LATIN SERIES · VOLUME 43

The Tragedies of Seneca

Seneca

Tragoediae

The Tragedies of Seneca

Part One: Medea, Phaedra, the Trojan Women, and Hercules Mad

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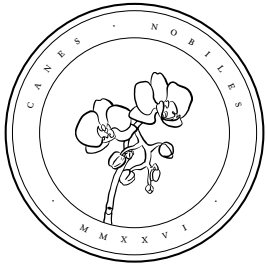
with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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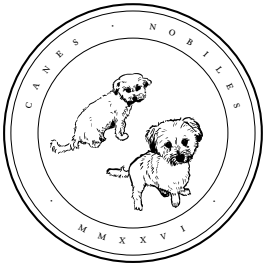

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SENECA

Medea

MEDEA

I · MEDEA CALLS DOWN VENGEANCE

Medea calls on the gods of marriage, Lucina, the lord of the sea, the Sun, Hecate, the powers below, and the goddesses who avenge crime to bring death to Jason's new bride, her father, and the royal house. Let Jason live, wander needy and hated through foreign cities, and long for her. She asks the Sun, father of her race, for his chariot to burn Corinth; her crimes as a girl were light, and a house won by crime must be left by crime.

MEDEA Di coniugales tuque genialis tori,
Gods marriage and-you of-the-nuptial bed,
Lucina, custos quaeque domituram freta
Lucina, guardian and-you-who going-to-tame the-seas
Tiphyn novam frenare docuisti ratem,
Tiphys the-new to-bridle taught ship,
et tu, profundi saeve dominator maris,
and you, of-the-deep savage lord sea,
clarumque Titan dividens orbi diem,
and-bright Titan dividing for-the-world the-day,
tacitisque praebens conscium sacris iubar
and-to-silent offering witness rites radiance
Hecate triformis, quosque iuravit mihi
Hecate three-formed, and-whom swore to-me
deos Iason, quosque Medeae magis
the-gods Jason, and-whom for-Medea rather
fas est precari: noctis aeternae chaos,
right it-is to-pray-to: of-night eternal chaos,
aversa superis regna manesque impios
averse to-those-above the-realms and-the-shades impious

dominumque regni tristis et dominam fide
and-the-lord of-the-realm gloomy and the-lady by-faith
meliore raptam, voce non fausta precor.
better seized, with-voice not auspicious I-pray.
nunc, nunc adeste, sceleris ultrices deae,
now, now be-present, of-crime avengers goddesses,
crinem solutis squalidae serpentibus,
in-hair with-loosened foul serpents,
atram cruentis manibus amplexae facem,
the-black with-bloody hands clasping torch,
adeste, thalamis horridae quondam meis
be-present, at-the-marriage-chamber dreadful once my
quales stetistis: coniugi letum novae
such-as you-stood: to-the-wife death new
letumque socero et regiae stirpi date,
and-death to-the-father-in-law and to-the-royal stock give,
date peius aliud, quod precer sponso malum:
give worse another, which I-may-pray for-the-groom evil:
vivat, per urbes erret ignotas egens
let-him-live, through cities let-him-wander unknown needy
exul pavens invisus incerti laris,
an-exile fearing hated of-uncertain hearth,
iam notus hospes limen alienum expetat,
now known as-guest the-threshold of-another let-him-seek,
me coniugem optet quoque non aliud queam
me as-wife let-him-wish and-than-which not another I-could
peius precari, liberos similes patri
worse to-pray, children like their-father
similesque matri. parta iam, parta ultio est:
and-like their-mother. born already, born the-vengeance is:

peperi. querelas verbaque in cassum sero?
I-have-borne. complaints and-words in vain do-I-sow?
non ibo in hostes? manibus excutiam faces
not shall-I-go against enemies? from-the-hands I-shall-strike the-torches
caeloque lucem. spectat hoc nostri sator
and-from-heaven the-light. sees this of-our the-father
Sol generis, et spectatur, et curru insidens
the-Sun race, and is-seen, and on-the-chariot sitting
per solita puri spatia decurrit poli?
through the-wonted of-clear tracts runs-down sky?
non redit in ortus et remetitur diem?
not he-returns to his-rising and remeasures the-day?
da, da per auras curribus patriis vehi,
grant, grant through the-air in-the-chariot paternal to-be-borne,
committe habenas, genitor, et flagrantibus
entrust the-reins, father, and with-the-blazing
ignifera loris tribue moderari iuga:
fire-bearing reins grant to-guide the-yokes:
gemino Corinthos litore opponens moras
with-double Corinth shore setting delays
cremata flammis maria committat duo.
burned with-flames the-seas may-join two.
hoc restat unum, pronubam thalamo feram
this remains one, the-bridal to-the-chamber I-may-carry
ut ipsa pinum postque sacrificas preces
that myself the-pine and-after the-sacrificial prayers
caedam dicatis victimas altaribus.
I-may-slay on-dedicated victims altars.
per viscera ipsa quaere supplicio viam,
through the-vitals very seek for-punishment a-way,

si vivis, anime, si quid antiqui tibi
if you-live, soul, if anything of-old for-you
remanet vigoris; pelle femineos metus
remains of-vigor; drive-out womanly fears
et inhospitalem Caucasum mente indue.
and the-inhospitable Caucasus in-mind put-on.
quodcumque vidit Pontus aut Phasis nefas,
whatever saw Pontus or Phasis wrong,
videbit Isthmos. effera ignota horrida,
will-see the-Isthmus. savage unknown dreadful,
tremenda caelo pariter ac terris mala
fearful to-heaven equally and to-lands evils
mens intus agitat: vulnera et caedem et vagum
my-mind within stirs: wounds and slaughter and wandering
funus per artus — levia memoravi nimis:
death through the-limbs light-things I-have-recalled too:
haec virgo feci; gravior exurgat dolor:
these as-a-maiden I-did; heavier let-rise grief:
maiora iam me scelera post partus decent.
greater now me crimes after childbirths befit.
accingere ira teque in exitium para
gird-yourself with-wrath and-yourself for destruction prepare
furore toto. paria narrentur tua
with-madness whole. equal let-be-told your
repudia thalamis: quo virum linques modo?
divorce to-your-marriage: in-what your-husband will-you-leave way?
hoc quo secuta es. rumpe iam segnes moras:
in-this in-which followed you-have. break now sluggish delays:
quae scelere parta est, scelere linquenda est domus.
which by-crime won was, by-crime to-be-left is the-house.

II · THE WEDDING SONG

The chorus sings the royal marriage: a white bull for the Thunderers, a heifer for Lucina, and a gentler victim for the goddess who checks Mars. The bride's beauty outshines every Greek girl as the sun dims the stars, and the Aesonian groom surpasses the gods; the god of lawful torches is called, the young men are free to jest, and any runaway who married a foreign husband may go off in silence and darkness.

CHORUS Ad regum thalamos numine prospero
To of-kings the-marriage with-divinity favorable
qui caelum superi quique regunt fretum
who heaven the-gods-above and-who rule the-sea
assint cum populis rite faventibus.
let-be-present with the-peoples duly favoring.
primum sceptriferis colla Tonantibus
first to-the-scepter-bearing the-necks Thunderers
taurus celsa ferat tergore candido;
a-bull lofty let-bear with-back white;
Lucinam nivei femina corporis
Lucina of-snowy a-female body
intemptata iugo placet et asperi
untried by-the-yoke let-appease and of-harsh
Martis sanguineas quae cohibet manus,
Mars the-bloody who restrains hands,
quae dat belligeris foedera gentibus
who gives to-warring treaties nations
et cornu retinet divite copiam,
and in-horn holds rich plenty,
donetur tenera mitior hostia.
let-be-given tender gentler victim.

et tu, qui facibus legitimis ades,
and you, who with-torches lawful are-present,
noctem discutiens auspice dextera
the-night dispelling with-auspicious right-hand
huc incede gradu marcidus ebrio,
hither step with-pace languid drunken,
praecingens roseo tempora vinculo.
binding with-rosy the-temples band.
et tu quae, gemini praevia temporis,
and you who, of-twin forerunner time,
tarde, stella, redis semper amantibus:
slowly, star, you-return always to-lovers:
te matres, avide te cupiunt nurus
you mothers, eagerly you long-for brides
quamprimum radios spargere lucidos.
as-soon-as-possible rays to-scatter bright.
Vincit virgineus decor
Surpasses the-maidenly beauty
longe Cecropias nurus,
far Cecropian brides,
et quas Taygeti iugis
and those-whom of-Taygetus on-the-ridges
exercet iuvenum modo
trains of-young-men in-the-manner
muris quod caret oppidum,
of-walls which lacks the-town,
et quas Aonius latex
and those-whom the-Aonian water
Alpheosque sacer lavat.
and-Alpheus sacred washes.

Si forma velit aspici,
If in-beauty he-should-wish to-be-looked-at,
cedent Aesonio duci
will-yield to-the-Aesonian leader
proles fulminis improbi
the-offspring of-the-thunderbolt wicked
aptat qui iuga tigribus,
fits who yokes to-tigers,
nec non, qui tripodas movet,
and also, he-who the-tripods moves,
frater virginis asperae,
the-brother of-the-virgin harsh,
cedet Castore cum suo
will-yield Castor with his-own
Pollux caestibus aptior.
Pollux at-the-gloves fitter.
sic, sic, caelicolae, precor,
so, so, heaven-dwellers, I-pray,
vincat femina coniuges,
let-surpass the-woman the-wives,
vir longe superet viros.
the-man far let-surpass the-men.
Haec cum femineo constitit in choro,
She when the-womanly has-stood among chorus,
unius facies praenitet omnibus.
of-one the-face outshines all.
sic cum sole perit sidereus decor,
so with the-sun perishes the-starry beauty,
et densi latitant Pleiadum greges
and thick lie-hidden of-the-Pleiads the-flocks

cum Phoebe solidum lumine non suo
when Phoebe solid with-light not her-own
orbem circuitis cornibus alligat.
orb with-curving horns binds.
ostro sic niveus puniceo color
with-purple so snowy crimson color
perfusus rubuit, sic nitidum iubar
drenched blushed, so the-shining radiance
pastor luce nova roscidus aspicit.
the-shepherd at-light new dewy looks-on.
ereptus thalamis Phasidis horridi,
snatched from-the-marriage of-the-Phasis rough,
effrenae solitus pectora coniugis
of-an-unbridled accustomed the-breast wife
invita trepidus prendere dextera,
with-unwilling trembling to-grasp right-hand,
felix Aeoliam corripe virginem
happy the-Aeolian seize maiden
nunc primum soceris, sponse, volentibus.
now first with-the-fathers-in-law, groom, willing.
concesso, iuvenes, ludite iurgio,
with-granted, young-men, play with-banter,
hinc illinc, iuvenes, mittite carmina:
hence thence, young-men, send songs:
rara est in dominos iusta licentia.
rare is against masters just license.
Candida thyrsigeri proles generosa Lyaei,
White of-thyrsus-bearing offspring noble Lyaeus,
multifidam iam tempus erat succendere pinum:
the-many-cleft now time it-was to-kindle pine:

excute sollemnem digitis marcentibus ignem.
shake the-solemn with-fingers drooping fire.
festa dicax fundat convicia fescenninus,
festive witty let-pour-out insults the-Fescennine,
solvat turba iocos — tacitis eat illa tenebris,
let-loose the-crowd jests in-silent let-her-go she darkness,
si qua peregrino nubit fugitiva marito.
if any to-a-foreign marries fugitive husband.

III · MEDEA AND THE NURSE

Hearing the wedding song, Medea rages: Jason, for whom she lost father, country, and kingdom, has deserted her. She half excuses him as subject to another's will and turns her anger on Creon alone, whose house she will bury in ash. The Nurse begs her to hide her fury; in quick exchange Medea answers that fortune fears the brave, that Medea is left, and that fortune cannot take courage, as Creon comes.

MEDEA Occidimus, aures pepulit hymenaeus meas.
We-are-undone, the-ears has-struck the-wedding-song my.
vix ipsa tantum, vix adhuc credo malum.
scarcely myself so-much, scarcely still I-believe the-evil.
hoc facere Iason potuit, erepto patre
this to-do Jason could, with-snatched father
patria atque regno sedibus solam exteris
fatherland and kingdom in-seats alone foreign
deserere durus? merita contempsit mea
to-desert hard? merits has-he-scorned my
qui scelere flammas viderat vinci et mare?
who by-crime flames had-seen to-be-conquered and the-sea?
adeone credit omne consumptum nefas?
so-far believes-he all used-up the-wrong?

incerta vaecors mente vaesana feror
uncertain frantic in-mind raving I-am-borne
partes in omnes; unde me ulcisci queam?
parts into all; whence me to-avenge can-I?
utinam esset illi frater! est coniunx: in hanc
would-that there-were for-him a-brother! there-is a-wife: into her
ferrum exigatur. hoc meis satis est malis?
the-sword let-be-driven. this for-my enough is evils?
si quod Pelasgae, si quod urbes barbarae
if any Pelasgian, if any cities barbarian
novere facinus quod tuae ignorent manus,
have-known deed which your may-not-know hands,
nunc est parandum. scelera te hortentur tua
now it-is to-be-prepared. crimes you let-urge your
et cuncta redeant: inclitum regni decus
and all let-return: the-famed of-the-kingdom glory
raptum et nefandae virginis parvus comes
seized and of-the-impious maiden the-little companion
divisus ense, funus ingestum patri
divided with-the-sword, the-corpse heaped on-the-father
sparsumque ponto corpus et Peliae senis
and-scattered over-the-sea the-body and of-Pelias old
decocta aeno membra: funestum impie
boiled in-bronze the-limbs: deadly impiously
quam saepe fudi sanguinem, et nullum scelus
how often I-have-shed blood, and no crime
irata feci: suasit infelix amor.
angry I-did: urged-it unhappy love.
Quid tamen Iason potuit, alieni arbitri
What yet Jason could-he-do, of-another's judgment

iurisque factus? debuit ferro obvium
and-power made? he-ought to-the-sword facing
offerre pectus — melius, a melius, dolor
to-offer his-breast better, ah better, grief
furiose, loquere. si potest, vivat meus,
raging, speak. if it-can-be, let-him-live my,
ut fuit, Iason; si minus, vivat tamen
as he-was, Jason; if not, let-him-live yet
memorque nostri muneris parcat mihi.
and-mindful of-our service let-him-spare me.
culpa est Creontis tota, qui sceptro impotens
the-fault is of-Creon whole, who with-scepter unrestrained
coniugia solvit quique genetricem abstrahit
marriages dissolves and-who the-mother tears-away
gnatis et arto pignore astrictam fidem
from-the-children and with-close pledge bound faith
dirimit: petatur solus hic, poenas luat
breaks: let-be-attacked alone he, the-penalties let-him-pay
quas debet. alto cinere cumulabo domum;
which he-owes. with-deep ash I-will-heap the-house;
videbit atrum verticem flammis agi
will-see the-black crest by-flames driven
Malea longas navibus flectens moras.
Malea long for-ships bending delays.
NUTRIX Sile, obsecro, questusque secreto abditos
Be-silent, I-beg, and-complaints in-secret hidden
manda dolori. gravia quisquis vulnera
entrust to-grief. heavy whoever wounds
patiente et aequo mutus animo pertulit,
with-patient and even silent mind has-borne,

referre potuit: ira quae tegitur nocet;
to-return could: anger which is-hidden harms;
professa perdunt odia vindictae locum.
avowed lose hatreds of-vengeance the-place.
MEDEA Levis est dolor qui capere consilium potest
Light is the-grief which to-take counsel can
et clepere sese: magna non latitant mala.
and to-hide itself: great not lie-hidden evils.
libet ire contra.
it-pleases to-go against.
NUTRIX Siste furialem impetum,
Stop the-furious onrush,
alumna: vix te tacita defendit quies.
nursling: scarcely you silent defends quiet.
MEDEA Fortuna fortes metuit, ignavos premit.
Fortune the-brave fears, the-cowardly crushes.
NUTRIX Tunc est probanda, si locum virtus habet.
Then it-is to-be-proved, if room valor has.
MEDEA Numquam potest non esse virtuti locus.
Never can not to-be for-valor room.
NUTRIX Spes nulla rebus monstrat adflictis viam.
Hope no for-affairs shows afflicted a-way.
MEDEA Qui nil potest sperare, desperet nihil.
Who nothing can to-hope, let-him-despair-of nothing.
NUTRIX Abiere Colchi, coniugis nulla est fides
Have-gone-away the-Colchians, of-your-husband no is faith
nihilque superest opibus e tantis tibi.
and-nothing remains resources from so-great to-you.

MEDEA Medea superest, hic mare et terras vides
Medea remains, here sea and lands you-see
ferrumque et ignes et deos et fulmina.
and-sword and fires and gods and thunderbolts.
NUTRIX Rex est timendus.
The-king is to-be-feared.
MEDEA Rex meus fuerat pater.
A-king my had-been father.
NUTRIX Non metuis arma?
Not do-you-fear arms?
MEDEA Sint licet terra edita.
Let-them-be though from-earth sprung.
NUTRIX Moriere. 170
You-will-die.
MEDEA Cupio.
I-desire-it.
NUTRIX Profuge.
Flee.
MEDEA Paenituit fugae.
I-have-repented of-flight.
NUTRIX Medea —
Medea
MEDEA Fiam.
I-shall-become-her.
NUTRIX Mater es.
A-mother you-are.
MEDEA Cui sim vides.
For-whom I-am you-see.
NUTRIX Profugere dubitas?
To-flee do-you-hesitate?

MEDEA Fugiam, ut ulciscar prius.
I-shall-flee, that I-may-avenge first.

NUTRIX Vindex sequetur.
An-avenger will-follow.

MEDEA Forsan inveniam moras.
Perhaps I-shall-find delays.

NUTRIX Compesce verba, parce iam, demens, minis
Check your-words, refrain now, mad-one, from-threats
175 animosque minue: tempori aptari decet.
and-your-spirit lessen: to-the-time to-be-fitted it-befits.

MEDEA Fortuna opes auferre, non animum potest.
Fortune riches to-take-away, not the-spirit can.
sed cuius ictu regius cardo strepit?
but whose by-stroke the-royal hinge creaks?
ipse est Pelasgo tumidus imperio Creo.
himself it-is with-Pelasgian swollen power Creon.

IV · CREON ORDERS HER EXILE

Creon orders Medea out of his kingdom. She demands to be heard, recalls her royal birth and how she saved the flower of Greece and Jason, and asks for a corner of his land. Creon holds that Jason is innocent; she asks for the ship and the companion she came with. He will take her sons as their father, and when she begs time for last kisses grants her one day, with death if she is found after it.

CREO Medea, Colchi noxium Aeetae genus,
Medea, of-Colchian harmful Aeetes the-race,
180 nondum meis exportat e regnis pedem?
not-yet my carries-out from realms her-foot?
molitur aliquid: nota fraus, nota est manus.
she-plots something: known the-fraud, known is the-hand.

cui parcet illa quemve securum sinet?
whom will-spare she or-whom secure will-she-allow?
abolere propere pessimam ferro luem
to-destroy quickly the-worst with-the-sword plague
equidem parabam: precibus evicit gener.
indeed I-was-preparing: by-prayers has-prevailed my-son-in-law.
concessa vita est, liberet fines metu
granted life is, let-her-free the-borders from-fear
abeatque tuta. fert gradum contra ferox
and-let-her-go-away safe. she-bears her-step against fierce
minaxque nostros propius affatus petit.
and-threatening our nearer interview seeks.
arcete, famuli, tactu et accessu procul,
keep-off, servants, from-touch and from-approach far,
iubete sileat. regium imperium pati
bid that-she-be-silent. royal command to-bear
aliquando discat. vade veloci fuga
at-some-time let-her-learn. go with-swift flight
monstrumque saevum horribile iamdudum avehe.
and-the-monster savage dreadful at-once carry-away.

MEDEA Quod crimen aut quae culpa multatur fuga?
What crime or what fault is-punished with-flight?

CREO Quae causa pellat, innocens mulier rogat.
What cause may-drive-her-out, an-innocent woman asks.

MEDEA Si iudicas, cognosce, si regnas, iube.
If you-judge, investigate, if you-reign, command.

CREO Aequum atque iniquum regis imperium feras.
Just and unjust of-the-king the-command you-must-bear.

MEDEA Iniqua numquam regna perpetuo manent.
Unjust never reigns forever remain.

CREO I, querere Colchis.
Go, complain to-the-Colchians.

MEDEA Redeo: qui advexit, ferat.
I-return: who brought-me, let-him-carry-me.

CREO Vox constituto sera decreto venit.
The-voice with-settled late decree comes.

MEDEA Qui statuit aliquid parte inaudita altera,
Who has-decided anything with-the-side unheard other,

aequum licet statuerit, haud aequus fuit.
just though he-has-decided, not just was.

CREO Auditus a te Pelia supplicium tulit?
Heard by you Pelias the-punishment bore?

sed fare, causae detur egregiae locus.
but speak, to-the-cause let-be-given excellent room.

MEDEA Difficile quam sit animum ab ira flectere
Hard how it-is the-mind from anger to-bend

iam concitatum quamque regale hoc putet
already roused and-how royal this he-thinks

sceptris superbas quisquis admovit manus,
to-scepters proud whoever has-moved hands,

qua coepit ire, regia didici mea.
where it-began to-go, in-the-palace I-learned my.

quamvis enim sim clade miseranda obruta,
although for I-be with-disaster pitiable overwhelmed,

expulsa supplex sola deserta, undique
expelled a-suppliant alone deserted, on-every-side

adflicta, quondam nobili fulsi patre
afflicted, once from-noble I-shone father

avoque clarum Sole deduxi genus.
and-from-my-grandfather famed the-Sun I-drew my-race.

quodcumque placidis flexibus Phasis rigat
whatever with-calm windings the-Phasis waters
Pontusque quicquid Scythicus a tergo videt,
and-Pontus whatever Scythian from behind sees,
palustribus qua maria dulcescunt aquis,
with-marshy where the-seas grow-sweet waters,
armata peltis quicquid exterret cohors
armed with-light-shields whatever terrifies a-band
inclusa ripis vidua Thermodontiis,
shut-in by-the-banks widowed of-the-Thermodon,
hoc omne noster genitor imperio regit.
this all our father by-command rules.
generosa, felix, decore regali potens
noble, happy, with-grace royal powerful
fulsi: petebant tunc meos thalamos proci,
I-shone: sought then my marriage suitors,
qui nunc petuntur. rapida fortuna ac levis
who now are-sought. swift fortune and fickle
praecepsque regno eripuit, exilio dedit.
and-headlong from-the-kingdom snatched-me, to-exile gave-me.
confide regnis, cum levis magnas opes
trust in-kingdoms, when fickle great wealth
huc ferat et illuc casus — hoc reges habent
hither may-carry and thither chance this kings have
magnificum et ingens, nulla quod rapiat dies:
splendid and huge, no which may-snatch day:
prodesse miseris, supplices fido lare
to-help the-wretched, suppliants with-faithful hearth
protegere. solum hoc Colchico regno extuli,
to-protect. alone this from-the-Colchian kingdom I-brought,

decus illud ingens Graeciae et florem inclitum,
the-glory that huge of-Greece and the-flower famous,
praesidia Achivae gentis et prolem deum,
the-bulwarks of-the-Achaean race and the-offspring of-gods,
servasse memet. munus est Orpheus meum,
to-have-saved me-myself. gift is Orpheus my,
qui saxa cantu mulcet et silvas trahit,
who rocks with-song soothes and woods draws,
geminumque numen Castor et Pollux meum est
and-the-twin divinity Castor and Pollux my is
satique Borea quique trans Pontum quoque
and-those-sprung from-Boreas and-he-who across the-Pontus even
summota Lynceus lumine inmisso videt,
things-far-removed Lynceus with-sight sent sees,
omnesque Minyae: nam ducem taceo ducum,
and-all the-Minyae: for the-leader I-pass-over of-leaders,
pro quo nihil debetur: hunc nulli imputo;
for whom nothing is-owed: him to-no-one I-charge;
vobis revexi ceteros, unum mihi.
for-you I-brought-back the-rest, one for-myself.
incesse nunc et cuncta flagitia ingere.
assail now and all the-outrages heap-on.
fatebor: obici crimen hoc solum potest,
I-will-confess: to-be-cast-up the-crime this alone can,
Argo reversa. virgini placeat pudor
the-Argo returned. to-the-maiden should-please modesty
paterque placeat: tota cum ducibus ruet
and-her-father should-please: whole with the-leaders will-fall
Pelasga tellus, hic tuus primum gener
the-Pelasgian land, this-one your first son-in-law

tauri ferocis ore flammanti occidet.
of-the-bull fierce by-the-mouth flaming will-perish.
fortuna causam quae volet nostram premat,
fortune the-cause whatever will-wish our let-it-press,
non paenitet servasse tot regum decus.
not it-repents-me to-have-saved of-so-many kings the-glory.
quodcumque culpa praemium ex omni tuli,
whatever by-guilt reward from all I-have-carried,
hoc est penes te. si placet, damna ream; 245
this is in-the-power-of you. if it-pleases, condemn me-accused;
sed redde crimen. sum nocens, fateor, Creo:
but give-back the-crime. I-am guilty, I-confess, Creon:
talem sciebas esse, cum genua attigi
such you-knew me-to-be, when your-knees I-touched
fidemque supplex praesidis dextrae peti;
and-the-faith a-suppliant of-your-protecting right-hand sought;
terra hac miseriis angulum ac sedem rogo
in-land this for-wretchedness a-corner and seat I-ask
latebrasque viles: urbe si pelli placet, 250
and-hiding-places cheap: from-the-city if to-be-driven it-pleases,
detur remotus aliquis in regnis locus.
let-be-given remote some in your-realms place.
CREO Non esse me qui sceptra violentus geram
Not to-be me who scepters violent wield
nec qui superbo miserias calcem pede,
nor who with-proud miseries trample foot,
testatus equidem videor haud clare parum
having-attested indeed I-seem not clearly too-little
generum exulem legendo et adflictum et gravi 255
a-son-in-law exiled by-choosing and afflicted and with-heavy

terrore pavidum, quippe quem poenae expetit
terror trembling, since him for-punishment seeks
letoque Acastus regna Thessalica optinens.
and-for-death Acastus the-realms Thessalian holding.
senio trementem debili atque aevo gravem
with-age trembling feeble and with-years heavy
patrem peremptum queritur et caesi senis
his-father slain he-complains and of-the-slaughtered old-man
discissa membra, cum dolo captae tuo
the-torn limbs, when by-the-guile deceived your
piae sorores impium auderent nefas.
the-pious sisters impious dared a-wrong.
potest Iason, si tuam causam amoves,
can Jason, if your cause you-remove,
suam tueri: nullus innocuum cruor
his-own defend: no the-innocent blood
contaminavit, afuit ferro manus
has-stained, was-absent from-the-sword his-hand
proculque vestro purus a coetu stetit.
and-far your pure from assembly he-stood.
tu, tu malorum machinatrix facinorum,
you, you of-evils deviser deeds,
cui feminae nequitia ad audenda omnia,
to-whom of-a-woman the-wickedness for daring all-things,
robur virile est, nulla famae memoria,
the-strength manly is, no of-reputation regard,
egredere, purga regna, letales simul
go-out, cleanse the-realm, the-deadly together
tecum aufer herbas, libera cives metu,
with-you take-away herbs, free the-citizens from-fear,

alia sedens tellure sollicita deos.
in-another sitting land trouble the-gods.

MEDEA Profugere cogis? redde fugienti ratem
To-flee do-you-compel? give-back to-the-fleeing the-ship

vel redde comitem — fugere cur solam iubes?
or give-back the-companion to-flee why alone do-you-bid?

non sola veni. bella si metuis pati,
not alone I-came. wars if you-fear to-suffer,

utrumque regno pelle. cur sontes duos
both from-the-kingdom drive. why the-guilty two

distinguis? illi Pelia, non nobis iacet;
do-you-distinguish? for-him Pelias, not for-us lies;

fugam, rapinas adice, desertum patrem
my-flight, my-plunders add, my-deserted father

lacerumque fratrem, quicquid etiam nunc novas
and-mangled brother, whatever even now new

docet maritus coniuges, non est meum:
teaches the-husband to-his-wives, not is mine:

totiens nocens sum facta, sed numquam mihi.
so-often guilty I-have-been made, but never for-myself.

CREO Iam exisse decuit. quid seris fando moras?
Already to-have-gone-out it-was-fitting. why do-you-sow by-speaking delays?

MEDEA Supplex recedens illud extremum precor,
Suppliant departing that last I-pray,

ne culpa natos matris insontes trahat.
lest the-guilt the-children of-the-mother innocent drag.

CREO Vade: hos paterno ut genitor excipiam sinu.
Go: these with-paternal as father I-will-receive bosom.

MEDEA Per ego auspicatos regii thalami toros,
By I the-auspicious of-the-royal marriage couches,
per spes futuras perque regnorum status,
by the-hopes future and-by of-the-realms the-states,
Fortuna varia dubia quos agitat vice,
Fortune with-varied doubtful which shakes change,
precor, brevem largire fugienti moram,
I-pray, a-brief grant to-the-fleeing delay,
dum extrema natis mater infigo oscula,
while the-last on-my-children as-mother I-imprint kisses,
fortasse moriens.
perhaps dying.
CREO Fraudibus tempus petis.
For-frauds time you-seek.
MEDEA Quae fraus timeri tempore exiguo potest?
What fraud to-be-feared in-time scant can?
CREO Nullum ad nocendum tempus angustum est malis.
No for harming time narrow is for-the-wicked.
MEDEA Parumne miserae temporis lacrimis negas?
Too-little-whether for-the-wretched of-time for-tears do-you-deny?
CREO Etsi repugnat precibus infixus timor,
Although resists the-prayers fixed fear,
unus parando dabitur exilio dies.
one for-preparing will-be-given for-exile day.
MEDEA Nimis est, recidas aliquid ex isto licet:
Too-much it-is, you-may-cut something from that though:
et ipsa propero.
and I-myself hurry.

CREO Capite supplicium lues,
By-your-head the-punishment you-will-pay,
clarum priusquam Phoebus attollat diem
bright before Phoebus raises the-day
nisi cedis Isthmo. sacra me thalami vocant,
unless you-leave the-Isthmus. the-rites me of-marriage call,
vocat precari festus Hymenaeo dies.
calls to-pray the-festal for-Hymenaeus day.

V · THE FIRST SHIP

The chorus condemns the man who first trusted a frail ship to the sea and broke the bounds that nature set between lands. The Argo passed the clashing rocks, the maiden of Pelorus girt with dogs, and the Siren whom Orpheus' lyre nearly drew after it, and won the Golden Fleece and Medea, a worse evil than the sea. Now every sea is crossed, and a time will come when Ocean opens new worlds and Thule is not the farthest land.

CHORUS Audax nimium qui freta primus
Bold too-much he-who the-straits first
rate tam fragili perfida rupit
in-a-ship so fragile treacherous broke
terrasque suas posterga videns
and-lands his-own behind-his-back seeing
animam levibus credidit auris,
his-life to-light entrusted breezes,
dubioque secans aequora cursu
and-on-doubtful cutting the-seas course
potuit tenui fidere ligno
could to-thin to-trust wood

inter vitae mortisque vias
between of-life and-of-death the-ways
nimium gracili limite ducto.
too with-slender boundary drawn.
Candida nostri saecula patres
Bright our ages fathers
videre, procul fraude remota.
saw, far with-fraud removed.
sua quisque piger litora tangens
his-own each sluggish shores touching
patrioque senex factus in arvo,
and-ancestral an-old-man made on field,
parvo dives, nisi quas tulerat
on-little rich, except which had-borne
natale solum, non norat opes:
the-native soil, not knew wealth:
nondum quisquam sidera norat,
not-yet anyone the-stars knew,
stellisque quibus pingitur aether
and-of-the-stars with-which is-painted the-sky
non erat usus, nondum pluvias
not was the-use, not-yet the-rainy
Hyadas poterat vitare ratis,
Hyades could to-avoid a-ship,
non Oleniae lumina caprae,
not of-the-Olenian the-lights goat,
nec quae sequitur flectitque senex
nor which follows and-turns the-old-man
Attica tardus plaustra Bootes,
Attic slow wagons Bootes,

nondum Boreas,
not-yet Boreas,
nondum Zephyrus nomen habebant.
not-yet Zephyrus a-name had.
Ausus Tiphys pandere vasto
Dared Tiphys to-spread on-the-vast
carbasa ponto
sails sea
legesque novas scribere ventis:
and-laws new to-write for-the-winds:
nunc lina sinu tendere toto,
now the-canvas with-belly to-stretch whole,
nunc prolato pede transversos
now with-advanced sheet the-cross
captare notos, nunc antemnas
to-catch south-winds, now the-yards
medio tutas ponere malo,
in-the-middle safe to-set mast,
nunc in summo religare loco,
now on the-top to-tie place,
cum iam totos avidus nimium
when now the-whole greedy too-much
navita flatus optat et alto
the-sailor blasts wishes and on-high
rubicunda tremunt sipara velo.
ruddy tremble the-topsails sail.
bene dissaepti foedera mundi
well of-the-separated the-pacts world
traxit in unum Thessala pinus
drew into one the-Thessalian pine

iussitque pati verbera pontum,
and-bade to-suffer blows the-sea,
partemque metus fieri nostri
and-a-part of-fear to-become our
mare sepositum.
the-sea set-apart.
dedit illa graves improba poenas
paid that heavy the-wicked penalties
per tam longos ducta timores,
through so long led fears,
cum duo montes, claustra profundi,
when two mountains, the-bars of-the-deep,
hinc atque illinc subito impulsu
from-here and from-there with-sudden impact
velut aetherio gemerent sonitu,
as-if with-heavenly groaned sound,
nubesque ipsas
and-the-clouds themselves
mare deprensum spargeret austris.
the-sea caught spattered with-south-winds.
palluit audax Tiphys et omnes
grew-pale bold Tiphys and all
labente manu misit habenas,
with-slipping hand let-go the-reins,
Orpheus tacuit torpente lyra
Orpheus fell-silent with-numb lyre
ipsaque vocem perdidit Argo.
and-herself her-voice lost the-Argo.
quid cum Siculi virgo Pelori,
what when of-Sicilian the-maiden Pelorus,

rabidos utero succincta canes,
with-raging at-the-womb girt dogs,
omnis pariter solvit hiatus?
all equally loosed jaws?
quis non totos horruit artus
who not in-whole shuddered limbs
totiens uno latrante malo?
so-often with-one barking evil?
quid cum Ausonium dirae pestes
what when Ausonian the-dire plagues
voce canora mare mulcerent,
with-voice tuneful the-sea soothed,
cum Pieria resonans cithara
when with-Pierian resounding lyre
Thracius Orpheus
Thracian Orpheus
solitam cantu retinere rates
wont with-song to-hold ships
paene coegit Sirena sequi?
almost compelled the-Siren to-follow?
quod fuit huius pretium cursus?
what was of-this the-price voyage?
aurea pellis
the-golden fleece
maiusque mari Medea malum,
and-greater than-the-sea Medea evil,
merces prima digna carina.
merchandise of-the-first worthy ship.
Nunc iam cessit pontus et omnes
Now already has-yielded the-sea and all

patitur leges: non Palladia
endures laws: not by-Palladian
compacta manu regum referens
built hand of-kings bringing-back
inclita remos quaeritur Argo —
famed the-oars is-sought Argo
quaelibet altum cumba pererrat;
any the-deep skiff wanders-through;
terminus omnis motus et urbes
boundary every has-moved and cities
muros terra posuere nova,
walls in-land have-set new,
nil qua fuerat sede reliquit
nothing where it-had-been in-place has-left
pervius orbis:
passable the-world:
Indus gelidum potat Araxen,
the-Indian the-chill drinks Araxes,
Albin Persae Rhenumque bibunt.
the-Elbe the-Persians and-the-Rhine drink.
venient annis saecula seris,
will-come in-years late ages,
quibus Oceanus vincula rerum
in-which Ocean the-chains of-things
laxet et ingens pateat tellus
may-loosen and huge may-lie-open the-earth
Tethysque novos detegat orbes
and-Tethys new may-uncover worlds
nec sit terris ultima Thule.
nor may-be for-the-lands the-farthest Thule.

VI · THE NURSE FEARS HER FURY

The Nurse describes Medea rushing about like a maenad, weeping, smiling, threatening, and seething. Medea vows that her rage will never cease; Jason feared Creon and the Thessalian leader and would not even speak to her, but this one day will do what no one will ever be silent about. Begged to calm herself, she answers that her only rest is to see everything fall with her; the Nurse warns that no one attacks the powerful safely.

NUTRIX Alumna, celerem quo rapis tectis pedem?
Nursling, swift where do-you-snatch from-the-house your-foot?
resiste et iras comprime ac retine impetum.
stop and your-angers restrain and hold-back your-onrush.
Incerta qualis entheos gressus tulit
Uncertain as a-god-filled her-steps has-borne
cum iam recepto maenas insanit deo
when now with-received the-maenad raves god
Pindi nivalis vertice aut Nysae iugis,
of-Pindus snowy on-the-peak or of-Nysa on-the-ridges,
talis recursat huc et huc motu effero,
so she-runs-back hither and hither with-movement wild,
furoris ore signa lymphati gerens.
of-madness on-her-face the-signs maddened bearing.
flammata facies spiritum ex alto citat,
flaming her-face the-breath from deep calls-up,
proclamat, oculos uberi fletu rigat,
she-cries-out, her-eyes with-rich weeping wets,
renidet: omnis specimen affectus capit.
she-smiles-back: of-every the-look emotion she-takes.
quo pondus animi vergat, ubi ponat minas,
where the-weight of-her-mind may-incline, where she-may-set her-threats,

haeret: minatur aestuat queritur gemit.
she-hesitates: she-threatens seethes complains groans.
ubi se iste fluctus franget? exundat furor.
where itself that wave will-break? overflows the-madness.
non facile secum versat aut medium scelus;
not easy with-herself she-turns or a-middling crime;
se vincet: irae novimus veteris notas.
herself she-will-surpass: of-anger we-know old the-marks.
magnum aliquid instat, efferum immane impium:
great something threatens, savage monstrous impious:
vultum furoris cerno. di fallant metum!
the-face of-madness I-see. gods may-they-deceive my-fear!
MEDEA Si quaeris odio, misera, quem statuas modum:
If you-ask for-hatred, wretched-one, what you-may-set limit:
imitare amorem. regias egone ut faces
imitate love. royal I that the-torches
inulta patiar? segnis hic ibit dies,
unavenged should-endure? sluggish this will-go day,
tanto petitus ambitu, tanto datus?
with-so-great sought canvassing, with-so-great given?
dum terra caelum media libratum feret
while the-earth heaven middle balanced will-bear
nitidusque certas mundus evolvet vices
and-the-shining its-sure world will-unroll changes
numerusque harenis derit et solem dies,
and-number to-the-sands will-fail and the-sun the-day,
noctem sequentur astra, dum siccas polus
the-night will-follow the-stars, while the-dry the-pole
versabit Arctos, flumina in pontum cadent,
will-turn Bears, the-rivers into the-sea will-fall,

numquam meus cessabit in poenas furor
never my will-cease in punishment madness
crescetque semper. quae ferarum immanitas,
and-will-grow always. what of-beasts savagery,
quae Scylla, quae Charybdis Ausonium mare
what Scylla, what Charybdis the-Ausonian sea
Siculumque sorbens quaeve anhelantem premens
and-the-Sicilian swallowing or-what panting pressing
Titana tantis Aetna fervebit minis?
Titan with-so-great Aetna will-boil threats?
non rapidus amnis, non procellosum mare
not a-swift river, not a-stormy sea
Pontusve coro saevus aut vis ignium
or-Pontus by-Corus savage or the-force of-fires
adiuta flatu possit inhibere impetum
helped by-blast could to-restrain the-onrush
irasque nostras: sternam et evertam omnia.
and-angers our: I-will-lay-low and will-overturn all-things.
Timuit Creontem ac bella Thessalici ducis?
Did-he-fear Creon and the-wars of-the-Thessalian leader?
amor timere neminem verus potest.
love to-fear no-one true can.
sed cesserit coactus et dederit manus:
but suppose-he-yielded compelled and gave hands:
adire certe et coniugem extremo alloqui
to-approach surely and his-wife with-a-last to-address
sermone potuit — hoc quoque extimuit ferox;
speech he-could this also dreaded the-fierce;
laxare certe tempus immitis fugae
to-loosen surely the-time of-cruel flight

genero licebat — liberis unus dies
for-the-son-in-law it-was-allowed for-children one day
datus est duobus. non queror tempus breve:
given is two. not I-complain-of the-time short:
multum patebit. faciet hic faciet dies
much it-will-lie-open. will-do this will-do day
quod nullus umquam taceat — invadam deos
what no-one ever may-be-silent-about I-will-invade the-gods
et cuncta quatiam.
and all-things will-shake.
NUTRIX Recipe turbatum malis.
Take-back troubled by-evils.
era, pectus, animum mitiga.
mistress, your-breast, your-spirit soothe.
MEDEA Sola est quies,
Alone is rest,
mecum ruina cuncta si video obruta:
with-me in-ruin all-things if I-see overwhelmed:
mecum omnia abeant. trahere, cum pereas, libet.
with-me all-things let-go-down. to-drag, when you-perish, it-pleases.
NUTRIX Quam multa sint timenda, si perstas, vide:
How many-things be to-be-feared, if you-persist, see:
nemo potentes aggredi tutus potest.
no-one the-powerful to-attack safe can.

Jason laments that he had to choose between his own death and faithlessness and kept faith with his sons. Medea reminds him of everything she did for him and asks to take the children; he refuses, since they are his one comfort. Seeing how he loves them, she asks only for a last farewell, and when he has gone she plans the poisoned gifts for the bride.

IASON O dura fata semper et sortem asperam,
O hard fates always and lot harsh,
cum saevit et cum parcit ex aequo malam!
when it-rages and when it-spares from equal evil!
remedia quotiens invenit nobis deus
remedies how-often finds for-us a-god
periculis peiora: si vellem fidem
than-the-dangers worse: if I-wished faith
praestare meritis coniugis, leto fuit
to-keep to-the-merits of-my-wife, to-death was
caput offerendum; si mori nollem, fide
my-head to-be-offered; if to-die I-were-unwilling, faith
misero carendum. non timor vicit fidem,
the-wretch must-lack. not fear has-conquered faith,
sed trepida pietas: quippe sequeretur necem
but anxious dutifulness: for would-follow the-death
proles parentum. sancta si caelum incolis
the-offspring of-the-parents. holy if heaven you-inhabit
Iustitia, numen invoco ac testor tuum:
Justice, the-divinity I-invoke and call-to-witness your:
nati patrem vicere. quin ipsam quoque,
the-sons their-father have-conquered. indeed herself also,

etsi ferox est corde nec patiens iugi,
although fierce she-is in-heart nor enduring of-the-yoke,
consulere natis malle quam thalamis reor.
to-consult for-her-sons to-prefer than for-her-marriage I-think.
constituit animus precibus iratam aggredi.
has-resolved my-mind with-prayers the-angry to-approach.
atque ecce, viso memet exiluit, furit,
and behold, at-the-sight of-me she-has-leapt-out, rages,
fert odia prae se: totus in vultu est dolor.
she-carries her-hatreds before her: wholly in her-face is the-grief.
MEDEA Fugimus, Iason: fugimus — hoc non est novum,
We-flee, Jason: we-flee this not is new,
mutare sedes; causa fugiendi nova est:
to-change seats; the-cause of-fleeing new is:
pro te solebam fugere, discedo exeo,
for you I-used to-flee, I-depart I-go-out,
penatibus profugere quam cogis tuis:
from-the-household-gods to-flee whom you-compel your:
at quo remittis? Phasin et Colchos petam
but where do-you-send-me-back? the-Phasis and the-Colchians shall-I-seek
patriumque regnum quaeque fraternus cruor
and-paternal the-kingdom and-which a-brother's blood
perfudit arva? quas peti terras iubes?
drenched the-fields? what to-be-sought lands do-you-bid?
quae maria monstras? Pontici fauces freti
what seas do-you-show? of-the-Pontic the-jaws strait
per quas revexi nobilem regum manum
through which I-brought-back the-noble of-kings band
adulterum secuta per Symplegadas?
an-adulterer having-followed through the-Symplegades?

parvamne Iolcon, Thessala an Tempe petam?
small-whether Iolcos, Thessalian or Tempe shall-I-seek?
quascumque aperui tibi vias, clausi mihi —
whatever I-opened for-you ways, I-closed for-me
quo me remittis? exuli exilium imperas
where me do-you-send-back? on-an-exile exile you-impose
nec das. eatur. regius iussit gener:
and-do-not give-it. let-it-be-gone. the-royal has-ordered son-in-law:
nihil recuso. dira supplicia ingere:
nothing I-refuse. dire punishments heap-on:
merui cruentis paelicem poenis premat
I-have-deserved with-bloody the-concubine penalties let-press
regalis ira, vinculis oneret manus
royal anger, with-chains let-it-load my-hands
clausamque saxo noctis aeternae obruat:
and-shut-up in-rock of-night eternal let-it-bury:
minora meritis patiar — ingratum caput,
less than-my-merits I-shall-suffer ungrateful head,
revolvat animus igneos tauri halitus
let-roll-back your-mind the-fiery of-the-bull breaths
hostisque subiti tela, cum iussu meo
and-of-the-enemy sudden the-weapons, when by-the-command my
terrigena miles mutua caede occidit;
the-earth-born soldiery in-mutual slaughter fell;
adice expetita spolia Phrixei arietis
add the-sought spoils of-Phrixus ram
somnoque iussum lumina ignoto dare
and-to-sleep bidden its-eyes unknown to-give
insomne monstrum, traditum fratrem neci
the-sleepless monster, given-over my-brother to-death

et scelere in uno non semel factum scelus,
and crime in one not once done crime,
ausasque natas fraude deceptas mea
and-having-dared the-daughters by-fraud deceived my
secare membra non revicturi senis:
to-cut the-limbs not of-going-to-live-again old-man:
per spes tuorum liberum et certum larem,
by the-hopes of-your children and the-sure hearth,
per victa monstra, per manus, pro te quibus
by the-conquered monsters, by these-hands, for you which
numquam peperci, perque praeteritos metus,
never I-spared, and-by the-past fears,
per caelum et undas, coniugi testes mei,
by heaven and waves, of-marriage witnesses my,
miserere, redde supplici felix vicem.
pity, give-back to-the-suppliant happy-one the-turn.
aliena quaerens regna deserui mea:
another's seeking realm I-deserted my:
ex opibus illis, quas procul raptas Scythae
of riches those, which far-off snatched the-Scythians
usque a perustis Indiae populis agunt,
right from the-scorched of-India peoples drive,
quas quia referta vix domus gaza capit,
which because crammed scarcely the-house with-treasure holds,
ornamus auro nemora, nil exul tuli
we-adorn with-gold the-groves, nothing an-exile I-carried
nisi fratris artus: hos quoque impendi tibi;
except my-brother's limbs: these also I-spent for-you;
tibi patria cessit, tibi pater, frater, pudor —
to-you my-fatherland yielded, to-you my-father, brother, shame

hac dote nupsi. redde fugienti sua.
with-this dowry I-married. give-back to-the-fleeing her-own.

IASON Perimere cum te vellet infestus Creo,
To-kill when you wished hostile Creon,

lacrimis meis evictus exilium dedit.
by-tears my won-over exile he-gave.

MEDEA Poenam putabam: munus ut video est fuga.
A-punishment I-thought-it: a-gift as I-see is flight.

IASON Dum licet abire, profuge teque hinc eripe:
While it-is-allowed to-go-away, flee and-yourself hence snatch:

gravis ira regum est semper.
heavy the-anger of-kings is always.

MEDEA Hoc suades mihi,
This you-urge on-me,

praestas Creusae: paelicem invisam amoves.
you-do-a-favor for-Creusa: the-concubine hated you-remove.

IASON Medea amores obicit?
Medea loves casts-up?

MEDEA Et caedem et dolos.
And slaughter and tricks.

IASON Obicere tandem quod potes crimen mihi?
To-cast-up at-last what can-you crime at-me?

MEDEA Quodcumque feci.
Whatever I-did.

IASON Restat hoc unum insuper,
Remains this one in-addition,

tuis ut etiam sceleribus fiam nocens.
by-your that even crimes I-become guilty.

MEDEA Tua illa, tua sunt illa: cui prodest scelus
Yours those, yours are those: to-whom profits the-crime
is fecit — omnes coniugem infamem arguant,
he did-it all your-wife infamous may-accuse,
solus tuere, solus insontem voca:
you-alone defend, you-alone innocent call:
tibi innocens sit quisquis est pro te nocens.
to-you innocent let-be whoever is for you guilty.
IASON Ingrata vita est cuius acceptae pudet.
Unwelcome a-life is of-which accepted it-shames.
MEDEA Retinenda non est cuius acceptae pudet.
To-be-kept not is of-which accepted it-shames.
IASON Quin potius ira concitum pectus doma,
Nay rather with-anger roused your-breast tame,
placare natis.
be-reconciled for-your-sons.
MEDEA Abdico eiuro abnuo —
I-renounce I-forswear I-refuse
meis Creusa liberis fratres dabit?
to-my Creusa children brothers will-give?
IASON Regina natis exulum, afflictis potens.
A-queen to-the-sons of-exiles, to-the-afflicted powerful.
MEDEA Ne veniat umquam tam malus miseris dies,
Not let-come ever so evil for-the-wretched day,
qui prole foeda misceat prolem inclitam.
which with-offspring foul may-mix offspring famed.
IASON Quid, misera, meque teque in exitium trahis?
Why, wretched-one, both-me and-yourself into destruction do-you-drag?
abscede quaeso.
go-away I-beg.

MEDEA Supplicem audivit Creo.
The-suppliant has-heard Creon.
IASON Quid facere possim, loquere.
What to-do I-could, say.
MEDEA Pro me? vel scelus.
For me? even crime.
IASON Hinc rex et illinc —
On-this-side the-king and on-that
MEDEA Est (et hic maior metus)
There-is (and this a-greater fear)
Medea, nos † confligere, certemus sine,
Medea, us (corrupt) to-clash, let-us-contend allow,
sit pretium Iason.
let-be the-prize Jason.
IASON Cedo defessus malis.
I-yield exhausted by-evils.
et ipsa casus saepe iam expertos time.
and yourself chances often already tried fear.
MEDEA Fortuna semper omnis infra me stetit.
Fortune always all below me has-stood.
IASON Acastus instat.
Acastus presses.
MEDEA Propior est hostis Creo:
Nearer is the-enemy Creon:
utrumque profuge. non ut in socerum manus
both flee. not that against your-father-in-law hands
armes nec ut te caede cognata inquines
you-should-arm nor that yourself with-slaughter of-kin you-should-stain
Medea cogit: innocens mecum fuge.
Medea compels: innocent with-me flee.

IASON Et quis resistet, gemina si bella ingruant,
And who will-resist, double if wars rush-in,
Creo atque Acastus arma si iungant sua?
Creon and Acastus arms if they-should-join their?
MEDEA His adice Colchos, adice et Aeeten ducem,
To-these add the-Colchians, add also Aeetes as-leader,
Scythas Pelasgis iunge: demersos dabo.
the-Scythians to-the-Pelasgians join: sunk I-will-give-them.
IASON Alta extimesco sceptra.
High I-dread scepters.
MEDEA Ne cupias vide.
Lest you-covet see.
IASON Suspecta ne sint, longa colloquia amputa.
Suspected lest they-be, long conversations cut-short.
MEDEA Nunc summe toto Iuppiter caelo tona,
Now highest from-whole Jupiter heaven thunder,
intende dextram, vindices flammas para
stretch your-right-hand, avenging flames prepare
omnemque ruptis nubibus mundum quate.
and-all with-burst clouds the-world shake.
nec deligenti tela librentur manu
nor with-a-choosing the-weapons let-be-poised hand
vel me vel istum: quisquis e nobis cadet
either me or him: whichever of us shall-fall
nocens peribit, non potest in nos tuum
guilty will-perish, not can at us your
errare fulmen.
to-go-astray thunderbolt.

IASON Sana meditari incipe
Sane-things to-think begin
et placida fare. si quod ex soceri domo
and calm-things speak. if any from of-your-father-in-law the-house
potest fugam levare solamen, pete.
can the-flight to-lighten solace, seek-it.
MEDEA Contemnere animus regias, ut scis, opes
To-despise my-mind royal, as you-know, wealth
potest soletque; liberos tantum fugae
can and-is-wont; my-children only of-the-flight
habere comites liceat in quorum sinu
to-have as-companions let-it-be-allowed into whose bosom
lacrimas profundam. te novi nati manent.
tears I-may-pour. you new sons await.
IASON Parere precibus cupere me fateor tuis;
To-obey prayers to-wish I I-confess your;
pietas vetat: namque istud ut possim pati,
dutifulness forbids: for that that I-could to-endure,
non ipse memet cogat et rex et socer.
not himself me could-compel both king and father-in-law.
haec causa vitae est, hoc perusti pectoris
this the-cause of-life is, this of-the-burned breast
curis levamen. spiritu citius queam
for-the-cares relief. of-breath sooner I-could
carere, membris, luce.
to-be-deprived, of-limbs, of-light.
MEDEA Sic natos amat?
So his-sons he-loves?
bene est, tenetur, vulneri patuit locus. —
well it-is, he-is-held, for-a-wound has-lain-open a-place.

suprema certe liceat abeuntem loqui
last surely let-it-be-allowed me-going-away to-speak
mandata, liceat ultimum amplexum dare:
charges, let-it-be-allowed a-last embrace to-give:
gratum est et illud. voce iam extrema peto,
pleasing is also that. with-voice now last I-beg,
ne, si qua noster dubius effudit dolor,
lest, if anything our doubtful has-poured-out grief,
555 maneant in animo verba: melioris tibi
remain in your-mind the-words: of-a-better to-you
memoria nostri sedeat; haec irae data
the-memory of-us may-sit; these-words to-anger given
oblitterentur.
let-be-blotted-out.

IASON Omnia ex animo expuli
All-things from my-mind I-have-driven
precorque et ipse, fervidam ut mentem regas
and-I-pray also myself, your-hot that mind you-may-rule
placideque tractes: miserias lenit quies.
and-calmly manage: miseries softens quiet.

560 MEDEA Discessit. itane est? vadis oblitus mei
He-has-departed. so is-it? you-go forgetful of-me
et tot meorum facinorum? excidimus tibi?
and of-so-many my deeds? have-we-fallen-out from-you?
numquam excidemus. hoc age, omnis advoca
never we-shall-fall-out. this do, all summon
vires et artes. fructus est scelerum tibi
your-strength and arts. the-fruit is of-crimes for-you
nullum scelus putare. vix fraudi est locus:
no crime to-think. scarcely for-fraud is room:

timemur. hac aggredere, qua nemo potest
we-are-feared. by-this attack, where no-one could
quicquam timere. perge, nunc aude, incipe
anything to-fear. go-on, now dare, begin
quicquid potest Medea, quicquid non potest.
whatever can Medea, whatever not can.
Tu, fida nutrix, socia maeroris mei
You, faithful nurse, partner of-grief my
variique casus, misera consilia adiuva.
and-of-varied fortune, my-wretched plans help.
est palla nobis, munus aetherium, domus
there-is a-robe to-us, a-gift heavenly, of-our-house
decusque regni, pignus Aeetae datum
and-the-glory of-the-realm, a-pledge to-Aeetes given
a Sole generis, est et auro textili
by the-Sun of-his-race, there-is also with-gold woven
monile fulgens quodque gemmarum nitor
a-necklace gleaming and-which of-gems the-sheen
distinguit aurum, quo solent cingi comae.
picks-out the-gold, with-which are-wont to-be-bound the-hair.
haec nostra nati dona nubenti ferant,
these our sons as-gifts to-the-bride let-them-carry,
sed ante diris inlita ac tincta artibus,
but first with-dire smeared and dyed arts,
vocetur Hecate. sacra letifica appara:
let-be-called Hecate. the-rites death-bringing prepare:
statuantur arae, flamma iam tectis sonet.
let-be-set-up the-altars, the-flame now in-the-house let-roar.

No fire, wind, or flood is as fierce as a wife robbed of her marriage. The chorus prays that the gods spare the man who subdued the sea, and tells how the sea has punished all who sailed the bold ship: Tiphys, the Muse's son, Alcides, Ancaeus, Meleager, the boy Hercules lost, Idmon, Mopsus, Thetis' husband, Nauplius, and Oileus' son; Pelias, who ordered the voyage, burned in heated bronze. It asks the gods to spare the one who sailed under orders.

CHORUS Nulla vis flammae tumidive venti
No force of-flame or-of-swollen wind
tanta, nec teli metuenda torti,
so-great, nor of-a-weapon to-be-feared hurled,
quanta cum coniunx viduata taedis
as-great-as when a-wife bereaved of-the-torches
ardet et odit;
burns and hates;
non ubi hibernos nebulosus imbres
not when wintry cloudy rains
Auster advexit properatque torrens
Auster has-brought and-hastens torrent-like
Hister et iunctos vetat esse pontes
the-Danube and joined forbids to-be bridges
ac vagus errat;
and wandering strays;
non ubi impellit Rhodanus profundum,
not when drives the-Rhone the-deep,
aut ubi in rivos nivibus solutis
or when into streams with-snows melted
sole iam forti medioque vere
with-sun now strong and-in-mid spring

tabuit Haemus.
has-melted Haemus.
caecus est ignis stimulatus ira
blind is the-fire goaded by-anger
nec regi curat patiturve frenos
nor to-be-ruled cares or-endures reins
aut timet mortem: cupit ire in ipsos
or fears death: it-desires to-go against the-very
obvius enses.
meeting swords.
parcite, o divi, veniam precamur,
spare, O gods, pardon we-beg,
vivat ut tutus mare qui subegit.
let-him-live that safe the-sea who subdued.
sed furit vinci dominus profundi
but rages to-be-conquered the-lord of-the-deep
regna secunda.
the-realms second.
ausus aeternos agitare currus
having-dared the-eternal to-drive chariot
immemor metae iuvenis paternae
unmindful of-the-goal the-youth paternal
quos polo sparsit furiosus ignes
which over-the-sky he-scattered madly fires
ipse recepit.
himself received.
constitit nulli via nota magno:
has-cost for-none the-way known dear:
vade qua tutum populo priori,
go where safe for-the-people former,

rumpe nec sacro violente sancta
break nor the-sacred violent-one holy
foedera mundi.
pacts of-the-world.
Quisquis audacis tetigit carinae
Whoever of-the-bold has-touched ship
nobiles remos nemorisque sacri
the-noble oars and-of-the-grove sacred
Pelion densa spoliavit umbra,
Pelion of-its-thick has-stripped shade,
quisquis intravit scopulos vagantes
whoever has-entered the-rocks wandering
et tot emensus pelagi labores
and so-many having-passed of-the-sea labors
barbara funem religavit ora
on-a-barbarous the-cable has-tied shore
raptor externi rediturus auri,
a-robber of-foreign going-to-return gold,
exitu diro temerata ponti
by-an-end dire the-violated of-the-sea
iura piavit.
laws has-expiated.
exigit poenas mare provocatum:
exacts penalties the-sea provoked:
Tiphys in primis, domitor profundi,
Tiphys among the-first, tamer of-the-deep,
liquit indocto regimen magistro;
has-left to-an-untaught the-helm master;
litore externo, procul a paternis
on-a-shore foreign, far from paternal

occidens regnis tumuloque vili
dying realms and-with-a-tomb cheap
tectus ignotas iacet inter umbras.
covered unknown he-lies among shades.
Aulis amissi memor inde regis
Aulis of-the-lost mindful thence king
portibus lentis retinet carinas
in-its-harbors sluggish holds ships
stare querentes.
to-stand complaining.
ille vocali genitus Camena,
he of-a-vocal born Muse,
cuius ad chordas modulante plectro
whose at strings with-modulating quill
restitit torrens, siluere venti,
stood-still the-torrent, fell-silent the-winds,
cum suo cantu volucris relicto
when with-its-own song the-bird left
adfuit tota comitante silva,
came-near with-whole following the-wood,
Thracios sparsus iacuit per agros,
Thracian scattered lay over fields,
at caput tristi fluitavit Hebro:
but his-head on-the-sad floated Hebrus:
contigit notam Styga Tartarumque,
he-reached the-known Styx and-Tartarus,
non rediturus.
not going-to-return.
stravit Alcides Aquilone natos,
laid-low Alcides from-Aquilo the-sons,

patre Neptuno genitum necavit
by-father Neptune the-one-born slew
sumere innumeras solitum figuras:
to-take countless wont shapes:
ipse post terrae pelagique pacem,
himself after of-earth and-of-sea peace,
post feri Ditis patefacta regna,
after of-savage Dis opened the-realms,
vivus ardenti recubans in Oeta
alive burning reclining on Oeta
praebuit saevis sua membra flammis,
offered to-savage his limbs flames,
tabe consumptus gemini cruoris
by-the-gore consumed of-twin blood
munere nuptae.
by-the-gift of-his-bride.
stravit Ancaeum violentus ictu
laid-low Ancaeus violent with-a-blow
saetiger; fratrem, Meleagre, matris
the-bristly-boar; the-brother, Meleager, of-your-mother
impius mactas morerisque dextra
impious you-slay and-die by-the-hand
matris iratae. meruere cuncti
of-your-mother angry. deserved all
morte quod crimen tener expiavit
by-death what crime the-tender expiated
Herculi magno puer inrepertus,
for-Hercules great the-boy unfound,
raptus, heu, tutas puer inter undas.
snatched, alas, safe the-boy amid waters.

ite nunc, fortes, perarate pontum
go now, brave-men, plow-through the-sea
fonte timendo.
by-a-spring to-be-feared.
Idmonem, quamvis bene fata nosset,
Idmon, although well the-fates he-knew,
condidit serpens Libycis harenis;
buried a-serpent in-Libyan sands;
omnibus verax, sibi falsus uni
to-all truthful, to-himself false alone
concidit Mopsus caruitque Thebis.
fell Mopsus and-lacked Thebes.
ille si vere cecinit futura,
he if truly sang the-future,
exul errabit Thetidis maritus
an-exile will-wander of-Thetis the-husband
fulmine et ponto moriens Oileus
by-thunderbolt and by-sea dying Oileus'-son
∗∗∗ patrioque pendet crimine poenas:
(lacuna) and-for-paternal will-pay crime penalties:
igne fallaci nociturus Argis
with-fire deceitful going-to-harm the-Argives
Nauplius praeceps cadet in profundum,
Nauplius headlong will-fall into the-deep,
coniugis fatum redimens Pheraei
of-your-husband the-fate redeeming Pheraean
uxor impendes animam marito.
wife you-will-spend your-life for-your-husband.
ipse qui praedam spoliumque iussit
himself who the-prey and-spoil ordered

aureum prima revehi carina,
golden in-the-first to-be-brought-back ship,
arsit accenso Pelias aeno.
burned in-heated Pelias bronze.
iam satis, divi, mare vindicastis:
now enough, gods, the-sea you-have-avenged:
parcite iusso.
spare the-one-ordered.

IX · THE INCANTATION

The Nurse, terrified, tells how Medea summons every serpent, the Hydra among them, and gathers deadly herbs from every mountain and river. Medea calls on the silent dead, Chaos, and Trivia, offers her own blood at the altar, and asks Hecate to dye Creusa's garments with fire hidden in gold. Hecate barks thrice in answer, and Medea sends her sons to carry the gifts to the bride.

NUTRIX Pavet animus, horret, magna pernicies adest.
Trembles my-mind, shudders, great ruin is-at-hand.
immane quantum augescit et semet dolor
monstrously how-much grows and itself her-grief
accendit ipse vimque praeteritam integrat.
kindles itself and-its-force past renews.
vidi furentem saepe et aggressam deos,
I-have-seen her-raging often and attacking the-gods,
caelum trahentem: maius his, maius parat
the-sky dragging-down: greater than-these, greater prepares
Medea monstrum. namque ut attonito gradu
Medea a-monster. for when with-thunderstruck step
evasit et penetrale funestam attigit,
she-went-out and the-shrine deadly reached,

totas opes effundit et quicquid diu
all her-wealth she-pours-out and whatever long
etiam ipsa timuit promit atque omnem explicat
even she-herself feared brings-out and all unfolds
turbam malorum, arcana secreta abdita,
the-throng of-evils, arcane secret hidden,
et triste laeva congregans sacrum manu
and the-gloomy with-left gathering rite hand
pestes vocat quascumque ferventes creat
the-plagues she-calls whatever the-burning creates
harena Libyae quasque perpetua nive
sand of-Libya and-which with-perpetual snow
Taurus cohercet frigore Arctoo rigens,
Taurus restrains with-cold Arctic stiffening,
et omne monstrum. tracta magicis cantibus
and every monster. drawn by-magic spells
squamifera latebris turba desertis adest.
the-scaly from-lairs throng deserted is-at-hand.
hic saeva serpens corpus immensum trahit
here a-savage serpent its-body immense drags
trifidamque linguam exertat et quaerit quibus
and-its-three-forked tongue darts-out and seeks to-whom
mortifera veniat: carmine audito stupet
deadly it-may-come: at-the-song heard it-is-stunned
tumidumque nodis corpus aggestis plicat
and-its-swollen with-knots body heaped folds
cogitque in orbes. ‘parva sunt’ inquit ‘mala
and-forces into coils. ‘small are’ she-says ‘the-evils
et vile telum est, ima quod tellus creat:
and cheap the-weapon is, the-lowest which earth creates:

caelo petam venena. iam iam tempus est
from-heaven I-will-seek poisons. now now time it-is
aliquid movere fraude vulgari altius.
something to-stir than-fraud common higher.
huc ille vasti more torrentis iacens
hither he of-a-vast in-the-manner torrent lying
descendat anguis, cuius immensos duae,
let-come-down the-snake, whose immense two,
maior minorque, sentiunt nodos ferae
greater and-lesser, feel knots beasts
(maior Pelasgis apta, Sidoniis minor)
(the-greater for-Pelasgians fit, for-Sidonians the-lesser)
pressasque tandem solvat Ophiuchus manus
and-the-pressed at-last let-loose Ophiuchus hands
virusque fundat; adsit ad cantus meos
and-poison let-him-pour; let-be-present at songs my
lacessere ausus gemina Python numina.
to-provoke he-who-dared the-twin Python divinities.
et Hydra et omnis redeat Herculea manu
and the-Hydra and every let-return by-Herculean hand
succisa serpens, caede se reparans sua.
cut-off serpent, by-slaughter itself renewing its-own.
tu quoque relictis pervigil Colchis ades,
you also with-left ever-wakeful Colchians be-present,
sopite primum cantibus, serpens, meis.'
lulled first by-songs, serpent, my.'
Postquam evocavit omne serpentum genus,
After she-has-called-forth every of-serpents race,
congerit in unum frugis infaustae mala:
she-heaps into one of-fruit ill-omened the-evils:

quaecumque generat invius saxis Eryx,
whatever breeds pathless with-rocks Eryx,
quae fert opertis hieme perpetua iugis
what bears on-covered with-winter perpetual ridges
sparsus cruore Caucasus Promethei,
sprinkled with-the-blood Caucasus of-Prometheus,
et quis sagittas divites Arabes linunt
and with-what their-arrows the-rich Arabs smear
pharetraque pugnax Medus aut Parthi leves,
and-with-the-quiver fighting Mede or the-Parthians light,
aut quos sub axe frigido sucos legunt
or what under the-sky cold juices gather
lucis Suebae nobiles Hyrcaniis;
in-groves the-Suebian-women noble Hyrcanian;
quodcumque tellus vere nidifico creat
whatever the-earth in-spring nest-making creates
aut rigida cum iam bruma discussit decus
or stiff when now winter has-shaken-off the-glory
nemorum et nivali cuncta constrinxit gelu,
of-the-groves and with-snowy all-things has-bound frost,
quodcumque gramen flore mortifero viret
whatever grass with-flower deadly is-green
cuiusve tortis sucus in radicibus
or-whose twisted juice in roots
causas nocendi gignit, attrectat manu.
causes of-harming breeds, she-handles with-her-hand.
Haemonius illas contulit pestes Athos,
Haemonian those brought plagues Athos,
has Pindus ingens, illa Pangaei iugis
these Pindus huge, that on-Pangaeus ridges

teneram cruenta falce deposuit comam;
its-tender with-bloody sickle laid-down foliage;
has aluit altum gurgitem Tigris premens,
these nourished the-deep flood the-Tigris pressing,
Danuvius illas, has per arentes plagas
the-Danube those, these through parching tracts
tepidis Hydaspes gemmifer currens aquis,
with-warm Hydaspes gem-bearing running waters,
nomenque terris qui dedit Baetis suis
and-the-name to-the-lands who gave the-Baetis to-his-own
Hesperia pulsans maria languenti vado.
the-Hesperian striking seas with-languid shallow.
haec passa ferrum est, dum parat Phoebus diem,
this suffered the-iron has, while prepares Phoebus the-day,
illius alta nocte succisus frutex;
of-that in-deep night cut-down the-shrub;
at huius ungue secta cantato seges.
but of-this by-the-nail cut enchanted the-crop.
Mortifera carpit gramina ac serpentium
Death-bringing she-plucks grasses and of-serpents
saniem exprimit miscetque et obscenas aves
the-venom she-presses-out and-mixes and foul birds
maestique cor bubonis et raucae strigis
and-of-the-mournful the-heart owl and of-the-hoarse screech-owl
exsecta vivae viscera. haec scelerum artifex
cut-out from-the-living the-entrails. these of-crimes the-artist
discreta ponit; his rapax vis ignium,
separated sets; in-these the-greedy force of-fires,
his gelida pigri frigoris glacies inest.
in-these the-cold of-sluggish frost ice is-in.

addit venenis verba non illis minus
she-adds to-the-poisons words not than-those less
metuenda. sonuit ecce vaesano gradu
to-be-feared. she-has-sounded behold with-frenzied step
canitque. mundus vocibus primis tremit.
and-sings. the-world at-the-words first trembles.
MEDEA Comprecor vulgus silentum vosque ferales deos
I-entreat the-throng of-the-silent and-you funereal gods
et Chaos caecum atque opacam Ditis umbrosi domum.
and Chaos blind and the-dark of-Dis shadowy house.
Tartari ripis ligatae squalido Mortis specu
of-Tartarus on-the-banks bound in-the-squalid of-Death cave
supplicis, animae, remissis currite ad thalamos novos:
with-punishments, souls, relaxed run to the-marriage new:
rota resistat membra torquens, tangat Ixion humum,
the-wheel let-stand limbs twisting, let-touch Ixion the-ground,
Tantalus securus undas hauriat Pirenidas.
Tantalus untroubled the-waters let-drain Pirenian.
vos quoque, urnis quas foratis inritus ludit labor,
you also, in-urns whom pierced vain mocks labor,
Danaides, coite: vestras hic dies quaerit manus.
Danaids, come-together: your this day seeks hands.
gravior uni poena sedeat coniugis socero mei:
heavier on-one the-punishment let-sit of-husband's father-in-law my:
lubricus per saxa retro Sisyphum volvat lapis.
slippery over the-rocks backward Sisyphus let-roll the-stone.
nunc meis vocata sacris, noctium sidus, veni
now by-my called rites, of-nights star, come
pessimos induta vultus, fronte non una minax.
the-worst having-put-on faces, with-brow not one threatening.

Tibi more gentis vinculo solvens comam
For-you after-the-fashion of-my-race from-the-band loosening my-hair
secreta nudo nemora lustravi pede
the-secret with-bare groves I-have-traversed foot
et evocavi nubibus siccis aquas
and I-have-called-forth from-clouds dry waters
egique ad imum maria, et Oceanus graves
and-I-have-driven to the-bottom the-seas, and Ocean heavy
interius undas aestibus victis dedit;
further-in his-waves with-tides conquered has-given;
pariterque mundus lege confusa aetheris
and-alike the-world with-the-law confounded of-the-sky
et solem et astra vidit et vetitum mare
both the-sun and the-stars has-seen and the-forbidden sea
tetigistis, ursae. temporum flexi vices:
you-have-touched, Bears. of-the-seasons I-have-bent the-turns:
aestiva tellus floruit cantu meo,
the-summer earth has-flowered by-song my,
coacta messem vidit hibernam Ceres;
compelled a-harvest has-seen wintry Ceres;
violenta Phasis vertit in fontem vada
violent Phasis has-turned toward its-source its-waters
et Hister, in tot ora divisus, truces
and the-Danube, into so-many mouths divided, fierce
compressit undas omnibus ripis piger.
has-pressed-together its-waves at-all its-banks sluggish.
Sonuere fluctus, tumuit insanum mare
Have-roared the-waves, has-swelled the-mad sea
tacente vento; nemoris antiqui domus
with-silent wind; of-the-grove ancient the-house

emisit umbras vocis imperio meae.
has-sent-out shades of-voice at-the-command my.
die relicto Phoebus in medio stetit
with-the-day left Phoebus in the-middle stood
Hyadesque nostris cantibus motae labant:
and-the-Hyades by-our songs moved totter:
adesse sacris tempus est, Phoebe, tuis.
to-be-present at-the-rites time it-is, Phoebe, your.
tibi haec cruenta serta texuntur manu,
for-you these with-bloody garlands are-woven hand,
novena quae serpens ligat,
nine-fold which a-serpent binds,
tibi haec Typhoeus membra quae discors tulit,
for-you these Typhoeus limbs which discordant bore,
qui regna concussit Iovis.
who the-realms shook of-Jupiter.
vectoris istic perfidi sanguis inest,
of-the-ferryman there treacherous the-blood is-in,
quem Nessus expirans dedit.
which Nessus expiring gave.
Oetaeus isto cinere defecit rogus,
of-Oeta with-that ash failed the-pyre,
qui virus Herculeum bibit,
which the-poison Herculean drank,
piae sororis, impiae matris, facem
of-the-pious sister, of-the-impious mother, the-torch
ultricis Althaeae vides.
of-avenging Althaea you-see.
reliquit istas invio plumas specu
left these in-a-pathless the-feathers cave

Harpyia, dum Zeten fugit.
the-Harpy, while Zetes she-fled.
his adice pinnas sauciae Stymphalidos
to-these add the-feathers of-the-wounded Stymphalian
Lernaea passae spicula.
the-Lernaean having-suffered darts.
785 sonuistis, arae, tripodas agnosco meos
you-have-sounded, altars, the-tripods I-recognize my
favente commotos dea.
with-favoring moved the-goddess.
Video Triviae currus agiles,
I-see of-Trivia the-chariot swift,
non quos pleno lucida vultu
not that-which with-full bright face
pernox agitat,
all-night she-drives,
790 sed quos facie lurida maesta,
but that-which with-face lurid sad,
cum Thessalicis vexata minis
when by-Thessalian harried threats
caelum freno propiore legit.
the-sky with-rein closer she-skims.
sic face tristem pallida lucem
so from-the-torch gloomy pale light
funde per auras,
pour through the-breezes,
horrore novo terre populos
with-horror new terrify the-peoples
795 inque auxilium, Dictynna, tuum
and-to help, Dictynna, your

pretiosa sonent aera Corinthi.
precious let-sound the-bronzes of-Corinth.
tibi sanguineo caespite sacrum
for-you on-bloody turf a-rite
sollemne damus,
solemn we-give,
tibi de medio rapta sepulchro
for-you from mid snatched tomb
fax nocturnos sustulit ignes,
the-torch nocturnal has-raised fires,
tibi mota caput
for-you having-moved my-head
flexa voces cervice dedi,
with-bent words neck I-have-given,
tibi funereo de more iacens
for-you funereal after the-fashion lying
passos cingit vitta capillos,
my-loosened binds the-fillet hair,
tibi iactatur
for-you is-brandished
tristis Stygia ramus ab unda,
gloomy Stygian the-branch from wave,
tibi nudato pectore maenas
for-you with-bared breast a-maenad
sacro feriam bracchia cultro.
with-the-sacred I-will-strike my-arms knife.
manet noster sanguis ad aras:
let-flow our blood on the-altars:
assuesce, manus, stringere ferrum
grow-used, hand, to-draw the-sword

carosque pati posse cruores.
and-dear to-endure to-be-able blood.
sacrum laticem percussa dedi.
the-sacred liquid having-been-struck I-have-given.
quodsi nimium saepe vocari
but-if too often to-be-called
quereris votis, ignosce precor:
you-complain by-vows, pardon I-pray:
causa vocandi, Persei, tuos
the-cause of-calling, Perses'-daughter, your
saepius arcus una atque eadem est
more-often bows one and the-same is
semper Iason.
always Jason.
tu nunc vestes tinge Creusae,
you now the-garments dye of-Creusa,
quas cum primum sumpserit, imas
which when first she-has-put-on, the-inmost
urat serpens flamma medullas.
let-burn a-creeping flame marrow.
ignis fulvo clusus in auro
fire tawny shut-up in gold
latet obscurus, quem mihi caeli
lurks dark, which to-me of-heaven
qui furta luit viscere feto
he-who the-theft paid-for with-entrails fruitful
dedit et docuit condere vires
gave and taught to-store its-strength
arte, Prometheus. dedit et tenui
by-art, Prometheus. gave also in-thin

sulphure tectos Mulciber ignes,
sulfur covered Mulciber fires,
et vivacis fulgura flammae
and of-living the-lightnings flame
de cognato Phaethonte tuli.
from my-kinsman Phaethon I-have-taken.
habeo en dirae dona Chimaerae,
I-have look of-the-dire the-gifts Chimaera,
habeo flammas
I-have flames
usto tauri gutture raptas,
from-the-burned bull's throat snatched,
quas permixto felle Medusae
which with-mingled gall of-Medusa
tacitum iussi servare malum.
a-silent I-have-bidden to-keep evil.
adde venenis stimulos, Hecate,
add to-the-poisons goads, Hecate,
donisque meis
and-in-the-gifts my
semina flammae condita serva.
the-seeds of-flame hidden keep.
fallant visus tactusque ferant,
let-them-deceive the-sight and-the-touch let-them-bear,
meet in pectus venasque calor,
let-pass into the-breast and-veins the-heat,
stillent artus ossaque fument
let-drip the-limbs and-the-bones smoke
vincatque suas
and-let-surpass her-own

flagrante coma nova nupta faces.
with-blazing hair the-new bride torches.
Vota tenentur: ter latratus
The-vows are-held: thrice barks
audax Hecate dedit et sacros
bold Hecate has-given and sacred
edidit ignes face lucifera.
has-sent-forth fires from-torch light-bearing.
Peracta vis est omnis: huc natos voca,
Done the-power is all: hither my-sons call,
pretiosa per quos dona nubenti feram.
precious through whom gifts to-the-bride I-may-carry.
ite, ite, nati, matris infaustae genus,
go, go, sons, of-a-mother unlucky the-race,
placate vobis munere et multa prece
win for-yourselves with-the-gift and with-much prayer
dominam ac novercam. vadite et celeres domum
your-mistress and stepmother. go and swiftly home
referte gressus, ultimo amplexu ut fruar.
bring-back your-steps, a-last embrace that I-may-enjoy.

X · THE BLOODSTAINED MAENAD

The chorus asks where the bloodstained maenad is swept by her savage love and what deed she prepares. Her face stiffens with anger, she threatens the king, her cheeks flush and pale by turns, and she ranges like a tigress robbed of her cubs. Anger and love have joined in her; the chorus asks when she will leave and prays Phoebus to hasten night.

CHORUS Quonam cruenta maenas
Where-then the-bloody maenad
praeceps amore saevo
headlong with-love savage
rapitur? quod impotenti
is-snatched? what with-unbridled
facinus parat furore? —
deed does-she-prepare madness?
vultus citatus ira
her-face roused by-anger
riget et caput feroci
stiffens and her-head with-fierce
quatiens superba motu
shaking proud movement
regi minatur ultro.
to-the-king she-threatens of-her-own-accord.
quis credat exulem?
who would-believe her-an-exile?
flagrant genae rubentes,
blaze her-cheeks reddening,
pallor fugat ruborem,
pallor puts-to-flight the-blush,

nullum vagante forma
no with-wandering form
servat diu colorem. —
she-keeps long color.
huc fert pedes et illuc,
hither she-carries her-feet and thither,
ut tigris orba natis
as a-tigress bereft of-her-cubs
cursu furente lustrat
in-course raging ranges
Gangeticum nemus.
the-Gangetic grove.
frenare nescit iras
to-bridle knows-not her-angers
Medea, non amores;
Medea, not her-loves;
nunc ira amorque causam
now anger and-love their-cause
iunxere: quid sequetur?
have-joined: what will-follow?
quando efferet Pelasgis
when will-she-carry-out from-the-Pelasgian
nefanda Colchis arvis
the-impious Colchian fields
gressum metuque solvet
her-step and-from-fear will-loose
regnum simulque reges? —
the-kingdom and-together the-kings?
nunc, Phoebe, mitte currus
now, Phoebus, send your-chariot

nullo morante loro,
with-no delaying rein,
nox condat alma lucem,
let-night hide kindly the-light,
mergat diem timendum
let-plunge the-day to-be-feared
dux noctis Hesperus.
the-leader of-night Hesperus.

XI · THE CHILDREN

A messenger tells how the gifts set the palace on fire, consuming the king and his daughter in a flame that water feeds. Urged to flee, Medea resolves to finish her vengeance; torn between a mother's love and her anger, she sees her brother's ghost and the Furies and kills one son. Jason comes with armed men; on the roof she kills the other before him, gives him back the bodies, and rides off in her serpent chariot as Jason cries that there are no gods.

NUNTIUS Periere cuncta, concidit regni status.
Have-perished all-things, has-fallen of-the-realm the-state.
nata atque genitor cinere permixto iacent.
the-daughter and the-father with-ash mingled lie.
CHORUS Qua fraude capti?
By-what fraud caught?
NUNTIUS Qua solent reges capi:
By-what are-wont kings to-be-caught:
donis.
by-gifts.
CHORUS In illis esse quis potuit dolus?
In those to-be what could treachery?

NUNTIUS Et ipse miror vixque iam facto malo
And myself I-wonder and-scarcely now with-done the-evil
potuisse fieri credo.
to-have-been-able to-be-done I-believe.
CHORUS Quis cladis modus?
What of-the-disaster the-measure?
NUNTIUS Avidus per omnem regiae partem furit
Greedy through every of-the-palace part it-rages
ut iussus ignis: iam domus tota occidit,
as if-ordered the-fire: already the-house whole has-fallen,
urbi timetur.
for-the-city it-is-feared.
CHORUS Unda flammas opprimat.
Water the-flames let-quench.
NUNTIUS Et hoc in ista clade mirandum accidit:
And this in that disaster wonderful has-happened:
alit unda flammas, quoque prohibetur magis,
feeds water the-flames, and-by-how-much it-is-checked more,
magis ardet ignis: ipsa praesidia occupat.
the-more burns the-fire: the-very defenses it-seizes.
NUTRIX Effer citatum sede Pelopea gradum,
Carry-out your-roused from-the-seat Pelopian step,
Medea, praeceps quaslibet terras pete.
Medea, headlong any lands seek.
MEDEA Egone ut recedam? si profugissem prius,
I that I-should-withdraw? if I-had-fled before,
ad hoc redirem. nuptias specto novas.
for this I-would-return. a-wedding I-watch new.
quid, anime, cessas? sequere felicem impetum.
why, soul, do-you-falter? follow the-happy onrush.

pars ultionis ista, qua gaudes, quota est?
the-part of-vengeance that, in-which you-rejoice, how-small is-it?
amas adhuc, furiosa, si satis est tibi
you-love still, mad-one, if enough it-is for-you
caelebs Iason. quaere poenarum genus
a-bachelor Jason. seek of-punishments a-kind
haut usitatum iamque sic temet para:
not usual and-now thus yourself prepare:
fas omne cedat, abeat expulsus pudor;
right all let-yield, let-go-away driven-out shame;
vindicta levis est quam ferunt purae manus.
vengeance light is which bear pure hands.
incumbe in iras teque languentem excita
lean on your-angers and-yourself languid rouse
penitusque veteres pectore ex imo impetus
and-deeply the-old your-breast from lowest onrushes
violenter hauri. quicquid admissum est adhuc,
violently draw. whatever committed has-been till-now,
pietas vocetur. hoc agam et faxo sciant
dutifulness let-it-be-called. this I-will-do and I-will-make-them know
quam levia fuerint quamque vulgaris notae
how light they-were and-how of-common mark
quae commodavi scelera. prolusit dolor
which I-lent the-crimes. has-practiced grief
per ista noster: quid manus poterant rudes
through those our: what hands could untrained
audere magnum? quid puellaris furor?
to-dare great? what girlish madness?
Medea nunc sum; crevit ingenium malis.
Medea now I-am; has-grown my-genius through-evils.

Iuvat, iuvat rapuisse fraternum caput;
It-delights, it-delights to-have-snatched my-brother's head;
artus iuvat secuisse et arcano patrem
his-limbs it-delights to-have-cut and of-the-secret my-father
spoliasse sacro, iuvat in exitium senis
to-have-robbed relic, it-delights to the-destruction of-the-old-man
armasse natas. quaere materiam, dolor:
to-have-armed his-daughters. seek material, grief:
915 ad omne facinus non rudem dextram afferes.
to every deed not an-untrained right-hand you-will-bring.
Quo te igitur, ira, mittis, aut quae perfido
Whither yourself then, anger, do-you-send, or what at-the-treacherous
intendis hosti tela? nescio quid ferox
do-you-aim enemy weapons? I-know-not what fierce
decrevit animus intus et nondum sibi
has-decided my-mind within and not-yet to-itself
audet fateri, stulta properavi nimis:
dares to-confess, foolish I-have-hurried too-much:
920 ex paelice utinam liberos hostis meus
from the-concubine would-that children enemy my
aliquos haberet — quicquid ex illo tuum est,
some might-have whatever from him yours is,
Creusa peperit. placuit hoc poenae genus,
Creusa has-borne. has-pleased this of-punishment kind,
meritoque placuit: ultimum, agnosco, scelus
and-deservedly has-pleased: the-last, I-recognize, crime
animo parandum est — liberi quondam mei,
in-mind to-be-prepared is children once my,
925 vos pro paternis sceleribus poenas date.
you for your-father's crimes penalties give.

Cor pepulit horror, membra torpescunt gelu
My-heart has-struck horror, my-limbs grow-numb with-cold
pectusque tremuit. ira discessit loco
and-my-breast has-trembled. anger has-departed from-its-place
materque tota coniuge expulsa redit.
and-the-mother whole with-the-wife expelled returns.
egone ut meorum liberum ac prolis meae
I that of-my children and of-offspring my
fundam cruorem? melius, a, demens furor!
should-pour the-blood? better, ah, insane madness!
incognitum istud facinus ac dirum nefas
unknown that deed and dire wrong
a me quoque absit; quod scelus miseri luent?
from me also be-absent; what crime will-the-wretches pay-for?
scelus est Iason genitor et maius scelus
the-crime is Jason their-father and greater crime
Medea mater — occidant, non sunt mei;
Medea their-mother let-them-die, not they-are mine;
pereant, mei sunt. crimine et culpa carent,
let-them-perish, mine they-are. of-crime and of-fault they-are-free,
sunt innocentes: fateor, et frater fuit.
they-are innocent: I-confess, and my-brother was.
quid, anime, titubas? ora quid lacrimae rigant
why, soul, do-you-totter? my-face why do-tears wet
variamque nunc huc ira, nunc illuc amor
and-me-varied now hither anger, now thither love
diducit? anceps aestus incertam rapit;
draws-apart? a-two-way tide me-uncertain snatches;
ut saeva rapidi bella cum venti gerunt
as savage of-swift wars when the-winds wage

utrimque fluctus maria discordes agunt
from-both-sides waves the-seas discordant drive
dubiumque fervet pelagus, haut aliter meum
and-doubtful seethes the-sea, not otherwise my
cor fluctuatur. ira pietatem fugat
heart is-tossed. anger dutifulness puts-to-flight
iramque pietas — cede pietati, dolor.
and-anger dutifulness yield to-dutifulness, grief.
Huc, cara proles, unicum afflictae domus
Hither, dear offspring, the-only of-the-afflicted house
solamen, huc vos ferte et infusos mihi
solace, hither yourselves bring and poured on-me
coniungite artus. habeat incolumes pater,
join your-limbs. let-have-you unharmed your-father,
dum et mater habeat. urguet exilium ac fuga.
while also your-mother may-have-you. presses exile and flight.
iam iam meo rapientur avulsi e sinu,
soon soon my they-will-be-snatched torn from bosom,
flentes, gementes osculis pereant patri,
weeping, groaning with-kisses let-them-perish to-their-father,
periere matri. rursus increscit dolor
they-have-perished to-their-mother. again grows grief
et fervet odium, repetit invitam manum
and seethes hatred, seeks-again my-unwilling hand
antiqua Erinys. ira, qua ducis, sequor.
the-ancient Erinys. anger, where you-lead, I-follow.
utinam superbae turba Tantalidos meo
would-that of-proud the-throng daughter-of-Tantalus from-my
exisset utero bisque septenos parens
had-come-out womb and-twice seven a-parent

natos tulissem! sterilis in poenas fui —
sons I-had-borne! barren for punishments I-have-been
fratri patrique quod sat est, peperi duos.
for-my-brother and-father what enough is, I-have-borne two.
Quonam ista tendit turba Furiarum impotens?
Where-then that throng of-Furies unbridled is-heading?
quem quaerit aut quo flammeos ictus parat,
whom does-it-seek or where fiery blows does-it-prepare,
aut cui cruentas agmen infernum faces
or at-whom bloody the-band infernal torches
intentat? ingens anguis excusso sonat
does-it-aim? a-huge snake with-shaken hisses
tortus flagello. quem trabe infesta petit
twisted whip. whom with-beam hostile seeks
Megaera? cuius umbra dispersis venit
Megaera? whose shade with-scattered comes
incerta membris? frater est, poenas petit:
uncertain limbs? my-brother it-is, punishments he-seeks:
dabimus, sed omnes. fige luminibus faces,
we-will-give, but all. fix in-my-eyes the-torches,
lania, perure, pectus en Furiis patet.
tear, burn, my-breast look to-the-Furies lies-open.
Discedere a me, frater, ultrices deas
To-depart from me, brother, the-avenging goddesses
manesque ad imos ire securas iube:
and-the-shades to lowest to-go untroubled bid:
mihi me relinque et utere hac, frater, manu
to-me me leave and use this, brother, hand
quae strinxit ensem — victima manes tuos
which has-drawn the-sword with-victim the-shades your

placamus ista. quid repens affert sonus?
we-appease that. what sudden brings sound?
parantur arma meque in exitium petunt.
are-prepared arms and-me for destruction they-seek.
excelsa nostrae tecta conscendam domus
the-lofty of-our roofs I-will-climb house
caede incohata. perge tu mecum comes.
with-slaughter begun. go-on you with-me as-companion.
tuum quoque ipsa corpus hinc mecum aveham.
your also myself body hence with-me I-will-carry-away.
nunc hoc age, anime: non in occulto tibi est
now this do, soul: not in secret for-you is
perdenda virtus; approba populo manum.
to-be-wasted valor; prove to-the-people your-hand.
IASON Quicumque regum cladibus fidus doles,
Whoever for-the-kings disasters faithful grieve,
concurre, ut ipsam sceleris auctorem horridi
run-together, that herself of-the-crime the-author dreadful
capiamus. huc, huc fortis, armiferi cohors
we-may-catch. hither, hither brave, arms-bearing cohort
conferte tela, vertite ex imo domum.
bring weapons, overturn from the-lowest the-house.
MEDEA Iam iam recepi sceptra germanum patrem,
Now now I-have-recovered my-scepters brother father,
spoliumque Colchi pecudis auratae tenent;
and-the-spoil the-Colchians of-the-beast golden hold;
rediere regna, rapta virginitas redit.
has-returned my-kingdom, my-snatched maidenhood returns.
o placida tandem numina, o festum diem,
O calm at-last divinities, O festal day,

o nuptialem! vade, perfectum est scelus,
O nuptial! go, finished is the-crime,
vindicta nondum: perage, dum faciunt manus.
the-vengeance not-yet: complete-it, while act the-hands.
quid nunc moraris, anime? quid dubitas potens?
why now do-you-delay, soul? why do-you-hesitate powerful?
iam cecidit ira. paenitet facti, pudet.
already has-fallen anger. it-repents-me of-the-deed, it-shames.
quid, misera, feci? misera? paeniteat licet,
what, wretched, have-I-done? wretched? let-it-repent though,
feci — voluptas magna me invitam subit,
I-have-done pleasure great me unwilling steals-over,
et ecce crescit. derat hoc unum mihi,
and behold it-grows. was-lacking this one-thing to-me,
spectator iste. nil adhuc facti reor:
spectator that. nothing till-now done I-think:
quicquid sine isto fecimus sceleris perit.
whatever without him we-did of-crime is-lost.
IASON En ipsa tecti parte praecipiti imminet.
Look herself of-the-roof on-the-part steep she-overhangs.
huc rapiat ignes aliquis, ut flammis cadat
hither let-snatch fires someone, that by-flames she-may-fall
suis perusta.
her-own burned.
MEDEA Congere extremum tuis
Heap the-last for-your
natis, Iason, funus, ac tumulum strue:
sons, Jason, funeral, and the-tomb build:
coniunx socerque iusta iam functis habent,
your-wife and-father-in-law the-rites already for-the-dead have,

a me sepulti; gnatus hic fatum tulit,
by me buried; son this his-fate has-borne,
hic te vidente dabitur exitio pari.
this-one with-you watching will-be-given to-death equal.
IASON Per numen omne perque communes fugas
By divinity all and-by our-shared flights
torosque, quos non nostra violavit fides,
and-couches, which not our has-violated faith,
iam parce nato. si quod est crimen, meum est:
now spare my-son. if any is crime, mine it-is:
me dedo morti; noxium macta caput.
myself I-give to-death; the-guilty slay head.
MEDEA Hac qua recusas, qua doles, ferrum exigam.
Here where you-refuse, where you-grieve, the-sword I-will-drive.
i nunc, superbe, virginum thalamos pete,
go now, proud-one, of-maidens the-marriage seek,
relinque matres.
abandon mothers.
IASON Unus est poenae satis.
One is for-punishment enough.
MEDEA Si posset una caede satiari haec manus,
If could with-one slaughter to-be-sated this hand,
nullam petisset. ut duos perimam, tamen
none it-would-have-sought. though two I-slay, yet
nimium est dolori numerus angustus meo.
too is for-the-grief the-number narrow my.
IASON Iam perage coeptum facinus, haut ultra precor,
Now complete the-begun deed, not further I-pray,
moramque saltem supplicis dona meis.
and-delay at-least to-prayers grant my.

MEDEA Perfruere lento scelere, ne propera, dolor:
Enjoy the-slow crime, do-not hurry, grief:
meus dies est; tempore accepto utimur.
my day it-is; the-time granted we-use.
IASON Infesta, memet perime.
Hostile-one, me kill.
MEDEA Misereri iubes.
To-pity you-bid.
bene est, peractum est. plura non habui, dolor,
well it-is, done it-is. more not I-had, grief,
quae tibi litarem. lumina huc tumida alleva,
which to-you I-might-offer. your-eyes hither swollen raise,
ingrate Iason. coniugem agnoscis tuam?
ungrateful Jason. the-wife do-you-recognize your?
sic fugere soleo. patuit in caelum via:
thus to-flee I-am-wont. has-lain-open into heaven a-way:
squamosa gemini colla serpentes iugo
scaly twin their-necks serpents to-the-yoke
summissa praebent. recipe iam gnatos, parens;
lowered offer. take-back now your-sons, parent;
ego inter auras aliti curru vehar.
I amid the-breezes in-a-winged chariot shall-be-borne.
IASON Per alta vade spatia sublimi aethere,
Through the-high go spaces of-lofty ether,
testare nullos esse, qua veheris, deos.
bear-witness that-none exist, where you-are-borne, gods.

SENECA

Phaedra

PHAEDRA

I · THE HUNT GOES OUT

Hippolytus sends his Athenian companions out over the hills and fields to circle the woods, set the nets, and loose the hounds. He names the hunting grounds, the dogs, and the weapons, and prays to Diana, whose favor fills the nets. When the hounds give the signal, he takes the shortest way into the woods.

HIPPOLYTUS Ite, umbrosas cingite silvas
Go, the-shady surround woods
summaque montis iuga, Cecropii!
and-the-highest of-the-mountain ridges, Cecropians!
celeri planta lustrate vagi,
with-swift sole range wandering,
quae saxosae loca Parnetho
which rocky places to-Parnes
subiecta iacent,
below lie,
quae Thriasiis vallibus amnis
which in-Thriasian valleys the-river
rapida currens verberat unda;
swift running lashes with-wave;
scandite colles
climb the-hills
semper canos nive Riphaea;
always white with-snow Riphaean;
hac, Aegalei qua nemus alta
here, of-Aegaleos where the-grove with-high
texitur alno, qua prata iacent
is-woven alder, where the-meadows lie

quae rorifera mulcens aura
which with-dew-bearing soothing breeze
Zephyrus vernas evocat herbas,
Zephyrus vernal calls-forth grasses,
ubi per graciles levis Ilisos
where through slender light Ilissus
labitur agros piger et steriles
glides fields sluggish and barren
amne maligno radit harenas;
with-stream niggardly scrapes sands;
vos qua Marathon tramite laevo
you where Marathon on-path left
saltus aperit,
its-glades opens,
qua comitatae gregibus parvis
where accompanied by-flocks small
nocturna petunt pabula fetae;
nocturnal seek pastures the-mothers;
vos qua tepidis subditus austris
you where to-warm subject south-winds
frigora mollit durus Acharneus.
its-cold softens hard Acharnae.
alius rupem dulcis Hymetti,
another the-crag of-sweet Hymettus,
parvas alius calcet Aphidnas:
small another let-tread Aphidnae:
pars illa diu vacat immunis,
part that long lies-free untouched,
qua curvati litora ponti
where of-the-curved the-shores sea

Sunion urget.
Sunium presses.
si quem tangit gloria silvae,
if anyone touches the-glory of-the-wood,
vocat hunc Phlyus:
calls him Phlya:
hic versatur, metus agricolis,
here dwells, a-terror to-the-farmers,
vulnere multo iam notus aper.
by-wound many already known a-boar.
at vos laxas
but you loose
canibus tacitis mittite habenas;
to-the-dogs silent let-go reins;
teneant acres lora Molossos
let-hold keen the-leashes Molossians
et pugnaces tendant Cretes
and fighting let-strain Cretans
fortia trito vincula collo.
strong on-worn chains neck.
at Spartanos
but the-Spartans
(genus est audax avidumque ferae)
(the-breed is bold and-greedy of-the-beast)
nodo cautus propiore liga:
with-knot cautious closer bind:
veniet tempus,
will-come the-time,
cum latratu cava saxa sonent;
when with-barking the-hollow rocks resound;

nunc dimissi nare sagaci
now let-loose with-nose keen
captent auras
let-them-catch the-breezes
lustraque presso quaerant rostro,
and-the-lairs with-pressed let-them-seek muzzle,
dum lux dubia est, dum signa pedum
while the-light doubtful is, while the-signs of-feet
roscida tellus impressa tenet.
dewy the-earth impressed holds.
alius raras
another wide-meshed
cervice gravi portare plagas,
with-neck heavy to-carry nets,
alius teretes properet laqueos.
another smooth let-hasten nooses.
picta rubenti linea pinna
the-painted with-red line feather
vano cludat terrore feras.
with-empty let-shut terror the-beasts.
tibi vibretur missile telum,
by-you let-be-brandished the-missile weapon,
tu grave dextra laevaque simul
you heavy with-right and-left together
robur lato dirige ferro,
the-oak with-broad aim iron,
tu praecipites clamore feras
you headlong with-clamor the-beasts
subsessor ages; tu iam victor
as-ambusher will-drive; you now victor

curvo solves viscera cultro.
with-curved will-loose the-entrails knife.
Ades en comiti, diva virago,
Be-present look to-your-companion, goddess heroine,
cuius regno
whose in-the-realm
pars terrarum secreta vacat,
the-part of-the-lands secret lies-open,
cuius certis petitur telis
whose by-sure is-sought weapons
fera quae gelidum
the-beast which the-cold
potat Araxen
drinks Araxes
et quae stanti ludit in Histro.
and which standing plays on Danube.
tua Gaetulos dextra leones,
your the-Gaetulian right-hand lions,
tua Cretaeas sequitur cervas;
yours the-Cretan pursues does;
nunc veloces figis dammas
now swift you-pierce deer
leviore manu.
with-lighter hand.
tibi dant variae pectora tigres,
to-you give the-varied their-breasts tigers,
tibi villosi terga bisontes
to-you the-shaggy their-backs bison
latisque feri cornibus uri.
and-with-broad wild horns aurochs.

quicquid solis pascitur arvis,
whatever in-lonely is-pastured fields,
sive illud Arabs divite silva
whether it the-Arab in-the-rich wood
sive illud inops novit Garamans
or it the-needy knows Garamantian
sive ferocis iuga Pyrenes
or of-fierce the-ridges Pyrenees
sive Hyrcani celant saltus,
or Hyrcanian hide glades,
vacuisque vagus Sarmata campis,
and-in-empty the-wandering Sarmatian plains,
arcus metuit, Diana, tuos.
the-bows fears, Diana, your.
tua si gratus numina cultor
your if pleasing the-divinity a-worshiper
tulit in saltus.
has-brought into the-glades.
retia vinctas tenuere feras,
the-nets bound have-held beasts,
nulli laqueum rupere pedes:
no the-noose have-broken feet:
fertur plaustro praeda gementi;
is-borne on-the-wagon the-prey groaning;
tum rostra canes sanguine multo
then their-muzzles the-dogs with-blood much
rubicunda gerunt repetitque casas
ruddy bear and-seeks-again the-cottages
rustica longo turba triumpho.
the-rustic in-long crowd triumph.

en, diva, faves:
look, goddess, you-favor:
signum arguti misere canes.
the-signal clear-voiced have-sent dogs.
vocor in silvas. hac, hac pergam
I-am-called into the-woods. this-way, this-way I-will-go
qua via longum compensat iter.
where the-way long shortens the-journey.

II · PHAEDRA CONFESSES TO THE NURSE

Phaedra asks Crete why it gave her as a hostage to a hated house, complains that Theseus has gone with a bold suitor to drag the queen of the dead from her throne, and confesses a love for Hippolytus as fatal as her mother's for the bull. The Nurse urges her to master it: though Theseus is below, her father and the gods will see, and love's divinity is a pretense of lust. Phaedra answers every warning, but at the Nurse's plea she resolves to die, and the Nurse offers to approach him herself.

PHAEDRA O magna vasti Creta dominatrix freti,
O great of-the-vast Crete mistress sea,
cuius per omne litus innumerae rates
whose along every shore countless ships
tenuere † pontum quicquid Assyria tenus
have-held (corrupt) the-sea whatever Assyrian as-far-as
tellure Nereus pervius rostris secat,
land Nereus passable for-beaks cuts,
cur me in penates obsidem invisos datam
why me into household-gods as-hostage hated given
hostique nuptam degere aetatem in malis
and-to-an-enemy married to-spend my-life in evils

lacrimisque cogis? profugus en coniunx abest
and-tears do-you-compel? fugitive look my-husband is-absent
praestatque nuptae quam solet Theseus fidem.
and-shows to-his-wife what he-is-wont Theseus faith.
fortis per altas invii retro lacus
brave through the-deep of-the-pathless backward lake
vadit tenebras miles audacis proci,
goes darkness a-soldier of-a-bold suitor,
solio ut revulsam regis inferni abstrahat;
from-the-throne that torn of-the-king infernal he-may-drag-her;
pergit furoris socius, haud illum timor
he-goes-on of-madness a-partner, not him fear
pudorque tenuit — stupra et illicitos toros
and-shame held debaucheries and unlawful couches
Acheronte in imo quaerit Hippolyti pater.
Acheron in lowest seeks of-Hippolytus the-father.
Sed maior alius incubat maestae dolor.
But greater another weighs-on me-sad grief.
non me quies nocturna, non altus sopor
not me rest nightly, not deep sleep
solvere curis: alitur et crescit malum
has-loosed from-cares: is-nourished and grows the-evil
et ardet intus qualis Aetnaeo vapor
and burns within as Aetnaean vapor
exundat antro. Palladis telae vacant
pours-forth from-the-cave. of-Pallas looms lie-idle
et inter ipsas pensa labuntur manus;
and among the-very the-wool-tasks slip hands;
non colere donis templa votivis libet,
not to-honor with-gifts the-temples votive it-pleases,

non inter aras, Atthidum mixtam choris;
not among the-altars, of-the-Athenian-women mixed with-the-choruses;
iactare tacitis conscias sacris faces,
to-toss in-silent conscious rites torches,
nec adire castis precibus aut ritu pio
nor to-approach with-chaste prayers or with-rite pious
adiudicatae praesidem terrae deam:
of-the-awarded the-patron land goddess:
iuvat excitatas consequi cursu feras
it-delights the-roused to-pursue in-running beasts
et rigida molli gaesa iaculari manu.
and stiff with-soft javelins to-hurl hand.
Quo tendis, anime? quid furens saltus amas?
Where are-you-heading, soul? why raving the-glades do-you-love?
fatale miserae matris agnosco malum:
the-fatal of-my-wretched mother I-recognize evil:
peccare noster novit in silvis amor.
to-sin our knows in the-woods love.
genetrix, tui me miseret: infando malo
mother, for-you me it-pities: by-unspeakable evil
correpta pecoris efferum saevi ducem
seized of-the-herd the-wild savage leader
audax amasti; torvus, impatiens iugi
boldly you-loved; grim, impatient of-the-yoke
adulter ille, ductor indomiti gregis —
adulterer that, leader of-the-untamed flock
sed amabat aliquid. quis meas miserae deus
but he-loved something. what my of-the-wretched god
aut quis iuvare Daedalus flammas queat?
or what to-help Daedalus flames could?

non si ipse remeet, arte Mopsopia potens
not if himself he-should-return, by-art Mopsopian powerful
qui nostra caeca monstra conclusit domo,
who our in-the-blind monster shut-up house,
promittat ullam casibus nostris opem.
would-promise any to-misfortunes our aid.
stirpem perosa Solis invisi Venus
the-stock hating of-the-Sun hated Venus
per nos catenas vindicat Martis sui
through us the-chains avenges of-Mars her
suasque, probris omne Phoebeum genus
and-her-own, with-disgraces every Phoebean race
onerat nefandis: nulla Minois levi
loads unspeakable: no daughter-of-Minos by-light
defuncta amore est, iungitur semper nefas.
got-off with-love has, there-is-joined always wrong.
NUTRIX Thesea coniunx, clara progenies Iovis,
Theseus wife, illustrious offspring of-Jupiter,
nefanda casto pectore exturba ocius,
the-unspeakable from-chaste breast drive-out quickly,
extingue flammas neve te dirae spei
extinguish the-flames nor yourself to-dire hope
praebe obsequentem: quisquis in primo obstitit
show compliant: whoever at the-first has-resisted
pepulitque amorem, tutus ac victor fuit;
and-driven-off love, safe and victor has-been;
qui blandiendo dulce nutrivit malum,
who by-coaxing the-sweet has-nourished evil,
sero recusat ferre quod subiit iugum.
too-late refuses to-bear what he-has-gone-under yoke.

Nec me fugit, quam durus et veri insolens
Nor me escapes, how hard and to-truth unused
ad recta flecti regius nolit tumor.
to right to-be-bent royal not-wills pride.
quemcumque dederit exitum casus feram:
whatever shall-have-given outcome chance I-will-bear:
fortem facit vicina libertas senem.
brave makes near freedom an-old-woman.
Honesta primum est velle nec labi via,
Honorable first is to-will and-not to-slip from-the-way,
pudor est secundus nosse peccandi modum.
shame is second to-know of-sinning the-limit.
quo, misera, pergis? quid domum infamem aggravas
where, wretched-one, do-you-go? why the-house infamous do-you-burden
superasque matrem? maius est monstro nefas:
and-surpass your-mother? greater is than-the-monster the-wrong:
nam monstra fato, moribus scelera imputes.
for monsters to-fate, to-character crimes you-would-impute.
si, quod maritus supera non cernit loca,
if, because your-husband the-upper not sees places,
tutum esse facinus credis et vacuum metu,
safe to-be the-deed you-believe and free from-fear,
erras; teneri crede Lethaeo abditum
you-err; to-be-held believe in-Lethaean hidden
Thesea profundo et ferre perpetuam Styga:
Theseus deep and to-bear everlasting Styx:
quid ille, lato maria qui regno premit
what he, with-broad the-seas who realm presses
populisque reddit iura centenis, pater?
and-to-the-peoples renders laws hundred, your-father?

latere tantum facinus occultum sinet?
to-lie-hid so-great a-deed hidden will-he-allow?
sagax parentum est cura. credamus tamen
keen of-parents is the-care. let-us-believe yet
astu doloque tegere nos tantum nefas:
by-cunning and-guile to-cover us so-great a-wrong:
quid ille rebus lumen infundens suum
what he on-things the-light pouring his-own
matris parens? quid ille qui mundum quatit
of-your-mother the-parent? what he who the-world shakes
vibrans corusca fulmen Aetnaeum manu,
brandishing in-flashing the-thunderbolt Aetnaean hand,
sator deorum? credis hoc posse effici,
the-sower of-the-gods? do-you-believe this to-be-able to-be-brought-about,
inter videntes omnia ut lateas avos?
among all-seeing all-things that you-hide grandfathers?
sed ut secundus numinum abscondat favor
but though favorable of-the-divinities may-hide favor
coitus nefandos utque contingat stupro
couplings unspeakable and-though may-befall the-debauchery
negata magnis sceleribus semper fides:
denied to-great crimes always concealment:
quid poena praesens, conscius mentis pavor
what the-punishment present, conscious of-mind dread
animusque culpa plenus et semet timens?
and-a-spirit with-guilt full and itself fearing?
scelus aliqua tutum, nulla securum tulit.
the-crime some safe, none secure has-borne.
compesce amoris impii flammas, precor,
restrain of-love impious the-flames, I-pray,

nefasque quod non ulla tellus barbara
and-the-wrong which not any land barbarous
commisit umquam, non vagi campis Getae
has-committed ever, not wandering on-the-plains the-Getae
nec inhospitalis Taurus aut sparsus Scythes;
nor the-inhospitable Taurian or the-scattered Scythian;
expelle facinus mente castifica horridum
expel the-deed from-mind chaste horrid
memorque matris metue concubitus novos.
and-mindful of-your-mother fear unions new.
miscere thalamos patris et gnati apparas
to-mix the-marriages of-father and son do-you-prepare
uteroque prolem capere confusam impio?
and-in-womb offspring to-receive confused impious?
perge et nefandis verte naturam ignibus —
go-on and with-unspeakable overturn nature fires
cur monstra cessant? aula cur fratris vacat?
why do-monsters cease? the-hall why of-your-brother is-empty?
prodigia totiens orbis insueta audiet,
prodigies so-often the-world unwonted will-hear,
natura totiens legibus cedet suis,
nature so-often to-laws will-yield its-own,
quotiens amabit Cressa?
as-often-as will-love a-Cretan-woman?

PHAEDRA Quae memoras scio
What-things you-recall I-know
vera esse, nutrix; sed furor cogit sequi
true to-be, nurse; but madness compels to-follow
peiora. vadit animus in praeceps sciens
the-worse. goes my-mind into the-abyss knowing

remeatque frustra sana consilia appetens.
and-returns in-vain sane counsels seeking.
sic cum gravatam navita adversa ratem
so when weighed-down the-sailor with-contrary his-ship
propellit unda, cedit in vanum labor
drives-forward wave, yields in vain labor
et victa prono puppis aufertur vado.
and conquered with-downward the-stern is-carried-off current.
quid ratio possit? vicit ac regnat furor
what reason could-do? has-conquered and reigns madness
potensque tota mente dominatur deus.
and-powerful in-whole mind holds-sway a-god.
hic volucer omni pollet in terra impotens
this winged all is-powerful on earth unbridled
ipsumque flammis torret indomitis Iovem;
and-himself with-flames scorches untamed Jupiter;
Gradivus istas belliger sensit faces,
Gradivus those warlike has-felt torches,
opifex trisulci fulminis sensit deus,
the-maker of-the-three-forked thunderbolt has-felt the-god,
et qui furentis semper Aetnaeis iugis
and he-who of-raging always on-Aetnaean ridges
versat caminos igne tam parvo calet;
turns furnaces with-fire so small grows-hot;
ipsumque Phoebum, tela qui nervo regit,
and-himself Phoebus, weapons who with-string guides,
figit sagitta certior missa puer
pierces with-arrow surer sent the-boy
volitatque caelo pariter et terris gravis.
and-flies in-heaven equally and on-lands heavy.

NUTRIX Deum esse amorem turpis et vitio favens
A-god to-be love base and to-vice favoring
finxit libido, quoque liberior foret
has-feigned lust, and-that freer it-might-be
titulum furori numinis falsi addidit.
the-title to-madness of-divinity false has-added.
natum per omnis scilicet terras vagum
her-son through all of-course lands wandering
Erycina mittit, ille per caelum volans
Erycina sends, he through heaven flying
proterva tenera tela molitur manu
wanton with-tender weapons wields hand
regnumque tantum minimus e superis habet:
and-reign so-great the-least of the-gods has:
vana ista demens animus ascivit sibi
vain-things those the-mad mind has-adopted for-itself
Venerisque numen finxit atque arcus dei.
and-of-Venus the-divinity has-feigned and the-bow of-the-god.
quisquis secundis rebus exultat nimis
whoever in-favorable affairs exults too-much
fluitque luxu, semper insolita appetit.
and-flows with-luxury, always unwonted-things seeks.
tunc illa magnae dira fortunae comes
then that of-great dire fortune companion
subit libido: non placent suetae dapes,
steals-in lust: not please the-accustomed feasts,
non tecta sani moris aut vilis scyphus.
not houses of-sane custom or a-cheap cup.
cur in penates rarius tenues subit
why into households more-rarely humble steals

haec delicatas eligens pestis domos?
this the-delicate choosing plague houses?
cur sancta parvis habitat in tectis Venus
why holy small dwells in houses Venus
mediumque sanos vulgus affectus tenet
and-moderate sane the-common-people affections keeps
et se coercent modica? contra divites
and themselves restrain the-moderate? on-the-contrary the-rich
regnoque fulti plura quam fas est petunt?
and-by-kingdom propped more than right is seek?
quod non potest vult posse qui nimium potest.
what not he-can he-wills to-be-able who too-much can.
quid deceat alto praeditam solio vides:
what befits with-a-lofty one-endowed throne you-see:
metue ac verere sceptra remeantis viri.
fear and revere the-scepter of-your-returning husband.
PHAEDRA Amoris in me maximum regnum puto
Of-Love over me the-greatest reign I-think
reditusque nullos metuo: non umquam amplius
and-returns none I-fear: not ever more
convexa tetigit supera qui mersus semel
the-vault has-touched upper who plunged once
adiit silentem nocte perpetua domum.
has-gone-to the-silent in-night everlasting house.
NUTRIX Ne crede Diti. clauserit regnum licet
Not trust Dis. may-have-shut his-realm though
canisque diras Stygius observet fores:
and-the-dog dire Stygian watch the-doors:
solus negatas invenit Theseus vias.
alone denied has-found Theseus ways.

PHAEDRA Veniam ille amori forsitan nostro dabit.
Pardon he to-love perhaps our will-give.
NUTRIX Immitis etiam coniugi castae fuit:
Cruel even to-his-wife chaste he-was:
experta saevam est barbara Antiope manum.
tried the-savage has the-barbarian Antiope hand.
sed posse flecti coniugem iratum puta:
but to-be-able to-be-bent your-husband angry suppose:
quis huius animum flectet intractabilem?
who of-this-one the-mind will-bend intractable?
exosus omne feminae nomen fugit,
hating every of-woman name he-flees,
immitis annos caelibi vitae dicat,
cruel his-years to-celibate life he-devotes,
conubia vitat: genus Amazonium scias.
marriages he-shuns: the-race Amazonian you-may-know.
PHAEDRA Hunc in nivosi collis haerentem iugis,
Him on of-the-snowy hill clinging ridges,
et aspera agili saxa calcantem pede
and the-rough with-nimble rocks treading foot
sequi per alta nemora, per montes placet.
to-follow through the-high groves, through mountains it-pleases.
NUTRIX Resistet ille seque mulcendum dabit
Will-resist he and-himself to-be-soothed will-give
castosque ritus Venere non casta exuet?
and-chaste rites for-a-Venus not chaste put-off?
tibi ponet odium, cuius odio forsitan
for-you will-he-lay-down his-hatred, whose by-hatred perhaps
persequitur omnes? precibus haud vinci potest.
he-pursues all? by-prayers not to-be-conquered he-can.

PHAEDRA Ferus est? amore didicimus vinci feros.
Fierce he-is? by-love we-have-learned to-be-conquered the-fierce.

NUTRIX Fugiet.
He-will-flee.

PHAEDRA Per ipsa maria si fugiet, sequar.
Through the-very seas if he-flees, I-will-follow.

NUTRIX Patris memento.
Your-father remember.

PHAEDRA Meminimus matris simul.
I-remember my-mother too.

NUTRIX Genus omne profugit.
The-race all he-flees.

PHAEDRA Paelicis careo metu.
Of-a-rival I-am-free from-fear.

NUTRIX Aderit maritus —
Will-come your-husband

PHAEDRA Nempe Perithoi comes?
Doubtless of-Pirithous the-companion?

NUTRIX Aderitque genitor.
And-will-come your-father.

PHAEDRA Mitis, Ariadnae pater.
Gentle, of-Ariadne the-father.

NUTRIX Per has senectae splendidas supplex comas
By these of-old-age shining a-suppliant hairs
fessumque curis pectus et cara ubera
and-weary with-cares breast and dear breasts
precor, furorem siste teque ipsa adiuva:
I-pray, madness stop and-yourself yourself help:
pars sanitatis velle sanari fuit.
a-part of-health to-wish to-be-healed has-been.

PHAEDRA Non omnis animo cessit ingenuo pudor.
Not all from-my-mind has-yielded noble shame.
paremus, altrix. qui regi non vult amor
let-us-obey, nurse. which to-be-ruled not wills love
vincatur. haud te, fama, maculari sinam.
let-it-be-conquered. not you, reputation, to-be-stained I-will-allow.
haec sola ratio est, unicum effugium mali:
this alone reason is, the-only escape of-evil:
virum sequamur, morte praevertam nefas.
my-husband let-us-follow, by-death I-will-forestall the-wrong.
NUTRIX Moderare, alumna, mentis effrenae impetus,
Restrain, nursling, of-your-mind unbridled the-onrushes,
animos coerce. dignam ob hoc vita reor
your-spirit check. worthy for this of-life I-think-you
quod esse temet autumas dignam nece.
because to-be yourself you-declare worthy of-death.
PHAEDRA Decreta mors est: quaeritur fati genus.
Decreed death is: is-sought of-fate the-kind.
laqueone vitam finiam an ferro incubem?
with-a-noose-whether my-life shall-I-end or on-the-sword fall?
an missa praeceps arce Palladia cadam?
or thrown headlong from-the-citadel Palladian shall-I-fall?
NUTRIX Sic te senectus nostra praecipiti sinat
Thus you old-age my with-headlong would-allow
perire leto? siste furibundum impetum.
to-perish death? stop the-raging onrush.
PHAEDRA Prohibere nulla ratio periturum potest:
To-prevent no reason the-one-going-to-perish can:
ubi qui mori constituit et debet mori.
where one-who to-die has-resolved and ought to-die.

proin castitatis vindicem armemus manum.
therefore of-chastity the-avenger let-us-arm hand.

NUTRIX Solamen annis unicum fessis, era,
Solace to-years only weary, mistress,

si tam protervus incubat menti furor,
if so wanton weighs-on your-mind madness,

contemne famam — fama vix vero favet,
despise reputation reputation scarcely truth favors,

peius merenti melior et peior bono.
worse to-the-deserving better and worse to-the-good.

temptemus animum tristem et intractabilem.
let-us-try the-mind sullen and intractable.

meus iste labor est aggredi iuvenem ferum
my that task is to-approach the-young-man wild

mentemque saevam flectere immitis viri.
and-the-mind savage to-bend of-the-cruel man.

The chorus sings of the sea-born goddess and her son Cupid, whose arrows reach every shore and bring the gods down to earth in false shapes. Phoebus herded Thessalian cattle, the ruler of the sky became a bird and a bull, the moon goddess burned, and Alcmena's son put aside his lion skin to spin wool. Beasts of land and sea feel the flame, love conquers even savage stepmothers, and the chorus asks the Nurse how the queen fares.

CHORUS Diva non miti generata ponto,
Goddess from-the-not gentle born sea,
quam vocat matrem geminus Cupido,
whom calls mother twin Cupid,
iste lascivus puer et renidens
that wanton boy and smiling
tela quam certo moderatur arcu!
weapons how with-sure he-guides bow!
non habet latam data plaga frontem,
not has broad the-given wound front,
sed vorat tectas penitus medullas.
but devours hidden deep marrow.
nulla pax isti puero: per orbem
no peace for-that boy: through the-world
spargit effusas agilis sagittas;
he-scatters poured-out nimble arrows;
quaeque nascentem videt ora solem,
and-which rising sees shore the-sun,
quaeque ad Hesperiae iacet ora metas,
and-which at of-Hesperia lies the-shore goals,
si qua ferventi subiecta cancro,
if any to-the-burning lying-under Crab,

si qua Parrhasiae glacialis ursae
if any of-the-Parrhasian icy Bear
semper errantes patitur colonos,
always wandering endures settlers,
novit hos aestus. iuvenum feroces
knows these heats. of-the-young the-fierce
concitat flammas senibusque fessis
he-rouses flames and-in-the-old weary
rursus extinctos revocat calores,
again extinguished recalls warmth,
virginum ignoto ferit igne pectus
of-maidens with-unknown strikes fire the-breast
et iubet caelo superos relicto
and bids with-heaven those-above abandoned
vultibus falsis habitare terras.
with-faces false to-inhabit the-lands.
Thessali Phoebus pecoris magister
of-the-Thessalian Phoebus flock the-master
egit armentum positoque plectro
drove the-herd and-with-laid-aside quill
impari tauros calamo vocavit.
with-uneven bulls reed called.
induit formas quotiens minores
put-on shapes how-often lesser
ipse qui caelum nebulasque ducit:
himself who the-sky and-clouds leads:
Candidas ales modo movit alas,
White a-bird now moved his-wings,
dulcior vocem moriente cygno;
sweeter in-voice than-a-dying swan;

fronte nunc torva petulans iuvencus
with-brow now grim a-wanton bullock
virginum stravit sua terga ludo,
of-maidens laid-down his back for-sport,
perque fraternos nova regna fluctus
and-through brotherly new realms waves
ungula lentos imitante remos
with-hoof the-slow imitating oars
pectore adverso domuit profundum,
with-breast opposed tamed the-deep,
pro sua vector timidus rapina.
for his a-carrier fearful plunder.
arsit obscuri dea clara mundi
burned of-the-dark the-goddess bright world
nocte deserta nitidosque fratri
with-night deserted and-the-shining to-her-brother
tradidit currus aliter regendos:
handed-over chariot otherwise to-be-guided:
ille nocturnas agitare bigas
he nocturnal to-drive the-two-horse-chariot
discit et gyro breviore flecti,
learns and in-circuit shorter to-be-turned,
dum tremunt axes graviore curru;
while tremble the-axles with-heavier chariot;
nec suum tempus tenuere noctes
nor their-own time kept the-nights
et dies tardo remeavit ortu.
and the-day with-slow returned rising.
natus Alcmena posuit pharetras
the-son of-Alcmena laid-down his-quivers

et minax vasti spolium leonis,
and the-threatening of-the-vast spoil lion,
passus aptari digitis zmaragdos
allowing to-be-fitted to-his-fingers emeralds
et dari legem rudibus capillis;
and to-be-given law to-rough hair;
crura distincto religavit auro,
his-legs with-spangled he-bound gold,
luteo plantas cohibente socco;
with-yellow his-soles confining slipper;
et manu, clavam modo qua gerebat,
and with-the-hand, the-club just-now with-which he-carried,
fila deduxit properante fuso:
threads drew-out with-hurrying spindle:
Vidit Persis ditique ferox
Saw Persia and-in-rich fierce
Lydia regno
Lydia kingdom
deiecta feri terga leonis
thrown-off of-the-wild the-back lion
umerisque, quibus sederat alti
and-on-the-shoulders, on-which had-sat of-the-high
regia caeli,
the-palace heaven,
tenuem Tyrio stamine pallam.
a-thin of-Tyrian thread robe.
sacer est ignis (credite laesis)
sacred is the-fire (believe the-wounded)
nimiumque potens. qua terra salo
and-too powerful. where the-earth by-salt

cingitur alto quaque per ipsum
is-girded deep and-where through the-very
candida mundum sidera currunt:
bright world stars run:
haec regna tenet puer immitis,
these realms holds the-boy cruel,
spicula cuius sentit in imis
the-darts of-whom feels in the-lowest
pervius undis rex Nereidum
passable waves the-king of-the-Nereids
flammamque nequit relevare mari.
and-the-flame cannot to-relieve with-the-sea.
ignes sentit genus aligerum;
fires feels the-race winged;
Venere instinctus suscipit audax
by-Venus goaded undertakes bold
grege pro toto bella iuvencus;
flock for whole wars the-bullock;
si coniugio timuere suo,
if for-the-mate they-have-feared their,
poscunt timidi proelia cervi.
demand timid battles stags.
Poeni quatiunt colla leones
Punic shake their-necks lions
cum movit Amor,
when has-moved Love,
et mugitu dant concepti
and with-bellowing give of-conceived
signa furoris.
the-signs of-madness.

tunc virgatas India tigres
then striped India tigers
decolor horret;
dark-skinned dreads;
tunc vulnificos acuit dentes
then wound-dealing sharpens teeth
aper et toto est spumeus ore;
the-boar and with-whole is foaming mouth;
tum silva gemit murmure saevo.
then the-wood groans with-murmur savage.
amat insani belua ponti
loves of-the-mad the-beast sea
Lucaeque boves: vindicat omnes
and-Lucanian oxen: claims all
natura. sibi nihil immune est,
nature. for-itself nothing exempt is,
odiumque perit, cum iussit Amor:
and-hatred perishes, when has-bidden Love:
veteres cedunt ignibus irae.
old yield to-fires angers.
quid plura canam?
what more shall-I-sing?
vincit saevas cura novercas.
conquers savage care stepmothers.
altrix, profare quid feras; quonam in loco est
nurse, speak-out what you-bring; what in place is
regina? saevis ecquis est flammis modus?
the-queen? to-savage any is flames limit?

The Nurse reports Phaedra's sickness: the fire shows in her face, she cannot sleep, refuses food, and weeps as her strength and color fade. Told that grief does not help and to appease the virgin goddess of the fields, the Nurse sees the palace open: Phaedra orders away her purple, gold, and perfume and will go into the woods with quiver and spear like the women of the Tanais and Maeotis.

NUTRIX Spes nulla tantum posse leniri malum,
Hope none so-great to-be-able to-be-soothed an-evil,
finisque flammis nullus insanis erit.
and-end to-flames none mad will-be.
torretur aestu tacito et inclusus quoque,
she-is-scorched by-heat silent and shut-in also,
quamvis tegatur, proditur vultu furor;
although it-be-hidden, is-betrayed in-her-face the-madness;
erumpit oculis ignis et lassae genae
bursts-out from-her-eyes fire and her-weary cheeks
lucem recusant, nil idem dubiae placet
the-light refuse, nothing the-same to-the-doubtful pleases
artusque varie iactat incertus dolor.
and-her-limbs variously tosses uncertain grief.
nunc ut soluto labitur moriens gradu
now as with-loosened she-slips dying step
et vix labante sustinet collo caput,
and scarcely with-tottering supports neck her-head,
nunc se quieti reddit et, somni immemor,
now herself to-rest gives-back and, of-sleep unmindful,
noctem querelis ducit; attolli iubet
the-night with-complaints draws-out; to-be-raised she-bids

iterumque poni corpus et solvi comas
and-again to-be-laid her-body and to-be-loosed her-hair
rursusque fingi: semper impatiens sui
and-again to-be-arranged: always impatient of-itself
mutatur habitus. nulla iam Cereris subit
is-changed her-dress. no now of-Ceres steals
cura aut salutis; vadit incerto pede,
care or of-health; she-goes with-uncertain foot,
iam viribus defecta: non idem vigor,
now in-strength failing: not the-same vigor,
non ora tinguens nitida purpureus rubor;
not her-face dyeing shining crimson blush;
et qui ferebant signa Phoebeae facis
and which bore the-signs of-the-Phoebean torch
oculi nihil gentile nec patrium micant.
her-eyes nothing of-the-race nor paternal flash.
lacrimae cadunt per ora et assiduo genae
tears fall down her-face and with-constant her-cheeks
rore irrigantur, qualiter Tauri iugis
dew are-watered, as of-Taurus on-ridges
tepido madescunt imbre percussae nives.
by-warm grow-wet rain struck snows.
CHORUS Sepone questus: non levat miseros dolor;
Put-aside complaints: not relieves the-wretched grief;
agreste placa virginis numen deae.
the-rustic appease of-the-virgin divinity goddess.
Sed en, patescunt regiae fastigia.
But look, open-up of-the-palace the-roof-tops.
reclinis ipsa sedis auratae toro
reclining herself of-the-seat gilded on-the-couch

solitos amictus mente non sana abnuit.
the-accustomed garments with-mind not sane refuses.
PHAEDRA Removete, famulae, purpura atque auro inlitas
Take-away, maids, with-purple and gold smeared
vestes, procul sit muricis Tyrii rubor,
garments, far let-be of-the-murex Tyrian the-red,
quae fila ramis ultimi Seres legunt:
which threads from-branches farthest the-Seres gather:
brevis expeditos zona constringat sinus,
a-short the-unencumbered girdle let-bind folds,
cervix monili vacua, nec niveus lapis
my-neck of-necklace free, nor snowy stone
deducat auris, Indici donum maris;
let-draw-down my-ears, of-the-Indian the-gift sea;
odore crinis sparsus Assyrio vacet.
of-perfume my-hair sprinkled Assyrian let-be-free.
sic temere iactae colla perfundant comae
so at-random tossed my-neck let-flood the-hair
umerosque summos, cursibus motae citis
and-shoulders upper, by-runs moved swift
ventos sequantur. laeva se pharetrae dabit,
the-winds let-them-follow. the-left itself to-the-quiver will-give,
hastile vibret dextra Thessalicum manus.
the-spear let-brandish right Thessalian hand.
qualis relictis frigidi Ponti plagis
such-as with-left of-the-cold Pontus tracts
egit catervas Atticum pulsans solum
drove the-troops the-Attic striking soil
Tanaitis aut Maeotis et nodo comas
the-woman-of-the-Tanais or of-Maeotis and in-a-knot her-hair

coegit emisitque, lunata latus
gathered and-let-loose, with-crescent her-side
protecta pelta: talis in silvas ferar.
protected shield: so into the-woods I-shall-be-borne.

V · THE NURSE TEMPTS HIPPOLYTUS

The Nurse prays to Hecate, goddess of the groves, to soften Hippolytus, then urges him to enjoy his youth and love, since Venus renews the race. He praises the pure life of the woods as the first age lived it, condemns greed, cities, and war, and hates all women, Medea above all. The Nurse finds him as hard as a rock in the sea; Phaedra rushes in and falls lifeless to the ground, and Hippolytus holds her.

NUTRIX Regina nemorum, sola quae montes colis
Queen of-the-groves, alone who the-mountains dwell-in
et una solis montibus coleris dea,
and alone on-the-lonely mountains are-worshiped goddess,
converte tristes ominum in melius minas.
turn the-gloomy of-omens into better threats.
o magna silvas inter et lucos dea
O great woods among and groves goddess
410 claramque caeli sidus et noctis decus,
and-bright of-heaven star and of-night glory,
cuius relucet mundus alterna vice,
by-whose shines-back the-world alternate turn,
Hecate triformis, en ades coeptis favens.
Hecate three-formed, look be-present to-my-undertakings favoring.
animum rigentem tristis Hippolyti doma:
the-mind stiff of-sullen Hippolytus tame:
det facilis aures: mitiga pectus ferum:
let-him-give easy ears: soften his-breast wild:

amare discat, mutuos ignes ferat.
to-love let-him-learn, mutual fires let-him-bear.
inflecte mentem: torvus aversus ferox
bend his-mind: grim averse fierce
in iura Veneris redeat. huc vires tuas
into the-laws of-Venus let-him-return. hither powers your
intende: sic te lucidi vultus ferant
direct: so you bright faces may-bear
et nube rupta cornibus puris eas,
and with-cloud broken with-horns clear may-you-go,
sic te regentem frena nocturni aetheris
so you guiding the-reins of-nocturnal sky
detrahere numquam Thessali cantus queant
to-draw-down never Thessalian chants may-be-able
nullusque de te gloriam pastor ferat.
and-no from you glory shepherd may-carry.
ades invocata, iam fave votis, dea:
be-present invoked, now favor the-vows, goddess:
ipsum intuor solemne venerantem sacrum
himself I-see the-solemn worshiping rite
nullo latus comitante — quid dubitas? dedit
with-no his-side accompanying why do-you-hesitate? has-given
tempus locumque casus: utendum artibus.
time and-place chance: to-be-used with-arts.
trepidamus? haud est facile mandatum scelus
do-we-tremble? not is easy an-entrusted crime
audere, verum iussa qui regis timet,
to-dare, but commands who of-a-king fears,
deponat omne et pellat ex animo decus:
let-him-lay-aside all and let-him-drive from mind honor:

malus est minister regii imperii pudor.
bad is a-minister of-royal command shame.

HIPPOLYTUS Quid huc seniles fessa moliris gradus,
Why hither aged weary do-you-labor steps,

o fida nutrix, turbidam frontem gerens
O faithful nurse, troubled your-brow bearing

et maesta vultu? sospes est certe parens
and sad in-face? safe is surely my-father

sospesque Phaedra stirpis et geminae iugum?
and-safe Phaedra of-the-stock and twin the-yoke?

NUTRIX Metus remitte. prospero regnum in statu est
Fears let-go. prosperous the-kingdom in state is

domusque florens sorte felici viget.
and-the-house flourishing in-lot happy thrives.

sed tu beatis mitior rebus veni:
but you to-blessed gentler affairs come:

namque anxiam me cura sollicitat tui,
for anxious me care troubles for-you,

quod te ipse poenis gravibus infestus domas.
because you you-yourself with-penalties heavy hostile you-tame.

quem fata cogunt, ille cum venia est miser;
whom the-fates compel, he with pardon is wretched;

at si quis ultro se malis offert volens
but if anyone of-his-own-accord himself to-evils offers willing

seque ipse torquet, perdere est dignus bona
and-himself he-himself tortures, to-lose is worthy goods

quis nescit uti. potius annorum memor
which he-knows-not to-use. rather of-your-years mindful

mentem relaxa: noctibus festis facem
your-mind relax: on-nights festal the-torch

attolle, curas Bacchus exoneret graves;
raise, cares let-Bacchus unload heavy;
aetate fruere: mobili cursu fugit.
your-youth enjoy: with-nimble course it-flees.
nunc facile pectus, grata nunc iuveni Venus:
now easy the-breast, pleasing now to-the-young Venus:
exultet animus. cur toro viduo iaces?
let-exult your-spirit. why on-couch widowed do-you-lie?
tristem iuventam solve; nunc cursus rape,
your-sad youth loosen; now courses seize,
effunde habenas, optimos vitae dies
pour-out the-reins, the-best of-life days
effluere prohibe. propria descripsit deus
to-flow-away forbid. proper has-assigned the-god
officia et aevum per suos duxit gradus:
duties and life through its-own has-led steps:
laetitia iuvenem, frons decet tristis senem.
gladness the-young, a-brow befits sad the-old.
quid te coherces et necas rectam indolem?
why yourself do-you-restrain and kill your-right nature?
seges illa magnum fenus agricolae dabit
crop that great interest to-the-farmer will-give
quaecumque laetis tenera luxuriat satis,
whichever in-glad tender runs-riot sown-fields,
arborque celso vertice evincet nemus
and-a-tree with-lofty top will-overtop the-grove
quam non maligna caedit aut resecat manus:
which not niggardly cuts or prunes hand:
ingenia melius recta se in laudes ferunt,
talents better upright themselves to praises carry,

si nobilem animum vegeta libertas alit.
if a-noble mind lively freedom nourishes.
truculentus et silvester ac vitae inscius
savage and silvan and of-life ignorant
tristem iuventam Venere deserta coles?
your-sad youth with-Venus deserted will-you-spend?
hoc esse munus credis indictum viris,
this to-be the-duty do-you-believe proclaimed to-men,
ut dura tolerent, cursibus domitent equos
that hard-things they-endure, in-courses tame horses
et saeva bella Marte sanguineo gerant?
and savage wars with-Mars bloody wage?
quam varia leti genera mortalem trahunt
how varied of-death the-kinds the-mortal drag
carpuntque turbam, pontus et ferrum et doli!
and-pluck throng, sea and steel and tricks!
providit ille maximus mundi parens,
has-provided that greatest of-the-world parent,
cum tam rapaces cerneret Fati manus,
when so rapacious he-saw of-Fate the-hands,
ut damna semper subole repararet nova.
that losses always with-offspring he-might-repair new.
sed fata credas desse: sic atram Styga
but the-fates you-may-believe to-be-lacking: so the-black Styx
iam petimus ultro. caelibem vitam probet
already we-seek of-our-own-accord. a-celibate life let-approve
sterilis iuventus: hoc erit, quicquid vides,
barren youth: this will-be, whatever you-see,
unius aevi turba et in semet ruet.
of-one age a-throng and on itself will-fall.

excedat agedum rebus humanis Venus,
let-go-out come from-affairs human Venus,
quae supplet ac restituit exhaustum genus:
who supplies and restores the-exhausted race:
orbis iacebit squalido turpis situ,
the-world will-lie in-squalid foul neglect,
vacuum sine ullis piscibus stabit mare,
empty without any fishes will-stand the-sea,
alesque caelo derit et silvis fera
and-the-bird to-heaven will-be-lacking and to-the-woods the-beast
solis et aer pervius ventis erit.
to-only and the-air passable winds will-be.
proinde vitae sequere naturam ducem:
therefore of-life follow nature as-leader:
urbem frequenta, civium coetum cole.
the-city frequent, of-citizens the-gathering cultivate.
HIPPOLYTUS Non alia magis est libera et vitio carens
Not another more is free and from-vice lacking
ritusque melius vita quae priscos colat,
and-the-rites better a-life which the-ancient may-keep,
quam quae relictis moenibus silvas amat.
than that-which with-left walls the-woods loves.
non illum avarae mentis inflammat furor
not him of-greedy mind inflames the-madness
qui se dicavit montium insontem iugis,
who himself has-devoted of-the-mountains innocent to-the-ridges,
non aura populi et vulgus infidum bonis,
not the-breeze of-the-people and the-crowd faithless to-the-good,
non pestilens invidia, non fragilis favor;
not pestilent envy, not fragile favor;

non ille regno servit aut regno imminens
not he to-a-kingdom is-slave or to-a-kingdom aspiring
vanos honores sequitur aut fluxas opes,
vain honors follows or fleeting wealth,
spei metusque liber, haud illum niger
of-hope and-fear free, not him black
edaxque livor dente degeneri petit;
and-gnawing envy with-tooth degenerate attacks;
nec scelera populos inter atque urbes sata
nor the-crimes peoples among and cities sown
novit nec omnes conscius strepitus pavet
he-knows nor all conscious noises trembles
aut verba fingit; mille non quaerit tegi
or words feigns; with-a-thousand not he-seeks to-be-covered
dives columnis nec trabes multo insolens
rich columns nor beams with-much insolent
suffigit auro; non cruor largus pias
fixes-beneath gold; not blood abundant the-pious
inundat aras, fruge nec sparsi sacra
floods altars, with-grain nor sprinkled sacred
centena nivei colla summittunt boves:
a-hundred snowy necks lower oxen:
sed rure vacuo potitur et aperto aethere
but of-the-country empty he-is-master and in-open air
innocuus errat. callidas tantum feris
innocent he-wanders. cunning only for-beasts
struxisse fraudes novit et fessus gravi
to-have-built tricks he-knows and weary from-heavy
labore niveo corpus Iliso fovet:
labor in-snowy his-body Ilissus warms:

nunc ille ripam celeris Alphei legit,
now he the-bank of-swift Alpheus skirts,
nunc nemoris alti densa metatur loca,
now of-the-grove high the-thick measures places,
ubi Lerna puro gelida perlucet vado,
where Lerna with-pure cold shines-through shallow,
sedesque mutas: hinc aves querulae fremunt
and-seats changes: hence birds plaintive murmur
ornique ventis lene percussae tremunt
and-ash-trees by-the-winds gently struck tremble
veteresque fagi. iuvit aut amnis vagi
and-old beeches. it-has-pleased either of-a-river wandering
pressisse ripas, caespite aut nudo leves
to-have-pressed the-banks, on-turf or bare light
duxisse somnos, sive fons largus citas
to-have-drawn sleep, whether a-spring abundant swift
defundit undas sive per flores novos
pours-down waves or through flowers new
fugiente dulcis murmurat rivo sonus.
with-fleeing sweet murmurs stream sound.
excussa silvis poma compescunt famem
shaken-off from-the-trees fruits check hunger
et fraga parvis vulsa dumetis cibos
and strawberries from-small plucked thickets food
faciles ministrant. regios luxus procul
easy furnish. royal luxuries far
est impetus fugisse: sollicito bibunt
is the-impulse to-have-fled: from-anxious drink
auro superbi; quam iuvat nuda manu
gold the-proud; how it-delights with-bare hand

captasse fontem! certior somnus premit
to-have-caught the-spring! surer sleep presses
secura duro membra versantem toro.
the-untroubled on-hard limbs turning couch.
non in recessu furta et obscuro improbus
not in a-recess thefts and in-dark wicked
quaerit cubili seque multiplici timens
he-seeks bed and-himself in-manifold fearing
domo recondit: aethera ac lucem petit
house hides: the-sky and light he-seeks
et teste caelo vivit. hoc equidem reor
and with-witness heaven lives. in-this indeed I-think
vixisse ritu prima quos mixtos deis
to-have-lived manner the-first whom mingled with-the-gods
profudit aetas. nullus his auri fuit
poured-out age. none to-these of-gold was
caecus cupido, nullus in campo sacer
blind desire, no on the-plain sacred
divisit agros arbiter populis lapis;
divided the-fields an-arbiter for-the-peoples stone;
nondum secabant credulae pontum rates:
not-yet cut credulous the-sea ships:
sua quisque norat maria; non vasto aggere
his-own each knew seas; not with-vast rampart
crebraque turre cinxerant urbes latus;
and-thick with-tower had-girded cities their-side;
non arma saeva miles aptabat manu
not arms savage the-soldier fitted to-his-hand
nec torta clausas fregerat saxo gravi
nor twisted shut had-broken with-stone heavy

ballista portas, iussa nec dominum pati
the-ballista gates, ordered nor a-master to-endure
iuncto ferebat terra servitium bove:
with-yoked bore the-earth servitude ox:
sed arva per se feta poscentes nihil
but the-fields by themselves fertile demanding nothing
pavere gentes, silva nativas opes
fed the-nations, the-wood native wealth
et opaca dederant antra nativas domos.
and dark had-given caves native houses.
rupere foedus impius lucri furor
broke the-pact impious of-gain madness
et ira praeceps quaeque succensas agit
and anger headlong and-what the-kindled drives
libido mentes; venit imperii sitis
lust minds; came of-empire the-thirst
cruenta, factus praeda maiori minor:
bloody, made prey to-the-greater the-lesser:
pro iure vires esse. tum primum manu
for right might to-be. then first with-hand
bellare nuda saxaque et ramos rudes
to-war bare and-rocks and branches rough
vertere in arma: non erat gracili levis
to-turn into arms: not was with-slender light
armata ferro cornus aut longo latus
armed with-iron the-cornel or with-long the-side
mucrone cingens ensis aut crista procul
point girding the-sword or with-crest far
galeae comantes: tela faciebat dolor.
helmets plumed: weapons made grief.

invenit artes bellicus Mavors novas
found arts warlike Mavors new
et mille formas mortis. hinc terras cruor
and a-thousand forms of-death. hence the-lands blood
infecit omnis fusus et rubuit mare.
stained all poured and reddened the-sea.
tum scelera dempto fine per cunctas domos
then crimes with-removed limit through all houses
iere, nullum caruit exemplo nefas:
went, no lacked example wrong:
a fratre frater, dextera gnati parens
by brother brother, by-the-right-hand of-the-son the-parent
cecidit, maritus coniugis ferro iacet
fell, the-husband by-the-wife's steel lies
perimuntque fetus impiae matres suos;
and-destroy offspring impious mothers their-own;
sed dux malorum femina: haec scelerum artifex
but the-leader of-evils a-woman: she of-crimes the-artist
obsedit animos, huius incestis stupris
besieged minds, by-her impure debaucheries
fumant tot urbes, bella tot gentes gerunt
smoke so-many cities, wars so-many nations wage
et versa ab imo regna tot populos premunt.
and overturned from the-lowest kingdoms so-many peoples crush.
sileantur aliae: sola coniunx Aegei,
let-be-passed-over the-others: alone the-wife of-Aegeus,
Medea, reddet feminas dirum genus.
Medea, will-render women a-dire race.
NUTRIX Cur omnium fit culpa paucarum scelus?
Why of-all becomes the-guilt of-a-few the-crime?

HIPPOLYTUS Detestor omnis, horreo fugio execror.
I-detest all, I-shudder I-flee I-curse.
sit ratio, sit natura, sit dirus furor:
let-it-be reason, let-it-be nature, let-it-be dire madness:
odisse placuit. ignibus iunges aquas
to-hate has-pleased. with-fires you-will-join waters
et amica ratibus ante promittet vada
and friendly to-ships sooner will-promise shallows
incerta Syrtis, ante ab extremo sinu
uncertain the-Syrtis, sooner from the-farthest bay
Hesperia Tethys lucidum attollet diem
Hesperian Tethys the-bright will-raise day
et ora dammis blanda praebebunt lupi,
and faces to-deer coaxing will-offer wolves,
quam victus animum feminae mitem geram.
than conquered a-mind toward-woman gentle I-bear.
NUTRIX Saepe obstinatis induit frenos Amor
Often to-the-stubborn puts-on reins Love
et odia mutat. regna materna aspice:
and hatreds changes. the-realms maternal look-at:
illae feroces sentiunt Veneris iugum;
those fierce feel of-Venus the-yoke;
testaris istud unicus gentis puer.
you-attest that the-only of-the-race boy.
HIPPOLYTUS Solamen unum matris amissae fero,
Solace one for-my-mother lost I-bear,
odisse quod iam feminas omnis licet.
to-hate that now women all is-allowed.

NUTRIX Ut dura cautes undique intractabilis
As a-hard rock on-every-side intractable
resistit undis et lacessentes aquas
resists the-waves and the-provoking waters
longe remittit, verba sic spernit mea.
far sends-back, words so he-spurns my.
Sed Phaedra praeceps graditur, impatiens morae.
But Phaedra headlong steps, impatient of-delay.
quo se dabit fortuna? quo verget furor?
where herself will-give fortune? where will-incline the-madness?
terrae repente corpus exanimum accidit
to-the-earth suddenly her-body lifeless has-fallen
et ora morti similis obduxit color.
and her-face to-death like has-covered color.
attolle vultus, dimove vocis moras:
raise your-face, remove of-your-voice delays:
tuus en, alumna, temet Hippolytus tenet.
your look, nursling, yourself Hippolytus holds.

Revived, Phaedra asks Hippolytus to call her sister or servant, not mother, and at last confesses that she loves in him Theseus' face as it was in his youth. Hippolytus seizes her by the hair and draws his sword, but when she welcomes death at his hands he casts the polluted sword away and flees. The Nurse cries to Athens that he assaulted Phaedra, and keeps the sword as proof.

PHAEDRA Quis me dolori reddit atque aestus graves
Who me to-grief gives-back and heats heavy
reponit animo? quam bene excideram mihi!
restores to-my-mind? how well I-had-fallen-away from-myself!
HIPPOLYTUS Cur dulce munus redditae lucis fugis?
Why the-sweet gift of-restored light do-you-flee?
PHAEDRA Aude, anime, tempta, perage mandatum tuum.
Dare, soul, try, accomplish the-charge your.
intrepida constent verba: qui timide rogat
fearless let-stand the-words: who timidly asks
docet negare. magna pars sceleris mei
teaches to-refuse. the-great part of-crime my
olim peracta est; serus est nobis pudor:
long-ago done is; late is for-us shame:
amavimus nefanda. si coepta exsequor,
we-have-loved unspeakable-things. if the-begun I-pursue,
forsan iugali crimen abscondam face:
perhaps with-the-nuptial the-crime I-shall-hide torch:
honesta quaedam scelera successus facit —
honorable certain crimes success makes
en incipe, anime! — Commodes paulum, precor,
look begin, soul! Lend a-little, I-pray,

secretus aures. si quis est abeat comes.
apart your-ears. if anyone is let-him-go-away the-companion.

HIPPOLYTUS En locus ab omni liber arbitrio vacat.
Look the-place from every free witness is-empty.

PHAEDRA Sed ora coeptis transitum verbis negant;
But my-lips to-the-begun passage words deny;

vis magna vocem mittit et maior tenet.
force great the-voice sends-out and greater holds.

vos testor omnis, caelites, hoc quod volo —
you I-call-to-witness all, heaven-dwellers, this which I-wish

HIPPOLYTUS Animusne cupiens aliquid effari nequit?
Your-mind-whether desiring something to-speak cannot?

PHAEDRA Curae leves loquuntur, ingentes stupent.
Cares light speak, huge are-stunned.

HIPPOLYTUS Committe curas auribus, mater, meis.
Entrust your-cares to-the-ears, mother, my.

PHAEDRA Matris superbum est nomen et nimium potens:
Of-mother proud is the-name and too powerful:

nostros humilius nomen affectus decet;
our humbler name feelings befits;

me vel sororem, Hippolyte, vel famulam voca,
me either sister, Hippolytus, or servant call,

famulamque potius: omne servitium feram.
and-servant rather: all servitude I-will-bear.

non me per altas ire si iubeas nives,
not me through deep to-go if you-should-bid snows,

pigeat gelatis ingredi Pindi iugis;
it-would-irk on-frozen to-tread of-Pindus ridges;

non, si per ignes ire et infesta agmina,
not, if through fires to-go and hostile columns,

cuncter paratis ensibus pectus dare.
I-would-delay to-the-ready swords my-breast to-give.
mandata recipe sceptra, me famulam accipe:
the-entrusted take-up scepter, me as-servant accept:
muliebre non est regna tutari urbium;
womanly not is kingdoms to-guard of-cities;
tu qui iuventae flore primaevo viges
you who of-youth in-the-flower early thrive
cives paterno fortis imperio rege,
the-citizens with-paternal brave power rule,
sinu receptam supplicem ac servam tege.
in-your-bosom received a-suppliant and servant protect.
miserere viduae —
pity a-widow
HIPPOLYTUS Summus hoc omen deus
The-highest this omen god
avertat. aderit sospes actutum parens.
avert. will-be-here safe immediately my-father.
PHAEDRA Regni tenacis dominus et tacitae Stygis
Of-the-kingdom tenacious the-lord and of-silent Styx
nullam relictos fecit ad superos viam:
no left-behind has-made to the-upper-world way:
thalami remittet ille raptorem sui?
of-the-marriage will-be-send-back that the-ravisher his-own?
nisi forte amori placidus et Pluton sedet.
unless perhaps to-love gentle also Pluto sits.
HIPPOLYTUS Illum quidem aequi caelites reducem dabunt.
Him indeed the-just heaven-dwellers returned will-give.
sed dum tenebit vota in incerto deus,
but while will-hold the-vows in uncertainty the-god,

pietate caros debita fratres colam
with-dutifulness my-dear owed brothers I-shall-cherish
et te merebor esse ne viduam putes
and you I-shall-deserve to-be lest a-widow you-think
ac tibi parentis ipse supplebo locum.
and for-you of-the-parent myself I-shall-fill-up the-place.
PHAEDRA O spes amantum credula, o fallax Amor!
O hope of-lovers credulous, O deceitful Love!
satisne dixi? precibus admotis agam.
enough-whether have-I-said? with-prayers applied I-shall-act.
Miserere, tacitae mentis exaudi preces —
Pity, of-a-silent mind hear the-prayers
libet loqui pigetque.
it-pleases to-speak and-it-irks.
HIPPOLYTUS Quodnam istud malum est?
What that evil is?
PHAEDRA Quod in novercam cadere vix credas malum.
Which upon a-stepmother to-fall scarcely you-would-believe evil.
HIPPOLYTUS Ambigua voce verba perplexa iacis:
With-ambiguous voice words tangled you-throw:
effare aperte.
speak openly.
PHAEDRA Pectus insanum vapor
My-breast mad heat
amorque torret. intimis fervet ferus
and-love scorch. in-my-inmost seethes wild
visceribus ignis mersus et venas latens
vitals fire sunk and the-veins hiding
ut agilis altas flamma percurrit trabes.
as nimble the-high flame runs-through beams.

HIPPOLYTUS Amore nempe Thesei casto furis?
With-love surely for-Theseus chaste you-rage?
PHAEDRA Hippolyte, sic est: Thesei vultus amo
Hippolytus, so it-is: of-Theseus the-face I-love
illos priores quos tulit quondam puer,
those former which he-bore once a-boy,
cum prima puras barba signaret genas
when the-first clean beard marked cheeks
monstrique caecam Gnosii vidit domum
and-of-the-monster the-blind Cretan he-saw house
et longa curva fila collegit via.
and on-the-long curved thread gathered way.
quis tum ille fulsit! presserant vittae comam
how then he shone! had-pressed fillets his-hair
et ora flavus tenera tinguebat pudor:
and his-face golden tender dyed shame:
inerant lacertis mollibus fortes tori;
there-were-in arms soft strong muscles;
tuaeque Phoebes vultus aut Phoebi mei,
and-of-your Phoebe the-face or of-Phoebus my,
tuusque potius — talis, en talis fuit
and-yours rather such, look such he-was
cum placuit hosti, sic tulit celsum caput:
when he-pleased his-enemy, so he-bore high his-head:
in te magis refulget incomptus decor;
in you more shines-back unkempt grace;
est genitor in te totus et torvae tamen
is your-father in you whole and of-the-grim yet
pars aliqua matris miscet ex aequo decus:
part some of-the-mother mixes in equal grace:

in ore Graio Scythicus apparet rigor.
in a-face Greek the-Scythian appears sternness.
si cum parente Creticum intrasses fretum,
if with your-father the-Cretan you-had-entered strait,
tibi fila potius nostra nevisset soror.
for-you the-thread rather our would-have-spun sister.
te te, soror, quacumque siderei poli
you you, sister, whatever of-the-starry sky
in parte fulges, invoco ad causam parem:
in part you-shine, I-invoke to cause equal:
domus sorores una corripuit duas,
a-house sisters one has-seized two,
te genitor, at me gnatus. en supplex iacet
you the-father, but me the-son. look a-suppliant lies
adlapsa genibus regiae proles domus.
fallen at-your-knees of-a-royal the-offspring house.
respersa nulla labe et intacta, innocens
sprinkled with-no stain and untouched, innocent
tibi mutor uni. certa descendi ad preces:
for-you I-am-changed alone. resolved I-have-come-down to prayers:
finem hic dolori faciet aut vitae dies.
an-end this to-grief will-make or to-life day.
miserere amantis —
pity one-loving
HIPPOLYTUS Magne regnator deum,
Great ruler of-the-gods,
tam lentus audis scelera? tam lentus vides?
so slow do-you-hear crimes? so slow do-you-see?
et quando saeva fulmen emittes manu,
and when with-savage the-thunderbolt will-you-send-forth hand,

si nunc serenum est? omnis impulsus ruat
if now clear it-is? all struck let-fall
aether et atris nubibus condat diem,
the-sky and in-black clouds let-it-hide the-day,
ac versa retro sidera obliquos agant
and turned back the-stars slanting let-them-drive
retorta cursus. tuque, sidereum caput,
twisted courses. and-you, starry head,
radiate Titan, tu nefas stirpis tuae
radiant Titan, you the-wrong of-stock your
speculare? lucem merge et in tenebras fuge.
behold? your-light plunge and into darkness flee.
cur dextra, divum rector atque hominum, vacat
why your-right-hand, of-gods ruler and of-men, is-idle
tua nec trisulca mundus ardescit face?
your nor with-three-forked the-world blazes torch?
in me tona, me fige, me velox cremet
at me thunder, me pierce, me swift let-burn
transactus ignis — sum nocens, merui mori:
driven-through fire I-am guilty, I-have-deserved to-die:
placui novercae. dignus en stupris ego?
I-have-pleased a-stepmother. worthy look of-debaucheries I?
scelerique tanto visus ego solus tibi
and-for-crime so-great seemed I alone to-you
materia facilis? hoc meus meruit rigor?
material easy? this my has-deserved sternness?
o scelere vincens omne femineum genus,
O in-crime surpassing all the-female race,
genetrice peior! illa se tantum stupro
than-your-mother worse! she herself only with-debauchery

contaminavit, et tamen tacitum diu
stained, and yet silent long
crimen biformi partus exhibuit nota
the-crime by-two-formed birth showed mark
scelusque matris arguit vultu truci
and-the-crime of-the-mother proved with-face grim
ambiguus infans — ille te venter tulit.
the-ambiguous infant that you womb bore.
o ter quaterque prospero fato dati
O thrice and-four-times by-prosperous fate given
quos hausit et peremit et leto dedit
whom has-swallowed and destroyed and to-death given
odium dolusque — genitor, invideo tibi:
hatred and-guile father, I-envy you:
Colchide noverca maius haec, maius malum est.
than-the-Colchian stepmother greater this, greater evil is.
PHAEDRA Et ipsa nostrae fata cognosco domus:
And myself of-our the-fates I-recognize house:
fugienda petimus; sed mei non sum potens.
things-to-be-fled we-seek; but of-myself not I-am master.
te vel per ignes, per mare insanum sequar
you even through fires, through sea mad I-will-follow
rupesque et amnes, unda quos torrens rapit;
and-rocks and rivers, the-wave which torrential snatches;
quacumque gressus tuleris hac amens agar —
wherever your-steps you-have-carried this-way mad I-shall-be-driven
iterum, superbe, genibus advolvor tuis.
again, proud-one, at-knees I-roll your.

HIPPOLYTUS Procul impudicos corpore a casto amove
Far unchaste body from chaste remove
tactus — quid hoc est? etiam in amplexus ruit?
touches what this is? even into embraces she-rushes?
stringatur ensis, merita supplicia exigat.
let-be-drawn the-sword, the-deserved punishments let-it-exact.
en impudicum crine contorto caput
look the-unchaste by-hair twisted head
laeva reflexi: iustior numquam focis
with-left I-have-bent-back: more-just never on-hearths
datus tuis est sanguis, arquitenens dea.
given to-your is blood, bow-holding goddess.
PHAEDRA Hippolyte, nunc me compotem voti facis;
Hippolytus, now me possessed of-my-wish you-make;
sanas furentem. maius hoc voto meo est,
you-heal one-raving. greater this than-wish my is,
salvo ut pudore manibus immoriar tuis.
with-safe that shame by-hands I-should-die your.
HIPPOLYTUS Abscede, vive ne quid exores, et hic
Go-away, live lest anything you-obtain-by-prayer, and this
contactus ensis deserat castum latus.
touched sword let-it-leave my-chaste side.
quis eluet me Tanais aut quae barbaris
what will-wash me Tanais or what with-barbarous
Maeotis undis Pontico incumbens mari?
Maeotis waves on-the-Pontic leaning sea?
non ipse toto magnus Oceano pater
not himself with-whole the-great Ocean father
tantum expiarit sceleris. o silvae, o ferae!
so-much could-expiate of-crime. O woods, O beasts!

NUTRIX Deprensa culpa est. anime, quid segnis stupes?
Caught the-guilt is. soul, why sluggish are-you-stunned?
regeramus ipsi crimen atque ultro impiam
let-us-throw-back ourselves the-charge and of-our-own-accord impious
Venerem arguamus: scelere velandum est scelus;
lust let-us-accuse: by-crime to-be-veiled is crime;
tutissimum est inferre, cum timeas, gradum.
safest it-is to-advance, when you-fear, a-step.
ausae priores simus an passae nefas,
dared first have-we or suffered the-wrong,
secreta cum sit culpa, quis testis sciet?
secret since is the-guilt, what witness will-know?
Adeste, Athenae! fida famulorum manus,
Be-present, Athens! faithful of-the-servants band,
fer opem! nefandi raptor Hippolytus stupri
bring help! of-unspeakable the-ravisher Hippolytus debauchery
instat premitque, mortis intentat metum,
presses and-crushes, of-death threatens fear,
ferro pudicam terret — en praeceps abit
with-the-sword the-chaste terrifies look headlong he-goes-away
ensemque trepida liquit attonitus fuga.
and-the-sword in-trembling has-left stunned flight.
pignus tenemus sceleris. hanc maestam prius
the-pledge we-hold of-the-crime. her sad first
recreate. crinis tractus et lacerae comae
revive. the-hair dragged and torn locks
ut sunt remaneant, facinoris tanti notae.
as they-are let-them-remain, of-a-deed so-great marks.
perferte in urbem. recipe iam sensus, era.
carry into the-city. recover now your-senses, mistress.

quid te ipsa lacerans omnium adspectus fugis?
why yourself yourself tearing of-all the-sight do-you-flee?
mens inpudicam facere, non casus solet.
the-mind unchaste to-make, not chance is-wont.

VII · FRAGILE BEAUTY

Hippolytus flees faster than a storm wind. The chorus praises his beauty, brighter than the full moon and finer than Bacchus' hair, and warns how brief and dangerous beauty is: it fades with time, and Naiads, Dryads, and even the Moon desire it. It extols his rugged strength, sees the woman preparing her false charge, and then hails Theseus, returned to the world above.

CHORUS Fugit insanae similis procellae,
He-flees to-a-mad like storm,
ocior nubes glomerante Coro,
swifter clouds than-gathering Corus,
ocior cursum rapiente flamma,
swifter its-course than-snatching flame,
stella cum ventis agitata longos
a-star when by-winds driven long
porrigit ignes.
stretches fires.
Conferat tecum decus omne priscum
Let-compare with-you glory all ancient
fama miratrix senioris aevi:
fame admirer of-an-older age:
pulchrior tanto tua forma lucet,
lovelier by-so-much your beauty shines,
clarior quanto micat orbe pleno
brighter by-as-much-as gleams with-orb full

cum suos ignes coeunte cornu
when her fires with-meeting horn
iunxit et curru properante pernox
she-has-joined and in-chariot hurrying all-night
exerit vultus rubicunda Phoebe
puts-forth her-face ruddy Phoebe
nec tenent stellae faciem minores;
nor hold the-stars their-face lesser;
talis est, primas referens tenebras,
such is, the-first bringing-back darkness,
nuntius noctis, modo lotus undis
the-messenger of-night, just-now washed in-the-waves
Hesperus, pulsis iterum tenebris
Hesperus, with-dispelled again darkness
Lucifer idem.
Lucifer the-same.
Et tu, thyrsigera Liber ab India,
And you, thyrsus-bearing Liber from India,
intonsa iuvenis perpetuum coma,
with-unshorn young always hair,
tigres pampinea cuspide territans
tigers with-vine-wreathed spear frightening
ac mitra cohibens cornigerum caput,
and with-turban binding horned head,
non vinces rigidas Hippolyti comas.
not you-will-surpass the-stiff of-Hippolytus locks.
ne vultus nimium suspicias tuos:
do-not face too-much admire your:
omnis per populos fabula distulit,
all through peoples rumor has-spread,

Phaedrae quem Bromio praetulerit soror.
of-Phaedra whom to-Bromius has-preferred the-sister.
Anceps forma bonum mortalibus,
Two-edged beauty a-good for-mortals,
exigui donum breve temporis,
of-slight a-gift brief time,
ut velox celeri pede laberis!
how swift with-quick foot you-slip-away!
Non sic prata novo vere decentia
Not so the-meadows in-new spring comely
aestatis calidae despoliat vapor,
of-summer hot strips the-heat,
saevit solstitio cum medius dies
rages at-the-solstice when middle day
et noctes brevibus praecipitant rotis
and the-nights with-brief hurry wheels
languescunt folio et lilia pallido:
droop with-leaf and lilies pale:
ut gratae capiti deficiunt comae
as pleasing to-the-head fail locks
et fulgor teneris qui radiat genis
and the-glow on-tender which shines cheeks
momento rapitur nullaque non dies
in-a-moment is-snatched and-no not day
formonsi spolium corporis abstulit.
of-a-lovely the-spoil body has-taken-away.
res est forma fugax: quis sapiens bono
a-thing is beauty fleeting: what wise-man to-a-good
confidat fragili? dum licet, utere.
would-trust fragile? while it-is-allowed, use-it.

tempus te tacitum subruit, horaque
time you silent undermines, and-the-hour
semper praeterita deterior subit.
always than-the-past worse steals-on.
Quid deserta petis? tutior aviis
Why the-deserted do-you-seek? safer in-pathless
non est forma locis: te nemore abdito,
not is beauty places: you in-the-grove hidden,
cum Titan medium constituit diem,
when Titan the-middle has-set day,
cingent turba licens Naides improbae,
will-surround a-throng wanton Naiads wicked,
formonsos solitae claudere fontibus,
the-lovely wont to-shut-up in-springs,
et somnis facient insidias tuis
and for-sleep will-make ambushes your
Panas quae Dryades montivagos petunt.
the-Pans who Dryads mountain-wandering seek.
aut te stellifero despiciens polo
or you from-the-starry looking-down sky
sidus post veteres Arcadas editum
the-star after the-old Arcadians born
currus non poterit flectere candidos.
its-chariot not will-be-able to-steer white.
et nuper rubuit, nullaque lucidis
and lately she-reddened, and-no bright
nubes sordidior vultibus obstitit;
cloud dirtier to-her-face opposed;
at nos solliciti numine turbido,
but we anxious for-the-divinity troubled,

tractam Thessalicis carminibus rati,
drawn by-Thessalian spells thinking-her,
tinnitus dedimus: tu fueras labor
clangings gave: you had-been the-labor
et tu causa morae, te dea noctium
and you the-cause of-delay, you the-goddess of-nights
dum spectat celeres sustinuit vias.
while she-watches swift held-back courses.
Vexent hanc faciem frigora parcius,
Let-vex this face the-colds more-sparingly,
haec solem facies rarius appetat:
this the-sun face more-rarely let-it-seek:
lucebit Pario marmore clarius.
it-will-shine than-Parian marble brighter.
quam grata est facies torva viriliter
how pleasing is a-face grim manfully
et pondus veteris triste supercili!
and the-weight of-an-old gloomy brow!
Phoebo colla licet splendida compares:
to-Phoebus your-neck though splendid you-compare:
illum caesaries nescia colligi
him long-hair not-knowing to-be-gathered
perfundens umeros ornat et integit;
flooding his-shoulders adorns and covers;
te frons hirta decet, te brevior coma
you a-brow shaggy befits, you a-shorter hair
nulla lege iacens; tu licet asperos
in-no order lying; you though harsh
pugnacesque deos viribus audeas
and-warlike gods with-strength you-dare

et vasti spatio vincere corporis:
and of-vast in-the-extent to-surpass body:
aequas Herculeos nam iuvenis toros,
you-equal Herculean for young the-muscles,
Martis belligeri pectore latior.
than-Mars warlike in-breast broader.
si dorso libeat cornipedis vehi,
if on-the-back it-please of-a-horn-footed-steed to-be-carried,
frenis Castorea mobilior manu
with-reins than-Castorean nimbler hand
Spartanum poteris flectere Cyllaron.
Spartan you-will-be-able to-turn Cyllarus.
ammentum digitis tende prioribus
the-thong with-fingers stretch first
et totis iaculum dirige viribus:
and with-whole the-javelin aim strength:
tam longe, dociles spicula figere,
so far, skilled darts to-fix,
non mittent gracilem Cretes harundinem.
not will-send slender the-Cretans reed.
aut si tela modo spargere Parthico
or if weapons in-the-fashion to-scatter Parthian
in caelum placeat, nulla sine alite
into heaven it-please, none without a-bird
descendent, tepido viscere condita
will-come-down, in-warm vitals hidden
praedam de mediis nubibus afferent.
prey from middle clouds they-will-bring.
Raris forma viris (saecula perspice)
For-rare beauty men (the-ages look-through)

inpunita fuit. te melior deus
unpunished has-been. you a-better god
tutum praetereat formaque nobilis
safe may-pass-by and-beauty noble
deformis senii monstret imaginem.
of-ugly old-age may-show the-image.
Quid sinat inausum feminae praeceps furor?
What would-leave undared of-a-woman headlong madness?
nefanda iuveni crimina insonti apparat.
unspeakable for-the-young-man charges innocent she-prepares.
en scelera! quaerit crine lacerato fidem,
look the-crimes! she-seeks with-hair torn belief,
decus omne turbat capitis, umectat genas:
the-grace all she-disturbs of-her-head, wets her-cheeks:
instruitur omni fraude feminea dolus.
is-equipped with-every fraud womanly the-guile.
Sed iste quisnam est, regium in vultu decus
But that who-then is, royal in face grace
gerens et alto vertice attollens caput?
bearing and with-high crown raising head?
ut ora iuveni paria Perithoo gerit,
how a-face to-young equal Pirithous he-bears,
ni languido pallore canderent genae
unless with-languid pallor were-white his-cheeks
staretque recta squalor incultus coma.
and-stood with-upright squalor unkempt hair.
en ipse Theseus redditus terris adest.
look himself Theseus restored to-the-lands is-present.

Theseus returns from the underworld to find his house in mourning; the Nurse tells him that Phaedra means to die. When he threatens to torture the Nurse, Phaedra says that she has suffered violence and lets the sword the ravisher left behind name him: Theseus knows his own family's hilt. He curses the warlike race of his son's mother, Antiope, and calls on his father, the sea's ruler, to grant the last of three promised wishes and destroy him.

THESEUS Tandem profugi noctis aeternae plagam
At-last I-have-fled of-night eternal the-region
vastoque manes carcere umbrantem polum,
and-with-vast the-shades prison overshadowing sky,
et vix cupitum sufferunt oculi diem.
and scarcely the-longed-for endure my-eyes day.
iam quarta Eleusin dona Triptolemi secat
now the-fourth Eleusis the-gifts of-Triptolemus cuts
paremque totiens libra composuit diem,
and-equal so-often the-balance has-set day,
ambiguus ut me sortis ignotae labor
doubtful since me of-a-lot unknown the-labor
detinuit inter mortis et vitae mala.
has-held between of-death and of-life evils.
pars una vitae mansit extincto mihi:
part one of-life has-remained for-extinguished me:
sensus malorum; finis Alcides fuit,
the-sense of-evils; the-end Alcides was,
qui cum revulsum Tartaro abstraheret canem,
who when torn-away from-Tartarus he-was-dragging the-dog,
me quoque supernas pariter ad sedes tulit.
me too the-upper equally to seats brought.

sed fessa virtus robore antiquo caret
but weary valor of-strength old is-lacking
trepidantque gressus. heu, labor quantus fuit
and-tremble my-steps. alas, the-labor how-great was
Phlegethonte ab imo petere longinquum aethera
Phlegethon from lowest to-seek the-far sky
pariterque mortem fugere et Alciden sequi.
and-equally death to-flee and Alcides to-follow.
Quis fremitus aures flebilis pepulit meas? 850
What groaning the-ears tearful has-struck my?
expromat aliquis. luctus et lacrimae et dolor,
let-tell someone. mourning and tears and grief,
in limine ipso maesta lamentatio?
on the-threshold very the-sad lamentation?
auspicia digna prorsus inferno hospite.
auspices worthy entirely of-an-infernal guest.
NUTRIX Tenet obstinatum Phaedra consilium necis
Holds obstinate Phaedra the-plan of-death
fletusque nostros spernit ac morti imminet. 855
and-tears our spurns and on-death is-bent.
THESEUS Quae causa leti? reduce cur moritur viro?
What the-cause of-death? with-returned why does-she-die husband?
NUTRIX Haec ipsa letum causa maturum attulit.
This very death cause early has-brought.
THESEUS Perplexa magnum verba nescio quid tegunt.
Tangled great words I-know-not what cover.
effare aperte quis gravet mentem dolor.
speak openly what weighs-on her-mind grief.

NUTRIX Haut pandit ulli; maesta secretum occulit
Not she-opens to-anyone; sad the-secret she-hides
statuitque secum ferre quo moritur malum.
and-has-resolved with-herself to-carry of-which she-dies the-evil.
iam perge, quaeso, perge: properato est opus.
now go-on, I-beg, go-on: for-hurry is need.
THESEUS Reserate clausos regii postes laris.
Unbar shut of-the-royal doorposts house.
THESEUS O socia thalami, sicine adventum viri
O partner of-my-marriage, thus-whether the-arrival of-your-husband
et expetiti coniugis vultum excipis?
and of-the-longed-for spouse the-face do-you-receive?
quin ense viduas dexteram atque animum mihi
why-not of-the-sword do-you-widow your-right-hand and my-mind to-me
restituis et te quicquid e vita fugat
restore and you whatever from life drives
expromis?
bring-out?
PHAEDRA Eheu, per tui sceptrum imperi,
Alas, by of-your the-scepter rule,
magnanime Theseu, perque natorum indolem
great-souled Theseus, and-by of-our-children the-nature
tuosque reditus perque iam cineres meos,
and-your returns and-by now ashes my,
permitte mortem.
allow death.
THESEUS Causa quae cogit mori?
Cause what compels to-die?
PHAEDRA Si causa leti dicitur, fructus perit.
If the-cause of-death is-told, the-fruit perishes.

THESEUS Nemo istud alius, me quidem excepto, audiet.
No-one that other, me indeed excepted, will-hear.

PHAEDRA Aures pudica coniugis solas timet.
The-ears the-chaste-woman of-her-husband alone fears.

THESEUS Effare: fido pectore arcana occulam.
Speak: in-faithful breast the-secrets I-shall-hide.

PHAEDRA Alium silere quod voles, primus sile.
Another to-be-silent what you-will-wish, first be-silent.

THESEUS Leti facultas nulla continget tibi.
Of-death the-means no will-befall you.

PHAEDRA Mori volenti desse mors numquam potest.
To-die to-one-willing to-be-lacking death never can.

THESEUS Quod sit luendum morte delictum indica.
What is to-be-paid by-death the-offense declare.

PHAEDRA Quod vivo.
That I-live.

THESEUS Lacrimae nonne te nostrae movent?
Tears not-whether you our move?

PHAEDRA Mors optima est perire lacrimandum suis.
Death best is to-perish to-be-wept by-one's-own.

THESEUS Silere pergit. verbere ac vinclis opus;
To-be-silent she-continues. of-lashing and of-chains is-need;
altrixque prodet quicquid haec fari abnuit.
and-the-nurse will-betray whatever this-one to-speak refuses.
vincite ferro. verberum vis extrahat
bind with-iron. of-lashes the-force let-draw-out
secreta mentis.
the-secrets of-her-mind.

PHAEDRA Ipsa iam fabor, mane.
Myself now I-will-speak, stay.

THESEUS Quidnam ora maesta avertis
Why your-face sad do-you-turn-away
et lacrimas genis
and tears on-your-cheeks
subito coortas veste praetenta optegis?
suddenly risen with-garment drawn-before cover?
PHAEDRA Te, te, creator caelitum, testem invoco
You, you, creator of-the-heaven-dwellers, as-witness I-invoke
et te, coruscum lucis aetheriae iubar,
and you, flashing of-light ethereal radiance,
† ex cuius ortu nostra dependet domus:
(corrupt) from whose rising our depends house:
temptata precibus restiti; ferro ac minis
tried by-prayers I-resisted; to-sword and threats
non cessit animus: vim tamen corpus tulit.
not yielded my-mind: violence yet my-body bore.
labem hanc pudoris eluet noster cruor.
the-stain this of-shame will-wash-out our blood.
THESEUS Quis, ede, nostri decoris eversor fuit?
Who, speak, of-our honor the-destroyer was?
PHAEDRA Quem rere minime.
Whom you-think least.
THESEUS Quis sit audire expeto.
Who he-may-be to-hear I-demand.
PHAEDRA Hic dicet ensis quem tumultu territus
This will-tell sword which by-the-uproar terrified
liquit stuprator civium accursum timens.
left the-ravisher of-the-citizens the-running-up fearing.

THESEUS Quod facinus, heu me, cerno? quod monstrum intuor?
What deed, alas me, do-I-see? what monster do-I-behold?
regale patris asperum signis ebur
the-royal of-his-father rough with-carvings ivory
capulo refulget, gentis Actaeae decus.
on-the-hilt gleams, of-the-race Actaean glory.
sed ipse quonam evasit?
but himself where has-he-escaped?
PHAEDRA Hi trepidum fuga
These trembling in-flight
videre famuli concitum celeri pede.
saw servants roused with-swift foot.
THESEUS Pro sancta Pietas, pro gubernator poli
O holy Dutifulness, O governor of-the-sky
et qui secundum fluctibus regnum moves,
and you-who the-second with-waves kingdom move,
unde ista venit generis infandi lues?
whence that has-come of-a-race unspeakable plague?
hunc Graia tellus aluit an Taurus Scythes
him Greek land nourished or Taurian Scythian
Colchusque Phasis? redit ad auctores genus
and-Colchian Phasis? returns to its-authors the-race
stirpemque primam degener sanguis refert.
and-the-stock first degenerate blood brings-back.
est prorsus iste gentis armiferae furor,
is plainly that of-the-race arms-bearing madness,
odisse Veneris foedera et castum diu
to-hate of-Venus the-pacts and chaste long
vulgare populis corpus. o tetrum genus
to-make-common to-peoples the-body. O foul race

nullaque victum lege melioris soli!
and-by-no conquered law of-a-better soil!
ferae quoque ipsae Veneris evitant nefas,
wild-beasts also themselves of-Venus shun the-wrong,
generisque leges inscius servat pudor.
and-of-kind the-laws unknowing keeps shame.
ubi vultus ille et ficta maiestas viri
where face that and feigned majesty of-the-man
atque habitus horrens, prisca et antiqua appetens,
and dress bristling, the-old and ancient seeking,
morumque senium triste et affectus graves?
and-of-manners old-age sad and feelings grave?
o vita fallax, abditos sensus geris
O life deceitful, hidden thoughts you-bear
animisque pulchram turpibus faciem induis:
and-on-minds lovely base a-face put-on:
pudor impudentem celat, audacem quies,
modesty the-shameless hides, the-bold quiet,
pietas nefandum; vera fallaces probant
dutifulness the-unspeakable; true-things the-deceitful approve
simulantque molles dura. silvarum incola
and-feign the-soft hard-things. of-the-woods dweller
ille efferatus castus intactus rudis,
that wild chaste untouched rough,
mihi te reservas? a meo primum toro
for-me yourself do-you-keep? from my first couch
et scelere tanto placuit ordiri virum?
and with-crime so-great it-pleased to-begin to-be-a-man?
iam iam superno numini grates ago,
now now to-the-supreme divinity thanks I-give,

quod icta nostra cecidit Antiope manu,
that struck by-our fell Antiope hand,
quod non ad antra Stygia descendens tibi
that not to the-caves Stygian going-down for-you
matrem reliqui. profugus ignotas procul
your-mother I-left. as-fugitive unknown far-off
percurre gentes: te licet terra ultimo
run-through nations: you though the-earth in-the-farthest
summota mundo dirimat Oceani plagis
removed world may-separate by-Ocean's tracts
orbemque nostris pedibus obversum colas,
and-the-world to-our feet turned-opposite you-dwell-in,
licet in recessu penitus extremo abditus
though in a-recess deep farthest hidden
horrifera celsi regna transieris poli
the-dreadful of-the-lofty realms you-have-crossed pole
hiemesque supra positus et canas nives
and-winters above set and white snows
gelidi frementes liqueris Boreae minas
of-cold roaring you-have-left Boreas the-threats
post te furentes, sceleribus poenas dabis.
behind you raging, for-crimes penalties you-will-pay.
profugum per omnis pertinax latebras premam:
the-fugitive through all persistent hiding-places I-will-press:
longinqua clausa abstrusa diversa invia
far shut hidden separate pathless
emetiemur, nullus obstabit locus:
we-shall-measure, no will-stand-in-the-way place:
scis unde redeam. tela quo mitti haud queunt,
you-know whence I-return. weapons where to-be-sent not can,

huc vota mittam. genitor aequoreus dedit
hither prayers I-will-send. my-father of-the-sea gave
ut vota prono terna concipiam deo,
that prayers to-the-inclined three I-might-conceive god,
et invocata munus hoc sanxit Styge.
and with-invoked gift this he-sanctioned the-Styx.
En perage donum triste, regnator freti!
Look complete the-gift sad, ruler of-the-sea!
non cernat ultra lucidum Hippolytus diem
not let-see further the-bright Hippolytus day
adeatque manes iuvenis iratos patri.
and-let-go-to the-shades the-young-man angry at-his-father.
fer abominandam nunc opem gnato, parens:
bring abominable now help to-your-son, parent:
numquam supremum numinis munus tui
never the-last of-divinity gift your
consumeremus, magna ni premerent mala;
we-would-use, great unless pressed evils;
inter profunda Tartara et Ditem horridum
among deep Tartarus and Dis dreadful
et imminentes regis inferni minas,
and overhanging of-the-king infernal threats,
voto peperci: redde nunc pactam fidem.
the-vow I-spared: render now the-pledged faith.
genitor, moraris? cur adhuc undae silent?
father, do-you-delay? why still the-waves are-silent?
nunc atra ventis nubila impellentibus
now black with-the-winds clouds driving
subtexe noctem, sidera et caelum eripe,
weave-beneath night, the-stars and the-sky snatch-away,

effunde pontum, vulgus aequoreum cie
pour-forth the-sea, the-crowd of-the-sea rouse
fluctusque ab imo tumidus Oceano voca.
and-the-waves from the-bottom swollen of-Ocean call.

IX · WHY DO THE GODS NEGLECT MEN?

The chorus asks Nature and the ruler of the heavens why they keep the stars and seasons in order but take no care of men. Blind Fortune rules human affairs: lust conquers the pure, fraud reigns in palaces, the people hand power to the base, and virtue is perversely rewarded. Then a messenger hurries in, weeping.

CHORUS O magna parens, Natura, deum
O great parent, Nature, of-the-gods
tuque igniferi rector Olympi,
and-you of-fire-bearing ruler Olympus,
qui sparsa cito sidera mundo
who the-scattered in-swift stars world
cursusque vagos rapis astrorum
and-the-courses wandering snatch of-the-stars
celerique polos cardine versas,
and-on-swift the-poles hinge turn,
cur tanta tibi cura perennes
why so-great to-you care everlasting
agitare vias aetheris alti,
to-drive the-ways of-the-sky high,
ut nunc canae frigora brumae
that now of-white the-colds winter
nudent silvas,
strip the-woods,

nunc arbustis redeant umbrae,
now to-the-trees return shades,
nunc aestivi colla leonis
now of-the-summer the-necks lion
Cererem magno fervore coquant
the-grain with-great heat ripen
viresque suas temperet annus?
and-strength its-own temper the-year?
sed cur idem qui tanta regis,
but why the-same who such-great-things rule,
sub quo vasti pondera mundi
under whom of-the-vast the-weights world
librata suos ducunt orbes,
balanced their-own lead orbits,
hominum nimium securus abes,
of-men too unconcerned are-you-absent,
non sollicitus
not anxious
prodesse bonis, nocuisse malis?
to-help the-good, to-harm the-evil?
res humanas ordine nullo
affairs human with-order no
Fortuna regit sparsitque manu
Fortune rules and-has-scattered with-hand
munera caeca, peiora fovens;
gifts blind, the-worse cherishing;
vincit sanctos dira libido,
conquers the-pure dire lust,
fraus sublimi regnat in aula.
fraud lofty reigns in hall.

tradere turpi fasces populus
to-hand-over to-the-base the-fasces the-people
gaudet, eosdem colit atque odit.
rejoices, the-same they-cultivate and hate.
tristis virtus perversa tulit
sad virtue perverse has-borne
praemia recti:
rewards of-right:
castos sequitur mala paupertas
the-chaste follows evil poverty
vitioque potens regnat adulter:
and-by-vice powerful reigns the-adulterer:
o vane pudor falsumque decus!
O vain shame and-false honor!
Sed quid citato nuntius properat gradu
But why with-hurried the-messenger hastens step
rigatque maestis lugubrem vultum genis?
and-wets with-sad his-mournful face cheeks?

A messenger tells how Hippolytus fled the city in his chariot; the sea rose in a huge wave and cast up a monstrous bull. The horses bolted, he was caught in the reins and dragged over rocks until a charred stake pierced him and his body was torn apart. Theseus, who first calls him the ravisher, weeps not that he killed his son but that he lost him.

NUNTIUS O sors acerba et dura, famulatus gravis,
O lot bitter and hard, servitude heavy,
cur me ad nefandum nuntium casus vocat?
why me to an-unspeakable message chance calls?
THESEUS Ne metue cladis fortiter fari asperas:
Do-not fear the-disasters bravely to-tell harsh:
non imparatum pectus aerumnis fero.
not unprepared a-breast to-sufferings I-bear.
995 NUNTIUS Vocem dolori lingua luctificam negat.
Voice to-grief my-tongue mournful denies.
THESEUS Proloquere quae sors aggravet quassam domum.
Speak-out what lot weighs-down the-shaken house.
NUNTIUS Hippolytus, heu me, flebili leto occubat.
Hippolytus, alas me, by-tearful death lies-fallen.
THESEUS Gnatum parens obisse iam pridem scio:
My-son as-parent to-have-perished already long-ago I-know:
nunc raptor obiit. mortis effare ordinem.
now the-ravisher has-perished. of-his-death speak the-order.
1000 NUNTIUS Ut profugus urbem liquit infesto gradu
When fugitive the-city he-left with-hostile step
celerem citatis passibus cursum explicans,
swift with-hurried paces course unfolding,

celso sonipedes ocius subigit iugo
to-high the-sound-footed swiftly subdues yoke
et ora frenis domita substrictis ligat.
and their-mouths with-reins tamed tightened binds.
tum multa secum effatus et patrium solum
then many-things with-himself having-spoken and his-ancestral soil
abominatus saepe genitorem ciet
cursing often his-father he-calls
acerque habenis lora permissis quatit:
and-keen with-reins the-thongs let-go shakes:
cum subito vastum tonuit ex alto mare
when suddenly vast thundered from the-deep the-sea
crevitque in astra. nullus inspirat salo
and-grew to the-stars. no breathes on-the-brine
ventus, quieti nulla pars caeli strepit
wind, of-the-quiet no part sky resounds
placidumque pelagus propria tempestas agit.
and-the-calm sea its-own storm drives.
non tantus Auster Sicula disturbat freta
not so-great Auster the-Sicilian disturbs straits
nec tam furens Ionius exsurgit sinus
nor so raging the-Ionian rises gulf
regnante Coro, saxa cum fluctu tremunt
with-ruling Corus, the-rocks when with-the-wave tremble
et cana summum spuma Leucaten ferit.
and white the-highest foam Leucas strikes.
consurgit ingens pontus in vastum aggerem,
rises huge the-sea into a-vast mound,
nec ista ratibus tanta construitur lues:
nor that for-ships so-great is-built plague:

terris minatur; fluctus haud cursu levi
to-the-lands it-threatens; the-wave not with-course light
provolvitur: nescio quid onerato sinu
rolls-forward: I-know-not what in-burdened bosom
gravis unda portat. quae novum tellus caput
heavy the-wave carries. what new land head
ostendit astris? Cyclas exoritur nova?
shows to-the-stars? a-Cyclad rises new?
haec dum stupentes quaerimus, totum en mare
these-things while astonished we-ask, the-whole look sea
immugit, omnes undique scopuli adstrepunt;
bellows, all on-every-side the-rocks roar-back;
summum cacumen rorat expulso sale,
the-highest summit drips with-expelled salt,
spumat vomitque vicibus alternis aquas
it-foams and-vomits by-turns alternate waters
qualis per alta vehitur Oceani freta
such-as through the-deep is-carried of-Ocean straits
fluctum refundens ore physeter capax.
the-wave pouring-back from-its-mouth a-whale capacious.
inhorruit concussus undarum globus
shuddered shaken of-waves the-mass
solvitque sese et litori invexit malum
and-loosed itself and onto-the-shore brought an-evil
maius timore, pontus in terras ruit
greater than-fear, the-sea onto the-lands rushes
suumque monstrum sequitur — os quassat tremor.
and-its-own monster follows the-mouth shakes trembling.
quis habitus illi corporis vasti fuit!
what the-shape to-that of-body vast was!

caerulea taurus colla sublimis gerens
sea-blue a-bull neck lofty bearing
erexit altam fronte viridanti iubam;
raised high on-brow green mane;
stant hispidae auris, orbibus varius color,
stand shaggy ears, in-the-eyes varied color,
et quem feri dominator habuisset gregis
both which of-a-wild the-lord would-have-had herd
et quem sub undis natus: hinc flammam vomunt
and which under waves born: hence flame vomit
oculi, hinc relucent caerula insignes nota;
the-eyes, hence gleam with-sea-blue distinguished mark;
opima cervix arduos tollit toros
the-rich neck steep lifts muscles
naresque hiulcis haustibus patulae fremunt;
and-the-nostrils with-gaping drafts wide snort;
musco tenaci pectus ac palear viret,
with-moss clinging the-breast and dewlap is-green,
longum rubente spargitur fuco latus;
long with-red is-sprinkled seaweed the-side;
tum pone tergus ultima in monstrum coit
then behind the-back the-last into a-monster comes-together
facies et ingens belua immensam trahit
the-shape and huge the-beast immense drags
squamosa partem. talis extremo mari
scaly part. such in-the-farthest sea
pistrix citatas sorbet aut frangit rates.
the-sea-monster swift swallows or breaks ships.
tremuere terrae, fugit attonitum pecus
trembled the-lands, flees stunned the-flock

passim per agros nec suos pastor sequi
everywhere through the-fields nor his-own the-shepherd to-follow
meminit iuvencos; omnis e saltu fera
remembers bullocks; every from the-glade beast
diffugit, omnis frigido exsanguis metu
scatters, every with-cold bloodless fear
venator horret. solus immunis metu
the-hunter shudders. alone free from-fear
Hippolytus artis continet frenis equos
Hippolytus with-tight holds reins the-horses
pavidosque notae vocis hortatu ciet.
and-the-frightened of-familiar voice by-urging rouses.
est alta ad agros collibus ruptis via,
there-is high to the-fields by-hills broken a-way,
vicina tangens spatia suppositi maris;
the-neighboring touching spaces of-lying-below sea;
hic se illa moles acuit atque iras parat.
here itself that mass sharpens and its-angers prepares.
ut cepit animos seque praetemptans satis
when it-took courage and-itself pretesting enough
prolusit irae, praepeti cursu evolat,
had-practiced its-anger, with-swift course it-flies-out,
summam citato vix gradu tangens humum,
the-top with-hurried scarcely step touching ground,
et torva currus ante trepidantes stetit.
and grim the-chariot before trembling stood.
contra feroci gnatus insurgens minax
against with-fierce your-son rising threatening
vultu nec ora mutat et magnum intonat:
in-face nor his-mouth changes and great thunders:

‘haud frangit animum vanus hic terror meum:
‘not breaks the-spirit vain this terror my:
nam mihi paternus vincere est tauros labor.’
for to-me paternal to-conquer is bulls the-labor.’
inobsequentes protinus frenis equi
disobedient immediately to-the-reins the-horses
rapuere currum iamque derrantes via,
snatched the-chariot and-now straying from-the-road,
quacumque rabidos pavidus evexit furor,
wherever raging fearful has-carried madness,
hac ire pergunt seque per scopulos agunt.
this-way to-go they-press and-themselves through the-rocks drive.
at ille, qualis turbido rector mari
but he, like in-a-turbulent the-pilot sea
ratem retentat, ne det obliquum latus,
the-ship holds-back, lest it-give slanting its-side,
et arte fluctum fallit, haud aliter citos
and by-art the-wave eludes, not otherwise the-swift
currus gubernat: ora nunc pressis trahit
chariot he-steers: their-mouths now with-pressed he-drags
constricta frenis, terga nunc torto frequens
tightened reins, their-backs now with-twisted frequent
verbere cohercet. sequitur adsiduus comes,
lash he-restrains. follows constant as-companion,
nunc aequa carpens spatia, nunc contra obvius
now even pacing spaces, now against meeting
oberrat, omni parte terrorem movens.
it-roams, on-every side terror moving.
non licuit ultra fugere: nam toto obvius
not it-was-allowed further to-flee: for with-whole meeting

incurrit ore corniger ponti horridus.
runs-at mouth the-horned-one of-the-sea dreadful.
tum vero pavida sonipedes mente exciti
then indeed with-frightened the-sound-footed mind roused
imperia solvunt seque luctantur iugo
the-commands loose and-themselves struggle from-the-yoke
eripere rectique in pedes iactant onus.
to-snatch and-upright onto their-feet throw the-burden.
praeceps in ora fusus implicuit cadens
headlong on his-face poured he-entangled falling
laqueo tenaci corpus et quanto magis
in-a-noose tenacious his-body and by-how-much more
pugnat, sequaces hoc magis nodos ligat.
he-fights, the-following by-so-much more knots he-binds.
sensere pecudes facinus — et curru levi,
felt the-beasts the-deed and with-chariot light,
dominante nullo, qua timor iussit ruunt.
with-ruling none, where fear bade they-rush.
talis per auras non suum agnoscens onus
such through the-breezes not its-own recognizing burden
Solique falso creditum indignans diem
and-to-the-Sun falsely entrusted resenting the-day
Phaethonta currus devio excussit polo.
Phaethon the-chariot from-the-pathless shook-off sky.
late cruentat arva et inlisum caput
widely he-bloodies the-fields and dashed his-head
scopulis resultat; auferunt dumi comas,
on-the-rocks rebounds; carry-off the-thorns his-hair,
et ora durus pulchra populatur lapis
and his-face hard lovely ravages stone

peritque multo vulnere infelix decor.
and-perishes with-many a-wound unhappy beauty.
moribunda celeres membra pervolvunt rotae:
dying the-swift limbs roll-through wheels:
tandemque raptum truncus ambusta sude
and-at-last snatched-him a-trunk with-burned stake
medium per inguen stipite ingesto tenet,
middle through the-groin with-stake driven holds,
paulumque domino currus affixo stetit.
and-a-little with-the-master the-chariot fixed stood.
haesere biiuges vulnere — et pariter moram
stuck the-pair at-the-wound and equally the-delay
dominumque rumpunt. inde semanimem secant
and-the-master they-break. thence half-alive cut
virgulta, acutis asperi vepres rubis
the-bushes, with-sharp rough briers brambles
omnisque truncus corporis partem tulit.
and-every trunk of-the-body a-part has-taken.
errant per agros funebris famuli manus,
wander through the-fields of-the-funeral the-servants band,
per illa qua distractus Hippolytus loca
through those where torn Hippolytus places
longum cruenta tramitem signat nota,
long with-bloody the-track marks mark,
maestaeque domini membra vestigant canes.
and-sad of-their-master the-limbs track dogs.
necdum dolentum sedulus potuit labor
not-yet of-the-grieving diligent could the-labor
explere corpus. hocine est formae decus?
to-fill-up the-body. this-whether is of-beauty the-glory?

qui modo paterni clarus imperii comes
he-who just-now of-paternal famed rule partner
et certus heres siderum fulsit modo,
and sure heir of-the-stars shone in-the-manner,
passim ad supremos ille colligitur rogos
everywhere for the-last he is-gathered pyres
et funeri confertur.
and for-the-funeral is-brought-together.

THESEUS O nimium potens,
O too powerful,
quanto parentes sanguinis vinclo tenes,
with-how-great parents of-blood chain you-hold,
natura, quam te colimus inviti quoque:
nature, how you we-worship unwilling even:
occidere volui noxium, amissum fleo.
to-kill I-wished the-guilty, the-lost I-weep.

NUNTIUS Gaudere non est ipse quod voluit potens.
To-rejoice not is himself at-what he-wished able.

THESEUS Equidem malorum maximum hunc cumulum reor,
Indeed of-evils the-greatest this heap I-think,
si abominanda casus optanda efficit.
if abominable chance desirable makes.

NUNTIUS Et si odia servas, cur madent fletu genae?
And if hatreds you-keep, why are-wet with-weeping your-cheeks?

THESEUS Quod interemi non, quod amisi fleo.
That I-have-killed not, that I-have-lost I-weep.

The chorus sings that chance whirls human affairs, striking the high and sparing the humble, and that swift Fortune keeps faith with no one. Theseus has come back from the dead only to mourn in his own house, and Pallas owes the lord of the dead nothing, since his number is complete. Then a cry sounds from the palace: Phaedra has drawn a sword.

CHORUS Quanti casus humana rotant!
How-great chances human-affairs turn!
minor in parvis Fortuna furit
less among small Fortune rages
leviusque ferit leviora deus; 1125
and-more-lightly strikes lighter-things the-god;
servat placidos obscura quies
keeps the-calm obscure quiet
praebetque senes casa securos.
and-offers old-men the-cottage untroubled.
Admota aetheriis culmina sedibus
Moved-near to-ethereal the-roof-tops seats
Euros excipiunt, excipiunt Notos,
the-east-winds catch, catch the-south-winds,
insani Boreae minas 1130
of-mad Boreas the-threats
imbriferumque Corum.
and-rain-bringing Corus.
Raros patitur fulminis ictus
Rare endures of-the-thunderbolt strokes
umida vallis:
the-moist valley:

tremuit telo Iovis altisoni
trembled at-the-weapon of-Jupiter high-thundering
Caucasus ingens Phrygiumque nemus
Caucasus huge and-the-Phrygian grove
matris Cybeles: metuens caelo
of-mother Cybele: fearing for-heaven
Iuppiter alto vicina petit;
Jupiter high neighbors attacks;
non capit umquam magnos motus
not takes ever great motions
humilis tecti plebeia domus.
of-a-humble roof the-plebeian house.
Volat ambiguis mobilis alis
Flies on-doubtful nimble wings
hora, nec ulli praestat velox
the-hour, nor to-anyone grants swift
Fortuna fidem.
Fortune faith.
hic qui clari *** sidera mundi
he who the-bright (lacuna) the-stars of-the-world
nitidumque diem morte relicta,
and-shining day with-death left,
luget maestos tristis reditus
mourns sad gloomy returns
ipsoque magis flebile Averno
and-than-very more tearful Avernus
sedis patriae videt hospitium.
of-his-seat paternal sees the-hospitality.
Pallas Actaeae veneranda genti,
Pallas to-the-Actaean to-be-revered race,

quod tuus caelum superosque Theseus
because your heaven and-those-above Theseus
spectat et fugit Stygias paludes,
sees and has-fled the-Stygian marshes,
casta nil debes patruo rapaci:
chaste nothing you-owe to-your-uncle rapacious:
constat inferno numerus tyranno.
stands-complete for-the-infernal the-number tyrant.
Quae vox ab altis flebilis tectis sonat
What voice from high tearful roofs sounds
strictoque vaecors Phaedra quid ferro parat?
and-with-drawn frantic Phaedra what sword prepares?

XII · PHAEDRA DIES BY HER OWN HAND

Over Hippolytus' body Phaedra confesses that he was innocent and that she lied, and kills herself with a sword. Theseus begs the underworld to punish him; urged to bury his son, he has the remains brought in, pieces them together himself, orders a royal pyre, and decrees that the earth lie heavy on Phaedra's impious head.

THESEUS Quis te dolore percitam instigat furor?
What you with-grief roused goads madness?
quid ensis iste quidve vociferatio
what sword that or-what crying
planctusque supra corpus invisum volunt?
and-beating-of-breasts over the-body hated mean?
PHAEDRA Me, me, profundi saeve dominator freti,
Me, me, of-the-deep savage lord sea,
invade et in me monstra caerulei maris
attack and on me the-monsters of-the-sea-blue sea

emitte, quicquid intimo Tethys sinu
send-out, whatever in-her-inmost Tethys bosom
extrema gestat, quicquid Oceanus vagis
farthest carries, whatever Ocean with-wandering
complexus undis ultimo fluctu tegit.
embracing waves with-the-last wave covers.
o dure Theseu semper, o numquam ad tuos
O hard Theseus always, O never to your-own
tuto reverse: gnatus et genitor nece
safely returned: son and father with-death
reditus tuos luere; pervertis domum
returns your have-paid-for; you-overthrow your-house
amore semper coniugum aut odio nocens.
by-love always of-wives or by-hatred harmful.
Hippolyte, tales intuor vultus tuos
Hippolytus, such do-I-see face your
talesque feci? membra quis saevus Sinis
and-such have-I-made-it? your-limbs what savage Sinis
aut quis Procrustes sparsit aut quis Cresius,
or what Procrustes has-scattered or what Cretan,
Daedalea vasto claustra mugitu replens,
the-Daedalean with-vast enclosure bellowing filling,
taurus biformis ore cornigero ferox
bull two-formed with-mouth horned fierce
divulsit? heu me, quo tuus fugit decor
has-torn-apart? alas me, where your has-fled beauty
oculique nostrum sidus? exanimis iaces?
and-your-eyes our star? lifeless do-you-lie?
ades parumper verbaque exaudi mea —
be-present a-little and-the-words hear my

nil turpe loquimur: hac manu poenas tibi
nothing base we-speak: with-this hand the-penalties to-you
solvam et nefando pectori ferrum inseram
I-will-pay and into-the-impious breast the-sword will-thrust
animaque Phaedram pariter ac scelere exuam,
and-of-life Phaedra equally and of-crime will-strip,
et te per undas perque Tartareos lacus,
and you through waves and-through Tartarean lakes,
per Styga, per amnes igneos amens sequar.
through Styx, through rivers fiery mad will-follow.
placemus umbras: capitis exuvias cape
let-us-appease the-shades: of-my-head the-spoils take
laceraeque frontis accipe abscisam comam.
and-of-my-torn brow receive cut-off hair.
non licuit animos iungere, at certe licet
not it-was-allowed our-souls to-join, but surely it-is-allowed
iunxisse fata. morere, si casta es, viro;
to-have-joined our-fates. die, if chaste you-are, for-your-husband;
si incesta, amori. coniugis thalamos petam
if unchaste, for-love. of-my-husband the-marriage shall-I-seek
tanto impiatos facinore? hoc derat nefas,
by-so-great profaned a-deed? this was-lacking wrong,
ut vindicato sancta fruereris toro.
that vindicated holy you-should-enjoy the-couch.
o mors amoris una sedamen mali,
O death of-love the-one assuager evil,
o mors pudoris maximum laesi decus,
O death of-shame the-greatest wounded glory,
confugimus ad te: pande placatos sinus.
we-flee to you: open appeased your-bosom.

Audite, Athenae, tuque, funesta pater
Hear, Athens, and-you, than-the-deadly father
peior noverca: falsa memoravi et nefas,
worse stepmother: false-things I-recounted and the-wrong,
quod ipsa demens pectore insano hauseram,
which myself mad in-breast insane I-had-drawn,
mentita finxi. vana punisti pater,
lying I-feigned. vain-things you-have-punished father,
iuvenisque castus crimine incesto iacet,
and-the-young-man chaste by-a-charge unchaste lies,
pudicus, insons — recipe iam mores tuos.
modest, guiltless recover now character your.
mucrone pectus impium iusto patet
to-the-point my-breast impious just lies-open
cruorque sancto solvit inferias viro.
and-the-blood to-a-holy pays offerings man.
THESEUS Quid facere rapto debeas gnato parens,
What to-do for-snatched you-ought son parent,
disce a noverca: condere Acherontis plagis.
learn from the-stepmother: to-hide-yourself in-Acheron's regions.
Pallidi fauces Averni vosque, Taenarei specus,
Of-pale jaws Avernus and-you, Taenarian caves,
unda miseris grata Lethes vosque, torpentes lacus,
wave to-the-wretched pleasing of-Lethe and-you, sluggish lakes,
impium rapite atque mersum premite perpetuis malis.
the-impious snatch and sunk press with-perpetual evils.
nunc adeste, saeva ponti monstra, nunc vastum mare,
now be-present, savage of-the-sea monsters, now vast sea,
ultimo quodcumque Proteus aequorum abscondit sinu,
in-the-farthest whatever Proteus of-the-waters hides bosom,

meque ovantem scelere tanto rapite in altos gurgites.
and-me exulting in-crime so-great snatch into deep whirlpools.
tuque semper, genitor, irae facilis assensor meae,
and-you always, father, of-anger easy assenter my,
morte facili dignus haud sum qui nova natum nece
of-death easy worthy not I-am who with-new my-son death
segregem sparsi per agros quique, dum falsum nefas
scattered have-dispersed through the-fields and-who, while a-false wrong
exsequor vindex severus, incidi in verum scelus.
I-pursue as-avenger severe, have-fallen into true crime.
sidera et manes et undas scelere complevi meo:
the-stars and the-shades and the-waves with-crime I-have-filled my:
amplius sors nulla restat; regna me norunt tria.
further lot none remains; the-realms me have-known three.
In hoc redimus? patuit ad caelum via,
For this have-we-returned? lay-open to heaven the-way,
bina ut viderem funera et geminam necem,
two that I-might-see funerals and twin death,
caelebs et orbus funebres una face
wifeless and childless the-funereal with-one torch
ut concremarem prolis ac thalami rogos?
that I-might-burn of-offspring and of-marriage pyres?
donator atrae lucis, Alcide, tuum
giver of-black light, Alcides, your
Diti remitte munus; ereptos mihi
to-Dis send-back gift; the-snatched-from me
restitue manes. impius frustra invoco
restore shades. impious in-vain I-invoke
mortem relictam — crudus et leti artifex,
death left cruel and of-death the-artificer,

exitia machinatus insolita effera,
destructions having-devised unwonted wild,
nunc tibimet ipse iusta supplicia irroga.
now on-yourself yourself just punishments inflict.
pinus coacto vertice attingens humum
a-pine with-forced top touching the-ground
caelo remissum findat in geminas trabes,
to-the-sky sent-back let-split-me into twin beams,
mittarve praeceps saxa per Scironia?
or-let-me-be-sent headlong rocks down Scironian?
graviora vidi, quae pati clausos iubet
heavier-things I-have-seen, which to-suffer the-shut-in bids
Phlegethon nocentes igneo cingens vado:
Phlegethon the-guilty with-fiery encircling shallow:
quae poena memet maneat et sedes, scio.
what punishment me may-await and seat, I-know.
umbrae nocentes, cedite et cervicibus
shades guilty, yield and on-necks
his, his repositum degravet fessas manus
these, these set-back let-weigh-down weary hands
saxum, seni perennis Aeolio labor;
the-rock, to-the-old-man everlasting Aeolian labor;
me ludat amnis ora vicina alluens;
me let-mock a-river my-mouth near washing;
vultur relicto transvolet Tityo ferus
the-vulture with-left let-fly-over Tityus fierce
meumque poenae semper accrescat iecur;
and-my for-punishment always let-grow liver;
et tu mei requiesce Perithoi pater:
and you of-my rest Pirithous father:

haec incitatis membra turbinibus ferat
these with-driven limbs whirls let-carry
numquam resistens orbe revoluto rota.
never stopping in-orbit revolving the-wheel.
dehisce tellus, recipe me dirum chaos,
gape earth, receive me dire chaos,
recipe, haec ad umbras iustior nobis via est:
receive, this to the-shades more-just for-us way is:
gnatum sequor — ne metue qui manes regis: 1240
my-son I-follow do-not fear you-who the-shades rule:
casti venimus; recipe me aeterna domo
chaste we-come; receive me in-eternal house
non exiturum. non movent divos preces;
not going-to-go-out. not move the-gods prayers;
at si rogarem scelera, quam proni forent.
but if I-asked-for crimes, how inclined they-would-be.
CHORUS Theseu, querelis tempus aeternum manet:
Theseus, for-complaints time eternal remains:
nunc iusta nato solve et absconde ocius 1245
now the-rites to-your-son pay and hide quickly
dispersa foede membra laniatu effero.
scattered foully the-limbs by-tearing savage.
THESEUS Huc, huc reliquias vehite cari corporis
Hither, hither the-remains carry of-the-dear body
pondusque et artus temere congestos date.
and-the-weight and the-limbs at-random heaped give.
Hippolytus hic est? crimen agnosco meum:
Hippolytus this is? the-crime I-recognize my:
ego te peremi; neu nocens tantum semel 1250
I you have-killed; and-lest guilty only once

solusve fierem, facinus ausurus parens
or-alone I-should-become, a-deed going-to-dare as-parent
patrem advocavi. munere en patrio fruor.
my-father I-called-on. the-gift look paternal I-enjoy.
o triste fractis orbitas annis malum!
O sad to-broken bereavement years evil!
complectere artus, quodque de nato est super,
embrace the-limbs, and-what of your-son is left,
miserande, maesto pectore incumbens fove.
pitiable-one, on-sad breast leaning warm.
CHORUS Disiecta genitor membra laceri corporis
The-scattered father limbs of-the-torn body
in ordinem dispone et errantes loco
into order arrange and the-wandering in-place
restitue partes: fortis hic dextrae locus,
restore parts: of-the-brave here right-hand the-place,
hic laeva frenis docta moderandis manus
here the-left at-the-reins skilled to-be-guided hand
ponenda: laevi lateris agnosco notas.
to-be-set: of-the-left side I-recognize the-marks.
quam magna lacrimis pars adhuc nostris abest!
how great for-tears a-part still our is-absent!
THESEUS Durate trepidae lugubri officio manus,
Hold-firm trembling at-the-mournful office hands,
fletusque largos sistite, arentes genae,
and-the-tears abundant stop, drying cheeks,
dum membra nato genitor adnumerat suo
while the-limbs for-the-son the-father counts-out his-own
corpusque fingit. hoc quid est forma carens
and-the-body fashions. this what is of-form lacking

et turpe, multo vulnere abruptum undique?
and ugly, with-many a-wound broken on-every-side?
quae pars tui sit dubito; sed pars est tui:
what part of-you it-may-be I-doubt; but a-part it-is of-you:
hic, hic repone, non suo, at vacuo loco.
here, here set-it, not in-its-own, but in-empty place.
haecne illa facies igne sidereo nitens,
this-whether that face with-fire starry shining,
inimica flectens lumina? huc cecidit decor?
hostile turning eyes? hither has-fallen beauty?
o dira fata, numinum o saevus favor!
O dire fates, of-the-divinities O savage favor!
sic ad parentem natus ex voto redit?
so to his-parent the-son from vow returns?
en haec suprema dona genitoris cape,
look these last gifts of-your-father take,
saepe efferendus; interim haec ignes ferant.
often to-be-carried-out; meanwhile these fires let-bear.
Patefacite acerbam caede funesta domum;
Open the-bitter with-slaughter deadly house;
Mopsopia claris tota lamentis sonet.
Mopsopia with-loud whole laments let-resound.
vos apparate regii flammam rogi;
you prepare of-the-royal the-flame pyre;
at vos per agros corporis partes vagas
but you through the-fields of-the-body the-parts wandering

inquirite. istam terra defossam premat,
search-out. that-woman the-earth buried let-press,
gravisque tellus impio capiti incubet.
and-heavy the-land on-the-impious head let-weigh.

SENECA

Troades

The Trojan Women

I · HECUBA LAMENTS TROY

Hecuba warns the proud to look at her and at Troy: the city lies in smoking ruins, its walls thrown down, and she, who foresaw it before Cassandra, saw its king slaughtered at the altar by the arms of Aeacus' line and left unburied. The Greeks are dividing the spoils and drawing lots for the captive women; hers alone is the lot they dread. She calls on the Trojan women to lament.

HECUBA Quicumque regno fidit et magna potens
Whoever in-kingship trusts and in-great powerful
dominatur aula nec leves metuit deos
lords-it hall nor fickle fears the-gods
animumque rebus credulum laetis dedit,
and-his-mind to-fortunes credulous glad has-given,
me videat et te, Troia: non umquam tulit
me let-him-see and you, Troy: not ever has-borne
documenta fors maiora, quam fragili loco
proofs fortune greater, how on-fragile place
starent superbi. columen eversum occidit
stood the-proud. the-pillar overturned has-fallen
pollentis Asiae, caelitum egregius labor;
of-powerful Asia, of-the-heaven-dwellers distinguished labor;
ad cuius arma venit et qui frigidum
to whose arms came both he-who the-cold
septena Tanain ora pandentem bibit,
seven-fold Tanais mouths spreading drinks,
et quae vagos vicina prospiciens Scythas
and she-who wandering neighboring watching Scythians

ripam catervis Ponticam viduis ferit,
the-bank with-bands Pontic widowed strikes,
et qui renatum primus excipiens diem
and he-who reborn first receiving the-day
tepidum rubenti Tigrin inmiscet freto,
warm with-the-red Tigris mingles strait,
excisa ferro est, Pergamum incubuit sibi.
cut-down by-the-sword it-is, Pergamum has-fallen on-itself.
en alta muri decora congesti iacent
look the-high of-the-wall glories heaped lie
tectis adustis; regiam flammae ambiunt
with-roofs burned; the-palace flames surround
omnisque late fumat Assaraci domus.
and-all widely smokes of-Assaracus the-house.
non prohibet avidas flamma victoris manus:
not holds-back the-greedy flame of-the-victor hands:
diripitur ardens Troia. nec caelum patet
is-plundered burning Troy. nor the-sky lies-open
undante fumo: nube ceu densa obsitus
with-billowing smoke: by-cloud as-if thick covered
ater favilla squalet Iliaca dies.
black with-ash is-squalid Ilian day.
stat avidus irae victor et lentum Ilium
stands greedy for-anger the-victor and slow Ilium
metitur oculis ac decem tandem ferus
measures with-eyes and ten at-last fierce
ignoscit annis; horret afflictam quoque,
forgives years; he-shudders-at it-afflicted too,
victamque quamvis videat, haut credit sibi
and-conquered although he-may-see-it, not believes himself

potuisse vinci, spolia populator rapit
to-have-been-able to-be-conquered, the-spoils the-plunderer snatches
Dardania; praedam mille non capiunt rates.
Dardan; the-booty a-thousand not hold ships.
Testor deorum numen adversum mihi,
I-call-to-witness of-the-gods the-divinity hostile to-me,
patriaeque cineres teque rectorem Phrygum
and-of-my-fatherland the-ashes and-you ruler of-the-Phrygians
quem Troia toto conditum regno tegit,
whom Troy with-whole buried kingdom covers,
tuosque manes quo stetit stante Ilium,
and-your shades with-whom stood standing Ilium,
et vos meorum liberum magni greges,
and you of-my children great flocks,
umbrae minores: quicquid adversi accidit,
shades lesser: whatever of-adverse has-befallen,
quaecumque Phoebas ore lymphato furens
whatever-things the-priestess-of-Phoebus with-mouth frenzied raving
credi deo vetante praedixit mala,
to-be-believed with-the-god forbidding foretold evils,
prior Hecuba vidi gravida nec tacui metus
first Hecuba saw pregnant nor kept-silent-about my-fears
et vana vates ante Cassandram fui.
and vain prophetess before Cassandra I-was.
non cautus ignes Ithacus aut Ithaci comes
not the-cautious fires the-Ithacan or the-Ithacan's companion
nocturnus in vos sparsit aut fallax Sinon:
nocturnal on you scattered or deceitful Sinon:
meus ignis iste est, facibus ardetis meis.
my fire that is, with-torches you-burn my.

sed quid ruinas urbis eversae gemis,
but why the-ruins of-the-city overturned do-you-groan,
vivax senectus? respice infelix ad hos
long-lived old-age? look-back unhappy at these
luctus recentes: Troia iam vetus est malum.
mournings recent: Troy now old is evil.
vidi execrandum regiae caedis nefas
I-saw the-accursed of-royal slaughter wrong
ipsasque ad aras maius admissum scelus
and-very at altars greater committed crime
Aeacidis armis, cum ferox, scaeva manu
by-Aeacid arms, when fierce, with-left hand
coma reflectens regium torta caput,
by-the-hair bending-back the-royal twisted head,
alto nefandum vulneri ferrum abdidit;
in-the-deep the-unspeakable wound sword he-hid;
quod penitus actum cum recepisset, libens
which deep driven when it-had-received, willing
ensis senili siccus e iugulo redit.
the-sword aged dry from throat returns.
placare quem non potuit a caede effera
to-appease whom not could from slaughter savage
mortalis aevi cardinem extremum premens
of-mortal age the-hinge last pressing
superique testes sceleris et quoddam sacrum
and-those-above witnesses of-the-crime and something sacred
regni iacentis? ille tot regum parens
of-a-kingdom fallen? he of-so-many kings parent
caret sepulcro Priamus et flamma indiget
lacks a-tomb Priam and flame needs

ardente Troia. non tamen superis sat est:
with-burning Troy. not yet to-those-above enough is:
dominum ecce Priami nuribus et natis legens
a-master behold for-Priam's daughters-in-law and daughters choosing
sortitur urna praedaque en vilis sequar.
allots by-the-urn and-as-prey look cheap I-shall-follow.
hic Hectoris coniugia despondet sibi,
this-one Hector's wife promises to-himself,
hic optat Heleni coniugem, hic Antenoris;
this-one wishes-for of-Helenus wife, this-one Antenor's;
nec dest tuos, Cassandra, qui thalamos petat.
nor is-lacking yours, Cassandra, one-who the-marriage may-seek.
mea sors timetur, sola sum Danais metus.
my lot is-feared, alone I-am for-the-Danaans a-fear.
Lamenta cessant? turba captivae mea,
Laments cease? throng captive my,
ferite palmis pectora et planctus date
strike with-palms breasts and beatings give
et iusta Troiae facite. iamdudum sonet
and the-rites for-Troy perform. long-since let-sound
fatalis Ide, iudicis diri domus.
fateful Ida, of-the-judge dire the-house.

Hecuba leads the chorus of Trojan women, who loose their hair, bare their shoulders, and beat their breasts for Hector, then for Priam. Priam is happy: he died free, will never walk in Agamemnon's triumph, and now seeks Hector among the shades; happy is whoever dies in war and takes all with him.

CHORUS Non rude vulgus lacrimisque novum
Not untried a-crowd and-to-tears new
lugere iubes:
to-mourn you-bid:
hoc continuis egimus annis,
this in-continuous we-have-done years,
ex quo tetigit
from when touched
Phrygius Graias hospes Amyclas
the-Phrygian Greek guest Amyclae
secuitque fretum
and-cut the-sea
pinus matri sacra Cybebae.
the-pine to-the-mother sacred Cybebe.
deciens nivibus canuit Ide,
ten-times with-snows has-grown-white Ida,
deciens nostris nudata rogis,
ten-times by-our stripped pyres,
et Sigeis trepidus campis
and on-Sigean trembling plains
decumas secuit messor aristas,
the-tenth has-cut the-reaper ears,
ut nulla dies maerore caret.
since no day of-grief is-free.

sed nova fletus causa ministrat:
but new for-weeping cause supplies:
ite ad planctus,
go to beatings,
miseramque leva, regina, manum.
and-wretched raise, queen, your-hand.
vulgus dominam vile sequemur:
the-crowd its-mistress cheap we-shall-follow:
non indociles lugere sumus.
not unteachable to-mourn we-are.
HECUBA Fidae casus nostri comites,
Faithful of-fall our companions,
solvite crinem,
loose the-hair,
per colla fluant maesta capilli
over the-necks let-flow sad the-locks
tepido Troiae pulvere turpes:
with-warm of-Troy dust foul:
complete manus,
fill your-hands,
hoc ex Troia sumpsisse licet.
this from Troy to-have-taken is-allowed.
paret exertos turba lacertos;
let-prepare bared the-crowd arms;
veste remissa substringe sinus
with-garment let-down bind-up the-folds
uteroque tenus pateant artus.
and-to-the-womb as-far-as let-lie-open the-limbs.
cui coniugio
for-what marriage

pectora velas, captive pudor?
your-breasts do-you-veil, captive shame?
cingat tunicas palla solutas,
let-gird the-tunics the-mantle loosened,
vacet ad crebri verbera planctus
let-be-free for of-frequent the-blows beating
furibunda manus — placet hic habitus,
the-raving hand pleases this dress,
placet: agnosco Troada turbam.
pleases: I-recognize the-Trojan throng.
iterum luctus redeant veteres,
again mournings let-return old,
solitum flendi vincite morem:
the-wonted of-weeping surpass custom:
Hectora flemus.
Hector we-weep.
CHORUS Solvimus omnes lacerum multo
We-have-loosed all torn with-much
funere crinem;
death hair;
coma demissa est libera nodo
the-hair let-down is free from-the-knot
sparsitque cinis fervidus ora.
and-has-sprinkled ash hot our-faces.
cadit ex umeris vestis apertis
falls from the-shoulders the-garment open
imumque tegit suffulta latus;
and-the-lowest covers propped-up side;
iam nuda vocant pectora dextras:
now naked call breasts for-right-hands:

nunc, nunc vires exprome, dolor.
now, now strength bring-forth, grief.
Rhoetea sonent litora planctus,
Rhoetean let-resound the-shores with-beatings,
habitansque cavis montibus Echo
and-dwelling in-hollow mountains Echo
non, ut solita est, extrema brevis
not, as wont she-is, the-last brief
verba remittat,
words let-her-send-back,
totos reddat Troiae gemitus:
whole let-her-return of-Troy the-groans:
audiat omnis pontus et aether.
let-hear all the-sea and sky.
saevite, manus,
rage, hands,
pulsu pectus tundite vasto,
with-blow the-breast beat vast,
non sum solito contenta sono:
not I-am with-wonted content sound:
Hectora flemus.
Hector we-weep.
HECUBA Tibi nostra ferit dextra lacertos
For-you our strikes right-hand arms
umerosque ferit tibi sanguineos,
and-shoulders strikes for-you bloody,
tibi nostra caput dextera pulsat,
for-you our head right-hand beats,
tibi maternis ubera palmis
for-you with-maternal the-breasts palms

laniata iacent:
torn lie:
fluat et multo sanguine manet
let-flow and with-much blood let-it-run
quamcumque tuo
whatever at-your
funere feci rupta cicatrix.
funeral I-made broken scar.
columen patriae, mora fatorum,
pillar of-the-fatherland, delay of-the-fates,
tu praesidium Phrygibus fessis,
you the-protection for-the-Phrygians weary,
tu murus eras umerisque tuis
you a-wall were and-on-shoulders your
stetit illa decem fulta per annos:
stood it ten propped through years:
tecum cecidit summusque dies
with-you it-fell and-the-last day
Hectoris idem patriaeque fuit.
of-Hector the-same and-of-the-fatherland was.
Vertite planctus: Priamo vestros
Turn beatings: for-Priam your
fundite fletus, satis Hector habet.
pour weeping, enough Hector has.
CHORUS Accipe, rector Phrygiae, planctus,
Receive, ruler of-Phrygia, beatings,
accipe fletus, bis capte senex.
receive weeping, twice captured old-man.
nil Troia semel te rege tulit,
nothing Troy once with-you king endured,

bis pulsari Dardana Graio
twice to-be-battered the-Dardan by-Greek
moenia ferro
walls steel
bisque pharetras passa Herculeas.
and-twice quivers having-suffered Herculean.
post elatos
after carried-out
Hecubae partus regumque gregem
of-Hecuba the-children and-of-kings the-flock
postrema pater funera cludis
the-last as-father funerals you-close
magnoque Iovi victima caesus
and-to-great Jupiter as-a-victim slain
Sigea premis litora truncus.
Sigean you-press shores a-trunk.

HECUBA Alio lacrimas flectite vestras:
Elsewhere tears turn your:
non est Priami miseranda mei
not is of-Priam to-be-pitied my
mors, Iliades.
the-death, Trojan-women.
felix Priamus dicite cunctae:
happy Priam say all:
liber manes vadit ad imos,
free shades he-goes to lowest,
nec feret umquam victa Graium
nor will-bear ever with-conquered of-the-Greeks
cervice iugum;
neck the-yoke;

non ille duos videt Atridas
not he the-two sees Atridae
nec fallacem cernit Ulixen;
nor deceitful sees Ulysses;
non Argolici praeda triumphi
not of-Argive the-prey triumph
subiecta feret colla tropaeis;
subjected will-bear his-neck to-trophies;
non adsuetas ad sceptra manus
not accustomed to scepters hands
posterga dabit
behind-his-back he-will-give
currusque sequens Agamemnonios
and-the-chariot following of-Agamemnon
aurea dextra vincula gestans
golden on-his-right-hand chains bearing
latis fiet pompa Mycenis.
for-broad he-will-become a-show Mycenae.
CHORUS Felix Priamus dicimus omnes:
Happy Priam we-say all:
secum excedens sua regna tulit;
with-himself departing his-own kingdom he-took;
nunc Elysii nemoris tutis
now of-the-Elysian grove safe
errat in umbris interque pias
he-wanders in shades and-among pious
felix animas Hectora quaerit.
happy souls Hector seeks.
felix Priamus,
happy Priam,

felix quisquis bello moriens
happy whoever in-war dying
omnia secum consumpta tulit.
all-things with-himself consumed has-taken.

III · ACHILLES DEMANDS HIS SHARE

Asked what god keeps the fleet in harbor, the herald Talthybius tells how the earth shook and Achilles rose from his tomb, rebuked the Greeks as ungrateful, and demanded that Polyxena, betrothed to his ashes, be sacrificed by Pyrrhus' hand. He sank back, the sea fell calm, and the Tritons sang a wedding song.

TALTHYBIUS O longa Danais semper in portu mora,
O long for-the-Danaans always in harbor delay,
seu petere bellum, petere seu patriam volunt.
whether to-seek war, to-seek or their-fatherland they-wish.
CHORUS Quae causa ratibus faciat et Danais moram,
What cause for-the-ships may-make and for-the-Danaans delay,
effare, reduces quis deus claudat vias.
speak, the-returning what god may-close ways.
TALTHYBIUS Pavet animus, artus horridus quassat tremor.
Trembles my-mind, my-limbs bristling shakes trembling.
maiora veris monstra (vix capiunt fidem)
greater than-true-things portents (scarcely they-win belief)
vidi ipse, vidi. summa iam Titan iuga
I-saw myself, I-saw. the-highest already Titan ridges
stringebat ortu, vicerat noctem dies,
grazed with-rising, had-conquered the-night day,
cum subito caeco terra mugitu fremens
when suddenly with-blind the-earth bellowing roaring

concussa totos traxit ex imo sinus;
shaken whole drew from the-lowest hollows;
movere silvae capita et excelsum nemus
moved the-woods their-heads and lofty the-grove
fragore vasto tonuit et lucus sacer;
with-crash vast thundered and the-grove sacred;
Idaea ruptis saxa ceciderunt iugis.
Idaean from-broken rocks fell ridges.
nec terra solum tremuit: et pontus suum
nor the-earth alone trembled: also the-sea its-own
adesse Achillen sensit ac stravit vada.
to-be-present Achilles felt and laid-flat its-shallows.
tum scissa vallis aperit immensos specus
then split the-valley opens immense caves
et hiatus Erebi pervium ad superos iter
and the-chasm of-Erebus passable to those-above a-way
tellure fracta praebet ac tumulum levat.
with-earth broken offers and the-tomb raises.
emicuit ingens umbra Thessalici ducis,
flashed-forth the-huge shade of-the-Thessalian leader,
Threicia qualis arma proludens tuis
the-Thracian such-as arms rehearsing your
iam, Troia, fatis stravit aut Neptunium
already, Troy, to-fates he-laid-low or the-Neptunian
cana nitentem perculit iuvenem coma,
with-white gleaming struck young-man hair,
aut cum inter acies Marte violento furens
or when amid the-battle-lines with-Mars violent raging
corporibus amnes clusit et quaerens iter
with-bodies the-rivers he-shut and seeking a-way

tardus cruento Xanthus erravit vado,
slow with-bloody Xanthus wandered shallow,
aut cum superbo victor in curru stetit
or when proud victor in chariot he-stood
egitque habenas Hectorem et Troiam trahens.
and-drove the-reins Hector and Troy dragging.
implevit omne litus irati sonus:
filled every shore of-the-angry-one the-sound:
'ite, ite inertes, manibus meis debitos
'go, go sluggards, to-shades my owed
auferte honores, solvite ingratas rates
carry-away honors, loose ungrateful ships
per nostra ituri maria. non parvo luit
through our going-to-go seas. not with-small paid
iras Achillis Graecia et magno luet:
the-angers of-Achilles Greece and with-great will-pay:
desponsa nostris cineribus Polyxene
betrothed to-our ashes Polyxena
Pyrrhi manu mactetur et tumulum riget.'
of-Pyrrhus hand let-be-sacrificed and the-tomb let-her-wet.'
haec fatus alta nocte demersit diem
these-things having-said in-deep night he-sank the-day
repetensque Ditem rursus ingentem specum
and-seeking-again Dis again the-huge cave
coeunte terra iunxit. immoti iacent
with-meeting earth joined. unmoved lie
tranquilla pelagi, ventus abiecit minas
the-calm-places of-the-sea, the-wind has-thrown-off its-threats

placidumque fluctu murmurat leni mare,
and-calm with-wave murmurs gentle the-sea,
Tritonum ab alto cecinit hymenaeum chorus.
of-the-Tritons from the-deep sang the-wedding-song the-chorus.

IV · PYRRHUS AND AGAMEMNON

Pyrrhus demands Polyxena for his father's ghost and recounts Achilles' glory. Agamemnon refuses, preaching restraint in victory and the uncertainty of power, and the two quarrel bitterly. Calchas is summoned and declares that Polyxena must be sacrificed to Achilles as his bride and that Hector's son must fall from the highest tower before the fleet can sail.

PYRRHUS Cum laeta pelago vela rediturus dares,
When glad to-the-sea sails going-to-return you-were-giving,
excidit Achilles, cuius unius manu
fell-out Achilles, whose single by-hand
impulsa Troia, quicquid accessit morae
pushed Troy, whatever came of-delay
illo remoto, dubia quo caderet stetit.
with-him removed, doubtful where to-fall stood.
velis licet quod petitur ac properes dare,
you-may-wish though what is-sought and hasten to-give,
sero es daturus: iam suum cuncti duces
late you-are going-to-give: already their-own all the-leaders
tulere pretium. quae minor merces potest
have-borne prize. what lesser reward can
tantae dari virtutis? an meruit parum
for-so-great to-be-given valor? or deserved too-little
qui, fugere bellum iussus et longa sedens
who, to-flee war bidden and in-long sitting

aevum senecta ducere ac Pylii senis
his-age old-age to-draw-out and of-the-Pylian old-man
transcendere annos, exuit matris dolos
to-surpass the-years, put-off his-mother's tricks
falsasque vestes, fassus est armis virum?
and-false clothes, declared has by-arms the-man?
inhospitali Telephus regno impotens,
in-his-inhospitable Telephus kingdom unbridled,
dum Mysiae ferocis introitus negat,
while of-Mysia fierce the-entrance he-denies,
rudem cruore regio dextram imbuit
untried with-blood royal his-right-hand stained
fortemque eandem sensit et mitem manum.
and-strong the-same felt and gentle hand.
cecidere Thebae, vidit Eetion capi
fell Thebes, saw Eetion to-be-captured
sua regna victus; clade subversa est pari
his-own realm conquered; by-disaster overthrown was equal
apposita celso parva Lyrnesos iugo,
placed-near lofty small Lyrnesus ridge,
captaque tellus nobilis Briseide
and-captured the-land noble for-Briseis
et causa litis regibus Chryse iacet
and the-cause of-strife for-the-kings Chryse lies
et nota fama Tenedos et quae pascuo
and known by-fame Tenedos and that-which with-pasture
fecunda pingui Thracios nutrit greges
fertile rich Thracian nourishes flocks
Scyros fretumque Lesbos Aegaeum secans
Scyros and-the-strait Lesbos Aegean cutting

et cara Phoebo Cilla; quid quas alluit
and dear to-Phoebus Cilla; what of-those-which washes
vernis Caycus gurgitem attollens aquis?
with-spring Caycus his-flood raising waters?
haec tanta clades gentium ac tantus pavor,
this so-great disaster of-nations and so-great terror,
sparsae tot urbes turbinis vasti modo
scattered so-many cities of-a-whirlwind vast in-the-manner
alterius esset gloria ac summum decus:
of-another would-be the-glory and the-highest honor:
iter est Achillis; sic meus venit pater
a-journey is of-Achilles; so my came father
et tanta gessit bella, dum bellum parat.
and so-great waged wars, while war he-prepared.
ut alia sileam merita, non unus satis
that other I-may-pass-over merits, not one enough
Hector fuisset? Ilium vicit pater,
Hector would-have-been? Ilium conquered my-father,
vos diruistis. inclitas laudes iuvat
you demolished-it. the-famed praises it-delights
et facta magni clara genitoris sequi:
and the-deeds of-a-great bright father to-follow:
iacuit peremptus Hector ante oculos patris
lay slain Hector before the-eyes of-his-father
patruique Memnon, cuius ob luctum parens
and-of-his-uncle Memnon, whose for mourning his-parent
pallente maestum protulit vultu diem;
with-pale sad brought-forth face the-day;
suique victor operis exemplum horruit
and-of-his-own the-victor deed the-example shuddered-at

didicitque Achilles et dea natos mori.
and-learned Achilles also of-a-goddess the-sons to-die.
tum saeva Amazon ultimus cecidit metus.
then the-savage Amazon the-last fell fear.
debes Achilli, merita si digne aestimas,
you-owe to-Achilles, his-merits if worthily you-weigh,
et si ex Mycenis virginem atque Argis petat.
even if from Mycenae a-maiden and from-Argos he-seek.
dubitatur et iam placita nunc subito improbas
it-is-doubted and now the-approved now suddenly you-disapprove
Priamique natam Pelei nato ferum
and-of-Priam the-daughter of-Peleus to-the-son savage
mactare credis? at tuam natam parens
to-sacrifice you-think? but your daughter as-parent
Helenae immolasti: solita iam et facta expeto.
for-Helen you-sacrificed: wonted already and done I-demand.
AGAMEMNON Iuvenile vitium est regere non posse impetum;
Youthful the-vice is to-rule not to-be-able the-onrush;
aetatis alios fervor hic primus rapit,
of-age others fervor this first snatches,
Pyrrhum paternus. spiritus quondam trucis
Pyrrhus the-paternal. the-spirit once of-the-grim
minasque tumidi lentus Aeacidae tuli:
and-threats of-swollen patient Aeacid I-bore:
quo plura possis, plura patienter feras.
by-how-much more you-can, more patiently you-should-bear.
Quid caede dira nobiles clari ducis
Why with-slaughter dire the-noble of-the-famed leader
aspergis umbras? noscere hoc primum decet,
do-you-sprinkle shades? to-know this first befits,

quid facere victor debeat, victus pati.
what to-do the-victor ought, the-conquered to-suffer.
violenta nemo imperia continuit diu,
violent no-one commands has-held long,
moderata durant: quoque Fortuna altius
moderate last: and-by-how-much Fortune higher
evexit ac levavit humanas opes,
has-raised and has-lifted human wealth,
hoc se magis supprimere felicem decet
by-so-much himself more to-press-down the-fortunate befits
variosque casus tremere metuentem deos
and-various chances to-tremble-at fearing the-gods
nimium faventes. magna momento obrui
too favoring. the-great in-a-moment to-be-overwhelmed
vincendo didici. Troia nos tumidos facit
by-conquering I-have-learned. Troy us swollen makes
nimium ac feroces? stamus hoc Danai loco,
too and fierce? we-stand in-this the-Danaans place,
unde illa cecidit. fateor, aliquando impotens
from-which she fell. I-confess, sometimes unrestrained
regno ac superbus altius memet tuli;
in-kingship and proud higher myself I-carried;
sed fregit illos spiritus haec quae dare
but has-broken those spirits this which to-give
potuisset aliis causa, Fortunae favor.
could to-others cause, Fortune's favor.
tu me superbum, Priame, tu timidum facis.
you me proud, Priam, you timid make.
ego esse quicquam sceptra nisi vano putem
I to-be anything scepters except with-empty would-think

fulgore tectum nomen et falso comam
glitter covered a-name and falsely the-hair
vinclo decentem? casus haec rapiet brevis,
with-band adorning? chance these will-snatch brief,
nec mille forsan ratibus aut annis decem:
nor with-a-thousand perhaps ships or years ten:
non omnibus fortuna tam lenta imminet.
not over-all fortune so slow hangs.
equidem fatebor (pace dixisse hoc tua,
indeed I-will-confess (with-peace to-have-said this your,
Argiva tellus, liceat) affligi Phrygas
Argive land, may-it-be-allowed) to-be-afflicted the-Phrygians
vincique volui: ruere et aequari solo
and-to-be-conquered I-wished: to-fall and to-be-leveled to-the-ground
utinam arcuissem. sed regi frenis nequit
would-that I-had-prevented. but to-be-ruled by-reins cannot
et ira et ardens hostis et victoria
both anger and a-burning enemy and victory
commissa nocti. quicquid indignum aut ferum
entrusted to-night. whatever unworthy or savage
cuiquam videri potuit, hoc fecit dolor
to-anyone to-seem could, this did grief
tenebraeque, per quas ipse se irritat furor,
and-darkness, through which itself itself provokes madness,
gladiisque felix, cuius infecti semel
and-with-swords the-fortunate, of-which stained once
vecors libido est. quicquid eversae potest
mad the-lust is. whatever of-overturned can
superesse Troiae, maneat: exactum satis
to-survive Troy, let-it-remain: exacted enough

poenarum et ultra est. regia ut virgo occidat
of-punishments and beyond is. a-royal that virgin should-die
tumuloque donum detur et cineres riget
and-to-a-tomb as-gift be-given and the-ashes wet
et facinus atrox caedis ut thalamos vocent?
and the-deed atrocious of-slaughter that marriage they-call?
non patiar. in me culpa cunctorum redit:
not I-shall-allow. on me the-guilt of-all returns:
qui non vetat peccare, cum possit, iubet.
who not forbids to-sin, when he-could, bids.

PYRRHUS Nullumne Achillis praemium manes ferent?
No-whether of-Achilles reward the-shades will-bear?

AGAMEMNON Ferent, et illum laudibus cuncti canent
They-will-bear, and him with-praises all will-sing
magnumque terrae nomen ignotae audient.
and-great lands the-name unknown will-bear.
quod si levatur sanguine infuso cinis,
but if is-relieved by-blood poured the-ash,
opima Phrygii colla caedantur greges
fat-in Phrygian necks let-be-slain flocks
fluatque nulli flebilis matri cruor.
and-let-flow for-no to-be-wept mother blood.
quis iste mos est, quando in inferias homo est
what that custom is, when as offering a-man is
impensus hominis? detrahe invidiam tuo
spent of-a-man? withdraw the-odium from-your
odiumque patri, quem coli poena iubes.
and-hatred father, whom to-be-honored by-punishment you-bid.

PYRRHUS O tumide, rerum dum secundarum status
O swollen, of-affairs while favorable the-state
extollit animos, timide cum increpuit metus,
lifts your-spirit, timid when has-sounded fear,
regum tyranne! etiamne flammatum geris
of-kings tyrant! even-whether inflamed you-bear
amoris aestu pectus ac veneris novae?
with-love's heat a-breast and of-a-desire new?
solusne totiens spolia de nobis feres?
alone-whether so-often spoils from us will-you-carry?
hac dextra Achilli victimam reddam suam.
with-this right-hand to-Achilles the-victim I-will-render his-own.
quam si negas retinesque, maiorem dabo
whom if you-deny and-keep-back, greater I-will-give
dignamque quam det Pyrrhus; et nimium diu
and-worthy which might-give Pyrrhus; and too long
a caede nostra regia cessat manus
from slaughter our royal ceases hand
paremque poscit Priamus.
and-an-equal demands Priam.
AGAMEMNON Haud equidem nego
Not indeed I-deny
hoc esse Pyrrhi maximum in bello decus,
this to-be of-Pyrrhus greatest in war glory,
saevo peremptus ense quod Priamus iacet,
by-savage slain sword that Priam lies,
supplex paternus,
a-suppliant of-your-father,

PYRRHUS Supplices nostri patris
Suppliants of-our father
hostesque eosdem novimus. Priamus tamen
and-enemies the-same we-know. Priam yet
praesens rogavit; tu gravi pavidus metu,
present asked; you with-heavy trembling fear,
nec ad rogandum fortis, Aiaci preces
nor for asking brave, to-Ajax the-prayers
Ithacoque mandas clausus atque hostem tremens.
and-to-the-Ithacan entrust shut-in and the-enemy fearing.
AGAMEMNON At non timebat tunc tuus, fateor, parens,
But not feared then your, I-confess, parent,
interque caedes Graeciae atque ustas rates
and-amid the-slaughters of-Greece and the-burned ships
segnis iacebat belli et armorum immemor,
idle lay of-war and of-arms forgetful,
levi canoram verberans plectro chelyn.
with-light tuneful striking quill lyre.
PYRRHUS Tunc magnus Hector, arma contemnens tua,
Then great Hector, arms despising your,
cantus Achillis timuit, et tanto in metu
the-songs of-Achilles feared, and so-great in fear
navalibus pax alta Thessalicis fuit.
for-the-ships peace deep Thessalian was.
AGAMEMNON Nempe isdem in istis Thessalis navalibus
Surely the-same in those Thessalian ships
pax alta rursus Hectoris patri fuit.
peace deep again for-Hector's father was.
PYRRHUS Est regis alti spiritum regi dare.
It-is of-a-king high life to-a-king to-give.

AGAMEMNON Cur dextra regi spiritum eripuit tua?
Why right-hand from-the-king life snatched your?
PYRRHUS Mortem misericors saepe pro vita dabit.
Death merciful often instead-of life will-give.
AGAMEMNON Et nunc misericors virginem busto petis?
And now merciful a-virgin for-the-tomb do-you-seek?
PYRRHUS Iamne immolari virgines credis nefas?
Now-whether to-be-sacrificed virgins do-you-believe wrong?
AGAMEMNON Praeferre patriam liberis regem decet.
To-prefer his-fatherland to-his-children a-king befits.
PYRRHUS Lex nulla capto parcit aut poenam impedit.
Law no the-captive spares or punishment binders.
AGAMEMNON Quod non vetat lex, hoc vetat fieri pudor.
What not forbids law, this forbids to-be-done shame.
PYRRHUS Quodcumque libuit facere victori licet.
Whatever has-pleased to-do for-the-victor is-allowed.
AGAMEMNON Minimum decet libere cui multum licet.
Least befits freely to-whom much is-allowed.
PYRRHUS His ista iactas, quos decem annorum gravi
To-these those-words do-you-throw, whom of-ten years heavy
regno subactos Pyrrhus exsolvit iugo?
by-rule subdued Pyrrhus freed from-yoke?
AGAMEMNON Hos Scyrus animos?
These Scyros spirits?
PYRRHUS Scelere quae fratrum
By-crime which of-brothers
AGAMEMNON Inclusa fluctu —
Shut-in by-the-wave

PYRRHUS Nempe cognati maris:
Surely of-a-kindred sea:
Atrei et Thyestae nobilem novi domum.
of-Atreus and of-Thyestes the-noble I-know house.
AGAMEMNON Ex virginis concepte furtivo stupro
From of-a-virgin conceived stealthy debauchery
et ex Achille nate, sed nondum viro —
and from Achilles born, but not-yet a-man
PYRRHUS Illo ex Achille, genere qui mundum suo
That from Achilles, by-race who the-world his
sparsus per omne caelitum regnum tenet:
scattered through all of-the-heaven-dwellers kingdom holds:
Thetide aequor, umbras Aeaco, caelum Iove.
by-Thetis the-sea, the-shades by-Aeacus, heaven by-Jupiter.
AGAMEMNON Illo ex Achille, qui manu Paridis iacet.
That from Achilles, who by-the-hand of-Paris lies.
PYRRHUS Quem nec deorum comminus quisquam petit.
Whom not of-the-gods hand-to-hand anyone sought.
AGAMEMNON Compescere equidem verba et audacem malo
To-check indeed words and the-bold with-evil
poteram domare; sed meus captis quoque
I-could to-tame; but my the-captives even
scit parcere ensis. potius interpres deum
knows to-spare sword. rather the-interpreter of-the-gods
Calchas vocetur: fata si poscent, dabo.
Calchas let-be-called: the-fates if they-demand, I-will-give.
Tu qui Pelasgae vincla solvisti rati
You who of-the-Pelasgian the-chains loosed ship
morasque bellis, arte qui reseras polum,
and-delays to-wars, by-art who unlock the-sky,

cui viscerum secreta, cui mundi fragor
to-whom of-entrails the-secrets, to-whom of-the-world the-crash
et stella longa semitam flamma trahens
and the-star long its-track with-flame drawing
dant signa fati, cuius ingenti mihi
give signs of-fate, whose at-huge for-me
mercede constant ora: quid iubeat deus
price stand lips: what may-bid the-god
effare, Calchas, nosque consilio rege.
speak, Calchas, and-us with-counsel rule.
CALCHAS Dant fata Danais quo solent pretio viam:
Give the-fates to-the-Danaans at-what they-are-wont price the-way:
mactanda virgo est Thessali busto ducis;
to-be-sacrificed a-virgin is at-the-Thessalian tomb of-the-leader;
sed quo iugari Thessalae cultu solent
but in-what to-be-wed Thessalian dress are-wont
Ionidesve vel Mycenaeae nurus,
or-Ionian or Mycenaean brides,
Pyrrhus parenti coniugem tradat suo:
Pyrrhus to-the-father as-wife let-hand-over his-own:
sic rite dabitur. non tamen nostras tenet
so duly it-will-be-given. not yet our holds
haec una puppes causa: nobilior tuo,
this one sterns cause: nobler than-your,
Polyxene, cruore debetur cruor.
Polyxena, blood is-owed blood.
quem fata quaerunt, turre de summa cadat
whom the-fates seek, the-tower from highest let-him-fall

Priami nepos Hectoreus et letum oppetat.
of-Priam the-grandson Hector's and death let-him-meet.
tum mille velis impleat classis freta.
then with-a-thousand sails let-fill the-fleet the-straits.

V · IS DEATH THE END?

The chorus asks whether the soul lives on after death and decides that it does not: as smoke vanishes and clouds disperse, so the spirit perishes. The underworld and its watchdog are empty tales; death is nothing.

CHORUS Verum est an timidos fabula decipit
True is-it or the-timid a-tale deceives
umbras corporibus vivere conditis,
shades with-bodies to-live buried,
cum coniunx oculis imposuit manum
when the-wife on-the-eyes has-placed her-hand
supremusque dies solibus obstitit
and-the-last day to-the-suns has-stood-in-the-way
et tristis cineres urna cohercuit?
and the-sad ashes the-urn has-confined?
non prodest animam tradere funeri,
not does-it-profit the-soul to-hand-over to-death,
sed restat miseris vivere longius?
but remains for-the-wretched to-live longer?
an toti morimur nullaque pars manet
or wholly do-we-die and-no part remains
nostri, cum profugo spiritus halitu
of-us, when with-fugitive the-spirit breath

immixtus nebulis cessit in aera
mingled with-clouds has-gone into the-air
et nudum tetigit subdita fax latus?
and the-naked has-touched placed-under the-torch side?
Quicquid sol oriens, quicquid et occidens
Whatever the-sun rising, whatever also setting
novit, caeruleis Oceanus fretis
knows, with-sea-blue Ocean straits
quicquid bis veniens et fugiens lavat,
whatever twice coming and fleeing washes,
aetas Pegaseo corripiet gradu.
time with-Pegasean will-seize step.
quo bis sena volant sidera turbine,
with-what twice six fly the-stars whirl,
quo cursu properat volvere saecula
with-what course hastens to-roll the-ages
astrorum dominus, quo properat modo
of-the-stars the-lord, in-what hastens manner
obliquis Hecate currere flexibus:
in-slanting Hecate to-run windings:
hoc omnes petimus fata nec amplius,
this all we-seek the-fates nor any-more,
iuratos superis qui tetigit lacus,
sworn-by those-above who has-touched the-lake,
usquam est; ut calidis fumus ab ignibus
anywhere is; as hot smoke from fires
vanescit, spatium per breve sordidus,
vanishes, space through brief dark,
ut nubes, gravidas quas modo vidimus,
as the-clouds, heavy which just-now we-saw,

arctoi Boreae dissicit impetus:
of-arctic Boreas scatters the-onrush:
sic hic, quo regimur, spiritus effluet.
so this, by-which we-are-ruled, spirit will-flow-away.
post mortem nihil est ipsaque mors nihil,
after death nothing is and-itself death nothing,
velocis spatii meta novissima;
of-a-swift course the-goal last;
spem ponant avidi, solliciti metum:
hope let-lay-aside the-greedy, the-anxious fear:
tempus nos avidum devorat et chaos.
time us greedy devours and chaos.
mors individua est, noxia corpori
death indivisible is, harmful to-the-body
nec parcens animae: Taenara et aspero
nor sparing the-soul: Taenarus and with-harsh
regnum sub domino limen et obsidens
the-kingdom under master the-threshold and besieging
custos non facili Cerberus ostio
the-guardian not easy Cerberus at-the-entrance
rumores vacui verbaque inania
rumors empty and-words idle
et par sollicito fabula somnio.
and equal to-an-anxious a-tale dream.
quaeris quo iaceas post obitum loco?
do-you-ask where you-may-lie after death place?
quo non nata iacent. —
where not born-things lie.

Andromache rebukes the women's weeping: only her son keeps her alive. Hector appeared to her in a dream and warned her to hide the boy. Finding no safe place in the ruined city, she chooses Hector's tomb; the old man counsels that the boy be thought dead, and she sends him in. Then Ulysses is seen approaching.

ANDROMACHA Quid, maesta Phrygiae turba, laceratis comas
Why, sad of-Phrygia throng, do-you-tear your-hair
miseramque tunsae pectus effuso genas
and-the-wretched having-beaten breast with-poured cheeks
fletu rigatis? levia perpessae sumus,
with-weeping wet? light-things suffered we-have,
si flenda patimur. Ilium vobis modo,
if things-to-be-wept we-endure. Ilium for-you just-now,
mihi cecidit olim, cum ferus curru incito
for-me fell long-ago, when savage with-chariot swift
mea membra raperet et gravi gemeret sono
my limbs was-snatching and with-heavy groaned sound
Peliacus axis pondere Hectoreo tremens.
the-Pelian axle with-weight Hectorean trembling.
tunc obruta atque eversa quodcumque accidit
then overwhelmed and overturned whatever has-happened
torpens malis rigensque sine sensu fero.
numb with-evils and-stiffening without feeling I-bear.
iam erepta Danais coniugem sequerer meum,
already snatched from-the-Danaans husband I-would-follow my,
nisi hic teneret: hic meos animos domat
unless this-one held-me: this-one my spirits tames
morique prohibet; cogit hic aliquid deos
and-to-die forbids; compels this-one something the-gods

adhuc rogare — tempus aerumnae addidit.
still to-ask time to-suffering has-added.
hic mihi malorum maximum fructum abstulit,
this-one from-me of-evils the-greatest fruit has-taken,
nihil timere: prosperis rebus locus
nothing to-fear: in-prosperous affairs place
ereptus omnis, dira qua veniant habent.
snatched all, dire-things where they-may-come have.
miserrimum est timere, cum speres nihil.
most-wretched it-is to-fear, when you-hope nothing.
SENEX Quis te repens commovit afflictam metus?
What you sudden has-moved afflicted fear?
ANDROMACHA Exoritur aliquod maius ex magno malum.
Rises some greater from great evil.
nondum ruentis Ilii fatum stetit.
not-yet of-falling Ilium the-fate has-stood.
SENEX Et quas reperiet, ut velit, clades deus?
And which will-he-find, though he-may-wish, disasters the-god?
ANDROMACHA Stygis profundae claustra et obscuri specus
Of-Styx deep the-bars and of-dark caves
laxantur et, ne desit eversis metus,
are-loosened and, lest be-lacking for-the-overthrown fear,
hostes ab imo conditi Dite exeunt —
enemies from the-lowest buried Dis come-out
solisne retro pervium est Danais iter?
for-alone-whether backward passable is the-Danaans the-way?
certe aequa mors est — turbat atque agitat Phrygas
surely equal death is disturbs and stirs the-Phrygians
communis iste terror, hic proprie meum
common that terror, this personally my

exterret animum, noctis horrendae sopor.
terrifies mind, of-night dreadful sleep.
SENEX Quae visa portas? effer in medium metus.
What visions do-you-bring? bring into the-middle your-fears.
ANDROMACHA Partes fere nox alma transierat duas
Parts almost night kindly had-passed two
clarumque septem verterant stellae iugum;
and-the-bright seven had-turned stars the-yoke;
ignota tandem venit afflictae quies
unknown at-last came to-me-afflicted rest
brevisque fessis somnus obrepsit genis,
and-brief on-weary sleep crept cheeks,
si somnus ille est mentis attonitae stupor:
if sleep that is of-a-mind stunned the-stupor:
cum subito nostros Hector ante oculos stetit,
when suddenly our Hector before eyes stood,
non qualis ultro bella in Argivos ferens
not such-as of-his-own-accord wars on the-Argives bearing
Graias petebat facibus Idaeis rates,
the-Greek he-sought with-torches Idaean ships,
nec caede multa qualis in Danaos furens
nor with-slaughter much such-as against the-Danaans raging
vera ex Achille spolia simulato tulit,
true from Achilles spoils feigned he-bore,
non ille vultus flammeum intendens iubar,
not he his-face flaming stretching radiance,
sed fessus ac deiectus et fletu gravis
but weary and downcast and with-weeping heavy
similisque maesto, squalida obtectus coma.
and-like to-a-mourner, with-squalid covered hair.

iuvat tamen vidisse; tum quassans caput:
it-delights yet to-have-seen; then shaking his-head:
'dispelle somnos' inquit 'et natum eripe,
'dispel sleep' he-says 'and our-son snatch-away,
o fida coniunx: lateat, haec una est salus.
O faithful wife: let-him-hide, this one is safety.
omitte fletus — Troia quod cecidit gemis?
leave weeping Troy because has-fallen do-you-groan?
utinam iaceret tota. festina, amove
would-that it-lay whole. hurry, remove
quocumque nostrae parvulam stirpem domus.'
wherever of-our the-little stock house.'
mihi gelidus horror ac tremor somnum expulit,
for-me cold horror and trembling sleep drove-out,
oculosque nunc huc pavida, nunc illuc ferens
and-my-eyes now hither frightened, now thither bearing
oblita nati misera quaesivi Hectorem:
forgetful of-my-son wretched I-sought Hector:
fallax per ipsos umbra complexus abit.
deceitful through the-very shade embraces goes-away.
O nate, magni certa progenies patris,
O son, of-a-great sure offspring father,
spes una Phrygibus, unica afflictae domus,
hope one for-the-Phrygians, the-only of-the-afflicted house,
veterisque suboles sanguinis nimium inclita
and-of-old offspring blood too famous
nimiumque patri similis: hos vultus meus
and-too to-your-father like: these features my
habebat Hector, talis incessu fuit
had Hector, such in-gait was-he

habituque talis, sic tulit fortes manus,
and-in-bearing such, so he-held brave hands,
sic celsus umeris, fronte sic torva minax
so lofty in-shoulders, with-brow so grim threatening
cervice fusam dissipans iacta comam —
on-the-neck the-poured tossing thrown hair
o nate sero Phrygibus, o matri cito,
O son late for-the-Phrygians, O for-your-mother early,
eritne tempus illud ac felix dies
will-there-be time that and happy day
quo Troici defensor et vindex soli
when of-the-Trojan defender and avenger soil
recidiva ponas Pergama et sparsos fuga
reborn you-may-set Pergamum and scattered in-flight
cives reducas, nomen et patriae suum
citizens bring-back, the-name and to-the-fatherland its-own
Phrygibusque reddas? sed mei fati memor
and-to-the-Phrygians you-may-render? but of-my fate mindful
tam magna timeo vota — quod captis sat est,
so great I-fear vows what for-captives enough is,
vivamus. heu me, quis locus fidus meo
let-us-live. alas me, what place faithful for-my
erit timori quave te sede occulam?
will-be fear or-in-what you seat shall-I-hide?
arx illa pollens opibus et muris deum,
the-citadel that powerful in-wealth and in-walls of-the-gods,
gentes per omnes clara et invidiae gravis,
nations through all famed and of-envy heavy,
nunc pulvis altus, strata sunt flamma omnia
now dust deep, strewn are by-flame all-things

superestque vasta ex urbe ne tantum quidem,
and-remains the-vast from city not so-much even,
quo lateat infans. quem locum fraudi legam?
where may-lie-hid an-infant. what place for-fraud shall-I-choose?
est tumulus ingens coniugis cari sacer,
there-is a-tomb huge of-my-husband dear sacred,
verendus hosti, mole quem immensa parens
to-be-revered by-the-enemy, with-mass which immense his-parent
485 opibusque magnis struxit, in luctus suos
and-with-wealth great built, in mourning his-own
rex non avarus: optime credam patri.
a-king not niggardly: best I-shall-entrust to-his-father.
sudor per artus frigidus totos cadit:
sweat through the-limbs cold whole falls:
omen tremesco misera feralis loci.
the-omen I-tremble-at wretched of-the-deathly place.
SENEX Miser occupet praesidia, securus legat.
The-wretched let-seize defenses, the-secure let-choose.
ANDROMACHA Quid quod latere sine metu magno nequit?
What that to-lie-hid without fear great he-cannot?
SENEX Ne prodat aliquis, amove testes doli.
Lest betray anyone, remove the-witnesses of-the-trick.
ANDROMACHA Si quaeret hostis?
If will-seek the-enemy?
SENEX Urbe in eversa perit.
City in overturned he-perished.
haec causa multos una ab interitu arcuit:
this cause many one from death has-kept:
490 credi perisse.
to-be-believed to-have-perished.

ANDROMACHA Vix spei quicquam est super:
Scarcely of-hope anything is left:
quid proderit latuisse redituro in manus?
what will-it-profit to-have-hidden for-one-going-to-return into hands?
SENEX Victor feroces impetus primos habet.
The-victor fierce onrushes first has.
ANDROMACHA Grave pondus illum magna nobilitas premit;
Heavy weight him great nobility presses;
quis te locus, quae regio seducta, invia
what you place, what region withdrawn, pathless
tuto reponet? quis feret trepidis opem?
safely will-set-back? who will-bring to-the-trembling help?
quis proteget? qui semper, etiam nunc tuos,
who will-protect? who always, even now your,
Hector, tuere: coniugis furtum piae
Hector, protect: of-your-wife the-theft pious
serva et fideli cinere victurum excipe.
keep and with-faithful ash going-to-live receive.
succede tumulo, nate — quid retro fugis?
go-under the-tomb, son why backward do-you-flee?
turpisne latebras spernis? agnosco indolem:
base-whether hiding-places do-you-spurn? I-recognize your-nature:
pudet timere. spiritus magnos fuga
it-shames to-fear. spirits great put-away
animosque veteres, sume quos casus dedit.
and-courage old, take-up that-which chance has-given.
en intuere, turba quae simus super:
look see, throng what we-are left:
tumulus, puer, captiva: cedendum est malis.
a-tomb, a-boy, a-captive: one-must-yield is to-evils.

sanctas parentis conditi sedes age
the-holy of-your-parent buried seats come
aude subire. fata si miseros iuvant,
dare to-enter. the-fates if the-wretched help,
habes salutem; fata si vitam negant,
you-have safety; the-fates if life deny,
habes sepulchrum.
you-have a-tomb.
SENEX Claustra commissum tegunt;
The-bars the-entrusted cover;
quem ne tuus producat in medium timor,
whom lest your bring-forth into the-middle fear,
procul hinc recede teque diversam amove.
far hence withdraw and-yourself apart remove.
ANDROMACHA Levius solet timere, qui propius timet;
More-lightly is-wont to-fear, who nearer fears;
sed, si placet, referamus hinc alio pedem.
but, if it-please, let-us-carry hence elsewhere our-foot.
SENEX Cohibe parumper ora questusque opprime:
Restrain a-little your-lips and-complaints suppress:
gressus nefandos dux Cephallanum admovet.
steps unspeakable the-leader of-the-Cephallenians moves-near.
ANDROMACHA Dehisce tellus tuque, coniunx, ultimo
Gape earth and-you, husband, from-the-last
specu revulsam scinde tellurem et Stygis
cave torn split the-earth and of-Styx
sinu profundo conde depositum meum.
in-the-bosom deep hide the-deposit my.

adest Ulixes, et quidem dubio gradu
is-here Ulysses, and indeed with-doubtful step
vultuque: nectit pectore astus callido.
and-face: he-weaves in-breast cunning crafty.

VII · ULYSSES SEEKS THE BOY

Ulysses comes for Hector's son at the Greeks' command. Andromache swears that the boy is dead, but Ulysses watches her fear and orders the tomb pulled down. She resists to defend the ashes, then, seeing that its fall would crush the boy, kneels to Ulysses, brings him out, and teaches him to beg; Ulysses, blaming Calchas, will not yield. She says farewell, and the boy is led away.

ULIXES Durae minister sortis hoc primum peto,
Of-a-hard the-minister lot this first I-ask,
ut, ore quamvis verba dicantur meo,
that, from-the-mouth although the-words be-spoken my,
non esse credas nostra: Graiorum omnium
not to-be you-believe ours: of-the-Greeks all
procerumque vox est, petere quos seras domos
and-of-the-chiefs the-voice it-is, to-seek whom late homes
Hectorea suboles prohibet: hanc fata expetunt.
the-Hectorean offspring forbids: him the-fates demand.
sollicita Danaos pacis incertae fides
anxious the-Danaans of-peace uncertain the-faith
semper tenebit, semper a tergo timor
always will-hold, always from behind fear
respicere coget arma nec poni sinet,
to-look-back will-compel the-arms nor to-be-laid-down will-allow,
dum Phrygibus animos natus eversis dabit,
while to-the-Phrygians courage the-son overthrown will-give,

Andromacha, † vester, augur haec Calchas canit;
Andromache, (corrupt) your, augur this Calchas sings;
et, si taceret augur haec Calchas, tamen
and, if were-silent the-augur about-this Calchas, yet
dicebat Hector, cuius et stirpem horreo.
said-it Hector, of-whom even the-stock I-dread.
generosa in ortus semina exsurgunt suos:
noble to rising seeds rise-up their-own:
sic ille magni parvus armenti comes
so that of-a-great small herd companion
primisque nondum cornibus findens cutem
and-with-first not-yet horns splitting the-skin
cervice subito celsus et fronte arduus
with-neck suddenly lofty and in-brow steep
gregem paternum ducit ac pecori imperat;
the-flock paternal leads and the-herd commands;
quae tenera caeso virga de trunco stetit,
which tender the-cut shoot from trunk has-stood,
par ipsa matri tempore exiguo subit
equal itself to-its-mother in-time slight rises-up
umbrasque terris reddit et caelo nemus;
and-shades to-the-lands gives-back and to-heaven the-grove;
sic male relictus igne de magno cinis
so badly left fire from great the-ash
vires resumit. est quidem iniustus dolor
strength takes-back. is indeed unjust grief
rerum aestimator: si tamen tecum exigas,
of-things an-appraiser: if yet with-yourself you-should-weigh,
veniam dabis, quod bella post hiemes decem
pardon you-will-give, because wars after winters ten

totidemque messes iam senex miles timet
and-as-many harvests now old the-soldier fears
aliasque clades rursus ac numquam bene
and-other disasters again and never well
Troiam iacentem. magna res Danaos movet,
Troy fallen. a-great thing the-Danaans moves,
futurus Hector: libera Graios metu.
a-future Hector: free the-Greeks from-fear.
haec una naves causa deductas tenet,
this one the-ships cause launched holds,
hac classis haeret. neve crudelem putes,
by-this the-fleet sticks. and-lest cruel you-think-me,
quod sorte iussus Hectoris natum petam:
because by-lot ordered Hector's son I-seek:
petissem Oresten. patere quod victor tulit.
I-would-have-sought Orestes. endure what the-victor has-borne.
ANDROMACHA Utinam quidem esses, nate, materna in manu,
Would-that indeed you-were, son, maternal in hand,
nossemque quis te casus ereptum mihi
and-that-I-knew what you chance snatched from-me
teneret, aut quae regio — non hostilibus
held, or what region not with-hostile
confossa telis pectus aut vinclis manus
pierced weapons my-breast or with-chains my-hands
secantibus praestricta, non acri latus
cutting bound, not with-sharp my-side
utrumque flamma cincta maternam fidem
both by-flame girded a-mother's faith
umquam exuissem. nate, quis te nunc locus,
ever I-would-have-put-off. son, what you now place,

fortuna quae possedit? errore avio
fortune what has-possessed? in-wandering pathless
vagus arva lustras? vastus an patriae vapor
wandering the-fields do-you-traverse? the-vast or of-the-fatherland heat
corripuit artus? saevus an victor tuo
has-seized your-limbs? a-savage or victor with-your
lusit cruore? numquid immanis ferae
has-played blood? whether of-a-monstrous beast
morsu peremptus pascis Idaeas aves?
by-the-bite slain do-you-feed Idaean birds?
ULIXES Simulata remove verba; non facile est tibi
Feigned remove words; not easy it-is for-you
decipere Ulixen: vicimus matrum dolos
to-deceive Ulysses: we-have-conquered of-mothers the-tricks
etiam dearum. cassa consilia amove;
even of-goddesses. empty plans remove;
ubi natus est?
where your-son is?
ANDROMACHA Ubi Hector? ubi cuncti Phryges?
Where Hector? where all the-Phrygians?
ubi Priamus? unum quaeris: ego quaero omnia.
where Priam? one you-seek: I seek all.
ULIXES Coacta dices sponte quod fari abnuis.
Compelled you-will-tell of-your-own-accord what to-speak you-refuse.
ANDROMACHA Tuta est, perire quae potest debet cupit.
Safe is, to-perish who can ought desires.
ULIXES Magnifica verba mors prope admota excutit.
Magnificent words death near brought shakes-out.

ANDROMACHA Si vis, Ulixe, cogere Andromacham metu,
If you-wish, Ulysses, to-compel Andromache by-fear,
vitam minare: nam mori votum est mihi.
life threaten: for to-die my-wish is for-me.
ULIXES Verberibus igni † morte cruciatu eloqui
With-lashes fire (corrupt) death torture to-speak-out
quodcumque celas adiget invitam dolor
whatever you-hide will-drive you-unwilling pain
et pectore imo condita arcana eruet:
and from-the-breast inmost the-hidden secrets will-dig-out:
necessitas plus posse quam pietas solet.
necessity more to-be-able than dutifulness is-wont.
ANDROMACHA Propone flammas, vulnera et diras mali
Set-before-me flames, wounds and the-dire of-evil
doloris artes et famem et saevam sitim
pain arts and hunger and savage thirst
variasque pestes undique, et ferrum inditum
and-various plagues from-every-side, and the-sword driven
visceribus istis, carceris caeci luem,
into-vitals these, of-the-prison blind the-filth,
et quicquid audet victor iratus timens:
and whatever dares the-victor angry fearing:
animosa nullos mater admittit metus.
a-spirited no mother admits fears.
ULIXES Hic ipse, quo nunc contumax perstas, amor
This very, in-which now stubborn you-persist, love
consulere parvis liberis Danaos monet.
to-consult for-their-little children the-Danaans warns.
post arma tam longinqua, post annos decem
after war so long, after years ten

minus timerem quos facit Calchas metus,
less I-would-fear which makes Calchas fears,
si mihi timerem: bella Telemacho paras.
if for-me I-feared: wars for-Telemachus you-prepare.
ANDROMACHA Invita, Ulixe, gaudium Danais dabo:
Unwilling, Ulysses, joy to-the-Danaans I-will-give:
dandum est; fatere quos premis luctus, dolor.
to-be-given it-is; confess which you-press mourning, grief.
gaudete, Atridae, tuque laetifica, ut soles,
rejoice, Atridae, and-you joyful-news, as you-are-wont,
refer Pelasgis: Hectoris proles obit.
report to-the-Pelasgians: Hector's offspring has-perished.
ULIXES Et esse verum hoc qua probas Danais fide?
And to-be true this with-what do-you-prove to-the-Danaans faith?
ANDROMACHA Ita quod minari maximum victor potest
So what to-threaten the-greatest the-victor can
contingat et me fata maturo exitu
may-befall and me the-fates with-ripe end
facilique solvant ac meo condant solo
and-easy may-release and in-my-own bury soil
et patria tellus Hectorem leviter premat,
and the-native earth Hector lightly may-press,
ut luce caruit: inter extinctos iacet
as of-light he-is-deprived: among the-extinguished he-lies
datusque tumulo debita exanimis tulit.
and-given to-the-tomb the-dues of-the-dead he-has-borne.
ULIXES Expleta fata stirpe sublata Hectoris
Fulfilled the-fates with-the-stock removed of-Hector
solidamque pacem laetus ad Danaos feram —
and-solid peace glad to the-Danaans I-will-bring

quid agis, Ulixe? Danaidae credent tibi:
what are-you-doing, Ulysses? the-Danaans will-believe you:
tu cui? parenti — fingit an quisquam hoc parens,
you whom? the-parent feigns or anyone this a-parent,
nec abominandae mortis auspicium pavet?
nor of-an-abominable death the-omen dreads?
auspicia metuunt qui nihil maius timent.
omens fear those-who nothing greater fear.
fidem alligavit iure iurando suam —
faith she-has-bound by-right of-oath her
si peierat, timere quid gravius potest?
if she-swears-falsely, to-fear what heavier can-she?
nunc advoca astus, anime, nunc fraudes, dolos,
now summon cunning, soul, now frauds, tricks,
nunc totum Ulixen; veritas numquam perit.
now the-whole Ulysses; truth never perishes.
scrutare matrem. maeret, illacrimat, gemit;
search the-mother. she-mourns, weeps, groans;
sed et huc et illuc anxios gressus refert
but also hither and thither anxious steps she-carries
missasque voces aure sollicita excipit:
and-the-sent words with-ear anxious catches:
magis haec timet, quam maeret. ingenio est onus.
more she fears, than she-mourns. for-wit is a-task.
Alios parentes alioqui in luctu decet:
Other parents otherwise in mourning it-befits:
tibi gratulandum est, misera, quod nato cares.
you to-be-congratulated are, wretched-one, that of-a-son you-are-bereft.
quem mors manebat saeva praecipitem datum
whom death awaited savage headlong given

e turre, lapsis sola quae muris manet.
from the-tower, with-fallen alone which walls remains.
ANDROMACHA Reliquit animus membra, quatiuntur, labant
Has-left my-spirit my-limbs, they-are-shaken, they-totter
torpetque vinctus frigido sanguis gelu.
and-is-numb bound with-cold blood frost.
ULIXES Intremuit: hac, hac parte quaerenda est mihi;
She-trembled: in-this, this direction to-be-sought is by-me;
matrem timor detexit: iterabo metum. —
the-mother fear has-uncovered: I-will-repeat the-fear.
ite, ite celeres, fraude materna abditum
go, go swiftly, by-fraud maternal hidden
hostem, Pelasgi nominis pestem ultimam,
the-enemy, of-the-Pelasgian name the-plague last,
ubicumque latitat, erutam in medium date.
wherever he-lurks, dug-out into the-middle give.
bene est: tenetur. perge, festina, attrahe —
well it-is: he-is-held. go-on, hurry, drag-him
quid respicis trepidasque? iam certe perit.
why do-you-look-back and-tremble? already surely he-perished.
ANDROMACHA Utinam timerem. solitus ex longo est metus:
Would-that I-feared. accustomed from long is fear:
dediscit animus † scire quod didicit diu.
unlearns the-mind (corrupt) to-know what it-has-learned long.
ULIXES Lustrale quoniam debitum muris puer
The-lustral since owed to-the-walls the-boy
sacrum antecessit nec potest vatem sequi
rite has-gone-before nor can the-prophet to-follow
meliore fato raptus, hoc Calchas ait
by-a-better fate snatched, in-this Calchas says

modo piari posse redituras rates,
way to-be-expiated to-be-able going-to-return ships,
si placet undas Hectoris sparsi cinis
if placate the-waves Hector's scattered ash
ac tumulus imo totus aequetur solo.
and the-tomb to-the-lowest whole be-leveled ground.
nunc ille quoniam debitam effugit necem,
now he since the-owed has-escaped death,
erit admovenda sedibus sacris manus.
must-be moved-up to-the-seats sacred a-hand.
ANDROMACHA Quid agimus? animum distrahit geminus timor:
What are-we-doing? my-mind tears-apart twin fear:
hinc natus, illinc coniugis sacri cinis.
on-this-side my-son, on-that of-my-husband sacred the-ash.
pars utra vincet? testor immites deos,
part which will-win? I-call-to-witness the-cruel gods,
deosque veros coniugis manes mei:
and-the-gods true of-the-husband the-shades my:
non aliud, Hector, in meo nato mihi
not other, Hector, in my son for-me
placere quam te. vivat, ut possit tuos
to-please than you. let-him-live, that he-may-be-able your
referre vultus — prorutus tumulo cinis
to-bring-back features thrown-out of-the-tomb the-ash
mergetur? ossa fluctibus spargi sinam
shall-it-be-sunk? the-bones in-the-waves to-be-scattered shall-I-allow
disiecta vastis? potius hic mortem oppetat. —
dispersed vast? rather this-one death let-meet.
poteris nefandae deditum mater neci
will-you-be-able to-unspeakable given a-mother death

videre? poteris celsa per fastigia
to-see? will-you-be-able high through roofs
missum rotari? potero, perpetiar, feram,
sent to-be-whirled? I-shall-be-able, I-shall-endure, I-shall-bear,
dum non meus post fata victoris manu
provided not my after death by-the-victor's hand
iactetur Hector. — hic suam poenam potest
be-tossed Hector. this-one his-own punishment can
sentire, at illum fata iam in tuto locant —
to-feel, but him the-fates already in safety place
quid fluctuaris? statue, quem poenae extrahas.
why do-you-waver? decide, whom from-punishment you-would-draw.
ingrata, dubitas? Hector est illinc tuus —
ungrateful, do-you-hesitate? Hector is there your
erras: utrimque est Hector; hic sensus potens,
you-err: on-both-sides is Hector; this-one of-feeling capable,
forsan futurus ultor extincti patris —
perhaps going-to-be avenger of-his-extinguished father
utrique parci non potest: quid iam facis?
both to-be-spared not can: what now do-you-do?
serva e duobus, anime, quem Danai timent.
save of two, soul, whom the-Danaans fear.

ULIXES Responsa peragam: funditus busta eruam.
The-responses I-will-carry-out: from-the-foundation the-tomb I-will-dig-up.

ANDROMACHA Quae vendidistis?
Which you-sold?

ULIXES Pergam et e summo aggere
I-will-go-on and from the-top mound
traham sepulchra.
drag the-sepulcher.

ANDROMACHA Caelitum appello fidem
Of-the-heaven-dwellers I-appeal-to the-faith
fidemque Achillis: Pyrrhe, genitoris tui
and-the-faith of-Achilles: Pyrrhus, of-the-father your
munus tuere.
the-gift protect.
ULIXES Tumulus hic campo statim
The-tomb this over-the-plain immediately
toto iacebit.
whole will-lie.
ANDROMACHA Fuerat hoc prorsus nefas
Had-been this altogether a-wrong
Danais inausum. templa violastis, deos
by-the-Danaans undared. temples you-have-violated, gods
etiam faventes: busta transierat furor.
even favoring: tombs had-passed-over madness.
resistam, inermis offeram armatis manus,
I-will-resist, unarmed I-will-offer to-armed-men my-hands,
dabit ira vires. qualis Argolicas ferox
will-give anger strength. as the-Argive fierce
turmas Amazon stravit, aut qualis deo
squadrons the-Amazon laid-low, or as by-the-god
percussa Maenas entheo silvas gradu
struck the-Maenad with-inspired the-woods step
armata thyrso terret atque expers sui
armed with-thyrsus terrifies and without-share of-herself
vulnus dedit nec sensit, in medios ruam
a-wound has-given nor felt, into the-middle I-will-rush
tumuloque cineris socia defenso cadam.
and-at-the-tomb of-the-ash a-partner defended I-will-fall.

ULIXES Cessatis et vos flebilis clamor movet
Do-you-falter and you tearful clamor moves
furorque cassus feminae? iussa ocius
and-the-madness empty of-a-woman? the-orders quickly
peragite.
carry-out.
ANDROMACHA Me, me sternite hic ferro prius.
Me, me lay-low here with-the-sword first.
repellor, heu me. rumpe fatorum moras,
I-am-repulsed, alas me. break of-the-fates the-delays,
molire terras, Hector: ut Ulixen domes,
heave the-lands, Hector: that Ulysses you-may-tame,
vel umbra satis es — arma concussit manu,
even as-a-shade enough you-are arms he-has-shaken in-his-hand,
iaculatur ignes — cernitis, Danai, Hectorem?
he-hurls fires do-you-see, Danaans, Hector?
an sola video?
or alone do-I-see?
ULIXES Funditus cuncta eruam.
From-the-foundation all I-will-dig-up.
ANDROMACHA Quid agis? ruina pariter et natum et virum
What are-you-doing? by-ruin equally both son and husband
prosternis una? forsitan Danaos prece
do-you-lay-low together? perhaps the-Danaans by-prayer
placare poteris, conditum illidet statim
to-appease you-will-be-able, the-hidden will-crush immediately
immane busti pondus — intereat miser
the-monstrous of-the-tomb weight let-him-perish wretched
ubicumque potius, ne pater natum obruat
anywhere rather, lest the-father the-son overwhelm

prematque patrem natus. — Ad genua accido
and-press his-father the-son. At your-knees I-fall
supplex, Ulixe, quamque nullius pedes
a-suppliant, Ulysses, and-which of-no-one the-feet
novere dextram pedibus admoveo tuis.
has-known right-hand to-feet I-move your.
miserere matris et preces placidus pias
pity a-mother and the-prayers calm pious
patiensque recipe, quoque te celsum altius
and-patient receive, and-by-how-much you lofty higher
superi levarunt, mitius lapsos preme:
those-above have-raised, more-gently the-fallen press:
misero datur quodcumque, fortunae datur.
to-the-wretched is-given whatever, to-fortune is-given.
sic te revisat coniugis sanctae torus,
so you may-revisit of-your-wife chaste the-couch,
annosque, dum te recipit, extendat suos
and-years, while you he-receives, may-extend his
Laerta; sic te iuvenis excipiat tuus,
Laertes; so you the-young-man may-receive your,
et vota vincens vestra felici indole
and the-vows surpassing your with-happy nature
aetate avum transcendat, ingenio patrem.
in-age his-grandfather may-he-surpass, in-wit his-father.
miserere matris: unicum adflictae mihi
pity a-mother: the-only to-afflicted me
solamen hic est.
solace this-one is.
ULIXES Exhibe natum et roga.
Show your-son and ask.

ANDROMACHA Huc e latebris procede tuis,
Hither from hiding-places come-forth your,
flebile matris furtum miserae.
tearful of-a-mother theft wretched.
hic est, hic est terror, Ulixe,
this is, this is the-terror, Ulysses,
mille carinis. submitte manus
for-a-thousand ships. lower your-hands
dominique pedes supplice dextra
and-of-your-master the-feet with-suppliant right-hand
stratus adora nec turpe puta
prostrate adore nor shameful think
quicquid miseros fortuna iubet.
whatever the-wretched fortune bids.
pone ex animo reges atavos
put-away from your-mind kings ancestral
magnique senis iura per omnis
and-of-the-great old-man the-rights through all
incluta terras, excidat Hector,
famed lands, let-fall-out Hector,
gere captivum positoque genu,
bear-yourself-as a-captive and-with-bent knee,
si tua nondum funera sentis,
if your not-yet death you-feel,
matris fletus imitare tuae.
of-the-mother the-weeping imitate your.
Vidit pueri regis lacrimas
Saw of-a-boy king the-tears
et Troia prior, parvusque minas
also Troy before, and-small the-threats

trucis Alcidae flexit Priamus.
of-grim Alcides turned Priam.
ille, ille ferox, cuius vastis
he, he fierce, whose to-vast
viribus omnes cessere ferae,
strength all yielded the-beasts,
qui perfracto limine Ditis
who with-broken the-threshold of-Dis
caecum retro patefecit iter,
the-blind backward opened way,
hostis parvi victus lacrimis:
of-the-enemy small conquered by-the-tears:
'suscipe' dixit 'rector habenas
'take' he-said 'ruler the-reins
patrioque sede celsus solio;
and-on-the-paternal sit lofty throne;
sed sceptra fide meliore tene.'
but the-scepter with-faith better hold.'
hoc fuit illo victore capi:
this was with-that victor to-be-captured:
discite mites Herculis iras.
learn the-gentle of-Hercules angers.
an sola placent Herculis arma?
or-whether alone please of-Hercules the-arms?
iacet ante pedes non minor illo
lies before your-feet not lesser than-that
supplice supplex vitamque petit —
suppliant a-suppliant and-life seeks
regnum Troiae
the-kingdom of-Troy

quocumque volet Fortuna ferat.
wherever will-wish Fortune let-her-carry.
ULIXES Matris quidem me maeror attonitae movet,
Of-the-mother indeed me the-grief stunned moves,
magis Pelasgae me tamen matres movent,
more the-Pelasgian me yet mothers move,
quarum iste magnos crescit in luctus puer.
for-whose that great grows into mournings the-boy.
ANDROMACHA Has, has ruinas urbis in cinerem datae
These, these ruins of-a-city into ash given
hic excitabit? hae manus Troiam erigent?
will-this-one rouse? will-these hands Troy raise?
nullas habet spes Troia, si tales habet.
no has hopes Troy, if such it-has.
non sic iacemus Troes, ut cuiquam metus
not so we-lie Trojans, that to-anyone a-fear
possimus esse. spiritus genitor facit?
we-could to-be. the-spirits his-father makes?
sed nempe tractus. ipse post Troiam pater
but surely dragged. himself after Troy his-father
posuisset animos, magna quos frangunt mala.
would-have-laid-down his-courage, great which break evils.
si poena petitur, (quae peti gravior potest?)
if punishment is-sought, (what to-be-sought heavier can?)
famulare collo nobili subeat iugum,
on-a-servile neck noble let-him-go-under the-yoke,
servire liceat. aliquis hoc regi negat?
to-be-a-slave let-it-be-allowed. does-anyone this to-a-king deny?
ULIXES Non hoc Ulixes, sed negat Calchas tibi.
Not this Ulysses, but denies Calchas to-you.

ANDROMACHA O machinator fraudis et scelerum artifex,
O contriver of-fraud and of-crimes artisan,
virtute cuius bellica nemo occidit,
by-the-valor of-whom in-war no-one has-fallen,
dolis et astu maleficae mentis iacent
by-tricks and by-cunning of-an-evil-doing mind lie
etiam Pelasgi, vatem et insontes deos
even the-Pelasgians, the-prophet and the-innocent gods
praetendis? hoc est pectoris facinus tui.
do-you-put-forward? this is of-the-breast the-deed your.
nocturne miles, fortis in pueri necem
nocturnal soldier, brave toward of-a-boy death
iam solus audes aliquid et claro die.
now alone you-dare something and in-bright day.
ULIXES Virtus Ulixis Danaidis nota est satis
The-valor of-Ulysses to-the-Danaans known is enough
nimisque Phrygibus. non vacat vanis diem
and-too to-the-Phrygians. not there-is-leisure in-vain the-day
conterere verbis: ancoras classis legit.
to-waste words: the-anchors the-fleet gathers.
ANDROMACHA Brevem moram largire, dum officium parens
A-brief delay grant, while the-duty as-parent
nato supremum reddo et amplexu ultimo
to-my-son the-last I-render and with-embrace last
avidos dolores satio.
greedy griefs I-sate.
ULIXES Misereri tui
To-pity you
utinam liceret. quod tamen solum licet,
would-that it-were-allowed. what yet alone is-allowed,

tempus moramque dabimus. arbitrio tuo
time and-delay we-shall-give. at-the-discretion your
implere lacrimis: fletus aerumnas levat.
to-fill with-tears: weeping sufferings lightens.
ANDROMACHA O dulce pignus, o decus lapsae domus
O sweet pledge, O glory of-the-fallen house
summumque Troiae funus, o Danaum timor,
and-the-last of-Troy death, O of-the-Danaans the-fear,
genetricis o spes vana, cui demens ego
of-your-mother O hope vain, for-whom mad I
laudes parentis bellicas, annos avi
the-praises of-your-father warlike, the-years of-your-grandfather
demens precabar, vota destituit deus.
mad I-prayed-for, the-vows has-abandoned the-god.
non arma tenera patria tractabis manu
not arms in-tender paternal you-will-handle hand
sparsasque passim saltibus latis feras
and-scattered everywhere in-glades broad the-beasts
audax sequeris nec stato lustri die,
bold you-will-follow nor on-the-fixed of-the-lustrum day,
solemne referens Troici lusus sacrum,
the-solemn bringing-back of-the-Trojan game rite,
puer citatas nobilis turmas ages;
a-boy swift noble squadrons you-will-drive;
non inter aras mobili velox pede,
not among altars with-nimble swift foot,
reboante flexo concitos cornu modos,
with-resounding curved the-roused horn measures,
barbarica prisco templa saltatu coles.
the-barbaric with-ancient temples dancing you-will-honor.

Iliaca non tu sceptra regali potens
Ilian not you the-scepter in-royal powerful
gestabis aula, iura nec populis dabis
will-carry hall, laws nor to-peoples will-give
victasque gentes sub tuum mittes iugum,
and-conquered nations under your will-send yoke,
non Graia caedes terga, non Pyrrhum trahes.
not the-Greek you-will-cut backs, not Pyrrhus you-will-drag.
o Marte diro tristius leti genus!
O than-Mars dire sadder of-death a-kind!
flebilius aliquid Hectoris magni nece
more-tearful something than-Hector's great death
muri videbunt.
the-walls will-see.

ULIXES Rumpe iam fletus, parens:
Break now your-weeping, parent:
magnus sibi ipse non facit finem dolor.
great for-itself itself not makes an-end grief.

ANDROMACHA Lacrimis, Ulixe, parva quam petimus mora est;
For-tears, Ulysses, small which we-seek a-delay is;
concede patiens, ut mea condam manu
grant patient, that with-my I-may-close hand
viventis oculos. occidis parvus quidem,
of-the-living the-eyes. you-die small indeed,
sed iam timendus. Troia te expectat tua:
but already to-be-feared. Troy you awaits your:
i, vade liber, liberos Troas vide.
go, go free, free Trojans see.

ASTYANAX Miserere, mater.
Pity, mother.

ANDROMACHA Quid meos retines sinus
Why my do-you-hold folds
manusque matris cassa praesidia occupas?
and-the-hands of-your-mother empty defenses do-you-seize?
fremitu leonis qualis audito tener
at-the-roar of-a-lion as heard tender
timidum iuvencus applicat matri latus,
his-timid bullock presses to-his-mother side,
at ille saevus matre summota loco
but he savage with-the-mother removed from-the-place
praedam minorem morsibus vastis tenens
the-prey lesser in-bites vast holding
frangit vehitque: talis e nostro sinu
breaks and-drags: so from our bosom
te rapiet hostis. oscula et fletus, puer,
you will-snatch the-enemy. kisses and weeping, boy,
lacerosque crines excipe et plenus mei
and-torn locks receive and full of-me
occurre patri; pauca maternae tamen
run-to your-father; few of-a-mother's yet
perfer querelae verba: 'si manes habent
carry complaint words: 'if the-shades have
curas priores nec perit flammis amor,
cares former nor perishes in-flames love,
servire Graio pateris Andromachen viro,
to-serve a-Greek do-you-allow Andromache man,
crudelis Hector? lentus et segnis iaces?
cruel Hector? sluggish and slothful do-you-lie?
redit Achilles.' sume nunc iterum comas
returns Achilles.' take now again my-hair

et sume lacrimas, quicquid e misero viri
and take tears, whatever from wretched of-my-husband
funere relictum est, sume quae reddas tuo
death left is, take which you-may-render to-your
oscula parenti. matris hanc solacio
kisses to-your-father. of-your-mother this as-solace
relinque vestem: tumulus hanc tetigit meus
leave garment: the-tomb this has-touched my
manesque cari. si quid hic cineris latet,
and-the-shades dear. if anything here of-ash lies,
scrutabor ore.
I-will-search with-my-mouth.

ULIXES Nullus est flendi modus:
No is of-weeping limit:
abripite propere classis Argolicae moram.
snatch-away quickly of-the-fleet Argive the-delay.

VIII · WHERE WILL THEY TAKE US?

The chorus wonders where the captive women will be carried: to Thessaly's mountains and Tempe, to Phthia, Pelion, Crete, Chalcis, the islands, or Elis famous for its crowns. Let them go anywhere but Sparta, Argos, Mycenae, and Ithaca. It ends asking what master will lead Hecuba away, and in whose kingdom she will die.

CHORUS Quae vocat sedes habitanda captas?
What calls abode to-be-dwelt-in the-captive-women?
Thessali montes et opaca Tempe,
Thessalian mountains and shady Tempe,
an maris vasti domitrix Iolcos?
or of-the-sea vast the-tamer Iolcos?

parva Gortynis sterilisque Tricce,
small Gortyn and-barren Tricca,
an frequens rivis levibus Mothone,
or thronged with-streams light Mothone,
an viros tellus dare militares
or men the-land to-give soldierly
aptior Phthie meliorque fetu
fitter Phthia and-better in-the-breed
fortis armenti lapidosa Trachin,
of-strong herd stony Trachis,
quae sub Oetaeis latebrosa silvis
which beneath Oetaean full-of-lairs woods
misit infestos Troiae ruinis
sent hostile of-Troy to-the-ruin
non semel arcus?
not once bows?
Olenos tectis habitata raris,
Olenus with-roofs inhabited scattered,
virgini Pleuron inimica divae,
to-the-virgin Pleuron hostile goddess,
an maris lati sinuosa Troezen?
or of-the-sea broad curving Troezen?
Pelion regnum Prothoi superbum,
Pelion the-realm of-Prothous proud,
tertius caelo gradus? (hic recumbens
third to-heaven step? (here reclining
montis exesi spatiosus antro
of-the-mountain hollowed huge in-the-cave
iam trucis Chiron pueri magister,
already of-the-fierce Chiron boy the-master,

tinnulas plectro feriente chordas,
tinkling with-the-plectrum striking strings,
tunc quoque ingentes acuebat iras
then also huge was-sharpening wraths
bella canendo)
wars by-singing)
An ferax varii lapidis Carystos,
Or fertile of-varied stone Carystus,
urbibus centum spatiosa Crete,
with-cities hundred spacious Crete,
an premens litus maris inquieti
or pressing the-shore of-the-sea restless
semper Euripo properante Chalcis?
always with-the-Euripus hurrying Chalcis?
quolibet vento faciles Calydnae,
for-any wind easy the-Calydnae,
an carens numquam Gonoessa vento
or lacking never Gonoessa wind
quaeque formidat Borean Enispe?
and-which dreads Boreas Enispe?
Attica pendens Peparethos ora,
off-the-Attic hanging Peparethos coast,
an sacris gaudens tacitis Eleusin?
or in-rites rejoicing silent Eleusis?
* * *
(lacuna)
numquid Aiacis Salamina veram
surely-not of-Ajax Salamis the-true
aut fera notam Calydona saeva,
or for-its-beast known Calydon savage,

quasque perfundit subiturus aequor
and-which floods going-to-enter the-sea
segnibus terras Titaressos undis?
with-sluggish lands Titaressus waves?
Bessan et Scarphen, Pylon an senilem?
Bessa and Scarphe, Pylos or aged?
Pharin an Pisas Iovis et coronis
Pharis or Pisa of-Jove and for-crowns
Elida claram?
Elis famous?
Quolibet tristis miseras procella
Whithersoever grim the-wretched-women storm
mittat et donet cuicumque terrae,
may-send and give to-whatever land,
dum luem tantam Troiae atque Achivis
provided the-plague so-great to-Troy and to-the-Achaeans
quae tulit, Sparte, procul absit, absit
which brought, Sparta, far be-it, be-it
Argos et saevi Pelopis Mycenae,
Argos and of-savage Pelops Mycenae,
Neritos parva brevior Zacyntho
Neritus than-small smaller Zacynthus
et nocens saxis Ithace dolosis.
and harmful with-rocks Ithaca treacherous.
Quod manet fatum dominusque quis te,
What awaits fate and-master who you,
aut quibus terris, Hecuba, videndam
or in-what lands, Hecuba, to-be-seen
ducet? in cuius moriere regno?
will-lead? in whose will-you-die kingdom?

Helen comes, under orders, to dress Polyxena as Pyrrhus' bride. Andromache denounces the wedding as a lie; Helen defends herself and then reveals that Polyxena is to be sacrificed at Achilles' tomb. Polyxena gladly accepts, and Hecuba faints and laments. Helen tells the lots: Andromache to the Scyrian youth, Cassandra to the greatest of kings, Hecuba to Ulysses. As Pyrrhus arrives to take Polyxena, Hecuba taunts him and prays that the fleet meet seas worthy of these rites.

HELENA Quicumque hymen funestus, inlaetabilis
Whatever marriage deadly, joyless
lamenta caedes sanguinem gemitus habet
laments slaughter blood groans has
est auspice Helena dignus. eversis quoque
is of-the-auspice Helen worthy. the-overthrown also
nocere cogor Phrygibus: ego Pyrrhi toros
to-harm I-am-forced the-Phrygians: I of-Pyrrhus the-bed
narrare falsos iubeor, ego cultus dare
to-tell false I-am-bidden, I the-dress to-give
habitusque Graios. arte capietur mea
and-the-garb Greek. by-art will-be-taken my
meaque fraude concidet Paridis soror.
and-by-my deceit will-fall of-Paris the-sister.
fallatur; ipsi levius hoc equidem reor:
let-her-be-deceived; for-herself lighter this indeed I-think:
optanda mors est sine metu mortis mori.
to-be-wished death is without fear of-death to-die.
quid iussa cessas agere? ad auctorem redit
why the-orders do-you-delay to-do? to the-author returns
sceleris coacti culpa. — Dardaniae domus
of-crime compelled the-blame. of-the-Dardanian house

generosa virgo, melior afflictos deus
noble maiden, kinder the-afflicted god
respicere coepit teque felici parat
to-regard has-begun and-you with-a-happy prepares
dotare thalamo; tale coniugium tibi
to-endow marriage; such a-union to-you
non ipsa sospes Troia, non Priamus daret.
not itself safe Troy, not Priam would-give.
nam te Pelasgae maximum gentis decus,
for you of-the-Pelasgian greatest race the-glory,
cui regna campi lata Thessalici patent,
to-whom the-realms of-the-plain broad Thessalian lie-open,
ad sancta lecti iura legitimi petit.
to the-sacred of-a-bed rights lawful seeks.
te magna Tethys teque tot pelagi deae
you great Tethys and-you so-many of-the-sea goddesses
placidumque numen aequoris tumidi Thetis
and-gentle divinity of-the-sea swollen Thetis
suam vocabunt, te datam Pyrrho socer
their-own will-call, you given to-Pyrrhus father-in-law
Peleus nurum vocabit et Nereus nurum.
Peleus daughter-in-law will-call and Nereus daughter-in-law.
depone cultus squalidos, festos cape,
lay-aside the-garments squalid, festive take,
dedisce captam; deprime horrentis comas
unlearn the-captive; press-down bristling locks
crinemque docta patere distingui manu.
and-your-hair by-a-skilled allow to-be-parted hand.
hic forsitan te casus excelso magis
this perhaps you fall on-a-lofty more

solio reponet. profuit multis capi.
throne will-restore. it-has-profited many to-be-captured.

ANDROMACHA Hoc derat unum Phrygibus eversis malum,
This was-lacking one to-the-Phrygians overthrown evil,

gaudere — flagrant strata passim Pergama:
to-rejoice blaze laid-low everywhere Pergamum:

o coniugale tempus! an quisquam audeat
o nuptial time! or anyone would-dare

negare? quisquam dubius ad thalamos eat,
to-refuse? anyone doubtful to a-marriage would-go,

quos Helena suadet? pestis exitium lues
which Helen urges? plague ruin pestilence

utriusque populi, cernis hos tumulos ducum
of-each people, do-you-see these mounds of-chiefs

et nuda totis ossa quae passim iacent
and bare over-whole bones which everywhere lie

inhumata campis? haec hymen sparsit tuus.
unburied plains? these marriage scattered your.

tibi fluxit Asiae, fluxit Europae cruor,
for-you flowed of-Asia, flowed of-Europe blood,

cum dimicantes lenta prospiceres viros,
while fighting unmoved you-looked-out-on men,

incerta voti — perge, thalamos appara.
uncertain of-wish go-on, the-marriage prepare.

taedis quid opus est quidve solemni face?
of-torches what need is or-what of-solemn torch?

quid igne? thalamis Troia praelucet novis.
what of-fire? for-the-marriage Troy shines-before new.

celebrate Pyrrhi, Troades, conubia,
celebrate of-Pyrrhus, Trojan-women, the-nuptials,

celebrate digne: planctus et gemitus sonet.
celebrate worthily: beating and groaning let-sound.
HELENA Ratione quamvis careat et flecti neget
Reason although may-lack and to-be-bent refuse
magnus dolor sociosque nonnumquam sui
great grief and-the-partners sometimes of-its
maeroris ipsos oderit: causam tamen
sorrow themselves hate: cause yet
possum tueri iudice infesto meam,
I-am-able to-defend with-a-judge hostile my,
graviora passa. luget Andromacha Hectorem
heavier having-suffered. mourns Andromache Hector
et Hecuba Priamum: solus occulte Paris
and Hecuba Priam: alone secretly Paris
lugendus Helenae est. dirum et invisum et grave est
to-be-mourned by-Helen is. dreadful and hateful and heavy is-it
servitia ferre? patior hoc olim iugum,
slavery to-bear? I-suffer this long yoke,
annis decem captiva. prostratum Ilium est,
for-years ten a-captive. laid-low Ilium is,
versi penates? perdere est patriam grave,
overturned the-household-gods? to-lose is country heavy,
gravius timere. vos levat tanti mali
heavier to-fear. you lightens of-so-great evil
comitatus: in me victor et victus furit,
the-company: against me victor and vanquished rage,
quam quisque famulam traheret incerto diu
whom each as-handmaid would-drag on-an-uncertain long
casu pependit, me meus traxit statim
chance hung, me my dragged at-once

sine sorte dominus, causa bellorum fui
without lot master, the-cause of-wars was-I
tantaeque Teucris cladis? hoc verum puta,
and-of-so-great for-the-Teucrians disaster? this true think,
Spartana puppis vestra si secuit freta;
Spartan ship your if cut straits;
sin rapta Phrygiis praeda remigibus fui
but-if seized for-Phrygian booty rowers I-was
deditque donum iudici victrix dea,
and-gave-me as-a-gift to-the-judge victorious goddess,
ignosce raptae. iudicem iratum mea
pardon the-seized. a-judge angry my
habitura causa est: ista Menelaum manent
going-to-have cause is: those Menelaus await
arbitria. nunc hanc luctibus paulum tuis,
judgments. now her with-griefs a-little your,
Andromacha, omissis flecto — vix lacrimas queo
Andromache, set-aside I-turn scarcely tears I-can
retinere.
to-hold-back.
ANDROMACHA Quantum est Helena quod lacrimat malum.
How-great it-is Helen that weeps an-evil.
cur lacrimat autem? fare quos Ithacus dolos,
why weeps-she however? speak what the-Ithacan tricks,
quae scelera nectat; utrum ab Idaeis iugis
what crimes he-weaves; whether from Idaean ridges
iactanda virgo est, arcis an celsae edito
to-be-hurled the-maiden is, of-the-citadel or lofty from-high
mittenda saxo? num per has vastum in mare
to-be-sent rock? surely-not through these vast into sea

volvenda rupes, latere quas scisso levat
to-be-rolled cliffs, with-side which split raises
altum vadoso Sigeon spectans sinu?
high on-shallow Sigeum overlooking bay?
dic, fare, quicquid subdolo vultu tegis.
say, speak, whatever with-crafty face you-hide.
leviora mala sunt cuncta, quam Priami gener
lighter evils are all, than of-Priam son-in-law
Hecubaeque Pyrrhus. fare, quam poenam pares
and-of-Hecuba Pyrrhus. speak, what penalty you-prepare
exprome et unum hoc deme nostris cladibus
bring-out and one this take-away from-our disasters
falli: paratas perpeti mortem vides.
to-be-deceived: prepared to-endure death you-see.
HELENA Utinam iuberet me quoque interpres deum
Would-that would-bid me too the-interpreter of-the-gods
abrumpere ense lucis invisae moras
to-break-off with-the-sword of-light hated the-delays
vel Achillis ante busta furibunda manu
or of-Achilles before the-tomb by-the-raging hand
occidere Pyrrhi, fata comitantem tua,
to-fall of-Pyrrhus, the-fate accompanying your,
Polyxene miseranda, quam tradi sibi
Polyxena pitiable, whom to-be-handed to-himself
cineremque Achilles ante mactari suum,
and-ashes Achilles before to-be-slain his,
campo maritus ut sit Elysio, iubet.
in-the-plain husband that he-may-be Elysian, bids.

ANDROMACHA Vide ut animus ingens laetus audierit necem.
See how spirit great glad has-heard death.
cultus decoros regiae vestis petit
the-adornment graceful of-royal dress she-seeks
et admoveri crinibus patitur manum.
and to-be-moved-to her-hair allows the-hand.
mortem putabat illud, hoc thalamos putat.
death she-thought that, this a-marriage thinks.
at misera luctu mater audito stupet;
but wretched with-grief the-mother heard is-stunned;
labefacta mens succubuit. assurge, alleva
shaken the-mind has-sunk. rise, lift
animum et cadentem, misera, firma spiritum.
your-spirit and falling, wretched, strengthen breath.
quam tenuis anima vinculo pendet levi —
how thin the-life by-a-bond hangs light
minimum est quod Hecubam facere felicem potest.
least is what Hecuba to-make happy can.
spirat, revixit. prima mors miseros fugit.
she-breathes, has-revived. first death the-wretched flees.
HECUBA Adhuc Achilles vivit in poenas Phrygum?
Still Achilles lives for punishment of-the-Phrygians?
adhuc rebellat? o manum Paridis levem.
still renews-war? o hand of-Paris light.
cinis ipse nostrum sanguinem ac tumulus sitit.
ash itself our blood and the-tomb thirsts.
modo turba felix latera cingebat mea,
lately a-throng happy sides surrounded my,
lassabar in tot oscula et tantum gregem
I-was-wearied in so-many kisses and so-great a-flock

dividere matrem; sola nunc haec est super
to-divide a-mother; alone now this-one is left
votum, comes, levamen, afflictae quies;
prayer, companion, relief, of-the-afflicted rest;
haec totus Hecubae fetus, hac sola vocor
this-one whole of-Hecuba offspring, by-this alone I-am-called
iam voce mater. dura et infelix age
now voice mother. hard and unhappy come
elabere anima, denique hoc unum mihi
slip-out soul, at-last this one to-me
remitte funus, inrigat fletus genas
spare death, waters weeping cheeks
imberque victo subitus e vultu cadit.
and-a-shower conquered sudden from face falls.
ANDROMACHA Nos Hecuba, nos, nos, Hecuba, lugendae sumus,
We Hecuba, we, we, Hecuba, to-be-mourned are,
quas mota classis huc et huc sparsas feret;
whom moved the-fleet hither and thither scattered will-carry;
hanc cara tellus sedibus patriis teget.
her dear the-earth in-seats ancestral will-cover.
HELENA Magis invidebis, si tuam sortem scies.
More you-will-envy, if your lot you-know.
ANDROMACHA An aliqua poenae pars meae ignota est mihi?
Or some of-penalty part my unknown is to-me?
HELENA Versata dominos urna captivis dedit.
Turned masters the-urn to-the-captives has-given.
ANDROMACHA Cui famula trador? ede;
To-whom as-handmaid am-I-handed? say;
quem dominum voco?
whom master do-I-call?

HELENA Te sorte prima Scyrius iuvenis tulit.
You by-lot first the-Scyrian youth took.
ANDROMACHA Cassandra felix, quam furor sorti eximit
Cassandra happy, whom madness from-the-lot exempts
Phoebusque.
and-Phoebus.
HELENA Regum hanc maximus rector tenet.
Of-kings her greatest the-ruler holds.
HECUBA Laetare, gaude, nata. quam vellet tuos
Be-glad, rejoice, daughter. how would-want your
Cassandra thalamos, vellet Andromache tuos.
Cassandra marriage, would-want Andromache yours.
estne aliquis, Hecubam qui suam dici velit?
is-there anyone, Hecuba who his to-be-called wishes?
HELENA Ithaco obtigisti praeda nolenti brevis.
To-the-Ithacan you-have-fallen a-prize unwilling short.
HECUBA Quis tam impotens ac durus et iniquae ferus
What so violent and hard and of-unjust cruel
sortitor urnae regibus reges dedit?
allotter urn to-kings kings has-given?
quis tam sinister dividit captas deus?
what so hostile divides the-captives god?
quis arbiter crudelis et miseris gravis
what umpire cruel and to-the-wretched harsh
eligere dominos nescit et
to-choose masters knows-not and
matrem Hectoris
the-mother of-Hector
armis Achillis miscet? ad Ulixen vocor:
with-the-arms of-Achilles mingles? to Ulysses I-am-called:

nunc victa, nunc captiva, nunc cunctis mihi
now conquered, now captive, now by-all to-me
obsessa videor cladibus — domini pudet,
besieged I-seem disasters of-the-master I-am-ashamed,
non servitutis.
not of-slavery.
sterilis et saevis fretis
barren and by-savage straits
inclusa tellus non capit tumulos meos —
enclosed land not holds tomb my
duc, duc, Ulixe, nil moror, dominum sequor;
lead, lead, Ulysses, nothing I-delay, master I-follow;
me mea sequentur fata: non pelago quies
me my will-follow fates: not to-the-sea calm
tranquilla veniet, saeviet ventis mare,
tranquil will-come, will-rage with-winds the-sea,
* * *
(lacuna)
et bella et ignes et mea et Priami mala.
and wars and fires and my and of-Priam evils.
dumque ista veniant, interim hoc poenae loco est:
and-while those may-come, meanwhile this of-punishment in-place is:
sortem occupavi, praemium eripui tibi. —
the-lot I-seized-first, the-prize I-snatched-from you.
Sed en citato Pyrrhus accurrit gradu
But look with-quickened Pyrrhus runs-up pace
vultuque torvo. Pyrrhe, quid cessas? age
and-with-face grim. Pyrrhus, why do-you-delay? come
reclude ferro pectus et Achillis tui
open with-the-sword breast and of-Achilles your

coniunge soceros. perge, mactator senum,
join the-fathers-in-law. proceed, butcher of-old-men,
et hic decet te sanguis: abreptam trahe.
also this befits you blood: snatched-away drag.
maculate superos caede funesta deos,
stain the-upper with-slaughter deadly gods,
maculate manes — quid precer vobis? precor
stain the-shades what may-I-pray for-you? I-pray
his digna sacris aequora: hoc classi accidat
of-these worthy rites seas: this to-the-fleet may-befall
toti Pelasgae, ratibus hoc mille accidat
whole Pelasgian, to-ships this thousand may-befall
meae precabor, cum vehar, quicquid rati.
my I-shall-pray, when I-am-carried, whatever to-the-ship.

X · SWEET TO MOURN TOGETHER

It is sweet to mourn among the mourning: grief is lighter when many share it, and no one is wretched except by comparison. Phrixus complained that Helle fell, while Pyrrha and her husband, alone on earth, did not. When the fleet sails, mother and son will point to the smoke over Troy.

CHORUS Dulce maerenti populus dolentum,
Sweet to-the-mourner a-people of-the-grieving,
dulce lamentis resonare gentes;
sweet with-laments to-resound nations;
lenius luctus lacrimaeque mordent,
more-gently grief and-tears bite,
turba quas fletu similis frequentat.
a-crowd which with-weeping like attends.

semper a semper dolor est malignus:
always ab always grief is spiteful:
gaudet in multos sua fata mitti
it-rejoices upon many its fates to-be-sent
seque non solum placuisse poenae.
and-itself not alone to-have-pleased to-punishment.
ferre quam sortem patiuntur omnes,
to-bear which lot endure all,
nemo recusat.
no-one refuses.
Tolle felices: miseram, licet sit,
Take-away the-fortunate: wretched, although she-be,
nemo se credet; removete multo
no-one himself will-believe; remove with-much
divites auro, removete centum
the-rich gold, remove a-hundred
rura qui scindunt opulenta bubus:
fields who cleave rich with-oxen:
pauperi surgent animi iacentes —
of-the-poor will-rise the-spirits lying
est miser nemo nisi comparatus.
is wretched no-one unless compared.
dulce in immensis posito ruinis,
sweet in vast for-one-placed ruins,
neminem laetos habuisse vultus:
no-one glad to-have-had faces:
ille deplorat queriturque fatum,
he laments and-complains-of fate,
qui secans fluctum rate singulari
who cutting the-wave with-a-boat single

nudus in portus cecidit petitos;
naked into harbors fell sought;
aequior casum tulit et procellas,
calmer the-fall bore and storms,
mille qui ponto pariter carinas
a-thousand who in-the-sea together keels
obrui vidit tabulaque latus
to-be-overwhelmed saw and-on-a-plank borne
naufraga, terris mare dum coactis
shipwrecked, from-lands the-sea while with-driven
fluctibus Corus prohibet, revertit.
waves Corus forbids, returned.
questus est Hellen cecidisse Phrixus,
complained has Helle to-have-fallen Phrixus,
cum gregis ductor radiante villo
when of-the-flock leader with-gleaming fleece
aureo fratrem simul ac sororem
golden the-brother at-once and the-sister
sustulit tergo medioque iactum
lifted on-its-back and-mid a-loss
fecit in ponto; tenuit querelas
made in the-sea; held-back complaints
et vir et Pyrrha, mare cum viderent,
both the-man and Pyrrha, sea when they-saw,
et nihil praeter mare cum viderent
and nothing besides sea when they-saw
unici terris homines relicti.
only on-earth humans left.
Solvet hunc questum lacrimasque nostras
Will-dissolve this lament and-tears our

sparget huc illuc agitata classis,
will-scatter hither thither driven the-fleet,
cum tuba iussi dare vela nautae
when by-trumpet bidden to-give sails the-sailors
et simul ventis properante remo
and at-once with-winds with-hurrying oar
prenderint altum fugietque litus.
shall-have-taken the-deep and-will-flee shore.
quis status mentis miseris, ubi omnis
what state of-mind for-the-wretched, when all
terra decrescet pelagusque crescet,
land will-dwindle and-sea will-grow,
celsa cum longe latitabit Ide?
lofty when far will-lie-hidden Ida?
tum puer matri genetrixque nato,
then boy to-mother and-mother to-son,
Troia qua flagret regione, monstrans
Troy in-what burns region, showing
dicet et longe digito notabit:
will-say and far with-finger will-mark:
'Ilium est illic, ubi fumus alte
'Ilium is there, where smoke high
serpit in caelum nebulaeque turpes.'
creeps into sky and-clouds foul.'
Troes hoc signo patriam videbunt.
Trojans by-this sign fatherland will-see.

A messenger tells how Ulysses led Astyanax to the top of the last tower, where the fearless boy, while all watched, leapt down of his own accord, and how Polyxena, led like a bride, faced Pyrrhus at Achilles' tomb and fell under his sword, and the tomb drank her blood. Hecuba laments that death flees her alone, and the captive women are called down to the ships.

NUNTIUS O dura fata, saeva miseranda horrida!
O hard fates, savage pitiable dreadful!
quod tam ferum, tam triste bis quinis scelus
what so fierce, so grim in-twice five crime
Mars vidit annis? quid prius referens gemam,
Mars saw years? what first relating shall-I-lament,
tuosne potius, an tuos luctus, anus?
yours rather, or your griefs, old-woman?
HECUBA Quoscumque luctus fleveris, flebis meos:
Whatever griefs you-weep, you-will-weep mine:
sua quemque tantum, me omnium clades premit;
his-own each only, me of-all the-disaster presses;
mihi cuncta pereunt: quisquis est Hecubae est miser.
for-me all perish: whoever is of-Hecuba is wretched.
NUNTIUS Mactata virgo est, missus e muris puer;
Slain the-maiden is, thrown from the-walls the-boy;
sed uterque letum mente generosa tulit.
but each death with-a-spirit noble bore.
ANDROMACHA Expone seriem caedis, et duplex nefas
Set-forth the-sequence of-the-slaughter, and the-double outrage
persequere: gaudet magnus aerumnas dolor
follow-through: rejoices great its-troubles grief

tractare totas. ede et enarra omnia.
to-handle whole. utter and recount all.

NUNTIUS Est una magna turris e Troia super,
There-is one great tower from Troy left,

assueta Priamo, cuius e fastigio
familiar to-Priam, whose from top

summisque pinnis arbiter belli sedens
and-highest battlements umpire of-war sitting

regebat acies. turre in hac blando sinu
he-directed the-lines. tower in this in-a-coaxing embrace

fovens nepotem, cum metu versos gravi
cherishing his-grandson, when with-fear routed heavy

Danaos fugaret Hector et ferro et face,
the-Danaans put-to-flight Hector both with-sword and torch,

paterna puero bella monstrabat senex.
paternal to-the-boy wars showed the-old-man.

haec nota quondam turris et muri decus,
this known once tower and of-the-wall the-glory,

nunc saeva cautes, undique adfusa ducum
now a-savage crag, everywhere poured-round of-chiefs

plebisque turba cingitur; totum coit
and-of-commons by-a-crowd is-surrounded; all gathers

ratibus relictis vulgus. his collis procul
with-ships left the-crowd. for-some a-hill far-off

aciem patenti liberam praebet loco,
the-view in-open free affords place,

his alta rupes, cuius in cacumine
for-others high a-cliff, whose on summit

erecta summos turba libravit pedes.
raised topmost the-crowd poised feet.

hunc pinus, illum laurus, hunc fagus gerit
this-one a-pine, that a-laurel, this a-beech bears
et tota populo silva suspenso tremit.
and whole with-people the-wood suspended trembles.
extrema montis ille praerupti petit,
the-edges of-the-mountain one sheer seeks,
semusta at ille tecta vel saxum imminens
half-burned but another roofs or rock overhanging
muri cadentis pressit, atque aliquis (nefas)
of-wall falling pressed, and someone (outrage)
tumulo ferus spectator Hectoreo sedet.
on-the-tomb cruel spectator Hector's sits.
per spatia late plena sublimi gradu
through spaces widely full with-lofty step
incedit Ithacus parvulum dextra trahens
strides the-Ithacan little-one with-right-hand dragging
Priami nepotem, nec gradu segni puer
of-Priam the-grandson, nor with-step slow the-boy
ad alta pergit moenia. ut summa stetit
to the-high goes walls. when highest he-stood
pro turre, vultus huc et huc acres tulit
in-front-of tower, looks hither and hither keen bore
intrepidus animo. qualis ingentis ferae
fearless in-spirit. as of-a-huge beast
parvus tenerque fetus et nondum potens
small and-tender offspring and not-yet able
saevire dente — iam tamen tollit minas
to-rage with-tooth already yet raises threats
morsusque inanes temptat atque animis tumet:
and-bites empty tries and with-spirit swells:

sic ille dextra prensus hostili puer
so that with-hand seized hostile boy
ferox † superbe. moverat vulgum ac duces
fierce (corrupt) proudly. had-moved the-crowd and leaders
ipsumque Ulixen. non flet e turba omnium
and-himself Ulysses. not weeps out-of the-crowd of-all
qui fletur; ac, dum verba fatidici et preces
who is-wept; and, while the-words of-the-prophetic and prayers
concipit Ulixes vatis et saevos ciet
frames Ulysses seer and cruel summons
ad sacra superos, sponte desiluit sua
to the-rites gods-above, of-will leapt-down his-own
in media Priami regna. —
into the-middle of-Priam realms.
ANDROMACHA Quis Colchus hoc, quis sedis incertae Scytha
What Colchian this, what of-home unsettled Scythian
commisit, aut quae Caspium tangens mare
committed, or what Caspian touching sea
gens iuris expers ausa? non Busiridis
race of-law devoid dared? not of-Busiris
puerilis aras sanguis aspersit feri,
a-boy's altars blood sprinkled cruel,
nec parva gregibus membra Diomedes suis
nor small to-herds limbs Diomedes his
epulanda posuit. quis tuos artus leget
to-be-feasted-on set. who your limbs will-gather
tumuloque tradet?
and-to-a-tomb will-consign?

NUNTIUS Quos enim praeceps locus
What indeed the-steep place
reliquit artus? ossa disiecta et gravi
has-left limbs? bones scattered and by-a-heavy
elisa casu; signa clari corporis,
crushed fall; the-marks of-the-famous body,
et ora et illas nobiles patris notas,
both the-face and those noble of-his-father features,
confudit imam pondus ad terram datum;
has-confounded lowest weight to earth given;
soluta cervix silicis impulsu, caput
loosened the-neck of-flint by-the-impact, the-head
ruptum cerebro penitus expresso — iacet
burst with-the-brain deep squeezed-out lies
deforme corpus.
shapeless the-body.
ANDROMACHA Sic quoque est similis patri.
So also he-is like his-father.
NUNTIUS Praeceps ut altis cecidit e muris puer
Headlong when high fell from walls the-boy
flevitque Achivum turba quod fecit nefas,
and-wept of-the-Achaeans the-crowd which it-did outrage,
idem ille populus aliud ad facinus redit
same that people another to crime returns
tumulumque Achillis. cuius extremum latus
and-the-tomb of-Achilles. whose farthest side
Rhoetea leni verberant fluctu vada;
Rhoetean with-gentle lash wave shallows;
adversa cingit campus et clivo levi
the-opposite surrounds a-plain and with-slope gentle

erecta medium vallis includens locum
raised middle the-valley enclosing place
crescit theatri more. concursus frequens
grows of-a-theater in-the-manner. a-concourse thronging
implevit omne litus: hi classis moram
filled all shore: these of-the-fleet the-delay
hac morte solvi rentur, hi stirpem hostium
by-this death to-be-loosed think, these the-stock of-enemies
gaudent recidi. magna pars vulgi levis
rejoice to-be-cut-back. great part of-the-crowd fickle
odit scelus spectatque; nec Troes minus
hates the-crime and-watches; nor Trojans less
suum frequentant funus et pavidi metu
their-own throng funeral and trembling with-fear
partem ruentis ultimam Troiae vident:
part of-falling last Troy see:
cum subito thalami more praecedunt faces
when suddenly of-a-wedding in-the-manner go-before torches
et pronuba illi Tyndaris, maestum caput
and as-matron-of-honor to-her Tyndareus'-daughter, sad head
demissa. 'tali nubat Hermione modo'
lowered. 'in-such may-marry Hermione fashion'
Phryges precantur 'sic viro turpis suo
the-Phrygians pray 'thus to-husband shameful her-own
reddatur Helena.' terror attonitos tenet
may-be-returned Helen.' terror stunned holds
utrosque populos. ipsa deiectos gerit
both peoples. she-herself downcast bears
vultus pudore, sed tamen fulgent genae
looks with-shame, but yet shine cheeks

magisque solito splendet extremus decor,
and-more than-usual gleams final beauty,
ut esse Phoebi dulcius lumen solet
as to-be of-Phoebus sweeter the-light is-wont
iamiam cadentis, astra cum repetunt vices
just-now setting, stars when reclaim turns
premiturque dubius nocte vicina dies.
and-is-pressed doubtful by-night neighboring day.
stupet omne vulgus — et fere cuncti magis
is-amazed all crowd and nearly all more
peritura laudant. hos movet formae decus,
going-to-perish praise. these moves of-form the-grace,
hos mollis aetas, hos vagae rerum vices;
these tender age, these wandering of-things changes;
movet animus omnes fortis et leto obvius.
moves spirit all brave and to-death facing.
Pyrrhum antecedit; omnium mentes tremunt,
Pyrrhus she-precedes; of-all minds tremble,
mirantur ac miserantur. ut primum ardui
they-marvel and pity. as first of-the-steep
sublime montis tetigit atque alte edito
height hill he-touched and high raised
iuvenis paterni vertice in busti stetit,
the-youth of-paternal top on tomb stood,
audax virago non tulit retro gradum;
bold the-heroine not bore back step;
conversa ad ictum stat truci vultu ferox.
turned to the-blow stands with-fierce face defiant.
tam fortis animus omnium mentes ferit,
so brave spirit of-all minds strikes,

novumque monstrum est Pyrrhus ad caedem piger.
and-new portent it-is Pyrrhus to slaughter slow.
ut dextra ferrum penitus exactum abdidit,
when with-right-hand the-sword deep driven buried,
subitus recepta morte prorupit cruor
sudden with-received death burst-forth blood
per vulnus ingens. nec tamen moriens adhuc
through wound huge. nor yet dying still
deponit animos: cecidit, ut Achilli gravem
lays-down courage: she-fell, as for-Achilles heavy
factura terram, prona et irato impetu.
going-to-make earth, forward and with-angry rush.
uterque flevit coetus; at timidum Phryges
each wept gathering; but timid Phrygians
misere gemitum, clarius victor gemit.
uttered groan, more-loudly the-victor groans.
hic ordo sacri. non stetit fusus cruor
this the-order of-the-rite. not stood shed blood
humove summa fluxit: obduxit statim
or-on-the-ground topmost flowed: drew-in at-once
saevusque totum sanguinem tumulus bibit.
and-savage whole blood the-tomb drank.
HECUBA Ite, ite, Danai, petite iam tuti domos;
Go, go, Danaans, seek now safe homes;
optata velis maria diffusis secet
longed-for with-sails seas spread-out may-cut
secura classis: concidit virgo ac puer;
carefree the-fleet: has-fallen girl and boy;
bellum peractum est. quo meas lacrimas feram?
the-war finished is. where my tears shall-I-carry?

ubi hanc anilis expuam leti moram?
where this old-woman's shall-I-spit-out of-death delay?
natam an nepotem, coniugem an patriam fleam?
daughter or grandson, husband or country shall-I-weep?
an omnia an me sola? Mors votum meum,
or all or me alone? Death prayer my,
infantibus violenta virginibus venis,
to-infants violent to-virgins you-come,
ubique properas, saeva: me solam times
everywhere you-hasten, cruel: me alone you-fear
vitasque, gladios inter ac tela et faces
and-avoid, swords among and spears and torches
quaesita tota nocte, cupientem fugis.
sought whole night, desiring you-flee.
non hostis aut ruina, non ignis meos
not enemy or ruin, not fire my
absumpsit artus: quam prope a Priamo steti.
consumed limbs: how near from Priam I-stood.
NUNTIUS Repetite celeri maria, captivae, gradu:
Seek-again with-swift seas, captives, pace:
iam vela puppis laxat et classis movet.
now sails the-ship slackens and the-fleet moves.

SENECA

Hercules Furens

Hercules Mad

HERCULES MAD

I · JUNO PLOTS AGAINST HERCULES

Juno complains that Jupiter's mistresses fill the sky and that Thebes has made her a stepmother too often. Hercules has overcome every monster, turned her hatred to his glory, and now has broken into the underworld and brought back its hound; she fears that he will seize heaven itself. She calls the Furies to drive him mad, so that he may defeat himself.

IUNO Soror Tonantis (hoc enim solum mihi
Sister of-the-Thunderer (this indeed only to-me
nomen relictum est) semper alienum Iovem
name left is) always another's Jove
ac templa summi vidua deserui aetheris
and the-temples of-highest widowed I-have-left ether
locumque caelo pulsa paelicibus dedi;
and-place from-heaven driven to-mistresses have-given;
tellus colenda est: paelices caelum tenent.
the-earth to-be-dwelt-in is: mistresses heaven hold.
hinc Arctos alta parte glacialis poli
here the-Bear in-high part of-the-icy pole
sublime classes sidus Argolicas agit;
lofty fleets constellation Argive drives;
hinc, qua tepenti vere laxatur dies,
here, where with-warm spring is-lengthened day,
Tyriae per undas vector Europae nitet;
of-Tyrian through waves the-carrier Europa shines;
illinc timendum ratibus ac ponto gregem
there to-be-feared by-ships and sea a-flock

passim vagantes exerunt Atlantides.
everywhere wandering put-forth the-Atlantides.
ferro minax hinc terret Orion deos
with-sword threatening here frightens Orion the-gods
suasque Perseus aureus stellas habet;
and-his-own Perseus golden stars has;
hinc clara gemini signa Tyndaridae micant
here bright the-twin signs Tyndarids flash
quibusque natis mobilis tellus stetit.
and-at-whose birth mobile the-land stood-still.
nec ipse tantum Bacchus aut Bacchi parens
nor himself only Bacchus or of-Bacchus the-mother
adiere superos: ne qua pars probro vacet,
have-gone-to the-gods-above: lest any part from-disgrace be-free,
mundus puellae serta Gnosiacae gerit.
the-sky of-the-girl the-garland Cnossian wears.
sed vetera sero querimur ***
but old-wrongs late we-complain (lacuna)
*** una me dira ac fera
(lacuna) alone me dire and fierce
Thebana tellus nuribus a! sparsa impiis
Theban land with-young-wives ah! strewn impious
quotiens novercam fecit! escendat licet
how-often a-stepmother has-made! let-her-ascend though
meumque victrix teneat Alcmene locum,
and-my victorious may-hold Alcmena place,
pariterque natus astra promissa occupet,
and-equally her-son the-stars promised may-seize,
in cuius ortus mundus impendit diem
on whose birth the-world spent a-day

tardusque Eoo Phoebus effulsit mari
and-slow from-the-Eastern Phoebus shone-out sea
retinere mersum iussus Oceano iubar.
to-hold-back sunk ordered in-Ocean his-radiance.
non sic abibunt odia; vivaces aget
not thus will-go-away hatreds; lively will-drive
violentus iras animus et saevus dolor
violent angers spirit and savage resentment
aeterna bella pace sublata geret.
eternal wars with-peace removed will-wage.
Quae bella? quicquid horridum tellus creat
What wars? whatever horrid the-earth creates
inimica, quicquid pontus aut aer tulit
hostile, whatever sea or air has-borne
terribile dirum pestilens atrox ferum,
terrible dire pestilent atrocious wild,
fractum atque domitum est. superat et crescit malis
broken and tamed is. he-prevails and grows by-evils
iraque nostra fruitur; in laudes suas
and-anger our enjoys; into praises his-own
mea vertit odia: dum nimis saeva impero,
my turns hatreds: while too savage I-command,
patrem probavi, gloriae feci locum.
his-father I-have-proved, for-glory I-have-made room.
qua Sol reducens quaque deponens diem
where the-Sun bringing-back and-where laying-down the-day
binos propinqua tinguit Aethiopas face,
both with-near dyes Ethiopians torch,
indomita virtus colitur et toto deus
untamed valor is-worshiped and in-whole a-god

narratur orbe. monstra iam desunt mihi
is-told world. monsters now fail me
minorque labor est Herculi iussa exequi,
and-less a-labor it-is for-Hercules orders to-carry-out,
quam mihi iubere: laetus imperia excipit.
than for-me to-order: glad commands he-takes-up.
quae fera tyranni iura violenta queant
what fierce of-a-tyrant decrees violent could
nocere iuveni? nempe pro telis gerit
to-harm the-youth? surely for weapons he-carries
quae timuit et quae fudit: armatus venit
what he-feared and what he-laid-low: armed he-comes
leone et hydra. nec satis terrae patent:
with-lion and hydra. nor enough lands lie-open:
effregit ecce limen inferni Iovis
he-has-broken behold the-threshold of-infernal Jove
et opima victi regis ad superos refert.
and the-spoils of-the-conquered king to the-gods-above brings-back.
parum est reverti, foedus umbrarum perit:
too-little is to-return, the-treaty of-shades perishes:
vidi ipsa, vidi nocte discussa inferum
I-saw myself, I-saw with-night dispersed of-the-dead
et Dite domito spolia iactantem patri
and with-Dis tamed spoils boasting to-his-father
fraterna. cur non vinctum et oppressum trahit
fraternal. why not bound and crushed drags-he
ipsum catenis paria sortitum Iovi
himself with-chains equal having-drawn with-Jove
Ereboque capto potitur et retegit Styga?
and-of-Erebus captured gets-mastery and uncovers the-Styx?

patefacta ab imis manibus retro via est
opened from deepest shades back the-way is
et sacra dirae mortis in aperto iacent.
and the-mysteries of-dire death in the-open lie.
at ille, rupto carcere umbrarum ferox,
but he, with-broken prison of-shades fierce,
de me triumphat et superbifica manu
over me triumphs and with-arrogant hand
atrum per urbes ducit Argolicas canem.
black through cities leads Argive the-hound.
viso labantem Cerbero vidi diem
with-seen faltering Cerberus I-saw the-day
pavidumque Solem; me quoque invasit tremor,
and-frightened Sun; me too seized trembling,
et terna monstri colla devicti intuens
and triple of-the-monster necks vanquished beholding
timui imperasse. levia sed nimium queror;
I-feared to-have-commanded. trifles but too-much I-complain-of;
caelo timendum est, regna ne summa occupet
for-heaven to-be-feared is, the-realms lest highest he-seize
qui vicit ima: sceptra praeripiet patri.
who conquered lowest: the-scepter he-will-snatch-from his-father.
nec in astra lenta veniet ut Bacchus via:
nor to stars by-slow he-will-come as Bacchus way:
iter ruina quaeret et vacuo volet
a-path by-ruin he-will-seek and in-empty will-want
regnare mundo. robore experto tumet,
to-reign world. with-strength tested he-swells,
et posse caelum viribus vinci suis
and to-be-able heaven by-strength to-be-conquered his

didicit ferendo; subdidit mundo caput
he-learned by-bearing; he-put-beneath the-sky his-head
nec flexit umeros molis immensae labor
nor bent his-shoulders of-mass immense the-toil
meliusque collo sedit Herculeo polus.
and-better on-neck sat Herculean the-pole.
immota cervix sidera et caelum tulit
unmoved his-neck the-stars and heaven bore
et me prementem: quaerit ad superos viam.
and me pressing: he-seeks to the-gods-above a-way.
Perge ira, perge et magna meditantem opprime,
Go-on anger, go-on and great-things plotting crush,
congredere, manibus ipsa dilacera tuis:
engage, with-hands yourself tear-apart your:
quid tanta mandas odia? discedant ferae,
why so-great entrust hatreds? let-depart the-beasts,
ipse imperando fessus Eurystheus vacet.
himself with-commanding tired Eurystheus be-at-leisure.
Titanas ausos rumpere imperium Iovis
the-Titans having-dared to-break the-rule of-Jove
emitte, Siculi verticis laxa specum,
send-forth, of-Sicilian peak open the-cave,
tellus gigante Doris excusso tremens
the-land with-giant Dorian shaken-off trembling
supposita monstri colla terrifici levet —
placed-under of-the-monster necks terrifying let-lift
sed vicit ista. quaeris Alcidae parem?
but he-conquered those. do-you-seek for-Alcides an-equal?
nemo est nisi ipse: bella iam secum gerat.
no-one is except himself: wars now with-himself let-him-wage.

adsint ab imo Tartari fundo excitae
let-them-be-present from lowest of-Tartarus depth roused
Eumenides, ignem flammeae spargant comae,
the-Eumenides, fire flaming let-scatter hair,
viperea saevae verbera incutiant manus.
viperish savage lashes let-strike hands.
i nunc, superbe, caelitum sedes pete,
go now, proud-one, of-the-heavenly the-seats seek,
humana temne. iam Styga et manes ferox
human-things scorn. now the-Styx and shades fierce
fugisse credis? hic tibi ostendam inferos.
to-have-escaped you-believe? here to-you I-will-show the-underworld.
revocabo in alta conditam caligine,
I-will-call-back in deep hidden darkness,
ultra nocentum exilia, discordem deam
beyond of-the-guilty exiles, the-discordant goddess
quam munit ingens montis oppositi specus;
whom guards huge of-mountain opposed cave;
educam et imo Ditis e regno extraham
I-will-lead-out and lowest of-Dis from realm will-drag
quicquid relictum est: veniet invisum Scelus
whatever left is: will-come hated Crime
suumque lambens sanguinem Impietas ferox
and-its-own licking blood Impiety fierce
Errorque et in se semper armatus Furor —
and-Error and against itself always armed Madness
hoc hoc ministro noster utatur dolor.
this this as-servant our let-use resentment.
Incipite, famulae Ditis, ardentem citae
Begin, handmaids of-Dis, burning swift

concutite pinum et agmen horrendum anguibus
shake the-pine and the-troop bristling with-snakes
Megaera ducat atque luctifica manu
Megaera let-lead and with-baleful hand
vastam rogo flagrante corripiat trabem.
huge from-the-pyre blazing let-snatch beam.
hoc agite, poenas petite vitiatae Stygis.
this do, penalties seek of-violated Styx.
concutite pectus, acrior mentem excoquat
shake the-breast, fiercer the-mind let-burn
quam qui caminis ignis Aetnaeis furit:
than which in-furnaces fire Etnaean rages:
ut possit animo captus Alcides agi,
that may-be-able in-mind seized Alcides to-be-driven,
magno furore percitus, vobis prius
by-great madness stirred, by-you first
insaniendum est. Iuno, cur nondum furis?
to-be-maddened is. Juno, why not-yet do-you-rage?
me me, sorores, mente deiectam mea
me me, sisters, from-mind thrown my
versate primam, facere si quicquam apparo
toss first, to-do if anything I-prepare
dignum noverca; vota mutentur mea:
worthy of-a-stepmother; prayers let-be-changed my:
natos reversus videat incolumes precor
his-sons returned may-he-see unharmed I-pray
manuque fortis redeat. inveni diem,
and-in-hand strong may-he-return. I-have-found a-day,
invisa quo nos Herculis virtus iuvet.
hated on-which us of-Hercules the-valor may-help.

me vicit: et se vincat et cupiat mori
me he-conquered: also himself let-him-conquer and desire to-die
ab inferis reversus. hic prosit mihi
from the-dead returned. here let-it-profit me
Iove esse genitum. stabo et, ut certo exeant
from-Jove to-be begotten. I-will-stand and, that sure may-go-out
emissa nervo tela, librabo manu,
launched from-string the-shafts, I-will-poise with-hand,
regam furentis arma, pugnanti Herculi 120
I-will-guide of-the-raging-one the-arms, to-fighting Hercules
tandem favebo — scelere perfecto licet
at-last I-will-show-favor with-crime accomplished let
admittat illas genitor in caelum manus.
admit those the-father into heaven hands.
Movenda iam sunt bella: clarescit dies
To-be-moved now are wars: grows-bright the-day
ortuque Titan lucidus croceo subit.
and-in-rising Titan bright saffron comes-up.

The chorus greets the dawn as the stars fade: the shepherd leads out his flock, birds sing, the sailor trusts his sails, the fisherman watches his line. Such is the life of quiet, while hope and fear roam the cities and men hasten to death, Alcides too eagerly; the chorus wants a hidden, safe home. Megara comes with her sons, and Alcides' father, slow with age.

CHORUS Iam rara micant sidera prono
Now few gleam stars in-the-sinking
languida mundo; nox victa vagos
faint sky; night conquered wandering
contrahit ignes luce renata,
draws-in fires with-light reborn,
cogit nitidum Phosphoros agmen;
gathers shining Phosphorus the-troop;
signum celsi glaciale poli
the-sign of-the-lofty icy pole
septem stellis Arcados ursae
with-seven stars of-the-Arcadian bear
lucem verso temone vocat.
the-light with-turned pole calls.
Iam caeruleis evectus equis
Now by-dark-blue carried-up horses
Titan summa prospicit Oeta;
Titan from-the-top looks-out Oeta;
iam Cadmeis incluta Bacchis
now by-Cadmean famous Bacchants
aspersa die dumeta rubent
sprinkled with-day the-thickets redden

Phoebique fugit reditura soror.
and-of-Phoebus flees going-to-return the-sister.
labor exoritur durus et omnis
toil arises hard and all
agitat curas aperitque domos.
stirs cares and-opens houses.
Pastor gelida cana pruina
The-shepherd with-icy white frost
grege dimisso pabula carpit;
with-flock sent-out pastures crops;
ludit prato liber aperto
plays in-meadow free open
nondum rupta fronte iuvencus,
not-yet with-broken brow the-bullock,
vacuae reparant ubera matres;
empty refill udders the-mothers;
errat cursu levis incerto
wanders in-course light uncertain
molli petulans haedus in herba.
soft frisky kid in grass.
Pendet summo stridula ramo
Hangs on-the-highest shrill bough
pinnasque novo tradere soli
and-wings to-new to-give sun
gestit querulos inter nidos
is-eager plaintive among nests
Thracia paelex,
the-Thracian concubine,
turbaque circa confusa sonat
and-a-crowd around confused sounds

murmure mixto testata diem.
with-murmur mingled witnessing the-day.
Carbasa ventis credit dubius
Sails to-the-winds trusts doubtful
navita vitae,
the-sailor of-life,
laxos aura complente sinus.
slack with-the-breeze filling folds.
hic exesis pendens scopulis
this-one from-hollowed hanging rocks
aut deceptos instruit hamos
or tricked prepares hooks
aut suspensus spectat pressa
or suspended watches gripped
praemia dextra:
prizes with-right-hand:
sentit tremulum linea piscem.
feels trembling the-line fish.
Haec, innocuae quibus est vitae
These-things, of-harmless to-whom is life
tranquilla quies
tranquil rest
et laeta suo parvoque domus;
and glad with-its-own and-small house;
spes immanis
hopes monstrous
urbibus errant trepidique metus.
in-cities wander and-anxious fears.
Ille superbos aditus regum
That-one proud entrances of-kings

durasque fores expers somni
and-hard doors without sleep
colit, hic nullo fine beatas
frequents, this-one with-no end rich
componit opes gazis inhians
piles-up wealth at-treasures gaping
et congesto pauper in auro.
and heaped poor in gold.
Illum populi favor attonitum
That-one of-the-people favor astonished
fluctuque magis mobile vulgus
and-than-a-wave more fickle the-mob
aura tumidum tollit inani;
with-breeze swollen lifts empty;
hic clamosi rabiosa fori
this-one of-the-noisy rabid forum
iurgia vendens
quarrels selling
improbus iras et verba locat.
shameless angers and words hires-out.
Novit paucos secura quies,
Knows few carefree rest,
qui velocis memores aevi
who of-swift mindful time
tempora numquam reditura tenent.
times never going-to-return hold.
dum fata sinunt, vivite laeti:
while the-fates allow, live glad:
properat cursu vita citato
hastens in-course life quickened

volucrique die
and-with-winged day
rota praecipitis vertitur anni;
the-wheel of-headlong turns year;
durae peragunt pensa sorores
hard complete tasks the-sisters
nec sua retro fila revolvunt.
nor their back threads unwind.
At gens hominum fertur rapidis
But the-race of-men is-borne swift
obvia fatis incerta sui:
toward fates uncertain of-itself:
Stygias ultro quaerimus undas.
Stygian of-our-own-accord we-seek waves.
nimium, Alcide, pectore forti
too-much, Alcides, with-heart brave
properas maestos visere manes:
you-hasten sad to-visit shades:
certo veniunt tempore Parcae.
at-fixed come time the-Fates.
nulli iusso cessare licet,
to-no-one bidden to-delay is-allowed,
nulli scriptum proferre diem:
to-no-one written to-put-off day:
recipit populos urna citatos.
receives the-peoples the-urn summoned.
Alium multis gloria terris
Another to-many glory lands
tradat et omnes fama per urbes
may-hand-on and all fame through cities

garrula laudet
chattering may-praise
caeloque parem tollat et astris;
and-to-heaven equal may-raise and stars;
alius curru sublimis eat:
another in-chariot lofty may-go:
me mea tellus
me my land
lare secreto tutoque tegat.
with-hearth secluded and-safe may-cover.
venit ad pigros cana senectus,
comes to the-sluggish white old-age,
humilique loco sed certa sedet
and-in-lowly place but sure sits
sordida parvae fortuna domus:
mean of-small fortune house:
alte virtus animosa cadit. —
from-high valor spirited falls.
Sed maesta venit crine soluto
But sad comes with-hair loosed
Megara parvum comitata gregem,
Megara small accompanying flock,
tardusque senio graditur Alcidae parens.
and-slow with-age walks of-Alcides the-parent.

Amphitryon recalls the labors of Hercules, and Megara prays for his return from the dead. Lycus, who has killed Creon and his sons, offers Megara marriage to secure his throne; she refuses with scorn. Amphitryon defends Hercules' birth from Jupiter against Lycus' mockery. Lycus orders the suppliants burned at the altar, and the ground shakes at Hercules' step.

AMPHITRYON O magne Olympi rector et mundi arbiter,
O great of-Olympus ruler and of-the-world judge,
iam statue tandem gravibus aerumnis modum
now set at-last to-heavy troubles a-limit
finemque cladi. nulla lux umquam mihi
and-an-end to-disaster. no light ever for-me
secura fulsit: finis alterius mali
carefree has-shone: the-end of-one evil
gradus est futuri. protinus reduci novus
a-step is of-the-next. at-once for-the-returned new
paratur hostis; antequam laetam domum
is-prepared a-foe; before the-glad home
contingat, aliud iussus ad bellum meat;
he-reaches, another ordered to war he-goes;
nec ulla requies tempus aut ullum vacat,
nor any rest time or any is-free,
nisi dum iubetur. sequitur a primo statim
except while he-is-ordered. follows from the-first at-once
infesta Iuno: numquid immunis fuit
hostile Juno: surely-not exempt was
infantis aetas? monstra superavit prius
of-the-infant the-age? monsters he-overcame before

quam nosse posset. gemina cristati caput
than to-know he-could. twin crested in-the-head
angues ferebant ora, quos contra obvius
snakes were-bearing mouths, which against meeting
reptabat infans igneos serpentium
crawled the-infant fiery of-the-serpents
oculos remisso lumine ac placido intuens;
eyes with-relaxed gaze and calm looking-at;
artos serenis vultibus nodos tulit,
tight with-serene face coils he-bore,
et tumida tenera guttura elidens manu
and swollen with-tender throats crushing hand
prolusit hydrae. Maenali pernix fera,
he-rehearsed for-the-hydra. of-Maenalus swift the-beast,
multo decorum praeferens auro caput,
with-much adorned displaying gold head,
deprensa cursu; maximus Nemeae timor
was-caught by-running; greatest of-Nemea terror
pressus lacertis gemuit Herculeis leo.
squeezed by-arms groaned Herculean the-lion.
quid stabula memorem dira Bistonii gregis
why the-stables should-I-mention dire of-the-Bistonian herd
suisque regem pabulum armentis datum,
and-to-his-own the-king as-fodder herds given,
solitumque densis hispidum Erymanthi iugis
and-accustomed on-dense bristly of-Erymanthus ridges
Arcadia quatere nemora Maenalium suem,
Arcadian to-shake groves the-Maenalian boar,
taurumque centum non levem populis metum?
and-the-bull to-a-hundred not light peoples fear?

inter remotos gentis Hesperiae greges
among remote of-the-race Hesperian herds
pastor triformis litoris Tartesii
the-herdsman three-formed of-the-shore Tartessian
peremptus, acta est praeda ab occasu ultimo;
was-slain, driven was the-booty from the-setting farthest;
notum Cithaeron pavit Oceano pecus.
known Cithaeron fed to-Ocean the-flock.
penetrare iussus solis aestivi plagas
to-penetrate ordered of-the-sun summer the-regions
et adusta medius regna quae torret dies
and scorched mid realms which roasts day
utrimque montes solvit ac rupto obice
on-both-sides mountains he-parted and with-broken barrier
latam ruenti fecit Oceano viam.
a-broad for-rushing made Ocean way.
post haec adortus nemoris opulenti domos
after these attacking of-the-grove rich the-homes
aurifera vigilis spolia serpentis tulit;
gold-bearing of-the-watchful spoils serpent he-carried-off;
quid? saeva Lernae monstra, numerosum malum,
what? savage of-Lerna monsters, numerous evil,
non igne demum vicit et docuit mori,
not by-fire at-last he-conquered and taught to-die,
solitasque pinnis condere obductis diem
and-accustomed with-wings to-hide drawn-over the-day
petit ab ipsis nubibus Stymphalidas?
he-attacked from the-very clouds the-Stymphalian-birds?
non vicit illum caelibis semper tori
not conquered him of-a-celibate always bed

regina gentis vidua Thermodontiae,
the-queen of-the-race unwed Thermodontian,
nec ad omne clarum facinus audaces manus
nor to every famous deed bold hands
stabuli fugavit turpis Augei labor.
of-the-stable routed foul of-Augeas the-labor.
Quid ista prosunt? orbe defenso caret.
What those profit? the-world defended he-lacks.
sensere terrae pacis auctorem suae
have-felt the-lands of-peace the-author their
abesse tristes: prosperum ac felix scelus
to-be-away sad: prosperous and lucky crime
virtus vocatur; sontibus parent boni,
virtue is-called; the-guilty obey the-good,
ius est in armis, opprimit leges timor.
right is in arms, crushes laws fear.
ante ora vidi nostra truculenta manu
before eyes I-saw our by-ferocious hand
gnatos paterni cadere regni vindices
the-sons of-paternal to-fall realm defenders
ipsumque, Cadmi nobilis stirpem ultimam,
and-himself, of-Cadmus noble the-stock last,
occidere, vidi regium capitis decus
to-fall, I-saw royal of-the-head the-glory
cum capite raptum. quis satis Thebas fleat?
with head snatched. who enough Thebes could-weep?
ferax deorum terra, quem dominum tremis?
fruitful of-gods land, what master do-you-tremble-at?
e cuius arvis eque fecundo sinu
from whose fields and-from fertile bosom

stricto iuventus orta cum ferro stetit
drawn youth risen with sword stood
cuiusque muros natus Amphion Iove
and-whose walls born Amphion from-Jove
struxit canoro saxa modulatu trahens,
built with-melodious stones measure drawing,
in cuius urbem non semel divum parens
into whose city not once of-the-gods the-father
caelo relicto venit, haec quae caelites
with-heaven left came, this-land which heaven-dwellers
recepit et quae fecit et (fas sit loqui)
has-received and which has-made and (right be-it to-speak)
fortasse faciet, sordido premitur iugo.
perhaps will-make, by-a-sordid is-pressed yoke.
Cadmea proles atque Ophionium genus,
Cadmean offspring and Ophionian race,
quo reccidistis? tremitis ignavum exulem,
to-what have-you-fallen-back? you-tremble-at a-cowardly exile,
suis carentem finibus, nostris gravem.
his-own lacking borders, to-ours oppressive.
qui scelera terra quique persequitur mari
who crimes on-land and-who pursues by-sea
ac saeva iusta sceptra confringit manu
and with-savage just scepters breaks hand
nunc servit absens fertque quae fieri vetat,
now serves absent and-bears what to-happen he-forbids,
tenetque Thebas exul Herculeas Lycus.
and-holds Thebes the-exile Herculean Lycus.
sed non tenebit. aderit et poenas petet
but not will-hold. he-will-be-here and penalties will-seek

subitusque ad astra emerget; inveniet viam
and-sudden to the-stars will-emerge; he-will-find a-way
aut faciet. adsis sospes et remees precor
or will-make. may-you-come safe and return I-pray
tandemque venias victor ad victam domum.
and-at-last may-you-come victor to conquered home.
MEGARA Emerge, coniunx, atque dispulsas manu
Emerge, husband, and scattered by-hand
abrumpe tenebras; nulla si retro via
break-through the-darkness; no if back road
iterque clusum est, orbe diducto redi
and-the-path shut is, with-the-world split return
et quicquid atra nocte possessum latet
and whatever by-black night possessed lies-hid
emitte tecum. dirutis qualis iugis
send-out with-you. with-torn-apart as ridges
praeceps citato flumini quaerens iter
headlong for-a-rapid river seeking a-path
quondam stetisti, scissa cum vasto impetu
once you-stood, split when with-vast onset
patuere Tempe; pectore impulsus tuo
lay-open Tempe; by-breast pushed your
huc mons et illuc cessit et rupto aggere
this-way the-mountain and that-way gave-way and with-broken rampart
nova cucurrit Thessalus torrens via:
by-new ran the-Thessalian torrent course:
talis, parentes liberos patriam petens,
such, parents children country seeking,
erumpe rerum terminos tecum efferens,
burst-forth of-things the-boundaries with-you carrying-out,

et quicquid avida tot per annorum gradus
and whatever greedy so-many through of-years steps
abscondit aetas redde et oblitos sui
has-hidden time give-back and forgetful of-themselves
lucisque pavidos ante te populos age.
and-of-light fearful before you the-peoples drive.
indigna te sunt spolia, si tantum refers
unworthy of-you are spoils, if as-much you-bring-back
quantum imperatum est. magna sed nimium loquor
as ordered was. great-things but too-much I-speak
ignara nostrae sortis. unde illum mihi
ignorant of-our lot. whence that for-me
quo te tuamque dexteram amplectar diem
on-which you and-your right-hand I-may-embrace day
reditusque lentos nec mei memores querar?
and-returns slow nor of-me mindful I-may-complain-of?
tibi, o deorum ductor, indomiti ferent
for-you, o of-gods leader, untamed will-bear
centena tauri colla; tibi, frugum potens,
hundredfold bulls necks; for-you, of-crops mistress,
secreta reddam sacra: tibi muta fide
secret I-will-render rites: for-you mute with-faith
longas Eleusin tacita iactabit faces.
long Eleusis silent will-wave torches.
tum restitutas fratribus rebor meis
then restored to-brothers I-will-think my
animas et ipsum regna moderantem sua
the-souls and himself the-realms governing his-own
florere patrem. si qua te maior tenet
to-flourish my-father. if some you greater holds

clausum potestas, sequimur: aut omnes tuo
shut-in power, we-follow: either all by-your
defende reditu sospes aut omnes trahe.
defend return safe or all drag.
trahes nec ullus eriget fractos deus.
you-will-drag nor any will-raise the-broken god.
AMPHITRYON O socia nostri sanguinis, casta fide
O partner of-our blood, with-chaste faith
servans torum natosque magnanimi Herculis,
keeping the-bed and-the-sons of-great-souled Hercules,
meliora mente concipe atque animum excita.
better-things in-mind conceive and spirit rouse.
aderit profecto, qualis ex omni solet
he-will-be-here surely, as from every he-is-wont
labore, maior.
labor, greater.
MEGARA Quod nimis miseri volunt
What too-much the-wretched want
hoc facile credunt.
this easily they-believe.
AMPHITRYON Immo quod metuunt nimis
Nay what they-fear too-much
numquam moveri posse nec tolli putant:
never to-be-moved to-be-able nor to-be-removed they-think:
prona est timori semper in peius fides.
inclined is for-fear always to worse belief.
MEGARA Demersus ac defossus et toto insuper
Sunk and buried and by-whole besides
oppressus orbe quam viam ad superos habet?
crushed world what way to the-upper-world has-he?

AMPHITRYON Quam tunc habebat, cum per arentem plagam
Which then he-had, when through parched region
et fluctuantes more turbati maris
and billowing in-manner of-a-troubled sea
adit harenas bisque discedens fretum
he-approached sands and-twice retreating the-strait
et bis recurrens, cumque deserta rate
and twice running-back, and-when with-deserted ship
deprensus haesit Syrtium brevibus vadis
caught he-stuck of-the-Syrtes in-short shallows
et puppe fixa maria superavit pedes.
and with-stern fixed seas crossed on-foot.
MEGARA Iniqua raro maximis virtutibus
Unjust rarely to-greatest virtues
fortuna parcit; nemo se tuto diu
fortune spares; no-one himself safely long
periculis offerre tam crebris potest:
to-dangers to-offer so frequent can:
quem saepe transit casus, aliquando invenit.
whom often passes misfortune, sometime finds.
Sed ecce saevus ac minas vultu gerens
But behold savage and threats on-face bearing
et qualis animo est, talis incessu venit
and such in-mind he-is, such in-gait comes
aliena dextra sceptra concutiens Lycus.
another's in-right-hand scepter shaking Lycus.
LYCUS Urbis regens opulenta Thebanae loca
Of-the-city ruling rich Theban places
et omne quicquid uberi cingit solo
and all whatever with-fertile surrounds soil

obliqua Phocis, quicquid Ismenos rigat,
slanting Phocis, whatever Ismenus waters,
quicquid Cithaeron vertice excelso videt,
whatever Cithaeron from-peak lofty sees,
non vetera patriae iura possideo domus
not old of-ancestral rights I-possess house
ignavus heres; nobiles non sunt mihi
a-lazy heir; noble not are to-me
avi nec altis inclitum titulis genus,
grandfathers nor for-lofty famous titles race,
sed clara virtus: qui genus iactat suum,
but bright valor: who race boasts his-own,
aliena laudat. rapta sed trepida manu
another's praises. seized but with-anxious hand
sceptra obtinentur; omnis in ferro est salus:
scepters are-held; all in iron is safety:
quod civibus tenere te invitis scias,
what with-citizens to-hold you unwilling you-may-know,
strictus tuetur ensis. alieno in loco
drawn guards the-sword. another's in place
haut stabile regnum est; una sed nostras potest
not stable a-reign is; one but our can
fundare vires iuncta regali face
to-found strength joined by-royal torch
thalamisque Megara: ducet e genere inclito
and-marriage Megara: will-draw from race famous
novitas colorem nostra. non equidem reor
newness color our. not indeed I-think
fore ut recuset ac meos spernat toros;
it-will-be that she-refuse and my scorn bed;

quod si impotenti pertinax animo abnuet,
but if with-violent stubborn spirit she-refuses,
stat tollere omnem penitus Herculeam domum.
it-is-settled to-remove all utterly Herculean house.
invidia factum ac sermo popularis premet?
odium the-deed and talk popular will-press?
ars prima regni est posse *** invidiam pati.
the-art first of-rule is to-be-able (lacuna) odium to-suffer.
temptemus igitur, fors dedit nobis locum.
let-us-try then, chance has-given us an-opening.
namque ipsa, tristi vestis obtentu caput
for she-herself, with-sad of-garment covering head
velata, iuxta praesides adstat deos
veiled, beside the-guardian stands gods
laterique adhaeret verus Alcidae sator.
and-to-her-side clings true of-Alcides begetter.
MEGARA Quidnam iste, nostri generis exitium ac lues,
What that-man, of-our race ruin and plague,
novi parat? quid temptat?
new prepares? what attempts-he?
LYCUS O clarum trahens
O famous drawing
a stirpe nomen regia, facilis mea
from stock name royal, easy my
parumper aure verba patienti excipe.
for-a-little with-ear words patient receive.
si aeterna semper odia mortales gerant
if eternal always hatreds mortals bear
nec coeptus umquam cedat ex animis furor,
nor begun ever yield from minds madness,

sed arma felix teneat infelix paret,
but arms the-fortunate hold the-unfortunate prepare,
nihil relinquent bella; tum vastis ager
nothing will-leave wars; then with-wasted the-land
squalebit arvis, subdita tectis face
will-be-squalid fields, put-under roofs with-torch
altus sepultas obruet gentes cinis.
deep buried will-overwhelm peoples ash.
pacem reduci velle victori expedit,
peace to-be-brought-back to-wish for-the-victor is-expedient,
victo necesse est. particeps regno veni;
for-the-conquered necessary is. as-partner to-the-throne come;
sociemur animis, pignus hoc fidei cape:
let-us-be-allied in-minds, pledge this of-faith take:
contínge dextram. quid truci vultu siles?
touch my-right-hand. why with-fierce face are-you-silent?
MEGARA Egone ut parentis sanguine aspersam manum
I that of-my-father with-blood spattered hand
fratrumque gemina caede contingam? prius
and-of-brothers with-twin slaughter should-touch? sooner
extinguet ortus, referet occasus diem,
will-quench the-rising, will-bring-back the-setting day,
pax ante fida nivibus et flammis erit
peace sooner faithful to-snows and flames will-be
et Scylla Siculum iunget Ausonio latus,
and Scylla Sicilian will-join to-Ausonian side,
priusque multo vicibus alternis fugax
and-sooner by-much with-turns alternate fleeting
Euripus unda stabit Euboica piger.
Euripus with-wave will-stand Euboean sluggish.

patrem abstulisti, regna, germanos, larem
my-father you-have-taken, realm, brothers, hearth
patrium — quid ultra est? una res superest mihi
ancestral what further is? one thing remains to-me
fratre ac parente carior, regno ac lare:
than-brother and parent dearer, realm and hearth:
odium tui, quod esse cum populo mihi
hatred of-you, which to-be with the-people for-me
commune doleo: pars quota ex illo mea est?
common I-grieve: part how-small of that mine is?
dominare tumidus, spiritus altos gere:
lord-it swollen, spirits lofty bear:
sequitur superbos ultor a tergo deus.
follows the-proud avenging from behind god.
Thebana novi regna: quid matres loquar
Theban I-know realms: why mothers should-I-speak-of
passas et ausas scelera? quid geminum nefas
having-suffered and dared crimes? why twin outrage
mixtumque nomen coniugis nati patris?
and-mixed name of-husband son father?
quid bina fratrum castra? quid totidem rogos?
why double of-brothers camps? why as-many pyres?
riget superba Tantalis luctu parens
is-stiff proud Tantalus'-daughter with-grief mother
maestusque Phrygio manat in Sipylo lapis.
and-sad Phrygian trickles on Sipylus stone.
quin ipse torvum subrigens crista caput
indeed himself grim raising with-crest head
Illyrica Cadmus regna permensus fuga
Illyrian Cadmus realms having-traversed in-flight

longas reliquit corporis tracti notas.
long left of-body dragged marks.
haec te manent exempla: dominare ut libet,
these you await examples: lord-it as it-pleases,
dum solita regni fata te nostri vocent
until accustomed of-the-realm fates you our call
LYCUS Agedum efferatas rabida voces amove
Come-now wild raging words put-away
et disce regum imperia ab Alcide pati.
and learn of-kings commands from Alcides to-endure.
ego rapta quamvis sceptra victrici geram
I seized although scepter with-victorious may-bear
dextra regamque cuncta sine legum metu
hand and-may-rule all without of-laws fear
quas arma vincunt, pauca pro causa loquar
which arms conquer, few-words for cause I-will-speak
nostra. cruento cecidit in bello pater?
my. bloody fell in war father?
cecidere fratres? arma non servant modum;
fell brothers? arms not keep measure;
nec temperari facile nec reprimi potest
nor to-be-tempered easily nor to-be-checked can
stricti ensis ira, bella delectat cruor.
of-drawn sword the-wrath, wars delights blood.
sed ille regno pro suo, nos improba
but he realm for his-own, we by-wicked
cupidine acti? quaeritur belli exitus,
desire driven? is-asked of-war the-outcome,
non causa. sed nunc pereat omnis memoria:
not cause. but now let-perish all memory:

cum victor arma posuit, et victum decet
when the-victor arms has-laid-down, also the-conquered befits
deponere odia. non ut inflexo genu
to-lay-down hatreds. not that with-bent knee
regnantem adores petimus: hoc ipsum placet
the-ruling-one you-adore we-ask: this itself pleases
animo ruinas quod capis magno tuas;
with-spirit ruin that you-take great your;
es rege coniunx digna: sociemus toros.
you-are of-a-king wife worthy: let-us-join beds.
MEGARA Gelidus per artus vadit exanguis tremor.
Icy through limbs goes bloodless trembling.
quod facinus aures pepulit? haut equidem horrui,
what deed ears has-struck? not indeed I-shuddered,
cum pace rupta bellicus muros fragor
when with-peace broken warlike walls crash
circumsonaret, pertuli intrepide omnia:
resounded-around, I-endured fearlessly all:
thalamos tremesco; capta nunc videor mihi.
marriage I-tremble-at; captured now I-seem to-myself.
gravent catenae corpus et longa fame
let-weigh chains body and by-long hunger
mors protrahatur lenta: non vincet fidem
death be-drawn-out slow: not will-conquer faith
vis ulla nostram; moriar, Alcide, tua.
force any our; I-will-die, Alcides, yours.
LYCUS Animosne mersus inferis coniunx facit?
Courage sunk in-the-underworld husband gives?
MEGARA Inferna tetigit, posset ut supera assequi.
The-underworld he-touched, he-might that the-heights to-reach.

LYCUS Telluris illum pondus immensae premit.
Of-earth him weight immense presses.
MEGARA Nullo premetur onere, qui caelum tulit.
By-no will-be-pressed burden, who heaven bore.
LYCUS Cogere.
You-will-be-forced.
MEGARA Cogi qui potest nescit mori.
To-be-forced who can knows-not to-die.
LYCUS Effare potius, quod novis thalamis parem
Speak-out rather, what for-new marriage I-should-prepare
Regale munus.
Royal gift.
MEGARA Aut tuam mortem aut meam.
Either your death or mine.
LYCUS Moriere demens.
You-will-die mad-woman.
MEGARA Coniugi occurram meo.
Husband I-shall-meet my.
LYCUS Sceptrone nostro famulus est potior tibi?
Than-scepter our a-servant is preferable to-you?
MEGARA Quot iste famulus tradidit reges neci.
How-many that servant has-handed kings to-death.
LYCUS Cur ergo regi servit et patitur iugum?
Why then a-king does-he-serve and endure yoke?
MEGARA Imperia dura tolle: quid virtus erit?
Commands hard remove: what valor will-be?
LYCUS Obici feris monstrisque virtutem putas?
To-be-thrown to-beasts and-monsters valor you-think?
MEGARA Virtutis est domare quae cuncti pavent.
Of-valor it-is to-tame what all dread.

LYCUS Tenebrae loquentem magna Tartareae premunt.
Darkness speaking great-things Tartarean presses.
MEGARA Non est ad astra mollis e terris via.
Not is to stars soft from earth way.
LYCUS Quo patre genitus caelitum sperat domos?
From-what father begotten of-the-heavenly-ones hopes homes?
AMPHITRYON Miseranda coniunx Herculis magni, sile:
Pitiable wife of-Hercules great, be-silent:
partes meae sunt reddere Alcidae patrem
role my is to-restore to-Alcides father
genusque verum. post tot ingentis viri
and-race true. after so-many of-the-mighty man
memoranda facta postque pacatum manu
memorable deeds and-after pacified by-hand
quodcumque Titan ortus et labens videt,
whatever Titan rising and sinking sees,
post monstra tot perdomita, post Phlegram impio
after monsters so-many subdued, after Phlegra with-impious
sparsam cruore postque defensos deos
sprinkled blood and-after defended gods
nondum liquet de patre? mentimur Iovem:
not-yet is-it-clear about father? we-lie-about Jove:
Iunonis odio crede.
of-Juno the-hatred believe.
LYCUS Quid violas Iovem?
Why do-you-wrong Jove?
mortale caelo non potest iungi genus.
mortal to-heaven not can to-be-joined race.
AMPHITRYON Communis ista pluribus causa est deis.
Common that to-many case is gods.

LYCUS Famuline fuerant ante quam fierent dei?
Servants had-they-been before than they-became gods?
AMPHITRYON Pastor Pheraeos Delius pavit greges.
Herdsman Pheraean the-Delian fed flocks.
LYCUS Sed non per omnes exul erravit plagas.
But not through all exile wandered regions.
AMPHITRYON Quem profuga terra mater errante edidit?
Whom fugitive on-land mother wandering bore?
LYCUS Num monstra saeva Phoebus aut timuit feras?
Surely-not monsters savage Phoebus or feared beasts?
AMPHITRYON Primus sagittas imbuit Phoebi draco.
First the-arrows stained of-Phoebus a-dragon.
LYCUS Quam gravia parvus tulerit ignoras mala?
How heavy small he-bore don't-you-know evils?
AMPHITRYON E matris utero fulmine eiectus puer
From of-his-mother womb by-lightning cast-out the-boy
mox fulminanti proximus patri stetit.
soon to-thundering nearest father stood.
quid? qui gubernat astra, qui nubes quatit,
what? he-who steers stars, who clouds shakes,
non latuit infans rupis Idaeae specu?
not lay-hidden infant of-crag Idaean in-a-cave?
sollicita tanti pretia natales habent
anxious so-great prices births have
semperque magno constitit nasci deum.
and-always at-great has-cost to-be-born god.
LYCUS Quemcumque miserum videris, hominem scias.
Whomever wretched you-see, a-man know.
AMPHITRYON Quemcumque fortem videris, miserum neges.
Whomever brave you-see, wretched deny.

LYCUS Fortem vocemus cuius ex umeris leo,
Brave should-we-call whose from shoulders the-lion,
donum puellae factus, et clava excidit
gift to-a-girl made, and club fell
fulsitque pictum veste Sidonia latus?
and-shone painted with-garment Sidonian side?
fortem vocemus cuius horrentes comae
brave should-we-call whose bristling locks
maduere nardo, laude qui notas manus
dripped with-nard, by-praise who known hands
ad non virilem tympani movit sonum,
to not manly of-the-drum moved sound,
mitra ferocem barbara frontem premens?
with-turban fierce barbarian brow pressing?
AMPHITRYON Non erubescit Bacchus effusos tener
Not blushes Bacchus loosed tender
sparsisse crines nec manu molli levem
to-have-scattered locks nor with-hand soft light
vibrare thyrsum, cum parum forti gradu
to-brandish thyrsus, when too-little with-strong step
auro decorum syrma barbaricum trahit:
with-gold adorned robe barbaric drags:
post multa virtus opera laxari solet.
after many valor labors to-be-relaxed is-wont.
LYCUS Hoc Euryti fatetur eversi domus
This of-Eurytus confesses overthrown the-house
pecorumque ritu virginum oppressi greges;
and-of-cattle in-manner of-maidens violated flocks;
hoc nulla Iuno, nullus Eurystheus iubet:
this no Juno, no Eurystheus orders:

ipsius haec sunt opera.
his-own these are works.

AMPHITRYON Non nosti omnia:
Not you-know all:

ipsius opus est caestibus fractus suis
his-own work is with-gloves broken his-own

Eryx et Eryci iunctus Antaeus Libys,
Eryx and to-Eryx joined Antaeus Libyan,

et qui hospitali caede manantes foci
and which with-hospitable slaughter dripping hearths

bibere iustum sanguinem Busiridis;
drank just blood of-Busiris;

ipsius opus est vulneri et ferro invius
his-own work is to-wound and steel impervious

mortem coactus integer Cycnus pati
death forced unharmed Cycnus to-suffer

nec unus una Geryon victus manu.
and-not one by-one Geryon conquered hand.

eris inter istos — qui tamen nullo stupro
you-will-be among those who yet with-no lust

laesere thalamos.
harmed marriages.

LYCUS Quod Iovi hoc regi licet:
What for-Jove this for-a-king is-allowed:

Iovi dedisti coniugem, regi dabis;
to-Jove you-gave a-wife, to-a-king you-will-give;

et te magistro non novum hoc discet nurus,
and with-you as-teacher not new this will-learn your-daughter-in-law,

etiam viro probante meliorem sequi.
even with-husband approving the-better to-follow.

sin copulari pertinax taedis negat,
but-if to-be-joined stubborn by-torches she-refuses,
vel ex coacta nobilem partum feram.
even from forced noble offspring I-shall-get.
MEGARA Umbrae Creontis et penates Labdaci
Shades of-Creon and household-gods of-Labdacus
et nuptiales impii Oedipodae faces,
and nuptial of-impious Oedipus torches,
nunc solita nostro fata coniugio date.
now accustomed to-our fates marriage give.
nunc, nunc, cruentae regis Aegypti nurus,
now, now, bloody of-king Aegyptus daughters-in-law,
adeste multo sanguine infectae manus.
be-present with-much blood stained in-hands.
dest una numero Danais: explebo nefas.
is-lacking one to-the-number for-the-Danaids: I-will-complete the-crime.
LYCUS Coniugia quoniam pervicax nostra abnuis
Marriage since stubborn our you-refuse
regemque terres, sceptra quid possint scies.
and-the-king frighten, scepters what can you-will-know.
complectere aras: nullus eripiet deus
embrace the-altars: no will-snatch god
te mihi, nec orbe si remolito queat
you from-me, not-even with-world if heaved-back could
ad supera victor numina Alcides vehi.
to above victor powers Alcides be-carried.
congerite silvas: templa supplicibus suis
pile-up woods: temple upon-suppliants its-own
iniecta flagrent, coniugem et totum gregem
thrown let-blaze, wife and whole flock

consumat unus igne subiecto rogus.
let-consume one with-fire put-under pyre.
AMPHITRYON Hoc munus a te genitor Alcidae peto,
This favor from you father of-Alcides I-ask,
rogare quod me deceat, ut primus cadam.
to-ask which me may-befit, that first I-may-fall.
LYCUS Qui morte cunctos luere supplicium iubet
Who by-death all to-pay penalty orders
nescit tyrannus esse: diversa inroga;
knows-not tyrant to-be: different impose;
miserum veta perire, felicem iube.
the-wretched forbid to-perish, the-happy order.
ego, dum cremandis trabibus accrescit rogus,
I, while with-to-be-burned beams grows the-pyre,
sacro regentem maria votivo colam.
with-rite the-ruler seas votive will-worship.
AMPHITRYON Pro numinum vis summa, pro caelestium
O of-divinities power highest, O of-heavenly-ones
rector parensque, cuius excussis tremunt
ruler and-father, whose at-shaken tremble
humana telis, impiam regis feri
human-things weapons, impious of-the-king savage
compesce dextram! quid deos frustra precor?
restrain right-hand! why gods in-vain do-I-pray?
ubicumque es, audi, nate. cur subito labant
wherever you-are, hear, son. why suddenly totter
agitata motu templa? cur mugit solum?
shaken by-movement temples? why bellows ground?
audimur! est est sonitus Herculei gradus.
we-are-heard! it-is it-is the-sound of-Herculean step.

The chorus complains that Fortune gives Eurystheus ease and burdens Alcmena's son with monsters. He has crossed the frozen sea of Scythia, where the queen of a husbandless people knelt and gave him her belt, and now gone down to the dead, whose lord he once wounded at Pylos. Orpheus moved its lords with song, though he lost Eurydice; what song conquered may be conquered by strength.

CHORUS O Fortuna viris invida fortibus,
O Fortune to-men envious brave,
quam non aequa bonis praemia dividis.
how not equal to-the-good rewards you-divide.
Eurystheus facili regnet in otio:
Eurystheus easy may-reign in leisure:
Alcmena genitus bella per omnia
from-Alcmena born wars through all
monstris exagitet caeliferam manum:
with-monsters let-him-harry heaven-bearing hand:
serpentis resecet colla feracia,
of-the-serpent let-him-cut-off necks fertile,
deceptis referat mala sororibus,
from-deceived let-him-bring-back apples sisters,
cum somno dederit pervigiles genas
when to-sleep has-given sleepless cheeks
pomis divitibus praepositus draco.
over-apples rich set the-dragon.
Intravit Scythiae multivagas domos
He-entered of-Scythia wandering homes
et gentes patriis sedibus hospites,
and peoples in-ancestral seats strangers,

calcavitque freti terga rigentia
and-trod of-the-sea backs stiffening
et mutis tacitum litoribus mare.
and with-mute silent shores sea.
illic dura carent aequora fluctibus,
there hard lack seas waves,
et qua plena rates carbasa tenderent,
and where full ships sails would-stretch,
intonsis teritur semita Sarmatis.
by-unshorn is-worn a-path Sarmatians.
stat pontus, vicibus mobilis annuis,
stands the-sea, with-turns changeable yearly,
navem nunc facilis nunc equitem pati.
a-ship now ready now a-horseman to-bear.
illic quae viduis gentibus imperat,
there she-who over-husbandless peoples rules,
aurato religans ilia balteo,
with-gilded binding loins belt,
detraxit spolium nobile corpori
drew-off the-spoil noble from-body
et peltam et nivei vincula pectoris,
both the-shield and of-snowy bands breast,
victorem posito suspiciens genu.
the-victor with-placed looking-up-at knee.
Qua spe praecipites actus ad inferos,
With-what hope headlong driven to the-dead,
audax ire vias inremeabiles,
bold to-go ways not-to-be-retraced,
vidisti Siculae regna Proserpinae?
did-you-see of-Sicilian the-realms Proserpina?

illic nulla noto nulla favonio
there no with-south-wind no with-west-wind
consurgunt tumidis fluctibus aequora;
rise with-swollen waves seas;
non illic geminum Tyndaridae genus
not there twin Tyndarean race
succurrunt timidis sidera navibus:
help to-timid stars ships:
stat pigro pelagus gurgite languidum,
stands with-sluggish the-sea flood languid,
et cum Mors avidis pallida dentibus
and when Death with-greedy pale teeth
gentes innumeras manibus intulit,
nations countless to-the-shades has-brought-in,
uno tot populi remige transeunt.
by-one so-many peoples oarsman cross.
Evincas utinam iura ferae Stygis
May-you-overcome would-that the-laws of-savage Styx
Parcarumque colos non revocabiles.
and-of-the-Fates distaffs not revocable.
hic qui rex populis pluribus imperat,
here he-who king to-peoples more rules,
bello cum peteres Nestoream Pylon,
with-war when you-attacked Nestor's Pylos,
tecum conseruit pestiferas manus
with-you joined pestilent hands
telum tergemina cuspide praeferens:
a-weapon with-triple point holding-out:
effugit tenui vulnere saucius
he-fled with-slight wound hurt

et mortis dominus pertimuit mori.
and of-death the-lord greatly-feared to-die.
fatum rumpe manu, tristibus inferis
fate break with-hand, to-sad the-dead
prospectus pateat lucis et invius
a-view may-lie-open of-light and the-pathless
limes det faciles ad superos vias.
boundary give easy to the-upper-world ways.
Immites potuit flectere cantibus
Pitiless could to-bend with-songs
umbrarum dominos et prece supplici
of-shades lords and with-prayer suppliant
Orpheus, Eurydicen dum repetit suam.
Orpheus, Eurydice while he-seeks-back his.
quae silvas et aves saxaque traxerat
which woods and birds and-stones had-drawn
ars, quae praebuerat fluminibus moras,
art, which had-offered to-rivers delays,
ad cuius sonitum constiterant ferae,
at whose sound had-stood-still beasts,
mulcet non solitis vocibus inferos
soothes with-not usual voices the-dead
et surdis resonat clarius in locis.
and deaf resounds more-clearly in places.
deflent Eurydicen Threiciae nurus,
bewail Eurydice Thracian young-wives,
deflent et lacrimis difficiles dei,
bewail also to-tears difficult gods,
et qui fronte nimis crimina tetrica
and who with-brow too crimes stern

quaerunt ac veteres excutiunt reos
investigate and old examine defendants
flentes Eurydicen iuridici sedent.
weeping Eurydice the-judges sit.
tandem mortis ait 'vincimur' arbiter,
at-last of-death says 'we-are-conquered' the-judge,
'evade ad superos, lege tamen data:
'go-out to the-upper-world, with-condition yet given:
tu post terga tui perge viri comes,
you behind back of-your go husband as-companion,
tu non ante tuam respice coniugem,
you not before your look-back-at wife,
quam cum clara deos obtulerit dies
than when bright the-gods shall-have-shown day
Spartanique aderit ianua Taenari.'
and-Spartan shall-be-present the-door of-Taenarus.'
odit verus amor nec patitur moras:
hates true love nor endures delays:
munus dum properat cernere, perdidit.
the-gift while he-hastens to-see, he-lost.
Quae vinci potuit regia carmine,
Which to-be-conquered could the-palace by-song,
haec vinci poterit regia viribus.
this to-be-conquered will-be-able palace by-strength.

Hercules returns from the underworld with Theseus and its hound, learns that Lycus has killed Creon, seized the throne, and means to kill his family, and hurries off to kill him. At Amphitryon's request Theseus describes the underworld: the descent at Taenarus, Lethe and Cocytus, the palace and judges of Dis, the punished, Charon, and how Hercules tamed the three-headed hound and dragged it up to the daylight.

HERCULES O lucis almae rector et caeli decus,
O of-light kindly ruler and of-heaven glory,
qui alterna curru spatia flammifero ambiens
who alternate with-chariot spaces flame-bearing circling
inlustre latis exeris terris caput,
bright to-broad you-lift-out lands head,
da, Phoebe, veniam, si quid inlicitum tui
grant, Phoebus, pardon, if anything forbidden your
videre vultus: iussus in lucem extuli
have-seen eyes: ordered into the-light I-have-brought-out
arcana mundi. tuque, caelestum arbiter
the-secrets of-the-world. and-you, of-the-heavenly-ones judge
parensque, visus fulmine opposito tege;
and-father, your-eyes with-thunderbolt placed-before cover;
et tu, secundo maria qui sceptro regis,
and you, by-second the-seas who scepter rule,
imas pete undas. quisquis ex alto aspicit
lowest seek waves. whoever from on-high looks-on
terrena, facie pollui metuens nova,
earthly-things, by-sight to-be-polluted fearing new,
aciem reflectat oraque in caelum erigat
his-gaze let-him-turn-back and-face to heaven raise

portenta fugiens: hoc nefas cernant duo,
portents fleeing: this horror let-see two,
qui advexit et quae iussit. in poenas meas
who brought and who ordered. for punishments my
atque in labores non satis terrae patent
and for labors not enough lands lie-open
Iunonis odio: vidi inaccessa omnibus,
of-Juno by-the-hatred: I-saw unapproachable to-all,
ignota Phoebo quaeque deterior polus
unknown to-Phoebus and-what worse pole
obscura diro spatia concessit Iovi;
dark to-dire spaces has-granted Jove;
et, si placerent tertiae sortis loca,
and, if pleased of-the-third lot places,
regnare potui: noctis aeternae chaos
to-reign I-could: of-night eternal chaos
et nocte quiddam gravius et tristes deos
and than-night something heavier and grim gods
et fata vidi, morte contempta redi.
and fates I-saw, with-death despised I-returned.
quid restat aliud? vidi et ostendi inferos.
what remains else? I-saw and showed the-underworld.
da si quid ultra est, iam diu pateris manus
give if anything further is, now long you-allow hands
cessare nostras, Iuno; quae vinci iubes?
to-idle our, Juno; what to-be-conquered do-you-order?
Sed templa quare miles infestus tenet
But the-temples why soldier hostile holds
limenque sacrum terror armorum obsidet?
and-threshold sacred terror of-arms besieges?

AMPHITRYON Utrumne visus vota decipiunt meos,
Whether sight wishes deceive my,
an ille domitor orbis et Graium decus
or that tamer of-the-world and of-the-Greeks glory
tristi silentem nubilo liquit domum?
with-grim silent cloud has-left the-house?
estne ille natus? membra laetitia stupent.
is-it that my-son? limbs with-joy are-numb.
o nate, certa at sera Thebarum salus,
o son, sure but late of-Thebes salvation,
teneone in auras editum an vana fruor
do-I-hold to airs brought-forth or empty enjoy
deceptus umbra? tune es? agnosco toros
deceived shadow? you are-you? I-recognize muscles
umerosque et alto nobilem trunco manum.
and-shoulders and for-lofty famous trunk hand.
HERCULES Unde iste, genitor, squalor et lugubribus
Whence that, father, squalor and in-mourning
amicta coniunx? unde tam foedo obsiti
clad wife? whence so with-foul covered
paedore nati? quae domum clades gravat?
filth sons? what house disaster weighs-down?
AMPHITRYON Socer est peremptus, regna possedit Lycus,
Father-in-law is slain, the-realm has-seized Lycus,
natos parentem coniugem leto petit.
sons father wife for-death seeks.
HERCULES Ingrata tellus, nemo ad Herculeae domus
Ungrateful land, no-one to of-the-Herculean house
auxilia venit? vidit hoc tantum nefas
aid came? saw this so-great crime

defensus orbis? cur diem questu tero?
defended world? why the-day in-complaint I-waste?
mactetur hostia, hanc ferat virtus notam
let-be-slain victim, this let-bear valor mark
fiatque summus hostis Alcidae Lycus.
and-let-become last enemy of-Alcides Lycus.
ad hauriendum sanguinem inimicum feror:
to draining blood hostile I-am-borne:
Theseu, resiste, ne qua vis subita ingruat.
Theseus, stay, lest any force sudden rush-in.
me bella poscunt, differ amplexus, parens,
me wars demand, put-off embraces, father,
coniunxque differ. nuntiet Diti Lycus
and-wife put-off. let-announce to-Dis Lycus
me iam redisse.
me now to-have-returned.
THESEUS Flebilem ex oculis fuga,
Tearful from eyes banish,
regina, vultum, tuque nato sospite
queen, face, and-you with-son safe
lacrimas cadentes reprime: si novi Herculem,
tears falling check: if I-know Hercules,
Lycus Creonti debitas poenas dabit.
Lycus to-Creon owed penalties will-pay.
lentum est dabit: dat; hoc quoque est lentum: dedit.
slow is will-pay: pays; this also is slow: has-paid.
AMPHITRYON Votum secundet qui potest nostrum deus
Prayer let-further who can our god
rebusque lassis adsit. O magni comes
and-to-affairs weary be-present. O of-great companion

magnanime nati, pande virtutum ordinem,
great-souled son, unfold of-feats the-series,
quam longa maestos ducat ad manes via,
how long sad leads to shades the-way,
ut vincla tulerit dura Tartareus canis.
how chains bore hard the-Tartarean hound.
THESEUS Memorare cogis acta securae quoque
To-recall you-compel deeds to-secure even
horrenda menti. vix adhuc certa est fides
dreadful mind. scarcely yet sure is the-belief
vitalis aurae, torpet acies luminum
of-life-giving air, is-dull the-edge of-eyes
hebetesque visus vix diem insuetum ferunt.
and-dull sight scarcely day unaccustomed bear.
AMPHITRYON Pervince, Theseu, quicquid alto in pectore
Conquer, Theseus, whatever deep in breast
remanet pavoris neve te fructu optimo
remains of-fear and-not yourself of-fruit best
frauda laborum: quae fuit durum pati,
cheat of-labors: what was hard to-suffer,
meminisse dulce est. fare casus horridos.
to-remember sweet is. tell mishaps dreadful.
THESEUS Fas omne mundi teque dominantem precor
Right all of-the-world and-you ruling I-pray
regno capaci teque quam amotam inrita
in-realm capacious and-you whom carried-off in-vain
quaesivit Enna mater, ut iura abdita
sought at-Enna mother, that laws hidden
et operta terris liceat impune eloqui.
and covered by-earth be-allowed with-impunity to-speak.

Spartana tellus nobile attollit iugum,
Spartan land noble raises a-ridge,
densis ubi aequor Taenarus silvis premit;
with-dense where sea Taenarus woods presses;
hic ora solvit Ditis invisi domus
here mouth opens of-Dis hated the-house
hiatque rupes alta et immenso specu
and-gapes cliff high and with-immense cave
ingens vorago faucibus vastis patet
huge abyss with-jaws vast lies-open
latumque pandit omnibus populis iter.
and-wide spreads for-all peoples road.
non caeca tenebris incipit primo via;
not blind with-darkness begins at-first the-way;
tenuis relictae lucis a tergo nitor
thin of-left light from behind gleam
fulgorque dubius solis afflicti cadit
and-glow doubtful of-sun stricken falls
et ludit aciem: nocte sic mixta solet
and mocks sight: with-night so mixed is-wont
praebere lumen primus aut serus dies.
to-offer light early or late day.
hinc ampla vacuis spatia laxantur locis,
from-here ample with-empty spaces open-out places,
in quae omne mersum penetrat humanum genus.
into which all sunk penetrates human race.
nec ire labor est; ipsa deducit via:
nor to-go toil is; itself leads-down the-way:
ut saepe puppes aestus invitas rapit,
as often ships the-tide unwilling sweeps,

sic pronus aer urguet atque avidum chaos,
so downward air presses and greedy chaos,
gradumque retro flectere haut umquam sinunt
and-step back to-bend not ever allow
umbrae tenaces. intus immensi sinus
shades clinging. within of-immense bay
placido quieta labitur Lethe vado
with-placid quiet glides Lethe shallow
demitque curas, neve remeandi amplius
and-removes cares, and-lest of-returning further
pateat facultas, flexibus multis gravem
lie-open the-chance, with-windings many heavy
involvit amnem: qualis incertis vagus
it-wraps river: as with-uncertain wandering
Maeander undis ludit et cedit sibi
Maeander waves plays and yields to-itself
instatque dubius litus an fontem petat.
and-presses doubtful shore or source it-should-seek.
palus inertis foeda Cocyti iacet;
the-swamp of-sluggish foul Cocytus lies;
hic vultur, illic luctifer bubo gemit
here vulture, there mournful owl moans
omenque triste resonat infaustae strigis.
and-omen grim resounds of-ill-starred screech-owl.
horrent opaca fronde nigrantes comae,
bristle with-dark leafage black tresses,
taxo imminente quam tenet segnis Sopor,
with-yew overhanging which holds sluggish Sleep,
Famesque maesta tabido rictu iacet
and-Hunger sad with-wasting jaws lies

Pudorque serus conscios vultus tegit.
and-Shame late guilty face covers.
Metus Pavorque † Funus et frendens Dolor
Fear and-Dread (corrupt) Death and gnashing Pain
aterque Luctus sequitur et Morbus tremens
and-black Grief follows and Disease trembling
et cincta ferro Bella; in extremo abdita
and girded with-iron Wars; in farthest hidden
iners Senectus adiuvat baculo gradum.
feeble Old-Age helps with-staff step.
AMPHITRYON Estne aliqua tellus Cereris aut Bacchi ferax?
Is-there any land of-Ceres or of-Bacchus fruitful?
THESEUS Non prata viridi laeta facie germinant
Not meadows with-green glad face sprout
nec adulta leni fluctuat Zephyro seges;
nor grown with-gentle waves Zephyr crop;
non ulla ramos silva pomiferos habet:
not any branches wood fruit-bearing has:
sterilis profundi vastitas squalet soli
barren of-deep waste lies-squalid soil
et foeda tellus torpet aeterno situ.
and foul land is-numb in-eternal neglect.
immotus aer haeret et pigro sedet
motionless air clings and on-sluggish sits
nox atra mundo: cuncta maerore horrida
night black world: all with-grief bristling
ipsaque morte peior est mortis locus.
and-itself than-death worse is of-death the-place.

AMPHITRYON Quid ille opaca qui regit sceptro loca,
What he dark who rules with-scepter places,
qua sede positus temperat populos leves?
in-what seat placed governs peoples light?
THESEUS Est in recessu Tartari obscuro locus,
There-is in recess of-Tartarus dark a-place,
quem gravibus umbris spissa caligo alligat.
which with-heavy shadows thick gloom binds.
a fonte discors manat hinc uno latex,
from source discordant flows here one water,
alter quieto similis (hunc iurant dei)
one to-quiet like (by-this swear the-gods)
tacente sacram devehens fluvio Styga;
with-silent sacred carrying-down stream Styx;
at hic tumultu rapitur ingenti ferox
but this with-tumult is-swept huge fierce
et saxa fluctu volvit Acheron invius
and rocks with-flood rolls Acheron impassable
renavigari. cingitur duplici vado
to-be-sailed-back. is-girt with-double ford
adversa Ditis regia, atque ingens domus
facing of-Dis the-palace, and huge house
umbrante luco tegitur. hic vasto specu
with-shading grove is-covered. here in-vast cave
pendent tyranni limina, hoc umbris iter,
hang of-the-tyrant thresholds, this for-shades path,
haec porta regni. campus hanc circa iacet,
this the-gate of-the-realm. a-plain it around lies,
in quo superbo digerit vultu sedens
in which with-proud sorts face sitting

animas recentes dira maiestas dei.
souls new dire majesty of-the-god.
frons torva, fratrum quae tamen speciem gerat
brow grim, of-brothers which yet look may-bear
gentisque tantae, vultus est illi Iovis,
and-of-race so-great, face is to-him of-Jove,
sed fulminantis: magna pars regni trucis
but of-thundering: great part of-realm grim
est ipse dominus, cuius aspectus timet
is himself the-lord, whose look fears
quicquid timetur.
whatever is-feared.
AMPHITRYON Verane est fama inferis
True is the-report in-the-underworld
tam sera reddi iura et oblitos sui
so late to-be-rendered justice and forgetful of-their
sceleris nocentes debitas poenas dare?
crime the-guilty owed penalties to-pay?
quis iste veri rector atque aequi arbiter?
who that of-truth ruler and of-justice judge?
THESEUS Non unus alta sede quaesitor sedens
Not one on-high seat inquisitor sitting
iudicia trepidis sera sortitur reis.
judgments to-trembling late allots defendants.
aditur illo Gnosius Minos foro,
is-approached in-that Cnossian Minos court,
Rhadamanthus illo, Thetidis hoc audit socer.
Rhadamanthus in-that, of-Thetis in-this hears father-in-law.
quod quisque fecit, patitur; auctorem scelus
what each did, he-suffers; the-author crime

repetit suoque premitur exemplo nocens:
seeks-back and-by-his-own is-pressed example the-guilty:
vidi cruentos carcere includi duces
I-saw bloody in-prison to-be-shut leaders
et impotentis terga plebeia manu
and of-violent backs by-plebeian hand
scindi tyranni. quisquis est placide potens
to-be-torn tyrant. whoever is gently powerful
dominusque vitae servat innocuas manus
and-lord of-life keeps harmless hands
et incruentum mitis imperium regit
and bloodless gentle empire rules
animoque parcit, longa permensus diu
and-spirit spares, long having-traversed long
felicis aevi spatia vel caelum petit
of-happy age spaces either heaven seeks
vel laeta felix nemoris Elysii loca,
or glad happy of-grove Elysian places,
iudex futurus. sanguine humano abstine
judge going-to-be. from-blood human abstain
quicumque regnas: scelera taxantur modo
whoever you-reign: crimes are-assessed by-measure
maiore vestra.
greater your.
AMPHITRYON Certus inclusos tenet
Fixed shut-in holds
locus nocentes? utque fert fama, impios
a-place the-guilty? and-as reports rumor, the-impious
supplicia vinclis saeva perpetuis domant?
punishments with-chains savage everlasting tame?

THESEUS Rapitur volucri tortus Ixion rota;
Is-whirled on-swift twisted Ixion wheel;
cervice saxum grande Sisyphia sedet;
on-neck a-rock large Sisyphean sits;
in amne medio faucibus siccis senex
in river middle with-throat dry an-old-man
sectatur undas, alluit mentum latex.
chases waves, washes chin water.
fidemque cum iam saepe decepto dedit,
and-faith when now often to-the-deceived it-has-given,
perit unda in ore; poma destituunt famem.
perishes wave in mouth; fruits fail hunger.
praebet volucri Tityos aeternas dapes
offers to-bird Tityos eternal feasts
urnasque frustra Danaides plenas gerunt;
and-urns in-vain Danaids full carry;
errant furentes impiae Cadmeides
wander raging impious Cadmeans
terretque mensas avida Phineas avis.
and-frightens tables greedy Phinean bird.
AMPHITRYON Nunc ede nati nobilem pugnam mei.
Now tell of-son noble fight my.
patrui volentis munus an spolium refert?
of-uncle willing gift or spoil does-he-bring?
THESEUS Ferale tardis imminet saxum vadis,
Deathly over-sluggish looms rock shallows,
stupent ubi undae, segne torpescit fretum.
are-stunned where waves, slow grows-numb strait.
hunc servat amnem cultu et aspectu horridus
this guards river in-dress and look rough

pavidosque manes squalidus vectat senex.
and-fearful shades squalid ferries old-man.
impexa pendet barba, deformem sinum
uncombed hangs beard, misshapen fold
nodus coercet, concavae lucent genae;
a-knot confines, hollow gleam cheeks;
regit ipse longo portitor conto ratem.
steers himself with-long ferryman pole raft.
hic onere vacuam litori puppem applicans
he of-load empty to-shore boat bringing
repetebat umbras; poscit Alcides viam
was-seeking-again shades; demands Alcides passage
cedente turba; dirus exclamat Charon:
with-yielding crowd; dread cries Charon:
'quo pergis, audax? siste properantem gradum.'
'where go-you, bold-one? check hurrying step.'
non passus ullas natus Alcmena moras
not having-suffered any son from-Alcmena delays
ipso coactum navitam conto domat
with-very forced boatman pole tames
scanditque puppem. cumba populorum capax
and-climbs boat. skiff of-peoples holding
succubuit uni: sedit et gravior ratis
sank-under one: sat and heavier the-craft
utrimque Lethen latere titubanti bibit.
on-both-sides Lethe with-side tottering drank.
tum victa trepidant monstra, Centauri truces
then conquered tremble monsters, Centaurs fierce
Lapithaeque multo in bella succensi mero;
and-Lapiths by-much to wars kindled wine;

Stygiae paludis ultimos quaerens sinus
of-Stygian swamp farthest seeking recesses
fecunda mergit capita Lernaeus labor.
fertile plunges heads Lernaean labor.
post haec avari Ditis apparet domus:
after these of-greedy Dis appears the-house:
hic saevus umbras territat Stygius canis,
here savage shades frightens Stygian hound,
qui terna vasto capita concutiens sono
which triple with-vast heads shaking sound
regnum tuetur. sordidum tabo caput
realm guards. foul with-gore head
lambunt colubrae, viperis horrent iubae
lick serpents, with-vipers bristle manes
longusque torta sibilat cauda draco.
and-long with-twisted hisses tail snake.
par ira formae: sensit ut motus pedum,
equal anger to-form: perceived when motions of-feet,
attollit hirtas angue vibrato comas
raises shaggy with-snake quivered locks
missumque captat aure subrecta sonum,
and-sent catches with-ear pricked sound,
sentire et umbras solitus. ut propior stetit
to-perceive even shades accustomed. when nearer stood
Iove natus, antro sedit incertus canis
from-Jove born, in-cave sat uncertain the-hound
leviterque timuit. ecce latratu gravi
and-lightly feared. behold with-barking heavy
loca muta terret; sibilat totos minax
places mute terrifies; hisses whole threatening

serpens per armos. vocis horrendae fragor
snake through shoulders. of-voice dreadful the-crash
per ora missus terna felices quoque
through mouths sent triple happy even
exterret umbras. solvit a laeva feros
terrifies shades. he-loosens from left fierce
tunc ipse rictus et Cleonaeum caput
then himself jaws and Cleonaean head
opponit ac se tegmine ingenti tegit,
places-before and himself with-covering huge covers,
victrice magnum dextera robur gerens.
in-victorious great right-hand oak bearing.
huc nunc et illuc verbere assiduo rotat,
hither now and thither with-blow constant whirls,
ingeminat ictus. domitus infregit minas
redoubles strokes. tamed broke threats
et cuncta lassus capita summisit canis
and all weary heads lowered the-hound
antroque toto cessit. extimuit sedens
and-from-cave whole withdrew. feared sitting
uterque solio dominus et duci iubet;
each on-throne lord and to-be-led orders;
me quoque petenti munus Alcidae dedit.
me also to-asking as-a-gift to-Alcides gave.
Tum gravia monstri colla permulcens manu
Then heavy of-monster necks stroking with-hand
adamante texto vincit; oblitus sui
with-adamant woven binds; forgetful of-itself
custos opaci pervigil regni canis
guard of-dark sleepless realm hound

componit aures timidus et patiens trahi
settles ears timid and allowing to-be-dragged
erumque fassus, ore summisso obsequens,
and-master acknowledging, with-mouth lowered obeying,
utrumque cauda pulsat anguifera latus.
each with-tail strikes snake-bearing flank.
postquam est ad oras Taenari ventum et nitor
after it-was to shores of-Taenarus come and gleam
percussit oculos lucis ignotae novus,
struck eyes of-light unknown new,
resumit animos victus et vastas furens
resumes spirit conquered and vast raging
quassat catenas; paene victorem abstulit
shakes chains; almost the-victor carried-off
pronumque retro vexit et movit gradu.
and-bent-forward back carried and moved from-step.
tunc et meas respexit Alcides manus;
then also my looked-back-at Alcides hands;
geminis uterque viribus tractum canem
with-double each strength dragged bound
ira furentem et bella temptantem inrita
with-anger raging and wars attempting vain
intulimus orbi. vidit ut clarum diem
we-brought-in to-the-world. saw when bright day
et pura nitidi spatia conspexit poli,
and pure of-shining spaces beheld sky,
compressit oculos et diem invisum expulit
pressed-shut eyes and day hated expelled
faciemque retro flexit atque omni petit
and-face back turned and with-all seeks

cervice terram; tum sub Herculeas caput
neck earth; then under Herculean head
abscondit umbras. densa sed laeto venit
hid shadows. dense but with-glad comes
clamore turba frontibus laurum gerens
shout crowd on-brows laurel bearing
magnique meritas Herculis laudes canit.
and-of-great deserved Hercules praises sings.

VI · THE CROWDS OF THE DEAD

The chorus recalls that Eurystheus sent Hercules down the dark road to the dead and describes the throngs that travel it, old and young alike; since no one returns, it asks why anyone should hasten death. Then it calls Thebes to celebrate: Hercules has brought peace from east to west and returned from the underworld.

CHORUS Natus Eurystheus properante partu
Born Eurystheus with-hastened birth
iusserat mundi penetrare fundum:
had-ordered of-the-world to-penetrate the-bottom:
derat hoc solum numero laborum,
was-lacking this alone to-the-number of-labors,
tertiae regem spoliare sortis.
of-the-third the-king to-despoil lot.
ausus es caecos aditus inire,
dared you-have blind approaches to-enter,
ducit ad manes via qua remotos
leads to shades the-way by-which remote
tristis et nigra metuenda silva,
grim and with-black to-be-feared wood,

sed frequens magna comitante turba.
but thronged with-great accompanying crowd.
Quantus incedit populus per urbes
As-great-as strides a-people through cities
ad novi ludos avidus theatri,
to of-a-new games eager theater,
quantus Eleum ruit ad Tonantem,
as-great-as Elean rushes to Thunderer,
quinta cum sacrum revocavit aestas;
the-fifth when the-festival has-recalled summer;
quanta, cum longae redit hora nocti
as-great, when to-long returns the-hour night
crescere et somnos cupiens quietos
to-grow and sleeps desiring quiet
libra Phoebeos tenet aequa currus,
the-Scales Phoebean holds equal chariots,
turba secretam Cererem frequentat
a-crowd secret Ceres throngs
et citi tectis properant relictis
and swift with-houses hurry left
Attici noctem celebrare mystae:
Attic the-night to-celebrate initiates:
tanta per campos agitur silentes
so-great through plains is-driven silent
turba; pars tarda graditur senecta,
a-crowd; part slow walks with-age,
tristis et longa satiata vita:
grim and with-long sated life:
pars adhuc currit melioris aevi:
part still runs of-better age:

virgines nondum thalamis iugatae
virgins not-yet in-marriage yoked
et comis nondum positis ephebi
and with-locks not-yet laid-down youths
matris et nomen modo doctus infans.
of-mother and the-name just taught infant.
his datum solis, minus ut timerent,
to-these given alone, less that they-might-fear,
igne praelato relevare noctem;
with-fire carried-before to-lighten night;
ceteri vadunt per opaca tristes.
the-rest go through dark-places grim.
qualis est vobis animus, remota
what is to-you spirit, with-removed
luce cum maestus sibi quisque sensit
light when sad for-himself each felt
obrutum tota caput esse terra?
buried with-whole head to-be earth?
stat chaos densum tenebraeque turpes
stands chaos dense and-darkness foul
et color noctis malus ac silentis
and the-color of-night evil and of-silent
otium mundi vacuaeque nubes.
the-idleness world and-empty clouds.
Sera nos illo referat senectus:
Late us thither may-carry old-age:
nemo ad id sero venit, unde numquam,
no-one to that late comes, whence never,
cum semel venit, potuit reverti;
when once he-came, could to-return;

quid iuvat durum properare fatum?
what avails hard to-hasten fate?
omnis haec magnis vaga turba terris
all this over-great wandering crowd lands
ibit ad manes facietque inerti
will-go to shades and-will-make on-sluggish
vela Cocyto: tibi crescit omne,
sails Cocytus: for-you grows all,
et quod occasus videt et quod ortus.
both what the-setting sees and what the-rising.
parce venturis: tibi, mors, paramur.
spare those-to-come: for-you, death, we-are-prepared.
sis licet segnis, properamus ipsi:
be although slow, we-hasten ourselves:
prima quae vitam dedit hora, carpit.
first which life gave hour, plucks.
Thebis laeta dies adest.
To-Thebes glad a-day is-here.
aras tangite supplices,
the-altars touch suppliant,
pingues caedite victimas;
fat slay victims;
permixtae maribus nurus
mingled with-males young-women
sollemnes agitent choros;
solemn let-lead dances;
cessent deposito iugo
let-rest with-laid-down yoke
arvi fertilis incolae.
of-field fertile the-dwellers.

Pax est Herculea manu
Peace is by-Herculean hand
Auroram inter et Hesperum,
Aurora between and Hesperus,
et qua sol medium tenens
and where the-sun the-middle holding
umbras corporibus negat;
shadows to-bodies denies;
quodcumque alluitur solum
whatever is-washed soil
longo Tethyos ambitu,
by-long of-Tethys circuit,
Alcidae domuit labor.
of-Alcides has-tamed the-labor.
Transvectus vada Tartari
Carried-across the-shallows of-Tartarus
pacatis redit inferis.
with-pacified he-returns underworld.
iam nullus superest timor:
now no remains fear:
nil ultra iacet inferos.
nothing beyond lies the-underworld.
stantes sacrificus comas
standing sacrificer hair
dilecta tege populo.
with-beloved cover poplar.

Having killed Lycus, Hercules prays for peace on earth. Then madness takes him: he sees darkness at noon and imagines storming heaven. Taking his own sons for Lycus' children, he shoots one and whirls another to his death; the youngest dies of terror in Megara's arms before the blow, and, taking her for Juno, he crushes her with his club. He boasts of his sacrifice to Juno, and as Amphitryon offers his own neck, he falls into a deep sleep.

HERCULES Victrice dextra fusus adverso Lycus
By-victorious right-hand laid-low with-upturned Lycus
terram cecidit ore; tum quisquis comes
the-earth struck face; then whoever companion
fuerat tyranni iacuit et poenae comes.
had-been of-the-tyrant lay also of-the-penalty companion.
nunc sacra patri victor et superis feram
now sacrifices to-my-father victor and to-the-gods I-will-bring
caesisque meritas victimis aras colam.
and-with-slain deserving victims altars I-will-honor.
Te te laborum socia et adiutrix precor,
You you of-labors partner and helper I-pray,
belligera Pallas, cuius in laeva ciet
warlike Pallas, whose in left stirs
aegis feroces ore saxifico minas;
the-aegis fierce with-mouth petrifying threats;
adsit Lycurgi domitor et rubri maris,
let-be-present of-Lycurgus the-tamer and of-the-red sea,
tectam virente cuspidem thyrso gerens,
covered with-green point thyrsus bearing,
geminumque numen Phoebus et Phoebi soror:
and-twin divinity Phoebus and of-Phoebus the-sister:

soror sagittis aptior, Phoebus lyrae;
the-sister for-arrows fitter, Phoebus for-the-lyre;
fraterque quisquis incolit caelum meus
and-brother whoever dwells-in heaven my
non ex noverca frater. huc appellite
not from the-stepmother brother. hither drive
greges opimos; quicquid Indorum seges
flocks rich; whatever of-the-Indians harvest
Arabesque odoris quicquid arboribus legunt
and-Arabs from-fragrant whatever trees gather
conferte in aras, pinguis exundet vapor.
bring onto the-altars, rich let-overflow smoke.
populea nostras arbor exornet comas,
poplar our tree let-adorn hair,
te ramus oleae fronde gentili tegat,
you a-branch of-olive with-leafage national may-cover,
Theseu; Tonantem nostra adorabit manus,
Theseus; the-Thunderer our will-worship hand,
tu conditores urbis et silvestria
you the-founders of-the-city and woodland
trucis antra Zethi, nobilis Dircen aquae
of-fierce caves Zethus, of-noble Dirce water
laremque regis advenae Tyrium coles.
and-the-hearth of-the-king immigrant Tyrian will-honor.
date tura flammis.
give incense to-the-flames.
AMPHITRYON Nate, manantes prius
Son, dripping first
manus cruenta caede et hostili expia.
hands from-bloody slaughter and hostile purify.

HERCULES Utinam cruore capitis invisi deis
Would-that with-blood of-head hated to-the-gods
libare possem: gratior nullus liquor
to-pour I-could: more-welcome no liquid
tinxisset aras; victima haut ulla amplior
would-have-dyed altars; victim not any ampler
potest magisque opima mactari Iovi,
can and-more rich to-be-slain to-Jove,
quam rex iniquus.
than king unjust.
AMPHITRYON Finiat genitor tuos
May-end the-father your
opta labores, detur aliquando otium
pray labors, may-be-given sometime leisure
quiesque fessis.
and-rest to-the-weary.
HERCULES Ipse concipiam preces
I-myself will-frame prayers
Iove meque dignas. stet suo caelum loco
of-Jove and-me worthy. let-stand in-its heaven place
tellusque et aequor; astra inoffensos agant
and-earth and sea; stars unobstructed let-drive
aeterna cursus. alta pax gentes alat:
eternal courses. deep peace nations nourish:
ferrum omne teneat ruris innocui labor
iron all let-occupy of-country innocent labor
ensesque lateant. nulla tempestas fretum
and-swords lie-hidden. no storm the-strait
violenta turbet, nullus irato Iove
violent disturb, no with-angry Jove

exiliat ignis, nullus hiberna nive
leap-out fire, no with-wintry snow
nutritus agros amnis eversos trahat.
fed fields river overturned drag.
venena cessent, nulla nocituro gravis
poisons cease, no with-going-to-harm heavy
suco tumescat herba. non saevi ac truces
juice swell plant. not savage and grim
regnent tyranni; si quod etiamnum est scelus
reign tyrants; if any still is crime
latura tellus, properet, et si quod parat
going-to-bear the-earth, let-it-hasten, and if any it-prepares
monstrum, meum sit. — sed quid hoc? medium diem
monster, mine be-it. but what this? middle day
cinxere tenebrae. Phoebus obscuro meat
have-ringed darkness. Phoebus with-dim goes
sine nube vultu. quis diem retro fugat
without cloud face. who the-day back routs
agitque in ortus? unde nox atram caput
and-drives into risings? whence night black head
ignota profert? unde tot stellae polum
unknown brings-forth? whence so-many stars the-sky
implent diurnae? primus en noster labor
fill daytime? first look our labor
caeli refulget parte non minima leo
of-heaven shines in-part not least the-lion
iraque totus fervet et morsus parat.
and-with-wrath whole glows and bites prepares.
iam rapiet aliquod sidus: ingenti minax
now he-will-snatch some star: with-huge threatening

stat ore et ignes efflat et rutila iubam
stands mouth and fires breathes and ruddy mane
cervice iactans quicquid autumnus gravis
on-neck tossing whatever autumn heavy
hiemsque gelido frigida spatio refert
and-winter in-icy cold space brings-back
uno impetu transiliet et verni petet
in-one bound will-leap-across and of-spring will-attack
frangetque tauri colla.
and-will-break of-the-bull the-neck.
AMPHITRYON Quod subitum hoc malum est?
What sudden this evil is?
quo, nate, vultus huc et huc acres refers
where, son, looks hither and hither keen turn-you
acieque falsum turbida caelum vides?
and-with-gaze false troubled sky see-you?
HERCULES Perdomita tellus, tumida cesserunt freta,
Subdued the-earth, swollen have-yielded seas,
inferna nostros regna sensere impetus:
infernal our realms have-felt onslaughts:
immune caelum est, dignus Alcide labor.
exempt heaven is, worthy of-Alcides labor.
in alta mundi spatia sublimis ferar,
into high of-the-world spaces aloft I-shall-be-borne,
petatur aether: astra promittit pater.
let-be-sought the-ether: stars promises father.
quid, si negaret? non capit terra Herculem
what, if he-refused? not holds earth Hercules
tandemque superis reddit. en ultro vocat
and-at-last to-the-gods returns. look of-itself calls

omnis deorum coetus et laxat fores,
all of-gods assembly and opens doors,
una vetante. recipis et reseras polum?
with-one forbidding. do-you-receive and unbar heaven?
an contumacis ianuam mundi traho?
or of-stubborn the-door sky do-I-drag?
dubitatur etiam? vincla Saturno exuam
is-there-doubt still? chains from-Saturn I-will-strip
contraque patris impii regnum impotens
and-against of-father impious reign unbridled
avum resolvam; bella Titanes parent,
grandfather I-will-release; wars Titans let-prepare,
me duce furentes; saxa cum silvis feram
with-me leader raging; rocks with woods I-will-carry
rapiamque dextra plena Centauris iuga.
and-I-will-snatch with-right-hand full of-Centaurs ridges.
iam monte gemino limitem ad superos agam:
now with-mountain twin a-path to the-gods I-will-drive:
videat sub Ossa Pelion Chiron suum,
may-see under Ossa Pelion Chiron his-own,
in caelum Olympus tertio positus gradu
into heaven Olympus as-third placed step
perveniet aut mittetur.
will-arrive or will-be-hurled.
AMPHITRYON Infandos procul
Unspeakable far
averte sensus; pectoris sani parum
turn-away thoughts; of-breast sound too-little
magni tamen compesce dementem impetum.
great yet restrain mad impulse.

HERCULES Quid hoc? Gigantes arma pestiferi movent.
What this? Giants arms pestilent move.
profugit umbras Tityos ac lacerum gerens
has-fled the-shades Tityos and torn bearing
et inane pectus quam prope a caelo stetit.
and empty breast how near from heaven stood.
labat Cithaeron, alta Pellene tremit
totters Cithaeron, high Pellene trembles
marcentque Tempe. rapuit hic Pindi iuga,
and-wither Tempe. seized this-one of-Pindus the-ridges,
hic rapuit Oeten, saevit horrendum Mimans.
this-one seized Oeta, rages dreadfully Mimas.
flammifera Erinys verbere excusso sonat
flame-bearing Erinys with-lash shaken-out sounds
rogisque adustas propius ac propius sudes
and-on-pyres scorched nearer and nearer stakes
in ora tendit; saeva Tisiphone, caput
into face thrusts; savage Tisiphone, head
serpentibus vallata, post raptum canem
with-serpents walled, after the-seized bound
portam vacantem clausit opposita face.
gate empty has-shut with-placed-against torch.
sed ecce proles regis inimici latet,
but behold offspring of-king hostile lies-hid,
Lyci nefandum semen: inviso patri
of-Lycus unspeakable seed: to-hated father
haec dextra iam vos reddet. excutiat levis
this right-hand now you will-restore. let-shake-out light
nervus sagittas. tela sic mitti decet
string arrows. weapons thus to-be-sent befits

Herculea.

Herculean.

AMPHITRYON Quo se caecus impegit furor?

Whither itself blind has-driven madness?

vastum coactis flexit arcum cornibus

vast with-forced bent bow horns

pharetramque solvit, stridet emissa impetu

and-quiver opened, whizzes sent-forth with-force

harundo — medio spiculum collo fugit

the-reed in-the-middle point neck flees

vulnere relicto.

with-wound left.

HERCULES Ceteram prolem eruam

The-other offspring I-will-root-out

omnisque latebras. quid moror? maius mihi

and-all hiding-places. why delay-I? greater for-me

bellum Mycenis restat, ut Cyclopia

war at-Mycenae remains, that Cyclopean

eversa manibus saxa nostris concidant.

overturned by-hands rocks our may-fall.

huc eat et illuc valva deiecto obice

hither let-go and thither the-door with-thrown-down bar

rumpatque postes; culmen impulsum labet.

and-let-it-burst doorposts; roof pushed let-totter.

perlucet omnis regia: hic video abditum

shines-through all palace: here I-see hidden

gnatum scelesti patris.

son of-wicked father.

AMPHITRYON En blandas manus
Look coaxing hands
ad genua tendens voce miseranda rogat:
to knees stretching with-voice pitiable he-begs:
scelus nefandum, triste et aspectu horridum!
crime unspeakable, grim and in-sight dreadful!
dextra precantem rapuit et circa furens
with-right-hand the-praying-one he-seized and around raging
bis ter rotatum misit; ast illi caput
twice thrice whirled hurled; but his head
sonuit, cerebro tecta disperso madent.
resounded, with-brain roofs scattered are-wet.
at misera, parvum protegens gnatum sinu,
but wretched, small shielding son in-bosom,
Megara furenti similis e latebris fugit.
Megara to-the-raging-one like from hiding-places flees.
HERCULES Licet tonantis profuga condaris sinu,
Though of-the-Thunderer fugitive you-hide in-bosom,
petet undecumque temet haec dextra et feret.
will-seek from-wherever you this right-hand and will-carry-off.
AMPHITRYON Quo misera pergis? quam fugam aut latebram petis?
Whither wretched go-you? what flight or hiding-place seek-you?
nullus salutis Hercule infesto est locus.
no of-safety with-Hercules hostile is place.
amplectere ipsum potius et blanda prece
embrace him rather and with-coaxing prayer
lenire tempta.
to-soothe try.

MEGARA Parce iam, coniunx, precor,
Spare now, husband, I-pray,
agnosce Megaram. gnatus hic vultus tuos
recognize Megara. son this face your
habitusque reddit; cernis, ut tendat manus?
and-bearing reproduces; see-you, how he-stretches hands?
HERCULES Teneo novercam. sequere, da poenas mihi
I-hold the-stepmother. follow, pay penalty to-me
iugoque pressum libera turpi Iovem;
and-by-yoke pressed free shameful Jove;
sed ante matrem parvulum hoc monstrum occidat. 1020
but before the-mother little this monster let-perish.
MEGARA Quo tendis amens? sanguinem fundes tuum?
Whither strain-you mad? blood will-you-shed your?
AMPHITRYON Pavefactus infans igneo vultu patris
Terrified the-infant by-fiery face of-father
perit ante vulnus, spiritum eripuit timor.
perishes before wound, breath snatched fear.
in coniugem nunc clava libratur gravis:
against wife now club is-poised heavy:
perfregit ossa, corpori trunco caput 1025
it-has-shattered bones, from-body maimed head
abest nec usquam est. cernere hoc audes, nimis
is-gone nor anywhere is. to-see this dare-you, too
vivax senectus? si piget luctus, habes
long-lived old-age? if it-irks of-grief, you-have
mortem paratam: pectus in tela indue,
death ready: breast onto weapons put,
vel stipitem istuc caede nostrorum inlitum
or club that with-slaughter of-ours smeared

converte. falsum ac nomini turpem tuo
turn. false and to-name shameful your
remove parentem, ne tuae laudi obstrepat. —
remove father, lest to-your praise be-make-noise.
quo te ipse, senior, obvium morti ingeris?
whither you yourself, old-man, facing to-death thrust?
quo pergis amens? profuge et obtectus late
whither go-you mad? flee and covered hide
unumque manibus aufer Herculeis scelus.
and-one from-hands remove Herculean crime.
HERCULES Bene habet, pudendi regis excisa est domus.
Well it-is, of-shameful king destroyed is the-house.
tibi hunc dicatum, maximi coniunx Iovis,
to-you this dedicated, of-greatest wife Jove,
gregem cecidi; vota persolvi libens
flock I-have-slain; vows I-have-paid gladly
te digna, et Argos victimas alias dabit.
of-you worthy, and Argos victims other will-give.
AMPHITRYON Nondum litasti, nate: consumma sacrum.
Not-yet you-have-sacrificed-well, son: complete the-rite.
stat ecce ad aras hostia, expectat manum
stands behold at altars a-victim, awaits hand
cervice prona; praebeo occurro insequor:
with-neck bent; I-offer I-meet I-press-on:
macta — quid hoc est? errat acies luminum
slay what this is? wanders the-gaze of-eyes
visusque maeror hebetat? an video Herculis
and-sight grief dulls? or see-I of-Hercules
manus trementes? vultus in somnum cadit
hands trembling? face into sleep falls

et fessa cervix capite summisso labat;
and weary neck with-head lowered totters;
flexo genu iam totus ad terram ruit,
with-bent knee now whole to earth crashes,
ut caesa silvis ornus aut portum mari
as felled in-woods an-ash or harbor for-the-sea
datura moles, vivis an leto dedit
going-to-give a-mole, are-you-alive or to-death has-given
idem tuos qui misit ad mortem furor?
same your which sent to death madness?
sopor est: reciprocos spiritus motus agit.
sleep it-is: alternating breath motions drives.
detur quieti tempus, ut somno gravi
let-be-given to-rest time, that by-sleep heavy
vis victa morbi pectus oppressum levet.
force conquered of-disease breast oppressed may-relieve.
removete, famuli, tela, ne repetat furens.
remove, servants, weapons, lest he-seek-again raging.

The chorus calls heaven, earth, sea, and the Sun to mourn and prays to the gods and to Sleep to calm Hercules' mind, or else to let the madness run on, since only madness can keep him guiltless. It bids his hands and his own weapons strike him, and sends the murdered boys down to the shades.

CHORUS Lugeat aether magnusque parens
Let-mourn the-ether and-great the-father
aetheris alti tellusque ferax
of-ether high and-earth fruitful
et vaga ponti mobilis unda,
and wandering of-the-sea mobile wave,
tuque ante omnis qui per terras
and-you before all who through lands
tractusque maris fundis radios
and-tracts of-sea pour rays
noctemque fugas ore decoro,
and-night put-to-flight with-face comely,
fervide Titan: obitus pariter
burning Titan: settings equally
tecum Alcides vidit et ortus
with-you Alcides saw and risings
novitque tuas utrasque domos.
and-knew your both homes.
Solvite tantis animum monstris,
Release from-so-great his-mind monsters,
solvite superi,
release gods,
rectam in melius flectite mentem.
right to better bend mind.

tuque, o domitor Somne malorum,
and-you, O tamer Sleep of-ills,
requies animi,
rest of-mind,
pars humanae melior vitae,
part of-human better life,
volucre o matris genus Astraeae,
winged o of-mother offspring Astraea,
frater durae languide Mortis,
brother of-hard languid Death,
veris miscens falsa, futuri
with-true mixing false, of-future
certus et idem pessimus auctor,
sure and same worst author,
pater o rerum, portus vitae,
father o of-things, harbor of-life,
lucis requies noctisque comes,
from-light rest and-of-night companion,
qui par regi famuloque venis,
who equal to-king and-servant come,
pavidum leti genus humanum
fearful of-death race human
cogis longam discere noctem:
you-compel long to-learn night:
placidus fessum lenisque fove,
calm the-weary and-gentle cherish,
preme devictum torpore gravi;
press vanquished with-torpor heavy;
sopor indomitos alliget artus
sleep untamed let-bind limbs

nec torva prius pectora linquat,
nor grim before breast leave,
quam mens repetat pristina cursum.
than mind regain former course.
En fusus humi saeva feroci
Look sprawled on-the-ground savage in-fierce
corde volutat somnia
heart turns-over dreams
(nondum est
(not-yet is
tanti pestis superata mali
of-so-great the-plague overcome evil
clavaeque gravi lassum solitus
and-on-club heavy weary accustomed
mandare caput
to-entrust head
quaerit vacua pondera dextra,
he-seeks with-empty weight right-hand,
motu iactans bracchia vano)
with-movement tossing arms vain)
nec adhuc omnis expulit aestus,
nor yet all has-expelled surges,
sed ut ingenti vexata noto
but as by-huge tossed south-wind
servat longos unda tumultus
keeps long the-wave tumults
et iam vento cessante tumet.
and now with-wind ceasing swells.
pelle insanos fluctus animi,
drive-out insane waves of-mind,

redeat pietas virtusque viro.
let-return dutifulness and-valor to-the-man.
vel sit potius
or let-be rather
mens vesano concita motu:
the-mind by-mad roused motion:
error caecus qua coepit eat;
error blind where it-began let-go;
solus te iam praestare potest
alone you now to-make can
furor insontem: proxima puris
madness guiltless: next to-pure
sors est manibus nescire nefas.
lot is hands to-not-know crime.
Nunc Herculeis percussa sonent
Now by-Herculean struck let-sound
pectora palmis,
breasts palms,
mundum solitos ferre lacertos
the-world accustomed to-bear arms
verbera pulsent victrice manu;
blows let-beat with-victorious hand;
gemitus vastos audiat aether,
groans vast let-hear the-ether,
audiat atri regina poli
let-hear of-black the-queen pole
vastisque ferox
and-with-vast fierce
qui colla gerit vincta catenis
who necks bears bound chains

imo latitans Cerberus antro.
in-deepest lurking Cerberus cave.
Resonet maesto clamore chaos
Let-resound with-sad shout chaos
lateque patens unda profundi:
and-widely lying-open the-wave of-the-deep:
et qui medius tua tela tamen
and which midway your weapons yet
senserat aer.
had-felt the-air.
pectora tantis obsessa malis
breasts by-so-great besieged evils
non sunt ictu ferienda levi:
not are with-blow to-be-struck light:
uno planctu tria regna sonent.
with-one beating three realms let-sound.
Et tu collo decus ac telum
And you on-neck glory and weapon
suspensa diu,
hung long,
fortis harundo, pharetraeque graves,
strong reed, and-quivers heavy,
date saeva fero verbera tergo;
give savage to-fierce lashes back;
caedant umeros robora fortes
let-strike shoulders oak strong
stipesque potens
and-club mighty
duris oneret pectora nodis:
with-hard let-load breast knots:

plangant tantos arma dolores.
let-bewail so-great arms griefs.
Ite infaustum genus, o pueri,
Go ill-starred offspring, o boys,
noti per iter triste laboris,
of-known by path grim labor,
non vos patriae laudis comites
not you of-paternal praise companions
ulti saevos vulnere reges,
having-avenged savage with-wound kings,
non Argiva membra palaestra
not in-Argive limbs wrestling-ground
flectere docti fortes caestu
to-bend taught strong with-the-glove
fortesque manu, iam tamen ausi
and-strong with-hand, now yet having-dared
telum Scythicis leve corytis
a-weapon from-Scythian light quivers
missum certa librare manu
sent with-sure to-poise hand
tutosque fuga figere cervos:
and-safe by-flight to-pierce stags:
ite ad Stygios, umbrae, portus
go to Stygian, shades, harbors
ite, innocuae,
go, innocent,
quas in primo limine vitae
whom on first threshold of-life

scelus oppressit patriusque furor,
crime has-crushed and-paternal madness,
ite, iratos visite reges.
go, angry visit kings.

IX · HERCULES AWAKES

Hercules wakes, sees the bodies and his own arrows, and learns that he killed his family. He resolves to die and demands his weapons; Amphitryon threatens to kill himself if his son does, and Hercules yields to live. He asks where he can hide his guilt; Theseus offers his own land, where Mars was cleansed of blood.

HERCULES Quis hic locus, quae regio, quae mundi plaga?
What this place, what region, what of-the-world zone?
ubi sum? sub ortu solis, an sub cardine
where am-I? under the-rising of-the-sun, or under the-pole
glacialis ursae? numquid Hesperii maris
of-the-icy bear? perhaps of-the-Hesperian sea
extrema tellus hunc dat Oceano modum?
farthest land this gives to-Ocean limit?
quas trahimus auras? quod solum fesso subest?
what draw-we airs? what soil to-the-weary lies-beneath?
certe redimus. unde prostrata ad domum
surely we-have-returned. whence prostrate at the-house
video cruenta corpora? an nondum exuit
see-I bloody bodies? or not-yet has-shed
simulacra mens inferna? post reditus quoque
phantoms mind infernal? after returns also
oberrat oculis turba feralis meis?
wanders-before eyes a-crowd deathly my?

pudet fateri: paveo; nescio quod mihi,
it-shames to-confess: I-fear; I-know-not what to-me,
nescio quod animus grande praesagit malum.
I-know-not what mind great foretells evil.
ubi es, parens? ubi illa natorum grege
where are-you, father? where that of-sons with-flock
animosa coniunx? cur latus laevum vacat
spirited wife? why side left is-empty
spolio leonis? quonam abit tegimen meum
of-the-spoil of-the-lion? where has-gone covering my
idemque somno mollis Herculeo torus?
and-same for-sleep soft Herculean couch?
ubi tela? ubi arcus? arma quis vivo mihi
where shafts? where bow? arms who from-living me
detrahere potuit? spolia quis tanta abstulit
to-strip could? spoils who so-great took-away
ipsumque quis non Herculis somnum horruit?
and-itself who not of-Hercules sleep dreaded?
libet meum videre victorem, libet
it-pleases my to-see conqueror, it-pleases
(exurge, virtus) quem novum caelo pater
(rise-up, valor) whom new with-heaven father
genuit relicto, cuius in fetu stetit
begot left, whose at conception stood
nox longior quam nostra. quod cerno nefas?
night longer than ours. what see-I horror?
nati cruenta caede confecti iacent,
sons by-bloody slaughter finished lie,
perempta coniunx. quis Lycus regnum obtinet
slain wife. what Lycus the-realm holds

Hercule reverso? quisquis Ismeni loca,
with-Hercules returned? whoever of-Ismenus places,
Actaea quisquis arva, qui gemino mari
Actaean whoever fields, who by-twin sea
pulsata Pelopis regna Dardanii colis,
beaten of-Pelops realms Dardanian inhabit,
succurre, saevae cladis auctorem indica.
help, of-savage disaster the-author point-out.
ruat ira in omnis: hostis est quisquis mihi
let-rush wrath against all: enemy is whoever to-me
non monstrat hostem. victor Alcidae, lates?
not shows the-enemy. victor of-Alcides, hide-you?
procede, seu tu vindicas currus truces
come-forth, whether you claim chariots fierce
Thracis cruenti sive Geryonae pecus
of-the-Thracian bloody or of-Geryon the-herd
Libyaeve dominos, nulla pugnandi mora est.
or-of-Libya lords, no of-fighting delay is.
en nudus asto; vel meis armis licet
look naked I-stand; even with-my arms you-may
petas inermem. cur meos Theseus fugit
attack the-unarmed. why my Theseus flees
paterque vultus? ora cur condunt sua?
and-father looks? faces why hide their?
differte fletus; quis meos dederit neci
put-off weeping; who my has-given to-death
omnis simul, profare. quid, genitor, siles?
all at-once, speak-out. why, father, are-you-silent?
at tu ede, Theseu, sed tua, Theseu, fide.
but you tell, Theseus, but on-your, Theseus, faith.

uterque tacitus ora pudibunda obtegit
each silent face ashamed covers
furtimque lacrimas fundit. in tantis malis
and-secretly tears pours. in so-great evils
quid est pudendum? numquid Argivae impotens 1180
what is to-be-ashamed-of? perhaps of-Argive violent
dominator urbis, numquid infestum Lyci
ruler city, perhaps hostile of-Lycus
pereuntis agmen clade nos tanta obruit?
dying the-column with-disaster us so-great has-overwhelmed?
per te meorum facinorum laudem precor,
by you of-my deeds the-glory I-pray,
genitor, tuique nominis semper mihi
father, and-of-your name always to-me
numen secundum, fare. quis fudit domum? 1185
divinity favorable, speak. who laid-low the-house?
cui praeda iacui?
to-whom as-prey did-I-lie?

AMPHITRYON Tacita sic abeant mala.
Silent so let-pass evils.

HERCULES Ut inultus ego sim?
That unavenged I should-be?

AMPHITRYON Saepe vindicta obfuit.
Often vengeance has-harmed.

HERCULES Quisquamne segnis tanta toleravit mala?
Has-anyone sluggish so-great endured evils?

AMPHITRYON Maiora quisquis timuit.
Greater whoever feared.

HERCULES His etiam, pater,
Than-these even, father,
quicquam timeri maius aut gravius potest?
anything to-be-feared greater or heavier can?
AMPHITRYON Cladis tuae pars ista quam nosti quota est?
Of-disaster your part that which you-know how-small is?
HERCULES Miserere, genitor, supplices tendo manus.
Pity, father, suppliant I-stretch hands.
quid hoc? manus refugit. hic errat scelus.
what this? the-hand shrinks-back. here wanders crime.
unde hic cruor? quid illa puerili madens
whence this blood? why that with-boyish dripping
harundo leto? tincta Lernaea nece
reed death? dyed with-Lernaean death
iam tela video nostra. non quaero manum.
now shafts I-see our. not I-seek the-hand.
quis potuit arcum flectere aut quae dextera
who could bow to-bend or what right-hand
sinuare nervum rite cedentem mihi?
to-curve the-string duly yielding to-me?
ad vos revertor; genitor, hoc nostrum est scelus?
to you I-return; father, this our is crime?
tacuere? nostrum est.
they-are-silent? ours it-is.
AMPHITRYON Luctus est istic tuus,
The-grief is there your,
crimen novercae: casus hic culpa caret.
the-crime of-the-stepmother: mishap this blame lacks.

HERCULES Nunc parte ab omni, genitor, iratus tona,
Now part from every, father, angry thunder,
oblite nostri vindica sera manu
forgetful of-us avenge with-late hand
saltem nepotes. stelliger mundus sonet
at-least grandsons. star-bearing sky let-sound
flammasque et hic et ille iaculetur polus:
and-flames both this and that let-hurl pole:
rupes ligatum Caspiae corpus trahant
cliffs bound Caspian body let-drag
atque ales avida — cur Promethei vacant
and bird greedy why of-Prometheus are-empty
scopuli? vacat cur vertice immenso feras
crags? is-empty why with-peak immense beasts
volucresque pascens Caucasi abruptum latus
and-birds feeding of-Caucasus sheer side
nudumque silvis? illa quae pontum Scythen
and-bare of-woods? that which sea Scythian
Symplegas artat hinc et hinc vinctas manus
Symplegas narrows here and there bound hands
distendat alto, cumque revocata vice
let-stretch-apart over-the-deep, and-when with-recalled turn
in se coibunt saxaque in caelum expriment
into themselves they-will-meet and-rocks into sky will-squeeze
actis utrimque rupibus medium mare,
with-driven from-both-sides cliffs middle sea,
ego inquieta montium iaceam mora.
I restless of-mountains may-lie obstacle.
quin structum acervans nemore congesto aggerem
why-not built heaping with-wood piled a-mound

cruore corpus impio sparsum cremo?
with-blood body impious sprinkled I-burn?
sic, sic agendum est: inferis reddam Herculem.
so, so to-be-done is: to-the-underworld I-will-restore Hercules.
AMPHITRYON Nondum tumultu pectus attonito carens
Not-yet tumult heart stunned lacking
mutavit iras quodque habet proprium furor,
has-changed angers and-what has proper-to-it madness,
in se ipse saevit.
against himself himself rages.
HERCULES Dira Furiarum loca
Dread of-the-Furies places
et inferorum carcer et sonti plaga
and of-the-underworld prison and for-guilty region
decreta turbae — si quod exilium latet
decreed crowd if any exile lies-hid
ulterius Erebo, Cerbero ignotum et mihi:
beyond Erebus, to-Cerberus unknown and to-me:
hoc me abde, tellus; Tartari ad finem ultimum
there me hide, earth; of-Tartarus to end farthest
mansurus ibo. pectus o nimium ferum! —
going-to-stay I-will-go. breast o too fierce!
quis vos per omnem, liberi, sparsos domum
who you through whole, children, scattered house
deflere digne poterit? hic durus malis
to-mourn worthily will-be-able? this hardened by-evils
lacrimare vultus nescit. huc arcum date,
to-weep face knows-not. here bow give,
date huc sagittas, stipitem huc vastum date.
give here arrows, club here vast give.

tibi tela frangam nostra, tibi nostros, puer,
for-you shafts I-will-break our, for-you our, boy,
rumpemus arcus; at tuis stipes gravis
we-will-burst bows; but for-your club heavy
ardebit umbris; ipsa Lernaeis frequens
will-burn shades; itself with-Lernaean thronged
pharetra telis in tuos ibit rogos:
quiver shafts onto your will-go pyres:
dent arma poenas. vos quoque infaustas meis
let-pay arms penalty. you also ill-starred with-my
cremabo telis, o novercales manus.
I-will-burn shafts, o stepmotherly hands.
AMPHITRYON Quis nomen usquam sceleris errori addidit?
Who name ever of-crime to-error has-added?
HERCULES Saepe error ingens sceleris obtinuit locum.
Often error huge of-crime has-held the-place.
AMPHITRYON Nunc Hercule opus est: perfer hanc molem mali.
Now of-Hercules need is: endure this mass of-evil.
HERCULES Non sic furore cessit extinctus pudor,
Not so to-madness has-yielded extinguished shame,
populos ut omnes impio aspectu fugem.
the-peoples that all with-impious sight I-should-rout.
arma, arma, Theseu, flagito propere mihi
arms, arms, Theseus, I-demand quickly to-me
subtracta reddi. sana si mens est mihi,
withdrawn to-be-returned. sound if mind is to-me,
referte manibus tela; si remanet furor,
bring-back to-hands shafts; if remains madness,
pater, recede: mortis inveniam viam.
father, withdraw: of-death I-will-find a-way.

AMPHITRYON Per sancta generis sacra, per ius nominis
By holy of-kinship rites, by the-right of-name
utrumque nostri, sive me altorem vocas
either our, whether me foster-father you-call
seu tu parentem, perque venerandos piis
or you parent, and-by venerable to-the-dutiful
canos, senectae parce desertae, precor,
white-hairs, old-age spare deserted, I-pray,
annisque fessis; unicum lapsae domus
and-years weary; only of-fallen house
firmamen, unum lumen afflicto malis
support, one light to-the-afflicted by-evils
temet reserva. nullus ex te contigit
yourself preserve. no from you has-fallen-to-me
fructus laborum; semper aut dubium mare
fruit of-labors; always either doubtful sea
aut monstra timui; quisquis in toto furit
or monsters I-feared; whoever in whole rages
rex saevus orbe, manibus aut aris nocens,
king savage world, to-shades or altars harmful,
a me timetur: semper absentis pater
by me is-feared: always of-an-absent-one father
fructum tui tactumque et aspectum peto.
the-enjoyment of-you and-touch and sight I-seek.
HERCULES Cur animam in ista luce detineam amplius
Why soul in this light should-I-detain longer
morerque nihil est: cuncta iam amisi bona,
and-delay nothing is: all now I-have-lost goods,
mentem arma famam coniugem gnatos manus,
mind arms fame wife sons hands,

etiam furorem. nemo polluto queat
even madness. no-one polluted could
animo mederi: morte sanandum est scelus.
mind to-heal: by-death to-be-healed is crime.
AMPHITRYON Perimes parentem.
You-will-kill your-father.
HERCULES Facere ne possim, occidam.
To-do lest I-be-able, I-will-die.
AMPHITRYON Genitore coram?
Father before?
HERCULES Cernere hunc docui nefas.
To-see him I-taught crime.
AMPHITRYON Memoranda potius omnibus facta intuens
Memorable rather to-all deeds beholding
unius a te criminis veniam pete.
of-one from yourself crime pardon seek.
HERCULES Veniam dabit sibi ipse, qui nulli dedit?
Pardon will-give to-himself himself, who to-none gave?
laudanda feci iussus: hoc unum meum est.
praiseworthy-things I-did ordered: this one mine is.
succurre, genitor; sive te pietas movet
help, father; whether you dutifulness moves
seu triste fatum sive violatum decus
or grim fate or violated glory
virtutis: effer arma; vincatur mea
of-valor: bring-out arms; let-be-conquered my
fortuna dextra.
fortune by-right-hand.

THESEUS Sunt quidem patriae preces
Are indeed paternal prayers
satis efficaces, sed tamen nostro quoque
enough effective, but yet by-our also
movere fletu. surge et adversa impetu
be-moved weeping. rise and adversities with-onset
perfringe solito. nunc tuum nulli imparem
break-through usual. now your to-no unequal
animum malo resume, nunc magna tibi
spirit evil resume, now with-great by-you
virtute agendum est: Herculem irasci veta.
valor to-be-acted is: Hercules to-be-angry forbid.
HERCULES Si vivo, feci scelera; si morior, tuli.
If I-live, I-have-done crimes; if I-die, I-have-suffered.
purgare terras propero. iamdudum mihi
to-purge lands I-hasten. long-since to-me
monstrum impium saevumque et immite ac ferum
a-monster impious and-savage and harsh and wild
oberrat: agedum dextra, conare aggredi
wanders-before: come-now right-hand, try to-attack
ingens opus, labore bis seno amplius.
huge work, than-labor twice six greater.
ignava cessas, fortis in pueros modo
cowardly you-delay, brave against boys only
pavidasque matres? arma nisi dantur mihi,
and-trembling mothers? arms unless are-given to-me,
aut omne Pindi Thracis excidam nemus
either all of-Pindus Thracian I-will-cut-down forest
Bacchique lucos et Cithaeronis iuga
and-of-Bacchus groves and of-Cithaeron ridges

mecum cremabo, aut tota cum domibus suis
with-me I-will-burn, or whole with houses their
dominisque tecta, cum deis templa omnibus
and-masters dwellings, with gods temples all
Thebana supra corpus excipiam meum
Theban upon body I-will-receive my
atque urbe versa condar, et, si fortibus
and with-city overturned be-buried, and, if to-strong
leve pondus umeris moenia immissa incident
light weight shoulders walls thrown-down will-fall
septemque opertus non satis portis premar,
and-by-seven covered not enough gates be-pressed,
onus omne media parte quod mundi sedet
burden all in-middle part which of-the-world sits
dirimitque superos, in meum vertam caput.
and-divides the-gods, onto my I-will-turn head.

AMPHITRYON Reddo arma.
I-return arms.

HERCULES Vox est digna genitore Herculis.
A-voice is worthy of-the-father of-Hercules.
hoc en peremptus spiculo cecidit puer —
by-this look slain dart fell boy

AMPHITRYON Hoc Iuno telum manibus immisit tuis.
This Juno shaft to-hands sent-in your.

HERCULES Hoc nunc ego utar.
This now I will-use.

AMPHITRYON Ecce quam miserum metu
Behold how wretched with-fear
cor palpitat pectusque sollicitum ferit.
heart throbs and-breast anxious strikes.

HERCULES Aptata harundo est.
Fitted the-reed is.
AMPHITRYON Ecce iam facies scelus
Behold now you-will-do crime
volens sciensque.
willing and-knowing.
HERCULES Pande, quid fieri iubes?
Disclose, what to-be-done you-order?
AMPHITRYON Nihil rogamus: noster in tuto est dolor.
Nothing we-ask: our in safety is grief.
natum potes servare tu solus mihi,
son you-can to-save you alone for-me,
eripere nec tu; maximum evasi metum:
to-snatch-away not-even you; greatest I-have-escaped fear:
miserum haut potes me facere, felicem potes.
wretched not you-can me to-make, happy you-can.
sic statue, quicquid statuis, ut causam tuam
thus decide, whatever you-decide, that cause your
famamque in arto stare et ancipiti scias:
and-fame in narrow to-stand and doubtful you-know:
aut vivis aut occidis. hanc animam levem
either you-live or you-kill. this soul light
fessamque senio nec minus fessam malis
and-weary with-age nor less weary with-evils
in ore primo teneo. tam tarde patri
in mouth foremost I-hold. so slowly to-a-father
vitam dat aliquis? non feram ulterius moram,
life gives anyone? not I-will-bear further delay,
laetare! ferro pectus impresso induam:
rejoice! with-sword breast pressed-in I-will-thrust:

hic, hic iacebit Herculis sani scelus.
here, here will-lie of-Hercules sane the-crime.
HERCULES Iam parce, genitor, parce, iam revoca manum.
Now spare, father, spare, now recall hand.
succumbe, virtus, perfer imperium patris.
submit, valor, endure the-command of-father.
eat ad labores hic quoque Herculeos labor:
let-go to labors this also Herculean labor:
vivamus. artus alleva afflictos solo,
let-us-live. limbs raise stricken from-ground,
Theseu, parentis. dextra contactus pios
Theseus, of-my-father. right-hand contacts dutiful
scelerata refugit.
criminal shrinks-from.
AMPHITRYON Hanc manum amplector libens,
This hand I-embrace gladly,
hac nisus ibo, pectori hanc aegro admovens
on-this leaning I-will-go, to-breast this sick moving
pellam dolores,
I-will-drive-out pains,
HERCULES Quem locum profugus petam?
What place fugitive shall-I-seek?
ubi me recondam quave tellure obruar?
where me shall-I-hide or-in-what land be-buried?
quis Tanais aut quis Nilus aut quis Persica
what Tanais or what Nile or what Persian
violentus unda Tigris aut Rhenus ferox
violent with-wave Tigris or Rhine fierce
Tagusve Hibera turbidus gaza fluens
or-Tagus with-Spanish turbid treasure flowing

abluere dextram poterit? Arctoum licet
to-wash-off right-hand will-be-able? Arctic though
Maeotis in me gelida transfundat mare
Maeotis onto me icy pour-over sea
et tota Tethys per meas currat manus,
and whole Tethys through my run hands,
haerebit altum facinus. in quas impius
will-cling deep deed. into what impious
terras recedes? ortum an occasum petes?
lands will-you-withdraw? rising or setting will-you-seek?
ubique notus perdidi exilio locum.
everywhere known I-have-lost for-exile place.
me refugit orbis, astra transversos agunt
me shuns the-world, stars crosswise drive
obliqua cursus, ipse Titan Cerberum
slanting courses, himself Titan Cerberus
meliore vultu vidit. o fidum caput,
with-better face saw. o faithful head,
Theseu, latebram quaere longinquam abditam;
Theseus, a-hiding-place seek distant hidden;
quoniamque semper sceleris alieni arbiter
and-since always of-crime another's judge
amas nocentes, gratiam meritis refer
you-love the-guilty, thanks for-merits return
vicemque nostris: redde me infernis precor
and-requital ours: return me to-infernal I-pray
umbris reductum, meque subiectum tuis
shades brought-back, and-me subjected to-your
constitue vinclis: ille me abscondet locus.
set chains: that me will-hide place.

sed et ille novit.
but even that knows.

THESEUS Nostra te tellus manet.
Our you land awaits.

illic solutam caede Gradivus manum
there freed from-slaughter Gradivus hand

restituit armis: illa te, Alcide, vocat,
restored to-arms: that you, Alcides, calls,

facere innocentes terra quae superos solet.
to-make innocent land which gods is-wont.
