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vocabulary

ἄβατος untrodden; impassable
ἀγιστεύω do rites; be pure, holy
ἄγρᾱ hunting, prey
ἀδελφή sister
αἰνέω praise, assent, acquiesce in
ἀλλάσσω trade, transform
ἄλλομαι to jump ~sally
ἄλμυρός salty
ἄμπελος (f) vine
ἀναμείγνυμι (ō) mix with, join
ἀναφέρω raise an issue, refer to, propose; (mp) take a deep breath
 ~bear
ἀνολολύζω cry out
ἀπολογέομαι defend one's conduct
ἀτέλεστος not accomplished, fruitless ~apostle
βασιλεια noblewoman
βασιλείος kingly
βέλος -εος (n, 3) missile ~ballistic
βοτρυώδης like a bunch of grapes
βροντή thunder ~brontosaurus
γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy
γέρας -ως (n, 3) reward, honor
γύης γύου (m, 1) plowshare
δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate, doom ~demon
δέρκομαι see, watch
δράκων -οντος (m, 3) serpent
εἶδος -ους (n, 3) appearance, form
 ~-oid
ἐκμανθάνω know by heart
ἐκτοπος foreign, strange
ἐκφύω spring from ~physics
ἐλάτη fir tree; oar
Ἑλλην Greek
ἐμφανής visible
ἐνδείκνυμι (ō) address, consider
ἐνθεν thence, whence
ἐνθένδε hence
ἐντίθημι load; mp: take to heart

~thesis

ἐξάπτω fasten to ~haptic
ἐπιχώριος native
ἐρείπιον ruin, wreckage
ἐρείπιος wrecked, ruined
ἔρυμα -τος (n, 3) protection ~serve
εὐάζω cry εὐαί in honour of Bacchus
εὐδαίμων blessed with a good genius
εὕρημα invention; windfall
εὐρύχορος with broad dancing places
εὐχή prayer; vow ~vow
ἥκιστος least; above all
θαλάμη den, hole ~thalamus
θεμιτεύω rule, be a judge
θεομαχέω fight against the gods
θῆλυς female; (rare) abundant
 ~female
θιασεύω initiate into the Bacchic revel
θίασος revel; group of people
θοάζω move quickly; sit
θύρσος ivied wand
καθαρισμός cleansing, purification
κάματος exhaustion, toil, product
κατάγω lead down/home; land
 ~demagogue
κεραυνίας -ου (m, 1) thunderstruck
κεραύνιος of a thunderbolt
κίσσινος of ivy
κισσός ivy
κισσώ wreath with ivy
κόρυς helmet
κρυπτός hidden, secret ~cryptic
κτυπέω crash
λέχος -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier
 ~lie
λόχιος of childbirth
μαινάς -δος (f, 3) madwoman, maenad ~maenad

μανία	madness, passion	~plethora	
μεθίστημι	change, substitute; withdraw; change sides; (mid) send away ~station	πλόκαμος	lock of hair
μέλαθρον	roofbeam	πολύχρυσος (υδ)	rich in gold
μεταβάλλω	alter, transform	πτέτομαι	to fly ~petal
μηρός	thigh, femur	πτυχή	fold, layer
μιγάς	all mixed up	σηκός	livestock pen
μίν	him, her, it	σκευή	equipment
μνεία	reminder, memorial	σόφισμα	skill, trick
μνήμα -τος (n, 3)	reminder, memorial ~mnemonic	στέφανος	ring
μορφή	beauty	στεφανώ	crown
νάμα	a flow	στρατηλατέω	lead an army
νεβρίς	fawnskin	στρατηλάτης -ου (m, 1)	commander
νυμφεύω	marry, give in marriage	τελετή	rite, festival
οϊστράω	sting; go crazy	τινάσσω	shake; brandish
οϊστρέω	sting; go crazy	τοιγάρ	therefore
όμός	same ~homoerotic	τροφός (f)	wet nurse ~atrophy
όμοῦ	together	τύμπανον	drum
όμώ	unite ~homoerotic	τυραννίς -δος (f)	tyranny
όργια -τος (n, 2)	secret rites	τύφω (ῶ)	to smoke
οὐδαμοῦ	nowhere	ὔβρις -εως (f)	pride, insolence, outrage
οὐνεκα	because	ὕμνέω	recite, commemorate
παράκοπος	frenzied; distraught	φλόξ -γός (f)	flame ~flame
πάρεδρος	assessor	φύσις -εως (f)	nature (of a thing) ~physics
πέδον	ground ~pedal	φύω	produce, beget; clasp ~physics
περίξ	all around	χλωρός	pale, green, yellow ~chlorine
περόνη	nail, pin, clasp; cleat; fibula ~pierce	χορεύω	dance
Πέρσης	Persian	χορός	dance; chorus ~terpsichorean
πέτομαι	to fly ~petal	ψεύδω	be false, deceive; (mid) to lie ~pseudo-
πλάξ -χός (f)	flat thing	ώδίνω (ι)	be in pain
πληγή	a hit ~plectrum	ώδís -νος (f)	pain
πλήρης	full, complete; (+gen) full of	ώθέω	push

ΔΙΟΝΥΣΟΣ. ἤκω Διὸς παῖς τήνδε Θηβαίων χθόνα

Διόνυσος, ὃν τίκτει ποθ' ἡ Κάδμου κόρη

Σεμέλη λοχευθεῖς' ἀστραπηφόρῳ πυρί·

μορφὴν δ' ἀμείψας ἐκ θεοῦ βροτησίαν

πάρειμι Δίρκης νάματ'¹ Ἰσμηνοῦ θ' ὕδωρ.

5

ὁρῶ δὲ μητρὸς μνήμα τῆς κεραυνίας

τόδ' ἐγγὺς οἴκων καὶ δόμων ἐρείπια

τυφόμενα² Δίου πυρὸς ἔτι ζῶσαν φλόγα,

ἀθάνατον Ἦρας μητέρ' εἰς ἐμὴν ὕβριν.

αἰνῶ δὲ Κάδμον, ἄβατον³ ὃς πέδον τόδε

10

τίθησι, θυγατρὸς σηκόν·⁴ ἀμπέλου δέ νιν

πέριξ⁵ ἐγὼ κάλυψα βοτρυνώδει χλόῃ.

λιπὼν δὲ Λυδῶν τοὺς πολυχρύσους γύας⁶

Φρυγῶν τε, Περσῶν θ' ἡλιοβλήτους πλάκας

Βάκτριά τε τείχη τήν τε δύσχιμον χθόνα

15

Μήδων ἐπελθὼν Ἀραβίαν τ' εὐδαίμονα

Ἀσίαν τε πᾶσαν, ἥ παρ' ἀλμυρὰν⁷ ἄλα

κεῖται μυγᾶσιν⁸ Ἑλλήσι βαρβάροις θ' ὁμοῦ

πλήρεις ἔχουσα καλλιπυργώτους πόλεις,

ἐς τήνδε πρῶτον ἦλθον Ἑλλήνων πόλιν,

20

τὰκεῖ χορεύσας καὶ καταστήσας ἐμὰς

τελετάς, ἵν' εἶην ἐμφανῆς δαίμων βροτοῖς.

πρώτας δὲ Θήβας τῇσδε γῆς Ἑλληνίδος

ἀνωλόλυξα, νεβρίδ' ἐξάψας χροὸς

θύρσον τε δοὺς ἐς χεῖρα, κίσσινον βέλος·

25

ἐπεὶ μ' ἀδελφαὶ μητρὸς, ἃς ἤκιστα χρῆν,

¹ a flow ² to smoke ³ untrodden; impassable ⁴ livestock pen ⁵ all
around ⁶ plowshare ⁷ salty ⁸ all mixed up

Διόνυσον οὐκ ἔφασκον ἐκφῦναι Διός,
 Σεμέλην δὲ νυμφευθεῖσαν⁹ ἐκ θνητοῦ τινος
 ἐς Ζῆν' ἀναφέρειν τὴν ἁμαρτίαν λέχους,
 Κάδμου σοφίσμαθ', ὧν νιν οὐνεκα κτανεῖν 30
 Ζῆν' ἐξεκαυχῶνθ', ὅτι γάμους ἐψεύσατο.
 τοιγάρ νιν αὐτὰς ἐκ δόμων ὥσπρησ' ἐγὼ
 μανίαις,¹⁰ ὅρος δ' οἰκοῦσι παράκοποι φρενῶν·
 σκευὴν τ' ἔχειν ἡνάγκασ' ὀργίων ἐμῶν,
 καὶ πᾶν τὸ θῆλυ σπέρμα Καδμείων, ὅσαι 35
 γυναιῖκες ἦσαν, ἐξέμνηνα δωμάτων·
 ὁμοῦ δὲ Κάδμου παισὶν ἀναμειγμέναι
 χλωραῖς ὑπ' ἐλάταις ἀνορόφοις ἦνται πέτραις.
 δεῖ γὰρ πόλιν τήνδ' ἐκμαθεῖν, κεῖ μὴ θέλει,
 ἀτέλεστον¹¹ οὔσαν τῶν ἐμῶν βακχευμάτων, 40
 Σεμέλης τε μητρὸς ἀπολογήσασθαί μ' ὕπερ
 φανέντα θνητοῖς δαίμον' ὃν τίκτει Διί.
 Κάδμος μὲν οὖν γέρας τε καὶ τυραννίδα
 Πενθεὶ δίδωσι θυγατρὸς ἐκπεφυκότι,
 ὃς θεομαχεῖ τὰ κατ' ἐμὲ καὶ σπονδῶν ἄπο 45
 ὠθεῖ μ', ἐν εὐχαῖς¹² τ' οὐδαμοῦ¹³ μνείαν ἔχει.
 ὧν οὐνεκ' αὐτῷ θεὸς γεγὼς ἐνδείξομαι
 πασὶν τε Θεβαίοισιν. ἐς δ' ἄλλην χθόνα,
 τάνθ' ἐνδε θέμενος εὖ, μεταστήσω πόδα,
 δεικνὺς ἐμαυτόν· ἦν δὲ Θεβαίων πόλις 50
 ὀργῇ σὺν ὅπλοις ἐξ ὅρους βάκχας ἄγειν
 ζητῇ, ξυνάψω μαινάσι στρατηλατῶν.

⁹ marry, give in marriage ¹⁰ madness, passion
fruitless ¹² prayer; vow ¹³ nowhere

¹¹ not accomplished,

ὦν οὔνεκ' εἶδος θνητὸν ἀλλάξας ἔχω
 μορφὴν τ' ἐμὴν μετέβαλον εἰς ἀνδρὸς φύσιν.
 ἀλλ', ὦ λιποῦσαι Τμῶλον ἔρυμα¹⁴ Λυδίας, 55
 θίασος ἐμός, γυναικες, ᾗς ἐκ βαρβάρων
 ἐκόμισα παρέδρους καὶ ξυνεμπόρους ἐμοί,
 αἴρεσθε τὰπιχώρι' ἐν πόλει Φρυγῶν
 τύμπανα,¹⁵ ῥέας τε μητρὸς ἐμά θ' εὐρήματα,¹⁶
 βασιλεία τ' ἀμφὶ δώματ' ἐλθοῦσαι τάδε 60
 κτυπεῖτε Πενθέως, ὡς ὄρᾳ Κάδμου πόλις.
 ἐγὼ δὲ βάκχαις, ἐς Κιθαιρώνος πτυχὰς
 ἐλθὼν ἵν' εἰσί, συμμετασχίσω χορῶν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. Ἀσίας ἀπὸ γᾶς

ἱερὸν Τμῶλον ἀμείψασα θαάζω 65
 Βρομίῳ πόνον ἡδὺν κάματόν τ' εὐκάματον, Βάκ'
 χιον εὐαζομένα.¹⁷
 τίς ὁδῶ τίς ὁδῶ; τίς;
 μελάθροισι ἔκτοπος ἔστω, στόμα τ' εὐφη'
 μον ἅπας ἐξοσιούσθω· 70
 τὰ νομισθέντα γὰρ αἰεὶ
 Διόνυσον ὑμνήσω.[]

ΧΟ. ὦ μάκαρ, ὅστις εὐδαίμων

τελετὰς θεῶν εἰδὼς βιοτὰν ἀγιστεύει¹⁸ καὶ
 θιασεύεται ψυχὰν 75
 ἐν ὄρεσσι βακχεύων
 ὁσίοις καθαρμοῖσιν,
 τά τε ματρὸς μεγάλας ὄρ'

¹⁴ protection ¹⁵ drum ¹⁶ invention; windfall ¹⁷ cry εὐαί in honour of
 Bacchus ¹⁸ do rites; be pure, holy

για Κυβέλας θεμιτεύων,¹⁹

ἀνὰ θύρσον τε τινάσσων,

80

κισσῶ τε στεφανωθείς

Διόνυσον θεραπεύει.

ἴτε βάκχαι, ἴτε βάκχαι,

Βρόμιον παῖδα θεὸν θεοῦ

Διόνυσον κατὰγούσαι

85

Φρυγίων ἐξ ὀρέων Ἑλ'

λάδος εἰς εὐρυχόρους ἄ' γυιάς, τὸν Βρόμιον·

Χ0. ὅν ποτ' ἔχουσ' ἐν ὠδίνων

λοχίαις²⁰ ἀνάγκαισι

πταμένας Διὸς βροντᾶς νη'

90

δύος ἔκβολον μάτηρ

ἔτεκεν, λιποῦσ' αἰῶ'

να κεραυνίῳ πληγῇ·

λοχίοις δ' αὐτίκα νιν δέ'

ξατο θαλάμαις Κρονίδας Ζεύς,

95

κατὰ μηρῶ δὲ καλύψας

χρυσέαισιν συνερεῖδει

περόναις κρυπτὸν ἀφ' Ἥρας.

ἔτεκεν δ', ἀνίκα Μοῖραι

τέλεσαν, ταυρόκερων θεὸν

100

στεφάνωσέν τε δρακόντων

στεφάνοις, ἔνθεν ἄγραν θη'

ροτρόφον μαινάδες ἀμφι'

βάλλονται πλοκάμοις. Χ0. ὦ Σεμέλας τροφοὶ²¹ Θῆ'

¹⁹ rule, be a judge ²⁰ of childbirth ²¹ wet nurse

DIONYSUS. Behold, God's Son is come unto this land
Of heaven's hot splendour lit to life, when she
Of Thebes, even I, Dionysus, whom the brand
Who bore me, Cadmus' daughter Semele,
Died here. So, changed in shape from God to man,
I walk again by Dirce's streams and scan
Ismenus' shore. There by the castle side
I see her place, the Tomb of the Lightning's Bride,
The wreck of smouldering chambers, and the great
Faint wreaths of fire undying—as the hate
Dies not, that Hera held for Semele.
Aye, Cadmus hath done well; in purity
He keeps this place apart, inviolate,
His daughter's sanctuary; and I have set
My green and clustered vines to robe it round
Far now behind me lies the golden ground
Of Lydian and of Phrygian; far away
The wide hot plains where Persian sunbeams play,
The Bactrian war-holds, and the storm-oppressed
Clime of the Mede, and Araby the Blest,
And Asia all, that by the salt sea lies
In proud embattled cities, motley-wise
Of Hellene and Barbarian interwrought;
And now I come to Hellas—having taught
All the world else my dances and my rite
Of mysteries, to show me in men's sight
Manifest God.
And first of Helene lands
I cry this Thebes to waken; set her hands
To clasp my wand, mine ivied javelin,
And round her shoulders hang my wild fawn-skin.
For they have scorned me whom it least beseemed,
Semele's sisters; mocked by birth, nor deemed
That Dionysus sprang from Dian seed.
My mother sinned, said they; and in her need,
With Cadmus plotting, cloaked her human shame
With the dread name of Zeus; for that the flame
From heaven consumed her, seeing she lied to God.
Thus must they vaunt; and therefore hath my rod
On them first fallen, and stung them forth wild-eyed
From empty chambers; the bare mountain side
Is made their home, and all their hearts are flame.

Yea, I have bound upon the necks of them
 The harness of my rites. And with them all
 The seed of womankind from hut and hall
 Of Thebes, hath this my magic goaded out.
 And there, with the old King's daughters, in a rout
 Confused, they make their dwelling-place between
 The roofless rocks and shadowy pine trees green.
 Thus shall this Thebes, how sore soe'er it smart,
 Learn and forget not, till she crave her part
 In mine adoring; thus must I speak clear
 To save my mother's fame, and crown me here,
 As true God, born by Semele to Zeus.
 Now Cadmus yieldeth up his throne and use
 Of royal honour to his daughter's son
 Pentheus; who on my body hath begun
 A war with God. He thrusteth me away
 From due drink-offering, and, when men pray,
 My name entreats not. Therefore on his own
 Head and his people's shall my power be shown.
 Then to another land, when all things here
 Are well, must I fare onward, making clear
 My godhead's might. But should this Theban town
 Essay with wrath and battle to drag down
 My maids, lo, in their path myself shall be,
 And maniac armies battled after me!
 For this I veil my godhead with the wan
 Form of the things that die, and walk as Man.
 O Brood of Tmolus o'er the wide world flown,
 O Lydian band, my chosen and mine own,
 Damsels uplifted o'er the orient deep
 To wander where I wander, and to sleep
 Where I sleep; up, and wake the old sweet sound,
 The clang that I and mystic Rhea found,
 The Timbrel of the Mountain! Gather all
 Thebes to your song round Pentheus' royal hall.
 I seek my new-made worshippers, to guide
 Their dances up Kithaeron's pine clad side.

As he departs, there comes stealing in from the left a band of fifteen Eastern Women, the light of the sunrise streaming upon their long white robes and ivy-bound hair. They wear fawn-skins over the robes, and carry some of them timbrels, some pipes and other instruments. Many bear the thyrsus, or sacred Wand, made of reed ringed with ivy. They enter stealthily till they see

that the place is empty, and then begin their mystic song of worship.

CHORUS. From Asia, from the dayspring that uprises

To Bromios ever glorying we came.

We laboured for our Lord in many guises;

We toiled, but the toil is as the prize is;

Thou Mystery, we hail thee by thy name!

Who lingers in the road? Who espies us?

We shall hide him in his house nor be bold.

Let the heart keep silence that defies us;

For I sing this day to Dionysus

The song that is appointed from of old.

Oh, blessed he in all wise,

Who hath drunk the Living Fountain,

Whose life no folly staineth,

And his soul is near to God;

Whose sins are lifted, pall-wise,

As he worships on the Mountain,

And where Cybele ordaineth,

Our Mother, he has trod:

His head with ivy laden

And his thyrsus tossing high,

For our God he lifts his cry;

“Up, O Bacchae, wife and maiden,

Come, O ye Bacchae, come;

Oh, bring the Joy-bestower,

God-seed of God the Sower,

Bring Bromios in his power

From Phrygia’s mountain dome;

To street and town and tower,

Oh, bring ye Bromios home.”

Whom erst in anguish lying

For an unborn life’s desire,

As a dead thing in the Thunder

His mother cast to earth;

For her heart was dying, dying,

In the white heart of the fire;

Till Zeus, the Lord of Wonder,

Devised new lairs of birth;

Yea, his own flesh tore to hide him,

And with clasps of bitter gold

Did a secret son enfold,

And the Queen knew not beside him;

Till the perfect hour was there;
Then a horned God was found,
And a God of serpents crowned;
And for that are serpents wound
In the wands his maidens bear,
And the songs of serpents sound
In the mazes of their hair.
All hail, O Thebes, thou nurse of Semele!

vocabulary

ἀγάλλω exalt; mp: exult in
 ἀγρεύω catch (prey, fish)
 αἰθήρ ether, air, sky ~ether
 αἶσσω dart, glance
 αἰσχύνω (ῶ) spoil, disgrace,
 disfigure, mar
 ἄκρον crest, extremity ~acute
 ἄκρος at the edge, extreme ~acute
 ἀναπάλλω brandish; (pass) leap up
 ~Pallas
 ἀνάπτω bind; blame; kindle
 ~haptic
 ἀνέχω raise; mid: endure, submit
 ἄντρον cave
 ἄστυ -εως (n, 3) town
 αὐλέω play (blow, toot)
 αὐλή courtyard
 αὐλῖς -τος (f) roost, bivouac
 αὐλός flute, tube, hollow
 αὐλῶν canyon, strait, canal
 αὐξάνω strengthen
 βλάστημα shoot; offspring
 βοά din, a shout
 βοεῖη shield; leather, bovine
 βρέμω roar, clash, rage
 ~brontosaurus
 βρύω teem with ~embryo
 γάλα milk ~galaxy
 γεραιός old ~geriatric
 γῆρας -ος (n, 3) old age
 γηράσκω grow old ~geriatric
 γῆρυς voice
 δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate,
 doom ~demon
 δάσκιος thickly shaded ~shadow
 δορά hide, flaying
 δρόμος running, racing ground
 ~hippodrome
 δρῦς -ός (f) tree, oak, lumber
 ~druid
 εἰσαγγέλλω announce

ἐκκαλέω call forth ~gallo
 ἐκλείπω leave out, pass over
 ἐλάτη fir tree; oar
 ἔναυλος gully, torrent
 ἐνδυτός (clothing) worn
 ἐξανύω bring to pass; slay
 ἔξαρχος leader ~oligarch
 ἐξηγέομαι lead forth; set out,
 describe ~hegemony
 ἐπιβρέμω roar upon ~brontosaurus
 ἐπιλανθάνω mp: forget ~Lethe
 ἐπιχειρέω do, try, attack ~chiral
 ἐρεθίζω annoy, excite ~Eris
 ἐτοῖμος ready; fulfilled
 εὐασμα a Bacchanalian shout
 ζάθεος holy
 ἡβάω be young ~Hebe
 ἡδύς sweet, pleasant ~hedonism
 θηλυγενής female, feminine
 θίασος revel; group of people
 θνητός mortal ~euthanasia
 θοάζω move quickly; sit
 θύρσος ivied wand
 θυρσώω make into a wand
 ἰαχή shout
 ἰστός mast, loom ~stand
 κάμνω toil, be tired, acquire by toil;
 be troubled; be sick
 καταβάλλω throw down, cast off
 ~ballistic
 καταφρονέω scorn; think of
 κείω rest, go to rest
 κεράννυμι (ῶ) mix ~crater
 κεράω mix in a bowl
 κερκίς -τος (f) weaver's shuttle
 κίσσινος of ivy
 κισσός ivy
 κισσώω wreath with ivy
 κλάδος branch, shoot
 κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid
 κοινός communal, ordinary
 κουρά clipping of hair, wool

κράς -τός (f, 3) head
κράτος strength, power; victory
 ~democracy
κρέας -ως (n) meat ~creatine
κροτέω cause to rattle
κτάομαι acquire, possess
κτυπέω crash
κτύπος noise
κῶλον limb
λίβανος frankincense ~Lebanon
λωτός clover? lotus?
μαίνομαι be berserk ~maenad
μέλπω celebrate in song
μίλαξ oak, yew, morning glory
μίν him, her, it
νάρθηξ -κος (m) fennel stalk
νεβρίς fawnskin
νεβρός (f) fawn
νέκταρ -ος (n) nectar
οϊστρέω sting; go crazy
ὁμηλιξ -κος (m) of the same age
οὔκοῦν not so?; and so
ὄχος pl: carrying thing, chariot,
 holding place ~wagon
πάτριος of the father(s), ancestral
πέδον ground ~pedal
πεδόσε to the ground, to the bottom
περάω cross over, drive across; sell
 as a slave ~pierce
πέρνημι export, sell as a slave
 ~porno
πέυκη pine

πλόκαμος lock of hair
ποι whither? how long?
πολιός gray ~polio
πτοέω scare
πύλη gate ~Thermopylae
πυργόω wall, fortify
πῶλος (f) foal ~foal
ρέω flow ~rheostat
ρίπτω hurl
σεΐω shake ~seismic
σκευή equipment
σοφός skilled, clever, wise
σπουδή zeal; (dat) with difficulty,
 hastily ~repudiate
στεφανώ crown
στέφω crown, put around
στίζω tattoo
συνάπτω join, partake; adjoint;
 consult; fight ~haptic
συντίθημι hearken, mark ~thesis
σύντονος tense; impetuous; earnest
τοιόσδε such
τριετηρίς triennial
τύμπανον drum
τύμπανος drum
ὕβριστής -οῦ (m, 1) wanton, savage
φέγγος -εος (n, 3) light, luster
φλόξ -γός (f) flame ~flame
χορεύω dance
χορός dance; chorus ~terpsichorean
ὠμοφάγος raw flesh-eating

βαι, στεφανοῦσθε κισσῶ·
 βρύετε¹ βρύετε χλοήρει
 μίλακι καλλικάρπῳ
 καὶ καταβακchioῦσθε δρυὸς
 ἧ ἑλάτας κλάδοισι, 110
 στικτῶν τ' ἐνδυτὰ νεβρίδων
 στέφετε λευκοτρίχων πλοκάμων
 μαλλοῖς· ἀμφὶ δὲ νάρθηκας ὑβριστὰς
 ὀσιοῦσθ'· αὐτίκα γὰρ πᾶσα χορεύσει—
 Βρόμιος ὅστις ἄγῃ θιάσουσ— 115
 εἰς ὄρος εἰς ὄρος, ἔνθα μένει
 θηλυγενῆς² ὄχλος
 ἀφ' ἰστών παρὰ κερκίδων³ τ'
 οἰστροηθεῖς⁴ Διονύσω. ΧΟΡΟΣ. ὦ θαλάμευμα Κουρ'
 ἡτων ζάθεοί τε Κρήτας
 Διογενέτορες ἔναυλοι,
 ἔνθα τρικόρυθες ἄντροις
 βυρσότονον κύκλωμα τόδε
 μοι Κορύβαντες ἡῶρον· 125
 βακχεῖα δ' ἀνὰ συντόνῳ
 κέρασαν ἀδυβόα Φρυγίων
 αὐλῶν πνεύματι ματρός τε Πέας ἐς
 χέρα θῆκαν, κτύπον εὐάσμασι⁵ Βακχᾶν·
 παρὰ δὲ μαινόμενοι Σάτυροι 130
 ματέρος ἐξανύσαντο θεᾶς,
 ἐς δὲ χορεύματα

¹ teem with ² female, feminine ³ weaver's shuttle ⁴ sting; go crazy
⁵ a Bacchanalian shout

συνῆψαν τριετηρίδων,⁶

αἷς χαίρει Διόνυσος.

ΧΟ. ἦδ' οὖς ἐν ὄρεσιν, ὅταν ἐκ θιάσων δρομαῖ 135

ων πέσῃ πεδόσσε, νε΄

βρίδος ἔχων ἱερὸν ἐνδυτόν, ἀγρεύων

αἶμα τραγοκτόνον, ὠμοφάγον⁷ χάριν, ἰμέ΄

νος ἐς ὅρα Φρύγια, Λύδι, ὁ δ' ἔξαρχος Βρόμος, 140

εὐοῖ.

ρεῖ δὲ γάλακτι πέδον, ρεῖ δ' οἶνω, ρεῖ δὲ μελισσᾶν

νέκταρι.⁸ Συρίας δ' ὡς λιβάνου⁹ κα΄

πνὸν ὁ Βακχεὺς ἀνέχων πυρσώδη φλόγα πεύκας 145

ἐκ νάρθηκος αἴσσει δρόμῳ καὶ χοροῖσιν

πλανάτας ἐρεθίζων¹⁰

ἰαχαῖς¹¹ τ' ἀναπάλλων,

τρυφερόν τε πλόκαμον εἰς αἰθέρα ρίπτων. 150

ἄμα δ' εὐάσμασι τοιάδ' ἐπιβρέμει·

ᾠ ἴτε βάκχαι, ᾠ ἴτε βάκχαι,

Τμώλου χρυσορόου χλιδᾶ

μέλπετε¹² τὸν Διόνυσον 155

βαρυβρόμων ὑπὸ τυμπάνων,

εὔια τὸν εὔιον ἀγαλλόμεναι¹³ θεὸν

ἐν Φρυγίαισι βοαῖς ἐνοπαῖσί τε,

λωτὸς¹⁴ ὅταν εὐκέλαδος 160

ἱερὸς ἱερὰ παίγματα βρέμη,¹⁵ σύνοχα

φοιτάσιν εἰς ὄρος εἰς ὄρος· ἦδομέ 165

⁶ triennial ⁷ raw flesh-eating ⁸ nectar ⁹ frankincense ¹⁰ annoy, excite

¹¹ shout ¹² celebrate in song ¹³ exalt; mp: exult in ¹⁴ clover? lotus?

¹⁵ roar, clash, rage

να δ' ἄρα, πῶλος¹⁶ ὅπως ἅμα ματέρι
φορβάδι, κῶλον ἄγει ταχύπουν σκιρτήμασι βάκχα.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ. τίς ἐν πύλαισι; Κάδμον ἐκκάλει δόμων, 170

Ἀγήνορος παῖδ', ὃς πόλιν Σιδωνίαν
λιπὼν ἐπύργωσ' ¹⁷ ἄστν Θηβαίων τόδε.

ἴτω τις, εἰσάγγελλε Τειρεσίας ὅτι

ζητεῖ νιν· οἶδε δ' αὐτὸς ὦν ἦκω πέρι

ἅ τε ξυνεθέμην πρέσβυς ὦν γεραιτέρω, 175

θύρσους ἀνάπτειν καὶ νεβρῶν δορὰς ἔχειν

στεφανοῦν τε κρᾶτα κισσίνοις βλαστήμασιν.¹⁸

ΚΑΔΜΟΣ. ὦ φίλταθ', ὡς σὴν γῆρυν¹⁹ ἡσθόμην κλύων

σοφὴν σοφοῦ παρ' ἀνδρός, ἐν δόμοισιν ὦν·

ἦκω δ' ἔτοιμος τήνδ' ἔχων σκευὴν θεοῦ· 180

δεῖ γάρ νιν ὄντα παῖδα θυγατρὸς ἐξ ἐμῆς

Διόνυσον ὃς πέφηνεν ἀνθρώποις θεὸς

ὅσον καθ' ἡμᾶς δυνατὸν αὔξεσθαι μέγαν.

ποῖ²⁰ δεῖ χορεύειν, ποῖ καθιστάναι πόδα

καὶ κρᾶτα σείσαι πολιόν; ἐξηγοῦ σύ μοι 185

γέρων γέροντι, Τειρεσία· σὺ γὰρ σοφός.

ὡς οὐ κάμοιμ' ἂν οὔτε νύκτ' οὔθ' ἡμέραν

θύρσῳ κροτῶν γῆν· ἐπιλελήσμεθ' ἡδέως

γέροντες ὄντες. ΤΕ. ταῦτ' ἐμοὶ πάσχεις ἄρα·

κἀγὼ γὰρ ἡβῶ²¹ κάπιχειρήσω χοροῖς. 190

ΚΑΔ. οὐκοῦν ὄχοισιν εἰς ὄρος περάσομεν;

ΤΕ. ἀλλ' οὐχ ὁμοίως ἂν ὁ θεὸς τιμὴν ἔχοι.

ΚΑΔ. γέρων γέροντα παιδαγωγῆσω σ' ἐγώ.

¹⁶ foal ¹⁷ wall, fortify ¹⁸ shoot; offspring ¹⁹ voice ²⁰ whither? how
long? ²¹ be young

ΤΕ. ὁ θεὸς ἀμοχθὶ κείσῃ²² νῶν ἡγήσεται.

ΚΑΔ. μόνοι δὲ πόλεως Βακχίῳ χορεύσομεν;

195

ΤΕ. μόνοι γὰρ εὖ φρονούμεν, οἱ δ' ἄλλοι κακῶς.

ΚΑΔ. μακρὸν τὸ μέλλειν· ἀλλ' ἐμῆς ἔχου χερός.

ΤΕ. ἰδού, ξύναπτε καὶ ξυνωρίζου χέρα.

ΚΑΔ. οὐ καταφρονῶ γὰρ τῶν θεῶν θνητὸς γεγώς.

ΤΕ. οὐδὲν σοφίζόμεσθα τοῖσι δαίμοσιν.

200

πατρίους παραδοχάς, ἅς θ' ὀμήλικας χρόνῳ

κεκτήμεθ', οὐδεὶς αὐτὰ καταβαλεῖ λόγος,

οὐδ' εἰ δι' ἄκρων τὸ σοφὸν ἡŷρηται φρενῶν.

ἐρεῖ τις ὡς τὸ γῆρας οὐκ αἰσχύνομαι,

μέλλων χορεύειν κῶτα κισσώσας ἐμόν;

205

οὐ γὰρ διήρηχ' ὁ θεός, οὔτε τὸν νέον

εἰ χρὴ χορεύειν οὔτε τὸν γεραίτερον,

ἀλλ' ἐξ ἀπάντων βούλεται τιμὰς ἔχειν

κοινάς, διαριθμῶν δ' οὐδέν' αὔξεσθαι θέλει.

ΚΑΔ. ἐπεὶ σὺ φέγγος,²³ Τειρεσία, τόδ' οὐχ ὀρᾷς,

210

ἐγὼ προφήτης σοι λόγων γενήσομαι.

Πενθεὺς πρὸς οἶκους ὅδε διὰ σπουδῆς περᾶ,

Ἐχίονος παῖς, ᾧ κράτος δίδωμι γῆς.

ὡς ἐπτόηται·²⁴ τί ποτ' ἐρεῖ νεώτερον;

ΠΕΝΘΕΥΣ. ἔκδημος ὦν μὲν τῇσδ' ἐτύγχανον χθονός,

215

κλύω δὲ νεοχμὰ τήνδ' ἀνὰ πτόλιν κακά,

γυναῖκας ἡμῖν δώματ' ἐκλελοιπέναι

πλασταῖσι βακχεΐαισιν, ἐν δὲ δασκίοις²⁵

ὄρεσι θαάζειν, τὸν νεωστὶ δαίμονα

²² rest, go to rest ²³ light, luster ²⁴ scare ²⁵ thickly shaded

With Semele's wild ivy crown thy towers;
Oh, burst in bloom of wreathing bryony,
Berries and leaves and flowers;
Uplift the dark divine wand,
The oak-wand and the pine-wand,
And don thy fawn-skin, fringed in purity
With fleecy white, like ours.
Oh, cleanse thee in the wands' waving pride!
Yea, all men shall dance with us and pray,
When Bromios his companies shall guide
Hillward, ever hillward, where they stay,
The flock of the Believing,
The maids from loom and weaving
By the magic of his breath borne away.
Hail thou, O Nurse of Zeus, O Caverned Haunt
Where fierce arms clanged to guard God's cradle rare,
For thee of old crested Corybant
First woke in Cretan air
The wild orb of our orgies,
The Timbrel; and thy gorges
Rang with this strain; and blended Phrygian chant
And sweet keen pipes were there.
But the Timbrel, the Timbrel was another's,
And away to Mother Rhea it must wend;
And to our holy singing from the Mother's
The mad Satyrs carried it, to blend
In the dancing and the cheer
Of our third and perfect Year;
And it serves Dionysus in the end!
O glad, glad on the mountains
To swoon in the race outworn,
When the holy fawn-skin clings,
And all else sweeps away,
To the joy of the red quick fountains,
The blood of the hill-goat torn,
The glory of wild-beast ravenings,
Where the hill-tops catch the day;
To the Phrygian, Lydian, mountains!'
Tis Bromios leads the way.
Then streams the earth with milk, yea, streams
With wine and nectar of the bee,
And through the air dim perfume steams

Of Syrian frankincense; and He,
 Our leader, from his thyrsus spray
 A torchlight tosses high and higher,
 A torchlight like a beacon-fire,
 To waken all that faint and stray;
 And sets them leaping as he sings,
 His tresses rippling to the sky,
 And deep beneath the Maenad cry
 His proud voice rings:
 "Come, O ye Bacchae, come!"
 Hither, O fragrant of Tmolus the Golden,
 Come with the voice of timbrel and drum;
 Let the cry of your joyance uplift and embolden
 The God of the joy-cry; O Bacchanals, come!
 With pealing of pipes and with Phrygian clamour,
 On, where the vision of holiness thrills,
 And the music climbs and the maddening glamour,
 With the wild White Maids, to the hills, to the hills!
 Oh, then, like a colt as he runs by a river,
 A colt by his dam, when the heart of him sings,
 With the keen limbs drawn and the fleet foot a-quiver,
 Away the Bacchanal springs!

Enter TEIRESIAS. He is an old man and blind, leaning upon a staff and moving with slow stateliness, though wearing the Ivy and the Bacchic fawn-skin.

TEIRESIAS. Ho, there, who keeps the gate? — Go, summon me
 Cadmus, Agenor's son, who crossed the sea
 From Sidon and upreared this Theban hold.
 Go, whosoe'er thou art. See he be told
 Teiresias seeketh him. Himself will gauge
 Mine errand, and the compact, age with age,
 I vowed with him, grey hair with snow-white hair,
 To deck the new God's thyrsus, and to wear
 His fawn-skin, and with ivy crown our brows.

Enter CADMUS from the Castle. He is even older than TEIRESIAS, and wears the same attire.

CADMUS. True friend! I knew that voice of thine, that flows
 Like mellow wisdom from a fountain wise.
 And, lo, I come prepared, in all the guise
 And harness of this God. Are we not told
 His is the soul of that dead life of old
 That sprang from mine own daughter? Surely then

Must thou and I with all the strength of men
Exalt him.

Where then shall I stand, where tread
The dance and toss this bowed and hoary head?
O friend, in thee is wisdom; guide my grey
And eld-worn steps, eld-worn Teiresias. — Nay;
I am not weak.

At the first movement of worship his manner begins to change; a mysterious strength and exaltation enter into him.

Surely this arm could smite
The wild earth with its thyrsus, day and night,
And faint not! Sweetly and forgetfully
The dim years fall from off me!

TEIRESIAS. As with thee,

With me 'tis likewise. Light am I and young,
And will essay the dancing and the song.

CADMUS. Quick, then, our chariots to the mountain road.

TEIRESIAS. Nay; to take steeds were to mistrust the God.

CADMUS. So be it. Mine old arms shall guide thee there.

TEIRESIAS. The God himself shall guide! Have thou no care.

CADMUS. And in all Thebes shall no man dance but we?

TEIRESIAS. Aye, Thebes is blinded. Thou and I can see.

CADMUS. 'Tis weary waiting; hold my hand, friend; so.

TEIRESIAS. Lo, there is mine. So linked let us go.

CADMUS. Shall things of dust the Gods' dark ways despise?

TEIRESIAS. Or prove our wit on Heaven's high mysteries?

Not thou and I! That heritage sublime

Our sires have left us, wisdom old as time,

No word of man, how deep soe'er his thought

And won of subtlest toil, may bring to naught.

Aye, men will rail that I forgot my years,

To dance and wreath with ivy these white hairs;

What reck's it? Seeing the God no line hath told

To mark what man shall dance, or young or old;

But craves his honours from mortality

All, no man marked apart; and great shall be!

CADMUS. Teiresias, since this light thou canst not read,

I must be seer for thee. Here comes in speed

Pentheus, Echî on's son, whom I have raised

To rule my people in my stead. — Amazed

He seems. Stand close, and mark what we shall hear.

The two stand back, partially concealed, while there enters in hot haste

PENTHEUS, followed by a bodyguard. He is speaking to the SOLDIER in command.

PENTHEUS. Scarce had I crossed our borders, when mine ear
Was caught by this strange rumour, that our own
Wives, our own sisters, from their hearths are flown
To wild and secret rites; and cluster there

vocabulary

αἰδέομαι respect, be ashamed
αἰθήρ ether, air, sky ~ether
ἄλλοσε elsewhere ~alien
ἄμπελος (f) vine
ἀναίνομαι refuse, reject
ἀνασεύω shake back, out
ἀντίπαλος rival; balanced
ἄρκυς net
ἀρμόζω fit together; be well fitted to
 ~harmony
ἀρπάζω carry off, seize ~harpoon
αὐχέω boast
ἀφορμή starting point; means
βόστρυχος curl, lock
βότρυς cluster of grapes
βρέφος -ους (n, 3) fetus, baby
γάνος -εος (n, 3) liquid sheen
γηγενής indigenous, primeval
γῆρας -ος (n, 3) old age
γηράσκω grow old ~geriatric
γόης γῶτος (m, 3) sorcerer, trickster
γόνος offspring ~genus
δέσμιος binding; enchanting
διαγελάω laugh at, mock
διαπτοέω frighten
δυσσέβεια impiety
εἰσάγω lead in ~demagogue
εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with
 respect ~panorama
εἰσφέρω carry into/along; propose
 ~bear
ἐκδίδωμι hand over ~donate
ἐκτρέφω raise, rear
ἐλεύθερος not enslaved
ἐνείμι be in ~ion
ἐνίημι put in; motivate ~jet
ἐξεῖπον speak out, disclose
ἐπωδός singing to or over
ἐρημία wilderness, solitude
ἔρπω be able to move ~serpent
εὐτροχος well wheeled

εὐφρόνη euphemism for night
θαῦμα -τος (n, 3) a wonder, feeling
 of surprise ~theater
θηράω hunt, chase
θίασος revel; group of people
θιγγάνω touch
θράσος -ους (n, 3) boldness,
 over-boldness
θυοσκόος -ῶ priest?
θύρσος ivied wand
θυρσώω make into a wand
κακοῦργος causing evil
 ~ergonomics
κάρ -ός (n) useless bit; form of **κατά**
καταγελάω laugh at, deride
καταισχύνω (ῶ) act disgracefully
κεραυνίας -ου (m, 1) thunderstruck
κεραύνιος of a thunderbolt
κισσός ivy
κισσώω wreath with ivy
κλάδος branch, shoot
κομάω have long hair
κόμη hair ~comet
κρατήρ -ος (m) mixing bowl for
 wine
κτυπέω crash
λαμπάς -δος (f, 3) torch
λάω grip, pin?
λήθη forgetting ~Lethe
λόγχη spear point; lot
λύπη distress
μαινάς -δος (f, 3) madwoman,
 maenad ~maenad
μαίνομαι be berserk ~maenad
μανία madness, passion
μαντικός prophetic
μάντις -ος (m) seer ~mantis
μεθίημι let go, cease; (mid) speed off
 ~jet
μεθίστημι change, substitute;
 withdraw; change sides; (mid) send
 away ~station

μεταλαμβάνω	share in; swap	~pudendum
μηρός	thigh, femur	πῶμα -τος (n, 3) cover; drink
μῖν	him, her, it	~pastor
νάρθηξ -κος (m)	fennel stalk	ρᾰίνω sprinkle
νεανίας -ου (ᾱα, m)	young person	ρᾰπτω sew
νεᾱνίς -δος (f)	young woman ~neon	ρέπω incline or sink downwards
νεβρίς	fawnskin	ρήγνυμι (ῥ) to break
νεικέω	revile, quarrel, scold	ροά pl: waters of a river ~rheostat
νεῖκος -εος (n, 3)	quarrel, battle	σεῖω shake ~seismic
νοσέω	be sick, be mad, suffer	σιδηροῦς of iron
ξανθός	yellow	σκοπάω watch, observe
ξηρός	dry, the land ~xeriscape	σκοπέω behold, consider
ὄμηρος	insurance, hostage	σπένδω libate; (mid) make a treaty
ὀπότερος	which of two, either of two	~spontaneous
ὄργια -τος (n, 2)	secret rites	στάχυς head of grain
ὄσσομαι	see with the mind's eye,	στέγη roof, ceiling, chamber
forebode		στέφω crown, put around
πάλλω	shake, brandish ~Pallas	συγγίγνομαι associate with, meet,
πάνδημος	roaming a town	have sex ~genus
πάομαι	acquire ~pathos	συντίθημι hearken, mark ~thesis
πεύκη	pine	σωφρονέω be sane, moderate
πηδάω	jump, spring ~pedal	σώφρων sensible, prudent ~frenzy
πλάξ -χός (f)	flat thing	ταλαίπωρος suffering, miserable
πλήρης	full, complete; (+gen) full of	τελετή rite, festival
~plethora		τράχηλος neck ~trachea
ποικίλος	ornamented; various	ὕβριζω insult, treat outrageously
πολιός	gray ~polio	ὕγιής sound, profitable ~hygiene
πρόσπολος	servant, attendant	ὕγρός wet
προτείνω	hold out, offer	ὕπηρετέω serve
πρόφασις -εως (f)	pretext; motive;	φάρμακον drug, potion ~pharmacy
prediction ~fame		χορεύω dance
περωτός	winged	χορός dance; chorus ~terpsichorean
πτώσσω	to duck, cringe	

Διόνυσον, ὅστις ἔστι, τιμώσας χοροῖς· 220

πλήρεις δὲ θιάσοις ἐν μέσοισιν ἐστάναι

κρατῆρας, ἄλλην δ' ἄλλοσ' ¹ εἰς ἐρημίαν

πτώσσουσιν ² εὐναῖς ἀρσένων ὑπηρετεῖν,

πρόφασιν μὲν ὡς δὴ μαινάδας θυοσκόους, ³

τὴν δ' Ἀφροδίτην πρόσθ' ἄγειν τοῦ Βακχίου. 225

ὅσας μὲν οὖν εἵληφα, δεσμίους χέρας

σώζουσι πανδήμοισι πρόσπολοι στέγαις·

ὅσαι δ' ἄπεισιν, ἐξ ὄρους θηράσομαι,

Ἴνώ τ' Ἀγαυὴν θ', ἣ μ' ἔτι κτ' Ἐχίονι, 229

Ἀκταϊόνός τε μητέρ', Αὐτονόην λέγω. 230 καὶ σφᾶς σιδηραῖς ἀρμόσας
ἐν ἄρκυσιν

παύσω κακούργου τῆσδε βακχείας τάχα.

λέγουσι δ' ὥς τις εἰσελήλυθε ξένος,

γόης ⁴ ἐπωδὸς Λυδίας ἀπὸ χθονός,

ξανθοῖσι βοστρύχοισιν εὐοσμῶν κόμην, 235

οἰνώπας ὅσοις χάριτας Ἀφροδίτης ἔχων,

ὃς ἡμέρας τε κεῦφρόνας ⁵ συγγίγνεται

τελετὰς προτείνων εὐίους νεάνισιν.

εἰ δ' αὐτὸν εἴσω τῆσδε λήψομαι στέγης,

παύσω κτυποῦντα θύρσον ἀνασεύοντά τε 240

κόμας, τράχηλον ⁶ σώματος χωρὶς τεμῶν.

ἐκεῖνος εἶναί φησι Διόνυσον θεόν,

ἐκεῖνος ἐν μηρῷ ποτ' ἐρράφθαι Διός,

ὃς ἐκπυροῦται λαμπάσιν κεραυνίαις

σὺν μητρὶ, Δίους ὅτι γάμους ἐψεύσατο. 245

¹ elsewhere ² to duck, cringe ³ priest? ⁴ sorcerer, trickster
⁵ euphemism for night ⁶ neck

ταῦτ' οὐχὶ δεινῆς ἀγχόνης ἔστ' ἄξια,
 ὕβρεις ὑβρίζειν, ὅστις ἔστιν ὁ ξένος;
 ἀτὰρ τόδ' ἄλλο θαῦμα, τὸν τερασκόπον
 ἐν ποικίλαισι νεβρίσι Τειρεσίαν ὀρώ
 πατέρα τε μητρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς— πολλὴν γέλων— 250
 νάρθηκι βακχεύοντ'· ἀναίνομαι, πάτερ,
 τὸ γῆρας ὑμῶν εἰσορῶν νοῦν οὐκ ἔχον.
 οὐκ ἀποτινάξεις κισσόν; οὐκ ἐλευθέραν
 θύρσου μεθήσεις χεῖρ', ἐμῆς μητρὸς πάτερ;
 σὺ ταῦτ' ἔπεισας, Τειρεσία· τόνδ' αὖ θέλεις 255
 τὸν δαίμον' ἀνθρώποισιν ἐσφέρων νέον
 σκοπεῖν πτερωτοὺς⁷ καμπύρων μισθοὺς φέρειν.
 εἰ μὴ σε γῆρας πολλὸν ἐξερρύετο,
 καθῆσ' ἂν ἐν βάκχαισι δέσμος μέσαις,
 τελετὰς ποιηρὰς εἰσάγων· γυναιξὶ γὰρ 260
 ὅπου βότρυος ἐν δαιτὶ γίγνεται γάνος,
 οὐχ ὑγιὲς οὐδὲν ἔτι λέγω τῶν ὀργίων.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. τῆς δυσσεβείας. ὦ ξέν', οὐκ αἰδῶ θεοὺς
 Κάδμον τε τὸν σπείραντα γηγενῇ στάχυν,
 Ἐχίονος δ' ὦν παῖς καταισχύνεις γένος; 265

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ. ὅταν λάβῃ τις τῶν λόγων ἀνὴρ σοφὸς
 καλὰς ἀφορμάς, οὐ μέγ' ἔργον εὖ λέγειν·
 σὺ δ' εὐτροχον⁸ μὲν γλῶσσαν ὡς φρονῶν ἔχεις,
 ἐν τοῖς λόγοισι δ' οὐκ ἔνεισί σοι φρένες.
 θράσει δὲ δυνατὸς καὶ λέγειν οἷός τ' ἀνὴρ 270
 κακὸς πολίτης γίγνεται νοῦν οὐκ ἔχων.

⁷ winged ⁸ well wheeled

οὗτος δ' ὁ δαίμων ὁ νέος, ὃν σὺ διαγελάς,
 οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην μέγεθος ἐξειπεῖν ὅσος
 καθ' Ἑλλάδ' ἔσται. δύο γάρ, ὦ νεανία,
 τὰ πρῶτ' ἐν ἀνθρώποισι· Δημήτηρ θεά— 275
 γῇ δ' ἐστίν, ὄνομα δ' ὀπότερον βούλη κάλει·
 αὕτη μὲν ἐν ξηροῖσιν ἐκτρέφει βροτούς·
 ὃς δ' ἦλθ' ἔπειτ', ἀντίπαλον ὁ Σεμέλης γόνος
 βότρυος ὑγρὸν πῶμ' ἡῦρε κείσσηνέγκατο
 θνητοῖς, ὃ παύει τοὺς τάλαιπώρους⁹ βροτούς 280
 λύπης, ὅταν πλησθῶσιν ἀμπέλου ρόης,
 ὕπνον τε λήθην τῶν καθ' ἡμέραν κακῶν
 δίδωσιν, οὐδ' ἔστ' ἄλλο φάρμακον πόνων.
 οὗτος θεοῖσι σπένδεται θεὸς γεγώς,
 ὥστε διὰ τοῦτον τὰγάθ' ἀνθρώπους ἔχειν. 285
 καὶ καταγελάς νιν, ὡς ἐνεργάφη Διὸς
 μηρῷ; διδάξω σ' ὡς καλῶς ἔχει τόδε.
 ἐπεὶ νιν ἦρπασ' ἐκ πυρὸς κεραυνίου
 Ζεὺς, ἐς δ' Ὀλυμπον βρέφος ἀνήγαγεν θεόν,
 "Ἡρα νιν ἦθελ' ἐκβαλεῖν ἀπ' οὐρανοῦ· 290
 Ζεὺς δ' ἀντεμηχανήσαθ' οἷα δὴ θεός.
 ῥήξας μέρος τι τοῦ χθόν' ἐγκυκλουμένου
 αἰθέρος, ἔθηκε τόνδ' ὄμηρον ἐκδιδούς, 293
 Διόνυσον "Ἡρας νεικέων· χρόνῳ δέ νιν
 βροτοὶ ράφῃναί¹⁰ φασιν ἐν μηρῷ Διός, 295
 ὄνομα μεταστήσαντες, ὅτι θεᾷ θεὸς
 "Ἡρα ποθ' ὠμήρευσε, συνθέντες λόγον.

⁹ suffering, miserable ¹⁰ sew

μάντις δ' ὁ δαίμων ὄδ'· τὸ γὰρ βακχεύσιμον
 καὶ τὸ μανιῶδες μαντικὴν πολλὴν ἔχει·
 ὅταν γὰρ ὁ θεὸς ἐς τὸ σῶμ' ἔλθῃ πολὺς,
 λέγειν τὸ μέλλον τοὺς μεμνηνότες ποιεῖ. 300
 Ἄρεώς τε μοῖραν μεταλαβὼν ἔχει τινά·
 στρατὸν γὰρ ἐν ὅπλοις ὄντα καπὶ τάξεσιν
 φόβος διεπτόησε πρὶν λόγχης¹¹ θιγεῖν.
 μανία δὲ καὶ τοῦτ' ἐστὶ Διονύσου πάρα. 305
 ἔτ' αὐτὸν ὄψῃ καπὶ Δελφίσι πετραις
 πηδῶντα¹² σὺν πεύκαισι δικόρυφον πλάκα,
 πάλλοντα καὶ σείοντα βακχεῖον κλάδον,
 μέγαν τ' ἀν' Ἑλλάδα. ἀλλ' ἐμοί, Πενθεῦ, πιθοῦ·
 μὴ τὸ κράτος αὔχει¹³ δύναμιν ἀνθρώποις ἔχειν, 310
 μηδ', ἣν δοκῆς μέν, ἡ δὲ δόξα σου νοσῇ,¹⁴
 φρονεῖν δόκει τι· τὸν θεὸν δ' ἐς γῆν δέχου
 καὶ σπένδε καὶ βάκχευε καὶ στέφου κάρα.
 οὐχ ὁ Διόνυσος σωφρονεῖν ἀναγκάσει
 γυναικας ἐς τὴν Κύπριν, ἀλλ' ἐν τῇ φύσει 315
 τὸ σωφρονεῖν ἔνεστιν εἰς τὰ πάντ' ἀεί316
 τοῦτο σκοπεῖν χρή· καὶ γὰρ ἐν βακχεύμασιν
 οὓς ἢ γε σώφρων οὐ διαφθαρήσεται.
 ὀρᾶς, σὺ χαίρεις, ὅταν ἐφεστῶσι πύλαις
 πολλοί, τὸ Πενθέως δ' ὄνομα μεγαλύνῃ πόλιν· 320
 κάκεϊνος, οἶμαι, τέρπεται τιμώμενος.
 ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν καὶ Κάδμος, ὃν σὺ διαγελᾷς,
 κισσῶ τ' ἐρεψόμεσθα καὶ χορεύσομεν,

¹¹ spear point; lot ¹² jump, spring ¹³ boast ¹⁴ be sick, be mad, suffer

High on the shadowy hills, with dance and prayer
 To adore this new-made God, this Dionyse,
 Whate'er he be! — And in their companies
 Deep wine-jars stand, and ever and anon
 Away into the loneliness now one
 Steals forth, and now a second, maid or dame
 Where love lies waiting, not of God! The flame
 They say, of Bacchios wraps them. Bacchios! Nay,
 'Tis more to Aphrodite that they pray.
 Howbeit, all that I have found, my men
 Hold bound and shackled in our dungeon den;
 The rest, I will go hunt them! Aye, and snare
 My birds with nets of iron, to quell their prayer
 And mountain song and rites of rascaldom!
 They tell me, too, there is a stranger come,
 A man of charm and spell, from Lydian seas,
 A head all gold and cloudy fragrances,
 A wine-red cheek, and eyes that hold the light
 Of the very Cyprian. Day and livelong night
 He haunts amid the damsels, o'er each lip
 Dangling his cup of joyance! Let me grip
 Him once, but once, within these walls, right swift
 That wand shall cease its music, and that drift
 Of tossing curls lie still — when my rude sword
 Falls between neck and trunk! 'Tis all his word,
 This tale of Dionysus; how that same
 Babe that was blasted by the lightning flame
 With his dead mother, for that mother's lie,
 Was re-conceived, born perfect from the thigh
 Of Zeus, and now is God! What call ye these?
 Dreams? Gibes of the unknown wanderer? Blasphemies
 That crave the very gibbet?
 Stay! God wot,
 Here is another marvel! See I not
 In motley fawn-skins robed the vision-seer
 Teiresias? And my mother's father here —
 O depth of scorn! — adoring with the wand
 Of Bacchios? — Father! — Nay, mine eyes are fond;
 It is not your white heads so fancy-flown!
 It cannot be! Cast off that ivy crown,
 O mine own mother's sire! Set free that hand
 That cowers about its staff.'

Tis thou hast planned
 This work, Teiresias! 'Tis thou must set
 Another altar and another yet
 Amongst us, watch new birds, and win more hire
 Of gold, interpreting new signs of fire!
 But for thy silver hairs, I tell thee true,
 Thou now wert sitting chained amid thy crew
 Of raving damsels, for this evil dream
 Thou hast brought us, of new Gods! When once the gleam
 Of grapes hath lit a Woman's Festival,
 In all their prayers is no more health at all!
 LEADER OF THE CHORUS (the words are not heard by PENTHEUS).
 Injurious King, hast thou no fear of God,
 Nor Cadmus, sower of the Giants' Sod,
 Life-spring to great Echî on and to thee?
 TEIRESIAS. Good words my son, come easily, when he
 That speaks is wise, and speaks but for the right.
 Else come they never! Swift are thine, and bright
 As though with thought, yet have no thought at all
 Lo this new God, whom thou dost flout withal,
 I cannot speak the greatness wherewith He
 In Hellas shall be great! Two spirits there be,
 Young Prince, that in man's world are first of worth.
 Demeter one is named; she is the Earth—
 Call her which name thou will!—who feeds man's frame
 With sustenance of things dry. And that which came
 Her work to perfect, second, is the Power
 From Semele born. He found the liquid show
 Hid in the grape. He rests man's spirit dim
 From grieving, when the vine exalteth him.
 He giveth sleep to sink the fretful day
 In cool forgetting. Is there any way
 With man's sore heart, save only to forget?
 Yea, being God, the blood of him is set
 Before the Gods in sacrifice, that we
 For his sake may be blest.—And so, to thee,
 That fable shames him, how this God was knit
 Into God's flesh? Nay, learn the truth of it
 Cleared from the false.—When from that deadly light
 Zeus saved the babe, and up to Olympus' height
 Raised him, and Hera's wrath would cast him thence
 Then Zeus devised him a divine defence.

A fragment of the world-encircling fire
He rent apart, and wrought to his desire
Of shape and hue, in the image of the child,
And gave to Hera's rage. And so, beguiled
By change and passing time, this tale was born,
How the babe-god was hidden in the torn
Flesh of his sire. He hath no shame thereby.
A prophet is he likewise. Prophecy
Cleaves to all frenzy, but beyond all else
To frenzy of prayer. Then in us verily dwells
The God himself, and speaks the thing to be.
Yea, and of Ares' realm a part hath he.
When mortal armies, mailed and arrayed,
Have in strange fear, or ever blade met blade,
Fled maddened, 'tis this God hath palsied them.
Aye, over Delphi's rock-built diadem
Thou yet shalt see him leaping with his train
Of fire across the twin-peaked mountain-plain,
Flaming the darkness with his mystic wand,
And great in Hellas. — List and understand,
King Pentheus! Dream not thou that force is power;
Nor, if thou hast a thought, and that thought sour
And sick, oh, dream not thought is wisdom! — Up,
Receive this God to Thebes; pour forth the cup
Of sacrifice, and pray, and wreath thy brow.
Thou fearest for the damsels? Think thee now;
How toucheth this the part of Dionyse
To hold maids pure perforce? In them it lies,
And their own hearts; and in the wildest rite
Cometh no stain to her whose heart is white.
Nay, mark me! Thou hast thy joy, when the Gate
Stands thronged, and Pentheus' name is lifted great
And high by Thebes in clamour; shall not He
Rejoice in his due meed of majesty?
Howbeit, this Cadmus whom thou scorn'st and I
Will wear His crown, and tread His dances! Aye,
Our hairs are white, yet shall that dance

vocabulary

ἄγριος wild, savage ~agriculture
 ἀέθλιον ἀθλίου prize
 ἀέθλιος prize ~athlete
 ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
 αἰθήρ ether, air, sky ~ether
 αἰσχρός shameful
 αἶω perceive, feel, hear; breathe out
 ἄκος ἄκεος (n, 3) cure, remedy
 ἄλυπος (ῥ) painless
 ἀνατρέπω defeat, thwart ~trophy
 ἄνευ away from; not having; not
 needing ~Sp. sin
 ἄνοια folly
 ἄνομβρος having little rain
 ἄνομος lawless
 ἀνορθόω rebuild, restore
 ἄνω (ᾱ) accomplish, pass, waste;
 upwards, out to sea
 ἀπέχω ward off, drive off, refrain, be
 at some distance
 ἀποπαύω stop ~pause
 ἀσάλευτος unmoved, unshaken
 αὐλέω play (blow, toot)
 αὐλός flute, tube, hollow
 ἀφροσύνη folly ~frenzy
 βάρβαρος non-Greek
 βίσιος life; sustenance, chattels
 ~biology
 βότρυς cluster of grapes
 βραχύς low, short
 γάνος -εος (n, 3) liquid sheen
 γελάω laugh, smile, laugh at
 δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate,
 doom ~demon
 δαῖς -τός (f) feast, banquet ~demon
 δάκνω bite
 δέσμιος binding; enchanting
 δεῦρο here, come here!
 διασπάω tear apart ~spatula
 διδάσκαλος teacher
 δουλεύω serve, be a slave

δράω do, accomplish
 δυστυχία bad luck
 ἔδρα (ᾱ) seat, seated group
 ~polyhedron
 εἰσφέρω carry into/along; propose
 ~bear
 ἐκεῖσε thither
 ἔμπαλιν backwards, on the contrary
 ἐξαιτέω demand ~etiology
 ἔξειμι go forth; is possible ~ion
 ἐξίημι send forth, allow forth ~jet
 ἐξίστημι displace, transform; (+gen)
 give up ~station
 ἐξιχνεύω track out
 εὐφροσύνη happiness ~frenzy
 ἥσυχία peace and quiet
 θάκος seat, session of assembly
 θαλία abundance, plenty ~thallium
 θέμις -τος (f) custom, law
 θεομαχέω fight against the gods
 θιασεύω initiate into the Bacchic
 revel
 θύελλα violent storm ~θύω
 θύραζε out, out of ~door
 καινός new, fresh, strange
 καίπερ even if
 καλλιστεύω be the best
 κάρ -ός (n) useless bit; form of κατά
 καταισχύνω (ῥ) act disgracefully
 καταψεύδω (mp) lie about
 κίσσινος of ivy
 κισσός ivy
 κισσώ wreath with ivy
 κλιτύς (ῥ) hill side ~incline
 κομπάζω boast
 κουρότροφος raising children
 ~atrophy
 κρατήρ -ος (m) mixing bowl for
 wine
 κρείσσων more powerful; better
 λυμᾶνομαι (ῥ) abuse, violate,
 desecrate

μαίνομαι be berserk ~maenad
μάκαρ fortunate ~macarism
μάκαρ fortunate ~macarism
μαντικός prophetic
μέλος -ους (n, 3) limb; melody
μέλω concern, interest, be one's responsibility
μεριμνάω care for
μέτειμι be among, go, follow ~ion
μίν him, her, it
μισέω (i) hate, wish to prevent
 ~misogyny
μόρος portion, lot in life
μοχλέω move with a lever
μοχλός beam, lever
μωρία folly
νοσέω be sick, be mad, suffer
νόσος (f) plague, pestilence
 ~noisome
οικήω inhabit ~economics
ὄλβιος happy, wealthy
ὁμός same ~homoerotic
ὁμοῦ together
ὁμόω unite ~homoerotic
ὀργάς meadow, rich land; sacred land
παραινέω recommend, exhort, warn
πένθος -εος (n, 3) grief, misfortune
 ~Nepenthe
περισσός prodigious, superfluous
πικρός sharp, bitter ~picric
πολιός gray ~polio
πότνα lady ~potent
ποῦ where?
πραπίδες -ος (f) midriff, seat of wisdom and cunning

προίημι send forth, abandon ~jet
προσδοκάω expect
πρόσεμι approach, draw near; add
 ~ion
προσήκω belong to, it beseems
προσφέρω present; resemble; add
πτέρυξ -γος (f) wing ~archeopteryx
ῥοά pl: waters of a river ~rheostat
σεμνός revered, holy
σκύλαξ -χος (f) puppy
σοφία skill; wisdom ~sophistry
σοφός skilled, clever, wise
στείχω go, march ~stair
στέμμα -τος (n, 3) headband or wreath
στέφανος ring
στέφω crown, put around
συγγέω entangle, destroy, confound
συνέχω keep together, constrain
σχέτλιος tough, sound, stubborn, cruel ~ischemia
σωφρονέω be sane, moderate
τάχος -ους (n, 3) speed ~tachometer
τέρψις -τος (f) pleasure
ὔβρις -εως (f) pride, insolence, outrage
ὑπνος a sleep
φάος φῶς (n, 3) light; salvation; (pl) eyes ~photon
φάρμακον drug, potion ~pharmacy
φῶς man
χείρων worse, more base, inferior, weaker
χορεύω dance
χορός dance; chorus ~terpsichorean

πολιὰ ξυνωρίς, ἀλλ' ὅμως χορευτέον,
 κού' θεομαχήσω σῶν λόγων πεισθεὶς ὕπο. 325
 μαΐνη γὰρ ὡς ἄλγιστα, κοῦτε φαρμάκοις
 ἄκη¹ λάβοις ἂν οὔτ' ἄνευ τούτων νοσεῖς.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ὦ πρέσβυ, Φοῖβόν τ' οὐ καταισχύνεις λόγοις,
 τιμῶν τε Βρόμον σωφρονεῖς, μέγαν θεόν.

ΚΑΔΜΟΣ. ὦ παῖ, καλῶς σοι Τειρεσίας παρήνευσεν. 330

οἴκει μεθ' ἡμῶν, μὴ θύραζε τῶν νόμων.
 νῦν γὰρ πέτη τε καὶ φρονῶν οὐδὲν φρονεῖς.
 κεί' μὴ γὰρ ἔστιν ὁ θεὸς οὗτος, ὡς σὺ φῆς,
 παρὰ σοὶ λεγέσθω· καὶ καταψεύδου καλῶς
 ὡς ἔστι, Σεμέλη θ' ἵνα δοκῇ θεὸν τεκεῖν, 335
 ἡμῖν τε τιμὴ παντὶ τῷ γένει προσῇ.
 ὁρᾶς τὸν Ἀκτέωνος ἄθλιον μόρον,
 ὃν ὠμόσιτοι σκύλακες² ἄς ἐθρέψατο
 διεσπάσαντο, κρείσσον' ἐν κυναγίαις
 Ἀρτέμιδος εἶναι κομπάσαντ',³ ἐν ὀργάσιν. 340
 ὃ μὴ πάθῃς σύ· δεῦρό σου στέψω κára
 κισσῷ· μεθ' ἡμῶν τῷ θεῷ τιμὴν δίδου.

ΠΕΝΘΕΥΣ. οὐ μὴ προσοίσεις χεῖρα, βακχεύσεις δ' ἰών,

μηδ' ἐξομόρξῃ μωρίαν⁴ τὴν σὴν ἐμοί·
 τῆς σῆς δ' ἀνοίας τόνδε τὸν διδάσκαλον 345
 δίκην μέτειμι. στειχέτω τις ὡς τάχος,
 ἐλθὼν δὲ θάκουσ⁵ τοῦδ' ἵν' οἶωνοσκοπῇ
 μοχλοῖς τριαίνου κἀνάτρεψον ἔμπαλιν,
 ἄνω κάτω τὰ πάντα συγχέας ὁμοῦ,

¹ cure, remedy ² puppy ³ boast ⁴ folly ⁵ seat, session of assembly

καὶ στέμματα⁶ ἀνέμοις καὶ θνέλλαισιν μέθες. 350

μάλιστα γάρ νιν δήξομαι⁷ δράσας τάδε.

οἱ δ' ἀνὰ πόλιν στείχοντες ἐξιχνεύσατε
τὸν θηλύμορφον ξένον, ὃς ἐσφέρει νόσον
καινὴν γυναιξὶ καὶ λέχη λυμαίνεται.

κᾶνπερ λάβητε, δέσμιον πορεύσατε 355

δεῦρ' αὐτόν, ὥς ἂν λευσίμου δίκης τυχὼν
θάνη, πικρὰν βάκχευσιν ἐν Θήβαις ἰδὼν.

ΤΕΙΠΕΣΙΑΣ. ὦ σχέτλι', ὥς οὐκ οἶσθα ποῦ ποτ' εἰ λόγων.

μέμνηνας ἤδη· καὶ πρὶν ἐξέστης φρενῶν.
στείχωμεν ἡμεῖς, Κᾶδμε, κᾶζαιτώμεθα 360

ὑπέρ τε τούτου καίπερ ὄντος ἀγρίου

ὑπέρ τε πόλεως τὸν θεὸν μηδὲν νέον

δρᾶν. ἀλλ' ἔπου μοι κισσίνου βάκτρον μέτα,

πειρῶ δ' ἀνορθοῦν σῶμ' ἐμόν, καγὼ τὸ σόν·

γέροντε δ' αἰσχρὸν δύο πεσεῖν· ἴτω δ' ὅμως, 365

τῷ Βακχίῳ γὰρ τῷ Διὸς δουλευτέον.

Πενθεὺς δ' ὅπως μὴ πένθος εἰσοίσει δόμοις

τοῖς σοῖσι, Κᾶδμε· μαντικῇ μὲν οὐ λέγω,

τοῖς πράγμασιν δέ· μῶρα γὰρ μῶρος λέγει.

ΧΟ. Ὅσῖα πότνα θεῶν, 370

Ὅσῖα δ' ἂ κατὰ γᾶν

χρυσέαν πτέρυγα⁸ φέρεις,

τάδε Πενθέως αἰεῖς;

αἰεῖς οὐχ ὅσῖαν

ὕβριν ἐς τὸν Βρόμιον, τὸν 375

⁶ headband or wreath ⁷ bite ⁸ wing

Σεμέλας, τὸν παρὰ καλλί
 στεφάνοις εὐφροσύναις δαΐ
 μονα πρῶτον μακάρων; ὅς τάδ' ἔχει,
 θιασεύειν τε χοροῖς
 μετὰ τ' αὐλοῦ γελάσαι
 ἀποπαῦσαι τε μερίμνας,
 ὁπότεν βότρυνος ἔλθῃ
 γάνος ἐν δαιτὶ θεῶν, κισ'
 σοφόροις δ' ἐν θαλίαις ἀν'
 δράσι κρατὴρ ὕπνον ἀμ' φιβάλλῃ

380

385

ΧΟ. ἀχαλίνων στομάτων
 ἀνόμου τ' ἀφροσύνας⁹
 τὸ τέλος δυστυχία·
 ὁ δὲ τᾶς ἡσυχίας
 βίोटος καὶ τὸ φρονεῖν
 ἀσάλευτόν¹⁰ τε μένει καὶ
 συνέχει δώματα· πόρσω
 γὰρ ὅμως αἰθέρα ναίον'
 τες ὀρώσιν τὰ βροτῶν οὐρανίδαι.
 τὸ σοφὸν δ' οὐ σοφία
 τό τε μὴ θνητὰ φρονεῖν.
 βραχὺς αἰὼν· ἐπὶ τούτῳ
 δέ τις ἂν μεγάλα διώκων
 τὰ παρόντ' οὐχὶ φέροι. μαι'
 νομένων οἷδε τρόποι καὶ
 κακοβούλων παρ' ἔμοι' γε φωτῶν.

390

395

400

⁹ folly ¹⁰ unmoved, unshaken

- ΧΟ. ἰκοίμαν ποτὶ Κύπρον,
 νᾶσον τᾶς Ἀφροδίτας,
 ἔν' οἱ θελξίφρονες νέμον'
 ται θνατοῖσιν Ἔρωτες, 405
 Πάφον θ' ἂν ἐκατόστομοι
 βαρβάρου ποταμοῦ ῥοαὶ
 καρπίζουσιν ἄνομβροι.
 οὗ δ' ἂ καλλιστευομένα¹¹
 Πιερίᾳ μούσειος ἔδρα, 410
 σεμνὰ κλιτὺς¹² Ὀλύμπου,
 ἐκεῖσ' ἄγε με, Βρόμιε Βρόμιε,
 πρόβακχ' εὔιε δαῖμον. ἐκεῖ Χάριτες,
 ἐκεῖ δὲ Πόθος· ἐκεῖ δὲ βάκ' 415
 χαις θέμις ὀργιάζειν.
- ΧΟ. ὁ δαίμων ὁ Διὸς παῖς
 χαίρει μὲν θαλίαισιν,
 φιλεῖ δ' ὀλβοδότειραν Εἰ
 ρήναν, κουροτρόφον¹³ θεάν. 420
 ἴσαν δ' ἔς τε τὸν ὄλβιον
 τόν τε χείρονα δῶκ' ἔχειν
 οἴνου τέρψιν¹⁴ ἄλυπον·
 μισεῖ δ' ὅ μὴ ταῦτα μέλει,
 κατὰ φάος νύκτας τε φίλας 425
 εὐαίωνα διαζῆν,
 σοφὰν δ' ἀπέχειν πραπίδα φρένα τε
 περισσῶν παρὰ φωτῶν·

¹¹ be the best ¹² hill side ¹³ raising children ¹⁴ pleasure

be trod!

I will not lift mine arm to war with God
For thee nor all thy words. Madness most fell
Is on thee, madness wrought by some dread spell,
But not by spell nor leechcraft to be cured!

CHORUS. Grey prophet, worthy of Phoebus is thy word,
And wise in honouring Bromios, our great God.

CADMUS. My son, right well Teiresias points thy road.
Oh, make thine habitation here with us,
Not lonely, against men's uses. Hazardous
Is this quick bird-like beating of thy thought
Where no thought dwells. — Grant that this God be naught,
Yet let that Naught be Somewhat in thy mouth;
Lie boldly, and say He is! So north and south
Shall marvel, how there sprang a thing divine
From Semele's flesh, and honour all our line.

Drawing nearer to PENTHEUS.

Is there not blood before thine eyes even now?
Our lost Actaeon's blood, whom long ago
His own red hounds through yonder forest dim
Tore unto death, because he vaunted him
Against most holy Artemis? Oh, beware
And let me wreath thy temples. Make thy prayer
With us, and walk thee humbly in God's sight.

He makes as if to set the wreath on PENTHEUS head.

PENTHEUS. Down with that hand! Aroint thee to thy rite
Nor smear on me thy foul contagion!

Turning upon TEIRESIAS.

This

Thy folly's head and prompter shall not miss
The justice that he needs! — Go, half my guard
Forth to the rock-seat where he dwells in ward
O'er birds and wonders; rend the stone with crown
And trident; make one wreck of high and low
And toss his bands to all the winds of air!
Ha, have I found the way to sting thee, there?
The rest, forth through the town! And seek amain
This girl-faced stranger, that hath wrought such bane
To all Thebes, preying on our maids and wives
Seek till ye find; and lead him here in gyves,
Till he be judged and stoned and weep in blood
The day he troubled Pentheus with his God!

The guards set forth in two bodies; PENTHEUS goes into the Castle.

TEIRESIAS. Hard heart, how little dost thou know what seed
 Thou sowest! Blind before, and now indeed
 Most mad! — Come, Cadmus, let us go our way,
 And pray for this our persecutor, pray
 For this poor city, that the righteous God
 Move not in anger. — Take thine ivy rod
 And help my steps, as I help thine. 'Twere ill,
 If two old men should fall by the roadway. Still,
 Come what come may, our service shall be done
 To Bacchios, the All-Father's mystic son
 O Pentheus, named of sorrow! Shall he claim
 From all thy house fulfilment of his name,
 Old Cadmus? — Nay, I speak not from mine art,
 But as I see — blind words and a blind heart!

The two Old Men go off towards the Mountain.

CHORUS. Thou Immaculate on high;
 Thou Recording Purity;
 Thou that stoopest, Golden Wing,
 Earthward, manward, pitying,
 Hearest thou this angry King?
 Hearest thou the rage and scorn
 Gainst the Lord of Many Voices,
 Him of mortal mother born,
 Him in whom man's heart rejoices,
 Girt with garlands and with glee,
 First in Heaven's sovrantry?
 For his kingdom, it is there,
 In the dancing and the prayer,
 In the music and the laughter,
 In the vanishing of care,
 And of all before and after;
 In the Gods' high banquet, when
 Gleams the graperflood, flashed to heaven;
 Yea, and in the feasts of men
 Comes his crowned slumber; then
 Pain is dead and hate forgiven!
 Loose thy lips from out the rein;
 Lift thy wisdom to disdain;
 Whatso law thou canst not see,
 Scorning; so the end shall be
 Uttermost calamity!

Tis the life of quiet breath,
Tis the simple and the true,
Storm nor earthquake shattereth,
Nor shall aught the house undo
Where they dwell. For, far away,
Hidden from the eyes of day,
Watchers are there in the skies,
That can see man's life, and prize
Deeds well done by things of clay.
But the world's Wise are not wise,
Claiming more than mortal may.
Life is such a little thing;
Lo, their present is departed,
And the dreams to which they cling
Come not. Mad imagining
Theirs, I ween, and empty-hearted!
Where is the Home for me?
O Cyprus, set in the sea,
Aphrodite's home In the soft sea-foam,
Would I could wend to thee;
Where the wings of the Loves are furled,
And faint the heart of the world.
Aye, unto Paphos' isle,
Where the rainless meadows smile
With riches rolled From the hundred-fold
Mouths of the far-off Nile,
Streaming beneath the waves
To the roots of the seaward caves.
But a better land is there
Where Olympus cleaves the air,
The high still dell Where the Muses dwell,
Fairest of all things fair!
O there is Grace, and there is the Heart's Desire,
And peace to adore thee, thou Spirit of Guiding Fire!
A God of Heaven is he,
And born in majesty;
Yet hath he mirth
In the joy of the Earth,
And he loveth constantly
Her who brings increase,
The Feeder of Children, Peace.
No grudge hath he of the great;

No scorn of the mean estate;
But to all that liveth His wine he giveth,
Griefless, immaculate;
Only on them that spurn
Joy, may his anger burn.
Love thou the Day and the Night;
Be glad of the Dark and the Light;
And avert thine eyes From the lore of the wise,
That have honour in proud men's sight.
The simple nameless herd of Humanity

vocabulary

ἀβάκχευτος uninitiated in Bacchic orgies; joyless
ἄβρός graceful, delicate, pretty
ἄγρᾱ hunting, prey
ἄγρεύω catch (prey, fish)
ἄέκων unwilling
αἰσχρός shameful
ἄκραντος unfulfilled, vain
ἄκων javelin; unwilling ~acme
ἀλλάσσω trade, transform
ἄμαθής ignorant
ἄμαθία ignorance
ἄμορφος misshapen, shapeless
ἀναίνομαι refuse, reject
ἀνακαλέω call, summon, recall
ἀναφαίνω reveal, shine
 ~phenomenon
ἀναχορεύω begin a dance
ἄνευ away from; not having; not needing ~Sp. sin
ἀνίημι urge, impel; release ~jet
ἀπάγω lead away, back
 ~demagogue
ἄποινα -ου (n, 2) ransom, compensation ~penalty
ἀπωθέω repel, reject
ἄρδω give water
ἄρκυς net
ἄρρητος unspoken, unspeakable
 ~rhetoric
ἀσέβεια impiety
ἀσεβέω be impious
ἀσεβής profane
ἀσκέω work on
αὐδάω speak, declare, shout
 ~Theravada
αὐτόματος self-willed, accidental
 ~after
βόστρυχος curl, lock
βρέφος -ους (n, 3) fetus, baby
βύρσα hide, skin

γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy
γελάω laugh, smile, laugh at
γένυς jaw
δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate, doom ~demon
δεσμός bond, latch, strap; also (pl) headdress
διαλύω break up; relax, weaken
διάφορος different; difference; disagreeing; balance, bill
διθύραμβος (ι) dithyramb
δόλιος tricky, guileful
δοῦπος roar
εἴργω bound, fend off; do
εἰσβαίνω enter, board ~basis
εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with respect ~panorama
ἐκφεύγω flee from, escape ~fugitive
ἐκών willingly, on purpose; giving in too easily
 ~Ἕλλην Greek
ἐνδίδωμι hand over, lend, show, allow
ἐντεῦθεν thence
ἐξείμι go forth; is possible ~ion
ἐξευρίσκω find; discover ~eureka
ἐπάγω drive game; induce belief
 ~demagogue
ἐπιστολή message, letter
εὐτρεπής ready
ἐφίημι (ιι) send at, let fly; mp: rush at, spring upon ~jet
ἐχθαίρω hate ~external
ζεύγνυμι (υ) yoke, join ~zygote
θαῦμα -τος (n, 3) a wonder, feeling of surprise ~theater
θέμις -τος (f) custom, law
θηράω hunt, chase
θίασος revel; group of people
θρασύς brave, strong
θύρετρα -ου (n, 2) door ~door
θύρσος ivied wand

ἰδέα ἰδῆς semblance; kind, style
 ἵππικός of horses ~hippo
 ἱστός mast, loom ~stand
 καλλονή beauty
 καταφρονέω scorn; think of
 κατείρω shut in; hinder
 κλείς κληῖδος (f) bar, key ~clavicle
 κνέφας -ος (n, 3) dark, dusk
 κόμπος noise, racket
 κτυπέω crash
 κτύπος noise
 κύκλος circle, wheel ~cycle
 μεθίημι let go, cease; (mid) speed off
 ~jet
 μέτεμι be among, go, follow ~ion
 μηρός thigh, femur
 μίν him, her, it
 νηδύς -ος (f) belly, womb
 νύκτωρ by night
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
 ὄνησις -ος (f) benefit
 ὅποῖος whatever kind
 ὀργάς meadow, rich land; sacred
 land
 ὄργια -τος (n, 2) secret rites
 οὐτάω pierce, wound
 πάλη wrestling ~Pallas
 πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas
 πάνδημος roaming a town
 πέλας near, close
 περιβάλλω act: excel; mid: put on
 clothing ~ballistic
 πλόκαμος lock of hair
 πόθεν from where?
 πόθος longing, regret ~bid
 πότε when?
 πότερος which, whichever of two

πότνια lady ~potent
 ποῦ where?
 προῖος soft, gentle
 σαθρός unsound, cracked
 σεμνότης -τος (f, 3) solemnity,
 dignity
 σκιά shadow ~shadow
 σκιρτάω frolic
 σκότιος shadow-born ~shadow
 σκότος darkness, shadow ~shadow
 σόφισμα skill, trick
 σοφός skilled, clever, wise
 στέγη roof, ceiling, chamber
 στείχω go, march ~stair
 στεφανηφόρος crowned
 συναρπάζω snatch with
 συνεργός cooperating; colleague
 σωφρονέω be sane, moderate
 σώφρων sensible, prudent ~frenzy
 ταναός long
 τελετή rite, festival
 τέμνω cut, sacrifice, solemnize
 ~tonsure
 ὕβρισμα -τος (n, 3) outrage,
 insolence
 φάτνη manger, crib
 φαῦλος trifling
 φορέω frequentative of φέρω, to
 carry ~bear
 φροῦδος fled, vanished
 φυγή flight, means of escape
 ~fugitive
 χορεύω dance
 χωρέω withdraw, give way to (+dat)
 ~heir
 ὠχρός pale

τὸ πλῆθος ὅ τι

430

τὸ φαυλότερον ἐνόμισε χρῆ'

ταί τε, τόδ' ἂν δεχοίμαν.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ. Πενθεῦ, πάρεσμεν τήνδ' ἄγραν ἡγρευκότες

ἐφ' ἣν ἔπεμψας, οὐδ' ἄκρανθ'¹ ὠρμήσαμεν.

435

ὁ θῆρ δ' ὅδ' ἡμῖν πρῶος οὐδ' ὑπέσπασεν

φυγῇ πόδ', ἀλλ' ἔδωκεν οὐκ ἄκων χέρας

οὐδ' ὠχρός,² οὐδ' ἥλλαξεν οἶνωπὸν γένυν,

γελῶν δὲ καὶ δέῃν καπάγειν ἐφίετο

ἔμενέ τε, τοῦμόν εὐτρεπὲς ποιούμενος.

440

καγὼ δὲ αἰδοῦς εἶπον· ὦ ξέν', οὐχ ἐκὼν

ἄγω σε, Πενθέως δ' ὅς μ' ἔπεμψ' ἐπιστολαῖς.

ἃς δ' αὖ σὺ βάκχας εἶρξας, ἃς συνήρπασας

κᾶδηςας ἐν δεσμοῖσι πανδήμου στέγης,

φρουῶδαι³ γ' ἐκείναι λελυμέναι πρὸς ὀργάδας

445

σκικτῶσι Βρόμιον ἀνακαλούμεναι θεόν·

αὐτόματα δ' αὐταῖς δεσμὰ διελύθη ποδῶν

κλῆδές τ' ἀνήκαν θύρετρ'⁴ ἄνευ θνητῆς χερός.

πολλῶν δ' ὅδ' ἀνὴρ θαυμάτων ἥκει πλέως

ἐς τάσδε Θήβας. σοὶ δὲ τᾶλλα χρὴ μέλειν.

450

ΠΕΝΘΕΥΣ. μέθεσθε χειρῶν τοῦδ'· ἐν ἄρκυσιν γὰρ ὦν

οὐκ ἔστιν οὕτως ὠκὺς ὥστε μ' ἐκφυγεῖν.

ἀτὰρ τὸ μὲν σῶμ' οὐκ ἄμορφος⁵ εἶ, ξένε,

ὥς ἐς γυναικας, ἐφ' ὅπερ ἐς Θήβας πάρε·

πλόκαμός τε γάρ σου ταναός, οὐ πάλης ὕπο,

455

γένυν παρ' αὐτὴν κεχυμένος, πόθου πλέως·

¹ unfilled, vain ² pale ³ fled, vanished ⁴ door ⁵ misshapen, shapeless

λευκὴν δὲ χροιάν ἐκ παρασκευῆς ἔχεις,

οὐχ ἡλίου βολαΐσιν, ἀλλ' ὑπὸ σκιᾶς,⁶

τὴν Ἀφροδίτην καλλονῇ⁷ θηρώμενος.

πρῶτον μὲν οὖν μοι λέξον ὅστις εἶ γένος.

460

ΔΙΟΝΥΣΟΣ. οὐ κόμπος⁸ οὐδέεις· ῥάδιον δ' εἰπεῖν τόδε.

τὸν ἀνθεμώδη Τμῶλον οἶσθά που κλύων.

ΠΕΝ. οἶδ', ὅς τὸ Σάρδεων ἄστρῳ περιβάλλει κύκλῳ.

ΔΙ. ἐντεῦθεν εἰμι, Λυδία δέ μοι πατρίς.

ΠΕΝ. πόθεν δὲ τελετὰς τάσδ' ἄγεις ἐς Ἑλλάδα;

465

ΔΙ. Διόνυσος ἡμᾶς εἰσέβησ', ὁ τοῦ Διός.

ΠΕΝ. Ζεὺς δ' ἔστ' ἐκεῖ τις, ὃς νέους τίκτει θεούς;

ΔΙ. οὐκ, ἀλλ' ὁ Σεμέλην ἐνθάδε ζεύξας γάμοις.

ΠΕΝ. πότερά δὲ νύκτωρ σ' ἢ κατ' ὄμμ' ἠνάγκασεν;

ΔΙ. ὁρῶν ὁρῶντα, καὶ δίδωσιν ὄργια.

470

ΠΕΝ. τὰ δ' ὄργι' ἐστὶ τίν' ἰδέαν⁹ ἔχοντά σοι;

ΔΙ. ἄρρητ' ἀβακχεύτοις¹⁰ εἰδέναι βροτῶν.

ΠΕΝ. ἔχει δ' ὄνησιν¹¹ τοῖσι θύουσιν τίνα;

ΔΙ. οὐ θέμις ἀκοῦσαί σ', ἔστι δ' ἄξι' εἰδέναι.

ΠΕΝ. εἶ τοῦτ' ἐκιδδήλευσας, ἦν' ἀκοῦσαι θέλω.

475

ΔΙ. ἀσέβειαν¹² ἀσκοῦντ' ὄργι' ἐχθαίρει¹³ θεοῦ.

ΠΕΝ. τὸν θεὸν ὁρᾶν γὰρ φῆς σαφῶς, ποῖός τις ἦν;

ΔΙ. ὁποῖος ἦθελ'. οὐκ ἐγὼ τασσον τόδε.

ΠΕΝ. τοῦτ' αὖ παρωχέτευσας εἶ κουδὲν λέγων.

ΔΙ. δόξει τις ἀμαθεῖ¹⁴ σοφὰ λέγων οὐκ εἶ φρονεῖν.

480

ΠΕΝ. ἦλθες δὲ πρῶτα δεῦρ' ἄγων τὸν δαίμονα;

⁶ shadow ⁷ beauty ⁸ noise, racket ⁹ semblance; kind, style

¹⁰ uninitiated in Bacchic orgies; joyless ¹¹ benefit ¹² impiety ¹³ hate

¹⁴ ignorant

ΔΙ. πᾶς ἀναχορεύει βαρβάρων τάδ' ὄργια.

ΠΕΝ. φρονούσι γὰρ κάκιον Ἑλλήνων πολύ.

ΔΙ. τάδ' εὖ γε μᾶλλον· οἱ νόμοι δὲ διάφοροι.

ΠΕΝ. τὰ δ' ἱερὰ νύκτωρ ἢ μεθ' ἡμέραν τελεῖς; 485

ΔΙ. νύκτωρ τὰ πολλὰ· σεμνότητ'¹⁵ ἔχει σκότος.

ΠΕΝ. τοῦτ' ἐς γυναικάς δόλιόν ἐστι καὶ σαθρόν.¹⁶

ΔΙ. κὰν ἡμέρᾳ τό γ' αἰσχρόν ἐξεύροι τις ἄν.

ΠΕΝ. δίκην σε δοῦναι δεῖ σοφισμάτων κακῶν.

ΔΙ. σὲ δ' ἀμαθίας¹⁷ γε κάσεβούντ' ἐς τὸν θεόν. 490

ΠΕΝ. ὥς θρασὺς ὁ βάκχος κοῦκ ἀγύμναστος λόγων.

ΔΙ. εἴφ' ὅ τι παθεῖν δεῖ· τί με τὸ δεινὸν ἐργάσῃ;

ΠΕΝ. πρῶτον μὲν ἄβρὸν¹⁸ βόστρυχον τεμῶ σέθεν.

ΔΙ. ἱερὸς ὁ πλόκαμος· τῷ θεῷ δ' αὐτὸν τρέφω.

ΠΕΝ. ἔπειτα θύρσον τόνδε παράδος ἐκ χερσίν. 495

ΔΙ. αὐτός μ' ἀφαιροῦ· τόνδε Διονύσου φορῶ.

ΠΕΝ. εἴρκταίσι τ' ἔνδον σῶμα σὸν φυλάττομεν.

ΔΙ. λύσει μ' ὁ δαίμων αὐτός, ὅταν ἐγὼ θέλω.

ΠΕΝ. ὅταν γε καλέσῃς αὐτὸν ἐν βάκχαις σταθείς.

ΔΙ. καὶ νῦν ἂ πάσχω πλησίον παρὼν ὄρᾳ. 500

ΠΕΝ. καὶ ποῦ στίγ; οὐ γὰρ φανερὸς ὄμμασίν γ' ἐμοῖς.

ΔΙ. παρ' ἐμοί· σὺ δ' ἀσεβῆς αὐτὸς ὦν οὐκ εἰσορᾷς.

ΠΕΝ. λάζυσθε· καταφρονεῖ με καὶ Θήβας ὅδε.

ΔΙ. αὐδῶ με μὴ δεῖν σωφρονῶν οὐ σώφροσιν.

ΠΕΝ. ἐγὼ δὲ δεῖν γε, κυριώτερος σέθεν. 505

ΔΙ. οὐκ οἶσθ' ὅ τι ζῆς, οὐδ' ὁ δρᾷς, οὐδ' ὅστις εἶ.

ΠΕΝ. Πενθέως, Ἀγαυῆς παῖς, πατρός δ' Ἑχίονος.

¹⁵ solemnity, dignity ¹⁶ unsound, cracked ¹⁷ ignorance ¹⁸ graceful, delicate, pretty

ΔΙ. ἐνδυστυχήσαι τοῦνομ' ἐπιτήδειος εἶ.

ΠΕΝ. χώρει· καθείρξατ' αὐτὸν ἵππικαῖς πέλας

φάτναισιν, ὥς ἂν σκότιον¹⁹ εἰσορᾷ κνέφας.²⁰ 510

ἐκεῖ χόρευε· τάσδε δ' ἄς ἄγων πάρει

κακῶν συνεργοὺς ἢ διεμπολήσομεν

ἢ χεῖρα δούπου²¹ τοῦδε καὶ βύρσης²² κτύπου

παύσας, ἐφ' ἰστοῖς δμωίδας κεκτῆσμαι.

ΔΙ. στείχομ' ἄν· ὅ τι γὰρ μὴ χρεῶν, οὔτοι χρεῶν 515

παθεῖν. ἀτάρ τοι τῶνδ' ἄποιν' ὕβρισμάτων

μέτεσι Διόνυσός σ', ὃν οὐκ εἶναι λέγεις·

ἡμᾶς γὰρ ἀδικῶν κείνον εἰς δεσμοὺς ἄγεις.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. 519 Ἀχελῷου θύγατερ,

πότνι' εὐπάρθενε Δίρκα, 520

σὺ γὰρ ἐν σαῖς ποτε παγαῖς

τὸ Διὸς βρέφος ἔλαβες,

ὅτε μηρῷ πυρὸς ἐξ ἄ'

θανάτου Ζεὺς ὁ τεκὼν ἦρ'

πασέ νιν, τὰδ' ἀναβοάσας· 525

Ἰθι, Διθύραμβ', ἐμὰν ἄρ'

σενα τάνδε βᾶθι νηδύν·

ἀναφαίνω σε τόδ', ὦ Βάκ'

χιε, Θήβαις ὀνομάζειν.

σὺ δέ μ', ὦ μάκαιρα Δίρκα, 530

στεφανηφόρους²³ ἀπωθῇ

θιάσους ἔχουσιν ἐν σοί.

τί μ' ἀναίνῃ; τί με φεύγεις;

¹⁹ shadow-born ²⁰ dark, dusk ²¹ roar ²² hide, skin ²³ crowned

Hath deeds and faith that are truth enough for me!
 As the Chorus ceases, a party of the guards return, leading in the midst of them DIONYSUS, bound. The SOLDIER in command stands forth, as PENTHEUS, hearing the tramp of feet, comes out from the Castle.

SOLDIER. Our quest is finished, and thy prey, O King,
 Caught; for the chase was swift, and this wild thing
 Most tame; yet never flinched, nor thought to flee,
 But held both hands out unresistingly—

No change, no blanching of the wine-red cheek.
 He waited while we came, and bade us wreak
 All thy decree; yea, laughed, and made my best
 Easy, till I for very shame confessed

And said: "O stranger, not of mine own will
 I bind thee, but his bidding to fulfil
 Who sent me."

And those prisoned Maids withal
 Whom thou didst seize and bind within the wall
 Of thy great dungeon, they are fled, O King.
 Free in the woods, a-dance and glorying
 To Bromios. Of their own impulse fell
 To earth, men say, fetter and manacle,
 And bars slid back untouched of mortal hand
 Yea, full of many wonders to thy land

Is this man come... Howbeit, it lies with thee!

PENTHEUS. Ye are mad!—Unhand him. Howso swift he be,
 My toils are round him and he shall not fly.

The guards loose the arms of DIONYSUS; PENTHEUS studies him for a while in silence then speaks jeeringly. DIONYSUS remains gentle and unafraid.

Marry, a fair shape for a woman's eye,
 Sir stranger! And thou seek'st no more, I ween!
 Long curls, withal! That shows thou ne'er hast been
 A wrestler!—down both cheeks so softly tossed
 And winsome! And a white skin! It hath cost
 Thee pains, to please thy damsels with this white
 And red of cheeks that never face the light!

DIONYSUS is silent.

Speak, sirrah; tell me first thy name and race.

DIONYSUS. No glory is therein, nor yet disgrace.

Thou hast heard of Tmolus, the bright hill of flowers?

PENTHEUS. Surely, the ridge that winds by Sardis towers.

DIONYSUS. Thence am I; Lydia was my fatherland.

PENTHEUS. And whence these revelations, that thy band

Spreadeth in Hellas?

DIONYSUS. Their intent and use

Dionysus oped to me, the Child of Zeus.

PENTHEUS. Is there a Zeus there, that can still beget
Young Gods?

DIONYSUS. Nay, only He whose seal was set
Here in thy Thebes on Semele.

PENTHEUS. What way
Descended he upon thee? In full day
Or vision of night?

DIONYSUS. Most clear he stood, and scanned
My soul, and gave his emblems to mine hand.

PENTHEUS. What like be they, these emblems?

DIONYSUS. That may none
Reveal, nor know, save his Elect alone.

PENTHEUS. And what good bring they to the worshipper?

DIONYSUS. Good beyond price, but not for thee to hear.

PENTHEUS. Thou trickster? Thou wouldst prick me on the more
To seek them out!

DIONYSUS. His mysteries abhor
The touch of sin-lovers.

PENTHEUS. And so thine eyes
Saw this God plain; what guise had he?

DIONYSUS. What guise
It liked him. 'Twas not I ordained his shape.

PENTHEUS. Aye, deftly turned again. An idle jape,
And nothing answered!

DIONYSUS. Wise words being brought
To blinded eyes will seem as things of nought.

PENTHEUS. And comest thou first to Thebes, to have thy God
Established?

DIONYSUS. Nay; all Barbary hath trod
His dance ere this.

PENTHEUS. A low blind folk, I ween,
Beside our Hellenes!

DIONYSUS. Higher and more keen
In this thing, though their ways are not thy way.

PENTHEUS. How is thy worship held, by night or day?

DIONYSUS. Most oft by night; 'tis a majestic thing,
The darkness.

PENTHEUS. Ha! with women worshipping?
Tis craft and rottenness!

DIONYSUS. By day no less,

Whoso will seek may find unholiness—

PENTHEUS. Enough! Thy doom is fixed, for false pretence
Corrupting Thebes.

DIONYSUS. Not mine; but thine, for dense
Blindness of heart, and for blaspheming God!

PENTHEUS. A ready knave it is, and brazen-browed,
This mystery-priest!

DIONYSUS. Come, say what it shall be,
My doom; what dire thing wilt thou do to me?

PENTHEUS. First, shear that delicate curl that dangles there.

He beckons to the soldiers, who approach DIONYSUS.

DIONYSUS. I have vowed it to my God; 'tis holy hair.

The soldiers cut off the tress.

PENTHEUS. Next, yield me up thy staff!

DIONYSUS. Raise thine own hand
To take it. This is Dionysus' wand.

PENTHEUS takes the staff.

PENTHEUS. Last, I will hold thee prisoned here.

DIONYSUS. My Lord

God will unloose me, when I speak the word.

PENTHEUS. He may, if e'er again amid his bands
Of saints he hears thy voice!

DIONYSUS. Even now he stands
Close here, and sees all that I suffer.

PENTHEUS. What?

Where is he? For mine eyes discern him not.

DIONYSUS. Where I am! 'Tis thine own impurity
That veils him from thee.

PENTHEUS. The dog jeers at me!
At me and Thebes! Bind him!

The soldiers begin to bind him.

DIONYSUS. I charge ye, bind

Me not! I having vision and ye blind!

PENTHEUS. And I, with better right, say bind the more!

The soldiers obey.

DIONYSUS. Thou knowest not what end thou seekest, nor
What deed thou doest, nor what man thou art!

PENTHEUS. Agave's son, and on the father's part
Echion's, hight Pentheus!

DIONYSUS. So let it be,
A name fore-written to calamity!

PENTHEUS. Away, and tie him where the steeds are tied;
 Aye, let him lie in the manger! — There abide
 And stare into the darkness! — And this rout
 Of womankind that clusters thee about,
 Thy ministers of worship, are my slaves!
 It may be I will sell them o'er the waves,
 Hither and thither; else they shall be set
 To labour at my distaffs, and forget
 Their timbrel and their songs of dawning day!
 DIONYSUS. I go; for that which may not be, I may
 Not suffer! Yet for this thy sin, lo, He
 Whom thou deniest cometh after thee
 For recompense. Yea, in thy wrong to us,
 Thou hast cast Him into thy prison-house!

DIONYSUS, without his wand, his hair shorn, and his arms tightly bound, is led off by the guards to his dungeon. PENTHEUS returns into the Palace.

CHORUS. Achelous' roaming daughter,
 Holy Dirce, virgin water,
 Bathed he not of old in thee,
 The Babe of God, the Mystery?
 When from out the fire immortal
 To himself his God did take him,
 To his own flesh, and bespake him:
 "Enter now life's second portal,
 Motherless Mystery; lo, I break
 Mine own body for thy sake,
 Thou of the Twofold Door, and seal thee
 Mine, O Bromios," — thus he spake
 — "And to this thy land reveal thee."
 Still my prayer toward thee quivers,

vocabulary

ᾶ ah!

ἄημι blow

ἀθυμία (ῥ) despondency

αἰθήρ ether, air, sky ~ether

αἶθοψ sparkling ~ether

αἶθω set on fire ~ether

αἶσσω dart, glance

ἄλαός blind

ἄμιλλα conflict

ἀνάπτω bind; blame; kindle

~haptic

ἀναφαίνω reveal, shine

~phenomenon

ἀντίπαλος rival; balanced

ἄνω (ᾶ) accomplish, pass, waste;

upwards, out to sea

ἀρβύλη ankle-boot

ἀρπάζω carry off, seize ~harpoon

ἄσσω dart, glance

αὐγάζω discern, recognize

αὐδά voice, report ~Theravada

αὐλή courtyard

ἄω aor: to sate ~sate

βλώσκω come, go

βόσκω feed, tend ~bovine

βοτρυώδης like a bunch of grapes

βρόμιος boisterous, epithet of

Bacchus

βροντή thunder ~brontosaurus

βρότειος mortal

βρόχος rope, noose

γόνος offspring ~genus

γοῦν at least then

δεσμεύω to chain

δέσμιος binding; enchanting

δεσπότης -ου (m, 1) master, despot

διαβαίνω pass over, cross ~basis

διατινάσσω shake apart

δμῶς slave ~tame

δράκων -οντος (m, 3) serpent

εἰρκτή prison

εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with respect ~panorama

εἰσπέμπω send in

ἐκβαίνω come forth, disembark
~basis

ἐκεῖσε thither

ἐκλύω rescue from ~loose

ἐκπλήσσω panic, be knocked out
~plectrum

ἐκσώζω save from

ἐκφύω spring from ~physics

ἐλευθερώω set free

ἐμβολος insertable peg; ram; wedge
formation; porch

ἐνείμι be in ~ion

ἐνός speechless, dumbfounded

ἐξανίστημι raise, bring/send out

ἐρημία wilderness, solitude

ἐρπω be able to move ~serpent

εὐδαιμονία prosperity

ἡδομαι be pleased, enjoy

~hedonism

ἡνίκα when

ἡσυχος quiet

θαλάμη den, hole ~thalamus

θάσσω sit

θίασος revel; group of people

θιγγάνω touch

θύρσος ivied wand

ιδρώς sweat ~exude

ιός arrow

ιωή a rush, a sweep

καθυβρίζω insult

κατέργω shut in; hinder

κέλαδος loud noise

κελαινός black, dark, swarthy,
murky

κεντέω whip, goad

κεραύνιος of a thunderbolt

κιθαρίζω play the harp

κίων κίονος (ī, f) pillar

κόπος beating; toil, fatigue

κορυφή peak, crown
 κρυπτός hidden, secret ~cryptic
 λάζομαι grasp, seize
 λάινος of stone
 λαμπάς -δος (f, 3) torch
 λεύσσω see, look
 λυμαίνομαι (υ) abuse, violate,
 desecrate
 μαινάς -δος (f, 3) madwoman,
 maenad ~maenad
 μάτην in vain, randomly
 μέλαθρον roofbeam
 μίν him, her, it
 μολίσκω come, go
 μοῦσα muse
 μόχθος toil
 νάσσω trample, press down
 ξίφος -εος (n, 3) sword
 ὀδούς -ντος (m) tooth
 πέδον ground ~pedal
 πεδόσε to the ground, to the bottom
 πικρός sharp, bitter ~picric
 πόθεν from where?
 πονέω work; be busy ~osteopenia
 πότε when?
 προσδοκάω expect
 ῥήγνυμι (υ) to break
 σέβομαι feel shame, awe
 σείω shake ~seismic
 σκοτεινός dark
 σκότιος shadow-born ~shadow
 στάζω dribble, infuse

στέγη roof, ceiling, chamber
 συμφλέγω burn up
 συμφορά collecting; accident,
 misfortune
 συνάγνυμι (υῶ) shatter, shred
 συνάπτω join, partake; adjoin;
 consult; fight ~haptic
 σφάζω cut the throat
 ταῦρος bull ~steer
 τάφος (m) funeral, grave; (n)
 astonishment
 τέρας -ως (n, 3) omen, fetish
 τινάσσω shake; brandish
 τρομερός trembling
 τρόμος trembling in fear ~tremble
 φάσμα phantom, apparition
 φάτνη manger, crib
 φέως bush used to make brooms
 φλόξ -γός (f) flame ~flame
 φόα pustule
 φόνιος bloody
 φροντίζω consider, ponder
 φύλαξ -κος (m) guard; sentry
 ~phylactery
 φυτεύω plant, grow, cause, prepare
 ~physics
 χαμάζε to the ground
 χείλος -εος (n, 3) lip
 χηλή hoof
 χθόνιος in, from, under the earth
 χορεύω dance
 φοφέω make a noise

ἔτι ναὶ τὰν βοτρυνώδη

Διονύσου χάριν οἶνας,

535

ἔτι σοι τοῦ Βρομίου μελήσει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. οἶαν οἶαν ὄργαν ἀναφαίνει χθόνιον¹

γένος ἐκφύς τε δράκοντός

ποτε Πενθείς, ὃν Ἑχίων

540

ἐφύτευσε χθόνιος,

ἀγριωπὸν τέρας, οὐ φῶ

τα βρότειον, φόνιον² δ' ὥς

τε γίγαντ' ἀντίπαλον θεοῖς·

ὅς ἐμ' ἐν βρόχοισι³ τὰν τοῦ

545

Βρομίου τάχα ξυνάψει,

τὸν ἐμὸν δ' ἐντὸς ἔχει δῶ

ματος ἤδη θιασώταν

σκοτίαῖς κρυπτὸν ἐν εἰρκταῖς.⁴

ἐσορᾶς τάδ', ὦ Διὸς παῖ

550

Διόνυσε, σοὺς προφήτας

ἐν ἀμίλλαισιν ἀνάγκας;

μόλε, χρυσῶπα τινάσσων,

ἄνα, θύρσον κατ' Ὀλυμπον,

φονίου δ' ἀνδρὸς ὕβριν κατάσχεσ.

555

ΧΟ. πόθι Νύσας ἄρα τᾶς θῆ'

ροτρόφου θυρσοφορεῖς

θιάσους, ὦ Διόνυσ', ἥ

κορυφαῖς Κωρυκίαις;

τάχα δ' ἐν ταῖς πολυδένδρεσ'

560

¹ in, from, under the earth ² bloody ³ rope, noose ⁴ prison

σιν Ὀλύμπου θαλάμαις, ἔν'
θα ποτ' Ὀρφεὺς κιθαρίζων⁵
σύναγεν δένδρεα μούσαις,⁶
σύναγεν θήρας ἀγρώτας.

μάκαρ ὦ Πιερία,

565

σέβεταιί σ' Εὖιος, ἥξει
τε χορεύσων ἅμα βακχεύ'
μασι, τόν τ' ὠκυρόαν
διαβὰς Ἀξιὸν εἰλίσ'
σομένης Μαινάδας ἄξει,
Λυδίαν πατέρα τε, τὸν
τᾶς εὐδαιμονίας βροτοῖς
ὀλβοδόταν, τὸν ἔκλυον
εὖιππον χώραν ὕδασιν
καλλίστοισι λιπαίνειν.

570

575

ΔΙΟΝΥΣΟΣ. ἰώ, κλύετ' ἐμᾶς κλύετ' αὐδᾶς,

ἰὼ βάκχαι, ἰὼ βάκχαι.

ΧΘ. τίς ὄδε, τίς ὄδε πόθεν ὁ κέλαδος⁷

ἀνά μ' ἐκάλεσεν Εὐίου;

ΔΙ. ἰὼ ἰώ, πάλιν αὐδῶ,

580

ὁ Σεμέλας, ὁ Διὸς παῖς.

ΧΘ. ἰὼ ἰὼ δέσποτα δέσποτα,

μόλε νυν ἡμέτερον ἔς

θίασον, ὦ Βρόμιε Βρόμιε.

ΔΙ. σείε πέδον χθονὸς Ἑννοσι πότνια.

585

ΧΘ. ᾄ ᾄ,

⁵ play the harp ⁶ muse ⁷ loud noise

τάχα τὰ Πενθέως μέλαθρα διατί

νάζεται⁸ πεσήμασιν.—

ὁ Διόνυσος ἀνὰ μέλαθρα·

σέβετε νιν.— σέβομεν ὦ.—

590

εἶδετε λάινα⁹ κίοσιν¹⁰ ἔμβολα

διάδρομα τάδε; Βρόμιος ὄδ' ἀλα¹¹

λάζεται στέγας ἔσω.

ΔΙ. ἄπτε κεραύνιον αἶθοπα λαμπάδα·

σύμφλεγε σύμφλεγε δώματα Πενθέος.

595

ΧΘ. ᾄ ᾄ, πῦρ οὐ λεύσσεις, οὐδ' ἀυγάζη,¹²

Σεμέλας ἱερὸν ἀμφὶ τάφον, ἄν

ποτε κεραυνόβολος ἔλιπε φλόγα

Δίου βροντᾶς;

δίκετε πεδόσε τρομερὰ¹³ σώματα

600

δίκετε, Μαινάδες· ὁ γὰρ ἄναξ

ἄνω κάτω τιθεῖς ἔπεισι

μέλαθρα τάδε Διὸς γόνος.

ΔΙ. βάρβαροι γυναιῖκες, οὕτως ἐκπεπληγμένοι φόβῳ

πρὸς πέδῳ πεπτώκατ'; ἥσθησθ', ὡς ἔοικε, Βακχίου

605

διατινάξαντος δῶμα Πενθέως· ἀλλ' ἐξανίστατε

σῶμα καὶ θαρσεῖτε σαρκὸς ἐξαμεύσασαι τρόμον.

ΧΘ. ὦ φάος μέγιστον ἡμῖν εὐίου βακχεύματος,

ὡς ἐσεῖδον ἀσμένη σε, μονάδ' ἔχουσ' ἐρημίαν.

ΔΙ. εἰς ἀθυμίαν¹⁴ ἀφίκεσθ', ἡνίκ' εἰσεπεμπόμην,

610

Πενθέως ὡς ἐς σκοτεινὰς¹⁵ ὀρκάνας πεσούμενος;

ΧΘ. πῶς γὰρ οὐ; τίς μοι φύλαξ ἦν, εἰ σὺ συμφορᾶς τύχοις;

⁸ trample, press down ⁹ of stone ¹⁰ pillar ¹¹ blind ¹² discern, recognize

¹³ trembling ¹⁴ despondency ¹⁵ dark

ἀλλὰ πῶς ἡλευθερώθης ἀνδρὸς ἀνοσίου τυχών;

ΔΙ. αὐτὸς ἐξέσφωσ' ἔμαντὸν ραδίως ἄνευ πόνου.

ΧΘ. οὐδέ σου συνῆψε χεῖρε δεσμίοισιν ἐν βρόχοις; 615

ΔΙ. ταῦτα καὶ καθύβρις αὐτόν, ὅτι με δεσμεύειν¹⁶ δοκῶν

οὔτ' ἔθιγεν οὔθ' ἤψαθ' ἡμῶν, ἐλπίσιν δ' ἐβόσκετο.

πρὸς φάτναις δὲ ταῦρον εὐρών, οὗ καθείρξ' ἡμᾶς ἄγων,

τῶδε περὶ βρόχους ἔβαλλε γόνασι καὶ χηλαῖς¹⁷ ποδῶν,

θυμὸν ἐκπνέων, ἰδρώτα σώματος στάζων ἄπο, 620

χείλεσιν διδούς ὀδόντας· πλησίον δ' ἐγὼ παρὼν

ἥσυχος θάσσω ἐλευσσον. ἐν δὲ τῷδε τῷ χρόνῳ

ἀνετίναξ' ἐλθὼν ὁ Βάκχος δῶμα καὶ μητρὸς τάφῳ

πῦρ ἀνῆψ'. ὁ δ' ὡς ἐσεῖδε, δώματ' αἴθεσθαι δοκῶν,

ἦσ' ἐκείσε κᾶτ' ἐκείσε, δμῶσιν Ἀχελῶον φέρειν 625

ἐννέπων, ἅπας δ' ἐν ἔργῳ δοῦλος ἦν, μάτιν πονῶν.

διαμεθεῖς δὲ τόνδε μόχθον, ὡς ἐμοῦ πεφευγότος,

ἔεται ξίφος κελαινὸν¹⁸ ἀρπάσας δόμων ἔσω.

κᾶθ' ὁ Βρόμος, ὡς ἔμοιγε φαίνεται, δόξαν λέγω,

φάσμ'¹⁹ ἐποίησεν κατ' αὐλήν· ὁ δ' ἐπὶ τοῦθ' ὠρμημένος 630

ἦσσε κᾶκέντει φαεννὸν αἰθέρ', ὡς σφάζων ἐμέ.

πρὸς δὲ τοῖσδ' αὐτῷ τάδ' ἄλλα Βάκχιος λυμαίνεται·

δώματ' ἔρρηξεν χαμᾶζε· συντεθράνωται δ' ἅπαν

πικροτάτους ἰδόντι δεσμούς τοὺς ἐμούς· κόπου δ' ὕπο

διαμεθεῖς ξίφος παρεῖται· πρὸς θεὸν γὰρ ὦν ἀνῆρ 635

εἰς μάχην ἐλθεῖν ἐτόλμησε. ἥσυχος δ' ἐκβὰς ἐγὼ

δαμάτων ἦκω πρὸς ὑμᾶς, Πενθέως οὐ φροντίσας.

ὡς δέ μοι δοκεῖ— ψοφεῖ²⁰ γοῦν ἀρβύλῃ δόμων ἔσω

¹⁶ to chain ¹⁷ hoof ¹⁸ black, dark, swarthy, murky
apparition ²⁰ make a noise

¹⁹ phantom,

Dirce, still to thee I hie me;
Why, O Blessed among Rivers,
Wilt thou fly me and deny me?
By His own joy I vow,
By the grape upon the bough,
Thou shalt seek Him in the midnight, thou shalt love Him, even now!
Dark and of the dark impassioned
Is this Pentheus' blood; yea, fashioned
Of the Dragon, and his birth
From Echion, child of Earth.
He is no man, but a wonder;
Did the Earth-Child not beget him,
As a red Giant, to set him
Against God, against the Thunder?
He will bind me for his prize,
Me, the Bride of Dionyse;
And my priest, my friend, is taken
Even now, and buried lies;
In the dark he lies forsaken!
Lo, we race with death, we perish,
Dionysus, here before thee!
Dost thou mark us not, nor cherish,
Who implore thee, and adore thee?
Hither down Olympus' side,
Come, O Holy One defied,
Be thy golden wand uplifted o'er the tyrant in his pride!
Oh, where art thou? In thine own
Nysa, thou our help alone?
O'er fierce beasts in orient lands
Doth thy thronging thyrsus wave,
By the high Corycian Cave,
Or where stern Olympus stands;
In the elm-woods and the oaken,
There where Orpheus harped of old,
And the trees awoke and knew him,
And the wild things gathered to him,
As he sang amid the broken
Glens his music manifold?
Dionysus loveth thee;
Blessed Land of Piërie,
He will come to thee with dancing,
Come with joy and mystery;

With the Maenads at his hest
 Winding, winding to the West;
 Cross the flood of swiftly glancing
 Axios in majesty;
 Cross the Lydias, the giver
 Of good gifts and waving green;
 Cross that Father-Stream of story,
 Through a land of steeds and glory
 Rolling, bravest, fairest River
 E'er of mortals seen!

A VOICE WITHIN. Io! Io!

Awake, ye damsels; hear my cry,
 Calling my Chosen; hearken ye!

A MAIDEN. Who speaketh? Oh, what echoes thus?

ANOTHER. A Voice, a Voice, that calleth us!

THE VOICE. Be of good cheer! Lo, it is I,
 The Child of Zeus and Semele.

A MAIDEN. O Master, Master, it is Thou!

ANOTHER. O Holy Voice, be with us now!

THE VOICE. Spirit of the Chained Earthquake,
 Hear my word; awake, awake!

An Earthquake suddenly shakes the pillars of the Castle.

A MAIDEN. Ha! what is coming? Shall the hall
 Of Pentheus racked in ruin fall?

LEADER. Our God is in the house! Ye maids adore Him!

CHORUS. We adore Him all!

THE VOICE. Unveil the Lightning's eye; arouse
 The fire that sleeps, against this house!

Fire leaps upon the Tomb of Semele.

A MAIDEN. Ah, saw ye, marked ye there the flame
 From Semele's enhallowed sod
 Awakened? Yea, the Death that came
 Ablaze from heaven of old, the same
 Hot splendour of the shaft of God?

LEADER. Oh cast ye, cast ye, to the earth! The Lord
 Cometh against this house! Oh, cast ye down,
 Ye trembling damsels; He, our own adored,
 God's Child hath come, and all is overthrown!

The Maidens cast themselves upon the ground, their eyes earthward.

DIONYSUS, alone and unbound, enters from the Castle.

DIONYSUS. Ye Damsels of the Morning Hills, why lie ye thus dismayed?
 Ye marked him, then, our Master, and the mighty hand he laid

On tower and rock, shaking the house of Pentheus? — But arise,
And cast the trembling from your flesh, and lift untroubled eyes.

LEADER. O Light in Darkness, is it thou? O Priest, is this thy face?

My heart leaps out to greet thee from the deep of loneliness.

DIONYSUS. Fell ye so quick despairing, when beneath the Gate I passed?

Should the gates of Pentheus quell me, or his darkness make me fast?

LEADER. Oh, what was left if thou wert gone? What could I but despair?

How hast thou 'scaped the man of sin? Who freed thee from the snare?

DIONYSUS. I had no pain nor peril; 'twas mine own hand set me free.

LEADER. Thine arms were gyved!

DIONYSUS. Nay, no gyve, no touch, was laid on me!

'Twas there I mocked him, in his gyves, and gave him dreams for food.

For when he laid me down, behold, before the stall there stood

A Bull of Offering. And this King, he bit his lips and straight

Fell on and bound it, hoof and limb, with gasping wrath and sweat.

And I sat watching! — Then a Voice; and lo, our Lord was come,

And the house shook, and a great flame stood o'er his mother's tomb.

And Pentheus hied this way and that, and called his thralls amain

For water, lest his roof-tree burn; and all toiled, all in vain.

Then deemed a-sudden I was gone; and left his fire, and sped

Back to the prison portals, and his lifted sword shone red.

But there, methinks, the God had wrought — I speak but as I guess —

Some dream-shape in mine image; for he smote at emptiness,

Stabbed in the air, and strove in wrath, as though 'twere me he slew.

Then 'mid his dreams God smote him yet again! He overthrew

All that high house. And there in wreck for evermore it lies,

That the day of this my bondage may be sore in Pentheus' eyes!

And now his sword is fallen, and he lies outworn and wan

Who dared to rise against his God in wrath, being but man.

And I uprose and left him, and in all peace took my path

Force to my Chosen, recking light of Pentheus and

vocabulary

ἀγγέλλω carry a message, announce
~angel

ἀγελαῖος of a herd ~demagogue

ἀγκάλη the bent arm ~ankylosaurus

ἄζυξ unpaired, unmarried

ἄθῳος unpunished, blameless

ἀκίνητος motionless, immovable

ἄκρον crest, extremity ~acute

ἄκτις -νος (f) ray, beam ~actinic

ἄμμα -τος (n, 3) knot, cord

ἄμπελος (f) vine

ἀναβοάω shout out

ἀναίσσω rise, rise quickly

ἀναστέλλω repel, suppress

ἀποβάλλω throw away, lose

ἀσίδηρος not of iron; without sword

ἀσκέω work on

βασιλικός royal

βολή a hit with a missile; a glance
~ballistic

βόσκημα fed livestock

βουκόλος herdsman ~bovine

βρέφος -ους (n, 3) fetus, baby

γάλα milk ~galaxy

γένυς jaw

γόνος offspring ~genus

γυναικεῖος of women ~queen

δάκτυλος finger, toe

δέμας -ως (n) body; (+gen.) like

διαμάω cut through

δίχα in two, in two ways

δορά hide, flaying

δρόμος running, racing ground

~hippodrome

δρῦς -ός (f) tree, oak, lumber

~druid

εἰκῇ haphazardly; in vain

εἰσφέρω carry into/along; propose
~bear

ἐκπηδάω sally, leave

ἐλάτη fir tree; oar

ἐξακοντίζω hurl forth

ἐξανίημι send upward ~jet

ἐξίημι send forth, allow forth ~jet

ἐπαείδω sing with, to; charm

ἐπάξιος worthy of

ἐρείδω press; mid: lean something
against something, prop up

ἐρημώω raze, bereave; desert, isolate

ἥσυχος quiet

θαλερός thriving, vigorous

~thallium

θάμνος bush

θερμαίνω heat ~thermos

θηράω hunt, chase

θίασος revel; group of people

θρόσκα spring, dart ~dart

θυμός (ō) anger

θύρσος ivied wand

καθήκω come down, (a day) to fall,
arrive; be proper

καθίημι (ti) speed down upon; take
down ~jet

κάρ -ός (n) useless bit; form of κατά

καταναγκάζω coerce

κάτοιδα understand

κενόω make empty

κίσσινος of ivy

κλήϊω secure, bar

κοινώω make common; cooperate

κόμη hair ~comet

κρατήρ -ος (m) mixing bowl for
wine

κρατύνω strengthen

κρείσσων more powerful; better

κρήνη well, spring

κύκλος circle, wheel ~cycle

κυρέω come upon, come up against;
obtain

κῶλον limb

λέπας -ως (n, 3) bare rock

λόχημη lair

λύκος wolf ~lycanthropy

λωτός clover? lotus?
 μαστός nipple, breast
 μέλι honey, a sweet
 μέτειμι be among, go, follow ~ion
 μετέρχομαι seek, visit
 μῆλαξ oak, yew, morning glory
 μόσχος calf (animal)
 μυκάομαι (ū) moo, creak, ring
 νάρθηξ -χος (m) fennel stalk
 νεβρίς fawnskin
 οἰνώ make drunk ~wine
 οἶστρος gadfly; an urge
 ὀλολύζω whoop in triumph, shout
 ecstatically
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
 ὀνειδίζω upbraid, reproach
 ὀπλίζω prepare, arm ~hoplite
 παίζω play ~pediatrician
 παίω hit
 πάντως by all means
 παρῆζομαι sit beside ~sit
 παρίημι dangle; pass over, allow
 ~jet
 παρρησία speaking freely
 πέδον ground ~pedal
 περάω cross over, drive across; sell
 as a slave ~pierce
 πλάνη wandering
 πλάνης -τος (m, 3) wanderer
 πλάξ -χός (f) flat thing
 πνέω breathe, blow ~apnea
 πόθεν from where?
 πόθος longing, regret ~bid

ποίη grass
 πόρις -εως (f) calf (baby cow)
 ~parturition
 πότερος which, whichever of two
 πρόσσιδα (+χάριν) be grateful
 besides
 προσοράω look at
 πῶμα -τος (n, 3) cover; drink
 ~pastor
 ῥοά pl: waters of a river ~rheostat
 σεμνός revered, holy
 σκύμνος cub
 σπαραγμός tearing; spasm
 σπαργάω be turned on
 στάζω dribble, infuse
 στέλλω prepare, send, furl ~apostle
 στέφανος ring
 στεφανώ crown
 συναρπάζω snatch with
 σώφρων sensible, prudent ~frenzy
 τάχος -ους (n, 3) speed ~tachometer
 τρίβω (ī) rub; (mid) be worn out
 ~tribulation
 ὑλήεις (ū) wooded
 ὑπερβαίνω pass, transgress ~basis
 ὑποτίθημι suggest, advise
 ~hypothesis
 φόβη lock of hair; mane; foliage
 χιών χιόνος (f, 3) snow
 χορός dance; chorus ~terpsichorean
 χρῆζω need ~chresard
 φέγω blame, censure
 φύφος noise

—ἐς προνώπι' αὐτίχ' ἤξει. τί ποτ' ἄρ' ἐκ τούτων ἐρεῖ;
 ῥαδίως γὰρ αὐτὸν οἶσω, κἂν πνέων ἔλθῃ μέγα.

640

πρὸς σοφοῦ γὰρ ἀνδρὸς ἀσκεῖν σῶφρον' εὐοργησίαν.

ΠΕΝΘΕΥΣ. πέπονθα δεινά· διαπέφευγέ μ' ὁ ξένος,

ὃς ἄρτι δεσμοῖς ἦν κατηναγκασμένος.

ἔα ἔα·

ὃδ' ἐστὶν ἀνὴρ· τί τάδε; πῶς προνώπιος

645

φαίνῃ πρὸς οἴκοις τοῖς ἐμοῖς, ἔξω βεβώς;

ΔΙΟΝΥΣΟΣ. στήσον πόδ', ὀργῇ δ' ὑπόθεες ἥσυχον πόδα.

ΠΕΝ. πόθεν σὺ δεσμὰ διαφυγὼν ἔξω περᾶς;

ΔΙ. οὐκ εἶπον— ἢ οὐκ ἤκουσας— ὅτι λύσει μέ τις;

ΠΕΝ. τίς; τοὺς λόγους γὰρ ἐσφέρεις καινοὺς αἰεί.

650

ΔΙ. ὃς τὴν πολύβοτρυν ἄμπελον φύει βροτοῖς. ΠΕΝ.

ΔΙ. ὠνείδισας δὴ τοῦτο Διονύσω καλόν.

ΠΕΝ. κλήειν κελεύω πάντα πύργον ἐν κύκλῳ.

ΔΙ. τί δ'; οὐχ ὑπερβαίνουνσι καὶ τείχῃ θεοί;

ΠΕΝ. σοφὸς σοφὸς σύ, πλὴν ἂν δεῖ σ' εἶναι σοφόν.

655

ΔΙ. ἂν δεῖ μάλιστα, ταῦτ' ἔγωγ' ἔφυν σοφός.

κείνου δ' ἀκούσας πρῶτα τοὺς λόγους μάθε,

ὃς ἐξ ὄρους πάρεστιν ἀγγελῶν τί σοι·

ἡμεῖς δέ σοι μενοῦμεν, οὐ φευξοῦμεθα.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ. Πενθεῦ κρατύνων¹ τῇσδε Θηβαίας χθονός,

660

ἥκω Κιθαιρῶν' ἐκλιπών, ἔν' οὔποτε

λευκῆς χιόνος² ἀνείσαν εὐαγεῖς βολαί.³

ΠΕΝ. ἥκεις δὲ ποῖαν προστιθεῖς σπουδὴν λόγου;

ΑΓ. βάκχας ποτνιαῖδας εἰσιδών, αἶ τῇσδε γῆς

¹ strengthen ² snow ³ a hit with a missile; a glance

οἷστροισι⁴ λευκὸν κῶλον ἐξηκόντισαν,
 ἦκω φράσαι σοὶ καὶ πόλει χρήζων, ἄναξ,
 ὥς δεινὰ δρῶσι θανμάτων τε κρείσσονα.
 θέλω δ' ἀκοῦσαι, πότερά σοι παρρησία
 φράσω τὰ κείμεν ἢ λόγον στειλώμεθα·
 τὸ γὰρ τάχος σου τῶν φρενῶν δέδοικ', ἄναξ,
 καὶ τοῦξύθυμον καὶ τὸ βασιλικὸν λίαν.

ΠΕΝ. λέγ', ὥς ἀθῶος⁵ ἐξ ἐμοῦ πάντως ἔσση.
 τοῖς γὰρ δίκαιοις οὐχὶ θυμοῦσθαι χρεῶν.
 ὅσῳ δ' ἂν εἴπῃς δεινότερα βακχῶν πέρι,
 τοσῶδε μᾶλλον τὸν ὑποθέντα τὰς τέχνας
 γυναιξὶ τόνδε τῇ δίκη προσθήσομεν.

ΑΓ. ἀγελαῖα⁶ μὲν βοσκήματ'⁷ ἄρτι πρὸς λέπας
 μόσχων ὑπεξήκριζον, ἡνίχ' ἥλιος
 ἀκτῖνας⁸ ἐξίησι θερμαίνων⁹ χθόνα.
 ὁρῶ δὲ θιάσους τρεῖς γυναικείων¹⁰ χορῶν,
 ὧν ἡρχ' ἐνὸς μὲν Αὐτονόη, τοῦ δευτέρου
 μήτηρ Ἀγαυή σή, τρίτου δ' Ἴνὼ χοροῦ.
 ἡὔδον δὲ πᾶσαι σώμασιν παρειμέναι,
 αἱ μὲν πρὸς ἐλάτης νῶτ' ἐρείσασαι φόβην,
 αἱ δ' ἐν δρυὸς φύλλοισι πρὸς πέδῳ κάρα
 εἰκῇ¹¹ βαλοῦσαι σωφρόνως, οὐχ ὥς σὺ φῆς
 ὦνωμένας¹² κρατῆρι καὶ λωτοῦ ψόφῳ¹³
 θηρᾶν καθ' ὕλην Κύπριν ἡρημωμένας.¹⁴
 ἡ σὴ δὲ μήτηρ ὠλόλυξεν ἐν μέσσαις

⁴ gadfly; an urge ⁵ unpunished, blameless ⁶ of a herd ⁷ fed livestock
⁸ ray, beam ⁹ heat ¹⁰ of women ¹¹ haphazardly; in vain ¹² make
drunk ¹³ noise ¹⁴ raze, bereave; desert, isolate

σταθείσα βάκχαις, ἐξ ὕπνου κινεῖν δέμας, 690
 μυκήμαθ' ὥς ἤκουσε κεροφόρων βοῶν.
 αἰ δ' ἀποβαλοῦσαι θαλερὸν ὀμμάτων ὕπνον
 ἀνῆξαν ὀρθαί, θαῦμ' ἰδεῖν εὐκοσμίας,
 νέαι παλαιαὶ παρθένοι τ' ἔτ' ἄζυγες.¹⁵
 καὶ πρῶτα μὲν καθεῖσαν εἰς ὤμους κόμας 695
 νεβρίδας τ' ἀνεστείλανθ' ὅσαισιν ἀμμάτων
 σύνδεσμ' ἐλέλυτο, καὶ καταστίκτους δορὰς
 ὄφεσι κατεζώσαντο λιχμῶσιν γένυν.
 αἰ δ' ἀγκάλαισι δορκάδ' ἢ σκύμνους¹⁶ λύκων¹⁷
 ἀγρίους ἔχουσαι λευκὸν ἐδίδοσαν γάλα, 700
 ὅσαις νεοτόκοις μαστὸς¹⁸ ἦν σπαργῶν ἔτι
 βρέφη λιπούσαις· ἐπὶ δ' ἔθεντο κισσίνους
 στεφάνους δρυὸς τε μίλακός τ' ἀνθεσφόρου.
 θύρσον δέ τις λαβοῦσ' ἔπαισεν ἐς πέτραν,
 ὅθεν δροσώδης ὕδατος ἐκπηδᾷ νοτίς· 705
 ἄλλη δὲ νάρθηκ' ἐς πέδον καθήκε γῆς,
 καὶ τῇδε κρήνην ἐξανῆκ' οἴνου θεός·
 ὅσαις δὲ λευκοῦ πώματος¹⁹ πόθος παρῆν,
 ἄκροισι δακτύλοισι²⁰ διαμῶσαι χθόνα
 γάλακτος ἐσμὸν εἶχον· ἐκ δὲ κισσίνων 710
 θύρσων γλυκεῖαι μέλιτος²¹ ἔσταζον ῥοαί.
 ὥστ', εἰ παρήσθα, τὸν θεὸν τὸν νῦν ψέγεις²²
 εὐχαΐσιν ἂν μετῇλθες εἰσιδὼν τάδε.
 ξυνήλθομεν δὲ βουκόλοι²³ καὶ ποιμένες,

¹⁵ unpaired, unmarried ¹⁶ cub ¹⁷ wolf ¹⁸ nipple, breast ¹⁹ cover;
 drink ²⁰ finger, toe ²¹ honey, a sweet ²² blame, censure ²³ herdsman

κουνῶν λόγων δώσοντες ἀλλήλοις ἔριν 715
 ὡς δεινὰ δρῶσι θαυμάτων τ' ἐπάξια·
 καί τις πλάνης κατ' ἄστυ καὶ τρίβων λόγων
 ἔλεξεν εἰς ἅπαντας· ὦ σεμνὰς πλάκας
 ναίοντες ὀρέων, θέλετε θηρασώμεθα
 Πενθέως Ἀγαυὴν μητέρ' ἐκ βακχευμάτων 720
 χάριν τ' ἄνακτι θώμεθα; εὖ δ' ἡμῖν λέγειν
 ἔδοξε, θάμνων²⁴ δ' ἐλλοχίζομεν φόβαις
 κρύψαντες αὐτούς· αἱ δὲ τὴν τεταγμένην
 ὦραν ἐκίνουν θύρσον ἐς βακχεύματα,
 Ἰακχον ἀθρόω στόματι τὸν Διὸς γόνον 725
 Βρόμιον καλοῦσαι· πᾶν δὲ συνεβάκχευ' ὄρος
 καὶ θῆρες, οὐδὲν δ' ἦν ἀκίνητον δρόμῳ.
 κυρεῖ²⁵ δ' Ἀγαυὴ πλησίον θρώσκουσά μου·
 καγὼ ξεπήδησ' ὡς συναρπάσαι θέλων,
 λόχμην κενώσας²⁶ ἔνθ' ἐκρυπτόμην δέμας. 730
 ἦ δ' ἀνεβόησεν· ὦ δρομάδες ἐμαὶ κύνες,
 θηρώμεθ' ἀνδρῶν τῶνδ' ὕπ'· ἀλλ' ἔπεσθέ μοι,
 ἔπεσθε θύρσοις διὰ χερῶν ὥπλισμέναι.
 ἡμεῖς μὲν οὖν φεύγοντες ἐξηλύξαμεν
 βακχῶν σπαραγμόν, αἱ δὲ νεμομέναις χλόην 735
 μόσχους ἐπῆλθον χειρὸς ἀσιδήρου μέτα.
 καὶ τὴν μὲν ἂν προσεῖδες εὖθιλον πόρῳ²⁷
 μυκωμένην²⁸ ἔχουσαν ἐν χεροῖν δίχα,
 ἄλλαι δὲ δαμάλας διεφόρουں σπαράγμασιν.

²⁴ bush ²⁵ come upon, come up against; obtain ²⁶ make empty ²⁷ calf
 (baby cow) ²⁸ moo, creak, ring

his wrath.

But soft, methinks a footstep sounds even now within the hall;
 'Tis he; how think ye he will stand, and what words speak withal?
 I will endure him gently, though he come in fury hot.
 For still are the ways of Wisdom, and her temper trembleth not!

Enter PENTHEUS in fury

PENTHEUS. It is too much! This Eastern knave hath slipped
 His prison, whom I held but now, hard gripped
 In bondage. — Ha! 'Tis he! — What, sirrah, how
 Show'st thou before my portals?

He advances furiously upon him.

DIONYSUS. And set a quiet carriage to thy rage.

PENTHEUS. How comest thou here? How didst thou break thy cage?
 Speak!

DIONYSUS. Said I not, or didst thou mark not me,
 There was One living that should set me free?

PENTHEUS. Who? Ever wilder are these tales of thine.

DIONYSUS. He who first made for man the clustered vine.

PENTHEUS. I scorn him and his vines.

DIONYSUS. For Dionyse'

'Tis well; for in thy scorn his glory lies.

PENTHEUS. Go swift to all the towers, and bar withal
 Each gate!

DIONYSUS. What, cannot God o'erleap a wall?

PENTHEUS. Oh, wit thou hast, save where thou needest it!

DIONYSUS. Whereso it most imports, there is my wit! —

Nay, peace! Abide till he who hasteth from
 The mountain side with news for thee, be come.

We will not fly, but wait on thy command.

Enter suddenly and in haste a Messenger from the Mountain.

MESSENGER. Great Pentheus, Lord of all this Theban land,
 I come from high Kithaeron, where the froze
 Snow spangles gleam and cease not evermore...

PENTHEUS. And what of import may thy coming bring?

MESSENGER. I have seen the Wild White Women there, O King,
 Whose fleet limbs darted arrow-like but now
 From Thebes away, and come to tell thee how
 They work strange deeds and passing marvel. Yet
 I first would learn thy pleasure. Shall I set
 My whole tale forth, or veil the stranger part?
 Yea Lord, I fear the swiftness of thy heart,
 Thine edged wrath and more than royal soul.

PENTHEUS. Thy tale shall nothing scathe thee. — Tell the whole.
It skills not to be wroth with honesty.
Nay, if thy news of them be dark, 'tis he
Shall pay it, who bewitched and led them on.
MESSENGER. Our herded kine were moving in the dawn
Up to the peaks, the greyest, coldest time,
When the first rays steal earthward, and the rime
Yields, when I saw three bands of them. The one
Autonoë led, one Ino, one thine own
Mother, Agave. There beneath the trees
Sleeping they lay, like wild things flung at ease
In the forest; one half sinking on a bed
Of deep pine greenery; one with careless head
Amid the fallen oak leaves; all most cold
In purity — not as thy tale was told
Of wine-cups and wild music and the chase
For love amid the forest's loneliness.
Then rose the Queen Agave suddenly
Amid her band, and gave the God's wild cry,
"Awake, ye Bacchanals! I hear the sound
Of horned kine. Awake ye!" — Then, all round,
Alert, the warm sleep fallen from their eyes,
A marvel of swift ranks I saw them rise,
Dames young and old, and gentle maids unwed
Among them. O'er their shoulders first they shed
Their tresses, and caught up the fallen fold
Of mantles where some clasp had loosened hold,
And girt the dappled fawn-skins in with long
Quick snakes that hissed and writhed with quivering tongue.
And one a young fawn held, and one a wild
Wolf cub, and fed them with white milk, and smiled
In love, young mothers with a mother's breast
And babes at home forgotten! Then they pressed
Wreathed ivy round their brows, and oaken sprays
And flowering bryony. And one would raise
Her wand and smite the rock, and straight a jet
Of quick bright water came. Another set
Her thyrsus in the bosomed earth, and there
Was red wine that the God sent up to her,
A darkling fountain. And if any lips
Sought whiter draughts, with dipping finger-tips
They pressed the sod, and gushing from the ground

Came springs of milk. And reed-wands ivy-crowned
Ran with sweet honey, drop by drop. — O King,
Hadst thou been there, as I, and seen this thing,
With prayer and most high wonder hadst thou gone
To adore this God whom now thou rail'st upon!
Howbeit, the kine-wardens and shepherds straight
Came to one place, amazed, and held debate;
And one being there who walked the streets and scanned
The ways of speech, took lead of them whose hand
Knew but the slow soil and the solemn hill,
And flattering spoke, and asked: "Is it your will,
Masters, we stay the mother of the King,
Agave, from her lawless worshipping,
And win us royal thanks?" — And this seemed good
To all; and through the branching underwood
We hid us, cowering in the leaves. And there
Through the appointed hour they made their prayer
And worship of the Wand, with one accord
Of heart and cry
"Iacchos, Bromios, Lord,
God of God born!" — And all the mountain felt,
And worshipped with them; and the wild things knelt
And ramped and gloried, and the wilderness
Was filled with moving voices and dim stress.
Soon, as it chanced, beside my thicket-close
The Queen herself passed dancing, and I rose
And sprang to seize her. But she turned her face
Upon me: "Ho, my rovers of the chase,
My wild White Hounds, we are hunted! Up, each rod
And follow, follow, for our Lord and God!"
Thereat, for fear they tear us, all we fled
Amazed; and on, with hand unweaponed
They swept toward our herds that browsed the green
Hill grass. Great uddered kine then hadst thou seen
Bellowing in sword-like hands that cleave and tear,

vocabulary

ᾶ ah!

αἰμάσσω make bloody

ἄμπελος (f) vine

ἀναστρέφω act; overturn; mid: find oneself in ~atrophy

ἀναφύρω (ῶ) confuse; defile

ἀνέζω put on, put back ~sit

ἀνήκω reach up to; belong

ἀπαντάω encounter, come upon

ἄπορος impassable, difficult

ἀρπάζω carry off, seize ~harpoon

βασιλείως kingly

βλέφαρον eyelid

βλώσκω come, go

βόστρυχος curl, lock

βύσσινος of linen; bandage

γούν at least then

δέμας -ως (n) body; (+gen.) like

δέρη neck, throat, mane

δεσμέω to chain

δέσμιος binding; enchanting

δεσπότης -ου (m, 1) master, despot

δίχα in two, in two ways

δίχλος having cloven hoofs, pincers

δόλιος tricky, guileful

δουλεία slavery

δούλειος of a slave

δουλεύω serve, be a slave

δράκων -οντος (m, 3) serpent

δρόμος running, racing ground
~hippodrome

ἐκτείνω stretch out ~tend

ἐκτρέπω turn aside

ἐλάτη fir tree; oar

ἐλευθερώω set free

Ἑλλην Greek

ἐμβαίνω step on, board ~basis

ἐμφανής visible

ἐνδύνω (ῶ) go into, put on

ἐνδυτός (clothing) worn

ἐξεῖπον speak out, disclose

ἐξιχνεύω track out

ἐπιστρατεύω march against

ἐπιχείρησις -τος (f) attack

ἐρημώω raze, bereave; desert, isolate

ἐρπω be able to move ~serpent

ἔρω -τος (m) love, desire ~erotic

ἡσυχάζω be quiet, rest

ἡττάομαι (pass) be weaker, be overcome; (active) defeat

θέαμα -τος (ᾱ, n, 3) sight, spectacle

θεατής -οῦ (ᾱ, m, 1) spectator, sightseer

θηράω hunt, chase

θυμός (ῶ) anger

θύρσος ivied wand

θυρσώω make into a wand

κατασκοπή spying

κέντρον goading rod?

κεράω mix in a bowl

κόμη hair ~comet

κραίνω accomplish; (rare) rule

κράς -τός (f, 3) head

κρείσσων more powerful; better

κρήνη well, spring

λάθρα secretly

λακτίζω kick

λέπας -ως (n, 3) bare rock

λυπρός worthless, wretched

μαινάς -δος (f, 3) madwoman, maenad ~maenad

μηχανάομαι build, contrive
~mechanism

μηχανή machine; mechanism, way

μίν him, her, it

μίτρα metal waist guard

μολίσκω come, go

μυριάς -δος (ῶ, f, 3) countless, myriad

μυρίος (ῶ) 10,000 ~myriad

νεάνις -δος (f) young woman ~neon

νεβρός (f) fawn

νέρθε beneath, below

νευρά bowstring ~neuro
 νίζω wash
 νίφω (ι) it snows
 νουθετέω remind, warn
 οἶμοι woe is me
 ὀκνέω shrink from, hesitate; worry
 ὀπλή hoof
 ὀπόσος as many as, how many, how great
 ὀρθόω stand up
 πάλη wrestling ~Pallas
 πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas
 παρηίς cheek
 πέδον ground ~pedal
 πέλτη shield, spear ~pelt
 πέλτης -ου (m, 1) type of river fish
 ~pelt
 πέπλος woman's dress, a folded cylinder of cloth
 πικρός sharp, bitter ~picric
 πλευρά rib, side ~pleurisy
 πλευρόν rib, side ~pleurisy
 ποδήρης foot-length
 προσδοκάω expect
 πτυχή fold, layer
 ῥίπτω hurl
 ῥοά pl: waters of a river ~rheostat
 σάφα with full understanding
 σιγά silence
 σιγάω (ι) be silent

σταγών -τος (f, 3) drop
 στάζω dribble, infuse
 σταθμός cottage; post
 στάχυς head of grain
 στείχω go, march ~stair
 στέλλω prepare, send, furl ~apostle
 στολή equipment
 συγκαθήμεαι live together
 συμπλέκω twine together
 συντίθημι hearken, mark ~thesis
 σφάλλω overthrow, balk, stagger
 σχῆμα -τος (n, 3) form, figure
 ταναός long
 ταρασσω mess things up ~trachea
 ταρβέω be afraid
 ταῦρος bull ~steer
 τερπνός pleasant
 τύραννος tyrant
 ὕβρισμα -τος (n, 3) outrage, insolence
 ὕβριστης -οῦ (m, 1) wanton, savage
 ὑπερβάλλω cause to go beyond; delay ~ballistic
 ὑφάπτω set on fire from underneath
 φθονέω envy
 φυγή flight, means of escape
 ~fugitive
 χαλκήλατος made of brass
 ψάλλω pluck
 φόγος blemish, blame

εἶδες δ' ἂν ἥ πλευρ' ἥ δίχληλον¹ ἔμβασιν 740
 ῥιπτόμεν' ἄνω τε καὶ κάτω· κρεμαστὰ δὲ
 ἔσταζ' ὑπ' ἐλάταις ἀναπεφυρμέν' αἵματι.
 ταῦροι δ' ὑβρίζουσι καὶ κέρας θυμούμενοι
 τὸ πρόσθεν ἐσφάλλοντο πρὸς γαῖαν δέμας,
 μυριάσι χειρῶν ἀγόμενοι νεανίδων. 745
 θᾶσσον δὲ διεφοροῦντο σαρκὸς ἐνδυτὰ
 ἥ σὲ ξυνάψαι βλέφαρα βασιλείοις κόραις.
 χωροῦσι δ' ὥστ' ὄρνιθες ἀρθεῖσαι δρόμῳ
 πεδίων ὑποτάσεις, αἱ παρ' Ἀσωποῦ ῥοαῖς
 εὐκαρπον ἐκβάλλουσι Θηβαίων στάχυν· 750
 Ὑσιᾶς τ' Ἐρυθράς θ', αἱ Κιθαιρῶνος λέπας
 νέρθεν² κατακλήκασιν, ὥστε πολέμοι,
 ἐπεσπεσοῦσαι πάντ' ἄνω τε καὶ κάτω
 διέφερον· ἥρπαζον μὲν ἐκ δόμων τέκνα·
 ὅποσα δ' ἐπ' ὤμοις ἔθεσαν, οὐ δεσμῶν ὕπο 755
 προσείχετ' οὐδ' ἐπιπτεν ἐς μέλαν πέδον,
 οὐ χαλκός, οὐ σίδηρος· ἐπὶ δὲ βοστρύχοις
 πῦρ ἔφερον, οὐδ' ἔκαιεν. οἱ δ' ὀργῆς ὕπο
 ἐς ὅπλ' ἐχώρουν φερόμενοι βακχῶν ὕπο·
 οὐπερ τὸ δεινὸν ἦν θέαμ'³ ἰδεῖν, ἀναξ. 760
 τοῖς μὲν γὰρ οὐχ ἥμασσε⁴ λογχωτὸν βέλος,
 κεῖναι δὲ θύρσους ἐξανιείσαι χερῶν
 ἐτραυμάτιζον καπενώτιζον φυγῇ
 γυναικες ἄνδρας, οὐκ ἄνευ θεῶν τινος.
 πάλιν δ' ἐχώρουν ὅθεν ἐκίνησαν πόδα, 765

¹ having cloven hoofs, pincers ² beneath, below ³ sight, spectacle ⁴ make bloody

κρήνας ἐπ' αὐτὰς ἅς ἀνήκ' αὐταῖς θεός.
 νύβαντο δ' αἶμα, σταγόνα⁵ δ' ἐκ παρηίδων
 γλώσση δράκοντες ἐξεφαιδρυνον χροός.
 τὸν δαίμον' οὖν τόνδ' ὅστις ἔστ', ὦ δέσποτα,
 δέχου πόλει τῇδ'· ὡς τά τ' ἄλλ' ἐστὶν μέγας,
 κακεῖνό φασιν αὐτόν, ὡς ἐγὼ κλύω,
 τὴν παυσίλυπον ἄμπελον δοῦναι βροτοῖς.
 οἶνου δὲ μηκέτ' ὄντος οὐκ ἔστιν Κύπρις
 οὐδ' ἄλλο τερπνὸν οὐδὲν ἀνθρώποις ἔτι.

770

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ταρβῶ⁶ μὲν εἰπεῖν τοὺς λόγους ἐλευθέρους
 πρὸς τὸν τύραννον, ἀλλ' ὅμως εἰρήσεται·
 Διόνυσος ἦσσαν οὐδενὸς θεῶν ἔφυ.

775

ΠΕΝΘΕΥΣ. ἤδη τόδ' ἐγγὺς ὥστε πῦρ ὑφάπτεται
 ὕβρισμα βακχῶν, ψόγος⁷ ἐς Ἑλλήνας μέγας.
 ἀλλ' οὐκ ὀκνεῖν⁸ δεῖ· στεῖχ' ἐπ' Ἥλέκτρας ἰὼν
 πύλας· κέλευε πάντας ἀσπιδηφόρους
 ἵππων τ' ἀπαντᾶν ταχυπόδων ἐπεμβάτας
 πέλτας θ' ὅσοι πάλλουσι καὶ τόξων χερὶ
 ψάλλουσι⁹ νευράς, ὡς ἐπιστρατεύσομεν
 βάκχαισιν· οὐ γὰρ ἀλλ' ὑπερβάλλει τάδε,
 εἰ πρὸς γυναικῶν πεισόμεσθ' ἂν πάσχομεν.

780

785

ΔΙΟΝΥΣΟΣ. πεῖθῃ μὲν οὐδέν, τῶν ἐμῶν λόγων κλύων,
 Πενθεῦ· κακῶς δὲ πρὸς σέθεν πάσχων ὅμως
 οὐ φημι χρῆναί σ' ὅπλ' ἐπαίρεσθαι θεῶ,
 ἀλλ' ἡσυχάζειν· Βρόμιος οὐκ ἀνέξεται
 κινουντα βάκχας σ' εὐίων ὁρῶν ἄπο.

790

⁵ drop ⁶ be afraid ⁷ blemish, blame ⁸ shrink from, hesitate; worry
⁹ pluck

ΠΕΝ. οὐ μὴ φρενώσεις μ', ἀλλὰ δέσμιος φυγῶν

σώσῃ τόδ'; ἢ σοὶ πάλιν ἀναστρέψω δίκην;

ΔΙ. θύοιμ' ἂν αὐτῷ μᾶλλον ἢ θυμούμενος

πρὸς κέντρα¹⁰ λακτίζοιμ¹¹ θνητὸς ὦν θεῶ. 795

ΠΕΝ. θύσω, φόνον γε θήλυν, ὥσπερ ἄξιαί,

πολὺν ταραξάς ἐν Κιθαιρώνος πτυχαῖς.

ΔΙ. φεύξεσθε πάντες· καὶ τόδ' αἰσχρόν, ἀσπίδας

θύρσοισι βακχῶν ἐκτρέπειν χαλκηλάτους¹²

ΠΕΝ. ἀπόρω γε τῷδε συμπεπλέγμεθα ξένω, 800

ὃς οὔτε πάσχων οὔτε δρῶν σιγήσεται.

ΔΙ. ὦ τᾶν, ἔτ' ἔστιν εὖ καταστήσαι τάδε.

ΠΕΝ. τί δρῶντα; δουλεύοντα δουλείαις ἐμαῖς;

ΔΙ. ἐγὼ γυναικας δεῦρ' ὅπλων ἄξω δίχα.

ΠΕΝ. οἴμοι· τόδ' ἤδη δόλιον ἔς με μηχανᾷ. 805

ΔΙ. ποῖόν τι, σῶσαί σ' εἰ θέλω τέχναις ἐμαῖς;

ΠΕΝ. ξυνέθεσθε κοινῇ τάδ', ἵνα βακχεύητ' αἰεῖ.

ΔΙ. καὶ μὴν ξυνεθέμην— τοῦτό γ' ἔστι— τῷ θεῷ.

ΠΕΝ. ἐκφέρετέ μοι δεῦρ' ὅπλα, σὺ δὲ παῦσαι λέγων.

ΔΙ. ᾄ. 810

βούλῃ σφ' ἐν ὄρεσι συγκαθημένας ἰδεῖν;

ΠΕΝ. μάλιστα, μυρίον γε δοὺς χρυσοῦ σταθμόν.

ΔΙ. τί δ' εἰς ἔρωτα τοῦδε πέπτωκας μέγαν;

ΠΕΝ. λυπρῶς¹³ νιν εἰσίδοιμ' ἂν ἐξωνωμένας.

ΔΙ. ὅμως δ' ἴδοις ἂν ἡδέως ἅ σοι πικρά; 815

ΠΕΝ. σάφ' ἴσθι, σιγῇ γ' ὑπ' ἐλάταις καθήμενος.

ΔΙ. ἀλλ' ἐξιχνεύσουσίν σε, κἂν ἔλθῃς λάθρα.¹⁴

¹⁰ goading rod? ¹¹ kick ¹² made of brass ¹³ worthless, wretched

¹⁴ secretly

- ΠΕΝ. ἀλλ' ἐμφανῶς· καλῶς γὰρ ἐξείπας τάδε.
- ΔΙ. ἄγωμεν οὖν σε κἀπιχειρήσεις ὁδῶ;
- ΠΕΝ. ἄγ' ὥς τάχιστα, τοῦ χρόνου δέ σοι φθονῶ. 820
- ΔΙ. στείλαι νυν ἀμφὶ χρωτὶ βυσσίνους¹⁵ πέπλους.
- ΠΕΝ. τί δὴ τόδ'; ἐς γυναικας ἐξ ἀνδρὸς τελῶ;
- ΔΙ. μή σε κτάνωσι, ἣν ἀνὴρ ὀφθῆς ἐκεῖ.
- ΠΕΝ. εὖ γ' εἶπας αὖ τόδ'· ὥς τις εἰ πάλοι σοφός.
- ΔΙ. Διόνυσος ἡμᾶς ἐξεμούσωσεν τάδε. 825
- ΠΕΝ. πῶς οὖν γένοιτ' ἂν ἃ σύ με νουθετεῖς¹⁶ καλῶς;
- ΔΙ. ἐγὼ στελῶ σε δωμάτων ἔσω μολῶν.
- ΠΕΝ. τίνα στολὴν; ἢ θῆλυν; ἀλλ' αἰδώς μ' ἔχει.
- ΔΙ. οὐκέτι θεατῆς¹⁷ μαινάδων πρόθυμος εἶ.
- ΠΕΝ. στολὴν δὲ τίνα φῆς ἀμφὶ χρωτ' ἐμὸν βαλεῖν; 830
- ΔΙ. κόμην μὲν ἐπὶ σῶ κρατὶ ταναὸν ἐκτενῶ.
- ΠΕΝ. τὸ δεύτερον δὲ σχῆμα τοῦ κόσμου τί μοι;
- ΔΙ. πέπλοι ποδήρεις·¹⁸ ἐπὶ κάρᾳ δ' ἔσται μίτρα.
- ΠΕΝ. ἢ καί τι πρὸς τοῖσδ' ἄλλο προσθήσεις ἐμοί;
- ΔΙ. θύρσον γε χειρὶ καὶ νεβροῦ στικτὸν δέρας. 835
- ΠΕΝ. οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην θῆλυν ἐνδύειν στολὴν.
- ΔΙ. ἀλλ' αἶμα θήσεις συμβαλὼν βάκχαις μάχην.
- ΠΕΝ. ὀρθῶς· μολεῖν χρὴ πρῶτον εἰς κατασκοπήν.
- ΔΙ. σοφώτερον γοῦν ἢ κακοῖς θηρᾶν κακά.
- ΠΕΝ. καὶ πῶς δι' ἄστεως εἶμι Καδμείους λαθῶν; 840
- ΔΙ. ὁδοὺς ἐρήμους ἔμεν· ἐγὼ δ' ἡγήσομαι.
- ΠΕΝ. πᾶν κρεῖσσον ὥστε μὴ γγελᾶν βάκχας ἐμοί.
ἐλθόντ' ἐς οἴκους ἂν δοκῇ βουλευσομαι.

¹⁵ of linen; bandage

¹⁶ remind, warn

¹⁷ spectator, sightseer

¹⁸ foot-length

A live steer riven asunder, and the air
Tossed with rent ribs or limbs of cloven tread,
And flesh upon the branches, and a red
Rain from the deep green pines. Yea, bulls of pride,
Horns swift to rage, were fronted and aside
Flung stumbling, by those multitudinous hands
Dragged pitilessly. And swifter were the bands
Of garbed flesh and bone unbound withal
Than on thy royal eyes the lids may fall.
Then on like birds, by their own speed upborne,
They swept toward the plains of waving corn
That lie beside Asopus' banks, and bring
To Thebes the rich fruit of her harvesting.
On Hysiae and Erythrae that lie nursed
Amid Kithaeron's bowering rocks, they burst
Destroying, as a foeman's army comes.
They caught up little children from their homes,
High on their shoulders, babes unheld, that swayed
And laughed and fell not; all a wreck they made;
Yea, bronze and iron did shatter, and in play
Struck hither and thither, yet no wound had they;
Caught fire from out the hearths, yea, carried hot
Flames in their tresses and were scorched not!
The village folk in wrath took spear and sword,
And turned upon the Bacchae. Then, dread Lord,
The wonder was. For spear nor barbed brand
Could scathe nor touch the damsels; but the Wand,
The soft and wreathed wand their white hands sped,
Blasted those men and quelled them, and they fled
Dizzily. Sure some God was in these things!
And the holy women back to those strange springs
Returned, that God had sent them when the day
Dawned, on the upper heights; and washed away
The stain of battle. And those girdling snakes
Hissed out to lap the waterdrops from cheeks
And hair and breast.
Therefore I counsel thee
O King, receive this Spirit, whoe'er he be,
To Thebes in glory. Greatness manifold
Is all about him; and the tale is told
That this is he who first to man did give
The grief-assuaging vine. Oh, let him live;

For if he die, then Love herself is slain,
And nothing joyous in the world again!

LEADER. Albeit I tremble, and scarce may speak my thought
To a king's face, yet will I hide it not.

Dionyse is God, no God more true nor higher!

PENTHEUS. It bursts hard by us, like a smothered fire,
This frenzy of Bacchic women! All my land
Is made their mock. — This needs an iron hand!

Ho, Captain! Quick to the Electran Gate;
Bid gather all my men at arms thereat;
Call all that spur the charger, all who know
To wield the orb'd targe or bend the bow;
We march to war — 'Fore God, shall women dare
Such deeds against us? 'Tis too much to bear!

DIONYSUS. Thou mark'st me not, O King, and holdest light
My solemn words; yet, in thine own despite,
I warn thee still. Lift thou not up thy spear
Against a God, but hold thy peace, and fear
His wrath! He will not brook it, if thou fright
His Chosen from the hills of their delight.

PENTHEUS. Peace, thou! And if for once thou hast slipped chain,
Give thanks! — Or shall I knot thine arms again?

DIONYSUS. Better to yield him prayer and sacrifice
Than kick against the pricks, since Dionyse
Is God, and thou but mortal.

PENTHEUS. That will I!

Yea, sacrifice of women's blood, to cry
His name through all Kithaeron!

DIONYSUS. Ye shall fly,
All, and abase your shields of bronzen rim
Before their wands.

PENTHEUS. There is no way with him,
This stranger that so dogs us! Well or ill
I may entreat him, he must babble still!

DIONYSUS. Wait, good my friend! These crooked matters may
Even yet be straightened.

PENTHEUS has started as though to seek his army at the gate.

PENTHEUS. Aye, if I obey
Mine own slaves' will; how else?

DIONYSUS. Myself will lead
The damsels hither, without sword or steed.

PENTHEUS. How now? — This is some plot against me!

DIONYSUS. What

Dost fear? Only to save thee do I plot.

PENTHEUS. It is some compact ye have made, whereby

To dance these hills for ever!

DIONYSUS. Verily,

That is my compact, plighted with my Lord!

PENTHEUS. Ho, armourers! Bring forth my shield and sword! —

And thou, be silent!

DIONYSUS. Ah! — Have then thy will!

He fixes his eyes upon PENTHEUS again, while the armourers bring out his armour; then speaks in a tone of command.

Man, thou wouldst fain behold them on the hill

Praying!

PENTHEUS (who during the rest of this scene, with a few exceptions, simply speaks the thoughts that DIONYSUS puts into him, losing power over his own mind)

That would I, though it cost me all

The gold of Thebes!

DIONYSUS. So much? Thou art quick to fall

To such great longing.

PENTHEUS. Aye; 'twould grieve me much

To see them flown with wine.

DIONYSUS. Yet cravest thou such

A sight as would much grieve thee?

PENTHEUS. Yes; I fain

Would watch, ambushed among the pines.

DIONYSUS. 'Twere vain

To hide. They soon will track thee out.

PENTHEUS. Well said!

Twere best done openly.

DIONYSUS. Wilt thou be led

By me, and try the venture?

PENTHEUS. Aye, indeed!

Lead on. Why should we tarry?

DIONYSUS. First we need

A rich and trailing robe of fine-linen

To gird thee.

PENTHEUS. Nay; am I a woman, then,

And no man more.

DIONYSUS. Wouldst have them slay thee dead?

No man may see their mysteries.

PENTHEUS. Well said' —

I marked thy subtle temper long ere now.
DIONYSUS. 'Tis Dionyse that prompteth me.
PENTHEUS. And how
Mean'st thou the further plan?
DIONYSUS. First take thy way
Within. I will array thee.
PENTHEUS. What array!
The woman's? Nay, I will not.
DIONYSUS. Doth it change
So soon, all thy desire to see this strange
Adoring?
PENTHEUS. Wait! What garb wilt thou bestow
About me?
DIONYSUS. First a long tress dangling low
Beneath thy shoulders.
PENTHEUS. Aye, and next?
DIONYSUS. The same red
Robe, falling to thy feet; and on thine head
A snood.
PENTHEUS. And after? Hast thou aught beyond?
DIONYSUS. Surely; the dappled fawn-skin and the wand.
PENTHEUS. Enough! I cannot wear a robe and snood.
DIONYSUS. Wouldst liefer draw the sword and spill men's blood?
PENTHEUS. True, that were evil. — Aye; 'tis best to go
First to some place of watch.
DIONYSUS. Far wiser so,
Than seek by wrath wrath's bitter recompense.
PENTHEUS. What of the city streets? Canst lead me hence
Unseen of any?
DIONYSUS. Lonely and untried
Thy path from hence shall be, and I thy guide!
PENTHEUS. I care for nothing, so these Bacchanals

vocabulary

ἄγνωμοσύνη senselessness,
 ignorance, folly
 αἰθήρ ether, air, sky ~ether
 αἰνέω praise, assent, acquiesce in
 αἶσα -εως share, fate; properly, duly
 ~etiology
 ἀνασεῖω shake back, out
 ἀπειλέω vow, threaten, boast
 ἀπειλή boast, threat
 ἀπευθύνω make straight, direct
 ἄρκυς net
 βίोटος life; sustenance, chattels
 ~biology
 βόλος cast (a net, dice)
 βούλευμα -τος (n, 3) resolution,
 purpose
 γέλως laughter
 γέρας -ως (n, 3) reward, honor
 δαιμόνιος voc: you crazy guy
 δαπανάω spend, consume, waste
 δαπάνη cost, funds, extravagance
 δέρη neck, throat, mane
 δισσός double
 δράμημα running course
 δροσερός dewy
 ἔδρα (ᾱ) seat, seated group
 ~polyhedron
 εἰχάζω liken; conjecture
 εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with
 respect ~panorama
 ἐλαφρός nimble, light on one's feet;
 light, bearable ~elevator
 ἐνδίδωμι hand over, lend, show,
 allow
 ἔνδον in the house of; within
 ἐνδύνω (υ) go into, put on
 ἐνδύω go into, put on
 ἔνδω in the house of; within
 ἔνεμι be in ~ion
 ἐνθένδε hence
 ἐνσπονδος party to a truce

ἔξειμι go forth; is possible ~ion
 ἐξῆς in turn
 ἐξίστημι displace, transform; (+gen)
 give up ~station
 ἐρημία wilderness, solitude
 ἔρνος -εος (n, 3) sapling
 εὐδαίμων blessed with a good
 genius
 εὐμενής kind
 εὐπλεκτος well braided ~complex
 εὐτρεπής ready
 ζώνη girdle; waist, loins ~zone
 ἡδομαι be pleased, enjoy
 ~hedonism
 ἡδονή pleasure
 ἡνίκα when
 ἥπιος kind (adj)
 θῆλυς female; (rare) abundant
 ~female
 θήρα hunt ~fierce
 θηράω hunt, chase
 θρώσκω spring, dart ~dart
 θύρσος ivied wand
 ἱς ἰνός (i, f) force, muscle
 ἰσχύς -ος (f) strength; body of troops
 καθαριμῶ fit in place
 κάρ -ός (n) useless bit; form of κατά
 κάρα (αᾱ) head (n) ~cranium
 κατάσκοπος spy, inspector
 κατασφάζω slaughter
 κιχάνω (ᾱ) catch up with, encounter,
 reach; catch, grip, hit, afflict ~go
 κορυφή peak, crown
 κοσμέω marshal, array ~cosmos
 κοῦφος light, nimble
 κράς -τός (f, 3) head
 κρείσσων more powerful; better
 λόχος ambush, band, childbirth ~lie
 λύσσα battle rage
 μαινάς -δος (f, 3) madwoman,
 maenad ~maenad
 μακαρίζω congratulate ~macarism

μεθίστημι change, substitute;
 withdraw; change sides; (mid) send
 away ~station
μεθορμίζω move anchorage
μελετάω pursue, attend to, exercise
μέλος -ους (n, 3) limb; melody
μίν him, her, it
μίτρα metal waist guard
μόλις with difficulty, barely
μορφή beauty
μόχθος toil
μυρίος (ὁ) 10,000 ~myriad
νεβρός (f) fawn
νόμιμος customary, legal, natural
ὄλβος happiness, wealth
ὁμαρτέω act together, be a
 companion ~harmony
ὄπλή hoof
ὀρθόω stand up
ὀφλισκάνω lose; incur debt
παννύχιος all-night ~nocturnal
πάντη everywhere
παραποτάμιος by a river
παρέρχομαι pass, escape
πάροιθε in the presence of
πέπλος woman's dress, a folded
 cylinder of cloth
πιστός faithful; trustworthy
πλόκαμος lock of hair
ποικίλος ornamented; various
πόλισμα buildings of a city
πότε when?
πότερος which, whichever of two
πρέπω be conspicuous, preeminent
 ~refurbish
πρόθυμος (ὁ) willing, eager ~fume

προσάπτω attach to ~haptic
προσφύω grab onto, attach oneself
 to ~physics
πρόσω forward, in the future; far
πτυχή fold, layer
ρίπτω hurl
σθένος -εος (n, 3) strength
 ~neurasthenia
σκευή equipment
σοφός skilled, clever, wise
σπεύδω 'push on,' get going, hurry
 ~repudiate
στάσις -εως (f) placing; faction
στείχω go, march ~stair
στολή equipment
συντείνω tighten, put strain on
σφυρόν ankle, foothill
σώφρων sensible, prudent ~frenzy
ταυρόομαι become a bull or like one
ταῦρος bull ~steer
τείνω stretch, tend ~tense
τένων -οντος (m, 3) tendon, sinew
 ~tendon
τίνω (ι) pay, atone for; (mp) punish
ύλάω bark (a dog)
ύλη (ὁ) forest, firewood
ὑπερθεν from above
φοβερός frightful, afraid
φύσις -εως (f) nature (of a thing)
 ~physics
φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
χαλάω let fall; become slack
χειμα winter, cold weather
χορός dance; chorus ~terpsichorean
χρῆζω need ~chresard

ΔΙΟΝΥΣΟΣ. ἔξεστι· πάντῃ τό γ' ἐμὸν εὐτρεπὲς πάρα.

ΠΕΝΘΕΥΣ. στείχοιμ' ἄν· ἡ γὰρ ὄπλ' ἔχων πορεύσομαι

845

ἢ τοῖσι σοῖσι πείσομαι βουλευμασιν.¹

ΔΙ. γυναῖκες, ἀνὴρ ἐς βόλον² καθίσταται,

ἥξει δὲ βάκχας, οὗ θανὼν δώσει δίκην.

Διόνυσε, νῦν σὸν ἔργον· οὐ γὰρ εἰ πρόσω·

τεισώμεθ' αὐτόν. πρῶτα δ' ἔκστησον φρενῶν,

850

ἐνείς ἐλαφρὰν³ λύσσαν· ὡς φρονῶν μὲν εὖ

οὐ μὴ θελήσῃ θῆλυν ἐνδύναι στολήν,

ἔξω δ' ἐλαύνων τοῦ φρονεῖν ἐνδύσεται.

χρήζω δέ νιν γέλωτα Θηβαίοις ὀφλεῖν

γυναικόμορφον ἀγόμενον δι' ἄστεως

855

ἐκ τῶν ἀπειλῶν τῶν πρὶν, αἷσι δεινὸς ἦν.

ἀλλ' εἴμι κόσμον ὄνπερ εἰς Ἄιδου λαβὼν

ἄπεισι μητρὸς ἐκ χεροῖν κατασφαγείς,

Πενθεὶ προσάψων· γνώσεται δὲ τὸν Διὸς

Διόνυσον, ὃς πέφυκεν ἐν τέλει θεός,

860

δεινότατος, ἀνθρώποισι δ' ἡπιώτατος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἄρ' ἐν παννυχίοις χοροῖς

θήσω ποτὲ λευκὸν

πόδ' ἀναβακχεύουσα, δέραν⁴

εἰς αἰθέρα δροσερὸν⁵ ρίπτουσ',

865

ὡς νεβρὸς χλοεραῖς ἐμπαῖ

ζουσα λείμακος ἡδοναῖς,

ἡνίκ' ἂν φοβερὰν φύγῃ

θήραν ἔξω φυλακᾶς

¹ resolution, purpose ² cast (a net, dice) ³ nimble, light on one's feet;
light, bearable ⁴ neck, throat, mane ⁵ dewy

εὐπλέκτων ὑπὲρ ἀρκύων, 870
 θαύσσω δὲ κυναγέτας
 συντείνῃ δράμμημα κυνῶν·
 μόχθοις τ' ὠκυδρομοῖς τ' ἀέλ' λαις θρώσκει πεδῖον
 παραποτάμον, ἡδομένα
 βροτῶν ἐρημίαις σκιαροῦ 875
 κόμοιό τ' ἔρνεσιν ὕλας.
 τί τὸ σοφόν; ἢ τί τὸ κάλλιον
 παρὰ θεῶν γέρας ἐν βροτοῖς
 ἢ χεῖρ' ὑπὲρ κορυφᾶς
 τῶν ἐχθρῶν κρείσσω κατέχειν; 880
 ὅ τι καλὸν φίλον αἰεί.

ΧΟ. ὀρμᾶται μόλις, ἀλλ' ὅμως

πιστόν τι τὸ θεῖον
 σθένος· ἀπευθύνει δὲ βροτῶν
 τούς τ' ἀγνωμοσύναν⁶ τιμῶν' 885
 τας καὶ μὴ τὰ θεῶν αὔξον'
 τας σὺν μαινομένα δόξα.
 κρυπτεύουσι δὲ ποικίλως
 δαρὸν χρόνου πόδα καὶ
 θηρώσιν τὸν ἄσεπτον. οὐ 890
 γὰρ κρείσσον ποτε τῶν νόμων
 γιγνώσκειν χρῆ καὶ μελετᾶν.
 κούφα⁷ γὰρ δαπάνα νομί' ζειν ἰσχὺν τόδ' ἔχειν,
 ὅ τι ποτ' ἄρα τὸ δαιμόνιον,
 τό τ' ἐν χρόνῳ μακροῦ νόμμου 895

⁶ senselessness, ignorance, folly ⁷ light, nimble

ἀεὶ φύσει τε πεφυκός.

τί τὸ σοφόν; ἢ τί τὸ κάλλιον

παρὰ θεῶν γέρας ἐν βροτοῖς

ἢ χεῖρ' ὑπὲρ κορυφᾶς

τῶν ἐχθρῶν κρείσσω κατέχειν;

900

ὅ τι καλὸν φίλον αἰεί.

ΧΟ. εὐδαίμων μὲν ὅς ἐκ θαλάσσης

ἔφυγε χεῖμα,⁸ λιμένα δ' ἔκικεν·

εὐδαίμων δ' ὅς ὑπερθε μόχθων

ἐγένεθ'· ἐτέρᾳ δ' ἕτερος ἕτερον

905

ὄλβῳ καὶ δυνάμει παρήλθεν.

μυρίαί δ' ἔτι μυρίοις

εἰσὶν ἐλπίδες· αἱ μὲν τελευτῶσιν ἐν ὄλβῳ

βροτοῖς, αἱ δ' ἀπέβησαν·

τὸ δὲ κατ' ἡμᾶρ ὅτῳ βίोटος

910

εὐδαίμων, μακαρίζω.⁹

ΔΙ. σὲ τὸν πρόθυμον ὄνθ' ἂ μὴ χρεῶν ὀρᾶν

σπεύδοντά τ' ἀσπούδαστα, Πενθέα λέγω,

ἔξιθι πάροιθε δωμάτων, ὄφθητί μοι,

σκευὴν γυναικὸς μαινάδος βάκχης ἔχων,

915

μητρὸς τε τῆς σῆς καὶ λόχου κατάσκοπος·

πρέπεις δὲ Κάδμου θυγατέρων μορφὴν μιᾷ.

ΠΕΝ. καὶ μὴν ὀρᾶν μοι δύο μὲν ἡλίους δοκῶ,

δισσὰς¹⁰ δὲ Θήβας καὶ πόλιν¹¹ ἐπτάστομον·

καὶ ταῦρος ἡμῖν πρόσθεν ἡγεῖσθαι δοκεῖς

920

καὶ σῶ κέρατα κρατὶ προσπεφυκέναι.

⁸ winter, cold weather ⁹ congratulate ¹⁰ double ¹¹ buildings of a city

ἀλλ' ἢ ποτ' ἦσθα θήρ; τεταύρωσαι¹² γὰρ οἶν.

ΔΙ. ὁ θεὸς ὁμαρτεῖ,¹³ πρόσθεν ὦν οὐκ εὐμενής,¹⁴

ἔνσπονδος ἡμῖν· νῦν δ' ὀρᾷς ἅ χρη' σ' ὀρᾷν.

ΠΕΝ. τί φαίνομαι δῆτ'; οὐχὶ τὴν Ἴνοῦς στάσιν 925

ἢ τὴν Ἀγαυῆς ἐστάναι, μητρὸς γ' ἐμῆς;

ΔΙ. αὐτὰς ἐκείνας εἰσορᾷν δοκῶ σ' ὀρώων.

ἀλλ' ἐξ ἔδρας σοι πλόκαμος ἐξέστηχ' ὄδε,

οὐχ ὥς ἐγὼ νιν ὑπὸ μίτρα καθήρμυσα.

ΠΕΝ. ἔνδον προσείων αὐτὸν ἀνασείων τ' ἐγὼ 930

καὶ βακχιάζων ἐξ ἔδρας μεθώρμυσα.

ΔΙ. ἀλλ' αὐτὸν ἡμεῖς, οἷς σε θεραπεύειν μέλει,

πάλιν καταστελοῦμεν· ἀλλ' ὄρθου¹⁵ κάρα.

ΠΕΝ. ἰδοῦ, σὺ κόσμει· σοὶ γὰρ ἀνακείμεσθα δῆ.

ΔΙ. ζῶναί¹⁶ τέ σοι χαλῶσι¹⁷ κοῦχ ἐξῆς πέπλων 935

στολίδες ὑπὸ σφυροῖσι¹⁸ τείνουσιν σέθεν.

ΠΕΝ. κάμοι δοκοῦσι παρά γε δεξιὸν πόδα·

τάνθενδε δ' ὀρθῶς παρὰ τένοντ'¹⁹ ἔχει πέπλος.

ΔΙ. ἢ πού με τῶν σῶν πρῶτον ἡγήσῃ φίλων,

ὅταν παρὰ λόγον σάφρονας βάκχας ἴδῃς. 940

ΠΕΝ. πότερα δὲ θύρσον δεξιᾷ λαβὼν χερὶ

ἢ τῇδε, βάκχῃ μᾶλλον εἰκασθήσομαι;

ΔΙ. ἐν δεξιᾷ χρη' χάμα δεξιῷ ποδὶ

αἴρειν νιν· αἰνῶ δ' ὅτι μεθέστηκας φρενῶν.

ΠΕΝ. ἄρ' ἂν δυναίμην τὰς Κιθαιρώνος πτυχὰς 945

αὐταῖσι βάκχαις τοῖς ἐμοῖς ὤμοις φέρειν;

¹² become a bull or like one ¹³ act together, be a companion ¹⁴ kind
¹⁵ stand up ¹⁶ girdle; waist, loins ¹⁷ let fall; become slack ¹⁸ ankle,
 foothill ¹⁹ tendon, sinew

Triumph not against me! ...Forward to my halls

Within! — I will ordain what seemeth best.

DIONYSUS. So be it, O King! 'Tis mine to obey thine hest,

Whate'er it be.

PENTHEUS. Well, I will go — perchance

To march and scatter them with serried lance.

Perchance to take thy plan... I know not yet.

Exit PENTHEUS into the Castle.

DIONYSUS. Damsels, the lion walketh to the net!

He finds his Bacchae now, and sees and dies,

And pays for all his sin! — O Dionyse,

This is thine hour and thou not far away.

Grant us our vengeance! — First, O Master, stay

The course of reason in him, and instil

A foam of madness. Let his seeing will,

Which ne'er had stooped to put thy vesture on,

Be darkened, till the deed is lightly done.

Grant likewise that he find through all his streets

Loud scorn, this man of wrath and bitter threats

That made Thebes tremble, led in woman's guise.

I go to fold that robe of sacrifice

On Pentheus, that shall deck him to the dark.

His mother's gift! — So shall he learn and mark

God's true Son, Dionyse, in fulness God,

Most fearful, yet to man most soft of mood.

Exit DIONYSUS, following PENTHEUS into Castle.

CHORUS. Will they ever come to me, ever again,

The long long dances,

On through the dark till the dim stars wane?

Shall I feel the dew on my throat, and the stream

Of wind in my hair? Shall our white feet gleam

In the dim expanses?

Oh, feet of a fawn to the greenwood fled,

Alone in the grass and the loveliness;

Leap of the hunted, no more in dread,

Beyond the snares and the deadly press:

Yet a voice still in the distance sounds,

A voice and a fear and a haste of hounds;

O wildly labouring, fiercely fleet,

Onward yet by river and glen ...

Is it joy or terror, ye storm-swift feet? ...

To the dear lone lands untroubled of men,

Where no voice sounds, and amid the shadowy green
 The little things of the woodland live unseen.
 What else is Wisdom? What of man's endeavour
 Or God's high grace, so lovely and so great?
 To stand from fear set free, to breathe and wait;
 To hold a hand uplifted over Hate;
 And shall not Loveliness be loved for ever?
 O Strength of God, slow art thou and still,
 Yet fairest never!
 On them that worship the Ruthless Will,
 On them that dream, doth His judgment wait.
 Dreams of the proud man, making great
 And greater ever,
 Things which are not of God. In wide
 And devious coverts, hunter-wise,
 He coucheth Time's unhasting stride,
 Following, following, him whose eyes
 Look not to Heaven. For all is vain,
 The pulse of the heart, the plot of the brain,
 That striveth beyond the laws that live.
 And is thy Fate so much to give,
 Is it so hard a thing to see,
 That the Spirit of God, whate'er it be,
 The Law that abides and changes not, ages long,
 The Eternal and Nature-born — these things be strong?
 What else is Wisdom? What of man's endeavour
 Or God's high grace so lovely and so great?
 To stand from fear set free, to breathe and wait;
 To hold a hand uplifted over Hate;
 And shall not Loveliness be loved for ever?
 LEADER. Happy he, on the weary sea
 Who hath fled the tempest and won the haven.
 Happy whoso hath risen, free,
 Above his striving. For strangely graven
 Is the orb of life, that one and another
 In gold and power may outpass his brother,
 And men in their millions float and flow
 And seethe with a million hopes as leaven;
 And they win their Will, or they miss their Will,
 And the hopes are dead or are pined for still,
 But whoe'er can know,
 As the long days go,

That To Live is happy, hath found his Heaven!

Re-enter DIONYSUS, from the Castle

DIONYSUS. O eye that cravest sights thou must not see,
O heart athirst for that which slakes not! Thee,
Pentheus, I call; forth and be seen, in guise
Of woman, Maenad, saint of Dionyse,
To spy upon His Chosen and thine own
Mother!

Enter PENTHEUS, clad like a Bacchanal, and strangely excited, a spirit of
Bacchic madness overshadowing him.

Thy shape, methinks, is like to one
Of Cadmus' royal maids!

PENTHEUS. Yea; and mine eye
Is bright! Yon sun shines twofold in the sky,
Thebes twofold and the Wall of Seven Gates...
And is it a Wild Bull this, that walks and waits
Before me? There are horns upon thy brow!
What art thou, man or beast! For surely now
The Bull is on thee!

DIONYSUS. He who erst was wrath,
Goes with us now in gentleness. He hath
Unsealed thine eyes to see what thou shouldst see.

PENTHEUS. Say; stand I not as Ino stands, or she
Who bore me?

DIONYSUS. When I look on thee, it seems
I see their very selves! — But stay; why streams
That lock abroad, not where I laid it, crossed
Under the coif?

PENTHEUS. I did it, as I tossed
My head in dancing, to and fro, and cried
His holy music!

DIONYSUS. It shall soon be tied
Aright. 'Tis mine to tend thee... Nay, but stand
With head straight.

PENTHEUS. In the hollow of thine hand
I lay me. Deck me as thou wilt.

DIONYSUS. Thy zone
Is loosened likewise; and the folded gown
Not evenly falling to the feet.

PENTHEUS. 'Tis so,
By the right foot. But here methinks, they flow
In one straight line to the heel.

DIONYSUS. And if thou prove
Their madness true, aye, more than true, what love
And thanks hast thou for me?

PENTHEUS. In my right hand
Is it, or thus, that I should bear the wand
To be most like to them?

DIONYSUS. Up let it swing
In the right hand, timed with the right foot's spring...'
Tis well thy heart is changed!

PENTHEUS. What strength is this!
Kithaeron's steeps and all that in them is —
How say'st thou? — Could my shoulders lift

vocabulary

ἀβρότης -τος (f, 3) splendor, luxury
ἀγέλη herd ~demagogue
ἄγκος -εος (n, 3) bend; glen
 ~ankylosaurus
ἄγών -ος (m, 3) gathering place
 ~agony
ἄδικος unfair; obstinate, bad
ἄθεος godless; by the gods
ἄλυπος (ῥ) painless
ἀναγκάζω force, compel
ἀναμένω wait for ~remain
ἄνανδρος without men; not manlike
 ~androgynous
ἀνασπάω draw again ~spatula
ἄνομος lawless
ἀπάγω lead away, back
 ~demagogue
ἄπτω set on fire; attach; mid: touch,
 seize ~haptic
βάρβαρος non-Greek
βίος life ~biology
βλώσκω come, go
βραχίων -ονος (m, 3) upper arm,
 shoulder
βρότειος mortal
βρόχος rope, noose
γελάω laugh, smile, laugh at
γηγενής indigenous, primeval
γλῶσσα tongue, language ~glossary
γόνος offspring ~genus
δέμας -ως (n) body; (+gen.) like
δεσμέω to chain
δεσμός bond, latch, strap; also (pl)
 headdress
δεσπότης -ου (m, 1) master, despot
διόλλυμι (ῥ) be ruined
δοκεύω watch, monitor ~doctrine
δόλιος tricky, guileful
δράκων -οντος (m, 3) serpent
ἔδρα (ᾱ) seat, seated group
 ~polyhedron

εἰσβάλλω throw into ~ballistic
ἐκβαίνω come forth, disembark
 ~basis
ἐκβάλλω throw out, fell, let fall
 ~ballistic
ἐκπορίζω provide; invent
ἐλάτη fir tree; oar
ἐξεργάζομαι accomplish; undo;
 destroy someone
ἐπίσημον mark, badge
ἐπίσημος marked, significant
ἐρκος -εος (n, 3) bulwark ~oath
ἔρω be able to move ~serpent
εὐάζω cry εὐαί in honour of
 Bacchus
εὐαής (ᾱ) airy; (wind) favorable
εὐσεβέω be pious
εὐτυχέω be lucky, prosper, succeed
θανάσιμος fatal
θεράπνη handmaid; dwelling
θέρος -εος (n, 3) summer ~thermos
θεωρία spectator, contemplation
θηρεύω hunt, fish ~fierce
θίασος revel; group of people
ἵζω to seat ~sit
κατάσκοπος spy, inspector
κλέος κλοῦς (n, 3) fame ~Euclid
κορυφή peak, crown
κράτος strength, power; victory
 ~democracy
κρύπτω hide, cover ~cryptic
λαιμός throat, gullet
λάω grip, pin?
λέαινα lioness
λέκτρον bed ~lie
λέπας -ως (n, 3) bare rock
λευρός smooth, level
λέων lion
λήμα will, desire, purpose; courage,
 insolence
λόχη lair
λύσσα battle rage

λυσσώδης raging
 μαινάς -δος (f, 3) madwoman,
 maenad ~maenad
 μέλος -ους (n, 3) limb; melody
 μηνύω disclose, betray, accuse
 μίν him, her, it
 μολίσκω come, go
 μόρος portion, lot in life
 μοχλός beam, lever
 νάπος -εος (n, 3) gully
 νάω flow
 νεανίας -ου (ᾱα, m) young person
 νόμιμος customary, legal, natural
 νύμφα nymph; bride
 ξιφηφόρος bearing a sword
 ὁμόσπορος sown together; kindred
 ὅμως anyway, nevertheless
 ὀργή urge, impulse; anger
 ὄργια -τος (n, 2) secret rites
 ὄρνις -θος (ī, f) bird ~ornithology
 οὐχοῦν not so?; and so
 πάθος -ους (n, 3) an experience,
 passion, condition
 παράκοπος frenzied; distraught
 παράνομος lawless, unlawful
 πάρος before, in the past
 περιβάλλω act: excel; mid: put on
 clothing ~ballistic
 πέτρα rock, cliff, reef ~petrified
 πεύκη pine
 ποιηρός grassy
 πομπός escort, guide ~pomp
 πόνος toil, suffering ~osteopenia
 πραπίδες -ος (f) midriff, seat of
 wisdom and cunning

πτήσω cower, cause to cower
 ῥοά pl: waters of a river ~rheostat
 σημαίνω give orders to; show; mark
 ~semaphore
 σθένος -εος (n, 3) strength
 ~neurasthenia
 σκόλοψ -πος (m) palisade, stake
 σοφός skilled, clever, wise
 σπείρω sow ~diaspora
 στέλλω prepare, send, furl ~apostle
 στενάζω sigh, groan
 στηρίζω fix, plant ~stereo
 στολή equipment
 συμφορά collecting; accident,
 misfortune
 σωτήριος saving
 ταῦρος bull ~steer
 τερπνός pleasant
 τιμάω (ī) honor, exalt
 τοιγάρ therefore
 τοιόσδε such
 τόκος childbirth ~oxytocin
 τρυφάω luxuriate, revel ~drop
 τρυφή softness, luxury
 ὑγιής sound, profitable ~hygiene
 ὑποβάλλω put under, interrupt
 ~ballistic
 ὑποκρύπτω conceal under ~cryptic
 φανερός visible, conspicuous
 ~photon
 φθονέω envy
 φονεύω kill
 φύλαξ -κος (m) guard; sentry
 ~phylactery
 φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics

ΔΙΟΝΥΣΟΣ. δύναι' ἄν, εἰ βούλοιο· τὰς δὲ πρὶν φρένας

οὐκ εἶχες ὑγίεις, νῦν δ' ἔχεις οἷας σε δεῖ.

ΠΕΝΘΕΥΣ. μοχλοῦς¹ φέρωμεν; ἢ χεροῖν ἀνασπάσω

κορυφαῖς ὑποβαλὼν ὤμον ἢ βραχίονα;² 950

ΔΙ. μὴ σύ γε τὰ Νυμφῶν διολέσης ἰδρύματα

καὶ Πανὸς ἔδρας ἔνθ' ἔχει συρίγματα.

ΠΕΝ. καλῶς ἔλεξας· οὐ σθένει νικητέον

γυναῖκας· ἐλάταισιν³ δ' ἐμὸν κρύψω δέμας.

ΔΙ. κρύψῃ σὺ κρύψιν ἢν σε κρυφθῆναι χρεῶν, 955

ἐλθόντα δόλιον μαινάδων κατὰσκοπον.

ΠΕΝ. καὶ μὴν δοκῶ σφᾶς ἐν λόχμῃς ὄρνιθας ὥς

λέκτρων⁴ ἔχεσθαι φιλτάτοις ἐν ἔρκεσιν.

ΔΙ. οὐκοῦν ἐπ' αὐτὸ τοῦτ' ἀποστέλλῃ φύλαξ·

λήψῃ δ' ἴσως σφᾶς, ἢν σὺ μὴ ληφθῆς πάρος. 960

ΠΕΝ. κόμιζε διὰ μέσης με Θηβαίας χθονός·

μόνος γὰρ αὐτῶν εἰμ' ἀνὴρ τολμῶν τόδε.

ΔΙ. μόνος σὺ πόλεως τῇσδ' ὑπερκάμνεις, μόνος·

τοιγάρ σ' ἀγῶνες ἀναμένουσιν οὓς ἐχρῆν.

ἔπου δέ· πομπὸς δ' εἰμ' ἐγὼ σωτήριος,⁵ 965

κεῖθεν δ' ἀπάξει σ' ἄλλος. ΠΕΝ. ἢ τεκοῦσά γε.

ΔΙ. ἐπίσημον ὄντα πᾶσιν. ΠΕΝ. ἐπὶ τόδ' ἔρχομαι.

ΔΙ. φερόμενος ἥξεις⁹⁶⁸ ΠΕΝ. ἀβρότητ'⁶ ἐμὴν λέγεις.

ΔΙ. ἐν χερσὶ μητρός. ΠΕΝ. καὶ τρυφᾶν⁷ μ' ἀναγκάσεις.

ΔΙ. τρυφάς γε τοιάσδε. ΠΕΝ. ἀξίων μὲν ἄπτομαι. 970

ΔΙ. δεινὸς σὺ δεινὸς καπὶ δειν' ἔρχῃ πάθῃ,

ὥστ' οὐρανῷ στηρίζον εὐρήσεις κλέος.

¹ beam, lever ² upper arm, shoulder ³ fir tree; oar ⁴ bed ⁵ saving
⁶ splendor, luxury ⁷ luxuriate, revel

ἔκτειν', Ἀγαυή, χεῖρας αἵ θ' ὁμόσποροι
 Κάδμου θυγατέρες· τὸν νεανίαν ἄγω
 τόνδ' εἰς ἀγῶνα μέγαν, ὁ νικήσων δ' ἐγὼ
 καὶ Βρόμος ἔσται. τᾶλλα δ' αὐτὸ σημαίνει.

975

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἴτε θοαὶ Λύσσας κύνες ἴτ' εἰς ὄρος,

θίασον ἔνθ' ἔχουσι Κάδμου κόραι,
 ἀνοιστρήσατέ νιν

ἐπὶ τὸν ἐν γυναικομίμῳ στολᾷ

980

λυσσώδη⁸ κατάσκοπον μαινάδων.

μάτηρ πρῶτά νιν λευρᾶς⁹ ἀπὸ πέτρας

ἢ σκόλοπος¹⁰ ὄψεται

δοκεύοντα,¹¹ μαινάσιν δ' ἀπύσει·

Τίς ὅδ' ὀρειδρόμων

985

μαστήρ Καδμείων ἐς ὄρος ἐς ὄρος ἔμολ'

ἔμολεν, ὦ βάκχαι; τίς ἄρα νιν ἔτεκεν;

οὐ γὰρ ἐξ αἵματος

γυναικῶν ἔφν, λεαίνας¹² δέ τινος

ὅδ' ἢ Γοργόνων Λιβυσσᾶν γένος.

990

ἴτω δίκαι φανερός, ἴτω ξιφηφόρος¹³

φονεύουσα λαϊμῶν διαμπὰξ

τὸν ἄθεον¹⁴ ἄνομον ἄδικον Ἐχίονος

995

γόνον γηγενῇ.

ΧΟ. ὃς ἀδίκῳ γνώμα παρανόμῳ τ' ὀργᾷ

περὶ σὰ Βάκχι', ὄργια ματρός τε σᾶς

μανείσα πρᾶπιδι

⁸ raging ⁹ smooth, level ¹⁰ palisade, stake

¹³ bearing a sword ¹⁴ godless; by the gods

¹¹ watch, monitor ¹² lioness

παρακόπω τε λήματι¹⁵ στέλλεται, 1000
 τάνικατον ὡς κρατήσων βία,
 γνωμῶν σωφρόνα θάνατος ἀπροφάσι'
 στος ἐς τὰ θεῶν ἔφν·

βροτείως τ' ἔχειν ἄλυπος βίος.
 τὸ σοφὸν οὐ φθονῶ· 1005

χαίρω θηρεύουσα· τὰ δ' ἕτερα μεγάλα
 φανερά τ'· ὦ, νάειν¹⁶ ἐπὶ τὰ καλὰ βίον,
 ἦμαρ ἐς νύκτα τ' εὐ¹⁷
 αγοῦντ' εὐσεβεῖν,¹⁸ τὰ δ' ἔξω νόμιμα
 δίκας ἐκβαλόντα τιμῶν θεούς. 1010

ἴτω δίκᾳ φανερός, ἴτω ξιφηφόρος
 φονεύουσα λαიმῶν διαμπὰξ
 τὸν ἄθεον ἄνομον ἄδικον Ἐχίονος 1015
 τόκον¹⁹ γηγενῇ.

ΧΟ. φάνηθι ταῦρος ἢ πολύκρανος ἰδεῖν
 δράκων ἢ πυριφλέγων ὀράσθαι λέων.
 ἴθ', ὦ Βάκχε, θηραγρευτᾶ βακχᾶν 1020
 γελῶντι προσώπῳ περίβαλε βρόχον
 θανάσιμον²⁰ ὑπ' ἀγέλαν πεσόν'
 τι τὰν μαινάδων.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣΒ. ὦ δῶμ' ὁ πρὶν ποτ' εὐτύχεις ἀν' Ἑλλάδα,
 Σιδωνίου γέροντος, ὃς τὸ γηγενὲς 1025
 δράκοντος ἔσπειρ' ὈφEOS ἐν γαίᾳ θέρος,
 ὥς σε στεναίζω, δοῦλος ὦν μέν, ἀλλ' ὅμως
 χρηστοῖσι δούλοις συμφορὰ τὰ δεσποτῶν.

¹⁵ will, desire, purpose; courage, insolence ¹⁶ flow ¹⁷ airy; (wind)
 favorable ¹⁸ be pious ¹⁹ childbirth ²⁰ fatal

- ΧΟ. τί δ' ἔστιν; ἐκ βακχῶν τι μηνύεις²¹ νέον;
 ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ. Πενθεὺς ὄλωλεν, παῖς Ἑχίονος πατρός. 1030
 ΧΟ. ὦναξ Βρόμμε, θεὸς φαίνῃ μέγας.
 ΑΓ. πῶς φής; τί τοῦτ' ἔλεξας; ἦ πὶ τοῖς ἐμοῖς
 χαίρεις κακῶς πράσσουσι δεσπότης, γύναι;
 ΧΟ. εὐάζω²² ξένα μέλεσι βαρβάροις·
 οὐκέτι γὰρ δεσμῶν ὑπὸ φόβῳ πτήσσω.²³ 1035
 ΑΓ. Θήβας δ' ἀνάνδρους ᾧδ' ἄγεις 1036 1036
 ΧΟ. ὁ Διόνυσος ὁ Διόνυσος, οὐ Θήβαι
 κράτος ἔχουσ' ἐμόν.
 ΑΓ. συγγνωστὰ μέν σοι, πλὴν ἐπ' ἐξειργασμένοις
 κακοῖσι χαίρειν, ᾧ γυναικες, οὐ καλόν. 1040
 ΧΟ. ἔννεπέ μοι, φράσον, τίνι μόρῳ θνήσκει
 ἄδικος ἄδικά τ' ἐκπορίζων ἀνὴρ;
 ΑΓ. ἐπεὶ θεράπνας²⁴ τῇσδε Θηβαίας χθονὸς
 λιπόντες ἐξέβημεν Ἀσωποῦ ρόας,
 λέπας Κιθαιρώνειον εἰσεβάλλομεν 1045
 Πενθεὺς τε κἀγώ— δεσπότη γὰρ εἰπόμεν—
 ξένος θ' ὃς ἡμῖν πομπὸς ἦν θεωρίας.²⁵
 πρῶτον μὲν οὖν ποιηρὸν²⁶ ἵζομεν νάπος,²⁷
 τά τ' ἐκ ποδῶν σιγηλὰ καὶ γλώσσης ἄπο
 σῶζοντες, ὡς ὀρώμεν οὐχ ὀρώμενοι. 1050
 ἦν δ' ἄγκος²⁸ ἀμφίκρημνον, ὕδασι διάβροχον,
 πεύκαισι συσκιάζον, ἔνθα μαινάδες
 καθήντ' ἔχουσαι χεῖρας ἐν τερπνοῖς πόνοις.

²¹ disclose, betray, accuse ²² cry εὐαί in honour of Bacchus ²³ cower, cause to cower ²⁴ handmaid; dwelling ²⁵ spectator, contemplation ²⁶ grassy
²⁷ gully ²⁸ bend; glen

the whole?

DIONYSUS. Surely thou canst, and if thou wilt! Thy soul,
Being once so sick, now stands as it should stand.

PENTHEUS. Shall it be bars of iron? Or this bare hand
And shoulder to the crags, to wrench them down?

DIONYSUS. Wouldst wreck the Nymphs' wild temples, and the brown
Rocks, where Pan pipes at noonday?

PENTHEUS. Nay; not I!

Force is not well with women. I will lie
Hid in the pine-brake.

DIONYSUS. Even as fits a spy
On holy and fearful things, so shalt thou lie!

PENTHEUS. They lie there now, methinks—the wild birds, caught
By love among the leaves, and fluttering not!

DIONYSUS. It may be. That is what thou goest to see,
Aye, and to trap them—so they trap not thee!

PENTHEUS. Forth through the Thebans' town! I am their king,
Aye, their one Man, seeing I dare this thing!

DIONYSUS. Yea, thou shalt bear their burden, thou alone;
Therefore thy trial awaiteth thee!—But on;

With me into thine ambush shalt thou come
Unscathed; then let another bear thee home!

PENTHEUS. The Queen, my mother.

DIONYSUS. Marked of every eye.

PENTHEUS. For that I go!

DIONYSUS. Thou shalt be borne on high!

PENTHEUS. That were like pride!

DIONYSUS. Thy mother's hands shall share
Thy carrying.

PENTHEUS. Nay; I need not such soft care!

DIONYSUS. So soft?

PENTHEUS. Whate'er it be, I have earned it well!

Exit PENTHEUS towards the Mountain.

DIONYSUS. Fell, fell art thou; and to a doom so fell
Thou walkest, that thy name from South to North
Shall shine, a sign for ever!—Reach thou forth
Thine arms, Agave, now, and ye dark-browed
Cadmeian sisters! Greet this prince so proud
To the high ordeal, where save God and me,
None walks unscathed!—The rest this day shall see.

Exit DIONYSUS following PENTHEUS.

CHORUS. O hounds raging and blind,

Up by the mountain road,
Sprites of the maddened mind,
To the wild Maids of God;
Fill with your rage their eyes,
Rage at the rage unblest,
Watching in woman's guise,
The spy upon God's Possessed.
Who shall be first, to mark
Eyes in the rock that spy,
Eyes in the pine-tree dark —
Is it his mother? — and cry:
“Lo, what is this that comes,
Haunting, troubling still,
Even in our heights, our homes,
The wild Maids of the Hill?
What flesh bare this child?
Never on woman's breast
Changeling so evil smiled;
Man is he not, but Beast!
Loin-shape of the wild,
Gorgon-breed of the waste!”
Hither, for doom and deed!
Hither with lifted sword,
Justice, Wrath of the Lord,
Come in our visible need!
Smite till the throat shall bleed,
Smite till the heart shall bleed,
Him the tyrannous, lawless, Godless, Echî on's earthborn seed!
Tyrannously hath he trod;
Marched him, in Law's despite,
Against thy Light, O God,
Yea, and thy Mother's Light;
Girded him, falsely bold,
Blinded in craft, to quell
And by man's violence hold,
Things unconquerable
A strait pitiless mind
Is death unto godliness;
And to feel in human kind
Life, and a pain the less.
Knowledge, we are not foes!
I seek thee diligently;

But the world with a great wind blows,
 Shining, and not from thee;
 Blowing to beautiful things,
 On, amid dark and light,
 Till Life, through the trammellings
 Of Laws that are not the Right,
 Breaks, clean and pure, and sings
 Glorifying to God in the height!
 Hither for doom and deed!
 Hither with lifted sword,
 Justice, Wrath of the Lord,
 Come in our visible need!
 Smite till the throat shall bleed,
 Smite till the heart shall bleed,
 Him the tyrannous, lawless, Godless, Echion's earthborn seed!
 LEADER. Appear, appear, whatso thy shape or name
 O Mountain Bull, Snake of the Hundred Heads,
 Lion of Burning Flame!
 O God, Beast, Mystery, come! Thy mystic maids
 Are hunted! — Blast their hunter with thy breath,
 Cast o'er his head thy snare;
 And laugh aloud and drag him to his death,
 Who stalks thy herded madness in its lair!

Enter hastily a MESSENGER from the Mountain, pale and distraught.

MESSENGER. Woe to the house once blest in Hellas! Woe
 To thee, old King Sidonian, who didst sow
 The dragon-seed on Ares' bloody lea!
 Alas, even thy slaves must weep for thee!

LEADER. News from the mountain? — Speak! How hath it sped?

MESSENGER. Pentheus, my king, Echion's son, is dead!

LEADER. All hail, God of the Voice,
 Manifest ever more!

MESSENGER. What say'st thou? — And how strange thy tone, as though
 In joy at this my master's overthrow!

LEADER. With fierce joy I rejoice,
 Child of a savage shore;

For the chains of my prison are broken, and the dread where I cowered

of

yore!

MESSENGER. And deem'st thou Thebes so beggared, so forlorn
 Of manhood, as to sit beneath thy scorn?

LEADER. Thebes hath o'er me no sway!

None save Him I obey,
Dionysus, Child of the Highest, Him I obey and adore!
MESSENGER. One can forgive thee! — Yet 'tis no fair thing,
Maids, to rejoice in a man's suffering.
LEADER. Speak of the mountain side!
Tell us the doom he died,
The sinner smitten to death, even where his sin was sore!
MESSENGER. We climbed beyond the utmost habitings
Of Theban shepherds, passed Asopus' springs,
And struck into the land of rock on dim
Kithaeron — Pentheus, and, attending him,
I, and the Stranger who should guide our way,
Then first in a green dell we stopped, and lay,
Lips dumb and feet unmoving, warily
Watching, to be unseen and yet to see.
A narrow glen it was, by crags o'ertowered,
Torn through by tossing waters, and there lowered
A shadow of great pines over it. And there

vocabulary

ἄγρᾱ hunting, prey
 ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
 αἰθήρ ether, air, sky ~ether
 ἄκρον crest, extremity ~acute
 ἀλαλάζω give war cry
 ἀναβοάω shout out
 ἀνακαλέω call, summon, recall
 ἀναχορεύω begin a dance
 ἀντιβαίνω resist
 ἀπορία difficulty, bottleneck ~pierce
 ἀρβύλη ankle-boot
 ἀσίδηρος not of iron; without sword
 ἀτρέμας unmovingly, still ~tremble
 ἀφρός foam
 βλάστημα shoot; offspring
 βλώσκω come, go
 βοά din, a shout
 βοεύς βοῦος (m) leather rope
 ~bovine
 γαυρόω make proud
 γνωρίζω make known, discover
 γυμνός strip, be defenseless
 ~gymnasium
 δεσπότης -ου (m, 1) master, despot
 διάστροφος twisted, distorted
 δράκων -οντος (m, 3) serpent
 δρόμημα running course
 δρόμος running, racing ground
 ~hippodrome
 δρύινος made of oak ~druid
 δυσδαίμων unlucky, unhappy
 δύστηνος unhappy, miserable
 εἰκάζω liken; conjecture
 ἐκποδών out of the way
 ἐλάτη fir tree; oar
 ἐλάτινος of fir
 ἐλίσσω turn, rally ~helix
 ἔλκος -εος (n, 3) wound ~ulcer
 ἐμμανής raving
 ἐμπνέω inspire; pass: recover
 ~apnea

ἐξανασπάω tear away from
 ἐξανύτω bring to pass; slay
 ἐξεργάζομαι accomplish; undo;
 destroy someone
 ἐξικνέομαι arrive at
 ἐπέχω hold, cover; offer; assail
 ἐπιδίδωμι give, give with, give
 reciprocally ~donate
 ἐπικελεύω encourage; consent
 ἔρπω be able to move ~serpent
 εὐμάρεια ease, opportunity
 ἔρημαι sit/lie by
 ζήτημα -τος (n, 3) thing sought;
 inquiry
 ἦχη noise
 θάσσω sit
 θύρσος ivied wand
 θυρσώω make into a wand
 ἱδρύω establish
 ἵχνος -εος (n, 3) track, trace
 καθοράω look down ~panorama
 καλλίνικος (u) gloriously
 triumphant
 κάμπτω bend, bend in exhaustion
 κάτοιδα understand
 κελευσμός (f) command
 κισσός ivy
 κισσώω wreath with ivy
 κλάδος branch, shoot
 κλάω break, break off ~iconoclast
 κόμη hair ~comet
 κομήτης -ου (m, 1) long-haired
 κράς -τός (f, 3) head
 κυκλώ circle, encircle
 κυρτός curved, humped ~kurtosis
 λάω grip, pin?
 μαινάς -δος (f, 3) madwoman,
 maenad ~maenad
 μεθίημι let go, cease; (mid) speed off
 ~jet
 μιν him, her, it
 μίτρα metal waist guard

μολίσκω come, go
 μόθος toil
 μοχλέω move with a lever
 μοχλός beam, lever
 νάπη valley
 νάπος -εος (n, 3) gully
 νεᾶνις -δος (f) young woman ~neon
 νόθος bastard
 ὄζος branch
 ὄζω have a smell, waft
 οἰκτείρω pity
 ὁμός same ~homoerotic
 ὁμόσπορος sown together; kindred
 ὁμόω unite ~homoerotic
 ὄργια -τος (n, 2) secret rites
 ὀρέστερος of the mountains
 ~hormone
 ὀρθόω stand up
 ὄσσομαι see with the mind's eye,
 forebode
 οὔδας -εος (n, 3) ground, floor
 οὐράνιος heavenly
 ὄχθος bank, hill
 παρηίς cheek
 πέδον ground ~pedal
 πέλεια dove ~pallid
 περίστημι be around; turn out
 ~station
 πηδάω jump, spring ~pedal
 ποικίλλω make elaborately
 προθυμία (ō) zeal, alacrity ~fume

προσδοκάω expect
 πτόρθος sprout, young branch
 πῶλος (f) foal ~foal
 σέβομαι feel shame, awe
 σεμνός revered, holy
 σίγα silently, whispering
 σιγάω (ī) be silent
 σπαραγμός tearing; spasm
 στενάζω sigh, groan
 στριγγίζω fix, plant ~stereo
 σύγγονος inborn, natural; blood kin
 συμφορά collecting; accident,
 misfortune
 σύντονος tense; impetuous; earnest
 σωφρονέω be sane, moderate
 τέρμα -τος (n, 3) mark, turn-around
 point
 τλήμων steadfast, enduring ~talent
 τόρνος carpenter's compass; lathe
 τροχός wheel
 ὑψόθεν from on high
 ὕψος ὕψους (n, 3) height, summit
 ὑψοῦ high, aloft
 ὑψόω lift, exalt
 φέως bush used to make brooms
 φόβη lock of hair; mane; foliage
 χειμάρροος flooding
 χειμάρρους winter-flooded
 φαύω be closely touching
 ὠκύτης -τος (f, 3) speed
 ὠλένη elbow, lower arm

αἶ μὲν γὰρ αὐτῶν θύρσον ἐκλελοιπότα
 κισσῶ κομήτην¹ αἰθις ἐξανέστεφον, 1055
 αἶ δ', ἐκλιποῦσαι ποικίλ' ὥς πῶλοι² ζυγά,
 βακχείον ἀντέκλαζον ἀλλήλαις μέλος.
 Πενθεὺς δ' ὁ τλήμων θήλυν οὐχ ὁρῶν ὄχλον
 ἔλεξε τοιάδ'· ὦ ξέν', οὐ μὲν ἔσταμεν,
 οὐκ ἐξικνουῖμαι μαινάδων ὄσσοις νόθων·³ 1060
 ὄχθων⁴ δ' ἔπ', ἀμβὰς ἐς ἐλάτην ὑψαύχενα,
 ἴδοιμ' ἂν ὀρθῶς μαινάδων αἰσχροουργίαν.
 τοῦντεῦθεν ἦδη τοῦ ξένου τὸ θαῦμ' ὀρώ·
 λαβὼν γὰρ ἐλάτης οὐράνιον⁵ ἄκρον κλάδον
 κατῆγεν, ἦγεν, ἦγεν ἐς μέλαν πέδον· 1065
 κυκλοῦτο δ' ὥστε τόξον ἢ κυρτὸς⁶ τροχὸς⁷
 τὸρνώ⁸ γραφόμενος περιφορὰν ἔλκει δρόμον·
 ὥς κλῶν' ὄρειον ὁ ξένος χεροῖν ἄγων
 ἔκαμπτεν⁹ ἐς γῆν, ἔργματ' οὐχὶ θνητὰ δρών.
 Πενθέα δ' ἰδρύσας ἐλατίνων ὄζων ἔπι, 1070
 ὀρθὸν μεθίει διὰ χερῶν βλάστημ'¹⁰ ἄνω
 ἀτρέμα,¹¹ φυλάσσω μὴ ἀναχαιτίσειέ νιν,
 ὀρθὴ δ' ἐς ὀρθὸν αἰθέρ' ἐστηρίζετο,
 ἔχουσα νώτοις δεσπότην ἐφήμενον·
 ὥφθη δὲ μάλλον ἢ κατεῖδε μαινάδας. 1075
 ὅσον γὰρ οὐπω δῆλος ἦν θάσσω ἄνω,
 καὶ τὸν ξένον μὲν οὐκέτ' εἰσορᾶν παρῆν,
 ἐκ δ' αἰθέρος φωνή τις, ὥς μὲν εἰκάσαι

¹ long-haired ² foal ³ bastard ⁴ bank, hill ⁵ heavenly ⁶ curved, humped ⁷ wheel ⁸ carpenter's compass; lathe ⁹ bend, bend in exhaustion ¹⁰ shoot; offspring ¹¹ unmovingly, still

Διόνυσος, ἀνεβόησεν· ὦ νεάνιδες,
 ἄγω τὸν ὑμᾶς καμὲ τὰμά τ' ὄργια 1080
 γέλων τιθέμενον· ἀλλὰ τιμωρεῖσθέ νιν.
 καὶ ταῦθ' ἄμ' ἡγόρευε καὶ πρὸς οὐρανὸν
 καὶ γαῖαν ἐστήριξε φῶς σεμνοῦ πυρός.
 σίγησε δ' αἰθήρ, σίγα¹² δ' ὕλιμος νάπη
 φύλλ' εἶχε, θηρῶν δ' οὐκ ἂν ἤκουσας βοήν. 1085
 αἱ δ' ὥσιν ἤχην¹³ οὐ σαφῶς δεδεγμέναι
 ἔστησαν ὀρθαὶ καὶ διήνεγκαν κόρας.
 ὃ δ' αὖθις ἐπεκέλευσεν· ὥς δ' ἐγνώρισαν
 σαφῇ κελευσμὸν¹⁴ Βακχίου Κάδμου κόραι,
 ᾗξαν πελείας¹⁵ ὠκύτηγ' οὐχ ἥσσονες 1090
 ποδῶν τρέχουσαι συντόνοις δραμήμασι,
 μήτηρ Ἀγαυή σύγγονοί θ' ὁμόσποροι
 πασαι τε βάκχαι· διὰ δὲ χεϊμάρρου νάπης¹⁶
 ἀγμῶν τ' ἐπήδων¹⁷ θεοῦ πνοαῖσιν ἐμμανεῖς.
 ὥς δ' εἶδον ἐλάτη δεσπότην ἐφήμενον, 1095
 πρῶτον μὲν αὐτοῦ χερμάδας κραταιβόλους
 ἔρριπτον, ἀντίπυργον ἐπιβᾶσαι πέτραν,
 ὄζοισι τ' ἐλατίνοισιν ἡκοντίζετο.
 ἄλλαι δὲ θύρσους ἔεσαν δι' αἰθέρος
 Πενθέως, στόχον δύστηνον· ἀλλ' οὐκ ἦνντον. 1100
 κρεῖσσον γὰρ ὕψος¹⁸ τῆς προθυμίας ἔχων
 καθῆσθ' ὁ τλήμων, ἀπορία λελημμένος.
 τέλος δὲ δρυῖνους¹⁹ συγκεραυνοῦσαι κλάδους
 ῥίζας ἀνеспάρασσον ἀσιδήροις μοχλοῖς.

¹² silently, whispering ¹³ noise ¹⁴ command ¹⁵ dove ¹⁶ valley
¹⁷ jump, spring ¹⁸ height, summit ¹⁹ made of oak

ἐπεὶ δὲ μόχθων τέρματ'²⁰ οὐκ ἐξήνυτον, 1105
 ἔλεξ' Ἀγαυή· Φέρε, περιστᾶσαι κύκλω
 πτόρθου²¹ λάβεσθε, μαινάδες, τὸν ἀμβάτην
 θῆρ' ὡς ἔλωμεν, μηδ' ἀπαγγείλῃ θεοῦ
 χοροὺς κρυφαίους. αἱ δὲ μυρίαν χέρα
 προσέθεσαν ἐλάτῃ κάξανέσπασαν χθονός· 1110
 ὑψοῦ δὲ θάσσω· ὑψόθεν²² χαμαιριφῆς
 πίπτει πρὸς οὐδας μυρίοις οἰώγμασιν
 Πενθεύς· κακοῦ γὰρ ἐγγὺς ὦν ἐμάνθανεν.
 πρώτη δὲ μήτηρ ἦρξεν ἱερέα φόνου
 καὶ προσπίτνει νιν· ὁ δὲ μίτρην κόμης ἄπο 1115
 ἔρριψεν, ὥς νιν γνωρίσασα μὴ κτάνοι
 τλήμων Ἀγαυή, καὶ λέγει, παρηίδος
 ψαύων·²³ Ἐγὼ τοι, μῆτερ, εἰμί, παῖς σέθεν
 Πενθεύς, ὃν ἔτεκες ἐν δόμοις Ἐχίονος·
 οὔκτιρε²⁴ δ' ὦ μῆτέρ με, μηδὲ ταῖς ἐμαῖς 1120
 ἀμαρτίαισι παῖδα σὸν κατακτάνῃς.
 ἧ δ' ἀφρόν²⁵ ἐξιείσα καὶ διαστροφούς
 κόρας ἐλίσσουσ',²⁶ οὐ φρονοῦσ' ἂν χρὴ φρονεῖν,
 ἐκ Βακχίου κατείχετ', οὐδ' ἔπειθέ νιν.
 λαβοῦσα δ' ὠλένης ἀριστερὰν χέρα, 1125
 πλευραῖσιν ἀντιβᾶσα τοῦ δυσδαίμονος
 ἀπεσπάραξεν ὦμον, οὐχ ὑπὸ σθένους,
 ἀλλ' ὁ θεὸς εὐμάρειαν²⁷ ἐπέδιδου χεροῖν·
 Ἴνῳ δὲ τὰπὶ θάτερ' ἐξεργάζετο,

²⁰ mark, turn-around point ²¹ sprout, young branch ²² from on high
²³ be closely touching ²⁴ pity ²⁵ foam ²⁶ turn, rally ²⁷ ease, opportunity

ρήγνῦσα σάρκας, Αὐτονόη τ' ὄχλος τε πᾶς 1130

ἐπείχε βακχῶν· ἦν δὲ πᾶς ὁμοῦ βοή,

ὃ μὲν στενάζων ὅσον ἐτύγχαν' ἐμπνέων,

αἶ δ' ἠγάλαζον.²⁸ ἔφερε δ' ἡ μὲν ὠλένην,

ἡ δ' ἔχνος²⁹ αὐταῖς ἀρβύλαις· γυμνοῦντο δὲ

πλευραὶ σπαραγμοῖς· πᾶσα δ' ἡματωμένη 1135

χεῖρας διεσφαίριζε σάρκα Πενθέως.

κεῖται δὲ χωρὶς σῶμα, τὸ μὲν ὑπὸ στύφλοις

πέτραις, τὸ δ' ὕλης ἐν βαθυξύλῳ φόβῃ,

οὐ ράδιον ζήτημα· κρᾶτα δ' ἄθλιον,

ὅπερ λαβοῦσα τυγχάνει μήτηρ χεροῖν, 1140

πήξας' ἐπ' ἄκρον θύρσον ὡς ὀρεστέρου

φέρει λέοντος διὰ Κιθαιρώνος μέσον,

λιποῦσ' ἀδελφὰς ἐν χοροῖσι μαινάδων.

χωρεῖ δὲ θήρᾳ δυσπότημῳ γαυρουμένη

τειχέων ἔσω τῶνδ', ἀνακαλοῦσα Βάκχιον 1145

τὸν ξυγκύναγον, τὸν ξυνεργάτην ἄγρας,

τὸν καλλίνικον,³⁰ ᾧ δάκρυα νικηφορεῖ.

ἐγὼ μὲν οἶν τῇδ' ἐκποδὼν τῇ ξυμφορᾷ

ἄπειμι, Ἀγαυήν πρὶν μολεῖν πρὸς δώματα.

τὸ σωφρονεῖν δὲ καὶ σέβειν τὰ τῶν θεῶν 1150

κάλλιστον· οἶμαι δ' αὐτὸ καὶ σοφώτατον

θνητοῖσιν εἶναι κτῆμα τοῖσι χρωμένοις.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἀναχορεύσωμεν Βάκχιον,

ἀναβοάσωμεν ξυμφορὰν

τὰν τοῦ δράκοντος Πενθέος ἐκγενέτα·

²⁸ give war cry ²⁹ track, trace ³⁰ gloriously triumphant

The Maenad maidens sate; in toil they were,
Busily glad. Some with an ivy chain
Tricked a worn wand to toss its locks again;
Some, wild in joyance, like young steeds set free,
Made answering songs of mystic melody.
But my poor master saw not the great band
Before him. "Stranger," he cried, "where we stand
Mine eyes can reach not these false saints of thine.
Mount we the bank, or some high-shouldered pine,
And I shall see their follies clear!" At that
There came a marvel. For the Stranger straight
Touched a great pine-tree's high and heavenward crown,
And lower, lower, lower, urged it down
To the herbless floor. Round like a bending bow,
Or slow wheel's rim a joiner forces to.
So in those hands that tough and mountain stem
Bowed slow — oh, strength not mortal dwelt in them! —
To the very earth. And there he set the King,
And slowly, lest it cast him in its spring.
Let back the young and straining tree, till high
It towered again amid the towering sky;
And Pentheus in the branches! Well, I ween,
He saw the Maenads then, and well was seen!
For scarce was he aloft, when suddenly
There was no stranger any more with me,
But out of Heaven a Voice — oh, what voice else? —
Twas He that called! "Behold, O damosels,
I bring ye him who turneth to despite
Both me and ye, and darkeneth my great Light.
Tis yours to avenge!" So spake he, and there came'
Twixt earth and sky a pillar of high flame.
And silence took the air, and no leaf stirred
In all the forest dell. Thou hadst not heard
In that vast silence any wild things's cry.
And up they sprang; but with bewildered eye,
Agaze and listening, scarce yet hearing true.
Then came the Voice again. And when they knew
Their God's clear call, old Cadmus' royal brood,
Up, like wild pigeons startled in a wood,
On flying feet they came, his mother blind,
Agave, and her sisters, and behind
All the wild crowd, more deeply maddened then,

Through the angry rocks and torrent-tossing glen,
Until they spied him in the dark pine-tree:
Then climbed a crag hard by and furiously
Some sought to stone him, some their wands would fling
Lance-wise aloft, in cruel targeting.
But none could strike. The height o'ertopped their rage,
And there he clung, unscathed, as in a cage
Caught. And of all their strife no end was found.
Then, "Hither," cried Agave; "stand we round
And grip the stem, my Wild Ones, till we take
This climbing cat-o'- the-mount! He shall not make
A tale of God's high dances!" Out then shone
Arm upon arm, past count, and closed upon
The pine, and gripped; and the ground gave, and down
It reeled. And that high sitter from the crown
Of the green pine-top, with a shrieking cry
Fell, as his mind grew clear, and there hard by
Was horror visible. 'Twas his mother stood
O'er him, first priestess of those rites of blood.
He tore the coif, and from his head away
Flung it, that she might know him, and not slay
To her own misery. He touched the wild
Cheek, crying: "Mother, it is I, thy child,
Thy Pentheus, born thee in Echion's hall!
Have mercy, Mother! Let it not befall
Through sin of mine, that thou shouldst slay thy son!"
But she, with lips a-foam and eyes that run
Like leaping fire, with thoughts that ne'er should be
On earth, possessed by Bacchios utterly,
Stays not nor hears. Round his left arm she put
Both hands, set hard against his side her foot,
Drew... and the shoulder severed! — not by might
Of arm, but easily, as the God made light
Her hand's essay. And at the other side
Was Ino rending; and the torn flesh cried,
And on Autonoe pressed, and all the crowd
Of ravening arms. 'Yea, all the air was loud
With groans that faded into sobbing breath,
Dim shrieks, and joy, and triumph-cries of death.
And here was borne a severed arm, and there
A hunter's booted foot; white bones lay bare
With rending; and swift hands ensanguined

Tossed as in sport the flesh of Pentheus dead.
His body lies afar. The precipice
Hath part, and parts in many an interstice
Lurk of the tangled woodland — no light quest
To find. And, ah, the head! Of all the rest,
His mother hath it, pierced upon a wand,
As one might pierce a lion's, and through the land,
Leaving her sisters in their dancing place,
Bears it on high! Yea, to these walls her face
Was set, exulting in her deed of blood,
Calling upon her Bromios, her God,
Her Comrade, Fellow-Render of the Prey,
Her All-Victorious, to whom this day
She bears in triumph... her own broken heart.
For me, after that sight, I will depart
Before Agave comes. — Oh, to fulfil
God's laws, and have no thought beyond His will,
Is man's best treasure. Aye, and wisdom true,
Methinks, for things of dust to cleave unto!
The MESSENGER departs into the Castle.
CHORUS. Weave ye the dance, and call
Praise to God!
Bless ye the Tyrant's fall!

vocabulary

ἄγα (αᾶ) wonder
ἀγάλλω exalt; mp: exult in
ἄγαμαι wonder, admire; resent,
 begrudge
ἄγαν very much
ἀγκυλέομαι hurl like a javelin
ἄγρα hunting, prey
ἄγραυλος living outside
 ~agriculture
ἀγρεύω catch (prey, fish)
ἀγρότερος wild ~agriculture
ἀέθλιον ἀθλίου prize
ἀέθλιος prize ~athlete
ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
ἄκραντος unfulfilled, vain
ἀλγέω suffer ~analgesic
ἀναπάλλω brandish; (pass) leap up
 ~Pallas
ἄνευ away from; not having; not
 needing ~Sp. sin
ἄρθρον joint
ἀριστεῖα -ου (n, 2) excellence
ἀριστεῖος prize for bravery
ἀστός townsman; citizen
βάρος -ους (n, 3) weight, burden
βρόχος rope, noose
γαυρόω make proud
γένυς jaw
γέρας -ως (n, 3) reward, honor
γηθέω rejoice, exult ~joy
γῆρας -ος (n, 3) old age
γηράσκω grow old ~geriatric
δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate,
 doom ~demon
δαῖς -τός (f) feast, banquet ~demon
δαίτη feast, banquet
δεῦρο here, come here!
διάστροφος twisted, distorted
δίκτυον fishing net
δράω do, accomplish
δρυμός (ῶ) thickets, a bunch ~druid

δύσκολος hard to please;
 troublesome
δυστυχέω be unlucky
εἴθε if only
εἰκάζω liken; conjecture
εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with
 respect ~panorama
εἶτα then, therefore, next
ἐκλείπω leave out, pass over
ἑλιξ twisted ~helix
ἔνδικος (persons, things) just
ἐξεργάζομαι accomplish; undo;
 destroy someone
ἔξοχος preeminent; beyond, greatly
ἐπαινέω concur, praise, advise
ἐρημία wilderness, solitude
εὐδαίμων blessed with a good
 genius
εὐτυχέω be lucky, prosper, succeed
εὐτυχής fortunate
ζήτημα -τος (n, 3) thing sought;
 inquiry
θάλλω bloom, flourish, abound
 ~thallium
θεομαχέω fight against the gods
θηλυγενής female, feminine
θήρα hunt ~fierce
θηράω hunt, chase
θίασος revel; group of people
θιγγάνω touch
θοίνα meal, feast; food
θoinάω host at a meal
θύμα -τος (n, 3) victim, sacrifice
ἱστός mast, loom ~stand
καλλίνικος (ι) gloriously
 triumphant
κάμπτω bend, bend in exhaustion
καταβάλλω throw down, cast off
 ~ballistic
καταθνήσκω die, be dead
 ~euthanasia
καταφονεύω slaughter

κατεργάζομαι achieve; cultivate;
 get; kill
κερκίς -τος (f) weaver's shuttle
κλεινός famous
κλίμαξ -κος (f) ladder, staircase
 ~climax
κομπάζω boast
κόρυς helmet
κράς -τός (f, 3) head
κρέας -ως (n) meat ~creatine
κῶμος party, celebration
λάω grip, pin?
λεύσσω see, look
λέων lion
μαινάς -δος (f, 3) madwoman,
 maenad ~maenad
μακάριος blessed
μάρπτω grab, overtake
μάτην in vain, randomly
μέλαθρον roofbeam
μετέχω partake of
μίν him, her, it
μόσχος calf (animal)
μοχθέω be afflicted
μυρίος (ἰ) 10,000 ~myriad
νάρθηξ -κος (m) fennel stalk
νικηφόρος (ι) bringing victory;
 victorious
νουθετέω remind, warn
οἷμοι woe is me
ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
ὄργανον tool; body organ
ὀροθύνω (ὑ) rouse, set in motion
 ~hormone
ὄσσε eyes (dual)
ὄσσομαι see with the mind's eye,
 forebode

ὄψις ὄψεως (f) sight, view
 ~thanatopsis
πάρος before, in the past
πέδον ground ~pedal
πέλας near, close
πένθος -εος (n, 3) grief, misfortune
 ~Nepenthe
περιβάλλω act: excel; mid: put on
 clothing ~ballistic
περισσός prodigious, superfluous
πήγνυμι (ὑ) stick, set, build ~fang
πηκτός assembled ~fang
πόθεν from where?
ποῦ where?
πρέπω be conspicuous, preeminent
 ~refurbish
πρόσπολος servant, attendant
πτυχή fold, layer
σοφός skilled, clever, wise
σπείρω sow ~diaspora
στάζω dribble, infuse
στείχω go, march ~stair
στολή equipment
στόνος groaning ~stentorian
συμφορά collecting; accident,
 misfortune
τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
ταῦρος bull ~steer
τοιόσδε such
ὔλη (ὑ) forest, firewood
φεῦ exclamation of grief, anger,
 surprise, admiration
φόβη lock of hair; mane; foliage
φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
χωρίς separately; except, other than
 ~heir
ὠλένη elbow, lower arm

ὃς τὰν θηλυγενῆ¹ στολὰν
 νάρθηκά τε, πιστὸν Ἴαδαν,
 ἔλαβεν εὐθυρσον,
 ταῦρον προηγητῆρα συμφορᾶς ἔχων.
 βάκχαι Καδμείαι, 1160
 τὸν καλλίνικον κλεινὸν² ἐξεπράξατε
 ἐς στόνον,³ ἐς δάκρυα.
 καλὸς ἀγών, χέρ' αἵματι στάζουσιν
 περιβαλεῖν τέκνου.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἀλλ', εἰσορῶ γὰρ ἐς δόμους ὀρμωμένην 1165
 Πενθέως Ἀγαυὴν μητέρ' ἐν διαστροφῶις
 ὄσσοις, δέχεσθε κῶμον⁴ εὖιου θεοῦ.

ΑΓΑΥΗ. Ἀσιάδες βάκχαι —ΧΟ. τί μ' ὀροθύνεις,⁵ ὦ;

ΑΓ. φέρομεν ἐξ ὀρέων
 ἔλικά νεότομον ἐπὶ μέλαθρα, 1170
 μακάριον θήραν.

ΧΟ. ὀρῶ καί σε δέξομαι σύγκωμον.

ΑΓ. ἔμαρψα τόνδ' ἄνευ βρόχων
 λέοντος ἀγροτέρου⁶ νέον ἱνῶ·
 ὡς ὀρᾶν πάρα. ΧΟ. πόθεν ἐρημίας; 1175

ΑΓ. Κιθαιρῶν¹¹⁷⁷ ΧΟ. Κιθαιρῶν; ΑΓ. κατεφόνευσέ νιν.

ΧΟ. τίς ἂ βαλοῦσα; ΑΓ. πρῶτον ἐμὸν τὸ γέρας.
 μάκαιρ' Ἀγαυὴ κληζόμεθ' ἐν θιάσοις. 1180

ΧΟ. τίς ἄλλα;

ΑΓ. τὰ Κάδμου¹¹⁸¹ ΧΟ. τί Κάδμου; ΑΓ. γένεθλα μετ' ἐμὲ μετ' ἐμὲ τοῦδ'
 ἔθιγε θηρός· εὐτυχής⁷ γ' αἶδ' ἄγρα. ΧΟ.

¹ female, feminine ² famous ³ groaning ⁴ party, celebration ⁵ rouse, set in motion ⁶ wild ⁷ fortunate

ΑΓ. μέτεχέ νυν θοίνας. ΧΟ. τί; μετέχω, τλᾶμον;

ΑΓ. νέος ὁ μῶσχος ἄρ' 1185

τι γέννυν ὑπὸ κόρυθ' ἀπαλότριχα
κατάκομον θάλλει.

ΧΟ. πρέπει γ' ὥστε θῆρ ἄγραυλος⁸ φόβη.

ΑΓ. ὁ Βάκχιος κυναγέτας
σοφὸς σοφῶς ἀνέπηλ' ἐπὶ θῆρα 1190
τόνδε μαινάδας. ΧΟ. ὁ γὰρ ἄναξ ἀγρεύς.

ΑΓ. ἐπαινεῖς; ΧΟ. ἐπαινῶ. ΑΓ. τάχα δὲ Καδμείῳ 1194

ΧΟ. καὶ παῖς γε Πενθεὺς 1195 ΑΓ. ματέρ' ἐπαινέσεται,
λαβοῦσαν ἄγραν τάνδε λεοντοφυῆ.

ΧΟ. περισσάν. ΑΓ. περισσῶς.

ΧΟ. ἀγάλλη;⁹ ΑΓ. γέγηθα, μεγάλα μεγάλα καὶ
φανερὰ τᾷδ' ἄγρα κατειργασμένα.

ΧΟ. δεῖξόν νυν, ὦ τάλαινα, σὴν νικηφόρον¹⁰ 1200
ἀστοῖσιν¹¹ ἄγραν ἣν φέρουσ' ἐλήλυθας.

ΑΓ. ὦ καλλίπυργον ἄστρ' Ἰθαίης χθονὸς
ναίοντες, ἔλθεθ' ὡς ἴδῃτε τήνδ' ἄγραν,
Κάδμου θυγατέρες θηρὸς ἣν ἡγρεύσαμεν,
οὐκ ἀγκυλητοῖς Θεσσαλῶν στοχάσμασιν, 1205
οὐ δικτύοισιν,¹² ἀλλὰ λευκοπήχεσι
χειρῶν ἀκμαῖσιν. κᾶτα κομπάζειν χρεὼν
καὶ λογχοποιῶν ὄργανα κτᾶσθαι μάτην;
ἡμεῖς δέ γ' αὐτῇ χειρὶ τόνδε θ' εἵλομεν,
χωρὶς τε θηρὸς ἄρθρα διεφορήσαμεν. 1210
ποῦ μοι πατήρ ὁ πρέσβυς; ἐλθέτω πέλας.

⁸ living outside ⁹ exalt; mp: exult in ¹⁰ bringing victory; victorious
¹¹ townsman; citizen ¹² fishing net

Πενθέως τ' ἐμὸς παῖς ποῦ στυν; αἰρέσθω λαβὼν
 πηκτῶν πρὸς οἴκους κλιμάκων προσαμβάσεις,
 ὥς πασσαλεύσῃ κρᾶτα τριγλύφοις τόδε
 λέοντος ὃν πάρεμι θηράσας ἐγώ.

1215

ΚΑΔΜΟΣ. ἔπεσθέ μοι φέροντες ἄθλιον βάρος

Πενθέως, ἔπεσθε, πρόσπολοι, δόμων πάρος,
 οὐδ' σῶμα μοχθῶν μυρίοις ζητήμασιν
 φέρω τόδ', εὐρῶν ἐν Κιθαιρῶνος πτυχαῖς
 διασπαρακτόν, κοῦδὲν ἐν ταυτῷ πέδῳ
 λαβών, ἐν ὕλῃ κείμενον δυσσευρέτῳ.

1220

ἤκουσα γάρ του θυγατέρων τολμήματα,
 ἥδη κατ' ἄστῃ τειχέων ἔσω βεβῶς
 σὺν τῷ γέροντι Τειρεσίᾳ Βακχῶν πάρα·
 πάλιν δὲ κάμψας εἰς ὄρος κομίζομαι
 τὸν κατθανόντα παῖδα Μαινάδων ὕπο.

1225

καὶ τὴν μὲν Ἀκτέων' Ἀρισταίῳ ποτὲ
 τεκοῦσαν εἶδον Αὐτονόην Ἰνώ θ' ἅμα
 ἔτ' ἀμφὶ δρυμοὺς¹³ οἰστροπλήγας ἀθλίας,
 τὴν δ' εἰπέ τίς μοι δεῦρο βακχείῳ ποδὶ
 στείχειν Ἀγανὴν, οὐδ' ἄκραντ'¹⁴ ἠκούσαμεν·
 λεύσσω γὰρ αὐτήν, ὅψιν οὐκ εὐδαίμονα.

1230

ΑΓ. πάτερ, μέγιστον κομπάσαι πάρεστί σοι,

πάντων ἀρίστας θυγατέρας σπείραι μακρῷ
 θνητῶν· ἀπάσας εἶπον, ἐξόχως δ' ἐμέ,
 ἦ τὰς παρ' ἱστοῖς ἐκλιπούσα κερκίδας¹⁵
 ἐς μείζον' ἦκω, θήρας ἀγρεύειν χεροῖν.

1235

¹³ thickets, a bunch ¹⁴ unfilled, vain ¹⁵ weaver's shuttle

φέρω δ' ἐν ὠλέναισιν, ὡς ὀρέῃς, τάδε
 λαβοῦσα τὰριστέα, σοῖσι πρὸς δόμοις
 ὡς ἀγκρεμασθῇ· σὺ δέ, πάτερ, δέξαι χεροῖν· 1240
 γαυρούμενος δὲ τοῖς ἐμοῖς ἀγρεύμασιν
 κάλει φίλους ἐς δαῖτα· μακάριος γὰρ εἶ,
 μακάριος, ἡμῶν τοιάδ' ἐξειργασμένων.

ΚΑΔ. ὦ πένθος οὐ μετρητὸν οὐδ' οἶόν τ' ἰδεῖν,
 φόνον ταλαίναις χερσὶν ἐξειργασμένων.
 καλὸν τὸ θῦμα¹⁶ καταβαλοῦσα δαίμοσιν
 ἐπὶ δαῖτα Θήβας τάσδε καμὲ παρακαλεῖς.
 οἴμοι κακῶν μὲν πρῶτα σῶν, ἔπειτ' ἐμῶν·
 ὡς ὁ θεὸς ἡμᾶς ἐνδίκως μέν, ἀλλ' ἄγαν,
 Βρόμιος ἄναξ ἀπώλεσ' οἰκείος γεγώς. 1250

ΑΓ. ὡς δύσκολον τὸ γῆρας ἀνθρώποις ἔφν
 ἔν τ' ὄμμασι σκυθρωπόν. εἴθε¹⁷ παῖς ἐμὸς
 εὐθηρὸς εἴη, μητρὸς εἰκασθεὶς τρόποις,
 ὅτ' ἐν νεανίαισι Θηβαίοις ἄμα
 θηρῶν ὀριγνῶτ'· ἀλλὰ θεομαχεῖν¹⁸ μόνον 1255
 οἶός τ' ἐκεῖνος. νουθετητέος, πάτερ,
 σοῦστίν. τίς αὐτὸν δεῦρ' ἂν ὄψιν εἰς ἐμὴν
 καλέσειεν, ὡς ἴδῃ με τὴν εὐδαίμονα;

ΚΑΔ. φεῦ¹⁹ φεῦ· φρονήσασαι μὲν οἷ' ἐδράσατε
 ἀλγῆσεν²⁰ ἄλγος δεινόν· εἰ δὲ διὰ τέλους
 ἐν τῷδ' αἰὲ μενεῖτ' ἐν ᾧ καθέστατε,
 οὐκ εὐτυχοῦσαι δόξετ' οὐχὶ δυστυχεῖν. 1260

¹⁶ victim, sacrifice ¹⁷ if only ¹⁸ fight against the gods ¹⁹ exclamation of
 grief, anger, surprise, admiration ²⁰ suffer

Down is trod
 Pentheus, the Dragon's Seed!
 Wore he the woman's weed?
 Clasped he his death indeed,
 Clasped the rod?
 Yea, the wild ivy lapt him, and the doomed
 Wild Bull of Sacrifice before him loomed!
 Ye who did Bromios scorn,
 Praise Him the more,
 Bacchanals, Cadmus-born;
 Praise with sore
 Agony, yea, with tears!
 Great are the gifts he bears!
 Hands that a mother rears
 Red with gore!
 LEADER. But stay, Agave cometh! And her eyes
 Make fire around her, reeling! Ho, the prize
 Cometh! All hail, O Rout of Dionyse!

Enter from the Mountain AGAVE, mad, and to all seeming wondrously happy,
 bearing the head of PENTHEUS in her hand. The CHORUS MAIDENS also
 horror-struck, strives to accept it and rejoice in it as the God's deed.

AGAVE. Ye from the lands of Morn!
 LEADER. Call me not; I give praise!
 AGAVE. Lo, from the trunk new-shorn
 Hither a Mountain Thorn
 Bear we! O Asia-born
 Bacchanals, bless this chase!
 LEADER. I see. Yea; I see.
 Have I not welcomed thee?
 AGAVE. He was young in the wildwood
 Without nets I caught him!
 Nay; look without fear on
 The Lion; I have ta'en him!
 LEADER. Where in the wildwood?
 Whence have ye brought him?
 AGAVE. Kithaeron...
 LEADER. Kithaeron?
 AGAVE. The Mountain hath slain him!
 LEADER. Who first came nigh him?
 AGAVE. I, I, 'tis confessed!
 And they named me there by him
 Agave the Blessed!

LEADER. Who was next in the band on him?

AGAVE. The daughters...

LEADER. The daughters?

AGAVE. Of Cadmus laid hand on him.

But the swift hand that slaughters

Is mine; mine is the praise!

Bless ye this day of days!

The LEADER tries to speak, but is not able; AGAVE begins gently stroking the head.

AGAVE. Gather ye now to the feast!

LEADER. Feast! — O miserable!

AGAVE. See, it falls to his breast,

Curling and gently tressed,

The hair of the Wild Bull's crest —

The young steer of the fell!

LEADER. Most like a beast of the wild

That head, those locks defiled.

AGAVE. He wakened his Mad Ones,

A Chase-God, a wise God!

He sprang them to seize this!

He preys where his band preys.

LEADER. In the trail of thy Mad Ones

Thou tearest thy prize, God!

AGAVE. Dost praise it?

LEADER. I praise this?

AGAVE. Ah, soon shall the land praise!

LEADER. And Pentheus, O Mother,

Thy child?

AGAVE. He shall cry on

My name as none other,

Bless the spoils of the Lion!

LEADER. Aye, strange is thy treasure!

AGAVE. And strange was the taking!

LEADER. Thou art glad?

AGAVE. Beyond measure;

Yea, glad in the breaking

Of dawn upon all this land,

By the prize, the prize of my hand!

LEADER. Show them to all the land, unhappy one,

The trophy of this deed that thou hast done!

AGAVE. Ho, all ye men that round the citadel

And shining towers of ancient Thebe dwell,

Come! Look upon this prize, this lion's spoil,
 That we have taken — yea, with our own toil,
 We, Cadmus' daughters! Not with leathern-set
 Thessalian javelins, not with hunter's net,
 Only white arms and swift hands' bladed fall
 Why make ye much ado, and boast withal
 Your armourers' engines? See, these palms were bare
 That caught the angry beast, and held, and tare
 The limbs of him!... Father!... Go, bring to me
 My father!... Aye, and Pentheus, where is he,
 My son? He shall set up a ladder-stair
 Against this house, and in the triglyphs there
 Nail me this lion's head, that gloriously
 I bring ye, having slain him — I, even I!

She goes through the crowd towards the Castle, showing the head and looking for a place to hang

it. Enter from the Mountain CADMUS, with attendants, bearing the body of PENTHEUS on a bier.

CADMUS. On, with your awful burden. Follow me,
 Thralls, to his house, whose body grievously
 With many a weary search at last in dim
 Kithaeron's glens I found, torn limb from limb,
 And through the intervening forest weed
 Scattered. — Men told me of my daughters' deed,
 When I was just returned within these walls,
 With grey Teiresias, from the Bacchanals.
 And back I hied me to the hills again
 To seek my murdered son. There saw I plain
 Actaeon's mother, ranging where he died,
 Autonoë; and Ino by her side,
 Wandering ghastly in the pine-copses.
 Agave was not there. The rumour is
 She cometh fleet-foot hither. — Ah! 'Tis true;
 A sight I scarce can bend mine eyes unto.

AGAVE. My father, a great boast is thine this hour.
 Thou hast begotten daughters, high in power
 And valiant above all mankind — yea, all
 Valiant, though none like me! I have let fall
 The shuttle by the loom, and raised my hand
 For higher things, to slay from out thy land
 Wild beasts! See, in mine arms I bear the prize,
 That nailed above these portals it may rise

To show what things thy daughters did! Do thou
Take it, and call a feast. Proud art thou now
And highly favoured in our valiancy!

CADMUS. O depth of grief, how can I fathom thee
Or look upon thee! — Poor, poor bloodstained hand!
Poor sisters! — A fair sacrifice to stand
Before God's altars, daughter; yea, and call
Me and my citizens to feast withal!

Nay, let me weep — for thine affliction most,
Then for mine own. All, all of us are lost,
Not wrongfully, yet is it hard, from one
Who might have loved — our Bromios, our own!

AGAVE. How crabbed and how scowling in the eyes
Is man's old age! — Would that my son likewise
Were happy of his hunting, in my way
When with his warrior bands he will essay
The wild beast! — Nay, his valiance is to fight
With God's will! Father, thou shouldst set him right.
Will no one bring him thither, that mine eyes
May look on his, and show him this my prize!

CADMUS. Alas, if ever ye can know again
The truth of what ye did, what pain of pain
That truth shall bring! Or were it best to wait
Darkened for evermore, and deem your state

vocabulary

ἀγκάλη the bent arm ~ankylosaurus
 ἄγριος wild, savage ~agriculture
 ἀέθλιον ἀθλίου prize
 ἀέθλιος prize ~athlete
 ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
 ἄθρέω observe, gaze
 αἶα land ~geography
 αἰαῖ alas
 αἰθήρ ether, air, sky ~ether
 ἀλγεινός painful
 ἀλγέω suffer ~analgesic
 ἀλλάσσω trade, transform
 ἀμφιβάλλω wrap ~ballistic
 ἀναβλέπω look up; gain sight, open
 one's eyes
 ἄρθρον joint
 ἀριθμέω to count ~arithmetic
 ἀτιμάζω (ι) insult, dishonor
 ἄτιμος (ι) without honor
 αὐδά voice, report ~Theravada
 ἀφροσύνη folly ~frenzy
 βλάβη harm
 βλώσκω come, go
 βωμός altar; stand, pedestal
 γένειον chin; beard ~chin
 γνωρίζω make known, discover
 γόνος offspring ~genus
 δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate,
 doom ~demon
 δάμαρ wife ~domicile
 δῆτα emphatic δῆ
 διαλαγχάνω divide, share
 διαρπάζω make prey of ~harpoon
 διόλλυμι (υ) be ruined
 δράκων -οντος (m, 3) serpent
 δυσδαίμων unlucky, unhappy
 δύστηνος unhappy, miserable
 ἐγγίγνομαι live in, grow in ~genus
 εἰσείδω look at, behold ~wit
 εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with
 respect ~panorama

ἐκβακχεύω excite to Bacchic frenzy;
 enrage
 ἐκγίγνομαι be born; be by birth
 ~genus
 ἐκεῖσε thither
 ἐκλανθάνω forget, cause to forget
 ~Lethe
 ἐξαμάω finish reaping
 ἐπεξέρχομαι sally
 ἐπινεύω nod
 ἐπινέω allot
 ἔρνος -εος (n, 3) sapling
 ἔρω be able to move ~serpent
 εὐδαιμονέω be lucky, happy
 ἥσυχος quiet
 θέρος -εος (n, 3) summer ~thermos
 θέσφατος divinely ordained
 θηράω hunt, chase
 θιγγάνω touch
 καθιδρύω cause to sit down
 κάρ -ός (n) useless bit; form of κατά
 κασιγνήτη sister
 καταθνήσκω die, be dead
 ~euthanasia
 καταίρω swoop; land
 κατακτείνω kill, slay
 καταράομαι (αἶα) curse
 κερτομέω mock ~cardiac
 κοινωνία association
 κολάζω punish
 κύκνος swan ~Cygnus
 λαμπρός brilliant ~lamp
 λάω grip, pin?
 λεύσσω see, look
 λίαν very
 λόγχη spear point; lot
 λυπηρός (υ) painful, causing pain,
 sad
 μαίνομαι be berserk ~maenad
 μεθίστημι change, substitute;
 withdraw; change sides; (mid) send
 away ~station

μέλαθρον roofbeam
 μεταβάλλω alter, transform
 μεταβολή change, exchange
 μεταστρέφω turn around, change
 one's mind ~atrophy
 μέτειμι be among, go, follow ~ion
 μέτοικος immigrant
 μιγάζ all mixed up
 μίν him, her, it
 μόλις with difficulty, barely
 μολίσκω come, go
 μόσχος calf (animal)
 μόχθος toil
 νηδύς -ος (f) belly, womb
 νόστος homecoming ~nostalgia
 οϊκτρὸς pitiable
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
 ὁμοιόω assimilate, liken
 ~homoerotic
 ὀρθόω stand up
 ὄχος pl: carrying thing, chariot,
 holding place ~wagon
 πάλαι long ago ~paleo
 πάλη wrestling ~Pallas
 πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas
 πενθέω grieve ~Nepenthe
 πέρθω sack, ravage, plunder
 πήδημα leap
 ποῦ where?
 πρέπω be conspicuous, preeminent
 ~refurbish
 προσήκω belong to, it seems
 προσίημι be allowed near
 προσπτύσσω embrace, greet,
 address

πτοέω scare
 σέβομαι feel shame, awe
 σκέπτομαι look, look at, watch
 ~skeptical
 στράτευμα -τος (n, 3) army
 ~strategy
 στρατός common people/soldiers
 ~strategy
 σύγγονος inborn, natural; blood kin
 συγκλείω hem in, connect, conclude
 συνάπτω join, partake; adjoint;
 consult; fight ~haptic
 συνέχω keep together, constrain
 συνόχωκα join together
 σωφρονέω be sane, moderate
 τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
 ταράσσω mess things up ~trachea
 τάρβος -εος (n, 3) fear
 τάφος (m) funeral, grave; (n)
 astonishment
 τλήμων steadfast, enduring ~talent
 τοιγάρ therefore
 τύπος mold, form ~type
 τύπτω beat, smite ~stupid
 ὑβρίζω insult, treat outrageously
 ὕβρις -εως (f) pride, insolence,
 outrage
 ὑμέναιος bridal song ~hymen
 ὑπερφρονέω be snobby
 φυγή flight, means of escape
 ~fugitive
 φύσις -εως (f) nature (of a thing)
 ~physics
 χρησμός oracular response
 χρηστήριον oracle, response

- ΑΓΑΥΗ. τί δ' οὐ καλῶς τῶνδ' ἢ τί λυπηρῶς ἔχει;
 ΚΑΔΜΟΣ. πρῶτον μὲν ἐς τόνδ' αἰθέρ' ὄμμα σὸν μέθες.
 ΑΓ. ἰδού· τί μοι τόνδ' ἐξυπείπας εἰσορᾶν; 1265
 ΚΑΔ. ἔθ' αὐτὸς ἢ σοι μεταβολὰς ἔχειν δοκεῖ;
 ΑΓ. λαμπρότερος ἢ πρὶν καὶ διειπετέστερος.
 ΚΑΔ. τὸ δὲ πτοηθὲν¹ τόδ' ἔτι σῇ ψυχῇ πάρα;
 ΑΓ. οὐκ οἶδα τοῦπος τοῦτο. γίγνομαι δέ πως
 ἔννους, μετασταθεῖσα τῶν πάρος φρενῶν. 1270
 ΚΑΔ. κλύοις ἂν οὖν τι κάποκρίναι' ἂν σαφῶς;
 ΑΓ. ὥς ἐκλέλυσμαί γ' ἂ πάρος εἵπομεν, πάτερ.
 ΚΑΔ. ἐς ποῖον ἦλθες οἶκον ὑμεναίων² μέτα;
 ΑΓ. Σπαρτῶ μ' ἔδωκας, ὥς λέγουσ', Ἐχίονι.
 ΚΑΔ. τίς οὖν ἐν οἴκοις παῖς ἐγένετο σῶ πόσει; 1275
 ΑΓ. Πενθείς, ἐμῇ τε καὶ πατρὸς κοινωνία.
 ΚΑΔ. τίνος πρόσωπον δῆτ' ἐν ἀγκάλαις ἔχεις;
 ΑΓ. λέοντος, ὥς γ' ἔφασκον αἱ θηρώμεναι.
 ΚΑΔ. σκέψαι νυν ὀρθῶς· βραχὺς ὁ μόχθος εἰσιδεῖν.
 ΑΓ. ἔα, τί λεύσσω; τί φέρομαι τόδ' ἐν χεροῖν; 1280
 ΚΑΔ. ἄθρησον αὐτὸ καὶ σαφέστερον μάθε.
 ΑΓ. ὀρώ μέγιστον ἄλγος ἢ τάλαιν' ἐγώ.
 ΚΑΔ. μῶν σοιλέοντι φαίνεται προσεικένας;
 ΑΓ. οὐκ, ἀλλὰ Πενθέως ἢ τάλαιν' ἔχω κára.
 ΚΑΔ. ὦμωγμένον γε πρόσθεν ἢ σὲ γνωρίσαι. 1285
 ΑΓ. τίς ἔκτανέν νυν;— πῶς ἐμὰς ἦλθεν χέρας;
 ΚΑΔ. δύστην' ἀλήθει', ὥς ἐν οὐ καιρῷ πάρει.
 ΑΓ. λέγ', ὥς τὸ μέλλον καρδία πῆδημ³ ἔχει.

¹ scare ² bridal song ³ leap

ΚΑΔ. σύ νιν κατέκτας καὶ κασίγνηται σέθεν.

ΑΓ. ποῦ δ' ὤλετ'; ἦ κατ' οἶκον; ἦ ποίοις τόποις; 1290

ΚΑΔ. οὐπερ πρὶν Ἀκτέωνα διέλαχον κύνες.

ΑΓ. τί δ' ἐς Κιθαιρῶν' ἦλθε δυσδαίμων ὄδε;

ΚΑΔ. ἐκερτόμει⁴ θεὸν σάς τε βακχείας μολῶν.

ΑΓ. ἡμεῖς δ' ἐκείσε τίνι τρόπῳ κατήραμεν;

ΚΑΔ. ἐμάνητε, πᾶσά τ' ἐξεβακχεύθη πόλις. 1295

ΑΓ. Διόνυσος ἡμᾶς ὤλεσ', ἄρτι μανθάνω.

ΚΑΔ. ὕβριν γ' ὕβρισθείς· θεὸν γὰρ οὐχ ἡγείσθῃ νιν.

ΑΓ. τὸ φίλτατον δὲ σῶμα ποῦ παιδός, πάτερ;

ΚΑΔ. ἐγὼ μόλις τόδ' ἐξερευνήσας φέρω.

ΑΓ. ἦ πᾶν ἐν ἄρθροισι συγκεκλημένον καλῶς; ΚΑΔ. 1300

ΑΓ. Πενθεὶ δὲ τί μέρος ἀφροσύνης⁵ προσῆκ' ἐμῆς;

ΚΑΔ. ὑμῖν ἐγένεθ' ὅμοιος, οὐ σέβων θεόν.

τοιγὰρ συνῆψε πάντας ἐς μίαν βλάβην,

ὕμᾶς τε τόνδε θ', ὥστε διολέσαι δόμους

κάμ', ὅστις ἄτεκνος ἀρσένων παιδων γεγώς 1305

τῆς σῆς τόδ' ἔρνος, ὦ τάλαινα, νηδύος

αἴσχιστα καὶ κάκιστα κατθανόνθ' ὀρώ,

ὦ δῶμ' ἀνέβλεφ'—ὅς συνεῖχες, ὦ τέκνον,

τοῦμὸν μέλαθρον, παιδὸς ἐξ ἐμῆς γεγώς,

πόλει τε τάρβος⁶ ἦσθα· τὸν γέροντα δὲ 1310

οὐδείς ὑβρίζειν ἤθελ' εἰσορῶν τὸ σὸν

κάρα· δίκην γὰρ ἀξίαν ἐλάμβανες.

νῦν δ' ἐκ δόμων αἴτιμος ἐκβεβλήσομαι

ὁ Κάδμος ὁ μέγας, ὃς τὸ Θηβαίων γένος

⁴ mock ⁵ folly ⁶ fear

ἔσπειρα κάξήμησα κάλλιστον θέρος. 1315

ὦ φίλτατ' ἀνδρῶν— καὶ γὰρ οὐκέτ' ὦν ὅμως
τῶν φιλτάτων ἔμοιγ' ἀριθμήσῃ,⁷ τέκνον—
οὐκέτι γενείου⁸ τοῦδε θυγγάνων χερί,
τὸν μητρὸς αὐδῶν πατέρα προσπτύξῃ, τέκνον,
λέγων· Τίς ἀδικεῖ, τίς σ' ἀτιμάζει, γέρον; 1320

τίς σὴν ταράσσει καρδίαν λυπηρὸς ὢν;
λέγ', ὡς κολάζω τὸν ἀδικοῦντά σ', ὦ πάτερ.
νῦν δ' ἄθλιος μὲν εἰμ' ἐγώ, τλήμων δὲ σύ.
οἰκτρὰ δὲ μήτηρ, τλήμονες δὲ σύγγονοι.
εἰ δ' ἔστιν ὅστις δαιμόνων ὑπερφρονεῖ, 1325
ἐς τοῦδ' ἀθρήσας θάνατον ἡγείσθω θεούς.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. τὸ μὲν σὸν ἀλγῶ, Κάδμε· σὸς δ' ἔχει δίκην
παῖς παιδὸς ἀξίαν μὲν, ἀλγεινὴν⁹ δὲ σοί.

ΑΓ. ὦ πάτερ, ὁρᾷς γὰρ τὰμ' ὅσῳ μετεστράφη 1329 1329

ΔΙΟΝΥΣΟΣ. δράκων γενήσῃ μεταβαλὼν, δάμαρ τε σὴ 1330

ἐκθηριωθείς ὄφεος ἀλλάξει τύπον,
ἦν Ἄρεος ἔσχες Ἀρμονίαν θνητὸς γεγώς.
ὅχον δὲ μόσχων, χρησμὸς¹⁰ ὡς λέγει Διός,
ἐλᾷς μετ' ἀλόχου, βαρβάρων ἡγούμενος.
πολλὰς δὲ πέρσεις ἀναρίθμῳ στρατεύματι 1335
πόλεις· ὅταν δὲ Λοξίου χρηστήριον
διαρπάσωσι, νόστον ἄθλιον πάλιν
σχήσουσι· σὲ δ' Ἄρης Ἀρμονίαν τε ρύσεται
μακάρων τ' ἐς αἶαν σὸν καθιδρύσει βίον.
ταῦτ' οὐχὶ θνητοῦ πατρὸς ἐκγεγὼς λέγω 1340

⁷ to count ⁸ chin; beard ⁹ painful ¹⁰ oracular response

Διόνυσος, ἀλλὰ Ζηνός· εἰ δὲ σωφρονεῖν
 ἔγνωθ', ὅτ' οὐκ ἠθέλετε, τὸν Διὸς γόνον
 εὐδαμονεῖτ' ἂν σύμμαχον κεκτημένοι.

ΚΑΔ. Διόνυσσε, λισσόμεσθά σ', ἡδικήκαμεν.

ΔΙ. ὅψ' ἐμάθεθ' ἡμᾶς, ὅτε δὲ χρῆν, οὐκ ᾔδετε.

1345

ΚΑΔ. ἐγνώκαμεν ταῦτ'· ἀλλ' ἐπεξέρχῃ λίαν.

ΔΙ. καὶ γὰρ πρὸς ὑμῶν θεὸς γεγώς ὑβρίζομην.

ΚΑΔ. ὀργὰς πρέπει θεοὺς οὐχ ὁμοιοῦσθαι¹¹ βροτοῖς.

ΔΙ. πάλαι τάδε Ζεὺς οὐμὸς ἐπένευσεν πατήρ.

ΑΓ. αἰαί,¹² δέδοκται, πρέσβυ, τλήμονες φυγαί.

1350

ΔΙ. τί δῆτα¹³ μέλλεθ' ἄπερ ἀναγκαίως ἔχει;

ΚΑΔ. ὦ τέκνον, ὡς ἐς δεινὸν ἤλθομεν κακὸν

πάντες, σύ θ' ἢ τάλαινα σύγγονοί τε σαί,

ἐγὼ θ' ὁ τλήμων· βαρβάρους ἀφίξομαι

γέρον μέτοικος· ἔτι δέ μοι τὸ θέσφατον¹⁴

1355

ἐς Ἑλλάδ' ἀγαγεῖν μγάδα¹⁵ βάρβαρον στρατόν.

καὶ τὴν Ἄρεως παῖδ' Ἀρμονίαν, δάμαρτ' ἐμήν,

δράκων δρακαίνης φύσιν ἔχουσιν ἀγρίαν

ἄξω πὶ βωμοὺς καὶ τάφους Ἑλληνικούς,

ἡγούμενος λόγχαισιν·¹⁶ οὐδὲ παύσομαι

1360

κακῶν ὁ τλήμων, οὐδὲ τὸν καταιβάτην

Ἀχέροντα πλεύσας ἥσυχος γενήσομαι.

ΑΓ. ὦ πάτερ, ἐγὼ δὲ σοῦ στερεῖσα φεύξομαι.

ΚΑΔ. τί μ' ἀμφιβάλλεις χερσίν, ὦ τάλαινα παῖ,

ὄρνις ὅπως κηφήνα πολιόχρων κύκνος;¹⁷

¹¹ assimilate, liken ¹² alas ¹³ emphatic δὴ ¹⁴ divinely ordained ¹⁵ all mixed up ¹⁶ spear point; lot ¹⁷ swan

Not misery, though ye know no happiness?

AGAVE. What seest thou here to chide, or not to bless?

CADMUS. Raise me thine eyes to yon blue dome of air!

AGAVE. 'Tis done. What dost thou bid me seek for there?

CADMUS. Is it the same, or changed in thy sight?

AGAVE. More shining than before, more heavenly bright!

CADMUS. And that wild tremour, is it with thee still?

AGAVE. I know not what thou sayest; but my will
Clears, and some change cometh, I know not how.

CADMUS. Canst hearken then, being changed, and answer, now!

AGAVE. I have forgotten something; else I could.

CADMUS. What husband led thee of old from mine abode?

AGAVE. Echî on, whom men named the Child of Earth.

CADMUS. And what child in Echî on's house had birth?

AGAVE. Pentheus, of my love and his father's bred.

CADMUS. Thou bearest in thine arms an head—what head?

AGAVE. A lion's—so they all said in the chase.

CADMUS. Turn to it now—'tis no long toil—and gaze.

AGAVE. Ah! But what is it? What am I carrying here?

CADMUS. Look once upon it full, till all be clear!

AGAVE. I see... most deadly pain! Oh, woe is me!

CADMUS. Wears it the likeness of a lion to thee?

AGAVE. No; 'tis the head—O God!—of Pentheus, this!

CADMUS. Blood-drenched ere thou wouldst know him! Aye, 'tis his.

AGAVE. Who slew him?—How came I to hold this thing?

CADMUS. O cruel Truth, is this thine home-coming?

AGAVE. Answer! My heart is hanging on thy breath!

CADMUS. 'Twas thou.—Thou and thy sisters wrought his death.

AGAVE. In what place was it? His own house, or where?

CADMUS. Where the dogs tore Actaeon, even there.

AGAVE. Why went he to Kithaeron? What sought he?

CADMUS. To mock the God and thine own ecstasy.

AGAVE. But how should we be on the hills this day?

CADMUS. Being mad! A spirit drove all the land that way.

AGAVE. 'Tis Dionyse hath done it! Now I see.

CADMUS. Ye wronged Him! Ye denied his deity!

AGAVE. Show me the body of the son I love!

CADMUS. 'Tis here, my child. Hard was the quest thereof.

AGAVE. Laid in due state?

As there is no answer, she lifts the veil of the bier, and sees.

Oh, if I wrought a sin,'

'Twas mine! What portion had my child therein!

CADMUS. He made him like to you, adoring not
 The God; who therefore to one bane hath brought
 You and this body, wrecking all our line,
 And me. Aye, no man-child was ever mine;
 And now this first-fruit of the flesh of thee,
 Sad woman, foully here and frightfully
 Lies murdered! Whom the house looked up unto,
 Kneeling by the body.

O Child, my daughter's child! who heldest true
 My castle walls; and to the folk a name
 Of fear thou wast; and no man sought to shame
 My grey beard, when they knew that thou wast there,
 Else had they swift reward! — And now I fare
 Forth in dishonour, outcast, I, the great
 Cadmus, who sowed the seed-rows of this state
 Of Thebes, and reaped the harvest wonderful.
 O my beloved, though thy heart is dull
 In death, O still beloved, and alway
 Beloved! Never more, then, shalt thou lay
 Thine hand to this white beard, and speak to me
 Thy "Mother's Father"; ask "Who wrongeth thee?
 Who stints thine honour, or with malice stirs
 Thine heart? Speak, and I smite thine injurers!"
 But now — woe, woe, to me and thee also,
 Woe to thy mother and her sisters, woe
 Alway! Oh, whoso walketh not in dread
 Of Gods, let him but look on this man dead!
 LEADER. Lo, I weep with thee. 'Twas but due reward
 God sent on Pentheus; but for thee... 'Tis hard.
 AGAVE. My father, thou canst see the change in me,
 DIONYSUS. And tell of Time, what gifts for thee he bears,
 What griefs and wonders in the winding years.
 For thou must change and be a Serpent Thing
 Strange, and beside thee she whom thou didst bring
 Of old to be thy bride from Heaven afar,
 Harmonia, daughter of the Lord of War.
 Yea, and a chariot of kine — so spake
 The word of Zeus — thee and thy Queen shall take
 Through many lands, Lord of a wild array
 Of orient spears. And many towns shall they
 Destroy beneath thee, that vast horde, until
 They touch Apollo's dwelling, and fulfil

Their doom, back driven on stormy ways and steep.
Thee only and thy spouse shall Ares keep,
And save alive to the Islands of the Blest.
Thus speaketh Dionysus, Son confessed
Of no man but of Zeus!— Ah, had ye seen
Truth in the hour ye would not, all had been
Well with ye, and the Child of God your friend!
AGAVE. Dionysus, we beseech thee! We have sinned!
DIONYSUS. Too late! When there was time, ye knew me not!
AGAVE. We have confessed. Yet is thine hand too hot.
DIONYSUS. Ye mocked me, being God; this your wage.
AGAVE. Should God be like a proud man in his rage?
DIONYSUS. 'Tis as my sire, Zeus, willed it long ago.
AGAVE. Old man, the word is spoken; we must go.
DIONYSUS. And seeing ye must, what is it that ye wait?
CADMUS. Child, we are come into a deadly strait,
All; thou, poor sufferer, and thy sisters twain,
And my sad self. Far off to barbarous men,
A grey-haired wanderer, I must take my road.
And then the oracle, the doom of God,
That I must lead a raging horde far-flown
To prey on Hellas; lead my spouse, mine own
Harmonia. Ares' child, discorporate
And haunting forms, dragon and dragon-mate,
Against the tombs and altar-stones of Greece,
Lance upon lance behind us; and not cease
From toils, like other men, nor dream, nor past
The foam of Acheron find my peace at last.
AGAVE. Father! And I must wander far from thee!
CADMUS. O Child, why wilt thou reach thine arms to me,
As yearns the milk-white swan, when old swans die?

vocabulary

ἀγέραςτος unrewarded
 ἄελπτος not hoped for
 ἀνάκειμαι be dedicated, be put up
 ἀποβαίνω leave, get off; turn out
 ~basis
 δαιμόνιος voc: you crazy guy
 δακρύω weep
 δυστυχία bad luck
 ἐκβάλλω throw out, fell, let fall
 ~ballistic
 ἐκλείπω leave out, pass over
 ἐπίκουρος ally; mercenary ~cereal
 θάλαμος bedchamber ~thalamus
 θύρσος ivied wand
 θυρσόω make into a wand
 κασιγνήτη sister
 κραίνω accomplish; (rare) rule
 μέλαθρον roofbeam
 μέλεος vain, idle, useless
 μέλω concern, interest, be one's
 responsibility

μισρός stained, polluted ~miasma
 μνήμα -τος (n, 3) reminder,
 memorial ~mnemonic
 μνήμη reminder, memorial
 μορφή beauty
 ὅθι where
 οἰκτρός pitiable
 ὅπου where
 ὅσσε eyes (dual)
 πατήριος of the father(s), ancestral
 ποῖ whither? how long?
 πομπός escort, guide ~pomp
 πόρος way, bridge ~fare
 πόρω aor. give, pf. be fated
 στείχω go, march ~stair
 στένω groan ~stentorian
 τοιόσδε such
 φυγάζ -δος (m, 3) exile, refugee
 ~fugitive
 φυγή flight, means of escape
 ~fugitive

ΑΓΑΥΗ. ποῖ¹ γὰρ τράπωμαι πατρίδος ἐκβεβλημένη;
ΚΑΔΜΟΣ. οὐκ οἶδα, τέκνον· μικρὸς ἐπίκουρος πατήρ.

ΑΓ. χαῖρ', ὦ μέλαθρον, χαῖρ', ὦ πατρία
πόλις· ἐκλείπω σ' ἐπὶ δυστυχία
φυγὰς ἐκ θαλάμων.

1370

ΚΑΔ. στείχε νυν, ὦ παῖ, τὸν Ἀρισταίου¹³⁷¹1371

ΑΓ. στένομαι² σε, πάτερ. ΚΑΔ. καὶ γὰρ σέ, τέκνον,
καὶ σὰς ἐδάκρυσσα κασιγνήτας.

ΑΓ. δεινῶς γὰρ τάνδ' αἰκείαν
Διόνυσος ἄναξ τοὺς σοὺς εἰς
οἴκους ἔφερεν.

1375

ΔΙΟΝΥΣΟΣ. καὶ γὰρ ἔπασχον δεινὰ πρὸς ὑμῶν,
ἀγέραςτον³ ἔχων ὄνομ' ἐν Θήβαις.

ΑΓ. χαῖρε, πάτερ, μοι. ΚΑΔ. χαῖρ', ὦ μελέα⁴
θύγατερ. χαλεπῶς δ' ἐς τόδ' ἂν ἦκοις.

1380

ΑΓ. ἄγετ', ὦ πομποί, με κασιγνήτας
ἵνα συμφυγάδας ληψόμεθ' οἰκτράς.
ἔλθοιμι δ' ὅπου
μήτε Κιθαιρῶν ἔμ' ἴδοι μαρὸς⁵
μήτε Κιθαιρῶν' ὅσσοισιν ἐγώ,
μήθ' ὅθι θύρσου μνήμ' ἀνάκειται·
Βάκχαις δ' ἄλλαισι μέλοιεν.

1385

ΧΟΡΟΣ. πολλαὶ μορφαὶ τῶν δαιμονίων,
πολλὰ δ' ἀέλπτως⁶ κραίνουσι⁷ θεοί·
καὶ τὰ δοκηθέντ' οὐκ ἐτελέσθη,
τῶν δ' ἀδοκῆτων πόρον ἤνρε θεός.

1390

¹ whither? how long? ² groan ³ unrewarded ⁴ vain, idle, useless
⁵ stained, polluted ⁶ not hoped for ⁷ accomplish; (rare) rule

τοιόνδ' ἀπέβη τόδε πρᾶγμα.

AGAVE. Where shall I turn me else? No home have I.

CADMUS. I know not; I can help thee not.

AGAVE. Farewell, O home, O ancient tower!

Lo, I am outcast from my bower,

And leave ye for a worser lot.

CADMUS. Go forth, go forth to misery,

The way Actaeon's father went!

AGAVE. Father, for thee my tears are spent.

CADMUS. Nay, Child, 'tis I must weep for thee;

For thee and for thy sisters twain!

AGAVE. On all this house, in bitter wise,

Our Lord and Master, Dionyse,

Hath poured the utter dregs of pain!

DIONYSUS. In bitter wise, for bitter was the shame

Ye did me, when Thebes honoured not my name.

AGAVE. Then lead me where my sisters be;

Together let our tears be shed,

Our ways be wandered; where no red

Kithaeron waits to gaze on me;

Nor I gaze back; no thyrsus stem,

Nor song, nor memory in the air.

Oh, other Bacchanals be there,

Not I, not I, to dream of them!

AGAVE with her group of attendants goes out on the side away from the Mountain. DIONYSUS rises upon the Cloud and disappears.

CHORUS. There may be many shapes of mystery,

And many things God makes to be,

Past hope or fear.

And the end men looked for cometh not,

And a path is there where no man thought.

So hath it fallen here.

Exeunt.