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vocabulary

ἀγνώμων headstrong, unfeeling
 ἀηδών -όνος (f, 3) nightingale
 αἶσα -εως share, fate; properly, duly
 ~etiology
 αἶσιος auspicious ~etiology
 ἀλήτης -ου (m, 1) wanderer, tramp
 ~swelter
 ἄλλος -εος (n, 3) grove, sacred place
 ἄμπελος (f) vine
 ἀπεικάζω copy; compare
 ἀπελαύνω expel, exclude, ward off;
 (intrans) ride away
 ἀρχηγός original; chief, originator
 ἀστή inhabitant
 ἀστός townsman; citizen
 ἄστυ -εως (n, 3) town
 ἄτα bewilderment, folly
 ἀτιμάζω (i) insult, dishonor
 ἀτιμάω (i) dishonor
 ἄτιμος (i) without honor
 αὐδάω speak, declare, shout
 ~Theravada
 ἄω aor: to sate ~sate
 βάθρον step, base, bench
 βίος life ~biology
 βιόω live; (mp) make a living
 ~biology
 βλώσκω come, go
 βροντή thunder ~brontosaurus
 βρύω teem with ~embryo
 γενναῖος noble, sincere ~genesis
 γοῦν at least then
 γύης γού (m, 1) plowshare
 δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate,
 doom ~demon
 δάφνη laurel
 δεῦρο here, come here!
 δημότης -ου (m, 1) commoner
 δίχα in two, in two ways
 ἐγγέω pour into
 ἔδρα (ᾱ) seat, seated group

~polyhedron
 ἔζομαι act: set, seat; pass: sit down,
 sit up ~sit
 εἴλω pack, press, drive ~helix
 εἴπερ if indeed
 ἐκχράω suffice
 ἐλαία olive, olive tree ~olive
 ἔμπορος passenger; merchant
 ~pierce
 ἐνδεῖκνυμι (i) address, consider
 ἐνέχω hold inside
 ἐνθάδε here, hither
 ἐνταῦθα there, here
 ἐξάγω lead out ~demagogue
 ἐξαιτέω demand ~etiology
 ἐξανίστημι raise, bring/send out
 ἐξαρκέω be enough; be satisfied
 ἔξειμι go forth; is possible ~ion
 ἐξορμάω veer off course ~hormone
 ἐπίσταμαι know how, understand
 ~station
 ἐπώνυμος named for a reason
 ~name
 ἔρπω be able to move ~serpent
 εὐκαιρος convenient; wealthy
 εὐτε when, as, since
 ἐφίστημι set; (mp) come/be near,
 direct, stop ~station
 ἥσυχος quiet
 ἡώς ἡῶτι (f, 2) dawn ~Eocene
 θάρσος boldness, over-boldness
 ικέτης -ου (m, 1) suppliant, refugee
 ἴκω (i) go, arrive
 ἱλεως propitious, gracious
 ἱππότης -ου (m, 1) horseman
 ~hippo
 ἱστορέω inquire; relate
 καθίζω set, sit, alight, set up ~sit
 κάμπω bend, bend in exhaustion
 κάρτα very much ~κράτος
 καταστροφή end, conclusion
 κερδαίνω profit, take advantage

κέρδος -ους (n, 3) advantage, cunning
κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid
κοινός communal, ordinary
κῶλον limb
λατρεύω work for pay; be enslaved
μείων less, smaller
μολίσκω come, go
μόχθος toil
ναί yea
νήφω be sober
ξύνειμι be with; have sex
ὁδοιπορέω walk over
οἰκέω inhabit ~economics
ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
ὁμφή supernatural voice
ὀνομάζω to address, name ~name
ὅποι to which place
ὅπου where
οὐκί intensified 'not'
οὐνεκα because
παρεγγυάω entrust; pass an order
πατέω trample ~peripatetic
παῦλα rest, pause
πέλας near, close
πέρας -τος (n, 3) cord; bound, crux, outcome ~prove
πέτρος rock ~petrified
πιστός faithful; trustworthy
πλησίος near, neighboring
ποῖ whither? how long?
πομπός escort, guide ~pomp
πότε when?

πότνια lady ~potent
προσέχω belong to, it beseems
προσστείχω proceed to
πρόσω forward, in the future; far
πτερόν feather, wing ~pterodactyl
πύργος ramparts, tower; line of troops
σεισμός shaking
σέλας -ως (n, 3) bright light
σεμνός revered, holy
σημαίνω give orders to; show; mark ~semaphore
σημεῖον sign
σθένος -εος (n, 3) strength ~neurasthenia
σκοπός (f) lookout, overseer, spy, target ~telescope
σκότος darkness, shadow ~shadow
σπανίζω be scarce; lack; use up
στέλλω prepare, send, furl ~apostle
στέργω love; be content
συμφορά collecting; accident, misfortune
σφάλλω overthrow, balk, stagger
ταλαίπωρος suffering, miserable
τιμάω (i) honor, exalt
τοιόσδε such
τόκος childbirth ~oxytocin
τυφλός blind
τυφλώω blind
ὑπέρτατος highest, on top
χώρος place ~heir

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. τέκνον τυφλοῦ γέροντος Ἀντιγόνη, τίνας

χώρους ἀφίγμεθ' ἢ τίνων ἀνδρῶν πόλιν;

τίς τὸν πλανήτην Οἰδίπουν καθ' ἡμέραν

τὴν νῦν σπανιστοῖς δέξεται δωρήμασιν;

σμικρὸν μὲν ἐξαιτοῦντα, τοῦ σμικροῦ δ' ἔτι

5

μείον φέροντα, καὶ τόδ' ἐξαρκοῦν ἐμοί·

στέργειν γὰρ αἱ πάθαι με χῶ χρόνος ξυνῶν

μακρὸς διδάσκει καὶ τὸ γενναῖον τρίτον.

ἀλλ', ὦ τέκνον, θάκησιν εἴ τινα βλέπεις

ἢ πρὸς βεβήλοις ἢ πρὸς ἄλσεσιν θεῶν,

10

στῆσόν με κἀξίδρυσον, ὡς πυθώμεθα

ὅπου ποτ' ἐσμέν· μανθάνειν γὰρ ἤκομεν

ξένοι πρὸς ἀστῶν, ἂν δ' ἀκούσωμεν τελεῖν.

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ. πάτερ ταλαίπωρ' Οἰδίπους, πύργοι μέν, οἱ

πόλιν στέγουσιν, ὡς ἀπ' ὀμμάτων, πρόσσω·

15

χῶρος δ' ὅδ' ἱερός, ὡς ἀπεικάσαι, βρύων

δάφνης,¹ ἐλαίας, ἀμπέλου· πυκνόπτεροι δ'

εἴσω κατ' αὐτὸν εὐστομοῦσ' ἀηδόνες·

οὐ κῶλα κάμψον τοῦδ' ἐπ' ἀξέστου πέτρου·

μακρὰν γὰρ ὡς γέροντι προῦστάλης ὁδόν.

20

ΟΙ. κάθιζέ νῦν με καὶ φύλασσε τὸν τυφλόν.

ΑΝ. χρόνου μὲν οὔνεκ' οὐ μαθεῖν με δεῖ τόδε.

ΟΙ. ἔχεις διδάξαι δὴ μ' ὅποι καθέσταμεν;

ΑΝ. τὰς γοῦν Ἀθήνας οἶδα, τὸν δὲ χῶρον οὔ.

ΟΙ. πᾶς γάρ τις ἡὔδα τοῦτό γ' ἡμῖν ἐμπόρων.

25

ΑΝ. ἀλλ' ὅστις ὁ τόπος ἢ μάθω μολοῦσά ποι;

ΟΙ. ναί, τέκνον, εἴπερ ἐστί γ' ἐξοικήσιμος.

¹ laurel

ΑΝ. ἀλλ' ἐστὶ μὴν οἰκητός· οἶομαι δὲ δεῖν

οὐδέν· πέλας γὰρ ἄνδρα τόνδε νῶν ὀρώ.

ΟΙ. ἦ δεῦρο προσστείχοντα καὶ ξορμώμενον;

30

ΑΝ. καὶ δὴ μὲν οὖν παρόντα· χῶ τί σοι λέγειν

εὐκαιρόν² ἐστίν, ἔννεφ', ὥς ἀνὴρ ὄδε.

ΟΙ. ὦ ξεῖν', ἀκούων τῆσδε τῆς ὑπέρ τ' ἐμοῦ

αὐτῆς θ' ὀρώσης, οὔνεχ' ἡμῖν αἴσιος

σκοπὸς προσήκεις ὦν ἀδηλοῦμεν φράσαι—

35

ΞΕΝΟΣ. πρὶν νῦν τὰ πλείον' ἱστορεῖν, ἐκ τῆσδ' ἔδρας

ἔξελθ'· ἔχεις γὰρ χώρον οὐχ ἀγνὸν πατεῖν.³

ΟΙ. τίς δ' ἔσθ' ὁ χώρος; τοῦ θεῶν νομίζεται;

ΞΕ. ἄθικτος οὐδ' οἰκητός· αἱ γὰρ ἔμφοβοι

θεαὶ σφ' ἔχουσι, Γῆς τε καὶ Σκότου κόραι.

40

ΟΙ. τίνων τὸ σεμνὸν ὄνομ' ἂν εὐξαίμην κλύων;

ΞΕ. τὰς πάνθ' ὀρώσας Εὐμενίδας ὃ γ' ἐνθάδ' ἂν

εἴποι λεώς νιν· ἄλλα δ' ἀλλαχοῦ καλά.

ΟΙ. ἀλλ' ἵλεω⁴ μὲν τὸν ἰκέτην δεξαίατο·

ὥς οὐχ ἔδρας γῆς τῆσδ' ἂν ἐξέλθοιμ' ἔτι.

45

ΞΕ. τί δ' ἐστὶ τοῦτο; ΟΙ. ξυμφορᾶς ξύνθημ' ἐμῆς.

ΞΕ. ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἐμοί τοι τοῦξανιστάναι πόλεως

δίχ' ἐστὶ θάρσος, πρὶν γ' ἂν ἐνδείξω τί δρῶ.

ΟΙ. πρὸς νυν θεῶν, ὦ ξεῖνε, μή μ' ἀτιμάσης,

τοιόνδ' ἀλήτην, ὦν σε προστρέπω φράσαι.

50

ΞΕ. σήμαινε, κοῦκ' ἄτιμος ἔκ γ' ἐμοῦ φανεί.

ΟΙ. τίς ἔσθ' ὁ χώρος δῆτ', ἐν ᾧ βεβήκαμεν;

ΞΕ. ὅς' οἶδα καὶ γὰρ πάντ' ἐπιστήσει κλύων·

² convenient; wealthy ³ trample ⁴ propitious, gracious

χῶρος μὲν ἱερὸς πᾶς ὅδ' ἔστ'· ἔχει δέ νιν
 σεμνὸς Ποσειδῶν· ἐν δ' ὁ πυρφόρος θεὸς 55
 Τιτὰν Προμηθεύς· ὃν δ' ἐπιστεῖβεις τόπον,
 χθονὸς καλεῖται τῇσδε χαλκόπους ὁδός,
 ἔρεισμ' Ἀθηνῶν· οἱ δὲ πλησίοι γύαι⁵
 τόνδ' ἱππότην Κολωνὸν εὔχονται σφίσιν
 ἀρχηγόν⁶ εἶναι καὶ φέρουσι τοῦνομα 60
 τὸ τοῦδε κοινὸν πάντες ὠνομασμένοι.
 τοιαῦτά σοι ταῦτ' ἐστίν, ὦ ξέν', οὐ λόγους
 τιμώμεν', ἀλλὰ τῇ ξυνουσίᾳ πλέον.

ΟΙ. ἦ γάρ τινες ναίουσι τούσδε τοὺς τόπους;
 ΞΕ. καὶ κάρτα,⁷ τοῦδε τοῦ θεοῦ γ' ἐπώνυμοι. 65
 ΟΙ. ἄρχει τις αὐτῶν ἢ πὶ τῷ πλήθει λόγος;
 ΞΕ. ἐκ τοῦ κατ' ἄστν βασιλέως τάδ' ἄρχεται.
 ΟΙ. οὗτος δὲ τίς λόγῳ τε καὶ σθένει κρατεῖ;
 ΞΕ. Θησεὺς καλεῖται, τοῦ πρὶν Αἰγέως τόκος.⁸
 ΟΙ. ἄρ' ἂν τις αὐτῷ πομπὸς⁹ ἐξ ὑμῶν μόλοι; 70
 ΞΕ. ὥς πρὸς τί λέξων ἢ καταρτύσων μολεῖν;
 ΟΙ. ὥς ἂν προσαρκῶν σμικρὰ κερδάνῃ μέγα.
 ΞΕ. καὶ τίς πρὸς ἀνδρὸς μὴ βλέποντος ἄρκεσις;
 ΟΙ. ὅσ' ἂν λέγωμεν πάνθ' ὀρώντα λέξομεν.
 ΞΕ. οἴσθ', ὦ ξέν', ὥς νῦν μὴ σφαλῆς; ἐπέιπερ εἰ 75
 γενναῖος, ὥς ἰδόντι, πλὴν τοῦ δαίμονος,
 αὐτοῦ μὲν' οὔπερ κάφάνης, ἕως ἐγὼ
 τοῖς ἐνθάδ' αὐτοῦ μὴ κατ' ἄστν δημόταις¹⁰
 λέξω τάδ' ἐλθῶν· οἷδε γὰρ κρινούσί σοι

⁵ plowshare⁶ original; chief, originator⁷ very much⁸ childbirth⁹ escort, guide¹⁰ commoner

εἰ χρή σε μῖνεν ἢ πορεύεσθαι πάλιν.

80

ΟΙ. ὦ τέκνον, ἦ βέβηκεν ἡμῖν ὁ ξένος;

ΑΝ. βέβηκεν, ὥστε πᾶν ἐν ἡσυχῇ,¹¹ πάτερ,

ἔξεστι φωνεῖν, ὥς ἐμοῦ μόνης πέλας.

ΟΙ. ὦ πότνια δεινῶπες, εὔτε νῦν ἔδρας

πρώτων ἐφ' ὑμῶν τῇσδε γῆς ἔκαμψ' ἐγώ,

85

Φοῖβη τε κάμοι μὴ γένησθ' ἀγνώμονες,¹²

ὅς μοι, τὰ πόλλ' ἐκεῖν' ὅτ' ἐξέχρη κακά,

ταύτην ἔλεξε παῦλαν¹³ ἐν χρόνῳ μακρῷ,

ἐλθόντι χώραν τερμίαν, ὅπου θεῶν

σεμνῶν ἔδραν λάβοιμι καὶ ξενόστασιν,

90

ἐνταῦθα κάμψεν τὸν ταλαίπωρον βίον,

κέρδη μὲν οἰκήσαντα τοῖς δεδεγμένοις,

ἄτην δὲ τοῖς πέμψασιν, οἳ μ' ἀπήλασαν·

σημεῖα δ' ἤξειν τῶνδ' ἐμοὶ παρηγγία,

ἢ σεισμόν ἢ βροντὴν τιν' ἢ Διὸς σέλας,

95

ἔγνωκα μὲν νυν ὥς με τήνδε τὴν ὁδὸν

οὐκ ἔσθ' ὅπως οὐ πιστὸν ἐξ ὑμῶν πτερὸν

ἐξήγαγ' εἰς τόδ' ἄλσος· οὐ γὰρ ἄν ποτε

πρώταισιν ὑμῖν ἀντέκυρσ' ὁδοιπορῶν,¹⁴

νήφων αἰόνοις, καπὶ σεμνὸν ἐξόμην

100

βάθρον τόδ' ἀσκέπαρνον. ἀλλὰ μοι, θεαί,

βίου κατ' ὁμφὰς τὰς Ἀπόλλωνος δότε

πέρασιν ἥδη καὶ καταστροφὴν τινα,

εἰ μὴ δοκῶ τι μειόνως ἔχειν, ἀεὶ

μόχθοις λατρεύων τοῖς ὑπερτάτοις βροτῶν.

¹¹ quiet ¹² headstrong, unfeeling ¹³ rest, pause ¹⁴ walk over

Enter the blind OEDIPUS led by his daughter, ANTIGONE.]

OEDIPUS. Child of an old blind sire, Antigone,
What region, say, whose city have we reached?
Who will provide today with scant dole
This wanderer? 'Tis little that he craves,
And less obtains— that less enough for me;
For I am taught by suffering to endure,
And the long years that have grown old with me,
And last not least, by true nobility.

My daughter, if thou seest a resting place
On common ground or by some sacred grove,
Stay me and set me down. Let us discover
Where we have come, for strangers must inquire
Of denizens, and do as they are bid.

ANTIGONE. Long-suffering father, Oedipus, the towers
That fence the city still are faint and far;
But where we stand is surely holy ground;
A wilderness of laurel, olive, vine;

Within a choir or songster nightingales
Are warbling. On this native seat of rock
Rest; for an old man thou hast traveled far.

OEDIPUS. Guide these dark steps and seat me there secure.

ANTIGONE. If time can teach, I need not to be told.

OEDIPUS. Say, prithee, if thou knowest, where we are.

ANTIGONE. Athens I recognize, but not the spot.

OEDIPUS. That much we heard from every wayfarer.

ANTIGONE. Shall I go on and ask about the place?

OEDIPUS. Yes, daughter, if it be inhabited.

ANTIGONE. Sure there are habitations; but no need
To leave thee; yonder is a man hard by.

OEDIPUS. What, moving hitherward and on his way?

ANTIGONE. Say rather, here already. Ask him straight
The needful questions, for the man is here.

Enter STRANGER]

OEDIPUS. O stranger, as I learn from her whose eyes
Must serve both her and me, that thou art here
Sent by some happy chance to serve our doubts—

STRANGER. First quit that seat, then question me at large:
The spot thou treadest on is holy ground.

OEDIPUS. What is the site, to what god dedicate?

STRANGER. Inviolable, untrod; goddesses,

Dread brood of Earth and Darkness, here abide.

OEDIPUS. Tell me the awful name I should invoke?

STRANGER. The Gracious Ones, All-seeing, so our folk

Call them, but elsewhere other names are rife.

OEDIPUS. Then may they show their suppliant grace, for I

From this your sanctuary will ne'er depart.

STRANGER. What word is this?

OEDIPUS. The watchword of my fate.

STRANGER. Nay, 'tis not mine to bid thee hence without

Due warrant and instruction from the State.

OEDIPUS. Now in God's name, O stranger, scorn me not

As a wayfarer; tell me what I crave.

STRANGER. Ask; your request shall not be scorned by me.

OEDIPUS. How call you then the place wherein we bide?

STRANGER. Whate'er I know thou too shalt know; the place

Is all to great Poseidon consecrate.

Hard by, the Titan, he who bears the torch,

Prometheus, has his worship; but the spot

Thou treadest, the Brass-footed Threshold named,

Is Athens' bastion, and the neighboring lands

Claim as their chief and patron yonder knight

Colonus, and in common bear his name.

Such, stranger, is the spot, to fame unknown,

But dear to us its native worshipers.

OEDIPUS. Thou sayest there are dwellers in these parts?

STRANGER. Surely; they bear the name of yonder god.

OEDIPUS. Ruled by a king or by the general voice?

STRANGER. The lord of Athens is our over-lord.

OEDIPUS. Who is this monarch, great in word and might?

STRANGER. Theseus, the son of Aegeus our late king.

OEDIPUS. Might one be sent from you to summon him?

STRANGER. Wherefore? To tell him aught or urge his coming?

OEDIPUS. Say a slight service may avail him much.

STRANGER. How can he profit from a sightless man?

OEDIPUS. The blind man's words will be instinct with sight.

STRANGER. Heed then; I fain would see thee out of harm;

For by the looks, marred though they be by fate,

I judge thee noble; tarry where thou art,

While I go seek the burghers— those at hand,

Not in the city. They will soon decide

Whether thou art to rest or go thy way.

Exit STRANGER]

OEDIPUS. Tell me, my daughter, has the stranger gone?

ANTIGONE. Yes, he has gone; now we are all alone,

And thou may' st speak, dear father, without fear.

OEDIPUS. Stern-visaged queens, since coming to this land

First in your sanctuary I bent the knee,

Frown not on me or Phoebus, who, when erst

He told me all my miseries to come,

Spake of this respite after many years,

Some haven in a far-off land, a rest

Vouchsafed at last by dread divinities.

"There," said he, "shalt thou round thy weary life,

A blessing to the land wherein thou dwell' st,

But to the land that cast thee forth, a curse."

And of my weird he promised signs should come,

Earthquake, or thunderclap, or lightning flash.

And now I recognize as yours the sign

That led my wanderings to this your grove;

Else had I never lighted on you first,

A wineless man on your seat of native rock.

O goddesses, fulfill Apollo' s word,

Grant me some consummation of my life,

If haply I appear not all too vile,

vocabulary

ἄβατος untrodden; impassable
ἄθλιον ἀθλίου prize
ἄέθλιος prize ~athlete
ἄέκων unwilling
ἄζομαι dread, revere, respect
 ~hagiography
ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
αἰνός horrible; adv: extremely
αἶω perceive, feel, hear; breathe out
ἄκρον crest, extremity ~acute
ἄκρος at the edge, extreme ~acute
ἄκων javelin; unwilling ~acme
ἄλαός blind
ἄλαώω to blind
ἄλις in plenty; enough ~helix
ἀλλότριος someone else's; alien
 ~alien
ἄλογος without speech or reckoning
ἄλσος -εος (n, 3) grove, sacred place
ἄμαυρός dim, shadowy
ἀνέρομαι ask a question, ask about,
 go searching through
ἄνομος lawless
ἀπερύκω (ἰ) keep off ~serve
ἀποβαίνω leave, get off; turn out
 ~basis
ἀποστυγέω hate, abhor
ἄρη bane, harm; prayer
ἀρμόζω fit together; be well fitted to
 ~harmony
ἀρχαῖος ancient, from the beginning
 ~oligarch
ἀστός townsman; citizen
ἄτα bewilderment, folly
αὐδάω speak, declare, shout
 ~Theravada
ἄφωνος voiceless
βάζω speak, talk, say
βῆμα -τος (n, 3) step, pace
βραχύς low, short
γέγωνα speak up, shout

γλυκός sweet, pleasant ~glycerine
δέμας -ως (n) body; (+gen.) like
δέος fear ~Deimos
δηλώω show, disclose
δύσμορος ill-fated
δύσφρων sad; evil; insensate
ἔδρα (ᾱ) seat, seated group
 ~polyhedron
εἶδωλον phantom, unreal image
 ~wit
εἶκω yield; seem likely, (pf+dat)
 seem like, (pf) be fit/worthy of/to
 ~victor
εἰστίθηναι put in
ἐκμανθάνω know by heart
ἐνείμι be in ~ion
ἐξετάζω inspect, interrogate,
 estimate
ἐπιβαίνω (+gen) set foot on, board,
 climb ~basis
ἐπισκοπέω look upon, inspect
ἐπίσκοπος watcher, spy
ἐρπω be able to move ~serpent
ἔσχατος farthest, last
εὐδαιμονίζω consider happy
ἐφορος fair wind; guardian; hill
ἠώς ἠῶθι (f, 2) dawn ~Eocene
ἰκετεύω approach to beg
ἰός arrow
ιοῦ cry of sorrow, joy, or surprise
ἵσχω restrain, hold back ~ischemia
ἰωή a rush, a sweep
κέλευθος (f) way, path
κλίνω (ι) lean, recline ~incline
κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid
κρατήρ -ος (m) mixing bowl for
 wine
κρύπτω hide, cover ~cryptic
κυρέω come upon, come up against;
 obtain
κύρτη sieve, cage
κῶλον limb

λάας stone
λεύσσω see, look
ματεύω be at a loss or at fault
μεθίστημι change, substitute;
 withdraw; change sides; (mid) send
 away ~station
μειλίχιος pleasing, gentle
μελετάω pursue, attend to, exercise
μηκέτι no more
μήποτε absolutely never
μοῖρα portion, fate; (κατά+) rightly
 ~Moirā
νάπος -εος (n, 3) gully
ὀκλάζω squat, sink
ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
ὀρμέω be anchored
οὐπω no longer
παλαιός old ~paleo
πανταχῇ everywhere
πατρόθεν by the name of one's
 father ~paternal
πέρας -τος (n, 3) cord; bound, crux,
 outcome ~prove
περάω cross over, drive across; sell
 as a slave ~pierce
ποῖ whither? how long?
πότε when?
ποῦ where?
προβιβάζω advance
προπίπτω leaning forward ~petal

προσβαίνω proceed; step on ~basis
προσδέρομαι look at
προσθέω run to
πρόσοιδα (+χάριν) be grateful
 besides
προσοράω look at
προστίθηναι add; impose; (mp)
 agree; side with ~thesis
ῥεῦμα -τος (n, 3) flow
σέβομαι feel shame, awe
σεύω drive; mid: get going, be eager
 ~asylum
σιγάω (ι) be silent
σκότος darkness, shadow ~shadow
συντρέχω rush together
τέμενος -εος (n, 3) non-common
 land
τίμιος honored, precious
τρέμω tremble in fear ~tremble
φατίζω tell of, express, make a
 statement
φιλία friendship ~philanthropy
φίλιος friendly
φροντίς -τος (f) thought, care
φύσις -εως (f) nature (of a thing)
 ~physics
φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
χαλάω let fall; become slack
χρεία need, use
φαύω be closely touching

ἴτ', ὦ γλυκεῖαι παῖδες ἀρχαίου Σκότου,
 ἴτ', ὦ μεγίστης Παλλάδος καλούμεναι
 πασῶν Ἀθῆναι τιμωτάτη πόλις,
 οἰκτίρατ' ἀνδρὸς Οἰδίπου τόδ' ἄθλιον
 εἶδωλον· οὐ γὰρ δὴ τόδ' ἀρχαῖον δέμας.

110

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ. σίγα· πορεύονται γὰρ οἶδε δὴ τινες
 χρόνῳ παλαιοί, σῆς ἔδρας ἐπίσκοποι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. σιγήσομαί τε καὶ σύ μ' ἐξ ὁδοῦ πόδα
 κρύψον κατ' ἄλσος, τῶνδ' ἕως ἂν ἐκμάθω
 τίνας λόγους ἐροῦσιν· ἐν γὰρ τῷ μαθεῖν
 ἔνεστιν ἡυλάβεια τῶν ποιουμένων.[]

115

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ὄρα. τίς ἄρ' ἦν; ποῦ ναίει;
 ποῦ κυρεῖ ἐκτόπιος συθεῖς ὁ πάντων
 ὁ πάντων ἀκορέστατος;
 προσδέρκου λεῦσσε νιν, προσπεύθου πανταχῇ.¹
 πλανάτας πλανάτας τις ὁ πρέσβυς οὐδ'
 ἔγχωρος· προσέβα γὰρ οὐκ
 ἂν ποτ' ἀστιβές ἄλσος ἐς
 τᾶνδ' ἀμαιμακετᾶν κορᾶν,
 ἂς τρέμομεν λέγειν
 καὶ παραμειβόμεσθ' ἀδέρκτως,
 ἀφώνως, ἀλόγως² τὸ τᾶς.
 εὐφάμου στόμα φροντίδος
 ἰέντες, τὰ δὲ νῦν τιν' ἥκειν
 λόγος οὐδὲν ἄζονθ',³
 ὃν ἐγὼ λεύσσω περὶ πᾶν οὔπω

120

125

130

135

¹ everywhere ² without speech or reckoning ³ dread, revere, respect

δύναμαι τέμενος⁴

γινῶναι ποῦ μοί ποτε ναίει.

ΟΙ. ὄδ' ἐκείνος ἐγώ· φωνῇ γὰρ ὀρώ,

τὸ φατιζόμενον.⁵ ΧΟ. ἰὼ ἰώ,

δεινὸς μὲν ὀράν, δεινὸς δὲ κλύειν.

ΟΙ. μή μ', ἱκετεύω, προσίδητ' ἄνομον.

ΧΟ. Ζεῦ ἀλεξήτορ, τίς ποθ' ὁ πρέσβυς;

ΟΙ. οὐ πάννυ μοίρας εὐδαιμονίσαι

πρώτης, ὦ τῇσδ' ἔφοροι χάρας.

145

δηλῶ δ' οὐ γὰρ ἂν ὦδ' ἀλλοτρίοις

ὄμμασιν εἶρπον κάπῃ σμικροῖς μέγας ὥρμον.

ΧΟ. ἐή, ἀλαῶν ὀμμάτων

ἄρα καὶ ἦσθα φυτάλμιος; δυσαιών

150

μακραίων γ', ὅσ' ἐπεικάσαι.

ἀλλ' οὐ μὰν ἔν γ' ἐμοὶ

προσθήσει τάσδ' ἀράς.

περᾶς γάρ, περᾶς· ἀλλ' ἵνα τῶδ' ἐν ἅ'

155

φθέγκτω μὴ προπέσῃς νάπει

ποιάεντι, κάθυδρος οὔ

κρατῆρ μελιχίων ποτῶν

ρεύματι⁶ συντρέχει,

160

τόν, ξένε πάμμορ', εὖ φύλαξαι;

μετάσταθ' ἀπόβαθι. πολ'

λὰ κέλευθος ἐρατύει·

κλύεις, ὦ πολύμοχθ' ἀλᾶτα;

165

λόγον εἴ τιν' οἴσεις

⁴ non-common land ⁵ tell of, express, make a statement ⁶ flow

πρὸς ἐμὴν λέσχαν, ἀβάτων ἀποβάς,
 ἵνα πᾶσι νόμος,
 φώνει· πρόσθεν δ' ἀπερύκου.

ΟΙ. θύγατερ, ποῖ τις φροντίδος ἔλθῃ; 170

ΑΝ. ὦ πάτερ, ἀστοῖς ἴσα χρὴ μελετᾶν,
 εἵκοντας ἃ δεῖ κακούνοντας.

ΟΙ. πρόσθιγέ νύν μου. ΑΝ. ψαύω καὶ δῆ.

ΟΙ. ὦ ξένε, μὴ δῆτ' ἀδικηθῶ σοὶ
 πιστεύσας καὶ μεταναστάς. 175

ΧΟ. οὐ τοι μῆποτέ σ' ἐκ τῶνδ' ἐδράνων,
 ὦ γέρον, ἄκοντά τις ἄξει.

ΟΙ. ἔτ' οὖν; ΧΟ. ἔτι βαῖνε πόρσω. ΟΙ. ἔτι;

ΧΟ. προβίβαζε, κούρα, πόρσω· σὺ γὰρ αἴεις. ΑΝ. ΟΙ.

ΑΝ. ἔπεο μάν, ἔπε' ὦδ' ἀμαυρῶ κώλῳ, πάτερ, ἦ σ' ἄγω.

ΧΟ. τόλμα ξεῖνος ἐπὶ ξένης,
 ὦ τλάμων, ὅ τι καὶ πόλις 185

τέτροφεν ἄφιλον ἀποστρυγείν
 καὶ τὸ φίλον σέβεσθαι. ΟΙ. ἄγε νυν σύ με, παῖ,
 ἵν' ἂν εὐσεβίας ἐπιβαίνοντες
 τὸ μὲν εἵπομεν, τὸ δ' ἀκούσαμεν, 190
 καὶ μὴ χρεῖα πολεμῶμεν.

ΧΟ. αὐτοῦ· μηκέτι τοῦδ' αὐτοπέτρου βήματος⁷ ἕξω πόδα κλίνης.

ΟΙ. οὕτως; ΧΟ. ἄλῃς, ὥς ἀκούεις.

ΟΙ. ἦ ἐσθῶ; ΧΟ. λέχριός γ' ἐπ' ἄκρου
 λαὸς⁸ βραχὺς ὀκλάσας.⁹ 195

ΑΝ. πάτερ, ἐμὸν τόδ'· ἐν ἀσυχαίᾳ

⁷ step, pace ⁸ stone ⁹ squat, sink

- ΟΙ. ἰὼ μοί μοι. ΑΝ. βάσει βάσιν ἄρμοσαι,
 γεραὸν ἐς χέρα σῶμα σὸν 200
 προκλίνας φιλίαν ἐμάν.
- ΟΙ. ὦμοι δύσφρονος ἄτας.
- ΧΟ. ὦ τλάμων, ὅτε νῦν χαλᾷς,
 αὔδασον, τίς ἔφυς βροτῶν;
 τίς ὁ πολύπωνος ἄγει; τίν' ἂν 205
 σοῦ πατρίδ' ἐκπυθοίμαν; ΟΙ. ὦ ξένοι,
 ἀπόπτολις· ἀλλὰ μὴ
- ΧΟ. τί τόδ' ἀπεννέπεις, γέρον;
- ΟΙ. μὴ μὴ μὴ μ' ἀνέρη τίς εἰμι, 210
 μηδ' ἐξετάσης πέρα ματεύων.¹⁰
- ΧΟ. τί τόδ'; ΟΙ. αἰνὰ φύσις. ΧΟ. αὔδα.
- ΟΙ. τέκνον, ὦμοι, τί γεγώνω;¹¹
- ΧΟ. τίνος εἰ σπέρματος, ὦ ξένε, φώνει, πατρόθεν.¹²
- ΟΙ. ὦμοι ἐγώ, τί πάθω, τέκνον ἐμόν; 215
- ΑΝ. λέγ', ἐπείπερ ἐπ' ἔσχατα βαίνεις.
- ΟΙ. ἀλλ' ἐρῶ· οὐ γὰρ ἔχω κατακρυφάν.
- ΧΟ. μακρὰ μέλλετον, ἀλλὰ τάχυνε.
- ΟΙ. Λαῖον ἵστε τιν'; ΧΟ. ὦ ἰοῦ¹³ ἰοῦ. 220
- ΟΙ. τό τε Λαβδακιδᾶν γένος; ΧΟ. ὦ Ζεῦ.
- ΟΙ. ἄθλιον Οἰδιπόδαν; ΧΟ. σὺ γὰρ ὄδ' εἶ;
- ΟΙ. δέος ἴσχετε μηδὲν ὅσ' αὐδῶ.
- ΧΟ. ἰὼ ὦ ὦ. ΟΙ. δύσμορος. ΧΟ. ὦ ὦ.
- ΟΙ. θύγατερ, τί ποτ' ἀντίκα κύρσει; 225
- ΧΟ. ἔξω πόρσω βαίνετε χώρας.

¹⁰ be at a loss or at fault ¹¹ speak up, shout ¹² by the name of one's father ¹³ cry of sorrow, joy, or surprise

A thrall to sorrow worse than any slave.
 Hear, gentle daughters of primeval Night,
 Hear, namesake of great Pallas; Athens, first
 Of cities, pity this dishonored shade,
 The ghost of him who once was Oedipus.
 ANTIGONE. Hush! for I see some grey-beards on their way,
 Their errand to spy out our resting-place.
 OEDIPUS. I will be mute, and thou shalt guide my steps
 Into the covert from the public road,
 Till I have learned their drift. A prudent man
 Will ever shape his course by what he learns.

Enter CHORUS]

CHORUS. Ha! Where is he? Look around!
 Every nook and corner scan!
 He the all-presumptuous man,
 Whither vanished? search the ground!
 A wayfarer, I ween,
 A wayfarer, no countryman of ours,
 That old man must have been;
 Never had native dared to tempt the Powers,
 Or enter their demesne,
 The Maids in awe of whom each mortal cowers,
 Whose name no voice betrays nor cry,
 And as we pass them with averted eye,
 We move hushed lips in reverent piety.
 But now some godless man,
 'Tis rumored, here abides;
 The precincts through I scan,
 Yet wot not where he hides,
 The wretch profane!
 I search and search in vain.
 OEDIPUS. I am that man; I know you near
 Ears to the blind, they say, are eyes.
 CHORUS. O dread to see and dread to hear!
 OEDIPUS. Oh sirs, I am no outlaw under ban.
 CHORUS. Who can he be— Zeus save us!— this old man?
 OEDIPUS. No favorite of fate,
 That ye should envy his estate,
 O, Sirs, would any happy mortal, say,
 Grope by the light of other eyes his way,
 Or face the storm upon so frail a stay?
 CHORUS. Wast thou then sightless from thy birth?

Evil, methinks, and long
Thy pilgrimage on earth.
Yet add not curse to curse and wrong to wrong.
I warn thee, trespass not
Within this hallowed spot,
Lest thou shouldst find the silent grassy glade
Where offerings are laid,
Bowls of spring water mingled with sweet mead.
Thou must not stay,
Come, come away,
Tired wanderer, dost thou heed?
If aught thou wouldst beseech,
Speak where 'tis right; till then refrain from speech.
OEDIPUS. Daughter, what counsel should we now pursue?
ANTIGONE. We must obey and do as here they do.
OEDIPUS. Thy hand then!
ANTIGONE. Here, O father, is my hand,
OEDIPUS. O Sirs, if I come forth at your command,
Let me not suffer for my confidence.
CHORUS. Against thy will no man shall drive thee hence.
OEDIPUS. Shall I go further?
CHORUS. Aye.
OEDIPUS. What further still?
CHORUS. Lead maiden, thou canst guide him where we will.
ANTIGONE. Follow with blind steps, father, as I lead.
CHORUS. In a strange land strange thou art;
To her will incline thy heart;
Honor whatso' er the State
Honors, all she frowns on hate.
OEDIPUS. Guide me child, where we may range
Safe within the paths of right;
Counsel freely may exchange
Nor with fate and fortune fight.
CHORUS. Halt! Go no further than that rocky floor.
OEDIPUS. Stay where I now am?
CHORUS. Yes, advance no more.
OEDIPUS. May I sit down?
CHORUS. Move sideways towards the ledge,
And sit thee crouching on the scarped edge.
ANTIGONE. This is my office, father, O incline—
OEDIPUS. Ah me! ah me!
ANTIGONE. Thy steps to my steps, lean thine aged frame on mine.

OEDIPUS. Woe on my fate unblest!

CHORUS. Wanderer, now thou art at rest,

Tell me of thy birth and home,

From what far country art thou come,

Led on thy weary way, declare!

OEDIPUS. Strangers, I have no country. O forbear—

CHORUS. What is it, old man, that thou wouldst conceal?

OEDIPUS. Forbear, nor urge me further to reveal—

CHORUS. Why this reluctance?

OEDIPUS. Dread my lineage.

CHORUS. Say!

OEDIPUS. What must I answer, child, ah welladay!

CHORUS. Say of what stock thou comest, what man's son—

OEDIPUS. Ah me, my daughter, now we are undone!

ANTIGONE. Speak, for thou standest on the slippery verge.

OEDIPUS. I will; no plea for silence can I urge.

CHORUS. Will neither speak? Come, Sir, why dally thus!

OEDIPUS. Know'st one of Laius'—

CHORUS. Ha? Who!

OEDIPUS. Seed of Labdacus—

CHORUS. Oh Zeus!

OEDIPUS. The hapless Oedipus.

CHORUS. Art he?

OEDIPUS. Whate'er I utter, have no fear of me.

CHORUS. Begone!

OEDIPUS. O wretched me!

CHORUS. Begone!

OEDIPUS. O daughter, what will hap anon?

CHORUS. Forth from our borders speed ye both!

OEDIPUS. How keep you then your troth?

CHORUS. Heaven's justice never smites

Him who ill with ill requites.

But if guile with guile contend,

Bane, not blessing, is the end.

vocabulary

ἀγγέλλω carry a message, announce
 ~angel
 ἄγχι near, nigh ~angina
 ἀέθλιον ἀθλίου prize
 ἀέθλιος prize ~athlete
 ἀέκων unwilling
 ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
 ἀθρέω observe, gaze
 ἄθροος noiseless
 ἀθρόος grouped
 αἶσσω dart, glance
 αἶω perceive, feel, hear; breathe out
 ἄκων javelin; unwilling ~acme
 ἀλαός blind
 ἀλαόω to blind
 ἀμπέχω cover ~ambient
 ἀνατλήναι endure ~talent
 ἀντάω meet face to face
 ἀντιδίδωμι repay, exchange
 ἀπατάω to lie, trick ~apatosaurus
 ἀπάτη trick, fraud, deceit
 ~apatosaurus
 ἀπόφημι speak out ~fame
 ἀρκέω satisfy; ward off, defend;
 suffice
 ἄρσσω dart, glance
 ἀστός townsman; citizen
 ἀτιμάζω (i) insult, dishonor
 ἀτιμάω (i) dishonor
 αὐδά voice, report ~Theravada
 βάθρον step, base, bench
 βραδύς slow, dull, late ~Sp.~gordo
 γεραιός old ~geriatric
 γοῦν at least then
 δῆτα emphatic δῆ
 διάκειμαι be in a condition
 διακέομαι repair
 διάω blow through
 δισσός double
 δράω do, accomplish
 δύσμορος ill-fated

δυσσεβέω be impious
 δυσσεβής impious, profane
 εἰσακούω hearken ~acoustic
 εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with
 respect ~panorama
 εἶτα then, therefore, next
 ἐκθρόσχω spring forth ~dart
 ἔκτοπος foreign, strange
 ἐκφεύγω flee from, escape ~fugitive
 ἔμπορος passenger; merchant
 ~pierce
 ἐνθύμημα (i) thought, invention
 ἔξιμι go forth; is possible ~ion
 εὐδαίμων blessed with a good
 genius
 εὕδω sleep, lie down, rest
 εὐσεβής pious
 εὐτυχής fortunate
 ἡδέως pleasantly ~hedonism
 θάρσος boldness, over-boldness
 θεοσεβής revering the gods
 θιγγάνω touch
 ἱκετεύω approach to beg
 ἱκέτης -ου (m, 1) suppliant, refugee
 ἴκω (i) go, arrive
 καίτοι and yet; and in fact; although
 κακώω harm, disfigure ~cacophony
 κάρ -ός (n) useless bit; form of κατά
 κάρτα very much ~κράτος
 κάρτη kind of garment
 κασιγνήτη sister
 κατατίθημι put down, deposit, lay
 aside ~thesis
 κέλευθος (f) way, path
 κληδών -ηδόνης (f, 3) news, omen
 ~gallo
 κραίνω accomplish; (rare) rule
 κράς -τός (f, 3) head
 κυνέα -ης helmet ~hound
 κύνεος doglike, shameless ~hound
 κυρέω come upon, come up against;
 obtain

λέχος -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier
 ~lie
λύπη distress
μάτην in vain, randomly
μέλεος vain, idle, useless
μηδαμός no one
μήπω not yet, lest yet
μόλις with difficulty, barely
μόχθος toil
νεύω nod
νέω spin; swim ~neuro
οικήτης -ου (m, 1) household; house
 slave
οικτείρω pity
ὄμαιμος related by blood
ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
ὁμός same ~homoerotic
ὁμοῦ together
ὁμόω unite ~homoerotic
ὄνησις -ος (f) benefit
πατρῷος of the father(s), ancestral
πέλας near, close
πέρας -τος (n, 3) cord; bound, crux,
 outcome ~prove
περάω cross over, drive across; sell
 as a slave ~pierce
πιστόω reassure; also (pass) promise
πλανάω lead astray; (mp) wander
 ~plankton
πόθος longing, regret ~bid
ποῖ whither? how long?
πότερος which, whichever of two
ποῦ where?
προσάπτω attach to ~haptic

προσοράω look at
προσστείχω proceed to
προφαίνω show; pass: appear
 ~photon
πῶλος (f) foal ~foal
σαίνω wag the tail; court
σημαίνω give orders to; show; mark
 ~semaphore
σθένω be strong, able
σκοπός (f) lookout, overseer, spy,
 target ~telescope
στείχω go, march ~stair
στέλλω prepare, send, furl ~apostle
συμφορά collecting; accident,
 misfortune
τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
ταρβέω be afraid
τίνω (i) pay, atone for; (mp) punish
τίσις -τος (f) payment, vengeance
τρέμω tremble in fear ~tremble
τροφή food, upkeep ~atrophy
τυφλός blind
τυφλώω blind
ὑπηρετέω serve
ὑπηρετής -ου (m, 1) servant, officer
φαιδρός beaming ~photon
φέως bush used to make brooms
φόα pustule
φροντίς -τος (f) thought, care
φυγή flight, means of escape
 ~fugitive
φύσις -εως (f) nature (of a thing)
 ~physics

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. ἂ δ' ὑπέσχεο ποῖ καταθήσεις,

ΧΟΡΟΣ. οὐδενὶ μοιριδία τίσις¹ ἔρχεται

ἂν προπάθῃ τὸ τίνειν· ἀπάτα δ' ἀπά 230

ταις ἐτέραις ἐτέρα παραβαλλομέ

να πόνον, οὐ χάριν, ἀντιδίδωσιν ἔ

χειν. σὺν δὲ τῶνδ' ἐδράνων πάλιν ἔκτοπος

αὔθις ἄφορμος ἐμᾶς χθονὸς ἔκθορε,

μή τι πέρα χρέος ἐμᾶ πόλει προσάψῃς. 235

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ. ὦ ξένοι αἰδόφρονες, ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ

γεραὸν πατέρα τόνδ' ἐμὸν

οὐκ ἀνέτλατ', ἔργων 240

ἀκόντων αἰῶντες αὐδάν,

ἀλλ' ἐμὲ τὰν μελέαν,² ἱκετεύομεν, ὦ ξένοι, οἰκτίραθ', ἂ

πατρὸς ὑπὲρ τοῦμοῦ μόνου

ἄντομαι οὐκ ἄλαοῖς προσορωμένα

ὄμμα σὸν ὄμμασιν, ὥς τις ἀφ' αἵματος 245

ὑμετέρου προφανείσα, τὸν ἄθλιον

αἰδοῦς κῦρσαι·³ ἐν ὕμμι γὰρ ὡς θεῶ

κείμεθα τλάμονες. ἀλλ' ἵτε, νεύσατε τὰν ἀδόκητον χάριν·

πρὸς σ' ὅ τι σοι φίλον ἐκ σέθεν ἄντομαι, 250

ἢ τέκνον ἢ λέχος ἢ χρέος ἢ θεός·

οὐ γὰρ ἴδοις ἂν ἀθρῶν βροτὸν ὅστις ἄν,

εἰ θεὸς ἄγοι, ἐκφυγεῖν δύναιτο.

ΧΘ. ἀλλ' ἴσθι, τέκνον Οἰδίπου, σέ τ' ἐξ ἴσου

οἰκτίρομεν⁴ καὶ τόνδε συμφορᾶς χάριν· 255

τὰ δ' ἐκ θεῶν τρέμοντες οὐ σθένοιμεν ἂν

¹ payment, vengeance ² vain, idle, useless ³ come upon, come up against; obtain ⁴ pity

φωνεῖν πέρα τῶν πρὸς σὲ νῦν εἰρημένων.

ΟΙ. τί δῆτα δόξης ἢ τί κληδόνος⁵ καλῆς

μάτην ρεούσης ὠφέλημα γίγνεται,

εἰ τὰς γ' Ἀθήνας φασὶ θεοσεβεστάτας⁶ 260

εἶναι, μόνας δὲ τὸν κακούμενον ξένον

σώζειν οἷας τε καὶ μόνας ἀρκεῖν ἔχειν;

κάμοιγε ποῦ τοῦτ' ἐστίν, οἵτινες βάθρων

ἐκ τῶνδ' ἐξάραντες εἴτ' ἐλαύνετε,

ὄνομα μόνον δείσαντες; οὐ γὰρ δὴ τό γε 265

σῶμ' οὐδὲ τάργα τὰμ'· ἐπεὶ τὰ γ' ἔργα μου

πεπονθότ' ἐστὶ μᾶλλον ἢ δεδρακότα,

εἰ σοὶ τὰ μητρὸς καὶ πατρὸς χρεὶή λέγειν,

ὦν οὔνεκ' ἐκφοβεί με· τοῦτ' ἐγὼ καλῶς

ἔξοιδα. καίτοι πῶς ἐγὼ κακὸς φύσιν, 270

ὅστις παθῶν μὲν ἀντέδρων, ὥστ' εἰ φρονῶν

ἔπρασσον, οὐδ' ἂν ὦδ' ἐγινγόμενην κακός;

νῦν δ' οὐδὲν εἰδὼς ἰκόμην ἔν' ἰκόμην,

ὕφ' ὧν δ' ἔπασχον, εἰδότων ἀπωλλύμην.

ἀνθ' ὧν ἰκνοῦμαι πρὸς θεῶν ὑμᾶς, ξένοι, 275

ὥσπερ με κἀνεστήσαθ', ὦδε σώσατε,

καὶ μὴ θεοὺς τιμῶντες εἴτα τοὺς θεοὺς

μοίρας ποιείσθε μηδαμῶς· ἡγείσθε δὲ

βλέπειν μὲν αὐτοὺς πρὸς τὸν εὐσεβῆ⁷ βροτῶν,

βλέπειν δὲ πρὸς τοὺς δυσσεβεῖς, φυγὴν δέ του 280

μήπω⁸ γενέσθαι φωτὸς ἀνοσίου βροτῶν.

ξὺν οἷς σὺ μὴ κάλυπτε τὰς εὐδαίμονας⁹

⁵ news, omen ⁶ revering the gods ⁷ pious ⁸ not yet, lest yet ⁹ blessed with a good genius

ἔργοις Ἀθήνας ἀνοσίοις ὑπηρετῶν,
 ἀλλ' ὥσπερ ἔλαβες τὸν ἱκέτην ἐχέγγυνον,
 ῥύου με κὰκφύλασσε· μηδέ μου κάρᾳ 285
 τὸ δυσπρόσοπτον εἰσορῶν ἀτιμάσης,
 ἦκω γὰρ ἱερὸς εὐσεβῆς τε καὶ φέρων
 ὄνησιν ἀστοῖς τοῖσδ'· ὅταν δ' ὁ κύριος
 παρῇ τις, ὑμῶν ὅστις ἐστὶν ἡγεμών,
 τότε εἰσακούων πάντ' ἐπιστήσει· τὰ δὲ 290
 μεταξὺ τούτου μηδαμῶς γίγνου κακός.

ΧΟ. ταρβείν¹⁰ μέν, ὦ γεραιέ, τὰνθυμῆματα
 πολλή· στ' ἀνάγκη τὰπὸ σοῦ· λόγοισι γὰρ
 οὐκ ὠνόμασται βραχέσι· τοὺς δὲ τῆσδε γῆς
 ἀνακτας ἀρκεῖ ταυτά μοι διειδέναι. 295

ΟΙ. καὶ ποῦ σθ' ὁ κραίνων τῆσδε τῆς χώρας, ξένοι;

ΧΟ. πατρῶον ἄστρῳ γῆς ἔχει· σκοπὸς δέ νιν,
 ὃς κὰμὲ δεῦρ' ἔπεμψεν, οἷχεται στελῶν.

ΟΙ. ἦ καὶ δοκεῖτε τοῦ τυφλοῦ τιν' ἐντροπὴν
 ἦ φροντίδ', ἔξειν, αὐτὸν ὥστ' ἐλθεῖν πέλας; 300

ΧΟ. καὶ κάρθ', ὅταν περ τοῦνομ' αἰσθηται τὸ σόν.

ΟΙ. τίς δ' ἔσθ' ὁ κείνῳ τοῦτο τοῦπος ἀγγελῶν;

ΧΟ. μακρὰ κέλευθος· πολλὰ δ' ἐμπόρων ἔπη
 φιλεῖ πλανᾶσθαι, τῶν ἐκείνος αἴων,
 θάρσει, παρέσται. πολὺν γάρ, ὦ γέρον, τὸ σὸν 305
 ὄνομα διήκει πάντας, ὥστε κεῖ βραδὺς
 εὔδει, κλύων σοῦ δεῦρ' ἀφίξεται ταχύς.

ΟΙ. ἀλλ' εὐτυχὴς¹¹ ἵκοιτο τῇ θ' αὐτοῦ πόλει

¹⁰ be afraid ¹¹ fortunate

- ἐμοί τε· τίς γάρ ἐσθλὸς οὐχ αὐτῷ φίλος;
 ΑΝ. ὦ Ζεῦ, τί λέξω; ποῖ φρενῶν ἔλθω, πάτερ; 310
- ΟΙ. τί δ' ἔστι, τέκνον Ἀντιγόνη; ΑΝ. γυναιχ' ὁρῶ
 στείχουσιν ἡμῶν ἄσπον, Αἰτναίης ἐπὶ
 πώλου βεβῶσαν· κρατὶ δ' ἡλιοστεγῆς
 κυνῇ πρόσωπα Θεσσαλὶς νιν ἀμπέχει.¹²
 τί φῶ; 315
- ἄρ' ἔστιν; ἄρ' οὐκ ἔστιν; ἢ γνώμη πλανᾷ;
 καὶ φημὶ καπόφημι κοῦκ ἔχω τί φῶ.
 τάλαινα.
 οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλη· φαιδρὰ¹³ γοῦν ἀπ' ὀμμάτων
 σαίνει¹⁴ με προσστείχουσα· σημαίνει δ' ὅτι 320
 μόνης τόδ' ἐστὶ δῆλον Ἰσμήνης κάρα.
- ΟΙ. πῶς εἶπας, ὦ παῖ; ΑΝ. παῖδα σὴν, ἐμὴν δ' ὁρᾶν
 ὅμαιμον· αὐδῇ δ' αὐτίκ' ἔξεστιν μαθεῖν.
- ΙΣΜΗΝΗ. ὦ διςσά¹⁵ πατρὸς καὶ κασιγνήτης¹⁶ ἐμοῖ
 ἥδιστα προσφωνήμαθ', ὡς ὑμᾶς μόλις 325
 εὐροῦσα λύπη δεύτερον μόλις βλέπω.
- ΟΙ. ὦ τέκνον, ἦκεις; ΙΣ. ὦ πάτερ δύσμοιρ' ὁρᾶν.
 ΟΙ. τέκνον, πέφηνας; ΙΣ. οὐκ ἄνευ μόχθου γέ μοι.
 ΟΙ. πρόσψανσον, ὦ παῖ. ΙΣ. θιγγάνω δυοῖν ὁμοῦ.
 ΟΙ. ὦ σπέρμ' ὅμαιμον. ΙΣ. ὦ δυσάθλιαι τροφαί. 330
 ΟΙ. ἦ τῇσδε κάμου; ΙΣ. δυσμόρου τ' ἐμοῦ τρίτης.
 ΟΙ. τέκνον, τί δ' ἦλθες; ΙΣ. σῇ, πάτερ, προμηθία.
 ΟΙ. πότερα πόθοισι; ΙΣ. καὶ λόγων γ' αὐτάγγελος,
 ξὺν ᾧπερ εἶχον οἰκετῶν πιστῷ μόνῳ.

¹² cover ¹³ beaming ¹⁴ wag the tail; court ¹⁵ double ¹⁶ sister

Arise, begone and take thee hence straightway,
 Lest on our land a heavier curse thou lay.
 ANTIGONE. O sirs! ye suffered not my father blind,
 Albeit gracious and to ruth inclined,
 Knowing the deeds he wrought, not innocent,
 But with no ill intent;
 Yet heed a maiden' s moan
 Who pleads for him alone;
 My eyes, not reft of sight,
 Plead with you as a daughter' s might
 You are our providence,
 O make us not go hence!
 O with a gracious nod
 Grant us the nigh despaired-of boon we crave?
 Hear us, O hear,
 But all that ye hold dear,
 Wife, children, homestead, hearth and God!
 Where will you find one, search ye ne' er so well.
 Who 'scapes perdition if a god impel!
 CHORUS. Surely we pity thee and him alike
 Daughter of Oedipus, for your distress;
 But as we reverence the decrees of Heaven
 We cannot say aught other than we said.
 OEDIPUS. O what avails renown or fair repute?
 Are they not vanity? For, look you, now
 Athens is held of States the most devout,
 Athens alone gives hospitality
 And shelters the vexed stranger, so men say.
 Have I found so? I whom ye dislodged
 First from my seat of rock and now would drive
 Forth from your land, dreading my name alone;
 For me you surely dread not, nor my deeds,
 Deeds of a man more sinned against than sinning,
 As I might well convince you, were it meet
 To tell my mother' s story and my sire' s,
 The cause of this your fear. Yet am I then
 A villain born because in self-defense,
 Striken, I struck the striker back again?
 E' en had I known, no villainy 'twould prove:
 But all unwitting whither I went, I went—
 To ruin; my destroyers knew it well,
 Wherefore, I pray you, sirs, in Heaven' s name,

Even as ye bade me quit my seat, defend me.
O pay not a lip service to the gods
And wrong them of their dues. Bethink ye well,
The eye of Heaven beholds the just of men,
And the unjust, nor ever in this world
Has one sole godless sinner found escape.
Stand then on Heaven's side and never blot
Athens' fair scutcheon by abetting wrong.
I came to you a suppliant, and you pledged
Your honor; O preserve me to the end,
O let not this marred visage do me wrong!
A holy and god-fearing man is here
Whose coming purports comfort for your folk.
And when your chief arrives, whoe'er he be,
Then shall ye have my story and know all.
Meanwhile I pray you do me no despite.
CHORUS. The plea thou urgest, needs must give us pause,
Set forth in weighty argument, but we
Must leave the issue with the ruling powers.
OEDIPUS. Where is he, strangers, he who sways the realm?
CHORUS. In his ancestral seat; a messenger,
The same who sent us here, is gone for him.
OEDIPUS. And think you he will have such care or thought
For the blind stranger as to come himself?
CHORUS. Aye, that he will, when once he learns thy name.
OEDIPUS. But who will bear him word!
CHORUS. The way is long,
And many travelers pass to speed the news.
Be sure he'll hear and hasten, never fear;
So wide and far thy name is noised abroad,
That, were he ne'er so spent and loth to move,
He would bestir him when he hears of thee.
OEDIPUS. Well, may he come with blessing to his State
And me! Who serves his neighbor serves himself.
ANTIGONE. Zeus! What is this? What can I say or think?
OEDIPUS. What now, Antigone?
ANTIGONE. I see a woman
Riding upon a colt of Aetna's breed;
She wears for headgear a Thessalian hat
To shade her from the sun. Who can it be?
She or a stranger? Do I wake or dream?
Tis she; 'tis not—I cannot tell, alack;

It is no other! Now her bright' ning glance
Greets me with recognition, yes, 'tis she,
Herself, Ismene!

OEDIPUS. Ha! what say ye, child?

ANTIGONE. That I behold thy daughter and my sister,
And thou wilt know her straightway by her voice.

Enter ISMENE]

ISMENE. Father and sister, names to me most sweet,
How hardly have I found you, hardly now
When found at last can see you through my tears!

OEDIPUS. Art come, my child?

ISMENE. O father, sad thy plight!

OEDIPUS. Child, thou art here?

ISMENE. Yes, 'twas a weary way.

OEDIPUS. Touch me, my child.

ISMENE. I give a hand to both.

OEDIPUS. O children— sisters!

ISMENE. O disastrous plight!

OEDIPUS. Her plight and mine?

ISMENE. Aye, and my own no less.

OEDIPUS. What brought thee, daughter?

ISMENE. Father, care for thee.

OEDIPUS. A daughter' s yearning?

ISMENE. Yes, and I had news

I would myself deliver, so I came

With the one thrall who yet is true to me.

vocabulary

ἄγριος wild, savage ~agriculture
 ἄγχι near, nigh ~angina
 ἀέθλιον ἀθλίου prize
 ἀέθλιος prize ~athlete
 ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
 ἀλάομαι wander, rove, roam ~Fr.
 aller
 ἀλγέω suffer ~analgesic
 ἄμφω both ~amphora
 ἀνάστατος driven out, ruined
 ἄνευ away from; not having; not
 needing ~Sp. sin
 ἀποστερίσκω despoil, defraud
 ἀριθμός number
 ἄρσην male
 ἄσιτος (t) not eating ~parasite
 ἄτιμος (t) without honor
 βάρος -ους (n, 3) weight, burden
 βαρύς heavy ~baritone
 βιβάω stride
 βιώω live; (mp) make a living
 ~biology
 βλώσκω come, go
 δεῖμα -τος (n, 3) fear
 δέμας -ως (n) body; (+gen.) like
 δέμω build ~domicile
 δίαίτα way of life; home; arbitration
 δῖς twice
 δράω do, accomplish
 δύσμορος ill-fated
 δύστηνος unhappy, miserable
 δυστυχέω be unlucky
 δυστυχής unlucky
 εἰκός likely
 ἐκκηρύσσω proclaim to be banished
 ἔμφυλος (ō) of the same tribe
 ~phylum
 ἐξελαύνω drive out, exile ~elastic
 ἐξεπίσταμαι know well
 ἐξικνέομαι arrive at
 ἐξωθέω drive out

ἐοικότως like; fairly
 ἔρις -δος (f) strife
 ἐρμηνεύω translate
 ἔρω be able to move ~serpent
 ἔρως -τος (m) love, desire ~erotic
 ἐστία hearth ~Hestia
 ἐστιάω give a feast
 ζέω boil ~eczema
 ἡδέως pleasantly ~hedonism
 ἡδύς sweet, pleasant ~hedonism
 θεσπίζω prophecy
 καινός new, fresh, strange
 καταθνήσκω die, be dead
 ~euthanasia
 καταινέω agree, promise, grant
 κατασβέννυμι (ō) extinguish
 κατασκιάω cast a shadow on
 ~shadow
 κατοικτίζω have mercy; (mp)
 lament
 καῦμα -τος (n, 3) heat ~caustic
 κενός empty, vain
 κῆδος -εος (n, 3) sorrow ~heinous
 κοῖλος hollow ~hollow
 κόνις -ος (f) dust
 κυρέω come upon, come up against;
 obtain
 λάθρα secretly
 λάσκω cry, crack, ring
 λεύω stone a person
 λήγω cease, (+gen+ppl) cause to
 cease ~lax
 μαντεία oracular power
 μαντεῖον prophetic warning
 ~mantis
 μαντεῖος prophetic
 μάντευμα -τος (n, 3) oracle
 μείων less, smaller
 μολίσκω come, go
 μοχθέω be afflicted
 μόχθος toil
 μυρίος (ō) 10,000 ~myriad

νεάζω be young, renewed
νεανίας -ου (ᾱα, m) young person
οἶκοθεν from home, from one's own resources ~economics
οἴκοι at home ~economics
ὄμβρος storm
ὀρθόω stand up
ὄρος boundary marker ~horizon
πάθημα -τος (n, 3) suffering, condition
πάλαι long ago ~paleo
πάλη wrestling ~Pallas
πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas
παρθένος (f) girl, virgin ~Parthenon
πάρως before, in the past
πάτρα (αᾶ) fatherland ~paternal
πέδον ground ~pedal
πέλας near, close
πέπων familiar, 'softie'
πέτρος rock ~petrified
πιστός faithful; trustworthy
πλανάω lead astray; (mp) wander ~plankton
πληθύω become full; abound, multiply
πόθος longing, regret ~bid
ποίη grass
πονέω work; be busy ~osteopenia
πορσύνω (ῶ) prepare (the marital bed)
πόρω aor. give, pf. be fated
πότε when?
πού where?
προσλαμβάνω add, borrow, take hold, help

πρόσω forward, in the future; far
σαφής clear, understandable
σημαίνω give orders to; show; mark ~semaphore
σκῆπτρον scepter, staff ~scepter
σκοπάω watch, observe
σκοπέω behold, consider
στέγη roof, ceiling, chamber
τάφος (m) funeral, grave; (n) astonishment
τέθηπα be confused
τηνικαῦτα at that time, in that case
τλήμων steadfast, enduring ~talent
τοιόσδε such
τρίς 3 times
τροφεύς -ος (m) foster father; rearer
τροφή food, upkeep ~atrophy
τύμβος grave mound ~tomb
τυραννικός tyrannical
τυραννίς -δος (f) tyranny
ὕλη (ῶ) forest, firewood
ὕληεις (ῶ) wooded
φθορά ruin, rape
φλαῦρος trifling
φυγάς -δος (m, 3) exile, refugee ~fugitive
φυγή flight, means of escape ~fugitive
φύλαξ -κος (m) guard; sentry ~phylactery
φύσις -εως (f) nature (of a thing) ~physics
φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
ὠφελέω help, be useful

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. οἱ δ' αὐθόμαιμοι ποῦ νεανίαι¹ πονεῖν; 335

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ. εἶσ' οὐπὲρ εἰσι· δεινὰ τὰν κείνοις τανῶν.

ΟΙ. ὦ πάντ' ἐκείνῳ τοῖς ἐν Αἰγύπτῳ νόμοις

φύσιν κατεικασθέντε καὶ βίου τροφάς·

ἐκεῖ γὰρ οἱ μὲν ἄρσενες κατὰ στέγας²

θακοῦσιν ἱστοργοῦντες, αἱ δὲ σύννομοι 340

τάξῳ βίου τροφεία πορσύνουσ³ αἰεί.

σφῶν δ', ὦ τέκν', οὓς μὲν εἰκὸς ἦν πονεῖν τάδε,

κατ' οἶκον οἰκουροῦσιν ὥστε παρθένοι,

σφῶ δ' ἀντ' ἐκείνων τάμὰ δυστήνου κακὰ

ὑπερπονεῖτον. ἡ μὲν ἐξ ὅτου νέας 345

τροφῆς ἔληξε καὶ κατίσχυσεν δέμας,

ἀεὶ μεθ' ἡμῶν δύσμορος πλανωμένη

γερονταγωγεῖ, πολλὰ μὲν κατ' ἀγρίαν

ὑλὴν ἄσιτος νηλίπους τ' ἀλωμένη,

πολλοῖσι δ' ὄμβροις ἡλίῳ τε καύμασιν⁴ 350

μοχθοῦσα τλήμων δεύτερ' ἡγείται τὰ τῆς

οἴκοι διαίτης, εἰ πατήρ τροφὴν ἔχοι.

σὺ δ', ὦ τέκνον, πρόσθεν μὲν ἐξίκου πατρὶ

μαντεῖ ἄγουσα πάντα, Καδμείων λάθρα,⁵

ἂ τοῦδ' ἐχρήσθη σώματος, φύλαξ τέ μου 355

πιστὴ κατέστης, γῆς ὅτ' ἐξηλαυνόμην·

νῦν δ' αὖ τίς ἦκεῖς μῦθον, Ἰσμήνη, πατρὶ

φέρουσα; τίς σ' ἐξῆρεν οἴκοθεν⁶ στόλος;

ἦκεῖς γὰρ οὐ κενὴ γε, τοῦτ' ἐγὼ σαφῶς

ἔξοιδα, μὴ οὐχὶ δεῖμ' ἐμοὶ φέρουσά τι. 360

¹ young person ² roof, ceiling, chamber ³ prepare (the marital bed)

⁴ heat ⁵ secretly ⁶ from home, from one's own resources

ΙΣ. ἐγὼ τὰ μὲν παθήμαθ'⁷ ἄπαθον, πάτερ,

ζητοῦσα τὴν σὴν ποῦ κατοικοῖης τροφήν,

παρεῖς' ἐάσω· δις γὰρ οὐχὶ βούλομαι

πονοῦσά τ' ἀλγεῖν καὶ λέγουσ' αὖτις πάλιν.

ἂ δ' ἀμφὶ τοῖν σοῖν δυσμόροιον παίδου κακὰ

365

νῦν ἐστι, ταῦτα σημανοῦς' ἐλήλυθα.

πρὶν μὲν γὰρ αὐτοῖς ἦν ἔρως Κρέοντί τε

θρόνους ἐᾶσθαι μηδὲ χραίνεσθαι πόλιν,

λόγῳ σκοποῦσι τὴν πάλαι γένους φθοράν,⁸

οἷα κατέσχε τὸν σὸν ἄθλιον δόμον·

370

νῦν δ' ἐκ θεῶν του ἀλιτηρίου φρενὸς

εἰσῆλθε τοῖν τρις ἀθλίον ἔρις κακῆ,

ἀρχῆς λαβέσθαι καὶ κράτους τυραννικοῦ.⁹

χὼ μὲν νεάζων¹⁰ καὶ χρόνῳ μείων γεγώς

τὸν πρόσθε γεννηθέντα Πολυνείκη θρόνων

375

ἀποστερίσκει, κάξελέηλακεν πάτρας.¹¹

ὁ δ', ὡς καθ' ἡμᾶς ἔσθ' ὁ πληθύων λόγος,

τὸ κοῖλον Ἄργος βὰς φυγὰς προσλαμβάνει

κῆδός τε καινὸν καὶ ξυνασπιστὰς φίλους

ὡς αὐτίκ' Ἄργος ἢ τὸ Καδμείων πέδον

380

τιμῇ καθέξον ἢ πρὸς οὐρανὸν βιβῶν.

ταῦτ' οὐκ ἀριθμὸς ἐστίν, ὦ πάτερ, λόγων,

ἀλλ' ἔργα δεινά· τοὺς δὲ σοὺς ὅπου θεοὶ

πόνους κατοικτιοῦσιν οὐκ ἔχω μαθεῖν.

ΟΙ. ἤδη γὰρ ἔσχεις ἐλπίδ' ὡς ἐμοῦ θεοὺς

385

ὥραν τιν' ἔξειν, ὥστε σωθῆναι ποτε;

⁷ suffering, condition

⁸ ruin, rape

⁹ tyrannical

¹⁰ be young, renewed

¹¹ fatherland

- ΙΣ. ἔγωγε τοῖς νῦν γ', ὦ πάτερ, μαντεύμασιν.¹²
- ΟΙ. ποίοισι τούτοις; τί δὲ τεθέσπισται,¹³ τέκνον;
- ΙΣ. σὲ τοῖς ἐκεῖ ζητητὸν ἀνθρώποις ποτὲ
θανόντ' ἔσεσθαι ζώντά τ' εὐσοίας χάριν. 390
- ΟΙ. τίς δ' ἂν τοιοῦδ' ὑπ' ἀνδρὸς εὖ πράξειεν ἄν;
- ΙΣ. ἐν σοὶ τὰ κείνων φασὶ γίγνεσθαι κράτη.
- ΟΙ. ὅτ' οὐκέτ' εἰμί, τηνικαῦτ'¹⁴ ἄρ' εἰμ' ἀνὴρ;
- ΙΣ. νῦν γὰρ θεοὶ σ' ὀρθοῦσι,¹⁵ πρόσθε δ' ὤλλυσαν.
- ΟΙ. γέροντα δ' ὀρθοῦν φλαῦρον δς νέος πέση. 395
- ΙΣ. καὶ μὴν Κρέοντά γ' ἴσθι σοι τούτων χάριν
ῥῆγοντα βαιοῦ κοῦχὶ μυρίου χρόνου.
- ΟΙ. ὅπως τί δράσῃ, θύγατερ; ἐρμήνευέ¹⁶ μοι.
- ΙΣ. ὥς σ' ἄγχι γῆς στήσωσι Καδμείας, ὅπως
κρατῶσι μὲν σοῦ, γῆς δὲ μὴ μβαίνῃς ὄρων.¹⁷ 400
- ΟΙ. ἦ δ' ὠφέλησις τίς θύρασι κεκίμενος;
- ΙΣ. κείνοις ὁ τύμβος¹⁸ δυστυχῶν ὁ σὸς βαρύς.
- ΟΙ. κάνευ θεοῦ τις τοῦτό γ' ἂν γνώμῃ μάθοι.
- ΙΣ. τούτου χάριν τοίνυν σε προσθέσθαι πέλας
χώρας θέλουσι, μηδ' ἵν' ἂν σαντοῦ κρατοῖς. 405
- ΟΙ. ἦ καὶ κατασκιῶσι Θηβαίᾳ κόνει;
- ΙΣ. ἀλλ' οὐκ ἔῃ τοῦμφυλον αἶμά σ', ὦ πάτερ.
- ΟΙ. οὐκ ἄρ' ἐμοῦ γε μὴ κρατήσωσιν ποτε.
- ΙΣ. ἔσται ποτ' ἄρα τοῦτο Καδμείους βάρος.
- ΟΙ. ποίας φανείσης, ὦ τέκνον, συναλλαγῆς; 410
- ΙΣ. τῆς σῆς ὑπ' ὀργῆς, σοῖς ὅταν στῶσιν τάφοις.
- ΟΙ. ἂ δ' ἐννέπεις, κλύουσα τοῦ λέγεις, τέκνον;

¹² oracle ¹³ prophecy ¹⁴ at that time, in that case ¹⁵ stand up
¹⁶ translate ¹⁷ boundary marker ¹⁸ grave mound

ΙΣ. ἀνδρῶν θεωρῶν Δελφικῆς ἀφ' ἐστίας.

ΟΙ. καὶ ταῦτ' ἐφ' ἡμῖν Φοῖβος εἰρηκῶς κυρεῖ;

ΙΣ. ὥς φασιν οἱ μολόντες εἰς Θήβης πέδον.

415

ΟΙ. παῖδων τις οὖν ἤκουσε τῶν ἐμῶν τάδε;

ΙΣ. ἄμφω γ' ὁμοίως, κάξεπίστασθον καλῶς.

ΟΙ. κἄθ' οἱ κάκιστοι τῶνδ' ἀκούσαντες, πάρος

τοῦμοῦ πόθου προύθεντο τὴν τυραννίδα;

ΙΣ. ἀλγῶ κλύουσα ταῦτ' ἐγώ, φέρω δ' ὅμως.

420

ΟΙ. ἀλλ' οἱ θεοὶ σφιν μήτε τὴν πεπρωμένην

ἔριν κατασβέσειαν, ἔν τ' ἐμοὶ τέλος

αὐτοῖν γένοιτο τῇσδε τῆς μάχης πέρι,

ἥς νῦν ἔχονται κάπαναίρονται δόρυ·

ὥς οὔτ' ἂν ὅς νῦν σκῆπτρα καὶ θρόνους ἔχει

425

μείνειεν οὔτ' ἂν οὔξεληλυθὼς πάλιν

ἔλθοι ποτ' αὐθις· οἷ γε τὸν φύσαντ' ἐμέ

οὔτως ἀτίμως πατρίδος ἐξωθούμενον

οὐκ ἔσχον οὐδ' ἤμυναν, ἀλλ' ἀνάστατος

αὐτοῖς ἐπέμφθην κάξεκηρύχθην φυγᾶς.

430

εἴποις ἂν ὥς θέλονται τοῦτ' ἐμοὶ τότε

πόλις τὸ δῶρον εἰκότως κατήνεσεν.

οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεὶ τοι τὴν μὲν αὐτίχ' ἡμέραν,

όπηνικ' ἔζει¹⁹ θυμός, ἥδιστον δέ μοι

τὸ κατθανεῖν ἦν καὶ τὸ λευσθῆναι²⁰ πέτροις,²¹

435

οὐδεὶς ἔρωτ' ἐς τόνδ' ἐφαίνεται ὠφελῶν·

χρόνῳ δ', ὅτ' ἤδη πᾶς ὁ μόχθος ἦν πέπων,

¹⁹ boil ²⁰ stone a person ²¹ rock

OEDIPUS. Thy valiant brothers, where are they at need?
ISMENE. They are— enough, 'tis now their darkest hour.
OEDIPUS. Out on the twain! The thoughts and actions all
Are framed and modeled on Egyptian ways.
For there the men sit at the loom indoors
While the wives slave abroad for daily bread.
So you, my children— those whom I behooved
To bear the burden, stay at home like girls,
While in their stead my daughters moil and drudge,
Lightening their father' s misery. The one
Since first she grew from girlish feebleness
To womanhood has been the old man' s guide
And shared my weary wandering, roaming oft
Hungry and footsore through wild forest ways,
In drenching rains and under scorching suns,
Careless herself of home and ease, if so
Her sire might have her tender ministry.
And thou, my child, whilom thou wentest forth,
Eluding the Cadmeians' vigilance,
To bring thy father all the oracles
Concerning Oedipus, and didst make thyself
My faithful lieger, when they banished me.
And now what mission summons thee from home,
What news, Ismene, hast thou for thy father?
This much I know, thou com' st not empty-handed,
Without a warning of some new alarm.
ISMENE. The toil and trouble, father, that I bore
To find thy lodging-place and how thou faredst,
I spare thee; surely 'twere a double pain
To suffer, first in act and then in telling;'
Tis the misfortune of thine ill-starred sons
I come to tell thee. At the first they willed
To leave the throne to Creon, minded well
Thus to remove the inveterate curse of old,
A canker that infected all thy race.
But now some god and an infatuate soul
Have stirred betwixt them a mad rivalry
To grasp at sovereignty and kingly power.
Today the hot-branded youth, the younger born,
Is keeping Polyneices from the throne,
His elder, and has thrust him from the land.
The banished brother

Fled to the vale of Argos, and by help
Of new alliance there and friends in arms,
Swears he will stablish Argos straight as lord
Of the Cadmeian land, or, if he fail,
Exalt the victor to the stars of heaven.
This is no empty tale, but deadly truth,
My father; and how long thy agony,
Ere the gods pity thee, I cannot tell.
OEDIPUS. Hast thou indeed then entertained a hope
The gods at last will turn and rescue me?
ISMENE. Yea, so I read these latest oracles.
OEDIPUS. What oracles? What hath been uttered, child?
ISMENE. Thy country shall yearn in time
To have thee for their weal alive or dead.
OEDIPUS. And who could gain by such a one as I?
ISMENE. On thee, 'tis said, their sovereignty depends.
OEDIPUS. So, when I cease to be, my worth begins.
ISMENE. The gods, who once abased, uplift thee now.
OEDIPUS. Poor help to raise an old man fallen in youth.
ISMENE. Howe' er that be, 'tis for this cause alone
That Creon comes to thee— and comes anon.
OEDIPUS. With what intent, my daughter? Tell me plainly.
ISMENE. To plant thee near the Theban land, and so
Keep thee within their grasp, yet now allow
Thy foot to pass beyond their boundaries.
OEDIPUS. What gain they, if I lay outside?
OEDIPUS. Thy tomb,
If disappointed, brings on them a curse.
OEDIPUS. It needs no god to tell what's plain to sense.
ISMENE. Therefore they fain would have thee close at hand,
Not where thou wouldst be master of thyself.
OEDIPUS. Mean they to shroud my bones in Theban dust?
ISMENE. Nay, father, guilt of kinsman's blood forbids.
OEDIPUS. Then never shall they be my masters, never!
ISMENE. Thebes, thou shalt rue this bitterly some day!
OEDIPUS. When what conjunction comes to pass, my child?
ISMENE. Thy angry wraith, when at thy tomb they stand.
OEDIPUS. And who hath told thee what thou tell'st me, child?
ISMENE. Envoys who visited the Delphic hearth.
OEDIPUS. Hath Phoebus spoken thus concerning me?
ISMENE. So say the envoys who returned to Thebes.
OEDIPUS. And can a son of mine have heard of this?

ISMENE. Yea, both alike, and know its import well.

OEDIPUS. They knew it, yet the ignoble greed of rule
Outweighed all longing for their sire's return.

ISMENE. Grievous thy words, yet I must own them true.

OEDIPUS. Then may the gods ne'er quench their fatal feud,
And mine be the arbitrament of the fight,

For which they now are arming, spear to spear;

That neither he who holds the scepter now

May keep this throne, nor he who fled the realm

Return again. They never raised a hand,

When I their sire was thrust from hearth and home,

When I was banned and banished, what recked they?

Say you 'twas done at my desire, a grace

Which the state, yielding to my wish, allowed?

Not so; for, mark you, on that very day

When in the tempest of my soul I craved

Death, even death by stoning, none appeared

To further that wild longing, but anon,

When time had numbed my anguish and I felt

vocabulary

ἄατος (αᾶ) insatiate of
ἄδεια amnesty, impunity
ἀέκων unwilling
ἄημι blow
ἀκήρατος unharmed, pure
ἄλαστος unforgettable, infamous
 ~Lethe
ἀλγῆδών pain, grief
ἄλσος -εος (n, 3) grove, sacred place
ἄμός (ᾶ) my, our
ἀμφίστομος double-mouthed,
 two-sided
ἀναιδής shameless, ruthless
ἀνοίγνυμι (ῖ) open
ἀνύω accomplish, pass over,
 complete
ἀπόγονος descended from
ἀπόρνυμι (ῖ) set forth ~hormone
ἄπορος impassable, difficult
ἄπυστος not knowing, unknown
 ~buddha
ἀρχέω satisfy; ward off, defend;
 suffice
ἄτα bewilderment, folly
αὐθαίρετος self-selected,
 self-incurred
βιόω live; (mp) make a living
 ~biology
βλώσκω come, go
βοά din, a shout
δείλαιος wretched
δειμαίνω be afraid
δέμας -ως (n) body; (+gen.) like
δῆτα emphatic δῆ
δίχα in two, in two ways
δυσώνυμος of ill name ~name
ἐκβαίνω come forth, disembark
 ~basis
ἐκτίνω pay off; (mp) exact full
 payment
ἐκτρέχω run out

ἐλαία olive, olive tree ~olive
ἐνδέω tie to, entangle; lack
ἐνθεν thence, whence
ἐντίθημι load; mp: take to heart
 ~thesis
ἐξάλλομαι break away from ~sally
ἐξανίημι send upward ~jet
ἐπαιίδω sing with, to; charm
ἐπάξιος worthy of
ἐπεγείρω wake up
ἐπεμβάλλω intercalate
ἐπεύχομαι exult (over); pray ~vow
ἔραμαι love, aor. fall in love; long
 for, covet ~erotic
ἐρέσσω to row ~row
ἐρέφω cover
ἐρήμιος empty
ἔρω be able to move ~serpent
εὐμενής kind
εὐνάω lay to bed, have sex with
εὖνοος kindly; favorable
ἐφευρίσκω come upon ~eureka
θαλλός green stuff, fodder ~thallium
θάρσος boldness, over-boldness
θιγγάνω touch
ἵδρις skilled
ἱκετεύω approach to beg
ἱκέτης -ου (m, 1) suppliant, refugee
ἵκω (ῖ) go, arrive
ἰός arrow
ἴσχω restrain, hold back ~ischemia
ἰωή a rush, a sweep
καθαριμός cleansing, purification
καίνω kill
κατοικτίζω have mercy; (mp)
 lament
κεράννυμι (ῖ) mix ~crater
κολαστής -οῦ (m, 1) punisher
κραίνω accomplish; (rare) rule
κράς -τός (f, 3) head
κρατήρ -ος (m) mixing bowl for
 wine

κρήνη well, spring
 κρωσσός pitcher
 λαγχάνω be allotted; (esp. λελα-
 forms) allot; receive
 λέκτρον bed ~lie
 λήγω cease, (+gen+ppl) cause to
 cease ~lax
 λιτή prayer ~litany
 μαντεία oracular power
 μαντεῖον prophetic warning
 ~mantis
 μαντεῖος prophetic
 μέθυ -εως (n, 3) wine ~mead
 μέλισσα bee
 μηδαμός no one
 μηκύνω lengthen
 μήποτε absolutely never
 μνήμη reminder, memorial
 μολίσκω come, go
 μυρίος (δ) 10,000 ~myriad
 νεαρός young ~neon
 νόσος (f) plague, pestilence
 ~noisome
 ξενία hospitality ~xenophobe
 ξένιος of hospitality ~xenophobe
 οἷς sheep ~ewe
 ὁμός same ~homoerotic
 ὁμόω unite ~homoerotic
 ὄνησις -ος (f) benefit
 παίζω play ~pediatrician
 παίω hit
 παλαίφατος put forth long ago
 ~photon
 πάλη wrestling ~Pallas
 πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas
 παραινέω recommend, exhort, warn

πέδον ground ~pedal
 πηγός stout, mighty
 ποῖ whither? how long?
 πονέω work; be busy ~osteopenia
 πότε when?
 προξενέω protect, handle for
 προσχρῆζω require or desire besides
 προσχρηίζω require or desire
 besides
 πρόσχωρος neighboring
 σθένος -εος (n, 3) strength
 ~neurasthenia
 σθένω be strong, able
 σκήπτρον scepter, staff ~scepter
 σπάνις -εως (f) scarcity, rarity
 στέργω love; be content
 στέρνον breast, chest, seat of feelings
 ~sternum
 σύμφορος accompanying; suitable
 σωτήρ -ος (m) savior
 σωτήριος saving
 τελευταῖος last, final
 τρισσός threefold
 τροφή food, upkeep ~atrophy
 τυραννεύω be an absolute ruler
 φυγὰς -δος (m, 3) exile, refugee
 ~fugitive
 φυγή flight, means of escape
 ~fugitive
 χεῦμα -τος (n, 3) plating
 χοή χώς libation
 χρῆζω need ~chresard
 χρόνιος after a long time
 ~chronology
 ὥδης -νος (f) pain

κάμάνθανον τὸν θυμὸν ἐκδραμόντα μοι
 μεῖζω κολαστὴν¹ τῶν πρὶν ἡμαρτημένων,
 τὸ τηνικ' ἤδη τοῦτο μὲν πόλις βία 440
 ἤλαυνέ μ' ἐκ γῆς χρόνιον,² οἱ δ' ἐπωφελεῖν,
 οἱ τοῦ πατρός, τῷ πατρὶ δυνάμενοι, τὸ δρᾶν
 οὐκ ἠθέλησαν, ἀλλ' ἔπους μικροῦ χάριν
 φυγὰς σφιν ἔξω πτωχὸς ἠλώμην αἰεί.
 ἐκ ταῖνδε δ', οὔσαι παρθένοι, ὅσον φύσις 445
 δίδωσιν αὐταῖν, καὶ τροφὰς ἔχω βίου
 καὶ γῆς ἄδειαν καὶ γένους ἐπάρκεσιν·
 τῷ δ' ἀντὶ τοῦ φύσαντος εἰλέσθην θρόνους
 καὶ σκῆπτρα κραίνειν καὶ τυραννεύειν³ χθονός.
 ἀλλ' οὐ τι μὴ λάχωσι τοῦδε συμμάχου, 450
 οὐδέ σφιν ἀρχῆς τῆσδε Καδμείας ποτὲ
 ὄνησις ἦξει· τοῦτ' ἐγῶδα, τῆσδέ τε
 μαντεῖ ἀκούων συννοῶν τε τὰς ἐμοῦ
 παλαίφαθ'⁴ ἄμοι⁵ Φοῖβος ἡνυσέν ποτε.
 πρὸς ταῦτα καὶ Κρέοντα πεμπόντων ἐμοῦ 455
 μαστῆρα, κεῖ τις ἄλλος ἐν πόλει σθένει.
 εἴαν γὰρ ὑμεῖς, ὦ ξένοι, θέληθ' ὁμοῦ
 προστάτισι ταῖς σεμναῖσι δημούχοις θεαῖς
 ἀλκὴν ποιεῖσθαι, τῇδε τῇ πόλει μέγαν
 σωτήρ' ἀρεῖσθε, τοῖς δ' ἐμοῖς ἐχθροῖς πόνους. 460

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἐπάξιός μὲν, Οἰδίπους, κατοικτίσαι,

αὐτός τε παῖδές θ' αἶδ'· ἐπεὶ δὲ τῆσδε γῆς

σωτήρα σαυτὸν τῷδ' ἐπεμβάλλεις λόγῳ,

¹ punisher ² after a long time ³ be an absolute ruler ⁴ put forth long ago ⁵ my, our

παραινέσαι σοι βούλομαι τὰ σύμφορα.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. ὦ φίλταθ', ὡς νῦν πᾶν τελοῦντι προξένει. 465

ΧΟ. τοῦ νῦν καθαρμοῦν τῶνδε δαιμόνων, ἐφ' ᾗς
τὸ πρῶτον ἔκου καὶ κατέστειψας πέδον.

ΟΙ. τρόποισι ποίοις; ὦ ξένοι, διδάσκετε.

ΧΟ. πρῶτον μὲν ἱερὰς ἐξ αἰριύτου χοῶς⁶
κρήνης ἐνεγκοῦ, δι' ὁσίων χειρῶν θιγῶν. 470

ΟΙ. ὅταν δὲ τοῦτο χεῦμ'⁷ ἀκήρατον λάβω;

ΧΟ. κρατῆρές εἰσιν, ἀνδρὸς εὐχειρος τέχνη,
ὦν κρᾶτ' ἔρειπον⁸ καὶ λαβὰς ἀμφιστόμους.

ΟΙ. θαλλοῖσιν⁹ ἢ κρόκαισιν, ἢ ποίῳ τρόπῳ;

ΧΟ. οἷός γε νεαρᾶς νεοπόκῳ μαλλῶ λαβών. 475

ΟΙ. εἶεν· τὸ δ' ἔνθεν ποῖ τελευτήσαι με χρή;

ΧΟ. χοῶς χέασθαι στάντα πρὸς πρώτην ἔω.

ΟΙ. ἦ τοῖσδε κρωσσοῖς¹⁰ οἷς λέγεις χέω τάδε;

ΧΟ. τρισσὰς γε πηγὰς· τὸν τελευταῖον δ' ὅλον.

ΟΙ. τοῦ τόνδε πλήσας θῶ; δίδασκε καὶ τόδε. 480

ΧΟ. ὕδατος, μελίσσης· μηδὲ προσφέρειν μέθυ.¹¹

ΟΙ. ὅταν δὲ τούτων γῇ μελάμφυλλος τύχη;

ΧΟ. τρὶς ἐννέ' αὐτῇ κλώνας ἐξ ἀμφοῖν χεροῖν
τιθεῖς ἐλαίας τάσδ' ἐπεύχεσθαι λιτάς.

ΟΙ. τούτων ἀκοῦσαι βούλομαι· μέγιστα γάρ. 485

ΧΟ. ὥς σφας καλοῦμεν Εὐμενίδας, ἐξ εὐμενῶν
στέρνων¹² δέχεσθαι τὸν ἰκέτην σωτήριον,
αἰτοῦ σύ τ' αὐτὸς κεί τις ἄλλος ἀντὶ σοῦ,
ἄπυστα φωνῶν μηδὲ μηχανῶν βοήν·

⁶ libation ⁷ plating ⁸ cover ⁹ green stuff, fodder ¹⁰ pitcher ¹¹ wine
¹² breast, chest, seat of feelings

ἔπειτ' ἀφέρπειν ἄστροφος. καὶ ταῦτά σοι 490

δράσαντι θαρσῶν ἄν παρασταίην ἐγώ·

ἄλλως δὲ δειμαίνοιμ¹³ ἄν, ὦ ξέν', ἀμφὶ σοι.

ΟΙ. ὦ παῖδε, κλύετον τῶνδε προσχώρων ξένων;

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ. ἡκούσαμεν τε χῶ τι δεῖ πρόστασσε δρᾶν.

ΟΙ. ἐμοὶ μὲν οὐχ ὁδωτά· λείπομαι γὰρ ἐν 495

τῷ μὴ δύνασθαι μήδ' ὄρᾶν, δυοῖν κακοῖν·

σφῶν δ' ἀτέρα μολοῦσα πραξάτω τάδε.

ἀρκεῖν γὰρ οἶμαι κάντὶ μυρίων μίαν

ψυχὴν τὰδ' ἐκτίνουσαν, ἣν εὖνους παρῇ.

ἀλλ' ἐν τάχει τι πράσσετον· μόνον δέ με 500

μὴ λείπετ'· οὐ γὰρ ἄν σθένοι τοῦμὸν δέμας

ἔρημον ἔρπειν οὐδ' ὑψηγητοῦ δίχα.

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ. ἀλλ' εἴμ' ἐγὼ τελοῦσα· τὸν τόπον δ' ἵνα

χρησταί μ' ἐφευρεῖν, τοῦτο βούλομαι μαθεῖν.

ΧΟ. τοῦκείθεν ἄλλους, ὦ ξένη, τοῦδ'· ἣν δέ του 505

σπάνιν¹⁴ τιν' ἴσχης, ἔστ' ἔποικος ὃς φράσει.

ΙΣ. χωροῦμ' ἄν ἐς τόδ'· Ἀντιγόνη, σὺ δ' ἐνθάδε

φύλασσε πατέρα τόνδε· τοῖς τεκοῦσι γὰρ

οὐδ' εἰ πονεῖ τις, δεῖ πόνου μνήμην ἔχειν.

ΧΟ. δευὸν μὲν τὸ πάλαι κείμενον ἤδη κακόν, ὦ ξεῖν', ἐπεγείρειν· 510

ὅμως δ' ἔραμαι¹⁵ πυθέσθαι ΟΙ. τί τοῦτο;

ΧΟ. τᾶς δειλαίας¹⁶ ἀπόρου φανείσας

ἀλγηδόνος,¹⁷ ἧ ξυνέστας.

ΟΙ. μὴ πρὸς ξενίας ἀνοίξης 515

τᾶς σᾶς ἃ πέπονθ' ἀναιδῇ.

¹³ be afraid ¹⁴ scarcity, rarity ¹⁵ love, aor. fall in love; long for, covet
¹⁶ wretched ¹⁷ pain, grief

- ΧΟ. τό τοι πολὺ καὶ μηδαμὰ λήγον
 χρήζω, ξεῖν', ὀρθὸν ἄκουσμι' ἀκοῦσαι.
- ΟΙ. ὦμοι. ΧΟ. στέρξον, ἱκετεύω. ΟΙ. φεῦ φεῦ.
- ΧΟ. πείθου· κἀγὼ γὰρ ὅσον σὺ προσχρήζεις. 520
- ΟΙ. ἤνεγκ' οἶν κακότατ', ὦ ξένοι, ἤνεγκ' ἀέκων μέν,
 θεὸς ἴστω, τούτων δ' αὐθαίρετον¹⁸ οὐδέν.
- ΧΟ. ἀλλ' ἐς τί;
- ΟΙ. κακᾶ μ' εὐνᾶ πόλις οὐδὲν ἴδριν¹⁹ 525
 γάμων ἐνέδησεν ἄτα.
- ΧΟ. ἦ ματρόθεν, ὥς ἀκούω,
 δυσώνυμα λέκτρ'²⁰ ἐπλήσω;
- ΟΙ. ὦμοι θάνατος μὲν τάδ' ἀκούειν,
 ὦ ξεῖν'· αὐται δὲ δὴ ἐξ ἐμοῦ μὲν ΧΟ. πῶς φής; 530
- ΟΙ. παῖδε, δύο δ' ἄτα ΧΟ. ὦ Ζεῦ.
- ΟΙ. ματρὸς κοινᾶς ἀπέβλαστον ὠδίνος.²¹
- ΧΟ. σαί τ' εἶσ' ἄρ' ἀπόγονοί τε καὶ 535
- ΟΙ. κοιναί γε πατρὸς ἀδελφραί.
- ΧΟ. ἰώ. ΟΙ. ἰὼ δῆτα μυρίων γ' ἐπιστροφὰι κακῶν.
- ΧΟ. ἔπαθες ΟΙ. ἔπαθον ἄλαστ'²² ἔχειν.
- ΧΟ. ἔρεξας ΟΙ. οὐκ ἔρεξα. ΧΟ. τί γάρ; ΟΙ. ἐδεξάμην
 δῶρον, ὃ μήποτ' ἐγὼ ταλακάρδιος 540
 ἐπωφέλησας πόλεος ἐξελέσθαι.
- ΧΟ. δύστανε, τί γάρ; ἔθου φόνον
- ΟΙ. τί τοῦτο; τί δ' ἐθέλεις μαθεῖν;
- ΧΟ. πατρός; ΟΙ. παπαῖ. δευτέραν ἔπαισας, ἐπὶ νόσῳ νόσον,
- ΧΟ. ἔκανες ΟΙ. ἔκανον. ἔχει δέ μοι

¹⁸ self-selected, self-incurred ¹⁹ skilled ²⁰ bed ²¹ pain ²² unforgettable, infamous

My wrath had all outrun those errors past,
 Then, then it was the city went about
 By force to oust me, respited for years;
 And then my sons, who should as sons have helped,
 Did nothing; and, one little word from them
 Was all I needed, and they spoke no word,
 But let me wander on for evermore,
 A banished man, a beggar. These two maids
 Their sisters, girls, gave all their sex could give,
 Food and safe harborage and filial care;
 While their two brethren sacrificed their sire
 For lust of power and sceptred sovereignty.
 No! me they ne'er shall win for an ally,
 Nor will this Theban kingship bring them gain;
 That know I from this maiden's oracles,
 And those old prophecies concerning me,
 Which Phoebus now at length has brought to pass.
 Come Creon then, come all the mightiest
 In Thebes to seek me; for if ye my friends,
 Championed by those dread Powers indigenous,
 Espouse my cause; then for the State ye gain
 A great deliverer, for my foemen bane.
 CHORUS. Our pity, Oedipus, thou needs must move,
 Thou and these maidens; and the stronger plea
 Thou urgest, as the savior of our land,
 Disposes me to counsel for thy weal.
 OEDIPUS. Aid me, kind sirs; I will do all you bid.
 CHORUS. First make atonement to the deities,
 Whose grove by trespass thou didst first profane.
 OEDIPUS. After what manner, stranger? Teach me, pray.
 CHORUS. Make a libation first of water fetched
 With undefiled hands from living spring.
 OEDIPUS. And after I have gotten this pure draught?
 CHORUS. Bowls thou wilt find, the carver's handiwork;
 Crown thou the rims and both the handles crown—
 OEDIPUS. With olive shoots or blocks of wool, or how?
 CHORUS. With wool from fleece of yearling freshly shorn.
 OEDIPUS. What next? how must I end the ritual?
 CHORUS. Pour thy libation, turning to the dawn.
 OEDIPUS. Pouring it from the urns whereof ye spake?
 CHORUS. Yea, in three streams; and be the last bowl drained
 To the last drop.

OEDIPUS. And wherewith shall I fill it,

Ere in its place I set it? This too tell.

CHORUS. With water and with honey; add no wine.

OEDIPUS. And when the embowered earth hath drunk thereof?

CHORUS. Then lay upon it thrice nine olive sprays

With both thy hands, and offer up this prayer.

OEDIPUS. I fain would hear it; that imports the most.

CHORUS. That, as we call them Gracious, they would deign

To grant the suppliant their saving grace.

So pray thyself or whoso pray for thee,

In whispered accents, not with lifted voice;

Then go and look back. Do as I bid,

And I shall then be bold to stand thy friend;

Else, stranger, I should have my fears for thee.

OEDIPUS. Hear ye, my daughters, what these strangers say?

ANTIGONE. We listened, and attend thy bidding, father.

OEDIPUS. I cannot go, disabled as I am

Doubly, by lack of strength and lack of sight;

But one of you may do it in my stead;

For one, I trow, may pay the sacrifice

Of thousands, if his heart be leal and true.

So to your work with speed, but leave me not

Untended; for this frame is all too weak

To move without the help of guiding hand.

ISMENE. Then I will go perform these rites, but where

To find the spot, this have I yet to learn.

CHORUS. Beyond this grove; if thou hast need of aught,

The guardian of the close will lend his aid.

ISMENE. I go, and thou, Antigone, meanwhile

Must guard our father. In a parent's cause

Toil, if there be toil, is of no account.

Exit ISMENE]

CHORUS. Ill it is, stranger, to awake

Pain that long since has ceased to ache,

And yet I fain would hear—

OEDIPUS. What thing?

CHORUS. Thy tale of cruel suffering

For which no cure was found,

The fate that held thee bound.

OEDIPUS. O bid me not expose my shame.

CHORUS. The tale is bruited far and near,

And echoes still from ear to ear.

The truth, I fain would hear.

OEDIPUS. Ah me!

CHORUS. I prithee yield.

OEDIPUS. Ah me!

CHORUS. Grant my request, I granted all to thee.

OEDIPUS. Know then I suffered ills most vile, but none
from acts in malice done.

CHORUS. Say how.

OEDIPUS. The State around

An all unwitting bridegroom bound

An impious marriage chain;

That was my bane.

CHORUS. Didst thou in sooth then share

A bed incestuous with her that bare—

OEDIPUS. It stabs me like a sword,

That two-edged word,

O stranger, but these maids— my own—

CHORUS. Say on.

OEDIPUS. Two daughters, curses twain.

CHORUS. Oh God!

OEDIPUS. Sprang from the wife and mother' s travail-pain.

CHORUS.. What, then thy offspring are at once—

OEDIPUS. Too true.

Their father' s very sister' s too.

CHORUS. Oh horror!

OEDIPUS. Horrors from the boundless deep

Back on my soul in reflux surges sweep.

CHORUS. Thou hast endured—

OEDIPUS. Intolerable woe.

CHORUS. And sinned—

OEDIPUS. I sinned not.

CHORUS. How so?

OEDIPUS. I served the State; would I had never won

That graceless grace by which I was undone.

CHORUS.. And next, unhappy man, thou hast shed blood?

OEDIPUS. Must ye hear more?

CHORUS. A father' s?

OEDIPUS. Flood on flood

Whelms me; that word' s a second mortal blow.

CHORUS. Murderer!

OEDIPUS. Yes, a murderer, but know—

CHORUS. What canst thou plead?

OEDIPUS. A plea of justice.

vocabulary

ἄεθλιον ἄθλιου prize
ἄεθλιος prize ~athlete
ἄθλέω toil ~athlete
ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
ἄιδρις ignorant
αἰτέω ask for ~etiology
ἀκίνητος motionless, immovable
ἄνευ away from; not having; not needing ~Sp. sin
ἀνθίστημι face, make a stand
 ~station
ἀπελαύνω expel, exclude, ward off;
 (intrans) ride away
ἀπιστία disbelief, distrust
αὐδάω speak, declare, shout
 ~Theravada
αὔριον tomorrow
ἄχρεϊος serving no purpose
 ~chresard
βίος life ~biology
βιόω live; (mp) make a living
 ~biology
βλαστάνω bud, sprout
βραχύς low, short
γενναῖος noble, sincere ~genesis
γῆρας -ος (n, 3) old age
γηράσκω grow old ~geriatric
γόνος offspring ~genus
δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate,
 doom ~demon
δασμός portion, tax, tribute
δέμας -ως (n) body; (+gen.) like
δηλώω show, disclose
δῆτα emphatic δῆ
διασκεδάννυμι (ἰ) scatter, disperse
διοίχομαι be completely gone
δίχα in two, in two ways
δύσμορος ill-fated
δύστηνος unhappy, miserable
εἴπερ if indeed
εἴτε if, whenever; either/or

ἐκβάλλω throw out, fell, let fall
 ~ballistic
ἐκγονος offspring, descendant
 ~genus
ἐκμανθάνω know by heart
 Ἑλλήν Greek
ἐμμενής continuously
ἐμμένω stay put, be faithful, fixed
ἐνθάδε here, hither
ἐνταῦθα there, here
ἐξαιτέω demand ~etiology
ἐξαναγκάζω force (intensified);
 drive out
ἐξεπίσταμαι know well
ἐστία hearth ~Hestia
ἐστιάω give a feast
εὕδω sleep, lie down, rest
εὐμένεια good will, favor
ἐφίστημι set; (mp) come/be near,
 direct, stop ~station
ἡδύς sweet, pleasant ~hedonism
θαρσέω be of good heart
θάρσος boldness, over-boldness
θέμις -τος (f) custom, law
θερμός warm, hot ~thermos
ἱκάνω (ᾱ) reach, arrive at
ἱκέτης -ου (m, 1) suppliant, refugee
ἰσχύς -ος (f) strength; body of troops
ἴσχω restrain, hold back ~ischemia
καθαρός clean, pure
κάρ -ός (n) useless bit; form of *κατά*
καταθνήσκω die, be dead
 ~euthanasia
κατέρχομαι come down, out from
κατοικίζω colonize
κέρδος -ους (n, 3) advantage,
 cunning
κοινός communal, ordinary
κρείσσων more powerful; better
κρύπτω hide, cover ~cryptic
κυρέω come upon, come up against;
 obtain

λήστις forgetting
 μέτεμι be among, go, follow ~ion
 μήποτε absolutely never
 μορφή beauty
 μυρίος (ὑ) 10,000 ~myriad
 νέκυσ (ὑ) corpse, ghost ~necro
 νοσέω be sick, be mad, suffer
 νουθετέω remind, warn
 οἰκέω inhabit ~economics
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
 ὀμφή supernatural voice
 ὅποῖος whatever kind
 ὄψις ὄψεως (f) sight, view
 ~thanatopsis
 πάθος -ους (n, 3) an experience,
 passion, condition
 παιδεύω raise; train
 πάλαι long ago ~paleo
 παλαιός old ~paleo
 πάλη wrestling ~Pallas
 πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas
 παρέζομαι sit beside ~sit
 παρήκω lie along; of time: to be
 past
 παρίημι dangle; pass over, allow
 ~jet
 πάρος before, in the past
 πικρός sharp, bitter ~picric
 πιστός faithful; trustworthy
 πλήσσω hit ~plectrum

ποῖος what kind
 πότε when?
 πότερος which, whichever of two
 προᾶξις -εως (f) result, business
 ~practice
 προδίδωμι betray
 σαφής clear, understandable
 σκευή equipment
 σπουδαῖος quick, active; excellent
 στείχω go, march ~stair
 στέλλω prepare, send, furl ~apostle
 συγκομίζω gather
 συγχέω entangle, destroy, confound
 συμφορά collecting; accident,
 misfortune
 σύμφορος accompanying; suitable
 σύμφωνος harmonious
 συνουσία society, sex
 τερπνός pleasant
 τίνω (ι) pay, atone for; (mp) punish
 τοιόσδε such
 φθίω cause to perish, wane; (of
 time) pass
 φονεύω kill
 χροῖζω need ~chresard
 χρηστήριον oracle, response
 χῶρος place ~heir
 ψεύδω be false, deceive; (mid) to lie
 ~pseudo-
 ψυχρός (ὑ) cold ~psychology

ΧΟΡΟΣ. τί τοῦτο; ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. πρὸς δίκας τι. ΧΟ. τί γάρ; ΟΙ. ἐγὼ φράσω.

καὶ γὰρ ἄν, οὓς ἐφόνευσ', ἔμ' ἀπώλεσαν·

νόμῳ δὲ καθαρός, αἰδρις¹ εἰς τόδ' ἦλθον.

ΧΟ. καὶ μὴν ἄναξ ὄδ' ἡμῖν Αἰγέως γόνος²

Θησεὺς κατ' ὁμφὴν σὴν ἐφ' ἀστάλη πάρα.

550

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ. πολλῶν ἀκούων ἔν τε τῷ πάρος χρόνῳ

τὰς αἵματηρὰς ὁμμάτων διαφθορὰς

ἔγνωκά σ', ὦ παῖ Λαῖου, τανῦν θ' ὁδοῖς

ἐν ταῖσδ' ἀκούων μᾶλλον ἐξεπίσταμαι.

σκευή³ τε γάρ σε καὶ τὸ δύστηνον κάρα

555

δηλοῦτον ἡμῖν ὄνθ' ὃς εἶ, καί σ' οἰκτίσας

θέλω περέσθαι, δύσμορ' Οἰδίπους, τίνα

πόλεως ἐπέστης προστροπὴν ἐμοῦ τ' ἔχων,

αὐτός τε χῆ σὴ δύσμορος παραστάτις.

δίδασκε· δεινὴν γάρ τιν' ἂν πράξῃς τύχοις

560

λέξας ὁποίας ἐξαφισταίμην ἐγώ,

ὃς οἶδα καὐτὸς ὡς ἐπαιδεύθην ξένος,

ὥσπερ σύ, χῶς εἷς πλείστ' ἀνὴρ ἐπὶ ξένης

ἦθλησα⁴ κινδυνεύματ' ἐν τῶμῳ κάρα·

ὥστε ξένον γ' ἂν οὐδέν' ὄνθ', ὥσπερ σὺ νῦν,

565

ὑπεκτραποίμην μὴ οὐ συνεκσώζειν· ἐπεὶ

ἔξοιδ' ἀνὴρ ὦν χῶτι τῆς εἰς αὔριον

οὐδὲν πλέον μοι σοῦ μέτεστιν ἡμέρας.

ΟΙ. Θησεῦ, τὸ σὸν γενναῖον ἐν σμικρῷ λόγῳ

παρήκεν, ὥστε βραχέα μοι δεῖσθαι φράσαι.

570

σὺ γάρ μ' ὅς εἰμι κἀφ' ὅτου πατρὸς γεγώς

¹ ignorant ² offspring ³ equipment ⁴ toil

καὶ γῆς ὅποίας ἦλθον, εἰρηκῶς κυρεῖς·
ὥστ' ἐστί μοι τὸ λοιπὸν οὐδὲν ἄλλο πλὴν
εἰπεῖν ἃ χρῆζω, χάς λόγος διοίχεται.

ΘΗ. τοῦτ' αὐτὸ νῦν διδάσχ', ὅπως ἂν ἐκμάθω. 575

ΟΙ. δώσω ἱκάνω τοῦμὸν ἄθλιον δέμας
σοὶ δῶρον, οὐ σπουδαῖον⁵ εἰς ὄψιν· τὰ δὲ
κέρδη παρ' αὐτοῦ κρείσσον' ἢ μορφῇ⁶ καλή.

ΘΗ. ποῖον δὲ κέρδος ἀξιοῖς ἦκειν φέρων;

ΟΙ. χρόνω μάθοις ἄν, οὐχὶ τῷ παρόντι πον. 580

ΘΗ. ποίῳ γὰρ ἢ σὴ προσφορά δηλώσεται;

ΟΙ. ὅταν θάνω γὰρ καὶ σύ μου ταφεὺς γένη

ΘΗ. τὰ λοιπὸν αἰτεῖ τοῦ βίου, τὰ δ' ἐν μέσῳ

ἢ λῆστω⁷ ἴσχεις ἢ δι' οὐδενὸς ποεῖ.

ΟΙ. ἐνταῦθα γάρ μοι κείνα συγκομίζεται. 585

ΘΗ. ἀλλ' ἐν βραχεὶ δὴ τήνδε μ' ἐξαιτεῖ χάριν.

ΟΙ. ὅρα γε μὴν· οὐ σμικρός, οὔχ, ἀγὼν ὄδε.

ΘΗ. πότερα τὰ τῶν σῶν ἐκγόνων κάμου λέγεις;—

ΟΙ. κείνοι κομίζειν κείσ' ἄναξ, χρῆζουσὶ με.

ΘΗ. ἀλλ' εἰ θέλοντά γ' οὐδὲ σοὶ φεύγειν καλόν. 590

ΟΙ. ἀλλ' οὐδ', ὅτ' αὐτὸς ἤθελον, παρίεσαν.

ΘΗ. ὦ μῶρε, θυμὸς δ' ἐν κακοῖς οὐ ξύμφορον.

ΟΙ. ὅταν μάθης μου, νουθέτει, τανῦν δ' ἔα.

ΘΗ. διδάσκ'· ἄνευ γνώμης γὰρ οὔ με χρὴ λέγειν.

ΟΙ. πέπονθα, Θησεῦ, δεινὰ πρὸς κακοῖς κακά. 595

ΘΗ. ἢ τὴν παλαιὰν ξυμφορὰν γένους ἐρείς;

ΟΙ. οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεὶ πᾶς τοῦτό γ' Ἑλλήνων⁸ θροεῖ.

⁵ quick, active; excellent ⁶ beauty ⁷ forgetting ⁸ Greek

ΘΗ. τί γάρ τὸ μείζον ἢ κατ' ἄνθρωπον νοσεῖς;

ΟΙ. οὕτως ἔχει μοι. γῆς ἐμῆς ἀπηλάθην

πρὸς τῶν ἐμαντοῦ σπερμάτων· ἔστιν δέ μοι

600

πάλιν κατελθεῖν μήποθ', ὥς πατροκτόνω.

ΘΗ. πῶς δῆτα σ' ἂν πεμφαίαθ', ὥστ' οἰκεῖν δίχα;

ΟΙ. τὸ θεῖον αὐτοὺς ἐξαναγκάσει στόμα.

ΘΗ. ποῖον πάθος δείσαντας ἐκ χρηστηρίων;

ΟΙ. ὅτι σφ' ἀνάγκη τῇδε πληγῇναι χθονί.

605

ΘΗ. καὶ πῶς γένοιτ' ἂν τὰμὰ κάκείνων πικρά;

ΟΙ. ὦ φίλτατ' Αἰγέως παῖ, μόνοις οὐ γίγνεται

θεοῖσι γῆρας οὐδὲ κατθανεῖν ποτε.

τὰ δ' ἄλλα συγχεῖ πάνθ' ὁ παγκρατὴς χρόνος.

φθίνει μὲν ἰσχύς γῆς, φθίνει δὲ σώματος,

610

θνήσκει δὲ πίστις, βλαστάνει⁹ δ' ἀπιστία,

καὶ πνεῦμα ταῦτ' οὐ ποτ' οὐτ' ἐν ἀνδράσιν

φίλοις βέβηκεν οὔτε πρὸς πόλιν πόλει.

τοῖς μὲν γὰρ ἡδὴ, τοῖς δ' ἐν ὑστέρω χρόνῳ

τὰ τερπνὰ¹⁰ πικρὰ γίγνεται καὶ θις φίλα.

615

καὶ ταῖσι Θήβαις εἰ τανῦν εὐήμερεῖ

καλῶς τὰ πρὸς σέ, μυρίας ὁ μυρίος

χρόνος τεκνοῦται νύκτας ἡμέρας τ' ἰών,

ἐν αἷς τὰ νῦν ξύμφωνα δεξιώματα

δόρει διασκεδῶσιν ἐκ μικροῦ λόγου·

620

ἔν' οὐμὸς εὖδων καὶ κεκρυμμένος νέκυς

ψυχρὸς ποτ' αὐτῶν θερμὸν¹¹ αἷμα πίεται,

εἰ Ζεὺς ἔτι Ζεὺς χὰ Διὸς Φοῖβος σαφής.

⁹ bud, sprout ¹⁰ pleasant ¹¹ warm, hot

ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ αὐδᾶν ἤδ' οὐ τᾶκίνητ' ἔπη,
 ἔα μ' ἐν οἷσιν ἡρξάμην, τὸ σὸν μόνον
 πιστὸν φυλάσσω, κοῦποτ' Οἰδίπουν ἐρεῖς
 ἀχρεῖον¹² οἰκητῆρα δέξασθαι τόπων
 τῶν ἐνθάδ', εἴπερ μὴ θεοὶ ψεύσουσί με.

625

ΧΟ. ἄναξ, πάλαι καὶ ταῦτα καὶ τοιαῦτ' ἔπη
 γῇ τῇδ' ὄδ' ἀνὴρ ὡς τελῶν ἐφαίνετο.

630

ΘΗ. τίς δῆτ' ἂν ἀνδρὸς εὐμένειαν¹³ ἐκβάλαι
 τοιοῦδ', ὅτ' αὖ πρῶτον μὲν ἢ δορυξένος
 κοινὴ παρ' ἡμῖν αἰὲν ἐστὶν ἐστία;
 ἔπειτα δ' ἰκέτης δαμόνων ἀφιγμένος
 γῇ τῇδε κάμοι δασμὸν¹⁴ οὐ σμικρὸν τίνει.
 ἀγὼ σεβισθεὶς οὔποτ' ἐκβαλῶ χάριν
 τὴν τοῦδε, χώρα δ' ἔμπολιν κατοικιῶ.
 εἰ δ' ἐνθάδ' ἡδὺ τῷ ξένῳ μῖμνεν, σέ νιν
 τάξω φυλάσσειν, εἴτ' ἐμοῦ στεῖχειν μέτα,
 τόδ' ἡδύ, τούτων, Οἰδίπους, δίδωμί σοι
 κρίναντι χρῆσθαι· τῇδε γὰρ ξυνοίσομαι.

635

640

ΟΙ. ὦ Ζεῦ, διδοίης τοῖσι τοιούτοισιν εὖ.

ΘΗ. τί δῆτα χρήξεις; ἢ δόμους στεῖχειν ἐμούς;

ΟΙ. εἴ μοι θέμις γ' ἦν· ἀλλ' ὁ χώρος ἐσθ' ὅδε,

ΘΗ. ἐν ᾧ τί πράξεις; οὐ γὰρ ἀντιστήσομαι.

645

ΟΙ. ἐν ᾧ κρατήσω τῶν ἔμ' ἐκβεβληκότων.

ΘΗ. μέγ' ἂν λέγοις δώρημα τῆς συνουσίας.

ΟΙ. εἰ σοί γ' ἄπερ φῆς ἐμμενεί τελοῦντί μοι.

ΘΗ. θάρσει τὸ τοῦδέ γ' ἀνδρός· οὐ σε μὴ προδῶ.

¹² serving no purpose ¹³ good will, favor ¹⁴ portion, tax, tribute

CHORUS. How?

OEDIPUS. I slew who else would me have slain;

I slew without intent,

A wretch, but innocent

In the law' s eye, I stand, without a stain.

CHORUS. Behold our sovereign, Theseus, Aegeus' son,

Comes at thy summons to perform his part.

Enter THESEUS]

THESEUS. Oft had I heard of thee in times gone by—

The bloody mutilation of thine eyes—

And therefore know thee, son of Laius.

All that I lately gathered on the way

Made my conjecture doubly sure; and now

Thy garb and that marred visage prove to me

That thou art he. So pitying thine estate,

Most ill-starred Oedipus, I fain would know

What is the suit ye urge on me and Athens,

Thou and the helpless maiden at thy side.

Declare it; dire indeed must be the tale

Whereat I should recoil. I too was reared,

Like thee, in exile, and in foreign lands

Wrestled with many perils, no man more.

Wherefore no alien in adversity

Shall seek in vain my succor, nor shalt thou;

I know myself a mortal, and my share

In what the morrow brings no more than thine.

OEDIPUS. Theseus, thy words so apt, so generous

So comfortable, need no long reply

Both who I am and of what lineage sprung,

And from what land I came, thou hast declared.

So without prologue I may utter now

My brief petition, and the tale is told.

THESEUS. Say on, and tell me what I fain would learn.

OEDIPUS. I come to offer thee this woe-worn frame,

A gift not fair to look on; yet its worth

More precious far than any outward show.

THESEUS. What profit dost thou proffer to have brought?

OEDIPUS. Hereafter thou shalt learn, not yet, methinks.

THESEUS. When may we hope to reap the benefit?

OEDIPUS. When I am dead and thou hast buried me.

THESEUS. Thou cravest life' s last service; all before—

Is it forgotten or of no account?

OEDIPUS. Yea, the last boon is warrant for the rest.
THESEUS. The grace thou cravest then is small indeed.
OEDIPUS. Nay, weigh it well; the issue is not slight.
THESEUS. Thou meanest that betwixt thy sons and me?
OEDIPUS. Prince, they would fain convey me back to Thebes.
THESEUS. If there be no compulsion, then methinks
To rest in banishment befits not thee.
OEDIPUS. Nay, when I wished it they would not consent.
THESEUS. For shame! such temper misbecomes the faller.
OEDIPUS. Chide if thou wilt, but first attend my plea.
THESEUS. Say on, I wait full knowledge ere I judge.
OEDIPUS. O Theseus, I have suffered wrongs on wrongs.
THESEUS. Wouldst tell the old misfortune of thy race?
OEDIPUS. No, that has grown a byword throughout Greece.
THESEUS. What then can be this more than mortal grief?
OEDIPUS. My case stands thus; by my own flesh and blood
I was expelled my country, and can ne'er
Thither return again, a parricide.
THESEUS. Why fetch thee home if thou must needs obey.
THESEUS. What are they threatened by the oracle?
OEDIPUS. Destruction that awaits them in this land.
THESEUS. What can beget ill blood 'twixt them and me?
OEDIPUS. Dear son of Aegeus, to the gods alone
Is given immunity from eld and death;
But nothing else escapes all-ruinous time.
Earth's might decays, the might of men decays,
Honor grows cold, dishonor flourishes,
There is no constancy 'twixt friend and friend,
Or city and city; be it soon or late,
Sweet turns to bitter, hate once more to love.
If now 'tis sunshine betwixt Thebes and thee
And not a cloud, Time in his endless course
Gives birth to endless days and nights, wherein
The merest nothing shall suffice to cut
With serried spears your bonds of amity.
Then shall my slumbering and buried corpse
In its cold grave drink their warm life-blood up,
If Zeus be Zeus and Phoebus still speak true.
No more: 'tis ill to tear aside the veil
Of mysteries; let me cease as I began:
Enough if thou wilt keep thy plighted troth,
Then shall thou ne'er complain that Oedipus

Proved an unprofitable and thankless guest,

Except the gods themselves shall play me false.

CHORUS. The man, my lord, has from the very first

Declared his power to offer to our land

These and like benefits.

THESEUS. Who could reject

The proffered amity of such a friend?

First, he can claim the hospitality

To which by mutual contract we stand pledged:

Next, coming here, a suppliant to the gods,

He pays full tribute to the State and me;

His favors therefore never will I spurn,

But grant him the full rights of citizen;

And, if it suits the stranger here to bide,

I place him in your charge, or if he please

Rather to come with me— choose, Oedipus,

Which of the two thou wilt. Thy choice is mine.

OEDIPUS. Zeus, may the blessing fall on men like these!

THESEUS. What dost thou then decide— to come with me?

OEDIPUS. Yea, were it lawful— but 'tis rather here—

THESEUS. What wouldst thou here? I shall not thwart thy wish.

OEDIPUS. Here shall I vanquish those who cast me forth.

THESEUS. Then were thy presence here a boon indeed.

OEDIPUS. Such shall it prove, if thou fulfill' st thy pledge.

THESEUS. Fear not for me; I shall not play thee false.

vocabulary

ἄβατος untrodden; impassable
ἀγυιά street
ἄγχι near, nigh ~angina
ἀγωγή carrying; leadership
ἄεθλιον ἀθλίου prize
ἄεθλιος prize ~athlete
ἀηδών -όνος (f, 3) nightingale
ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
αἰκία outrage, torture
αἶνος story, praise
αἶσσω dart, glance
ἀκήρατος unharmed, pure
ἀκόλουθος following, attending
ἀλγέω suffer ~analgesic
ἄλγος -εος (n, 3) woe, grief
 ~analgesic
ἀλήτης -ου (m, 1) wanderer, tramp
 ~swelter
ἄλιος of the sea; fruitless
ἀλιόω thwart, use ineffectively
ἄνευ away from; not having; not
 needing ~Sp. sin
ἀπάγω lead away, back
 ~demagogue
ἀπειλή boast, threat
ἀποστυγέω hate, abhor
ἀργής -έτος (m, 3) bright, white
 ~Argentina
ἀρπάζω carry off, seize ~harpoon
ἀρχαῖος ancient, from the beginning
 ~oligarch
ἄσσω dart, glance
ἄυπνος sleepless
ἄχνα foam, froth, chaff
βλαστάνω bud, sprout
βλώσκω come, go
γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy
γῆρας -ος (n, 3) old age
γηράσκω grow old ~geriatric
δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate,
 doom ~demon

δαίος hostile, destructive
δαίς war, battle
δεῦρο here, come here!
δαίαιτα way of life; home; arbitration
δράω do, accomplish
δύσμορος ill-fated
δύστηνος unhappy, miserable
ἐγχέω pour into
εἴλω pack, press, drive ~helix
ἔκπαγλος terrible, outrageous
ἐλαία olive, olive tree ~olive
ἐμπειρος experienced
ἐμφαίνω display in
ἐμφανής visible
ἐνέχω hold inside
ἐνθὲνδε hence
ἐπαινέω concur, praise, advise
ἔπαινος (noun) praise
ἐπακούω hear, listen to ~acoustic
ἐπίσταμαι know how, understand
 ~station
ἔρω be able to move ~serpent
εὐγενής well born
εὐπωλος abounding in foals ~foal
θάλλω bloom, flourish, abound
 ~thallium
θαμίζω frequently do, go to
θαρσέω be of good heart
θάρσος boldness, over-boldness
θρόσκω spring, dart ~dart
ἵζω to seat ~sit
καινός new, fresh, strange
κάρ -ός (n) useless bit; form of *κατά*
κῆρ heart ~cardiac
κισσός ivy
κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid
κραίνω accomplish; (rare) rule
κράτιστος best
κρήνη well, spring
κρόκος crocus
κρύπτω hide, cover ~cryptic
κτίζω found, populate ~oxytocin

κύκλος circle, wheel ~cycle
 λαμπρός brilliant ~lamp
 λεύσσω see, look
 λιγύς clear, shrill
 μάτην in vain, randomly
 μινύθω diminish ~minute
 μολίσκω come, go
 μόριον piece, member; part of
 speech
 νάρκισσος daffodil
 νεαρός young ~neon
 νομάς -δος (m, 3) roaming, grazing
 οικήτωρ inhabitant
 ὀκνέω shrink from, hesitate; worry
 ὀκνος shrinking, hesitation
 ὄμβρος storm
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
 ὀνειδίζω upbraid, reproach
 ὀνειδος -εος (n, 3) blame; insult
 οὐχουν certainly not
 οὐράνιος heavenly
 οὐτάω pierce, wound
 παραπέτομαι fly with/to
 πατρώιος of the father(s), ancestral
 ~paternal
 πατῶος of the father(s), ancestral
 πέδον ground ~pedal
 πέλαγος -ους (n, 3) the open sea
 ~pelagic
 πενθέω grieve ~Nepenthe
 πέρας -τος (n, 3) cord; bound, crux,
 outcome ~prove
 περάω cross over, drive across; sell

as a slave ~pierce
 πέρθω sack, ravage, plunder
 πῆμα -τος (n, 3) woe, bane ~penury
 πιστώ reassure; also (pass) promise
 πομπή a sending, expedition ~pomp
 πομπός escort, guide ~pomp
 πρόσπολος servant, attendant
 πτωχός poor, beggarly ~pudendum
 πῶποτε never
 ῥεῖθρον stream ~rheostat
 σθένος -εος (n, 3) strength
 ~neurasthenia
 σθένω be strong, able
 στέλλω prepare, send, furl ~apostle
 στεφάνωμα crown
 σωτηρία saving, preservation
 ταλαίπωρος suffering, miserable
 τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
 τέρμα -τος (n, 3) mark, turn-around
 point
 τηλίκος of such an age
 τιθήνη nurse, wet nurse ~tit
 φύλλον leaf
 φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
 χαλινός (i) bit for a horse
 χειμών -ος (m, 3) winter, storm
 χλωρός pale, green, yellow
 ~chlorine
 χορός dance; chorus ~terpsichorean
 χωρέω withdraw, give way to (+dat)
 ~heir
 ὠκυτόκος a quick birth, or causing
 it

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. οὔτοι σ' ὑφ' ὄρκου γ' ὡς κακὸν πιστώσομαι. 650

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ. οὐκὼν πέρα γ' ἂν οὐδὲν ἢ λόγῳ φέροις.

ΟΙ. πῶς οὖν ποήσεις; ΘΗ. τοῦ μάλιστ' ὄκνος¹ σ' ἔχει;

ΟΙ. ἤξουσιν ἄνδρες ΘΗ. ἀλλὰ τοῖσδ' ἔσται μέλον.

ΟΙ. ὅρα με λείπων ΘΗ. μὴ δίδασχ' ἃ χρή με δρᾶν.

ΟΙ. ὀκνοῦντ' ἀνάγκη. ΘΗ. τοῦμὸν οὐκ ὀκνεῖ κέαρ. 655

ΟΙ. οὐκ οἶσθ' ἀπειλὰς ΘΗ. οἶδ' ἐγὼ σε μή τινα

ἐνθένδ' ἀπάξοντ' ἄνδρα πρὸς βίαν ἐμοῦ.

πολλαὶ δ' ἀπειλαὶ πολλὰ δὴ μάτην ἔπη

θυμῷ κατηπείλησαν, ἀλλ' ὁ νοῦς ὅταν

αὐτοῦ γένηται, φροῦδα τ' ἀπειλήματα. 660

κείνοις δ' ἴσως κεί' δεῖν' ἐπερρώσθη λέγειν

τῆς σῆς ἀγωγῆς, οἶδ' ἐγώ, φανήσεται

μακρὸν τὸ δεῦρο πέλαγος οὐδὲ πλώσιμον.

θαρσεῖν μὲν οὖν ἔγωγε κἂν ἐμῆς ἄνευ

γνώμης ἐπαινῶ, Φοῖβος εἰ προὔπεμψε σε· 665

ὅμως δὲ κάμου μὴ παρόντος οἶδ' ὅτι

τοῦμὸν φυλάξει σ' ὄνομα μὴ πάσχειν κακῶς.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. εὐίππου, ξένε, τᾶσδε χώρας

ἵκου τὰ κράτιστα γᾶς ἔπαυλα,

τὸν ἀργῆτα² Κολωνόν, ἔνθ' 670

ἀ λῖγεια μινύρεται

θαμίζουσα³ μάλιστ' ἀηδῶν

χλωραῖς ὑπὸ βάσσαις,

τὸν οἰνωπὸν ἔχουσα κισσὸν⁴

καὶ τὰν ἄβατον θεοῦ 675

¹ shrinking, hesitation ² bright, white ³ frequently do, go to ⁴ ivy

φυλλάδα μυριόκαρπον ἀνήλιον

ἀνήνεμόν τε πάντων

χειμώνων· ἴν' ὁ βακχιώτας

ἀεὶ Διόνυσος ἐμβατεύει

θεαῖς ἀμφιπολῶν τιθήναις.⁵

680

ΧΟ. θάλλει δ' οὐρανίας⁶ ὑπ' ἄχνας⁷

ὁ καλλίβοτρυς κατ' ἥμαρ ἀεὶ

νάρκισσος,⁸ μέγалаιν θεαῖν

ἀρχαῖον στεφάνωμ',⁹ ὃ τε

χρυσανγῆς κρόκος,¹⁰ οὐδ' αὔπνοι¹¹

685

κρῆναι μυνύθουσιν¹²

Κηφισοῦ νομάδες¹³ ῥέέθρων,

ἀλλ' αἰὲν ἐπ' ἥματι

ὠκυτόκος¹⁴ πεδίων ἐπινίσσεται

ἀκηράτῳ σὺν ὄμβρῳ

690

στερνούχου χθονός· οὐδὲ Μουσᾶν

χοροί νιν ἀπεστύγησαν οὐδ' ἅ

ΧΟ. χρυσάνιος Ἀφροδίτα.

ἔστιν δ' οἶον ἐγὼ γὰρ Ἀσίας οὐκ ἐπακούω

695

οὐδ' ἐν τῇ μεγάλῃ Δωρίδι νάσῳ Πέλοπος πώποτε βλαστὸν

φύτευμ' ἀχείρωτον αὐτόποιον,

ἐγχείων φόβημα δαΐων,

ὃ τᾷδε θάλλει μέγιστα χώρα,

700

γλανκᾶς παιδοτρόφου φύλλον ἐλαίας·

τὸ μέν τις οὐ νεαρὸς οὐδὲ γήρᾳ

⁵ nurse, wet nurse ⁶ heavenly ⁷ foam, froth, chaff ⁸ daffodil ⁹ crown
¹⁰ crocus ¹¹ sleepless ¹² diminish ¹³ roaming, grazing ¹⁴ a quick birth,
or causing it

συνναίων ἀλιώσει χερὶ πέρσας· ὁ γὰρ αἰὲν ὁρῶν κύκλος
 λεύσσει νιν μορίου Διὸς
 χά γλαυκῶπις Ἀθήνα.

705

ΧΟ. ἄλλον δ' αἶνον¹⁵ ἔχω ματροπόλει τᾷδε κράτιστον

δῶρον τοῦ μεγάλου δαίμονος, εἰπεῖν, χθονὸς αὔχημα μέγιστον,
 εὔιππον, εὔπωλον,¹⁶ εὐθάλασσον.

710

ὦ παῖ Κρόνου, σὺν γάρ νιν εἰς
 τόδ' εἶσας αὔχημ', ἄναξ Ποσειδάν,

ἵπποισιν τὸν ἀκεστήρα χαλινὸν
 πρώταισι ταῖσδε κτίσας ἀγυαῖς.¹⁷

715

ἀ δ' εὐήρετμος ἔκπαγλ' ἀλία χερσὶ παραπτομένα πλάτα
 θρώσκει, τῶν ἑκατομπόδων

Νηρηίδων ἀκόλουθος.¹⁸

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ. ὦ πλείστ' ἐπαίνους εὐλογούμενον πέδον,

720

νῦν σὸν τὰ λαμπρὰ ταῦτα δὴ φαίνειν ἔπη.

ΟΙ. τί δ' ἔστιν, ὦ παῖ, καινόν; ΑΝ. ἄσσον ἔρχεται

Κρέων ὃδ' ἡμῖν οὐκ ἄνευ πομπῶν, πάτερ.

ΟΙ. ὦ φίλτατοι γέροντες, ἐξ ὑμῶν ἐμοὶ

φαίνουτ' ἂν ἤδη τέρμα¹⁹ τῆς σωτηρίας.

725

ΧΟ. θάρσει, παρέσται· καὶ γὰρ εἰ γέρων ἐγώ,

τὸ τῇσδε χώρας οὐ γεγήρακεν σθένος.

ΚΡΕΩΝ. ἄνδρες χθονὸς τῇσδ' εὐγενεῖς²⁰ οἰκήτορες,

ὁρῶ τιν' ὑμᾶς ὀμμάτων εἰληφότας

φόβον νεώρη τῆς ἐμῆς ἐπεισόδου,

730

ὄν μήτ' ὀκνεῖτε μήτ' ἀφῆτ' ἔπος κακόν.

ἦκω γὰρ οὐχ ὥς δρᾶν τι βουληθεῖς, ἐπεὶ

¹⁵ story, praise ¹⁶ abounding in foals ¹⁷ street ¹⁸ following, attending
¹⁹ mark, turn-around point ²⁰ well born

γέρων μὲν εἰμι, πρὸς πόλιν δ' ἐπίσταμαι
 σθένουσιν ἦκων, εἴ τι ν' Ἑλλάδος, μέγα.
 ἀλλ' ἄνδρα τόνδε τηλικόσδ' ἀπεστάλην 735
 πείσων ἔπεσθαι πρὸς τὸ Καδμείων πέδον,
 οὐκ ἐξ ἑνὸς στεῖλαντος, ἀλλ' ἀνδρῶν ὑπὸ
 πάντων κελευσθείς, οὐνεχ' ἦκέ μοι γένει
 τὰ τοῦδε πενθεῖν²¹ πῆματ' εἰς πλείστον πόλεως.
 ἀλλ' ὦ ταλαίπωρ' Οἰδίπους, κλύων ἐμοῦ 740
 ἰκοῦ πρὸς οἴκους. πᾶς σε Καδμείων λεῶς
 καλεῖ δικαίως, ἐκ δὲ τῶν μάλιστ' ἐγώ,
 ὅσῳ περ, εἰ μὴ πλείστον ἀνθρώπων ἔφην
 κάκιστος, ἀλγῶ τοῖσι σοῖς κακοῖς, γέρον,
 ὁρῶν σε τὸν δύστηνον ὄντα μὲν ξένον, 745
 αἰεὶ δ' ἀλήτην καπὶ προσπόλου μιᾶς
 βιοστερῇ χωροῦντα· τὴν ἐγὼ τάλας
 οὐκ ἄν ποτ' ἐς τοσοῦτον αἰκίας²² πεσεῖν
 ἔδοξ', ὅσον πέπτωκεν ἦδε δύσμορος,
 αἰεὶ σε κηδεύουσα καὶ τὸ σὸν κάρα 750
 πτωχῷ διαίτη, τηλικούτος, οὐ γάμων
 ἔμπειρος, ἀλλὰ τοῦπιόντος ἀρπάσαι.
 ἄρ' ἄθλιον τοῦνειδος, ὦ τάλας ἐγώ,
 ὠνεῖδισ' εἰς σὲ καμὲ καὶ τὸ πᾶν γένος;
 ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ ἔστι τὰ μφανῆ κρύπτειν, σύ νιν 755
 πρὸς θεῶν πατράων, Οἰδίπους, πεισθείς ἐμοὶ
 κρύψον, θελήσας ἄστν καὶ δόμους μολεῖν
 τοὺς σοὺς πατράους, τήνδε τὴν πόλιν φύλως

²¹ grieve ²² outrage, torture

OEDIPUS. No need to back thy promise with an oath.

THESEUS. An oath would be no surer than my word.

OEDIPUS. How wilt thou act then?

THESEUS. What is it thou fear' st?

OEDIPUS. My foes will come—

THESEUS. Our friends will look to that.

OEDIPUS. But if thou leave me?

THESEUS. Teach me not my duty.

OEDIPUS. 'Tis fear constrains me.

THESEUS. My soul knows no fear!

OEDIPUS. Thou knowest not what threats—

THESEUS. I know that none

Shall hale thee hence in my despite. Such threats

Vented in anger oft, are blusterers,

An idle breath, forgot when sense returns.

And for thy foemen, though their words were brave,

Boasting to bring thee back, they are like to find

The seas between us wide and hard to sail.

Such my firm purpose, but in any case

Take heart, since Phoebus sent thee here. My name,

Though I be distant, warrants thee from harm.

CHORUS.. Thou hast come to a steed-famed land for rest,

O stranger worn with toil,

To a land of all lands the goodliest

Colonus' glistening soil.'

Tis the haunt of the clear-voiced nightingale,

Who hid in her bower, among

The wine-dark ivy that wreathes the vale,

Trilleth her ceaseless song;

And she loves, where the clustering berries nod

O' er a sunless, windless glade,

The spot by no mortal footstep trod,

The pleasance kept for the Bacchic god,

Where he holds each night his revels wild

With the nymphs who fostered the lusty child.

And fed each morn by the pearly dew

The starred narcissi shine,

And a wreath with the crocus' golden hue

For the Mother and Daughter twine.

And never the sleepless fountains cease

That feed Cephisus' stream,

But they swell earth' s bosom with quick increase,

And their wave hath a crystal gleam.
 And the Muses' quire will never disdain
 To visit this heaven-favored plain,
 Nor the Cyprian queen of the golden rein.
 And here there grows, unpruned, untamed,
 Terror to foemen' s spear,
 A tree in Asian soil unnamed,
 By Pelops' Dorian isle unclaimed,
 Self-nurtured year by year;
 'Tis the grey-leaved olive that feeds our boys;
 Nor youth nor withering age destroys
 The plant that the Olive Planter tends
 And the Grey-eyed Goddess herself defends.
 Yet another gift, of all gifts the most
 Prized by our fatherland, we boast—
 The might of the horse, the might of the sea;
 Our fame, Poseidon, we owe to thee,
 Son of Kronos, our king divine,
 Who in these highways first didst fit
 For the mouth of horses the iron bit;
 Thou too hast taught us to fashion meet
 For the arm of the rower the oar-blade fleet,
 Swift as the Nereids' hundred feet
 As they dance along the brine.
 ANTIGONE. Oh land extolled above all lands, 'tis now
 For thee to make these glorious titles good.
 OEDIPUS. Why this appeal, my daughter?
 ANTIGONE. Father, lo!

Creon approaches with his company.
 OEDIPUS. Fear not, it shall be so; if we are old,
 This country' s vigor has no touch of age.

Enter CREON with attendants]

CREON. Burghers, my noble friends, ye take alarm
 At my approach ,
 Fear nothing and refrain from angry words.
 I come with no ill purpose; I am old,
 And know the city whither I am come,
 Without a peer amongst the powers of Greece.
 It was by reason of my years that I
 Was chosen to persuade your guest and bring
 Him back to Thebes; not the delegate
 Of one man, but commissioned by the State,

Since of all Thebans I have most bewailed,
Being his kinsman, his most grievous woes.
O listen to me, luckless Oedipus,
Come home! The whole Cadmeian people claim
With right to have thee back, I most of all,
For most of all
I mourn for thy misfortunes, seeing thee
An aged outcast, wandering on and on,
A beggar with one handmaid for thy stay.
Ah! who had e'er imagined she could fall
To such a depth of misery as this,
To tend in penury thy stricken frame,
A virgin ripe for wedlock, but unwed,
A prey for any wanton ravisher?
Seems it not cruel this reproach I cast
On thee and on myself and all the race?
Aye, but an open shame cannot be hid.
Hide it, O hide it, Oedipus, thou canst.
O, by our fathers' gods, consent I pray;

vocabulary

ἀέκων unwilling
 ἄκων javelin; unwilling ~acme
 ἀλγέω suffer ~analgesic
 ἄλιεύς sailor, fisherman
 ἀλίσκομαι be captured ~helix
 ἀμείνων comparative of ἀγαθός, noble
 ἀναιδής shameless, ruthless
 ἄνευ away from; not having; not needing ~Sp. sin
 ἀπάγω lead away, back
 ~demagogue
 ἀπαλλαξείω wish to get rid of
 ἀπαλλάσσω free from, remove; be freed, depart
 ἀπειλέω vow, threaten, boast
 ἀπείργω exclude; divide; confine
 ~ergonomics
 ἄπτω set on fire; attach; mid: touch, seize ~haptic
 ἄρτιος suitable
 ἀσεβής profane
 αὐδάω speak, declare, shout
 ~Theravada
 ἀφέλκω drag away
 βάσανος (f) trial, torture
 βραχύς low, short
 γῆρας -ος (n, 3) old age
 γηράσκω grow old ~geriatric
 γλυκύς sweet, pleasant ~glycerine
 γλῶσσα tongue, language ~glossary
 δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate, doom ~demon
 δεῦρο here, come here!
 δηλώω show, disclose
 διαιτάω treat; live; arbitrate
 δράω do, accomplish
 δύσμορος ill-fated
 δύστηνος unhappy, miserable
 δυστυχέω be unlucky
 δωρέω give ~donate

εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with respect ~panorama
 ἐκπίπτω fall out of ~petal
 ἐναίρω kill, impair ~aorta
 ἐνθάδε here, hither
 ἐξάγω lead out ~demagogue
 ἐξελαύνω drive out, exile ~elastic
 ἐξωθέω drive out
 ἐπάξιος worthy of
 ἐπαρκέω ward off
 ἐπέχω hold, cover; offer; assail
 ἐπίσχω aim; restrain
 ἔργω bound, fend off; do
 ~ergonomics
 ἔρδω do, perform ~ergonomics
 εὖνοος kindly; favorable
 ἐφάπτω fasten upon ~haptic
 ἐφορμάω incite against ~hormone
 ἐφορμέω be anchored, blockade
 ἐφορμή way of attack ~hormone
 ἡδέως pleasantly ~hedonism
 ἡδονή pleasure
 ἡδύς sweet, pleasant ~hedonism
 ἡνίκα when
 θυμώ (ῶ) anger
 ἰός arrow
 ἰωή a rush, a sweep
 καίριος deadly
 καίτοι and yet; and in fact; although
 κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid
 κραίνω accomplish; (rare) rule
 λαγχάνω be allotted; (esp. λελα-
 forms) allot; receive
 λιπαρέω (ι) persist
 λῦμα -τος (n, 3) ablution
 λυμᾶνομαι (ῶ) abuse, violate, desecrate
 λυπέω (ῶ) annoy, distress
 μαλθακός soft, timid
 μαρτύρομαι (ῶ) call to witness; protest
 μάταιος vain, empty

μεστός full	ῥῆμα -τος (n, 3) a thing said
μηχάνημα -τος (n, 3) machine; mechanism, way	σαυτοῦ yourself
νοσέω be sick, be mad, suffer	σαφής clear, understandable
ξύνειμι be with; have sex	σέβομαι feel shame, awe
ὁδοιπορέω walk over	σθένος -εος (n, 3) strength ~neurasthenia
οἰκεῖος household, familiar, proper	σθένω be strong, able
οἰκέω inhabit ~economics	σιωπάω be silent
οἰκίζω colonize, settle	σκῆπτρον scepter, staff ~scepter
οἴκοι at home ~economics	σκληρός hard
οἶμοι woe is me	στερέω steal, take
οἰμώζω wail	συγγενής inborn, kin to
ὀργή urge, impulse; anger	σωτήριος saving
ὀρέγω hold out, offer, thrust ~reach	τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
οὐδαμῶς in no way	τάχα quickly, soon; perhaps ~tachometer
οὐχουν certainly not	τάχος -ους (n, 3) speed ~tachometer
οὐτάω pierce, wound	τέρω gratify, satiate, comfort ~terpsichorean
πάλαι long ago ~paleo	τέρψις -τος (f) pleasure
πάλη wrestling ~Pallas	τροφός (f) wet nurse ~atrophy
πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas	τύραννος tyrant
πέλας near, close	ὑποβάλλω put under, interrupt ~ballistic
πημαίνω harm ~penury	φῦσα bellows
πλήρης full, complete; (+gen) full of ~plethora	φυσάω (ῡ) blow, puff, blow out
ποῖ whither? how long?	φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
ποικίλος ornamented; various	χαλάω let fall; become slack
ποῖος what kind	χρῆζω need ~chresard
πότερος which, whichever of two	χωρέω withdraw, give way to (+dat) ~heir
ποῦ where?	χωρίς separately; except, other than ~heir
προβαίνω surpass, continue ~basis	φαύω be closely touching
πρόβατον cattle, flocks, herds	
προδίδωμι betray	
προστίθμι add; impose; (mp) agree; side with ~thesis	
προσφέρω present; resemble; add	

εἰπών· ἐπαξία γάρ· ἢ δ' οἴκοι πλέον

δίκη σέβοιτ' ἄν, οὔσα σὴ πάλαι τροφός.

760

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. ὦ πάντα τολμῶν κάπὸ παντὸς ἄν φέρων

λόγου δικαίου μηχανήμα ποικίλον,

τί ταῦτα πειρᾷ καὶ δεύτερον θέλεις

έλεῖν ἐν οἷς μάλιστ' ἄν ἀλγοίην ἀλούς;

πρόσθεν τε γάρ με τοῖσιν οἰκείοις κακοῖς

765

νοσοῦνθ', ὅτ' ἦν μοι τέριψις ἐκπεσεῖν χθονός,

οὐκ ἤθελες θέλοντι προσθέσθαι χάριν·

ἀλλ' ἡνίκ' ἤδη μεστὸς ἦ θυμούμενος

καὶ τοὺν δόμοισιν ἦν διαιτᾶσθαι γλυκύ,

τότ' ἐξεώθεις κάξέβαλλες, οὐδέ σοι

770

τὸ συγγενὲς τοῦτ' οὐδαμῶς τότ' ἦν φίλον·

νῦν τ' αὖθις ἡνίκ' εἰσορᾷς πόλιν τέ μοι

ξυνοῦσαν εὖνον¹ τήνδε καὶ γένος τὸ πᾶν,

πειρᾷ μετασπᾶν, σκληρὰ μαλθακῶς² λέγων.

καίτοι τίς αὕτη τέριψις ἄκοντας φιλεῖν;

775

ὥσπερ τις εἴ σοι λιπαροῦντι μὲν τυχεῖν

μηδὲν διδοίη μηδ' ἐπαρκέσαι θέλοι,

πλήρη δ' ἔχοντι θυμὸν ὧν χρήζεις, τότε

δωροῖθ',³ ὅτ' οὐδὲν ἢ χάρις χάριν φέροι·

ἄρ' ἂν ματαίου τῆσδ' ἂν ἡδονῆς τύχοις;

780

τοιαῦτα μέντοι καὶ σὺ προσφέρεις ἐμοί,

λόγῳ μὲν ἐσθλά. τοῖσι δ' ἔργοισιν κακά.

φράσω δὲ καὶ τοῖσδ', ὥς σε δηλώσω κακόν.

ἦκεις ἐμ' ἄξων, οὐχ' ἔν' ἐς δόμους ἄγῃς,

¹ kindly; favorable ² soft, timid ³ give

ἀλλ' ὥς πάραυλον οἰκίσσης, πόλις δέ σοι 785

κακῶν ἄνατος τῇσδ' ἀπαλλαχθῇ χθονός.

οὐκ ἔστι σοι ταῦτ', ἀλλά σοι τάδ' ἔστ', ἐκεῖ

χώρας ἀλάστωρ οὐμὸς ἐνναίων αἰεί

ἔστιν δὲ παισὶ τοῖς ἐμοῖσι τῆς ἐμῆς

χθονὸς λαχεῖν τοσοῦτον, ἐνθανεῖν μόνον. 790

ἄρ' οὐκ ἄμεινον ἢ σὺ τὰν Θήβαις φρονῶ;

πολλῷ γ', ὅσῳ περ κακὰ σαφεστέρων κλύω,

Φοίβου τε καὶ τοῦ Ζηνός, ὃς κείνου πατήρ.

τὸ σὸν δ' ἀφίκεται δεῦρ' ὑπόβλητον στόμα,

πολλὴν ἔχον στόμωσιν· ἐν δὲ τῷ λέγειν 795

κάκ' ἂν λάβοις τὰ πλείον' ἢ σωτήρια.

ἀλλ' οἶδα γάρ σε ταῦτα μὴ πείθων, ἴθι·

ἡμᾶς δ' ἔα ζῆν ἐνθάδ'· οὐ γὰρ ἂν κακῶς

οὐδ' ὧδ' ἔχοντες ζῶμεν, εἰ τερποίμεθα.

ΚΡΕΩΝ. πότερα νομίζεις δυστυχεῖν ἔμ' ἐς τὰ σά, 800

ἢ σ' εἰς τὰ σαντοῦ μάλλον, ἐνὲς τῷ νῦν λόγῳ;

ΟΙ. ἐμοὶ μέν ἐσθ' ἡδιστον, εἰ σὺ μήτ' ἐμὲ

πείθειν οἶός τ' εἰ μήτε τούσδε τοὺς πέλας.

ΚΡ. ὦ δύσμορ', οὐδὲ τῷ χρόνῳ φύσας φανεῖ

φρένας ποτ' ἀλλὰ λῦμα⁴ τῷ γήρῳ τρέφει; 805

ΟΙ. γλώσση σὺ δεινός· ἄνδρα δ' οὐδέν' οἶδ' ἐγὼ

δίκαιον ὅστις ἐξ ἅπαντος εὖ λέγει.

ΚΡ. χωρὶς τό τ' εἰπεῖν πολλὰ καὶ τὰ καίρια.⁵

ΟΙ. ὥς δὴ σὺ βραχέα, ταῦτα δ' ἐν καιρῷ λέγεις.

ΚΡ. οὐ δῆθ' ὅτῳ γε νοῦς ἴσος καὶ σοὶ πάρα. 810

⁴ ablution ⁵ deadly

ΟΙ. ἄπελθ', ἐρῶ γὰρ καὶ πρὸ τῶνδε, μηδέ με

φύλασσο' ἐφορμῶν ἔνθα χρή ναίειν ἐμέ.

ΚΡ. μαρτύρομαι⁶ τούσδ', οὐ σέ· πρὸς δὲ τοὺς φίλους

οἷ' ἀνταμείβει ρήματ', ἣν σ' ἔλω ποτέ

ΟΙ. τίς δ' ἂν με τῶνδε συμμάχων ἔλοι βίᾳ;

815

ΚΡ. ἡ μὴν σὺ κἄνεν τοῦδε λυπηθεὶς ἔσει.

ΟΙ. ποίῳ σὺν ἔργῳ τοῦτ' ἀπειλήσας ἔχεις;

ΚΡ. παῖδοιν δυοῖν σοι τὴν μὲν ἀρτίως ἐγὼ

ξυναρπάσας ἔπεμψα, τὴν δ' ἄξω τάχα.

ΟΙ. οἴμοι. ΚΡ. τάχ' ἔξεις μᾶλλον οἰμώζειν⁷ τάδε.

820

ΟΙ. τὴν παῖδ' ἔχεις μου; ΚΡ. τήνδε τ' οὐ μακροῦ χρόνου.

ΟΙ. ἰὼ ξένοι, τί δράσετ'; ἡ προδώσετε,

κοῦκ ἐξελάτε τὸν ἀσεβῆ τῆσδε χθονός;

ΧΟΡΟΣ. χώρει, ξέν', ἔξω θᾶσσον. οὔτε γὰρ τὰ νῦν

δίκαια πράσσεις οὔθ' ἂ πρόσθεν εἵργασαι.

825

ΚΡ. ὑμῖν ἂν εἴη τήνδε καιρὸς ἐξάγειν

ἄκουσαν, εἰ θέλουσα μὴ πορεύεται.

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ. οἴμοι τάλαινα, ποῖ φύγω; ποίαν λάβω

θεῶν ἄρηξιν ἢ βροτῶν; ΧΟ. τί δρᾶς, ξένε;

ΚΡ. οὐχ αἵβομαι τοῦδ' ἀνδρός, ἀλλὰ τῆς ἐμῆς.

830

ΟΙ. ὦ γῆς ἀνακτες. ΧΟ. ὦ ξέν', οὐ δίκαια δρᾶς.

ΚΡ. δίκαια. ΧΟ. πῶς δίκαια; ΚΡ. τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἄγω.

ΟΙ. ἰὼ πόλις.

ΧΟ. τί δρᾶς, ὦ ξέν'; οὐκ ἀφήσεις; τάχ' εἰς βάσανον⁸ εἰ χερῶν.

ΚΡ. εἵργου. ΧΟ. σοῦ μὲν οὔ, τάδε γε μωμένον.

835

ΚΡ. πόλει μαχεῖ γάρ, εἴ τι πημανεῖς ἐμέ.

⁶ call to witness; protest ⁷ wail ⁸ trial, torture

- ΟΙ. οὐκ ἡγόρευον ταῦτ' ἐγώ; ΧΟ. μέθες χεροῖν
 τὴν παῖδα θάσσον. ΚΡ. μὴ πίτασς' ἂ μὴ κρατεῖς.
- ΧΟ. χαλᾶν λέγω σοι. ΚΡ. σοὶ δ' ἔγωγ' ὁδοιπορεῖν. 840
- ΧΟ. πρόβαθ' ὦδε, βᾶτε βᾶτ', ἔντοποι·
 πόλις ἐναίρεται, πόλις ἐμά, σθένει· πρόβαθ' ὠδέ μοι.
- ΑΝ. ἀφέλκομαι δύστηνος, ὦ ξένοι ξένοι.
- ΟΙ. ποῦ, τέκνον, εἴ μοι; ΑΝ. πρὸς βίαν πορεύομαι.
- ΟΙ. ὄρεξον, ὦ παῖ, χεῖρας. ΑΝ. ἀλλ' οὐδὲν σθένος. 845
- ΚΡ. οὐκ ἄξεθ' ὑμεῖς; ΟΙ. ὦ τάλας ἐγώ, τάλας.
- ΚΡ. οὐκουν ποτ' ἐκ τούτοις γε μὴ σκλήπτρουν ἔτι
 ὁδοιπορήσης· ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ νικᾶν θέλεις
 πατρίδα τε τὴν σὴν καὶ φίλους, ὑφ' ὧν ἐγὼ 850
 ταχθεὶς τάδ' ἔρδω, καὶ τύραννος ὧν ὅμως,
 νίκα. χρόνῳ γάρ, οἶδ' ἐγώ, γνώσει τάδε,
 ὁθούνεκ' αὐτὸς αὐτὸν οὔτε νῦν καλὰ
 δρᾶς οὔτε πρόσθεν εἰργάσω βία φίλων,
 ὀργῇ χάριν δούς, ἥ σ' αἰὲ λυμαίνεται.⁹ 855
- ΧΟ. ἐπίσχες αὐτοῦ, ξεῖνε. ΚΡ. μὴ ψαύειν λέγω.
- ΧΟ. οὗτοι σ' ἀφήσω, τῶνδ' γ' ἐστερημένος.
- ΚΡ. καὶ μεῖζον ἄρα ρύσιον πόλει τάχα
 θήσεις· ἐφάψομαι γὰρ οὐ ταύταιν μόναιν.
- ΧΟ. ἀλλ' ἐς τί τρέψει; ΚΡ. τόνδ' ἀπάξομαι λαβών. 860
- ΧΟ. δευρὸν λόγοις ἄν. ΚΡ. τοῦτο νῦν πεπράζεται.
- ΧΟ. ἦν μὴ σ' ὁ κραίνων τῆσδε γῆς ἀπειργάθη.
- ΟΙ. ὦ φθέγμ' ἀναιδές, ἥ σὺ γὰρ ψαύσεις ἐμοῦ;
- ΚΡ. αὐδῶ σιωπᾶν. ΟΙ. μὴ γὰρ αἶδε δαίμονες

⁹ abuse, violate, desecrate

Come back to Thebes, come to thy father' s home,
Bid Athens, as is meet, a fond farewell;
Thebes thy old foster-mother claims thee first.
OEDIPUS. O front of brass, thy subtle tongue would twist
To thy advantage every plea of right
Why try thy arts on me, why spread again
Toils where 'twould gall me sorest to be snared?
In old days when by self-wrought woes distraught,
I yearned for exile as a glad release,
Thy will refused the favor then I craved.
But when my frenzied grief had spent its force,
And I was fain to taste the sweets of home,
Then thou wouldst thrust me from my country, then
These ties of kindred were by thee ignored;
And now again when thou behold' st this State
And all its kindly people welcome me,
Thou seek' st to part us, wrapping in soft words
Hard thoughts. And yet what pleasure canst thou find
In forcing friendship on unwilling foes?
Suppose a man refused to grant some boon
When you importuned him, and afterwards
When you had got your heart' s desire, consented,
Granting a grace from which all grace had fled,
Would not such favor seem an empty boon?
Yet such the boon thou profferest now to me,
Fair in appearance, but when tested false.
Yea, I will proved thee false, that these may hear;
Thou art come to take me, not to take me home,
But plant me on thy borders, that thy State
May so escape annoyance from this land.
That thou shalt never gain, but this instead—
My ghost to haunt thy country without end;
And for my sons, this heritage— no more—
Just room to die in. Have not I more skill
Than thou to draw the horoscope of Thebes?
Are not my teachers surer guides than thine—
Great Phoebus and the sire of Phoebus, Zeus?
Thou art a messenger suborned, thy tongue
Is sharper than a sword' s edge, yet thy speech
Will bring thee more defeats than victories.
Howbeit, I know I waste my words— begone,
And leave me here; whate' er may be my lot,

He lives not ill who lives withal content.

CREON. Which loses in this parley, I o' erthrown

By thee, or thou who overthrow' st thyself?

OEDIPUS. I shall be well contented if thy suit

Fails with these strangers, as it has with me.

CREON. Unhappy man, will years ne' er make thee wise?

Must thou live on to cast a slur on age?

OEDIPUS. Thou hast a glib tongue, but no honest man,

Methinks, can argue well on any side.

CREON. 'Tis one thing to speak much, another well.

OEDIPUS. Thy words, forsooth, are few and all well aimed!

CREON. Not for a man indeed with wits like thine.

OEDIPUS. Depart! I bid thee in these burghers' name,

And prowl no longer round me to blockade

My destined harbor.

CREON. I protest to these,

Not thee, and for thine answer to thy kin,

If e' er I take thee—

OEDIPUS. Who against their will

Could take me?

CREON. Though untaken thou shalt smart.

OEDIPUS. What power hast thou to execute this threat?

CREON. One of thy daughters is already seized,

The other I will carry off anon.

OEDIPUS. Woe, woe!

CREON. This is but prelude to thy woes.

OEDIPUS. Hast thou my child?

CREON. And soon shall have the other.

OEDIPUS. Ho, friends! ye will not surely play me false?

Chase this ungodly villain from your land.

CHORUS. Hence, stranger, hence avaunt! Thou doest wrong

In this, and wrong in all that thou hast done.

CREON. 'Tis time by force to carry off the girl,

If she refuse of her free will to go.

ANTIGONE. Ah, woe is me! where shall I fly, where find
Succor from gods or men?

CHORUS. What would' st thou, stranger?

CREON. I meddle not with him, but her who is mine.

OEDIPUS. O princes of the land!

CHORUS. Sir, thou dost wrong.

CREON. Nay, right.

CHORUS. How right?

CREON. I take but what is mine.

OEDIPUS. Help, Athens!

CHORUS. What means this, sirrah? quick unhand her, or
We' ll fight it out.

CREON. Back!

CHORUS. Not till thou forbear.

CREON. 'Tis war with Thebes if I am touched or harmed.

OEDIPUS. Did I not warn thee?

CHORUS. Quick, unhand the maid!

CREON. Command your minions; I am not your slave.

CHORUS. Desist, I bid thee.

CREON. And O bid thee march!

CHORUS. To the rescue, one and all!

Rally, neighbors to my call!

See, the foe is at the gate!

Rally to defend the State.

ANTIGONE. Ah, woe is me, they drag me hence, O friends.

OEDIPUS. Where art thou, daughter?

ANTIGONE. Haled along by force.

OEDIPUS. Thy hands, my child!

ANTIGONE. They will not let me, father.

CREON. Away with her!

OEDIPUS. Ah, woe is me, ah woe!

CREON. So those two crutches shall no longer serve thee

For further roaming. Since it pleaseth thee

To triumph o' er thy country and thy friends

Who mandate, though a prince, I here discharge,

Enjoy thy triumph; soon or late thou' lt find

Thou art an enemy to thyself, both now

And in time past, when in despite of friends

Thou gav' st the rein to passion, still thy bane.

CHORUS. Hold there, sir stranger!

CREON. Hands off, have a care.

CHORUS. Restore the maidens, else thou goest not.

CREON. Then Thebes will take a dearer surety soon;

I will lay hands on more than these two maids.

CHORUS. What canst thou further?

CREON. Carry off this man.

CHORUS. Brave words!

CREON. And deeds forthwith shall make them good.

CHORUS. Unless perchance our sovereign intervene.

OEDIPUS. O shameless voice! Would' st lay an hand on me?

vocabulary

ἄβουλος ill-advised
 ἄγρᾱ hunting, prey
 ἀέθλιον ἀθλίου prize
 ἀέθλιος prize ~athlete
 ἀέκων unwilling
 ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
 αἰσχύνω (ō) spoil, disgrace,
 disfigure, mar
 ἄκων javelin; unwilling ~acme
 ἄλγος -εος (n, 3) woe, grief
 ~analgesic
 ἀλήτης -ου (m, 1) wanderer, tramp
 ~swelter
 ἀναγιγνώσκω recognize, read,
 understand, persuade
 ἀναγκάζω force, compel
 ἀναιδής shameless, ruthless
 ἀνάνδρος without men; not manlike
 ~androgynous
 ἄνευ away from; not having; not
 needing ~Sp. sin
 ἄνιππος horseless
 ἀνόσιος unholy
 ἀντιδράω retaliate; repay
 ἀποσπάω tear/drag away
 ἄρά bane, harm; prayer
 ἀράομαι (ᾱα) pray, vow, invoke
 ἀράω wear something out
 ἄρή bane, harm; prayer
 ἀρμόζω fit together; be well fitted to
 ~harmony
 ἄρτιος suitable
 ἀσκέω work on
 ἀστός townsman; citizen
 ἄτρωτος unwounded, invulnerable
 ἄφωνος voiceless
 βλώσκω come, go
 βοά din, a shout
 βοεύς βοῦος (m) leather rope
 ~bovine
 βραδύς slow, dull, late ~Sp. ~gordo

βωμός altar; stand, pedestal
 γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy
 γέλως laughter
 γῆρας -ος (n, 3) old age
 γηράσκω grow old ~geriatric
 γλῶσσα tongue, language ~glossary
 δέρομαι see, watch
 δεῦρο here, come here!
 διαιτάω treat; live; arbitrate
 διάω blow through
 διίημι drive off, pass through
 δούλη slave-woman
 δράω do, accomplish
 ἐγχώριος local, native
 ἐκών willingly, on purpose; giving
 in too easily
 ἔλκω drag, pull, hoist; rape
 ἐμπίπτω fall into; attack ~petal
 ἔμπορος passenger; merchant
 ~pierce
 ἐνάλιος of the sea ~halogen
 ἐναργής visible, clear ~Argentina
 ἐξευρίσκω find; discover ~eureka
 ἐξοίχομαι go out
 ἐπαινέω concur, praise, advise
 ἐπεμβαίνω mount, stand on ~basis
 ἐπίσταμαι know how, understand
 ~station
 ἐπιστάτης -ου (m, 1) suppliant,
 dependant ~station
 ἔραμαι love, aor. fall in love; long
 for, covet ~erotic
 ἐράω desire sexually
 ἐρημία wilderness, solitude
 ἔρπω be able to move ~serpent
 εὐβουλος prudent, wise
 ἐφευρίσκω come upon ~eureka
 ζῆλος competitiveness, emulation
 ~zeal
 ἡδονή pleasure
 θέσφατος divinely ordained
 θῦμα -τος (n, 3) victim, sacrifice

ἰός arrow	περάω cross over, drive across; sell
ἵπποτης -ου (m, 1) horseman	as a slave ~pierce
~hippo	περίειμι be superior to; be left over;
ἴσχω restrain, hold back ~ischemia	still exist
ἰωή a rush, a sweep	πημαίνω harm ~penury
καθυβρίζω insult	πικρός sharp, bitter ~picric
καίτοι and yet; and in fact; although	πληθύω become full; abound,
κενός empty, vain	multiply
κραίνω accomplish; (rare) rule	ποῖος what kind
λεύσσω see, look	πότε when?
λήμα will, desire, purpose; courage,	πότερος which, whichever of two
insolence	πρόμος foremost fighter, champion
μεθίημι let go, cease; (mid) speed off	πρόσπολος servant, attendant
~jet	ρύτηρ -ος (ō, m) puller; reins ~serve
μέτοικος immigrant	σπεύδω 'push on,' get going, hurry
μηνίω be enraged at	~repudiate
μολίσκω come, go	συλάω (ō) take off, despoil ~asylum
νέμω to allot, to pasture ~nemesis	συμβάλλω pit against; compare;
ξύνειμι be with; have sex	mp: meet, fall in with ~ballistic
ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye	συμφορά collecting; accident,
ὄμνυμι (ō) swear	misfortune
ὁμός same ~homoerotic	τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
ὁμοῦ together	τάχος -ους (n, 3) speed ~tachometer
ὁμόω unite ~homoerotic	τηλίκος of such an age
ὄνειδίζω upbraid, reproach	τοιγάρ therefore
ὄνειδος -εος (n, 3) blame; insult	ὑβρις -εως (f) pride, insolence,
ὄργή urge, impulse; anger	outrage
οὐκουν certainly not	φθέγγομαι make a sound, utter
οὐτάω pierce, wound	~diphthong
πάγος frost; crag ~fang	φόνος killing ~offend
παιδεύω raise; train	φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
πάλαι long ago ~paleo	φώς man
πάλη wrestling ~Pallas	χειρώ dominate, subdue
πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas	χρῆζω need ~chresard
παρέρχομαι pass, escape	χρησμός oracular response
πέραν (ā) on the other side, across	φίλος (i) naked, bare ~epsilon

θεῖέν μ' ἄφωνον τῇσδε τῆς ἀρᾶς ἔτι, 865
 ὅς μ', ὦ κάκιστε, ψιλὸν ὄμι' ἀποσπάσας
 πρὸς ὄμμασιν τοῖς πρόσθεν ἐξοίχει βία.
 τοιγὰρ σέ τ' αὐτὸν καὶ γένος τὸ σὸν θεῶν
 ὁ πάντα λεύσσω· Ἥλιος δοίῃ βίον
 τοιοῦτον οἶον καὶ με γηρᾶναί ποτε. 870

ΚΡΕΩΝ. ὀράτε ταῦτα, τῇσδε γῆς ἐγχώριοι;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. ὀρώσι καὶ σέ, καὶ φρονοῦσ' ὅτι
 ἔργοις πεπονθὼς ῥήμασίν σ' ἀμύνομαι.

ΚΡ. οὗτοι κατέξω θυμόν, ἀλλ' ἄξω βία
 καὶ μούνης εἰμι τόνδε καὶ χρόνῳ βραδύς. 875

ΟΙ. ἰὼ τάλας.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ὅσον λῆμ' ἔχων ἀφίκου, ξέν', εἰ τάδε δοκεῖς τελεῖν.

ΚΡ. δοκῶ. ΧΟ. τάνδ' ἄρ' οὐκέτι νεμῶ πόλιν.

ΚΡ. τοῖς τοι δικάοις χά βραχὺς νικᾷ μέγαν. 880

ΟΙ. ἀκούεθ' οἷα φθέγγεταί; ΧΟ. τά γ' οὐ τελεῖ.

ἴστω μέγας Ζεὺς. 882

ΚΡ. Ζεὺς γ' ἂν εἰδείῃ, σὺ δ' οὐ.

ΧΟ. ἄρ' οὐχ ὕβρις τάδ'; ΚΡ. ὕβρις, ἀλλ' ἀνεκτέα.

ΧΟ. ἰὼ πᾶς λεώς, ἰὼ γὰρ πρόμοι, 885

μόλετε σὺν τάχει, μόλετ', ἐπεὶ πέραν περῶσ' οἷδε δῆ.

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ. τίς ποθ' ἢ βοή; τί τοῦργον; ἐκ τίνος φόβου ποτέ

βουθυτοῦντά μ' ἀμφὶ βωμόν ἔσχετ' ἐναλίῳ θεῷ

τοῦδ' ἐπιστάτῃ Κολωνοῦ; λέξαθ', ὥς εἶδῶ τὸ πᾶν,

οὗ χάριν δεῦρ' ἦξα θάσσον ἢ καθ' ἡδονὴν ποδός. 890

ΟΙ. ὦ φίλτατ', ἔγνω γὰρ τὸ προσφώνημά σου,

πέπονθα δεινὰ τοῦδ' ὑπ' ἀνδρὸς ἀρτίως.

ΘΗ. τὰ ποῖα ταῦτα, τίς δ' ὁ πημήνας; λέγε.

ΟΙ. Κρέων ὄδ', ὃν δέδορκας, οἷχεται τέκνων

ἀποσπάσας μου τὴν μόνην ξυνωρίδα.

895

ΘΗ. πῶς εἶπας; ΟΙ. οἶά περ πέπονθ' ἀκήκοας.

ΘΗ. οὐκ οὖν τις ὡς τάχιστα προσπόλων μολὼν

πρὸς τούσδε βωμούς, πάντ' ἀναγκάσει λεῶν

ἄνιππον ἱππότην τε θυμάτων¹ ἄπο

σπεύδειν ἀπὸ ρυτῆρος,² ἔνθα δίστομοι

900

μάλιστα συμβάλλουσιν ἐμπόρων ὁδοί,

ὡς μὴ παρέλθωσ' αἱ κόραι, γέλως δ' ἐγὼν

ξένῳ γένωμαι τῷδε, χειρωθεὶς βία.

ἴθ', ὡς ἄνωγα, σὺν τάχει. τοῦτον δ' ἐγώ,

εἰ μὲν δι' ὀργῆς ἦκον, ἥς ὄδ' ἄξιος,

905

ἄτρωτον³ οὐ μετήκ' ἂν ἐξ ἐμῆς χερός.

νῦν δ' οὐσπερ αὐτὸς τοὺς νόμους εἰσῆλθ' ἔχων,

τούτοισι κοῦκ ἄλλοισιν ἀρμοσθήσεται.

οὐ γάρ ποτ' ἔξει τῇσδε τῆς χώρας, πρὶν ἂν

κείνας ἐναργεῖς δευρό μοι στήσης ἄγων·

910

ἐπεὶ δέδρακας οὗτ' ἐμοῦ καταξίως

οὕθ' ὦν πέφυκας αὐτὸς οὔτε σῆς χθονός·

ὅστις δίκαι' ἀσκοῦσαν εἰσελθὼν πόλιν

κἄνεν νόμου κραίνουσιν οὐδέν, εἴτ' ἀφείς

τὰ τῇσδε τῆς γῆς κύρι', ὧδ' ἐπεισπεσὼν

915

ἄγεις θ' ἂ χρῆζεις καὶ παρίστασαι βία,

καὶ μοι πόλιν κένανδρον ἢ δούλην⁴ τινὰ

ἔδοξας εἶναι καμ' ἴσον τῷ μηδενί.

¹ victim, sacrifice

² puller; reins

³ unwounded, invulnerable

⁴ slave-woman

καίτοι σε Θῆβαί γ' οὐκ ἐπαίδευσαν κακόν·
 οὐ γὰρ φιλοῦσιν ἄνδρας ἐκδίκους τρέφειν, 920
 οὐδ' ἂν σ' ἐπαινέσειαν, εἰ πυθοίατο
 συλῶντα τὰμὰ καὶ τὰ τῶν θεῶν, βία
 ἄγοντα φωτῶν ἀθλίων ἱκτῆρια.
 οὐκουν ἔγωγ' ἂν σῆς ἐπεμβαίνων χθονός,
 οὐδ' εἰ τὰ πάντων εἶχον ἐνδικώτατα, 925
 ἄνευ γε τοῦ κραίνοντος, ὅστις ἦν, χθονὸς
 οὐθ' εἶλκον οὐτ' ἂν ἦγον, ἀλλ' ἠπιστάμην
 ξένον παρ' ἀστοῖς ὡς διαιτᾶσθαι χρεών.
 σὺ δ' ἀξίαν οὐκ οὔσαν αἰσχύνεις πόλιν
 τὴν αὐτὸς αὐτοῦ, καί σ' ὁ πληθύων χρόνος 930
 γέρονθ' ὁμοῦ τίθησι καὶ τοῦ νοῦ κενόν.
 εἶπον μὲν οὖν καὶ πρόσθεν, ἐννέπω δὲ νῦν,
 τὰς παῖδας ὡς τάχιστα δεῦρ' ἄγειν τινά,
 εἰ μὴ μέτοικος τῇσδε τῆς χώρας θέλεις
 εἶναι βία τε κοῦχ ἐκών· καὶ ταῦτά σοι 935
 τῷ νῶ θ' ὁμοίως κἀπὸ τῆς γλώσσης λέγω.

ΧΟ. ὀρᾷς ἴν' ἦκεις, ὦ ξέν'; ὡς ἀφ' ὧν μὲν εἶ
 φαίνει δίκαιος, δρῶν δ' ἐφευρίσκει κακά.

ΚΡ. ἐγὼ οὐτ' ἀνανδρον τήνδε τὴν πόλιν νέμων,
 ὦ τέκνον Αἰγέως, οὐτ' ἄβουλον,⁵ ὡς σὺ φῆς, 940
 τοῦργον τόδ' ἐξέπραξα, γιγνώσκων δ' ὅτι
 οὐδεὶς ποτ' αὐτοὺς τῶν ἐμῶν ἂν ἐμπέσοι
 ζῆλος ξυναίμων, ὥστ' ἐμοῦ τρέφειν βία.
 ᾗδῃ δ' ὀθούνεκ' ἄνδρα καὶ πατροκτόνον
 κᾶναγον οὐ δεξοίατ', οὐδ' ὅτῳ γάμοι 945

⁵ ill-advised

ξυνόντες ἠύρέθησαν ἀνόσιοι τέκνων.

τοιούτον αὐτοῖς Ἄρεος εὐβουλον⁶ πάγον

ἐγὼ ξυνήδη χθόνιον ὄνθ', ὃς οὐκ ἐᾷ

τοιούσδ' ἀλήτας⁷ τῇδ' ὁμοῦ ναίειν πόλει·

ᾧ πίστιν ἴσχων τήνδ' ἐχειρούμην ἄγραν.⁸ 950

καὶ ταῦτ' ἂν οὐκ ἔπρασσον, εἰ μή μοι πικρὰς

αὐτῷ τ' ἀρὰς ἡρᾶτο καὶ τῷμῳ γένει·

ἀνθ' ὧν πεπονθὼς ἡξίουσι τάδ' ἀντιδρᾶν.

θυμοῦ γὰρ οὐδὲν γῆράς ἐστιν ἄλλο πλὴν

θανεῖν· θανόντων δ' οὐδὲν ἄλγος ἄπτεται. 955

πρὸς ταῦτα πράξεις οἷον ἂν θέλῃς· ἐπεὶ

ἐρημία⁹ με, κεὶ δίκαι', ὅμως λέγω,

σμικρὸν τίθησι· πρὸς δὲ τὰς πράξεις ὅμως,

καὶ τηλικόσδ' ὦν, ἀντιδρᾶν πειράσομαι.

ΟΙ. ὦ λῆμ', ἀναιδές, τοῦ καθυβρίζειν δοκεῖς, 960

πότερον ἐμοῦ γέροντος ἢ σαυτοῦ, τόδε;

ὅστις φόνους μοι καὶ γάμους καὶ συμφορὰς

τοῦ σοῦ διῆκας στόματος, ἅς ἐγὼ τάλας

ἤνεγκον ἄκων· θεοῖς γὰρ ἦν οὕτω φίλον,

τάχ' ἂν τι μηνίουσιν εἰς γένος πάλαι. 965

ἐπεὶ καθ' αὐτόν γ' οὐκ ἂν ἐξεύροις ἐμοὶ

ἀμαρτίας ὄνειδος οὐδέν, ἀνθ' ὅτου

τάδ' εἰς ἐμαντὸν τοὺς ἐμούς θ' ἡμάρτανον.

ἐπεὶ δίδαξον, εἴ τι θέσφατον πατρὶ

χρησιμοῖσιν¹⁰ ἰκνεῖθ' ὥστε πρὸς παῖδων θανεῖν, 970

πῶς ἂν δικαίως τοῦτ' ὀνειδίζοις ἐμοί,

⁶ prudent, wise ⁷ wanderer, tramp ⁸ hunting, prey ⁹ wilderness, solitude ¹⁰ oracular response

CREON. Silence, I bid thee!

OEDIPUS. Goddesses, allow

Thy suppliant to utter yet one curse!

Wretch, now my eyes are gone thou hast torn away

The helpless maiden who was eyes to me;

For these to thee and all thy cursed race

May the great Sun, whose eye is everywhere,

Grant length of days and old age like to mine.

CREON. Listen, O men of Athens, mark ye this?

OEDIPUS. They mark us both and understand that I

Wronged by the deeds defend myself with words.

CREON. Nothing shall curb my will; though I be old

And single-handed, I will have this man.

OEDIPUS. O woe is me!

CHORUS. Thou art a bold man, stranger, if thou think' st

To execute thy purpose.

CREON. So I do.

CHORUS. Then shall I deem this State no more a State.

CREON. With a just quarrel weakness conquers might.

OEDIPUS. Ye hear his words?

CHORUS. Aye words, but not yet deeds,

Zeus knoweth!

CREON. Zeus may haply know, not thou.

CHORUS. Insolence!

CREON. Insolence that thou must bear.

CHORUS. Haste ye princes, sound the alarm!

Men of Athens, arm ye, arm!

Quickly to the rescue come

Ere the robbers get them home.

Enter THESEUS]

THESEUS. Why this outcry? What is forward? wherefore was I called away

From the altar of Poseidon, lord of your Colonus? Say!

On what errand have I hurried hither without stop or stay.

OEDIPUS. Dear friend— those accents tell me who thou art—

Yon man but now hath done me a foul wrong.

THESEUS. What is this wrong and who hath wrought it? Speak.

OEDIPUS. Creon who stands before thee. He it is

Hath robbed me of my all, my daughters twain.

THESEUS. What means this?

OEDIPUS. Thou hast heard my tale of wrongs.

THESEUS. Ho! hasten to the altars, one of you.

Command my liegemen leave the sacrifice
And hurry, foot and horse, with rein unchecked,
To where the paths that packmen use diverge,
Lest the two maidens slip away, and I
Become a mockery to this my guest,
As one despoiled by force. Quick, as I bid.
As for this stranger, had I let my rage,
Justly provoked, have play, he had not 'scaped
Scathless and uncorrected at my hands.
But now the laws to which himself appealed,
These and none others shall adjudicate.
Thou shalt not quit this land, till thou hast fetched
The maidens and produced them in my sight.
Thou hast offended both against myself
And thine own race and country. Having come
Unto a State that champions right and asks
For every action warranty of law,
Thou hast set aside the custom of the land,
And like some freebooter art carrying off
What plunder pleases thee, as if forsooth
Thou thoughtest this a city without men,
Or manned by slaves, and me a thing of naught.
Yet not from Thebes this villainy was learnt;
Thebes is not wont to breed unrighteous sons,
Nor would she praise thee, if she learnt that thou
Wert robbing me— aye and the gods to boot,
Haling by force their suppliants, poor maids.
Were I on Theban soil, to prosecute
The justest claim imaginable, I
Would never wrest by violence my own
Without sanction of your State or King;
I should behave as fits an outlander
Living amongst a foreign folk, but thou
Shamest a city that deserves it not,
Even thine own, and plentitude of years
Have made of thee an old man and a fool.
Therefore again I charge thee as before,
See that the maidens are restored at once,
Unless thou would' st continue here by force
And not by choice a sojourner; so much
I tell thee home and what I say, I mean.
CHORUS. Thy case is perilous; though by birth and race

Thou should' st be just, thou plainly doest wrong.
 CREON. Not deeming this city void of men
 Or counsel, son of Aegeus, as thou say' st
 I did what I have done; rather I thought
 Your people were not like to set such store
 by kin of mine and keep them 'gainst my will.
 Nor would they harbor, so I stood assured,
 A godless parricide, a reprobate
 Convicted of incestuous marriage ties.
 For on her native hill of Ares here
 Sits Justice, and permits not vagrant folk
 To stay within your borders. In that faith
 I hunted down my quarry; and e' en then
 I had refrained but for the curses dire
 Wherewith he banned my kinsfolk and myself:
 Such wrong, methought, had warrant for my act.
 Anger has no old age but only death;
 The dead alone can feel no touch of spite.
 So thou must work thy will; my cause is just
 But weak without allies; yet will I try,
 Old as I am, to answer deeds with deeds.
 OEDIPUS. O shameless railer, think' st thou this abuse
 Defames my grey hairs rather than thine own?
 Murder and incest, deeds of horror, all
 Thou blurtest forth against me, all I have borne,
 No willing sinner; so it pleased the gods
 Wrath haply with my sinful race of old,
 Since thou could' st find no sin in me myself
 For which in retribution I was doomed
 To trespass thus against myself and mine.
 Answer me now, if by some oracle

vocabulary

ἀδελφή sister
 ἀδμής -τος (m, 3) not broken in;
 unwedded ~tame
 ἀέκων unwilling
 ἀθρέω observe, gaze
 αἷτιος blameworthy; the cause
 ~etiology
 αἰτίος blameworthy; the cause
 ~etiology
 ἀκμή point, edge, top, culmination
 ~acute
 ἀκτὴ beach; cereal grain
 ἄκων javelin; unwilling ~acme
 ἄλις in plenty; enough ~helix
 ἀλίσκομαι be captured ~helix
 ἀμαυρός dim, shadowy
 ἄμιλλα conflict
 ἀνάβασις -τος (f) going up,
 mounting, going inland
 ἀνόσιος unholy
 ἀντάω meet face to face
 ἀντιλέγω contradict, oppose
 ἀπειλέω vow, threaten, boast
 ἀπολέγω pick; decline
 ἄρος ἄρεος (n, 3) bane, harm;
 prayer
 ἄρρητος unspoken, unspeakable
 ~rhetoric
 ἄρωγός helper
 ἀσθενής weak
 ἀστράπτω flash lightning
 αὐτάρκης self-sufficient
 βλαστάνω bud, sprout
 βλαστάω bud, sprout
 γαμέω marry, take as a lover
 ~bigamy
 γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy
 γενέθλιος of birth
 γενναῖος noble, sincere ~genesis
 δάιος hostile, destructive
 δαίς war, battle

δόλος trick, bait
 δράω do, accomplish
 δύστηνος unhappy, miserable
 ἐγκρατής firm, powerful
 εἴπερ if indeed
 εἰσβαίνω enter, board ~basis
 ἔκηλος at ease, holding back; for all
 I care
 ἐκλανθάνω forget, cause to forget
 ~Lethe
 ἐκμανθάνω know by heart
 ἐκφύω spring from ~physics
 ἐκών willingly, on purpose; giving
 in too easily
 ἐμφορέω carry in ~bear
 ἐξεργάζομαι accomplish; undo;
 destroy someone
 ἐξυφηγέομαι lead the way
 εἰοκώτως like; fairly
 ἐπαινέω concur, praise, advise
 ἐπαινός terrible
 ἐπαισχύνομαι be ashamed of
 ἐπεύχομαι exult (over); pray ~vow
 ἐπίσταμαι know how, understand
 ~station
 ἔρδω do, perform ~ergonomics
 θηράω hunt, chase
 θωπεύω flatter, coax
 ἱκέτης -ου (m, 1) suppliant, refugee
 ἵκω (i) go, arrive
 καθέννυμι (i) cover ~vest
 καθίημι (i) speed down upon; take
 down ~jet
 καίνω kill
 καίω burn ~caustic
 κατακτείνω kill, slay
 κατάρχω hold ready (sacrificial
 materials) ~oligarch
 κατασκήπτω fall upon
 κάτειμι go down, disembark ~ion
 κάτοιδα understand
 κλείς κληῖδος (f) bar, key ~clavicle

κλέπτω steal
 κτῆμα -τος (n, 3) possession
 λαμπάς -δος (f, 3) torch
 λιτή prayer ~litany
 μάντις -ος (m) seer ~mantis
 μάτην in vain, randomly
 μεμπτός blameworthy
 μηχανάομαι build, contrive
 ~mechanism
 νιφάς -δος (f, 3) snowflake; snow
 ξυνίημι send together; hear, notice,
 understand
 ὅθι where
 οἴκοι at home ~economics
 ὅμαιμος related by blood
 ὀνειδίζω upbraid, reproach
 ὀνειδος -εος (n, 3) blame; insult
 ὀνίνημι help, please, be available
 πάθος -ους (n, 3) an experience,
 passion, condition
 πατρώιος of the father(s), ancestral
 ~paternal
 πατρῷος of the father(s), ancestral
 πελειάς -δος (f, 3) dove ~pallid
 περιβλέπω look around
 πέτρα rock, cliff, reef ~petrified
 πικρός sharp, bitter ~picric
 πιστός faithful; trustworthy
 πιστόω reassure; also (pass) promise
 πομπός escort, guide ~pomp
 πονέω work; be busy ~osteopenia
 πόντιος of the sea
 πότε when?
 πότερος which, whichever of two
 πότνια lady ~potent
 προμηθία foresight
 πρόσπολος servant, attendant

προστάσσω post at, attach to,
 command
 πρόσχωρος neighboring
 πῶλος (f) foal ~foal
 ῥητός stated, agreed on ~rhetoric
 σεμνός revered, holy
 σιγάω (i) be silent
 σπεύδω 'push on,' get going, hurry
 ~repudiate
 στόμιον aperture; bit
 συμφορά collecting; accident,
 misfortune
 τᾶν form of address
 τάχος -ους (n, 3) speed ~tachometer
 τίνω (i) pay, atone for; (mp) punish
 τλήμων steadfast, enduring ~talent
 τόλμη courage
 τύχη fortune, act of a god
 ὕβρις -εως (f) pride, insolence,
 outrage
 ὑπερφέρω carry over; surpass
 φάος φῶς (n, 3) light; salvation; (pl)
 eyes ~photon
 φθέγγομαι make a sound, utter
 ~diphthong
 φόνος killing ~offend
 φρουρέω keep watch
 φῶς man
 χαλινός (i) bit for a horse
 χειρόω dominate, subdue
 χρηστός useful; brave, worthy
 χωρέω withdraw, give way to (+dat)
 ~heir
 χώρος place ~heir
 ψέγω blame, censure
 φιλός (i) naked, bare ~epsilon

ὃς οὔτε βλάστας πω γενεθλίου¹ πατρός,
 οὐ μητρὸς εἶχον, ἀλλ' ἀγέννητος τότε ἦ;
 εἰ δ' αὖ φανείς δύστηνος, ὥς ἐγὼ φάνην,
 ἐς χεῖρας ἦλθον πατρὶ καὶ κατέκτανον, 975
 μηδὲν ξυνιείς ὦν ἔδρων εἰς οὓς τ' ἔδρων,
 πῶς ἂν τό γ' ἄκον πράγμ' ἂν εἰκότως ψέγοις;
 μητρὸς δέ, τλήμων, οὐκ ἐπαισχύνει γάμους
 οὔσης ὁμαίμου σῆς μ' ἀναγκάζων λέγειν, οἴους ἐρῶ τάχ'· οὐ γὰρ οὖν
 σιγήσομαι,
 σοῦ γ' εἰς τόδ' ἐξελθόντος ἀνόσιον στόμα. 980
 ἔτικτε γάρ μ' ἔτικτεν, ὥμοι μοι κακῶν,
 οὐκ εἰδότη' οὐκ εἰδυῖα, καὶ τεκοῦσά με,
 αὐτῆς ὄνειδος παῖδας ἐξέφυσέ μοι.
 ἀλλ' ἐν γὰρ οὖν ἔξοιδα, σὲ μὲν ἐκόντ' ἐμὲ
 κείνην τε ταῦτα δυσστομεῖν· ἐγὼ δέ νιν 985
 ἄκων ἔγημα φθέγγομαί τ' ἄκων τάδε.
 ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ οὕτ' ἐν τοῖσδ' ἀλώσομαι κακὸς
 γάμοισιν οὕθ' οὓς αἰὲν ἐμφορεῖς σύ μοι
 φόνους πατρώους ἐξονειδίζων πικρῶς. 990
 ἐν γάρ μ' ἄμειψαι μῶνον ὦν σ' ἀνιστορῶ.
 εἴ τις σὲ τὸν δίκαιον αὐτίκ' ἐνθάδε
 κτεῖνοι παραστάς, πότερα πυνθάνοι' ἂν εἰ
 πατήρ σ' ὁ καίνων² ἢ τίνοι' ἂν εὐθέως;
 δοκῶ μέν, εἴπερ ζῆν φιλεῖς, τὸν αἴτιον 995
 τίνοι' ἂν οὐδὲ τοῦνδικον περιβλέποις.
 τοιαῦτα μέντοι καὐτὸς εἰσέβην κακά,
 θεῶν ἀγόντων· οἷς ἐγὼ οὐδὲ τὴν πατρὸς

¹ of birth ² kill

ψυχὴν ἂν οἶμαι ζῶσαν ἀντειπεῖν ἐμοί.

σὺ δ', εἰ γὰρ οὐ δίκαιος, ἀλλ' ἅπαν καλὸν

1000

λέγειν νομίζων ῥήτὸν³ ἄρρητόν τ' ἔπος,

τοιαῦτ' ὀνειδίζεις με τῶνδ' ἐναντίον.

καί σοι τὸ Θησέως ὄνομα θωπεῦσαι καλόν,

καὶ τὰς Ἀθήνας, ὥς κατῴκηνται καλῶς·

κᾶθ' ὧδ' ἐπαινῶν πολλὰ τοῦδ' ἐκλανθάνει,

1005

ὁθούνεκ' εἴ τις γῇ θεοὺς ἐπίσταται

τιμαῖς σεβίζειν, ἥδε τοῦθ' ὑπερφέρει·

ἀφ' ἧς σὺ κλείψας τὸν ἰκέτην γέροντ' ἐμὲ

αὐτόν τ' ἐχειροῦ τὰς κόρας τ' οἶχει λαβῶν.

ἀνθ' ὧν ἐγὼ νῦν τάσδε τὰς θεὰς ἐμοὶ

1010

καλῶν ἰκνοῦμαι καὶ κατασκήπτω λιταῖς

ἐλθεῖν ἀρωγοὺς ξυμμάχους θ', ἵν' ἐκμάθῃς

οἶων ὑπ' ἀνδρῶν ἥδε φρουρεῖται⁴ πόλις.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ὁ ξεῖνος, ὦναξ, χρηστός· αἱ δὲ συμφοραὶ

αὐτοῦ πανάλλοις, ἄξια δ' ἀμυναθεῖν.

1015

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ. ἄλλις λόγων, ὥς οἱ μὲν ἐξεργασμένοι

σπεύδουσιν, ἡμεῖς δ' οἱ παθόντες ἔσταμεν.

ΚΡΕΩΝ. τί δῆτ' ἀμαυρῶ φωτὶ προστάσσεις ποεῖν;

ΘΗ. ὁδοῦ κατάρχειν τῆς ἐκεῖ, πομπὸν δέ με

χωρεῖν, ἵν', εἰ μὲν ἐν τόποισι τοῖσδ' ἔχῃς

1020

τὰς παῖδας ἡμῶν αὐτὸς ἐκδείξῃς ἐμοί·

εἰ δ' ἐγκρατεῖς φεύγουσιν, οὐδὲν δεῖ πονεῖν.

ἄλλοι γὰρ οἱ σπεύδοντες, οὓς οὐ μὴ ποτε

χώρας φυγόντες τῇσδ' ἐπεύξωνται θεοῖς.

³ stated, agreed on ⁴ keep watch

- ἀλλ' ἐξυφηγοῦ· γνῶθι δ' ὥς ἔχων ἔχει 1025
 καί σ' εἶλε θηρῶνθ' ἡ τύχη· τὰ γὰρ δόλω
 τῷ μὴ δικαίῳ κτήματ' οὐχὶ σώζεται.
 κοῦκ ἄλλον ἔξεις εἰς τὰδ'· ὥς ἔξοιδά σε
 οὐ ψιλὸν οὐδ' ἄσκειον ἐς τοσήνδ' ὕβριν
 ἦκοντα τόλμης τῆς παρεστώσης τανῦν, 1030
 ἀλλ' ἔσθ' ὅτ' σὺ πιστὸς ὢν ἔδρας τάδε.
 ἂ δέ μ' ἀθρήσαι,⁵ μηδὲ τήνδε τὴν πόλιν
 ἐνὸς ποῆσαι φωτὸς ἀσθενεστέραν.
 νοεῖς τι τούτων, ἢ μάτην τὰ νῦν τέ σοι
 δοκεῖ λελέχθαι χῶτε ταῦτ' ἐμηχανῶ; 1035
- ΚΡ. οὐδὲν σὺν μεμπτὸν⁶ ἐνθάδ' ὢν ἐρεῖς ἐμοί·
 οἴκοι δὲ χῆμεῖς εἰσόμεσθ' ἂ χρὴ ποεῖν.
- ΘΗ. χωρῶν ἀπειλεῖ νῦν· σὺ δ' ἡμῖν, Οἰδίπους,
 ἔκηλος⁷ αὐτοῦ μίμνε, πιστωθεὶς ὅτι,
 ἦν μὴ θάνω γὰρ πρόσθεν, οὐχὶ παύσομαι 1040
 πρὶν ἄν σε τῶν σῶν κύριον στήσω τέκνων.
- ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. ὄναιο, Θησεῦ, τοῦ τε γενναίου χάριν
 καὶ τῆς πρὸς ἡμᾶς ἐνδίκου προμηθείας.
- ΧΘ. εἶην ὅθι δαΐων
 ἀνδρῶν τάχ' ἐπιστροφὰι 1045
 τὸν χαλκοβόαν Ἄρη
 μεΐζουσιν, ἢ πρὸς Πυθίαις
 ἢ λαμπάσιν⁸ ἀκταῖς,
 οὐ πότνια σεμνὰ⁹ τιθηνοῦνται τέλη 1050
 θνατοῖσιν, ὧν καὶ χρυσέα

⁵ observe, gaze ⁶ blameworthy ⁷ at ease, holding back; for all I care
⁸ torch ⁹ revered, holy

κλῆς ἐπὶ γλώσσα βέβακε
 προσπόλων Εὐμολπιδᾶν·
 ἔνθ' οἶμαι τὸν ἐγρεμάχαν
 Θησέα καὶ τὰς διστόλους 1055
 ἀδμῆτας¹⁰ ἀδελφὰς
 αὐτάρκει τάχ' ἐμμίξειν βοᾷ
 τούσδ' ἀνὰ χώρους· ΧΟ. ἣ που τὸν ἐφespέρου
 πέτρας νιφάδος¹¹ πελώσ' 1060
 Οἰάτιδος εἰς νόμον,
 πῶλοισιν¹² ἢ ῥιμφαρμάτοις
 φεύγοντες ἀμίλλαις.
 ἀλώσεται· δεινὸς ὁ προσχώρων Ἄρης, 1065
 δεινὰ δὲ Θησειδᾶν ἀκμά.¹³
 πᾶς γὰρ ἀστράπτει¹⁴ χαλινός,
 πᾶσα δ' ὀρμᾶται καθεῖς
 ἀμπυκτήρια στομίων¹⁵
 ἄμβασις, οἳ τὰν ἱππίαν 1070
 τιμῶσιν Ἀθάναν
 καὶ τὸν πόντιον γαιάοχον
 ῥέας φίλον υἱόν. ΧΟ. ἔρδουσ' ἢ μέλλουσιν; ὥς
 προμνᾶται τί μοι γνώμα τάχ' ἀντάσειν
 τᾶν¹⁶ δεινὰ τλασᾶν, δεινὰ δ' εὐρουσᾶν πρὸς αὐθαίμων πάθη.
 τελεῖ τελεῖ Ζεὺς τι κατ' ἄμαρ
 μάντις ἔμ' ἐσθλῶν ἀγώνων. εἴθ' ἀελλαία ταχύρρωστος πελειὰς¹⁷

¹⁰ not broken in; unwedded ¹¹ snowflake; snow ¹² foal ¹³ point, edge,
 top, culmination ¹⁴ flash lightning ¹⁵ aperture; bit ¹⁶ form of address
¹⁷ dove

My sire was destined to a bloody end
By a son' s hand, can this reflect on me,
Me then unborn, begotten by no sire,
Conceived in no mother' s womb? And if
When born to misery, as born I was,
I met my sire, not knowing whom I met
or what I did, and slew him, how canst thou
With justice blame the all-unconscious hand?
And for my mother, wretch, art not ashamed,
Seeing she was thy sister, to extort
From me the story of her marriage, such
A marriage as I straightway will proclaim.
For I will speak; thy lewd and impious speech
Has broken all the bonds of reticence.
She was, ah woe is me! she was my mother;
I knew it not, nor she; and she my mother
Bare children to the son whom she had borne,
A birth of shame. But this at least I know
Wittingly thou aspersest her and me;
But I unwitting wed, unwilling speak.
Nay neither in this marriage or this deed
Which thou art ever casting in my teeth—
A murdered sire— shall I be held to blame.
Come, answer me one question, if thou canst:
If one should presently attempt thy life,
Would' st thou, O man of justice, first inquire
If the assassin was perchance thy sire,
Or turn upon him? As thou lov' st thy life,
On thy aggressor thou would' st turn, no stay
Debating, if the law would bear thee out.
Such was my case, and such the pass whereto
The gods reduced me; and methinks my sire,
Could he come back to life, would not dissent.
Yet thou, for just thou art not, but a man
Who sticks at nothing, if it serve his plea,
Reproachest me with this before these men.
It serves thy turn to laud great Theseus' name,
And Athens as a wisely governed State;
Yet in thy flatteries one thing is to seek:
If any land knows how to pay the gods
Their proper rites, 'tis Athens most of all.
This is the land whence thou wast fain to steal

Their aged suppliant and hast carried off
 My daughters. Therefore to yon goddesses,
 I turn, adjure them and invoke their aid
 To champion my cause, that thou mayest learn
 What is the breed of men who guard this State.
 CHORUS. An honest man, my liege, one sore bestead
 By fortune, and so worthy our support.
 THESEUS. Enough of words; the captors speed amain,
 While we the victims stand debating here.
 CREON. What would' st thou? What can I, a feeble man?
 THESEUS. Show us the trail, and I' ll attend thee too,
 That, if thou hast the maidens hereabouts,
 Thou mayest thyself discover them to me;
 But if thy guards outstrip us with their spoil,
 We may draw rein; for others speed, from whom
 They will not 'scape to thank the gods at home.
 Lead on, I say, the captor' s caught, and fate
 Hath ta' en the fowler in the toils he spread;
 So soon are lost gains gotten by deceit.
 And look not for allies; I know indeed
 Such height of insolence was never reached
 Without abettors or accomplices;
 Thou hast some backer in thy bold essay,
 But I will search this matter home and see
 One man doth not prevail against the State.
 Dost take my drift, or seem these words as vain
 As seemed our warnings when the plot was hatched?
 CREON. Nothing thou sayest can I here dispute,
 But once at home I too shall act my part.
 THESEUS. Threaten us and— begone! Thou, Oedipus,
 Stay here assured that nothing save my death
 Will stay my purpose to restore the maids.
 OEDIPUS. Heaven bless thee, Theseus, for thy nobleness
 And all thy loving care in my behalf.

Exeunt THESEUS and CREON]

CHORUS.. O when the flying foe,
 Turning at last to bay,
 Soon will give blow for blow,
 Might I behold the fray;
 Hear the loud battle roar
 Swell, on the Pythian shore,
 Or by the torch-lit bay,

Where the dread Queen and Maid
Cherish the mystic rites,
Rites they to none betray,
Ere on his lips is laid
Secrecy' s golden key
By their own acolytes,
Priestly Eumolpidae.
There I might chance behold
Theseus our captain bold
Meet with the robber band,
Ere they have fled the land,
Rescue by might and main
Maidens, the captives twain.
Haply on swiftest steed,
Or in the flying car,
Now they approach the glen,
West of white Oea' s scaur.
They will be vanquished:
Dread are our warriors, dread
Theseus our chieftain' s men.
Flashes each bridle bright,
Charges each gallant knight,
All that our Queen adore,
Pallas their patron, or
Him whose wide floods enring
Earth, the great Ocean-king
Whom Rhea bore.
Fight they or now prepare
To fight? a vision rare
Tells me that soon again
I shall behold the twain
Maidens so ill bestead,
By their kin buffeted.
Today, today Zeus worketh some great thing
This day shall victory bring.
O for the wings, the wings of a dove,
To be borne with the speed of the gale,
Up and still upwards to sail
And gaze on the fray from the clouds above.

vocabulary

ἄγχι near, nigh ~angina
 ἄγων -ος (m, 3) gathering place
 ~agony
 ἀέθλιος prize ~athlete
 ἄελπτος not hoped for
 ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
 αἶσσω dart, glance
 αἰτέω ask for ~etiology
 αἰωρέω lift; (mp) hang
 ἀμφιδέξιος ambidextrous, two-sided
 ἀναπαύω cause to cease ~pause
 ἄνωθεν from above, the beginning
 ἄρτιος suitable
 ἀρωγή help
 ἄσσω dart, glance
 ἀσφαλής safe, easy, steady, careful
 ἀτίζω not heed
 αὐτόθεν from that place
 βάρος -ους (n, 3) weight, burden
 βαστάζω raise; handle
 βίος life ~biology
 βλάβη harm
 βλάβος -εος (n, 3) harm
 βλάπτω break, make fail
 βλώσκω come, go
 βραχύς low, short
 βωμός altar; stand, pedestal
 δεῦρο here, come here!
 δῆτα emphatic δῆ
 διπλός double, overlapping
 δράω do, accomplish
 δύσμορος ill-fated
 δύστηνος unhappy, miserable
 ἐγγενής native, kindred; innate
 ἔδρα (ᾱ) seat, seated group
 ~polyhedron
 εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with
 respect ~panorama
 ἐκσώζω save from
 ἔλαφος (f) deer
 ἐμπειρος experienced

ἐμπίπτω fall into; attack ~petal
 ἐμφύω plant; cling ~physics
 ἔνειμι be in ~ion
 ἐξαναγκάζω force (intensified);
 drive out
 ἐξαρκέω be enough; be satisfied
 ἐπιεικής fitting ~icon
 ἐπίσταμαι know how, understand
 ~station
 ἐρείδω press; mid: lean something
 against something, prop up
 ἐρήμιος empty
 ἐρημώω raze, bereave; desert, isolate
 ἔρνος -εος (n, 3) sapling
 ἔρωπ be able to move ~serpent
 εὐσεβής pious
 ἐφίστημι set; (mp) come/be near,
 direct, stop ~station
 θαρσέω be of good heart
 θάρσος boldness, over-boldness
 θέμις -τος (f) custom, law
 θιγγάνω touch
 θύον kind of tree
 θύω (υ) rush; sacrifice ~θύω
 ἰός arrow
 ἰωή a rush, a sweep
 καίτοι and yet; and in fact; although
 κάρ -ός (n) useless bit; form of κατά
 κασίγνητος brother, sister
 κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid
 κομπέω ring, clash
 κυρέω come upon, come up against;
 obtain
 λαμπρός brilliant ~lamp
 λόχος ambush, band, childbirth ~lie
 λυπηρός (υ) painful, causing pain,
 sad
 μάτην in vain, randomly
 μέλω concern, interest, be one's
 responsibility
 μηδαμός no one
 μῆκος -ους (n, 3) length, stature

μηκύνω	lengthen	σεμνός	revered, holy
μηνύω	disclose, betray, accuse	σθένος -εος (n, 3)	strength
μολίσκω	come, go	~neurasthenia	
νεφέλη	cloud, fog ~nebula	σκήπτρον	scepter, staff ~scepter
ξύνειμι	be with; have sex	σκοπάω	watch, observe
ὄγκος	barb of an arrow	σκοπέω	behold, consider
ὀγκώω	raise, bulk up	σκοπός (f)	lookout, overseer, spy,
ὄμμα -τος (n, 3)	eye	target ~telescope	
ὄμνυμι (ὅ)	swear	σπουδάζω	be busy, earnest
ὁμός	same ~homoerotic	~repudiate	
ὁμοῦ	together	στείχω	go, march ~stair
ὁμόω	unite ~homoerotic	στέργω	love; be content
ὁπάων -ονος (ᾱ, m, 3)	comrade	στυγνός	hated, gloomy ~Styx
ὀρέγω	hold out, offer, thrust ~reach	συγγενεύς	inborn, kin to
παραινέω	recommend, exhort, warn	συγγενής	inborn, kin to
πελάζω	bring/come to, near, into	συγγίγνομαι	associate with, meet,
	contact with	have sex ~genus	
πλευρόν	rib, side ~pleurisy	συμβάλλω	pit against; compare;
ποδαπός	from what country, of	mp: meet, fall in with ~ballistic	
	what sort?	συμφέρω	bring together; be
πόθος	longing, regret ~bid	expedient; agree; (mp) happen	
ποῖος	what kind	~bear	
πόρος	way, bridge ~fare	τέρπω	gratify, satiate, comfort
πόρω	aor. give, pf. be fated	~terpsichorean	
ποῦ	where?	τέρψις -τος (f)	pleasure
πρόνοια	foresight, providence	τηλίκος	of such an age
προσβάλλω	hit, attack, approach;	ὑποεἶχω	yield, withdraw
	attach, offer ~ballistic	φύω	produce, beget; clasp ~physics
προσέρχομαι	come forward,	φῶς	man
	surrender, come in	χρῆζω	need ~chresard
προσπίπτω	attack; befall; kow-tow	φαύω	be closely touching
προστάτης -ου (m, 1)	leader,	φέγω	blame, censure
	protector	ψευδόμεαντις	false prophet
προσχηρίζω	require or desire besides	ψεύδω	be false, deceive; (mid) to lie
προσχηρίζω	require or desire	~pseudo-	
	besides	ῥακύπους	fleetfooted ~oxytocin

αἰθερίας νεφέλας κύρσαιμι' ἄνωθ' ἀγώνων 1080
αἰωρήσασα¹ τοῦμόν ὄμμα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἰὼ θεῶν πάνταρχε, παντ' ὅπτα Ζεῦ, πόροις 1085

γᾶς τᾶσδε δαμούχοις
σθένει πινικεῖω τὸν εὖαγρον τελειῶσαι λόχον,
σεμνά τε παῖς Παλλὰς Ἀθήνα. 1090

καὶ τὸν ἀγρευτὰν Ἀπόλλω
καὶ κασιγνήταν πυκνοστίκτων ὀπαδὸν
ὠκυπόδων ἐλάφων στέργω διπλᾶς ἄρωγας²
μολεῖν γὰρ τᾶδε καὶ πολίταις.

ὦ ξεῖν' ἀλήτα, τῷ σκοπῷ μὲν οὐκ ἐρεῖς 1095
ὡς ψευδόμαντις·³ τὰς κόρας γὰρ εἰσορῶ
τάσδ' ἄσσοι ἀνθις ὧδε προσπολουμένας.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. ποῦ ποῦ; τί φής; πῶς εἶπας; ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ. ὦ πάτερ πάτερ,
τίς ἂν θεῶν σοι τόνδ' ἄριστον ἄνδρ' ἵδεῖν 1100

δοίῃ, τὸν ἡμᾶς δεῦρο προσπέμφαντά σοι;

ΟΙ. ὦ τέκνον, ἦ πάρεστον; ΑΝ. αἶδε γὰρ χέρες
Θησέως ἔσωσαν φιλτάτων τ' ὀπαόνων.⁴

ΟΙ. προσέλθετ' ὦ παῖ, πατρὶ καὶ τὸ μηδαμὰ
ἐλπισθὲν ἤξειν σῶμα βαστάσαι δότε. 1105

ΑΝ. αἰτεῖς ἂ τεύξει· σὺν πόθῳ γὰρ ἡ χάρις.

ΟΙ. ποῦ δῆτα, ποῦ στόν; ΑΝ. αἶδ' ὁμοῦ πελάζομεν.

ΟΙ. ὦ φίλτατ' ἔρνη.⁵ ΑΝ. τῷ τεκόντι πᾶν φίλον.

ΟΙ. ὦ σκῆπτρα φωτός. ΑΝ. δυσμόρου γε δύσμορα.

ΟΙ. ἔχω τὰ φίλτατ', οὐδ' ἔτ' ἂν πανάθλιος 1110
θανὼν ἂν εἶην σφῶν παρεστώσαιν ἐμοί.

¹ lift; (mp) hang ² help ³ false prophet ⁴ comrade ⁵ sapling

ἐρείσατ', ὦ παῖ, πλευρὸν ἀμφιδέξιον
 ἐμφύντε τῷ φύσαντι, κἀναπαύσατον
 τοῦ πρόσθ' ἐρήμου τοῦδε δυστήνου πλάνου.
 καί μοι τὰ πραχθέντ' εἴπαθ' ὡς βράχιστ', ἐπεὶ
 ταῖς τηλικαῖσδε συμκρὸς ἔξαρκεί λόγος.

1115

ΑΝ. ὄδ' ἔσθ' ὁ σώσας· τοῦδε χρὴ κλύειν, πάτερ,
 οὐ κἄστι τοῦργον· τοῦμὸν ὦδ' ἔσται βραχύ.

ΟΙ. ὦ ξεῖνε, μὴ θαύμαζε, πρὸς τὸ λιπαρὲς
 τέκν' εἰ φανέντ' ἄελπα⁶ μηκύνω λόγον.

1120

ἐπίσταμαι γὰρ τήνδε τὴν ἐς τάσδε μοι
 τέρψιν παρ' ἄλλου μηδενὸς πεφασμένην·
 σὺ γάρ νιν ἐξέσωσας, οὐκ ἄλλος βροτῶν.

καί σοι θεοὶ πόροιεν ὡς ἐγὼ θέλω,

αὐτῷ τε καὶ γῇ τῇδ', ἐπεὶ τό γ' εὖσεβὲς⁷

1125

μόνοις παρ' ὑμῖν ἡῦρον ἀνθρώπων ἐγὼ
 καὶ τοῦπικεῖς καὶ τὸ μὴ ψευδοστομεῖν.

εἰδὼς δ' ἀμύνω τοῖσδε τοῖς λόγοις τάδε·

ἔχω γὰρ ἄχω διὰ σὲ κοῦκ ἄλλον βροτῶν·

καί μοι χέρ', ὦναξ, δεξιὰν ὄρεξον, ὡς

1130

ψαύσω φιλήσω τ', εἰ θέμις, τὸ σὸν κάρα.

καίτοι τί φωνῶ; πῶς σ' ἂν ἄθλιος γεγὼς

θιγεῖν θελήσαιμι ἀνδρός, ᾧ τίς οὐκ ἔνι

κηλὶς κακῶν ξύνουκος; οὐκ ἔγωγέ σε,

οὐδ' οὖν ἐάσω· τοῖς γὰρ ἐμπείροις βροτῶν

1135

μόνοις οἷόν τε συνταλαιπωρεῖν τάδε.

σὺ δ' αὐτόθεν μοι χαῖρε καὶ τὰ λοιπά μου

⁶ not hoped for ⁷ pious

μέλου δικαίως, ὥσπερ ἐς τόδ' ἡμέρας.

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ. οὐτ' εἴ τι μῆκος τῶν λόγων ἔθου πλέον,

τέκνοισι τερφθεῖς τοῖσδε, θαυμάσας ἔχω, 1140

οὐτ' εἰ πρὸ τοῦμοῦ προύλαβες τὰ τῶνδ' ἔπη.

βάρος γὰρ ἡμᾶς οὐδὲν ἐκ τούτων ἔχει.

οὐ γὰρ λόγοισι τὸν βίον σπουδάζομεν

λαμπρὸν ποιεῖσθαι μᾶλλον ἢ τοῖς δρωμένοις.

δείκνυμι δ' ὧν γὰρ ὥμοσ' οὐκ ἐψευσάμην 1145

οὐδὲν σε, πρέσβυ· τάσδε γὰρ πάρεμι' ἄγων

ζώσας, ἀκραιφνεῖς τῶν κατηπειλημένων.

χῶπως μὲν ἀγὼν ἡρέθη, τί δεῖ μάτην

κομπεῖν, ἃ γ' εἴσει καὐτὸς ἐκ ταύταιν ξυνών;

λόγος δ' ὃς ἐμπέπτωκεν ἀρτίως ἐμοὶ 1150

στείχοντι δεῦρο, συμβαλοῦ γνώμην, ἐπεὶ

σμικρὸς μὲν εἰπεῖν, ἄξιος δὲ θαυμάσαι·

πρᾶγος δ' ἀτίζειν⁸ οὐδὲν ἄνθρωπον χρεών.

ΟΙ. τί δ' ἔστι, τέκνον Αἰγέως; διδάσκέ με

ὡς μὴ εἰδὸτ' αὐτὸν μηδὲν ὧν σὺ πυνθάνει. 1155

ΘΗ. φασίν τιν' ἡμῖν ἄνδρα, σοὶ μὲν ἔμπολιν

οὐκ ὄντα, συγγενῇ δέ, προσπεσόντα πως

βωμῷ καθῆσθαι τῷ Ποσειδῶνος, παρ' ᾧ

θύων ἔκυρον, ἡνίχ' ὠρμώμην ἐγώ.

ΟΙ. ποδαπόν;⁹ τί προσχρήζοντα τῷ θακῆματι· 1160

ΘΗ. οὐκ οἶδα πλὴν ἓν· σοῦ γάρ, ὡς λέγουσί μοι,

βραχύν τιν' αἰτεῖ μῦθον οὐκ ὄγκου πλέων.

ΟΙ. ποῖόν τιν'; οὐ γὰρ ἦδ' ἔδρα¹⁰ σμικροῦ λόγου.

⁸ not heed ⁹ from what country, of what sort? ¹⁰ seat, seated group

- ΘΗ. σοὶ φασὶν αὐτὸν ἐς λόγους ἐλθεῖν μόνον
αἰτεῖν ἀπελθεῖν τ' ἀσφαλῶς τῆς δεῦρ' ὁδοῦ. 1165
- ΟΙ. τίς δῆτ' ἂν εἴη τήνδ' ὁ προσθακῶν ἔδραν;
- ΘΗ. ὄρα κατ' Ἄργος εἴ τις ὑμῖν ἐγγενὴς
ἔσθ', ὅστις ἄν σου τοῦτο προσχρήζοι τυχεῖν.
- ΟΙ. ὦ φίλτατε, σχές οὐπερ εἰ. ΘΗ. τί δ' ἔστι σοι;
- ΟΙ. μή μου δεηθῆς. ΘΗ. πράγματος ποίου; λέγε. 1170
- ΟΙ. ἔξοιδ' ἀκούων τῶνδ' ὅς ἐσθ' ὁ προστάτης.
- ΘΗ. καὶ τίς ποτ' ἐστὶν ὃν γ' ἐγὼ ψέξαμι τι;
- ΟΙ. παῖς οὐμός, ὦναξ, στυγνός, οὗ λόγων ἐγὼ
ἄλγιστ' ἂν ἀνδρῶν ἐξανασχοίμην κλύων.
- ΘΗ. τί δ'; οὐκ ἀκούειν ἔστι καὶ μὴ δρᾶν ἃ μὴ 1175
χρήζεις; τί σοι τοῦτ' ἐστὶ λυπηρὸν¹¹ κλύειν;
- ΟΙ. ἔχθιστον, ὦναξ, φθέγμα τοῦθ' ἥκει πατρί·
καὶ μή μ' ἀνάγκη προσβάλλης τάδ' εἰκαθεῖν.
- ΘΗ. ἀλλ' εἰ τὸ θάκημ' ἐξαναγκάζει, σκόπει
μή σοι πρόνοι' ἦ τοῦ θεοῦ φυλακτέα. 1180
- ΑΝ. πάτερ, πιθοῦ μοι, κεῖ νέα παραινέσω.
τὸν ἄνδρ' ἔασον τόνδε τῇ θ' αὐτοῦ φρενὶ
χάριν παρασχεῖν τῷ θεῷ θ' ἃ βούλεται,
καὶ νῶν ὕπεικε τὸν κασίγνητον μολεῖν. 1185
οὐ γάρ σε, θάρσει, πρὸς βίαν παρασπάσει
γνώμης, ἃ μὴ σοι συμφέροντα λέξεται.
λόγων δ' ἀκοῦσαι τίς βλάβη; τά τοι κακῶς
ἠύρημέν' ἔργα τῷ λόγῳ μηνύεται.¹²
ἔφυσας αὐτόν· ὥστε μηδὲ δρῶντά σε

¹¹ painful, causing pain, sad ¹² disclose, betray, accuse

All-seeing Zeus, O lord of heaven,
 To our guardian host be given
 Might triumphant to surprise
 Flying foes and win their prize.
 Hear us, Zeus, and hear us, child
 Of Zeus, Athene undefiled,
 Hear, Apollo, hunter, hear,
 Huntress, sister of Apollo,
 Who the dappled swift-foot deer
 O'er the wooded glade dost follow;
 Help with your two-fold power
 Athens in danger's hour!
 O wayfarer, thou wilt not have to tax
 The friends who watch for thee with false presage,
 For lo, an escort with the maids draws near.

Enter ANTIGONE and ISMENE with THESEUS]

OEDIPUS. Where, where? what sayest thou?

ANTIGONE. O father, father,

Would that some god might grant thee eyes to see

This best of men who brings us back again.

OEDIPUS. My child! and are ye back indeed!

ANTIGONE. Yes, saved

By Theseus and his gallant followers.

OEDIPUS. Come to your father's arms, O let me feel

A child's embrace I never hoped for more.

ANTIGONE. Thou askest what is doubly sweet to give.

OEDIPUS. Where are ye then?

ANTIGONE. We come together both.

OEDIPUS. My precious nurslings!

ANTIGONE. Fathers aye were fond.

OEDIPUS. Props of my age!

ANTIGONE. So sorrow sorrow props.

OEDIPUS. I have my darlings, and if death should come,

Death were not wholly bitter with you near.

Cling to me, press me close on either side,

There rest ye from your dreary wayfaring.

Now tell me of your ventures, but in brief;

Brief speech suffices for young maids like you.

ANTIGONE. Here is our savior; thou should'st hear the tale

From his own lips; so shall my part be brief.

OEDIPUS. I pray thee do not wonder if the sight

Of children, given o'er for lost, has made

My converse somewhat long and tedious.
Full well I know the joy I have of them
Is due to thee, to thee and no man else;
Thou wast their sole deliverer, none else.
The gods deal with thee after my desire,
With thee and with this land! for fear of heaven
I found above all peoples most with you,
And righteousness and lips that cannot lie.
I speak in gratitude of what I know,
For all I have I owe to thee alone.
Give me thy hand, O Prince, that I may touch it,
And if thou wilt permit me, kiss thy cheek.
What say I? Can I wish that thou should' st touch
One fallen like me to utter wretchedness,
Corrupt and tainted with a thousand ills?
Oh no, I would not let thee if thou would' st.
They only who have known calamity
Can share it. Let me greet thee where thou art,
And still befriend me as thou hast till now.
THESEUS. I marvel not if thou hast dallied long
In converse with thy children and preferred
Their speech to mine; I feel no jealousy,
I would be famous more by deeds than words.
Of this, old friend, thou hast had proof; my oath
I have fulfilled and brought thee back the maids
Alive and nothing harmed for all those threats.
And how the fight was won, 'twere waste of words
To boast— thy daughters here will tell thee all.
But of a matter that has lately chanced
On my way hitherward, I fain would have
Thy counsel— slight 'twould seem, yet worthy thought.
A wise man heeds all matters great or small.
OEDIPUS. What is it, son of Aegeus? Let me hear.
Of what thou askest I myself know naught.
THESEUS. 'Tis said a man, no countryman of thine,
But of thy kin, hath taken sanctuary
Beside the altar of Poseidon, where
I was at sacrifice when called away.
OEDIPUS. What is his country? what the suitor' s prayer?
THESEUS. I know but one thing; he implores, I am told,
A word with thee— he will not trouble thee.
OEDIPUS. What seeks he? If a suppliant, something grave.

THESEUS. He only waits, they say, to speak with thee,
And then unharmed to go upon his way.

OEDIPUS. I marvel who is this petitioner.

THESEUS. Think if there be not any of thy kin
At Argos who might claim this boon of thee.

OEDIPUS. Dear friend, forbear, I pray.

THESEUS. What ails thee now?

OEDIPUS. Ask it not of me.

THESEUS. Ask not what? explain.

OEDIPUS. Thy words have told me who the suppliant is.

THESEUS. Who can he be that I should frown on him?

OEDIPUS. My son, O king, my hateful son, whose words
Of all men's most would jar upon my ears.

THESEUS. Thou sure mightest listen. If his suit offend,
No need to grant it. Why so loth to hear him?

OEDIPUS. That voice, O king, grates on a father's ears;
I have come to loathe it. Force me not to yield.

THESEUS. But he hath found asylum. O beware,
And fail not in due reverence to the god.

ANTIGONE. O heed me, father, though I am young in years.
Let the prince have his will and pay withal

What in his eyes is service to the god;

For our sake also let our brother come.

If what he urges tend not to thy good

He cannot surely wrest perforce thy will.

To hear him then, what harm? By open words

A scheme of villainy is soon bewrayed.

Thou art his father, therefore canst not

vocabulary

ἄγαμαι wonder, admire; resent,
 begrudge
 ἄγαν very much
 ἀδελφή sister
 ἄημι blow
 αἰδώς awe, shame, respect; genitals
 αἴνυμαι grab, take away ~etiology
 ἄκος ἄκεος (n, 3) cure, remedy
 ἄκρα at the edge, extreme ~acute
 ἄκρη at the edge, extreme
 ἄκρις -ός (f) hilltop ~acute
 ἀκτή beach; cereal grain
 ἀκτίς -νος (f) ray, beam ~actinic
 ἀνατέλλω cause to grow ~apostle
 ἀναυδος unable to speak
 ~Theravada
 ἀναφαίνω reveal, shine
 ~phenomenon
 ἀντιδράω retaliate; repay
 ἀντιλέγω contradict, oppose
 ἅπαξ once
 ἀποστρέφω turn back, turn off
 course ~atrophy
 ἄρωγός helper
 ἄτα bewilderment, folly
 ἀτιμάζω (i) insult, dishonor
 ἀτιμάω (i) dishonor
 ἄτιμος (i) without honor
 αὔρα breeze ~air
 ἀφροσύνη folly ~frenzy
 ἄχορος without dancing (of death,
 war)
 ἄω aor: to sate ~sate
 βαρύς heavy ~baritone
 βλώσκω come, go
 γεραιός old ~geriatric
 γῆρας -ος (n, 3) old age
 γηράσκω grow old ~geriatric
 γονή progeny ~genus
 δακρύω weep
 δεῦρο here, come here!

δῖς twice
 δράω do, accomplish
 δυσσεβής impious, profane
 δυσχεραίνω disdain, be annoyed by
 εἴπερ if indeed
 ἐκμανθάνω know by heart
 ἔλεγχος (n) shame, disgrace; (m)
 refutation
 ἐλέγχω shame; try, examine
 ἐνείμι be in ~ion
 ἐνθεν thence, whence
 ἐνθύμημα (i) thought, invention
 ἐντίθιμι load; mp: take to heart
 ~thesis
 ἐξελαύνω drive out, exile ~elastic
 ἐξηγέομαι lead forth; set out,
 describe ~hegemony
 ἔξοδος (f) leaving, way out
 ἐξωθέω drive out
 ἐπίκουρος ally; mercenary ~cereal
 ἐπίσταμαι know how, understand
 ~station
 ἐπωδή magic spell
 ἐρινύς -ος (f) fury, Erinys
 ἔρις -δος (f) strife
 ἔρπω be able to move ~serpent
 ἐσθής clothes ~vest
 εὐτε when, as, since
 ἐφευρίσκω come upon ~eureka
 ἡδονή pleasure
 θέμις -τος (f) custom, law
 κάματος exhaustion, toil, product
 κάρα (αἶ) head (n) ~cranium
 κατάδηλος manifest, visible
 κατατίθιμι put down, deposit, lay
 aside ~thesis
 κατοικτίζω have mercy; (mp)
 lament
 κινέω (i) set in motion, move,
 remove ~kinetic
 κλονέω stampe
 κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid

κοίρανος ruler, chief
κόμη hair ~comet
κομπέω ring, clash
κοῦφος light, nimble
κράς -τός (f, 3) head
κυρέω come upon, come up against;
 obtain
λείβω libate
λεύσσω see, look
λιπαρέω (i) persist
λύπη distress
μάντις -ος (m) seer ~mantis
μαραίνω extinguish ~amaranth
μαρτυρέω testify, bear witness
μέτριος medium, moderate
μηνίω be enraged at
μητρῶος maternal
μολίσκω come, go
νηδύς -ος (f) belly, womb
νουθετέω remind, warn
ξύνειμι be with; have sex
ὀδοιπορέω walk over
ὄθεν whence
οἷμοι woe is me
ὀμαίμων related by blood
ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
οὔνεκα because
πάλαι long ago ~paleo
πάλη wrestling ~Pallas
πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas
πάντοθεν from all directions
πατρώιος of the father(s), ancestral
 ~paternal
πατρῶος of the father(s), ancestral

πενθερός father in law ~Nepenthe
πῆμα -τος (n, 3) woe, bane ~penury
πλευρά rib, side ~pleurisy
πότε when?
πότερος which, whichever of two
προσγίγνομαι become ally to
προστάτης -ου (m, 1) leader,
 protector
προσχορῶ require or desire besides
προσχορίζω require or desire
 besides
πύματος last, hindmost
σιγάω (i) be silent
στάσις -εως (f) placing; faction
ταλαίπωρος suffering, miserable
τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
τελευτή conclusion, fulfilment
 ~apostle
τίνω (i) pay, atone for; (mp) punish
τοιόσδε such
τροφή food, upkeep ~atrophy
φθόνος malice, envy
φορεὺς -ως (m) carrier ~bear
φορέω frequentative of φέρω, to
 carry ~bear
φυγὰς -δος (m, 3) exile, refugee
 ~fugitive
φυγή flight, means of escape
 ~fugitive
φύσις -εως (f) nature (of a thing)
 ~physics
φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
χειμέριος of winter
χρηῶ need ~chresard

τὰ τῶν κακίστων δυσσεβέστατ', ὦ πάτερ,

θέμῃς σέ γ' εἶναι κείνον ἀντιδρᾶν κακῶς.

ἀλλ' ἔασον· εἰσὶ χᾶτέροις γοναὶ κακαὶ

καὶ θυμὸς ὀξύς, ἀλλὰ νουθετούμενοι

φίλων ἐπρωδαῖς ἐξεπάδονται φύσιν.

1195

σὺ δ' εἰς ἐκεῖνα, μὴ τὰ νῦν, ἀποσκοπεῖ

πατρῶα καὶ μητρῶα¹ πῆμαθ' ἄπαθες·

κἂν κείνα λεύσσης, οἶδ' ἐγώ, γνώσει κακοῦ

θυμοῦ τελευτὴν ὡς κακὴ προσγίγνεται.

ἔχεις γὰρ οὐχὶ βαιὰ τάνθυμήματα,

1200

τῶν σῶν ἀδέρκτων ὀμμάτων τητώμενος.

ἀλλ' ἡμῖν εἶκε· λιπαρεῖν γὰρ οὐ καλὸν

δίκαια προσχρήζουσιν, οὐδ' αὐτὸν μὲν εἶ

πάσχειν, παθόντα δ' οὐκ ἐπίστασθαι τίνειν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. τέκνον, βαρεῖαν ἡδονὴν νικᾷτέ με

1205

λέγοντες· ἔστω δ' οὖν ὅπως ὑμῖν φίλον.

μόνον, ξέν', εἴπερ κείνος ὦδ' ἐλεύσεται,

μηδεὶς κρατεῖτω τῆς ἐμῆς ψυχῆς ποτε.

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ. ἄπαξ τὰ τοιαῦτ', οὐχὶ δις χρήζω κλύειν, ὦ πρόσβυ. κομπεῖν δ'

οὐχὶ βούλομαι· σὺ δ' ὦν

σῶς ἴσθ', ἐάν περ καμέ τις σφύζῃ θεῶν.

1210

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ὅστις τοῦ πλέονος μέρους χρήζει τοῦ μετρίου παρεῖς

ζῶειν, σκαιοσύναν φυλάσσω

ἐν ἐμοὶ κατάδηλος ἔσται.

ἐπεὶ πολλὰ μὲν αἱ μακραὶ ἀμέραι κατέθεντο δὴ

1215

λύπας ἐγγυτέρω, τὰ τέρποντα δ' οὐκ ἂν ἴδοις ὅπου,

ὅταν τις ἐς πλεόν πέσῃ

¹ maternal

τοῦ δέοντος· ὁ δ' ἐπίκουρος ἰσοτέλεστος, 1220

Ἄϊδος ὅτε μοῖρ' ἀνυμέναιος
ἄλυρος ἄχορος² ἀναπέφηνε,
θάνατος ἐς τελευτάν.

ΧΟ. μὴ φῦναι τὸν ἅπαντα νικᾷ λόγον· τὸ δ', ἐπεὶ φανῇ, 1225

βῆναι κεῖθεν ὅθεν περ ἦκει,
πολὺν δεύτερον, ὥς τάχιστα.

ὥς εὐτ' ἂν τὸ νέον παρῇ κούφας³ ἀφροσύνας⁴ φέρον, 1230

τίς πλαγὰ πολύμοχθος ἔξω; τίς οὐ καμάτων ἔνι;
φθόνος, στάσεις, ἔρις, μάχαι

καὶ φόνοι· τό τε κατάμεμπτον ἐπιλέλογχε 1235

πύματον ἀκρατὲς ἀπροσόμilon

γῆρας ἄφιλον, ἵνα πρόπαντα

κακὰ κακῶν ξυνοικεῖ.

ΧΟ. ἐν ᾧ τλάμων ὄδ', οὐκ ἐγὼ μόνος,

πάντοθεν⁵ βόρειος ὥς τις 1240

ἀκτὰ κυματοπλήξ χειμερία⁶ κλονεῖται,

ὥς καὶ τόνδε κατ' ἄκρας

δειναὶ κυματοαγεῖς

ᾄται κλονέουσιν αἰεὶ ξυνοῦσαι,

αἰ μὲν ἀπ' ἀελίου δυσμᾶν, 1245

αἰ δ' ἀνατέλλοντος·

αἰ δ' ἀνὰ μέσσαν ἀκτῶν,⁷

αἰ δ' ἐννυχίᾳ ἀπὸ Ῥιπᾶν.

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ. καὶ μὴν ὄδ' ἡμῖν, ὥς ἔοικεν, ὁ ξένος

ἀνδρῶν γε μούνος, ὦ πάτερ, δι' ὅμματος 1250

² without dancing (of death, war) ³ light, nimble ⁴ folly ⁵ from all directions ⁶ of winter ⁷ ray, beam

ἄστακτὶ λείβων δάκρυον ὧδ' ὁδοιπορεῖ.

ΟΙ. τίς οὗτος; ΟΙ. ὄνπερ καὶ πάλαι κατείχομεν

γνώμη, πάρεστι δεῦρο Πολυνείκης ὄδε.

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ. οἷμοι, τί δράσω; πότερα τὰμαντοῦ κακὰ

πρόσθεν δακρύσω, παῖδες, ἢ τὰ τοῦδ' ὄρων 1255

πατρὸς γέροντος; ὅς ξένης ἐπὶ χθονὸς

σὺν σφῶν ἐφηύρηκ' ἐνθάδ' ἐκβεβλημένον

ἐσθῆτι σὺν τοιαῦδε, τῆς ὁ δυσφιλῆς

γέρων γέροντι συγκατάρκηκεν πίνος

πλευρὰν μαραίνων,⁸ κρατὶ δ' ὀμματοσπερεῖ 1260

κόμη δι' αὔρας⁹ ἀκτένιστος ἄσσεται·

ἀδελφὰ δ', ὡς ἔοικε, τούτοισιν φορεῖ

τὰ τῆς ταλαίνης νηδύος θρεπτήρια.

ἀγὼ πανώλης ὄψ' ἄγαν ἐκμανθάνω·

καὶ μαρτυρῶ κάκιστος ἀνθρώπων τροφαῖς 1265

ταῖς σαῖσιν ἦκειν· τὰμὰ μὲν ξ' ἄλλων πύθη.

ἀλλ' ἔστι γὰρ καὶ Ζηνὶ σύνθακος θρόνων

Αἰδῶς ἐπ' ἔργοις πᾶσι, καὶ πρὸς σοί, πάτερ,

παρασταθήτω· τῶν γὰρ ἡμαρτημένων

ἄκη¹⁰ μέν ἐστι, προσφορά δ' οὐκ ἔστ' ἔτι. 1270

τί σιγᾶς;

φώνησον, ὦ πάτερ, τι· μή μ' ἀποστραφῆς.

οὐδ' ἀνταμείβει μ' οὐδέν, ἀλλ' ἀτιμάσας

πέμψεις ἀναυδος, οὐδ' ἂ μὲν φράσας;

ὦ σπέρματ' ἀνδρὸς τοῦδ', ἐμαὶ δ' ὁμαίμονες,¹¹ 1275

πειράσαστ' ἀλλ' ὑμεῖς γε κινήσαι πατρὸς

⁸ extinguish ⁹ breeze ¹⁰ cure, remedy ¹¹ related by blood

τὸ δυσπρόσοιστον κάπροσήγορον στόμα,
ὡς μή μ' ἄτιμον, τοῦ θεοῦ γε προστάτην,
οὕτως ἀφῇ με μηδὲν ἀντειπὼν ἔπος.

ΑΝ. λέγ', ὦ ταλαίπωρ', αὐτὸς ὦν χρεῖα πάρει· 1280

τὰ πολλὰ γάρ τοι ρήματ' ἢ τέρψαντά τι,
ἢ δυσχεράναντ' ἢ κατοικτίσαντά πως,
παρέσχε φωνὴν τοῖς ἀφωνήτοις τινά.

ΠΟ. ἀλλ' ἐξερῶ· καλῶς γὰρ ἐξηγεῖ σύ μοι·
πρῶτον μὲν αὐτὸν τὸν θεὸν ποιούμενος 1285

ἀρωγόν, ἔνθεν μ' ὧδ' ἀνέστησεν μολεῖν

ὁ τῇσδε τῆς γῆς κοῖρανος, διδοὺς ἐμοὶ

λέξαι τ' ἀκοῦσαι τ' ἀσφαλεῖ σὺν ἐξόδῳ.

καὶ ταῦτ' ἀφ' ὑμῶν, ὦ ξένοι, βουλήσομαι

καὶ ταῖνδ' ἀδελφαῖν καὶ πατρὸς κυρεῖν ἐμοί. 1290

ἂ δ' ἦλθον, ἥδη σοι θέλω λέξαι, πάτερ.

γῆς ἐκ πατρώας ἐξελέλαμαι φυγὰς,

τοῖς σοῖς πανάρχοις οὔνεκ' ἐνθακεῖν θρόνοις

γονῇ πεφυκὼς ἡξίου γεραιότερος.

ἀνθ' ὧν μ' Ἑτεοκλῆς, ὦν φύσει νεώτερος, 1295

γῆς ἐξέωσεν, οὔτε νικήσας λόγῳ

οὔτ' εἰς ἔλεγχον χειρὸς οὐδ' ἔργου μολών,

πόλιν δὲ πείσας. ὦν ἐγὼ μάλιστα μὲν

τὴν σὴν ἐρινὺν¹² αἰτίαν εἶναι λέγω.

ἔπειτα καπὸ μάντεων ταύτῃ κλύω. 1300

ἐπεὶ γὰρ ἦλθον Ἄργος ἐς τὸ Δωρικόν,

λαβὼν Ἄδραστον πενθερόν,¹³ ξυνωμότας

¹² fury, Erinys ¹³ father in law

pay

In kind a son' s most impious outrages.

O listen to him; other men like thee

Have thankless children and are choleric,

But yielding to persuasion' s gentle spell

They let their savage mood be exorcised.

Look thou to the past, forget the present, think

On all the woe thy sire and mother brought thee;

Thence wilt thou draw this lesson without fail,

Of evil passion evil is the end.

Thou hast, alas, to prick thy memory,

Stern monitors, these ever-sightless orbs.

O yield to us; just suitors should not need

To be importunate, nor he that takes

A favor lack the grace to make return.

OEDIPUS. Grievous to me, my child, the boon ye win

By pleading. Let it be then; have your way

Only if come he must, I beg thee, friend,

Let none have power to dispose of me.

THESEUS. No need, Sir, to appeal a second time.

It likes me not to boast, but be assured

Thy life is safe while any god saves mine.

Exit THESEUS]

CHORUS.. Who craves excess of days,

Scorning the common span

Of life, I judge that man

A giddy wight who walks in folly' s ways.

For the long years heap up a grievous load,

Scant pleasures, heavier pains,

Till not one joy remains

For him who lingers on life' s weary road

And come it slow or fast,

One doom of fate

Doth all await,

For dance and marriage bell,

The dirge and funeral knell.

Death the deliverer freeth all at last.

Not to be born at all

Is best, far best that can befall,

Next best, when born, with least delay

To trace the backward way.

For when youth passes with its giddy train,

Troubles on troubles follow, toils on toils,
Pain, pain for ever pain;
And none escapes life' s coils.
Envy, sedition, strife,
Carnage and war, make up the tale of life.
Last comes the worst and most abhorred stage
Of unregarded age,
Joyless, companionless and slow,
Of woes the crowning woe.
Such ills not I alone,
He too our guest hath known,
E' en as some headland on an iron-bound shore,
Lashed by the wintry blasts and surge' s roar,
So is he buffeted on every side
By drear misfortune' s whelming tide,
By every wind of heaven o' erborne
Some from the sunset, some from orient morn,
Some from the noonday glow.
Some from Rhippean gloom of everlasting snow.
ANTIGONE. Father, methinks I see the stranger coming.
Alone he comes and weeping plenteous tears.
OEDIPUS. Who may he be?
ANTIGONE. The same that we surmised.
From the outset— Polyneices. He is here.

Enter POLYNEICES]

POLYNEICES. Ah me, my sisters, shall I first lament
My own afflictions, or my aged sire' s,
Whom here I find a castaway, with you,
In a strange land, an ancient beggar clad
In antic tatters, marring all his frame,
While o' er the sightless orbs his unkept locks
Float in the breeze; and, as it were to match,
He bears a wallet against hunger' s pinch.
All this too late I learn, wretch that I am,
Alas! I own it, and am proved most vile
In my neglect of thee: I scorn myself.
But as almighty Zeus in all he doth
Hath Mercy for co-partner of this throne,
Let Mercy, father, also sit enthroned
In thy heart likewise. For transgressions past
May be amended, cannot be made worse.
Why silent? Father, speak, nor turn away,

Hast thou no word, wilt thou dismiss me then
In mute disdain, nor tell me why thou art wrath?
O ye his daughters, sisters mine, do ye
This sullen, obstinate silence try to move.
Let him not spurn, without a single word
Of answer, me the suppliant of the god.
ANTIGONE. Tell him thyself, unhappy one, thine errand;
For large discourse may send a thrill of joy,
Or stir a chord of wrath or tenderness,
And to the tongue-tied somehow give a tongue.
POLYNEICES. Well dost thou counsel, and I will speak out.
First will I call in aid the god himself,
Poseidon, from whose altar I was raised,
With warrant from the monarch of this land,
To parley with you, and depart unscathed.
These pledges, strangers, I would see observed
By you and by my sisters and my sire.
Now, father, let me tell thee why I came.
I have been banished from my native land
Because by right of primogeniture
I claimed possession of thy sovereign throne
Wherefrom Etocles, my younger brother,
Ousted me, not by weight of precedent,
Nor by the last arbitrament of war,
But by his popular acts; and the prime cause
Of this I deem the curse that rests on thee.
So likewise hold the soothsayers, for when
I came to Argos in the Dorian land

vocabulary

ἄβρύνω pamper; (mp) be coy, give oneself airs
ἀγείρω gather ~agora
ἄδμητος untamed, not broken ~tame
ἀλάομαι wander, rove, roam ~Fr. aller
ἀμφίστημι stand around
ἀνακαλέω call, summon, recall
ἄναυδος unable to speak ~Theravada
ἄνευ away from; not having; not needing ~Sp. sin
ἀπελαύνω expel, exclude, ward off; (intrans) ride away
ἄπιος distant
ἀποικίζω send away, resettle ~economics
ἀποστρέφω turn back, turn off course ~atrophy
ἀποσυλάω (ῶ) despoil, rob
ἀράομαι (ἄα) pray, vow, invoke
ἀραρίσκω join, fit, furnish ~arthritis
ἄράω wear something out
ἄρδω give water
ἄρέομαι pray, vow, invoke
ἄρή bane, harm; prayer
ἄρος ἄρεος (n, 3) bane, harm; prayer
ἄρῶ plow ~arable
ἀρχαῖος ancient, from the beginning ~oligarch
ἀφορμάω depart, depart from ~hormone
βαρὺς heavy ~baritone
γόνος offspring ~genus
δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate, doom ~demon
δακρύω weep
δεῦρο here, come here!
δηρώ be inimical, hurt, tear, kill

δῆτα emphatic δή
διασχεδάννυμι (ῶ) scatter, disperse
δικαίω demand/make justice
δράω do, accomplish
εἴπερ if indeed
εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with respect ~panorama
ἐκγελάω laugh out loud
ἐκπέμπω send forth ~pomp
ἐκσώζω save from
ἕκτος sixth ~hexagon
ἐκφύω spring from ~physics
ἐξαγγέλλω bring news out ~angel
ἐξαιτέω demand ~etiology
ἐξανίημι send upward ~jet
ἐξελαύνω drive out, exile ~elastic
ἐξωθέω drive out
ἐπαισθάνομαι feel, perceive
ἐπαιτέω ask as well ~etiology
ἐπώνυμος named for a reason ~name
ἐρείπω pull down; fall ~reap
ἔρρω go (neg. connotation) ~serve
ἔρσα dew; lamb, kid
εὐφραίνω gladden ~frenzy
θρόνος seat, chair, throne ~throne
θωπεύω flatter, coax
ἱκετεύω approach to beg
κασίγνητος brother, sister
κέλευθος (f) way, path
κινέω (ι) set in motion, move, remove ~kinetic
κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid
κοῖλος hollow ~hollow
κομπέω ring, clash
κράτος strength, power; victory ~democracy
κρατύνω strengthen
κρήνη well, spring
κυρέω come upon, come up against; obtain
κυρόω (ῶ) confirm, sanction

λιτή prayer ~litany
 λόγχη spear point; lot
 λόχος ambush, band, childbirth ~lie
 μῆνις -ος (f) rage
 μιάινω stain ~miasma
 μῖσος -εος (n, 3) hate
 μόχθος toil
 νέμω to allot, to pasture ~nemesis
 νοστέω go home
 ὄγχος barb of an arrow
 οἰκέω inhabit ~economics
 οἴμοι woe is me
 οἰωνός vulture, large bird, bird of
 prey; omen ~avis
 ὄμαιμος related by blood
 ὀμφή supernatural voice
 ὅποῖος whatever kind
 οὐνεκα because
 παλαίφατος put forth long ago
 ~photon
 παρέρχομαι pass, escape
 πάτρα (αἶ) fatherland ~paternal
 πατρῷος of the father(s), ancestral
 πέμπτος fifth ~pentagon
 πιστός faithful; trustworthy
 πόνος toil, suffering ~osteopenia
 πότε when?
 πότιμος fate ~petal
 προσθέω run to
 προστίθμι add; impose; (mp)
 agree; side with ~thesis
 πτωχός poor, beggarly ~pudendum
 σαυτοῦ yourself
 σέβομαι feel shame, awe
 σθένω be strong, able
 σκῆπτρον scepter, staff ~scepter
 σκληρός hard

στείχω go, march ~stair
 στολή equipment
 στρατός common people/soldiers
 ~strategy
 στυγνός hated, gloomy ~Styx
 συγγενεύς inborn, kin to
 συγγενής inborn, kin to
 συγκυρέω meet or happen by
 chance
 συλλαμβάνω seize, capture;
 understand ~epilepsy
 σύμπας (ᾱ) all together
 συμπονέω work together
 σύμφορος accompanying; suitable
 τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
 τάξις -εως (f) arrangement, military
 unit
 τάχος -ους (n, 3) speed ~tachometer
 τέταρτος fourth ~trapezoid
 τιμάω (ι) honor, exalt
 τοιγάρ therefore
 τοιόσδε such
 τόκος childbirth ~oxytocin
 τροφός (f) wet nurse ~atrophy
 τύραννος tyrant
 τυφλός blind
 τυφλώ blind
 φάσκω declare, promise, think
 ~fame
 φονεύς -ως (m) killer ~offend
 φορέω frequentative of φέρω, to
 carry ~bear
 φυτεύω plant, grow, cause, prepare
 ~physics
 φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
 χοή χώς libation
 χρηστήριον oracle, response

ἔστησ' ἔμαντῶ γῆς ὅσοι περ Ἀπίας
 πρῶτοι καλοῦνται καὶ τετίμηνται δόρει,
 ὅπως τὸν ἐπτάλογχον ἐς Θήβας στόλον 1305
 ξὺν τοῖσδ' ἀγείρας ἢ θάνοιμι πανδίκως
 ἢ τοὺς τὰδ' ἐκπράξαντας ἐκβάλοιμι γῆς.
 εἶεν· τί δῆτα νῦν ἀφιγμένος κυρῶ;
 σοὶ προστροπαίους, ὦ πάτερ, λιτὰς ἔχων
 αὐτός τ' ἔμαντοῦ ξυμμάχων τε τῶν ἐμῶν, 1310
 οἳ νῦν σὺν ἐπτά τάξεσιν σὺν ἐπτά τε
 λόγχαις¹ τὸ Θήβης πέδιον ἀμφεστᾶσι πᾶν·
 οἶος δορυσσοῦς Ἀμφιάρεως, τὰ πρῶτα μὲν
 δόρει κρατύνων,² πρῶτα δ' οἰωνῶν ὁδοῖς·
 ὁ δεύτερος δ' Αἰτωλὸς Οἰνέως τόκος³ 1315
 Τυδεύς, τρίτος δ' Ἐτέοκλος, Ἀργεῖος γεγώς·
 τέταρτον Ἴππομέδοντ' ἀπέστειλεν πατῆρ
 Ταλαός· ὁ πέμπτος δ' εὐχεται κατασκαφῇ
 Καπανεύς τὸ Θήβης ἄστρῳ δηώσειν πυρί·
 ἕκτος δὲ Παρθενοπαῖος Ἀρκὰς ὄρνυται, 1320
 ἐπώνυμος τῆς πρόσθεν ἀδμήτης⁴ χρόνῳ
 μητρὸς λοχευθείς, πιστὸς Ἀταλάντης γόνος·⁵
 ἐγὼ δὲ σός, κεῖ μὴ σός, ἀλλὰ τοῦ κακοῦ
 πότμου φυτευθείς, σός γέ τοι καλούμενος,
 ἄγω τὸν Ἄργους ἄφοβον ἐς Θήβας στρατόν. 1325
 οἷ σ' ἀντὶ παιδῶν τῶνδε καὶ ψυχῆς, πάτερ,
 ἱκετεύομεν ξύμπαντες ἐξαιτούμενοι
 μῆνιν⁶ βαρεῖαν εἰκαθεῖν ὀρμωμένῳ

¹ spear point; lot ² strengthen ³ childbirth ⁴ untamed, not broken
⁵ offspring ⁶ rage

τῷδ' ἀνδρὶ τοῦμοῦ πρὸς κασιγνήτου τίσω,
ὅς μ' ἐξέωσε κάπεσύλησεν πάτρας. 1330

εἰ γάρ τι πιστόν ἐστιν ἐκ χρηστηρίων,
οἷς ἂν σὺ προσθῇ, τοῖσδ' ἔφασκ' εἶναι κράτος.
πρὸς νῦν σε κρηνῶν καὶ θεῶν ὁμογνίων
αἰτῶ πιθέσθαι καὶ παρειαθεῖν, ἐπεὶ
πτωχοὶ μὲν ἡμεῖς καὶ ξένοι, ξένος δὲ σύ. 1335

ἄλλους δὲ θωπεύοντες οἰκοῦμεν σύ τε
κἀγώ, τὸν αὐτὸν δαίμον' ἐξειληχότες.
ὁ δ' ἐν δόμοις τύραννος, ὦ τάλας ἐγώ,
κοινῇ καθ' ἡμῶν ἐγγελῶν ἀβρύνεται.⁷

ὦν, εἰ σὺ τῇμῃ ξυμπαραστήσῃ φρενί,
βραχεὶ σὺν ὄγκῳ καὶ χρόνῳ διασκεδῶ.
ὥστ' ἐν δόμοισι τοῖσι σοῖς στήσω σ' ἄγων.
στήσω δ' ἐμαυτόν, κείνον ἐκβαλὼν βία.
καὶ ταῦτα σοῦ μὲν ξυνθέλοντος ἔστι μοι
κομπεῖν, ἄνευ σοῦ δ' οὐδὲ σωθῆναι σθένω. 1345

ΧΟΡΟΣ. τὸν ἄνδρα τοῦ πέμψαντος οὔνεκ', Οἰδίπους
εἰπὼν ὅποια ξύμφορ' ἔκπεμψαι πάλιν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. ἀλλ' εἰ μὲν, ἄνδρες, τῇσδε δημοῦχοι χθονός
μὴ τύγχαν' αὐτὸν δεῦρο προσπέμψας ἐμοὶ
Θησεύς, δικαίων ὥστ' ἐμοῦ κλύειν λόγους, 1350
οὐ τᾶν ποτ' ὁμφῆς⁸ τῆς ἐμῆς ἐπήσθητο·
νῦν δ' ἀξιοθεῖς εἷσι κακούσας γ' ἐμοῦ
τοιαῦθ' ἂν τὸν τοῦδ' οὐ ποτ' εὐφρανεῖ βίον·
ὅς γ', ὦ κάκιστε, σκῆπτρα καὶ θρόνους ἔχων,

⁷ pamper; (mp) be coy, give oneself airs ⁸ supernatural voice

ἂ νῦν ὁ σὸς ξύναμος ἐν Θήβαις ἔχει, 1355
 τὸν αὐτὸς αὐτοῦ πατέρα τόνδ' ἀπήλασας
 κᾶθηκας ἄπολιν καὶ στολὰς ταύτας φορεῖν,
 ἅς νῦν δακρύεις εἰσορῶν, ὅτ' ἐν πόνῳ
 ταῦτῳ βεβηκὼς τυγχάνεις κακῶν ἐμοί.
 οὐ κλαυστὰ δ' ἐστίν, ἀλλ' ἐμοὶ μὲν οἰστέα 1360
 τὰδ', ἕωσπερ ἂν ζῶ, σοῦ φονέως⁹ μεμνημένος·
 σὺ γάρ με μόχθῳ¹⁰ τῷδ' ἔθηκας ἔντροφον,
 σύ μ' ἐξέωσας, ἐκ σέθεν δ' ἀλώμενος
 ἄλλους ἐπαιτῶ τὸν καθ' ἡμέραν βίον.
 εἰ δ' ἐξέφυσα τάσδε μὴ μαντῶ τροφούς 1365
 τὰς παῖδας, ἧ τᾶν οὐκ ἂν ἦ, τὸ σὸν μέρος·
 νῦν δ' αἶδε μ' ἐκσώζουσιν, αἶδ' ἐμαὶ τροφοί,
 αἶδ' ἄνδρες, οὐ γυναικες, εἰς τὸ συμπονεῖν·
 ὑμεῖς δ' ἀπ' ἄλλου κοῦκ ἐμοῦ πεφύκατον.
 τοιγάρ σ' ὁ δαίμων εἰσορᾷ μὲν οὐ τί πω 1370
 ὡς αὐτίκ', εἴπερ οἶδε κινεῖνται λόχοι
 πρὸς ἄστνι Θήβης. οὐ γὰρ ἔσθ' ὅπως πόλιν
 κείνην ἐρείψεις, ἀλλὰ πρόσθεν αἵματι
 πεσεῖ μανθεῖς¹¹ χὼ σῦναμος ἐξ ἴσου.
 τοιάσδ' ἀρὰς σφῶν πρόσθε τ' ἐξανῆκ' ἐγὼ 1375
 νῦν τ' ἀνακαλοῦμαι ξυμμάχους ἔλθειν ἐμοί,
 ἵν' ἀξιῶτον τοὺς φυτεύσαντας σέβειν
 καὶ μὴ ξατιμάζητον, εἰ τυφλοῦ πατρὸς
 τοιῷδ' ἐφύτην· αἶδε γὰρ τὰδ' οὐκ ἔδρων.
 τοιγάρ τὸ σὸν θάκημα καὶ τοὺς σοὺς θρόνους 1380

⁹ killer ¹⁰ toil ¹¹ stain

κρατοῦσιν, εἴπερ ἐστὶν ἡ παλαίφατος¹²

Δίκη ξύνεδρος Ζηνὸς ἀρχαίοις νόμοις.

σὺ δ' ἔρρ' ἀπόπτυστός τε κἀπάτωρ ἐμοῦ,

κακῶν κάκιστε, τάσδε συλλαβὼν ἀράς,

ᾗ σοι καλοῦμαι, μήτε γῆς ἐμφυλίου

1385

δόρει κρατῆσαι μήτε νοστήσαι ποτε

τὸ κοῖλον Ἄργος, ἀλλὰ συγγενεῖ χερὶ

θανεῖν κτανεῖν θ' ὑφ' οὔπερ ἐξελήλασαι.

τοιαῦτ' ἀρώμαι καὶ καλῶ τὸ Ταρτάρου

στυγνὸν πατρῶον ἔρεβος, ὥς σ' ἀποικίση,

1390

καλῶ δὲ τάσδε δαίμονας, καλῶ δ' Ἄρη

τὸν σφῶν τὸ δεινὸν μῖσος¹³ ἐμβεβληκότα.

καὶ ταῦτ' ἀκούσας στεῖχε, κἀξάγγελλ' ἰὼν

καὶ πᾶσι Καδμείοισι τοῖς σαντοῦ θ' ἅμα

πιστοῖσι συμμάχοισιν, οὔνεκ' Οἰδίπους

1395

τοιαῦτ' ἔνειμε παισὶ τοῖς αὐτοῦ γέρα.

ΧΟ. Πολύνεικες, οὔτε ταῖς παρελθούσαις ὁδοῖς

ξυνήδομαί σοι, νῦν τ' ἔθ' ὥς τάχος πάλιν.

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ. οἴμοι κελεύθου τῆς τ' ἐμῆς δυσπραξίας,

οἴμοι δ' ἐταίρων· οἶον ἄρ' ὁδοῦ τέλος

1400

Ἄργους ἀφωρμήθημεν, ὦ τάλας ἐγώ,

τοιούτον οἶον οὐδὲ φωνῆσαι τινι

ἔξεσθ' ἐταίρων, οὐδ' ἀποστρέψαι πάλιν,

ἀλλ' ὄντ' ἄναυδον τῇδε συγκῦρσαι τύχη.

ὦ τοῦδ' ὅμαιμοι παῖδες, ἀλλ' ὑμεῖς, ἐπεὶ

1405

τὰ σκληρὰ πατρὸς κλύετε ταῦτ' ἀρωμένον,

¹² put forth long ago ¹³ hate

And took the king Adrastus' child to wife,
Under my standard I enlisted all
The foremost captains of the Apian isle,
To levy with their aid that sevenfold host
Of spearmen against Thebes, determining
To oust my foes or die in a just cause.
Why then, thou askest, am I here today?
Father, I come a suppliant to thee
Both for myself and my allies who now
With squadrons seven beneath their seven spears
Beleaguer all the plain that circles Thebes.
Foremost the peerless warrior, peerless seer,
Amphiaraiis with his lightning lance;
Next an Aetolian, Tydeus, Oeneus' son;
Eteoclus of Argive birth the third;
The fourth Hippomedon, sent to the war
By his sire Talaos; Capaneus, the fifth,
Vaunts he will fire and raze the town; the sixth
Parthenopaeus, an Arcadian born
Named of that maid, longtime a maid and late
Espoused, Atalanta's true-born child;
Last I thy son, or thine at least in name,
If but the bastard of an evil fate,
Lead against Thebes the fearless Argive host.
Thus by thy children and thy life, my sire,
We all adjure thee to remit thy wrath
And favor one who seeks a just revenge
Against a brother who has banned and robbed him.
For victory, if oracles speak true,
Will fall to those who have thee for ally.
So, by our fountains and familiar gods
I pray thee, yield and hear; a beggar I
And exile, thou an exile likewise; both
Involved in one misfortune find a home
As pensioners, while he, the lord of Thebes,
O agony! makes a mock of thee and me.
I'll scatter with a breath the upstart's might,
And bring thee home again and stablsh thee,
And stablsh, having cast him out, myself.
This will thy goodwill I will undertake,
Without it I can scare return alive.
CHORUS. For the king's sake who sent him, Oedipus,

Dismiss him not without a meet reply.
OEDIPUS. Nay, worthy seniors, but for Theseus' sake
Who sent him hither to have word of me.
Never again would he have heard my voice;
But now he shall obtain this parting grace,
An answer that will bring him little joy.
O villain, when thou hadst the sovereignty
That now thy brother holdeth in thy stead,
Didst thou not drive me, thine own father, out,
An exile, cityless, and make we wear
This beggar' s garb thou weepest to behold,
Now thou art come thyself to my sad plight?
Nothing is here for tears; it must be borne
By me till death, and I shall think of thee
As of my murderer; thou didst thrust me out;'
Tis thou hast made me conversant with woe,
Through thee I beg my bread in a strange land;
And had not these my daughters tended me
I had been dead for aught of aid from thee.
They tend me, they preserve me, they are men
Not women in true service to their sire;
But ye are bastards, and no sons of mine.
Therefore just Heaven hath an eye on thee;
Howbeit not yet with aspect so austere
As thou shalt soon experience, if indeed
These banded hosts are moving against Thebes.
That city thou canst never storm, but first
Shall fall, thou and thy brother, blood-imbrued.
Such curse I lately launched against you twain,
Such curse I now invoke to fight for me,
That ye may learn to honor those who bear thee
Nor flout a sightless father who begat
Degenerate sons— these maidens did not so.
Therefore my curse is stronger than thy "throne,"
Thy "suppliance," if by right of laws eterne
Primeval Justice sits enthroned with Zeus.
Begone, abhorred, disowned, no son of mine,
Thou vilest of the vile! and take with thee
This curse I leave thee as my last bequest:—
Never to win by arms thy native land,
No, nor return to Argos in the Vale,
But by a kinsman' s hand to die and slay

Him who expelled thee. So I pray and call
On the ancestral gloom of Tartarus
To snatch thee hence, on these dread goddesses
I call, and Ares who incensed you both
To mortal enmity. Go now proclaim
What thou hast heard to the Cadmeians all,
Thy staunch confederates— this the heritage
that Oedipus divideth to his sons.
CHORUS. Thy errand, Polyneices, liked me not
From the beginning; now go back with speed.
POLYNEICES. Woe worth my journey and my baffled hopes!
Woe worth my comrades! What a desperate end
To that glad march from Argos! Woe is me!
I dare not whisper it to my allies
Or turn them back, but mute must meet my doom.
My sisters, ye his daughters, ye have heard

vocabulary

ἀγγέλλω carry a message, announce

~angel

αἰθήρ ether, air, sky ~ether

αἶσσω dart, glance

αἰσχρός shameful

ἄκρα at the edge, extreme ~acute

ἄκρις -ός (f) hilltop ~acute

ἄκρον crest, extremity ~acute

ἄλαός blind

ἄλαόω to blind

ἄλαστος unforgettable, infamous

~Lethe

ἄλιος of the sea; fruitless

ἄλυπος (ὑ) painless

ἀμφίστημι stand around

ἄμφω both ~amphora

ἀνάξιος unworthy, undeserved

ἄνευ away from; not having; not
needing ~Sp. sin

ἀνίκητος (ι) unconquered

ἀντάω meet face to face

ἄνω (ἄ) accomplish, pass, waste;
upwards, out to sea

ἄξιωμα -τος (n, 3) honor; decree

ἀποστροφή turning back, away

ἀράομαι (ἄα) pray, vow, invoke

ἄράω wear something out

ἄρέομαι pray, vow, invoke

ἄρή bane, harm; prayer

ἄρόω plow ~arable

ἄσκη inhabitant

ἄστός townsman; citizen

ἀστραπή lightning

ἀτιμάζω (ι) insult, dishonor

ἀτιμάω (ι) dishonor

ἀφορμάω depart, depart from
~hormone

βιόω live; (mp) make a living
~biology

βλώσχω come, go

βροντή thunder ~brontosaurus

γελάω laugh, smile, laugh at

γεραιός old ~geriatric

γῆρας -ος (n, 3) old age

γύαλον plate of the thorax

δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate,
doom ~demon

δεῖμα -τος (n, 3) fear

δέμω build ~domicile

δεῦρο here, come here!

διαπρύσιος piercingly ~pierce

διατελέω accomplish; keep doing
~apostle

διεργάζομαι cultivate; kill, end

δυστυχέω be unlucky

εἰκάζω liken; conjecture

εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with
respect ~panorama

ἐκφέρω carry off ~bear

ἐμφανής visible

ἐμφύω plant; cling ~physics

ἐμψυχος (ὑ) animate, animated

ἐνάλιος of the sea ~halogen

ἐξηγέομαι lead forth; set out,
describe ~hegemony

ἐπαινος (noun) praise

ἐπέχω hold, cover; offer; assail

ἐπίσχω aim; restrain

ἐρείπω pull down; fall ~reap

ἐρινύς -ος (f) fury, Erinys

ἐρπω be able to move ~serpent

ἐστία hearth ~Hestia

ἐστιάω give a feast

θεσπίζω prophecy

θέσφατος divinely ordained

θυμός (ὑ) anger

ἵκετεύω approach to beg

ἵλαος propitious, gracious

ἶος arrow

ἰωή a rush, a sweep

κάρα (αἶ) head (n) ~cranium

κασίγνητος brother, sister

κάτοιδα understand

κατορθόω erect; accomplish
κεραυνός lightning strike, thunderbolt
κέρδος -ους (n, 3) advantage, cunning
κιχάνω (ᾱ) catch up with, encounter, reach; catch, grip, hit, afflict ~go
κράς -τός (f, 3) head
κρείσσω more powerful; better
κτυπέω crash
κτύπος noise
μάντευμα -τος (n, 3) oracle
ματάω be ineffective, idle
μετέχω partake of
μολίσκω come, go
μόρος portion, lot in life
νόστος homecoming ~nostalgia
ὀδύρομαι (ὀ) lament ~anodyne
οἷμοι woe is me
οὐράνιος heavenly
πάτρα (αᾶ) fatherland ~paternal
ποθέω miss, long for, notice an absence; lose ~bid
πόλισμα buildings of a city
πονέω work; be busy ~osteopenia
πόρος way, bridge ~fare
πόρω aor. give, pf. be fated
πρεσβεύω be the elder, be an ambassador
πρόκειμαι be set before; propose
προσδοκάω expect
προφαίνω show; pass: appear ~photon
περωτός winged
πτήσσω cower, cause to cower
ῥοπή balancing, crisis

σήμα -τος (n, 3) mark, sign, grave mound ~semaphore
στερέω steal, take
στράτευμα -τος (n, 3) army ~strategy
στρατηλάτης -ου (m, 1) commander
στρέφω turn, veer ~atrophy
συγχωρέω accede, concede
συμβάλλω pit against; compare; mp: meet, fall in with ~ballistic
συμφορά collecting; accident, misfortune
τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
τάφος (m) funeral, grave; (n) astonishment
τάχος -ους (n, 3) speed ~tachometer
τεκμήριον sign; proof
τελεσφόρος completion ~apostle
τελευτή conclusion, fulfilment ~apostle
τρέχω run, spin
τρέω flee in fear ~tremor
τύχη fortune, act of a god
ὑπέρχομαι go under
ὑπέχω promise; hold out one's hand; submit to
φλαῦρος trifling
φλέγω blaze, burn up ~flame
φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
χάλαζα hail
χειμάζω overwinter
χρῆζω need ~chresard
χώρος place ~heir
ψεύδω be false, deceive; (mid) to lie ~pseudo-

μή τοί με πρὸς θεῶν σφώ γ', ἐὰν αἱ τοῦδ' ἀραι
 πατρὸς τελῶνται καί τις ὑμῖν ἐς δόμους
 νόστος γένηται, μή μ' ἀτιμάσῃτέ γε,
 ἀλλ' ἐν τάφοισι θέσθε κὰν κτερίσμασιν. 1410
 καὶ σφῶν ὁ νῦν ἔπαινος, ὃν κομίζετον
 τοῦδ', ἀνδρὸς οἷς πονεῖτον, οὐκ ἐλάσσονα
 ἔτ' ἄλλον οἶσει τῆς ἐμῆς ὑπουργίας.

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ. Πολύνεικες, ἵκετεύω σε πεισθῆναί τί μοι.

ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ. ὦ φιλτάτη, τὸ ποῖον, Ἀντιγόνη; λέγε. 1415

ΑΝ. στρέψαι στράτευμ' ἐς Ἄργος ὡς τάχιστα γε,
 καὶ μὴ σέ τ' αὐτὸν καὶ πόλιν διεργάσῃ.

ΠΟ. ἀλλ' οὐχ οἶόν τε· πῶς γὰρ αὖθις ἂν πάλιν
 στράτευμ' ἄγοιμι ταυτόν. εἰσάπαξ τρέσας;

ΑΝ. τί δ' αὖθις, ὦ παῖ, δεῖ σε θυμοῦσθαι; τί σοι
 πάτραν κατασκάψαντι κέρδος ἔρχεται; 1420

ΠΟ. αἰσχρὸν τὸ φεύγειν καὶ τὸ πρεσβεύοντ' ἐμέ
 οὔτω γελαῖσθαι τοῦ κασιγνήτου πάρα.

ΑΝ. ὁρᾷς τὰ τοῦδ' οὖν ὡς ἐς ὀρθὸν ἐκφέρει
 μαντεύμαθ',¹ ὃς σφῶν θάνατον ἐξ ἀμφοῖν θροεῖ; 1425

ΠΟ. χρήζει γάρ· ἡμῖν δ' οὐχὶ συγχωρητέα.

ΑΝ. οἴμοι τάλαινα· τίς δὲ τολμήσει κλύων
 τὰ τοῦδ' ἔπεσθαι τάνδρος, οἷ' ἐθέσπισεν;

ΠΟ. οὐκ ἀγγελοῦμεν φλαῦρ'· ἐπεὶ στρατηλάτου²
 χρηστοῦ τὰ κρείσσω μηδὲ τάνδεα λέγειν. 1430

ΑΝ. οὔτως ἄρ', ὦ παῖ, ταῦτά σοι δεδογμένα;

ΠΟ. καὶ μή μ' ἐπίσχῃς γ'· ἀλλ' ἐμοὶ μὲν ἦδ' ὁδὸς

¹ oracle ² commander

ἔσται μέλουσα δύσποτμός τε καὶ κακὴ
 πρὸς τοῦδε πατρὸς τῶν τε τοῦδ' ἐρινύων·
 σφῶν δ' εὖ διδοίη Ζεὺς, τὰδ' εἰ θανόντι μοι
 τελεῖτ', ἐπεὶ οὐ μοι ζῶντί γ' αὖθις ἔξετον.
 μέθεσθε δ' ἥδη χαίρετόν τ'· οὐ γάρ μ' ἔτι
 βλέποντ' ἐσόψεσθ' αὖθις. ΑΝ. ὦ τάλαιν' ἐγώ.

1435

ΠΟ. μὴ τοί μ' ὀδύρου. ΑΝ. καὶ τίς ἄν σ' ὀρμώμενον
 εἰς προὔπτον Ἄιδην οὐ καταστένοι, κάσι;

1440

ΠΟ. εἰ χρή, θανοῦμαι. ΑΝ. μὴ σύ γ', ἀλλ' ἐμοὶ πιθοῦ.

ΠΟ. μὴ πείθ' ἂ μὴ δέι. ΑΝ. δυστάλαινά τᾶρ' ἐγώ, εἴ σου στερηθῶ.

ΠΟ. ταῦτα δ' ἐν τῷ δαίμονι καὶ τῇδε φῦναι χἀτέρᾳ. σφῶ δ' οὖν ἐγὼ
 θεοῖς ἀρώμαι μὴ ποτ' ἀντῆσαι κακῶν·
 ἀνάξια γὰρ πᾶσιν ἔστε δυστυχεῖν.

1445

ΧΟΡΟΣ. νέα τάδε νεόθεν ἡλθέ μοι

κακὰ βαρύποτμὰ παρ' ἀλαοῦ ξένου,

εἴ τι μοῖρα μὴ κιγχάνει.

1450

μάταν γὰρ οὐδὲν ἀξίωμα³ δαιμόνων ἔχω φράσαι.

ὀρᾷ ὀρᾷ ταῦτ' αἰὲ χρόνος, τρέχων μὲν ἕτερα,

τὰ δὲ παρ' ἡμαρ αὖθις αὔξων ἄνω.

1455

ἔκτυπεν αἰθήρ, ὦ Ζεῦ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. ὦ τέκνα τέκνα, πῶς ἄν, εἴ τις ἔντοπος,

τὸν πάντ' ἄριστον δεῦρο Θησέα πόροι;

ΑΝ. πάτερ, τί δ' ἐστὶ τὰξίωμ' ἐφ' ᾧ καλεῖς;

ΟΙ. Διὸς πετρωτὸς⁴ ἥδε μ' αὐτίκ' ἄξεται

1460

βροντὴ πρὸς Ἄιδην· ἀλλὰ πέμψαθ' ὥς τάχος.

ΧΟ. μέγας, ἴδε, μάλ' ὄδ' ἐρείπεται

³ honor; decree ⁴ winged

κτύπος ἄφατος διόβολος· ἐς δ' ἄκραν

δεῖμ' ὑπῆλθε κρατὸς φόβαν.

1465

ἔπτηξα θυμόν· οὐρανία γὰρ ἀστραπή⁵ φλέγει πάλιν.

τί μὰν ἀφήσει τέλος; δέδοικα δ'· οὐ γὰρ ἄλιον

ἀφορμῇ ποτ', οὐκ ἄνεν ξυμφορᾶς.

1470

ὦ μέγας αἰθὴρ, ὦ Ζεῦ.

ΟΙ. ὦ παῖδες, ἦκει τῶδ' ἐπ' ἀνδρὶ θέσφατος

βίου τελευτὴ κοῦκέτ' ἔστ' ἀποστροφή.

ΑΝ. πῶς οἶσθα; τῶ δὲ τοῦτο συμβαλὼν ἔχεις;

ΟΙ. καλῶς κάτοιδ'· ἀλλ' ὥς τάχιστα μοι μολὼν

1475

ἄνακτα χώρας τῆσδέ τις πορευσάτω.

ΧΟ. ἔα ἔα, ἰδοὺ μάλ' αὐθις ἀμφίσταται διαπρύσιος ὄτοβος.

Ἰλαος,⁶ ὦ δαίμων, Ἰλαος εἴ τι γὰ

1480

ματέρι τυγχάνεις ἀφεγγὲς φέρων.

ἐναιεῖον δὲ σοῦ τύχοιμι, μῆδ' ἄλαστον ἄνδρ' ἰδὼν

ἀκερδῇ χάριν μετάσχοιμί πως. Ζεῦ ἄνα σοὶ φωνῶ.

ΟΙ. ἄρ' ἐγγὺς ἀνὴρ; ἄρ' ἔτ' ἐμφύχου, τέκνα,

κιχήσεταιί μου καὶ κατορθοῦντος φρένα;

ΑΝ. τί δ' ἂν θέλοις τὸ πιστὸν ἐμφῦναι φρενί;

ΟΙ. ἀνθ' ὧν ἔπασχον εὖ, τελεσφόρον⁷ χάριν

δοῦναί σφιν, ἥνπερ τυγχάνων ὑπεσχόμην.

1490

ΧΟ. ἰὼ ἰὼ παῖ, βᾶθι βᾶθ', εἴτ' ἄκρα,

περὶ γύαλ' ἐναλίω Ποσειδωνίῳ θεῷ, τυγχάνεις

βούθυτον ἐστίαν ἀγίζων, ἰκοῦ.

ὁ γὰρ ξένος σε καὶ πόλισμα⁸ καὶ φίλους ἐπαξιοῖ

δικαίαν χάριν παρασχεῖν παθών.

1495

⁵ lightning ⁶ propitious, gracious ⁷ completion ⁸ buildings of a city

σπεῦσον ἄϊσ', ὦναξ.

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ. τίς αὖ παρ' ὕμῶν κοινὸς ἡχείται κτύπος, 1500

σαφὴς μὲν ἀστῶν, ἐμφανὴς δὲ τοῦ ξένου;

μή τις Διὸς κεραυνὸς ἢ τις ὀμβρία

χάλαζ⁹ ἐπιρράξασα; πάντα γὰρ θεοῦ

τοιαῦτα χειμάζοντος¹⁰ εἰκάσαι πάρα.

ΟΙ. ἄναξ, ποθοῦντι προυφάνης, καί σοι θεῶν 1505

τύχην τις ἐσθλὴν τῇσδ' ἔθηκε τῆς ὁδοῦ.

ΘΗ. τί δ' ἐστίν, ὦ παῖ Λαΐου, νέορτον αὖ;

ΟΙ. ῥοπή¹¹ βίου μοι· καί σ' ἄπερ ξυνήνεσα

θέλω πόλιν τε τήνδε μὴ ψεύσας θανεῖν.

ΘΗ. τῷ δ' ἐκπέπεισαι τοῦ μόρου τεκμηρίῳ; 1510

ΟΙ. αὐτοὶ θεοὶ κήρυκες ἀγγέλλουσί μοι,

ψεύδοντες οὐδὲν σῆμα τῶν προκειμένων.

ΘΗ. πῶς εἶπας, ὦ γεραιέ, δηλοῦσθαι τάδε;

ΟΙ. αἱ πολλὰ βρονταὶ διατελεῖς τὰ πολλὰ τε

στράψαντα χειρὸς τῆς ἀνικίτου βέλη. 1515

ΘΗ. πείθεις με· πολλὰ γάρ σε θεσπίζονθ'¹² ὁρῶ

κου' ψευδόφημα· χῶ τι χρὴ ποιεῖν λέγε.

ΟΙ. ἐγὼ διδάξω, τέκνον Αἰγέως, ἃ σοι

γήρως ἄλνυπα τῇδε κείσεται πόλει.

χῶρον μὲν αὐτὸς αὐτίκ' ἐξηγήσομαι, 1520

ἄθικτος ἡγητῆρος, οὗ με χρὴ θανεῖν.

τοῦτον δὲ φράξε μή ποτ' ἀνθρώπων τινί,

⁹ hail ¹⁰ overwinter ¹¹ balancing, crisis ¹² prophecy

The prayers of our stern father, if his curse
 Should come to pass and ye some day return
 To Thebes, O then disown me not, I pray,
 But grant me burial and due funeral rites.
 So shall the praise your filial care now wins
 Be doubled for the service wrought for me.
 ANTIGONE. One boon, O Polyneices, let me crave.
 POLYNEICES. What would' st thou, sweet Antigone? Say on.
 ANTIGONE. Turn back thy host to Argos with all speed,
 And ruin not thyself and Thebes as well.
 POLYNEICES. That cannot be. How could I lead again
 An army that had seen their leader quail?
 ANTIGONE. But, brother, why shouldst thou be wroth again?
 What profit from thy country' s ruin comes?
 POLYNEICES. 'Tis shame to live in exile, and shall I
 The elder bear a younger brother' s flouts?
 ANTIGONE. Wilt thou then bring to pass his prophecies
 Who threatens mutual slaughter to you both?
 POLYNEICES. Aye, so he wishes:— but I must not yield.
 ANTIGONE. O woe is me! but say, will any dare,
 Hearing his prophecy, to follow thee?
 POLYNEICES. I shall not tell it; a good general
 Reports successes and conceals mishaps.
 ANTIGONE. Misguided youth, thy purpose then stands fast!
 POLYNEICES. 'Tis so, and stay me not. The road I choose,
 Dogged by my sire and his avenging spirit,
 Leads me to ruin; but for you may Zeus
 Make your path bright if ye fulfill my hest
 When dead; in life ye cannot serve me more.
 Now let me go, farewell, a long farewell!
 Ye ne' er shall see my living face again.
 ANTIGONE. Ah me!
 POLYNEICES. Bewail me not.
 ANTIGONE. Who would not mourn
 Thee, brother, hurrying to an open pit!
 POLYNEICES. If I must die, I must.
 ANTIGONE. Nay, hear me plead.
 POLYNEICES. It may not be; forbear.
 ANTIGONE. Then woe is me,
 If I must lose thee.
 POLYNEICES. Nay, that rests with fate,
 Whether I live or die; but for you both

I pray to heaven ye may escape all ill;
For ye are blameless in the eyes of all.

Exit POLYNEICES]

CHORUS.. Ills on ill! no pause or rest!

Come they from our sightless guest?

Or haply now we see fulfilled

What fate long time hath willed?

For ne' er have I proved vain

Aught that the heavenly powers ordain.

Time with never sleeping eye

Watches what is writ on high,

Overthrowing now the great,

Raising now from low estate.

Hark! How the thunder rumbles! Zeus defend us!

OEDIPUS. Children, my children! will no messenger

Go summon hither Theseus my best friend?

ANTIGONE. And wherefore, father, dost thou summon him?

OEDIPUS. This winged thunder of the god must bear me

Anon to Hades. Send and tarry not.

CHORUS.. Hark! with louder, nearer roar

The bolt of Zeus descends once more.

My spirit quails and cowers: my hair

Bristles for fear. Again that flare!

What doth the lightning-flash portend?

Ever it points to issues grave.

Dread powers of air! Save, Zeus, O save!

OEDIPUS. Daughters, upon me the predestined end

Has come; no turning from it any more.

ANTIGONE. How knowest thou? What sign convinces thee?

OEDIPUS. I know full well. Let some one with all speed

Go summon hither the Athenian prince.

CHORUS.. Ha! once more the deafening sound

Peals yet louder all around

If thou darkenest our land,

Lightly, lightly lay thy hand;

Grace, not anger, let me win,

If upon a man of sin

I have looked with pitying eye,

Zeus, our king, to thee I cry!

OEDIPUS. Is the prince coming? Will he when he comes

Find me yet living and my senses clear!

ANTIGONE. What solemn charge would' st thou impress on him?

OEDIPUS. For all his benefits I would perform
The promise made when I received them first.

CHORUS.. Hither haste, my son, arise,
Altar leave and sacrifice,
If haply to Poseidon now
In the far glade thou pay' st thy vow.
For our guest to thee would bring
And thy folk and offering,
Thy due guerdon. Haste, O King!

Enter THESEUS]

THESEUS. Wherefore again this general din? at once
My people call me and the stranger calls.
Is it a thunderbolt of Zeus or sleet
Of arrowy hail? a storm so fierce as this
Would warrant all surmises of mischance.

OEDIPUS. Thou com' st much wished for, Prince, and sure some god
Hath bid good luck attend thee on thy way.

THESEUS. What, son of Laius, hath chanced of new?

OEDIPUS. My life hath turned the scale. I would do all
I promised thee and thine before I die.

THESEUS. What sign assures thee that thine end is near?

OEDIPUS. The gods themselves are heralds of my fate;
Of their appointed warnings nothing fails.

THESEUS. How sayest thou they signify their will?

OEDIPUS. This thunder, peal on peal, this lightning hurled
Flash upon flash, from the unconquered hand.

THESEUS. I must believe thee, having found thee oft
A prophet true; then speak what must be done.

OEDIPUS. O son of Aegeus, for this state will I
Unfold a treasure age cannot corrupt.

Myself anon without a guiding hand
Will take thee to the spot where I must end.
This secret ne' er reveal to mortal man,

vocabulary

ἀεργός lazy ~ergonomics
 ἀλκή prowess, defense, victory
 ~Alexander
 ἀνίημι urge, impel; release ~jet
 ἄντρον cave
 ἀπονίναμαι enjoy, use
 ἀργός glistening, swift
 ἀσπίς -δος (f) shield ~spit
 ἀστή inhabitant
 ἀστός townsman; citizen
 ἄστν -εως (n, 3) town
 αὐξάνω strengthen
 αὖ ignite; shout
 ἀφανής unseen, occult, obscure
 ἄχερδος kind of bush
 βάθρον step, base, bench
 βίος life ~biology
 βίोटος life; sustenance, chattels
 ~biology
 βλώσκω come, go
 βοά din, a shout
 βοεύς βοῦος (m) leather rope
 ~bovine
 βραδύνω make/be slow
 βραχύς low, short
 γοά weep, mourn
 γόος crying, wailing
 δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate,
 doom ~demon
 δέμας -ως (n) body; (+gen.) like
 δορός leather bag ~dermatology
 δράω do, accomplish
 δύστηνος unhappy, miserable
 εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with
 respect ~panorama
 ἐκδιδάσκω teach, explain
 ἐνθένδε hence
 ἐννύχιος nocturnal ~nocturnal
 ἐνοικέω dwell in
 ἐντρέπω heed ~trophy
 ἐξαίφνης suddenly

ἐξανύω bring to pass; slay
 ἐξεῖπον speak out, disclose
 ἐξεπίσταμαι know well
 ἐξευρίσκω find; discover ~eureka
 ἐξηγέομαι lead forth; set out,
 describe ~hegemony
 ἐπάγω drive game; induce belief
 ~demagogue
 ἐπαιίδω sing with, to; charm
 ἐπαισθάνομαι feel, perceive
 ἐπείγω weigh upon, drive; (mid)
 hurry
 ἐπιστολή message, letter
 ἔρω be able to move ~serpent
 ἐσθής clothes ~vest
 ἔσχατος farthest, last
 εὐδαίμων blessed with a good
 genius
 εὐνάω lay to bed, have sex with
 εὐτυχής fortunate
 ἐφίημι (ti) send at, let fly; mp: rush
 at, spring upon ~jet
 ἡδονή pleasure
 θέμις -τος (f) custom, law
 θρίξ hair ~tresses
 καθαρός clean, pure
 καθέζομαι act: set, seat; pass: sit
 down, sit up
 καθυβρίζω insult
 καινός new, fresh, strange
 καταίρω swoop; land
 καταράομαι (αἶα) curse
 κατεύχομαι pray, vow, curse
 κέλευθος (f) way, path
 κεύθω cover, hide ~cuticle
 κικλήσκω summon, name ~gallo
 κινέω (ti) set in motion, move,
 remove ~kinetic
 κλαίω weep
 κοῖλος hollow ~hollow
 κρατήρ -ος (m) mixing bowl for
 wine

κρύπτω hide, cover ~cryptic
 κτυπέω crash
 λάινος of stone
 λίσσομαι beg, beseech ~litany
 λιτή prayer ~litany
 λουτρόν bathing water
 μαίνομαι be berserk ~maenad
 ματάω be ineffective, idle
 μολίσκω come, go
 μόρος portion, lot in life
 μυρίος (ῶ) 10,000 ~myriad
 ὀδοῦς -ντος (m) tooth
 οἰκέω inhabit ~economics
 ὄρθιος shrill; steep, straight
 ὀφέ late, in evening ~epitaph
 πάγος frost; crag ~fang
 πακτόω fasten, close
 πάλαι long ago ~paleo
 πάλη wrestling ~Pallas
 πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas
 παρθένος (f) girl, virgin ~Parthenon
 πέλας near, close
 πέτρος rock ~petrified
 πήγνυμι (ῶ) stick, set, build ~fang
 πῆμα -τος (n, 3) woe, bane ~penury
 πικρός sharp, bitter ~picric
 πόθεν from where?
 πολλαχῇ in many places or ways
 πολλαχῇ in many places or ways
 πομπός escort, guide ~pomp
 πρέπω be conspicuous, preeminent
 ~refurbish
 πρόσπολος servant, attendant
 πτύσσω fold

ῥέω flow ~rheostat
 ῥιγέω (ι) shudder with fear; be
 flustered ~frigid
 ῥιζώ furnish with roots ~rhizome
 ῥυτός quarried? embedded?
 σημαίνω give orders to; show; mark
 ~semaphore
 σιωπή silence
 σκληρός hard
 σπείρω sow ~diaspora
 στείχω go, march ~stair
 στέργω love; be content
 στέρνον breast, chest, seat of feelings
 ~sternum
 στολή equipment
 τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
 τάφος (m) funeral, grave; (n)
 astonishment
 τέθηπα be confused
 τελευταῖος last, final
 τροφή food, upkeep ~atrophy
 τύμβος grave mound ~tomb
 ὕς pig ~sow
 φάος φῶς (n, 3) light; salvation; (pl)
 eyes ~photon
 φέως bush used to make brooms
 φθόγγος voice ~diphthong
 φύλαξ -κος (m) guard; sentry
 ~phylactery
 χοή χῶς libation
 χωρέω withdraw, give way to (+dat)
 ~heir
 χώρος place ~heir
 ψάύω be closely touching

μήθ' οὐ κέκευθε¹ μήτ' ἐν οἷς κείται τόποις·
 ὥς σοι πρὸ πολλῶν ἀσπίδων ἀλκὴν ὄδε
 δορός² τ' ἐπακτοῦ γειτονῶν αἰὲ τιθῇ. 1525
 ἂ δ' ἐξάγιστα μηδὲ κινεῖται λόγῳ,
 αὐτὸς μαθήσει, κείσ' ὅταν μόλῃς μόνος·
 ὥς οὔτ' ἂν ἀστῶν τῶνδ' ἂν ἐξείποιμί τῳ
 οὔτ' ἂν τέκνοισι τοῖς ἐμοῖς, στέργων ὅμως.
 ἀλλ' αὐτὸς αἰὲ σῶζε, χῶταν εἰς τέλος 1530
 τοῦ ζῆν ἀφικνῇ, τῷ προφερτάτῳ μόνῳ
 σήμαιν', ὃ δ' αἰὲ τῷπιόντι δεικνύτω.
 χούτως ἀδῆγον τήνδ' ἐνοικήσεις πόλιν
 σπαρτῶν ἀπ' ἀνδρῶν· αἱ δὲ μυρίαὶ πόλεις,
 καὶ εἴ τις οἰκῇ, ῥαδίως καθύβρισαν. 1535
 θεοὶ γὰρ εὖ μέν, ὅψε δ' εἰσορώσ', ὅταν
 τὰ θεῖ' ἀφείς τις εἰς τὸ μαίνεσθαι τραπῇ·
 ὃ μὴ σύ, τέκνον Αἰγέως, βούλου παθεῖν.
 τὰ μὲν τοιαῦτ' οὖν εἰδὸτ' ἐκδιδάσκομεν.
 χῶρον δ', ἐπείγει γάρ με τοῦκ θεοῦ παρόν, 1540
 στείχωμεν ἥδη μῆδ' ἔτ' ἐντρεπώμεθα.
 ὦ παῖδες, ὦδ' ἔπεσθ'· ἐγὼ γὰρ ἡγεμὼν
 σφῶν αὖ πέφασμαι καινός, ὥσπερ σφὼν πατρί.
 χωρεῖτε καὶ μὴ ψαύετ', ἀλλ' ἑατέ με
 αὐτὸν τὸν ἱερὸν τύμβον ἐξευρεῖν, ἵνα 1545
 μοῖρ' ἀνδρὶ τῷδε τῇδε κρυφθῆναι χθονί.
 τῇδ' ὦδε, τῇδε βᾶτε· τῇδε γάρ μ' ἄγει
 Ἑρμῆς ὁ πομπὸς ἧ τε νερτέρᾳ θεός.

¹ cover, hide ² leather bag

ὦ φῶς ἀφεγγές, πρόσθε πού ποτ' ἦσθ' ἐμόν,
νῦν δ' ἔσχατόν σου τοῦμόν ἄπτεται δέμας. 1550

ἦδη γὰρ ἔρπω τὸν τελευταῖον βίον
κρύψων παρ' Ἀιδην. ἀλλά, φίλτατε ξένων,
αὐτός τε χώρα θ' ἦδε πρόσπολοί τε σοὶ
εὐδαίμονες³ γένοισθε, καπ' εὐπραξία
μέμνησθέ μου θανόντος εὐτυχεῖς αἰεί. 1555

ΧΟΡΟΣ. εἰ θέμις ἐστί μοι τὰν ἀφανῆ θεὸν
καὶ σὲ λιταῖς σεβίζειν, ἐννυχίων ἄναξ,
Αἰδωνεῦ Αἰδωνεῦ, λίσσωμαι 1560
ἄπονα μήτ' ἐπὶ βαρναχεῖ
ξένον ἐξανύσαι
μόρφῳ τὰν παγκευθῇ κάτω
νεκρῶν πλάκα καὶ Στύγιον δόμον.
πολλῶν γὰρ ἂν καὶ μάταν 1565
πημάτων ἰκνουμένων
πάλιν σφε δαίμων δίκαιος αὔξοι.

ΧΟ. ὦ χθόνιαι θεαὶ σώμα τ' ἀνικάτου
θηρός, ὃν ἐν πύλαισι ταῖσι πολυξένοις
εὐνᾶσθαι κνυζεῖσθαι τ' ἐξ ἄντρων
ἀδάματον φύλακα παρ' Αἶδα
λόγος αἰὲν ἔχει·
τόν, ὦ Γᾶς παῖ καὶ Ταρτάρου,
κατεύχομαι ἐν καθαρῷ βῆναι 1575
ὀρμωμένῳ νερτέρας
τῷ ξένῳ νεκρῶν πλάκας·

³ blessed with a good genius

σέ τοι κικλήσκω τὸν αἰένυπνον.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ. ἄνδρες πολῖται, ξυντομωτάτως, μὲν ἂν

τύχοιμι λέξας Οἰδίπουν ὀλωλότα· 1580

ἂ δ' ἦν τὰ πραχθέντ', οὔθ' ὁ μῦθος ἐν βραχεῖ

φράσαι πάρεστιν οὔτε τᾶργ' ὅς ἦν ἐκεῖ.

ΧΟ. ὄλωλε γὰρ δύστηνος; ΑΓ. ὡς λελοιπότα

κεῖνον τὸν αἰὲ βίοτον ἐξεπίστασο.

ΧΟ. πῶς; ἄρα θεία κάπόνῳ τάλας τύχη;

1585

ΑΓ. ταῦτ' ἐστὶν ἤδη ἀποθανύμασαι πρέπον.

ὡς μὲν γὰρ ἐνθὲνδ' εἶρπε, καὶ σύ που παρῶν

ἔξοισθ', ὑψηγῆτηρος οὐδενὸς φίλων,

ἀλλ' αὐτὸς ἡμῖν πᾶσιν ἐξηγούμενος.

ἐπεὶ δ' ἀφίκτο τὸν καταρράκτην ὁδὸν

1590

χαλκοῖς βάθροισι γῆθεν ἐρριζωμένον,⁴

ἔστη κελεύθων ἐν πολυσχίστων μιᾷ,

κοίλου πέλας κρατῆρος, οὗ τὰ Θησέως

Περίθου τε κεῖται πίστ' αἰὲ ξυνθήματα.

ἀφ' οὗ μέσος στὰς τοῦ τε Θορικίου πέτρου

1595

κοίλης τ' ἀχέρδου⁵ καπὸ λαΐνου⁶ τάφου,

καθέζετ'· εἴτ' ἔλυσε δυσπινεῖς στολάς.

κάπειτ' αὔσας παῖδας ἡνώγει ῥυτῶν

ὑδάτων ἐνεγκεῖν λουτρὰ⁷ καὶ χοάς⁸ ποθεν·

τῷ δ' εὐχλόου Δήμητρος εἰς προσόψιον

1600

πάγον μολοῦσαι τάσδ' ἐπιστολὰς πατρὶ

ταχεῖ πόρευσαν σὺν χρόνῳ, λουτροῖς τέ νιν

ἐσθῆτί τ' ἐξήσκησαν ἥ νομίζεται.

⁴ furnish with roots

⁵ kind of bush

⁶ of stone

⁷ bathing water

⁸ libation

ἐπεὶ δὲ παντὸς εἶχε δρῶντος ἡδονὴν
 κοῦκ ἦν ἔτ' οὐδὲν ἄργον ὦν ἐφίετο, 1605
 κτύπησε⁹ μὲν Ζεὺς χθόνιος αἰ δὲ παρθένου
 ῥίγησαν,¹⁰ ὡς ἤκουσαν· ἐς δὲ γούνατα
 πατρὸς πεσοῦσαι κλαιον οὐδ' ἀνέσαν
 στέρνων¹¹ ἀραγμοὺς οὐδὲ παμμήκεις γόους.
 ὁ δ' ὡς ἀκούει φθόγγον ἐξαίφνης πικρόν, 1610
 πτύξας¹² ἐπ' αὐταῖς χεῖρας εἶπεν· ὦ τέκνα,
 οὐκ ἔστ' ἔθ' ὑμῖν τῇδ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ πατήρ.
 ὀλωλε γὰρ δὴ πάντα τὰμά, κοῦκέτι
 τὴν δυσπότητον ἔξετ' ἀμφ' ἐμοὶ τροφήν·
 σκληρὰν μὲν, οἶδα, παῖδες· ἀλλ' ἐν γὰρ μόνον 1615
 τὰ πάντα λύει ταῦτ' ἔπος μοχθήματα.
 τὸ γὰρ φιλεῖν οὐκ ἔστιν ἐξ ὅτου πλέον
 ἢ τοῦδε ἀνδρὸς ἔσχεθ', οὐ τητῶμεναι
 τὸ λοιπὸν ἦδη τὸν βίον διάζετον.
 ΑΓ. τοιαῦτ' ἐπ' ἀλλήλοισιν ἀμφικείμενοι 1620
 λύγδην ἔκλαιον πάντες. ὡς δὲ πρὸς τέλος
 γόων ἀφίκοντ' οὐδ' ἔτ' ὠρώρει βοή,
 ἦν μὲν σιωπὴ· φθέγμα δ' ἐξαίφνης τινὸς
 θώϋξεν αὐτόν, ὥστε πάντας ὀρθίας
 στῆσαι φόβῳ δείσαντας ἐξαίφνης τρίχας, 1625
 καλεῖ γὰρ αὐτὸν πολλὰ πολλαχῇ θεός·
 ὦ οὔτος οὔτος, Οἰδίπους, τί μέλλομεν
 χωρεῖν; πάλαι δὴ τὰπὸ σοῦ βραδύνεται.¹³
 ὁ δ' ὡς ἐπήσθητ' ἐκ θεοῦ καλούμενος,

⁹ crash ¹⁰ shudder with fear; be flustered ¹¹ breast, chest, seat of feelings
¹² fold ¹³ make/be slow

Neither the spot nor whereabouts it lies,
 So shall it ever serve thee for defense
 Better than native shields and near allies.
 But those dread mysteries speech may not profane
 Thyself shalt gather coming there alone;
 Since not to any of thy subjects, nor
 To my own children, though I love them dearly,
 Can I reveal what thou must guard alone,
 And whisper to thy chosen heir alone,
 So to be handed down from heir to heir.
 Thus shalt thou hold this land inviolate
 From the dread Dragon's brood. 7 The justest State
 By countless wanton neighbors may be wronged,
 For the gods, though they tarry, mark for doom
 The godless sinner in his mad career.
 Far from thee, son of Aegeus, be such fate!
 But to the spot— the god within me goads—
 Let us set forth no longer hesitate.
 Follow me, daughters, this way. Strange that I
 Whom you have led so long should lead you now.
 Oh, touch me not, but let me all alone
 Find out the sepulcher that destiny
 Appoints me in this land. Hither, this way,
 For this way Hermes leads, the spirit guide,
 And Persephassa, empress of the dead.
 O light, no light to me, but mine erewhile,
 Now the last time I feel thee palpable,
 For I am drawing near the final gloom
 Of Hades. Blessing on thee, dearest friend,
 On thee and on thy land and followers!
 Live prosperous and in your happy state
 Still for your welfare think on me, the dead.
 Exit THESEUS followed by ANTIGONE and ISMENE]
 CHORUS.. If mortal prayers are heard in hell,
 Hear, Goddess dread, invisible!
 Monarch of the regions drear,
 Aidoneus, hear, O hear!
 By a gentle, tearless doom
 Speed this stranger to the gloom,
 Let him enter without pain
 The all-shrouding Stygian plain.
 Wrongfully in life oppressed,

Be he now by Justice blessed.
 Queen infernal, and thou fell
 Watch-dog of the gates of hell,
 Who, as legends tell, dost glare,
 Gnarling in thy cavernous lair
 At all comers, let him go
 Scathless to the fields below.
 For thy master orders thus,
 The son of earth and Tartarus;
 In his den the monster keep,
 Giver of eternal sleep.

Enter MESSENGER]

MESSENGER. Friends, countrymen, my tidings are in sum
 That Oedipus is gone, but the event

Was not so brief, nor can the tale be brief.

CHORUS. What, has he gone, the unhappy man?

MESSENGER. Know well

That he has passed away from life to death.

CHORUS. How? By a god-sent, painless doom, poor soul?

MESSENGER. Thy question hits the marvel of the tale.

How he moved hence, you saw him and must know;

Without a friend to lead the way, himself

Guiding us all. So having reached the abrupt

Earth-rooted Threshold with its brazen stairs,

He paused at one of the converging paths,

Hard by the rocky basin which records

The pact of Theseus and Peirithous.

Betwixt that rift and the Thorician rock,

The hollow pear-tree and the marble tomb,

Midway he sat and loosed his beggar' s weeds;

Then calling to his daughters bade them fetch

Of running water, both to wash withal

And make libation; so they clomb the steep;

And in brief space brought what their father bade,

Then laved and dressed him with observance due.

But when he had his will in everything,

And no desire was left unsatisfied,

It thundered from the netherworld; the maids

Shivered, and crouching at their father' s knees

Wept, beat their breast and uttered a long wail.

He, as he heard their sudden bitter cry,

Folded his arms about them both and said,

“My children, ye will lose your sire today,
For all of me has perished, and no more
Have ye to bear your long, long ministry;
A heavy load, I know, and yet one word
Wipes out all score of tribulations— love.
And love from me ye had— from no man more;
But now must live without me all your days.”
So clinging to each other sobbed and wept
Father and daughters both, but when at last
Their mourning had an end and no wail rose,
A moment there was silence; suddenly
A voice that summoned him; with sudden dread
The hair of all stood up and all were ’mazed;
For the call came, now loud, now low, and oft.
“Oedipus, Oedipus, why tarry we?
Too long, too long thy passing is delayed.”
But when he heard the summons of the god,

vocabulary

ἄγαμαι wonder, admire; resent,
 begrudge
ἄγαν very much
ἄκλαυστος not weeping, not wept
 for
ἀλάομαι wander, rove, roam ~Fr.
 aller
ἄλαστος unforgettable, infamous
 ~Lethe
ἀλγεινός painful
ἄλλοτε at another time ~alien
ἀλόγιστος inconsiderate, irrational
ἄμαυρός dim, shadowy
ἀνασχετός endurable
ἀνέχω raise; mid: endure, submit
ἀντέχω hold up as protection
 against ~ischemia
ἄπιος distant
ἄπορος impassable, difficult
ἀποφεύγω avoid, escape, go free
ἄσκοπος aimless, impulsive
 ~telescope
ἄταφος unburied
αὐδάω speak, declare, shout
 ~Theravada
ἀφανής unseen, occult, obscure
ἀφανίζω do away with, make off
 with; (pass) disappear
βάθρον step, base, bench
βίος life ~biology
βιόω live; (mp) make a living
 ~biology
βιωτός worth living
βλώσκω come, go
βραχύς low, short
γενναῖος noble, sincere ~genesis
γεραιός old ~geriatric
γοάω weep, mourn
γόος crying, wailing
δεῦρο here, come here!
δίδυμος twin, double

δίιστημι stand apart ~stand
δικαίω demand/make justice
δίχα in two, in two ways
δράω do, accomplish
δύσμορος ill-fated
εἰκάζω liken; conjecture
εἰσακούω hearken ~acoustic
ἐκάς afar, far off
ἐκπέμπω send forth ~pomp
ἐκών willingly, on purpose; giving
 in too easily
ἐμπεδος solid, constant, (pl) one
 after another ~pedal
ἐμφύω plant; cling ~physics
ἐνερθε beneath, below
ἐπέχω hold, cover; offer; assail
ἐπιπλήσσω attack, chide ~ppectrum
ἐπισκιάζω throw shade on
ἐρήμιος empty
ἐρπω be able to move ~serpent
ἐστία hearth ~Hestia
ἐστιάω give a feast
εὖνοος kindly; favorable
θαυμαστός wonderful; admirable
θέμις -τος (f) custom, law
θνητός mortal ~euthanasia
θύελλα violent storm ~θύω
ἵμερος (i) desire, inclination (+gen)
κάρ -ός (n) useless bit; form of *κατά*
κάρα (αἶ) head (n) ~cranium
καταινέω agree, promise, grant
κάτοιδα understand
κεραυνός lightning strike,
 thunderbolt
κινέω (i) set in motion, move,
 remove ~kinetic
κλύδων -ος (m, 3) wave, surge
 ~cataclysm
κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid
κράς -τός (f, 3) head
κυρέω come upon, come up against;
 obtain

λεύσσω see, look
 λήγω cease, (+gen+ppl) cause to
 cease ~lax
 μάρπτω grab, overtake
 ματεύω be at a loss or at fault
 μέτειμι be among, go, follow ~ion
 μηδαμός no one
 μήποτε absolutely never
 μόγος toil
 μολίσκω come, go
 μόρος portion, lot in life
 νέρθε beneath, below
 νόσος (f) plague, pestilence
 ~noisome
 οἶκτος compassion
 ὄλβιος happy, wealthy
 ὁμαρτέω act together, be a
 companion ~harmony
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
 ὅποῖος whatever kind
 οὐδαμοῦ nowhere
 παραφέρω serve; carry past; outdo
 παρθένος (f) girl, virgin ~Parthenon
 πάρος before, in the past
 πένθος -εος (n, 3) grief, misfortune
 ~Nepenthe
 πόθος longing, regret ~bid
 ποῖ whither? how long?
 ποῖος what kind
 πομπός escort, guide ~pomp
 πόνος toil, suffering ~osteopenia
 πόντιος of the sea
 πότε when?

πότμος fate ~petal
 ποῦ where?
 προδίδωμι betray
 προπέμπω send, send ahead
 ~pomp
 προσέρχομαι come forward,
 surrender, come in
 προσκυνέω kow tow to; kiss
 πύματος last, hindmost
 ῥέζω do, make, perform sacrifices
 ~ergonomics
 σεύω drive; mid: get going, be eager
 ~asylum
 σημαίνω give orders to; show; mark
 ~semaphore
 σκότος darkness, shadow ~shadow
 στενάζω sigh, groan
 στένω groan ~stentorian
 στρέφω turn, veer ~atrophy
 σύμπας (ᾱ) all together
 συμφέρω bring together; be
 expedient; agree; (mp) happen
 ~bear
 τάλαις wretched, miserable ~talent
 τλάω take upon oneself ~talent
 τοσόσδε this much
 τρέω flee in fear ~tremor
 φθόγγος voice ~diphthong
 φλέγω blaze, burn up ~flame
 χροῖζω need ~chresard
 χωρέω withdraw, give way to (+dat)
 ~heir
 ψάύω be closely touching

αὐδᾶ μολεῖν οἱ γῆς ἄνακτα Θησέα. 1630
 κἀπεὶ προσῆλθεν, εἶπεν· ὦ φίλον κára,
 δός μοι χερὸς σῆς πίστιν ὀρκίαν τέκνοις,
 ὑμεῖς τε, παῖδες, τῶδε· καὶ καταίνεσον
 μήποτε προδώσειν τάσδ' ἐκῶν, τελεῖν δ' ὅσ' ἄν
 μέλλης φρονῶν ἐν ξυμφέροντ' αὐτοῖς αἰεί. 1635
 ὁ δ', ὡς ἀνὴρ γενναῖος, οὐκ οἴκτου¹ μέτα
 κατήνεσεν τάδ' ὀρκιος δράσειν ξένῳ.
 ὅπως δὲ ταῦτ' ἔδρασεν, εὐθὺς Οἰδίπους
 ψαύσας ἀμαυραῖς² χερσὶν ὧν παίδων λέγει·
 ὦ παῖδε, τλάσας χρεὶ τὸ γενναῖον φρενὶ 1640
 χωρεῖν τόπων ἐκ τῶνδε, μηδ' ἂ μὴ θέμις
 λεύσσειν δικαιοῦν μηδὲ φωνούντων κλύειν,
 ἀλλ' ἔρπεθ' ὡς τάχιστα· πλὴν ὁ κύριος
 Θησεὺς παρέστω μανθάνων τὰ δρώμενα.
 τοσαῦτα φωνήσαντος εἰσηκούσαμεν 1645
 ξύμπαντες· ἀστακτὶ δὲ σὺν ταῖς παρθένοις
 στένοντες³ ὠμαρτοῦμεν.⁴ ὡς δ' ἀπήλθομεν,
 χρόνῳ βραχεὶ στραφέντες ἐξαπείδομεν
 τὸν ἄνδρα τὸν μὲν οὐδαμοῦ⁵ παρόντ' ἔτι,
 ἄνακτα δ' αὐτὸν ὁμμάτων ἐπίσκιον 1650
 χεῖρ' ἀντέχοντα κρατός, ὡς δεινοῦ τινος
 φόβου φανέντος οὐδ' ἀνασχετοῦ βλέπειν.
 ἔπειτα μέντοι βαιὸν οὐδὲ σὺν χρόνῳ
 ὀρώμεν αὐτὸν γῆν τε προσκυνοῦνθ' ἅμα
 καὶ τὸν θεῶν Ὀλυμπον ἐν ταῦτῳ λόγῳ. 1655

¹ compassion ² dim, shadowy ³ groan ⁴ act together, be a companion
⁵ nowhere

μόρφῳ δ' ὁποῖω κείνος ὤλετ', οὐδ' ἂν εἷς

θνητῶν φράσειε, πλὴν τὸ Θησέως κάρα.

οὐ γάρ τις αὐτὸν οὔτε πυρφόρος θεοῦ

κεραυνὸς ἐξέπραξεν οὔτε ποντία

θύελλα κινηθεῖσα τῷ τότε ἐν χρόνῳ,

1660

ἀλλ' ἢ τις ἐκ θεῶν πομπὸς ἢ τὸ νερτέρων

εὐνουν⁶ διαστὰν γῆς ἀλύπητον βάθρον.

ἀνὴρ γὰρ οὐ στενακτὸς οὐδὲ σὺν νόσοις

ἀλγεινὸς⁷ ἐξεπέμπετ', ἀλλ' εἴ τις βροτῶν

θαυμαστός. εἰ δὲ μὴ δοκῶ φρονῶν λέγειν,

1665

οὐκ ἂν παρέμειν οἷσι μὴ δοκῶ φρονεῖν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ποῦ δ' αἶ τε παῖδες χοῖ' προπέμψαντες φίλων;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ. αἶδ' οὐχ ἑκάς· γόνων γὰρ οὐκ ἀσήμονες

φθόγγοι σφε σημαίνουσι δεῦρ' ὀρμωμένας.

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ. αἰαῖ, φεῦ, ἔστιν ἔστι νῶν δὴ

1670

οὐ τὸ μέν, ἄλλο δὲ μή, πατρὸς ἔμφυτον

ἄλαστον αἶμα δυσμόρου στενάξειν,⁸

ᾧτινι τὸν πολὺν

ἄλλοτε μὲν πόνον ἔμπεδον εἴχομεν,

ἐν πυμάτῳ⁹ δ' ἀλόγιστα¹⁰ παροίσομεν

1675

ιδόντε καὶ παθόντε.

ΧΟ. τί δ' ἔστιν; ΑΝ. ἔστιν μὲν εἰκάσαι, φίλοι.

ΧΟ. βέβηκεν; ΑΝ. ὥς μάλιστ' ἂν ἐν πόθῳ λάβοις.

τί γάρ, ὅτῳ μῆτ' Ἄρης

μήτε πόντος ἀντέκυσεν,

1680

ἄσκοποι¹¹ δὲ πλάκες ἔμαρψαν

⁶ kindly; favorable ⁷ painful ⁸ sigh, groan

¹⁰ inconsiderate, irrational ¹¹ aimless, impulsive

⁹ last, hindmost

ἐν ἀφανεῖ τινι μόρῳ φερόμενον.

τάλαινα· νῶν δ' ὀλεθρία

νῦξ ἐπ' ὄμμασιν βέβακε.

πῶς γὰρ ἦ τιν' ἀπίαν

1685

γᾶν ἢ πόντιον κλύδων¹² ἀλώμεναι, βίου δύσοιστον ἔξομεν τροφάν;

ΙΣΜΗΝΗ. οὐ κάτοιδα. κατὰ με φόνιος

Ἄϊδας ἔλοι πατρὶ ξυνθανεῖν γεραιῶ

τάλαιναν, ὡς ἔμοιγ' ὁ μέλλων βίος οὐ βιωτός.¹³

1690

ΧΟ. ὦ διδύμα¹⁴ τέκνων ἀρίστα,

τὸ φέρον ἐκ θεοῦ φέρειν,

μηδὲν ἄγαν φλέγεσθον¹⁵ οὔ τοι κατάμεμπτ' ἔβητον.

1695

ΑΝ. πόθος τοὶ καὶ κακῶν ἄρ' ἦν τις.

καὶ γὰρ ὁ μηδαμὰ δὴ φίλον ἦν φίλον,

1700

ὁπότε γε καὶ τὸν ἐν χεροῖν κατεῖχον.

ὦ πάτερ, ὦ φίλος,

ὦ τὸν αἰὲ κατὰ γᾶς σκότον εἰμένος·

οὐδέ γ' ἔνερθ'¹⁶ ἀφίλητος ἐμοί ποτε

καὶ τᾶδε μὴ κυρήσης.

1705

ΧΟ. ἔπραξεν; ΑΝ. ἔπραξεν οἶον ἤθελεν.

ΧΟ. τὸ ποῖον; ΑΝ. ἄς ἔχρηξε γᾶς ἐπὶ ξένας

ἔθανε· κοίταν δ' ἔχει νέρθεν¹⁷ εὐσκίαστον αἰέν,

οὐδὲ πένθος ἔλιπ' ἄκλαντον.¹⁸ ἀνὰ γὰρ ὄμμα σε τόδ', ὦ πάτερ, ἐμὸν

στένει δακρυῶν, οὐδ' ἔχω

1710

πῶς με χρὴ τὸ σὸν τάλαιναν

ἀφανίσαι τοσόνδ' ἄχος.

¹² wave, surge ¹³ worth living ¹⁴ twin, double ¹⁵ blaze, burn up
¹⁶ beneath, below ¹⁷ beneath, below ¹⁸ not weeping, not wept for

ὦμοι, γὰς ἐπὶ ξένας θανεῖν ἔχρηζες ἀλλ'

ἔρημος ἔθανες ὠδέ μοι.

ΙΣ. ὦ τάλαινα, τίς ἄρα με πότμος αὖθις ὦδ' 17161717 1715

ἐπαμμένει σέ τ', ὦ φίλα, τὰς πατρὸς ὦδ' ἐρήμας;

ΧΟ. ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ ὀλβίως γ' ἔλυσεν 1720

τὸ τέλος, ὦ φίλαι, βίου,

λήγετε τοῦδ' ἄχους· κακῶν γὰρ δυσάλωτος οὐδεὶς.

ΑΝ. πάλιν, φίλα, συθῶμεν. ΙΣ. ὡς τί ρέξομεν;

ΑΝ. ἥμερος ἔχει με. ΙΣ. τίς;

ΑΝ. τὰν χθόνιον ἐστίαν ἰδεῖν 1725

ΙΣ. τίνος; ΑΝ. πατρός, τάλαινα' ἐγώ.

ΙΣ. θέμις δὲ πῶς τὰδ' ἐστί; μῶν οὐχ ὀρᾷς;

ΑΝ. τί τόδε ἐπέπληξας; 1730

ΙΣ. καὶ τόδ', ὡς ΑΝ. τί τόδε μάλ' αὖθις;

ΙΣ. ἄταφος¹⁹ ἔπιτνε δίχα τε παντός.

ΑΝ. ἄγε με, καὶ τότ' ἐπενάριζον.

ΙΣ. αἰαί, δυστάλαινα, ποῦ δῆτ'

αὖθις ὦδ' ἔρημος ἄπορος 1735

αἰῶνα τλάμον' ἔξω;

ΧΟ. φίλαι, τρέσητε μηδέν. ΑΝ. ἀλλὰ ποῖ²⁰ φύγω;

ΧΟ. καὶ πάρος ἀπέφυγε ΑΝ. τί;

ΧΟ. τὰ σφῶν τὸ μὴ πίτνειν κακῶς. 1740

ΑΝ. φρονῶ. ΧΟ. τί δῆθ' ὅπερ νοεῖς;

ΑΝ. ὅπως μολούμεθ'²¹ ἐς δόμους,

οὐκ ἔχω. ΧΟ. μηδέ γε μάτευε.²²

ΑΝ. μόγος²³ ἔχει. ΧΟ. καὶ πάρος ἐπείχε.

¹⁹ unburied ²⁰ whither? how long? ²¹ come, go ²² be at a loss or at fault ²³ toil

He prayed that Theseus might be brought, and when
 The Prince came nearer: "O my friend," he cried,
 "Pledge ye my daughters, giving thy right hand—
 And, daughters, give him yours— and promise me
 Thou never wilt forsake them, but do all
 That time and friendship prompt in their behoof."
 And he of his nobility repressed
 His tears and swore to be their constant friend.
 This promise given, Oedipus put forth
 Blind hands and laid them on his children, saying,
 "O children, prove your true nobility
 And hence depart nor seek to witness sights
 Unlawful or to hear unlawful words.
 Nay, go with speed; let none but Theseus stay,
 Our ruler, to behold what next shall hap."
 So we all heard him speak, and weeping sore
 We companied the maidens on their way.
 After brief space we looked again, and lo
 The man was gone, vanished from our eyes;
 Only the king we saw with upraised hand
 Shading his eyes as from some awful sight,
 That no man might endure to look upon.
 A moment later, and we saw him bend
 In prayer to Earth and prayer to Heaven at once.
 But by what doom the stranger met his end
 No man save Theseus knoweth. For there fell
 No fiery bold that reft him in that hour,
 Nor whirlwind from the sea, but he was taken.
 It was a messenger from heaven, or else
 Some gentle, painless cleaving of earth's base;
 For without wailing or disease or pain
 He passed away— and end most marvelous.
 And if to some my tale seems foolishness
 I am content that such could count me fool.
 CHORUS. Where are the maids and their attendant friends?
 MESSENGER. They cannot be far off; the approaching sound
 Of lamentation tells they come this way.

Enter ANTIGONE and ISMENE]

ANTIGONE.. Woe, woe! on this sad day
 We sisters of one blasted stock
 must bow beneath the shock,
 Must weep and weep the curse that lay

On him our sire, for whom
In life, a life-long world of care'
Twas ours to bear,
In death must face the gloom
That wraps his tomb.
What tongue can tell
That sight ineffable?
CHORUS. What mean ye, maidens?
ANTIGONE. All is but surmise.
CHORUS. Is he then gone?
ANTIGONE. Gone as ye most might wish.
Not in battle or sea storm,
But reft from sight,
By hands invisible borne
To viewless fields of night.
Ah me! on us too night has come,
The night of mourning. Wither roam
O'er land or sea in our distress
Eating the bread of bitterness?
ISMENE. I know not. O that Death
Might nip my breath,
And let me share my aged father's fate.
I cannot live a life thus desolate.
CHORUS. Best of daughters, worthy pair,
What heaven brings ye needs must bear,
Fret no more 'gainst Heaven's will;
Fate hath dealt with you not ill.
ANTIGONE.. Love can turn past pain to bliss,
What seemed bitter now is sweet.
Ah me! that happy toil is sweet.
The guidance of those dear blind feet.
Dear father, wrapt for aye in nether gloom,
E'en in the tomb
Never shalt thou lack of love repine,
Her love and mine.
CHORUS. His fate—
ANTIGONE. Is even as he planned.
CHORUS. How so?
ANTIGONE. He died, so willed he, in a foreign land.
Lapped in kind earth he sleeps his long last sleep,
And o'er his grave friends weep.
How great our loss these streaming eyes can tell,

This sorrow naught can quell.

Thou hadst thy wish 'mid strangers thus to die,

But I, ah me, not by.

ISMENE. Alas, my sister, what new fate

Befalls us orphans desolate?

CHORUS. His end was blessed; therefore, children, stay

Your sorrow. Man is born to fate a prey.

ANTIGONE.. Sister, let us back again.

ISMENE. Why return?

ANTIGONE. My soul is fain—

ISMENE. Is fain?

ANTIGONE. To see the earthy bed.

ISMENE. Sayest thou?

ANTIGONE. Where our sire is laid.

ISMENE. Nay, thou can' st not, dost not see—

ANTIGONE. Sister, wherefore wroth with me?

ISMENE. Know' st not— beside—

ANTIGONE. More must I hear?

ISMENE. Tombless he died, none near.

ANTIGONE. Lead me thither; slay me there.

ISMENE. How shall I unhappy fare,

Friendless, helpless, how drag on

A life of misery alone?

CHORUS.. Fear not, maids—

ANTIGONE. Ah, whither flee?

CHORUS. Refuge hath been found.

ANTIGONE. For me?

CHORUS. Where thou shalt be safe from harm.

ANTIGONE. I know it.

CHORUS. Why then this alarm?

ANTIGONE. How again to get us home

I know not.

CHORUS. Why then this roam?

ANTIGONE. Troubles overwhelm us—

vocabulary

αἶω perceive, feel, hear; breathe out
ἄλυπος (ῥ) painless
ἀνύω accomplish, pass over, complete
ἀποκάμνω tire out
ἀπόκειμαι be stored up, put aside
ἀπολέγω pick; decline
ἀποπαύω stop ~pause
ἄπορος impassable, difficult
βλώσκω come, go
δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate, doom ~demon
διακωλύω (ῥ) hinder
δράω do, accomplish
ἐκλύω rescue from ~loose
ἔρπω be able to move ~serpent
ἔρρω go (neg. connotation) ~serve
θεμιτός legal, righteous
θήκη chest, grave
θνητός mortal ~euthanasia
θρήνος dirge ~threnody
κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid
κοίρανος ruler, chief
κῦρος -εος (n, 3) authority; validity
λαγχάνω be allotted; (esp. λελα-
forms) allot; receive
μολίσκω come, go
ναί yea

νέμεσις -εως (f) indignation; punishment ~nemesis
ξυνίημι send together; hear, notice, understand
ῥμαιμος related by blood
ὀπόσος as many as, how many, how great
πάντως by all means
πέλαγος -ους (n, 3) the open sea ~pelagic
πελάζω bring/come to, near, into contact with
πενθέω grieve ~Nepenthe
ποῖ whither? how long?
πρόσοιδα (+χάρι:ν) be grateful besides
προσοράω look at
προσπίπτω attack; befall; kow-tow
πρόσφορος serviceable, fitting
ῥέζω do, make, perform sacrifices ~ergonomics
ῥέω flow ~rheostat
σύμφημι assent, concede
τοτέ then ... now ...
τύμβος grave mound ~tomb
ὑπερθεν from above
ὑπερτίθημι hand over; excel; defer
φόνος killing ~offend
χρεία need, use

ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΗ. τοτὲ¹ μὲν ἄπορα, τοτὲ δ' ὕπερθεν. 1745

ΧΟΡΟΣ. μέγ' ἄρα πέλαγος ἐλάχετόν τι.

ΑΝ. ναὶ ναί. ΧΟ. ξύμφημι καὐτός.

ΑΝ. αἰαί, ποῖ μόλωμεν, ὦ Ζεῦ;

ἐλπίδων γὰρ ἐς τίν' ἔτι με

δαίμων τανῦν γ' ἐλαύνει; 1750

ΘΗΣΕΥΣ. παύετε θρήνων, παῖδες· ἐν οἷς γὰρ

χάρις ἢ χθονία ξύν' ἀπόκειται,

πενθεῖν² οὐ χρή· νέμεσις³ γάρ.

ΑΝ. ὦ τέκνον Αἰγέως, προσπίτνομέν σοι.

ΘΗ. τίνος, ὦ παῖδες, χρείας ἀνύσαι; 1755

ΑΝ. τύμβον θέλομεν προσιδεῖν αὐταὶ πατρὸς ἡμετέρου.

ΘΗ. ἀλλ' οὐ θεμτόν.⁴

ΑΝ. πῶς εἴπας, ἄναξ, κοίραν' Ἀθηνῶν;

ΘΗ. ὦ παῖδες, ἀπεῖπεν ἐμοὶ κείνος 1760

μήτε πελάζειν ἐς τούσδε τόπους

μήτ' ἐπιφωνεῖν μηδένα θνητῶν

θήκη⁵ ἱεράν, ἣν κείνος ἔχει.

καὶ ταῦτά μ' ἔφη πράσσοντα καλῶς

χώραν ἔξειν αἰὲν ἄλυπον. 1765

ταῦτ' οὖν ἔκλυεν δαίμων ἡμῶν

χῶ πάντ' αἴων Διὸς Ὅρκος.

ΑΝ. ἀλλ' εἰ τὰδ' ἔχει κατὰ νοῦν κείνῳ,

ταῦτ' ἂν ἀπαρκοῖ· Θήβας δ' ἡμᾶς

τὰς ὠγυγίους πέμψον, εἴαν πως 1770

διακωλύσωμεν ἰόντα φόνον

¹ then ... now ... ² grieve ³ indignation; punishment ⁴ legal, righteous

⁵ chest, grave

τοῖσιν ὁμαίμοις.

ΘΗ. δράσω καὶ τάδε καὶ πάνθ' ὅπόσ' ἂν
 μέλλω πράσσειν πρόσφορά θ' ὑμῖν
 καὶ τῷ κατὰ γῆς, ὃς νέον ἔρρει,
 πρὸς χάριν· οὐ δέ μ' ἀποκάμνειν.

1775

ΧΟ. ἀλλ' ἀποπάνετε μῆδ' ἐπὶ πλείω
 θρῆνον ἐγείρετε·
 πάντως γὰρ ἔχει τάδε κῦρος.⁶

⁶ authority; validity

CHORUS. As of yore.

ANTIGONE. Worse than what was worse before.

CHORUS. Sure ye are driven on the breakers' surge.

ANTIGONE. Alas! we are.

CHORUS. Alas! 'tis so.

ANTIGONE. Ah whither turn, O Zeus? No ray
Of hope to cheer the way

Whereon the fates our desperate voyage urge.

Enter THESEUS]

THESEUS. Dry your tears; when grace is shed
On the quick and on the dead
By dark Powers beneficent,
Over-grief they would resent.

ANTIGONE. Aegeus' child, to thee we pray.

THESEUS. What the boon, my children, say.

ANTIGONE. With our own eyes we fain would see
Our father's tomb.

THESEUS. That may not be.

ANTIGONE. What say'st thou, King?

THESEUS. My children, he
Charged me straitly that no mortal
Should approach the sacred portal,
Or greet with funeral litanies
The hidden tomb wherein he lies;
Saying, "If thou keep'st my hest
Thou shalt hold thy realm at rest."
The God of Oaths this promise heard,
And to Zeus I pledged my word.

ANTIGONE. Well, if he would have it so,
We must yield. Then let us go
Back to Thebes, if yet we may
Heal this mortal feud and stay
The self-wrought doom

That drives our brothers to their tomb.

THESEUS. Go in peace; nor will I spare
Ought of toil and zealous care,
But on all your needs attend,
Gladdening in his grave my friend.

CHORUS. Wail no more, let sorrow rest,
All is ordered for the best.