LATIN SERIES · VOLUME 87

Thebaid

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Thebaid

Part One: Books I–VI

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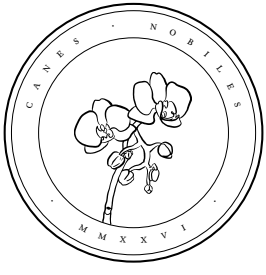
with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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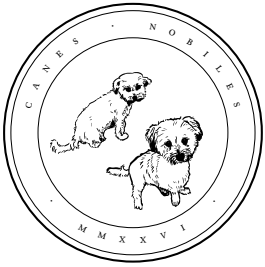

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BOOK I

I.1 · PROEM

The poet's mind is fired to sing the brothers' war for Thebes. Passing over the older Theban tales, Cadmus' search for Europa, the sown men, Amphion's walls, Bacchus, Juno's wrath against Athamas and Ino, he will begin with the house of Oedipus. He defers to a later song the wars of Domitian on the Rhine, the Danube, and among the Dacians, and asks which hero to sing first: Tydeus, Amphiaraus, Hippomedon, Parthenopaeus, or Capaneus.

Fraternas acies alternaque regna profanis
Brotherly battle-lines and-alternate realms with-profane
decertata odiis sontesque evolvere Thebas,
fought-out hatreds and-guilty to-unroll Thebes,
Pierius menti calor incidit. Unde iubetis
Pierian upon-my-mind heat has-fallen. Whence do-you-bid
ire, deae? Gentisne canam primordia dirae,
to-go, goddesses? Of-the-race-whether shall-I-sing the-beginnings dire,
Sidonios raptus et inexorabile pactum
the-Sidonian rapes and inexorable the-pact
legis Agenoreae scrutantemque aequora Cadmum?
of-the-law Agenorean and-searching the-seas Cadmus?
Longa retro series, trepidum si Martis operti
Long backward the-series, fearful if of-Mars hidden
agricolam infandis condentem proelia sulcis
the-farmer in-unspeakable burying battles furrows
expediam penitusque sequar, quo carmine muris
I-should-unfold and-deep should-follow, with-what song to-the-walls
iusserit Amphion Tyrios accedere montes,
bade Amphion Tyrian to-approach mountains,

unde graves irae cognata in moenia Baccho,
whence heavy angers kindred against walls for-Bacchus,
quod saevae Iunonis opus, cui sumpserit arcus
what of-savage of-Juno the-work, against-whom took-up bow
infelix Athamas, cur non expaverit ingens
unhappy Athamas, why not dreaded huge
Ionium socio casura Palaemone mater;
the-Ionian with-her-companion about-to-fall Palaemon the-mother;
atque adeo iam nunc gemitus et prospera Cadmi
and so now now the-groans and the-prosperous-things of-Cadmus
praeteriisse sinam: limen mihi carminis esto
to-have-passed I-will-allow: the-threshold for-me of-the-song let-be
Oedipodae confusa domus! Quando Itala nondum
of-Oedipus the-confounded house! Since Italian not-yet
signa nec Arctoos ausim spirare triumphos
standards nor Northern should-I-dare to-breathe triumphs
bisque iugo Rhenum, bis adactum legibus Histrum
and-twice to-the-yoke the-Rhine, twice driven under-laws the-Hister
et coniurato deiectos vertice Dacos
and from-the-conspiring cast-down summit the-Dacians
aut defensa prius vix pubescentibus annis
or defended before scarcely with-downy years
bella Iovis. Tuque, o Latiae decus addite famae,
the-wars of-Jupiter. And-you, O to-Latin glory added fame,
quem nova mature subeuntem exorsa parentis
whom new early taking-up the-undertakings of-your-father
aeternum sibi Roma cupit (licet artior omnes
forever for-herself Rome desires (although narrower all
limes agat stellas et te plaga lucida caeli,
the-boundary should-drive the-stars and you the-region bright of-the-sky,

Pleiadum Boreaeque et hiulci fulminis expers,
of-the-Pleiads and-of-Boreas and of-the-cleaving lightning free,
sollicitet, licet ignipedum frenator equorum
should-tempt, although of-the-fire-footed the-bridler horses
ipse tuis alte radiantem crinibus arcum
himself on-your high radiant hair bow
imprimat aut magni cedat tibi Iuppiter aequa
should-imprint or of-great should-yield to-you Jupiter equal
parte poli), maneas hominum contentus habenis,
part of-the-sky), may-you-remain of-men content with-the-reins,
undarum terraeque potens, et sidera dones.
of-the-waves and-of-the-land mighty, and the-stars may-you-give.
Tempus erit, cum Pierio tua fortior oestro
Time will-be, when by-Pierian your stronger frenzy
facta canam: nunc tendo chelyn satis arma referre
deeds I-shall-sing: now I-tune the-lyre enough arms to-recount
Aonia et geminis sceptrum exitiale tyrannis
Aonian and to-twin the-scepter deadly tyrants
nec furiis post fata modum flammasque rebelles
nor to-the-furies after death a-limit and-flames rebellious
seditione rogi tumulisque carentia regum
in-the-discord of-the-pyre and-of-tombs lacking of-kings
funera et egestas alternis mortibus urbes,
funerals and drained by-alternate deaths cities,
caerula cum rubuit Lernaeo sanguine Dirce
dark-blue when reddened with-Lernaean blood Dirce
et Thetis arentes adsuetum stringere ripas
and Thetis dry accustomed to-graze banks
horruit ingenti venientem Ismenon acervo.
shuddered-at with-huge coming Ismenos heap.

Quem prius heroum, Clio, dabis? immodicum irae
Whom first of-heroes, Clio, will-you-give? immoderate in-anger
Tydea? laurigeri subitos an vatis hiatus?
Tydeus? of-the-laurel-bearing sudden or of-the-seer gapings?
Urget et hostilem propellens caedibus amnem
Presses also hostile driving with-slaughters the-river
turbidus Hippomedon, plorandaque bella protervi
turbulent Hippomedon, and-lamentable the-wars of-the-insolent
Arcados atque alio Capaneus horrore canendus.
Arcadian and with-another Capaneus horror to-be-sung.

I.2 · OEDIPUS' CURSE

Oedipus, who blinded himself for his shame, lives in darkness in the depths of his house. He beats the ground and calls on Tisiphone: if he has deserved her favor, if she guided him to kill his father and solve the Sphinx's riddle and marry his mother, let her hear him now. His sons insult his blindness and rule proudly; let her go among the brothers and set them against each other.

Impia iam merita scrutatus lumina dextra
Impious now with-deserving having-searched eyes right-hand
merserat aeterna damnatum nocte pudorem
had-sunk in-eternal condemned night his-shame
Oedipodes longaque animam sub morte tenebat.
Oedipus and-in-long his-soul under death was-holding.
Illum indulgentem tenebris imaeque recessu
Him indulging the-darkness and-of-the-lowest in-the-recess
sedis inaspectos caelo radiisque penates
of-his-seat unbeheld by-the-sky and-by-the-rays household-gods
servantem tamen adsiduis circumvolat alis
keeping yet with-constant flies-around wings

saeva dies animi, scelerumque in pectore Dirae.
savage the-day of-the-mind, and-of-crimes in his-breast the-Dirae.
Tunc vacuos orbes, crudum ac miserabile vitae
Then empty orbs, raw and pitiable of-life
supplicium, ostentat caelo manibusque cruentis
punishment, he-shows to-the-sky and-with-hands bloody
pulsat inane solum saevaque ita voce precatur:
beats empty ground and-with-savage thus voice prays:
'Di, sontes animas angustaque Tartara poenis
'Gods, guilty souls and-narrow Tartarus with-punishments
qui regitis, tuque umbrifero Styx livida fundo,
who rule, and-you in-shadowy Styx livid depth,
quam video, multumque mihi consueta vocari
whom I-see, and-much by-me accustomed to-be-called
adnue, Tisiphone, perversaque vota secunda:
nod, Tisiphone, and-perverse vows favor:
si bene quid merui, si me de matre cadentem
if well anything I-have-deserved, if me from my-mother falling
fovisti gremio et traiectum vulnere plantas
you-cherished in-your-lap and pierced with-a-wound my-soles
firmasti, si stagna peti Cirrhaea bicorni
strengthened, if the-pools I-sought Cirrhaean by-the-two-horned
interfusa iugo, possem cum degere falso
interposed ridge, I-could when live with-false
contentus Polybo, trifidaeque in Phocidos arto
content with-Polybus, and-of-three-forked in of-Phocis narrow
longaevum implicui regem secuique trementis
the-aged I-entangled king and-I-cut of-the-trembling
ora senis, dum quaero patrem, si Sphingos iniquae
the-face old-man, while I-seek my-father, if of-the-Sphinx unjust

callidus ambages te praemonstrante resolvi,
cunning the-riddles you foretelling I-solved,
si dulces furias et lamentabile matris
if sweet the-furies and lamentable of-my-mother
conubium gavisus ini noctemque nefandam
marriage rejoicing I-entered and-night unspeakable
saepe tuli natosque tibi, scis ipsa, paravi,
often I-bore and-sons for-you, you-know yourself, I-prepared,
mox avidus poenae digitis caedentibus ultro
soon greedy for-punishment with-fingers striking of-my-own-accord
incubui miseraque oculos in matre reliqui:
I-pressed-upon and-wretched my-eyes in mother I-left:
exaudi, si digna precor quaeque ipsa furenti
hear, if worthy-things I-pray and-what yourself to-the-raging
subiceres. Orbum visu regnisque carentem
would-suggest. Bereaved of-sight and-of-realms lacking
non regere aut dictis maerentem flectere adorti,
not to-guide or with-words the-mourning to-bend have-attempted,
quos genui quocumque toro; quin ecce superbi
whom I-begot from-whatever bed; nay behold proud
(pro dolor!) et nostro iamdudum funere reges
(O grief!) and at-our long-since death kings
insultant tenebris gemitusque odere paternos.
insult the-darkness and-the-groans hate paternal.
Hisne etiam funestus ego? et videt ista deorum
To-these-whether also accursed I? and sees those-things of-the-gods
ignavus genitor? Tu saltem debita vindex
sluggish the-father? You at-least due avenger
huc ades et totos in poenam ordire nepotes.
hither come and all into punishment weave descendants.

Indue quod madidum tabo diadema cruentis
Put-on what wet with-gore the-diadem with-bloody
unguibus abripui, votisque instincta paternis
nails I-snatched-off, and-with-the-vows inspired paternal
i media in fratres, generis consortia ferro
go middle among the-brothers, of-the-race the-partnerships with-iron
dissiliant. Da, Tartarei regina barathri,
let-them-leap-apart. Grant, of-Tartarean queen abyss,
quod cupiam vidisse nefas, nec tarda sequetur
what I-should-wish to-have-seen a-crime, nor slow will-follow
mens iuvenum; modo, Dira, veni: mea pignora nosces.'
the-mind of-the-young-men; only, Dira, come: my pledges you-will-know.'

I.3 · TISIPHONE COMES TO THEBES

Tisiphone, sitting by Cocytus, hears and rushes up through the Taenarian gate; the Day shrinks from her, and Atlas trembles. Snakes wreathe her face, her eyes burn, her breath brings plague and death, and she brandishes a funeral torch and a living hydra.

Talia dicenti crudelis diva severos
Such-things to-the-one-saying cruel the-goddess stern
advertit vultus. Inamoenum forte sedebat
turned her-face. Unlovely by-chance she-was-sitting
Cocyton iuxta, resolutaque vertice crines
Cocytus beside, and-loosened from-her-head her-hair
lambere sulphureas permiserat anguibus undas.
to-lick sulfurous had-allowed to-the-snakes waters.
Ilicet igne Iovis lapsisque citatior astris
At-once than-the-fire of-Jupiter and-than-slipping swifter stars

tristibus exsiluit ripis: discedit inane
from-the-grim she-leapt banks: parts-asunder the-empty
vulgus et occursus dominae pavet; illa per umbras
crowd and the-meetings of-its-mistress fears; she through shades
et caligantes animarum examine campos
and darkening of-souls with-the-swarm plains
Taenariae limen petit inremeabile portae.
of-the-Taenarian the-threshold seeks not-to-be-retraced gate.
Sensit adesse Dies, piceo nox obvia nimbo
Perceived to-be-present the-Day, with-pitch-black night meeting cloud
lucentes turbavit equos; procul arduus Atlas
shining disturbed horses; far-off towering Atlas
horruit et dubia caelum cervice remisit.
shuddered and on-wavering the-sky neck let-down.
Arripit extemplo Maleae de valle resurgens
She-seizes at-once of-Malea from the-valley rising
notum iter ad Thebas; neque enim velocior ullas
the-known way to Thebes; nor indeed swifter any
itque reditque vias cognataque Tartara mavult.
both-goes and-returns ways and-kindred Tartarus prefers.
Centum illi stantes umbrabant ora cerastae,
A-hundred for-her standing shaded the-face horned-snakes,
turba minax diri capitis; sedet intus abactis
a-crowd threatening of-the-dire head; sits within sunken
ferrea lux oculis, qualis per nubila Phoebes
iron light in-the-eyes, as through clouds of-Phoebe
Atracia rubet arte labor; suffusa veneno
by-Atracian reddens art the-labor; suffused with-poison
tenditur ac sanie gliscit cutis; igneus atro
is-stretched and with-gore swells the-skin; fiery from-black

ore vapor, quo longa sitis morbique famesque
mouth a-vapor, by-which long thirst and-diseases and-hunger
et populis mors una venit; riget horrida tergo
and on-the-peoples death one comes; stiffens bristling on-her-back
palla, et caerulei redeunt in pectora nodi:
the-mantle, and dark-blue return onto her-breast the-knots:
Atropos hos atque ipsa novat Proserpina cultus.
Atropos these and herself renews Proserpina garments.
Tunc geminas quatit ira manus: haec igne rogali
Then twin shakes in-anger hands: this with-fire funeral
fulgurat, haec vivo manus aera verberat hydro.
lightens, this with-living the-hand the-air lashes hydra.

I.4 · THE BROTHERS DIVIDE THE KINGDOM

Tisiphone's hiss on Cithaeron echoes through Greece, and as she settles on Thebes the brothers are seized by envy and the love of power. They agree to rule in alternate years, the exile away while the other reigns, a pact that cannot last. The lot falls to Eteocles; the people murmur, and a citizen complains that Thebes must now serve two masters in turn.

Ut stetit, abrupta qua plurimus arce Cithaeron
When she-stood, on-broken where greatest height Cithaeron
occurrit caelo, fera sibila crine virenti
meets the-sky, fierce hisses with-hair green
congeminat, signum terris, unde omnis Achaei
she-redoubles, a-signal to-the-lands, whence all of-the-Achaean
ora maris late Pelopeaque regna resultant.
the-shores of-the-sea widely and-the-Pelopean realms resound.
Audiit et medius caeli Parnasus et asper
Heard also in-the-middle of-the-sky Parnassus and rough

Eurotas, dubiamque iugo fragor impulit Oeten
Eurotas, and-doubtful on-its-ridge the-crash drove Oeta
in latus, et geminis vix fluctibus obstitit Isthmos.
onto its-side, and with-twin scarcely waves withstood Isthmus.
Ipsa suum genetrix curvo delphine vagantem
Herself her-own the-mother on-curved dolphin wandering
abripuit frenis gremioque Palaemona pressit.
snatched by-the-reins and-to-her-lap Palaemon pressed.
Atque ea Cadmeo praeceps ubi culmine primum
And she on-the-Cadmean headlong when summit first
constitit adsuetaque infecit nube penates,
stood and-with-accustomed stained cloud the-household-gods,
protinus attoniti fratrum sub pectore motus,
straightway astounded of-the-brothers under the-breast motions,
gentilisque animos subiit furor aegraque laetis
and-the-ancestral the-spirits came-upon frenzy and-sick at-the-glad
invidia atque parens odii metus, inde regendi
envy and the-parent of-hatred fear, thence of-ruling
saevus amor, ruptaeque vices iurisque secundi
savage love, and-broken alternations and-of-right second
ambitus impatiens, et summo dulcius unum
the-canvassing impatient, and on-the-highest sweeter alone
stare loco, sociisque comes discordia regnis.
to-stand place, and-to-shared the-companion discord realms.
Sic ubi delectos per torva armenta iuvencos
Thus when chosen from grim herds bullocks
agricola imposito sociare adfectat aratro,
the-farmer to-the-placed to-join strives plow,
illi indignantes, quis nondum vomere multo
they indignant, on-whom not-yet with-plowshare much

ardua nodosos cervix descendit in armos,
steep knotty the-neck has-descended into shoulders,
in diversa trahunt atque aequis vincula laxant
in different-directions drag and with-equal the-bonds loosen
viribus et vario confundunt limite sulcos:
strengths and with-varying confuse boundary the-furrows:
haud secus indomitos praeceps discordia fratres
not otherwise the-untamed headlong discord brothers
asperat. Alterni placuit sub legibus anni
roughens. Of-alternate it-pleased under the-laws year
exilio mutare ducem. Sic iure maligno
by-exile to-change the-leader. Thus by-right grudging
fortunam transire iubent, ut sceptra tenentem
fortune to-pass-over they-bid, that the-scepter the-holder
foedere praecipiti semper novus angeret heres.
by-pact headlong always new should-torment heir.
Haec inter fratres pietas erat, haec mora pugnae
This between the-brothers the-piety was, this the-delay of-the-fight
sola nec in regem perduratura secundum.
alone nor to the-king about-to-last second.
Et nondum crasso laquearia fulva metallo,
And not-yet with-thick panels golden metal,
montibus aut alte Grais effulta nitebant
on-mountains or high Greek supported shone
atria, congestos satis explicitura clientes;
halls, thronged enough about-to-hold clients;
non impacatis regum advigilantia somnis
not for-unappeased of-kings keeping-watch sleep
pila, nec alterna ferri statione gementes
javelins, nor in-alternate of-iron station groaning

excubiae, nec cura mero committere gemmas
watches, nor care in-wine to-entrust gems
atque aurum violare cibis: sed nuda potestas
and gold to-violate with-food: but bare power
armavit fratres, pugna est de paupere regno.
armed the-brothers, the-fight is about a-poor kingdom.
Dumque uter angustae squalentia iugera Dirces
And-while which-of-the-two of-narrow the-squalid acres Dirce
verteret aut Tyrii solio non altus ovaret
should-turn or of-the-Tyrian on-the-throne not lofty should-exult
exulis ambigitur, periit ius fasque bonumque
of-the-exile is-disputed, perished right and-law and-good
et vitae mortisque pudor. Quo tenditis iras,
and of-life and-of-death shame. Where do-you-strain angers,
a miseri? Quid si peteretur crimine tanto
ah wretched? What if were-sought by-crime so-great
limes uterque poli, quem Sol emissus Eoo
the-boundary each of-the-sky, which the-Sun sent-forth from-the-Eastern
cardine, quem portu vergens prospectat Hibero,
hinge, which in-harbor sinking looks-out-on Iberian,
quasque procul terras obliquo sidere tangit
and-which far-off lands with-slanting star he-touches
avius aut Borea gelidas madidive tepentes
pathless or by-Boreas cold or-wet warm
igne Noti? Quid si Phrygiae Tyriaeque sub unum
with-the-fire of-Notus? What if of-Phrygia and-of-Tyre under one
convectentur opes? Loca dira arcesque nefandae
were-brought-together the-wealth? Places dire and-citadels unspeakable
suffecere odio, furiisque immanibus emptum
sufficed for-hatred, and-with-furies huge bought

Oedipodae sedisse loco. Iam sorte cadebat
of-Oedipus to-have-sat in-the-place. Now by-lot was-falling
dilatus Polynicis honos. Quis tunc tibi, saeve,
delayed of-Polynices the-honor. What then for-you, savage-one,
quis fuit ille dies, vacua cum solus in aula
what was that day, empty when alone in the-hall
respiceres ius omne tuum cunctosque minores,
you-looked-back-at right all your and-all inferior,
et nusquam par stare caput? iam murmura serpunt
and nowhere equal to-stand a-head? now murmurs creep
plebis Echioniae, tacitumque a principe vulgus
of-the-people Echionian, and-silent from the-prince the-crowd
dissidet, et, qui mos populis, venturus amatur.
dissents, and, as-is the-custom for-peoples, the-coming-one is-loved.
Atque aliquis, cui mens humili laesisse veneno
And someone, whose mind with-low to-have-hurt poison
summa nec impositos umquam cervice volenti
the-highest nor placed ever with-neck willing
ferre duces, 'Hancne Ogygiis' ait, 'aspera rebus
to-bear leaders, 'This-whether to-the-Ogygian' he-says, 'harsh affairs
fata tulere vicem, totiens mutare timendos
the-fates have-brought lot, so-often to-change those-to-be-feared
alternoque iugo dubitantia subdere colla?
and-to-alternate yoke wavering to-submit necks?
Partiti versant populorum fata manuque
Having-shared they-turn of-the-peoples the-fates and-with-hand
fortunam fecere levem. Semperne vicissim
fortune have-made light. Always-whether in-turn
exulibus servire dabor? tibi, summe deorum
to-exiles to-serve shall-I-be-given? to-you, highest of-the-gods

terrarumque sator, sociis hanc addere mentem
and-of-the-lands sower, to-the-partners this to-add mind
sedit? An inde vetus Thebis extenditur omen,
has-it-been-settled? Or thence old for-Thebes is-stretched the-omen,
ex quo Sidonii nequiquam blanda iuvenci
from which-time of-the-Sidonian in-vain charming bullock
pondera Carpathio iussus sale quaerere Cadmus
the-weights in-the-Carpathian ordered salt to-seek Cadmus
exul Hyanteos invenit regna per agros,
an-exile Hyantean found realms across fields,
fraternasque acies fetae telluris hiatu
and-brotherly battle-lines of-the-pregnant earth by-the-gaping
augurium seros dimisit ad usque nepotes?
an-augury late sent-down as-far right-to descendants?
Cernis, ut erecta torvum sub fronte minetur
Do-you-see, how raised grimly under brow threatens
saevior adsurgens dempto consorte potestas.
more-savage rising with-the-partner removed power.
Quas gerit ore minas, quanto premit omnia fastu!
What he-bears in-his-face threats, with-how-great presses all-things pride!
Hicne umquam privatus erit? Tamen ille precanti
This-one-whether ever private will-be? Yet he to-the-praying
mitis et adfatu bonus et patientior aequi.
gentle and in-address kind and more-patient of-the-just.
Quid mirum? Non solus erat. Nos, vilis in omnes
What wonder? Not alone was-he. We, cheap for all
prompta manus casus, domino cuicumque parati.
ready hand mishaps, for-master any prepared.
Qualiter hinc gelidus Boreas, hinc nubifer Eurus
As from-here cold Boreas, from-there cloud-bearing Eurus

vela trahunt, nutat mediae fortuna carinae,
the-sails drag, nods of-the-middle the-fortune ship,
(heu dubio suspensa metu tolerandaque nullis
(alas by-doubtful suspended fear and-to-be-borne by-no
aspera sors populis!) hic imperat, ille minatur.'
harsh lot peoples!) this-one commands, that-one threatens.'

I.5 · JUPITER'S COUNCIL

Jupiter summons the gods to his starry palace and declares that he is weary of punishing mortal crimes. He will destroy both Thebes and Argos, the houses descended from him: Oedipus' sons have trampled their father's blinded eyes, and the old man's curse deserves an avenger. Adrastus, as father-in-law, and the marriages of his daughters will be the seeds of war.

At Iovis imperio rapidi super atria caeli
But of-Jupiter at-the-command swift above the-halls of-the-sky
lectus concilio divum convenerat ordo
chosen to-the-council of-the-gods had-gathered the-order
interiore polo. Spatiis hinc omnia iuxta,
in-the-inner pole. With-spaces from-here all-things near,
primaeque occiduaeque domus et fusa sub omni
both-the-first and-the-setting the-houses and spread under every
terra atque unda die; mediis sese arduus infert
land and wave day; in-the-middle himself towering brings
ipse deis, placido quatiens tamen omnia vultu,
himself among-the-gods, with-calm shaking yet all-things face,
stellantique locat solio; nec protinus ausi
and-on-starry places throne; nor straightway dared
caelicolae, veniam donec pater ipse sedendi
the-heaven-dwellers, permission until the-father himself of-sitting

tranquilla iubet esse manu. Mox turba vagorum
with-calm bids to-be hand. Soon the-crowd of-wandering
semideum et summis cognati nubibus amnes
demigods and to-the-highest kindred clouds rivers
et compressa metu servantes murmura Venti
and checked by-fear keeping murmurs the-Winds
aurea tecta replent. Mixta convexa deorum
golden roofs fill. Mingled the-vaults of-the-gods
maiestate tremunt, radiant maiore sereno
with-majesty tremble, shine with-greater calm
culmina et arcano florentes lumine postes.
the-summits and with-secret flowering light doorposts.
Postquam iussa quies siluitque exterritus orbis,
After was-ordered rest and-was-silent terrified the-world,
incipit ex alto (grave et inmutabile sanctis
he-begins from on-high (heavy and unchangeable to-holy
pondus adest verbis, et vocem Fata sequuntur):
weight is-present words, and the-voice the-Fates follow):
'Terrarum delicta nec exsaturabile Diris
'Of-the-lands the-offenses and-not satiable by-the-Dirae
ingenium mortale queror. Quonam usque nocentum
the-nature mortal I-complain-of. How-then far of-the-guilty
exigar in poenas? taedet saevire corusco
shall-I-be-driven to punishments? it-wearies to-rage with-flashing
fulmine, iam pridem Cyclopum operosa fatiscunt
thunderbolt, now long-since of-the-Cyclopes toiling grow-weary
bracchia et Aeoliis desunt incudibus ignes.
the-arms and from-the-Aeolian are-lacking anvils fires.
Atque adeo tuleram falso rectore solutos
And so I-had-borne with-false driver loosed

Solis equos, caelumque rotis errantibus uri,
of-the-Sun the-horses, and-the-sky with-wheels wandering to-be-burned,
et Phaethontea mundum squalere favilla.
and with-Phaethon's the-world to-be-foul ash.
Nil actum, neque tu valida quod cuspide late
Nothing done, nor you with-mighty which point widely
ire per inlicitum pelago, germane, dedisti.
to-go across the-unlawful sea, brother, you-gave.
Nunc geminas punire domos, quis sanguinis auctor
Now twin to-punish houses, of-which of-the-blood the-author
ipse ego, descendo. Perseos alter in Argos
myself I, I-descend. Of-Perseus one into Argos
scinditur, Aonias fluit hic ab origine Thebas.
is-split, Aonian flows this-one from the-origin Thebes.
Mens cunctis imposta manet: quis funera Cadmi
The-mind in-all placed remains: who the-deaths of-Cadmus
nesciat et totiens excitam a sedibus imis
knows-not and so-often roused from seats lowest
Eumenidum bellasse aciem, mala gaudia matrum
of-the-Eumenides to-have-warred the-battle-line, the-evil joys of-mothers
erroresque feros nemorum et reticenda deorum
and-wanderings fierce of-the-groves and to-be-left-unsaid of-the-gods
crimina? Vix lucis spatio, vix noctis abactae
crimes? Scarcely of-day in-the-space, scarcely of-night driven-away
enumerare queam mores gentemque profanam.
to-count could-I the-ways and-the-race profane.
Scandere quin etiam thalamos hic impius heres
To-climb nay even the-chamber this impious heir
patris et inmeritae gremium incestare parentis
of-his-father and of-undeserving the-lap to-defile mother

appetiit, proprios (monstrum!) revolutus in ortus.
sought, his-own (O-monster!) rolled-back into origins.
Ille tamen superis aeterna piacula solvit
He yet to-the-gods-above eternal atonements has-paid
proiecitque diem, nec iam amplius aethere nostro
and-has-cast-away the-day, nor now longer on-ether our
vescitur; at nati (facinus sine more!) cadentes
feeds; but his-sons (O-crime without custom!) falling
calcavere oculos. Iam iam rata vota tulisti,
trampled-on his-eyes. Now now ratified vows you-have-brought,
dire senex! meruere tuae, meruere tenebrae
dire old-man! have-deserved your, have-deserved darkness
ultorem sperare Iovem. Nova sontibus arma
an-avenger to-hope Jupiter. New on-the-guilty arms
iniciam regnis, totumque a stirpe revellam
I-will-throw realms, and-whole from the-root tear-out
exitiale genus. Belli mihi semina sunto
deadly race. Of-war for-me the-seeds let-be
Adrastus socer et superis adiuncta sinistris
Adrastus the-father-in-law and to-the-gods-above joined unfavorable
conubia. Hanc etiam poenis incessere gentem
marriages. This also with-punishments to-assail race
decretum; neque enim arcano de pectore fallax
it-is-decreed; nor indeed secret from breast deceitful
Tantalus et saevae periit iniuria mensae.'
Tantalus and of-the-savage has-perished the-wrong table.'

Juno protests that Argos is her city: if Jupiter must punish old crimes, let him begin with the places sacred to himself and his loves, Olympia, Ida, and Crete. Jupiter answers that his decree is fixed by an oath on the Styx, and sends Mercury to the underworld to bring up the ghost of Laius, who is to urge Eteocles to keep his brother from the throne. Mercury binds on his winged sandals and flies off.

Sic pater omnipotens. Ast illi saucia dictis
Thus the-father almighty. But she wounded by-the-words
flammato versans inopinum corde dolorem
in-kindled turning unexpected heart grief
talia Iuno refert: 'Mene, o iustissime divum,
such-things Juno replies: 'Me-whether, O most-just of-the-gods,
me bello certare iubes? scis, semper ut arces
me in-war to-strive you-bid? you-know, always how the-citadels
Cyclopum magnique Phoroneos inclita fama
of-the-Cyclopes and-of-great Phoroneus famous fame
sceptra viris opibusque iuvem, licet improbus illic
the-scepter with-men and-wealth I-help, although shameless there
custodem Phariae somno letoque iuvencae
the-guard of-the-Pharian with-sleep and-death heifer
extinguas, saeptis et turribus aureus intres.
you-may-extinguish, into-enclosures and towers golden you-may-enter.
Mentitis ignosco toris: illam odimus urbem,
The-feigned I-pardon beds: that we-hate city,
quam vultu confessus adis, ubi conscia magni
which with-face confessing you-approach, where conscious of-great
signa tori tonitrus agis et mea fulmina torques.
signs bed thunders you-drive and my thunderbolts you-hurl.

Facta luant Thebae: cur hostes eligis Argos?
The-deeds let-pay-for Thebes: why as-enemies do-you-choose Argos?
Quin age, si tanta est thalami discordia sancti,
Nay come, if so-great is of-the-marriage-bed the-discord holy,
et Samon et veteres armis excinde Mycenas,
both Samos and old in-arms destroy Mycenae,
verte solo Sparten. Cur usquam sanguine festo
overturn from-the-ground Sparta. Why anywhere with-blood festal
coniugis ara tuae, cumulo cur turis Eoi
of-the-wife the-altar your, with-heap why of-incense Eastern
laeta calet? Melius votis Mareotica fumat
glad grows-warm? Better with-vows Mareotic smokes
Coptos et aerisoni lugentia flumina Nili.
Coptos and of-bronze-sounding mourning the-streams Nile.
Quod si prisca luunt auctorum crimina gentes
But if old pay-for of-the-founders the-crimes the-nations
subvenitque tuis sera haec sententia curis,
and-comes-to-the-aid-of your late this opinion cares,
percensere aevi senium: quo tempore tandem
to-review of-the-age the-old-age: at-what time at-last
terrarum furias abolere et saecula retro
of-the-lands the-furies to-abolish and the-ages back
emendare sat est? Iamdudum ab sedibus illis
to-amend enough is-it? Long-since from seats those
incipe, fluctivaga qua praeterlabitur unda
begin, wave-wandering where glides-past wave
Sicanios longe relegens Alpheos amores.
Sicilian far retracing Alpheus loves.
Arcades hic tua (nec pudor est) delubra nefastis
The-Arcadians here your (nor shame is) shrines in-unhallowed

imposuere locis, illic Mavortius axis
have-placed places, there the-Martial axle
Oenomai Geticoque pecus stabulare sub Haemo
of-Oenomaus and-Getic the-flock to-stable under Haemus
dignius, abruptis etiamnum inhumata procorum
more-fitting, with-broken still unburied of-the-suitors
reliquiis trunca ora rigent. Tamen hic tibi templi
remains the-maimed faces stiffen. Yet here to-you of-the-temple
gratus honos, placet Ida nocens mentitaque manes
pleasing the-honor, pleases Ida guilty and-lying the-shades
Creta tuos. Me Tantaleis consistere tectis,
Crete your. Me on-Tantalean to-stand roofs,
quae tandem invidia est? Belli deflecte tumultus
what then envy is-it? Of-war turn-aside the-tumults
et generis miseresce tui. Sunt impia late
and of-the-race take-pity your. There-are impious widely
regna tibi, melius generos passura nocentes.'
realms for-you, better sons-in-law to-endure guilty.'
Finierat precibus miscens convicia Iuno.
She-had-ended with-prayers mingling reproaches Juno.
At non ille gravis dictis, quamquam aspera motu,
But not he heavy in-words, although harsh in-motion,
reddidit haec: 'Equidem haud rebar te mente secunda
returned these-things: 'Indeed not did-I-think you with-mind favorable
laturam, quodcumque tuos, licet aequus, in Argos
would-bear, whatever your, although fair, toward Argos
consulerem, neque me, detur si copia, fallit
I-should-decide, nor me, were-it-granted if the-opportunity, escapes
multa super Thebis Bacchum ausuramque Dionen
many-things concerning Thebes Bacchus and-about-to-dare Dione

dicere, sed nostri reverentia ponderis obstat.
to-say, but of-our the-reverence weight stands-in-the-way.
Horrendos etenim latices, Stygia aequora fratris
Dread for waters, Stygian the-seas of-my-brother
obtestor (mansurum atque inrevocabile verbum),
I-call-to-witness (about-to-remain and irrevocable word),
nil fore, quod dictis flectar! Quare impiger alis
nothing to-be, by-which by-words I-may-be-bent! Wherefore active with-wings
portantes praecede notos, Cyllenia proles,
bearing go-ahead the-south-winds, Cyllenian offspring,
aera per liquidum regnisque inlapsus opacis
the-air through liquid and-to-the-realms gliding dark
dic patruo: superas senior se attollat ad auras
tell your-uncle: upper the-old-man himself let-raise to airs
Laius, extinctum nati quem vulnere nondum
Laius, slain of-his-son whom by-the-wound not-yet
ulterior Lethes accepit ripa profundi
the-farther of-Lethe has-received bank deep
lege Erebi; ferat haec diro mea iussa nepoti:
by-the-law of-Erebus; let-him-carry these to-his-dire my orders grandson:
germanum exilio fretum Argolicisque tumentem
his-brother in-exile relying and-on-Argive swelling
hospitiis, quod sponte cupit, procul impius aula
hospitality, which of-his-own-accord he-desires, far-off impious from-the-hall
arceat, alternum regni infitiatus honorem.
let-him-keep-off, the-alternate of-the-kingdom denying honor.
Hinc causae irarum, certo reliqua ordine ducam.'
From-here the-causes of-the-angers, in-sure the-rest order I-shall-lead.'
Paret Atlantiades dictis genitoris et inde
Obeys the-son-of-Atlas the-words of-his-father and thence

summa pedum propere plantaribus inligat alis,
the-tops of-his-feet hastily with-sole binds wings,
obnubitque comas et temperat astra galero.
and-veils his-hair and tempers the-stars with-the-cap.
Tum dextrae virgam inseruit, qua pellere dulces
Then in-his-right-hand the-wand he-put, with-which to-drive-off sweet
aut suadere iterum somnos, qua nigra subire
or to-persuade again sleep, with-which black to-go-under
Tartara et exangues animare adsueverat umbras.
Tartarus and bloodless to-animate he-had-been-accustomed shades.
Desiluit, tenuique exceptus inhorruit aura.
He-leapt-down, and-by-the-thin received shuddered breeze.
Nec mora, sublimis raptim per inane volatus
Nor delay, lofty hastily through the-void flights
carpit et ingenti designat nubila gyro.
plucks and with-a-huge marks-out the-clouds circle.

I.7 · POLYNICES' EXILE

Polynices wanders the wilds of Boeotia, longing for the day his brother must yield the throne. Fate, or the Fury, drives him toward Argos; he leaves Thebes, passes Cithaeron, the rocks of Sciron, and Corinth, and reaches the Isthmus.

Interea patriis olim vagus exul ab oris
Meanwhile his-native long-since wandering an-exile from shores
Oedipodionides furto deserta pererrat
the-son-of-Oedipus by-stealth deserted roams
Aoniae. Iam iamque animi male debita regna
Aonia. Now now in-mind wrongly owed realms

concipit, et longum signis cunctantibus annum
he-conceives, and long with-signs lingering the-year
stare gemit. Tenet una dies noctesque recursans
to-stand groans. Holds one by-day and-by-night recurring
cura virum, si quando humilem decedere regno
care the-man, if ever humbled to-depart from-the-kingdom
germanum et semet Thebis opibusque potitum
his-brother and himself of-Thebes and-the-wealth in-possession
cerneret; hac aevum cupiat pro luce pacisci.
he-might-see; for-this an-age he-would-wish for light to-bargain.
Nunc queritur ceu tarda fugae dispendia, sed mox
Now he-complains as-of slow of-flight the-losses, but soon
attollit flatus ducis et sedisse superbus
raises the-airs of-a-leader and to-have-sat proud
deiecto iam fratre putat: spes anxia mentem
cast-down already his-brother thinks: hope anxious the-mind
extrahit et longo consumit gaudia voto.
draws-out and in-long consumes joys wish.
Tunc sedet, Inachias urbes Danaeiaque arva
Then it-is-settled Inachian the-cities and-Danaean fields
et caligantes abrupto sole Mycenas
and darkened with-broken-off sun Mycenae
ferre iter impavidum, seu praevia ducit Erinys,
to-bear a-way fearless, whether going-before leads Erinys,
seu fors illa viae, sive hac inmota vocabat
or chance that of-the-way, or this-way unmoved was-calling
Atropos. Ogygiis ululata furoribus antra
Atropos. With-Ogygian howled-through frenzies the-caves
deserit et pingues Baccheo sanguine colles.
he-deserts and rich with-Bacchic blood hills.

Inde plagam, qua molle sedens in plana Cithaeron
Thence the-tract, where softly settling into the-plains Cithaeron
porrigitur lassumque inclinat ad aequora montem,
is-stretched and-weary inclines toward the-seas the-mountain,
praeterit. Hinc arte scopuloso in limite pendens
he-passes. From-here narrowly rocky on path hanging
infames Scirone petras Scyllaeaque rura
the-infamous by-Sciron rocks and-Scyllaean countryside
purpureo regnata seni mitemque Corinthon
by-the-purple ruled old-man and-gentle Corinth
linquit et in mediis audit duo litora campis.
he-leaves and in the-middle hears two shores fields.

I.8 · THE STORM AND ARGOS

Night falls, and a violent storm sweeps over the Peloponnese: winds clash, rivers flood, and woods are torn down. Polynices pushes on through the dark like a sailor lost at sea, until he sees the lights of Argos and takes shelter in the porch of the palace of Adrastus. The king has two daughters, and Apollo's oracle has foretold that they will marry a boar and a lion.

Iamque per emeriti surgens confinia Phoebi
And-now over of-the-spent rising the-borders Phoebus
Titanis late, mundo subvecta silenti,
the-Titan's-daughter widely, in-the-world carried-up silent,
rorifera gelidum tenuaverat aera biga;
with-dew-bearing cold had-thinned the-air two-horse-car;
iam pecudes volucresque tacent, iam somnus amaris
now flocks and-birds are-silent, now sleep into-bitter
inrepsit curis pronusque ex aethere nutat,
has-crept cares and-leaning from the-ether nods,

grata laboratae referens oblivia vitae.
pleasing of-toiled bringing-back forgetfulness life.
Sed nec puniceo rediturum nubila caelo
But neither with-crimson about-to-return the-clouds in-the-sky
promisere iubar, nec rarescentibus umbris
promised radiance, nor with-thinning shadows
longa repercusso nituere crepuscula Phoebo:
long with-reflected shone twilights Phoebus:
densior a terris et nulli pervia flammae
denser from the-lands and to-no passable flame
subtexit nox atra polos, iam claustra rigentis
wove-under night black the-poles, now the-barriers of-stiffening
Aeoliae percussa sonant, venturaque rauco
Aeolia struck sound, and-coming with-hoarse
ore minatur hiems, venti transversa frementes
mouth threatens the-storm, the-winds across roaring
confligunt axemque emoto cardine vellunt,
clash and-the-axis with-moved hinge tear,
dum caelum sibi quisque rapit; sed plurimus Auster
while the-sky for-himself each snatches; but most Auster
inglomerat noctem, tenebrosa volumina torquens,
balls-together night, dark coils twisting,
defunditque imbres, sicco quos asper hiatu
and-pours-down rains, with-dry which harsh gaping
praesolidat Boreas; nec non abrupta tremescunt
hardens-beforehand Boreas; nor not broken tremble
fulgura, et attritus subita face rumpitur aether.
lightnings, and rubbed by-sudden torch is-burst the-ether.
Iam Nemea, iam Taenariis contermina lucis
Now Nemea, now with-Taenarian bordering groves

Arcadiae capita alta madent; ruit agmine facto
of-Arcadia the-heads high are-wet; rushes in-column made
Inachus et gelidas surgens Erasinus in undas.
Inachus and cold rising Erasinus into waves.
Pulverulenta prius calcataque flumina nullae
Dusty before and-trodden rivers no
aggeribus tenuere morae, stagnoque refusa est
with-banks held delays, and-from-the-pool poured-back is
funditus et veteri spumavit Lerna veneno.
from-the-bottom and with-old foamed Lerna poison.
Frangitur omne nemus, rapiunt antiqua procellae
Is-broken every grove, snatch ancient the-gales
bracchia silvarum, nullisque aspecta per aevum
arms of-the-woods, and-by-no seen through age
solibus umbrosi patuere aestiva Lycaei.
suns shady lay-open the-summer-pastures of-Lycaeus.
Ille tamen, modo saxa iugis fugientia ruptis
He yet, now rocks from-the-ridges fleeing burst
miratus, modo nubigenas e montibus amnes
having-wondered-at, now cloud-born from mountains rivers
aure pavens passimque insano turbine raptas
with-his-ear fearing and-everywhere by-mad whirlwind snatched
pastorum pecorumque domos, non segnius amens
of-shepherds and-of-flocks homes, not more-sluggishly mad
incertusque viae per nigra silentia vastum
and-uncertain of-the-way through black silences vast
haurit iter: pulsat metus undique et undique frater.
drains a-way: strikes fear on-all-sides and on-all-sides his-brother.
Ac velut hiberno deprensus navita ponto,
And as in-wintry caught the-sailor sea,

cui neque Temo piger neque amico sidere monstrat
to-whom neither the-Wain sluggish nor with-friendly star shows
Luna vias, medio caeli pelagique tumultu
the-Moon ways, in-the-middle of-the-sky and-of-the-sea uproar
stat rationis inops, iam iamque aut saxa malignis
stands of-reason helpless, now now either rocks in-malign
expectat submersa vadis aut vertice acuto
awaits sunk shallows or on-summit sharp
spumantes scopulos erectae incurrere prorae:
foaming crags of-the-raised to-run-onto prow:
talis opaca legens nemorum Cadmeius heros
such dark gathering of-the-groves the-Cadmean hero
accelerat, vasto metuenda umbone ferarum
hastens, with-vast to-be-feared boss of-wild-beasts
excutiens stabula, et prono virgulta refringit
shaking-out the-lairs, and with-leaning the-thickets breaks
pectore; dat stimulos animo vis maesta timoris,
breast; gives goads to-his-mind the-force sad of-fear,
donec ab Inachiis victa caligine tectis
until from Inachian conquered darkness roofs
emicuit lucem devexa in moenia fundens
flashed-out light sloping onto the-walls pouring
Larisaeus apex. Illo spe concitus omni
Larisaean the-summit. To-it with-hope roused all
evolat, hinc celsae Iunonia templa Prosymnae
he-flies-out, from-here lofty Junonian the-temples of-Prosymna
laevus habens, hinc Herculeo signata vapore
on-the-left having, from-there with-Herculean marked heat
Lernaei stagna atra vadi, tandemque reclusis
of-Lernaean the-pools black ford, and-at-last opened

infertur portis. Actutum regia cernit
is-brought-in gates. At-once the-royal he-sees
vestibula; hic artus imbri ventoque rigentes
porch; here his-limbs with-rain and-wind stiff
proicit ignotaeque acclinis postibus aulae
throws-down and-of-unknown leaning on-the-doorposts of-the-hall
invitat tenues ad dura cubilia somnos.
invites thin to hard couches sleeps.
Rex ibi tranquille, medio de limite vitae
The-king there tranquilly, middle from boundary of-life
in senium vergens, populos Adrastus habebat,
into old-age sloping, peoples Adrastus held,
dives avis et utroque Iovem de sanguine ducens.
rich in-ancestors and each Jupiter from blood drawing.
Hic sexus melioris inops, sed prole virebat
This-one of-sex of-the-better lacking, but with-offspring flourished
feminea, gemino natarum pignore fultus.
female, with-twin of-daughters pledge propped.
Cui Phoebus generos (monstrum exitiabile dictu!
To-whom Phoebus as-sons-in-law (O-monster deadly to-be-told!
Mox adaperta fides) fato ducente canebat
Soon opened the-faith) with-fate leading was-singing
saetigerumque suem et fulvum adventare leonem,
both-bristly a-boar and tawny to-come a-lion,
id volvens non ipse pater, non docte futuri
this revolving not himself the-father, not learned of-the-future
Amphiarae vides (etenim vetat auctor Apollo);
Amphiaraus you-see (for forbids the-author Apollo);
tantum in corde sedens aegrescit cura parenti.
only in heart sitting grows-sick the-care for-the-parent.

Tydeus, exiled from Calydon for killing his brother, arrives in the same storm and seeks the same porch. The two quarrel over the shelter and fight with their fists. Adrastus, woken by the noise, comes out with torches and asks who they are and why they fight.

Ecce autem antiquam fato Calydona relinquens
Behold but ancient by-fate Calydon leaving
Olenius Tydeus (fraterni sanguinis illum
Olenian Tydeus (of-a-brother's blood him
conscius horror agit) eadem sub nocte sopora
conscious horror drives) the-same under night drowsy
lustra terit, similesque notos dequestus et imbres,
lairs wears, and-like south-winds having-complained-of and rains,
infusam tergo glaciem et liquentia nimbis
poured on-his-back ice and dripping from-the-storms
ora comasque gerens subit uno tegmine, cuius
face and-hair bearing goes-under one roof, of-which
fusus humo gelida partem prior hospes habebat.
spread on-the-ground cold a-part the-earlier guest held.
Hic vero ambobus rabiem fortuna cruentam
Here indeed to-both rage fortune bloody
attulit: haut passi sociis defendere noctem
brought: not having-allowed with-shared to-keep-off the-night
culminibus paulum, alterni nil verba minasque
roofs a-little, alternate nothing words and-threats
cunctantur; mox ut iactis sermonibus irae
delay; soon when with-thrown talk the-angers
intumuere satis, tum vero erectus uterque
swelled enough, then indeed raised each

exertare umeros nudamque lacessere pugnam.
to-bare shoulders and-naked to-challenge fight.
Celsior ille gradu procera in membra simulque
Taller he in-step tall in limbs and-at-the-same-time
integer annorum, sed non et viribus infra
untouched in-years, but not also in-strength inferior
Tydea fert animus, totosque infusa per artus
Tydeus bears his-spirit, and-whole poured through limbs
maior in exiguo regnabat corpore virtus.
greater in small reigned body valor.
Iam crebros ictus ora et cava tempora circum
Now frequent blows the-face and hollow temples around
obnixi ingeminant, telorum aut grandinis instar
braced they-redouble, of-weapons or of-hail like
Rhiphaeae, flexoque genu vacua ilia tundunt.
Rhipaean, and-with-bent knee the-empty flanks pound.
Non aliter quam Pisaeo sua lustra Tonanti
Not otherwise than to-the-Pisaean their the-lustra to-the-Thunderer
cum redeunt crudisque virum sudoribus ardet
when they-return and-with-raw of-men sweats burns
pulvis; at hinc teneros caveae dissensus ephebos
the-dust; but from-here tender of-the-arena the-dissent youths
concitat, exclusaeque expectant praemia matres:
rouses, and-shut-out await the-prizes the-mothers:
sic alacres odio nullaque cupidine laudis
so eager with-hatred and-by-no desire of-praise
accensi incurrunt, scrutatur et intima vultus
kindled they-run-in, searches also the-inmost of-the-face
unca manus penitusque oculis cedentibus intrat.
hooked the-hand and-deeply into-the-eyes yielding enters.

Forsan et accinctos lateri (sic ira ferebat)
Perhaps also girded at-the-side (thus anger was-bearing)
nudassent enses, meliusque hostilibus armis
would-have-bared swords, and-better by-hostile arms
lugendus fratri, iuvenis Thebane, iaceres,
to-be-mourned by-your-brother, young-man Theban, you-would-lie,
ni rex, insolitum clamorem et pectore ab alto
had-not the-king, unwonted the-clamor and breast from deep
stridentes gemitus noctis miratus in umbris,
hissing groans of-the-night having-wondered-at in shadows,
movisset gressus, magnis cui saucia curis
moved his-steps, with-great on-whom wounded cares
pendebat somno iam deteriore senectus.
hung for-sleep now worse old-age.
Isque ubi progrediens numerosa luce per alta
And-he when advancing with-numerous light through high
atria dimotis adverso limine claustris
halls with-moved-aside from-the-opposite threshold bars
terribilem dictu faciem, lacera ora putresque
terrible to-tell the-sight, torn faces and-rotting
sanguineo videt imbre genas: 'Quae causa furoris,
with-bloody he-sees rain cheeks: 'What cause of-madness,
externi iuvenes (neque enim meus audeat istas
foreign young-men (nor indeed my would-dare such
civis in usque manus), quisnam implacabilis ardor
citizen into all-the-way hands), what implacable ardor
exturbare odiis tranquilla silentia noctis?
to-drive-out with-hatreds the-tranquil silences of-night?
Usque adeone angusta dies et triste, parumper
So far-whether narrow the-day and grim, for-a-while

pacem animo somnumque pati? Sed prodite tandem,
peace to-the-mind and-sleep to-allow? But disclose at-last,
unde orti, quo fertis iter, quae iurgia? Nam vos
whence sprung, where you-bear your-way, what quarrels? For you
haut humiles tanta ira docet, generisque superbi
not humble so-great anger shows, and-of-race proud
magna per effusum clarescunt signa cruorem.'
great through the-poured-out grow-bright signs blood.'

I.10 · ADRASTUS TAKES THEM IN

Tydeus tells his descent from Oeneus and asks why the stranger barred him from the shelter; Polynices hesitates to name his father. Adrastus urges them to lay aside their anger and come inside, foreseeing that their quarrel may turn to friendship, as it does, like that of Theseus and Pirithous.

Vix ea, cum mixto clamore obliqua tuentes
Scarcely that, when with-mingled clamor askance looking
incipiunt una: 'Rex o mitissime Achivum,
they-begin together: 'King O gentlest of-the-Achaeans,
quid verbis opus? ipse undantes sanguine vultus
what of-words need? yourself flowing with-blood faces
aspicis.' Haec passim turbatis vocis amarae
you-see.' These-things everywhere with-confused of-the-voice bitter
confudere sonis; inde orsus in ordine Tydeus
confounded sounds; thence having-begun in order Tydeus
continuat: 'Maesti cupiens solacia casus
continues: 'Of-a-sad desiring solace mishap
monstriferae Calydonis opes Acheloiaque arva
of-monster-bearing Calydon the-wealth and-Acheloian fields

deserui; vestris haec me ecce in finibus ingens
I-deserted; in-your this me behold on borders huge
Nox operit. Tecto caelum prohibere quid iste
Night covers. With-the-roof the-sky to-keep-off why that-one
arcuit? an quoniam prior haec ad limina forte
has-kept-me? or since first these to threshold by-chance
molitus gressus? pariter stabulare bimembres
moved his-steps? equally to-stable two-limbed
Centauros unaque ferunt Cyclopas in Aetna
Centaurs and-together they-say the-Cyclopes in Etna
compositos. Sunt et rabidis iura insita monstris
settled. There-are also in-raging laws implanted monsters
fasque suum: norunt sociare cubilia terrae.
and-right their-own: they-know-how to-share the-couches of-the-earth.
Sed quid ego? aut hodie spoliis gavisus abibis,
But why I? either today in-the-spoils rejoicing you-will-go-off,
quisquis es, his, aut me, si non effetus oborto
whoever you-are, these, or me, if not exhausted with-risen
sanguis hebet luctu, magni de stirpe creatum
the-blood is-dull grief, of-great from the-stock created
Oeneos et Marti non degenerare paterno
Oeneus and to-Mars not degenerate paternal
accipies.' 'Nec nos animi nec stirpis egentes —'
you-will-receive.' 'Nor we of-spirit nor of-stock lacking—'
ille refert contra, sed mens sibi conscia fati
he replies against-him, but the-mind to-itself conscious of-fate
cunctatur proferre patrem. Tunc mitis Adrastus:
hesitates to-bring-forth his-father. Then gentle Adrastus:
'Immo agite, et positis, quas nox inopinaque suasit
'Nay come, and laid-down, which night and-the-unexpected urged

aut virtus aut ira, minis succedite tecto.
either valor or anger, the-threats come-under the-roof.
Iam pariter coeant animorum in pignora dextrae.
Now equally let-come-together of-spirits into pledges the-right-hands.
Non haec incassum divisque absentibus acta;
Not these in-vain and-with-the-gods absent done;
forsan et has venturus amor praemiserit iras,
perhaps also these coming love has-sent-ahead angers,
ut meminisse iuvet.' Nec vana voce locutus
that to-remember may-please.' Nor with-vain voice having-spoken
fata senex, siquidem hanc perhibent post vulnera iunctis
the-fates the-old-man, since this they-say after wounds to-the-joined
esse fidem, quanta partitum extrema protervo
to-be faith, as-great-as having-shared the-last with-insolent
Thesea Pirithoo, vel inanem mentis Oresten
Theseus Pirithous, or empty of-mind Orestes
opposito rabidam Pylade vitasse Megaeram.
with-opposed raging Pylades to-have-escaped Megaera.
Tunc quoque mulcentem dictis corda aspera regem
Then also soothing with-words the-hearts harsh the-king
iam faciles (ventis ut decertata residunt
now easy (by-winds as fought-out settle
aequora, laxatisque diu tandem aura superstes
seas, and-with-loosened long at-last the-breeze surviving
immoritur velis) passi subiere penates.
dies-upon sails) having-allowed they-entered the-household.

Adrastus sees the lion's skin on Polynices and the boar's hide on Tydeus and recognizes the oracle's sons-in-law. He gives thanks to Night and orders the feast renewed. The young men wash their wounds and recline, forgiving each other, and he summons Acaste, nurse and guardian of his daughters.

Hic primum lustrare oculis cultusque virorum
Here first to-survey with-eyes and-the-dress of-the-men
telaque magna vacat: tergo videt huius inanem
and-weapons great he-has-leisure: on-the-back he-sees of-this-one empty
inpexis utrimque iubis horrere leonem,
with-uncombed on-both-sides manes to-bristle a-lion,
illius in speciem, quem per Teumesia tempe
of-that in likeness, whom through Teumesian vales
Amphitryoniades fractum iuvenalibus annis
the-son-of-Amphitryon broken in-youthful years
ante Cleonaei vestitus proelia monstri.
before of-the-Cleonaean clothed the-battles monster.
Terribiles contra saetis ac dente recurvo
Terrible against-him with-bristles and with-tooth curved
Tydea per latos umeros ambire laborant
Tydeus across broad shoulders to-surround labor
exuviae, Calydonis honos. Stupet omine tanto
the-spoils, of-Calydon the-glory. Is-stunned at-omen so-great
defixus senior, divina oracula Phoebi
fixed the-old-man, divine the-oracles of-Phoebus
agnoscens monitusque datos vocalibus antris.
recognizing and-the-warnings given by-vocal caves.
Obtutu gelida ora premit, laetusque per artus
In-gaze cold his-face he-presses, and-glad through his-limbs

horror iit; sensit manifesto numine ductos
a-shudder went; he-perceived by-manifest divinity led
adfore, quos nexis ambagibus augur Apollo
to-be-present, whom with-twined riddles the-augur Apollo
portendi generos, vultu fallente ferarum,
to-be-foretold sons-in-law, in-the-likeness deceiving of-wild-beasts,
ediderat. Tunc sic tendens ad sidera palmas:
had-uttered. Then thus stretching toward the-stars palms:
'Nox, quae terrarum caelique amplexa labores
'Night, who of-the-lands and-of-the-sky embracing the-labors
ignea multivago transmittis sidera lapsu,
fiery with-much-wandering send-across stars gliding,
indulgens reparare animum, dum proximus aegris
indulgent to-repair the-mind, while next on-the-sick
infundat Titan agiles animantibus ortus,
may-pour the-Titan nimble on-living-things risings,
tu mihi perplexis quaesitam erroribus ultro
you to-me with-perplexed sought wanderings of-your-own-accord
advehis alma fidem veterisque exordia fati
bring kindly the-faith and-of-old the-beginnings fate
detegis: adsistas operi tuaque omina firmes.
uncover: stand-by the-work and-your omens strengthen.
Semper honoratam dimensis orbibus anni
Always honored with-measured circles of-the-year
te domus ista colet; nigri tibi, diva, litabunt
you house this will-worship; black to-you, goddess, will-sacrifice
electa cervice greges, lustraliaque exta
chosen in-neck flocks, and-lustral entrails
lacte novo perfusus edet Vulcanius ignis.
with-milk new drenched will-eat Vulcanian fire.

Salve prisca fides tripodum obscurique recessus!
Hail ancient faith of-the-tripods and-of-dark recesses!
Deprendi, Fortuna! deos.' Sic fatus, et ambos
I-have-caught, Fortune! the-gods.' Thus having-spoken, and both
innectens manibus tecta interioris ad aulae
entwining with-his-hands the-roofs of-the-inner toward hall
progreditur. Canis etiamnum altaribus ignes
advances. White still on-the-altars the-fires
sopitum cinerem et tepidi libamina sacri
lulled ash and of-the-warm the-libations rite
servabant; adolere focos epulasque recentes
were-keeping; to-kindle the-hearths and-the-feasts fresh
instaurare iubet. Dictis parere ministri
to-renew he-bids. To-the-words to-obey the-servants
certatim accelerant; vario strepit icta tumultu
vying hasten; with-varied resounds struck uproar
regia: pars ostro tenues auroque sonantes
the-palace: some with-purple thin and-with-gold sounding
emunire toros alteque inferre tapetas,
to-fortify couches and-high to-bring-in carpets,
pars teretes levare manu ac disponere mensas.
some smooth to-lift with-hand and to-arrange tables.
Ast alii tenebras et opacam vincere noctem
But others the-darkness and dark to-conquer night
adgressi tendunt auratis vincula lychnis.
having-undertaken stretch on-golden chains lamps.
His labor inserto torrere exanguia ferro
For-these the-labor with-inserted to-roast bloodless iron
viscera caesarum pecudum, his cumulare canistris
entrails of-the-slaughtered beasts, for-these to-heap in-baskets

perdomitam saxo Cererem. Laetatur Adrastus
thoroughly-tamed by-stone Ceres. Rejoices Adrastus
obsequio fervere domum, iamque ipse superbis
with-obedience to-seethe the-house, and-now himself on-proud
fulgebat stratis solioque effultus eburno.
was-shining coverlets and-on-a-throne propped ivory.
Parte alia iuvenes siccati vulnera lymphis
On-side another the-young-men dried the-wounds with-waters
discumbunt, simul ora notis foedata tuentur
recline, at-once their-faces with-marks defiled look-at
inque vicem ignoscunt. Tunc rex longaevus Acasten
and-in turn forgive. Then the-king aged Acaste
(natarum haec altrix eadem et fidissima custos
(of-the-daughters she the-nurse the-same and most-faithful guard
lecta sacrum iustae Veneri occultare pudorem)
chosen the-sacred for-lawful Venus to-hide modesty)
imperat acciri tacitaque immurmurat aure.
orders to-be-summoned and-in-silent murmurs ear.

The king's two daughters come in, as beautiful as Pallas and Diana, and blush at the strangers. After the meal Adrastus calls for the golden bowl of Danaus, engraved with Perseus and the Gorgon and with the Phrygian hunter carried off by the eagle, and pours libations to the gods, to Phoebus above all.

Nec mora praeceptis, cum protinus utraque virgo
Nor delay to-the-precepts, when straightway each maiden
arcano egressae thalamo: mirabile visu,
from-the-secret went-forth chamber: wonderful to-see,
Pallados armisonae pharetrataeque ora Dianae
of-Pallas arms-sounding and-of-quivered the-face Diana
aequa ferunt, terrore minus. Nova deinde pudori
equal they-bear, in-terror less. New then for-modesty
visa virum facies: pariter pallorque ruborque
seen of-men the-sight: equally both-pallor and-blush
purpureas hausere genas, oculique verentes
crimson drank cheeks, and-eyes reverent
ad sanctum rediere patrem. Postquam ordine mensae
to holy returned their-father. After in-order the-tables
victa fames, signis perfectam auroque nitentem
conquered hunger, with-figures wrought and-with-gold shining
Iasides pateram famulos ex more poposcit,
the-son-of-Iasus a-bowl the-servants by custom demanded,
qua Danaus libare deis seniorque Phoroneus
from-which Danaus to-pour to-the-gods and-the-elder Phoroneus
adsueti. Tenet haec operum caelata figuras:
were-accustomed. Holds this of-works engraved figures:
aureus anguicomam praesecto Gorgona collo
golden the-snake-haired with-cut-off a-Gorgon neck

ales habet, iam iamque vagas (ita visus) in auras
the-winged-one holds, now now wandering (so he-seemed) into airs
exsilit; illa graves oculos languentiaque ora
leaps-out; she heavy eyes and-languishing face
paene movet vivoque etiam pallescit in auro.
almost moves and-living even grows-pale in gold.
Hinc Phrygius fulvis venator tollitur alis,
From-here the-Phrygian with-tawny hunter is-raised wings,
Gargara desidunt surgenti et Troia recedit,
Gargara sink to-the-rising and Troy recedes,
stant maesti comites, frustraque sonantia lassant
stand sad the-companions, and-in-vain sounding weary
ora canes umbramque petunt et nubila latrant.
mouths the-dogs and-the-shadow seek and the-clouds bark-at.
Hanc undante mero fundens vocat ordine cunctos
This with-surging wine pouring he-calls in-order all
caelicolas, Phoebum ante alios, Phoebum omnis ad aram
the-heaven-dwellers, Phoebus before others, Phoebus all at the-altar
laude ciet comitum famulumque evincta pudica
with-praise rouses of-the-companions and-of-the-servants girded with-chaste
fronde manus, cui festa dies largoque refecti
leaf the-band, for-whom festal day and-with-abundant refreshed
ture vaporatis lucent altaribus ignes.
incense steaming shine altars fires.

Adrastus explains the rite: after Apollo killed the Python, he came to the house of Crotopus and loved his daughter, who bore a son and gave him to a shepherd; the child was torn apart by dogs. When her father learned the truth, he put her to death. Apollo sent a monster that devoured the city's children until Coroebus killed it; then a plague followed, and Coroebus offered himself at Delphi to Apollo's anger, and the god spared him. Knowing Tydeus for Oeneus' kin, Adrastus asks the other guest who he is.

'Forsitan, o iuvenes, quae sint ea sacra quibusque
'Perhaps, O young-men, what may-be these rites and-for-what
praecipuum causis Phoebi obtestemur honorem'
special causes of-Phoebus we-may-attest the-honor'
rex ait, 'exquirant animi. Non inscia suasit
the-king says, 'may-ask your-spirits. Not unknowing urged
religio, magnis exercita cladibus olim
religion, by-great harassed disasters once
plebs Argiva litant; animos advertite, pandam.
the-people Argive they-sacrifice; your-minds turn, I-will-unfold.
Postquam caerulei sinuosa volumina monstri,
After of-the-dark-blue the-winding coils monster,
terrigenam Pythona, deus septem orbibus atris
earthborn Python, the-god with-seven circles black
amplexam Delphos squamisque annosa terentem
embracing Delphi and-with-scales aged wearing
robora, Castaliis dum fontibus ore trisulco
oaks, at-the-Castalian while springs with-mouth three-forked
fusus hiat nigro sitiens alimenta veneno,
spread he-gapes for-black thirsting nourishment poison,

perculit, absumptis numerosa in vulnera telis,
struck-down, consumed numerous on wounds the-weapons,
Cirrhaeique dedit centum per iugera campi
and-of-the-Cirrhaean gave a-hundred over acres plain
vix tandem explicitum, nova deinde piacula caedi
scarcely at-last unfolded, new then atonements for-the-slaughter
perquirens nostri tecta haut opulenta Crotopi
seeking-out of-our the-roofs not rich Crotopus
attigit. Huic primis et pubem ineuntibus annis
he-reached. To-him in-the-first and youth entering years
mira decore pios servabat nata penates
wondrous in-beauty the-pious was-keeping a-daughter household-gods
intemerata toris. Felix, si Delia numquam
undefiled by-marriage. Fortunate, if Delian never
furta nec occultum Phoebo sociasset amorem!
thefts nor hidden with-Phoebus she-had-shared love!
Namque ut passa deum Nemeaei ad fluminis undam,
For when having-suffered the-god of-the-Nemean at of-the-river the-wave,
bis quinos plena cum fronte resumeret orbes
twice five with-full when brow was-taking-up circles
Cynthia, sidereum Latonae feta nepotem
Cynthia, starry of-Latona pregnant a-grandson
edidit; ac poenae metuens (neque enim ille coactis
she-bore; and the-punishment fearing (nor indeed he for-forced
donasset thalamis veniam pater) avia rura
would-have-granted marriage pardon the-father) pathless countryside
eligit ac natum saepta inter ovilia furtim
she-chooses and her-son fenced among sheepfolds secretly
montivago pecoris custodi mandat alendum.
to-a-mountain-wandering of-the-flock to-the-guardian entrusts to-be-reared.

Non tibi digna, puer, generis cunabula tanti
Not for-you worthy, boy, of-race cradles so-great
gramineos dedit herba toros et vimine querno
grassy gave the-herb couches and with-wicker oaken
texta domus; clausa arbutei sub cortice libri
woven house; shut of-arbutus under the-bark of-the-rind
membra tepent, suadetque leves cava fistula somnos,
the-limbs grow-warm, and-urges light the-hollow pipe sleep,
et pecori commune solum. Sed fata nec illum
and with-the-flock common ground. But the-fates not-even that
concessere larem; viridi nam caespite terrae
granted home; on-green for turf of-the-earth
proiectum temere et patulo caelum ore trahentem
thrown-forth at-random and with-wide the-sky mouth drawing
dira canum rabies, morsu depasta cruento,
dire of-dogs the-rage, with-bite having-devoured bloody,
dissicit. Hic vero attonitas ut nuntius aures
tears-apart. Here indeed astounded when the-messenger the-ears
matris adit, pulsi ex animo genitorque pudorque
of-the-mother approaches, driven from her-mind both-father and-shame
et metus: ipsa ultro maestis plangoribus amens
and fear: herself of-her-own-accord with-sad lamentations mad
tecta replet, vacuumque ferens velamine pectus
the-house fills, and-empty bearing of-garment breast
occurrit confessa patri; nec motus et atro
meets having-confessed her-father; nor moved and to-black
imperat (infandum!) cupientem occumbere leto.
commands (O-unspeakable!) her-desiring to-fall death.
Sero memor thalami maestae solacia morti,
Late mindful of-the-bed for-the-sad solace death,

Phoebe, paras monstrum infandis Acheronte sub imo
Phoebus, you-prepare a-monster in-unspeakable Acheron under lowest
conceptum Eumenidum thalamis, cui virginis ora
conceived of-the-Eumenides beds, to-which of-a-maiden the-face
pectoraque; aeternum stridens a vertice surgit
and-breast; eternally hissing from the-top rises
et ferrugineam frontem discriminat anguis.
and rust-colored the-brow parts a-snake.
Haec tum dira lues nocturno squalida passu
This then dire plague at-nightly squalid step
inlabi thalamis, animasque a stirpe recentes
to-glide into-the-chambers, and-souls from the-stock fresh
abripere altricum gremiis morsuque cruento
to-snatch-away from-the-nurses' laps and-with-bite bloody
devesci et multum patrio pinguescere luctu.
to-devour and much on-paternal to-grow-fat grief.
Haut tulit armorum praestans animique Coroebus
Not bore of-arms outstanding and-of-spirit Coroebus
seque ultro lectis iuvenum, qui robore primi
and-himself of-his-own-accord with-chosen of-the-young-men, who in-strength first
famam posthabita faciles extendere vita,
fame set-below ready to-extend with-life,
obtulit. Illa novos ibat populata penates
offered. She new was-going having-ravaged household-gods
portarum in bivio (lateri duo corpora parvum
of-the-gates at the-fork (at-her-side two bodies of-little-ones
dependent, et iam unca manus vitalibus haeret
hang, and now hooked the-hand to-the-vitals clings
ferratique ungues tenero sub corde tepescunt):
and-iron nails tender under heart grow-warm):

obvius huic, latus omne virum stipante corona,
meeting her, his-side all of-men crowding with-a-ring,
fit iuvenis, ferrumque ingens sub pectore duro
becomes the-young-man, and-the-iron huge under breast hard
condidit, atque imas animae mucrone corusco
buried, and lowest of-the-life with-the-point flashing
scrutatus latebras tandem sua monstra profundo
having-searched hiding-places at-last its-own monsters to-the-deep
reddit habere Iovi. Iuvat ire et visere iuxta
gives-back to-have Jupiter. It-pleases to-go and to-see near
liventes in morte oculos uterique nefandam
livid in death the-eyes and-of-the-belly the-unspeakable
proluviem et crasso squalentia pectora tabo,
outflow and with-thick squalid the-breasts gore,
qua nostrae cecidere animae. Stupet Inacha pubes,
by-which our fell souls. Is-stunned the-Inachian youth,
magnaque post lacrimas etiamnunc gaudia pallent.
and-great after tears still the-joys grow-pale.
Hi trabibus duris (solacia vana dolori)
These with-beams hard (solaces vain for-grief)
proterere exanimos artus asprosque molares
to-trample the-lifeless limbs and-rough the-molars
deculcare genis, nequit iram explere potestas.
to-tread-down in-the-cheeks, cannot the-anger to-satisfy the-power.
Illam et nocturno circum stridore volantes
Her both with-nightly around screeching flying
inpastae fugistis aves, rabidamque canum vim
unfed you-fled birds, and-the-raging of-dogs force
oraque sicca ferunt trepidorum inhiasse luporum.
and-the-mouths dry they-say of-trembling to-have-gaped wolves.

Saevior in miseros fatis ultricis ademptae
More-savage against the-wretched for-the-fates of-the-avenger taken-away
Delius insurgit, summaque biverticis umbra
the-Delian rises-up, and-on-the-highest of-the-two-peaked shade
Parnasi residens arcu crudelis iniquo
Parnassus sitting with-bow cruel unjust
pestifera arma iacit, camposque et celsa Cyclopum
plague-bearing weapons hurls, and-the-plains and lofty of-the-Cyclopes
tecta superiecto nebularum incendit amictu.
roofs with-thrown-over of-mists burns cloak.
Labuntur dulces animae, Mors fila Sororum
Slip-away sweet souls, Death the-threads of-the-Sisters
ense metit captamque tenens fert manibus urbem.
with-the-sword reaps and-captured holding bears to-the-shades the-city.
Quaerenti, quae causa, duci, quid ab aethere laevus
To-the-seeking, what the-cause, the-leader, why from the-ether unfavorable
ignis et in totum regnaret Sirius annum,
fire and through whole should-reign Sirius year,
idem auctor Paean rursus iubet ire cruento
the-same author Paean again bids to-go to-bloody
inferias monstro iuvenes, qui caede potiti.
as-offerings monster the-young-men, who in-the-slaughter had-mastered.
Fortunate animi longumque in saecula digne
Fortunate in-spirit and-long into ages worthy-one
promeriture diem! non tu pia degener arma
about-to-deserve day! not you pious degenerate arms
occulis aut certae trepidas occurrere morti.
you-hide or sure tremble to-meet death.
Comminus ora ferens Cirrhaei in limine templi
At-close-quarters his-face bearing of-the-Cirrhaean on the-threshold temple

constitit et sacras ita vocibus asperat iras:
stood and sacred thus with-words roughens angers:
'Non missus, Thymbraee, tuos supplexve penates
'Not sent, Thymbraean, your or-suppliant household-gods
advenio: mea me pietas et conscia virtus
I-come: my me piety and conscious valor
has egere vias. Ego sum, qui caede subegi,
these drove ways. I am, who by-slaughter subdued,
Phoebe, tuum mortale nefas, quem nubibus atris
Phoebus, your mortal crime, whom with-clouds black
et squalente die, nigra quem tabe sinistri
and with-squalid day, with-black whom plague of-the-unfavorable
quaeris, inique, poli. Quodsi monstra effera magnis
you-seek, unjust-one, sky. But-if monsters wild to-the-great
cara adeo superis, iacturaque vilior orbi
dear so to-the-gods-above, and-than-loss cheaper to-the-world
mors hominum et saevo tanta inclementia caelo est,
the-death of-men and in-savage so-great harshness heaven is,
quid meruere Argi? me, me, divum optime, solum
what have-deserved the-Argives? me, me, of-the-gods best, alone
obiecisse caput fatis praestabat. An illud,
to-have-thrown my-head to-the-fates was-better. Or that,
saeve, magis cordi, quod desolata domorum
savage-one, more to-your-heart, that deserted of-homes
tecta vides, ignique datis cultoribus omnis
roofs you-see, and-to-the-fire given the-dwellers all
lucet aer? Sed quid fando tua tela manusque
shines the-air? But why by-speaking your weapons and-hands
demoror? expectant matres, supremaque fiunt
do-I-delay? await the-mothers, and-last are-made

vota mihi. Satis est: merui, ne parcere velles.
vows for-me. Enough it-is: I-have-deserved, that-not to-spare you-should-wish.
Proinde move pharetras arcusque intende sonoros
Therefore move the-quivers and-the-bow stretch sounding
insignemque animam leto demitte; sed illum,
and-a-distinguished soul to-death send-down; but that,
pallidus Inachiis qui desuper imminet Argis,
pale over-Inachian which from-above hangs Argos,
dum morior, dispelle globum.' Sors aequa merentes
while I-die, drive-off cloud.' Lot fair the-deserving
respicit. Ardentem tenuit reverentia caedis
regards. The-burning held reverence of-the-slaughter
Letoiden, tristemque viro submissus honorem
the-son-of-Latona, and-grim to-the-man yielding honor
largitur vitae; nostro mala nubila caelo
grants of-life; from-our evil clouds sky
diffugiunt, at tu stupefacti a limine Phoebi
flee, but you of-the-stupefied from the-threshold Phoebus
exoratus abis. — Inde haec stata sacra quotannis
prevailed-upon depart. —Thence these established rites yearly
sollemnes recolunt epulae, Phoebeaque placat
solemn renew feasts, and-Phoebean appeases
templa novatus honos. Has forte invisitis aras
temples renewed honor. These by-chance you-visit altars
vos quae progenies? quamquam Calydonius Oeneus,
you what offspring? although Calydonian Oeneus,
et Parthaoniae, si dudum certus ad aures
and of-Parthaon, if long-since sure to ears

clamor iit, tibi iura domus. Tu pande, quis Argos
a-clamor went, to-you the-rights of-the-house. You disclose, who to-Argos
advenias, quando hae variis sermonibus horae.'
you-come, since these to-various talks hours.'

I.14 · POLYNICES NAMED AND THE HYMN TO APOLLO

Polynices, ashamed, admits that he is the son of Jocasta, of Theban race. Adrastus, already knowing, tells him that the guilt of ancestors is no bar to the descendants, and leads the company in a hymn to Apollo, god of the bow and of prophecy, under all his names, as Titan, Osiris, and Mithras.

Deiecit maestos extemplo Ismenius heros
Cast-down sad at-once the-Ismenian hero
in terram vultus, taciteque ad Tydea laesum
to the-ground his-face, and-silently toward Tydeus wounded
obliquare oculos; tum longa silentia movit:
to-turn-aside his-eyes; then long silences moved:
'Non super hos divum tibi sum quaerendus honores,
'Not amid these of-the-gods to-you am-I to-be-asked honors,
unde genus, quae terra mihi, quis defluat ordo
whence my-race, what land for-me, what flows-down order
sanguinis antiqui: piget inter sacra fateri.
of-blood ancient: it-irks among rites to-confess.
Sed si praecipitant miserum cognoscere curae,
But if hasten the-wretched-one to-know your-cares,
Cadmus origo patrum, tellus Mavortia Thebe,
Cadmus the-origin of-my-fathers, the-land Martial Thebes,
est genetrix Iocasta mihi.' Tum motus Adrastus
is my-mother Jocasta to-me.' Then moved Adrastus

hospitiis (agnovit enim): 'Quid nota recondis?
by-hospitality (he-recognized indeed): 'Why known-things do-you-hide?
Scimus' ait, 'nec sic aversum fama Mycenis
We-know' he-says, 'nor so turned-away rumor from-Mycenae
volvit iter. Regnum et furias oculosque pudentes
rolls its-way. The-kingdom and the-furies and-the-eyes ashamed
novit et Arctois si quis de solibus horret
knows also Arctic if anyone from suns shudders
quique bibit Gangen aut nigrum occasibus intrat
and-who drinks the-Ganges or the-black at-the-settings enters
Oceanum, et si quos incerto litore Syrtes
Ocean, and if any on-uncertain shore the-Syrtes
destituunt. Ne perge queri casusque priorum
abandon. Do-not go-on to-complain and-the-mishaps of-the-former
adnumerare tibi: nostro quoque sanguine multum
to-count to-yourself: in-our also blood much
erravit pietas, nec culpa nepotibus obstat.
has-strayed piety, nor guilt to-the-descendants stands-in-the-way.
Tu modo dissimilis rebus mereare secundis
You only unlike in-affairs may-you-deserve prosperous
excusare tuos. Et iam temone supino
to-excuse your-own. And now with-pole upturned
languet Hyperboreae glacialis portitor Ursae.
grows-faint of-the-Hyperborean icy the-carrier Bear.
Fundite vina focis, servatoremque parentum
Pour wine on-the-hearths, and-the-savior of-our-parents
Letoiden votis iterumque iterumque canamus.
the-son-of-Latona in-vows and-again and-again let-us-sing.
Phoebe parens, seu te Lyciae Patarea nivosis
Phoebus father, whether you of-Lycia Patarean with-snowy

exercent dumeta iugis, seu rore pudico
exercise the-thickets ridges, or in-dew chaste
Castaliae flavos amor est tibi mergere crines,
of-Castalia your-yellow love is to-you to-plunge hair,
seu Troiam Thymbraeus habes, ubi fama volentem
or Troy as-Thymbraean you-hold, where rumor you-willing
ingratis Phrygios umeris subiisse molares,
on-ungrateful Phrygian shoulders to-have-carried-under the-millstones,
seu iuvat Aegaeum feriens Latonius umbra
or it-pleases Aegean striking Latonian with-shade
Cynthus et adsiduam pelago nunc quaerere Delon:
Cynthus and constant in-the-sea now to-seek Delos:
tela tibi longeque feros lentandus in hostes
weapons to-you and-far fierce to-be-bent against enemies
arcus, et aetherii dono cessere parentes
bow, and ethereal as-a-gift have-granted your-parents
aeternum florere genas. Tu doctus iniquas
forever to-bloom your-cheeks. You skilled the-unjust
Parcarum praenosse manus fatumque quod ultra est
of-the-Parcae to-foreknow hands and-the-fate which beyond is
et summo placitura Iovi, quis letifer annus,
and to-highest about-to-please Jupiter, what death-bearing year,
bella quibus populis, quae mutent sceptra cometae.
wars to-what peoples, what may-change scepters comets.
Tu Phryga submittis citharae, tu matris honori
You the-Phrygian subject to-the-lyre, you of-your-mother for-the-honor
terrigenam Tityon Stygiis extendis harenis.
earthborn Tityos on-Stygian stretch sands.
Te viridis Python Thebanaque mater ovantem
You green Python and-the-Theban mother exulting

horruit in pharetris. Ultrix tibi torva Megaera
shuddered-at in your-quivers. Avenging for-you grim Megaera
ieiunum Phlegyan subter cava saxa iacentem
hungry Phlegyas beneath hollow rocks lying
aeterno premit accubitu dapibusque profanis
with-eternal presses reclining and-with-feasts profane
instimulat, sed mixta famem fastidia vincunt.
goads, but mingled the-hunger disgust conquer.
Adsis, o memor hospitii, Iunoniaque arva
Be-present, O mindful of-hospitality, and-the-Junonian fields
dexter ames, seu te roseum Titana vocari
favoring love, whether you rosy Titan to-be-called
gentis Achaemeniae ritu, seu praestat Osirim
of-the-race Achaemenian by-the-rite, or it-is-better Osiris
frugiferum, seu Persei sub rupibus antri
grain-bearing, or of-the-Persean under the-rocks cave
indignata sequi torquentem cornua Mithram.'
indignant to-follow twisting the-horns Mithras.'

BOOK II

II.1 · LAIUS RETURNS FROM THE DEAD

Mercury climbs back from the underworld through sluggish air with Jupiter's orders, and the shade of Laius follows him, still slowed by the wound his son gave him. One spiteful shade calls the old man lucky to see the sun again, sadder though he must return; Cerberus rouses at the pair until Mercury lulls him. Their way out is the cave at Taenarus, where rumor says the dead are led below; the god emerges, Sleep yields him the path, and they come to Thebes, where Laius hesitates at the sight of his son's house and his own blood-stained chariot.

Interea gelidis Maia satus aliger umbris
Meanwhile in-the-cold of-Maia born the-winged-one shades
iussa gerens magni remeat Iovis; undique pigrae
the-orders bearing of-great returns Jupiter; on-every-side sluggish
ire vetant nubes et torpidus implicat aer,
to-go forbid clouds and torpid entangles air,
nec zephyri rapuere gradum, sed foeda silentis
nor zephyrs have-snatched-up his-step, but foul of-silent
aura poli. Styx inde novem circumflua campis,
the-breath sky. Styx on-this-side nine flowing-around with-plains,
hinc obiecta vias torrentum incendia cludunt.
on-that-side opposed the-ways of-torrents fires close.
Pone senex trepida succedit Laius umbra
Behind the-old-man with-trembling follows Laius shade
vulnere tardus adhuc; capulo nam largius illi
with-wound slow still; to-the-hilt for more-amply him
transabiit costas cognatis ictibus ensis
passed-through the-ribs with-kindred blows the-sword
impius, et primas Furiarum pertulit iras;
impious, and the-first of-the-Furies endured angers;

it tamen et medica firmat vestigia virga.
he-goes yet and with-healing he-steadies footsteps wand.
Tum steriles luci possessaque manibus arva
Then the-barren groves and-possessed by-shades fields
et ferrugineum nemus adstupet, ipsaque tellus
and rust-dark the-wood is-astonished, and-itself the-earth
miratur patuisse retro, nec livida tabes
marvels to-have-opened backward, nor livid the-wasting
invidiae functis quamquam et iam lumine cassis
of-envy to-the-dead although and now of-light deprived
defuit. Unus ibi ante alios, cui laeva voluntas
was-lacking. One there before others, whose perverse will-was
semper et ad superos (hinc et gravis exitus aevi)
always even toward the-gods-above (hence also heavy end of-his-life)
insultare malis rebusque aegrescere laetis,
to-insult misfortunes and-at-things to-sicken glad,
'vade' ait, 'o felix, quoscumque vocaris in usus,
'go' he-says, 'O fortunate, for-whatever you-are-called into uses,
seu Iovis imperio, seu maior adegit Erinys
whether of-Jupiter by-command, whether greater has-driven Erinys
ire diem contra, seu te furiata sacerdos
to-go the-day against, whether you frenzied priestess
Thessalis arcano iubet emigrare sepulcro,
Thessalian from-secret bids to-emigrate tomb,
heu dulces visure polos solemque relictum
alas sweet about-to-see poles and-sun left-behind
et virides terras et puros fontibus amnes,
and green lands and pure with-springs rivers,
tristior has iterum tamen intrature tenebras.'
sadder these again yet about-to-enter darkness.'

Illos ut caeco recubans in limine sensit
Them as blind lying on the-threshold perceived
Cerberus, aeque omnes capitum subrexit hiatus,
Cerberus, equally all of-his-heads raised gapings,
saevus et intranti populo: iam nigra tumebat
savage even to-the-entering people: now black was-swelling
colla minax, iam sparsa solo turbaverat ossa,
in-neck threatening, now scattered on-the-ground he-had-disturbed bones,
ni deus horrentem Lethaeo vimine mulcens
had-not the-god bristling with-Lethaean twig soothing
ferrea tergemino domuisset lumina somno.
iron with-threefold had-subdued eyes sleep.
Est locus (Inachiae dixerunt Taenara gentes),
There-is a-place (Inachian have-called-it Taenara peoples),
qua formidatum Maleae spumantis in auras
where dreaded of-Malea foaming into the-airs
it caput et nullos admittit culmine visus.
goes the-head and no admits from-its-summit sights.
Stat sublimis apex ventosque imbresque serenus
Stands lofty the-peak and-winds and-rains serene
despicit et tantum fessis insiditur astris.
looks-down-on and only by-weary is-sat-upon stars.
Ast ubi prona dies, longos super aequora fines
But when sloping the-day, long over the-seas bounds
exigit atque ingens medio natat umbra profundo.
it-drives-out and huge in-the-middle swims shadow deep.
Interiore sinu frangentia litora curvat
On-an-inner bay breaking the-shores curves
Taenaros, expositus non audax scindere fluctus.
Taenaros, exposed not daring to-cleave waves.

Illic Aegaeo Neptunus gurgite fessos
There from-the-Aegean Neptune flood weary
in portum deducit equos, prior haurit harenas
into port leads-down horses, first drinks-in sands
ungula, postremi solvuntur in aequora pisces.
the-hoof, the-hindmost are-loosed into the-seas fish.
Hoc, ut fama, loco pallentes devius umbras
In-this, as rumor-has-it, place pale wandering shades
trames agit nigrique Iovis vacua atria ditat
a-path drives and-of-black of-Jupiter empty halls enriches
mortibus. Arcadii perhibent si vera coloni,
with-deaths. Arcadian report if true farmers,
stridor ibi et gemitus poenarum, atroque tumultu
a-shrieking there and groaning of-punishments, and-with-dreadful uproar
fervet ager; saepe Eumenidum vocesque manusque
boils the-field; often of-the-Eumenides both-voices and-hands
in medium sonuere diem, Letique triformis
into the-middle have-sounded day, and-of-Death triform
ianitor agricolas campis auditus abegit.
the-doorkeeper the-farmers from-the-fields heard has-driven-off.
Hac et tunc fusca volucer deus obsitus umbra
By-this-way also then in-dusky the-winged god covered shadow
exsilit ad superos, infernaque nubila vultu
leaps-out to the-gods-above, and-the-infernal clouds from-his-face
discutit et vivis adflatibus ora serenat.
shakes-off and with-living breaths his-features makes-serene.
Inde per Arcturum mediaeque silentia Lunae
Thence through Arcturus and-of-the-middle the-silences Moon
arva super populosque meat. Sopor obvius illi
fields over and-peoples he-goes. Sleep meeting him

Noctis agebat equos, trepidusque adsurgit honori
of-Night was-driving the-horses, and-trembling rises-up to-the-honor
numinis et recto decedit limite caeli.
of-the-deity and from-the-straight withdraws path of-heaven.
Inferior volat umbra deo, praereptaque noscit
Lower flies the-shade than-the-god, and-the-snatched-away recognizes
sidera principiumque sui; iamque ardua Cirrhae
stars and-the-beginning of-himself; and-now the-heights of-Cirrha
pollutamque suo despectat Phocida busto.
and-polluted with-his-own looks-down-on Phocis tomb.
Ventum erat ad Thebas; gemuit prope limina nati
Come it-had-been to Thebes; groaned near the-threshold of-his-son
Laius et notos cunctatur inire penates.
Laius and familiar hesitates to-enter the-household-gods.
Ut vero et celsis suamet iuga nixa columnis
When indeed both on-lofty his-own the-roofs leaning columns
vidit et infectos etiamnum sanguine currus,
he-saw and stained still with-blood the-chariot,
paene retro turbatus abit: nec summa Tonantis
almost backward disturbed he-goes-away: nor the-highest of-the-Thunderer
iussa nec Arcadiae retinent spiramina virgae.
orders nor of-the-Arcadian hold-back the-breathings wand.

It is the night of Bacchus' birthday, and the Thebans revel through houses and fields. Mercury brings Laius to the couch where Eteocles lies asleep after feasting. The ghost takes the face, voice, and fillets of Tiresias and warns him in a dream: he sleeps while his brother, now married to Adrastus' daughter and allied with Argos and with Tydeus, prepares war and destines Eteocles' palace for himself. Jupiter has sent him; let Eteocles hold Thebes and drive out his brother.

Et tunc forte dies noto signata Tonantis
And then by-chance the-day by-the-known marked of-the-Thunderer
fulmine, praerupti cum te, tener Euhie, partus
thunderbolt, untimely when you, tender Euhius, birth
transmisere patri. Tyriis ea causa colonis
handed-over to-your-father. To-the-Tyrian that cause settlers
insomnem ludo certatim educere noctem
sleepless with-sport in-rivalry to-draw-out the-night
suaserat; effusi passim per tecta, per agros,
had-urged; poured-out everywhere through houses, through fields,
serta inter vacuosque mero crateras anhelum
garlands among and-empty with-wine bowls panting
proflabant sub luce deum; tunc plurima buxus
were-breathing-out under the-light the-god; then very-much boxwood
aeraque taurinos sonitu vincentia pulsus.
and-bronzes bull's with-sound surpassing beatings.
Ipse etiam gaudens nemorosa per avia sanas
Himself even rejoicing wooded through trackless-places sane
impulerat matres Baccho meliore Cithaeron.
had-driven mothers with-Bacchus better Cithaeron.
Qualia per Rhodopen rabido convivia coetu
Such-as through Rhodope with-raging feasts company

Bistones aut mediae ponunt convallibus Ossae.
the-Bistones or of-middle set in-the-valleys Ossa.
Illis semianimum pecus excussaeque leonum
For-them half-alive cattle and-shaken-out of-lions
ore dapes, et lacte novo domuisse cruorem
from-the-mouth meals, and with-milk new to-have-tamed blood
luxus: at Ogygii si quando adflavit Iacchi
luxury: but of-Ogygian if ever has-breathed-on Iacchus
saevus odor, tunc saxa manu, tunc pocula pulchrum
savage the-scent, then stones with-hand, then cups beautiful
spargere et inmerito sociorum sanguine fuso
to-scatter and with-undeserved of-comrades blood shed
instaurare diem festasque reponere mensas.
to-renew the-day and-festive to-set-again tables.
Nox ea, cum tacita volucer Cyllenius aura
Night that, when in-silent the-winged Cyllenian air
regis Echionii stratis adlapsus, ubi ingens
of-the-king Echionian onto-the-couch glided, where huge
fuderat Assyriis exstructa tapetibus alto
he-had-poured with-Assyrian piled-high coverlets high
membra toro. Pro gnara nihil mortalia fati
his-limbs couch. Oh knowing of-nothing mortal of-fate
corda sui! capit ille dapes, habet ille soporem.
hearts their-own! takes he feasts, has he sleep.
Tunc senior quae iussus agit, neu falsa videri
Then the-old-man what bidden he-does, and-lest false to-seem
noctis imago queat, longaevi vatis opacos
of-night a-phantom could, of-the-long-lived prophet shadowy
Tiresiae vultus vocemque et vellera nota
of-Tiresias the-face and-voice and fillets known

induitur. Mansere comae propexaque mento
he-puts-on. Remained the-hair and-combed-forward on-the-chin
canities pallorque suus, sed falsa cucurrit
the-whiteness and-pallor his-own, but false ran
infula per crines, glaucaeque innexus olivae
the-headband through the-hair, and-of-gray interwoven olive
vittarum provenit honos: dein tangere ramo
of-the-fillets came-forth the-honor: then to-touch with-the-branch
pectora et hac visus fatorum expromere voces:
the-breast and with-this seemed of-the-fates to-bring-forth voices:
'Non somni tibi tempus, iners qui nocte sub alta,
'Not of-sleep for-you time, sluggard who by-night under deep,
germani secure, iaces, ingentia dudum
of-your-brother careless, you-lie, huge long-since
acta vocant rerumque graves, ignave, paratus.
deeds call and-of-affairs heavy, lazy-one, preparations.
Tu veluti, magnum si iam tollentibus austris
You as, great if now raising south-winds
Ionium nigra iaceat sub nube, magister
the-Ionian black should-lie under a-cloud, the-helmsman
immemor armorum versantisque aequora clavi
forgetful of-the-gear and-of-the-turning seas tiller
cunctaris. Iamque ille novis (scit fama) superbit
you-delay. And-now he with-new (knows rumor) prides-himself
conubiis viresque parat, quis regna capessat,
marriages and-strength prepares, by-which the-kingdom he-may-seize,
quis neget; inque tua senium sibi destinat aula.
by-which he-may-deny; and-in your old-age for-himself he-destines hall.
Dant animos socer augurio fatalis Adrastus
Give spirit the-father-in-law by-augury fated Adrastus

dotalesque Argi, nec non in foedera vitae
and-dowry Argos, and also into the-compact of-life
pollutus placuit fraterno sanguine Tydeus.
polluted has-pleased with-a-brother's blood Tydeus.
Hinc tumor, et longus fratri promitteris exul.
Hence the-swelling, and long to-your-brother you-are-promised exile.
Ipse deum genitor tibi me miseratus ab alto
Himself of-the-gods the-father for-you me having-pitied from on-high
mittit: habe Thebas, caecumque cupidine regni
sends: have Thebes, and-blind with-lust of-rule
ausurumque eadem germanum expelle, nec ultra
and-about-to-dare the-same your-brother drive-out, nor further
fraternos inhiantem obitus sine fidere coeptis
fraternal gaping-at deaths allow to-trust in-his-undertakings
fraudibus aut Cadmo dominas inferre Mycenas.'
in-frauds or on-Cadmus as-mistress to-bring Mycenae.'

II.3 · ADRASTUS OFFERS HIS DAUGHTERS

Departing at dawn, the ghost tears off the disguise, shows himself as the grandfather, and drenches the sleeper with blood from his own gaping throat; Eteocles wakes in horror and, like a roused tigress, already rages against his absent brother. At Argos Adrastus has slept little, pondering the oracle. He meets Polynices and Tydeus and tells them that his twin daughters are sought by many suitors, but the gods have meant them for these two young men, whom the storm brought to his door.

Dixit, et abscedens (etenim iam pallida turbant
He-spoke, and departing (for now pale disturb
sidera lucis equi) ramos ac vellera fronti
the-stars of-light the-horses) the-branches and fillets from-his-brow

deripuit, confessus avum, dirique nepotis
tore-off, revealing the-grandfather, and-of-his-dire grandson
incubuit stratis, iugulum mox caede patentem
lay-upon the-couch, the-throat soon by-slaughter gaping
nudat et undanti perfundit vulnere somnum.
he-bares and with-the-streaming drenches wound the-sleep.
Illi rupta quies, attollit membra toroque
For-him broken the-rest, he-raises his-limbs and-from-the-couch
eripitur plenus monstris, vanumque cruorem
is-snatched full of-monsters, and-the-empty gore
excutiens simul horret avum fratremque requirit.
shaking-off at-once shudders-at the-grandfather and-his-brother seeks.
Qualis ubi audito venantum murmure tigris
Such-as when having-been-heard of-hunters the-murmur a-tigress
horruit in maculas somnosque excussit inertes,
has-bristled into her-spots and-sleep shaken-off sluggish,
bella cupit laxatque genas et temperat ungues,
battles she-desires and-loosens her-jaws and tempers her-claws,
mox ruit in turmas natisque alimenta cruentis
soon rushes into the-troops and-for-her-cubs as-nourishment bloody
spirantem fert ore virum: sic excitus ira
breathing carries in-her-mouth a-man: so roused by-anger
ductor in absentem consumit proelia fratrem.
the-leader against his-absent spends battles brother.
Et iam Mygdoniis elata cubilibus alto
And now from-Mygdonian raised couches from-the-high
impulerat caelo gelidas Aurora tenebras,
had-driven sky the-cold Aurora shadows,
rorantes excussa comas multumque sequenti
dewy having-shaken-out her-hair and-much at-the-following

sole rubens; illi roseus per nubila seras
sun blushing; for-her rosy through the-clouds late
advertit flammas alienumque aethera tardo
turns flames and-a-foreign ether on-slow
Lucifer exit equo, donec pater igneus orbem
Lucifer departs horse, until the-father fiery his-orb
impleat atque ipsi radios vetet esse sorori,
fills and to-the-very rays forbids to-be sister,
cum senior Talaionides nec longa morati
when the-elder son-of-Talaus nor long having-delayed
Dircaeusque gradum pariterque Acheloius heros
and-the-Dircaean their-step and-equally the-Acheloian hero
corripuere toris. Illos post verbera fessos
snatched-up from-the-couches. Them after the-beatings weary
exceptamque hiemem cornu perfuderat omni
and-the-endured storm with-horn had-drenched all
Somnus; at Inachio tenuis sub pectore regi
Sleep; but for-the-Inachian slight under breast king
tracta quies, dum mente deos inceptaque versat
drawn-out rest, while in-mind the-gods and-the-begun he-turns
hospitia, et quae sint generis adscita repertis
guest-friendships, and what may-be for-the-sons-in-law adopted found
fata movet. Postquam mediis in sedibus aulae
fates he-stirs. After the-middle in seats of-the-hall
congressi inque vicem dextras iunxere locumque,
having-met and-in turn right-hands joined and-a-place,
quo serere arcanas aptum atque evolvere curas,
where to-weave secret fitting and to-unroll cares,
insidunt, prior his dubios compellat Adrastus:
they-sit-down, first them hesitant addresses Adrastus:

‘Egregii iuvenum, quos non sine numine regnis
‘Outstanding of-youths, whom not without divine-will to-my-kingdoms
invexit nox dextra meis, quibus ipse per imbres
has-brought night propitious my, for-whom himself through rains
fulminibus mixtos intempestumque Tonantem
with-thunderbolts mixed and-the-untimely Thunderer
has meus usque domus vestigia fecit Apollo,
to-these my even-as-far-as house footsteps made Apollo,
non equidem obscurum vobis plebique Pelasgae
not indeed obscure to-you and-to-the-people Pelasgian
esse rear, quantis conubia nostra procorum
to-be I-think, with-what the-marriages our of-suitors
turba petant studiis; geminae mihi namque, nepotum
a-throng seek zeal; twin for-me for, of-grandsons
laeta fides, aequo pubescunt sidere natae.
glad pledge, under-equal grow-up star daughters.
Quantus honos quantusque pudor, ne credite patri,
How-great their-honor and-how-great their-modesty, do-not believe the-father,
et super hesternas licuit cognoscere mensas,
even over yesterday's it-was-allowed to-learn tables,
has tumidi solio et late dominantibus armis
these swollen with-throne and widely dominating with-arms
optavere viri (longum enumerare Pheraeos
have-wished-for men (long to-enumerate Pheraean
Oebaliosque duces) et Achaea per oppida matres
and-Oebalian leaders) and Achaean through towns mothers
spem generis, nec plura tuus despexerat Oeneus
as-hope for-their-line, nor more your had-scorned Oeneus
foedera Pisaeisque socer metuendus habenis.
pacts and-with-Pisaean the-father-in-law to-be-feared reins.

Sed mihi nec Sparta genitos nec ab Elide missos
But for-me neither from-Sparta born nor from Elis sent
iungere fas generos: vobis hic sanguis et aulae
to-join right sons-in-law: to-you this blood and of-the-hall
cura meae longo promittitur ordine fati.
the-care my by-the-long is-promised order of-fate.
Di bene, quod tales stirpemque animosque venitis,
Gods well, that such in-stock and-spirits you-come,
ut responsa iuvent: hic durae tempore noctis
that the-oracles may-delight: here of-the-hard in-the-time night
partus honos, haec illa venit post verbera merces.'
gained the-honor, this that comes after the-beatings reward.'

II.4 · THE WEDDINGS

Tydeus praises Adrastus' justice and accepts for himself and Polynices; Polynices adds that the offer consoles their exile. Adrastus promises to restore them to their kingdoms. Rumor spreads the news of the marriages through Argos, and on to Thebes, where it alarms Eteocles. The wedding day fills the palace, lined with bronze statues of Inachus and the Argive kings. The two brides, Argia and Deipyle, come forward blushing and weeping, as beautiful as Pallas and Diana together.

Audierant, fixosque oculos per mutua paulum
They-had-heard, and-fixed eyes on mutual a-little
ora tenent, visique inter sese ordine fandi
faces they-keep, and-seemed among themselves the-order of-speaking
cedere. Sed cunctis Tydeus audentior actis
to-yield. But in-all Tydeus bolder deeds
incipit: 'O quam te parcum in praeconia famae
begins: 'O how you sparing in the-proclamations of-fame

mens agitat matura tuae, quantumque ferentem
mind drives mature your-own, and-how-great bearing
fortunam virtute domas! Cui cedat Adrastus
fortune by-virtue you-tame! To-whom would-yield Adrastus
imperiis? quis te solio Sicyonis avitae
in-power? who you from-the-throne of-Sicyon ancestral
excitum infrenos componere legibus Argos
summoned unbridled to-compose by-laws Argos
nesciat? atque utinam his manibus permittere gentes,
does-not-know? and would-that to-these hands to-entrust the-nations,
Iuppiter aeque, velis, quas Doricus alligat intus
Jupiter just, you-would-wish, which the-Dorian binds within
Isthmos et alterno quas margine submovet infra!
Isthmus and with-alternate which margin pushes-back below!
Non fugeret diras lux intercisa Mycenas,
Not would-flee dire the-light cut-off Mycenae,
saeva nec Eleae gemerent certamina valles,
savage nor of-Elis would-groan-at contests the-valleys,
Eumenidesque aliis aliae sub regibus, et quae
and-Eumenides for-other other under kings, and what
tu potior, Thebane, queri: nos vero volentes
you rather, Theban, to-complain: we indeed willing
expositique animis.' Hic interfatus et alter
and-exposed in-spirits.' Here interrupting also the-other
subicit: 'Anne aliquis soceros accedere tales
adds: 'Or any fathers-in-law to-approach such
abnuat? exulibus quamquam patriaque fugatis
would-refuse? to-exiles although and-from-our-country driven
nondum laeta Venus, tamen omnis corde resedit
not-yet glad Venus, yet all from-the-heart has-settled

tristitia, adfixique animo cessere dolores.
sadness, and-fixed in-the-mind have-yielded griefs.
Nec minus haec laeti trahimus solacia, quam si
Nor less this glad we-draw comfort, than if
praecipiti convulsa noto prospectet amicam
by-a-headlong torn south-wind should-look-out-at friendly
puppis humum. Iuvat ingressos felicia regni
the-ship ground. It-pleases having-entered the-happy of-a-kingdom
omina, quod superest fati vitaeque laborum
omens, what remains of-fate and-of-life of-toils
fortuna transire tua.' Nec plura morati
by-fortune to-pass-through your.' Nor more having-delayed
consurgunt, dictis impensius aggerat omne
they-rise-together, than-words more-zealously heaps-up every
promissum Inachius pater, auxilioque futurum
promise the-Inachian father, and-as-help to-be
et patriis spondet reduces inducere regnis.
and to-ancestral pledges returned to-lead-in kingdoms.
Ergo alacres Argi, fuso rumore per urbem
Therefore eager the-Argives, poured rumor through the-city
advenisse duci generos primisque hymenaeis
to-have-arrived for-the-leader sons-in-law and-in-first marriage
egregiam Argian nec formae laude secundam
outstanding Argia nor of-beauty in-praise second
Deipylen tumida iam virginitate iugari,
Deipyle swelling already in-maidenhood to-be-yoked,
gaudia mente parant; socias it Fama per urbes,
joys in-mind prepare; allied goes Rumor through cities,
finitimisque agitatur agris procul usque Lycaeos
and-in-neighboring is-driven fields far as-far-as Lycaean

Partheniosque super saltus Ephyraeaque rura.
and-Parthenian over glades and-Ephyraean countryside.
Nec minus Ogygias eadem dea turbida Thebas
Nor less Ogygian the-same goddess turbulent Thebes
insilit haec totis perfundit moenia pinnis:
leaps-upon these with-all drenches the-walls wings:
Labdaciumque ducem praemissae consona nocti
And-the-Labdacian leader to-the-sent-ahead harmonious night
territat; hospitia et thalamos et foedera regni
she-terrifies; guest-friendships and marriages and pacts of-the-kingdom
permixtumque genus (quae tanta licentia monstro,
and-mixed race (what so-great license to-the-monster,
quis furor est?), iam bella canit. — Diffuderat Argos
what madness is-it?), now wars she-sings. —Had-spread-out Argos
expectata dies: laeto regalia coetu
the-awaited day: with-glad the-royal gathering
atria complentur, species est cernere avorum
halls are-filled, the-sight is to-see of-ancestors
comminus et vivis certantia vultibus aera.
at-close-quarters and with-living contending faces bronzes.
Tantum ausae perferre manus! Pater ipse bicornis
So-much have-dared to-carry-through hands! The-father himself two-horned
in laevum prona nixus sedet Inachus urna;
to the-left sloping leaning sits Inachus on-the-urn;
hunc tegit Iasiusque senex placidusque Phoroneus,
him covers both-Iasius old and-calm Phoroneus,
et bellator Abas indignatusque Tonantem
and warrior Abas and-resenting the-Thunderer
Acrisius nudoque ferens caput ense Coroebus,
Acrisius and-naked bearing a-head with-sword Coroebus,

torvaque iam Danai facinus meditantis imago;
and-grim now of-Danaus a-crime meditating the-image;
exin mille duces. Foribus cum immissa superbis
thereafter a-thousand leaders. Into-the-doors when let-in proud
unda fremit vulgi, procerum manus omnis et alto
the-wave roars of-the-crowd, of-nobles the-band all and high
quis propior de rege gradus, stant ordine primi.
to-whom nearer from the-king the-rank, stand in-order first.
Interior sacris calet et sonat aula tumultu
Inner with-rites grows-warm and resounds the-hall uproar
femineo; casta matrem cinxere corona
womanly; with-a-chaste the-mother have-girded crown
Argolides, pars virginibus circum undique fusae
Argive-women, part the-maidens around everywhere poured
foedera conciliant nova solanturque timorem.
pacts reconcile new and-console the-fear.
Ibant insignes vultuque habituque verendo
They-went conspicuous in-face and-bearing reverend
candida purpureum fusae super ora pudorem
white crimson poured over faces modesty
deiectaeque genas; tacite subit ille supremus
and-cast-down in-cheeks; silently comes-over-them that last
virginitatis amor, primaeque modestia culpae
of-maidenhood love, and-of-the-first the-modesty fault
confundit vultus; tunc ora rigantur honestis
confounds the-faces; then the-faces are-watered with-honorable
imbribus, et generos lacrimae iuvere paventes.
showers, and the-sons-in-law the-tears pleased fearing.
Non secus ac supero pariter si cardine lapsae
Not otherwise than from-the-upper equally if hinge glided

Pallas et asperior Phoebi soror, utraque telis,
Pallas and harsher of-Phoebus the-sister, each with-weapons,
utraque torva genis flavoque in vertice nodo,
each grim in-cheeks and-with-golden on crown knot,
illa suas Cyntho comites agat, haec Aracyntho;
that-one her-own from-Cynthus companions should-lead, this from-Aracynthus;
tunc, si fas oculis, non umquam longa tuendo
then, if right for-eyes, not ever long by-gazing
expedias, cui maior honos, cui gratior, aut plus
could-you-decide, to-whom greater honor, to-whom more-pleasing, or more
de Iove, mutatosque velint transumere cultus,
of Jupiter, and-exchanged should-they-wish to-take-over dress,
et Pallas deceat pharetras et Delia cristas.
both Pallas would-suit the-quivers and Delia the-crests.

II.5 · THE NECKLACE OF HARMONIA

While the Argives sacrifice, an omen breaks the joy: as the brides climb to Pallas' temple, a bronze shield falls from its roof and puts out the wedding torches, and a trumpet sounds from the sanctuary. The poet explains Argia's ill-starred necklace: Vulcan made it for Harmonia's wedding, grieving at her mother Venus' affair with Mars, and worked into it every kind of curse. It brought ruin to Harmonia, Semele, and Jocasta, and now Argia wears it, while the wife of Amphiaraus secretly covets it.

Certant laetitia superosque in vota fatigant
They-vie in-gladness and-the-gods-above with prayers weary
Inachidae, quae cuique domus sacrique facultas.
the-Inachidae, what to-each house and-of-sacrifice the-means.
Hi fibris animaque litant, hi caespite nudo,
These with-entrails and-life propitiate, these with-turf bare,

nec minus auditi, si mens accepta, merentur
nor less heard, if the-mind accepted, they-win
ture deos, fractisque obtendunt limina silvis.
with-incense the-gods, and-with-broken they-veil thresholds woods.
Ecce metu subito (Lachesis sic dura iubebat)
Behold by-fear sudden (Lachesis so hard was-ordering)
impulsae mentes, excussaque gaudia patri,
struck the-minds, and-shaken-off the-joys from-the-father,
et turbata dies. Innuptam limite adibant
and disturbed the-day. Unwed by-the-path they-were-approaching
Pallada, Munychiis cui non Argiva per urbes
Pallas, for-Munychian to-whom not the-Argive through cities
posthabita est Larisa iugis; huic more parentum
placed-second is Larisa heights; to-her by-the-custom of-ancestors
Iasides, thalamis ubi casta adolesceret aetas,
the-Iasides, in-chambers when chaste should-ripen the-age,
virgineas libare comas primosque solebant
maiden to-offer their-locks and-first used
excusare toros. Celsam subeuntibus arcem
to-excuse the-couches. Lofty to-those-climbing the-citadel
in gradibus summi delapsus culmine templi,
on the-steps of-the-highest having-slipped from-the-summit of-the-temple,
Arcados Euhippi spolium, cadit aereus orbis,
of-the-Arcadian Euhippus the-spoil, falls bronze the-disk,
praemissasque faces, festum nubentibus ignem,
and-the-sent-ahead torches, festive for-the-marrying fire,
obruit, eque adytis simul exaudita remotis
overwhelms, and-from the-shrine at-once heard remote
nondum ausos firmare gradum tuba terruit ingens.
not-yet having-dared to-steady their-step a-trumpet terrified huge.

In regem conversi omnes formidine prima,
Toward the-king turned all in-fear first,
mox audisse negant; cunctos tamen omina rerum
soon to-have-heard they-deny; all yet the-omens of-things
dira movent, variisque metum sermonibus augent.
dire move, and-with-varied the-fear talk they-increase.
Nec mirum: nam tu infaustos donante marito
Nor wonder: for you ill-omened giving the-husband
ornatus, Argia, geris dirumque monile
adornments, Argia, wear and-the-dire necklace
Harmoniae. Longa est series et nota malorum:
of-Harmonia. Long is the-series and known of-evils:
persequar, unde novis tam saeva potentia donis.
I-shall-pursue, whence to-new such savage power gifts.
Lemnius haec, ut prisca fides, Mavortia longum
The-Lemnian this, as old the-belief, Martial long
furta dolens, capto postquam nil obstat amori
thefts grieving, caught after nothing hinders the-love
poena nec ultrices castigavere catenae,
punishment nor avenging have-chastised chains,
Harmoniae dotale decus sub luce iugali
for-Harmonia as-dowry an-ornament under the-light nuptial
struxerat. Hoc, docti quamquam maiora, laborant
had-built. On-this, skilled although in-greater, toil
Cyclopes, notique operum Telchines amica
the-Cyclopes, and-known for-works the-Telchines with-friendly
certatim iuvere manu; sed plurimus ipsi
in-rivalry helped hand; but most for-himself
sudor. Ibi arcano florentes igne zmaragdos
the-sweat. There with-secret blooming fire emeralds

cingit et infaustas percussum adamanta figuras
he-girds and ill-omened struck-into the-adamant figures
Gorgoneosque orbes Siculaque incude relictos
and-Gorgonean orbs and-on-the-Sicilian anvil left
fulminis extremi cineres viridumque draconum
of-a-thunderbolt last the-ashes and-of-green serpents
lucentes a fronte iubas; hic flebile germen
gleaming from the-brow the-crests; here the-tearful offshoot
Hesperidum et dirum Phrixei velleris aurum;
of-the-Hesperides and dire of-the-Phrixean fleece gold;
tum varias pestes raptumque interplicat atro
then varied plagues and-snatched he-interweaves black
Tisiphones de crine ducem, et quae pessima ceston
of-Tisiphone from the-hair the-chief, and what worst the-girdle
vis probat; haec circum spumis lunaribus ungit
power commends; these around with-foams lunar he-anoints
callidus atque hilari perfundit cuncta veneno.
cunning and with-gay drenches all poison.
Non hoc Pasithea blandarum prima sororum,
Not this Pasithea of-the-charming first of-the-sisters,
non Decor Idaliusque puer, sed Luctus et Irae
not Grace and-the-Idalian boy, but Grief and Angers
et Dolor et tota pressit Discordia dextra.
and Pain and with-all pressed Discord right-hand.
Prima fides operi, Cadmum comitata iacentem
First the-proof to-the-work, Cadmus having-accompanied lying
Harmonia versis in sibila dira querellis
Harmonia turned into hisses dire her-laments
Illyricos longo sulcavit pectore campos.
Illyrian with-long furrowed breast fields.

Improba mox Semele vix dona nocentia collo
Wicked soon Semele hardly the-gifts harmful on-her-neck
induit, et fallax intravit limina Iuno.
put-on, and deceitful entered the-thresholds Juno.
Teque etiam, infelix, perhibent, Iocasta, decorum
And-you too, unhappy-one, they-report, Jocasta, the-beautiful
possedisse nefas; vultus hac laude colebas,
to-have-possessed horror; your-face with-this glory you-adorned,
heu quibus, heu placitura toris! post longior ordo.
alas for-what, alas about-to-please couches! after-that a-longer order.
Tunc donis Argia nitet vilesque sororis
Then with-the-gifts Argia shines and-cheap of-her-sister
ornatus sacro praeculta supervenit auro.
the-adornments with-sacred highly-adorned surpasses gold.
Viderat hoc coniunx perituri vatis et aras
Had-seen this the-wife of-the-about-to-perish prophet and the-altars
ante omnes epulasque trucem secreta coquebat
before all and-the-feasts fierce in-secret was-brewing
invidiam, saevis detur si quando potiri
envy, savage it-be-given if ever to-possess
cultibus, heu nihil auguriis adiuta propinquis.
dress, alas in-nothing by-auguries helped near.
Quos optat gemitus, quantas cupit impia clades!
What she-desires groans, how-great wishes impious disasters!
Digna quidem, sed quid miseri decepta mariti
Worthy indeed, but why of-the-wretched deceived husband
arma, quid insontes nati meruere furores?
the-arms, why the-innocent son's have-deserved madness?

After twelve days of feasting Polynices turns his mind back to Thebes, remembering the day he left it a private man, deserted by the gods and his friends, with only his sister to see him off. Like a bull driven from his herd who returns to win it back, he plans to go. Argia notices his sleepless sighs and begs him not to go to Thebes alone and unarmed; Polynices comforts her and promises that a day will come when she sees her husband's walls and walks as a queen through two cities.

Postquam regales epulas et gaudia vulgi
After the-royal feasts and the-joys of-the-crowd
bisseni clusere dies, Ismenius heros
twice-six closed days, the-Ismenian hero
respicere ad Thebas iamque et sua quaerere regna.
to-look-back toward Thebes and-now also his-own to-seek kingdoms.
Quippe animum subit illa dies, qua, sorte benigna
Indeed the-mind comes-into that day, on-which, by-lot kindly
fratris, Echionia steterat privatus in aula,
of-his-brother, the-Echionian he-had-stood private in hall,
respiciens descisse deos trepidoque tumultu
looking-back to-have-deserted the-gods and-in-trembling uproar
dilapsos comites, nudum latus omne fugamque
slipped-away his-companions, bare his-side all and-the-flight
fortunae. Namque una soror producere tristes
of-fortune. For one sister to-lead-forth sad
exulis ausa vias; etiam hanc in limine primo
of-the-exile dared the-ways; even her on the-threshold first
liquerat et magna lacrimas incluserat ira.
he-had-left and with-great tears had-shut-in anger.
Tunc quos excedens hilares, quis cultus iniqui
Then whom leaving cheerful, to-whom the-cultivation of-the-unjust

praecipuus ducis, et profugo quos ipse notarat
foremost leader, and to-the-fugitive whom himself had-marked
ingemuisse sibi, per noctem ac luce sub omni
to-have-groaned for-himself, through the-night and light under all
digerit; exedere animum dolor iraque demens
he-sorts-out; have-eaten-away his-mind grief and-anger mad
et, qua non gravior mortalibus addita curis,
and, than-which not heavier for-mortals added to-cares,
spes, ubi longa venit. Talem sub pectore nubem
hope, when long it-comes. Such under breast a-cloud
consilii volvens Dircen Cadmique negatas
of-counsel turning Dirce and-of-Cadmus the-denied
apparat ire domos. Veluti dux taurus amata
he-prepares to-go-to homes. As the-leader bull from-the-loved
valle carens, pulsum solito quem gramine victor
valley lacking, driven from-the-accustomed whom grass the-victor
iussit ab erepta longe mugire iuvenca,
has-ordered from the-snatched far to-bellow heifer,
cum profugo placuere tori cervixque recepto
when to-the-fugitive have-pleased his-thews and-neck with-recovered
sanguine magna redit fractaeque in pectore quercus,
blood great returns and-broken on breast oaks,
bella cupit pastusque et capta armenta reposcit
wars he-desires and-pastures and captured herds demands-back
iam pede, iam cornu melior (pavet ipse reversum
now in-foot, now in-horn better (dreads himself the-returned-one
victor, et attoniti vix agnovere magistri):
the-victor, and astonished hardly recognized-him the-herdsmen):
non alias tacita iuvenis Teumesius iras
not otherwise in-silent the-youth Teumesian angers

mente acuit. Sed fida vias arcanaque coniunx
mind sharpens. But faithful the-ways and-the-secrets wife
senserat; utque toris primo complexa iacebat
had-perceived; and-as on-the-couch at-the-first embracing she-lay
aurorae pallore virum, 'quos, callide, motus
of-dawn pallor her-husband, 'what, crafty-one, movements
quamve fugam moliris?' ait 'nil transit amantes.
or-what flight are-you-contriving?' she-says 'nothing passes-by lovers.
Sentio, pervigiles acuunt suspiria questus,
I-feel-it, wakeful sharpen sighs complaints,
numquam in pace sopor. Quotiens haec ora natare
never in peace your-sleep. How-often this face to-swim
fletibus et magnas latrantia pectora curas
with-tears and great barking the-breast cares
admota deprendo manu? Nil foedere rupto
applied do-I-catch with-my-hand? Not-at-all by-the-pact broken
conubiisve super moveor viduaque iuventa,
or-marriage further am-I-moved and-widowed youth,
etsi crudus amor necdum post flammea toti
although raw love and-not-yet after the-bridal-veils whole
intepuere tori: tua me, properabo fateri,
have-grown-lukewarm the-couches: your me, I-shall-hasten to-confess,
angit, amate, salus. Tune incomitatus, inermis
torments, beloved, safety. You-whether unaccompanied, unarmed
regna petes? poterisque tuis decedere Thebis,
kingdoms seek? and-will-you-be-able from-your to-withdraw Thebes,
si neget? atque illum sollers deprendere semper
if he-should-refuse? and him skilled to-detect always
Fama duces tumidum narrat raptoque superbum
Rumor leaders swollen tells and-by-plunder proud

difficilemque tibi: necdum consumpserat annum.
and-hard to-you: and-not-yet he-had-used-up the-year.
Me quoque nunc vates, nunc exta minantia divos
Me also now prophets, now entrails threatening gods
aut avium lapsus aut turbida noctis imago
or of-birds glidings or turbulent of-night a-phantom
terret, et a, memini, numquam mihi falsa per umbras
terrifies, and ah, I-remember, never to-me false through shadows
Iuno venit. Quo tendis iter? ni conscius ardor
Juno came. Where do-you-direct your-journey? unless a-knowing ardor
ducit et ad Thebas melior socer.' Hic breve tandem
leads and to Thebes a-better father-in-law.' Here briefly at-last
risit Echionius iuvenis tenerumque dolorem
smiled the-Echionian youth and-the-tender grief
coniugis amplexu solatus et oscula maestis
of-his-wife with-embrace consoled and kisses on-the-sorrowing
tempestiva genis posuit lacrimasque repressit:
timely cheeks placed and-tears checked:
'Solve metus animo, dabitur, mihi crede, medentum
'Loose fears from-your-mind, it-will-be-given, me believe, of-the-healing
consiliis tranquilla dies; te fortior annis
by-the-counsels a-tranquil day; you braver than-your-years
nondum cura decet. Sciat haec Saturnius olim
not-yet care befits. Let-him-know these Saturnian one-day
fata parens, oculosque polo demittere si qua
fates the-father, and-eyes from-the-pole to-let-down if any
iustitia et rectum terris defendere curat:
justice and the-right for-lands to-defend he-cares:

fors aderit lux illa tibi, qua moenia cernes
perhaps will-be-present light that for-you, on-which the-walls you-will-see
coniugis et geminas ibis regina per urbes.'
of-your-husband and twin you-will-go a-queen through cities.'

II.7 · TYDEUS' EMBASSY

Polynices consults Tydeus and Adrastus, and they agree to test Eteocles' good faith through an envoy. Tydeus volunteers, though Deipyle weeps to keep him. He travels past Lerna, Nemea, and Corinth into Theban land and finds Eteocles enthroned among armed guards, already ruling past his term into his brother's. Tydeus, blunt and quick to anger, delivers his message: the year has turned, and Eteocles must give up the throne and learn in his turn to bear exile.

Sic ait, et caro raptim se limine profert.
Thus he-says, and from-the-dear hastily himself threshold brings-forth.
Tydea iam socium coeptis, iam pectore fido
Tydeus now ally in-his-undertakings, now with-breast faithful
aequantem curas (tantus post iurgia mentes
equaling his-cares (so-great after the-quarrels minds
vinxit amor) socerumque adfatur tristis Adrastum.
bound love) and-father-in-law addresses sad Adrastus.
Fit mora consilio, cum multa moventibus una
There-is delay in-counsel, when many to-those-stirring one
iam potior cunctis sedit sententia, fratris
now stronger than-all settled opinion, the-brother's
pertemptare fidem tutosque in regna precando
to-test good-faith and-safe into the-kingdom by-entreating
explorare aditus. Audax ea munera Tydeus
to-explore the-approaches. Bold that office Tydeus

sponte subit; nec non et te, fortissime gentis
of-his-own-will undertakes; nor not also you, bravest of-the-race
Aetolum, multum lacrimis conata morari
of-the-Aetolians, much with-tears having-tried to-delay
Deipyle, sed iussa patris tutique regressus
Deipyle, but the-orders of-her-father and-safe the-return
legato iustaeque preces vicere sororis.
for-the-envoy and-just the-prayers prevailed of-her-sister.
Iamque emensus iter silvis ac litore durum,
And-now having-measured-out the-journey by-woods and shore hard,
qua Lernaea palus ambustaque sontibus alte
where the-Lernaean marsh and-burnt in-guilty deeply
intepet hydra vadis, et qua vix carmine raro
grows-warm the-hydra waters, and where hardly with-song rare
longa sonat Nemea nondum pastoribus ausis,
long sounds Nemea not-yet the-shepherds having-dared,
qua latus Eoos Ephyres quod vergit ad Euros
where the-side Eastern of-Ephyra which slopes toward the-Euruses
Sisyphiique sedent portus irataque terrae
and-of-Sisyphus sit the-harbors and-angry at-the-land
curva Palaemonio secluditur unda Lechaeo.
curved by-Palaemonian is-shut-off the-wave Lechaeum.
Hinc praetervectus Nisum et te, mitis Eleusin,
Hence having-sailed-past Nisus and you, gentle Eleusis,
laevus abit, iamque arva gradu Teumesia et arces
on-the-left he-goes, and-now the-fields with-step Teumesian and the-citadels
intrat Agenoreas; ibi durum Eteoclea cernit
he-enters Agenorean; there harsh Eteocles he-sees
sublimem solio saeptumque horrentibus armis.
lofty on-the-throne and-hedged-around with-bristling arms.

Iura ferus populo trans legem ac tempora regni
Laws savage to-the-people beyond the-law and the-times of-the-reign
iam fratris de parte dabat; sedet omne paratus
now of-his-brother from the-share he-was-giving; he-sits all ready
in facinus queriturque fidem tam sero reposci.
for crime and-complains good-faith so late to-be-demanded-back.
Constitit in mediis (ramus manifestat olivae
He-stood in the-midst (the-branch makes-plain of-olive
legatum) causasque viae nomenque rogatus
the-envoy) and-the-causes of-his-journey and-his-name asked
edidit; utque rudis fandi pronusque calori
he-declared; and-as raw in-speaking and-prone to-heat
semper erat, iustis miscens tamen aspera coepit:
always he-was, with-just mixing yet harsh-things he-began:
'Si tibi plana fides et dicti cura maneret
'If for-you plain good-faith and of-the-spoken care remained
foederis, ad fratrem completo iustius anno
pact, to your-brother completed more-justly the-year
legatos hinc ire fuit teque ordine certo
envoys hence to-go it-was and-you in-order fixed
fortunam exuere et laetum descendere regno,
fortune to-put-off and glad to-come-down from-the-kingdom,
ut vagus ille diu passusque haut digna per urbes
that wandering he long and-having-suffered not worthy-things through cities
ignotas pactae tandem succederet aulae.
unknown the-agreed at-last might-succeed-to hall.
Sed quia dulcis amor regni blandumque potestas,
But since sweet the-love of-ruling and-alluring power,
posceris: astriferum iam velox circulus orbem
you-are-asked: the-star-bearing now swift circle orb

torsit et amissae redierunt montibus umbrae,
has-twisted and lost have-returned to-the-mountains the-shadows,
ex quo frater inops ignota per oppida tristes
from which the-brother needy unknown through towns sad
exul agit casus; et te iam tempus aperto
an-exile drives misfortunes; and you now time open
sub Iove ferre dies terrenaque frigora membris
under Jupiter to-bear days and-earthly cold for-your-limbs
405 ducere et externos submissum ambire penates.
to-draw and foreign humbled to-go-round household-gods.
Pone modum laetis; satis ostro dives et auro
Set limit to-your-joys; enough with-purple rich and with-gold
conspicuus tenuem germani pauperis annum
conspicuous the-meager of-a-brother poor year
risisti; moneo, regnorum gaudia temet
you-have-laughed-at; I-warn, of-kingdoms the-joys yourself
dedoceas patiensque fugae mereare reverti.'
unlearn and-patient of-exile may-you-deserve to-return.'

Eteocles, seething like a serpent struck by a stone, replies that Tydeus speaks as if he were already besieging Thebes. He keeps what he holds: let Polynices enjoy the riches of Argos and his wife's dowry; the people of Thebes are used to their king and dread a change. Tydeus breaks in, swears that Eteocles will pay for his crime, and pities the citizens he will lead to slaughter. He storms out through the guards like the Calydonian boar charging the hunters, throwing down the olive branch, while the mothers on the rooftops curse him, and silently the king.

Dixerat. Ast illi tacito sub pectore dudum
He-had-spoken. But to-him silent under breast long-since
ignea corda fremunt, iacto velut aspera saxo
fiery the-heart roars, thrown as rough a-stone
comminus erigitur serpens, cui subter inanes
at-close-quarters rises a-serpent, which underneath empty
longa sitis latebras totumque agitata per artus
long thirst the-lurking-places and-whole driven through its-limbs
convocat in fauces et squamea colla venenum:
summons into its-jaws and scaly neck the-venom:
'Cognita si dubiis fratris mihi iurgia signis
'Known if by-doubtful of-my-brother to-me the-quarrels signs
ante forent nec clara odiorum arcana paterent,
before were nor clear of-hatreds the-secrets lay-open,
sufficeret vel sola fides, quam servo: sed illum
would-suffice even alone the-trust, which I-keep: but him
mente gerens, ceu saepta novus iam moenia laxet
in-mind bearing, as-if hedged new now the-walls should-loosen
fossor et hostiles inimicent classica turmas,
digger and hostile make-hostile trumpets troops,

praefuris. In medios si comminus orsa tulisses
you-rage-beforehand. Into the-midst if at-close-quarters your-speech you-had-carried
Bistonas aut refugo pallentes sole Gelonos,
the-Bistones or with-the-fleeing pale sun Geloni,
parcior eloquio et medii reverentior aequi
more-sparing in-eloquence and of-the-middle more-respectful fair
inciperes. Neque te furibundae crimine mentis
you-would-begin. Nor you of-a-raving with-the-charge mind
arguerim: mandata refers. Nunc omnia quando
would-I-accuse: commands you-bring-back. Now all-things since
plena minis, nec sceptra fide nec pace sequestra
full of-threats, nor scepters by-good-faith nor with-peace as-mediator
poscitis, et propior capulo manus, haec mea regi
you-demand, and nearer to-the-hilt the-hand, these my to-the-king
Argolico, nondum aequa tuis, vice dicta reporta:
Argolic, not-yet fair to-yours, in-turn words carry-back:
quae sors iusta mihi, quae non indebitus annis
what lot just to-me, which not undue to-years
sceptra dicavit honos, teneo longumque tenebo.
the-scepters has-dedicated honor, I-hold and-long shall-hold.
Te penes Inachiae dotalis regia dono
You in-the-power-of Inachian dowered the-palace by-the-gift
coniugis, et Danaae (quid enim maioribus actis
of-your-wife, and Danaan (why indeed to-greater deeds
invideam?) cumulentur opes, felicibus Argos
should-I-envy?) let-be-heaped the-riches, with-happy Argos
auspiciis Lernamque regas; nos horrida Dirces
auspices and-Lerna may-you-rule; we the-rough of-Dirce
pascua et Euboicis artatas fluctibus oras,
pastures and by-Euboean narrowed waves shores,

non indignati miserum dixisse parentem
not disdaining wretched to-have-called our-father
Oedipoden: tibi larga (Pelops et Tantalus auctor)
Oedipus: for-you abundant (Pelops and Tantalus its-author)
nobilitas, propiorque fluat de sanguine iuncto
nobility, and-nearer let-flow from blood joined
Iuppiter. Anne feret luxu consueta paterno
Jupiter. Or will-bear to-luxury accustomed paternal
hunc regina larem? nostrae cui iure sorores
this queen hearth? our for-whom by-right sisters
anxia pensa trahant, longo quam sordida luctu
anxious the-tasks should-draw, with-long whom squalid mourning
mater et ex imis auditus forte tenebris
mother and from the-lowest heard perchance darkness
offendat sacer ille senex! iam pectora vulgi
should-offend accursed that old-man! now the-breasts of-the-crowd
adsuevere iugo: pudet heu! plebisque patrumque,
have-grown-used to-the-yoke: there-is-shame alas! for-commons and-fathers,
ne totiens incerta ferant mutentque gementes
lest so-often uncertain they-should-bear and-change groaning
imperia et dubio pigeat parere tyranno.
rules and with-a-doubtful it-should-irk to-obey tyrant.
Non parcit populis regnum breve; respice, quantus
Not spares the-peoples a-reign brief; look-back, how-great
horror, et attoniti nostro in discrimine cives!
the-dread, and astonished our in danger the-citizens!
Hosne ego, quis certa est sub te duce poena,
These-whether I, for-whom certain is under you as-leader punishment,
relinquam?
shall-I-abandon?

Iratus, germane, venis. Fac velle: nec ipsi,
Angry, brother, you-come. Suppose-me to-be-willing: nor themselves,
si modo notus amor meritique est gratia, patres
if only known the-love and-for-my-merit is gratitude, the-fathers
reddere regna sinent.' Non ultra passus, et orsa
to-give-back the-kingdom will-allow.' Not further he-endured, and words
iniecit mediis sermonibus obvia: 'Reddes,'
threw-in into-the-midst of-his-speech opposing: 'You-will-give-it-back,'
ingeminat, 'reddes; non si te ferreus agger
he-redoubles, 'you-will-give-it-back; not if you an-iron rampart
ambiat aut triplices alio tibi carmine muros
should-surround or triple by-another for-you song walls
Amphion auditus agat, nil tela nec ignes
Amphion heard should-drive, nothing weapons nor fires
obstiterint, quin ausa luas nostrisque sub armis
will-have-hindered, but-that your-daring-deeds you-pay-for and-our under arms
captivo moribundus humum diademate pulses.
with-captive dying the-ground diadem you-beat.
Tu merito; ast horum miseret, quos sanguine viles
You deservedly; but for-these I-pity, whom in-blood cheap
coniugibus natisque infanda ad proelia raptos
from-wives and-children unspeakable to battles snatched
proicis excidio, bone rex. O quanta Cithaeron
you-throw-forward to-destruction, good king. O how-many Cithaeron
funera sanguineusque vadis, Ismene, rotabis!
deaths and-bloody in-your-shallows, Ismenus, will-you-roll!
Haec pietas, haec magna fides! nec crimina gentis
This your-piety, this great good-faith! nor the-crimes of-your-race
mira equidem duco: sic primus sanguinis auctor
strange indeed I-reckon: so the-first of-the-blood the-author

incestique patrum thalami; sed fallit origo:
and-incestuous of-the-fathers the-bed; but deceives the-origin:
Oedipodes tu solus eras, haec praemia morum
Oedipus you alone were, these rewards of-your-character
ac sceleris, violente, feres! nos poscimus annum;
and of-your-crime, violent-one, you-shall-bear! we demand the-year;
sed moror.' Haec audax etiamnum in limine regis
but I-delay.' These-things bold still on the-threshold of-the-king
vociferans iam tunc impulsa per agmina praeceps
shouting now then thrust-aside through the-ranks headlong
evolat. Oeneae vindex sic ille Dianae
he-flies-out. Of-Oenean the-avenger so that Diana
erectus saetis et aduncae fulmine malae,
raised in-bristles and of-hooked with-the-thunderbolt jaw,
cum premeret Pelopea phalanx, saxa obvia volvens
when pressed-it Pelopean the-phalanx, rocks opposing rolling
fractaque perfossis arbusta Acheloia ripis,
and-broken from-dug-through trees Acheloian banks,
iam Telamona solo, iam stratum Ixiona linquens
now Telamon on-the-ground, now laid-low Ixion leaving
te, Meleagre, subit: tibi demum cuspide lata
you, Meleager, comes-against: in-you at-last with-spear broad
haesit et obnixo ferrum laxavit in armo.
it-stuck and the-straining iron slackened in shoulder.
Talis adhuc trepidum linquit Calydonius heros
Such still trembling leaves the-Calydonian hero
concilium infrendens, ipsi ceu regna negentur,
the-council gnashing, to-himself as-if the-kingdom were-denied,
festinatque vias ramumque precantis olivae
and-hastens the-ways and-the-branch of-entreating olive

abicit. Attonitae tectorum e culmine summo
throws-away. Astonished of-the-roofs from the-summit highest
aspectant matres, saevoque infanda precantur
look-on the-mothers, and-on-the-savage unspeakable-things pray
Oenidae tacitoque simul sub pectore regi.
on-the-son-of-Oeneus and-silent at-once under breast on-the-king.

II.9 · THE AMBUSH

Eteocles, eager for treachery, arms fifty chosen young men to ambush the envoy at night. They take a shortcut through the woods to the narrow pass beneath the crag where the Sphinx once sat, the haunt she left strewn with bones, and lie in wait. As the moon glints on their arms, Tydeus sees them and demands who they are. No one answers; Chthonius, their leader, hurls a spear, which skims Tydeus' shoulder without drawing blood.

Nec piger ingenio scelerum fraudisque nefandae
Nor sluggish in-talent of-crimes and-of-fraud unspeakable
rector eget. Iuvenum fidos, lectissima bello
the-ruler is-in-need. Of-youths trusty, choicest for-war
corpora, nunc pretio, nunc ille hortantibus ardens
bodies, now with-a-price, now he with-urging burning
sollicitat dictis, nocturnaque proelia saevus
he-tempts words, and-nocturnal battles savage
instruit, et sanctum populis per saecula nomen
he-arrays, and holy to-peoples through ages a-name
legatum insidiis tacitoque invadere ferro
an-envoy with-ambush and-with-silent to-attack steel
(quid regnis non vile?) cupit. Quas quaereret artes,
(what to-kingdoms not cheap?) he-desires. What would-he-seek arts,

si fratrem, Fortuna, dares! o caeca nocentum
if a-brother, Fortune, you-should-give! O blind of-the-guilty
consilia! o semper timidum scelus! Exit in unum
counsels! O always timid crime! Goes-out against one
plebs ferro iurata caput; ceu castra subire
the-commons with-steel sworn head; as-if a-camp to-approach
apparet aut celsum crebris arietibus urbis
it-prepares or lofty with-frequent rams of-a-city
inclinare latus: densi sic agmine facto
to-bend-down the-side: dense so a-column made
quinquaginta altis funduntur in ordine portis.
fifty from-the-high are-poured in order gates.
Macte animi, tantis dignus qui crederis armis!
Bravo in-spirit, of-such worthy who are-believed arms!
Fert via per dumos propior, qua calle latenti
Leads a-way through thickets nearer, where by-path hidden
praecelerant densaeque legunt compendia silvae.
they-hasten-ahead and-of-the-dense gather the-short-cuts wood.
Lecta dolis sedes: gemini procul urbe malignis
Chosen for-tricks the-seat: twin far from-the-city with-malign
faucibus urgentur colles, quos umbra superni
jaws are-pressed hills, which the-shadow of-the-upper
montis et incurvis claudunt iuga frondea silvis
mountain and with-curving close ridges leafy woods
(insidias natura loco caecamque latendi
(ambush nature for-the-place and-blind of-hiding
struxit opem); mediasque arte secat aspera rupes
built help); and-the-middle by-art cuts rough the-rocks
semita, quam subter campi devexaque latis
a-path, which beneath plains and-sloping with-broad

arva iacent spatiis. Contra importuna crepido,
fields lie spaces. Opposite a-grim ledge,
Oedipodioniae domus alitis; hic fera quondam
of-the-Oedipodean house of-the-winged-one; here the-beast once
pallentes erecta genas suffusaque tabo
pale raised in-cheeks and-suffused with-gore
lumina, concretis infando sanguine plumis
eyes, with-clotted with-unspeakable blood feathers
reliquias amplexa virum semesaque nudis
the-remains embracing of-men and-half-eaten with-naked
pectoribus stetit ossa premens visuque frementi
breasts stood bones pressing and-with-a-look roaring
conlustrat campos, si quis concurrere dictis
surveys the-plains, if any to-engage words
hospes inexplicitis aut comminus ire viator
stranger unexplained or at-close-quarters to-go a-traveler
audeat et dirae commercia iungere linguae;
should-dare and of-the-dire commerce to-join tongue;
nec mora, quin acuens exertos protinus ungues
nor delay, but-that sharpening thrust-out at-once her-claws
liventesque manus fractosque in vulnere dentes
and-livid hands and-broken in the-wound teeth
terribili adplausu circum hospita surgeret ora;
with-terrible flapping around the-guest's she-should-rise face;
et latuere doli, donec de rupe cruenta
and lay-hidden the-tricks, until from the-rock bloody
heu! simili deprensa viro, cessantibus alis,
alas! by-a-like caught man, ceasing her-wings,
tristis inexpletam scopulis adfligeret alvum.
sad unfilled on-the-crags she-dashed belly.

Monstrat silva nefas, horrent vicina iuvenci
Shows the-wood the-horror, shudder-at the-neighboring the-bullocks
gramina, damnatis avidum pecus abstinet herbis.
grasses, from-the-condemned the-greedy cattle abstains herbs.
Non Dryadum placet umbra choris, non commoda sacris
Not of-the-Dryads pleases the-shade to-the-choirs, not suited for-the-rites
Faunorum, diraeque etiam fugere volucres
of-the-Fauns, and-dire even have-fled birds
prodigiale nemus. Tacitis huc gressibus acti
the-portentous grove. With-silent hither steps driven
deveniunt peritura cohors, hostemque superbum
come-down the-about-to-perish cohort, and-the-enemy proud
adnixi iaculis et humi posita arma tenentes
leaning-on javelins and on-the-ground placed arms holding
expectant densaque nemus statione coronant.
await and-in-dense the-grove station crown.
Coeperat umenti Phoebum subtexere palla
Had-begun with-damp Phoebus to-veil mantle
Nox et caeruleam terris infuderat umbram.
Night and dark-blue on-the-lands had-poured shadow.
Ille propinquabat silvis et ab aggere celso
He was-approaching the-woods and from the-rampart high
scuta virum cristasque videt rutilare comantes,
the-shields of-men and-crests sees to-glow plumed,
qua laxant rami nemus adversaque sub umbra
where loosen the-branches the-grove and-opposite under shadow
flammeus aeratis lunae tremor errat in armis.
flaming bronze of-the-moon the-tremor wanders on arms.
Obstipuit visis, ibat tamen, horrida tantum
He-was-astounded at-the-sights, he-went yet, bristling only

spicula et inclusum capulo tenus admovet ensem,
darts and enclosed to-the-hilt as-far moves-up his-sword,
ac prior ‘unde, viri, quidve occultatis in armis?’
and first ‘whence, men, or-what do-you-hide in arms?’
Non humili terrore rogat. Nec reddita contra
Not with-humble terror he-asks. Nor given in-return
vox, fidamque negant suspecta silentia pacem.
a-voice, and-trusty deny suspect silences peace.
Ecce autem vasto Chthonii contorta lacerto,
Behold however by-the-vast of-Chthonius hurled arm,
quo duce freta cohors, fuscas intervolat auras
on-whom as-leader relying the-cohort, dusky flies-through the-airs
hasta; sed audenti deus et fortuna recessit.
the-spear; but from-the-daring the-god and fortune withdrew.
Per tamen Olenii tegimen suis hirtaque saetis
Through yet of-the-Olenian the-covering boar and-shaggy with-bristles
terga super laevos umeros vicina cruori
the-back over the-left shoulders near to-blood
effugit et viduo iugulum ferit inrita ligno.
it-escaped and with-widowed the-throat strikes vain wood.

His blood running cold, then hot, Tydeus challenges them all, and as the ambushers pour out from every side he climbs the Sphinx's crag. He heaves a huge rock down on them, crushing four, Dorylas, Theron, Halys, and Phaedimus, and then leaps to the plain and takes up Theron's shield. With his ancestral sword he cuts them down on every side, like Briareus fighting the gods, killing Deilochus, Phegeus, Gyas, and Lycophontes, until the Thebans begin to count how few they are.

Tunc horrere comae sanguisque in corde gelari.
Then bristled his-hair and-blood in his-heart froze.
Huc ferus atque illuc animum pallentiaque ira
Hither fierce and thither his-mind and-pale with-anger
ora ferens (nec tanta putat sibi bella parari):
his-face bearing (nor such he-thinks for-himself wars to-be-prepared):
'Ferte gradum contra campoque erumpite aperto!
'Bring your-step against-me and-into-the-plain burst-out open!
Quis timor audendi, quae tanta ignavia? Solus,
What fear of-daring, what such cowardice? Alone,
solus in arma voco.' Neque in his mora; quos ubi plures,
alone into arms I-call.' Nor in these delay; whom when more,
quam ratus, innumeris videt excursare latebris,
than he-had-thought, from-countless he-sees to-run-out lurking-places,
hos deire iugis, illos e vallibus imis
these to-come-forth from-the-ridges, those from the-valleys lowest
crescere, nec paucos campo, totumque sub armis
to-grow, nor few on-the-plain, and-the-whole under arms
conlucere iter (ut clausas indagine profert
to-shine the-way (as the-shut-in with-the-hunting-net brings-forth
in medium vox prima feras), quae sola medendi
into the-middle the-voice first beasts), which alone of-remedy

turbata ratione via est, petit ardua dirae
for-the-disturbed reckoning a-way is, he-seeks the-heights of-the-dire
Sphingos et abscisis infringens cautibus uncas
Sphinx and on-the-cut-off breaking crags hooked
exsuperat iuga dira manus, scopuloque potitus,
he-surmounts the-ridges dire hands, and-the-crag having-gained,
unde procul tergo metus et via prona nocendi,
whence far from-his-back fear and the-way sloping of-harming,
saxum ingens, quod vix plena cervice gementes
a-rock huge, which hardly with-full neck groaning
vertere humo valeant murisque inferre iuvenci,
to-turn from-the-ground could and-to-walls to-bring bullocks,
rupibus avellit; dein toto sanguine nixus
from-the-cliffs tears-away; then with-all his-blood straining
sustinet, immanem quaerens librare ruinam,
holds-it-up, huge seeking to-poise the-fall,
qualis in adversos Lapithas erexit inanem
such-as against the-opposing Lapiths raised empty
magnanimus cratera Pholus. Stupet obvia leto
great-souled the-mixing-bowl Pholus. Is-stunned meeting death
turba superstantem atque emissi turbine montis
the-throng him-standing-over and of-the-launched by-the-whirl mountain
obruitur; simul arma virum, simul ora manusque
is-overwhelmed; at-once the-arms of-men, at-once faces and-hands
fractaque commixto sederunt pectora ferro.
and-broken with-mingled sank breasts iron.
Quattuor hic adeo disiecti mole sub una
Four here so scattered weight under one
congemuere, fuga tremefactum protinus agmen
groaned-together, in-flight terrified at-once the-column

excutitur coeptis. Neque enim temnenda iacebant
is-shaken from-its-undertakings. Nor indeed to-be-scorned lay
funera: fulmineus Dorylas, quem regibus ardens
the-deaths: thunderbolt-like Dorylas, whom to-kings burning
aequabat virtus, Martisque e semine Theron
equaled valor, and-of-Mars from the-seed Theron
terrigenas confisus avos, nec vertere cuiquam
earth-born trusting-in his-ancestors, nor to-turn to-any
frena secundus Halys, sed tunc pedes occubat arvis,
the-reins second Halys, but then on-foot he-lies-dead in-the-fields,
Pentheumque trahens nondum te Phaedimus aequo,
and-of-Pentheus drawing not-yet you Phaedimus fair,
Bacche, genus. Quorum ut subitis exterrita fatis
Bacchus, his-race. Of-whom when by-sudden terrified deaths
agmina turbatam vidit laxare catervam,
the-columns disturbed he-saw to-loosen the-band,
quae duo sola manu gestans acclinia monti
which two only in-hand carrying leaning on-the-mountain
fixerat, intorquet iacula et fugientibus addit.
he-had-fixed, he-hurls the-javelins and to-the-fleeing adds-them.
Mox in plana libens, nudo ne pectore tela
Soon onto the-level gladly, on-naked lest breast weapons
inciderent, saltu praeceps defertur et orbem,
should-fall, with-a-leap headlong he-is-carried-down and the-orb,
quem procul oppresso vidit Therone volutum,
which far-off crushed he-saw Theron rolled,
corripuit, tergoque et vertice tegmina nota
he-seized, and-on-back and on-head the-coverings known
saeptus et hostili propugnans pectora parma
hedged and with-an-enemy's defending breast shield

constitit. Inde iterum densi glomerantur in unum
he-stood. Then again dense they-are-massed into one
Ogygidae firmantque gradum; trahit ocius ensem
the-Ogygians and-steady their-step; draws more-swiftly his-sword
Bistonium Tydeus, Mavortia munera magni
the-Bistonian Tydeus, the-Martial gift of-great
Oeneos, et partes pariter divisus in omnes
Oeneus, and parts equally divided into all
hos obit atque illos ferroque micantia tela
these he-meets and those and-with-steel flashing weapons
decutit; impeditant numero seque ipsa vicissim
he-strikes-off; they-hinder by-number and-themselves the-very in-turn
arma premunt, nec vis conatibus ulla, sed ipsae
arms press, nor force to-the-efforts any, but themselves
in socios errare manus et corpora turba
upon their-comrades to-stray hands and bodies by-the-throng
involvi prolapsa sua; manet ille ruentes
to-be-rolled fallen their-own; stays he the-rushing
angustus telis et inexpugnabilis obstat.
narrow with-weapons and unconquerable withstands.
Non aliter Getica (si fas est credere) Phlegra
Not otherwise in-Getic (if right it-is to-believe) Phlegra
armatum immensus Briareus stetit aethera contra,
armed huge Briareus stood the-ether against,
hinc Phoebi pharetras, hinc torvae Pallados angues,
on-this-side of-Phoebus the-quivers, on-that of-grim Pallas the-snakes,
inde Pelethroniam praefixa cuspide pinum
from-there Pelethronian with-iron-tipped point pine
Martis, at hinc lasso motata Pyracmone temnens
of-Mars, but from-here with-weary brandished Pyracmon scorning

fulmina, cum toto nequiquam obsessus Olympo
thunderbolts, when by-all in-vain besieged Olympus

tot queritur cessare manus: non segnior ardet
so-many he-complains to-be-idle hands: not more-sluggishly blazes

huc illuc clipeum obiectans, seque ipse recedens
hither thither the-shield throwing-against, and-himself he retreating

circuit, interdum trepidis occurrit et instat
circles, sometimes the-trembling he-meets and presses-on

spicula devellens, clipeo quae plurima toto
the-darts plucking-out, on-the-shield which very-many whole

fixa tremunt armantque virum, saepe aspera passum
fixed quiver and-arm the-man, often harsh having-suffered

vulnera, sed nullum vitae in secreta receptum
wounds, but none of-life into the-secrets received

nec mortem sperare valet. Rotat ipse furentem
nor death to-hope is-able. Whirls he the-raging

Deilochum, comitemque illi iubet ire sub umbras
Deilochus, and-a-companion for-him orders to-go under the-shades

Phegea sublata minitantem bella securi
Phegeus raised threatening wars with-axe

Dircaeumque Gyan et Echionium Lycophontem.
and-the-Dircaean Gyas and Echionian Lycophontes.

Iam trepidi sese quaerunt numerantque, nec idem
Now trembling themselves they-seek and-count, nor the-same

caedis amor, tantamque dolent rarescere turbam.
of-slaughter love, and-so-great they-grieve to-grow-thin throng.

Chromis rallies the Thebans and is killed by a spear through his open mouth; Periphas, lifting his dying brother, is pierced by one lance with him, and the two die together; Menoetes begs for his life and is killed. Tydeus mocks the dead as revelers of Bacchus. Exhausted, he stands among the slain like a sated lion, and would march on Thebes itself had not Pallas warned him to be content. He spares only Maeon, who had foretold the disaster, and sends him to tell Eteocles to fortify his walls.

Ecce Chromis Tyrii demissus origine Cadmi
Behold Chromis of-Tyrian descended from-the-stock Cadmus
(hunc utero quondam Dryope Phoenissa gravato
(him in-womb once Dryope Phoenician burdened
rapta repente choris onerisque oblita ferebat,
snatched suddenly from-the-dances and-of-her-load forgetful was-carrying,
dumque trahit prensis taurum tibi cornibus, Euhan,
and-while she-drags seized the-bull for-you by-the-horns, Euhan,
procidit impulsus nimiis conatibus infans)
fell-forth driven by-excessive efforts the-infant)
tunc audax iaculis et capti pelle leonis
then bold with-javelins and of-a-captured in-the-hide lion
pinea nodosae quassabat robora clavae
pine of-the-knotty was-shaking the-timbers club
increpitans: 'unusne, viri, tot caedibus unus
chiding: 'alone-whether, men, with-so-many slaughters alone
ibit ovans Argos? vix credet fama reverso!
shall-he-go exulting to-Argos? hardly will-believe rumor him-returned!
Heus socii, nullaene manus, nulla arma valebunt?
Ho comrades, no-whether hands, no arms will-avail?
Haec regi promissa, Cydon, haec, Lampe, dabamus?'
These to-the-king promised, Cydon, these, Lampus, did-we-give?'

Dum clamat, subit ore cavo Teumesia cornus,
While he-shouts, enters into-mouth hollow a-Teumesian cornel,
nec prohibent fauces; atque illi voce repleta
nor do-prevent his-jaws; and for-him with-voice filled
intercepta natat prorupto in sanguine lingua.
cut-off swims burst-out in blood the-tongue.
Stabat adhuc, donec transmissa morte per artus
He-stood still, until passed-across death through his-limbs
labitur immorsaque cadens obmutuit hasta.
he-slips and-bitten falling fell-silent on-the-spear.
Vos quoque, Thespiadae, cur infitiatus honora
You also, Thespiadae, why denying from-honoring
arcuerim fama? Fratris moribunda levabat
should-I-keep fame? Of-his-brother dying was-lifting
membra solo Periphas (nil indole clarius illa
the-limbs from-the-ground Periphas (nothing than-character more-famous that
nec pietate fuit), laeva marcentia colla
nor than-piety was), with-the-left drooping the-neck
sustentans dextraque latus; singultibus artum
supporting and-with-the-right the-side; with-sobs tight
exhaurit thoraca dolor, nec vincla coercent
drains the-corslet grief, nor bonds do-restrain
undantem fletu galeam, cum multa gementi
streaming with-weeping the-helmet, when much groaning
pone gravis curvas perfringit lancea costas.
from-behind heavy curved breaks-through a-lance the-ribs.
Exit et in fratrem, cognataque pectora telo
It-goes-out also into his-brother, and-kindred breasts with-the-weapon
conserit; ille oculos etiamnum in luce natantes
joins; he his-eyes still in light swimming

sistit et aspecta germani morte resolvit.
steadies and having-seen of-his-brother death relaxes.
At cui vita recens et adhuc in vulnere vires
But he-to-whom life fresh and still in the-wound strength
'hos tibi complexus, haec dent' ait 'oscula nati.'
'these to-you embraces, these may-give' he-says 'kisses sons.'
Procubuere pares fatis (miserabile votum
They-fell-forward equal in-fates (pitiable the-wish
mortis) et alterna clauserunt lumina dextra.
of-death) and with-alternate closed eyes right-hand.
Protinus idem ultro iaculo parmaque Menoeten
Straightway the-same further with-javelin and-shield Menoetes
proterrebat agens trepidis vestigia retro
was-frightening driving with-trembling his-steps backward
passibus urgentem, donec defecit iniqua
paces pressing, until failed-him uneven
lapsus humo, pariterque manus distractus in ambas
slipping on-the-ground, and-equally his-hands spread into both
orat et a iugulo nitentem sustinet hastam:
he-begs and from his-throat pushing holds-up spear:
'Parce per has stellis interlabentibus umbras,
'Spare-me by these with-stars gliding-between shades,
per superos noctemque tuam; sine, tristia Thebis
by the-gods-above and-night your; allow, sad to-Thebes
nuntius acta feram vulgique per ora paventis
as-messenger deeds I-may-carry and-of-the-crowd through the-mouths fearful
contempto te rege canam: sic inrita nobis
scorned you the-king I-may-sing: so vain for-us
tela cadant, nullique tuum penetrabile ferro
weapons may-fall, and-by-no your penetrable steel

pectus, et optanti victor reveharis amico.'
breast, and to-a-longing as-victor may-you-be-carried-back friend.'
Dixerat. Ille nihil vultum mutatus 'inanes
He-had-spoken. He not-at-all in-face changed 'empty
perdis' ait 'lacrimas, et tu, ni fallor, iniquo
you-waste' he-says 'tears, and you, unless I-am-mistaken, to-the-unjust
pollicitus mea colla duci: nunc arma diemque
promised my neck leader: now arms and-the-day
proice; quid timidae sequeris compendia vitae?
throw-away; why of-timid do-you-pursue the-short-cuts life?
Bella manent.' Simul haec, et crassum sanguine telum
Wars remain.' At-once this, and thick with-blood the-weapon
iam redit; ille super dictis infensus amaris
now returns; he besides with-words hostile bitter
prosequitur victos: 'Non haec trieterica vobis
pursues the-vanquished: 'Not this triennial for-you
nox patrio de more venit, non orgia Cadmi
night ancestral by custom comes, not the-orgies of-Cadmus
cernitis aut avidas Bacchum scelerare parentes.
you-see or greedy Bacchus to-defile mothers.
Nebridas et fragiles thyrsos portare putastis
Fawnskins and fragile thyrsi to-carry did-you-think
imbellem ad sonitum maribusque incognita veris
unwarlike at sound and-to-males unknown true
foeda Celaenaea committere proelia buxo?
foul Celaenaean to-join battles with-boxwood?
Hic aliae caedes, alius furor: ite sub umbras,
Here other slaughters, other madness: go under the-shades,
o timidi paucique!' Haec intonat; ast tamen illi
O timid and-few!' These-things he-thunders; but yet to-him

membra negant, lassusque ferit praecordia sanguis.
his-limbs refuse, and-weary strikes his-chest the-blood.
Iam sublata manus cassos defertur in ictus,
Now raised the-hand empty is-carried-down into blows,
tardatique gradus, clipeum nec sustinet umbo
and-slowed his-steps, the-shield nor sustains the-boss
mutatum spoliis, gelidus cadit imber anhelo
changed by-spoils, cold falls a-shower from-panting
pectore, tunc crines ardentiaque ora cruentis
breast, then his-hair and-burning face with-bloody
roribus et taetra morientum aspargine manant:
dews and with-foul of-the-dying sprinkling drip:
ut leo, qui campis longe custode fugato
as a-lion, who in-the-fields far the-guard put-to-flight
Massylas depastus oves, ubi sanguine multo
Massylian having-grazed-on sheep, when with-blood much
luxuriata fames cervixque et tabe gravatae
glutted his-hunger and-neck and with-gore weighed-down
consedere iubae, mediis in caedibus astat
have-settled the-mane, mid in slaughters stands
aeger, hians victusque cibis; nec iam amplius irae
sick, gaping and-vanquished by-food; nor now further angers
crudescunt: tantum vacuis ferit aera malis
grow-fierce: only with-empty he-strikes the-air jaws
molliaque eiecta delambit vellera lingua.
and-soft with-thrust-out licks fleeces tongue.
Ille etiam Thebas spoliis et sanguine plenus
He even to-Thebes with-spoils and with-blood full
isset et attonitis sese populoque ducique
would-have-gone and to-the-astonished himself both-to-people and-to-leader

ostentasset ovans, ni tu, Tritonia virgo,
would-have-shown exulting, had-not you, Tritonian maiden,
flagrantem multaque operis caligine plenum
burning and-with-much of-work darkness full
consilio dignata virum: 'Sate gente superbi
with-counsel deemed-worthy the-man: 'Sown from-the-race of-proud
Oeneos, absentes cui dudum vincere Thebas
Oeneus, absent to-whom long-since to-conquer Thebes
adnuimus, iam pone modum nimiumque secundis
we-have-granted, now set a-limit and-too-much on-favorable
parce deis: huic una fides optanda labori.
spare the-gods: for-this one the-trust to-be-wished toil.
Fortuna satis usus abi.' Restabat acerbis
Fortune enough having-used go-away.' There-remained from-bitter
funeribus socioque gregi non sponte superstes
deaths and-of-his-comrade flock not of-his-own-will survivor
Haemonides (ille haec praeviderat, omina doctus
the-son-of-Haemon (he these-things had-foreseen, in-omens skilled
aeris et nulla deceptus ab alite) Maeon,
of-the-air and by-no deceived by bird) Maeon,
nec veritus prohibere ducem, sed fata monentem
nor having-feared to-forbid the-leader, but the-fates him-warning
privavere fide. Vita miserandus inerti
deprived of-credence. In-life pitiable sluggish
damnatur; trepido Tydeus inmitia mandat:
he-is-condemned; to-the-trembling Tydeus harsh-things commits:
'Quisquis es Aonidum, quem crastina munere nostro
'Whoever you-are of-the-Aonians, whom tomorrow by-gift our
manibus exemptum mediis aurora videbit,
from-the-shades taken-out middle the-dawn will-see,

haec iubeo perferre duci: cinge aggere portas,
these I-bid-you to-carry to-the-leader: gird with-a-rampart the-gates,
tela nova, fragiles aevo circum inspice muros,
weapons renew, fragile with-age around inspect the-walls,
praecipue stipare viros densasque memento
above-all to-pack men and-dense remember
multiplicare acies! fumantem hunc aspice late
to-multiply battle-lines! smoking this see widely
ense meo campum: tales in bella venimus.'
by-sword my plain: such into wars we-come.'

II.12 · TYDEUS' TROPHY

Tydeus hangs the spoils of the dead on an ancient oak as an offering to Pallas and prays to her: if he returns home to Pleuron, he will build her a golden temple overlooking the Ionian Sea, adorn it with his ancestors' battles, his trophies, and those of Thebes, and appoint a hundred Calydonian maidens and a priestess to keep her fire. Then he sets out again for Argos.

Haec ait, et meritae pulchrum tibi, Pallas, honorem
These-things he-says, and deserved a-beautiful for-you, Pallas, honor
sanguinea de strage parat, praedamque iacentem
bloody from slaughter prepares, and-the-booty lying
comportat gaudens ingentiaque acta recenset.
he-gathers rejoicing and-huge deeds reviews.
Quercus erat tenerae iam longum oblita iuventae
An-oak there-was of-tender now long forgetful youth
aggere camporum medio, quam plurimus ambit
on-the-rise of-the-plains in-the-middle, which very-thick surrounds
frondibus incurvis et crudo robore cortex.
with-leaves curving and with-raw oak bark.

Huic leves galeas perfossaque vulnere crebro
On-this light helmets and-pierced by-wound frequent
inserit arma ferens, huic truncos ictibus enses
he-fastens arms bearing, on-this broken with-blows swords
subligat et tractas membris spirantibus hastas.
he-binds-beneath and drawn-out from-limbs breathing spears.
Corpora tunc atque arma simul cumulata superstans
The-bodies then and arms at-once heaped standing-over
incipit (oranti nox et iuga longa resultant):
he-begins (to-him-praying the-night and ridges long resound):
'Diva ferox, magni decus ingeniumque parentis,
'Goddess fierce, of-great the-glory and-genius father,
bellipotens, cui torva genis horrore decoro
war-mighty, to-whom grim on-cheeks with-dread comely
cassis et asperso crudescit sanguine Gorgon,
the-helmet and with-sprinkled grows-fierce blood the-Gorgon,
nec magis ardentes Mavors hastataque pugnae
nor more burning Mavors and-spear-bearing of-battle
impulerit Bellona tubas, huic adnue sacro,
would-have-driven Bellona the-trumpets, to-this nod-assent offering,
seu Pandionio nostras invisere caedes
whether from-the-Pandionian our to-visit slaughters
monte venis, sive Aonia devertis Itone
mount you-come, or from-Aonian turn-aside Itone
laeta choris, seu tu Libyco Tritone repexas
glad in-dances, or you in-the-Libyan Triton combed-back
lota comas, qua te biiugo temone frementem
having-washed your-hair, where you with-twin pole roaring
intemeratarum volucer rapit axis equarum:
of-inviolate the-winged snatches axle mares:

nunc tibi fracta virum spolia informesque dicamus
now to-you broken of-men the-spoils and-shapeless we-dedicate
exuvias. At si patriis Parthaonis arvis
the-cast-off-arms. But if to-ancestral of-Parthaon fields
inferar et reduci pateat mihi Martia Pleuron,
I-shall-be-borne and returned should-lie-open to-me Martial Pleuron,
aurea tunc mediis urbis tibi templa dicabo
golden then the-middle of-the-city to-you temples I-shall-dedicate
collibus, Ionias qua despectare procellas
on-the-hills, Ionian where to-look-down-on the-storms
dulce sit, et flavo tollens ubi vertice pontum
sweet may-be, and with-yellow raising where crest the-sea
turbidus obiectas Achelous Echinadas exit.
turbid the-opposing Achelous Echinades goes-out.
Hic ego maiorum pugnas vultusque tremendos
Here I of-my-ancestors the-fights and-faces dread
magnanimum effingam regum, figamque superbis
of-great-souled will-fashion kings, and-I-shall-fix on-proud
arma tholis, quaeque ipse meo quaesita revexi
arms domes, and-what myself by-my sought have-brought-back
sanguine, quaeque dabis captis, Tritonia, Thebis.
blood, and-what you-will-give from-captured, Tritonian, Thebes.
Centum ibi virgineis votae Calydonides aris
A-hundred there at-maiden vowed Calydonian-girls altars
Actaeas tibi rite faces et ab arbore casta
Actaean to-you duly torches and from tree chaste
nectent purpureas niveo discrimine vittas,
will-weave purple with-snowy parting fillets,
pervigilemque focis ignem longaeva sacerdos
and-the-sleepless on-the-hearths fire aged priestess

nutriet, arcanum numquam spretura pudorem. 740
will-nourish, secret never about-to-scorn modesty.
Tu bellis, tu pace feres de more frequentes
You in-wars, you in-peace will-bear by custom frequent
primitias operum, non indignante Diana.'
first-fruits of-the-works, not resenting Diana.'
Dixerat, et dulces iter instaurabat ad Argos.
He-had-spoken, and sweet the-journey renewed to Argos.

BOOK III

III.1 · ETEOCLES WAITS

Eteocles cannot sleep, and fear, the worst of augurs, works on him through the night. Why are his men so late? Has Tydeus taken another road, or has help come from Argos, or did he choose too few and too cowardly? He blames himself above all for not having killed the envoy openly in the assembly, and like a helmsman caught by a sudden storm he groans and chides the slow dawn.

At non Aoniae moderator perfidus orae
But not of-the-Aonian the-governor treacherous shore
nocte sub ancipiti, quamvis umentibus astris
night under doubtful, although with-damp stars
longus ad auroram superet labor, otia somni
long until dawn remains the-toil, the-ease of-sleep
accipit; invigilant animo scelerisque parati
accepts; keep-watch in-his-mind and-of-the-crime prepared
supplicium exercent curae; tum plurima versat
the-punishment ply cares; then very-many-things turns
pessimus in dubiis augur timor. 'Ei mihi' clamat,
worst in doubts augur fear. 'Ah me' he-cries,
'unde morae?' (nam prona ratus facilemque tot armis
'whence the-delays?' (for easy thinking and-easy for-so-many arms
Tydea, nec numero virtutem animumque rependit)
Tydeus, nor by-number valor and-spirit he-weighs)
'num regio diversa viae? num missus ab Argis
'surely-not the-region different of-the-way? surely-not sent from Argos
subsidio globus? an sceleris data fama per urbes
for-help a-band? or of-the-crime given rumor through cities

finitimas? paucosne, pater Gradive, manuve
neighboring? few-whether, father Gradivus, or-in-hand
legimus indecores? At enim fortissimus illic
did-we-choose inglorious? But indeed bravest there
et Chromis et Dorylas et nostris turribus aequi
both Chromis and Dorylas and to-our towers equal
Thespiadae totos raperent mihi funditus Argos.
the-Thespiadae all would-snatch for-me utterly Argos.
Nec tamen ille meis, reor, impenetrabilis armis
Nor yet he to-my, I-think, impenetrable arms
aere gerens solidoque satos adamante lacertos
bronze bearing and-from-solid sprung adamant arms
venerat; heu segnes, quorum labor haeret in uno,
had-come; alas sluggish, whose toil sticks on one,
si conserta manus.' Vario sic turbidus aestu
if joined hand.' By-varied thus turbulent tide
angitur ac sese culpat super omnia, qui non
he-is-tormented and himself blames above all, who not
orantem in mediis legatum coetibus ense
pleading in the-midst-of the-envoy the-assemblies with-sword
perculerit foedasque palam satiaverit iras.
struck-down and-foul openly glutted angers.
Iam pudet incepti, iam paenitet. Ac velut ille
Now he-is-ashamed of-the-undertaking, now he-regrets. And as that
fluctibus Ioniis Calabrae datus arbiter alno
on-waves Ionian to-the-Calabrian given as-master alder
nec rudis undarum (portus sed linquere amicos
nor unskilled of-waves (the-harbors but to-leave friendly
purior Olenii frustra gradus impulit astri),
clearer of-the-Olenian in-vain the-rising drove star),

cum fragor hiberni subitus Iovis, omnia mundi
when the-crash of-wintry sudden of-Jupiter, all of-the-world
claustra tonant multusque polos inclinat Orion,
the-bars thunder and-much the-poles tilts Orion,
ipse quidem malit terras pugnatque reverti,
himself indeed would-prefer the-lands and-fights to-return,
fert ingens a puppe Notus, tunc arte relicta
carries-him huge from the-stern the-South-wind, then his-art abandoned
ingemit et caecas sequitur iam nescius undas:
he-groans and blind follows now unknowing waves:
talis Agenoreus ductor caeloque morantem
such the-Agenorean leader at-the-sky lingering
Luciferum et seros maerentibus increpat ortus.
Lucifer and late at-his-grieving chides risings.

III.2 · MAEON'S RETURN

At dawn the earth trembles and Cithaeron sheds its snows. Maeon, sole survivor of the fifty, returns weeping like a shepherd whose flock the wolves have killed, and the mothers at the gates raise a cry when they see him alone. Before the king he announces that Tydeus has killed them all, reproaches Eteocles for an unspeakable war against the omens, and prophesies that the fifty souls will haunt him. When the guards move against him he defies the tyrant and kills himself with his own sword; his family carries him home, and Eteocles forbids his burial.

Ecce sub occiduas versae iam noctis habenas
Behold under setting of-the-turned now night reins
astrorumque obitus, ubi primum maxima Tethys
and-of-the-stars the-settings, when first greatest Tethys
impulit Eoo cunctantem Hyperiona ponto,
drove from-the-Eastern the-hesitating Hyperion sea,

ima flagellatis, signum lugubre malorum,
lowest with-lashed, a-sign mournful of-evils,
ponderibus trepidavit humus, motusque Cithaeron
weights trembled the-ground, and-shaken Cithaeron
antiquas dedit ire nives; tunc visa levari
ancient let to-go snows; then seemed to-be-lifted
culmina septenaeque iugo concurrere portae.
the-summits and-the-seven with-the-ridge to-run-together gates.
Et prope sunt causae: gelido remeabat Eoo
And near are the-causes: from-the-cold was-returning Dawn
iratus fatis et tristis morte negata
angry at-the-fates and sad at-death denied
Haemonides; necdum ora patent, dubiusque notari
the-son-of-Haemon; not-yet his-face is-plain, and-doubtful to-be-made-out
signa dabat magnae longe manifesta ruinae
signs he-was-giving of-great from-afar plain ruin
planctuque et gemitu; lacrimas nam protinus omnes
both-by-beating and by-groaning; tears for at-once all
fuderat. Haut aliter saltu devertitur orbus
he-had-poured. Not otherwise from-the-glade turns-aside bereaved
pastor ab agrestum nocturna strage luporum,
a-shepherd from of-wild the-nightly slaughter wolves,
cuius erile pecus silvis inopinus abegit
whose master's flock from-the-woods unexpected drove-off
imber et hibernae ventosa cacumina lunae:
a-rainstorm and of-the-wintry windy the-horns moon:
luce patent caedes; domino perferre recentes
by-light lie-open the-slaughters; to-his-master to-carry fresh
ipse timet casus, haustaque informis harena
he fears misfortunes, and-drunk-in disfigured with-sand

questibus implet agros, stabulique silentia magni
with-complaints fills the-fields, and-of-the-stall the-silences great
odit et amissos longo ciet ordine tauros.
hates and lost in-long summons order bulls.
Illum congestae portarum ad limina matres
Him crowded of-the-gates at the-thresholds the-mothers
ut solum videre (nefas!), nulla agmina circum
when alone they-saw (horror!), no columns around
magnanimosque duces, nil ausae quaerere tollunt
and-great-souled leaders, nothing having-dared to-ask raise
clamorem, qualis bello supremus apertis
a-shout, such-as in-war last in-opened
urbibus, aut pelago iam descendente carina.
cities, or at-sea now going-down the-ship.
Ut primum invisi cupido data copia regis:
As first of-the-hated to-him-desiring given opportunity king:
'Hanc tibi de tanto donat ferus agmine Tydeus
'This to-you from so-great gives fierce a-column Tydeus
infelicem animam, sive haec sententia divum,
unhappy soul, whether this the-will of-the-gods,
seu fortuna fuit, seu, quod pudet ora fateri,
or fortune it-was, or, what it-shames my-mouth to-confess,
vis invicta viri. Vix credo et nuntius: omnes
force unconquered of-the-man. Hardly I-believe-it and I-am-the-messenger: all
procubuere, omnes. Noctis vaga lumina testor
have-fallen, all. Of-night the-wandering lights I-call-to-witness
et socium manes et te, mala protinus ales,
and of-my-comrades the-shades and you, evil at-once bird,
qua redeo, non hanc lacrimis meruisse nec astu
by-which I-return, not this by-tears to-have-earned nor by-cunning

crudelem veniam atque inhonorae munera lucis.
cruel pardon and of-dishonored the-gifts light.
Sed mihi iussa deum placitoque ignara moveri
But from-me the-orders of-the-gods and-by-decree unknowing to-be-moved
Atropos atque olim non haec data ianua leti
Atropos and once not this given the-door of-death
eripuere necem. Iamque ut mihi prodiga vitae
snatched death. And-now that of-me lavish of-life
pectora et extremam nihil horrescentia mortem
the-breast and the-final not-at-all dreading death
aspicias: bellum infandum ominibusque negatam
you-may-see: a-war unspeakable and-by-omens denied
movisti, funeste, aciem; dum pellere leges
you-have-stirred, deadly-one, a-battle-line; while to-drive-out the-laws
et consanguineo gestis regnare superbus
and over-a-kinsman you-long to-reign proud
exule, te series orbarum excisa domorum
exile, you the-series of-bereaved destroyed of-houses
planctibus adsiduis, te diro horrore volantes
with-laments constant, you with-dire horror flying
quinquaginta animae circum noctesque diesque
fifty souls around both-nights and-days
adsilient; neque enim ipse moror.' Iam moverat iras
will-leap-upon; nor indeed myself do-I-delay.' Now had-moved angers
rex ferus, et tristes ignescunt sanguine vultus.
the-king fierce, and grim flare with-blood his-face.
Inde ultro Phlegyas et non cunctator iniqui
Then of-his-own-accord Phlegyas and not a-delayer of-wickedness
Labdacus (hos regni ferrum penes) ore manuque
Labdacus (these of-the-kingdom the-steel in-whose-hands) with-voice and-hand

proturbare parant. Sed iam nudaverat ensem
to-drive-off prepare. But now had-bared his-sword
magnanimus vates, et nunc trucis ora tyranni,
the-great-souled prophet, and now of-the-fierce the-face tyrant,
nunc ferrum aspectans: 'Numquam tibi sanguinis huius
now the-steel looking-at: 'Never to-you of-blood this
ius erit aut magno feries inperdita Tydeo
the-right will-be or by-great you-will-strike unlost-by Tydeus
pectora; vado equidem exultans ereptaque fata
a-breast; I-go indeed exulting and-snatched-away fates
insequor et comites feror expectatus ad umbras.
I-pursue and to-my-comrades I-am-carried awaited to shades.
Te superis fratrique —' Et iam media orsa loquentis
You to-the-gods-above and-to-your-brother—' And now the-middle the-words of-the-speaker
absciderat plenum capulo latus; ille dolori
had-cut-off full to-the-hilt side; he with-pain
pugnat et ingentem nisu duplicatus in ictum
fights and huge with-effort doubled into blow
corruit, extremisque animae singultibus errans
collapsed, and-in-the-last of-the-soul sobs wandering
alternus nunc ore venit nunc vulnere sanguis.
alternately now from-the-mouth comes now from-the-wound blood.
Excussae procerum mentes, turbataque mussant
Shaken of-the-nobles the-minds, and-disturbed mutter
concilia; ast illum coniunx fidique parentes
the-councils; but him his-wife and-faithful parents
servantem vultus et torvum in morte peracta,
keeping his-face and grim in death completed,
non longum reducem laetati, in tecta ferebant.
not long returned having-rejoiced, into the-house were-carrying.

Sed ducis infandi rabidae non hactenus irae
But of-the-leader unspeakable the-raging not thus-far angers
stare queunt; vetat igne rapi, pacemque sepulcri
to-stop can; he-forbids by-fire to-be-taken, and-the-peace of-the-tomb
impius ignaris nequiquam manibus arcet.
impious from-unknowing in-vain shades keeps-off.

III.3 · PRAISE OF MAEON; THE MOURNERS

The poet praises Maeon, who dared to speak freely to the king, and sends him to Elysium, while his body, lying unburied, stays untouched by beasts or birds. The women, children, and old parents of Thebes stream out to the scene of the ambush and break into lament at the sight. They search the helmets for their dead, close their eyes, bathe their wounds with tears, and lay severed limbs in place. Ide, mother of twins, wanders among the bodies seeking her sons, like a Thessalian witch searching a battlefield by torchlight.

Tu tamen egregius fati mentisque nec umquam
You yet outstanding in-fate and-in-mind nor ever
(sic dignum est) passure situm, qui comminus ausus
(so fitting it-is) about-to-suffer neglect, who at-close-quarters dared
vadere contemptu regis, quaque ampla veniret
to-go in-contempt of-the-king, and-by-which ample might-come
libertas, sancire viam: quo carmine dignam,
liberty, to-hallow the-way: with-what song worthy,
quo satis ore tuis famam virtutibus addam,
with-what enough voice to-your fame virtues shall-I-add,
augur amate deis? Non te caelestia frustra
augur beloved by-the-gods? Not you heavenly-things in-vain
edocuit lauroque sua dignatus Apollo est,
taught and-with-laurel his-own deemed-worthy Apollo has,

et nemorum Dodona parens Cirrhaeaque virgo
and of-groves Dodona the-parent and-the-Cirrhaean maiden
gaudebit tacito populos suspendere Phoebo.
will-rejoice in-silent the-peoples to-hold-in-suspense Phoebus.
Nunc quoque Tartareo multum divisus Averno
Now also from-Tartarean much divided Avernus
Elysias, i, carpe plagas, ubi manibus axis
Elysian, go, seize regions, where to-the-shades the-sky
invius Ogygiis nec sontis iniqua tyranni
impassable Ogygian nor of-the-guilty the-unjust tyrant
iussa valent; durant habitus et membra cruentis
orders avail; endure your-bearing and limbs bloody
inviolata feris, nudoque sub axe iacentem
unviolated by-beasts, and-naked under sky lying
et nemus et tristis volucrum reverentia servat.
both the-grove and sad of-birds reverence keeps.
At nuptae exanimes puerique aegrique parentes
But brides breathless and-boys and-sick parents
moenibus effusi per plana, per avia, passim
from-the-walls poured-out over plains, over trackless-places, everywhere
quisque suas avidi ad lacrimas miserabile currunt
each their-own eager to tears a-pitiable run
certamen, quos densa gradu comitantur euntes
contest, whom dense in-step accompany going
milia solandi studio, pars visere flagrant
thousands of-consoling with-zeal, part to-view burn
unius acta viri et tantos in nocte labores.
of-one the-deeds man and so-great in night toils.
Fervet iter gemitu et plangoribus arva reclamant.
Boils the-way with-groaning and with-wailings the-fields cry-back.

Ut vero infames scopulos silvamque nefandam
When indeed the-infamous crags and-wood unspeakable
perventum, ceu nulla prius lamenta nec atri
it-was-reached, as-if no before laments nor black
manassent imbres, sic ore miserrimus uno
had-flowed showers, so from-mouth most-wretched one
exoritur fragor, aspectuque accensa cruento
rises a-crash, and-by-the-sight inflamed bloody
turba furit: stat sanguineo discissus amictu
the-throng rages: stands with-blood-stained torn cloak
luctus atrox caesoque invitat pectore matres.
grief savage and-with-beaten invites breast the-mothers.
Scrutantur galeas frigentum inventaque monstrant
They-search the-helmets of-the-cold-ones and-found show
corpora, prociduae super externosque suosque.
the-bodies, fallen-forward over both-strangers and-their-own.
Hae pressant in tabe comas, hae lumina signant
These press in gore their-hair, these the-eyes seal
vulneraque alta rigant lacrimis, pars spicula dextra
and-wounds deep water with-tears, part the-darts with-right-hand
nequiquam parcente trahunt, pars molliter aptant
in-vain sparing draw-out, part gently fit
bracchia trunca loco et cervicibus ora reponunt.
arms maimed to-their-place and to-the-necks faces restore.
At vaga per dumos vacuique in pulvere campi
But wandering through thickets and-of-the-empty in dust plain
magna parens iuvenum, gemini nunc funeris, Ide
the-great parent of-youths, twin now of-a-funeral, Ide
squalentem sublata comam liventiaque ora
squalid tossed in-hair and-livid face

ungue premens (nec iam infelix miserandaque, verum
with-nail pressing (nor now unhappy and-pitiable, but
terror inest lacrimis), per et arma et corpora passim
terror is-in-her in-tears), through both arms and bodies everywhere
canitiem inpexam dira tellure volutans
white-hair uncombed on-the-dire earth rolling
quaerit inops natos omnique in corpore plangit.
seeks helpless her-sons and-every over body laments.
Thessalis haut aliter bello gavisa recenti,
The-Thessalian not otherwise at-war rejoicing fresh,
cui gentile nefas hominem renovare canendo,
to-whom ancestral horror a-man to-renew by-chanting,
multifida attollens antiqua lumina cedro
many-cleft raising ancient lights of-cedar
nocte subit campos versatque in sanguine functum
by-night goes-under the-plains and-turns-over in blood the-dead
vulgus et explorat manes, cui plurima busto
crowd and probes the-shades, which most tomb
imperet ad superos: animarum maesta queruntur
she-may-command to the-gods-above: of-souls sad complain
concilia, et nigri pater indignatur Averni.
the-councils, and of-black the-father resents Avernus.

Ide finds her twin sons lying together, pierced by one spear, and laments that they died obscurely in the night rather than in glorious battle; she will not part them but burns them on one pyre. Other families find their dead. As the pyres are built, the old man Aletes recalls the past griefs of Thebes, the fall of Cadmus' house, Athamas, Agave, and Niobe's children, but says these came from the gods, while this one comes from the crime of an unjust king. He calls Eteocles cruel and foretells his punishment, unafraid, being near his end.

Illi in secessu pariter sub rupe iacebant
They in a-retreat equally under a-rock lay
felices, quos una dies, manus abstulit una,
happy, whom one day, hand took-away one,
pervia vulneribus media trabe pectora nexi.
pierced by-wounds by-a-middle shaft breasts bound.
Ut vidit lacrimisque oculi patuere profusis:
When she-saw and-with-tears her-eyes opened poured-out:
'Hosne ego complexus genetrix, haec oscula, nati,
'These-whether I embraces your-mother, these kisses, sons,
vestra tuor? sic vos extremo in fine ligavit
your do-I-behold? so you the-last in end has-bound
ingenium crudele necis? quae vulnera tractem,
the-ingenuity cruel of-death? which wounds shall-I-handle,
quae prius ora premam? vosne illa potentia matris,
which first faces shall-I-press? you-whether that power of-a-mother,
vos uteri fortuna mei, qua tangere divos
you of-the-womb the-fortune my, by-which to-touch the-gods
rebar et Ogygias titulis anteire parentes?
I-thought and Ogygian in-titles to-surpass mothers?

A quanto melius dextraque in sorte iugatae,
Ah how-much better and-favorable in lot yoked-ones,
quis steriles thalami nulloque ululata dolore
whose barren chambers and-by-no wailed-over pain
respexit Lucina domum! Mihi quippe malorum
has-looked-back-on Lucina the-house! To-me indeed of-evils
causa labor; sed nec bellorum in luce patenti
cause labor; but nor of-wars in light open
conspicui factis aeternaque gentibus ausi
conspicuous by-deeds and-eternal to-nations having-dared
quaesistis miserae vulnus memorabile matri,
have-you-sought for-your-wretched a-wound memorable mother,
sed mortem obscuram numerosaque funera passi
but death obscure and-numerous deaths having-suffered
heu quantus furto cruor et sine laude iacetis!
alas how-much in-stealth blood and without praise you-lie!
Quin ego non dextras miseris complexibus ausim
Nay I not the-right-hands from-wretched embraces would-dare
dividere et tanti consortia rumpere leti:
to-divide and of-so-great the-partnership to-break death:
ite diu fratres indiscretique supremis
go long brothers and-undivided in-the-last
ignibus et caros urna confundite manes!'
fires and dear in-the-urn mingle shades!'
Nec minus interea digesta strage suorum
Nor less meanwhile sorted-out the-slaughter of-their-own
hic Chthonium coniunx, hic mater Penthea clamat
here Chthonius his-wife, here his-mother Pentheus cries
Astyoche, puerique rudes, tua, Phaedime, proles,
Astyoche, and-the-boys untaught, your, Phaedimus, offspring,

amissum didicere patrem, Marpessaque pactum
lost have-learned their-father, and-Marpessa her-betrothed
Phyllea, sanguineumque lavant Acamanta sorores.
Phylleus, and-bloody wash Acamas his-sisters.
Tunc ferro retegunt silvas collisque propinqui
Then with-steel they-lay-open the-woods and-of-the-hill near
annosum truncant apicem, qui conscius actis
aged lop the-top, which conscious of-the-deeds
noctis et inspexit gemitus; ibi grandior aevo
of-night also beheld the-groans; there greater in-age
ante rogos, dum quisque suo nequit igne revelli,
before the-pyres, while each from-his-own cannot fire be-torn,
concilium infaustum dictis mulcebat Aletes:
the-council ill-omened with-words was-soothing Aletes:
'Saepe quidem infelix varioque exercita ludo
'Often indeed unhappy and-by-varied harassed sport
fatorum gens nostra fuit, Sidonius ex quo
of-the-fates race our has-been, Sidonian from which
hospes in Aonios iecit sata ferrea sulcos,
the-guest into the-Aonian threw sown-things iron furrows,
unde novi fetus et formidata colonis
whence new offspring and dreaded by-farmers
arva suis. Sed nec veteris cum regia Cadmi
fields their-own. But neither of-old when the-palace Cadmus
fulmineum in cinerem monitis Iunonis iniquae
thunder-struck into ash by-the-counsels of-Juno unjust
consedit, neque funerea cum laude potitus
sank, nor deadly when with-glory having-gained
infelix Athamas trepido de monte veniret,
unhappy Athamas trembling from mountain came,

semianimem heu laeto referens clamore Learchum,
half-dead alas with-glad bringing-back shouting Learchus,
hic gemitus Thebis, nec tempore clarius illo
this groaning at-Thebes, nor at-time more-loudly that
Phoenissae sonuere domus, cum lassa furorem
Phoenician resounded the-houses, when weary her-madness
vicit et ad comitum lacrimas expavit Agave.
conquered and at of-her-comrades the-tears took-fright Agave.
Una dies similis fato specieque malorum
One day like in-fate and-in-appearance of-evils
aequa fuit, qua magniloquos luit impia flatus
equal was, on-which grand-speaking paid-for impious breaths
Tantalis, innumeris cum circumfusa ruinis
the-daughter-of-Tantalus, with-countless when poured-around ruins
corpora tot raperet terra, tot quaereret ignes.
bodies so-many seized the-earth, so-many sought fires.
Talis erat vulgi status, et sic urbe relicta
Such was of-the-crowd the-state, and so the-city left
primaevique senesque et longo examine matres
both-youths and-old-men and with-long swarm mothers
invidiam planxere deis miseroque tumultu
hatred bewailed for-the-gods and-with-wretched uproar
bina per ingentes stipabant funera portas.
paired through huge were-crowding funerals gates.
Meque ipsum memini (necdum apta doloribus aetas)
And-me myself I-remember (not-yet fitted for-griefs age)
flesse tamen gemituque meos aequasse parentes.
to-have-wept yet and-by-groaning my to-have-equaled parents.
Illa tamen superi; nec quod tibi, Delia, castos
Those yet the-gods-did; nor that for-you, Delia, chaste

prolapsum fontes specula temerante profana
having-slipped springs by-a-watching profaning profane
heu dominum insani nihil agnovere Molossi,
alas their-master mad not-at-all recognized the-Molossians,
deflerim magis, aut verso quod sanguine fluxit
should-I-weep-for more, or turned that into-blood flowed
in subitos regina lacus: sic dura Sororum
into sudden the-queen pools: so harsh of-the-Sisters
pensa dabant visumque Iovi. Nunc regis iniqui
the-tasks gave and-it-seemed-good to-Jupiter. Now of-the-king unjust
ob noxam inmeritos patriae tot culmina cives
on-account-of the-guilt undeserving of-the-fatherland so-many summits citizens
exuimus, nec adhuc calcati foederis Argos
we-strip-off, nor yet of-the-trampled pact Argos
Fama subit, et iam bellorum extrema dolemus.
Rumor approaches, and already of-wars the-extremes we-grieve.
Quantus equis quantusque viris in pulvere crasso
How-much for-horses and-how-much for-men in dust thick
sudor! io quanti crudele rubebitis amnes!
sweat! io how-much cruelly will-you-redden rivers!
Viderit haec bello viridis manus: ast ego doner
Let-see these-things in-war youthful hand: but I may-I-be-given
dum licet igne meo terraque insternar avita!'
while it-is-allowed to-fire my and-with-earth be-covered ancestral!'
Haec senior, multumque nefas Eteoclis acervat
These-things the-old-man, and-much the-horror of-Eteocles heaps-up
crudelem infandumque vocans poenasque daturum.
cruel and-unspeakable calling and-punishment about-to-pay.

Unde ea libertas? iuxta illi finis et aetas
Whence that freedom? near to-him the-end and life
torta retro, seraeque decus velit addere morti.
twisted back, and-to-late an-honor he-wishes to-add death.

III.5 · JUPITER SENDS MARS TO WAR

Jupiter, watching from the summit of heaven, summons Mars, who is returning bloody from battles in Thrace. He orders him to stir Argos to war, to break every pact, and even to set the gods themselves against peace; Tydeus is already bringing back the seeds of the conflict. Jupiter forbids the other gods to oppose him: the Fates fixed this day of war from the world's beginning, and if they resist he will overturn Thebes and Argos himself, though Juno embrace her temples. The gods fall silent like the sea in a calm.

Haec sator astrorum iamdudum e vertice mundi
These-things the-sower of-the-stars long-since from the-summit of-the-world
prospectans primoque imbutas sanguine gentes
looking-out and-with-first steeped blood the-nations
Gradivum acciri propere iubet. Ille furentes
Gradivus to-be-summoned quickly orders. He raging
Bistonas et Geticas populatus caedibus urbes
Bistones and Getic having-ravaged with-slaughters cities
turbidus aetherias currus urgebat ad arces,
turbulent ethereal chariot was-urging toward citadels,
fulmine cristatum galeae iubar armaque in auro
with-lightning crested of-his-helmet the-radiance and-arms in gold
tristia, terrificis monstrorum animata figuris,
grim, with-terrifying of-monsters animated figures,
incutiens: tonat axe polus clipeique cruenta
brandishing: thunders with-the-axle the-pole and-of-the-shield bloody

lux rubet, et solem longe ferit aemulus orbis,
the-light reddens, and the-sun from-afar strikes rival orb,
hunc ubi Sarmaticos etiamnum efflare labores
him when Sarmatian still to-breathe-out toils
Iuppiter et tota perfusum pectora belli
Jupiter and with-whole drenched in-breast of-war
tempestate videt: 'talis mihi, nate, per Argos,
storm sees: 'such for-me, son, through Argos,
talis abi, sic ense madens, hac nubilus ira.
such go, so with-sword dripping, with-this clouded anger.
Exturbent resides frenos et vincla perosi
Let-them-thrust-out sluggish the-reins and bonds hating
te cupiant, tibi praecipites animasque manusque
you let-them-desire, to-you headlong both-souls and-hands
devoveant, rape cunctantes et foedera turba,
let-them-devote, sweep-along the-hesitating and pacts disturb,
cui dedimus, tibi fas ipsos incendere bello
to-whom we-have-given, for-you right themselves to-kindle with-war
caelicolas pacemque meam. Iam semina pugnae
the-heaven-dwellers and-peace my. Already the-seeds of-battle
ipse dedi: remeat portans immania Tydeus
I-myself have-given: returns carrying huge Tydeus
ausa, ducis scelus et turpis primordia belli,
daring-deeds, the-leader's crime and of-shameful the-beginnings war,
insidias fraudesque, suis quas ultus in armis.
ambushes and-frauds, his-own which having-avenged in arms.
Adde fidem. Vos o superi, meus ordine sanguis,
Add belief. You O the-gods-above, my in-order blood,
ne pugnare odiis, neu me temptare precando
not to-fight with-hatreds, nor me to-try by-praying

certetis; sic Fata mihi nigraeque Sororum
strive; so the-Fates to-me and-black of-the-Sisters
iuravere colus: manet haec ab origine mundi
have-sworn the-distaffs: remains this from the-origin of-the-world
fixa dies bello, populique in proelia nati.
fixed day for-war, and-peoples for battles born.
Quod ni me veterum poenas sancire malorum
But if-not me of-old punishments to-sanction evils
gentibus et diros sinitis punire nepotes
on-the-nations and dire you-allow to-punish grandsons
(arcem hanc aeternam, gentis sacraria nostrae,
(citadel this eternal, of-the-race the-sanctuaries our,
testor et Elysios, etiam mihi numina, fontes),
I-call-to-witness and Elysian, even for-me deities, springs),
ipse manu Thebas correptaque moenia fundo
I-myself with-hand Thebes and-seized walls from-the-foundation
excutiam versasque solo super Inacha tecta
shall-shake-out and-overturned from-the-ground over Inachian roofs
effundam turres aut stagna in caerula verram
shall-pour towers or pools into the-sea-blue shall-sweep
imbre superiecto, licet ipsa in turbine rerum
with-rain thrown-upon, although herself in the-whirl of-things
Iuno suos colles templumque amplexa laboret.'
Juno her-own hills and-temple embracing should-labor.'
Dixit, et attoniti iussis: mortalia credas
He-spoke, and they-were-astonished at-the-orders: mortal you-would-think
pectora; sic cuncti vocemque animosque tenebant.
breasts; so all both-voice and-spirits held.
Non secus ac longa ventorum pace solutum
Not otherwise than by-long of-winds peace loosened

aequor et imbelli recubant ubi litora somno,
the-sea and in-unwarlike lie where shores sleep,
silvarumque comas et abacto flamine nubes
and-of-the-woods the-leaves and with-driven-off breath clouds
mulcet iners aestas; tunc stagna lacusque sonori
soothes sluggish summer; then pools and-lakes resounding
detumuere, tacent exusti solibus amnes.
have-subsided, are-silent burnt by-suns rivers.

III.6 · VENUS PLEADS WITH MARS

As Mars drives toward the earth, Venus stands in front of his horses and pleads in tears: will he destroy his own descendants, the race of Harmonia? Is this her reward for the shame she bore in Vulcan's chains? Why did he give their daughter to Cadmus, when she now crawls a serpent in Illyria? Mars leaps from his chariot, embraces her, and assures her that he has not forgotten Cadmus or their love, but he cannot defy Jupiter's command; he promises to fight on the Theban side when the armies meet, and rides off like a thunderbolt.

Gaudet ovans iussis et adhuc temone calenti
Rejoices exulting at-the-orders and still with-pole hot
fervidus in laevum torquet Gradivus habenas.
fervent to the-left twists Gradivus reins.
Iamque iter extremum caelique abrupta tenebat,
And-now the-journey's end and-of-heaven the-steeps he-was-holding,
cum Venus ante ipsos nulla formidine gressum
when Venus before the-very with-no fear her-step
figit equos; cessere retro iam iamque rigentes
fixes horses; they-yielded backward now and-now stiffening
suppliciter posuere iubas. Tunc pectora summo
suppliantly laid-down their-manes. Then breast on-highest

acclinata iugo vultumque obliqua madentem
leaning the-yoke and-face slanting wet
incipit (interea dominae vestigia iuxta
she-begins (meanwhile of-their-mistress the-footsteps near
spumantem proni mandunt adamanta iugales):
foaming bending champ adamant the-yoked-steeds):
'Bella etiam in Thebas socer (o pulcherrima bella!)
'Wars even against Thebes father-in-law (O most-beautiful wars!)
ipse paras ferroque tuos abolere nepotes?
yourself do-you-prepare and-by-steel your to-abolish grandsons?
Nec genus Harmoniae nec te conubia caelo
Nor the-race of-Harmonia nor you the-marriage in-heaven
festa nec hae quicquam lacrimae, furibunde, morantur?
festive nor these at-all tears, raging-one, delay?
Criminis haec merces? hoc fama pudorque relictus,
Of-crime this the-reward? this fame and-shame abandoned,
hoc mihi Lemniacae de te meruere catenae?
this for-me Lemnian about you have-earned the-chains?
Perge libens; at non eadem Vulcania nobis
Go-on gladly; but not the-same Vulcanian to-us
obsequia, et laesi servit tamen ira mariti!
compliances, and wronged serves yet the-anger husband!
Illum ego perpetuis mihi desudare caminis
Him I unending for-me to-sweat-out at-furnaces
si iubeam vigilesque operi transmittere noctes,
if I-should-order and-wakeful at-the-work to-pass nights,
gaudeat ornatusque novos ipsique laboret
he-would-rejoice and-adornments new and-for-you-yourself would-labor
arma tibi; tu! — sed scopulos et aena precando
arms for-you; you! —but crags and bronze by-praying

flectere corda paro; solum hoc tamen anxia, solum
to-bend hearts I-prepare; only this yet anxious, only
obtestor, quid me Tyrio sociare marito
I-implore, why me to-the-Tyrian to-ally husband
progeniem caram infaustisque dabas hymenaeis?
offspring dear and-to-ill-omened did-you-give marriages?
Dum fore praeclaros armis et vivida rebus
While to-be famous in-arms and vigorous in-affairs
pectora vipereo Tyrios de sanguine iactas
breasts viperine the-Tyrians from blood you-boast
demissumque Iovis serie genus. A! mea quanto
and-sent-down of-Jupiter by-line race. Ah! my how-much
Sithonia mallem nupsisset virgo sub Arcto
Sithonian I-would-rather had-married maiden under the-Bear
trans Borean Thracasque tuos. Indigna parumne
beyond Boreas and-Thracians your. Unworthy-things too-little-whether
pertulimus, divae Veneris quod filia longum
have-we-endured, of-the-goddess Venus that the-daughter long
reptat et Illyricas eiectat virus in herbas?
crawls and Illyrian casts-out venom onto grasses?
Nunc gentem inmeritam —' Lacrimas non pertulit ultra
Now the-race undeserving—' Tears not did-he-bear further
bellipotens, hastam laeva transumit et alto
the-war-mighty-one, the-spear to-the-left he-transfers and from-high
(haut mora) desiluit curru, clipeoque receptam
(not delay) leapt-down chariot, and-with-shield received-her
laedit in amplexu dictisque ita mulcet amicis:
he-hurts in embrace and-with-words thus soothes friendly:
'O mihi bellorum requies et sacra voluptas
'O for-me from-wars rest and holy pleasure

unaque pax animo! soli cui tanta potestas
and-one peace for-my-mind! alone to-whom such power
divorumque hominumque meis occurrere telis
both-of-gods and-of-men my to-meet weapons
impune et media quamvis in caede frementes
with-impunity and mid although in slaughter snorting
hos adsistere equos, hunc ensem avellere dextra.
these to-stand-still horses, this sword to-tear-away from-the-right-hand.
Nec mihi Sidonii genialia foedera Cadmi
Nor for-me of-Sidonian the-nuptial pacts Cadmus
nec tua, cara, fides (ne falsa incessere gaude!)
nor your, dear, faithfulness (do-not false-things to-accuse rejoice!)
exciderint: prius in patrui deus infera mergar
shall-have-fallen-away: sooner into of-my-uncle god infernal may-I-be-plunged
stagna et pallentes agar exarmatus ad umbras.
pools and pale may-I-be-driven disarmed to shades.
Sed nunc fatorum monitus mentemque supremi
But now of-the-fates the-warnings and-the-mind of-the-supreme
iussus obire patris (neque enim Vulcania tali
ordered to-carry-out father (nor indeed Vulcanian for-such
imperio manus apta legi), quo pectore contra
a-command hand fit to-be-chosen), with-what breast against
ire Iovem dictasque parem contemnere leges,
to-go Jupiter and-dictated should-I-prepare to-scorn laws,
cui modo (pro vires!) terras caelumque fretumque
whom lately (oh powers!) lands and-sky and-sea
attremere oranti tantosque ex ordine vidi
to-tremble at-him-praying and-so-great in order I-saw
delituisse deos? Sed ne mihi corde supremos
to-have-hidden gods? But not to-me in-heart extreme

concipe, cara, metus, quando haec mutare potestas
conceive, dear, fears, since this to-change power
nulla datur; cum iam Tyriis sub moenibus ambae
none is-given; when now Tyrian under walls both
bellabunt gentes, adero et socia arma iuvabo.
will-war the-nations, I-shall-be-present and allied arms shall-help.
Tunc me sanguineo late defervere campo
Then me on-bloody widely to-boil-out plain
res super Argolicas haut sic deiecta videbis;
affairs over Argolic not so cast-down will-you-see;
hoc mihi ius, nec fata vetant.' Sic orsus aperto
this my right, nor the-fates forbid.' Thus having-spoken open
flagrantes immisit equos. Non ocius alti
blazing he-let-loose horses. Not more-quickly of-high
in terras cadit ira Iovis, si quando nivalem
onto lands falls the-anger Jupiter, if ever snowy
Othryn et Arctoae gelidum caput institit Ossae
Othrys and of-Arctic the-cold head he-has-stood-upon Ossa
armavitque in nube manum: volat ignea moles
and-has-armed in cloud his-hand: flies fiery the-mass
saeva dei mandata ferens, caelumque trisulca
savage of-the-god commands bearing, and-the-sky with-three-forked
territat omne coma iamdudum aut ditibus agris
terrifies all hair long-since either to-rich fields
signa dare aut ponto miseros involvere nautas.
signs to-give or in-the-sea wretched to-wrap sailors.

Tydeus returns, covered in dust and blood, rousing hatred of Thebes in every town he passes, and bursts into Adrastus' council calling for war. He tells how fifty armed men ambushed him by night and how he left them dead, and demands to march at once. Polynices runs to him in shame that his friend has suffered for him, and offers to go to Thebes alone and die rather than bring war on Argos. All are stirred, but Adrastus counsels delay, promises that Polynices will not be left unavenged, and sends Tydeus to rest.

Iamque remensus iter fesso Danaeia Tydeus
And-now having-measured-back the-journey with-weary Danaan Tydeus
arva gradu viridisque legit devexa Prosymnae
fields step and-of-green traverses the-slopes Prosymna
terribilis visu: stant fulti pulvere crines,
terrible to-see: stand stiffened with-dust his-locks,
squalidus ex umeris cadit alta in vulnera sudor,
squalid from his-shoulders falls deep into wounds sweat,
insomnesque oculos rubor excitat, oraque retro
and-sleepless eyes a-redness rouses, and-the-mouth backward
solvit anhela sitis; mens altum spirat honorem
loosens panting thirst; his-mind high breathes honor
conscia factorum. Sic nota in pascua taurus
conscious of-his-deeds. Thus known to pastures a-bull
bellator redit, adverso cui colla suoque
warrior returns, by-the-opposing to-whom the-neck and-by-his-own
sanguine proscissisque natant palearibus armi;
blood and-with-torn swim dewlaps shoulders;
tunc quoque lassa tumet virtus multumque superbit
then also weary swells valor and-much exults

pectore despecto; vacua iacet hostis harena
with-breast despised; on-the-empty lies the-enemy sand
turpe gemens crudosque vetat sentire dolores.
shamefully groaning and-raw forbids to-feel pains.
Talis erat; medias etiam non destitit urbes,
Such he-was; the-middle even not did-he-cease cities,
quidquid et Asopon veteresque interiacet Argos,
whatever both Asopus and-old lies-between Argos,
inflammare odiis, multumque et ubique retexens
to-inflame with-hatreds, and-much and everywhere unweaving
legatum sese Graia de gente petendis
envoy himself the-Greek from race to-be-sought
isse super regnis profugi Polynicis, at inde
to-have-gone about the-kingdom of-the-exile Polynices, but thence
vim, noctem, scelus, arma, dolos, ea foedera passum
violence, night, crime, arms, tricks, those pacts having-suffered
regis Echionii, fratri sua iura negari.
of-the-king Echionian, to-the-brother his-own rights to-be-denied.
Prona fides populis; deus omnia credere suadet
Ready belief for-the-peoples; the-god all-things to-believe urges
armipotens, geminatque acceptos fama pavores.
arms-mighty, and-doubles received rumor fears.
Utque introgressus portas (et forte verendus
And-as having-entered the-gates (and by-chance revered
concilio pater ipse duces cogebat Adrastus)
to-council the-father himself the-leaders was-gathering Adrastus)
improvisus adest, iam illinc a postibus aulae
unforeseen he-is-present, now from-there from the-doorposts of-the-hall
vociferans: 'Arma, arma viri, tuque optime Lernae
shouting: 'Arms, arms men, and-you best of-Lerna

ductor, magnanimum si quis tibi sanguis avorum,
leader, of-great-souled if any in-you blood of-ancestors,
arma para! Nusquam pietas, non gentibus aequum
arms prepare! Nowhere piety, not for-the-nations equal
fas aut cura Iovis; melius legatus adissem
right or care of-Jupiter; better as-envoy would-I-have-approached
Sauromatas rabidos servatoremque cruentum
Sauromatae raging and-the-keeper bloody
Bebrycii nemoris. Nec iussa incuso pigetve
of-the-Bebrycian grove. Nor the-orders do-I-accuse or-am-I-sorry
officii: iuvat isse, iuvat, Thebasque nocentes
of-the-office: it-pleases to-have-gone, it-pleases, and-Thebes guilty
explorasse manu; bello me, credite, bello,
to-have-explored with-hand; with-war me, believe, with-war,
ceu turrim validam aut artam compagibus urbem,
as-if a-tower strong or tight with-joinings a-city,
delecti insidiis instructique omnibus armis
chosen for-ambush and-equipped with-all arms
nocte doloque viri nudum ignarumque locorum
by-night and-by-trick men naked and-unknowing of-the-places
nequiquam clausere; iacent in sanguine mixti
in-vain enclosed; they-lie in blood mingled
ante urbem vacuam. Nunc o, nunc tempus in hostes,
before the-city empty. Now O, now the-time against the-enemy,
dum trepidi exanguesque metu, dum funera portant,
while trembling and-bloodless with-fear, while deaths they-carry,
nunc, socer, haec dum non manus excidit; ipse ego fessus
now, father-in-law, this while not hand has-fallen; myself I weary
quinquaginta illis heroum immanibus umbris
with-fifty those of-heroes huge shades

vulneraque ista ferens putri insiccata cruore
and-wounds these bearing with-putrid undried gore
protinus ire peto!' Trepidi de sedibus astant
straightaway to-go I-seek!' Trembling from their-seats stand
Inachidae, cunctisque prior Cadmeius heros
the-Inachidae, and-than-all first the-Cadmean hero
accurrit vultum deiectus et 'o ego divis
runs-up in-face cast-down and 'O I by-the-gods
invisus vitaeque nocens haec vulnera cerno
hated and-to-life guilty these wounds do-I-see
integer? hosne mihi reditus, germane, parabas?
unhurt? these-whether for-me the-returns, brother, were-you-preparing?
In me haec tela dabas. Pro vitae foeda cupido!
Against me these weapons you-were-giving. Oh for-life foul desire!
Infelix, fratri facinus tam grande negavi.
Unhappy-one, to-my-brother a-crime so great I-denied.
Et nunc vestra quidem maneant in pace quieta
And now your indeed let-remain in peace quiet
moenia, nec vobis tanti sim causa tumultus
walls, nor to-you of-so-great may-I-be the-cause uproar
hospes adhuc. Scio (nec me adeo res dextra levavit),
a-guest still. I-know (nor me so-much fortune favorable has-lightened),
quam durum natis, thalamo quam triste revelli,
how hard from-children, from-the-marriage-chamber how sad to-be-torn,
quam patria; non me ullius domus anxia culpet
how from-fatherland; not me of-anyone the-house anxious may-blame
respectentve truces obliquo lumine matres.
or-look-back-at fierce with-slanting eye mothers.
Ibo libens certusque mori, licet optima coniunx
I-shall-go gladly and-certain to-die, although best wife

auditusque iterum revocet socer; hunc ego Thebis,
and-heard again should-call-back father-in-law; this I to-Thebes,
hunc, germane, tibi iugulum et tibi, maxime Tydeu,
this, brother, to-you throat and to-you, greatest Tydeus,
debeo.' Sic variis pertemptat pectora dictis
owe.' Thus with-varied he-tries hearts words
obliquatque preces. Commotae questibus irae
and-slants his-prayers. Stirred by-complaints angers
et mixtus lacrimis caluit dolor; omnibus ultro
and mingled with-tears grew-hot grief; in-all spontaneously
non iuvenum modo, sed gelidis et inertibus aevo
not of-youths only, but in-cold and sluggish with-age
pectoribus mens una subit, viduare penates,
breasts mind one comes-in, to-widow the-household-gods,
finitimas adhibere manus, iamque ire. Sed altus
neighboring to-summon hands, and-now to-go. But deep
consiliis pater imperiique haut flectere molem
in-counsels the-father and-of-command not to-bend the-mass
inscius: 'ista quidem superis curaeque medenda
unknowing: 'these indeed to-the-gods-above and-to-the-care to-be-healed
linquite, quaeso, meae, nec te germanus inulto
leave, I-pray, my, nor you your-brother unavenged
sceptra geret, neque nos avidi promittere bellum.
the-scepters will-wield, nor we eager to-promise war.
At nunc egregium tantoque in sanguine ovantem
But now outstanding and-so-much in blood exulting
excipite Oeniden, animosaque pectora laxet
receive the-son-of-Oeneus, and-his-spirited breast let-loosen
sera quies: nobis dolor haut rationis egebit.'
late rest: for-us grief not of-reason will-be-in-need.'

While Idmon dresses his wounds, Tydeus tells the whole story to the court. Night falls; Mars drives over Arcadia, Nemea, and Laconia, filling hearts with love of war, with Fury, Anger, and Panic in his train and Rumor flying before him, like Neptune driving the winds over the Aegean. On the seventh day Adrastus, torn between peace and war, decides to consult the prophets. Amphiaraus and Melampus examine the entrails, which forbid war, and resolve to seek omens from the birds.

Turbati extemplo comites et pallida coniunx
Disturbed at-once his-comrades and pale his-wife
Tydea circum omnes fessum bellique viaeque
Tydeus around all weary both-of-war and-of-the-road
stipantur. Laetus mediis in sedibus aulae
crowd. Glad the-middle in seats of-the-hall
constitit, ingentique exceptus terga columna,
he-stood, and-by-a-huge supported in-back column,
vulnera dum lymphis Epidaurius eluit Idmon,
the-wounds while with-waters Epidaurian washes Idmon,
nunc velox ferro, nunc ille tepentibus herbis
now swift with-steel, now he with-warm herbs
mitior, ipse alta seductus mente renarrat
gentler, himself deep withdrawn in-mind retells
principia irarum, quaeque orsus uterque vicissim,
the-beginnings of-the-angers, and-what began each in-turn,
quis locus insidiis, tacito quae tempora bello,
what place for-the-ambush, for-silent what times war,
qui contra quantique duces, ubi maximus illi
what-men against and-how-great leaders, where greatest for-him
sudor, et indicio servatum Maeona tristi
the-sweat, and for-the-report kept Maeon sad

exponit. Cui fida manus proceresque socerque
he-sets-out. At-whom faithful the-band and-nobles and-father-in-law
adstupet oranti, Tyriusque incenditur exul.
are-astonished as-he-speaks, and-the-Tyrian is-inflamed exile.
Solverat Hesperii devexo margine ponti
Had-loosed of-the-Western on-the-sloping margin sea
flagrantes Sol pronus equos rutilamque lavabat
blazing the-Sun sloping his-horses and-ruddy was-washing
Oceani sub fonte comam, cui turba profundi
of-Ocean under the-spring his-hair, to-whom the-throng of-the-deep
Nereos et rapidis accurrunt passibus Horae,
of-Nereus and with-swift run-up steps the-Hours,
frenaque et auratae textum sublime coronae
and-the-reins and of-golden the-texture lofty crown
deripiunt, laxant calidis umentia loris
tear-off, loosen from-hot damp straps
pectora; pars meritos vertunt ad molle iugales
breasts; part the-deserving turn to soft yoked-steeds
gramen et erecto currum temone supinant.
grass and with-raised the-chariot pole tilt-back.
Nox subiit curasque hominum motusque ferarum
Night came-on and-the-cares of-men and-movements of-beasts
composuit nigroque polos involvit amictu,
composed and-with-black the-poles wrapped cloak,
illa quidem cunctis, sed non tibi mitis, Adraste,
she indeed to-all, but not to-you gentle, Adrastus,
Labdacioque duci: nam Tydea largus habebat
and-to-the-Labdacian leader: for Tydeus generous held
perfusum magna virtutis imagine somnus.
drenched with-great of-valor an-image sleep.

Et iam noctivagas inter deus armifer umbras
And now night-wandering among the-god arms-bearing shades
desuper Arcadiae fines Nemeaeaque rura
from-above of-Arcadia the-borders and-Nemean countryside
Taenariumque cacumen Apollineasque Therapnas
and-Taenarian peak and-Apollo's Therapnae
armorum tonitru ferit et trepidantia corda
of-arms with-thunder strikes and trembling hearts
implet amore sui. Comunt Furor Iraque cristas,
fills with-love of-himself. Comb Fury and-Anger the-crests,
frena ministrat equis Pavor armiger. At vigil omni
reins serves for-the-horses Panic armor-bearer. But watchful at-every
Fama sono vanos rerum succincta tumultus
Rumor sound empty of-things girded uproars
ante volat currum flatuque impulsa gementum
before flies the-chariot and-by-breath driven of-the-groaning
alipedum trepidas denso cum murmure plumas
wing-footed trembling dense with murmur feathers
excutit: urget enim stimulis auriga cruentis
shakes-out: urges indeed with-goads the-charioteer bloody
facta, infecta loqui, curruque infestus ab alto
done, undone to-speak, and-the-chariot hostile from high
terga comamque deae Scythica pater increpat hasta.
the-back and-hair of-the-goddess with-Scythian the-father chides spear.
Qualis ubi Aeolio dimissos carcere ventos
Such-as when from-the-Aeolian sent-out prison winds
dux prae se Neptunus agit magnoque volentes
the-leader before himself Neptune drives and-on-the-great willing
inicit Aegaeo; tristis comitatus eunti
throws Aegean; sad the-escort as-he-goes

circum lora fremunt nimbique hiemesque profundae
around the-reins roar both-clouds and-storms deep
nubilaque et vulso terrarum sordida fundo
and-clouds and with-torn of-lands foul the-bottom
tempestas: dubiae motis radicibus obstant
tempest: doubtful with-moved roots hold-firm
Cyclades, ipsa tua Mycono Gyaroque revelli,
the-Cyclades, yourself from-your Myconos and-Gyaros to-be-torn,
Dele, times magnique fidem testaris alumni.
Delos, you-fear and-of-your-great the-faith you-call-to-witness nursling.
Septima iam nitidum terris Aurora deisque
The-seventh now shining to-lands Aurora and-to-gods
purpureo vehit ore diem, Perseius heros
with-purple carries face day, the-Persean hero
cum primum arcana senior sese extulit aula,
when first from-secret the-elder himself brought-out hall,
multa super bello generisque tumentibus amens
much about war and-sons-in-law swelling distraught
incertusque animi, daret armis iura novosque
and-uncertain in-mind, should-be-give to-arms rights and-new
gentibus incuteret stimulos, an frena teneret
on-the-nations strike goads, or the-reins hold
irarum et motos capulis adstringeret enses.
of-angers and stirred to-the-hilts bind swords.
Hinc pacis tranquilla movent, atque inde pudori
On-this-side of-peace the-tranquil-things move, and on-that to-shame
foeda quies, flectique nova dulcedine pugnae
foul rest, and-to-be-bent by-new sweetness of-battle
difficiles populi; dubio sententia tandem
hard the-peoples; to-the-doubtful the-opinion at-last

sera placet, vatum mentes et provida veri
late pleases, of-the-prophets the-minds and provident of-truth
sacra movere deum. Sollers tibi cura futuri,
the-rites to-move of-the-gods. Skilled to-you care of-the-future,
Amphiarae, datur, iuxtaque Amythaone cretus
Amphiaraus, is-given, and-beside from-Amythaon sprung
iam senior (sed mente viret Phoeboque) Melampus
now older (but in-mind he-is-green and-in-Phoebus) Melampus
adsociat passus: dubium, cui pronus Apollo,
joins his-steps: doubtful, to-whom more-inclined Apollo,
oraque Cirrhaea satiarit largius unda.
and-whose-mouth with-Cirrhaean has-sated more-amply water.
Principio fibris pecudumque in sanguine divos
At-the-beginning in-entrails and-of-cattle in the-blood the-gods
explorant; iam tum pavidis maculosa bidentum
they-probe; already then to-the-fearful spotted of-the-sheep
corda negant diraque nefas minitantia vena.
the-hearts deny and-with-dire horror threatening vein.
Ire tamen vacuoque sedet petere omina caelo.
To-go yet and-in-the-empty it-is-decided to-seek omens sky.

The two prophets climb Mount Apesas, where Perseus once took flight. Amphiaraus prays to Jupiter, who gives the birds knowledge of the future, more certain than Delphi, Dodona, or Ammon: if the Fates have decreed that Argos break the gates of Thebes, let him thunder on the left and every bird sing well; if he forbids it, let the right-hand birds veil the day. He then sits on the crag and calls on other, unknown powers.

Mons erat audaci seductus in aethera dorso
A-mountain there-was by-a-bold withdrawn into the-ether ridge
(nomine Lernaei memorant Apesanta coloni),
(by-the-name Lernaean call Apesas the-settlers),
gentibus Argolicis olim sacer; inde ferebant
to-the-peoples Argolic once sacred; thence they-reported
nubila suspenso celerem temerasse volatu
the-clouds with-poised swift to-have-violated flight
Persea, cum raptos pueri perterrita mater
Perseus, when the-snatched-away of-her-boy terrified the-mother
prospexit de rupe gradus ac paene secuta est.
saw from the-rock steps and almost followed has.
Huc gemini vates sanctam canentis olivae
Hither the-twin prophets holy of-whitening olive
fronde comam et niveis ornati tempora vittis
with-leaf hair and with-snowy adorned temples fillets
evadunt pariter, madidos ubi lucidus agros
come-out together, the-wet when bright fields
ortus et algentes laxavit sole pruinas.
rising and the-freezing loosened with-sun frosts.
Ac prior Oeclides solita prece numen amicat:
And first the-son-of-Oecles with-accustomed prayer the-deity befriends:

'Iuppiter omnipotens (nam te pernicibus alis
'Jupiter almighty (for you to-swift wings
addere consilium volucresque implere futuri
to-add counsel and-birds to-fill with-the-future
ominaque et causas caelo deferre latentes
and-omens and causes from-the-sky to-bring-down hidden
accipimus), non Cirrha deum promiserit antro
we-receive), not Cirrha the-god will-have-promised from-the-cave
certius, aut frondes lucis quas fama Molossis
more-certainly, or leaves in-the-groves which rumor Molossian
Chaonias sonuisse tibi, licet aridus Hammon
Chaonian to-have-sounded for-you, although dry Hammon
invideat Lyciaeque parent contendere sortes
should-envy and-of-Lycia prepare to-vie the-lots
Niliacumque pecus patrioque aequatus honori
and-Nile cattle and-to-his-father's equaled honor
Branchus, et undosae quem rusticus accola Pisae
Branchus, and of-wavy whom the-rustic dweller Pisa
Pana Lycaonia nocturnum exaudit in umbra:
Pan Lycaonian nightly hears in shade:
ditior ille animi, cui tu, Dictaee, secundas
richer he in-mind, to-whom you, Dictaean, favorable
impuleris manifestus aves. Mirum unde, sed olim
have-driven manifest birds. A-wonder whence, but long-ago
hic honor alitibus, superae seu conditor aulae
this honor to-birds, of-the-upper whether the-founder hall
sic dedit effusum chaos in nova semina texens,
so gave poured-out chaos into new seeds weaving,
seu quia mutatae nostraque ab origine versis
or because changed and-our from origin turned

corporibus subiere notos, seu purior axis
bodies they-went-under the-south-winds, or purer the-sky
amotumque nefas et rarum insistere terris
and-removed wickedness and rare to-stand on-lands
vera docent; tibi, summe sator terraeque deumque,
true-things teach; for-you, highest sower both-of-earth and-of-gods,
scire licet. Nos Argolicae primordia pugnae
to-know it-is-allowed. Us of-the-Argolic the-beginnings battle
venturumque sinas caelo praenosse laborem.
and-the-coming may-you-allow in-the-sky to-foreknow toil.
Si datur et duris sedet haec sententia Parcis
If it-is-given and to-hard is-settled this the-will Parcae
solvere Echionias Lernaea cuspide portas,
to-loose the-Echionian with-Lernaean spear gates,
signa feras laevusque tones; tunc omnis in astris
signs may-you-bring and-on-the-left may-you-thunder; then every in stars
consonet arcana volucris bona murmura lingua.
let-sound-in-harmony with-secret bird good murmurs tongue.
Si prohibes, hic necte moras dextrisque profundum
If you-forbid, here weave delays and-with-right-hand the-deep
alitibus praetexe diem.' Sic fatus, et alto
birds veil the-day.' So he-spoke, and on-high
membra locat scopulo; tunc plura ignotaque iungit
his-limbs places crag; then more and-unknown he-joins
numina et immensi fruitur caligine mundi.
deities and of-the-boundless enjoys the-darkness world.

Melampus points out that no auspicious bird flies, only vultures, hawks, owls, and screech owls. Amphiaraus then sees a flock of swans circling in peace, an image of Thebes, attacked by seven eagles, the seven kings of Argos, who fall in turn: one burned by the sun, one falling with its enemy, one lost in a storm cloud, while one escapes in flight. He weeps, recognizing his own fate in one of them. The poet reflects on the sick human desire to know the future, which brought on crime, fear, and ruin.

Postquam rite diu partiti sidera cuncta
After duly long having-divided the-stars all
perlegere animis oculisque sequacibus auras,
they-read-through with-minds and-with-eyes following the-airs,
tunc Amythaonius longo post tempore vates:
then Amythaon's-son long after time the-prophet:
'Nonne sub excelso spirantis limite caeli,
'Not-whether under high of-breathing the-boundary sky,
Amphiarae, vides, cursus ut nulla serenos
Amphiaraus, do-you-see, courses how no serene
ales agat liquidoque polum complexa meatu
bird drives and-with-clear the-pole embracing motion
pendeat aut fugiens placabile planxerit omen?
hangs or fleeing an-appeasable has-beaten omen?
Non comes obscurus tripodum, non fulminis ardens
Not the-companion obscure of-the-tripods, not of-the-thunderbolt burning
vector adest, flavaeque sonans avis unca Minervae
the-carrier is-present, and-of-golden sounding the-bird hooked Minerva
non venit auguriis melior; quin vultur et altis
not comes in-auguries better; but the-vulture and on-high

desuper accipitres exultavere rapinis
from-above the-hawks have-exulted at-plunderings
monstra volant, dirae stridunt in nube volucres,
monsters fly, dire screech in the-cloud birds,
nocturnaeque gemunt striges et feralia bubo
and-nocturnal groan screech-owls and deathly the-owl
damna canens. Quae prima deum portenta sequamur?
losses singing. Which first of-the-gods portents shall-we-follow?
Hisne dari, Thymbraee, polum? simul ora recurvo
To-these-whether to-be-given, Thymbraean, the-sky? at-once their-faces with-curved
ungue secant rabidae planctumque imitantibus alis
claw cut the-raging and-beating imitating with-wings
exagitant zephyros et plumea pectora caedunt.'
they-harry the-zephyrs and feathery breasts strike.'
Ille sub haec: 'Equidem varii, pater, omina Phoebi
He under these-words: 'Indeed of-varied, father, the-omens Phoebus
saepe tuli: iam tum, prima cum pube virentem
often have-I-borne: already then, first when in-youth flourishing
semideos inter pinus me Thessala reges
demigod among the-pine me Thessalian kings
duceret, hic casus terraeque marisque canentum
was-leading, here the-misfortunes both-of-land and-of-sea of-us-singing
obstipuere duces, nec me ventura locuto
were-astonished the-leaders, nor than-me things-to-come having-spoken
saepius in dubiis auditus Iasoni Mopsus.
more-often in doubts heard by-Jason Mopsus.
Sed similes non ante metus aut astra notavi
But like not before fears or stars I-have-noted
prodigiosa magis; quamquam maiora parantur.
portentous more; although greater-things are-prepared.

Huc adverte animum: clara regione profundi
Hither turn your-mind: in-a-clear region of-the-deep
aetheros innumeri statuerunt agmina cygni,
ether countless have-set columns swans,
sive hos Strymonia Boreas eiecit ab Arcto,
whether these the-Strymonian Boreas cast-out from the-Bear,
seu fecunda refert placidi clementia Nili.
or fruitful brings-back of-the-calm the-mildness Nile.
Fixerunt cursus; has rere in imagine Thebas:
They-have-fixed their-courses; these think in the-image Thebes:
nam sese inmoti gyro atque in pace silentes
for themselves unmoved in-a-circle and in peace silent
ceu muris valloque tenent. Sed fortior ecce
as-if with-walls and-rampart they-hold. But stronger behold
adventat per inane cohors; septem ordine fulvo
approaches through the-void a-cohort; seven in-order tawny
armigeras summa Iovis exultante caterva
arms-bearers in-highest of-Jupiter exulting band
intuor: Inachii sint hi tibi, concipe, reges.
I-behold: Inachian let-be these to-you, conceive, kings.
Invasere globum nivei gregis uncaque pandunt
They-have-attacked the-mass of-the-snowy flock and-hooked spread
caedibus ora novis et strictis unguibus instant.
for-slaughters beaks new and with-drawn claws press-on.
Cernis inexperto rorantes sanguine ventos,
Do-you-see with-untried dripping blood the-winds,
et plumis stillare diem? quae saeva repente
and with-feathers to-drip the-day? what savage suddenly
victores agitat leto Iovis ira sinistri?
the-victors drives to-death of-Jupiter anger of-the-left-hand?

Hic excelsa petens subita face solis inarsit
This-one lofty-things seeking by-the-sudden torch of-the-sun has-burned
submisitque animos, illum vestigia adortum
and-lowered his-spirit, that-one the-tracks having-attacked
maiorum volucrum tenerae deponitis alae.
of-greater birds tender you-lay-down wings.
Hic hosti implicitus pariter ruit, hunc fuga retro
This-one with-the-enemy entangled equally rushes, this flight backward
volvit agens sociae linquentem fata catervae.
rolls driving of-the-allied leaving the-fates band.
Hic nimbo glomeratus obit, hic praepete viva
This-one in-a-storm-cloud massed dies, this-one on-the-winged living
pascitur immoriens; spargit cava nubila sanguis.'
feeds dying; spatters hollow clouds blood.'
'Quid furtim lacrimas?' 'Illum, venerande Melampu,
'Why secretly do-you-weep?' 'Him, revered Melampus,
qui cadit, agnosco.' Trepidos sic mole futuri
who falls, I-recognize.' The-trembling thus by-the-mass of-the-future
cunctaque iam rerum certa sub imagine passos
and-all now of-things certain under image having-suffered
terror habet vates; piget inrupisse volantum
terror holds the-prophets; it-irks to-have-broken-into of-the-flying
concilia et caelo mentem insertasse vetanti,
councils and into-the-sky the-mind to-have-thrust forbidding,
auditique odere deos. — Unde iste per orbem
and-heard they-hate the-gods. —Whence this through the-world
primus venturi miseris animantibus aeger
first of-the-future in-wretched living-things sick
crevit amor? divumne feras hoc munus, an ipsi,
has-grown love? of-the-gods-whether should-you-call this gift, or ourselves,

gens avida et parto non umquam stare quieti,
a-race greedy and with-the-gained not ever to-stand quiet,
eruimus, quae prima dies, ubi terminus aevi,
we-dig-out, what the-first day, where the-end of-life,
quid bonus ille deum genitor, quid ferrea Clotho
what the-good that of-the-gods father, what iron Clotho
cogitet? hinc fibrae et volucrum per nubila sermo
may-be-thinking? hence entrails and of-birds through the-clouds speech
astrorumque vices numerataque semina lunae
and-of-the-stars the-changes and-counted seeds of-the-moon
Thessalicumque nefas. At non prior aureus ille
and-Thessalian horror. But not the-former golden that
sanguis avum scopulisque satae vel robore gentes
blood of-ancestors and-from-crags sown or from-oak races
mentibus his usae; silvas amor unus humumque
minds these used; woods love one and-ground
edomuisse manu; quid crastina volveret aetas
to-have-tamed with-hand; what tomorrow's might-roll age
scire nefas homini. Nos pravum et flebile vulgus
to-know forbidden for-man. We a-crooked and pitiable crowd
scrutari penitus superos: hinc pallor et irae,
to-search deeply the-gods-above: hence pallor and angers,
hinc scelus insidiaeque et nulla modestia voti.
hence crime and-ambush and no moderation of-prayer.

Amphiaraus tears off his fillets and shuts himself in his house for twelve days, refusing to reveal what he has seen. Meanwhile Mars drives the Argives to war: men leave their homes and families, take down their fathers' arms, sharpen old swords, and forge plowshares and sickles into weapons. They crowd before the king's palace roaring for war, like the sea or Etna's fires.

Ergo manu vittas damnataque vertice serta
Therefore with-hand the-fillets and-condemned from-his-head garlands
deripit abiectaque inhonorus fronde sacerdos
tears-off and-cast-away dishonored leaf the-priest
inviso de monte redit; iam bella tubaeque
the-hated from mountain returns; now wars and-trumpets
comminus, absentesque fremunt sub pectore Thebae.
at-close-quarters, and-absent roar under breast Thebes.
Ille nec aspectum vulgi, nec fida tyranni
He neither the-sight of-the-crowd, nor faithful of-the-tyrant
conloquia aut coetus procerum perferre, sed atra
conversations or gatherings of-nobles to-bear, but in-black
sede tegi, et superum clausus negat acta fateri
seat to-be-covered, and of-the-gods-above shut-in refuses the-deeds to-confess
(te pudor et curae retinent per rura, Melampu):
(you shame and cares hold-back through the-countryside, Melampus):
bissenos premit ora dies populumque ducesque
twice-six he-presses his-lips days and-the-people and-leaders
extrahit incertis. Et iam suprema Tonantis
draws-out in-uncertainties. And now the-final of-the-Thunderer
iussa fremunt agrosque viris annosaque vastant
orders roar and-the-fields of-men and-aged lay-waste

oppida; bellipotens prae se deus agmina passim
towns; war-mighty before himself the-god columns everywhere
mille rapit; liquere domus dilectaque laeti
a-thousand sweeps; they-have-left homes and-beloved glad
conubia et primo plorantes limine natos:
marriages and on-the-first weeping threshold children:
tantus in attonitos cecidit deus. Arma paternis
so-great on the-astonished fell the-god. Arms from-ancestral
postibus et fixos superum ad penetralia currus
doorposts and fixed of-the-gods-above at the-shrines chariots
vellere amor; tunc fessa putri robigine pila
to-pluck love; then weary with-crumbling rust javelins
haerentesque situ gladios in saeva recurant
and-sticking with-neglect swords for savage they-restore
vulnera et attrito cogunt iuvenescere saxo.
wounds and on-a-rubbed force to-grow-young stone.
Hi teretes galeas magnorumque aerea suta
These smooth helmets and-of-great bronze stitched
thoracum et tunicas chalybum squalore crepantes
corslets and tunics of-steel with-squalor rattling
pectoribus temptare, alii Cortynia lentant
on-breasts to-try, others Gortynian bend
cornua; iam falces avidis et aratra caminis
bows; now sickles in-greedy and plows furnaces
rastraque et incurvi saevum rubuere ligones.
and-rakes and curved savagely reddened hoes.
Caedere nec validas sanctis e stirpibus hastas,
To-cut nor stout holy from trunks spears,
nec pudor emerito clipeum vestisse iuvenco.
nor shame from-a-retired the-shield to-have-clothed bullock.

Inrupere Argos maestique ad limina regis
They-burst-into Argos and-of-the-sad at the-thresholds king
bella animis, bella ore fremunt; it clamor ad auras,
wars with-spirits, wars with-mouth they-roar; goes the-shout to the-airs,
quantus Tyrrheni gemitus salis, aut ubi temptat
as-great-as of-the-Tyrrhenian the-groan sea, or when tries
Enceladus mutare latus; super igneus antris
Enceladus to-change his-side; above fiery from-caves
mons tonat, exundant apices fluctusque Pelorus
the-mountain thunders, overflow the-peaks and-the-waves Pelorus
contrahit, et sperat tellus abrupta reverti.
draws-together, and hopes the-land broken-off to-return.

III.12 · CAPANEUS AND AMPHIARAUS

Capaneus, scorner of the gods, rails at the crowd for waiting on one priest's word: his own valor and sword are his gods. Amphiaraus comes out and tells them he has seen the war's ruin and his own death, and that to Capaneus alone Apollo is silent; let them throw down their arms. Yet he breaks off, groaning: they will go. Capaneus mocks him: let him keep his prophecies and his inglorious old age, and not delay the war with his birds, since fear first made the gods. The crowd roars like a spring torrent until night parts the two.

Atque hic ingenti Capaneus Mavortis amore
And here with-huge Capaneus of-Mavors love
excitus et longam pridem indignantia pacem
roused and long long-since resenting peace
corda tumens (huic ampla quidem de sanguine prisco
heart swelling (to-him ample indeed from blood ancient
nobilitas; sed enim ipse manu praegressus avorum
nobility; but indeed himself with-hand having-surpassed of-ancestors

facta, diu tuto superum contemptor et aequi
the-deeds, long safely of-the-gods-above a-despiser and of-the-just
impatiens largusque animae, modo suaserit ira),
impatient and-lavish of-life, if-only should-have-urged anger),
unus ut e silvis Pholoes habitator opacae
one as from the-woods of-Pholoe dweller dark
inter et Aetnaeos aequus consurgere fratres,
among and Aetnaean equal to-rise-up brothers,
ante fores, ubi turba ducum vulgique frementis,
before the-doors, where the-throng of-leaders and-of-the-crowd roaring,
Amphiarae, tuas 'quae tanta ignavia' clamat,
Amphiaraus, your 'what such cowardice' he-shouts,
'Inachidae vosque o socio de sanguine Achivi?
'Inachidae and-you O allied from blood Achaeans?
Unius (heu pudeat!) plebeia ad limina civis
Of-one (alas let-it-shame!) plebeian at the-thresholds citizen
tot ferro accinctae gentes animisque paratae
so-many with-steel girded nations and-in-spirits prepared
pendemus? Non si ipse cavo sub vertice Cirrhae
do-we-hang? Not if himself hollow under the-summit of-Cirrha
(quisquis is est, timidis famaeque ita visus) Apollo
(whoever he is, to-the-timid and-to-rumor thus seen) Apollo
mugiat insano penitus seclusus in antro,
should-bellow mad deep secluded in cave,
expectare queam, dum pallida virgo tremendas
to-wait could-I, while a-pale maiden dread
nuntiet ambages. Virtus mihi numen et ensis,
announces riddles. Valor for-me a-god and the-sword,
quem teneo! Iamque hic timida cum fraude sacerdos
which I-hold! And-now here timid with fraud the-priest

exeat, aut hodie, volucrum quae tanta potestas,
let-him-come-out, or today, of-birds what such power,
experiar.' Laetum fremit assensuque furentem
I-shall-test.' Glad roars and-with-assent raging
implet Achaea manus. Tandem prorumpere adactus
fills Achaean band. At-last to-burst-forth driven
Oeclides, alio curarum agitante tumultu:
the-son-of-Oecles, by-another of-cares stirring with-uproar:
'Non equidem effreno iuvenis clamore profani
'Not indeed by-unbridled of-the-youth by-the-shouting profane
dictorumque metu, licet hic insana minetur,
and-of-his-words by-fear, although here mad-things he-threatens,
elicior tenebris; alio mihi debita fato
am-I-drawn-out from-the-darkness; by-another for-me owed fate
summa dies, vetitumque dari mortalibus armis.
the-last day, and-forbidden to-be-given to-mortal arms.
Sed me vester amor nimiusque arcana profari
But me your love and-excessive secrets to-speak-out
Phoebus agit; vobis ventura atque omne, quod ultra est,
Phoebus drives; to-you things-to-come and all, which beyond is,
pandere maestus eo; nam te, vesane, moneri
to-unfold sad I-go; for you, madman, to-be-warned
ante nefas, unique tacet tibi noster Apollo.
before horror, and-alone is-silent to-you our Apollo.
Quo, miseri, fatis superisque obstantibus arma,
Where, wretched-ones, the-fates and-the-gods-above opposing arms,
quo rapitis? quo vos Furiarum verbera caecos
where do-you-snatch? where you of-the-Furies the-lashes blind
exagitant? adeone animarum taedet? et Argos
harry? so-whether of-souls are-you-weary? and Argos

exosi? nil dulce domi? nulla omina curae?
hating? nothing sweet at-home? no omens for-care?
Quid me Persei secreta ad culmina montis
Why me of-the-Persean secret to the-summits mountain
ire gradu trepido superumque inrumpere coetus
to-go with-step trembling and-of-the-gods-above to-burst-into the-gatherings
egistis? Potui pariter nescire, quis armis
have-you-driven? I-could equally not-know, what for-arms
casus, ubi atra dies, quae fati exordia cunctis,
the-fall, where the-black day, what of-fate the-beginnings for-all,
quae mihi. Consulti testor penetralia mundi
what for-me. Consulted I-call-to-witness the-inner-shrine of-the-world
et volucrum adfatus et te, Thymbraee, vocanti
and of-birds the-utterances and you, Thymbraean, to-the-caller
non alias tam saeve mihi, quae signa futuri
not otherwise so savagely to-me, what signs of-the-future
pertulerim: vidi ingentis portenta ruinae,
I-have-endured: I-saw of-huge portents ruin,
vidi hominum divumque metus hilaremque Megaeram
I-saw of-men and-of-gods fears and-cheerful Megaera
et Lachesin putri vacuantem saecula penso.
and Lachesis with-rotten emptying the-ages yarn.
Proicite arma manu: deus ecce furentibus obstat,
Throw-away arms from-hand: the-god behold to-the-raging stands-in-the-way,
ecce deus! Miseri, quid pulchrum sanguine vestro
behold the-god! Wretched-ones, why beautiful with-blood your
Aoniam et diri saturare novalia Cadmi?
Aonia and of-dire to-glut the-fallow-fields Cadmus?
Sed quid vana cano, quid fixos arceo casus?
But why vain-things do-I-sing, why fixed do-I-ward-off events?

Ibimus —' Hic presso gemuit semel ore sacerdos.
We-shall-go—' Here with-pressed groaned once lips the-priest.
Illi iterum Capaneus: 'tuus o furor auguret uni
To-him again Capaneus: 'your O madness may-it-augur alone
ista tibi, ut serves vacuos inglorius annos
these-things for-yourself, that you-may-keep empty inglorious years
et tua non umquam Tyrrhenus tempora circum
and your not ever Tyrrhenian temples around
clangor eat. Quid vota virum meliora moraris?
clangor may-go. Why the-prayers of-men better do-you-delay?
Scilicet ut vanis avibus natoque domoque
Of-course that with-empty birds both-son and-house
et thalamis potiare iacens, sileamus inulti
and chambers you-may-possess lying-idle, may-we-be-silent unavenged
Tydeos egregii perfossum pectus et arma
of-Tydeus outstanding the-pierced breast and the-arms
foederis abrupti? quodsi bella effera Graios
of-the-pact broken? but-if wars savage the-Greeks
ferre vetas, i Sidonios legatus ad hostes:
to-bear you-forbid, go the-Sidonian envoy to enemies:
haec pacem tibi serta dabunt. Tua prorsus inani
these peace to-you garlands will-give. Your utterly empty
verba polo causas abstrusaque momina rerum
words from-the-sky the-causes and-hidden the-movements of-things
eliciunt? miseret superum, si carmina curae
draw-out? I-pity the-gods-above, if spells for-care
humanaeque preces! Quid inertia pectora terres?
and-human prayers! Why sluggish breasts do-you-terrify?
Primus in orbe deos fecit timor! Et tibi tuto
First in the-world gods made fear! And for-you safely

nunc eat iste furor; sed prima ad classica cum iam
now may-go this madness; but the-first at the-trumpets when now
hostilem Ismenon galeis Dircenque bibemus,
hostile Ismenos with-helmets and-Dirce we-shall-drink,
ne mihi tunc, moneo, lituos atque arma volenti
not to-me then, I-warn, trumpets and arms willing
obvius ire pares venisque aut alite visa
meeting to-go you-should-prepare and-with-veins or with-a-bird seen
bellorum proferre diem: procul haec tibi mollis
of-the-wars to-put-off the-day: far this from-you soft
infula terrificique aberit dementia Phoebi:
headband and-of-terrifying will-be-absent the-madness Phoebus:
illic augur ego et mecum quicumque parati
there augur I and with-me whoever prepared
insanire manu.' Rursus fragor intonat ingens
to-rage with-hand.' Again a-crash thunders huge
hortantum et vasto subter volat astra tumultu.
of-the-exhorters and with-vast below flies the-stars uproar.
Ut rapidus torrens, animos cui verna ministrant
As a-swift torrent, spirits to-which spring supply
flamina et exuti concreto frigore montes,
breezes and stripped of-congealed cold mountains,
cum vagus in campos frustra prohibentibus exit
when wandering into the-plains in-vain forbidding goes-out
obicibus, resonant permixto turbine tecta,
barriers, resound with-mingled whirl roofs,
arva, armenta, viri, donec stetit improbus alto
fields, herds, men, until has-stopped the-shameless-one by-a-high

colle minor magnoque invenit in aggere ripas:
hill lesser and-great finds on mound banks:
aeque alterna ducum nox interfusa diremit.
equally the-alternate of-the-leaders night poured-between parted.

III.13 · ARGIA PLEADS WITH ADRASTUS

Argia, pitying her husband's grief, goes by night with her infant son Thessandrus to her father. She begs Adrastus to grant the war, reminding him of the omens that brought Polynices to Argos and of her love for him. Adrastus kisses her, calls her plea just, and promises that her tears will not be in vain, though the gods, fears, and the weight of rule make him slow; let her comfort her husband, since great preparations take time.

At gemitus Argia viri non amplius aequo
But the-groans Argia of-her-husband not more with-even
corde ferens sociumque animo miserata dolorem,
heart bearing and-shared in-mind pitying the-grief,
sicut erat laceris pridem turpata capillis
just-as she-was with-torn long-since disfigured hair
et fletu signata genas, ad celsa verendi
and with-weeping marked in-cheeks, to the-lofty of-her-revered
ibat tecta patris, parvumque sub ubere caro
went house father, and-little under breast dear
Thessandrum portabat avo iam nocte suprema
Thessandrus carried to-his-grandfather now in-night last
ante novos ortus, ubi sola superstite plaustro
before new risings, when alone surviving with-wagon
Arctos ad oceanum fugientibus invidet astris.
the-Bear at ocean the-fleeing envies stars.

Utque fores iniit magnoque adfusa parenti est:
And-as the-doors she-entered and-to-her-great poured-down father was:
'Cur tua cum lacrimis maesto sine coniuge supplex
'Why your with tears sad without husband suppliant
limina nocte petam, cessem licet ipsa profari,
thresholds by-night I-should-seek, I-should-cease although myself to-speak-out,
scis genitor. Sed iura deum genialia testor
you-know father. But the-laws of-the-gods nuptial I-call-to-witness
teque pater, non ille iubet, sed pervigil angor;
and-you father, not he bids, but sleepless anguish;
ex quo primus Hymen movitque infausta sinistram
from which first Hymen and-moved ill-omened left
Iuno facem, semper lacrimis gemituque propinquo
Juno torch, always by-tears and-groaning near
exturbata quies. Non si mihi tigridis horror
disturbed rest. Not if to-me of-a-tigress the-bristling
aequoreaeque super rigeant praecordia cautes,
and-sea-borne above should-stiffen heart crags,
ferre queam; tu solus opem, tu summa medendi
to-bear could-I; you alone help, you highest of-healing
iura tenes; da bella, pater, generique iacentis
rights hold; give wars, father, and-of-your-son-in-law lying-low
aspice res humiles, atque hanc, pater, aspice prolem
look-at affairs humble, and this, father, look-at offspring
exulis; huic olim generis pudor. O ubi prima
of-an-exile; to-this-one one-day of-his-race shame. O where the-first
hospitia et iunctae testato numine dextrae!
hospitality and joined with-witnessed deity right-hands!
Hic certe est, quem fata dabant, quem dixit Apollo;
This certainly is-he, whom the-fates gave, whom spoke-of Apollo;

non egomet tacitos Veneris furata calores
not I silent of-Venus having-stolen heats
culpatamve facem: tua iussa verenda tuosque
or-blamed torch: your orders to-be-revered and-your
dilexi monitus. Nunc qua feritate dolentis
I-loved warnings. Now with-what savagery of-the-grieving
despiciam questus? nescis, pater optime, nescis,
shall-I-look-down-on complaints? you-do-not-know, father best, you-do-not-know,
quantus amor castae misero nupsisse marito.
how-great the-love for-a-chaste to-a-wretched to-have-married husband.
Et nunc maesta quidem grave et inlaetabile munus,
And now sad indeed a-heavy and joyless gift,
ut timeam doleamque, rogo; sed cum oscula rumpet
that I-may-fear and-grieve, I-ask; but when the-kisses will-break
maesta dies, cum rauca dabunt abeuntibus armis
sad the-day, when hoarse shall-give to-the-departing arms
signa tubae saevoque genas fulgebitis auro,
signals the-trumpets and-with-savage in-cheeks you-shall-shine gold,
ei mihi! care parens, iterum fortasse rogabo.'
ah me! dear parent, again perhaps I-shall-ask.'
Illius umenti carpens pater oscula vultu:
Of-her from-the-wet plucking the-father kisses face:
'Non equidem has umquam culparim, nata, querellas;
'Not indeed these ever would-I-blame, daughter, complaints;
pone metus, laudanda rogas nec digna negari.
put-aside fears, praiseworthy-things you-ask nor worthy to-be-denied.
Sed mihi multa dei (nec tu sperare, quod urges,
But to-me many-things the-gods (nor you to-hope, what you-urge,
desine), multa metus regnique volubile pondus
cease), many-things fear and-of-the-kingdom the-rolling weight

subiciunt animo. Veniet, qui debitus istis,
put-under mind. Will-come, which owed to-these,
nata, modus, neque te incassum flevisse quereris.
daughter, measure, nor you in-vain to-have-wept will-complain.
Tu solare virum, neu sint dispendia iustae
You console your-husband, nor let-be the-losses of-just
dura morae: magnos cunctamur, nata, paratus.
hard delay: great we-delay, daughter, preparations.
720 Proficitur bello.' Dicentem talia nascens
There-is-progress by-war.' Him-saying such-things the-rising
lux monet ingentesque iubent adsurgere curae.
light warns and-huge bid to-rise cares.

BOOK IV

IV.1 · THE MARCH BEGINS; ADRASTUS

In the third spring the Argives set out for war. Bellona hurls her spear from Larisa to the walls of Thebes and rouses the camp; the omens are bad and the priest hides it. Wives, children, and parents cling to the departing soldiers like friends seeing off a ship. The poet asks Fame, Antiquity, and Calliope to name the forces. First comes old Adrastus, sad and weighed with cares, with his horse Arion, leading three thousand from Larisa, Prosymna, Sicyon, Cleonae, the Isthmus, and the towns around, like an aging bull still leader of the herd.

Tertius horrentem Zephyris laxaverat annum
The-third bristling with-Zephyrs had-loosened year
Phoebus et angusto cogebat limite vernum
Phoebus and from-narrow was-compelling bound the-spring
longius ire diem, cum fracta impulsaque fatis
longer to-go day, when broken and-driven by-the-fates
consilia et tandem miseris data copia belli.
counsels and at-last to-the-wretched given opportunity of-war.
Prima manu rutilam de vertice Larisaeo
First with-hand red from summit Larisaean
ostendit Bellona facem dextraque trabalem
shows Bellona a-torch and-with-the-right-hand beam-like
hastam intorsit agens, liquido quae stridula caelo
spear hurled driving, in-clear which whistling sky
fugit et Aoniae celso stetit aggere Dirces.
flees and of-Aonian on-the-high stood rampart Dirce.
Mox et castra subit ferroque auroque coruscis
Soon also the-camp she-enters and-with-iron and-gold flashing
mixta viris turmale fremit; dat euntibus enses,
mingled with-men like-a-squadron roars; she-gives to-the-going swords,

plaudit equos, vocat ad portas; hortamina fortes
pats horses, calls to the-gates; exhortations the-brave
praeveniunt, timidisque etiam brevis addita virtus.
anticipate, and-to-the-timid even brief added valor.
Dicta dies aderat. Cadit ingens rite Tonanti
The-appointed day was-present. Falls huge duly to-the-Thunderer
Gradivoque pecus, nullisque secundus in extis
and-to-Gradivus cattle, and-no favorable in entrails
pallet et armatis simulat sperare sacerdos.
grows-pale and to-the-armed pretends to-hope the-priest.
Iamque suos circum pueri nuptaeque patresque
And-now their-own around boys and-brides and-fathers
funduntur mixti summisque a postibus obstant.
are-poured mingled and-the-highest from doorposts block.
Nec modus est lacrimis: rorant clipeique iubaeque
Nor limit is to-tears: drip both-shields and-crests
triste salutantum, et cunctis dependet ab armis
sadly of-those-greeting, and all hangs from arms
suspiranda domus; galeis iuvat oscula clausis
to-be-sighed-for home; on-helmets it-pleases kisses closed
inserere amplexuque truces deducere conos.
to-put and-in-embrace grim to-draw-down cones.
Illi, quis ferrum modo, quis mors ipsa placebat,
They, to-whom the-steel just-now, to-whom death itself was-pleasing,
dant gemitus fractaque labant singultibus ira.
give groans and-broken totter with-sobs anger.
Sic ubi forte viris longum super aequor ituris,
Thus when by-chance for-men long over the-sea about-to-go,
cum iam ad vela noti et scisso redit ancora fundo,
when now at the-sails the-south-winds and from-the-split returns the-anchor bottom,

haeret amica manus: certant innectere collo
clings the-friendly hand: they-vie to-twine on-the-neck
brachia, manantesque oculos hinc oscula turbant,
arms, and-flowing eyes on-this-side kisses disturb,
hinc magni caligo maris, tandemque relicti
on-that of-the-great darkness sea, and-at-last left-behind
stant in rupe tamen; fugientia carbasa visu
they-stand on the-rock yet; the-fleeing sails with-sight
dulce sequi, patriosque dolent crebrescere ventos.
sweet to-follow, and-their-native they-grieve to-grow-stronger winds.

Nunc mihi, Fama prior mundique arcana Vetustas,
Now for-me, Fame earlier and-of-the-world secret Antiquity,
cui meminisse ducum vitasque extendere curae,
to-whom to-remember leaders and-lives to-extend a-care,
pande viros, tuque o nemoris regina sonori,
unfold the-men, and-you O of-the-grove queen resounding,
Calliope, quas ille manus, quae moverit arma
Calliope, what he bands, what has-moved arms
Gradivus, quantas populis solaverit urbes,
Gradivus, how-many from-peoples has-desolated cities,
sublata molire lyra: neque enim altior ulli
raised work-up with-the-lyre: nor indeed higher to-anyone
mens hausto de fonte venit. Rex tristis et aeger
mind the-drained from spring comes. The-king sad and sick
pondere curarum propiorque abeuntibus annis
with-the-weight of-cares and-nearer to-the-departing years
inter adhortantes vix sponte incedit Adrastus,
among the-exhorters hardly of-his-own-will advances Adrastus,
contentus ferro cingi latus; arma manipli
content with-steel to-be-girded in-side; his-arms the-maniples

pone ferunt, volucres portis auriga sub ipsis
behind carry, swift the-gates the-charioteer under very
comit equos, et iam inde iugo luctatur Arion.
combs the-horses, and now from-there at-the-yoke struggles Arion.
Huic armat Larisa viros, huic celsa Prosymna,
For-him arms Larisa men, for-him lofty Prosymna,
aptior armentis Midea pecorosaque Phlius,
more-fit for-herds Midea and-flock-rich Phlius,
quaeque pavet longa spumantem valle Charadron
and-which fears in-long foaming valley Charadros
Neris, et ingenti turritae mole Cleonae
Neris, and with-huge towered mass Cleonae
et Lacedaemonium Thyrea lectura cruorem.
and Lacedaemonian Thyrea about-to-gather blood.
Iunguntur memores transmissi ab origine regis,
Are-joined mindful of-the-transferred from the-origin king,
qui Drepani scopulos et oliviferae Sicyonis
who of-Drepanum the-crags and of-olive-bearing Sicyon
culta serunt, quos pigra vado Langia tacenti
the-tilled-fields sow, whom sluggish in-ford Langia silent
lambit et anfractu riparum incurvus Elisson.
licks and in-the-winding of-banks curving Elisson.
Saevus honos fluvio: Stygias lustrare severis
Savage honor to-the-river: the-Stygian to-purify with-severe
Eumenidas perhibetur aquis, huc mergere suetas
Eumenides it-is-reported waters, here to-plunge accustomed
ora et anhelantes poto Phlegethonte cerastas,
their-faces and panting with-drunk Phlegethon horned-snakes,
seu Thracum vertere domos, seu tecta Mycenis
whether of-the-Thracians they-overturned homes, or roofs at-Mycenae

impia Cadmeumve larem; fugit ipse natantes
impious or-Cadmean hearth; flees itself the-swimming
amnis, et innumeris livescunt stagna venenis.
the-river, and with-countless grow-livid the-pools poisons.
It comes Inoas Ephyre solata querellas
Goes as-companion Ino's Ephyre having-consoled complaints
Cenchreaeque manus, vatum qua conscius amnis
and-of-Cenchreae the-band, of-the-bards where conscious river
Gorgoneo percussus equo, quaque obiacet alto
by-the-Gorgonean struck horse, and-where lies-against the-deep
Isthmos et a terris maria inclinata repellit.
Isthmus and from the-lands the-seas inclined repels.
Haec manus Adrastum numero ter mille secuti
This band Adrastus in-number thrice a-thousand having-followed
exultant; pars gaesa manu, pars robora flammis
exult; part pikes in-hand, part oaks in-flames
indurata diu (non unus namque maniplis
hardened long (not one for for-the-maniples
mos neque sanguis) habent, teretes pars vertere fundas
custom nor blood) have, smooth part to-turn slings
adsueti vacuoque diem praecingere gyro.
accustomed and-with-empty the-day to-gird circle.
Ipse annis sceptrisque subit venerabilis aeque:
Himself in-years and-scepters goes-under venerable equally:
ut possessa diu taurus meat arduus inter
as possessed long a-bull goes lofty among
pascua iam laxa cervice et inanibus armis,
pastures now with-loose neck and with-empty shoulders,
dux tamen: haut illum bello attemptare iuvencis
a-leader yet: not him in-war to-attack for-bullocks

sunt animi; nam trunca vident de vulnere multo
are spirits; for maimed they-see from wound much
cornua et ingentes plagarum in pectore nodos.
horns and huge of-blows on breast knots.

IV.2 · POLYNICES AND TYDEUS

Next comes Polynices, followed by Theban exiles and men from Aegion, Arene, and Troezen that Adrastus gave him, wearing the lion's hide and the sword with the Sphinx he wore on the night of his arrival. He longs for Thebes but looks back to Argia watching from a tower. Tydeus, healed and eager, like a snake that has shed its skin in spring, leads the Aetolians of Pylene, Pleuron, Calydon, Olenos, and Chalcis, as fierce for the war as Polynices himself.

Proxima longaevo profert Dircaeus Adrasto
Next to-long-lived brings-forth the-Dircaean Adrastus
signa gener, cui bella favent, cui commodat iras
standards the-son-in-law, whom wars favor, to-whom lends angers
cuncta cohors: huic et patria de sede volentes
all the-cohort: to-him also ancestral from seat willing
advenere viri, seu quos movet exul et haesit
have-come men, whether whom moves the-exile and has-clung
tristibus aucta fides, seu quis mutare potentes
in-sad increased loyalty, or anyone to-change the-powerful
praecipuum, multi, melior quos causa querenti
especially, many, better whom the-cause to-the-complainer
conciliat; dederat nec non socer ipse regendas
wins; had-given nor not the-father-in-law himself to-be-ruled
Aegion Arenenque, et quas Theseia Troezen
Aegion and-Arene, and which Thesean Troezen

addit opes, ne rara movens inglorius iret
adds resources, lest scanty moving inglorious he-should-go
agmina, neu raptos patriae sentiret honores.
columns, or snatched of-his-fatherland should-feel honors.
Idem habitus, eadem arma viro, quae debitus hospes
The-same garb, the-same arms to-the-man, which the-owed guest
hiberna sub nocte tulit: Teumesius implet
wintry under night bore: a-Teumesian fills
terga leo et gemino lucent hastilia ferro,
the-back lion and with-twin gleam spear-shafts iron,
aspera vulnifico subter latus ense riget Sphinx.
rough with-wounding beneath at-the-side sword stiffens the-Sphinx.
Iam regnum matrisque sinus fidasque sorores
Now the-kingdom and-his-mother's bosom and-faithful sisters
spe votisque tenet, tamen et de turre suprema
in-hope and-prayers he-holds, yet also from tower highest
attonitam totoque extantem corpore longe
astonished and-with-whole standing-out body far
respicit Argian; haec mentem oculosque reducit
he-looks-back-at Argia; she the-mind and-eyes brings-back
coniugis et dulces avertit pectore Thebas.
of-her-husband and sweet turns-away from-his-breast Thebes.
Ecce inter medios patriae ciet agmina gentis
Behold among the-middle of-his-ancestral rouses the-columns race
fulmineus Tydeus, iam laetus et integer artus,
thunderbolt-like Tydeus, now glad and whole in-limbs,
ut primae strepuere tubae: ceu lubricus alta
as the-first sounded trumpets: as slippery from-deep
anguis humo verni blanda ad spiramina solis
a-snake from-ground of-spring caressing to breathings sun

erigitur liber senio et squalentibus annis
rises free from-old-age and from-squalid years
exutus laetisque minax interviret herbis:
stripped and-in-glad threatening grows-green grass:
a miser! agrestum si quis per gramen hianti
ah wretched! of-rustics if any through the-grass to-him-gaping
obvius et primo fraudaverit ora veneno.
meeting and with-first should-have-cheated face venom.
Huic quoque praesentes Aetolis urbibus adfert
To-him also present from-Aetolian cities brings
belli fama viros: sensit scopulosa Pylene
of-war the-rumor men: felt rocky Pylene
fletaque cognatis avibus Meleagria Pleuron
and-wept-for by-kindred birds Meleagrian Pleuron
et praeceps Calydon, et quae Iove provocat Iden
and steep Calydon, and which by-Jupiter challenges Ida
Olenos, Ioniis et fluctibus hospita portu
Olenos, to-the-Ionian and waves hospitable with-harbor
Chalcis et Herculea turpatus gymnade vultus
Chalcis and by-the-Herculean disfigured wrestling face
amnis; adhuc imis vix truncam attollere frontem
the-river; still from-the-lowest hardly the-maimed to-raise brow
ausus aquis glaucoque caput submersus in antro
having-dared waters and-in-gray head sunk in cave
maeret, anhelantes aegrescunt pulvere ripae.
grieves, panting grow-sick with-dust the-banks.
Omnibus aeratae propugnant pectora crates,
For-all bronze defend the-breasts wickerwork,
pilaque saeva manu, patrius stat casside Mavors.
and-javelins savage in-hand, ancestral stands on-the-helmet Mavors.

Undique magnanimum pubes delecta coronant
On-every-side great-souled youths chosen crown
Oeniden, hilarem bello notisque decorum
the-son-of-Oeneus, cheerful in-war and-with-known adorned
vulneribus; non ille minis Polynicis et ira
wounds; not he in-threats than-Polynices and in-anger
inferior, dubiumque adeo, cui bella gerantur.
inferior, and-doubtful so-much, for-whom the-wars are-waged.

IV.3 · HIPPOMEDON

Hippomedon leads the Dorians of the Inachus, Asterion, Erasinus, Epidaurus, Dyme, and Pylos, whose young Nestor refused to march. His shield bears the Danaids' night of murder, and his Nemean horse carries him like a centaur charging down from Ossa. Tiryns, home of Hercules, sends three hundred men armed like their hero with lion skins and clubs, and Nemea and the vineyards of Molorchus send more.

Maior at inde novis it Doricus ordo sub armis,
Greater but thence new goes the-Dorian rank under arms,
qui ripas, Lyrcie, tuas, tua litora multo
who the-banks, Lyrcius, your, your shores with-much
vomere suspendunt, fluviorum ductor Achivum,
plowshare hang, of-rivers leader of-the-Achaeans,
Inache (Persea neque enim violentior exit
Inachus (Persean nor indeed more-violent goes-out
amnis humo, cum Taurum aut Pliadas hausit aquosas
river from-the-ground, when the-Bull or the-Pleiades has-drunk rainy
spumeus et genero tumuit Iove), quos celer ambit
foaming and with-his-son-in-law has-swelled Jupiter), whom swift surrounds

Asterion Dryopumque trahens Erasinus aristas,
Asterion and-of-the-Dryopes drawing Erasinus ears-of-grain,
et qui rura domant Epidauria (dexter Iaccho
and who the-countryside tame Epidaurian (favorable to-Iacchus
collis, at Ennaeae Cereri negat); avia Dyme
hill, but to-Ennaean Ceres it-refuses); remote Dyme
mittit opem densasque Pylos Neleia turmas;
sends help and-dense Pylos Nelean squadrons;
nondum nota Pylos iuvenisque aetate secunda
not-yet known Pylos and-young in-age second
Nestor, et ire tamen peritura in castra negavit.
Nestor, and to-go yet the-doomed into camp refused.
Hos agitat pulchraeque docet virtutis amorem
These drives and-of-beautiful teaches valor love
arduus Hippomedon; capiti tremit aerea cassis
lofty Hippomedon; on-his-head trembles bronze helmet
ter niveum scandente iuba, latus omne sub armis
thrice snowy climbing crest, the-side whole under arms
ferrea suta terunt, umeros ac pectora late
iron stitchings rub, shoulders and breast widely
flammeus orbis habet, perfectaque vivit in auro
flaming orb holds, and-wrought lives in gold
nox Danai: sontes Furiarum lampade nigra
the-night of-Danaus: guilty of-the-Furies with-torch black
quinquaginta ardent thalami; pater ipse cruentis
fifty burn the-marriage-chambers; the-father himself bloody
in foribus laudatque nefas atque inspicit enses.
in doors both-praises the-horror and inspects the-swords.
Illum Palladia sonipes Nemeaeus ab arce
Him Pallas' a-steed Nemean from citadel

devehit arma pavens umbraque immane volanti
carries-down the-arms dreading and-with-shadow huge flying
implet agros longoque attollit pulvere campum.
fills the-fields and-with-long raises dust the-plain.
Non aliter silvas umeris et utroque refringens
Not otherwise woods with-shoulders and with-both breaking
pectore montano duplex Hylaeus ab antro
breast mountain double Hylaeus from cave
praecipitat (pavet Ossa) vias, pecudesque feraeque
hurls (trembles Ossa) the-ways, and-cattle and-beasts
procubuere metu; non ipsis fratribus horror
fell-forward in-fear; not from-the-very brothers dread
afuit, ingenti donec Peneia saltu
was-absent, with-huge until Peneian leap
stagna subit magnumque obiectus detinet amnem.
pools he-enters and-the-great thrown-against holds-back river.
Quis numerum ferri gentesque et robora dictu
Who the-number of-steel and-nations and strengths in-telling
aequarit mortale sonans? Suus excit in arma
could-equal mortal sounding? His-own rouses to arms
antiquam Tiryntha deus; non fortibus illa
ancient Tiryns the-god; not in-brave she
infecunda viris famaque immanis alumni
unfruitful men and-from-the-fame of-her-huge nursling
degenerat, sed lapsa situ fortuna, neque addunt
degenerates, but fallen into-neglect fortune, nor add
robur opes; rarus vacuis habitator in arvis
strength riches; rare empty dweller in fields
monstrat Cyclopum ductas sudoribus arces.
shows of-the-Cyclopes drawn by-sweats citadels.

Dat tamen haec iuvenum tercentum pectora, vulgus
Gives yet this of-youths three-hundred breasts, a-crowd
innumerum bello, quibus haut ammenta nec enses
countless for-war, to-whom not thongs nor swords
triste micant: flavae capiti tergoque leonum
grimly flash: tawny on-the-head and-back of-lions
exuviae gentilis honos, et pineus armat
the-spoils ancestral honor, and of-pine arms
stipes, inexhaustis artantur tela pharetris.
a-stake, in-inexhaustible are-crammed weapons quivers.
Herculeum paeana canunt, vastataque monstris
Herculean the-paean they-sing, and-ravaged by-monsters
omnia; frondosa longum deus audit ab Oeta.
all-things; leafy long the-god hears from Oeta.
Dat Nemea comites, et quas in proelia vires
Gives Nemea companions, and what into battles forces
sacra Cleonaei cogunt vineta Molorchi.
the-sacred of-Cleonaean gather vineyards Molorchus.
Gloria nota casae, foribus simulata salignis
The-glory known of-the-hut, on-the-doors portrayed of-willow
hospitis arma dei, parvoque ostenditur arvo,
of-the-guest the-arms god, and-on-the-little is-shown field,
robur ubi et laxos qua reclinaverit arcus
the-oak where and loosened where he-may-have-leaned bow
ilice, qua cubiti sedeant vestigia terra.
holm-oak, where of-his-elbow sit the-traces on-the-ground.

Capaneus marches on foot, carrying a shield of four bull hides with the Hydra worked on it and a cypress for a spear, leading men from Messene, Ithome, Thryon, Aepy, Helos, Pteleon, and Dorion, where Thamyris was silenced by the Muses. Amphiaraus, though he foresees disaster, is swept into the war by Atropos and by his wife Eriphyle, who covets Harmonia's fatal necklace. Argia gives it up willingly, saying she has no wish for finery while Polynices is at war, and so the gold enters Eriphyle's house and the seeds of crime are sown.

At pedes et toto despectans vertice bellum
But on-foot and with-whole looking-down-on head war
quattuor indomitis Capaneus erepta iuvencis
four from-untamed Capaneus snatched bullocks
terga superque rigens iniectu molis aenae
hides and-above stiff with-the-throwing-on of-a-mass bronze
versat onus; squalet triplici ramosa corona
turns the-burden; bristles in-threefold branching crown
Hydra recens obitu: pars anguibus aspera vivis
the-Hydra fresh in-death: part with-snakes rough living
argento caelata micat, pars arte reperta
with-silver engraved flashes, part by-art found
conditur et fulvo moriens nigrescit in auro;
is-buried and tawny dying blackens in gold;
circum amnis torpens et ferro caerula Lerna.
around the-river torpid and with-steel dark-blue Lerna.
At laterum tractus spatiosaque pectora servat
But of-the-flanks the-stretch and-spacious breast keeps
nexilis innumero chalybum subtemine thorax,
woven with-countless of-steel weft corslet,

horrendum, non matris opus; galeaeque corusca
dreadful, not a-mother's work; and-of-the-helmet flashing
prominet arte gigans; atque uni missilis illi
projects by-art a-giant; and alone missile for-him
cuspide praefixa stat frondibus orba cupressus.
with-point fixed-in-front stands of-leaves bereft cypress.
Huic parere dati, quos fertilis Amphigenia
To-him to-obey given, whom fertile Amphigenia
planaque Messene montosaque nutrit Ithome,
and-level Messene and-mountainous nourishes Ithome,
quos Thryon et summis ingestum montibus Aepy,
whom Thryon and on-the-highest heaped mountains Aepy,
quos Helos et Pteleon, Getico quos flebile vati
whom Helos and Pteleon, for-the-Getic whom tearful bard
Dorion; hic fretus doctas anteire canendo
Dorion; here relying the-learned to-surpass in-singing
Aonidas mutos Thamyris damnatus in annos
the-Aonian-Muses mute Thamyris condemned to years
ore simul citharaque (quis obvia numina temnat?)
in-mouth at-once and-in-lyre (who meeting deities would-scorn?)
conticuit praeceps, qui non certamina Phoebi
fell-silent headlong, who not the-contests of-Phoebus
nosset et inlustres Satyro pendente Celaenas.
knew and famous with-the-Satyr hanging Celaenae.
Iamque et fatidici mens expugnata fatiscit
And-now also of-the-prophetic the-mind stormed grows-faint
auguris; ille quidem casus et dira videbat
augur; he indeed the-misfortunes and dire saw
signa, sed ipsa manu cunctanti iniecerat arma
signs, but herself with-hand on-the-hesitating had-thrown arms

Atropos obrueratque deum, nec coniugis absunt
Atropos and-had-overwhelmed the-god, nor of-his-wife are-absent
insidiae, vetitoque domus iam fulgurat auro.
the-plots, and-with-forbidden the-house already flashes gold.
Hoc aurum vati fata exitiale monebant
This gold for-the-prophet the-fates deadly were-warning
Argolico; scit et ipsa nefas, sed perfida coniunx
Argolic; knows also she-herself the-horror, but treacherous the-wife
dona viro mutare velit, spoliisque potentis
the-gifts for-her-husband to-change would-wish, and-on-the-spoils of-powerful
imminet Argiae raptoque excellere cultu.
hangs of-Argia and-in-snatched to-excel dress.
Illa libens (nam regum animos et pondera belli
She gladly (for of-the-kings the-minds and the-weights of-war
hac nutare videt, pariter si providus heros
this-way to-nod she-sees, equally if provident the-hero
militet) ipsa sacros gremio Polynicis amati
should-serve) herself the-sacred into-the-lap of-Polynices beloved
exuerat cultus haut maesta atque insuper addit:
had-put-off adornment not sad and besides adds:
'Non haec apta mihi nitidis ornatibus' inquit,
'Not these fit for-me for-shining adornments' she-says,
'tempora, nec miserae placeant insignia formae
'times, nor for-wretched may-please the-insignia beauty
te sine: sat dubium coetu solante timorem
you without: enough doubtful in-the-gathering consoling fear
fallere et incultos aris adverrere crines.
to-beguile and unkempt at-the-altars to-sweep hair.
Scilicet (infandum!), cum tu claudare minanti
Of-course (unspeakable!), when you are-shut-in by-threatening

casside ferratusque sones, ego divitis aurum
helmet and-iron-clad you-resound, I of-rich the-gold
Harmoniae dotale geram? dabit aptior ista
of-Harmonia dowry shall-wear? will-give more-fitting these
fors deus, Argolicasque habitu praestabo maritas,
perhaps god, and-the-Argolic in-dress I-shall-surpass wives,
cum regis coniunx, cum te mihi sospite templa
when of-a-king the-wife, when you for-me safe the-temples
votivis implenda choris; nunc induat illa,
with-votive to-be-filled choirs; now let-put-it-on she,
quae petit et bellante potest gaudere marito.'
who seeks and with-warring can rejoice husband.'
Sic Eriphylaeos aurum fatale penates
Thus Eriphyle's gold fatal household
inrupit scelerumque ingentia semina movit,
burst-into and-of-crimes huge seeds stirred,
et grave Tisiphone risit gavisa futuris.
and heavily Tisiphone laughed rejoicing at-things-to-come.

Amphiaraus drives a chariot drawn by horses descended from Castor's Cyllarus, wearing the prophet's fillets and olive, with Python on his shield. He leads men from Amyclae, Helos, Malea, Caryae, Pharis, Messe, Taygetus, and the Eurotas, Spartans whose parents rejoice when they die well, and from Elis and Pisa, horsemen who train their teams as Oenomaus did.

Taenariis hic celsus equis, quam dispare coetu
On-Taenarian here lofty horses, which by-unequal union
Cyllarus ignaro generarat Castore prolem,
Cyllarus unknowing had-begotten Castor offspring,
quassat humum; vatem cultu Parnasia monstrant
shakes the-ground; the-prophet by-dress Parnassian show
vellera: frondenti crinitur cassis oliva,
fleeces: with-leafy is-tressed the-helmet olive,
albaque puniceas interplicat infula cristas.
and-white crimson interweaves the-headband crests.
Arma simul pressasque iugo moderatur habenas.
Arms at-once and-pressed by-the-yoke he-governs reins.
Hinc atque inde morae iaculis, et ferrea curru
On-this-side and on-that delays with-javelins, and iron on-the-chariot
silva tremit; procul ipse gravi metuendus in hasta
forest trembles; far himself heavy to-be-feared in spear
eminet et clipeo victum Pythona coruscat.
stands-out and on-the-shield conquered Python flashes.
Huius Apollineae currum comitantur Amyclae,
His Apollo's the-chariot accompany Amyclae,
quos Helos et dubiis Malea vitata carinis
whom Helos and by-doubtful Malea avoided ships

plaudentique habiles Caryae resonare Dianae,
and-at-the-applauding skilled Caryae to-resound Diana,
quos Pharis volucrumque parens Cythereia Messe,
whom Pharis and-of-birds the-parent Cytherean Messe,
Taygetique phalanx et oloriferi Eurotae
and-of-Taygetus the-phalanx and of-swan-bearing Eurotas
dura manus. Deus ipse viros in pulvere crudo
hard band. The-god himself men in dust raw
Arcas alit nudaeque modos virtutis et iras
Arcadian nourishes and-of-naked the-measures valor and angers
ingenerat; vigor inde animis et mortis honorae
implants; vigor thence for-spirits and of-death honored
dulce sacrum. Gaudent natorum fata parentes
sweet rite. Rejoice-in of-their-sons the-fates the-parents
hortanturque mori, deflent iamque omnis ephebum
and-urge to-die, weep and-now all of-the-ephebes
turba, coronato contenta est funere mater.
throng, with-crowned content is death the-mother.
Frena tenent duplexque inserto missile nodo,
Reins they-hold and-double with-inserted missile knot,
exerti ingentes umeros, chlamys horrida pendet,
bared huge in-shoulders, the-cloak rough hangs,
et cono Ledaeus apex. Non hi tibi solum,
and on-the-cone Ledaean apex. Not these for-you alone,
Amphiarae, merent: auget resupina maniplos
Amphiaraus, serve: increases lying-back the-maniples
Elis, depressae populus subit incola Pisae,
Elis, of-low the-people comes-under dweller Pisa,
qui te, flave, natant terris, Alphee, Sicanis
who you, tawny, swim in-lands, Alpheus, Sicilian

advena, tam longo non umquam infecte profundo.
newcomer, so by-long not ever stained deep.
Curribus innumeris late putria arva lacessunt
With-chariots countless widely crumbling fields they-harass
et bellis armenta domant: ea gloria genti
and for-wars herds tame: that glory for-the-race
infando de more et fractis durat ab usque
unspeakable from custom and the-broken lasts from all-the-way
axibus Oenomai; strident spumantia morsu
axles of-Oenomaus; screech foaming by-the-bite
vincula, et effossas niveus rigat imber harenas.
bonds, and dug-up snowy waters a-shower sands.

IV.6 · PARTHENOPAEUS AND THE ARCADIANS

Young Parthenopaeus slips away to war without his mother Atalanta's knowledge, beautiful and eager for glory, gleaming in gold and purple, with his mother's Calydonian hunt on his shield. He leads the Arcadians, a people older than the moon, born from trees, from Maenalus, Tegea, Cyllene, Clitor, Pheneos, Orchomenos, Psophis, Erymanthus, and Stymphalus, armed in many fashions. Mycenae sends no one, being busy with its own brothers' crimes.

Tu quoque Parrhasias ignara matre catervas
You also Parrhasian unknowing your-mother bands
(a rudis annorum, tantum nova gloria suadet!),
(ah untaught in-years, so-much new glory urges!),
Parthenopaee, rapis; saltus tunc forte remotos
Parthenopaeus, you-sweep-along; the-glades then by-chance remote
torva parens (neque enim haec iuveni foret ire potestas)
grim the-parent (nor indeed this for-the-youth would-be to-go power)

pacabat cornu gelidique aversa Lycaei.
was-pacifying with-bow and-of-cold the-far-side Lycaeus.
Pulchrior haut ulli triste ad discrimen ituro
More-beautiful not to-anyone sad to danger about-to-go
vultus et egregiae tanta indulgentia formae;
the-face and of-outstanding such indulgence beauty;
nec desunt animi, veniat modo fortior aetas.
nor are-lacking spirits, should-come only stronger age.
Quas non ille duces nemorum fluviisque dicata
Which not he leaders of-the-groves and-to-rivers dedicated
numina, quas magno non abstulit igne Napaeas?
deities, which with-great not took-away fire Napaeae?
Ipsam, Maenalia puerum cum vidit in umbra,
Herself, Maenalian the-boy when she-saw in shade,
Dianam, tenero signantem gramina passu,
Diana, with-tender marking the-grass step,
ignovisse ferunt comiti Dictaeaque tela
to-have-pardoned they-say her-companion and-Dictaean weapons
ipsam et Amyclaeas umeris aptasse pharetras.
herself and Amyclaean on-his-shoulders to-have-fitted quivers.
Prosilit audaci Martis percussus amore,
He-leaps-forth by-bold of-Mars struck love,
arma, tubas audire calens et pulvere belli
arms, trumpets to-hear burning and with-the-dust of-war
flaventem sordere comam captoque referri
golden to-be-soiled hair and-on-captured to-be-carried-back
hostis equo: taedet nemorum, titulumque nocentem
of-the-enemy horse: he-is-weary of-the-groves, and-the-title guilty
sanguinis humani pudor est nescire sagittas.
of-blood human shame it-is not-to-know arrows.

Igneus ante omnes auro micat, igneus ostro,
Fiery before all with-gold he-flashes, fiery with-purple,
undantemque sinum nodis inrugat Hiberis,
and-billowing fold with-knots wrinkles Hiberian,
imbelli parma pictus Calydonia matris
on-unwarlike shield painted the-Calydonian of-his-mother
proelia; trux laeva sonat arcus, et aspera plumis
battles; grim on-the-left sounds the-bow, and rough with-feathers
terga Cydonea corytos harundine pulsat
back with-Cydonian the-quiver reed beats
electro pallens et iaspide clarus Eoa.
with-electrum pale and with-jasper bright Eastern.
Cornipedem trepidos suetum praevertere cervos,
The-horn-footed trembling accustomed to-outrun deer,
velatum geminae deiectu lyncis et arma
covered of-a-twin with-the-throwing-on lynx and the-arms
mirantem gravioris eri, sublimis agebat,
marveling-at of-a-heavier master, lofty he-was-driving,
dulce rubens viridique genas spectabilis aevo.
sweetly blushing and-green in-cheeks conspicuous with-age.
Arcades huic veteres astris lunaque priores,
Arcadians to-him old than-the-stars and-moon earlier,
agmina fida datis, nemorum quos stirpe rigenti
columns faithful you-give, of-the-groves whom from-the-stock stiff
fama satos, cum prima pedum vestigia tellus
rumor sown, when first of-feet the-footprints the-earth
admirata tulit; nondum arva domusque nec urbes
marveling bore; not-yet fields and-homes nor cities
conubiisve modus; quercus laurique ferebant
or-for-marriages measure; oaks and-laurels were-bearing

cruda puerperia, ac populos umbrosa creavit
raw births, and peoples shady created
fraxinus, et feta viridis puer excidit orno.
the-ash, and pregnant green a-boy fell from-the-mountain-ash.
Hi lucis stupuisse vices noctisque feruntur
These of-the-light to-have-been-stunned changes and-of-night are-said
nubila et occiduum longe Titana secuti
the-clouds and the-setting far Titan having-followed
desperasse diem. Rarescunt alta colonis
to-have-despaired-of the-day. Grow-thin lofty of-settlers
Maenala, Parthenium fugitur nemus, agmina bello
Maenalus, Parthenian is-fled the-grove, columns for-war
Rhipeque et Stratie ventosaque donat Enispe.
both-Rhipe and Stratie and-windy gives Enispe.
Non Tegea, non ipsa deo vacat alite felix
Not Tegea, not herself of-her-god is-empty winged happy
Cyllene templumque Aleae nemorale Minervae
Cyllene and-the-temple of-Alea woodland of-Minerva
et rapidus Clitor et qui tibi, Pythie, Ladon
and swift Clitor and who to-you, Pythian, Ladon
paene socer candensque iugis Lampia nivosis
almost father-in-law and-whitening with-ridges Lampia snowy
et Pheneos nigro Styga mittere credita Diti.
and Pheneos black the-Styx to-send believed to-Dis.
Venit et Idaeis ululatibus aemulus Azan
Comes also to-Idaean howlings rival Azan
Parrhasiique duces, et quae risistis, Amores,
and-Parrhasian leaders, and which you-laughed-at, Loves,
grata pharetrato Nonacria rura Tonanti,
pleasing to-the-quivered Nonacrian countryside Thunderer,

dives et Orchomenos pecorum et Cynosura ferarum.
rich and Orchomenos in-flocks and Cynosura in-beasts.

Aepytios idem ardor agros Psophidaque celsam
Aepytian the-same ardor fields and-Psophis lofty

vastat et Herculeo vulgatos robore montes
lays-waste and by-Herculean famed strength mountains

monstriferumque Erymanthon et aerisonum Stymphalon.
and-monster-bearing Erymanthus and bronze-sounding Stymphalus.

Arcades hi, gens una viris, sed dissona cultu
Arcadians these, a-race one in-men, but discordant in-dress

scinditur: hi Paphias myrtos a stirpe recurvant
it-is-split: these Paphian myrtles from the-stock bend-back

et pastorali meditantur proelia trunco,
and with-the-shepherd's practice battles trunk,

his arcus, his tela sudes, his cassida crines
for-these bows, for-these as-weapons stakes, for-these a-helmet the-hair

integit, Arcadii morem tenet ille galeri,
covers, of-the-Arcadian the-custom holds that-one cap,

ille Lycaoniae rictu caput asperat ursae.
that-one of-the-Lycaonian with-the-gape his-head roughens bear.

Hos belli coetus iurataque pectora Marti
These of-war gatherings and-sworn breasts to-Mars

milite vicinae nullo iuvere Mycenae;
with-soldier neighboring no helped Mycenae;

funereae tunc namque dapes mediique recursus
funereal then for feasts and-of-the-midday the-returns

Solis, et hic alii miscebant proelia fratres.
of-the-Sun, and here other were-mingling battles brothers.

Atalanta hears the news and races to stop her son, reminding him how she lately saved him from a boar and that the omens at Diana's temple are bad; she begs him to wait until he is grown, but her son and the leaders console her, and she entrusts him to Adrastus. At Thebes the people take up arms reluctantly, out of shame for the king and his cause; their walls are old and crumbling. Eteocles slinks like a wolf that has raided a fold and fears the shepherds.

Iamque Atalantaeas implerat nuntius aures,
And-now Atalanta's had-filled the-messenger ears,
ire ducem bello totamque impellere natum
to-go the-leader to-war and-whole to-drive her-son
Arcadiam: tremuere gradus, elapsaque iuxta
Arcadia: trembled her-steps, and-slipped near
tela; fugit silvas pernicior alite vento
the-weapons; she-flees the-woods swifter than-winged wind
saxa per et plenis obstantia flumina ripis,
rocks through and with-full opposing rivers banks,
qualis erat, correpta sinus et vertice flavum
such-as she-was, snatched-up in-her-folds and from-the-crown golden
crinem sparsa noto; raptis velut aspera natis
hair scattered to-the-wind; with-snatched as rough cubs
praedatoris equi sequitur vestigia tigris.
of-the-plunderer horse follows the-footprints a-tigress.
Ut stetit adversisque impegit pectora frenis
When she-stood and-into-the-opposing struck breast reins
(ille ad humum pallens): 'unde haec furibunda cupido,
(he toward the-ground pale): 'whence this raging desire,
nate, tibi? teneroque unde improba pectore virtus?
son, to-you? and-in-tender whence shameless breast valor?

Tu bellis aptare viros, tu pondera ferre
You for-wars to-fit men, you the-weights to-bear
Martis et ensiferas inter potes ire catervas?
of-Mars and sword-bearing among can to-go bands?
Quamquam utinam vires! nuper te pallida vidi,
Although would-that strength! lately you pale I-saw,
dum premis obnixo venabula comminus apro,
while you-press straining the-hunting-spears at-close-quarters boar,
poplite succiduo resupinum ac paene ruentem,
with-knee giving-way on-your-back and almost falling,
et ni curvato torsissem spicula cornu,
and had-I-not from-curved hurled darts horn,
nunc ubi bella tibi? Nil te mea tela iuvabunt
now where wars for-you? Not-at-all you my weapons will-help
nec teretes arcus maculis nec discolor atris
nor smooth bows with-spots nor many-colored black
hic, cui fidis, equus; magnis conatibus instas,
this, in-whom you-trust, horse; great with-efforts you-press-on,
vix Dryadum thalamis Erymanthiadumque furori
hardly for-the-Dryads' chambers and-of-the-Erymanthian frenzy
Nympharum mature puer. Sunt omina vera:
of-the-Nymphs ripe boy. Are omens true:
mirabar, cur templa mihi tremuisse Dianae
I-wondered, why the-temples to-me to-have-trembled of-Diana
nuper et inferior vultu dea visa, sacrisque
lately and lower in-face the-goddess seemed, and-from-sacred
exuviae cecidere tholis; hoc segnior arcus
spoils fell domes; by-this more-sluggish the-bow
difficilesque manus et nullo in vulnere certae.
and-difficult my-hands and no in wound sure.

Expecta, dum maior honos, dum firmius aevum,
Wait, until greater honor, until firmer age,
dum roseis venit umbra genis vultusque recedunt
until on-rosy comes shadow cheeks and-features recede
ore mei; tunc bella tibi ferrumque, quod ardes,
from-face my; then wars for-you and-steel, which you-burn-for,
ipsa dabo, et nullo matris revocabere fletu.
myself shall-give, and by-no of-your-mother you-will-be-called-back weeping.
Nunc refer arma domum! vos autem hunc ire sinetis,
Now carry-back the-arms home! you however him to-go will-allow,
Arcades, o saxis nimirum et robore nati!'
Arcadians, O from-rocks surely and from-oak born!'
Plura cupit; fusi circum natusque ducesque
More she-desires; poured around both-son and-leaders
solantur minuuntque metus, et iam horrida clangunt
console and-lessen fears, and now bristling clang
signa tubae. Nequit illa pio dimittere natum
signals trumpets. Cannot she from-dutiful to-release her-son
complexu multumque duci commendat Adrasto.
embrace and-much to-the-leader commends to-Adrastus.
At parte ex alia Cadmi Mavortia plebes,
But side from other of-Cadmus Martial the-commons,
maesta ducis furiis nec molli territa fama,
sad at-the-leader's furies nor by-gentle terrified rumor,
quando his vulgatum descendere viribus Argos,
since with-these spread to-descend forces Argos,
tardius illa quidem regis causaeque pudore,
more-slowly it indeed of-the-king and-of-the-cause from-shame,
verum bella movet. Nulli destringere ferrum
but wars moves. To-none to-unsheathe steel

impetus, aut umeros clipeo clausisse paterno
the-impulse, or the-shoulders with-shield to-have-enclosed ancestral
dulce nec alipedum iuga comere, qualia belli
sweet nor of-the-wing-footed the-yokes to-comb, such-as of-war
gaudia; deiecti trepidas sine mente, sine ira
the-joys; cast-down trembling without mind, without anger
promisere manus; hic aegra in sorte parentem
have-promised hands; this-one sick in lot his-father
unanimum, hic dulces primaevae coniugis annos
like-minded, this-one sweet of-young-married wife the-years
ingemit, et gremio miseros accrescere natos.
groans-over, and in-the-lap wretched to-grow children.
Bellator nulli caluit deus; ipsa vetusto
The-warrior in-none grew-hot god; themselves with-ancient
moenia lapsa situ magnaeque Amphionis arces
the-walls slipped neglect and-of-great of-Amphion the-citadels
iam fessum senio nudant latus, et fide sacra
now weary from-old-age bare their-side, and by-the-lyre sacred
aequatos caelo surdum atque ignobile muros
equaled to-heaven deaf and ignoble the-walls
firmat opus. Tamen et Boeotis urbibus ultrix
strengthens work. Yet also on-Boeotian cities avenging
adspirat ferri rabies, nec regis iniqui
breathes of-steel the-madness, nor of-the-king unjust
subsidio, quantum socia pro gente moventur.
for-help, so-much-as allied for race are-they-moved.
Ille velut pecoris lupus expugnator opimi,
He like of-the-flock a-wolf the-stormer rich,
pectora tabenti sanie gravis hirtaque saetis
in-breast with-wasting gore heavy and-shaggy with-bristles

ora cruentata deformis hiantia lana,
mouth bloodied disfigured gaping with-wool,
decedit stabulis huc illuc turbida versans
withdraws from-the-stalls hither thither wild turning
lumina, si duri comperta clade sequantur
eyes, if hard with-discovered slaughter should-follow
pastores, magnique fugit non inscius ausi.
shepherds, and-of-great flees not unknowing daring.

IV.8 · THE BACCHANT'S PROPHECY; TIRESIAS

Rumor spreads fears through Thebes of portents and the enemy's approach. A Bacchant runs down from the citadel crying to Bacchus that his own people must pay for an unjust reign; she sees two bulls of one blood locking horns and dying in alternate rage, the worse and guilty one he who claims the common pasture alone. Eteocles, terrified, turns to the blind prophet Tiresias, who holds that nothing lays the future so open as shades drawn from the threshold of death, and prepares the rites of Lethe by the Ismenus.

Accumulat crebros turbatrix Fama pavores:
Heaps-up frequent the-disturber Rumor fears:
hic iam dispersos errare Asopide ripa
this-one now scattered to-wander on-the-Asopian bank
Lernaeos equites; hic te, bacchate Cithaeron,
Lernaean horsemen; this-one you, Bacchic Cithaeron,
ille rapi Teumeson ait noctisque per umbras
that-one to-be-seized Teumesus says and-of-night through the-shades
nuntiat excubiis vigiles arsisse Plataeas.
announces in-the-watches the-sentinels to-have-burned Plataea.
Nam Tyrios sudare lares et sanguine Dircen
For Tyrian to-sweat the-hearth-gods and with-blood Dirce

inriguam fetusque novos iterumque locutam
watered and-births new and-again to-have-spoken
Sphinga petris, cui non et scire licentia passim
the-Sphinx from-the-rocks, to-whom not both to-know license everywhere
et vidisse fuit? Novus his super anxia turbat
and to-have-seen was? New to-these besides anxious disturbs
corda metus: sparsis subito correpta canistris
hearts a-fear: scattered suddenly seized the-baskets
silvestris regina chori decurrit in aequum
of-the-woodland the-queen chorus runs-down onto the-level
vertice ab Ogygio trifidamque huc tristis et illuc
the-summit from Ogygian and-three-cleft hither sad and thither
lumine sanguineo pinum deiectat et ardens
with-eye bloody pine tosses and burning
erectam attonitis implet clamoribus urbem:
roused astonished fills with-shouts the-city:
'Omnipotens Nysaee pater, cui gentis avitae
'Almighty Nysaean father, in-whom of-the-race ancestral
pridem lapsus amor, tu nunc horrente sub Arcto
long-since slipped love, you now bristling under the-Bear
bellica ferrato rapidus quatis Ismara thyrso
warlike with-iron-tipped swift shake Ismara thyrsus
pampineumque iubes nemus inreptare Lycurgo,
and-vine-leafed bid the-grove to-creep-upon Lycurgus,
aut tumidum Gangen aut claustra novissima rubrae
or swollen Ganges or the-bars furthest of-the-red
Tethyos Eoasque domos flagrante triumpho
Tethys and-the-Eastern homes with-blazing triumph
perfuris, aut Hermi de fontibus aureus exis:
you-rage-through, or of-Hermus from the-springs golden you-come-out:

at tua progenies, positis gentilibus armis
but your offspring, laid-down ancestral arms
quae tibi festa litant, bellum lacrimasque metumque
which to-you festive-rites offer, war and-tears and-fear
cognatumque nefas, iniusti munera regni,
and-kindred horror, of-unjust the-gifts reign,
pendimus. Aeternis potius me, Bacche, pruinis
pay. In-eternal rather me, Bacchus, frosts
trans et Amazoniis ululatum Caucason armis
beyond and with-Amazonian howled-at the-Caucasus arms
siste ferens, quam monstra ducum stirpemque profanam
set carrying, than the-monsters of-the-leaders and-the-stock profane
eloquar. En urges; alium tibi, Bacche, furorem
I-should-speak-out. Lo you-urge; another to-you, Bacchus, frenzy
iuravi: similes video concurrere tauros;
I-swore: like I-see to-clash bulls;
idem ambobus honos unusque ab origine sanguis;
the-same for-both honor and-one from origin blood;
ardua conlatis obnixi cornua miscent
lofty with-brought-together straining horns they-mingle
frontibus alternaque truces moriuntur in ira.
foreheads and-alternate fierce they-die in anger.
Tu peior, tu cede nocens, qui solus avita
You worse, you yield guilty-one, who alone ancestral
gramina communemque petis defendere montem.
grasses and-common seek to-defend mountain.
A miseri morum! bellastis sanguine tanto,
Ah wretched-ones of-character! you-have-warred with-blood so-great,
et saltum dux alter habet.' Sic fata gelatis
and the-glade the-leader other holds.' Thus having-spoken with-frozen

vultibus et Baccho iam demigrante quievit.
face and with-Bacchus now moving-out she-became-quiet.

At trepidus monstro et variis terroribus impar
But trembling at-the-portent and to-varied terrors unequal

longaevi rex vatis opem tenebrasque sagaces
of-the-long-lived the-king prophet the-help and-darkness wise

Tiresiae, qui mos incerta paventibus, aeger
of-Tiresias, which the-custom uncertain-things for-the-fearing, sick

consulit. Ille deos non larga caede iuvencum,
consults. He the-gods not by-lavish slaughter of-bullocks,

non alacri pinna aut verum salientibus extis,
not by-eager wing or the-truth by-leaping entrails,

nec tripode implicito numerisque sequentibus astra,
nor by-tripod entangled and-by-numbers following the-stars,

turea nec supra volitante altaria fumo
of-incense nor above flying altars smoke

tam penitus, durae quam mortis limine manes
so deeply, hard as of-death from-the-threshold the-shades

elicitos, patuisse refert, Lethaeaque sacra
drawn-out, to-lie-open reports, and-Lethaean rites

et mersum Ismeni subter confinia ponto
and plunged of-Ismenus beneath the-confines sea

miscentis parat ante ducem, circumque bidentum
mingling prepares before the-leader, and-around of-sheep

visceribus laceris et odori sulphuris aura
with-entrails torn and of-scented of-sulfur breath

graminibusque novis et longo murmure purgat.
and-with-grasses new and long murmur purifies.

In an ancient grove sacred to Diana, beside the plain where Cadmus' sown men fought, Tiresias sacrifices black cattle, pours wine, milk, honey, and blood into trenches, and builds pyres for Hecate, the Furies, Pluto, and Proserpina. Manto offers the blood and the entrails. Tiresias, feeling the heat of the fire, calls on the powers of the underworld to send up the dead: let Mercury lead the pious from Elysium, and Tisiphone the guilty, most of them descended from Cadmus.

Silva capax aevi validaque incurva senecta,
A-forest capacious of-age and-strong bent by-old-age,
aeternum intonsae frondis, stat pervia nullis
eternally of-unshorn foliage, stands penetrable by-no
solibus; haut illam brumae minuere, Notusve
suns; not it winters have-lessened, or-the-South-wind
ius habet aut Getica Boreas impactus ab ursa.
right has or Getic Boreas driven from the-bear.
Subter operta quies, vacuusque silentia servat
Beneath covered quiet, and-empty silences keeps
horror et exclusae pallet male lucis imago.
dread and of-shut-out grows-pale ill of-light the-image.
Nec caret umbra deo: nemori Latonia cultrix
Nor lacks the-shade a-god: to-the-grove Latonian a-cultivator
additur; hanc piceae cedrique et robore in omni
is-added; her of-pitch-pine and-of-cedar and oak in every
effictam sanctis occultat silva tenebris.
fashioned with-holy hides the-forest darkness.
Huius inaspectae luco stridere sagittae
Of-her unseen in-the-grove to-whistle arrows
nocturnique canum gemitus, ubi limina patrui
and-nocturnal of-dogs the-howls, when the-thresholds of-her-uncle

effugit inque novae melior redit ora Dianae;
she-has-escaped and-into new better returns the-face of-Diana;
aut ubi fessa iugis, dulcesque altissima somnos
or when weary from-the-ridges, and-sweet highest sleep
lux movet, hic late iaculis circum undique fixis
light moves, here widely with-javelins around everywhere fixed
effusam pharetra cervicem excepta quiescit.
spread-out on-the-quiver her-neck received she-rests.
Extra immane patens tellus Mavortia campi,
Outside hugely opening the-land Martial of-the-plain,
fetus ager Cadmo, durus qui vomere primo
fruitful the-field for-Cadmus, hard who with-plowshare first
post consanguineas acies sulcosque nocentes
after kindred battle-lines and-furrows guilty
ausus humum versare et mollia sanguine prata
dared the-ground to-turn and soft with-blood meadows
eruit; ingentes infelix terra tumultus
dug-up; huge unhappy the-earth uproars
lucis adhuc medio solaque in nocte per umbras
of-light still in-the-middle and-alone in night through the-shades
expirat, nigri cum vana in proelia surgunt
breathes-out, black when vain into battles rise
terrigenae; fugit incepto tremibundus ab arvo
earth-born; flees begun trembling from field
agricola insanique domum rediere iuvenci.
the-farmer and-mad home have-returned bullocks.

Hic senior vates (Stygiis accommoda quippe
Here the-elder prophet (to-Stygian suited for
terra sacris, vivoque placent sola pinguia tabo)
the-land rites, and-with-living please the-soils rich gore)

velleris obscuri pecudes armentaque sisti
of-fleece dark cattle and-herds to-be-set
atra monet, quaecumque gregum pulcherrima cervix
black warns, whatever of-the-flocks most-beautiful neck
ducitur; ingemuit Dirce maestusque Cithaeron,
is-led; groaned Dirce and-sad Cithaeron,
et nova clamosae stupuere silentia valles.
and new loud-echoing were-astonished-at silences valleys.
Tum fera caeruleis intexit cornua sertis
Then the-fierce with-dark-blue weaves horns garlands
ipse manu tractans, notaeque in limine silvae
himself with-hand handling, and-of-the-known on the-threshold forest
principio largos noviens tellure cavata
at-the-beginning ample nine-times in-earth hollowed
inclinat Bacchi latices et munera verni
he-tilts of-Bacchus the-liquors and gifts of-spring
lactis et Actaeos imbres suadumque cruorem
milk and Actaean showers and-persuasive gore
manibus; adgeritur, quantum bibit arida tellus.
to-the-shades; is-heaped-up, as-much-as drinks dry earth.
Trunca dehinc nemora advolvunt, maestusque sacerdos
Lopped then groves they-roll-up, and-sad the-priest
tris Hecatae totidemque satis Acheronte nefasto
three for-Hecate and-as-many to-those-sprung from-Acheron unspeakable
virginibus iubet esse focos; tibi, rector Averni,
maidens bids to-be hearths; to-you, ruler of-Avernus,
quamquam infossus humo superat tamen agger in auras
although dug-in in-the-ground surpasses yet a-pile into the-airs
pineus; hunc iuxta cumulo minor ara profundae
of-pine; this beside in-heap smaller an-altar to-deep

erigitur Cereri; frontes atque omne cupressus
is-raised to-Ceres; fronts and all cypress
intexit plorata latus. Iamque ardua ferro
weaves wept-over side. And-now lofty with-steel
signati capita et frugum libamine puro
marked heads and of-grain with-libation pure
in vulnus cecidere greges; tunc innuba Manto
into the-wound fell the-flocks; then unwed Manto
exceptum pateris praelibat sanguinem, et omnes
received in-bowls first-tastes the-blood, and all
ter circum acta pyras sancti de more parentis
thrice around led the-pyres of-her-holy by custom parent
semineces fibras et adhuc spirantia reddit
half-dead entrails and still breathing returns
viscera, nec rapidas cunctatur frondibus atris
vitals, nor swift delays to-the-boughs black
subiectare faces. Atque ipse sonantia flammis
to-put-under torches. And himself resounding with-flames
virgulta et tristes crepuisse ut sensit acervos
brushwood and sad to-have-crackled as he-felt heaps
Tiresias (illi nam plurimus ardor anhelat
Tiresias (for-him for very-much heat pants
ante genas impletque cavos vapor igneus orbes),
before his-cheeks and-fills the-hollow vapor fiery orbs),
exclamat (tremuere rogi et vox impulit ignem):
shouts (trembled the-pyres and the-voice drove the-fire):
'Tartareae sedes et formidabile regnum
'Tartarean seats and formidable kingdom
mortis inexpletae, tuque, o saevissime fratrum,
of-death insatiate, and-you, O most-savage of-the-brothers,

cui servire dati Manes aeternaque sontum
to-whom to-serve given the-Shades and-eternal of-the-guilty
supplicia atque imi famulatur regia mundi,
punishments and of-the-lowest serves the-palace world,
solvite pulsanti loca muta et inane severae
open to-the-knocker places silent and the-void of-stern
Persephones vulgusque cava sub nocte repostum
Persephone and-the-crowd hollow under night stored
elicite, et plena redeat Styga portitor alno.
draw-out, and with-full let-return the-Styx the-ferryman alder.
Ferte simul gressus, nec simplex manibus esto
Bring together your-steps, nor single for-the-shades let-be
in lucem remeare modus; tu separe coetu
into light to-return manner; you separate from-the-gathering
Elysios, Persei, pios, virgaque potenti
Elysian, daughter-of-Perses, the-pious, and-with-wand powerful
nubilus Arcas agat; contra per crimina functis,
clouded the-Arcadian let-drive; against-them through crimes for-the-dead,
qui plures Erebo pluresque e semine Cadmi,
who more in-Erebus and-more from the-seed of-Cadmus,
angue ter excusso et flagranti praevia taxo,
with-snake thrice shaken and with-blazing going-before yew,
Tisiphone, dux pande diem, nec lucis egentes
Tisiphone, as-leader open the-day, nor of-light needing
Cerberus occursu capitum detorqueat umbras.'
Cerberus with-the-meeting of-his-heads should-turn-aside shades.'

Eteocles trembles like a hunter awaiting a lion. When the shades are slow to come, Tiresias threatens them with darker powers. Manto announces that they are heard: she sees the underworld open, its rivers, Pluto on his throne with the Furies, Death counting the people, Minos judging, and the monsters. Tiresias asks her not to describe what all know, but to call up the Argive and Theban dead and tell him their faces and bearing.

Dixerat, et pariter senior Phoebeaque virgo
He-had-spoken, and equally the-elder and-the-Phoebean maiden
erexere animos; illi formidine nulla
raised their-spirits; to-them by-fear no
(quippe in corde deus), solum timor obruit ingens
(for in heart the-god), alone fear overwhelmed huge
Oedipodioniden, vatisque horrenda canentis
the-son-of-Oedipus, and-of-the-prophet dreadful-things singing
nunc umeros nunc ille manus et vellera pressat
now the-shoulders now he the-hands and fleeces presses
anxius inceptisque velit desistere sacris.
anxious and-from-the-begun would-wish to-desist rites.
Qualis Gaetulae stabulantem ad confraga silvae
As of-a-Gaetulian stabled at the-thickets forest
venator longo motum clamore leonem
a-hunter by-long roused by-shouting a-lion
expectat firmans animum et sudantia nisu
waits steadying his-mind and sweating with-effort
tela premens; gelat ora pavor gressusque tremescunt,
weapons pressing; freezes his-face panic and-his-steps tremble,
quis veniat quantusque, sed horrida signa frementis
who may-come and-how-great, but bristling the-signs of-the-roaring

accipit et caeca metitur murmura cura.
receives and with-blind measures murmurs care.

Atque hic Tiresias nondum adventantibus umbris:
And here Tiresias not-yet arriving the-shades:

'Testor' ait, 'Diras, quibus hunc saturavimus ignem
'I-call-to-witness' he-says, 'The-Dirae, for-whom this we-have-sated fire

laevaque convulsae dedimus carchesia terrae,
and-with-the-left of-the-torn have-given cups earth,

iam nequeo tolerare moram. Cassusne sacerdos
now I-cannot endure the-delay. Empty-whether a-priest

audior? an, rabido iubeat si Thessala cantu,
am-I-heard? or, raging should-bid if a-Thessalian with-chant,

ibitis? et Scythicis quotiens medicata venenis
will-you-go? and with-Scythian as-often-as drugged poisons

Colchis aget, trepido pallebunt Tartara motu?
the-Colchian should-drive, with-trembling will-grow-pale Tartarus movement?

Nostri cura minor, si non attollere bustis
Of-us the-care less, if not to-raise from-tombs

corpora nec plenas antiquis ossibus urnas
bodies nor full with-ancient bones urns

egerere et mixtos caelique Erebique sub unum
to-bring-out and mingled both-of-heaven and-of-Erebus under one

funestare deos libet aut exanguia ferro
to-defile gods it-pleases or bloodless with-steel

ora sequi atque aegras functorum carpere fibras?
faces to-follow and sick of-the-dead to-pluck entrails?

Ne tenues annos nubemque hanc frontis opacae
Do-not thin the-years and-cloud this of-the-brow shadowed

spernite, ne, moneo; et nobis saevire facultas.
spurn, do-not, I-warn; also for-us to-rage the-power.

Novimus et quidquid dici noscique timetis,
We-know also whatever to-be-spoken and-to-be-known you-fear,
et turbare Hecaten, ni te, Thymbraee, vererer
and to-disturb Hecate, unless you, Thymbraean, I-revered
et triplicis mundi summum, quem scire nefastum.
and of-the-threefold world the-highest, whom to-know is-forbidden.
Illum — sed taceo: prohibet tranquilla senectus.
Him —but I-am-silent: forbids tranquil old-age.
Iamque ego vos —' Avide subicit Phoebeia Manto:
And-now I you—' Eagerly adds Phoebean Manto:
'Audiris, genitor, vulgusque exangue propinquat.
'You-are-heard, father, and-the-crowd bloodless draws-near.
Panditur Elysium chaos, et telluris opertae
Is-opened Elysian chaos, and of-the-earth covered
dissilit umbra capax, silvaeque et nigra patescunt
leaps-apart the-shadow capacious, and-woods and black lie-open
flumina, liventes Acheron eiectat harenas.
rivers, livid Acheron casts-out sands.
Fumidus atra vadis Phlegethon incendia volvit,
Smoky black with-shallows Phlegethon fires rolls,
et Styx discretis interflua Manibus obstat.
and the-Styx for-separated flowing-between Shades stands-in-the-way.
Ipsum pallentem solio circumque ministras
Himself pale on-the-throne and-around the-attendant
funestorum operum Eumenidas Stygiaeque severos
of-deadly works Eumenides and-of-Stygian stern
Iunonis thalamos et torva cubilia cerno.
of-Juno the-chambers and grim couches I-see.
In speculis Mors atra sedet dominique silentes
On watchtowers Death black sits and-for-her-master silent

adnumerat populos; maior superimminet ordo.
counts the-peoples; greater over-hangs order.
Arbiter hos dura versat Cortynius urna
The-judge these with-hard turns Gortynian urn
vera minis poscens adigitque expromere vitas
truth with-threats demanding and-compels to-bring-forth lives
usque retro et tandem poenarum lucra fateri.
right-back backward and at-last of-punishments the-gains to-confess.
Quid tibi monstra Erebi, Scyllas et inane furentes
Why to-you the-monsters of-Erebus, Scyllas and empty raging
Centauros solidoque intorta adamante Gigantum
Centaurs and-with-solid twisted adamant of-the-Giants
vincula et angustam centeni Aegaeonis umbram?'
bonds and narrow of-hundred-armed Aegaeon shade?'
'Immo' ait, 'o nostrae regimen viresque senectae,
'Rather' he-says, 'O of-our guide and-strength old-age,
ne vulgata mihi. Quis enim remeabile saxum
not common-things for-me. Who indeed the-returning stone
fallentesque lacus Tityonque alimenta volucrum
and-deceiving pools and-Tityos the-food of-birds
et caligantem longis Ixiona gyris
and darkening on-long Ixion wheels
nesciat? Ipse etiam, melior cum sanguis, opertas
does-not-know? I-myself also, better when blood, covered
inspexi sedes, Hecate ducente, priusquam
looked-into seats, Hecate leading, before
obruit ora deus totamque in pectora lucem
overwhelmed my-face the-god and-whole into my-breast light
detulit. Argolicas magis huc appelle precando
brought-down. The-Argolic rather hither call by-praying

Thebanasque animas; alias avertere gressus
and-Theban souls; others to-turn-away their-steps
lacte quater sparsas maestoque excedere luco,
with-milk four-times sprinkled and-sad to-depart grove,
nata, iube; tum qui vultus habitusque, quis ardor
daughter, bid; then what face and-bearing, what heat
sanguinis adfusi, gens utra superbior adsit,
of-blood poured-on, race which prouder may-be-present,
dic agedum nostramque mone per singula noctem.'
tell come-now and-our warn through each-thing night.'

IV.11 · THE THEBAN AND ARGIVE DEAD

Manto sees Cadmus and Harmonia drink the blood, then the sown men, Cadmus' daughters and grandsons, Pentheus pursued by his mother, Athamas, Actaeon still with his antlers, and Niobe defiant. Tiresias' sight returns. He sees the Argive dead weeping, Abas, Proetus, Phoroneus, Pelops, and Oenomaus, and takes it as an omen favorable to Thebes; then the fifty who ambushed Tydeus, Chthonius, Chromis, Phegeus, and Maeon among them, threatening the king. Blaming fate, he drives them back.

Iussa facit carmenque serit, quo dissipat umbras,
The-orders she-does and-a-chant sows, by-which she-scatters the-shades,
quo regit et sparsas; qualis, si crimina demas,
by-which she-rules also the-scattered; such-as, if the-crimes you-take-away,
Colchis et Aeaeo simulatrix litore Circe.
the-Colchian and on-the-Aeaean the-feigner shore Circe.
Tunc his sacrificum dictis adfata parentem:
Then with-these the-sacrificing words addressed her-parent:
'Primus sanguineo submittit inertia Cadmus
'First in-bloody lowers sluggish Cadmus

ora lacu, iuxtaque virum Cythereia proles
face pool, and-beside her-husband the-Cytherean offspring
insequitur, geminusque bibit de vertice serpens.
follows, and-twin drinks from the-summit serpent.
Terrigenae comites illos, gens Martia, cingunt,
Earth-born companions them, a-race Martial, surround,
quis aevi mensura dies, manus omnis in armis,
for-whom of-life the-measure a-day, hand all on arms,
omnis et in capulo; prohibent obstantque ruuntque
all also on the-hilt; they-forbid and-stand-in-the-way and-rush
spirantum rabie, nec tristi incumbere sulco
of-the-breathing with-rage, nor on-the-sad to-lean furrow
cura, sed alternum sitis exhaurire cruorem.
care, but alternate thirst to-drain gore.
Proxima natarum manus est fletique nepotes.
Next of-the-daughters the-band is and-wept-for grandsons.
Hic orbam Autonoen et anhelam cernimus Ino
Here bereaved Autonoe and panting we-see Ino
respectantem arcus et ad ubera dulce prementem
looking-back-at the-bow and to her-breasts sweetly pressing
pignus et oppositis Semelen a ventre lacertis.
pledge and with-opposed Semele from her-womb arms.
Penthea iam fractis genetrix Cadmeia thyrsis,
Pentheus now with-broken his-mother Cadmean thyrsi,
iamque remissa deo, pectusque adoperta cruentum,
and-now released by-the-god, and-in-breast covered bloody,
insequitur planctu; fugit ille per avia Lethes
pursues with-beating; flees he through trackless-places of-Lethe
et Stygios super usque lacus, ubi mitior illum
and Stygian beyond as-far-as pools, where gentler him

flet pater et lacerum componit corpus Echion.
weeps-for his-father and torn composes body Echion.
Tristem nosco Lycum dextramque in terga reflexum
Sad I-recognize Lycus and-the-right-hand onto his-back bent-back
Aeoliden, umero iactantem funus onusto.
the-son-of-Aeolus, on-his-shoulder tossing a-corpse burdened.
Necdum ille aut habitus aut versae crimina formae
Not-yet he either his-bearing or of-his-changed the-crimes form
mutat Aristaeo genitus: frons aspera cornu,
changes from-Aristaeus born: brow rough with-horn,
tela manu, reicitque canes in vulnus hiantes.
weapons in-hand, and-he-throws-back dogs into wound gaping.
Ecce autem magna subit invidiosa caterva
Behold however with-great comes envious band
Tantalis et tumido percenset funera vultu,
the-daughter-of-Tantalus and with-swollen reviews her-deaths face,
nil deiecta malis; iuvat effugisse deorum
not-at-all cast-down by-evils; it-pleases to-have-escaped of-the-gods
numina et insanae plus iam permittere linguae.'
the-deities and to-mad more now to-allow tongue.'
Talia dum patri canit intemerata sacerdos,
Such-things while to-her-father sings the-inviolate priestess,
illius elatis tremefacta adsurgere vittis
his raised trembling to-rise fillets
canities tenuesque impelli sanguine vultus.
white-hair and-thin to-be-driven with-blood face.
Nec iam firmanti baculo nec virgine fida
Nor now on-the-steadying staff nor on-the-maiden faithful
nititur, erectusque solo 'desiste canendo,
he-leans, and-raised from-the-ground 'cease singing,

nata' ait, 'externae satis est mihi lucis, inertes
daughter' he-says, 'of-outer enough is to-me light, sluggish
discedunt nebulae, et vultum niger exerit aer.
depart the-mists, and the-face black puts-forth air.
Umbrisne an supero dimissus Apolline complet
By-the-shades-whether or by-the-upper sent-down Apollo fills
spiritus? en video quacumque audita: sed ecce
the-spirit? lo I-see wherever heard: but behold
maerent Argolici deiecto lumine manes!
grieve Argolic with-cast-down eye the-shades!
Torvus Abas Proetusque nocens mitisque Phoroneus
Grim Abas and-Proetus guilty and-gentle Phoroneus
truncatusque Pelops et saevo pulvere sordens
and-maimed Pelops and savage with-dust filthy
Oenomaus largis umectant imbribus ora.
Oenomaus with-ample wet showers their-faces.
Auguror hinc Thebis belli meliora. Quid autem
I-augur hence for-Thebes of-war better-things. What however
hi grege condenso (quantum arma et vulnera monstrant,
these with-flock dense (as-much-as arms and wounds show,
pugnaces animae) nobis in sanguine multo
warlike souls) at-us in blood much
oraque pectoraque et falso clamore levatas
both-faces and-breasts and with-false shouting raised
intendunt sine pace manus? Rex, fallor, an hi sunt
stretch without peace hands? King, am-I-deceived, or these are
quinquaginta illi? cernis Chthoniumque Chrominque
fifty those? you-see both-Chthonius and-Chromis
Phegeaque et nostra praesignem Maeona lauro.
and-Phegeus and with-our distinguished Maeon laurel.

Ne saevite, duces, nihil hic mortalibus ausum,
Do-not rage, leaders, nothing here by-mortal dared,
credite, consiliis: hos ferrea neverat annos
believe, counsels: these iron had-spun years
Atropos. Existis casus: bella horrida nobis,
Atropos. You-have-come-out-of the-misfortunes: wars dreadful for-us,
atque iterum Tydeus.' Dicit, vittaque ligatis
and again Tydeus.' He-speaks, and-with-the-fillet bound
frondibus instantes abigit monstratque cruorem.
leaves the-pressing drives-off and-shows the-gore.

IV.12 · LAIUS PROPHESIES

The shade of Laius stands apart, glaring at his grandson Eteocles, refusing the blood. Tiresias coaxes him with promises of burial. Laius protests that he is asked to prophesy for Oedipus' sons, but he foretells it: a war is coming that will destroy the Argives by monsters and the gods' weapons; Thebes will win, and Eteocles' brother will not hold the kingdom; but the cruel father will triumph through the brothers' mutual crime. Then he fades, leaving them in doubt.

Stabat inops comitum Cocyti in litore maesto
Stood without companions of-Cocytus on shore sad
Laius, immiti quem iam deus ales Averno
Laius, from-cruel whom already the-god winged Avernus
reddiderat, dirumque tuens obliqua nepotem
had-given-back, and-dire looking-at sidelong his-grandson
(noscit enim vultu) non ille aut sanguinis haustus,
(he-recognizes indeed by-face) not he either of-blood drafts,
cetera ceu plebes, aliumve accedit ad imbrem,
the-rest as-if the-commons, or-another approaches toward shower,

immortale odium spirans. Sed prolicit ultro
immortal hatred breathing. But entices further
Aonius vates: 'Tyriae dux inclite Thebes,
the-Aonian prophet: 'Of-Tyrian leader famous Thebes,
cuius ab interitu non ulla Amphionis arces
whose from death not any of-Amphion the-citadels
vidit amica dies, o iam satis ulte cruentum
has-seen friendly day, O now enough having-avenged bloody
exitium et multum placata minoribus umbra,
end and much appeased by-descendants shade,
quo miserande fugis? Iacet ille in funere longo,
where pitiable-one do-you-flee? Lies he in death long,
quem fremis, et iunctae sentit confinia mortis,
whom you-roar-at, and of-joined feels the-borders death,
obsitus exhaustos paedore et sanguine vultus
covered exhausted with-filth and with-blood face
eiectusque die: sors leto durior omni,
and-cast-out from-day: a-lot than-death harder any,
crede mihi! Quaenam immeritum vitare nepotem
believe me! What undeserving to-avoid grandson
causa tibi? confer vultum et satiare litanti
cause for-you? bring-together your-face and be-sated with-sacrificed
sanguine venturasque vices et funera belli
blood and-the-coming changes and deaths of-war
pande vel infensus vel res miserate tuorum.
unfold either hostile or the-affairs pitying of-your-own.
Tunc ego et optata vetitam transmittere Lethen
Then I both longed-for forbidden to-cross Lethe
puppe dabo placidumque pia tellure reponam
by-ship will-give and-calm in-pious earth shall-lay-again

et Stygiis mandabo deis.' Mulcetur honoris
and to-the-Stygian shall-commend gods.' He-is-soothed of-honor
muneribus tingitque genas, dein talia reddit:
by-the-gifts and-wets his-cheeks, then such-things returns:
'Cur tibi versanti manes, aequaeve sacerdos,
'Why for-you turning-over the-shades, equal-in-age priest,
lectus ego augurio tantisque potissimus umbris,
chosen I for-augury and-of-so-great preferred shades,
qui ventura loquar? satis est meminisse priorum.
who things-to-come should-speak? enough it-is to-remember former-things.
Nostrane praeclari, pudeat, consulta nepotes
Our-whether famous, let-it-shame, decrees grandsons
poscitis? Illum, illum sacris adhibete nefastis,
do-you-demand? Him, him to-rites apply unspeakable,
qui laeto fodit ense patrem, qui semet in ortus
who with-glad stabbed sword his-father, who himself into his-risings
vertit et indignae regerit sua pignora matri.
turned and to-unworthy throws-back his-own pledges mother.
Et nunc ille deos Furiarumque atra fatigat
And now he the-gods and-of-the-Furies black wearies
concilia et nostros rogat haec in proelia manes.
councils and our asks these into battles shades.
Quodsi adeo placui deflenda in tempora vates,
But-if so-much I-have-pleased to-be-wept for times as-prophet,
dicam equidem, quo me Lachesis, quo torva Megaera
I-shall-speak indeed, as-far-as me Lachesis, as-far-as grim Megaera
usque sinunt: bellum, innumero venit undique bellum
right-on allow: war, with-countless comes from-everywhere war
agmine, Lernaeosque trahit fatalis alumnos
column, and-the-Lernaean draws fatal nurslings

Gradivus stimulis; hos terrae monstra deumque
Gradivus with-goads; these of-earth monsters and-of-gods
tela manent pulchrique obitus et ab igne supremo
weapons await and-beautiful deaths and from fire last
sontes lege morae. Certa est victoria Thebis,
the-guilty by-the-law of-delay. Certain is victory for-Thebes,
ne trepida, nec regna ferox germanus habebit,
do-not tremble, nor the-kingdom fierce your-brother will-have,
sed Furias geminumque nefas miserosque per enses
but the-Furies and-twin horror and-wretched through swords
(ei mihi!) crudelis vincit pater.' Haec ubi fatus,
(ah me!) cruel conquers the-father.' These-things when having-spoken,
labitur et flexa dubios ambage relinquit.
he-slips-away and with-bent doubtful riddle leaves-them.

IV.13 · BACCHUS DRIES THE RIVERS

The Argives reach Nemea. Bacchus, returning from his conquests in Thrace, sees the army and fears for his Thebes; to delay them he calls on the river nymphs to hide their waters underground, promising them honor. At once every river and spring of Argos dries up, the Inachus, Lerna, Erasinus, Asterion, and the rest, and the men and herds suffer as the Nile's valley does before the flood.

Interea gelidam Nemeen et conscia laudis
Meanwhile cold Nemea and conscious of-the-glory
Herculeae dumeta vaga legione tenebant
Herculean thickets with-wandering legion were-holding
Inachidae; iam Sidonias avertere praedas,
the-Inachidae; now Sidonian to-drive-off booty,
sternere, ferre domos ardent instantque. Quis iras
to-lay-low, to-carry homes they-burn and-press-on. Who the-angers

flexerit, unde morae, medius quis euntibus error,
may-have-bent, whence the-delays, in-the-middle what for-the-going wandering,
Phoebe, doce: nos rara manent exordia famae.
Phoebus, teach: us rare await beginnings of-fame.
Marcidus edomito bellum referebat ab Haemo
Languid tamed the-war was-bringing-back from Haemus
Liber; ibi armiferos geminae iam sidera brumae
Liber; there arms-bearing of-twin now the-stars winter
orgia ferre Getas canumque virescere dorso
orgies to-bear the-Getae and-white to-grow-green on-the-ridge
Othryn et uvifera Rhodopen adsueverat umbra,
Othrys and with-grape-bearing Rhodope he-had-accustomed shade,
et iam pampineos materna ad moenia currus
and now vine-leafed his-mother's toward walls chariot
promovet; effrenae dextra laevaque sequuntur
moves-forward; unbridled on-the-right and-on-the-left follow
lynces, et uda mero lambunt retinacula tigres.
lynxes, and wet with-wine lick the-reins tigers.
Post exultantes spolia armentalia portant
Behind exulting spoils of-the-herd carry
seminecesque lupos scissasque Mimallones ursas.
and-half-dead wolves and-torn the-Mimallones bears.
Nec comitatus iners: sunt illic Ira Furorque
Nor the-escort sluggish: are there Anger and-Frenzy
et Metus et Virtus et numquam sobrius Ardor
and Fear and Valor and never sober Ardor
succiduique gradus et castra simillima regi.
and-sinking steps and a-camp most-like to-the-king.
Isque ubi pulverea Nemeen effervere nube
And-he when with-dusty Nemea to-boil-up cloud

conspicit et solem radiis ignescere ferri,
sees and the-sun with-rays to-catch-fire of-steel,
necdum compositas belli in certamina Thebas,
not-yet arranged of-war for contests Thebes,
concussus visis, quamquam ore et pectore marcet,
shaken by-the-sights, although in-face and in-breast he-is-languid,
aeraque tympanaque et biforem reticere tumultum
both-the-bronzes and-the-drums and two-mouthed to-hush the-uproar
imperat, attonitas qui circum plurimus aures,
he-orders, astonished which around very-much ears,
atque ita: 'me globus iste meamque excindere gentem
and thus: 'me band that and-my to-destroy race
apparat; ex longo recalet furor; hoc mihi saevum
prepares; from long grows-hot-again madness; this to-me savage
Argos et indomitae bellum ciet ira novercae.
Argos and of-untamed war stirs the-anger stepmother.
Usque adeone parum cineri data mater iniquo
Right so-far-whether too-little to-the-ash given my-mother unjust
natalesque rogi quaeque ipse micantia sensi
and-the-natal pyres and-what myself flashing I-felt
fulgura? Reliquias etiam fusaeque sepulcrum
lightnings? The-remains even and-of-the-poured-out the-tomb
paelicis et residem ferro petit impia Theben.
of-the-concubine and sluggish with-steel seeks impious Thebes.
Nectam fraude moras; illum, illum tendite campum,
I-shall-weave with-trick delays; that, that make-for plain,
tendite, io, comites.' Hyrcanae ad signa iugales
make-for, io, comrades.' The-Hyrcanian at the-signals yoked-steeds
intumuere iubas, dicto prius adstitit arvis.
swelled their-manes, than-the-word sooner he-stood in-the-fields.

Tempus erat, medii cum solem in culmina mundi
Time it-was, of-the-middle when the-sun to the-summits world
tollit anhela dies, ubi tardus hiantibus arvis
raises panting day, when slow on-gaping fields
stat vapor atque omnes admittunt aethera luci.
stands vapor and all admit the-ether groves.
Undarum vocat ille deas mediusque silentum
Of-the-waters calls he the-goddesses and-in-the-middle of-the-silent
incipit: 'agrestes fluviorum numina Nymphae
begins: 'rustic of-rivers deities Nymphs
et nostri pars magna gregis, perferte laborem,
and of-our part great flock, carry-through the-toil,
quem damus. Argolicos paulum mihi fontibus amnes
which we-give. The-Argolic a-little for-me with-springs rivers
stagnaque et errantes obducite pulvere rivos.
and-pools and wandering cover with-dust streams.
Praecipuam Nemeen, qua nostra in moenia bellis
Especially Nemea, where our onto walls for-wars
nunc iter, ex alto fugiat liquor; adiuvat ipse
now the-way, from the-deep let-flee the-liquid; helps himself
Phoebus adhuc summo, cesset ni vestra voluntas,
Phoebus still on-the-highest, should-cease unless your will,
limite; vim coeptis indulgent astra, meaeque
boundary; force to-the-undertakings grant the-stars, and-my
aestifer Erigones spumat canis. Ite volentes,
heat-bringing of-Erigone foams dog. Go willing,
ite in operta soli; post vos ego gurgite pleno
go into the-covered-parts of-the-soil; afterward you I with-flood full
eliciam, et quae dona meis amplissima sacris,
shall-draw-out, and what gifts to-my most-ample rites,

vester habebit honos, nocturnaque furta licentum
your shall-have honor, and-the-nightly thefts of-the-licentious
cornipedum et cupidas Faunorum arcebo rapinas.'
horn-footed and greedy of-the-Fauns I-shall-ward-off plunderings.'
Dixerat; ast illis tenuis percurrere visus
He-had-spoken; but over-them thin to-run seemed
ora situs, viridisque comis exhorruit umor.
over-their-faces mold, and-green from-their-hair bristled moisture.
Protinus Inachios haurit sitis ignea campos:
Straightaway the-Inachian drains thirst fiery plains:
diffugere undae, squalent fontesque lacusque,
fled-apart the-waters, are-squalid both-springs and-lakes,
et cava ferventi durescunt flumina limo.
and hollow with-boiling harden rivers mud.
Aegra solo macies, deceptum margine ripae
Sick from-the-ground leanness, deceived by-the-margin of-the-bank
stat pecus, atque amnes quaerunt armenta natatos.
stands the-flock, and rivers seek herds swum.
Sic ubi se magnis refluus suppressit in antris
So when itself great flowing-back has-pressed-down in caves
Nilus et Eoae liquentia pabula brumae
the-Nile and of-the-Eastern melting the-fodder winter
ore premit, fumant desertae gurgite valles
in-mouth presses, smoke deserted of-flood the-valleys
et patris undosi sonitus expectat hiulca
and of-its-father wavy the-sounds awaits gaping
Aegyptos, donec Phariis alimenta rogatus
Egypt, until to-the-Pharian nourishments asked
donet agris magnumque inducat messibus annum.
he-gives fields and-great brings-in to-the-harvests year.

Aret Lerna nocens, aret Lyrcius et ingens
Is-dry Lerna guilty, is-dry Lyrcius and huge
Inachus advolvensque natantia saxa Charadrus
Inachus and-rolling swimming rocks Charadrus
et numquam in ripis audax Erasinus et aequus
and never in banks daring Erasinus and equal
fluctibus Asterion: ille alta per avia notus
to-the-waves Asterion: he deep through trackless-places known
audiri et longe pastorum rumpere somnos.
to-be-heard and far of-shepherds to-break sleep.

IV.14 · HYPSIPYLE

Only the Langia keeps its waters hidden in the woods. The army is tormented by thirst, their horses frenzied, and the scouts find nothing. At last they meet Hypsipyle, nursing Opheltes, son of Lycurgus. Adrastus, taking her for a goddess, begs her for water and promises her offerings. She replies that she is a mortal, once a king's daughter, now nurse to another's child, and offers to guide them to the Langia; she sets the infant down on the grass and soothes his crying.

Una tamen tacitas, sed iussu numinis, undas
One yet silent, but by-the-order of-the-deity, waters
haec quoque secreta nutrit Langia sub umbra.
this also in-secret nourishes Langia under shade.
Nondum illi raptus dederat lacrimabile nomen
Not-yet to-her snatched had-given a-tearful name
Archemorus, nec fama deae; tamen avia servat
Archemorus, nor fame of-goddess; yet the-trackless she-keeps
et nemus et fluvium; manet ingens gloria nympham,
both grove and river; awaits huge glory the-nymph,

cum tristem Hypsipylen ducibus sudatus Achaeis
when sad Hypsipyle by-the-leaders sweated-over Achaean
ludus et atra sacrum recolet trieteris Ophelten.
the-games and black the-rite will-renew the-triennial Opheltes.
Ergo nec ardentes clipeos vectare nec artos
Therefore neither burning shields to-carry nor tight
thoracum nexus (tantum sitis horrida torret)
of-corslets the-meshes (so-much thirst dreadful scorches)
sufficiunt; non ora modo angustisque perusti
suffice; not mouths only and-narrow burnt-through
faucibus, interior sed vis quatit; aspera pulsu
throats, inner but force shakes; rough with-beating
corda, gelant venae, et siccis cruor aeger adhaeret
hearts, freeze veins, and to-dry blood sick clings
visceribus; tunc sole putris, tunc pulvere tellus
vitals; then by-the-sun crumbling, then with-dust the-earth
exhalat calidam nubem. Non spumeus imber
breathes-out a-hot cloud. Not foamy shower
manat equum: siccis inlidunt ora lupatis,
flows of-the-horses: on-dry they-dash mouths bits,
ora catenatas procul exertantia linguas;
mouths chained far thrusting-out tongues;
nec legem dominosve pati, sed perfurit arvis
nor law or-masters to-endure, but rages-through the-fields
flammatum pecus. Huc illuc impellit Adrastus
inflamed the-cattle. Hither thither drives Adrastus
exploratores, si stagna Licymnia restent,
scouts, if pools Licymnian remain,
si quis Amymones superet liquor: omnia caecis
if any of-Amymone survive liquid: all by-blind

ignibus hausta sedent, nec spes umentis Olympi,
fires drained sit, nor hope of-wet Olympus,
ceu flavam Libyen desertaque pulveris Afri
as-if golden Libya and-the-deserts of-dust African
conlustrent nullaque umbratam nube Syenen.
they-should-survey and-by-no shaded cloud Syene.
Tandem inter silvas (sic Euhius ipse pararat)
At-last among the-woods (so Euhius himself had-prepared)
errantes subitam pulchro in maerore tuentur
wandering sudden beautiful in sorrow they-behold
Hypsipylen; illi quamvis et ab ubere Opheltes
Hypsipyle; from-her although also from the-breast Opheltes
non suus, Inachii proles infausta Lycurgi,
not her-own, of-the-Inachian the-offspring unlucky Lycurgus,
dependet (neglecta comam nec dives amictu),
hangs (neglected in-hair nor rich in-dress),
regales tamen ore notae, nec mersus acerbis
royal yet in-face marks, nor sunk by-bitter
extat honos. Tunc haec adeo stupefactus Adrastus:
stands-out honor. Then these-things so stupefied Adrastus:
'Diva potens nemorum (nam te vultusque pudorque
'Goddess powerful of-groves (for you both-face and-modesty
mortali de stirpe negant), succurre propinquis
mortal from stock deny), help kindred
gentibus; Arquitenens seu te Latonia casto
nations; the-Bow-holding whether you Latonian chaste
de grege transmisit thalamis, seu lapsus ab astris
from flock sent to-a-marriage-chamber, or slipped from the-stars
non humilis fecundat amor (neque enim ipse deorum
not humble makes-fruitful love (nor indeed himself of-the-gods

arbiter Argolidum thalamis novus) aspice maesta
the-arbiter to-Argive chambers new) look-at sad
agmina. Nos ferro meritas excindere Thebas
columns. Us with-steel deserving to-destroy Thebes
mens tulit, imbelli sed nunc sitis aspera fato
mind carried, by-unwarlike but now thirst harsh by-fate
submittitque animos et inertia robora carpit.
both-lowers our-spirits and sluggish strengths seizes.
Da fessis in rebus opem, seu turbidus amnis,
Give weary in affairs help, whether turbid river,
seu tibi foeda palus; nihil hac in sorte pudendum,
or to-you foul swamp; nothing this in lot shameful,
nil humile est; tu nunc ventis pluvioque rogaris
nothing humble is; you now for-winds and-rainy are-asked
pro Iove, tu refugas vires et pectora bellis
instead-of Jupiter, you the-fleeing strengths and breasts for-wars
exanimata reple: sic hoc tibi sidere dextro
lifeless refill: so this for-you under-star favorable
crescat onus. Tantum reduces det flectere gressus
may-grow the-burden. Only returned may-grant to-bend steps
Iuppiter, o quanta belli donabere praeda!
Jupiter, O with-how-much of-war you-will-be-presented booty!
Dircaeos tibi, diva, greges numerumque rependam
Dircaean to-you, goddess, flocks and-the-number I-shall-repay
sanguinis, et magna lucus signabitur ara.'
of-blood, and with-great the-grove shall-be-marked altar.'
Dixit, et orantis media inter anhelitus ardens
He-spoke, and of-the-praying middle between panting burning
verba rapit, cursuque animae labat arida lingua;
the-words snatches, and-in-the-course of-breath totters dry tongue;

idem omnes pallorque viros flatusque soluti
the-same all both-pallor the-men and-gasping loosened
oris habet. Reddit demisso Lemnia vultu:
of-the-mouth holds. Returns with-lowered the-Lemnian face:
'Diva quidem vobis, etsi caelestis origo est,
'Goddess indeed to-you, although heavenly the-origin is,
unde ego? mortales utinam haut transgressa fuissem
whence I? mortal would-that not having-passed I-had
luctibus! Altricem mandati cernitis orbam
griefs! The-nurse of-an-entrusted you-see bereaved
pignoris; at nostris an quis sinus uberaque ulla,
pledge; but to-our whether any bosom and-breasts any,
scit deus, et nobis regnum tamen et pater ingens.
knows the-god, and to-us a-kingdom yet and father huge.
Sed quid ego haec, fessosque optatis demoror undis?
But why I these-things, and-weary from-longed-for delay waters?
Mecum age nunc, si forte vado Langia perennes
With-me come now, if by-chance in-ford Langia perennial
servat aquas; solet et rabidi sub limite Cancri
keeps waters; she-is-wont even of-raging under the-bound Cancer
semper, et Icarii quamvis iuba fulguret astri,
always, and of-Icarian although the-mane should-flash star,
ire tamen.' Simul haerentem, ne tarda Pelasgis
to-flow yet.' At-once clinging, lest slow for-the-Pelasgians
dux foret, a miserum vicino caespite alumnum
guide she-should-be, ah wretched on-the-neighboring turf nursling
(sic Parcae volvere) locat ponique negantis
(so the-Parcae rolled) places and-to-be-put-down refusing
floribus adgestis et amico murmure dulces
with-flowers heaped-up and with-friendly murmur sweet

solatur lacrimas: qualis Berecyntia mater,
consoles tears: such-as the-Berecyntian mother,
dum parvum circa iubet exultare Tonantem
while little around bids to-dance the-Thunderer
Curetas trepidos; illi certantia plaudunt
the-Curetes trembling; they vying beat
785 orgia, sed magnis resonat vagitibus Ide.
orgies, but with-great resounds wailings Ida.

IV.15 · THE ARMY DRINKS

The child plays in the grass, unaware of the danger. Hypsipyle leads the army through the wood until they hear the river and Argus cries out, Water! The army rushes into the stream all at once, kings and horses jumbled together, muddying it as if in battle. One of the kings praises Nemea and the river, promising it honor in peace and war.

At puer in gremio vernae telluris et alto
But the-boy in the-lap of-spring earth and deep
gramine nunc faciles sternit procursibus herbas
in-grass now easy flattens with-forward-runs grasses
in vultum nitens, caram modo lactis egeno
onto his-face leaning, dear now of-milk needing
nutricem plangore ciens iterumque renidens
the-nurse with-wailing summoning and-again smiling
790 et teneris meditans verba inluctantia labris
and with-tender practicing words struggling lips
miratur nemorum strepitus aut obvia carpit
marvels-at of-the-groves the-noises or meeting-things plucks
aut patulo trahit ore diem nemorique malorum
or with-open draws mouth the-day and-in-the-grove of-evils

inscius et vitae multum securus inerrat.
unknowing and of-life much carefree wanders.
Sic tener Odrysia Mavors nive, sic puer ales
So tender in-Odrysian Mavors snow, so the-boy winged
vertice Maenalio, talis per litora reptans
on-summit Maenalian, such along the-shores crawling
improbus Ortygiae latus inclinabat Apollo.
mischievous of-Ortygia the-side was-tilting Apollo.
Illi per dumos et opaca virentibus umbris
They through thickets and shady with-green shadows
devia pars cingunt, pars arta plebe sequuntur
trackless part surround, part in-tight crowd follow
praecelerantque ducem. Medium subit illa per agmen
and-hasten-ahead the-guide. The-middle goes she through the-column
non humili festina modo; iamque amne propinquo
not in-humble hurrying manner; and-now with-the-river near
rauca sonat vallis, saxosumque impulit aures
hoarse sounds the-valley, and-rocky struck their-ears
murmur: ibi exultans conclamat ab agmine primus
a-murmur: there exulting shouts from the-column first
sicut erat levibus tollens vexilla maniplis
just-as he-was on-light raising the-standards maniples
Argus 'aquae!' longusque virum super ora cucurrit
Argus 'water!' and-long of-men over the-mouths ran
clamor 'aquae!' Sic Ambracii per litora ponti
a-shout 'water!' So of-the-Ambracian along the-shores sea
nauticus in remis iuvenum monstrante magistro
nautical on the-oars of-youths showing the-master
fit sonus inque vicem contra percussa reclamat
arises a-sound and-in turn back struck shouts-back

terra, salutatus cum Leucada pandit Apollo.
the-land, greeted when Leucas opens Apollo.
Incubuere vadis passim discrimine nullo
They-leaned-upon the-waters everywhere with-distinction no
turba simul primique, nequit secernere mixtos
the-throng together and-the-first, cannot separate the-mingled
aequa sitis, frenata suis in curribus intrant
equal thirst, reined their-own in chariots enter
armenta, et pleni dominis armisque feruntur
herds, and filled with-masters and-arms are-carried
quadripedes; hos turbo rapax, hos lubrica fallunt
the-four-footed; these the-whirl rapacious, these slippery deceive
saxa, nec implicitos fluvio reverentia reges
rocks, nor entangled in-the-river reverence kings
proterere aut mersisse vado clamantis amici
to-trample or to-have-sunk in-the-ford of-a-shouting friend
ora. Fremunt undae, longusque a fontibus amnis
the-face. Roar the-waters, and-long from the-springs the-river
diripitur, modo lene virens et gurgite puro
is-torn-apart, lately gently green and with-flood pure
perspicuus nunc sordet aquis egestus ab imis
transparent now is-foul with-waters brought-out from the-lowest
alveus; inde tori riparum et proruta turbant
the-bed; then the-mounds of-the-banks and torn-up disturb
gramina; iam crassus caenoque et pulvere sordens,
grasses; now thick both-with-mud and with-dust foul,
quamquam expleta sitis, bibitur tamen. Agmina bello
although sated thirst, it-is-drunk yet. Columns in-war
decertare putes iustumque in gurgite Martem
to-fight-it-out you-would-think and-a-just in the-flood Mars

perfurere aut captam tolli victoribus urbem.
to-rage-through or a-captured to-be-taken-away by-the-victors city.
Atque aliquis regum medio circumfluus amni:
And one of-the-kings in-the-middle flowed-around river:
'Silvarum, Nemea, longe regina virentum,
'Of-the-woods, Nemea, far queen green,
lecta Iovi sedes, quae tum non Herculis actis
chosen by-Jupiter seat, who then not by-Hercules' deeds
dura magis, rabidi cum colla comantia monstri
hard more, of-the-raging when the-neck maned monster
angeret et tumidos animam angustaret in artus:
he-choked and swollen the-breath narrowed into limbs:
hac saevisse tenus populorum in coepta tuorum
thus to-have-raged far of-the-peoples against the-undertakings your
sufficiat tuque o cunctis insuete domari
let-it-suffice and-you O by-all unused to-be-tamed
solibus, aeternae largitor corniger undae,
suns, of-eternal bestower horned water,
laetus eas, quacumque domo gelida ora resolvis
glad may-you-go, from-whatever home cold your-mouths you-loose
immortale tumens; neque enim tibi cana repostas
immortally swelling; nor indeed for-you white stored
bruma nives raptasque alio de fonte refundit
winter snows and-snatched another from spring pours-back
arcus aquas gravidive indulgent nubila Cori,
the-rainbow waters or-pregnant indulge clouds of-Corus,
sed tuus et nulli ruis expugnabilis astro.
but your-own and by-no you-rush to-be-stormed star.
Te nec Apollineus Ladon nec Xanthus uterque
You neither Apollo's Ladon nor Xanthus either

Spercheosque minax Centaureusque Lycormas
and-Spercheos threatening and-Centaurean Lycormas
praestiterint; tu pace mihi, tu nube sub ipsa
will-surpass; you in-peace for-me, you cloud under the-very
armorum festasque super celebrabere mensas.
of-arms and-festive over will-be-celebrated tables.
A Iove primus honos, bellis modo laetus ovantes
After Jupiter the-first honor, from-wars only glad (us)-exulting
accipias fessisque libens iterum hospita pandas
may-you-receive and-to-the-weary gladly again hospitable open
flumina defensasque velis agnoscere turmas.'
streams and-defended may-you-wish to-recognize the-squadrons.'

BOOK V

V.1 · ADRASTUS ASKS HYPSIPYLE'S STORY

Refreshed by the river, the army forms up again and marches on, as eager as migrating cranes. Adrastus, standing under an ash among his chiefs, asks their savior who she is, for her bearing shows her noble. Hypsipyle, weeping, says she is Thoas' daughter, the one woman who saved her father in the Lemnian crime, and now a captive slave of Lycurgus. Adrastus begs her to tell the whole story while the army files out of the wood.

Pulsa sitis fluvio, populataque gurgitis alveum
Driven-off the-thirst by-the-river, and-having-plundered of-the-flood the-bed
agmina linquebant ripas amnemque minorem;
the-columns were-leaving the-banks and-the-stream lessened;
acrior et campum sonipes rapit et pedes arva
keener both the-plain the-steed sweeps and the-foot-soldier the-fields
implet ovans, rediere viris animique minaeque
fills exulting, have-returned to-the-men both-spirits and-threats
votaque, sanguineis mixtum ceu fontibus ignem
and-prayers, bloody mingled as-if from-springs fire
hausissent belli magnasque in proelia mentes.
they-had-drunk of-war and-great for battles minds.
Dispositi in turmas rursus legemque severi
Arranged into squadrons again and-the-law of-strict
ordinis, ut cuique ante locus ductorque, monentur
order, as to-each before place and-leader, they-are-warned
instaurare vias. Tellus iam pulvere primo
to-renew the-ways. The-earth now with-dust first
crescit, et armorum transmittunt fulgura silvae.
grows, and of-arms send-across the-lightnings the-woods.

Qualia trans pontum Phariis defensa serenis
Such-as across the-sea by-the-Pharian defended clear-skies
rauca Paraetonio decedunt agmina Nilo,
hoarse from-the-Paraetonian depart columns Nile,
cum fera ponit hiems: illae clangore fugaci,
when fierce lays-down winter: they with-clangor fleeting,
umbra fretis arvisque, volant, sonat avius aether.
a-shadow on-straits and-fields, fly, sounds trackless the-ether.
Iam Borean imbresque pati, iam nare solutis
Now Boreas and-rains to-endure, now to-swim in-loosened
amnibus et nudo iuvat aestivare sub Haemo.
rivers and bare it-pleases to-summer under Haemus.
Hic rursus simili procerum vallante corona
Here again with-a-like of-nobles fencing crown
dux Talaionides, antiqua ut forte sub orno
the-leader son-of-Talaus, ancient as by-chance under an-ash
stabat et admoti nixus Polynicis in hastam:
was-standing and of-approached leaning of-Polynices on spear:
'At tamen, o quaecumque es' ait, 'cui, gloria tanta,
'But yet, O whoever you-are' he-says, 'to-whom, glory so-great,
venimus innumerae fatum debere cohortes
we-have-come countless fate to-owe cohorts
(quem non ipse deum sator aspernetur honorem):
(which not himself of-gods the-sower would-scorn honor):
dic age, quando tuis alacres absistimus undis,
tell come-on, since from-your eager we-withdraw waters,
quae domus aut tellus, animam quibus hauseris astris?
what house or land, breath under-which you-drew stars?
Dic, quis et ille pater? neque enim tibi numina longe,
Tell, who also that father? nor indeed from-you deities far,

transierit fortuna licet, maiorque per ora
should-have-passed fortune although, and-greater through the-face
sanguis, et adflicto spirat reverentia vultu.'
blood, and in-afflicted breathes reverence countenance.'
Ingemit, et paulum fletu cunctata modesto
She-groans, and a-little with-weeping having-delayed modest
Lemnias orsa refert: 'Immania vulnera, rector,
the-Lemnian words returns: 'Huge wounds, ruler,
integrare iubes, Furias et Lemnon et artis
to-renew you-bid, the-Furies and Lemnos and tight
arma inserta toris debellatosque pudendo
arms thrust-into couches and-subdued by-shameful
ense mares; redit ecce nefas et frigida cordi
sword the-males; returns behold the-horror and cold to-my-heart
Eumenis. O miserae, quibus hic furor additus! o nox!
the-Eumenid. O wretched-women, to-whom this madness added! O night!
O pater! illa ego nam, pudeat ne forte benignae
O father! that I for, it-should-shame lest perchance of-the-kindly
hospitis, illa, duces, raptum quae sola parentem
hostess, that-one, leaders, snatched who alone parent
occului. Quid longa malis exordia necto?
hid. Why long to-evils beginnings do-I-weave?
Et vos arma vocant magnique in corde paratus.
Also you arms call and-great in heart preparations.
Hoc memorasse sat est: claro generata Thoante
This to-have-recalled enough is: from-famous begotten Thoas
servitium Hypsipyle vestri fero capta Lycurgi.'
servitude Hypsipyle of-your I-bear captive Lycurgus.'
Advertere animos, maiorque et honora videri
They-turned their-minds, and-greater and honored she-seemed

parque operi tanto; cunctis tunc noscere casus
and-equal to-work so-great; in-all then to-know the-misfortunes
ortus amor, pater ante alios hortatur Adrastus:
arose love, the-father before others urges Adrastus:
'Immo age, dum primi longe damus agmina vulgi
'Rather come, while of-the-first far we-give the-columns crowd
nec facilis Nemea latas evolvere vires,
nor easy Nemea broad to-unroll forces,
quippe obtenta comis et ineluctabilis umbra,
for covered with-foliage and inescapable shade,
pande nefas laudesque tuas gemitusque tuorum,
unfold the-horror and-praises your and-groans of-your-people,
unde hos ad venias regno deiecta labores.
whence these to you-come from-the-kingdom cast-down toils.
Dulce loqui miseris veteresque reducere questus.'
Sweet to-speak for-the-wretched and-old to-bring-back complaints.'

V.2 · VENUS' ANGER ON LEMNOS

Hypsipyle begins: Lemnos, Vulcan's island, once flourished, but its women neglected Venus. The goddess, it is said, left Paphos, laid aside her girdle and her doves, and was seen flitting through the bedrooms with other fires among the Furies. Love fled the island; the men preferred warring in Thrace and wintering there to their homes, and the wives lamented together and gazed across the sea at Thrace.

Incipit: 'Aegaeo premitur circumflua Nereo
She-begins: 'By-the-Aegean is-pressed flowed-around Nereus
Lemnos, ubi ignifera fessus respirat ab Aetna
Lemnos, where fire-bearing weary breathes-again from Aetna
Mulciber; ingenti tellurem proximus umbra
Mulciber; with-huge the-land nearest shade

vestit Athos nemorumque obscurat imagine pontum;
clothes Athos and-of-groves darkens with-the-image the-sea;
Thraces arant contra, Thracum fatalia nobis
the-Thracians plow opposite, of-the-Thracians fatal to-us
litora, et inde nefas. Florebat dives alumnis
shores, and thence the-horror. Was-flourishing rich in-nurslings
terra, nec illa Samo fama Delove sonanti
the-land, nor it than-Samos in-fame or-Delos resounding
peior et innumeris quas spumifer adsilit Aegon.
worse and than-countless which foamy leaps-upon Aegon.
Dis visum turbare domos, nec pectora culpa
To-the-gods it-seemed-good to-disturb the-homes, nor breasts of-guilt
nostra vacant: nullos Veneri sacravimus ignes,
our are-empty: no to-Venus we-consecrated fires,
nulla deae sedes; movet et caelestia quondam
no of-the-goddess seat; moves even heavenly at-times
corda dolor lentoque inrepunt agmine Poenae.
hearts grief and-with-slow creep column the-Punishments.
Illa Paphon veterem centumque altaria linquens
She Paphos old and-a-hundred altars leaving
nec vultu nec crine prior solvisse iugalem
neither in-face nor in-hair former to-have-loosed the-nuptial
ceston et Idalias procul ablegasse volucres
girdle and Idalian far to-have-sent-away birds
fertur; erant certe, media quae noctis in umbra
is-said; there-were certainly, middle who of-night in shade
divam alios ignes maioraque tela gerentem
the-goddess other fires and-greater weapons bearing
Tartareas inter thalamis volitasse sorores
Tartarean among in-chambers to-have-flitted sisters

vulgarent; utque implicitis arcana domorum
spread-abroad; and-how with-entwined the-secrets of-homes
anguibus et saeva formidine cuncta replevit
snakes and with-savage dread all filled
limina nec fidi populum miserata mariti,
thresholds nor faithful the-people having-pitied husband,
protinus a Lemno teneri fugistis Amores,
at-once from Lemnos tender you-fled Loves,
mutus Hymen versaeque faces et frigida iusti
mute Hymen and-turned torches and cold of-the-lawful
cura tori! nullae redeunt in gaudia noctes,
the-care bed! no return into joys nights,
nullus in amplexu sopor est, Odia aspera ubique
no in embrace sleep is, Hatreds harsh everywhere
et Furor et medio recubat Discordia lecto.
and Fury and in-the-middle lies Discord bed.
Cura viris tumidos adversa Thracas in ora
Care to-the-men swollen hostile Thracians into the-faces
eruere et saevam bellando frangere gentem.
to-dig-out and savage by-warring to-break the-race.
Cumque domus contra stantesque in litore nati,
And-though their-homes facing and-standing on the-shore children,
dulcius Edonas hiemes Arctonque prementem
sweeter Edonian winters and-the-Bear pressing
excipere, aut tandem tacita post proelia nocte
to-receive, or at-last silent after battles by-night
fractorum subitas torrentum audire ruinas.
of-broken the-sudden torrents to-hear crashes.
Illae autem tristes (nam me tunc libera curis
They however sad (for me then free from-cares

virginitas annique tegunt) sub nocte dieque
maidenhood and-years cover) under night and-day
adsiduis aegrae in lacrimis solantia miscent
constant sick in tears consoling mingle
conloquia, aut saevam spectant trans aequora Thracen.
conversations, or savage they-look-at across the-seas Thrace.

V.3 · POLYXO'S PLOT

At midday, with omens of thunder and smoke from Vulcan's mountain, old Polyxo rushes out like a Bacchant and calls the women to Pallas' citadel. With drawn sword she urges them to kill their husbands: three years they have been widows, while a Thracian wife has avenged her bed; she herself will kill her four sons and their father. As she speaks the Lemnian fleet appears, and she claims that Venus appeared to her in a dream and laid a sword on her bed.

Sol operum medius summo librabat Olympo
The-Sun of-the-works midway on-highest was-balancing Olympus
lucentes, ceu staret, equos; quater axe sereno
shining, as-if it-stood, horses; four-times with-axle serene
intonuit, quater antra dei fumantis anhelos
it-thundered, four-times the-caves of-the-god smoking panting
exeruere apices, ventisque absentibus Aegon
thrust-out peaks, and-with-winds absent Aegon
motus et ingenti percussit litora ponto:
stirred and with-huge struck the-shores sea:
cum subito horrendas aevi matura Polyxo
when suddenly dreadful in-age ripe Polyxo
tollitur in furias thalamisque insueta relictis
is-raised into frenzies and-from-the-marriage-chamber unaccustomed left

evolat. Insano veluti Teumesia thyias
flies-out. By-the-mad as Teumesian a-thyiad
rapta deo, cum sacra vocant Idaeaque suadet
seized god, when the-rites call and-Idaean urges
buxus et a summis auditus montibus Euhan:
boxwood and from the-highest heard mountains Euhan:
sic erecta genas aciemque offusa trementi
so raised in-cheeks and-in-her-gaze suffused with-trembling
sanguine desertam rabidis clamoribus urbem
blood the-deserted with-raging shouts city
exagitat, clausasque domus et limina pulsans
she-harries, and-shut homes and thresholds beating
concilium vocat; infelix comitatus eunti
the-council she-calls; unhappy as-companions to-her-going
haerebant nati. Atque illa non segnius omnes
clung her-sons. And that-way not more-sluggishly all
erumpunt tectis, summasque ad Pallados arces
burst-out from-the-houses, and-highest toward of-Pallas citadel
impetus: huc propere stipamur et ordine nullo
a-rush: here hastily we-are-crowded and in-order no
congestae; stricto mox ense silentia iussit
heaped; with-drawn soon sword silence she-ordered
hortatrix scelerum et medio sic orsa profari:
the-exhorter of-crimes and in-the-middle thus having-begun to-speak:
"Rem summam instinctu superum meritique doloris,
"A-deed supreme by-the-prompting of-the-gods-above and-of-deserved of-grief,
o viduae (firmate animos et pellite sexum!)
O widows (steady your-spirits and drive-out your-sex!)
Lemniades, sancire paro; si taedet inanes
Lemniads, to-sanction I-prepare; if it-wearies empty

aeternum servare domos turpemque iuventae
forever to-guard homes and-shameful of-youth
flore situm et longis steriles in luctibus annos,
in-flower the-neglect and long barren in griefs years,
inveni, promitto, viam (nec numina desunt),
I-have-found, I-promise, a-way (nor deities are-lacking),
qua renovanda Venus: modo par insumite robur
by-which to-be-renewed Venus: only equal take-up strength
luctibus, atque adeo primum hoc mihi noscere detur.
to-griefs, and so-far first this to-me to-know let-it-be-given.
Tertia canet hiems; cui conubialia vincla
The-third whitens winter; to-whom nuptial bonds
aut thalami secretus honos? cui coniuge pectus
or of-the-chamber secret honor? to-whom by-a-husband the-breast
intepuit? cuius vidit Lucina labores?
has-grown-warm? whose saw Lucina labors?
Dicite, vel iustos cuius pulsantia menses
Tell, or just whose beating months
vota tument? qua pace feras volucresque iugari
prayers swell? by-what peace beasts and-birds to-be-mated
mos datus. Heu segnes! potuitne ultricia Graius
the-custom given. Alas sluggish! could-whether the-avenging Greek
virginibus dare tela pater laetusque dolorum
to-maidens give weapons father and-glad of-griefs
sanguine securos iuvenum perfundere somnos?
with-blood unsuspecting of-youths to-drench sleep?
At nos vulgus iners! quodsi propioribus actis
But we a-crowd sluggish! but-if more-near deeds
est opus, ecce animos doceat Rhodopeia coniunx,
is need, behold the-spirits let-teach the-Rhodopeian wife,

ulta manu thalamos pariterque epulata marito.
having-avenged with-hand the-marriage-bed and-equally having-feasted on-her-husband.
Nec vos immunis scelerum securave cogo.
Nor you exempt from-crimes or-secure do-I-compel.
Plena mihi domus atque ingens, en cernite, sudor.
Full to-me the-house and huge, lo look, the-sweat.
Quattuor hos una, decus et solacia patris,
Four these at-once, the-glory and the-comfort of-their-father,
in gremio, licet amplexu lacrimisque morentur,
in my-lap, although with-embrace and-tears they-delay,
transadigam ferro saniemque et vulnera fratrum
I-shall-drive-through with-steel and-the-gore and the-wounds of-brothers
miscebo patremque super spirantibus addam.
shall-mingle and-the-father over the-breathing shall-add.
Ecqua tot in caedes animum promittit?" Agebat
Does-any so-many for slaughters spirit promise?" She-was-urging
pluribus; adverso nituerunt vela profundo:
with-more; on-the-opposing gleamed sails deep:
Lemnia classis erat. Rapuit gavissa Polyxo
The-Lemnian fleet it-was. Seized rejoicing Polyxo
fortunam atque iterat: "Superisne vocantibus ultro
fortune and repeats: "The-gods-above-whether calling unasked
desumus? ecce rates! deus hos, deus ultor in iras
do-we-fail? behold ships! a-god these, a-god avenger into angers
apportat coeptisque favet. Nec imago quietis
brings and-the-undertakings favors. Nor the-image of-rest
vana meae: nudo stabat Venus ense, videri
vain my: with-naked stood Venus sword, to-seem
clara mihi somnosque super 'quid perditis aevum?'
clear to-me and-sleep above 'why do-you-waste life?'

Inquit ‘age aversis thalamos purgate maritis.
She-says ‘come with-turned-away the-chambers purify husbands.
Ipsa faces alias melioraque foedera iungam.’
I-myself torches other and-better pacts shall-join.’
Dixit, et hoc ferrum stratis, hoc, credite, ferrum
She-spoke, and this steel on-the-bed, this, believe, steel
imposuit. Quin o miserae, dum tempus agi rem,
placed. But O wretched-women, while there-is-time to-be-done the-thing,
consulite; en validis spumant eversa lacertis
take-counsel; lo by-strong foam overturned arms
aequora, Bistonides veniunt fortasse maritae.”
the-seas, Bistonian come perhaps wives.”

V.4 · THE OATH AND THE RETURN

The women roar their assent with one frenzy, and in a dark grove swear their oath before Enyo, Ceres, and the Furies, sealing it with the blood of a son of Charops’ wife. Hypsipyle trembles like a doe among wolves. The men land and sacrifice, though the omens are black. Jupiter delays the night, and darkness covers Lemnos alone; the men feast in houses and groves, telling of their battles, and the wives lie among them. Sleep descends on the doomed city.

Hinc stimuli ingentes, magnusque advolvitur astris
Hence goads huge, and-great rolls to-the-stars
clamor. Amazonio Scythiam fervere tumultu
a-shout. With-Amazonian Scythia to-boil uproar
lunatumque putes agmen descendere, ubi arma
and-crescent-shielded you-would-think the-column to-come-down, when arms
indulget pater et saevi movet ostia belli.
grants the-father and of-savage moves the-mouths war.

Nec varius fremor aut studia in contraria rapta
Nor varied the-roar or zeals into contrary snatched
dissensus ut plebe solet: furor omnibus idem,
dissension as among-the-commons is-wont: madness to-all the-same,
idem animus solare domos iuvenumque senumque
the-same spirit to-desolate homes both-of-youths and-of-old-men
praecipitare colos plenisque adfrangere parvos
to-hurl-down the-distaffs and-against-full to-dash little-ones
uberibus ferroque omnes exire per annos.
breasts and-with-steel all to-go-out through ages.
Tunc viridi luco (lucus iuga celsa Minervae
Then in-a-green grove (the-grove the-ridges lofty of-Minerva
propter opacat humum niger ipse, sed insuper ingens
near shades the-ground black itself, but above huge
mons premit et gemina pereunt caligine soles),
a-mountain presses and in-twin perish darkness suns),
hic sanxere fidem, tu Martia testis Enyo
here they-sanctioned their-faith, you Martial as-witness Enyo
atque inferna Ceres, Stygiaeque Acheronte recluso
and infernal Ceres, and-the-Stygian Acheron opened
ante preces venere deae; sed fallit ubique
before the-prayers came goddesses; but deceives everywhere
mixta Venus, Venus arma tenet, Venus admovet iras.
mingled Venus, Venus arms holds, Venus moves-up angers.
Nec de more cruor: natum Charopeia coniunx
Nor from custom the-blood: her-son the-Charopeian wife
obtulit, accingunt sese et mirantia ferro
offered, they-gird themselves and marveling with-steel
pectora congestisque avidae simul undique dextris
breast and-with-heaped greedy at-once from-everywhere right-hands

perfringunt, ac dulce nefas in sanguine vivo
break-through, and the-sweet horror in blood living
coniurant, matremque recens circumvolat umbra.
they-swear, and-his-mother fresh flies-around the-shade.
Talia cernenti mihi quantus in ossibus horror,
Such-things seeing to-me how-great in my-bones dread,
quisve per ora color! qualis cum cerva cruentis
or-what through my-face color! as when a-hind by-bloody
circumventa lupis, nullum cui pectore molli
surrounded wolves, no to-whom in-breast soft
robur et in volucri tenuis fiducia cursu,
strength and in swift slender confidence running,
praecipitat suspensa fugam, iam iamque teneri
hurls poised flight, now and-now to-be-held
credit et elusos audit concurrere morsus.
believes and eluded hears to-clash bites.
Illi aderant; primis iamque offendere carinae
They were-present; first and-now struck the-keels
litoribus, certant saltu contingere terram
shores, they-vie with-a-leap to-touch the-land
praecipites. Miseri, quos non aut horrida virtus
headlong. Wretched, whom not either dreadful valor
Marte sub Odrysio, aut medii inclementia ponti
Mars under Odrysian, or of-mid the-harshness sea
hauserit! Alta etiam superum delubra vaporant
has-swallowed! High even of-the-gods-above the-shrines they-steam
promissasque trahunt pecudes: niger omnibus aris
and-promised drag cattle: black on-all altars
ignis, et in nullis spirat deus integer extis.
the-fire, and in no breathes the-god whole entrails.

Tardius umenti noctem deiecit Olympo
More-slowly from-damp night threw-down Olympus
Iuppiter et versum miti, reor, aethera cura
Jupiter and turned with-gentle, I-think, the-ether care
sustinuit, dum fata vetat, nec longius umquam
held-up, while the-fates he-forbids, nor longer ever
cessavere novae perfecto sole tenebrae.
ceased new completed sun darkness.
Sera tamen mundo venerunt astra, sed illis
Late yet to-the-world came the-stars, but with-them
et Paros et nemorosa Thasos crebraeque relucent
both Paros and wooded Thasos and-crowded shine-again
Cyclades; una gravi penitus latet obruta caelo
the-Cyclades; one by-heavy deeply lies overwhelmed sky
Lemnos, in hanc tristes nebulae, et plaga caeca superne
Lemnos, on this sad mists, and a-region blind above
texitur, una vagis Lemnos non agnita nautis.
is-woven, one by-wandering Lemnos not recognized sailors.
Iam domibus fusi et nemorum per opaca sacrorum
Now in-the-houses poured-out and of-the-groves through the-shades of-holy
ditibus indulgent epulis vacuantque profundo
to-rich they-indulge feasts and-empty with-deep
aurum immane mero, dum quae per Strymona pugnae,
gold huge wine, while what along the-Strymon battles,
quis Rhodope gelidove labor sudatus in Haemo,
what on-Rhodope or-cold toil sweated in Haemus,
enumerare vacat. Nec non, manus impia, nuptae
to-enumerate there-is-leisure. And also, band impious, the-brides
serta inter festasque dapes quo maxima cultu
garlands among and-festive feasts in-what greatest adornment

quaeque iacent; dederat mites Cytherea suprema
each lie; had-given gentle the-Cytherean on-the-last
nocte viros longoque brevem post tempore pacem
night their-husbands and-long brief after time peace
nequiquam et miseros perituro adflaverat igni.
in-vain and the-wretched with-about-to-perish had-breathed-on fire.
Conticuere chori, dapibus ludoque licenti
Fell-silent the-choirs, to-the-feasts and-to-sport licentious
fit modus et primae decrescunt murmura noctis,
there-is a-limit and of-the-first diminish the-murmurs night,
cum consanguinei mixtus caligine Leti
when of-kindred mingled with-the-darkness Death
rore madens Stygio morituram amplectitur urbem
with-dew dripping Stygian the-about-to-die embraces city
Somnus et implacido fundit gravia otia cornu
Sleep and from-ungentle pours heavy ease horn
secernitque viros. Vigilant nuptaeque nurusque
and-singles-out the-men. Watch both-brides and-daughters-in-law
in scelus, atque hilares acuunt fera tela Sorores.
for crime, and cheerful sharpen fierce weapons the-Sisters.

The women fall on the sleeping men like lionesses on a herd. Gorge kills Elymus, who dies seeking her embrace; Hypsipyle sees her half-brothers Cydon and Crenaeus die, her betrothed Gyas killed by Myrmidone, and Epopeus by his mother; Lycaste weeps over her twin Cydimus but is forced to kill him. When Hypsipyle sees Alcimede carrying her father's head, she runs to her father Thoas, tells him all, and leads him through the city strewn with the slaughtered at their feasts.

Invasere nefas, cuncto sua regnat Erinys
They-attacked the-horror, in-every her-own reigns Erinys
pectore. Non aliter Scythicos armenta per agros
breast. Not otherwise Scythian herds through fields
Hyrcanae clausere leae, quas exigit ortu
Hyrcanian have-enclosed lionesses, whom drives-out at-dawn
prima fames, avidique implorant ubera nati.
first hunger, and-greedy implore the-udders cubs.
Quos tibi nam, dubito, scelerum de mille figuris
Which to-you for, I-doubt, of-crimes from a-thousand shapes
expediam casus. Elymum temeraria Gorge
should-I-unfold misfortunes. Elymus reckless Gorge
evinctum ramis altaque in mole tapetum
bound with-boughs and-high on heap of-coverlets
efflantem somno crescentia vina superstans
breathing-out in-sleep rising wine standing-over
vulnera disiecta rimatur veste, sed illum
for-wounds with-thrown-apart searches garment, but him
infelix sopor admota sub morte refugit.
unhappy sleep with-moved-up under death fled.
Turbidus incertumque oculis vigilantibus hostem
Confused and-uncertain with-eyes waking the-enemy

occupat amplexu, nec segnius illa tenentis
he-seizes in-embrace, nor more-sluggishly she of-him-holding
pone adigit costas, donec sua pectora ferro
behind drives-in the-ribs, until her-own breast with-the-steel
tangeret. Is demum sceleri modus; ora supinat
she-touched. This at-last for-the-crime the-limit; his-face he-turns-up
blandus adhuc oculisque tremens et murmure Gorgen
coaxing still and-with-eyes trembling and with-murmur Gorge
quaerit et indigno non solvit bracchia collo.
seeks and from-the-unworthy not does-loose arms neck.
Non ego nunc vulgi quamquam crudelia pandam
Not I now of-the-crowd although cruel shall-unfold
funera, sed propria luctus de stirpe recordor:
deaths, but my-own the-griefs from stock I-recall:
quod te, flave Cydon, quod te per colla refusis
that you, golden Cydon, that you on your-neck poured-back
intactum, Crenaee, comis (quibus ubera mecum
untouched, Crenaeus, in-hair (to-whom the-breasts with-me
obliquumque a patre genus) fortemque, timebam
and-slanting from father the-birth) and-brave, I-feared
quem desponsa, Gyan vidi lapsare cruentae
whom betrothed, Gyas I-saw to-slip of-bloody
vulnere Myrmidones, quodque inter serta torosque
by-the-wound Myrmidone, and-that among garlands and-couches
barbara ludentem fodiebat Epopea mater.
barbarous playing pierced Epopeus his-mother.
Flet super aequaevum soror exarmata Lycaste
Weeps over of-equal-age the-sister disarmed Lycaste
Cydimon, heu similes perituro in corpore vultus
Cydimus, alas like the-about-to-perish in body features

aspiciens floremque genae et quas finxerat auro
looking-at and-the-bloom of-the-cheek and which she-had-shaped with-gold
ipsa comas, cum saeva parens iam coniuge fuso
herself hair, when savage the-mother now the-husband poured-out
adstitit impellitque minis atque inserit ensem.
stood-by and-drives-her with-threats and puts-in a-sword.
Ut fera, quae rabiem placido desueta magistro
As a-beast, which to-rage from-gentle unaccustomed master
tardius arma movet stimulisque et verbere crebro
more-slowly arms moves and-by-goads and by-lash frequent
in mores negat ire suos, sic illa iacenti
into ways refuses to-go her-own, so she on-the-lying
incidit undantemque sinu conlapsa cruorem
falls and-the-streaming in-her-lap having-collapsed gore
excipit et laceros premit in nova vulnera crines.
receives and torn presses into new wounds hair.
Ut vero Alcimeden etiamnunc murmure trunco
When indeed Alcimede still with-murmur cut-off
ferre patris vultus et egentem sanguinis ensem
to-carry of-her-father the-head and needing of-blood a-sword
conspexi, riguere comae atque in viscera saevus
I-saw, stiffened my-hair and into my-vitals savage
horror iit: meus ille Thoas, mea dira videri
dread went: my that Thoas, my the-dire to-seem
dextra mihi! Extemplo thalamis turbata paternis
right-hand to-me! At-once to-the-chambers disturbed paternal
inferor. Ille quidem dudum (quis magna tuenti
I-am-borne. He indeed long-since (to-whom great-things watching
somnus?) agit versans secum, etsi lata recessit
sleep?) is-doing turning with-himself, although broad withdrew

urbe domus, quinam strepitus, quae murmura noctis,
from-the-city the-house, what the-noises, what the-murmurs of-the-night,
cur fremibunda quies? Trepido scelus ordine pando,
why the-roaring the-quiet? In-trembling the-crime order I-unfold,
quis dolor, unde animi: "vis nulla arcere furentes;
what the-pain, whence the-spirits: "force none to-ward-off the-raging;
hac sequere, o miserande; premunt aderuntque moranti,
this-way follow, O pitiable-one; they-press and-will-be-present to-the-delaying,
et mecum fortasse cades." His motus et artus
and with-me perhaps you-will-fall." By-these moved also his-limbs
erexit stratis. Ferimur per devia vastae
he-raised from-the-bed. We-are-borne through the-byways of-the-vast
urbis et ingentem nocturnae caedis acervum
city and huge of-nightly slaughter heap
passim, ut quosque sacris crudelis vespera lucis
everywhere, as each in-holy cruel the-evening groves
straverat, occulta speculamur nube latentes.
had-laid-low, in-hidden we-spy-out cloud lying-hidden.
Hic impressa toris ora extantesque reclusis
Here pressed on-couches faces and-standing-out from-opened
pectoribus capulos magnarum et fragmina trunca
breasts hilts of-great and fragments broken
hastarum et ferro laceras per corpora vestes,
of-spears and by-steel torn through bodies garments,
crateras pronos epulasque in caede natantes
bowls fallen-forward and-feasts in slaughter swimming
cernere erat, iugulisque modo torrentis apertis
to-see it-was, and-from-throats in-the-manner of-a-torrent opened
sanguine permixto redeuntem in pocula Bacchum.
with-blood mingled returning into cups Bacchus.

Hic iuvenum manus et nullis violabilis armis
Here of-youths the-band and by-no violable arms
turba senes, positique patrum super ora gementum
a-throng old-men, and-placed of-fathers over the-faces of-groaning
semineces pueri trepidas in limine vitae
half-dead boys trembling on the-threshold of-life
singultant animas. Gelida non saevius Ossa
sob-out souls. On-cold not more-savagely Ossa
luxuriant Lapitharum epulae, si quando profundo
riot of-the-Lapiths the-feasts, if ever with-deep
Nubigenae caluere mero; vix primus ab ira
the-Cloud-born grew-hot wine; hardly first from anger
pallor, et impulsis surgunt ad proelia mensis.
pallor, and with-thrust-aside rise to battles tables.

V.6 · BACCHUS SAVES THOAS

Bacchus appears to them in a blaze of light, mourning that the Fates have overruled him, and tells Hypsipyle to lead her father to the shore by the double wall, where Venus does not stand guard; a long flame lights their way. Hypsipyle sets Thoas adrift in a wooden chest, commending him to the gods of the sea, and returns. Day dawns in shame; the women bury or burn their crimes.

Tunc primum sese trepidis sub nocte Thyoneus
Then first himself to-the-trembling under night Thyoneus
detexit, nato portans extrema Thoanti
revealed, to-his-son bringing last Thoas
subsidia, et multa subitus cum luce refulsit.
help, and much sudden with light shone-forth.
Agnovi: non ille quidem turgentia sertis
I-recognized-him: not he indeed swelling with-garlands

tempora nec flava crinem distinxerat uva:
temples nor with-yellow his-hair had-adorned grape:
nubilus indignumque oculis liquentibus imbrem
clouded and-unworthy with-eyes flowing shower
adloquitur: "Dum fata dabant tibi, nate, potentem
he-addresses: "While the-fates were-granting to-you, son, powerful
Lemnon et externis etiam servare timendam
Lemnos and to-foreign even to-keep to-be-feared
gentibus, haut umquam iusto mea cura labori
nations, not ever from-just my care toil
destitit: absciderunt tristes crudelia Parcae
ceased: have-cut-off the-sad cruel Parcae
stamina, nec dictis, supplex quae plurima fudi
threads, nor by-words, suppliant which very-many I-poured
ante Iovem frustra, lacrimisque avertere luctus
before Jupiter in-vain, and-by-tears to-turn-aside griefs
contigit; infandum natae concessit honorem.
it-befell; unspeakable on-your-daughter it-has-granted honor.
Accelerate fugam, tuque, o mea digna propago,
Hasten flight, and-you, O my worthy offspring,
hac rege, virgo, patrem, gemini qua bracchia muri
this-way guide, maiden, your-father, of-twin where the-arms wall
litus eunt: illa, qua rere silentia, porta
the-shore go: at-that, where you-think silences, gate
stat funesta Venus ferroque accincta furentes
stands deadly Venus and-with-steel girded the-raging
adiuvat (unde manus, unde haec Mavortia divae
helps (whence the-hands, whence this Martial of-the-goddess
pectora?): tu lato patrem committe profundo.
breast?): you to-the-broad your-father commit deep.

Succedam curis." Ita fatus in aera rursus
I-shall-succeed to-the-cares." Thus having-spoken into the-air again
solvitur et nostrum, visus arcentibus umbris,
he-is-dissolved and our, sight warding-off the-shades,
mitis iter longae claravit limite flammae.
gentle journey of-a-long lit-up with-the-path flame.
Qua data signa, sequor; dein curvo robore clausum
Where given the-signs, I-follow; then in-curved wood shut-up
dis pelagi ventisque et Cycladas Aegaeoni
to-the-gods of-the-sea and-to-the-winds and the-Cyclades to-Aegaeon
amplexo commendo patrem, nec fletibus umquam
embracing I-commend my-father, nor to-weeping ever
sit modus alternis, ni iam dimittat Eoo
would-be a-limit alternate, unless now should-dismiss from-the-eastern
Lucifer astra polo. Tunc demum litore rauco
Lucifer the-stars pole. Then at-last from-the-shore hoarse
multa metu reputans et vix confisa Lyaeo
many-things in-fear reckoning and hardly trusting Lyaeus
dividor, ipsa gradu nitente, sed anxia retro
I-am-parted, myself in-step pressing, but anxious backward
pectora, nec requies, quin et surgentia caelo
breast, nor rest, but-that also rising in-the-sky
flamina et e cunctis prospectem collibus undas.
breezes and from all I-look-out-at hills the-waves.
Exoritur pudibunda dies, caelumque retexens
Rises shamefaced the-day, and-the-sky unweaving
aversum Lemno iubar et declinia Titan
turned-away from-Lemnos the-radiance and sloping Titan
opposita iuga nube refert. Patuere furores
with-opposed yoke cloud brings-back. Lay-open the-frenzies

nocturni, lucisque novae formidine cunctis
of-night, and-of-light new from-dread in-all
(quamquam inter similes) subitus pudor; impia terrae
(although among like-ones) sudden shame; impious in-earth
infodiunt scelera aut festinis ignibus urunt.
they-bury the-crimes or with-hasty fires burn.

V.7 · HYPSIPYLE QUEEN; THE ARGO

The island is emptied of its men. Hypsipyle builds a false pyre and feigns her father's funeral, and for her supposed loyalty is made queen of a lifeless Lemnos. Grief and hatred of Polyxo grow. Then the Argo appears, its oars churning the sea, with Orpheus singing as he leans against the mast.

Iam manus Eumenidum captasque refugerat arces
Now the-band of-the-Eumenides and-the-captured had-fled citadel
exsaturata Venus; licuit sentire, quid ausae,
glutted Venus; it-was-allowed to-feel, what they-had-dared,
et turpare comas et lumina tingere fletu.
and to-disfigure hair and eyes to-wet with-weeping.
Insula dives agris opibusque armisque virisque,
An-island rich in-fields and-in-wealth and-in-arms and-in-men,
nota situ et Getico nuper ditata triumpho,
known for-site and with-Getic lately enriched triumph,
non maris incursu, non hoste, nec aethere laevo
not by-the-sea's onset, not by-enemy, nor by-sky sinister
perdidit una omnes orbata excisaque fundo
lost at-once all bereaved and-cut-off from-the-foundation
indigenas: non arva viri, non aequora vertunt,
natives: not the-fields men, not the-seas turn,

conticuere domus, cruor altus et oblita crasso
fell-silent the-homes, gore deep and smeared with-thick
cuncta rubent tabo, magnaeque in moenibus urbis
all redden gore, and-of-the-great in walls city
nos tantum, et saevi spirant per culmina manes.
we only, and savage breathe through the-roofs shades.
Ipsa quoque arcanis tecti in penetralibus alto
Myself also secret of-the-house in the-inmost high
molior igne pyram, sceptrum super armaque patris
I-build with-fire a-pyre, the-scepter on-it and-arms of-my-father
inicio et notas regum velamina vestes,
I-throw and known of-kings the-coverings garments,
ac prope maesta rogum confusis crinibus asto
and near sad the-pyre with-disheveled hair I-stand
ense cruentato, fraudemque et inania busta
with-sword bloodied, and-the-fraud and empty tomb
plango metu, si forte premant, cassumque parenti
I-lament in-fear, if perchance they-should-press, and-vain for-my-parent
omen et hac dubios leti precor ire timores.
an-omen and this-way doubtful of-death I-pray to-go fears.
His mihi pro meritis, ut falsi criminis astu
For-these to-me in-return-for merits, since of-false crime by-the-trick
parta fides, regno et solio considere patris
gained the-belief, in-the-kingdom and on-the-throne to-sit of-my-father
supplicium datur. Anne illis obsessa negarem?
the-punishment is-given. Or to-them besieged should-I-refuse?
Accessi, saepe ante deos testata fidemque
I-acceded, often before the-gods having-called-to-witness both-my-faith
immeritasque manus; subeo (pro dira potestas!)
and-undeserving hands; I-go-under (oh dire power!)

exangue imperium et maestam sine culmine Lemnon.
bloodless rule and sad without summit Lemnos.
Iam magis atque magis vigiles dolor angere sensus,
Now more and more watchful grief to-torment their-senses,
et gemitus clari, et paulatim invisa Polyxo,
and groans loud, and gradually hated Polyxo,
iam meminisse nefas, iam ponere manibus aras
now to-remember the-horror, now to-set-up to-the-shades altars
concessum et multum cineres iurare sepultos.
allowed and much ashes to-swear-by buried.
Sic ubi ductorem trepidae stabulique maritum,
So when the-leader of-the-trembling and-of-the-stall the-husband,
quem penes et saltus et adultae gloria gentis,
whom in-the-power-of both the-glades and of-the-grown the-glory race,
Massylo frangi stupuere sub hoste iuvencae,
Massylian to-be-broken are-astonished under enemy heifers,
it truncum sine honore pecus, regemque peremptum
goes maimed without honor the-herd, and-the-king slain
ipse ager, ipsi amnes et muta armenta queruntur.
itself the-field, themselves the-rivers and mute herds lament.
Ecce autem aerata dispellens aequora prora
Behold however bronze driving-apart the-seas with-prow
Pelias intacti late subit ostia ponti
Pelian of-untouched widely enters the-mouths sea
pinus; agunt Minyae, geminus fragor ardua canet
pine; drive the-Minyae, twin crash high whitens
per latera, abruptam credas radicibus ire
along the-sides, broken-off you-would-think from-its-roots to-go
Ortygiam aut fractum pelago decurrere montem.
Ortygia or broken by-the-sea to-run-down a-mountain.

Ast ubi suspensis siluerunt aequora tonsis,
But when with-poised fell-silent the-seas oars,
mitior et senibus cygnis et pectine Phoebi
gentler both than-the-old swans and than-the-quill of-Phoebus
vox media de puppe venit, maria ipsa carinae
a-voice mid from stern comes, the-seas themselves the-ship
accedunt. Post nosse datum est: Oeagrius illic
approach. Afterward to-know given it-was: Oeagrian there
acclinis malo mediis intersonat Orpheus
leaning on-the-mast in-the-middle sounds-between Orpheus
remigiis tantosque iubet nescire labores.
the-rowing and-so-great bids to-be-unaware-of toils.

V.8 · THE LEMNIANS FIGHT THE ARGONAUTS

The women, taking the ship for a Thracian raid, arm themselves and climb the walls; Pallas blushes at them and Mars laughs. Jupiter sends a storm that tosses the Argo. The women hurl weapons at Telamon, Peleus, and Hercules while the heroes struggle with the sea. When lightning reveals the crew, the women's courage fails and their weapons fall: they see the Aeacids, Ancaeus, Iphitus, and Hercules.

Illis in Scythicum Borean iter oraque primi
For-them into Scythian Boreas the-journey and-the-mouths first
Cyaneis artata maris. Nos Thracia visu
by-the-Cyanean narrowed sea. We Thracian at-the-sight
bella ratae vario tecta incursare tumultu,
wars thinking varied the-roofs to-attack with-uproar,
densarum pecudum aut fugientum more volucrum.
of-dense cattle or of-fleeing in-the-manner birds.
Heu ubi nunc furiae? portus amplexaque litus
Alas where now the-furies? the-harbor and-embracing the-shore

moenia, qua longe pelago despectus aperto,
walls, where far over-the-sea the-view open,
scandimus et celsas turres; huc saxa sudesque
we-climb and lofty towers; hither stones and-stakes
armaque maesta virum atque infectos caedibus enses
and-arms sad of-the-men and stained with-slaughters swords
subvectant trepidae; quin et squalentia texta
carry-up trembling; but even squalid weaves
thoracum et vultu galeas intrare soluto
of-corslets and with-face helmets to-enter loosened
non pudet; audaces rubuit mirata catervas
not it-shames; bold reddened marveling-at the-bands
Pallas, et adverso risit Gradivus in Haemo.
Pallas, and opposing laughed Gradivus on Haemus.
Tunc primum ex animis praeceps amentia cessit,
Then first from minds headlong madness withdrew,
nec ratis illa salo, sed divum sera per aequor
nor ship that on-the-sea, but of-the-gods late over the-sea
iustitia et poenae scelerum adventare videntur.
justice and the-penalties of-crimes to-approach seem.
Iamque aberant terris, quantum Cortynia currunt
And-now they-were-distant from-the-lands, as-far-as Gortynian run
spicula, caeruleo gravidam cum Iuppiter imbri
darts, with-dark-blue pregnant when Jupiter with-rain
ipsa super nubem ratis armamenta Pelasgae
the-very over cloud the-ship tackle Pelasgian
sistit agens; inde horror aquis, et raptus ab omni
stops driving; thence dread on-the-waters, and snatched from every
sole dies miscet tenebras, quis protinus unda
sun the-day mixes darkness, with-which at-once the-wave

concolor; obnixi lacerant cava nubila venti
of-one-color; straining tear hollow clouds the-winds
diripiuntque fretum, nigris redit umida tellus
and-tear-apart the-strait, with-black returns wet the-earth
verticibus, totumque notis certantibus aequor
whirlpools, and-whole with-south-winds vying the-sea
pendet et arquato iamiam prope sidera dorso
hangs and with-arched now-now near the-stars back
frangitur, incertae nec iam prior impetus alno,
is-broken, uncertain nor now former the-impulse to-the-alder,
sed labat extantem rostris modo gurgite in imo
but it-totters standing-out from-the-beaks now flood in lowest
nunc caelo Tritona ferens. Nec robora prosunt
now in-sky Triton carrying. Nor strengths avail
semideum heroum, puppemque insana flagellat
of-demigod heroes, and-the-stern mad lashes
arbor et instabili procumbens pondere curvas
the-mast and with-unstable falling-forward weight curved
raptat aquas, remique cadunt in pectus inanes.
snatches waters, and-oars fall onto breast empty.
Nos quoque per rupes murorumque aggere ab omni,
We also through the-rocks and-of-the-walls rampart from every,
dum labor ille viris fretaque indignantur et austros,
while toil that for-the-men and-the-straits they-resent and south-winds,
desuper invalidis fluitantia tela lacertis
from-above with-weak floating weapons arms
(quid non ausa manus?) Telamona et Pelea contra
(what not dared the-band?) Telamon and Peleus against
spargimus, et nostro petitur Tirynthius arcu.
we-scatter, and with-our is-aimed-at the-Tirynthian bow.

Illi (quippe simul bello pelagoque laborant)
They (for at-once with-war and-sea labor)
pars clipeis munire ratem, pars aequora fundo
part with-shields to-fortify the-ship, part the-seas from-the-bottom
egerere; ast alii pugnant, sed inertia motu
to-bail-out; but others fight, but sluggish in-motion
corpora, suspensaeque carent conamine vires.
bodies, and-suspended lack effort strengths.
Instamus iactu telorum, et ferrea nimbis
We-press with-the-hurling of-weapons, and iron with-clouds
certat hiems, vastaeque sudes fractique molares
vies the-storm, and-vast stakes and-broken millstones
spiculaque et multa crinitum missile flamma
and-darts and with-much maned missile flame
nunc pelago nunc puppe cadunt, dat operta fragorem
now in-the-sea now on-the-stern fall, gives covered a-crash
pinus, et abiunctis regemunt tabulata cavernis.
the-pine, and with-unjoined groan-back the-planks hollows.
Talis Hyperborea virides nive verberat agros
Such with-Hyperborean green with-snow lashes fields
Iuppiter; obruitur campis genus omne ferarum,
Jupiter; is-overwhelmed in-the-plains the-race all of-beasts,
deprensaeque cadunt volucres, et messis amaro
and-caught fall the-birds, and the-harvest by-bitter
strata gelu, fragor inde iugis, inde amnibus irae.
laid-low frost, a-crash thence on-the-ridges, thence in-the-rivers angers.
Ut vero elisit nubes Iove tortus ab alto
When indeed struck-out-of the-clouds by-Jupiter hurled from on-high
ignis et ingentes patuere in fulmine nautae,
fire and huge lay-open in the-lightning the-sailors,

deriguere animi, manibusque horrore remissis
stiffened our-spirits, and-from-hands with-dread loosened
arma aliena cadunt, rediit in pectora sexus.
arms foreign fall, returned into breasts our-sex.
Cernimus Aeacidas murisque immane minantem
We-see the-Aeacids and-to-the-walls hugely threatening
Ancaeum et longa pellentem cuspide rupes
Ancaeus and with-long driving-off spear the-rocks
Iphiton; at toto manifestus in agmine supra est
Iphitus; but the-whole manifest in column above is
Amphitryoniades, puppemque alternus utrimque
the-son-of-Amphitryon, and-the-stern alternately on-both-sides
ingravat et medias ardet descendere in undas.
he-weighs-down and the-middle burns to-go-down into waves.

V.9 · THE ARGONAUTS LAND

Jason rallies his crew, Tiphys fights the helm, and at last Jason raises Mopsus' olive branch and asks for peace. The storm ends and the fifty heroes leap ashore like gods visiting the Ethiopians: Theseus, the sons of Boreas, Admetus, Orpheus, Meleager, Peleus, the twin sons of Tyndareus, and Hercules with young Hylas. Venus and Juno turn the women's hearts; the doors open, fires burn again on the altars, and there are feasts and quiet nights. Hypsipyle protests that she did not yield willingly to Jason.

At levis (et miserae nondum mihi notus) Iason
But light (and to-wretched not-yet to-me known) Jason
transtra per et remos impressaque terga virorum
the-benches through and oars and-pressed backs of-men
nunc magnum Oeniden, nunc ille hortatibus Idan
now the-great son-of-Oeneus, now he with-exhortations Idas

et Talaum et cana rorantem aspargine ponti
and Talaus and with-white dripping with-spray of-the-sea
Tyndariden iterans gelidique in nube parentis
the-son-of-Tyndareus repeating and-of-his-cold in cloud father
vela laborantem Calain subnectere malo
the-sails laboring Calais to-fasten to-the-mast
voce manuque rogat; quatiunt impulsibus illi
with-voice and-hand asks; they-shake with-thrusts they
nunc freta, nunc muros, sed nec spumantia cedunt
now the-straits, now the-walls, but neither foaming yield
aequora, et incussae redeunt a turribus hastae.
the-seas, and dashed return from the-towers spears.
Ipse graves fluctus clavumque audire negantem
Himself the-heavy waves and-the-tiller to-hear refusing
lassat agens Tiphys palletque et plurima mutat
wearies driving Tiphys and-grows-pale and very-many changes
imperia ac laevas dextrasque obtorquet in undas
commands and left and-right twists into waves
proram navifragis avidam concurrere saxis,
the-prow onto-ship-breaking eager to-dash rocks,
donec ab extremae cuneo ratis Aesone natus
until from of-the-farthest the-wedge ship of-Aeson the-son
Palladios oleae, Mopsi gestamina, ramos
Palladian of-the-olive, of-Mopsus the-insignia, branches
extulit et socium turba prohibente poposcit
raised-up and of-his-comrades the-throng forbidding demanded
foedera; praecipites vocem involvere procellae.
a-truce; headlong the-voice wrapped-up the-storms.
Tunc modus armorum, pariterque exhausta quierant
Then a-limit of-arms, and-equally exhausted had-rested

flamina, confusoque dies respexit Olympo.
the-blasts, and-on-confounded the-day looked-back Olympus.
Quinquaginta illi, trabibus de more revinctis,
Fifty they, with-beams by custom bound,
eminus abrupto quatiunt nova litora saltu,
from-afar with-sudden shake the-new shores leap,
magnorum decora alta patrum, iam fronte sereni
of-great the-glories high fathers, now in-brow serene
noscendique habitu, postquam tumor iraque cessit
and-to-be-recognized in-bearing, after the-swelling and-anger withdrew
vultibus. Arcana sic fama erumpere porta
from-faces. From-a-secret so rumor-says to-burst-forth gate
caelicolas, si quando domos litusque rubentum
the-heaven-dwellers, if ever the-homes and-shore of-the-ruddy
Aethiopum et mensas amor est iterare minores;
Ethiopians and tables a-love is to-revisit lesser;
dant fluvii montesque locum, tum terra superbit
give rivers and-mountains place, then the-earth is-proud
gressibus et paulum respirat caelifer Atlans.
of-the-steps and a-little breathes-again sky-bearing Atlas.
Hic et ab adserto nuper Marathone superbum
Here also from claimed lately Marathon proud
Thesea et Ismarios, Aquilonia pignora, fratres,
Theseus and Ismarian, of-Aquilo the-pledges, brothers,
utraque quis rutila stridebant tempora pinna,
both whose with-ruddy whirred temples feather,
cernimus, hic Phoebo non indignante priorem
we-see, here Phoebus not resenting earlier
Admetum et durae similem nihil Orphea Thracae,
Admetus and of-harsh like in-nothing Orpheus Thrace,

tunc prolem Calydone satam generumque profundi
then the-offspring at-Calydon sown and-the-son-in-law of-the-deep
Nereos. Ambiguo visus errore lacessunt
Nereus. With-ambiguous the-sight error they-tease
Oebalidae gemini; chlamys huic, chlamys ardet et illi,
the-Oebalian twins; a-cloak for-this-one, a-cloak burns also for-that-one,
ambo hastile gerunt, umeros exertus uterque,
both a-spear-shaft bear, in-shoulders bared each,
nudus uterque genas, simili coma fulgurat astro.
bare each in-cheeks, with-like hair flashes star.
Audet iter magnique sequens vestigia mutat
Dares the-journey and-of-great following the-footsteps changes
Herculis et tarda quamvis se mole ferentem
Hercules and slow although himself with-mass bearing
vix cursu tener aequat Hylas Lernaeaque tollens
hardly in-running tender equals Hylas and-the-Lernaean raising
arma sub ingenti gaudet sudare pharetra.
arms under huge rejoices to-sweat quiver.
Ergo iterum Venus et tacitis corda aspera flammis
Therefore again Venus and with-silent hearts harsh flames
Lemniadum pertemptat Amor. Tunc regia Iuno
of-the-Lemnian-women tries Love. Then royal Juno
arma habitusque virum pulchraeque insignia gentis
the-arms and-bearing of-the-men and-of-a-beautiful the-insignia race
mentibus insinuat, certatimque ordine cunctae
into-minds insinuates, and-in-rivalry in-order all
hospitibus patuere fores; tunc primus in aris
to-the-guests lay-open doors; then first on altars
ignis, et infandis venere oblivia curis;
fire, and to-unspeakable came oblivion cares;

tunc epulae felixque sopor noctesque quietae,
then feasts and-happy sleep and-nights quiet,
nec superum sine mente, reor, placuere fatentes.
nor of-the-gods-above without will, I-think, pleased the-confessing.
Forsitan et nostrae fatum excusabile culpae
Perhaps also of-our the-fate excusable fault
noscere cura, duces. Cineres furiasque meorum
to-know a-care, leaders. The-ashes and-furies of-my-own
455 testor: ut externas non sponte aut crimine taedas
I-call-to-witness: that foreign not willingly or by-crime torches
attigerim (scit cura deum), etsi blandus Iason
I-touched (knows the-care of-the-gods), although alluring Jason
virginibus dare vincla novis; sua iura cruentum
to-maidens to-give bonds new; their-own rights bloody
Phasin habent, alios Colchi generatis amores.
Phasis have, other Colchians you-beget loves.

V.10 · THE ARGONAUTS DEPART

Spring comes and children are born; Hypsipyle bears twins by Jason, naming one for her father Thoas, and has not seen them for twenty years. The sea calms and Jason, breaking his promise, sails away, and the women watch the ship vanish. Then rumor comes that Thoas reigns on Chios and that the pyre was empty; the women demand her death, and she flees along the shore, only to be seized by pirates and sold as a slave to Nemea.

Iamque exuta gelu tepuerunt sidera longis
And-now stripped of-frost grew-warm the-stars with-long
460 solibus, et velox in terga revolvitur annus.
suns, and swift on its-back rolls-back the-year.

Iam nova progenies partusque in vota soluti,
Now new offspring and-births into prayers released,
et non speratis clamatur Lemnos alumnis.
and with-not hoped-for is-called Lemnos nurslings.
Nec non ipsa tamen thalami monimenta coacti
And also I-myself yet of-a-marriage the-memorials of-forced
enitor geminos, duroque sub hospite mater
bear twins, and-harsh under guest a-mother
nomen avi renovo; nec quae fortuna relictis
the-name of-their-grandfather I-renew; nor what fortune to-the-left
nosse datur, iam plena quater quinquennia pergunt,
to-know is-given, now full four-times five-year-spans go-on,
si modo fata sinunt aluitque rogata Lycaste.
if only the-fates allow and-has-nourished-them asked Lycaste.
Detumuere animi maris, et clementior Auster
Subsided the-spirits of-the-sea, and gentler the-South-wind
vela vocat: ratis ipsa moram portusque quietos
the-sails calls: the-ship itself delay and-harbors quiet
odit et adversi tendit retinacula saxi.
hates and of-the-opposing strains the-cables rock.
Inde fugam Minyae, sociosque appellat Iason
Then flight the-Minyae, and-his-comrades summons Jason
efferus, o utinam iam tunc mea litora rectis
savage, O would-that already then my shores with-straight
praetervectus aquis, cui non sua pignora cordi,
having-sailed-past waters, to-whom not his-own pledges at-heart,
non promissa fides; certe stat fama remotis
not promised faith; certainly stands the-fame among-remote
gentibus: aequorei redierunt vellera Phrixi.
nations: of-the-sea-borne have-returned the-fleeces Phrixus.

Ut stata lux pelago venturumque aethera sensit
When appointed the-light for-the-sea and-the-coming ether felt
Tiphys et occidui rubuere cubilia Phoebi,
Tiphys and of-the-setting reddened the-couches Phoebus,
heu iterum gemitus, iterumque novissima nox est.
alas again groans, and-again the-last night is.
Vix reserata dies, et iam rate celsus Iason
Hardly unbarred the-day, and already from-the-ship lofty Jason
ire iubet, primoque ferit dux verbere pontum.
to-go bids, and-with-the-first strikes the-leader stroke the-sea.
Illos e scopulis et summo vertice montis
Them from the-crags and from-the-highest summit of-the-mountain
spumea porrecti dirimentes terga profundi
foamy of-the-outstretched cleaving the-backs deep
prosequimur visu, donec lassavit euntes
we-follow with-sight, until wearied the-going-ones
lux oculos longumque polo contexere visa est
the-light eyes and-long with-the-pole to-join seemed has
aequor et extremi pressit freta margine caeli.
the-sea and of-the-farthest pressed the-straits margin sky.
Fama subit portus, vectum trans alta Thoanta
Rumor enters the-harbor, carried across the-deep Thoas
fraterna regnare Chio, mihi crimina nulla,
fraternal to-reign over-Chios, to-me crimes none,
et vacuos arsisse rogos; fremit impia plebes,
and empty to-have-burned pyres; roars the-impious commons,
sontibus accensae stimulis facinusque reposcunt.
by-guilty inflamed goads and-the-crime demand-back.
Quin etiam occultae vulgo increbrescere voces:
But even secret among-the-crowd to-grow-frequent voices:

"Solane fida suis, nos autem in funera latae?
"She-alone-whether faithful to-her-own, we however to deaths borne?
Num deus haec fatumque? quid imperat urbe nefanda?"
Surely-not a-god these and-fate? what commands in-the-city unspeakable?"
Talibus exanimis dictis (et triste propinquat
At-such lifeless words (and sad draws-near
supplicium, nec regna iuvant) vaga litora furtim
punishment, nor the-kingdom helps) the-wandering shores stealthily
incomitata sequor funestaque moenia linquo,
unaccompanied I-follow and-the-deadly walls leave,
qua fuga nota patris; sed non iterum obvius Euhan,
where the-flight known of-my-father; but not again meeting Euhan,
nam me praedonum manus huc appulsa tacentem
for me of-pirates a-band hither driven silent
abripit et vestras famulam transmittit in oras.'
snatches-away and your as-slave carries-across to shores.'

V.11 · THE SERPENT

While Hypsipyle tells her tale, the infant Opheltes, forgotten, falls asleep in the grass. A huge earth-born serpent, sacred to Jupiter, glides through the woods, maddened by the drought Bacchus has caused, licking the air for moisture and scorching the grass with its breath, as huge as the constellation of the Snake or the Python Apollo killed.

Talia Lernaeis iterat dum regibus exul
Such-things to-the-Lernaean repeats while kings the-exile
Lemnias et longa solatur damna querella,
Lemnian and with-long consoles losses complaint,
immemor absentis (sic di suasistis!) alumni,
forgetful of-her-absent (so gods you-urged!) nursling,

ille graves oculos languentiaque ora comanti
he heavy eyes and-drooping face in-the-grassy
mergit humo, fessusque diu puerilibus actis
sinks ground, and-weary long from-childish doings
labitur in somnos, prensa manus haeret in herba.
glides into sleep, grasped his-hand clings on the-grass.
Interea campis, nemoris sacer horror Achaei,
Meanwhile in-the-plains, of-the-grove sacred dread Achaean,
terrigena exoritur serpens, tractuque soluto
earth-born rises a-serpent, and-with-trail loosened
immanem sese vehit ac post terga relinquit.
huge itself carries and behind its-back leaves.
Livida fax oculis, tumidi stat in ore veneni
Livid a-torch in-its-eyes, of-swollen stands in the-mouth venom
spuma virens, ter lingua vibrat, terna agmina adunci
foam green, thrice the-tongue flickers, three rows of-hooked
dentis, et auratae crudelis gloria frontis
tooth, and of-gilded cruel the-glory brow
prominet. Inachio sanctum dixere Tonanti
projects. To-the-Inachian sacred they-called-it Thunderer
agricolae, cui cura loci et silvestribus aris
the-farmers, to-whom care of-the-place and at-woodland altars
pauper honos; nunc ille dei circumdare templa
poor honor; now he of-the-god to-encircle the-temples
orbe vago labens, miserae nunc robora silvae
in-orb wandering gliding, of-the-wretched now the-oaks wood
atterit et vastas tenuat complexibus ornos;
wears-down and vast thins with-embraces ash-trees;
saepe super fluvios geminae iacet aggere ripae
often over the-rivers of-the-twin it-lies on-the-mound bank

continuus, squamisque incisus adaestuat amnis.
continuous, and-by-its-scales cut boils-up the-stream.
Sed nunc, Ogygii iussis quando omnis anhelat
But now, of-the-Ogygian by-the-orders since all pants
terra dei trepidaeque latent in pulvere Nymphae,
the-earth god and-trembling hide in dust the-Nymphs,
saevior anfractu laterum sinuosa retorquens
more-savage in-the-winding of-its-flanks sinuous twisting-back
terga solo siccique nocens furit igne veneni.
its-back on-the-ground and-of-dry harmful rages with-fire venom.
Stagna per arentesque lacus fontesque repressos
Pools through and-dry lakes and-springs repressed
volvitur et vacuis fluviorum in vallibus errat,
it-rolls and empty of-rivers in valleys wanders,
incensusque siti liquidum nunc aera lambit
and-inflamed with-thirst the-liquid now air licks
ore supinato, nunc arva gementia radens
with-mouth upturned, now the-fields groaning scraping
pronus adhaeret humo, si quid viridantia sudent
prone clings to-the-ground, if anything green should-sweat
gramina; percussae calidis adflatibus herbae,
grasses; struck by-hot breaths the-herbs,
qua tulit ora, cadunt, moriturque ad sibila campus:
where it-has-borne its-mouth, fall, and-dies at the-hisses the-plain:
quantus ab Arctois discriminat aethera plaustris
as-great-as from the-Arctic separates the-ether Wains
anguis et usque Notos alienumque exit in orbem;
the-Snake and as-far-as the-South-winds and-a-foreign goes-out into orb;
quantus et ille sacri spiris intorta movebat
as-great-as also that-one of-sacred in-coils twisted was-moving

cornua Parnasi, donec tibi, Delie, fixus
the-horns of-Parnassus, until by-you, Delian, pierced
vexit harundineam centeno vulnere silvam.
it-carried a-reedy with-hundredfold wound forest.

V.12 · THE DEATH OF OPHELTES

The serpent kills the child with one lash of its tail without noticing him. Hypsipyle hears his dying cry and searches frantically, but finds only the serpent coiled in the meadow; her scream brings the Argives. Hippomedon hurls a boundary stone and misses; Capaneus drives his ash spear through the monster's mouth and head. It coils around the shaft and flees to Jupiter's temple, where it dies, mourned by Lerna, the Nymphs, and the Fauns; Jupiter almost strikes Capaneus with lightning.

Quis tibi, parve, deus tam magni pondera fati
Who to-you, little-one, god so great the-weights of-fate
sorte dedit? tune hoc vix prima ad limina vitae
by-lot gave? you-whether by-this hardly first at the-thresholds of-life
hoste iaces? an ut inde sacer per saecula Grais
enemy lie? or that thence sacred through ages to-the-Greek
gentibus et tanto dignus morerere sepulcro?
nations and of-so-great worthy you-might-die tomb?
Occidis extremae destrictus verbere caudae
You-die of-the-farthest grazed by-the-lash tail
ignaro serpente puer, fugit ilicet artus
unknowing the-serpent the-boy, flees at-once his-limbs
somnus, et in solam patuerunt lumina mortem.
sleep, and into alone opened eyes death.
Cum tamen attonito moriens vagitus in auras
When yet to-the-astonished dying wailing into the-airs

excidit et ruptis immutuit ore querellis,
fell and with-broken fell-silent mouth laments,
qualia non totas peragunt insomnia voces,
such-as not whole complete dreams voices,
audiit Hypsipyle, facilemque negantia cursum
heard Hypsipyle, and-easy refusing course
exanimis genua aegra rapit; iam certa malorum
lifeless knees sick she-snatches; now certain of-evils
mentis ab augurio sparsoque per omnia visu
of-mind from the-augury and-scattered through all sight
lustrat humum quaerens et nota vocabula parvo
she-surveys the-ground seeking and known names for-the-little-one
nequiquam ingeminans: nusquam ille, et prata recentes
in-vain redoubling: nowhere he, and the-meadows fresh
amisere notas. Viridi piger accubat hostis
have-lost the-marks. In-green sluggish lies the-enemy
collectus gyro spatiosaque iugera complet,
gathered coil and-spacious acres fills,
sic etiam obliqua cervicem expostus in alvo.
so even slanting its-neck laid-out on belly.
Horruit infelix visu longoque profundum
She-shuddered unhappy at-the-sight and-with-long the-deep
incendit clamore nemus; nec territus ille,
inflamed shout grove; nor terrified he,
sed iacet. Argolicas ululatus flebilis aures
but lies. The-Argolic wailing tearful ears
impulit; extemplo monitu ducis advolat ardens
struck; at-once at-the-warning of-the-leader flies-up burning
Arcas eques causamque refert. Tum squamea demum
the-Arcadian horseman and-the-cause reports. Then scaly at-last

torvus ad armorum radios fremitumque virorum
grim at of-the-arms the-rays and-the-roaring of-the-men
colla movet: rapit ingenti conamine saxum,
neck moves: snatches with-huge effort a-stone,
quo discretus ager, vacuasque impellit in auras
by-which divided the-field, and-empty drives into airs
arduus Hippomedon, quo turbine bellica quondam
lofty Hippomedon, with-which whirl warlike once
vibrati saliunt portarum in claustra molares.
hurled leap of-gates against the-bars millstones.
Cassa ducis virtus: iam mollia colla refusus
Vain the-leader's valor: now the-soft neck poured-back
in tergum serpens venientem evaserat ictum.
onto its-back the-serpent the-coming had-escaped blow.
Dat sonitum tellus, nemorumque per avia densi
Gives a-sound the-earth, and-of-the-groves through the-trackless dense
dissultant nexus. 'At non mea vulnera' clamat
leap-apart the-tangles. 'But not my wounds' he-shouts
et trabe fraxinea Capaneus subit obvius 'umquam
and with-beam ashen Capaneus goes meeting-it 'ever
effugies, seu tu pavidi ferus incola luci,
will-you-escape, whether you of-the-fearful fierce dweller grove,
sive deis, utinamque deis, concessa voluptas,
or to-the-gods, and-would-that to-the-gods, granted delight,
non, si consertum super haec mihi membra Giganta
not, if joined above these for-me limbs a-Giant
subveheres.' Volat hasta tremens et hiantia monstri
you-carried.' Flies the-spear trembling and gaping of-the-monster
ora subit linguaeque secat fera vincla trisulcae,
mouth enters and-of-the-tongue cuts fierce bonds three-forked,

perque iubas stantes capitisque insigne corusci
and-through the-crest standing and-of-the-head the-ornament flashing
emicat, et nigri sanie perfusa cerebri
darts-out, and of-black with-gore drenched brain
figitur alta solo. Longus vix tota peregit
is-fixed deep in-the-ground. Long hardly whole traversed
membra dolor, rapido celer ille volumine telum
the-limbs pain, with-swift quick it coil the-weapon
circuit avulsumque ferens in opaca refugit
circles and-torn-out carrying into shady flees-back
templa dei; hic magno tellurem pondere mensus
temples of-the-god; here with-great the-earth weight measured
implorantem animam dominis adsibilat aris.
imploring its-soul at-its-master's hisses altars.
Illum et cognatae stagna indignantia Lernae,
Him both kindred pools resenting of-Lerna,
floribus et vernis adsuetae spargere Nymphae,
with-flowers and spring accustomed to-sprinkle the-Nymphs,
et Nemees reptatus ager, lucosque per omnes
and of-Nemea crawled-over the-field, and-groves through all
silvicolae fracta gemuistis harundine, Fauni.
woodland with-broken you-groaned reed, Fauns.
Ipse etiam e summa iam tela poposcerat aethra
Himself even from highest now his-weapons had-demanded ether
Iuppiter, et dudum nimbique hiemesque coibant,
Jupiter, and long-since both-clouds and-storms were-gathering,
ni minor ira deo gravioraque tela mereri
had-not less anger to-the-god and-heavier weapons to-deserve

servatus Capaneus; moti tamen aura cucurrit
kept Capaneus; of-the-moved yet the-breeze ran
fulminis et summas libavit vertice cristas.
thunderbolt and highest grazed from-his-head crests.

V.13 · HYPSIPYLE'S LAMENT

Hypsipyle finds the grass red with blood and the child's body torn to pieces, and falls on him like a bird whose nestlings a snake has taken. She laments Archemorus, her comfort in exile, blames her own forgetfulness in telling her story, begs the leaders to kill her rather than face his mother Eurydice, and rolls in the dust at the kings' feet.

Iamque pererratis infelix Lemnia campis,
And-now having-wandered-over unhappy the-Lemnian the-plains,
liber ut angue locus, modico super aggere longe
free as from-the-snake the-place, a-moderate above mound far
pallida sanguineis infectas roribus herbas
pale with-bloody stained dews grasses
prospicit. Huc magno cursum rapit effera luctu
she-sees. Hither with-great her-course snatches wild with-grief
agnoscitque nefas, terraeque inlisa nocenti
and-recognizes the-horror, and-on-the-earth dashed guilty
fulminis in morem non verba in funere primo,
of-a-thunderbolt in the-manner not words in grief first,
non lacrimas habet: ingeminat misera oscula tantum
not tears she-has: she-redoubles wretched kisses only
incumbens animaeque fugam per membra tepentem
leaning-over and-of-the-soul the-flight through his-limbs warm
quaerit hians. Non ora loco, non pectora restant,
seeks gaping. Not the-face in-place, not the-breast remain,

rapta cutis, tenuia ossa patent nexusque madentes
torn-away the-skin, slender bones lie-open and-sinews dripping
sanguinis imbre novi, totumque in vulnere corpus.
of-blood with-shower new, and-whole in wound the-body.
Ac velut aligerae sedem fetusque parentis
And as of-a-winged-bird the-seat and-offspring parent
cum piger umbrosa populatus in ilice serpens,
when sluggish shady having-ravaged in holm-oak a-serpent,
illa redit querulaeque domus mirata quietem
she returns and-of-her-querulous home marveling-at the-quiet
iam stupet impendens advectosque horrida maesto
now is-stunned hovering and-the-brought bristling from-sad
excutit ore cibos, cum solus in arbore paret
shakes-out mouth food, when alone on the-tree appears
sanguis et errantes per capta cubilia plumae.
blood and wandering through the-captured nests feathers.
Ut laceros artus gremio miseranda recepit
When the-torn limbs into-her-lap pitiable she-received
intexitque comis, tandem laxata dolori
and-covered with-her-hair, at-last loosened to-grief
vox invenit iter, gemitusque in verba soluti:
her-voice found a-way, and-groans into words loosed:
'O mihi desertae natorum dulcis imago,
'O to-me deserted of-children sweet image,
Archemore, o rerum et patriae solamen ademptae
Archemorus, O of-my-fortunes and of-fatherland solace taken-away
servitiique decus, qui te, mea gaudia, sontes
and-of-servitude the-glory, which you, my joys, guilty
extinxere dei, modo quem digressa reliqui
have-extinguished gods, just-now whom departing I-left

lascivum et prono vexantem gramina cursu?
playful and with-forward troubling the-grass running?
Heu ubi siderei vultus? ubi verba ligatis
Alas where your-starry face? where the-words bound
imperfecta sonis risusque et murmura soli
incomplete in-sounds and-laughs and murmurs alone
intellecta mihi? quotiens tibi Lemnon et Argo
understood by-me? how-often to-you Lemnos and the-Argo
sueta loqui et longa somnum suadere querella!
accustomed to-speak and with-long sleep to-urge complaint!
Sic equidem luctus solabar et ubera parvo
Thus indeed my-griefs I-was-consoling and the-breasts to-the-little-one
iam materna dabam, cui nunc venit inritus orbae
now motherly I-was-giving, to-whom now comes vain of-bereaved
lactis et infelix in vulnera liquitur imber.
of-milk and unhappy into wounds melts shower.
Nosco deos: o dura mei praesagia somni
I-know the-gods: O hard of-my the-forebodings dream
nocturnique metus, et numquam impune per umbras
and-nightly fears, and never with-impunity through the-shadows
attonitae mihi visa Venus! quos arguo divos?
to-the-astonished to-me seen Venus! whom do-I-accuse gods?
Ipsa ego te (quid enim timeam moritura fateri?)
Myself I you (what indeed should-I-fear about-to-die to-confess?)
exposui fatis. Quae mentem insania traxit?
exposed to-the-fates. What my-mind madness drew?
Tantane me tantae tenuere oblivia curae?
So-great-whether me of-so-great held forgetfulness care?
Dum patrios casus famaeque exorsa retracto
While ancestral misfortunes and-of-fame the-beginnings I-retrace

ambitiosa meae (pietas haec magna fidesque!),
ambitious my (piety this great and-faithfulness!),
exsolvi tibi, Lemne, nefas; ubi letifer anguis,
I-have-paid to-you, Lemnos, the-horror; where the-death-bearing snake,
ferte, duces, meriti si qua est mihi gratia duri,
bring-me, leaders, of-the-deserved if any is to-me gratitude harsh,
si quis honos dictis, aut vos extinguite ferro,
if any honor to-my-words, or you extinguish-me with-steel,
ne tristes dominos orbamque inimica revisam
lest sad masters and-bereaved hostile I-should-see-again
Eurydicen, quamquam haut illi mea cura dolendo
Eurydice, although not to-her my grief in-grieving
cesserit. Hocne ferens onus inlaetabile matris
will-yield. This-whether bearing burden joyless of-the-mother
transfundam gremio? quae me prius ima sub umbras
shall-I-pour-into lap? what me sooner lowest under the-shades
mergat humus?' Simul haec terraque et sanguine vultum
should-sink earth?' At-once these-things and-with-earth and with-blood her-face
sordida magnorum circa vestigia regum
foul of-great around the-footsteps of-kings
vertitur, et tacite maerentibus imputat undas.
she-rolls, and silently to-the-grieving charges the-waters.

The news reaches Lycurgus, the boy's father, returning from sacrifice; an oracle had warned that he would give the first death to the Theban war. Mad with grief he rushes with drawn sword to kill Hypsipyle. Tydeus blocks him with his shield, Capaneus, Hippomedon, and Parthenopaeus stand by, and Lycurgus' rustics rally to him. Amphiaraus urges both sides to lay down their swords, but Tydeus defies the king to kill the woman who saved the army.

Et iam sacrifici subitus per tecta Lycurgi
And now of-the-sacrificing sudden through the-house of-Lycurgus
nuntius implerat lacrimis ipsumque domumque,
a-messenger had-filled with-tears both-himself and-the-house,
ipsum adventantem Persei vertice sancto
himself arriving of-the-Persean from-the-summit holy
montis, ubi averso dederat prosecta Tonanti,
mountain, where to-the-turned-away he-had-given entrails Thunderer,
et caput iratis rediens quassabat ab extis.
and his-head angry returning was-shaking from entrails.
Hic sese Argolicis immunem servat ab armis
Here himself Argolic exempt keeps from arms
haut animi vacuus, sed templa araeque tenebant.
not in-spirit free, but the-temples and-altars were-holding.
Necdum etiam responsa deum monitusque vetusti
Not-yet even the-oracles of-the-gods and-the-warnings old
exciderant et vox adytis accepta profundis:
had-fallen-away and the-voice from-the-shrine received deep:
'Prima, Lycurge, dabis Dircaeo funera bello.'
'The-first, Lycurgus, you-will-give to-the-Dircaean deaths war.'
Id cavet, et maestus vicini pulvere Martis
This he-guards-against, and sad of-neighboring at-the-dust Mars

angitur ad lituos periturusque invidet armis.
is-tormented at the-trumpets and-about-to-perish envies arms.
Ecce (fides superum!) laceras comitata Thoantis
Behold (the-faith of-the-gods-above!) torn accompanying the-daughter-of-Thoas
advehit exsequias, contra subit obvia mater,
brings the-funeral-remains, opposite comes meeting the-mother,
femineos coetus plangentiaque agmina ducens.
womanly gatherings and-lamenting columns leading.
At non magnanimo pietas ignava Lycurgo:
But not in-great-souled piety sluggish Lycurgus:
fortior ille malis, lacrimasque insana resorbet
braver he than-evils, and-the-tears mad sucks-back
ira patris, longo rapit arva morantia passu
anger of-the-father, with-long seizes the-fields delaying stride
vociferans: 'Illa autem ubinam, cui parva cruoris
shouting: 'She however where, to-whom small of-blood
laetave damna mei? vivitne? impellite raptam,
or-glad the-losses my? does-she-live-whether? drive-her snatched,
ferte citi comites; faxo omnis fabula Lemni
bring quick comrades; I-shall-make all the-tale of-Lemnos
et pater et tumidae generis mendacia sacri
both father and of-swollen of-race the-lies sacred
exciderint.' Ibat, letumque inferre parabat
shall-have-fallen-away.' He-went, and-death to-inflict was-preparing
ense furens rapto; venienti Oeneius heros
with-sword raging snatched; at-him-coming the-Oenean hero
impiger obiecta proturbat pectora parma,
active with-thrown-against drives-back breast shield,
ac simul infrendens: 'Siste hunc, vesane, furorem,
and at-once gnashing: 'Stop this, madman, frenzy,

quisquis es!' Et pariter Capaneus acerque reducto
whoever you-are!' And equally Capaneus and-fierce drawn-back
adfuit Hippomedon rectoque Erymanthius ense,
was-present Hippomedon and-with-upright the-Erymanthian sword,
ac iuvenem multo praestringunt lumine; at inde
and the-youth with-much dazzle light; but thence
agrestum pro rege manus. Quos inter Adrastus
of-rustics for the-king a-band. Whom among Adrastus
mitius et sociae veritus commercia vitae
more-gently and of-allied having-respected the-commerce life
Amphiaraus ait: 'Ne — quaeso; absistite ferro,
Amphiaraus says: 'Do-not —I-pray; stand-off from-steel,
unus avum sanguis, neve indulgete furori,
one of-grandfathers blood, nor indulge frenzy,
tuque prior.' Sed non sedato pectore Tydeus
and-you first.' But not with-calmed breast Tydeus
subicit: 'Anne ducem servatricemque cohortis
adds: 'Or the-leader and-savior of-the-cohort
Inachiae ingratis coram tot milibus ausis
Inachian ungrateful in-the-presence-of so-many thousands would-you-dare
mactare in tumulos (quanti pro funeris ultor!),
to-slaughter for tombs (of-how-great oh of-a-death the-avenger!),
cui regnum genitorque Thoas et lucidus Euhan
to-whom kingdom and-father Thoas and bright Euhan
stirpis avus? Timidone parum, quod gentibus actis
of-the-stock grandfather? Timid-whether too-little, that nations driven
undique in arma tuis inter rapida agmina pacem
from-everywhere to arms your among swift columns peace

solus habes? habeasque, et te victoria Graium
alone you-have? and-may-you-have, and you victory of-the-Greeks
inveniat tumulis etiamnum haec fata gementem.'
may-find at-the-tombs still these fates groaning.'

V.15 · HYPSIPYLE'S SONS

Lycurgus yields but warns that Jupiter's anger will come. Meanwhile rumor that Hypsipyle has been killed brings the Argives to attack the palace, until Adrastus rides among them with her in his chariot and calms them like Neptune calming a storm. Bacchus now brings Hypsipyle's twin sons, who have come to Nemea seeking her; when they hear Lemnos and Thoas named they rush to embrace her, and when she sees the Argo on their swords and Jason woven on their shoulders she faints with joy. Amphiaraus declares that the drought, the serpent, and the death of Archemorus were fated, that the child is a god to be honored, not mourned, and that his parents' name will last through the ages.

Dixerat, et tandem cunctante modestior ira
He-had-spoken, and at-last hesitating more-modest with-anger
ille refert: 'Equidem nunc vos ad moenia Thebes
he replies: 'Indeed now you at the-walls of-Thebes
rebar et hostiles huc advenisse catervas.
I-thought and enemy hither to-have-come bands.
Pergite in excidium socii (si tanta voluptas)
Go-on into destruction allies (if so-great pleasure)
sanguinis, imbuite arma domi, atque haec inrita dudum
of-blood, steep arms at-home, and these vain long-since
templa Iovis (quid enim haut licitum?) ferat impius ignis,
temples of-Jupiter (what indeed not allowed?) let-bear impious fire,
si vilem, tanti premerent cum pectora luctus,
if worthless, so-great were-pressing when breast griefs,

in famulam ius esse ratus dominoque ducique.
over a-slave-woman right to-be having-thought both-to-master and-to-leader.
Sed videt haec, videt ille deum regnator, et ausis
But sees these-things, sees he of-the-gods the-ruler, and on-the-daring
sera quidem, manet ira tamen.' Sic fatus, et arces
late indeed, remains anger yet.' Thus having-spoken, and the-citadel
respicit. Atque illic alio certamine belli
he-looks-back-at. And there in-another contest of-war
tecta fremunt; volucres equitum praeverterat alas
the-roofs roar; the-swift of-horsemen had-outstripped wings
Fama recens, geminos alis amplexa tumultus:
Rumor fresh, twin with-wings embracing uproars:
illi ad fata rapi atque illi iam occumbere leto,
some to the-fates to-be-snatched and others now to-fall in-death,
sic meritam Hypsipylen iterant, creduntque, nec irae
so deserving Hypsipyle they-repeat, and-believe, nor to-anger
fit mora, iamque faces et tela penatibus instant,
is delay, and-now torches and weapons on-the-household press,
vertere regna fremunt raptumque auferre Lycurgum,
to-overturn the-kingdom they-roar and-snatched to-carry-off Lycurgus,
cum Iove cumque aris; resonant ululatibus aedes
with Jupiter and-with altars; resounds with-wailings the-house
femineis, versusque dolor dat terga timori.
womanly, and-turned grief gives its-back to-fear.
Alipedum curru sed enim sublimis Adrastus
Of-wing-footed in-chariot but indeed lofty Adrastus
secum ante ora virum fremibunda Thoantida portans
with-himself before the-faces of-the-men roaring the-daughter-of-Thoas carrying
it medius turmis, et 'parcite, parcite!' clamat,
goes in-the-middle of-the-squadrons, and 'spare, spare!' he-shouts,

‘nil actum saeve, meritus nec tale Lycurgus
‘nothing done savagely, deserved nor such Lycurgus
excidium, gratique inventrix fluminis ecce.’
destruction, and-of-the-welcome the-finder river behold.’
Sic ubi diversis maria evertere procellis
So when with-opposing the-seas have-overturned storms
hinc Boreas Eurusque, illinc niger imbribus Auster,
on-this-side Boreas and-Eurus, on-that black with-rains Auster,
pulsa dies regnantque hiemes, venit aequoris alti
driven-off the-day and-reign storms, comes of-the-sea deep
rex sublimis equis, geminusque ad spumea Triton
the-king lofty on-horses, and-twin to foamy Triton
frena natans late pelago dat signa cadenti,
reins swimming widely to-the-sea gives signals falling,
et iam plana Thetis, montesque et litora crescunt.
and now level Thetis, and-mountains and shores grow.
Quis superum tanto solatus funera voto
Who of-the-gods-above with-so-great having-consoled deaths a-wish
pensavit lacrimas inopinaque gaudia maestae
weighed-out the-tears and-unexpected joys to-the-sad
rettulit Hypsipylae? Tu gentis conditor, Euhan,
brought-back Hypsipyle? You of-the-race the-founder, Euhan,
qui geminos iuvenes Lemni de litore vectos
who twin youths of-Lemnos from the-shore carried
intuleras Nemeae mirandaque fata parabas.
had-brought-in to-Nemea and-wondrous fates were-preparing.
Causa viae genetrix, nec inhospita tecta Lycurgi
The-cause of-the-journey the-mother, nor inhospitable the-house of-Lycurgus
praebuerant aditus, et protinus ille tyranno
had-offered approaches, and at-once he to-the-tyrant

nuntius extinctae miserando vulnere prolis.
the-messenger of-the-extinguished by-pitiable wound offspring.
Ergo adsunt comites (pro fors et caeca futuri
Therefore are-present the-comrades (oh fortune and blind of-the-future
mens hominum!) regique favent; sed Lemnos ad aures
mind of-men!) and-to-the-king they-favor; but Lemnos to the-ears
ut primum dictusque Thoas, per tela manusque
as first and-spoken Thoas, through weapons and-hands
inruerant, matremque avidis complexibus ambo
they-had-rushed, and-their-mother with-greedy embraces both
diripiunt flentes alternaque pectora mutant.
tear-apart weeping and-alternate breasts change.
Illa velut rupes immoto saxea visu
She like a-rock with-unmoved stony gaze
haeret et expertis non audet credere divis.
clings and to-the-experienced not does-dare to-believe gods.
Ut vero et vultus et signa Argoa relictis
When indeed both the-faces and the-signs of-the-Argo left
ensibus atque umeris amborum intextus Iason,
on-swords and on-the-shoulders of-both woven Jason,
cesserunt luctus, turbataque munere tanto
yielded the-griefs, and-disturbed by-gift so-great
corruit, atque alio maduerunt lumina fletu.
she-collapsed, and with-other were-wet the-eyes weeping.
Addita signa polo, laetoque ululante tumultu
Added signs in-the-sky, and-with-glad howling uproar
tergaque et aera dei motas crepuere per auras.
both-the-hides and bronzes of-the-god moved rattled through airs.
Tunc pius Oeclides, ut prima silentia vulgi
Then dutiful the-son-of-Oecles, when first silence of-the-crowd

mollior ira dedit placidasque accessus ad aures:
softer anger gave and-calm approaches to ears:
'Audite, o ductor Nemeae lectique potentes
'Hear, O leader of-Nemea and-chosen powerful
Inachidae, quae certus agi manifestat Apollo.
Inachidae, what certain to-be-done shows Apollo.
Iste quidem Argolicis haut olim indebitus armis
This indeed to-Argolic not long-ago undue arms
luctus adest, recto descendunt limite Parcae:
grief is-present, by-a-straight descend path the-Parcae:
et sitis interitu fluviorum et letifer anguis,
both the-thirst in-the-death of-the-rivers and the-death-bearing snake,
et puer, heu nostri signatus nomine fati,
and the-boy, alas of-our marked with-the-name fate,
Archemorus, cuncta haec superum demissa suprema
Archemorus, all these-things of-the-gods-above sent-down from-the-highest
mente fluunt. Differte animos festinaque tela
mind flow. Put-off your-spirits and-hasty weapons
ponite; mansuris donandus honoribus infans.
lay-down; with-lasting to-be-presented honors the-infant.
Et meruit; det pulchra suis libamina virtus
And he-has-deserved; let-give beautiful to-its-own libations valor
manibus, atque utinam plures innectere pergas,
shades, and would-that more to-weave you-might-go-on,
Phoebe, moras, semperque novis bellare vetemur
Phoebus, delays, and-always by-new to-wage-war may-we-be-forbidden
casibus, et semper Thebe funesta recedas!
misfortunes, and always Thebes deadly may-you-recede!
At vos magnorum transgressi fata parentum
But you of-great having-surpassed the-fates parents

felices, longum quibus hinc per saecula nomen,
happy-ones, long to-whom hence through ages the-name,
dum Lernaea palus et dum pater Inachus ibit,
while the-Lernaean marsh and while father Inachus shall-go,
dum Nemea tremulas campis iaculabitur umbras,
while Nemea trembling on-the-plains shall-hurl shadows,
ne fletu violate sacrum, ne plangite divos:
do-not with-weeping violate the-holy-one, do-not lament the-gods:
nam deus iste, deus, Pyliae nec fata senectae
for a-god he, a-god, of-Pylian nor the-fates old-age
maluerit, Phrygiis aut degere longius annis.'
would-have-preferred, than-Phrygian or to-live longer years.'
Finierat, caeloque cavam nox induit umbram.
He-had-finished, and-on-the-sky hollow night put shadow.

BOOK VI

VI.1 · THE GAMES ANNOUNCED; MOURNING

Rumor spreads through Greece that the Argives will found funeral games for the dead child, as Hercules founded the Olympic games, Apollo the Pythian, and the Isthmians theirs for Palaemon. The heroes gather to test their strength, like ships trying their oars on a calm lake before the open sea. At dawn the palace of Lycurgus resounds with lament; the father sits in squalor and the mother tries to throw herself on her son's remains. When the Argive kings enter, the wailing breaks out afresh, and they weep to excuse their part in his death.

Nuntia multivago Danaas perlabitur urbes
Messenger with-wide-wandering the-Danaan glides-through cities
Fama gradu, sancire novo sollemnia busto
Rumor with-step, to-sanction at-the-new solemn-rites tomb
Inachidas ludumque super, quo Martia bellis
the-Inachidae and-a-game besides, by-which Martial for-wars
praesudare paret seseque accendere virtus.
to-sweat-beforehand may-prepare and-itself to-kindle valor.
Graium ex more decus: primus Pisaea per arva
Of-the-Greeks by custom a-glory: first Pisaean through fields
hunc pius Alcides Pelopi certavit honorem
this dutiful Alcides for-Pelops contested honor
pulvereumque fera crinem detersit oliva;
and-dusty with-wild hair wiped olive;
proxima vipereo celebravit libera nexu
next with-viperine celebrated free from-the-coil
Phocis Apollineae bellum puerile pharetrae;
Phocis of-Apollo's the-war boyish quiver;
mox circum tristes servata Palaemonis aras
soon around sad kept of-Palaemon the-altars

nigra superstitio, quotiens animosa resumit
black superstition, as-often-as spirited resumes
Leucothea gemitus et amica ad litora festa
Leucothea groans and friendly to shores festive
tempestate venit: planctu conclamat uterque
at-season comes: with-beating shouts each
Isthmos, Echioniae responsant flebile Thebae.
Isthmus, Echionian answer tearfully Thebes.
Et nunc eximii regum, quibus Argos alumnis
And now the-outstanding of-kings, by-whose Argos nurslings
conexum caelo, quorumque ingentia tellus
joined to-heaven, and-whose huge the-land
Aonis et Tyriae suspirant nomina matres,
Aonian and Tyrian sigh-at names mothers,
concurrunt nudasque movent in proelia vires.
run-together and-naked move into contests strengths.
Ceu primum ausurae trans alta ignota biremes,
As at-first about-to-dare across the-deep unknown biremes,
seu Tyrrhenam hiemem, seu stagna Aegaea lacessant,
whether the-Tyrrhenian storm, or pools Aegean they-provoke,
tranquillo prius arma lacu clavumque levesque
on-tranquil first arms on-the-lake and-tiller and-light
explorant remos atque ipsa pericula discunt;
test oars and themselves the-dangers learn;
at cum experta cohors, tunc pontum inrumpere fretae
but when tested the-crew, then the-sea to-burst-into relying
longius ereptasque oculis non quaerere terras.
further and-snatched from-eyes not to-seek lands.
Clara laboriferos caelo Tithonia currus
Bright the-labor-bearing to-the-sky Tithonian chariot

extulerat vigilesque deae pallentis habenas
had-raised and-watchful of-the-goddess pale the-reins
et Nox et cornu fugiebat Somnus inani;
both Night and with-horn was-fleeing Sleep empty;
iam plangore viae, gemitu iam regia mugit
now with-lamentation the-streets, with-groaning now the-palace bellows
flebilis, acceptos longe nemora avia frangunt
tearful, received far the-groves trackless break
multiplicantque sonos. Sedet ipse exutus honoro
and-multiply the-sounds. Sits himself stripped-of honored
vittarum nexu genitor squalentiaque ora
of-fillets the-binding the-father and-squalid face
sparsus et incultam ferali pulvere barbam.
sprinkled and unkempt with-funereal dust beard.
Asperior contra planctusque egressa viriles
Harsher opposite and-laments having-surpassed manly
exemplo famulas premit hortaturque volentes
by-example the-handmaids presses and-urges willing
orba parens, lacerasque super prorumpere nati
the-bereaved parent, and-torn over to-burst of-her-son
reliquias ardet totiensque avulsa refertur.
remains burns and-as-often torn-away is-brought-back.
Arcet et ipse pater. Mox ut maerentia dignis
Wards-off even himself the-father. Soon when grieving with-fitting
vultibus Inachii penetrarunt limina reges,
faces the-Inachian entered the-thresholds kings,
ceu nova tunc clades et primo saucius infans
as-if new then the-disaster and with-first wounded the-infant
vulnere letalisve inrumperet atria serpens,
wound or-deadly were-bursting-into the-hall a-serpent,

sic alium ex alio quamquam lassata fragorem
so another from another although wearied crash
pectora congeminant, integratoque resultant
breasts redouble, and-with-renewed rebound
accensae clamore fores; sensere Pelasgi
inflamed shouting the-doors; felt the-Pelasgians
invidiam et lacrimis excusant crimen obortis.
the-ill-will and with-tears excuse the-charge risen.

VI.2 · THE PYRE

Adrastus consoles the father with talk of fate and of other children to come. A pyre is built for the child in tiers of branches, grass, flowers, and Arabian spices, hung with purple and gold and with a picture of Linus and the deadly dogs that the mother could never bear to see; gifts are added, the boy's small bow and arrows and the horses he was to have had. At the augur's word the army cuts down a great forest for a second pyre, to atone for the serpent's killing and the ill-omened war, ancient trees falling as in the sack of a city, while Pales, Silvanus, and the woodland demigods leave weeping and the Nymphs cling to the oaks.

Ipse, datum quotiens intercisoque tumultu
Himself, it-given as-often-as and-with-cut-off uproar
conticuit stupefacta domus, solatur Adrastus
fell-silent stunned the-house, consoles Adrastus
alloquiis genitorem ultro, nunc fata recensens
with-addresses the-father unasked, now the-fates reviewing
resque hominum duras et inexorabile pensum,
and-the-affairs of-men hard and inexorable the-yarn,
nunc aliam prolem mansuraque numine dextro
now other offspring and-lasting with-deity favorable

pignora. Nondum orsis modus, et lamenta redibant.
pledges. Not-yet to-his-words a-limit, and the-laments were-returning.

Tristibus interea ramis teneraque cupresso
With-sad meanwhile branches and-tender cypress

damnatus flammae torus et puerile feretrum
condemned to-the-flame a-couch and boyish a-bier

texitur: ima virent agresti stramina cultu;
is-woven: the-lowest are-green rustic straw in-fashion;

proxima gramineis operosior area sertis,
next with-grassy more-elaborate a-floor garlands,

et picturatus morituris floribus agger;
and painted with-about-to-die flowers a-mound;

tertius adsurgens Arabum strue tollitur ordo
the-third rising of-the-Arabs with-heap is-raised tier

Eoas complexus opes incanaque glebis
Eastern embracing riches and-white with-lumps

tura et ab antiquo durantia cinnama Belo.
incense and from ancient enduring cinnamon Belus.

Summa crepant auro, Tyrioque attollitur ostro
The-top rattles with-gold, and-with-Tyrian is-raised purple

molle supercilium, teretes hoc undique gemmae
a-soft canopy, smooth this everywhere gems

inradiant, medio Linus intertextus acantho
irradiate, in-the-middle Linus interwoven with-acanthus

letiferique canes: opus admirabile semper
and-death-bearing dogs: a-work wonderful always

oderat atque oculos flectebat ab omine mater.
hated and her-eyes was-bending from the-omen the-mother.

Arma etiam et veterum exuvias circumdat avorum
Arms also and of-old the-spoils surrounds ancestors

gloria mixta malis adflictaeque ambitus aulae,
glory mingled with-evils and-of-the-afflicted ambition hall,
ceu grande exsequiis onus atque immensa ferantur
as-if a-great to-the-funeral burden and huge were-carried
membra rogo, sed cassa tamen sterilisque dolentes
limbs to-the-pyre, but vain yet and-barren the-grieving
fama iuvat, parvique augescunt funere manes.
fame helps, and-of-the-little grow by-the-funeral the-shade.
Inde ingens lacrimis honor et miseranda voluptas,
Thence huge with-tears honor and pitiable pleasure,
muneraque in cineres annis graviora feruntur
and-gifts into ashes than-years heavier are-carried
(namque illi et pharetras brevioraque tela dicarat
(for for-him both quivers and-shorter weapons had-dedicated
festinus voti pater insontesque sagittas;
hasty in-his-vow the-father and-innocent arrows;
iam tunc et nota stabuli de gente probatos
now then also the-known of-the-stable from race proven
in nomen pascebat equos) cinctusque sonantes
for the-name he-was-feeding horses) and-belts resounding
armaque maiores expectatura lacertos.
and-arms greater about-to-await arms.
Parte alia gnari monitis exercitus instat
On-side other knowing at-the-warnings the-army presses
auguris aeriam truncis nemorumque ruina
of-the-augur airy with-trunks and-of-groves with-ruin
montis opus cumulare pyram, quae crimina caesi
of-the-mountain a-work to-heap-up a-pyre, which the-crimes of-the-slain
anguis et infausti cremet atra piacula belli.
snake and of-unlucky should-burn black atonements war.

Sternitur extemplo veteres incaedua ferro
Is-laid-low at-once old uncut by-steel
silva comas, largae qua non opulentior umbrae
the-forest in-foliage, of-ample than-which not richer shade
Argolicos inter saltusque educta Lycaeos
Argolic among and-glades raised Lycaean
extulerat super astra caput: stat sacra senectae
had-raised above the-stars its-head: it-stands holy of-age
numine, nec solos hominum transgressa veterno
by-divinity, nor only of-men having-outlived through-old-age
fertur avos, Nymphas etiam mutasse superstes
is-said ancestors, the-Nymphs even to-have-changed surviving
Faunorumque greges. Aderat miserabile luco
and-of-the-Fauns the-flocks. Was-present pitiable to-the-grove
excidium: fugere ferae, nidosque tepentes
destruction: fled the-beasts, and-from-nests warm
absiliunt (metus urget) aves; cadit ardua fagus,
leap-away (fear presses) the-birds; falls lofty the-beech,
Chaoniumque nemus brumaeque inlaesa cupressus,
and-the-Chaonian grove and-by-winter unhurt the-cypress,
procumbunt piceae, flammis alimenta supremis,
fall-forward the-pitch-pines, for-flames nourishment last,
ornique iliceaeque trabes metuendaque suco
and-the-mountain-ashes and-of-holm-oak beams and-to-be-feared for-its-sap
taxus et infandos belli potura cruores
the-yew and unspeakable of-war about-to-drink gore
fraxinus atque situ non expugnabile robur.
the-ash and by-age not conquerable oak.
Hinc audax abies et odoro vulnere pinus
Hence bold the-fir and with-fragrant wound the-pine

scinditur, acclinant intonsa cacumina terrae
is-split, lean unshorn their-tops on-the-earth
alnus amica fretis nec inhospita vitibus ulmus.
the-alder friendly to-the-straits and-not inhospitable to-vines the-elm.
Dat gemitum tellus: non sic eversa feruntur
Gives a-groan the-earth: not so overturned are-said
Ismara, cum fracto Boreas caput extulit antro,
Ismara, when from-broken Boreas his-head raised cave,
non grassante Noto citius nocturna peregit
not raging the-South-wind more-quickly nightly has-gone-through
flamma nemus; linquunt flentes dilecta locorum
flame a-grove; leave weeping beloved of-places
otia cana Pales Silvanusque arbiter umbrae
leisure white Pales and-Silvanus arbiter of-the-shade
semideumque pecus, migrantibus adgemit illis
and-of-demigods the-flock, at-their-migrating groans-with them
silva, nec amplexae dimittunt robora Nymphae.
the-forest, nor embracing let-go the-oaks the-Nymphs.
Ut cum possessas avidis victoribus arces
As when possessed to-greedy victors citadels
dux raptare dedit, vix signa audita, nec urbem
the-leader to-plunder has-given, hardly the-signals heard, nor the-city
invenias; ducunt sternuntque abiguntque feruntque
could-you-find; they-lead and-lay-low and-drive-off and-carry
inmodici, minor ille fragor, quo bella gerebant.
immoderate, lesser that crash, with-which wars they-were-waging.

With a Phrygian pipe sounding, the Greek chieftains carry offerings and youths chosen by Adrastus bear the bier on their shoulders. Eurydice laments: she never dreamed of war for her child; she trusted a nurse who boasted of saving her father, and who left him alone in the woods to die by a snake, a breeze, or fear; he loved the nurse more than his mother. She begs the leaders to hand Hypsipyle over to her vengeance, then falls silent like a cow whose calf has been taken.

Iamque pari cumulo geminas hanc tristibus umbris,
And-now with-equal heap twin this-one to-the-sad shades,
ast illam superis aequus labor auxerat aras,
but that-one to-the-gods-above equal toil had-increased altars,
cum signum luctus cornu grave mugit adunco
when as-a-signal of-grief with-horn deeply bellows curved
tibia, cui teneros suetum producere Manes
the-pipe, by-which tender accustomed to-lead-forth Shades
lege Phrygum maesta. Pelopem monstrasse ferebant
by-the-law of-the-Phrygians sad. Pelops to-have-shown they-reported
exsequiale sacrum carmenque minoribus umbris
the-funeral rite and-the-song for-lesser shades
utile, quo geminis Niobe consumpta pharetris
useful, by-which with-twin Niobe consumed quivers
squalida bissenas Sipylon deduxerat urnas.
squalid twice-six to-Sipylus had-brought-down urns.
Portant inferias arsuraque fercula primi
Carry the-offerings and-about-to-burn trays the-first
Graiorum, titulisque pios testantur honores
of-the-Greeks, and-with-inscriptions dutiful attest honors
gentis quisque suae; longo post tempore surgit
of-race each his-own; long after time rises

colla super iuvenum (numero dux legerat omni)
necks above of-youths (in-number the-leader had-chosen all)
ipse fero clamore torus. Cinxere Lycurgum
itself with-fierce shouting the-couch. Surrounded Lycurgus
Lernaei proceres, genetricem mollior ambit
Lernaean nobles, the-mother softer encircles
turba, nec Hypsipyle raro subit agmine; vallant
throng, nor Hypsipyle with-scant goes-under column; fence
Inachidae memores, sustentant livida nati
the-Inachidae mindful, support the-livid her-sons
bracchia et inventae concedunt plangere matri.
arms and to-the-found yield to-lament mother.
Illic infaustos ut primum egressa penates
There unlucky when first having-gone-out the-household
Eurydice, nudo vocem de pectore rumpit
Eurydice, naked voice from breast breaks
planctuque et longis praefata ululatibus infit:
and-with-beating and with-long having-prefaced with-wailings begins:
'Non hoc Argolidum coetu circumdata matrum
'Not by-this of-Argive gathering surrounded mothers
speravi te, nate, sequi, nec talia demens
did-I-hope you, son, to-follow, nor such mad
fingebam votis annorum elementa tuorum,
was-I-fashioning in-prayers of-the-years the-elements your,
nil saevum reputans; etenim his in finibus aevi
nothing savage reckoning; for these in borders of-age
unde ego bella tibi Thebasque ignara timerem?
whence I wars for-you and-Thebes unknowing should-fear?
Cui superum nostro committere sanguine pugnas
To-whom of-the-gods-above with-our to-begin blood battles

dulce? quis hoc armis vovit scelus? at tua nondum,
sweet? who this for-arms vowed crime? but your not-yet,
Cadme, domus, nullus Tyrio grege plangitur infans.
Cadmus, house, no from-the-Tyrian flock is-lamented infant.
Primitias egomet lacrimarum et caedis acerbae
The-first-fruits I of-tears and of-slaughter bitter
ante tubas ferrumque tuli, dum deside cura
before the-trumpets and-steel bore, while with-sluggish care
credo sinus fidos altricis et ubera mando.
I-trust the-bosom faithful of-the-nurse and the-breasts entrust.
Quidni ego? narrabat servatum fraude parentem
Why-not I? she-used-to-tell saved by-fraud her-father
insontesque manus. En! quam ferale putemus
and-innocent hands. Lo! whom deathly we-should-think
abiurasse sacrum et Lemni gentilibus unam
to-have-abjured the-rite and of-Lemnos from-the-national alone
immunem furiis, haec illa (et creditis ausae),
exempt furies, this she (and you-believe-it having-dared),
haec pietate potens solis abiecit in arvis
this-one in-piety powerful lonely threw-away in fields
non regem dominumque, alienos impia partus,
not a-king and-master, foreign impious births,
hoc tantum, silvaeque infamis tramite liquit,
this-one only, and-of-the-wood infamous on-the-path left,
quem non anguis atrox (quid enim hac opus, ei mihi, leti
whom not a-snake fierce (what indeed of-this need, ah me, of-death
mole fuit?), tantum caeli violentior aura
of-mass was?), only of-the-sky more-violent a-breeze
impulsaeque noto frondes cassusque valeret
and-driven by-the-south-wind leaves and-empty could

exanimare timor. Nec vos incessere luctu
to-kill fear. Nor you to-assail with-grief
orba habeo, fixum matri inmotumque manebat
bereaved do-I-hold, fixed for-the-mother and-unmoved remained
hac altrice nefas; atquin et blandus ad illam,
with-this nurse the-horror; and-yet also coaxing toward her,
nate, magis, solam nosse atque audire vocantem,
son, more, her-alone to-know and to-hear calling,
ignarusque mei: nulla ex te gaudia matri.
and-unknowing of-me: no from you joys to-the-mother.
Illa tuos questus lacrimososque impia risus
She your complaints and-tearful impious laughs
audiit et vocis decerpsit murmura primae.
heard and of-your-voice plucked the-murmurs first.
Illa tibi genetrix semper, dum vita manebat,
She to-you mother always, while life remained,
nunc ego. Sed miserae mihi nec punire potestas
now I. But to-wretched to-me nor to-punish power
sic meritam! quid dona, duces, quid inania fertis
thus deserving! why gifts, leaders, why empty do-you-bring
iusta rogis? Illam (nil poscunt amplius umbrae),
rites for-the-pyres? Her (nothing demand more the-shades),
illam, oro, cineri simul excisaeque parenti
her, I-pray, to-the-ash at-once and-to-the-destroyed parent
reddite, quaeso, duces, per ego haec primordia belli,
give-back, I-beg, leaders, by I these beginnings of-war,
cui peperi; sic aequa gemant mihi funera matres
for-whom I-bore; so equal may-groan for-me deaths the-mothers
Ogygiae.' Sternit crines iteratque precando:
Ogygian.' She-strews her-hair and-repeats in-praying:

‘Reddite, nec vero crudelem avidamque vocate
‘Give-her-back, nor indeed cruel and-greedy call-me
sanguinis: occumbam pariter, dum vulnere iusto
of-blood: I-shall-fall equally, while with-wound just
exaturata oculos, unum impellamur in ignem.’
sated in-eyes, one may-we-be-driven into fire.’
Sic ait abruptisque inmutuit ore querellis:
Thus she-says and-with-broken-off fell-silent mouth complaints:
non secus ac primo fraudatum lacte iuvencum,
not otherwise than of-first defrauded milk a-bullock,
cui trepidae vires et solus ab ubere sanguis,
to-whom trembling strength and only from the-udder blood,
seu fera seu duras avexit pastor ad aras;
either a-beast or hard has-carried-off the-herdsman to altars;
nunc vallem spoliata parens, nunc flumina questu,
now the-valley robbed the-parent, now the-rivers with-complaint,
nunc armenta movet vacuosque interrogat agros;
now the-herds moves and-the-empty questions fields;
tunc piget ire domum, maestoque novissima campo
then it-irks to-go home, and-from-the-sad last plain
exit et oppositas inpasta avertitur herbas.
she-goes-out and opposing unfed turns-away-from grasses.

Lycurgus throws his scepter on the pyre and cuts off the hair he had vowed to Jupiter for his son's coming of age. The pyre is lit and the parents are held back; gems, silver, gold, spices, honey, wine, and milk feed the flames. The seven Argive squadrons ride round the pyre to the left, clashing their arms, and sacrifices are burned on a second pyre. When the fire dies they quench it. Within nine days a stone temple stands over the ashes, carved with the story: Hypsipyle showing the river, the child, and the serpent dying on a spear.

At genitor sceptrique decus cultusque Tonantis
But the-father both-of-the-scepter the-glory and-the-dress of-the-Thunderer
inicit ipse rogis, tergoque et pectore fusam
throws himself on-the-pyre, and-on-back and on-breast poured
caesariem ferro minuit sectisque iacentis
hair with-steel lessens and-with-cut of-the-lying
obnubit tenuia ora comis, ac talia fletu
veils the-thin face locks, and such with-weeping
verba pio miscens: 'Alio tibi, perfide, pacto,
words dutiful mingling: 'On-another for-you, faithless-one, pact,
Iuppiter, hunc crinem voti reus ante dicaram,
Jupiter, this hair of-my-vow bound before had-I-dedicated,
si pariter virides nati libare dedisses
if equally green of-my-son to-offer you-had-granted
ad tua templa genas, sed non ratus ore sacerdos,
at your temples cheeks, but not ratified by-the-mouth the-priest,
damnataeque preces; ferat haec, quae dignior, umbra.'
and-condemned the-prayers; let-bear these, which worthier, the-shade.'
Iam face subiecta primis in frondibus ignis:
Now with-torch put-under the-first in leaves the-fire:

exclamant (labor insanos arcere) parentes.
cry-out (a-toil the-mad to-keep-off) the-parents.
Stant iussi Danaum atque obtentis eminus armis
Stand ordered of-the-Danaans and with-held-before from-afar arms
prospectu visus interclusere nefasto.
from-the-view the-sight shut-off unspeakable.
Ditantur flammae; non umquam opulentior illic
Are-enriched the-flames; not ever more-opulent there
ante cinis: crepitant gemmae, atque immane liquescit
before ash: crackle gems, and huge melts
argentum, et pictis exudat vestibus aurum;
silver, and from-embroidered sweats garments gold;
nec non Assyriis pinguescunt robora sucis,
and also with-Assyrian grow-fat the-oaks juices,
pallentique croco strident ardentia mella,
and-with-pale saffron hiss burning honeys,
spumantesque mero paterae verguntur et atri
and-foaming with-wine bowls are-tilted and of-black
sanguinis et rapti gratissima cymbia lactis.
blood and of-snatched most-pleasing cups milk.
Tunc septem numero turmas (centenus ubique
Then seven in-number squadrons (a-hundred everywhere
surgit eques) versis ducunt insignibus ipsi
rises horsemen) with-reversed lead insignia themselves
Graiugenae reges, lustrantque ex more sinistro
the-Greek-born kings, and-circle by custom with-left
orbe rogum et stantes inclinant pulvere flammas.
orb the-pyre and standing bend with-dust flames.
Ter curvos egere sinus, inlisaque telis
Thrice curved they-drove folds, and-dashed against-weapons

tela sonant, quater horrendum pepulere fragorem
weapons sound, four-times dreadful beat crash
arma, quater mollem famularum bracchia planctum.
arms, four-times soft of-the-handmaids arms lament.
Semianimas alter pecudes spirantiaque ignis
Half-alive another cattle and-breathing the-fire
accipit armenta; hic luctus abolere novique
receives herds; here the-mourning to-abolish and-of-new
funeris auspicium vates (quamquam omina sentit
death an-auspice the-prophet (although the-omens he-feels
vera) iubet: dextri gyro et vibrantibus hastis
true) bids: of-the-right with-circle and with-brandished spears
hac redeunt, raptumque suis libamen ab armis
this-way they-return, and-snatched their-own an-offering from arms
quisque iacit, seu frena libet seu cingula flammis
each throws, whether reins it-pleases or belts in-flames
mergere seu iaculum summae seu cassidis umbram.
to-sink or javelin of-the-highest or helmet the-shade.
Finis erat, lassusque putres iam Mulciber ibat
The-end it-was, and-weary crumbling now Mulciber was-going
in cineres; instant flammis multoque soporant
into ashes; they-press on-the-flames and-with-much lull-to-sleep
imbre rogum, posito donec cum sole labores
shower the-pyre, laid-down until with the-sun the-toils
exhausti; seris vix cessit cura tenebris.
exhausted; late hardly yielded the-care to-darkness.
Roscida iam novies caelo dimiserat astra
Dewy now nine-times from-the-sky had-dismissed the-stars
Lucifer et totidem Lunae praevenerat ignes
Lucifer and as-many of-the-Moon had-anticipated fires

mutato nocturnus equo, nec conscia fallit
changed nightly horse, nor conscious deceives
sidera et alterno deprenditur unus in ortu;
stars and alternate is-caught one in rising;
mirum, opus accelerasse manus: stat saxea moles,
wonder, the-work to-have-hastened hands: stands a-stony mass,
templum ingens, cineri, rerumque effictus in illa
a-temple huge, for-the-ash, and-of-the-events fashioned in it
ordo docet casus: fessis hic flumina monstrat
the-order teaches the-misfortunes: to-the-weary here rivers shows
Hypsipyle Danais, hic reptat flebilis infans,
Hypsipyle to-the-Danaans, here crawls tearful the-infant,
hic iacet, extremum tumuli circum asperat orbem
here lies, the-last of-the-tomb around roughens orb
squameus; expectes morientis ab ore cruenta
the-scaly-one; you-would-expect of-the-dying from the-mouth bloody
sibila, marmorea sic volvitur anguis in hasta.
hisses, of-marble so is-rolled the-snake on spear.

Crowds come from field and city to the games, held in a green valley ringed by wooded hills. The army sits on the slopes and enjoys counting its numbers. A hundred black bulls are led in, and then the bronze images of the Argive ancestors: Hercules strangling the lion, Inachus, Io, Tantalus, Pelops and Myrtilus, Acrisius, Coroebus, Danae, Amymone, Alcmena, and the sons of Belus. At last the contests begin.

Iamque avidum pugnas visendi vulgus (inermes
And-now eager for-the-contests of-seeing the-crowd (unarmed
Fama vocat cunctos) arvis ac moenibus adsunt
Rumor calls all) from-fields and walls are-present
exciti; illi etiam, quis belli incognitus horror,
roused; those even, to-whom of-war unknown the-dread,
quos effeta domi, quos prima reliquerat aetas,
whom worn-out at-home, whom first had-left age,
conveniunt: non aut Ephyraeo in litore tanta
come-together: not either Ephyrean on shore so-great
umquam aut Oenomai fremuerunt agmina circo.
ever or of-Oenomaus roared columns in-the-circus.
Collibus incurvis viridique obsessa corona
With-hills curving and-with-green beset crown
vallis in amplexu nemorum sedet; hispida circum
a-valley in the-embrace of-groves sits; shaggy around
stant iuga, et obiectus geminis umbonibus agger
stand ridges, and opposed with-twin bosses a-mound
campum exire vetat, longo quem tramite planum
the-plain to-go-out forbids, with-long which track level
gramineae frontes sinuataque caespite vivo
grassy fronts and-curved with-turf living

mollia non subitis augent fastigia clivis.
soft not with-sudden increase heights slopes.
Illic conferti, iam sole rubentibus arvis,
There crowded, now with-sun reddening fields,
bellatrix sedere cohors; ibi corpore mixto
the-warrior sat cohort; there with-body mingled
metiri numerum vultusque habitusque suorum
to-measure the-number and-faces and-bearing of-their-own
dulce viris, tantique iuvat fiducia belli.
sweet to-the-men, and-of-so-great pleases the-confidence war.
Centum ibi nigrantes, armenti robora, tauros
A-hundred there blackening, of-the-herd the-strength, bulls
lenta mole trahunt; idem numerusque colorque
with-slow mass they-drag; the-same both-number and-color
matribus et nondum lunatis fronte iuvencis.
for-the-mothers and not-yet crescent in-brow bullocks.
Exin magnanimum series antiqua parentum
Thereafter of-great-souled the-series ancient ancestors
invehitur, miris in vultum animata figuris.
is-carried-in, with-wondrous in face animated figures.
Primus anhelantem duro Tirynthius angens
First panting with-hard the-Tirynthian choking
pectoris attritu sua frangit in ossa leonem.
of-the-breast with-rubbing his-own breaks into bones a-lion.
Haut illum impavidi, quamvis et in aere suumque
Not him unafraid, although even in bronze and-their-own
Inachidae videre decus. Pater ordine iuncto
the-Inachidae saw glory. The-father in-order joined
laevus harundineae recubans super aggere ripae
on-the-left reedy lying on the-mound bank

cernitur emissaeque indulgens Inachus urnae.
is-seen and-to-the-poured-out indulging Inachus urn.
Io post tergum, iam prona dolorque parentis,
Io behind his-back, now prone and-the-grief of-her-parent,
spectat inocciduis stellatum visibus Argum.
looks-at with-unsetting starred eyes Argus.
Ast illam melior Phariis erexerat arvis
But her better in-the-Pharian had-raised fields
Iuppiter atque hospes iam tunc Aurora colebat.
Jupiter and as-guest already then Aurora was-worshiping.
Tantalus inde parens, non qui fallentibus undis
Tantalus thence the-parent, not who at-deceiving waters
imminet aut refuga sterilem rapit aera silva,
hangs or from-the-fleeing barren snatches air forest,
sed pius et magni vehitur conviva Tonantis.
but dutiful and of-great is-carried as-guest Thunderer.
Parte alia victor curru Neptunia tendit
On-side other victor in-chariot Neptunian stretches
lora Pelops, prensatque rotas auriga natantes
reins Pelops, and-clutches the-wheels the-charioteer swimming
Myrtilos et volucri iam iamque relinquitur axe.
Myrtilus and by-the-swift now and-now is-left axle.
Et gravis Acrisius speciesque horrenda Coroebi
And heavy Acrisius and-the-image dreadful of-Coroebus
et Danae culpata sinus, et in amne reperto
and Danae blamed for-her-bosom, and at the-river found
tristis Amymone, parvoque Alcmena superbit
sad Amymone, and-in-little Alcmena is-proud
Hercule, tergemina crinem circumdata luna.
Hercules, triple in-hair surrounded moon.

Iungunt discordes inimica in foedera dextras
Join discordant hostile into pacts right-hands
Belidae fratres; sed vultu mitior astat
the-Belidae brothers; but in-face milder stands
Aegyptus, Danai manifestum agnoscere ficto
Aegyptus, of-Danaus plainly to-recognize in-feigned
ore notas pacisque malae noctisque futurae.
face the-marks both-of-peace evil and-of-night future.
Mille dehinc species. Tandem satiata voluptas
A-thousand thereafter images. At-last sated pleasure
praestantesque viros vocat ad sua praemia virtus.
and-outstanding men calls to its-own rewards valor.

VI.6 · THE CHARIOT RACE: THE TEAMS

The poet asks Phoebus to name the drivers. Arion, the horse sired by Neptune and once driven by Hercules, is given by Adrastus to Polynices, with advice to restrain him, as the Sun once warned Phaethon. Amphiaraus drives white horses of Castor's stock, Admetus his Thessalian mares, the twin sons of Hypsipyle a matched team, Chromis the man-eating mares of Diomedes, and Hippodamus the team of Oenomaus. The course runs between a bare oak and a stone.

Primus sudor equis. Dic inclita, Phoebe, regentum
First sweat for-the-horses. Tell the-famous, Phoebus, of-the-drivers
nomina, dic ipsos; neque enim generosior umquam
names, tell them; nor indeed nobler ever
alipedum conlata acies, ceu praepete cursu
of-wing-footed brought-together a-battle-line, as-if with-winged course
confligant tensae volucres aut litore in uno
should-clash stretched birds or shore on one

Aeolus insanis statuat certamina ventis.
Aeolus for-mad should-set contests winds.

Ducitur ante omnes rutilae manifestus Arion
Is-led before all of-ruddy conspicuous Arion

igne iubae. Neptunus equo, si certa priorum
with-the-fire of-his-mane. Neptune to-the-horse, if certain of-former-ones

fama, pater; primus teneris laesisse lupatis
the-rumor, the-father; first with-tender to-have-hurt bits

ora et litoreo domitasse in pulvere fertur,
the-mouth and shore to-have-tamed in dust is-said,

verberibus parcens; etenim insatiatus eundi
from-lashes sparing; for insatiable of-going

ardor et hiberno par inconstantia ponto.
ardor and to-wintry equal inconstancy sea.

Saepe per Ionium Libycumque natantibus ire
Often through the-Ionian and-Libyan swimming to-go

interiunctus equis omnesque adsuerat in oras
joined-among horses and-all accustomed to shores

caeruleum deferre patrem; stupuere relicta
his-sea-blue to-carry-down father; were-astonished left-behind

nubila, certantes Eurique Notique sequuntur.
the-clouds, vying both-the-East-winds and-the-South-winds follow.

Nec minor in terris bella Eurysthea gerentem
Nor less on lands the-wars of-Eurystheus waging

Amphitryoniaden alto per gramina sulco
the-son-of-Amphitryon with-deep through grasses furrow

duxerat, illi etiam ferus indocilisque teneri.
had-drawn, to-him even wild and-untaught to-be-held.

Mox divum dono regis dignatus Adrasti
Soon by-the-gods' gift of-the-king deigned of-Adrastus

imperia et multum mediis mansueverat annis.
the-commands and much in-the-middle had-grown-tame years.
Tunc rector genero Polynici indulget agendum
Then the-ruler to-his-son-in-law Polynices grants to-be-driven
multa monens, ubi fervor equo, qua suetus ab arte
much warning, where the-fervor to-the-horse, by-what accustomed by art
mulceri, ne saeva manus, ne liber habenis
to-be-soothed, not savage the-hand, not free from-reins
impetus. 'Urge alios' inquit 'stimulisque minisque;
the-onrush. 'Urge others' he-says 'both-with-goads and-threats;
ille ibit, minus ipse voles.' Sic ignea lora
he will-go, less yourself will-wish.' Thus fiery reins
cum daret et rapido Sol natum imponeret axi,
when he-gave and to-the-swift the-Sun his-son placed axle,
gaudentem lacrimans astra insidiosa docebat
the-rejoicing weeping the-stars treacherous he-was-teaching
nolentesque teri zonas mediamque polorum
and-unwilling to-be-worn the-zones and-the-middle of-the-poles
temperiem: pius ille quidem et formidine cauta,
temperateness: dutiful he indeed and with-fear cautious,
sed iuvenem durae prohibebant discere Parcae.
but the-youth hard forbade to-learn the-Parcae.
Oebalios sublimis agit, spes proxima palmae,
Oebalian lofty drives, the-hope next for-the-palm,
Amphiaraus equos; tua furto lapsa propago,
Amphiaraus horses; your by-theft slipped offspring,
Cyllare, dum Scythici diversus ad ostia ponti
Cyllarus, while of-the-Scythian away at the-mouths sea
Castor Amyclaeas remo permutat habenas.
Castor Amyclaean for-the-oar exchanges reins.

Ipse habitu niveus, nivei dant colla iugales,
Himself in-dress snowy, snowy give their-necks the-yoked-steeds,
concolor est albis et cassis et infula cristis.
of-one-color is with-white both helmet and headband crests.
Quin et Thessalicis felix Admetus ab oris
But also Thessalian happy Admetus from shores
vix steriles compescit equas, Centaurica dicunt
hardly barren restrains mares, Centaur they-say
semina: credo, adeo sexum indignantur, et omnis
seed: I-believe, so-much their-sex they-resent, and all
in vires adducta Venus; noctemque diemque
into strength drawn Venus; and-night and-day
adsimulant, maculis internigrantibus albae:
they-imitate, with-spots blackening-between white:
tantus uterque color, credi nec degener illo
so-great each color, to-be-believed nor degenerate that
de grege, Castaliae stupuit qui sibila cannae
from flock, of-the-Castalian was-stunned-at which the-hisses reed
laetus et audito contempsit Apolline pasci.
glad and heard scorned Apollo to-graze.
Ecce et Iasonidae iuvenes, nova gloria matris
Behold also the-sons-of-Jason the-youths, new glory of-their-mother
Hypsipyles, subiere iugo, quo vectus uterque,
Hypsipyle, went-under the-yoke, by-which carried each,
nomen avo gentile Thoas atque omine dictus
the-name for-grandfather ancestral Thoas and by-omen called
Euneos Argoo. Geminis eadem omnia: vultus,
Euneus Argo's. For-the-twins the-same all: faces,
currus, equi, vestes, par et concordia votis,
chariots, horses, garments, equal also the-harmony in-prayers,

vincere vel solo cupiunt a fratre relinqui.
to-conquer or only they-desire by brother to-be-left.

It Chromis Hippodamusque, alter satus Hercule magno,
Goes Chromis and-Hippodamus, one sown from-Hercules great,

alter ab Oenomao: dubites, uter effera presset
the-other from Oenomaus: you-would-doubt, which wild pressed

frena magis. Getici pecus hic Diomedis, at ille
reins more. Of-the-Getic the-flock this-one of-Diomedes, but that-one

Pisaei iuga patris habet, crudelibus ambo
of-the-Pisaean the-yoke of-his-father has, with-cruel both

exuviis diroque imbuti sanguine currus.
spoils and-with-dire steeped blood chariots.

Metarum instar erat hinc nudo robore quercus,
Of-goal the-likeness was on-this-side with-naked trunk an-oak,

olim omnes exuta comas, hinc saxeus umbo
once all stripped-of its-leaves, on-that a-stony boss

arbiter agricolis; finem iacet inter utrumque,
arbiter for-farmers; the-end lies between both,

quale quater iaculo spatium, ter harundine vincas.
such-as four-times with-javelin a-space, thrice with-arrow you-might-surpass.

Apollo, singing to the Muses on Parnassus of the nature of the universe, sees the race and recognizes Admetus and Amphiaraus, both dear to him; he once served Admetus as a slave, but Amphiaraus is his own prophet, near death, and Apollo resolves to help him and descends to Nemea. Prothous draws the lots. The horses fret at the barrier and the drivers tremble; at the trumpet they burst out faster than ships, arrows, or rivers.

Interea cantu Musarum nobile mulcens
Meanwhile with-song of-the-Muses noble soothing
concilium citharaeque manus insertus Apollo
council and-of-the-lyre the-hand having-put-in Apollo
Parnasi summo spectabat ab aethere terras;
of-Parnassus the-highest was-watching from ether the-lands;
orsa deum (nam saepe Iovem Phlegramque suique
the-beginnings of-the-gods (for often Jupiter and-Phlegra and-of-his
anguis opus fratrumque pius cantarat honores)
snake the-work and-of-his-brothers dutiful had-sung the-honors)
tunc aperit, quis fulmen agat, quis sidera ducat
then he-reveals, what the-thunderbolt drives, what the-stars leads
spiritus, unde animi fluviis, quae pabula ventis,
spirit, whence the-spirits for-rivers, what fodder for-winds,
quo fonte immensum vivat mare, quae via soles
from-what spring immense lives the-sea, what way suns
praecipitet, noctem quae porrigat, imane tellus
hurls, night what stretches, whether-lowest the-earth
an media et rursus mundo succincta latenti.
or in-the-middle and again by-world girded hidden.
Finis erat, differt avidas audire sorores,
The-end it-was, he-puts-off eager to-hear his-sisters,

dumque chelyn lauro textumque inlustre coronae
and-while the-lyre with-laurel and-the-texture bright of-the-crown
subligat et picto discingit pectora limbo,
he-binds-beneath and from-embroidered ungirds his-breast border,
haut procul Herculeam Nemeen clamore reductus
not far Herculean Nemea by-the-shouting drawn-back
aspicit atque illic ingens certaminis instar
he-sees and there huge of-the-contest the-likeness
quadriiugi. Noscit cunctos, et forte propinquo
four-horsed. He-recognizes all, and by-chance near
constiterant Admetus et Amphiaraus in arvo.
had-stood Admetus and Amphiaraus in field.
Tunc secum: 'Quisnam iste duo, fidissima Phoebi
Then with-himself: 'Who that two, most-faithful of-Phoebus
nomina, commisit deus in discrimina reges?
names, has-joined god into dangers kings?
Ambo pii carique ambo; nequeam ipse priorem
Both dutiful and-dear both; could-not I the-former
dicere. Peliacis hic cum famularer in arvis
say. Pelian he when I-was-serving in fields
(sic Iovis imperia et nigrae voluere Sorores),
(so of-Jupiter the-commands and black willed the-Sisters),
tura dabat famulo nec me sentire minorem
incense gave to-the-servant nor me to-feel lesser
ausus; at hic tripodum comes et pius artis alumnus
dared; but this-one of-the-tripods companion and dutiful of-art nursling
aetheriae. Potior meritis tamen ille, sed huius
heavenly. Preferable in-merits yet that-one, but of-this-one
extrema iam fila colu; datur ordo senectae
the-last now threads on-the-distaff; is-given the-order of-old-age

Admeto serumque mori; tibi nulla supersunt
to-Admetus and-late to-die; for-you no remain
gaudia, nam Thebae iuxta et tenebrosa vorago.
joys, for Thebes near and dark abyss.
Scis miser, et nostrae pridem cecinere volucres'
You-know wretched-one, and our long-since have-sung birds'
dixit, et os fletu paene inviolabile tinctus
he-spoke, and his-face with-weeping almost inviolable stained
extemplo Nemeen radiante per aethera saltu
at-once to-Nemea with-shining through the-ether leap
ocior et patrio venit igne suisque sagittis.
swifter even than-his-father's he-comes fire and-than-his-own arrows.
Ipse olim in terris, caelo vestigia durant,
Himself once on lands, in-the-sky the-traces endure,
claraque per zephyros etiamnunc semita lucet.
and-bright through the-zephyrs still a-path shines.
Et iam sortitus Prothous versarat aena
And now the-lots Prothous had-turned in-bronze
casside, iamque locus cuique est et liminis ordo.
helmet, and-now place for-each is and of-the-threshold the-order.
Terrarum decora ampla viri, decora aequa iugales,
Of-lands glories ample the-men, glories equal the-yoked-steeds,
divum utrumque genus, stant uno margine clausi,
of-gods both race, they-stand by-one margin shut-in,
spesque audaxque una metus et fiducia pallens.
both-hope and-bold together fear and confidence pale.
Nil fixum cordi: pugnant exire paventque,
Nothing fixed in-the-heart: they-fight to-go-out and-fear,
concurrit summos animosum frigus in artus.
runs-together highest a-spirited chill into limbs.

Qui dominis, idem ardor equis; face lumina surgunt,
Which to-the-masters, the-same ardor to-the-horses; with-torch eyes rise,
ora sonant morsu, spumisque et sanguine ferrum
mouths sound with-the-bite, and-with-foams and with-blood the-iron
uritur, impulsi nequeunt obsistere postes
is-burned, driven cannot resist the-posts
claustraque, compressae transfumat anhelitus irae.
and-bars, of-compressed smokes-through the-panting anger.
Stare adeo miserum est, pereunt vestigia mille
To-stand so wretched is, perish footsteps a-thousand
ante fugam, absentemque ferit gravis ungula campum.
before flight, and-absent strikes heavy the-hoof plain.
Circumstant fidi, nexusque et torta iubarum
Stand-around the-faithful, and-the-knots and twists of-manes
expediunt firmantque animos et plurima monstrant.
untangle and-steady their-spirits and very-many-things show.
Insonuit contra Tyrrhenum murmur, et omnes
Sounded opposite the-Tyrrhenian murmur, and all
exsiluere loco. Quae tantum carbasa ponto,
leapt-out from-the-place. What so-much sails on-the-sea,
quae bello sic tela volant, quae nubila caelo?
what in-war so weapons fly, what clouds in-the-sky?
Amnibus hibernis minor est, minor impetus igni,
Than-rivers wintry less is, less the-rush of-fire,
tardius astra cadunt, glomerantur tardius imbres.
more-slowly the-stars fall, are-massed more-slowly rains.
Tardius e summo decurrunt flumina monte.
More-slowly from the-highest run-down rivers mountain.

The chariots vanish in a cloud of dust. Arion senses a strange driver, dreads the accursed son of Oedipus, and runs wild; Amphiaraus and Admetus follow, then the twins, and last Chromis and Hippodamus. Amphiaraus hopes to gain at the turn by keeping inside; Arion swings wide, then regains the lead. Polynices, pale, loses control of the reins like a helmsman who gives up his art.

Emissos videre atque agnovere Pelasgi.
Let-loose they-saw and recognized the-Pelasgians.
Et iam rapti oculis, iam caeco pulvere mixti
And now snatched from-eyes, now in-blind dust mingled
una in nube latent, vultusque umbrante tumultu
one in cloud they-hide, and-faces with-shadowing uproar
vix inter sese clamore et nomine noscunt.
hardly among themselves by-shout and by-name they-know.
Evolvere globum, et spatio quo quisque valebat
They-unrolled the-mass, and in-the-space in-which each was-strong
diducti: delet sulcos iterata priores
drawn-apart: deletes the-furrows repeated former
orbita, nunc avidi prono iuga pectore tangunt,
the-track, now eager with-prone the-yokes breast they-touch,
nunc pugnante genu et pressis duplicantur habenis.
now with-straining knee and with-pressed are-doubled reins.
Colla toris crinita tument, stantesque repectit
The-necks with-muscles maned swell, and-standing combs-back
aura iubas, bibit albentes humus arida nimbos.
the-breeze manes, drinks whitening the-ground dry showers.
Fit sonus immanisque pedum tenuisque rotarum.
Arises a-sound both-huge of-feet and-thin of-wheels.

Nulla manus requies, densis insibilat aer
No for-the-hand rest, with-dense hisses the-air
verberibus; gelida non crebrior exsilit Arcto
lashes; from-cold not more-frequent leaps-out the-Bear
grando, nec Oleniis manant tot cornibus imbres.
hail, nor from-Olenian flow so-many horns rains.
Senserat adductis alium praesagus Arion
Had-felt with-drawn-in another foreseeing Arion
stare ducem loris, dirumque expaverat insons
to-stand as-leader reins, and-the-dire had-dreaded guiltless
Oedipodioniden; iam illinc a limine discors
son-of-Oedipus; already from-there from the-threshold discordant
iratusque oneri insolito truculentior ardet.
and-angry at-burden unaccustomed more-savage burns.
Inachidae credunt accensum laudibus; ille
The-Inachidae believe him-inflamed by-praises; he
aurigam fugit, aurigae furiale minatur
the-charioteer flees, against-the-charioteer madly threatens
efferus, et campo dominum circumspicit omni.
wild, and in-the-plain his-master looks-round-for all.
Ante tamen cunctos sequitur longeque secundus
Before yet all follows and-far second
Amphiaraus agit, quem Thessalus aequat eundo
Amphiaraus drives, whom the-Thessalian equals in-going
Admetus; iuxta gemini, nunc Euneos ante
Admetus; next the-twins, now Euneus before
et nunc ante Thoas, cedunt vincuntque, nec umquam
and now before Thoas, they-yield and-conquer, nor ever
ambitiosa pios conlidit gloria fratres.
ambitious dutiful dashed-together glory brothers.

Postremum discrimen erat Chromis asper et asper
The-last contest was Chromis rough and rough
Hippodamus, non arte rudes, sed mole tenentur
Hippodamus, not in-art untaught, but by-the-mass are-held
cornipedum; prior Hippodamus fert ora sequentum,
of-the-horn-footed; in-front Hippodamus bears the-mouths of-the-following,
fert gemitus multaque umeros incenditur aura.
bears the-groans and-by-much shoulders is-burned breath.
Speravit flexae circa compendia metae
Hoped of-the-bent around the-short-cuts goal
interius ductis Phoebeius augur habenis
more-inside drawn Phoebean the-augur reins
anticipasse viam; nec non et Thessalus heros
to-have-anticipated the-way; nor not also the-Thessalian hero
spe propiore calet, dum non cohibente magistro
with-hope nearer grows-hot, while not restraining master
spargitur in gyros dexterque exerrat Arion.
is-scattered into circles and-to-the-right wanders-off Arion.
Iam prior Oeclides et iam non tertius ibat
Now first the-son-of-Oecles and now not third was-going
Admetus, laxo cum tandem et ab orbe reductus
Admetus, slack when at-last also from the-circle drawn-back
aequoreus sonipes premit evaditque parumper
the-sea-born steed presses and-escapes for-a-little
gavisos; subit astra fragor, caelumque tremescit,
the-rejoicing; goes-under the-stars a-crash, and-the-sky trembles,
omniaque excusso patuere sedilia vulgo.
and-all with-shaken-out lay-open seats crowd.
Sed nec lora regit nec verbera pallidus audet
But neither the-reins he-rules nor the-lashes pale dares

Labdacides: lassa veluti ratione magister
the-Labdacid: weary as with-reason a-helmsman
in fluctus, in saxa ruit nec iam amplius astra
onto waves, onto rocks rushes nor now further the-stars
respicit et victam proiecit casibus artem.
looks-back-at and conquered has-thrown to-chances art.

VI.9 · THE CHARIOT RACE: THE CRASHES

The drivers urge their horses by name; only Polynices is silent. On the fourth lap the horses tire. Thoas crashes trying to pass Admetus, and his brother cannot help him. Chromis catches Hippodamus' axle with Hercules' strength and overturns him; the Thracian mares turn to devour Hippodamus, and Chromis, forgetting the prize, saves him and loses the race.

Rursus praecipites in recta ac devia campi
Again headlong into straight and devious-places of-the-plain
obliquant tenduntque vias, iterum axibus axes
they-slant and-stretch ways, again with-axles axles
inflicti, radiisque rotae: pax nulla fidesque.
struck, and-with-spokes wheels: peace none and-faith.
Bella geri ferro levius, bella horrida credas;
Wars to-be-waged with-steel more-lightly, wars dreadful you-would-think;
it furor in laudes, trepidant mortemque minantur,
goes madness into praises, they-tremble and-death threaten,
multaque transversis praestringitur ungula campis.
and-many crosswise is-grazed hoof in-the-fields.
Nec iam sufficiunt stimuli, non verbera; voce
Nor now suffice goads, not lashes; with-voice
nominibusque cient Pholoen Admetus et Irin
and-with-names they-rouse Pholoe Admetus and Iris

fumantemque Thoen, rapidum Danaeius augur
and-smoking Thoe, swift the-Danaan augur
Ascheton increpitans meritumque vocabula Cygnum.
Aschetos chiding and-deserving by-names Cygnus.
Audit et Herculeum Strymon Chromin, Euneon audit
Hears also the-Herculean Strymon Chromis, Euneus hears
igneus Aethion; tardumque Cydona lacessit
fiery Aethion; and-slow Cydon provokes
Hippodamus, tardumque Thoas rogat ire Podarcen.
Hippodamus, and-slow Thoas asks to-go Podarces.
Solus Echionides errante silentia curru
Alone the-son-of-Echion with-wandering silence chariot
maesta tenet trepidaque timet se voce fateri.
sad holds and-with-trembling fears himself voice to-reveal.
Vixdum coeptus equis labor, et iam pulvere quarto
Hardly begun for-the-horses the-toil, and now with-dust fourth
campum ineunt, iamque et tepidis sudoribus artus
the-plain they-enter, and-now both with-warm sweats limbs
effeti, et crassum rapit eiectatque vaporem
spent, and thick snatches and-casts-out vapor
cornipedum flammata sitis, nec iam integer illis
of-the-horn-footed inflamed thirst, nor now whole to-them
impetus, et longi suspendunt ilia flatus.
the-rush, and long suspend the-flanks breaths.
Hic anceps Fortuna diu decernere primum
Here doubtful Fortune long to-decide first
ausa venit. Ruit, Haemonium dum fervidus instat
having-dared comes. Falls, the-Haemonian while hot he-presses
Admetum superare, Thoas, nec pertulit ullam
Admetus to-surpass, Thoas, nor brought any

frater opem. Velit ille quidem, sed Martius ante
his-brother help. Would-wish he indeed, but Martial before
obstitit Hippodamus mediasque immisit habenas.
stood-in-the-way Hippodamus and-the-middle let-in reins.
Mox Chromis Hippodamum metae interioris ad orbem
Soon Chromis Hippodamus of-the-goal inner at the-circle
viribus Herculeis et toto robore patris
with-strength Herculean and with-whole strength of-his-father
axe tenet prenso, luctantur abire iugales
by-the-axle holds seized, struggle to-go-away the-yoked-steeds
nequiquam frenosque et colla rigentia tendunt.
in-vain and-reins and necks stiffening stretch.
Ut Siculas si quando rates tenet aestus et ingens
As Sicilian if ever ships holds the-tide and huge
auster agit, medio stant vela tumentia ponto.
the-south-wind drives, in-the-middle stand sails swelling sea.
Tunc ipsum fracto curru deturbat, et isset
Then him with-broken chariot he-throws-down, and would-have-gone
ante Chromis; sed Thraces equi ut videre iacentem
in-front Chromis; but the-Thracian horses when they-saw lying
Hippodamum, redit illa fames, iam iamque trementem
Hippodamus, returns that hunger, now and-now trembling
partiti furiis, ni frena ipsosque frementes
having-divided in-their-frenzy, had-not the-reins and-themselves roaring
oblitus palmae retro Tirynthius heros
forgetful of-the-palm backward the-Tirynthian hero
torsisset victusque et conlaudatus abisset.
twisted and-conquered and praised had-gone-away.

Apollo raises a snake-haired monster before Arion, who rears and throws Polynices; the other chariots swerve past him, and he rises dazed. The poet laments that he did not die then, sparing the war. Amphiaraus, with Apollo's help, still drives to beat the empty chariot, and wins, though Arion keeps the glory of finishing first. Amphiaraus receives Hercules' mixing bowl carved with centaurs; Admetus a purple cloak showing Leander swimming to Hero; Polynices is consoled with a slave girl.

At tibi promissos iamdudum Phoebus honores,
But for-you promised long-since Phoebus honors,
Amphiarae, cupit. Tandem ratus apta favori
Amphiaraus, desires. At-last thinking fit for-favor
tempora pulverei venit in spatia horrida circi,
the-time dusty he-comes into the-spaces rough of-the-circus,
cum iam in fine viae, et summum victoria nutat;
when now at end of-the-course, and highest the-victory wavers;
anguicomam monstri effigiem, saevissima visu
snake-haired of-a-monster an-image, most-savage to-see
ora, movet sive ille Erebo seu finxit in actu
face, he-moves whether he from-Erebus or fashioned in the-act
temporis, innumera certe formidine cultum
of-time, with-countless certainly dread adorned
tollit in astra nefas. Non illud ianitor atrae
he-raises to the-stars the-horror. Not that the-doorkeeper of-black
impavidus Lethes, non ipsae horrore sine alto
unafraid Lethe, not themselves dread without deep
Eumenides vidisse queant, turbasset euntes
the-Eumenides to-have-seen could, it-would-have-disturbed going
Solis equos Martisque iugum. Nam flavus Arion
of-the-Sun the-horses and-of-Mars the-yoke. For golden Arion

ut vidit, saliere iubae, atque erectus in armos
when he-saw, leapt his-mane, and raised onto his-shoulders
stat sociumque iugi comitesque utrimque laboris
stands and-the-partner of-the-yoke and-companions on-both-sides of-toil
secum alte suspendit equos. Ruit ilicet exul
with-himself high suspends horses. Falls at-once the-exile
Aonius nexusque diu per terga volutus
Aonian and-the-knots long through his-back rolled
exuit; abripitur longe moderamine liber
puts-off; is-snatched-away far from-guidance free
currus; at hunc putri praeter tellure iacentem
the-chariot; but him crumbling past on-the-earth lying
Taenarii currus et Thessalus axis et heros
Taenarian chariot and the-Thessalian axle and the-hero
Lemnius obliqua, quantum vitare dabatur,
Lemnian with-slanting, as-much-as to-avoid was-given,
transabiere fuga. Tandem caligine mersum
passed-by flight. At-last in-darkness sunk
erigit accursu comitum caput aegraque tollit
raises at-the-running-up of-comrades his-head and-sick lifts
membra solo, et socero redit haut speratus Adrasto.
limbs from-ground, and to-father-in-law returns not hoped-for Adrastus.
Quis mortis, Thebane, locus, nisi dura negasset
What of-death, Theban, an-occasion, unless hard had-refused
Tisiphone, quantum poteras dimittere bellum?
Tisiphone, how-great you-could to-send-away war?
Te Thebe fraterque palam, te plangeret Argos,
You Thebes and-your-brother openly, you would-lament Argos,
te Nemea, tibi Lerna comas Larisaque supplex
you Nemea, to-you Lerna her-hair and-Larisa suppliant

poneret, Archemori maior colerere sepulcro.
would-lay-down, than-Archemorus greater you-would-be-worshiped tomb.
Tum vero Oeclides, quamquam iam certa sequenti
Then indeed the-son-of-Oecles, although now certain to-the-following
praemia, cum vacuus domino praeiret Arion,
rewards, when empty of-master was-going-ahead Arion,
ardet adhuc cupiens vel inanem vincere currum.
burns still desiring even empty to-conquer the-chariot.
Dat vires refovetque deus; volat ocior Euro,
Gives strength and-revives the-god; he-flies swifter than-Eurus,
ceu modo carceribus dimissus in arva solutis,
as-if just-now from-the-barriers let-out into the-fields loosed,
verberibusque iubas et terga lacessit habenis
and-with-lashes the-manes and backs he-provokes with-reins
increpitans Caerumque levem Cygnumque nivalem.
chiding both-Caerus light and-Cygnus snowy.
Nunc, saltem dum nemo prior, rapit igneus orbes
Now, at-least while none in-front, snatches fiery the-orbs
axis, et effusae longe sparguntur harenae.
the-axle, and poured-out far are-scattered sands.
Dat gemitum tellus et iam tunc saeva minatur.
Gives a-groan the-earth and now then savage-things threatens.
Forsitan et victo prior isset Arione Cygnus,
Perhaps also conquered first would-have-gone Arion Cygnus,
sed vetat aequoreus vinci pater: hinc vice iusta
but forbids the-sea-born to-be-conquered father: hence by-turn just
gloria mansit equo, cessit victoria vati.
the-glory remained to-the-horse, fell victory to-the-prophet.
Huic pretium palmae gemini cratera ferebant
To-him as-the-prize of-the-palm the-twin a-mixing-bowl were-carrying

Herculeum iuvenes: illum Tirynthius olim
Herculean the-youths: that the-Tirynthian once
ferre manu sola spumantemque ore supino
to-carry with-hand alone and-foaming with-mouth upturned
vertere, seu monstris victor seu Marte, solebat.
to-tip, whether over-monsters victor or in-Mars, used.
Centauros habet arte truces aurumque figuris
Centaurs it-has by-art fierce and-gold with-figures
terribile: hic mixta Lapitharum caede rotantur
terrible: here mingled of-the-Lapiths in-slaughter are-whirled
saxa, faces aliique iterum crateres, ubique
rocks, torches and-other again mixing-bowls, everywhere
ingentes morientum irae; tenet ipse furentem
huge of-the-dying angers; holds himself raging
Hylaeum et torta molitur robora barba.
Hylaeus and twisted wields oaks beard.
At tibi Maeonio fertur circumflua limbo
But for-you with-Maeonian is-borne flowed-around border
pro meritis, Admete, chlamys repetitaque multo
for your-merits, Admetus, a-cloak and-redipped with-much
murice: Phrixei natat hic contemptor ephebus
purple: of-the-Phrixean swims here the-scorner youth
aequoris et picea tralucet caerulus unda;
sea and with-pitchy shows-through dark-blue wave;
in latus ire manus mutaturusque videtur
to the-side to-go his-hands and-about-to-change seems
bracchia, nec siccum speres in stamine crinem;
arms, nor dry you-would-hope in the-thread hair;
contra autem frustra sedet anxia turre suprema
opposite however in-vain sits anxious on-tower highest

Sestias in speculis, moritur prope conscius ignis.
the-Sestian on the-watch, dies near conscious fire.
Has Adrastus opes dono victoribus ire
These Adrastus riches as-a-gift to-the-victors to-go
imperat; at generum famula solatur Achaea.
orders; but his-son-in-law with-a-slave-woman consoles Achaean.

VI.11 · THE FOOT RACE

Adrastus calls the runners: Idas of Olympia, Alcon, Phaedimus, Dymas, and many more, but the crowd calls for Parthenopaeus, son of the swift Atalanta. He strips, gleaming like the evening star, and oils himself; Idas is next in beauty and speed. They warm up for the race.

Sollicitat tunc ampla viros ad praemia cursu
He-entices then ample the-men to rewards in-running
praeceleres: agile studium et tenuissima virtus,
very-swift: nimble zeal and most-slender valor,
pacis opus, cum sacra vocant, nec inutile bellis
of-peace a-work, when rites call, nor useless for-wars
subsidium, si dextra neget. Prior omnibus Idas,
a-help, if the-right-hand should-refuse. First than-all Idas,
nuper Olympiacis umbratus tempora ramis,
lately with-Olympian shaded temples branches,
prosilit; excipiunt plausu Pisaea iuventus
leaps-forth; receive-him with-applause the-Pisaean youth
Eleaeque manus. Sequitur Sicyonius Alcon,
and-Elean bands. Follows Sicyonian Alcon,
et bis in Isthmiaca victor clamatus harena
and twice in the-Isthmian victor proclaimed sand

Phaedimus, alipedumque fugam praegressus equorum
Phaedimus, and-of-wing-footed the-flight having-outstripped horses
ante Dymas, sed tunc aevo tardante secutus.
formerly Dymas, but then with-age slowing having-followed.
Multi et, quos varii tacet ignorantia vulgi,
Many also, whom of-the-varied is-silent the-ignorance crowd,
hinc atque hinc subiere. Sed Arcada Parthenopaeum
on-this-side and on-that came-up. But the-Arcadian Parthenopaeus
appellant densique cient vaga murmura circi.
they-call and-of-the-dense rouse wandering murmurs circus.
Nota parens cursu; quis Maenaliae Atalantes
Known his-mother for-running; who of-Maenalian Atalanta
nesciat egregium decus et vestigia cunctis
does-not-know the-outstanding glory and footprints by-all
indeprensa procis? Onerat celeberrima natum
uncaught the-suitors? Burdens most-famous her-son
mater, et ipse procul fama iam notus inermes
the-mother, and himself afar by-fame now known unarmed
narratur cervas pedes inter aperta Lycaei
is-told hinds on-foot among the-open-spaces of-Lycaeus
tollere et emissum cursu deprendere telum.
to-take and the-hurled in-running to-catch weapon.
Tandem expectatus volucri super agmina saltu
At-last awaited with-winged over the-columns leap
emicat et torto chlamydem diffibulat auro.
he-flashes-out and with-twisted his-cloak unpins gold.
Effulsere artus, membrorumque omnis aperta est
Shone-forth his-limbs, and-of-his-members all open is
laetitia, insignes umeri, nec pectora nudis
the-gladness, conspicuous the-shoulders, nor the-breast than-bare

deteriora genis, patuitque in corpore virtus.
worse cheeks, and-lay-open in body valor.
Ipse tamen formae laudem aspernatur et arcet
Himself yet of-beauty the-praise scorns and wards-off
mirantes; tunc Palladios non inscius haustus
the-admirers; then Palladian not unknowing drafts
incubuit pinguique cutem fuscatur olivo.
he-leaned-into and-with-rich his-skin is-darkened olive.
Hoc Idas, hoc rore Dymas aliique nitescunt.
With-this Idas, with-this dew Dymas and-others glisten.
Sic ubi tranquillo perlucent sidera ponto
So when in-tranquil shine-through the-stars sea
vibraturque fretis caeli stellantis imago,
and-is-quivered on-the-straits of-the-sky starry the-image,
omnia clara nitent, sed clarior omnia supra
all bright shine, but brighter all above
Hesperos exsertat radios, quantusque per altum
Hesperus thrusts-out rays, and-as-great-as through the-high
aethera, caeruleis tantus monstratur in undis.
ether, in-dark-blue so-great is-shown in waves.
Proximus et forma nec multum segnior Idas
Next both in-beauty nor much slower Idas
cursibus atque aevo iuxta prior; attamen illi
in-running and in-age near earlier; but on-him
iam tenuem pingues florem induxere palaestrae,
now thin rich bloom have-brought-on the-wrestling-schools,
deserpitque genis nec se lanugo fatetur
and-creeps-down on-his-cheeks nor itself the-down confesses
intonsae sub nube comae. Tunc rite citatos
of-unshorn under the-cloud hair. Then duly roused

explorant acuuntque gradus, variasque per artes
they-test and-sharpen their-steps, and-varied through arts
exstimulant docto languentia membra tumultu:
stimulate with-learned drooping limbs uproar:
poplite nunc sidunt flexo, nunc lubrica forti
on-knee now they-sink bent, now slippery with-strong
pectora conlidunt plausu, nunc ignea tollunt
breasts they-dash with-slapping, now fiery they-raise
crura brevemque fugam necopino fine reponunt.
legs and-brief flight with-unexpected end set-back.

VI.12 · IDAS' TRICK; THE RERUN

At the signal they fly like deer fleeing a lion. Parthenopaeus leads with Idas at his shoulder, but his long hair, vowed to Diana, streams back, and Idas seizes it, pulls him back, and wins. The Arcadians threaten violence; Parthenopaeus weeps and tears his face. Adrastus orders a rerun in separate lanes; Parthenopaeus prays to Diana and wins easily. He takes a horse as his prize, Idas a shield, the rest quivers.

Ut ruit atque aequum submisit regula limen,
When falls and level lowered the-rope the-threshold,
corripuere leves spatium, campoque refulsit
they-seized light the-space, and-in-the-plain shone
nuda cohors: volucres isdem modo tardius arvis
the-naked cohort: winged in-the-same just-now more-slowly fields
isse videntur equi; credas e plebe Cydonum
to-have-gone seem the-horses; you-would-think from the-commons of-the-Cydonians
Parthorumque fuga totidem exsiluisse sagittas.
and-of-the-Parthians in-flight as-many to-have-leapt-out arrows.
Non aliter celeres Hyrcana per avia cervi,
Not otherwise swift Hyrcanian through trackless-places deer,

cum procul inpasti fremitum accepere leonis
when far of-an-unfed the-roar they-have-received lion
sive putant, rapit attonitos fuga caeca metusque
or think, sweeps the-astonished flight blind and-fear
congregat, et longum dant cornua mixta fragorem.
gathers, and long give horns mingled crash.
Effugit hic oculos rapida puer ocior aura
Escapes here the-eyes than-swift the-boy swifter breeze
Maenalius, quem deinde gradu premit horridus Idas
Maenalian, whom next in-step presses bristling Idas
inspiratque umero, flatuque et pectoris umbra
and-breathes-on his-shoulder, and-with-breath and of-his-breast with-shadow
terga premit. Post ambiguo discrimine tendunt
the-back presses. After with-doubtful distinction strain
Phaedimus atque Dymas, illis celer imminet Alcon.
Phaedimus and Dymas, on-them swift hangs Alcon.
Flavus ab intonso pendebat vertice crinis
Golden from unshorn was-hanging the-head hair
Arcados; hoc primis Triviae pascebat ab annis
of-the-Arcadian; this first for-Trivia he-was-feeding from years
munus et, Ogygio victor cum Marte redisset,
as-a-gift and, from-Ogygian victor when Mars he-should-have-returned,
nequiquam patriis audax promiserat aris.
in-vain to-ancestral bold had-promised altars.
Tunc liber nexu lateque in terga solutus
Then free from-the-knot and-widely on his-back loosed
occursu Zephyri retro fluit et simul ipsum
at-the-meeting of-Zephyr backward it-flows and at-once himself
impedit infestoque volans ostenditur Idae.
hinders and-to-hostile flying is-shown to-Idas.

Inde dolum iuvenis fraudique accommoda sensit
Thence a-trick the-youth and-to-fraud suitable perceived
tempora; iam finem iuxta, dum limina victor
time; now the-end near, while the-thresholds victor
Parthenopaeus init, correpto crine reductum
Parthenopaeus enters, by-the-seized hair drawn-back
occupat, et longe primus ferit ostia portae.
he-seizes, and far first strikes the-mouth of-the-gate.
Arcades arma fremunt, armis defendere regem,
The-Arcadians arms roar, with-arms to-defend their-king,
ni raptum decus et meriti reddantur honores,
unless snatched the-glory and earned should-be-returned the-honors,
contendunt totoque parant descendere circo.
they-insist and-from-the-whole prepare to-come-down circus.
Sunt et quis Idae placeat dolus. Ipse regesta
There-are also to-whom for-Idas may-please the-trick. Himself heaped-up
Parthenopaeus humo vultumque oculosque madentes
Parthenopaeus with-earth both-face and-eyes wet
obruit, accessit lacrimarum gratia formae.
covers, added of-tears the-grace to-his-beauty.
Pectora nunc maerens nunc ora indigna cruento
Breast now grieving now face unworthy with-bloody
ungue secat meritamque comam, furit undique clamor
nail he-cuts and-the-deserving hair, rages on-every-side shouting
dissonus, ambiguumque senis cunctatur Adrasti
discordant, and-doubtful of-old hesitates Adrastus
consilium. Tandem ipse refert: ‘Compescite litem,
the-counsel. At-last himself replies: ‘Restrain the-strife,
o pueri! virtus iterum temptanda; sed ite
O boys! valor again to-be-tried; but go

limite non uno, latus hoc conceditur Idae,
by-path not one, side this is-granted to-Idas,
tu diversa tene, fraus cursibus omnis abesto.'
you opposite hold, fraud from-running all be-absent.'
Audierant, dictoque manent. Mox numina supplex
They-had-heard, and-at-the-word remain. Soon the-deities suppliant
adfatu tacito iuvenis Tegeaeus adorat:
with-address silent the-youth Tegean adores:
'Diva potens nemorum (tibi enim hic tibi crinis honori
'Goddess powerful of-groves (to-you indeed this to-you hair for-honor
debitus, eque tuo venit haec iniuria voto),
owed, and-from your comes this injury vow),
si bene quid genetrix, si quid venatibus ipse
if well anything my-mother, if anything in-hunts myself
promerui, me, quaeso, sinas hoc omine Thebas
I-have-deserved, me, I-pray, may-you-allow with-this omen Thebes
ire, nec Arcadiae tantum meruisse pudorem.'
to-go, nor of-Arcadia so-much to-have-deserved shame.'
Auditum manifesta fides: vix campus euntem
Heard manifest proof: hardly the-plain him-going
sentit, et exilis plantis intervenit aer,
feels, and thin his-soles comes-between air,
raraque non fracto vestigia pulvere pendent.
and-rare not with-broken footprints dust hang.
Inrumpit clamore fores, clamore recurrit
Bursts-into with-shouting the-doors, with-shouting runs-back
ante ducem prensaque fovet suspiria palma.
before the-leader and-seized warms sighs palm.
Finiti cursus, operumque insignia praesto.
Finished the-races, and-of-the-works the-insignia at-hand.

Arcas equum dono, clipeum gerit improbus Idas,
The-Arcadian a-horse as-gift, a-shield bears shameless Idas,
cetera plebs Lyciis vadit contenta pharetris.
the-rest the-commons with-Lycian goes content quivers.

VI.13 · THE DISCUS

Pterelas brings out the discus and many come forward, until Hippomedon brings a far heavier one and tosses the first aside, and all yield but Phlegyas and Menestheus. Phlegyas, who used to throw across the Alpheus, whirls the discus into the clouds, where it shrinks out of sight and falls back like the eclipsed moon; the Danaans praise him, but Hippomedon expects to do better.

Tunc vocat, emisso si quis decernere disco
Then he-calls, with-hurled if any to-contend discus
impiger et vires velit ostentare superbas.
active and strengths should-wish to-show proud.
It iussus Pterelas, et aenae lubrica massae
Goes ordered Pterelas, and of-bronze slippery mass
pondera vix toto curvatus corpore iuxta
weights hardly with-whole bent body near
deicit; inspectant taciti expenduntque laborem
throws-down; watch silent and-weigh the-toil
Inachidae. Mox turba ruunt, duo gentis Achaeae,
the-Inachidae. Soon in-a-throng rush, two of-the-race Achaean,
tres Ephyreiadae, Pisa satus unus, Acarnan
three Ephyreans, from-Pisa sprung one, an-Acarnanian
septimus; et plures agitabat gloria, ni se
seventh; and more was-stirring glory, unless himself
arduus Hippomedon cavea stimulante tulisset
lofty Hippomedon with-the-crowd spurring had-carried

in medios, lateque ferens sub pectore dextro
into the-middle, and-widely bearing under breast right
orbem alium: 'Hunc potius, iuvenes, qui moenia saxis
orb another: 'This rather, youths, who walls with-rocks
frangere, qui Tyrias deiectum vaditis arces,
to-break, who Tyrian to-overthrow go citadels,
hunc rapite: ast illud cui non iaculabile dextrae
this snatch: but that to-whom not throwable for-the-right-hand
pondus?' Et abreptum nullo conamine iecit
weight?' And snatched-up with-no effort he-threw
in latus. Absistunt procul attonitique fatentur
to the-side. They-stand-off far and-astonished confess
cedere; vix unus Phlegyas acerque Menestheus
to-yield; hardly one Phlegyas and-fierce Menestheus
(hos etiam pudor et magni tenuere parentes)
(these also shame and great held parents)
promisere manum; concessit cetera pubes
promised a-hand; yielded the-other youth
sponte et adorato rediit ingloria disco.
willingly and adored returned inglorious discus.
Qualis Bistoniis clipeus Mavortis in arvis
Such-as Bistonian the-shield of-Mavors in fields
luce mala Pangaea ferit solemque refulgens
with-light evil Pangaea strikes and-the-sun gleaming
territat incussaque dei grave mugit ab hasta.
terrifies and-struck of-the-god deeply bellows from spear.
Pisaeus Phlegyas opus incohat, et simul omnes
The-Pisaean Phlegyas the-work begins, and at-once all
abstulit in se oculos ex viso corpore virtus
took onto himself eyes from the-seen body valor

promissa. Ac primum terra discumque manumque
promised. And first with-earth both-the-discus and-hand
asperat, excusso mox circum pulvere versat,
he-roughens, shaken-off soon around dust turns,
quod latus in digitos, mediae quod certius ulnae
which side to fingers, of-mid which more-surely forearm
conveniat, non artis egens: hic semper amori
should-suit, not of-art needing: this always for-love
ludus erat, patriae non tantum ubi laudis obiret
a-sport was, of-his-fatherland not only when of-praise he-attended
sacra, sed alternis Alpheon utrimque solebat
the-rites, but on-alternate Alpheus from-both-sides he-used
metari ripis et, qua latissima distant,
to-measure banks and, where most-widely they-stand-apart,
non umquam merso transmittere flumina disco.
not ever with-sunk to-send-across the-river discus.
Ergo operum fidens non protinus horrida campi
Therefore in-works trusting not at-once the-rough of-the-plain
iugera, sed caelo dextram metitur, humique
acres, but in-the-sky his-right-hand he-measures, and-on-the-ground
pressus utroque genu collecto sanguine discum
pressed on-both knee with-gathered blood the-discus
ipse super sese rotat atque in nubila condit.
himself above himself whirls and in the-clouds hides.
Ille citus sublime petit similisque cadenti
It swift lofty seeks and-like to-a-falling
crescit in adversum, tandemque exhaustus ab alto
grows into opposite, and-at-last exhausted from on-high
tardior in terram redit atque immergitur arvis.
slower onto the-earth returns and is-plunged in-the-fields.

Sic cadit, attonitis quotiens avellitur astris,
So falls, from-the-astonished whenever she-is-torn stars,
Solis opaca soror; procul auxiliantia gentes
of-the-Sun the-dark sister; afar helping the-nations
aera crepant frustraque timent, at Thessala victrix
bronzes clash and-in-vain fear, but the-Thessalian victorious
ridet anhelantes audito carmine bigas.
laughs-at panting heard at-the-song two-horse-team.
Conlaudant Danai, sed non tibi molle tuenti,
Praise-together the-Danaans, but not to-you softly watching,
Hippomedon, maiorque manus speratur in aequo.
Hippomedon, and-greater hand is-hoped in equal.

VI.14 · THE DISCUS WON

Fortune intervenes: Phlegyas' second throw slips from his hand. Menestheus, praying to Mercury, throws well. Hippomedon, warned by both, throws with his whole body; the discus flies far past their marks and shakes the theater like Polyphemus' rock thrown at Ulysses' ship. Adrastus gives Hippomedon a tiger skin, Menestheus a bow, and Phlegyas a sword. Then he calls for boxers.

Atque illi extemplo, cui spes infringere dulce
And to-him at-once, to-whom hopes to-break sweet
inmodicas, Fortuna venit. Quid numina contra
immoderate, Fortune comes. What deities against
tendere fas homini? Spatium iam immane parabat,
to-strain right for-man? A-space now huge he-was-preparing,
iam cervix conversa, et iam latus omne redibat:
now the-neck turned, and now the-side whole was-returning:
excidit ante pedes elapsum pondus et ictus
falls before his-feet slipped the-weight and the-blow

destituit frustraque manum demisit inanem.
abandons and-in-vain the-hand let-down empty.
Ingemuere omnes, rarisque ea visa voluptas.
Groaned all, and-to-few that seemed a-pleasure.
Inde ad conatus timida subit arte Menestheus
Thence to the-attempt with-timid goes-up art Menestheus
cautior, et multum te, Maia crete, rogato
more-cautious, and much you, of-Maia born, having-been-asked
molis praevalidae castigat pulvere lapsus.
of-the-mass very-strong chastens with-dust the-slipperiness.
Illa manu magna et multo felicior exit,
It from-the-hand great and much happier goes-out,
nec partem exiguam circi transvecta quievit.
nor a-part small of-the-circus having-crossed rested.
Fit sonus, et fixa signatur terra sagitta.
Arises a-sound, and with-fixed is-marked the-earth arrow.
Tertius Hippomedon valida ad certamina tardos
Third Hippomedon strong toward contests slow
molitur gressus; namque illum corde sub alto
works his-steps; for him heart under deep
et casus Phlegyae monet et fortuna Menesthei.
both the-fall of-Phlegyas warns and the-fortune of-Menestheus.
Erigit adsuetum dextrae certamen, et alte
He-raises accustomed for-the-right-hand the-contest, and high
sustentans rigidumque latus fortesque lacertos
holding-up both-stiff his-side and-strong arms
consulit ac vasto contorquet turbine, et ipse
consults and with-vast whirls whirl, and himself
prosequitur. Fugit horrendo per inania saltu
follows. It-flees with-dreadful through the-void leap

iamque procul meminit dextrae servatque tenorem
and-now far remembers the-right-hand and-keeps its-course
discus, nec dubia iunctave Menesthea victum
the-discus, nor by-doubtful or-joined Menestheus conquered
transabiit meta: longe super aemula signa
passed goal: far beyond the-rival marks
consedit viridesque umeros et opaca theatri
it-settled and-green shoulders and shady of-the-theater
culmina ceu latae tremefecit mole ruinae:
summits as-if of-a-broad shook with-the-mass ruin:
quale vaporifera saxum Polyphemus ab Aetna
such-as vapor-bearing a-rock Polyphemus from Aetna
lucis egente manu tamen in vestigia puppis
of-light needing with-hand yet into the-tracks of-the-ship
auditae iuxtaque inimicum exegit Ulixen.
heard and-near-to hostile hurled Ulysses.
Tum genitus Talao victori tigrin inanem
Then the-one-born from-Talaus to-the-victor a-tiger empty
ire iubet, fulvo quae circumfusa nitebat
to-go bids, with-tawny which poured-around was-shining
margine et extremos auro mansueverat ungues.
margin and the-extreme with-gold had-tamed claws.
Gnosiacos arcus habet et vaga tela Menestheus.
Cnossian bows has and wandering arrows Menestheus.
'At tibi' ait, 'Phlegya, casu frustrante sinistro,
'But to-you' he-says, 'Phlegyas, by-chance frustrating unlucky,
hunc, quondam nostri decus auxiliumque Pelasgi,
this, once of-our the-glory and-help Pelasgus,
ferre damus, neque enim Hippomedon inviderit, ensem.
to-bear we-give, nor indeed Hippomedon will-have-grudged, sword.

Nunc opus est animis: infestos tollite caestus
Now need is of-spirits: hostile raise gauntlets
comminus; haec bellis et ferro proxima virtus.' 730
at-close-quarters; this to-wars and to-steel nearest valor.'

VI.15 · THE BOXING

Capaneus puts on the lead-weighted gloves and wishes his opponent were a Theban. At last Alcidamas of Sparta, trained by Pollux, steps up, small and young; Capaneus laughs at him. They spar warily; Capaneus attacks wildly, while Alcidamas dodges and parries with skill, then cuts his forehead. Seeing the blood, Capaneus rages like a wounded lion or tiger and drives him back, but Alcidamas evades him.

Constitit immanis cerni immanisque timeri
Stood huge to-be-seen and-huge to-be-feared
Argolicus Capaneus, ac dum nigrantia plumbo
Argolic Capaneus, and while blackening with-lead
tegmina cruda boum non mollior ipse lacertis
coverings raw of-oxen not softer himself in-arms
induitur, 'date tot iuvenum de milibus unum
he-puts-on, 'give of-so-many youths from thousands one
huc' ait, 'atque utinam potius de stirpe veniret 735
here' he-says, 'and would-that rather from the-stock should-come
aemulus Aonia, quem fas demittere leto,
a-rival Aonian, whom right to-send-down to-death,
ne mea crudelis civili sanguine virtus.'
lest my cruel with-civil blood valor.'
Obstipuere animi, fecitque silentia terror.
Were-stunned the-spirits, and-made silence terror.
Tandem insperatus nuda de plebe Laconum
At-last unhoped-for the-naked from commons of-the-Laconians

prosilit Alcidamas, mirantur Dorica regum
leaps-forth Alcidamas, marvel the-Dorian of-the-kings
agmina; sed socii fretum Polluce magistro
columns; but his-comrades relying-on-him Pollux as-trainer
norant et sacras inter crevisse palaestras.
knew and sacred among to-have-grown-up wrestling-schools.
Ipse deus posuitque manus et bracchia finxit
Himself the-god both-placed his-hands and arms shaped
(materiae suadebat amor); tunc saepe locavit
(of-the-material urged love); then often he-placed-him
comminus, et simili stantem miratus in ira
at-close-quarters, and like standing having-admired in anger
sustulit exultans nudumque in pectora pressit.
lifted exulting and-naked onto his-breast pressed.
Illum indignatur Capaneus ridetque vocantem
Him resents Capaneus and-laughs-at challenging
ut miserans, poscitque alium, tandemque coactus
as-if pitying, and-demands another, and-at-last forced
restitit, et stimulis iam languida colla tumescunt.
stood-firm, and with-goads now drooping neck swells.
Fulmineas alte suspensi corpora plantis
Thunderbolt-like high suspended their-bodies on-soles
erexere manus; tuto procul ora recessu
they-raised hands; safely far the-faces in-retreat
armorum in speculis, aditusque ad vulnera clusi.
of-the-arms on the-watch, and-approaches to wounds shut.
Hic, quantum Tityos Stygiis consurgat ab arvis,
This-one, as-much-as Tityos the-Stygian may-rise from fields,
si torvae patiantur aves, tanta undique pandit
if grim should-allow the-birds, so-great on-every-side spreads

membrorum spatia et tantis ferus ossibus extat.
of-limbs spaces and with-so-great fierce bones stands-out.
Hic paulo ante puer, sed enim maturius aevo
This-one a-little before a-boy, but indeed riper than-age
robur, et ingentes spondet tener impetus annos,
strength, and huge promises the-tender onrush years,
quem vinci haut quisquam saevo neque sanguine tingi
whom be-beaten not anyone with-savage nor with-blood be-stained
malit, et erecto timeat spectacula voto.
would-prefer, and with-raised would-fear the-spectacles prayer.
Ut sese permensi oculis et uterque priorem
When themselves having-measured with-eyes and each the-first
speravere locum, non protinus ira nec ictus:
hoped-for place, not at-once anger nor blows:
alternus paulum timor et permixta furori
alternate a-little fear and mingled with-fury
consilia, inclinant tantum contraria iactu
counsels, they-incline only opposed in-the-throw
bracchia et explorant caestus hebetantque terendo.
arms and test the-gauntlets and-blunt by-rubbing.
Doctior hic differt animum metuensque futuri
More-learned this-one defers his-spirit and-fearing the-future
cunctator vires dispensat: at ille nocendi
a-delayer his-strength dispenses: but that-one of-harming
prodigus incautusque sui ruit omnis et ambas
lavish and-careless of-himself rushes whole and both
consumit sine lege manus atque inrita frendit
uses-up without law hands and vain gnashes
insurgens seque ipse premit. Sed providus astu
rising-up and-himself himself presses. But provident in-cunning

et patria vigil arte Lacon hos reicit ictus,
and with-ancestral watchful art the-Laconian these throws-back blows,
hos cavet; interdum nutu capitisque citati
these avoids; sometimes with-the-nod and-of-the-head roused
integer obsequio, manibus nunc obvia tela
whole by-yielding, with-hands now meeting weapons
discutiens, instat gressu vultuque recedit:
striking-aside, presses with-step and-with-face withdraws:
saepe etiam iniustis conlatum viribus hostem
often also by-unequal matched strengths the-enemy
(is vigor ingenio, tanta experientia dextrae est)
(this vigor in-his-talent, such experience of-the-right-hand is)
ultro audax animis instatque et obumbrat et alte
further bold in-spirits and-presses and overshadows and high
adsilit. Ut praeceps cumulos agit unda minantes
leaps-at. As headlong heaps drives the-wave threatening
in scopulos et fracta redit, sic ille furentem
onto crags and broken returns, so he the-raging
circuit expugnans; levat ecce diuque minatur
circles storming; he-raises behold and-long threatens
in latus inque oculos; illum rigida arma caventem
at the-side and-at the-eyes; him stiff arms guarding
avocat ac manibus necopinum interserit ictum
he-calls-away and with-hands an-unexpected inserts blow
callidus et mediam designat vulnere frontem:
cunning and the-middle marks with-wound forehead:
iam cruor, et tepido signantur tempora rivo.
now blood, and with-warm are-marked the-temples stream.
Nescit adhuc Capaneus subitumque per agmina murmur
Knows-not still Capaneus and-the-sudden through the-columns murmur

miratur; verum ut fessam super ora reduxit
marvels-at; but when weary over his-face he-drew-back
forte manum et summo maculas in vellere vidit,
by-chance his-hand and top stains on wool saw,
non leo, non iaculo tantum indignata recepto
not a-lion, not by-a-javelin so-much resenting received
tigris: agit toto cedentem fervidus arvo
a-tigress: he-drives through-whole the-yielding hot field
praecipitatque retro iuvenem atque in terga supinat,
and-hurls backward the-youth and onto his-back tips,
dentibus horrendum stridens, geminatque rotatas
with-teeth dreadfully gnashing, and-redoubles whirled
multiplicatque manus. Rapiunt conamina venti,
and-multiplies hands. Snatch the-efforts the-winds,
pars cadit in caestus; motu Spartanus acuto
part falls on the-gauntlets; with-motion the-Spartan sharp
mille cavet lapsas circum cava tempora mortes
a-thousand avoids slipped around the-hollow temples deaths
auxilioque pedum, sed non tamen immemor artis
and-with-the-help of-his-feet, but not yet forgetful of-art
adversus fugit et fugiens tamen ictibus obstat.
facing flees and fleeing yet with-blows resists.

Both tire; Alcidamas dodges again and knocks Capaneus down. When Capaneus rises meaning to kill him, Adrastus orders his men to stop him and the prizes to be given; Tydeus and Hippomedon hold him back, and he raves that they let him disfigure the boy and send him shapeless to his grave. The Spartans laugh. Tydeus, a skilled wrestler though small, strips to wrestle Agylleus, a huge man of Hercules' stock but soft and flabby.

Et iam utrumque labor suspiriaque aegra fatigant.
And now both toil and-sighs sick weary.
Tardius ille premit, nec iam hic obsistere velox,
More-slowly that-one presses, nor now this-one to-resist swift,
defectique ambo genibus pariterque quierunt.
and-failing both in-the-knees and-equally rested.
Sic ubi longa vagos lassarunt aequora nautas
So when long wandering have-wearied seas sailors
et signum de puppe datum, posuere parumper
and the-signal from the-stern given, they-have-laid-down for-a-little
bracchia: vix requies, iam vox citat altera remos.
arms: hardly rest, now the-voice summons second the-oars.
Ecce iterum inmodice venientem eludit et exit
Behold again immoderately coming he-eludes and goes-out
sponte ruens mersusque umeris: effunditur ille
of-his-own-accord rushing and-ducked in-shoulders: is-poured he
in caput, adsurgentem alio puer improbus ictu
onto his-head, rising with-another the-boy shameless blow
perculit eventuque impalluit ipse secundo.
struck and-at-the-outcome grew-pale himself favorable.
Clamorem Inachidae, quantum non litora, tollunt,
A-shout the-Inachidae, as-great-as not the-shores, raise,

non nemora. Illum ab humo conantem ut vidit Adrastus
not the-groves. Him from the-ground trying when saw Adrastus
tollentemque manus et non toleranda parantem:
and-raising his-hands and not to-be-borne preparing:
'Ite, oro, socii, furit, ite, opponite dextras,
'Go, I-pray, comrades, he-rages, go, oppose your-right-hands,
festinate, furit, palmamque et praemia ferte!
hurry, he-rages, and-the-palm and the-prizes bring!
Non prius, effracto quam misceat ossa cerebro,
Not sooner, broken than he-mingles the-bones with-the-brain,
absistet, video, moriturum auferte Lacona.'
will-he-stop, I-see, about-to-die carry-off the-Laconian.'
Nec mora, prorumpit Tydeus, nec iussa recusat
Nor delay, bursts-forth Tydeus, nor the-orders refuses
Hippomedon; tunc vix ambo conatibus ambas
Hippomedon; then hardly both with-efforts both
restringunt cohibentque manus ac plurima suadent:
hold-back and-restrain the-hands and very-many-things urge:
'Vincis, abi; pulchrum vitam donare minori.
'You-conquer, go-away; beautiful life to-grant to-the-lesser.
Noster et hic bellique comes.' Nil frangitur heros,
Ours also this-one and-of-war a-comrade.' Not-at-all is-broken the-hero,
ramumque oblatumque manu thoraca repellit
and-the-branch and-offered by-hand corslet he-pushes-back
vociferans: 'Liceat! non has ego pulvere crasso
shouting: 'Let-it-be-allowed! not these I with-dust thick
atque cruore genas, meruit quibus iste favorem
and with-gore cheeks, earned by-which that-one favor
semivir, infodiam mittamque informe sepulcro
half-man, shall-bury and-send shapeless to-the-tomb

corpus et Oebalio donem lugere magistro?'
body and to-the-Oebalian give to-mourn trainer?'
Dicit; at hunc socii tumidum et vicisse negantem
He-speaks; but him the-comrades swollen and to-have-conquered denying
avertunt, contra laudant insignis alumnum
turn-away, opposite they-praise of-glorious the-nursling
Taygeti longeque minas risere Lacones.
Taygetus and-far the-threats laughed-at the-Laconians.
Iamdudum variae laudes et conscia virtus
Long-since varied praises and conscious valor
Tydea magnanimum stimulis urgentibus angunt.
Tydeus great-souled with-goads pressing torment.
Ille quidem et disco bonus et contendere cursu,
He indeed both at-the-discus good and to-contend in-running,
nec caestu bellare minor, sed corde labores
nor in-the-gauntlet to-war inferior, but in-heart toils
ante alios erat uncta pale. Sic otia Martis
before others was oiled wrestling. Thus the-leisure of-Mars
degere et armiferas laxare adsueverat iras
to-spend and arms-bearing to-relax had-grown-used angers
ingentes contra ille viros Acheloia circum
huge against he men Acheloian around
litora felicesque deo monstrante palaestras.
shores and-happy with-the-god showing wrestling-schools.
Ergo ubi luctandi iuvenes animosa citavit
Therefore when of-wrestling the-youths spirited summoned
gloria, terrificos umeris Aetolus amictus
glory, terrifying from-his-shoulders the-Aetolian cloak
exuitur patriumque suem. Levat ardua contra
puts-off and-ancestral boar. Raises lofty opposite

membra Cleonaeae stirpis iactator Agylleus,
limbs of-Cleonaean stock the-boaster Agylleus,
Herculea nec mole minor, sic grandibus alte
than-Herculean nor mass lesser, so with-great high
insurgens umeris hominem super improbus exit.
rising shoulders a-man beyond shameless he-goes-out.
Sed non ille rigor patriumque in corpore robur:
But not that stiffness and-ancestral in body strength:
luxuriant artus, effusaque sanguine laxo
luxuriate the-limbs, and-poured-out with-blood loose
membra natant; unde haec audax fiducia tantum
limbs swim; whence this bold confidence so-much
Oenidae superare parem. Quamquam ipse videri
for-the-son-of-Oeneus to-surpass an-equal. Although himself to-seem
exiguus, gravia ossa tamen nodisque lacerti
small, heavy the-bones yet and-with-knots the-arms
difficiles. Numquam hunc animum natura minori
difficult. Never this spirit nature in-lesser
corpore nec tantas ausa est includere vires.
body nor such dared has to-enclose strengths.

They oil and sand themselves and grapple. Agylleus bends over Tydeus like a cypress in the wind; they struggle like bulls or bears. Tydeus tires him, feints, and dives at his legs, but Agylleus falls on him and buries him under his bulk. Tydeus slips free, seizes him from behind, lifts him like Hercules lifting Antaeus, and throws and pins him. He takes the prize, boasting that he would show more if his Theban wounds had not drained his blood, and hands his prizes to his comrades; a corslet goes, unregarded, to Agylleus.

Postquam oleo gavisa cutis, petit aequor uterque
After with-oil rejoiced the-skin, seeks the-level each
procursu medium atque hausta vestitur harena.
by-forward-running the-middle and with-drunk is-clothed sand.
Tum madidos artus alterno pulvere siccant,
Then wet limbs with-alternate dust they-dry,
collaque demersere umeris et bracchia late
and-their-necks sank into-the-shoulders and arms widely
vara tenent. Iam tunc astu deducit in aequum
bowed hold. Now then by-cunning draws-down into the-level
callidus et celsum procurvat Agyllea Tydeus,
cunning and lofty bends-forward Agylleus Tydeus,
submissus tergo et genibus vicinus harenae.
lowered in-back and in-knees near to-the-sand.
Ille autem, Alpini veluti regina cupressus
He however, of-Alpine as the-queen cypress
verticis urgenti cervicem inclinat in austro,
summit pressing its-neck bends in the-south-wind,
vix sese radice tenens, terraeque propinquat,
hardly itself by-the-root holding, and-to-the-earth draws-near,

iamdudum aetherias eadem reditura sub auras:
long-since ethereal the-same about-to-return under airs:
non secus ingentes artus praecelsus Agylleus
not otherwise huge limbs very-tall Agylleus
sponte premit parvumque gemens duplicatur in hostem,
of-his-own-accord presses and-small groaning is-doubled onto the-enemy,
et iam alterna manus frontemque umerosque latusque
and now alternate hand both-forehead and-shoulders and-side
collaque pectoraque et vitantia crura lacessit.
and-neck and-breast and avoiding legs he-provokes.
Interdumque diu pendent per mutua fulti
And-sometimes long they-hang through mutual supported
bracchia, nunc saevi digitorum vincula frangunt.
arms, now savage of-fingers the-bonds they-break.
Non sic ductores gemini gregis horrida tauri
Not so the-leaders twin of-the-herd dreadful bulls
bella movent; medio coniunx stat candida prato
wars move; in-the-middle the-mate stands white meadow
victorem expectans, rumpunt obnixa furentes
the-victor awaiting, break straining raging
pectora, subdit amor stimulos et vulnera sanat:
breasts, puts-under love goads and wounds heals:
fulmineo sic dente sues, sic hispida turpes
with-thunderbolt-like so tooth boars, so shaggy foul
proelia villosis ineunt complexibus ursi.
battles with-hairy enter embraces bears.
Vis eadem Oenidae; nec sole aut pulvere fessa
Force the-same for-the-son-of-Oeneus; nor by-sun or by-dust weary
membra labant, riget arta cutis durisque laborum
limbs totter, stiffens tight the-skin and-by-hard of-toils

castigata toris. Contra non integer ille
chastened muscles. Opposite not whole that-one
flatibus alternis aegroque effetus hiatu
with-breaths alternate and-with-sick spent gaping
exuit ingestas fluvio sudoris harenas
puts-off heaped-on with-a-river of-sweat sands
ac furtim rapta sustentat pectora terra.
and stealthily with-snatched supports his-breast earth.
Instat agens Tydeus fictumque in colla minatus
Presses driving Tydeus and-a-feint at the-neck having-threatened
crura subit; coeptis non evaluere potiri
the-legs he-goes-under; the-undertakings not were-strong-enough to-possess
frustratae brevitate manus, venit arduus ille
frustrated by-shortness the-hands, comes lofty that-one
desuper oppressumque ingentis mole ruinae
from-above and-the-overwhelmed of-huge with-the-mass ruin
condidit. Haut aliter collis scrutator Hiberi
buried. Not otherwise of-a-hill the-searcher Hiberian
cum subiit longeque diem vitamque reliquit,
when he-has-gone-under and-far the-day and-life has-left,
si tremuit suspensus ager subitumque fragorem
if has-trembled suspended the-field and-a-sudden crash
rupta dedit tellus, latet intus monte soluto
broken has-given the-earth, he-lies-hidden within by-the-mountain loosened
obrutus, ac penitus fractum obtritumque cadaver
overwhelmed, and deep broken and-crushed the-corpse
indignantem animam propriis non reddidit astris.
resenting the-soul to-its-own not has-returned stars.
Acrior hoc Tydeus, animisque et pectore supra est.
Fiercer by-this Tydeus, and-in-spirits and in-breast above is.

Nec mora, cum vinclis onerique elapsus iniquo
Nor delay, when from-the-bonds and-from-the-burden having-slipped unequal
circuit errantem et tergo necopinus inhaeret,
he-circles the-wandering-one and on-the-back unexpected clings,
mox latus et firmo celer implicat ilia nexu,
soon the-side and with-firm quick entwines the-flanks knot,
poplitibus genua inde premens evadere nodos
with-the-backs-of-his-knees the-knees thence pressing to-escape the-knots
nequiquam et lateri dextram insertare parantem
in-vain and into-the-side his-right-hand to-insert preparing
improbus, horrendum visu ac mirabile pondus,
shameless, dreadful to-see and wonderful weight,
sustulit. Herculeis pressum sic fama lacertis
he-lifted. By-Herculean pressed so rumor-says arms
terrigenam sudasse Libyn, cum fraude reperta
the-earth-born to-have-sweated Libyan, when the-fraud found
raptus in excelsum, nec iam spes ulla cadendi,
snatched into the-height, nor now hope any of-falling,
nec licet extrema matrem contingere planta.
nor is-it-allowed with-the-extreme his-mother to-touch sole.
Fit sonus, et laetos attollunt agmina plausus.
Arises a-sound, and glad raise the-columns applause.
Tunc alte librans inopinum sponte remisit
Then high poising unexpected of-his-own-accord he-let-go
obliquumque dedit, procumbentemque secutus
and-slanting gave-him, and-falling-forward following
colla simul dextra, pedibus simul inguina vinxit.
the-neck at-once with-right-hand, with-feet at-once the-groin bound.
Deficit obsessus soloque pudore repugnat.
Fails the-besieged and-with-only shame resists.

Tandem pectus humi pronamque extensus in alvum
At-last on-breast on-the-ground and-prone stretched onto belly
sternitur, ac longo maestus post tempore surgit,
he-is-laid-low, and long sad after time rises,
turpia signata linquens vestigia terra.
foul marked leaving footprints on-the-earth.
Palmam autem dextra laevaque nitentia dono
The-palm however with-the-right and-with-the-left shining as-gift
arma ferens Tydeus: 'Quid si non sanguinis huius
arms bearing Tydeus: 'What if not of-blood this
partem haut exiguam (scitis) Dircaeus haberet
a-part not small (you-know) the-Dircaean held
campus, ubi hae nuper Thebarum foedera plagae?'
plain, where these lately of-Thebes the-pacts wounds?'
Haec simul ostentans quaesitaque praemia laudum
These-things at-once showing and-sought rewards of-praises
dat sociis, sequitur neglectus Agyllea thorax.
gives to-his-comrades, follows neglected Agylleus the-corslet.

Agreus and Polynices offer to fight with swords, but Adrastus forbids it, saving their blood for war, and gives each a helmet; Polynices is proclaimed victor of Thebes, an omen the Fates mock. The chiefs urge Adrastus himself to compete; he shoots an arrow at an ash tree across the circus, but it returns along its path and falls at his own quiver. The leaders guess at causes, but the omen meant that he alone would return from the war.

Sunt et qui nudo subeant concurrere ferro.
There-are also who with-naked come-up to-clash steel.
Iamque aderant instructi armis Epidaurius Agreus
And-now were-present equipped with-arms Epidaurian Agreus
et nondum fatis Dircaeus agentibus exul.
and not-yet by-the-fates the-Dircaean driving exile.
Dux vetat Iasides: 'Manet ingens copia leti,
The-leader forbids the-son-of-Iasus: 'Remains huge abundance of-death,
o iuvenes! servate animos avidumque furorem
O youths! keep your-spirits and-greedy frenzy
sanguinis adversi. Tuque o, quem propter avita
for-blood opposing. And-you O, whom for ancestral
iugera, dilectas cui desolavimus urbes,
acres, beloved for-whom we-have-desolated cities,
ne, precor, ante aciem ius tantum casibus esse
do-not, I-pray, before the-battle-line right so-much to-chances to-be
fraternisque sinas (abigant hoc numina!) votis.'
and-to-fraternal allow (may-avert this the-deities!) prayers.'
Sic ait, atque ambos aurata casside ditat.
Thus he-says, and both with-gilded helmet enriches.
Tum generum, ne laudis egens, iubet ardua necti
Then his-son-in-law, lest of-praise lacking, he-orders lofty to-be-bound

tempora Thebarumque ingenti voce citari
temples and-of-Thebes with-huge voice to-be-proclaimed
victorem: dirae recinebant omina Parcae.
victor: the-dire sang-back the-omens Parcae.
Ipsum etiam proprio certamina festa labore
Himself also with-his-own the-contests festive toil
dignari et tumulo supremum hunc addere honorem
to-deem-worthy and to-the-tomb last this to-add honor
hortantur proceres ac, ne victoria desit
urge the-nobles and, lest victory be-lacking
una ducum numero, fundat vel Lyctia cornu
one of-the-leaders to-the-number, he-may-pour either Lyctian from-the-horn
tela rogant, tenui vel nubila transeat hasta.
weapons they-ask, with-slender or the-clouds may-pass spear.
Obsequitur gaudens, viridique ex aggere in aequum
He-complies rejoicing, and-green from mound into the-level
stipatus summis iuvenum descendit; at illi
crowded by-the-highest of-youths goes-down; but for-him
pone leves portat pharetras et cornua iussus
behind light carries quivers and bows ordered
armiger: ingentem iactu transmittere circum
the-armor-bearer: huge in-the-throw to-send-across circus
eminus et dictae dare vulnera destinat orno.
from-afar and to-the-appointed to-give wounds he-aims ash.
Quis fluere occultis rerum neget omina causis?
Who to-flow from-hidden of-things would-deny the-omens causes?
Fata patent homini, piget inservare, peritque
The-fates lie-open to-man, it-irks to-observe, and-perishes
venturi praemissa fides: sic omina casum
of-the-coming sent-ahead the-trust: so omens chance

fecimus, et vires hausit Fortuna nocendi.
we-have-made, and strengths drew Fortune of-harming.
Campum emensa brevi fatalis ab arbore tacta,
The-plain having-measured briefly fatal from the-tree touched,
horrendum visu, per quas modo fugerat auras,
dreadful to-see, through which just-now it-had-fled airs,
venit harundo retro versumque a fine tenorem
comes the-arrow backward and-turned from the-end course
pertulit; et notae iuxta ruit ora pharetrae.
carried-through; and of-the-known near falls the-mouth quiver.
Multa duces errore serunt: hi nubila et altos
Many-things the-leaders in-error sow: these clouds and high
occurrisse notos, adversi roboris ictu
to-have-met south-winds, of-the-opposing oak by-the-blow
tela repulsa alii. Penitus latet exitus ingens
the-weapon driven-back others. Deep lies-hidden the-outcome huge
monstratumque nefas: uni remeabile bellum
and-shown the-horror: for-one returnable war
et tristes domino spondebat harundo recursus.
and sad for-its-master was-promising the-arrow returns.