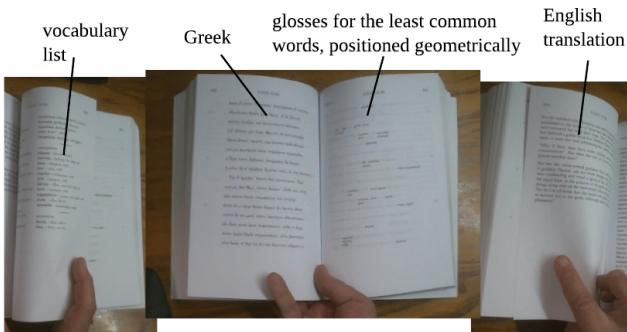


This book is a presentation of a bilingual text with student aids, built using open-source software. For information about how the book is intended to be used and why it's designed the way it is, go to lightandmatter.com/ransom. To read this book on a computer screen, you should set up your PDF viewer so that it displays a two-page layout, with an even page on the left and an odd one on the right.



Text and aids are presented in a four-page spread.

rev. January 24, 2026

The Greek text is Murray, 1902. The translation is Murray, 1906.

Copyright info. Text I've written, such as notes and glosses, is (c) 2026 Benjamin Crowell and CC-BY-SA 4.0. Glosses taken verbatim from Cunliffe or White and Morgan are in the public domain, as are the LSJ dictionary entries. Glosses taken verbatim from Wiktionary are CC-BY-SA 3.0. US law does not allow copyrighting of grammatical facts such as part-of-speech tagging and does not give any additional protection to databases beyond the normal protection of copyright.

vocabulary

αἶα land ~geography
 αἰσυμνάω rule over; be an official
 ἀνδάνω please ~hedonism
 βασιλικός royal
 γαμέω marry, take as a lover ~bigamy
 γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy
 δέρη neck, throat, mane
 δέσποινα lady
 δεσπότις lady
 διαπέταμαι fly across, through ~petal
 διχοστατέω stand apart, disagree
 ἐκπλήσσω panic, be knocked out
 ~plectrum
 ἐρετμόω make to row
 ἔρως -τος (m) love, desire ~erotic
 εὺνάζω lay down; (mp) have sex

κυάνεος dark ~cyan
 μετέρχομαι seek, visit
 νάπη valley
 νοσέω be sick, be mad, suffer
 ὀφεῖλω owe, should, if only
 πεύκη pine
 πότε when?
 προδίδωμι betray
 πύργος ramparts, tower; line of troops
 σκάφος (τό) hull, ship; (δό) digging
 συμφέρω bring together; be expedient;
 agree; (mp) happen ~bear
 σωτηρία saving, preservation
 τέμνω cut, sacrifice, solemnize
 ~tonsure
 φυγή flight, means of escape ~fugitive

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. Εἴθ' ὥφελ' Ἀργοῦς μὴ διαπτάσθαι σκάφος

Κόλχων ἐς αἶαν κυανέας Συμπληγάδας,

μηδ' ἐν νάπαισι Πηλίου πεσεῦν ποτε

τιμηθεῖσα πεύκη, μηδ' ἐρετμῶσαι χέρας

ἀνδρῶν ἀρίστων, οἵ τὸ πάγχρυσον δέρας

5

Πελίᾳ μετηλθον. οὐ γὰρ ἀν δέσποιν' ἐμὴ

Μήδεια πύργους γῆς ἔπλευνσ' Ἰωλκίας

ἔρωτι θυμὸν ἐκπλαγεῖσ' Ἰάσονος·

οὐδ' ἀν κτανεῦν πείσασα Πελιάδας κόρας

πατέρα κατώκει τήνδε γῆν Κορινθίαν

10

ξὺν ἀνδρὶ καὶ τέκνοισιν, ἀνδάνουσα μὲν

φυγῇ πολιτῶν ὅν ἀφίκετο χθόνα,

αὐτή τε πάντα ξυμφέρουσ' Ἰάσονι·

ἢπερ μεγίστη γίγνεται σωτηρία,

ὅταν γυνὴ πρὸς ἀνδρα μὴ διχοστατῇ.

15

νῦν δ' ἐχθρὰ πάντα, καὶ νοσεῖ τὰ φίλτατα.

προδοὺς γὰρ αὐτοῦ τέκνα δεσπότιν τ' ἐμὴν

γάμοις Ἰάσων βασιλικοῖς εὐνάζεται,

γήμας Κρέοντος παιδός, ὃς αἰσύμνη χθονός·

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. Εἴθ' ὥφελ' Ἀργοῦς μὴ διαπτάσθαι σκάφος

Κόλχων ἐσ |land |dark Συμπληγάδας,

μηδέ ἐν |valley Πηλίου πεσεῖν ποτε

cut, sacri- pine	$\mu\eta\delta'$	make to row	<i>έρας</i>
fice, solem-			
nize			
<i>ἀνόρων ἀρίστων, οἵ τὸ πάγχρυσον</i>		neck, throat,	
Πελία _g	seek, visit	$o\bar{u}$ γὰρ ἀν	mane <i>εμη</i>

Μήδεια | wall,
tower γῆς ἐπλευσ' Ἰωλκίας

οὐδ' ἂν κτανεῖν πείσασα Πελιάδας κόρας

πατέρα κατώκει τήνδε γῆν Κορινθίαν

Ἐνν ἀνδρὶ καὶ τέκνοισιν, | please μὲν

flight, means ὁν ὁν ἀφίκετο χθόνα,
of escape

αὐτή τε πάντα ξυμφέρουσ' Ἰάσονι·

ἥπερ μεγίστη γίγνεται σωτηρία,

ὅταν γυνὴ πρὸς ἄνδρα μὴ stand apart,
disagree

|betray γὰρ αὐτοῦ τέκνα |lady τ' ἐμῆν

|wedding, sex [‘] royal |lay down;
(mp) have sex

marry, take *λοντος παιδ'*, ὁς rule over; be *λοντός*
as a lover an official

NURSE. Would God no Argo e'er had winged the seas
To Colchis through the blue Symplegades:
No shaft of riven pine in Pelion's glen
Shaped that first oar-blade in the hands of men
Valiant, who won, to save King Pelias' vow,
The fleece All-golden! Never then, I trow,
Mine own princess, her spirit wounded sore
With love of Jason, to the encastled shore
Had sailed of old Iolcos: never wrought
The daughters of King Pelias, knowing not,
To spill their father's life: nor fled in fear,
Hunted for that fierce sin, to Corinth here
With Jason and her babes. This folk at need
Stood friend to her, and she in word and deed
Served alway Jason. Surely this doth bind,
Through all ill days, the hurts of humankind,
When man and woman in one music move.
But now, the world is angry, and true love
Sick as with poison. Jason doth forsake
My mistress and his own two sons, to make
His couch in a king's chamber. He must wed:
Wed with this Creon's child, who now is head
And chief of Corinth. Wherefore sore betrayed

vocabulary

ἀλγηδών pain, grief

ἀμοιβή requital, compensation

~amoeba

ἀνακαλέω call, summon, recall

ἀνέχω raise; mid: endure, submit

ἀπαλλάσσω free from, remove; be freed, depart

ἀποιμώζω bewail loudly

ἀπολείπω leave behind, fail ~eclipse

ἀπολιμπάνω leave behind, fail

ἄσιτος (i) not eating ~parasite

ἀτιμάζω (i) insult, dishonor

ἀτιμάω (i) dishonor

βαρύς heavy ~baritone

δάκρυον tear

δακρύω weep

δέρη neck, throat, mane

δέρω skin, flay ~tear

δύστηρος unhappy, miserable

ἐπαίρω lift, raise ~heresy

εὐφραίνω gladden ~frenzy

θαλάσσιος marine, maritime

κλύδων -ος (m, 3) wave, surge

~cataclysm

κυρέω come upon, come up against; obtain

μαρτύρομαι (ū) call to witness; protest

νουθετέω remind, warn

ὤμμα -τος (n, 3) eye

ὤμνυμι (ū) swear

ὅρκος what is sworn by. witness, oath

~orc

πάλλευκος all white

πατρώιος of the father(s), ancestral
~paternal

πατρῷος of the father(s), ancestral

πέτρος rock ~petrified

πότε when?

προδίδωμι betray

στρέφω turn, veer ~atrophy

στυγέω dread, shrink from ~Styx

συμφορά collecting; accident,
misfortune

συντήκω fuse, weld; dissolve, waste
away

τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
ὑφίημι lower; admit; slack off ~jet

Μήδεια δ' ἡ δύστηνος ἡτιμασμένη

20

βοᾷ μὲν ὄρκους, ἀνακαλεῖ δὲ δεξιάς,

πίστιν μεγίστην, καὶ θεοὺς μαρτύρεται

οῖας ἀμοιβῆς ἐξ Ἰάσονος κυρεῖ.

κεῖται δ' ἀσιτος, σῶμ' ὑφεῖσ' ἀλγηδόσι,

τὸν πάντα συντήκουσα δακρύοις χρόνον,

25

ἐπεὶ πρὸς ἀνδρὸς ἥσθετ' ἡδικημένη,

οὔτ' ὅμμι' ἐπαίρουσ' οὔτ' ἀπαλλάσσουσα γῆς

πρόσωπον· ὡς δὲ πέτρος ἥθαλάσσιος

κλύδων ἀκούει νουθετούμενη φίλων·

ἢν μή ποτε στρέψασα πάλλευκον δέρην

30

αὐτὴ πρὸς αὐτὴν πατέρ' ἀποιμώξῃ φίλον

καὶ γαῖαν οἴκους θ', οὓς προδοῦσ' ἀφίκετο

μετ' ἀνδρὸς ὃς σφε νῦν ἀτιμάσας ἔχει.

ἔγνωκε δ' ἡ τάλαινα συμφορᾶς ὑπο

οἶν πατρώας μὴ ἀπολείπεσθαι χθονός.

35

στυγεῖ δὲ παιδας οὐδ' ὄρωσ' εὐφραίνεται.

δέδοικα δ' αὐτὴν μή τι βουλεύσῃ νέον·

βαρεῖα γὰρ φρήν, οὐδ' ἀνέξεται κακῶς

βοᾶ μὲν οαθ	call,	δὲ δεξιάς,
	summon,	
	recall	

πίστιν μεγίστην, καὶ θεούς | call to witness; protest

oias |requital, com- *áσονος* |come upon
pen^{sation}

κεῖται δὲ |not eating *ἀρπάζει* |lower; |pain, grief
admit;

τὸν πάντα [fuse, weld; slack off; solve, waste away] *πύοις χρόνον,*

ἐπεὶ πρὸς ἀνδρὸς ἥσθετ’ ἡδικημένη,

wave, *ἀκούει* |remind, warn *φίλων*

ἢν μή ποτε |turn |all white δέρην

αὐτὴν πρὸς αὐτὴν πατέρον ἀποιμάξῃ φίλον

καὶ γαῖαν οἴκους θ', οὓς |betray ἀφίκετο

μετ' ἀνδρὸς ὡς σφε νῦν ἀτυμάσας ἔχει.

οῖον πατρώας μὴ ἀπολείπεσθαι χθονός.

|dread δὲ παῖδας οὐδ' ὄρωσ' |gladden

δέδοικα δ' αὐτὴν μή τι βουλεύσῃ νέον·

heavy γὰρ φρήν, οὐδ' raise; κακῶς
endure

Medea calleth up the oath they made,
They two, and wakes the clasped hands again,
The troth surpassing speech, and cries amain
On God in heaven to mark the end, and how
Jason hath paid his debt.

All fasting now
And cold, her body yielded up to pain,
Her days a waste of weeping, she hath lain,
Since first she knew that he was false. Her eyes
Are lifted not; and all her visage lies
In the dust. If friends will speak, she hears no more
Than some dead rock or wave that beats the shore:
Only the white throat in a sudden shame
May writhe, and all alone she moans the name
Of father, and land, and home, forsook that day
For this man's sake, who casteth her away.
Not to be quite shut out from home... alas,
She knoweth now how rare a thing that was!
Methinks she hath a dread, not joy, to see
Her children near. 'Tis this that maketh me
Most tremble, lest she do I know not what.
Her heart is no light thing, and useth not
To brook much wrong. I know that woman, aye,
And dread her! Will she creep alone to die

vocabulary

ἀλγέω	suffer ~analgesic	μίν	him, her, it
ἀλγηδών	pain, grief	ὄζω	have a smell, waft
ἀνθάπτομαι	grapple, seize	ὁπηδός	member of an entourage, bodyguard
ἄτα	bewilderment, folly	ούτάω	pierce, wound
ἄω	aor: to sate ~sate	παλαιός	old ~paleo
γαμέω	marry, take as a lover ~bigamy	πίτνω	poetic for πίπτω
δειμαίνω	be afraid	πύλη	gate ~Thermopylae
δέσποινα	lady	σαυτοῦ	yourself
δεσπότης	-ου (m, 1) master, despot	σιγά	silence
εἰσβαίνω	enter, board ~basis	σιγάω (i)	be silent
ἐκβαίνω	come forth, disembark ~basis	στείχω	go, march ~stair
ἐννοέω	consider	στόργυμι (o)	smooth out
ἐννυμι	(o) clothe in (+2 acc) ~vest	συμβάλλω	pit against; compare; mp: meet, fall in with ~ballistic
ἐρημία	wilderness, solitude	συμφορά	collecting; accident, misfortune
ἔχθρη	hate	τροχάω	run, spin
ἡπαρ	-τος (n) liver ~hepatic	τύραννος	tyrant
θηκτός	sharpened	ὑπέρχομαι	go under
θρέομαι	scream, shriek	φάσγανον	sword
ἴμερος	(i) desire, inclination (+gen)	φροντίς	-τος (f) thought, care
καλλίνικος	(ii) gloriously triumphant	ώθέω	push
κτῆμα	-τος (n, 3) possession		
λέχος	-εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier ~lie		

πάσχουσ': ἐγῳδα τήνδε, δειμαίνω τέ νυν

μὴ θηκτὸν ὥση φάσγανον δι' ἥπατος,

40

σιγῇ δόμους εἰσβᾶσ', ἵν' ἔστρωται λέχος,

ἢ καὶ τύραννον τόν τε γήμαντα κτάνῃ,

κάπειτα μεῖζω συμφορὰν λάβῃ τινά.

δεινὴ γάρ· οὗτοι ῥᾳδίως γε συμβαλὼν

ἔχθραν τις αὐτῇ καλλίνικον οἴσεται.

45

ἀλλ' οἵδε παιδεῖς ἐκ τρόχων πεπαυμένοι

στείχουσι, μητρὸς οὐδὲν ἐννοούμενοι

κακῶν· νέα γὰρ φροντὶς οὐκ ἀλγεῦν φιλεῖ.

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. παλαιὸν οἴκων κτῆμα δεσπούνης ἐμῆς,

τί πρὸς πύλαισι τήνδ' ἄγουσ' ἐρημίαν

50

ἔστηκας, αὐτῇ θρεομένη σαυτῇ κακά;

πῶς σοῦ μόνη Μήδεια λείπεσθαι θέλει;

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. τέκνων ὄπαδὲ πρέσβυ τῶν Ἰάσονος,

χρηστοῖσι δούλοις ξυμφορὰ τὰ δεσποτῶν

κακῶς πίτνοντα, καὶ φρενῶν ἀνθάπτεται.

55

ἐγὼ γὰρ ἐσ τοῦτ' ἐκβέβηκ' ἀλγηδόνος,

ῶσθ' ἵμερός μ' ὑπῆλθε γῇ τε κούρανῶ

πάσχουσ· ἐγὼδα τήνδε, |be afraid τέ νιν

μὴ |sharpened τῇ |sword δί |liver , 40

σιγῇ δόμους |enter, , ἴντι |smooth out |bed, bier
board

ἢ καὶ |tyrant τόν τε |marry, take τάνῃ,
as a lover

κάπειτα μείζω συμφορὰν λάβῃ τινά.

δεινὴ γάρ· οὗτοι ῥᾳδίως γε συμβαλὼν

|hate τις αὐτῇ |gloriously οἴσεται.
triumphant

ἀλλ’ οἴδε παῖδες ἐκ |run, spin τεπαυμένοι

|go, march , μητρὸς οὐδὲν |consider

κακῶν· νέα γὰρ |thought, care |suffer φιλεῖ.

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. |old οἴκων |posses- |lady
sion ἔμῆς,

τί πρὸς |gate τήνδ’ ἄγουσ· |wilderness,
solitude

ἔστηκας, αὐτὴ |scream, |yourself ακά;
shriek

πῶς σοῦ μόνη Μήδεια λείπεσθαι θέλει;

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. τέκνων |member, of ἀν en- |Iάσονος,
tourage, bodyguard

χρηστοῖσι δούλοις ξυμφορὰ τὰ |master,
despot

κακῶς |poetic for πίπτω τρένῶν ἀνθάπτεται.

ἐγὼ γὰρ ἐσ τοῦτ’ |come forth|pain, grief ,

ἄσθρο |urge μέ |go under, ἢ τε κούρανῶ

Bleeding in that old room, where still is laid
Lord Jason's bed? She hath for that a blade
Made keen. Or slay the bridegroom and the king,
And win herself God knows what direr thing?
Tis a fell spirit. Few, I ween, shall stir
Her hate unscathed, or lightly humble her.
Ha! 'Tis the children from their games again,
Rested and gay; and all their mother's pain
Forgotten! Young lives ever turn from gloom!

The CHILDREN and their ATTENDANT come in.

ATTENDANT. Thou ancient treasure of my lady's room,
What mak'st thou here before the gates alone,
And alway turning on thy lips some moan
Of old mischances? Will our mistress be
Content, this long time to be left by thee?

NURSE. Grey guard of Jason's children, a good thrall
Hath his own grief, if any hurt befall
His masters. Aye, it holds one's heart! ...
Meseems

I have strayed out so deep in evil dreams,
I longed to rest me here alone, and cry
Medea's wrongs to this still Earth and Sky.

vocabulary

βλώσκω come, go
 γένειον chin; beard ~chin
 γεραιός old ~geriatric
 γοάω weep, mourn
 γρός crying, wailing
 δέσποινα lady
 δεσπότης -ου (m, 1) master, despot
 δεῦρο here, come here!
 διαφορά disagreement
 ἔξανέχω stick out from; (mp) endure
 ἔρπω be able to move ~serpent
 ζηλόω emuluate, praise
 θάσσω sit
 καινέω freshen, innovate, make strange
 καινός new, fresh, strange
 καινόω freshen, innovate, make strange
 κάτιμα connection by marriage
 κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid

κοίρανος ruler, chief
 κρύπτω hide, cover ~cryptic
 μεσόω be in the middle
 μεταγιγνώσκω change one's mind
 ~gnostic
 μολίσκω come, go
 οὐδέπω not, not yet
 οὔπω no longer
 παλαιός old ~paleo
 πεσσός pebble, game piece
 πῆμα -τος (n, 3) woe, bane ~penury
 προσέρχομαι come forward, surrender,
 come in
 σαφής clear, understandable
 σεμνός revered, holy
 σιγά silence
 σύνδουλος fellow slave
 τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
 φθονέω envy

λέξαι μολούση δεῦρο δεσποίνης τύχας.

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. οὕπω γὰρ ἡ τάλαινα παύεται γόων;

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. ζηλῶ σ'. ἐν ἀρχῇ πῆμα κούδέπω μεσοῖ.

60

ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. ὡς μῶρος— εἰ χρὴ δεσπότας εἰπεῖν τόδε·

ώς οὐδὲν οἶδε τῶν νεωτέρων κακῶν.

ΤΡΟΦ. τί δ' ἔστιν, ὡς γεραιέ; μὴ φθόνει φράσαι.

ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. οὐδέν· μετέγνων καὶ τὰ πρόσθ' εἰρημένα.

ΤΡΟΦ. μή, πρὸς γενείου, κρύπτε σύνδουλον σέθεν.

65

σιγὴν γάρ, εἰ χρή, τῶνδε θήσομαι πέρι.

ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. ἥκουσά του λέγοντος, οὐ δοκῶν κλύειν,

πεσσοὺς προσελθών, ἔνθα δὴ παλαίτατοι

θάσσουσι, σεμνὸν ἀμφὶ Πειρήνης ὕδωρ,

ώς τούσδε παῖδας γῆς ἐλάν Κορωθίας

70

σὺν μητρὶ μέλλοι τῆσδε κοίρανος χθονὸς

Κρέων. ὁ μέντοι μῦθος εἰ σαφῆς ὅδε

οὐκ οἶδα· βουλούμην δ' ἀν οὐκ εἶναι τόδε.

ΤΡΟΦ. καὶ ταῦτ' Ἰάσων παῖδας ἔξανέξεται

πάσχοντας, εἰ καὶ μητρὶ διαφορὰν ἔχει;

75

ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. παλαιὰ καινῶν λείπεται κηδευμάτων,

λέξαι μολούσῃ |here, lady τύχας.

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. |no longer, ἥ |wretched, ταύεται γόων; miserable

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. ζηλῶ σ' ἐν ἀρχῇ |woe, |not, not yet|be in the middle 60
|bane

ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. ὁ μῶρος— εἰ χρῆ |master, εἰπεῖν τόδε·
|despot

ώς οὐδὲν οἶδε τῶν νεωτέρων κακῶν.

ΤΡΟΦ. τί δ' ἔστιν, ὁ |old, μὴ |envy φράσαι.

ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. οὐδέν· μετέγνων καὶ τὰ πρόσθ' εἰρημένα.

ΤΡΟΦ. μή, πρὸς |chin; |hide, |fellow slave τέθεν· 65
|beard |cover

σιγὴν γάρ, εἰ χρῆ, τῶνδε θήσομαι πέρι.

ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. ἥκουσά του λέγοντος, οὐ δοκῶν |hear ,

|pebble |come forward, surrender, |old
|come in

|sit |revered, holy Πειρήνης ὕδωρ,

ώς τούσδε παῖδας γῆς ἐλάν Κορωθίας

70

σὺν μητρὶ μέλλοι τῆσδε |ruler, chief χθονὸς

Κρέων. ὁ μέντοι μῦθος εἰ |clear, under-
|standable

οὐκ οἶδα· βουλούμην δ' ἀν οὐκ εἶναι τόδε.

ΤΡΟΦ. καὶ ταῦτ' Ἰάσων παῖδας ἔξανέξεται

πάσχοντας, εἰ καὶ μητρὶ |disagreement εἰ;

75

ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. |old καινῶν λείπεται |connection by
|marriage

ATTENDANT. How? Are the tears yet running in her eyes?

NURSE. 'Twere good to be like thee!... Her sorrow lies
Scarce wakened yet, not half its perils wrought.

ATTENDANT. Mad spirit!... if a man may speak his thought
Of masters mad.—And nothing in her ears
Hath sounded yet of her last cause for tears!

He moves towards the house, but the NURSE checks him.

NURSE. What cause, old man?... Nay, grudge me not one word.

ATTENDANT. 'Tis nothing. Best forget what thou hast heard.

NURSE. Nay, housemate, by thy beard! Hold it not hid
From me... I will keep silence if thou bid.

ATTENDANT. I heard an old man talking, where he sate
At draughts in the sun, beside the fountain gate,
And never thought of me, there standing still
Beside him. And he said, 'Twas Creon's will,
Being lord of all this land, that she be sent,
And with her her two sons, to banishment.

Maybe 'tis all false. For myself, I know
No further, and I would it were not so.

NURSE. Jason will never bear it—his own sons
Banished,—however hot his anger runs
Against their mother!

ATTENDANT. Old love burneth low
When new love wakes, men say. He is not now

vocabulary

ἀλίσκομαι be captured ~helix
 ἥρτι at the same time
 δέσποινα lady
 δεσπότης -ου (m, 1) master, despot
 δρασείω (ἀ) intend
 δράω do, accomplish
 δυσθυμέω (υδ) be sad, angry
 ἐρημόω raze, bereave; desert, isolate
 εύνή bed; (pl) anchor stones
 ἡσυχάζω be quiet, rest
 θνητός mortal ~euthanasia
 κατασκήπτω fall upon
 κέρδος -ους (n, 3) advantage, cunning
 μίν him, her, it

ὤμυα -τος (n, 3) eye
 οὕνεκα because
 παλαιός old ~paleo
 πελάζω bring/come to, near, into contact with
 πέλας near, close
 προσφέρω present; resemble; add
 σάφα with full understanding
 σιγάω (ι) be silent
 στέργω love; be content
 ταυρόματι become a bull or like one
 χόλος gall, anger, wrath, bitterness
 ~choler
 χολόω anger, provoke ~choler

κούκ ̄στ’ ἐκεῦνος τοῖσδε δώμασιν φίλος.

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. ἀπωλόμεσθ’ ἄρ’, εἰ κακὸν προσοίσομεν

νέον παλαιῷ, πρὶν τόδ’ ἐξηντληκέναι.

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. ἀτὰρ σύ γ’— οὐ γὰρ καιρὸς εἰδέναι τόδε

80

δέσποιναν— ἡσύχαζε καὶ σύγα λόγον.

ΤΡΟΦ. ὦ τέκν’, ἀκούεθ’ οἶος εἰς ὑμᾶς πατήρ;

οἶλοιτο μὲν μή· δεσπότης γάρ ̄στ’ ἐμός·

ἀτὰρ κακός γ’ ὥν ἐσ φίλους ἀλίσκεται.

ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. τίς δ’ οὐχὶ θητῶν; ἄρτι γιγνώσκεις τόδε,

85

ώς πᾶς τις αὐτὸν τοῦ πέλας μᾶλλον φιλεῖ,

οἱ μὲν δικαίως, οἱ δὲ καὶ κέρδους χάριν,

εἰ τούσδε γ’ εὐνῆς οῦνεκ’ οὐ στέργει πατήρ.

ΤΡΟΦ. οὐτ’— εὖ γὰρ ̄σται— δωμάτων ̄σω, τέκνα.

σὺ δ’ ὡς μάλιστα τούσδ’ ἐρημώσας ̄χε

90

καὶ μὴ πέλαζε μητρὶ δυσθυμουμένη.

ηδη γὰρ εἶδον ὅμμα νιν ταυρουμένην

τοῦσδ’, ὡς τι δρασείουσαν· οὐδὲ παύσεται

χόλου, σάφ’ οἶδα, πρὶν κατασκῆψαι τινα ...

ἐχθρούς γε μέντοι, μὴ φίλους, δράσειέ τι.

κούκ ἔστ' ἐκεῦνος τοῖσδε δώμασιν φίλος.

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. ἀπωλόμεσθ' ἄρ', εἰ κακὸν |present; resem-
ble; add
νέον παλαιῷ, πρὶν τόδ' ἐξηγντληκέναι.

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. ἀτὰρ σύ γ'— οὐ γάρ καιρὸς εἰδέναι τόδε

80

|lady — |be quiet, rest |be silent |ov.

ΤΡΟΦ. ὁ τέκν', ἀκούεθ' οἶος εἰς ὑμᾶς πατήρ;

ὅλοιτο μὲν μῆτε |master, |despot γάρ ἔστ' ἐμόσ·
ἀτὰρ κακός γ' ὥν ἐσ φίλους |be captured

ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. τίς δ' οὐχὶ |mortal |at the same time τόδε,

85

ώς πᾶς τις αὐτὸν τοῦ |near, |close μᾶλλον φιλεῖ,

οἱ μὲν δικαίως, οἱ δὲ καὶ |advantage, |cunning, |xριν,

εἰ τούσδε γ' |bed; |because ὃ |love; be content |.

(pl) |anchor |stones ΤΡΟΦ. οὐτοί— εὐ γένος ταῖ— δωμάτων ἔσω, τέκνα.

οὐ δ' ως |very τούσδε |raze, bereave; |ε |desert, isolate

90

καὶ μὴ |bring/come, to, |near, |μυουμένη |into contact with

ηδη γάρ εἶδον |eye νιν |become a bull
or like one

τοῖσδε, ως τι |intend οὐδὲ παύσεται

χόλου, |clearly ίδα, πρὶν |fall upon τινα ...

ἐχθρούς γε μέντοι, μὴ φίλους, |do, accomplish

Husband nor father here, nor any kin.

NURSE. But this is ruin! New waves breaking in
To wreck us, ere we are righted from the old!

ATTENDANT. Well, hold thy peace. Our mistress will be told
All in good time. Speak thou no word hereof.

NURSE. My babes! What think ye of your father's love?
God curse him not, he is my master still:
But, oh, to them that loved him, 'tis an ill
Friend...

ATTENDANT. And what man on earth is different? How?
Hast thou lived all these years, and learned but now
That every man more loveth his own head
Than other men's? He dreameth of the bed
Of this new bride, and thinks not of his sons.

NURSE. Go: run into the house, my little ones:
All will end happily!... Keep them apart:
Let not their mother meet them while her heart
Is darkened. Yester night I saw a flame
Stand in her eye, as though she hated them,
And would I know not what. For sure her wrath
Will never turn nor slumber, till she hath ...
Go: and if some must suffer, may it be

vocabulary

ἄγριος wild, savage ~agriculture

αἰαῖ alas

ἀνάπτω bind; blame; kindle ~haptic

ἀραρίσκω join, fit, furnish ~arthritis

ἄρδω give water

αὐθάδης stubborn

δάκνω bite

δῆλος visible, conspicuous

ἐγγύς near

ἐνδιδωμι hand over, lend, show, allow

ἐνδοθεν from within

ἔρρω go (neg. connotation) ~serve

ἡθος ἡθεος (n, 3) habit, habitat ~ethos

ἰός arrow

ἰωή a rush, a sweep

κατάρρατος (ααά) accused

κινέω (i) set in motion, move, remove

~kinetic

μέλεος vain, idle, useless

νέφος -εος (n, 3) cloud ~nebula

οἰμωγή wailing

ο̄μμα -τος (n, 3) eye

πελάζω bring/come to, near, into contact with

πόνος toil, suffering ~osteopenia

προσέρχομαι come forward, surrender, come in

σπεύδω 'push on,' get going, hurry ~repudiate

στυγερός dreaded, feeling dread ~Styx

τάχα quickly, soon; perhaps ~tachometer

τάχος -ους (n, 3) speed ~tachometer

φύσις -εως (f) nature (of a thing)

~physics

φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics

χόλος gall, anger, wrath, bitterness

~choler

χωρέω withdraw, give way to (+dat)

~heir

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ἔνδοθεν ἵώ, δύστανος ἐγὼ μελέα τε πόνων,

ἵώ μοί μοι, πῶς ἀν ὄλοιμαν;

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. τόδ' ἐκεῦνο, φῦλοι παιδες· μήτηρ

κινεῖ κραδίαν, κινεῖ δὲ χόλον.

σπεύσατε θᾶσσον δώματος εἴσω

100

καὶ μὴ πελάσητ' ὅμματος ἐγγύς,

μηδὲ προσέλθητ', ἀλλὰ φυλάσσεσθ'

ἄγριον ἥθος στυγεράν τε φύσιν

φρενὸς αὐθάδους.—

ἴτε νῦν, χωρεῦθ' ὡς τάχος εἴσω.—

105

δῆλον δ' ἀρχῆς ἐξαιρόμενον

νέφος οἴμωγῆς ὡς τάχ' ἀνάψει

μεῖζον θυμῷ· τί ποτ' ἐργάσεται

μεγαλόσπλαγχνος δυσκατάπαυστος

ψυχὴ δηχθεῖσα κακοῖσιν;

110

ΜΗΔ. αἰαῖ, ἔπαθον τλάμων ἔπαθον μεγάλων

ἄξι' ὄδυρμῶν· ὡς κατάρατοι

παιδες ὄλοισθε στυγερᾶς ματρὸς

σὺν πατρί, καὶ πᾶς δόμος ἔρροι.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ἔνδοθεν ἵώ, δύστανος ἐγὼ |vain, idle |toil, suffering

ἵώ μοί μοι, πῶς ἀν ὀλοίμαν;

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. τόδ' ἐκεῦνο, φῖλοι παῖδες· μήτηρ

|move, , |*αδίαν*, |move, ^ |anger
remove |remove

‘push on,’ get σσον δώματος εἴσω
going, hurry

καὶ μῆ |bring/come |eye |near
to, near,

μηδὲ |come,forward, ^ |*σὺ-* φυλάσσεσθ
with into contact render, come in

wild, |habit, |dreaded, feel- φύσιν
savage |habitaing dread

φρενὸς |stubborn —

ἴτε νῦν, |withdraw, ^ |speed εἴσω.—
give way to

visible, ^ |*χῆς* εξαιρόμενοι
conspicuous

|cloud |wailing ὡς τάχ' ἀνάψει

μεῖζονι θυμῷ· τί ποτ' ἐργάσεται

μεγαλόσπλαγχνος δυσκατάπανστος

ψυχὴ |bite κακοῖσιν;

ΜΗΔ. |alas, |*ἐπαθον* τλάμων |*ἐπαθον* μεγάλων

ἀξι' ὁδυρμῶν· ὡς |accursed

παῖδες ὄλοισθε |dreaded, feel- |*τρός*
ing dread

σὺν πατρί, καὶ πᾶς δόμος ἔρροι.

100

105

110

Not we who love her, but some enemy!

VOICE (within).

Oh shame and pain: O woe is me!

Would I could die in my misery!

The CHILDREN and the ATTENDANT go in.

NURSE. Ah, children, hark! She moves again
Her frozen heart, her sleeping wrath.

In, quick! And never cross her path,

Nor rouse that dark eye in its pain;

That fell sea-spirit, and the dire

Spring of a will untaught, unbowed.

Quick, now!—Methinks this weeping cloud

Hath in its heart some thunder-fire,

Slow gathering, that must flash ere long.

I know not how, for ill or well,

It turns, this uncontrollable

Tempestuous spirit, blind with wrong.

VOICE (within).

Have I not suffered? Doth it call

No tears?... Ha, ye beside the wall

Unfathered children, God hate you

vocabulary

ἄτα	bewilderment, folly	κρείσσων	more powerful; better
ἄτάω	(mp) suffer, be in distress	λῆμα	will, desire, purpose; courage, insolence
γηραιός	old	μεταβάλλω	alter, transform
γοῦν	at least then	μετέχω	partake of
δαίμων	-ονος (m, 3) a god, fate, doom	μέτριος	medium, moderate
~demon		οἴμοι	woe is me
ἐθίζω	accustom	δργή	urge, impulse; anger
ἐκλύω	rescue from ~loose	δργίζω	anger, provoke, annoy
ἔχθω	(mp) be hated ~external	δύνατος	strong, secure
ἡπιος	kind (adj)	δύνασθαι	fortify
θνητός	mortal ~euthanasia	τλήμων	steadfast, enduring ~talent
ἰός	arrow	τύραννος	tyrant
ἰωή	a rush, a sweep	ὑπεραλγέω	grieve, feel pain for
καταγηράσκω	age, pass one's days	ὑπερβάλλω	cause to go beyond; delay ~ballistic
~geriatric			
κλύω	hear, listen to ~Euclid		

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. ἵώ μοι μοι, ἵώ τλήμων.

115

τί δέ σοι παῖδες πατρὸς ἀμπλακίας

μετέχουσι; τί τούσδ' ἔχθεις; οἴμοι,

τέκνα, μή τι πάθηθ' ὡς ὑπεραλγῶ.

δεινὰ τυράννων λήματα καί πως

ὁλίγ' ἀρχόμενοι, πολλὰ κρατοῦντες

120

χαλεπῶς ὄργας μεταβάλλουσιν.

τὸ γὰρ εἰθίσθαι ζῆν ἐπ' ἵσοισιν

κρεῖσσον· ἐμοὶ γοῦν ἐν μὴ μεγάλοις

όχυρῶς γ' εἴη καταγηράσκειν.

τῶν γὰρ μετρίων πρῶτα μὲν εἰπεῖν

125

τοῦνομα νικᾶ, χρῆσθαι τε μακρῷ

λῶστα βροτοῦσιν· τὰ δ' ὑπερβάλλοντ'

οὐδένα καιρὸν δύναται θνητοῖς·

μεῖζους δ' ἄτας, ὅταν ὄργισθῇ

δαίμων οἴκοις, ἀπέδωκεν.

130

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἔκλυον φωνάν, ἔκλυον δὲ βοὰν

τᾶς δυστάνου Κολχίδος, οὐδέ πω

ἢπιος· ἀλλ' ὁ γηραιά,

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. *ἰώ μοί μοι, ἰώ* |steadfast

115

*τί δέ σοι παῖδες πατρὸς ἀμπλακίας**|partake of , τί τούσδ' |(mp) be|woe is me
hated**τέκνα, μή τι πάθηθ' ὡς ὑπεραλγῶ.**δεινὰ |tyrant |will, desire, purpose;
courage, insolence**ὁλίγ' ἀρχόμενοι, πολλὰ κρατοῦντες*

120

*χαλεπῶς |urge, |alter, transform
impulse;
τὸ γὰρ |anger |accustom ἢν επ' ἵσοισιν**κρεῖσσον· ἐμοὶ |at least then` μεγάλοις**οχυρῶς γ' εἴη |age, pass one's days**τῶν γὰρ |medium, πρῶτα μὲν εἰπεῖν
moderate**τοῦνομα νικᾶ, χρῆσθαι τε μακρῷ*

125

*λῶστα βροτοῖσιν· τὰ δ' |cause to go be-
yond; delay**οὐδένα καιρὸν δύναται |mortal**μεῖζους δ' ἄτας, ὅταν |anger, pro-
voke, annoy**|a god, fate, doom πέδωκεν.*

130

ΧΟΡΟΣ. *ἔκλυνον φωνάν, ᔍκλυνον δὲ βοὰν**τᾶς δυστάνου Κολχίδος, οὐδέ πω**|kind (adj)` λ' ὁλ |old*

As I am hated, and him, too,
That gat you, and this house and all!
NURSE. For pity! What have they to do,
Babes, with their father's sin? Why call
Thy curse on these?... Ah, children, all
These days my bosom bleeds for you.
Rude are the wills of princes: yea,
Prevailing alway, seldom crossed,
On fitful winds their moods are tossed:
Tis best men tread the equal way.
Aye, not with glory but with peace
May the long summers find me crowned:
For gentleness—her very sound
Is magic, and her usages.
All wholesome: but the fiercely great
Hath little music on his road,
And falleth, when the hand of God
Shall move, most deep and desolate.

During the last words the LEADER of the Chorus has entered. Other women follow her.

LEADER. I heard a voice and a moan,
A voice of the eastern seas:
Hath she found not yet her ease?
Speak, O aged one.

*vocabulary***αἰαῖ** alas**άιώ** perceive, feel, hear; breathe out**ἄλγος -εος** (n, 3) woe, grief ~analgesic**ἀμφίπυλος** with two entrances**βιοτή** life**δέσποινα** lady**ἐκλύω** rescue from ~loose**ἔρος** love; appetite ~erotic**θάλαμος** bedchamber ~thalamus**κεράννυμι** (v) mix ~crater**κέρδος -ους** (n, 3) advantage, cunning**κλύω** hear, listen to ~Euclid**κοίτη** rest, resting place, sleepiness**κραίνω** accomplish; (rare) rule**λέκτρον** bed ~lie**λίσσομαι** beg, beseech ~litany**μάταιος** vain, empty**μέλαθρον** roofbeam**μέλπω** celebrate in song**νύμφα** nymph; bride**οὐράνιος** heavenly**πόσις -ος** (m) (m) husband, master; (f)

a drink ~potent

πότε when?**προλείπω** abandon, withdraw ~eclipse**σπεύδω** 'push on,' get going, hurry

~repudiate

στυγερός dreaded, feeling dread ~Styx**συνήδομαι** rejoice, sympathize with**τελευτή** conclusion, fulfilment ~apostle**τύραννος** tyrant**φάος φῶς** (n, 3) light; salvation; (pl)

eyes ~photon

φεῦ exclamation of grief, anger,

surprise, admiration

φέως bush used to make brooms**φλόξ -γός** (f) flame ~flame**φροῦρος** fled, vanished

λέξον· ἐπ' ἀμφιπύλου γὰρ ἔσω μελάθρου βοὰν
ἔκλυνον· οὐδὲ συνήδομαι, ὡς γύναι, ἀλγεσιν
δώματος· ἐπεί μοι φίλον κέκρανται.

135

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. οὐκ εἰσὶ δόμοι· φροῦδα τάδ' ἥδη.

τὸν μὲν γὰρ ἔχει λέκτρα τυράννων,
ἄ δ' ἐν θαλάμοις τάκει βιοτὰν
δέσποινα, φίλων οὐδενὸς οὐδὲν
παραθαλπομένα φρένα μύθοις.

140

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. αἰαῖ· ὡς Ζεῦ καὶ Γᾶ καὶ Φῶς· διά μου κεφαλᾶς φλὸξ
οὐρανία

βαίη· τί δέ μοι ζῆν ἔτι κέρδος;
φεῦ φεῦ· θανάτῳ καταλυσαίμαν
βιοτὰν στυγερὰν προλιποῦσα.[]

145

ΧΟΡΟΣ. —ἄιες· ὡς Ζεῦ καὶ γᾶ καὶ φῶς·

ἀχὰν οἴαν ἀ δύστανος μέλπει νύμφα;—
τίς σοί ποτε τᾶς ἀπλάτου
κοίτας ἔρος, ὡς ματαία;
σπεύσει θανάτου τελευτά·
μηδὲν τόδε λίσσου.— εἰ δὲ σὸς πόσις

150

λέξον· ἐπ' ἀμφιπύλου γὰρ ἔσω |roofbeam βοὰν

ἐκλυον· οὐδὲ |συνήδομαι?:, [^]_—, rejoice, |woe
sympathize with; or
δώματος· ἐπι_μαντοῦ κέκρανται.

135

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. οὐκ εἰσὶ δόμοι· |fled, [—]άδ' ἥδη.
vanished

τὸν μὲν γὰρ ἔχει |bed |tyrant

140

ἀ δ' ἐν |bedchamber. ίκει |life

|lady , φίλων οὐδενὸς οὐδὲν

παραθαλπομένα φρένα μύθοις.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. |alas ὁ Ζεῦ καὶ Γᾶ καὶ Φῶς· διά μου κεφαλᾶς |flame

|heavenly

βαίν· τί δέ μοι ζῆν ἔτι |advantage, [—]
cunning

145

ex- |exclamation of grief, anger, [^]_{μαν}
cla- |surprise, admiration

ma- |dreaded, |abandon, [—]
tion |feeling |withdraw

ΧΟΡΟΙ grief, — |perceive; [—] καὶ γᾶ καὶ φῶς·
anger, |breathe out

sur- |prise, οἴαν ἀ δύστανος |celebrate in song —

ad-

mi- |_{τις} σοί ποτε τᾶς ἀπλάτου
ra- |_{τις}

tion |rest, |love; [—] |vain,
resting |appetite |empty

place, |_{θανάτου} |conclusion,
sleepi- |ness |fulfilment

μηδὲν τόδε |beg — εἰ δὲ σὸς |(m) husband, mas-
ter; (f) a drink

150

For I stood afar at the gate,
And there came from within a cry,
And wailing desolate.

Ah, no more joy have I,
For the griefs this house doth see,
And the love it hath wrought in me.

NURSE. There is no house! 'Tis gone. The lord
Seeketh a prouder bed: and she
Wastes in her chamber, not one word
Will hear of care or charity.

VOICE (within).

O Zeus, O Earth, O Light,
Will the fire not stab my brain?
What profiteth living? Oh,
Shall I not lift the slow
Yoke, and let Life go,
As a beast out in the night,
To lie, and be rid of pain?

CHORUS. Some Women

A.

"O Zeus, O Earth, O Light:"
The cry of a bride forlorn
Heard ye, and wailing born
Of lost delight?

B.

Why weariest thou this day,
Wild heart, for the bed abhorred,
The cold bed in the clay?
Death cometh though no man pray,
Ungarlanded, un-adored.
Call him not thou.

C.

If another's arms be now

vocabulary

αἰσχρός	shameful	κλύω	hear, listen to ~Euclid
ἀπονοίω	expel, exile ~nostalgia	λεύσσω	see, look
δέσποινα	lady	λίαν	very
δύροιμαι	(ū) lament	μέλαθρον	roofbeam
εἰσείδω	look at, behold ~wit	νύμφα	nymph; bride
εἰσοράω	look at, see; treat with respect	όμφη	supernatural voice
~panorama		ὅρκος	what is sworn by, witness, oath
ἐνδέω	tie to, entangle; lack	~orc	
ἐπιβαίνω	(+gen) set foot on, board,	ὄψις	ὄψις (f) sight, view
climb ~basis		~thanatopsis	
ἐπιβοάω	call to for help	πόσις	-ος (m) (m) husband, master; (f)
θνητός	mortal ~euthanasia	πότνια	lady ~potent
καινός	new, fresh, strange	σεβίζω	worship, honor
κάσις	sibling	ταμία	(ἄ) housekeeper ~tonsure
καταίρω	swoop; land	ταμίας	-ως (m, 3) manager,
κατάπαυσις	-εως (f) putting down;		quartermaster
rest		χόλος	gall, anger, wrath, bitterness
καταπάυω	stop, restrain ~pause		~choler
κατάρατος	(ἄ) accursed		

καινὰ λέχη σεβῖζει,

155

κείνω τόδε· μὴ χαράσσου·—

Ζεύς σοι τάδε συνδικήσει. μὴ λίαν

τάκου δυρομένα σὸν εὐνάταν.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ὡς μεγάλα Θέμι καὶ πότνι' Ἄρτεμι

160

λεύσσεθ' ἀ πάσχω, μεγάλοις ὄρκοις

ἐνδησαμένα τὸν κατάρατον

πόσιν; ὅν ποτ' ἐγὼ νύμφαν τ' ἐσιδοιμ'

αὐτοῖς μελάθροις διακναιομένους,

οἵ ἐμὲ πρόσθεν τολμῶσ' ἀδικεῖν.

165

ὡς πάτερ, ὡς πόλις, ὡν ἀπενάσθην

αισχρῶς τὸν ἐμὸν κτείνασα κάσιν.

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. κλύεθ' οἶα λέγει κάπιβοᾶται

Θέμιν εὐκταίαν Ζῆνά θ', ὃς ὄρκων

θητοῖς ταμίας νενόμισται;

170

οὐκ ἔστιν ὅπως ἐν τινι μικρῷ

δέσποινα χόλον καταπαύσει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. —πῶς ἀν ἐσ ὄψιν τὰν ἀμετέραν

ἔλθοι μύθων τ' αὐδαθέντων δέξαιτ' ὀμφάν;—

new, |fresh, |worship,
strange |honor
κείνω τόδε* μὴ χαράσσου.—

155

Ζεύς σοι τάδε συνδικήσει. μὴ |very
τάκου |lament σὸν εὐνάταν.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ὦ μεγάλα Θέμι καὶ |lady Ἄρτεμι

160

|see, look ἀ πάσχω, μεγάλοις |oath

|tie to τὸν κατάρατον

|(m) husband, mas-, ὦ νύμφαν τ' ἐστίδοιμ'
ter; (f) a drink
αὐτοῖς |roofbeam διακναιομένους,

οἵ* ἐμὲ πρόσθεν τολμῶσ' ἀδικεῖν.

165

ὦ πάτερ, ὦ πόλις, ὥν |expel, exile

|shameful τὸν ἐμὸν κτείνασα |sibling

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. |hear οἶα λέγει κάπιβοᾶται

Θέμιν εὐκταίαν Ζῆνά θ', ὃς |oath

|mortal ταμίας νενόμισται;

170

οὐκ ἔστιν ὅπως ἐν τινι μικρῷ

|lady |anger καταπαύσει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. —πῶς ἀν ἐς |sight τὰν ἀμετέραν

ἔλθοι μύθων τ' αὐδαθέντων δέξαιτ' |voice ,—

Where thine have been,

On his head be the sin:

Rend not thy brow!

D.

All that thou sufferest,

God seeth: Oh, not so sore

Waste nor weep for the breast

That was thine of yore.

VOICE (within).

Virgin of Righteousness,

Virgin of hallowed Troth,

Ye marked me when with an oath

I bound him; mark no less

That oath's end. Give me to see

Him and his bride, who sought

My grief when I wronged her not,

Broken in misery,

And all her house... O God,

My mother's home, and the dim

Shore that I left for him,

And the voice of my brother's blood...

NURSE. Oh, wild words! Did ye hear her cry

To them that guard man's faith forsworn,

Themis and Zeus?... This wrath new-born

vocabulary

ἀκοή	hearing ~acoustic	insolence
αὐδάω	speak, declare, shout	μεθίημι let go, cease; (mid) speed off ~jet
~Theravada		μέτειμι be among, go, follow ~ion
βίος	life ~biology	μήν him, her, it
βιόω	live; (mp) make a living ~biology	μόχθος toil
δεῖπνον	meal, food	ὀργή urge, impulse; anger
δεῖπνος	meal, food	πέλας near, close
δέσποινα	lady	πένθος -εος (n, 3) grief, misfortune ~Nepenthe
δεῦρο	here, come here!	πρόθυμος (ū) willing, eager ~fume
δημώς	slave ~tame	προφέρω bring forth ~bear
δράω	do, accomplish	σκαιός left-hand
εἰλαπίνη	feast, banquet	σοφός skilled, clever, wise
ἐπιδίδωμι	give, give with, give	σπεύδω ‘push on,’ get going, hurry ~repudiate
reciprocally ~donate		τερπνός pleasant
θαλία	abundance, plenty ~thallium	τοκάς -δος (f, 3) kept for breeding ~oxytocin
καίτοι	and yet; and in fact; although	ὕμνος song ~hymn
κακόω	harm, disfigure ~cacophony	
λέαινα	lioness	
λῆμα	will, desire, purpose; courage,	

εἴ πως βαρύθυμον ὄργαν

175

καὶ λῆμα φρενῶν μεθείη,

μήτοι τό γ' ἐμὸν πρόθυμον

φίλοισιν ἀπέστω.— ἀλλὰ βάσα νιν

δεῦρο πόρευσον οἴκων

180

ἔξω· φίλα καὶ τάδ' αὖδα.—

σπεῦσον πρίν τι κακῶσαι τοὺς εἴσω· πένθος γὰρ μεγάλως τόδ'

όρμαται.

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. δράσω τάδ· ἀτὰρ φόβος εἰ πείσω

δέσποιναν ἐμήν·

185

μόχθου δὲ χάριν τήνδ' ἐπιδώσω.

καίτοι τοκάδος δέργμα λεαίνης

ἀποταυροῦται δμωσίν, ὅταν τις

μῦθον προφέρων πέλας ὄρμηθῇ.

σκαιοὺς δὲ λέγων κούδεν τι σοφοὺς

190

τοὺς πρόσθε βροτοὺς οὐκ ἀν ἀμάρτοις,

οἴτινες ὕμνους ἐπὶ μὲν θαλίαις

ἐπί τ' εἰλαπίναις καὶ παρὰ δείπνοις

ηὔροντο βίου τερπνὰς ἀκοάς·

εἴ πως βαρύθυμον **urge, impulse;**
 καὶ **will, desire, purpose; η, anger**
courage, insolence

μήτοι τό γέ ἐμὸν **willing, eager**

175

φίλοισιν ἀπέστω.— ἀλλὰ βάσα νιν

here, come here! *οἴκων*

180

ἔξω· φίλα καὶ τάδ' |speak. —

‘push on,’ get going | harm, disfigure $\epsilon\acute{\iota}\sigma\omega$ | grief $\gamma\acute{\alpha}\rho$ μεγάλως τόδ
hurry
 $\hat{\iota}\hat{\alpha}\tau\iota$.

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. |do, accomplish ἡ τὰρ φόβος εἰ πεύσω

lady էմին

185

<i>μόχθου δὲ χάριν τήνδ'</i>	give, give with, give reciprocally
and yet; kept for breeding	lioness
and in	
fact; al-	
<i>πατοταυροῦται</i> slave	, ὅταν τις
though	

μῦθον |bring forth |near, |close |*όρμηθη*.

||left-hand *Σὲ λέγων κούδέν τι* skilled,
clever, wise

τοὺς πρόσθε βροτοὺς οὐκ ἀν ἀμάρτοις,

οῖτινες |song ἐπὶ μὲν θαλίαις

ἐπί τ' **feast,** καὶ παρὰ δείπνοις
banquet

ηύροντο βίον |pleasant |hearing

Shall make mad workings ere it die.

CHORUS. Other Women.

A.

Would she but come to seek
Our faces, that love her well,
And take to her heart the spell
Of words that speak?

B.

Alas for the heavy hate
And anger that burneth ever!
Would it but now abate,
Ah God, I love her yet.
And surely my love's endeavour
Shall fail not here.

C.

Go: from that chamber drear
Forth to the day
Lead her, and say, Oh, say
That we love her dear.

D.

Go, lest her hand be hard
On the innocent: Ah, let be!
For her grief moves hitherward,
Like an angry sea.

NURSE. That will I: though what words of mine
Or love shall move her? Let them lie
With the old lost labours!... Yet her eye—
Know ye the eyes of the wild kine,
The lion flash that guards their brood?
So looks she now if any thrall
Speak comfort, or draw near at all
My mistress in her evil mood.

The NURSE goes into the house.

CHORUS. A Woman.

Alas, the bold blithe bards of old
That all for joy their music made,

vocabulary

ἄδικος unfair; obstinate, bad
 ἀίω perceive, feel, hear; breathe out
 ἀκέομαι heal, fix
 ἄλλομαι to jump ~sally
 ἀλμυρός salty
 ἄλς ἄλος (f) (grains of) salt (pl. m.);
 the sea (sing. f.) ~halogen
 ἀντίπορος on the other side, shore
 ἀοιδή song
 ἀπέραντος infinite
 βοά din, a shout
 γοάω weep, mourn
 γρός crying, wailing
 δαις -τός (f) feast, banquet ~demon
 δαιτη feast, banquet
 ιαχή shout

καίτοι and yet; and in fact; although
 κακόνυμφος badly married
 κέρδος -ους (n, 3) advantage, cunning
 κλείς κλητός (f) bar, key ~clavicle
 λέχος -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier ~lie
 λιγυρός clear, whistling
 λύπη distress
 μάτην in vain, randomly
 μέμφομαι blame; reject
 μίν him, her, it
 μοῦσα muse
 πλήρωμα -τος (n, 3) fullness
 πολύστονος sorrowful, baneful
 προδότης -ου (m, 1) traitor, abandoner
 σφάλλω overthrow, balk, stagger
 τείνω stretch, tend ~tense
 τέρψις -τος (f) pleasure

στυγίους δὲ βροτῶν οὐδεὶς λύπας

195

ηὗρετο μούσῃ καὶ πολυχόρδοις

ῳδαῖς παύειν, ἐξ ὅν θάνατοι

δειναί τε τύχαι σφάλλουσι δόμους.

καίτοι τάδε μὲν κέρδος ἀκεῖσθαι

μολπαῖσι βροτούς· ἵνα δ' εὔδειπνοι

200

δαῖτες, τί μάτην τείνουσι βοήν;

τὸ παρὸν γὰρ ἔχει τέρψιν ἀφ' αὐτοῦ

δαιτὸς πλήρωμα βροτοῦσιν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἴαχὰν ἄιον πολύστονον γόων,

λιγυρὰ δ' ἄχεα μογερὰ βοῶ

205

τὸν ἐν λέχει προδόταν κακόνυμφον·

θεοκλυτεῖ δ' ἄδικα παθοῦσα

τὰν Ζηνὸς ὄρκίαν Θέμιν, ἃ νιν ἔβασεν

Ἐλλάδ' ἐσ ἀντίπορον

δι' ἄλα νύχιον ἐφ' ἀλμυρὰν

πόντου κλῆδ' ἀπέραντον.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. Κορύνθιαι γυναικες, ἐξῆλθον δόμων,

μή μοί τι μέμφησθ'. οἶδα γὰρ πολλοὺς βροτῶν

στυγίους δὲ βροτῶν οὐδεὶς |distress

195

ηὗρετο |muse καὶ πολυχόρδοις

ῳδαῖς παύειν, ἐξ ὅν θάνατοι

δειναί τε τύχαι |overthrow, balk', ious.

and yet; and in fact; |advantage, εἰσθαι
although |cunning

μολπαῖσι βροτούς· ἵνα δὲ εὔδειπνοι

200

δαῖτες, τί μάτην |stretch, tend ἥν;

τὸ παρὸν γὰρ ἔχει |pleasure ἵφ' αὐτοῦ

δαιτὸς |fullness βροτοῖσιν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. |shout |per- |sorrowful, γόων,
ceive; |baneful

clear, οὐδέν |breathe
whistling |out μογερὰ βοᾶ

τὸν ἐν |bed, |traitor, |badly married
bier |abandoner

θεοκλυτεῖ δὲ |unfair; οὐδέν |σα
stinate, bad

τὰν Ζηνὸς ὄρκίαν Θέμιν, ἃ νιν ἔβασεν

205

Ἐλλάδ' ἐσ ἀντίπορον

δι' ἄλα νύχιον ἔφ' |salty

πόντου |bar, |infinite
key

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. Κορίνθιαι γυναῖκες, ἐξηλθον δόμων,

μή μοί τι |blame; οἶδα γὰρ πολλοὺς βροτῶν
reject

For feasts and dancing manifold,
That Life might listen and be glad.
But all the darkness and the wrong,
Quick deaths and dim heart-aching things,
Would no man ease them with a song
Or music of a thousand strings?
Then song had served us in our need.
What profit, o'er the banquet's swell
That lingering cry that none may heed?
The feast hath filled them: all is well!
Others.
I heard a song, but it comes no more.
Where the tears ran over:
A keen cry but tired, tired:
A woman's cry for her heart's desired,
For a traitor's kiss and a lost lover.
But a prayer, methinks, yet riseth sore
To God, to Faith, God's ancient daughter—
The Faith that over sundering seas
Drew her to Hellas, and the breeze
Of midnight shivered, and the door
Closed of the salt unsounded water.

During the last words MEDEA has come out from the house.

MEDEA. Women of Corinth, I am come to show
My face, lest ye despise me. For I know

vocabulary

ἀέθλιος prize ~athlete
ἄελπτος not hoped for
ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
αἰνέω praise, assent, acquiesce in
ἄλγος -εος (n, 3) woe, grief ~analgesic
ἀμαθία ignorance
ἀστός townsman; citizen
αὐθάδης stubborn
βίος life ~biology
βιώω live; (mp) make a living ~biology
δέρκομαι see, watch
δεσπότης -ου (m, 1) master, despot
ἐκμανθάνω know by heart
ἔμψυχος (ū) animate, animated
ἐνδίδωμι hand over, lend, show, allow
ἔνειμι be in ~ion
ἐνίημι put in; motivate ~jet
ἐνίστημι install; threaten; block
ἐνστάζω instill in
ἐντίθημι load; mp: take to heart
~thesis
ἡσυχος quiet

κάρτα very much ~κράτος
καταθνήσκω die, be dead ~euthanasia
κτάομαι acquire, possess
μεθίημι let go, cease; (mid) speed off
~jet
οἴχομαι come, go, leave, be gone
ὤμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
πικρός sharp, bitter ~picric
πόσις -ος (m) (m) husband, master; (f)
a drink ~potent
πρίαμαι buy
προσπίπτω attack; befall; kow-tow
προσχωρέω go to, join, support
ράθυμία (ἀνα) carelessness, ease
σαφής clear, understandable
σεμνός revered, holy
σπλάγχνον (pl) innards, (fig) feelings
στυγέω dread, shrink from ~Styx
ὑπερβολή mountain pass; excess
φυτός natural
χρήζω need ~chresard
ώνεομαι buy

σεμνοὺς γεγῶτας, τοὺς μὲν ὄμμάτων ἄπο,

τοὺς δ' ἐν θυραιοῖς· οἱ δ' ἀφ' ἡσύχου ποδὸς

δύσκλειαν ἐκτήσαντο καὶ ρᾳθυμίαν.

δίκη γὰρ οὐκ ἔνεστ' ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖς βροτῶν,

ὅστις πρὸν ἀνδρὸς σπλάγχνον ἐκμαθεῖν σαφῶς

220

στυγεῖ δεδορκώς, οὐδὲν ἡδικημένος...

χρὴ δὲ ξένον μὲν κάρτα προσχωρεῖν πόλει ...

οὐδ' ἀστὸν ἥνεσ' ὅστις αὐθάδης γεγὼς

πικρὸς πολίταις ἐστὶν ἀμαθίας ὕπο.

ἐμοὶ δ' ἄελπτον πρᾶγμα προσπεσὸν τόδε

225

ψυχὴν διέφθαρκ· οἴχομαι δὲ καὶ βίου

χάριν μεθεῖσα κατθανεῖν χρήζω, φίλαι.

ἐν ὦ γὰρ ἦν μοι πάντα γιγνώσκειν καλῶς,

κάκιστος ἀνδρῶν ἐκβέβηχ' οὐμὸς πόσις.

πάντων δ' ὅσ' ἔστ' ἔμψυχα καὶ γνώμην ἔχει

230

γυναικές ἐσμεν ἀθλιώτατον φυτόν·

ἄς πρῶτα μὲν δεῖ χρημάτων ὑπερβολῆ

πόσιν πρίασθαι, δεσπότην τε σώματος

λαβεῖν· κακοῦ γὰρ τοῦτ' ἔτ' ἄλγιον κακόν.

τοὺς δὲ ἐν θυραιόις· οἱ δὲ ἀφ' |quiet ποδὸς

δύσκλειαν ἐκτήσαντο καὶ |carelessness, ease|

δίκη γὰρ οὐκ ἔνεστ' ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖς βροτῶν,

220

|dread |see, watch , οὐδὲν ἡδικημένος...

ouð' |townsm|praise, ɔtis |stubborn ɔyw̄s
citizen |assent

|sharp πολίταις ἔστιν |ignorance ὑπο.

225

ψυχὴν διέφθαρκ[·] |come, go δὲ καὶ βίου

χάριν let go, cease; [^] (mid) need, *φιλατ.*
speed off

ἐν ᾧ γὰρ ἦν μοι πάντα γιγνώσκειν καλῶς,

κάκιστος ἀνδρῶν ἐκβέβηχ' οὐμὸς |(m) husband, master; (f) a drink

πάντων δ' ὅσ' ἔστ' | **animate, animated** ταὶ γνώμην ἔχει

γυναικές ἔσμεν ἀθλιώτατον |natural

ἀς πρῶτα μὲν δεῖ χρημάτων | mountain
pass; excess

(m) husband, master, *τε σώματος*
ter; (f) a drink despot

λαβεῖν· κακοῦ γὰρ τοῦτ' ἔτ' ἀλγιον κακόν.

Some heads stand high and fail not, even at night
Alone—far less like this, in all men's sight:
And we, who study not our wayfarings
But feel and cry—Oh we are drifting things,
And evil! For what truth is in men's eyes,
Which search no heart, but in a flash despise
A strange face, shuddering back from one that ne'er
Hath wronged them?... Sure, far-comers anywhere,
I know, must bow them and be gentle. Nay,
A Greek himself men praise not, who alway
Should seek his own willrecking not... But I—
This thing undreamed of, sudden from on high,
Hath sapped my soul: I dazzle where I stand,
The cup of all life shattered in my hand,
Longing to die—O friends! He, even he,
Whom to know well was all the world to me,
The man I loved, hath proved most evil.—Oh,
Of all things upon earth that bleed and grow,
A herb most bruised is woman. We must pay
Our store of gold, hoarded for that one day,
To buy us some man's love; and lo, they bring
A master of our flesh! There comes the sting
Of the whole shame. And then the jeopardy,

vocabulary

ἀγών -ος (m, 3) gathering place
 ἀγονύ
 ἀκίνδυνος (v) safe
 ἀλίζω gather, assemble
 ἀναίνομαι refuse, reject
 ἀπολλαγή relief, escape
 ἄποκτις once
 ἀσπίς -δος (f) shield ~spit
 ἀχθομαι be burdened with
 ἄω aor: to sate ~sate
 βίος life ~biology
 βλώσκω come, go
 ἐνδιδωμι hand over, lend, show, allow
 ἐνδον in the house of; within
 ἐνδω in the house of; within
 ἐρπω be able to move ~serpent

εὐκλεής honored ~Euclid
 ζηλωτός enviable
 ζυγόν yoke, a joined pair ~zygote
 ζυγός yoke, a joined pair ~zygote
 ἥλιξ -κος (m) of the same age
 καινός new, fresh, strange
 μάντις -ος (m) seer ~mantis
 μάρωμαι fight
 μολίσκω come, go
 ξύνειμι be with; have sex
 οἴκοθεν from home, from one's own
 resources ~economics
 πόσις -ος (m) (m) husband, master; (f)
 a drink ~potent
 τρίς 3 times
 χοηστός useful; brave, worthy

κάν τῷδ' ἀγῶν μέγιστος, ἢ κακὸν λαβεῖν

235

ἢ χρηστόν. οὐ γὰρ εὐκλεεῖς ἀπαλλαγαὶ

γυναιξίν, οὐδέ οἶόν τ' ἀνήνασθαι πόσιν.

εἰς καινὰ δ' ἥθη καὶ νόμους ἀφιγμένην

δεῖ μάντιν εἶναι, μὴ μαθοῦσαν οἴκοθεν,

ὅτῳ μάλιστα χρήσεται ξυνευνέτη.

240

καν μὲν τάδ' ἡμῖν ἐκπονουμέναισιν εὖ

πόσις ξυνοικῇ μὴ βίᾳ φέρων ζυγόν,

ζηλωτὸς αἰών· εἰ δὲ μή, θανεῖν χρεών.

ἀνὴρ δ', ὅταν τοῖς ἔνδον ἄχθηται ξυνών,

ἔξω μολὼν ἔπανσε καρδίαν ἄσης·

245

ἢ πρὸς φίλον τιν' ἢ πρὸς ἥλικα τραπείς·

ἡμῖν δ' ἀνάγκη πρὸς μίαν ψυχὴν βλέπειν.

λέγουσι δ' ἡμᾶς ὡς ἀκίνδυνον βίον

ζῶμεν κατ' οἴκους, οἵ δὲ μάρνανται δορί·

κακῶς φρονοῦντες· ὡς τρὶς ἀν παρ' ἀσπίδα

250

στῆναι θέλοιμ' ἀν μᾶλλον ἢ τεκεῖν ἄπαξ.

ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ αὐτὸς πρὸς σὲ κάμ' ἥκει λόγος·

σοὶ μὲν πόλις θ' ἥδ' ἐστὶ καὶ πατρὸς δόμοι

κἀν τῷδ' |gathering', ^{γένετος} ή κακὸν λαβεῖν
place

235

ἢ |useful; brave, ^{γένετος} |honored |relief, escape
worthy

γυναιξίν, οὐδ' οἶόν τ' |refuse, reject |(m) husband, mas-
ter; (f) a drink

εἰς |new, fresh, ^{γένετος} strange ^{γένετος} λόμος ἀφιγμένην

δεῖ |seer εἰναι, μὴ μαθοῦσαν |from home

ὅτῳ μάλιστα χρήσεται ξυνευνέτῃ.

240

κἀν μὲν τάδ' ἡμῖν ἐκπονουμέναισιν εὖ

|(m) husband, ^{ματ-} ^{γένετος}, βίᾳ φέρων ζυγόν,
ter; (f) a drink

|enviable αἰών· εἰ δὲ μή, θανεῖν χρεών.

ἀνὴρ δ', ὅταν τοῖς ἔνδον |be burdened with

ἔξω μολὼν ἔπανσε καρδίαν |aor: to sate

245

ἢ πρὸς φίλον τιν' ἢ πρὸς ἥλικα τραπείσ·

ἡμῖν δ' ἀνάγκη πρὸς μίαν ψυχὴν βλέπειν.

λέγουσι δ' ἡμᾶς ὡς |safe |life

ζῶμεν κατ' οἴκους, οἵ δὲ |fight δορί·

κακῶς φρονοῦντες· ὡς |3 ^{τρι} ^{τὸν παρ'} |shield
times

250

στῆναι θέλοιμ' ἀν μᾶλλον ἢ τεκεῖν |once .

ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ αὐτὸς πρὸς σὲ κάμ' ἥκει λόγος·

σοὶ μὲν πόλις θ' ἥδ' ἐστὶ καὶ πατρὸς δόμοι

For good or ill, what shall that master be;
Reject she cannot: and if he but stays
His suit, 'tis shame on all that woman's days.
So thrown amid new laws, new places, why,
Tis magic she must have, or prophecy—
Home never taught her that—how best to guide
Toward peace this thing that sleepeth at her side.
And she who, labouring long, shall find some way
Whereby her lord may bear with her, nor fray
His yoke too fiercely, blessed is the breath
That woman draws! Else, let her pray for death.
Her lord, if he be wearied of the face
Withindoors, gets him forth; some merrier place
Will ease his heart: but she waits on, her whole
Vision enchain'd on a single soul.
And then, forsooth, 'tis they that face the call
Of war, while we sit sheltered, hid from all
Peril!—False mocking! Sooner would I stand
Three times to face their battles, shield in hand,
Than bear one child.
But peace! There cannot be
Ever the same tale told of thee and me.
Thou hast this city, and thy father's home,

vocabulary

ἀλκή prowess, defense, victory

~Alexander

ἀντιτίνω be punished, repay; (mp)

make retribution

βάρβαρος non-Greek

βίος life ~biology

βιώω live; (mp) make a living ~biology

βούλευμα -τος (n, 3) resolution,

purpose

γαμέω marry, take as a lover ~bigamy

δράω do, accomplish

εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with respect

~panorama

ἐκτίθημι place outside at a spot ~thesis

ἐκτίνω pay off; (mp) exact full

payment

ἔνδικος (persons, things) just

ἔξευρίσκω find; discover ~eureka

ἔρημος empty

εύνή bed; (pl) anchor stones

θυμόω (ū) anger

καινέω freshen, innovate, make strange

καινός new, fresh, strange

καινόω freshen, innovate, make strange

κυρέω come upon, come up against; obtain

ληζόμαι plunder ~lucre

μεθορυίζω move anchorage

μηχανή machine; mechanism, way

μιαιφόνος blood-stained ~miasma

ὄνησις -ος (f) benefit

πενθέω grieve ~Nepenthe

περάω cross over, drive across; sell as a slave ~pierce

πόρος way, bridge ~fare

πόσις -ος (m) (m) husband, master; (f) a drink ~potent

σιγάω (i) be silent

σίδηρος iron ~siderite

στείχω go, march ~stair

συγγενεύς inborn, kin to

συγγενής inborn, kin to

συγγίγνομαι associate with, meet, have sex ~genus

συμφορά collecting; accident, misfortune

συνουσία society, sex

ὑβρίζω insult, treat outrageously

βίου τ' ὄνησις καὶ φίλων συνουσία,

ἔγὼ δ' ἔρημος ἄπολις οὗσ' ὑβρίζομαι

255

πρὸς ἀνδρός, ἐκ γῆς βαρβάρου λελησμένη,

οὐ μητέρ', οὐκ ἀδελφόν, οὐχὶ συγγενῆ

μεθορμίσασθαι τῆσδ' ἔχουσα συμφορᾶς.

τοσοῦτον οὖν σου τυγχάνειν βουλήσομαι,

ἥν μοι πόρος τις μηχανή τ' ἐξευρεθῆ

260

πόσιν δίκην τῶνδ' ἀντιτείσασθαι κακῶν,

τὸν δόντα τ' αὐτῷ θυγατέρ' ἥ τ' ἐγήματο

σιγᾶν. γυνὴ γὰρ τǎλλα μὲν φόβου πλέα

κακή τ' ἐσ ἀλκὴν καὶ σιδηρον εἰσορᾶν·

ὅταν δ' ἐσ εὐνὴν ἡδικημένη κυρῆ,

265

οὐκ ἔστιν ἀλλη φρὴν μιαιφονωτέρα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. δράσω τάδ'· ἐνδίκως γὰρ ἐκτείσῃ πόσιν,

Μήδεια. πενθεῖν δ' οὐ σε θαυμάζω τύχας.

όρῳ δὲ καὶ Κρέοντα, τῆσδ' ἄνακτα γῆς,

στείχοντα, καιῶν ἄγγελον βουλευμάτων.

270

ΚΡΕΩΝ. σὲ τὴν σκυθρωπὸν καὶ πόσει θυμουμένην,

Μήδειαν, εἰπον τῆσδε γῆς ἔξω περᾶν

βίου τ' |benefit καὶ φίλων συνουσία,

ἔγὼ δ' ἔρημος ἀπολις οὐσ' |insult

255

πρὸς ἀνδρός, ἐκ γῆς |non-Greek λελησμένη,

οὐ μητέρ', οὐκ ἀδελφόν, οὐχὶ συγγενῆ

|move anchorage τῆσδ' ἔχουσα συμφορᾶς.

τοσοῦτον οὖν σου τυγχάνειν βουλήσομαι,

*ἢν μοι |way, bridge |machine; τ' |find;
mechanism, discover*

260

(m) husband, master; (f) a drink |way |bē punished, repay; ν, |(mp) make retribution

*τὸν δόντα τ' αὐτῷ θυγατέρ' ἢ τ' |marry, take
as a lover*

|be silent, νυὴ γὰρ τἄλλα μὲν φόβου πλέα

*κακή τ' ἐσ |strength .αὶ σιδηρον |look at, see; treat
with respect*

*ὅταν δ' ἐσ |bed; (pl) ἀν-, μένη |come upon
chor stones*

265

οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλη φρήν |blood-stained

ΧΟΡΟΣ. |do, accomplish |(persons, ὁρ ἐκτείση |(m) husband, mas-
things) just ter; (f) a drink

Μήδεια. |grieve δ' οὐ σε θαυμάζω τύχας.

όρω δὲ καὶ Κρέοντα, τῆσδ' ἀνακτα γῆς,

*|go, march , καινῶν ἄγγελον |resolution,
purpose*

270

ΚΡΕΩΝ. σὲ τὴν σκυθρωπὸν καὶ |(m) |anger
hus-
band,

*Μήδειαν, εἰπον τῆσδε γῆς ἔχω |cross; sell
(f) |as a slave
drink*

And joy of friends, and hope in days to come:
But I, being citiless, am cast aside
By him that wedded me, a savage bride
Won in far seas and left—no mother near,
No brother, not one kinsman anywhere
For harbour in this storm. Therefore of thee
I ask one thing. If chance yet ope to me
Some path, if even now my hand can win
Strength to requite this Jason for his sin,
Betray me not! Oh, in all things but this,
I know how full of fears a woman is,
And faint at need, and shrinking from the light
Of battle: but once spoil her of her right
In man's love, and there moves, I warn thee well,
No bloodier spirit between heaven and hell.
LEADER. I will betray thee not. It is but just,
Thou smite him.— And that weeping in the dust
And stormy tears, how should I blame them? ...
Stay:’
Tis Creon, lord of Corinth, makes his way
Hither, and bears, methinks, some word of weight.
Enter from the right CREON, the King, with armed Attendants.
CREON. Thou woman sullen-eyed and hot with hate
Against thy lord, Medea, I here command

*vocabulary***αἰσι** alas**ἀνήκεστος** not to be cured, soothed, appeased**ἀπαγγέλλω** announce, order, promise ~angel**ἀπειλέω** vow, threaten, boast**ἀπεχθάνομαι** become hated ~external
ἄτα bewilderment, folly**γαμέω** marry, take as a lover ~bigamy
δεῖμα -τος (n, 3) fear**δισσός** double**δράω** do, accomplish**ἐκβασις** -τος (f) way out ~basis**ἐξέημι** send forth, allow forth ~jet
ἐρομαι ask a question, ask about, go

searching through

ἴδρις skilled**κάλως** ship's thick rope**κλύω** hear, listen to ~Euclid**κρείσσων** more powerful; better**λέκτρον** bed ~lie**λυπέω** (v) annoy, distress**ὅμως** anyway, nevertheless**σαυτοῦ** yourself**σοφός** skilled, clever, wise**στένω** groan ~stentorian**στερέω** steal, take**συμβάλλω** pit against; compare; mp: meet, fall in with ~ballistic**τάλας** wretched, miserable ~talent**τέρμαν** boundary**φυγάς** -δος (m, 3) exile, refugee
~fugitive**φύω** produce, beget; clasp ~physics

φυγάδα, λαβούσαν δισσὰ σὺν σαυτῇ τέκνα·

καὶ μή τι μέλλειν· ὡς ἐγὼ βραβεὺς λόγου

τοῦδ' εἰμί, κούκ ἄπειμι πρὸς δόμους πάλιν,

πρὸν ἄν σε γαίας τερμόνων ἔξω βάλω.

275

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. αἰαῖ· πανώλης ἡ τάλαιν' ἀπόλλυμαι.

ἐχθροὶ γὰρ ἐξιᾶσι πάντα δὴ κάλων,

κούκ ἔστιν ἄπης εὐπρόσοιστος ἐκβασις.

ἐρήσομαι δὲ καὶ κακῶς πάσχουσ' ὅμως·

280

τίνος μ' ἔκατι γῆς ἀποστέλλεις, Κρέον;

ΚΡΕΩΝ. δέδοικά σ'— οὐδὲν δεῖ παραμπίσχειν λόγους—

μή μοί τι δράσης παῖδ' ἀνήκεστον κακόν.

συμβάλλεται δὲ πολλὰ τοῦδε δείματος·

σοφὴ πέφυκας καὶ κακῶν πολλῶν ἔδρις,

285

λυπῇ δὲ λέκτρων ἀνδρὸς ἐστερημένη.

κλύω δ' ἀπειλεῖν σ', ὡς ἀπαγγέλλουσί μοι,

τὸν δόντα καὶ γήμαντα καὶ γαμουμένην

δράσειν τι. ταῦτ' οὖν πρὸν παθεῖν φυλάξομαι.

κρεῖσσον δέ μοι νῦν πρός σ' ἀπεχθέσθαι, γύναι,

290

ἢ μαλθακισθένθ' ὕστερον μέγα στένειν.

λαβοῦσαν |double τὸν |yourself ἐκνα·
refugee

καὶ μή τι μέλλειν· ὡς ἐγὼ βραβεὺς λόγου

τοῦδ' εἰμί, κούκ ἄπειμι πρὸς δόμους πάλιν,

275

πρὶν ἄν σε γαίας |boundary ἔξω βάλω.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. |alas πανώλης ἥ |wretched, πόλλυμαι.
miserable

ἐχθροὶ γὰρ |send forth, τα δὴ κάλων,
allow forth

κούκ ἔστιν ἄτης εὐπρόσοιστος |way out .

ask, search through . οὐκῶς πάσχουσ' |anyway, nevertheless

280

τίνος μ' ἔκατι γῆς ἀποστέλλεις, Κρέον;

ΚΡΕΩΝ. δέδοικά σ' — οὐδὲν δεῖ παραμπίσχειν λόγους—

μή μοί τι δράσης παῖδος |incurable κακόν.

συμβάλλεται δὲ πολλὰ τοῦδε |fear

skilled, κας καὶ κακῶν πολλῶν |skilled
clever, wise

annoxy, |bed ἀνδρὸς |steal, take
distress

|hear δ' |vow, threaten, |announce, order, μοι,
boast |promise

τὸν δόντα καὶ |marry, take as a |marry, take as
lover |a lover

|do, accomplish ὑπὸ οὐν πρὶν παθεῖν φυλάξομαι.

285

κρεῖσσον δέ μοι νῦν πρός σ' |become hated, γύναι,

290

ἢ μαλθακισθένθ' ुστερον μέγα |groan

That thou and thy two children from this land
Go forth to banishment. Make no delay:
Seeing ourselves, the King, are come this day
To see our charge fulfilled; nor shall again
Look homeward ere we have led thy children twain
And thee beyond our realm's last boundary.

MEDEA. Lost! Lost!

Mine haters at the helm with sail flung free
Pursuing; and for us no beach nor shore
In the endless waters!... Yet, though stricken sore,
I still will ask thee, for what crime, what thing
Unlawful, wilt thou cast me out, O King?

CREON. What crime? I fear thee, woman—little need
To cloak my reasons—lest thou work some deed
Of darkness on my child. And in that fear
Reasons enough have part. Thou comest here
A wise-woman confessed, and full of lore
In unknown ways of evil. Thou art sore
In heart, being parted from thy lover's arms.
And more, thou hast made menace... so the alarms
But now have reached mine ear... on bride and groom,
And him who gave the bride, to work thy doom
Of vengeance. Which, ere yet it be too late,
I sweep aside. I choose to earn thine hate
Of set will now, not palter with the mood

vocabulary

ἄγα (αᾶ) wonder	λυπρός worthless, wretched
ἄγαμα wonder, admire; resent, begrudge	περισσός prodigious, superfluous
ἄγαν very much	πλημμελής out of tune; incorrect; wrongful
ἀλφάνω yield a price as a slave ~arhat	ποικίλος ornamented; various
ἀρτίφρων sane, sensible ~frenzy	πόσις -ος (m) (m) husband, master; (f) a drink ~potent
ἀστή inhabitant	προσάντης uphill, steep
ἀστός townsman; citizen	προσφέρω present; resemble; add
ἄστυ -εως (n, 3) town	σκαιός left-hand
ἀχρεῖος serving no purpose ~chresard	σοφός skilled, clever, wise
βλάπτω break, make fail	τρέω flee in fear ~tremor
δυσμενής hostile, enemy	τύραννος tyrant
ἐκδιδάσκω teach, explain	τύχη fortune, act of a god
ἐκδίδωμι hand over ~donate	φεῦ exclamation of grief, anger, surprise, admiration
ἐξαμαρτάνω miss; err, do wrong	φθόνος malice, envy
ἐπίφθονος jealous	φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
ήσυχαῖος quiet, gentle	χωρίς separately; except, other than ~heir
καινός new, fresh, strange	
κοινωνέω associate with	
κρείσσων more powerful; better	

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. φεῦ φεῦ. οὐ νῦ με πρῶτον, ἀλλὰ πολλάκις, Κρέον,

ἔβλαψε δόξα μεγάλα τ' εἴργασται κακά.

χρὴ δ' οὕποθ' ὅστις ἀρτίφρων πέφυκ' ἀνὴρ

παιδας περισσώς ἐκδιδάσκεσθαι σοφούς·

295

χωρὶς γὰρ ἄλλης ἥστησιν ἀργίας

φθόνον πρὸς ἀστῶν ἀλφάνουσι δυσμενῆ.

σκαιοῦσι μὲν γὰρ καινὰ προσφέρων σοφὰ

δόξεις ἀχρεῖος κούσοφὸς πεφυκέναι·

τῶν δ' αὖ δοκούντων εἰδέναι τι ποικίλον

300

κρείσσων νομισθεὶς ἐν πόλει λυπρὸς φανῆ.

ἔγὼ δὲ καῦτὴ τῆσδε κοινωνῶ τύχης.

σοφὴ γὰρ οὖσα, τοῖς μέν εἰμι ἐπίφθονος,

τοῖς δ' ἡσυχαίᾳ, τοῖς δὲ θατέρου τρόπου,

τοῖς δ' αὖ προσάντης· εἰμὶ δ' οὐκ ἄγαν σοφή.

305

σὺ δ' οὖν φοβῇ με· μὴ τί πλημμελὲς πάθης;

οὐχ ὡδὸς ἔχει μοι— μὴ τρέσῃς ἡμᾶς, Κρέον—

ῶστ' ἐστιν τυράννους ἄνδρας ἔξαμαρτάνειν.

σὺ γὰρ τί μ' ἡδίκηκας; ἐξέδου κόρην

ὅτω σε θυμὸς ἥγεν. ἀλλ' ἐμὸν πόσιν

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ex- |exclamation of grief, anger, ἀλλὰ πολλάκις, Κρέον,
cla- |surprise, admiration

ἔβλαψεν ὥξα μεγάλα τ' εἴργασται κακά.

χρή διδύνοθ' ὅστις |sane, πέφυκ' ἀνὴρ
anger, sensible |sensible
sur-

παῖδας |prodigous, |teach, explain |skilled,
adsuperfluous |clever, wise

μι- |separately; ex- |as ἦνς ἥσ ἔχουσιν ἀργίας
cept, other than |tion

|malice, envy |yield a price |hostile,
as a slave |enemy

μέν γάρ |new, fresh, strange |skilled,
clever, wise

δόξεις |serving no pur- |skilled, ... |νκέναι
pose |clever, wise

τῶν δ' αὐτῶν δοκούντων εἰδέναι τι |ornamented

295

κρείσσων νομισθεὶς ἐν πόλει |worthless, |ανή.
|wretched

ἔγὼ δὲ καυτὴ τῆσδε |associate |fortune, act
with |of a god

skilled, |... |σσα, τοῖς μέν εἰμ' |jealous
clever, wise

τοῖς δ' |quiet, |, τοῖς δὲ θατέρου τρόπου,
gentle

τοῖς δ' αὐτῶν |uphill, steep |εἰμὶ δ' οὐκ ἄγαν |skilled,
clever, wise

σὺ δ' οὖν φοβητὴ μετ' μὴ τί |out of tune; incor- |ησ;
rect; wrong

οὐχ ὁδὸς ἔχει μοι— μὴ |flee |ἡμᾶς, Κρέον—

300

ὦστ' ἐστιν |tyrant |ἄνδρας |miss; err, do wrong

σὺ γὰρ τί μ' ἡδύκηκας; |hand over |την

ὅτω σε θυμὸς ἥγεν. ἀλλ' ἐμὸν |(m) husband, mas-
ter; (f) a drink

305

Of mercy, and hereafter weep in blood.

MEDEA. 'Tis not the first nor second time, O King,
That fame hath hurt me, and come nigh to bring
My ruin... How can any man, whose eyes
Are wholesome, seek to rear his children wise
Beyond men's wont? Much helplessness in arts
Of common life, and in their townsmen's hearts
Envy deep-set... so much their learning brings!
Come unto fools with knowledge of new things,
They deem it vanity, not knowledge. Aye,
And men that erst for wisdom were held high,
Feel thee a thorn to fret them, privily
Held higher than they. So hath it been with me.
A wise-woman I am; and for that sin
To divers ill names men would pen me in;
A seed of strife; an eastern dreamer; one
Of brand not theirs; one hard to play upon ...
Ah, I am not so wondrous wise!— And now,
To thee, I am terrible! What fearest thou?
What dire deed? Do I tread so proud a path—
Fear me not thou!— that I should brave the wrath
Of princes? Thou: what has thou ever done

vocabulary

αἰδέομαι respect, be ashamed
 ἀναλίσκω (αᾶ) consume, spend on
 ἀναλόω (αᾶ) consume, spend on
 ἀραρίσκω join, fit, furnish ~arthritis
 αὕτως just so, merely; in vain ~after
 γόνυ γουνός (n, 3) knee ~polygon
 δράω do, accomplish
 δυσμενής hostile, enemy
 ἔξειμι go forth; is possible ~ion
 ἔξελαύνω drive out, exile ~elastic
 ἔξιημι send forth, allow forth ~jet
 κάρτα very much ~κράτος
 κρείσσων more powerful; better
 λιτή prayer ~litany

μαλθακός soft, timid
 μισέω (i) hate, wish to prevent
 ~misogyny
 μνεῖα reminder, memorial
 νεόγαμος newlywed
 νυμφεύω marry, give in marriage
 οικέω inhabit ~economics
 ὀρρωδία terror
 πάρος before, in the past
 σοφός skilled, clever, wise
 σωφρονέω be sane, moderate
 τέχνη craft, art, plan, contrivance
 ~technology
 τόσος so much, so great
 φθονέω envy

μισῶ· σὺ δ', οἶμαι, σωφρονῶν ἔδρας τάδε.

καὶ νῦν τὸ μὲν σὸν οὐ φθονῶ καλῶς ἔχειν·

νυμφεύετ', εὖ πράσσοιτε· τήνδε δὲ χθόνα

ἐᾶτέ μ' οἰκεῖν. καὶ γὰρ ἡδικημένοι

σιγησόμεσθα, κρεισσόνων νικώμενοι.

315

ΚΡΕΩΝ. λέγεις ἀκοῦσαι μαλθάκ', ἀλλ' ἔσω φρενῶν

όρρωδία μοι μή τι βουλεύσῃς κακόν,

τόσῳ δέ γ' ἥσσον ἢ πάρος πέποιθά σοι·

γυνὴ γὰρ ὀξύθυμος, ὡς δ' αὐτῶς ἀνήρ,

ράων φυλάσσειν ἢ σιωπηλὸς σοφός.

320

ἀλλ' ἔξιθ' ὡς τάχιστα, μὴ λόγους λέγε·

ώς ταῦτ' ἄραρε, κούκ ἔχεις τέχνην ὅπως

μενεῖς παρ' ἡμῖν οὖσα δυσμενὴς ἐμοί.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. μή, πρός σε γονάτων τῆς τε νεογάμου κόρης.

ΚΡ. λόγους ἀναλοῖς· οὐ γὰρ ἀν πείσαις ποτέ.

325

ΜΗΔ. ἀλλ' ἔξελᾶς με κούδεν αἰδέσῃ λιτάς;

ΚΡ. φιλῶ γὰρ οὐ σὲ μᾶλλον ἢ δόμους ἐμούς.

ΜΗΔ. ὁ πατρίς, ὡς σου κάρτα νῦν μνείαν ἔχω.

ΚΡ. πλὴν γὰρ τέκνων ἔμοιγε φίλτατον πολύ.

|hate σὺ δ', οἶμαι, |be sane, mod-|do, accomplish
erate

καὶ νῦν τὸ μὲν σὸν οὐ |envy καλῶς ἔχειν.

|marry, give εὖ πράσσοιτε· τήνδε δὲ χθόνα
in marriage

ἔατέ μ' |inhabit καὶ γὰρ ἡδικημένοι

σιγησόμεσθα, κρεισσόνων νικώμενοι.

315

ΚΡΕΩΝ. λέγεις ἀκοῦσαι |soft, , ἀλλ' ἔσω φρενῶν
timid

|terror μοι μή τι βουλεύσῃς κακόν,

|so much, |so great ν ἦ |before, in the past οι·

γυνὴ γὰρ ὁξύθυμος, ὡς δ' |just so, merely;
in vain

ράων φυλάσσειν ἦ σιωπηλὸς |skilled,
clever, wise

ἀλλ' ἔξιθ' ὡς τάχιστα, μὴ λόγους λέγε·

320

ώς ταῦτ' |join, fit, furnish |craft ὅπως

μενεῖς παρ' ἡμῖν οὖσα |hostile, ἐμοί.
enemy

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. μή, πρός σε |knee τῆς τε |newlywed κόρης.

ΚΡ. λόγους ἀναλοῖς· οὐ γὰρ ἀν πείσαις ποτέ.

325

ΜΗΔ. ἀλλ' |drive out |κούδεν |respect, |prayer
be

ΚΡ. φιλῶ γὰρ οὐ σὲ μᾶλλον ἦ σούμους ἐμούς.

ΜΗΔ. Ὡ πατρίς, ὡς σου |very much |reminder, ω.
memorial

ΚΡ. πλὴν γὰρ τέκνων ἐμοιγε φίλτατον πολύ.

To wrong me? Granted thine own child to one
Whom thy soul chose.— Ah, him out of my heart
I hate; but thou, meseems, hast done thy part
Not ill. And for thine houses' happiness
I hold no grudge. Go: marry, and God bless
Your issues. Only suffer me to rest
Somewhere within this land. Though sore oppressed,
I will be still, knowing mine own defeat.

CREON. Thy words be gentle: but I fear me yet
Lest even now there creep some wickedness
Deep hid within thee. And for that the less
I trust thee now than ere these words began.

A woman quick of wrath, aye, or a man,
Is easier watching than the cold and still.
Up, straight, and find thy road! Mock not my will
With words. This doom is passed beyond recall;
Nor all thy crafts shall help thee, being withal
My manifest foe, to linger at my side.

MEDEA (suddenly throwing herself down
and clinging to CREON).

Oh, by thy knees! By that new-wedded bride ...

CREON. 'Tis waste of words. Thou shalt not weaken me.

MEDEA. Wilt hunt me? Spurn me when I kneel to thee?

CREON. 'Tis mine own house that kneels to me, not thou.

MEDEA. Home, my lost home, how I desire thee now!

CREON. And I mine, and my child, beyond all things.

vocabulary

αἰτέω ask for ~etiology

αἴτιος blameworthy; the cause

~etiology

ἀπαλλαξέιω wish to get rid of
ἀπαλλάσσω free from, remove; be
freed, depart

ἀφορμή starting point; means

βιάζω use force on, violate

δαί particle: emphasizes questions

δαῖς -τός (f) feast, banquet ~demon

δαῖς δαδός (f) torch

δῆτα emphatic δή

εἰκός likely

ἔρπω be able to move ~serpent

ἔρως -τος (m) love, desire ~erotic

εὖνοια good will, gift

ἔκιστος least; above all

ἴκετεύω approach to beg

κλαίω weep

λῆμα will, desire, purpose; courage,
insolence

μάταιος vain, empty

μηχανάομαι build, contrive

~mechanism

οἰκτείρω pity

ὁπαδέω follow, attend

ὁπαδός member of an entourage,
bodyguard

ὁπηδός member of an entourage,
bodyguard

πονέω work; be busy ~osteopenia

πόνος toil, suffering ~osteopenia

προτιμάω (i) prefer, pay attention to

συμπεραίνω accomplish together

συμφορά collecting; accident,
misfortune

τάχα quickly, soon; perhaps
~tachometer

τάχος -ους (n, 3) speed ~tachometer

τυραννικός tyrannical

φεῦ exclamation of grief, anger,
surprise, admiration

φροντίς -τος (f) thought, care

φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics

ὁθέω push

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. φεῦ φεῦ, βροτοῖς ἔρωτες ὡς κακὸν μέγα.

330

ΚΡΕΩΝ. ὅπως ἄν, οἶμαι, καὶ παραστῶσιν τύχαι.

ΜΗΔ. Ζεῦ, μὴ λάθοι σε τῶνδ' ὃς αἴτιος κακῶν.

ΚΡ. ἔρπ', ὡς ματαία, καί μ' ἀπάλλαξον πόνων.

ΜΗΔ. πονοῦμεν ἡμεῖς κου' πόνων κεχρήμεθα.

ΚΡ. τάχ' ἔξ ὀπαδῶν χειρὸς ὡσθήσῃ βίᾳ.

335

ΜΗΔ. μὴ δῆτα τοῦτο γ', ἀλλά σ' αἰτοῦμαι, Κρέον ...

ΚΡ. ὅχλον παρέξεις, ὡς ἔοικας, ὥς γύναι.

ΜΗΔ. φευξούμεθ'· οὐ τοῦθ' ἵκέτευσα σοῦ τυχεῖν.

ΚΡ. τί δὰν βιάζῃ κούκ ἀπαλλάσσῃ χερός;

ΜΗΔ. μίαν με μεῖναι τήνδ' ἔασον ἡμέραν

340

καὶ ξυμπερᾶναι φροντῖδ' ἥ φευξούμεθα,

παισὸν τ' ἀφορμὴν τοῖς ἐμοῖς, ἐπεὶ πατὴρ

οὐδὲν προτιμᾶ μηχανήσασθαι τέκνοις.

οἴκτιρε δ' αὐτούς· καὶ σύ τοι παιδῶν πατὴρ

πέφυκας· εἰκὸς δ' ἐστὶν εὔνοιάν σ' ἔχειν.

345

τούμοῦ γὰρ οὐ μοι φροντίσ, εἰ φευξούμεθα,

κείνους δὲ κλαίω συμφορᾶ κεχρημένους.

ΚΡ. ἥκιστα τούμὸν λῆμ' ἔφυ τυραννικόν,

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ex- |exclamation ^ of love, ὡς κακὸν μέγα. 330
 cla- grief, anger, desire

ΚΡΕΩΝ. ὀπίστημι οὐδεὶς, καὶ παραστῶσιν τύχαι.

ΜΗΔ. Ζεῦ ποτε λάθοι σε τῶνδ' ὃς |blameworthy; . . .
 anger, |the cause
 sur-

KP. ἔρπι, |praise, , καί μ' ἀπάλλαξον |toil, suffering
 ad-empty

ΜΗΔ. |work mi- ἡμεῖς κου' |toil, suffering |μεθα.
 ra- tion

KP. τάχ' ἔξ ὄπαδῶν χειρὸς |push βίᾳ.

335

ΜΗΔ. μὴ |emphatic δῆ γ', ἀλλά σ' |ask for , Κρέον ...

KP. δχλον παρέξεις, ὡς ἔοικας, ὡς γύναι.

ΜΗΔ. φευξούμεθ· οὐ τοῦθ' |approach to beg |χεῖν.

KP. τί δαὶ |βιάζω?: use|free from, remove; 's;
 force on; or|be freed, depart

ΜΗΔ. μίαν |βιάντα τήνδ' ἔασον ἡμέραν
 force on

340

καὶ ξυμπερᾶναι |thought, care , ευξούμεθα,

παισὶν τ' |starting . . . ἐμοῖς, ἐπεὶ πατὴρ
 point; means

οὐδὲν προτιμᾶ |build, contrive τέκνοις.

οἴκτιρε δ' αὐτούς· καὶ σύ τοι παιδῶν πατὴρ

πέφυκας· |likely δ' ἐστὶν |good will, gift, . . .

345

τούμοῦ γὰρ οὐ μοι |thought, care |ευξούμεθα,

κείνους δὲ |weep συμφορᾶ κεχρημένους.

KP. |least; τούμὸν λῆμ' |pro- |tyrranical
 above |duce,
 all |beget;
 |clasp

MEDEA. O Loves of man, what curse is on your wings!

CREON. Blessing or curse, 'tis as their chances flow.

MEDEA. Remember, Zeus, the cause of all this woe!

CREON. Oh, rid me of my pains! Up, get thee gone!

MEDEA. What would I with thy pains? I have mine own.

CREON. Up: or, 'fore God, my soldiers here shall fling ...

MEDEA. Not that! Not that!... I do but pray, O King ...

CREON. Thou wilt not? I must face the harsher task?

MEDEA. I accept mine exile. 'Tis not that I ask.

CREON. Why then so wild? Why clinging to mine hand?

MEDEA (rising).

For one day only leave me in thy land
At peace, to find some counsel, ere the strain
Of exile fall, some comfort for these twain,
Mine innocents; since others take no thought,
It seems, to save the babes that they begot.
Ah! Thou wilt pity them! Thou also art
A father: thou hast somewhere still a heart
That feels... I reck not of myself: 'tis they
That break me, fallen upon so dire a day.

vocabulary

ἀγών -ος (m, 3) gathering place
 ~agony
 αἰδέομαι respect, be ashamed
 ἀνταείρω raise against
 ἀνταίρω raise against
 ἀντιλέγω contradict, oppose
 ἀπόρονυμι (ū) set forth ~hormone
 ἀπορος impassable, difficult
 ἀφευδής truthful
 δράω do, accomplish
 ἐντός within
 ἐξαμαρτάνω miss; err, do wrong
 ἐξευρίσκω find; discover ~eureka
 ἔπειμι lie upon; approach ~ion
 κηδεύω attend to; become allied in
 marriage

κλύδων -ος (m, 3) wave, surge
 ~cataclysm
 λαμπάς -δος (f, 3) torch
 μέλεος vain, idle, useless
 νυμφίος bridegroom
 ξενία hospitality ~xenophobe
 ξένιος of hospitality ~xenophobe
 ὅμως anyway, nevertheless
 οὐτις nobody, nothing
 πανταχῆ everywhere
 ποῖ whither? how long?
 πόνος toil, suffering ~osteopenia
 πότε when?
 σωτήρ -ος (m) savior
 τέρμανι boundary
 φεῦ exclamation of grief, anger,
 surprise, admiration

αἰδούμενος δὲ πολλὰ δὴ διέφθορα·

καὶ νῦν ὁρῶ μὲν ἐξαμαρτάνων, γύναι, 350

ὅμως δὲ τεύξη τοῦδε· προυννέπω δέ σοι,

εἴ σ' ἡ πιοῦσα λαμπὰς ὄψεται θεοῦ

καὶ παῖδας ἐντὸς τῆσδε τερμόνων χθονός,

θανῆ· λέλεκται μῦθος ἀψευδῆς ὅδε.

νῦν δ', εἰ μένειν δεῖ, μύμ' ἐφ' ἡμέραν μίαν· 355

οὐ γάρ τι δράσεις δεινὸν ὅν φόβος μ' ἔχει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. δύστανε γύναι,

φεῦ φεῦ, μελέα τῶν σῶν ἀχέων.

ποῖ ποτε τρέψῃ; τίνα πρὸς ξενίαν;

ἢ δόμον ἢ χθόνα σωτῆρα κακῶν 360

ἐξευρήσεις;

ώς εἰς ἀπορόν σε κλύδωνα θεός,

Μήδεια, κακῶν ἐπόρευσε.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. κακῶς πέπρακται πανταχῆ· τίς ἀντερεῖ;

ἀλλ' οὕτι ταύτη ταῦτα, μὴ δοκεῖτέ πω. 365

εἴ τ' εἴσ' ἀγῶνες τοῖς νεωστὶ νυμφίοις

καὶ τοῖσι κηδεύσασιν οὐ σμικρὸί πόνοι.

CREON. Mine is no tyrant's mood. Aye, many a time
Ere this my tenderness hath marred the chime
Of wisest counsels. And I know that now
I do mere folly. But so be it! Thou
Shalt have this grace... But this I warn thee clear,
If once the morrow's sunlight find thee here
Within my borders, thee or child of thine,
Thou diest!... Of this judgment not a line
Shall waver nor abate. So linger on,
If thou needs must, till the next risen sun;
No further... In one day there scarce can be
Those perils wrought whose dread yet haunteth me.

Exit CREON with his suite.

CHORUS. O woman, woman of sorrow,
Where wilt thou turn and flee?
What town shall be thine to-morrow,
What land of all lands that be,
What door of a strange man's home?
Yea, God hath hunted thee,
Medea, forth to the foam
Of a trackless sea.

MEDEA. Defeat on every side; what else?— But Oh,
Not here the end is: think it not! I know
For bride and groom one battle yet untried,
And goodly pains for him that gave the bride.

vocabulary

ἄπτω set on fire; attach; mid: touch, seize ~haptic
 βούλευμα -τος (n, 3) resolution, purpose
 γελάω laugh, smile, laugh at
 ἐγχειρέω lay hands on, try, attack
 εἰσβαίνω enter, board ~basis
 ἐκβάλλω throw out, fell, let fall ~ballistic
 ἔξειμι go forth; is possible ~ion
 ἡπαρ -τος (n) liver ~hepatic
 θανάσιμος fatal
 θηκτός sharpened
 θωπεύω flatter, coax
 κερδαίνω profit, take advantage
 κράτιστος best
 λέχος -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier ~lie

μωρία folly
 νυμφικός bridal
 ὁποῖος whatever kind
 πόσις -ος (m) (m) husband, master; (f) a drink ~potent
 πότε when?
 πότερος which, whichever of two
 προσάντης uphill, steep
 σιγά silence
 σιγάω (i) be silent
 σοφός skilled, clever, wise
 στόρωνμι (ū) smooth out
 τεχνάομαι make, invent ~oxytocin
 ὑφάπτω set on fire from underneath
 φάρμακον drug, potion ~pharmacy
 φάσγανον sword
 φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
 ὀθέω push

δοκεῖς γάρ ἂν με τόνδε θωπεῦσαί ποτε,

εἰ μή τι κερδαίνουσαν ἢ τεχνωμένην;

οὐδ' ἂν προσέπον οὐδ' ἂν ἡψάμην χεροῦν.

370

οὐδὲ τοσοῦτον μωρίας ἀφίκετο,

ῶστ' ἐξὸν αὐτῷ τάμ' ἐλεῦν βουλεύματα

γῆς ἐκβαλόντι, τήνδ' ἀφῆκεν ἡμέραν

μεῖναι μ', ἐν ἦ τρεῖς τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν νεκροὺς

θήσω, πατέρα τε καὶ κόρην πόσιν τ' ἐμόν.

375

πολλὰς δ' ἔχουσα θανασίμους αὐτοὺς ὄδούς,

οὐκ οὐδὲ ὅποιᾳ πρῶτον ἐγχειρῶ, φῦλαι·

πότερον ὑφάψω δῶμα νυμφικὸν πυρί,

ἢ θηκτὸν ὕστε φάσγανον δι' ἥπατος,

σιγῇ δόμους ἐσβᾶσ', ὦν ἔστρωται λέχος.

ἀλλ' ἐν τί μοι πρόσαντες· εἰ ληφθήσομαι

δόμους ὑπεσβαίνουσα καὶ τεχνωμένη,

θανοῦσα θήσω τοῖς ἐμοῖς ἐχθροῖς γέλων.

κράτιστα τὴν εὐθεῖαν, ἦ πεφύκαμεν

σοφαὶ μάλιστα, φαρμάκοις αὐτοὺς ἐλεῦν.

380

εἶεν· καὶ δὴ τεθνᾶσι· τίς με δέξεται πόλις;

385

δοκεῖς γὰρ ἄν με τόνδε |flatter, coax τοτε,

εἰ μή τι |profit, take ad- ἥ |make, invent ,
vantage

οὐδ' ἄν προσέποντον οὐδ' ἄν |set on fire; attach;
mid: touch, seize

370

οὐδὲ ἐσ τοσοῦτον μωρίας ἀφίκετο,

ωστ' |go forth; ὁ τάμ' ἐλεῖν |resolution,
is possible |purpose

γῆς |throw out, τήνδ' ἀφῆκεν ἡμέραν
fell, let fall

μεῖναι μ', ἐν ἥ τρεῖς τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν νεκροὺς

θήσω, πατέρα τε καὶ κόρην |(m) husband, mas-
ter; (f) a drink

375

πολλὰς δ' ἔχουσα |fatal αὐτοῖς ὁδούς,

οὐκ οἶδ' |whatever kind ἐγχειρῶ, φύλαι·

|which, |set on fire from|bridal πυρί,
whichever|underneath

ἥ |sharp- |push |sword δι' |liver

συγῆ δόμους |enter, ἕντε |smooth out |bed, bier
board

380

ἀλλ' ἐν τί μοι |uphill, steep εἰ ληφθήσομαι

δόμους ὑπεσβαίνουσα καὶ |make, invent

θανοῦσα θήσω τοῖς ἐμοῖς ἐχθροῖς |laugh,
smile

|best τὴν εὐθεῖαν, ἥ πεφύκαμεν

|skilled, ἀντιστα, φαρμάκοις αὐτοὺς ἐλεῖν.
clever, wise

385

εἶν· καὶ δὴ τεθνᾶσι· τίς με δέξεται πόλις;

Dost dream I would have grovelled to this man,
Save that I won mine end, and shaped my plan
For merry deeds? My lips had never deigned
Speak word with him: my flesh been never stained
With touching... Fool, Oh, triple fool! It lay
So plain for him to kill my whole essay
By exile swift: and, lo, he sets me free
This one long day: wherein mine haters three
Shall lie here dead, the father and the bride
And husband—mine, not hers! Oh, I have tried
So many thoughts of murder to my turn,
I know not which best likes me. Shall I burn
Their house with fire? Or stealing past unseen
To Jason's bed—I have a blade made keen
For that—stab, breast to breast, that wedded pair?
Good, but for one thing. When I am taken there,
And killed, they will laugh loud who hate me...
Nay,
I love the old way best, the simple way
Of poison, where we too are strong as men.
Ah me!
And they being dead—what place shall

vocabulary

ἀγών -ος (m, 3) gathering place
 ~agony
 ἀμήχανος helpless, impossible
 ~mechanism
 ἄσυλος (ū) safe, inviolate
 ἀσφαλής safe, easy, steady, careful
 γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy
 γέλως laughter
 δέμας -ως (n) body; (+gen.) like
 δέσποινα lady
 δόλος trick, bait
 εἶα exclamation to urge someone on
 ἐξελαύνω drive out, exile ~elastic
 ἐπίσταμαι know how, understand
 ~station
 ἔρπω be able to move ~serpent
 ἑστία hearth ~Hestia
 ἑστιάω give a feast
 εὐψυχία (ū) courage, high spirits
 ἐφίστημι set; (mp) come/be near, direct, stop ~station
 καρτερός strong, staunch

κῆδος -εος (n, 3) sorrow ~heinous
 κῆρ heart ~cardiac
 λυγρός pitiful; woe-bringing
 ~lugubrious
 μέτειμι be among, go, follow ~ion
 μυχός recess, nook
 ξίφος -εος (n, 3) sword
 ὀφλισκάνω lose; incur debt
 πικρός sharp, bitter ~picric
 πύργος ramparts, tower; line of troops
 σέβομαι feel shame, awe
 σιγά silence
 σιγάω (i) be silent
 συμφορά collecting; accident, misfortune
 τεχνάομαι make, invent ~oxytocin
 τόλμα courage
 τόλμη courage
 φείδομαι spare, not use/harm ~aphid
 φόνος killing ~offend
 φυγάς -δος (m, 3) exile, refugee
 ~fugitive
 φυγή flight, means of escape ~fugitive

τίς γῆν ἀσυλον καὶ δόμους ἔχεγγύους
 ξένος παρασχὼν ρύσεται τούμὸν δέμας;
 οὐκ ἔστι. μείνασ' οὖν ἔτι σμικρὸν χρόνον,
 ἦν μέν τις ἡμῦν πύργος ἀσφαλῆς φανῆ,
 δόλω μέτειμι τόνδε καὶ σιγῇ φόνον·
 ἦν δ' ἔξελαύνη ξυμφορά μ' ἀμήχανος,
 αὐτὴ ξίφος λαβοῦσα, κει' μέλλω θαυμῆν,
 κτενῷ σφε, τόλμης δ' εἶμι πρὸς τὸ καρτερόν.
 οὐ γὰρ μὰ τὴν δέσποιναν ἦν ἐγὼ σέβω
 μάλιστα πάντων καὶ ξυνεργὸν εἰλόμην,
 Ἐκάτην, μυχοῖς ναίουσαν ἔστίας ἐμῆς,
 χαίρων τις αὐτῶν τούμὸν ἀλγυνεῖ κέαρ.
 πικροὺς δ' ἐγώ σφιν καὶ λυγροὺς θήσω γάμους,
 πικρὸν δὲ κῆδος καὶ φυγὰς ἐμὰς χθονός.

ἀλλ' εἴα· φείδου μηδὲν ὥν ἐπίστασαι,
 Μήδεια, βουλεύουσα καὶ τεχνωμένη·
 ἔρπ' ἐσ τὸ δεινόν· νῦν ἀγῶν εὐψυχίας.
 ὄρᾶς ἀ πάσχεις· οὐ γέλωτα δεῖ σ' ὀφλεῖν
 τοῖς Σισυφείοις τοῖς τ' Ἰάσονος γάμοις,

390

395

400

τίς γῆν |safe, inviolate θόμοντος ἔχεγγύους

ξένος παρασχὼν ρύσεται τούμὸν |body; (+gen.) like

οὐκ ἔστι. μείνασ' οὖν ἔτι σμικρὸν χρόνον,

*ἢν μέν τις ἡμῖν |wall, |safe, |easy, ἢ,
tower |steady, careful*

390

*|trick, |be among ἵνδε καὶ σιγῇ |killing
|bait*

*ἢν δ' |drive out ξυμφορά μ' |helpless,
|impossible*

αὐτὴν |sword λαβοῦσα, κει' μέλλω θανεῖν,

*κτενῶ σφε, τόλμης δ' εἴμι πρὸς τὸ |strong,
|staunch*

οὐ γὰρ μὰ τὴν |lady ἢν ἐγὼ σέβω

395

μάλιστα πάντων καὶ ξυνεργὸν εἰλόμην,

*Ἐκάτην, |recess, |dwell, |έστιας ἐμῆς,
hook |found;
χαίρων τις αὐτῶν τούμὸν ἀλγυνεῖ |heart*

*|sharp δὲ ἐγώ σφιν καὶ |pitiful; |woe-τω |wedding, sex
|bringing*

|sharp δὲ |sorrow καὶ φυγὰς ἐμὰς χθονός.

400

ἀλλ' |ex- |spare μηδὲν ὅν ἐπίστασαι,

*Μήδεια βουλεύουσα καὶ |make, invent
to*

*ἔρπετο δεινόν· νῦν |gathering courage,
some- |place |high spirits
one*

οὐ πάσχεις οὐ |laughter δεῖ σ' ὀφλεῖν

τοῖς Σισυφείοις τοῖς τ' Ἰάσονος |wedding, sex

hold me then?
What friend shall rise, with land inviolate
And trusty doors, to shelter from their hate
This flesh?... None anywhere!... A little more
I needs must wait: and, if there ope some door
Of refuge, some strong tower to shield me, good:
In craft and darkness I will hunt this blood.
Else, if mine hour be come and no hope nigh,
Then sword in hand, full-willed and sure to die,
I yet will live to slay them. I will wend
Man-like, their road of daring to the end.
So help me She who of all Gods hath been
The best to me, of all my chosen queen
And helpmate, Hecate, who dwells apart,
The flame of flame, in my fire's inmost heart:
For all their strength, they shall not stab my soul
And laugh thereafter! Dark and full of dole
Their bridal feast shall be, most dark the day
They joined their hands, and hunted me away.
Awake thee now, Medea! Whatso plot
Thou hast, or cunning, strive and falter not.
On to the peril-point! Now comes the strain
Of daring. Shall they trample thee again?
How? And with Hellas laughing o'er thy fall
While this thief's daughter weds, and weds withal

vocabulary

ἀμήχανος helpless, impossible
 ~mechanism
 ἀνταχέω resound, sound back
 ἄνω (ἀ) accomplish, pass, waste;
 upwards, out to sea
 ἀοιδάω sing
 ἀοιδή song
 ἀοιδός (f) singer
 ἀπιστοσύνη disbelief, distrust
 ἀραρίσκω join, fit, furnish ~arthritis
 ἄρσην male
 βιοτή life
 γυναικεῖος of women ~queen
 δόλιος tricky, guileful
 δυσκέλαδος bad-sounding
 ἐπίσταμαι know how, understand
 ~station
 εὔκλεια good repute ~Euclid
 ἐφίστημι set; (mp) come/be near,
 direct, stop ~station
 θέσπις -εως (m) divine, inspired
 λαγχάνω be allotted; (esp. λελα-

forms) allot; receive

λήγω cease, (+gen+ppl) cause to cease
 ~lax
 λύρα lyre
 μέλεος vain, idle, useless
 μέλος -ους (n, 3) limb; melody
 μοῖρα portion, fate; (χατά+) rightly
 ~Moira
 μοῦσα muse
 ὀπάζω send with, put in fealty to;
 bestow; chase
 παγά (ᾶα) headwaters, fountain
 παλαιγενής old ~paleo
 πάτριος of the father(s), ancestral
 προσδοκάω expect
 σοφός skilled, clever, wise
 στρέφω turn, veer ~atrophy
 τέκτων (f) skilled worker ~technician
 ὕμνος song ~hymn
 φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
 χωρέω withdraw, give way to (+dat)
 ~heir

γεγωναν ἐσθλοῦ πατρὸς Ἡλίου τ' ἄπο.

ἐπίστασαι δέ· πρὸς δὲ καὶ πεφύκαμεν

γυναικες, ἐς μὲν ἐσθλ' ἀμηχανώταται,

κακῶν δὲ πάντων τέκτονες σοφώταται.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἄνω ποταμῶν Ἱερῶν χωροῦσι παγαί,

410

καὶ δύκα καὶ πάντα πάλιν στρέφεται.

ἀνδράσι μὲν δόλιαι βουλαί, θεῶν δ'

οὐκέτι πίστις ἄραρε·

τὰν δ' ἐμὰν εὔκλειαν ἔχειν βιοτὰν στρέψουσι φᾶμαι.

415

ἔρχεται τιμὰ γυναικείω γένει·

οὐκέτι δυσκέλαδος φάμα γυναικας ἔξει.

420

ΧΟ. μοῦσαι δὲ παλαιγενέων λήξουσ' ἀοιδῶν

τὰν ἐμὰν ὑμνεῦσαι ἀπιστοσύναν.

οὐ γὰρ ἐν ἀμετέρᾳ γνώμᾳ λύρας

ῶπασε θέσπιν ἀοιδὰν

425

Φοῖβος, ἀγήτωρ μελέων· ἐπεὶ ἀντάχησ' ἀν ὕμνον

ἀρσένων γέννᾳ. μακρὸς δ' αἰών ἔχει

πολλὰ μὲν ἀμετέραν ἀνδρῶν τε μοῖραν εἰπεῖν.

430

ΧΟ. σὺ δ' ἐκ μὲν οἴκων πατρίων ἔπλευσας

γεγωναῖσαν ἐσθλοῦ πατρὸς Ἡλίου τ' ἄπο.

ἐπίστασαι δέ· πρὸς δὲ καὶ πεφύκαμεν

γυναικες, ἐσ μὲν ἐσθλ' helpless,
impossible

κακῶν δὲ πάντων |worker skilled,
clever, wise

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἄνω ποταμῶν ἵερῶν |withdraw, give *u*,
|way to (+dat)

καὶ δίκα καὶ πάντα πάλιν |turn

ἀνδράσι μὲν |tricky, 3ουλαί, θεῶν δ'
|guileful

οὐκέτι πίστις |join, fit, furnish

τὰν δ' ἐμὰν |good repute, εἰν |life |turn φάμαι·

ἔρχεται τιμὰ |of women γένει·

οὐκέτι |bad-sounding ἡάμα γυναικας ἔξει.

ΧΟ. |muse δὲ |old λήξουσ' ἀοιδῶν

τὰν ἐμὰν ὑμνεῦσαι |disbelief,
|distrust

οὐ γὰρ ἐν ἀμετέρᾳ γνώμᾳ |lyre

send |divine, ἰοιδὰν
with, |inspired

put |in ἀγήτωρ μελέων· ἐπεὶ |resound, ἄν |song
fealty to; |sound
bestow; |back
share |γέννα. μακρὸς δ' αἰῶν εχει

πολλὰ μὲν ἀμετέραν ἀνδρῶν τε |portion, fate *u*.

ΧΟ. σὺ δ' ἐκ μὲν οἴκων |of the father(s), ιοσας
ancestral

410

415

420

425

430

Jason?... A true king was thy father, yea,
And born of the ancient Sun!... Thou know'st the way;
And God hath made thee woman, things most vain
For help, but wondrous in the paths of pain.

MEDEA goes into the House.

CHORUS. Back streams the wave on the ever running river:
Life, life is changed and the laws of it o'ertrod.
Man shall be the slave, the affrighted, the low-liver!
Man hath forgotten God.
And woman, yea, woman, shall be terrible in story:
The tales too, meseemeth, shall be other than of yore.
For a fear there is that cometh out of Woman and a glory,
And the hard hating voices shall encompass her no more!
The old bards shall cease, and their memory that lingers
Of frail brides and faithless, shall be shrivelled as with fire.
For they loved us not, nor knew us: and our lips were dumb, our fingers
Could wake not the secret of the lyre.
Else, else, O God the Singer, I had sung amid their rages
A long tale of Man and his deeds for good and ill.
But the old World knoweth— 'tis the speech of all his ages—
Man's wrong and ours: he knoweth and is still.
Some Women.
Forth from thy father's home
Thou camest, O heart of fire,

vocabulary

αἰδώς awe, shame, respect; genitals
 αἰθέριος in the air; heavenly
 ἀμήχανος helpless, impossible
 ~mechanism
 ἄνανδρος without men; not manlike
 ~androgynous
 ἀναπέτομαι fly away
 ἄτιμος (i) without honor
 βασίλεια noblewoman
 βασίλειος kingly
 βούλευμα -τος (n, 3) resolution,
 purpose
 δίδυμος twin, double
 ἐκπίπτω fall out of ~petal
 ἐπιστάζω dribble, instill
 ἐφίστημι set; (mp) come/be near,
 direct, stop ~station
 καθοράω look down ~panorama

κοίτη rest, resting place, sleepiness
 κοῦφος light, nimble
 κρείσσων more powerful; better
 λέκτρον bed ~lie
 μάταιος vain, empty
 μεθοριμίζω move anchorage
 μόχθος toil
 δργή urge, impulse; anger
 ὁρίζω divide; ordain, define ~horizon
 ὅρκος what is sworn by, witness, oath
 ~orc
 οὖνεκα because
 πέτρα rock, cliff, reef ~petrified
 τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
 τραχύς (α) rough ~trachea
 φυγάς -δος (m, 3) exile, refugee
 ~fugitive
 φυγή flight, means of escape ~fugitive

μαινομένᾳ κραδίᾳ, διδύμους ὥρίσασα πόντου

πέτρας· ἐπὶ δὲ ξένᾳ

ναίεις χθονί, τᾶς ἀνάνδρου

435

κοίτας ὀλέσασα λέκτρον,

τάλαινα, φυγὰς δὲ χώρας

ἄτιμος ἐλαύνῃ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. βέβακε δ' ὄρκων χάρις, οὐδὲν ἔτ' αἰδὼς

Ἐλλαδὶ τῷ μεγάλᾳ μένει, αἰθερίᾳ δὲ ἀνέπτα.

440

σοὶ δὲ οὔτε πατρὸς δόμοι,

δύστανε, μεθορμίσασθαι

μόχθων πάρα, τῶν τε λέκτρων

ἄλλα βασιλεια κρείσσων

δόμοισιν ἐπέστα.

445

ΙΑΣΩΝ. οὐ νῦν κατεῖδον πρῶτον ἀλλὰ πολλάκις

τραχεῖαν ὄργην ὡς ἀμήχανον κακόν.

σοὶ γὰρ παρὸν γῆν τήνδε καὶ δόμους ἔχειν

κούφως φερούσῃ κρεισσόνων βουλεύματα,

λόγων ματαίων οὐνεκ' ἐκπεσῆ χθονός.

450

κάμοὶ μὲν οὐδὲν πρᾶγμα· μὴ παύσῃ ποτὲ

μαινομένα κραδία, |twin, |divide; or- |*íντον*
 |double |dain, define
 |rock |*ἐπὶ δὲ ξένα*

|dwell, |*χθονί*, |*τᾶς* |without men;
 found; |not manlike
 flow
 rest, resting place, |bed
 sleepiness

wretched, |*φυγὰς δὲ χώρας*
 miserable
 |without |*ελαύνη*.
 honor

ΧΟΡΟΣ. βέβακε δ' |oath |*χάρις*, |*οὐδὲ* |*ἔτ* |awe, shame, re-
 spect; genitals

|Ελλάδι τῷ μεγάλᾳ μένει, |in the air; heavenly

σοὶ δ' οὔτε πατρὸς δόμοι,

δύστανε, |move anchorage

|toil |*πάρα*, |*τῶν τε* |bed

ἄλλα βασιλεια κρείσσων

δόμοισιν ἐπέστα.

440

445

ΙΑΣΩΝ. οὐ νῦν |look down |*ρῶτον* ἀλλὰ |often

|rough |urge, |*ἴσ* |helpless, |*κακόν*.
 |impulse; |impossible
 anger

σοὶ γὰρ παρὸν γῆν τήνδε καὶ δόμους ἔχειν

|light, |*φερούσῃ* κρεισσόνων |resolution,
 nimble |purpose

λόγων |vain, |because |fall out of, |*Ιονός*.
 empty

κάμοὶ μὲν οὐδὲν πρᾶγμα· μὴ παύσῃ ποτὲ

450

To the Dark Blue Rocks, to the clashing foam,
To the seas of thy desire:
Till the Dark Blue Bar was crossed;
And, lo, by an alien river
Standing, thy lover lost,
Void-armed for ever,
Forth yet again, O lowest
Of landless women, a ranger
Of desolate ways, thou goest,
From the walls of the stranger.
Others.

And the great Oath waxeth weak;
And Ruth, as a thing outstriven,
Is fled, fled, from the shores of the Greek,
Away on the winds of heaven.
Dark is the house afar,
Where an old king called thee daughter;
All that was once thy star
In stormy water,
Dark: and, lo, in the nearer
House that was sworn to love thee,
Another, queenlier, dearer,
Is throned above thee.
Enter from the right JASON.

JASON. Oft have I seen, in other days than these,
How a dark temper maketh maladies
No friend can heal. 'Twas easy to have kept
Both land and home. It needed but to accept
Unstrivingly the pleasure of our lords.

vocabulary

ἀνανδρία lack of manliness
 ἀνίημι urge, impel; release ~jet
 ἀφαιρέω take away ~heresy
 γλῶσσα tongue, language ~glossary
 δράω do, accomplish
 ἐκπίνω (i) drink up, consume
 ἐκπίπτω fall out of ~petal
 ἐκπίτνω fall out of
 ἐνδεής inadequate
 εύτολμία courage
 ἐφέλκω drag; (mid) influence
 ζημιόω fine, punish

θράσος -ους (n, 3) boldness,
 over-boldness
 θυμόω (ū) anger
 κέρδος -ους (n, 3) advantage, cunning
 μωρία folly
 ὅμως anyway, nevertheless
 ὀργή urge, impulse; anger
 οὐτάω pierce, wound
 πότε when?
 στυγέω dread, shrink from ~Styx
 τοιγάρ therefore
 τύραννος tyrant
 φυγή flight, means of escape ~fugitive

λέγουσ' Ἰάσον' ὡς κάκιστος ἐστ' ἀνήρ·

ἄ δ' ἐς τυράννους ἐστί σοι λελεγμένα,

πᾶν κέρδος ἥγον ζημιούμενη φυγῇ.

κάγὼ μὲν αἰὲν βασιλέων θυμούμενων

455

όργας ἀφῆρουν καί σ' ἐβουλόμην μένειν·

σὺ δ' οὐκ ἀνίεις μωρίας, λέγουσ' ἀεὶ

κακῶς τυράννους· τοιγάρ εἴκπεσῃ χθονός.

ὅμως δὲ κάκ τῶνδ' οὐκ ἀπειρηκὼς φίλοις

ῆκω, τὸ σὸν δὲ προσκοπούμενος, γύναι,

460

ώς μῆτ' ἀχρήμων σὺν τέκνοισιν ἐκπέσης

μῆτ' ἐνδεής του· πόλλα' ἐφέλκεται φυγὴ

κακὰ ξὺν αὐτῇ. καὶ γὰρ εἰ σύ με στυγεῖς,

οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην σοὶ κακῶς φρονεῖν ποτε.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ὁ παγκάκιστε, τοῦτο γάρ σ' εἰπεῖν ἔχω,

465

γλώσσῃ μέγιστον εἰς ἀνανδρίαν κακόν·

ἥλθεις πρὸς ἡμᾶς, ἥλθεις ἔχθιστος γεγώς;

θεοῖς τε κάμοὶ παντί τ' ἀνθρώπων γένει;

οὗτοι θράσος τόδ' ἐστὶν οὐδ' εὐτολμία,

φίλους κακῶς δράσαντ' ἐναντίον βλέπειν,

λέγουσ' Ἰάσον' ὡς κάκιστος ἐστ' ἀνήρ.

ἄδεστος |tyrant ἔστι σοι λελεγμένα,

πᾶν |advantage, *πᾶν* |fine, punish |flight, means
cunning |of escape

κάγω μὲν αἰὲν βασιλέων |anger

455

urge, |take away *καὶ σ' ἐβούλομην μένειν*.
impulse;

anger

οὐδὲ οὐκ **urge,** μωρίας, λέγουσ' ἀεὶ^{ιμαντλή}

impel;

KAKÔS | release
tyrant

[there-] fall out of *λογός*.

κακός **tyrant**

2013-14

anyway, nevertheless οὐκ ἀπειρηκώς φίλοις

ἥκω, τὸ σὸν δὲ προσκοπούμενος, γύναι,

460

ώς μήτ' ἀχρήμων σὺν τέκνοισιν ἐκπέσης

μήτ |inadequate . . πόλλω |drag; (mid)flight, means
influence |of escape

κακὰ ξὺν αὐτῇ. καὶ γὰρ εἰ σύ με |dread

οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην σοὶ κακῶς φρονεῖν ποτε.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ὡς παγκάκιστε, τοῦτο γάρ σ' εἰπεῖν ἔχω,

465

tongue, *μέγιστον εἰς* lack of manliness 15
language

ἢ λθεις πρὸς ἡμᾶς, ἢ λθεις ἔχθιστος γεγώς;

θεοῖς τε κάμοι παντί τ' ἀνθρώπων γένει;

οὐτοις |boldness ῥόδ' ἐστὶν οὐδέ |courage

φίλους κακῶς |do, accomplish| *τίον βλέπειν*,

But thou, for mere delight in stormy words,
Wilt lose all!... Now thy speech provokes not me.
Rail on. Of all mankind let Jason be
Most evil; none shall check thee. But for these
Dark threats cast out against the majesties
Of Corinth, count as veriest gain thy path
Of exile. I myself, when princely wrath
Was hot against thee, strove with all good will
To appease the wrath, and wished to keep thee still
Beside me. But thy mouth would never stay
From vanity, blaspheming night and day
Our masters. Therefore thou shalt fly the land.
Yet, even so, I will not hold my hand
From succouring mine own people. Here am I
To help thee, woman, pondering heedfully
Thy new state. For I would not have thee flung
Provisionless away — aye, and the young
Children as well; nor lacking aught that will
Of mine can bring thee. Many a lesser ill
Hangs on the heels of exile... Aye, and though
Thou hate me, dream not that my heart can know
Or fashion aught of angry will to thee.
MEDEA. Evil, most evil!... since thou grantest me
That comfort, the worst weapon left me now
To smite a coward... Thou comest to me, thou,
Mine enemy! (Turning to the CHORUS.) Oh, say, how call ye this,
To face, and smile, the comrade whom his kiss
Betrayed? Scorn? Insult? Courage? None of these:
Tis but of all man's inward sicknesses

vocabulary

ἀμπέχω cover ~ambient
 ἀναίδεια shamelessness
 ἀνέχω raise; mid: endure, submit
 ἀυπνος sleepless
 βλώσκω come, go
 γύης γύου (m, 1) plowshare
 δέρη neck, throat, mane
 δράκων -οντος (m, 3) serpent
 Ἑλλην Greek
 ἔξαιρέω pick, steal; dedicate; destroy
 ~heresy
 ἐπίσταμαι know how, understand
 ~station
 ἐπιστάτης -ου (m, 1) suppliant,
 dependant ~station
 ἔρπω be able to move ~serpent
 ἐφίστημι set; (mp) come/be near,

direct, stop ~station
 θανάσιμος fatal
 καινός new, fresh, strange
 κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid
 κουφίζω lighten
 κτάομαι acquire, possess
 λυπέω (ū) annoy, distress
 μολίσκω come, go
 νόσος (f) plague, pestilence ~noisome
 προδίδωμι betray
 πρόθυμος (ū) willing, eager ~fume
 σκάφος (τό) hull, ship; (ό) digging
 σοφός skilled, clever, wise
 σπείρω sow ~diaspora
 σωτήριος saving
 ταῦρος bull ~steer
 φάος φῶς (n, 3) light; salvation; (pl)
 eyes ~photon

ἀλλ’ ἡ μεγίστη τῶν ἐν ἀνθρώποις νόσων
 πασῶν, ἀναιδεῖ· εὖ δ’ ἐποίησας μολών·
 ἐγώ τε γὰρ λέξασα κουφισθήσομαι
 ψυχὴν κακῶς σε καὶ σὺ λυπήσῃ κλύων.

ἐκ τῶν δὲ πρώτων πρῶτον ἄρξομαι λέγειν.

475

ἔσωσά σ’, ὡς ἵσασιν Ἑλλήνων ὅσοι
 ταῦτὸν συνεισέβησαν Ἀργῶν σκάφος,
 πεμφθέντα ταύρων πυρπνόων ἐπιστάτην
 ζεύγλησι καὶ σπεροῦντα θανάσιμον γύνην·
 δράκοντά θ’, δις πάγχρυσον ἀμπέχων δέρας
 σπείραις ἔσωζε πολυπλόκοις ἄυπνος ὡν,
 κτείνασ’ ἀνέσχον σοὶ φάος σωτήριον.

αὐτὴ δὲ πατέρα καὶ δόμους προδοῦσ’ ἐμοὺς
 τὴν Πηλιῶτιν εἰς Ἰωλκὸν ἰκόμην
 σὺν σοί, πρόθυμος μᾶλλον ἢ σοφωτέρα·

Πελίαν τ’ ἀπέκτειν’, ὥσπερ ἄλγιστον θανεῖν,
 παιδῶν ὑπ’ αὐτοῦ, πάντα τ’ ἐξεῖλον δόμον.
 καὶ ταῦθ’ ὑφ’ ἡμῶν, ὃ κάκιστ’ ἀνδρῶν, παθῶν
 προύδωκας ἡμᾶς, καὶνὰ δ’ ἐκτήσω λέχη—

480

485

ἀλλ' ἡ μεγίστη τῶν ἐν ἀνθρώποις **plague**

πασῶν, shamelessness ἐποίησας μολών·

ἐγώ τε γὰρ λέξασα |lighten

ἐκ τῶν δὲ πρώτων πρῶτον ἀρξομαι λέγειν.

475

ἔσωσά σ', ὡς ἵσασιν |Greek ὅσοι

ταῦτὸν συνεισέβησαν Ἀργῷον σκάφος,

πεμφθέντα |bull πυρπνόων ἐπιστάτην

ζεύγλησι καὶ |sow |fatal |plowshare

serpent	$\theta', \ddot{\sigma}s \pi\acute{a}γχρυσον$	cover	neck, throat, mane
$\sigma\pi\acute{e}ραις \check{\epsilon}\sigmaω\zeta\epsilon$	πολυπλόκοις	sleepless	$\nu\nu$,

<i>κτείνασ</i> ^τ	raise; endure	<i>σοι</i>	light; salva- tion; (pl)	<i>Ι</i> saving tion; eyes
<i>αὐτὴ δὲ πατέρα καὶ δούλους</i>				<i>εμοὺς</i>

τὴν Πηλιῶτιν εἰς Ἰωλκὸν ἰκόμην

σὺν σοί, willing, eager *μᾶλλον ἢ* skilled, clever, wise

Πελίαν τ' ἀπέκτειν', ὡσπερ ἀλγιστον θανεῖν,

παιδων ὑπ' αὐτοῦ, πάντα τ' ἔξειλον δόμον.

καὶ ταῦθ' ὑφ' ἡμῶν, ὡς κάκιστ' ἀνδρῶν, παθὼν

προύδωκας ἡμᾶς, |new, fresh, strange λέχη—

The vilest, that he knoweth not of shame
Nor pity! Yet I praise him that he came ...
To me it shall bring comfort, once to clear
My heart on thee, and thou shalt wince to hear.
I will begin with that, 'twixt me and thee,
That first befell. I saved thee. I saved thee—
Let thine own Greeks be witness, every one
That sailed on Argo—saved thee, sent alone
To yoke with yokes the bulls of fiery breath,
And sow that Acre of the Lords of Death;
And mine own ancient Serpent, who did keep
The Golden Fleece, the eyes that knew not sleep,
And shining coils, him also did I smite
Dead for thy sake, and lifted up the light
That bade thee live. Myself, uncounselled,
Stole forth from father and from home, and fled
Where dark Iolcos under Pelion lies,
With thee—Oh, single-hearted more than wise!
I murdered Pelias, yea, in agony,
By his own daughters' hands, for sake of thee;
I swept their house like War.—And hast thou then
Accepted all—O evil yet again!—

vocabulary

αἰσχρός shameful	ὅμως anyway, nevertheless
γόνυ γουνός (n, 3) knee	ὅρκος what is sworn by, witness, oath
δράω do, accomplish	~orc
ἔραμαι love, aor. fall in love; long for,	πάτρα (αᾶ) fatherland ~paternal
covet ~erotic	ποῖ whither? how long?
ἐρωτάω ask about something	πότερος which, whichever of two
θέσμιος fixed, settled, lawful	προδίδωμι betray
καινός new, fresh, strange	συγγιγώσκω acknowledge; pardon
κατακτείνω kill, slay	σύνοιδα know about someone; think
κοινόω make common; cooperate	proper
λέχος -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier	τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
μάτην in vain, randomly	φεῦ exclamation of grief, anger,
οἴκοθεν from home, from one's own	surprise, admiration
resources ~economics	φροῦδος fled, vanished

παιδων γεγώτων· εἰ γὰρ ἥσθ' ἄπαις ἔτι,
συγγνώστ' ἀν ἥν σοι τοῦδ' ἐρασθῆναι λέχους.

ὅρκων δὲ φρούδη πίστις, οὐδ' ἔχω μαθεῖν
ἢ θεοὺς νομίζεις τοὺς τότ' οὐκ ἄρχειν ἔτι,
ἢ καὶ κεῖσθαι θέσμι' ἀνθρώποις τὰ νῦν,
ἐπεὶ σύνοισθά γ' εἰς ἔμ' οὐκ εὔορκος ὡν.

φεῦ δεξιὰ χείρ, ἥς σὺ πόλλα' ἐλαμβάνου,
καὶ τῶνδε γονάτων, ὡς μάτην κεχρώσμεθα
κακοῦ πρὸς ἀνδρός, ἐλπίδων δ' ἡμάρτομεν.

ἄγ· ὡς φίλῳ γὰρ ὅντι σοι κοινώσομαι—
δοκοῦσα μὲν τί πρός γε σοῦ πράξειν καλῶς;

ὅμως δ· ἐρωτηθεὶς γὰρ αἰσχίων φανῆ—
νῦν ποι τράπωμαι; πότερα πρὸς πατρὸς δόμους,
οὓς σοὶ προδοῦσα καὶ πάτραν ἀφικόμην;
ἢ πρὸς ταλαίνας Πελιάδας; καλῶς γ' ἀν οὖν
δέξαιντό μ' οἴκοις ὧν πατέρα κατέκτανον.

ἔχει γὰρ οὗτω· τοῖς μὲν οἴκοθεν φίλοις
ἐχθρὰ καθέστηχ', οὓς δέ μ' οὐκ ἐχρῆν κακῶς
δρᾶν, σοὶ χάριν φέρουσα πολεμίους ἔχω.

490

495

500

505

παιδων γεγώτων· εἰ γὰρ ἥσθ' ἄπαις ἔτι,

490

συγγνώστ' ἀν ἥν σοι τοῦδ' |love; long for|bed, bier

|oath δὲ |fled, .τίστις, οὐδ' ἔχω μαθεῖν
|vanished

ἢ θεοὺς νομίζεις τοὺς τότ' οὐκ ἄρχειν ἔτι,

ἢ |new, . . . ^fresh, |fixed, ^set-|)ώποις τὰ νῦν,
|strange |tled, lawful

ἐπει |know about, ^some-|τ' οὐκ εὔροκος ὡν.
|one; think proper

495

|exclamation, of grief, anger, ^λλ' ἐλαμβάνον,|
surprise, admiration

καὶ τῶνδε |knee , ως μάτην κεχρώσμεθα

κακοῦ πρὸς ἀνδρός, ἐλπίδων δ' ἡμάρτομεν.

ἄγ· ως φίλω γὰρ ὄντι σοι |make common;
|cooperate

δοκοῦσα μὲν τί πρός γε σοῦ πράξειν καλῶς;

500

|anyway, |ask γὰρ |shameful φανῆ—
|neverthe-|

|less νῦν |whither? , how|which, πρὸς πατρὸς δόμους,
|long? |whichever

οὐς σοὶ |betray καὶ |fatherland φικόμην;

ἢ πρὸς |wretched, Πελιάδας; καλῶς γ' ἀν οὖν
|miserable

δέξαιντό μ' οἴκοις ὥν πατέρα |kill, slay

505

ἔχει γὰρ οὗτω· τοῖς μὲν |from home| λοις

ἔχθρα καθέστηχ', οὐς δέ μ' οὐκ ἔχρην κακῶς

|do, accomplish, ν φέρουσα πολεμίους ἔχω.

And cast me off and taken thee for bride
Another? And with children at thy side!
One could forgive a childless man. But no:
I have borne thee children ...
Is sworn faith so low
And weak a thing? I understand it not.
Are the old gods dead? Are the old laws forgot,
And new laws made? Since not my passioning,
But thine own heart, doth cry thee for a thing
Forsworn.

She catches sight of her own hand which she has thrown out to denounce him.

Poor, poor right hand of mine, whom he
Did cling to, and these knees, so cravingly,
We are unclean, thou and I; we have caught the stain
Of bad men's flesh... and dreamed our dreams in vain.
Thou comest to befriend me? Give me, then,
Thy counsel. 'Tis not that I dream again
For good from thee: but, questioned, thou wilt show
The viler. Say: now whither shall I go?
Back to my father? Him I did betray,
And all his land, when we two fled away.
To those poor Peliad maids? For them 'twere good
To take me in, who spilled their father's blood...
Aye, so my whole life stands! There were at home
Who loved me well: to them I am become
A curse. And the first friends who sheltered me,
Whom most I should have spared, to pleasure thee
I have turned to foes. Oh, therefore hast thou laid

vocabulary

ἄκρον crest, extremity ~acute
 ἄκρος at the edge, extreme ~acute
 ἀλάομαι wander, rove, roam ~Fr. aller
 ἀλέομαι escape, shun ~swelter
 ἐκβάλλω throw out, fell, let fall
 ~ballistic
 ἐμφύω plant; cling ~physics
 ἐρῆμος empty
 ἔρις -δος (f) strife
 θαυμαστός wonderful; admirable
 κεδνός considerate, caring
 κίβδηλος bogus
 λαῖφος -εος (n, 3) rags, sailcloth
 λίαν very
 μακάριος blessed
 νυμφίος bridegroom
 ὅνειδος -εος (n, 3) blame; insult
 ὀπάζω send with, put in fealty to;

bestow; chase
 ὀργή urge, impulse; anger
 πέλω be, turn out to be (mid=act)
 ~pole
 πιστός faithful; trustworthy
 πόσις -ος (m) (m) husband, master; (f)
 a drink ~potent
 πτωχός poor, beggarly ~pudendum
 πυργόω wall, fortify
 σαφής clear, understandable
 συμβάλλω pit against; compare; mp:
 meet, fall in with ~ballistic
 τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
 τεκμήριον sign; proof
 τοιγάρ therefore
 ὑπεκτρέχω run out from under, escape
 φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
 χαρακτήρ -ος (m) stamp; characteristic

τοιγάρ με πολλαῖς μακαρίαν Ἐλληνίδων

ἔθηκας ἀντὶ τῶνδε· θαυμαστὸν δέ σε

510

ἔχω πόσιν καὶ πιστὸν ἡ τάλαιν' ἐγώ,

εἰ φεύξομαι γε γαῖαν ἐκβεβλημένη,

φίλων ἔρημος, σὺν τέκνοις μόνη μόνοις—

καλόν γ' ὄνειδος τῷ νεωστὶ νυμφίῳ,

πτωχοὺς ἀλάσθαι παῖδας ἢ τ' ἔσωσά σε.

515

ὦ Ζεῦ, τί δὴ χρυσοῦ μὲν ὃς κίβδηλος ἦ

τεκμήρι' ἀνθρώποισιν ὥπασας σαφῆ,

ἀνδρῶν δ' ὅτῳ χρὴ τὸν κακὸν διειδέναι,

οὐδεὶς χαρακτήρ ἐμπέφυκε σώματι;

ΧΟΡΟΣ. δεινή τις ὁργὴ καὶ δυσίατος πέλει,

520

ὅταν φίλοι φίλοισι συμβάλωσ' ἔριν.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. δεῖ μ', ὡς ἔοικε, μὴ κακὸν φῦναι λέγειν,

ἀλλ' ὥστε ναὸς κεδνὸν οἰακοστρόφον

ἄκροισι λαίφους κρασπέδοις ὑπεκδραμεῖν

τὴν σὴν στόμαργον, ὡς γύναι, γλωσσαλγίαν.

525

ἔγὼ δ', ἐπειδὴ καὶ λίαν πυργοῖς χάριν,

Κύπριν νομίζω τῆς ἐμῆς ναυκληρίας

|therefore ϵ πολλαῖς |blessed Ελληνιδων

ἔθηκας ἀντὶ τῶνδε· |wonderful; admirable δέ σε

510

<i>έχω</i>	(m)	hus-	faithful;	wretched,	<i>γύω</i> ,
	band,	trustwor-		miserable	
<i>εἰ φεύγειν γέγονεν</i>	master;	thy.			
	(f) a drink		throw out, fell,		
			let fall		

φίλων ἔρημος, σὺν τέκνοις μόνη μόνοις—

καλόν γέ |blame; *τῷ νεωστὶ* |bridegroom
insult

poor, ἀλάσθαι παιδας ἢ τ' ἔσωσά σε.
beggarly

ῳ Ζεῦ, τί δὴ χρυσοῦ μὲν ὁς |bogus ή

sign; proof	<i>ἀνθρώποισιν</i>	send with, clear, under- put instandable fealty to;
ἀνδρῶν δ' ὅτῳ κακὸν τὸν διειδέναι		

εὐδοκία λέγεται, οὐδὲν λέγεται, εἰ μὲν τὸν πόνον
bestow; chase

ΧΟΡΟΣ. δεινή τις	urge, ...; <i>ἰ δυσίατος</i> impulse; anger	be, turn out to be (mid=act)
σταν φίλοι φιλοτι συμβάλωσ'	strife	

520

ΙΑΣΩΝ. δεῖ μ', ως ἔοικε, μὴ κακὸν produce, / ν,
beget; clasp

ἀλλ' ὡστε ναὸς | considerate, *κοστρόφον*
caring

ἀκροισι |rags, sailcloth| τπέδοις |run out from
under, escape|

τὴν σὴν στόμαργον, ὡς γύναι, γλωσσαλγίαν.

ἐγὼ δ', ἐπειδὴ καὶ |very |wall, χάριν,

Κύπριν νομίζω τῆς ἐμῆς ναυκληρίας

My crown upon me, blest of many a maid
In Hellas, now I have won what all did crave,
Thee, the world-wondered lover and the brave;
Who this day looks and sees me banished, thrown
Away with these two babes, all, all, alone ...
Oh, merry mocking when the lamps are red:
“Where go the bridegroom’s babes to beg their bread
In exile, and the woman who gave all
To save him?”
O great God, shall gold withal
Bear thy clear mark, to sift the base and fine,
And o’er man’s living visage runs no sign
To show the lie within, ere all too late?
LEADER. Dire and beyond all healing is the hate
When hearts that loved are turned to enmity.
JASON. In speech at least, meseemeth, I must be
Not evil; but, as some old pilot goes
Furled to his sail’s last edge, when danger blows
Too fiery, run before the wind and swell,
Woman, of thy loud storms.— And thus I tell
My tale. Since thou wilt build so wondrous high
Thy deeds of service in my jeopardy,
To all my crew and quest I know but one

vocabulary

ἀκριβής (i) exact
 ἄμιλλα conflict
 ἀναγκάζω force, compel
 ἀφυκτος inevitable; caught
 βάροβαρος non-Greek
 δέμας -ως (n) body; (+gen.) like
 διέρχομαι pierce, traverse
 ἐκσώζω save from
 Ἑλλην Greek
 ἐπίσημος marked, significant
 ἐπίσταμαι know how, understand
 ~station
 ἐπίφθονος jealous
 ἐσχατος farthest, last
 ἐφίστημι set; (mp) come/be near, direct, stop ~station

ἰσχύς -ος (f) strength; body of troops
 λεπτός thin
 λίαν very
 μέλος -ους (n, 3) limb; melody
 ὀνίνημι help, please, be available
 ὅπη wherever, however
 ὅρος boundary marker ~horizon
 πόνος toil, suffering ~osteopenia
 προτίθημι prefer, set out ~thesis
 σοφός skilled, clever, wise
 σώτειρα savior (fem)
 σωτηρία saving, preservation
 τόξον bow ~toxic
 τύχη fortune, act of a god
 ὑμνέω recite, commemorate
 χρυσός (ü) gold

σώτειραν εἶναι θεῶν τε κάνθρωπων μόνην.

σοὶ δ' ἔστι μὲν νοῦς λεπτός— ἀλλ' ἐπίφθονος

λόγος διελθεῖν, ὡς Ἔρως σ' ἡνάγκασε

530

τόξοις ἀφύκτοις τούμδον ἐκσῶσαι δέμας.

ἀλλ' οὐκ ἀκριβῶς αὐτὸς θήσομαι λίαν·

ὅπῃ γὰρ οὖν ὕνησας, οὐ κακῶς ἔχει.

μεῖζω γε μέντοι τῆς ἐμῆς σωτηρίας

εἰληφας ἢ δέδωκας, ὡς ἐγὼ φράσω.

535

πρῶτον μὲν Ἑλλάδ' ἀντὶ βαρβάρου χθονὸς

γαῖαν κατοικεῖς καὶ δύκην ἐπίστασαι

νόμοις τε χρῆσθαι μὴ πρὸς ἵσχυος χάριν·

πάντες δέ σ' ἥσθοντ' οὖσαν Ἑλληνες σοφὴν

καὶ δόξαν ἔσχες· εἰ δὲ γῆς ἐπ' ἐσχάτοις

540

ὅροισιν ὥκεις, οὐκ ἂν ἦν λόγος σέθεν.

εἴη δ' ἔμοιγε μήτε χρυσὸς ἐν δόμοις

μήτ' Ὀρφέως κάλλιον ὑμνῆσαι μέλος,

εἰ μὴ πίσημος ἡ τύχη γένοιτό μοι.

τοσαῦτα μέν σοι τῶν ἐμῶν πόνων πέρι

545

ἔλεξ· ἄμιλλαν γὰρ σὺ προύθηκας λόγων.

|savior (fem) ἵναι θεῶν τε κάνθρωπων μόνην.

σοὶ δ' ἔστι μὲν νοῦς |thin — ἀλλ' Ἰjealous

λόγος |pierce, , ὡς Ἐρως σ' |force,
traverse |compel

530

|bow |inevitable; τούμδον |save from |body; (+gen.) like
caught

ἀλλ' οὐκ ἀκριβῶς αὐτὸ θήσομαι |very

|wherever, οὖν |help, please, κακῶς ἔχει.
however |be available

μείζω γε μέντοι τῆς ἐμῆς σωτηρίας

εὐληφας ἢ δέδωκας, ὡς ἐγὼ φράσω.

535

πρῶτον μὲν Ἑλλάδ' ἀντὶ |non-Greek χθονὸς

γαῖαν κατοικεῖς καὶ δίκην ἐπίστασαι

νόμοις τε χρῆσθαι μὴ πρὸς |strength; body
|of troops

πάντες δέ σ' ἥσθοντ' οὖσαν |Greek |skilled,
clever, wise

καὶ δόξαν ἔσχες· εἰ δὲ γῆς ἐπ' |farthest

540

|boundary γῆκεις, οὐκ ἀν ἦν λόγος σέθεν.
marker

εἴη δ' ἔμοιγε μήτε |gold ἐν δόμοις

μήτ' Ὀρφέως κάλλιον |recite, |limb;
commemorat |ody

εἰ μὴ |marked, ἡ |fortune, |act τό μοι.
significant |of a god

τοσαῦτα μέν σοι τῶν ἐμῶν |toil, suffering

545

ἢλεξ· |conflict γὰρ σὺ |prefer, set out |γων.

Saviour, of Gods or mortals one alone,
The Cyprian. Oh, thou hast both brain and wit,
Yet underneath... nay, all the tale of it
Were graceless telling; how sheer love, a fire
Of poison-shafts, compelled thee with desire
To save me. But enough. I will not score
That count too close. 'Twas good help: and therefor
I give thee thanks, howe'er the help was wrought.
Howbeit, in my deliverance, thou hast got
Far more than given. A good Greek land hath been
Thy lasting home, not barbarry. Thou hast seen
Our ordered life, and justice, and the long
Still grasp of law not changing with the strong
Man's pleasure. Then, all Hellas far and near
Hath learned thy wisdom, and in every ear
Thy fame is. Had thy days run by unseen
On that last edge of the world, where then had been
The story of great Medea? Thou and I ...
What worth to us were treasures heaped high
In rich kings' rooms; what worth a voice of gold
More sweet than ever rang from Orpheus old,
Unless our deeds have glory?
Speak I so,
Touching the Quest I wrought, thyself did throw
The challenge down. Next for thy cavilling
Of wrath at mine alliance with a king,
Here thou shalt see I both was wise, and free
From touch of passion, and a friend to thee
Most potent, and my children... Nay, be

vocabulary

ἄλις in plenty; enough ~helix
 ἀμήχανος helpless, impossible
 ~mechanism
 ἀμιλλα conflict
 βασιλικός royal
 γαμέω marry, take as a lover ~bigamy
 γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy
 δείκνυμι (ü) show, point out
 δεῦρο here, come here!
 εἴτα then, therefore, next
 ἐκποδών out of the way
 εὐδαιμονέω be lucky, happy
 εὐτυχής fortunate
 ἐφέλκω drag; (mid) influence
 ἐχθαίρω hate ~external
 ἥσυχος quiet
 ἵμερος (i) desire, inclination (+gen)
 καινός new, fresh, strange
 κνίζω scratch, gash; tickle

λέχος -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier ~lie
 μεθίστημι change, substitute;
 withdraw; change sides; (mid) send
 away ~station
 μέμφομαι blame; reject
 νύμφα nymph; bride
 οικέω inhabit ~economics
 ὀνειδίζω upbraid, reproach
 πένης -τος (m) poor
 πλήσσω hit ~plectrum
 σοφός skilled, clever, wise
 σπείρω sow ~diaspora
 σπουδή zeal; (dat) with difficulty,
 hastily ~repudiate
 συμφορά collecting; accident,
 misfortune
 σώφρων sensible, prudent ~frenzy
 φυγάς -δος (m, 3) exile, refugee
 ~fugitive
 φυγή flight, means of escape ~fugitive

ἄ δ' ἐσ γάμους μοι βασιλικοὺς ὀνεῖδισας,
 ἐν τῷδε δείξω πρῶτα μὲν σοφὸς γεγώς,
 ἔπειτα σώφρων, εἶτα σοὶ μέγας φίλος
 καὶ παισὶ τοῖς ἐμοῖσιν—— ἀλλ' ἔχ' ἥσυχος.

550

ἔπειτα σώφρων, εἶτα σοὶ μέγας φίλος
 πολλὰς ἐφέλκων συμφορὰς ἀμηχάνους,
 τί τοῦδ' ἂν εὔρημ' ηὗρον εὐτυχέστερον
 ἢ παιδα γῆμαι βασιλέως φυγὰς γεγώς;

οὐχ, ἢ σὺ κνίζῃ, σὸν μὲν ἐχθαίρων λέχος,
 καινῆς δὲ νύμφης ἴμέρω πεπληγμένος,
 οὐδ' εἰς ἄμιλλαν πολύτεκνον σπουδὴν ἔχων·

555

ἄλις γὰρ οἱ γεγῶτες οὐδὲ μέμφομαι·
 ἀλλ' ὡς, τὸ μὲν μέγιστον, οἰκοῦμεν καλῶς

καὶ μὴ σπανιζούμεσθα, γιγνώσκων ὅτι
 πένητα φεύγει πᾶς τις ἐκποδὼν φίλος,
 παιδας δὲ θρέψαιμ' ἀξίως δόμων ἐμῶν
 σπείρας τ' ἀδελφοὺς τοῖσιν ἐκ σέθεν τέκνοις

560

ἐσ ταῦτὸ θείην, καὶ ξυναρτήσας γένος
 εὐδαιμονοῦμεν. σοί τε γὰρ παιδῶν τί δεῖ;

ἀ δὲ ἐς |wedding, sex |royal |reproach

ἐν τῷδε |show πρῶτα μὲν |skilled, _{τότε} ὡς,
|clever, wise

ἐπειτα |sensible, _{τότε} |then, there- γας φίλος
|prudent |fore, next

καὶ παισὶ τοῖς ἐμοῖσιν— ἀλλ’ ἔχει |quiet

550

ἐπεὶ μετέστην |here, ^{τότε} come here! θονὸς

πολλὰς |drag; (mid) γυμφορὰς |helpless,
|influence |impossible

τί τοῦδ’ ἀν εὔρημ’ ηὗρον |fortunate

ἢ παῖδα |marry, take ιλέως φυγὰς γεγώς;
|as a lover

οὐχ, ἢ σὺ κνίζῃ, σὸν μὲν |hate |bed, bier

555

|new, fresh, strange, |urge |hit

οὐδὲ εἰς |conflict πολύτεκνον |zeal; (dat) ^{τότε} with
|difficulty, hastily

|in plenty; enough, ^{τότε} οὐδὲ |blame;
|reject

ἀλλ’ ὡς, τὸ μὲν μέγιστον, |inhabit καλῶς

καὶ μὴ σπανιζοίμεσθα, γιγνώσκων ὅτι

560

|poor φεύγει πᾶς τις |out of the way, -s,

παῖδας δὲ θρέψαιμ’ ἀξίως δόμων ἐμῶν

σπείρας τ’ ἀδελφοὺς τοῖσιν ἐκ σέθεν τέκνοις

ἐς ταῦτο θείην, καὶ ξυναρτήσας γένος

|be lucky, happy σοί τε γὰρ παιδῶν τί δεῖ;

still!

When first I stood in Corinth, clogged with ill
From many a desperate mischance, what bliss
Could I that day have dreamed of, like to this,
To wed with a king's daughter, I exiled
And beggared? Not — what makes thy passion wild —
From loathing of thy bed; not over-fraught
With love for this new bride; not that I sought
To upbuild mine house with offspring: 'tis enough,
What thou hast borne: I make no word thereof:
But, first and greatest, that we all might dwell
In a fair house and want not, knowing well
That poor men have no friends, but far and near
Shunning and silence. Next, I sought to rear
Our sons in nurture worthy of my race,
And, raising brethren to them, in one place
Join both my houses, and be all from now
Prince-like and happy. What more need hast thou

vocabulary

ἄγα	(αᾶ) wonder	θῆλυς female; (rare) abundant ~female
ἄγαμα	wonder, admire; resent, begrudge	κνίζω scratch, gash; tickle
ἄγαν	very much	κοσμέω marshal, array ~cosmos
ἄδικος	unfair; obstinate, bad	λέχος -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier ~lie
ἄλλοθεν	from elsewhere ~alien	ὅμως anyway, nevertheless
ἄλοχος	(f) wife ~lie	ὄντινημι help, please, be available
αὐχέω	boast	όρθοω stand up
γλῶσσα	tongue, language ~glossary	όφλισκάνω lose; incur debt
διάφορος	different; difference; disagreeing; balance, bill	πόθεν from where?
δράω	do, accomplish	προδίδωμι betray
εύνή	bed; (pl) anchor stones	σοφός skilled, clever, wise
εὐσχήμων	dignified	συμφορά collecting; accident, misfortune
ζημία	loss, penalty ~zeal	τεκνώ have/give children
		φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics

έμοι τε λύει τοῖσι μέλλουσιν τέκνοις

τὰ ζῶντ' ὄνησαι. μῶν βεβούλευμαι κακῶς;

οὐδ' ἀν σὺ φαίης, εἴ σε μὴ κνῖζοι λέχος.

ἀλλ' ἐς τοσοῦτον ἥκεθ' ὥστ' ὀρθουμένης

εὐνῆς γυναῖκες πάντ' ἔχειν νομίζετε,

570

ἢν δ' αὖ γένηται ξυμφορά τις ἐς λέχος,

τὰ λῶστα καὶ κάλλιστα πολεμιώτατα

τίθεσθε. χρῆν γὰρ ἄλλοθέν ποθεν βροτοὺς

παιᾶς τεκνοῦσθαι, θῆλυ δ' οὐκ εἶναι γένος·

χοῦτως ἀν οὐκ ἢν οὐδὲν ἀνθρώποις κακόν.

575

ΧΟΡΟΣ. Ἰάσον, εὖ μὲν τούσδ' ἐκόσμησας λόγους·

ὅμως δ' ἔμοιγε, κεί παρὰ γνώμην ἐρῶ,

δοκεῖς προδοὺς σὴν ἄλοχον οὐ δίκαια δρᾶν.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ἢ πολλὰ πολλοῖς εὖμι διάφορος βροτῶν.

έμοὶ γὰρ ὅστις ἄδικος ὡν σοφὸς λέγειν

580

πέφυκε, πλείστην ζημίαν ὀφλισκάνει·

γλώσση γὰρ αὐχῶν τᾶδικ' εὖ περιστελεῖν,

τολμᾶ πανουργεῖν· ἔστι δ' οὐκ ἄγαν σοφός.

ώς καὶ σὺ μή νυν εἰς ἔμ' εὐσχήμων γένη

ἔμοί τε λύει τοῖσι μέλλουσιν τέκνοις

τὰ ζῶντ' ^{help, please, be available} ν βεβούλευμαι κακῶς;

οὐδ' ἀν σὺ φαίης, εἴ σε μὴ ^{scratch, bed, bier}

ἀλλ' ἐσ τοσοῦτον ἥκεθ' ὥστ' ^{gash; tickle}

ἀλλ' ἐσ τοσοῦτον ἥκεθ' ὥστ' ^{stand up}

bed; (pl) an-^{ces} πάντ' ἔχειν νομίζετε,

570

chor stones

ἢν δ' αὖ γένηται ξυμφορά τις ἐσ ^{bed, bier}

τὰ λῶστα καὶ κάλλιστα πολεμιώτατα

τίθεσθε. χρῆν γὰρ ^{from elsewhere} βροτοὺς

παιδας ^{have/give chil-} ^{female; (rare) ἴναι γένος.}

dren ^{abundant}

χοῦτως ἀν οὐκ ἥν οὐδὲν ἀνθρώποις κακόν.

575

ΧΟΡΟΣ. Ἰάσον, εὖ μὲν τούσδ' ^{marshal, array}

^{anyway, nevertheless} παρὰ γνώμην ἐρῶ,

δοκεῖς ^{|betray} σὴν ^{|wife} οὐ δίκαια ^{|do, accomplish}

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ἡ πολλὰ πολλοῖς εἴμι ^{different; ροτῶν.}

^{disagreeing}

ἔμοὶ γὰρ ὅστις ^{unfair; ὅβις} ^{skilled, ἀγέλης, οὐ}

^{stinate, bad} ^{clever, wise}

πέφυκε, πλείστην ^{loss, penalty} ^{lose; incur}

^{debt}

τογμῷ πανουργεῖν. ἔστι δ' οὐκ ἄγαν ^{skilled,}

^{clever, wise}

ώς καὶ σὺ μή νυν εἰς ἔμ' ^{|dignified} γένη

580

Of children? And for me, it serves my star
To link in strength the children that now are
With those that shall be.

Have I counselled ill?

Not thine own self would say it, couldst thou still
One hour thy jealous flesh. — ' Tis ever so!
Who looks for more in women? When the flow
Of love runs plain, why, all the world is fair:
But, once there fall some ill chance anywhere
To baulk that thirst, down in swift hate are trod
Men's dearest aims and noblest. Would to God
We mortals by some other seed could raise

Our fruits, and no blind women block our ways!
Then had there been no curse to wreck mankind.

LEADER. Lord Jason, very subtly hast thou twined
Thy speech: but yet, though all athwart thy will
I speak, this is not well thou dost, but ill,
Betraying her who loved thee and was true.

MEDEA. Surely I have my thoughts, and not a few
Have held me strange. To me it seemeth, when
A crafty tongue is given to evil men'
Tis like to wreck, not help them. Their own brain
Tempts them with lies to dare and dare again,
Till... no man hath enough of subtlety.
As thou — be not so seeming-fair to me

vocabulary

ἀποστροφή turning back, away

βάρβαρος non-Greek

βίος life ~biology

γαμέω marry, take as a lover ~bigamy

γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy

γῆρας -ος (n, 3) old age

γηράσκω grow old ~geriatric

δυστυχής unlucky

εἴπερ if indeed

ἐκβαίνω come forth, disembark ~basis

ἐκτείνω stretch out ~tend

ἔρυμα -τος (n, 3) protection ~serve

εὐδαίμων blessed with a good genius

εὐτυχέω be lucky, prosper, succeed

κατεῖπον denounce; report

κνίζω scratch, gash; tickle

λέκτρον bed ~lie

λέχος -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier ~lie

λυπρός worthless, wretched

μεθίημι let go, cease; (mid) speed off

~jet

μέτειμι be among, go, follow ~ion

ὅλβος happiness, wealth

οὖνεκα because

πάρος before, in the past

σιγά silence

σιγάω (i) be silent

σοφός skilled, clever, wise

τύραννος tyrant

ὑβρίζω insult, treat outrageously

ὑπηρετέω serve

φῦσα bellows

χόλος gall, anger, wrath, bitterness

~choler

χρηστός useful; brave, worthy

λέγειν τε δεινός. Ἐν γὰρ ἐκτενεῖ σ' ἔπος·

585

χρῆν σ', εἴπερ ἥσθα μὴ κακός, πείσαντά με
γαμεῖν γάμον τόνδ', ἀλλὰ μὴ σιγῇ φίλων.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. καλῶς γ' ἄν, οἶμαι, τῷδ' ὑπηρέτεις λόγῳ,

εἴς σοι γάμον κατεῖπον, ἵτις οὐδὲ νῦν

590

τολμᾶς μεθεῖναι καρδίας μέγαν χόλον.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. οὐ τοῦτό σ' εἶχεν, ἀλλὰ βάρβαρον λέχος

πρὸς γῆρας οὐκ εὔδοξον ἐξέβαινε σοι.

ΙΑΣ. εὖ νῦν τόδ' ἵσθι, μὴ γυναικὸς οὕνεκα

γῆμαί με λέκτρα βασιλέων ἀ νῦν ἔχω,

595

ἀλλ', ὥσπερ εἶπον καὶ πάρος, σῶσαι θέλων

σέ, καὶ τέκνοισι τοῖς ἐμοῖς ὁμοσπόρους

φῦσαι τυράννους παῖδας, ἔρυμα δώμασι.

ΜΗΔ. μή μοι γένοιτο λυπρὸς εὐδαιμων βίος

μηδ' ὅλβος ὅστις τὴν ἐμὴν κνίζοι φρένα.

ΙΑΣ. οἶσθ' ὡς μέτευξαι, καὶ σοφωτέρα φανῆ;

600

τὰ χρηστὰ μή σοι λυπρὰ φαίνεσθαι ποτέ,

μηδ' εὐτυχοῦσα δυστυχῆς εἶναι δοκεῖν.

ΜΗΔ. ὕβριζ, ἐπειδὴ σοὶ μὲν ἔστ' ἀποστροφή,

λέγειν τε δεινός. ἐν γὰρ ἐκτενεῖ σ' ἔπος·

585

χρῆν σ', **if indeed** θα μὴ κακός, πείσαντά με

marry, **wedding, sex**, ἀλλὰ μὴ σιγῇ φίλων.
take as

ΙΑΣΣΗΝ. καλῶς γ' ἄν, οἶμαι, τῷδε **serve** λόγω,

εἰ σοι **wedding** **denounce; report** ἥτις οὐδὲ νῦν
τολμᾶς **sex** μεθεῖναι καρδίας μέγαν **anger**.

590

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. οὐ τοῦτό σ' εἶχεν, ἀλλὰ **non-Greek** **bed, bier**

πρὸς γῆρας οὐκ εὔδοξον **come forth** οι.

ΙΑΣ. εὖ νῦν τόδ' ἵσθι, μὴ γυναικὸς **because**

marry, **take bed as a lover** βασιλέων ἀ νῦν ἔχω,
ἀλλ', ὥσπερ εἶπον καὶ **before, in the past** ἀλων

595

σέ, καὶ τέκνοισι τοῖς ἐμοῖς ὁμοσπόρους

bellows **tyrant** παῖδας, **protection** μασι.

ΜΗΔ. μή μοι γένοιτο **worthless** **blessed** **life**
wretched **with a good**
μηδ' **happiness**, οὐτε τὴν ἐμὴν **genius** **scratch, gash, tickle**.
μηδὲ **wealth**

ΙΑΣ. οἶσθ' ὡς μέτενξαι, καὶ **skilled, clever, wise** **φανῆ;**

600

τὰ **useful; brave**, οὐ **worthless, wretched** οὐκέσθαι ποτέ,

μηδ' **be lucky**, **unlucky** εἶναι δοκεῖν.

ΜΗΔ. **insult**, επειδὴ σοὶ μὲν ἔστ' **turning back, away**

Nor deft of speech. One word will make thee fall.

Wert thou not false, 'twas thine to tell me all,

And charge me help thy marriage path, as I

Did love thee; not befool me with a lie.

JASON. An easy task had that been! Aye, and thou

A loving aid, who canst not, even now,

Still that loud heart that surges like the tide!

MEDEA. That moved thee not. Thine old barbarian bride,

The dog out of the east who loved thee sore,

She grew grey-haired, she served thy pride no more.

JASON. Now understand for once! The girl to me

Is nothing, in this web of sovranity

I hold. I do but seek to save, even yet,

Thee: and for brethren to our sons beget

Young kings, to prosper all our lives again.

MEDEA. God shelter me from prosperous days of pain,

And wealth that maketh wounds about my heart.

JASON. Wilt change that prayer, and choose a wiser part?

Pray not to hold true sense for pain, nor rate

Thyself unhappy, being too fortunate.

MEDEA. Aye, mock me; thou hast where to lay thine head,

But I go naked to mine exile.

JASON. Tread

vocabulary

αἰτιάομαι	blame ~etiology	κερδαίνω	profit, take advantage
αἰτίζω	ask for, beg ~etiology	λάσκω	cry, crack, ring
ἀμείνων	comparative of ἄγαθός, noble	λήγω	cease, (+gen+ppl) cause to cease ~lax
ἀνόσιος	unholy	μαρτύρομαι	(ū) call to witness; protest
ἀπωθέω	repel, reject	ὄνησις	-ος (f) benefit
ἀρέσκω	please, satisfy; make amends	ὁργή	urge, impulse; anger
ἀρή	bane, harm; prayer	προδίδωμι	betray
ἄφθονος	ungrudging, plentiful	σαυτοῦ	yourself
γαμέω	marry, take as a lover ~bigamy	σύμβολον	token, seal
δαίμων	-ονος (m, 3) a god, fate, doom ~demon	σύμβολος	token; omen
δράω	do, accomplish	τοιγάρ	therefore
ἐρῆμος	empty	τύραννος	tyrant
έτοιμος	ready; fulfilled	ὑπουργέω	serve, help
		φυγή	flight, means of escape ~fugitive

έγὼ δ' ἔρημος τήνδε φευξοῦμαι χθόνα.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. αὐτὴ τάδ' εἴλου· μηδέν' ἄλλον αἰτιῶ.

605

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. τί δρῶσα; μῶν γαμοῦσα καὶ προδοῦσά σε;

ΙΑΣ. ἀρὰς τυράννοις ἀνοσίους ἀρωμένη.

ΜΗΔ. καὶ σοῖς ἀραία γ' οὖσα τυγχάνω δόμοις.

ΙΑΣ. ως οὐ κρινοῦμαι τῶνδέ σοι τὰ πλείονα.

ἀλλ', εἴ τι βούλῃ παισὸν ἢ σαυτῆς φυγῇ

610

προσωφέλημα χρημάτων ἐμῶν λαβεῖν,

λέγ· ως ἔτοιμος ἀφθόνω δοῦναι χερὶ

ξένοις τε πέμπειν σύμβολ', οἱ δράσουσί σ' εὖ.

καὶ ταῦτα μὴ θέλουσα μωρανέῖς, γύναι·

λήξασα δ' ὄργῆς κερδανεῖς ἀμείνονα.

615

ΜΗΔ. οὕτ' ἀν ξένοισι τοῖσι σοῖς χρησαίμεθ' ἀν,

οὕτ' ἀν τι δεξαίμεσθα, μηδ' ἡμῶν διδού·

κακοῦ γάρ ἀνδρὸς δῶρο δῆνησιν οὐκ ἔχει.

ΙΑΣ. ἀλλ' οὖν ἐγὼ μὲν δαίμονας μαρτύρομαι,

ώς πάνθ' ὑπουργεῖν σοί τε καὶ τέκνοις θέλω·

620

σοὶ δ' οὐκ ἀρέσκει τάγαθ', ἀλλ' αὐθαδίᾳ

φίλους ἀπωθῆ· τοιγάροις ἀλγυνῆ πλέον.

ἔγω δ' ἔρημος τήνδε φευξοῦμαι χθόνα.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. αὐτὴ τάδε εἶλον· μηδέν’ ἄλλον αἴτιω.

605

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. *τί* |do, accomplish |marry, take as a|betray
lover

ΙΑΣ. |bane; |tyrant |unholy |ἀρωμένη.
|prayer

ΜΗΔ. καὶ σοῖς ἀραιά γ' οὖσα τυγχάνω δόμοις.

ΙΑΣ. ὡς οὐ κρινοῦμαι τῶνδέ σοι τὰ πλείονα.

ἀλλ', εἴ τι βούλη παισὸν ἦ | yourself | flight, means
of escape

προσωφέλημα χρημάτων ἐμῶν λαβεῖν,

λέγ· ως ἔτοιμος | ungrudging, *īwai xēpī*
plentiful

ξένοις τε πέμπειν σύμβολ', οἵ |do, accomplish|. i.

καὶ ταῦτα μὴ θέλουσα μωρανεῖς, γύναι·

λήξασα δ' |urge, |profit, take|better
|impulse|advantage

615

ΜΗΔ. οὗτ' ἀν **danger** τοῦσι σοῖς χρησαίμεθ' ἀν,

οὐτ' ἄν τι δεξαίμεσθα, μηδ' ἡμῖν δίδου·

κακοῦ γὰρ ἀνδρὸς δῶρός **benefit** οὐκ ἔχει.

ώς πάνθ' |serve, help σοί τε καὶ τέκνοις θέλω·

σοὶ δὲ οὐκ | please, satisfy; *θελεῖς*, ἀλλ' αὐθαδίᾳ
make amends

φίλους |repel, |therefore |*λγυνῆ πλέον.*

620

Thine own path! Thou hast made it all to be.

MEDEA. How? By seducing and forsaking thee?

JASON. By those vile curses on the royal halls

Let loose...

MEDEA. On thy house also, as chance falls,

I am a living curse.

JASON. Oh, peace! Enough

Of these vain wars: I will no more thereof.

If thou wilt take from all that I possess

Aid for these babes and thine own helplessness

Of exile, speak thy bidding. Here I stand

Full-willed to succour thee with stintless hand,

And send my signet to old friends that dwell

On foreign shores, who will entreat thee well.

Refuse, and thou shalt do a deed most vain.

But cast thy rage away, and thou shalt gain

Much, and lose little for thine anger's sake.

MEDEA. I will not seek thy friends. I will not take

Thy givings. Give them not. Fruits of a stem

Unholy bring no blessing after them.

JASON. Now God in heaven be witness, all my heart

Is willing, in all ways, to do its part

For thee and for thy babes. But nothing good

Can please thee. In sheer savageness of mood

Thou drivest from thee every friend. Wherfore

I warrant thee, thy pains shall be the more.

He

vocabulary

ἄγα (αᾶ) wonder	ἐφίημι (ι) send at, let fly; mp: rush at, spring upon ~jet
ἄγαμαι wonder, admire; resent, begrudge	ἴμερος (ι) desire, inclination (+gen)
ἄγαν very much	λέκτρον bed ~lie
ἄκορεστος insatiate, unceasing	μήποτε absolutely never
ἄλις in plenty; enough ~helix	νεῖκος -εος (n, 3) quarrel, battle
ἀμφίλογος disputed; disputatious	νυμφεύω marry, give in marriage
ἀπτόλεμος unwarlike	οἰστός bearable
ἀρετή goodness, excellence	όργη urge, impulse; anger
ἀρνέομαι deny, refuse, repudiate	πόθος longing, regret ~bid
ἄφυκτος inevitable; caught	προσβάλλω hit, attack, approach; attach, offer ~ballistic
γαμέω marry, take as a lover ~bigamy	σεβίζω worship, honor
γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy	στέργω love; be content
δέσποινα lady	σωφροσύνη discretion, moderation
δώρημα -τος (n, 3) gift	σωφρόσυνος sensible, prudent
ἐκπλήσσω panic, be knocked out ~plectrum	τόξον bow ~toxic
ἔρως -τος (m) love, desire ~erotic	χρίω (ι) anoint ~Christ
εὐδοξία good repute	χρονίζω spend time
εύνη bed; (pl) anchor stones	χωρέω withdraw, give way to (+dat) ~heir

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. χώρει· πόθω γάρ τῆς νεοδμήτου κόρης

αἵρῃ χρονίζων δωμάτων ἔξωπιος.

νύμφευ· ἵσως γάρ— σὺν θεῷ δ' εἰρήσεται—

625

γαμεῖς τοιούτον ὥστε σ' ἀρνεῖσθαι γάμον.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἔρωτες ὑπὲρ μὲν ἄγαν

ἐλθόντες οὐκ εὐδοξίαν

οὐδ' ἀρετὰν παρέδωκαν

ἀνδράσιν· εἰ δ' ἄλις ἐλθοι

630

Κύπρις, οὐκ ἄλλα θεὸς εὐχαρις οὔτως.

μήποτ', ὁ δέσποιν', ἐπ' ἐμοὶ χρυσέων τόξων ἐφείης

ἰμέρω χρίσασ' ἄφυκτον οἰστόν.

Χ0. στέργοι δέ με σωφροσύνα,

635

δώρημα κάλλιστον θεῶν·

μηδέ ποτ' ἀμφιλόγους ὄργας

ἀκόρεστά τε νεύκη

θυμὸν ἐκπλήξασ' ἐτέροις ἐπὶ λέκτροις

προσβάλοι δεινὰ Κύπρις, ἀπτολέμους δ' εὐνὰς σεβίζουσ'

640

ὸξύφρων κρίνοι λέχη γυναικῶν.

Χ0. ὁ πατρίς, ὁ δώματα, μὴ

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.	with-	longing, <i>ἵρ τῆς νεοδμήτου κόρης</i>	625
	draw,	regret	
	give		
	<i>aiρῆ</i> spend time <i>ἱωμάτων ἔξωπιος.</i>		
	sway to		
	(+dat)		
	marry, give <i>ὡς γάρ</i> — <i>σὺν θεῷ δὲ εἰρήσεται</i> —		
	in marriage		
	marry, take <i>ὑπονομέαν</i> σ'	deny, wedding, sex	
	as a lover	refuse	

ΧΟΡΟΣ.	love,	<i>νέπερ μὲν ἄγαν</i>	630
	desire		
	ἔλθοντες οὐκ	good repute	
	<i>οὐδὲν</i> excellence. <i>τρέδωκαν</i>		

ΧΟ.	ἀνδράσιν· εἰ δὲ	in plenty; enough	635
	εἰ δὲ		
	Κύπρις, οὐκ ἄλλα θεὸς εὐχαριστοῦτος.		

ΧΟ.	μηδέ ποτε	lady , <i>ἐπ' ἐμοὶ χρυσέων</i> bow send flying at	640
	never		
	urge anoint inevitable; bearable		
	caught		
	ΧΟ. love; be content <i>τρέδωσύνα,</i>		
	gift <i>κάλλιστον θεῶν·</i>		
	<i>μηδέ ποτε</i> ἀμφιλόγους urge, impulse;		
	insatiate, <i>τε</i> quarrel, anger		
	unceasing battle		
	<i>θυμὸν</i> panic, be <i>τέρποις ἐπὶ</i> bed		
	knocked out		
	hit, attack, approach; <i>ἄντεροις</i> , unwarlike		
	attach, offer		
	<i>οὖν φρων</i> κρίνοι λέχη γυναικῶν.		
	bed; (pl) worship, honor		
	anchor stones		

ΧΟ. ὁ πατρίς, ὁ δώματα, μῆ

goes slowly away.

MEDEA. Go: thou art weary for the new delight
Thou wooest, so long tarrying out of sight
Of her sweet chamber. Go, fulfil thy pride,
O bridegroom! For it may be, such a bride
Shall wait thee,—yea, God heareth me in this—
As thine own heart shall sicken ere it kiss.

CHORUS. Alas, the Love that falleth like a flood,
Strong-winged and transitory:

Why praise ye him? What beareth he of good
To man, or glory?

Yet Love there is that moves in gentleness,
Heart-filling, sweetest of all powers that bless.

Loose not on me, O Holder of man's heart,
Thy golden quiver,
Nor steep in poison of desire the dart
That heals not ever.

The pent hate of the word that cavilleth,
The strife that hath no fill,
Where once was fondness; and the mad heart's breath
For strange love panting still:
O Cyprian, cast me not on these; but sift,
Keen-eyed, of love the good and evil gift.
Make Innocence my friend, God's fairest star,
Yea, and abate not
The rare sweet beat of bosoms without war,
That love, and hate not.
Others.
Home of my heart, land of my own,

vocabulary

ἀμηχανία helplessness ~mechanism
 ἀνέζω put on, put back ~sit
 ἄνειμι go up, inland, to, back ~ion
 ἀνίημι urge, impel; release ~jet
 ἄνοια folly
 ἀχάριστος ungracious, unpleasant
 ~eucharist
 ἐξανύω bring to pass; slay
 ἐπιστρωφάω visit, go among ~atrophy
 καταίω swoop; land
 καταράομαι (αᾶα) curse
 κλείς κληγίδος (f) bar, key ~clavicle
 οἰκτρός pitiable

πάθος -ους (n, 3) an experience, passion, condition
 πάρος before, in the past
 πάτριος of the father(s), ancestral
 πέδον ground ~pedal
 πόθεν from where?
 προοίμιον prelude, introduction
 προσφωνέω speak to
 σοφός skilled, clever, wise
 στέρομαι lack, lose
 τιμάω (i) honor, exalt
 ὑπερθεν from above
 ὑπερτίθημι hand over; excel; defer

δῆτ' ἀπολις γενοίμαν

τὸν ἀμηχανίας ἔχουσα

645

δυσπέρατον αἰῶν', οἰκτροτάτων ἀχέων.

θανάτῳ θανάτῳ πάρος δαμείην

ἀμέραν τάνδ' ἐξανύσασα· μο'

χθων δ' οὐκ ἄλλος ὑπερθεν ἦ

650

γᾶς πατρίας στέρεσθαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. εἴδομεν, οὐκ ἐξ ἐτέρων

μῦθον ἔχω φράσασθαι·

σὲ γὰρ οὐ πόλις, οὐ φίλων τις

655

ἀκτισεν παθοῦσαν δεινότατον παθέων.

ἀχάριστος ὅλοιθ', ὅτῳ πάρεστιν

μὴ φίλους τιμᾶν καθαρᾶν ἀνοί

660

ξαντα κλῆδα φρενῶν· ἐμοὶ

μὲν φίλος οὕποτ' ἔσται.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ. Μήδεια, χαῖρε· τοῦδε γὰρ προοίμιον

κάλλιον οὐδεὶς οἶδε προσφωνεῦν φίλους.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ὦ χαῖρε καὶ σύ, παῖ σοφοῦ Πανδίονος,

665

Αἰγεῦ. πόθεν γῆς τῆσδ' ἐπιστρωφᾶ πέδον;

δῆτ' ἄπολις γενοίμαν

τὸν ἀμηχανίας ἔχουσα

645

δυσπέρατον αἰῶν', |pitiable

ἀχέων.

θανάτω *θanátω* |before, in the past

ἀμέραν τάνδ' |bring to pass; slay

χθων δ' οὐκ ἄλλος ὑπερθεν ἦ

650

yâs | of the lack, lose
father(s),

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ^{ancestral} ειδομεν, ουκ εξ έτερων

μῦθον ἔχω φράσασθαι·

σὲ γὰρ οὐ πόλις, οὐ φίλων τις

655

ἀκτισεν παθοῦσαν δεινότατον an experience, passion, condition

ungracious, $\delta\lambdaoi\theta'$, $\delta\tau\omega$ πάρεστιν
unpleasant

μὴ φίλους |honor καθαρᾶν ἀνοί

ξαντα |bar, key |^ἱρενῶν· ἐμοὶ

μὲν φίλος οὐποτ' ἔσται.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ. Μήδεια, χαῖρε· τοῦδε γὰρ **prelude, introduction**

κάλλιον οὐδεὶς οἶδε |speak to φίλους.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ὁ χαῖρε καὶ σύ, παῖ δίονος,
skilled, clever, wise

Αἰγεῦ. [from where? *ἡσδ'*] visit, among go|ground

Cast me not, nay, for pity,
Out on my ways, helpless, alone,
Where the feet fail in the mire and stone,
A woman without a city.
Ah, not that! Better the end:
The green grave cover me rather,
If a break must come in the days I know,
And the skies be changed and the earth below;
For the weariest road that man may wend
Is forth from the home of his father.
Lo, we have seen: 'tis not a song
Sung, nor learned of another.
For whom hast thou in thy direst wrong
For comfort? Never a city strong
To hide thee, never a brother.
Ah, but the man—cursed be he,
Cursed beyond recover,
Who openeth, shattering, seal by seal,
A friend's clean heart, then turns his heel,
Deaf unto love: never in me
Friend shall he know nor lover.

While MEDEA is waiting downcast, seated upon her door-step, there passes from the left a

traveller with followers. As he catches sight of MEDEA he stops.
AEGEUS. Have joy, Medea! 'Tis the homeliest
Word that old friends can greet with, and the best.
MEDEA (looking up, surprised).

vocabulary

ἄζυξ unpaired, unmarried
 ἄπαις childless
 ἄπειρος untested; infinite
 ἀσκέω work on
 ἀσκός wine skin, leather bag
 βίος life ~biology
 βλώσκω come, go
 γαμήλιος nuptial
 δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate, doom
 ~demon
 δάμαρ wife ~domicile
 δεῦρο here, come here!
 δῆτα emphatic δή
 δράω do, accomplish
 ἐκλείπω leave out, pass over
 ἐξικνέομαι arrive at
 ἐρευνάω hunt for
 ἔρπω be able to move ~serpent
 ἑστία hearth ~Hestia
 ἑστιάω give a feast
 εύνή bed; (pl) anchor stones
 εὐσεβής pious

θέμις -τος (f) custom, law
 ἀκύω hear, listen to ~Euclid
 κοινώδη make common; cooperate
 λέχος -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier ~lie
 μάντευμα -τος (n, 3) oracle
 μολίσκω come, go
 ναυστολέω to ship, sail
 ὀμφαλός navel, nub ~umbilicus
 παλαιός old ~paleo
 πατρώιος of the father(s), ancestral
 ~paternal
 πατρῷος of the father(s), ancestral
 προέχω be ahead, jut forward; mid:
 have before one
 σοφός skilled, clever, wise
 στέλλω prepare, send, furl ~apostle
 συμβάλλω pit against; compare; mp:
 meet, fall in with ~ballistic
 τείνω stretch, tend ~tense
 φοῖβος pure, radiant
 χρήζω need ~chresard
 χρησμός oracular response
 χρηστήριον oracle, response

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ. Φοίβου παλαιὸν ἐκλιπὸν χρηστήριον.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. τί δ' ὄμφαλὸν γῆς θεσπιωδὸν ἐστάλης;

ΑΙΓ. παιδῶν ἐρευνῶν σπέρμ' ὅπως γένοιτο μοι.

ΜΗΔ. πρὸς θεῶν— ἄπαις γὰρ δεῦρ' ἀεὶ τεύνεις βίον; 670

ΑΙΓ. ἄπαιδές ἐσμεν δαιμονός τινος τύχῃ.

ΜΗΔ. δάμαρτος οὔσης, ἢ λέχους ἄπειρος ὥν;

ΑΙΓ. οὐκ ἐσμὲν εὐνῆς ἄζυγες γαμηλίου.

ΜΗΔ. τί δῆτα Φοῖβος εἰπέ σοι παιδῶν πέρι;

ΑΙΓ. σοφῶτερ' ἢ κατ' ἄνδρα συμβαλεῖν ἔπη. 675

ΜΗΔ. θέμις μὲν ἡμᾶς χρησμὸν εἰδέναι θεοῦ;

ΑΙΓ. μάλιστ', ἐπεί τοι καὶ σοφῆς δεῖται φρενός.

ΜΗΔ. τί δῆτ' ἔχρησε; λέξον, εἰ θέμις κλύειν.

ΑΙΓ. ἀσκοῦ με τὸν προύχοντα μὴ λῦσαι πόδα—

ΜΗΔ. πρὸν ἂν τί δράσῃς ἢ τύ' ἔξικη χθόνα; 680

ΑΙΓ. πρὸν ἂν πατρῷαν αὐθις ἐστίαν μόλω.

ΜΗΔ. σὺ δ' ὡς τί χρῆζων τήνδε ναυστολεῖς χθόνα;

ΑΙΓ. Πιτθεύς τις ἔστι, γῆς ἄναξ ροζηνίας...

ΜΗΔ. παῖς, ὡς λέγουσι, Πέλοπος, εὐσεβέστατος.

ΑΙΓ. τούτω θεοῦ μάντευμα κοινῶσαι θέλω.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ. *Φοίβου* | old | leave out, oracle,
pass over | response

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. *τί δ'* [navel, nub] *ἥσ* θεσπιωδὸν [prepare, send, furl]

ΑΙΓ. *παιδων* |hunt for| *τπέρυμ' ὅπως γένοιτο* moi.

ΜΗΔ. *πρὸς θεῶν*— ἄπαις γὰρ *here, come|stretch, tend here!*

ΑΙΓ. ἄπαιδές ἐσμεν | a god, fate, doom *ύχη*.

ΜΗΔ. |wife οὐσης, ἡ |bed, bier|untested; ὥν,
infinite

ΜΗΔ. *τί* ^{emphatic} ^{anchor} _{stones} εἶπέ σοι παιδῶν πέρι;

ΑΙΓ. | skilled, clever, wise | κατ' ἄνδρα συμβαλεῖν ἔπη.

ΜΗΔ. |custom, law|, *μᾶς* |oracular response| *εἰδέναι θεού;*

ΜΗΔ. τί δῆτ' ἔχρησε; λέξον, εἰ **cus-** **hear**
tom,

ΑΙΓ. ἀσκοῦ με τὸν be ahead, ^{law} μη λῦσαι πόδα—
have before

ΜΗΔ. *πρὸν ἀν τί δράσης ἢ τών* |arrive at² ζύντα;

ΑΙΓ. πρὸν ἀν πατρώαν αὐθις ἔστιαν μόλω.

ΜΗΔ. σὺ δὲ ὡς τι |need τίνε |to ship, sail χθόνας

ΑΙΓ. Πιτθεύς τις ἔστι, γῆς ἄναξ ροζηνίας...

ΜΗΔ. *παῖς*, ὡς λέγουσι, Πέλοπος, |pious

ΑΙΓ. *τούτω_τ θεοῦ* |oracle |make common; cooperate

Oh, joy on thee, too, Aegeus, gentle king
Of Athens!—But whence com'st thou journeying?
AEGEUS. From Delphi now and the old encaverned stair...
MEDEA. Where Earth's heart speaks in song? What mad'st thou there?
AEGEUS. Prayed heaven for children—the same search alway.
MEDEA. Children? Ah God! Art childless to this day?
AEGEUS. So God hath willed. Childless and desolate.
MEDEA. What word did Phoebus speak, to change thy fate?
AEGEUS. Riddles, too hard for mortal man to read.
MEDEA. Which I may hear?
AEGEUS. Assuredly: they need
A rarer wit.
MEDEA. How said he?
AEGEUS. Not to spill
Life's wine, nor seek for more...
MEDEA. Until?
AEGEUS. Until
I tread the hearth-stone of my sires of yore.
MEDEA. And what should bring thee here, by Creon's shore?
AEGEUS. One Pittheus know'st thou, high lord of Trozen?
MEDEA. Aye, Pelops' son, a man most pure of sin.
AEGEUS. Him I would ask, touching Apollo's will.
MEDEA. Much use in God's ways hath he, and much skill.
AEGEUS. And, long years back he was my battle-friend,
The truest e'er man had.
MEDEA. Well, may God send
Good hap to thee, and grant all thy desire.

*vocabulary***αἰσχρός** shameful**ἄτιμος** (i) without honor**δεσπότις** lady**δράω** do, accomplish**εἴπερ** if indeed**ἐξελαύνω** drive out, exile ~elastic**ἔραμαι** love, aor. fall in love; long for,

covet ~erotic

ἔρως -τος (m) love, desire ~erotic**εὐτυχέω** be lucky, prosper, succeed**ἔχθαιρω** hate ~external**αῆδος** -εος (n, 3) sorrow ~heinous**λέχος** -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier ~lie**λυπέω** (v) annoy, distress**ὤμυα** -τος (n, 3) eye**περαίνω** finish, accomplish**πιστός** faithful; trustworthy**πόσις** -ος (m) (m) husband, master; (f) a drink ~potent**πότερος** which, whichever of two**σάφα** with full understanding**σαφής** clear, understandable**σοφός** skilled, clever, wise**τοιόσδε** such**τρίβω** (i) rub; (mid) be worn out ~tribulation**τύραννος** tyrant**φύω** produce, beget; clasp ~physics

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. σοφὸς γὰρ ἀνὴρ καὶ τριβων τὰ τοιάδε.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ. κάμοι γε πάντων φίλτατος δορυξένων.

ΜΗΔ. ἀλλ’ εὐτυχοίης καὶ τύχοις ὅσων ἐρᾶς.

ΑΙΓ. τί γὰρ σὸν ὅμμα χρώς τε συντέτηχ’ ὅδε;

ΜΗΔ. Αἰγεῦ, κάκιστός ἐστί μοι πάντων πόσις.

690

ΑΙΓ. τί φῆς; σαφῶς μοι σὰς φράσον δυσθυμίας.

ΜΗΔ. ἀδικεῖ μ’ Ἱάσων οὐδὲν ἐξ ἐμοῦ παθῶν.

ΑΙΓ. τί χρῆμα δράσας; φράζε μοι σαφέστερον.

ΜΗΔ. γυναικίς ἐφ’ ἡμῖν δεσπότιν δόμων ἔχει.

ΑΙΓ. οὐ που τετόλμηκ’ ἔργον αἰσχιστον τόδε;

695

ΜΗΔ. σάφ’ ἵσθι· ἀτιμοι δ’ ἐσμὲν οἱ πρὸ τοῦ φίλοι.

ΑΙΓ. πότερον ἐρασθεὶς ἢ σὸν ἐχθαίρων λέχος;

ΜΗΔ. μέγαν γ’ ἔρωτα πιστὸς οὐκ ἔφυ φίλοις.

ΑΙΓ. ἵτω νυν, εἴπερ, ὡς λέγεις, ἐστὶν κακός.

ΜΗΔ. ἀνδρῶν τυράννων κῆδος ἡράσθη λαβεῖν.

700

ΑΙΓ. διδωσι δ’ αὐτῷ τίς; πέραινέ μοι λόγον.

ΜΗΔ. Κρέων, ὃς ἄρχει τῆσδε γῆς Κορινθίας.

ΑΙΓ. συγγνωστὰ μέν ταῦρος ἦν σε λυπεῖσθαι, γύναι.

ΜΗΔ. ὄλωλα· καὶ πρός γ’ ἐξελαύνομαι χθονός.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. |skilled, |clever, wise |άνηρ καὶ τρίβων τὰ |such

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ. κάμοι γε πάντων φίλτατος δορυξένων.

ΜΗΔ. ἀλλ’ |be lucky, pros- |τύχοις ὅσων ἐρᾶς.
|per, succeed

ΑΙΓ. τί γὰρ σὸν |eye |χρώς τε συντέτηχ’ ὅδε;

ΜΗΔ. Αἰγεῦ, κάκιστός ἐστί μοι πάντων |(m) husband, mas-
ter; (f) a drink

690

ΑΙΓ. τί φήσ; |clear, under- |τὰς φράσον δυσθυμίας.
|standable

ΜΗΔ. ἀδικεῖ μ’ Ἱάσων οὐδὲν ἐξ ἐμοῦ παθών.

ΑΙΓ. τί χρῆμα |do, accomplish’ |μοι |clear, under-
|standable

ΜΗΔ. γυναικ’ ἐφ’ ἡμῖν |lady |δόμων ἔχει.

ΑΙΓ. οὐ που τετόλμηκ’ ἔργον |shameful |τόδε;

695

ΜΗΔ. |clearly |θεν |without |τὸν ἐσμὲν οἵ πρὸ τοῦ φίλοι.
|honor

ΑΙΓ. |which, |love; long for |ν |hate |bed, bier
|whichever

ΜΗΔ. μέγαν γ’ |love, |faithful; trust |produce,
|desire |worthy |beget; clasp

ΑΙΓ. ἵτω νυν, |if indeed |λέγεις, ἐστὶν κακός.

ΜΗΔ. ἀνδρῶν |tyrant |sorrow |love; long for |ν.
|sorrow

700

ΑΙΓ. διδωσι δ’ αὐτῷ τίς; |finish, |τοι λόγον.
|accomplish

ΜΗΔ. Κρέων, ὃς ἄρχει τῆσδε γῆς Κορινθίας.

ΑΙΓ. συγγνωστὰ μέν ταρό’ ἦν σε |annoy, |γύναι.
|distress

ΜΗΔ. ὅλωλα· καὶ πρός γ’ |drive out |χθονός.

AEGEUS. But thou...? Thy frame is wasted, and the fire
Dead in thine eyes.

MEDEA. Aegeus, my husband is
The falsest man in the world.

AEGEUS. What word is this?
Say clearly what thus makes thy visage dim?

MEDEA. He is false to me, who never injured him.

AEGEUS. What hath he done? Show all, that I may see.

MEDEA. Ta'en him a wife; a wife, set over me
To rule his house.

AEGEUS. He hath not dared to do,
Jason, a thing so shameful?

MEDEA. Aye, 'tis true:
And those he loved of yore have no place now.

AEGEUS. Some passion sweepeth him? Or is it thou
He turns from?

MEDEA. Passion, passion to betray
His dearest!

AEGEUS. Shame be his, so fallen away
From honour!

MEDEA. Passion to be near a throne,
A king's heir!

AEGEUS. How, who gives the bride? Say on.

MEDEA. Creon, who o'er all Corinth standeth chief.

AEGEUS. Woman, thou hast indeed much cause for grief.

MEDEA. 'Tis ruin.—And they have cast me out

vocabulary

ἀντάω	meet face to face	εὑρημα	invention; windfall
ἀπαγγέλλω	announce, order, promise	ἐφέστιος	hearthside
~angel		καινός	new, fresh, strange
ἀπαις	childless	καρτερέω	be patient
γονή	progeny ~genus	οἰκτείρω	pity
γόνυ	γονός (n, 3) knee ~polygon	ὅλβιος	happy, wealthy
δυσδαιμονι	unlucky, unhappy	πρόθυμος (v)	willing, eager ~fume
εἰσοράω	look at, see; treat with respect	σπείρω	sow ~diaspora
~panorama		τελεσφόρος	completion ~apostle
ἐκπίπτω	fall out of ~petal	τοιόσδε	such
ἐπαινέω	concur, praise, advise	φάρμακον	drug, potion ~pharmacy
ἐρῆμος	empty	φροῦδος	fled, vanished
ἔρως	-τος (m) love, desire ~erotic	φυγάς	-δος (m, 3) exile, refugee
			~fugitive

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ. πρὸς τοῦ; τόδ' ἄλλο καινὸν αὖ λέγεις κακόν.

705

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. Κρέων μ' ἐλαύνει φυγάδα γῆς Κορινθίας.

ΑΙΓ. ἐὰ̄ δ' Ἰάσων; οὐδὲ ταῦτ' ἐπήνεσα.

ΜΗΔ. λόγῳ μὲν οὐχί, καρτερεῖν δὲ βούλεται.

ἀλλ' ἄντομαί σε τῆσδε πρὸς γενειάδος

γονάτων τε τῶν σῶν ἵκεσία τε γίγνομαι,

710

οἴκτιρον οἴκτιρόν με τὴν δυσδαιμονα

καὶ μή μ' ἔρημον ἐκπεσοῦσαν εἰσιδης,

δέξαι δὲ χώρᾳ καὶ δόμοις ἐφέστιον.

οὕτως ἔρως σοὶ πρὸς θεῶν τελεσφόρος

γένοιτο παιῶν, καῦτὸς ὅλβιος θάνοις.

715

εῦρημα δ' οὐκ οἰσθ' οἶον ηὔρηκας τόδε·

παύσω δέ σ' ὅντ' ἄπαιδα καὶ παιῶν γονὰς

σπεῖραι σε θήσω· τοιάδ' οἶδα φάρμακα.

ΑΙΓ. πολλῶν ἔκατι τήνδε σοι δοῦναι χάριν,

γύναι, πρόθυμός εἰμι, πρῶτα μὲν θεῶν,

720

ἐπειτα παιῶν ὅν ἐπαγγέλλῃ γονάς·

εἰς τοῦτο γὰρ δὴ φροῦδός εἰμι πᾶς ἐγώ.

οὕτω δ' ἔχει μοι· σοῦ μὲν ἐλθούσης χθόνα,

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ. πρὸς τοῦ; τόδ' ἄλλο |new, fresh, [†]strānge| *κακόν*.

705

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. Κρέων μ' ἐλαύνει |exile, refugee| *γῆς Κορινθίας.*

ΑΙΓ. ἐᾶ δ' Ἰάσων; οὐδὲ ταῦτ' |concur|

ΜΗΔ. λόγῳ μὲν οὐχί, |be patient| δὲ βούλεται.

ἄλλ' ἄντομαί σε τῆσδε πρὸς γενειάδος

|knee| τε τῶν σῶν ἵκεσία τε γίγνομαι,

710

οἴκτιρον οἴκτιρόν με τὴν |unlucky, unhappy|

καὶ μή μ' ἔρημον |fall out of| εἰσιδῆς,

δέξαι δὲ χώρα καὶ δόμοις |hearthside|

οῦτως |love, desire| τοὶ πρὸς θεῶν |completion|

γένοιτο παιδῶν, καυτὸς |happy, wealthy| θάνοις.

715

|invention; windfall| οὐκ οἶσθ' οἶον ηῦρηκας τόδε.

παύσω δέ σ' ὄντ' |childless| καὶ παιδῶν |progeny|

σπεῖραι σε θήσω. |such| οἶδα |drug, potion|

ΑΙΓ. πολλῶν ἔκατι τήνδε σοι δοῦναι χάριν,

γύναι, |willing, eager| εἰμι, πρῶτα μὲν θεῶν,

720

ἔπειτα παιδῶν ὥν ἐπαγγέλλη |progeny|

ἔς τοῦτο γὰρ δὴ |fled, vanished| εἰμι πᾶς ἐγώ.

οῦτω δ' ἔχει μοι· σοῦ μὲν ἐλθούσης χθόνα,

as well.

AEGEUS. Who? 'Tis a new wrong this, and terrible.

MEDEA. Creon the king, from every land and shore...

AEGEUS. And Jason suffers him? Oh, 'tis too sore!

MEDEA. He loveth to bear bravely ills like these!

But, Aegeus, by thy beard, oh, by thy knees,

I pray thee, and I give me for thine own,

Thy suppliant, pity me! Oh, pity one

So miserable. Thou never wilt stand there

And see me cast out friendless to despair.

Give me a home in Athens... by the fire

Of thine own hearth! Oh, so may thy desire

Of children be fulfilled of God, and thou

Die happy!... Thou canst know not; even now

Thy prize is won! I, I will make of thee

A childless man no more. The seed shall be,

I swear it, sown. Such magic herbs I know.

AEGEUS. Woman, indeed my heart goes forth to show

This help to thee, first for religion's sake,

Then for thy promised hope, to heal my ache

Of childlessness. 'Tis this hath made mine whole

Life as a shadow, and starved out my soul.

But thus it stands with me. Once make thy

vocabulary

ἀναίτιος blameless ~etiology
ἀνώμοτος not bound by oath
ἀπαλλάσσω free from, remove; be
freed, depart
ἀσθενής weak
ἄσυλος (ὑ) safe, inviolate
δράω do, accomplish
δυσχερής annoying, difficult
ζεύγνυμι (ὑ) yoke, join ~zygote

μεθίημι let go, cease; (mid) speed off
~jet
μέτειμι be among, go, follow ~ion
ὄλβος happiness, wealth
ὅρκιον oath ~orc
προξενέω protect, handle for
προσημαίνω foretell; proclaim
τόσος so much, so great
τυραννικός tyrannical

πειράσομαί σου προξενεῦν δίκαιος ὄν.

τόσον γε μέντοι σοι προσημαίνω, γύναι·

ἐκ τῆσδε μὲν γῆς οὐσ' ἄγειν βουλήσομαι,

αὐτὴ δ' ἐάνπερ εἰς ἐμοὺς ἐλθῆς δόμους,

μενεῖς ἄσυλος κούσε μὴ μεθῶ τινι.

ἐκ τῆσδε δ' αὐτὴ γῆς ἀπαλλάσσου πόδα·

ἀναιτίος γὰρ καὶ ξένοις εἶναι θέλω.

725

730

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ἔσται τάδε· ἀλλὰ πίστις εἰ γένοιτο μοι

τούτων, ἔχοιμ' ἀν πάντα πρὸς σέθεν καλῶς.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ. μῶν οὐ πέποιθας; ἢ τί σοι τὸ δυσχερές;

ΜΗΔ. πέποιθα· Πελίον δ' ἐχθρός ἔστι μοι δόμος

Κρέων τε. τούτοις δ' ὄρκίοισι μὲν ζυγεὶς

735

ἄγουσιν οὐ μεθεῖ ἀν ἐκ γαίας ἐμέ·

λόγοις δὲ συμβὰς καὶ θεῶν ἀνώμοτος

φῖλος γένοι ἀν τάπικηρυκεύματα·—

οὐκ ἀν πίθοιο· τάμα μὲν γὰρ ἀσθενῆ,

τοῖς δ' ὅλβος ἔστι καὶ δόμος τυραννικός.

740

ΑΙΓ. πολλὴν ἔλεξας ἐν λόγοις προμηθίαν·

ἀλλ', εἰ δοκεῖ σοι, δρᾶν τάδε οὐκ ἀφίσταμαι.

πειράσομαι σου |protect, |handle for δίκαιος ὅν.

|so much, so great σοι |foretell; , γύναι. 725
|proclaim

ἐκ τῆσδε μὲν γῆς οὐ σ' ἄγειν βουλήσομαι,

αὐτὴ δ' ἐάνπερ εἰς ἐμοὺς ἔλθης δόμους,

μενεῖς |safe, inviolate τε μὴ |be among .

ἐκ τῆσδε δ' αὐτὴ γῆς |free from, remove; ὁα.
|be freed, depart

|blameless γὰρ καὶ ξένοις εἶναι θέλω. 730

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ἔσται τάδε· ἀλλὰ πίστις εἰ γένοιτο μοι

τούτων, ἔχοιμ' ἀν πάντα πρὸς σέθεν καλῶς.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ. μῶν οὐ πέποιθας; ἢ τί σοι τὸ |annoying,
|difficult

ΜΗΔ. πέποιθα· Πελίου δ' ἐχθρός ἔστι μοι δόμος

Κρέων τε. τούτοις δ' ὄρκίοισι μὲν |yoke, join 735

ἄγουσιν οὐ μεθεῖ ἀν ἐκ γαίας ἐμέ·

λόγοις δὲ συμβὰς καὶ θεῶν |not bound by oath

φίλος γένοι ἀν τάπικηρυκεύματα·—

οὐκ ἀν πίθοιο· τάμα μὲν γὰρ |weak ,

τοῖς δ' |happiness, . ἢ καὶ δόμος |tyrannical
|wealth

ΑΙΓ. πολλὴν ἔλεξας ἐν λόγοις προμηθίαν·

ἀλλ', εἰ δοκεῖ σοι, |do, accomplish ἀφίσταμαι.

way

To Attic earth, I, as in law I may,
Will keep thee and befriend. But in this land,
Where Creon rules, I may not raise my hand
To shelter thee. Move of thine own essay
To seek my house, there thou shalt alway stay,
Inviolate, never to be seized again.

But come thyself from Corinth. I would fain
Even in foreign eyes be alway just.

MEDEA. 'Tis well. Give me an oath wherein to trust
And all that man could ask thou hast granted me.

AEGEUS. Dost trust me not? Or what thing troubleth thee?

MEDEA. I trust thee. But so many, far and near,
Do hate me—all King Pelias' house, and here
Creon. Once bound by oaths and sanctities
Thou canst not yield me up for such as these
To drag from Athens. But a spoken word,
No more, to bind thee, which no God hath heard...

The embassies, methinks, would come and go:
They all are friends to thee... Ah me, I know
Thou wilt not list to me! So weak am I,
And they full-filled with gold and majesty.

AEGEUS. Methinks 'tis a far foresight, this thine oath.
Still, if thou so wilt have it, nothing loath

vocabulary

ἀραρίσκω	join, fit, furnish ~arthritis	~jet
ἀρκέω	satisfy; ward off, defend; suffice	ὤμνυμι (ū) swear
ἀσφαλής	safe, easy, steady, careful	ὅρκος what is sworn by, witness, oath
δείκνυμι (ū)	show, point out	~orc
δράω	do, accomplish	πέδον ground ~pedal
δυσσεβέω	be impious	πελάζω bring/come to, near, into contact with
ἐκβάλλω	throw out, fell, let fall	πότε when?
~ballistic		σέβας -ως (n) wonder, shame, awe
ἐκούσιος	voluntary	σκῆψις excuse
ἐμμένω	stay put, be faithful, fixed	σπεύδω 'push on,' get going, hurry
ἐξηγέομαι	lead forth; set out, describe	~repudiate
~hegemony		συντίθημι hearken, mark ~thesis
κλύω	hear, listen to ~Euclid	χρήζω need ~chresard
μεθίημι	let go, cease; (mid) speed off	

ἐμοί τε γὰρ τάδ' ἐστὶν ἀσφαλέστατα,
σκῆψίν τιν' ἐχθροῖς σοῖς ἔχοντα δεικνύναι,
τὸ σόν τ' ἄραρε μᾶλλον· ἐξηγοῦ θεούς.

745

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ὅμνυ πέδον Γῆς, πατέρα θ' Ἡλιον πατρὸς
τούμου, θεῶν τε συντιθεὶς ἄπαν γένος.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ. τί χρῆμα δράσειν ἢ τί μὴ δράσειν; λέγε.

ΜΗΔ. μήτ' αὐτὸς ἐκ γῆς σῆς ἐμ' ἐκβαλεῖν ποτε,
μήτ' ἄλλος ἦν τις τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν ἄγειν
χρήζη, μεθήσειν ζῶν ἐκουσίᾳ τρόπῳ.

750

ΑΙΓ. ὅμνυμι Γαῖαν Ἡλίου θ' ἀγνὸν σέβας

θεούς τε πάντας ἐμμενεῖν ἃ σου κλύω.

ΜΗΔ. ἀρκεῖ· τί δ' ὅρκω τῷδε μὴ μμένων πάθοις;

ΑΙΓ. ἀ τοῖσι δυσσεβοῦσι γύγνεται βροτῶν.

755

ΜΗΔ. χαιρῶν πορεύου· πάντα γὰρ καλῶς ἔχει.

κάγὼ πόλιν σὴν ὡς τάχιστ' ἀφίξομαι,
πράξασ' ἀ μέλλω καὶ τυχοῦσ' ἀ βούλομαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἀλλά σ' ὁ Μαίας πομπαῖος ἄναξ

πελάσειε δόμοις, ὅν τ' ἐπίνοιαν

760

σπεύδεις κατέχων πράξειας, ἐπεὶ

ἐμοί τε γὰρ τάδ' ἐστὶν |safe, easy, steady,
careful

|excuse τιν' ἐχθροῖς σοῖς ἔχοντα |show

τὸ σόν τ' |join, fit, furnish. |lead forth; set.
out, describe

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. |swear |ground Γῆς, πατέρα θ' Ἡλιον πατρὸς

τούμοῦ, θεῶν τε |hearken, mark ν γένος.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ. τί χρῆμα |do, accomplish ἡ |do, accomplish.

ΜΗΔ. μήτ' αὐτὸς ἐκ γῆς σῆς ἔμ' |throw out, tote,
fell, let fall

μήτ' ἄλλος ἦν τις τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν ἄγειν

|need, let go, cease; voluntary ἥρόπιω.
(mid) speed off

ΑΙΓ. |swear Γαῖαν Ἡλίου θ' ἀγνὸν |wonder,
shame,
θεούς τε πάντας ἐμμενεῖν ἀ σοῦ |hear

ΜΗΔ. |satisfy; ward|oath τῶδε μὴ |stay put, be οὐς;
off, defend; |faithful, fixed

ΑΙΓ. ἀ τοῖοι |be impious γίγνεται βροτῶν.

ΜΗΔ. χαίρων πορεύου· πάντα γὰρ καλῶς ἔχει.

κάγὼ πόλιν σὴν ὡς τάχιστ' ἀφίξομαι,

πράξασ' ἀ μέλλω καὶ τυχοῦσ' ἀ βούλομαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἀλλά σ' ὁ Μαίας πομπαῖος ἄναξ

|bring/come to, near, ὅν τ' ἐπίνοιαν
into contact with

‘push on,’ get ἔχων πράξειας, ἐπὲ
going, hurry

Am I to serve thee. Mine own hand is so
The stronger, if I have this plea to show
Thy persecutors: and for thee withal
The bond more sure.—On what God shall I call?
MEDEA. Swear by the Earth thou treadest, by the Sun,
Sire of my sires, and all the gods as one...
AEGEUS. To do what thing or not do? Make all plain.
MEDEA. Never thyself to cast me out again.
Nor let another, whatsoe'er his plea,
Take me, while thou yet livest and art free.
AEGEUS. Never: so hear me, Earth, and the great star
Of daylight, and all other gods that are!
MEDEA. 'Tis well: and if thou falter from thy vow... ?
AEGEUS. God's judgment on the godless break my brow!
MEDEA. Go! Go thy ways rejoicing.—All is bright
And clear before me. Go: and ere the night
Myself will follow, when the deed is done
I purpose, and the end I thirst for won.

AEGEUS and his train depart.

CHORUS. Farewell: and Maia's guiding Son
Back lead thee to thy hearth and fire,
Aegeus; and all the long desire
That wasteth thee, at last be won:
Our eyes have seen thee as thou art,
A gentle and a righteous heart.

vocabulary

αἰτέω ask for ~etiology

ἄστυ -εως (n, 3) town

βλώσκω come, go

βούλευμα -τος (n, 3) resolution,

purpose

γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy

γενναῖος noble, sincere ~genesis

ἔρπω be able to move ~serpent

ἡδονή pleasure

καλλίνικος (ιι) gloriously triumphant

κάλως ship's thick rope

κάμνω toil, be tired, acquire by toil; be troubled; be sick

λιμήν -ένος (m, 3) harbor, refuge

~limnic

μαλθακός soft, timid

μολίσκω come, go

οἰκέτης -ου (m, 1) household; house slave

ὄψις ὄψεως (f) sight, view

~thanatopsis

πόλισμα buildings of a city

προδίδωμι betray

σύμφορος accompanying; suitable

τύραννος tyrant

φάος φῶς (n, 3) light; salvation; (pl) eyes ~photon

φέως bush used to make brooms

γενναῖος ἀνήρ,

Αἰγεῦ, παρ' ἐμοὶ δεδόκησαι.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ὁ Ζεῦ Δίκη τε Ζηνὸς Ἡλίου τε φῶς,

νῦν καλλύνικοι τῶν ἐμῶν ἔχθρῶν, φίλαι, 765

γενησόμεσθα κεὶς ὁδὸν βεβήκαμεν·

νῦν δ' ἐλπὶς ἔχθροὺς τοὺς ἐμοὺς τείσειν δύκην.

οὗτος γὰρ ἀνὴρ ἦ μάλιστ' ἐκάμνομεν

λιμὴν πέφανται τῶν ἐμῶν βουλευμάτων·

ἐκ τοῦδ' ἀναψόμεσθα πρυμνήτην κάλων, 770

μολόντες ἄστυ καὶ πόλισμα Παλλάδος.

ηδη δὲ πάντα τάμα σοι βουλεύματα

λέξω· δέχου δὲ μὴ πρὸς ηδονὴν λόγους.

πέμψασ' ἐμῶν τω' οἰκετῶν Ἰάσονα

ἐς ὕψιν ἐλθεῖν τὴν ἐμὴν αἰτήσομαι· 775

μολόντι δ' αὐτῷ μαλθακοὺς λέξω λόγους,

ώς καὶ δοκεῖ μοι ταῦτά, καὶ καλῶς ἔχειν

γάμους τυράννων οὓς προδοὺς ἡμᾶς ἔχει·

καὶ ξύμφορ' εἶναι καὶ καλῶς ἔγνωσμένα.

παιᾶς δὲ μεῖναι τοὺς ἐμοὺς αἰτήσομαι,

noble, sincere *ἀνήρ*,

Αἴγευ, παρ' ἐμοὶ δεδόκησαι.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ὡς Ζεῦ Δίκη τε Ζηνὸς Ἡλίου τε φῶς,

νῦν |gloriously *τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν, φίλαι,*
triumphant

γενησόμεσθα κεὶς ὁδὸν βεβήκαμεν·

νῦν δ' ἐλπὶς ἔχθροὺς τοὺς ἐμοὺς τείσειν δίκην.

οὐτος γὰρ ἀνὴρ ἦ μάλιστ' | toil, acquire,
be tired

harbor, *τέφανται τῶν ἐμῶν* resolution,
refuge purpose

ἐκ τοῦδ' ἀναψόμεσθα πρυμνήτην κάλων,

μολόντες |town *kai* |buildings of a city |*τὰς* |*σος*.

ἢδη δὲ πάντα τάμα σοι | resolution,
purpose

λέξω· δέχου δὲ μὴ πρὸς **pleasure** λόγους.

ἐσ |sight ἐλθεῖν τὴν ἐμὴν |ask for

μολόντι δ' αὐτῷ |soft, timid λέξω λόγους,

ώστε καὶ δοκεῖ μοι ταῦτά, καὶ καλῶς ἔχειν

wedding, |tyrant *oʊs* |betray *ŋuəs ɛχei*.

καὶ | accompanying; καὶ καλῶς ἐγνωσμένα.
suitable

παιδας δε μεναι τους έμοιους |ask for

MEDEA. God, and God's Justice, and ye blinding Skies!
At last the victory dawneth! Yea, mine eyes
See, and my foot is on the mountain's brow.
Mine enemies! Mine enemies, oh, now
Atonement cometh! Here at my worst hour
A friend is found, a very port of power
To save my shipwreck. Here will I make fast
Mine anchor, and escape them at the last
In Athens' walled hill.—But ere the end'
Tis meet I show thee all my counsel, friend:
Take it, no tale to make men laugh withal!
Straightway to Jason I will send some thrall
To entreat him to my presence. Comes he here,
Then with soft reasons will I feed his ear,
How his will now is my will, how all things
Are well, touching this marriage-bed of kings
For which I am betrayed—all wise and rare
And profitable! Yet will I make one prayer,
That my two children be no more exiled
But stay... Oh, not that I would

vocabulary

ἀμφιτίθημι put around, wrap
 ἀνόσιος unholy
 ἀπαλλάσσω free from, remove; be
 freed, depart
 ἀποστροφή turning back, away
 γελάω laugh, smile, laugh at
 δόλος trick, bait
 δώρημα -τος (n, 3) gift
 ἐνταῦθα there, here
 ἐντεῦθεν thence
 ἔξειμι go forth; is possible ~ion
 θιγγάνω touch
 καθυβρίζω insult
 κατακτείνω kill, slay
 κέρδος -ους (n, 3) advantage, cunning

λεπτός thin
 νύμφα nymph; bride
 οἰμώζω wail
 οδύτις nobody, nothing
 πέπλος woman's dress, a folded
 cylinder of cloth
 πλόκος lock of hair; head-wreath
 συγχέω entangle, destroy, confound
 τλάω take upon oneself ~talent
 τλητός steadfast, enduring
 τοιόδε such
 φάρμακον drug, potion ~pharmacy
 φόνος killing ~offend
 χρίω (i) anoint ~Christ
 χρυσήλατος (ο) of beaten gold

οὐχ ὡς λιποῦσ' ἀν πολεμίας ἐπὶ χθονὸς
 ἐχθροῖσι παῖδας τοὺς ἐμοὺς καθυβρίσαι,
 ἀλλ' ὡς δόλοισι παῖδα βασιλέως κτάνω.
 πέμψω γὰρ αὐτοὺς δῶρ' ἔχοντας ἐν χεροῖν,
 νύμφη φέροντας, τήνδε μὴ φυγεῖν χθόνα,
 λεπτόν τε πέπλον καὶ πλόκον χρυσήλατον.
 κανπερ λαβοῦσα κόσμον ἀμφιθῆ χροῖ,
 κακῶς ὀλεῖται πᾶς θ' ὃς ἀν θύγη κόρης·
 τοιοῦσδε χρίσω φαρμάκοις δωρήματα.

ἐνταῦθα μέντοι τόνδ' ἀπαλλάσσω λόγον.
 ὥμωξα δ' οἶον ἔργον ἔστ' ἔργαστέον
 τούντεῦθεν ἡμῖν· τέκνα γὰρ κατακτενῶ
 τάμ· οὔτις ἔστιν ὅστις ἔξαιρήσεται·
 δόμον τε πάντα συγχέασ' Ἰάσονος
 ἔξειμι γαίας, φιλτάτων παιδῶν φόνον

φεύγουσα καὶ τλᾶσ' ἔργον ἀνοσιώτατον.
 οὐ γὰρ γελάσθαι τλητὸν ἐξ ἐχθρῶν, φᾶται.
 ἵτω· τί μοι ζῆν κέρδος; οὔτε μοι πατρὶς
 οὔτ' οἶκος ἔστιν οὔτ' ἀποστροφὴ κακῶν.

785

790

795

οὐχ ὡς λιποῦσ' ἀν πολεμίας ἐπὶ χθονὸς

ἐχθροῖσι παιδας τοὺς ἔμοὺς |insult

ἀλλ' ὡς |trick, bait| αἰδα βασιλέως κτάνω.

πέμψω γὰρ αὐτοὺς δῶρ’ ἔχοντας ἐν χεροῦν,

νύμφη φέροντας, τήνδε μὴ φυγεῖν χθόνα,

785

thin	$\tau\epsilon$	woman's dress	lock hair; head- wreath	of of beaten gold
<i>κάνπερ λαβούσα κόσμον</i> put around, wrap				

κακῶς ὄλεῖται πᾶς θ' ὃς ἀν |touch| *σόρης*.

|such |anoint *φαρμάκοις* |gift

|there, here *έντοι τόνδ'* | free from, remove; *ον*
|be freed, depart

|wail δ' οἶον ἔργον ἔστ' ἔργαστέον

|thence ἥμιν· τέκνα γὰρ |kill, slay

τάμ· | nobody, τιν ὅστις ἔξαιρήσεται·
nothing

δόμον τε πάντα συγχέω?: ^{στ'} entangle, destr
tangle, destroy, confound

go forth; *as, φιλτάτων παιδῶν* killing
is possible

φεύγοντα καὶ take upon, one-unholy self

οὐ γὰρ |laugh, |smile |steadfast ἔξ ἐχθρῶν, φίλαι.

ἴτω· τί μοι ζῆν | advantage, τέ μοι πατρὶς
cunning

οὐτ' οἴκος ἔστιν οὗτος | turning back, away ^{as v.}

leave a child

Here upon angry shores till those have laughed

Who hate me: 'tis that I will slay by craft

The king's daughter. With gifts they shall be sent,

Gifts to the bride to spare their banishment,

Fine robings and a carcanet of gold.

Which raiment let her once but take, and fold

About her, a foul death that girl shall die

And all who touch her in her agony.

Such poison shall they drink, my robe and wreath!

Howbeit, of that no more. I gnash my teeth

Thinking on what a path my feet must tread

Thereafter. I shall lay those children dead —

Mine, whom no hand shall steal from me away!

Then, leaving Jason childless, and the day

As night above him, I will go my road

To exile, flying, flying from the blood

Of these my best-beloved, and having wrought

All horror, so but one thing reach me not,

The laugh of them that hate us.

Let it come!

What profits life to me? I have no home,

No country now, nor shield from any wrong.

That was my evil hour, when down the

vocabulary

ἀέθλιος prize ~athlete
 ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
 ἀσθενής weak
 βαρύς heavy ~baritone
 βίος life ~biology
 δάκνω bite
 δράω do, accomplish
 ἐκλιπτάνω leave out, pass over
 Ἑλλην Greek
 εὐκλεής honored ~Euclid
 εὐμενής kind
 ἡνίκα when
 ἡσυχαῖος quiet, gentle
 κοινόω make common; cooperate

νύμφα nymph; bride
 πατρώιος of the father(s), ancestral
 ~paternal
 πατρῷος of the father(s), ancestral
 πόσις -ος (m) (m) husband, master; (f)
 a drink ~potent
 πότε when?
 συγγνώμη sympathy, leniency
 συλλαμβάνω seize, capture;
 understand ~epilepsy
 τεκνόω have/give children
 τίνω (i) pay, atone for; (mp) punish
 φάρμακον drug, potion ~pharmacy
 φαῦλος trifling
 ὀφελέω help, be useful

ἡμάρτανον τόθ' ἡνίκ' ἐξελίμπανον

800

δόμους πατρώους, ἀνδρὸς Ἔλληνος λόγοις

πεισθεῖσ', ὃς ἡμῖν σὺν θεῷ τείσει δίκην.

οὐτ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ γὰρ παιδας ὅψεται ποτε

ζῶντας τὸ λοιπὸν οὔτε τῆς νεοζύγου

νύμφης τεκνώσει παιδ', ἐπεὶ κακῶς κακὴν

805

θανεῖν σφ' ἀνάγκη τοῖς ἐμοῖσι φαρμάκοις.

μηδείς με φαύλην κάσθενη νομιζέτω

μηδ' ἡσυχαίαν, ἀλλὰ θατέρου τρόπου,

βαρεῖαν ἐχθροῖς καὶ φίλοισιν εὐμενῆ·

τῶν γὰρ τοιούτων εὐκλεέστατος βίος.

810

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἐπείπερ ἡμῖν τόνδ' ἐκοίνωσας λόγον,

σέ τ" ὡφελεῖν θέλουσα, καὶ νόμοις βροτῶν

ξυλλαμβάνουσα, δρᾶν σ' ἀπεννέπω τάδε.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλως· σοὶ δὲ συγγνώμη λέγειν

τάδ' ἔστι, μὴ πάσχουσαν, ὡς ἐγώ, κακῶς.

815

Χ0. ἀλλὰ κτανεῖν σὸν σπέρμα τολμήσεις, γύναι;

ΜΗΔ. οὕτω γὰρ ἀν μάλιστα δηχθείη πόσις.

Χ0. σὺ δ' ἀν γένοιό γ' ἀθλιωτάτη γυνή.

ἡμάρτανον τόθ' |when |leave out, pass over

800

δόμους πατρώους, ἀνδρὸς |Greek λόγοις

πεισθεῖσ', ὃς ἡμῖν σὺν θεῷ |pay; (m̄p̄) punish

οὕτ' ἔξ ἐμοῦ γὰρ παῖδας ὅψεται ποτε

ζῶντας τὸ λοιπὸν οὕτε τῆς νεοζύγου

νύμφης τεκνώσει παῖδ', ἐπεὶ κακῶς κακὴν

805

θανεῖν σφ' ἀνάγκη τοῖς ἐμοῖσι φαρμάκοις.

μηδείς με |trifling |weak νομιζέτω

μηδ' |quiet, , ἀλλὰ θατέρου τρόπου,

|gentle |heavy ἐχθροῖς καὶ φίλοισιν |kind

τῶν γὰρ τοιούτων |honored |life .

810

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἐπείπερ ἡμῖν τόνδ' |make common'; ov, |cooperate

σέ τῷ |help, be useful ισα, καὶ νόμοις βροτῶν

|seize, capture; un-|do, accomplish. ἐπω τάδε. |derstand

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλως· σοὶ δὲ |sympathy, λέγειν |leniency

τάδ' ἔστι, μὴ πάσχουσαν, ὡς ἐγώ, κακῶς.

815

ΧΟ. ἀλλὰ κτανεῖν σὸν σπέρμα τολμήσεις, γύναι;

ΜΗΔ. οὗτω γὰρ ἀν μάλιστα |bite |(m) husband, mas- |ter; (f) a drink

ΧΟ. σὺ δ' ἀν γένοιό γ' ἀθλιωτάτη γυνή.

long

Halls of my father out I stole, my will
Chained by a Greek man's voice, who still, oh, still,
If God yet live, shall all requited be.
For never child of mine shall Jason see
Hereafter living, never child beget
From his new bride, who this day, desolate
Even as she made me desolate, shall die
Shrieking amid my poisons... Names have I
Among your folk? One light? One weak of hand?
An eastern dreamer?—Nay, but with the brand
Of strange suns burnt, my hate, by God above,
A perilous thing, and passing sweet my love!
For these it is that make life glorious.

LEADER. Since thou has bared thy fell intent to us
I, loving thee, and helping in their need

Man's laws, adjure thee, dream not of this deed!

MEDEA. There is no other way.—I pardon thee
Thy littleness, who art not wronged like me.

LEADER. Thou canst not kill the fruit thy body bore!

MEDEA. Yes: if the man I hate be pained the more.

LEADER. And thou made miserable, most miserable?

MEDEA. Oh, let it come! All words of good or ill

vocabulary

ἀβρός graceful, delicate, pretty
 αἰθήρ ether, air, sky ~ether
 ἄνθεω sprout
 ἄνθος flower
 ἀπόρθητος not pillaged
 ἀρετή goodness, excellence
 αὔρα breeze ~air
 δεσπότης -ου (m, 1) master, despot
 εἴλα exclamation to urge someone on
 εἴπερ if indeed
 ἐννέα nine
 εὐώδης fragrant
 καταπονέω subdue; damage
 κλεινός famous
 λαμπρός brilliant ~lamp
 μάκαρ fortunate ~macarism
 μάκαρ fortunate ~macarism

μέτριος medium, moderate
 ξανθός yellow
 ὄλβιος happy, wealthy
 παλαιός old ~paleo
 παντοῖος all kinds of
 πάρεδρος assessor
 περισσός prodigious, superfluous
 πιστός faithful; trustworthy
 πλόκος lock of hair; head-wreath
 ὥρα pl: waters of a river ~rheostat
 ὥρδεος of roses
 σοφία skill; wisdom ~sophistry
 φυτεύω plant, grow, cause, prepare
 ~physics
 φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
 χαίτη lock of hair, mane
 χωρέω withdraw, give way to (+dat)
 ~heir

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ὅτω· περισσοὶ πάντες οὖν μέσω λόγοι.

ἀλλ' εὖα χώρει καὶ κόμιζ Ἰάσονα·

820

ἐσ πάντα γὰρ δὴ σοὶ τὰ πιστὰ χρώμεθα.

λέξης δὲ μηδὲν τῶν ἐμοὶ δεδογμένων,

εἴπερ φρονεῖς εὖ δεσπόταις γυνή τ' ἔφυς.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. Ἐρεχθεῖδαι τὸ παλαιὸν ὅλβιοι

καὶ θεῶν παιδες μακάρων, ἵερᾶς

825

χώρας ἀπορθήτου τ' ἄπο, φερβόμενοι

κλεινοτάταν σοφίαν, αἰὲν διὰ λαμπροτάτου

βαίνοντες ἀβρῶς αἰθέρος, ἐνθα ποθ' ἀγνὰς

830

ἐννέα Πιερίδας Μούσας λέγουσι

ξανθὰν Ἄρμονίαν φυτεῦσαι·

Χ0. τοῦ καλλινάου τ' ἐπὶ Κηφισοῦ ροαῖς

835

τὰν Κύπριν κλήζουσιν ἀφυσσαμέναν

χώραν καταπνεῦσαι μετρίας ἀνέμων

ἡδυπνόους αὔρας· αἰὲν δ' ἐπιβαλλομέναν

840

χαίταισιν εὐώδη ροδέων πλόκον ἀνθέων

τὰ Σοφία παρέδρους πέμπειν Ἐρωτας,

παντοίας ἀρετᾶς ξυνεργούς.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ἵτω* |prodigious, |ίντες ούν μέσω λόγοι.
superfluous

ἀλλ' |ex- |withdraw, |give, |μιζ̄ |Iásova. 820
|cla- |way to (+dat)
ἐσ ποντα γὰρ δὴ σοὶ τὰ |faithful; |μεθα.
ma- |tion
to
λέξη |urge |μηδὲν τῶν ἐμοὶ δεδογμένων,
some-
one
|if indeed, |ονεῖς εὐ |master, |γυνή τ' |produce,
despot |beget; clasp

ΧΟΡΟΣ. Ἐρεχθεῖδαι τὸ |old |happy,
καὶ θεῶν παιδες μακάρων, ἴερᾶς |wealthy

χώρας |not pillaged τ' ἄπο, φερβόμενοι
|famous σοφίαν, αἰὲν διὰ |brilliant
βαίνοντες |graceful, |ether , |νθα ποθ' ἄγνας 830
|delicate,
|pretty
|nine Πιεριός Μούσας λέγουσι

|yellow Ἀρμονίαν |plant, |grow,
|cause, prepare

ΧΟ. τοῦ καλλινάου τ' ἐπὶ Κηφισοῦ ροαῖς 835

τὰν Κύπριν κλῆζουσιν ἀφυσσαμέναν
χώραν |subdue; |medium, |ἰνέμων
|damage |moderate
ἡδυπνόους αὔρας* αἰὲν δ' ἐπιβαλλομέναν

|lock of hair, |fragrant |of roses |lock of hair; |ἴων
|mane |head-wreath
τῷ Σοφίᾳ |assessor πέμπειν Ἐρωτας,

|all kinds of |excellence |νεργούς.

Are wasted now.

She claps her hands: the NURSE comes out from the house.

Ho, woman; get thee gone

And lead lord Jason hither... There is none

Like thee, to work me these high services.

But speak no word of what my purpose is,

As thou art faithful, thou, and bold to try

All succours, and a woman even as I!

The NURSE departs.

CHORUS. The sons of Erechtheus, the olden,

Whom high gods planted of yore

In an old land of heaven upholden,

A proud land untrodden of war:

They are hungered, and, lo, their desire

With wisdom is fed as with meat:

In their skies is a shining of fire,

A joy in the fall of their feet:

And thither, with manifold dowers,

From the North, from the hills, from the morn,

The Muses did gather their powers,

That a child of the Nine should be born;

And Harmony, sown as the flowers,

Grew gold in the acres of corn.

And Cephisus, the fair-flowing river—

The Cyprian dipping her hand

Hath drawn of his dew, and the shiver

Of her touch is as joy in the land.

For her breathing in fragrance is written,

And in music her path as she goes,

And the cloud of her hair, it is litten

With stars of the wind-woven rose.

So fareth she ever and ever,

And forth of her bosom is blown,

As dews on the winds of the river,

An hunger of passions unknown.

vocabulary

ἄδακρυς without tears
 γόνυ γουνός (n, 3) knee ~polygon
 δυσμενής hostile, enemy
 θράσος -ους (n, 3) boldness,
 over-boldness
 ἵκετεύω approach to beg
 καινός new, fresh, strange
 μοῖρα portion, fate; (*κατά+*) rightly
 ~Moira
 ὅμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
 πάντη everywhere
 πάντως by all means
 πίτνω poetic for *πίπτω*

πλαγά a hit

πόθεν from where?

προσάγω bring to a place

~demagogue

προσβάλλω hit, attack, approach;
 attach, offer ~ballistic

σκέπτομαι look, look at, watch
 ~skeptic

τέγγω moisten; soften

τέκος -εος (n, 3) child ~oxytocin

φοίνιος red

φονεύω kill

φόνος killing ~offend

ΧΟΡΟΣ. πῶς οὖν ἵερῶν ποταμῶν

ἢ πόλις; ἢ φίλων πόμπιμός σε χώρα

τὰν παιδολέτειραν ἔξει,

τὰν οὐχ ὄσίαν μετ' ἄλλων;

850

σκέψαι τεκέων πλαγάν,

σκέψαι φόνον οἶον αἴρη.

μή, πρὸς γονάτων σε πάντη

πάντως ἵκετεύομεν, τέκνα φονεύσης.

ΧΟ. πόθεν θράσος ἢ φρενὸς ἢ

855

χειρὶ τέκνων σέθεν καρδίᾳ τε λήψῃ

δεινὰν προσάγουσα τόλμαν;

πῶς δ' ὄμματα προσβαλοῦσα

860

τέκνοις ἀδακρυν μοῖραν

σχήσεις φόνου; οὐ δυνάσῃ,

παιδῶν ἵκετάν πιτνόντων,

τέγξαι χέρα φοινίαν τλάμονι θυμῷ.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. ἵκω κελευσθείσ· καὶ γὰρ οὖσα δυσμενὴς

οὐ τὰν ἀμάρτοις τοῦδέ γ', ἀλλ' ἀκούσομαι

τί χρῆμα βούλη καινὸν ἐξ ἐμοῦ, γύναι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. πᾶς οὖν ἵερῶν ποταμῶν

ἢ πόλις; ἢ φίλων πόμπιμός σε χώρα
τὰν παιδολέτειραν ἔξει,
τὰν οὐχ ὄσίαν μετ' ἄλλων;

850

look, |child |a hit
look at,
watch |look, |killing οἶον αἴρη.
look at,
watch μῆ, πρὸς |knee σε |everywhere

by all|approach to beg' να |kill
means

ΧΟ. |from |boldness ἢ φρενὸς ἢ
|where?

855

χειρὶ τέκνων σέθεν καρδίᾳ τε λήψῃ

δεινὰν |bring to a place. ἄλμαν;

πᾶς δ' |eye |hit, attack, approach;
|attach, offer

860

τέκνοις |without |portion, fate
|tears

σχήσεις |killing, οὐ δυνάσῃ,

παιδῶν ἵκετῶν |poetic for πίπτω

moisten; ἔρα |red τλάμονι θυμῷ.
soften

ΙΑΣΩΝ. ἥκω κελευσθείς· καὶ γὰρ οὖσα |hostile,
|enemy

οὐ τὰν ἀμάρτοις τοῦδέ γ', ἀλλ' ἀκούσομαι

τί χρῆμα βούλη |new, fresh, strange, οὐναι.

Strong Loves of all godlike endeavour,
Whom Wisdom shall throne on her throne.
Some Women.
But Cephisus the fair-flowing,
Will he bear thee on his shore?
Shall the land that succours all, succour thee,
Who art foul among thy kind,
With the tears of children blind?
Dost thou see the red gash growing,
Thine own burden dost thou see?
Every side, Every way,
Lo, we kneel to thee and pray:
By thy knees, by thy soul, O woman wild!
One at least thou canst not slay,
Not thy child!
Others.
Hast thou ice that thou shalt bind it
To thy breast, and make thee dead
To thy children, to thine own spirit's pain?
When the hand knows what it dares,
When thine eyes look into theirs,
Shalt thou keep by tears unblinded
Thy dividing of the slain?
These be deeds Not for thee:
These be things that cannot be!
Thy babes—though thine hardihood be fell,
When they cling about thy knee,'
Twill be well!
Enter JASON.
JASON. I answer to thy call. Though full of hate
Thou be, I yet will not so far abate
My kindness for thee, nor refuse mine ear.
Say in what new desire thou hast called me here.

vocabulary

ἀβουλία	ill-advisedness	μαίνομαι	be berserk ~maenad
αἰτέω	ask for ~etiology	μάτην	in vain, randomly
ἀπαλλάσσω	free from, remove; be freed, depart	μεθίημι	let go, cease; (mid) speed off ~jet
ἄφρων	senseless, unthinking ~frenzy	μέτειμι	be among, go, follow ~ion
βούλευμα	-τος (n, 3) resolution, purpose	όργη	urge, impulse; anger
γαμέω	marry, take as a lover ~bigamy	πορίζω	bring about, provide
δράω	do, accomplish	πόσις	-ος (m) (m) husband, master; (f) a drink ~potent
εἰκός	likely	προσλαμβάνω	add, borrow, take hold, help
ἐννοέω	consider	σπανίζω	be scarce; lack; use up
ἐπαινέω	concur, praise, advise	σύμφορος	accompanying; suitable
θυμόω	(v) anger	σχέτλιος	tough, sound, stubborn, cruel ~ischemia
κασίγνητος	brother, sister	σωφρονέω	be sane, moderate
κῆδος	-εος (n, 3) sorrow ~heinous	τύραννος	tyrant
κοίρανος	ruler, chief	φυτεύω	plant, grow, cause, prepare ~physics
λέχος	-εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier ~lie		
λοιδορέω	abuse, revile		

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. Ἰάσον, αἰτοῦμαί σε τῶν εἰρημένων

συγγνώμον' εἶναι· τὰς δ' ἐμὰς ὄργὰς φέρειν

870

εἰκός σ', ἐπεὶ νῷν πόλλα' ὑπείργασται φίλα.

ἐγὼ δ' ἐμαυτῇ διὰ λόγων ἀφικόμην

κἀλοιδόρησα· Σχετλία, τί μαίνομαι

καὶ δυσμεναίνω τοῖσι βουλεύουσιν εὖ,

ἐχθρὰ δὲ γαίας κοιράνοις καθίσταμαι

875

πόσει θ', ὃς ἡμῖν δρᾶ τὰ συμφορώτατα,

γῆμας τύραννον καὶ κασιγνήτους τέκνοις

ἐμοῖς φυτεύων; οὐκ ἀπαλλαχθήσομαι

θυμοῦ— τί πάσχω;— θεῶν ποριζόντων καλῶς;

οὐκ εἰσὶ μέν μοι παῖδες, οἶδα δὲ χθόνα

880

φεύγοντας ἡμᾶς καὶ σπανίζοντας φίλων;

ταῦτ' ἐννοήσασ' ἡσθόμην ἀβουλίαν

πολλὴν ἔχουσα καὶ μάτην θυμουμένη.

νῦν οὖν ἐπαινῶ· σωφρονεῦν τ' ἐμοὶ δοκεῖς

κῆδος τόδ' ἡμῖν προσλαβών, ἐγὼ δ' ἄφρων,

885

ἥ χρῆν μετεῖναι τῶνδε τῶν βουλευμάτων,

καὶ ξυγγαμεῖν σοι, καὶ παρεστάναι λέχει

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. Ἰᾶσον, |ask for σε τῶν εἱρημένων

συγγνώμον' εἶναι· τὰς δ' ἐμὰς **urge, impulse; anger** **έρειν**
likely σ', ἐπεὶ νῷν πόλλα' ὑπείργασται φίλα.

870

ἔγὼ δὲ ἐμαυτῇ διὰ λόγων ἀφικόμην

ἀβούση, ῥινέει τούχη, σούνδη βερσέρκ
καὶ δυσμεναίνω τοῖσι βούλεύουσιν εὖ,

ἔχθρὰ δὲ γαίας |ruler, chief καθίσταμαι

875

(m) *husband*, *mas*-*do*, *ac*-*accompanying*;
(f) *a drink* *complish**suitable*

|marry, |tyrant *kai* |brother, sister *TÉKNOIS*

take as
a lover
plant, grow; free from, remove;
cause, prepare be freed, depart

θυμοῦ— τί πάσχω;— θεᾶν bring about, καλῶς;
provide

οὐκ εἰσὶ μέν μοι παῖδες, οἶδα δὲ χθόνα

880

φεύγοντας ἡμᾶς καὶ | be scarce; lack; *φίλων*;
use up

ταῦτα |consider *ἡσθόμην* |ill-advisedness

πολλὴν ἔχουσα καὶ μάτην |anger

νῦν οὖν |concur| be sane, moderate |*ì δοκεῖς*

sorrow *róδ' ἡμῖν* | add, borrow, *γὰρ δ'* | senseless,
take hold, help | unthinking

885

ἢ χρῆν μετεῖναι τῶνδε τῶν |resolution,
purpose

καὶ ἔνγγαμεῖν σοι, καὶ παρεστάναι |bed, bier

MEDEA. Jason, I pray thee, for my words but now
Spoken, forgive me. My bad moods... Oh, thou
At least wilt strive to bear with them! There be
Many old deeds of love 'twixt me and thee.
Lo, I have reasoned with myself apart
And chidden: "Why must I be mad, O heart
Of mine: and raging against one whose word
Is wisdom: making me a thing abhorred
To them that rule the land, and to mine own
Husband, who doth but that which, being done,
Will help us all—to wed a queen, and get
Young kings for brethren to my sons? And yet
I rage alone, and cannot quit my rage—
What aileth me?—when God sends harbourage
So simple? Have I not my children? Know
I not we are but exiles, and must go
Beggared and friendless else?" Thought upon thought
So pressed me, till I knew myself full-fraught
With bitterness of heart and blinded eyes.
So now—I give thee thanks: and hold thee wise
To have caught this anchor for our aid. The fool
Was I; who should have been thy friend, thy tool;
Gone wooing with thee, stood at thy bed-side

vocabulary

ἀμείνων comparative of ἀγαθός, noble
 ἀντιτείνω resist
 ἀσπάζομαι greet, salute
 δάκρου -ους (n, 3) tear
 δάκρυον tear
 δακρύω weep
 δεῦτε come on (pl.)
 διαλλάσσω exchange; differ; reconcile
 ἐννοέω consider
 ἐξαιρέω pick, steal; dedicate; destroy
 ~heresy
 ἐπιλανθάνω mp: forget ~Lethe
 ἔχθρη hate
 κηδεύω attend to; become allied in
 marriage
 κρύπτω hide, cover ~cryptic
 μεθίστημι change, substitute;
 withdraw; change sides; (mid) send
 away ~station
 νείκος -εος (n, 3) quarrel, battle

νήπιος foolish, childish, naive,
 credulous
 νύμφα nymph; bride
 οἴμοι woe is me
 ὁμοιόω assimilate, liken ~homoerotic
 ὀρέγω hold out, offer, thrust ~reach
 ὄσσε eyes (dual)
 ὅσσομαι see with the mind's eye,
 forebode
 οὐκούν certainly not
 ὄφις ὄφεως (f) sight, view
 ~thanatopsis
 πίμπλημι fill (+gen.) ~plenum
 σπονδή libation, treaty ~spontaneous
 στέγη roof, ceiling, chamber
 τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
 χλωρός pale, green, yellow ~chlorine
 χόλος gall, anger, wrath, bitterness
 ~choler
 ὥλενη elbow, lower arm

νύμφην τε κηδεύουσαν ἥδεσθαι σέθεν.

ἀλλ’ ἐσμὲν οἶόν ἐσμεν, οὐκ ἐρῶ κακόν,

γυναῖκες· οὐκονν χρῆν σ’ ὄμοιοῦσθαι κακοῖς,

890

οὐδ’ ἀντιτείνειν νήπι’ ἀντὶ νηπίων.

παριέμεσθα, καί φαμεν κακῶς φρονεῖν

τότ’, ἀλλ’ ἀμεινον νῦν βεβούλευμαι τάδε·

ὦ τέκνα τέκνα, δεῦτε, λείπετε στέγας,

ἐξέλθετ’, ἀσπάσασθε καὶ προσείπατε

895

πατέρα μεθ’ ἡμῶν, καὶ διαλλάχθηθ’ ἄμα

τῆς πρόσθεν ἔχθρας ἐς φίλους μητρὸς μέτα·

σπονδαὶ γὰρ ἡμῖν καὶ μεθέστηκεν χόλος.

λάβεσθε χειρὸς δεξιᾶς· οἵμοι, κακῶν

ώς ἐννοοῦμαι δή τι τῶν κεκρυμμένων.

900

ἄρ’, ὦ τέκν’, οὗτοι καὶ πολὺν ζῶντες χρόνον

φίλην ὀρέξετ’ ὀλένην; τάλαιν’ ἐγώ,

ώς ἀρτίδακρύς εἰμι καὶ φόβου πλέα.

χρόνω δὲ νεῦκος πατρὸς ἔξαιρουμένη

οἵψιν τέρειναν τήνδ’ ἔπληγσα δακρύων.

905

ΧΟΡΟΣ. κάμοὶ κατ’ ὄσσων χλωρὸν ὡρμήθη δάκρυν·

νύμφην τε |attend to; become ^{θαί} *θαι σέθεν.*
allied in marriage

ἀλλ' ἐσμὲν οἶν ἐσμεν, οὐκ ἐρῶ κακόν,

γυναικες* |certainly ^{not}, 'σ' |liken κακοῖς,

890

οὐδ' |resist |foolish ^{ντι} |foolish

παριέμεσθα, καί φαμεν κακῶς φρονεῖν

τότ', ἀλλ' |better νῦν βεβούλευμαι τάδε·

ὦ τέκνα τέκνα, |come on ^{ἴπετε} |roof, ceiling,
chamber

ἔξελθετ', |greet, salute καὶ προσείπατε

895

πατέρα μεθ' ἡμᾶν, καὶ |exchange; dif- ^{ἴμα}
fer; reconcile

τῆς πρόσθεν |hate ἐς φίλους μητρὸς μέτα·

libation, γὰρ ἡμῖν καὶ |change, sub-|anger
treaty stitute; with-

λάβεσθε χειρὸς δεξιᾶς |woe is me ^{με} ^{τὸν}
sides, |send away

ώς |consider δή τι τῶν |hide, cover

900

ἄρ', ὦ τέκν', οὗτω καὶ πολὺν ζῶντες χρόνον

φίλην |hold out, elbow, |wretched, ^{γω},
offer, |lower |miserable

ώς ἀργιδακρύς εἰμι καὶ φόβου πλέα.

χρόνω δὲ |quarrel, τατρὸς |pick, steal; dedi-
battle |cate; destroy

|sight τέρειναν τήνδ' ἔπλησα δακρύων.

905

ΧΟΡΟΣ. κάμοὶ κατ' ὄσσων |pale ὥρμήθη |tear

Serving, and welcomed duteously thy bride.
But, as we are, we are—I will not say
Mere evil—women! Why must thou to-day
Turn strange, and make thee like some evil thing,
Childish, to meet my childish passioning?
See, I surrender: and confess that then
I had bad thoughts, but now have turned again
And found my wiser mind.

She claps her hands.

Ho, children! Run
Quickly! Come hither, out into the sun,

The CHILDREN come from the house, followed by their ATTENDANT.

And greet your father. Welcome him with us,
And throw quite, quite away, as mother does,
Your anger against one so dear. Our peace
Is made, and all the old bad war shall cease
For ever.—Go, and take his hand...

As the CHILDREN go to JASON, she suddenly bursts into tears. The CHILDREN quickly return to

her: she recovers herself, smiling amid her tears.

Ah me,
I am full of hidden horrors!... Shall it be
A long time more, my children, that ye live
To reach to me those dear, dear arms?... Forgive!
I am so ready with my tears to-day,
And full of dread... I sought to smooth away
The long strife with your father, and, lo, now
I have all drowned with tears this little brow!

She wipes the child's face.

vocabulary

ἄημι blow

αἰνέω praise, assent, acquiesce in
ἀλλοῖος of another kind ~alien

αὐξάνω strengthen

ἄω aor: to sate ~sate

βλώσκω come, go

γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy

δάκρυον tear

δακρύω weep

εἰκός likely

ἔμπαλιν backwards, on the contrary

ἐννοέω consider

ἐξεργάζομαι accomplish; undo;
destroy someone

ἔρπω be able to move ~serpent

εὔμενής kind

εὐτραφής well fed; nourishing

ἡβα youth ~Hebe

ἡδομαι be pleased, enjoy ~hedonism
θῆλυς female; (rare) abundant ~female

κασίγνητος brother, sister

κῆρ heart ~cardiac

λευκός white ~light

λωίων more desirable

μεθίστημι change, substitute;
withdraw; change sides; (mid) send
away ~station

μέμφομαι blame; reject

μολίσκω come, go

όργη urge, impulse; anger

παρηής cheek

πόσις -ος (m) (m) husband, master; (f)
a drink ~potent

προβαίνω surpass, continue ~basis

στρέψω turn, veer ~atrophy

σωτηρία saving, preservation

σώφρων sensible, prudent ~frenzy

τέγγω moisten; soften

ὑπέρτερος superior, victorious

χλωρός pale, green, yellow ~chlorine

καὶ μὴ προβαίη μεῖζον ἢ τὸ νῦν κακόν.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. αἰνῶ, γύναι, τάδ', οὐδ' ἐκεῦνα μέμφομαι·

εἰκὸς γὰρ ὄργας θῆλυ ποιεῖσθαι γένος

γάμου παρεμπολῶντος ἀλλοίου πόσει.

910

ἀλλ' ἐσ τὸ λῶν σὸν μεθέστηκεν κέαρ,

ἔγνως δὲ τὴν νικῶσαν, ἀλλὰ τῷ χρόνῳ,

βουλήν· γυναικὸς ἔργα ταῦτα σώφρονος.

νῦμν δέ, παιδεῖ, οὐκ ἀφροντίστως πατὴρ

πολλὴν ἔθηκε σὺν θεοῖς σωτηρίαν.

915

οἶμαι γὰρ νῦμᾶς τῆσδε γῆς Κορινθίας

τὰ πρῶτ' ἔσεσθαι σὺν κασιγνήτοις ἔτι.

ἀλλ' αὐξάνεσθε· ταῦλα δ' ἐξεργάζεται

πατήρ τε καὶ θεῶν ὅστις ἐστὶν εὐμενής·

ἴδοιμι δ' νῦμᾶς εὐτραφεῖς ἥβης τέλος

920

μολόντας, ἐχθρῶν τῶν ἐμῶν ὑπερτέρους.

αῦτη, τί χλωροῖς δακρύοις τέγγεις κόρας,

στρέψασα λευκὴν ἔμπαλιν παρηΐδα;

κούκ ἀσμένη τόνδ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ δέχῃ λόγον;

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. οὐδέν. τέκνων τῶνδ' ἐννοουμένη πέρι.

καὶ μὴ |surpass μεῖζον ἢ τὸ νῦν κακόν.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. |praise, /ύναι, τάδ', οὐδ' ἐκεῖνα |blame;
assent |reject

|likely γὰρ |urge, |female; (rare) |ai γένος
|impulse |abundant

|wedding, sex, |πολῶντος |of another(m) husband, mas-
|kind ter; (f) a drink

ἀλλ' ἐσ τὸ |more desir- |change, sub-|heart,
able |stitute; with-

ἔγνως δὲ τὴν νικῶσσαν |draw; change
sides; (mid)
send away

βουλήν· γυναικὸς ἔργα ταῦτα |sensible,
|prudent

νῦν δέ, παῖδες, οὐκ ἀφροντίστως πατήρ

πολλὴν ἔθηκε σὺν θεοῖς σωτηρίαν·

915

οἶμαι γὰρ νῦν τῆσδε γῆς Κορινθίας

τὰ πρῶτ' ἔσεσθαι σὺν |brother, sister ἔτι.

ἀλλ' |strengthen τάλλα δ' |accomplish; undo;
|destroy someone

πατήρ τε καὶ θεῶν ὅστις ἔστιν |kind

ἴδοιμι δ' νῦν εὐτραφεῖς ἥβης τέλος

920

μολόντας, ἐχθρῶν τῶν ἐμῶν |superior,
|victorious

αὔτη, τί |pale δακρύοις |moisten; |cónkas,
|soften

|turn |white |back- |cheek
|wards,

κούκ ἀσμένη τόνδε |on- |the
|contrary

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. οὐδέν. τέκνων τῶνδ' |consider πέρι.

LEADER. O'er mine eyes too there stealeth a pale tear:
Let the evil rest, O God, let it rest here!

JASON. Woman, indeed I praise thee now, nor say
Ill of thine other hour. 'Tis nature's way,
A woman needs must stir herself to wrath,
When work of marriage by so strange a path
Crosseth her lord. But thou, thine heart doth wend
The happier road. Thou hast seen, ere quite the end,
What choice must needs be stronger: which to do
Shows a wise-minded woman... And for you,
Children; your father never has forgot
Your needs. If God but help him, he hath wrought
A strong deliverance for your weakness. Yea,
I think you, with your brethren, yet one day
Shall be the mightiest voices in this land.

Do you grow tall and strong. Your father's hand
Guideth all else, and whatso power divine
Hath alway helped him... Ah, may it be mine
To see you yet in manhood, stern of brow,
Strong-armed, set high o'er those that hate me...
How?

Woman, thy face is turned. Thy cheek is swept
With pallor of strange tears. Dost not accept
Gladly and of good will my benisons?

MEDEA. 'Tis nothing. Thinking of these little ones...

JASON. Take heart, then. I will guard them from all ill.

MEDEA. I do take heart. Thy word

vocabulary

αἰτέω ask for ~etiology
 ἀπαίρω lift off ~aorta
 ἀπιστέω disbelieve ~stand
 δάκρυον tear
 δακρύω weep
 δῆτα emphatic δή
 δοξάζω think, imagine; extol
 δράω do, accomplish
 δυσμενής hostile, enemy
 ἐκτρέπω turn aside
 ἐκτρέφω raise, rear
 ἐμποδών getting in the way

ἐπιστένω groan under
 θαρσέω be of good heart
 θάρσος boldness, over-boldness
 θῆλυς female; (rare) abundant ~female
 κοίρανος ruler, chief
 λίαν very
 οἰκτος compassion
 οὕνεκα because
 οὐτάω pierce, wound
 τύραννος tyrant
 φυγή flight, means of escape ~fugitive
 φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics

ΙΑΣΩΝ. θάρσει νυν· εὖ γὰρ τῶνδ' ἐγὼ θήσω πέρι.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. δράσω τάδ· οὗτοι σοῖς ἀπιστήσω λόγοις·

γυνὴ δὲ θῆλυ κάπι δακρύοις ἔφυ.

ΙΑΣ. τί δῆτα λίαν τοῖσδ' ἐπιστένεις τέκνοις;

ΜΗΔ. ἔτικτον αὐτούς· ζῆν δ' ὅτ' ἐξηγέρου τέκνα,

930

ἐσῆλθέ μ' οἶκτος εἰ γενήσεται τάδε.

ἀλλ' ἀνπερ οὔνεκ' εἰς ἐμοὺς ἥκεις λόγους,

τὰ μὲν λέλεκται, τῶν δ' ἐγὼ μησθήσομαι.

ἐπεὶ τυράννοις γῆς μ' ἀποστεῖλαι δοκεῖ—

κάμοὶ τάδ' ἔστι λῷστα, γιγνώσκω καλῶς,

935

μήτ' ἐμποδὼν σοὶ μήτε κοιράνοις χθονὸς

ναιέιν· δοκῶ γὰρ δυσμενῆς εἶναι δόμοις—

ἥμεῖς μὲν ἐκ γῆς τῆσδ' ἀπαίρομεν φυγῆ,

παιᾶνες δ' ὅπως ἀν ἐκτραφῶσι σῇ χερί,

αἰτοῦ Κρέοντα τήνδε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα.

940

ΙΑΣ. οὐκ οἶδ' ἀν εἰ πείσαιμι, πειρᾶσθαι δὲ χρή.

ΜΗΔ. σὺ δ' ἀλλὰ σὴν κέλευσον αἰτεῖσθαι πατρὸς

γυναῖκα παιᾶς τήνδε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα.

ΙΑΣ. μάλιστα, καὶ πείσειν γε δοξάζω σφ' ἐγώ.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. θάρσει νυν· εὐ γὰρ τῶνδ' ἐγὼ θήσω πέρι.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. |do, accomplish *έπτοι σοῖς* |disbelieve *λόγοις*

γυνὴ δὲ | female; ^(rare) *ικρύοις* | produce,
abundant | beget; clasp

ΙΑΣ. *τί* |em- |very *τοισδ'* |groan *τέκνοις*;
phatic |under

ΜΗΔ. ἔτικτον αὐτούς. ζῆν δ' ὅτ' ἐξηγύχου τέκνα,

930

ἔστηλθέ μ' |compassion, ενήσεται τάδε.

ἀλλ' ὅνπερ |because *is* ἐμοὺς ἦκεις λόγους,

τὰ μὲν λέλεκται, τῶν δὲ ἔγω μνησθήσομαι.

ἐπεὶ |tyrant γῆς μ' ἀποστεῖλαι δοκεῖ—

κάμοὶ τάδ' ἔστι λῶστα, γιγνώσκω καλῶς,

μῆτ' |getting in the way| . . . |ruler, chief| *χθονὸς*

dwell, *δοκῶ γὰρ* hostile, *εἶναι δόμοις*—
found; *εἰσελθεῖν* enemy *πολεμός*—
a

flow ήμεις μὲν ἐκ γῆς τῆσδ' ||lift off flight, means of escape

παιδες δ' ὅπως ἀν ἐκτραφῶσι σῇ χερί,

|ask for Κρέοντα τήνδε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα.

940

ΙΑΣ. οὐκ οἶδ' ἀν εἰ πείσαμι, πειρᾶσθαι δὲ χρή.

ΜΗΔ. σὺ δ' ἀλλὰ σὴν κέλευσον |ask for| πατρὸς

γυναῖκα παιδας τήνδε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα.

ΙΑΣ. μάλιστα, καὶ πείσειν γε | think, imagine; extol

I never will
Mistrust. Alas, a woman's bosom bears
But woman's courage, a thing born for tears.
JASON. What ails thee? — All too sore thou weepest there.
MEDEA. I was their mother! When I heard thy prayer
Of long life for them, there swept over me
A horror, wondering how these things shall be.
But for the matter of my need that thou
Should speak with me, part I have said, and now
Will finish. — Seeing it is the king's behest
To cast me out from Corinth... aye, and best,
Far best, for me — I know it — not to stay
Longer to trouble thee and those who sway
The realm, being held to all their house a foe...
Behold, I spread my sails, and meekly go
To exile. But our children... Could this land
Be still their home awhile: could thine own hand
But guide their boyhood... Seek the king, and pray
His pity, that he bid thy children stay!
JASON. He is hard to move. Yet surely 'twere well done.
MEDEA. Bid her — for thy sake, for a daughters boon...
JASON. Well thought! Her I can fashion to my mind.

vocabulary

βασίλειος kingly
 δεῦρο here, come here!
 εἴπερ if indeed
 ἔκγονος offspring, descendant ~genus
 εὐδαιμονέω be lucky, happy
 καλλιστεύω be the best
 κενός empty, vain
 κενώ make empty
 κτάομαι acquire, possess
 λεπτός thin
 μακάριος blessed
 μάταιος vain, empty
 μεμπτός blameworthy
 μυρίος (ο) 10,000 ~myriad
 νύμφα nymph; bride

οὐτάω pierce, wound
 πέπλος woman's dress, a folded
 cylinder of cloth
 πλόκος lock of hair; head-wreath
 πόνος toil, suffering ~osteopenia
 προθέω run from, lead to the fray
 πρόσπολος servant, attendant
 προτίθημι prefer, set out ~thesis
 σάφα with full understanding
 σπανίζω be scarce; lack; use up
 συλλαμβάνω seize, capture;
 understand ~epilepsy
 τάχος -ους (n, 3) speed ~tachometer
 τύραννος tyrant
 φερονά dowry
 χρυσήλατος (ο) of beaten gold

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. εἴπερ γυναικῶν ἔστι τῶν ἄλλων μία.

945

συλλήψομαι δὲ τοῦδέ σοι κάγὼ πόνου·

πέμψω γὰρ αὐτῇ δῶρον ἀ καλλιστεύεται

τῶν νῦν ἐν ἀνθρώποισιν, οἶδ' ἐγώ, πολύ,

λεπτόν τε πέπλον καὶ πλόκον χρυσήλατον

παῖδας φέροντας. ἀλλ' ὅσον τάχος χρεῶν

950

κόσμον κομίζειν δεῦρο προσπόλων τινά.

εὐδαιμονήσει δ' οὐχ ἔν, ἀλλὰ μυρία,

ἀνδρός τ' ἀρίστου σοῦ τυχοῦσ' ὁμευνέτου

κεκτημένη τε κόσμον ὅν ποθ' Ἡλιος

πατρὸς πατὴρ διδωσιν ἐκγόνοισιν οἶς.

955

λάζυσθε φερνὰς τάσδε, παῖδες, ἐς χέρας

καὶ τῇ τυράννῳ μακαρίᾳ νύμφη δότε

φέροντες· οὗτοι δῶρα μεμπτὰ δέξεται.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. τί δ', ὦ ματαία, τῶνδε σὰς κενοῖς χέρας;

δοκεῖς σπανίζειν δῶμα βασίλειον πέπλων,

960

δοκεῖς δὲ χρυσοῦ; σῳζε, μὴ διδου τάδε.

εἴπερ γὰρ ἡμᾶς ἀξιοῖ λόγου τινὸς

γυνή, προθήσει χρημάτων, σάφ' οἶδ' ἐγώ.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. |if indeed ναικῶν ἐστι τῶν ἄλλων μά.

945

seize, capture; δὲ τοῦδέ σοι κάγὼ |toil, suffering
understand

πέμψω γὰρ αὐτῇ δῶρον |be the best

τῶν νῦν ἐν ἀνθρώποισι, οἴδοντέν γώ, πολύ,

|thin τε |woman's ... |lock of beaten gold
|dress |hair; |head-
παιδας φέροντας. ἀλλαγῶν |speed χρεῶν

950

κόσμον κομίζειν |here, |servant, τινά.
come |attendant
εὐδαιμονήσει δ' συχέντε, ἀλλὰ μυρία,

ἀνδρός τ' ἀρίστου σοῦ τυχοῦσ' ὁμευνέτου

|acquire τε κόσμον ὅν ποθεν Ἡλιος

πατρὸς πατήρ διδωσιν |offspring οἶς.

955

λάζυσθε φερνὰς τάσδε, παῖδες, ἐσ χέρας

καὶ τῇ |tyrant |blessed νύμφῃ δότε

φέροντες* οὔτοι δῶρα |blameworthy ται.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. τί δ', ὁ |vain, τῶνδε σὰς κενοῖς χέρας;
|empty

δοκεῖς |be scarce; ὡμα βασίλειον |woman's dress
|lack; use up

960

δοκεῖς δὲ χρυσοῦ; σῶζε, μὴ δίδου τάδε.

|if indeed ρήμᾶς ἀξιοῦ λόγου τινὸς

γυνή, προθήσει χρημάτων, |clearly οὐδὲν ἐγώ.

MEDEA. Surely. She is a woman like her kind...
Yet I will aid thee in thy labour; I
Will send her gifts, the fairest gifts that lie
In the hands of men, things of the days of old,
Fine robings and a carcanet of gold,
By the boys' hands.—Go, quick, some handmaiden,
And fetch the raiment.

A handmaid goes into the house.

Ah, her cup shall then
Be filled indeed! What more should woman crave,
Being wed with thee, the bravest of the brave,
And girt with raiment which of old the sire
Of all my house, the Sun, gave, steeped in fire,
To his own fiery race?

The handmaid has returned bearing the Gifts.

Come, children, lift
With heed these caskets. Bear them as your gift
To her, being bride and princess and of right
Blessed!—I think she will not hold them light.

JASON. Fond woman, why wilt empty thus thine hand
Of treasure? Doth King Creon's castle stand
In stint of raiment, or in stint of gold?
Keep these, and make no gift. For if she hold
Jason of any worth at all, I swear

vocabulary

ἀλλάσσω	trade, transform	κόμη	hair ~comet
ἀμβρόσιος	immortal, divine ~ambrosia	κρείσσων	more powerful; better
ἀναδέσμη	head-dress	μυρίος (ο)	10,000 ~myriad
ἄτα	bewilderment, folly	νύμφα	nymph; bride
ἄτα	(mp) suffer, be in distress	ξανθός	yellow
αὐγή	light	πέπλος	woman's dress, a folded cylinder of cloth
αὐξάνω	strengthen	πλούσιος	wealth ~plutocrat
αὔξις -εως (f)	growth	στείχω	go, march ~stair
δαίμων -ονος (m, 3)	a god, fate, doom ~demon	φόνος	killing ~offend
δεσπότις	lady	φυγάς -δος (m, 3)	exile, refugee ~fugitive
ἐξαιτέω	demand ~etiology	φυγή	flight, means of escape ~fugitive
εὐάγγελος	bringing good news	χρυσός (ο)	gold
ἴκετεύω	approach to beg		

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. μή μοι σύ· πείθειν δῶρα καὶ θεοὺς λόγος·

χρυσὸς δὲ κρείσσων μυρίων λόγων βροτοῖς.

965

κείνης ὁ δαιμων, κεῖνα νῦν αὔξει θεός,

νέα τυραννεῖ· τῶν δὲ ἐμῶν παιδῶν φυγὰς

ψυχῆς ἀν ἀλλαξιάμεθ', οὐ χρυσοῦ μόνον.

ἀλλ', ὁ τέκν', εἰσελθόντε πλουσίους δόμους

πατρὸς νέαν γυναῖκα, δεσπότιν δὲ ἐμήν,

970

ίκετεύετ', ἔξαιτεῖσθε μὴ φυγεῖν χθόνα,

κόσμον διδόντες— τοῦδε γὰρ μάλιστα δεῖ—

εἰς χεῖρ' ἐκείνης δῶρα δέξασθαι τάδε.

ἴθ' ὡς τάχιστα· μητρὶ δὲ ὅν ἐρὰ τυχεῖν

εὐάγγελοι γένοισθε πράξαντες καλῶς.

975

ΧΟΡΟΣ. νῦν ἐλπίδες οὐκέτι μοι παιδῶν ζόας,

οὐκέτι· στείχουσι γὰρ εἰς φόνον ἥδη.

δέξεται νύμφα χρυσέων ἀναδεσμῶν

δέξεται δύστανος ἄταν·

ξανθῷ δὲ ἀμφὶ κόμᾳ θήσει τὸν Ἀιδα

980

κόσμον αὐτὰ χεροῦν. λαβοῦσα.

ΧΟ. πείσει χάρις ἀμβρόσιός τ' αὐγὰ πέπλων

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. μή μοι σύ· πείθειν δῶρα καὶ θεοὺς λόγος·

gold δὲ κρείσσων μυρίων λόγων βροτοῖς. 965

κείνης ὁ |a god, fate, doom. Ἡν αὖξει θεός,

νέα τυραννεῖ· τῶν δὲ ἐμῶν παιδῶν φυγὰς

ψυχῆς ἀν |trade, transform, οὐ χρυσοῦ μόνον.

ἀλλ', ὁ τέκν', εἰσελθόντες |wealth δόμους

πατρὸς νέαν γυναικα, |lady δὲ ἐμήν, 970

|approach to|demand μὴ φυγεῖν χθόνα,
beg

κόσμον διδόντες— τοῦδε γὰρ μάλιστα δεῖ—

εἰς χεῖρ' ἐκείνης δῶρα δέξασθαι τάδε.

ἴθ' ὡς τάχιστα· μητρὶ δὲ ὅν ἐρᾶ τυχεῖν

|bringing good news^ πράξαντες καλῶς. 975

ΧΟΡΟΣ. νῦν ἐλπίδες οὐκέτι μοι παιδῶν ζόας,

οὐκέτι· |go, march γὰρ εἰς |killing ἥδη.

δέξεται νύμφα χρυσέων ἀναδεσμῶν

δέξεται δύστανος ἄταν·

yellow δὲ ἀμφὶ |hair θήσει τὸν Ἄιδα 980

κόσμον αὐτὰ χεροῖν. λαβοῦσα.

ΧΟ. πείσει χάρις |immortal, τὸ |light |woman's dress
divine

Chattels like these will not weigh more with her.

MEDEA. Ah, chide me not! 'Tis written, gifts persuade

The gods in heaven; and gold is stronger made

Than words innumerable to bend men's ways.

Fortune is hers. God maketh great her days:

Young and a crowned queen! And banishment

For those two babes... I would not gold were spent,

But life's blood, ere that come.

My children, go

Forth into those rich halls, and, bowing low,

Beseech your father's bride, whom I obey,

Ye be not, of her mercy, cast away

Exiled: and give the caskets—above all

Mark this!—to none but her, to hold withal

And keep... Go quick! And let your mother know

Soon the good tiding that she longs for... Go!

She goes quickly into the house. JASON and the CHILDREN with their ATTENDANT depart.

CHORUS. Now I have no hope more of the children's living;

No hope more. They are gone forth unto death.

The bride, she taketh the poison of their giving:

She taketh the bounden gold and openeth;

And the crown, the crown, she lifteth about her brow,

Where the light brown curls are clustering. No hope now!

O sweet and cloudy gleam of the garments golden!

The robe, it hath clasped her breast and the crown her head.

vocabulary

ἀημι blow

ἀλγος -εος (n, 3) woe, grief ~analgesic

ἄλοχος (f) wife ~lie

ἄνομος lawless

ἄτα bewilderment, folly

ἀτάω (mp) suffer, be in distress

ἄω aor: to sate ~sate

βιοτή life

δέσποινα lady

ἔρκος -εος (n, 3) bulwark ~oath

εὐτυχής fortunate

ἡδομαι be pleased, enjoy ~hedonism

ἢνικα when

κακόνυμφος badly married

κάτοιδα understand

κηδεμών -όνος (m, 3) mourner

~heinous

λέχος -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier ~lie

μεταστένω lament afterward

~stentorian

μοῖρα portion, fate; (κατά+) rightly

~Moira

νέρτερος lower, of Hades

νύμφα nymph; bride

δλεθρος ruin, destruction, death

παροίχομαι pass, keep going

περιτίθημι put around, endow with

~thesis

πόσις -ος (m) (m) husband, master; (f) a drink ~potent

προλείπω abandon, withdraw ~eclipse

προσάγω bring to a place

~demagogue

στέφανος ring

στυγερός dreaded, feeling dread ~Styx

συγχέω entangle, destroy, confound

τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent

τευκτός wrought, perfect

τοῖος such

τύραννος tyrant

ὑπεκφεύγω stay, get away ~fugitive

φονεύω kill

φυγή flight, means of escape ~fugitive

χρυσέων τευκτὸν στέφανον περιθέσθαι·

νερτέροις δ' ἥδη πάρα νυμφοκομήσει.

985

τοῖον εἰς ἔρκος πεσεῖται

καὶ μοῖραν θανάτου δύστανος· ἀταν δ'

οὐχ ὑπεκφεύξεται.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. σὺ δ', ὁ τάλαν, ὁ κακόνυμφε κηδεμῶν τυράννων,

990

παισὸν οὐ κατειδὼς

ὅλεθρον βιοτῷ προσάγεις ἀλόχω τε

σᾶ στυγερὸν θάνατον.

δύστανε μοίρας ὅσον παροίχῃ.

995

ΧΟ. μεταστένομαι δὲ σὸν ἄλγος, ὁ τάλαινα παιῶν

μᾶτερ, ἀ φονεύσεις

τέκνα νυμφιδίων ἔνεκεν λεχέων, ἃ

σοι προλιπὼν ἀνόμως

1000

ἄλλα ξυνοικεῖ πόσις συνεύνω.

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. δέσποιν', ἀφεῖνται παιῶν οἵδε σοὶ φυγῆς,

καὶ δῶρα νύμφη βασιλὶς ἀσμένη χεροῖν

ἔδέξατ'. εἰρήνη δὲ τάκειθεν τέκνοις.

ἔα. τί συγχυθεῖσ' ἔστηκας ἥνικ' εὐτυχεῖς;

χρυσέων |wrought, |ring |put around,
perfect |endow with

|lower, of Hades, *η πάρα νυμφοκομήσει.*

985

|such *εἰς* |bulwark. *εσεῖται*

καὶ μοῖραν θανάτου δύστανος· ἄταν δ'

οὐχ |stay, get away

ΧΟΡΟΣ. *σὺ δ'*, *ῳ* |wretched, ^δ |badly |mourner |tyrant

μισέσθιν *οὐ* |understand

990

|ruin *βιοτὴ* |bring to a|wife *τε*
|place

σᾶ |dreaded, feel-^δ |*νατον.*
ing dread

δύστανε μοίρας ὄσον |pass, keep going

995

ΧΟ. |lament *δὲ σὸν* |woe *, ὥ* |wretched, *ταιδῶν*
|afterward |miserable

μάτερ, *ἄ* |kill

τέκνα νυμφιδίων ἔνεκεν |bed, bier, *ἄ*

σοι |abandon, |lawless
|withdraw

1000

ἄλλα ξυνοικεῖ |(m) husband, ^δ |mas-
ter; (f) a drink

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. |lady *, ἀφεῖνται παιδες οἴδε σοὶ* |flight, means
|of escape

καὶ δῶρα νύμφη βασιλὶς ἀσμένη χεροῖν

ἔδεξατ· εἰρήνη δὲ τάκειθεν τέκνοις.

ἔα. *τί* |*συγχέω?*: ^δ |entangle, |when |fortunate,
destroy, confound; or
|*συγχέω?*: |entangle,
destroy, confound

Then, then, she decketh the bride, as a bride of olden
Story, that goeth pale to the kiss of the dead.
For the ring hath closed, and the portion of death is there;
And she flieh not, but perisheth unaware.
Some Women.

O bridegroom, bridegroom of the kiss so cold,
Art thou wed with princes, art thou girt with gold,
Who know'st not, suing
For thy child's undoing,
And, on her thou lovest, for a doom untold?

How art thou fallen from thy place of old!

Others.

O Mother, Mother, what hast thou to reap,
When the harvest cometh, between wake and sleep?
For a heart unslaken,
For a troth forsaken,
Lo, babes that call thee from a bloody deep:
And thy love returns not. Get thee forth and weep!

Enter the ATTENDANT with the two CHILDREN: MEDEA comes out from the house.

ATTENDANT. Mistress, these children from their banishment
Are spared. The royal bride hath mildly bent
Her hand to accept thy gifts, and all is now
Peace for the children.—Ha, why standest thou
Confounded, when good fortune draweth near?

vocabulary

ἀγγέλω carry a message, announce
 ~angel
 ἀέθλιος prize ~athlete
 ἄημι blow
 ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
 αἰαῖ alas
 ἄω aor: to sate ~sate
 δαί particle: emphasizes questions
 δαίς -τός (f) feast, banquet ~demon
 δαῖς δαδός (f) torch
 δράω do, accomplish
 ἔμπαλιν backwards, on the contrary
 ἐξαγγέλω bring news out ~angel
 εὐάγγελος bringing good news
 ἥδομαι be pleased, enjoy ~hedonism
 θαρσέω be of good heart
 θάρσος boldness, over-boldness
 θνητός mortal ~euthanasia
 κατάγνυμι (ū) break up, shatter
 κατάγω lead down/home; land
 ~demagogue

κατηφέω be dejected
 κατηφής disgraced
 κοῦφος light, nimble
 μέμφομαι blame; reject
 μηχανάομαι build, contrive
 ~mechanism
 οἰκέω inhabit ~economics
 ὅμια -τος (n, 3) eye
 οὐτάω pierce, wound
 παρηγίς cheek
 πορσύνω (ū) prepare (the marital bed)
 στερέω steal, take
 στρέψω turn, veer ~atrophy
 συμφορά collecting; accident,
 misfortune
 σφάλλω overthrow, balk, stagger
 τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
 τύχη fortune, act of a god
 φυγάς -δος (m, 3) exile, refugee
 ~fugitive
 φυγή flight, means of escape ~fugitive

τί σὴν ἔστρεψας ἔμπαλιν παρηΐδα
κούκ ἀσμένη τόνδ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ δέχῃ λόγον;

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. αἰαῖ. ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. τάδ' οὐ ἔνωδὰ τοῖσιν ἔξηγγελμένοις.

ΜΗΔ. αἰαῖ μάλ' αὖθις. ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.. μῶν τιν' ἀγγέλλων τύχην
οὐκ οἶδα, δόξης δ' ἐσφάλην εὐαγγέλου; 1010

ΜΗΔ. ἥγγειλας οἶ ἥγγειλας· οὐ σὲ μέμφομαι..

ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. τί δαὶ κατηφεῖς ὅμιμα καὶ δακρυρροεῖς;

ΜΗΔ. πολλή μ' ἀνάγκη, πρέσβυ· ταῦτα γὰρ θεοὶ¹
κάγὼ κακῶς φρονοῦσ' ἐμηχανησάμην.

ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. θάρσει· κάτει τοι καὶ σὺ πρὸς τέκνων ἔπι. 1015

ΜΗΔ. ἄλλους κατάξω πρόσθεν ἥ τάλαιν' ἐγώ.

ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. οὔτοι μόνη σὺ σῶν ἀπεζύγης τέκνων·
κούφως φέρειν χρὴ θυητὸν ὄντα συμφοράς.

ΜΗΔ. δράσω τάδ'. ἀλλὰ βαῖνε δωμάτων ἔσω

καὶ παισὶ πόρουν' οἴα χρὴ καθ' ἡμέραν. 1020
ω τέκνα τέκνα, σφᾶν μὲν ἔστι δὴ πόλις
καὶ δῶμ', ἐν ω, λιπόντες ἀθλίαν ἐμέ,
οἰκήσετ' αἰεὶ μητρὸς ἐστερημένοι·
ἐγὼ δ' ἐς ἄλλην γαῖαν εῖμι δὴ φυγάς,

τί σὴν ἔστρεψας |back- |cheek
 wards,
 κούκ ἀσμένη τόν |on^{τόν} the contrary |^ἔνοῦ δέχῃ λόγον;

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. |alas. ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. τάδ' οὐ ξυνωδὰ τοῖσιν |bring news out

ΜΗΔ. |alas μάλ' αὖθις. ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.. μῶν τιν^τ |carry |fortune, act
 οὐκ οἰδα, δόξης δ^τ |overthrow, |bringing good news |of a god
 |balk 1010

ΜΗΔ. |carry a mēs-|carry a message, |blame;
 |sage, announce |announce |reject

ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. τί δὰι κατηφεῖς |eye καὶ δακρυρροεῖς;

ΜΗΔ. πολλή μ' ἀνάγκη, πρέσβυτοι ταῦτα γὰρ θεοὶ

κάγὼ κακῶς φρονοῦστο |build, contrive

ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. θάρσει· κάτει τοι καὶ σὺ πρὸς τέκνων ἔτι.

1015

ΜΗΔ. ἄλλους κατάξω πρόσθεν ἥ |wretched, |/ώ.
 |miserable

ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. οὗτοι μόνη σὺ σῶν ἀπεζύγης τέκνων.

ΜΗΔ. |light, φέρειν χρὴ |mortal ὄντα συμφοράς.
 |nimble

ΜΗΔ. |do, accomplish οὐλὰ βαῖνε δωμάτων ἔσω

καὶ παισὶ |prepare οἴα χρὴ καθ' ἡμέραν.

1020

ὦ τέκνα τέκνα, σφῶν μὲν ἔστι δὴ πόλις

καὶ δῶμ', ἐν ὦ, λιπόντες ἀθλίαν ἔμε,

|inhabit αἰεὶ μητρὸς |steal, take

ἔγὼ δ' ἐσ ἄλλην γαῖαν εῖμι δὴ φυγάς,

MEDEA. Ah God!

ATTENDANT. This chimes not with the news I bear.

MEDEA. O God, have mercy!

ATTENDANT. Is some word of wrath

Here hidden that I knew not of? And hath

My hope to give thee joy so cheated me?

MEDEA. Thou givest what thou givest: I blame not thee.

ATTENDANT. Thy brows are all o'ercast: thine eyes are filled...

MEDEA. For bitter need, Old Man! The gods have willed,

And my own evil mind, that this should come.

ATTENDANT. Take heart! Thy sons one day will bring thee home.

MEDEA. Home?... I have others to send home. Woe's me!

ATTENDANT. Be patient. Many a mother before thee

Hath parted from her children. We poor things

Of men must needs endure what fortune brings.

MEDEA. I will endure.—Go thou within, and lay

All ready that my sons may need to-day.

The ATTENDANT goes into the house.

O children, children mine: and you have found

A land and home, where, leaving me disrowned

And desolate, forever you will stay,

Motherless children! And I go my way

To other lands, an exile, ere you bring

Your fruits home, ere I see you prospering

Or know your brides, or deck the bridal bed,

All flowers, and lift your torches overhead.

vocabulary

ἀγάλλω exalt; mp: exult in
 αἰαῖ alas
 ἀλγεινός painful
 ἀλγηδών pain, grief
 ἀνέχω raise; mid: endure, submit
 ἀφοράω look away, at ~panorama
 βίος life ~biology
 βίοτος life; sustenance, chattels
 ~biology
 βιόω live; (mp) make a living ~biology
 γαμήλιος nuptial
 γελάω laugh, smile, laugh at
 γλυκύς sweet, pleasant ~glycerine
 διάγω lead through; pass a time
 ~demagogue
 δράω do, accomplish
 δύστηνος unhappy, miserable
 ἐκτρέφω raise, rear
 ἐπιδέω fasten; lack
 εὐδαιμών blessed with a good genius
 εύνη bed; (pl) anchor stones

ἐφοράω look upon ~panorama
 ζηλωτός enviable
 καταθνήσκω die, be dead ~euthanasia
 καταξιάνω comb, tear, wear away
 λαμπάς -δος (f, 3) torch
 λέκτρον bed ~lie
 λυπρός worthless, wretched
 μοχθέω be afflicted
 οἴχομαι come, go, leave, be gone
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
 πανύστατος last of all
 πόνος toil, suffering ~osteopenia
 προσγελάω smile at
 προσδέρκομαι look at
 στερέω steal, take
 στερρός solid, firm ~stereo
 σχῆμα -τος (n, 3) form, figure
 τόκος childbirth ~oxytocin
 φαιδρός beaming ~photon
 φεῦ exclamation of grief, anger,
 surprise, admiration
 φροντίς -τος (f) thought, care

πρὸν σφῶν ὄνάσθαι κἀπιδεῦν εὐδαιμονας,

1025

πρὸν λέκτρα καὶ γυναικα καὶ γαμηλίους

εὐνὰς ἀγῆλαι λαμπάδας τ' ἀνασχέθεῦν.

ὡ δυστάλαινα τῆς ἐμῆς αὐθαδίας.

ἄλλως ἄρ' ὑμᾶς, ὡς τέκν', ἐξεθρεψάμην,

ἄλλως δ' ἐμόχθουν καὶ κατεξάνθην πόνοις,

1030

στερρὰς ἐνεγκοῦσ' ἐν τόκοις ἀλγηδόνας.

ἢ μήν ποθ' ἡ δύστηνος εἶχον ἐλπίδας

πολλὰς ἐν ὑμῖν, γηροβοσκήσειν τ' ἐμὲ

καὶ κατθανοῦσαν χερσὸν εὖ περιστελεῦν,

ζηλωτὸν ἀνθρώποισι· νῦν δ' ὅλωλε δὴ

1035

γλυκεῖα φροντίς. σφῶν γὰρ ἐστερημένη

λυπρὸν διάξω βίοτον ἀλγεινόν τ' ἐμοί.

ὑμεῖς δὲ μητέρ' οὐκέτ' ὅμμασιν φίλοις

ὄψεσθ', ἐσ ἄλλο σχῆμα' ἀποστάντες βίου.

φεῦ φεῦ· τί προσδέρκεσθέ μ' ὅμμασιν, τέκνα;

1040

τί προσγελάτε τὸν πανύστατον γέλων;

αἰαῖ· τί δράσω; καρδία γὰρ οἴχεται,

γυναικες, ὅμμα φαιδρὸν ὡς εἶδον τέκνων.

πρὸν σφῶν ὄνασθαι κάπιδεῖν |blessed with a
good genius

1025

πρὸν |bed καὶ γυναῖκα καὶ |nuptial

εὐνᾶς |exult in |torch τὸ ἀνασχέθεῖν.

ὦ δυστάλαινα τῆς ἐμῆς αὐθαδίας.

ἄλλως ἄρ' ὑμᾶς, ὦ τέκν', |raise, rear

ἄλλως δ' ἐμόχθοντι καὶ |comb, tear, πόνοις,
wear away

1030

|solid, firm ἡ νεγκοῦσ' ἐν |child- |pain, grief
birth

ἢ μήν ποθ' ἥ |unhappy, εἰχον ἐλπίδας
miserable

πολλὰς ἐν ὑμῖν, γηροβοσκήσειν τὸ ἐμὲ

καὶ κατθανοῦσαν χερσὶν εὖ περιστελεῖν,

|enviable ἀνθρώποισι· νῦν δ' ὅλωλε δὴ

1035

|sweet, |thought, care, ὃν γὰρ |steal, take
pleasant

worthless, ἀξώ |life; sus- |painful
wretched |tenance

ὑμεῖς δὲ μητέρ' οὐκέτ' |eye φίλοις

ὄψεσθ', ἐστὶ ἄλλο |form, ἀποστάντες βίου.
figure

ex- |excla- |look at μ' |eye τέκνα;
cla- |mation

ma- |of grief, τὸν |last of all |laugh, ,
tion |anger, |smile

of |surprise, |grief |admira-τοράσω; καρδία γὰρ οἴχεται,
an- |ception

sur- |prise, |glas-τοικες, |eye |beaming ὡς εἰδον τέκνων.

ad-
mi-
ra-
tion

1040

Oh cursed be mine own hard heart! 'Twas all
In vain, then, that I reared you up, so tall
And fair; in vain I bore you, and was torn
With those long pitiless pains, when you were born.
Ah, wondrous hopes my poor heart had in you,
How you would tend me in mine age, and do
The shroud about me with your own dear hands,
When I lay cold, blessed in all the lands
That knew us. And that gentle thought is dead!
You go, and I live on, to eat the bread
Of long years, to myself most full of pain.
And never your dear eyes, never again,
Shall see your mother, far away being thrown
To other shapes of life... My babes, my own,
Why gaze ye so?— What is it that ye see?—
And laugh with that last laughter?... Woe is me,
What shall I do?
Women, my strength is gone,
Gone like a dream, since once I looked

vocabulary

ἄ ah!

ἀζήμιος not paying, not punished

βούλευμα -τος (n, 3) resolution,

purpose

γέλως laughter

δῆτα emphatic δή

δίς twice

εὐφραίνω gladden ~frenzy

θέμις -τος (f) custom, law

θῦμα -τος (n, 3) victim, sacrifice

καθυβρίζω insult

καίτοι and yet; and in fact; although

καταθνήσκω die, be dead ~euthanasia

λυπέω (v) annoy, distress

μαλθακός soft, timid

μεθίημι let go, cease; (mid) speed off

~jet

μέλω concern, interest, be one's
responsibility

νέρτερος lower, of Hades

ούτάω pierce, wound

όφλισκάνω lose; incur debt

πάντως by all means

παρίημι dangle; pass over, allow ~jet

προσίημι be allowed near

τάλαις wretched, miserable ~talent

τόσος so much, so great

φείδομαι spare, not use/harm ~aphid

χωρέω withdraw, give way to (+dat)

~heir

οὐκ ἀν δυναίμην· χαιρέτω βουλεύματα

τὰ πρόσθεν· ἀξω παιδας ἐκ γαίας ἐμούς.

1045

τί δεῖ με πατέρα τῶνδε τοῖς τούτων κακοῖς

λυποῦσαν αὐτὴν δὶς τόσα κτᾶσθαι κακά;

οὐ δῆτ' ἔγωγε. χαιρέτω βουλεύματα.

καίτοι τί πάσχω; βούλομαι γέλωτ' ὀφλεῦν

ἐχθροὺς μεθεῖσα τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἀζημίους;

1050

τολμητέον τάδ'. ἀλλὰ τῆς ἐμῆς κάκης,

τὸ καὶ προσέσθαι μαλθακοὺς λόγους φρενί.

χωρεῖτε, παιδες, ἐς δόμους. ὅτῳ δὲ μὴ

θέμις παρεῖναι τοῖς ἐμοῖσι θύμασιν,

αὐτῷ μελήσει· χεῖρα δ' οὐ διαφθερῶ.

1055

ἀ ἀ. μὴ δῆτα, θυμέ, μὴ σύ γ' ἐργάσῃ τάδε·

ἔασον αὐτούς, ὥ τάλαν, φεῖσαι τέκνων·

ἐκεῖ μεθ' ἡμῶν ζῶντες εὐφρανοῦσί σε.

μὰ τοὺς παρ' Ἀιδη νερτέρους ἀλάστορας,

οὗτοι ποτ' ἔσται τοῦθ' ὅπως ἐχθροῖς ἐγὼ

1060

παιδας παρήσω τοὺς ἐμοὺς καθυβρίσαι.

πάντως σφ' ἀνάγκη κατθανεῖν· ἐπεὶ δὲ χρή,

οὐκ ἀν δυναίμην· χαιρέτω **resolution,**
purpose
 τὰ πρόσθεν· ἀξω παῖδας ἐκ γαίας ἐμούς.

1045

τί δεῖ με πατέρα τῶνδε τοῖς τούτων κακοῖς

annoy, **αὐτὴν** **twice** so much, so great **ικά;**
distress

οὐ δῆτ' ἔγωγε. χαιρέτω **resolution,**
purpose

and yet; and in **χω;** **βούλομαι** **laughter** **ἰφλεῖν**
fact; although

ἐχθροὺς **let go,** **cease;** **not** **paying,**
speed off **(mid)****not** **paying,**
not punished

τολμητέον τάδ. ἀλλὰ τῆς ἐμῆς κάκης,

1050

τὸ καὶ **be allowed** **soft, timid** **λόγους** **φρενί.**
near

withdraw, **give** **εἰς,** **εἰς** **δόμους.** **ὅτῳ** **δὲ** **μὴ**
way to (+dat)

custom, law **ναι** **τοῖς** **ἐμοῖσι** **victim,**
sacrifice

αὐτῷ **be in/on the** **mind** **οὐ** **διαφθερῶ.**

1055

ἀ ἀ. **μὴ** **emphatic δῆ,** **μὴ** **σύ** **γέ** **ἐργάσῃ** **τάδε.**

ἔασον **αὐτούς,** **ῳ** **wretched** **spare** **τέκνων.**
miserable

ἐκεὶ **μεθ'** **ἡμῶν** **ζῶντες** **gladden** **σε.**

μὰ **τοὺς** **παρ'** **Ἄιδη** **lower, of Hades** **στορας,**

οὗτοι **ποτ'** **ἔσται** **τοῦθ'** **ὅπως** **ἐχθροῖς** **ἔγω**

1060

παιδας **dangle;** **pass** **ἰς** **ἐμοὺς** **insult**
over, allow

by all means **ἀνάγκη** **κατθανεῖν** **ἐπεὶ** **δὲ** **χρή,**

upon

Those shining faces... I can do it not.
Good-bye to all the thoughts that burned so hot
Aforetime! I will take and hide them far,
Far, from men's eyes. Why should I seek a war
So blind: by these babes' wounds to sting again
Their father's heart, and win myself a pain
Twice deeper? Never, never! I forget
Henceforward all I laboured for.

And yet,

What is it with me? Would I be a thing
Mocked at, and leave mine enemies to sting
Unsmitten? It must be. O coward heart,
Ever to harbour such soft words!—Depart
Out of my sight, ye twain.

The CHILDREN go in.

And they whose eyes
Shall hold it sin to share my sacrifice,
On their heads be it! My hand shall swerve not now.
Ah, Ah, thou Wrath within me! Do not thou,
Do not... Down, down, thou tortured thing, and spare
My children! They will dwell with us, aye, there
Far off, and give thee peace.
Too late, too late!
By all Hell's living agonies of hate,
They shall not take my little ones alive
To make their mock with! Howsoe'er I strive

vocabulary

αἴτιος blameworthy; the cause
 ~etiology
 ἀσπάζομαι greet, salute
 ἀφαιρέω take away ~heresy
 βούλευμα -τος (n, 3) resolution,
 purpose
 γλυκύς sweet, pleasant ~glycerine
 δράω do, accomplish
 ἔκφεύγω flee from, escape ~fugitive
 ἔκφύω spring from ~physics
 ἐνθάδε here, hither
 εὐγενής well born
 εὐδαιμονέω be lucky, happy
 ἡδέως pleasantly ~hedonism
 ἡδύς sweet, pleasant ~hedonism
 κάρα (αᾶ) head (n) ~cranium

κράς -τός (f, 3) head
 κρείσσων more powerful; better
 μαλθακός soft, timid
 νύμφη nymph; bride
 πάντως by all means
 πέπλος woman's dress, a folded
 cylinder of cloth
 προσβλέπω look at
 προσβολή application, attack
 σάφα with full understanding
 στέφανος ring
 σχῆμα -τος (n, 3) form, figure
 τλήμων steadfast, enduring ~talent
 τύραννος tyrant
 χωρέω withdraw, give way to (+dat)
 ~heir

ἥμεῖς κτενοῦμεν οἴπερ ἔξεφύσαμεν.

πάντως πέπρακται ταῦτα κούκ ἐκφεύξεται.

καὶ δὴ πὶ κρατὶ στέφανος, ἐν πέπλοισι δὲ

1065

νύμφη τύραννος ὅλλυται, σάφ' οἰδ' ἐγώ.

ἀλλ', εἴμι γὰρ δὴ τλημονεστάτην ὁδόν,

καὶ τούσδε πέμψω τλημονεστέραν ἔτι,

παιᾶς προσειπεῖν βούλομαι.—δότ', ὦ τέκνα,

δότ' ἀσπάσασθαι μητρὶ δεξιὰν χέρα.

1070

ὦ φιλτάτη χείρ, φιλτατον δέ μοι στόμα

καὶ σχῆμα καὶ πρόσωπον εὐγενὲς τέκνων,

εὐδαιμονοῦτον, ἀλλ' ἐκεῖ· τὰ δ' ἐνθάδε

πατὴρ ἀφεῖλετ'. ὦ γλυκεῖα προσβολή,

ὦ μαλθακὸς χρὼς πνεῦμά θ' ἥδιστον τέκνων.

1075

χωρεῖτε χωρεῖτ'· οὐκέτ' εἴμὶ προσβλέπειν

οἴα τε πρὸς ὑμᾶς, ἀλλὰ νικῶμαι κακοῖς.

καὶ μανθάνω μὲν οἶα δρᾶν μέλλω κακά,

θυμὸς δὲ κρείσσων τῶν ἐμῶν βουλευμάτων,

ὅσπερ μεγίστων αἴτιος κακῶν βροτοῖς.

1080

ΧΟΡΟΣ. πολλάκις ἥδη

ἡμεῖς κτενοῦμεν οἴπερ |spring from

by all means'. |ρακται ταῦτα κοὐκ |flee

καὶ δὴ πὶ κρατὶ |ring , ἐν |woman's dress

1065

νύμφη |tyrant ὅλλυται, |clearly οὐδὲ γά. .

ἀλλ', εἴμι γὰρ δὴ |steadfast ὁδόν,

καὶ τούσδε πέμψω |steadfast ἔτι,

παιᾶς προσειπεῖν βούλομαι.— δότ', ὁ τέκνα,

δότ' |greet, salute μητρὶ δεξιὰν χέρα.

1070

ὁ φιλτάτη χείρ, φίλτατον δέ μοι στόμα

καὶ |form, καὶ πρόσωπον |well born ἔκνων,
|figure

|be lucky, happy , ἀλλ' ἐκεῖ· τὰ δὲ |here,
|hither

πατὴρ |take away ὁ |sweet, |application,
|pleasant |attack

ὁ |soft, timid χρὼς πνεῦμά θ' ἥδιστον τέκνων.

1075

|withdraw, withdraw, give τὸν εἰμὶ |look at
give way way to (+dat)
οὐα τε πρὸς ὑμᾶς, ἀλλὰ νικῶμαι κακοῖς.

καὶ μανθάνω μὲν οἶα |do, accomplish ἀκά,

θυμὸς δὲ κρείσσων τῶν ἐμῶν |resolution,
|purpose

οἶσπερ μεγίστων |blameworthy; |βροτοῖς.
the cause

1080

ΧΟΡΟΣ. |often ἔδη

The thing is doomed; it shall not escape now
From being. Aye, the crown is on the brow,
And the robe girt, and in the robe that high
Queen dying.

I know all. Yet... seeing that I
Must go so long a journey, and these twain
A longer yet and darker, I would fain
Speak with them, ere I go.

A handmaid brings the CHILDREN out again.

Come, children; stand
A little from me. There. Reach out your hand,
Your right hand—so—to mother: and good-bye!

She has kept them hitherto at arm's length: but at the touch of their hands, her resolution

breaks down, and she gathers them passionately into her arms.
Oh, darling hand! Oh, darling mouth, and eye,
And royal mien, and bright brave faces clear,
May you be blessed, but not here! What here
Was yours, your father stole... Ah God, the glow
Of cheek on cheek, the tender touch; and Oh,
Sweet scent of childhood... Go! Go!... Am I blind? ...
Mine eyes can see not, when I look to find
Their places. I am broken by the wings
Of evil... Yea, I know to what bad things
I go, but louder than all thought doth cry
Anger, which maketh man's worst misery.

She follows the CHILDREN into the house.

vocabulary

ἀμιλλα conflict

ἀνιαρός (αᾶ) troublesome, tiresome

ἄπειρος untested; infinite

ἀπειροσύνη lack of skill

ἀπέχω ward off, drive off, refrain, be at some distance

βλάστημα shoot; offspring

βλώσκω come, go

γλυκερός sweet, pleasant ~glycerine

εἴτε if, whenever; either/or

έρευνάω hunt for

ἔρπω be able to move ~serpent

εύτυχία good luck, success

ἡδύς sweet, pleasant ~hedonism

θῆλυς female; (rare) abundant ~female

κατατρύχω (v) wear out, deplete

λεπτός thin

μελέτη care; practice

μολίσκω come, go

μοῦσα muse

μόχθος toil

πάμπαν completely

παῦρος few ~paucity

προφέρω bring forth ~bear

σοφία skill; wisdom ~sophistry

τελέθω turn out, come around

~apostle

φυτεύω plant, grow, cause, prepare

~physics

διὰ λεπτοτέρων μύθων ἔμολον
καὶ πρὸς ἀμύλας ἥλθον μείζους
ἢ χρὴ γενεὰν θῆλυν ἐρευνᾶν·

ἀλλὰ γὰρ ἔστιν μούσα καὶ ἡμῖν,
ἢ προσομιλεῖ σοφίας ἔνεκεν·
πάσαισι μὲν οὖ· παῦρον δὲ δὴ
γένος ἐν πολλαῖς εὔροις ἀν ἵσως
κούκ ἀπόμουσον τὸ γυναικῶν.

καί φημι βροτῶν οἴτινές εἰσιν
πάμπαν ἄπειροι μηδὲ ἐφύτευσαν
παιᾶς, προφέρειν εἰς εὐτυχίαν
τῶν γειναμένων.

οἱ μὲν ἄτεκνοι δὶς ἀπειροσύνην
εἴθ' ἡδὺ βροτοῖς εἴτ' ἀνιαρὸν
παιᾶς τελέθουσ' οὐχὶ τυχόντες
πολλῶν μόχθων ἀπέχονται·

οἳσι δὲ τέκνων ἔστιν ἐν οἴκοις
γλυκερὸν βλάστημ', ὁρῶ μελέτη
κατατρυχομένους τὸν ἄπαντα χρόνον,

1085

1090

1095

διὰ |thin μύθων ἔμολον

καὶ πρὸς |conflict ἥλθον μείζους

<i>ἡ χρῆ</i>	birth, race	female; hunt for (rare)
<i>ἀλλὰ γὰρ ἔστι</i>	abun- dant	muse

1085

ἢ προσομιλεῖ σοφίας ἔνεκεν·

πάσαισι μὲν οὐ· |few δὲ δὴ

γένος ἐν πολλαῖς εὗροις ἀν ισως

κούκ ἀπόμουσον τὸ γυναικῶν.

καὶ φημὶ βροτῶν οἵτινές εἰσιν

1090

completely untested; *ɪnθəd'* plant, grow, infinite cause, prepare

παῖδας, [bring forth] *εἰς εὐτυχίαν*

τῶν γειναμένων.

οἱ μὲν ἄτεκνοι δὶ' [lack of skill]

if, sweet	<i>ʃpotoʊɪs</i>	if, troublesome
when- ever;		whenresome ever;
ever;		

ei- ther/or	ei- ther/or
$\pi\alpha\lambda\hat{\alpha}\nu$ toil	ward off, drive off, refrain, be at some distance

1095

οῖσι δὲ τέκνου ἔστιν ἐν οἴκοις

sweet, pleasant | shoot; offspring , *ópω* care; practice

τὸν ἄπαντα χρόνον | wear out, deplete

CHORUS. My thoughts have roamed a cloudy land,
And heard a fierier music fall
Than woman's heart should stir withal:
And yet some Muse majestical,
Unknown, hath hold of woman's hand,
Seeking for Wisdom—not in all:
A feeble seed, a scattered band,
Thou yet shalt find in lonely places,
Not dead amongst us, nor our faces
Turned away from the Muses' call.
And thus my thought would speak: that she
Who ne'er hath borne a child nor known
Is nearer to felicity:
Unlit she goeth and alone,
With little understanding what
A child's touch means of joy or woe,
And many toils she beareth not.
But they within whose garden fair
That gentle plant hath blown, they go
Deep-written all their days with care—
To rear the children, to make fast
Their hold, to win them wealth; and then

vocabulary

ἀδηλός	invisible, unknown	obtain
ἄλις	in plenty; enough ~helix	λύπη distress
ἄνιαρός (αᾶ)	troublesome, tiresome	μοχθέω be afflicted
βίοτος	life; sustenance, chattels	ὁπαδέω follow, attend
~biology		ὁπαδός member of an entourage, bodyguard
δαίμων	-ονος (m, 3) a god, fate, doom	ὁπηδός member of an entourage, bodyguard
~demon		όπόθεν whence
δέρκομαι	see, watch	πάλαι long ago ~paleo
εἴτε	if, whenever; either/or	πάλη wrestling ~Pallas
ἐπιβάλλω	throw upon, head for	πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas
~ballistic		προβαίνω surpass, continue ~basis
ἐρεθίζω	annoy, excite ~Eris	προσμένω await, cleave to
ἡβα	youth ~Hebe	προφέρω bring forth ~bear
θνητός	mortal ~euthanasia	στείχω go, march ~stair
καραδοκέω (α)	wait for the outcome of	τύχη fortune, act of a god
καταίρω	swoop; land	φλαῦρος trifling
καταλέγω	relate in detail, choose; enroll ~legion	φροῦρος fled, vanished
καταράομαι (αᾶα)	curse	χρηστός useful; brave, worthy
κυρέω	come upon, come up against;	

πρῶτον μὲν ὅπως θρέψουσι καλῶς

βίοτόν θ' ὅπόθεν λείψουσι τέκνοις·

εἴτι δ' ἐκ τούτων εἴτ' ἐπὶ φλαύροις

εἴτ' ἐπὶ χρηστοῦς μοχθοῦσι, τόδ' ἐστὶν ἀδηλον.

ἐν δὲ τὸ πάντων λοίσθιον ἥδη

1105

πᾶσιν κατερῶ θνητοῖσι κακόν·

καὶ δὴ γὰρ ἄλις βίοτόν θ' ηὗρον

σῶμά τ' ἐσ ἥβην ἥλυθε τέκνων

χρηστοί τ' ἐγένοντε· εἰ δὲ κυρήσαι

δαίμων οὔτως, φροῦδος ἐσ Ἀιδην

1110

θάνατος προφέρων σώματα τέκνων.

πῶς οὖν λύει πρὸς τοῖς ἄλλοις

τήνδ' εἴτι λύπην ἀνιαροτάτην

παιδῶν ἔνεκεν

θνητοῖσι θεοὺς ἐπιβάλλειν;

1115

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. φίλαι, πάλαι τοι προσμένουσα τὴν τύχην

καραδοκῶ τάκειθεν οἵ προβήσεται.

καὶ δὴ δέδορκα τόνδε τῶν Ἰάσονος

στείχοντ' ὀπαδῶν· πνεῦμα δ' ἡρεθισμένον

πρῶτον μὲν ὅπως θρέψουσι καλῶς

life; suste-| whence λεύψουσι τέκνοις·
nance

ἔτι δ' ἐκ τούτων if, when-| trifling
ever; ei-
ther/or
if, when-ever; *τοῖς* μοχθοῦσι, τόδ' ἐστὶν | invisible,
either/or | unknown

ἐν δὲ τὸ πάντων λοίσθιον ἥδη

1105

πᾶσιν κατερῶ | mortal κακόν·

καὶ δὴ γὰρ in | life; suste-nañce ν
plenty;
σῶμά τ' ἐσ ηβῆν ηλυθε τέκνων

useful; brave, | éνοντ· εἰ δὲ | come upon
worthy

| a god, fate, "doom | fled, ἐσ "Αιδην
vanished

θάνατος | bring forth σώματα τέκνων.

1110

πῶς οὖν λύει πρὸς τοῖς ἄλλοις

τήνδ' ἔτι | distress | troublesome,
tiresome

παιδῶν ἔνεκεν

| mortal θεοὺς | throw upon ,

1115

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. φίλαι, πάλαι τοι | await, cleave to τῆν | fortune, act
of a god

wait for the τάκειθεν οἱ | surpass
outcome of

καὶ δὴ | see, watch ὅνδε τῶν Ἰάσονος

| go, march ὀπαδῶν· πνεῦμα δ' | annoy, excite

Much darkness, if the seed at last
Bear fruit in good or evil men!
And one thing at the end of all
Abideth, that which all men dread:
The wealth is won, the limbs are bred
To manhood, and the heart withal
Honest: and, lo, where Fortune smiled,
Some change, and what hath fallen? Hark!'
Tis death slow winging to the dark,
And in his arms what was thy child.
What therefore doth it bring of gain
To man, whose cup stood full before,
That God should send this one thing more
Of hunger and of dread, a door
Set wide to every wind of pain?

MEDEA comes out alone from the house.

MEDEA. Friends, this long hour I wait on Fortune's eyes,
And strain my senses in a hot surmise
What passeth on that hill.—Ha! even now

vocabulary

ἀγγέλω carry a message, announce
 ~angel
 ἀκίνω disrespect, mutilate
 ἀπήνη wagon
 ἄρτιος suitable
 γονεύς -ος (m) parent
 γονή progeny ~genus
 δείκνυμι (ü) show, point out
 δίπτυχος twice-folded
 δίς twice
 ἑστία hearth ~Hestia
 ἑστιάω give a feast
 εὐεργέτης -ου (m, 1) benefactor
 ἥδοιμι be pleased, enjoy ~hedonism
 καινός new, fresh, strange
 κάμνω toil, be tired, acquire by toil; be troubled; be sick
 κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid
 κόρυς helmet

μαίνομαι be berserk ~maenad
 νυμφικός bridal
 ὁρθός upright, straight; correct, just
 ~orthogonal
 ὅχος pl: carrying thing, chariot,
 holding place ~wagon
 παράνομος lawless, unlawful
 παρέρχομαι pass, escape
 σπέρχω set in rapid motion
 τέρπω gratify, satiate, comfort
 ~terpsichorean
 τοιόσδε such
 τόσος so much, so great
 τύραννος tyrant
 φαρμακεύς -ος (m) poisoner, sorcerer
 φάρμακον drug, potion ~pharmacy
 φυγή flight, means of escape ~fugitive
 φῦσα bellows
 φυσάω (ü) blow, puff, blow out
 φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics

δείκνυσιν ὡς τι καινὸν ἀγγελεῖ κακόν.

1120

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ. Ὡ δεινὸν ἔργον παρανόμως εἰργασμένη,

Μήδεια, φεῦγε φεῦγε, μήτε ναῦαν

λιποῦσ' ἀπήνην μήτ' ὅχον πεδοστιβῆ.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. τί δ' ἄξιόν μοι τῆσδε τυγχάνει φυγῆς;

ΑΓΓ. ὅλωλεν ἡ τύραννος ἀρτίως κόρη

1125

Κρέων θ' ὁ φύσας φαρμάκων τῶν σῶν ὕπο.

ΜΗΔ. κάλλιστον εἶπας μῦθον, ἐν δ' εὐεργέταις

τὸ λοιπὸν ἥδη καὶ φίλοις ἐμοῖς ἔσῃ.

ΑΓΓ. τί φῆς; φρονεῖς μὲν ὀρθὰ κού μαίνη, γύναι,

ἥτις, τυράννων ἐστίαν ἡκισμένη,

1130

χαίρεις κλύνουσα κού φοβῆ τὰ τοιάδε;

ΜΗΔ. ἔχω τι κάγω τοῖς γε σοῖς ἐναντίον

λόγοισιν εἰπεῦν· ἀλλὰ μὴ σπέρχου, φίλος,

λέξον δέ· πῶς ὥλοντο; δὶς τόσον γὰρ ἂν

τέρψειας ἡμᾶς, εἰ τεθνᾶσι παγκάκως.

1135

ΑΓΓ. ἐπεὶ τέκνων σῶν ἥλθε δίπτυχος γονὴ

σὺν πατρί, καὶ παρῆλθε νυμφικοὺς δόμους,

ἥσθημεν οἴπερ σοῖς ἐκάμνομεν κακοῖς

show *ω̄ς τι* |new, carry a message, '.

fresh, announce

1120

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ. ὁ δεινὸν *εργον* |lawless, *εἰργασμένη*,
unlawful

Μήδεια, φεῦγε φεῦγε, μήτε ναῖαν

λιποῦσ' |wagon μῆτ' |chariot εδοστιβῆ.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. τί δ' ἄξιόν μοι τῆσδε τυγχάνει |flight, means
of escape

ΑΓΓ. ὅλωλεν ἡ |tyrant |suitable |helmet

1125

Κρέων θ' ὁ φύσας φαρμάκων τῶν σῶν ὅπο.

ΜΗΔ. κάλλιστον εἶπας μῦθον, ἐν δ' |benefactor

τὸ λοιπὸν ἥδη καὶ φίλοις ἐμοῖς ἔση.

ΑΓΓ. τί φῆς; φρονεῖς μὲν |upright, straight;, γύναι,
correct, just

ἡτις, |tyrant ἐστίαν |disrespect, ,
mutilate

1130

χαίρεις |hear κού' φοβῆ τὰ |such ,

ΜΗΔ. ἔχω τι κάγὼ τοῖς γε σοῖς ἐναντίον

λόγοισιν εἰπεῖν· ἀλλὰ μὴ |set in rapid ὡ̄μον

λέξον δέ· πῶς ὥλοντο; |twice so much, so great

gratify, sati-_{ii}μᾶς, εἰ τεθνᾶσι παγκάκως.
ate, comfort

1135

ΑΓΓ. ἐπεὶ τέκνων σῶν ἥλθε |twice-folded ονή

σὺν πατρέ, καὶ |pass, |bridal δόμους,
escape

|be pleased, enjoy *τοῦς* |toil, acquire, κακοῖς
|be tired

There comes... 'tis one of Jason's men, I trow.
His wild-perturbed breath doth warrant me
The tidings of some strange calamity.

Enter MESSENGER.

MESSENGER. O dire and ghastly deed! Get thee away,
Medeal! Fly! Nor let behind thee stay
One chariot's wing, one keel that sweeps the seas...

MEDEA. And what hath chanced, to cause such flights as these?

MESSENGER. The maiden princess lieth—and her sire,
The king—both murdered by thy poison-fire.

MEDEA. Most happy tiding! Which thy name prefers
Henceforth among my friends and well-wishers.

MESSENGER. What say'st thou? Woman, is thy mind within
Clear, and not raving? Thou art found in sin
Most bloody wrought against the king's high head,
And laughest at the tale, and hast no dread?

MEDEA. I have words also that could answer well
Thy word. But take thine ease, good friend, and tell,
How died they? Hath it been a very foul
Death, prithee? That were comfort to my soul.

MESSENGER. When thy two children, hand in hand entwined,
Came with their father, and passed on to find
The new-made bridal rooms, Oh, we were glad,
We thralls, who ever loved thee well, and had
Grief in thy grief. And straight there passed a

vocabulary

αἰνέω praise, assent, acquiesce in
 ἀνέχω raise; mid: endure, submit
 ἀποστρέφω turn back, turn off course
 ~atrophy
 ἀφαιρέω take away ~heresy
 δέσποινα lady
 δημώς slave ~tame
 δυσμενής hostile, enemy
 εἰσείδω look at, behold ~wit
 εἴσοδος (f) entrance ~odometer
 εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with respect
 ~panorama
 εἰσπίπτω fall into, rush in
 ἔμπαλιν backwards, on the contrary
 ἥδονή pleasure
 καλύπτω to cover with, hide
 ~apocalypse
 κάρο -ός (n) useless bit; form of κατά
 κύνεος doglike, shameless ~hound
 κυνέω kiss

λευκός white ~light
 νεᾶνις -δος (f) young woman ~neon
 νεῖκος -εος (n, 3) quarrel, battle
 ξανθός yellow
 ὅμματος (n, 3) eye
 ὀργή urge, impulse; anger
 οὖς οὖστος (n) ear
 παραιτέομαι entreat; beg for; decline
 παρηγίς cheek
 πόσις -ος (m) (m) husband, master; (f)
 a drink ~potent
 πρόθυμος (v) willing, eager ~fume
 σπένδω libate; (mid) make a treaty
 ~spontaneous
 στέγη roof, ceiling, chamber
 στρέφω turn, veer ~atrophy
 φυγάς -δος (m, 3) exile, refugee
 ~fugitive
 φυγή flight, means of escape ~fugitive
 χόλος gall, anger, wrath, bitterness
 ~choler

δμωες· δι' ὥτων δ' εὐθὺς ἦν πολὺς λόγος
σὲ καὶ πόσιν σὸν νεῦκος ἐσπεῖσθαι τὸ πρύν.

1140

κυνεῖ δ' ὁ μέν τις χεῖρ', ὁ δὲ ξανθὸν κάρα
παιδων· ἐγὼ δὲ καντὸς ἥδονῆς ὅπο
στέγας γυναικῶν σὺν τέκνοις ἀμ' ἐσπόμην.

δέσποινα δ' ἦν νῦν ἀντὶ σοῦ θαυμάζομεν,
πρὶν μὲν τέκνων σῶν εἰσιδεῖν ξυνωρίδα,
πρόθυμον εἶχ' ὀφθαλμὸν εἰς Ἱάσονα·

1145

ἐπειτα μέντοι προύκαλύψατ' ὅμματα
λευκήν τ' ἀπέστρεψ' ἔμπαλιν παρηΐδα,
παιδων μυσαχθεῖσ' εἰσόδους· πόσις δὲ σὸς

όργας τ' ἀφῆρει καὶ χόλον νεάνιδος
λέγων τάδ· Οὐ μὴ δυσμενὴς ἐσῃ φίλοις,
παύσῃ δὲ θυμοῦ καὶ πάλιν στρέψεις κάρα,
φῖλους νομίζουσ' οὕσπερ ἀν πόσις σέθεν,

δέξῃ δὲ δῶρα καὶ παραιτήσῃ πατρὸς
φυγὰς ἀφεῖναι παισὶ τοῖσδ', ἐμὴν χάριν;
ἢ δ' ὡς ἐσεῖδε κόσμον, οὐκ ἡνέσχετο,
ἀλλ' ἔνεσ' ἀνδρὶ πάντα, καὶ πρὶν ἐκ δόμων

1150

1155

slave δι' |ear δ' εὐθὺς ἦν πολὺς λόγος

σὲ καὶ |(m) hus-|quarrel, ὅπεισθαι τὸ πρύν.
band, |battle

1140

κυνέι δὲ |(f) a drink χῖψ', ὁ δὲ |yellow |useless bit;
master; |form of κατά

παιδῶν* ἐγὼ δὲ καυτὸς |pleasure ἵπο

roof, ceiling, τικῶν σὺν τέκνοις ἄμ' ἐσπόμην.
chamber

|lady δ' ἦν νῦν ἀντὶ σοῦ θαυμάζομεν,

πρὸν μὲν τέκνων σῶν εἰσιδεῖν ξυνωρίδα,

1145

willing, εἰχ' ὁφθαλμὸν εἰς Ἰάσονα.
eager

ἐπειτα μέντοι |cover, hide |eye

|white τ' ἀπέστρεψ' |back- |cheek
wards,

παιδῶν μυσαχθεῖσ' |on |entrance the |(m) husband, mas-
ter; (f) a drink

urge, |take away |anger |young
impulse; |woman

1150

λεγῶν τάδε. Οὐ μὴ |hostile, ἐση φίλοις,
enemy

παύσῃ δὲ θυμοῦ καὶ πάλιν στρέψεις |useless bit;
form of κατά

φίλους νομίζουσ' οὕσπερ ἀν' |(m) husband, mas-
ter; (f) a drink

δέξῃ δὲ δῶρα καὶ |παραιτέομαι?: |entreat; beg for; decline; or
παραιτέομαι?: entreat; beg for; decline

φυγὰς ἀφεῖναι παισὶ τοῖσδ', ἐμὴν χάριν;

1155

ἡ δ' ὡς ἐσεῖδε κόσμον, οὐκ |raise;
endure

ἀλλ' |praise, ἵνδρὶ πάντα, καὶ πρὸν ἐκ δόμων
assent

word

From ear to ear, that thou and thy false lord
Had poured peace offering upon wrath foregone.
A right glad welcome gave we them, and one
Kissed the small hand, and one the shining hair:
Myself, for very joy, I followed where
The women's rooms are. There our mistress... she
Whom now we name so... thinking not to see
Thy little pair, with glad and eager brow
Sate waiting Jason. Then she saw, and slow
Shrouded her eyes, and backward turned again,
Sick that thy children should come near her. Then
Thy husband quick went forward, to entreat
The young maid's fitful wrath. "Thou will not meet
Love's coming with unkindness? Nay, refrain
Thy suddenness, and turn thy face again,
Holding as friends all that to me are dear,
Thine husband. And accept these robes they bear
As gifts: and beg thy father to unmake
His doom of exile on them—for my sake."
When once she saw the raiment, she could still
Her joy no more, but gave him

vocabulary

ἀβρός graceful, delicate, pretty
 ἀλλάσσω trade, transform
 ἀμπέχω cover ~ambient
 ἀνοιολύζω cry out
 ἀντίμολπος sounding instead of
 ἀφρός foam
 βλώσκω come, go
 βόστρυχος curl, lock
 γεραιός old ~geriatric
 διέρχομαι pierce, traverse
 ἐμπίπτω fall into; attack ~petal
 ἔνειμι be in ~ion
 ἐνεός speechless, dumbfounded
 ἐνθένδε hence
 ἔρπω be able to move ~serpent
 θέαμα -τος (ἀ, n, 3) sight, spectacle
 θρόνος seat, chair, throne ~throne
 κάτοπτρον mirror
 κόμη hair ~comet
 κῶλον limb
 λαμπρός brilliant ~lamp
 λευκός white ~light
 μόλις with difficulty, barely
 μολίσκω come, go

δλολυγή (ο) women's ecstatic shout
 ὅμιμα -τος (n, 3) eye
 ὁργή urge, impulse; anger
 ὁρθός upright, straight; correct, just
 ~orthogonal
 πάλλευκος all white
 πέπλος woman's dress, a folded
 cylinder of cloth
 ποικίλος ornamented; various
 προσγελάω smile at
 πρόσπολος servant, attendant
 σκοπέω behold, consider
 στέγη roof, ceiling, chamber
 στέφανος ring
 στρέψω turn, veer ~atrophy
 σχηματίζω pose, form, dress
 τένων -οντος (m, 3) tendon, sinew
 ~tendon
 τρέμω tremble in fear ~tremble
 ὑπερχαίρω rejoice greatly at
 φθάνω (ἀ) do first, outstrip
 χαμαί on/near the ground
 χωρέω withdraw, give way to (+dat)
 ~heir

μακρὰν ἀπεῖναι πατέρα καὶ παῖδας, σέθεν

λαβοῦσα πέπλους ποικίλους ἡμπέσχετο,

χρυσοῦν τε θεῖσα στέφανον ἀμφὶ βοστρύχοις

1160

λαμπρῷ κατόπτρῳ σχηματίζεται κόμην,

ἄψυχον εἰκὼν προσγελῶσα σώματος.

καὶ πειτ' ἀναστᾶσ' ἐκ θρόνων διέρχεται

στέγας, ἀβρὸν βαίνοντα παλλεύκω ποδί,

δώροις ὑπερχαίρουσα, πολλὰ πολλάκις

1165

τένοντ' ἐς ὄρθὸν ὅμμασι σκοπουμένη.

τούνθένδε μέντοι δεινὸν ἦν θέαμ' ἵδεῖν·

χροιὰν γὰρ ἀλλάξασα λεχρία πάλιν

χωρεῖ τρέμουσα κῶλα καὶ μόλις φθάνει

θρόνοισιν ἐμπεσοῦσα μὴ χαμάλ πεσεῖν.

1170

καί τις γεραιὰ προσπόλων, δόξασά που

ἢ Πανὸς ὄργας ἢ τινὸς θεῶν μολεῖν,

ἀνωλόλυξε, πρών γ' ὄρῷ διὰ στόμα

χωροῦντα λευκὸν ἀφρόν, ὅμμάτων τ' ἄπο

κόρας στρέφουσαν, αἷμά τ' οὐκ ἐνὸν χροῖ·

1175

εἶτ' ἀντίμολπον ἥκεν ὀλολυγῆς μέγαν

μακρὰν ἀπέναι πατέρα καὶ παῖδας, σέθεν

λαβοῦσα | woman's | ornamented | cover
 | dress

1160

λαμπρῷ |mirror |pose, form, dress|hair

ἀψυχον εἰκὼν |smile at σώματος.

κάπειτ' ἀναστᾶσ' ἐκ θρόνων διέρχεται

roof, graceful, delicate, all white ποδί,
ceiling, pretty
chamber οώροις rejoice greatly at, πολλὰ πολλάκις

1165

tendon, ἐσ ὄρθὸν | eye σκοπουμένη.
sinew

|hence μέντοι δεινὸν ἥν |sight, ^{as} *hīn*
spectacle

χροιὰν γὰρ | trade,
transform *λεχρία πάλιν*

θρόνοισιν [fall into; attack] [on the ground]

1170

kaī tis | old servant, attendant , δόξασά που

ἢ Πανὸς ὄργας ἢ τινὸς θεῶν μολεῖν,

ἀνωλόλυξε, πρίν γ' ὁρᾶ διὰ στόμα

χωροῦντα λευκὸν |foam |, |eye τ' ἄπο

κόρας |turn , αἴμα τ' οὐκ ἐνὸν χροῖ·

1175

all his will.

And almost ere the father and the two
Children were gone from out the room, she drew
The flowered garments forth, and sate her down
To her arraying: bound the golden crown
Through her long curls, and in a mirror fair
Arranged their separate clusters, smiling there
At the dead self that faced her. Then aside
She pushed her seat, and paced those chambers wide
Alone, her white foot poising delicately—
So passing joyful in those gifts was she!—
And many a time would pause, straight-limbed, and wheel
Her head to watch the long fold to her heel
Sweeping. And then came something strange. Her cheek
Seemed pale, and back with crooked steps and weak
Groping of arms she walked, and scarcely found
Her old seat, that she fell not to the ground.
Among the handmaids was a woman old
And grey, who deemed, I think, that Pan had hold
Upon her, or some spirit, and raised a keen
Awakening shout; till through her lips was seen
A white foam crawling, and her eyeballs back
Twisted, and all her face dead pale for lack
Of life: and while that old dame called, the cry

vocabulary

ἄλλοσε elsewhere ~alien
 ἄλλοτε at another time ~alien
 ἄναυδος unable to speak ~Theravada
 ἀνέλκω draw up, back
 ἀπτω set on fire; attach; mid: touch, seize ~haptic
 ἀρτιος suitable
 δάπτω devour
 διπλός double, overlapping
 δίς twice
 δρόμος running, racing ground
 ~hippodrome
 δυσδαιμων unlucky, unhappy
 δώρημα -τος (n, 3) gift
 ἐπιστρατεύω march against
 θαυμαστός wonderful; admirable
 θρόνος seat, chair, throne ~throne
 κάρα (αα) head (n) ~cranium
 κόμη hair ~comet
 κράς -τος (f, 3) head
 κρέας -ως (n) meat ~creatine
 κτυπέω crash
 κωκυτός (υ) lamentation
 κῶλον limb
 λάμπω shine ~lamp
 λεπτός thin

μύω close
 νᾶμα a flow
 νύμφα nymph; bride
 ὅμιλος -τος (n, 3) eye
 οῦδας -εος (n, 3) ground, floor
 πέπλος woman's dress, a folded cylinder of cloth
 πῆμα -τος (n, 3) woe, bane ~penury
 πίτνω poetic for πίπτω
 πλόκος lock of hair; head-wreath
 πόσις -ος (m) (m) husband, master; (f) a drink ~potent
 πυκνός dense, frequent; shrewd
 πυρόω burn something
 ρίπτω hurl
 σείω shake ~seismic
 στέγη roof, ceiling, chamber
 στενάζω sigh, groan
 στέφανος ring
 συμφορά collecting; accident, misfortune
 τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
 τέρμων boundary
 τόσος so much, so great
 χαίτη lock of hair, mane
 χρυσός (υ) gold

κωκυτόν. εὐθὺς δ' ἦ μὲν ἐς πατρὸς δόμους

ῶρμησεν, ἦ δὲ πρὸς τὸν ἀρτίως πόσιν

φράσουσα νύμφης συμφοράν· ἄπασα δὲ

στέγη πυκνοῖσιν ἐκτύπει δρομῆμασιν.

1180

ἢδη δ' ἀνέλκων κῶλον ἔκπλεθρον δρόμου

ταχὺς βαδιστὴς τερμόνων ἀν ἥπτετο,

ἢ δ' ἐξ ἀναύδουν καὶ μύσαντος ὅμματος

δεινὸν στενάξασ' ἡ τάλαιν' ἥγείρετο.

διπλοῦν γὰρ αὐτῇ πῆμ' ἐπεστρατεύετο.

1185

χρυσοῦς μὲν ἀμφὶ κρατὶ κείμενος πλόκος

θαυμαστὸν ἵει νᾶμα παμφάγου πυρός,

πέπλοι δὲ λεπτοί, σῶν τέκνων δωρήματα,

λεπτὴν ἔδαπτον σάρκα τῆς δυσδαιμονος.

φεύγει δ' ἀναστᾶσ' ἐκ θρόνων πυρουμένη,

1190

σείουσα χαίτην κράτα τ' ἄλλοτ' ἄλλοσε,

ρῆψαι θέλουσα στέφανον· ἀλλ' ἀραρότως

σύνδεσμα χρυσὸς εἰχε, πῦρ δ', ἐπεὶ κόμην

ἔσεισε, μᾶλλον δὶς τόσως ἐλάμπετο.

πίτνει δ' ἐς οὐδας συμφορᾶς νικωμένη,

lamentation *νθὺς δ' ἦ μὲν ἐς πατρὸς δόμους*

ῶρμησεν, ἦ δὲ πρὸς τὸν |suitable πόσιν

φράσουσα νύμφης συμφοράν· ἄπασα δὲ

|roof, ceiling, oīσιν |crash δρομήμασιν.

1180

ἡδη δ' |draw up, limb ἔκπλεθρον δρόμου

ταχὺς βαδιστὴς |boundary ἀν ἥπτετο,

ἦ δ' ἐξ |unable to speak|close |eye

δεινὸν |sigh, groan ἦ |wretched, γείρετο.

διπλοῦν γάρ αὐτῇ πῆμ' |march against

1185

χρυσοῦς μὲν ἀμφὶ κρατὶ κείμενος |lock of hair;

|head-wreath

wonderful; |ει |a flow παμφάγου πυρός,

|admirable |woman's dress τοί, σῶν τέκνων |gift

λεπτὴν |devour σάρκα τῆς |unlucky,

|unhappy

φεύγει δ' ἀναστᾶσ' ἐκ θρόνων |burn something

1190

|shake |lock of hair, mane ἄλλοτ' |elsewhere

ρῦψαι θέλουσα |ring ἀλλ' ἀραρότως

σύνδεσμα χρυσὸς εἰχε, πῦρ δ', ἐπεὶ |hair

|shake, μᾶλλον |twice ὥσως ἐλάμπετο.

|poetic |for ground, υμφορᾶ νικωμένη,

|πίπτω |floor

Turned strangely to its opposite, to die
Sobbing. Oh, swiftly then one woman flew
To seek her father's rooms, one for the new
Bridegroom, to tell the tale. And all the place
Was loud with hurrying feet.

So long a space
As a swift walker on a measured way
Would pace a furlong's course in, there she lay
Speechless, with veiled lids. Then wide her eyes
She oped, and wildly, as she strove to rise,
Shrieked: for two diverse waves upon her rolled
Of stabbing death. The carcanet of gold
That gripped her brow was molten in a dire
And wondrous river of devouring fire.
And those fine robes, the gift thy children gave—
God's mercy!—everywhere did lap and lave
The delicate flesh; till up she sprang, and fled,
A fiery pillar, shaking locks and head
This way and that, seeking to cast the crown
Somewhere away. But like a thing nailed down
The burning gold held fast the anadem,
And through her locks, the more she scattered them,
Came fire the fiercer, till to earth she fell
A thing—save to her sire—scarce

vocabulary

ἀγνωσία ignorance
 ἄδηλος invisible, unknown
 ἄκρον crest, extremity ~acute
 ἄκρος at the edge, extreme ~acute
 ἀπορρέω flow, fall off
 ἀτιμος (i) without honor
 ἄφνω suddenly, surprisingly
 γεραιός old ~geriatric
 γναθικός lower jaw
 γοάω weep, mourn
 γρίος crying, wailing
 δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate, doom
 ~demon
 δάκρυ -ους (n, 3) tear
 δάφνη laurel
 δέμας -ως (n) body; (+gen.) like
 δῆλος visible, conspicuous
 διδάσκαλος teacher
 δυσμαθής slow at learning; hard to learn
 δύστηνος unhappy, miserable
 ἐξανίστημι raise, bring/send out
 ἔρνος -εος (n, 3) sapling
 εὐφυής well-developed ~physics
 θέαμα -τος (άα, n, 3) sight, spectacle
 θιγγάνω touch
 θρῆνος dirge ~threnody
 κάρα (άα) head (n) ~cranium
 κάρτα very much ~κράτος

κατάστασις -εως (f) establishment
 κισσός ivy
 κράς -τός (f, 3) head
 κύνεος doglike, shameless ~hound
 κυνέω kiss
 λεπτός thin
 οἴμοι woe is me
 οἰμώζω wail
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
 ὁρφανός orphan
 δόστεόν bone ~osteoporosis
 πάλαισμα bout, struggle
 πέπλος woman's dress, a folded cylinder of cloth
 περιπτύσσω enfold
 προσέρχομαι come forward, surrender, come in
 προσέχω direct to; think about
 προσπίτνω poetic for προσπίπτω
 στάζω dribble, infuse
 συμφορά collecting; accident, misfortune
 συνθηγήσκω die together
 τλήμων steadfast, enduring ~talent
 τοιόδε such
 τύμβος grave mound ~tomb
 τύχη fortune, act of a god
 φαρμακεύς -ος (m) poisoner, sorcerer
 φάρμακον drug, potion ~pharmacy
 χορήζω need ~chresard

πλὴν τῷ τεκόντι κάρτα δυσμαθὴς ἴδεῖν·

οὕτ' ὁμιάτων γὰρ δῆλος ἦν κατάστασις

οὕτ' εὐφυὲς πρόσωπον, αἷμα δὲ ἐξ ἄκρου

ἔσταζε κρατὸς συμπεφυρμένον πυρί,

σάρκες δὲ ἀπ' ὁστέων ὥστε πεύκινον δάκρυ

1200

γναθοῖς ἀδήλοις φαρμάκων ἀπέρρεον,

δεινὸν θέαμα· πᾶσι δὲ ἦν φόβος θιγεῖν

νεκροῦ· τύχην γὰρ εἴχομεν διδάσκαλον.

πατὴρ δὲ ὁ τλήμων συμφορᾶς ἀγνωσίᾳ

ἄφνω προσέλθὼν δῶμα προσπίτνει νεκρῷ.

1205

ῷμωξε δὲ εὐθύς, καὶ περιπτύξας χέρας

κυνεῖ προσανδῶν τοιάδε· Ὡ δύστηνε παῖ,

τίς σ' ὁδὸς ἀτύμως δαιμόνων ἀπώλεσε;

τίς τὸν γέροντα τύμβον ὄρφανὸν σέθεν

τίθησιν; οἴμοι, συνθάνοιμί σοι, τέκνον.

1210

ἐπεὶ δὲ θρήνων καὶ γόων ἐπαύσατο,

χρῆζων γεραιὸν ἐξαναστῆσαι δέμας

προσέίχεθ' ὥστε κισσὸς ἔρνεσιν δάφνης

λεπτοῖσι πέπλοις, δεινὰ δὲ ἦν παλαιόσματα·

πλήν τῷ τεκόντι |very slow at learning;
much hard to learn

οὐτὸς |eye γὰρ δῆλος ἦν |establishment

οὐτὸς |well-developed πον, αἷμα δ' ἐξ ἄκρου

|dribble, κρατὸς συμπεφυρμένον πυρί,
infuse

σάρκες δ' ἀπ' ὀστέων ὥστε πεύκινον δάκρυ

1200

|lower jaw ἀδήλοις φαρμάκων |flow, fall off

δεινὸν |sight, τὰς δ' ἦν φόβος |touch
spectacle

νεκροῦ τύχην γὰρ εἴχομεν διδάσκαλον.

πατήρ δ' ὁ |steadfast συμφορᾶς |ignorance

|suddenly, ελθὼν δῶμα προσπίτνει νεκρῷ.
surprisingly

|wail δ' εὐθύς, καὶ |enfold χέρας

κυνέι προσανδῶν τοιάδ'· Ὡ |unhappy, ταῦ,
miserable

τίς σ' ὥδ' |without δαιμόνων ἀπώλεσε;
honor

τίς τὸν γέροντα |grave |orphan σέθεν
mound

τίθησιν; |woe is |die together σοι, τέκνον.

1210

ἐπεὶ δὲ |dirge καὶ γόων ἐπαύσατο,

|need γεραιὸν |raise, bring/send ἄμας
|out

προσείχεθ' ὥστε |ivy |sapling |laurel

|thin |woman's dress ἢ δ' ἦν |about, struggle

nameable,
And strove no more. That cheek of royal mien,
Where was it—or the place where eyes had been?
Only from crown and temples came faint blood
Shot through with fire. The very flesh, it stood
Out from the bones, as from a wounded pine
The gum starts, where those gnawing poisons fine
Bit in the dark—a ghastly sight! And touch
The dead we durst not. We had seen too much.
But that poor father, knowing not, had sped,
Swift to his daughter's room, and there the dead
Lay at his feet. He knelt, and groaning low,
Folded her in his arms, and kissed her: “Oh,
Unhappy child, what thing unnatural hath
So hideously undone thee? Or what wrath
Of gods, to make this old grey sepulchre
Childless of thee? Would God but lay me there
To die with thee, my daughter!” So he cried.
But after, when he stayed from tears, and tried
To uplift his old bent frame, lo, in the folds
Of those fine robes it held, as ivy holds
Strangling among your laurel boughs. Oh, then

vocabulary

ἀποσβέννυμι (ū) extinguish	θνητός mortal ~euthanasia
ἀποστροφή turning back, away	οἰκτείρω pity
γεραιός old ~geriatric	ὄλβος happiness, wealth
γόνυ γονύς (n, 3) knee ~polygon	όστεον bone ~osteoporosis
δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate, doom ~demon	όφλισκάνω lose; incur debt
δάκρυον tear	πέλας near, close
δύσμορος ill-fated	ποθεινός longed for
ἐκποδών out of the way	σκιά shadow ~shadow
ἔνδικος (persons, things) just	σοφός skilled, clever, wise
ἐξανίστημι raise, bring/send out	σπαράσσω tear, rend
ἐπιρρέω flow over ~rheostat	συμφορά collecting; accident, misfortune
εὐδαίμων blessed with a good genius	τλήμων steadfast, enduring ~talent
εὐτυχής fortunate	τρέω flee in fear ~tremor
ζημία loss, penalty ~zeal	ὑπέρτερος superior, victorious

ὅ μὲν γὰρ ἥθελ’ ἐξαναστῆσαι γόνυ,
ἢ δ’ ἀντελάζυτ’. εἰ δὲ πρὸς βίαν ἄγοι,
σάρκας γεραιὰς ἐσπάρασσ’ ἀπ’ ὀστέων.

χρόνῳ δ’ ἀπέσβη καὶ μεθῆχ’ ὁ δύσμορος
ψυχήν· κακοῦ γὰρ οὐκέτ’ ἦν ὑπέρτερος.

κεῦνται δὲ νεκροὶ παῖς τε καὶ γέρων πατὴρ

πέλας, ποθεινὴ δακρύοισι συμφορά.

καί μοι τὸ μὲν σὸν ἐκποδῶν ἔστω λόγου·

γνώσῃ γὰρ αὐτὴν ζημίας ἀποστροφήν.

τὰ θνητὰ δ’ οὐ νῦν πρῶτον ἡγοῦμαι σκιάν,

οὐδ’ ἀν τρέσας εἴποιμι τοὺς σοφοὺς βροτῶν

δοκοῦντας εἶναι καὶ μεριμνητὰς λόγων

τούτους μεγίστην ζημίαν ὀφλισκάνειν.

θνητῶν γὰρ οὐδείς ἔστιν εὐδαιμων ἀνήρ·

ὅλβου δ’ ἐπιρρυέντος εὐτυχέστερος

ἄλλου γένοιτ’ ἀν ἄλλος, εὐδαιμων δ’ ἀν οὐ.

1215

1220

1225

1230

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἔοιχ’ ὁ δαιμων πολλὰ τῆδ’ ἐν ἡμέρᾳ

κακὰ ξυνάπτειν ἐνδίκως Ἰάσονι.

ὦ τλῆμον, ὡς σου συμφορὰς οἰκτίρομεν,

οὐ μὲν γὰρ ἡθελ' |raise, |knee ,
|bring/send
ἡ δ' ἀντελάζυτ'. εἰ δὲ πρὸς βίαν ἄγοι,

near, , longing | tear συμφορά.
close for

καὶ μοι τὸ μὲν σὸν | out of the way λόγου·

γνώσῃ γὰρ αὐτὴν | loss, | turning back, away
penalty

τὰ | mortal δὲ οὐ νῦν πρῶτον ἔγοῦμαι | shadow

οὐδὲ ἀν |flee εἴποιμι τοὺς |skilled, ^τετῶν
clever, wise
δοκοῦντας εἶναι καὶ μεριμνητὰς λόγων 1225

<i>τούτους μεγίστην</i>	<i>loss, lose; incur</i>
	<i>penalty debt</i>
<i> mortal γὰρ οὐδείς ἐστιν</i>	<i>blessed with a ἥπ-</i>
	<i>good genius</i>
<i>happiness, flow over</i>	<i> fortunate</i>
<i>wealth</i>	

ἀλλοι γένοιτ' ἀν ἄλλοι, **blessed with a ἄνθροπος.**
good genius

ΧΟΡΟΣ. *ἔουχ' ὁ* [a god, fate, doom] *ἥδ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ*

κακὰ ξυνάπτειν | (persons, ^{τὰ} ίσοντι.
things) just

A ghastly struggle came! Again, again,
Up on his knee he writhed; but that dead breast
Clung still to his: till, wild, like one possessed,
He dragged himself half free; and, lo, the live
Flesh parted; and he laid him down to strive
No more with death, but perish; for the deep
Had risen above his soul. And there they sleep,
At last, the old proud father and the bride,
Even as his tears had craved it, side by side.
For thee—Oh, no word more! Thyself will know
How best to baffle vengeance... Long ago
I looked upon man's days, and found a grey
Shadow. And this thing more I surely say,
That those of all men who are counted wise,
Strong wits, devisers of great policies,
Do pay the bitterest toll. Since life began,
Hath there in God's eye stood one happy man?
Fair days roll on, and bear more gifts or less
Of fortune, but to no man happiness.

Exit MESSENGER.

CHORUS. Some Women.

Wrath upon wrath, meseems, this day shall fall

vocabulary

ἀκτίς -νος (f) ray, beam ~actinic
 ἀναγκαῖος coerced, coercing, slavery
 ἀναμιμνήσκω (+2 acc) remind
 someone ~mnemonic
 ἀφορμάω depart, depart from
 ~hormone
 βίος life ~biology
 βιώω live; (mp) make a living ~biology
 βραχύς low, short
 γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy
 δυσμενής hostile, enemy
 δυστυχής unlucky
 εἶα exclamation to urge someone on
 ἐκδίδωμι hand over ~donate
 ἐκφύω spring from ~physics
 ἔρπω be able to move ~serpent
 θρηνέω sing a dirge ~threnody

θρῆνος footstool, gangway ~throne
 ἵός arrow
 ἵωή a rush, a sweep
 καθοράω look down ~panorama
 κακίζω be a coward ~cacophony
 καταθνήσκω die, be dead ~euthanasia
 κόρυς helmet
 λυπηρός (o) painful, causing pain, sad
 ξίφος -εος (n, 3) sword
 οἴχομαι come, go, leave, be gone
 ὅμως anyway, nevertheless
 ὀπλίζω prepare, arm ~hoplite
 πάντως by all means
 σχολή rest, leisure
 τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
 φονεύω kill
 φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics

κόρη Κρέοντος, ἥτις εἰς Ἀιδου δόμους

οῖχη γάμων ἔκατι τῶν Ἰάσονος.

1235

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. φῖλαι, δέδοκται τοῦργον ὡς τάχιστά μοι

παῖδας κτανούσῃ τῆσδ' ἀφορμᾶσθαι χθονός,

καὶ μὴ σχολὴν ἄγουσαν ἐκδοῦναι τέκνα

ἄλλη φονεῦσαι δυσμενεστέρᾳ χερί.

πάντως σφ' ἀνάγκη κατθανεῖν· ἐπεὶ δὲ χρή,

1240

ἡμεῖς κτενοῦμεν, οἴπερ ἐξεφύσαμεν.

ἄλλ' εἴ̄ ὄπλιζου, καρδία. τί μέλλομεν

τὰ δεινὰ κάναγκαῖα μὴ πράσσειν κακά;

ἄγ', ὁ τάλαινα χεὶρ ἐμή, λαβὲ ξίφος,

λάβ', ἔρπε πρὸς βαλβῖδα λυπηρὰν βίου,

1245

καὶ μὴ κακισθῆς μηδ' ἀναμνησθῆς τέκνων,

ώς φῖλταθ', ώς ἔτικτες· ἀλλὰ τήνδε γε

λαθοῦ βραχεῖαν ἡμέραν παιδῶν σέθεν,

κᾱπειτα θρήνει· καὶ γὰρ εἰ κτενεῖς σφ', ὅμως

φῖλοι γ' ἔφυσαν— δυστυχῆς δ' ἐγὼ γυνή.

1250

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἴὼ Γᾶ τε καὶ παμφαῆς

ἀκτὶς Ἀελίου, κατίδετ' ἵδετε τὰν

helmet *κρέοντος*, ὥτις εἰς Ἀιδου δόμους

come, wedding, "sex. *ι τῶν Ἰάσονος.*

1235

go

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. *φίλαι*, δέδοκται τούργον ὡς τάχιστά μοι

παιδας κτανούση τῆσδ' |depart χθονός,

καὶ μὴ |rest, |leisure *ἀγουσαν |hand over* ἔκνα

ἀλλη |kill *|hostile, enemy* χερι.

by all means' ἀνάγκη κατθανεῖν. ἐπεὶ δὲ χρή,

1240

ἡμεῖς κτενοῦμεν, οἴπερ |spring from

ἀλλ' |ex-|prepare, arm, *νδία.* τί μέλλομεν

cla-

τὰ δεινὰ κάναγκαῖα μὴ πράσσειν κακά;

to

ἀγ', |urge wretched, *χείρ* ἐμή, *λαβέ* |sword, some miserable one

λάβ', |be able to move *βίδα* |painful, caus- v, ing pain, sad

1245

καὶ μὴ |be a coward. ηδ' ἀναμνησθῆς τέκνων,

ὡς φίλταθ', ὡς ἔπικτες' ἀλλὰ τήνδε γε

λαθοῦ |low, short ημέραν παιδων σέθεν,

κάπειτα θρήνει· καὶ γὰρ εἰ κτενεῖς σφ', |anyway, nevertheless

φίλοι γ' ἔφυσαν— |unlucky δ' ἐγὼ γυνή.

1250

ΧΟΡΟΣ. *ἰὼ Γᾶ τε καὶ παμφαῆς*

|ray Αελίου, |look down "ετε τὰν

From God on Jason! He hath earned it all.

Other Women.

O miserable maiden, all my heart

Is torn for thee, so sudden to depart

From thy king's chambers and the light above

To darkness, all for sake of Jason's love!

MEDEA. Women, my mind is clear. I go to slay

My children with all speed, and then, away

From hence; not wait yet longer till they stand

Beneath another and an angrier hand

To die. Yea, howsoe'er I shield them, die

They must. And, seeing that they must, 'tis I

Shall slay them, I their mother, touched of none

Beside. Oh, up and get thine armour on,

My heart! Why longer tarry we to win

Our crown of dire inevitable sin?

Take up thy sword, O poor right hand of mine,

Thy sword: then onward to the thin-drawn line

Where life turns agony. Let there be naught

Of softness now: and keep thee from that thought, '

Born of thy flesh, 'thine own beloved.' Now,

For one brief day, forget thy children: thou

Shalt weep hereafter. Though thou slay them, yet

Sweet were they... I am sore unfortunate.

She goes into the house.

CHORUS. Some Women.

O Earth, our mother; and thou

vocabulary

αἰσ̄ alas

ἀλάστορος driven by an avenging
daimon

ἄξενος inhospitable

βαρύς heavy ~baritone

βλαστάνω bud, sprout

γονή progeny ~genus

δείλαιος wretched

διογενής (ι) born of Zeus ~deity

δυσμενής hostile, enemy

εἰσβολή -ωβόλης invasion, an entrance
~ballisticἐξαιρέω pick, steal; dedicate; destroy
~heresy

ἐξάλλομαι break away from ~sally

ἐξελαύνω drive out, exile ~elastic

ἔρρω go (neg. connotation) ~serve

θεόθεν at the hands of the gods
~theology

καταιρώ swoop; land

καταπαύω stop, restrain ~pause

ματάω be ineffective, idle

μίν him, her, it

μόχθος toil

δόμογενής related

πίτνω poetic for πίπτω

προσβάλλω hit, attack, approach;
attach, offer ~ballistic

προσπίτνω poetic for προσπίπτω

ρέζω do, make, perform sacrifices
~ergonomics

ρέω flow ~rheostat

τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent

φάος φῶς (n, 3) light; salvation; (pl)
eyes ~photon

φίλιος friendly

φοίνιος red

φόνος killing ~offend

χόλος gall, anger, wrath, bitterness
~choler

δλομέναν γυναικα, πρὸν φοινίαν
τέκνοις προσβαλεῖν χέρ' αὐτοκτόνον·

τεᾶς γὰρ ἀπὸ χρυσέας γονᾶς

1255

ἔβλαστεν, θεοῦ δ' αἷμά τι πίτνειν
φόβος ὑπ' ἀνέρων.

ἀλλά νιν, ὡς φάος διογενέσ, κάτειρ'

γε κατάπαυσον, ἔξελ' οἴκων φοινίαν
τάλαινάν τ' Ἐρινύν ὑπ' ἀλαστόρων.

1260

ΧΟΡΟΣ. μάταν μόχθος ἔρρει τέκνων,

ἀρα μάταν γένος φῦλιον ἔτεκες, ὡς

κνανεᾶν λιποῦσα Συμπληγάδων

πετρᾶν ἀξενωτάταν ἐσβολάν;

δειλαία, τί σοι φρενῶν βαρὺς

1265

χόλος προσπίτνει καὶ δυσμενὴς

φόνος; ἀμείβεται

χαλεπὰ γὰρ βροτοῖς ὄμογενῆ μιᾶ'

σματα ἐπὶ γαῖαν αὐτοφόνταις ξυνω'

δὰ θεόθεν πίτνοντ' ἐπὶ δόμοις ἄχη. ΠΑΙΔΕΣ. αἰσαῖ.

1270

Χ0. —ἀκούεις βοὰν ἀκούεις τέκνων;—

δλομέναν γυναικα, πρὸν |red

τέκνοις |hit, attack, approach; ^{τοκτόνον}
attach, offer

τεᾶς γὰρ ἀπὸ χρυσέας |progeny

1255

|bud, sprout Ἱεοῦ δ' αἷμά τι |poetic for πίπτω

φόβος ὑπ' ἀνέρων.

ἀλλά νιν, ὡς |light; |born of Zeus τειρ'
salva-
tion; ^{εξελ'} ὥκων φονίαν
(pl) eyes
wretched, τὸν Ερυνὸν ὑπ' |driven by an
miserable ^{ενέρων} avenging daimon

1260

ΧΟΡΟΣ. μάταν |toil οὐρανοῖς τέκνων,

ἀρα μάταν γένος |friendly τέκες, ὡς

κυανεᾶν λιποῦσα Συμπληγάδων

πετρᾶν |inhospitable |invasion, an
entrance

|wretched τίσοι φρενῶν |heavy

1265

ἀρρενεῖαν |anger |poetic προσπίπτω . . . for |hostile,
προσπίπτω |enemy
|killing, ἀμείβεται

χαλεπὰ γὰρ βροτοῖς |related μά'

σματα ἐπὶ γαῖαν αὐτοφόνταις ξυνω'

δὰ |at the hands οντ' ἐπὶ δόμοις ἄχη. ΠΑΙΔΕΣ. |alas .
of the gods

1270

ΧΟ. —ἀκούεις βοὰν ἀκούεις τέκνων; —

All-seer, arrowy crown
Of Sunlight, manward now
Look down, Oh, look down!
Look upon one accurst,
Ere yet in blood she twine
Red hands—blood that is thine!
O Sun, save her first!
She is thy daughter still,
Of thine own golden line;
Save her! Or shall man spill
The life divine?
Give peace, O Fire that diest not! Send thy spell
To stay her yet, to lift her afar, afar—
A torture-changed spirit, a voice of Hell
Wrought of old wrongs and war!
Others.
Alas for the mother's pain
Wasted! Alas the dear
Life that was born in vain!
Woman, what mak'st thou here,
Thou from beyond the Gate
Where dim Symplegades
Clash in the dark blue seas,
The shores where death doth wait?
Why hast thou taken on thee,
To make us desolate,
This anger of misery
And guilt of hate?
For fierce are the smitings back of blood once shed
Where love hath been: God's wrath upon them that kill,
And an anguished earth, and the wonder of the dead
Haunting as music still...
A cry is heard within.
A Woman.

vocabulary

ἀκτή beach; cereal grain
 ἀλέομαι escape, shun ~swelter
 ἄλη wandering ~Fr. aller
 ἀλίσκομαι be captured ~helix
 ἄλμη brine, sea salt ~halogen
 ἀρήγω succor; prevent ~right
 ἄρκυς net
 ἄροτος plowed field ~arable
 αὐτόχειρ with one's own hand
 δάμαρ wife ~domicile
 δράω do, accomplish
 δυσσεβέω be impious
 δυσσεβής impious, profane
 ἐγγύς near
 ἐκπέμπω send forth ~pomp
 ἵός arrow
 ἵωή a rush, a sweep

κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid
 μαίνομαι be berserk ~maenad
 μίν him, her, it
 μοῖρα portion, fate; (κατά+) rightly
 ~Moira
 ναί yea
 ξίφος -εος (n, 3) sword
 οἴμοι woe is me
 παρέρχομαι pass, escape
 πάρος before, in the past
 πέτρος rock ~petrified
 πίτνω poetic for πίπτω
 ποῖ whither? how long?
 πόντιος of the sea
 συνθνήσκω die together
 τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
 φόνος killing ~offend

ἰὼ τλάμον, ὁ κακοτυχὲς γύναι.

ΠΑΙΔΕΣ. —οἴμοι, τί δράσω; ποῖ φύγω μητρὸς χέρας;—

οὐκ οὖδ', ἀδελφε φίλτατ· ὀλλύμεσθα γάρ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. παρέλθω δόμους; ἀρήξαι φόνοι

1275

δοκεῖ μοι τέκνοις.

ΠΑΙ. —ναί, πρὸς θεῶν, ἀρήξατ· ἐν δέοντι γάρ.—

ώς ἐγγὺς ἥδη γ' ἐσμὲν ἀρκύων ξίφους.

ΧΟ. —τάλαιν', ώς ἄρ' ἥσθα πέτρος ἢ σιδα'

ρος, ἄτις τέκνων

1280

ον ἔτεκες ἀροτον αὐτόχειρι μοίρα κτενεῖς.

ΧΟ. —μίαν δὴ κλύω μίαν τῶν πάρος

γυναικ' ἐν φίλοις χέρα βαλεῖν τέκνοις.

Ίνῳ μανεῖσαν ἐκ θεῶν, ὅθ' ἡ Διὸς

δάμαρ νιν ἐξέπεμψε δωμάτων ἄλη.

1285

πίτνει δ' ἀ τάλαιν' ἐσ ὅλμαν φόνω

τέκνων δυσσεβεῖ,

ἀκτῆς ὑπερτείνασα ποντίας πόδα,

δυοῖν τε παιδοιν συνθανοῦσ' ἀπόλλυται.

τί δῆτ' οὖν γένοιτ' ἀν ἔτι δεινόν; ὁ

ἰὸ τλάμον, ὁ κακοτυχὲς γύναι.

ΠΑΙΔΕΣ. —|woe is me|do, ac-|whither? how long? |έρας;—
complish
οὐκ οἰδ', ἀδελφε φίλατατ· ὀλλύμεσθα γάρ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. |pass. |όμους; |succor; |killing
escape |prevent
δοκεῖ μοι τέκνοις.

1275

ΠΑΙ. —|yea, πρὸς θεῶν, ἀρήξατ· ἐν δέοντι γάρ.—

ώς |near ἥδη γ' ἐσμὲν ἀρκύων |sword .

ΧΟ. —|wretched, |ος ἄρ' ἡσθα |rock ἡ σιδα'
miserable
ρος, ἄτις τέκνων

1280

οὐν ἔτεκες |plowed |with one's|portion, fate |is.
field |own hand

ΧΟ. —μίαν δὴ |hear μίαν τῶν |before, in the past

γυναικ' ἐν φίλοις χέρα βαλεῖν τέκνοις.

Ίνῳ |be berserk ἐκ θεῶν, ὅθ' ἡ Διὸς

|wife ννω |send forth δωμάτων ἄλη.

1285

|poetic ὅ for|wretched, ὅ |brine, |killing
πίπτω |miserable |sea salt
τέκνων δυσσεβεῖ,

|beach; ὑπερτείνασα |of the sea τόδα,
grain

δυοῖν τε παιδοιν |die together ἀπόλλυται.

τί δῆτ' οὖν γένοιτ' ἀν ἔτι δεινόν; ὁ

Hark! Did ye hear? Heard ye the children's cry?

Another.

O miserable woman! O abhorred!

A Child within.

What shall I do? What is it? Keep me fast

From mother!

The Other Child.

I know nothing. Brother! Oh,

I think she means to kill us.

A Woman.

Let me go!

I will—Help! Help!—and save them at the last.

A Child.

Yes, in God's name! Help quickly ere we die!

The Other Child.

She has almost caught me now. She has a sword.

Many of the Women are now beating at the barred door to get in. Others are standing apart.

Women at the door.

Thou stone, thou thing of iron! Wilt verily

Spill with thine hand that life, the vintage stored

Of thine own agony?

The Other Women.

A Mother slew her babes in days of yore,

One, only one, from dawn to eventide,

Ino, god-maddened, whom the Queen of Heaven

Set frenzied, flying to the dark: and she

Cast her for sorrow to the wide salt sea,

Forth from those rooms of murder unforgiven,

Wild-footed from a white crag of the shore,

And clasping still her children twain, she died.

O Love of Woman, charged with sorrow sore,

vocabulary

ἀθῷος	unpunished, blameless	withdraw; change sides; (mid) send away ~station
αἰθήρ	ether, air, sky ~ether	μητρῷος maternal
ἀνόσιος	unholy	μίν him, her, it
βάθος -ους (n, 3)	depth, height	προσήκω belong to, it beseems
βίος	life ~biology	ὁέζω do, make, perform sacrifices
δράω	do, accomplish	~ergonomics
ἐγγύς	near	στέγη roof, ceiling, chamber
ἔργω	bound, fend off; do ~ergonomics	τλήμων steadfast, enduring ~talent
ἔρδω	do, perform ~ergonomics	τύραννος tyrant
ἔρέσσω	to row ~row	φθέγγομαι make a sound, utter
ἢτοι	truly; either, or	~diphthong
κοίρανος	ruler, chief	φόνος killing ~offend
κρύπτω	hide, cover ~cryptic	φροντίς -τος (f) thought, care
λέχος -εος (n, 3)	couch, bed, bier ~lie	φυγή flight, means of escape ~fugitive
μεθίστημι	change, substitute;	

γυναικῶν λέχος

πολύπονον, ὅσα βροτοῖς ἔρεξας ἥδη κακά.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. γυναικες, αἱ τῆσδ' ἐγγὺς ἔστατε στέγης,

ἀρ' ἐν δόμοισιν ἡ τὰ δείν' εἰργασμένη

Μήδεια τοῦσδ' ἔτ', ἦ μεθέστηκεν φυγῆ;

1295

δεῖ γάρ νιν ἥτοι γῆς γε κρυφθῆναι κάτω,

ἢ πτηνὸν ἄραι σῶμα' ἐσ αἰθέρος βάθος,

εἰ μὴ τυράννων δώμασιν δώσει δίκην·

πέποιθ' ἀποκτείνασα κοιράνους χθονὸς

ἀθῷος αὐτὴ τῶνδε φεύξεσθαι δόμων;

1300

ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ αὐτῆς φροντὶδ' ὡς τέκνων ἔχω·

κείνην μὲν οὖς ἔδρασεν ἔρξουσιν κακῶς,

ἐμῶν δὲ παιδῶν ἥλθον ἐκσώσων βίον,

μή μοί τι δράσωσ' οἱ προσήκοντες γένει,

μητρῷον ἐκπράσσοντες ἀνόσιον φόνον.

1305

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ὁ τλῆμον, οὐκ οἶσθ' οἱ κακῶν ἐλήλυθας,

Ίασον· οὐ γὰρ τούσδ' ἀν ἐφθέγξω λόγους.

ΙΑΣ. τί δ' ἔστι; ἦ που κάμ' ἀποκτεῖναι θέλει;

ΧΟ. παιδες τεθνᾶσι χειρὶ μητρῷα σέθεν.

γυναικῶν |bed, bier

πολύπονον, ὅσα βροτοῖς ἔρεξας ἥδη κακά.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. γυναικες, αἱ τῆσδ' |near |στατε |roof, ceiling,
chamber

ἄρ' ἐν δόμοισιν ἡ τὰ δείν' εἰργασμένη

Μήδεια τοῖσδ' ἔτ', ἦ |change, sub-flight, means
|stitute; with-of escape
δεῖ γάρ νυν |truly; ἷς |draw; change
sides, |hide, cover κάτω,
either, |send away
ἢ πτηνὸν ἀραι σῶμ' ἐσ |ether |depth,
or |height

εἰ μὴ |tyrant δώμασιν δώσει δίκην.

πέποιθ' ἀποκτείνασα |ruler, chief χθονὸς

unpunished, τῶνδε φεύξεσθαι δόμων;
blameless

ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ αὐτῆς |thought, care τέκνων ἔχω.

κείνην μὲν οὖς |do, accomplish σιν κακῶς,

ἔμων δὲ παιδῶν ἥλθον ἐκσώσων |life ,

μή μοί τι |do, accom-|belong to, it be- γένει,
|plish |seems
|maternal ἐκπράσσοντες |unholy |killing

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ὁ |steadfast οὐκ οἰσθ' οἱ κακῶν ἐλήλυθας,

Ἴασον· οὐ γὰρ τούσδ' ἀν |make a sound, utter

ΙΑΣ. τί δ' ἔστιν; ἢ που κάμ' ἀποκτεῖναι θέλει;

ΧΟ. παιδες τεθνᾶσι χειρὶ |maternal τέθειν.

1295

1300

1305

What hast thou wrought upon us? What beside
Resteth to tremble for?

Enter hurriedly JASON and Attendants.

JASON. Ye women by this doorway clustering
Speak, is the doer of the ghastly thing
Yet here, or fled? What hopeth she of flight?
Shall the deep yawn to shield her? Shall the height
Send wings, and hide her in the vaulted sky
To work red murder on her lords, and fly
Unrecompensed? But let her go! My care
Is but to save my children, not for her.
Let them she wronged requite her as they may.
I care not. 'Tis my sons I must some way
Save, ere the kinsmen of the dead can win
From them the payment of their mother's sin.

LEADER. Unhappy man, indeed thou knowest not
What dark place thou art come to! Else, God wot,
Jason, no word like these could fall from thee.

JASON. What is it?—Ha! The woman would kill me?

LEADER. Thy sons are dead, slain by

vocabulary

ἀναμοχλεύω	pry up, force open	μίν	him, her, it
ἀνοίγνυμι (v)	open	μῖσος	-εος (n, 3) hate
ἄπαις	childless	ξίφος	-εος (n, 3) sword
διπλός	double, overlapping	οἴμοι	woe is me
δράω	do, accomplish	δχημα	vehicle
δυσσεβής	impious, profane	πόνος	toil, suffering ~osteopenia
ἐκλύω	rescue from ~loose	ποῦ	where?
ἐμβάλλω	throw in; inspire a mental	προσβλέπω	look at
state ~ballistic		πρόσπολος	servant, attendant
ἐντός	within	πύλη	gate ~Thermopylae
ἐξωθεν	from outside	τίνω	(i) pay, atone for; (mp) punish
ἐρευνάω	hunt for	τλάω	take upon oneself ~talent
ἐρυμα	-τος (n, 3) protection ~serve	τοιόσδε	such
κινέω	(i) set in motion, move, remove	φόνος	killng ~offend
~kinetic		φροντίζω	consider, ponder
κλείς	κληδος (f) bar, key ~clavicle	χαλάω	let fall; become slack
κλύω	hear, listen to ~Euclid	χρεία	need, use
		φαύω	be closely touching

ΙΑΣΩΝ. οὕμοι τί λέξεις; ὡς μ' ἀπώλεσας, γύναι.

1310

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ως οὐκέτ' ὄντων σῶν τέκνων φρόντιζε δῆ.

ΙΑΣ. ποῦ γάρ νιν ἔκτειν'; ἐντὸς η̄ ἔξωθεν δόμων;

ΧΟ. πύλας ἀνοίξας σῶν τέκνων ὄψη φόνον.

ΙΑΣ. χαλάτε κλῆδας ως τάχιστα, πρόσπολοι,

ἐκλύεθ' ἀρμούς, ως ἵδω διπλοῦν κακόν,

1315

τοὺς μὲν θανόντας— τὴν δὲ τείσωμαι δίκην.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. τί τάσδε κινεῖς κάναμοχλεύεις πύλας,

νεκροὺς ἐρευνῶν κάμε τὴν εἰργασμένην;

παῦσαι πόνου τοῦδ'. εἰ δ' ἐμοῦ χρείαν ἔχεις,

λέγ', εἴ τι βούλῃ, χειρὶ δ' οὐ ψαύσεις ποτέ.

1320

τοιόνδ' ὄχημα πατρὸς Ἡλιος πατὴρ

διδωσιν ἡμῖν, ἔρυμα πολεμίας χερός.

ΙΑΣ. ὁ μῆσος, ὁ μέγιστον ἔχθιστη γύναι

θεοῖς τε κάμοὶ παντί τ' ἀνθρώπων γένει,

ἥτις τέκνοισι σοῦσιν ἐμβαλεῖν ξίφος

1325

ἔτλης τεκοῦσα, καὶ μέτρας ἀπώλεσας·

καὶ ταῦτα δράσασ' ἥλιον τε προσβλέπεις

καὶ γαῖαν, ἔργον τλάσα δυσσεβέστατον·

ΙΑΣΩΝ. |woe is me |ξεις; ὡς μὲν ἀπώλεσας, γύναι.

1310

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ὡς οὐκέτ' ὄντων σῶν τέκνων |consider, |ponder
|within |from outside

ΙΑΣ. |where? |νιν ἔκτειν; |within |from outside

ΧΟ. |gate |ἀνοίξας σῶν τέκνων ὄψῃ |killing

ΙΑΣ. |let fall; |bar, key |ὡς τάχιστα, πρόσπολοι,
|become
|slack |έκλυνεθ' ἀρμούς, ὡς ἵδω διπλοῦν κακόν,

1315

τοὺς μὲν θανόντας— τὴν δὲ |pay; (mp) |punish

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. τί τάσδε |move, |ἀναμοχλεύεις |gate
|remove

νεκροὺς |hunt for |κάμε τὴν εἰργασμένην;

παῦσαι |toil, suffering |εἰ δέ ἔμοι |need, use |εἰς,

λέγ', εἴ τι βούλῃ, χειρὶ δέ οὐ ψαύσεις ποτέ.

1320

|such |vehicle πατρὸς Ἡλιος πατὴρ

διδωσιν ἡμῖν, |protection λεμίας χερός.

ΙΑΣ. ὡς |hate |, ὡς μέγιστον ἔχθιστη γύναι

θεοῖς τε κάμοὶ παντί τ' ἀνθρώπων γένει,

ἥτις τέκνοισι σοῦσιν |throw in; |sword
|inspire

1325

|take upon oneself |ἄμ' ἄπαιδ' ἀπώλεσας.

καὶ ταῦτα |do, accomplish |τε |look at

καὶ γαῖαν, ἔργον |take |impious, profane
|upon |oneself

their mother's hand.

JASON. How? Not the children... I scarce understand...

O God, thou hast broken me!

LEADER. Think of those twain

As things once fair, that ne'er shall bloom again.

JASON. Where did she murder them? In that old room?

LEADER. Open, and thou shalt see thy children's doom.

JASON. Ho, thralls! Unloose me yonder bars! Make more

Of speed! Wrench out the jointing of the door.

And show my two-edged curse, the children dead,

The woman... Oh, this sword upon her head...

While the Attendants are still battering at the door MEDEA appears on the roof, standing on

a chariot of winged Dragons, in which are the children's bodies.

MEDEA. What make ye at my gates? Why batter ye

With brazen bars, seeking the dead and me

Who slew them? Peace!... And thou, if aught of mine

Thou needest, speak, though never touch of thine

Shall scathe me more. Out of his firmament

My fathers' father, the high Sun, hath sent

This, that shall save me from mine enemies' rage.

JASON. Thou living hate! Thou wife in every age

Abhorred, blood-red mother, who didst kill

My sons, and make me as the dead: and still

Canst take the sunshine to thine eyes, and smell

The green earth, reeking from thy deed

vocabulary

ἄγριος wild, savage ~agriculture
 αἰάζω wail, bewail
 αἰσχροποιός doing foul things
 ἀλάστορος driven by an avenging
 daimon
 ἀραρίσκω join, fit, furnish ~arthritis
 ἀρδω give water
 βάροβαρος non-Greek
 γαμέω marry, take as a lover ~bigamy
 δαιμών -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate, doom
 ~demon
 δάκνω bite
 εἰσβαίνω enter, board ~basis
 Ἑλλην Greek
 ἐμφύω plant; cling ~physics
 ἔρρω go (neg. connotation) ~serve
 ἔρσα dew; lamb, kid
 εύνη bed; (pl) anchor stones

θράσος -ους (n, 3) boldness,
 over-boldness
 κάσις sibling
 κῆδος -εος (n, 3) sorrow ~heinous
 λέαινα lioness
 λέχος -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier ~lie
 μιαιφόνος blood-stained ~miasma
 μυρίος (ό) 10.000 ~myriad
 νυμφεύω marry, give in marriage
 ὀλέθριος ruinous, deadly
 ὄνειδος -εος (n, 3) blame; insult
 σκάφος (τό) hull, ship; (ό) digging
 σκήπτω prop up; (mp) feign ~scepter
 τλάω take upon oneself ~talent
 τοιόσδε such
 φύσις -εως (f) nature (of a thing)
 ~physics
 φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics

ὅλοι· ἐγὼ δὲ νῦν φρονῶ, τότε οὐ φρονῶν,

ὅτε ἐκ δόμων σε βαρβάρου τε ἀπὸ χθονὸς

1330

Ἐλλην' ἐστι οἶκον ἡγόμην, κακὸν μέγα,

πατρός τε καὶ γῆς προδότιν ἢ στρέψατο.

τὸν σὸν δὲ ἀλάστορ' εἰς ἔμπολον θεοί·

κτανοῦσα γὰρ δὴ σὸν κάσιν παρέστιον

τὸ καλλίπρωρον εἰσέβης Ἀργοῦς σκάφος.

1335

ἥρξω μὲν ἐκ τοιῶνδε· νυμφευθεῖσα δὲ

παρ' ἀνδρὶ τῷδε καὶ τεκοῦσά μοι τέκνα,

εὐνῆς ἔκατι καὶ λέχους σφ' ἀπώλεσας.

οὐκ ἔστιν ἡτοῦ τοῦτον Ἐλληνὸς γυνὴ

ἔτλη ποθ', ὅν γε πρόσθεν ἡξίουν ἐγὼ

1340

γῆμαι σέ, κῆδος ἐχθρὸν ὀλέθριόν τε ἐμοί,

λέαιναν, οὐ γυναικα, τῆς Τυρσηνίδος

Σκύλλης ἔχουσαν ἀγριωτέραν φύσιν.

ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ ἀν σε μυρίοις ὀνειδεστι

δάκοιμι· τοιόνδε ἐμπέφυκέ σοι θράσος·

1345

ἔρρος, αἰσχροποιὲ καὶ τέκνων μιαιφόνε·

ἐμοὶ δὲ τὸν ἐμὸν δαιμόνον αἰάζειν πάρα,

ὅλοι· ἐγὼ δὲ νῦν φρονῶ, τότε οὐ φρονῶν,

ὅτε ἐκ δόμων σε |non-Greek τέ ἀπὸ χθονὸς

1330

|Greek ἐσ οἶκον ἡγόμην, κακὸν μέγα,

πατρός τε καὶ γῆς προδότιν ἥστε ἐθρέψατο.

τὸν σὸν δέ |driven by an ἀνέγ-|prop up; (m̄p) feign
ing daimon

κτανοῦσα γὰρ δὴ σὸν |sibling παρέστιον

τὸ καλλίπρωτον |enter, 'Αργοῦς σκάφος.

1335

ἥρξω μὲν ἐκ |such |marry, give in δὲ
marriage

παρ' ἀνδρὶ τῷδε καὶ τεκοῦσά μοι τέκνα,

|bed; (pl) an- καὶ |bed, bier φέρετε σασ. |
chor stones

οὐκ ἔστιν ἥτις τοῦτον ἀν Ελληνίς γυνή

|take upon oneself πρόσθεν ἡξίουν ἐγὼ

1340

marry, take|sorrow ἐχθρὸν |ruinous, τέ ἐμοί,
as a lover |deadly

|lioness , οὐ γυναικα, τῆς Τυρσηνίδος

Σκύλλης ἔχουσαν |wild, savage φύσιν.

ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ ἀν σε μυρίοις |blame;
insult

|bite such |plant; cling σοι |boldness

1345

ἔρποτε, |doing foul things τέκνων |blood-stained

ἐμοί δὲ τὸν ἐμὸν |a god |wail, πάρα,
fate, |bewail
doom

of hell;

I curse thee! Now, Oh, now mine eyes can see,
That then were blinded, when from savagery
Of eastern chambers, from a cruel land,
To Greece and home I gathered in mine hand
Thee, thou incarnate curse: one that betrayed
Her home, her father, her... Oh, God hath laid
Thy sins on me! — I knew, I knew, there lay
A brother murdered on thy hearth that day
When thy first footstep fell on Argo's hull...
Argo, my own, my swift and beautiful
That was her first beginning. Then a wife
I made her in my house. She bore to life
Children: and now for love, for chambering
And men's arms, she hath murdered them! A thing
Not one of all the maids of Greece, not one,
Had dreamed of; whom I spurned, and for mine own
Chose thee, a bride of hate to me and death,
Tigress, not woman, beast of wilder breath
Than Skylla shrieking o'er the Tuscan sea.
Enough! No scorn of mine can reach to thee,
Such iron is o'er thine eyes. Out from my road,
Thou crime-begetter, blind with children's blood!
And let me weep alone the bitter tide
That sweepeth Jason's days, no gentle bride
To speak with more, no child to look upon
Whom once I reared... all, all for ever gone!
MEDEA. An easy answer had I to this swell
Of speech, but Zeus our father knoweth well,
All I for thee have wrought, and thou for me.
So let it rest. This thing was not to be,

vocabulary

ἄλγος -εος (n, 3) woe, grief ~analgesic
 ἀνθάπτομαι grapple, seize
 ἀτιμάζω (i) insult, dishonor
 ἀτιμάω (i) dishonor
 βίοτος life; sustenance, chattels
 ~biology
 γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy
 διάγω lead through; pass a time
 ~demagogue
 ἔκβάλλω throw out, fell, let fall
 ~ballistic
 ἔκγελάω laugh out loud
 ἔκτείνω stretch out ~tend
 ἔκτρέφω raise, rear
 ἐπίσταμαι know how, understand
 ~station
 κοινωνός partner
 κυρέω come upon, come up against;
 obtain

λέαινα lioness
 λέκτρον bed ~lie
 λυπέω (ū) annoy, distress
 νεόγαμος newlywed
 νόσος (f) plague, pestilence ~noisome
 οικέω inhabit ~economics
 ὀνίημι help, please, be available
 ούτάω pierce, wound
 πατρώιος of the father(s), ancestral
 ~paternal
 πατρῷος of the father(s), ancestral
 πέδον ground ~pedal
 προστίθημι add; impose; (mp) agree;
 side with ~thesis
 σάφα with full understanding
 τερπνός pleasant
 τύραννος tyrant
 ὕβρις -εως (f) pride, insolence, outrage
 φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics

ὅς οὐτε λέκτρων νεογάμων ὀνήσομαι,

οὐ παῦδας οὐσι ἔφυσα καὶ εθρεψάμην

ἔξω προσειπεῖν ζῶντας, ἀλλ' ἀπώλεσα.

1350

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. μακρὰν ἀν ἐξέτεινα τοῖσδε ἐναντίον

λόγοισιν, εἰ μὴ Ζεὺς πατὴρ ἡπίστατο

οἵ εἰς ἐμοῦ πέπονθας οἶά τ' εἰργάσω·

σὺ δ' οὐκ ἔμελλες τάμ' ἀτιμάσας λέχη

τερπνὸν διάξειν βίοτον ἐγγελῶν ἐμοί·

1355

οὐδ' ἡ τύραννος, οὐδ' ὁ σοὶ προσθεὶς γάμους

Κρέων ἀνατεὶ τῆσδε μ' ἐκβαλεῖν χθονός.

πρὸς ταῦτα καὶ λέαιναν, εἰ βούλῃ, κάλει

καὶ Σκύλλαν ἢ Τυρσηνὸν ὕκησεν πέδον·

τῆς σῆς γὰρ ὡς χρὴ καρδίας ἀνθηψάμην.

1360

ΙΑΣΩΝ. καύτη γε λυπῇ καὶ κακῶν κοινωνὸς εἶ.

ΜΗΔ. σάφ' ἵσθι· λύει δ' ἄλγος, ἢν σὺ μὴ γγελᾶς.

ΙΑΣ. ὁ τέκνα, μητρὸς ὡς κακῆς ἐκύρσατε.

ΜΗΔ. ὁ παῖδες, ὡς ὀλεσθε πατρῷα νόσω.

ΙΑΣ. οὗτοι νυν ἡμὴ δεξιά σφ' ἀπώλεσεν.

1365

ΜΗΔ. ἀλλ' ὕβρις, οἴ τε σοὶ νεοδμῆτες γάμοι.

ὅς οὔτε |bed |newlywed |help, please,
|be available

οὐ παιδας οὓς |pro- |raise, rear
duce,

ἔξω προσειπεῖ |ντας, ἀλλ' ἀπώλεσα. 1350

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. μακρὰν ἀν |stretch out οὐσδ' ἐναντίον

λόγοισιν, εἰ μὴ Ζεὺς πατὴρ |know

οἶ ἐξ ἐμοῦ πέπονθας οἶά τ' εἰργάσω·

σὺ δ' οὐκ ἔμελλες τάμ' ἀτμάσας λέχη

|pleasant |lead |life; sus-|laugh out loud'
|through; tenance

οὐδ' ἡ |tyrant |pass a, οὐδ' ὁ σοὶ |add; im-|wedding, sex

Κρέων ἀνατεὶ τῆσδέ μ' |throw out, |with |agree; side
fell, let fall *Xύονός*.

πρὸς ταῦτα καὶ |lioness , εἰ βούλῃ, κάλει

καὶ Σκύλλαν ἡ Τυρσηνὸν |inhabit |ground

τῆς σῆς γὰρ ὡς χρὴ καρδίας ἀνθηψάμην. 1360

ΙΑΣΩΝ. καύτῃ γε |annoy, |in |kakῶν |partner εἰ.

ΜΗΔ. |clearly |θι· λύει δ' |woe , ἦν σὺ μὴ |laugh out loud

ΙΑΣ. ὁ τέκνα, μητρὸς ὡς κακῆς ἐκύρσατε.

ΜΗΔ. ὁ παιδες, ὡς ὥλεσθε πατρῷα |plague

ΙΑΣ. οὗτοι νυν ἡμὴ δεξιά σφ' ἀπώλεσεν.

ΜΗΔ. ἀλλ' |hubris oἴ τε σοὶ νεοδμῆτες |wedding, sex 1365

That thou shouldst live a merry life, my bed
Forgotten and my heart uncomforted,
Thou nor thy princess: nor the king that planned
Thy marriage drive Medea from his land,
And suffer not. Call me what thing thou please,
Tigress or Skylla from the Tuscan seas:
My claws have gripped thine heart, and all things shine.

JASON. Thou too hast grief. Thy pain is fierce as mine.
MEDEA. I love the pain, so thou shalt laugh no more.
JASON. Oh, what a womb of sin my children bore!
MEDEA. Sons, did ye perish for your father's shame?
JASON. How? It was not my hand that murdered them.

vocabulary

ἀνασπάω	draw again ~spatula
ἀπαλλαγή	relief, escape
δάκνω	bite
δῆτα	emphatic δή
δράω	do, accomplish
δυσσεβής	impious, profane
έορτή	holiday, feast
έχθαιρω	hate ~external
θάπτω	bury ~epitaph
καθυβρίζω	insult
κάρτα	very much ~κράτος
κλαίω	weep
λέχος	-εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier ~lie

οἴμοι woe is me

οὕνεκα because

πῆμα -τος (n, 3) woe, bane ~penury

πημονή woe, bane ~penury

πικρός sharp, bitter ~picric

προσάπτω attach to ~haptic

σεμνός revered, holy

στυγέω dread, shrink from ~Styx

συνοικέω live together

σώφρων sensible, prudent ~frenzy

τέμενος -εος (n, 3) non-common land

τύμβος grave mound ~tomb

φόνος killing ~offend

ΙΑΣΩΝ. λέχους σφε κηξίωσας ούνεκα κτανεῦν.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. σμικρὸν γυναικὶ πῆμα τοῦτ' εἶναι δοκεῖς;

ΙΑΣ. ἥτις γε σώφρων· σοὶ δὲ πάντ' ἔστιν κακά.

ΜΗΔ. οἵδ' οὐκέτ' εἰσί· τοῦτο γάρ σε δῆξεται.

1370

ΙΑΣ. οἵδ' εἰσίν, οἴκοι, σῶ κάρα μιάστορες.

ΜΗΔ. ἵσασιν ὅστις ἥρξε πημονῆς θεοί.

ΙΑΣ. ἵσασι δῆτα σήν γ' ἀπόπτυστον φρένα.

ΜΗΔ. στύγει· πικρὰν δὲ βάξιν ἔχθαιρω σέθεν.

ΙΑΣ. καὶ μὴν ἐγὼ σήν· ράδιον δ' ἀπαλλαγαί.

1375

ΜΗΔ. πῶς οὖν; τί δράσω; κάρτα γὰρ καγὼ θέλω.

ΙΑΣ. θάψαι νεκρούς μοι τούσδε καὶ κλαῦσαι πάρες.

ΜΗΔ. οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεί σφας τῇδ' ἐγὼ θάψω χερί,

φέρουσ' ἐς Ἡρας τέμενος Ἀκραίας θεοῦ,

ώς μή τις αὐτοὺς πολεμίων καθυβρίσῃ,

1380

τύμβους ἀνασπῶν· γῇ δὲ τῇδε Σισύφου

σεμνὴν ἔορτὴν καὶ τέλη προσάψομεν

τὸ λοιπὸν ἀντὶ τοῦδε δυσσεβοῦς φόνου.

αὐτὴ δὲ γαῖαν εἶμι τὴν Ἐρεχθέως,

Αἰγεῖ συνοικήσουσα τῷ Πανδίονος.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. |bed, bier *φε κηξίωσας* |because *κτανεῖν*.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. *σμικρὸν γυναικὶ* |woe, bane ^{τ'} *εἶναι δοκεῖς*;

ΙΑΣ. *ἥτις γε* |sensible, |prudent *σοὶ δὲ πάντ' ἐστὶν κακά.*

ΜΗΔ. *οἴδ' οὐκέτ' εἰσὶ· τοῦτο γάρ σε* |bite

1370

ΙΑΣ. *οἴδ' εἰσίν,* |woe is me *κάρα μιάστορες.*

ΜΗΔ. *ἴσασιν ὕστις ἥρξε* |woe, bane *ἴεοί.*

ΙΑΣ. *ἴσασι* |emphatic δή ^{τ'} *ἀπόπτυστον φρένα.*

ΜΗΔ. *στύγει·* |sharp *δὲ βάξιν* |hate *τέθεν.*

ΙΑΣ. *καὶ μὴν ἐγὼ σήν· ράδιον δ'* |relief, escape

1375

ΜΗΔ. *πῶς οὖν, τί* |do, |ac-|very much *κάγὼ θέλω.*
|complish

ΙΑΣ. |bury *νεκρούς μοι τούσδε καὶ* |weep *πάρες.*

ΜΗΔ. *οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεί σφας τῇδ' ἐγὼ θάψω χερί,*

φέροντ' ἐς Ἡρας |non-common, land *θεοῦ,*

ώς μή τις αὐτοὺς πολεμίων |insult

1380

|grave |draw again *γῆ δὲ τῇδε Σισύφου*
|mound

|revered, |holiday, *καὶ τέλη* |attach to
|holy |feast

τὸ λοιπὸν ἀντὶ τοῦδε |impious, |killing
|profane

αὐτὴ δὲ γαῖαν εῖμι τὴν Ἐρεχθέως,

Αἰγεῖ |live together *τῷ Πανδίονος.*

MEDEA. 'Twas thy false wooings, 'twas thy trampling pride.

JASON. Thou hast said it! For thy lust of love they died.

MEDEA. And love to women a slight thing should be?

JASON. To women pure! — All thy vile life to thee!

MEDEA. Think of thy torment. They are dead, they are dead!

JASON. No: quick, great God; quick curses round thy head!

MEDEA. The Gods know who began this work of woe.

JASON. Thy heart and all its loathliness they know.

MEDEA. Loathe on... But, Oh, thy voice. It hurts me sore.

JASON. Aye, and thine me. Wouldst hear me then no more?

MEDEA. How? Show me but the way. 'Tis this I crave.

JASON. Give me the dead to weep, and make their grave.

MEDEA. Never! Myself will lay them in a still

Green sepulchre, where Hera by the Hill

Hath precinct holy, that no angry men

May break their graves and cast them forth again

To evil. So I lay on all this shore

Of Corinth a high feast for evermore

And rite, to purge them yearly of the stain

Of this poor blood. And I, to Pallas' plain

vocabulary

ἄλοχος (f) wife ~lie
ἄμιρος without a portion
ἀπωθέω repel, reject
ἀσπάζομαι greet, salute
γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy
γῆρας -ος (n, 3) old age
γηράσκω grow old ~geriatric
δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate, doom
~demon
διστός double
εἰκός likely
ἐξανίημι send upward ~jet
θάπτω bury ~epitaph
θρηνέω sing a dirge ~threnody
καίνω kill
κάρο -ός (n) useless bit; form of **κατά**
καταθνήσκω die, be dead ~euthanasia
κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid

λείφανον remnant
μαλακός soft
μάτην in vain, randomly
μυσταρός unclean, defiled
οῦπω no longer
πημαίνω harm ~penury
πικρός sharp, bitter ~picric
πλήσσω hit ~plectrum
προσπτύσσω embrace, greet, address
ρίπτω hurl
στείχω go, march ~stair
τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
τελευτή conclusion, fulfilment ~apostle
φεῦ exclamation of grief, anger, surprise, admiration
φίλιος friendly
χρήζω need ~chresard
φαύω be closely touching
φεύδορκος violating an oath

σὺ δ', ὥσπερ εἰκός, κατθανῆ κακὸς κακῶς,
 Ἀργοῦς κάρα σὸν λεψάνω πεπληγμένος,
 πικρὰς τελευτὰς τῶν ἐμῶν γάμων ἴδων.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. ἀλλά σ' Ἐρινὸς ὀλέσειε τέκνων

φονία τε Δίκη.

1390

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. τίς δὲ κλύει σοῦ θεὸς ἢ δαιμῶν,

τοῦ ψευδόρκου καὶ ξειναπάτου;

ΙΑΣ. φεῦ φεῦ, μυσαρὰ καὶ παιδολέτορ.

ΜΗΔ. στεῖχε πρὸς οἴκους καὶ θάπτ' ἀλοχον.

ΙΑΣ. στείχω, δισσῶν γ' ἄμορος τέκνων.

1395

ΜΗΔ. οὐπω θρηνεῖς· μένε καὶ γῆρας.

ΙΑΣ. ὁ τέκνα φίλτατα. ΜΗΔ. μητρί γε, σοὶ δ' οὐ.

ΙΑΣ. καπειτ' ἔκανες; ΜΗΔ. σέ γε πημαίνουσ'.

ΙΑΣ. ὕμοι, φιλίου χρῆζω στόματος

παιδῶν ὁ τάλας προσπτύξασθαι.

1400

ΜΗΔ. νῦν σφε προσαυδᾶς, νῦν ἀσπάζῃ,

τότ' ἀπωσάμενος. ΙΑΣ. δός μοι πρὸς θεῶν

μαλακοῦ χρωτὸς ψαῦσαι τέκνων.

ΜΗΔ. οὐκ ἔστι· μάτην ἔπος ἔρριπται.

σὺ δ', ὥσπερ |likely, κατθανῆ κακὸς κακῶς,

Ἄργοῦς |useless bit; remnant |hit
form of
sharp |χατά conclusion, ὡν ἐμῶν |wedding, sex
fulfilment

ΙΑΣΩΝ. ἀλλά σ' Ἔριν δὲ ὀλέσειε τέκνων

φονία τε Δίκη.

1390

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. τίς δὲ |hear τοῦ θεὸς ἦ |a god, fate, doom

τοῦ |violating an oath ἔιναπάτον;

ΙΑΣ. |ex- |ex- |unclean, καὶ παιδολέτορ.
cla- |cla- |defiled

ΜΗΔ. |ma- |ma- |ds oīkous καὶ |bury ἔλοχον.
march |march |of of

ΙΑΣ. |grief |grief |double γέ |without a portion
go, march |anger, anger |portion

1395

ΜΗΔ. |prise |prise |a dirge οὐ καὶ γῆρας.
ab- |ab- |longed-

ΙΑΣ. ὥτεκνα φίλτατα. ΜΗΔ. μητρί γε, σοὶ δ' οὐ.
ra- |ra- |tion |tion

ΙΑΣ. κάπειτ' ἔκανες; ΜΗΔ. σέ γε |harm

ΙΑΣ. ὥμοι, |friendly |need στόματος

παιδῶν δὲ |wretched |embrace, greet, ad-
miserab- |dress

1400

ΜΗΔ. νῦν σφε προσανδᾶς, νῦν |greet,
|salute

τότε |repel, reject ΙΑΣ. δός μοι πρὸς θεῶν

|soft χρωτὸς |be closely touching

ΜΗΔ. οὐκ ἔστι μάτην ἔπος |hurl

I go, to dwell beside Pandion's son,
Aegeus.—For thee, behold, death draweth on,
Evil and lonely, like thine heart: the hands
Of thine old Argo, rotting where she stands,
Shall smite thine head in twain, and bitter be
To the last end thy memories of me.

She rises on the chariot and is slowly borne away.

JASON. May They that hear the weeping child
Blast thee, and They that walk in blood!

MEDEA. Thy broken vows, thy friends beguiled
Have shut for thee the ears of God.

JASON. Go, thou art wet with children's tears!

MEDEA. Go thou, and lay thy bride to sleep.

JASON. Childless, I go, to weep and weep.

MEDEA. Not yet! Age cometh and long years.

JASON. My sons, mine own!

MEDEA. Not thine, but mine ...

JASON... Who slew them!

MEDEA. Yes: to torture thee.

JASON. Once let me kiss their lips, once twine
Mine arms and touch... Ah, woe is me!

MEDEA. Wouldst love them and entreat? But now
They were as nothing.

JASON. At the last,

O God, to touch that tender brow!

MEDEA. Thy words upon the wind are cast.

vocabulary

ἀελπίος	not hoped for	μήποτε	absolutely never
ἀπελαύνω	expel, exclude, ward off; (intrans) ride away	μυσταρός	unclean, defiled
ἀποβαίνω	leave, get off; turn out ~basis	όπόσος	as many as, how many, how great
ἀποκωλύω	hinder from/from using	όφείλω	owe, should, if only
γοῦν	at least then	παιδοφόνος	child killer
δαίμων	-ονος (m, 3) a god, fate, doom ~demon	πόρος	way, bridge ~fare
ἐφοράω	look upon ~panorama	πόρω	aor. give, pf. be fated
θάπτω	bury ~epitaph	ταμία (αα)	housekeeper ~tonsure
θρηνέω	sing a dirge ~threnody	ταμίας	-ως (m, 3) manager, quartermaster
κραίνω	accomplish; (rare) rule	τοιόσδε	such
λέαινα	lioness	φῦσα	bellows
μαρτύρομαι	(ū) call to witness; protest	φυσάω (ū)	blow, puff, blow out
		φύω	produce, beget; clasp ~physics
		ψαύω	be closely touching

ΙΑΣΩΝ. Ζεῦ, τάδ' ἀκούεις ὡς ἀπελαυνόμεθ',

1405

οἶά τε πάσχομεν ἐκ τῆς μυσαρᾶς
 καὶ παιδοφόνου τῆσδε λεαίνης;
 ἀλλ' ὅπόσον γοῦν πάρα καὶ δύναμαι
 τάδε καὶ θρηνῶ κάπιθεάζω,
 μαρτυρόμενος δαιμονας ὡς μοι

1410

τέκνα κτείνασ' ἀποκωλύεις
 ψαῦσαί τε χεροῦν θάψαι τε νεκρούς,

οὓς μήποτ' ἐγὼ φύσας ὄφελον
 πρὸς σοῦ φθιμένους ἐπιδέσθαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. πολλῶν ταμίας Ζεὺς ἐν Ὄλύμπῳ,

1415

πολλὰ δ' ἀέλπτως κραίνουσι θεοί·
 καὶ τὰ δοκηθέντ' οὐκ ἐτελέσθη,
 τῶν δ' ἀδοκήτων πόρον ηὗρε θεός.
 τοιόνδ' ἀπέβη τόδε πρᾶγμα.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. *Zεῦ, τάδ' ἀκούεις ὡς* | expel, exclude, ward off;
(intrans) ride away

1405

οἴá τε πάσχομεν ἐκ τῆς | unclean,
| defiled

καὶ | child killer τῆσδε | lioness ,

ἀλλ' | as/how | at least θέν καὶ δύναμαι
| many/great

τάδε καὶ | sing a dirge θεάζω,

| call to witness;|a god, fate, doom
| protest

1410

τέκνα κτείναστ' | hinder from/from
| using

|be closely touching |bury τε νεκρούς,

οὐς |absolutely, ὡ φύσας ὄφελον
| never

πρὸς σοῦ φθιμένους ἐπιδέσθαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. *πολλῶν ταμίας Ζεὺς ἐν Ὀλύμπῳ,*

1415

πολλὰ δ' |not hoped|accomplish θεοί·
| for

καὶ τὰ δοκηθέντ' οὐκ ἐτελέσθη,

τῶν δ' ἀδοκήτων πόρον ηὗρε θεός.

|such |leave, get off; πράγμα.
|turn out

JASON. Thou, Zeus, wilt hear me. All is said
For naught. I am but spurned away
And trampled by this tigress, red
With children's blood. Yet, come what may,
So far as thou hast granted, yea,
So far as yet my strength may stand,
I weep upon these dead, and say
Their last farewell, and raise my hand
To all the daemons of the air
In witness of these things; how she
Who slew them, will not suffer me
To gather up my babes, nor bear
To earth their bodies; whom, O stone
Of women, would I ne'er had known
Nor gotten, to be slain by thee!

He casts himself upon the earth.

CHORUS. Great treasure halls hath Zeus in heaven,
From whence to man strange dooms be given,
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.