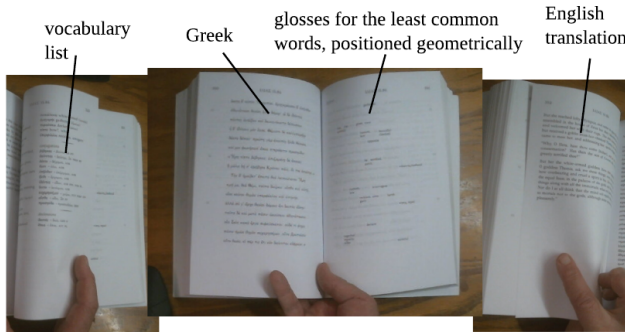


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Text and aids are presented in a four-page spread.

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

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*vocabulary***αἶα** land ~geography**αἰσυνάω** 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**δεσπότης** lady**διαπέταμαι** fly across, through ~petal**διχοστατέω** stand apart, disagree**ἐκπλήσσω** panic, be knocked out

~plectrum

**ἐρετμόω** make to row**ἔρω** -τος (m) love, desire ~erotic**εὐνάζω** lay down; (mp) have sex**κυάνεος** dark ~cyan**μετέρχομαι** seek, visit**νάπη** valley**νοσέω** be sick, be mad, suffer**ὀφείλω** owe, should, if only**πεύκη** pine**πότε** when?**προδίδωμι** betray**πύργος** ramparts, tower; line of troops**σκάφος** (τό) hull, ship; (ό) 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 πεσεῖν ποτε

τμηθεῖσα πεύκη, μηδ' ἐρετμῶσαι χέρας

ἀνδρῶν ἀρίστων, οἳ τὸ πάγχρυσον δέρας

5

Πελία μετῆλθον. οὐ γὰρ ἂν δέσποιν' ἐμῇ

Μήδεια πύργους γῆς ἔπλευσ' Ἰωλκίας

ἔρωτι θυμὸν ἐκπλαγείσ' Ἰάσονος·

οὐδ' ἂν κτανεῖν πείσασα Πελιάδας κόρας

πατέρα κατώκει τήνδε γῆν Κορινθίαν

10

ξὺν ἀνδρὶ καὶ τέκνοισιν, ἀνδάνουσα μὲν

φυγῇ πολιτῶν ὧν ἀφίκετο χθόνα,

αὐτὴ τε πάντα συμφέρουσ' Ἰάσωνι·

ἥπερ μεγίστη γίγνεται σωτηρία,

ὅταν γυνὴ πρὸς ἄνδρα μὴ διχοστατῇ.

15

νῦν δ' ἐχθρὰ πάντα, καὶ νοσεῖ τὰ φίλτατα.

προδοὺς γὰρ αὐτοῦ τέκνα δεσπότην τ' ἐμὴν

γάμοις Ἰάσων βασιλικοῖς εὐνάζεται,

γήμας Κρέοντος παῖδ', ὃς αἰσύμνῃ χθονός·

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. Εἴθ' ὥφελ' Ἀργούς μὴ διαπτάσθαι σκάφος

Κόλχων ἐς |land |dark Συμπληγάδας,

μηδ' ἐν |valley Πηλίου πεσεῖν ποτε

|cut, sacri-|pine , μηδ' |make to row ῥέρας

|fice, solem-

|nize

ἀνδρῶν ἀρίστων, οἱ τὸ πάγχρυσον |neck,

|throat,

Πελία |seek, visit . οὐ γὰρ ἂν |lady

|mane  
εἰμη

Μήδεια |wall, γῆς ἔπλευσ' Ἰωλκίας  
|tower

|love, θυμὸν |panic, be Ἰάσονος·  
|desire |knocked out

οὐδ' ἂν κτανεῖν πείσασα Πελιάδας κόρας

πατέρα κατώκει τήνδε γῆν Κορινθίαν

ξὺν ἀνδρὶ καὶ τέκνοισιν, |please μὲν

|flight, means ὧν ὧν ἀφίκετο χθόνα,  
|of escape

αὐτὴ τε πάντα ξυμφέρουσ' Ἰάσωνι·

ἥπερ μεγίστη γίγνεται σωτηρία,

ὅταν γυνὴ πρὸς ἄνδρα μὴ |stand apart,  
|disagree

νῦν δ' ἐχθρὰ πάντα, καὶ |be sick, `be' ἴλτατα.  
|mad, suffer

|betray γὰρ αὐτοῦ τέκνα |lady τ' ἐμὴν

|wedding, sex οὐν |royal |lay down;  
|(mp) have sex

|marry, take ἵοντος παῖδ', ὅς |rule over; be ἄνός·  
|as a lover |an official

5

10

15

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*

**ἀλγῆδών** pain, grief  
**ἀμοιβή** requital, compensation  
 ~amoeba  
**ἀνακαλέω** call, summon, recall  
**ἀνέχω** raise; mid: endure, submit  
**ἀπαλλάσσω** free from, remove; be  
 freed, depart  
**ἀποιμύζω** bewail loudly  
**ἀπολείπω** leave behind, fail ~eclipse  
**ἀπολιμπάνω** leave behind, fail  
**ἄσιτος** (ι) not eating ~parasite  
**ἀτιμάζω** (ι) insult, dishonor  
**ἀτιμάω** (ι) dishonor  
**βαρύς** heavy ~baritone  
**δάκρυον** tear  
**δακρύω** weep  
**δέρη** neck, throat, mane  
**δέρω** skin, flay ~tear  
**δύστηνος** 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** (ὀ) call to witness; protest  
**νουθετέω** remind, warn  
**ὄμμα** -τος (n, 3) eye  
**ὄμνυμι** (ὀ) swear  
**ὄρκος** 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  
**ὕφίημι** lower; admit; slack off ~jet

Μήδεια δ' ἡ δύστηνος ἡτμιασμένη 20

βοᾷ μὲν ὄρκους, ἀνακαλεῖ δὲ δεξιάς,  
πίστιν μεγίστην, καὶ θεοὺς μαρτύρεται  
οἷας ἀμοιβῆς ἐξ Ἰάσονος κυρεῖ.

κεῖται δ' ἄσιτος, σῶμ' ὑφείσ' ἀλγηδόσι,  
τὸν πάντα συντήκουσα δακρύοις χρόνον, 25

ἐπεὶ πρὸς ἀνδρὸς ἦσθετ' ἡδικομένη,  
οὔτ' ὅμμ' ἐπαίρουσ' οὔτ' ἀπαλλάσσουσα γῆς

πρόσωπον· ὥς δὲ πέτρος ἢ θαλάσσιος  
κλύδων ἀκούει νουθετουμένη φίλων·

ἦν μὴ ποτε στρέψασα πάλλευκον δέρην 30

αὐτὴ πρὸς αὐτὴν πατέρ' ἀποιμώξῃ φίλον  
καὶ γαῖαν οἴκους θ', οὓς προδοῦσ' ἀφίκετο  
μετ' ἀνδρὸς ὅς σφε νῦν ἀτιμάσας ἔχει.

ἔγνωκε δ' ἡ τάλαινα συμφορᾶς ὕπο  
οἶον πατρώας μὴ ἀπολείπεσθαι χθονός. 35

στυγεί δὲ παῖδας οὐδ' ὁρώσ' εὐφραίνεται.

δέδουκα δ' αὐτὴν μὴ τι βουλεύσῃ νέον·

βαρεῖα γὰρ φρήν, οὐδ' ἀνέξεται κακῶς



Μήδεια δ' ἤ | unhappy, |dishonor  
                  | miserable

βοᾷ μὲν	oath	,	call,  summon,  recall	δὲ δεξιᾶς,
πίστιν μεγίστην, καὶ θεοὺς	call to wit-  ness; protest			

οἴας | requital, com-<sup>3</sup> ἄσπονδος | come upon  
| pension

κεῖται δ' |not eating ὀμ' |lower; |pain, grief  
|admit;

τὸν πάντα <sup>fuse, weld;</sup> <sup>slack</sup> <sup>dis-</sup> <sup>off</sup> <sup>λύεις</sup> χρόνον, 25  
 solve, waste away

ἐπεὶ πρὸς ἀνδρὸς ἦσθετ' ἡδίκημένα,

$\sigma\upsilon\tau'$ $\acute{o}\mu\mu'$  lift, raise	$\sigma\upsilon\tau'$  free from, remove; $\eta\varsigma$  be freed, depart
---	--

πρόσωπον· ὥς δὲ |rock     ἡ |marine,  
|maritime

wave,	ἀκούει	remind, warn	φίλων.
surge			

ἦν μὴ ποτε | turn | all white | δέρην 30

αὐτὴ πρὸς αὐτὴν πατέρ' ἀποιμώξῃ φίλον

καὶ γαῖαν οἴκους θ', οὓς |betray ἀφίκετο

μετ' ἀνδρὸς ὅς σφε νῦν ἀτιμάσας ἔχει.

ἔγνωκε δ' ἡ | wretched, συμφορᾶς ὑπο  
miserable

οἷον πατρώας μὴ ἀπολείπεσθαι χθονός. 35

|dread     δὲ παῖδας οὐδ' ὁρῶσ'     |gladden

δέδοικα δ' αὐτὴν μή τι βουλεύσῃ νέον·

heavy	<i>γὰρ φρήν, οὐδ'</i>	raise; endure	<i>κακῶς</i>
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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  
 ἀλγηδών pain, grief  
 ἀνθάπτομαι grapple, seize  
 ἄτα bewilderment, folly  
 ἄω aor: to sate ~sate  
 γαμέω marry, take as a lover ~bigamy  
 δειμαίνω be afraid  
 δέσποινα lady  
 δεσπότης -ου (m, 1) master, despot  
 εἰσβαίνω enter, board ~basis  
 ἐκβαίνω come forth, disembark ~basis  
 ἐννοέω consider  
 ἐννυμι (ἵ) clothe in (+2 acc) ~vest  
 ἐρημία wilderness, solitude  
 ἔχθρη hate  
 ἥπαρ -τος (n) liver ~hepatic  
 θηκτός sharpened  
 θρέομαι scream, shriek  
 ἔμερος (ἶ) desire, inclination (+gen)  
 καλλίνικος (ἱ) gloriously triumphant  
 κτήμα -τος (n, 3) possession  
 λέχος -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier ~lie

μίν him, her, it  
 ὄζω have a smell, waft  
 ὀπηδός member of an entourage,  
 bodyguard  
 οὐτάω pierce, wound  
 παλαιός old ~paleo  
 πίτνω poetic for πίπτω  
 πύλη gate ~Thermopylae  
 σαυτοῦ yourself  
 σιγά silence  
 σιγά (ἶ) be silent  
 στείχω go, march ~stair  
 στόρνυμι (ἵ) smooth out  
 συμβάλλω pit against; compare; mp:  
 meet, fall in with ~ballistic  
 συμφορά collecting; accident,  
 misfortune  
 τροχάω run, spin  
 τύραννος tyrant  
 ὑπέρχομαι go under  
 φάσγανον sword  
 φροντίς -τος (f) thought, care  
 ώθέω push

πάσχουσ'· ἐγῶδα τήνδε, δειμαίνω τέ νιν  
 μὴ θηκτὸν ὥση φάσανον δι' ἥπατος,  
 σιγῇ δόμους εἰσβάσ', ἵν' ἔστρωται λέχος,  
 ἥ καὶ τύραννον τόν τε γήμαντα κτάνη,  
 κᾶπειτα μείζω συμφορὰν λάβῃ τινά.  
 δεινὴ γάρ· οὔτοι ῥαδίως γε συμβαλὼν  
 ἔχθραν τις αὐτῇ καλλίνικον οἴσεται.  
 ἀλλ' οἶδε παῖδες ἐκ τρόχων πεπαυμένοι  
 στείχουσι, μητρὸς οὐδὲν ἐννοούμενοι  
 κακῶν· νέα γὰρ φροντὶς οὐκ ἀλγεῖν φιλεῖ.

40

45

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. παλαιὸν οἴκων κτῆμα δεσποίνης ἐμῆς,

τί πρὸς πύλαισι τήνδ' ἄγους' ἐρημίαν  
 ἔστηκας, αὐτὴ θεομένη στυγὴ κακά;  
 πῶς σοῦ μόνη Μήδεια λείπεσθαι θέλει;

50

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. τέκνων ὁπαδὲ πρέσβυ τῶν Ἰάσονος,

χρηστοῖσι δούλοις ξυμφορὰ τὰ δεσποτῶν  
 κακῶς πίτνοντα, καὶ φρενῶν ἀνθάπτεται.  
 ἐγὼ γὰρ ἐς τοῦτ' ἐκβέβηκ' ἀλγηδόνας,  
 ὥσθ' ἱμερός μ' ὑπῆλθε γῇ τε κοῦρανῶ

55

πάσχουσ' ἐγῶδα τήνδε, |be afraid τέ νιν

μῆ |sharpened' |ση |sword δι' |liver ,

40

σιγῇ δόμους |enter, , ἔν' |smooth out |bed, bier  
|board

ἥ καὶ |tyrant τόν τε |marry, take τάνη,  
|as a lover

κάππειτα μείζω συμφορὰν λάβη τινά.

δεινὴ γάρ· οὔτοι ῥαδίως γε συμβαλὼν

|hate τις αὐτῇ |gloriously οἴσεται.  
|triumphant

45

ἀλλ' οἶδε παῖδες ἐκ |run, spin πεπανμένοι

|go, march , μητρὸς οὐδὲν |consider

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

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. |old οἷκων |posses- |lady ἐμῆς,  
|sion

τί πρὸς |gate τήνδ' ἄγουσ' |wilderness,  
|solitude

50

ἔστηκας, αὐτῇ |scream, |yourself ἀκά;  
|shriek

πῶς σοῦ μόνη Μήδεια λείπεσθαι θέλει;

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. τέκνων |member of an en- 'Ιάσονος,  
|tourage, bodyguard

χρηστοῖσι δούλοις ξυμφορὰ τὰ |master,  
|despot

κακῶς |poetic for πίπτω ῥενῶν ἀνθάπτεται.

55

ἐγὼ γὰρ ἐς τοῦτ' |come forth |pain, grief ,

ὥσθ' |urge μ' |go under , ἥ τε κοῦρανῶ

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**γόος** crying, wailing**δέσποινα** lady**δεσπότης** -ου (m, 1) master, despot**δεῦρο** here, come here!**διαφορά** disagreement**ἐξανέχω** stick out from; (mp) endure**ἔρπω** be able to move ~serpent**ζηλώ** emulate, praise**θάσσω** sit**καινέω** freshen, innovate, make strange**καινός** new, fresh, strange**καινόω** freshen, innovate, make strange**κῆδευμα** connection by marriage**κλύω** hear, listen to ~Euclid**κοίρανος** ruler, chief**κρύπτω** hide, cover ~cryptic**μεσώ** be in the middle**μεταγινώσκω** 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 μολούσῃ δεῦρο δεσποίνης τύχας.

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. οὐπω γὰρ ἡ τάλαινα παύεται γόων;

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. ζηλῶ σ'· ἐν ἀρχῇ πῆμα κοῦδέπω μεσοῖ.

60

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. ὦ μῶρος— εἰ χρὴ δεσπότης εἰπεῖν τόδε·

ὥς οὐδὲν οἶδε τῶν νεωτέρων κακῶν.

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

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. οὐδέν· μετέγνων καὶ τὰ πρόσθ' εἰρημένα.

ΤΡΟΦ. μή, πρὸς γενείου, κρύπτε σύνδουλον σέθεν·

65

σιγὴν γάρ, εἰ χρή, τῶνδε θήσομαι πέρι.

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. ἤκουσά του λέγοντος, οὐ δοκῶν κλύειν,

πεσσοὺς προσελθών, ἔνθα δὴ παλαίτατοι

θάσσουσι, σεμνὸν ἀμφὶ Πειρήνης ὕδωρ,

ὥς τούσδε παῖδας γῆς ἐλᾶν Κορινθίας

70

σὺν μητρὶ μέλλοι τῇσδε κοίρανος χθονὸς

Κρέων. ὁ μέντοι μῦθος εἰ σαφὴς ὄδε

οὐκ οἶδα· βουλοίμην δ' ἂν οὐκ εἶναι τόδε.

ΤΡΟΦ. καὶ ταῦτ' Ἰάσων παῖδας ἐξανέξεται

πάσχοντας, εἰ καὶ μητρὶ διαφορὰν ἔχει;

75

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. παλαιὰ καινῶν λείπεται κηδευμάτων,



λέξαι μολούση	here,  lady	τύχας.	
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.	no longer,  here!  wretched,  miserable	ταύεται γόων;	
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. ζηλῶ σ' ἐν ἀρχῇ	woe,  bane  not, not yet be in the middle		60
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. ὦ μῶρος— εἰ χρὴ	master,  despot	εἰπεῖν τόδε·	
ὥς οὐδὲν οἶδε τῶν νεωτέρων κακῶν.			
ΤΡΟΦ. τί δ' ἔστιν, ὦ	old , μὴ  envy	φράσαι.	
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. οὐδέν· μετέγνων καὶ τὰ πρόσθ' εἰρημένα.			
ΤΡΟΦ. μή, πρὸς	chin;  beard  hide,  cover  fellow slave	τέθεν·	65
σιγὴν γάρ, εἰ χρὴ, τῶνδε θήσομαι πέρι.			
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. ἤκουσά του λέγοντος, οὐ δοκῶν	hear		
pebble	come forward,  come in  surrender,  old		
sit	revered,  holy	Πειρήνης ὕδωρ,	
ὥς τούσδε παῖδας γῆς ἐλᾶν Κορινθίας			70
σὺν μητρὶ μέλλοι τῇσδε	ruler, chief	χθονὸς	
Κρέων. ὁ μέντοι μῦθος εἰ	clear,  standable	ὑπερ-	
οὐκ οἶδα· βουλοίμην δ' ἂν οὐκ εἶναι τόδε.			
ΤΡΟΦ. καὶ ταῦτ' Ἰάσων παῖδας ἐξανέξεται			
πάσχοντας, εἰ καὶ μητρὶ	disagreement	ἔτι;	75
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.  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***ἄλίσκομαι** be captured ~helix**ἄρτι** at the same time**δέσποινα** lady**δεσπότης** -ου (m, 1) master, despot**δρασεῖω** (ᾱ) intend**δράω** do, accomplish**δυσθυμέω** (υῦ) be sad, angry**ἐρημόω** raze, bereave; desert, isolate**εὐνή** bed; (pl) anchor stones**ἡσυχάζω** be quiet, rest**θνητός** mortal ~euthanasia**κατασκήπτω** fall upon**κέρδος** -ους (n, 3) advantage, cunning**μίν** him, her, it**ὄμμα** -τος (n, 3) eye**οὐνεκα** 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**ταυρόομαι** become a bull or like one**χόλος** gall, anger, wrath, bitterness

~choler

**χολόω** anger, provoke ~choler

κούκ ἔστ' ἐκείνος τοῖσδε δώμασιν φίλος.

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. ἀπωλόμεσθ' ἄρ', εἰ κακὸν προσοίσομεν

νέον παλαιῶ, πρὶν τόδ' ἐξηντληκέναι.

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

80

δέσποιναν— ἡσύχαζε καὶ σίγα λόγον.

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

ὅλοιτο μὲν μή· δεσπότης γάρ ἐστ' ἐμός·

ἀτὰρ κακός γ' ὢν ἐς φίλους ἀλίσκεται.

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. τίς δ' οὐχὶ θνητῶν; ἄρτι γιγνώσκεις τόδε,

85

ὥς πᾶς τις αὐτὸν τοῦ πέλας μᾶλλον φιλεῖ,

οἱ μὲν δικαίως, οἱ δὲ καὶ κέρδους χάριν,

εἰ τούσδε γ' εὐνῆς οὔνεκ' οὐ στέργει πατήρ.

ΤΡΟΦ. ἴτ'— εὖ γὰρ ἔσται— δωμάτων ἔσω, τέκνα.

σὺ δ' ὥς μάλιστα τούσδ' ἐρημώσας ἔχε

90

καὶ μὴ πέλαζε μητρὶ δυσθυμουμένην.

ἤδη γὰρ εἶδον ὄμμα νιν ταυρουμένην

τοῖσδ', ὥς τι δρασείουσαν· οὐδὲ παύσεται

χόλου, σάφ' οἶδα, πρὶν κατασκήψαι τινα ...

ἐχθρούς γε μέντοι, μὴ φίλους, δράσειέ τι.

κούκ' ἔστ' ἐκείνος τοῖσδε δώμασιν φίλος.

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. ἀπωλόμεσθ' ἄρ', εἰ κακὸν present; resemble; add

νέον παλαιῶ, πρὶν τόδ' ἐξηντληκέναι.

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

80

lady — be quiet, rest. be silent ῖνον.

ΤΡΟΦ. ὦ τέκν', ἀκούεθ' οἷος εἰς ὑμᾶς πατήρ;

ῥλοιτο μὲν μή· master, despot γάρ ἐστ' ἐμός·

ἀτὰρ κακός γ' ὢν ἐς φίλους be captured

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. τίς δ' οὐχὶ mortal , at the same time ὡς τόδε,

85

ὥς πᾶς τις αὐτὸν τοῦ near, close μᾶλλον φιλεῖ,

οἳ μὲν δικαίως, οἳ δὲ καὶ advantage, cunning ἴριν,

εἰ τοῦσδε γ' bed; (pl) because ὃ love; be content, ,

ΤΡΟΦ. ἴτ'— εὐ anchor stones ἵσται— δωμάτων ἔσω, τέκνα.

σὺ δ' ὥς very τοῦσδ' raze, bereave; desert, isolate ε

90

καὶ μὴ bring/come to, into contact with near, ἡμιουμένη.

ἤδη γὰρ εἶδον eye νιν become a bull or like one

τοῖσδ', ὥς τι intend οὐδὲ παύσεται

χόλου, clearly ἴδα, 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  
**ἐνδίδωμι** hand over, lend, show, allow  
**ἐνδοθεν** from within  
**ἔρρω** go (neg. connotation) ~serve  
**ἦθος ἥθεος** (n, 3) habit, habitat ~ethos  
**ἰός** arrow  
**ἰωή** a rush, a sweep  
**κατάρατος** (ααᾶ) accursed  
**κινέω** (i) set in motion, move, remove  
 ~kinetic  
**μέλεος** vain, idle, useless  
**νέφος** -εος (n, 3) cloud ~nebula

**οἰμωγή** wailing  
**ὄμμα** -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 ἰώ, δύστανος ἐγὼ μελέα τε πόνων,

ἰώ μοί μοι, πῶς ἂν ὀλοίμαν;

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. τόδ' ἐκεῖνο, φίλοι παῖδες· μήτηρ

κινεῖ κραδίαν, κινεῖ δὲ χόλον.

σπεύσατε θάσσον δώματος εἴσω

100

καὶ μὴ πελάσητ' ὄμματος ἐγγύς,

μηδὲ προσέλθητ', ἀλλὰ φυλάσσεσθ'

ἄγριον ἦθος στυγεράν τε φύσιν

φρενὸς ἀνθάδους.—

ἴτε νῦν, χωρεῖθ' ὡς τάχος εἴσω.—

105

δῆλον δ' ἀρχῆς ἐξαιρόμενον

νέφος οἰμωγῆς ὡς τάχ' ἀνάψει

μείζονι θυμῷ· τί ποτ' ἐργάζεται

μεγαλόσπλαγχνος δυσκατάπαυστος

ψυχὴν δηχθεῖσα κακοῖσιν;

110

ΜΗΔ. αἰαί, ἔπαθον τλάμων ἔπαθον μεγάλων

ἄξι' ὀδυρμῶν· ὦ κατάρατοι

παῖδες ὀλοισθε στυγεράς ματρὸς

σὺν πατρί, καὶ πᾶς δόμος ἔρροι.



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

ἰώ μοί μοι, πῶς ἂν ὀλοίμαν;

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. τόδ' ἐκείνο, φίλοι παῖδες· μήτηρ

|move, ,αδίαν, |move, ἔ` |anger  
|remove |remove

|‘push on,’ get σσον δάματος εἵσω  
|going, hurry

100

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

μηδὲ |into, contact  
|come forward, sur-` φυλάσσεσθ'  
|with render, come in

|wild, |habit, |dreaded, feel- φύσιν  
|savage |habitat |ing dread

φρενὸς |stubborn .—

ἵτε νῦν, |withdraw, ἔ` |speed εἵσω.—  
|give way to

105

|visible, ἔ` (+dat)  
|conspicuous χῆς ἐξαιρόμενον

|cloud |wailing ὥς τάχ' ἀνάψει

μείζονι θυμῷ· τί ποτ' ἐργάσεται

μεγαλόσπλαγχνος δυσκατάπαυστος

ψυχῇ |bite κακοῖσιν;

110

ΜΗΔ. |alas, ἔπαθον τλάμων ἔπαθον μεγάλων

ἄξι' ὀδυρμῶν· ὦ |accursed

παῖδες ὀλοίσθε |dreaded, feel- τρὸς  
|ing dread

σὺν πατρί, καὶ πᾶς δόμος ἔρροι.

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

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. ἰὼ μοί μοι, ἰὼ τλήμων.

115

τί δέ σοι παῖδες πατρὸς ἀμπλακίας

μετέχουσι; τί τούσδ' ἔχθεις; οἷμοι,

τέκνα, μή τι πάθῃθ' ὥς ὑπεραλγῶ.

δεινὰ τυράννων λήματα καί πως

ὀλίγ' ἀρχόμενοι, πολλὰ κρατοῦντες

120

χαλεπῶς ὀργὰς μεταβάλλουσιν.

τὸ γὰρ εἰθίσθαι ζῆν ἐπ' ἴσοισιν

κρεῖσσον· ἐμοὶ γοῦν ἐν μὴ μεγάλοις

ὀχυρῶς γ' εἷη καταγηράσκειν.

τῶν γὰρ μετρίων πρῶτα μὲν εἰπεῖν

125

τοῦνομα νικᾶ, χρῆσθαί τε μακρῶ

λῶστα βροτοῖσιν· τὰ δ' ὑπερβάλλοντ'

οὐδένα καιρὸν δύναται θνητοῖς·

μείζους δ' ἄτας, ὅταν ὀργισθῇ

δαίμων οἴκοις, ἀπέδωκεν.

130

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἔκλυον φωνάν, ἔκλυον δὲ βοᾶν

τᾶς δυστάνου Κολχίδος, οὐδέ πω

ἥπιος· ἀλλ' ὦ γηραιά,

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. ἰώ μοί μοι, ἰὼ |steadfast

115

τί δέ σοι παῖδες πατρὸς ἀμπλακίας

|partake of , τί τούσδ' |(mp) be|woe is, me  
|hated

τέκνα, μή τι πάθῃθ' ὥς ὑπεραλγῶ.

δεινὰ |tyrant |will, desire, purpose;  
|courage, insolence

ὀλίγ' ἀρχόμενοι, πολλὰ κρατοῦντες

120

χαλεπῶς |urge, |alter, transform  
|impulse;  
|anger  
τὸ γὰρ |accustom ᾗν ἐπ' ἴσοισιν

κρεῖσσον· ἐμοὶ |at least then, μεγάλοις

ὀχυρῶς γ' εἴη |age, pass one's days

τῶν γὰρ |medium, πρῶτα μὲν εἰπεῖν  
|moderate

125

τοῦνομα νικᾶ, χρῆσθαί τε μακρῶ

λῶστα βροτοῖσιν· τὰ δ' |cause to go be-  
|yond; delay

οὐδένα καιρὸν δύναται |mortal

μείζους δ' ἄτας, ὅταν |anger, pro-  
|voke, annoy

|a god, fate, doom ἔπέδωκεν.

130

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἔκλυον φωνάν, ἔκλυον δὲ βοᾶν

τᾶς δυστάνου Κολχίδος, οὐδέ πω

|kind (adj) ᾗ λ' ᾧ |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

αἶω 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 (ῥ) 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

φροῦδος fled, vanished

λέξον· ἐπ' ἀμφιπύλου γὰρ ἔσω μελάθρου βοᾶν

ἔκλυον· οὐδὲ συνήδομαι, ὦ γύναι, ἄλγεσιν 135

δώματος· ἐπεὶ μοι φίλον κέκρανται.

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. οὐκ εἰσὶ δόμοι· φρουῖδα τάδ' ἤδη.

τὸν μὲν γὰρ ἔχει λέκτρα τυράννων, 140

ἃ δ' ἐν θαλάμοις τάκει βιοτὰν

δέσποινα, φίλων οὐδενὸς οὐδέν

παραθαλπομένα φρένα μύθοις.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. αἰαί· ὦ Ζεῦ καὶ Γᾶ καὶ Φῶς· διὰ μου κεφαλᾶς φλόξ  
οὐρανία

βαίῃ· τί δέ μοι ζῆν ἔτι κέρδος; 145

φεῦ φεῦ· θανάτῳ καταλυσσίμαν

βιοτὰν στυγερὰν προλιποῦσα.[]

ΧΟΡΟΣ. —ἄιες· ὦ Ζεῦ καὶ γᾶ καὶ φῶς·

ἄχ' ἀν οἷαν ἅ δύστανος μέλπει νύμφα;—

τίς σοί ποτε τᾶς ἀπλάτου 150

κοίτας ἔρος, ὦ ματαία;

σπεύσει θανάτου τελευτά·

μηδὲν τόδε λίσσου.— εἰ δὲ σὸς πόσις



λέξον· ἐπ' ἀμφιπύλου γὰρ ἔσω |roofbeam βοὰν

ἔκλυον· οὐδὲ |συνῆδομαι?· ᾤ· rejoice, |woe  
sympathize with; or  
δώματος· ἐπεί μοι φίλον κέκρανται· |συνῆδομαι?· rejoice,  
sympathize with

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ· οὐκ εἰσὶ δόμοι· |fled, ἄδ' ἤδη.  
|vanished

τὸν μὲν γὰρ ἔχει |bed |tyrant 140

ἃ δ' ἐν |bedchamber· ἵκει |life

|lady , φίλων οὐδενὸς οὐδὲν

παραθαλπομένα φρένα μύθοις.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ· |alas ὦ Ζεῦ καὶ Γᾶ καὶ Φῶς· διὰ μου κεφαλᾶς |flame

|heavenly

βαίῃ· τί δέ μοι ζῆν ἔτι |advantage,  
|cunning 145

|ex- |exclamation of grief, ànger, ῥμαν  
cla- |surprise, admiration

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

ΧΟΡΕΓΩ· |grief, — |dread  
anger, |perceive; ᾤ· καὶ γᾶ καὶ φῶς·  
|breathe out

sur- |grief, — |dread  
prise, |perceive; ᾤ· καὶ γᾶ καὶ φῶς·  
ad- |celebrate in, song —

mi- |tis σοί ποτε τᾶς ἀπλάτου  
ra- |celebrate in, song —  
tion 150

|rest, |love; ᾤ· |vain,  
resting |appetite |empty

|place, |conclusion,  
sleepi- |fulfilment  
ness

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

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**ἀποναίω** expel, exile ~nostalgia**δέσποινα** lady**δύρομαι** (ὄ) lament**εἰσεῖδω** look at, behold ~wit**εἰσοράω** look at, see; treat with respect  
~panorama**ἐνδέω** tie to, entangle; lack**ἐπιβαίνω** (+gen) set foot on, board,  
climb ~basis**ἐπιβοάω** call to for help**θνητός** mortal ~euthanasia**καινός** new, fresh, strange**κάσις** sibling**καταίρω** swoop; land**κατάπαυσις** -εως (f) putting down;  
rest**καταπαύω** stop, restrain ~pause**κατάρατος** (ααᾶ) accursed**κλύω** hear, listen to ~Euclid**λεύσσω** see, look**λίαν** very**μέλαθρον** roofbeam**νύμφα** nymph; bride**ὀμφή** supernatural voice**ὄρκος** what is sworn by, witness, oath  
~orc**ὄψις** ὄψεως (f) sight, view

~thanatopsis

**πόσις** -ος (m) (m) husband, master; (f)  
a drink ~potent**πότνια** lady ~potent**σεβίζω** worship, honor**ταμία** (ᾱα) housekeeper ~tonsure**ταμίας** -ως (m, 3) manager,  
quartermaster**χόλος** gall, anger, wrath, bitterness

~cholera

καινὰ λέχη σεβίζει,

155

κείνω τόδε· μὴ χαράσσου·—

Ζεὺς σοι τάδε συνδικήσει. μὴ λίαν

τάκου δυρομένα σὸν εὐνάταν.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ὦ μεγάλα Θέμι καὶ πότνι Ἄρτεμι

160

λεύσσεθ' ἃ πάσχω, μεγάλοις ὄρκοις

ἐνδησαμένα τὸν κατάρατον

πόσιν; ὃν ποτ' ἐγὼ νύμφαν τ' ἐσίδοιμ'

αὐτοῖς μελάθροις διακναιομένους,

οἷ' ἐμὲ πρόσθεν τολμῶσ' ἀδικεῖν.

165

ὦ πάτερ, ὦ πόλις, ὦν ἀπενάσθην

αἰσchrῶς τὸν ἐμὸν κτείνασα κάσιν.

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. κλύεθ' οἶα λέγει κἀπιβοᾶται

Θέμιν εὐκταίαν Ζῆνι θ', ὃς ὄρκων

θητοῖς ταμίας νενόμισται;

170

οὐκ ἔστιν ὅπως ἔν τινι μικρῷ

δέσποινα χόλον καταπαύσει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. —πῶς ἂν ἐς ὄψιν τὰν ἀμετέραν

ἔλθοι μύθων τ' αὐδαθέντων δέξαιτ' ὀμφάν;—

|new, ˘fresh|worship,  
|strange |honor

155

κείνῳ τόδε· μὴ χαράσσου·—

Ζεὺς σοι τάδε συνδικήσει. μὴ |very

τάκου |lament σὸν εὐνάταν.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ὦ μεγάλη Θεμί καὶ |lady Ἄρτεμι

160

|see, look ᾶ πάσχω, μεγάλοις |oath

|tie to τὸν κατάρατον

|(m) husband, mas-, ὡ νύμφαν τ' ἐσίδοιμ'  
|ter; (f) a drink

αὐτοῖς |roofbeam διακναιομένους,

οἷ' ἐμὲ πρόσθεν τολμῶσ' ἀδικεῖν.

165

ὦ πάτερ, ὦ πόλις, ὦν |expel, exile

|shameful τὸν ἐμὸν κτεínaσα |sibling

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. |hear οἶα λέγει κάπιβοᾶται

Θέμιν εὐκταίαν Ζῆνᾴ θ', ὅς |oath

|mortal ταμίας νενόμισται;

170

οὐκ ἔστιν ὅπως ἔν τινι μικρῷ

|lady |anger καταπαύσει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. —πῶς ἂν 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*

**ἄκοή** hearing ~acoustic  
**αὐδάω** speak, declare, shout  
 ~Theravada  
**βίος** life ~biology  
**βιόω** live; (mp) make a living ~biology  
**δεῖπνον** meal, food  
**δεῖπνος** meal, food  
**δέσποινα** lady  
**δεῦρο** here, come here!  
**δμῶς** slave ~tame  
**δράω** do, accomplish  
**εἰλαπίνη** feast, banquet  
**ἐπιδίδωμι** give, give with, give  
 reciprocally ~donate  
**θαλία** abundance, plenty ~thallium  
**καίτοι** and yet; and in fact; although  
**κακόω** harm, disfigure ~cacophony  
**λέαινα** lioness  
**λήμα** will, desire, purpose; courage,

insolence

**μεθίημι** let go, cease; (mid) speed off  
 ~jet  
**μέτεμι** be among, go, follow ~ion  
**μίν** him, her, it  
**μόχθος** toil  
**ὀργή** urge, impulse; anger  
**πέλας** near, close  
**πένθος** -εος (n, 3) grief, misfortune  
 ~Nepenthe  
**πρόθυμος** (ῶ) willing, eager ~fume  
**προφέρω** bring forth ~bear  
**σκαιός** left-hand  
**σοφός** skilled, clever, wise  
**σπεύδω** 'push on,' get going, hurry  
 ~repudiate  
**τερπνός** pleasant  
**τοχάς** -δος (f, 3) kept for breeding  
 ~oxytocin  
**ὕμνος** song ~hymn

εἴ πως βαρύθυμον ὄργαν

175

καὶ λῆμα φρενῶν μεθείη,

μήτοι τό γ' ἐμὸν πρόθυμον

φίλοισιν ἀπέστω.— ἀλλὰ βᾶσά νιν

δεῦρο πόρευσον οἴκων

180

ἔξω· φίλα καὶ τὰδ' αὖδα.—

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

ὀρμᾶται.

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. δράσω τὰδ'· ἀτὰρ φόβος εἰ πείσω

δέσποιναν ἐμήν·

185

μόχθου δὲ χάριν τήνδ' ἐπιδώσω.

καίτοι τοκάδος δέργμα λεαίνης

ἀποταυροῦται δμωσίν, ὅταν τις

μῦθον προφέρων πέλας ὀρμηθῇ.

σκαιοὺς δὲ λέγων κοῦδέν τι σοφοὺς

190

τοὺς πρόσθε βροτοὺς οὐκ ἂν ἀμάρτοις,

οἷτινες ὕμνους ἐπὶ μὲν θαλίαις

ἐπὶ τ' εἰλαπίναις καὶ παρὰ δείπνοις

ἠὔροντο βίου τερπνὰς ἀκοάς·



εἴ πως βαρύθυμον |urge, 175  
|impulse;

καὶ |will, desire, purpose; η, anger  
|courage, insolence

μήτοι τό γ' ἐμὸν |willing,  
|eager

φίλοισιν ἀπέστω.— ἀλλὰ βᾶσά νιν

|here, comé here! οἶκων 180

ἔξω· φίλα καὶ τάδ' |speak. —

|‘push on,’ get going, |harm, disfigure· εἶσω· |grief γὰρ μεγάλως τόδ'  
|hurry  
ὀρμᾶται.

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. |do, accomplish ἵπ' τὰρ φόβος εἰ πείσω

|lady ἐμήν· 185

μόχθου δὲ χάριν τήνδ' |give, give with,  
|give reciprocally

|and yet; |kept for breeding |lioness

|and in  
|fact; al-  
|though |παρ' αὐτοῦται |slave , ὅταν τις

μῦθον |bring forth |near, ὀρμηθῇ.  
|close

|left-hand δὲ λέγων κούδέν τι |skilled, 190  
|clever, wise

τοὺς πρόσθε βροτοὺς οὐκ ἂν ἀμάρτοις,

οὔτινες |song ἐπὶ μὲν θαλίαις

ἐπὶ τ' |feast, καὶ παρὰ δείπνοις  
|banquet

ἤϋροντο βίου |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**αἶω** perceive, feel, hear; breathe out**ἄκέομαι** heal, fix**ἄλλομαι** to jump ~sally**ἅλμυρός** salty**ἅλς ἅλός** (f) (grains of) salt (pl. m.);  
the sea (sing. f.) ~halogen**ἀντίπορος** on the other side, shore**ᾠοιδή** song**ἄπεραντος** infinite**βοά** din, a shout**γοάω** weep, mourn**γόος** crying, wailing**δαίς** -τός (f) feast, banquet ~demon**δαίτη** feast, banquet**ἰαχή** shout**καίτοι** and yet; and in fact; although**κακόνυμφος** badly married**κέρδος** -ους (n, 3) advantage, cunning**κλείς κληῖδος** (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**σφάλω** overthrow, balk, stagger**τείνω** stretch, tend ~tense**τέρψις** -τος (f) pleasure

στυγίους δὲ βροτῶν οὐδεὶς λύπας

195

ἤϋρετο μούσῃ καὶ πολυχόρδοις

ῥδαῖς παύειν, ἐξ ὧν θάνατοι

δειναί τε τύχαι σφάλλουσι δόμους.

καίτοι τάδε μὲν κέρδος ἀκείσθαι

μολπαῖσι βροτούς· ἵνα δ' εὐδαιπνοι

200

δαῖτες, τί μάτην τείνουσι βοήν;

τὸ παρὸν γὰρ ἔχει τέρψιν ἀφ' αὐτοῦ

δαιτὸς πλήρωμα βροτοῖσιν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἰαχὰν αἶον πολύστονον γόων,

λιγυρὰ δ' ἄχεα μογερὰ βοᾷ

205

τὸν ἐν λέχει προδόταν κακόννυμφον·

θεοκλυτεῖ δ' ἄδικα παθοῦσα

τὰν Ζηνὸς ὀρκίαν Θέμιν, ἃ νιν ἔβασεν

Ἑλλάδ' ἐς ἀντίπορον

δι' ἄλα νύχιον ἐφ' ἀλμυρὰν

πόντου κλῆδ' ἀπέραντον.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. Κορίνθιαι γυναῖκες, ἐξῆλθον δόμων,

μή μοί τι μέμφησθ'· οἶδα γὰρ πολλοὺς βροτῶν

στυγίους δὲ βροτῶν οὐδείς |distress

195

ἤϋρετο |muse καὶ πολυχόρδοις

ῶδαῖς παύειν, ἐξ ὧν θάνατοι

δειναί τε τύχαι |overthrow, balk', ious.

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

μολπαῖσι βροτούς· ἵνα δ' εὐδειπνοί

200

δαῖτες, τί μάτην |stretch, tenē |ίν;

τὸ παρὸν γὰρ ἔχει |pleasure 'φ' αὐτοῦ

δαιτὸς |fullness βροτοῖσιν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. |shout |per- |sorrowful, γόων,  
|ceive; |baneful  
|clear, ~ ἀλγέα μογερά βοᾷ  
|whistling |out

205

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

θεοκλυτεῖ δ' |unfair; |ob- ὠσα  
|stinate, bad

τὰν Ζηνὸς ὀρκίαν Θέμιν, ἃ νιν ἔβασεν

Ἑλλάδ' ἐς ἀντίπορον

δι' ἄλα νύχιον ἐφ' |salty

πόντου |bar, |infinite  
|key

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. Κορίνθιαι γυναῖκες, ἐξήλθον 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  
 βιόω live; (mp) make a living ~biology  
 δέρομαι see, watch  
 δεσπότης -ου (m, 1) master, despot  
 ἐκμανθάνω know by heart  
 ἐμψυχος (ῶ) animate, animated  
 ἐνδίδωμι hand over, lend, show, allow  
 ἐνιμι be in ~ion  
 ἐνίημι put in; motivate ~jet  
 ἐνίστημι install; threaten; block  
 ἐνστάζω instill in  
 ἐντίθημι load; mp: take to heart  
 ~thesis  
 ἥσυχος quiet

κάρτα very much ~χράτος  
 καταθνήσκω die, be dead ~euthanasia  
 κτάομαι acquire, possess  
 μεθίημι let go, cease; (mid) speed off  
 ~jet  
 οἴχομαι come, go, leave, be gone  
 ὄμμα -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  
 ῥαθυμία (ᾠα) 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  
 ὠνέομαι buy

σεμνοὺς γεγῶτας, τοὺς μὲν ὀμμάτων ἄπο,  
 τοὺς δ' ἐν θυραίοις· οἱ δ' ἀφ' ἡσύχου ποδὸς  
 δύσκειαν ἐκτήσαντο καὶ ῥαθυμίαν.  
 δίκη γὰρ οὐκ ἔνεστ' ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖς βροτῶν,  
 ὅστις πρὶν ἀνδρὸς σπλάγχχον ἐκμαθεῖν σαφῶς  
 στυγεῖ δεδορκῶς, οὐδὲν ἡδικημένος...

220

χρὴ δὲ ξένον μὲν κάρτα προσχωρεῖν πόλει ...  
 οὐδ' ἀστὸν ἦνεσ' ὅστις ἀνθάδης γεγῶς  
 πικρὸς πολίταις ἐστὶν ἀμαθίας ὕπο.

ἐμοὶ δ' ἄελπτον πρᾶγμα προσπεσὸν τόδε

225

ψυχὴν διέφθαρκ'· οἷχομαι δὲ καὶ βίου  
 χάριν μεθεῖσα κατθανεῖν χρήζω, φίλαι.  
 ἐν ᾧ γὰρ ἦν μοι πάντα γιγνώσκειν καλῶς,  
 κάκιστος ἀνδρῶν ἐκβέβηχ' οὐμὸς πόσις.

πάντων δ' ὅς' ἔστ' ἔμψυχα καὶ γνώμην ἔχει

230

γυναῖκές ἐσμεν ἀθλιώτατον φυτόν·

ᾧς πρῶτα μὲν δεῖ χρημάτων ὑπερβολῇ

πόσιν πρίασθαι, δεσπότην τε σώματος

λαβεῖν· κακοῦ γὰρ τοῦτ' ἔτ' ἄλγιον κακόν.



|revered, holy, ὡτας, τοὺς μὲν |eye ἄπο,  
 τοὺς δ' ἐν θυραίοις· οἱ δ' ἀφ' |quiet ποδὸς  
 δύσκειαν ἐκτήσαντο καὶ |carelessness, ease  
 δίκη γὰρ οὐκ ἔνεστ' ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖς βροτῶν,  
 ὅστις πρὶν ἀνδρὸς |innards |know by|clear, under- 220  
 |heart |heart |standable  
 |dread |see, watch , οὐδὲν ἡδικημένους...  
 χρὴ δὲ ξένον μὲν |very |go to, join, support' ἰ ...  
 |much  
 οὐδ' |townsmen|praise, ἴστις |stubborn γεγῶς  
 |citizen |assent  
 |sharp πολίταις ἐστὶν |ignorance ἵπο.  
 ἐμοὶ δ' |not hoped for |γυμᾶ |attack; befall; ὅδε 225  
 |kow-tow  
 ψυχὴν διέφθαρκ'· |come, go δὲ καὶ βίου  
 χάριν |let go, cease; ᾷ (mid)|need , φίλαι.  
 |speed off  
 ἐν ᾧ γὰρ ἦν μοι πάντα γινώσκειν καλῶς,  
 κάκιστος ἀνδρῶν ἐκβέβηχ' οὐμὸς |(m) husband, mas-  
 |ter; (f) a drink  
 πάντων δ' ὅσ' ἔστ' |animate, :αὶ γνώμην ἔχει 230  
 |animated  
 γυναικές ἐσμεν ἀθλιώτατον |natural  
 ᾧς πρῶτα μὲν δεῖ χρημάτων |mountain  
 |pass; excess  
 |(m) husband, mas- |master, τε σώματος  
 |ter; (f) a drink |despot  
 λαβεῖν· κακοῦ γὰρ τοῦτ' ἔτ' ἄλγιον 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 will recking 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***ἄγών** -ος (m, 3) gathering place

~agony

**ἀκίνδυνος** (ῥ) safe**ἀλίζω** gather, assemble**ἀναίνομαι** refuse, reject**ἀπαλλαγή** relief, escape**ἅπαξ** once**ἀσπίς** -δος (f) shield ~spit**ἄχθομαι** be burdened with**ἄω** aor: to sate ~sate**βίος** life ~biology**βλώσχω** come, go**ἐνδίδωμι** hand over, lend, show, allow**ἐνδον** in the house of; within**ἐνδω** in the house of; within**ἔρπω** be able to move ~serpent**εὐκλεής** honored ~Euclid**ζηλωτός** enviable**ζυγόν** yoke, a joined pair ~zygote**ζυγός** yoke, a joined pair ~zygote**ἡλιξ** -κος (m) of the same age**καινός** new, fresh, strange**μάντις** -ος (m) seer ~mantis**μάρναμαι** fight**μολίσχω** 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**χρηστός** useful; brave, worthy

κὰν τῷδ' ἀγὼν μέγιστος, ἢ κακὸν λαβεῖν

235

ἢ χρηστόν. οὐ γὰρ εὐκλεεῖς ἀπαλλαγαὶ

γυναιξίν, οὐδ' οἷόν τ' ἀνήνασθαι πόσιν.

ἐς καινὰ δ' ἦθη καὶ νόμους ἀφигμένην

δεῖ μάντιν εἶναι, μὴ μαθοῦσαν οἴκοθεν,

ὅτῳ μάλιστα χρήσεται ξυνευνέτη.

240

κὰν μὲν τάδ' ἡμῖν ἐκπονουμέναισιν εὖ

πόσις ξυνοικῇ μὴ βίᾳ φέρων ζυγόν,

ζηλωτὸς αἰών· εἰ δὲ μή, θανεῖν χρεών.

ἀνὴρ δ', ὅταν τοῖς ἔνδον ἄχθεται ξυνών,

ἔξω μολὼν ἔπαυσε καρδίαν ἄσης·

245

ἢ πρὸς φίλον τιν' ἢ πρὸς ἡλικά τραπεῖς·

ἡμῖν δ' ἀνάγκη πρὸς μίαν ψυχὴν βλέπειν.

λέγουσι δ' ἡμᾶς ὡς ἀκίνδυνον βίον

ζῶμεν κατ' οἴκους, οἱ δὲ μάρνανται δορί·

κακῶς φρονοῦντες· ὡς τρὶς ἂν παρ' ἀσπίδα

250

στηῆναι θέλοιμ' ἂν μάλλον ἢ τεκεῖν ἅπαξ.

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

σοὶ μὲν πόλις θ' ἦδ' ἐστὶ καὶ πατὴρ δόμοι

κὰν τῶδ' |gathering' ,μστος, ἢ κακὸν λαβεῖν  
|place 235

ἢ |useful; brave, γὰρ |honored |relief, escape  
|worthy

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

ἐς |new, fresh, 'strange' .λόμους ἀφιγμένην

δεῖ |seer εἶναι, μὴ μαθοῦσαν |from home

ὅτῳ μάλιστα χρήσεται ξυνενέτη. 240

κὰν μὲν τάδ' ἡμῖν ἐκπονουμέναισιν εἶ

|(m) husband, mas-, βία φέρων ζυγόν,  
|ter; (f) a drink

|enviable αἰών· εἰ δὲ μή, θανεῖν χρεών.

ἀνὴρ δ', ὅταν τοῖς ἔνδον |be burdened with,

ἔξω μολῶν ἔπανσε καρδίαν |aor: to sate 245

ἢ πρὸς φίλον τιν' ἢ πρὸς ἥλικα τραπέϊς·

ἡμῖν δ' ἀνάγκη πρὸς μίαν ψυχὴν βλέπειν.

λέγουσι δ' ἡμᾶς ὥς |safe |life

ζῶμεν κατ' οἴκους, οἱ δὲ |fight δορί·

κακῶς φρονοῦντες· ὥς |3 ἔν παρ' |shield  
|times 250

στῆναι θέλομι' ἂν μᾶλλον ἢ τεκεῖν |once .

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

σοὶ μὲν πόλις θ' ἥδ' ἐστὶ καὶ πατὴρ 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 enchained 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**βιόω** 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

**ἐκτίθηναι** place outside at a spot ~thesis**ἐκτίνω** pay off; (mp) exact full

payment

**ἐνδικος** (persons, things) just**ἐξευρίσκω** find; discover ~eureka**ἐρῆμος** empty**εὐνή** bed; (pl) anchor stones**θυμώω** (ῶ) anger**καινέω** freshen, innovate, make strange**καινός** new, fresh, strange**καινόω** freshen, innovate, make strange**κυρέω** come upon, come up against;  
obtain**ληίζομαι** plunder ~lucre**μεθορμίζω** 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** (ι) 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**ὕβριζω** insult, treat outrageously

βίου τ' ὄνησις καὶ φίλων συνουσία,  
 ἐγὼ δ' ἔρημος ἄπολις οὐδ' ὑβρίζομαι 255  
 πρὸς ἀνδρός, ἐκ γῆς βαρβάρου λελησμένη,  
 οὐ μητέρ', οὐκ ἀδελφόν, οὐχὶ συγγενῇ  
 μεθορμίσασθαι τῇσδ' ἔχουσα συμφορᾶς.  
 τοσοῦτον οὖν σου τυγχάνειν βουλήσομαι,  
 ἦν μοι πόρος τις μηχανή τ' ἐξευρεθῇ 260  
 πόσιν δίκην τῶνδ' ἀντιτείσασθαι κακῶν,  
 τὸν δόντα τ' αὐτῷ θυγατέρ' ἢ τ' ἐγγίματο  
 σιγᾶν. γυνὴ γὰρ τᾶλλα μὲν φόβου πλέα  
 κακὴ τ' ἐς ἀλκὴν καὶ σίδηρον εἰσορᾶν·  
 ὅταν δ' ἐς εὐνὴν ἡδικομένη κυρῇ, 265  
 οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλη φρὴν μαιφονωτέρα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. δράσω τάδ'· ἐνδίκως γὰρ ἐκτείσει πόσιν,

Μήδεια. πενθεῖν δ' οὐ σε θαυμάζω τύχας.  
 ὁρῶ δὲ καὶ Κρέοντα, τῇσδ' ἄνακτα γῆς,  
 στείχοντα, καινῶν ἄγγελον βουλευμάτων. 270

ΚΡΕΩΝ. σὲ τὴν σκυθρωπὸν καὶ πόσει θυμουμένην,

Μήδειαν, εἶπον τῇσδε γῆς ἔξω περᾶν



βίου τ' |benefit καὶ φίλων συνουσία,

ἐγὼ δ' ἔρημος ἄπολις οὖσ' |insult

255

πρὸς ἀνδρός, ἐκ γῆς |non-Greek λελησμένη,

οὐ μητέρ', οὐκ ἀδελφόν, οὐχὶ συγγενῇ

|move anchorage τῇσδ' ἔχουσα συμφορὰς.

τοσοῦτον οὖν σου τυγχάνειν βουλήσομαι,

ἦν μοι |way, bridge |machine; |find;  
|mechanism, |discover

260

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

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

|be silent, νηὶ γὰρ τᾶλλα μὲν φόβου πλέα

κακὴ τ' ἐς |strength .αὶ σίδηρον |look at, see; treat  
|with respect

ὅταν δ' ἐς |bed; (pl) an-, μένη |come upon  
|chor stones

265

οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλη φρήν |blood-stained

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

Μήδεια. |grieve δ' οὐ σε θαυμάζω τύχας.

ὀρώ δὲ καὶ Κρέοντα, τῇσδ' ἀνακτα γῆς,

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

270

ΚΡΕΩΝ. σὲ τὴν σκυθρωπὸν καὶ |(m) |anger

Μήδειαν, εἶπον τῇσδε γῆς ἐξ |hus-  
|band,  
|master, |(f) |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***αἰαῖ** 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**ἐξίημι** send forth, allow forth ~jet**ἔρομαι** ask a question, ask about, go searching through**ἔδρις** skilled**κάλως** ship's thick rope**κλύω** hear, listen to ~Euclid**κρείσσων** more powerful; better**λέκτρον** bed ~lie**λυπέω** (ῥ) annoy, distress**ὅμως** anyway, nevertheless**σαντοῦ** 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**τέρμων** boundary**φυγὰς** -δος (m, 3) exile, refugee  
~fugitive**φύω** produce, beget; clasp ~physics

φυγάδα, λαβοῦσαν δισσὰ σὺν σαντῇ τέκνα·  
καὶ μή τι μέλλειν· ὥς ἐγὼ βραβεὺς λόγου  
τοῦδ' εἰμί, κοῦκ ἄπειμι πρὸς δόμους πάλιν,  
πρὶν ἂν σε γαίης τερμόνων ἔξω βάλω.

275

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. αἰαῖ· πανώλης ἢ τάλαιν' ἀπόλλυμαι.

ἐχθροὶ γὰρ ἐξιῶσι πάντα δὴ κάλων,  
κοῦκ ἔστιν ἄτης εὐπρόσοιστος ἔκβασις.  
ἐρήσομαι δὲ καὶ κακῶς πάσχουσ' ὅμως·  
τίνος μ' ἔκατι γῆς ἀποστέλλεις, Κρέον;

280

ΚΡΕΩΝ. δέδοικά σ'— οὐδὲν δεῖ παραμπίσχειν λόγους—

μή μοι τι δράσης παῖδ' ἀνήκεστον κακόν.  
συμβάλλεται δὲ πολλὰ τοῦδε δείματος·  
σοφῇ πέφυκας καὶ κακῶν πολλῶν ἴδρις,  
λυπῇ δὲ λέκτρων ἀνδρὸς ἐστερημένη.  
κλύω δ' ἀπειλεῖν σ', ὥς ἀπαγγέλλουσί μοι,  
τὸν δόντα καὶ γήμαντα καὶ γαμουμένην  
δράσειν τι. ταῦτ' οὖν πρὶν παθεῖν φυλάξομαι.  
κρεῖσσον δέ μοι νῦν πρὸς σ' ἀπεχθέσθαι, γύναι,  
ἢ μαλθακισθένθ' ὕστερον μέγα στένειν.

285

290

|exile, , λαβοῦσαν |double τὴν |yourself ἐκνα·  
|refugee

καὶ μή τι μέλλειν· ὥς ἐγὼ βραβεὺς λόγου

τοῦδ' εἰμί, κούκ ἄπειμι πρὸς δόμους πάλιν,

275

πρὶν ἂν σε γαίας |boundary ἔξωβάλω.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. |alas πανώλης ἢ |wretched, 'πόλλυμαι.  
|miserable

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

κούκ ἔστιν ἄτης εὐπρόσοιστος |way out .

|ask, search through ἰκῶς πάσχουσ' |anyway, nevertheless

280

τίνος μ' ἔκατι γῆς ἀποστέλλεις, Κρέον;

ΚΡΕΩΝ. δέδοικά σ'— οὐδὲν δεῖ παραμπίσχειν λόγους—

μή μοί τι δράσης παῖδ' |incurable κακόν.

συμβάλλεται δὲ πολλὰ τοῦδε |fear

|skilled, ... -κας καὶ κακῶν πολλῶν |skilled  
|clever, wise

285

|annoy, ... |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 ...ὕτ' οὖν πρὶν παθεῖν φυλάξομαι.

κρείσσον δέ μοι νῦν πρὸς σ' |become hated, γύναι,

290

ἦ μαλθακισθένθ' ὕστερον 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** (αἶ) wonder  
**ἄγαμαι** wonder, admire; resent,  
 begrudge  
**ἄγαν** very much  
**ἀλφάνω** yield a price as a slave ~arhat  
**ἀρτίφρων** sane, sensible ~frenzy  
**ἀστή** inhabitant  
**ἀστός** townsman; citizen  
**ἄστν** -εως (n, 3) town  
**ἀχρεῖος** serving no purpose ~chresard  
**βλάπτω** break, make fail  
**δυσμενής** hostile, enemy  
**ἐκδιδάσκω** teach, explain  
**ἐκδίδωμι** hand over ~donate  
**ἐξαμαρτάνω** miss; err, do wrong  
**ἐπίφθονος** jealous  
**ἡσυχαῖος** quiet, gentle  
**καινός** new, fresh, strange  
**κοινωνέω** associate with  
**κρείσσων** more powerful; better

**λυπρός** worthless, wretched  
**περισσός** prodigious, superfluous  
**πλημμελής** out of tune; incorrect;  
 wrongful  
**ποικίλος** ornamented; various  
**πόσις** -ος (m) (m) husband, master; (f)  
 a drink ~potent  
**προσάντης** uphill, steep  
**προσφέρω** present; resemble; add  
**σκαιός** left-hand  
**σοφός** skilled, clever, wise  
**τρέω** flee in fear ~tremor  
**τύραννος** tyrant  
**τύχη** fortune, act of a god  
**φεῦ** exclamation of grief, anger,  
 surprise, admiration  
**φθόνος** malice, envy  
**φύω** produce, beget; clasp ~physics  
**χωρίς** separately; except, other than  
 ~heir

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

ἔβλαψε δόξα μεγάλα τ' εἵργασται κακά.

χρὴ δ' οὔποθ' ὅστις ἀρτίφρων πέφυκ' ἀνὴρ

παῖδας περισσῶς ἐκιδιάσκεσθαι σοφούς·

295

χωρὶς γὰρ ἄλλης ἧς ἔχουσιν ἀργίας

φθόνον πρὸς ἀστῶν ἀλφάνουσι δυσμενῇ.

σκαιοῖσι μὲν γὰρ καινὰ προσφέρων σοφὰ

δόξεις ἀχρεῖος κου' σοφὸς πεφυκέναι·

τῶν δ' αὖ δοκούντων εἶδέναι τι ποικίλον

300

κρείσσων νομισθεὶς ἐν πόλει λυπρὸς φανῇ.

ἐγὼ δὲ καὐτῇ τῇσδε κοινωνῶ τύχης.

σοφὴ γὰρ οὔσα, τοῖς μὲν εἰμ' ἐπίφθονος,

τοῖς δ' ἡσυχαία, τοῖς δὲ θατέρου τρόπου,

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

305

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

οὐχ ᾧδ' ἔχει μοι— μὴ τρέσης ἡμᾶς, Κρέον—

ᾧστ' ἐς τυράννους ἄνδρας ἔξαμαρτάνειν.

σὺ γὰρ τί μ' ἠδίκηκας; ἐξέδου κόρην

ὅτω σε θυμὸς ἤγεν. ἀλλ' ἐμὸν πόσιν



ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. | ex- | exclamation of grief, anger, *ἀλλὰ πολλάκις*, Κρέον,  
| cla- | surprise, admiration  
ἐβλαψέ, ὁδὸς α μεγάλα τ' εἴργασται κακά.  
| tion  
of  
χρὴ δ' εὖ ποθ' ὅστις | sane, πέφυκ' ἀνὴρ  
| anger, | sensible  
sur-  
παῖδα ριπιδίους, | teach, explain | skilled,  
| ad- | superfluous | clever, wise  
mi-  
| separately; ex- | ἡς ἡς ἔχουσιν ἀργίας  
| cept, other than  
| tion  
| malice, envy | ὧς ἀστῶν | yield a price | hostile,  
| as a slave | enemy  
| left-hand | μὲν γὰρ | new, fresh, strange... | skilled,  
| | | | clever, wise  
δόξεις | serving no pur- | skilled, ... | ἔκείναι  
| pose | | clever, wise  
τῶν δ' αὖ δοκούντων εἰδέναι τι | ornamented  
κρείσσω νομισθεὶς ἐν πόλει | worthless, | ἀνῆ.  
| | | wretched  
ἐγὼ δὲ καὐτῇ τῇσδε | associate | fortune, act  
| with | of a god  
| skilled, | ὧσα, τοῖς μέν εἰμ' | jealous  
| clever, wise  
τοῖς δ' | quiet, | τοῖς δὲ θατέρου τρόπου,  
| gentle  
τοῖς δ' αὖ | uphill, steep | εἰμὶ δ' οὐκ ἄγαν | skilled,  
| | | clever, wise  
σὺ δ' οὖν φοβῇ με· μὴ τί | out of tune; incor- | ῖς;  
| rect; wrongful  
οὐχ ᾧδ' ἔχει μοι— μὴ | flee | ἡμᾶς, Κρέον—  
ὥστ' ἐς | tyrant | ἄνδρας | miss; err, do wrong  
σὺ γὰρ τί μ' ἡδίκηκας; | hand over | ῃην  
ὅτω σε θυμὸς ἡγεν. ἀλλ' ἐμὸν | (m) husband, mas-  
| | | ter; (f) a drink

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** (αἶ) consume, spend on**ἀναλόω** (αἶ) consume, spend on**ἄραρίσκω** join, fit, furnish ~arthritis**αὐτως** just so, merely; in vain ~after**γόνυ** γουνός (n, 3) knee ~polygon**δράω** do, accomplish**δυσμενής** hostile, enemy**ἔξιμι** go forth; is possible ~ion**ἐξελαύνω** drive out, exile ~elastic**ἐξίημι** send forth, allow forth ~jet**κάρτα** very much ~κράτος**κρείσσω** more powerful; better**λιτή** prayer ~litany**μαλθακός** soft, timid**μισέω** (ῖ) hate, wish to prevent

~misogyny

**μνεία** reminder, memorial**νεόγαμος** newlywed**νυμφεύω** marry, give in marriage**οἰκέω** inhabit ~economics**ὄρωδία** terror**πάρως** 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 ἡδικομένοι  
σιγησόμεσθα, κρεισσόνων νικώμενοι.

315

ΚΡΕΩΝ. λέγεις ἀκοῦσαι μαλθάκ', ἀλλ' ἔσω φρενῶν

ὀρρωδία μοι μή τι βουλεύσης κακόν,  
τόσφ' δέ γ' ἦσσον ἢ πάρος πέποιθά σοι·  
γυνὴ γὰρ ὀξύθυμος, ὡς δ' αὖτως ἀνὴρ,  
ῥάων φυλάσσειν ἢ σιωπηλὸς σοφός.

320

ἀλλ' ἔξιθ' ὡς τάχιστα, μὴ λόγους λέγε·  
ὡς ταῦτ' ἄραρε, κοῦκ ἔχεις τέχνην ὅπως  
μενεῖς παρ' ἡμῖν οὔσα δυσμενὴς ἐμοί.

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

ΚΡ. λόγους ἀναλοῖς· οὐ γὰρ ἂν πείσαις ποτέ.

325

ΜΗΔ. ἀλλ' ἐξελᾶς με κοῦδὲν αἰδέσῃ λιτάς;

ΚΡ. φιλῶ γὰρ οὐ σὲ μᾶλλον ἢ δόμους ἐμούς.

ΜΗΔ. ὦ πατρίς, ὥς σου κάρτα νῦν μνείαν ἔχω.

ΚΡ. πλὴν γὰρ τέκνων ἔμοιγε φίλτατον πολὺ.

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

καὶ νῦν τὸ μὲν σὸν οὐ |envy καλῶς ἔχειν·

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

ἐᾶτέ μ' |inhabit καὶ γὰρ ἡδικημένοι

σιγησόμεσθα, κρεισσόνων νικώμενοι.

315

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

|terror μοι μή τι βουλεύσης κακόν,

|so much, so' great ν ἢ |before, in the past οἱ·

γυνὴ γὰρ ὀξύθυμος, ὥς δ' |just so, mer̃ely;  
|in vain

ῥάων φυλάσσειν ἢ σιωπηλὸς |skilled,  
|clever, wise

320

ἀλλ' ἔξιθ' ὥς τάχιστα, μὴ λόγους λέγε·

ὥς ταῦτ' |join, fit, furnish ἄλ - |craft ὅπως

μενείς παρ' ἡμῖν οὔσα |hostile, ἐμοί.  
|enemy

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

ΚΡ. λόγους ἀναλοῖς· οὐ γὰρ ἂν πείσαις ποτέ.

325

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

ΚΡ. φιλῶ γὰρ οὐ σὲ μάλλον ἢ δομοῦς ἐμούς.

ΜΗΔ. ὦ πατρίς, ὥς σου |very much |reminder, ἄλ.  
|memorial

ΚΡ. πλὴν γὰρ τέκνων ἔμοιγε 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  
**αἵτιος** blameworthy; the cause  
 ~etiology  
**ἀπαλλαξείω** 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  
**δαίς** -τός (f) feast, banquet ~demon  
**δαῖς** δαδός (f) torch  
**δήτα** emphatic δῆ  
**εἰκός** likely  
**ἔρπω** be able to move ~serpent  
**ἔρως** -τος (m) love, desire ~erotic  
**εὖνοια** good will, gift  
**ἥκιστος** least; above all  
**ἰκετεύω** approach to beg  
**κλαίω** weep  
**λήμια** will, desire, purpose; courage, insolence  
**μάταιος** vain, empty

**μηχανάομαι** build, contrive  
 ~mechanism  
**οἰκτείρω** pity  
**ὀπαδῆς** follow, attend  
**ὀπαδός** member of an entourage, bodyguard  
**ὀπηδός** 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  
**ώθέω** push

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. φεῦ φεῦ, βροτοῖς ἔρωτες ὥς κακὸν μέγα. 330

ΚΡΕΩΝ. ὅπως ἄν, οἶμαι, καὶ παραστῶσιν τύχαι.

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

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

ΜΗΔ. πονοῦμεν ἡμεῖς κού' πόνων κεχρήμεθα.

ΚΡ. τάχ' ἐξ ὀπαδῶν χειρὸς ὠσθήσῃ βίᾱ. 335

ΜΗΔ. μὴ δῆτα τοῦτό γ', ἀλλὰ σ' αἰτοῦμαι, Κρέον ...

ΚΡ. ὄχλον παρέξεις, ὥς ἔοικας, ὦ γύναι.

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

ΚΡ. τί δαὶ βιάζῃ κοῦκ ἀπαλλάσσει χερός;

ΜΗΔ. μίαν με μεῖναι τήνδ' ἔασον ἡμέραν 340

καὶ ξυμπερᾶναι φροντίδ' ἧ φευξούμεθα,

παισίν τ' ἀφορμὴν τοῖς ἐμοῖς, ἐπεὶ πατὴρ

οὐδὲν προτιμᾷ μηχανήσασθαι τέκνοις.

οἴκτιρε δ' αὐτούς· καὶ σύ τοι παίδων πατὴρ

πέφυκας· εἰκὸς δ' ἐστὶν εὖνοιάν σ' ἔχειν. 345

τοῦμοῦ γὰρ οὗ μοι φροντίς, εἰ φευξούμεθα,

κείνους δὲ κλαίω συμφορᾷ κεχρημένους.

ΚΡ. ἥκιστα τοῦμὸν λῆμ' ἔφν τυραννικόν,



ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. |ex- |exclamation of love, ὥς κακὸν μέγα. 330  
|cla- |grief, anger, desire  
|ma- |surprise, admi-  
|tion |ration

ΚΡΕΩΝ. ὅπως αἶψ' ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἴδωμαι, καὶ παραστῶσιν τύχαι.

ΜΗΔ. Ζεῦ πάτερ, ἴσθι λάθοι σε τῶνδ' ὅς |blameworthy; . .  
|anger, |the cause

ΚΡ. ἔρπυσσον, καὶ μὴ ἀπάλλαξον |toil, suffering  
|sur- |prise in,  
|ad- |empty

ΜΗΔ. |work- |ἡμεῖς κου' |toil, suffering ἡμέθα.  
|ta- |tion

ΚΡ. τάχ' ἐξ ὀπαδῶν χειρὸς |push βία. 335

ΜΗΔ. μὴ |emphatic δὴ γ', ἀλλὰ σ' |ask for , Κρέον ...

ΚΡ. ὄχλον παρέξεις, ὡς ἔουκας, ὦ γύναι.

ΜΗΔ. φευξόμεθ' οὐ τοῦθ' |approach to beg ἵχθιν.

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

ΜΗΔ. μίαν |βιάζω?: use |ἡμέραν 340  
|force on

καὶ ξυμπεράναι |thought, care 'εὐξόμεθα,

παισίν τ' |starting ὥς ἐμοῖς, ἐπεὶ πατὴρ  
|point; means

οὐδὲν προτιμᾶ |build, contrive τέκνοις.

οἴκτιρε δ' αὐτούς· καὶ σύ τοι παίδων πατὴρ

πέφυκας· |likely δ' ἐστὶν |good will, gift λιν. 345

τοῦμοῦ γὰρ οὗ μοι |thought, care 'εὐξόμεθα,

κείνους δὲ |weep συμφορᾶ κεχρημένους.

ΚΡ. |least; τοῦμὸν 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 reckon not of myself: 'tis they

That break me, fallen upon so dire a day.

*vocabulary*

**ἄγων** -ος (m, 3) gathering place  
 ~agony  
**αἰδέομαι** respect, be ashamed  
**ἀνταείρω** raise against  
**ἀνταίρω** raise against  
**ἀντιλέγω** contradict, oppose  
**ἀπόρρυνμι** (ῥ) set forth ~hormone  
**ἄπορος** impassable, difficult  
**ἀψευδής** 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  
**οὔτις** nobody, nothing  
**πανταχῇ** everywhere  
**ποῖ** whither? how long?  
**πόνος** toil, suffering ~osteopenia  
**πότε** when?  
**σωτήρ** -ος (m) savior  
**τέρμων** boundary  
**φεῦ** exclamation of grief, anger,  
 surprise, admiration

αἰδούμενος δὲ πολλὰ δὴ διέφθορα·

καὶ νῦν ὁρῶ μὲν ἑξαμαρτάνων, γύναι,

350

ὅμως δὲ τεύξῃ τοῦδε· προυννέπω δέ σοι,

εἴ σ' ἡ ἵπιουσα λαμπὰς ὄψεται θεοῦ

καὶ παῖδας ἐντὸς τῆσδε τερμόνων χθονός,

θανῇ· λέλεκται μῦθος ἀψευδῆς ὅδε.

νῦν δ', εἰ μένειν δεῖ, μίμν' ἐφ' ἡμέραν μίαν·

355

οὐ γάρ τι δράσεις δεινὸν ὦν φόβος μ' ἔχει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. δύστανε γύναι,

φεῦ φεῦ, μελέα τῶν σῶν ἀχέων.

ποῖ ποτε τρέψῃ; τίνα πρὸς ξενίαν;

ἦ δόμον ἢ χθόνα σωτήρα κακῶν

360

ἔξευρήσεις;

ὥς εἰς ἄπορόν σε κλύδωνα θεός,

Μήδεια, κακῶν ἐπόρευσε.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. κακῶς πέπρακται πανταχῇ· τίς ἀντερεῖ;

ἀλλ' οὔτι ταύτη ταῦτα, μὴ δοκεῖτέ πω.

365

ἔτ' εἴσ' ἀγῶνες τοῖς νεωστὶ νυμφίοις

καὶ τοῖσι κηδεύσασιν οὐ σμικροὶ πόνοι.

|respect, be ashamed ἡ δὲ διέφθορα·

καὶ νῦν ὁρῶ μὲν |miss; err, do wrong' αι,

350

|anyway, nevertheless· προυννέπω δέ σοι,

εἴ σ' ἡ |lie upon; torch ὄψεται θεοῦ  
|approach

καὶ παῖδας |within γῆσδε |boundary χθονός,

θανῇ· λέλεκται μῦθος |truthful ὅδε.

νῦν δ', εἰ μένειν δεῖ, μῖμν' ἐφ' ἡμέραν μίαν·

355

οὐ γάρ τι δράσεις δεινὸν ὧν φόβος μ' ἔχει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. δύστανε γύναι,

|ex- |ex- , |vain, idle· ὧν σὼν ἀχέων.

cla- |cla-  
ma- |ma-  
tion |tion  
of |of

|grief, |grief, ἢ χθόνα |savior κακῶν

360

sur- |sur-  
prise |prise,  
ad- |ad-

mi- |mira-  
ra- |tion  
tion |

Μῆδεια, κακῶν ἐπόρευσε.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. κακῶς ἐπέπρακται |everywhere ἴς ἀντερεῖ;

ἀλλ' |nobody, ἵτη ταῦτα, μὴ δοκεῖτέ πω.  
|nothing

365

ἔτ' εἰς' |gathering . οἷς νεωστὶ |bridegroom  
|place

καὶ τοῖσι |attend to; become allied in |toil, suffering  
|marriage

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  
**ἐξεῖμι** go forth; is possible ~ion  
**ἥπαρ** -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  
**ὅποῖος** 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** (ι) be silent  
**σοφός** skilled, clever, wise  
**στόρνυμι** (ι) smooth out  
**τεχνάομαι** make, invent ~oxytocin  
**ὕφραπτω** set on fire from underneath  
**φάρμακον** drug, potion ~pharmacy  
**φάσγανον** sword  
**φύω** produce, beget; clasp ~physics  
**ώθέω** push

δοκεῖς γὰρ ἂν με τόνδε θωπεῦσαί ποτε,  
 εἰ μή τι κερδαίνουσας ἢ τεχνωμένην;  
 οὐδ' ἂν προσεῖπον οὐδ' ἂν ἠψάμην χεροῖν. 370  
 ὁ δ' ἐς τοσοῦτον μωρίας ἀφίκετο,  
 ὥστ' ἐξὸν αὐτῷ τᾶμ' ἐλεῖν βουλευέματα  
 γῆς ἐκβαλόντι, τήνδ' ἀφήκεν ἡμέραν  
 μεῖναι μ', ἐν ἣ τρεῖς τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν νεκρούς  
 θήσω, πατέρα τε καὶ κόρην πόσιν τ' ἐμόν. 375  
 πολλὰς δ' ἔχουσα θανασίμους αὐτοῖς ὁδούς,  
 οὐκ οἶδ' ὁποῖα πρῶτον ἐγχειρῶ, φίλαι·  
 πότερον ὑφάψω δῶμα νυμφικὸν πυρί,  
 ἢ θηκτὸν ὥσω φάσγανον δι' ἡπάτος,  
 σιγῇ δόμους ἐσβᾶσ', ἵν' ἔστρωται λέχος. 380  
 ἀλλ' ἐν τί μοι πρόσαντες· εἰ ληφθήσομαι  
 δόμους ὑπεσβαίνουσα καὶ τεχνωμένη,  
 θανούσα θήσω τοῖς ἐμοῖς ἐχθροῖς γέλων.  
 κράτιστα τὴν εὐθείαν, ἣ πεφύκαμεν  
 σοφαὶ μάλιστα, φαρμάκοις αὐτοὺς ἐλεῖν. 385  
 εἶέν· καὶ δὴ τεθνᾶσι· τίς με δέξεται πόλις;



δοκεῖς γὰρ ἂν με τόνδε |flatter, coax τότε,

εἰ μὴ τι |profit, take ad- ἢ |make, invent ,  
|vantage

οὐδ' ἂν προσεῖπον οὐδ' ἂν |set on fire; attach;  
|mid: touch, seize

370

ὃ δ' ἐς τοσοῦτον μωρίας ἀφίκετο,

ὥστ' |go forth; ἢ τᾶμ' ἐλεῖν |resolution,  
|is possible |purpose

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

μεῖναί μ', ἐν ἧ τρεῖς τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν νεκροῦς

θήσω, πατέρα τε καὶ κόρην | (m) husband, master; (f) a drink

375

πολλὰς δ' ἔχουσα |fatal αὐτοῖς ὁδοῦς,

οὐκ οἶδ' |whatever kind ἢ ἐγχειρῶ, φίλαι·

|which, |set on fire. From |bridal πυρί,  
|whichever |underneath

ἢ |sharp- |push |sword δι' |liver ,  
|ened

σιγῇ δόμους |enter, ἢ ἵν' |smooth out |bed, bier  
|board

380

ἀλλ' ἔν τί μοι |uphill, steep εἰ ληφθήσομαι

δόμους ὑπεσβαίνουσα καὶ |make, invent,

θανοῦσα θήσω τοῖς ἐμοῖς ἐχθροῖς |laugh,  
|smile

|best τὴν εὐθείαν, ἧ πεφύκαμεν

|skilled, ἢ ἵστα, φαρμάκοις αὐτοὺς ἐλεῖν.  
|clever, wise

385

εἰέν· καὶ δὴ τεθνήσιν· 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***ἄγων** -ος (m, 3) gathering place

~agony

**ἀμήχανος** helpless, impossible

~mechanism

**ἄσυλος** (ῶ) 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** (ῶ) 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

**μέτεμι** 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** (ι) be silent**συμφορά** collecting; accident,

misfortune

**τεχνάομαι** make, invent ~oxytocin**τόλμα** courage**τόλμη** courage**φείδομαι** spare, not use/harm ~aphid**φόνος** killing ~offend**φυγάζ** -δος (m, 3) exile, refugee

~fugitive

**φυγή** flight, means of escape ~fugitive

τίς γῆν ἄσυλον καὶ δόμους ἐχεγγύους  
 ξένος παρασχὼν ρύσεται τοῦμὸν δέμας;  
 οὐκ ἔστι. μείνας' οὖν ἔτι σμικρὸν χρόνον,  
 ἦν μὲν τις ἡμῖν πύργος ἀσφαλῆς φανῇ, 390  
 δόλω μέτειμι τόνδε καὶ σιγῇ φόνον·  
 ἦν δ' ἐξελαύνῃ ξυμφορά μ' ἀμήχανος,  
 αὐτὴ ξίφος λαβοῦσα, κεῖ' μέλλω θανεῖν,  
 κτενῶ σφε, τόλμης δ' εἶμι πρὸς τὸ καρτερόν.  
 οὐ γὰρ μὰ τὴν δέσποιναν ἦν ἐγὼ σέβω 395  
 μάλιστα πάντων καὶ ξυνεργὸν εἰλόμην,  
 Ἑκάτην, μυχοῖς ναίουσαν ἐστίας ἐμῆς,  
 χαίρων τις αὐτῶν τοῦμὸν ἀλγυνεῖ κέαρ.  
 πικροὺς δ' ἐγὼ σφιν καὶ λυγροὺς θήσω γάμους,  
 πικρὸν δὲ κῆδος καὶ φυγὰς ἐμὰς χθονός. 400  
 ἀλλ' εἶα· φεῖδον μηδὲν ὧν ἐπίστασαι,  
 Μῆδεια, βουλευούσα καὶ τεχνωμένη·  
 ἔρπ' ἐς τὸ δεινόν· νῦν ἀγὼν εὐψυχίας.  
 ὀρᾶς ἂ πάσχεις· οὐ γέλωτα δεῖ σ' ὀφλεῖν  
 τοῖς Σισυφείοις τοῖς τ' Ἰάσονος γάμοις,

τίς γῆν |safe, inviolate ὅμοιους ἐχεγγύους

ξένος παρασχών ρύσεται τοῦμόν |body; (+gen.) like

οὐκ ἔστι. μείνας οὖν ἔτι σμικρὸν χρόνον,

ἦν μὲν τις ἡμῖν |wall, |safe, easy, ἦ,  
|tower |steady, careful 390

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

ἦν δ' |drive out ξυμφορά μ' |helpless,  
|impossible

αὐτῇ |sword λαβοῦσα, κεί' μέλλω θανεῖν,

κτενῶ σφε, τόλμης δ' εἶμι πρὸς τὸ |strong,  
|staunch

οὐ γὰρ μὰ τὴν |lady ἦν ἐγὼ σέβω 395

μάλιστα πάντων καὶ ξυνεργὸν εἰλόμην,

Ἐκάτην, |recess, |dwell, ἐστίας ἐμῆς,  
|nook |found;

χαίρων τις αὐτῶν τοῦμόν ἀλγυνεῖ |heart  
|flow

|sharp δ' ἐγὼ σφιν καὶ |pitiful; woe-; τῷ |wedding, sex  
|bringing

|sharp δὲ |sorrow καὶ φυγὰς ἐμὰς χθονός. 400

ἀλλ' |ex- |spare μηδὲν ὧν ἐπίστασαι,

Μῆδεσσαν |ma- |bouleousa καὶ |make, invent  
|tion

ἐρπ' |urge some- |δὲ δεινόν· νῦν |gathering courage,  
|place |high spirits

ὀρᾶς |on 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** (ἄ) accomplish, pass, waste;  
upwards, out to sea**ᾠοιδάω** sing**ᾠοιδή** song**ᾠοιδός** (f) singer**ἄπιστοσύνη** 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

**εὐκλεία** 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; (κατά+) rightly

~Moirā

**μοῦσα** muse**ὀπάζω** send with, put in fealty to;  
bestow; chase**παγά** (ᾱα) 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

γεγῶσαν ἐσθλοῦ πατρὸς Ἥλιου τ' ἄπο.

ἐπίστασαι δέ· πρὸς δὲ καὶ πεφύκαμεν

γυναιῖκες, ἐς μὲν ἔσθλ' ἀμηχανώταται,

κακῶν δὲ πάντων τέκτονες σοφώταται.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἄνω ποταμῶν ἱερῶν χωροῦσι παγαί,

410

καὶ δίκαια καὶ πάντα πάλιν στρέφεται.

ἀνδράσι μὲν δόλιαι βουλαί, θεῶν δ'

οὐκέτι πίστις ἄραρε·

τὰν δ' ἐμὰν εὐκλειαν ἔχειν βιοτὰν στρέψουσι φᾶμαι·

415

ἔρχεται τιμὰ γυναικείῳ γένει·

οὐκέτι δυσκέλαδος φάμα γυναικῆς ἔξει.

420

ΧΟ. μούσαι δὲ παλαιγενέων λήξουσ' αἰοιδῶν

τὰν ἐμὰν ὑμνεῦσαι ἀπιστοσύναν.

οὐ γὰρ ἐν ἀμετέρῃ γνώμα λύρας

ὥπασε θέσπιν αἰοιδὰν

425

Φοῖβος, ἀγῆτωρ μελέων· ἐπεὶ ἀντάχῃσ' ἂν ὕμνον

ἀρσένων γέννα. μακρὸς δ' αἰὼν ἔχει

πολλὰ μὲν ἀμετέραν ἀνδρῶν τε μοῖραν εἰπεῖν.

430

ΧΟ. σὺ δ' ἐκ μὲν οἴκων πατρίων ἔπλευσας



γεγῶσαν ἐσθλοῦ πατρὸς Ἡλίου τ' ἄπο.

ἐπίστασαι δέ· πρὸς δὲ καὶ πεφύκαμεν

γυναῖκες, ἐς μὲν ἔσθλ' |helpless,  
|impossible

κακῶν δὲ πάντων |worker |skilled,  
|clever, wise

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἄνω ποταμῶν ἱερῶν |withdraw, give |way to (+dat) 410

καὶ δίκαια καὶ πάντα πάλιν |turn

ἀνδράσι μὲν |tricky, |βουλαί, θεῶν δ'  
|guileful

οὐκέτι πίστις |join, fit, furnish

τὰν δ' ἐμὰν |good reput<sup>ε</sup>, |εἰν |life |turn φᾶμαι· 415

ἔρχεται τιμὰ |of women γένει·

οὐκέτι |bad-sounding ῥάμα γυναικας ἔξει. 420

ΧΟ. |muse δὲ |old λήξουσ' αἰοιδῶν

τὰν ἐμὰν ὑμνεῦσαι |disbelief,  
|distrust

οὐ γὰρ ἐν ἀμετέρᾳ γνώμῃ |lyre

|send |divine, |ιοιδὰν 425  
|with, |inspired

|put in  
|fealty to; ἀγῆτωρ μελέων· ἐπεὶ |resound, ἄν |song  
|bestow; |sound  
|chase |back  
|male γέννα. μακρὸς δ' αἰὼν ἐχει

πολλὰ μὲν ἀμετέραν ἀνδρῶν τε |portion, fate ἴν. 430

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

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** (t) 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**κρείσσω** more powerful; better**λέκτρον** bed ~lie**μάταιος** vain, empty**μεθορμίζω** move anchorage**μόχθος** toil**ὀργή** urge, impulse; anger**ὀρίζω** divide; ordain, define ~horizon**ὄρκος** what is sworn by, witness, oath

~orc

**οὕνεκα** because**πέτρα** rock, cliff, reef ~petrified**τάλας** wretched, miserable ~talent**τραχύς** (α) rough ~trachea**φυγὰς** -δος (m, 3) exile, refugee

~fugitive

**φυγή** flight, means of escape ~fugitive

μαινομένα κραδία, διδύμους ὀρίσασα πόντου  
 πέτρας· ἐπὶ δὲ ξένα  
 ναίεις χθονί, τᾶς ἀνάνδρου  
 κοίτας ὀλέσσασα λέκτρον,  
 τάλαινα, φρυγὰς δὲ χώρας  
 ἄτιμος ἐλαύνῃ.

435

ΧΟΡΟΣ. βέβακε δ' ὄρκων χάρις, οὐδ' ἔτ' αἰδῶς  
 Ἑλλάδι τᾷ μεγάλην μένει, αἰθερία δ' ἀνέπτα.  
 σοὶ δ' οὔτε πατρὸς δόμοι,  
 δύστανε, μεθορμίσασθαι  
 μόχθων πάρα, τῶν τε λέκτρων  
 ἄλλα βασιλεια κρείσσω  
 δόμοισιν ἐπέστα.

440

445

ΙΑΣΩΝ. οὐ νῦν κατείδον πρῶτον ἀλλὰ πολλάκις  
 τραχεῖαν ὀργὴν ὡς ἀμήχανον κακόν.  
 σοὶ γὰρ παρὸν γῆν τήνδε καὶ δόμους ἔχειν  
 κούφως φερούση κρεισσόνων βουλευματα,  
 λόγων ματαίων οὔνεκ' ἐκπεσῇ χθονός.  
 κάμοι μὲν οὐδὲν πρᾶγμα· μὴ παύσῃ ποτέ

450

μαινομένα κραδία, |twin, |divide; or- ύντου  
|double |dain, define

|rock ἐπὶ δὲ ξένα

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

435

|wretched, φυγὰς δὲ χώρας  
|miserable

|without ἐλαύνῃ.  
|honor

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

Ἑλλάδι τᾷ μεγάλᾳ μένει, |in the air; heavenly

440

σοὶ δ' οὔτε πατρὸς δόμοι,

δύστανε, |move anchorage

|toil πάρα, τῶν τε |bed

ἄλλα βασιλεία κρείσσων

δόμοισιν ἐπέστα.

445

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

|rough |urge, ἥς |helpless, κακόν.  
|impulse; |impossible  
|anger

σοὶ γὰρ παρὼν γῆν τήνδε καὶ δόμους ἔχειν

|light, φερούση κρεισσόνων |resolution,  
|nimble |purpose

λόγων |vain, |because|fall out of, |θονός.  
|empty

450

κάμοι μὲν οὐδὲν πρᾶγμα· μὴ παύσῃ ποτέ

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**εὐτολμία** courage**ἐφέλκω** drag; (mid) influence**ζημιόω** fine, punish**θράσος** -ους (n, 3) boldness,  
over-boldness**θυμός** (i) 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' ὥς κάκιστός ἐστ' ἀνὴρ·  
 ἃ δ' ἐς τυράννους ἐστί σοι λελεγμένα,  
 πᾶν κέρδος ἡγοῦ ζημιουμένη φυγῇ.  
 καὶ γὰρ μὲν αἰεὶ βασιλέων θυμουμένων  
 ὀργὰς ἀφήρουν καὶ σ' ἐβουλόμην μένειν·  
 σὺ δ' οὐκ ἀνίεις μωρίας, λέγουσ' αἰεὶ  
 κακῶς τυράννους· τοιγὰρ ἐκπεσῇ χθονός.  
 ὅμως δὲ κακὰ τῶνδ' οὐκ ἀπειρηκῶς φίλοις  
 ἤκω, τὸ σὸν δὲ προσκοπούμενος, γύναι,  
 ὥς μήτ' ἀχρήμων σὺν τέκνοισιν ἐκπέσης  
 μήτ' ἐνδεής του· πόλλ' ἐφέλκεται φυγῇ  
 κακὰ ξὺν αὐτῇ. καὶ γὰρ εἰ σύ με στυγείς,  
 οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην σοὶ κακῶς φρονεῖν ποτε.

455

460

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ὦ παγκάκιστε, τοῦτο γὰρ σ' εἰπεῖν ἔχω,

465

γλώσση μέγιστον εἰς ἀνανδρίαν κακόν·  
 ἦλθες πρὸς ἡμᾶς, ἦλθες ἔχθιστος γεγώς;  
 θεοῖς τε κάμοι παντί τ' ἀνθρώπων γένει;  
 οὔτοι θράσος τόδ' ἐστὶν οὐδ' εὐτολμία,  
 φίλους κακῶς δράσαντ' ἐναντίον βλέπειν,



λέγουσ' Ἰάσον' ὥς κάκιστός ἐστ' ἀνὴρ·

ἃ δ' ἐς |tyrant ἐστί σοι λελεγμένα,

παῖν |advantage, cunning, οὐ |fine, punish |flight, means  
|of escape

καγὼ μὲν αἰεὶ βασιλέων |anger

455

|urge, |take away καί σ' ἐβουλόμην μένειν·  
|impulse;  
|anger

σὺ δ' οὐκ |urge, μωρίας, λέγουσ' αἰεὶ  
|impel;  
|release

κακῶς |tyrant |there- |fall out of, |θονός.  
|fore

|anyway, nevertheless οὐκ ἀπειρηκῶς φίλοις

ἦκω, τὸ σὸν δὲ προσκοπούμενος, γύναι,

460

ὥς μήτ' ἀχρήμων σὺν τέκνοισιν ἐκπέσης

μήτ' |inadequate · πόλλ' |drag; (mid)|flight, means  
|influence |of escape

κακὰ ξὺν αὐτῇ. καὶ γὰρ εἰ σύ με |dread

οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην σοὶ κακῶς φρονεῖν ποτε.

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

465

|tongue, μέγιστον εἰς |lack of manliness 'ν·  
|language

ἦλθες πρὸς ἡμᾶς, ἦλθες ἔχθιστος γεγώς;

θεοῖς τε κάμοι παντί τ' ἀνθρώπων γένει;

οὗτοι |boldness ῥόδ' ἐστὶν οὐδ' |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**ἄυπνος** sleepless**βλώσχω** come, go**γύης γύου** (m, 1) plowshare**δέρη** neck, throat, mane**δράκων** -οντος (m, 3) serpent**Ἑλλήν** Greek**ἐξαιρέω** 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** (ῥ) annoy, distress**μολίσχω** come, go**νόσος** (f) plague, pestilence ~noisome**προδίδωμι** betray**πρόθυμος** (ῥ) 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, ἀναΐδει· εὖ δ' ἐποίησας μολών·  
 ἐγὼ τε γὰρ λέξασα κουφισθήσομαι  
 ψυχὴν κακῶς σε καὶ σὺ λυπήσῃ κλύων.  
 ἐκ τῶν δὲ πρώτων πρώτον ἄρξομαι λέγειν.

475

ἔσῳσά σ', ὡς ἴσασιν Ἑλλήνων ὅσοι  
 ταῦτόν συνεισέβησαν Ἀργῶν σκάφος,  
 πεμφθέντα ταύρων πυρπνόων ἐπιστάτην  
 ζεύγλῃσι καὶ σπεροῦντα θανάσιμον γύνῃ·  
 δράκοντά θ', ὃς πάγχρυσον ἀμπέχων δέρας  
 σπείραις ἔσωζε πολυπλόκοις ἄυπνος ὦν,  
 κτείνασ' ἀνέσχον σοὶ φάος σωτήριον.

480

αὐτὴ δὲ πατέρα καὶ δόμους προδοῦσ' ἐμοῦς  
 τὴν Πηλιῶτιν εἰς Ἴωλκὸν ἰκόμην  
 σὺν σοί, πρόθυμος μᾶλλον ἢ σοφωτέρα·

485

Πελίαν τ' ἀπέκτειν', ὥσπερ ἄλγιστον θανεῖν,  
 παίδων ὑπ' αὐτοῦ, πάντα τ' ἐξεῖλον δόμον.  
 καὶ ταῦθ' ὑφ' ἡμῶν, ὦ κάκιστ' ἀνδρῶν, παθὼν  
 προὔδωκας ἡμᾶς, καὶ νῦν δ' ἐκτήσω λέχη—

ἀλλ' ἡ μεγίστη τῶν ἐν ἀνθρώποις |plague

πασῶν, |shamelessness ᾧ ἐποίησας μολῶν·

ἐγὼ τε γὰρ λέξασα |lighten

ψυχὴν κακῶς σε καὶ σὺ |annoy, |hear  
|distress

ἐκ τῶν δὲ πρώτων πρῶτον ἄρξομαι λέγειν.

475

ἔσῳσά σ', ὡς ἴσασιν |Greek ὅσοι

ταῦτὸν συνεισέβησαν Ἀργῶν σκάφος,

πεμφθέντα |bull πυρπνόων ἐπιστάτην

ζεύγλῃσι καὶ |sow |fatal |plowshare

|serpent θ', ὃς πάγχρυσον |cover |neck,  
|throat,  
|mane  
σπείραις ἔσῳζε πολυπλόκοις |sleepless οὐ,

480

κτείνας' |raise; σοὶ |light; |saving  
|endure |salva-

αὐτὴ δὲ πατέρα καὶ δόμους |betray ἐμοὺς  
(pl)  
|eyes

τὴν Πηλιῶτιν εἰς Ἴωλκὸν ἰκόμην

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

485

Πελίαν τ' ἀπέκτειν', ὥσπερ ἄλγιστον θανεῖν,

παίδων ὑπ' αὐτοῦ, πάντα τ' ἐξείλον δόμον.

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

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

παίδων γεγώτων· εἰ γὰρ ἦσθ' ἄπαις ἔτι, 490  
 συγγνώστ' ἂν ἦν σοι τοῦδ' ἐρασθῆναι λέχους.  
 ὄρκων δὲ φρούδη πίστις, οὐδ' ἔχω μαθεῖν  
 ἦ θεοὺς νομίζεις τοὺς τότε οὐκ ἄρχειν ἔτι,  
 ἦ καινὰ κείσθαι θέσμι' ἀνθρώποις τὰ νῦν,  
 ἐπεὶ σύνοισθ' ἄ γ' εἰς ἔμ' οὐκ εὖορκος ὢν. 495  
 φεῦ δεξιὰ χεῖρ, ἥς σὺ πόλλ' ἐλαμβάνου,  
 καὶ τῶνδε γονάτων, ὡς μάτην κεχρώσμεθα  
 κακοῦ πρὸς ἀνδρός, ἐλπίδων δ' ἡμάρτομεν.  
 ἄγ'· ὡς φίλω γὰρ ὄντι σοι κοινώσομαι—  
 δοκοῦσα μὲν τί πρὸς γε σοῦ πράξειν καλῶς; 500  
 ὅμως δ'· ἐρωτηθεῖς γὰρ αἰσχίων φανῇ—  
 νῦν ποῖ τράπωμαι; πότερα πρὸς πατρός δόμους,  
 οὗς σοὶ προδοῦσα καὶ πάτραν ἀφικόμην;  
 ἦ πρὸς ταλαίνας Πελιάδας; καλῶς γ' ἂν οὔν  
 δέξαιντό μ' οἴκοις ὧν πατέρα κατέκτανον. 505  
 ἔχει γὰρ οὕτω· τοῖς μὲν οἴκοθεν φίλοις  
 ἐχθρὰ καθέστηχ', οὗς δέ μ' οὐκ ἐχρῆν κακῶς  
 δρᾶν, σοὶ χάριν φέρουσα πολεμίους ἔχω.



παίδων γεγώτων· εἰ γὰρ ἦσθ' ἅπαις ἔτι,

490

συγγνώστ' ἂν ἦν σοι τοῦδ' |love; long for|bed, bier

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

ἦ θεοὺς νομίζεις τοὺς τότε οὐκ ἄρχειν ἔτι,

ἦ |new, . . . fresh, |fixed, set, |ρώποις τὰ νῦν,  
|strange |tled, lawful

ἐπεὶ |know about, some-, |οὐκ εὖορκος ὦν.  
|one; think proper

495

|exclamation, of, grief, anger, |λλ' ἐλαμβάνου,  
|surprise, admiration

καὶ τῶνδε |knee , ὥς μάτην κεχρώσμεθα

κακοῦ πρὸς ἀνδρός, ἐλπίδων δ' ἡμάρτομεν.

ἄγ' ὥς φίλῳ γὰρ ὄντι σοι |make common;  
|cooperate

δοκοῦσα μὲν τί πρὸς γε σοῦ πράξειν καλῶς;

500

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

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

οὓς σοὶ |betray καὶ |fatherland, |φικόμην;

ἦ πρὸς |wretched, Πελιάδας; καλῶς γ' ἂν οὖν  
|miserable

δέξαιντό μ' οἴκοις ὦν πατέρα |kill, slay

505

ἔχει γὰρ οὕτω τοῖς μὲν |from home, |λοις

ἐχθρὰ καθέστηχ', οὓς δέ μ' οὐκ ἐχρήν 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**ὄνειδος** -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 Ἑλληνίδων

ἔθηκας ἀντὶ τῶνδε· θαυμαστὸν δέ σε

510

ἔχω πόσιν καὶ πιστὸν ἢ τάλαιν' ἐγώ,

εἰ φεύξομαί γε γαῖαν ἐκβεβλημένη,

φίλων ἔρημος, σὺν τέκνοις μόνη μόνοις—

καλόν γ' ὄνειδος τῷ νεωστὶ νυμφίῳ,

πτωχοὺς ἀλᾶσθαι παῖδας ἢ τ' ἔσωσά σε.

515

ὦ Ζεῦ, τί δὴ χρυσοῦ μὲν ὃς κίβδηλος ἦ

τεκμήρι' ἀνθρώποισιν ὅπασας σαφῇ,

ἀνδρῶν δ' ὅτῳ χρὴ τὸν κακὸν διειδέναι,

οὐδεὶς χαρακτῆρ' ἐμπέφυκε σώματι;

ΧΟΡΟΣ. δεινὴ τις ὀργὴ καὶ δυσίατος πέλει,

520

ὅταν φίλοι φίλοισι συμβάλωσ' ἔριν.

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

ἀλλ' ὥστε ναὸς κεδνὸν οἶακοστρόφον

ἄκροισι λαίφους κρασπέδοις ὑπεκδραμεῖν

τὴν σὴν στόμαργον, ὦ γύναι, γλωσσαλγίαν.

525

ἐγὼ δ', ἐπειδὴ καὶ λῖαν πυργοῖς χάριν,

Κύπριν νομίζω τῆς ἐμῆς ναυκληρίας

|therefore, ε πολλαῖς |blessed Ἐλληνίδων

ἔθικας ἀντὶ τῶνδε· |wonderful; δέ σε  
|admirable 510

ἔχω |(m) hus-|faithful; , |wretched, γώ,  
|band, |trustwor- |miserable  
|(f) a drink |thy.  
|throw out, fell,  
|let fall

φίλων ἔρημος, σὺν τέκνοις μόνη μόνοις—

καλόν γ' |blame; τῷ νεωστὶ |bridegroom  
|insult

|poor, ἀλᾶσθαι παῖδας ἢ τ' ἔσῳσά σε. 515  
|beggarly

ὦ Ζεῦ, τί δὴ χρυσοῦ μὲν ὅς |bogus ἦ

|sign; ἀνθρώποισιν |send with, |clear, under-  
|proof |put in |standable  
|fealty to;  
|bestow;  
|chase

οὐδεὶς |stamp; char-|plant; cling σώματι;  
|acteristic

ΧΟΡΟΣ. δεινὴ τις |urge, ...ἰ δυσίαιτος |be, turn out to 520  
|impulse; |be (mid=act)  
|anger

ὅταν φίλοι φίλοις συμβάλωσ' |strife

ΙΑΣΩΝ. δεῖ μ', ὥς ἔοικε, μὴ κακὸν |produce, , ν,  
|beget; clasp

ἀλλ' ὥστε ναὸς |considerate, ...οστρόφον  
|caring

ἄκροισι |rags, sailcloth σπέδοις |run out from  
|under, escape

τὴν σὴν στόμαργον, ὦ γύναι, γλωσσαλγίαν. 525

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

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 (ῑ) exact  
 ἄμιλλα conflict  
 ἀναγκάζω force, compel  
 ἄφυκτος inevitable; caught  
 βάρβαρος non-Greek  
 δέμας -ως (n) body; (+gen.) like  
 διέρχομαι pierce, traverse  
 ἐκσώζω save from  
 Ἑλλήν Greek  
 ἐπίσημος marked, significant  
 ἐπίσταμαι know how, understand  
 ~station  
 ἐπίφθονος jealous  
 ἔσχατος 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  
 ὄρος 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 (ῑ) gold

σώτειραν εἶναι θεῶν τε κἀνθρώπων μόνην.  
 σοὶ δ' ἔστι μὲν νοῦς λεπτός— ἀλλ' ἐπίφθονος  
 λόγος διελθεῖν, ὡς Ἔρως σ' ἠνάγκασε  
 τόξοις ἀφύκτοις τοῦμόν ἐκσῶσαι δέμας.  
 ἀλλ' οὐκ ἀκριβῶς αὐτὸ θήσομαι λίαν·  
 ὅπη γὰρ οὖν ὤνησας, οὐ κακῶς ἔχει.  
 μείζω γε μέντοι τῆς ἐμῆς σωτηρίας  
 εἴληφας ἢ δέδωκας, ὡς ἐγὼ φράσω.  
 πρῶτον μὲν Ἑλλάδ' ἀντὶ βαρβάρου χθονὸς  
 γαῖαν κατοικεῖς καὶ δίκην ἐπίστασαι  
 νόμοις τε χρῆσθαι μὴ πρὸς ἰσχύος χάριν·  
 πάντες δέ σ' ἥσθοντ' οὖσαν Ἑλληνες σοφὴν  
 καὶ δόξαν ἔσχες· εἰ δὲ γῆς ἐπ' ἐσχάτοις  
 ὄροισιν ὥκεις, οὐκ ἂν ἦν λόγος σέθεν.  
 εἴη δ' ἔμοιγε μήτε χρυσὸς ἐν δόμοις  
 μήτ' Ὀρφέως κάλλιον ὑμνῆσαι μέλος,  
 εἰ μὴ ἴσιμος ἢ τύχη γένοιτό μοι.  
 τοσαῦτα μὲν σοι τῶν ἐμῶν πόνων πέρι  
 ἔλεξ'. ἄμιλλαν γὰρ σὺ προύθηκας λόγων.

530

535

540

545



|savior (fem) ἵναι θεῶν τε κἀνθρώπων μόνην.

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

λόγος |pierce, , ὥς Ἔρως σ' |force, 530  
|traverse |compel

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

ἀλλ' οὐκ ἀκριβῶς αὐτὸ θήσομαι |very

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

μειζῶ γε μέντοι τῆς ἐμῆς σωτηρίας

εἵληφας ἢ δέδωκας, ὥς ἐγὼ φράσω. 535

πρῶτον μὲν Ἑλλάδ' ἀντὶ |non-Greek χθονὸς

γαίαν κατοικεῖς καὶ δίκην ἐπίστασαι

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

πάντες δέ σ' ἤσθοντ' οὐσαν |Greek |skilled,  
|clever, wise

καὶ δόξαν ἔσχες· εἰ δὲ γῆς ἐπ' |farthest 540

|boundary, ἵκεις, οὐκ ἂν ἦν λόγος σέθεν.  
|marker

εἴη δ' ἔμοιγε μήτε |gold ἐν δόμοις

μήτ' Ὀρφέως κάλλιον |recite, |limb;  
|commemorate |melody

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

τοσαῦτα μὲν σοι τῶν ἐμῶν |toil, suffering. 545

ἔλεξ'. |conflict γὰρ σὺ |prefer, set out ὄγων.

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 barbary. 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**ἄμιλλα** conflict**βασιλικός** royal**γαμέω** marry, take as a lover ~bigamy**γάμος** wedding, sex ~bigamy**δείκνυμι** (ō) 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**ἔμερος** (ī) 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**οἰκέω** 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**φυγὰς** -δος (m, 3) exile, refugee  
~fugitive**φυγή** flight, means of escape ~fugitive

ἃ δ' ἐς γάμους μοι βασιλικούς ὠνείδισας,  
 ἐν τῷδε δείξω πρῶτα μὲν σοφὸς γεγώς,  
 ἔπειτα σώφρων, εἶτα σοὶ μέγας φίλος  
 καὶ παισὶ τοῖς ἐμοῖσιν— ἀλλ' ἔχ' ἥσυχος.

550

ἐπεὶ μετέστην δεῦρ' Ἰωλκίας χθονὸς  
 πολλὰς ἐφέλκων συμφορὰς ἀμηχάνους,  
 τί τοῦδ' ἂν εὖρημ' ἠῦρον εὐτυχέστερον  
 ἢ παῖδα γῆμαι βασιλέως φυγὰς γεγώς;  
 οὐχ, ἦ σὺ κνίζῃ, σὸν μὲν ἐχθαίρων λέχος,  
 καινῆς δὲ νύμφης ἰμέρῳ πεπληγμένος,  
 οὐδ' εἰς ἄμιλλαν πολύτεκνον σπουδὴν ἔχων·  
 ἄλλῃς γὰρ οἱ γεγῶτες οὐδὲ μέμφομαι·  
 ἀλλ' ὥς, τὸ μὲν μέγιστον, οἰκοῦμεν καλῶς  
 καὶ μὴ σπανιζοίμεσθα, γιγνώσκων ὅτι  
 πένητα φεύγει πᾶς τις ἐκποδῶν φίλος,  
 παῖδας δὲ θρέψαιμ' ἀξίως δόμων ἐμῶν  
 σπείρας τ' ἀδελφούς τοῖσιν ἐκ σέθεν τέκνοις  
 ἐς ταὐτὸ θείην, καὶ ξυναρτήσας γένος  
 εὐδαιμονοῦμεν. σοί τε γὰρ παίδων τί δεῖ;

555

560

ἂ δ' ἐς |wedding, sex |royal |reproach

ἐν τῷδε |show πρώτα μὲν |skilled, -, ὥς,  
|clever, wise

ἔπειτα |sensible, , |then, there-έγας φίλος  
|prudent |fore, next

καὶ παισὶ τοῖς ἐμοῖσιν— ἀλλ' ἔχ' |quiet 550

ἐπεὶ μετέστην |here, come` here! ἄθονος

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

τί τοῦδ' ἂν εὖρημ' ἡῦρον |fortunate

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

οὐχ, ἦ σὺ κνίζῃ, σὸν μὲν |hate |bed, bier 555

|new, fresh, strange, - |urge |hit

οὐδ' εἰς |conflict πολύτεκνον |zeal; (dat)~,with  
|difficulty, hastily

|in plenty; enough ὅτες οὐδὲ |blame;  
|reject

ἀλλ' ὥς, 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' ἀδελφούς τοῖσιν ἐκ σέθεν τέκνοις

ἐς ταῦτὸ θείην, καὶ ξυναρτήσας γένος

|be lucky, happy σοί τε γὰρ παῖδων 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  
**ἄγαμαι** wonder, admire; resent,  
 begrudge  
**ἄγαν** very much  
**ἄδικος** unfair; obstinate, bad  
**ἄλλοθεν** from elsewhere ~alien  
**ἄλοχος** (f) wife ~lie  
**αὐχέω** boast  
**γλῶσσα** tongue, language ~glossary  
**διάφορος** different; difference;  
 disagreeing; balance, bill  
**δράω** do, accomplish  
**εὐνή** bed; (pl) anchor stones  
**εὐσχήμων** dignified  
**ζημία** loss, penalty ~zeal

**θηλυς** female; (rare) abundant ~female  
**κνίζω** scratch, gash; tickle  
**κοσμέω** marshal, array ~cosmos  
**λέχος** -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier ~lie  
**ὅμως** anyway, nevertheless  
**ὀνίνημι** help, please, be available  
**ὀρθόω** stand up  
**ὀφλισκάνω** lose; incur debt  
**πόθεν** from where?  
**προδίδωμι** betray  
**σοφός** skilled, clever, wise  
**συμφορά** collecting; accident,  
 misfortune  
**τεκνόω** have/give children  
**φύω** produce, beget; clasp ~physics

ἐμοί τε λύει τοῖσι μέλλουσιν τέκνοισ  
 τὰ ζώντ' ὀνήσαι. μῶν βεβούλευμαι κακῶς;  
 οὐδ' ἂν σὺ φαίης, εἴ σε μὴ κνίζοι λέχος.  
 ἀλλ' ἐς τοσοῦτον ἤκεθ' ὥστ' ὀρθομένης  
 εὐνής γυναῖκες πάντ' ἔχειν νομίζετε,  
 ἣν δ' αὖ γένηται ξυμφορά τις ἐς λέχος,  
 τὰ λῶστα καὶ κάλλιστα πολεμιώτατα  
 τίθεσθε. χρῆν γὰρ ἄλλοθέν ποθεν βροτοὺς  
 παῖδας τεκνοῦσθαι, θῆλυ δ' οὐκ εἶναι γένος·  
 χούτως ἂν οὐκ ἦν οὐδὲν ἀνθρώποις κακόν.

570

575

ΧΟΡΟΣ. Ἰᾶσον, εὖ μὲν τούσδ' ἐκόσμησας λόγους·

ὅμως δ' ἔμοιγε, κεί' παρὰ γνώμην ἐρῶ,  
 δοκεῖς προδοὺς σὴν ἄλοχον οὐ δίκαια δρᾶν.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ἦ πολλὰ πολλοῖς εἰμι διάφορος βροτῶν.

ἐμοὶ γὰρ ὅστις ἄδικος ὢν σοφὸς λέγειν  
 πέφυκε, πλείστην ζημίαν ὀφλισκάνει·  
 γλώσση γὰρ αὐχῶν τᾷδικ' εὖ περιστελεῖν,  
 τολμᾷ πανουργεῖν· ἔστι δ' οὐκ ἄγαν σοφός.  
 ὥς καὶ σὺ μὴ νυν εἰς ἔμ' εὐσχήμων γένη

580



ἐμοί τε λύει τοῖσι μέλλουσιν τέκνοισ

τὰ ζῶντ' |help, please, ν |be available βεβούλευμαι κακῶς;

οὐδ' ἂν σὺ φαίης, εἴ σε μὴ |scratch, |bed, bier  
gash;

ἀλλ' ἐς τοσοῦτον ἤκεθ' ὥστ' |tickle  
stand up

|bed; (pl) an-<sup>ς</sup>ες πάντ' ἔχειν νομίζετε,  
|chor stones

570

ἦν δ' αὖ γένηται ξυμφορά τις ἐς |bed, bier

τὰ λῶστα καὶ κάλλιστα πολεμιώτατα

τίθεσθε. χρῆν γὰρ |from elsewhere βροτοὺς

παῖδας |have/give chil- |female; (rare) ἵναι γένος·  
dren |abundant

χοῦτως ἂν οὐκ ἦν οὐδὲν ἀνθρώποις κακόν.

575

ΧΟΡΟΣ. Ἰᾶσον, εὖ μὲν τούσδ' |marshal, λόγους·  
|array

|anyway, nevertheless ἔ παρὰ γνώμην ἐρῶ,

δοκεῖς |betray σὴν |wife οὐ δίκαια |do, accomplish

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ἦ πολλὰ πολλοῖς εἰμι |different; ἑροτῶν.  
|disagreeing

ἐμοὶ γὰρ ὅστις |unfair; ὄβ- |skilled, ἑν  
|stinate, bad |clever, wise

580

πέφυκε, πλείστην |loss, |lose; incur  
|penalty |debt

|tongue, γὰρ |boast τᾶδικ' εὖ περιστελεῖν,  
|language

τολμᾷ πανουργεῖν· ἔστι δ' οὐκ ἄγαν |skilled,  
|clever, wise

ὥς καὶ σὺ μὴ νυν εἰς ἔμ' |dignified γένη

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  
 μέτεμι be among, go, follow ~ion  
 ὄλβος happiness, wealth  
 οὐνεκα because  
 πάρος before, in the past  
 σιγά silence  
 σιγάω (ι) 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 ἐκτενεί σ' ἔπος·

585

χρῆν σ', εἴπερ ἦσθα μὴ κακός, πείσαντά με

γαμεῖν γάμον τόνδ', ἀλλὰ μὴ σιγῇ φίλων.

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

εἴ σοι γάμον κατεῖπον, ἥτις οὐδὲ νῦν

τολμᾷς μεθεῖναι καρδίας μέγαν χόλον.

590

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. οὐ τοῦτό σ' εἶχεν, ἀλλὰ βάρβαρον λέχος

πρὸς γῆρας οὐκ εὐδοξον ἐξέβαινέ σοι.

ΙΑΣ. εὖ νῦν τόδ' ἴσθι, μὴ γυναικὸς οὐνεκα

γῆμαί με λέκτρα βασιλέων ἅ νῦν ἔχω,

ἀλλ', ὥσπερ εἶπον καὶ πάρος, σῶσαι θέλων

595

σέ, καὶ τέκνοισι τοῖς ἐμοῖς ὁμοσπόρους

φῦσαι τυράννους παῖδας, ἔρυμα δώμασι.

ΜΗΔ. μή μοι γένοιτο λυπρὸς εὐδαίμων βίος

μηδ' ὄλβος ὅστις τὴν ἐμὴν κνίζοι φρένα.

ΙΑΣ. οἶσθ' ὥς μέτευξαι, καὶ σοφωτέρα φανῇ;

600

τὰ χρηστὰ μή σοι λυπρὰ φαίνεσθαι ποτέ,

μηδ' εὐτυχούσα δυστυχῆς εἶναι δοκεῖν.

ΜΗΔ. ὕβριζ', ἐπειδὴ σοὶ μὲν ἔστ' ἀποστροφή,

λέγειν τε δεινός. ἔν γὰρ ἔκτενέϊ σ' ἔπος·

585

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

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

ΙΑΣΜΝ. καλῶς γ' ἄν, οἶμαι, τῷδ' |serve λόγῳ,

εἴ σοι |wed- |denounce; ἥτις οὐδὲ νῦν  
|ding, |report  
|sex  
τολμᾶς μεθεῖναι καρδίας μέγαν |anger

590

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

πρὸς γῆρας οὐκ εὖδοξον |come forth οι.

ΙΑΣ. εὖ νῦν τόδ' ἴσθι, μὴ γυναικὸς |because

|marry, take|bed βασιλέων ἂ νῦν ἔχω,  
|as a lover

ἀλλ', ὥσπερ εἶπον καὶ |before, in the past ἔλων

595

σέ, καὶ τέκνοισι τοῖς ἐμοῖς ὁμοσπόρους

|bellows|tyrant παῖδας, |protection' μασι.

ΜΗΔ. μὴ μοι γένοιτο |worthless|blessed |life  
|wretched|with a good

μηδ' |happiness, |genius  
|wealth |scratch, ' ' ' α.  
|gash; tickle

ΙΑΣ. οἶσθ' ὡς μέτευξαι, καὶ |skilled, φανῇ;  
|clever, wise

600

τὰ |useful; brave, |worthless, |ένεσθαι ποτέ,  
|worthy |wretched

μηδ' |be lucky,|unlucky εἶναι δοκεῖν.  
|prosper,  
|succeed

ΜΗΔ. |insult, ἐπειδὴ 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 sovranty

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  
**αἰτίζω** ask for, beg ~etiology  
**ἄμείνων** comparative of ἄγαθός, noble  
**ἄνόσιος** unholy  
**ἄπωθέω** repel, reject  
**ἄρέσκω** please, satisfy; make amends  
**ἄρή** bane, harm; prayer  
**ἄφθονος** ungrudging, plentiful  
**γαμέω** marry, take as a lover ~bigamy  
**δαίμων** -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate, doom  
 ~demon  
**δράω** do, accomplish  
**ἐρῆμος** empty  
**ἐτοιμος** ready; fulfilled

**κερδαίνω** profit, take advantage  
**λάσκω** cry, crack, ring  
**λήγω** cease, (+gen+ppl) cause to cease  
 ~lax  
**μαρτύρομαι** (ῥ) call to witness; protest  
**ὄνησις** -ος (f) benefit  
**ὄργή** urge, impulse; anger  
**προδίδωμι** betray  
**σαυτοῦ** yourself  
**σύμβολον** token, seal  
**σύμβολος** token; omen  
**τοιγάρ** therefore  
**τύραννος** tyrant  
**ὑπουργέω** serve, help  
**φυγή** flight, means of escape ~fugitive

ἐγὼ 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' οὔσα τυγχάνω δόμοις.

ΙΑΣ. ὥς οὐ κρινοῦμαι τῶνδέ σοι τὰ πλείονα.

ἀλλ', εἴ τι βούλῃ παισὶν ἢ σαντῆς φυγῇ

610

προσωφέλημα χρημάτων ἐμῶν λαβεῖν,

λέγ'· ὥς ἔτοιμος ἀφθόνῳ δοῦναι χερὶ

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

καὶ ταῦτα μὴ θέλουσα μωρανεῖς, γύναι·

λήξασα δ' ὀργῆς κερδανεῖς ἀμείνονα.

615

ΜΗΔ. οὔτ' ἂν ξένοισι τοῖσι σοῖς χρησαίμεθ' ἄν,

οὔτ' ἄν τι δεξαίμεσθα, μηδ' ἡμῖν δίδου·

κακοῦ γὰρ ἀνδρὸς δῶρ' ὄνησιν οὐκ ἔχει.

ΙΑΣ. ἀλλ' οὖν ἐγὼ μὲν δαίμονας μαρτύρομαι,

ὥς πάνθ' ὑπουργεῖν σοί τε καὶ τέκνοις θέλω·

620

σοὶ δ' οὐκ ἀρέσκει τὰγάθ', ἀλλ' αὐθαδία

φίλους ἀπωθῇ· τοιγὰρ ἀλγυνῇ πλέον.





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. Wherefore

I warrant thee, thy pains shall be the more.

He

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

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. *χώρει· πόθῳ γὰρ τῆς νεοδμήτου κόρης*

*αἰρή χρονίζων δωμάτων ἐξώπιος.*

*νύμφευ· ἴσως γάρ— σὺν θεῷ δ' εἰρήσεται—*

625

*γαμεῖς τοιοῦτον ὥστε σ' ἀρνέισθαι γάμον.*

ΧΟΡΟΣ. *ἔρωτες ὑπὲρ μὲν ἄγαν*

*ἐλθόντες οὐκ εὐδοξίαν*

*οὐδ' ἀρετὰν παρέδωκαν*

*ἀνδράσιν· εἰ δ' ἄλῃς ἔλθοι*

630

*Κύπρις, οὐκ ἄλλα θεὸς εὐχαρις οὕτως.*

*μήποτ', ὦ δέσποιν', ἐπ' ἐμοὶ χρυσέων τόξων ἐφείης*

*ἱμέρῳ χρίσας ἄφυκτον οἰστόν.*

ΧΘ. *στέργοι δέ με σωφροσύνα,*

635

*δώρημα κάλλιστον θεῶν·*

*μηδέ ποτ' ἀμφιλόγους ὀργὰς*

*ἀκόρεστά τε νείκη*

*θυμὸν ἐκπλήξας ἑτέροις ἐπὶ λέκτροις*

*προσβάλοι δεινὰ Κύπρις, ἀπτολέμους δ' εὐνὰς σεβίζουσ'*

640

*ὀξύφρων κρίνοι λέχη γυναικῶν.*

ΧΘ. *ὦ πατρίς, ὦ δώματα, μὴ*

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. |with-  
draw, |longing, ἴρ τῆς νεοδημῆτος κόρης  
|give  
|regret

αἶρῃ |spend time δωμάτων ἐξώπιος.  
|way  
|(+dat)

|marry, give ὡς γάρ— σὺν θεῷ δ' εἰρήσεται—  
|in marriage

625

|marry, take ὕτον ὥστε σ' |deny, |wedding, sex  
|as a lover |refuse

ΧΟΡΟΣ. |love, ὑπὲρ μὲν ἄγαν  
|desire

ἐλθόντες οὐκ |good repute

οὐδ' |excellence πρέδωκαν

ἀνδράσιν· εἰ δ' |in plenty; enough

630

Κύπρις, οὐκ ἄλλα θεὸς εὐχαρις οὕτως.

|absolutely ᾧ |lady , ἐπ' ἐμοὶ χρυσέων |bow |send flying at  
|never

|urge |anoint |inevitable; |bearable  
|caught

ΧΘ. |love; be content ἡφροσύνα,

635

|gift κάλλιστον θεῶν·

μηδέ ποτ' ἀμφιλόγους |urge,  
|impulse;  
|anger

|insatiate, τε |quarrel,  
|unceasing |battle

θυμὸν |panic, be ἔτεροις ἐπὶ |bed  
|knocked out

|hit, attack, approach; ὕπρις, |unwarlike  
|attach, offer

δ' |bed; |worship,  
|pl |honor  
|anchor  
|stones

640

ὀξύφρων κρίνοι λέχη γυναικῶν.

ΧΘ. ὦ πατρίς, ὦ δώματα, μὴ

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  
**ἐξάνύω** bring to pass; slay  
**ἐπιστρωφάω** visit, go among ~atrophy  
**καταίρω** swoop; land  
**καταράομαι** (αἶα) curse  
**κλείς κληῖδος** (f) bar, key ~clavicle  
**οἰκτρός** pitiable

**πάθος** -ους (n, 3) an experience,  
 passion, condition  
**πάρως** 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** (ι) honor, exalt  
**ὑπερθεν** from above  
**ὑπερτίθημι** hand over; excel; defer

δῆτ' ἄπολις γενοίμαν

τὸν ἀμηχανίας ἔχουσα

645

δυσπέρατον αἰὼν', οἰκτροτάτων ἀχέων.

θανάτῳ θανάτῳ πάρος δαμείην

ἀμέραν τάνδ' ἐξανύσασα· μὶ

χθων δ' οὐκ ἄλλος ὑπερθεν ἤ

650

γᾶς πατρίας στέρεσθαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. εἶδομεν, οὐκ ἐξ ἐτέρων

μῦθον ἔχω φράσασθαι·

σὲ γὰρ οὐ πόλις, οὐ φίλων τις

655

ᾧκτισεν παθοῦσαν δεινότατον παθέων.

ἀχάριστος ὅλοιθ', ὅτῳ πάρεστιν

μὴ φίλους τιμᾶν καθαρᾶν ἀνοί

660

ξαντα κληῖδα φρενῶν· ἐμοὶ

μὲν φίλος οὐπότ' ἔσται.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ. Μήδεια, χαίρε· τοῦδε γὰρ προοίμιον

κάλλιον οὐδεὶς οἶδε προσφωνεῖν φίλους.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ὦ χαίρε καὶ σύ, παῖ σοφοῦ Πανδίωνος,

665

Αἰγέυ. πόθεν γῆς τῆσδ' ἐπιστρωφᾶ πέδον;



δῆτ' ἄπολις γενοίμαν

τὸν ἀμηχανίας ἔχουσα

645

δυσπέρατον αἰῶν', |pitiable ἀχέων.

θανάτῳ θανάτῳ |before, in the past

ἀμέραν τάνδ' |bring to pass; slay

χθων δ' οὐκ ἄλλος ὑπερθεῖν ἤ

650

γὰς |of the|lack, lose  
father(s),  
ancestral

ΧΟΡΟΣ. εἰδομέν, οὐκ ἐξ ἐτέρων

μῦθον ἔχω φράσασθαι·

σὲ γὰρ οὐ πόλις, οὐ φίλων τις

655

ᾧκτισεν παθοῦσαν δεινότατον |an experience, pas-  
sion, condition

|ungracious, ὅλοιθ', ὅτῳ πάρεστιν  
|unpleasant

μὴ φίλους |honor καθαράν ἀνοί

660

ξαντα |bar, key ῥενῶν· ἐμοὶ

μὲν φίλος οὐπότ' ἔσται.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ. Μήδεια, χαίρε· τοῦδε γὰρ |prelude, in-  
|troduction

κάλλιον οὐδεὶς οἶδε |speak to φίλους.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ὦ χαίρε καὶ σύ, παῖ |skilled, ἄ ... δίονος,  
|clever, wise

665

Αἰγεῦ. |from where? ἦσδ' |visit, go|ground  
|among

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 δῆ

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

εὐνή bed; (pl) anchor stones

εὐσεβής pious

θέμις -τος (f) custom, law

κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid

κοινόω 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

πατρῷος of the father(s), ancestral  
~paternal

πατρῶος 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. Φοῖβον παλαιὸν ἐκλιπὼν χρηστήριον.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. τί δ' ὀμφαλὸν γῆς θεσπιωδὸν ἐστάλης;

ΑΙΓ. παίδων ἐρευνῶν σπέρμ' ὅπως γένοιτό μοι.

ΜΗΔ. πρὸς θεῶν— ἄπαις γὰρ δεῦρ' αἰὲ τείνεις βίον; 670

ΑΙΓ. ἄπαιδές ἐσμεν δαίμονός τινος τύχη.

ΜΗΔ. δάμαρτος οὔσης, ἥ λέχους ἄπειρος ὢν;

ΑΙΓ. οὐκ ἐσμέν εὐνῆς ἄζυγες γαμηλίου.

ΜΗΔ. τί δῆτα Φοῖβος εἰπέ σοι παίδων πέρι;

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

ΜΗΔ. θέμις μὲν ἡμᾶς χρησμὸν εἰδέναι θεοῦ;

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

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

ΑΙΓ. ἀσκοῦ με τὸν προύχοντα μὴ λῦσαι πόδα—

ΜΗΔ. πρὶν ἂν τί δράσης ἢ τίν' ἐξίκη χθόνα; 680

ΑΙΓ. πρὶν ἂν πατρώαν αὔθις ἐστίαν μόλω.

ΜΗΔ. σὺ δ' ὥς τί χρήζων τήνδε ναυστολεῖς χθόνα;

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

ΜΗΔ. παῖς, ὥς λέγουσι, Πέλοπος, εὐσεβέστατος.

ΑΙΓ. τούτῳ θεοῦ μάντευμα κοινῶσαι θέλω.

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

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. τί δ' |navel, nub ,ῆς θεσπιωδὸν |prepare, send, furl

ΑΙΓ. παίδων |hunt for πέρμ' ὅπως γένοιτό μοι.

ΜΗΔ. πρὸς θεῶν— ἄπαις γὰρ |here, còme|stretch, tēnd , 670  
|here!

ΑΙΓ. ἄπαιδές ἐσμεν |a god, fate, doom ὕχη.

ΜΗΔ. |wife οὔσης, ἥ |bed, bier|untested; ὤν;  
|infinite

ΑΙΓ. οὐκ ἐσμέν |bed; |unpairednuptial  
(pl) |unmarried

ΜΗΔ. τί |emphatic δὲ |anchor εἰπέ σοι παίδων πέρι;

ΑΙΓ. |skilled, ἥ κατ' ἄνδρα συμβαλεῖν ἔπη. 675  
|clever, wise

ΜΗΔ. |custom, law, ῆας |oracular εἰδέναι θεοῦ;  
|response

ΑΙΓ. μάλιστ', ἐπεὶ τοι καὶ |skilled, εἰς αἰ φρενός.  
|clever, wise

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

ΑΙΓ. ἀσκοῦ με τὸν |be ahead, |law λῦσαι πόδα—  
|have before

ΜΗΔ. πρὶν ἂν τί δράσης ἢ τίν' |arrive at ὄνα; 680

ΑΙΓ. πρὶν ἂν πατρώαν αὖθις ἐστίαν μόλω.

ΜΗΔ. σὺ δ' ὥς τί |need τήνδε |to ship, sail χθόνα;

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

ΜΗΔ. παῖς, ὥς λέγουσι, Πέλοπος, |pious

ΑΙΓ. τούτῳ θεοῦ |oracle |make common; ὅ  
|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***αἰσχροῦς** shameful**ἄτιμος** (ι) without honor**δεσπότις** lady**δράω** do, accomplish**εἴπερ** if indeed**ἐξελαύνω** drive out, exile ~elastic**ἐραμαι** love, aor. fall in love; long for, covet ~erotic**ἔρως** -τος (m) love, desire ~erotic**εὐτυχέω** be lucky, prosper, succeed**ἐχθαίρω** hate ~external**κῆδος** -εος (n, 3) sorrow ~heinous**λέχος** -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier ~lie**λυπέω** (ῥ) annoy, distress**ὄμμα** -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** (ι) rub; (mid) be worn out

~tribulation

**τύραννος** tyrant**φύω** produce, beget; clasp ~physics

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. σοφὸς γὰρ ἀνὴρ καὶ τρίβων τὰ τοιάδε.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ. κάμοί γε πάντων φίλτατος δορυξένων.

ΜΗΔ. ἀλλ' εὐτυχοίης καὶ τύχοις ὅσων ἐρᾷς.

ΑΙΓ. τί γὰρ σὸν ὄμμα χρώς τε συντέτηχ' ὄδε;

ΜΗΔ. Αἰγεῦ, κάκιστός ἐστί μοι πάντων πόσις.

690

ΑΙΓ. τί φῆς; σαφῶς μοι σὰς φράσον δυσθυμίας.

ΜΗΔ. ἀδικεῖ μ' Ἰάσων οὐδὲν ἐξ ἐμοῦ παθών.

ΑΙΓ. τί χρῆμα δράσας; φράζε μοι σαφέστερον.

ΜΗΔ. γυναικ' ἐφ' ἡμῶν δεσπότην δόμων ἔχει.

ΑΙΓ. οὗ που τετόλμηκ' ἔργον αἷσχιστον τόδε;

695

ΜΗΔ. σάφ' ἴσθ'· ἄτιμοι δ' ἐσμὲν οἱ πρὸ τοῦ φίλοι.

ΑΙΓ. πότερον ἐρασθεῖς ἢ σὸν ἐχθαίρων λέχος;

ΜΗΔ. μέγαν γ' ἔρωτα πιστὸς οὐκ ἔφν φίλοις.

ΑΙΓ. ἴτω νυν, εἶπερ, ὡς λέγεις, ἐστὶν κακός.

ΜΗΔ. ἀνδρῶν τυράννων κῆδος ἡράσθη λαβεῖν.

700

ΑΙΓ. δίδωσι δ' αὐτῷ τίς; πέραινέ μοι λόγον.

ΜΗΔ. Κρέων, ὃς ἄρχει τῆσδε γῆς Κορινθίας.

ΑΙΓ. συγγνωστὰ μὲν τᾶρ' ἦν σε λυπεῖσθαι, γύναι.

ΜΗΔ. ὅλωλα· καὶ πρὸς γ' ἐξελαύνομαι χθονός.



ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. |skilled, , -r ἀνὴρ καὶ τρίβων τὰ |such  
|clever, wise

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ. κάμοί γε πάντων φίλτατος δορυξένων.

ΜΗΔ. ἀλλ' |be lucky, pros- τύχοις ὅσων ἐράς.  
|per, succeed

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

ΜΗΔ. Αἰγεῦ, κάκιστός ἐστί μοι πάντων |(m) husband, mas- 690  
|ter; (f) a drink

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

ΜΗΔ. ἀδικεῖ μ' Ἰάσων 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' -th' |without ὃ ἐσμέν οἱ πρὸ τοῦ φίλοι.  
|honor

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

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

ΑΙΓ. ἴτω νυν, |if indeed : λέγεις, ἐστὶν κακός.

ΜΗΔ. ἀνδρῶν |tyrant |sorrow |love; long for ἔν. 700

ΑΙΓ. δίδωσι δ' αὐτῷ τίς; |finish, -ι λόγον.  
|accomplish

ΜΗΔ. Κρέων, ὃς ἄρχει τῆσδε γῆς Κορινθίας.

ΑΙΓ. συγγνωστὰ μέν τ' ἄρ' ἦν σε |annoy, - , γύναι.  
|distress

ΜΗΔ. ὄλωλα· καὶ πρὸς 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**ἀπαγγέλλω** announce, order, promise

~angel

**ἄπαις** childless**γονή** progeny ~genus**γόνυ γουνός** (n, 3) knee ~polygon**δυσδαίμων** unlucky, unhappy**εἰσοράω** look at, see; treat with respect

~panorama

**ἐκπίπτω** fall out of ~petal**ἐπαινέω** concur, praise, advise**ἐρῆμος** empty**ἔρω** -τος (m) love, desire ~erotic**εὔρημα** invention; windfall**ἐφέςτιος** hearthside**καινός** new, fresh, strange**καρτερέω** be patient**οἰκτείρω** pity**ὄλβιος** happy, wealthy**πρόθυμος** (ὑ) willing, eager ~fume**σπείρω** sow ~diaspora**τελεσφόρος** completion ~apostle**τοιόσδε** such**φάρμακον** drug, potion ~pharmacy**φροῦδος** fled, vanished**φυγὰς** -δος (m, 3) exile, refugee

~fugitive

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

705

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. Κρέων μ' ἐλαύνει φυγάδα γῆς Κορινθίας.

ΑΙΓ. ἐὰ δ' Ἰάσων; οὐδὲ ταῦτ' ἐπήνεσα.

ΜΗΔ. λόγῳ μὲν οὐχί, καρτερεῖν δὲ βούλεται.

ἀλλ' ἄντομαί σε τῇσδε πρὸς γενειάδος

γονάτων τε τῶν σῶν ἱκεσία τε γίγνομαι,

710

οἴκτιρον οἴκτιρόν με τὴν δυσδαίμονα

καὶ μή μ' ἔρημον ἐκπεσοῦσαν εἰσίδης,

δέξαι δὲ χώρα καὶ δόμοις ἐφέστιον.

οὕτως ἔρως σοὶ πρὸς θεῶν τελεσφόρος

γένοιτο παίδων, καὐτὸς ὄλβιος θάνοις.

715

εὖρημα δ' οὐκ οἶσθ' οἶον ἡῦρηκας τόδε·

παύσω δέ σ' ὄντ' ἄπαιδα καὶ παίδων γονὰς

σπεῖραί σε θήσω· τοιάδ' οἶδα φάρμακα.

ΑΙΓ. πολλῶν ἕκατι τήνδε σοι δοῦναι χάριν,

γύναι, πρόθυμός εἰμι, πρῶτα μὲν θεῶν,

720

ἔπειτα παίδων ὧν ἐπαγγέλλη γονάς·

ἐς τοῦτο γὰρ δὴ φρουδός εἰμι πᾶς ἐγώ.

οὕτω δ' ἔχει μοι· σοῦ μὲν ἐλθούσης χθόνα,

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ. πρὸς τοῦ; τόδ' ἄλλο |new, fresh, strange κακόν.

705

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

ΑΙΓ. ἐὰ δ' Ἰάσων; οὐδὲ ταῦτ' |concur

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

ἀλλ' ἄντομαί σε τῆσδε πρὸς γενειάδος

|knee τε τῶν σῶν ἱκεσία τε γίγνομαι,

710

οἴκτιρον οἴκτιρόν με τὴν |unlucky,  
|unhappy

καὶ μή μ' ἔρημον |fall out of εἰσίδης,

δέξαι δὲ χώρα καὶ δόμοις |hearthside

οὕτως |love, τοὶ πρὸς θεῶν |completion  
|desire

γένοιτο παίδων, καὐτὸς |happy, θάνοις.  
|wealthy

715

|invention; οὐκ οἶσθ' οἶον ἡϋρηκας τόδε·  
|windfall

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

σπεῖραί σε θήσω· |such οἶδα |drug,  
|potion

ΑΙΓ. πολλῶν ἔκατι τήνδε σοι δοῦναι χάριν,

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

720

ἔπειτα παίδων ὧν ἐπαγγέλλη |progeny

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

οὕτω 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** (ῥ) safe, inviolate  
**δράω** do, accomplish  
**δυσχερής** annoying, difficult  
**ζεύγνυμι** (ῥ) yoke, join ~zygote

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

πειράσομαί σου προξενεῖν δίκαιος ὢν.

τόσον γε μέντοι σοι προσημαίνω, γύναι·

725

ἐκ τῆσδε μὲν γῆς οὐ σ' ἄγειν βουλήσομαι,

αὐτὴ δ' ἐάνπερ εἰς ἐμούς ἔλθῃς δόμους,

μενεῖς ἄσυλος κοῦ σε μὴ μεθῶ τι.

ἐκ τῆσδε δ' αὐτὴ γῆς ἀπαλλάσσου πόδα·

ἀναίτιος γὰρ καὶ ξένοις εἶναι θέλω.

730

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ἔσται τάδ'· ἀλλὰ πίστις εἰ γένοιτό μοι

τούτων, ἔχοιμ' ἂν πάντα πρὸς σέθεν καλῶς.

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

ΜΗΔ. πέποιθα· Πελίου δ' ἐχθρός ἐστί μοι δόμος

Κρέων τε. τούτοις δ' ὀρκίοισι μὲν ζυγεῖς

735

ἄγουσιν οὐ μεθεῖ ἂν ἐκ γαίας ἐμέ·

λόγοις δὲ συμβὰς καὶ θεῶν ἀνώμοτος

φίλος γένοι' ἂν τὰ πικηρυκεύματα·—

οὐκ ἂν πίθοιο· τὰ μὰ μὲν γὰρ ἀσθενῇ,

τοῖς δ' ὄλβος ἐστὶ καὶ δόμος τυραννικός.

740

ΑΙΓ. πολλὴν ἔλεξας ἐν λόγοις προμηθίαν·

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



πειράσομαί σου |protect, δίκαιος ὦν.  
|handle for

|so much, so great σοι |foretell; , γύναι·  
|proclaim

725

ἐκ τῆσδε μὲν γῆς οὐ σ' ἄγειν βουλήσομαι,

αὐτὴ δ' ἐάνπερ εἰς ἐμοὺς ἔλθῃς δόμους,

μενεῖς |safe, inviolate τε μὴ |be among .

ἐκ τῆσδε δ' αὐτὴ γῆς |free from, remove; ἴα·  
|be freed, depart

|blameless γὰρ καὶ ξένοις εἶναι θέλω.

730

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ἔσται τάδ'· ἀλλὰ πίστις εἰ γένοιτό μοι

τούτων, ἔχοιμ' ἂν πάντα πρὸς σέθεν καλῶς.

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

ΜΗΔ. πέποιθα· Πελίου δ' ἐχθρὸς ἐστὶ μοι δόμος

Κρέων τε. τούτοις δ' ὀρκίοισι μὲν |yoke, join

735

ἄγουσιν οὐ μεθεῖ ἂν ἐκ γαίας ἐμέ·

λόγοις δὲ συμβὰς καὶ θεῶν |not bound by oath

φίλος γένοι' ἂν τὰ πικηρυκεύματα·—

οὐκ ἂν πίθοιο· τὰ μὰ μὲν γὰρ |weak ,

τοῖς δ' |happiness, . ἰ καὶ δόμος |tyrranical  
|wealth

740

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,  
Inviolat, 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  
**ἀρκέω** satisfy; ward off, defend; suffice  
**ἀσφαλής** safe, easy, steady, careful  
**δείκνυμι** (ὅ) show, point out  
**δράω** do, accomplish  
**δυσσεβέω** be impious  
**ἐκβάλλω** throw out, fell, let fall  
 ~ballistic  
**ἐκούσιος** voluntary  
**ἐμμένω** stay put, be faithful, fixed  
**ἐξηγέομαι** lead forth; set out, describe  
 ~hegemony  
**κλύω** hear, listen to ~Euclid  
**μεθίημι** let go, cease; (mid) speed off

~jet

**ὄμνυμι** (ὅ) swear  
**ὄρκος** what is sworn by, witness, oath  
 ~orc  
**πέδον** ground ~pedal  
**πελάζω** bring/come to, near, into  
 contact with  
**πότε** when?  
**σέβας** -ως (n) wonder, shame, awe  
**σκήψις** excuse  
**σπεύδω** 'push on,' get going, hurry  
 ~repudiate  
**συντίθημι** hearken, mark ~thesis  
**χρήζω** need ~chresard

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

745

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ὄμνυ πέδον Γῆς, πατέρα θ' Ἥλιον πατρὸς  
 τοῦμοῦ, θεῶν τε συντιθείς ἅπαν γένος.

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

ΜΗΔ. μήτ' αὐτὸς ἐκ γῆς σῆς ἔμ' ἐκβαλεῖν ποτε,  
 μήτ' ἄλλος ἦν τις τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν ἄγειν  
 χρήζῃ, μεθήσειν ζῶν ἐκουσίῳ τρόπῳ.

750

ΑΙΓ. ὄμνυμι Γαῖαν Ἥλιου θ' ἀγνὸν σέβας  
 θεούς τε πάντας ἐμμενεῖν ἅ σου κλύω.

ΜΗΔ. ἀρκεῖ· τί δ' ὄρκῳ τῷδε μὴ ὁμμένων πάθοις;

ΑΙΓ. ἂ τοῖσι δυσσεβοῦσι γίγνεται βροτῶν.

755

ΜΗΔ. χαίρων πορεύου· πάντα γὰρ καλῶς ἔχει.  
 καὶ γὰρ πόλιν σὴν ὡς τάχιστ' ἀφίξομαι,  
 πράξας ἂ μέλλω καὶ τυχοῦσ' ἂ βούλομαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἀλλὰ σ' ὁ Μαίης πομπαῖος ἄναξ

πελάσειε δόμοις, ὧν τ' ἐπίνοιαν  
 σπεύδεις κατέχων πράξιαις, ἐπεὶ

760

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

745

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

τοῦμου, θεῶν τε |hearken, mark ..ν γένος.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ. τί χρήμα |do, accomplish...ῇ |do, accomplish..

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

μήτ' ἄλλος ἦν τις τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν ἄγειν

750

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

ΑΙΓ. |swear Γαῖαν Ἥλιον θ' ἄγνόν |wonder,  
|shame,

θεοῦς τε πάντας ἐμμενεῖν ἅ σου |awe  
|hear .

ΜΗΔ. |satisfy; ward|oath τῷδε μὴ |stay put, be'ois;  
|off, defend; |faithful, fixed

ΑΙΓ. ἂ τοῖσι |suffice |be impious γίγνεται βροτῶν.

755

ΜΗΔ. χαίρων πορεύου· πάντα γὰρ καλῶς ἔχει.

καγὰρ πόλιν σὴν ὡς τάχιστ' ἀφίξομαι,

πράξασ' ἂ μέλλω καὶ τυχοῦς' ἂ βούλομαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἀλλά σ' ὁ Μαίας πομπαῖος ἄναξ

|bring/come τό, near, ὧν τ' ἐπίνοιαν  
|into contact with

760

|'push on,' get ἔχων πράξεας, ἐπεὶ  
|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**βλώσχω** 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** (ι) 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**μολίσχω** 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 ἀνὴρ,

Αἰγεῦ, παρ' ἐμοὶ δεδόκησαι.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ὦ Ζεῦ Δίκη τε Ζηνὸς Ἥλιου τε φῶς,

νῦν καλλίνικοι τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν, φίλαι, 765

γενησόμεσθα κεῖς ὁδὸν βεβήκαμεν·

νῦν δ' ἐλπίς ἐχθροὺς τοὺς ἐμοὺς τείσειν δίκην.

οὗτος γὰρ ἀνὴρ ἦ μάλιστ' ἐκάμνομεν

λιμὴν πέφανται τῶν ἐμῶν βουλευμάτων·

ἐκ τοῦδ' ἀναψόμεσθα πρυμνήτην κάλων, 770

μολόντες ἄστυ καὶ πόλισμα Παλλάδος.

ἤδη δὲ πάντα τὰμά σοι βουλευμάτα

λέξω· δέχου δὲ μὴ πρὸς ἡδονὴν λόγους.

πέμψας ἐμῶν τιν' οἰκετῶν Ἰάσωνα

εἰς ὄψιν ἐλθεῖν τὴν ἐμὴν αἰτήσομαι· 775

μολόντι δ' αὐτῷ μαλθακοὺς λέξω λόγους,

ὥς καὶ δοκεῖ μοι ταῦτά, καὶ καλῶς ἔχει

γάμους τυράννων οὓς προδοὺς ἡμᾶς ἔχει·

καὶ ξύμφορ' εἶναι καὶ καλῶς ἐγνωσμένα.

παῖδας δὲ μέναι τοὺς ἐμοὺς αἰτήσομαι,



|noble, ἀνὴρ,  
|sincere

Αἰγεῦ, παρ' ἐμοὶ δεδόκησαι.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ὦ Ζεῦ Δίκη τε Ζηνὸς Ἥλιου τε φῶς,

νῦν |gloriously τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν, φίλαι,  
|triumphant

765

γενησόμεσθα κείς ὁδὸν βεβήκαμεν·

νῦν δ' ἐλπίς ἐχθροὺς τοὺς ἐμοὺς τείσειν δίκην.

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

|harbor, γέφονται τῶν ἐμῶν |resolution,  
|refuge |purpose

ἐκ τοῦδ' ἀναψόμεσθα πρυμνήτην κάλων,

770

μολόντες |town καὶ |buildings of a city ἵδος.

ἤδη δὲ πάντα τὰμά σοι |resolution,  
|purpose

λέξω· δέχου δὲ μὴ πρὸς |pleasure λόγους.

πέμψας ἐμῶν τιν' |household;<sup>τ</sup> ἴσωνα  
|house slave

ἐς |sight ἐλθεῖν τὴν ἐμὴν |ask for

775

μολόντι δ' αὐτῷ |soft, timid λέξω λόγους,

ὥς καὶ δοκεῖ μοι ταῦτά, καὶ καλῶς ἔχει

|wedding, |tyrant οὗς |betray ἡμᾶς ἔχει·  
|sex

καὶ |accompanying; καὶ καλῶς ἐγνωσμένα.  
|suitable

παῖδας δὲ μείναι τοὺς ἐμοὺς |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*

ἀμφιτίθῃμι 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  
 ἔξιμι go forth; is possible ~ion  
 θιγγάνω touch  
 καθυβρίζω insult  
 κατακτείνω kill, slay  
 κέρδος -ους (n, 3) advantage, cunning

λεπτός thin  
 νύμφα nymph; bride  
 οἰμῶζω wail  
 οὔτις 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  
 τοιόσδε such  
 φάρμακον drug, potion ~pharmacy  
 φόνος killing ~offend  
 χρίω (ι) anoint ~Christ  
 χρυσήλατος (ῡ) of beaten gold

οὐχ ὥς λιποῦς' ἂν πολεμίας ἐπὶ χθονὸς  
 ἐχθροῖσι παῖδας τοὺς ἐμοὺς καθυβρίσαι,  
 ἀλλ' ὥς δόλοισι παῖδα βασιλέως κτάνω.  
 πέμψω γὰρ αὐτοὺς δῶρ' ἔχοντας ἐν χεροῖν,  
 νύμφη φέροντας, τήνδε μὴ φυγεῖν χθόνα,  
 785  
 λεπτόν τε πέπλον καὶ πλόκον χρυσήλατον·  
 κᾶνπερ λαβοῦσα κόσμον ἀμφιθῇ χροῖ,  
 κακῶς ὀλεῖται πᾶς θ' ὅς ἂν θίγῃ κόρης·  
 τοιοῖσδε κρίσω φαρμάκοις δωρήματα.  
 ἐνταῦθα μέντοι τόνδ' ἀπαλλάσσω λόγον·  
 790  
 ὦμωξα δ' οἶον ἔργον ἔστ' ἐργαστέον  
 τοῦντεῦθεν ἡμῖν· τέκνα γὰρ κατακτενῶ  
 τᾶμ'· οὐτις ἔστιν ὅστις ἐξαιρήσεται·  
 δόμον τε πάντα συγχέας' Ἰάσονος  
 ἔξειμι γαίας, φιλτάτων παίδων φόνον  
 795  
 φεύγουσα καὶ τλᾶς' ἔργον ἀνοσιώτατον.  
 οὐ γὰρ γελᾶσθαι τλητὸν ἐξ ἐχθρῶν, φίλαι.  
 ἴτω· τί μοι ζῆν κέρδος; οὔτε μοι πατρὶς  
 οὔτ' οἶκος ἔστιν οὔτ' ἀποστροφὴ κακῶν.

οὐχ ὥς λιποῦσ' ἂν πολεμίας ἐπὶ χθονὸς

ἐχθροῖσι παῖδας τοὺς ἐμοὺς |insult ,

ἀλλ' ὥς |trick, bait .αῖδα βασιλέως κτάνω.

πέμψω γὰρ αὐτοὺς δῶρ' ἔχοντας ἐν χεροῖν,

νύμφη φέροντας, τήνδε μὴ φυγεῖν χθόνα,

785

|thin τε |woman's ..... |lock of/of beaten gold  
|dress

κᾶνπερ λαβοῦσα κόσμον |put around, wrap  
|wreath

κακῶς ὀλεῖται πᾶς θ' ὃς ἂν |touch :όρης\*

|such |anoint φαρμάκοις |gift

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

790

|wail δ' οἶον ἔργον ἔστ' ἐργαστέον

|thence ἡμῖν\* τέκνα γὰρ |kill, slay

τᾶμ' |nobody, τιν ὅστις ἐξαιρήσεται\*  
|nothing

δόμον τε πάντα |συγχέω?: entangle, destroy, confound; or συγχέω?: en-  
|tangle, destroy, confound

|go forth; 'as, φιλτάτων παίδων |killing  
|is possible

795

φεύγουσα καὶ |take upon one-|unholy  
|self

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

ἴτω\* τί μοι ζῆν |advantage, ἕτε μοι πατρίς  
|cunning

οὕτ' οἶκος ἔστιν οὕτ' |turning back, away .ιν.

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*

**ἄεθλιος** prize ~athlete  
**ἄθλιος** wretched ~athlete  
**ἀσθενής** weak  
**βαρύς** heavy ~baritone  
**βίος** life ~biology  
**δάκνω** bite  
**δράω** do, accomplish  
**ἐκλιμπάνω** leave out, pass over  
**Ἑλλην** Greek  
**εὐκλεής** honored ~Euclid  
**εὐμενής** kind  
**ἡνίκα** when  
**ἡσυχαίος** 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  
**ὠφελέω** help, be useful

ἡμάρτανον τόθ' ἡνίκ' ἐξελίμπανον 800

δόμους πατρώους, ἀνδρὸς Ἑλλήνος λόγοις

πεισθεῖς, ὃς ἡμῖν σὺν θεῷ τείσει δίκην.

οὔτ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ γὰρ παῖδας ὄψεταιί ποτε

ζῶντας τὸ λοιπὸν οὔτε τῆς νεοζύγου

νύμφης τεκνώσει παῖδ', ἐπεὶ κακῶς κακὴν 805

θανεῖν σφ' ἀνάγκη τοῖς ἐμοῖσι φαρμάκοις.

μηδεῖς με φαύλην κάσθενῇ νομιζέτω

μηδ' ἡσυχαίαν, ἀλλὰ θατέρου τρόπου,

βαρεῖαν ἐχθροῖς καὶ φίλοιςιν εὐμενῇ·

τῶν γὰρ τοιούτων εὐκλεέστατος βίος. 810

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἐπέιπερ ἡμῖν τόνδ' ἐκοίνωσας λόγον,

σέ τ' ὠφελεῖν θέλουσα, καὶ νόμοις βροτῶν

ξυλλαμβάνουσα, δρᾶν σ' ἀπειννέπω τάδε.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλως· σοὶ δὲ συγγνώμη λέγειν

τάδ' ἐστί, μὴ πάσχουσιν, ὥς ἐγώ, κακῶς. 815

ΧΟ. ἀλλὰ κτανεῖν σὸν σπέρμα τολμήσεις, γύναι;

ΜΗΔ. οὔτω γὰρ ἂν μάλιστα δηχθείη πόσις.

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



ἡμέρτανον τόθ' |when |leave out, pass over 800

δόμους πατρώους, ἀνδρὸς |Greek λόγους

πεισθεῖς, ὅς ἡμῖν σὺν θεῷ |pay; (mp) punish

οὗτ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ γὰρ παῖδας ὄψεται ποτε

ζῶντας τὸ λοιπὸν οὔτε τῆς νεοζύγου

νύμφης τεκνώσει παῖδ', ἐπεὶ κακῶς κακὴν 805

θανεῖν σφ' ἀνάγκη τοῖς ἐμοῖσι φαρμάκοις.

μηδεῖς 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; ον,  
|cooperate

σέ τ' |help, be useful ισα, καὶ νόμοις βροτῶν

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

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

τάδ' ἐστί, μὴ πάσχουσιν, ὡς ἐγώ, κακῶς. 815

ΧΟ. ἀλλὰ κτανεῖν σὸν σπέρμα τολμήσεις, γύναι;

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

ΧΟ. σὺ δ' ἂν γένοιό γ' ἀθλιωτάτῃ 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*

ἄβρός graceful, delicate, pretty  
 αἰθήρ ether, air, sky ~ether  
 ἀνθέω sprout  
 ἄνθος flower  
 ἀπόρθητος not pillaged  
 ἀρετή goodness, excellence  
 αὔρα breeze ~air  
 δεσπότης -ου (m, 1) master, despot  
 εἶα exclamation to urge someone on  
 εἶπερ if indeed  
 ἑννέα 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  
 ῥοά pl: waters of a river ~rheostat  
 ῥόδεος 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. ἴτω· περισσοὶ πάντες οὖν μέσῳ λόγοι.

ἀλλ' εἶα χώρει καὶ κόμιζ' Ἰάσωνα· 820

ἔς πάντα γὰρ δὴ σοὶ τὰ πιστὰ χρώμεθα.

λέξις δὲ μηδὲν τῶν ἐμοὶ δεδογμένων,

εἴπερ φρονεῖς εὖ δεσπόταις γυνή τ' ἔφυσ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. Ἐρχθεῖδαι τὸ παλαιὸν ὄλβιοι

καὶ θεῶν παῖδες μακάρων, ἱερᾶς 825

χώρας ἀπορθήτου τ' ἄπο, φερβόμενοι

κλεινοτάταν σοφίαν, αἰεὶ διὰ λαμπροτάτου

βαίνοντες ἀβρώς αἰθέρος, ἔνθα ποθ' ἀγνὰς 830

έννέα Πιερίδας Μούσας λέγουσι

ξανθὰν Ἀρμονίαν φυτεῦσαι·

ΧΟ. τοῦ καλλινάου τ' ἐπὶ Κηφισοῦ ῥοαῖς 835

τὰν Κύπριν κλήζουσιν ἀφυσσαμένην

χώραν καταπνεῦσαι μετρίας ἀνέμων

ἡδυπνόους αὔρας· αἰεὶ δ' ἐπιβαλλομένην 840

χαίταισιν εὐώδη ῥοδέων πλόκον ἀνθέων

τῇ Σοφίᾳ παρέδρους πέμπειν Ἔρωτας,

παντοίας ἀρετᾶς ξυνεργούς.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. ἴτω· |prodigious, |ίντες οὖν μέσῳ λόγοι.  
|superfluous

ἀλλ' |ex- |withdraw, |give, |ἴασονα· 820  
|cla- |way to (+dat)

ἐς παντα γὰρ δὴ σοὶ τὰ |faithful;  
|ma- |trustworthy  
|tion  
|to

λέξῃς |urge  
|some-  
|one  
|if indeed, |ονεῖς εὖ |master,  
|despot

γυνή τ' |produce,  
|beget; clasp

ΧΟΡΟΣ. Ἐρεχθεῖδαι τὸ |old  
|happy,  
|wealthy

καὶ θεῶν παῖδες μακάρων, ἱερᾶς 825

χώρας |not pillaged τ' ἄπο, φερβόμενοι

|famous σοφίαν, αἰεὶ διὰ |brilliant

βαίνοντες |graceful, |ether , ἔνθα ποθ' ἄγνας 830  
|delicate,

|nine |pretty Πιερίδας Μούσας λέγουσι

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

ΧΟ. τοῦ καλλινάου τ' ἐπὶ Κηφισοῦ ῥοαῖς 835

τὰν Κύπριν κλήζουσιν ἀφυσσαμένηαν

χώραν |subdue; |medium, |ινέμων  
|damage |moderate

ἡδυπνόους αὔρας· αἰεὶ δ' ἐπιβαλλομένηαν 840

|lock of hair, |fragrant |of roses |lock of hair; ἑών  
|mane |head-wreath

τῇ Σοφίᾳ |assessor πέμπειν Ἔρωτας,

|all kinds of |excellence ἵνεργούς.

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  
~Moirai**ὄμμα** -τος (n, 3) eye**πάντῃ** everywhere**πάντως** by all means**πίτνω** poetic for πίπτω**πλαγὰ** a hit**πόθεν** from where?**προσάγω** bring to a place

~demagogue

**προσβάλλω** hit, attack, approach;  
attach, offer ~ballistic**σκέπτομαι** look, look at, watch

~skeptical

**τέγγω** moisten; soften**τέκος** -εος (n, 3) child ~oxytocin**φοίνιος** red**φονεύω** kill**φόνος** killing ~offend

ΧΟΡΟΣ. πῶς οὖν ἱερῶν ποταμῶν

ἢ πόλις; ἢ φίλων πόμπιμός σε χώρα

τὰν παιδολέτειραν ἔξει,

τὰν οὐχ όσίαν μετ' ἄλλων;

850

σκέψαι τεκέων πλαγάν,

σκέψαι φόνον οἶον αἶρη.

μή, πρὸς γονάτων σε πάντη

πάντως ἱκετεύομεν, τέκνα φονεύσης.

ΧΟ. πόθεν θράσος ἢ φρενὸς ἢ

855

χειρὶ τέκνων σέθεν καρδίᾳ τε λήψῃ

δεινὰν προσάγουσα τόλμαν;

πῶς δ' ὄμματα προσβαλοῦσα

860

τέκνοις ἄδακρυν μοῖραν

σχήσεις φόνου; οὐ δυνάσῃ,

παίδων ἱκετᾶν πιτνόντων,

τέγξαι χέρᾳ φοινίαν τλάμονι θυμῷ.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. ἦκω κελευσθείς· καὶ γὰρ οὔσα δυσμενῆς

οὗ τὰν ἀμάρτοις τοῦδέ γ', ἀλλ' ἀκούσομαι

τί χρῆμα βούλῃ καινὸν ἐξ ἐμοῦ, γύναι.



ΧΟΡΟΣ. πῶς οὖν ἱερῶν ποταμῶν

ἦ πόλις; ἦ φίλων πόμπιμός σε χώρα

τὰν παιδολέτειραν ἔξει,

τὰν οὐχ ὁσίαν μετ' ἄλλων;

850

|look, |child |a hit  
|look at,  
|watch  
|look, |killing οἶον αἶρη.  
|look at,  
|watch  
μη, πρὸς |knee σε |everywhere

|by all|approach to beg' να |kill  
|means

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

855

χειρὶ τέκνων σέθεν καρδίᾳ τε λήψῃ

δεινὰν |bring to a place . ὄλμαν;

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

860

τέκνοισ|without |portion, fate  
|tears

σχήσεις |killing , οὐ δυνάσῃ,

παίδων ἱκετᾶν |poetic for πίπτω

|moisten; ἔρα |red τλάμονι θυμῷ.  
|soften

ΙΑΣΩΝ. ἦκω κελευσθεῖς· καὶ γὰρ οὔσα |hostile,  
|enemy

οὗ τὰν ἀμάρτοις τοῦδέ γ', ἀλλ' ἀκούσομαι

τί χρήμα βούλῃ |new, fresh, strange , ὕναι.

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

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. Ἰᾶσον, αἰτοῦμαί σε τῶν εἰρημένων

συγγνώμον' εἶναι· τὰς δ' ἐμὰς ὀργὰς φέρειν 870

εἰκός σ', ἐπεὶ νῶν πόλλ' ὑπείργασται φίλα.

ἐγὼ δ' ἐμαυτῇ διὰ λόγων ἀφικόμην

κάλαιδ' ὀρήσα· Σχετλία, τί μαίνομαι

καὶ δυσμεναίνω τοῖσι βουλευουσιν εὖ,

ἐχθρὰ δὲ γαίης κοιράνοισι καθίσταμαι 875

πόσει θ', ὃς ἡμῖν δρᾷ τὰ συμφορώτατα,

γῆμας τύραννον καὶ κασιγνήτους τέκνοισι

ἐμοῖς φυτεύων; οὐκ ἀπαλλαχθήσομαι

θυμοῦ— τί πάσχω;— θεῶν ποριζόντων καλῶς;

οὐκ εἰσὶ μὲν μοι παῖδες, οἶδα δὲ χθόνα 880

φεύγοντας ἡμᾶς καὶ σπανίζοντας φίλων;

ταῦτ' ἐννοήσας ἡσθόμην ἀβουλίαν

πολλὴν ἔχουσα καὶ μάτην θυμουμένη.

νῦν οὖν ἐπαινῶ· σωφρονεῖν τ' ἐμοὶ δοκεῖς

κῆδος τόδ' ἡμῖν προσλαβών, ἐγὼ δ' ἄφρων, 885

ἢ χρὴν μετεῖναι τῶνδε τῶν βουλευμάτων,

καὶ ξυγγαμεῖν σοι, καὶ παρεστάναι λέχει

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. Ἰᾶσον, |ask for    τε τῶν εἰρημένων

συγγνώμον' εἶναι· τὰς δ' ἐμὰς |urge, ῥέρειν  
|likely σ', ἐπεὶ νῶν πόλλ' ὑπείργασται φίλα. |impulse;  
|anger

ἐγὼ δ' ἐμαντῇ διὰ λόγων ἀφικόμην

|abuse, revile    |tough, sound, |be berserk  
|stubborn,  
καὶ δυσμεναίνω τοῖσι βουλευουσιν εὖ, |cruel.

ἐχθρὰ δὲ γαίης |ruler, chief καθίσταμαι 875

| (m) husband, |mās-|do, ac-|accompanying;  
|ter; (f) a drink    |comply |suitable

|marry, |tyrant    καὶ |brother, sister τέκνοις  
take as  
a lover  
ἐμοῖς |plant, , grow, |free from, remove;  
|cause, prepare |be freed, depart

θυμοῦ— τί πάσχω;— θεῶν |bring about, καλῶς;  
|provide

οὐκ εἰσὶ μέν μοι παῖδες, οἶδα δὲ χθόνα 880

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

ταῦτ' |consider    ἡσθόμην |ill-advisedness

πολλὴν ἔχουσα καὶ μάτην |anger

νῦν οὖν |concur    |be sane, moderate ἢ δοκεῖς

|sorrow τόδ' ἡμῖν |add, borrow, ἰγὼ δ' |senseless,  
|take hold, help    |unthinking 885

ἧ χρεὴν μετεῖναι τῶνδε τῶν |resolution,  
|purpose

καὶ ξυγγαμῆν 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  
**δάκρυ** -ους (n, 3) tear  
**δάκρυον** tear  
**δακρύω** weep  
**δεῦτε** come on (pl.)  
**διαλλάσσω** exchange; differ; reconcile  
**ἐννοέω** consider  
**ἐξαίρέω** pick, steal; dedicate; destroy  
 ~heresy  
**ἐπιλανθάνω** mp: forget ~Lethe  
**ἐχθρη** hate  
**κηδεύω** attend to; become allied in  
 marriage  
**κρύπτω** hide, cover ~cryptic  
**μεθίστημι** change, substitute;  
 withdraw; change sides; (mid) send  
 away ~station  
**νεῖκος** -εος (n, 3) quarrel, battle

**νήπιος** foolish, childish, naive,  
 credulous  
**νύμφα** nymph; bride  
**οἶμοι** woe is me  
**ὁμοιόω** assimilate, liken ~homoerotic  
**ὀρέγω** hold out, offer, thrust ~reach  
**ὄσσε** eyes (dual)  
**ὄσσομαι** see with the mind's eye,  
 forebode  
**οὔκουν** certainly not  
**ὄψις** ὄψεως (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  
**ὠλένη** elbow, lower arm

νύμφην τε κηδεύουσαν ἦδεσθαι σέθεν.

ἀλλ' ἐσμέν οἶόν ἐσμεν, οὐκ ἐρῶ κακόν,

γυναῖκες· οὐκουν χρῆν σ' ὁμοιοῦσθαι κακοῖς,

890

οὐδ' ἀντιτείνειν νήπι' ἀντὶ νηπίων.

παριέμεσθα, καί φαμεν κακῶς φρονεῖν

τότ', ἀλλ' ἄμεινον νῦν βεβούλευμαι τάδε·

ὦ τέκνα τέκνα, δεῦτε, λείπετε στέγας,

ἐξέλθετ', ἀσπάσασθε καὶ προσείπατε

895

πατέρα μεθ' ἡμῶν, καὶ διαλλάχθηθ' ἅμα

τῆς πρόσθεν ἔχθρας ἐς φίλους μητρὸς μέτα·

σπονδαὶ γὰρ ἡμῖν καὶ μεθέστηκεν χόλος.

λάβεσθε χειρὸς δεξιᾶς· οἴμοι, κακῶν

ὥς ἐννοοῦμαι δὴ τι τῶν κεκρυμμένων.

900

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

φίλην ὀρέξετ' ὠλένην; τάλαιν' ἐγώ,

ὥς ἀρτίδακρὺς εἰμι καὶ φόβου πλέα.

χρόνῳ δὲ νεῖκος πατρὸς ἐξαιρουμένη

ὄψιν τέρειναν τήνδ' ἔπλησα δακρύων.

905

ΧΟΡΟΣ. καὶ μοὶ κατ' ὅσων χλωρὸν ὠρμήθη δάκρυ·



νύμφην τε |attend to; become |ιθαι σέθεν.  
|allied in marriage

ἀλλ' ἐσμέν οἶόν ἐσμεν, οὐκ ἐρῶ κακόν,

γυναῖκες· |certainly |δοτ', σ' |liken |κακοῖς, 890

οὐδ' |resist |foolish |ντὶ |foolish

παριέμεσθα, καί φαμεν κακῶς φρονεῖν

τότ', ἀλλ' |better |νῦν βεβούλευμαι τάδε·

ὦ τέκνα τέκνα, |come on |ἔίπετε |roof, ceiling,  
|chamber

ἐξέλθετ', |greet, salute |καὶ προσείπατε 895

πατέρα μεθ' ἡμῶν, καὶ |exchange; dif- |ἵμα  
|fer; reconcile

τῆς πρόσθεν |hate |ἐς φίλους μητρὸς μέτα·

|libation, |γὰρ ἡμῖν καὶ |change, sub-|anger  
|treaty |stitute; with-  
|λάβεσθε χειρὸς δεξιᾶς |draw; change  
|sides, (mid) |woe is me,  
|send away

ὥς |consider |δή τι τῶν |hide, cover 900

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

φίλην |hold out, |elbow, |wretched, |γῶ,  
|offer, |lower |miserable  
|thrust |arm

ὥς ἀρτιδακρὺς ἔμι καὶ φόβου πλέα.

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

|sight |τέρειναν τήνδ' ἔπλησα δακρύνων. 905

ΧΟΡΟΣ. κάμοι κατ' ὅσων |pale |ῥρμήθη |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**ἄλλοῖος** of another kind ~alien**αὐξάνω** strengthen**ἄω** aor: to sate ~sate**βλώσχω** come, go**γάμος** wedding, sex ~bigamy**δάκρυον** tear**δακρύω** weep**εἰκός** likely**ἐμπαλιν** backwards, on the contrary**ἐννοέω** consider**ἐξεργάζομαι** accomplish; undo;

destroy someone

**ἔρπω** be able to move ~serpent**εὐμενής** kind**εὐτραφής** well fed; nourishing**ἥβα** 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**μολίσχω** come, go**ὀργή** urge, impulse; anger**παρηίς** cheek**πόσις** -ος (m) (m) husband, master; (f)

a drink ~potent

**προβαίνω** surpass, continue ~basis**στρέφω** turn, veer ~atrophy**σωτηρία** saving, preservation**σώφρων** sensible, prudent ~frenzy**τέγγω** moisten; soften**ὑπέρτερος** superior, victorious**χλωρός** pale, green, yellow ~chlorine

καὶ μὴ προβαίῃ μείζον ἢ τὸ νῦν κακόν.

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

εἰκὸς γὰρ ὀργὰς θῆλυ ποιεῖσθαι γένος

γάμου παρεμπολῶντος ἀλλοίου πόσει.

910

ἀλλ' ἐς τὸ λῶον σὸν μεθέστηκεν κέαρ,

ἔγνωσ δὲ τὴν νικῶσαν, ἀλλὰ τῷ χρόνῳ,

βουλήν· γυναικὸς ἔργα ταῦτα σώφρονος.

ὕμιν δέ, παῖδες, οὐκ ἀφροντίστως πατήρ

πολλὴν ἔθηκε σὺν θεοῖς σωτηρίαν·

915

οἶμαι γὰρ ὑμᾶς τῆσδε γῆς Κορινθίας

τὰ πρῶτ' ἔσεσθαι σὺν κασιγνήτοις ἔτι.

ἀλλ' αὐξάνεσθε· τᾶλλα δ' ἐξεργάζεται

πατήρ τε καὶ θεῶν ὅστις ἐστὶν εὐμενής·

ἴδοιμι δ' ὑμᾶς εὐτραφεῖς ἥβης τέλος

920

μολόντας, ἐχθρῶν τῶν ἐμῶν ὑπερτέρους.

αὕτη, τί χλωροῖς δακρύοις τέγγεις κόρας,

στρέψασα λευκὴν ἔμπαλιν παρηίδα;

κοῦκ ἀσμένη τόνδ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ δέχῃ λόγον;

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. οὐδέν. τέκνων τῶνδ' ἐννοουμένη πέρι.

καὶ μὴ |surpass    μεῖζον ἢ τὸ νῦν κακόν.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. |praise, |λύναι, τάδ', οὐδ' ἐκείνα |blame;  
|assent |reject

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

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

910

ἀλλ' ἐς τὸ |more desir- |change, sub- |heart,  
|able |stitute; with-  
|draw; change  
ἐγnows δὲ τὴν νικῶσαν ἀλλά τ' ἐν χρόνῳ,  
|sides; (mid)  
|send away

βουλὴν· γυναικὸς ἔργα ταῦτα |sensible,  
|prudent

ὑμῖν δέ, παῖδες, οὐκ ἀφροντίστως πατὴρ

πολλὴν ἔθηκε σὺν θεοῖς σωτηρίαν·

915

οἶμαι γὰρ ὑμᾶς τῆσδε γῆς Κορινθίας

τὰ πρῶτ' ἔσεσθαι σὺν |brother, sister ἔτι.

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

πατήρ τε καὶ θεῶν ὅστις ἐστὶν |kind

ἴδοιμι δ' ὑμᾶς εὐτραφεῖς ἥβης τέλος

920

μολόντας, ἐχθρῶν τῶν ἐμῶν |superior,  
|victorious

αὕτη, τί |pale    δακρύοις |moisten; κόρας,  
|soften

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

κοῦκ ἀσμένη τόνδ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ δέχη λόγον;  
|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**δήτα** emphatic δῆ**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**χοίρανος** ruler, chief**λίαν** very**οἶκτος** compassion**οὐνεκα** 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'· οὔτοι σοῖς ἀπιστήσω λόγοις·

γυνὴ δὲ θήλυ καὶ πὶ δακρύοις ἔφυ.

ΙΑΣ. τί δῆτα λίαν τοῖσδ' ἐπιστένεις τέκνοις;

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

930

ἐσῆλθέ μ' οἶκος εἰ γενήσεται τάδε.

ἀλλ' ὦνπερ οὔνεκ' εἰς ἐμὸνς ἦκεις λόγους,

τὰ μὲν λέλεκται, τῶν δ' ἐγὼ μνησθήσομαι.

ἐπεὶ τυράννοις γῆς μ' ἀποστεῖλαι δοκεῖ—

κάμοι τάδ' ἐστὶ λῶστα, γιγνώσκω καλῶς,

935

μήτ' ἐμποδῶν σοὶ μήτε κοιράνοις χθονὸς

ναίειν· δοκῶ γὰρ δυσμενὲς εἶναι δόμοις—

ἡμεῖς μὲν ἐκ γῆς τῆσδ' ἀπαίρομεν φυγῇ,

παῖδες δ' ὅπως ἂν ἐκτραφῶσι σῇ χειρί,

αἰτοῦ Κρέοντα τήνδε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα.

940

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

ΜΗΔ. σὺ δ' ἀλλὰ σὴν κέλευσον αἰτεῖσθαι πατρός

γυναῖκα παῖδας τήνδε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα.

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



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

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. |do, accomplish ὅτοι σοῖς |disbelieve λόγους·

γυνή δὲ |female; (rare) |abundant |ικρύνουσιν |produce, beget; clasp

ΙΑΣ. τί |em- |very τοῖσδ' |groan τέκνοισι;  
|phatic |under

ΜΗΔ. ἔτι κτον αὐτούς· ζῆν δ' ὅτ' ἐξηύχου τέκνα,

930

ἐσῆλθέ μ' |compassion, ἐνήσεται τάδε.

ἀλλ' ὦν περ |because ἰς ἐμούς ἥκεις λόγους,

τὰ μὲν λέλεκται, τῶν δ' ἐγὼ μνησθήσομαι.

ἐπεὶ |tyrant γῆς μ' ἀποστεῖλαι δοκεῖ—

κάμοι τάδ' ἐστὶ λῶστα, γιγνώσκω καλῶς,

935

μήτ' |getting in the way, - |ruler, chief χθονὸς

|dwell, δοκῶ γὰρ |hostile, εἶναι δόμοις—  
|found; |enemy

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

παῖδες δ' ὅπως ἂν ἐκτραφῶσι σῇ χερὶ,

|ask for ἵζρέοντα τήνδε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα.

940

ΙΑΣ. οὐκ οἶδ' ἂν εἰ πείσαιμι, πειράσθαι δὲ χρή.

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

γυναῖκα παῖδας τήνδε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα.

ΙΑΣ. μάλιστα, καὶ πείσειν γε |think, imag- ἐγώ.  
|ine; 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*

βασιλῆιος kingly  
 δεῦρο here, come here!  
 εἴπερ if indeed  
 ἔκγονος offspring, descendant ~genus  
 εὐδαιμονέω be lucky, happy  
 καλλιστεύω be the best  
 κενός empty, vain  
 κενόω make empty  
 κτάομαι acquire, possess  
 λεπτός thin  
 μακάριος blessed  
 μάταιος vain, empty  
 μεμπτός blameworthy  
 μυρίος (ῶ) 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  
 φερνά dowry  
 χρυσήλατος (ῶ) of beaten gold

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. εἵπερ γυναικῶν ἐστι τῶν ἄλλων μία.

945

συλλήψομαι δὲ τοῦδέ σοι κάγῳ πόνου·  
πέμψω γὰρ αὐτῇ δῶρ' ἃ καλλιστεύεται  
τῶν νῦν ἐν ἀνθρώποισιν, οἷδ' ἐγώ, πολύ,  
λεπτόν τε πέπλον καὶ πλόκον χρυσήλατον  
παῖδας φέροντας. ἀλλ' ὅσον τάχος χρεῶν  
κόσμον κομίζειν δεῦρο προσπόλων τινά.  
εὐδαιμονήσει δ' οὐχ ἔν, ἀλλὰ μυρία,  
ἀνδρός τ' ἀρίστου σοῦ τυχοῦς' ὁμενέτου  
κεκτημένη τε κόσμον ὃν ποθ' Ἥλιος  
πατὴρ πατὴρ δίδωσιν ἐκγόνοισιν οἷς.  
λάζυσθε φερνὰς τάσδε, παῖδες, ἐς χέρας  
καὶ τῇ τυράννῳ μακαρία νύμφη δότε  
φέροντες· οὗτοι δῶρα μεμπτὰ δέξεται.

950

955

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

δοκεῖς σπανίζειν δῶμα βασιλῆιον πέπλων,  
δοκεῖς δὲ χρυσοῦ; σῶζε, μὴ δίδου τάδε.  
εἵπερ γὰρ ἡμᾶς ἀξιοῖ λόγου τινὸς  
γυνή, προθήσει χρημάτων, σάφ' οἷδ' ἐγώ.

960

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. |if indeed |αικῶν ἐστὶ τῶν ἄλλων μία.

945

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

πέμψω γὰρ αὐτῇ δῶρ' ἃ |be the best

τῶν νῦν ἐν ἀνθρώποισιν, οἷδ' ἐγώ, πολύ,

|thin τε |woman's |lock of beaten gold  
|dress hair;

παῖδας φέροντας. ἀλλ' ἄλλαν |head- |speed χρεῶν  
|wreath

950

κόσμον κομίζειν |here, |servant, τινά.  
|come |attendant

εὐδαιμονήσει δ' οὐχ ἐν, ἀλλὰ μυρία,

ἀνδρός τ' ἀρίστου σοῦ τυχοῦς' ὁμενέτου

|acquire τε κόσμον ὅν ποθ' Ἥλιος

πατρὸς πατὴρ δίδωσιν |offspring οἷς.

955

λάζυσθε φερνὰς τάσδε, παῖδες, ἐς χέρας

καὶ τῇ |tyrant |blessed νύμφη δότε

φέροντες· οὗτοι δῶρα |blameworthy-ται.

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

δοκεῖς |be scarce; ὦμα βασιλῆιον |woman's dress  
|lack; use up

960

δοκεῖς δὲ χρυσοῦ; σῶζε, μὴ δίδου τάδε.

|if indeed, ἢ ἡμᾶς ἀξιοῖ λόγου τινὸς

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

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

χρυσὸς δὲ κρείσσων μυρίων λόγων βροτοῖς. 965

κείνης ὁ δαίμων, κείνα νῦν αὔξει θεός,

νέα τυραννεῖ· τῶν δ' ἐμῶν παίδων φυγὰς

ψυχῆς ἂν ἀλλαξαίμεθ', οὐ χρυσοῦ μόνον.

ἀλλ', ὦ τέκν', εἰσελθόντε πλουσίους δόμους

πατρὸς νέαν γυναῖκα, δεσπότην δ' ἐμήν, 970

ἵκετεύετ', ἐξαιτεῖσθε μὴ φυγεῖν χθόνα,

κόσμον διδόντες— τοῦδε γὰρ μάλιστα δεῖ—

ἐς χεῖρ' ἐκείνης δῶρα δέξασθαι τάδε.

ἴθ' ὥς τάχιστα· μητρὶ δ' ὦν ἐρᾷ τυχεῖν

εὐάγγελοι γένοισθε πράξαντες καλῶς. 975

ΧΟΡΟΣ. νῦν ἐλπίδες οὐκέτι μοι παίδων ζόας,

οὐκέτι· στείχουσι γὰρ ἐς φόνον ἤδη.

δέξεται νύμφα χρυσέων ἀναδεσμῶν

δέξεται δύστανος ἄταν·

ξανθᾷ δ' ἀμφὶ κόμα θήσει τὸν Ἄϊδα 980

κόσμον αὐτὰ χεροῖν. λαβοῦσα.

ΧΟ. πείσει χάρις ἀμβρόσιός τ' αὐγὰ πέπλων



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

|gold δὲ κρείσσω μυρίων λόγων βροτοῖς. 965

κείνης ὁ |a god, fate, doom ἵν' αὖξει θεός,

νέα τυραννεί· τῶν δ' ἐμῶν παίδων φυγὰς

ψυχῆς ἂν |trade, |transform, οὐ χρυσοῦ μόνον.

ἀλλ', ὦ τέκν', εἰσελθόντε |wealth δόμους

πατρὸς νέαν γυναῖκα, |lady δ' ἐμήν, 970

|approach to|demand μὴ φυγεῖν χθόνα,  
|beg

κόσμον διδόντες— τοῦδε γὰρ μάλιστα δεῖ—

ἐς χεῖρ' ἐκείνης δῶρα δέξασθαι τάδε.

ἴθ' ὥς τάχιστα· μητρὶ δ' ὦν ἐρᾷ τυχεῖν

|bringing good 'news' ἵ· πράξαντες καλῶς. 975

ΧΟΡΟΣ. νῦν ἐλπίδες οὐκέτι μοι παίδων ζόας,

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

δέξεται νύμφα χρυσέων ἀναδεσμών

δέξεται δύστανος ἄταν·

|yellow δ' ἀμφὶ |hair θήσει τὸν Ἴαιδα 980

κόσμον αὐτὰ χεροῖν. λαβοῦσα.

ΧΘ. πείσει χάρις |immortal, τ' |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 tidings 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***ἄημι** blow**ἄλγος** -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**ἡνίκα** 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

~Moirai

**νέρτερος** lower, of Hades**νύμφα** nymph; bride**ὄλεθρος** 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' ἤδη πάρα νυμφοκομήσει.

985

τοῖον εἰς ἔρκος πεσεῖται

καὶ μοῖραν θανάτου δύστανος· ἅταν δ'

οὐχ ὑπεκφεύξεται.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. σὺ δ', ὦ τάλαν, ὦ κακόννυμφε κηδεμὼν τυράννων,

990

παισὶν οὐ κατειδὼς

ὄλεθρον βιοτῇ προσάγεις ἀλόχῳ τε

σῇ στυγερὸν θάνατον.

δύστανε μοίρας ὅσον παροίχῃ.

995

ΧΘ. μεταστένομαι δὲ σὸν ἄλγος, ὦ τάλαινα παίδων

μᾶτερ, ἃ φονεύσεις

τέκνα νυμφιδίων ἔνεκεν λεχέων, ἃ

σοι προλιπὼν ἀνόμως

1000

ἄλλα ξυνοικεῖ πόσις συνεύνω.

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. δέσποιν', ἀφείνται παῖδες οἶδε σοὶ φυγῆς,

καὶ δῶρα νύμφη βασιλῆς ἀσμένῃ χεροῖν

ἐδέξατ'· εἰρήνη δὲ τὰ κεῖθεν τέκνοις.

ἔα. τί συγχυθεῖς ἔστηκας ἡνίκ' εὐτυχεῖς;

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

|lower, of Hades, ἡ πάρα νυμφοκομήσει.

985

|such εἰς |bulwark εσείται

καὶ μοῖραν θανάτου δύστανος· ἄταν δ'

οὐχ |stay, get away

ΧΟΡΟΣ. σὺ δ', ὦ |wretched, |badly |mourner |tyrant  
|miserable |married

990

παισὶν οὐ |understand

|ruin βιοτᾷ |bring to a|wife τε  
|place

σᾷ |dreaded, feel- |νατον.  
|ing dread

δύστανε μοίρας ὅσον |pass, keep going

995

ΧΘ. |lament δὲ σὸν |woe , ὦ |wretched, |ταίδων  
|afterward |miserable

μᾶτερ, ἂ |kill

τέκνα νυμφιδίων ἔνεκεν |bed, bier ᾧ

σοι |abandon, |lawless  
|withdraw

1000

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

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. |lady , ἀφείνται παῖδες οἷδε σοὶ |flight, means  
|of escape

καὶ δῶρα νύμφη βασιλῆς ἀσμένῃ χεροῖν

ἐδέξατ'· εἰρήνῃ δὲ τὰ κεῖθεν τέκνοισι.

ἔα. τί |συγχέω?: ὅ 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 flieth 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***ἀγγέλλω** 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**ἐμπαλιν** backwards, on the contrary**ἐξαγγέλλω** bring news out ~angel**εὐάγγελος** bringing good news**ἡδομαι** be pleased, enjoy ~hedonism**θαρσέω** be of good heart**θάρσος** boldness, over-boldness**θνητός** mortal ~euthanasia**κατάγνυμι** (ῥ) 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**ὄμμα** -τος (n, 3) eye**οὐτάω** pierce, wound**παρηίς** cheek**πορσύνω** (ῥ) prepare (the marital bed)**στερέω** steal, take**στρέφω** 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 παρηίδα

κοῦκ ἀσμένη τόνδ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ δέχῃ λόγον;

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. αἰαί. ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. τάδ' οὐ ξυνωδὰ τοῖσιν ἐξηγγελμένοις.

ΜΗΔ. αἰαί μάλ' αὔθις. ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.. μῶν τιν' ἀγγέλλων τύχην

οὐκ οἶδα, δόξης δ' ἐσφάλην εὐαγγέλου; 1010

ΜΗΔ. ἡγγειλας οἶ' ἡγγειλας· οὐ σὲ μέμφομαι·

ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. τί δαί κατηφείς ὄμμα καὶ δακρυρροεῖς;

ΜΗΔ. πολλή μ' ἀνάγκη, πρέσβυ· ταῦτα γὰρ θεοὶ

κάγῳ κακῶς φρονοῦσ' ἐμηχανησάμην.

ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. θάρσει· κάτει τοι καὶ σὺ πρὸς τέκνων ἔτι. 1015

ΜΗΔ. ἄλλους κατάξω πρόσθεν ἢ τάλαιν' ἐγώ.

ΠΑΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. οὗτοι μόνη σὺ σῶν ἀπεζύγης τέκνων·

κούφως φέρειν χρὴ θνητὸν ὄντα συμφοράς.

ΜΗΔ. δράσω τάδ'. ἀλλὰ βαῖνε δωμάτων ἔσω

καὶ παισὶ πόρσυν' οἶα χρὴ καθ' ἡμέραν. 1020

ὦ τέκνα τέκνα, σφῶν μὲν ἔστι δὴ πόλις

καὶ δῶμ', ἐν ᾧ, λιπόντες ἀθλίαν ἐμέ,

οἰκήσετ' αἰεὶ μητρὸς ἐστερημένοι·

ἐγὼ δ' ἐς ἄλλην γαῖαν εἶμι δὴ φυγὰς,



τί σὴν ἔστρεψας |back- |cheek  
 |wards,  
 οὐκ ἀσμένῃ τόν |on, the  
 |contrary ἐξ ἐμοῦ δέχηι λόγον;

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. |alas . ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. τάδ' οὐ ξυνωδὰ τοῖσιν |bring news out .

ΜΗΔ. |alas μάλ' αὖθις. ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.. μὼν τιν' |carry |a fortune, act  
 |message, |of a god  
 οὐκ οἶδα, δόξης δ' |overthrow, |bringing good news  
 |balk 1010

ΜΗΔ. |carry a mes- |carry a message, |blame;  
 |sage, announce |announce |reject

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. τί δαὶ κατηφείς |eye καὶ δακρυρροεῖς;

ΜΗΔ. πολλή μ' ἀνάγκη, πρόσβυ' ταῦτα γὰρ θεοὶ

καγὼν κακῶς φρονοῦσ' |build, contrive

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. θάρσει· κάτει τοι καὶ σὺ πρὸς τέκνων ἔτι. 1015

ΜΗΔ. ἄλλους κατάξω πρόσθεν ἢ |wretched, ῥώ.  
 |miserable

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ. οὗτοι μόνη σὺ σὼν ἀπεξύγης τέκνων·

|light, φέρειν χρὴ |mortal ὄντα συμφοράς.  
 |nimble

ΜΗΔ. |do, accomplish Ἰλλὰ βαῖνε δωμάτων ἔσω

καὶ παισὶ |prepare οἶα χρὴ καθ' ἡμέραν. 1020

ὦ τέκνα τέκνα, σφῶν μὲν ἔστι δὴ πόλις

καὶ δῶμ', ἐν ᾧ, λιπόντες ἀθλίαν ἐμέ,

|inhabit αἰεὶ μητρὸς |steal, take

ἐγὼ δ' ἐς ἄλλην γαῖαν εἶμι δὴ φυγὰς,

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 discrowned

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  
 βίोटος 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  
 εὐδαίμων blessed with a good genius  
 εὐνή bed; (pl) anchor stones

ἐφοράω look upon ~panorama  
 ζηλωτός enviable  
 καταθνήσκω die, be dead ~euthanasia  
 καταξαίνω comb, tear, wear away  
 λαμπάς -δος (f, 3) torch  
 λέκτρον bed ~lie  
 λυπρός worthless, wretched  
 μοχθέω be afflicted  
 οἶχομαι come, go, leave, be gone  
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye  
 πανύστατος last of all  
 πόνος toil, suffering ~osteopenia  
 προσγελάω smile at  
 προσδέρομαι 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

πρὶν σφῶν ὀνάσθαι κάπιδεῖν εὐδαίμονας, 1025  
 πρὶν λέκτρα καὶ γυναῖκα καὶ γαμηλίους  
 εὐνὰς ἀγῆλαι λαμπάδας τ' ἀνασχεθεῖν.  
 ὦ δυστάλαινα τῆς ἐμῆς αὐθαδίας.  
 ἄλλως ἄρ' ὑμᾶς, ὦ τέκν', ἐξεθρεψάμην,  
 ἄλλως δ' ἐμόχθουν καὶ κατεξάνθην πόνοις, 1030  
 στερρὰς ἐνεγκούσ' ἐν τόκοις ἀλγηδόνας.  
 ἦ μήν ποθ' ἦ δύστηνος εἶχον ἐλπίδας  
 πολλὰς ἐν ὑμῖν, γηροβοσκήσειν τ' ἐμέ  
 καὶ κατθανοῦσαν χερσὶν εὖ περιστελεῖν,  
 ζηλωτὸν ἀνθρώποισι· νῦν δ' ὅλωλε δῆ 1035  
 γλυκεῖα φροντίς. σφῶν γὰρ ἐστερημένη  
 λυπρὸν διάξω βίοτον ἀλγεινόν τ' ἐμοί.  
 ὑμεῖς δὲ μητέρ' οὐκέτ' ὄμμασιν φίλοις  
 ὄψεσθ', ἐς ἄλλο σχῆμ' ἀποστάντες βίου.  
 φεῦ φεῦ· τί προσδέρκεσθέ μ' ὄμμασιν, τέκνα; 1040  
 τί προσγελᾶτε τὸν πανύστατον γέλων;  
 αἰαῖ· τί δράσω; καρδία γὰρ οἴχεται,  
 γυναῖκες, ὄμμα φαιδρὸν ὡς εἶδον τέκνων.

*πρὶν σφῶν ὀνάσθαι καπιδεῖν* | blessed with a  
| good genius 1025

*πρὶν* |bed      καὶ γυναῖκα καὶ |nuptial

εὐνὰς | exult in | torch      τ' ἀνασχεθεῖν.

ὦ δυστάλαινα τῆς ἐμῆς αὐθαδίας.

ἄλλως ἂρ' ὑμᾶς, ὦ τέκν', |raise, rear

ἄλλως δ' ἐμόχθουν καὶ	comb, tear, πόνοις, wear away	1030
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|solid, firm *ᾠνεγκοῦσ' ἐν* |child- |pain, grief  
|birth

ἡ μὴν ποθ' ἡ | unhappy, *εἶχον ἐλπίδας*  
miserable

πολλὰς ἐν ὑμῖν, γηροβοσκήσειν τ' ἐμέ

καὶ κατθανούσαν χερσὶν εὖ περιστελεῖν,

enviable ἀνθρώποισι· νῦν δ' ὅλωλε δὴ 1035

|sweet, |thought, care, ᾧν γὰρ |steal, take  
|pleasant

worthless,  wretched	ἀξω 	life; sus-  tenance	τ' ἐμοί.
-------------------------	---------	------------------------	----------

ὕμεις δὲ μητέρ' οὐκέτ' |eye φίλοις

ὄψεσθ', ἐς ἄλλο 

form,
figure

 ἀποστάντες βίου.

|ex- |excla- ' |look at       $\mu'$  |eye      , τέκνα;      1040

prise, οὐκ ἔμελλεν, eye beaming ὥς εἶδον τέκνων.

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!**ἄζήμιος** not paying, not punished**βούλευμα** -τος (n, 3) resolution, purpose**γέλως** laughter**δήτα** emphatic δῆ**δίς** twice**εὐφροαίνω** gladden ~frenzy**θέμις** -τος (f) custom, law**θύμα** -τος (n, 3) victim, sacrifice**καθυβρίζω** insult**καίτοι** and yet; and in fact; although**καταθνήσκω** die, be dead ~euthanasia**λυπέω** (ἴ) annoy, distress**μαλθακός** soft, timid**μεθίημι** let go, cease; (mid) speed off  
~jet**μέλω** concern, interest, be one's responsibility**νέρτερος** lower, of Hades**οὐτάω** pierce, wound**ὀφλισκάνω** lose; incur debt**πάντως** by all means**παρίημι** dangle; pass over, allow ~jet**προσίημι** be allowed near**τάλας** wretched, miserable ~talent**τόσος** so much, so great**φείδομαι** spare, not use/harm ~aphid**χωρέω** withdraw, give way to (+dat)  
~heir

οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην· χαιρέτω βουλεύματα  
 τὰ πρόσθεν· ἄξω παῖδας ἐκ γαίας ἐμούς. 1045  
 τί δεῖ με πατέρα τῶνδε τοῖς τούτων κακοῖς  
 λυποῦσαν αὐτὴν δις τόσα κτᾶσθαι κακά;  
 οὐ δῆτ' ἔγωγε. χαιρέτω βουλεύματα.  
 καίτοι τί πάσχω; βούλομαι γέλωτ' ὀφλεῖν  
 ἐχθροὺς μεθείσα τοὺς ἐμούς ἀζημίους; 1050  
 τολμητέον τάδ'. ἀλλὰ τῆς ἐμῆς κάκης,  
 τὸ καὶ προσέσθαι μαλθακοὺς λόγους φρενί.  
 χωρεῖτε, παῖδες, ἐς δόμους. ὅτω δὲ μὴ  
 θέμις παρῆναι τοῖς ἐμοῖσι θύμασιν,  
 αὐτῷ μελήσει· χεῖρα δ' οὐ διαφθερῶ. 1055  
 ᾶ ᾶ. μὴ δῆτα, θυμέ, μὴ σύ γ' ἐργάσῃ τάδε·  
 ἔασον αὐτούς, ὦ τάλαν, φείσαι τέκνων·  
 ἐκεῖ μεθ' ἡμῶν ζῶντες εὐφρανουσὶ σε.  
 μὰ τοὺς παρ' Ἄϊδη νερτέρους ἀλάστορας,  
 οὔτοι ποτ' ἔσται τοῦθ' ὅπως ἐχθροῖς ἐγὼ 1060  
 παῖδας παρήσω τοὺς ἐμούς καθυβρίσαι.  
 πάντως σφ' ἀνάγκη κατθανεῖν· ἐπεὶ δὲ χρή,



οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην· χαιρέτω |resolution,  
|purpose  
τὰ πρόσθεν· ἄξω παῖδας ἐκ γαίης ἐμούς.

1045

τί δεῖ με πατέρα τῶνδε τοῖς τούτων κακοῖς

|annoy,      αὐτὴν |twice so much, so great      ἰκά;  
|distress

οὐ δῆτ' ἔγωγε. χαιρέτω |resolution,  
|purpose

|and yet; and in χω; βούλομαι |laughter ὀφλεῖν  
|fact; although

ἐχθροὺς |let go, cease; ἴ, (mid) |not paying,  
|speed off      |not punished

1050

τολμητέον τάδ'. ἀλλὰ τῆς ἐμῆς κάκης,

τὸ καὶ |be      allowed |soft, timid      λόγους φρενί.  
|near

|withdraw, give ἔς, ἐς δόμους. ὅτω δὲ μὴ  
|way to (+dat)

|custom, law ἔναι τοῖς ἐμοῖσι |victim,  
|sacrifice

αὐτῷ |be in/on the mind ὃ οὐ διαφθερῶ.

1055

ᾶ ᾶ. μὴ |emphatic δῆ', μὴ σύ γ' ἐργάσῃ τάδε·

ἔασον αὐτούς, ὦ |wretched spare      τέκνων·  
|miserable

ἐκεῖ μεθ' ἡμῶν ζῶντες |gladden      σε.

μὰ τοὺς παρ' Ἄϊδη |lower, of Hades ἵστορας,

οὗτοι ποτ' ἔσται τοῦθ' ὅπως ἐχθροῖς ἐγὼ

1060

παῖδας |dangle; pass ὅς ἐμούς |insult  
|over, allow

|by all means ἥ 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***αἵτιος** blameworthy; the cause

~etiology

**ἀσπάζομαι** greet, salute**ἀφαιρέω** take away ~heresy**βούλευμα** -τος (n, 3) resolution, purpose**γλυκύς** sweet, pleasant ~glycerine**δράω** do, accomplish**ἐκφεύγω** flee from, escape ~fugitive**ἐκφύω** spring from ~physics**ἐνθάδε** here, hither**εὐγενής** well born**εὐδαιμονέω** be lucky, happy**ἡδέως** pleasantly ~hedonism**ἡδύς** sweet, pleasant ~hedonism**κάρα** (αἶ) head (n) ~cranium**κράς** -τός (f, 3) head**κρείσσων** more powerful; better**μαλθακός** soft, timid**νύμφα** 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

ἡμεῖς κτενοῦμεν οἷπερ ἐξεφύσαμεν.

πάντως πέπρακται ταῦτα κοῦκ ἐκφεύξεται.

καὶ δὴ ’πὶ κρατὶ στέφανος, ἐν πέπλοισι δὲ 1065

νύμφη τύραννος ὄλλυται, σάφ’ οἶδ’ ἐγώ.

ἀλλ’, εἰμι γὰρ δὴ τλημονεστάτην ὁδόν,

καὶ τούσδε πέμψω τλημονεστέραν ἔτι,

παῖδας προσειπεῖν βούλομαι.— δότ’, ὦ τέκνα,

δότ’ ἀσπάσασθαι μητρὶ δεξιὰν χέρα. 1070

ὦ φιλτάτη χεῖρ, φίλτατον δέ μοι στόμα

καὶ σχῆμα καὶ πρόσωπον εὐγενὲς τέκνων,

εὐδαιμονοῖτον, ἀλλ’ ἐκεῖ· τὰ δ’ ἐνθάδε

πατὴρ ἀφείλετ’. ὦ γλυκεῖα προσβολή,

ὦ μαλθακὸς χρῶς πνεῦμά θ’ ἥδιστον τέκνων. 1075

χωρεῖτε χωρεῖτ’· οὐκέτ’ εἰμὶ προσβλέπειν

οἷα τε πρὸς ὑμᾶς, ἀλλὰ νικῶμαι κακοῖς.

καὶ μανθάνω μὲν οἷα δρᾶν μέλλω κακά,

θυμὸς δὲ κρείσσων τῶν ἐμῶν βουλευμάτων,

ὅσπερ μεγίστων αἴτιος κακῶν βροτοῖς. 1080

ΧΟΡΟΣ. πολλάκις ἤδη

ἡμεῖς κτενούμεν οὔπερ |spring from

|by all means'···ρακται ταῦτα κοῦκ |flee

καὶ δὴ 'πὶ κρατὶ |ring , ἐν |woman's dress

1065

νύμφη |tyrant ὄλλυται, |clearly ἰδ' ἐγώ.

ἀλλ', εἴμι γὰρ δὴ |steadfast ὁδόν,

καὶ τούσδε πέμψω |steadfast ἔτι,

παῖδας προσειπεῖν βούλομαι.— δότ', ὦ τέκνα,

δότ' |greet, salute μητρὶ δεξιὰν χέρα.

1070

ὦ φιλάττη χεῖρ, φίλτατον δέ μοι στόμα

καὶ |form, καὶ πρόσωπον |well born. ἔκνων,  
|figure

|be lucky, happy , ἀλλ' ἐκεῖ· τὰ δ' |here,  
|hither

πατὴρ |take away ὦ |sweet, |application,  
|pleasant |attack

ὦ |soft, timid χρώς πνεῦμά θ' ἥδιστον τέκνων.

1075

|withdraw, |withdraw, give'τ' εἰμὶ |look at  
|give way|way to (+dat)  
|to (+dat)  
οἶα τε πρὸς ὑμᾶς, ἀλλὰ νικῶμαι κακοῖς.

καὶ μανθάνω μὲν οἶα |do, accomplish ἀκά,

θυμὸς δὲ κρείσσω τῶν ἐμῶν |resolution,  
|purpose

ὅσπερ μεγίστων |blameworthy;··· βροτοῖς.  
|the cause

1080

ΧΟΡΟΣ. |often ἥδη

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***ἄμιλλα** conflict**ἀνιαρός** (αἶ) 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**ἐρευνάω** hunt for**ἔρπω** be able to move ~serpent**εὐτυχία** good luck, success**ἡδύς** sweet, pleasant ~hedonism**θῆλυς** female; (rare) abundant ~female**κατατρύχω** (ῥ) 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 ἀμίλλας ἦλθον μείζους  
ἢ χρὴ γενεὰν θῆλυν ἐρευνᾶν·

ἀλλὰ γὰρ ἔστιν μοῦσα καὶ ἡμῖν,  
ἣ προσομιλεῖ σοφίας ἔνεκεν·

1085

πάσαισι μὲν οὗ· παῦρον δὲ δὴ  
γένος ἐν πολλαῖς εὖροις ἂν ἴσως  
κοῦκ ἀπόμουσον τὸ γυναικῶν.

καί φημι βροτῶν οἵτινές εἰσιν

1090

πάμπαν ἄπειροι μῆδ' ἐφύτευσαν  
παῖδας, προφέρειν εἰς εὐτυχίαν  
τῶν γειναμένων.

οἱ μὲν ἄτεκνοι δι' ἀπειροσύνην

εἴθ' ἡδὺ βροτοῖς εἴτ' ἀνιαρὸν

1095

παῖδες τελέθουσ' οὐχὶ τυχόντες

πολλῶν μόχθων ἀπέχονται·

οἷσι δὲ τέκνων ἔστιν ἐν οἴκοις

γλυκερὸν βλάβστημ', ὁρῶ μελέτῃ

κατατρυχομένους τὸν ἅπαντα χρόνον,



διὰ |thin                    μύθων ἔμολον

καὶ πρὸς |conflict    ἦλθον μείζους

ἦ χρὴ |birth,                    |female; |hunt for  
         |race                    (rare)  
ἀλλὰ γὰρ ἔστι |abun-                    καὶ ἡμῖν,  
                         |dant |mouse

1085

ἦ προσομιλεῖ σοφίας ἔνεκεν·

πάσαισι μὲν οὐ· |few                    δὲ δὴ

γένος ἐν πολλαῖς εὗροις ἂν ἴσως

κοῦκ ἀπόμουσον τὸ γυναικῶν.

καί φημι βροτῶν οὔτινές εἰσιν

1090

|com-                    |untested; |μηδ' |plant,    grow,  
|pletely                    |infinite                    |cause, prepare  
παῖδας, |bring forth    εἰς εὐτυχίαν

τῶν γειναμένων.

οἱ μὲν ἄτεκνοι δι' |lack of skill

|if, |sweet |ροτοῖς |if, |troublesome,  
|when-                    |when-                    |troublesome  
|ever;                    |ever;                    |ever;  
|παῖδες |turn out                    εἰ-                    |οὐχὶ τυχόντες  
|ei-                    |ther/or                    |ther/or

1095

πολλῶν |toil                    |ward off, drive off, refrain,  
                         |be at some distance

οἷσι δὲ τέκνων ἔστιν ἐν οἴκοις

|sweet,                    |shoot;                    , ὁρῶ |care;  
|pleasant                    |offspring                    |practice  
|wear out, deplete                    τὸν ἅπαντα χρόνον,

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 majesticall,  
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 alway 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*

**ἄδηλος** invisible, unknown  
**ἄλις** in plenty; enough ~helix  
**ἀνιάρός** (αἶ) troublesome, tiresome  
**βίोटος** life; sustenance, chattels  
 ~biology  
**δαίμων** -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate, doom  
 ~demon  
**δέρκομαι** see, watch  
**εἴτε** if, whenever; either/or  
**ἐπιβάλλω** throw upon, head for  
 ~ballistic  
**ἐρεθίζω** annoy, excite ~Eris  
**ἥβα** youth ~Hebe  
**θνητός** mortal ~euthanasia  
**καραδοκέω** (ᾱ) wait for the outcome of  
**καταίρω** swoop; land  
**καταλέγω** relate in detail, choose;  
 enroll ~legion  
**καταράομαι** (αἶα) curse  
**κυρέω** come upon, come up against;

obtain  
**λύπη** distress  
**μοχθέω** be afflicted  
**ὀπαδέω** follow, attend  
**ὀπαδός** member of an entourage,  
 bodyguard  
**ὀπηδός** member of an entourage,  
 bodyguard  
**ὀπόθεν** whence  
**πάλαι** long ago ~paleo  
**πάλη** wrestling ~Pallas  
**πάλλω** shake, brandish ~Pallas  
**προβαίνω** surpass, continue ~basis  
**προσμένω** await, cleave to  
**προφέρω** bring forth ~bear  
**στείχω** go, march ~stair  
**τύχη** fortune, act of a god  
**φλαῦρος** trifling  
**φροῦδος** fled, vanished  
**χρηστός** useful; brave, worthy

πρῶτον μὲν ὅπως θρέψουσι καλῶς  
 βίότόν θ' ὀπόθεν λείψουσι τέκνοις·  
 ἔτι δ' ἐκ τούτων εἴτ' ἐπὶ φλαύροις  
 εἴτ' ἐπὶ χρηστοῖς μοχθοῦσι, τόδ' ἐστὶν ἄδηλον.  
 ἐν δὲ τὸ πάντων λοίσθιον ἦδη  
 πᾶσιν κατερῶ θνητοῖσι κακόν·  
 καὶ δὴ γὰρ ἅλις βίότόν θ' ἡῦρον  
 σῶμά τ' ἐς ἥβην ἤλυθε τέκνων  
 χρηστοί τ' ἐγένοντ'· εἰ δὲ κυρήσαι  
 δαίμων οὕτως, φροῦδος ἐς Ἄιδην  
 θάνατος προφέρων σώματα τέκνων.  
 πῶς οὖν λύει πρὸς τοῖς ἄλλοις  
 τήνδ' ἔτι λύπην ἀνιαροτάτην  
 παίδων ἔνεκεν  
 θνητοῖσι θεοὺς ἐπιβάλλειν;

1105

1110

1115

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. φίλαι, πάλαι τοι προσμένουσα τὴν τύχην

караδοκῶ τὰ κεῖθεν οἱ προβήσεται.  
 καὶ δὴ δέδορκα τόνδε τῶν Ἰάσονος  
 στείχοντ' ὀπαδῶν· πνεῦμα δ' ἡρεθισμένον

πρῶτον μὲν ὅπως θρέψουσι καλῶς

|life; suste<sup>α</sup> |whence *λείψουσι τέκνοις*  
|nance

ἔτι δ' ἐκ τούτων |if, when<sup>α</sup> |trifling  
|ever; ei-  
|ther/or

|if, whenever; *ποῖς μοχθοῦσι, τόδ' ἐστὶν* |invisible,  
|either/or |unknown

ἐν δὲ τὸ πάντων λοίσθιον ἤδη

1105

πᾶσιν κατερῶ |mortal *κακόν*

καὶ δὴ γὰρ |in |life; suste<sup>α</sup> |plenty;  
|enough  
*σῶμά τ' ἐς ἥβην ἤλυθε τέκνων*

|useful; brave, *ῥέοντ'* *εἰ δὲ* |come upon  
|worthy

|a god, fate, "doom" |fled, *ἐς Ἀιδην*  
|vanished

1110

*θάνατος* |bring forth *σώματα τέκνων*.

πῶς οὖν λύει πρὸς τοῖς ἄλλοις

τήνδ' ἔτι |distress |troublesome,  
|tiresome

*παίδων ἔνεκεν*

|mortal *θεοὺς* |throw upon ,

1115

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. *φίλοι, πάλαι τοι* |await, cleave to *τὴν* |fortune, act  
|of a god

|wait for the *τάκεῖθεν οἱ* |surpass  
|outcome of

καὶ δὴ |see, watch *·όνδε 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***ἀγγέλλω** carry a message, announce

~angel

**ἀκίζω** disrespect, mutilate**ἀπήνη** wagon**ἄρτιος** suitable**γονεύς** -ος (m) parent**γονή** progeny ~genus**δείκνυμι** (ῶ) show, point out**δίπτυχος** twice-folded**δῖς** twice**ἑστία** hearth ~Hestia**ἑστιάω** give a feast**εὐεργέτης** -ου (m, 1) benefactor**ἡδομαι** 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**ὀρθός** upright, straight; correct, just

~orthogonal

**ὄχος** pl: carrying thing, chariot,

holding place ~wagon

**παράνομος** lawless, unlawful**παρέρχομαι** pass, escape**σπέρχω** set in rapid motion**τέρω** 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** (ῶ) blow, puff, blow out**φύω** produce, beget; clasp ~physics

δείκνυσιν ὥς τι καινὸν ἀγγελεῖ κακόν.

1120

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ. ὦ δεινὸν ἔργον παρανόμως εἰργασμένη,

Μήδεια, φεῦγε φεῦγε, μήτε ναῖαν

λιποῦς ἀπήνην μήτ' ὅχον πεδοστιβῇ.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. τί δ' ἄξιόν μοι τῆσδε τυγχάνει φυγῆς;

ΑΓΓ. ὄλωλεν ἡ τύραννος ἀρτίως κόρη

1125

Κρέων θ' ὁ φύσας φαρμάκων τῶν σῶν ὕπο.

ΜΗΔ. κάλλιστον εἶπας μῦθον, ἐν δ' εὐεργέταις

τὸ λοιπὸν ἤδη καὶ φίλοις ἐμοῖς ἔσση.

ΑΓΓ. τί φῆς; φρονεῖς μὲν ὀρθὰ κου' μαίνῃ, γύναι,

ἥτις, τυράννων ἐστίαν ἡκισμένη,

1130

χαίρεις κλύουσα κου' φοβῇ τὰ τοιάδε;

ΜΗΔ. ἔχω τι καὶ γὰρ τοῖς γε σοῖς ἐναντίον

λόγοισιν εἰπεῖν· ἀλλὰ μὴ σπέρχου, φίλος,

λέξον δέ· πῶς ὥλοντο; δις τόσον γὰρ ἂν

τέρψειας ἡμᾶς, εἰ τεθνᾶσι παγκάκως.

1135

ΑΓΓ. ἐπεὶ τέκνων σῶν ἦλθε δίπτυχος γονή

σὺν πατρί, καὶ παρῆλθε νυμφικοὺς δόμους,

ἦσθημεν οὔτερ σοῖς ἐκάμνομεν κακοῖς





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,  
Medea! 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  
**δμῶς** 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  
**ἐμπαλιν** backwards, on the contrary  
**ἡδονή** pleasure  
**καλύπτω** to cover with, hide  
 ~apocalypse  
**κάρ** -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  
**ὄμμα** -τος (n, 3) eye  
**ὀργή** urge, impulse; anger  
**οὖς** οὔατος (n) ear  
**παραιτέομαι** entreat; beg for; decline  
**παρηίς** cheek  
**πόσις** -ος (m) (m) husband, master; (f)  
 a drink ~potent  
**πρόθυμος** (ō) willing, eager ~fume  
**σπένδω** libate; (mid) make a treaty  
 ~spontaneous  
**στέγη** roof, ceiling, chamber  
**στρέφω** turn, veer ~atrophy  
**φυγάζ** -δος (m, 3) exile, refugee  
 ~fugitive  
**φυγή** flight, means of escape ~fugitive  
**χόλος** gall, anger, wrath, bitterness  
 ~cholera

δμῶες· δι' ὧτων δ' εὐθύς ἦν πολὺς λόγος  
 σὲ καὶ πόσιν σὸν νείκος ἐσπεῖσθαι τὸ πρῖν. 1140  
 κυνεί δ' ὁ μὲν τις χεῖρ', ὁ δὲ ξανθὸν κάρα  
 παῖδων· ἐγὼ δὲ καὐτὸς ἡδονῆς ὕπο  
 στέγας γυναικῶν σὺν τέκνοις ἅμ' ἐσπόμην.  
 δέσποινα δ' ἦν νῦν ἀντὶ σοῦ θαυμάζομεν,  
 πρὶν μὲν τέκνων σῶν εἰσιδεῖν ξυνωρίδα, 1145  
 πρόθυμον εἶχ' ὀφθαλμὸν εἰς Ἰάσονα·  
 ἔπειτα μέντοι προῦκαλύψατ' ὄμματα  
 λευκὴν τ' ἀπέστρεψ' ἔμπαλιν παρηίδα,  
 παῖδων μυσαχθεῖς εἰσόδους· πόσις δὲ σὸς  
 ὀργάς τ' ἀφήρει καὶ χόλον νεάνιδος 1150  
 λέγων τάδ'· Οὐ μὴ δυσμενῆς ἔση φίλοις,  
 παύσῃ δὲ θυμοῦ καὶ πάλιν στρέψεις κάρα,  
 φίλους νομίζουσ' οὔσπερ ἂν πόσις σέθεν,  
 δέξῃ δὲ δῶρα καὶ παραιτήσῃ πατρὸς  
 φυγὰς ἀφείναι παισὶ τοῖσδ', ἐμὴν χάριν; 1155  
 ἦ δ' ὥς ἐσεῖδε κόσμον, οὐκ ἠνέσχετο,  
 ἀλλ' ἥνεσ' ἀνδρὶ πάντα, καὶ πρὶν ἐκ δόμων

|slave δι' |ear δ' εὐθὺς ἦν πολὺς λόγος

σὲ καὶ |(m) hus-quarrel, 'σπεῖσθαι τὸ πρίν.  
band, |battle

1140

κυνεῖ δ' |(f) a drink master; τις χεῖρ', ὁ δὲ |yellow |useless bit;  
|form of κατὰ

παίδων· ἐγὼ δὲ καὐτὸς |pleasure ἵπο

|roof, ceiling, τικῶν σὺν τέκνοις ἄμ' ἐσπόμεν.  
|chamber

|lady δ' ἦν νῦν ἀντὶ σοῦ θαυμάζομεν,

πρὶν μὲν τέκνων σὼν εἰσιδεῖν ξυνωρίδα,

1145

|willing, εἶχ' ὀφθαλμὸν εἰς Ἰάσονα·  
|eager

ἔπειτα μέντοι |cover, hide |eye

|white τ' ἀπέστρεψ' |back- |cheek  
wards,

παίδων μυσσυχθεῖς' |on the |contrary |(m) husband, mas-  
|entrance ter; (f) a drink

|urge, ' |take away ἢ |anger |young  
|impulse; woman

1150

|anger λεγὼν τάδ'· Οὐ μὴ |hostile, ἔση φίλοις,  
|enemy

παύσῃ δὲ θυμοῦ καὶ πάλιν στρέψεις |useless bit;  
|form of κατὰ

φίλους νομίζουσ' οὕσπερ ἂν |(m) husband, mas-  
|ter; (f) a drink

δέξῃ δὲ δῶρα καὶ |παραιτέομαι?: ... ἔντreat; beg for; decline; or  
|παραιτέομαι?: entreat; beg for; decline

φυγὰς ἀφεῖναι παισὶ τοῖσδ', ἐμὴν χάριν;

1155

ἦ δ' ὥς ἐσεῖδε κόσμον, οὐκ |raise;  
|endure

ἀλλ' |praise, ἰνδρὶ πάντα, καὶ πρὶν 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 wilt 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*

ἄβρός graceful, delicate, pretty  
 ἀλλάσσω trade, transform  
 ἀμπέχω cover ~ambient  
 ἀνολολύζω 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  
 ἐνιμι be in ~ion  
 ἐνός speechless, dumbfounded  
 ἐνθένδε hence  
 ἔρπω be able to move ~serpent  
 θέαμα -τος (ᾱα, 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

ὀλολυγή (ῶ) women's ecstatic shout  
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye  
 ὀργή urge, impulse; anger  
 ὀρθός 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  
 στρέφω turn, veer ~atrophy  
 σχηματίζω pose, form, dress  
 τένων -οντος (m, 3) tendon, sinew  
 ~tendon  
 τρέμω tremble in fear ~tremble  
 ὑπερχαίρω rejoice greatly at  
 φθάνω (ᾱ) do first, outstrip  
 χαμαί on/near the ground  
 χωρέω withdraw, give way to (+dat)  
 ~heir

μακρὰν ἀπείναι πατέρα καὶ παῖδας, σέθεν  
 λαβοῦσα πέπλους ποικίλους ἡμπέσχετο,  
 χρυσοῦν τε θείσα στέφανον ἀμφὶ βοστρύχοις 1160  
 λαμπρῷ κατόπτρῳ σχηματίζεται κόμην,  
 ἄψυχον εἰκὼ προσγελῶσα σώματος.  
 κᾶπειτ' ἀναστᾶσ' ἐκ θρόνων διέρχεται  
 στέγας, ἀβρὸν βαίνουσα παλλεύκῳ ποδί,  
 δώροις ὑπερχαίρουσα, πολλὰ πολλάκις 1165  
 τένοντ' ἐς ὀρθὸν ὄμμασι σκοπομένη.  
 τοῦνθένδε μέντοι δεινὸν ἦν θέαμ' ἰδεῖν·  
 χροῖαν γὰρ ἀλλάξασα λεχρία πάλιν  
 χωρεῖ τρέμουσα κῶλα καὶ μόλις φθάνει  
 θρόνοισιν ἐμπεσοῦσα μὴ χαμαὶ πεσεῖν. 1170  
 καί τις γεραιὰ προσπόλων, δόξασά που  
 ἦ Πανὸς ὀργὰς ἦ τινὸς θεῶν μολεῖν,  
 ἀνωλόλυξε, πρὶν γ' ὀρᾷ διὰ στόμα  
 χωροῦντα λευκὸν ἀφρόν, ὀμμάτων τ' ἄπο  
 κόρας στρέφουσιν, αἶμά τ' οὐκ ἐνὸν χροῖ· 1175  
 εἶτ' ἀντίμολπον ἦκεν ὀλολυγῆς μέγαν



μακρὰν ἀπείναι πατέρα καὶ παῖδας, σέθεν

λαβοῦσα |woman's |ornamented |cover  
|dress

χρυσοῦν τε θείσα |ring ἀμφὶ |curl, lock 1160

λαμπρῶ |mirror |pose, form, dress |hair

ἄψυχον εἰκὼ |smile at σώματος.

κάπειτ' ἀναστᾶσ' ἐκ θρόνων διέρχεται

|roof, |graceful, 'delicate, all white ποδί,  
|ceiling, |pretty  
|chamber  
δοροῖς |rejoice greatly at , πολλὰ πολλάκις 1165

|tendon, ἐς ὀρθὸν |eye σκοπουμένη.  
|sinew

|hence μέντοι δεινὸν ἦν |sight, ἴν'  
|spectacle

χροιὰν γὰρ |trade, λεχρία πάλιν  
|transform

χωρεῖ |tremble in |limb καὶ |with difficulty,  
|fear |barely

θρόνοισιν |fall into; attack, |on the ground 1170

καί τις |old |servant, , δόξασά που  
|attendant

ἦ Πανὸς ὀργὰς ἦ τινὸς θεῶν μολεῖν,

ἀνωλόλυξε, πρίν γ' ὀρᾶ διὰ στόμα

χωροῦντα λευκὸν |foam , |eye τ' ἄπο

κόρας |turn , αἶμά τ' οὐκ ἐνὸν χροῖ· 1175

εἶτ' |sounding ἦκεν |women's ἐς- ἔγαν  
|instead of |static shout

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  
 ἄπτω set on fire; attach; mid: touch,  
 seize ~haptic  
 ἄρτιος suitable  
 δάπτω devour  
 διπλός double, overlapping  
 δῖς twice  
 δρόμος running, racing ground  
 ~hippodrome  
 δυσδαίμων unlucky, unhappy  
 δώρημα -τος (n, 3) gift  
 ἐπιστρατεύω march against  
 θαυμαστός wonderful; admirable  
 θρόνος seat, chair, throne ~throne  
 κάρα (αᾶ) head (n) ~cranium  
 κόμη hair ~comet  
 κράς -τός (f, 3) head  
 κρέας -ως (n) meat ~creatine  
 κτυπέω crash  
 κωκυτός (ὀ) lamentation  
 κῶλον limb  
 λάμπω shine ~lamp  
 λεπτός thin

μύω close  
 νᾶμα a flow  
 νύμφα nymph; bride  
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye  
 οὔδας -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  
 ῥίπτω 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 (ὀ) gold

κωκυτόν. εὐθύς δ' ἦ μὲν ἐς πατρὸς δόμους  
 ὥρμησεν, ἣ δὲ πρὸς τὸν ἀρτίως πόσιν  
 φράσουσα νύμφης συμφορὰν· ἅπανα δὲ  
 στέγη πυκνοῖσιν ἐκτύπει δρομήμασιν.

1180

ἦδη δ' ἀνέλκων κῶλον ἔκπλεθρον δρόμου  
 ταχὺς βαδιστῆς τερμόνων ἂν ἥπτετο,  
 ἣ δ' ἐξ ἀναύδου καὶ μύσαντος ὄμματος  
 δεινὸν στενάξασ' ἣ τάλαιν' ἠγείρετο.

διπλοῦν γὰρ αὐτῇ πῆμ' ἐπεστρατεύετο·

1185

χρυσοῦς μὲν ἀμφὶ κρατὶ κείμενος πλόκος  
 θαυμαστὸν ἵει νᾶμα παμφάγου πυρός,  
 πέπλοι δὲ λεπτοί, σῶν τέκνων δωρήματα,  
 λεπτήν ἔδαπτον σάρκα τῆς δυσδαίμονος.

φεύγει δ' ἀναστᾶς ἐκ θρόνων πυρουμένη,

1190

σείουσα χαίτην κρᾶτά τ' ἄλλοτ' ἄλλοσε,  
 ῥῦψαι θέλουσα στέφανον· ἀλλ' ἀραρότως  
 σύνδεσμα χρυσὸς εἶχε, πῦρ δ', ἐπεὶ κόμην  
 ἔσεισε, μᾶλλον δις τόσως ἐλάμπετο.

πίτνει δ' ἐς οὐδας συμφορᾶ νικωμένη,

|lamentation ὑθὺς δ' ἡ μὲν ἐς πατρὸς δόμους

ῥομφαίῃ, ἡ δὲ πρὸς τὸν |suitable πόσιν

φράσουσα νύμφης συμφορὰν· ἅπαντα δὲ

|roof, ceiling, οἷσιν |crash δρομήμασιν.  
|chamber

1180

ἤδη δ' |draw up|limb ἔκπλεθρον δρόμου  
|back

ταχὺς βαδιστῆς |boundary ἂν ἥπτετο,

ἡ δ' ἐξ |unable to speak|close |eye

δεινὸν |sigh, groan ἡ |wretched, γείρετο.  
|miserable

διπλοῦν γὰρ αὐτῇ πῆμ' |march against

1185

χρυσοῦς μὲν ἀμφὶ κρατὶ κείμενος |lock of hair;  
|head-wreath

|wonderful; ἴει |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, ἡ μὲν ἄλλοτ' |elsewhere

ῥῆψαι θέλουσα |ring ἀλλ' ἀραρότως

σύνδεσμα χρυσὸς εἶχε, πῦρ δ', ἐπεὶ |hair

|shake , μάλλον |twice ὥσως ἐλάμπετο.

|poetic ὅ 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*

ἀγνώσῖα ignorance

ἄδηλος invisible, unknown

ἄκρον crest, extremity ~acute

ἄκρος at the edge, extreme ~acute

ἀπορρέω flow, fall off

ἄτιμος (t) without honor

ἄφνω suddenly, surprisingly

γεραιός old ~geriatric

γναθμός lower jaw

γοάω weep, mourn

γόος 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

ἐξάνιστημι raise, bring/send out

ἔρνος -εος (n, 3) sapling

εὐφυής well-developed ~physics

θέαμα -τος (ᾱα, n, 3) sight, spectacle

θιγγάνω touch

θρῆνος dirge ~threnody

κάρα (αᾱ) 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

οἷμοι woe is me

οἰμώζω wail

ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye

ὀρφανός orphan

ὀστέον 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 προσπίτω

στάζω dribble, infuse

συμφορά collecting; accident,  
misfortune

συνθνήσκω die together

τλήμων steadfast, enduring ~talent

τοιόσδε such

τύμβος grave mound ~tomb

τύχη fortune, act of a god

φαρμακεύς -ος (m) poisoner, sorcerer

φάρμακον drug, potion ~pharmacy

χρήζω need ~chresard

πλὴν τῷ τεκόντι κάρτα δυσμαθῆς ἰδεῖν·  
 οὐτ' ὀμμάτων γὰρ δῆλος ἦν κατάστασις  
 οὐτ' εὐφυὲς πρόσωπον, αἶμα δ' ἐξ ἄκρου  
 ἔσταζε κρατὸς συμπεφυρμένον πυρί,  
 σάρκες δ' ἀπ' ὀστέων ὥστε πεύκινον δάκρυ 1200  
 γναθμοῖς ἀδήλοις φαρμάκων ἀπέρρεον,  
 δεινὸν θέαμα· πᾶσι δ' ἦν φόβος θιγείν  
 νεκροῦ· τύχην γὰρ εἶχομεν διδάσκαλον.  
 πατὴρ δ' ὁ τλήμων συμφορᾶς ἀγνωσία  
 ἄφνω προσελθὼν δῶμα προσπίτνει νεκρῷ· 1205  
 ὥμωξε δ' εὐθύς, καὶ περιπτύξας χέρας  
 κυνέϊ προσαυδῶν τοιάδ'· ὦ δύστηνε παῖ,  
 τίς σ' ὦδ' ἀτίμως δαιμόνων ἀπώλεσε;  
 τίς τὸν γέροντα τύμβον ὀρφανὸν σέθεν  
 τίθησιν; οἴμοι, συνθάνοιμί σοι, τέκνον. 1210  
 ἐπεὶ δὲ θρήνων καὶ γόων ἐπαύσατο,  
 χρήζων γεραιὸν ἐξαναστήσαι δέμας  
 προσείχεθ' ὥστε κισσὸς ἔρνεσιν δάφνης  
 λεπτοῖσι πέπλοις, δεινὰ δ' ἦν παλαίσματα·



πλήν τῷ τεκόντι |very |slow at learning;  
|much |hard to learn

οὗτ' |eye γὰρ δῆλος ἦν |establishment

οὗτ' |well-developed...πον, αἶμα 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, .ῖασι δ' ἦν φόβος |touch  
|spectacle

νεκροῦ· τύχην γὰρ εἵχομεν διδάσκαλον.

πατὴρ δ' ὁ |steadfast συμφορᾶς |ignorance

|suddenly, ... ἐλθὼν δῶμα προσπίτνει νεκρῷ·  
|surprisingly

1205

|wail δ' εὐθύς, καὶ |enfold χέρας

κυνεῖ προσανδῶν τοιάδ'· ὦ |unhappy, ταῖ,  
|miserable

τίς σ' ὦδ' |without δαιμόνων ἀπώλεσε;  
|honor

τίς τὸν γέροντα |grave |orphan σέθεν  
|mound

τίθησιν; |woe is|die together σοι, τέκνον.  
|me

1210

ἐπεὶ δὲ |dirge καὶ γόων ἐπαύσατο,

|need γεραῖον |raise, bring/send ἵμας  
|out

προσείχεθ' ὥστε |ivy |sapling |laurel

|thin |woman's dress ἵδ' ἦν |bout, 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 (ὑ) extinguish  
 ἀποστροφή turning back, away  
 γεραιός old ~geriatric  
 γόνυ γουνός (n, 3) knee ~polygon  
 δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate, doom  
 ~demon  
 δάκρυον tear  
 δύσμορος ill-fated  
 ἐκποδών out of the way  
 ἔνδικος (persons, things) just  
 ἐξάνιστημι raise, bring/send out  
 ἐπιρρέω flow over ~rheostat  
 εὐδαίμων blessed with a good genius  
 εὐτυχής fortunate  
 ζημία loss, penalty ~zeal

θνητός mortal ~euthanasia  
 οἰκτείρω pity  
 ὄλβος happiness, wealth  
 ὀστέον bone ~osteoporosis  
 ὀφλισκάνω lose; incur debt  
 πέλας near, close  
 ποθεινός longed for  
 σκιά shadow ~shadow  
 σοφός skilled, clever, wise  
 σπαράσσω tear, rend  
 συμφορά collecting; accident, misfortune  
 τλήμων steadfast, enduring ~talent  
 τρέω flee in fear ~tremor  
 ὑπέρτερος superior, victorious

ὁ μὲν γὰρ ἤθελ' ἐξαναστήσαι γόνυ, 1215

ἧ δ' ἀντελάζυτ'. εἰ δὲ πρὸς βίαν ἄγοι,

σάρκας γεραιὰς ἐσπάρασσ' ἀπ' ὀστέων.

χρόνῳ δ' ἀπέσβη καὶ μεθῆχ' ὁ δύσμορος

ψυχὴν· κακοῦ γὰρ οὐκέτ' ἦν ὑπέρτερος.

κεῖνται δὲ νεκροὶ παῖς τε καὶ γέρων πατὴρ 1220

πέλας, ποθεινὴ δακρύοισι συμφορά.

καί μοι τὸ μὲν σὸν ἐκποδὼν ἔστω λόγου·

γνώσῃ γὰρ αὐτὴ ζημίας ἀποστροφὴν.

τὰ θνητὰ δ' οὐ νῦν πρῶτον ἡγοῦμαι σκιάν,

οὐδ' ἂν τρέσας εἵπομι τοὺς σοφοὺς βροτῶν 1225

δοκοῦντας εἶναι καὶ μεριμνητὰς λόγων

τούτους μεγίστην ζημίαν ὀφλισκάνειν.

θνητῶν γὰρ οὐδεὶς ἐστὶν εὐδαίμων ἀνὴρ·

ὄλβου δ' ἐπιρρυέντος εὐτυχέστερος

ἄλλου γένοιτ' ἂν ἄλλος, εὐδαίμων δ' ἂν οὔ. 1230

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἔοιχ' ὁ δαίμων πολλὰ τῇδ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ

κακὰ ξυνάπτειν ἐνδίκως Ἰάσони.

ὦ τλήμον, ὥς σου συμφορὰς οἰκτίρομεν,

ὁ μὲν γὰρ ἤθελ' |raise, |knee , 1215  
 |bring/send  
 ἦ δ' ἀντελάζυτ' |out· εἰ δὲ πρὸς βίαν ἄγοι,

σάρκας |old ἐσπάρασσ' ἀπ' |bone

χρόνω δ' |extinguish καὶ μεθήχ' ὁ |ill-fated

ψυχὴν· κακοῦ γὰρ οὐκέτ' ἦν |superior,  
 |victorious

κείνται δὲ νεκροὶ παῖς τε καὶ γέρων πατήρ 1220

|near, |longed |tear συμφορά.  
 |close |for

καί μοι τὸ μὲν σὸν |out of the way . . . λόγου·

γνώση γὰρ αὐτὴ |loss, |turning back, away  
 |penalty

τὰ |mortal δ' οὐ νῦν πρῶτον ἡγοῦμαι |shadow

οὐδ' ἂν |flee εἵπομι τοὺς |skilled, ἵπτων 1225  
 |clever, wise

δοκοῦντας εἶναι καὶ μεριμνητὰς λόγων

τούτους μεγίστην |loss, |lose; incur  
 |penalty |debt

|mortal γὰρ οὐδεὶς ἐστίν |blessed with a ἥρ·  
 |good genius

|happiness, |flow over |fortunate  
 |wealth

ἄλλου γένοιτ' ἂν ἄλλος, |blessed with a ἵν οὔ. 1230  
 |good genius

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἔοιχ' ὁ |a god, fate, doom . ἦδ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ

κακὰ ξυνάπτειν |(persons, ἴσονι.  
 |things) just

ὦ |steadfast ὥς σου συμφορὰς οἰκτίρομεν,

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*

**ἄκτις** -νος (f) ray, beam ~actinic  
**ἀναγκαῖος** coerced, coercing, slavery  
**ἀναμνησῶ** (+2 acc) remind  
 someone ~mnemonic  
**ἀφορμάω** depart, depart from  
 ~hormone  
**βίος** life ~biology  
**βιόω** 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

**θρῆνυς** footstool, gangway ~throne  
**ἰός** arrow  
**ἰωή** a rush, a sweep  
**καθοράω** look down ~panorama  
**κακίζω** be a coward ~cacophony  
**καταθνήσκω** die, be dead ~euthanasia  
**κόρυς** helmet  
**λυπηρός** (ῶ) 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 Ἴδου δόμους

οἴχῃ γάμων ἕκατι τῶν Ἰάσονος.

1235

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. φίλαι, δέδοκται τοῦργον ὥς τάχιστα μοι

παῖδας κτανούσῃ τῇσδ' ἀφορμᾶσθαι χθονός,

καὶ μὴ σχολὴν ἄγουσαν ἐκδοῦναι τέκνα

ἄλλῃ φονεῦσαι δυσμενεστέρα χερί.

πάντως σφ' ἀνάγκη κατθανεῖν· ἐπεὶ δὲ χρή,

1240

ἡμεῖς κτενοῦμεν, οἵπερ ἐξεφύσαμεν.

ἀλλ' εἴ ὀπλίζου, καρδία. τί μέλλομεν

τὰ δεινὰ κἀναγκαῖα μὴ πράσσειν κακά;

ἄγ', ὦ τάλαινα χεῖρ ἐμή, λαβὲ ξίφος,

λάβ', ἔρπε πρὸς βαλβίδα λυπηρὰν βίου,

1245

καὶ μὴ κακισθῆς μηδ' ἀναμνησθῆς τέκνων,

ὥς φίλταθ', ὥς ἔτικτες· ἀλλὰ τήνδε γε

λαθοῦ βραχεῖαν ἡμέραν παίδων σέθεν,

κᾶπειτα θρήνει· καὶ γὰρ εἰ κτενεῖς σφ', ὅμως

φίλοι γ' ἔφυσαν— δυστυχῆς δ' ἐγὼ γυνή.

1250

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἰὼ Γᾶ τε καὶ παμφαῆς

ἀκτὶς Ἀελίου, κατίδεται ἴδετε τὰν



|helmet Ἰζρέοντος, ἥτις εἰς Ἴαιδου δόμους

|come, |wedding, sex . ι τῶν Ἰάσονος.  
|go

1235

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. φίλαι, δέδοκται τοῦργον ὡς τάχιστα μοι

παῖδας κτανούσῃ τῇσδ' |depart χθινός,

καὶ μὴ |rest, ἄγουσαν |hand over ἔκνα  
|leisure

ἄλλῃ |kill |hostile, enemy χερί.

|by all means ἄνἀγκη κατθανεῖν· ἐπεὶ δὲ χρή,

1240

ἡμεῖς κτενοῦμεν, οἵπερ |spring from

ἀλλ' |ex-|prepare, arm ρδία. τί μέλλομεν

τὰ δεῖνα κἀναγκαῖα μὴ πράσσειν κακά;  
|cla-  
ma-  
tion  
to

ἄγ', αὖ |urge, wretched, χεῖρ ἐμή, λαβὲ |sword,  
|some  
miserable  
one

λάβ', |doe able to move `βῖδα |painful, caus- v,  
|ing pain, sad

1245

καὶ μὴ |be a coward ῥδ' ἀναμνησθῆς τέκνων,

ὥς φίλταθ', ὥς ἔτικτες· ἀλλὰ τήνδε γε

λαθοῦ |low, short ἡμέραν παίδων σέθεν,

κᾶπειτα θρήνει· καὶ γὰρ εἰ κτενεῖς σφ', |anyway, nevertheless

φίλοι γ' ἔφυσαν— |unlucky δ' ἐγὼ γυνή.

1250

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἰὼ Γᾶ τε καὶ παμφαῆς

|ray Ἄελίου, |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***αἰαῖ** alas**ἄλᾶστορος** 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  
~ballistic**ἐξαιρέω** 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**καταίρω** swoop; land**καταπαύω** stop, restrain ~pause**ματάω** be ineffective, idle**μῖν** him, her, it**μόχθος** toil**ὁμογενής** related**πίτνω** poetic for πίπτω**προσβάλλω** hit, attack, approach;  
attach, offer ~ballistic**προσπίτνω** poetic for προσπίπτω**ῥέζω** do, make, perform sacrifices  
~ergonomics**ῥέω** 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  
~cholera

ὀλομέναν γυναῖκα, πρὶν φοινίαν  
 τέκνοις προσβαλεῖν χέρ' αὐτοκτόνον·  
 τεᾶς γὰρ ἀπὸ χρυσέας γονᾶς  
 ἔβλασται, θεοῦ δ' αἷμά τι πίνειν  
 φόβος ὑπ' ἀνέρων.

1255

ἀλλά νιν, ὦ φάος διογενές, κάτειρ'  
 γε κατάπαυσον, ἔξελ' οἴκων φοινίαν  
 τάλαινάν τ' Ἑρινὺν ὑπ' ἀλαστόρων.

1260

ΧΟΡΟΣ. μάταν μόχθος ἔρρει τέκνων,  
 ἄρα μάταν γένος φίλιον ἔτεκες, ὦ  
 κυανεᾶν λιποῦσα Συμπληγάδων  
 πετρᾶν ἀξενωτάταν ἐσβολάν;  
 δειλαία, τί σοι φρενῶν βαρὺς  
 χόλος προσπίνει καὶ δυσμενῆς  
 φόνος; ἀμείβεται  
 χαλεπὰ γὰρ βροτοῖς ὁμογενῇ μιά'  
 σματα ἐπὶ γαῖαν αὐτοφόνταις ξυνῶ'  
 δὰ θεόθεν πίνοντ' ἐπὶ δόμοις ἄχῃ. ΠΑΙΔΕΣ. αἰαῖ.

1265

1270

ΧΟ. —ἀκούεις βοᾶν ἀκούεις τέκνων;—

ὀλομένηαν γυναῖκα, πρὶν |red

τέκνοις |hit, attack, approach; <sup>2</sup>τοκτόνον·  
|attach, offer

τεᾶς γὰρ ἀπὸ χρυσέας |progeny

1255

|bud, sprout Ἰεοῦ δ' αἰμά τι |poetic for πίπτω

φόβος ὑπ' ἀνέρων.

ἀλλά νιν, ὦ |light; |born of Zeus· <sup>1</sup>τειρ'  
|salva-

γε |stop, restrain <sup>tion;</sup> <sup>(pl)</sup> ἔξελ' οἴκων φονίαν  
|eyes

|wretched, τ' Ἐρινὺν ὑπ' |driven by an  
|miserable |avenging daimon

1260

ΧΟΡΟΣ. μάταν |toil ἔρρει τέκνων,

ἄρα μάταν γένος |friendly <sup>2</sup>τεκες, ὦ

κυανεᾶν λιπούσα Συμπληγάδων

πετρᾶν |inhospitable |invasion, an  
|entrance

|wretched τί σοι φρενῶν |heavy

1265

|anger |poetic ... for|hostile,  
|προσπίπτω |enemy

|killing , ἀμείβεται

χαλεπὰ γὰρ βροτοῖς |related μιά'

σματα ἐπὶ γαῖαν αὐτοφόνταις ξυνῶ'

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 smittings 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*

**ἄκτῃ** beach; cereal grain  
**ἀλέομαι** escape, shun ~swelter  
**ἄλλῃ** wandering ~Fr. aller  
**ἀλίσκομαι** be captured ~helix  
**ἅλμῃ** 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  
**ιός** arrow  
**ἰωή** a rush, a sweep

**κλύω** hear, listen to ~Euclid  
**μαίνομαι** be berserk ~maenad  
**μίν** him, her, it  
**μοῖρα** portion, fate; (κατά+) rightly  
 ~Moirai  
**ναί** yea  
**ξίφος** -εος (n, 3) sword  
**οἶμοι** woe is me  
**παρέρχομαι** pass, escape  
**πάρως** before, in the past  
**πέτρος** rock ~petrified  
**πίτνω** poetic for πίπτω  
**ποῖ** whither? how long?  
**πόντιος** of the sea  
**συνθνήσχω** die together  
**τάλας** wretched, miserable ~talent  
**φόνος** killing ~offend

ἰὼ τλα̃μον, ὦ κακοτυχὲς γύναι.

ΠΑΙΔΕΣ. —οἷμοι, τί δράσω; ποῖ φύγω μητρὸς χέρας;—

οὐκ οἶδ', ἄδελφε φίλτατ'· ὀλλύμεσθα γάρ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. παρέλθω δόμους; ἀρῆξαι φόνον

1275

δοκεῖ μοι τέκνοις.

ΠΑΙ. —ναί, πρὸς θεῶν, ἀρῆξατ'· ἐν δέοντι γάρ.—

ὥς ἐγγὺς ἤδη γ' ἐσμέν ἀρκύων ξίφους.

ΧΘ. —τάλαιν', ὥς ἄρ' ἦσθα πέτρος ἢ σίδα'

ρος, ἅτις τέκνων

1280

ὄν ἔτεκες ἄροτον αὐτόχειρι μοίρᾳ κτενεῖς.

ΧΘ. —μίαν δὴ κλύω μίαν τῶν πάρος

γυναῖκ' ἐν φίλοις χέρα βαλεῖν τέκνοις·

Ἵνὼ μανεῖσαν ἐκ θεῶν, ὅθ' ἡ Διὸς

δάμαρ νιν ἐξέπεμψε δωμάτων ἄλῃ·

1285

πίτνει δ' ἅ τάλαιν' ἐς ἄλμαν φόνῳ

τέκνων δυσσεβεῖ,

ἀκτῆς ὑπερτείνασα ποντίας πόδα,

δυοῖν τε παῖδوين συνθανοῦσ' ἀπόλλυται.

τί δῆτ' οὖν γένοιτ' ἂν ἔτι δεινόν; ὦ



ἰὼ τλᾶμον, ὦ κακοτυχὲς γύναι.

ΠΑΙΔΕΣ. — |woe is mé |do, ac-|whither? how long? ,ῥέρας;—  
|comply  
οὐκ οἶδ', ἄδελφε φίλτατ'· ὀλλύμεσθα γάρ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. |pass, δόμους; |succor; |killing 1275  
|escape |prevent  
δοκεῖ μοι τέκνοισ.

ΠΑΙ. — |yea, πρὸς θεῶν, ἀρήξατ'· ἐν δέοντι γάρ.—

ὥς |near ἤδη γ' ἐσμὲν ἀρκύων |sword .

ΧΘ. — |wretched, ἵς ἄρ' ἦσθα |rock ἦ σίδα'  
|miserable  
ρος, ἅτις τέκνων 1280

ὄν ἔτεκες |plowed |with one's|portion, fate ἱς.  
|field |own hand

ΧΘ. — μίαν δὴ |hear μίαν τῶν |before, in the past

γυναῖκ' ἐν φίλοις χέρα βαλεῖν τέκνοισ·

Ἴνῳ |be berserk ἐκ θεῶν, ὅθ' ἡ Διὸς

|wife νιν |send forth δωμάτων ἄλη· 1285

|poetic ῥ' for |wretched, ῥ' |brine, |killing  
|πίπτω |miserable |sea salt  
τέκνων δυσσεβεί,

|beach; ὑπερτεῖνασα |of the sea τόδα,  
|grain

δυοῖν τε παῖδων |die together ἀπόλλυται.

τί δῆτ' οὖν γένοιτ' ἂν ἔτι δεινόν; ὦ

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***ἄθῳος** unpunished, blameless**αἰθήρ** ether, air, sky ~ether**ἄνόσιος** unholy**βάθος** -ους (n, 3) depth, height**βίος** life ~biology**δράω** do, accomplish**ἐγγύς** near**ἔργω** bound, fend off; do ~ergonomics**ἔρδω** do, perform ~ergonomics**ἑρέσσω** to row ~row**ἥτοι** truly; either, or**κοίρανος** ruler, chief**κρύπτω** hide, cover ~cryptic**λέχος** -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier ~lie**μεθίστημι** change, substitute;withdraw; change sides; (mid) send  
away ~station**μητρῴος** maternal**μὲν** him, her, it**προσήκω** belong to, it befits**ῥέζω** do, make, perform sacrifices  
~ergonomics**στέγη** roof, ceiling, chamber**τλήμων** steadfast, enduring ~talent**τύραννος** tyrant**φθέγγομαι** make a sound, utter  
~diphthong**φόνος** killing ~offend**φροντίς** -τος (f) thought, care**φυγή** flight, means of escape ~fugitive

γυναικῶν λέχος

πολύπονον, ὅσα βροτοῖς ἔρεξας ἤδη κακά.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. γυναῖκες, αἱ τῆσδ' ἐγγὺς ἔστατε στέγης,

ἄρ' ἐν δόμοισιν ἢ τὰ δαίν' εἰργασμένη

Μήδεια τοῖσδ' ἔτ', ἣ μεθέστηκεν φυγῇ;

1295

δαί γάρ νιν ἤτοι γῆς γε κρυφθῆναι κάτω,

ἣ πτηνὸν ἄραι σῶμ' ἐς αἰθέρος βάθος,

εἰ μὴ τυράννων δώμασιν δώσει δίκην·

πέποιθ' ἀποκτεῖνασα κοιράνους χθονὸς

ἀθῶος αὐτῇ τῶνδε φεύξεσθαι δόμων;

1300

ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ αὐτῆς φροντὶδ' ὥς τέκνων ἔχω·

κείνην μὲν οὖς ἔδρασεν ἔρξουσιν κακῶς,

ἐμῶν δὲ παίδων ἦλθον ἐκσώσων βίον,

μή μοί τι δράσωσ' οἱ προσήκοντες γένει,

μητρῶον ἐκπράσσοντες ἀνόσιον φόνον.

1305

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ὦ τλήμον, οὐκ οἶσθ' οἱ κακῶν ἐλήλυθας,

Ἰάσον· οὐ γὰρ τοῦσδ' ἂν ἐφθέγξω λόγους.

ΙΑΣ. τί δ' ἔστιν; ἣ που καὶ μ' ἀποκτεῖναι θέλει;

ΧΟ. παῖδες τεθναῖσι χειρὶ μητρῶα σέθεν.

γυναικῶν |bed, bier

πολύπονον, ὅσα βροτοῖς ἔρεξας ἤδη κακά.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. γυναικες, αἱ τῇσδ' |near ἔστατε |roof, ceiling,  
|chamber

ἄρ' ἐν δόμοισιν ἢ τὰ δεῖν' εἰργασμένη

Μήδεια τοῖσδ' ἔτ', ἢ |change, sub-flight, means 1295  
|stitute; with-of escape

δεῖ γάρ νιν |truly; ,ἣς |draw; change  
|either, |sides; hide, cover κάτω,  
|or |send away

ἢ πτηνὸν ἄραι σῶμ' ἐς |ether |depth, ,  
|height

εἰ μὴ |tyrant δώμασιν δώσει δίκην·

πέποιθ' ἀποκτείνασα |ruler, chief χθονὸς

|unpunished, , τῶνδε φεύξεσθαι δόμων; 1300  
|blameless

ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ αὐτῆς |thought, care, τέκνων ἔχω·

κείνην μὲν οὕς |do, accomplish σιν κακῶς,

ἐμῶν δὲ παίδων ἦλθον ἐκσώσων |life ,

μή μοί τι |do, accom-|belong to, it be- γένει,  
|plish |seems

|maternal ἐκπράσσοντες |unholy |killing 1305

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ᾧ |steadfast οὐκ οἶσθ' οἱ κακῶν ἐλήλυθας,

Ἰᾶσον· οὐ γὰρ τούσδ' ἄν |make a sound, utter

ΙΑΣ. τί δ' ἔστιν; ἢ που κάμ' ἀποκτεῖναι θέλει;

ΧΘ. παῖδες τεθνᾶσι χειρὶ |maternal τέθεν.

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**ἀνοίγνυμι** (ῶ) open**ἄπαις** childless**διπλόος** double, overlapping**δράω** do, accomplish**δυσσεβής** impious, profane**ἐκλύω** rescue from ~loose**ἐμβάλλω** throw in; inspire a mental state ~ballistic**ἐντός** within**ἐξωθεν** from outside**ἐρευνάω** hunt for**ἔρυμα** -τος (n, 3) protection ~serve**κινέω** (ι) set in motion, move, remove ~kinetic**κλείς** κληῖδος (f) bar, key ~clavicle**κλύω** hear, listen to ~Euclid**μίν** him, her, it**μῖσος** -εος (n, 3) hate**ξίφος** -εος (n, 3) sword**οἶμοι** woe is me**ὄχημα** vehicle**πόνος** toil, suffering ~osteopenia**ποῦ** where?**προσβλέπω** look at**πρόσπολος** servant, attendant**πύλη** gate ~Thermopylae**τίνω** (ι) pay, atone for; (mp) punish**τλάω** take upon oneself ~talent**τοιόσδε** such**φόνος** killing ~offend**φροντίζω** consider, ponder**χαλάω** let fall; become slack**χρεία** need, use**ψαύω** be closely touching

ΙΑΣΩΝ. οἷμοι τί λέξεις; ὥς μ' ἀπώλεσας, γύναι. 1310

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ὥς οὐκέτ' ὄντων σῶν τέκνων φρόντιζε δή.

ΙΑΣ. ποῦ γάρ νυν ἔκτειν'; ἐντὸς ἣ ἔξωθεν δόμων;

ΧΟ. πύλας ἀνοίξας σῶν τέκνων ὄψῃ φόνον.

ΙΑΣ. χαλᾶτε κληῖδας ὥς τάχιστα, πρόσπολοι,

ἐκλύεθ' ἄρμούς, ὥς ἴδω διπλοῦν κακόν, 1315

τοὺς μὲν θανόντας— τὴν δὲ τείσωμαι δίκην.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. τί τάσδε κινεῖς κἄναμοχλεύεις πύλας,

νεκροὺς ἐρευνῶν καὶ μὲ τὴν εἰργασμένην;

παῦσαι πόνου τοῦδ'. εἰ δ' ἐμοῦ χρεῖαν ἔχεις,

λέγ', εἴ τι βούλῃ, χειρὶ δ' οὐ ψαύσεις ποτέ. 1320

τοιόνδ' ὄχημα πατρὸς Ἥλιος πατήρ

δίδωσιν ἡμῖν, ἔρυμα πολεμίας χερός.

ΙΑΣ. ὦ μῖσος, ὦ μέγιστον ἐχθίστη γύναι

θεοῖς τε κάμοι παντὶ τ' ἀνθρώπων γένει,

ἥτις τέκνοισι σοῖσιν ἐμβαλεῖν ξίφος 1325

ἔτλης τεκοῦσα, καὶ μ' ἄπαιδ' ἀπώλεσας·

καὶ ταῦτα δράσας ἥλιόν τε προσβλέπεις

καὶ γαῖαν, ἔργον τλαῖσα δυσσεβέστατον·



ΙΑΣΩΝ. |woe is μέ ἔξεις; ὥς μ' ἀπώλεσας, γύναι. 1310

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ὥς οὐκέτ' ὄντων σῶν τέκνων |consider, δῆ.  
|ponder

ΙΑΣ. |where? ῥ νιν ἔκτειν'; |within ῖ |from outside ον;

ΧΟ. |gate ἀνοίξας σῶν τέκνων ὄψῃ |killing

ΙΑΣ. |let fall;bar, key ὥς τάχιστα, πρόσπολοι,  
|become  
|slack ἐκλυέθ' ἀρμούς, ὥς ἴδω διπλοῦν κακόν, 1315

τοὺς μὲν θανόντας— τὴν δὲ |pay; (mp) πῦνις

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. τί τάσδε |move, ἀναμοχλεύεις |gate  
|remove

νεκροὺς |hunt for καμὲ τὴν εἰργασμένην;

παῦσαι |toil, suffering'· εἰ δ' ἐμοῦ |need, use ἄλεις,

λέγ', εἴ τι βούλῃ, χειρὶ δ' οὐ ψεύσεις ποτέ. 1320

|such |vehicle πατρὸς Ἥλιος πατὴρ

δίδωσιν ἡμῖν, |protection λεμίας χερός.

ΙΑΣ. ὦ |hate ὦ μέγιστον ἐχθίστη γύναι

θεοῖς τε κάμοι παντί τ' ἀνθρώπων γένει,

ἥτις τέκνοισι σοῖσιν |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**ἄρδω** give water**βάρβαρος** non-Greek**γαμέω** marry, take as a lover ~bigamy**δαίμων** -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**εὐνή** 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** (ὅ) 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, τότ' οὐ φρονῶν,  
 ὅτ' ἐκ δόμων σε βαρβάρου τ' ἀπὸ χθονὸς 1330  
 Ἑλλήν' ἐς οἶκον ἠγόμην, κακὸν μέγα,  
 πατρός τε καὶ γῆς προδότιν ἢ σ' ἐθρέψατο.  
 τὸν σὸν δ' ἀλάστορ' εἰς ἔμ' ἔσκηψαν θεοί·  
 κτανούσα γὰρ δὴ σὸν κάσιν παρέστιον  
 τὸ καλλίπρωρον εἰσέβης Ἀργούς σκάφος. 1335  
 ἥρξω μὲν ἐκ τοιῶνδε· νυμφευθεῖσα δὲ  
 παρ' ἀνδρὶ τῷδε καὶ τεκοῦσά μοι τέκνα,  
 εὐνῆς ἑκατι καὶ λέχους σφ' ἀπώλεσας.  
 οὐκ ἔστιν ἥτις τοῦτ' ἂν Ἑλληνὶς γυνή  
 ἔτλη ποθ', ὧν γε πρόσθεν ἠξίουν ἐγὼ 1340  
 γῆμαι σέ, κῆδος ἐχθρὸν ὀλέθριόν τ' ἐμοί,  
 λείαναν, οὐ γυναιῖκα, τῆς Τυρσηνίδος  
 Σκύλλης ἔχουσαν ἀγριωτέραν φύσιν.  
 ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ ἄν σε μυρίοις ὀνείδεσι  
 δάκοιμι· τοιόνδ' ἐμπέφυκέ σοι θράσος· 1345  
 ἔρρ', αἰσχροποιὲ καὶ τέκνων μαιφόνε·  
 ἐμοὶ δὲ τὸν ἐμὸν daίμον' αἰάζειν πάρα,

ὅλοι· ἐγὼ δὲ νῦν φρονῶ, τότ' οὐ φρονῶν,

ὅτ' ἐκ δόμων σε |non-Greek τ' ἀπὸ χθονὸς

1330

|Greek ἐς οἶκον ἡγόμην, κακὸν μέγα,

πατρός τε καὶ γῆς προδότιν ἢ σ' ἐθρέψατο.

τὸν σὸν δ' |driven by an ἀνεῖγ' |prop up; (mp) feign  
|ing daimon

κτανούσα γὰρ δὴ σὸν |sibling παρέστιον

τὸ καλλίπρᾳρον |enter, board Ἄργους σκάφος.

1335

ἥρξω μὲν ἐκ |such |marry, give in δὲ  
|marriage

παρ' ἀνδρὶ τῷδε καὶ τεκούσά μοι τέκνα,

|bed; (pí) an- καὶ |bed, bier φ' ἀπώλεσας.  
|chor stones

οὐκ ἔστιν ἥτις τοῦτ' ἂν Ἑλληνὶς γυνή

|take upon oneself, πρόσθεν ἡξίουں ἐγὼ

1340

|marry, take |sorrow ἐχθρὸν |ruinous, τ' ἐμοί,  
|as a lover |deadly

|lioness , οὐ γυναῖκα, τῆς Τυρσηνίδος

Σκύλλης ἔχουσιν |wild, savage φύσιν.

ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ ἂν σε μυρίοις |blame;  
|insult

|bite |such |plant; cling σοι |boldness

1345

ἔρρ', |doing foul things τέκνων |blood-stained

ἐμοὶ 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  
**βίος** life; sustenance, chattels  
 ~biology  
**γάμος** wedding, sex ~bigamy  
**διάγω** lead through; pass a time  
 ~demagogue  
**ἐκβάλλω** throw out, fell, let fall  
 ~ballistic  
**ἐκγελάω** laugh out loud  
**ἐκτείνω** stretch out ~tend  
**ἐκτρέφω** raise, rear  
**ἐπίσταμαι** know how, understand  
 ~station  
**κοινωνός** partner  
**κυρέω** come upon, come up against;  
 obtain

**λέαινα** lioness  
**λέκτρον** bed ~lie  
**λυπέω** (i) annoy, distress  
**νεόγαμος** newlywed  
**νόσος** (f) plague, pestilence ~noisome  
**οικήω** inhabit ~economics  
**ὀνίνημι** help, please, be available  
**οὐτάω** pierce, wound  
**πατρώιος** of the father(s), ancestral  
 ~paternal  
**πατρῷος** of the father(s), ancestral  
**πέδον** ground ~pedal  
**προστίθηναι** add; impose; (mp) agree;  
 side with ~thesis  
**σάφα** with full understanding  
**τερπνός** pleasant  
**τύραννος** tyrant  
**ὑβρις** -εως (f) pride, insolence, outrage  
**φύω** produce, beget; clasp ~physics

ὅς οὔτε λέκτρων νεογάμων ὀνήσομαι,

οὐ παῖδας οὐς ἔφυσα κάζεθραιψάμην

ἔξω προσειπεῖν ζῶντας, ἀλλ' ἀπώλεσα.

1350

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. μακρὰν ἂν ἐξέτεινα τοῖσδ' ἐναντίον

λόγοισιν, εἰ μὴ Ζεὺς πατήρ ἠπίστατο

οἷ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ πέπονθας οἶά τ' εἰργάσω·

σὺ δ' οὐκ ἔμελλες τᾶμ' ἀτιμάσας λέχη

τερπνὸν διάξειν βίοτον ἐγγελῶν ἐμοί·

1355

οὐδ' ἢ τύραννος, οὐδ' ὁ σοὶ προσθεὶς γάμους

Κρέων ἀνατεῖ τῇσδέ μ' ἐκβαλεῖν χθονός.

πρὸς ταῦτα καὶ λέαιναν, εἰ βούλῃ, κάλει

καὶ Σκύλλαν ἢ Τυρσηνὸν ὥκησεν πέδον·

τῆς σῆς γὰρ ὡς χρὴ καρδίας ἀνθηψάμην.

1360

ΙΑΣΩΝ. καὐτή γε λυπῇ καὶ κακῶν κοινωνὸς εἶ.

ΜΗΔ. σάφ' ἴσθι· λύει δ' ἄλγος, ἣν σὺ μὴ ἔγγελας.

ΙΑΣ. ὦ τέκνα, μητρὸς ὡς κακῆς ἐκύρσατε.

ΜΗΔ. ὦ παῖδες, ὡς ὤλεσθε πατρῶα νόσω.

ΙΑΣ. οὔτοι νυν ἡμῇ δεξιά σφ' ἀπώλεσεν.

1365

ΜΗΔ. ἀλλ' ὕβρις, οἷ τε σοὶ νεοδμητὲς γάμοι.



ὅς οὔτε |bed |newlywed |help, please,  
|be available

οὐ παῖδας οὖς |pro- |raise, rear  
|duce,

ἔξω προσειπεῖν |beget;  
|clasp ὅντας, ἀλλ' ἀπώλεσα.

1350

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. μακρὰν ἄν |stretch out ἰσδ' ἐναντίον

λόγοισιν, εἰ μὴ Ζεὺς πατήρ |know

οἷ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ πέπονθας οἶά τ' εἰργάσω·

σὺ δ' οὐκ ἔμελλες τᾶμ' ἀτιμάσας λέχη

|pleasant |lead |life; sus- |laugh out loud '  
|through; |tenance

1355

οὐδ' ἢ |tyrant<sup>a</sup> |pass |time , οὐδ' ὁ σοὶ |add; im- |wedding, sex  
|pose; (mp)

Κρέων ἀνατεῖ τῆσδέ μ' |agree; |side  
|throw out, |with χθονός.  
|fell, let fall

πρὸς ταῦτα καὶ |lioness , εἰ βούλη, κάλει

καὶ Σκύλλαν ἢ Τυρσηνὸν |inhabit |ground

τῆς σῆς γὰρ ὡς χρηὶ καρδίας ἀνθηψάμην.

1360

ΙΑΣΩΝ. καὶ τή γε |annoy, |distress ἢ κακῶν |partner εἶ.

ΜΗΔ. |clearly' |θι· λύει δ' |woe , ἣν σὺ μὴ |laugh out loud

ΙΑΣ. ὦ τέκνα, μητρὸς ὡς κακῆς ἐκύρσατε.

ΜΗΔ. ὦ παῖδες, ὡς ὤλεσθε πατράα |plague

ΙΑΣ. οὔτοι νυν ἡμὴ δεξιά σφ' ἀπώλεσεν.

1365

ΜΗΔ. ἀλλ' |hubris οἷ τε σοὶ νεοδμηῆτες |wedding, sex

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**δήτα** emphatic δή**δράω** do, accomplish**δυσσεβής** impious, profane**ἐορτή** holiday, feast**ἐχθαίρω** hate ~external**θάπτω** bury ~epitaph**καθυβρίζω** insult**κάρτα** very much ~κράτος**κλαίω** weep**λέχος** -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier ~lie**οἶμοι** woe is me**οὔνεκα** 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 κήξίωσας οὔνεκα κτανεῖν.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. σμικρὸν γυναικὶ πῆμα τοῦτ' εἶναι δοκεῖς;

ΙΑΣ. ἥτις γε σώφρων· σοὶ δὲ πάντ' ἐστὶν κακά.

ΜΗΔ. οἷδ' οὐκέτ' εἰσὶ· τοῦτο γάρ σε δήξεται. 1370

ΙΑΣ. οἷδ' εἰσὶν, οἴμοι, σῶ κάρα μιάστορες.

ΜΗΔ. ἴσασι ὅστις ἦρξε πημονῆς θεοί.

ΙΑΣ. ἴσασι δῆτα σὴν γ' ἀπόπτυστον φρένα.

ΜΗΔ. στύγει· πικρὰν δὲ βάξιν ἐχθαίρω σέθεν.

ΙΑΣ. καὶ μὴν ἐγὼ σὴν· ῥάδιον δ' ἀπαλλαγαί. 1375

ΜΗΔ. πῶς οὖν; τί δράσω; κάρτα γὰρ καγὼ θέλω.

ΙΑΣ. θάψαι νεκρούς μοι τούσδε καὶ κλαῦσαι πάρες.

ΜΗΔ. οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεὶ σφας τῇδ' ἐγὼ θάψω χερί,

φέρουσ' ἐς Ἥρας τέμενος Ἀκραίας θεοῦ,

ὥς μή τις αὐτοὺς πολεμίων καθυβρίση, 1380

τύμβους ἀνασπῶν· γῇ δὲ τῇδε Σισύφου

σεμνὴν ἑορτὴν καὶ τέλη προσάψομεν

τὸ λοιπὸν ἀντὶ τοῦδε δυσσεβοῦς φόνου.

αὐτὴ δὲ γαῖαν εἴμι τὴν Ἐρεχθέως,

Αἰγεί συνοικήσουσα τῷ Πανδίωνος.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. |bed, bier φε κήξίωσας |because κτανεῖν.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. σμικρὸν γυναικὶ |woe, bane ᾧ ἔϊναι δοκεῖς;

ΙΑΣ. ἥτις γε |sensible, σοὶ δὲ πάντ' ἐστὶν κακά.  
|prudent

ΜΗΔ. οἷδ' οὐκέτ' εἰσὶ τοῦτο γάρ σε |bite 1370

ΙΑΣ. οἷδ' εἰσὶν, |woe is mē κάρα μιάστορες.

ΜΗΔ. ἴσασιν ὅστις ἦρξε |woe, bane ἱεοί.

ΙΑΣ. ἴσασι |emphatic δὴ ἄπόπτυστον φρένα.

ΜΗΔ. στύγει· |sharp δὲ βάξιν |hate τέθειν.

ΙΑΣ. καὶ μὴν ἐγὼ σὴν· ῥάδιον δ' |relief, escape 1375

ΜΗΔ. πῶς οὖν; τί |do, ac-|very much, καγὼ θέλω.  
|comply

ΙΑΣ. |bury νεκρούς μοι τούσδε καὶ |weep πάρες.

ΜΗΔ. οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεὶ σφας τῇδ' ἐγὼ θάψω χερί,

φέρουσ' ἐς Ἥρας |non-common, land θεοῦ,

ὥς μή τις αὐτοὺς πολεμίων |insult 1380

|grave |draw again γῇ δὲ τῇδε Σισύφου  
|mound

|revered, |holiday, καὶ τέλη |attach to  
|holy |feast

τὸ λοιπὸν ἀντὶ τοῦδε |impious, |killing  
|profane

αὐτὴ δὲ γαῖαν εἴμι τὴν Ἐρεχθέως,

Αἰγεί |live together τῷ Πανδίωνος.

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  
**ἄμορος** without a portion  
**ἄπωθέω** 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  
**δισσός** double  
**εἰκός** likely  
**ἐξάνιμι** send upward ~jet  
**θάπτω** bury ~epitaph  
**θρηνέω** sing a dirge ~threnody  
**καίνω** kill  
**κάρ** -ός (n) useless bit; form of *κατά*  
**καταθνήσκω** die, be dead ~euthanasia  
**κλύω** hear, listen to ~Euclid

**λείψανον** remnant  
**μαλακός** soft  
**μάτην** in vain, randomly  
**μυσαρός** unclean, defiled  
**οὔπω** no longer  
**πημαίνω** harm ~penury  
**πικρός** sharp, bitter ~picric  
**πλήσσω** hit ~plectrum  
**προσπύσσω** 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, κατθανῇ κακὸς κακῶς,  
 Ἄργους κára σὸν λειψάνῳ πεπληγμένος,  
 πικρὰς τελευτὰς τῶν ἐμῶν γάμων ἰδών.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. ἀλλά σ' Ἐρινὺς ὀλέσειε τέκνων

φονία τε Δίκη.

1390

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. τίς δὲ κλύει σοῦ θεὸς ἢ δαίμων,

τοῦ ψευδόρκου καὶ ξειναπάτου;

ΙΑΣ. φεῦ φεῦ, μυσαρὰ καὶ παιδολέτορ.

ΜΗΔ. στείχε πρὸς οἴκους καὶ θάπτ' ἄλοχον.

ΙΑΣ. στείχω, δισσῶν γ' ἄμορος τέκνων.

1395

ΜΗΔ. οὐπω θρηγεῖς· μένε καὶ γῆρας.

ΙΑΣ. ὦ τέκνα φίλτατα. ΜΗΔ. μητρί γε, σοὶ δ' οὔ.

ΙΑΣ. κάπειτ' ἔκανες; ΜΗΔ. σέ γε πημαίνουσ'.

ΙΑΣ. ὦμοι, φιλίου χρήζω στόματος

παίδων ὁ τάλας προσπτύξασθαι.

1400

ΜΗΔ. νῦν σφε προσανδᾶς, νῦν ἀσπάζῃ,

τότ' ἀπωσάμενος. ΙΑΣ. δός μοι πρὸς θεῶν

μαλακοῦ χρωτὸς ψαῦσαι τέκνων.

ΜΗΔ. οὐκ ἔστι· μάτην ἔπος ἔρριπται.



σὺ δ', ὥσπερ |likely, κατθανῇ κακὸς κακῶς,

Ἄργους |useless bit; remnant |hit  
form of  
κατά  
|sharp |conclusion, ὦν ἐμῶν |wedding, sex  
fulfilment

ΙΑΣΩΝ. ἀλλὰ σ' Ἐρινὺς ὀλέσειε τέκνων

φονία τε Δίκη.

1390

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. τίς δὲ |hear τοῦ θεοῦ ἦ |a god, fate, doom

τοῦ |violating an oath ἤ |πειναπάτου;

ΙΑΣ. |ex- |ex- |unclean, καὶ παιδολέτορ.  
|cla- |cla- |defiled

ΜΗΔ. |ma- |ma- |ὅς οἴκους καὶ |bury ἄλοχον.  
|tion |tion  
of of

ΙΑΣ. |grief, grief, double γ' |without a portion.  
|go, march, anger, sur- sur-

1395

ΜΗΔ. |rise, rise, |sing a dirge ἔχε καὶ γῆρας.  
|anger, |anger, |longer

ΙΑΣ. |mi- |mira- |ΜΗΔ. μητρί γε, σοὶ δ' οὔ.  
|ra- |tion  
tion

ΙΑΣ. κάπειτ' ἔκανες; ΜΗΔ. σέ γε |harm

ΙΑΣ. ὦμοι, |friendly |need πόματος

παίδων ὁ |wretched |embrace, greet, ad-  
|miserable |dress

1400

ΜΗΔ. νῦν σφε προσαυδᾷς, νῦν |greet,  
|salute

τότ' |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***ἄελπτος** not hoped for**ἄπελαύνω** expel, exclude, ward off;  
(intrans) ride away**ἀποβαίνω** leave, get off; turn out  
~basis**ἀποκωλύω** hinder from/from using  
**γούν** at least then**δαίμων** -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate, doom  
~demon**ἐφοράω** look upon ~panorama**θάπτω** bury ~epitaph**θρηνέω** sing a dirge ~threnody**κράινω** accomplish; (rare) rule**λέαινα** lioness**μαρτύρομαι** (ō) call to witness; protest**μήποτε** absolutely never**μυσαρός** unclean, defiled**ὅπόσος** as many as, how many, how  
great**ὀφείλω** owe, should, if only**παιδοφόνος** child killer**πόρος** way, bridge ~fare**πώρα** aor. give, pf. be fated**ταμία** (ᾱα) housekeeper ~tonsure**ταμίας** -ως (m, 3) manager,  
quartermaster**τοιόσδε** such**φῦσα** bellows**φυσάω** (ū) blow, puff, blow out**φύω** produce, beget; clasp ~physics**ψαύω** be closely touching

ΙΑΣΩΝ. Ζεῦ, τάδ' ἀκούεις ὥς ἀπελαννόμεθ',

1405

οἶά τε πάσχομεν ἐκ τῆς μυσαρᾶς

καὶ παιδοφόνου τῆσδε λεαίνης;

ἀλλ' ὅπόσον γοῦν πάρα καὶ δύναμαι

τάδε καὶ θρηγῶ κάπιθεάζω,

μαρτυρόμενος δαίμονας ὥς μοι

1410

τέκνα κτείνας' ἀποκωλύεις

ψαῦσαί τε χεροῖν θάψαι τε νεκρούς,

οὐς μήποτ' ἐγὼ φύσας ὄφελον

πρὸς σοῦ φθιμένους ἐπιδέσθαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. πολλῶν ταμίας Ζεὺς ἐν Ὀλύμπῳ,

1415

πολλὰ δ' ἀέλπτως κραίνουσι θεοί·

καὶ τὰ δοκηθέντ' οὐκ ἐτελέσθη,

τῶν δ' ἀδοκήτων πόρον ἦρε θεός.

τοιόνδ' ἀπέβη τόδε πρᾶγμα.

ΙΑΣΩΝ. Ζεῦ, τάδ' ἀκούεις ὥς | expel, exclude, ward off;  
| (intrans) ride away 1405

οἶά τε πάσχομεν ἐκ τῆς | unclean,  
| defiled

καὶ | child killer τῇσδε | lioness ,

ἀλλ' | as/how | at least then καὶ δύναμαι  
| many/great

τάδε καὶ | sing a dirge θεάζω,

| call to witness; | a god, fate, doom . . . 1410  
| protest

τέκνα κτείνασ' | hinder from/from  
| using

| be closely touching | bury τε νεκρούς,

οὕς | absolutely, ὡ φύσας ὄφελον  
| never

πρὸς σοῦ φθιμένους ἐπιδέσθαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. πολλῶν ταμίης Ζεὺς ἐν Ὀλύμπῳ, 1415

πολλὰ δ' | not hoped | accomplish θεοί·  
| for

καὶ τὰ δοκηθέντ' οὐκ ἐτελέσθη,

τῶν δ' ἀδοκῆτων πόρον ἡῦρε θεός.

| such | leave, get off; πρᾶγμα.  
| 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.