ἅπερ μοι φίλτατ' ἐστὶ τῶν ἐμῶν.
you-save which-very to-me dearest is of-the my
ἀδικῶ· λαβεῖν χρή μ' ἀντὶ τοῦδε τοῦ κακοῦ
I-do-wrong to-take must me in-return-for this the evil
ἄδικόν τι παρὰ σοῦ· καὶ γὰρ Ἀγαμέμνων πατὴρ
unjust something from you and for Agamemnon father
ἀδίκως ἀθροίσας Ἑλλάδ' ἦλθ' ὑπ' Ἴλιον,
unjustly having-gathered Hellas went under Ilium

οὐκ ἐξαμαρτὼν αὐτός, ἀλλ' ἁμαρτίαν
not having-erred himself but error
τῆς σῆς γυναικὸς ἀδικίαν τ' ἰώμενος.
of-the your of-wife wrong and healing
ἓν μὲν τόδ' ἡμῖν ἀνθ' ἑνὸς δοῦναί σε χρή.
one indeed this to-us in-return-for one to-give you must
ἀπέδοτο δ', ὡς χρὴ τοῖς φίλοισι τοὺς φίλους,
he-gave and as must for-the friends the friends
τὸ σῶμ' ἀληθῶς, σοὶ παρ' ἀσπίδ' ἐκπονῶν,
the body truly for-you beside shield toiling
ὅπως σὺ τὴν σὴν ἀπολάβοις ξυνάορον.
so-that you the your might-recover wife
ἀπότισον οὖν μοι ταὐτὸ τοῦτ' ἐκεῖ λαβών,
pay-back then to-me the-same this there having-received
μίαν πονήσας ἡμέραν ἡμῶν ὕπερ
one having-toiled day us for
σωτήριος στάς, μὴ δέκ' ἐκπλήσας ἔτη.
saving standing not ten having-fulfilled years
ἃ δ' Αὐλὶς ἔλαβε σφάγι' ἐμῆς ὁμοσπόρου,
what but Aulis received sacrifice of-my sister
ἐῶ σ' ἔχειν ταῦθ'· Ἑρμιόνην μὴ κτεῖνε σύ.
I-allow you to-have this Hermione not kill you
δεῖ γάρ σ' ἐμοῦ πράσσοντος ὡς πράσσω τανῦν
must for you me faring as I-fare now
πλέον φέρεσθαι, κἀμὲ συγγνώμην ἔχειν.
more to-get and-me pardon to-have
ψυχὴν δ' ἐμὴν δὸς τῷ ταλαιπώρῳ πατρὶ
life but my give to-the wretched father
κἀμῆς ἀδελφῆς, παρθένου μακρὸν χρόνον·
and-of-my of-sister maiden long time

θανὼν γὰρ οἶκον ὀρφανὸν λείψω πατρός.
having-died for house orphaned I-shall-leave of-father
ἐρεῖς, ἀδύνατον· αὐτὸ τοῦτο· τοὺς φίλους
you-will-say impossible this very the friends
ἐν τοῖς κακοῖς χρὴ τοῖς φίλοισιν ὠφελεῖν·
in the evils must the friends to-help
ὅταν δ' ὁ δαίμων εὖ διδῷ, τί δεῖ φίλων;
when but the god well gives what need of-friends
ἀρκεῖ γὰρ αὐτὸς ὁ θεὸς ὠφελεῖν θέλων.
suffices for himself the god to-help wishing
φιλεῖν δάμαρτα πᾶσιν Ἕλλησιν δοκεῖς·
to-love wife to-all Greeks you-seem
κοὐχ ὑποτρέχων σε τοῦτο θωπείᾳ λέγω·
and-not fawning-on you this with-flattery I-say
ταύτης ἱκνοῦμαί σ' — ὦ μέλεος ἐμῶν κακῶν,
by-her I-entreat you O wretched of-my evils
εἰς οἷον ἥκω. τί δὲ ταλαιπωρεῖν με δεῖ;
to what-sort I-have-come why but to-suffer me must
ὑπὲρ γὰρ οἴκου παντὸς ἱκετεύω τάδε.
on-behalf-of for house all I-supplicate these-things
ὦ πατρὸς ὅμαιμε θεῖε, τὸν κατὰ χθονὸς
O of-father kinsman uncle the below earth
θανόντ' ἀκούειν τάδε δόκει, ποτωμένην
dead to-hear these-things think hovering
ψυχὴν ὑπὲρ σοῦ, καὶ λέγειν ἁγὼ λέγω.
soul over you and to-say what-I I-say
ταῦτ' εἴς τε δάκρυα καὶ γόους καὶ συμφοράς
these-things to and tears and laments and misfortunes
εἴρηκα, κἀπήτηκα τὴν σωτηρίαν,
I-have-said and-I-have-asked the safety

θηρῶν ὃ πάντες κοὐκ ἐγὼ ζητῶ μόνος.
hunting which all and-not I seek alone

680 ΧΟΡΟΣ κἀγώ σ' ἱκνοῦμαι καὶ γυνή περ οὖσ' ὅμως
and-I you supplicate also woman though being nevertheless
τοῖς δεομένοισιν ὠφελεῖν· οἷός τε δ' εἶ.
to-the needing to-help able and but you-are
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ Ὀρέστ', ἐγώ τοι σὸν καταιδοῦμαι κάρα
Orestes I surely your revere head
καὶ ξυμπονῆσαι σοῖς κακοῖσι βούλομαι·
and to-toil-with your evils I-wish
καὶ χρὴ γὰρ οὕτω τῶν ὁμαιμόνων κακὰ
and must for so of-the kin evils
685 συνεκκομίζειν, δύναμιν ἣν διδῷ θεός,
to-help-carry-off power if gives god
θνήσκοντα καὶ κτείνοντα τοὺς ἐναντίους·
dying and killing the opponents
τὸ δ' αὖ δύνασθαι πρὸς θεῶν χρῄζω τυχεῖν.
the but again to-be-able by gods I-want to-obtain
ἥκω γὰρ ἀνδρῶν συμμάχων κενὸν δόρυ
I-come for of-men allied empty spear
ἔχων, πόνοισι μυρίοις ἀλώμενος,
having with-toils countless wandering
690 σμικρᾷ σὺν ἀλκῇ τῶν λελειμμένων φίλων.
small with strength of-the left friends
μάχῃ μὲν οὖν ἂν οὐχ ὑπερβαλοίμεθα
in-battle indeed then — not we-would-overcome
Πελασγὸν Ἄργος· εἰ δὲ μαλθακοῖς λόγοις
Pelasgian Argos if but with-soft words
δυναίμεθ', ἐνταῦθ' ἐλπίδος προσήκομεν.
we-could there to-hope we-come

σμικροῖσι γὰρ τὰ μεγάλα πῶς ἔλοι τις ἂν
with-small for the great how might-take anyone —
πόνοισιν; ἀμαθὲς καὶ τὸ βούλεσθαι τάδε.
with-toils foolish even the to-wish these-things
ὅταν γὰρ ἡβᾷ δῆμος εἰς ὀργὴν πεσών,
when for is-in-its-prime people into anger having-fallen
ὅμοιον ὥστε πῦρ κατασβέσαι λάβρον·
like as fire to-quench raging
εἰ δ' ἡσύχως τις αὑτὸν ἐντείνοντι μὲν
if but quietly anyone himself to-it-straining indeed
χαλῶν ὑπείκοι καιρὸν εὐλαβούμενος,
slacking should-yield season watching
ἴσως ἂν ἐκπνεύσει· ὅταν δ' ἀνῇ πνοάς,
perhaps — it-might-blow-itself-out when but it-lets-go blasts
τύχοις ἂν αὐτοῦ ῥᾳδίως ὅσον θέλεις.
you-might-obtain — from-it easily as-much-as you-wish
ἔνεστι δ' οἶκτος, ἔνι δὲ καὶ θυμὸς μέγας,
is-in and pity is-in and also spirit great
καραδοκοῦντι κτῆμα τιμιώτατον.
to-one-watching possession most-precious
ἐλθὼν δὲ Τυνδάρεών τέ σοι πειράσομαι
having-gone and Tyndareus and for-you I-will-try
πόλιν τε πεῖσαι τῷ λίαν χρῆσθαι καλῶς.
city and to-persuade the excess to-use well
καὶ ναῦς γὰρ ἐνταθεῖσα πρὸς βίαν ποδὶ
and ship for stretched by force with-sheet
ἔβαψεν, ἔστη δ' αὖθις, ἢν χαλᾷ πόδα.
dipped stood and again if one-slackens sheet
μισεῖ γὰρ ὁ θεὸς τὰς ἄγαν προθυμίας,
hates for the god the too-great zeals

μισοῦσι δ' ἀστοί· δεῖ δέ μ', οὐκ ἄλλως λέγω,
hate and citizens must and me not otherwise I-say
σῴζειν σε σοφίᾳ, μὴ βίᾳ τῶν κρεισσόνων.
to-save you by-wisdom not by-force of-the stronger
ἀλκῇ δέ σ' οὐκ ἄν, ᾗ σὺ δοξάζεις ἴσως,
by-strength but you not — by-which you think perhaps
σώσαιμ' ἄν· οὐ γὰρ ῥᾴδιον λόγχῃ μιᾷ
I-could-save — not for easy with-spear one
στῆσαι τροπαῖα τῶν κακῶν ἃ σοι πάρα,
to-set-up trophies of-the evils which for-you are-present
οὐ γάρ ποτ' Ἄργους γαῖαν εἰς τὸ μαλθακὸν
not for ever of-Argos land to the soft
προσηγόμεσθ' ἄν· νῦν δ' ἀναγκαίως ἔχει
we-would-bring-over — now but necessarily it-is
δούλοισιν εἶναι τοῖς σοφοῖσι τῆς τύχης.
slaves to-be for-the wise of-the fortune
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ πλὴν γυναικὸς εἵνεκα στρατηλατεῖν
O except of-woman for-the-sake to-lead-army
τἄλλ' οὐδέν, ὦ κάκιστε τιμωρεῖν φίλοις·
in-the-rest nothing O vilest to-avenge for-friends
φεύγεις ἀποστραφείς με, τὰ δ' Ἀγαμέμνονος
you-flee having-turned-away me the and of-Agamemnon
φροῦδ'; ἄφιλος ἦσθ' ἄρ', ὦ πάτερ, πράσσων κακῶς.
is-gone friendless you-were then O father faring badly
οἴμοι, προδέδομαι, κοὐκέτ' εἰσὶν ἐλπίδες,
ah-me I-am-betrayed and-no-longer are hopes
ὅποι τραπόμενος θάνατον Ἀργείων φύγω·
where turning death of-Argives may-I-flee
οὗτος γὰρ ἦν μοι καταφυγὴ σωτηρίας.
this-one for was for-me refuge of-safety

ἀλλ᾽ εἰσορῶ γὰρ τόνδε φίλτατον βροτῶν
but I-see for this-one dearest of-mortals
Πυλάδην δρόμῳ στείχοντα Φωκέων ἄπο,
Pylades at-a-run coming Phocians from
ἡδεῖαν ὄψιν· πιστὸς ἐν κακοῖς ἀνὴρ
sweet sight faithful in evils man
κρείσσων γαλήνης ναυτίλοισιν εἰσορᾶν.
better than-calm for-sailors to-behold
ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ θᾶσσον ἤ με χρῆν προβαίνων
quicker than me it-was-right going-forward
ἱκόμην δι᾽ ἄστεως,
I-came through town
σύλλογον πόλεως ἀκούσας, τὸν δ᾽ ἰδὼν αὐτὸς σαφῶς,
assembly of-city having-heard this and having-seen myself clearly
ἐπὶ σὲ σύγγονόν τε τὴν σήν, ὡς κτενοῦντας αὐτίκα.
against you sister and the your as about-to-kill at-once
τί τάδε; πῶς ἔχεις, τί πράσσεις; φίλταθ᾽ ἡλίκων ἐμοὶ
what this how are-you what do-you-do dearest of-age-mates to-me
καὶ φίλων καὶ συγγενείας· πάντα γὰρ τάδ᾽ εἶ σύ μοι.
both of-friends and of-kin all for these you-are you to-me
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οἰχόμεσθ᾽, ὡς ἐν βραχεῖ σοι τἀμὰ δηλώσω κακά.
we-are-gone so-that in brief to-you my I-will-show evils
ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ συγκατασκάπτοις ἂν ἡμᾶς· κοινὰ γὰρ τὰ τῶν φίλων.
you-would-raze-with — us common for the of-the friends
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Μενέλεως κάκιστος εἴς με καὶ κασιγνήτην ἐμήν.
Menelaus most-base toward me and sister my
ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ εἰκότως, κακῆς γυναικὸς ἄνδρα γίγνεσθαι κακόν.
fittingly of-base wife husband to-become base

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὥσπερ οὐκ ἐλθὼν ἔμοιγε
as-if not having-come to-me-at-least
ταὐτὸν ἀπέδωκεν μολών.
the-same he-gave having-come

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἦ γάρ ἐστιν ὡς ἀληθῶς τήνδ' ἀφιγμένος χθόνα;
— for is-he in truth this having-arrived land

740 ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ χρόνιος· ἀλλ' ὅμως τάχιστα κακὸς ἐφωράθη φίλοις.
late but nevertheless most-quickly base was-caught by-friends

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ καὶ δάμαρτα τὴν κακίστην ναυστολῶν ἐλήλυθεν;
and wife the most-base shipping he-has-come

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκ ἐκεῖνος, ἀλλ' ἐκείνη κεῖνον ἐνθάδ' ἤγαγεν.
not he but she him here brought

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ποῦ 'στιν ἥ πλείστους Ἀχαιῶν ὤλεσεν γυνὴ μία;
where is-she who most of-Achaeans destroyed woman one

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἐν δόμοις ἐμοῖσιν, εἰ δὴ τούσδ' ἐμοὺς καλεῖν χρεών.
in house my if indeed these my to-call must

745 ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ σὺ δὲ τίνας λόγους ἔλεξας σοῦ κασιγνήτῳ πατρός;
you and what words did-you-say of-you to-brother of-father

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μή μ' ἰδεῖν θανόνθ' ὑπ' ἀστῶν καὶ κασιγνήτην ἐμήν.
not me to-see dying by citizens and sister my

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ πρὸς θεῶν, τί πρὸς τάδ' εἶπε;
by gods what to these-things did-he-say
τόδε γὰρ εἰδέναι θέλω.
this for to-know I-wish

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ηὐλαβεῖθ', ὃ τοῖς φίλοισι δρῶσιν οἱ κακοὶ φίλοι.
he-was-cautious which to-the friends do the bad friends

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ σκῆψιν εἰς ποίαν προβαίνων;
excuse to what-sort going-forward
τοῦτο πάντ' ἔχω μαθών.
this all I-have having-learned

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὗτος ἦλθ᾽ ὁ τὰς ἀρίστας
this-one came the the best
θυγατέρας σπείρας πατήρ.
daughters having-begotten father

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ Τυνδάρεων λέγεις· ἴσως σοι θυγατέρος θυμούμενος.
Tyndareus you-mean perhaps you for-daughter being-angry

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ αἰσθάνει. τὸ τοῦδε κῆδος μᾶλλον εἵλετ᾽ ἢ πατρός.
you-perceive the his kinship rather he-chose than of-father

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ κοὐκ ἐτόλμησεν πόνων σῶν ἀντιλάζυσθαι παρών;
and-not dared of-toils your to-take-part being-present

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐ γὰρ αἰχμητὴς πέφυκεν, ἐν γυναιξὶ δ᾽ ἄλκιμος.
not for warrior is among women but valiant

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἐν κακοῖς ἄρ᾽ εἶ μεγίστοις, καί σ᾽ ἀναγκαῖον θανεῖν.
in evils then you-are greatest and you necessary to-die

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ψῆφον ἀμφ᾽ ἡμῶν πολίτας ἐπὶ φόνῳ θέσθαι χρεών.
vote about us citizens on murder to-cast must

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἢ κρινεῖ τί χρῆμα; λέξον·
which will-decide what thing say
διὰ φόβου γὰρ ἔρχομαι.
through fear for I-go

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἢ θανεῖν ἢ ζῆν· ὁ μῦθος οὐ μακρὸς μακρῶν πέρι.
either to-die or to-live the word not long long-things about

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ φεῦγέ νυν λιπὼν μέλαθρα σὺν κασιγνήτῃ σέθεν.
flee now having-left house with sister of-you

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐχ ὁρᾷς; φυλασσόμεσθα φρουρίοισι πανταχῇ.
not you-see we-are-guarded with-guards everywhere

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ εἶδον ἄστεως ἀγυιὰς τεύχεσιν πεφραγμένας.
I-saw of-town streets with-arms fenced

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὡσπερεὶ πόλις πρὸς ἐχθρῶν σῶμα πυργηρούμεθα.
just-as city by enemies body we-are-besieged

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ κἀμέ νυν ἐροῦ τί πάσχω· καὶ γὰρ αὐτὸς οἴχομαι.
and-me now ask what I-suffer and for myself I-am-gone

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πρὸς τίνος; τοῦτ᾽ ἂν προσείη
by whom this — would-be-added
τοῖς ἐμοῖς κακοῖς κακόν.
to-the my evils evil

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ Στρόφιος ἤλασέν μ᾽ ἀπ᾽ οἴκων
Strophius drove me from house
φυγάδα θυμωθεὶς πατήρ.
exile enraged father

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἴδιον, ἢ κοινὸν πολίταις ἐπιφέρων ἔγκλημά τι;
private or common to-citizens bringing charge some

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ὅτι συνηράμην φόνον σοι μητρός, ἀνόσιον λέγων.
that I-shared murder with-you of-mother unholy calling

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ τάλας, ἔοικε καὶ σὲ τἀμὰ λυπήσειν κακά.
O wretched it-seems also you my will-grieve evils

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ οὐχὶ Μενέλεω τρόποισι χρώμεθ᾽· οἰστέον τάδε.
not of-Menelaus with-ways we-deal must-be-borne these-things

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐ φοβεῖ μή σ᾽ Ἄργος ὥσπερ κἄμ᾽ ἀποκτεῖναι θέλῃ;
not do-you-fear lest you Argos as and-me to-kill wish

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ οὐ προσήκομεν κολάζειν τοῖσδε, Φωκέων δὲ γῇ.
not we-belong to-punish to-these of-Phocians but to-land

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ δεινὸν οἱ πολλοί, πανούργους ὅταν ἔχωσι προστάτας.
terrible the many villainous when they-have leaders

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἀλλ᾽ ὅταν χρηστοὺς λάβωσι, χρηστὰ βουλεύουσ᾽ ἀεί.
but when good-ones they-take good-things they-counsel always

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εἶεν. εἰς κοινὸν λέγειν χρή.
well to common to-speak must

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ τίνος ἀναγκαίου πέρι;
what necessary about

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εἰ λέγοιμ᾽ ἀστοῖσιν ἐλθὼν
if I-should-say to-citizens having-gone

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ὡς ἔδρασας ἔνδικα;
that you-did just-things

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πατρὶ τιμωρῶν ἐμαυτοῦ;
for-father avenging my

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ μὴ λάβωσί σ᾽ ἄσμενοι.
lest they-take you gladly

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἀλλ᾽ ὑποπτήξας σιωπῇ κατθάνω; ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ δειλὸν τόδε.
but cowering in-silence should-I-die cowardly this

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πῶς ἂν οὖν δρῴην;
how — then might-I-act

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἔχεις τιν᾽, ἢν μένῃς, σωτηρίαν;
have-you some if you-stay safety

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκ ἔχω.
not I-have

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ μολόντι δ᾽ ἐλπίς ἐστι σωθῆναι κακῶν;
having-gone but hope is to-be-saved from-evils

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εἰ τύχοι, γένοιτ᾽ ἄν.
if it-should-chance might-be —

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ οὔκουν τοῦτο κρεῖσσον ἢ μένειν;
not-then this better than to-remain

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἀλλὰ δῆτ᾽ ἔλθω;
but then shall-I-go

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ θανὼν γοῦν ὧδε κάλλιον θανεῖ.
having-died at-least thus more-nobly you-will-die

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εὖ λέγεις· φεύγω τὸ δειλὸν τῇδε.
well you-say I-flee the cowardice thus

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ μᾶλλον ἢ μένων.
rather than remaining

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καὶ τὸ πρᾶγμά γ' ἔνδικόν μοι.
and the deed at-least just for-me

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ τῷ δοκεῖν εὔχου μόνον.
in-the seeming pray only

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καί τις ἄν γέ μ' οἰκτίσειε
and someone — at-least me might-pity

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ μέγα γὰρ ηὐγένειά σου.
great for nobility your

785 ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ θάνατον ἀσχάλλων πατρῷον.
death being-indignant-at paternal

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ πάντα ταῦτ' ἐν ὄμμασιν
all these-things in eyes

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἰτέον, ὡς ἄνανδρον ἀκλεῶς κατθανεῖν.
one-must-go since unmanly ingloriously to-die

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ αἰνῶ τάδε.
I-approve these-things

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἦ λέγωμεν οὖν ἀδελφῇ ταῦτ' ἐμῇ;
— shall-we-tell then to-sister these-things my

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ μὴ πρὸς θεῶν.
not by gods

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ δάκρυα γοῦν γένοιτ' ἄν.
tears at-least might-be —

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ οὐκοῦν οὕτος οἰωνὸς μέγας.
then this omen great

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ δηλαδὴ σιγᾶν ἄμεινον.
evidently to-be-silent better

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ τῷ χρόνῳ δὲ κερδανεῖς.
by-the time and you-will-gain

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ κεῖνό μοι μόνον πρόσαντες,
that to-me only adverse

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ τί τόδε καινὸν αὖ λέγεις;
what this new again do-you-say

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μὴ θεαί μ᾽ οἴστρῳ κατάσχωσ᾽.
lest goddesses me with-gadfly seize

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἀλλὰ κηδεύσω σ᾽ ἐγώ.
but I-will-tend you I

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ δυσχερὲς ψαύειν νοσοῦντος ἀνδρός.
hard to-touch sick man

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ οὐκ ἔμοιγε σοῦ.
not for-me-at-least you

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εὐλαβοῦ λύσσης μετασχεῖν τῆς ἐμῆς.
beware of-frenzy to-share the my

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ τόδ᾽ οὖν ἴτω.
this then let-it-go

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκ ἄρ᾽ ὀκνήσεις;
not then will-you-hesitate

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ὄκνος γὰρ τοῖς φίλοις κακὸν μέγα.
hesitation for to-the friends evil great

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἔρπε νυν οἴαξ ποδός μοι.
go now rudder of-foot to-me

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ φίλα γ᾽ ἔχων κηδεύματα.
dear at-least having tendings

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καί με πρὸς τύμβον πόρευσον πατρός.
and me to tomb conduct of-father

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ὡς τί δὴ τόδε;
as what indeed this

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὥς νιν ἱκετεύσω με σῶσαι.
that him I-may-supplicate me to-save

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ τό γε δίκαιον ὧδ' ἔχει.
the at-least just so is

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μητέρος δὲ μηδ' ἴδοιμι μνῆμα.
of-mother but not-even may-I-see tomb

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ πολεμία γὰρ ἦν.
hostile for she-was

ἀλλ' ἔπειγ', ὡς μή σε πρόσθε ψῆφος Ἀργείων ἕλῃ,
but hurry so-that not you before vote of-Argives may-take

περιβαλὼν πλευροῖς ἐμοῖσι πλευρὰ νωχελῆ νόσῳ,
having-thrown-about sides to-my sides weak with-sickness

ὡς ἐγὼ δι' ἄστεώς σε σμικρὰ φροντίζων ὄχλου
as I through town you little caring for-crowd

οὐδὲν αἰσχυνθεὶς ὀχήσω. ποῦ γὰρ ὢν δείξω φίλος,
nothing ashamed will-carry where for being shall-I-show friend

εἴ σε μὴ 'ν δειναῖσιν ὄντα συμφοραῖς ἐπαρκέσω;
if you not in terrible being misfortunes I-help

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τοῦτ' ἐκεῖνο, κτᾶσθ' ἑταίρους, μὴ τὸ συγγενὲς μόνον·
this that get comrades not the kinship only

ὡς ἀνὴρ ὅστις τρόποισι συντακῇ, θυραῖος ὤν,
as man who in-ways is-fused outsider being

μυρίων κρείσσων ὁμαίμων ἀνδρὶ κεκτῆσθαι φίλος.
than-countless better kin for-man to-possess friend

The chorus sings how the prosperity and pride of the Atreids were overthrown, from the strife over the golden lamb to the murder of a mother. The fair deed was not fair: to do evil under a fair name is subtle impiety and the madness of evil-minded men, and the man who did it is now maddened, the Furies' prey, his eyes whirling.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ὁ μέγας ὄλβος ἅ τ' ἀρετὰ
the great prosperity the and valor
μέγα φρονοῦσ' ἀν' Ἑλλάδα καὶ
greatly proud throughout Hellas and
παρὰ Σιμουντίοις ὀχετοῖς
by Simoeis streams
πάλιν ἀνῆλθ' ἐξ εὐτυχίας Ἀτρείδαις 810
back went-up from good-fortune for-Atreids
πάλαι παλαιᾶς ἀπὸ συμφορᾶς δόμων,
of-old ancient from misfortune of-house
ὁπότε χρυσέας ἦλθ' ἔρις ἀρνὸς
when of-golden came strife of-lamb
ἐπάγουσα Ταντα λίδαις
bringing-on to-Tantalids
οἰκτρότατα θοινάματα καὶ
most-piteous feasts and
σφάγια γενναίων τεκέων· 815
slaughters of-noble children
ὅθεν φόνῳ φόνος ἐξαμεί-
whence for-murder murder exchanging
βων δι' αἵματος οὐ προλεί-
— *through blood not leaves*
πει δισσοῖσιν Ἀτρείδαις.
— *for-the-two Atreids*

τὸ καλὸν οὐ καλόν, τοκέων
the fair not fair of-parents
πυριγενεῖ τεμεῖν παλάμᾳ
with-fire-wrought to-cut with-hand
χρόα, μελάνδετον δὲ φόνῳ
flesh black-bound and with-blood
ξίφος ἐς αὐγὰς ἀελίοιο δεῖξαι·
sword to rays of-sun to-show
τὸ δ' εὖ κακουργεῖν ἀσέβεια ποικίλα
the and well to-do-evil impiety subtle
κακοφρόνων τ' ἀνδρῶν παράνοια.
of-evil-minded and of-men madness
θανάτου γὰρ ἀμφὶ φόβῳ
of-death for about with-fear
Τυνδαρὶς ἰάχησε τάλαι-
Tyndareus'-daughter cried wretched
να· τέκνον, οὐ τολμᾷς ὅσια
— child not you-dare holy-things
κτείνων σὰν ματέρα· μὴ πατρῴ-
killing your mother not paternal
αν τιμῶν χάριν ἐξανά-
— honoring favor kindle
ψῃ δύσκλειαν ἐς ἀεί.
— infamy for always
τίς νόσος ἢ τίνα δάκρυα καὶ
what sickness or what tears and
τίς ἔλεος μείζων κατὰ γᾶν
what pity greater throughout land
ἢ ματροκτόνον αἷμα χειρὶ θέσθαι;
than mother-killing blood with-hand to-make

οἷον οἷον ἔργον τελέσας
what what deed having-accomplished
βεβάκχευται μανίαις,
he-has-been-maddened with-madnesses
Εὐμενίσιν θήραμα φόνῳ
for-Eumenides prey with-murder
δρομάσι δινεύων βλεφάροις
with-running whirling with-eyes
Ἀγαμεμνόνιος παῖς.
Agamemnonian son
ὦ μέλεος, ματρὸς ὅτε
O wretched of-mother when
χρυσεοπηνήτων φαρέων
of-gold-spun robes
μαστὸν ὑπερτέλλοντ᾽ ἐσιδὼν
breast rising-over having-seen
σφάγιον ἔθετο ματέρα, πατρῴ-
victim made mother of-father's
ων παθέων ἀμοιβάν.
— sufferings requital

A countryman reports the assembly to Electra. Talthybius spoke on both sides, Diomedes urged exile, a loud man pressed for stoning, and an honest farmer praised Orestes for avenging his father. Orestes spoke for himself, but the vote went against him: he and Electra must die, though they may kill themselves this very day. Pylades leads him home.

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ γυναῖκες, ἦ που τῶνδ' ἀφώρμηται δόμων
women — surely from-this has-set-out house

τλήμων Ὀρέστης θεομανεῖ λύσσῃ δαμείς;
wretched Orestes with-god-sent frenzy overcome

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἥκιστα· πρὸς δ' Ἀργεῖον οἴχεται λεών,
least to and Argive he-is-gone people

ψυχῆς ἀγῶνα τὸν προκείμενον πέρι
of-life contest the set-before about

δώσων, ἐν ᾧ ζῆν ἢ θανεῖν ὑμᾶς χρεών.
to-give in which to-live or to-die you must

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οἴμοι· τί χρῆμ' ἔδρασε; τίς δ' ἔπεισέ νιν;
ah-me what thing did-he-do who and persuaded him

ΧΟΡΟΣ Πυλάδης· ἔοικε δ' οὐ μακρὰν ὅδ' ἄγγελος
Pylades seems but not far this-one messenger

λέξειν τὰ κεῖθεν σοῦ κασιγνήτου πέρι.
to-tell the-things from-there your of-brother about

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ὦ τλῆμον, ὦ δύστηνε τοῦ στρατηλάτου
O wretched O unhappy of-the general

Ἀγαμέμνονος παῖ, πότνι' Ἠλέκτρα, λόγους
of-Agamemnon child lady Electra words

ἄκουσον οὕς σοι δυστυχεῖς ἥκω φέρων.
hear which to-you unfortunate I-come bringing

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ αἰαῖ, διοιχόμεσθα· δῆλος εἶ λόγῳ.
alas we-are-undone clear you-are by-word
κακῶν γὰρ ἥκεις, ὡς ἔοικεν, ἄγγελος.
of-evils for you-come as it-seems messenger
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ψήφῳ Πελασγῶν σὸν κασίγνητον θανεῖν
by-vote of-Pelasgians your brother to-die
καὶ σ', ὦ τάλαιν', ἔδοξε τῇδ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ.
and you O wretched it-was-decreed this on day
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οἴμοι· προσῆλθεν ἐλπίς, ἣν φοβουμένη
ah-me has-come expectation which fearing
πάλαι τὸ μέλλον ἐξετηκόμην γόοις.
long-since the future I-was-melting with-laments
ἀτὰρ τίς ἀγών, τίνες ἐν Ἀργείοις λόγοι
but what the-contest what among Argives words
καθεῖλον ἡμᾶς κἀπεκύρωσαν θανεῖν;
condemned us and-ratified to-die
λέγ', ὦ γεραιέ· πότερα λευσίμῳ χερὶ
speak O old-man whether by-stoning hand
ἢ διὰ σιδήρου πνεῦμ' ἀπορρῆξαί με δεῖ,
or through iron breath to-break-off me must
κοινὰς ἀδελφῷ συμφορὰς κεκτημένην;
common with-brother misfortunes having
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ἐτύγχανον μὲν ἀγρόθεν πυλῶν ἔσω
I-happened indeed from-the-country gates within
βαίνων, πυθέσθαι δεόμενος τά τ' ἀμφὶ σοῦ
going to-learn needing the-things and about you
τά τ' ἀμφ' Ὀρέστου· σῷ γὰρ εὔνοιαν πατρὶ
the-things and about Orestes to-your for goodwill father
ἀεί ποτ' εἶχον, καί μ' ἔφερβε σὸς δόμος
always ever I-had and me fed your house

πένητα μέν, χρῆσθαι δὲ γενναῖον φίλοις.
poor indeed to-deal but noble with-friends
ὁρῶ δ' ὄχλον στείχοντα καὶ θάσσοντ' ἄκραν,
I-see and crowd going and sitting height
οὗ φασι πρῶτον Δαναὸν Αἰγύπτῳ δίκας
where they-say first Danaus to-Aegyptus justice
διδόντ' ἀθροῖσαι λαὸν εἰς κοινὰς ἕδρας.
giving to-gather people into common seats
ἀστῶν δὲ δή τιν' ἠρόμην ἄθροισμ' ἰδών·
of-citizens and indeed some I-asked gathering having-seen
τί καινὸν Ἄργει; μῶν τι πολεμίων πάρα
what new in-Argos surely-not some enemies from
ἄγγελμ' ἀνεπτέρωκε Δαναϊδῶν πόλιν;
message has-roused of-Danaans city
ὃ δ' εἶπ'· Ὀρέστην κεῖνον οὐχ ὁρᾷς πέλας
he and said Orestes that-one not you-see near
στείχοντ', ἀγῶνα θανάσιμον δραμούμενον;
coming contest deadly to-run
ὁρῶ δ' ἄελπτον φάσμ', ὃ μήποτ' ὤφελον,
I-see and unexpected sight which never I-ought
Πυλάδην τε καὶ σὸν σύγγονον στείχονθ' ὁμοῦ,
Pylades and and your brother going together
τὸν μὲν κατηφῆ καὶ παρειμένον νόσῳ,
the one downcast and relaxed with-sickness
τὸν δ' ὥστ' ἀδελφὸν ἴσα φίλῳ λυπούμενον,
the other like brother equally with-friend grieving
νόσημα κηδεύοντα παιδαγωγίᾳ.
sickness tending with-guiding
ἐπεὶ δὲ πλήρης ἐγένετ' Ἀργείων ὄχλος,
when and full became of-Argives crowd

κῆρυξ ἀναστὰς εἶπε· τίς χρῄζει λέγειν,
herald having-stood-up said who wants to-speak
πότερον Ὀρέστην κατθανεῖν ἢ μὴ χρεών,
whether Orestes to-die or not must
μητροκτονοῦντα; κἀπὶ τῷδ' ἀνίσταται
mother-killing and-on this stands-up
Ταλθύβιος, ὃς σῷ πατρὶ συνεπόρθει Φρύγας.
Talthybius who with-your father sacked Phrygians
ἔλεξε δ' ὑπὸ τοῖς δυναμένοισιν ὢν ἀεὶ
he-spoke and under the powerful being always
διχόμυθα, πατέρα μὲν σὸν ἐκπαγλούμενος,
double-speaking father indeed your extolling
σὸν δ' οὐκ ἐπαινῶν σύγγονον, καλοῖς κακοὺς
your but not praising brother with-fair evil
λόγους ἑλίσσων, ὅτι καθισταίη νόμους
words wrapping because he-established laws
εἰς τοὺς τεκόντας οὐ καλούς· τὸ δ' ὄμμ' ἀεὶ
to the parents not fine the and eye always
φαιδρωπὸν ἐδίδου τοῖσιν Αἰγίσθου φίλοις.
bright gave to-the of-Aegisthus friends
τὸ γὰρ γένος τοιοῦτον· ἐπὶ τὸν εὐτυχῆ
the for race such to the prosperous
πηδῶσ' ἀεὶ κήρυκες· ὅδε δ' αὐτοῖς φίλος,
leap always heralds this-one and to-them friend
ὃς ἂν δύνηται πόλεος ἔν τ' ἀρχαῖσιν ᾖ.
who — may-have-power of-city in and offices be
ἐπὶ τῷδε δ' ἠγόρευε Διομήδης ἄναξ.
on this and spoke Diomedes lord
οὗτος κτανεῖν μὲν οὔτε σ' οὔτε σύγγονον
this-one to-kill indeed neither you nor brother

εἴα, φυγῇ δὲ ζημιοῦντας εὐσεβεῖν.
allowed with-exile but punishing to-be-pious
ἐπερρόθησαν δ' οἱ μὲν ὡς καλῶς λέγοι,
murmured and some indeed that well he-spoke
οἱ δ' οὐκ ἐπῄνουν. κἀπὶ τῷδ' ἀνίσταται
others and not praised and-on this stands-up
ἀνήρ τις ἀθυρόγλωσσος, ἰσχύων θράσει,
man some unbridled-of-tongue strong in-boldness
Ἀργεῖος οὐκ Ἀργεῖος, ἠναγκασμένος,
Argive not Argive forced
θορύβῳ τε πίσυνος κἀμαθεῖ παρρησίᾳ,
on-uproar and trusting and-on-ignorant on-frankness
πιθανὸς ἔτ' ἀστοὺς περιβαλεῖν κακῷ τινι.
persuasive still citizens to-involve in-evil some
ὃς εἶπ' Ὀρέστην καὶ σ' ἀποκτεῖναι πέτροις
who said Orestes and you to-kill with-stones
βάλλοντας· ὑπὸ δ' ἔτεινε Τυνδάρεως λόγους
pelting under and stretched Tyndareus words
τῷ σφὼ κατακτείνοντι τοιούτους λέγειν.
to-the you-two killing such to-say
ἄλλος δ' ἀναστὰς ἔλεγε τῷδ' ἐναντία,
another and having-stood-up spoke to-this opposite-things
μορφῇ μὲν οὐκ εὐωπός, ἀνδρεῖος δ' ἀνήρ,
in-form indeed not fair-faced manly but man
ὀλιγάκις ἄστυ κἀγορᾶς χραίνων κύκλον,
seldom town and-of-market defiling circle
αὐτουργός, οἵπερ καὶ μόνοι σῴζουσι γῆν,
farmer who-indeed also alone save land
ξυνετὸς δὲ χωρεῖν ὁμόσε τοῖς λόγοις θέλων,
intelligent and to-come to-close-quarters with-the words wishing

ἀκέραιος, ἀνεπίληπτον ἠσκηκὼς βίον·
pure blameless having-practiced life
ὃς εἶπ᾽ Ὀρέστην παῖδα τὸν Ἀγαμέμνονος
who said Orestes son the of-Agamemnon
στεφανοῦν, ὃς ἠθέλησε τιμωρεῖν πατρί,
to-crown who wished to-avenge for-father
κακὴν γυναῖκα κἄθεον κατακτανών,
evil woman and-godless having-killed
ἣ κεῖν᾽ ἀφήρει, μήθ᾽ ὁπλίζεσθαι χέρα
who that-one took-away neither to-arm hand
μήτε στρατεύειν ἐκλιπόντα δώματα,
nor to-march having-left house
εἰ τἄνδον οἰκουρήμαθ᾽ οἱ λελειμμένοι
if the-at-home house-keepings the left-behind
φθείρουσιν, ἀνδρῶν εὔνιδας λωβώμενοι.
corrupt of-men wives outraging
καὶ τοῖς γε χρηστοῖς εὖ λέγειν ἐφαίνετο,
and to-the at-least good well to-speak he-seemed
κοὐδεὶς ἔτ᾽ εἶπε. σὸς δ᾽ ἐπῆλθε σύγγονος,
and-no-one more spoke your and came-forward brother
ἔλεξε δ᾽· ὦ γῆν Ἰνάχου κεκτημένοι,
he-said and O land of-Inachus possessing
ὑμῖν ἀμύνων οὐδὲν ἧσσον ἢ πατρὶ
you defending nothing less than father
ἔκτεινα μητέρ᾽· εἰ γὰρ ἀρσένων φόνος
I-killed mother if for of-males murder
ἔσται γυναιξὶν ὅσιος, οὐ φθάνοιτ᾽ ἔτ᾽ ἂν
will-be for-women holy not you-could-anticipate still —
θνήσκοντες, ἢ γυναιξὶ δουλεύειν χρεών·
dying or to-women to-be-slaves must

τοὐναντίον δὲ δράσετ' ἢ δρᾶσαι χρεών.
the-opposite and you-will-do than to-do must
νῦν μὲν γὰρ ἡ προδοῦσα λέκτρ' ἐμοῦ πατρὸς
now indeed for the having-betrayed bed of-my father
τέθνηκεν· εἰ δὲ δὴ κατακτενεῖτέ με,
has-died if but indeed you-will-kill me
ὁ νόμος ἀνεῖται, κοὐ φθάνοι θνῄσκων τις ἄν,
the law is-loosened and-not could-anticipate dying anyone —
ὡς τῆς γε τόλμης οὐ σπάνις γενήσεται.
since of-the at-least daring not dearth will-be
ἀλλ' οὐκ ἔπειθ' ὅμιλον, εὖ δοκῶν λέγειν.
but not he-persuaded crowd well seeming to-speak
νικᾷ δ' ἐκεῖνος ὁ κακὸς ἐν πλήθει λέγων,
wins and that-one the evil in multitude speaking
ὃς ἠγόρευε σύγγονον σέ τε κτανεῖν.
who urged brother you and to-kill
μόλις δ' ἔπεισε μὴ πετρούμενος θανεῖν
hardly and persuaded not being-stoned to-die
τλήμων Ὀρέστης· αὐτόχειρι δὲ σφαγῇ
wretched Orestes by-self-handed but slaughter
ὑπέσχετ' ἐν τῇδ' ἡμέρᾳ λείψειν βίον
promised on this day to-leave life
σὺν σοί. πορεύει δ' αὐτὸν ἐκκλήτων ἄπο
with you conducts and him assembly from
Πυλάδης δακρύων· σὺν δ' ὁμαρτοῦσιν φίλοι
Pylades weeping with and accompany friends
κλαίοντες, οἰκτείροντες· ἔρχεται δέ σοι
weeping pitying he-comes and to-you
πικρὸν θέαμα καὶ πρόσοψις ἀθλία.
bitter sight and appearance wretched

ἀλλ᾽ εὐτρέπιζε φάσγαν᾽ ἢ βρόχον δέρῃ,
but prepare swords or noose for-neck
ὡς δεῖ λιπεῖν σε φέγγος· ηὐγένεια δὲ
since must to-leave you light the-noble-birth but
οὐδέν σ᾽ ἐπωφέλησεν, οὐδ᾽ ὁ Πύθιος
nothing you helped nor the Pythian
τρίποδα καθίζων Φοῖβος, ἀλλ᾽ ἀπώλεσεν.
tripod sitting Phoebus but destroyed
ΧΟΡΟΣ ὦ δυστάλαινα παρθέν᾽, ὡς ξυνηρεφὲς
O most-wretched maiden how covered
πρόσωπον εἰς γῆν σὸν βαλοῦσ᾽ ἄφθογγος εἶ,
face to earth your having-cast voiceless you-are
ὡς εἰς στεναγμοὺς καὶ γόους δραμουμένη.
as to groans and laments about-to-run

VIII · ELECTRA'S LAMENT

Electra tears her cheeks and laments: the last of Pelops' house must die. She sings of the cursed chariot race of Pelops, the drowning of Myrtilus, the golden lamb, the sun turned from its course, and the banquet of Thyestes.

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ κατάρχομαι στεναγμόν, ὦ Πελασγία,
I-begin lament O Pelasgia
τιθεῖσα λευκὸν ὄνυχα διὰ παρηίδων,
setting white nail through cheeks
αἱματηρὸν ἄταν,
bloody ruin
κτύπον τε κρατός, ὃν ἔλαχ᾽ ἁ κατὰ χθονὸς
beating and of-head which obtained the below earth

νερτέρων καλλίπαις ἄνασσα.
of-the-dead fair-childed queen
ἰαχείτω δὲ γᾶ Κυκλωπία,
let-cry and land Cyclopian
σίδαρον ἐπὶ κάρα τιθεῖσα κούριμον,
iron on head setting shearing
πήματ' οἴκων.
woes of-house
ἔλεος ἔλεος ὅδ' ἔρχεται
pity pity this comes
τῶν θανουμένων ὕπερ,
the about-to-die for
στρατηλατᾶν Ἑλλάδος ποτ' ὄντων.
generals of-Hellas once being
βέβακε γὰρ βέβακεν, οἴχεται τέκνων
is-gone for is-gone is-departed of-children
πρόπασα γέννα Πέλοπος ὅ τ' ἐπὶ μακαρίοις
whole race of-Pelops the and on blessed
ζῆλος ὤν ποτ' οἴκοις·
envy being once house
φθόνος νιν εἷλε θεόθεν, ἅ τε δυσμενὴς
jealousy it seized from-god the and hostile
φοινία ψῆφος ἐν πολίταις.
bloody vote among citizens
ἰὼ ἰώ, πανδάκρυτ' ἐφαμέρων
oh oh all-tearful of-mortals
ἔθνη πολύπονα, λεύσσεθ', ὡς παρ' ἐλπίδας
races much-toiling see how beyond hopes
μοῖρα βαίνει.
fate goes

ἕτερα δ' ἕτερος ἀμείβεται
other-things and another exchanges
πήματ' ἐν χρόνῳ μακρῷ·
woes in time long
βροτῶν δ' ὁ πᾶς ἀστάθμητος αἰών.
of-mortals and the whole unstable life
μόλοιμι τὰν οὐρανοῦ
may-I-go to-the of-heaven
μέσον χθονός τε τεταμέναν αἰωρήμασι
middle of-earth and stretched with-hangings
πέτραν ἁλύσεσι χρυσέαισι φερομέναν
rock with-chains golden borne
δίναισι βῶλον ἐξ Ὀλύμπου,
with-whirls clod from Olympus
ἵν' ἐν θρήνοισιν ἀναβοάσω
so-that in dirges I-may-cry-aloud
γέροντι πατρὶ Ταντάλῳ
to-old father to-Tantalus
ὃς ἔτεκεν ἔτεκε γενέτορας ἐμέθεν δόμων,
who begot begot ancestors of-my house
οἳ κατεῖδον ἄτας,
who saw ruins
ποτανὸν μὲν δίωγμα πώλων
winged indeed pursuit of-colts
τεθριππoβάμονι στόλῳ Πέλοψ ὅτε
with-four-horse-riding band Pelops when
πελάγεσι διεδίφρευσε, Μυρτίλου φόνον
over-the-seas drove of-Myrtilus death
δικὼν ἐς οἶδμα πόντου,
hurling into swell of-sea

λευκοκύμοσιν
white-waved
πρὸς Γεραιστίαις
by Geraestian
ποντίων σάλων
of-sea surges
ᾐόσιν ἁρματεύσας.
shores having-driven
ὅθεν δόμοισι τοῖς ἐμοῖς
whence to-house the my
ἦλθ' ἀρὰ πολύστονος,
came curse much-lamented
λόχευμα ποιμνίοισι Μαιάδος τόκου,
offspring to-flocks of-Maia of-son
τὸ χρυσόμαλλον ἀρνὸς ὁπότ'
the golden-fleeced of-lamb when
ἐγένετο τέρας ὀλοὸν ὀλοὸν
was-born portent destructive destructive
Ἀτρέος ἱπποβώτα·
of-Atreus horse-pasturing
ὅθεν Ἔρις τό τε πτερωτὸν
whence Strife the and winged
ἁλίου μετέβαλεν ἅρμα,
of-sun changed chariot
τὰν πρὸς ἑσπέραν κέλευθον
the toward west path
οὐρανοῦ προσαρμόσασα
of-heaven having-fitted
μονόπωλον ἐς Ἀῶ,
single-horsed to Dawn

ἑπταπόρου τε δρόμημα Πελειάδος
of-seven-pathed and course of-Pleiad
εἰς ὁδὸν ἄλλαν Ζεὺς μεταβάλλει,
into way other Zeus changes
τῶνδέ τ' ἀμείβει ἀεὶ θανάτους θανά-
of-these and exchanges always deaths for-deaths
των τά τ' ἐπώνυμα δεῖπνα Θυέστου
— the and named feasts of-Thyestes
λέκτρα τε Κρήσσας Ἀερόπας δολί-
bed and of-Cretan Aerope of-treacherous
ας δολίοισι γάμοις· τὰ πανύστατα δ'
— with-treacherous marriage the last and
εἰς ἐμὲ καὶ γενέταν ἐμὸν ἤλυθε
to me and father my came
δόμων πολυπόνοις ἀνάγκαις.
of-house with-much-toiling necessities

IX · THE PLAN

Orestes and Electra take leave of each other and prepare to die, and Pylades insists on dying with them. He proposes that they first kill Helen, both to punish Menelaus and to win the Greeks' gratitude. Electra adds that they should seize Hermione as a hostage, so that Menelaus must save them or lose his daughter. They pray to the ghost of Agamemnon for help.

ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ὅδε σὸς σύγγονος ἕρπει
and indeed this-one your brother comes
ψήφῳ θανάτου κατακυρωθείς,
by-vote of-death condemned
ὅ τε πιστότατος πάντων Πυλάδης
the and most-faithful of-all Pylades

ἰσάδελφος ἀνήρ,
brother-like man
ἐξιθύνων νοσερὸν κῶλον,
guiding sick limb
ποδὶ κηδοσύνῳ παράσειρος.
with-foot caring trace-horse-like
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οἲ ’γώ· πρὸ τύμβου γάρ σ’ ὁρῶσ’ ἀναστένω,
ah I before tomb for you seeing I-groan
ἀδελφέ, καὶ πάροιθε νερτέρων πυρᾶς.
brother and before of-the-dead pyre
οἲ ’γὼ μάλ’ αὖθις· ὡς σ’ ἰδοῦσ’ ἐν ὄμμασι
ah I very again as you having-seen in eyes
πανυστάτην πρόσοψιν ἐξέστην φρενῶν.
last sight I-was-put-out of-wits
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐ σῖγ’ ἀφεῖσα τοὺς γυναικείους γόους
not in-silence having-let-go the womanly laments
στέρξεις τὰ κρανθέντ’; οἰκτρὰ μὲν τάδ’, ἀλλ’ ὅμως
will-you-acquiesce in-the decreed pitiful indeed these-things but nevertheless
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὶ πῶς σιωπῶ, φέγγος εἰσορᾶν θεοῦ
and how am-I-silent light to-see of-god
τόδ’ οὐκέθ’ ἡμῖν τοῖς ταλαιπώροις μέτα.
this no-longer to-us the wretched is-shared
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σὺ μή μ’ ἀπόκτειν’· ἅλις ἀπ’ Ἀργείας χερὸς
you not me kill enough from Argive hand
τέθνηχ’ ὁ τλήμων· τὰ δὲ παρόντ’ ἔα κακά.
am-dead the wretched the and present let-be evils
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ μέλεος ἥβης σῆς, Ὀρέστα, καὶ πότμου
O wretched of-youth your Orestes and of-fate
θανάτου τ’ ἀώρου. ζῆν ἐχρῆν σ’, ὅτ’ οὐκέτ’ εἶ.
of-death and untimely to-live it-was-right you when no-longer you-are

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μὴ πρὸς θεῶν μοι περιβάλῃς ἀνανδρίαν,
not by gods on-me put cowardice
εἰς δάκρυα πορθμεύουσ᾽ ὑπομνήσει κακῶν.
into tears ferrying by-reminder of-evils
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ θανούμεθ᾽· οὐχ οἷόν τε μὴ στένειν κακά.
we-shall-die not possible — not to-groan-at evils
πᾶσιν γὰρ οἰκτρὸν ἡ φίλη ψυχὴ βροτοῖς.
to-all for pitiful the dear life for-mortals
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τόδ᾽ ἦμαρ ἡμῖν κύριον· δεῖ δ᾽ ἢ βρόχους 1035
this day for-us appointed must and either nooses
ἅπτειν κρεμαστοὺς ἢ ξίφος θήγειν χερί.
to-fasten hanging or sword to-whet with-hand
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ σύ νύν μ᾽, ἀδελφέ, μή τις Ἀργείων κτάνῃ
you now me brother lest some of-Argives kill
ὕβρισμα θέμενος τὸν Ἀγαμέμνονος γόνον.
outrage having-made the of-Agamemnon offspring
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἅλις τὸ μητρὸς αἷμ᾽ ἔχω· σὲ δ᾽ οὐ κτενῶ,
enough the of-mother blood I-have you but not I-will-kill
ἀλλ᾽ αὐτόχειρι θνῇσχ᾽ ὅτῳ βούλει τρόπῳ. 1040
but by-own-hand die in-what you-wish way
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἔσται τάδ᾽· οὐδὲν σοῦ ξίφους λελείψομαι·
it-will-be these-things not-at-all of-your sword I-shall-be-left-behind
ἀλλ᾽ ἀμφιθεῖναι σῇ δέρῃ θέλω χέρας.
but to-put-around to-your neck I-wish arms
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τέρπου κενὴν ὄνησιν, εἰ τερπνὸν τόδε
enjoy empty benefit if pleasant this
θανάτου πέλας βεβῶσι, περιβαλεῖν χέρας.
of-death near for-those-having-come to-put-around arms

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ φίλτατ', ὦ ποθεινὸν ἥδιστόν τ' ἔχων
O dearest O longed-for most-sweet and having
τῆς σῆς ἀδελφῆς ὄνομα καὶ ψυχὴν μίαν.
of-the your of-sister name and soul one
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἔκ τοί με τήξεις· καί σ' ἀμείψασθαι θέλω
out surely me you-will-melt and you to-answer I-wish
φιλότητι χειρῶν. τί γὰρ ἔτ' αἰδοῦμαι τάλας;
with-affection of-arms why for still am-I-ashamed wretched
ὦ στέρν' ἀδελφῆς, ὦ φίλον πρόσπτυγμ' ἐμοί,
O breast of-sister O dear embrace to-me
τάδ' ἀντὶ παίδων καὶ γαμηλίου λέχους
these instead-of children and nuptial bed
προσφθέγματ' ἀμφὶ τοῖς ταλαιπώροις πάρα.
greetings for the wretched are-present
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ φεῦ·
alas
πῶς ἂν ξίφος νὼ ταὐτόν, εἰ θέμις, κτάνοι
how — sword us the-same if lawful might-kill
καὶ μνῆμα δέξαιθ' ἕν, κέδρου τεχνάσματα;
and tomb might-receive one of-cedar workmanship
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἥδιστ' ἂν εἴη ταῦθ'· ὁρᾷς δὲ δὴ φίλων
sweetest — would-be these-things you-see but indeed of-friends
ὡς ἐσπανίσμεθ', ὥστε κοινωνεῖν τάφου.
how we-are-bereft so-that to-share tomb
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐδ' εἶφ' ὑπὲρ σοῦ, μὴ θάνοις σπουδὴν ἔχων,
not-even said on-behalf-of you not you-should-die eagerness having
Μενέλαος ὁ κακός, ὁ προδότης τοὐμοῦ πατρός;
Menelaus the base the betrayer of-my father

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐδ' ὄμμ' ἔδειξεν, ἀλλ' ἐπὶ σκήπτροις ἔχων
nor eye showed but on scepters having
τὴν ἐλπίδ', ηὐλαβεῖτο μὴ σώζειν φίλους.
the hope he-was-cautious not to-save friends
ἀλλ' εἶ', ὅπως γενναῖα καὐγαμέμνονος
but come how nobly and-of-Agamemnon
δράσαντε καθανούμεθ' ἀξιώτατα.
having-acted-both we-shall-die most-worthily
κἀγὼ μὲν εὐγένειαν ἀποδείξω πόλει,
and-I indeed nobility will-show to-city
παίσας πρὸς ἧπαρ φασγάνῳ· σὲ δ' αὖ χρεὼν
having-struck to liver with-sword you but again must
ὅμοια πράσσειν τοῖς ἐμοῖς τολμήμασι.
like to-do to-the my daring-deeds
Πυλάδη, σὺ δ' ἡμῖν τοῦ φόνου γενοῦ βραβεύς,
Pylades you and for-us of-the murder be umpire
καὶ κατθανόντοιν εὖ περίστειλον δέμας
and of-us-two-dead well lay-out body
θάψον τε κοινῇ πρὸς πατρὸς τύμβον φέρων.
bury and in-common to of-father tomb bearing
καὶ χαῖρ'· ἐπ' ἔργον δ', ὡς ὁρᾷς, πορεύομαι.
and farewell to deed but as you-see I-go
ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἐπίσχες. ἓν μὲν πρῶτά σοι μομφὴν ἔχω,
stop one-thing indeed first to-you blame I-have
εἰ ζῆν με χρῄζειν σοῦ θανόντος ἤλπισας.
if to-live me to-want you having-died you-hoped
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί γὰρ προσήκει κατθανεῖν σ' ἐμοῦ μέτα;
why for befits to-die you me with
ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἦρου; τί δὲ ζῆν σῆς ἑταιρίας ἄτερ;
you-ask why but to-live of-your comradeship without

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκ ἔκτανες σὴν μητέρ', ὡς ἐγὼ τάλας.
not you-killed your mother as I wretched

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ σὺν σοί γε κοινῇ· ταὐτὰ καὶ πάσχειν με δεῖ.
with you at-least in-common the-same-things also to-suffer me must

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἀπόδος τὸ σῶμα πατρί, μὴ σύνθνῃσκέ μοι.
give-back the body to-father not die-with me

σοὶ μὲν γὰρ ἔστι πόλις, ἐμοὶ δ' οὐκ ἔστι δή,
to-you indeed for is city to-me but not is indeed

καὶ δῶμα πατρὸς καὶ μέγας πλούτου λιμήν.
and house of-father and great of-wealth harbor

γάμων δὲ τῆς μὲν δυσπότμου τῆσδ' ἐσφάλης,
of-marriage and of-the indeed unfortunate of-this you-failed

ἣν σοι κατηγγύησ', ἑταιρίαν σέβων·
whom to-you I-betrothed comradeship revering

σὺ δ' ἄλλο λέκτρον παιδοποίησαι λαβών,
you and another bed beget-children having-taken

κῆδος δὲ τοὐμὸν καὶ σὸν οὐκέτ' ἔστι δή.
kinship and my and your no-longer is indeed

ἀλλ' ὦ ποθεινὸν ὄνομ' ὁμιλίας ἐμῆς,
but O longed-for name of-companionship my

χαῖρ'· οὐ γὰρ ἡμῖν ἔστι τοῦτο, σοί γε μήν·
farewell not for to-us is this to-you at-least indeed

οἱ γὰρ θανόντες χαρμάτων τητώμεθα.
the for dead of-joys we-are-bereft

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἦ πολὺ λέλειψαι τῶν ἐμῶν βουλευμάτων.
surely much you-fall-short of-the my plans

μήθ' αἷμά μου δέξαιτο κάρπιμον πέδον,
neither blood my may-receive fruitful plain

μὴ λαμπρὸς αἰθήρ, εἴ σ' ἐγὼ προδούς ποτε
nor bright air if you I having-betrayed ever

ἐλευθερώσας τοὐμὸν ἀπολίποιμι σέ.
having-freed my-own should-abandon you

καὶ συγκατέκτανον γάρ, οὐκ ἀρνήσομαι,
and I-helped-kill for not I-will-deny

καὶ πάντ' ἐβούλευσ' ὧν σὺ νῦν τίνεις δίκας· 1090
and all I-planned for-which you now pay penalties

καὶ ξυνθανεῖν οὖν δεῖ με σοὶ καὶ τῇδ' ὁμοῦ.
and to-die-with then must me with-you and with-her together

ἐμὴν γὰρ αὐτήν, ἧς λέχος κατήνεσας,
mine for her whose bed you-approved

κρίνω δάμαρτα· τί γὰρ ἐρῶ καλόν ποτε
I-judge wife what for shall-I-say fine ever

γῆν Δελφίδ' ἐλθὼν Φωκέων ἀκρόπτολιν,
land Delphian having-come of-Phocians citadel

ὃς πρὶν μὲν ὑμᾶς δυστυχεῖν φίλος παρῆ, 1095
who before indeed you to-be-unfortunate friend was-present

νῦν δ' οὐκέτ' εἰμὶ δυστυχοῦντί σοι φίλος;
now but no-longer am to-unfortunate to-you friend

οὐκ ἔστιν, ἀλλὰ ταῦτα μὲν κἀμοὶ μέλει.
not it-is but these-things indeed and-to-me are-a-care

ἐπεὶ δὲ κατθανούμεθ', εἰς κοινοὺς λόγους
since and we-shall-die to common words

ἔλθωμεν, ὡς ἂν Μενέλεως ξυνδυστυχῇ.
let-us-come so-that — Menelaus may-share-misfortune

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ φίλτατ', εἰ γὰρ τοῦτο κατθάνοιμ' ἰδών. 1100
O dearest if for this I-might-die having-seen

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ πιθοῦ νυν, ἀνάμεινον δὲ φασγάνου τομάς.
obey now wait and of-sword strokes

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μενῶ, τὸν ἐχθρὸν εἴ τι τιμωρήσομαι.
I-will-wait the enemy if somehow I-shall-take-revenge

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ σίγα νυν· ὡς γυναιξὶ πιστεύω βραχύ.
hush now since to-women I-trust little

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μηδὲν τρέσῃς τάσδ'· ὡς πάρεισ' ἡμῖν φίλαι.
nothing fear these since are-present to-us friends

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ Ἑλένην κτάνωμεν, Μενέλεῳ λύπην πικράν.
Helen let-us-kill for-Menelaus grief bitter

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πῶς; τὸ γὰρ ἕτοιμον ἔστιν, εἴ γ' ἔσται καλῶς.
how the for ready is if at-least it-will-be well

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ σφάξαντες. ἐν δόμοις δὲ κρύπτεται σέθεν.
having-slaughtered in house and is-hidden of-you

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μάλιστα· καὶ δὴ πάντ' ἀποσφραγίζεται.
indeed and indeed all is-sealing

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἀλλ' οὐκέθ', Ἅιδην νυμφίον κεκτημένη.
but no-longer Hades as-bridegroom having

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καὶ πῶς; ἔχει γὰρ βαρβάρους ὀπάονας.
and how she-has for barbarian attendants

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ τίνας; Φρυγῶν γὰρ οὐδέν' ἂν τρέσαιμ' ἐγώ.
whom of-Phrygians for none — I-would-fear I

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οἵους ἐνόπτρων καὶ μύρων ἐπιστάτας.
such-as of-mirrors and of-perfumes overseers

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ τρυφὰς γὰρ ἥκει δεῦρ' ἔχουσα Τρωικάς;
luxuries for she-has-come here having Trojan

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὥσθ' Ἑλλὰς αὐτῇ σμικρὸν οἰκητήριον.
so-that Hellas to-her small dwelling

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ οὐδὲν τὸ δοῦλον πρὸς τὸ μὴ δοῦλον γένος.
nothing the slave to the not slave race

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καὶ μὴν τόδ' ἔρξας δὶς θανεῖν οὐχ ἅζομαι.
and indeed this having-done twice to-die not I-shrink

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἐγὼ μήν, σοί γε τιμωρούμενος.
but not-even I indeed for-you at-least avenging

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τὸ πρᾶγμα δήλου καὶ πέραιν', ὅπως λέγεις.
the matter make-clear and accomplish as you-say

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ εἴσιμεν ἐς οἴκους δῆθεν, ὡς θανούμενοι.
we-shall-go into house forsooth as about-to-die

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἔχω τοσοῦτον, τἀπίλοιπα δ' οὐκ ἔχω. 1120
I-have so-much the-rest but not I-have

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ γόους πρὸς αὐτὴν θησόμεσθ' ἃ πάσχομεν.
laments to her we-shall-make what we-suffer

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὥστ' ἐκδακρῦσαί γ' ἔνδοθεν κεχαρμένην.
so-that to-burst-into-tears at-least within rejoicing

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ καὶ νῷν παρέσται ταὔθ' ἅπερ κείνῃ τότε.
and to-us-two will-be-present the-same-things which-very to-her then

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἔπειτ' ἀγῶνα πῶς ἀγωνιούμεθα;
then contest how shall-we-contest

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ κρύπτ' ἐν πέπλοισι τοισίδ' ἔξομεν ξίφη. 1125
hidden in robes these we-shall-have swords

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πρόσθεν δ' ὀπαδῶν τίς ὄλεθρος γενήσεται;
before and of-attendants what destruction will-be

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἐκκλῄσομεν σφᾶς ἄλλον ἄλλοσε στέγης.
we-shall-shut-out them other elsewhere of-house

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καὶ τόν γε μὴ σιγῶντ' ἀποκτείνειν χρεών.
and the at-least not keeping-silent to-kill must

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ εἶτ' αὐτὸ δηλοῖ τοὔργον οἷ τείνειν χρεών.
then itself shows the-deed where to-tend must

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ Ἑλένην φονεύειν· μανθάνω τὸ σύμβολον. 1130
Helen to-murder I-understand the token

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἔγνως· ἄκουσον δ' ὡς καλῶς βουλεύομαι.
you-know hear and how well I-plan

εἰ μὲν γὰρ εἰς γυναῖκα σωφρονεστέραν
if indeed for against woman more-chaste

ξίφος μεθεῖμεν, δυσκλεὴς ἂν ἦν φόνος·
sword we-let-go infamous — would-be murder
νῦν δ' ὑπὲρ ἁπάσης Ἑλλάδος δώσει δίκην,
now but on-behalf-of all Hellas she-will-give penalty
ὧν πατέρας ἔκτειν', ὧν τ' ἀπώλεσεν τέκνα,
whose fathers she-killed whose and destroyed children
νύμφας τ' ἔθηκεν ὀρφανὰς ξυναόρων.
brides and made orphaned of-husbands
ὀλολυγμὸς ἔσται, πῦρ τ' ἀνάψουσιν θεοῖς,
cry-of-joy will-be fire and they-will-kindle to-gods
σοὶ πολλὰ κἀμοὶ κέδν' ἀρώμενοι τυχεῖν,
for-you many-things and-for-me good praying to-befall
κακῆς γυναικὸς οὕνεχ' αἷμ' ἐπράξαμεν.
of-evil woman because blood we-exacted
ὁ μητροφόντης δ' οὐ καλεῖ ταύτην κτανών,
the mother-killer and not you-will-be-called this-one having-killed
ἀλλ' ἀπολιπὼν τοῦτ' ἐπὶ τὸ βέλτιον πεσεῖ,
but having-left this to the better you-will-fall
Ἑλένης λεγόμενος τῆς πολυκτόνου φονεύς.
of-Helen called the much-slaying slayer
οὐ δεῖ ποτ' οὐ δεῖ Μενέλεων μὲν εὐτυχεῖν,
not must ever not must Menelaus indeed to-prosper
τὸν σὸν δὲ πατέρα καὶ σὲ κἀδελφὴν θανεῖν,
the your but father and you and-sister to-die
μητέρα τ', ἐὼ τοῦτ', οὐ γὰρ εὐπρεπὲς λέγειν,
mother and I-pass-over this not for seemly to-say
δόμους τ' ἔχειν σούς, δι' Ἀγαμέμνονος δόρυ
house and to-have your through of-Agamemnon spear
λαβόντα νύμφην· μὴ γὰρ οὖν ζῴην ἔτι,
having-taken bride not for then may-I-live still

ἢν μὴ ’π’ ἐκείνῃ φάσγανον σπασώμεθα.
if not on her sword we-draw
ἢν δ’ οὖν τὸν Ἑλένης μὴ κατάσχωμεν φόνον,
if but then the of-Helen not we-accomplish murder
πρήσαντες οἴκους τούσδε κατθανούμεθα.
having-burned house this we-shall-die
ἑνὸς γὰρ οὐ σφαλέντες ἕξομεν κλέος,
of-one for not failing we-shall-have fame
καλῶς θανόντες ἢ καλῶς σεσωσμένοι.
nobly having-died or nobly saved
ΧΟΡΟΣ πάσαις γυναιξὶν ἀξία στυγεῖν ἔφυ
to-all women worthy to-hate is
ἡ Τυνδαρὶς παῖς, ἣ κατῄσχυνεν γένος.
the Tyndarean child who disgraced race
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ φεῦ·
alas
οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδὲν κρεῖσσον ἢ φίλος σαφής,
not is nothing better than friend sure
οὐ πλοῦτος, οὐ τυραννίς· ἀλόγιστον δέ τι
not wealth not tyranny foolish and something
τὸ πλῆθος ἀντάλλαγμα γενναίου φίλου.
the multitude exchange of-noble friend
σὺ γὰρ τά τ’ εἰς Αἴγισθον ἐξηῦρες κακά,
you for the and against Aegisthus devised evils
καὶ πλησίον παρῆσθα κινδύνων ἐμοί,
and near were-present of-dangers to-me
νῦν τ’ αὖ δίδως μοι πολεμίων τιμωρίαν
now and again you-give to-me of-enemies vengeance
κοὐκ ἐκποδὼν εἶ. παύσομαί σ’ αἰνῶν, ἐπεὶ
and-not out-of-the-way you-are I-will-stop you praising since

βάρος τι κἀν τῷδ' ἐστίν, αἰνεῖσθαι λίαν.
burden something even-in this is to-be-praised too-much
ἐγὼ δὲ πάντως ἐκπνέων ψυχὴν ἐμὴν
I but in-every-way breathing-out life my
δράσας τι χρῄζω τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἐχθροὺς θανεῖν,
having-done something I-want the my enemies to-die
ἵν' ἀνταναλώσω μὲν οἵ με προὔδοσαν,
so-that I-may-destroy-in-return indeed who me betrayed
στένωσι δ' οἵπερ κἄμ' ἔθηκαν ἄθλιον.
may-groan and who-indeed and-me made wretched
Ἀγαμέμνονός τοι παῖς πέφυχ', ὃς Ἑλλάδος
of-Agamemnon surely son am who of-Hellas
ἦρξ' ἀξιωθείς, οὐ τύραννος ἀλλ' ὅμως
ruled deemed-worthy not tyrant but nevertheless
ῥώμην θεοῦ τιν' ἔσχ'· ὃν οὐ καταισχυνῶ
might of-god some had whom not I-will-disgrace
δοῦλον παρασχὼν θάνατον, ἀλλ' ἐλευθέρως
slavish displaying death but freely
ψυχὴν ἀφήσω, Μενέλεων δὲ τίσομαι.
life I-will-let-go Menelaus but I-will-punish
ἑνὸς γὰρ εἰ λαβοίμεθ', εὐτυχοῖμεν ἄν,
of-one for if we-should-get-hold we-would-prosper —
εἴ ποθεν ἄελπτος παραπέσοι σωτηρία
if from-somewhere unexpected should-fall-in-our-way safety
κτανοῦσι μὴ θανοῦσιν· εὔχομαι τάδε.
for-having-killed not having-died I-pray these-things
ὃ βούλομαι γάρ, ἡδὺ καὶ διὰ στόμα,
what I-wish for sweet even through mouth
πτηνοῖσι μύθοις ἀδαπάνως τέρψαι φρένα.
with-winged words costlessly to-delight mind

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐγώ, κασίγνητ', αὐτὸ τοῦτ' ἔχειν δοκῶ,
I brother this very-thing to-have think
σωτηρίαν σοὶ τῷδέ τ' ἐκ τρίτων τ' ἐμοί.
safety for-you for-this-one and in third and for-me
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ θεοῦ λέγεις πρόνοιαν. ἀλλὰ ποῦ τόδε;
of-god you-mean forethought but where this
ἐπεὶ τὸ συνετόν γ' οἶδα σῇ ψυχῇ παρόν.
since the intelligent at-least I-know in-your mind present
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἄκουε δή νυν· καὶ σὺ δεῦρο νοῦν ἔχε.
hear indeed now and you here mind have
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ λέγ'· ὡς τὸ μέλλειν ἀγάθ' ἔχει τιν' ἡδονήν.
speak since the to-delay good-things has some pleasure
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ Ἑλένης κάτοισθα θυγατέρ'; εἰδότ' ἠρόμην.
of-Helen you-know daughter knowing I-asked
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οἶδ', ἣν ἔθρεψεν Ἑρμιόνην μήτηρ ἐμή.
I-know whom reared Hermione mother my
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ αὕτη βέβηκε πρὸς Κλυταιμνήστρας τάφον.
she has-gone to of-Clytemnestra tomb
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί χρῆμα δράσουσ'; ὑποτίθης τίν' ἐλπίδα;
what thing to-do do-you-suggest what hope
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ χοὰς κατασπείσουσ' ὑπὲρ μητρὸς τάφου.
libations to-pour for mother's tomb
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καὶ δὴ τί μοι τοῦτ' εἶπας εἰς σωτηρίαν;
and indeed what to-me this you-said for safety
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ συλλάβεθ' ὅμηρον τήνδ', ὅταν στείχῃ πάλιν.
seize hostage her when she-comes back
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τίνος τόδ' εἶπας φάρμακον τρισσοῖς φίλοις;
of-what this you-said remedy for-three friends

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ Ἑλένης θανούσης, ἤν τι Μενέλεώς σε δρᾷ
of-Helen having-died if anything Menelaus you does
ἢ τόνδε κἀμέ, πᾶν γὰρ ἓν φίλον τόδε,
or this-one and-me all for one dear this
λέγ' ὡς φονεύσεις Ἑρμιόνην· ξίφος δὲ χρὴ
say that you-will-kill Hermione sword and must
δέρῃ πρὸς αὐτῇ παρθένου σπάσαντ' ἔχειν.
neck at very of-maiden having-drawn to-hold
κἂν μέν σε σῴζῃ μὴ θανεῖν χρῄζων κόρην
and-if indeed you he-saves not to-die wanting girl
Μενέλαος, Ἑλένης πτῶμ' ἰδὼν ἐν αἵματι,
Menelaus of-Helen corpse having-seen in blood
μέθες πεπᾶσθαι πατρὶ παρθένου δέμας·
let-go to-be-recovered to-father of-maiden body
ἢν δ' ὀξυθύμου μὴ κρατῶν φρονήματος
if but of-hot-tempered not mastering mind
κτείνῃ σε, καὶ σὺ σφάζε παρθένου δέρην.
he-kills you and you slaughter of-maiden throat
καί νιν δοκῶ, τὸ πρῶτον ἢν πολὺς παρῇ,
and him I-think the first if much he-be-present
χρόνῳ μαλάξειν σπλάγχνον· οὔτε γὰρ θρασὺς
in-time to-soften heart neither for bold
οὔτ' ἄλκιμος πέφυκε. τήνδ' ἡμῖν ἔχω
nor valiant is this for-us I-have
σωτηρίας ἔπαλξιν. εἴρηται λόγος.
of-safety bulwark is-spoken word
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ τὰς φρένας μὲν ἄρσενας κεκτημένη,
O the mind indeed male possessing
τὸ σῶμα δ' ἐν γυναιξὶ θηλείαις πρέπον,
the body but among women female fitting

ὡς ἀξία ζῆν μᾶλλον ἢ θανεῖν ἔφυς.
how worthy to-live rather than to-die you-are
Πυλάδη, τοιαύτης ἆρ' ἁμαρτήσει τάλας
Pylades of-such then you-will-be-deprived wretched
γυναικὸς ἢ ζῶν μακάριον κτήσει λέχος.
woman or living blessed you-will-get bed
ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ εἰ γὰρ γένοιτο, Φωκέων δ' ἔλθοι πόλιν
would-that — it-might-be of-Phocians and she-might-come city
καλοῖσιν ὑμεναίοισιν ἀξιουμένη.
with-fair wedding-songs being-deemed-worthy
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἥξει δ' ἐς οἴκους Ἑρμιόνη τίνος χρόνου;
will-come and to house Hermione at-what time
ὡς τἄλλα γ' εἶπας, εἴπερ εὐτυχήσομεν,
since the-rest at-least you-said if-indeed we-shall-prosper
κάλλιστθ', ἑλόντες σκύμνον ἀνοσίου πατρός.
most-finely having-caught whelp of-unholy father
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ καὶ δὴ πέλας νιν δωμάτων εἶναι δοκῶ·
and indeed near her of-house to-be I-think
τοῦ γὰρ χρόνου τὸ μῆκος αὐτὸ συντρέχει.
of-the for time the length itself coincides
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καλῶς· σὺ μὲν νῦν, σύγγον' Ἠλέκτρα, δόμων
well you indeed now sister Electra of-house
πάρος μένουσα παρθένου δέχου πόδα·
before waiting of-maiden receive foot
φύλασσε δ' ἤν τις, πρὶν τελευτηθῇ φόνος,
watch and if anyone before is-accomplished murder
ἢ ξύμμαχός τις ἢ κασίγνητος πατρός,
or ally anyone or brother of-father
ἐλθὼν ἐς οἴκους φθῇ, γέγωνέ τ' εἰς δόμους,
having-come into house anticipate shout and into house

ἢ σανίδα παίσασ' ἢ λόγους πέμψασ' ἔσω.
either door having-struck or words having-sent within
ἡμεῖς δ' ἔσω στείχοντες ἐπὶ τὸν ἔσχατον
we and within going for the last
ἀγῶν' ὁπλιζώμεσθα φασγάνῳ χέρας,
contest let-us-arm with-sword hands
Πυλάδη· σὺ γὰρ δὴ συμπονεῖς ἐμοὶ πόνους.
Pylades you for indeed share-toil with-me toils
ὦ δῶμα ναίων νυκτὸς ὀρφναίας πάτερ,
O house dwelling of-night dark father
καλεῖ σ' Ὀρέστης παῖς σὸς ἐπίκουρον μολεῖν
calls you Orestes son your helper to-come
τοῖς δεομένοισι. διὰ σὲ γὰρ πάσχω τάλας
to-the needing because-of you for I-suffer wretched
ἀδίκως· προδέδομαι δ' ὑπὸ κασιγνήτου σέθεν,
unjustly I-am-betrayed and by brother of-you
δίκαια πράξας· οὗ θέλω δάμαρθ' ἑλὼν
just-things having-done whose I-wish wife having-caught
κτεῖναι· σὺ δ' ἡμῖν τοῦδε συλλήπτωρ γενοῦ
to-kill you and for-us of-this helper be
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ πάτερ, ἵκοῦ δῆτ', εἰ κλύεις εἴσω χθονὸς
O father come then if you-hear within earth
τέκνων καλούντων, οἳ σέθεν θνήσκουσ' ὕπερ.
children calling who you die for
ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ὦ συγγένεια πατρὸς ἐμοῦ, κἀμὰς λιτάς,
O kinship of-father my and-my prayers
Ἀγάμεμνον, εἰσάκουσον, ἔκσωσον τέκνα.
Agamemnon hear save children
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἔκτεινα μητέρ', ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ ἡψάμην δ' ἐγὼ ξίφους.
I-killed mother I-grasped and I sword

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐγὼ δ' ἐπενεκέλευσα κἀπέλυσ' ὄκνου.
I and urged-on and-released from-hesitation

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σοί, πάτερ, ἀρήγων. ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐδ' ἐγὼ προὔδωκά σε.
to-you father helping nor I betrayed you

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ οὔκουν ὀνείδη τάδε κλύων ῥύσει τέκνα;
not-then reproaches these hearing will-you-rescue children

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ δακρύοις κατασπένδω σ'. ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἐγὼ δ' οἰκτοισί γε.
with-tears I-pour-libation-to you I and with-laments at-least

ΠΥΛΑΔΗΣ παύσασθε, καὶ πρὸς ἔργον ἐξορμώμεθα. 1240
cease and to deed let-us-set-out

εἴπερ γὰρ εἴσω γῆς ἀκοντίζουσ' ἀραί,
if-indeed for within earth shooting curses

κλύει. σὺ δ', ὦ Ζεῦ πρόγονε καὶ Δίκης σέβας,
it-hears you and O Zeus ancestor and of-Justice majesty

δότ' εὐτυχῆσαι τῷδ' ἐμοί τε τῇδέ τε·
grant to-prosper to-this-one to-me and to-her and

τρισσοῖς φίλοις γὰρ εἷς ἀγών, δίκη μία,
for-three friends for one contest justice one

ἢ ζῆν ἅπασιν ἢ θανεῖν ὀφείλεται. 1245
either to-live for-all or to-die is-owed

Electra sets the chorus to watch the roads on either side of the house, so that no Argive surprises the men inside.

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ Μυκηνίδες ὦ φίλιαι,
Mycenaean O dear
τὰ πρῶτα κατὰ Πελασγὸν ἕδος Ἀργείων.
the first in Pelasgian seat of-Argives
ΧΟΡΟΣ τίνα θροεῖς αὐδάν, πότνια; παραμένει
what do-you-utter cry lady remains
γὰρ ἔτι σοι τόδ' ἐν Δαναϊδῶν πόλει.
for still to-you this in of-Danaans city
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ στῆθ' αἱ μὲν ὑμῶν τόνδ' ἁμαξήρη τρίβον,
stand some indeed of-you this wagon-worn path
αἱ δ' ἐνθάδ' ἄλλον οἶμον εἰς φρουρὰν δόμων.
others and here other way for guard of-house
ΧΟΡΟΣ τί δέ με τόδε χρέος ἀπύεις,
why and me this need do-you-call
ἔννεπέ μοι, φίλα.
speak to-me dear
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ φόβος ἔχει με μή τις ἐπὶ δώμασι
fear holds me lest someone at house
σταθεὶς ἐπὶ φοίνιον αἷμα
standing for bloody blood
πήματα πήμασιν ἐξεύρῃ.
woes for-woes find

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ χωρεῖτ', ἐπειγώμεσθ'· ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν τρίβον
go let-us-hurry I indeed then path
τόνδ' ἐκφυλάξω, τὸν πρὸς ἡλίου βολάς.
this will-guard the toward of-sun beams
καὶ μὴν ἐγὼ τόνδ', ὃς πρὸς ἑσπέραν φέρει. 1260
and indeed I this-one which toward west leads
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ δόχμιά νυν κόρας διάφερ' ὀμμάτων.
sideways now pupils turn of-eyes
ἐκεῖθεν ἐνθάδ', εἶτα παλινσκοπιάν.
from-there here then look-back
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ ἔχομεν ὡς θροεῖς. 1265
we-have as you-say
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἑλίσσετέ νυν βλέφαρον,
turn now eyelid
κόρας διάδοτε διὰ βοστρύχων πάντῃ.
pupils pass through curls everywhere
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ ὅδε τίς ἐν τρίβῳ; πρόσεχε, τίς ὅδ' ἄρ' ἀμ-
this-one who on path watch who this-one then around
φὶ μέλαθρον πολεῖ σὸν ἀγρότας ἀνήρ; 1270
— house roams your country man
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἀπωλόμεσθ' ἄρ', ὦ φίλαι· κεκρυμμένους
we-are-lost then O friends hidden
θῆρας ξιφήρεις αὐτίκ' ἐχθροῖσιν φανεῖ.
beasts sword-bearing at-once to-enemies he-will-reveal
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ ἄφοβος ἔχε· κενός, ὦ φίλα,
fearless be empty O dear
στίβος ὃν οὐ δοκεῖς.
path which not you-think

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τί δέ; τὸ σὸν βέβαιον ἔτι μοι μένει;
what and the your sure still to-me remains
δὸς ἀγγελίαν ἀγαθάν τιν',
give message good some
εἰ τάδ' ἔρημα τὰ πρόσθ' αὐλᾶς.
if these desolate the before of-court
ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ καλῶς τά γ' ἐνθένδ'· ἀλλὰ τἀπὶ σοῦ σκόπει·
well the at-least from-here but the-things-on your look
ὡς οὔτις ἡμῖν Δαναϊδῶν πελάζεται.
since no-one to-us of-Danaans approaches
εἰς ταὐτὸν ἥκεις· καὶ γὰρ οὐδὲ τῇδ' ὄχλος.
to the-same you-come and for not-even here crowd
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ φέρε νυν ἐν πύλαισιν ἀκοὰν βάλω·
come now at gates hearing let-me-cast
τί μέλλεθ' οἱ κατ' οἶκον ἐν ἡσυχίᾳ
why do-you-delay the in house in quiet
σφάγια φοινίσσειν;
victims to-bloody

XI · HERMIONE IS TAKEN

Helen's cries are heard within. Hermione comes back from the tomb, and Electra persuades her to go in and plead for them; inside, Orestes seizes her.

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ οὐκ εἰσακούουσ'· ὦ τάλαιν' ἐγὼ κακῶν.
not they-hear O wretched I of-evils
ἆρ' εἰς τὸ κάλλος ἐκκεκώφηται ξίφη;
— at the beauty have-been-struck-dumb swords
τάχα τις Ἀργείων ἔνοπλος ὁρμήσας
soon some of-Argives armed having-rushed

ποδὶ βοηδρόμῳ μέλαθρα προσμίξει.
with-foot running-to-help house will-attack

σκέψασθέ νυν ἄμεινον· οὐχ ἕδρας ἀκμή·
look now better not of-sitting moment

ἀλλ' αἱ μὲν ἐνθάδ', αἱ δ' ἐκεῖσ' ἑλίσσετε.
but some indeed here others and there turn

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀμείβω κέλευθον σκοποῦσα πάντᾳ.
I-change path looking everywhere

ΕΛΕΝΗ ἰὼ Πελασγὸν Ἄργος, ὄλλυμαι κακῶς.
oh Pelasgian Argos I-perish wretchedly

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝ ἠκούσαθ'; ἄνδρες χεῖρ' ἔχουσιν ἐν φόνῳ.
did-you-hear the-men hand have in murder

Ἑλένης τὸ κώκυμ' ἐστίν, ὡς ἀπεικάσαι.
of-Helen the shriek is as to-guess

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ Διός, ὦ Διὸς ἀέναον κράτος,
O of-Zeus O of-Zeus everlasting might

ἔλθ' ἐπίκουρον ἐμοῖσι φίλοισι πάντως.
come helper to-my to-friends by-all-means

ΕΛΕΝΗ Μενέλαε, θνῄσκω· σὺ δὲ παρών μ' οὐκ ὠφελεῖς.
Menelaus I-die you but being-present me not help

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ φονεύετε καίνετε ὄλλυτε,
slay kill destroy

δίπτυχα δίστομα φάσγανα πέμπετε
double two-edged swords send

ἐκ χερὸς ἱέμενοι
from hand hurling

τὰν λιποπάτορα λιπόγαμόν θ', ἃ πλείστους
the father-deserting husband-deserting and who most

ἔκανεν Ἑλλάνων
killed of-Greeks

δορὶ παρὰ ποταμὸν ὀλομένους, ὅθι
by-spear by river having-perished where
δάκρυα δάκρυσι συνέπεσε σιδαρέοις
tears to-tears fell with-iron
βέλεσιν ἀμφὶ τὰς Σκαμάνδρου δίνας.
shafts about the of-Scamander eddies
ΧΟΡΟΣ σιγᾶτε σιγᾶτ'· ἠσθόμην κτύπου τινὸς
be-silent be-silent I-perceived of-noise some
κέλευθον εἰσπεσόντος ἀμφὶ δώματα.
path having-fallen-into about house
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ φίλταται γυναῖκες, εἰς μέσον φόνον
O dearest women into middle murder
ἥδ' Ἑρμιόνη πάρεστι· παύσωμεν βοήν.
this Hermione is-present let-us-stop shout
στείχει γὰρ εἰσπεσοῦσα δικτύων βρόχους.
she-comes for having-fallen-into of-nets nooses
καλὸν τὸ θήραμ', ἢν ἁλῷ, γενήσεται.
fine the prey if she-is-caught will-be
πάλιν κατάστηθ' ἡσύχῳ μὲν ὄμματι,
back stand with-quiet indeed with-eye
χρόᾳ δ' ἀδήλῳ τῶν δεδραμένων πέρι·
with-color and with-unrevealing of-the done about
κἀγὼ σκυθρωποὺς ὀμμάτων ἔξω κόρας,
and-I gloomy of-eyes will-have pupils
ὡς δῆθεν οὐκ εἰδυῖα τἀξειργασμένα.
as forsooth not knowing the-deeds-done
ὦ παρθέν', ἥκεις τὸν Κλυταιμνήστρας τάφον
O maiden have-you-come the of-Clytemnestra tomb
στέψασα καὶ σπείσασα νερτέροις χοάς;
having-wreathed and having-poured for-the-dead libations

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ ἥκω, λαβοῦσα πρευμένειαν. ἀλλά μοι
I-come having-obtained favor but to-me
φόβος τις εἰσελήλυθ', ἥντιν' ἐν δόμοις
fear some has-entered which in house
τηλουρὸς οὖσα δωμάτων κλύω βοήν.
far being from-house I-hear cry

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τί δ'; ἄξι' ἡμῖν τυγχάνει στεναγμάτων.
what and worthy for-us happens of-groans

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ εὔφημος ἴσθι· τί δὲ νεώτερον λέγεις;
of-good-omen be what but newer do-you-say

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ θανεῖν Ὀρέστην κἄμ' ἔδοξε τῇδε γῇ.
to-die Orestes and-me it-was-decreed by-this land

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ μὴ δῆτ', ἐμούς γε συγγενεῖς πεφυκότας.
not indeed my at-least kindred being

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἄραρ'· ἀνάγκης εἰς ζυγὸν καθέσταμεν.
it-is-fixed of-necessity into yoke we-are-set

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ ἦ τοῦδ' ἕκατι καὶ βοὴ κατὰ στέγας;
— for-this for-the-sake also shout throughout house

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἱκέτης γὰρ Ἑλένης γόνασι προσπεσὼν βοᾷ —
suppliant for of-Helen at-knees having-fallen-before cries

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ τίς; οὐδὲν οἶδα μᾶλλον, ἢν σὺ μὴ λέγῃς.
who nothing I-know more if you not say

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ τλήμων Ὀρέστης μὴ θανεῖν, ἐμοῦ θ' ὕπερ.
wretched Orestes not to-die me and for

ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ ἐπ' ἀξίοισί τἄρ' ἀνευφημεῖ δόμος.
for worthy-things then cries-out house

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ περὶ τοῦ γὰρ ἄλλου μᾶλλον ἂν φθέγξαιτό τις;
about what for other more — would-utter anyone
ἀλλ' ἐλθὲ καὶ μετάσχες ἱκεσίας φίλοις,
but come and share-in supplication with-friends

σῇ μητρὶ προσπεσοῦσα τῇ μέγ' ὀλβίᾳ,
your at-mother having-fallen-before the greatly blessed
Μενέλαον ἡμᾶς μὴ θανόντας εἰσιδεῖν.
Menelaus us not dead to-see
ἀλλ', ὦ τραφεῖσα μητρὸς ἐν χεροῖν ἐμῆς,
but O having-been-reared of-mother in arms my
οἴκτειρον ἡμᾶς κἀπικούφισον κακῶν.
pity us and-relieve of-evils
ἴθ' εἰς ἀγῶνα δεῦρ', ἐγὼ δ' ἡγήσομαι·
go to contest here I and will-lead
σωτηρίας γὰρ τέρμ' ἔχεις ἡμῖν μόνη.
of-safety for end you-have for-us alone
ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ ἰδού, διώκω τὸν ἐμὸν εἰς δόμους πόδα.
see I-hasten the my into house foot
σώθηθ' ὅσον γε τοὐπ' ἔμ'. ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ὦ κατὰ στέγας
be-saved as-far at-least as-the-part-of me O in house
φίλοι ξιφήρεις, οὐχὶ συλλήψεσθ' ἄγραν;
friends sword-bearing not will-you-seize prey
ΕΡΜΙΟΝΗ οἵ 'γώ· τίνας τούσδ' εἰσορῶ; ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σιγᾶν χρεών·
ah I whom these do-I-see to-be-silent must
ἡμῖν γὰρ ἥκεις, οὐχὶ σοί, σωτηρία.
to-us for you-come not to-you safety
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΑ ἔχεσθ' ἔχεσθε· φάσγανον δὲ πρὸς δέρῃ
hold hold sword and to neck
βαλόντες ἡσυχάζεθ', ὡς εἰδῇ τόδε
having-put keep-quiet so-that may-know this
Μενέλαος, οὕνεκ' ἄνδρας, οὐ Φρύγας κακούς,
Menelaus that men not Phrygians base
εὑρὼν ἔπραξεν οἷα χρὴ πράσσειν κακούς.
having-found he-fared such-as must to-fare the-base

XII · THE CHORUS CRIES OUT

The chorus calls for noise to drown the cries from the house, so that no Argive comes to help before it has seen Helen lie dead or heard it from one of the servants, and it sings that the gods' justice has come upon her.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ ἰὼ φίλαι,
oh oh friends
κτύπον ἐγείρετε, κτύπον καὶ βοὰν
din raise din and cry
πρὸ μελάθρων, ὅπως ὁ πραχθεὶς φόνος
before house so-that the done murder
μὴ δεινὸν Ἀργείοισιν ἐμβάλῃ φόβον, 1355
not terrible on-Argives may-cast fear
βοηδρομῆσαι πρὸς δόμους τυραννικούς,
to-run-to-help to house royal
πρὶν ἐτύμως ἴδω τὸν Ἑλένας φόνον
before truly I-see the of-Helen murder
καθαιμακτὸν ἐν δόμοις κείμενον,
blood-stained in house lying
ἢ καὶ λόγον του προσπόλων πυθώμεθα·
or even word from-some of-attendants let-us-learn
τὰς μὲν γὰρ οἶδα συμφοράς, τὰς δ' οὐ σαφῶς. 1360
the indeed for I-know misfortunes the but not clearly
διὰ δίκας ἔβα θεῶν
through justice came of-gods
νέμεσις ἐς Ἑλέναν.
retribution on Helen
δακρύοισι γὰρ Ἑλλάδ' ἅπασαν ἔπλησε,
with-tears for Hellas all she-filled

διὰ τὸν ὀλόμενον ὀλόμενον Ἰδαῖον
on-account-of the destroyed destroyed Idaean
Πάριν, ὃς ἄγαγ' Ἑλλάδ' εἰς Ἴλιον.
Paris who led Hellas to Ilium
ἀλλὰ κτυπεῖ γὰρ κλῆθρα βασιλικῶν δόμων,
but rattle for bolts of-royal house
σιγήσατ'· ἔξω γάρ τις ἐκβαίνει Φρυγῶν,
be-silent out for someone comes of-Phrygians
οὗ πευσόμεσθα τἀν δόμοις ὅπως ἔχει.
from-whom we-shall-learn the-things-in house how they-are

XIII · THE PHRYGIAN SLAVE

A Phrygian slave of Helen's escapes from the house and sings what he saw: the two Greeks came as suppliants, led Helen away while Pylades shut up her slaves, and drew their swords on her; the slaves who broke out to help were routed by Pylades, and when Hermione entered they seized her too; but when they turned again to kill Helen, she vanished. Orestes comes out and questions him, and spares him as neither woman nor man; if Menelaus brings the Argives against the house, he warns, Menelaus will see two corpses, his wife and his daughter.

ΦΡΥΞ Ἀργεῖον ξίφος ἐκ θανάτου πέφευγα
Argive sword from death I-have-escaped
βαρβάροις εὐμάρισιν,
in-barbarian in-slippers
κεδρωτὰ παστάδων ὑπὲρ τέραμνα
cedar-roofed of-porches over beams
Δωρικάς τε τριγλύφους,
Doric and triglyphs
φροῦδα φροῦδα, γᾶ γᾶ,
gone gone earth earth

βαρβάροισι δρασμοῖς.
with-barbarian flights
αἰαῖ· πᾷ φύγω, ξέναι,
alas where may-I-flee strangers
πολιὸν αἰθέρ᾽ ἀμ-
gray air flying
πτάμενος ἢ πόντον, Ὠκεανὸς ὃν
— or sea Ocean which
ταυρόκρανος ἀγκάλαις ἑλίσ-
bull-headed with-arms coiling
σων κυκλοῖ χθόνα;
— encircles land
ΧΟΡΟΣ τί δ᾽ ἔστιν, Ἑλένης πρόσπολ᾽, Ἰδαῖον κάρα;
what and is-it of-Helen attendant Idaean head
ΦΡΥΞ Ἴλιον Ἴλιον, ὤμοι μοι, Φρύγιον
Ilium Ilium ah-me me Phrygian
ἄστυ καὶ καλλίβωλον Ἴ-
town and fair-soiled Ida
δας ὄρος ἱερόν, ὥς σ᾽ ὀλόμενον στένω,
— mountain holy how you destroyed I-lament
ἁρμάτειον ἁρμάτειον
of-chariot of-chariot
μέλος βαρβάρῳ βοᾷ, διὰ τὸ τᾶς
song with-barbarian cry on-account-of the of-the
ὀρνιθόγονον ὄμμα κυκνόπτερον
bird-born eye swan-winged
καλλοσύνας, Λήδας σκύμνου, δυσελένας,
of-beauty of-Leda whelp of-ill-Helen
ξεστῶν περγάμων Ἀπολλωνίων
of-polished towers Apollonian

ἐρινύν· ὀτοτοῖ·
fury ototoi

ἰαλέμων ἰαλέμων
of-dirges of-dirges

Δαρδανία τλάμων Γανυμήδεος
Dardanian wretched of-Ganymede

ἱπποσύνᾳ, Διὸς εὐνέτα.
for-horsemanship of-Zeus bedfellow

ΧΟΡΟΣ σαφῶς λέγ' ἡμῖν αὖθ' ἕκαστα τἀν δόμοις.
clearly tell to-us these each the-things-in house

τὰ γὰρ πρὶν οὐκ εὔγνωστα συμβαλοῦσ' ἔχω.
the for before not easy-to-know guessing I-have

ΦΡΥΞ αἴλινον αἴλινον ἀρχὰν θανάτου
ailinon ailinon beginning of-death

βάρβαροι λέγουσιν, αἰαῖ,
barbarians say alas

Ἀσιάδι φωνᾷ,
in-Asian in-voice

βασιλέων ὅταν αἷμα χυθῇ κατὰ γᾶν ξίφεσιν
of-kings when blood is-shed on earth by-swords

σιδαρέοισιν Ἄιδα.
iron of-Hades

ἦλθον δόμους, ἵν' αὖθ' ἕκαστά σοι λέγω,
they-came to-house that these each to-you I-may-tell

λέοντες Ἕλλανες δύο διδύμω·
lions Greek two twin

τῷ μὲν ὁ στρατηλάτας πατὴρ ἐκλῄζετο,
of-the indeed the general father was-called

ὁ δὲ παῖς Στροφίου, κακόμητις ἀνήρ,
the and son of-Strophius evil-scheming man

οἷος Ὀδυσσεύς, σιγᾷ δόλιος,
such-as Odysseus silent crafty
πιστὸς δὲ φίλοις, θρασὺς εἰς ἀλκάν,
faithful but to-friends bold for strength
ξυνετὸς πολέμου, φόνιός τε δράκων.
skilled of-war murderous and serpent
ἔρροι τᾶς ἡσύχου προνοί-
may-he-perish for-the quiet forethought
ας κακοῦργος ὤν.
— *evil-doer being*
οἳ δὲ πρὸς θρόνους ἔσω
they and to throne within
μολόντες ἃς ἔγημ' ὁ τοξότας Πάρις
having-gone of-whom married the archer Paris
γυναικός, ὄμμα δακρύοις
of-woman eyes with-tears
πεφυρμένοι, ταπεινοὶ
soiled humble
ἕζονθ', ὁ μὲν τὸ κεῖθεν, ὁ δὲ
sat the indeed the on-that-side the and
τὸ κεῖθεν, ἄλλος ἄλλοθεν πεφραγμένοι.
the on-that-side one from-elsewhere fenced
περὶ δὲ γόνυ χέρας ἱκεσίους
around and knee hands suppliant
ἔβαλον ἔβαλον Ἑλένας ἄμφω.
cast cast of-Helen both
ἀνὰ δὲ δρομάδες ἔθορον ἔθορον
up and running leapt leapt
ἀμφίπολοι Φρύγες·
attendants Phrygians

προσεῖπε δ' ἄλλος ἄλλον πεσὼν ἐν φόβῳ,
addressed and one another falling in fear
μή τις εἴη δόλος.
lest some may-be guile
καὐδόκει τοῖς μὲν οὔ,
and-it-seemed to-some indeed not
τοῖς δ' ἐς ἀρκυστάταν
to-others but into net-set
μηχανὰν ἐμπλέκειν
device to-entangle
παῖδα τὰν Τυνδαρίδ' ὁ
child the Tyndarean the
μητροφόντας δράκων.
mother-killing serpent
ΧΟΡΟΣ σὺ δ' ἦσθα ποῦ τότ'; ἢ πάλαι φεύγεις φόβῳ;
you and were where then or long-since do-you-flee from-fear
ΦΡΥΞ Φρυγίοις ἔτυχον Φρυγίοισι νόμοις
in-Phrygian I-happened in-Phrygian in-customs
παρὰ βόστρυχον αὔραν αὔραν
by curl breeze breeze
Ἑλένας Ἑλένας εὐπâγι κύκλῳ
of-Helen of-Helen with-well-fixed circle
πτερίνῳ πρὸ παρηίδος ᾄσσων
feathered before cheek darting
βαρβάροις νόμοισιν.
in-barbarian in-customs
ἃ δὲ λίνον ἠλακάτᾳ
she and flax with-distaff
δακτύλοις ἕλισσε,
with-fingers twisted

νῆμά θ' ἵετο πέδῳ,
thread and let-go to-ground
σκύλων Φρυγίων ἐπὶ τύμβον ἀγάλματα
of-spoils Phrygian on tomb offerings
συστολίσαι χρῄζουσα λίνῳ,
to-stitch wishing with-linen
φάρεα πορφύρεα, δῶρα Κλυταιμνήστρᾳ.
robes purple gifts for-Clytemnestra
προσεῖπεν δ' Ὀρέστας
addressed and Orestes
Λάκαιναν κόραν· ὦ
Laconian girl O
Διὸς παῖ, θὲς ἴχνος
of-Zeus child set foot
πέδῳ δεῦρ' ἀποστᾶσα κλισμοῦ,
on-ground here having-stood-away-from couch
Πέλοπος ἐπὶ προπάτορος
of-Pelops to ancestor
ἕδραν παλαιᾶς ἑστίας,
seat of-ancient hearth
ἵν' εἰδῇς λόγους ἐμούς.
so-that you-may-know words my
ἄγει δ' ἄγει νιν· ἃ δ' ἐφείπετ',
leads and leads her she and followed
οὐ πρόμαντις ὢν ἔμελλεν·
not foreseeing of-what was-about
ὁ δὲ συνεργὸς ἄλλ' ἔπρασσ'
he and accomplice other-things did
ἰὼν κακὸς Φωκεύς·
going base Phocian

οὐκ ἐκποδὼν ἴτ', ἀλλ' ἀεὶ κακοὶ Φρύγες;
not out-of-the-way go but always base Phrygians
ἔκλῃσε δ' ἄλλον ἄλλοσ' ἐν στέγαις·
he-shut and one elsewhere in house
τοὺς μὲν ἐν σταθμοῖσιν ἱππικοῖσι,
some indeed in stables horse
τοὺς δ' ἐν ἐξέδραισι, τοὺς δ' ἐκεῖσ' ἐκεῖθεν
others and in porticoes others and there from-there
ἄλλον ἄλλοσε διαρμόσας ἀποπρὸ δεσποίνας.
one elsewhere having-disposed away-from mistress
ΧΟΡΟΣ τί τοὐπὶ τῷδε συμφορᾶς ἐγίγνετο;
what the-next-upon this of-misfortune happened
ΦΡΥΞ Ἰδαία μᾶτερ μᾶτερ
Idaean mother mother
ὀβρίμα ὀβρίμα, αἰαῖ,
mighty mighty alas
φονίων παθέων ἀνόμων τε κακῶν
of-bloody sufferings lawless and of-evils
ἅπερ ἔδρακον ἔδρακον ἐν δόμοις τυράννων.
which I-saw I-saw in house of-kings
ἀμφὶ πορφυρέων πέπλων ὑπὸ σκότου
about purple robes from darkness
ξίφη σπάσαντες ἐν χεροῖν,
swords having-drawn in hands
ἄλλος ἄλλοσε
one elsewhere
δίνασεν ὄμμα, μή τις παρὼν τύχοι.
whirled eye lest anyone present might-be
ὡς κάπροι δ' ὀρέστεροι γυναικὸς ἀντίοι σταθέντες
like boars and mountain woman opposite having-stood

ἐννέπουσι· καθανεῖ
they-say you-will-die
καθανεῖ, κακός σ' ἀποκτείνει πόσις,
you-will-die evil you kills husband
κασιγνήτου προδοὺς
of-brother having-betrayed
ἐν Ἄργει θανεῖν γόνον.
in Argos to-die son
ἃ δ' ἀνίαχεν ἴαχεν, ὤμοι μοι· 1465
she and shrieked shrieked ah-me me
λευκὸν δ' ἐμβαλοῦσα πῆχυν στέρνοις,
white and having-cast arm on-breasts
κτύπησε κρᾶτα μέλεον πλαγᾷ·
beat head wretched with-blow
φυγᾷ δὲ ποδὶ τὸ χρυσεοσάνδαλον
in-flight and with-foot the golden-sandaled
ἴχνος ἔφερεν ἔφερεν·
step bore bore
ἐς κόμας δὲ δακτύλους δικὼν Ὀρέστας,
into hair and fingers having-thrust Orestes
Μυκηνίδ' ἀρβύλαν προβάς, 1470
Mycenaean boot having-advanced
ὤμοις ἀριστεροῖσιν ἀνακλάσας δέρην,
on-shoulders on-left having-bent-back neck
παίειν λαιμῶν ἔμελλεν
to-strike throats was-about
ἔσω μέλαν ξίφος.
within black sword
ΧΟΡΟΣ ποῦ δῆτ' ἀμύνειν οἱ κατὰ στέγας Φρύγες;
where then to-defend the in house Phrygians

ΦΡΥΞ ἰαχᾷ δόμων θύρετρα καὶ σταθμοὺς
with-cry of-house doors and posts
μοχλοῖσιν ἐκβαλόντες, ἔνθ' ἐμίμνομεν,
with-bars having-burst-open where we-were-waiting
βοηδρομοῦμεν ἄλλος ἄλλοθεν στέγης,
we-run-to-help one from-elsewhere of-house
ὁ μὲν πέτρους, ὁ δ' ἀγκύλας,
the indeed stones the and javelins
ὁ δὲ ξίφος πρόκωπον ἐν χεροῖν ἔχων.
the-other and sword drawn in hands having
ἔναντα δ' ἦλθεν
opposite and came
Πυλάδης ἀλίαστος, οἷος οἷος
Pylades unflinching like like
Ἕκτωρ ὁ Φρύγιος ἢ τρικόρυθος Αἴας,
Hector the Phrygian or triple-helmed Ajax
ὃν εἶδον εἶδον ἐν πύλαισι Πριαμίσιν·
whom I-saw I-saw at gates Priam's
φασγάνων δ' ἀκμὰς συνήψαμεν.
of-swords and points we-joined
τότε δὴ τότε διαπρεπεῖς ἐγένοντο Φρύγες,
then indeed then conspicuous became Phrygians
ὅσον Ἄρεος ἀλκὰν ἥσσονες Ἑλλάδος
how-much of-Ares in-might weaker of-Hellas
ἐγενόμεσθ' αἰχμᾶς.
we-were than-spear
ὁ μὲν οἰχόμενος φυγάς, ὁ δὲ νέκυς ὤν,
the indeed going-off fugitive the and corpse being
ὁ δὲ τραῦμα φέρων, ὁ δὲ λισσόμενος,
the and wound bearing the and entreating

θανάτου προβολάν·
of-death defense
ὑπὸ σκότον δ' ἐφεύγομεν·
into darkness and we-fled
νεκροὶ δ' ἔπιπτον, οἱ δ' ἔμελλον, οἱ δ' ἔκειντ'.
dead and fell some and were-about-to others and lay
ἔμολε δ' ἁ τάλαιν' Ἑρμιόνα δόμους
came and the wretched Hermione to-house
ἐπὶ φόνῳ χαμαιπετεῖ ματρός, ἃ νιν ἔτεκεν τλάμων.
at murder fallen-to-earth of-mother who her bore wretched
ἄθυρσοι δ' οἷά νιν δραμόντε Βάκχαι
thyrsus-less and like her having-run-both Bacchants
σκύμνον ἐν χεροῖν ὀρείαν
whelp in hands mountain
ξυνήρπασαν· πάλιν δὲ τὰν Διὸς κόραν
snatched-together back and the of-Zeus daughter
ἐπὶ σφαγὰν ἔτεινον· ἃ δ' ἐκ θαλάμων
to slaughter stretched she and from chambers
ἐγένετο διαπρὸ δωμάτων ἄφαντος,
became right-through house vanished
ὦ Ζεῦ καὶ γᾶ καὶ φῶς καὶ νύξ,
O Zeus and earth and light and night
ἤτοι φαρμάκοισιν ἢ μάγων
either by-drugs or of-magi
τέχναισιν ἢ θεῶν κλοπαῖς.
by-arts or of-gods by-thefts
τὰ δ' ὕστερ' οὐκέτ' οἶδα· δρα-
the and after no-longer I-know runaway
πέτην γὰρ ἐξέκλεπτον ἐκ δόμων πόδα.
— for I-stole-away from house foot

πολύπονα δὲ πολύπονα πάθεα
much-toiling and much-toiling sufferings
Μενέλαος ἀνασχόμενος ἀνόνητον ἀπὸ
Menelaus having-endured profitless from
Τροίας ἔλαβε τὸν Ἑλένας γάμον.
Troy received the of-Helen marriage
ΧΟΡΟΣ καὶ μὴν ἀμείβει καινὸν ἐκ καινῶν τόδε·
and indeed exchanges new from new this
ξιφηφόρον γὰρ εἰσορῶ πρὸ δωμάτων
sword-bearing for I-see before house
βαίνοντ' Ὀρέστην ἐπτοημένῳ ποδί.
coming Orestes with-excited foot
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ποῦ 'στιν οὗτος ὃς πέφευγεν ἐκ δόμων τοὐμὸν ξίφος;
where is this-one who has-fled from house my sword
ΦΡΥΞ προσκυνῶ σ', ἄναξ, νόμοισι βαρβάροισι προσπίτνων.
I-bow-to you lord in-customs barbarian falling-before
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκ ἐν Ἰλίῳ τάδ' ἐστίν, ἀλλ' ἐν Ἀργείᾳ χθονί.
not in Ilium these-things are but in Argive land
ΦΡΥΞ πανταχοῦ ζῆν ἡδὺ μᾶλλον ἢ θανεῖν τοῖς σώφροσιν.
everywhere to-live sweet rather than to-die for-the sensible
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὔτι που κραυγὴν ἔθηκας Μενέλεῳ βοηδρομεῖν;
not-at-all surely shout you-raised for-Menelaus to-run-to-help
ΦΡΥΞ σοὶ μὲν οὖν ἔγωγ' ἀμύνειν· ἀξιώτερος γὰρ εἶ.
for-you indeed rather I to-defend worthier for you-are
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἐνδίκως ἡ Τυνδάρειος ἆρα παῖς διώλετο;
justly the Tyndarean then child perished
ΦΡΥΞ ἐνδικώτατ', εἴ γε λαιμοὺς εἶχε τριπτύχους θανεῖν.
most-justly if at-least throats she-had threefold to-die

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ δειλίᾳ γλώσσῃ χαρίζει,
by-cowardice with-tongue you-gratify
τἄνδον οὐχ οὕτω φρονῶν.
the-things-within not so thinking
ΦΡΥΞ οὐ γάρ, ἥτις Ἑλλάδ' αὐτοῖς Φρυξὶ διελυμήνατο;
not for she-who Hellas themselves with-Phrygians outraged
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὄμοσον, εἰ δὲ μή, κτενῶ σε, μὴ λέγειν ἐμὴν χάριν.
swear if but not I-will-kill you not to-speak my favor
ΦΡΥΞ τὴν ἐμὴν ψυχὴν κατώμοσ', ἣν ἂν εὐορκοῖμ' ἐγώ.
the my life I-swore by-which — I-would-keep-oath I
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὧδε κἀν Τροίᾳ σίδηρος πᾶσι Φρυξὶν ἦν φόβος;
so also-in Troy iron to-all Phrygians was fear
ΦΡΥΞ ἄπεχε φάσγανον· πέλας γὰρ δεινὸν ἀνταυγεῖ φόνον.
hold-off sword near for terribly it-flashes murder
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μὴ πέτρος γένῃ δέδοικας, ὥστε Γοργόν' εἰσιδών;
lest stone you-become you-fear as Gorgon having-seen
ΦΡΥΞ μὴ μὲν οὖν νεκρός· τὸ Γοργοῦς δ' οὐ κάτοιδ' ἐγὼ κάρα.
lest indeed then corpse the of-Gorgon but not know I head
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ δοῦλος ὢν φοβεῖ τὸν Ἅιδην,
slave being do-you-fear the Hades
ὅς σ' ἀπαλλάξει κακῶν;
who you will-release from-evils
ΦΡΥΞ πᾶς ἀνήρ, κἂν δοῦλος ᾖ τις, ἥδεται τὸ φῶς ὁρῶν.
every man even-if slave be anyone rejoices the light seeing
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εὖ λέγεις, σώζει σε σύνεσις· ἀλλὰ βαῖν' ἔσω δόμων.
well you-say saves you shrewdness but go into house
ΦΡΥΞ οὐκ ἄρα κτενεῖς μ'; ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἀφεῖσαι.
not then will-you-kill me you-are-released
ΦΡΥΞ καλὸν ἔπος λέγεις τόδε.
fine word you-say this

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἀλλὰ μεταβουλευσόμεσθα.
but we-will-reconsider

ΦΡΥΞ τοῦτο δ' οὐ καλῶς λέγεις.
this but not well you-say

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μῶρος, εἰ δοκεῖς με τλῆναι σὴν καθαιμάξαι δέρην·
fool if you-think me to-dare your to-bloody neck

οὔτε γὰρ γυνὴ πέφυκας οὔτ' ἐν ἀνδράσιν σύ γ' εἶ.
neither for woman are-you nor among men you at-least are

τοῦ δὲ μὴ στῆσαί σε κραυγὴν εἵνεκ' ἐξῆλθον δόμων·
of-the and not to-raise you shout for-the-sake I-came-out of-house

ὀξὺ γὰρ βοῆς ἀκοῦσαν Ἄργος ἐξεγείρεται.
sharp for cry having-heard Argos is-roused

Μενέλεων δ' οὐ τάρβος ἡμῖν ἀναλαβεῖν εἴσω ξίφους·
Menelaus but not fear for-us to-take-up within sword

ἀλλ' ἴτω ξανθοῖς ἐπ' ὤμων βοστρύχοις γαυρούμενος·
but let-him-come golden on shoulders on-curls priding-himself

εἰ γὰρ Ἀργείους ἐπάξει τοῖσδε δώμασιν λαβών,
if for Argives he-will-bring to-this house having-taken

τὸν Ἑλένης φόνον διώκων, κἀμὲ μὴ σῴζειν θέλῃ
the of-Helen murder prosecuting and-me not to-save wishes

σύγγονόν τ' ἐμὴν Πυλάδην τε τὸν τάδε ξυνδρῶντά μοι,
sister and my Pylades and the these-things doing-with me

παρθένον τε καὶ δάμαρτα δύο νεκρὼ κατόψεται.
maiden and and wife two corpses he-will-see

The chorus sees fire rising from the house and cries that the house of Tantalus is falling into a new and terrible struggle.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἰὼ ἰὼ τύχα,
oh oh fortune
ἕτερον εἰς ἀγῶν', ἕτερον αὖ δόμος
another into contest another again house
φοβερὸν ἀμφὶ τοὺς Ἀτρείδας πίτνει.
fearful about the Atreids falls
τί δρῶμεν; ἀγγέλλωμεν εἰς πόλιν τάδε;
what shall-we-do shall-we-announce to city these-things
ἢ σίγ' ἔχωμεν; ἀσφαλέστερον, φίλαι. 1540
or silence shall-we-keep safer friends
ἴδε πρὸ δωμάτων ἴδε προκηρύσσει
see before house see proclaims
θοάζων ὅδ' αἰθέρος ἄνω καπνός.
speeding this of-air up smoke
ἅπτουσι πεύκας ὡς πυρώσοντες δόμους
they-kindle torches as about-to-burn house
τοὺς Ταντα λείους, οὐδ' ἀφίστανται φόνου.
the Tantalid nor stand-aloof from-murder
τέλος ἔχει δαίμων βροτοῖς, 1545
end has god for-mortals
τέλος ὅπᾳ θέλει.
end how he-wills
μεγάλα δέ τις ἁ δύναμις· δι' ἀλάστορ'
great and some the power through avenging-spirit

ἔπεσ᾽ ἔπεσε μέλαθρα τάδε δι᾽ αἱμάτων
fell fell house this through bloods
διὰ τὸ Μυρτίλου πέσημ᾽ ἐκ δίφρου.
on-account-of the of-Myrtilus fall from car

XV · APOLLO ENDS THE STRIFE

Menelaus comes to the house, and Orestes appears on the roof with Pylades, among torches, holding his sword to Hermione's throat. Menelaus cannot save his daughter, and Orestes orders the house set on fire. Apollo appears with Helen beside him: he has taken her to dwell among the stars. Orestes is to spend a year in exile, be tried at Athens, and marry Hermione; Pylades will marry Electra; Menelaus will rule Sparta and Orestes Argos. All obey the god.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ἀλλὰ μὴν καὶ τόνδε λεύσσω Μενέλεων δόμων πέλας
but indeed also this-one I-see Menelaus house near
ὀξύπουν, ᾠσθημένον που τὴν τύχην ἣ νῦν πάρα.
swift-footed having-perceived somehow the fortune which now is-present
οὐκέτ᾽ ἂν φθάνοιτε κλῇθρα συμπεραίνοντες μοχλοῖς,
no-longer — could-you-anticipate bolts making-fast with-bars
ὦ κατὰ στέγας Ἀτρεῖδαι. δεινὸν εὐτυχῶν ἀνὴρ
O in house Atreids terrible prospering man
πρὸς κακῶς πράσσοντας, ὡς σὺ νῦν, Ὀρέστα, δυστυχεῖς.
against badly faring as you now Orestes are-unfortunate
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἥκω κλύων τὰ δεινὰ καὶ δραστήρια
I-come hearing the terrible-things and daring-deeds
δισσοῖν λεόντοιν· οὐ γὰρ ἄνδρ᾽ αὐτὼ καλῶ.
of-two lions not for men them I-call
ἤκουσα γὰρ δὴ τὴν ἐμὴν ξυνάορον
I-heard for indeed the my wife

ὡς οὐ τέθνηκεν, ἀλλ' ἄφαντος οἴχεται,
that not has-died but vanished is-gone
κενὴν ἀκούσας βάξιν, ἣν φόβῳ σφαλεὶς
empty having-heard report which by-fear deceived
ἤγγειλέ μοί τις. ἀλλὰ τοῦ μητροκτόνου
reported to-me someone but of-the matricide
τεχνάσματ' ἐστὶ ταῦτα καὶ πολὺς γέλως.
contrivances are these-things and much laughter
ἀνοιγέτω τις δῶμα· προσπόλοις λέγω
let-open someone house to-attendants I-speak
ὠθεῖν πύλας τάσδ', ὡς ἂν ἀλλὰ παῖδ' ἐμὴν
to-push gates these so-that — but daughter my
ῥυσώμεθ' ἀνδρῶν ἐκ χερῶν μιαιφόνων,
we-may-rescue of-men from hands bloodthirsty
καὶ τὴν τάλαιναν ἀθλίαν δάμαρτ' ἐμὴν
and the wretched miserable wife my
λάβωμεν, ᾗ δεῖ ξυνθανεῖν ἐμῇ χερὶ
let-us-take with-whom must die-with by-my hand
τοὺς διολέσαντας τὴν ἐμὴν ξυνάορον.
the having-destroyed the my wife

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὗτος σύ, κλῄθρων τῶνδε μὴ ψαύσῃς χερί,
you-there you of-bolts these not touch with-hand
Μενέλαον εἶπον, ὃς πεπύργωσαι θράσει·
Menelaus I-mean who are-towered in-boldness
ἢ τῷδε θριγκῷ κρᾶτα συνθραύσω σέθεν,
or with-this coping head I-will-shatter of-you
ῥήξας παλαιὰ γεῖσα, τεκτόνων πόνον.
having-broken old cornices of-builders work
μοχλοῖς δ' ἄραρε κλῆθρα, σῆς βοηδρόμου
with-bars and are-fastened bolts of-your rescuing

σπουδῆς ἅ σ' εἴρξει, μὴ δόμων εἴσω περᾶν.
haste which you will-bar not house within to-pass

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἔα, τί χρῆμα; λαμπάδων ὁρῶ σέλας,
ha what thing of-torches do-I-see gleam

δόμων δ' ἐπ' ἄκρων τούσδε πυργηρουμένους,
of-house and on top these besieged

ξίφος δ' ἐμῆς θυγατρὸς ἐπίφρουρον δέρῃ.
sword and of-my daughter guarding at-neck

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πότερον ἐρωτᾶν ἢ κλύειν ἐμοῦ θέλεις;
whether to-ask or to-hear from-me do-you-wish

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὐδέτερ'· ἀνάγκη δ', ὡς ἔοικε, σοῦ κλύειν.
neither necessity but as seems from-you to-hear

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ μέλλω κτανεῖν σου θυγατέρ', εἰ βούλει μαθεῖν.
I-am-about to-kill your daughter if you-wish to-learn

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ Ἑλένην φονεύσας ἐπὶ φόνῳ πράσσεις φόνον;
Helen having-murdered on murder you-do murder

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εἰ γὰρ κατέσχον μὴ θεῶν κλεφθεὶς ὕπο.
if for I-had-got-hold not gods being-robbed by

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἀρνεῖ κατακτὰς κἀφ' ὕβρει λέγεις τάδε;
you-deny having-killed and-in insolence you-say these-things

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ λυπράν γε τὴν ἄρνησιν· εἰ γὰρ ὤφελον —
painful at-least the denial if for would-that

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τί χρῆμα δρᾶσαι; παρακαλεῖς γὰρ εἰς φόβον.
what thing to-have-done you-call for to fear

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τὴν Ἑλλάδος μιάστορ' εἰς Ἅιδου βαλεῖν.
the of-Hellas defiler to Hades to-cast

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἀπόδος δάμαρτος νέκυν, ὅπως χώσω τάφῳ.
give-back of-wife corpse that I-may-bury in-tomb

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ θεοὺς ἀπαίτει· παῖδα δὲ κτενῶ σέθεν.
gods ask-back daughter but I-will-kill your

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὁ μητροφόντης ἐπὶ φόνῳ πράσσει φόνον.
the mother-killer on murder does murder

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὁ πατρὸς ἀμύντωρ, ὃν σὺ προὔδωκας θανεῖν.
the of-father avenger whom you betrayed to-die

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὐκ ἤρκεσέν σοι τὸ παρὸν αἷμα μητέρος;
not sufficed for-you the present blood of-mother

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐκ ἂν κάμοιμι τὰς κακὰς κτείνων ἀεί. 1590
not — I-would-tire the evil-women killing always

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἦ καὶ σύ, Πυλάδη, τοῦδε κοινωνεῖς φόνου;
— also you Pylades of-this share murder

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ φησὶν σιωπῶν· ἀρκέσω δ' ἐγὼ λέγων.
he-says being-silent I-will-suffice and I speaking

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἀλλ' οὔτι χαίρων, ἤν γε μὴ φύγῃς πτεροῖς.
but not-at-all rejoicing if at-least not you-flee on-wings

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐ φευξόμεσθα· πυρὶ δ' ἀνάψομεν δόμους.
not we-shall-flee with-fire but we-shall-kindle house

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἦ γὰρ πατρῷον δῶμα πορθήσεις τόδε; 1595
— for paternal house you-will-sack this

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὡς μή γ' ἔχῃς σύ, τήνδ' ἐπισφάξας πυρί.
so-that not at-least may-have you this-girl having-slain with-fire

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ κτεῖν'· ὡς κτανών γε τῶνδέ μοι δώσεις δίκην.
kill since having-killed at-least for-these to-me you-will-give penalty

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἔσται τάδ'. ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἆ ἆ, μηδαμῶς δράσῃς τάδε.
it-will-be these-things ah ah in-no-way do these-things

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σίγα νύν, ἀνέχου δ' ἐνδίκως πράσσων κακῶς.
be-silent now endure and justly faring badly

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἦ γὰρ δίκαιον ζῆν σε; ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ καὶ κρατεῖν γε γῆς. 1600
— for just to-live you and to-rule at-least land

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ποίας; ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἐν Ἄργει τῷδε τῷ Πελασγικῷ.
what-land in Argos this the Pelasgian

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ εὖ γοῦν θίγοις ἂν χερνίβων —
well indeed you-would-touch — lustral-water

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τί δὴ γὰρ οὔ;
what indeed for not

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ καὶ σφάγια πρὸ δορὸς καταβάλοις.
and victims before spear you-would-slaughter

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σὺ δ' ἂν καλῶς;
you but — well

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἁγνὸς γάρ εἰμι χεῖρας. ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἀλλ' οὐ τὰς φρένας.
pure for I-am in-hands but not the mind

1605 ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ τίς δ' ἂν προσείποι σ'; ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὅστις ἐστὶ φιλοπάτωρ.
who and — would-address you whoever is father-loving

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὅστις δὲ τιμᾷ μητέρ'; ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εὐδαίμων ἔφυ.
whoever and honors mother happy is

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οὔκουν σύ γ'. ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐ γὰρ ἀνδάνουσιν αἱ κακαί.
not-then you at-least not for please the evil

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἄπαιρε θυγατρὸς φάσγανον. ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ψευδὴς ἔφυς.
take-away from-daughter sword false you-are

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἀλλὰ κτενεῖς μου θυγατέρ';
but will-you-kill my daughter

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ οὐ ψευδὴς ἔτ' εἶ.
not false still you-are

1610 ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ οἴμοι, τί δράσω; ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πεῖθ' ἐς Ἀργείους μολὼν —
ah-me what shall-I-do persuade to Argives having-gone

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πειθὼ τίν'; ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ἡμᾶς μὴ θανεῖν αἰτοῦ πόλιν.
persuasion what us not to-die ask city

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἦ παῖδά μου φονεύσεθ'; ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὧδ' ἔχει τάδε.
— daughter my you-will-murder so are these-things

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὦ τλῆμον Ἑλένη, ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τἀμὰ δ' οὐχὶ τλήμονα;
O wretched Helen my but not wretched

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ σὲ σφάγιον ἐκόμισ᾽ ἐκ Φρυγῶν,
you as-victim I-brought from Phrygians
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ εἰ γὰρ τόδ᾽ ἦν.
if for this was
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πόνους πονήσας μυρίους. ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ πλήν γ᾽ εἰς ἐμέ.
toils having-toiled countless except at-least to me
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πέπονθα δεινά. ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ τότε γὰρ ἦσθ᾽ ἀνωφελής.
I-have-suffered terrible-things then for you-were useless
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ἔχεις με.
you-have me
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ σαυτὸν σύ γ᾽ ἔλαβες κακὸς γεγώς.
yourself you at-least took evil being
ἀλλ᾽ εἶ᾽, ὕφαπτε δώματ᾽, Ἠλέκτρα, τάδε.
but come kindle house Electra this
σύ τ᾽, ὦ φίλων μοι τῶν ἐμῶν σαφέστατε,
you and O of-friends to-me of-the my truest
Πυλάδη, κάταιθε γεῖσα τειχέων τάδε.
Pylades burn copings of-walls these
ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὦ γαῖα Δαναῶν ἱππίου τ᾽ Ἄργους κτίται,
O land of-Danaans of-horse and of-Argos founders
οὐκ εἶ᾽ ἐνόπλῳ ποδὶ βοηδρομήσετε;
not come with-armed foot will-you-run-to-help
πᾶσαν γὰρ ὑμῶν ὅδε βιάζεται πόλιν
all for of-you this-one forces city
ζῇ δ᾽, αἷμα μητρὸς μυσαρὸν ἐξειργασμένος.
lives and blood of-mother foul having-wrought
ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ Μενέλαε, παῦσαι λῆμ᾽ ἔχων τεθηγμένον,
Menelaus cease temper having whetted
Φοῖβός σ᾽ ὁ Λητοῦς παῖς ὅδ᾽ ἐγγὺς ὢν καλῶ,
Phoebus you the of-Leto son this-one near being call

σύ θ' ὃς ξιφήρης τῇδ' ἐφεδρεύεις κόρῃ,
you and who sword-bearing this guard girl
Ὀρέσθ', ἵν' εἰδῇς οὓς φέρων ἥκω λόγους.
Orestes so-that you-may-know what bearing I-come words
Ἑλένην μὲν ἣν σὺ διολέσαι πρόθυμος ὢν
Helen indeed whom you to-destroy eager being
ἥμαρτες, ὀργὴν Μενέλεῳ ποιούμενος,
you-missed anger at-Menelaus making
ἥδ' ἐστίν, ἣν ὁρᾶτ' ἐν αἰθέρος πτυχαῖς,
this-one is whom you-see in of-air folds
σεσωσμένη τε κοὐ θανοῦσα πρὸς σέθεν.
saved and and-not dead by you
ἐγώ νιν ἐξέσωσα κἀπὸ φασγάνου
I her saved and-from sword
τοῦ σοῦ κελευσθεὶς ἥρπασ' ἐκ Διὸς πατρός.
the your bidden snatched from Zeus father
Ζηνὸς γὰρ οὖσαν ζῆν νιν ἄφθιτον χρεών,
of-Zeus for being to-live her immortal must
Κάστορί τε Πολυδεύκει τ' ἐν αἰθέρος πτυχαῖς
with-Castor and with-Polydeuces and in of-air folds
σύνθακος ἔσται, ναυτίλοις σωτήριος.
sharing-seat will-be for-sailors saving
ἄλλην δὲ νύμφην εἰς δόμους κτῆσαι λαβών,
other and bride into house get having-taken
ἐπεὶ θεοὶ τῷ τῆσδε καλλιστεύματι
since gods by-the of-this-one beauty
Ἕλληνας εἰς ἓν καὶ Φρύγας ξυνήγαγον,
Greeks into one and Phrygians brought-together
θανάτους τ' ἔθηκαν, ὡς ἀπαντλοῖεν χθονὸς
deaths and made so-that they-might-drain from-land

ὕβρισμα θνητῶν ἀφθόνου πληρώματος.
insolence of-mortals of-abundant fulness
τὰ μὲν καθ' Ἑλένην ὧδ' ἔχει· σὲ δ' αὖ χρεών,
the indeed about Helen so is you but again must
Ὀρέστα, γαίας τῆσδ' ὑπερβαλόνθ' ὅρους
Orestes of-land this having-crossed boundaries
Παρράσιον οἰκεῖν δάπεδον ἐνιαυτοῦ κύκλον.
Parrhasian to-dwell plain of-year circle
κεκλήσεται δὲ σῆς φυγῆς ἐπώνυμον
it-will-be-called and of-your exile named
Ἀζᾶσιν Ἀρκάσιν τ' Ὀρέστειον καλεῖν.
by-Azanians Arcadians and Oresteum to-call
ἐνθένδε δ' ἐλθὼν τὴν Ἀθηναίων πόλιν
from-there and having-gone the of-Athenians city
δίκην ὑπόσχες αἵματος μητροκτόνου
penalty undergo for-blood mother-killing
Εὐμενίσι τρισσαῖς· θεοὶ δέ σοι δίκης βραβῆς
to-Eumenides three gods and for-you of-trial judges
πάγοισιν ἐν Ἀρείοισιν εὐσεβεστάτην
hills on Arean most-holy
ψῆφον διοίσουσ', ἔνθα νικῆσαί σε χρή.
vote will-cast where to-win you must
ἐφ' ἧς δ' ἔχεις, Ὀρέστα, φάσγανον δέρῃ,
on whom and you-have Orestes sword at-neck
γῆμαι πέπρωταί σ' Ἑρμιόνην· ὃς δ' οἴεται
to-marry is-fated you Hermione who and thinks
Νεοπτόλεμος γαμεῖν νιν, οὐ γαμεῖ ποτε.
Neoptolemus to-marry her not will-marry ever
θανεῖν γὰρ αὐτῷ μοῖρα Δελφικῷ ξίφει,
to-die for for-him fate by-Delphian sword

δίκας Ἀχιλλέως πατρὸς ἐξαιτοῦντά με.
satisfaction of-Achilles father demanding me
Πυλάδῃ δ' ἀδελφῆς λέκτρον, ὡς κατήνεσας,
to-Pylades and of-sister bed as you-promised
δός· ὁ δ' ἐπιών νιν βίοτος εὐδαίμων μένει.
give the and coming him life happy awaits
Ἄργους δ' Ὀρέστην, Μενέλεως, ἔα κρατεῖν,
Argos and Orestes Menelaus allow to-rule
ἐλθὼν δ' ἄνασσε Σπαρτιάτιδος χθονός,
having-gone and rule of-Spartan land
φερνὰς ἔχων δάμαρτος, ἥ σε μυρίοις
dowry having of-wife who you with-countless
πόνοις διδοῦσα δεῦρ' ἀεὶ διήνυσε.
with-toils giving here always brought
τὰ πρὸς πόλιν δὲ τῷδ' ἐγὼ θήσω καλῶς,
the toward city and for-this-one I will-make well
ὅς νιν φονεῦσαι μητέρ' ἐξηνάγκασα.
who him to-murder mother compelled
ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ ὦ Λοξία μαντεῖε σῶν θεσπισμάτων·
O Loxias prophetic of-your oracles
οὐ ψευδόμαντις ἦσθ' ἄρ', ἀλλ' ἐτήτυμος.
not false-prophet you-were then but true
καίτοι μ' ἐσῄει δεῖμα μή τινος κλύων
and-yet me came-over fear lest of-some hearing
ἀλαστόρων δόξαιμι σὴν κλύειν ὄπα.
of-avengers I-might-seem your to-hear voice
ἀλλ' εὖ τελεῖται, πείσομαι δὲ σοῖς λόγοις.
but well it-is-ended I-will-obey and your words
ἰδοὺ μεθίημ' Ἑρμιόνην ἄπο σφαγῆς,
see I-release Hermione from slaughter

καὶ λέκτρ᾽ ἐπῄνεσ᾽, ἡνίκ᾽ ἂν διδῷ πατήρ.
and bed I-approved when — gives father

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ ὦ Ζηνὸς Ἑλένη χαῖρε παῖ· ζηλῶ δέ σε
O of-Zeus Helen farewell child I-envy and you

θεῶν κατοικήσασαν ὄλβιον δόμον.
of-gods having-come-to-dwell blessed house

Ὀρέστα, σοὶ δὲ παῖδ᾽ ἐγὼ κατεγγυῶ, 1675
Orestes to-you and daughter I betroth

Φοίβου λέγοντος· εὐγενὴς δ᾽ ἀπ᾽ εὐγενοῦς
Phoebus saying noble and from noble

γήμας ὄναιο καὶ σὺ χὠ διδοὺς ἐγώ.
having-married may-you-have-joy also you and-the giving I

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ χωρεῖτέ νυν ἕκαστος οἷ προστάσσομεν,
go now each where we-appoint

νείκας τε διαλύεσθε. ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ πείθεσθαι χρεών.
quarrels and dissolve to-obey must

ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ κἀγὼ τοιοῦτος· σπένδομαι δὲ συμφοραῖς, 1680
and-I such-a-one I-make-truce and with-misfortunes

Μενέλαε, καὶ σοῖς, Λοξία, θεσπίσμασιν.
Menelaus and with-your Loxias with-oracles

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ ἴτε νυν καθ᾽ ὁδόν, τὴν καλλίστην
go now along way the fairest

θεῶν Εἰρήνην τιμῶντες· ἐγὼ δ᾽
of-gods Peace honoring I and

Ἑλένην Δίοις μελάθροις πελάσω,
Helen to-Zeus' to-halls will-bring

λαμπρῶν ἄστρων πόλον ἐξανύσας, 1685
of-bright stars pole having-traversed

ἔνθα παρ᾽ Ἥρᾳ τῇ θ᾽ Ἡρακλέους
where beside Hera the and of-Heracles

Ἥβῃ πάρεδρος θεὸς ἀνθρώποις
Hebe sitting-beside goddess for-men
ἔσται σπονδαῖς ἔντιμος ἀεί,
will-be with-libations honored always
σὺν Τυνδαρίδαις τοῖς Διὸς υἱοῖς,
with Tyndarids the of-Zeus sons
1690 ναύταις μεδέουσα θαλάσσης.
for-sailors ruling of-sea
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 may-you-cease crowning
